

MAHANAGAR METRO

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India and Slovakia elevate bilateral ties to 'comprehensive partnership'

The comprehensive partnership aims to take bilateral relations to a new level, strengthen existing cooperation mechanisms and explore new avenues for deepening cooperation, both bilaterally and multilaterally, the joint statement said.

New Delhi .(Agency)

INDIA AND Slovakia elevated their bilateral ties to "comprehensive partnership", and signed pacts on labour migration, defence, digital technologies, higher education and research, quantum communication and student exchange programme with IIT Delhi after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's meeting with his Slovak counterpart Robert Fico on Monday.

The comprehensive partnership aims to take bilateral relations to a new level, strengthen existing cooperation mechanisms and explore new avenues for deepening cooperation, both bilaterally and multilaterally, the joint statement said. After meeting PM Fico in Slovakia's capital Bratislava, Modi said, "India and Slovakia are also moving forward in close coordination on the global stage. We agree that all disputes and tensions should be resolved



peacefully. We will continue to work together with all partners in this direction." This was a reference to the Russia-Ukraine war, which has been ongoing in Slovakia's neighbourhood for more than four years now. The two sides also established a joint working group in counter-terrorism and a consular dialogue. Modi's visit is the first by an Indian PM to Slovakia since its

independence in 1993.

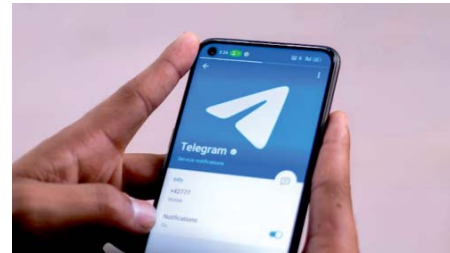
"Today, the Prime Minister (Fico) and I held detailed discussions on giving new direction and fresh momentum to our cooperation. The progress achieved in our bilateral trade and economic cooperation is a source of satisfaction for us. However, our potential is immense, and our aspirations are even greater. Automobiles, railways, advanced manufacturing, and green technologies are areas of particular interest to us... we have taken several significant decisions today — leveraging our respective strengths — for the welfare of the people of both nations," Modi said. Expressing gratitude to Slovakia for its support in finalising the India-EU FTA, PM Modi said: "We will work towards its early implementation so that industries, startups and traders in both countries can derive maximum benefit from it."

Government bans Telegram until June 22 to curb cheating ahead of NEET re-test

RAIPUR .(Agency)

The Telegram messaging app has been temporarily blocked in India by the government ahead of the NEET UG 2026 re-test, citing its alleged use by organised cheating rackets. NTA says fraudsters sold fake papers, spread misinformation and exploited Telegram's editing feature to create fabricated "evidence" of paper leaks after examinations.

The Telegram app has been temporarily restricted in India ahead of the NEET UG 2026 re-examination over viral allegations of paper leaks sourced from the app. As Telegram channels flooded students with claims of leaked question papers, edited screenshots and promises of guaranteed



access to the exam, the National Testing Agency has now issued its strongest statement yet, explaining why Telegram access has been temporarily restricted in India and why one of the platform's most-used features has been disabled. The move comes days before the NEET UG 2026 re-exam scheduled for June 21.

WHAT ACTION HAS BEEN TAKEN?

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has issued two separate directions. The first restricts access to Telegram in India until June 22, covering the examination period and the immediate aftermath. The second requires Telegram to disable editing of already-posted messages in India until June 30. NTA described both measures as "calibrated and bounded in time" and said they were adopted only after other remedies, including large-scale takedowns of channels and groups, failed to adequately address the problem.

Centre steps up focus on demographic changes along Pakistan, Bangladesh borders

The Centre has constituted a high-level committee under Justice Prakash Prabhakar Naolekar to study demographic changes in border districts, metropolitan cities and industrial hubs. The panel will assess migration patterns, security implications and population trends before submitting its report to the Home Ministry within a year.



New Delhi .(Agency)

The Centre is preparing to take a closer look at rapidly changing demographic patterns in several border districts and urban centres across the country. The move follows Prime Minister Narendra Modi's remarks from the Red Fort on August 15, 2025, when he expressed concern over what he described as "unnatural demographic changes" in certain regions.

The government has since identified the issue as a matter linked not only to population trends but also to national

security, social balance and administrative planning. To examine the issue in detail, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) constituted a high-level committee on May 26, 2026, under the chairmanship of Justice Prakash Prabhakar Naolekar.

According to sources, the committee will study demographic changes in areas along the India-Pakistan and India-Bangladesh borders as well as several urban centres. The panel is expected to submit its findings to the Home Ministry within one year.

Even if you slit my throat...: Abhishek Banerjee defiant after 11-hour ED session

The ED questioned Abhishek Banerjee for more than 11 hours in the West Bengal primary school recruitment scam case. The marathon session came a day after Abhishek was questioned for over eight hours regarding the alleged forgery of MLAs' signatures.

Kolkata.(Agency)

Trinamool Congress MP Abhishek Banerjee struck a defiant tone on Monday, saying he won't bow or surrender to the BJP, after being questioned for more than 11 hours by the ED in connection with the alleged teacher recruitment scam in Bengal. Abhishek, who is at the centre of a string of investigations, asserted that he would not "cover down" even if his throat was slit.

The Trinamool general secretary arrived at the ED's office at Kolkata's CGO Complex shortly

before 11 am. He left at about 10 pm. The marathon session came a day after Abhishek was questioned for



ABHISHEK BANERJEE QUESTIONED FOR 11 HOURS

The ED case pertains to a money laundering probe linked to alleged irregularities in the recruitment of primary teachers in Bengal. Abhishek was asked around two dozen questions by the agency as part of the probe.

"Our focus is on the money trail. Who handled funds, how they moved across accounts and entities, and whether these transactions were layered to conceal their origin," an ED official told.

Tej Pratap gives up last security guard, holds Bihar govt accountable for safety

Patna.(Agency)

Jan Shakti Janata Dal National President Tej Pratap Yadav has returned the remaining security cover provided to him by the Bihar government, saying the state remains responsible for ensuring his safety. Tej Pratap was earlier protected under a Y-category security cover. However, following a recent review of VIP security arrangements in Bihar, the state government withdrew his Y-category protection, leaving him with the security of a single bodyguard. After returning to Bihar, Tej



Pratap voluntarily surrendered the remaining security personnel as well and announced the decision through a social media post. He said the Bihar government had already been informed about his move.

In the post, Tej Pratap stated that although he has given up his security cover, the responsibility for his safety continues to lie with the state government. He argued that providing security to opposition leaders is the duty of a government in a democratic system.

If they want to go, let them go: Uddhav Thackeray on Sena (UBT) MPs' defection buzz

Thackeray's remarks came amid speculation about a possible attempt to poach Sena (UBT) MPs after only four of the party's nine Lok Sabha members attended Sunday's Mumbai meeting in person.

Mumbai.(Agency)

Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray has broken his silence on speculation surrounding the loyalty of some party MPs, saying he would not force anyone to remain in the party if they wished to leave.

Addressing a meeting of party MPs on Sunday, Thackeray drew parallels with the 2022 split in the Shiv Sena and said he had sensed the rebellion brewing long before it became public but chose not to pressure anyone into staying. "Today might not be mine, but tomorrow definitely is. Until then, we have to endure and bear it," Thackeray said. Referring to the split led by Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, Thackeray said those who left the party founded by Bal Thackeray would eventually regret their decision. "Those who left Balasaheb's Shiv Sena will eventually

regret it, but by then, it will be too late," he said. Recalling the rebellion that saw 40 MLAs walk away from the undivided Shiv



Sena, Thackeray said he was aware of developments at the time despite not taking any action against the dissidents.

"I was the Chief Minister of the state. Did people really think I didn't know what everyone else could clearly see and

understand? I had a whiff of what was happening. But I didn't say a word to anyone, didn't pressure them, and didn't open file investigations into their scams," he said. "What is the point of forcing someone to stay if they already want to leave? If someone wants to go, they are free to leave. I will only wish them well," Thackeray added.

ABSENCE OF MPS FUELS SPECULATION

His remarks come amid speculation about a possible attempt to poach Sena (UBT) MPs after only four of the party's nine Lok Sabha members attended Sunday's Mumbai meeting in person.

The buzz intensified after reports of an alleged "Operation Tiger" surfaced, suggesting efforts were underway to engineer defections from the Uddhav Thackeray-led outfit.

Backstabber, immature, weakening INDIA bloc: DMK's all-out attack on Rahul Gandhi

Chennai.(Agency)

The DMK accused its former ally Congress of using "underhand tactics" to stop INDIA bloc partners from winning Assembly elections, only to seek their support during Lok Sabha polls.

It also alleged that the Congress, with Rahul Gandhi's blessings, had "backstabbed" the party in the recently concluded Tamil Nadu Assembly elections, leading to the collapse of their decades-old alliance.

In an editorial in its official organ Murasoli, the DMK mocked Rahul Gandhi for speaking about unity at the recent INDIA bloc meeting, calling it a case of delayed realisation.

The paper said his remarks came after he released his June 11 speech from the meeting, at a time when allegations by INDIA

constituents against the Congress were being widely discussed and pressure had mounted on the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok



Sabha to publish the speech on the Congress website. Murasoli asked whether Rahul Gandhi himself was not the person who had damaged opposition unity in every state. It further claimed that the Left parties the

Samajwadi Party and the Rashtriya Janata Dal had all strongly criticised him and said his conduct had weakened opposition cohesion.

The editorial said the remarks made by CPI(M) Rajya Sabha MP John Brittas at the INDIA bloc meeting were particularly important. Referring to Kerala, it said the Congress and the CPI(M), both influential parties in the state, had fought each other in the Assembly elections held in April and nobody had objected to that direct contest. It then described Rahul Gandhi's allegation during the campaign as absurd, citing his question: "Why hasn't PM Modi arrested Pinarayi Vijayan? There is a secret deal between the two." According to the DMK paper, the CPI(M) treated that as a serious charge. Murasoli said it had reproduced Brittas's criticism of Rahul Gandhi at the bloc meeting.

The DMK accused the Congress of undermining INDIA bloc allies in state elections while later seeking their support in Lok Sabha polls. It also alleged that the party, with Rahul Gandhi's backing, "backstabbed" the DMK in the Tamil Nadu Assembly elections, ending their decades-old alliance.

Short news

Jeddah-bound Air India Express flight returns to Kerala after mid-air tech snag



Kannur.(Agency)

An Air India Express flight bound for Jeddah in UAE returned to Kannur International Airport, Kerala on Tuesday morning after pilots received an engine warning indication shortly after take-off, airport sources said. The flight, carrying more than 180 passengers, departed from Kannur at around 7.40 am. However, about two hours into the journey, the crew noticed an engine warning light and decided to turn the aircraft back as a precaution, sources said. Before landing, the aircraft remained airborne for some time to burn excess fuel and reduce landing weight, according to airport officials. The flight landed safely in Kannur, and no passengers were injured.

Subsequent inspections reportedly identified an issue with the aircraft's fuel filter, sources said. Further checks of the aircraft were being carried out, while arrangements were being made for the affected passengers.

Omar Abdullah says NC protest on J&K statehood will go ahead at Jantar Mantar



Jammu and Kashmir.(Agency)

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday said his National Conference will go ahead with its decision to hold a sit-in protest at Delhi's Jantar Mantar on the first day of the monsoon session of Parliament to remind the Centre of its promise of restoring statehood to Jammu and Kashmir.

Talking to reporters on the sidelines of an event here, Abdullah said the decision to hold the protest has not changed following his recent meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Abdullah met the prime minister in Delhi on June 11, strongly pressing for the "early return" of full statehood to Jammu and Kashmir and seeking central support to accelerate the region's economic and infrastructural growth. "There is no change in that plan. We are still fully committed to the one-day protest at Jantar Mantar at the beginning of the monsoon session to remind the Centre of the promise of statehood it has made to the people of Jammu and Kashmir in the Supreme Court, Parliament and in many public statements," he said.

On his meeting with the prime minister, Abdullah said they discussed statehood, the financial position of Jammu and Kashmir and on how to expedite the development process in the Union Territory.

News box

Nuh deputy civil surgeon takes Rs 50,000 bribe, nabbed by anti-corruption bureau

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

Anti-corruption bureau (ACB) on Monday arrested Nuh's deputy civil surgeon and district PNDT nodal officer, Dr Manpreet Tewatia, for allegedly accepting a bribe of Rs 50,000. The arrest was made around 2pm near a brick kiln at Punhana-Shikrawa Mod following a trap laid by ACB based on a complaint filed by a man, Taufeeq, who runs Labuja Hospital on Pema Road in Punhana. According to officials, a health department team had raided the hospital on June 4 and found several irregularities. Following the inspection, the hospital was sealed and a case was registered against Taufeeq at Punhana City police station. Taufeeq subsequently approached ACB, alleging that Dr Tewatia had demanded Rs 50,000 to facilitate the removal of the hospital seal and settle the matter. "After verifying the complaint, the ACB team planned the operation," an official said. As part of the operation, the complainant handed over chemically treated currency notes to Dr Tewatia near Punhana-Shikrawa Mod on Monday afternoon. The ACB team, stationed nearby, apprehended the officer immediately after he allegedly accepted the money. Officials said a hand-wash test was conducted at the spot, during which the solution turned pink, indicating contact with the chemical applied to the currency notes. "The accused officer was taken into custody and brought to Gurgaon for further legal proceedings," an official said. ACB officials said Dr Tewatia will be produced before a court, and further investigation is being carried out under the provisions of The Prevention of Corruption Act.

Two held for harassing sister duo in Gurgaon

Noida.(Agency)

Two men were arrested for harassing two sisters in Sector 14 market on Friday, police said on Monday. The incident took place around 9.15pm when the sisters were out to eat momos in the market. The accused were identified as Nishant and Monty. Nishant, a resident of Basai village, runs an ice factory, while Monty works as an executive with a cement company. Police said both men were under the influence of alcohol at the time of the incident. The complainant, a second-year BBA student, told police that a white Scorpio stopped near them right when they reached the market. According to police, the man driving the SUV first began making obscene gestures. "He also signalled them to sit in the vehicle. When they objected, the accused threatened them and abused them," a police officer said. The complainant initially could not note down the complete registration number of the Scorpio and could only remember the last digits as 1001. Later, she identified the vehicle number as HR-26 EY-1001. The complainant's statement was recorded at the Sector 16 women's police station and a case was registered on Saturday.

Noida airport takes off, but affected families still await jobs

Noida.(Agency)

Even as Noida International Airport was inaugurated on Monday, the issue of employment for families affected by land acquisition for the project remains unresolved. A group of affected residents has been protesting for several months, demanding jobs directly with the project's concessionaire rather than through private contractors. Saurabh Sharma, a resident of Banwaripur village, said his family lost 10 acres of land to the project in 2019. "Officials assured affected families that beneficiaries would get employment opportunities. I have been waiting since then, but no job has been offered. Now we are being told that employment will be provided through contractors. We want stable jobs directly with the concessionaire, Yamuna International Airport Private Limited (YIAPL)," he said.

Sharma, who holds an MTech degree in automobile engineering, said he has remained unemployed for several years. Under the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013, affected families are entitled to rehabilitation measures, including skill development and employment opportunities or compensation.

Sharma said the job seekers had been protesting at Kishorpur temple, but the demonstration was called off on Sunday night after village elders urged them not to continue the protest on the day of the airport's inauguration. "We have decided to meet officials of the Yamuna Authority and the airport on Wednesday," Sharma said. The airport project required large-scale land acquisition across several villages in the Jewar region. Authorities acquired around 1,334 hectares in the first phase and another 1,365 hectares in the second phase, while an additional 2,053 hectares are expected to be acquired in the third and fourth phases. During the first two phases, about 334 families opted for employment instead of monetary compensation under the rehabilitation provisions linked to land acquisition. However, several affected residents allege that the promised jobs have not materialised. Addressing the issue in an interview with TOI, vice-chairman of the airport, Christoph Schnellmann, said the airport operates in partnership with 80 to 90 firms across different sectors. "We have identified leading companies in each field that bring expertise and experience to the project. Many of these are large national and global firms employing thousands of people. Our aim is to match those seeking employment at the airport with the appropriate partner company based on their qualifications, experience and preferred area of work," Schnellmann said.

Smart Ahmedabad's Harsh Reality

Residents of Behrampura Forced to Live Amid Sewage Overflow and Contaminated Water, Political Leaders Missing After Elections

Ahmedabad.

(By PAWAN MAKAN)

Despite grand claims of "Swachh Bharat," "Swachh Gujarat," and a "Smart City Ahmedabad," another glaring example of civic negligence by the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) has surfaced in the Danilimda ward. Residents of Sankalchand Mukhni Chali, Gate No. 1, Lane No. 2 in Behrampura allege that they have been living in miserable conditions for a prolonged period due to overflowing sewage lines and contaminated drinking water. According to local residents, the drinking water supplied by AMC every morning and evening is dirty, foul-smelling, and unfit for consumption. They claim that sewage water from overflowing drainage lines has mixed with the drinking water pipeline, posing a serious health hazard. In the peak summer season, when clean



water is essential, residents allege they are being supplied with polluted water, resulting in illness among children and elderly people. Residents further allege that AMC occasionally sends workers to the area, but the efforts remain superficial. Instead of carrying out proper cleaning and maintenance of the drainage system,



workers reportedly perform temporary measures that fail to address the root cause of the problem. Public anger is also directed toward political leaders and local representatives. Residents claim that during election periods, politicians frequently visit the area seeking votes in the name of community and religion.

However, when citizens face serious civic issues, those same leaders are nowhere to be seen. Locals accuse elected representatives of abandoning the public after securing votes. Residents of Sankalchand Mukhni Chali say they have repeatedly submitted written complaints and personally approached AMC officials regarding the sewage overflow and contaminated water supply. Despite multiple representations, they allege that the authorities have failed to take effective action. The residents are now demanding immediate intervention from AMC and warning that if the issue is not resolved promptly, they may be forced to launch a public protest. The situation has raised serious questions about civic governance and the effectiveness of Ahmedabad's much-publicized Smart City initiatives.

Khaki Under the Weight of Corruption? Allegations Surface in Kheda After Attack on Retired PSI's Home Ends in 'Compromise'

Kheda.

