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'Total government failure... will raise issue in Parliament': Rahul Gandhi visits Balaghat

Bhopal(Agency)

Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Thursday visited Jagla village in Madhya Pradesh's Balaghat district and met the families of tribal children who died following an outbreak of illness in the area earlier this year.

"This is a complete government failure in Madhya Pradesh. A total, 100 per cent government failure. I will raise this issue in Parliament — not just their issue, but what is being done to tribals across the country," Gandhi said.

Gandhi accused the Madhya Pradesh government of failing to provide basic healthcare and other essential services to the tribal population.

During his visit, Gandhi met the bereaved families and heard their concerns about healthcare, education, employment and tribal welfare. He accused the state government of failing to respond adequately to the situation. He alleged that children had died because of illness and malnutrition and that basic government support had broken.

Congress accuses EC of 'lying' over ECINet, alleges curbs on EROs violate poll laws

New Delhi. (Agency)

The Congress on Friday accused the Election Commission of "lying" about its ECINet portal and violating provisions of the Representation of the People Act, 1950, and the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960, demanding accountability for what it called violations of law and the Constitution. Congress general secretary in-charge Jairam Ramesh said the ECI, in a September 26 press note, had announced a committee to certify that ECINet complies with the relevant laws and rules.

Ramesh questioned why such compliance needed to be certified after the portal was launched on January 22 with the stated objective of enhancing transparency, credibility and public trust.

He referred to the ECI's launch-day assurance that ECINet had been developed in "strict accordance with the law" and was fully compliant with the Constitution, the Representation of the People Acts of 1950 and 1951, and the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960. "All of this was a lie," Ramesh alleged in a post on X. He alleged that by restricting Electoral Registration Officers' (EROs) access to the ECINet voter-roll system and overruling EROs in states including Goa and West Bengal, the poll panel had violated the statutory framework governing electoral rolls.

According to Ramesh, the Representation of the People Act and the Registration of Electors Rules vest statutory authority over electoral rolls with EROs.

He also cited a September 24 letter by the Maharashtra chief electoral officer to the ECI, seeking correction of what he described as an "illegal state of affairs".

Saved reputation of Indian pilots: PM's pointed message in call with hero captain

New Delhi(Agency)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, while speaking to Smit Machchhar, the hero Indian pilot who averted a potential terror incident on board an Israel-bound flydubai flight, made a pointed remark about how the episode could have affected the perception of Indian pilots had events unfolded differently.

"Had this not happened, who knows what India would have had to face, what all Indian pilots would have had to endure, and how Indian pilots would have been viewed. You have saved everyone. You have done a very big thing," PM Modi told Machchhar, who is undergoing treatment in the UAE. The remarks come against the backdrop of social media chatter, mostly propagated by Pakistani handles, over how the Indian pilot might have been blamed had the incident ended differently. PM Modi did not explicitly refer to those posts, but his comments about how Indian pilots would have been viewed echoed the conversation that's been raging on social media since the horrific incident.

"The country can proudly say that Indians are not those who take lives, but those who are willing to risk their lives to save others," the Prime Minister further said. Machchhar, being hailed as a hero worldwide, was brutally stabbed by the Omani co-pilot as he tried to take control of the aircraft and crash it. However, the brave Indian captain fought off the co-pilot and, in a crucial move, opened the cockpit door, allowing passengers to rush in and restrain the attacker. Machchhar's quick thinking prevented an apparent hijack of a Tel Aviv-bound flydubai flight that had more than 170 people on board.

During his call with the Prime Minister, the 39-year-old father of two said he was reciting the Hanuman Chalisa as he was warding off the attack from the co-pilot.

"I had suffered so many injuries, but I told myself that I had to get up and act. If I did not, I would be dead," Machchhar told PM Modi.

THE MESSAGE BEHIND PM MODI'S REMARKS

Following the incident, several posts on X suggested that had the aircraft gone down, questions and blame could have been directed at the Indian pilot.

PM Modi's remarks come against the backdrop of social media chatter, mostly propagated by Pakistani handles, over how the flydubai Indian pilot might have been blamed had the incident ended in a major disaster.

"God forbid if the plane had crashed, the entire blame would have been on the competency of the Indian pilot. Since he came out as a hero, he is not getting due credit from the entire world," one user tweeted after the incident. Another posted, "If the co-pilot, a radical, had succeeded in crashing the plane in Tel Aviv, blame would have been placed on the captain."

The timing is significant. The social media chatter comes



as the government is expected to publish the final report of its investigation into the 2025 Air India A1171 crash in Ahmedabad, a tragedy that sparked intense debate over the role of the pilots. There have been attempts by a section to spin the narrative around the role of the captain and the co-pilot on the Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner.

The government said the AAIB probe was at an advanced stage. The Air India flight crashed shortly after taking off from Ahmedabad for London on June 12. Of the 242 people on board, 241 died, while 19 people on the ground were also killed.

Election Commission orders special drive to enrol 'left out' voters after SIR

The drive will cover electors whose names appeared in the pre-SIR rolls but are missing from the current rolls, as well as first-time and young voters who have not yet been enrolled.

New Delhi(Agency)

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has directed Chief Electoral Officers (CEOs), District Election Officers (DEOs) and Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) to launch a special drive to identify and enrol eligible voters who were left out of the electoral rolls following the completion of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR).

The drive will cover electors whose names appeared in the pre-SIR rolls but are missing from the current rolls, as well as first-time and young voters who have not yet been enrolled.

The directive was issued following a meeting of the Commission with all CEOs on October 1. The ECI said voter enrolment was a continuous process and that no eligible citizen should be denied an opportunity to register merely because they were not included during the SIR enumeration.

Under the exercise, Booth Level Officers (BLOs) will compare the current electoral rolls with the pre-SIR rolls and prepare booth-wise lists of electors whose names have been dropped. They will then conduct house-to-house verification to ascertain the present status of these voters and facilitate their enrolment through Form 6 wherever they are found eligible.

Each BLO has been asked to cover at least 20-25 such electors a week, with the verification exercise expected to be completed within a month.

BLOs will also identify left-out eligible voters, first-time voters and young electors during their visits and facilitate their enrolment. The status of each identified elector, including those for whom Form 6 applications have been submitted, will be recorded. The booth-wise lists will be shared with Booth Level Agents (BLAs) of recognised political parties.



Dharma and rashtra inseparable; India has a role to play in troubled world: RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat

At the 14th All India Vihar Seva conference, Bhagwat said the world faced dilemmas over development, environment, freedom, family and faith.

New Delhi(Agency).

RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat on Friday said dharma and the nation were not separate in India, asserting that the country's spiritual knowledge could help address several challenges facing the world.

"Our rashtra (nation) and dharma are not separate. The purpose of the nation is dharma, and dharma helps sustain the nation. The two are interdependent," Bhagwat said. Addressing the 14th conference of the All India Vihar Seva group, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh chief said the world was grappling with dilemmas involving development and environmental protection, individual freedom and family life, and religious faith and conflict.

"The world is troubled. Every happiness remains incomplete, every aspiration comes with some

loss, and every loyalty is tied to another loyalty. There is no balance; there is extremism," he said. Bhagwat said the world was looking to India for



ways to address these contradictions. He recalled that India had historically shared its knowledge

without seeking to conquer other countries or convert their people.

"The world knows that the path will come from India," he said. He highlighted India's extensive knowledge traditions, including the Vedas, Upanishads, Ramayana, Mahabharata, Bhagavad Gita, Jain Agamas, Tripitaka, Guru Granth Sahib and the teachings of saints.

"Our country has a very great treasure of knowledge, which the world needs today. One can come closer to the Almighty through the strength of devotion," he said. Bhagwat said preserving the lives and traditions of those who carried this knowledge was not merely a religious responsibility but also a service to humanity.

"You are not protecting just one life. You are protecting the safe future of the entire human race," he said.

Karnataka Form 7 row escalates, EC orders action over fake voter deletion claims

The Election Commission ordered strict action and verification after complaints of false Form 7 filings in Karnataka. The move followed DK Shivakumar's protest alleging a bid to wrongly delete eligible voters.

New Delhi(Agency).

The Election Commission (EC) has ordered strict action against those submitting false objections through Form 7 to seek the mass deletion of voters' names during the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Karnataka.

The action comes after Chief Minister DK Shivakumar's protest outside the office of CEO V Anbukumar on Thursday, where he demanded an FIR over what he described as "electoral fraud" during the SIR exercise.

In the order, Anbukumar has directed District Electoral Officers to thoroughly investigate complaints of fake forms before initiating legal action, while ensuring that the names of genuine voters are not deleted.

The EC has also directed all Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) to take strict legal action against anyone who knowingly



submits false statements or makes false objections through Forms 6, 6A, 7 and 8 related to voter registration. The move comes amid allegations of large-scale filing of Form

7 applications seeking deletion of voters' names during the SIR exercise.

Form 7 is used to file an objection to the proposed inclusion or deletion of a name from an existing electoral roll.

According to the Commission, officials in Vijayanagar, Vijayapura, Chikmagalur's Mudigere, Belagavi and Bidar — areas that have received an unusually high number of deletion applications — have been asked to remain particularly vigilant and personally verify each claim.

The poll body has clarified that objections submitted without valid grounds will be rejected and those found guilty will face punitive legal action.

SHIVAKUMAR PROTESTS

The Chief Minister staged a five-hour sit-in after holding a meeting with the CEO for

PM Modi Pays Tribute To Mahatma Gandhi On His Birth Anniversary

PM Modi said he believes that Mahatma Gandhi's ideology will continue to guide and inspire humanity in the years to come.

New Delhi(Agency).

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday paid homage to Mahatma Gandhi on his birth anniversary, and said his timeless message will keep guiding everyone towards a better society and a developed India.

PM Modi said Bapu's entire life was a beacon of truth, non-violence, compassion, and service that it will continue to guide humanity across every era. "May Bapu's timeless message keep guiding us towards a better society and a 'Viksit Bharat,'" PM Modi said in a post on X.

Through a video message, the prime minister also said that the significance of this day for the nation is known to everyone. "His ideology has inspired the entire world. Mahatma Gandhi is such a personality that, even though he was

far away from power, he continues to remain in the hearts of millions of people," PM Modi said. The prime minister said he believes that Mahatma Gandhi's ideology will continue to guide and inspire humanity in the years to come. "Mahatma Gandhi always encouraged



everyone to adopt 'Swadeshi'. In this process, Khadi remains a top priority. I appeal to everyone to buy at least one Khadi product on October 2 and proudly say that it is 'Swadeshi'," he said.

Lal Kuan, Crossings among 14 more junctions to come under ITMS cams

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

City’s integrated traffic management system network is set to be expanded to 14 more junctions, including the busy Crossings Republik, Ghanta Ghar, Navyug Market and Dudheshwarnath Mandir junctions. Rolled out on Jan 31, ITMS network in the first phase covered 57 major highway intersections and junctions. In the second phase, Ghaziabad Municipal Corporation (GMC) will add busy junctions at Lal Kuan, Turab Nagar, Kavi Nagar, RNE Rotary, RDC Mall, CR Township, Diamond flyover, Holy Child roundabout, Mohan Nagar and Tigri cut along the Noida border. Officials said the expansion would also help monitor pollution levels during winter. “Earlier, GMC had identified 25 additional spots, but based on the recommendations of the traffic department, 14 new spots have been selected,” a GMC official said, adding that cameras would be installed before winter.

According to officials, most of the shortlisted spots see heavy vehicular pollution and tailbacks almost throughout the day. Among the busiest markets of old Ghaziabad, Ghanta Ghar (Jawahar Gate), Navyug Market and Turab Nagar regularly see congestion because of roadside parking, encroachments and pedestrian movement on the road. Dudheshwarmath temple attracts large crowds, especially during festivals, while the surrounding roads also carry local traffic between the old city and GT Road. Lal Kuan is another major convergence point where traffic from Delhi-Meerut Expressway, NH-9 and GT Road merges before dispersing towards Dadri, Bulandshahr and Aligarh. Kavi Nagar, RDC and Diamond Flyover also handle traffic from residential, commercial and NH-9 corridors.

Noida panel to study Hindon ‘course correction’ plan

Noida.(Agency)

Noida Authority has set up a five-member committee to study a proposed Rs 29,000-crore riverfront project along 25km of Hindon. The plan aims to partially straighten the meandering river, restore it to its original course and use the reclaimed land for roads, green belts and commercial development. The committee, tasked to submit its report within 15 days, will examine the river’s flood patterns over the last 100 years, changes in its course and embankment, and identify areas where the river has deviated due to bridge construction or encroachment along the floodplain. The committee, comprising additional CEO Vandana Tripathi, general manager (civil) SP Singh, senior manager (work circle-1) Kapil Singh, irrigation department executive engineer Mukesh Vaish and environmentalist Abhisht Kusum Gupta, conducted a drone survey on Thursday to assess the number of households along the riverbank and map pollution sources entering the river. The plan does not involve concretising the riverbanks. Instead, it proposes restoring Hindon to its original path by nearly tripling its width. The riverstream, which currently ranges between 20 and 50 metres wide, would be given a 150-metre corridor lined with forest belts and embankments on either side. Six-lane roads would run along both embankments, cutting the distance between NH-24 and Noida Expressway by around 15km and reducing travel time from over an hour to approximately 25 minutes, a route that is expected to benefit traffic bound for Noida International Airport in Jewar.

Fire guts quick commerce store, spreads to nearby shops, housing society in Indirapuram

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

A major fire broke out in a dark store of Instamart on Kala Patthar Road in Indirapuram and spread to adjacent furniture warehouses, a diagnostic centre and a housing society behind it. No casualties were reported in the incident but goods in the store and furniture in the affected shops were destroyed. As a precaution, the fire department had to evacuate houses and shops as smoke engulfed the nearby area. While the cause has not been determined yet, chief fire officer Saurabh Kumar Singh said the fire is believed to have been triggered by a short circuit in an air conditioning unit in the quick commerce store. The blaze broke out around 4pm, a fire department official said. Before a team from the fire department could arrive at the spot, the flames had spread to two furniture warehouses located beside the dark store, a nidan kendra (diagnostic centre) and the nearby LIG flats. Teams from adjacent police stations, SDRF and the fire department rushed to the site. An official said 12 fire tenders were dispatched and it took around two hours to douse the blaze. During the evacuation operation, police and the fire department team conducted an intensive inspection of all the LIG flats. More than five families were rescued. A woman and her pet dog were rescued from the third floor, which had filled up with smoke. The woman said she was sleeping when the fire broke out and did not realise when the smoke had spread to her flat. “It took more than five minutes for me to realise that the bell was ringing and when I opened, they told me about the fire. They safely took me out of the building,” she said.Washing machines, AC units and coolers kept outside many of the flats were damaged.The incident also triggered panic in the area, with people rushing out of houses and shops to escape the fire.

MCG House clears plan to outsource 1,800 sanitation workers

Gurgaon.(Agency)

What began as a closed-door meeting of the MCG House on Thursday turned into an extraordinary display of frustration over the city’s sanitation crisis, with Mayor Raj Rani Malhotra getting up from her chair and folding her hands before MCG officials to press for more sanitation workers. Councillors present at the meeting said MCG commissioner Pradeep Dahiya also stood up and urged mayor not to fold her hands and to take her seat. The gesture, however, was quickly echoed by other councillors, several of whom also stood up and folded their hands before the officials, demanding that the civic body urgently address the shortage of workers responsible for sweeping roads and clearing waste. MCG passed a resolution to outsource 1,800 additional sanitation workers and

108 tractor-trolleys for the city. Under the plan, each ward is to get 50 sanitation workers and three tractor-trolleys. The unusual episode came shortly after House elected ward 27 councillor Ashish Gupta unopposed as a member of finance and contracts committee (F&CC) and laid bare the political pressure building around a sanitation system that has repeatedly come under criticism. “The mayor stood up and folded her hands before MCG officials stating that she had applied all means to seek additional sanitation workforce for the city,” said a councillor, requesting anonymity.When officials assured councillors that services would improve, ward 11 councillor Kuldeep Yadav said: “We need genuine commitment, not false assurances. Don’t give us sweet capsules.”

Senior deputy mayor Dharambir Bhangrola said the existing deployment was inadequate. “We have been demanding additional sanitation workers because the present deployment is simply



not enough and even among those deployed, attendance is a serious concern. We need workers on the ground, not merely figures on paper,” he said. The gap between sanctioned or contracted manpower and actual

deployment has repeatedly surfaced in the city. reported in July that MCG had found a contractor deploying fewer workers and tractor-trolleys than required.

Deputy mayor and ward 25 councillor Anoop Singh raised another problem that has long complicated waste management — the mixing of different waste streams. He said every ward should have a separate dumping point for construction and demolition (C&D) waste. “MCG can transport it to the C&D processing facility. Similarly, waste swept from roads and vacant plots should be kept separate from solid waste collected through doorstep collection,” he added.To deal with sewer blockages, silt and clogged lines, House also approved one super-sucker machine for every two wards and one jetting machine for each ward.

105 detained by Gurgaon police during one day drive against public drinking

Gurgaon.(Agency)

In a day, Gurgaon police detained 105 people found consuming alcohol at public places during a special checking drive conducted across the West police zone on Sept 29. The detainees were held for four to five hours at respective police stations and were let off with a warning. Around 13 police stations participated in the drive. The drive was carried out on the directions of deputy commissioner of police (West) YVR Shashi Shekhar to strengthen crime control and security arrangements at public places. Police teams checked parks, parking areas, roadside locations and other open public places during the drive. “A total of 105 people were found consuming alcohol at public places and

were taken into custody. Their activities were found to be disturbing peace and security in public places. Preventive action was initiated against all 105



people under Section 172(2) (a police officer may detain or remove any person who resists, refuses, ignores, or disregards lawful directions) of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, ”

said Sandeep Turan, police spokesperson, Gurgaon.

To strengthen security arrangements and maintain law and order, police apprehended 309 for allegedly consuming alcohol in public places during a drive conducted across the city in May. The operation was carried out under directions of police commissioner Prince Sibash Kabiraj and former DCP west Karan Goyal. Police said the drive was aimed at curbing hooliganism and maintaining order in public places. They added that PCR units and special teams have also been activated to prevent any untoward incident.

