



India, US could finalise trade deal by July, says Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal

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New Delhi.(Agency)
India and the United States are moving quickly towards finalising the first tranche of a bilateral trade agreement, with Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal saying the two sides are working to close the remaining issues and could sign an initial deal by the middle of July.
The proposed agreement is being closely watched by businesses and exporters on both sides, as it could give Indian products better access to the US market at a time when global trade tensions remain high and countries are increasingly turning to bilateral agreements to secure market access. Speaking on June 5, Goyal said negotiations had gathered pace after a

team of US trade officials visited New Delhi for discussions. "We had a full team of officials from different divisions of trade from the US in Delhi," Goyal said.
According to the minister, both countries are now focused on resolving the remaining sticking points. "Both sides are fast moving towards closing all the open ends," he said.
FIRST PHASE OF TRADE DEAL COULD BE READY BY MID-JULY
Goyal expressed confidence that the first tranche of the proposed India-US trade agreement could be completed within weeks. "By sometime in the middle of next month or so, we should be in a position to



execute a very vibrant first tranche," he said.
The agreement is expected to be the first step towards a broader trade partnership between the world's largest and fifth-largest economies.

Government officials have indicated that the initial phase could focus on improving market access, reducing trade barriers and strengthening economic cooperation in key sectors. The deal could also help Indian exporters gain an edge over competitors in certain product categories.
TALKS REGAIN MOMENTUM AFTER EARLIER SLOWDOWN
Trade negotiations between the two countries have been underway since February, when India and the United States reached an initial understanding on a trade agreement. However, progress slowed after uncertainty emerged around President Donald Trump's tariff measures.

The talks regained momentum this month following meetings between officials from both countries in New Delhi. The renewed engagement comes as both governments seek to deepen economic ties and expand bilateral trade. India and the US have set an ambitious target of significantly increasing trade volumes over the coming years, making the proposed agreement a key milestone in that effort.
TARIFF CONCERNS REMAIN IN THE BACKGROUND
The latest round of discussions comes despite fresh trade concerns. On June 4, the United States proposed an additional 12.5% tariff on imports from India, arguing that India was among

LCB Under Scanner as Viral Video Raises Questions Over Illegal Liquor Nexus

Political Pressure on SP? Public Outrage Grows Against Alleged Corrupt Syndicate Influencing Transfers; Complaint Reaches State DGP

Mahanagar Metro Desk / Pawan Makan Nadiad. Serious allegations of corruption and administrative misconduct have surfaced in Gujarat's Kheda district, raising questions about the effectiveness of prohibition enforcement and the credibility of local law enforcement agencies. A controversial video allegedly featuring a bootlegger from Chaklasi has gone viral on social media, triggering widespread debate within police circles and the state administration. In the video, the individual allegedly claims that a payment of ₹15 lakh was being made to facilitate illegal liquor operations, sparking concerns about the existence of a larger protection network operating within the district. According to local allegations, illegal liquor trade and other unlawful activities are flourishing across parts of Kheda district under the alleged protection of influential intermediaries and members of a purported administrative syndicate. The controversy has brought renewed scrutiny on the functioning of the Kheda Local Crime Branch (LCB) and certain police officials.
Allegations of Extortion and Illegal Trade
The viral video has prompted questions about who allegedly collects such large sums of money and whether the proceeds are being distributed through an organized network. Residents and activists claim that areas around Chaklasi have become hotspots for the sale of country-made and foreign liquor, despite Gu-

KHEDA DISTRICT POLICE SHAMED!
LCB TURNS INTO 'CORRUPTION BRANCH'?
VIRAL VIDEO OF ₹15 LAKH PAYOFF TRIGGERS STORM IN POLICE DEPARTMENT
POLITICAL PRESSURE ON SP? TRANSFERS ALLEGEDLY DONE AS PER PERSONAL INTERESTS
LIQUOR SYNDICATE FLOURISHES UNDER THE PROTECTION OF INFLUENTIAL OFFICERS
COMPLAINT REACHES STATE DGP PUBLIC DEMANDS IMMEDIATE ACTION & TRANSFERS
WHEN WILL THE CORRUPTION END?

jarat's prohibition laws. Critics allege that repeated complaints from citizens have failed to produce meaningful action.
Questions Over Frequent Transfers
The controversy has also revived debate over the transfer and posting system within the district police setup. Allegations have emerged that certain individuals have managed to secure

favorable postings repeatedly despite previous administrative actions. Observers are questioning how officers and personnel allegedly linked to controversial activities continue to return to strategically important positions within a short period of time.
Check Posts Under Scrutiny
Questions are also being raised about enforce-

ment at major district check posts, where critics allege that organized liquor smuggling continues despite regular police presence. Sources claim that anti-liquor operations often target small offenders while larger operators continue functioning without significant disruption. These allegations have fueled public criticism that enforcement efforts are selective and ineffective.
Growing Public Concern
Citizens and social activists have expressed concern that unchecked illegal liquor networks could eventually lead to serious law-and-order issues and public safety risks. Several local groups have reportedly demanded a high-level inquiry into the allegations and called for stricter monitoring of police functioning in the district.
Demand for DGP Intervention
Public pressure is mounting for state authorities to conduct an independent investigation into the allegations. Citizens have urged the Director General of Police (DGP) to review the functioning of officials named in public complaints and ensure transparency in transfer and posting procedures. As the controversy continues to gain attention, many residents believe that only a thorough and impartial investigation can determine the truth behind the allegations and restore public confidence in law enforcement institutions.

Sukhendu Ray quits Trinamool; 14 party MPs meet Suvendu in new trouble for Mamata

Kolkata.(Agency)
After Mamata Banerjee lost her grip over the Trinamool Congress's MLAs, a second wave of setbacks has now hit the party's parliamentary ranks, with Sukhendu Sekhar Roy, the TMC's longest-serving member in the Rajya Sabha for over a decade, resigning both as an MP and from the party. In a development reminiscent of last week's split in the Bengal Assembly, the Trinamool Congress's parliamentary wing also appeared to be heading in a similar direction, with at least five party MPs seen alongside Sukhendu shortly after his resignation in a photograph exclusively accessed by.
Sources revealed that 14 of the TMC's 29 Lok



Sabha MPs later met BJP leader Suvendu Adhikari, who reached Delhi on Monday as the political crisis within the Trinamool Congress spilled over into the national capital. In his resignation letter to Trinamool Congress chief Mamata Banerjee, Sukhendu said the

people of Bengal had "rejected the party's rampant corruption, extreme oppression of women, and its utter failure and the severe anarchy prevailing across sectors, including education, healthcare, industry, employment, and law and order."
Praising BJP, Sukhendu further wrote: "The voters have, for the first time in Bengal's history, given the Bharatiya Janata Party a massive victory in terms of seats. The newly elected government has already begun working to implement multiple programmes for Bengal's overall development and reconstruction, in line with its election promises."
The veteran TMC leader shot the letter to

Mamata as she is in Delhi, desperately trying to stitch together an INDIA bloc after the recent drubbing in the Assembly polls. Following the TMC's poll debacle, the party founded by Mamata Banerjee has effectively split into two camps, with rival faction leader Ritabrata Banerjee becoming the Leader of the Opposition in the Bengal Assembly after claiming the support of 61 of the party's 80 MLAs. As Mamata seeks to retain her bargaining power at the INDIA bloc meeting today, her leverage appears to be rapidly diminishing following the resignation of the party's chief whip in the Rajya Sabha. Adding to her troubles, as many as 23 TMC MPs are said to be in touch with the rebel faction.

As Mamata Banerjee seeks to retain her bargaining power at the INDIA bloc meeting today, her leverage appears to be rapidly diminishing following the resignation of the party's Rajya Sabha chief whip, Sukhendu Sekhar Roy, and his subsequent meeting with several TMC MPs.

News box

19-year-old woman dies by suicide after man refuses to marry her

Gurgaon.(Agency)

A 19-year-old woman died allegedly by suicide at her residence in Bhangrola village under Kherki Daula police station limits on Saturday evening. A suicide note recovered from the spot indicated she took the extreme step after a man refused to marry her.

The deceased, originally from Uttar Pradesh, was in a relationship with Shiva, a resident of Aligarh, UP. According to a complaint filed by her uncle, Shiva allegedly established physical relations with her on the pretext of marriage and took her to hotels on multiple occasions. When she became pregnant, an abortion was carried out. After her family learnt of the matter, she was sent to live with her paternal aunt in Bhangrola village around three months ago. She was employed at a private company. Investigators said the woman's mother died when she was three months old. Her father later remarried and is currently in jail in connection with another case. She was raised by her grandparents.

Based on the uncle's complaint, police registered a case against Shiva under sections related to rape, causing abortion, and abetment to suicide. The accused is yet to be arrested.

Does Anjali tease him more now that she knows the word worked?

Noida.(Agency)

The transport department will launch a three-day enforcement drive across Noida from June 9 to 11 against buses operating under the All India Tourist Permit (AITP) that are accepting seat-wise bookings through online platforms, an official said on Saturday.

Buses operating under the AITP are permitted to run as contract carriages and are only allowed to pick up and drop passengers at their origin and destination only. The statewide campaign was ordered by Uttar Pradesh transport commissioner Ashutosh Niranjana, who has directed enforcement officers across the state to conduct intensive inspections on key highways and transport corridors where operators are stopping mid-route to allow more passengers to board the buses.

TOI had earlier reported that several sleeper buses with AITP are listing Sector 148 on Noida Expressway and Zero Point on Yamuna Expressway as pick-up or drop locations on private booking websites.

Noida assistant regional transport officer (enforcement) Dr Udit Narayan said as part of the enforcement drive, RTO officials will be deployed round-the-clock at all major routes and toll plazas, including the Jewar toll plaza and the Yamuna Expressway. "Strict action will be taken against buses found violating permit conditions by operating like stage carriages through online seat-wise bookings," he told.

Enforcement officials have been asked to ensure alternative arrangements for stranded passengers if vehicles are impounded. Impounded vehicles will be parked at Roadways depots or workshops and RTO officials, who will inspect the buses physically, may initiate action against the seized buses if they fail to meet the prescribed standards. Narayan said enforcement action against such buses has already begun. "In May, 242 buses were checked and penalised. Around Rs. 1 lakh was collected as penalties, while outstanding vehicle taxes worth nearly Rs. 67 lakh were recovered," he said.

Encroached roads, illegal parking are choking traffic in key Ghaziabad areas

Gurgaon.(Agency)

Residents of Vasundhara, Indirapuram, Shalimar Garden and other parts of the city have raised complaints about growing encroachments on roads and footpaths by shops, vendors, temporary structures, and illegally parked vehicles.

These encroachments not only create traffic congestion and safety hazards but also severely affect pedestrian movement and emergency access, and undermine cleanliness and the environment, residents say.

"Senior citizens, schoolchildren, women, and differently abled citizens are the worst affected," said Vishal Singh, a resident of Vasundhara.

Residents have written to the UP chief secretary, asking for a long-term solution. Residents also suggested several practical, people-friendly systems to manage roadside and footpath encroachments in a lasting way and tackle this growing problem.

"Some ways to manage these issues are: a clear legal definition of public road and footpath encroachment, a pavement licensing system for shops and cafes, dedicated enforcement and monitoring teams, digital complaint systems with mobile app reporting, a time-bound warning and penalty system for repeat violators," said Pradeep Gupta, a resident of Shalimar Garden, who wrote the letter to the UP chief secretary.

He added that UP is rapidly progressing towards becoming a modern urban state; hence, adopting such globally proven municipal management practices can significantly improve traffic management, urban cleanliness, public safety, ease of movement, smart city governance and overall civic discipline.

Surendra Kumar from Abhay Khand, Indirapuram, urged authorities to issue appropriate policy directions to urban local bodies, development authorities and municipal corporations to implement best practices in this regard.

Haryana's Rs 489-crore canal project remains unfinished years after deadline

Gurgaon.(Agency)

As Delhi battles acute water shortages, a major Haryana irrigation project aimed at improving water conveyance in the Yamuna basin remains unfinished years after its scheduled completion.

The Haryana govt approved the Remodelling of Augmentation Canal project in Dec 2017 at an estimated cost of Rs 489 crore. Passing through Yamuna Nagar and Karnal districts, the project was designed to increase the canal's carrying capacity from 3,100 cusecs to 6,000 cusecs, strengthening the Western Yamuna Canal system. Work was to begin in 2018-19 and be completed by 2020-21. Nearly five years after that deadline, it remains incomplete.

Sources familiar with the project said around Rs 350 crore has already been

spent, though the irrigation department's latest expenditure figures could not be independently verified.

The delay has acquired significance amid a deepening water crisis in Delhi — residents in several localities are dependent on govt tankers arriving once every two days and private operators are charging up to Rs 5,000 per trip. The Wazirabad reservoir has fallen well below its normal level of 674.5 feet, affecting operations at key treatment plants. The Wazirabad plant (131 MGD capacity) and Chandrawal plant (94 MGD) are together estimated to be producing 70-100 MGD less than normal due to reduced raw-water availability. Of the 250-260 MGD normally reaching Wazirabad from Yamuna, only about 80 cusecs is

reportedly being diverted through the Munak Canal system, with supplies curtailed elsewhere to compensate.

Water experts estimate that significant

fraction of these losses, they say, could improve availability during peak summer months.

"The delay is very serious because it affects not only a canal project but the reliability of the entire downstream water-supply chain," said Fawzia Tarannum, co-founder and strategic lead at GuruJal. She identified four cascading effects: reduced conveyance flexibility during summer stress and emergency releases; greater vulnerability to raw-water shortages; higher risk of losses and failure in partially upgraded infrastructure; and weakened climate resilience overall. Tarannum, however, said Delhi's crisis cannot be attributed solely to the unfinished project.



quantities are lost through seepage and transmission in the Western Yamuna Canal network — sector estimates suggest losses of 600-800 cusecs in parts of the system. Conserving even a

Rajkot 'Possession' Video Sparks Debate Over Faith and Science

Witchcraft Drama or Blind Faith? Rajkot Event Sparks Questions as Critics Challenge Bageshwar Baba

Mahanagar Metro Desk

Rajkot, Gujarat: A controversial video from a religious gathering in Rajkot has ignited a heated debate over faith, superstition, and public responsibility.

The footage, which has gone viral on social media, allegedly shows a woman behaving erratically during a spiritual event associated with Bageshwar Baba, with some attendees claiming she was possessed by a supernatural force. The dramatic scenes have attracted widespread attention and raised serious questions among rationalists, medical professionals, and social activists.

Viral Video Triggers Public Debate

According to eyewitness accounts circulating online, the woman suddenly began shouting, jumping, and behaving aggressively before being presented as a case of spiritual possession. Thousands of attendees reportedly watched the incident unfold, while supporters described it as evidence of divine inter-



vention. However, critics argue that such incidents should not be treated as supernatural events without scientific examination. They question whether vulnerable individuals are being misled in the name of faith and miracles.

Following the viral circulation of the video, many social media users began asking a pointed question: if spiritual powers can allegedly remove negative forces and suffering, why

are these powers not demonstrated in hospitals where thousands of patients struggle with life-threatening illnesses every day? Critics have specifically pointed to Ahmedabad Civil Hospital, one of Gujarat's largest public healthcare institutions, where cancer patients, critically ill children, and countless families continue to battle serious medical conditions. They argue that genuine super-

natural healing would be far more meaningful if demonstrated among patients fighting for survival rather than during staged public gatherings. Medical experts and psychologists have long maintained that many incidents attributed to possession or supernatural influence can often be explained through mental health conditions, emotional distress, trauma, anxiety disorders, or

hysteria-related symptoms. According to mental health professionals, such cases require medical evaluation and treatment rather than public spectacle. They warn that presenting psychological conditions as supernatural phenomena may discourage individuals from seeking proper healthcare.

Growing Concerns Over Promotion of Superstition

Social activists have expressed concern that broadcasting such incidents on large platforms may contribute to the spread of superstition and misinformation. They argue that in an era of advanced medical science and technology, extraordinary claims should be supported by credible evidence. Many citizens have questioned whether society should encourage scientific awareness and healthcare access rather than sensational displays that may reinforce blind faith.

Enter at Your Own Risk! AMC Declares 25 Ahmedabad Underpasses Unsafe During Monsoon

Mahanagar Metro Desk

Ahmedabad: As the monsoon season begins in Ahmedabad, the long-standing issue of waterlogging in city underpasses has once again come under public scrutiny. In a significant advisory, the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) has released a list of 25 underpasses that are considered vulnerable during heavy rainfall and has urged citizens to avoid using them whenever water accumulation or safety restrictions are in place. The advisory comes amid concerns that several underpasses in Ahmedabad become heavily flooded even after moderate rainfall, creating serious risks for motorists and pedestrians.

According to information released by the Municipal



Commissioner, citizens should refrain from entering underpasses when waterlogging, mud accumulation, maintenance work, or safety barriers are present. The corporation has advised vehicle owners and pedestrians to use alternative routes instead of attempting to cross flooded underpasses. Officials have emphasized that ignoring warning signs or entering restricted areas could put lives at risk.

AMC officials stated that automatic and manual safety gates may be closed during periods of heavy rainfall to prevent accidents and fatalities. Citizens have been requested to cooperate with authorities and strictly follow safety instructions issued at affected locations. The advisory highlights the danger posed by sudden water accumulation, poor visibility, and stalled vehicles inside underpasses during intense rain.