(By PAWAN MAKAN)

While Gujarat Minister of State for Home Harsh Sanghavi continues to emphasize the slogan, "Stay within the law and you will benefit," a controversial incident from Kheda district has triggered serious questions about the functioning of the local police administration. According to information received, a retired Police Sub-Inspector (PSI) residing near Khodiyar Chokdi in Matar was allegedly targeted by a group of 4-5 armed individuals in the early hours of June 13. The attackers reportedly vandalized vehicles parked outside the residence, and allegations of firing during the incident have also surfaced. The victim's family is said to have fled the premises in fear for their safety. Sources claim that the dispute originated two days earlier following a road accident involving associates of an alleged Ahmedabad-based bootlegger



identified as Gopal Rabari. The accident reportedly led to a confrontation, which later escalated into the alleged attack on the retired police officer's residence. The most serious allegation concerns the handling of the matter by local authorities. Critics claim that despite the gravity of the incident, no formal FIR was registered and efforts were allegedly made to settle the dispute through a compromise between the parties. Questions have also been

raised regarding why allegations of assault, vandalism, and intimidation did not result in criminal proceedings. Officials, however, have reportedly denied claims that any firing took place during the incident. The controversy has further intensified amid allegations that illegal liquor, gambling, and betting operations continue to flourish in parts of Kheda district under the protection of influential networks. Several police officials have come

under public scrutiny, with critics questioning prolonged postings and alleged administrative influence within the district. These claims remain allegations and have not been independently verified. The incident has led to growing calls for an impartial investigation by a higher agency. Local observers and residents are demanding that the circumstances surrounding the attack, the alleged compromise, and the police response be thoroughly examined. The case has also sparked debate over law enforcement accountability and whether criminal elements are receiving protection at the expense of public confidence in policing. As of now, no official statement confirming the allegations against the accused individuals or police personnel has been issued, and an independent investigation would be required to establish the full facts of the case.

Rapid Impact of Mahanagar Metro Report Administration Springs Into Action, Mines & Minerals Department Cracks Down on Mineral Mafia Along Mahi River

Mega Operation in Gambhira, Ankla Under Direct Instructions of Anand Collector: Illegal Miners Caught With Equipment Worth ₹5.3 Million

Anand.

(By PAWAN MAKAN)

After a series of reports published by Mahanagar Metro exposing the illegal exploitation of natural resources by the mineral mafia in Gujarat, the administration has finally swung into action. Acting under the strict instructions and direct supervision of Anand District Collector Praveen Chaudhary, the Mines & Minerals Department launched a major crackdown on illegal sand mining activities along the banks of the Mahi River. In a surprise early-morning operation conducted in the Gambhira and Bamangam areas of Ankla Taluka, officials seized machinery worth millions of rupees and dealt a significant



blow to the illegal mining network operating in the region. For a long time, illegal extraction of ordinary sand had allegedly been taking place along the Mahi River, causing substantial losses to government revenue. Following the publication of the report in Mahanagar Metro, the investigation team led

by the Assistant Geologist of Anand initiated immediate action. The enforcement team carried out a well-planned raid during the early morning hours when illegal operators were reportedly engaged in extracting sand from the riverbed. The sudden operation created panic among those involved in the activity. Excavator and Boats Seized During the raid, officials reportedly found clear evidence of unauthorized sand mining from the riverbed. Taking swift action, the department seized assets valued at approximately ₹53 lakh, including 01 Excavator Machine and 02 Large Boats. Legal proceedings have been initiated against those involved, and further

action is being taken in accordance with the provisions of mining regulations. Following the operation, the Anand District Administration and the Mines & Minerals Department issued a strong warning that the illegal exploitation of natural resources will not be tolerated under any circumstances. Officials stated that intensified inspections and enforcement drives will continue in the coming days, and strict legal action will be taken against those involved in mineral theft and illegal mining activities. The operation is being viewed as a significant step toward protecting natural resources and curbing illegal mining activities in the district.

Leave me: Video shows IAF officer's wife pleading in alleged conversion, rape case

Nagpur. (Agency)

"Chhodo mujhe (let me go)," a 24-year-old woman frantically cries in a viral video as her former classmate, Ayyaz Taj Madare (26), forcefully holds her hands while chanting religious verses and repeatedly blowing over her as she struggles to break free. The woman alleges that she was subsequently declared converted and that an attempt was made to rape her thereafter.

The video has emerged as a key piece of evidence in a case involving the wife of an Indian Air Force officer in Nagpur, who has alleged that she was drugged, raped, blackmailed with obscene videos, extorted lakhs of rupees, and pressured to convert her religion.

The incident is over a year old but has come to light now after the woman informed her husband about the incident and filed a complaint with the police.

Police have arrested Madare and Ameen Sheikh (30), while a hunt is underway for the third accused, Hazrat Maulana, a resident of Tamia in Madhya Pradesh. According to police, the 24-year-old complainant's husband serves in the Indian Air Force and is currently posted in another city. The woman works in property dealing. In February 2025, Ayyaz

allegedly contacted her on the pretext of purchasing a plot and called her to a hotel on Wardha Road.

She has alleged that he served her juice laced with an intoxicating substance and raped her while she was



unconscious, recording videos and photographs of the act. According to the complaint, the accused subsequently used the obscene videos to blackmail her, repeatedly sexually exploiting her and allegedly extorting Rs 3.09 lakh from

her. The woman further alleged that she was pressured to adopt Islam and was made to undergo various activities in the name of religious rituals. She also claimed that later in May, the accused took her to Kalmeshwar in Nagpur, where she was introduced to Ameen Sheikh and Hazrat Maulana.

According to the complaint, the three took her to a secluded location, conducted certain religious rituals and claimed that her religious conversion had been completed as seen in the above video. She has also alleged that another attempt was made to rape her thereafter.

Three days ago, when her husband returned home from duty, the woman informed him about the alleged incidents. Following this, a complaint was registered at Sonegaon Police Station. Police have registered a case under charges including rape, extortion, attempted religious conversion, and provisions of the Maharashtra Prevention and Eradication of Human Sacrifice and Other Inhuman, Evil and Aghori Practices and Black Magic Act. The two arrested accused have been sent to five days of police custody by a court.

According to the complaint, the woman's former classmate lured her to a hotel on the pretext of a property deal, drugged and raped her, recorded obscene videos, and later used them to blackmail and sexually exploit her. She also alleged being extorted of Rs 3.09 lakh and pressured to convert to Islam.

Akal Takht summons Sikh ministers, MLAs over Punjab anti-sacrilege law

Punjab Cabinet members, legislators asked to explain support for legislation passed in April.

Chandigarh. (Agency)

The Akal Takht on Monday summoned all Sikh ministers in the Punjab Cabinet and Sikh MLAs across party lines to appear before it on June 29 over objections to the Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib Satkar (Amendment) Act, 2026, saying the legislation was enacted without consulting the Sikh panth.

The decision was announced by a five-member panel of jathedars that met at the Akal Takht. The panel said Sikh members of the Cabinet and Sikh legislators would be asked to explain their role in approving the law, which, it alleged, was passed despite opposition from panthic institutions.

Addressing the gathering, Akal Takht Jathedar Kuldeep Singh Gargaj said the Punjab government led by Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann had enacted the

legislation without seeking the consent of the panth. He referred to a panthic gathering held at Teja Singh Samundri Hall on April 6, where it was resolved that no



law relating to Sri Guru Granth Sahib or panthic institutions should be passed without the approval of the Sikh community's representative bodies.

Despite that resolution, he said, the Punjab Cabinet approved the Bill on April 11, the

Assembly passed it on April 13 and it subsequently received the Governor's assent.

Gargaj said the Sikh panth had repeatedly expressed concern that the law undermines the authority and autonomy of traditional panthic institutions. He announced that all Sikh ministers in the Punjab Cabinet had been directed to appear before the Akal Takht on June 29, the death anniversary of Maharaja Ranjit Singh. Hindu ministers, he said, had not been summoned in person but had been asked to submit written replies. The Akal Takht had last month issued a notice to Punjab Assembly Speaker Kultar Singh Sandhwan, seeking a response within 15 days to objections raised against the legislation. According to the jathedar, no reply was received. The summons have now been extended to Sikh MLAs from all political parties.

Three-year-old girl receives 50 stitches after stray dog attack in MP

A three-year-old girl from Ujjain district suffered severe facial injuries in a stray dog attack and was shifted to Indore for specialised treatment. The case has renewed concern over recurring stray dog attacks in Madhya Pradesh amid court-backed control measures.

Nainital. (Agency)

A three-year-old girl is undergoing specialised treatment after suffering severe facial injuries in a stray dog attack in Madhya Pradesh's Ujjain district, officials said on Monday.

The child was attacked by a stray dog while playing outside her home in Delwadi village on Saturday. The attack left her with deep wounds on her face, including injuries to her nose, lips and eyelids. Family members initially rushed the girl to the district hospital in Agar-Malwa, where doctors provided emergency treatment before referring her to the state-run Maharaja Yashwantrao Chikitsalaya (MYH) in Indore for advanced care. "About 50 stitches were applied to the girl's face. She also had severe injuries around her lower eyelid, nose and lips. Primary surgical treatment was performed to reattach the skin and control the bleeding," Dr Jitendra Kaithwal, an anesthesiologist involved in her treatment, told . Doctors said the child requires

specialised plastic surgery to minimise the risk of permanent facial disfigurement. Her condition is currently being monitored at MYH, according to family members.

The incident has renewed concerns over the growing menace of stray dog attacks in several parts of the state. Earlier this month, a 35-year-old woman died after being attacked by a pack of stray dogs in Barwani town. The issue has also drawn the attention of the Supreme Court. In November last year, the apex court noted an alarming rise in dog-bite incidents at public places, including schools, hospitals and railway stations, and directed authorities to relocate stray dogs to designated shelters after sterilisation and vaccination. In May, the court further allowed euthanasia of rabid, incurably ill or demonstrably dangerous stray dogs and issued a series of directions aimed at controlling the increasing stray dog population and reducing risks to public safety.

Gujarat principal's son accused of sexually assaulting Class 10 student, case filed

Gandhinagar.(Agency)

A case has been filed against private school principal's son in Gandhinagar for allegedly sexually assaulting a Class 10 student who was staying in the school's hostel, police said.

The case was registered at Sector-21 police



station under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act and the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act.

According to the complaint, the minor student, who came from an economically weaker background, was residing in the hostel while preparing for his Class 10 board examinations.

During this period, the accused allegedly called the student to meet him and gradually gained his trust before allegedly subjecting him to inappropriate physical contact.

The complaint alleges that the accused later took the student to his room and sexually assaulted him on multiple occasions against his will. Despite the alleged abuse, the student continued with his studies and appeared for his board examinations. After the exams ended, he returned home. However, the family has alleged that the accused continued to contact the student and pressure him even after he left the hostel. According to the complaint, the prolonged ordeal adversely affected the student's mental well-being and academic performance. Family members reportedly became concerned after noticing behavioural changes and, upon questioning him, learned about the alleged abuse. The family subsequently approached the police, following which an FIR was registered. Police said the case has been filed on the basis of a complaint alleging sexual abuse of a minor by the principal's son and further investigation is underway.

After rally, memorandum to collector seeks to 'preserve original identity' of Bharuch mosque

Surat. (Agency)

A large number of people claiming to be followers of the 12th century saint Chakradhar Swami took out a rally in Bharuch on Monday and handed over a memorandum to the district collector demanding the "preservation of original identity" of the 700-year-old Jama Masjid – claiming that it was an ancient Jain temple and the birthplace of the saint who had moved to Maharashtra later.

The foot march happened days after the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), which protects the mosque, wrote to the district administration to not allow any "large gathering" on June 10, even as the campaign was building up.

Under the banner of temple Shri Chakradhar Swami National Heritage Conservation Committee and several Jain

organisations, a march was organised from Hostel ground to the district collectorate, covering nearly a kilometre.

Several followers of Chakradhar Swami from Amravati and other districts in



Maharashtra participated along with local residents, holding placards and banners. Among the participants was Bhavesh Patel, who was released on bail after his conviction in the Ajmer Dargah blast case

of 2007 investigated by the National Investigation Agency. Patel had by then become a self-styled godman, assuming the name of "Swami Muktanand".

The representatives handed a memorandum to Bharuch Collector Navnath Gavhane and demanded preservation of the monument to its original structure.

The memorandum states that a drive was carried out to create public awareness in Gujarat and Maharashtra by the followers of Chakradhar Swami from May 18-23 . Signatures of over 35,000 were taken, along with their mobile phone numbers.

Muktanand Swami alias Bhavesh Patel of Bharuch said, "The Jama masjid has its origin in the birthplace of an ancient Jain temple, and the birthplace of Swami Chakradhar of Maharashtra. The Islamic rulers had converted the monument into a mosque.

Greater Mohali Area Development Authority flags Rs 1,014 crore dues, builders dispute claims

ED's CLU probe adds to scrutiny as developers contest inclusion in defaulters' list; homebuyers fear impact on projects.

Mohali. (Agency)

A list released by the Greater Mohali Area Development Authority (GMADA) showing more than Rs 1,014 crore in outstanding dues against some of the region's biggest real estate developers has triggered concern among homebuyers and investors, with several builders disputing the claims and threatening legal action.

The controversy comes amid an ongoing Enforcement Directorate (ED) probe into alleged irregularities in Change of Land Use (CLU) approvals granted to certain real estate projects in the Mohali region.

In recent weeks, the ED has conducted searches linked to Sutecc City and other projects, while senior GMADA officials have also been questioned in connection with the investigation. According to GMADA, the dues comprise External Development

Charges (EDC), licence fees, social infrastructure charges and other statutory liabilities linked to residential and mega



housing projects. The authority has reportedly directed that no fresh approvals, permissions or payments be processed for the projects concerned until the outstanding amounts are cleared. The development has raised concerns among thousands of

homebuyers who invested in these projects on the understanding that developers would deposit all government charges collected from purchasers. Industry observers said prolonged disputes could affect approvals, infrastructure development and project timelines, contact GMADA Chief Administrator Sandeep Kumar. Calls went unanswered and a message seeking his response elicited no reply till the filing of this report.

Among those contesting the list is Mohali MLA and Janta Land Promoters Limited (JLPL) promoter Kulwant Singh, whose projects in Sectors 82, 90 and 91 have been shown as having outstanding dues of Rs 152.12 crore. "We are serving a legal notice on the GMADA Chief Administrator and initiating legal proceedings. The authority has concealed material facts while issuing this

list. The matter is already pending before the Supreme Court and we have obtained a stay order. GMADA was fully aware of this position. When a matter is sub judice and protected by a court order, such representations should not be made until the court delivers its final verdict," Singh said. Gillco Developers & Builders Pvt Ltd chairman Ranjit Singh Gill said the amount reflected against his company was the result of an administrative error rather than wilful default. "There was an inadvertent mistake on the part of our staff and a cheque relating to the payment was misplaced. The amount has now been deposited and the issue stands resolved from our side," Gill said. Repeated attempts to contact Shivalik Site Planners owner Amardeep Singh Hira were unsuccessful as he is currently abroad.

No response could be obtained from Bajwa Developers either. Managing Director Jarnail Singh Bajwa is presently in judicial

custody, while officials at the company's office were unavailable for comment.

Projects approved under the Punjab Apartment and Property Regulation Act (PAPRA) account for dues of Rs 312.47 crore. According to GMADA records, major outstanding amounts include Chandigarh Royale City Promoters at Rs 47.89 crore, Shivalik Site Planners at Rs 20.55 crore, Bajwa Developers at Rs 150.59 crore across two licences, Casa Espana at Rs 15.60 crore, RKM Housing at Rs 31.07 crore and Sutecc City at Rs 11.47 crore. The largest share of the dues falls under the mega-project category, where liabilities total Rs 701.56 crore. Bajwa Developers accounts for Rs 377.91 crore through two mega projects, followed by JLPL at Rs 152.12 crore, Sukhman Infrastructure at Rs 69.06 crore, H.P. Singh and Others at Rs 45.78 crore, Globus Projects at Rs 34.52 crore and Preet Land Promoters at Rs 22.14 crore.

Universe: Anger, the enemy within

Narayani Ganesh

Anger originates from the destructive part of the brain, says Dr Bimal Chhajer, who has written a booklet titled *Anger* (2013). ‘Most of our sufferings are because of anger, and the product of anger is called hostility, marked by destructive attacking behaviour... Hate, revenge, hostility are all nothing but extreme forms of anger.’ He adds, ‘Anger is the biggest enemy sitting inside you.’ Road rage has many aspects: there are people who get mad when there is an obstruction, obstacle, or delay, and they take it out on the person they think is causing these delays. Then there are those at the receiving end, who either become victims or fight back. Regular commuters may get annoyed and angry at a fellow commuter for playing loud music or arguing loudly, or speaking on the phone while driving, angry at those who jostle and push, and furious at those who will not give up their seat for an older person. When someone overtakes you, you get enraged; when your parking space is taken, you are fuming. And, of course, bumper-to-bumper traffic jams leave you exasperated, tired, and perhaps ready to explode. In all of these situations, reactions range from the milder raised eyebrows and sighs, use of expletives, shaking a fist, to the more risky fistfights, slaps, and in extreme cases, even murder.

When you commute daily from home to workplace and back, you have a fair idea of the time it takes to do so, give or take a few minutes. So instead of hyperventilating while anticipating a delay, it makes more sense to set off early, just in case there is an interruption en route. If you are part of a



carpool, or take the train, bus, or subway, you could listen to music, podcasts, or audiobooks. If you like to knit, you could do so as a passenger, which is a good way to calm your nerves and engage in fruitful action. I have observed commuters on the Delhi metro take out their prayer beads and chant quietly. Some have their eyes closed, probably napping or meditating. Others read books (difficult to do on the road as it can be bumpy and hard on the eyes). With the explosion of digital technology and OTT platforms, a lot of commuters like to watch their favourite soap or film with their earphones on. In Mumbai, local trains have their share of women (yes, only women) shelling peas or even chopping vegetables to utilise time. Says Thich Nhat Hanh: ‘When you are angry, close your eyes and ears, and return to yourself in order to quell the flames. Smile, even if it takes effort. Smiling relaxes hundreds of tiny muscles, making your face more attractive. Sit wherever you are, and look deeply... Most essential is to water the seed of mindfulness and allow it to arise in your mind consciousness.’ To sum up, when overcome with anger, impulsive reaction is what leads to outbursts and violence. Therefore all spiritual masters and psychologists advise deep breathing and to pause and think, and respond, instead of reacting. Here, practices like mindfulness are great enablers, for they help one calm down, reflect, and avoid escalating unpleasant exchanges and arguments.