“We appeal to residents not to consume alcohol or engage in substance abuse at public places and urge citizens to comply with the law to avoid legal trouble.” Sandeep added.

My bike rider stopped abruptly and ended my ride on the highway. Uber offered a compensation of Rs 50

Gurgaon.(Agency)

I booked an Uber Bike at 7.42pm on Wednesday from my Udyog Vihar office in Gurgaon to my home in Dwarka, expecting a routine ride home. However, the journey took an unexpected and frightening turn when the driver stopped the bike midway and asked me to get down. He said he mistook the destination for Qutub Minar, whereas my destination was Qutub Vihar. He said it would require him to travel a long way and refused to take me to my destination. He then abruptly ended the ride near Rajokri along the highway, leaving me stranded on a dark and unlit stretch surrounded by heavy, fast-moving traffic.

The moment I got off the bike, I realised how unsafe the spot was. The stretch was dark and largely unlit, with heavy, fast-moving traffic. There were people around,

but that did little to make me feel safer. Several strangers offered me a lift. I refused, but some of them kept looking back at me, which left me extremely



uncomfortable. I thought of walking ahead to a better-lit spot, but the road appeared to get darker, visibility was poor, and I was not comfortable moving into an unfamiliar, isolated stretch. I stayed where I was and

tried to arrange another ride. It took around 30 minutes to book one. I immediately reported the incident on the Uber app, explaining that my concern was not just that the trip had been ended midway, but that I had been left at an unsafe location at night. I made it clear that I did not want compensation or a refund. I wanted action against the driver. All Uber offered was a Rs 50 credit. When I wrote back to clarify, it again said Rs 50 was what it could offer for the inconvenience. When I called to escalate, a representative told me that such compensation was part of Uber’s policy.Uber’s response left me more unsettled than the incident itself. For me, this was never about the inconvenience of booking another ride. It was that a woman travelling alone at night was left on a dark highway, with fast-moving traffic around her, after a driver decided not to complete the ride.

Stopped at condo gate by guard, B&B operator rams car through barrier at Supernova society

Gurgaon.(Agency)

A bed-and-breakfast operator in Supernova Spira has been arrested on Thursday for allegedly breaking a barrier and forcibly entering Supernova society in Sector 94. A security guard had allegedly stopped him from entering. This enraged the man and he started arguing with the guard. He then drove through the barrier at the gate.The entire incident was recorded by other guards present in the society and the video has now surfaced on social media. Police have identified the operator as Sector 15 resident Tushar Sharma. Sharma operates the accommodation in Spira, where flats are rented out to people for short stays and parties. The incident happened on Wednesday when Sharma reached the complex and allegedly attempted to enter through the main Supernova gate instead of the designated entrance of the tower. Security guards deployed at the gate stopped him and told him to use the Spira gate. He allegedly told the guards that one of his guests had been stopped at the reception and he needed to enter the complex to check his guest in. He also



allegedly assured the guards that he would leave after dropping him. However, the guards did not open the gate and the disagreement spiralled into an argument. After this, he drove through the boom barrier in his Skoda car. The security guards recorded the incident and later shared the video on social media. The footage came to the attention of several people who reposted the video on X and tagged the police, seeking action against the driver. Police took cognisance of it and registered a case at Sector 126 police station. A case was

filed against Sharma under BNS sections 352 (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of the peace) and 324(4) (mischievous causing damage). He was later arrested on Thursday. Police also found that six e-challans were pending against the Skoda car’s owner. The total outstanding amount is around Rs 36,000. They said the vehicle is registered in Ranchi, Jharkhand. The challans pending in Delhi and Uttar Pradesh relate to traffic violations, including overspeeding and illegal parking.

Reported that the UP govt implemented the Bed and Breakfast and Homestay Policy 2025, a move designed to bring guest facilities operating out of residential buildings into the formal fold, offering them both legitimacy.

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Man held after 40 years on run in 1986 Delhi wife murder case

The Sikh Times
New Delhi: In a breakthrough in a four-decade-old murder case, the Delhi Police has arrested an 82-year-old man who had allegedly killed his wife in 1986 and been on the run since then, an official said on Thursday. The accused, Chandra Shekhar Prasad, a native of Bihar's Nalanda, was apprehended from a factory store-room in Nangli Poonia area of outer north Delhi, where he had been living under a false identity, he said. The case dates back to October 19, 1986, when Prasad, then 40, allegedly murdered his wife at their Shakarpur residence in east Delhi by crushing her head with bricks over suspicion of an extramarital affair.

"During the incident, he and his accomplices also held a domestic help at gunpoint before fleeing the scene," he said. An FIR under sections 302 (murder) and 34 (crime committed with common intention) of the IPC was registered at Shakarpur police station, but the accused evaded arrest and was declared an absconder by a court in 1987. The case remained unsolved for nearly 40 years due to a lack of leads and the absence of modern investigative tools at the time. Police said tracing the accused posed significant challenges as there were no digital records, photographs, Aadhaar data or mobile trails from that era, and his age had advanced from around 40

at the time of the crime to technical surveillance, verification in Nalanda



about 82 now. A team of the crime branch reopened the case and began tracking the accused through a mix of human intelligence and

"Investigators found that his children were settled in Delhi and Bihar, and discreetly monitored suspected mobile numbers linked to the family. Field

confirmed that Prasad was alive and occasionally visited during family or religious events," the officer said. Acting on inputs about one such visit fol-

lowing a bereavement, police mounted surveillance and tracked his movement to Delhi. On April 22, a trap was laid, and the accused was arrested from a factory premises in Alipur. During interrogation, Prasad confessed to the crime, stating that he frequently quarrelled with his wife over suspicions about her character and killed her in a fit of rage before fleeing. Police said during his decades-long escape, he constantly changed locations, living in Bihar, Punjab, Haryana and Delhi. He worked as a rickshaw puller in Punjab's Patiala and even took shelter at an ashram in Haryana to avoid detection. Further investigation is underway.

Gurugram MC orders road restoration drive after demolition campaign

Gurugram: The dust has barely settled on the latest rounds of high-profile demolition drives in Gurugram, but a new administrative battle is brewing over who cleans up the mess. Following a series of aggressive enforcement actions by the District Town Planner (DTP) that saw illegal structures leveled across the city, the Municipal Corporation of Gurugram (MC) has stepped in to demand accountability for the resulting urban chaos. In a formal memorandum, MCG Commissioner Pradeep Dahiya made it clear that the celebration of successful enforcement must be followed by the responsibility of scientific disposal. In an official communication addressed to the DTP (Enforcement), Dahiya underscored the legal necessity of managing debris under the Construction and Demolition (C&D) Waste Rules. "Rule 6(2) mandates that the waste generator shall deposit the construction and demolition waste at the designated processing plant or collection centre," the commissioner noted. Highlighting the scale of the current challenge, he further stated, "During the ongoing demolition drive, a substantial quantity of C&D waste is being generated, which must be handled and disposed of in a scientific and timely manner to ensure cleanliness and environmental compliance within the city." The push for a cleaner Gurugram comes as local residents and commuters face a dual crisis of blocked transit and deteriorating infrastructure. Reports from the ground indicate that the heavy machinery used during the "bulldozer action" has caused significant damage to the city's internal road networks. The MCG's directive explicitly orders that all waste be transported to the Basai processing facility "without any delay," warning that non-compliance could invite strict action under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

Over 21,000 challans in 7 days, in Gurugram

Gurugram: The Gurugram traffic police issued 21,901 challans to commuters for flouting traffic rules like wrong side driving, driving without seat belt, riding without helmets, drunk driving etc. The traffic police issued these challans only in a week from January 4 to 11, with fines amounting to over Rs 1.78 crores. It includes 13,331 challans issued on the ground. According to traffic police data, 1,907 challans were issued for driving on the wrong side, 829 for road marking violations, 781 for pillion riders without helmets, 1,013 for driving without seat belts, 750 for driving without helmets, 299 for drunk driving, 1148 for wrong parking and 356 for dangerous U-turn. A total of 8570 challans were issued through cameras which include 5402 for no entry, 1739 for over speeding, 934 for lane change, 101 for pillion rider without helmet, 150 for driver without seat belt, 109 for pollution, 65 for driver without helmet, 22 for triple riding and 48 for front passenger without seat belt. Action was taken on wrongly parked vehicles and on heavy vehicles changing lanes on highways causing inconvenience to commuters. People driving without helmets, seat belts and under the influence of alcohol, were also penalised. "In order to maintain road discipline and curb road accidents, special surveillance is being maintained on NH-48, Dwarka Expressway and Delhi-Mumbai Expressway with the help of NHA cameras and drone technology," said DCP traffic Rajesh Mohan.

5 killed, several injured as house collapses after explosion in Ayodhya

Ayodhya: At least five people were killed and several others were injured after a house collapsed following a powerful explosion in Pagla Bhari village under the Pura Kalandar police station area of Ayodhya on Thursday, officials said. Circle Officer (CO) Shailendra Singh told that several people were still feared trapped under the debris, and rescue operations were underway. "Five people have died in the explosion, a few have been injured, and efforts are on to rescue those trapped. The cause of the blast is not yet clear," Singh said. Upon receiving information about the incident, the police, the fire department and the local administration teams rushed to the spot. Rescue workers have been using excavators to clear the rubble, while nearby houses have been evacuated as a precautionary measure. Officials have appealed to residents to stay away from the accident site to facilitate rescue efforts. Senior police and administrative officers are supervising the operation and have begun an investigation to determine the cause of the explosion. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has taken cognisance of the incident and expressed deep condolences over the loss of lives. According to an official statement, the Chief Minister has directed senior officials to rush to the spot, ensure proper medical treatment for the injured, and personally oversee the ongoing rescue and relief operations.

Wife, 'lover' arrested for plotting husband's stabbing in Delhi

New Delhi: What began as a mysterious stabbing by unidentified assailants in a park in central Delhi turned into a chilling case of betrayal and conspiracy, as police arrested a 24-year-old woman and her alleged accomplice for orchestrating a brutal knife attack on her husband at their house in Patel Nagar, officials said on Friday. The accused have been identified as Laxmi (24) and Karan (22). The victim, a resident of Baljeet Nagar, sustained multiple stab wounds and is undergoing treatment at Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital. According to police, Laxmi claimed that her husband was attacked by two to three unidentified men when he stepped out to buy food. Based on her statement, an FIR was registered at Patel Nagar police station, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Central) Rohit Rajbir said. However, the DCP said suspicion arose when investigators scanned the CCTV footage.

Dr Vivek Sharma Receives Mahatma Gandhi Gaurav Samman

Jaipur based Child specialist Dr.Vivek Sharma has been honoured with Mahatma Gandhi Gaurav Samman by Jeevaran Foundation, Prayagraj, for his efforts to promote better education for children with dyslexia through the Principles of Gandhi's basic education. The honour recognises his work on applying Mahatma Gandhi's Basic Education (Nai Talim) for children with learning difficulties, along with his articles published regarding Gandhi's basic education in national and international newspapers and magazines. The foundation appreciated Dr Sharma's efforts to promote Mahatma Gandhi's Basic Education through routine school curriculum activities for children with dyslexia.



Rs 1,000 fine for dog owner if pet found without leash on street under proposed DMC Act revision

The Sikh Times

New Delhi: The fine for letting a dog roam in a public street without a leash, which currently is Rs 50 under the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act, 1957, will increase to Rs 1,000 if the Parliament passes the Jan Vishwas (Amendment) of Provisions) Bill, 2025. This change is part of the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2026, which was introduced by Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Jitin Prasada in the Lok Sabha on Friday. The bill proposes several amendments to the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act of 1957. Under the proposed amendments, the fine for tethering cattle on a public road will also rise from Rs 100 to Rs 1,000. Additionally, defacing or destroying a house num-

ber, which currently incurs a Rs 50 fine, will be increased to Rs 1,000. Other fines are set to

will increase to Rs 500. In terms of sanitation, failing to arrange for garbage collection, currently fined at

buildings, the fine for failing to vacate a dangerous structure when ordered will increase from Rs 200



increase as well. For instance, discharging fireworks that may cause danger will go from Rs 50 to Rs 500. Preventing a municipal official from entering premises, which also carries a fine of Rs 50,

Rs 50, will be raised to Rs 500. Allowing filth to flow into the street and dumping rubbish on the street, both currently fined at Rs 50, will each attract a fine of Rs 200 under the new legislation. Regarding

to Rs 1,000. Similarly, occupying a building without a completion certificate will also rise from Rs 200 to Rs 1,000. The general penalty under Section 465 for violations that do not have a specific fine

prescribed will increase from Rs 100 to Rs 500, with the daily continuing penalty going up from Rs 20 to Rs 50. The bill will also eliminate several provisions. For instance, the highest fine in the Act, which is currently Rs 10,000 plus Rs 500 per day for commencing building work without notice under Section 337(4), will be removed completely. Penalties for keeping a market open without a license will be set at Rs 2,000, while the fine for damaging street lamps will be Rs 100, and the penalty for failing to notify births and deaths, currently Rs 50, will also be dropped by the proposed legislation. Section 387, which allowed for a municipal sweeper to be imprisoned for up to one month for being absent without notice, will be decrimi-

nalised and replaced with a civil penalty of Rs 500. Conversely, several offences that currently attract modest fines will be upgraded to criminal liability. For example, depositing items in the streets will change from a Rs 100 fine to potential imprisonment of up to six months and/or a fine of Rs 5,000. Erecting structures that obstruct streets and opening roads without permission will attract the same penalties, the proposed legislation states. Additionally, the bill proposes to shift the adjudication of most violations from criminal courts to a municipal officer at least of the rank of assistant commissioner. This will include a 30-day appeal window and a six-month deadline for disposal, governed under proposed Section 461A.

Housing affordability improves as income growth outpaces property prices

The Sikh Times

Gurugram: After years of sharp price escalation that stretched homebuyers' budgets, the Delhi-NCR residential market is entering a phase of relative stability in 2026, with incomes finally catching up to property prices, according to the latest CBRE India Residential Market Outlook 2026. The report signals a crucial turning point for the region—particularly for Gurugram, which had witnessed one of the steepest price surges in the country. Between 2019 and 2024, property rates in key micro-markets of the city rose by nearly 160 per cent, touching around Rs 19,500 per square foot in premium corridors. For the first time since the post-pandemic boom, household income growth in Delhi-NCR is projected to outpace property price appreciation. This shift

is expected to stabilize the EMH-to-income ratio, easing financial pressure on buyers. In practical terms, this means improved accessibility across income segments: Buyers earning around Rs 40 lakh annually are finding better access to 2BHK homes in emerging areas such as New Gurugram and Sohna Road. Those in the Rs 75 lakh income bracket are seeing 3BHK homes becoming more attainable in growth corridors like Dwarka Expressway and Southern Peripheral Road. High-income buyers (Rs 1 crore+) are experiencing a reduced EMI burden for premium properties in Golf Course Extension and DLF Phase 5. Market experts note a clear transition in Gurugram — from speculative investor-driven buying to a more structured, end-user-focused demand cycle. While prices

are still expected to grow by 8–15 per cent in high-demand zones such as Dwarka Expressway, the pace is now more aligned with income growth rather than speculative spikes. Lower interest rates: Anticipated monetary easing is helping reduce home loan costs. Rising incomes: Strong growth in NCR's corporate and tech workforce is improving purchasing power. Infrastructure boost: Projects like Dwarka Expressway and metro expansion are unlocking new housing supply in peripheral sectors. Despite improving affordability, the market remains polarized. Luxury housing — priced above Rs 2 crore — continues to dominate sales, driven by NRIs and high-net-worth individuals. At the same time, the affordable housing segment (below Rs 45 lakh) continues to face supply constraints,

prompting calls for policy intervention. Rishabh Periwal, Senior Vice President, Pioneer Urban Land & Infrastructure Ltd, said, "The findings from CBRE's Housing Affordability Index are encouraging and reaffirm the strong underlying fundamentals of India's real estate sector. With household incomes expected to keep pace with, and in many cases outstrip, property price trends, overall affordability is likely to see a gradual improvement, further strengthening homebuyer confidence." "In a market like Gurugram, which continues to evolve as a preferred real estate destination, this trend is expected to support sustained demand across both mid and premium segments. Enhanced affordability, combined with ongoing infrastructure development and a supportive policy environment, will continue to encourage

end-user participation and contribute to overall market stability." "From a developer's perspective, this presents a meaningful opportunity to focus on delivering high-quality, future-ready homes that are aligned with the aspirations of today's homebuyers, while reinforcing long-term value creation and trust within the sector," he said. For prospective homebuyers in Delhi-NCR, 2026 may not bring a price correction — but it does offer something equally significant: stability. With incomes rising and EMIs stabilizing, this could be the most balanced entry

point into the housing market in the last five years, especially in the high-growth corridors of Gurugram.

Public Notice

It is for general information that I, AJAY KUMAR RAO S/O KRISHAN GOPAL CHANDRA R/O HOUSE NO 620-B, BLOCK BH (EAST), SHALIMAR BAGH, PO : SHALIMAR BAGH, DIST : NORTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110088, declared that name of mine and my father has been wrongly written as AJAY KUMAR and KRISHAN GOPAL in my VOTER CARD NO.DL/03/019/276522. The actual names of mine and my father are AJAY KUMAR RAO and KRISHAN GOPAL CHANDRA respectively which may be amended accordingly. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection.

NAME CHANGE

I Sanya D/o Amitabh Rai R/o W-109, 1st floor, Uppal Southend, near omx mall, Uppal Southend, sector -49, Gurgaon have changed my name to Sanya Rai for all future.

NAME CHANGE

I Jitender Singh S/o- Ishwar Singh, R/o 495, near badi Chaulpal, Gurgaon-122001 have changed my name Jitender for all future purposes.

