



Testament to people's trust: World leaders congratulate **PM Modi** on record tenure

World leaders sent congratulatory messages after Narendra Modi became India's longest-serving elected Prime Minister. Their remarks highlighted India's rising global profile and the value many countries place on ties with New Delhi.

New Delhi (Agency)
Congratulatory messages poured in from world leaders on Wednesday after Narendra Modi became India's longest-serving elected Prime Minister, surpassing the tenure record set by Jawaharlal Nehru and drawing praise for his leadership, governance and global outreach. Having first assumed office on May 26, 2014, Modi completed 4,399 consecutive days as Prime Minister, overtaking Nehru's 4,398 uninterrupted days as the head of an elected government following India's first general elections in 1952. Leaders from across the world hailed the milestone,

describing Modi as a transformative leader whose tenure has coincided with India's growing economic influence, stronger global standing and advocacy for the Global South. Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni congratulated her Indian counterpart on his record tenure and said it had been a pleasure to meet him again in Rome in recent weeks. US Ambassador to India Sergio Gor called the achievement "a powerful testament" to Modi's decades of public service and leadership. "Congratulations to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on becoming India's longest-serving elected Prime



Minister. This achievement is a powerful testament to his decades of dedicated public service and leadership," Gor posted on social media.

In a letter, Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake said the achievement reflected the faith Indians had repeatedly placed in Modi's leadership. "This milestone is a testament not only to your years in office, but also to the trust and confidence that the people of the world's largest democracy have repeatedly placed in your leadership," Dissanayake wrote. The Sri Lankan leader also pointed to India's economic and social transformation under Modi and said his vision had inspired many beyond India's borders, including Sri Lanka. The two

countries have strengthened ties in recent years, with Modi being conferred Sri Lanka's highest civilian honour for a foreign dignitary during his visit to the island nation in 2025. On his part, European Union Council chief Antonio Costa said under the Prime Minister's "visionary leadership, relations between the EU and India are stronger than ever, as evidenced by our historic summit earlier this year." Australia's former Prime Minister Tony Abbott said under PM Modi's leadership, "India has become the world's third superpower while maintaining free elections, a riotously free media and a robustly.

Who Really Calls the Shots in Kheda? One Rule for Ordinary Employees, Another for the Influential?

SP's Transfer Order Ignored or Power Politics at Play? Questions Mount as Transfer Directive Remains Unresolved After Two Months

Mahanagar Metro Desk / Pawan Makan Nadiad, Gujarat: A controversial issue within the Kheda district police administration has sparked intense debate, raising serious concerns about departmental discipline and the credibility of the administrative system. While the matter revolves around a transfer order, the questions emerging from it are far more significant. According to sources, an official transfer order issued by the Superintendent of Police (SP), Kheda, on April 1, 2026, directed the transfer of Vipul Rabari, who was reportedly posted in Limbasi, to Atarsumba Police Station. However, more than two months after the order was issued, discussions continue regarding its implementation and current status. If these reports are accurate, the issue extends beyond the transfer of a single employee and touches upon the integrity and effectiveness of the entire administrative framework. Transfers and postings within the police department are not merely routine administrative exercises. They are fundamental mechanisms for maintaining discipline, accountability, and transparency. Timely implementation of official orders reflects the efficiency and authority of an organization. However, when an order issued by the district's highest police authority appears to remain unresolved for an extended period, questions naturally arise among both employees and the public. Are there influential individuals capable of overriding administrative decisions? Has political backing or personal in-



fluence become more powerful than official directives? Are rules being applied equally to everyone? For years, discussions within administrative circles have suggested that certain influential employees continue serving at

preferred locations for extended periods despite routine transfers and departmental reshuffles. Officers may change, transfer lists may be issued, yet some individuals appear unaffected by the process. If such perceptions are accurate,

they raise serious concerns for any democratic administrative system, where rules—not individuals—are expected to remain supreme. Several retired officials have also argued that inconsistent implementation of transfer policies can negatively impact morale within the force. Employees who comply with departmental orders may begin to feel that the system does not treat everyone equally. This question lies at the heart of the controversy. Ordinarily, employees who fail to comply with official transfer orders may face show-cause notices, departmental inquiries, or disciplinary action. However, when delays or ambiguities persist in cases involving influential individuals, public confidence in the fairness of the system can be affected. Has influence and access begun to outweigh administrative accountability? Observers are also closely watching future transfer orders. If the employee concerned is reportedly adjusted to another favorable posting without clearly assuming charge at the designated station, the controversy could deepen further. Such developments may raise additional questions regarding transparency, fairness, and adherence to departmental procedures. Has influence become more powerful than the uniform in Kheda? Is the SP's order the final authority, or is there an unseen power capable of overshadowing official administrative decisions? If an official transfer order remains unimplemented, who is truly running the system in Kheda district?

Trinamool MP Pitched **Mamata Banerjee** As Future PM, Then Joined The Rebels

New Delhi (Agency)
Politics is unpredictable. Even more uncertain are manoeuvres when the political future appears bleak. Such is the case with one of Trinamool's most vocal MPs, Saayoni Ghosh, who now appears to be a surprise addition to the rebel camp. Known for her pointed digs at rivals and the nicest remarks for party chief Mamata Banerjee, Ghosh is yet to speak out, but sources suggest she has already chosen her side amid what is playing out to be the Trinamool's biggest crisis since inception. The Jadavpur MP appears now to be among the 20 MPs who had sought to form a separate bloc in Parliament, defying the party a month after the crushing defeat in assembly

elections. Led by Lok Sabha MP Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar, the 20 MPs had on Monday written to the Speaker offering to back the NDA, exposing a mutiny that splits the Trinamool strength in Parliament. Reports suggest that Ghosh had contacted Dastidar and is now a signatory to documents backing the rebels. According to sources, she is not currently in Kolkata and might be in Delhi, where the rebel MPs have been camping. Mala Roy, another MP and close confidant of Mamata Banerjee, has also flown in to Delhi and joined the rebel camp. Ghosh's move to the rebel camp is nothing less than a shock to the Trinamool, given that she had



been one of Banerjee's most vocal supporters and had recently been appointed as the party's youth wing chief. Ahead of the recent assembly elections, she had even pitched Banerjee to be a future prime minister. Speaking to, she had also

said that "if Didi wins, Bengal wins," drawing a parallel between her leader and the state that she once ruled. In another interview, she had even asserted that she would never abandon Mamata Banerjee. What makes her move a surprise are her constant attacks on the BJP and NDA. Over the years, she had opposed the BJP's policies, including the Women Reservation Bill. She had also been a vocal critic of the Election Commission and raised vote theft allegations against the BJP. Following her party's defeat in the elections, she had claimed that Mamata Banerjee lost due to "stealing of votes" and that the party hadn't lost the polls. "We have not lost, but Mamata Banerjee has been defeated by stealing and looting."

Known for her pointed digs at rivals, Saayoni Ghosh is yet to speak out, but sources suggest she has already chosen her side.

News box

Families of inmates to get legal, welfare, psychological aid

Gurgaon.(Agency)

Families of jail inmates struggling financially, facing psychological distress or difficulties in accessing govt welfare schemes can now seek assistance from the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA). The initiative aims to strengthen support systems for families and facilitate a smoother reintegration of prisoners into society after their release. Under the programme, families of inmates nearing completion of their sentences as well as undertrials who have spent more than a year in jail will be eligible for support. The DLSA will provide legal, educational, social, psychological and welfare assistance to dependents of prisoners. Nisha, chief judicial magistrate-cum-secretary, DLSA Gurgaon, said an initiative was launched for the effective implementation of the SPRUHA Scheme, 2025 (Supporting Potential and Resilience of the Unseen, Held-back and Affected). "The jail administration has been requested to facilitate interaction between inmates and DLSA officials, panel advocates and para-legal volunteers so that eligible beneficiaries can be identified and linked with various welfare measures. Special focus will be given to children, women, senior citizens, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable dependents of inmates," Nisha said. Narender Sura, district and sessions judge-cum-chairman, DLSA Gurgaon, said access to justice is not confined to courtrooms, and families of inmates should not be deprived of their legal rights and welfare entitlements because of circumstances beyond their control. And Jyoti Hospital was also terminated recently.

Dust storm lashes Gurgaon after hot day, thunderstorms and rain likely over next four days

Gurgaon.(Agency)

Strong dust-laden winds swept across the city on Tuesday evening, reducing visibility in several areas and prompting weather warnings from India Meteorological Department (IMD), which has forecast thunderstorms, lightning and gusty winds across parts of Haryana over the next four to five days. Around 5pm, residents from several parts of the city reported strong winds accompanied by dust clouds that engulfed roads and open spaces. The gusts swept through residential sectors and arterial roads, creating a loud howling sound, residents said. Some parts of the city also witnessed a faint drizzle. The sudden change in weather followed a hot and dry day. According to IMD, the city recorded a maximum temperature of 43.1 degrees Celsius at the NorthCap University observatory and 42.1 degrees Celsius at the Gurgaon AWS station on Tuesday. The minimum temperature was 24 degrees Celsius, around 3 degrees below normal. IMD had issued a nowcast for Tuesday, warning of thunderstorms accompanied by lightning, gusty winds and brief spells of rain in parts of Haryana, including Gurgaon. Wind speeds were forecast to range between 40 kmph and 60 kmph, with isolated areas likely to witness stronger gusts of 60-80 kmph and hail. Private weather forecaster Navdeep Dhairya said heat-induced thunderstorms developing over central Haryana were moving towards Delhi-NCR and were expected to affect Gurgaon during the evening. Residents reported swaying trees, flying debris and reduced visibility on several stretches. The dust storm also brought temporary relief from the intense heat that had gripped the city over the past week. IMD has placed several districts under yellow and orange alerts till June 13, with wind speeds of up to 50-60 kmph expected during thunderstorm activity.

Alert driver brakes in time and saves child, ends up being assaulted by family

Noida.(Agency)

A car driver was assaulted by a couple in Sector 17 after their child suddenly came in front of his car. While he promptly applied the brakes and prevented the child from being hit, the parents accused the driver of endangering the kid, beat him up and damaged his car. Police are trying to identify and arrest those involved. According to the police, the incident occurred on Monday outside the JJ Colony in Sector 17. The child unexpectedly ran onto the road and came directly in front of the vehicle. The driver swiftly applied emergency brakes and stopped the car from hitting the child. The child did not suffer any injuries in the incident. However, tensions escalated immediately after the incident. Family members of the child, who were present nearby, allegedly became enraged and confronted the driver. The situation soon turned violent, with the relatives assaulting him and causing



damage to the vehicle. During the altercation, the car's window was smashed and the driver sustained minor injuries. A police team from the Sector 20 police station rushed to the spot and dispersed the crowd. The injured driver was taken to a nearby hospital for medical treatment. Subsequently, a case was filed under sections 115 (voluntarily causing hurt), 324 (mischievous), 352 (intentional insult) and 351(3) (criminal intimidation) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). Meanwhile, a 37-second video of the incident was shared on various social media platforms. The footage shows the damaged car parked on the roadside near the DND stretch, with a crowd gathered around the vehicle.

RWAs directed to clean and test rainwater harvesting systems before monsoon, run mock drills

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

Haryana's principal advisor for urban development, DS Dhesi, on Tuesday directed housing societies to clean, maintain and test rainwater harvesting systems and check their stormwater runoff capacity. During a review meeting with facility managers from group housing societies, the irrigation department and the district town planning department, Dhesi asked RWA representatives to address any deficiencies in their rainwater harvesting infrastructure and ensure that recharge pits and associated structures are free from silt and other obstructions so that rainwater can percolate efficiently into the ground. Representatives from over 3 resident associations were directed to channelise rooftop runoff into rainwater harvesting pits to maximise utilisation of the installed infrastructure and enhance groundwater recharge. "The effective functioning of rainwater harvesting systems within residential

complexes could help curb the discharge of excess rainwater onto city roads and contribute towards the city's overall monsoon resilience," Dhesi said. To assess the operational readiness of the systems, RWAs were instructed to carry out mock drills by releasing water into the pits and observing whether the structures facilitate proper infiltration. The exercise, officials said, would help identify bottlenecks and allow corrective action before the onset of the monsoon. Hydrologist Dalvir Rana said, "A properly designed and maintained rainwater harvesting system has the potential to facilitate infiltration of nearly 25 litres of water per second, reducing surface runoff and easing pressure on the city's stormwater drainage network." This



is the third review with RWAs in the past six months as authorities intensify monsoon preparedness measures. Inspection visits to assess the functioning of rainwater harvesting systems have already been carried out in several housing societies by GMDA officials, with follow-up action being taken in coordination with RWAs. "A joint mock drill involving GMDA, the

irrigation department and hydrologists would be conducted in a selected group housing society to demonstrate the process and establish a standard operating practice that can be replicated by other RWAs," district town planner, GMDA, RS Batth said. "Most group housing societies are now taking the issue seriously and are working to ensure that their rainwater harvesting systems remain functional before the monsoon. While these systems may not completely eliminate waterlogging, they can certainly help in groundwater recharge if they are properly maintained. In our society, we have 29 rainwater harvesting pits. Following the previous meetings, we undertook their cleaning, desilting and maintenance work, and they are now ready for the rainy season," said Mayank Tiwari, secretary of Tata Primanti in Sector 72.

Safety belt breaks, 2 workers fall into STP tank and suffocate to death in Faridabad

Gurgaon.(Agency)

Two workers were suffocated to death after they fell into a tank at a municipal sewage treatment plant in Faridabad's Jeevan Nagar on Monday morning as their safety belt snapped. The victims — Aman, around 25, and his nephew Akash — had been called to the plant early in the morning by the contractor to fit a chain required for maintenance work inside the tank. Akash descended first, wearing a harness, but lost his balance after toxic fumes from inside the tank began to affect him. As the belt snapped, he fell into Aman, who was also inside the tank, tried to rescue him but slipped and fell as well. A third worker, Vipin, also attempted a descent with a safety belt before the fumes overwhelmed him. A few other workers at the site managed to pull him back before he could fall. Police received information about the incident around 7.30 am. Teams from the police and fire brigade rushed to the plant and launched a search operation. Aman's body was recovered first, but it took the rescue teams

nearly two hours to pull out Akash's body. Shivam Kumar, a plant operator at the facility and Aman's elder brother, said the contractor had called the two men early that morning with instructions to fit the chain. He said the two had been working continuously at the site for the past four days. According to workers, Aman and Akash were not wearing the harness properly, and the rope was loosely strung around them. The two were not provided with oxygen masks, helmets, boots or gloves. The Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013, prohibits hazardous manual cleaning of sewers and septic tanks. Entry into a sewer or septic tank is permitted only in exceptional circumstances and after following prescribed safety protocols. Employers must first attempt mechanical cleaning and, if human entry is unavoidable, provide protective equipment such as harnesses, helmets, gloves, boots and full-body protective suits. The law also mandates compensation in sewer-death

cases, but no such announcements have been made as yet. Municipal commissioner Dharendra Khadgata told TOI that they have submitted a written communication to the police department seeking an FIR against the contractor and a detailed investigation to ascertain the reasons behind the death of the workers. "Since the work was being handled by the contractor, he is liable to pay compensation. We have already conveyed it, and he has agreed to pay the same as per the SOP," he said. Akash had been working at the plant for about three years, and Aman for around 18 months. Both earned approximately Rs 15,000-16,000 a month. Faridabad police spokesperson Yashpal Yadav said that an FIR had been filed against the contractor, Girdhari Lal, under BNS Section 106 (causing death by negligence) at Mujesar police station. Cops also said they are examining whether there was negligence in safety arrangements at the facility, with the snapped belt and the presence of toxic gas inside the tank the two primary factors under scrutiny.

Amid heat & outages, water, too, trickles from taps in Noida sectors

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

When RC Gupta turned on the taps at his home on Monday, there was no supply. It only resumed after 8pm. On Tuesday morning, the pressure was very low and water only trickled from the taps on the higher floors. Earlier on Sunday, there was a power failure in the sector and he was not able to pump water up into his overhead tank. Now, his home and the sector are reeling under an acute water crisis. With temperature hovering above 40 degrees Celsius, residents across several sectors in the city have been battling low water pressure and supply over the past two or three days. Pipe bursts, a dip in the groundwater table due to dewatering activities at construction



sites, increased demand and recurring failures in pumping water from overhead reservoirs have only added to the problem. Residents from sectors 44, 71, 105, 117 and 122 said that stored-up water in these tanks has been drying up as well. "The water supply had stopped on Monday evening due to a supply pipeline burst in BHEL colony. Supply resumed at 8pm but the pressure has been very low," said RC Gupta. "Last week, there was another pipeline burst and we had to suffer. Noida Authority is not maintaining the infrastructure at all. Ours is one of the older sectors and whenever there is a problem, they just make a quick fix. We are suffering from water crisis and unlike the last time when the Authority's tankers came to our rescue, Census work.

Govt panel rejects rates for doorstep waste collection in Gurgaon, orders retender

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

The city's long-awaited door-to-door waste collection project has suffered another setback. Haryana gov't's high-powered purchase committee, chaired by chief minister Nayab Singh Saini, declined to approve the rates quoted by participating agencies on Tuesday and directed that the project be retendered. The project, estimated to cost Rs 606 crore, aims to establish a comprehensive waste collection system for an initial period of five years, with the possibility of a two-year extension based on performance. According to sources, committee members expressed concerns over the rates proposed by the two shortlisted agencies for executing the waste collection contract. Sources said the agencies had quoted rates of around Rs 4,000 per tonne. However, officials argued that the rates were significantly higher than those being paid in other cities and states.