The announcement has triggered criticism from several residents, who argue that despite annual budgets and pre-monsoon preparedness exercises, many underpasses continue to face the same flooding problems year after year. Citizens have questioned why a permanent drainage solution has not been implemented despite repeated incidents and substantial public expenditure on urban infrastructure. Critics also argue that simply issuing advisories is not enough and that authorities should focus on long-term engineering solutions to eliminate recurring waterlogging problems. The issue has reignited debate over Ahmedabad's Smart City infrastructure claims. Residents point out that if key traffic cor-

ridors become unusable after relatively low levels of rainfall, questions naturally arise regarding urban planning, drainage capacity, and flood management systems. Many citizens believe that preventive infrastructure upgrades should take precedence over seasonal warnings.

While civic authorities continue monitoring vulnerable locations, residents are being urged to remain cautious throughout the monsoon season. Motorists should avoid flooded roads and underpasses, follow official warnings, and use designated alternative routes whenever possible. Safety experts emphasize that no shortcut is worth risking human life, particularly during heavy rainfall and flash-flood conditions.

Every monsoon, same gamble: Why thousands stay in Mumbai's crumbling buildings despite the risk of collapse

Mumbai. (Agency)

Mayur Mistry, 43, looked up at the crumbling building in front of him. Many years ago, his parents brought him home from the hospital to Hathi Baug in Mazgaon. Like his father before him, he grew up in the building, and the 120 square feet room shaped the landscape of his childhood and adulthood. But now, with a child of his own, the building no longer feels like a safe place.

In the run-up to the 2026 monsoon, Hathi Baug received a notice informing residents of what they already knew. Their building was dilapidated, highly dangerous and beyond repair. The notice, however, came with a rider. The 48 families living in the building would have to vacate within 15 days or risk having their electricity and water connections disconnected, or worse, risk their lives through the rainy season. Like residents of 81 other buildings classified as highly dangerous during

MHADA's pre-monsoon survey, they chose to stay.

It is residents like Mistry who prompted a Bombay High Court-appointed committee to describe it as a "miracle" that lakhs of Mumbai residents continue to live in structurally unsafe buildings. In a report submitted in March, the committee warned of a deepening crisis in the city's ageing cessed buildings, estimating that nearly four lakh tenants remain trapped in 12,552 such structures, many declared dangerous and awaiting redevelopment.

Yet every monsoon, even as notices are pasted on cracked walls warning residents to evacuate, thousands choose to remain where they are.

A miracle, every monsoon

"We will not give up our homes," said Mistry,

pointing to cracks in the roof, leaks in every home and bamboo supports holding up parts of the structure. "Evacuating the building would mean giving up our claim to



our homes and losing our tenancy rights. That we cannot risk."

His dilemma is repeated across Mumbai's cessed buildings — pre-1969 residential structures whose landlords pay a cess, or

levy, to MHADA in exchange for the authority maintaining and eventually redeveloping them. Of the 82 such structures classified as highly dangerous this year, 43 had already been declared unsafe before the 2025 monsoon, yet residents continue to occupy them. In the last three years, 935 cessed buildings, largely in the island city, have been served notices warning of their precarious condition.

Caught in a web of stalled redevelopment projects, legal disputes, absentee landlords and uncertainty over rehabilitation, thousands of residents continue to languish in ageing buildings that authorities say could collapse around them. To leave is safer. To stay may be fatal. But for many tenants, leaving can also mean surrendering the only claim they have to a home they have occupied for

generations.

Stalled, stuck, unsafe

"Tenants were given the hope of a way out through Section 79A of the MHADA Act, 1976, which permitted tenants to come up with a redevelopment proposal if the landlord failed to act within the stipulated period," said Mukesh Pende of the Pagdi Ekta Sangh, which advocates for the rights of pagdi tenants. "But now that the provision is being argued in court, even that option is not available."

Section 79A was introduced in 2022 to fast-track the redevelopment of these ageing properties, which are often neglected by landlords for a variety of reasons. Under the conventional redevelopment process, redevelopment is an option available only to the landlord and MHADA. Section 79A, invoked when a cessed structure is in a dilapidated condition, forced redevelopment in a time-bound manner and allowed tenants to take up the initiative.

Short news

Akhilesh Yadav alleges Ram Temple donation funds missing, trust refutes charges

Lucknow. (Agency)

Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav on Sunday demanded judicial intervention into reports alleging that crores of rupees from donations made to the Ram Temple in Ayodhya have gone missing, while the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust rejected the allegations saying routine audits found no significant irregularities.

In a post on social media platform X, Akhilesh described the reports as a matter of grave concern for the devotees across the world, terming the situation as "extremely shameful" for the temple trust. He wrote in Hindi that it was deeply concerning that crores of rupees from the temple donations were reportedly found missing.

The SP chief sought suo motu cognisance by the judiciary, saying the issue was directly linked to the faith of the global Sanatani (Hindu) community.

Questioning the government's reported silence on the issue so far, the leader wrote: "Sarkar ki chuppi sandigdha hai" (The government's silence is suspicious).

However, responding to the allegations, general secretary of the temple trust, Champat Rai said the trust undergoes periodic internal audits and that no noteworthy discrepancy had been detected so far.

"Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust undergoes internal audits from time to time, undertaken by the trust and the State Bank of India. The audit process continues for several days. The same exercise is currently underway. So far, nothing noteworthy has come to light," Rai said in a statement later in the day.

Conditions favourable, monsoon to enter Odisha in 3-4 days: IMD

BHUBANESWAR. (Agency)

The torment of the scorching heat is set to wane by the end of this week as the much-awaited southwest monsoon is likely to enter the state within the next three to four days.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Sunday said the pace of pre-monsoon showers has intensified across Odisha. The monsoon winds have strengthened and conditions are favourable for its arrival in the state by mid-week, said director of the Bhubaneswar Meteorological Centre Manorama Mohanty.

"Conditions are favourable for the advance of the southwest monsoon into parts of Chhattisgarh and Odisha, the remaining areas of North East and parts of sub-Himalayan West Bengal and Sikkim over the next three to four days," Mohanty said.

The monsoon reached Kerala on June 4, three days late than the normal onset date of June 1. The weather system generally reaches Odisha 10 to 12 days after its onset over Kerala.

Weather experts had earlier anticipated that the monsoon might miss its usual arrival window of June 10-12 in the state. They said that although the monsoon arrived late in Kerala, it has since advanced rapidly. Its arrival in Odisha will trigger widespread rainfall, providing relief from the sweltering heat and supporting agricultural activities ahead of the kharif season, they said.

Pregnant woman's death, High Court intervention and a government promise: Gujarat tribal village waits for a road nearly 2 years later

Chhota Udepur. (Agency)

The road to Baskariya faliya in Turkheda village of Gujarat's Chhota Udepur, a tribal district, does not really end, it simply disappears. Just about two kilometres after turning in from the main road towards the rugged hillside where the village lies, the narrow dirt track shrinks into a winding trail of loose mud and jagged stone curling around barren mountainsides. The deeper one goes into the hills, the vehicles are fewer and even motorcycles cannot ride this path. The final stretch to 32-year-old Kishan Bhil's home can be reached only on foot.

It was along this very mountain path, before dawn on October 1, 2024, that villagers had carried Kishan's pregnant wife, Kavita, on a makeshift cloth stretcher tied to bamboo poles after she developed labour pains. The nearest point where a 108 ambulance could reach was almost five kilometres away. Kavita died before that, but not before bringing to the world a baby girl. A year later, on September 16, 2025, a



36-year-old pregnant woman, Vansi Nayak, was similarly carried on a cloth stretcher for five kilometres till the ambulance, which took her to the local hospital and then the Vadodara SSG hospital where she died.

On one side of the mountain track, crumbling gravel slopes cling to the edge of the hill. On the other hand, there is a steep valley, dotted with mud homes and isolated tribal hamlets. There are no railings, no retaining walls, no drainage channels, no signages; only the tyre marks on the dusty road trace the fragile connection between Turkheda's interior

faliyas (housing cluster) and the outside world.

In summer, the trail is harsh and rocky. But villagers say the real fear arrives with the monsoon. Within weeks from now, rainwater will turn the pathway into a slippery stream of mud where even two-wheelers are abandoned midway. The six-km journey to the nearest motorable main road — and onward to Kawant town — becomes uncertain, especially at night or during medical emergencies.

Unkept promise

Kavita's tragic death triggered outrage across Gujarat and prompted the Gujarat High Court to take suo motu cognisance of The Indian Express report detailing her death. Soon after, the state government announced "immediate" construction of an eight-kilometre tar road connecting Turkheda's scattered hamlets at an estimated cost of Rs 13.5 crore. The Roads and Buildings Department approved the project, promising paved roads and protection walls through the mountainous terrain, however, it awaits clearance.

Andhra Pradesh recorded India's highest climate-led internal displacement in 2025: Report

VISAKHAPATNAM. (Agency)

As many as 1.16 lakh people were internally displaced in Andhra Pradesh during 2025 due to cyclones and severe storm events, making the State one of the worst affected in the country, according to the State of India's Environment 2026 report released by Down To Earth.

The report states that AP recorded 1,16,000 weather-related displacements, the highest among all States. Uttar Pradesh followed with 1,10,490 displacements, while West Bengal reported 80,000. Together, these States accounted for more than half of all displacements recorded across 28 States and Union Territories. The findings point to increasing vulnerability of AP to climate-related disasters.

AP records second-highest extreme weather days, says report

Extreme weather events affected the State on 58 days between October and December 2025, the second-highest in the country



after Himachal Pradesh, which recorded 62 days. The trend has continued into 2026. During the first three months of the year, AP recorded 10 days of extreme weather,

compared with zero in 2022, three in 2023, two in 2024 and one in 2025 during the same period.

Heat stress is emerging as a major concern. In 2025, two weather stations in AP recorded their highest temperatures in 124 years of observations, while five stations registered record monthly temperatures.

The report notes that the number of annual hot days has increased from 42 before the Paris Agreement period to 48 at the current global warming level of about 1.3°C. Even if global climate goals are achieved, annual hot days could rise to 73 by the end of the century. Agriculture continues to face mounting pressure. AP, Maharashtra and Karnataka together account for nearly 70% of farm-sector suicides in the country.

Thunderstorms & scorching heat in AP for next 2 days

VIJAYAWADA. (Agency)

The Andhra Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority (APSDMA) has issued a fresh weather advisory warning of thunderstorms with lightning in several districts, alongside heatwave conditions in others. Managing Director Prakhar Jain said the state will continue to experience varied weather over the next two days.

Under the influence of a trough extending from Karnataka to the coastal Andhra region, light to moderate rains with lightning are expected on Monday and Tuesday in Alluri, Polavaram, Kurnool, Nandyal, Anantapur, Sri Sathya Sai, and Kadapa districts.

Other districts may also see isolated thunderstorms. Citizens have been advised not to take shelter under trees, electric poles, or hoardings during sudden



downpours, and farmers and cattle herders have been urged to move to safe areas when skies darken and thunder is heard.

At the same time, heatwave conditions are forecast in 56 mandals and hot winds conditions in 67 mandals across districts, including Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Manyam, ASR, Polavaram, Kakinada, Godavari, Eluru, Krishna, Prakasam, Anantapur and Chittoor.

Maximum temperatures are likely to range between 42-44°C in parts of Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Manyam, ASR, Polavaram, Kakinada, East and West Godavari, Eluru, Krishna, and Prakasam. In Konaseema, NTR, Guntur, Bapatla, Palnadu, Kurnool, Nandyal, Anantapur, Kadapa, and Chittoor, temperatures may hover between 40-42°C.

Citizens are advised to avoid venturing out in peak heat, drink plenty of fluids such as lemon water, buttermilk, coconut water, and safe drinking water, and stay alert to fallen power lines during storms.

As Opposition attacks farm loan waiver conditions, Maharashtra govt's own cabinet note says eligibility restrictions will reduce payout

While Opposition leaders demand a blanket waiver and Rohit Pawar announces a hunger strike, the cabinet note shows the state was always counting on its own conditions to pare down the Rs 36,585 crore projected cost

Mumbai. (Agency)

Even as Opposition parties have criticised the Maharashtra government's newly announced farm loan waiver scheme for imposing eligibility conditions that could exclude a large number of distressed farmers, the government's own cabinet note says the scheme's eligibility restrictions are among the reasons the state's eventual expenditure is expected to be lower than the projected outlay. The Indian Express has learned.

A farm loan waiver means the government pays off a farmer's outstanding debt to the bank on their behalf. The Punyashlok Ahilyadevi Holkar scheme, approved by the state cabinet on Tuesday, earmarks Rs 36,585 crore for this purpose, though the actual burden on the exchequer is expected to be lower.

Significantly, the cabinet note records that the Planning Department, which vets the financial implications of government schemes, flagged the proposal as imposing a significant financial burden on the state. The note also states that, based on information received from various banks, approximately Rs 36,585 crore would be required to provide benefits under the scheme, but that the actual financial requirement may be lower because certain eligibility restrictions have been proposed and commercial banks are expected to provide some level of concession, or haircut, on the outstanding loans of eligible farmers. According to the government, the total overdue amount — repayments that have crossed their deadline — across 35.05 lakh loan accounts belonging to around 32.10 lakh farmers stands at Rs 40,779



crore. These accounts are spread across nationalised banks, private banks, regional rural banks, district central cooperative banks and cooperative credit societies.

The scheme has the following main components, each with its own eligibility conditions. Under the debt waiver component, farmers with outstanding crop loans up to Rs 2 lakh (principal and interest combined) that remained overdue on

September 30, 2025, and unpaid by March 31, 2026, are eligible for a complete waiver. There is no landholding limit, and the waiver applies across one or more loan accounts. The government estimates around 16.48 lakh farmers holding 17.55 lakh loan accounts fall in this category, requiring an outlay of around Rs 14,754 crore.

Farmers whose crop loan liabilities exceed Rs 2 lakh are covered under a one-time settlement component. They must first repay the amount above Rs 2 lakh; the state will then waive the balance up to Rs 2 lakh. Restructured crop loans are also covered. Eligible farmers have until March 31, 2027, to deposit the balance. The government has estimated an expenditure of Rs 5,798 crore for around 2.90 lakh farmers holding 3.69 lakh loans.

Fighting El Niño | What Delhi can learn from Jakarta & Lima

Economists have a word for fraught global moments like the current one—polycrisis, when multiple shocks stop being separate problems and start feeding off one another. Into this tangle of wars and energy crises, the World Meteorological Organization has dropped a climate bombshell: there is an 80 percent chance a significant El Niño will take hold by mid-2026, with odds rising above 90 percent that it will persist well into winter. A few models go further, flagging a possible 'super' event—Pacific waters warming more than 2°C beyond normal. That has not happened since 2015-16. For most countries, this would be a headline. For India, it is a livelihood emergency in waiting. Roughly 42 percent of India's workforce earns their bread from farming, and the southwest monsoon accounts for 70 percent of the rain the country receives. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has already lowered its seasonal rainfall estimate twice. The probability of El Niño conditions prevailing through the June-September season now stands at 92 percent, with the phenomenon expected to gather muscle as the months go by. Walk into any rain-dependent village in Vidarbha or Kalahandi and ask what a 70-mm shortfall in rainfall means. It means the kharif sowing gets delayed, then gambled upon, then sometimes abandoned. It means a family already spending half its income on food watches prices climb. It means the moneylender's ledger grows thicker. Over 80 percent of Indian farmers work plots smaller than 2 hectares—patches that leave almost no room for error. Most have no canal or borewell to fall back on. When the monsoon stutters, their world stutters with it.

The physics behind the damage is straightforward, even if the consequences are not. El Niño warms the central Pacific, which in turn scrambles a vast atmospheric loop called the Walker Circulation. Normally, this loop helps pull moisture westward toward Asia. During an El Niño, it weakens. High pressure settles over the subcontinent, the humid updrafts that power the monsoon lose energy and rain-bearing systems thin out or stall. The IMD expects northwest, central and peninsular India to receive below-normal rainfall this year, with prolonged heat spells likely across Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Odisha and Gujarat. Past El Niño years—1987, 2002, 2009—are scars on India's agrarian memory. Research published in Nature warns that these hot-and-dry monsoon seasons may become half again as frequent as the planet continues to warm. Layer on the polycrisis and every pressure point gets worse. Higher crude means costlier diesel, costlier fertiliser, costlier transport—the three expenses a small farmer cannot avoid. If poor rains push up grain and vegetable prices at the same time that imported energy is stoking broader inflation, the squeeze falls hardest on those who can bear it least. The family in Marathwada or Bundelkhand is not tracking basis-point revisions to GDP forecasts. They are watching the sky and counting what is left in the grain bin. What Jakarta and Lima figured India is not alone in this predicament and there is no shame in looking outward. Indonesia's rice belt faces eerily similar risks every time the Pacific warms. What Jakarta has done differently is invested in making climate science legible to the people who need it most. Through a programme called Climate Field Schools—run jointly by its meteorological agency and the agriculture ministry—Indonesian farmers learn to read seasonal forecasts and adjust their planting calendars before the drought bites. When a UN team reviewed the programme after the 2023 El Niño, they found it had tangibly softened the blow in the country's most exposed communities. Indonesia has also rolled out a water-saving rice cultivation technique known as alternate wetting and drying (AWD), which trims irrigation needs by a fifth without hurting yields.