PUBLIC NOTICE

GENERAL PUBLIC IS HEREBY INFORMED THAT MR. PREM SINGH IS OWNER AND IN POSSESSION OF "PORTION OF PROPERTY BEARING NOS. 272 & 273, ADMEASURING 30 SQ. YARDS OUT OF TOTAL LAND AREA MEASURING 500 SQ. YARDS OUT OF KHASRA NOS. 5/25 & 14/4 SITUATED IN THE REVENUE ESTATE OF VILLAGE RAZAPUR KHURD AND THE COLONY KNOWN AS RAKSHA ENCLAVE, MOHAN GARDEN, UTTAM NAGAR, NEW DELHI-110059." AND ACQUIRED THE SAID PROPERTY VIDE NOTARIZED GPA, NOTARIZED AT& WILL DT. 25.08.2020 EXECUTED BY MR. DIWAN SINGH, NOW MRS. MEENAKSHI GUPTA IS GOING TO PURCHASE THE SAID PROPERTY, FROM OWNER, I SELLER MR. PREM SINGH, WHICH WILL BE MORTGAGED WITH TRU HOME FINANCE LIMITED AS SECURITY AGAINST HOUSING LOAN FOR PURCHASING OF SAID PROPERTY. PLEASE CONTACT WITH WRITTEN OBJECTION LETTER AND RELEVANT DOCUMENTS TO UNDERSIGNED IF ANYONE HAS AN OBJECTION IN RESPECT OF SAID PROPERTY WITHIN 10 DAYS OF THIS PUBLICATION.

ADITYA VERMA, ADVOCATE
E-16, 1ST & 2ND FLOOR, E-BLOCK, MANSAROVAR PARK, SHAHDARA, DELHI-110032.
MOBILE NO. 9999045251 / 9958996685.

NAME CHANGE

I HAJRA WIFE OF JAMALUDDIN R/O V-187, STREET NO-22-B, VIJAY PARK MAJUPUR, NORTH EAST, DELHI-110053 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME HAJRA BEGUM FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSE

NAME CHANGE

I SHAGUPTA PRAVIN WIFE OF RIFAKAT HUSAIN R/O V-251, 4/F, GALI NO-21-B, VIJAY PARK MAJUPUR, NORTH EAST, DELHI-110053 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME SHAGUPTA FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSE

NAME CHANGE

I SADIR KHAN SON OF HUSAIN KHAN R/O 208, GASUPUR BULANDSHAH, UTTAR PRADESH-245403, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME MOH SAIR KHAN FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSE AND I BABBO BEGUM WIFE OF SADIR KHAN R/O 208, GASUPUR, BULANDSHAH, UTTAR PRADESH-245403, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME URUSA BEGUM FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSE

NAME CHANGE

I, Andavarapu Nihal Subudhi, S/O A. Bakuntha Rao Subudhi, R/O Flat No-102, Prabhakar Regency, near Thakurani Temple, Brahmapur Sadar 760009, Ganjam, Odisha have changed my name to Andavarapu Nihal for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, Kuldeep Kumar, S/O Uday Ram, R/O Kh No-249, Sushant Vihar, Kadijpur, North West Delhi, Delhi- 110036 have changed my name to Kuldeep Kumar for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, Zakir Hussain, S/O Kismat Ali, R/O House No-408, Gali No-7, Near Tau Devi Lal Park, Nable Enclave West, Gurgaon, Haryana- 122001 have changed my name to Zakir Hussain for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, Qismat Ali Ansari, S/O Savli Mylan, R/O Chadrahiya, Aarej, East Champaran, Aarej, Bihar- 845411 have changed my name to Kismat Ali for all future purposes.

abscinding in a murder case registered at Jahangir Puri police station earlier this month. Police said the trio was involved in the brutal stabbing of a 17-year-old boy at Ramlila Ground in Jahangir Puri on April 5. The victim was rushed to Babu Jagjivan Ram Memorial Hospital by his brother but was declared brought dead. During investigation, the victim's brother alleged that the accused attacked due to prior enmity stemming from a personal dispute. The assailants intercepted the victim and repeatedly stabbed him with knives. Acting on specific intelligence inputs and technical surveillance, the Crime Branch team tracked the accused to the Sabhapur underpass in Loni, Uttar Pradesh, where they were apprehended. During interrogation, the accused allegedly

confessed to the crime, stating that they conspired to kill the victim over a dispute involving abusive language directed at a family member. Police said Dilshad had arranged the

knives used in the attack and led the assault. Officials added that one co-accused and a juvenile in conflict with law had already been arrested earlier in the case.

YouTuber held in 31-year-old kidnapping-murder case in Delhi

New Delhi: The Delhi Police Crime Branch has arrested a YouTuber, Salim Vastik, in connection with a 31-year-old kidnapping and murder case, while in a separate operation, three absconding accused were apprehended in a recent murder case in Jahangir Puri. According to police, Salim Vastik had allegedly kidnapped and killed a businessman's 13-year-old son in 1995. He was convicted in 1997 but fled after securing interim bail in 2000. Investigators said he faked his death and lived under a changed identity for over two decades before being tracked down and arrested from the Loni area of Ghaziabad. In another case, a team of the Crime Branch's NR-II unit arrested three wanted accused, Sheikh Ishak (52), his sons Dilshad (29) and Irfan (22), who had been

abscinding in a murder case registered at Jahangir Puri police station earlier this month. Police said the trio was involved in the brutal stabbing of a 17-year-old boy at Ramlila Ground in Jahangir Puri on April 5. The victim was rushed to Babu Jagjivan Ram Memorial Hospital by his brother but was declared brought dead. During investigation, the victim's brother alleged that the accused attacked due to prior enmity stemming from a personal dispute. The assailants intercepted the victim and repeatedly stabbed him with knives. Acting on specific intelligence inputs and technical surveillance, the Crime Branch team tracked the accused to the Sabhapur underpass in Loni, Uttar Pradesh, where they were apprehended. During interrogation, the accused allegedly

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knives used in the attack and led the assault. Officials added that one co-accused and a juvenile in conflict with law had already been arrested earlier in the case.

NEWS BOX

US announces USD 24.4 bn contract to speed up missile production

world.(Agency)

The Pentagon on Thursday announced the award of a \$24.4 billion contract for Raytheon to accelerate production of SM-6 missiles as Washington works to replace the large amount of munitions expended during the Iran war.The missiles are "critical anti-air and anti-surface warfare munition. This five-year agreement, with two additional option years, will drive faster production," the Pentagon said in a statement.The deal "provides the defense industry with the long-term predictability needed to expand workforce capacity and secure critical supply chains," the Pentagon added.President Donald Trump has so far brushed aside questions about the major toll taken on US munition supplies by the war against Iran, which the United States and Israel launched on February 28.But the Defense Department's inspector general said last month that "the munitions expenditure on Operation Epic Fury has resulted in strategic inventory shortfalls and revealed industrial base bottlenecks for munitions resupply," using the official name for the operation against Iran.And a September 15 report by the Congressional Budget Office cited the hit to missile defense supplies that "will leave the United States with a reduced inventory of interceptors for several years."Raytheon confirmed in a statement Wednesday that their SM-6 "has been successfully fired from various US Navy ship-based platforms and launchers on land," calling it a "combat-proven weapon."The weapons-maker also acknowledged increased efforts to meet demand."By continuously investing in our operations and facilities, we are removing constraints and boosting capacity to ensure we deliver this critical capability our sailors depend on," Raytheon President Phil Jasper said in the statement.

Israeli Security Lapse That's Key In flydubai Attack And A UAE Contention

Tel Aviv .(Agency)

Dozens of Omani pilots have flown to Tel Aviv in recent years on flydubai flights, despite a ban on pilots from unfriendly states in a major security lapse, Israel's Channel 12 has reported. The figure reportedly emerged as part of the investigations that were opened after an apparent attack on a flydubai flight from Dubai, in which an Omani co-pilot attacked the captain with alleged intentions of harming the plane and its passengers. The report claimed that Israeli security agency Shin Bet was negligent in enforcing a ban on pilots from states that lack relations with the Jewish state. Oman, which has not signed the Abraham Accords, does not have formal diplomatic relations with Israel. The accords, which established diplomatic ties between Israel and the UAE in 2020, bar pilots from flying into Israel if their home countries don't formally recognise the Jewish state. According to the report, Israel has ceded oversight of that prohibition over the years, trusting the foreign airlines to enforce the ban. Citing the investigation into the attack, Channel 12 reported that the Shin Bet security service never examined the origins of flydubai's pilots, beyond reminding the airline about the clause. The new report has raised questions about how flydubai's air crews were approved for flights to Israel over the years, and in particular crew members who hold citizenship of countries that do not have diplomatic relations with Israel. It was earlier reported that the attacker might also have had dual citizenship.Israel is now trying to understand how the approval was given to those pilots, what details were provided in advance about the identities of the crew members, and whether their Omani citizenship was known to the parties that approved the flights. The Negligence Israel's Transportation Ministry has said in a statement to Channel 12 that the Shin Bet never issued a specific warning regarding threats from flydubai, beyond asking for increased baggage checks.

New York's governor removes DA in Cornell rape allegations, appoints AG Letitia James to take over

The woman, identified only as Jane Doe in court documents, reported the alleged assault to campus police in November of 2024, then discussed it with the university's internal investigators as part of Cornell's disciplinary process.

ITHACA, N.Y.(Agency)

New York's governor appointed a special prosecutor Thursday to oversee an investigation into a woman's allegations that she was gang raped at a Cornell University fraternity house, saying she had lost faith in the local district attorney's ability to handle the case.Gov. Kathy Hochul said she had signed an executive

order appointing the office of New York Attorney General Letitia James as the special prosecutor to oversee the investigation, which had initially been closed without charges in 2024. The woman's allegations got a rush of new attention when she filed a civil lawsuit last month. Tompkins County District Attorney Matthew Van Houten reopened the investigation Monday, but has been battered by criticism that he'd abandoned the original investigation too quickly. "Newly released information continues to raise serious questions about the investigation conducted by the Cornell Police Department and the decision by the Tompkins County District Attorney not to prosecute an alleged sexual assault on Cornell University's campus in October 2024," Hochul said."This has, in turn, undercut my faith, and the public's faith, in the

District Attorney's ability to effectively investigate and prosecute the case at this time."Hochul said the attorney general would oversee the investigation and, if warranted, present evidence to a grand jury."The young woman at the center of this case deserves to know that every fact will be examined and justice pursued," Hochul said. "This action will ensure that the matter is fully and thoroughly

investigated without conflict or bias, and handled independently with the rigor that this matter demands."Messages left for Van Houten were not immediately returned late Thursday. Hochul, James and Van Houten are all Democrats.A campus roiled by continued revelationsHochul's announcement came shortly after dozens of students and community members spent hours demanding transparency and accountability from university leaders at a forum sponsored by Cornell's student government. The case has roiled the Ivy League campus and raised questions about its response and the larger issue of how sexual assaults are handled on college campuses.The woman, identified only as Jane Doe in court documents, reported the alleged assault to campus police in November of 2024, then discussed it with the university's internal investigators as part of Cornell's disciplinary process.



Putin says Modi has 'very good ideas' for mutually acceptable Ukraine peace deal

Dubai. (Agency)

Russian President Vladimir Putin has said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has "very good ideas" for finding a mutually acceptable solution to the Ukraine conflict and raises the issue at every meeting between the two leaders.Putin made the remarks on Thursday while addressing the annual meeting of the Valdai International Discussion Club, according to state-run TASS news agency."As for Prime Minister Modi's position on ending wars, I can say that he is one of those world leaders who, despite our very good, even friendly relations, including at the personal level, constantly raises the issue and asks questions about ending the conflict in Ukraine," Putin said.he Russian president said Modi "brings up these matters at every meeting we have and

takes a keen interest in them". "He has very good ideas aimed at finding mutually acceptable solutions," Putin added.



The remarks came days after Putin and Modi held talks on the sidelines of the BRICS summit in New Delhi last month. During the meeting, Putin briefed Modi on the situation in Ukraine and ongoing peace

initiatives.Ahead of the summit, Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov had said Russia would welcome India's efforts to help end the conflict, noting that Moscow's approach was aligned with New Delhi's emphasis on dialogue and diplomacy.Putin also praised India's cultural diversity and unity during his address on Wednesday. "India cannot fail to amaze with its scale and diversity," he said."Few people know this, but Mr. Modi told me that of the 1.5 billion people, 600 million Indians speak their native language, Hindi, while most speak their own languages, and they all live together — amazing," he said. "There is something unique about Indian culture that can certainly serve as an example of how diversity and unity can coexist.

Two major Kyiv bridges shut after Russian drone strikes

ITHACA, N.Y.(Agency)

--Traffic was halted across one of Kyiv's main bridges and restricted at a second one on Friday after Russian drone strikes on the Ukrainian capital, the authorities said. Mayor Vitali Klitschko said the Southern Bridge, which connects the east and west of Kyiv over the Dnipro river, was "completely closed" to traffic in both directions. The Paton Bridge, further north, was only open one way, he added, but there were no reports that it had been hit. Russian drones struck the support structures of the Southern Bridge on Thursday. The crossing was temporarily closed while a structural assessment was made.It reopened to traffic and Metro train services soon afterwards but on Thursday night, Klitschko said it had been hit again. Ukraine has feared an attack on its major transportation bridges since the start of Russia's full-scale invasion in February 2022.



Kyiv has been increasingly under aerial bombardment from Russian drones and missiles in recent months, putting the city on a near-constant state of alert. Emergency services said one person

was killed and at least two wounded in a strike on a 25-storey residential building in the Darnytsky district of the city.The victim was found as firefighters put out a fire caused by the blast, they added.

Elon Musk Says "Instagram Is For Girls" In Reply To Post About Deleting App, Sparks Debate Online

world.(Agency)

Elon Musk has sparked debate online with a comment about Instagram being a social media platform for a particular gender. His remark came in response to an X post by user Geiger Capital, who shared his decision to delete the platform. X user Geiger Capital wrote, "Officially deleted Instagram. An inherently female app. Zero benefit."Responding to the post, Musk wrote, "Instagram is for girls." His



reaction has sparked debate on social media. Check Out The Post Here: Musk Made Similar Statement In May Earlier in May this year, Musk had made the same statement about Instagram while replying to a viral thread about social media habits and online trends.The post featured a discussion about how people's online habits can reflect different phases of their lives. While responding to the discussion, Musk wrote, "Instagram is for girls," and mocked men who share their Instagram profiles with him.The thread highlighted common Instagram trends such as posting "thirst traps", uploading stories throughout the day and sharing pictures of homemade food.Later, Musk added another comment saying that when grown men send him their Instagram profiles, he wonders if they are "transitioning or what." The post quickly went viral, with many social media users calling his comments sexist and offensive.

Christa Pike is in critical condition after Tennessee's failed execution attempt, her lawyers say

NASHVILLE, Tenn.(Agency)

Christa Pike was in critical condition Thursday and receiving "lifesaving care" at a hospital, her lawyers said, a day after a failed attempt to execute her pushed Tennessee's governor to halt further executions this year and order an independent review.Pike, who was sentenced to death for a 1995 murder, was taken to a hospital Wednesday night after surviving a double dose of the drug Tennessee uses to execute prisoners. "We don't have a sense of her prognosis or much update on her health at the moment," attorney Randy Spivey said during a news conference. "But we know she is alive right now."The failed execution, which one death penalty expert described as unprecedented, led Republican Gov. Bill Lee to order a review, calling what happened "deeply disturbing" and indefinitely postponing Pike's execution and another one that had been scheduled for this year. It also reignited the debate over the state's execution procedures, including its single-drug lethal injections.

Spivey called the process cruel and torturous, saying he was "haunted" by watching and



hearing Pike talking, singing and then snoring loudly during her more than 90 minutes in the death chamber. Her attorneys also said it was unclear if she might have suffered brain damage from being deprived of oxygen.May Martinez, whose daughter was murdered by Pike and her boyfriend and who traveled to Nashville to watch the

execution, was also upset."I didn't get justice for my daughter," Martinez told The Associated Press on Thursday."I watched the whole thing. She was awake. She was laughing. She was moving her head, moving her feet. She was trying to sit up," Martinez said. "Didn't work the first time they gave her a shot. It didn't work the second time."A prolonged attempt ends in failureIt was not immediately clear what went wrong. Pike's attorneys said there were a number of possibilities.The execution team worked for an hour to administer the lethal drugs, said Spivey, who counted at least seven needles in her left arm.During the struggle to locate a vein, Pike even suggested where they might find one, he said. "Please try here, please try here," Spivey recalled her saying. "She told them over and over, please try higher on my shoulder."At one point Pike asked prison officials if her arm was supposed to feel that way, though it's unclear if it was after the first dose entered her body because officials don't share that information.

NEWS BOX

NIA files chargesheet against two in Odisha's Sundarpada bomb blast case

BHUBANESWAR (Agency). The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Thursday filed a chargesheet before the Special NIA Court, Bhubaneswar, against two persons in connection with the Sundarpada crude bomb explosion case of January 27. The chargesheet has been filed against Amiya Ranjan Mallick and Rohan Ranjan Rout. Investigation revealed that the accused were actively involved in illegally arranging explosive materials and manufacturing bombs. The chargesheet was filed under various sections of BNS, Explosive Substances Act and Explosives Act, NIA officials said. The agency had taken over the investigation from Airfield police and re-registered the case on April 4. The incident had occurred in Azad Nagar area of Sundarpada within Airfield police limits. Four persons, Shahnawaz Malik, his mother Lizatun Bibi, his friend Amiya Ranjan Mallick and his fiancée were allegedly attempting to bind a crude bomb illegally on the rooftop of his rented house when it exploded. All of them were shifted to a hospital. Shahnawaz, who had sustained critical injuries, succumbed on February 4 while undergoing treatment.