During the meeting, comparisons were drawn with waste collection contracts in Delhi, Mumbai, Gujarat and several Haryana cities. The committee reportedly proposed a rate of Rs 3,000 per tonne, but the agencies — based in Delhi and Maharashtra — were unwilling to reduce their bids beyond Rs 3,750 per tonne. Officials pointed out that similar services in Delhi are being provided at rates ranging between Rs 2,200 and Rs 2,400 per tonne. In response, the agencies cited Gurgaon-specific operational challenges, including the absence of a dedicated waste collection system for an extended period and the large geographical area that needs to be serviced. "There will be a retender as the quoted rates were high," MCG commissioner Pardeep Dahiya told TOI after the meeting in Chandigarh. The decision means residents will have to wait longer for a streamlined waste collection

system, even as complaints about sanitation and garbage accumulation continue across the city. Ward 11 councillor Kuldeep Yadav said the city urgently needs dedicated agencies to manage doorstep waste collection. "Much of the waste seen on roads and in public spaces is a direct consequence of the lack of efficient doorstep collection. If the system is streamlined, nearly 60% of this waste could disappear," Yadav said. A resident of Sectr 23A, Bhawani Shankar Tripathy, criticised the prolonged delays in finalising a sustainable solution. "It is unfortunate that an urban local body in Haryana has not yet been able to develop an effective tendering mechanism for doorstep waste collection in Gurgaon," he said. "Clear guidelines and policy frameworks already exist under the ministry of housing and urban affairs and Swachh Bharat Mission, yet the city continues to face delays in streamlining a basic civic service.

12-yr-old tells uncle how mother died, gets father arrested for her murder

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

A 37-year-old man, his brother and uncle were arrested on Tuesday for allegedly murdering his wife and burning the body five months ago after the couple's 12-year-old daughter recently confided in her maternal uncle. Police said that in Jan, the accused, Pravindra Singh (37) had first attempted to hang his wife Sonia from a ceiling hook, but when she survived, he smothered her with a pillow. He then took help from the two other men — his elder brother Vinod Kumar (40) alias Ravindra, and their uncle Brahmopal Singh (46) — to transport the body to Muzaffarnagar, concealed it in a mound of cow dung and set it on fire. Muradnagar ACP Bhaskar Verma said the case came to light on June 1, when Sonia's brother Sandeep Kumar, visiting his niece Mahi, asked after his missing sister, and the 12-year-old told him her father had killed her mother. Sonia's in-laws, meanwhile, claimed that the woman had left after a fight and not returned. Sandeep met Mahi again on June 5, and after she repeated the account, he went to Muradnagar police station and filed a complaint alleging Sonia was kidnapped and that Pravindra's mother Bedo Devi was intimidating the child. A case was registered under BNS sections 140(1)



(kidnapping) and 351(3) (criminal intimidation). The investigation led cops to Pravindra and eventually Vinod and Brahmopal. Charges under BNS sections 103(1) (murder), 238 (destruction of evidence) and 61(2) (criminal conspiracy) were added after police recovered skeletal remains from Muzaffarnagar. During interrogation, Pravindra alleged his wife was short-tempered and earlier filed a dowry case against him from her parental

home in Muzaffarnagar before a settlement was reached and she returned. About nine to 10 months before the killing, the couple and their two kids relocated to Muradnagar to live in Vinod's house. Tensions, Pravindra said, resurfaced soon after. On Jan 29, Pravindra and Vinod allegedly took Sonia to an upper-floor room, looped a noose around her neck and suspended her from a fan hook, police said. Believing her dead, they brought her down, but found she was

still breathing. Pravindra then pressed a pillow over her face until she died. The brothers then contacted Brahmopal, who told them to wrap the body in bedding and hire a vehicle to Muzaffarnagar. According to cops, the three drove to the outskirts of Signalpur village, put the body inside a cow dung mound, poured kerosene over it and set it alight. Four days later, Pravindra returned to scatter the remaining ash into a nearby pond.

From loyal aide to rival: How SAD leader Bikram Singh Majithia's former PA is his biggest threat for 2027

SAD leader Bikram Singh Majithia's former confidant Talbir Gill is the Aam Aadmi Party candidate from Majithia for the 2027 Punjab Assembly elections.

Amritsar. (Agency)

For nearly two decades, Talbir Gill was one of Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) leader Bikram Singh Majithia's most trusted men. He managed the Majithia constituency, facilitated calls to senior officials, ran errands, and ensured Majithia's hold over his seat remained firm. Today, Gill is the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) candidate from Majithia for the 2027 Punjab Assembly elections, and arguably, Majithia's most formidable challenger. Meanwhile, Majithia has allegedly gone underground after being booked for trying to forcibly release a man from police custody. The ties between the two men soured after the 2022 Assembly elections, and Gill joined AAP in 2024. Gill told The Indian Express that his association with Majithia dates to 2004-05, when the latter had not yet formally entered Amritsar politics. Gill first met Majithia

during the Ajnala bypoll, where Majithia reportedly told him that he intended to contest from Majithia and asked Gill to join his team.

For the next few years, Gill, Majithia's personal assistant (PA), served as his eyes and ears in the Majithia constituency. When Majithia became a Cabinet minister in the SAD-BJP government, Gill managed the ground—attending to voter grievances, facilitating official work, and ensuring the constituency machinery ran smoothly.

"I managed the halqa (seat) for him. Every voter knew me. I got their work done," Gill said. He acknowledged that this deep familiarity with every village and household in the constituency is now his biggest political asset. "The fruit of that hard work has come to me now," he said with a quiet smile. Gill also candidly admitted that working under a minister with enormous



clout sometimes meant doing things he was not proud of. "We may have made a mistake or two following him for votes," he said. "Four of us worked very hard for him. After he won, he gradually showed the door to the others. I survived because he saw I was a hard

worker." Gill was given 'excessive power' During the SAD-BJP government's decade in power, Majithia wielded enormous influence—and a significant share of it flowed through loyalists like Gill on the

ground. Virsa Singh Valtaha, a former SAD(B) MLA who observed the dynamics closely, said the scale of power given to such individuals was excessive. "His grandfather, his father, his uncles—hardcore Akalis.

They went to jail during the Akali Morchas. Gill was just a boy when he was brought in," Valtaha said. "Power was handed out. There were no expenses, but full authority—even some MLAs would go to Gill to make calls to officers through him, because Majithia was not always available," Valtaha said.

Another SAD(B) leader, who did not want to be named, added that this unchecked access inevitably bred misuse. Complaints began surfacing about interference in real estate dealings in Amritsar, with Majithia's name allegedly invoked without his knowledge to pressure property owners. "They had made Bikram Singh Majithia famous in Amritsar as a real estate businessman.

Short news

Not every Muslim religious institution is waqf property: Madras High Court



Chennai. (Agency)

In a significant ruling, the Madras High Court has held that the existence of a dargah or Muslim religious institution does not automatically make it a waqf property, and that the Waqf Board cannot assume jurisdiction without first establishing the property's legal status under the Waqf Act.

The court set aside a resolution passed by the Tamil Nadu Waqf Board declaring a 240-year-old dargah in Chennai's Triplicane locality as waqf property. It held that the Board lacked the jurisdiction to exercise control over the institution without following the statutory procedure prescribed by law. While reading the verdict, Justice K Govindarajan Thilakavadi said, "The mere existence of a dargah does not automatically confer jurisdiction upon the Board unless the institution is established or treated as a waqf in accordance with law."

The judge emphasised that the Board cannot extend its authority merely because a religious structure or shrine exists on a property. He further underlined that the "Board must first establish jurisdictional facts before exercising control over the institution." The dispute arose after the Tamil Nadu Waqf Board passed a resolution declaring the historic Triplicane dargah a waqf property.

Bengaluru East City Corporation to go after defaulters

BENGALURU. (Agency)

Bengaluru East City Corporation (BECC) has decided to take tough action against property tax defaulters in its limits. This decision comes in the wake of property tax defaulters ignoring the warnings of the corporation.

As a first step, Joint Commissioner of KR Puram division Sudha Swapna Pais has formed a new legal team and asked it to get the stay order against the corporation's action vacated at the earliest. Three big defaulters -- Phoenix Market City, Evoma Hotel and Xylem properties -- have tax dues amounting to Rs 33 crore. She said the city corporations under the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) have initiated strict action against tax defaulters. They will collect tax dues along with interest.

"Phoenix Market City owes a huge amount. It has come to my notice that the mall has obtained a stay order from the high court against the corporation's action. Once we get the stay order vacated, strict action will be taken against all such defaulters," she said.

Pais said Phoenix Market City has to pay Rs 23 crore, Evoma Hotel Rs 7 crore and Xylem properties Rs 3 crore.

However, an official from BECC stated that as on April 24, 2026, the mall made a payment of Rs 5,24,51,011. It paid the same amount for 2025 as well. It is said that the joint commissioner's office had sought an explanation from town planning officials for giving permission to the mall for additional construction work though it had defaulted on payment of tax. However, the town planning officials defended their action stating that permission for additional construction work and non-payment of tax were different issues.

'Visitors find it unpleasant': Varanasi to push meat shops out of city; SP asks, why not liquor?

According to the Mayor, meat markets will be set up on the outskirts and traders will be relocated there. The Opposition hit out, calling it 'selective' action

Lucknow. (Agency)

The Varanasi Municipal Corporation's decision to relocate meat, fish and poultry shops to the city's outskirts has sparked a row, with traders and the Opposition stating that it would hurt livelihoods and inconvenience consumers. The administration, however, argued that the move is aimed at improving hygiene and preserving the city's religious and cultural character.

Under the proposal that was approved by the VMC's executive committee and passed by the municipal corporation, meat markets will be set up on the outskirts and meat, fish, and poultry traders will be relocated there.

Explaining the rationale behind the move, Mayor Ashok Kumar Tiwari said, "Varanasi is an important religious, cultural, and tourist destination. More than 1 lakh people come here for darshan every day. Visitors find it very unpleasant when meat and fish are

being openly cut and sold on roadside markets." He added that the proposal "has nothing to do with the type of food that people eat". According to Tiwari, the



municipal corporation intends to create exclusive meat markets on the outskirts of Varanasi with all facilities. "Shops will be at designated locations where waste can be managed properly. The aim is to develop a proper market instead of allowing unhygienic practices inside the city," he said. The Mayor said locations identified so far

include Ramnagar, Sujabad-Domri, Shivpur, Lahartara and Awaleshpur, while additional sites could be identified depending on demand.

Tiwari said the civic body expects work to begin within the next one to one-and-a-half months and be completed within six-seven months. He said a survey of traders would be conducted and consultations held before implementation.

"We do not want to displace anybody. We want to provide better facilities. Discussions will be held with traders during the survey process," he said, adding that shops operating without municipal authorisation will be identified.

The Mayor also linked the proposal to a broader urban reorganisation exercise being undertaken by the municipal corporation that includes relocation of the saree market, development of a new medicine market, and reorganisation of fruit markets.

'Got the call within minutes': Gujarat Ex-CM Vijay Rupani's son on Air India crash

Ahmedabad. (Agency)

"My father would say that cemeteries across the world are full of people who believed they were indispensable; never think that the world will stop [functioning without you]..." Rushabh Rupani said as he remembered his father and former Gujarat chief minister Vijay Rupani, who died in the crash of Air India Flight 171 on June 12 last year.

In an exclusive interview with The Indian Express, Rushabh said he, like the families of other victims, was waiting to find out why the plane crashed. "I have full faith in the Government of India, the Ministry of Civil Aviation, and the Directorate General of Civil Aviation. And I urge all families to have full faith in the



government and the system. The report will be out soon: the investigation is ongoing, so it will be inappropriate for me to comment on it at the moment. I can only say that one must have faith; it will have results soon. And all will get justice," the 30-year-old said. The

former CM's family plans to observe his death anniversary with the launch of welfare activities through a newly established Vijay Rupani Foundation.

Vijay Rupani was one of the 241 people on board the Air India Dreamliner heading to Gatwick (London) that crashed minutes after taking off from the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport in Ahmedabad on June 12, 2025. He was scheduled to join his London-based daughter Radhika for a family get-together.

His wife Anjali had flown there earlier. Rushabh, a mechanical engineer, was working for a start-up in the United States when a friend employed with Air India called him to inform him about the accident.

Kushinagar farmer 'kills' two teen daughters in suspected honour killing, arrested

Two minor sons also taken in custody for 'helping' him commit crime, sent to juvenile home

Lucknow. (Agency)

A 52-year-old farmer allegedly killed his two teenage daughters in Seorahi area of Kushinagar district in a fit of anger on Monday after they refused to snap ties with their male friends they had earlier eloped with, police said.

The accused was arrested on Tuesday, hours after he went absconding. Kushinagar Superintendent of Police (SP) Keshav Kumar said the farmer's two minor sons were also taken in custody for allegedly helping their father in the crime. They were sent to a juvenile home after being produced before the Juvenile Board.

Vinay Singh, the station house officer (SHO) of the police station concerned, said they got information around 7 pm on Monday about the killing of two sisters, aged 19 and 18. Police rushed to the spot and found the victims' minor brothers in the house while



their bodies lay in a room. The bodies had face and back, he added. Injury marks caused serious injuries with blood around the head, by sticks were also seen on the bodies.

Police said the boys told that their father returned home in the noon and started hurling abuses at their sisters for causing disgrace to the family by continuing their friendship with the two local youths.

A heated exchange ensued and the man pushed the two girls inside a room and asked the boys to close the doors from outside and not let anyone inside, the police said. The man allegedly started beating the girls with a stick till they fell unconscious before leaving the house asking the boys to stay inside as nothing would happen to them since they are minors, they said. The SHO said the farmer's wife died a few years ago. SP Keshav Kumar told Express, the two girls had eloped with the two local youths thrice last year in the months of March, June and December. Police had lodged cases of abduction. Police had recovered the girls within a few days and thrice arrested their friends, he added.

Op Bluestar's unfinished lessons for Punjab

Ramesh Inder Singh

The devout view it as a premeditated sacrilegious assault on their holiest of holy shrines while the government of the day described it as an operation to clear the sacred space of the armed radicals who had usurped the temple, laid siege and posed a challenge to the legitimacy of the constitutionally established polity. But with time and better understanding of the events, there is a near unanimity that the operation was avoidable, ill-planned and terribly executed. It left deep psychological scars, resulted in the destruction of the seat of Miri Piri, Akal Takht, and the death of nearly 1,000 persons, including Army men. And this unanimity of opinion includes a long list of army generals, including two former Army Chiefs, Gen VK Singh and Gen VN Sharma, who have gone public against Operation Bluestar. The operation that was launched to eliminate violence, in fact, sowed the seeds of an ethno-religious struggle and unleashed unmitigated violence that was far worse than what it had aimed to end. Foreign powers exploited our internal situation. Weapons and drugs seeped in from the highly porous border and confirmation of this has come from a Pakistani scholar. Prof Ilyas Chattha, in his book, 'The Punjab Borderland, Mobility, Materiality and Militancy, 1947-1987', has exposed the role played by his country in fuelling militancy in Punjab.

The ethno-national movement fizzled out long ago, but there are lessons to be learnt. The foremost lesson pertains to how we deal with religious plurality, political divergence, regional aspirations and uprisings. Regional assertions have to mingle with national objectives just as the nation must acknowledge the divergence of identities and aspirations in a country as large as ours. This requires not a military approach to problems but conflict resolution through dialogue. Bluestar is a classic instance of the failure to parley, even though 26 meetings were held between Dharam Yudh Morcha leaders and the Central government, the last being on May 29, 1984 with four Union ministers in Delhi. They responded positively to the demands, not knowing that the Chief of Army Staff, Gen AS Vaidya, had already been mandated a few days earlier that troops be moved to Amritsar. The result was catastrophic.

The irony is that these very demands of the Morcha were accepted a year later, in July 1985, with the signing of the Rajiv-Longowal accord. But, by then, the moderate Longowal and his ilk had ceased to be relevant. The command of the struggle had passed on to gun-wielding militants. The spirit of shaheedi swept the Panth.

To make it worse, the Central government ducked the accord — the PM who had signed the covenant discarded it. Political imperatives prevailed over the need for conflict resolution. The pending demands continue to agitate the state.

Could militancy re-emerge in the state? It is highly unlikely. However, microscopic remnants of secessionists sitting abroad continue to fund and direct criminal activities, operating through organised criminal gangs. It is a nexus of drugs and weapon smugglers, who often operate under the ideological garb of separatism.

The consequence of this is a deteriorating law and order situation, with cases of extortions, IED or grenade blasts, killings and frequent email threats of bomb scares at public places. Forces from across the border are using drones to drop weapons and drugs to destabilise the region.

However, the recent killings of three policemen in two separate incidents in the border districts are alarming, suggestive of what is called a consternation strategy, which terrorists apply to produce a chilling effect to demoralise the symbols of state authority. They randomly pick up targets with the objective to make the state appear ineffective.

Unlike Anna Hazare protest, CJP is about opportunity

The real story is about citizens and their aspiration and trust

Harvinder Khetal

WHEN the founder of the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP), Abhijeet Dipke, mounted the stage at New Delhi's Jantar Mantar on Saturday, he was joined by an unlikely ally. Standing beside him was Sonam Wangchuk — education reformer, environmental activist and one of the country's most respected public figures. Thousands of young protesters wearing cockroach masks cheered as the two addressed a gathering that had begun as an internet meme and evolved into a national conversation about jobs, examinations and the future of India's youth. They rallied under the banner of the CJP, a formation that did not exist a month ago. What began as a social media joke has become one of the most talked-about political phenomena in the country. The temptation is to dismiss the movement as another fleeting internet sensation. However, that would be a mistake. Movements often matter less for what they ultimately achieve than for what they reveal. The sudden rise of the Cockroach Janta Party has revealed a generation that feels unheard. Beneath the headlines celebrating India's economic growth lies a growing reservoir of frustration about jobs, competitive examinations, social mobility and the perceived indifference of institutions. The movement has also demonstrated how satire can become a powerful political tool when conventional channels of representation appear ineffective. The image of young Indians marching under the banner of a cockroach serves as a warning. Democracies function best when citizens believe that hard work will be rewarded, opportunities will remain accessible and public institutions will act fairly. When that faith weakens, satire turns into protest and mockery acquires political force.