Questions about the chosen ones

UP template is being replicated in other BJP-ruled states such as Bihar and Odisha

The Central government promulgated an ordinance on May 16, increasing the strength of the Supreme Court from 34 to 38 judges (including the Chief Justice of India). There are no apparent reasons why the circumstances warranted an emergent ordinance rather than introducing a Bill before Parliament, whose next sitting is barely a month away. What followed was the immediate filling up of five seats in the Supreme Court in remarkable cooperation between the Court and the government. On May 27, the Court sent the government its recommendations to appoint High Court Chief Justices Sheel Nagu, Shree Chandrashekhar, Sanjeev Sachdeva and Arun Palli, and a woman advocate of the SC, V. Mohana. This was cleared post-haste and on June 2, they took their oath of office. Across social media, there was a flurry of reservations and objections from prominent personalities and common folk. Three Chief Justices were said to have favoured godmen or people in high office; the fourth was said to have espoused regressive views on gender. The fifth, the sole woman appointee, was a direct appointment from the Bar to the Supreme Court, under Article 124 of the Constitution. Only exceptionally fine lawyers are supposed to make the cut; that number has not crossed a handful since 1950 and includes some of the greatest of the greats. It includes former Chief Justice of India (CJI) SM Sikri, who held the fort in the Kesavananda Bharati case to enunciate the concept of the Basic Structure of the Constitution, thus protecting the rights we hold most dear; as well as two of our finest judges in recent memory, Rohinton Fali Nariman and Indu Malhotra. Soon I will cross 50 years at the Bar, in service both as a professional and public interest lawyer and mediator. I have scoured several sources of information about Justice Mohana to find any traces of individual stellar achievement, but none were forthcoming. It is not as though there were no alternatives to these five. I will just give a couple of names. GS Sandhwalia, now Chief Justice of the Himachal Pradesh High Court, is one of the finest judges this country has produced and has repeatedly scored marks for decisive action underpinned by the highest judicial values. Revati Mohite Dere, Chief Justice of the

Meghalaya High Court, has won encomiums for her brilliant stint of 13 years at the Bombay High Court. Incidentally, in 2018, she vacated the gag order restraining media reportage of the Sohrabuddin Sheikh murder case. Another fine judge is Aparesh Kumar Singh, now heading the Telangana High Court. Let us shift to a lower court, and southward. On June 2, six names were approved by the Collegium for appointment to the Karnataka High Court, out of the 10 names sent by that Court. One of the names that did not find favour was Ms Poornima Hatti. To my knowledge, she is outstanding as a lawyer, was a partner at a prominent law firm and has played a vital role in a prominent international video which sought to capture the mediation styles and approaches across the globe. I can

host of other appointments? This will probably be Justice Maheshwari's last official act, for which he will bear no responsibility or consequence. So the question is: why the haste? The other aspect, which is a question now but may become disturbing after the answer, is the role of the consultee judges. Again, this is not a creation of statute. But then neither was the Collegium in the first place. The consultee judge is the judge who has served in the particular state's High Court to which the appointment is being made, either for a length or as a bird of passage. In particular relation to Karnataka, may we please know what each consultee judge opined about the relative merits and demerits of Poornima Hatti and the six chosen ones? From the answers to the above sets of questions, we will be able to judge for ourselves whether the chosen

ones meet our high expectations of those who adorn judicial office. Or whether the rejected ones would be far better choices. Crucially, we, the public of India, would also then be in a position to assess the working of the Collegium. Do we have the right to ask these questions, and to receive these answers? I ask as a Senior Advocate and a lawyer who has put in half a century serving the system. I ask on behalf of my colleagues at the Bar, which include not just the better-placed ones but, more importantly my junior colleagues, because they will bear the brunt of judges below par. But make no mistake; all of us are watching with dismay. And this is the input I have received from a law student as I write; he was enthusiastically ready to enter the profession. Today, he said: "Sir, I thought merit would carry the day. Now, I think merit is meaningless; it all depends upon who likes whom." All of us seek answers, My Lords. Your answers may disappoint us, but do not disappoint us by not answering.

And then it came to my mind, the extraordinary special remedy; the help of the helpless. In vain, I looked to Earth's vain shadows, then Heaven's morning broke (borrowed from that great hymn Abide with Me). And there shone the Ultimate Judge, who will judge us all, the judged and the judges on earth. Our Heavenly Father and my Uparwala Bade Bhai. In Thee we trust. Thy Will be done. Render your Judgment and your Divine Retribution. To Him, I can say only this: "As your Lordship pleases".

As for the Collegium, as an institution, a requiem to it may well be found in the memorable words of Winston Churchill addressed to Neville Chamberlain, who will go down in history as a constant appeaser: "In God's name, Go."



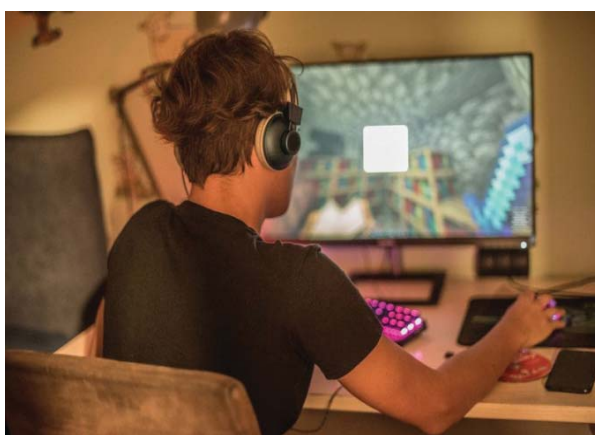
speak to the quality of her contribution because I was the chosen mediator for India in that endeavour. If appointed now, and remember she is a woman, she would be in line to be the CJI one day. Was that the reason, pray? Two other aspects merit consideration, the first of which is particularly disturbing on its face. The Collegium of the three seniormost judges for making appointments to the High Courts presently comprises the CJI and Justices Vikram Nath and JK Maheshwari. Justice Maheshwari demits office on June 28; Justice BV Nagarathna, who hails from Karnataka, then enters the Collegium. Do we not detect a sign of haste in pushing through these, and a

Gaming addiction : SC upholds anti-betting laws

The promise of quick money traps users in cycles of addiction, debt and psychological distress

THE Supreme Court's scathing observation that every mobile phone has become a "virtual gambling house" is a stark warning about the menace of online betting and gaming addiction in India. Upholding state laws banning online gambling and betting in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, the apex court has highlighted a disturbing truth: what was once considered harmless entertainment has evolved into a widespread social and public health crisis. The rapid expansion of online gaming platforms, aided by smartphones, digital payments and aggressive advertising, has normalised betting among millions, especially the youth and economically vulnerable groups. The fast-growing Indian gaming market was valued at \$3.7 billion in 2024 and is projected to reach \$9.1 billion by 2029. The Court rightly noted that many players came from rural and lower-income backgrounds, where dreams of instant wealth often outweigh awareness of financial risks. The promise of quick money traps users in cycles of addiction, debt and psychological distress. Online

gaming addiction is also linked to rising incidents of



depression and suicide. Gaming disorder is recognised

by the World Health Organisation as a medical condition under the International Classification of Diseases. Unlike traditional gambling dens, digital betting platforms operate silently within homes, accessible 24x7 through mobile phones. This unrestricted access has blurred the line between recreation and exploitation. Recent police crackdowns in the National Capital Region have revealed that online betting networks are intertwined with cyber fraud, fake transactions and organised crime. Such activities undermine public trust in the digital economy. Technology should empower society, not exploit human vulnerability. While innovation and digital entertainment cannot be stopped, stricter regulation, stronger cyber policing and public awareness are urgently needed. The Court's warning must serve as a wake-up call before online gaming addiction becomes an even deeper national crisis.

How Indian cities failed the bicycle

India abandoned the bicycle to look modern, while Europe built its vision of the modern city around it

THIS week, the world marked two global occasions: World Bicycle Day on June 3 and World Environment Day on June 5. Their proximity is more than mere coincidence. It is a policy signal that mobility, ecology, and public health belong in the same conversation. The United Nations asks us to be "Inspired by Nature. For Climate. For Our Future." It is a stirring call. It is also, for those of us who have watched India's ecological inheritance quietly unravel, a call laced with irony. We do not need to be newly inspired by nature. We were, and then we were told to stop. For centuries, nature was India's culture. Sacred groves or dev-vans, orans and kovils dotted every state, functioning as community-protected biodiversity reserves long before that phrase existed. Stepwells harvested rainwater; natural dyes and clay vessels left no trace. The jugaad ethic of repair over replacement was a way of being. These were not the practices of a people indifferent to progress, but practices of a civilisation that instinctively understood, only now articulated in policy documents: you cannot separate human prosperity from ecological health.

What changed was not development itself, but the model adopted. Liberalisation brought aspiration bundled with a particular image. By the 1990s, the bicycle had been quietly reclassified from transport to a symbol of poverty. Cycling's national modal share collapsed from nearly 30% in 1994 to 11% by 2007. The ecological costs compounded: third most polluted country in the world, lost forest cover, over four million tonnes of plastic waste annually, and 54 of the world's 100 most polluted cities within India's borders. The bicycle had not failed the Indian city. Rather, the Indian city had decided the bicycle was embarrassing. India is a growing economy with a vast population, and the need for motorised transport for industry, freight and urban expansion is real and legitimate. The question is not

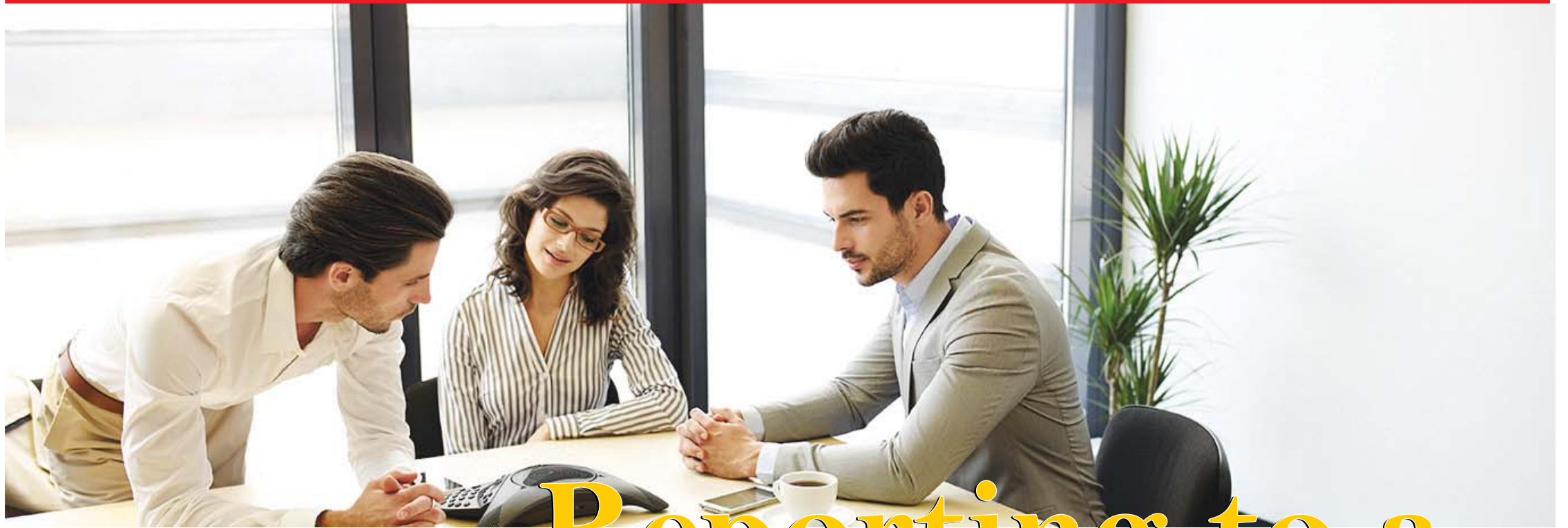
whether India needs vehicles on its roads, but which vehicles, powered how and supplemented by what. The answer lies in a deliberate mix: expanding metro and bus rapid transit networks, promoting electric vehicles, incentivising carpooling and building last-mile infrastructure that makes cycling genuinely viable. Industrialised societies carry a familiar set of costs: air pollution, congestion, carbon emissions and road fatalities. India faces all of these simultaneously. It ranks among the world's highest in road accident deaths. More than 1.7 lakh fatalities in 2022 alone reflect not just driver behaviour but systemic failures in road design and safety infrastructure. Answering calls of the UN means recognising that greener transport cannot succeed on intent alone. It requires roads safe enough to cycle on, and cities designed for people rather than vehicles. Other nations offer instructive models. Japan's concept of 'mottainai', rooted in cultural regret over waste, has been woven into packaging law and daily governance, demonstrating that tradition and progress need not be in conflict. The Netherlands, not initially a cycling nation, offers a sharper lesson today: bicycles outnumber people, cycling accounts for 27% of all trips and is estimated to prevent 6,500 deaths annually, delivering health benefits worth over 3% of the Dutch GDP. The irony cuts deep. India abandoned the bicycle to look modern, while Europe built its vision of the modern city around it. India can learn from both models, but cannot import either. Its population scale

and social landscape are distinct. Here, cycling is still coded as a marker of poverty. The person who cycles to work is seen as someone who had no choice. This prejudice is more than merely attitudinal. Chandigarh



illustrates it precisely. The city has one of India's finest cycling path networks, yet those lanes remain largely empty. Safety concerns, inadequate lighting, encroachment, and social prejudice all conspire against utilisation. A population stuck between inherited preconception and the aspiration to appear modern will not shift through awareness campaigns alone. Four shifts are needed, in policy rather than aspiration. First, cycling infrastructure must be treated as core transport

policy with protected lanes, secure parking and integrated public transit. Second, road safety must be elevated to the status of a public health emergency. Safer street design and dedicated corridors for cyclists and pedestrians are prerequisites for any cycling culture to take hold. Third, cycling corridors must include shade structures, tree canopies and heat-reflective surfacing as functional requirements. Fourth, we must bring tree preservation into road infrastructure policy, rather than trading it away. Every urban road-widening project that slashes a mature tree removes decades of cooling, air filtration and canopy cover that no replanting programme meaningfully replaces in a human lifetime. Tree-lined cycling corridors are an efficient infrastructure that provides shade for the rider and cools the asphalt. If we are serious about being 'inspired by nature,' the least we can do is stop cutting it down to make way for another lane of traffic. The two occasions this week do not ask us to invent a new relationship with nature or mobility. They ask us to repair the one we severed. For India, that repair does not begin at a climate conference. It begins with the honest acknowledgement that we walked away from a way of living (and moving) that worked, and that the path back is not retreat. As Mahatma Gandhi once said: "The Earth provides enough to satisfy every man's needs, but not every man's greed." We knew that once. The question is whether we are ready to follow it.



Do you feel awkward reporting to a younger boss? A new generation is trying to allay your fears by asking, "What's age got to do with it?"

Innovation apart, fast proliferating startups have another side effect - younger bosses. This shift in status quo does give rise to a certain anxiety. In a traditionally hierarchy-friendly country, does this tipping of balance change things at the workplace? According to the recent 2015 TimesJobs Leadership Survey, over 60 per cent entry-to-mid level employees say they would like to have young bosses. This, however, is in contrast to 80 per cent senior professionals, who after 20 years of experience, would prefer older bosses. The question of age seems to have left India Inc in a bind, but it is strangely the young entrepreneurs and business managers who themselves are offering a solution.

THE KIDS ARE ALL RIGHT
For startups and companies that are concerned with newer technologies, the media and the internet, young bosses often prove to be a huge advantage. At 23, Rega Jha is Editor, Buzzfeed India, and she leads a team of people where almost everyone is older than her. "For an internet company," she says, "there is a premium on being young. We have an inherent advantage because we grew up with this technology. Older people in their 30s and 40s will walk up to my team in office and ask, 'Hey, what do you kids think of this?' So age does not come with any negative connotations at work." While youngsters may be better equipped to tackle new age jobs, young bosses are not complacent enough to be oblivious to the lack of experience that comes with their age. In fact, because they are so keenly aware of this fact, they constantly try to learn from older colleagues. In her tenure with Buzzfeed, Rega has been conscious of her age and thus respectful of employees with more experience, even going out of her way to ask them for tips and advice. Their own failures and successes have helped provide her a priceless map.

TWO-WAY STREET OF EDUCATION

Reporting to a Younger Boss?



Saurabh Agarwal was already an entrepreneur when it hadn't even become cool to become one. He started Unify Facility Management in 2009 and was only 26 at the time. Today, Unify is one of the biggest housekeeping service providers for corporate and commercial facilities in the country. In a business that had little to do with new technologies, Saurabh was surrounded by older experts. "Even when I started taking interviews, I made sure I didn't sound bossy. These people were more experienced than me. They had worked in the industry for 20 years and seen and done things I hadn't. I told them I needed them for this venture to succeed. They had the expertise I didn't and I did not even try to hide this fact." The respondents to this article made it clear that most employees in the country value skills far more than age. Rahul Sharma, for instance, joined the Teach For India Fellowship in 2013 to teach students of low-income schools. Because the average age of people working in the NGO fell within the mid-20s spectrum, only a handful of people were older than Rahul. At 40, Rahul was 10-15 years older than the Program Managers he reported to during the two years he spent there. "Even though I was older than my Program Managers, they had more experience than me in the education field," says Rahul, who had left his cushy corporate job to engineer societal change. "It

made no difference to me that they were younger than me. In my mind, there is no bias for either younger or older bosses. I learned from them, like I would from any boss. Conversely, they took my opinion on things just like they took opinions from other colleagues who were their age."