CM Majhi calls for citizen participation to make Bhubaneswar the cleanest city

BHUBANESWAR (Agency). Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Thursday urged residents of Bhubaneswar to take greater responsibility for keeping their neighbourhoods clean, saying collective participation will help the city move from its current ninth position in the national cleanliness ranking to the top. Addressing a cleanliness drive organised by the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) at Khandagiri under the ‘Ek Din, Ek Ghanta, Ek Sath’ campaign, Majhi said cleanliness should not be limited to individual homes. “Just as we keep our homes, courtyards and premises clean, we need to expand our responsibility to the roads in front of our houses and colonies,” he said. The chief minister appealed to the citizens to segregate wet and dry waste at source and hand it over to sanitation workers. He also urged people not to litter public spaces and discourage others from doing so. Majhi said the Ek Din, Ek Ghanta, Ek Sath (One day, One hour, Together) initiative under the Swachhata Hi Seva campaign was an effort to involve society at large in maintaining cleanliness. The drive was part of the Seva Sankalp Abhiyan to mark the 76th birth anniversary of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Recalling Mahatma Gandhi’s emphasis on sanitation, Majhi said Prime Minister Narendra Modi had, since 2014, sought to turn cleanliness into a mass movement through the Swachhata Hi Seva campaign.

Competition hurts revenue, but Keralam's prison kitchens endure

KOCHI (Agency). From feeding prisoners to expanding into a business venture that found acceptance among thousands outside the jail’s walls, Keralam’s prison kitchens have come a long way. The change began in the 2010s, when the kitchens were modernised with new machinery to cut down on time and labour. The experience of catering to large numbers of inmates encouraged the department of prisons and correctional services to explore commercial food production. In 2011, the Central Prison and Correctional Home, Thiruvananthapuram, launched the first Freedom Food Making Unit. From the initial chapati and vegetable, chicken and egg curry packets, the menu expanded to include snacks, bakery products, pickles and cooked meals. Freedom outlets sprung up in other parts of the state, too. However, the outlets are now operating in a far more competitive food market, especially in Kochi where Kudumbashree ventures, the corporation’s Samridhi outlets and other affordable food initiatives have taken root. And this has affected sales. The turnover of Freedom Food unit at Ernakulam District Jail fell from `3.11 crore in 2023-24 to `2.80 crore in 2024-25 and further to `1.90 crore in 2025-26. “Before November 2024, our average monthly sales were around `21 to `23 lakh. Now, it is around `16 lakh,” a jail official said. The officials said increase in raw material and gas prices, along with the rise in daily wages paid to prisoners – from `170 to `530 – has put additional pressure on the unit.

In parched Maharashtra, farmers forced to sell thirsty animals. Water tankers come only for humans

Cattle shelters have in the past been set up for assistance to farmers to house their animals in drought conditions. In 2018-19, the camps were set up in January. The demand for shelters this year from September may be the earliest in several years.

Mumbai (Agency). Farmers and landless labourers facing water shortage in Maharashtra are seeking that the government set up animal shelters to provide water for their livestock, with many fearing they will be forced to sell their livestock. When the state government announced drought in 265 talukas of Maharashtra on September 25, one of the relief measures announced in the Government Resolution is to arrange fodder for animals. However, district authorities say it is not an immediate need as fodder is currently available in these areas. Farmers say that a more urgent requirement is water for the animals, with tankers providing only for household needs. Cattle shelters have in the past been set up for assistance to farmers to house their animals in drought conditions. In 2018-19, the camps were set up in January. The demand for shelters this year from September may be the earliest in several years..Latur resident Sangeeta



works at a farm in Ausa. So far, she has been using the water at the farm from a borewell but as that has begun drying up too, Gaikwad says that she decided to sell two of her four goats. “I had bought these two goats for around Rs 14,000 each a few months ago and I am not

even getting Rs 11,000 for them. I returned without selling them at a low price last week but I am here again as it is very difficult to find water for them,” Gaikwad says. She has been at the market since 7am and will wait in the open ground in scorching heat till at least 11 am to see if she gets a good price. Gaikwad works on a farm where soyabean and cotton are grown but it had dried up due to no rainfall. The Ausa weekly market, like many across the state’s drought-hit regions, is witnessing farmers with small landholdings trying to sell their cattle and landless ones selling their goats in distress sales due to water scarcity. At the same market, Suresh Kadam has brought his two bullocks, Sarjan and Rajan. Unwilling to sell the four-year-old bulls used for ploughing, Kadam says that he has eight more at home. “For all my cattle, I need about 1,000 litres a day—one overhead tank. Where do I get that from in such scarcity? I had sown soyabean on my five-acre field but the output has been zero. The soyabean flattened in the heat,” he said.

‘Inaction over women safety’: Nirma varsity students hold ‘Black day’ protest

When students reported 'obscene act' to female security staff, they had an advice for girl students: Do not wear shorts within the hostel premises, students allege

Ahmedabad (Agency). Students of Nirma University, a leading private university in Ahmedabad, staged a protest on Thursday accusing inaction of the authorities concerned after they filed complaints raising security issues they faced on the premises of the girls’ hostel. The agitating students observed a ‘Black Day’ on Thursday to mark their protest against alleged inaction by the university administration on the complaint by girl students. On Wednesday, a video was shared on social media platforms raising concerns about safety of female students on the campus. The video was purportedly recorded from Nirma University’s Girls Hostel H4. The



video, recorded by the hostel residents, shows a worker present in the under-construction H5 building of the new girls hostel opposite H4 block engaging in inappropriate and objectionable behaviour towards female

students. The students said they had reported this ‘obscene act’ to the female security staff. “Instead of taking action, the security staff had an advice for girl students: Do not wear shorts within the hostel premises,” they alleged. The students said that the matter was also taken up with the university administration, but no action has been taken, they alleged. Instead of taking action against the worker, a green net cloth was put up around the girls hotel, one of the students said, alleging “complete lack of accountability” by the administration. To mark a protest, students, clad in black clothes, staged a dharna on the campus.

Left out of rolls after SIR? Special voter registration drive in Gujarat on 4 Sundays

Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Sandeep Sagale issued instructions to all District Election Officers and Collectors across the state to organise the drive based on detailed guidelines.

Ahmedabad (Agency). A special drive for the registration of first-time voters (aged 18-19) and other citizens who were previously left out of the electoral roll will be carried out in Gujarat. Names can be included in the electoral roll by filling out Form 6, the office of the Chief Electoral Officer stated. Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Sandeep Sagale issued instructions to all District Election Officers and Collectors across the state to organise the drive based on detailed guidelines. The drive, the office of the CEO stated, is a part of the ‘Continuous Updation’ process, and the decision to launch it was taken in accordance with the directives of

the Election Commission. Issuing a clarification regarding the application forms, the office of the CEO stated that ‘as the current period is a ‘Non-SIR’ period, any eligible individual can get their name included in the electoral roll by filling out Form-6, in accordance with the ‘Registration of Electors Rules, 1960’. The special enrolment drive on the four Sundays falling on October 11, 18 and 25 and November 1, applies to states where the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise has already been completed. Special arrangements will be made at all polling



stations on these four Sundays. The total number of voters in Gujarat stands at 4.40 crore, according to the final electoral rolls published by the Election Commission

(EC) on February 17 following the nearly three-and-a-half months of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise. On the four Sundays, designated officers and Booth Level Officers (BLOs) will be present at the polling stations from 10 am to 5 pm to accept applications (forms) regarding claims and objections. For supervision and monitoring, supervisors will make regular visits to polling stations to ensure the smooth conduct of operations during the special campaign days. Additionally, District Election Officers, electoral registration officers (EROs), and assistant electoral registration officers (AEROs) will conduct random.

Tareekh pe tareekh: Allahabad High Court flags case delays, questions system

Cases taking decades to decide, concerns over administrative accountability — what Justice Vinod Diwakar said in his order.

Lucknow (Agency). Cases pending for more than 20 years, some for over 40 years — a single bench of the Allahabad High Court observed that “even after centuries, the same frustration exists” in the familiar lament of tareekh pe tareekh (date after date). In a September 28 order allowing four petitions that had remained pending in lower courts for years, Justice Vinod Diwakar said such prolonged pendency “does not reflect well on our institution”. “It is time that the institution addressed the issue with the urgency and promptitude it deserves,” the bench said, requesting the Chief Justice to take up the issue. The order went beyond delays in individual cases. The bench made extensive observations on the administration of justice, judicial accountability and efficient functioning of courts. Calling for a

‘recalibration’ of the Chief Justice-centric model of High Court administration, it emphasised the need for a more deliberative, institutionally balanced and participative approach, with stronger institutional accountability. ‘Judicial character’ The order delved into what it described as influences that can “corrupt or undermine” judicial character. “‘Judicial Character’ requires... the removal of influences that corrupt or undermine it. Two such influences merit particular notice: the protection of dynastic privilege and nepotism, and the favouritism that arises from casteism and feudal patronage,” the bench observed. “The judiciary has neither an army nor a purse. It possesses only the willingness of citizens to accept its decisions, and that

willingness rests upon the belief that the institution belongs equally to all,” it said. Story continues below. Subscribe to see fewer ads. The bench said in the order that



the Supreme Court had envisaged a Chief Justice-centric system combining strong leadership with a “collaborative, participative & consultative approach,

embedded with a spirit of fraternity”. However, the order said, successive Chief Justices had not consistently followed the Allahabad High Court Rules, 1952. “... Today, there is little leeway of conscious and participative dialogue among Judges at the level of the High Court on matters related to the allocation of business,” the order stated. It further said allocation of work is not linked to performance. “... There are no defined, codified and notified parameters governing consideration for elevation and promotion to the next level,” the order said. The bench said administrative decisions were also not subject to independent audit, “so that accountability may be fixed in cases of proven favouritism, partisanship, or the operation of other extraneous considerations”.

Caste in the Classroom

There is something deeply unsettling about a society in which institutions meant to liberate individuals from the hierarchies of birth continue to reproduce those very hierarchies. Universities are expected to be spaces where reason challenges prejudice, where merit is cultivated rather than inherited, and where a young person's possibilities are not determined by the circumstances of birth. Yet caste has not disappeared at the gates of higher education. It enters the classroom, the hostel, the laboratory, the faculty room and, sometimes, even the vocabulary of merit.The uncomfortable question is no longer whether caste exists in our universities. It is why, despite constitutional guarantees, reservations and the expansion of educational opportunities, caste continues to shape the experience of learning, belonging and dignity. Perhaps literature helps us understand this better than institutional language or administrative data. In Omprakash Valmiki's Joothan, education is not a simple ladder of social mobility. The classroom itself becomes a site where caste announces its presence. The indignity of being made to perform menial work while others study reveals a fundamental contradiction: the institution expected to provide an escape from social hierarchy can reproduce the very order from which a student seeks liberation.Caste does not merely prevent entry into education; it can determine the terms on which education is experienced. Bama's Karukku complicates the assumption that education or social mobility automatically dissolves caste. Caste can survive beneath the language of equality, inhabiting relationships and institutions even when nobody is prepared to acknowledge its presence. For a Dalit student, admission to a university may represent the accumulated aspirations of a family and generations denied access to knowledge. But admission is only the beginning. What happens when the stigma attached to a caste surname travels with the student? When a scholarship is quietly treated as evidence of lesser merit? When discrimination is dismissed as oversensitivity, or when a complaint becomes a question of the student's ability to adjust?These are not merely questions of individual prejudice as they concern institutional culture. The language of merit becomes particularly important here. Merit is often presented as though it emerges in a social vacuum. But who has access to good schools, coaching, books, computers and the networks that make unfamiliar institutions easier to navigate? Who grows up with the confidence that failure is temporary because there is a social and economic cushion underneath? To acknowledge these inequalities is not to deny the importance of academic standards but it requires us to ask a more difficult question: can merit be understood without examining the unequal conditions in which it is produced, cultivated and demonstrated? A university that refuses to ask this question risks mistaking inherited advantage for individual achievement. Indian literature has been asking these questions for decades. Daya Pawar's Baluta exposes the social arrangements through which caste regulates dignity and dependence. Sharan Kumar Limbale's Akkarmashi explores the psychological burden of being made to feel that one's very existence is somehow illegitimate. Premchand's Sadgati written in a different historical moment, continue to confront us with questions that modern India would prefer to regard as settled.Who is entitled to dignity? Who is permitted to aspire? Who must repeatedly prove that they deserve a space that others inherit without question? Giriraj Kishor's Parishisht brings these questions directly into the world of elite technical education. Set against the backdrop of a premier engineering institution at Kanpur, the novel exposes the persistence of caste beneath the vocabulary of modernity, scientific temper and meritocracy. Its Dalit students encounter not simply explicit prejudice but psychological violence, social isolation and institutional indifference.The disturbing question at the heart of Parishisht remains relevant: can an institution call itself modern and meritocratic when caste influences who feels entitled to belong, who is made to feel like an outsider, and whose suffering remains invisible? The contemporary evidence makes it difficult to dismiss these literary accounts as merely historical or fictional concerns.

The life and legacy of Manmohan Singh

An important feature of his work as a civil servant was that he never hesitated to speak truth to power

I would like to express my thanks to the Prime Ministers' Museum and Library for asking me to deliver this lecture on the Life and Legacy of Dr Manmohan Singh as part of the series on prime ministers. It is an honour for which I am deeply grateful.I have had the privilege of having known Dr Manmohan Singh for a very long time. He was in fact both a mentor and a role model for me. He encouraged me to return to India in 1979 and I had the opportunity of working closely with him when he was finance minister and later again when he was prime minister. I realise that for these very same reasons, I cannot claim to be an entirely objective observer. But I will do the best I can to present as objective an assessment as possible.Dr Manmohan Singh's public life had three distinct stages: civil servant, finance minister and finally prime minister. I will cover each in sequence. But first, a few words about his early years. Early life It is well known that Manmohan Singh came from a humble background. His daughter Daman Singh, in her book "Strictly Personal: Manmohan and Gursharan", provides invaluable nuggets about his early life and also comments on current developments up to the time he was finance minister. I have drawn from it extensively.Manmohan Singh came from a humble background and his early life was not comfortable. He lost his mother when he was only five months old and he was brought up by his maternal grandmother in Gah village, in what is now Pakistan. His father Gurmukh Singh worked in a firm in Peshawar that imported dry fruits from Afghanistan for distribution to various parts of India.Both his maternal grandparents were illiterate. His grandfather had a very small landholding, which yielded a small income. They lived in a kutchra house with only two rooms, one for sleeping and another for keeping all their possessions. There was no electricity or running water. Daman's book tells us that "snakes had a nasty habit of creeping in and young Manmohan enjoyed watching his normally unruffled grandmother running out of the house in panic." Since the school in Gah catered only for kids up to the age of 11, Manmohan had to move to his uncle's house in Chakwal, to continue his studies. Meanwhile, his father prospered in his business and married again, and brought Manmohan to live with his new family in Peshawar. The Partition disrupted life for the family, as it did for millions of others. His maternal grandfather was killed in a communal outburst in Gah just before the Partition but the rest of the family was able to move safely to India. Years later, when he became prime minister, he was invited to visit Gah, but he declined because the

memories were too bitter.Manmohan Singh completed his BA in economics from Panjab University and graduated at the top of the class. He won a scholarship to study in Cambridge University and joined St John's College which was the college of Alfred Marshal. David Engerman's book, "The Apostles of Development", outlines the somewhat parallel lives of six South Asian students of economics who were at Cambridge at the same time: Amartya Sen, Jagdish Bhagwati, and Manmohan Singh from India, Mahbub ul Haq from Pakistan, Lal Jayawardene from Sri Lanka and Rehman



Sobhan from what was then East Pakistan and is now Bangladesh. It was a remarkable group by any standard. Five of the six won a first division, with Rehman Sobhan missing it narrowly. All the three Indians won the prestigious Adam Smith Prize. All of them contributed significantly to public life in their countries. Of the six, Manmohan Singh had the humblest origins. The others came from privileged backgrounds, belonging to the landed aristocracy or the professional classes.Manmohan Singh returned to Panjab University to teach, but a little later he went to Oxford to do his doctorate on "India's Export Trends and Prospects for Self-Sustained Growth". He then returned to Panjab University, but was soon offered an attractive position in UNCTAD in New York, which he took up. In 1969, Jagdish Bhagwati decided to move from the Delhi School of Economics to take up a professorship at MIT and the job was offered to Manmohan Singh. He promptly resigned from UNCTAD to take up the professorship in the Delhi School, giving up in the process a lucrative UN pension for which he would have been eligible had he served for another six months.

States need to reduce burden of teachers' non-academic duties

At a time when learning loss remains a serious concern and many schools struggle to retain students, taking teachers away from classrooms should be the exception, not the norm

Karnataka’s government schoolteachers may soon be spared official surveys and census duties if the Karnataka Protection of Teachers from Non-Educational Deployment Bill becomes law. The draft legislation seeks to regulate the deployment of teachers for non-academic activities, particularly during critical periods such as examinations, while protecting them from legal repercussions for refusing such assignments. The proposal has understandably been welcomed by the teaching community.Over the past two years, Karnataka’s teachers have spent considerable time away from classrooms—conducting a sub-caste survey in May 2025, a socio-educational survey in September-October 2025, house enumeration in April-May 2026 and, since June, the special intensive revision of electoral rolls. The Census is due next year.For teachers and students alike, this is an extraordinary disruption. And this is not a Karnataka-specific problem. Government schoolteachers across the country are routinely called upon for a range of non-teaching assignments. In the tug between



administrative duties and academics, it is regrettable that the latter often gets the short shrift. Schools are left to cope with guest teachers and non-teaching staff, while children from poorer families, who may not have access to private tuition, are particularly vulnerable to learning gaps.The issue has also reached the courts. While hearing a plea concerning SIR duties earlier this year, the Delhi High Court stressed that the Election Commission must comply with the Right to Education Act and protect

Manmohan Singh the civil servant His civil service career began in 1971 when he was offered a position as economic adviser in the Commerce Ministry. He took leave from the Delhi School to try it out. He thought this break from academic life would be temporary, but he never returned. He was not entirely happy in the Commerce Ministry because, as Daman's book mentions, the minister, LN Mishra, wanted him to prepare a note along lines different from what Manmohan thought was right. Manmohan would have been perfectly willing to be overruled, but he didn't want to sign notes that didn't reflect his views, so he decided to resign and return to the university. Fortunately, when PN Haksar, Principal Secretary to Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, heard of this, he persuaded him to reconsider and shifted him in 1972 to the position of chief economic adviser in the Finance Ministry. What followed was a stellar succession of appointments, each higher than the earlier one. He was appointed Secretary Economic Affairs in 1976 in Mrs Gandhi's government and retained in that position by the Janata Party government. He was moved as member secretary in the Planning Commission in 1980 by Mrs Gandhi and then as Governor, RBI, in 1982. In 1985, he was brought back to Delhi as deputy chairman of the Planning Commission by Rajiv Gandhi. It was by any standards a "dream run" for a civil servant, all the more so because it was through different governments.Although he enjoyed his work as a civil servant, he was most relaxed when surrounded by books. I recall him telling me and my wife Isher that he missed the joys of academic discussion and free exchange of views. He retained contact with a few erstwhile academic friends and enjoyed meeting them. He spoke less in these meetings and listened more, but all his friends said that when he spoke he always made perceptive comments.Although Manmohan Singh's name was to become synonymous with economic reforms after 1991, his image in his civil service years was not that of a reformer but more that of an extremely competent technocrat "working within the system" rather than reforming it. My personal view is that this does not do justice to his role and this is perhaps best explained by the fact that civil servants are meant to implement policy laid down by the political leadership. They are also expected to advise how policies can be improved, but any such initiative can only fructify if picked up by the political masters.

teachers from an “unbearable burden”. The Calcutta High Court held that teachers deployed for census duties should be relieved of their school responsibilities, while alternative arrangements should be made for students. The Supreme Court had struck a similar balance in the St Mary’s School case in 2007.The demands on teachers have undoubtedly multiplied over the years. A working day can involve classroom teaching, preparing students for board examinations, supervising midday meals, invigilation and evaluation, besides administrative responsibilities. At a time when learning loss remains a serious concern and many schools struggle to retain students, taking teachers away from classrooms should be the exception, not the norm. There are alternatives. Punjab has directed officials to stop deploying government teachers for non-academic duties. The Karnataka Bill proposes drawing personnel from other government departments, public sector enterprises and among retired public employees; unemployed graduates could also be enlisted.