Mamata faces stiff challenges in rebuilding the party

TMC's women rebels have picked up the sharpest kitchen knives and stabbed the leader they once swore they would fight for

Tribune News Service

After its traumatic defeat in the West Bengal Assembly elections, the TMC suddenly started losing its members in quick succession. Nineteen of the party's 28 Lok Sabha MPs and 2 Rajya Sabha MPs have already left the party. The TMC leaders who are leaving are a unique bunch; they have defected, but for the moment not to another party. It is less likely that Mamata will make any drastic decisions about her problematic nephew. She is being pressed to sideline him or dump him; the “us versus him” tension has reached a flashpoint, writes senior journalist Shikha Mukerjee in her Edit piece *A coup in TMC, not rebellion*. Mamata will not wither away, no matter how fervently the putschists and the BJP and other parties that opposed the Trinamool Congress may want it, she writes. The rebellion against Mamata is being led by women — Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar, Saayoni Ghosh, Satabdi Roy, Sushmita Dev, and others. In her weekly column (The Great Game) article *Ekla chalo re*, Editor-in-Chief Jyoti Malhotra talks about the capacity of strong women like noted khayal singer Kesarbai Kerkar, Mamata Banerjee and rebel women TMC leaders to negotiate power as well as excellence or both. Kesarbai Kerkar's 1935 thumri, *Jaat kahan ho*, may be a question for Mamata Banerjee today. The TMC's women rebels have picked up the sharpest kitchen knives and stabbed the leader they once swore they would fight for. Mamata could invoke her inner Rabindranath Tagore and add, ‘If I call and no one answers me, I will walk alone — Ekla chalo re’.

On June 10, Narendra Modi completed 12 years of uninterrupted democratic rule, surpassing Jawaharlal Nehru's record of 4,398 days as prime minister. The BJP's celebration of this feat is far-fetched, writes Ajay Mehra, Senior Fellow, Centre for Multilevel Federalism, in his Op-Ed article *Modi, Nehru & Rahul: Leadership matters*. That's because Nehru inherited a divided country, a ruptured social fabric and an empty treasury. His great grandson Rahul Gandhi is still taking baby steps under adversity of a different kind. His efforts may not be perfect, but they are sincere, he writes. For Modi, it was not merely about capturing more states but also about expanding the BJP's footprint nationwide — an obsession that drives Modi even today. He cherry-picked

his long-term political associate and former Gujarat minister Amit Shah to head the BJP, writes senior journalist Radhika Ramaseshan in her Edit article *How Modi has reshaped the BJP*. At the top, Modi worked to a self-drawn agenda: the RSS' expectations could not be ignored; the BJP's organisational authority had to prevail over the government; the bureaucracy was to remain stable; and large economic initiatives were seen as the key to success. Modinomics is not a static ideology; it is about balancing economic change with the need to ensure political longevity, writes senior journalist R Jagannathan in his Op-Ed article *The many faces of Modinomics*. The truth is no other party has any better ideas for improving the country's economic future. That



is what keeps Modi ahead of his political rivals. Meanwhile, the Cockroach Janta Party's (CJP) founder Abhijeet Dipke mounted the stage at New Delhi's Jantar Mantar. The sudden rise of the CJP has revealed a generation that feels unheard. The image of young Indians marching under the banner of a cockroach serves as a warning, says our Deputy Editor Harvinder Khetal in her Op-Ed article *Unlike Anna Hazare protest, CJP is about opportunity*. The youth is no longer willing to wait for institutions to address their concerns. Building a sustainable political platform is a challenging task for the CJP. It must 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? she writes.

Amid the West Asia crisis, when we need to save our forex reserves, the Reserve Bank of India sits on the horns of this golden trilemma: should it buy more gold to catch up with the US and China? Should it sell some gold to close the dollar demand-supply gap when needed? Or, should it stay still — neither buy nor sell gold? The Central banking authority and the government should consider the option of selling some gold dispassionately, says former finance secretary Subhash Chandra Garg in his Edit article *Why RBI should sell some gold*. It makes sense to book some profit and shore up usable foreign

currency reserves. The option of staying put is symptomatic of a fear psychosis. Sell some gold without fear, he suggests. It will require changing its own and the people's mindset that gold is like any other foreign exchange asset and there is no odium attached to gold sales, when required. In an interesting diplomatic development, EU's High Representative for Foreign Affairs, Kaja Kallas, met Pakistan Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar in Islamabad on June 1. The EU-Pakistan joint statement 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.’ Calling the statement unprecedented and offensive, former MEA Secretary Vivek Katju writes in his Edit article *India-EU tie has a Pak*

feeling that 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. EU deliberately agreed to a formulation that the Pakistanis may have proposed, he avers. In accepting it, the EU showed complete disregard for Indian sensitivities. 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. India must call the EU out — not through smart one-liners but logic backed by action, he writes.

NITI full house: Cooperative federalism needs more than optics

States have different priorities, with the same goal — hear us out, let's see where it goes

THE full house at the annual NITI Aayog meeting marked a positive departure from the past. Chief Ministers of all 28 states were present, bucking the trend of boycotting or skipping the apex public policy forum. Prime Minister Narendra Modi was quick to highlight the spirit of cooperative federalism, and how the Centre and states were working together to accelerate India's development journey. The optics would suggest that, but Opposition-ruled states, in particular, continue to harbour notions of discrimination and distrust. Going by the theme of the event, ‘Inclusive Human Development for Viksit Bharat@2047’, activating Centre-state mechanisms for a quick resolution of contentious issues is the only way forward. Allow these to linger, and politics takes precedence over convergence on critical policy matters. It is in no one's interest, certainly not the citizen's. The Punjab Chief Minister has sought a special package for the



revitalisation of border areas, which needs urgent consideration. If Bhagwant Singh Mann demanded special financial status for Punjab on the lines of hill

states, Himachal Pradesh counterpart Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu pushed for fiscal justice. The contention that the withdrawal of the Revenue Deficit Grant has dealt a severe blow to the state's economy is valid. Omar Abdullah spoke of Jammu and Kashmir's development trajectory while pressing for early restoration of statehood. Nayab Singh Saini's agenda for Haryana included an incentive package to position the state as a tech hub. Different priorities, with the same goal — hear us out, let's see where it goes. A collective resolve extending to villages has a positive ring to it. The problem arises when ideological differences start dictating matters of governance.

Cooperative federalism is a constant endeavour, unaffected by election cycles. The Centre-state ‘double engine’ has to serve every nook and corner, not just the NDA-ruled India.

In the Garden of Shared Epics

Often compared to Homer's Iliad and Odyssey, the Shahnameh is celebrated for both its poetic artistry and storytelling power

Dr Alka Pande

The homes that are the dwellings of to-day
Will sink 'neath shower and sunshine to decay,
But storm and rain shall never mar what I
Have built—the palace of my poetry.
—Ferdowsi

Ferdowsi is undoubtedly the king of Persian poets. Through his monumental *Shahnameh*—begun in 977 CE and completed over nearly three decades—he secured his place among the greatest preservers of language, literature, and cultural memory in world history. That legacy came alive for me on the warm and humid evening of June 2 as I wandered through the outdoor exhibition *Shared Epic Worlds: The Shahnameh, the Mahabharata, and the Indo-Persian Imagination* at Sunder Nursery in New Delhi. Presented by the Aga Khan Trust for Culture, the Noor International Microfilm Centre in Iran, and the Iran Culture House, the exhibition transformed the gardens into a journey through one of the world's greatest epics. A series of *Shahnameh* folios, digitised and enlarged to more than twice their original size, lined the pathways of the historic garden. It felt like the ideal setting in which to encounter them. The visual experience followed an immersive session of the *Shahnameh* and culminated in a lecture by Syed Akhtar Hussain at the Humayun Auditorium.

Comprising more than 50,000 couplets, the *Shahnameh* is among the longest epic poems ever written. Ferdowsi composed it during the reign of Mahmud of Ghazni, preserving thousands of years of Persian mythology, folklore, and history in a single narrative. The title itself translates as ‘The Book of Kings’. Its importance, however, extends far beyond literature. Following the Arab conquest of Persia in the seventh century, Arabic

became the dominant language of administration and scholarship. Ferdowsi consciously chose to write in New Persian, limiting the use of Arabic loanwords and helping preserve the language for future generations. In doing so, he strengthened a sense of cultural continuity and Iranian identity. The *Shahnameh* remains a cornerstone of Iranian cultural heritage. Its language is still largely intelligible to speakers of modern Farsi, Dari, and Tajik. Before Ferdowsi, pre-Islamic Persian history existed largely as scattered oral traditions and fragmented texts. By weaving together roughly 6,000 years of mythology, legend, and history into a coherent narrative spanning four dynasties, he created a civilisational archive in verse. Often compared to Homer's *Iliad* and *Odyssey*, the *Shahnameh* is celebrated for both its poetic artistry and storytelling power. It encompasses the dawn of civilisation, the discovery of fire, royal intrigues, heroic battles, and enduring moral dilemmas. At its heart lies the concept of *kherad*—wisdom—which guides its reflections on justice, courage, good governance, and the struggle between good and evil. One of the exhibition's most compelling moments was the juxtaposition of the tragic story of Rostam and Sohrab with the *Mahabharata* episode of Arjuna and Babruvahana. In Ferdowsi's epic, the young Sohrab is

unknowingly killed by his father Rostam; in the Indian epic, the father-son conflict ultimately finds resolution rather than ending in tragedy. The pairing revealed



striking thematic parallels while highlighting the different moral and narrative trajectories of the two traditions. Although the enlarged digital reproductions could not fully capture the delicacy of line, colour, and landscape found in the original Persian miniatures, they retained a remarkable sense of drama and narrative

energy. Through these images, the *Shahnameh* opened a window onto Persian ideas of kingship, ethics, heroism, and cultural identity. The exhibition also highlighted the

three broad worlds of the epic: the mythical, the heroic, and the historical. Across these realms move monarchs, warriors, maidens, demons, and witches, each contributing to a richly layered vision of Persian civilisation. The enduring popularity of the *Shahnameh* inspired many later illustrated editions, most famously the magnificent version produced in the court of Shah Tahmasp I nearly four centuries after Ferdowsi's death. Equally fascinating was the exhibition's exploration of the *Razmnama*, the Persian translation of the *Mahabharata* commissioned by Emperor Akbar. Some of the most striking folios depicted Persian and Indian scholars collaborating on the translation project, visualising a remarkable moment of intellectual and cultural exchange. The dialogue between the *Shahnameh* and the *Razmnama* revealed how epic traditions travelled across languages, courts, and civilisations, enriching one another in the process. Ultimately, *Shared Epic Worlds* was more than an exhibition of beautiful manuscripts. It was a reminder that great epics transcend borders. Through stories of kings and warriors, fathers and sons, virtue and ambition, the *Shahnameh* and the *Mahabharata* continue to speak to universal human experiences while illuminating the deep historical connections between Persia and the Indian subcontinent.



5 most sinful Burgers Ever

Adelicious, quick and healthy alternative to the regular chicken burgers! These burgers are an ideal for a quick evening snack or can be served as a part of a weekend brunch or picnic too.

Double Cheeseburger

Ingredients

Minced Beef - 400 gms
Worcestershire Sauce - 1 tblsp
Tomato Puree - 3 tsp, thick
Mustard Powder - 1 tsp
Garlic - 1 clove, crushed
Extra-Virgin Olive Oil - 2 tsp + extra for brushing

Cheddar Cheese - 2 slices

Burger Buns - 2, halved

Lettuce Tomato Slices

Sea Salt as per taste

Black Pepper Powder as per taste

Mayonnaise

To serve

Dill Pickles - 2, halved

Tomato Ketchup

French Fries

Method

- Mix the beef mince, worcestershire sauce, garlic, tomato puree, mustard powder, salt and black pepper powder in a bowl.

- Divide this mixture into 4 equal portions and flatten them into patties.

- Heat olive oil in a non-stick frying pan.

- Brush the burger patties with olive oil and cook for 2 minutes on each side or until lightly golden and cooked.

- Remove and place it on one half of the burger bun.

- Place a cheese slice on top and cover with another patty.

- Top up the patty with lettuce and tomato slices.

- Spread mayonnaise on the other half of the bun and cover the burger.

- Serve with french fries, dill pickles and tomato ketchup.

- Grilled Chicken Burger

This grilled chicken burger is delicious and easy to make. Minced chicken breast mixed with sauces and cooked to perfection. Placed in-between a burger bun and topped with tomato, onion, lettuce and served with fries or potato wedges.

Ingredients

Chicken Breast - 250 gms, skinless

Breadcrumbs - 1/4 cup

Spring Onion - 1, chopped

Barbecue Sauce - 3 tsp

Lemon Juice - 2 tsp

Worcestershire Sauce - 1 tsp

Garam Masala Powder - 1 tsp

Salt - a pinch

Black Pepper Powder as per taste

Oil as required

Burger Buns - 3 to 4

To Serve

Mayonnaise

Tomato Sauce

Lettuce

Tomato Slices

Onion Slices

Jalapeno

Cheese Slices

Method

- Ground or mince the chicken breast.

- Transfer to a bowl.

- Add the spring onions, breadcrumbs, barbecue sauce, garam masala powder, lemon juice, worcestershire sauce, salt and pepper powder.

- Mix well and shape into 3 to 4 burger patties about 1/4 inch thick.

- Heat a nonstick grill pan over medium flame.

- Add a little oil and cook the chicken patties for 6 to 10 minutes on each side or until the patties are no longer pink in the center.

- Halve the burger buns and toast them lightly.

- Spread mayonnaise on one half and tomato sauce on the other.

- Place the cooked chicken patty on one half and top up with cheese slice, lettuce, onion slice, tomato slice and jalapeno.

- Cover with the other half.

- Serve at once.

Chicken Tikka Burger

Chicken Tikka is a popular Indian dish. This is a delicious and flavoured burger made with Chicken Tikka.

- Ingredients

Chicken Breasts - 2 to 3

Burger Buns - 3 to 4

Tomato Puree - 3 tsp

Plain Yogurt - 100 gms

Ginger Garlic Paste - 2 tblsp

Garam Masala Powder - 1 tblsp

Cinnamon Powder - 1/4 tsp

Red Chilli Powder - 1/3 tsp

Juice of 1/2 Lemon Salt as per taste

To Serve

Cucumber Slices

Lettuce Leaves - big handful, chopped

Mint Leaves - handful, chopped

Onion Slices



Mayonnaise

Tomato Slices

Green Chutney or Cheese Spread (optional)

Method

- Combine the tomato puree, yogurt, ginger garlic paste, salt, garam masala powder, cinnamon powder, red chilli powder and lemon juice in a bowl.

- Mix well.

- Cut the chicken breasts in medium size pieces (to fit into the buns) and add to the bowl.

- Mix well until evenly coated and keep aside for 60 to 90 minutes.

- Heat a grill pan over medium flame.

- Cook the marinated chicken pieces for 4 to 5 minutes on each side until cooked through.

- Halve the burger buns and lightly toast them.

- Apply mayonnaise on half of the buns.

- Apply the green chutney on the other half.

- Add some lettuce leaves and arrange the chicken pieces on top.

- Top up with mint leaves, cucumber, tomato and onion slices.

- Cover with the other half of the burger and press lightly.

- Serve at once.

Tandoori Chicken Burger

Ingredients

Chicken Breast Fillets - 4, small/medium size, boneless, skinless (cut into the shape of the burger patty if desired)

Tandoori Masala Powder - 1 1/2 tblsp, mixed with 2 tblsp water

Plain Yogurt - 1/4 cup + 2 tblsp

Mint Leaves - 3 tsp, finely chopped

Burger Buns - 2, halved

Tomato - 1, small, sliced (optional)

Onion - 1, small, sliced

Cucumber - 1, small, sliced

Carrot - 1, small, sliced or finely chopped

Mixed Salad Leaves - 2 cups, chopped

Lettuce - few, torn

Oil - 1/2 tblsp

Method

- Mix the tandoori masala paste with 2 tblsp of yogurt in a bowl.

- Add the chicken pieces and mix well until evenly coated.

- Keep aside for 5 to 10 minutes.

- Heat oil in a nonstick pan over medium flame.

- Cook the marinated chicken for 5 to 10 minutes or until cooked through and golden.

- Mix the mint leaves with 1/4 cup of yogurt.

- Lightly toast the buns if desired and place them on a flat surface.

- Spread the mint-yogurt mixture on the halves.

- Top up with lettuce, salad leaves, cucumber, carrot and onions.

- Place the cooked chicken patty on top and cover with the other half.

- Serve at once with fries or salad.

BBQ Chicken Burger

Ingredients

Chicken Breasts - 2, skinless, boneless, sliced thickly

Burger Buns - 2, halved, toasted

Lettuce - handful, chopped, torn or sliced

Tomato - 1, finely sliced

Onions - 1, finely sliced

Tomato Ketchup - 4 ?tblsp

BBQ Sauce - 4 tblsp

Honey - 1 tsp

Garlic Paste - 1 tsp

Method

- Mix the tomato ketchup, bbq sauce, garlic paste and honey in a bowl. Reserve 2 to 3 tblsp for spreading.

- Add the chicken breasts to the sauce and mix well until coated.

- Keep aside for 30 minutes.

- Heat a griddle pan over medium flame.

- Cook the marinated chicken sliced for 5 to 8 minutes or until cooked through.

- Spread the reserved sauce on 2 of the burger buns halves.

- Add the lettuce, tomato and onions.

- Place the chicken breast and add 1 tsp of the sauce. Cover with the other half.

- Serve with fries.

5 smoothies you can try this summer

A refreshing smoothie to kickstart your day or give you the much needed boost on a hot and sweltering afternoon.

Chocolate Peanut Butter Smoothie

Ingredients

Bananas - 1 to 2, ripe, peeled, chopped

Cold Milk - 3/4 cup

Peanut Butter - 3 tsp

Almonds - 1 tblsp (optional)

Unsweetened Cocoa Powder - 3 tsp

Method

- Lightly toast the almonds and keep aside.

- Transfer the chopped bananas to a blender.

- Add the milk, peanut butter, cocoa powder and blend until smooth.