The developments in Delhi should also be viewed in a broader regional context. Across South Asia, Generation Z is emerging as a disruptive political force. In Bangladesh, student-led protests evolved into a wider challenge to established authority. In Nepal, youth-driven campaigns have increasingly mobilised around corruption, governance failures and economic stagnation, often bypassing traditional political parties. A common sentiment is visible: young people are no longer willing to wait for institutions to address their concerns. India's Cockroach Janta Party may be the latest expression of that sentiment. The CJP's rise is remarkable because of its simplicity. The movement emerged from a controversy in which unemployed youth were allegedly likened to "cockroaches" and

"parasites" by the Chief Justice of India Surya Kant. Instead of rejecting the insult, young Indians appropriated it. The slogan 'Main Bhi Cockroach' spread rapidly across social media platforms. The symbolism proved irresistible. Cockroaches survive hostile environments. They endure neglect. They are difficult to eliminate. For millions of students and job-seekers navigating repeated examination controversies, delayed recruitments and uncertain career prospects, the metaphor resonated. For many young Indians, success depends on clearing highly competitive tests. Yet



recurring reports of paper leaks, cancelled examinations, recruitment delays and legal disputes have eroded trust in the system. Every cancelled exam represents lost months or years of preparation. It means deferred careers, postponed marriages and mounting financial burdens on families.

This frustration is unfolding against a paradoxical backdrop. India is among the world's fastest-growing major economies. Government officials frequently highlight infrastructure expansion, digital innovation and rising global influence. But economic growth and opportunity are not always experienced in the same way. Aggregate growth figures conceal uneven outcomes. For many graduates, especially those outside elite institutions, the promise that education guarantees upward mobility appears increasingly uncertain.

That uncertainty explains why the CJP's message has travelled far beyond social media. The movement has given expression to a sentiment that political discourse overlooks. India's debates are frequently dominated by

questions of nationalism, religion, caste alignments and electoral strategy. While these issues matter, they do not fully address the concerns of a generation preoccupied with securing stable employment and a dignified future. The comparison with the anti-corruption movement led by Anna Hazare is inevitable. Both emerged outside traditional party structures. Both relied heavily on youthful participation. Both reflected widespread dissatisfaction with existing institutions. The differences are equally revealing. The Hazare movement was about governance and corruption.

The Cockroach Janta Party is about opportunity. Fifteen years ago, young Indians demanded cleaner politics. Today, many are demanding a fair chance to compete, work and prosper. The shift speaks volumes about the changing socio-economics.

In 2011, when the Anna Hazare movement captured the national imagination, India's economy was worth about \$1.87 trillion and it was grappling with 9% inflation, slowing growth and allegations of policy paralysis. Today, the economy exceeds \$4 trillion, growth is among the fastest in the world, inflation is relatively moderate, digital infrastructure has expanded dramatically and India's global standing is considerably higher. For a country where 65% of the population is below the age of 35, the quality and accessibility of opportunities matter as much as headline growth figures.

At the same time, the movement's strength may also prove to be its weakness. Social media can create visibility but not necessarily durability. Online movements often generate extraordinary enthusiasm only to dissipate when confronted with organisational realities. Building a sustainable political platform is a challenging task. The CJP must thus confront these questions: can symbolism be converted into substance? Can viral popularity evolve into meaningful reform? Can the movement develop a coherent agenda without losing its appeal?

These questions remain unanswered. But they do not diminish the movement's significance. For democracies, the most consequential political developments are often those that expose hidden anxieties. The CJP has exposed one such anxiety.

The real story, then, is about citizens and their aspiration and trust. Democracies function best when citizens believe that hard work will be recognised, rules will be fairly enforced and institutions will serve the public good. When that faith weakens, satire becomes protest and even a cockroach can become a political symbol.

Manipur crisis : Humanitarian tragedy must not be normalised

More than 43,000 people are living in temporary shelters and relief camps, many without proper healthcare, sanitation or psychological support

THE restoration of peace and normalcy in Manipur continues to be a Herculean task. As per details disclosed under the Right to Information Act, at least 730 internally displaced people have died in the northeastern state's relief camps since the outbreak of ethnic violence in May 2023. The high death toll is a damning indictment of the BJP-led Central and state governments. Tens of thousands of families have been uprooted by the conflict; they face an uncertain future as rehabilitation is nowhere in sight. Unfortunately, the humanitarian crisis has received scant national attention. More than 43,000 people are living in temporary shelters and relief camps, many without proper healthcare, sanitation or psychological support. The fact that camp residents are dying not only from illness but also from unnatural causes — including drowning, electrocution, substance abuse and violence — shows that the living conditions are both unsafe and sub-human. Four months after the



reinstatement of an elected government, there is no let-up in the attacks and ethnic hostility despite repeated assurances from the authorities. Three persons were

killed after armed assailants attacked a village in Kangpokpi district on Friday. Six Naga civilians, who were allegedly abducted by Kuki militants on May 13, are still in captivity. Local residents continue to live in fear, while armed groups are exploiting administrative paralysis and deepening mistrust between communities.

Manipur's tragedy is far more than a collapse of law and order; it is an utter failure of governance and reconciliation. Relief camps were meant to be temporary sanctuaries, not semi-permanent settlements where displaced citizens spend years without hope of returning home. The longer displacement continues, the greater the risk of generational trauma, radicalisation and irreversible social fragmentation. The "double-engine" government must pay heed to the warning implicit in the RTI reply: prolonged neglect can turn a political conflict into a long-term humanitarian catastrophe. India as a whole must not allow this to happen.

India-EU tie has a Pak feeling

Juxtaposition of J&K and Ukraine war in Pak-EU statement strikes a jarring note

Vivek Katju

JUST when Indian policymakers thought that India-EU ties were on an upward trajectory, they received a rude shock. Standing beside Pakistan's Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar in Islamabad on June 1, EU's High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Kaja Kallas, said: "Pakistan is a major regional power and an important partner for the European Union". Praising Pakistan's mediation between the US and Iran, she said: "Your diplomatic efforts have helped to prevent a return to full-blown war on several occasions, and these efforts are much recognised and appreciated across Europe". This would have been music to Pakistani ears and jarring to some circles in Delhi, for there has been no change in Pakistan's reliance on terrorism to keep India on the defensive. Paragraph 11 of the EU-Pakistan joint statement, which came out after Kallas' discussions with Dar was unprecedented and offensive. It stated: "The Pakistan side briefed on the issue of Jammu and Kashmir. The EU side briefed on Russia's war on Ukraine. Both sides expressed support for the peaceful resolution of conflicts through dialogue and diplomacy in accordance with the principles of the UN Charter." Prima facie, these lines are innocuous, but it is the juxtaposition of J&K and the Ukraine war that gave them an entirely different complexion. The skilled and professional EU diplomats who negotiated the joint statement would have known that putting J&K and the Ukraine war in the same paragraph would be unacceptable to India. Moreover, by joining the two issues through a sentence containing homilies on "dialogue and diplomacy" and invoking the UN Charter, they only added insult to injury. If the diplomats had slipped, why did Kallas do so too?

Kallas was Estonia's Prime Minister for three years and has held her present office since December 2024; hence, she does not lack experience. The inescapable conclusion, therefore, is that the EU deliberately agreed to a formulation which the Pakistanis may have proposed. In accepting it, the EU showed complete disregard for Indian sensitivities. Lest some readers think that this writer is getting carried away by unimportant minutiae of diplomatise, a peep into the arcane world of diplomatic drafting is called for. Diplomats endeavour to find common formulations for joint statements. When they fail and one side insists that unless its views are recorded it will not agree even to a mention of a matter of surpassing importance to the other, unilateral statements are framed. They indicate that the other side has merely heard the view of the other. However, in recording these formulations, it is ensured that no link can be drawn between the unilateral comments. These inevitably come about if they are included in a single paragraph.

At present, it was naturally essential for the EU to mention the Ukraine war in a joint statement. In turn, the Pakistanis would have demanded the inclusion of their viewpoint on J&K. Even while accepting such a compromise, the EU should have insisted that J&K and Ukraine be mentioned in separate paragraphs. And, while diplomacy was being urged for J&K, the EU should have called for the right conditions being created by the cessation of cross-border violent extremism. The EU did not do so. Responding to a question on the reference to J&K in the joint statement, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson said on June 2: "We categorically reject such unwarranted references in the joint press communiqué on matters internal to India. The Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh are integral and

inalienable parts of India. Those who have no locus standi on such matters should desist from making any comment on them". This was a routine and weak response to an unprecedented and unjustified paragraph in the joint statement. Why did the MEA not even mention the EU, let alone strongly condemn it?

Is it because the Modi government did not want the focus to be on its embarrassment? It had done the EU the high



honour of inviting Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission, and Antonio Costa, President of the European Council, as Chief Guests for this year's Republic Day. During the visit, the India-EU Free Trade Agreement was signed; the EU itself acknowledged that the pact accorded "a significant competitive advantage in key industrial and agri-food sectors". Prime Minister Narendra Modi's discussions

with EU leaders laid the groundwork for an extensive and comprehensive partnership in the security sector and other domains. The leaders' statement noted: "Enhance cooperation to counter terrorism, in all its forms and manifestations including cross-border terrorism..." The term "cross-border terrorism" in such statements indirectly refers to, at a minimum, the infrastructure of terror in Pakistan. In March this year,

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar visited Brussels. His host was Kaja Kallas, though he also interacted with other senior EU leaders. According to a MEA readout, the visit was "reflective of India's sustained high-level engagement with the European Union." It went on to say: "India-EU relations have entered a phase of renewed strategic momentum..." Some strange momentum, indeed, if the EU shows a lack of basic sensitivity to India's significant concerns, as shown during Kallas' visit to Islamabad. It is a fact that Pakistan's stock has risen in the world because of its mediation efforts between the US and Iran. Recently, in his reply to an Indian journalist's question on China-Pak ties, Russian President Vladimir Putin denied that Pakistan was under China's full control. He went on to say: "Pakistan is a

large country and it has multifaceted ties with different countries." These assessments of Pakistan should not bother Indian policymakers, but it should worry them when the EU (or, in future, others) makes unwarranted, even if indirect, comparisons of India's concerns with other global matters. That is where India has to call the EU out — not through smart one-liners but logic backed by action.

Foods



Punjabi Palak

Punjabi Palak is a famous and healthy Punjabi side dish recipe. Made with moong dal and palak (spinach), this healthy recipe is rich in protein and iron. It is ideal for occasions like buffets, dinners or parties. It is a quick recipe which pairs well with chapati, naan or paratha and can also be tried with various rice dishes. If you have sudden guests coming over and don't know what to cook on a such short notice, then this should be your go-to recipe as it will take very less time in cooking and can be made with readily available ingredients. Serve this delicious recipe with raita of your choice!

INGREDIENTS

1 cup boiled moong dal
1 bunch chopped, washed & dried spinach
3 medium finely chopped green chilli
salt as required
2 teaspoon yoghurt (curd)
2 small finely chopped onion
1 piece grated, peeled ginger
4 teaspoon mustard oil

How to make Punjabi Palak**Step 1**

For making this easy side dish recipe, take a pan and heat mustard oil on a low-medium flame. Saute the onions along with green chillis for 30 seconds. Put the flame to low and add spinach and ginger to it, while the onions change their colour to pink. Stir

the ingredients well and cover with a lid. Allow them to cook for a minute or so.

Step 2

Now open the lid and add moong dal and salt (as per your taste) in the same pan and mix well. Add a little water and let it simmer for a minute. Turn off the flame and add curd to the cooked spinach. Mix it properly. Let the curd rest for a few seconds and cover the pan with the lid.

Step 3

Remove the lid and transfer the dish to a serving bowl and serve this side dish with chapati, paratha or steamed rice. Serve this delicious recipe with raita of your choice!

Rice Roti

Rice Roti is a traditional breakfast recipe eaten in Karnataka and which is quite popular and is best enjoyed with chutney or pickle. This dish is prepared with all-purpose flour, rice flour, jaggery powder, and onion, and is truly delicious. This rice based soft roti is also known as 'Akki Roti', where akki means rice and is made with several variations. In some places, you will find rice roti with lentil or coconut also. Pack this South Indian recipe for your kids' tiffin and you will be less worried

about the lunchbox when they come home. This is an easy-to-make South Indian paratha recipe that can be enjoyed on any occasion. Try it and enjoy with your loved ones.

INGREDIENTS

3 cup all purpose flour
1 1/2 cup rice flour
salt as required
2 tablespoon refined oil
1/2 teaspoon green chilli
1 cup water
1 tablespoon coriander leaves
For The Main Dish
3 1/2 cup powdered jaggery
1/4 cup onion

**How to make Rice Roti****Step 1**

To prepare this traditional breakfast recipe, peel the onions and chop them in a bowl. Then wash the green chilli and coriander leaves under running water. Chop them too in separate bowls. Keep them aside.

Step 2

Now, heat oil in a frying pan over medium flame. Add the chopped onions in it along with coriander leaves and green chilli. Saute the ingredients for 4-5 minutes. Then add salt according to your taste and add powdered

jaggery to the mixture. Let the jaggery cook in the pan for a minute or two. You will notice that the jaggery is melted by now.

Step 3

Next, add water to the pan and when water starts boiling, add rice flour in the mixture and stir continuously. Let this mixture cook for 8-10 minutes over low flame.

Step 4

Add another half cup of rice flour to the cooked mixture along with all purpose flour. Remove the pan from the burner and let it cool. When the mixture is cool, take a dough kneading plate and knead the mixture into soft dough.

Step 5

Take a small amount of dough, dust with dry flour and roll out the roti. Next, place a tawa on medium flame and cook the roti using a little oil. Cook from both sides and serve. Repeat the procedure with the remaining dough. (Note: You can use all purpose flour for dusting the roti.)

Vegetable Pasta Salad

Vegetable Pasta Salad is a quick, easy and healthy salad recipe. Made with read made penne pasta, green vegetables and yogurt, this low carb recipe is apt for pot luck and kitty parties. Pasta is one ingredient that you can use in a variety of ways. The best thing about pastas is that they do not have a taste of their own and hence they easily blend with any type of ingredient. The secret of making good pasta lies in its sauce. If you are making a main dish with pasta, ensure that the sauce is aromatic and flavourful.

It is a good idea to use a lot of garlic and basil because they retain their flavour even after being cooked for long. If you are using tomato as the base of your sauce, cook it well so that the raw taste disappears. The various types of pastas, Fettuccine, Farfalle, Shells, Bucatini, Angel Hair and Campanelle can be used in your recipes. In making salads, you must pay attention to two things- the veggies should be fresh and the dressing should be interesting.

If you are making a salad for healthy reasons, take care not to put too much oil



1 teaspoon refined oil
1/3 cup yoghurt (curd)
1 medium chopped tomato
1 handful de flowered broccoli
1 pinch black pepper
4 cup water

How to make Vegetable Pasta Salad**Step 1**

To prepare this pasta salad which is super healthy, take a medium sized pan and put four cups of water. When it comes to a boil, add pasta with a pinch of salt and one teaspoon oil. The salt is important as your pasta will taste bland if you add salt only in the sauce and the oil will prevent pasta from sticking together.

Step 2

Cook the pasta al dente or till it is almost done. Drain the pasta and rinse under running cold water. It will immediately bring the cooking process to a halt. If you feel your pasta is slightly overdone, add some ice.

Step 3

Now in a baking dish, combine all the remaining ingredients and semi cover with grated cheese. Bake the dish for few minutes so that the cheese melts. This healthy yet delicious pasta salad recipe tastes best when warm.

or load it with cheese or your purpose will be defeated. If you are craving for a healthy recipe, try out this delectable pasta. You can also carry it to work or have as your dinner.

INGREDIENTS

200 gm pasta penne
2 tablespoon pesto sauce
1/2 cup green olives
3 pinches salt
2 tablespoon grated cheese-cheddar

Blueberry Sauce

Blueberry Sauce is a super-delicious accompaniment with desserts that can change the taste of your dish completely by enhancing more flavours in it. A simple homemade sauce recipe that you can use for cakes, pancakes, waffles and even ice-creams, this is an amazingly delicious dish that can be prepared on any occasion. This sauce recipe is so easy-to-make that you can prepare it in just under 10 minutes. It requires blueberries, lemon juice, lime zest, and sugar to prepare this easy recipe and has a sweet and tangy flavour, which you can use a replacement for jams. You can spread blueberry sauce on a toast and have it in breakfast, your family will like it for sure. Give your taste buds a different experience with this sauce recipe, and enjoy with your loved ones!

INGREDIENTS

100 gm blueberry
1 1/2 tablespoon lemon juice
350 gm sugar
1 tablespoon lime zest

**How to make Blueberry Sauce****Step 1**

To prepare this yummy sauce recipe, wash the blueberries under running water, pat them dry and keep aside. In a blender jar, add these blueberries along with lemon juice, and blend until smooth in consistency.

Step 2

Next, add sugar and lemon zest in the blender, and blend again. Next, place a saucepan over medium flame and pour the blueberry puree in it. Bring it to a boil and switch off the burner. Let it cool at room temperature and serve chilled!