All-round police reforms remain elusive

Twenty years after the Supreme Court’s directions, compliance has left much to be desired

ANY major breakdown of law and order leaves behind lessons for the future. There were two occasions when the criminal justice system of the country almost collapsed — the Emergency (1975-77) and the 1984 anti-Sikh riots. During the Emergency, thousands were arrested from across the country only because they belonged to Opposition parties, fundamental rights were suspended and the Press was muzzled. The police, as recorded by the Shah Commission, “was used and allowed themselves to be used for purposes some of which were, to say the least, questionable”, and “some police officers behaved as though they are not accountable at all to any public authority.”The Commission warned that “if a recurrence of this type of subversion is to be prevented, the system must be overhauled with a view to strengthening it in a manner that the functionaries working in the system do so in an atmosphere free from the fear of consequences of their lawful actions.” The suggested overhaul was never taken up.The 1984 riots were the darkest chapter in the history of India’s criminal justice system. Mobs carried out a pogrom against members of the Sikh community, particularly in Delhi, where about 3,000 were killed. The police remained a mute spectator to the carnage because the rioters belonged to or were supported by the Congress, which was then in power at the Centre. There was all-round failure: a lack of political will, administrative connivance, police collusion and judicial incompetence. The Justice Nanavati Commission of Inquiry, in its report submitted in 2005, recommended that “there should be an independent police force which is free from political influence and which is well equipped to take immediate and effective action.” An operationally independent, or at least autonomous, police was never created. The political class and the bureaucracy have become used

to the colonial system of policing left behind by the British. It enables them to use, misuse and abuse the police for their partisan ends. During British rule, the police served the interests of the imperial power. Post-Independence, it has served the interests of the ruling party.The Supreme Court issued a set of seven directions for the Central and state governments in 2006, emphasising that “the commitment, devotion and accountability of the police has to be only to the rule of law” and that “the supervision and control has to be such that it ensures that the police serve the people without any regard whatsoever to the status and position of any person while investigating a crime or take preventive measures.” There were great expectations, and it was felt that the judicial directions would, as stated by a commentator, “sever the umbilical cord that today binds the police, the politicians and the underworld.” However, that did not happen.The mandated institutions — state security commission, police establishment board and police complaints authorities — were set up, but their composition was diluted and their powers curtailed. The direction regarding the appointment of DGPs has generally not been observed; several states have been appointing police chiefs without consulting the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).Officers in the field are transferred arbitrarily before they complete their two-year tenure, and there has been tardiness in the separation of investigation from law and order duties. Several states have passed laws purportedly in compliance with the Supreme Court’s directions, but these laws violate the letter and spirit of the apex court’s directions.

The Justice Thomas Committee (2008-10), which examined compliance by various states, was dismayed by their “total indifference”. Later, the Justice Verma Committee (2012), which was set up in the wake of the Nirbhaya incident, deplored that the Court judgment had not been implemented across India; it urged the states to fully comply with that to tackle the systemic problems in



policing. However, the observations of both committees made no impact on the government.Considering the hesitation and delay in sincerely implementing the Court’s directions, it would be worthwhile if, meanwhile, the low-hanging fruits could be plucked. There are currently 5.92 lakh vacancies in the police ranks across the country. These could be filled on priority. Working hours for cops need to be rationalised. The present absurdity of treating police personnel as beng on duty 24

hours a day must be done away with.There is an acute shortage of police housing. This is just not understood when one sees a construction boom all over the country. Housing has a direct impact on the morale of the personnel.Training needs to be given more attention, and the government must ensure that training institutes have the right material at the instructor level. Technology should be introduced in a big way. Quite a few measures have already been taken. The CCTNS (Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems) scheme has networked all police stations of the country. NATGRID has improved our counter-terrorism capabilities. Facial recognition system is already in vogue. However, we have a long way to go because criminals are moving faster than the police in their use of technology.In November 2014, the Prime Minister enunciated the concept of SMART Police — a police force that would be sensitive, mobile, accountable, responsive and tech-savvy. However, there was hardly any follow-up action by the states.Lately, the PM has been laying great stress on achieving the objective of Viksit Bharat by 2047. It is a laudable objective, but the government must understand that the economic superstructure of a developed country must have solid foundations of good law and order. That foundation, at present, is fragile. We saw that during the anti-reservation agitation in Haryana in 2016 when, according to an estimate, property worth around Rs 20,000 crore was destroyed. A police force with improved infrastructure and adequate resources, committed to upholding the rule of law irrespective of the party in power or the parties in the Opposition, will be the best guarantee against internal security challenges.

No more tailbacks at Paranur, TN's 1st barrier-free toll plaza goes live

MLFF toll collection began Thursday, replacing Paranur toll plaza on GST Road to ease congestion in Chennai's suburbs.

CHENNAI (Agency).

Motorists travelling from Chennai to Tiruchy, Madurai and other southern destinations will have to keep a close watch on the FASTag balance of their vehicles, as the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has introduced a plaza-less toll collection system using Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) integrated with FASTag.

The new system, called the Multi-Lane Free Flow (MLFF) user fee collection system, came into force on Thursday, phasing out the Paranur toll plaza on GST Road, one of the major congestion points in the Chennai suburbs. Motorists can now save at least 15 minutes of travel time, as vehicles pass through the tolling point without stopping to pay the user fee on the Tambaram-Tindivanam stretch. However, on the flipside, motorists will have to ensure sufficient balance in their FASTag accounts as vehicles will not be stopped manually at the toll point to check whether the account has sufficient funds.

Officials from the NHAI said the barriers in all lanes of the existing conventional toll plaza at Paranur have

been removed, and the structure will soon be dismantled. "Vehicles with invalid FASTags or insufficient balance would be charged 200% of the applicable toll fee through e-challans. Once an e-challan is generated, the FASTag will automatically be suspended," an official said, adding that if the e-challan is not paid within 72 hours, the applicable fee will be doubled. "This means, those with insufficient

FASTag balance will be paying 400% of the applicable fee on the fourth day," the official said. Once the fee is doubled, the penalty will be linked to the VAHAN portal, disabling transport-related services. "Unlike the earlier system, motorists will now have to keep track of their FASTag balance and check whether any e-challan has been generated," the official said.



8 students drown at Diveagar beach during Pune coaching class picnic

The students, who had travelled from Pune in a hired private bus, entered the sea while visiting the beach.

Mumbai (Agency).

Eight students from a private coaching institute in Pune drowned after venturing into the sea at Diveagar beach in Raigad district during a picnic on Thursday, with police saying the group had misjudged the tide. The students, who had travelled from Pune in a hired private bus, entered the sea while visiting the beach.

"Preliminary information that we have received is that the group had come for a picnic from Pune. They had hired a bus. On visiting the beach, they had ventured into the sea and had misjudged the tides, due to which they drowned," the Dighi Sagar police said.

The eight students who lost their lives in the drowning incident at Diveagar beach

In a press note, the district administration said that a total of 48 students and teachers – 25 boys, 17 girls and six teachers – from Winners Academy in Alandi, Pune, had come to the beach at Dighi Sagar, Diveagar, for a tour. According to preliminary information, some of the students entered the sea to swim but were swept

into deeper waters after apparently misjudging the depth and tide. After the students were seen drowning



Northeast Frontier Railway Marks Commencement of Gandhi Jayanti Celebrations under Swachhata Hi Sewa 2026

The Sikh Times

Maligaon, 02nd October: Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) today marked the commencement of the Gandhi Jayanti celebrations and Swachh Bharat Diwas activities as part of the ongoing Swachhata Hi Sewa 2026 campaign, being observed under the theme "Swachhata Mein Sahbhag, Swachh Bharat, Viksit Bharat". The occasion was

monial lamp lighting and floral tribute to Mahatma Gandhi by General Manager of NFR Construction, Shri Ashish Bansal, in the presence of senior officials. Similar activities are being organised at various offices and project locations under the Construction Organisation. The observance also included tree plantation drives and the distribution of award certificates to Safai Mitras in



marked by a ceremonial lamp lighting and floral tribute to Mahatma Gandhi by General Manager of NFR, Shri Chetan Kumar Shrivastava, along with senior railway officials and staff at the General Manager's Office premises at Maligaon. The programme highlighted Mahatma Gandhi's enduring message of cleanliness and the importance of collective participation in building a cleaner, healthier and more sustainable environment. As part of the Gandhi Jayanti celebrations, several important initiatives aimed at strengthening railway infrastructure and improving facilities for railway employees are undertaken by General Manager, NFR, Shri Chetan Kumar Shrivastava. These include the inauguration of an Electronic Interlocking Training Facility at the Specialized Training Centre, Pandu, the inauguration of the Goshala Model Staff Colony along with a plantation programme. These initiatives reflect NFR's continued focus on enhancing training infrastructure, improving employee amenities and promoting sustainable development. The NFR Construction Organisation also participated in the Gandhi Jayanti celebrations with a cere-

monial lamp lighting and floral tribute to Mahatma Gandhi by General Manager of NFR Construction, Shri Ashish Bansal, in the presence of senior officials. Similar activities are being organised at various offices and project locations under the Construction Organisation. The observance also included tree plantation drives and the distribution of award certificates to Safai Mitras in recognition of their valuable contribution towards maintaining cleanliness and hygiene in railway premises. NFR is organising a wide range of activities, including intensive cleanliness drives at railway stations, tracks, railway colonies and office premises, awareness campaigns for passengers and local communities, interactive sessions and workshops for railway staff, cleanliness pledges and special initiatives for the identification, segregation and proper disposal of unserviceable materials. These activities are designed to promote responsible waste management, strengthen cleanliness practices and encourage sustained public participation. Through coordinated efforts across its Headquarters, all five divisions and the Construction Organisation, Northeast Frontier Railway is reinforcing the message that cleanliness is a shared responsibility. The observance of Swachh Bharat Diwas serves as an important reminder of Mahatma Gandhi's vision of a clean India and reaffirms NFR's commitment to promoting a cleaner, greener and more sustainable railway environment through continuous public engagement and collective action.

Smit Machchhar: Boy from Gujarat who prefers to fly high

Coming from a textile business family, Capt Machchhar decided to become a pilot when he was 19 years old

Highest state honour for the braveheart

AHMEDABAD (Agency).

The Gujarat government was quick to respond to the bravery of Flydubai captain Smit Machchhar, as Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel announced Vishishtha Gujarat Garima Award for him on Thursday. Patel celebrated Machchhar's "humanitarian act" and said he brought pride to Gujarat and India.

Patel said that the captain continued to display "indomitable courage" despite being injured in the alleged cockpit attack and helped save the lives of 174 passengers. "The entire world is saluting the bravery of Captain Smit Machchhar. ... This is truly inspiring and commendable," Patel said.

The international praise for Machchhar, which includes appreciation from US President Donald Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, has brought his Gujarat connection into focus.

Machchhar, who is now in his mid-30s, hails from Wadhwan in Surendranagar district, while his in-laws reside in Savarkundla in Amreli district. His family is now settled in Ghatkopar in Mumbai.

His brother-in-law Hiren Jogi said that the family was relieved after receiving updates about Machchhar's condition and expressed pride in the captain's actions during the emergency. "The courage Smit displayed while saving the lives of 174 passengers during the incident is truly commendable. He is currently undergoing treatment. We have spoken with his father-in-law, who is my uncle, to get updates about the incident," Jogi said. Interestingly, Machchhar did not have plans to become a pilot. After completing school, he enrolled in textile engineering, with plans to join and manage his family's textile business. However, he shifted to aviation after attending a seminar on the subject at 19.

Recalling the turning point in a 2025 interview, Machchhar said that aviation "was not a childhood dream" and came into his life much later. The seminar introduced him to professional flying and sparked an interest that eventually pushed him to abandon his earlier career plan.

The decision worried his mother, who was concerned about the risks associated with aviation. His father, however, supported his ambition, researched pilot-training options and helped him pursue the new career path. Machchhar subsequently travelled to New Zealand for training to be a pilot.

After completing the training, he returned to India and joined SpiceJet in 2011. During the over-11-year stay at the airline, he progressed through the ranks to become a senior commander and line-training captain, taking on responsibilities that included training and

mentoring other pilots. His professional advancement eventually took him to Flydubai, which he joined in June 2022 as a direct-entry captain. His brother is also a pilot in the same airline. His professional profile



records nearly 9,750 hours of flying experience, including over 6,400 hours as pilot-in-command, largely on Boeing 737 aircraft, including the 737 MAX. That experience was put to a critical test aboard Flydubai flight FZ1073, travelling from Dubai to Tel Aviv with 174 passengers. During the flight, Machchhar was attacked

and stabbed by his co-pilot. Despite serious injuries, he managed to activate the cockpit door mechanism, allowing passengers and crew to enter and overpower the attacker. "Smit is a very calm and composed person. He was the most 'sorted out' kind of kid in our housing society," his childhood friend Prateek Gandhi told a news agency.

'Mechanism for behaviour analysis needed'

A senior airline pilot, with over 16,000 hours of flying experience, has called for a new mechanism to decipher "behaviour and leanings" of pilots. "The airlines do have stringent selection process for the pilots, but it is very difficult to understand the ideological leaning of individuals," Wing Commander Prashant Karde (Retd) said.

People pray outside pilot's residence

Hundreds of Tricolour-waving citizens assembled outside the residence of Captain Smit Machchhar in Tilaknagar in the eastern part of Mumbai on Thursday to honour his bravery. Holding his photographs, those assembled outside Swastik Heights residential complex.

As flydubai hero Smit Machchhar recovers in Dubai, family in India juggles pride, worry and a swelling crowd

Mumbai (Agency).

As he peers outside the window at the gathered media, well-wishers and passersby, Haresh V Machchhar looks wary. Ever since his hero nephew, commercial Indian airline pilot Smit Machchhar, was wounded while thwarting a mid-air cockpit attack on a flydubai flight on Wednesday, the crowds outside – both at his house in Ghatkopar and his nephew's house in Chembur – have been swelling.

And as much as he's proud of Smit, the family is now exhausted by the endless stream of visitors.

"We have been hounded by television media since Wednesday evening," Haresh says. "They gathered in large numbers with mics and cameras, without asking us whether we were ready to talk. They started shooting us, taking our photos and streaming us live, and stayed throughout the night. It's been a nuisance. Yes, we're all proud of him, but we're more concerned and worried about his recovery."

Smit, who was serving as the captain of flydubai Flight FZ1073 travelling from Dubai to Tel Aviv with 174 passengers and

crew on board, was injured when his co-pilot allegedly attacked and repeatedly stabbed him inside the cockpit mid-flight. Quick to react despite his grievous injury, Smit unlocked the cockpit door, allowing passengers to overpower the co-pilot and safely land the plane. Smit is currently undergoing treatment at a hospital in Dubai. His actions have drawn praise from world



leaders – while Prime Minister Narendra Modi hailed his courage and quick thinking as having 'saved us from another 9/11-like incident', Israel's Benjamin Netanyahu called him a "true hero". Ever since the incident, the stream of well-wishers has been unabated – both at Smit's Swastik Heights CHS home in Chembur and his uncle Haresh's home.

When Rabindranath Tagore was stopped outside Yerawada prison

Pune (Agency).

IN THE autumn of 1932, Rabindranath Tagore boarded a train at Santiniketan for a long journey to Poona.

Two months earlier, British Prime Minister Ramsay MacDonald had announced the Communal Award, which provided for separate electorates for various religious minorities and the Depressed Classes. Among its prominent supporters was BR Ambedkar, while Mahatma Gandhi, who was lodged at Yerawada Central Jail at the time, strongly opposed separate electorates for the Depressed Classes. "The British had originally decided to separate Hindus and Muslims into West Bengal and East Bengal. Ambedkar saw this as an opportunity to have a separate electorate for the depressed classes because upper-caste Hindus had never

accepted them as Hindus. That's the position Ambedkar took and Gandhi completely disagreed with that," says Vijay Padaki, a



theatre educator and playwright whose play The Prophet and The Poet examines the relationship between Gandhi and Tagore. Gandhi had declared that he would resist the

proposal with his life. On September 20, he began a fast unto death. While Gandhi considered the Depressed Classes to be part of the Hindu community, Ambedkar argued for separate political representation for them. "Gandhi was so determined and his health was deteriorating so fast that most people thought he was going to die," says Padaki.