- Pour into serving glasses.

- Garnish with toasted almonds.

- Serve at once.

Banana Strawberry Smoothie

Ingredients

Bananas - 2, big

Strawberries - 200 gms, hulled

Plain or Vanilla Yogurt - 1 cup

Milk - 3 cups, chilled

Ice Cubes - few (optional)

Sugar - 2 to 3 tblsp (optional)

Method

- Slice the bananas and strawberries into small pieces.

- Add them to a blender.

- Add the yogurt, sugar and half of the milk.

- Blend for 2 to 3 minutes.

- Add the remaining milk depending on how thick or thin you want

the smoothie to be.

- Garnish with a strawberry slices.

- Serve at once.

Blueberry Lemonade Smoothie

Ingredients

Blueberries - 2 cups, frozen

Juice of 2 Lemons

Honey - 1/4 cup + 2 tblsp

Lemonade - 3 cups

Ice cubes - 4 cups

Method

- Combine all the ingredients, except ice cubes, in a blender.

- Blend well until smooth.

- Add the ice cubes and blend again.

- Pour into

serving glasses.

- Serve chill.

Apple Crumble Smoothie

Ingredients

Apples - 2 cups, stewed

Cinnamon - 1/2 tsp

Heavy Cream - 5 to 6 tblsp

Cookies - 2, crumbled

Vanilla Ice Cream - 2 cups

Method

- Combine the apples,



Bananas - 2, big

Strawberries - 200 gms, hulled

Plain or Vanilla Yogurt - 1 cup

Milk - 3 cups, chilled

Ice Cubes - few (optional)

Sugar - 2 to 3 tblsp (optional)

Method

- Slice the bananas and strawberries into small pieces.

- Add them to a blender.

- Add the yogurt, sugar and half of the milk.

- Blend for 2 to 3 minutes.

- Add the remaining milk depending on how thick or thin you want

cinnamon, cream and ice cream in a blender.

- Blend until smooth.

- Pour into serving glasses.

- Sprinkle the crumbled cookies on top.

- Serve at once.

Mango Yogurt Smoothie

Ingredients

Mango - 3/4 cups, peeled, diced

Plain Yogurt - 1/3 cup

Honey - 1 1/2 tblsp

Juice of 1/4 Lime

Ice Cubes

Method

- Combine all the ingredients in a blender.

- Blend until smooth and pour into tall glasses.

- Serve chilled.



Recipe: Chilli Cheese Toast

Chilli Cheese Toast (or Chilli Cheese Sandwich as it is known in some places) is a very popular and quick breakfast/snack item that is popular with kids and adults alike. This can be made with regular bread slices, buns and can be toasted or left as it is.

Ingredients

Bread Slices - 8 to 10

Butter - 5 to 6 tsp

Onions - 2, finely chopped

Green Chillies - 2tblsp, finely chopped

Cheese - 1/3 cup, grated (you can also use cheese slices, see the end of the recipe for instructions)

Salt as per taste

Black Pepper Powder as per taste

Method

- Mix the cheese, onions, green chillies, pepper powder and little salt in a bowl.

- Spread butter on half of the bread slices.

- Spread some of the cheese-onion-green chillies mixture evenly on top.

- Cover with the remaining slices.

- Heat a toaster/sandwich maker for 45 seconds.

- Place the prepared bread slices and cook until set.

- Alternately, heat a tawa over medium flame.

- Add little butter and place the prepared bread on top.

- Cover with a lid and cook on both sides until lightly browned and cheese has melted.

- Serve with ketchup.

Indian restaurants you must eat at in Kolkata



These Indian restaurants in Kolkata will lure you in with their divine flavours and rich ingredients. Travelling the length of the country—from Punjab to Kerala—they offer a variety of Indian cuisines that pack a punch and guarantee to keep you coming back for more.

Aaheli
Aaheli at Peerless Inn hotel and its branch at Axis Mall in Rajarhat have carved a niche for themselves and are known for their authentic Bengali preparations. You can either opt for the thalis or go a la carte. The Mahabhog Thali and the Rajbhog Thali are elaborate fixed menu meals which include delicacies like Shukto, Bati Chingri, Doi Ilish, Chingrir Malai Curry, Murgir Jhol, Kosha Mangsho, Aamer Chutney, Chhanar Payesh and Malpua. On the a la carte are the not-so-common yesteryear dishes like the Gachpathar Malai Curry, Kumro Patay Mora Chingri Paturi, Dhumragondhi Ilish, Rui Machher Patishapta. Their festive season promotions are huge

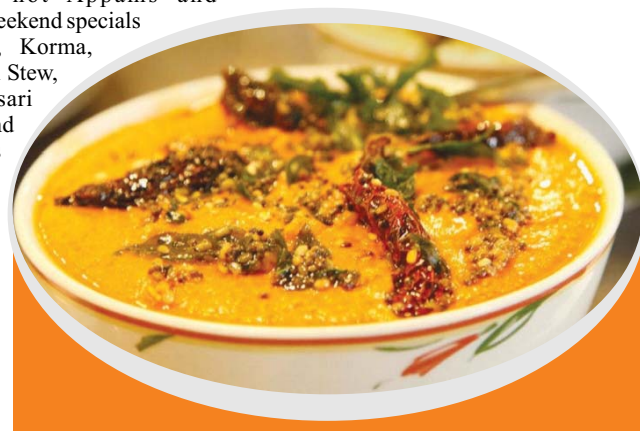
wd-pullers, not only for the delicious fare but also for the traditional delicacies on offer. Reservations are advised, especially for the weekends. Expect to pay five-star prices. **6 Ballygunge Place**
Housed in a century-old bungalow in south Kolkata, this restaurant is full of vintage charm. While their buffets are extremely popular, you can also opt to go a la carte and sample the full range of the menu. Begin with a Bengali fish fry, prawn finger fry and mochar chop (plantain croquettes).

For the main course, try signature dishes such as dab chingri (prawns roasted inside a coconut), bhapa eilish (hilsa fish in a mustard gravy) and kasha mangsho (spicy mutton curry). Their repertoire also includes vegetarian dishes such as aloo posto (potatoes cooked in poppy seed paste), begun basanti (brinjals in a mustard-curd gravy), and chholar dal (lentils with coconut). End your meal with divine desserts such as baked sandesh, mishti doi (sweet yoghurt) and nolen gur (sugarcane-flavoured) ice cream. **Ammini**
If authentic Kerala cuisine is what

you've been looking for, just head to Ammini on Manohar Pukur Road. The focus here is on quality, be it service or food: both are superb. The list of Kerala delights is small, but the food at Ammini will leave you happy and contented. Mrs Menon, the owner of the place often suggests the day's specials. Start with fluffy idlis, Paniyarappams or the Addai Dosa with an assortment of chutneys... Coconut with Green Chilli Chutney, Red Chilli Coconut Chutney or the Ulli Chamandi (a spicy onion chutney) and the Molaga Podi (dry powder served with ghee). The mains consist of Potato Stew, Vegetable Korma, dry and hot spicy Mutton Olathede, the Naimeen Seer Fish Curry and Kerala Chicken Curry to go with hot Appams and Iddiappams. Weekend specials include Avial, Korma, Thoran, Brown Stew, Payasam, Kesari (suji halwa) and Unniappams (deep-fried bananas with jaggery, milk and coconut dumplings). **Oh! Calcutta**
Celebrated for having introduced the country to

Bengali fine dining, this restaurant celebrates Kolkata and its eclectic culinary influences. The elegant interiors are done up with wooden furniture, and city-related paintings and drawings. The menu is a mix of traditional Bengali recipes from both sides of Bengal's border, as well as nawabi, Anglo-Indian and colonial cuisine. Signature dishes include kakra chingri bhapa (steamed crab with shrimps and mustard), roshun bhapa maach (steamed fish with garlic, mustard and chilli), Dhakai fish tika (marinated fish cooked in a tandoor), Chittagong masala murgi (chicken cooked Bangladesh-style) and bekti maacher paturi (fish fillet flavoured with mustard and steamed in banana leaves). Round off your meal with a bhapa sondesh (steamed cottage cheese flavoured with date jaggery) or a payesh (condensed milk wit fruit or rice)

Haveli
Modelled like a traditional haveli, this vegetarian restaurant is best known for its staple Rajasthani food. With staff dressed in traditional Rajasthani attire, the restaurant has gained in popularity thanks to its authentic cuisine. Irrespective of what you eat, make sure you end your meal with a kulfis and gulkand pan. Food is served in traditional plates and handis, and if Indian isn't your cup of tea, the restaurant also serves up modest Chinese and Continental fare.



Indian restaurants you absolutely have to visit in Mumbai

These Indian restaurants in Mumbai are known for their scrumptious fare and bold flavours. So in between sampling the global palate in the city, keep aside some time to dine at these authentic and oh-so-delicious restaurants that promise a great meal.

Crystal

This hole-in-the-wall eatery serves some of the best Punjabi fare in

Mumbai. Crowded at all times during the day, Crystal offers hearty and unpretentious food. The menu features

all north Indian favourites - rajma, paneer masala, baigan bharta and a range of paranthas. Round off your meal with their homemade chilled and creamy kheer. While the decor isn't much to write home about, there are stunning views of Chowpatty beach and Marine Drive all around.

Chetana

This is one of the few places in the city that serves Gujarati, Rajasthani, Maharashtrian and Health thalis, all under one roof, and does a pretty good job of them too. The set meal begins with starters like bhajija, dhokla, chaas, jaljeera, salads and snacks which are just too many to count or consume. But if you're opting for a thali meal, the idea is to take it slow, cherish every item on the list and make a long and satisfying meal of it. In the Maharastrian thali, the popular star dishes include 'methi chi bhaji', 'puran poli' (sweet roti) and 'rai batata' which are best clubbed with 'bajre ki roti'. If you pick the Rajasthani thali, you will particularly enjoy the 'Rajasthani saaghi', 'gatte ki sabzi' and the 'daal baati churma' which are prepared in a traditional way and offer a distinct flavour of Rajasthan. Among desserts, the gulab jamun, bundi and kheer scores above the fruit custard.

Trishna

Hype and hoopla surrounds this seafood joint in Fort. Sports legends, Hollywood and Bollywood stars, Presidents and heads of state of various countries have all dined on the seafood here! I ate at this award-winning restaurant to check if there is hope behind the hype and came away

happy and contented. It continues to be packed to the gills. The seating isn't comfortable at this twin-halled, air-conditioned eatery, tucked away in a grotty lane of Mumbai's business district, and it can get crammed and noisy because it's always packed (reservations are needed), but the focus here is on the food. I love wearing the black bib (they give) and getting my fingers into the King Crabs (ask for crab crackers and marrow spoons too!), savouring throughout their lusty garlic and butter flavours. Other must-order items that remain as good as ever: superb Hyderabad Pomfret, delicious Bombil Fry, Prawn Gassi and luscious Dal Hyderabad. Squids, crabs, pomfret, rawas, lady fish, surmai, lobster, jumbo prawns, shark, chicken and veggie dishes meet Tandoori, Schewzan, Chinese Sauce, Koliwada, Chilli-Garlic Masala, Butter and Pepper 'n' Garlic to form various spectacular combinations (and prices to match, especially with crab!). This time we actually check out the Chinese food (yes the omnipresent Chindian) and find it as chatpata as ever. Lousy Caramel Custard, but sweet and spongy hot Gulab Jamun here. A must visit.

Neel

Want a snap (literally too) judgment of the food at the brand new Neel? Take a look at the photo. Do you see the award-winning actor Ram Kapoor on his knees, drooling at the Raan e Mukhtar? Though he is in a frenetic juggling of his Bollywood films and TV shoots, (Las Vegas, Moscow, Latvia) he still squeezes time for dinner at his favorite Neel. What a delight it is to dine with this sparkling, happy, actor couple. Hailing from a family of doctors, slender livewire Gautami's acting career touched heights and then she took a break (mothered two children) and now Ram and Gautami are all set to star together in Karan Johar's



new film. A deep abiding love for food, travelling, movies, their son, daughter and dog are their passions. Their quips, quotes and anecdotes fuel our high octane fun evening. And yes! they are regulars at Neel, for its exquisite "non-Punjabi, forgotten food of the Muslims." We salute Neel...the brand new sensational second begum whose marriage was solemnised at the Turf Club on July 30. The faltering, anglicised, somewhat arrogant first wife Tote was justifiably given a hasty unceremonious burial. And though never a Tote fan, I salute the colossal guts of taking a risk of that magnitude and then the guts to turn that stumbling block into a stepping stone.

Out of a similar situation of turning a crisis into an opportunity was born Dum Pukht, the most luxurious of cuisines. It owes it's existence to a famine. When the nawab (in order to keep the famine stricken workers fed) ordered that rice, meat and spices simmer round the clock in their own steam, under a lid (in a pit with charcoal under it) was born the Dum Pukht cuisine. Neel's Dum biryani being a case in point: exquisite long grained rice, choicest mutton cuts, fragrant with spices, which does a sublime jugalbandi with mirchi ka salan and raita. Succulent tandoor roasted leg of baby lamb (Raan) which we dip into

the taar korma (served with it) makes even me and Gautami into converts.

I love the flavours that the beetroot marination coaxes out of the murg Karachi kabab, the delicate hung curd marination of the fish too. Our entire meal takes on a lyrical note, the velvety texture of the slim kakori kababs brings on a "wah wah". It's the kheema with its khada masala that "brings tears of joy" to Ram's eyes (I could've sworn I saw them). It's the dense, safed makhan rich kali dal which makes Ram "in the words of Jack Nicholson, want to be a better man". Behind this is chef Mukhtar Querishi who has cooking in his genes and jadu in his fingers. Happily, there is plenty for vegetarians, uttari lahsouni saag enlivened with garlic, achari Portobello mushrooms tangy with a pickle coating. Green olive rubbed jaittuni mushroom tikkas too. It's the trying-to-ohard-to-be different waterchestnut with bambooshoot kabab and the pinenut shorba and the sabz santre ka shorba that disappoint. But the other two shorbas (nalli, murg badami) delight as does the Rabdi icecream. The value for money pricing (Rs.1,100, meal for one) and the unique baked apricot parde me khubani do an irresistible mujra on our wallet and palate, respectively.

Recipe: Stuffed cobra Rice roll

Indulge in mouthwatering South Indian cuisine with a grand festival at Southindies, Shivajinagar. Choose from the exotic dishes from all the four southern states of India. The personalised meal experience at the Grand Maharaja Banquet in Southindies is on till September 1 and will make us feel pampered like a king. To start with, choose from an array of



unique flavoured rasams to go along with puris. It is followed by some of the mouthwatering starters like grilled pineapple, pazham-pineapple, the spicy Andhra chilly mushroom, podi tossed idli or the cocktail idlis tossed with gunpowder. Don't forget to try out the Madras bhel. The best part is the maincourse, which is served to you with a choice of appams, iddiappams and parathas, along with kaistew, spicy kozhambu or a kurma. The buttermilk sorbet, served between the maincourse, is an absolute must try. One can savour some authentic curd rice with an array of interesting pickles as well. For those who have a sweet tooth, the desserts like the tender coconut payasam — a signature dish of Southindies and an array of other desserts to choose from the dessert buffet spread, are a must-try. So indulge in the the Grand Maharaja Buffet at Southindies, Shivajinagar, Ganeshkind Road from 7 pm onwards. It is priced at '500 plus taxes per person.

Doctor's prescription now mandatory for cough syrups as Centre amends rules

Doctor's prescription must for all syrups: Government cracks down on over-the-counter cough syrup sales

New Delhi.(Agency)

The Centre has tightened rules governing the sale of syrups, including cough syrups, with a fresh amendment to the Drugs Rules, 1945 that will require consumers to obtain a doctor's prescription before purchasing such medicines from pharmacies.

The move comes months after contaminated cough syrups were linked to the deaths of children in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, raising fresh concerns over the safety and regulation of commonly used liquid medicines. The incidents renewed calls for tighter oversight and stricter checks on the manufacture and sale of syrup formulations.

The notification, dated June 9, 2026, was published after considering public comments on a draft proposal issued in December last year.

The amendment removes the word "Syrups" from a category of medicines listed in Schedule K of the Drugs Rules, a move that effectively ends their over-the-counter availability and places them under stricter regulatory control.

WHAT THE NOTIFICATION SAYS

According to the notification, the Central

Government exercised powers under Sections 12 and 33 of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 to amend the Drugs Rules, 1945.

The notification reads: "These rules may be called the Drugs (Fifth Amendment) Rules, 2026" and adds that they "shall come into force on the date of their publication in the Official Gazette."

The amendment specifically says that in Schedule K of the Drugs Rules, 1945, under the heading "Class of Drugs", the word "Syrups" in item number seven shall be omitted.

IMPACT ON CONSUMERS

The regulatory change means syrups, including commonly used cough syrups, will no longer be available for purchase over the counter without medical

authorisation.

Consumers seeking to buy such medicines will now be required to present a

medicinal syrups that have traditionally been available directly from pharmacies.

DRAFT RULES WERE PUBLISHED EARLIER

The notification says draft rules proposing the amendment were published on December 30, 2025, inviting objections and suggestions from the public.

The government said comments received during the consultation period were considered before the amendment was finalised. The notification was issued by Harsh Mangla, Joint Secretary, Department of Health and Family Welfare.

With the amendment now in force, pharmacies across the country will have to comply with the revised rules governing the sale of syrups and related formulations.



prescription issued by a registered medical practitioner. The move is expected to affect routine purchases of cough and other

Can't raze Race Course slum houses whose owners are yet to move: Delhi HC

New Delhi.(Agency)

The Delhi High Court on Monday said authorities cannot demolish the houses of those residents in Race Course slum clusters till July 1 who have not accepted alternative accommodation and relocated.

"If they have not voluntarily gone, you cannot touch them till July 1," said a vacation bench of Justices Tejas Karia and Madhu Jain orally while hearing an appeal filed by certain residents of the Bhai Ram Camp, DID Camp and Masjid Camp, assailing an order of a single-judge bench that had refused to interfere with their eviction from the area, which also houses the prime minister's official residence.



out a demolition drive in the locality on Sunday, despite the ongoing litigation.

The appellants' counsel contended that there was a "consensus" between the high court and the authorities that no coercive action would be taken during the pendency of the appeal, especially since the issue of rehabilitation was being considered.