As the name suggests, Rajasthani Mirchi Vada is a traditional dish of the land of camels and deserts. This snack recipe is made using green chillies and besan. A perfect chaat recipe for those who love spicy food, it would just win your heart with its flavor. Try this easy appetizer recipe at home!

Ingredients of Rajasthani Mirchi Vada

8 green chilli
1 cup gram flour (besan)
1 teaspoon salt
1/2 cup refined oil
2 pinches powdered turmeric

How to make Rajasthani Mirchi Vada

Step 1
For making this spicy dish, you must use the long green chillies and not the regular ones. Slit the green chillies,



Mirchi Vada

remove seeds and keep aside. Now, boil potatoes with salt and mash them well after peeling them. Then, add chilli powder and coriander leaves to the potatoes and mix well.
Step 2
Make a thick batter with the flour, turmeric powder and salt and fill the chillies with the

potato mix.
Step 3
Dip the filled peppers in the batter till they are completely covered and fry them in preheated oil till golden brown. Serve hot with chutney, onion rings, beaten curd or the accompaniments of your choice.

Chinese Choley Recipe

Chinese Choley is a delicious appetizer recipe that you can prepare for your loved ones in monsoon season specifically. Though choley is counted as a stomach-filling ingredients, however, if the right combination of spices and veggies are added in this dish, it will turn into a snack that will be apt for evenings and mid-night hunger pangs. This Fusion recipe is prepared using chickpeas, onion, capsicum, carrot, corn flour and a melange of sauces that makes the dish flavourful. So, don't wait much and try this easy recipe at home for your family and friends. This chole recipe is also an apt dish to go along with cocktails and hard drinks.

Ingredients of Chinese Choley

1 cup chickpeas
1 medium chopped capsicum (green bell pepper)
100 gm green onion
50 gm chopped garlic
2 tablespoon schezwan sauce
1 tablespoon green chilli sauce
20 gm green chillies
water as required
1 medium chopped onion
1 medium carrot
10 gm chopped ginger
1 cup corn flour
1 tablespoon soy sauce
2 tablespoon tomato chilli sauce
salt as required

How to make Chinese Choley

Step 1
To prepare this delicious dish, wash chickpeas in water 2-3 times and then soak them overnight in water in a large bowl. Once they are soaked, drain the extra water and keep the bowl aside.

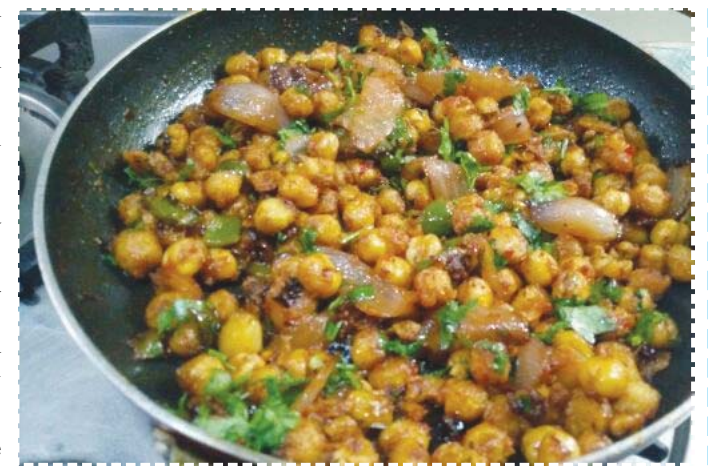
Step 2
To the soaked chickpeas, sprinkle corn flour, a bit of red chilli powder and salt over them so that they are covered completely. Freeze these choley for 15-20 minutes so that they turn white in colour.

Step 3

Take a small bowl of water and add tomato ketchup in it along with Schezwan sauce, green chilli sauce, soy sauce and a spoon of corn flour and salt as per taste. Mix well all the ingredients and make sure that the quantity of water must be such that the dish remains semi gravy.

Step 4
Put a kadhai on medium flame and heat oil in it. When the oil is hot enough, add the frozen chickpeas in it and deep fry them until they are crispy. Once done, transfer them to an absorbent paper, which will soak the extra oil.

Step 5
Now, put a frying pan on medium flame and add 2-3 teaspoons of oil in it. When the oil is hot enough, add chopped onions in it and saute them till they are brown in colour. Once they are sauteed, add onion wedges in it along with sliced green chillies, ginger and garlic. Stir and saute them well on high flame. Once they are also done, add



chopped capsicum and carrot in the pan.

Step 6
Once all veggies are done, add the mixture of all sauces made in bowl and bring it to a boil. Then, add a pinch of salt and mix once again. Make sure that not much salt is added at this point as the fried chickpeas already have salt in them.

Step 7
In the end, add fried chickpeas and spring onions in the pan and give them a nice stir. Mix them for 2 minutes and serve hot.

22 types of Indian breads that prove we live in the heaven of

Foodies



while kneading the dough, usually milk is used instead of water, to make it soft.

6. Kulcha

A Punjabi variation of naan, it is a leavened flatbread made with refined flour and cooked in tandoor. It is made with or without stuffings.

7. Appam

A South Indian flatbread made with rice and coconut milk batter, it has several variations and can be sweet as well as savoury.

8. Bhatura

Deep fried and served with Chhole, this leavened bread is crispy and much larger in size than poori.

9. Puran Poli

A popular Maharashtrian delicacy, it is a kind of paratha stuffed with chana daal, jaggery and coconut mixture and then cooked with some ghee.

10. Sheermal

An inseparable part of traditional Awadhi and Nizami cuisine, Sheermal is a leavened bread cooked in tandoor. It is flavoured with saffron and has a mildly sweet taste.

11. Bakarkhani

Bakarkhani is a leavened bread and has a biscuit like texture. It is mildly spiced, is sweet and is flavoured with saffron. It is a part of Eid celebrations and tastes great with meats and gravies.

12. Pathiri

This white, thin pancake made with rice flour, Pathiri is popular with Malabari Muslims and is an essential part of Iftaar during Ramzaan

13. Parotta

Parotta is a layered flatbread, midway between laccha paratha and tikona paratha and is popular in Kerala.

14. Laccha Paratha

It is a round bread that has several layers which are made by applying ghee while rolling the dough. It is usually served with Mughlai dishes.

15. Roti/Chapati

Round and soft, roti or chapati is made with whole-wheat flour and is a part of our daily diet.

16. Bhakri

Hard and crisp, it is an unleavened bread made with flour and is popular in Maharashtra, Goa and Gujarat.

17. Tandoori Roti

Similar to naan this bread is made of whole wheat and is cooked in clay oven at a high temperature. It is usually smeared with butter before serving.

18. Baati

Luchi is almost like puri, is more popular in Bengal and uses refined flour instead of whole wheat flour.

4. Paratha

Paratha is made with two words- parat and atta which means layered bread. A perfect paratha is the one which separates into different layers. It can be made in several ways. The triangle or tikona paratha has several layers that make it light and delicious and the stuffed parathas are slightly thick and can be stuffed with anything from meat to veggies, potatoes, paneer, cheese, sugar, gur and even dals and veggies.

5. Naan

Naan in Persian means bread. This soft, spongy leavened bread came to India from Central Asia and became an inseparable part of Mughlai food. It is cooked in tandoor and

1. Different types of Indian breads
If you are fascinated by pizzas, buns, bruschetta, bagels, baguettes, focaccia, tortilla etc, you must know that your own country has several interesting bread types made in such amazingly creative manner that they act as wonderful accompaniments to any side dish they are served with. Can you imagine an Indian thali without any kind of bread? The humble roti that we eat has even been mentioned in Tulsidas' Raamcharitmanas (1600 AD) when it resembled the katori and was probably called rotika. Similarly, Naan is believed to have come to our land from central Asia and even the Paratha finds mention in the 12th century Sanskrit encyclopaedia, Manasollasa, compiled by Someshwar III, the then ruler of Karnataka. Here is a list of Indian breads that prove India is indeed a land of diversity and unity when it comes to food.

2. Poori

The bread of happy occasions, puri is unleavened and made with whole-wheat dough and is deep fried.

3. Luchi

A Rajasthani preparation it is round and small and is served with daal and choorma.

19. Litti

A popular Bihari dish, it looks like a ball which is baked in clay oven and is stuffed with sattu. It is served with chokha made with brinjal and potatoes.



20. Kachori

It is another inalienable part of festivals and celebrations in India, kachori is thicker than poori and is stuffed with a variety of ingredients like peas, onion, potato, mawa etc. Its close cousin is Bengali Radhabalabhi which is also a type of stuffed poori, but is thinner than kachori.

21. Thalipeeth

Popular in Maharashtra, Gujarat and some other parts of Western India, Thalipeeth is made with rice, wheat, jowar, bajra, urad and chana. It is spicy and savoury.

22. Thepla

Made with whole wheat flour, gram flour, fenugreek leaves and spices, this Gujarati bread is soft and has a longer shelf life than most breads.

23. Taftan

Taftan came to India from Iran and is a leavened bread made with eggs, flour, saffron, spices and kneaded in milk.



POK on edge, Zojila cheer in India: The tale of two Kashmirs divided by LoC

Security forces in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (POK) killed at least 27 people even as they did everything possible to foil a protest. Some 100 km to the east, engineers in Jammu and Kashmir celebrated the Zojila Tunnel breakthrough. The two developments show the divergent trajectories taken by two Kashmirs divided by the Line of Control (LoC).

hundred kilometres to the east, across the Line of Control (LoC), the mood is one of progress. Not protests. Engineers in Baltal, Sonamarg and Minamarg on Tuesday met deep beneath the Himalayas to celebrate the breakthrough of the strategically vital Zojila Tunnel in Jammu and Kashmir. The engineering marvel is expected to result in Asia's longest bidirectional tunnel upon completion. The all-weather Zojila Tunnel will connect J&K to Ladakh.



Valley are integral parts of India and are central to its territorial sovereignty, Pakistan has continued to occupy parts of the region since 1947. On one side, POK is witnessing unrest over governance, inflation, political representation and allegations of state repression. On the other, India marked a major infrastructure milestone with the breakthrough of the 13.15-km Zojila Tunnel. The project follows a decade of

infrastructure expansion and public investment in Jammu and Kashmir. Once operational, the tunnel would end the annual winter isolation of vast areas beyond the Zojila Pass in Ladakh. Most importantly, the contrast goes beyond just the Zojila Tunnel or a single agitation. Over the last decade, Jammu and Kashmir has seen sustained investments in highways, tunnels, railways, power projects and tourism infrastructure. The Z-Morh Tunnel, Chenab Rail Bridge, Jammu-Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link and Zojila Tunnel are part of India's broader push to improve connectivity and integrate remote areas with the rest of the country.

handling of the region has often been highlighted in these protests in POK.

ONE REGION ON EDGE, ANOTHER BREAKS THROUGH

Tuesday, June 9, was a day of two headlines. In POK, authorities moved to block a planned long march by the banned Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC), days after deadly clashes in Rawalakot killed dozens. Official reports put the death toll at 11, though some activists and reports claimed a significantly higher number of casualties. Internet services have been suspended, hundreds have been detained, and security forces remain deployed across the region amid fears of further unrest. In India, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari attended the final breakthrough of the Zojila Tunnel in Jammu and Kashmir, where workers excavating from the Kashmir and Ladakh sides finally met underground.

New Delhi.(Agency)

Rawalakot, Muzaffarabad and Mirpur. These towns in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (POK) have been rocked by unrest, detentions and killings that have challenged Islamabad's authority in the region. Just a

The two developments, unfolding almost simultaneously on opposite sides of the LoC, show the divergent paths of the two parts of Kashmir, territories that Pakistan's misadventures in 1947 split into two different realities. While the entire Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, Gilgit-Baltistan and the Shaksgam

Delhi government issues directions to prevent dropout among Class IX students

New Delhi.(Agency)

Following the recent declaration of Class IX compartment examination results, the Delhi government has recognised an urgent need to support students who have failed multiple times in Class IX and are at risk of discontinuing their education due to lack of guidance and motivation.

In this regard, the Directorate of Education (DoE) has issued a fresh circular to all heads of government schools, directing them to proactively identify students who have failed Class IX more than once.

According to the circular, school heads have been instructed to personally invite such students and their parents to the school at a convenient time and ensure a supportive and non-judgmental environment. "The heads must personally invite these students and their parents to the school at a convenient time, ensuring a supportive and non-judgmental environment.

The core of the directive is to provide thorough counselling to both students and parents, emphasizing the importance of completing school education and the long-term benefits it brings," the circular stated.

Highlighting that lack of motivation and guidance often leads to students discontinuing their studies, the government stressed the need for schools to encourage students to continue their education through regular schooling.

However, if students or parents remain hesitant, the circular directs school heads to inform them about alternative educational pathways, particularly the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) project.

"If students still do not want to continue with schooling, then he/she should be convinced to take immediate admission in Class X through NIOS.

Through NIOS, students can directly enroll in Class X, choose subjects according to their strengths, including lighter subjects if desired, and study at their own pace, thus saving a year and reducing academic pressure," the circular read.

DoE pushes NIOS path for students

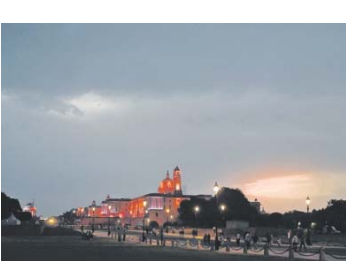
The DoE stated that parents should be reassured that students passing Class X through NIOS would remain eligible for admission to Class XI in their parent schools. The circular said such interventions could help prevent dropouts.

Rain & dust storms bring respite to Delhi; IMD predicts more

New Delhi.(Agency)

The national capital witnessed light rain showers, dust storms and strong winds on Tuesday evening, bringing much-needed respite from soaring temperatures. Earlier in the day, the city experienced a warm morning as the maximum temperature touched 43.5 degrees Celsius.

However, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted rain and thunderstorms over the next few days, although the maximum temperature is expected to



remain between 41 and 45 degrees Celsius till June 11. The weather department said thundery development is likely towards Wednesday afternoon and evening, when the maximum

temperature is expected to range between 43 and 45 degrees Celsius. Light rain accompanied by thunderstorms and lightning has also been forecast for June 11 and 12. According to the IMD's district-level nowcast, moderate rainfall accompanied by thunderstorms, lightning and wind speeds of 60-80 kmph, gusting up to 90 kmph, was very likely in parts of the city.

Light to moderate rainfall or thunderstorms with lightning and wind speeds of 40-50 kmph were also predicted in several other areas. An orange alert was issued for parts of outer north Delhi, northwest Delhi, northeast Delhi and adjoining areas, where light to moderate rainfall, thunderstorms and strong winds were expected. Meanwhile, a red alert was issued for other parts of the city.

Orange, red alerts sounded for parts of the city

An orange alert was issued for parts of outer north Delhi, northwest Delhi, northeast Delhi and adjoining areas, where light to moderate rainfall, thunderstorms and strong winds were expected.

Air India 171 needs answers, not another year of speculation

New Delhi.(Agency)

Three seconds after Air India Flight 171 lifted off from Ahmedabad on June 12, 2025, two fuel switches in its cockpit moved to the cut-off position, starving both engines of fuel. Half a minute later, the London-bound Boeing 787 Dreamliner crashed into a medical hostel complex, killing 260 people. It was India's deadliest aviation disaster since the 1996 Charkhi Dadri mid-air collision, the world's deadliest air accident in a decade, and the first crash in which a Dreamliner was destroyed.

Of the 230 passengers and 12 crew members, all but one (British national Vishwash Kumar Ramesh, sitting on the now-famous seat 11A next to an emergency exit) died. Another 19 people, at the medical hostel complex into which Air India 171 crashed, were

killed on the ground. The crash resulted in an inferno reaching temperatures of up to 1,000 degrees Celsius and left many bodies so badly mutilated that identification took weeks of painstaking DNA matching.

In the year since, Air India 171 has



existed in a space between two nightmare theories, both linked to those two fuel switches. One is human: Deliberate or inadvertent action in the cockpit moved the fuel switches and

cut fuel to both engines seconds after take-off. The other is technical: A modern Boeing 787 Dreamliner, built with multiple backup systems, suffered a catastrophic mechanical or electrical failure or failures that starved both engines of fuel at the worst possible moment.

Neither theory has been established. But both have been intensely argued over in media reports and social media. One theory can destroy the reputation of a dead pilot who cannot defend himself and raise troubling questions for the aviator community at large. The other poses multibillion-dollar consequences for the US-based Boeing, Air India, and the wider aviation industry. That is the high-pressure backdrop against which the first anniversary of the crash arrives on June 12.

In major defence boost, Army seeks 300 K9 Vajra artillery guns at Rs 23,000 crore

New Delhi.(Agency)

The Indian Army is preparing for what could become its largest artillery modernisation programme in decades, with plans to seek approval for the procurement of more than 300 additional K9 Vajra self-propelled howitzers in a deal estimated to be valued at around Rs 23,000 crore.

Top defence sources told that the proposal is expected to be placed before the Defence Procurement Board (DPB) this week. If approved, the contract is likely to be awarded to Larsen & Toubro (L&T), which manufactures the K9 Vajra-T in India under a technology partnership with South Korean defence major Hanwha Aerospace. The proposed acquisition would significantly expand the Army's



artillery inventory, taking the total number of K9 Vajra guns ordered by India to more than 500.

Defence planners view the expansion as a critical step in strengthening long-range firepower across both the western front and the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China, amid a rapidly evolving security environment. The move comes as the Indian military continues to draw lessons from recent operational requirements, including the

high-intensity precision strike capabilities demonstrated during Operation Sindoor.