Several prominent leaders, including Madan Malaviya, C Rajagopalachari and Rajendra Prasad, were involved in efforts to find a solution. The negotiations eventually resulted in the Poona Pact. The provision for separate electorates for the Depressed Classes was dropped, while the number of seats reserved for them in provincial legislatures and the Central Legislature was increased.

Protest continues across Kerala as police book 160 people

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM (Agency).

A day after late-night political clashes rocked the state capital, the clashes and violence have spread across the state with protests against ministers in different districts. DYFI workers took out black flag protests against Youth Affairs Minister O J Janeesh in different parts of Kasaragod. Meanwhile, the Thiruvananthapuram City police booked 160 people – 80 each from the Youth Congress and SFI camps – on Thursday in two separate cases in the late-night confrontation that occurred in the state capital on Wednesday.

While the accused from the Congress camp include its Thiruvananthapuram district president Nemom Shajeer and KSU district



committee president Gopu Neyyar, both the FIRs include 75 identifiable members from each of the outfits. However, no arrests were made on Thursday. Although neither FIR clearly states which group initiated the

attack, similar charges have been registered against both parties, including damage to public property and obstruction of a public way.

Storming protests took place across different parts of the state in response to the police action by CPM, SFI, and DYFI. However, no police action was largely initiated against the protesters.

The protest march organised by CPM from the Martyrs' Column to the secretariat here on Thursday evening was attended by senior leaders including K K Shailaja, V Joy, Kadakampally Surendran, C S Sujatha, among others. The SFI protest at the secretariat was inaugurated by SFI state secretary PS Sanjeev. The protesters.

After SIR row, EC orders drive to find 'left-out' electors, re-enrol them

The Election Commission has ordered a special drive to add left-out and first-time voters after the roll revision. The move is aimed at re-enrolling eligible voters who were omitted or deleted during SIR, while also registering first-time and "young voters".

Delhi. (Agency)

The Election Commission has directed state poll officials to launch a special drive to immediately include “left-out” and new voters in areas where the electoral roll revision has been completed. The move is aimed at re-enrolling eligible voters who were omitted or deleted during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR), while also registering first-time and “young voters”. The decision comes amid accusations that the SIR exercise disenfranchised crores of eligible citizens. Data shared by the poll authority and its state officials showed that the combined voters’ list of nine states and three Union territories was pruned by 10.2 per cent after the exercise, including the removal of over 60 lakh dead voters. The move also comes amid reports of differences within the Commission over SIR decisions, though the EC said all such



decisions were taken unanimously. The instructions were conveyed in an official communication issued on Thursday following a virtual meeting with chief electoral officers of states.

The Commission said voter registration is an ongoing process and stressed that no eligible citizen should be disenfranchised for not being included during the SIR enumeration. Booth Level Officers have been directed to

cross-check current electoral rolls with pre-SIR lists to identify electors whose names were present earlier but were dropped from the final roll. They will then conduct house-to-house verification of all identified individuals. Each Booth Level Officer has been given a target of covering 20 to 25 electors every week, with the exercise to be completed within one month. They will also collect Form 6 applications on the spot from newly eligible young electors and genuine left-out voters. The lists will be shared directly with Booth Level Agents of recognised political parties to ensure transparency. Opposition parties have accused the Election Commission of working in tandem with the BJP and disenfranchising eligible citizens through the SIR exercise. The Commission, however, has responded with the fresh drive to identify missing eligible voters, register new voters and complete field verification within a month.

Police say no to stir against CEC, organisers firm on assembling

Delhi. (Agency)

The Delhi Police on Thursday denied permission for a proposed protest at Jantar Mantar on Gandhi Jayanti against Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar and beefed up security in and around New Delhi, with Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) personnel deployed in anticipation of a gathering. Police sources estimated that around 3,000 to 4,000 people could turn up for the protest, prompting



heightened security measures across the area. The protest, called by the All India Students’ Association (AISA), Rajya Sabha MP Manoj Jha and Supreme Court lawyer Prashant Bhushan, seeks the impeachment of CEC Kumar over allegations of irregularities in electoral rolls and the conduct of elections. Senior AAP leaders and workers, members of the Indian Youth Congress (IYC) and others are expected to attend the protest, sources said. Security has been intensified at Jantar Mantar and key points in New Delhi district. Barricades have been put in place and additional personnel positioned at entry and exit points and other sensitive locations to regulate movement and prevent unauthorised gathering, police sources said. The Delhi Police decision comes a day after social activists and student leaders announced plans to hold a gathering at Jantar Mantar at 11 am on October 2.

Hindu College protest enters third week, staff seek Delhi University takeover, probe

Delhi. (Agency)

Teachers at Hindu College on Thursday marched to the Vice-Chancellor’s office as their protest over alleged irregularities in admissions under Sports and Extra-Curricular Activities (ECA) quotas entered its third week, seeking a temporary takeover of the college by the Delhi University (DU) and an independent, time-bound probe into its functioning. The Hindu College Staff Association (HCSA), which began its dharna on September 14, has alleged that Sports and ECA quota allocations in BCom (Hons) and BA (Hons) Political Science exceeded the prescribed 20% limit for a single undergraduate programme. ECA admissions cover recognised achievements in activities such as debate, music, dance, theatre and fine arts. The university has attributed the excess allocation to an error in its admission algorithm. The HCSA has since widened its demands to include alleged issues in the functioning of statutory bodies, faculty rights, appointments, finances, procurement, student welfare and campus infrastructure. It has also sought the removal of Governing Body chairman T C A Rangachari and Principal Anju Srivastava to facilitate an impartial inquiry. The dispute began during the first round of admissions for 2026-27, when 17 of 48 Sports and ECA seats were allocated to BCom (Hons) and 15 to BA (Hons) Political Science. Speaking to The Indian Express, Srivastava said admissions were centralised at the university level. “Eligibility and allocation of college and subject based on students’ preferences, is decided by the university. The applications of university-allotted candidates are processed by the Central Admission Committee and then approved.

Hindu College teachers protest, flag governance & financial irregularities

Delhi. (Agency)

The Hindu College Staff Association (HCSA) on Thursday held a protest on campus and submitted a memorandum to the Delhi University Vice-Chancellor, flagging alleged administrative, financial and governance-related irregularities and seeking immediate intervention. In the memorandum, the association accused the college administration of violating admission norms, including alleged breaches of the prescribed 20 per cent cap under supernumerary categories and bypassing due process by ratifying decisions outside a duly convened Staff Council. It also flagged delays and denials in granting study leave, child care leave and promotions, and raised concerns over the non-issuance of inquiry reports despite Internal Complaints Committee findings in a case



involving faculty member Dr Ratan Lal. “The pattern reflects a sustained undermining of statutory processes and faculty rights. Decisions are being taken without transparency or adherence to University ordinances,” HCSA president Dr Ratan Lal said.

The teachers’ body further alleged financial opacity, pointing to the “misuse” of college resources for private commercial activities without Staff Council approval. HCSA secretary Shankar Kumar said, “There is a serious breakdown of democratic governance.

How a Lutyens’ Delhi neighbourhood has gone ‘zero waste’

Delhi. (Agency)

Every morning, as most of Delhi’s garbage begins its journey out of homes and towards dumpsites, the waste from over 300 homes in Chanakyapuri takes a different route. The process begins around 6.30 am. Arjun, one of three garbage collectors hired by the D1 Block Residents’ Welfare Association (RWA), collects waste from the D1 and D2 residential blocks and the Satya Sadan officers’ flats. “We then put it in separate compartments in our bicycle cart,” says the 30-year-old. After finishing his round around 11 am, he says he

takes the waste to the New Delhi Municipal Council’s Material Recovery Facility (MRF) at Madhu Limaye Marg, 1.5 km away from the

labelled bins: PET bottles, cardboard, metal, aluminium can, paper and mixed plastic.

These homes are part of a model ‘zero waste colony’.

For a little over a year, garbage from these homes — 800 kg to 1,200 kg wet waste and 250 kg of dry waste a day — has been collected, processed and recycled in and around the neighbourhood, a process that’s mandated under the Solid Waste Management (SWM) Rules, 2026.

Story continues below. Subscribe to see fewer ads. According to RWA member Shefali Chaturvedi, households segregate their waste into wet and dry before handing it over to Arjun.



After Manipur musician’s killing, Delhi Police to intensify patrolling in areas with large NE population

The meeting followed Singh’s killing outside his home in Kilokari village on September 7. Police officers discussed measures to improve outreach to communities from the region, including students.

Delhi. (Agency)

Weeks after a 55-year-old Manipuri musician Chongtham Vikram Singh was beaten to death outside his South Delhi home following an argument over a group of men allegedly creating a ruckus, Delhi Police has directed all district DCPs to intensify beat patrolling in areas with a large concentration of people from the Northeast, particularly during odd hours. The directions were issued at a meeting chaired by Special Police Unit for North-Eastern Region (SPUNER) JCP Veenu Bansal earlier this month to discuss the safety and security of people from the North-Eastern states, Gorkhas from Darjeeling and Ladakhis living in the Capital.

The meeting followed Singh’s killing outside his home in Kilokari village on September 7. Police officers discussed measures to improve outreach to communities from the region, including students.

According to the police, the DCPs were asked to enhance visible policing in areas with a significant population of North-Eastern residents to prevent untoward incidents and improve their sense of security. “District DCPs, designated as nodal officers, were also directed to hold regular district-level meetings with students, community leaders and DPNERS (Delhi Police North-Eastern Representatives),” an officer said.

The officer further said that police station-level sensitisation and awareness programmes have been directed to be organised for North-



Eastern residents to strengthen police-community interaction and increase awareness about available police assistance and SPUNER facilities.

“District DCPs were also directed to immediately inform SPUNER about all cases in which persons from the North-Eastern region are involved either as victims or accused.”

“Local police have also been advised to seek assistance from the SPUNER office and DPNERS in cases involving communication gaps or language-related difficulties while dealing with people from the North-Eastern region,” the officer added. Police districts and units have also been asked to review all pending cases concerning persons from the North-Eastern region and furnish their present status and action taken to SPUNER for time-bound disposal, the officer further said.

Access denied: Fresh order bars EWS residents from using central park, common areas in Gurugram complex

Delhi. (Agency)

Kashmir Singh (70), his wife Meena Rani (62) and other Economically Weaker Section (EWS) allottees like the couple, who had been barred from using the central park and other common spaces of their housing complex in Gurugram, recently breathed a sigh of respite when the district administration intervened to allow them access.

The restrictions are back in place only days later, with renewed curbs at Mahindra Aura in Sector 110A.

The District Registrar of Firms and Societies, Gurugram — which had last month directed the Aura Resident Welfare Association (RWA) to lift all restrictions on EWS occupants — has now issued a fresh directive, deferring to the society’s registered bye-laws and conveyance deeds.

Clarifying its stance in a memorandum on Thursday, the District Registrar stated: “The Association shall strictly proceed in accordance with the provisions contained in the registered Conveyance Deed and the approved Bye-laws of the Association. Any rights, usage, restrictions or other matters relating to the common parks and green spaces shall be governed by and dealt with strictly in accordance with the aforesaid documents.”

The order follows a September 28 representation by the RWA, seeking modification of a September 15 order granting EWS residents unfettered access.

In the representation, RWA president and retired BSF officer S S Gill (65) said: “The conveyance deeds and allotment letters executed in favour of the EWS allottees specifically exclude the Central Park and other common facilities within the main residential complex from the property rights to them.”

Also highlighting that regular owners fund the maintenance of the society, the RWA wrote: “It is not permissible on any ground, humanitarian or otherwise, to encroach upon the property owned by someone else. EWS members are not members of RWA ... and hence have no right to complain against the RWA to the district registrar.”

As stated in the said bye-laws, EWS allottees can neither be a member of the Aura RWA nor gain access to the facilities and services meant for other residents.

NEWS BOX

Must widen talent pool: Ex-France international advocates roadmap for Indian football



Kolkata. (Agency)

The yellow and green have already arrived in Kolkata. Brazil are here, Carlo Ancelotti is here, and by Saturday evening Salt Lake Stadium will be waiting for one of the biggest football nights India has hosted.

Vikash Dhorasoo will be there too. But as the city gets ready for Vinicius Junior, Endrick and Brazil, the former France international is looking beyond the glamour of one evening. For him, India vs Brazil should also be a reminder of what Indian football could become if it starts thinking bigger. Dhorasoo, who has Indian roots and played for France at the 2006 World Cup, believes India needs to widen its talent pool, give more players the chance to experience football abroad and, most importantly, settle on a long-term plan.

"Each game has its own importance and helps you to progress," Dhorasoo said. "Of course, it's a great help to play the best team in the world, but local football must be as important as the special game you might have."

WILLIAMS SHOWS THE WAY

There is already a timely example in India's own squad. Ryan Williams was born in Australia before completing his switch to represent India at senior level. He scored on his India debut and then found the net again in the 1-1 draw against Panama last week, making him one of the most important attacking names in the squad heading into Brazil. FIFA approved his change of association before he made his India debut. It is only two goals, and there is no need to rush comparisons with Sunil Chhetri. But since Chhetri's retirement, India have been searching for a forward who can offer a dependable goal threat. Williams has quickly begun to fill that space, scoring against Panama when India needed an attacking spark. His story also gives some weight to Dhorasoo's argument that India should look more closely at its diaspora.

Asian Games: Birthday girl Lovlina Borgohain makes history with gold, joins Mary Kom in elite club



New Delhi. (Agency)

Birthday girl Lovlina Borgohain gave herself the perfect gift on Friday, scripting history by becoming only the second Indian woman boxer to win an Asian Games gold medal after the legendary MC Mary Kom.

The 29-year-old Indian defeated China's Ziyi Bao 5-0 in a closely contested women's 75kg final in Aichi-Nagoya to finally add the Asian Games gold to the silver she won at the previous edition.

Lovlina's triumph also ended a wait that began in Hangzhou, where she had reached the final but lost to another Chinese boxer, Li Qian, to settle for silver.

Lovlina holds nerve in tight final

The Indian made a confident start to the final, edging the opening round 3-2 on the judges' scorecards. Bao responded with an aggressive approach in the second, forcing Lovlina into a more defensive mode as the two boxers engaged in a series of exchanges in the middle of the ring.

Despite the pressure, Lovlina remained composed and finished the round strongly. She won it 4-1 to stretch her overall advantage to 2-0 heading into the final round. With the gold within touching distance, Lovlina produced another controlled performance in the third. She again won the round 4-1 to complete a comprehensive 5-0 verdict and claim the biggest title of her Asian Games career.

The victory was particularly significant given the quality of opposition she had overcome on her way to the final.

In the semifinal, Lovlina edged reigning 70kg world champion Natalya Bogdanova of Kazakhstan 3-2 in another closely fought contest.

Portugal began the post-Cristiano Ronaldo era with a 4-2 Nations League win over Denmark in Copenhagen. Rafael Leao wore Ronaldo's No. 7 shirt, while coach Jorge Jesus insisted the rules would remain the same for every player.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Portugal began the post-Cristiano Ronaldo era by putting four goals past Denmark. Ronaldo, the highest goalscorer in international football history, had earlier left the national team after falling out with newly appointed coach Jorge Jesus. Playing Denmark in the Nations League, Jesus' Portugal won 4-2 in a thrilling match in Copenhagen. Joao Cancelo and Goncalo

Ramos twice gave the visitors the lead, but Denmark hit back on both occasions through Mikkel Damsgaard and Rasmus Hojlund. Hojlund, the former Manchester United striker, celebrated his goal with Ronaldo's trademark 'Siuuu' celebration, something he has also done against Portugal in the past. With the game tied at 2-2, Portugal finally moved ahead for good when Vitinha headed in from Bruno Fernandes' delivery in the 67th minute. Joao Felix then added a fourth late on to seal the win for Jesus' side. The result keeps Portugal top of Group A4 with a perfect nine points from three matches.

COACH TAKES DIG AT RONALDO

It was Portugal's first match since Ronaldo, 41, left the camp after being dropped to the bench against Norway. Jesus had made it clear that Ronaldo's status would not guarantee him a place in the starting XI, and the Portuguese coach appeared to stick to

that position after the win in Copenhagen.

"I still think exactly the same way - there are players with status. That much is crystal clear," Jesus said.

"But I'll say it again - the rules are the same



for everyone. That's a method I've followed throughout my coaching career and I'll continue to follow." Ronaldo has been a near-constant presence in the Portugal team for years and has scored 146 goals in a record 234 international appearances. His departure from the camp has now put his

Asian Games: Olympic berth, gold in sight as Indian women face China in hockey final

India's women's hockey team will take on defending champions China in the Asian Games 2026 final on Friday, with a gold medal and direct qualification for the LA 2028 Olympics at stake. India, who last won the Asian Games title in 1982, are chasing a historic second gold in women's hockey.

New Delhi. (Agency)

India's women's hockey team are one win away from ending a 44-year wait for Asian Games gold. On Friday, they face defending champions China in the final in Kakamigahara, with the title and a place at the LA 2028 Olympics on the line.

India last won the Asian Games title in 1982, when women's hockey made its debut at the continental event. Since then, they have reached the final twice, in 1998

and 2018, but returned with silver medals after losing to South Korea and Japan respectively. This time, India head into the final with plenty of confidence behind them. Salima Tete and her team were



unstoppable in Pool B, winning all five matches and scoring 66 goals. They opened with a 19-0 win over Uzbekistan, followed it with a 17-1 victory against Indonesia and then put 20 goals past Thailand. India also beat hosts Japan 3-1 before finishing the group stage with a 7-0 win over Singapore. The semi-final

against South Korea was a much tougher examination. India had to be patient as the Koreans kept their attacking players under control for long periods. Ishika finally broke the deadlock late in the third quarter before captain Salima Tete struck again in the fourth to secure a 2-0 win.