The Centre's counsel, however, emphasised that the demolition action was in accordance with the high court's latest order and that a specific order for a stay on coercive action was turned down by the high court on the last date. The bench said it would pass an order in the matter, while asserting that rehabilitation is for those who are willing to go voluntarily and that a resident cannot claim two accommodations.

Delhi government offers incentives for teachers to create notes for non-formal students

New Delhi.(Agency)

With the aim of strengthening academic support for non-formal learners, the Directorate of Education (DoE), Delhi, has invited applications from principals, vice-principals and subject teachers to develop Class XII support material for Patrachar Vidyalaya students.

The circular posted on the department's website on Monday called upon educators from government schools to contribute as team leaders or members in preparing subject-wise content aligned with the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) curriculum. The initiative aims to bridge academic gaps for students enrolled in Patrachar Vidyalaya, many of whom rely on self-study and limited classroom interaction.

The proposed material will go beyond basic textbooks, offering chapter-wise notes, important questions, assignments, model papers, competency-based exercises, and insights into previous years' question trends. Officials say the aim is to provide structured, exam-oriented guidance tailored specifically to the needs of open school learners.

Interested applicants were required to submit their credentials, including teaching experience and prior involvement in academic writing or study material development, by June 10. Preference, the circular notes, will be given to those familiar with both NIOS and CBSE frameworks.

For each subject, a team will be formed comprising one Principal or Vice Principal as coordinator, four subject teachers, and an IT/Data Entry operator. The work will be conducted at the coordinator's school, with a deadline set for mid-July.

To incentivise participation, regular teachers will be granted earned leave under CCS rules, while guest teachers will receive attendance certification, counting their contribution as on-duty workdays.

Education officials view this as a significant step in standardising and improving learning resources for Patrachar students, who often face challenges due to irregular schooling patterns. "By tapping into the expertise of experienced educators, the department hopes to create high-quality material that not only supports exam preparation but also enhances conceptual understanding," read the circular.

'Jinxed' Civil Lines bungalow at 33 Sham Nath Marg to become disaster HQ in Delhi

New Delhi.(Agency)

For decades, the sprawling Civil Lines bungalow at 33 Sham Nath Marg occupied a peculiar place in Delhi's political folklore.

Unlike the capital's other coveted government residences, this one became notorious for the misfortune that seemed to follow its occupants. Chief ministers lost office, political careers stumbled and, in one case, tragedy struck. Over time, the address acquired a label that no government property wants: jinxed.

Now, after years of standing largely vacant, the infamous bungalow is headed for the wrecking ball. The government plans to demolish the property and redevelop it into the capital's first dedicated headquarters of the Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), complete with a modern Emergency Operations Centre. In a fitting twist, a building long associated with political misfortune could soon become the



command centre for handling disasters.

Even as redevelopment plans gather pace, the bungalow's curious history continues to command attention.

Nestled in the leafy expanse of Civil Lines, 33 Sham Nath Marg occupies over 5,500 square metres of prime land. Built in the 1920s, the two-storey structure was designed in the colonial style, with huge lawns, landscaped gardens, conference rooms and staff quarters. For years, it ranked among the capital's most prestigious official residences. Its reputation, however, was shaped less by its architecture than

by the fate of those who lived or worked there.

The first prominent occupant was Delhi's first chief minister, Chaudhary Brahm Prakash, who moved into the bungalow in 1952. His tenure came to an abrupt end in 1955 amid controversy surrounding the alleged 'jaggery scam'. Decades later, the bungalow found another high-profile resident in Madan Lal Khurana, who was allotted the residence after becoming CM in 1993. Khurana, too, failed to complete his term, resigning in 1996 amid allegations linked to the hawala scandal.

Sheila minister's death in 2003 in 'jinxed' house added to bad reputation

Sahib Singh Verma, who succeeded Khurana as CM, used the premises as his camp office but was eventually replaced before completing his tenure. What may have been dismissed as coincidence gradually evolved into political folklore.

Rain, strong winds hit Delhi; conditions likely to persist

New Delhi.(Agency)

Rain and strong winds hit the national capital on Monday as parts of the city received light to moderate rainfall, bringing some respite from the heat.

According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), Palam recorded 9.0 mm of rainfall till 5.30 pm—the highest in the region. Ayanagar saw 4.6 mm rainfall, while Safdarjung and Lodi Road stations recorded trace amounts of rain, and Ridge saw no measurable precipitation during the period.

Safdarjung, the city's case station, logged a maximum of 37.5 degrees Celsius, a notch below normal. Palam also recorded 37.5 degrees Celsius, while Lodi Road and Ayanagar

registered 37.8 degrees Celsius and 38 degrees Celsius, respectively.

The maximum temperature was recorded at 38.8 degrees Celsius at the



Ridge observatory—the highest among all stations, as per the IMD data. Weather officials said day temperatures were largely near normal, with a departure of minus 1.3 degrees Celsius at Safdarjung and minus 1.7

degrees Celsius at Palam. However, the 24-hour change in maximum temperatures remained marginally negative across most stations, indicating slight cooling due to rain. According to the weather department, Safdarjung logged a minimum temperature of 28.2 degrees Celsius, 0.7 notches above normal. The minimum temperature was lower at Palam, which recorded 25.4 degrees Celsius, while Lodi Road and Ridge stations registered 26 degrees Celsius and 25.5 degrees Celsius, respectively. Ayanagar recorded a minimum of 26.6 degrees Celsius.

For Tuesday, the weather office has forecast thunderstorms with rain, with minimum and maximum temperatures expected to be around 27 and 38 degrees Celsius, respectively.

Several parts continue to face water shortage in Delhi

For nearly a month now, the DJB's two major water treatment plants—Wazirabad and Chandrawal—have reduced water production due to low raw water supply.

New Delhi.(Agency)

Several parts of the national capital continue to face water shortages, as the Delhi Jal Board's water production remains affected, officials said on Monday. Despite rainfall and efforts to get extra water from Haryana, the water situation remains bleak, as the Jal Board reported production of around 960-950 million gallons per day (MGD) of water, which is around 40 MGD less than the summer target of 1,000 MGD.

"There has been a minor increase in flow of the Yamuna, but the shortfall remains, as the production is around 960 MGD of water. Attempts are being made to improve the water production," a senior Delhi Jal Board official said.

For nearly a month now, the DJB's two major water treatment plants—Wazirabad and Chandrawal—have reduced water production due to low raw water supply, leading to several areas facing problems.

Additionally, the Yamuna leve' at Wazirabad remains low at around 669.5 feet against the normal required level of 674.5 feet. Till the time the water levels rise to normal levels in the river, the water treatment plants are likely to face low production, the official noted.

As per government officials, talks are ongoing with the neighbouring Haryana government to increase raw water supply. "Situation at Chandrawal WTP is improving and the water production might be restored to normalcy in the next two to three days," an official said.

Currently, the Wazirabad WTP has an average capacity of producing 131 MGD, while Chandrawal produces 94 MGD on average. A 25-30 per cent reduction in both their capacity has brought down the overall water production of the DJB.

Areas affected include Civil Lines, Hindu Rao Hospital, Kamla Nagar, Shakti Nagar, Karol Bagh, Pahar Ganj and NDMC areas and parts of Cantonment and adjoining areas. The Delhi Jal Board has not provided a timeline on when the situation will improve.

Yamuna level at Wazirabad remains at 669.5 feet

For nearly a month now, the Delhi Jal Board's two major water treatment plants—Wazirabad and Chandrawal—have reduced water production due to low raw water supply, leading to several areas facing problems. Additionally, the Yamuna level at Wazirabad remains low at around 669.5 feet against the required normal of 674.5 feet.

Passport-like booklets for students to make heritage learning fun in Delhi

New Delhi.(Agency)

To encourage children to explore the capital's rich heritage, the Delhi government is set to introduce a passport-like booklet for students of Classes IV to VI featuring 23 monuments across the city. This, they said, will allow the students to collect stamps during visits and learn about the city's history in an interactive manner.

The programme has been developed by the Delhi Tourism and Transport Development Corporation in collaboration with the education department and is expected to be rolled out after August 15—for six months. Students who complete visits to all 23 monuments and collect the stamps will be eligible for awards and recognition from the tourism department.



The booklet, modelled on a travel passport, will carry the student's photograph and basic details on the opening page. The remaining pages will feature the monuments along with brief descriptions and designated spaces for stamps that children can collect during their visits, sources said.

"The idea is to make heritage exploration exciting for children," they added. Instead of viewing monuments only

through textbooks, students will be encouraged to visit them, learn about their history and understand the city's cultural landscape firsthand.

The booklets are proposed to be distributed through schools with the support of the education department and school management committees. Since entry to most monuments is free for children, the department said the passport will encourage students to visit the sites with their families.

Arrangements would be made at the monuments for children to get their passports stamped after completing the visit. Dedicated counters or designated personnel are expected to handle the stamping process, he added.

After collecting stamps from all 23 monuments, participants will be required to submit the completed passport to the

Central Reservation System (CRS) office. After completion of the six-month campaign, the department will choose students who submitted their passports at CRS through a draw of lots and will award prize money. The list of 23 sites will also include museums, such as the National Museum.

Earlier this year, chief minister Rekha Gupta had announced that the tourism department had been allocated '412 crore in the Budget. The Budget also earmarked '173 crore for the art, culture and language department.

Offers cash rewards to students on completing visits to 23 spots

After collecting stamps from all 23 monuments, participants will be required to submit the completed passport to the Central Reservation System (CRS) office.

Govt increases windfall tax on diesel, ATF exports

New Delhi, (Agency)

The government has raised windfall gains tax on diesel and aviation turbine fuel (ATF) exports, while keeping the levy on petrol unchanged for the fortnight starting Tuesday. According to a notification issued by the Finance Ministry, the special additional excise duty (SAED) on diesel exports has been increased to Rs 14 per litre from Rs 13.5 per litre. In addition, the duty on ATF exports has been raised more sharply to Rs 12.5 per litre from Rs 9.5 per litre.

However, there is no change in the SAED on petrol exports, which will continue at Rs 1.5 per litre. The revised rates will come into effect from today. Moreover, the government has kept unchanged the existing duty rates on petrol and diesel meant for domestic consumption. Earlier in May, the government had revised export levies on petrol, diesel and aviation turbine fuel (ATF) for the fortnight beginning June 1. At that time, the duty was fixed at Rs 1.5 per litre on



petrol, Rs 13.5 per litre on diesel and Rs 9.5 per litre on ATF exports. In March, the export duty on diesel and ATF was imposed amid escalating tensions in West Asia following the US-Israel attack on Iran and subsequent retaliation. The windfall tax was introduced to improve domestic availability of petroleum products and discourage exports at a time of elevated global crude prices driven by the West Asia conflict. In April, the Centre increased excise duties on petroleum products, including high-speed diesel. The export duty on diesel was raised by Rs 34 per litre to Rs 55.5 per litre from Rs 21.5 per litre. In a separate notification, the government had increased the Road and Infrastructure Cess on diesel to Rs 36 per litre under provisions of the Finance Act, 2018.

Rupee rises 5 paise to 94.53 against US dollar in early trade

MUMBAI, (Agency)

The rupee appreciated 5 paise to 94.53 against the US dollar in early trade on Tuesday, as a sharp decline in oil prices and easing Middle East tensions have shifted the near-term bias in favour of the domestic unit. Forex traders said the immediate threat to global energy supplies has significantly reduced, following easing of tensions in the Middle East.

Brent crude fell more than 6 per cent, moving closer to the USD 82 per barrel mark. For India, which imports nearly 90 per cent of its oil requirements, lower crude prices are often like a favorable wind behind a ship supporting the rupee.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 94.69, then gained momentum and touched 94.53 in initial trade, registering a rise of 5 paise from its previous close. On Monday, the rupee strengthened 60 paise to settle at 94.58 against the US dollar. Forex traders said with oil prices moving in India's favor and foreign inflows remaining supportive, the near-term outlook for the rupee remains positive. "The sharp decline in oil prices and easing Middle East tensions have shifted the near-term bias in favor of the rupee. With expectations of strong foreign capital inflows and USDINR having decisively broken below the 94.80 level, the pair could gradually move towards the 94.00-93.80 zone in the coming days," CR Forex Advisors MD Amit Pabari said. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading at 99.69, higher by 0.06 per cent.

Gold, silver price: The yellow metal strengthens and silver weakens; see rates in your city

New Delhi, (Agency)

While there is sign of relief in almost every asset class in the world after the cessation of hostilities in West Asia, gold and silver prices are displaying divergent trends today. Gold prices are marginally higher, while silver prices are under pressure. Investors are currently monitoring the global economic situation, dollar movements and central bank actions. Prices are fluctuating in the domestic futures market and bullion market. Therefore, if you are planning to buy gold or silver, it is important to know the latest prices. Let's find out the current prices of gold and silver on the MCX and



India Bullion Market today, and how much change has occurred. Also check the price of spot gold in your city.

Gold price on MCX

According to MCX data, gold for delivery in August 2026 traded relatively flat on the MCX on Tuesday, June 16, 2026. Around 9:08 am, the price of gold was at Rs 1,52,922 per 10 grams, a marginal increase of Rs 6 over the previous close. The market data shows a long buildup in gold, meaning both the price and open interest have increased.

Silver price on MCX

Silver for delivery in July 2026 witnessed some weakness on MCX today. Around 9:13 am, the price of silver was trading at Rs 2,50,410 per kg, down by Rs 1,048 or 0.42%. According to market data,

Japan raises interest rates to 31-year high as West Asia war fuels inflation fears

The Bank of Japan raised its policy rate to 1% from 0.75%, the highest level since 1995, citing faster pass-through from crude oil prices. The move signalled concern that oil-led cost pressures could push inflation above target while keeping focus on gradual further hikes.

New Delhi, (Agency)

The Bank of Japan (BOJ) raised interest rates to their highest level in 31 years on Tuesday, taking another major step away from its long era of ultra-loose monetary policy as rising energy costs from the Iran conflict added fresh inflationary pressure. In a widely expected move, the Japanese central bank increased its short-term policy rate to 1% from 0.75%, pushing borrowing costs to their highest level since 1995. The decision was approved by a 7-1 vote. BOJ

Governor Kazuo Ueda did not participate in the meeting as he is undergoing treatment in hospital for an infected liver cyst. The central bank said the increase in crude oil prices had begun to flow through the economy and could lead to broader price increases. "The price pass-through stemming from rising crude oil prices has been progressing at a relatively fast pace in business-to-business transactions, which could spread to an increase in consumer prices across a wide range of items," the BOJ said in a statement quoted by Reuters. "Taking into account that medium- and long-term inflation expectations have also continued to increase, there is a risk of underlying inflation deviating above our price target," it added. WHY IS JAPAN RAISING RATES NOW?

Japan's monetary policy path has become more complicated due to the impact of the conflict in West Asia, which has pushed up energy prices and increased costs for

countries dependent on imported fuel.

Although the peace agreement between the United States and Iran eased immediate concerns over a prolonged oil supply



disruption, Japanese companies had already started passing higher energy costs to consumers. Reuters reported that Japan's wholesale inflation rose to a three-year high of 6.3% in May, indicating that companies were transferring the burden of higher input costs to customers. Analysts expect Japan's core consumer

inflation to move above the BOJ's 2% target again later this year after temporarily falling due to government subsidies on utility bills.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR FUTURE RATE HIKES?

The BOJ had kept interest rates unchanged in its April meeting but increased its inflation forecasts and warned of the possibility that prices could rise faster than expected. Since then, markets had increasingly priced in a rate increase in June. A Reuters poll showed economists expect the BOJ to raise rates further to 1.25% in the fourth quarter of this year.

However, the central bank appears likely to move gradually. "If anything, the focus had been on whether a 50-basis-point rate hike would be proposed, but no such proposal was made. In terms of the future rate-hike path, this is positive for risk asset prices, as it suggests that a sharp rate hike is likely to be avoided," Hirofumi Suzuki, chief FX strategist at SMBC, told Reuters.

Dalal Street extends gains as Iran-US peace deal eases inflation concerns

The S&P BSE Sensex gained 306.22 points, or 0.40%, to 76,570.55 in early trade, while the NSE Nifty50 rose 72.95 points, or 0.31%, to 23,926.85 as of 9:36 am.

New Delhi, (Agency)

Benchmark stock market indices opened higher on Tuesday, extending gains for a third straight session as easing tensions in West Asia and a sharp correction in crude oil prices continued to support investor sentiment. The S&P BSE Sensex gained 306.22 points, or 0.40%, to 76,570.55 in early trade, while the NSE Nifty50 rose 72.95 points, or 0.31%, to 23,926.85 as of 9:36 am. The market rally came after a preliminary peace agreement between the United States and Iran eased fears of a prolonged conflict and helped bring crude oil prices sharply lower. Brent crude remained below the

crucial \$84 per barrel mark, trading at \$82.99 a barrel, while WTI crude hovered around \$80.74. The decline in oil prices is a major positive for India, which imports more than 85% of its crude



requirement. Lower crude prices reduce pressure on inflation, the current account deficit and the rupee, improving the overall macroeconomic outlook.

Dr VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Investments Limited, said the sharp correction in Brent crude and a stable rupee could provide resilience to Indian markets. "The sharp correction in Brent crude to below \$84 and stability in the rupee have the potential to impart resilience to the market. The strong macro headwind of

rising BoP deficit is no longer a serious issue plaguing the economy," he said. He added that the rupee has appreciated to 94.71 against the US dollar from its recent low of 96.96, which could help reduce sustained foreign investor selling.

However, he cautioned that renewed strength in the AI trade and momentum in markets such as South Korea and Taiwan may continue to divert foreign portfolio investor (FPI) flows away from India. He also flagged concerns over the progress of the monsoon and the possibility of inflationary pressures if rainfall remains below normal. Among sectoral indices, Nifty IT emerged as the top gainer, rising 1.43%, followed by Nifty Consumer Durables, which climbed 0.91%, Nifty Media, up 0.64%, and Nifty Financial Services, which gained 0.42%. However, metal stocks remained under pressure, with Nifty Metal declining 1.52%, making it the biggest sectoral loser in early trade. Among Sensex stocks, HCLTech led the gains, rising 3.11%, followed by Bajaj Finserv (1.61%), Bajaj Finance (1.60%), Hindustan Unilever (1.55%), Tech Mahindra (1.46%) and TCS (1.44%).