RESPECT YOUR JUNIORS
The situation at a senior management level proves to be even more age-agnostic. While junior-to-mid level functions involve a lot of personal reviews and feedback, working with younger bosses when you are a part of senior management is all about doing things together. "At a senior management level, it's all about collective responsibility," says 63-year-old Tapan Bose, who is currently retired and working on contract with the SP Jain Institute as a Project Advisor. In the past, he has worked in senior management positions with a few IT multinational companies where he had to report to a CEO younger than him. He does, however, add, "It wasn't like I had to take permission for anything. Important decisions were mostly taken as a group and the whole process was objective-driven, based on responsibility and accountability, so age had nothing to do with it." In today's competitive world, it's not that easy to be at the top and employees across the spectrum realise this. While younger bosses have to work a little harder than their older counterparts in order to earn trust and credibility, it's often smooth

sailing once they have succeeded in doing so. As long as a manager is good at his job, manages his team well and is willing to learn from others, he usually earns the respect of employees. "I used to make sure I did my homework before we met prospective clients," says Saurabh. "We had all the answers to their questions and that would stump them because

they did not expect this from such a young guy. But the team saw this and it increased their confidence in me too." With over 65% of India's population under 30, it almost seems natural that younger people are increasingly taking up managerial roles. The great news is that their colleagues don't see this as a threat or a disadvantage. Age, it seems, is just a number, after all.

5 office etiquette tips that will make your Workplace better

Working in open-plan offices comes with its share of hassles.

You get to hear chatter from other departments and may have an air-conditioning system that leaves your part of the office with Arctic temperatures while everyone else is quite comfortable. While you may not be able to shush people all the time and have no control over temperature control, there are other courtesies you can observe at work to keep the inter-departmental peace.

DON'T CROWD THE WATER COOLER

Most people chat at the office water cooler so that they can get a break from their workstations and perhaps have a chinwag about office politics. That's all very well, but the moment you see that someone else is in line to use the cooler, you should make way for them so that they can use it and head back to their desks.

EMPTY YOUR GLASS

If your office doesn't have disposable cups at the water cooler, chances are there will be a tumbler for everyone to use. For starters, don't fill the entire tumbler if you know you aren't going to finish it — that's just being plain eco-friendly. If you do have leftover water in the tumbler, empty it before putting it back in its place — especially if you've just had hot water. After all, you wouldn't want someone else getting scalded with your



leftover water.

DON'T HANG AROUND IN THE RESTROOM

The ladies' loo is another favourite spot for women to chit-chat in between work. But make sure you don't hijack the space in front of the sink or block the door while you're chatting away. This way, you don't cause inconvenience to other people who may want to dash in and out.

FILL UP THE PRINTER

Sometimes, different departments have to share a common printer. So if you're sending a printout, you should first make sure that there's enough paper in the printer. Otherwise, you could be holding up someone else's print in the queue.

WAIT TO ENTER THE LIFT

It's a common sight to see people standing right in front of the lift waiting for it to open and then bump into the people getting out of it when they enter. Let whoever is already in the lift exit it and then enter. It's only polite.

Dos and don'ts for your job application

HR professionals point out common mistakes made by those applying for their job, providing a list of dos and don'ts.

Many argue that academics fails to prepare fresh graduates in communication etiquette, necessary in the corporate world. It is thus a task for some of them to even get employed as job interviews require one to present his or her skills, while conducting oneself in a certain manner. To address these concerns, we list mistakes made by first-time job aspirants and how they can be corrected.

Email etiquette

So, you've heard about a suitable job, managed to procure the employer's email id and decided to shoot off your



Resources - South Asia, SAS Institute (India) Pvt Ltd. Rao adds that freshers need to highlight their educational qualifications, technical skills and their college projects in their resume. "If you've done an internship, you need to mention your exact role and learning from it in your resume," adds Rao, who feels that grammar

and punctuation cannot be compromised in one's CV. "A cover letter is also a must and it should briefly summarize the candidate's skills and the kind of role they're looking for, along with a reason for applying for the role and choice of company," says Rao. How one addresses the person receiving the resume is vital too. A "Hi" followed by the person's name

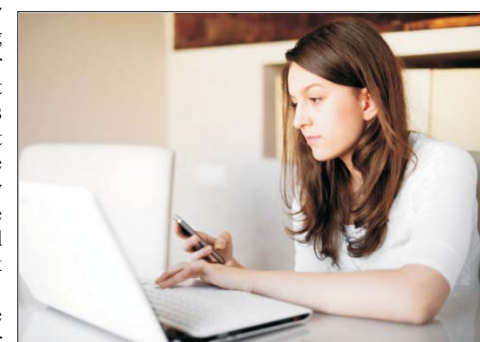
is seen in poor light. "It would be advisable that the candidate figures out who he is applying to and address the mail to the concerned person, making the application personalized. And one should never make the mistake of applying to multiple companies by adding several email ids in the BCC as it's seen as unprofessional," says Rao. A suitable salutation in such emails could be 'Dear Sir', 'Dear HR Manager' or 'Dear Hiring Manager'. On a different note, the email id created to send your resume could also affect your chances of getting short-listed. "If an employer receives a resume from an id like serialkisser01@gmail.com, the reaction it would receive is obvious," laughs Ashish Arora, Managing Director, HR Anexi Pvt Ltd, who recommends short and straightforward email ids with a subject line clearly drawing attention to the role being applied for.

5 things to avoid Looking unprofessional

Coming across as unprofessional is the last thing one would want to be. Here are some tips that can help you avoid the same:

- Have you heard of the 'expectation hurts' phrase? That is exactly what would be termed as optimism bias or being unrealistically optimistic. Assuming that there is a lesser chance for one to be at risk than others leads them to believe that they can afford to be more laidback and they often start taking the safe route. This could make one look unprofessional.
- Words matter. While actions speak louder

than words, you should still mind your words. Do not use bad words at work place -



- Never hide things at your work place. It is good to be transparent in your communications. That way, you have nothing to hide and your communication with your colleagues and your seniors remains unaffected.
- Do not run away from responsibilities. A responsible employee is not only the most sought after, but also tends to be more successful at his/her work. On the contrary, do not overpromise, too, if you cannot accomplish it.
- Leering could make you look like a creep and interactions with those from the opposite sex become difficult. You'll be in the radar for all the wrong reasons, of course.



Dreams of Flight

Indian Aviation is the world's ninth-largest industry. Every year some 12 million 10 million 10 million to 4 million local and foreign visitors take its services. It is estimated that 33 million to 60 million passengers by 2020 Indian and foreign passengers will be 8 million to 50 million. India is the world's third largest aviation market will come out as well. So with the industry as a manager will have an opportunity to work Judkr.

Job Growth

Indian Aviation Industry is about 25 percent annual growth rate. According to one estimate, by 2017 more than two million new jobs in this industry, there will be, a large part of which will relate to management.

Course and Eligibility

Diploma in Aviation Management Field for entry into the cabin crew and the flight Service Management, Diploma in Air Cargo Management, Diploma in International Airlines & Travel Management, Diploma in Air Fare and Ticketing Management, MBA Airport Management, MBA in Aviation Business Management courses etc. can be. Graduation from a recognized university for MBA courses and diploma

courses, the majority of the senior secondary pass. Admission is through entrance exams at several institutes.

Inportret Skills

Will Power, who was a student of aviation management course is required. Additionally, good communication skills and should be aware of all the new ways of communication. Flight and Ground Service in the management of those who desire to learn, they can move ahead in this field.

Options

After completing a course in Aviation Management student Airport Manager, Airport Services Supervisor, Instructor in flight, the Flight Manager, Reservation and Ticketing Agent, Guest Service Manager, Duty Manager, Security Supervisor, Base Manager etc can

work. Early in the field about three to four million annual salary can be expected.

Institutes

- Institute of Logistics and Aviation Management, New Delhi
- Indian Aviation Academy, M u m b a i www.indianaviationacademy.com
- -University of Petroleum and Energy Studies, Dehradun www.upes.ac.in
- Regional College of Management, Bhubaneswar www.rcm.ac.in?
- No jobs problem
- Indian Aviation industry and the airport associated with maintaining their quality work properly Aviation Trainee Managers need to run. This kind of course is right, because the many years however there will be no shortage of jobs for her.

Building at Sea



Today cruise through the beautiful sea shipping routes through the holidays Injwoy, or simply from one corner to another corner of the world petroleum and other ponderous equipment - stuff to send to all these big - big ships are required . Cargo ships for the carriage of goods where required, to rotate the world are in need of multi-storied passenger or cruise ships. Some developed countries of the world, daring sailors began traveling to other countries, many of those countries the interchange while. Sailors - known to travelers culture and traditions of other nations and increased commercial activity. The most important contribution of maritime routes. When the boats extension, then such a big - big ships were being completed, a small - to accommodate thicker city. Takes a long time to prepare these ships and thousands of people work together. Water big - big ships making process, which is called the Ship Building. In world imports - exports of ships is the largest contribution.

Explore the Ship Building a research career graph after the course proceeds rapidly. After this course at a fresher level, for example, Student Assistant Manager / intern / shop floor may be appointed as an executive. After three years of

experience can become the deputy manager, but it has to be a post graduate in Ship Production. Ship Building in the MBA, you can become a manager. Then DGM, GM and CEO of the post can access.

Courses and Qualifications BSc Ship Building and Repair course has a duration of three years. BSc (Ship Building and Repair) Candidates for admission must have passed 12th. In addition, at least 55 per cent marks in PCM in 12th is required. In English in the 10th and 12th should be

50 per cent. The only unmarried student / students can get admission. The course of any session from August 17 ??to 25 years old (SC / ST are exempted in accordance with government guidelines) should be between. It also gets the chance to apply those students who have passed the CET exam. Aiamayu CET exams, Chennai will conduct, which occurs once a year. Then Aiamayu written exam and candidates are counseling.

Income - such as your ability will increase, upswing will be easy. An assistant managers and CEO's salary starts from 30 thousand reaches millions. Expert Adwaj Sanjeev, director of the Indian Institute of Nautical Science & Engineering BSc Ship Building and Repairing Kulshreshta the brand new course. This course is expected to improve job placement. Option jobs in this field, not only in India but also in every corner of the world. Factories shipped abroad because most of the building is to be located.

Innovation With Free Energy

By engineering jobs they could rest in a big company, but left college before taking a degree. Free and Green Energy based (which is not Pollution and reduced energy consumption) began to work on lighting projects. In 2012 he Prince Energy, Consultancy and Solutions Venture started himself by name. Today, the One Man Army as well as giving people information about lighting and energy costs Ifshiant Lighting Products Provide them are offering.

The Turning Point Internship Hamirpur, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab Ropd prince living in the School of Engineering and Technology, was taken admission in electrical and electronic engineering. Even four years of studies, but left college before taking a degree in 2009 finals. Prince says that during the study had a internship at an engineering company in Gurgaon. Feel Vhinunhen that does not take an engineering



degree. Innovative Society can do for you, so that might be an advantage, it is Inpotrent. Prince felt today in every sector energy consumption has increased, it has become too expensive, so they have something new to solar energy and the use of technology Elidi made the decision.

Antrepnyor With Innovative Mind Lighting for Indoor Plants for People usually use fluorescent or CFL, but with these lights - too much heat escapes with his life and even less often. Keeping this in mind, the Prince had designed Elidi Grow Lights. Kanjmphsn it would not have much energy and life is more than 50 thousand hours. Say four - five years it may Elidi Lights running smoothly. It makes you wonder sometimes too Nhinrhegi growth of your indoor plants. Prince said that when the product is in demand, they serve him. As Elidi Blbs, Tube Lights, Ceiling Lights, Solar Lanterns Elidi, Elidi Solar Mobile Chargers and many other innovative things they make. In addition to the

customers in India and the U.S. Provide Elidi also provide lighting solutions.

Use of Elidi Technology

Light-emitting diode, the Prince said Elidi is a semiconductor device, in which the current (power) when the flow begins to burn. Use of any product in the Elidi done properly, it can save energy by 50 to 70 percent. Prince says he needs to Customer Needs Given that meet their lighting. Well, they heavily focus on horticulture lighting. Grow Lights Provide Elidi they offer to customers under it. It is an artificial source of light, which helps in the process Fotosynthesis of plants. Prince points out that Grow Bright Lights Elidi longer arise. It can be placed closer to the plant because it has a lower Tronspiresn they do not need to water them a long time.

Future Planning

Want to Expand Your Business to the Prince, so that their products reach to more people and to get all the benefits of free energy. The moment they are planning to create a marketing team, as well as the Prince of Cities in Rural Areas between farmers are trying to reach out.

Master of Medicine Farmakolojist

According to global management consulting firm McKinsey & Co's Studies, Indian Pharmaceutical Industry in 2020 may reach 45 billion U.S. dollars. The terms of this sector in the coming days will be the option plethora of jobs in the field. Growth will look fantastic in all, however, is considered the hottest field pharmacology.

Research and Development work

Pharmacologists work primarily is to Medicine Research and Testing. They are humans and animals individually by test drugs to see how much and what effect they have on their body. How a particular drug is effective in the prevention of a disease, let's put it out to Farmakolojist. Chemist with the new - to develop new drugs. This field is for those, like the country - are abroad in the field of life sciences research and development monitor.

Uncountable opportunities

In today's job market is not short of options for Farmakolojist. Research Scientist in Government and private institutes, teaching, medical writers, etc. have a chance to work. After the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research PhD in pharmacology, Indian Council of Medical Research, Department of Science and Technology can be a part of.

Course and Eligibility



This field is for science students. Of b. Pharma after completing specialization in pharmacology can. Pharmacology after completing MBBS course the student can take admission in the MD program. Colour PhD in Pharmacology after M. Pharm is open.

Salary

Salary in this field depends on whether what you are doing jobs Organisation. The entry in this field who also takes 2 to 3 lakh per annum salary. Experience and salary after name can be up to 6 to 8 lakh

per annum.

Top Institutes

- National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research, Mohali www.niper.ac.in
- Delhi Institute of Pharmaceutical Science and Research, Delhi www.dipsar.ac.in
- Punjab University, Chandigarh www.puchd.ac.in
- All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi www.aiims.edu
- Jamia Hamdard, Delhi

Internship

First Impressions

Careers



When a college student internship in an organization or company starts business world or the first time he gets a chance to learn about practical work. Professional office environment is challenging for many students, but with little preparation and good internship Attikets a strong professional relationship with the company and its Anploij can make. It is possible that further jobs as you get the advantage.

Social Skills

During the internship, the intern will

work on a lot of good social skills. Kligns office to be friendly with. Observe other people that they have an office - how to talk and meet each other. Keep your cell phone off during office work or make personal calls only when absolutely necessary. If you wish to talk on the phone for work, keep it professional tone. E-mail're so full of grammar and spelling note. Never a personal e-mail send. In addition, a professional distance Menten will do good with other people. This will be a message that you have come to learn, not to make personal relations.

Follow the command chain

For the interns, it is extremely important to know what the organization's formal and informal reporting structure, as well as to whom they must report during the internship period, it is extremely important to know. Office of the chain of command will take care of you. Will refrain from going to work without everyone.

Role of attendance

Absent the freshers internship must try to avoid it. The timing Attikets must keep in mind. You'll be able to impress the seniors and management. They will feel that you are serious about the job. Yet if you take a fall for some reason, so please

be sure your commanding authorities informed. Do not ever leave without being informed. Follow Attikets professionals.

Respect the

During the internship, students are required to perform well. For further Apochryunitij are paired, but this can only happen when an intern should just mind your own business. Project-Related Issues in the office or at work you will do the same thing and refrain from gossip, so will your good image. Respect all men who work in an office like this is important, because they know there's work culture and environment better than you. First Impression Is Last Impression When a student internship in a company is, its purpose is to learn. So try assignment that must be met to accept it. Additionally, you should give your introduction. Friendly Behaviour and will smile on the face, so the first impression of any company would be easy to fix. It will Pwoints separate sleeping. Similarly, your dressing sense must also be professional. Keep Attikets care of

Competition for jobs is tough, so the students get even more crucial is the role of internships. Internships open doors to jobs with good Prformes. Therefore, students should keep in mind that the result of his Prfarmes the internship will come to an end, but the aptitude and non - verbal communication of the results, the first two - three days will get. You'll entries in company with the right dress sense, with proper Attikets meet answer, their Kwashchans give the answer, then their's also positive you will.

Delhi to induct 2,800 air-conditioned electric buses under PM E-DRIVE

The fleet, split equally between 9-metre and 12-metre buses, aims to improve last-mile connectivity and expand Delhi's electric bus network, which is set to reach 7,500 units by year-end.

New Delhi.(Agency)

The Delhi government is set to induct 2,800 air-conditioned low-floor electric buses under the PM E-DRIVE scheme in the coming days as part of its plan to strengthen the capital's public transport system and improve last-mile connectivity

across the national capital

According to government sources, the proposed fleet will comprise 1,400 nine-metre and 1,400 twelve-metre pure electric buses. Officials said the initiative is expected to improve transport accessibility in underserved and peripheral areas while also enhancing feeder connectivity for commuters.

The Transport Department has observed encouraging operational performance of the nine-metre electric buses already deployed in the city, especially in catering to local and feeder transport requirements. Building on this experience, the government now plans to create a balanced electric fleet capable of serving both high-density corridors and

neighbourhood connectivity needs.

The move forms part of the Delhi government's larger strategy to modernise



public transport infrastructure and increase the share of zero-emission mobility solutions in the national capital.

As part of its long-term vision, the government aims to expand Delhi's overall public transport bus fleet to nearly 14,000 buses by 2028-29 to ensure improved connectivity, enhanced service coverage and greater accessibility for commuters.

At present, Delhi has nearly 4,300 electric buses in operation, making it one of the country's largest electric bus fleets. The government aims to increase this number to around 7,500 electric buses by the end of this year.

Transport Minister Pankaj Kumar Singh said that in the next phase of expansion, the Delhi government is also pursuing the induction of 3,330 additional electric buses under PM E-DRIVE Phase-II, including 500 seven-metre electric buses aimed at strengthening feeder services and

improving last-mile connectivity.