Military planners have increasingly emphasised the importance of responsive and mobile artillery systems capable of delivering accurate fire support across varied terrain and operational scenarios.

WHY K9 VAJRA IS SPECIAL

The K9 Vajra, a 155mm/52-calibre tracked self-propelled artillery platform, is capable of engaging targets at ranges exceeding 40 kilometres.

Its ability to quickly fire and relocate, commonly referred to as "shoot-and-scoot", reduces vulnerability to counter-battery fire and has made it a key component of modern battlefield doctrine. The platform also offers armoured protection and high mobility, enabling deployment.

Delhi hotel fire: B&B's licensing, compliance with safety rules under lens

Mishra was arrested on Monday after surrendering before a city court in connection with the devastating fire that killed 22 people, including 13 foreign nationals.

New Delhi.(Agency)

Delhi Police, in its initial investigation into the Malviya Nagar hotel fire, has learnt that Flourish Stays B&B in Hauz Rani was functioning in two shifts and that arrested employee Jay Mishra supervised most day-to-day hotel operations, sources said.

Mishra was arrested on Monday after surrendering before a city court in connection with the devastating fire that killed 22 people, including 13 foreign nationals.

According to sources, investigators are examining the hotel's licensing process, operational practices, documentation and compliance with safety norms. Police have questioned both Mishra and hotel owner Lavkesh Bajaj regarding the incident.

Sources said Mishra received a higher salary than other employees and was considered the owner's most trusted staff member. During questioning about the B&B licence, Mishra reportedly told investigators that he had submitted his personal documents at the owner's request.

Police are now trying to ascertain why and how an employee's documents were allegedly used in the licensing process when Bajaj was the actual owner of the hotel.

Mishra also handled staff deployment, employee duties, guest records, administrative work and overall operational arrangements at the property. Police further questioned him regarding guest registers, identity records, licensing papers and other documents. It was claimed that all records were destroyed in the fire, though investigators are verifying the claim.

Investigators are also checking whether Mishra was present at the spot during the incident. Sources said he allegedly spent time travelling around the city by bus and metro while tracking developments through news reports.

Police have already arrested hotel chef Keshav Negi, who has been sent to judicial custody. Investigators are also likely to approach IIT-Delhi for a structural and fire-propagation analysis to determine the cause behind the rapid spread of the blaze. Police suspect the fire may have started after an air fryer was accidentally left switched on while tea was being prepared.

Over 1.2K encroachments cleared in 4-day drive to ease traffic congestion in Delhi

New Delhi.(Agency)

The Delhi Police and the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) jointly carried out a city-wide drive against encroachments and unauthorised parking to reclaim road space, improve pedestrian safety, ease traffic congestion and promote the use of designated parking facilities.

The special enforcement drive was conducted across all traffic circles and ranges from June 3 to June 6. It targeted major arterial roads, market areas, footpaths, service lanes, designated parking influence zones and other traffic-sensitive locations where illegal occupation of public spaces and unauthorised parking were disrupting traffic movement and posing safety risks, said Additional Commissioner of Police (Traffic Headquarters) Vijayanta Goyal Arya.

In the first week of June alone, action was taken at 144 locations across the national capital. During the operation, authorities removed 1,264 rehri-patra encroachments from roads and footpaths and cleared 1,015 temporary kiosks, illegal extensions, unauthorised commercial displays and other obstructive structures.

"Market spill-over, roadside vending and illegal parking reduce the effective width of roads and create congestion during peak hours. Unauthorised parking occupies usable carriageway space, reduces the effective width of the road and discourages the use of nearby designated parking facilities," Arya mentioned. The drive also led to the removal of 3,123 abandoned or illegally parked vehicles that were obstructing carriageways and footpaths. In addition, 55,532 enforcement actions were initiated against



motorists and other violators found hindering traffic flow. A key focus of the campaign was to improve the utilisation of designated parking facilities by discouraging roadside parking and encouraging motorists to use authorised parking spaces. According to the police, unauthorised encroachments and improper parking on roads and footpaths

are not merely civic violations; they directly affect road safety, pedestrian movement, road capacity and emergency response.

Special Commissioner of Police (traffic) Manish Aggarwal said commuters should refrain from parking vehicles on undesignated public roads, places and footpaths, as it hampers the movement of both vehicles and pedestrians. He urged citizens to use designated parking lots developed by civic agencies and appealed to RWAs, MWAs and the public at large to cooperate with the traffic police and civic authorities.

MCD Commissioner inspects Civil Lines zone

The Municipal Corporation of Delhi Commissioner Sanjeev Khirwar inspected various parts of the Civil Lines zone on Tuesday and reviewed the sanitation and pollution control work.

Stock markets climb in early trade on buying in blue-chips

Mumbai.(Agency)

Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty opened higher on Wednesday, supported by buying in blue-chip stocks such as Reliance Industries and ICICI Bank, and cooling crude oil prices.

The 30-share BSE Sensex rallied 303.73 points to 74,222.49 in early deals. The 50-share NSE Nifty went up by 85.40 points to 23,327.50. From the 30-Sensex firms, Hindustan Unilever, Reliance Industries, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Asian Paints, Trent and ICICI Bank were among the biggest winners. Tata Steel, Eternal Ltd, Adani Ports and Tech Mahindra were among the laggards. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, traded at around USD 91.90 per barrel.

"The market is likely to largely ignore the escalation of the conflict in West Asia as a one off. The softness in crude price indicates that. Despite the escalation, Brent crude continues to trade below USD 93 level," VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Investments Limited, said. A significant trend in global markets is the fatigue that is creeping in AI trade, he added. In Asian markets, South Korea's Kospi, Japan's Nikkei 225 index, Shanghai's SSE Composite index and Hong Kong's Hang Seng index quoted lower. US markets ended mostly lower on Tuesday.

"For Indian markets, a key positive is the cooling in crude oil prices. Brent crude has slipped below recent highs, easing some pressure on India's inflation outlook and current account concerns," Hari Prasad K, Research Analyst and Founder, Livelong Wealth, said. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 4,566.03 crore on Tuesday, according to exchange data. On Tuesday, the Sensex climbed 394.50 points, or 0.54 per cent, to settle at 73,918.76.

Rupee slips 15 paise to 95.56 against US dollar amid fresh West Asia tensions

MUMBAI.(Agency)

The rupee weakened by 15 paise to 95.56 against the US dollar in early trading on Wednesday, weighed down by a surge in crude oil prices following fresh tensions in West Asia. Forex traders said the USD/INR pair opened on a negative note after US President Donald Trump said Iran was responsible for downing an American military helicopter near the Strait of Hormuz and that the US "must" respond to the attack.

At the interbank foreign exchange market the rupee opened at 95.52, then lost ground and touched 95.56 in initial trade, registering a fall of 15 paise from its previous close. On Tuesday, the rupee appreciated 20 paise to close at 95.41 against the US dollar.

According to traders, the Indian rupee is trading with a negative bias and remains under severe pressure due to renewed geopolitical tensions in West Asia. As India heavily relies on energy imports, any spike in global crude oil prices directly widens the trade deficit and weakens the domestic currency, they said.

The United States launched retaliatory strikes against Iran after an American Apache helicopter was downed near the Strait of Hormuz. In response, Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) launched retaliatory drone and long-range missile strikes targeting US facilities across the region.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading at 99.94, up 0.03 per cent. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, was trading higher by 0.73 per cent at USD 92.12 per barrel in futures trade. On the domestic equity market front, Sensex climbed 303.73 points to 74,222.49 in early trade, while the Nifty was up 85.40 points to 23,327.50. Foreign institutional investors offloaded equities worth Rs 4,566.03 crore on a net basis on Tuesday, according to exchange data.

Zepto founders Aadit Palicha, Kaivalya Vohra receive ED summons: IPO documents

New Delhi.(Agency)

Zepto's founders Aadit Palicha and Kaivalya Vohra have received summons from the Directorate of Enforcement seeking information, according to the company's updated draft red herring prospectus filed ahead of its proposed initial public offering.

The company said Palicha and Vohra, who are key managerial personnel, had received summons from the Directorate of Enforcement under the Ministry of Finance. The filing did not provide further details on the matter. Further, as it prepares for its stock market debut, Zepto also said it plans to use part of the proceeds from the fresh issue to open about 1,904 dark stores. The company said it had expanded its dark store network from 337 stores across 11 cities as of March 31, 2024, to 1,139 stores across 66 cities as of March 31, 2026. Under its strategy section, Zepto said it plans to continue a densification approach in the country's top 50 cities. According to the filing, Zepto plans to spend up to Rs 16.29 billion on capital expenditure related to the expansion of its dark store network.

"As per the Redseer Report, quick commerce operations are primarily concentrated in high-density urban areas, with expansion into smaller towns and cities with lower population density becoming challenging as these areas are structurally different from the markets in which quick commerce works," it said. The company said the top 50 cities remained the core addressable market for quick commerce and continued to be underpenetrated. "We plan to continue pursuing this densification strategy in these top 50 cities," it said.

The filing also outlined food safety and regulatory matters involving the company.

It said the food safety officer in Ghaziabad had filed two cases involving allegations of misbranding a packet of jaggery and a packet of puffed fox nut. The Additional District Magistrate in Ghaziabad imposed penalties of Rs 1 lakh on the company and one of its managers and Rs 1.5 lakh on the manufacturer through orders dated April 30, 2024. The matters are pending.

Big push to asset, land monetisation and disinvestment

Every flare-up in the Strait of Hormuz sends shockwaves through global energy markets. Could a proposed 2,000-km undersea pipeline from Oman to Gujarat help India break free from that vulnerability? Let's find out.

New Delhi.(Agency)

With the Centre facing a significant resource crunch following a series of emergency measures to shield the economy from the West Asia crisis, the government has activated plans to mobilise additional revenue, official sources said on Tuesday. The measures include aggressively pursuing asset and land monetisation while also stepping up efforts to raise funds through disinvestment. Sources said senior government officials are holding weekly



meetings with the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) and the Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) to explore more avenues for resource mobilisation. The government hopes DIPAM would exceed the Budget

target of Rs 80,000 crore from disinvestment in FY27. One official said the proposed strategic sale of IDBI Bank, which had been put on hold due to valuation concerns and lack of investor interest, may be revived.

Gold falls below Rs 1.5 lakh, silver drops Rs 4,000: Why are precious metals falling?

New Delhi.(Agency)

Gold and silver prices witnessed a fall in India on Wednesday as a stronger US dollar, rising oil prices and fears of higher interest rates triggered heavy selling in global bullion markets. In India, gold prices dropped Rs 2,677 or 1.76% to Rs 1,49,766 per 10 grams, while silver prices fell Rs 4,347 or 1.82% to Rs 2,34,181 per kilogram, according to the latest market data. The fall came after international gold prices slipped to their lowest level in nearly 11 weeks. Spot gold was trading around \$4,181 per ounce after falling about 1.9%, while US gold futures for August delivery declined 1.9% to \$4,204.70 per ounce. WHY GOLD AND SILVER ARE FALLING

The biggest reason behind the fall is a change in expectations around US interest rates. A stronger dollar has made dollar-priced commodities such as gold more expensive for buyers using other currencies, reducing demand. At the same time, higher oil prices have increased concerns about inflation, leading investors to expect that the US Federal

Reserve could keep interest rates higher for a longer period. Higher interest rates usually hurt gold because the precious metal does not offer any fixed income, unlike bonds and other interest-bearing



assets. Ilya Spivak, head of global macro at TastyLive, told Reuters that the decline in gold was mainly driven by changing expectations around US monetary policy. "The driver really is the shift in Federal Reserve policy expectations, the rise in yields and the rise in the dollar. I think all of those things are weighing on gold," Spivak said. According to the CME

FedWatch Tool, traders are now pricing in more than a 70% chance of a US interest rate hike by December. US-IRAN CONFLICT ADDS TO MARKET VOLATILITY

The latest fall in bullion also came against the backdrop of renewed tensions between the US and Iran. The United States launched strikes against Iran after President Donald Trump said Tehran had shot down a US Apache helicopter in the Strait of Hormuz. Iran later said it targeted a US military base in Jordan and 21 other locations in the Gulf in response.

The developments have increased uncertainty in financial markets and pushed investors to reassess the outlook for inflation and interest rates. BULLION UNDER PRESSURE FROM RATE HIKE FEARS

According to Kotak Neo Commodity Research, bullion markets saw broad-based liquidation as investors reacted to rising expectations of a US Federal Reserve rate hike following strong US labour market data.

Meta partners with Reliance for its first AI data centre in India

MUMBAI.(Agency)

Despite evolving headwinds such as an above-normal heatwave, fuel-price pressure and the evolving West Asia situation, automobile retail sales registered its best ever May sales across 3-wheeler, passenger vehicle (The move comes as global technology firms race to build AI infrastructure to support growing demand for AI models, cloud services and data processing. Meta said India's massive user base and rapidly growing digital economy made it an attractive destination for such investments. The partnership further strengthens the relationship between Meta and Reliance, which has grown significantly over the past few years. META AND RELIANCE'S AI PARTNERSHIP

This is not the first AI collaboration between the two companies.

In August 2025, Meta and Reliance formed a joint venture aimed at developing AI platforms and tools for enterprises in India using Meta's Llama AI models. The partnership was designed to create AI solutions for Indian businesses by combining Meta's AI technology with Reliance's digital and infrastructure capabilities. A LONG-STANDING RELATIONSHIP

The latest data centre partnership builds on Meta's earlier investment in Reliance's digital ecosystem. In 2020, Meta invested \$5.7 billion in Jio Platforms, the digital services arm of Reliance Industries. The investment was among the largest foreign investments in India's technology sector and marked the beginning of a closer relationship between the two companies. Over the years, the partnership has expanded from digital services to AI technologies and now large-scale data

infrastructure. INDIA'S DATA CENTRE MARKET IS GROWING FAST

India's data centre industry is expected to witness strong growth over the next decade, driven by rising internet usage, increasing cloud adoption and higher demand for AI computing power. According to consulting firm IMARC Group, India's data centre market is projected to almost double in size and reach \$13.11 billion by 2034.

The growth is being supported by the country's digital transformation, increasing use of cloud technologies and rising AI workloads that require powerful computing infrastructure. The Jamnagar facility is expected to become an important part of Meta's AI infrastructure strategy in India, while also adding to Reliance's ambitions in the fast-growing data centre and AI ecosystem.

Will AI reduce hiring? TCS Chairman explains what lies ahead for IT jobs

Speaking at TCS's 31st annual general meeting, N Chandrasekaran outlined a future where AI agents become an integral part of the workforce.

New Delhi.(Agency)

The Ministry of Coal has notified the Coal Exchange Rules, 2026, paving the way for the establishment of Coal Exchanges in the country as part of efforts to modernise India's coal supply chain and create a more transparent and efficient coal market. The rules were published in the Official Gazette, following the enactment of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2025, which introduced the concept of a Mineral Exchange and empowered the Central Government to promote transparent and efficient trading of minerals, including coal and its processed forms. To facilitate the initiative, the

Ministry of Coal had already designated the Coal Controller Organisation (CCO) in December 2025 as the authority responsible for registering and regulating Coal Exchanges. Under the framework, eligible entities will be authorised by the CCO to establish and operate Coal Exchanges, frame market rules and bye-laws, and facilitate coal trading. Registrations for operating Coal Exchanges will be granted for a period of 25 years. According to the Ministry, the introduction of Coal Exchanges marks a shift in coal marketing from the traditional "one-to-many" sales model to a competitive "many-to-many" trading platform. The Ministry said the new system "will enable transparent and market-driven price discovery, improve efficiency, and provide coal producers, including commercial and captive miners, with easier access to a wider pool of buyers." It added that "Public Sector coal companies can also leverage the platform to enhance market participation." The government said the Coal Exchange initiative reflects its commitment to "enhancing ease of doing business, promoting transparency, and building a

modern, self-reliant energy ecosystem." According to the Ministry, by creating a more competitive and efficient coal market, the reform is expected to strengthen energy security, support



industrial growth and contribute to the vision of Viksit Bharat through sustainable economic development and a future-ready energy sector. AI AGENTS AND EMPLOYEES WILL WORK TOGETHER Speaking at TCS's 31st annual general meeting, Chandrasekaran outlined a future where AI agents become an integral part of the workforce. The company will have equal number of AI workers. We call them AI agents as there are employees. If the company has half a million employees, the

The government has set a target of Rs 10 lakh crore in asset monetisation during the five-year period from FY26 to FY30 under the National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP) 2.0. Under NMP 1.0, it achieved nearly 90% of its Rs 6 lakh crore target.

At the same time, the Centre is accelerating the monetisation of idle and non-core public assets through the National Land Monetisation Corporation (NLMC). According to the DPE, approvals were received during FY26 for monetisation of assets valued around Rs 10,048 crore.

The government's fiscal burden has risen following support measures announced in recent weeks. It has created a Rs 1 lakh crore Economic Stabilisation Fund to build fiscal buffers and respond to emergencies. Of this, Rs 10,000 crore has been allocated for oil marketing firms to stabilise aviation turbine fuel prices. The government has also launched a fresh Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme with an outlay of Rs 18,000 crore to support MSMEs and the aviation sector.

Equity mutual fund inflows drop 40.4% month-on-month amid global uncertainty

New Delhi.(Agency)

After several months of strong investments, inflows into equity mutual funds slowed sharply in May as investors became more cautious amid global uncertainties. Concerns around geopolitical tensions and uncertainty over a possible US-Iran peace deal appear to have weighed on sentiment, leading to lower investments across most equity fund categories. Data released by the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) on Wednesday showed that actively managed equity mutual funds received net inflows of Rs 22,907.77 crore in May. This was 40.4% lower than the Rs 38,440.20 crore invested in April.