New Mercedes AMG GLE 63 S and GLS 63 revealed - Updates explained

New Delhi, (Agency)

Mercedes-AMG has unveiled updated versions of the GLE 63 S and GLS 63 SUVs, and the headline change is a new engine. Both get the revised M177 EVO 4.0-litre twin-turbo V8, which brings a motorsport-inspired flat-plane crankshaft to the table. This change reduces rotating mass, helps the engine rev more freely, and sharpens throttle response. Power output stays the same, but AMG says the new unit is more fuel-efficient than before. These updates follow the standard Mercedes GLE and GLS facelifts revealed in April 2026. Power and performance

The 4-litre twin-turbo V8 engine V8 produces 612 hp on its own. A 48V mild-hybrid starter-generator adds another 23 hp on top, bringing total system output to 635 hp. The mild-hybrid unit also adds torque at low engine speeds, recovers energy during braking, and makes engine



restarts smoother. The AMG GLE 63 S sprints from 0 to 100 kmph in 3.9 seconds. The larger AMG GLS 63 does the same in 4.2 seconds. Both come with all-wheel drive as standard and have a top speed of 280 kmph.

What's new under the hood

Beyond the flat-plane crankshaft, the M177 EVO gets a revised firing order, updated fuel injection, new intake and exhaust ports, a reworked camshaft, and a new turbocharger housing. The exhaust

system has also been updated and can automatically adjust its flaps to change the engine note depending on the driving mode. A particulate filter now comes as standard to meet the latest emission norms. On the chassis side, AMG has revised the active ride control system to reduce body roll. The front and rear driveshafts have been strengthened to handle the additional torque. The GLS also gains a rear axle locking system for better traction in demanding situations.

AMG moving away from plug-in hybrids

This update is part of a broader shift at AMG. The brand appears to be stepping back from plug-in hybrid powertrains and returning to mild-hybrid V8s. The upcoming update for the AMG C 63, which currently uses a plug-in hybrid setup, is reportedly set to bring back a V8 as well.

World's 1st trillionaire says a quadrillion-dollar fortune 'not impossible' but there's a catch

New Delhi, (Agency)

Elon Musk has a habit of saying things that sound absurd until they happen. So when Musk says becoming the world's first quadrillionaire is "not impossible", that track record earns the statement at least a look. The answer, as it turns out, involves factories on the Moon, colonies on Mars, and a future in which the US dollar may no longer exist as a currency.

FROM TRILLIONAIRE TO WHAT EXACTLY?

Musk became the world's first trillionaire this week after SpaceX, his rocket and satellite company, went public in a blockbuster IPO that raised \$75 billion, the largest in history. His net worth now stands at an estimated \$1.1 trillion, according to Forbes, placing him so far ahead of the next richest person on earth that the gap itself is staggering. Alphabet co-founder Larry Page comes in second at around \$300 billion.

But a quadrillionaire?

That would require Musk to be worth \$1,000,000,000,000,000, or one thousand trillion dollars. To put that in perspective, the entire global GDP as of 2026 stands at

roughly \$120 trillion. A quadrillionaire would be worth more than eight times the output of every country on earth combined. When a post by the World of Statistics account on X pointed out that Musk would need another \$998.9 trillion to reach that number, Musk did not dismiss it. "Not impossible," he wrote, reposting the claim.

WHAT WOULD IT ACTUALLY TAKE?

Musk was quick to add that becoming a quadrillionaire would require achievements that go well beyond anything the world has seen so far.

"Factories on the Moon and Mars to achieve," he replied. The logic, while extraordinary, is consistent with everything Musk has been building towards. SpaceX's Starship rocket is designed to carry humans and cargo to Mars at a scale that makes colonisation viable. Musk has long argued that becoming a multi-planetary species is not just a vanity project but a necessity for the survival of human civilisation.

If those colonies become real, and if they house factories producing goods and resources that can be sold back to earth or used to fuel interplanetary commerce, the economic scale involved would be unlike anything in human history. Whether that

of measuring wealth in dollars may be obsolete by the time quadrillionaire-level wealth becomes possible.

"By then, I don't think dollars will be used as currency. Just mass and energy," he said.

It is a striking statement from someone

whose net worth is currently denominated in exactly those dollars. But it fits a worldview Musk has expressed across multiple interviews and podcasts over the past few years. He believes artificial intelligence and robotics will transform the global economy so fundamentally that traditional notions of money, work, and scarcity will no longer apply. "AI and robots are going to make so much stuff and provide so many services that they'll run out of things to do for humans," Musk has said in past interviews.

In his vision, automated production will eventually drive the cost of most goods and services close to zero. When robots can do everything cheaper and faster than humans, wages lose their meaning and money itself starts to look like an outdated concept.



translates into personal wealth in any conventional sense is another question entirely.

BY THEN, DOLLARS MAY NOT EXIST

Musk himself seems to think the very idea

Short news

AISHE registration made mandatory: Haryana asks all unregistered institutions to complete process urgently**Panchkula.(Agency)**

Seeking to ensure accurate data collection on student enrolment, faculty strength, infrastructure and academic programmes across educational institutions, the Haryana Higher Education Department has directed all newly established and unregistered institutions to obtain registration on the All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) portal. The move is aimed at bringing every eligible institution under the national higher education database, which is used for policy planning, accreditation, scholarships and assessment of the education sector.

The Directorate General of Higher Education (DGHE), Haryana, has issued a circular informing universities, colleges and institutions under various departments that fresh registration on the AISHE portal has been opened by the Ministry of Education for the 2025-26 survey year. The department emphasised that obtaining an AISHE code is mandatory for educational institutions as it is required for NAAC accreditation, scholarship-related processes and participation in the annual AISHE survey.

The communication has been addressed to authorities overseeing technical education, medical education, AYUSH institutions, agriculture and veterinary education, nursing education, school education and all state public universities, asking them to ensure that institutions under their jurisdiction complete the registration process in time.

HP: Advocate Bhawana Dhiman to draw Re 1 salary as Panchayat Pradhan in Solan**Solan.(Agency)**

The oath-taking ceremony for newly elected Panchayat representatives in Solan district marked the beginning of a new local governance cycle, two newly elected Pradhans—Advocate Bhawana Dhiman of Gram Panchayat Jodhana and Rajesh Thakur of Gram Panchayat Khala—stood out for their distinct agendas and public commitments in this district.

Bhawana Dhiman, a practising advocate who has been elected Pradhan of Gram Panchayat Jodhana, announced that she would accept only a symbolic salary of Re 1 during her tenure.

Speaking to UNI, she said that tackling the growing menace of stray animals would be among her foremost priorities.

Ms Dhiman further said she intends to pursue the issue through both legal and administrative channels. Referring to recent Supreme Court directions concerning stray cattle management, she said Gram Panchayats should receive adequate financial support for running cow shelters and that farmers and rural residents affected by stray animals must be compensated for their losses.

She also emphasized women's empowerment as a key area of focus. According to her, creating awareness about legal and constitutional rights, promoting education, and encouraging skill development among women would form an important part of her agenda. She added that issues concerning women and marginalized sections would be pursued vigorously, including through legal intervention wherever necessary.

Another notable Panchayat leader is Rajesh Thakur, who was elected unopposed as Pradhan of Gram Panchayat Khala, a development being described as a first in the Panchayat's history.

AI-assisted Malayalam romantic song gains traction on YouTube**Kochi.(Agency)**

A new chapter in Malayalam independent music may be unfolding with the growing popularity of the romantic melody 'Enthinenne Thattiyunarthi', created by filmmaker and digital content creator Raghunath N.B. The song has been attracting attention on YouTube and is emerging as one of the notable independent Malayalam music releases of 2026.

The project has drawn interest for its extensive use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the production process.

According to the creator, AI tools were employed for orchestration, vocal rendering and visual generation, while the lyrics, melody, concept and overall creative direction were developed by Raghunath.

The resulting romantic track combines human creativity with AI-assisted production techniques, reflecting a growing trend of technology-enabled content creation in the music industry.

Since its release on June 2, the song has registered encouraging engagement on YouTube. Creator-shared analytics indicate that the video has garnered more than 4,300 views and achieved a click-through rate (CTR) of 4.96 per cent, exceeding the channel's average performance.

Toxicology reports confirm 'ecstasy' in deaths of two students at Mumbai's NESCO concert**Mumbai.(Agency)**

The toxicology reports of two management students who died after falling ill during a music concert at NESCO in Goregaon in April have confirmed the presence of MDMA (ecstasy) in their bodies, corroborating investigators' suspicion that the women had consumed the party drug, police sources said. Investigators have also uncovered an alleged international supply chain through which the contraband was smuggled into India from the United States, concealed inside paint containers.

The Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) has submitted its toxicology reports confirming MDMA in samples collected from the deceased students. The Vanrai police, yet to file a chargesheet, found that the contraband was allegedly sourced from the US through courier services. According to investigators, the ecstasy pills were wrapped in rubber or plastic and hidden inside paint containers to avoid detection during transit.

Police officers familiar with narcotics investigations said drug traffickers often

conceal contraband within legitimate consignments to evade law enforcement. "If ecstasy pills are packed in small rubber balls and hidden inside paint containers, it is difficult to identify them during routine screening. Drug syndicates have also been known to conceal



narcotics inside chocolate boxes, with packets wrapped in colours similar to actual chocolates. During X-ray screening, such consignments can appear similar to genuine products, making them difficult to differentiate," a senior officer said. In April, the Mumbai Crime Branch's Anti-Narcotics Cell (ANC) seized 5,000 MDMA pills worth around Rs 6 crore and

arrested a woman from Titwala. Officers found that a drug syndicate had allegedly sourced 25,000 ecstasy pills from a European country and smuggled them into India concealed within a garment consignment, which escaped detection during routine scanning before it was intercepted. The seizure was among the largest ecstasy pill hauls made by the Mumbai police.

The case relates to the deaths of Shreya Rai, 24, and Sheetal Salvi, 25, second-year MBA students at a South Mumbai management institute, who attended a techno music concert at NESCO on April 11 along with a group of friends. Both women complained of dizziness and discomfort while dancing at the event, attended by an estimated 3,000 to 4,000 people. They were taken to a trauma hospital around 12.30 am on April 12 and later shifted to Bombay Hospital after their condition

deteriorated. Rai died later that day; Salvi succumbed nearly a week later. A third student from the same institute, Bismat Singh Amarjit Singh Bhasin, 28, also attended the concert. He consumed alcohol at the event, later complained of uneasiness, and died during treatment at Lifeline Medicare Hospital.

20 years, 127 witnesses later, CBI court to rule on Congress leader's murder**Mumbai. (Agency)**

A special CBI court in Mumbai is set to deliver its verdict, 20 years after one of Maharashtra's most prominent political murder cases involving the families of Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Omraje Nimbalkar and BJP MLA Ranajagitsinha Padmasinh Patil from Osmanabad, now known as Dharashiv. The verdict will be pronounced against eight accused, including Ranajagitsinha Patil's father, Padmasinh Patil, who is now 86 years old. Padmasinh Patil served as Maharashtra's Home Minister in the late 1980s and held several cabinet portfolios. He was an MLA when the murder took place and later went on to become a Member of Parliament from Dharashiv. His sister, Sunetra Pawar, is currently the Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra and the wife of Ajit Pawar. Omraje Nimbalkar's father, Pawanraje Nimbalkar, was

a prominent Congress leader from the Marathwada region. According to the prosecution, he was viewed as a political threat



by NCP stalwart Padmasinh Patil. On June 3, 2006, Pawanraje Nimbalkar and his driver were travelling in a Skoda car near Kalamboli when they were allegedly intercepted by

assailants travelling in another vehicle. The attackers allegedly forced Nimbalkar's car to stop and opened fire, killing both men on the spot before fleeing. Allegations of threats and a contract killing soon surfaced, following which the investigation was handed over to the CBI. According to the agency, the killers were paid Rs 30 lakh to eliminate Nimbalkar.

Padmasinh Patil and eight other accused were arrested in connection with the case. One of the accused later turned approver and was granted a pardon. Over the past 20 years, the case has reached the Supreme Court multiple times. The apex court eventually expedited the trial and extended its deadline on three occasions. Following the examination and cross-examination of 127 witnesses, the case concluded with months of lengthy final arguments.

Trusting online navigation, driver takes wrong turn in UP's Hapur — family car ends up in drain**Lucknow.(Agency)**

A family of five from Greater Noida had a narrow escape after their car fell into a drain in Uttar Pradesh's Hapur Sunday night. Officials said the man at the wheel reportedly took a wrong route while following an online map for their destination.

Dial 112 and fire station personnel responded promptly and firemen pulled out the five occupants — three men, a woman and a 6-month-old child — from the car. "It took about two hours ensuring the family remained unhurt throughout the operation," said Chief Fire Officer (CFO) Ajay Sharma.

Sharma told that the family had left their home in Dadri area of Greater Noida for Kithore locality in Meerut. One of the men, Sahil, was driving the car and had connected to Google Maps for navigation, he said. While moving through Hapur, he drove through Shyam Nagar locality. Fireman Sudhir Kumar, who was one of five members of the rescue team, told The

Indian Express that Sahil appeared to have taken a wrong route here and went on a congested road passing by a railway overbridge. He said this is not a common road for commuters and is only used as a shortcut by the locals. Locals know about the drain besides the road and usually only take two-wheelers on the route, Kumar said.



On Sunday, this road was waterlogged and the drain too filled up, officials said. Kumar further said the driver took the hatchback onto the road and attempted to drive through it when the vehicle skidded into the drain, which was knee

deep, around 10 pm.

"While trying to steer it out, the entire car slid into the drain. The area inside was marshy and the car's wheels got stuck," the fireman said, adding that the occupants were unable to open the doors. He told The Indian Express that one of the occupants called the police helpline — 112 — and they alerted the Hapur fire station.

The rescue op

A team of five led by leading fireman Narendra Singh rushed to the spot. "We could not take a fire tender since it was too narrow. We left the fire engine on the road and walked 800 metres carrying our equipment," said Kumar. Describing their rescue efforts, Kumar said, "We tried to free the car by placing bricks under the wheels and digging around the sides of the drain. We finally went into the drain ourselves and managed to lift the vehicle from the rear." Later, they called a tractor to pull the vehicle out. By then, it was already around midnight, Kumar said.

Seven militants arrested in separate operations**Imphal.(Agency)**

Security forces arrested seven active militants in a series of operations conducted across Imphal West, Imphal East and Bishnupur districts during the last two days, Police said on Tuesday. In one operation, a woman militant was arrested from her current locality in Imphal West district.

In a separate operation, another militant was apprehended from his residence in Imphal East district. Security forces also arrested two militants from their respective residences in Imphal West district.

In another operation, an alleged extortionist was arrested from his residence in Imphal East district.

A militant was also apprehended from the Yaripek Lamlai crossing area under Andro Police Station in Imphal East district.

In a separate operation, another militant was arrested from his residence in Imphal West district. During the operation, security personnel recovered a 9 mm pistol along with a magazine from his possession.

On Monday, security forces arrested an active cadre of Sawombung Maniyaikul under Lamalai-PS, Imphal East district from his residence.

On June 14 following the arrest of a man from Imphal East district from Khatkhati, Assam earlier and subsequent investigation, security forces recovered from Pangei and Yairipok areas, ten rifles and pistol along with ammunition.

HP: Mata Shri Chintpurni Dham to get ₹250 cr world-class makeover**Una (HP).(Agency)**

Deputy Chief Minister Mukesh Agnihotri reviewed the preparations for the Mata Shri Chintpurni Temple development and expansion project and directed officials to expedite all formalities and commence construction work immediately. He said that, with the blessings of Maa Chintpurni, they are continuously moving towards giving this divine shrine a grander, more attractive, and pilgrim-friendly appearance.

Approximately ₹250 crore will be spent on the development, expansion, and beautification of the temple. Under the project, a world-class complex equipped with modern amenities will be developed for pilgrims, while preserving the original structure and sanctity of the temple's sanctum sanctorum.

He informed on Monday that the project's design and land acquisition processes are nearly complete, and construction work will begin soon. Chief Minister Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu will also formally lay the foundation stone for this ambitious project shortly.

The Deputy Chief Minister noted that, just as several major temples and religious sites across the country have been expanded and redeveloped with modern amenities—and extensive infrastructure has been created for pilgrims at Mata Vaishno Devi and Shri Vrindavan Dham—Mata Shri Chintpurni Dham will also undergo planned and grand development along similar lines. The temple complex will be equipped with modern facilities to ensure world-class amenities for pilgrims visiting from across the country and abroad, thereby giving a new impetus to religious tourism in the state.

He further stated that the state government aims to complete the first phase of the project within the next year so that pilgrims can benefit from modern amenities. To achieve this, regular monitoring of the construction work will be ensured, and all processes will be completed within the stipulated time frame.

Elder abuse on rise in Bengaluru: 68 per cent cases involve family

The event comes against the backdrop of alarming findings from a three-year impact study of Elders Helpline.

BENGALURU.(Agency)

"Elderly citizens are invisible citizens," observed Indumathi Rao, a Regional Adviser for the Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) Network at Bangalore University, speaking at an event organised by the NGO, HelpAge India, to mark World Elder Abuse Awareness Day.

The event took place here on Monday and involved the launch of the national report on climate-resilient ageing. "Despite the small scale of the national report, which surveyed only around 2,000 elderly citizens, the report sheds light on a lot of problems which disproportionately affect the elderly, including health issues, disability impairment, and bad living conditions. The



elderly are also the most vulnerable during environmental disasters," said Rao. The analysis is based on 2,224 older people across 10 states, including Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and

Gujarat. It demonstrated that nearly 46% of respondents report at least one long-term impairment that limits daily activities.

Almost 48% of respondents are financially dependent, while 92% have a monthly income below Rs 10,000. The most common healthcare barriers respondents faced were difficulty travelling to facilities (49%) and high treatment costs (41%). Climate-related hazards are widespread, affecting 78% of respondents in the last three years.

"While the government rolls out various schemes, the question of how much is allocated in its budget to the elderly is an important one," says Reshma, program officer at ActionAid, an NGO that works

with marginalised communities.

Meanwhile, the Elders Helpline, a joint project of the Bengaluru City Police and Nightingales Medical Trust, organised a panel discussion on "Elder Abuse in Families and Community: Understanding the Pain, Pressures and Possible Solutions" on Monday in the office of the Bengaluru City Police Commissioner. The event comes against the backdrop of alarming findings from a three-year impact study of Elders Helpline.