The minister added that the proposed induction would also be supported by the development of charging and power infrastructure at bus depots to facilitate large-scale electrification of Delhi's public transport fleet and promote environmentally sustainable mobility solutions.

Accessibility

Fleet to include 1,400 9-m and 1,400 12-m buses

Buses to be introduced under the Centre's scheme

Delhi currently operates nearly 4,300 electric buses

Govt targets 7,500 electric buses by year-end-29

Overall fleet projected to reach 14,000 by 2028-29

West Bengal tenant couple arrested for killing DU assistant professor; plotted murder to grab property

New Delhi.(Agency)

Delhi University assistant professor Debosmita Paul, who was found dead in her flat in Vasudhara Enclave recently, was killed by her tenants to get her property in West Bengal, the police claimed on Sunday.

Delhi Police claimed to have arrested a couple from Bardhaman in West Bengal, who allegedly executed the murder. Their minor son has been detained. The couple was identified as Ramprasad Das, 42, and Banashree Das, 36, police said.

The police said the victim owned a property worth crores of rupees in West Bengal. "The accused family had



been residing since 2023 in the victim's ancestral property at Burdwan, which had been allotted to the victim through a family settlement.

The victim had been repeatedly asking the accused to vacate the premises, leading to an ongoing property dispute. Following a final warning issued by the victim to vacate the property, the accused conspired to eliminate her," it said. "The accused were caught on CCTV visiting her flat wearing masks on Wednesday. They arrived in a private cab with some bags and used the stairs to reach the sixth floor. They brought their minor son along to avoid raising any suspicion. They had a friendly entry in the house and murdered the victim using a weapon that they had brought with them," the police claimed.

Sonam Wangchuk from Ladakh.

The lion, not the cockroach

New Delhi.(Agency)

New Delhi's Jantar Mantar on Saturday saw protests by the once-satirical, now-serious Cockroach Janta Party (CJP). Ladakh-based innovator, educator and climate activist Sonam Wangchuk joined Abhijeet Dipke, the CJP founder, as he came back to India to lead the protests on Saturday.

Wangchuk had earlier this week extended his support to the youth-led movement over the NEET paper leak issue, lending credibility and visibility to a protest that began as internet satire before metamorphosing into an organised group.

While many know activist-educator Sonam Wangchuk, many might not know another Sonam Wangchuk, who's also from Ladakh. He was an Indian Army officer who fought the Pakistanis in the 1999 Kargil war and etched his name in history. He was awarded the Maha Vir Chakra (MVC), India's second-highest wartime gallantry award.

While climate activist Wangchuk fought Ladakh's water crisis through innovations like artificial glaciers, soldier Sonam Wangchuk, battled Pakistani intruders in the Kargil War.

And unlike the ironic mascot of a political movement built around what Dipke said is "a surviving a dysfunctional system", Colonel Sonam Wangchuk earned another identity in the mountains of Kargil. The Lion of Ladakh.

WHO IS SONAM WANGCHUK, THE LION OF LADAKH

Born on May 11, 1964, in Sankar (near Leh) in the erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir, Colonel Sonam Wangchuk grew up amid the rugged mountains that would later test his mettle. Influenced by a relative in the Indian Army, he joined the Officers Training Academy in Chennai and was commissioned into the 4th Battalion of the Assam Regiment.

Short staff, ancient equipment challenges before Delhi Fire Service as scrutiny mounts

New Delhi.(Agency)

Delhi's fire fighting force, DFS is battling staff shortage as well as poor communication systems, amid a scrutiny in the wake of recent tragedy in Malviya Nagar that has claimed 22 lives.

Sources in Delhi Fire Service (DFS) said that more than one-fourth of sanctioned posts of firefighters are vacant at the department.

Official data reveal 853 firefighter posts, out of the 3,312 sanctioned, are currently vacant. Also, out of 90 sanctioned posts of station officers, only 18 are occupied. The last direct recruitment for the position was held more than a decade ago in 2011, sources said.

A fire risk and infrastructure assessment commissioned by the



Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) in 2011 flagged significant deficiencies in Delhi's firefighting infrastructure, manpower, and emergency response systems.

The DFS uses a decades old wireless system which the current government is now considering to upgrade.

The department continues to use two very high frequency (VHF) channels, 148.525 MHz and 148.725 MHz. While the radio sets have been

upgraded over the years and are now digital mobile radio devices, the communication architecture remains largely unchanged. Delhi Fire Service introduced wireless communication system in 1969, since then no revamping or upgradation of the wireless frequencies has been carried out, sources said.

Over a period of time due to highrises coming up in Delhi, the communication network increased from 17 fire stations to 71 fire stations.

Due to these two vital factors, line of sight and access coverage became beyond the capacity of the existing system. The shortcomings have led to poor communication between fire control rooms and fire stations, and their communications with the firefighters, sources added.

Illegal constructions razed, properties sealed in Sainik Farm and Khanpur

New Delhi.(Agency)

The Delhi government's ongoing crackdown against illegal constructions, encroachments and violations of building safety norms continued on Sunday, with multiple agencies carrying out demolition and sealing drives in Sainik Farm and Khanpur areas of South Delhi.

Officials said one property was demolished in Sainik Farm while 10 others were sealed during the day's action. Authorities stated that the drive forms part of a wider campaign being conducted across the capital against unauthorised constructions and unsafe buildings.

According to officials, cumulative action taken since June 1 includes demolition of 95 properties and sealing of 124 properties across the

capital. In addition, show-cause notices have been issued to 84 under-construction properties, while 41 properties were sealed after notices



were served. Demolition orders have also been issued for another 33 properties.

The Revenue Department on Sunday inspected and issued notices to several sites across districts. These included 16 sites in North district,

four in New Delhi district, 10 in South West district, six in South East district, 15 in East district, 13 in North West district, five in North East district, 19 in Central North district, 11 in Central district and 31 in West district.

Chief Minister Rekha Gupta said illegal constructions endangering public safety would not be tolerated and action against violators would continue without discrimination. During the inspection drive in Khanpur and Sainik Farm, officials examined structures allegedly built in violation of approved plans and prescribed norms. The government maintained that building regulations are not mere administrative formalities but essential safeguards meant to protect citizens. The government also reiterated.

Frantic chase as stepladder hits 3 planes at Delhi airport amid storm

While Air India has not officially issued a statement on the incident, an airline source said along with three Air India planes, aircraft belonging to other operators were also affected by the hostile weather conditions.

New Delhi.(Agency)

As many as three Air India narrowbody aircraft parked at Terminal 2 of Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport were damaged on Sunday after ground support equipment was blown into them during strong winds and rain, the airport operator said.

A video of the incident has been going viral on social media, showing ground support equipment moving across the apron amid gusty conditions while airport staff can be seen running behind it in an apparent attempt to stop it. All three aircraft were taken out of operation following the collision, according to the airport operator.



The operator said ground equipment belonging to Air India Engineering and IndiGo was displaced due to the sudden inclement weather and struck the parked aircraft at Terminal 2. It also claimed that Air Traffic Control (ATC) had not issued any warning to the airport operator or airlines regarding the sudden change in weather conditions.

While Air India has not officially issued a statement on the incident, an airline source said aircraft belonging to other operators were also affected by the hostile weather conditions.

Of the three impacted Air India aircraft, two are expected to return to service soon, while the third will take longer to be repaired, the source said. Meanwhile, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) will investigate the incident and determine responsibility for the collision, sources told.

The aviation regulator is expected to examine the circumstances under which the ground equipment broke loose and struck the parked aircraft during the sudden spell of strong winds and rain.

A hidden Himalayan toy train route comes alive. It can match Kalka-Shimla magic

New Delhi.(Agency)

A little-known Himalayan toy train route, often overshadowed by the famous Kalka-Shimla Railway, is back on track after nearly four years. The colonial-era Pathankot-Jogindernagar narrow-gauge line, which winds through the scenic Kangra Valley, resumed operations last week. And, the ride along the route is as good as its cousin, the Kalka-Shimla Railway.

Ruskin Bond has written volumes on Himalayan railways. Though he didn't write much about this route, it carries the same old-world charm that runs through his stories set in the "Dehra".

Heading to Himachal Pradesh, most tourists hop onto the iconic Kalka-Shimla toy train and crowd the crowded hill station further. But, tucked away northwest in the lower Himalayas is

another mountain toy train route that isn't too well known. The sight of a growling ZDM-3D locomotive pulling tiny coaches beneath the snow-capped Dhauladhar range can rival the charm of its richer cousin, the Kalka-Shimla Railway, and just about any mountain rail journey in India.

The Kangra Valley Railway originates from Pathankot in northern Punjab and snakes through Himachal Pradesh's plains, hillocks, tea gardens, villages and river valleys. The last leg is under the shadow of the Dhauladhar mountains. Pro tip: sit on the left side.

We are talking about the Pathankot-Jogindernagar narrow-gauge route because it resumed operations last week

after remaining partially suspended for nearly four years after damage caused by flash floods. On August 20, 2022, flash floods in the Chakki Khad river



washed away pillars and parts of the historic Chakki Bridge between Pathankot and Kandwal. Trains, however, continued on the 121-km Nurpur Road-Joginder Nagar segment.

On May 2, Union Minister Anurag Thakur greeted the train at Kangra Railway Station. The restart offers a chance to rediscover India's most underrated rail route. The timing could hardly be better. But those willing to wait a few weeks for monsoon would be rewarded with an even grander and greener spectacle.

HIMACHAL'S LONGEST TOY TRAIN THAT FEW TALK ABOUT

The Kangra Valley Railway runs for around 164 kilometres between Pathankot in Punjab and Jogindernagar in Himachal Pradesh. Opened in 1929 during British rule, it connects temple towns like Jawalamukhi, tourist spots like Palampur and Baijnath, tea estates and dozens of villages scattered across the route.

Rajesh Exports case quasi-judicial issue, must be complied with or challenged as per law: SEBI Chairman

New Delhi, (Agency)

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Chairman Tuhin Kanta Pandey on Monday declined to comment on the regulator's action against Rajesh Exports, saying the matter forms part of a quasi-judicial process and should be addressed through legal procedures. As a matter of principle, we do not comment on individual cases in the media. This is, in fact, a quasi-judicial process in which orders are issued, and they must be complied with or challenged through the procedures provided by law. Therefore, I will not be making any comments on the matter," Pandey told reporters on the sidelines of the India Investor Conference here. Pandey also said that the regulator's tokenisation pilot programme would take another six to nine months while commenting on upcoming regulations for bond brokers and tokenisation initiatives. His remarks come days after SEBI barred Rajesh Exports promoter and CEO Rajesh Mehta from dealing in the company's securities after alleging financial irregularities, diversion of funds and inadequate disclosures related to fund flows and related-party transactions.

Rajesh Exports shares remained under pressure, hitting the lower circuit for the third consecutive trading session. The stock on Monday touched its lower circuit limit and an intraday low of Rs 94.50 on the BSE, marking a decline of around 5 per cent.

Last week, the stock declined for two consecutive sessions and hit lower circuit limits after SEBI issued an interim order alleging large-scale misrepresentation of financial statements.

According to the market regulator's interim findings, investigations prima facie revealed instances of routing and layering of funds through personal accounts and related entities without adequate disclosures or supporting documentation. SEBI said repeated opportunities were provided to the company to furnish accurate financial statements and explain the end-use and beneficiaries of fund flows, but the responses remained unsatisfactory.

ITR Filing 2026: Switched jobs last year? Who will issue Form 16 for your ITR filing? Explained

New Delhi, (Agency)

As the Assessment Year 2026-27 filing season gets underway, salaried taxpayers are eagerly awaiting Form 16 from their employers. Form 16 is a TDS certificate issued by an employer to its employees as proof that TDS has been deducted from the employee's salary. It is an important document for salaried employees as it plays a key role in ensuring accurate and hassle-free IT return filing. Here's a look at some important facts about Form 16, when it will be issued and how employees can access the Form. Form 16 is the certificate of deduction of tax at source and is issued on deduction of tax by the employer on behalf of the employees. This certificate provides details of TDS/TCS for various transactions between the employer and employee. It is mandatory for employers to issue the Form to their employees and it forms a vital document for employees to file their returns. What does Form 16 contain?

When an employer has deducted tax under Section 192 from the employee's salary then the employer is required to issue TDS certificate in Form 16. The TDS certificate is divided into two parts, Part A and Part B. Part A provides information on the tax that has been deducted, details of the employer and employee, PAN/TAN information and quarterly records of tax deposited with the IT Department.

Rupee slips 17 paise to 95.35 against US dollar in early trade

MUMBAI, (Agency)

Rupee fell 17 paise to 95.35 against US dollar in early trade on Monday, weighed down by the strength of the American currency in the overseas market amid strong US economic data and continuing geopolitical uncertainty. Forex traders said elevated Brent crude prices dented investor sentiments.

Crude oil prices surged after Iran launched multiple rounds of missiles toward Israel, raising concerns about the stability of the region and the durability of ceasefire efforts. Investors are also monitoring developments in West Asia and awaiting key economic data from the US, which could set the path for fresh clues from the US Federal Reserve on interest rate path, they said. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 95.35 against the US dollar, down 17 paise from its previous close.

On Friday, the rupee appreciated 56 paise to close at 95.18 against the US dollar, marking its strongest single-day gain in almost two months, after the Reserve Bank announced measures to support foreign capital inflows and strengthen forex liquidity. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading at 95.33, up 0.42 per cent.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, was trading higher by 3.43 per cent at USD 96.28 per barrel in futures trade after Iran launched multiple rounds of missiles toward Israel. "Although Israeli authorities reported that all missiles were intercepted and no casualties occurred, the episode served as a reminder that geopolitical risks remain elevated. US President Donald Trump has urged restraint from both sides and called for renewed negotiations with Iran, but markets remain cautious and so does rupee," CR Forex Advisors MD, Amit Pabari said. This 50-100 (ethanol) dispensing stations will hopefully go up to 500 towards the end of 2026," Puri said. The expansion of ethanol dispensing infrastructure comes alongside efforts to increase the number of vehicles capable of using higher ethanol blends.

Gold falls Rs 1,800, silver crashes over Rs 6,400: What's dragging precious metals lower?

Gold and silver extended losses on Monday as stronger US jobs data altered rate expectations. The slide deepened as higher Treasury yields, Middle East tensions and inflation worries weighed on bullion.

New Delhi, (Agency)

Gold and silver prices extended their decline on Monday, with both precious metals coming under heavy selling pressure as investors reassessed the outlook for US interest rates after stronger-than-expected economic data from the world's largest economy. On the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), gold was trading at Rs 1,53,568 per 10 grams, down Rs 1,826 or 1.17%. Silver fell even more sharply, dropping Rs 6,466

or 2.60% to Rs 2,42,071 per kg. The fall follows a difficult week for global bullion markets. Comex gold tumbled more than 4% last week, while silver recorded its steepest weekly decline since March 2026.

STRONG US JOBS DATA CHANGES THE MOOD

The biggest reason behind the fall in gold and silver is the latest US jobs report.

The US economy added more jobs than expected in May, marking the third consecutive month of strong employment growth. The data suggested that the labour market remains healthy despite concerns about slowing economic growth. For investors, that has an important implication: the US Federal Reserve may not need to cut interest rates anytime soon. In fact, markets are now increasingly pricing in the possibility of a rate hike before the end of the year. According to CME FedWatch data, there is a 72% probability of a rate increase by December. Higher interest rates are

usually bad news for gold and silver because these metals do not generate any interest income. When bond yields rise, investors often shift money away from



bullion and towards interest-bearing assets.

FED RATE HIKE FEARS HIT GOLD

Analysts say the precious metals market is now focused on the possibility of a more hawkish Federal Reserve. "Gold prices extended losses on rising fears of a US rate hike after a strong jobs report," Reuters reported, citing market analysts.

Kelvin Wong, Senior Market Analyst at OANDA, told Reuters that markets have started pricing in a more hawkish Federal Reserve outlook, while rising US Treasury yields are adding further pressure on gold. The yield on the benchmark 10-year US Treasury note climbed to a two-week high, increasing the opportunity cost of holding non-yielding assets such as gold.

IRAN-US TALKS AND MIDDLE EAST UNCERTAINTY

Another factor affecting bullion prices is the uncertainty surrounding Iran-US negotiations. According to Axis Securities, gold came under pressure last week as investors grew disappointed by the lack of a clear breakthrough in ongoing talks between Iran and the United States. After weeks of negotiations, markets were hoping for signs of progress. Instead, the absence of a concrete agreement has created uncertainty about the future direction of global inflation.

Taiwan and South Korea surged past India on AI hopes. Now they're giving back gains

New Delhi, (Agency)

Just days ago, Taiwan and South Korea were being celebrated as the biggest winners of the global artificial intelligence boom. The two Asian markets had recently overtaken India in global stock market rankings, powered by a relentless rally in chipmakers and AI-linked companies. South Korea climbed past India to become the world's sixth-largest stock market, while Taiwan moved ahead to claim the fifth spot. Now, the same AI-driven rally that helped propel those markets higher is suddenly losing momentum. Asian stocks plunged on Monday as investors rushed to exit some of the market's most crowded AI bets, triggering sharp declines across Taiwan, South Korea and Japan and wiping billions of dollars off market values. South Korea's KOSPI index, which had been the world's best-performing major market this year, fell as much as 9% during the

session. The sell-off was severe enough to trigger circuit breakers that halted trading for 20 minutes. Taiwan's benchmark index fell as much as 6%, marking its worst day since March, while Japan's Nikkei dropped nearly



4%. THE AI TRADE HITS A WALL

The correction was led by the very stocks that had fuelled the rally. Samsung Electronics and SK Hynix, South Korea's two chip giants and major beneficiaries of AI spending, fell more

than 10% each. In Taiwan, TSMC, the world's largest contract chipmaker and one of the biggest beneficiaries of the AI boom, dropped 5.7%.