EQUITY FUND CATEGORIES SEE BROAD-BASED DECLINE

Almost all major equity fund categories witnessed lower inflows during the month. Large-cap funds attracted Rs 1,592.93 crore in May, down 36.9% from Rs 2,524.61 crore in April. Mid-cap fund inflows fell 33.1% to Rs 4,385.06 crore, while small-cap funds received Rs 4,945.57 crore, a decline of 28.2% compared with the previous month. Flexi-cap funds, which invest across companies of different sizes, saw one of the sharpest declines. Inflows dropped nearly 49% to Rs 5,175.54 crore from Rs 10,147.85 crore in April.

Meanwhile, sectoral and thematic funds recorded inflows of just Rs 647.87 crore, down 66.8% from Rs 1,949.36 crore in the previous month. SIP FLOWS REMAIN STRONG

Despite the slowdown in lump-sum investments, systematic investment plans (SIPs) continued to show resilience. SIP contributions stood at Rs 30,954 crore in May, only slightly lower than Rs 31,115 crore recorded in April. This marks the fourth straight month in which SIP inflows remained around the Rs 31,000 crore level, highlighting the continued commitment of retail investors towards long-term investing. The steady SIP numbers suggest that investors are staying invested through regular monthly contributions even as market conditions remain uncertain.

Aditya Agrawal, CFA, Chief Investment Officer at Avis Wealth Creators, said, "The AMFI Monthly Report for May 2026 reflects a healthy but more cautious investor sentiment. Equity mutual fund inflows moderated sharply to Rs 22,907 crore, the lowest level in the last one year, amid heightened global uncertainties and market volatility."

He added, "However, SIP inflows remained resilient at Rs 30,954 crore, marking the third consecutive month above the Rs 30,000 crore level and underscoring continued retail investor confidence. Overall, while near-term risk appetite has softened, the strength of systematic investments indicates that long-term wealth creation through mutual funds remains firmly intact."

day is not far when the company will have half a million agents," he said. He further mentioned, "So the question will be what all can be done by agents, and those things will be done by agents and the company's employees and the agents will work together. And that will be the future."

HIRING WILL CONTINUE, BUT NOT AT THE SAME SCALE

The TCS chairman acknowledged that the rise of AI will inevitably affect recruitment across the IT industry. "Will it definitely lead to decrease in hiring? Absolutely. The company will not be hiring the kind of numbers that you used to hire," Chandrasekaran said. He added that this is not a challenge unique to TCS. Instead, it is a transition that the entire technology industry will have to navigate. "Why the company, the industry is likely to hire the same number of people they used to hire because certain portions of the work, in the current scheme of things, will go to AI agents," he said. The comments suggest a structural shift in workforce planning, particularly for entry-level hiring that has traditionally fuelled employment growth in India's IT services sector.

Short news

Quarry owner among four held for storing explosives near Vidhana Soudha Layout in Bengaluru

BENGALURU.(Agency)

A stone quarry owner and four others have been arrested for allegedly illegally storing more than 225 gelatin sticks and over 50 detonators at a quarry near Vidhana Soudha Layout in Bidarahalli.

Based on a tip-off, the Avalahalli police raided the quarry and seized the explosives, which were allegedly stored without the required authorisation. Police are questioning the accused to ascertain the source of the explosive materials.

Police said two personnel attached to the Avalahalli police station were on patrol around 3 am on June 4 when they received information that a quarry operated by Venkateshwara Granites Crusher near Vidhana Soudha Layout was storing explosives illegally.

The policemen visited the quarry around 4 am. During questioning, three workers identified as Vikas, Tohid and Sandeep allegedly told police that quarry owner Venkataramana Reddy and crusher supervisor Lokesh Reddy had instructed them to use detonators and other explosives stored at the site to blast rocks and supply the crushed stones to the crusher unit.

When asked to produce licences or authorisation for carrying out blasting operations, the workers reportedly stated that they did not possess any such documents. A case has been registered against Venkataramana Reddy, Lokesh Reddy and the three workers involved in the blasting operations. They have been booked under the Explosive Substances Act, the Explosives Rules and sections relating to negligent conduct with respect to explosive substances.

Mumbai stray dog suspected in killing; FSL begins forensic probe

Mumbai.(Agency)

In a first of its kind the Maharashtra's Directorate of Forensic Science Laboratories has, deployed a field forensic team to investigate the suspected killing of a stray dog from a high-profile housing society in Malad, officials said on Wednesday.

The probe centres on "Mikey", a community dog that went missing from Raheja Exotica in Madh on May 29. Actor Sanjay Dutt, a resident of the society, lodged a written complaint with Malvani police on Saturday, following which an FIR was registered, police said.

According to Kadam's statement, fellow actor and resident Manjari Phadnis had informed him about Mikey's disappearance. Both circulated missing alerts in the society's WhatsApp groups but received no information. Kadam alleged that the society secretary gave "vague answers" about the dog's whereabouts, while the manager and housekeeping supervisor refused to share CCTV footage, claiming it had been "formatted". In his complaint, Kadam alleged a "history of systemic hostility" toward Mikey by the society management. He accused the secretary and housekeeping staff of beating the dog earlier and attempting to forcibly evict it from the premises. Based on these circumstances, he expressed apprehension that Mikey was beaten to death and the body disposed of to destroy evidence, police added.

GBA Chief Commissioner

Maheshwar Rao orders fire audit of KR Market

BENGALURU.(Agency)

In the backdrop of the deadly fire at a crowded locality in New Delhi that claimed the lives of 21 people recently, Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) Chief Commissioner M Maheshwar Rao instructed officials to conduct a fire audit of the iconic KR Market.

While inspecting the market, which falls under the Bengaluru Central City Corporation (BCCC), on Tuesday, Rao told the officials to take note of worst case scenarios in case of a fire accident in the market, the effectiveness of the fire extinguishing system and the steps to be taken in such a situation. He said in case of a fire, the emergency exits should be adequate for people to be evacuated.

He said fire hydrant systems should be installed in the building so that any blaze can be doused quickly. The chief commissioner, who went around the market, seemed upset over encroachments and directed that they be identified and removed by levying fines. He told officials to take measures so that market visitors do not experience any inconvenience. "Vendors must conduct business only in the specified spots reserved for them. Officials have been given strict instructions to identify the spots and ensure that the business done by vendors is only in the designated places," Rao said.

Noticing the poor condition of public toilets in the market, he directed officials to maintain sanitation.

Gas build-up may be cause of steel plant blast: Preliminary factory report

The report mentioned that a large fireball shot up to the roof of the shop floor, while an overhead crane operating in the area also caught fire.

VISAKHAPATNAM.(Agency)

A preliminary investigation by the Department of Factories has indicated that the explosion at Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL) Visakhapatnam Steel Plant (VSP) might have been caused by the sudden release of entrapped gases in molten steel, triggering a powerful blast. According to the preliminary report prepared by the Joint Chief Inspector of Factories, the accident occurred around 4.15 pm at Continuous Casting Machine-2 in Steel Melting Shop-1 (SMS-1) during casting operations. The report stated that a full ladle carrying molten steel had been rotated and positioned for casting. However, before the slide gate could be opened to transfer the molten metal, a sudden and severe explosion occurred. The force of the blast was so intense that investigators were initially unable to determine whether the explosion originated from the ladle or the tundish. The report mentioned that a large fireball shot up to the roof of the shop floor, while an overhead crane operating in the area also caught fire.

"A worker stationed at Machine-4 reportedly witnessed flames reaching the ceiling immediately after the explosion. The workers positioned near Machine-2 bore the brunt of the impact," it noted. The report identifies the



"sudden release of entrapped gases in the liquid steel" as the anticipated cause of the incident. In steelmaking, gases such as oxygen, hydrogen and nitrogen can remain trapped within molten metal. If these gases accumulate and are suddenly released under certain conditions, they can create intense pressure, potentially leading to violent eruptions. Fresh safety concerns emerge as panel probes deadly VSP

accident

The report, however, stated that the finding is preliminary and that a detailed technical investigation is required to establish the exact sequence of events. Following the incident, factory inspectors visited the site and conducted a preliminary enquiry. Meanwhile, a three-member high-level committee constituted by the Ministry of Steel has begun its investigation. The committee comprising Priya Ranjan, Director-in-Charge, Bokaro Steel Plant, Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL); Jitendra Kumar, Chief General Manager, SAIL; and Gopal Singh, former Chief General Manager, SAIL, arrived in Visakhapatnam on Tuesday to conduct a detailed inquiry into the circumstances that led to the accident at SMS-1, which claimed several lives and injuring others.

Union Minister of State for Steel and Heavy Industries Bhupathiraju Srinivasa Varma also reviewed the progress of the inquiry and discussed the sequence of events that culminated in the tragedy.

Tannery Road, Shampura in Bengaluru turn into garbage dumps

Bengaluru.(Agency)

Try and take a walk along Tannery Road, or the lanes of Shampura. Garbage piles hog half the narrow street space and a rotting odour pervades the area. Yet, business is as usual as residents adjust and move on with their lives.

Irregular garbage collection has raised growing concerns among residents, with complaints of waste piling up along residential streets due to inconsistent pickup schedules. Local residents say that delayed waste collection has led to unhygienic conditions and a rising number of black spots in several lanes.

Residents complain that garbage collection vehicles do not arrive at fixed timings, leaving households uncertain about disposal schedules. As a result, waste is frequently left outside homes for extended

periods, attracting stray dogs and cattle, and garbage just keeps piling up near the street corner."



evenings. Sathish Kumar and Aqib, both residents of Shampura, say they never know when the garbage truck will come. "Sometimes it comes late or skips the lane,

Another resident from Tannery Road added, "The smell becomes worse during rainy days, and also blocks small drainage paths near a private school in the area."

In several narrow lanes, empty plots and roadside corners have gradually turned into regular dumping points. Locals say that once garbage starts accumulating in one spot, the pile begins to spread and turns into a massive black spot. Daily commuters and shopkeepers in the area also report difficulties, as waste piles reduce walking space and create unpleasant conditions in busy streets. Some also say that clogged drains caused by plastic waste sometimes lead to minor waterlogging during the rains.

Over 3 lakh pilgrims pay obeisance at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi in June first week

Jammu.(Agency)

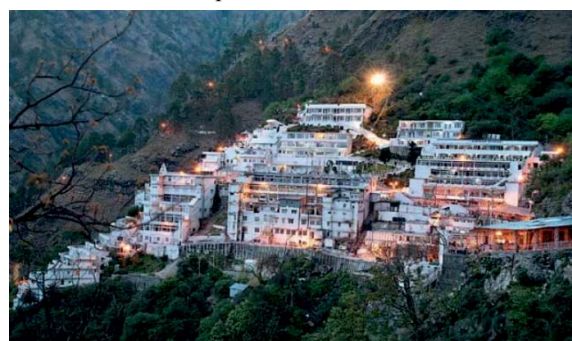
More than three lakh pilgrims paid obeisance in the first week of this month at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi cave shrine nestled in Trikuta Hills of Katra town in Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir.

Officials here on Wednesday said that with the start of the summer vacations in schools and colleges, the Katra town is witnessing a huge rush of pilgrims from across the country.

"In the first week of the current month, more than three lakh pilgrims have visited the Mata Vaishno Devi," they said. "The number of pilgrims is swelling sharply in view of the summer vacations," they said.

They said that on June 1, 37,100 devotees visited the cave shrine, on June 2, 40,200, on June 3: 40,300, June 4, 40,000, June 5, 42,500, on June 6: 47,500, on June 7: 48,300 and on June 8, 48,500 devotees paid obeisance at the holy shrine.

Officials, however, said that due to heavy rush at pilgrimage registration counters, the Shrine Board had to close the registration counters early on several occasions. On June 6, registrations were closed at 8 p.m. two hours before it's



scheduled time and similarly, on Sunday, all registration centers were closed around 7 p.m. "Following guidelines from the National Green Tribunal (NGT), the Shrine Board cannot allow more than 50,000 pilgrims per day to undertake the yatra, so the decision to

close the registration counters was taken as a preventive measure," they said.

Meanwhile, the advance online bookings for the hotels, Katra-Sanjichhat helicopter service, Ardh Kuwari-Bhawan battery car, ropeway are almost full, they added.

"To manage the crowd, the Shrine Board is allowing devotees to have darshan through all three caves," they said.

Moreover, the businesses in Katra--the base camp of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine--has witnessed a significant increase with a rising number of pilgrims. Last year, the pilgrimage tourism remained hit due to the Pahalgam terrorist attack, Operation Sindoor, cloudburst and the devastating floods in the month of August.

"After a long time, Katra has witnessed a huge rush of pilgrims and it is good for the businessmen's community," said a local hotelier.

Uttar Pradesh's peak power demand will reach 33,033 MW

Lucknow.(Agency)

Uttar Pradesh will be among the country's largest power consumers in 2026-27 as the state's peak power demand is projected to reach 33,033 MW, the second highest after Maharashtra. According to the Central Electricity Authority's (CEA) Load Generation Balance Report, despite high demand from April to September, the state is expected to remain in surplus.

The tightest situation is expected in September, when demand will reach 33,033 MW and availability will be 33,230 MW -- a difference of just 197 MW. The surplus is estimated at 3,204 MW in April, 1,374 MW in May, and 640 MW in June.

A senior energy department official said here on Wednesday that, "If the generation and transmission systems function as planned, the state will navigate the summer season without major problems."

January 2027 is the only month in the entire year when peak demand is expected to fall short. Demand that month is estimated at 28,981 MW and availability at 26,440 MW, resulting in a shortfall of 2,541 MW.

Uttar Pradesh ranks second in peak demand, behind Maharashtra with 36,858 MW, ahead of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and Rajasthan. This highlights the state's growing importance in the power sector. Energy Minister AK Sharma claimed that Uttar Pradesh topped the list of states in meeting peak demand by supplying 31,824 MW on the night of May 24, exceeding Maharashtra's 29,463 MW and the highest supply recorded by any state so far. The previous state record was 31,486 MW in 2025.

Bihar: Amul to set up Rs 200 cr dairy processing unit in Fatuha, 200 jobs likely

Patna.(Agency)

In a significant boost to dairy and food processing sector, Bihar government has approved the establishment of a dairy processing unit by Kaira District Cooperative Milk Producers' union Limited (Amul Dairy) in the Fatuha Industrial Area near Patna.

Bihar Industries Minister Shreyasi Singh said here on Wednesday the state government is committed to promoting agriculture- and livestock-based industries. She stated that investments in the dairy sector would play a vital role in strengthening the rural economy, increasing farmers' incomes and expanding the food processing industry. "The government is continuously working to transform Bihar

into a major hub for agriculture and food processing-based industries," she said. Industries Department Secretary and Managing Director of BIADA and BIAEDA, Kundan Kumar said that the project, which involves an investment of around Rs 200 crore, is expected to generate nearly 200 direct and indirect employment opportunities in the state.

He said the project has already been approved by the Project Clearance Committee of the Bihar Industrial Area Development Authority (BIADA).

According to him, Amul Dairy has been allotted land in the Fatuha Industrial Area to establish a dairy manufacturing and

processing facility. The proposed unit will be developed on approximately 13 acres and



will focus on the production and processing of milk and a range of fresh dairy products.

He said the project would significantly enhance Bihar's dairy processing capacity and provide local milk producers with improved market access. It is also expected to strengthen the dairy value chain and promote the growth of dairy-based industries in the state.

Kumar said Bihar is providing investors with world-class infrastructure, transparent procedures and investor-friendly policies. He added that growing investments in the dairy and food processing sectors would accelerate the state's industrial development while creating new employment and skill-development opportunities for local youth.

NEWS BOX

Asian Games: No Babar, Shaheen as Sahibzada Farhan to lead Pakistan's young squad

New Delhi, (Agency)

Pakistan have named Sahibzada Farhan captain for the 2026 Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, with the Pakistan Cricket Board opting for a young 15-member squad and leaving out several established white-ball names, including Babar Azam, Shaheen Shah Afridi, Salman Ali Agha and Shadab Khan. Abdul Samad has been named vice-captain, while four players in the squad, Akif Javed, Ali Raza, Maaz Sadaqat and Saad Masood, are yet to make their T20I debuts for Pakistan. The selection marks a clear shift in approach following Pakistan's recent tournament disappointments. They exited the recently concluded T20 World Cup at the Super 8 stage and also fell short against India in the Asia Cup final. Against that backdrop, the PCB has chosen a squad built around emerging players for a multi-sport event in which the men's cricket competition begins on September 24,



with the medal matches scheduled for October 3. Farhan, 30, is among the most experienced players in the squad. He has played 46 T20Is for Pakistan, scoring 1,305 runs, including two centuries and 10 fifties, and finished as the leading run-scorer at the 2026 T20 World Cup. Despite those credentials, he has never led Pakistan in either white-ball format. Samad has played five T20Is but has not featured in the format for Pakistan since March last year. More recently, he was part of the ODI series against Australia. The PCB's selection underlines its stated focus on giving younger players greater exposure. In a release, the board said: "Among the 15-member squad, Akif Javed, Ali Raza, Maaz Sadaqat and Saad Masood are the four players yet to represent Pakistan in the T20I format. Additionally, 14 of the 15 players selected for the Asian Games squad are part of the NCA White-Ball Camp, which is set to commence in Lahore from Monday, 15 June." The composition of the squad reflects the board's broader development plans, with the majority of the players already integrated into the NCA's white-ball programme ahead of the tournament. Usman Khan has been selected as the primary wicketkeeper in a squad that looks markedly different from the one Pakistan fielded at the T20 World Cup earlier this year. Senior players and established leaders have been left out.