Seemant Kumar Singh, Commissioner of Police, Bengaluru City, Dr Sneha C.V. Director, Department for the Empowerment of Differently Aabled, senior citizens, and other IPS officials attended the event.

NEWS BOX

FIFA World Cup: VAR official clarifies viral white supremacist gesture, says it was a twitch

New Delhi., (Agency)

FIFA courted a massive backlash during Germany's 7-1 routing of Curacao after VAR official Shaun Evans allegedly made a white supremacist gesture on live broadcast. Evans appeared to make an OK sign with his right hand, a gesture that is now recognised as a far-right symbol and widely used on social media. Following the backlash, the VAR official clarified that the gesture was caused by an involuntary twitch and that he did not mean anything by it. FIFA's disciplinary committee, after reviewing the matter, concluded that the Australian had not breached the sport's disciplinary code. "I did not intentionally make a hand gesture or symbol to communicate a message, affiliation, game or belief of any kind," Evans said in a statement released Monday by FIFA. "The only explanation I can offer is that the movement was an involuntary, subconscious twitch and I was unaware I had done it at the time. Images taken later during the match showed that I repeated this movement many times while holding a pen between my fingers." In 2019, the gesture -



with thumb and forefinger touching in a circle and the other fingers outstretched - was designated a hate symbol by the New York-based Anti-Defamation League.

"Advice from our experts is that the gesture used clearly resembles an upside down 'OK' hand symbol used as a 'white power' symbol in global far-right circles," said the Fare network, a long-time partner of FIFA and European football governing body UEFA that monitors racist and discriminatory chants, flags and symbols at international games. Clearly this official should have no further role to play in this World Cup," Fare said in its statement, describing the gesture as "neo-Nazi".

Evans is working at his second World Cup, and this was his first game of the tournament. "FIFA's independent disciplinary committee can confirm that, after looking into the matter involving support video assistant referee Shaun Evans, it has found no evidence of breaches of the FIFA disciplinary code," the FIFA panel said in a statement. "The disciplinary committee has also taken note of Mr Evans' statement."

Brendon McCullum concerned for Stokes after England captain dropped from Test squad

New Delhi. (Agency)

England head coach Brendon McCullum has admitted he is worried about Ben Stokes' well-being after the England captain was dropped from the squad for the second Test against New Zealand, stressing that supporting the star all-rounder remains the team's priority.

Stokes and fast bowler Gus Atkinson were ruled out of the second Test at The Oval pending an investigation into a nightclub incident in London following England's victory over New Zealand in the series opener at Lord's. The pair breached the team's midnight curfew while celebrating the win, with reports stating they were present when a member of England's security staff was struck by a Saracens rugby player. Speaking on the eve of the second Test, McCullum revealed his reaction when he first learnt of the incident,



describing a mix of disappointment and concern. "When I first found out about it I was slightly bewildered, if I'm being honest," McCullum said. "Then you go through a range of emotions. You go from being bewildered, on to angry, on to kind of gutted - from the progress which we talked about over the last six months and what we're trying to do with the side, and some of the improvements we've tried to make, which includes the standards we want to set for ourselves, to hear about this was incredibly gutting." But the England coach said those emotions quickly gave way to concern, particularly for Stokes, with whom he has remained in regular contact since the incident came to light. Very quickly, through talking to Ben and also Gus, my overall emotion turned to worry and concern, for Ben in particular," McCullum said. The latest episode adds another chapter to Stokes' eventful career. Widely regarded as one of England's finest cricketers, the 35-year-old has previously faced intense public scrutiny, from cricket to focus on his mental wellbeing.

Vaibhav Sooryavanshi ignored Virat's advice. Virat spent years ignoring it too

Two weeks ago, Virat Kohli told Vaibhav Sooryavanshi to block out the noise. On Monday, Vaibhav couldn't. Neither could Kohli, once.

Ahmedabad. (Agency)

Two weeks ago in Ahmedabad, Virat Kohli put his arm around Vaibhav Sooryavanshi's shoulder and said something the 15-year-old will need to remember for the rest of his career. "Do not pay attention to who is saying what or how they are saying it," Sooryavanshi later said the moment felt like a dream, that it didn't even feel like it was actually Virat Kohli. That the man spoke to him like an elder brother. He stored the words carefully, the way you store something precious. In Dambulla, after a Super Over that India A lost to Sri Lanka A in circumstances already fraying with controversy, Sooryavanshi turned back. He had been walking away,

gloves tapped with Suryansh Shedge, head down, done. Then a Sri Lanka A fielder — Vishen Halabage, clapping, talking — said something. And the 15-year-old, who had just faced Jasprit Bumrah in front of 50,000 people, decided he wasn't done after all. He pushed Halabage with his left hand before Niroshan Dickwella stepped in to separate them. It lasted seconds. It will be discussed for days.

WHAT HAPPENED IN DAMBULLA The match itself had been a powder keg. India A and Sri Lanka A had tied at 265 apiece, a no-ball controversy had dragged both sets of players back onto the field after they'd begun leaving, and Tilak Varma had spent considerable time in the umpires' faces before the Super Over was eventually played. By the time Mathulan's yorker ended India A's chase, nerves were already stripped raw. Sooryavanshi had scored five runs off two balls in the Super Over. It was not enough, and not through want of trying. As the hosts celebrated, he and Shedge began the long walk back. What followed was brief but ugly: words from Halabage, a response

from Sooryavanshi, a push, and then cooler heads, Dickwella, Sri Lanka A captain Sahan Arachchige, pulling everyone apart. A gripping contest had its ending soured.

NOT THE FIRST TIME

This is, in truth, a familiar script, at least on the



field, in the heat of competition. In December 2025, during India's chase of 348 in the Under-19 Asia Cup final in Dubai, Sooryavanshi hammered 26 off 10 balls before Pakistan pacer Ali Raza dismissed him

and celebrated with some pointed words. Sooryavanshi did not simply walk off. He turned, gestured, said his piece. It went viral. People talked about it for days then, too.

Two incidents, separated by months, do not define a character. Away from the field, Sooryavanshi has consistently been the picture of graciousness — touching Sunil Gavaskar's feet during IPL 2026, having Kohli sign his Rajasthan Royals cap and wearing it in matches whenever he wasn't wearing the Orange Cap. The boy who pushed Halabage on Monday is not a different person from the one who bent down before Gavaskar. He is the same person, at 15, still learning which version of himself to be in which moment. What the two incidents do suggest is something more specific and more understandable: that

when Sooryavanshi is in the arena and the needle goes in, he responds. In kind, immediately, without much calculation. That is a different thing from being an angry young man.

World Cup: Tunisia appoint Herve Renard as new manager after sacking Sabri Lamouchi

FIFA World Cup 2026: Philadelphia was painted in Ecuador's colours and La Tri created enough chances to win. But a late moment of brilliance from Amad Diallo handed Ivory Coast a dramatic 1-0 victory and an early advantage in Group E.

Philadelphia. (Agency)

FTunisia have sacked coach Sabri Lamouchi after their disastrous start to the World Cup and agreed to a deal to appoint fellow Frenchman Herve Renard as his replacement, Tunis Afrique Presse reported on Tuesday. The move follows Tunisia's 5-1 defeat by Sweden in their opening Group F match in Monterrey on Sunday, a result that left the North Africans under immediate pressure in the tournament. Lamouchi becomes the first coaching casualty of the World Cup. The 54-year-old was appointed in January on a contract running until 2028 but lasted barely six months in the role. Tunisia officially confirmed his



Tuesday afternoon and oversee his first training session later in the evening in Monterrey. The appointment marks Renard's third World Cup with a third different nation. He guided Morocco at the 2018 tournament in Russia before taking charge of Saudi Arabia at the 2022 World Cup in

Qatar. Renard's Saudi side produced one of the biggest upsets in World Cup history when they defeated eventual champions Argentina in their opening group match, although they failed to advance to the knockout rounds after losing their next two games. A two-time Africa Cup of Nations winner, Renard led Zambia to the continental title in 2012 before repeating the feat with Ivory Coast three years later. According to ESPN, Tunisia's decision was influenced not only by the heavy defeat against Sweden but also by unrest within the dressing room and tensions between Lamouchi, some players and officials within the Tunisian Football Federation.

The coaching change is believed to be the earliest managerial dismissal in World Cup history, with Lamouchi leaving after just one match at the tournament. Former Tunisia international midfielder Wahbi Khazri, who served as Lamouchi's assistant, will remain on the coaching staff under Renard. Tunisia are bottom of Group F following the defeat to Sweden and face a must-win encounter against Japan as they attempt to revive their hopes of reaching the knockout stage.

FIH Nations Cup: India women's hockey team beat Japan 2-1 to secure semifinal berth

India's 2-1 victory over Japan in Auckland was a significant result in the 2025-26 FIH Women's Nations Cup. The win gave India six points from two matches, ensured a semi-final berth, and kept them at the top of Pool A.

New Delhi. (Agency)

The Indian women's hockey team sealed a place in the semifinals of the FIH Hockey Women's Nations Cup New Zealand 2026 with a 2-1 win over Japan in their second Pool A match at the North Harbour National Hockey Centre in Auckland on Tuesday. Captain Salima Tete and forward Lalremsiami scored in either half for India, while Ai Hiramitsu found the net for Japan. The victory, India's second in as many matches, took them to six points and confirmed their passage to the last four of the



interval. India made the breakthrough in the third quarter through a well-executed penalty-corner routine. In the 33rd minute, Navneet Kaur's strike was cleverly redirected by Nikki Pradhan into the path of Salima, who finished from close range to hand India the lead. Japan responded almost

immediately. Two minutes later, Hiramitsu converted from a penalty corner to level the scores and restore parity. With the contest finely balanced heading into the final quarter, India regained the advantage in the 49th minute. Sushila Chanu Pukhrambam delivered a precise pass from the edge of the circle towards the goalmouth, where Lalremsiami produced a deft touch to guide the ball into the net. Japan pushed forward in the closing stages in search of an equaliser, but India's defence stood firm to preserve the lead and secure all three points.

The match was also a significant milestone for midfielder Jyoti, who made her 100th senior international appearance for the national team. India are now at the top of Pool A with six points from victories over the United States and Japan. They will face Uruguay in their final group-stage match on June 18, while Japan and the United States will compete for the second semifinal berth from the pool.



Motherwell winger calmly lifted the ball over Beiranvand to restore New Zealand's advantage. However, Iran hit back for a second time 10 minutes later. Mohammad Mohebbi met a cross at the back post and glanced a header into the net to make it 2-2. Both teams continued to attack in search of a winner, but neither side could find a decisive goal as the match ended level.

The result leaves Group G finely balanced after Belgium and Egypt also played out a 1-1 draw earlier on Monday. Iran will return to Los Angeles to face Belgium in their next group match on Sunday, while New Zealand will travel to Vancouver to take on Egypt. The Iranian squad arrived in the United States on Sunday from their training base in Tijuana, Mexico, ahead of the match. In Los Angeles, home to the largest Iranian community outside Iran, many Iranian American soccer fans said they were torn between excitement at seeing the national team compete on the world's biggest stage, anger at Tehran's crackdown on protesters and concern over Washington's military campaign against Iran.

India to host Asia Cup of fencing between June 19 and 24 in New Delhi

FIFA World Cup 2026: A cricket-style "Snicko" system was used in VAR review to determine whether Alexander Isak had made a faint touch in the build-up to Sweden's fourth goal against Tunisia.

New Delhi. (Agency)

India will host the Asian Senior Fencing Championships for the first time when the continental tournament takes place at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi from June 19 to 24. Widely recognised as the "Asia Cup" of fencing, the annual championship is considered the most prestigious competition in the Asia-Oceania region and will bring some of the world's top-ranked athletes to

India. This year's edition carries added significance as it will serve as a direct qualification event for the upcoming Asian Games while also offering ranking points that shape the international standings and the road towards the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic cycle. Alongside the competition, New Delhi will also host the 39th General Assembly of the Fencing Confederation of Asia (FCA), marking the first time India will stage the governing body's administrative summit.

Speaking ahead of the event, FCA and Fencing Association of India secretary general Rajeev Mehta said the championship could become a defining moment for the sport's growth in the country. "Hosting the Senior Asian Fencing Championships for the first time is a watershed moment that will permanently redefine the trajectory of Indian sports. We are not just welcoming the world's elite to New Delhi; we are laying down the path towards the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic



cycle right here at home. "I am equally excited to welcome delegates for the 39th FCA General Assembly, which is also being hosted in India for the first time.

Our athletes have already shown they can compete and win medals at the continental level, and this tournament offers them invaluable exposure competing under home conditions. "By introducing technologies such as the AI Video Referral System, India is also taking a leading role in modernising the sport. We believe this event can inspire a new generation of fencers in the country."

The championship is set to feature several of the sport's biggest names, including Olympic champions Cheung Ka Long of Hong Kong, Oh Sang-uk of South Korea and Japan's Yamada Masaru. India will field a full-strength squad of 24 fencers led by Olympian Bhavani Devi, who became the country's first-ever fencer to qualify for the Olympic Games and won India's maiden medal at the Asian Championships in 2023. She will be joined by sabre fencer Karan Singh, Asian Olympic qualification silver medallist, along with Tanishka Khatri and Gisho Nidhi.

Madhuri Dixit

On Being Body Shamed, Judged For Her Weight: 'They Said Isko Kuch Khilao'

Madhuri Dixit is riding high on the love and appreciation that's coming her way for her latest release, *Maa Behen*, which is now streaming on Netflix. The film, a pulp comedy, is receiving raving reviews for its sharp commentary running underneath the humour- that of judgments women face for just being themselves and the casual slut-shaming they're often subjected to.

And much like a society that's quick to judge its women, the film industry too subjects its female actors to constant scrutiny and expectations surrounding their choices and appearances. Speaking exclusively to News18, Madhuri reveals that she too was at the receiving end of judgmental remarks when she began her career in the 1980s.

"You're a public figure. You're putting yourself out there. There will, of course, be some comments coming your way that yeh aisi hai, yeh waisi hai. When I had started out, they thought I was too skinny. They would be like, isko kuch khilao (laughs). When it comes to these things, people are very fast to judge," Madhuri tells us as she underlines how women actors are often body shamed.



Talking about how it's a desi problem, the *Kalank* and *Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3* actor further continues, "They judge you for putting on weight, they judge you if you've lost weight. Waise bhi, India mein, jaise hi aap kisi ko milte hai, they say, 'Arrey, yeh toh kitni moti ho gayi hai ya toh kitni patli ho gayi hai.' That's the first thing they say. There isn't any filter here."

In Madhuri's words, navigating these remarks became relatively easier thanks to the absence of social media and the trolling culture back then. "But I believe that one has to take these things to their stride and not pay too much attention to that. Back in the day, judgments were there [much like today], but we didn't come to know because there was no social media," she states. Self-love, according to Madhuri, is key in dealing with these prejudices and relentless scrutiny. "Today, because of social media and the anonymity that comes with it, people can say anything. But one should be more focused on what they're doing and what they're passionate about and enjoy and love doing. The idea is to love yourself," she says.

On a related note, rumour mills have been abuzz with stories that Suresh Wadkar had once turned down a marriage proposal from Madhuri's family as he felt she was 'too thin'. Refuting it, he recently told *The Lallantop*, "She was thin at the time.

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Sanjana Sanghi

Slams Alia Bhatt Trolls, Negative Campaigns: 'More Famous, More Ripped Apart'

Conversations surrounding paid negative publicity and smear campaigns in Bollywood have once again gained ground. And at the centre of this storm is Alia Bhatt. Her appearance at the recently held Cannes Film Festival became the subject of widespread chatter on social media. What eventually happened was relentless trolling by many.

Some derided her for going unnoticed by the paparazzi on the red carpet of the film gala. Soon, many celebrities took to social media to defend Alia, slamming those trying to pull down an Indian celebrity representing Bollywood on the world stage. What further fuelled negativity was Alpha's teaser, after which Alia was gracelessly mocked.

Shahid Kapoor's latest remark in an interview added fuel to the fire as he stated that he doesn't believe in actors being insecure when he was asked about the online hate campaign against Alia by other actors. Last year, Tara Sutaria had taken to social media, slamming paid PR trying to malign her image and ruin her relationship with her then boyfriend, Veer Pahariya.

These episodes have opened a floodgate of conversations on what's organic and what's doctored when it comes to an actor's perception-building exercise. Sanjana Sanghi now exclusively tells News18 this targeting isn't gender-specific. "I think that both men and women get the rough end of the sword. I feel that like every public figure is a target," she says.

Calling out the troll culture that has taken a bigger

and greyer shape today, the *Dil Bechara* and *Dhak* actor further adds, "I find the world of Instagram so loud that I've a very, very distant relationship with it. It can genuinely and completely just throw us off as public figures. It's hard enough to keep our head in the game and keep our focus." According to Sanjana, this scrutiny, negativity and hate is particularly meted out to bigger celebrities and stars. "With so much said and



written, you can get completely disbalanced. It's so easy to pass random comments. It almost feels like the more famous you are, the more you're targeted. If you're trending more than others, the more you get ripped apart," she opines. Sanjana, who faced severe online trolling and backlash during the release of her 2020 film co-starring Sushant Singh Rajput, acknowledges that social media can be a toxic place and so, she now chooses to stay 'aloof' to guard herself from the noise. "That's why I keep my community, my fans and my audiences a little bit to myself and aloof from all this," she remarks.

Shahid Kapoor, Rashmika Mandanna And Kriti Sanon's *Cocktail 2* Receives A Certificate From CBFC



Shahid Kapoor, Rashmika Mandanna, and Kriti Sanon-starrer *Cocktail 2* is all set to release in theatres on June 19, and ahead of its release, the movie has received an A certificate from the CBFC. The spiritual sequel to the 2012 hit romantic comedy reportedly has a runtime of 150 minutes (two and a half hours).

As per Bollywood Hungama, the film has gotten an A certificate from the board, and its runtime will be four minutes longer than the 2012 hit romantic comedy, which clocked in at 146 minutes. *Cocktail 2* will mark the first-ever A-rated film in Kriti Sanon's career. Meanwhile, it is only the second A-rated film for Rashmika Mandanna after *Animal*. For Shahid, it is the fifth adult-rated film of his career after *Kaminey* (2009), *Uda Punjab* (2016), *Kabir Singh* (2019), and *O'Romeo* (2026).