The sell-off came after US chipmaker

Broadcom issued a disappointing outlook last week, raising concerns that investor expectations for AI-related earnings growth may have become too optimistic. At the same time, a stronger-than-expected US jobs report increased expectations that the US Federal Reserve could raise interest rates again this year instead of cutting them. Higher interest rates tend to hurt high-growth technology stocks because future earnings

become less valuable when borrowing costs rise. "The move looks more like a positioning and momentum unwind than a reassessment of the long-term AI story," Marc Velan, head of investments at Lucerne Asset Management in Singapore, told Reuters.

Adani Ports bags 10-year marine services deal for Argentina's first LNG exports

The contract was awarded to Adani Harbour International FZCO, a step-down subsidiary of APSEZ, through a consortium formed with Argentina-based Meridian Group. The consortium won the contract after a global competitive bidding process conducted by Southern Energy S.A. (SESA).

New Delhi, (Agency)

Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd (APSEZ) has secured a 10-year marine services contract for Argentina's first liquefied natural gas (LNG) export project, marking the company's entry into South America. The contract was awarded to Adani Harbour International FZCO, a step-down subsidiary of APSEZ, through a consortium formed with Argentina-based Meridian Group. The consortium won the contract after a

global competitive bidding process conducted by Southern Energy S.A. (SESA). The deal strengthens Adani Ports' presence in the global energy logistics sector and further expands its international marine services business. MARINE SUPPORT FOR MAJOR LNG PROJECT

According to a BSE filing, the Adani-Meridian consortium will provide a range of marine services for the Southern Energy FLNG project in Argentina. These services will include tugboat operations for LNG carriers, offshore logistics support, supply services and crew transportation. The operations will be carried out using four high-specification tugboats, one anchor handling tug supply vessel and one crew boat. The contract will be executed through Meridian Transportes Maritimos S.A., a joint venture in which Adani Harbour International FZCO holds a 51% stake

and Meridian Group owns the remaining 49%. Commenting on the development, Ashwani Gupta, Wholesale Director and Chief Executive Officer of APSEZ, said the project reflects the company's increasing ability to support large energy infrastructure projects across different regions. "This project reflects our growing capability to support large-scale energy infrastructure projects across geographies. With marine operations in 12 countries and a growing fleet of marine assets supporting ports, LNG terminals, national oil companies, refineries and offshore facilities, we bring deep operational expertise to complex maritime environments," Gupta said.

He added that by working closely with local partners, the company is helping build reliable maritime ecosystems that support new energy trade routes and strengthen long-term supply

CIBIL score under 730? Getting a home or car loan could become tougher from 2027

For many Indians, a home loan or car loan is often the biggest financial commitment they make. But from 2027, getting such loans could become more difficult if your CIBIL score is below 730, as banks prepare to follow stricter RBI guidelines on lending risk.

New Delhi, (Agency)

Buying a home, upgrading to a new car or taking an education loan may not be as straightforward in the coming years, especially if your CIBIL score is below 730. A major change in banking rules is on the horizon, and it could make lenders far more careful about whom they lend money to. The Reserve Bank of India's new Expected Credit Loss (ECL) framework, which will come into effect from April 1, 2027, is expected to reshape the way banks assess borrowers. While the move is aimed at making the banking system stronger and safer, it could also mean stricter scrutiny for millions of loan

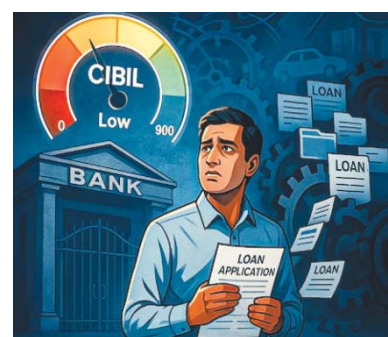
applicants. WHY RBI IS BRINGING IN THE NEW FRAMEWORK

At present, banks generally start making provisions for bad loans only after a borrower has failed to make repayments for a prolonged period and the account turns into a non-performing asset (NPA). The new ECL system changes that approach completely. Instead of waiting for a default to happen, banks will have to estimate potential losses in advance and keep money aside accordingly. The idea is to identify risks early and ensure that lenders are better prepared for future losses. Banking experts believe this proactive approach will improve the overall health of the financial system. However, it will also increase the amount of money banks need to set aside, putting pressure on their profitability.

WHY BORROWERS WITH LOWER CREDIT SCORES COULD BE AFFECTED

The new rules are likely to make credit scores more important than ever before. When banks have to make higher provisions for risky loans, they naturally become more selective. Borrowers with

weaker credit histories may therefore find themselves under greater scrutiny. Some may be offered loans at higher interest rates, while others could be asked to provide additional security or guarantees.



This is particularly significant because a large proportion of Indian borrowers fall into this category. Industry estimates suggest that nearly 62 per cent of loan applicants have a CIBIL score below 730. For many of them, getting approval for a home loan, car loan or education loan could become more challenging once the

new framework comes into force. BANKS MAY SHIFT FOCUS TOWARDS STRONGER BORROWERS

As lenders look to manage risks more carefully, customers with higher credit scores are expected to become more attractive. Borrowers with a CIBIL score of 730 and above are generally seen as financially disciplined and less likely to default. Experts believe such customers could enjoy better loan terms, faster approvals and lower borrowing costs. Industry estimates indicate that around seven crore Indians currently have credit scores above this level, making them a key target group for banks in the future. HOW BANKS WILL JUDGE FUTURE RISK

Under the ECL framework, lenders will not rely solely on whether a borrower is paying EMIs on time. They will take a broader view of a person's financial situation. Factors such as repayment history, changes in credit score, income stability, existing debt levels, employment conditions and the value of the asset against the loan amount will all be examined.

Short news

Unseasonal rains and market glut trigger sharp crash in Nellore mango prices

NELLORE.(Agency)

Mango prices have plunged this season, making the fruit cheap for consumers but leaving farmers in distress due to low market rates, unseasonal rains, and crop damage.

Mangoes that sold for up to ₹150 per kilogram at the start of the season are now available at ₹100 for three to four kilograms. While families enjoy the abundance, cultivators are unable to recover basic input costs after investing heavily in fertilisers, pesticides, and orchard maintenance.

Unseasonal rains and strong winds caused heavy fruit drop, forcing farmers to sell produce at throwaway prices to middlemen. Mango orchards across Gudur, Podalukur, Vinjamur, Kavali, Sydapuram, Atmakur, and Kaluvayi cover nearly 9,000 hectares in Nellore district, producing varieties such as Banganapalli, Rasalu, Totapuri, and Cheruku Rasalu.

"We spent heavily, but when harvest time came, prices collapsed. Even our investment is not coming back," said I Siddaiah, a farmer.

The season, which runs from late March to early July, usually supports strong export demand to the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia, and the UAE. This year's disruption has hit local trade hard, with roadside stalls offering mangoes at bargain prices while only carefully graded fruit is shipped abroad.

4 injured after BEST bus loses control in Mumbai; traffic snarls reported

Mumbai.(Agency)

Four pedestrians were injured after a BEST bus allegedly went out of control and rammed into multiple vehicles near Veer Kotwal Garden, close to Plaza Cinema, Dadar (W), on Monday morning.

The accident was reported at around 10.45 am on Monday. Preliminary information said the bus, operating on route 463/31, first hit a four-wheeler and a two-wheeler before the collision led to injuries to pedestrians in the vicinity.



The injured were shifted to Sion Hospital for treatment; their condition and identities were not immediately available.

Eyewitnesses said they heard a loud impact as the bus struck vehicles near the junction. Mumbai Traffic Police and civic emergency teams reached the spot and began clearing the affected stretch.

Traffic movement remained slow around Kotwal Garden and adjoining lanes, with motorists advised to expect delays while authorities investigate the cause and record statements.

Pollution fear, as contamination kills hundreds of fish at Bengaluru's Sunkalpalya Lake

BENGALURU.(Agency)

Hundreds of fish deaths have been reported from Sunkalpalya Lake under Bengaluru West City Corporation (BWCC) over the past three weeks due to suspected water contamination and a decrease in Dissolved Oxygen levels.

A resident and a walker who noticed dead fish floating and a few gasping for breath say the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) officials, when contacted, were just passing the buck.

"I tried to contact officials, but they just gave numbers of other officials and asked me to raise the issue. This is passing the buck, while leaving the actual issue unaddressed," Dipu Nair, a resident of Sunkalpalya, said.

Nair said the matter was also raised with a senior official of the Bengaluru Development Authority (BDA), but did not receive any reply and later realised that the custody of the water body has been transferred from BDA to GBA.

"The officials have deployed a few workers who come with gunny bags and plastic sacks to collect and dispose of the dead fish. This has been happening for the last few days. It appears to be a cover-up act. If dead fish are not removed, the stench would have become unbearable, and the issue would have become big," he said.

Executive Engineer (Lakes), BWCC, Geetha, said the layouts near BGS Hospital Side need to be connected with sewage lines and the Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) has also informed that a diversion channel will be installed to prevent sewage inflow into the 15.4-acre tank.

Choked by Vegetation, forgotten by time: Kakatiya-era temple in Warangal in ruins

HYDERABAD.(Agency)

An over 700-year-old Shiva temple built during the Kakatiya period is on the verge of collapse in Sanigaram village, located in the Nallabelli mandal of Warangal district. The critical state of the structure has raised urgent concerns among heritage conservationists about the fate of one of the region's lesser-known medieval monuments.

Believed to date back to the reign of Kakatiya ruler Ganapatideva, the temple showcases the distinctive architectural style that flourished under the dynasty. Despite its historical significance, the structure lies in advanced decay, choked by thick vegetation, collapsed sections and dislodged stones.

The monument's condition came to light following information from Warangal-based historian Dr Racharla Ganapati. A subsequent site inspection revealed extensive structural damage that directly threatens its survival.

"The Shiva temple features a garbhalya (sanctum sanctorum), an ardh mandapa and a 16-pillared maha mandapa, all built on an



elevated platform," explained archaeologist Dr E Sivanagireddy.

"Architectural features like ornamental doorframes, mouldings in the superstructure, decorated pillars and intricately carved ceilings bear the unmistakable signature of Kakatiya craftsmanship. Built largely with local grey granite, it reflects the engineering excellence of the era," Dr Sivanagireddy said.

However, centuries of weathering and prolonged neglect have pushed the shrine to

the brink. Doorways have caved in, roof slabs have fallen and several pillars are dislocated. Many architectural components have shifted from their original positions. "Unchecked vegetation is a major factor in this deterioration.

Trees and shrubs have taken root within the structure, forcing stone blocks out of alignment and causing the masonry to lose its balance. This growth now camouflages large parts of the temple, hiding the true extent of the damage," Dr Sivanagireddy added.

Conservation experts warn that the monument could collapse at any moment. If the upper portions give way, a domino effect will crush the original beams and pillars, destroying valuable architectural elements and making restoration impossible.

Landscape changes worsen structural stability

Speaking to the archaeologist stated: "Agricultural operations and water stagnation in nearby fields are believed to have affected the stability of the foundation.

Andhra Pradesh modernizes 108 ambulance fleet with GPS tracking and advanced life support

VIJAYAWADA.(Agency)

The State government has rolled out a sweeping modernisation of Andhra Pradesh's 108 Ambulance Emergency Services, positioning it as a global-standard lifeline for millions. Built on the principle that 'every second counts when saving a life,' the upgraded network now integrates advanced technology and trauma care protocols to meet international benchmarks.

In partnership with Bhavya Health Care, the fleet has been equipped with GPS tracking, real-time traffic routing, and digitised patient logs. These enhancements ensure victims are reached within the 'Golden Hour,' improving survival chances. Between June 2025 and May 2026, the service responded to 7,78,799 emergency calls, covering both rural and urban regions. During this operational cycle, frontline workers stabilised 1,13,764 road accident victims at trauma sites. They safely



transported 1,05,786 pregnant women to advanced maternal care facilities, contributing to reductions in maternal and infant mortality.

The fleet's efficiency was divided into two streams: Inter-Facility Transfers (2,53,022 cases), ensuring movement of critical patients to tertiary hospitals, and Non-IFT Emergencies (5,25,777 cases), involving rapid dispatches to accident sites, homes, and remote areas. It managed a wide spectrum of crises. Respiratory distress

cases numbered 97,118, while cardiac emergencies reached 45,951, supported by advanced life support systems and defibrillators. Crews handled 40,553 unconscious patients, 49,342 trauma injuries, and thousands of acute medical events, including poisoning (32,858), seizures (29,485), strokes (20,278), and neonatal emergencies (14,007).

Specialised cardiac care has been prioritised, with ambulances transmitting patients' vital signs directly to hospital ERs en route. Emergency Medical Technicians, trained in advanced protocols, ensured patients were stabilised and reassured before arrival.

Bhavya Health Care's Media Coordinator noted: "Our mission is to build an unbreakable safety net for human life. By integrating predictive technology, reducing response times, and ensuring continuous EMT training, we have turned 108 into a symbol of reliability."

Govt introduces 11 future-readiness courses in ITIs

Gandhinagar.(Agency)

In a bid to align technical education with emerging industrial trends and future job markets, the state govt has introduced 11 new courses in industrial training institutes (ITIs) and increased the number of seats in such institutes by 3,312.

The govt said on Sunday that courses introduced in self-financed, grant-in-aid and govt ITIs include artificial intelligence (AI) programming assistant, drone pilot, solar technician (electrical), IT, mechanic-electric vehicle, advanced CNC machining, additive manufacturing technician (3D printing), technician-mechatronics, computer-aided manufacturing (CAM) programmer, IoT technician (smart agriculture), IoT technician (smart city), and smartphone technician-cum-app tester.

State labour, skill development and employment minister Kunvarji Bavaliya said, "These courses have been introduced to create skilled workforce for rapidly growing sectors

such as renewable energy, electric mobility, automation, smart manufacturing, AI, and digital technology." He added that the main aim of launching these new-age



courses in the state's ITIs is to align the training system with changing industrial needs. Minister of state for labour, Kantilal Amrutiyaa added that these courses will create several employment opportunities for youths in rapidly growing new-age industries

in the state.

The govt said that additionally, 3,312 new seats have also been added to the ITI network. An official statement said that courses for mechanic (electric vehicle) and solar technician (electrical) have been launched across almost all ITIs while other specialised courses have been introduced in select ITIs. The statement said that in the coming years, a number of employment opportunities will arise in the renewable energy and electric vehicle sectors, with Gujarat emerging as a leading state with a 16.5% share of the country's total RE capacity. As of Dec 2025, the state's installed renewable energy capacity reached 42,583 gigawatts. According to official data, Gujarat ranks first nationwide in total installed renewable energy capacity and wind energy production, while it ranks second in solar energy capacity.

Currently, there are 288 govt ITIs in Gujarat, with 1,77,912 seats available. Additionally, there are 100 grant-in-aid ITIs with 16,200 seats and 171 self-financed ITIs with 24,624 seats available.

CSR cover used to encroach over 100 acres of lake land: HYDRAB

Hyderabad.(Agency)

The Hyderabad Disaster Response and Asset Protection Agency (HYDRAP) has uncovered a concerning pattern of encroachments on the Full Tank Level (FTL) land of the city's lakes, allegedly carried out under the cover of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)-funded restoration projects.

According to HYDRAP officials, nearly 100 acres of lake land worth over Rs 10,000 crore have been reclaimed from encroachers across multiple water bodies in recent months. In the latest instance, reported in May, the agency found that a developer had allegedly attempted to encroach on more than 35 acres within Mushkin Lake in Puppalguda by constructing a bund across the water body as part of a CSR project intended to beautify and restore the lake.

Officials found garbage collected from surrounding areas being segregated and dumped into the lake, further damaging the ecosystem.

This comes close on the heels of a similar case at Kotha Cheruvu in Kokapet, near Hyderabad's IT corridor, which was handed over to private entities for CSR activities in 2022-23. The HYDRAP team claimed that realtors had allegedly reduced the lake's extent from 70 acres to 50 acres by dumping soil and constructing a bund across it. "Basketball and volleyball courts, a park, and a children's play area were also developed within the lake's FTL limits," an official from the agency said. According to HYDRAP records, between 2021 and 2023, several lakes handed over to private groups for restoration and maintenance witnessed similar violations.

Eight senior IPS officers to camp in 16 border villages of Gujarat for security review

Mumbai.(Agency)

Eight senior Gujarat IPS officers will spend two days in 16 villages along the Pakistan border next week, undertaking an extensive review of security arrangements and interacting with residents in frontier regions.

The officers will visit villages in the Vav-Tharad border belt, Patan district and Kutch district on June 11 and 12. As part of the programme, all officers will stay overnight in the villages assigned to them, including in local homes, to gain first-hand insights into the challenges faced by residents and personnel deployed in border areas.

The exercise has been planned under the guidance of deputy chief minister Harsh

Sanghani and is aimed at strengthening the security of Gujarat's international and inter-state borders while ensuring the welfare of people living in remote frontier villages.

During the two-day programme, the officers will assess security infrastructure, review the preparedness of security agencies, inspect border patrolling arrangements and interact with police personnel posted in difficult and isolated locations. They will also hold meetings with villagers and conduct night-time review sessions on issues related to security and border management.