India Women aim to erase T20 World Cup scars after ODI title glory



Ahmedabad, (Agency)

The memories of the Women's ODI World Cup triumph are still fresh. Harmanpreet Kaur, taking the catch to dismiss Nadine de Klerk, feels like it happened only yesterday; such was the impact and significance of that moment. But that victory is now in the past. India still have unfinished business in the T20 format as they prepare to take the field in the Women's T20 World Cup. In 2020, Alyssa Healy gave them nightmares in broad daylight at the Melbourne Cricket Ground as Australia outclassed India in their first-ever final in the tournament's history. In 2024, when the World Cup was held in the UAE, India entered as one of the favourites because of their familiarity with the conditions, but their campaign ended in disappointment as they crashed out in the group stages. In between, in 2023, India had a golden opportunity to beat Australia in the semi-finals, only to fall short after stumbling at the death. But all of that is now part of history. In the ODI World Cup in 2017, India were undone by a spell from hell by Anya Shrubsole at Lord's, while Deepti Sharma's untimely no-ball in 2022 denied them a place in the semi-finals. There will, therefore, be hope that if India could put aside years of heartbreak in ODIs to finally lift the World Cup, they can do the same in T20Is as well. This will be India's first ICC tournament since becoming world champions last year, and expectations will undoubtedly be high. In fact, the spotlight on them is likely to be far brighter than it was the last time they entered a global event.

POOR FORM TO HURT INDIA?

India have endured a mixed run in the last few months. They began with a thumping 5-0 series win over Sri Lanka at home before following it up with a 2-1 triumph over Australia. That victory was particularly special as it marked India's first bilateral series win over Australia in a decade. Shreyanka Patil, who made her international comeback during the series, played a key role in the decider in Adelaide and was named Player of the Match.

World Cup 2026: England can dare to dream but are not heavy favourites, says Thomas Tuchel

England manager Thomas Tuchel believes his side have the quality to challenge for the World Cup title, but insists they cannot be considered favourites given their long wait for success on football's biggest stage.

New Delhi, (Agency)

Thomas Tuchel believes England have every reason to dream of World Cup glory, but the German manager is not ready to place his side among the favourites for the 2026 tournament. With bookmakers listing England among the leading contenders, expectations are once again building around a team that has reached the latter stages of recent major tournaments. Yet Tuchel feels the country's 60-year wait for a second World Cup title makes it difficult to justify the favourite tag. Speaking in Florida ahead of England's final warm-up match against Costa Rica, Tuchel pointed to the weight of history and the presence of more established winners in the field. "We're not the top favourites. We can't be, because we haven't won it for so, so many years," Tuchel said. FIFA



World Cup 2026, Group L preview: Will England finally bring the trophy home? "There are proven winners in the tournament with more success in recent tournaments. So, these are the favourites, and we compete for the trophy." To explain his point, Tuchel turned to tennis. He compared England's World Cup ambitions to a player arriving at Wimbledon

without having previously lifted the trophy. "It's just like if you go to Wimbledon and you have never won it, you're not the favourite. But you can win it, of course, and we want to win it," he said. But we know what it takes, and it also takes a calm mindset and focus on our steps. "The former Chelsea and Bayern Munich manager will be leading a national side at a

World Cup for the first time. However, he believes years of navigating Champions League knockout campaigns have given him a clear understanding of tournament football and the importance of focusing only on the next challenge. Rather than looking ahead to potential semi-finals or finals, Tuchel wants England to concentrate on progressing through the group stage before turning their attention to what comes next. "It is my opinion and my conviction that once you reach the quarter-finals, you can go all the way," he said.

"I think it's important not to try to digest this whole tournament in one piece, and to focus on what we can influence. At the moment, this is prep camp and then we will take care of the group stage. "Make sure that you go through your group, and don't get distracted by overthinking." England begin their campaign on June 17 in Dallas against Croatia, a rematch of the 2018 World Cup semifinal that ended in disappointment for the Three Lions.

Despite his reluctance to call England favourites, Tuchel insisted there is no shortage of belief within the squad. "I have belief. We all have belief," he said. "We all have a dream, but it comes with responsibility and hard work and commitment and discipline, and sometimes it comes with disappointment and setbacks.

Writing exams and beating Full Members? Netherlands women eye more at T20 World Cup

The Netherlands head into their maiden Women's T20 World Cup believing they can compete with the sport's biggest teams after a historic win over Bangladesh. For a squad balancing studies, jobs, and cricket, the tournament is also a chance to earn franchise opportunities and keep their cricketing dreams alive.

IRVINE, Calif. (Agency)

"I think we really want to show the world, not only the Netherlands, but the world that we are good and that we should get asked for franchise cricket. Those words from Netherlands fast bowler Isabel van der Woning, in an exclusive conversation with India Today, are about more than showcasing her own talent or that of her teammates. They reflect the next frontier for Dutch women's cricket. When India captain Harmanpreet Kaur shared India's Women's ODI World Cup triumph with pioneers such as Mithali Raj, Anjum Chopra and Jhulan Goswami, it was

an acknowledgement of the sacrifices made by an earlier generation. Long before central contracts, sold-out stadiums and multi-crore Women's Premier League (WPL) deals transformed the game, India's women



play their maiden women's global tournament, the Dutch are not merely preparing to face India, Australia, South Africa and Bangladesh. They are carrying the hopes of a generation of cricketers who continue to juggle studies, work and international cricket while chasing opportunities that players from Full Member nations often take for granted.

For some, a successful World Cup could mean recognition. For others, it could mean a franchise contract. For many, it could simply mean the chance to keep playing the game they love a little longer. And after a historic victory over Bangladesh, their first win over a women's Full Member in years, the Netherlands head into the tournament believing they belong. "We want to move some more mountains now," Captain Babette de Leeuw told India Today after the landmark result.

After Virat Kohli, Hardik Pandya ruled out of ODI series vs Afghanistan

IRVINE, Calif. (Agency)

India have suffered yet another blow to their ODI squad ahead of the three-match ODI series against Afghanistan. After Virat Kohli, Hardik Pandya has been ruled out of the series, which is set to begin India's preparations for the 2027 ODI World Cup, to be held in South Africa.

Indian Cricket Board sources have told India Today that Hardik is suffering from a quadriceps injury which will take three weeks to heal. Pandya had injured his back during the Indian Premier League 2026 while playing for Mumbai Indians. The MI captain only played 10 matches in the tournament and was away from the team for the final games of the league stage. Pandya was at the BCCI's Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru to get clearance for the back spasm injury that he sustained in the IPL while playing for Mumbai Indians. It is learnt that the new injury could be a result of him bowling his full quota of 10 overs at the CoE during the assessment. With three weeks for recovery, there



is absolutely no chance of him playing the ODI series as his rehabilitation will not be complete," said a BCCI source. Pandya's injury adds another layer of uncertainty to the Indian team, who are already without the services of Virat Kohli. The talismanic India batter was injured in the IPL final against Gujarat Titans, when he pulled his hamstring while batting. Apart from Kohli, there is uncertainty around the availability of former India captain Rohit Sharma as well, who struggled with fitness in the IPL months. While Yashasvi Jaiswal has replaced Kohli, the BCCI are yet to announce a replacement for Hardik Pandya or, for that matter, confirm his injury. The ODI series against Afghanistan begins on Saturday in Dharamsala, followed by games in Lucknow and Chennai on June 17 and 20 respectively.

World Championship a burden? Most people lucky not to achieve it, says D Gukesh

New Delhi (Agency)

The romanticised narrative of elite sport dictates that ascending to the absolute pinnacle brings ultimate liberation. For D Gukesh, the reality of wearing the heaviest crown in chess has been starkly different. Since creating history to become the youngest undisputed World Chess Champion, the 20-year-old Indian maestro has found himself locked in a punishing, complex slump.

The technical fallout of this exhausting phase was laid bare at the recent Norway Chess tournament in Oslo. There, a bruised Gukesh endured a disastrous campaign, finishing at the bottom of the six-player field. He managed just a single classical victory while suffering four painful defeats, including a final-round loss to Magnus Carlsen, causing his live rating to bleed heavily and dropping him out of the world's top 10. Yet, the modern chess calendar permits no quiet convalescence. Gukesh is actively hurtling toward a monumental World Chess



Championship title defense against Javokhir Sindarov, the brilliant 20-year-old Uzbek challenger who stormed through the Candidates Tournament to set up a tantalising clash of generations. Speaking to the Hindustan Times, Gukesh opened up about the profound mental hurdles holding him back. "Managing expectations," Gukesh revealed, defining the steepest obstacle of his reign. "As much as you try to switch off from the outside world, you're still aware that there is this elephant in the room - of expectations from you and also you expect something from yourself. In general, I'm an ambitious player

and I keep going for wins. Considering these things, it has been pretty hard but okay, it's a challenge. I either break from it or grow through it. Right now, it is not looking great. Let's see." This over-ambition has directly bled into his results. At Norway Chess, his trademark calculating objectivity was occasionally replaced by a desperate tendency to force complications, leading to a humbling tournament performance rating of just 2636.

PEOPLE LUCKY NOT TO WIN WORLD TITLE: GUKESH

For a prodigy who spent his entire adolescence single-mindedly hunting for a singular prize, scaling the peak at 18 removed the primary engine that once drove his daily work. Gukesh offered a remarkably candid piece of introspection on this existential trap, admitting that climbing the mountain so early creates a unique psychological vacuum. For anybody, becoming a world champion is such a huge drive that most people are lucky not to achieve it," Gukesh said.

World Cup warm-up: Messi scores on return as Argentina register 3-0 win vs Iceland

New Delhi, (Agency)

Lionel Messi returned from injury with a goal as Argentina completed their FIFA World Cup preparations with a comfortable 3-0 victory over Iceland in Auburn, Alabama, on Tuesday. The reigning world champions extended their winning streak to seven matches and received a timely boost ahead of the tournament, with Messi making an immediate impact after coming off the bench in the second half. Argentina's first meeting with European opposition since the 2022 World Cup final began at a lively pace. Iceland should have taken the lead inside the opening minutes when Mikael Ellertsson found himself with the goal at his mercy, only to blaze over from close range. The miss proved costly. Argentina capitalised shortly afterwards when Iceland failed to clear a deep free-kick. The loose ball fell kindly to Valentin Barco, who drilled a first-time effort into the bottom corner beyond Elías Rafn Lafsson to give Lionel Scaloni's side an early advantage. Barco continued to trouble



the Icelandic defence and nearly turned provider midway through the first half. His perfectly weighted through ball released Nico Paz, but the youngster was denied by Lafsson at the near post as Argentina went into the break with a slender one-goal lead. Scaloni rang the changes at half-time, introducing Alexis Mac

Allister, Enzo Fernandez and Lautaro Martinez among five substitutions. The changes increased Argentina's attacking threat, but a second goal remained elusive. Mac Allister rattled the woodwork just after the hour mark from Martinez's clipped pass, while the Inter Milan striker twice struck the post as

Iceland survived a sustained spell of pressure. The crowd's attention, however, was fixed on Messi. The eight-time Ballon d'Or winner started on the bench as he continued his recovery from muscle fatigue suffered during Inter Miami's win over Philadelphia last month. When he finally entered the match in the closing stages, Messi needed only moments to leave his mark. His first involvement was a defense-splitting pass that sent Martinez through on goal. The striker was brought down by Lafsson inside the area, and Messi stepped up to dispatch the resulting penalty into the top corner for his 117th international goal.

Argentina were not finished. Messi was again involved in the move that sealed the result, picking out Rodrigo De Paul, whose low cross was turned in by Thiago Almada from close range. The victory capped a productive warm-up campaign for Argentina and, perhaps more importantly, confirmed Messi's readiness for the tournament.



Nora Fatehi's

FIFA World Cup 2026 Song Siir Siir Is Out; Star Opens Up About Indian Representation

Nora Fatehi's latest song Siir Siir, created in collaboration with music producer Sanjoy and French singer Vegeedream, is officially out now. The track is part of the official music project for the FIFA World Cup 2026 and features on the tournament's official album which brings together artists from different musical backgrounds across the world. The release marks a major international milestone for Nora.

Speaking about the song, Nora said, "This is song is a very special one for me. Through Siir Siir, we wanted to try and blend different cultural influences and create something that feels truly global yet unique. I really wanted to bring together every part of my identity, from my Moroccan roots, to my Canadian roots as well as the huge influence India has had on me with all the love I have received from the country and the South Asian community at large – which has been so instrumental in my journey."

She added, "What makes this song even more meaningful is the strong Indian representation behind the scenes, from the choreographer and dancers to the styling team, everyone played a huge role in bringing this vision to life."

Creating this song for a global event like the FIFA World Cup 2026 for me is almost unreal!

It feels like a full-circle moment where different cultures, sounds and people come together. In my own way I hope I am able to bring the amazing sounds of the East to the world."

What makes the project special is its strong Indian connection. A large part of the music video team, including the choreographer, dancers and stylists, is Indian. While Nora Fatehi has been expanding her international career for years, being associated with the FIFA World Cup for a second time puts her back on one of the world's biggest stages and further boosts her global profile.



'Pankha Leke Khada Hawa De Raha Tha': Bharti Singh Recalls ROFL Story About Madhuri Dixit's Son From RRRPK Set



Madhuri Dixit, Triptii Dimri and Dharna Durga, who were busy promoting their latest release, Maa Behen, recently graced comedian Bharti Singh and her husband Haash Limbachiyaa's YouTube channel. During the candid and fun interaction, Bharti and Haash recalled a hilarious anecdote from the sets of Karan Johar's Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani, where Madhuri's son Arin and Arbaaz Khan's son Arhaan Khan were working as assistant directors.

Recalling their surprise at discovering that Madhuri Dixit and Dr Shriram Nene's son was working as an assistant director on the project, Haash shared that Karan Johar had invited them to film the Dhanlakhmi advertisement sequence featured in the movie. He said, "Vahan par Madhuri ma'am ka beta assist kar raha hai aur humko nahi pata. Ek sundar sa, pyaara sa ladka aaya aur pankha leke khada hawa de raha tha. Maine kaha nahi beta, it's okay. Fir Karan sir aaye, 'he's Madhuri's son' (There, Madhuri ma'am's son was assisting on set and we had no idea. A sweet, good-looking young boy came over and stood there holding a fan, fanning us. I told him, 'No, no beta, it's okay.' Then Karan sir came and said, 'He's Madhuri's son')."

To this, Bharti added that they got nervous after Karan informed them that he was Arin, Madhuri's son. She added, "Uska pankha theek chal raha tha, humara andar se ulta ghumne lag gaya. Humari saari garmi chali gayi. Humari hawa tight ho rahi thi. Jab Karan sir ne btaaya, hum dono khade hogye (His fan was working perfectly, but inside, our heads started spinning. We became nervous and flustered. The moment Karan sir told us who he was, both of us immediately stood up)."

Haash added, "Humne pauna ghanta usko bola ki rehne do, but woh bhi karke hi gaya, hawa deke hi gaya. Main soch raha arey please yaar mat kar (For nearly 45 minutes, we kept telling him not to bother, but he still insisted on doing it and continued fanning us. I was thinking, 'Please, yaar, don't do this')." Bharti also revealed that they were surprised to see Arhaan Khan bringing a chair for them.

'There Was Arjun Kapoor...': Farah Khan Reveals She Choreographed Sonam Kapoor's Sangeet As Her Wedding Gift



Filmmaker and choreographer Farah Khan recently made a surprising revelation on her YouTube channel. The director revealed that she had choreographed the entire sangeet ceremony of Bollywood actress Sonam Kapoor's wedding as a special marriage gift for the actress.

The revelation was made during a recent episode of Farah Khan's YouTube vlog featuring actor-dancer Shantanu Maheshwari and reality show star Shruti Sinha. During their conversation, Shruti recalled assisting Farah at Sonam Kapoor's wedding festivities, which led to the choreographer to share an interesting behind-the-scenes anecdote.

Speaking about the event, Farah said, "At Sonam Kapoor's wedding, my wedding gift was that I would choreograph the sangeet."

She further recalled how her longtime assistant Firoz, along with Shruti, had worked alongside her during the preparations for the grand celebration.

"So, Firoz, my old assistant was with me, and I think Shruti came with Firoz."

She added, "There was Sonam, there was Arjun Kapoor, there was Masaba, there was Rhea Kapoor, Jacqueline Fernandez... everyone was being taught by Shruti."

The conversation took a nostalgic turn when Shruti remembered being praised by Farah during the hectic rehearsals. Shruti revealed that Farah had singled her out as one of the best assistants on the team while several celebrities were busy rehearsing for their performances. "There were two assistants, and I remember Farah Ma'am scolding the other one a lot. Pointing at me she said, 'this girl is doing well, everyone follow this girl', recalled Shruti.

For the uninitiated, Sonam Kapoor tied the knot with businessman Anand Ahuja on May 8, 2018, in Mumbai. The wedding was one of the most talked-about celebrity events of the year and was attended by the who's who of Bollywood. The sangeet ceremony saw Bollywood bigwigs like Karan Johar, Salman Khan, Anil Kapoor, Arjun Kapoor set the stage on fire. Talking about Farah Khan, she remains one of Bollywood's most celebrated choreographers and filmmakers.

Shraddha Kapoor

And Director Laxman Utekar's Biopic Eetha Locks Release Date

Shraddha Kapoor's upcoming biographical drama Eetha has officially locked its release date. Directed by filmmaker Laxman Utekar, the film is expected to bring an inspiring real-life story to the big screen, with Shraddha stepping into a challenging and emotionally demanding role. The film is all set to hit the screens on this Raksha Bandhan, i.e August 28.