"For us it was really important to stay calm and have patience, and I think we did that really well," India chief coach Sjoerd Marijne said after the match. China have been just as impressive on their way to the final. The defending champions won all five of their Pool A matches without conceding a goal, scoring 46 times. They beat Bangladesh 13-0, Chinese Taipei 10-0, Malaysia 4-0, South Korea 3-0 and Kazakhstan 16-0. Their semi-final against hosts Japan, however, was a different story. China could not find a way through during regulation time as the match ended 0-0. They eventually won the shootout 4-2 to book their place in the final.

India's ODI World Cup 2027 schedule: Group fixtures, potential Super 7s opponents, venues and timings

New Delhi. (Agency)

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has officially announced the schedule for the 2027 ODI World Cup in Cape Town on Thursday, October 1. The tournament will begin on October 2, 2027, with a three-team Super Series in Windhoek involving the second, third, and fourth-placed teams from the Cricket World Cup Qualifier.

The three teams will face each other once on October 2, 4 and 6, with the team finishing in first place claiming the final spot in the group stage. The winner of the Qualifier will advance directly to the group stage. The 2023 finalists, India and Australia, will then start the group-stage action of the tournament on October 7 in Cape Town.

India will then take on their arch-rivals Pakistan on October 10 in Johannesburg. The Men in Blue are placed along with

Australia, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Zimbabwe and Qualifier A in Group A, while Group B includes New Zealand, South Africa, Sri Lanka, England,



Bangladesh and Qualifier B. Hosts South Africa will kick off their campaign against New Zealand in Cape Town on October 9. The group stage will have 12 double-header days, with India featuring on four of them - October 10, 14, 17 and 24.

India's group-stage fixtures at ICC ODI World Cup 2027

October 7: India vs Australia – Newlands, Cape Town – 1:30 PM (IST)

October 10: India vs Pakistan – Wanderers, Johannesburg – 1:30 PM (IST)

October 14: India vs Afghanistan – Tshwane – 1:30 PM (IST)

October 17: India vs Qualifier A – Bloemfontein – 1:30 PM (IST)

October 24: India vs Zimbabwe – Victoria Falls – 1:30 PM (IST)

India's potential Super 7s opponents

The Super 7 stage will feature the top three sides from each group, along with the better-performing fourth-placed team across the two groups, making it a seven-team round. The ICC has already pre-seeded seven positions for the Super 7 stage, providing greater certainty around fixture pathways and venue allocations.

international future into doubt. Ronaldo's sister, Elma Aveiro, had earlier written on social media: "Betrayal is a dish best served cold." Jesus had also said before the match that he was "completely calm, with a clear conscience" over the situation.

RONALDO REPLACEMENT FLOPS

Jesus chose Rafael Leao to start in attack, with the forward wearing the No. 7 shirt that has been synonymous with Ronaldo for much of the last two decades. Leao had his moments but could not make the most of them.

He came close to scoring after cutting inside onto his right foot early in the game, but later missed from close range and gave the ball away several times in the final third. His night ended in the 63rd minute when Trincao replaced him. The decision to hand Leao the No. 7 shirt in Portugal's first game of the post-Ronaldo era was significant, even if the former AC Milan player could not provide a direct replacement for the team's record goalscorer.

Lovlina Borgohain gives herself perfect birthday gift with maiden Asian Games boxing gold



New Delhi. (Agency)

Lovlina Borgohain has given herself the perfect gift on her 29th birthday as she won the boxing gold in the women's 75 kg category with a resounding performance at the Asian Games. Lovlina defeated China's Ziyi Bao via unanimous decision to win the match. With the victory, Lovlina became the first women's boxer since Mary Kom in 2014 to secure a gold medal at the Asian Games. The 29-year-old had come into the gold medal match having created history as the first Indian woman to reach back-to-back Asian Games finals. After having won silver at the Asian Games in Hangzhou last time around, the Indian star was determined to change the colour of the medal and was off the blocks from the get-go.

HOW THE FIGHT UNFOLDED

Lovlina had the height and reach advantage over Bao and it was the Indian who started the fight in the positive manner. She got a few hits on the face before going for the clinch. Bao was coming into the contest with a perfect amateur boxing record and on a 14-fight winning run and she slowly made her way back into the contest with a few heavy blows to the body. She then was able to get more closer to Lovlina and started landing more punches, forcing the Indian star into the defensive. It seemed like she had done enough as three out of the five judges went in favour of the Indian as she won the first round 3-2. Bao started the second round more aggressively as she continued to weave in the punches. Lovlina was using the jabs and hooks more than the uppercut, allowing Bao to come forward more. The Chinese boxer was able to land a jab that had Lovlina on the ropes and she decided to go for the clinch once again.

India ends Korea's 44-year dominance with historic Asian Games recurve gold

New Delhi. (Agency)

As the recurve competition at the Asian Games started, no one really gave the Indian women's team of Ankita Bhagat, Kirti Sharma and Kumkum Mohod a big chance of toppling the Korean dominance. Korea are the world champions; they had the World No.3 archer, Kang Chaeyong, in their ranks. It could be claimed that recurve was always their forte and someone disrupting that was near to impossible. But for Ankita, Kumkum and Kirti, the reputation really doesn't matter. They went toe-to-toe with Korea and ended their 44-year dominance in the women's recurve team event with a historic gold. India defeated Korea 5-3 in the final and made it to the summit clash after breezing past China 5-1 earlier on in the semis as the Indian trio worked in tandem.

Asian Games, October 2 Updates

The journey for all three women to this

point has also been fascinating. Take Kumkum for that matter. She started training in recurve just three years ago and started her career by using the traditional method. A bamboo bow. Kirti was said that she was too thin to hold a recurve bow, one that will test the true strength of an archer. Ankita is a true veteran of the sport and has won a total of 23 international medals.

She was part of the women's recurve team that won bronze in Hangzhou as India had never made it to the final. But that was about to change and these three women were going to stamp their name in history books.

ANKITA, KUMKUM, KIRTI SHINE IN NAGOYA

Right after the semi-final match, the Indian trio never showed signs of panic, even when they were under pressure. The conditions in Nagoya weren't particularly great for

archery and the scores were being affected.

But with the entire archery contingent cheering them on, Ankita, Kirti and Kumkum knew they had the chance to create



history.

First up, it was China.

There were a few eights and nines during the sets but Ankita, Kumkum and Kirti were always watching out for each other.

Whenever it seemed like a 10 was needed, one of them delivered.

During the semi-final, it was Kirti, hitting 10s with the final arrows in the first and second sets to secure the points for India. In the final one, India just needed to level things up and she delivered it to secure the 5-1 win. Then came the final against mighty Korea. Right from the get-go, the Korean trio of Kang, Lee and Yejin Oh were setting the mark. But India never faltered.

In fact, in the first two sets, Korea set 54 and 56 and India hit the same level to make it 2-2 and put the world champions in uncharted territory. And the pressure of it all came to the fore in the third set. Korea hit a total of four 8s in their six arrows. Meanwhile, India constantly shuffled their pack, scored 55 to take the lead.

Small savings interest: Know the rates on different schemes such as PPF, NSC, MIS

Kolkata. (Agency)

The finance ministry has kept the interest rates on small savings schemes changed for the tenth consecutive quarter. This was quite contrary to wide speculation that the rates could be raised this time since the G Sec yields are rising and worldwide interest rates are set to rise. The US Fed has raised its policy rate and expert agencies such as SBI Research is urging the Reserve Bank of India to raise the Repo Rate twice — both in its Monetary Policy Committee meetings in October and December by 25 basis points. However, even without a hike, small savings interest rates offer distinct benefits to the depositor, which is why their popularity is retained to a significant extent even in this age of newer and newer market-related instruments. Let's have a look at what these instruments offer — PPF (Public Provident Fund), NSC (National Savings Certificates), MIS (Monthly Income Scheme), KVP (Kisan Vikas Patra) etc.PPF or Public Provident Fund is perhaps the most well-known small savings instrument that is recommended by financial strategists even to those investors who swear by market-linked instruments. It carries a sovereign guarantee and if the depositor is in the old income tax regime, it offers tax incentives on the principal, interest and the entire corpus. With a lock-in period of 15 years which is extendable by blocks of five years, it allows an individual to build a significant corpus with the maximum safety of capital. Monthly Income Scheme (POMIS) Rate of interest: 7.4% It is called the Monthly Income Scheme or Post Office Monthly Income Scheme. It is a scheme that allows an individual to invest a lump sum and receive a fixed monthly interest payout. The interest is payable every month. The tenure of the scheme is five years.

AC to fridge, consumer goods have become expensive before festive season: Know the reason

Kolkata. (Agency)

The price of key consumer items such as TV sets, AC machines and refrigerators are going up just when the festive season is going to hit India. Several brands are raising prices by 3-8%, thanks to rising raw material and freight costs. AC prices may be impacted the most. Daikin has already increased prices by 8-10%, while another prominent brand Haier is set to hike prices by about 5%. The irony is that the war in West Asia is one of the key reasons that has helped raise costs of raw materials, commodity chains and have made imports more expensive by dragging down the cost of the rupee against the US dollar.

ACs in hot spot

If you're considering purchasing an AC, this category is likely to be the most affected. Blue Star has increased the prices of ACs and deep freezers by 5-8%. Haier India has reportedly raised the price of room ACs by about 5% from October 1. Daikin, on the other hand, has increased the prices of ACs by 8-10% from September 16.

According to reports, LG and Bosch Home Comfort have also increased the price of their ACs by about 5%. This means that AC buyers may have to pay more depending on the company and model.

LED TVs to cost more too?

TV buyers may also be affected by inflation during the festive season. Haier India has announced a 2-3% price increase on LED TVs. Meanwhile, Super Plastronics (SPPL) plans to increase TV prices by approximately 7% after October.

Oil prices soar to \$103 per barrel again as Middle East supply concerns intensify

New Delhi. (Agency)

Oil prices edged higher on Friday as fresh restrictions on Chinese fuel exports and reports of increased US military deployments to the Middle East kept supply concerns in focus.Brent crude stood at \$102.60, higher by 28 cents or 0.27% while WTI crude was trading at \$92.96, up 9 cents or 0.10%.The moves came after a sharp rally in the previous session. Brent gained more than \$4 on Thursday, while WTI rose by over \$2 after reports that the US was sending additional troops and aircraft carriers to the Middle East. News that China had halted fuel exports further heightened concerns about a potential worsening of global fuel shortages.Despite the recent rise, Brent remained on course for a 1.93% weekly decline. The benchmark had gained 14% overall in September, while WTI posted a more modest 4% rise last month.According to the Wall Street Journal, US was sending a third aircraft carrier and as many as 10,000 additional troops to the Middle East. The move came as President Donald Trump weighed whether to resume strikes on Iran after the US midterm elections."Now I have to make a decision. They'll either sign a very fair deal, or they won't exist any longer." Trump told reporters at the White House.China's decision on fuel exports was another source of concern for oil markets. Beijing had restricted fuel exports in March following the outbreak of the US-Israeli war on Iran, before easing those curbs in July. It has since been managing shipments of diesel, gasoline and jet fuel on a monthly basis.

Who is Anup Bagchi, HDFC Bank's new CEO and MD?

Anup Bagchi will succeed Sashidhar Jagdishan, whose current term ends on October 26. Jagdishan has decided not to seek another term.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Anup Bagchi, a veteran of the ICICI Group with more than three decades of experience across banking, capital markets and insurance, will take charge as HDFC Bank's new Managing Director and CEO from October 27.The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approved Bagchi's appointment on October 1 for a three-year term. HDFC Bank's board has also appointed him as an additional director from October 2, subject to shareholder approval. He will succeed Sashidhar Jagdishan, whose current term ends on October 26. Jagdishan has decided not to seek another term. Bagchi's appointment brings an executive from HDFC Bank's biggest

private-sector banking rival, ICICI, to the top job. He has spent most of his career with the ICICI Group and has worked across retail banking, wholesale banking, treasury, investment banking, digital financial services, capital markets and insurance.

FROM IIT KANPUR TO ICICI

Bagchi is an engineer by training. He completed his Chemical Engineering degree from the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, in 1990, followed by a management degree from the Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore.He joined the ICICI Group in 1992 and went on to hold several senior roles over the next three decades. His career has included stints in treasury, retail banking, corporate banking, transaction banking, capital markets and digital financial services.He later became Managing Director and CEO of ICICI Securities, before moving into senior leadership at ICICI Bank.HIS ICICI BANK EXPERIENCE

Bagchi served as an Executive Director at ICICI Bank from 2017 to 2023. He initially oversaw retail, business and rural

banking before moving to wholesale banking.During his time at ICICI Bank, the lender's retail mortgage portfolio crossed Rs 2 trillion, making it the first private-sector bank in India to reach that level, according to HDFC Bank's profile of Bagchi.He also had experience across



areas such as credit policy, markets, data analytics and technology-led financial services. HDFC Bank's profile says he was involved in strengthening the bank's retail franchise while maintaining focus on credit and cost discipline.Bagchi also served as chairman of ICICI Prudential Asset Management Company until May 2023 and held directorships at ICICI

Prudential Pension Funds Management Company and ICICI Home Finance.

In June 2023, Bagchi moved to ICICI Prudential Life Insurance as its Managing Director and CEO.During FY2025, theinsurer crossed Rs 10,000 crore in Annualised Premium Equivalent (APE) for the first time. APE increased 15% year-on-year to Rs 10,407 crore, while profit after tax rose nearly 40% to Rs 1,189 crore.

His crrent role has therefore given him experience beyond traditional banking, including life insurance, distribution and long-term financial products.

Bagch's career spans several parts of financial services, from lending and retail banking to capital markets and insurance. That makes his experience broader than a conventional retail-banking background.His appointment also marks a leadership transition at HDFC Bank after Jagdishan decided against seeking reappointment. Bagchi will formally take over on October 27, beginning a three-year term subject to shareholder approval.

Rs 436 crore TVS projects bring Chandrasekaran family-Tata board link into focus

New Delhi. (Agency)

A business relationship between Hanno One Warehousing, a company linked to Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekaran's wife Lalitha and son Pranav, and the TVS Group has expanded into projects in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, with documents indicating a combined project value of around Rs 436 croreHanno One Warehousing was incorporated in March 2025. Documents reviewed by India Today show that the company subsequently entered into two projects involving TVS Motor, a warehouse facility in Tamil Nadu and a proposed industrial park in Karnataka.The relationship brings into focus questions around disclosure and conflict-of-interest management, particularly because

of the overlapping institutional links between TVS Group Chairman Emeritus Venu Srinivasan and Tata Sons.It is important to note that there



is no indication that a regulator has formally opened an investigation into the transactions. The issue instead centres on what was disclosed within the relevant corporate structures and whether the relationship required any additional governance safeguards.TWO P R O J E C T S A C R O S S

KARNATAKA AND TAMIL NADU

According to minutes of the Karnataka Land Audit Committee, Hanno One Warehousing sought 35 acres in the Immavu Industrial Area near Mysuru in November 2025.

The proposed project was described as an industrial park for auto-component manufacturing and supply to TVS Motor and its Tier-1 suppliers. The project was estimated to involve an investment of around Rs 330 crore.The Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board subsequently allotted land for the project, with the land valued at approximately Rs 27 crore.The Karnataka proposal came months after a separate transaction in Tamil Nadu.

Will RBI hike Repo Rate next week After SBI Research, Bank of America Securities thinks it will

Kolkata. (Agency)

That Reserve Bank of India is likely to raise Repo Rate this month is a view more and more expert agencies are coming round to. In its latest India Viewpoint report, BofA Securities has mentioned that it expects the central bank to raise the benchmark repo rate by 25 basis points at its monetary policy meeting in the first week of October. In fact, the agency thinks that RBI may raise interest rates by a total of 100 basis points through the first half of 2027.

Shift in Repo Rate forecast

The Repo Rate stands at 5.25% now. If the RBI MPC raises this policy rate by 100 basis points, it will rise ot 6.25% within a few months. Earlier BofA Securities predicted a 50 basis points increase. "Our bigger forecast shift is arguably the quantum of hikes, as we are raising our total quantum of hikes from 50bp earlier, to 100bp now," BofA wrote.

According to BofA, RBI's rate hike decision could be facilitated by the fact that domestic growth is projected to remain resilient. But the central bank has to manage the inflation, the risk if which is quickly spreading due to

crud oil prices refusing to climb down below the \$100-110 per barrel. There is also the threat of food inflation, thanks to the El Nino phenomenon.

SBI Research advocated successive Repo Rate hikes

The BoFA forecast comes a few days after SBI Resaerch, the economy policy research arm of the State bank of India, the country's largest bank, strongly recommended that RBI raise Repo Rate by 25 basis points both in October and December MPC meetings.

On the other hand, chief economic adviser to the Government of India, Venkatramanan Anantha Nageswaran, has said that RBI will be taking its own decision, but has laced it with a qualification that all over the world central banks are raising policy rates which will create more challenges for the growth process. The CEA has also mentioned that the retail inflation is within the RBI tolerance limit of 6%.

The inflation projection

During his address after the last MPC meeting in August, RBI governor Sanjay Malhotra said that retail inflation is supposed to peak in the October-December period. He projected the CPI-based inflation for FY27 at 5%, with Q2 inflation at 4.7%, Q3 at 5.9% and Q4 at 5.5%.

Indian banks' FX trading losses hit \$500 million after RBI position cap

New Delhi. (Agency)

Indian banks faced nearly \$500 million in market losses on their foreign exchange trading books in the first half of 2026 after regulatory changes by the Reserve Bank of India forced lenders to unwind positions, according to a report. According to a report by Crisil Coalition Greenwich, banks subsequently recovered around \$400 million of those losses as market spreads widened and positions were normalised, the research showed.The losses followed the RBI's March 27 directive capping authorised dealer banks' end-of-day onshore rupee net open positions at \$100 million.

Banks were required to unwind their positions by April 10, leading to a sharp adjustment in their trading books.The changes came at a time when the rupee was volatile, foreign investors were pulling funds from



Indian markets and corporate demand for currency hedging was high."The short implementation window for the new RBI rules forced banks to unwind or rebalance positions quickly at a time of elevated rupee volatility, foreign-investor outflows and heavy corporate hedging demand," said Nitin Agicha, vice-president, Market Structure & Technology at Crisil Coalition Greenwich.