Additional director general of police (ADGP) Wabang Zamir will visit Asaragam and Rachhena villages in the



Vav-Tharad region, while ADGP Ajay Kumar Chaudhary will tour Shirani Vadh and Jatawada villages in Kutch East district. Inspector general of police (IGP) Bipin Shankarrao Ahire will visit Dhokavada and Charanka villages in

Patan district, and deputy inspector general of police (DIGP) A.M. Muniya will tour Radosan and Golap villages in the Vav-Tharad area.

In Kutch West district, DIGP K N Damar will visit Juna and Dedhiya villages, while DIGP Dr Leena Patil will stay in Udhmo and Patagar villages. ACP R T Susara will visit Punrajpur and Gunau villages, and DIGP Sudha S Pandey will tour Dinara and Bhitara Mota villages. Officials said the programme is intended to be an intensive field exercise rather than a ceremonial visit. Apart from reviewing border security measures, the officers will engage with local communities, examine issues affecting residents and gather feedback.

NEWS BOX

Brazil beyond Vinicius, Neymar: Older, taller, tougher and built to win?

Mumbai. (Agency)

The first thing that stands out about Brazil's World Cup squad is not Neymar's return. Nor is it Vinicius Junior's rise to superstardom.

It is the birth date column. Brazil will arrive at the World Cup with the oldest squad in the country's history. Carlo Ancelotti's 23-man group has an average age of 29 years and 6 months, older even than Dunga's experienced squad that travelled to South Africa in 2010. In a football culture that has traditionally celebrated youthful exuberance and fearless improvisation, it is a striking choice.

Yet age is only part of the story. Look closer, and another pattern emerges. This Brazil team is taller, more physical, and comprises a larger contingent of domestic league players than any Selecao squad since they won the 2002 World Cup. Taken together, it reveals something important about the first World Cup team assembled by Ancelotti: a Brazil side built less around romance and more on reliability.

The squad Ancelotti unveiled feels less like a collection of artists and more like a carefully assembled tournament machine. Fifteen members of the squad were also present in Qatar four years ago. Even Neymar, absent from Ancelotti's plans for much of the past year, has been recalled at 34, while 38-year-old goalkeeper Weverton, who momentarily passed out when his name was announced, is another nod towards experience.

The squad's physical profile offers another clue to Ancelotti's thinking. Brazil's average height is around 1.82 metres, one of the highest in the nation's World Cup history. Modern football increasingly rewards physical superiority, especially in transitions, defensive duels and set-piece situations. The days when Brazil could dominate simply through technical brilliance are long gone.

Perhaps the most intriguing development, however, lies closer to home.

Seven players in the squad currently play their club football in Brazil, accounting for almost 30 per cent of the group.

That is the highest proportion in more than two decades and reflects the growing financial strength of clubs such as Flamengo, Botafogo and Santos, which have managed to bring established internationals back from Europe. Yet, this remains fundamentally a European team.

Seventeen members of the squad still play on the continent, with the Premier League alone supplying eight players. The result is a fascinating hybrid: a Brazilian team rooted at home but shaped by the demands of Europe's elite competitions.

Meet Rafaela Pimenta, the most powerful woman in football

OSLO. (Agency)

Rafaela Pimenta has had a few insults thrown in her general direction over the decades. But the most powerful woman in football doesn't let it affect her anymore. "Couldn't care less at this point," she tells this daily during a candid 10 minute interaction on the sidelines of the Norway Chess event last week.

Pimenta, who manages Erling Haaland among other star footballers, lifted the lid on what her working conditions were like before she worked up the ladder to carve out a commanding space for herself in an industry



created by men for men.

"It's really male dominated and it was even worse when I started," says the 53-year-old who was at the event as she had invested in their new product, Total Chess. The Brazilian lawyer-turned-manager — generally recognised as one of the first female 'super agents' in the history of the most popular sport — will have a number of clients at the World Cup, beginning in the US, Mexico and Canada from June 11.

But in terms of sheer popularity and social media reach, there's none bigger than Norway's Haaland. When she's asked what it's like to work closely with the centre forward, she gives a very glowing assessment. "It's a blessing," the 53-year-old, who entered this world thanks to Mino Raiola, says. "He fits the way I think people should work."

Away from Haaland and Total Chess, Pimenta just hopes for better working conditions for women in football. "What I hope is that it gets easier for all women... what I hope is that women will not care for this abuse and that we can keep holding our positions we achieved and we also push forward."

It's a powerful message to think about as the men's World Cup — the single most widely watched sporting event across the planet — is about to start in a few days' time.

Flavio Cobolli follows Andreveva's example, thanks himself after French Open final

French Open 2026: Flavio Cobolli thanked himself and praised Alexander Zverev after a five-set French Open final defeat. The loss ended his title bid but confirmed a breakthrough fortnight that changed his standing in the game.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Flavio Cobolli endured a heartbreaking defeat in the French Open 2026 final on Sunday, June 7, as he lost a five-set thriller to Germany's Alexander Zverev at Roland Garros. Despite falling short of the title, the Italian's emotional post-match reflections stood out after a career-defining run to his first Grand Slam final.

Cobolli's performance capped off a breakthrough fortnight in Paris, where he surpassed all previous Grand Slam results and pushed one of the sport's top players to the limit on the biggest stage.

"I wanna say thanks to me for what I did these

2 weeks. I never expected in my life this kind of result. I'm so proud of myself. I want to have a great smile & enjoy the night with people I love," Cobolli told reporters after the match.

Adding a layer of emotion to the occasion, Cobolli's post-match words reflected both pride and disappointment. Before the trophy ceremony, he also shared a personal exchange in which he acknowledged the closeness of the match and jokingly wished for another chance at glory.

He also showed admiration for his opponent after a closely fought contest: "I'm happy for you but I'm also sad because I was close and I feel it now that you (have) achieved your dream, let me win the next time."

The Musketeers Cup was eventually presented to Zverev by former French champion Adriano Panatta, the last Italian

man to win Roland Garros in 1976, marking another poignant moment in Paris.

BREAKTHROUGH RUN FOR COBOLLI
Cobolli left everything on Court Philippe-

progressed beyond the quarter-finals of a major, making his run to the final one of the standout stories of the tournament.

His journey also highlighted the growing depth of Italian tennis on the ATP Tour, with

Cobolli emerging as part of a new generation carrying forward the nation's strong recent presence in men's tennis.

The final against Zverev was a high-quality, momentum-shifting battle, ending 6-1, 4-6, 6-4, 6-7(5), 6-1 in favour of the German. Cobolli's resilience was on full display as he fought back from setbacks in the match, forcing a deciding set before Zverev pulled away late.

Despite the loss, Cobolli's reputation was significantly enhanced by his performance throughout the tournament. From earlier rounds to the final, he displayed improved consistency, mental strength, and an ability to compete against elite opposition under pressure.



Chatrier as he chased his maiden Grand Slam title, but admitted the pressure of the occasion on tennis' biggest stage ultimately played a decisive role in the outcome. The 24-year-old had never previously

Manav Suthar becomes 2nd Indian this century to pick 5 wickets on Test debut innings

NEW DELHI. (Agency)

India's newest left-arm spinner made an immediate impact on Test debut, tearing through the Afghanistan batting lineup to return remarkable figures of 6/33. His performance helped India enforce the follow-on with a commanding lead of 412 runs, placing him among an elite group of Indian debutants.

He now holds the third-best figures by an Indian in an innings on Test debut, with only Narendra Hirwani ahead of him, who famously took two eight-wicket hauls against West Indies in Chennai in 1988.

The young spinner played a pivotal role in putting India firmly in control of the one-off Test, returning 6 for 33 after also contributing a useful 28 runs lower down the order in the first innings. His all-round involvement further underlined his value to the side on debut.

Hailing from Sri Ganganagar in Rajasthan, the left-arm spinner completed a maiden

five-wicket haul before going on to add further breakthroughs as Afghanistan's batting order crumbled under sustained pressure.

He completed the milestone after dismissing Rahmat Shah, who was fighting alone on

off the surface and struck the batter on the pads. India went up in a confident appeal, and the umpire had no hesitation in raising the finger.

With this spell, the debutant not only announced himself on the international stage but also played a decisive role in ensuring India maintained complete control of the contest from start to finish. The young spinner has given selectors plenty to think about as the race for places in India's Test squad continues.

INDIANS WITH 5-WICKET HAUL ON TEST DEBUT INNINGS

Narendra Hirwani — 8/61 vs West Indies (1988)
Narendra Hirwani — 8/75 vs West Indies (1988)

Manav Suthar — 6/33 vs

Afghanistan (2026)*

Abid Ali — 6/55 vs Australia (1967)

Dilip Doshi — 6/103 vs Australia (1979)

Vaman Kumar — 5/64 vs Pakistan (1961)

Amit Mishra — 5/71 vs Australia (2008)

Mohammad Nissar — 5/93 vs England (1932)



60, followed by the removal of Saleem Safi, who himself had earlier bowled impressively in the match.

The deliveries to Rahmat and Safi were a classic example of his control and turn. Fired in on the stumps, they gripped sharply

Let Vaibhav Sooryavanshi be, don't expect the world of him: Sourav Ganguly

New Delhi. (Agency)

'Let Vaibhav Sooryavanshi be.' That was Sourav Ganguly's message when asked about the expectations surrounding the teenage batting sensation ahead of his likely India debut. One of the greatest backers of young talent in Indian cricket history, Ganguly said fans should resist the temptation to expect instant success from the 15-year-old, who was recently named in India's T20I squads for the tours of England and Ireland and included in the country's full-strength squad for the Asian Games 2026.

Speaking on the sidelines of a promotional event in Mumbai, Ganguly urged patience as Sooryavanshi begins his journey with the national side. "Just let him be. Don't expect the world from him straightaway. Just allow him to settle down because he's got a lot of talent, like many others in India," Ganguly said. "He's just 15 years old and I don't think



he'll bother too much about pressure, and that's what we got to see from him in the IPL," he added.

SOORYAVANSHI SET FOR INDIA DEBUT

Sooryavanshi forced his way into India's plans after a remarkable rise through age-group cricket and two standout seasons that established him as one of the country's brightest prospects. After breaking several records in junior cricket, the youngster got

his opportunity with Rajasthan Royals following an injury to then-captain Sanju Samson. What began as a temporary replacement soon became a permanent selection, with Sooryavanshi's performances making him impossible to leave out of the playing XI.

The teenager now faces a very different challenge at the international level, something Ganguly was quick to point out.

"Obviously, playing for India is different and he will be touring where the wickets will be a little different," Ganguly said.

"It will seam and there will be a bit more bounce and a bit more movement with the new ball, so the game is a bit different. But I think he's got enormous talent," he added. Sooryavanshi will compete with the likes of Abhishek Sharma, Sanju Samson and Ishan Kishan for a place at the top of India's T20I order. However, given the excitement around the youngster.

Why Praggnanandhaa's win in Norway Chess 2026 brings back belief of good times in Indian Chess?

Norway. (Agency)

A mother always gives the best advice. From childhood to adulthood, mothers always guide their children to greater success. In Oslo, Praggnanandhaa encountered something similar. Almost at the half-way stage of Norway Chess 2026, Praggnanandhaa was at the bottom half of the table. The one notable thing was that he had beaten Magnus Carlsen, the G.O.A.T of chess in round 3. The expectations from Praggnanandhaa were not that much in Norway. Neither was it high from the Indian contingent. Then, Pragg's mother Nagalakshmi came into the scene.

Nagalakshmi has always been the supremo for Pragg and Vaishali. There is an iconic photo where Nagalakshmi has a look of admiration when Pragg beat Hikaru Nakamura in the 2023 Chess World Cup. Now, three years later, she gave a viral piece of advice which completely turned around

his Norway Chess fortunes.

"It is a new month, you will play well." This was Nagalakshmi's advice to Praggnanandhaa. Speaking to India Today after securing the historic win in Norway, Praggnanandhaa recalled those words.

"I think it's just one of the things. I just took it as, like, one of the things Amma would say, like, if you're in a difficult situation to cheer you up. But I didn't really think it will come true. Once I started getting the wins, I was thinking of her word every day."

NORWAY CHESS - AN UNBELIEVABLE HEIST

From being at the bottom of the table, Praggnanandhaa needed to win every single game to have a chance at the title. The format of Norway Chess was such that a win gave you three points. A draw plus a win in the Armageddon gave you 1.5 points. Pragg took his mother's advice and won four

straight classical matches against Alireza Firouzja, Magnus Carlsen for the second time, world champion Gukesh and Vincent Keymer.

Heading into the final round, Pragg needed to

ultimate heist in chess.

What clicked for Pragg? Two things. Playing slightly faster and ensuring that he had better time management, something that the likes of Gukesh and Magnus Carlsen also did not have.

"I had the rest day. Then I lost two in a row. Then I won two in a row. Then we had the rest day. There was no gap in between to bounce back. When you see it as four wins in a row, it sounds great. But I was just taking one game at a time. Winning that one game was all that I needed to do. It kind of simplifies it a little bit. I didn't really do anything special. Just a conscious effort to play a little bit faster was certainly helping me. I had a lot more control in the last four games. In my time management as well. I had time advantage against everyone," Praggnanandhaa said.



beat Vincent in classical and ensure Alireza and Wesley So's game headed into the tiebreaker. Both those situations played out perfectly and Praggnanandhaa scripted the



Janhvi Kapoor

Mentions Sreeleela, Says Having A Mother On Set Makes A Difference In Leaked Chats

Janhvi Kapoor may have raised concerns about her portrayal in Peddi long before the film landed in controversy over objectionable scenes, if a series of alleged private chats now going viral on the internet online are authentic.

The screenshots, shared by fan accounts and not independently verified, seem to show the actor objecting to certain camera angles during filming and expressing frustration over repeated attempts to explain her concerns on set.

The alleged messages surfaced just a day after director Buchi Babu Sana apologised for criticism surrounding Peddi's portrayal of women, sparking fresh debate that has dominated conversation around the film in recent days.

One screenshot, reportedly from October last year, seems to show Janhvi drawing a clear line over how she wanted scenes to be filmed.

"I told him no b**b and waist shots (sic)," the message reads.

Another exchange involved co-star Ram Charan. In the alleged conversation, Janhvi

wrote, "And Ram sir is so sweet. He also yelled at him and said, 'You will not take such angles of her ever again.' So he got upset (sic)."

In one message, she reportedly told a fan, "You have no idea what I've been dealing with. Trying to make them understand (sic)." The conversation also touched on trust and creative control. Reacting to concerns about body doubles, Janhvi allegedly wrote, "Ya I've said this but you know how it is here. They'll say close up and put camera on your cleavage. U can't trust anything (sic)."

One of the most discussed screenshots shows what seems to be a moment of exhaustion. "No more film. We are done," the actor allegedly wrote.

The timing of the leak has intensified attention around Peddi, which has been facing criticism from a section of viewers over the portrayal of Janhvi Kapoor's scenes and character, Achhiyamma. Several audience members have argued that the film focuses more on her physical appearance than her character arc, while others have questioned scenes involving consent and agency.



Zeenat Aman Recalls How She Became Raj Kapoors Rupa In The Iconic Satyam Shivam Sundaram



Veteran actress Zeenat Aman once revealed during her appearance on "The Kapil Sharma Show" how she ended up getting the role of Rupa for the 1978 release "Satyam Shivam Sundaram".

Host Kapil Sharma asked her "When you were cast in the film 'Satyam Shivam Sundaram' in which the face of your character is always covered, how did the makers get the idea to cast such a beautiful and glamorous girl for this role?"

Sharing the incident, Zeenat revealed that she was working on another movie with Raj Kapoor, the director of "Satyam Shivam Sundaram", named "Waqeel Babu". She said that he was planning "Satyam Shivam Sundaram" at the time and would keep talking about his heroine, Rupa, making her very inspired towards the character.

Zeenat admitted that, as an actor, she wished to be directed by Raj Kapoor. In an attempt to get the role, Zeenat reached the RK Studio, dressed as she thought Raj Kapoor would have visualised his leading lady Rupa.

Pleasantly surprised to see Zeenat in this avatar, Raj Kapoor called his wife Krishna Kapoor, and asked her to come to the studio.

Krishna Kapoor came and gave Zeenat some gold ginnies. The veteran actress added that Raj Kapoor told her, "You are my Rupa."

Zeenat further disclosed that Raj Kapoor even made a reel with her, which he had previously shot with Nargis Dutt on "Jago Mohan Pyare", and only after seeing that reel, the distributors agreed to buy the picture.

Made under the direction of Raj Kapoor and written by Jainendra Jain, "Satyam Shivam Sundaram" also starred Shashi Kapoor as the lead.

The drama shares the tale of Roopa (Played by Zeenat Aman), half of whose face has been disfigured after a fire accident. Rajeev (played by Shashi Kapoor), a handsome engineer who is overseeing a dam project in the village, falls in love with Rupa and marries her before learning about her massive scar.

'So Happy Bob': Sunny Deol Posts Bobby And Mother Prakash Kaur's Pic, Celebrates Bandar Success



Sunny Deol is a brother and recently took to social media to celebrate Bobby Deol's success in Bandar. In a sweet gesture, Sunny shared a rare photograph featuring Bobby Deol and their mother, Prakash Kaur. The success of Bandar marks another significant moment in Bobby Deol's career after Animal.

Taking to his Instagram handle, Sunny Deol shared the photo of mother Prakash Kaur kissing Bobby Deol's cheek. He wrote, "So happy, Bob. Love you." Twinkle Khanna reacted with heart emojis. One of the fans wrote, "Kisi ke najar na lage." Another wrote, "Paji u also deserve a kiss from ur fans for ur power pack performance in BANDAR."