Trade Analyst Taran Adarsh announced the film and its release date, "#Xclusiv... DINESH VIJAN - LAXMAN UTEKAR REUNITE: SHRADDHA KAPOOR STARS IN 'EETHA' - RELEASE DATE LOCKED... Following the blockbuster success of #Chhaava, Dinesh Vijan and Laxman Utekar reunite for #Eetha – a bold and emotionally charged film that features #ShraddhaKapoor in a powerful, author-backed role. The release date has been locked:

28 Aug 2026 [#RakshaBandhan]. The film also features #RandeepHooda and #MohdZeeshanAyyub in pivotal roles." Shraddha Kapoor reportedly wrapped up shooting for Eetha in May. The much-anticipated biopic is based on legendary Tamasha artiste Vithabai Narayangaonkar. The film, which focusses on her extraordinary journey between 1940 and 1990, concluded its shoot with a grand montage song sequence filmed in Bhor, Maharashtra.

As reported by Mid-day, on May 5, the makers reached its finish line with a massive montage song, featuring Kapoor and a crowd of 800 people, shot in Bhor, Maharashtra. "The final song has a montage that chronicles the journey of Shraddha's character from a young woman to her brush with fame and finally how she falls on hard times. Like the remaining numbers, this too has been choreographed by Vaibhavi Merchant," said a source. The portal also informed that it was the end of the 60-day schedule that began in March. The team shot in Madh Island in Mumbai, Solapur, Aundhewadi, Satara, and Nashik.

In November, 2025, Shraddha Kapoor started shooting for Eetha. Directed by Laxman Utekar, the project marks Shraddha's first collaboration with the filmmaker and is being produced by Dinesh Vijan's Maddock Films.



NEWS BOX

Death toll from Philippines quake rises to 46

PHILIPPINES. (Agency)
Rescuers in the southern Philippines pulled a body from the rubble of a collapsed supermarket on Wednesday, as the death toll from a major earthquake climbed to 46. The 7.8-magnitude tremor just off the coast of Mindanao on Monday brought down buildings, triggered landslides and set off tsunami warnings across a swathe of the southern island. Joey Deluio, 39, was one of two employees at a supermarket in General Santos City that has been the focus of recovery efforts despite the constant threat of aftershocks. Life-detecting equipment had traced a "weak pulse" earlier in the operation, local rescuer Michelle Chua told AFP on Wednesday, but "when they got to the body... there were no signs of life." Deluio's body was found pinned between two beams, Chua added. The national disaster agency raised the death toll to 45 on Wednesday, while the number of people missing jumped dramatically from four to 17. However, the figure for fatalities did not include Deluio, the civil defence office confirmed. Most of the additional dead were from Davao Occidental province, and most had been killed in landslides or collapsing buildings, civil defence official Rafaellito Alejandro said in a radio interview.

Indian-Origin Cop Killed In Canada After 18-Year-Old Man Hit Him With Car

Ottawa. (Agency)
An Indian-origin man, working as an officer with the Ontario Provincial Police in Canada, was killed near the town of Hearst while on duty. Provincial Constable Tarun Bali, 29, was seriously injured after he was hit by a vehicle during an investigation and later pronounced dead, according to police. The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) have arrested an 18-year-old man for the first-degree murder of Bali. The accused has been charged with two counts each of flight from police and dangerous driving.

How Tarun Bali Was Killed
According to OPP Commissioner Thomas Carrique, the accused had escaped from a hospital, where he was being assessed under the Mental Health Act. Officers were trying to apprehend him when the accused allegedly hit Bali with a vehicle. Other police officers later took the accused into custody, Carrique said. The officer said the OPP criminal investigation branch was looking into Bali's death in conjunction with the Office of the Chief Coroner and the Ontario Forensic Pathology Service.

What Canada Police Said
In a statement announcing Indo-Canadian Bali's death, Carrique said, "It is with deep sorrow that I confirm that OPP Provincial Constable Tarun Bali was killed in the line of duty this afternoon in Hearst. "His courage and commitment to serving others will never be forgotten. As we grieve this immeasurable loss, I extend our heartfelt condolences to his loved ones, colleagues and the policing community." Bali was assigned to the Dufferin detachment in southern Ontario and had more than two years of service. Police records showed that he had previously completed rotations in the James Bay detachment area.

Uranium Ban To Site Closures: What US Wants From Iran In Nuclear Talks

MALMÖ. (Agency)
The United States and Iran are currently discussing a possible way forward on Iran's nuclear programme, even as the ceasefire between the two sides remains fragile. Negotiators have narrowed down the talks to four major nuclear issues that will decide whether a broader agreement is possible, according to the NY Times. The first issue is uranium enrichment, where the US wants Iran to stop enrichment for a long period, possibly up to 20 years. Iran has offered a shorter pause of around 10 years, with some reports suggesting a possible middle ground of 15 years. Earlier, US President Donald Trump said even a 20-year ban might not be enough, but later he suggested he could accept it if it was a "real 20 years". It is still unclear whether he would agree to a 15-year deal. Second, both sides are debating what should happen to Iran's existing stockpile of enriched uranium. The US wants it to be reduced or "downblended" under the supervision of international inspectors, while Iran wants to keep control over the material and limit outside involvement. US Secretary of State Marco Rubio has said that any deal must include all of Iran's enriched uranium, about 11 tons. Iran has not clearly said whether it is ready to give up its full stockpile. In an interview with NBC News, Trump had said, "We'll take it out and destroy it, whether it's on site or whether we take it off site." Third, the US wants Iran to completely shut down its three main nuclear sites of Natanz, Fordo and Isfahan. Iran's stockpile of 60 percent enriched uranium is believed to be stored deep underground in Isfahan. Iran has agreed to close two of these sites, but it wants to keep one site running because it says it still has the "right to enrich uranium" for peaceful purposes. US officials are worried about this idea. In the past, a similar nuclear deal during Barack Obama's time did not fully shut down the Fordo site. Later, Iran restarted activities there, which became a concern again. Officials believe that if even one site remains open, it could still be used in the future for making weapons, especially if it is hidden or underground. At this stage, Iran has not clearly responded to the US demand. The fourth major issue in the talks is international inspections of Iran's nuclear programme. The US wants inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to be able to carry out "snap inspections", meaning they can visit any suspected nuclear site at any time without advance notice.

US blocks Pakistan-China bid to blacklist BLA, Majeed Brigade at UNSC

Islamabad and Beijing had in September last year submitted their joint bid to the Security Council to blacklist the BLA and the Majeed Brigade under the Council's 1267 Al Qaeda Sanctions Committee.

World. (Agency)
The United States has opposed a joint move by Pakistan and China at the UN Security Council to list the Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) and the Majeed Brigade as a terrorist organisations. Islamabad and Beijing had in September last year submitted their joint bid to the Security Council to blacklist the BLA and the Majeed Brigade under the Council's 1267 Al Qaeda Sanctions Committee. It is learnt that the US, France and UK - all permanent veto-wielding members of the Security Council - blocked the bid this month. Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Asim Iftikhar Ahmed had said that terrorist entities,

including ISIL-K, Al-Qaeda, Tehrik-e Taliban Pakistan, East Turkistan Islamic Movement, BLA and the Majeed Brigade operate from Afghan sanctuaries, with more than 60 such terrorist camps serving as hubs for enabling cross-border infiltration and attacks. "Pakistan and China have jointly submitted to the 1267 Sanctions Committee a request to designate the BLA and Majeed Brigade. We hope the Council will act swiftly on this listing to curb their terrorist activities," Ahmed had said at a UN Security Council meeting. Pakistan currently sits in the 15-nation Security Council as a non-permanent member for the 2025-26 term, while China is a veto-wielding permanent member of the powerful UN body. Pakistan was the chair of the 1988 Taliban Sanctions Committee of the UN Security Council for 2025, as well as the vice-chair of the Counter-Terrorism Committee. Previously, China, a permanent, veto-wielding member of the UN Security Council, had put on hold

several listing proposals made by India and its partners, like the US, to designate Pakistan-based terrorists and terror entities under the Council's 1267 Al Qaeda Sanctions

(SDGT) designation. The action taken by the Department of State "demonstrates the Trump Administration's commitment to countering terrorism. Terrorist designations play a critical role in our fight against this scourge and are an effective way to curtail support for terrorist activities," the State Department had said. BLA was designated as an SDGT by Washington in 2019 following several terrorist attacks. Since 2019, BLA has claimed responsibility for additional attacks, including by the Majeed Brigade, the State Department had added. The State Department also said that in 2024, BLA claimed it had committed suicide attacks near the airport in Karachi and the Gwadar Port Authority Complex and in 2025, the organisation had claimed responsibility for the March hijacking of the Jaffar Express train travelling from Quetta to Peshawar, killing 31 civilians and security personnel and holding hostage over 300 train passengers.



Committee regime. The US has designated the Balochistan Liberation Army and its alias, the Majeed Brigade, as a Foreign Terrorist Organisation. The State Department added the Majeed Brigade as an alias to BLA's previous Specially Designated Global Terrorist

Pakistani airstrikes in Afghanistan kill at least 13 people, Taliban official says

KABUL. (Agency)
Afghanistan said Wednesday that Pakistan launched new airstrikes targeting the country, killing at least 13 people and wounding 14 others. The countries have engaged in months of fighting that has killed hundreds of people. Taliban chief spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid said the latest airstrikes targeted the Afghan provinces of Khost, Kunar and Paktika and killed 11 children, one woman and one elderly man. There was no immediate acknowledgment of the strikes from Pakistan. The strikes came a day after suspected Pakistani Taliban militants attacked a security post in the Hasan Kheil area of northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province bordering Afghanistan, triggering an intense gunbattle in which six members of the Federal Constabulary were killed and several others wounded, according to Pakistan's Interior Ministry. Local authorities said Tuesday that security forces killed eight of the attackers and thwarted an attempt to overrun the checkpoint. Interior Minister Mohsin

Naqvi later attended funeral prayers for the dead personnel in Peshawar, the ministry said. Naqvi paid tribute to the dead and expressed condolences to their families, saying their sacrifices would



not be forgotten. He also said Pakistan remained united in its fight against militancy and that operations against groups threatening peace and security would be intensified. Pakistan and Afghanistan have engaged in deadly fighting since late February, when Afghanistan launched a cross-border attack on Pakistan in retaliation for Pakistani airstrikes inside Afghanistan. Pakistan in February declared it was in

open war with its Afghanistan, following a surge in militant attacks on civilians and security forces inside Pakistan. Afghanistan has said a deadly Pakistani airstrike in March hit a drug-treatment center in Kabul, killing more than 400 people. The death toll could not be independently confirmed. Pakistan has disputed the claim and denied targeting civilians, saying it struck an ammunition depot. The latest development comes months after China hosted peace talks between Pakistan and Afghanistan in Urumqi, in northern China, and later Beijing said Afghanistan and Pakistan had agreed not to escalate their conflict and to explore a solution. Pakistan accuses Afghanistan of harboring militants that carry out deadly attacks inside Pakistan, especially the Pakistani Taliban, known as Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan or TTP. The group is separate from, but allied with, the Afghan Taliban, which has ruled Afghanistan since it seized power in the country in 2021 amid the chaotic withdrawal of U.S.-led troops. Kabul denies the charge.

Carriage Horse Tragically Dies In Front Of Crowd In New York's Central Park As Ban Push Intensifies

UNITED NATIONS. (Agency)
A carriage horse tragically collapsed and died in Central Park on Tuesday (Jun 9) evening, leaving onlookers deeply distressed as they witnessed the animal's final moments. The incident occurred on 72nd Street near Central Park West during a ride operated by carriage driver Nurettin Kirbiyik. His 16-year-old horse, Deniz, suddenly collapsed and ased away approximately 10 minutes later. Video clips of the incident circulating on social media show the brown-and-white horse lying motionless across the pavement while Kirbiyik could be seen standing in front of the animal, making a phone call. Concerned parkgoers gathered around the horse and hugged each other after witnessing the tragic scene. Kirbiyik and a spokesperson for TWU Local 100, the union representing carriage horse drivers, said Deniz was in good health and went to the vet back in January, according to a report in CBS News. The poor horse's death comes less than 24 hours before council members are scheduled to gather on the steps of City Hall in support of Ryder's Law to phase out the city's horse carriages. The legislation has been named in memory of a carriage horse, Ryder, who also died in 2022 under similar



circumstances. Voters For Animal Rights (VFAR), a grassroots nonprofit organisation building political power for animal protection in New York, highlighted that it wasn't the first time a horse has died in the city and demanded urgent action. "Tonight, a carriage horse collapsed and died in Central Park. We do not yet know this horse's name, age, history, or what caused their death, but we do know this: no horse should spend their life pulling a carriage through the streets of Manhattan," the organisation stated. "This moment demands more than outrage. It demands action. On Thursday, the City Council will reintroduce Ryder's Law — legislation to finally transition New York City away from horse carriages and retire the horses to sanctuaries." Similarly, PETA demanded that the city council immediately pass the Ryder's Law to ensure safety of the horses. "City Council, what more do you need? Central Park goers are crying and hugging after seeing this traumatizing death for all involved," PETA said.

"Disproportionate, Unlawful": Global Rights Bodies On Crackdown In PoK

GENERAL SANTOS. (Agency)
Two major international human rights organisations have issued urgent condemnations of Pakistan's escalating crackdown in Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoK), warning that the designation of a peaceful grassroots movement as a terrorist organisation, combined with a lethal military response to civilian protests, represents a grave and accelerating deterioration of fundamental rights in the region. Amnesty International and the International Human Rights Foundation (IHRF) both issued emergency statements on Tuesday, calling for immediate de-escalation, independent investigations into civilian killings, and the unconditional lifting of a ban

imposed on the Jammu and Kashmir Joint Awami Action Committee (JKJAAC) - a civil society body that has



led protests over political rights and economic grievances in PoK for several years. What the Rights Bodies Are Saying Amnesty International's Deputy Regional Director for South Asia, Isabelle Lassez, minced no words in her

assessment of Islamabad's actions. "Branding a grassroots organization as 'terrorist' on vague grounds, while simultaneously cutting the region off from the outside world, raises serious concerns regarding the Pakistani authorities' conduct and their disregard for human rights," she said. "The proscription of JKJAAC under anti-terror laws is disproportionate, unlawful and a violation of the right to freedom of association." Lassez further stated that the alarming escalation of violence, including the deaths of protesters, "raises serious questions," and demanded that authorities conduct an independent inquiry into what she described as the alleged extrajudicial killing of JKJAAC activist Shahzeb Habib, as well as the deaths of protesters in Rawalakot.

US, Iran launch airstrikes after Trump blames Tehran for downing Army helicopter

Fighter jets from the U.S. Air Force and Navy conducted the strikes in Iran, the U.S. military's Central Command said, targeting "air defense, ground control stations, and surveillance radar sites."

DUBAI. (Agency)
The U.S. military launched airstrikes and Iran retaliated Wednesday following the crash of an Army helicopter near the Strait of Hormuz that U.S. President Donald Trump blamed on the Islamic Republic. Iran launched attacks in Bahrain and Kuwait, which both sounded alerts and fired air defenses in response. Iran also said it targeted an air base in Jordan hosting U.S. forces, which was not immediately acknowledged either by American or Jordanian officials. Since the U.S. and Israel began striking Iran on Feb. 28, the war has shaken the global economy, driven up energy prices around the

world and made many basics, including food, more expensive. Officials have been unable to turn the April ceasefire into a deal to permanently end the conflict, particularly as Israel intensifies and expands its military campaign in Lebanon against the Iranian-backed militia Hezbollah.

Strikes by US and Iran shake the Mideast
Fighter jets from the U.S. Air Force and Navy conducted the strikes in Iran, the U.S. military's Central Command said, targeting "air defense, ground control stations, and surveillance radar sites." Iran acknowledged strikes around Bandar Abbas and Qeshm Island, but gave no details on the damage. "The operation was a proportional response to recent attacks on U.S. forces and international commercial ships transiting regional waters," Central Command said. Trump said earlier in a social media post that Iran had shot down the aircraft while it was on patrol over the strait and declared that the U.S. "must, of necessity, respond to this attack." Iran's top diplomat said foreign military forces near its territory "are at constant risk" and later vowed that there would be a response to the new U.S. strikes. Iranian forces "will leave no attack or threat

unanswered," Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said on X. "Leave our region if you want to be safe." The downing of the Apache attack helicopter and the strikes by



The U.S. military further strained a two-month ceasefire a day after Iran and Israel exchanged fire for the first time since the fragile truce took effect. Iranian state television said Tuesday that the Israeli attacks killed at least two members of the country's air-defense units. **US helicopter collided with Iranian drone, official says**
The Army AH-64 Apache attack helicopter went down after colliding with an Iranian drone, according to a U.S. official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss

an ongoing investigation. It wasn't clear whether the collision was intentional, and official statements only said the crash is under investigation. CNN, CBS News and other outlets earlier reported the collision. In the first known operation of its kind by the American military, a drone boat rescued two aviators at 3:30 a.m. local time Tuesday, about two hours after their aircraft went down during a patrol off the coast of Oman, U.S. Central Command said.

Trump said both service members were "safe and uninjured."

The U.S. service members were spotted and picked up by a drone boat that took them to another location on the water, where they were picked up by a helicopter, said Capt. Tim Hawkins, a spokesman for U.S. Central Command. He initially said the drone took the two to shore, and he did not elaborate on the updated timeline. AH-64 Apache helicopters have been a key asset for the American military as it enforces a blockade on Iranian crude oil shipments and tankers, seeking to pressure Tehran into a deal. The helicopters have also been used by the United Arab Emirates to shoot down Iranian drones.