Cocktail 2 Trailer

The *Cocktail 2* trailer begins with Shahid Kapoor's character, Kunal, sharing his thoughts on love, friendship, and the evolving nature of relationships. In a reflective voiceover, he compares new relationships to exciting new experiences. "Whenever a relationship is new, it's exciting because it's new. New friends are fun because their stories are fun for us. We get tired of listening to the same stories from our old friends. But love is like that torn T-shirt in which we get a peaceful sleep for two nights. But when love turns into friendship and love enters friendship, then there's only one solution to get out of it," he says. Kriti Sanon's character, Ally, lightens the mood with a cheeky remark. "Like a threesome?" she asks.

The story then moves to the scenic landscapes of Italy, where the three protagonists are seen enjoying carefree moments together. While Shahid's character appears to be in a relationship with Rashmika Mandanna's character, Kriti's character is introduced as his close friend who gradually develops deeper feelings for him, setting the stage for emotional complications.

Ameesha Patel 'Questioned' Her Casting Opposite 'Senior' Sunny Deol In *Gadar: I'm Very Young*



Ameesha Patel has revealed that she questioned her casting opposite Sunny Deol in *Gadar*. As the film marks 25 years on June 15, Ameesha Patel has opened up about one of the most loved projects in her filmography. Ameesha, who has often expressed her love and pride for the franchise, added that while she was unsure at first, she soon understood the dynamics of her and Sunny Deol's characters.

Ameesha Patel told *Hindustan Times*, "The first question I asked was, 'Do you not think I'm very young for the film?' The hero paired opposite me was way senior to me romantically... Once they explained the story, I understood the contrast between Tara Singh's ruggedness and Sakina's refinement." The actress said that nearly 500 people auditioned for the role of Sakina. Once she finally got the part, she immersed herself in rigorous research, including getting her Urdu diction right. "We visited mosques, observed prayers, read about the British Raj and studied the period. Anil Sharma ji (director) helped me understand Sakina deeply," she said.

The actress also reflected on her dynamic with Sunny Deol and said, "He was incredibly patient and supportive. There were times when Anil Sharma ji would be trying to get a shot out of me, and Sunny would say, 'You go out, I'll direct her.' He would explain things to me patiently. He never lost his temper, never lost his patience. He understood that I was a newcomer and that Sakina was not an easy role."

"I want to heartily thank my fans for making sure that no matter what films come and go, *Gadar*'s box-office record is not broken," she added and mentioned that she was surprised to see that the combined collection of *Gadar* and *Gadar 2* remains ahead of many franchise films. She also said, "Tara plus Sakina equals *Gadar*. You take one of them out, and it isn't *Gadar* anymore."

"The numbers and footfalls spoke for themselves. We had no concept of social media when we made *Gadar*."

Work spoke for itself. But now an entirely new generation has discovered the film. People who weren't even born when *Gadar* released have watched it and fallen in love with Tara and Sakina," Ameesha mentioned.

NEWS BOX

6.7 magnitude earthquake jolts part of Indonesia

JAKARTA. (Agency)

A 6.7 magnitude earthquake shook part of Indonesia on Tuesday and was followed by strong aftershocks. The initial temblor caused strong shaking lasting more than a minute. No information on damage or casualties was immediately available. The quake was centred 46 kilometers (29 miles) east-southeast of Palu, the capital of Central Sulawesi province. The U.S. Geological Survey said it was about 10 kilometers (6 miles) deep. A subsequent quake measured 5.2 magnitude.

Indonesia is crossed by several seismic faults, and earthquakes and volcanic activity are common.

In January 2021, a magnitude 6.2 earthquake near the city of Mamuju on Sulawesi island left at least 100 people dead, with thousands sleeping outdoors for days out of fear of aftershocks.

British Police Officer Accused Of Using AI To Fabricate Evidence In Multiple Cases



world. (Agency)

A British police officer is under criminal investigation for allegedly using artificial intelligence (AI) to "create evidential material in a number of cases" and preventing the course of justice. In a first-of-its-kind case in the K, the unnamed cop has also been removed from front-line duties, pending the outcome of the investigation. The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) said it was "engaging with" defence teams and courts which may have been affected by the alleged conduct.

"We are engaging with defence teams and the courts in appropriate cases," a CPS spokesperson was quoted as saying by the BBC. "As police inquiries continue, it would not be appropriate to comment further."

Meanwhile, Derbyshire Police said it was working in coordination with the CPS to see the case through.

"A criminal investigation has been launched into an allegation of perverting the course of justice after the alleged use of AI systems by an officer to create evidential material in a number of cases," Derbyshire Police said in a statement. "The force is working closely with the Crown Prosecution Service in relation to any potentially impacted cases, however, the investigation is in its early stages, so no further details are available."

Lawyers Use AI

Earlier this month, a federal judge in the US state of Mississippi cancelled a civil trial and disqualified four attorneys after discovering both legal teams relied on AI to write their briefs. The court filings contained AI-generated research, which included fake legal citations, prompting the judge to kick off the lawyers and issue financial penalties. Judge Sharon Aycock stated that the four lawyers had violated Rule 11 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure when they certified that the information in their filings was factual.

India Slams Draft On UN Body Expansion, Calls For Negotiation Clarity

World. (Agency)

India delivered a pointed and wide-ranging critique of the latest Elements Paper circulated by co-chairs of the Inter-Governmental Negotiations (IGN) on United Nations Security Council reform, calling the document subjectively drafted, inaccurate in its characterisation of member state positions, and inadequate in reflecting the overwhelming support for expanding the permanent membership category.

Ambassador Harish Parvathaneni, India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, addressed the IGN session on Monday, June 15, aligning with statements delivered by St Vincent and the Grenadines on behalf of the L.69 group and Japan on behalf of the G4 before elaborating India's national position in a detailed eight-point rebuttal of the document.

A Reform Process Decades In Making

The push to reform the UN Security Council -- widely seen as a Cold War-era relic frozen in the geopolitical realities of 1945 -- has been one of the most contentious and long-running debates in multilateral diplomacy. The Council's five permanent members (P5) -- the United States, Russia, China, France and the United Kingdom -- hold veto power, a privilege that critics argue renders the body unrepresentative of today's global order.

The IGN process, established under UNGA Resolution 62/557, was created to move member states toward a solution with the "widest possible political support". Over the years, key blocs have emerged with distinct visions: the G4 (India, Germany, Japan and Brazil) advocates for new permanent seats; the African Union pushes for at least two permanent seats under the Ezulwini Consensus; and the L.69 group of developing nations broadly supports expanded permanent representation. Opposing blocs, often labelled "status-quoists", prefer limiting any expansion to non-permanent seats. India's Eight-Point Challenge

Ambassador Parvathaneni's statement was methodical and assertive, taking aim at the Elements Paper -- circulated on June 10, giving delegations just two working days to respond -- on multiple fronts.

He questioned the very definitions used in the paper, arguing that "convergence" should operationally mean a majority view, not unanimity, and that the co-chairs' application of the term was "ambiguous and subjective". He stressed that the IGN's founding document makes no mention of bridging proposals and that such proposals, in standard UN practice, only emerge after text-based negotiations have begun -- not before.

As Iran chases the World Cup, its US diaspora is divided between protesting and cheering

Fans cheered and booed loudly while Iran's national anthem was played at the game against New Zealand, which ended in a 2-2 draw.

INGLEWOOD. (Agency)

Several hundred Iranian Americans protested outside Iran's first World Cup match Monday, calling for change in Tehran and waving the pre-revolutionary lion-and-sun flag, while thousands of fans poured into the stadium in the heart of the largest diaspora community to see the team play.

Iran's participation in the World Cup has been beset by challenges since the war's outbreak, dividing the community in the United States. Fans cheered and booed loudly while Iran's national anthem was played at the game against New Zealand, which ended in a 2-2 draw. Some spectators held large lion-and-sun flags in the front rows just hours after a court upheld FIFA's ban on the flags. Outside the stadium,

demonstrators contended the team is synonymous with Tehran's government, while fans, their cheeks striped with red-and-green face paint, filed past, saying they were separating soccer from politics. At one point, protesters snatched an official Iran flag from a fan and stomped on it and ripped it. Southern California is home to the largest Iranian community outside Iran, many who arrived after the 1979 Islamic Revolution. Rameileh Jaffrey, 46, of Los Angeles, left Iran a dozen years ago and said she feels the team's players are aligned with the current government in Iran. "They are not my team. They are a government team," she said.

When soccer and geopolitics collide Event security broke up shouting matches between protesters and fans before and after the match, and were joined by sheriff's deputies shortly before kickoff. A woman protesting jeered Kia Keanh and his family as they walked by wearing T-shirts supporting the team. "I'm just here to watch the sport, it's not about the regime," he said. "I'm just here for a World Cup game, to enjoy it with my family." Some of the

demonstrators also went inside the stadium to see the team play, like 42-year-old Ella Bah, who brought extra clothing to conceal



the lion-and-sun flag she wore tied around her like a dress. "We're not here to cheer them on," she said. "We're here to be the voice for the people inside Iran." Iran's participation in the tournament has been fraught with conflict because of the country's war with U.S. and Israeli forces. Late Sunday, President Donald Trump announced that the

U.S. had reached a deal with Iran to end the war and open the Strait of Hormuz. The war launched by the U.S. and Israel on Feb. 28 has rattled the region and virtually shut down oil and natural gas shipments from the Persian Gulf. After the war's outbreak, the tea moved its training base to Mexico from Tucson, Arizona, and some of the country's soccer officials were not granted visas to enter the United States. Many in the diaspora have mixed feelings over how to show their support of the Iranian people, but not the government. "We play for every Iranian, be it in the diaspora or in Iran. People have different opinions, but we are here to unite people and we will try to bring joy to all Iranians wherever they live," team captain Mehdi Taremi said at a press conference Sunday.

A wide range of views

Kourosh Safavi, 42, traveled to see Iran play from Dallas, Texas, with his 11-year-old son Jibreel. While he was born in the U.S., Safavi said he wanted to cheer on the country of his ancestors, where soccer means so much.

UN calls on Afghanistan's Taliban rulers to reverse crackdown on women

KYIV. (Agency)

The U.N. Security Council unanimously adopted a resolution Monday calling on Afghanistan's Taliban rulers to swiftly reverse their crackdown on women and to combat militant groups inside Afghanistan that Pakistan accuses of carrying out cross-border attacks.

China's U.N. Ambassador Fu Cong, whose country sponsored the resolution, said the hope is that the Afghan government will "take more proactive measures to protect human rights, especially the rights of women, and project an image of openness, inclusivity and responsibility." The resolution extends the U.N. political mission in Afghanistan until June 17, 2027, and authorizes it to support humanitarian aid deliveries "without discrimination" and to promote national and local governance "without any discrimination based on sex, religion or ethnicity, with the full, equal, meaningful and safe participation of women, ... minorities, youth and persons with disabilities." The resolution's adoption follows the arrest of at least 30 women in the western city of Herat this month for allegedly violating the Taliban's strict dress code. A rare protest sparked by the arrests was violently dispersed by Taliban police, who shot and killed one person and injured several others, according to the U.N. mission known as UNAMA. The Taliban have run Afghanistan since 2021 in the wake of the chaotic withdrawal of U.S.-led forces and have imposed a strict interpretation of Islamic law, or Shariah, including draconian restrictions on women and girls, such as bans on education beyond primary school and on many jobs. Minorities have also been impacted.

The resolution authorizes the U.N. mission to facilitate talks between the Taliban and regional countries and the wider international community.

"For that political process to succeed, the Taliban must act," U.S. deputy ambassador Jennifer Locetta said. "The Taliban must meet their counterterrorism commitments, respect Afghanistan's international obligations, end hostage diplomacy, and cease their unconscionable abuses of the human rights of women and girls."

Pakistan accuses Afghanistan of harboring militants who carry out deadly attacks inside Pakistan, which the Taliban denies. Hundreds of people have been killed in fighting between the two countries since February, when Afghanistan attacked Pakistan in retaliation for Pakistani airstrikes inside Afghanistan. Pakistan's U.N. Ambassador Asim Ahmad said the "resolution expresses the council's serious concern over the presence of terrorist groups in Afghanistan, which continue to constitute a threat to international peace and security." The new resolution also authorizes UNAMA to advance Afghanistan's economic development, including by facilitating commercial and financial activity and supporting efforts to return assets belonging to the Central Bank "for the benefit of the Afghan people."

UN chief Antonio Guterres to visit gang-plagued Haiti in solidarity with victims

World. (Agency)

UN chief Antonio Guterres will visit gang-ravaged Haiti on Tuesday to show solidarity with victims of violence in the impoverished Caribbean nation long plagued by political, economic and security woes. The secretary-general, who last traveled to Port-au-Prince in July 2023, will meet with men, women and children whose lives are affected by the violence, according to his office. "He will see firsthand the humanitarian and security challenges facing the country, as well as efforts by national authorities and the international community to restore stability and support the Haitian people," spokesman Farhan Haq told reporters. Haiti, the poorest country in the Americas, has for years suffered from instability as powerful gangs carry out rampant killings, rapes, looting and kidnappings. Nearly 1.5 million people are currently displaced in a country of about 11 million, and more than five million are facing severe food insecurity, according to UN figures. The security crisis worsened in early 2024, when

gangs launched a wave of violence that forced the country's unelected prime minister to resign. He was replaced by an interim presidential council, but when the council's mandate expired in February this year, executive power



passed to Prime Minister Alix Didier Fils-Aime. Haiti has not held elections since 2016, primarily because of poor security.

Multidimensional crisis

The UN Security Council last year gave its approval to a new international Gang Suppression Force tasked with neutralizing the groups. The force will gradually replace the previous Multinational Mission to Support the

Dhaka Summons Indian Envoy After Bangladesh PM's Adviser Screened At Delhi Airport

Dhaka. (Agency)

Bangladesh summoned India's deputy high commissioner in Dhaka to protest over an incident involving Prime Minister Tarique Rahman's adviser, Zahed ur Rahman, at Delhi airport yesterday. Bangladesh PM's adviser on policy and strategy affairs, Zahed ur Rahman, was held back at immigration at the Indira Gandhi International Airport for a couple of hours on Sunday evening while trying to enter India to attend a meeting hosted by the external affairs ministry. tical commentator and critic of Bangladesh's deposed Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her government, was stopped for questioning by the authorities after his name was reportedly flagged during a routine security check, the state-run BSS news agency reported.

The Bangladeshi leader was travelling to India on a government invitation. He

reportedly had a regular Bangladeshi passport with a SAARC visa and was not carrying a diplomatic passport, according to Bangladeshi media reports. To express its "deep disappointment" over the incident, Dhaka summoned



Indian Deputy High Commissioner Pawan Badhe, the BSS news report said. Separately, Bangladesh's Foreign Minister Dr Khalilur Rahman said that the government was taking appropriate steps regarding the matter. "It is an unexpected incident, unfortunate, too,"

he told reporters.

Citing diplomatic sources, the Prothom Alo newspaper reported that Zahed ur Rahman, who was travelling to India to attend the 28th Meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials of the Indian Ocean Rim Association, was questioned by immigration authorities and kept waiting for about two and a half hours. Although Indian authorities later allowed him to proceed with his visit, he decided to return home, BSS said, citing sources. New Delhi has not commented publicly about the incident.

India-Bangladesh Ties

Relations between the neighbours have been strained since a 2024 uprising toppled the government of Sheikh Hasina in Dhaka. Ties improved after Tarique Rahman won a landslide election victory, taking over from the interim administration that had led the country of 170 million people since Hasina was ousted.

G7 leaders open summit talks on Ukraine and the Middle East as Zelenskyy joins in France

EVIAN-LES-BAINS. (Agency)

Leaders at the Group of Seven summit of major industrialized nations face a packed agenda on their first full day Tuesday, including challenging discussions on ending Russia's war in Ukraine and addressing the Middle East crisis. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy will be in attendance at the invitation of host France.

The Ukraine talks come on the heels of U.S. President Donald Trump's announcement of an agreement to end the 3 1/2-month-old U.S. war against Iran. In recent weeks, the Iran conflict has overshadowed the war in Ukraine that Russian President Vladimir Putin launched more than four years ago.

Trump said he had good conversations on Sunday with both Zelenskyy and Putin. "Now that this (Iran) is finished, we're going to be focusing on that," he said, speaking during a bilateral meeting Monday with French President Emmanuel Macron. Macron said he'll seek to persuade Trump to

continue supporting Ukraine and increase pressure on Russia to help reach a peace agreement. Hours before the start of the G7 summit, Russia fired hundreds of drones and



dozens of missiles at Ukraine's biggest cities in a barrage that killed 11 people and set fire to a religious landmark. Tuesday's discussions in the French spa town of Evian-les-Bains also include a work session focused on "ending crises and ensuring stability in the Middle East." Leaders of Egypt, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates

are to join the talks. Trump has been frustrated by a lack of movement toward Ukraine-Russia resolution. The attacks on Ukraine's biggest cities came after Zelenskyy and Putin spoke separately by phone with Trump on Sunday, the U.S. leader's 80th birthday. The exchange suggests Washington hasn't given up on its diplomatic efforts to stop the fighting that followed Moscow's all-out invasion of its neighbor in 2022. "The right negotiation is one in which Ukraine and Russia are at the table, but with Europeans and Americans present as well," Macron said on French television. While campaigning for a return to the White House, Trump claimed he could end the Russia-Ukraine war within 24 hours of taking office. He has since acknowledged it has proved much harder than he initially thought it would be. Ukraine on Monday officially started European Union membership negotiations, launching a process that will require its government to commit to years of political

reforms even as it fights a Russian invasion. Ukraine sees EU membership as a security guarantee for a stable future once the war ends. Its best guarantee would be membership in the NATO military alliance, but the Trump administration insists that cannot happen, and others are wary of it joining while the war continues. Iran war has been a flashpoint between Trump and European leaders

In recent months, Trump has had sharp disagreements with Macron, British Prime Minister Keir Starmer, German Chancellor Friedrich Merz and Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni over his failure to consult them before the decision to go to war in Iran. Trump has threatened reprisals, including drawing down U.S. troops in all four countries, all members of the NATO military alliance, for their lack of support.

Despite those disagreements, the tone in Evian should be rather measured, as U.S. allies seek rapid progress that could ease the economic impact of rising oil prices caused by the blockade of the Strait of Hormuz.