Moreover, the tighter limits also reduced banks' ability to warehouse foreign exchange risk and provide liquidity while restrictions on related-party derivatives limited the ability of some banks to offset exposures, the report said.Banks recovered part of their initial losses after market spreads widened as dealers priced in tighter balance-sheet capacity and higher execution risks, it added.arlier in April, the central bank withdrew some of its earlier instructions and allowed limited exceptions for related-party transactions that eased some operational pressure on banks.

Gold buyers beware: Hallmarking rates have risen; it could prompt fakes

Kolkata. (Agency)

This is a development that could concern all buyers of gold jewellery. The fee for gold hallmarking has been raised from Rs 45 to Rs 75 per article, which implies a huge jump of more than 66%. The Bureau of Indian Standards has raised this fee. BIS has made appropriate changes in the BIS (Hallmarking) Amendment Regulations, 2026, notified on September 14, 2026. Meanwhile, the hallmarking fee for silver remains unchanged at Rs 35. Now the jewelry industry has expressed concern that the risk of using fake hallmark stamps may rise now. According to the All India Gem and Jewellery Domestic Council (GJC), the increased costs could add to the compliance burden on honest jewelers who strictly follow regulations. In this scenario, unscrupulous traders might attempt to mislead customers by using fake stamps instead of genuine hallmarking.

Concern more for smaller cities and towns

The concern for fake hallmarks is



particularly acute for Tier-2, Tier-3, and Tier-4 cities, where customer awareness regarding hallmark and HUID verification remains rather limited. According to the GJC, adequate awareness about the BIS Care App exists in only about 10% of the country's 800 districts. The GJC has demanded the withdrawal of this hike and the

restoration of the previous fee of Rs 45. The industry body has also asked the BIS to specify the additional costs incurred on equipment, staff, processing, and storage that justify the fee increase. How can one identify a genuine hallmark When purchasing gold jewelry, one should not be satisfied merely by seeing the hallmark symbol. Genuine

hallmarked jewelry bears the BIS logo, the purity/fineness grade, and a 6-digit HUID number. The HUID can be verified using the 'Verify HUID' option on the BIS Care App.

For instance, '22K916' signifies 22-carat gold with 91.6% gold content, whereas '18K750' indicates 75% gold content. Therefore, it is essential to check the hallmark and HUID alongside the bill when purchasing jewelry.

Expansion of the hallmarking network

According to government data, the number of recognized Assaying and Hallmarking Centres in the country rose to 1,577 by July 2026, up from 1,220 in July 2022. In the 2025-26 period, approximately 13.22 crore jewelry articles underwent hallmarking. The GJC estimates that the new fee structure could impose an additional financial burden of around Rs 400 crore on the entire ecosystem, alongside a potential GST impact of approximately Rs 80 crore.

Shraddha Kapoor

Rajkummar Rao's Stree 3 To Arrive In 2028, Dinesh Vijan Updates On Vicky Kaushal's Mahavatar

Producer Dinesh Vijan has shared a major update on the much-awaited third instalment of the Stree franchise. He confirmed that Stree 3, which will see Rajkummar Rao and Shraddha Kapoor return and be directed by Amar Kaushik, is now slated to release in 2028. The film was earlier expected to hit theatres on August 13, 2027.

Fresh updates on Stree 3 and Mahavatar

Rajkummar Rao and Dinesh Vijan recently attended FICCI FRAMES 2026, where they discussed their creative collaboration and the future of Maddock Films' horror-comedy universe during a panel conversation. After the strong box-office performance of Stree and Stree 2, fans have been eagerly awaiting an update on the next chapter of the horror-comedy franchise. During the panel, Dinesh Vijan also opened up about the shooting schedule of Mahavatar, his upcoming film starring Vicky Kaushal.

While an exact release date has not been announced, Vijan hinted that Stree 3 could arrive around Independence Day or Christmas in 2028. He also revealed that Kaushik has completed the script for the film. He said, "Stree 3 arrives in 2028. If I say anything more, he'll (Amar Kaushik) get upset with me because he just finished writing it. He thinks that I give out too many spoilers but everything that you have loved about it, you'll get it but where it starts and where it ends, will be a complete revelation. So, I think it might be a nice Independence Day or a Christmas Day present in 2028."

Dinesh also spoke about Mahavatar, which is being directed by Amar Kaushik and stars Vicky Kaushal as Lord Parashuram. Describing the project as one of Kaushik's most ambitious films yet, Vijan also revealed details about its shooting schedule. He added, "Amar Kaushik is the most integral part of Stree and the entire horror comedy franchise. He directs our most ambitious film in January end, which is Bhagwan Parshuram's story, called Mahavatar. He finishes that in June and at the end of next year, we go on floor."

Looking back at how the Stree franchise came



together, Rajkummar Rao recalled that the team began with a relatively small-budget film and was confident in the story as well as Amar Kaushik's vision as a director. Rao said, "It was amazing. We started as an independent small-budget film but we all had great faith in the story, and the way Amar was on set. He is like us, so we all were like 'laundas' (young boys) on set, we were just cracking jokes, and trying to make this wonderful film with each other, and I think that energy is very much visible on the screen, and that's exactly what happened with Stree 2."

Nimrat Kaur

Says Ranveer Singh's Dhurandhar 'Raised The Bar' For Spy Films: 'Everything Better Be At Par...'

Months after its release, Aditya Dhar's 'Dhurandhar' continues to strike a chord with the film fraternity, with actors lauding the film's authentic storytelling and refreshing take on the spy genre. Nimrat Kaur highlighted how the film has raised the bar for Hindi cinema by introducing a fresh approach to the spy genre that has raised the benchmark for storytelling.

In an interview to ANI, Nimrat reflected on the impact of the film 'Dhurandhar' on the audience, saying that the movie's authentic portrayal has changed a "general perception" towards the spy genre films in Bollywood. The audience demands "authenticity" now, she added.

While referring to 'Dhurandhar', Nimrat Kaur said, "When something is done so well that people have tasted of how authentic something like that can seem. So obviously now everything when the bar is raised, which I do believe every once in a while a film comes our way where you're like, oh, this is the same story, but told in a way which we've been waiting for. Everything better be at par or better than that or else, you know, let's not attempt it. You know, that is going to be the general perception."

Nimrat Kaur believes that 'Dhurandhar' has now become a synonym of "authenticity" in the Hindi film industry due to its portrayal. "When a

story is told to its I think maximum potential, in the most authentic way possible, to the world that you're trying to project and show, it no longer becomes, oh, 'just another spy film'. Then it's like, oh, wow, Dhurandhar," added Nimrat Kaur.

The praise for 'Dhurandhar' from Nimrat Kaur and other members of the film fraternity comes



after the historic box office run of Ranveer Singh starrer 'Dhurandhar' and 'Dhurandhar: The Revenge' in the later part of 2025 and early months of 2026.

The film was directed by National Award filmmaker Aditya Dhar and stars Ranveer Singh in the lead role. Apart from the central role, the movie also stars Rakesh Bedi, R Madhavan, Arjun Rampal, Akshaye Khanna and Sanjay Dutt in prominent roles.



Farah Khan Warns Paparazzi Not To Click Her From Inappropriate Angle: 'Salman Bhai Ne Bola Na...'



Last week, Salman Khan called out trolls and paparazzi during Bigg Boss 20 Weekend Ka Vaar. He slammed photographers who click pictures of female celebrities in inappropriate angles. Now, days after his outburst, Farah Khan has also schooled paparazzi, warning them not to click her picture while she is heading away. She reminded them of Salman's warning, and urged them to turn their cameras.

Farah Khan Reminds Paparazzi Of Salman Khan's Warning

Farah Khan was recently spotted by the paparazzi in Mumbai. She was seen in a casual attire, dressed in blue and white stripes shirt and baggy denim palazzos. She seemed taken aback by the paparazzi waiting for her. "Why have you come here? Who has come here?" she asked the photographers.

When the photographers told her they were there to click her pictures, Farah simply dismissed them with a look. She later turned around and asked them not to click her photos inappropriately, reminding them of Salman's warning. "Salman bhai ne bola na peechhe se nahi lena ka, turn karo, turn karo (Salman bhai told you not to click from behind. Turn your camera)," she told them firmly. Check out the video below!

Salman Khan Poses For Paparazzi Days After Calling Them Out On Bigg Boss 20

Meanwhile, days after schooling them on Bigg Boss, Salman was seen posing for the paparazzi as he arrived at a recording studio late Tuesday night. He patiently waited as the paps clicked his pictures before heading inside the studio.

Recently during Weekend Ka Vaar, Fatima Sana Shaikh praised Salman Khan for speaking up about the issue. Salman, in response, said that the paparazzi had taken note of the concerns. He pointed out that most senior and established paparazzi have always been respectful, while the issue, according to him, is with newer or unaffiliated individuals who show up with mobile phones and sometimes cross boundaries while trying to capture celebrities.

Mushtaq Khan Prayer Meet: Rahul Roy, Rakhi Sawant, Rajpal Yadav, Others Gather To Remember Late Actor



The film fraternity came together in Mumbai on September 30, Wednesday, to remember veteran actor Mushtaq Khan, who passed away on September 24 due to cancer. A number of celebrities including Rahul Roy, Rajpal Yadav, Rakhi Sawant, Poonam Dhillon, Mukesh Rishi, Kiran Kumar, Sulabha Arya and others were spotted by the paparazzi as they arrived at the prayer meet to remember the late actor and offer condolences to his family.

Rahul Roy, Rakhi Sawant Attend Mushtaq Khan's Prayer Meet

The gathering was a quiet moment for those who had known and worked with late actor Mushtaq Khan over the years. Several familiar faces from Hindi cinema and television arrived to pay their respects and remember the actor.

Rajpal Yadav, who shared a close professional association with Mushtaq Khan, was among those present. He had also attended the actor's funeral in Mumbai on September 25.

Rakhi Sawant, Rahul Roy, Poonam Dhillon, Sulabha Arya, Mukesh Rishi, Kiran Kumar, Vinu Dara Singh and several other industry personalities were also seen at the prayer meet. Rahul Roy was also seen interacting with Mushtaq Khan's son and offering his condolences to the family.

Mushtaq Khan Passed Away On September 24

Mushtaq Khan passed away on September 24. He was hospitalised for the last few days and breathed his last on Thursday. Following his death, his business partner told Hindustan Times that the actor had earlier been diagnosed with lung cancer and had recovered after undergoing treatment. However, the cancer returned earlier this month. His condition subsequently worsened, and he was admitted to hospital for treatment. Mushtaq Khan had worked across films and television for several decades and became a familiar face through his supporting and comic roles. He was part of several popular films, including Aashiqui, Hum Hain Rahi Pyar Ke, Hera Pheri, Welcome, Mujhse Shaadi Karogi, Gadar: Ek Prem Katha, and others. His role in Welcome remains among his best-known performances.





Unusual tips to keep your

Eyes

in perfect Condition

Often ignored, the health of your eyes is greatly vital to your physical wellbeing. Here are some unusual tips that will help keep them in perfect condition

SNIFF YOUR MASCARA

Eye make-up that's past its best could cause eye infections or irritation. "The warm, dark environment of a mascara tube is a haven for bacteria to thrive," says optometrist Francesca Marchetti. "Try sniffing your mascara and if it smells at all bad, ditch it. Bin a new mascara after three months. And always remove your eye make-up at night or you may develop blepharitis, an eyelid irritation."

USE EYE DROPS

Dry, irritated eyes can be caused by everything from computer use to cigarette smoke or windy weather. Plus certain drugs such as the Pill, antihistamines, beta-blockers and even the preservatives in some eye drops can contribute to DRY EYES. "Keeping your eyes well lubricated is key," says Francesca.

BLINK MORE

Blinking cleans the surface of your eye, helping to prevent infection. It also flushes fresh tears and nutrients over its surface to keep it healthy. When we're concentrating - especially on computers or smartphone screens - we don't blink enough. "Normally, we'll blink about 24 times a minute but when we're staring at a computer, this drops to about nine times a minute," says Francesca. "Use the 20:20:20 rule - every 20 minutes, look 20 ft away for at least 20 seconds and blink 20 times."

STOP SMOKING

"Smokers are four times as likely as non-smokers to develop macular degeneration (a leading cause of vision loss) and twice as likely to develop cataracts," says Francesca. "It's best to quit but if you find it too difficult, try an eye vitamin and mineral supplement which contains antioxidants to help combat damaging free radicals in cigarette chemicals."

BEAT THE BUGS

"If you use contact lenses, remove them before swimming, showering or using a hot tub. Wearing them increases the risk of contracting an infection from acanthamoeba - parasites that live in water," says Dr Blakeney.

DO EYE EXERCISES

A common symptom of age-related macular degeneration is

noticing that straight lines start to appear wavy - or that there are patches missing from your vision. "When monitoring patients diagnosed with AMD, we typically provide them with a small grid to look at with each eye individually to detect early or sudden changes in vision vertically and horizontally," says Saj Khan, consultant ophthalmologist at the London Eye Hospital. "For patients who are not in formal regular monitoring, we recommend looking at the same point on a tiled wall or at both the horizontal and vertical parts of a door frame in order to achieve the same result."

TAKE A 20-MINUTE WALK

Studies have shown that exercise can reduce intraocular pressure (inside the eye which can cause glaucoma). "The benefit is seen with regular gentle to moderate exercise - try brisk walking for at least 20 minutes, four to five times per week," says Mr Khan.

GET OUTSIDE

Studies indicate people who spend more time outdoors are far less likely to develop shortsightedness than those who spend most of their time indoors. It's thought it may be due to the fact that dopamine is released in the retina by daylight.



Oils that prevent

Heart Attack



eliminating oil completely from one's diet, smart oil choices must be made.

In addition to this, people must get out of the habit of reusing cooking oil. Reusing oil can create free radicals, which cause ailments in the long run. These free radicals can be carcinogenic i.e. can cause cancer and also atherosclerosis that can lead to an increase in bad cholesterol levels, blocking the arteries. If one must reuse oil, then they must make sure the leftover oil from cooking or frying is cooled down and then transferred into an airtight container through a

strainer/cheesecloth. This will remove any food particles in the oil as they spoil the oil much sooner than expected. In addition to this, the color and thickness of the oil must be checked. If the oil is dark in color and is greasy/sticky then it must not be re-used.

People must also be aware that oil can get spoilt. If upon heating the oil is smoky much before than expected, the time has come to discard it as it may have accumulated HNE which is a toxic substance that has been associated with a number of diseases including Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, stroke, liver disease, etc. A sample of a healthy diet to protect the heart? Consuming certain foods can double your heart disease risks, and it is often tough to change one's eating habits. It

is important to control your portion size, a small plate or bowl can help control the portions one consumes. Consuming larger portions of low-calorie and nutrient-rich foods like, fruits and vegetables and reducing the quantity of food items which are high in trans fat, sodium and sugar content can go a long way in protecting the heart. One must understand the difference between good fat and bad fat to minimize the risks of heart disease. A few heart-friendly diet practices include:

- Eating more fruits and vegetables as they are low in calories and rich in dietary fibers
- Reducing the consumption of red meat is important for heart patients
- Opting for a sodium and sweet controlled diet since diabetes and hypertension both lead to coronary heart disease
- Low-calorie and high-nutrient food must be consumed to keep obesity under check. Obesity is again a major influencer in early incidence of heart disease
- People must limit the consumption of pre-packaged and canned food as they contain high levels of trans fats and salt content
- Whole grain products are regarded as a great source of fiber that plays a major role in regulating blood pressure and heart health. One can easily increase the amount of whole grains in their diet by making simple substitutions for refined grain products.
- A lucid way to add healthy fat and fiber to your diet is by consuming ground flaxseed. Flaxseeds are high in fiber and omega-3 fatty acids, it also aids in lowering cholesterol in some people.
- Vanaspathi ghee - a partially hydrogenated vegetable oil used widely as a cheaper substitute for ghee in India must be consumed with caution given its high trans fat levels.
- A combination of heart-healthy oils such as olive, canola, vegetable and nut oil must be consumed
- Alcohol intake should be reduced as it can further increase heart disease risks



Cardiovascular diseases, including heart disease and stroke, are the world's number one killers, claiming 17.5 million lives a year globally.

In an exclusive with Dr. Manoj Kumar, Associate Director and Head- Cardiac Cath Lab, Max Super Specialty Hospital, we find out about cooking oils and common mistakes.

What are the best oils to use for cooking and which is the safest variety to use?

According to the National Institute of Nutrition India, our diet should consist of 15-30 percent fats.

One must remember that not all oils are suitable for high-temperature Indian cooking. Using oils such as olive oil (especially extra-virgin) are not recommended for deep frying food items such as samosas and pakodas. The reason for this is that on over-heating these oils lose their nutritional qualities and produce harmful by-products. Alternatively when used in salads as a dressing, the oil does wonders in helping protect the heart. Similarly, sunflower, coconut, mustard oil all have a good heat endurance and can be used for deep-frying. So the choice of oil must be customized for the food you are looking at cooking.

Different oils are suitable for different cooking conditions and people for instance: Sunflower oil though a good source of monounsaturated (MUFA) and polyunsaturated (PUFA) fatty acids is not recommended for diabetic patients since it may increase sugar levels. Canola, avocado, and almond oil

are considered good for the heart because they contain healthy fats. However, combining different oils in one's diet is ideal

What are the common oil mistakes that people in India make?

The first thing a large section of people are unaware of is that most oils are not meant to be used for cooking at high temperatures. Over-heating oil causes oxidation that leads to the formation of carcinogens, an unhealthy compound. It also demolishes the good nutritional qualities of the oil. The best way to avoid this is to watch the color of the oil. The change in the color of the oil is a crucial sign that indicates that it has started to degrade due to the heat.

For instance, extra virgin olive oil is not suitable for deep frying or cooking any food product. It should solely be used for dressing or making dips. Most are unaware about this fact and continue to use oils that seem healthier for normal high heat Indian cooking thereby causing more harm than good.

Another mistake that people often make is that they try and eliminate fats completely from their diet. An ideal diet should consist of 15-30 percent fats, and edible oils are one of the major contributors of dietary fats. Instead of