Anurag Kashyap's crime drama Bandar, headlined by Bobby Deol, registered some growth on its second day at the box office, but the overall numbers remain modest. The film, which arrived in cinemas on Friday, has received positive reactions from critics, with many particularly applauding Bobby Deol's performance. According to trade website Sacnilk, Bandar earned ₹95 lakh on Saturday. While that marks a noticeable increase from its opening-day collection of ₹50 lakh, the film has yet to record a single-day collection of over ₹1 crore. After two days in theatres, the film's India net collection stands at ₹1.45 crore, while its India gross earnings have reached ₹1.74 crore.

The film is facing competition from several new releases currently drawing audiences to cinemas. These include Varun Dhawan, Pooja Hegde and Mrunal Thakur's romantic comedy Hai Jawani Toh Ishq Hona Hai, Ram Charan's sports drama Peddi, and Hollywood horror release Obsession.

Despite the box office challenges, Bandar has emerged as one of the most critically acclaimed films of the week. Many reviewers have described it as one of Anurag Kashyap's strongest works in recent years, while Bobby Deol's performance has been widely appreciated. The story follows Samar, played by Bobby Deol, a former singer-actor whose fading career takes a dramatic turn when he is arrested after a sexual assault complaint is filed against him by a woman named Gayatri, portrayed by Sapna Pabbi.

Madhuri Dixit

Anil Kapoor Reunite At Maa Behen Screening; Fans Demand Romantic Film

Madhuri Dixit and Anil Kapoor, one of Hindi cinema's most loved on-screen pairs from the late 1980s and 1990s, recently gave fans a major nostalgia rush when they reunited at the special screening of Madhuri's latest film Maa Behen. The two stars, who delivered several memorable films together including Tezaab and Ram Lakhan, posed together at the event, and videos from the screening quickly went viral on social media.

Madhuri Dixit And Anil Kapoor Reunite At Maa Behen Screening

On Saturday, the makers of Maa Behen hosted a special screening of the film in Mumbai. Several members of the cast and industry attended the event, but it was Anil Kapoor's presence that instantly became a talking point among fans.



Anil kept his look classic in an all-black outfit, while Madhuri looked graceful in a blue and yellow Anarkali suit. The two posed together for photographers and also shared a warm side hug as the paparazzi captured the moment.

Soon after the photos and videos surfaced online, fans began demanding that the iconic pair reunite for another film. One social media user wrote, "Would love to see them again in a leading role." Another commented, "Pls get them together in a movie again!" A third fan wrote, "This duo is unmatched!!!!"

Another comment read, "They still make a good couple on screen. I wouldn't mind watching them again together." One fan also wrote, "Even today, their pairing is a superhit. They look so good together. Please cast them in a romantic film together."

Madhuri Dixit And Anil Kapoor's Films Together

Madhuri Dixit and Anil Kapoor first worked together in Tezaab, which released in 1988.



NEWS BOX

Nicolas Maduro's Immunity Claim Can Pose Challenge For US Prosecutors: Report

WORLD. (Agency)

A private jet attempting an emergency landing crashed at an airport in the Dominican Republic, killing both crew members on board in a tragic accident. The aircraft went down while trying to land at La Romana International Airport. Authorities confirmed that the pilot and the co-pilot died in the crash. According to initial information, the private jet was attempting an emergency landing when the accident occurred. The aircraft crashed before the landing could be completed. Emergency responders rushed to the scene after the crash. However, both the pilot and the co-pilot suffered fatal injuries.



TWO FATALITIES CONFIRMED

Officials confirmed that the two people killed in the accident were the pilot and the co-pilot of the aircraft. Details about the circumstances that forced the emergency landing have not yet been released. Authorities are expected to examine the aircraft and review flight data to determine what led to the crash.

INVESTIGATION EXPECTED

The crash has triggered an investigation into the incident. Aviation authorities are likely to focus on the cause of the emergency and the events that unfolded during the aircraft's final moments. No further information about the flight, its destination or any potential passengers was immediately available. The investigation remains ongoing.

Powerful 7.8 earthquake jolts southern Philippines, leaving four dead and triggering tsunami

MANILA. (Agency)

An offshore magnitude 7.8 earthquake rocked the southern Philippines early Monday, damaging buildings and a key access bridge in a large southern city and setting off a 1-meter (3-foot) tsunami that washed ashore on nearby coasts. At least four people were killed and more than 200 others injured, officials said. President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. urged people to go to higher ground in Philippine areas vulnerable to a tsunami, and Indonesian and Malaysian authorities also issued warnings to their nearby coastal areas.

The Pacific Tsunami Warning Center said the threat of a tsunami had largely passed about five hours after the 7:37 am quake. But it still urged people to stay alert and to heed warnings from local authorities as sea levels may fluctuate for a few more hours.

The strongest quake to strike the Philippines this year was centered at sea about 13 kilometers (8 miles) southwest of General Santos, a city of more than 700,000 people that is a hub for tuna processing and other commerce in the southern Mindanao region of the archipelago nation.

The Philippine leader said disaster-response agencies were on standby to respond. "The national government is moving and we will not leave Mindanao behind," Marcos said.

Damage and at least 4 deaths in Philippines

At least three people were killed and 130 others were injured in General Santos, where at least a few small buildings partially collapsed and several structures, including.

Israel and Iran trade strikes, threatening to drag region back to war

DUBAI (Agency)

Israel and Iran traded fire early Monday in retaliatory strikes that threatened to drag the wider West Asia back into a regional war.

Israeli authorities warned that two waves of Iranian missiles targeting the country, and urged the public to seek shelter. Explosions could be heard in central Israel as Israeli air defenses sought to intercept the incoming Iranian fire.

The Iranian fire came after Israel launched strikes on central and western Iran early Monday in response to missile fire from Tehran, in the most serious crossfire since an April 8 ceasefire was reached in the Iran war.

Monday marked the 100th day of the Iran war, launched Feb. 28 when Israel and the United States killed Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and other senior Iranian leaders. The war raged until reaching a nominal ceasefire on April 8, but a permanent end to the hostilities have been challenged by Iran's chokehold on the Strait of Hormuz, through which a fifth of all traded oil and natural gas once passed in peacetime, as well as fighting between Israel and the Lebanese Shiite militia Hezbollah.

With global energy supplies threatened, Iran still holding a vast stockpile of highly enriched uranium and even Yemen's Houthi rebels apparently getting involved in the fighting Monday, the risks of the war fully erupting again appears to be rising.

Israel strikes Iran

Iranian state television reported the sound of explosions being heard in Isfahan, Karaj, Tabriz and Tehran, without immediately elaborating. A witness in Tehran described hearing at least one large blast somewhere to the west of the country's capital city. Iran closed the airspace around Tehran's Imam Khomeini International Airport, the country's main airport, after the Israeli attack.

Israeli missiles hit Iran in retaliatory strike, 1st such attacks since April truce

World. (Agency)

Loud explosions were heard in multiple cities across Iran, including the capital, Tehran, as Israel said it had struck military targets. The attacks came despite US President Donald Trump's claim that he "calls all the shots" in the region and had instructed Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu not to retaliate against Tehran's missile strikes.

The strikes across Iranian cities came as Tehran and Tel Aviv traded threats following Iran's missile attack on Israel on Sunday night, the first direct confrontation between the two sides since the April 8 ceasefire. Iran launched a wave of ballistic missiles at Israel in retaliation for what it said were Israeli strikes on Beirut.

According to local media reports, multiple explosions were heard in Tehran, including near Mehrabad International Airport, as well as in the cities of Isfahan and Tabriz.

Iran had launched 10 ballistic missiles toward cities in northern Israel, triggering

air-raid sirens, in a dramatic overnight escalation following what Tehran described as Israeli aggression in Lebanon, particularly its recent strikes on Beirut. At the heart of the recent escalation is Lebanon. Tehran has repeatedly



maintained that all Israeli attacks on the country must end and that Lebanon is central to any ceasefire or broader agreement between the United States and Iran. The recent escalation has sent oil prices spiralling, with oil prices rising by more than \$2 per barrel, while also

complicating ongoing peace negotiations between Washington and Tehran.

The US President has pressed Israel to stop its attacks in Lebanon to create space for a deal to end the wider war with Iran, and last week he rebuked Benjamin Netanyahu with obscenities in a phone call.

Even so, Israel carried out strikes in the Beirut area earlier on Sunday, the first such attacks since the United States announced a truce plan for Lebanon last week. Iran then fired a salvo of missiles at Israeli targets in retaliation, putting US-Iran peace talks at risk, though Trump said an agreement remained within reach. A few hours later, Israel's defence forces said they had struck Iranian military targets. Iran's Revolutionary Guards said Israel had attacked targets inside Iran using air-launched ballistic missiles. The latest hostilities pushed oil prices up by more than 3% in early trading on Monday, with benchmark Brent futures rising back above \$96 a barrel.

In an interview with the Financial Times,

Trump said the latest escalation would not derail the diplomacy. "It's not going to have any impact on the deal," he said. "I call the shots. I call all the shots. He doesn't call the shots." Trump, who was spending the weekend at his golf club in Bedminster, New Jersey, spoke to Netanyahu by phone for a little less than half an hour on Sunday, international news agency Reuters reported, citing an Israeli official.

Axios, citing a US official, reported that Trump told Netanyahu during the call to refrain from further strikes because "we are close to doing something good in terms of a deal." Since the start of US-Iran talks aimed at halting the war, Israel has continued its attacks in Lebanon in its conflict with Hezbollah. Israeli officials have said that fight should be treated separately from any ceasefire with Iran. Tehran has long said that any peace deal with the United States would depend on a ceasefire also holding in Lebanon, which Israel invaded in March in pursuit of Iran-backed Hezbollah fighters after they fired rockets and drones across the border in solidarity with Tehran.

I call the shots: Trump says Netanyahu must accept Iran deal

World. (Agency)

US President Donald Trump has asserted that he remains committed to securing a nuclear agreement with Iran despite the latest escalation between Tehran and Tel Aviv, declaring that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu would have "no choice" but to accept any deal negotiated by Washington.

In an interview with the Financial Times, Trump said Iran's missile strikes against Israel over the weekend had not altered his determination to conclude negotiations with Tehran. Emphasising his influence over the process, Trump said, "I call the shots. I call all the shots. He [Netanyahu] doesn't call the shots."



Trump also said Netanyahu would have to accept a future agreement reached between the United States and Iran. "He won't have any choice," Trump was quoted as saying.

The remarks came after Iran launched a barrage of ballistic missiles toward Israel late Sunday, marking a significant escalation in regional

tensions. The attack followed Israeli strikes on the outskirts of Beirut earlier in the day, the first such strikes since the United States announced a ceasefire proposal for Lebanon last week.

According to the Israeli military, air defence systems intercepted the incoming missiles after they were detected heading toward Israeli territory. No immediate details were available regarding damage or casualties. Trump, who was spending the weekend at his golf club in Bedminster, New Jersey, reportedly told Axios that he planned to call Netanyahu and urge him not to retaliate against Iran. He argued that further military action could derail ongoing diplomatic efforts.

Trump asks Netanyahu to hold fire on Iran, says peace deal 'very close'

World. (Agency)

US President Donald Trump has asked Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu not to retaliate against Iran's latest missile barrage, warning that fresh military action could jeopardise efforts to secure a peace deal aimed at ending the three-month-long conflict.

According to US media outlet Axios, Trump spoke to Netanyahu after Iran launched missiles at Israel on Sunday, seeking to prevent renewed hostilities from derailing ongoing negotiations. The US President also called on Iran to resume talks. "We're very close. I would say an agreement would be signed on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday of this coming week. And now this takes place," Trump told Fox News.

"You've shot your missiles, that's enough. Get back to the table and make a deal," Trump said, referring to Iran's strikes at Israel. Trump downplayed the impact of Iran's missile attack and expressed hope that Israel would avoid further escalation. "The Iranian strikes



didn't hurt anybody. Hopefully Israel is not going to retaliate," Trump told Axios. "If Bibi strikes them back, it's just going to keep going like the last 47 years, or the last 3,000 years," he said.

Emphasising that Washington was close to finalising an agreement, Trump cautioned that renewed tensions risked undermining diplomatic progress. "Each of them had their fun. Israel had its strike, and Iran had its strike. We don't need another one," Trump said.

In an interview with Financial Times, Trump said Netanyahu would likely have to accept any agreement reached between Washington and Tehran.

"He won't have any choice," Trump said of Netanyahu, asserting that he "calls the shots".

The interview was published as Iran launched missiles at Israel in its first attack since a ceasefire took effect in April. Trump also criticised Israel's strikes on Beirut on Sunday, saying he was "not happy about it".

Axios, citing a US official, reported that Trump told Netanyahu during their call to hold back because "we are close to doing something good in terms of a deal".

While Netanyahu reportedly pushed back, the official said he ultimately "pseudo agreed" to stand down.

The call was described as calmer than last week's reportedly tense exchange between the two leaders, with Trump not raising his voice on this occasion.

Israel says it has struck Iran after taking missile fire; Tehran closes airspace

Dubai. (Agency)

Israel launched airstrikes early Monday targeting central and western Iran in response to missile fire from Tehran, attacks that threatened to drag the wider West Asia back into a regional war.

Iranian state television reported the sound of explosions being heard in Isfahan, Karaj, Tabriz and Tehran, without immediately elaborating.

A witness in Tehran described hearing at least one large blast somewhere to the west of the country's capital city. Iran closed the airspace around Tehran's Imam Khomeini International Airport, the country's main airport, after the Israeli attack.

Iranian officials offered no details on what had been struck, nor any damage information. Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard said that Israel used air-launched ballistic missiles in its attack Monday morning, without elaborating.

The Israeli military at dawn in Iran

issued a short statement as the strikes started, "A short while ago, the Israeli Air Force struck military targets belonging to the Iranian terror regime in western and central Iran." It did not elaborate.

The White House did not respond to messages about the strikes and



whether they were done in coordination with the US.

Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia sounded missile alert sirens Monday morning in an area home to an air base that hosts U.S. forces. Saudi state media reported the alert around its Al Kharij governorate, home to Prince Sultan

Air Base. The alert came after Israel's strikes on Iran. Saudi Arabia shortly after said the missile danger in the area had passed, without elaborating.

For days, negotiations between Iran and the United States over the fragile ceasefire in the war had been stalled by the fighting between Israel and the Lebanese Shiite militia Hezbollah.

Israel now occupies southern Lebanon and had moved into areas of the country it hadn't held in a quarter century, leading to fears about them further widening their campaign. On Sunday, Israel launched airstrikes in Beirut's southern suburbs. Iran retaliated with its own strike on Israel, which led to Monday morning's attack by Israel on Iran. US President Donald

Trump earlier told a Fox News Channel reporter that he wanted the Iranians to stop firing missiles and return to the negotiating table. He also said that Israel's strikes in Beirut earlier Sunday were not coordinated with the US and "I'm not happy about it."

Powerful 7.8-magnitude earthquake strikes Philippines, tsunami warning issued

YANGON. (Agency)

A powerful 7.8-magnitude earthquake struck off the southern Philippines on Monday, triggering tsunami warnings across the region, forcing coastal evacuations and disrupting power and communications in areas near the epicentre.

The earthquake struck near Mindanao at a shallow depth of 10 kilometres, according to the German Research Centre for Geosciences (GFZ), raising concerns over strong ground shaking and tsunami generation. GFZ initially revised the quake's strength from 7.3 to 8.2 before later settling on a magnitude of 7.8. Authorities in the Philippines, Indonesia and international monitoring agencies quickly issued tsunami alerts, urging people living along vulnerable coastlines to move to higher ground.

"We advise people to evacuate to higher grounds or go further inland," Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS) chief Teresito Bacolcol warned.

EVACUATIONS AND TSUNAMI ALERTS

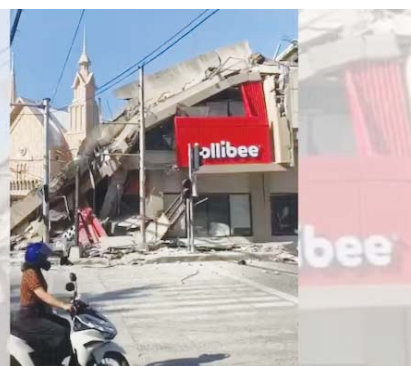
PHIVOLCS said tsunami waves exceeding one metre above normal tide levels could hit affected coastal areas and continue for several hours. The Pacific Tsunami Warning Center said waves of up to three metres were possible along some Philippine coastlines, while waves of up to one metre could affect parts of Indonesia and Malaysia.

Indonesia's geophysics agency also issued tsunami warnings for coastal communities in the country's northeast.

Smaller waves were considered possible in Taiwan, Japan, Guam, Papua New Guinea and several Pacific island territories. Authorities in coastal towns across southern Philippines began moving

residents away from shorelines as a precaution.

Arlene Hollero, disaster chief of Maasim town in Sarangani province, said



evacuations were underway in coastal villages.

"Water receded shortly after the quake, but the seas were normal so far," she said, adding that a bridge suffered cracks and a

shrine topped by a giant cross had collapsed. "It's devastating."

DAMAGE REPORTS EMERGE

While there were no immediate reports of deaths, local officials said assessments were continuing as aftershocks rattled the region. DZBB radio reported falling furniture, damaged televisions and other household appliances in areas around General Santos City, located close to the epicentre. Residents rushed out of homes and buildings as strong tremors shook the area.

The General Santos disaster office said aftershocks were continuing and authorities were checking reports of damage and injuries. In nearby Sarangani province, power and telecommunications services were knocked out, while classes were suspended. Disaster chief Rene Punzalan said inspections were ongoing and no building collapses had been reported so far.