

How CM Vijay is redefining Opposition politics: Target BJP, but tango with Centre

For C Joseph Vijay, opposing the BJP seemingly does not mean opposing the Centre. Even as he has positioned the BJP as his principal ideological enemy, the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister is pursuing a pragmatic working relationship with the Modi government, separating political battles from administrative priorities.

New Delhi.(Agency)

When C Joseph Vijay entered politics, he drew a clear ideological battle line against the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Throughout the 2026 Tamil Nadu Assembly election campaign, the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) chief repeatedly accused the BJP of centralising power, imposing Hindi and the National Education Policy (NEP), and undermining Tamil Nadu's rights. His speeches left little doubt that the BJP would remain his principal political adversary. Yet, upon taking office as Tamil Nadu's CM, Vijay has crafted a governing style that sharply contrasts with his campaign rhetoric.

While continuing to oppose the BJP on ideological and policy issues, Vijay has also maintained a consistent channel of engagement with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Union government. Rather than allowing political rivalry to dictate administrative relations, Tamil Nadu's new CM has seemingly sought to separate politics from governance, a



balancing act rarely seen in recent Centre-State relations. The approach signals what could become a new template for opposition politics: oppose where necessary, cooperate where beneficial — a model that has been largely absent from opposition-ruled states for nearly a decade.

A DEPARTURE FROM THE POLITICS OF CONFRONTATION

Over the past decade, relations between the Narendra Modi government and several opposition-ruled states have often been marked by public confrontation. Tamil Nadu under the

DMK frequently accused the Centre of withholding funds and attempting to impose policies contrary to the state's interests. Former Chief Minister of West Bengal, Mamata Banerjee, repeatedly alleged financial discrimination by the Centre and skipped several meetings convened by the Prime Minister. Arvind Kejriwal, while in power in Delhi, often accused the BJP-led Union government of obstructing his administration through constitutional and administrative mechanisms.

The political messaging of these governments largely revolved around resistance to the Centre. But Vijay appears to be pursuing a different path. His government has not diluted its ideological opposition to the BJP. It continues to reject the three-language policy, opposes linking education funding to the NEP, and has maintained Tamil Nadu's traditional positions on federalism and state autonomy. What has changed is the method of engagement with the Modi government. Instead of reducing interactions with New Delhi, Vijay has chosen to increase them.

Meghalaya Seeks Relaxations In Foreign Funding Rules For Schools, Hospitals

A delegation led by the chief minister said several charitable institutions in Meghalaya rely on foreign contributions to run their activities.

Guwahati .(Agency)

Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma met Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi on Sunday and sought the Centre's intervention on issues related to the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA).

The chief minister was accompanied by a delegation of church and community leaders from Meghalaya. Among those present were representatives of the Presbyterian Church of India, the North East India Christian Council, the Archdiocese of Shillong and the Garo Baptist Convention.

During the meeting, the delegation expressed concern over the implementation of existing FCRA provisions as well as the proposed amendments to the law. They said several

educational, healthcare and charitable institutions in Meghalaya rely on foreign contributions to run their activities and feared that stricter regulations could affect their work. According to the delegation, many schools, colleges, hospitals, hostels, skill development centres and social welfare programmes operating in remote parts of the state depend on such funding. They urged the Centre to consider Meghalaya's geographical challenges and the important role these institutions play in reaching people living in far-flung areas.



Trade, defence, temple diplomacy: What Indonesia expects from PM Modi's visit

New Delhi.(Agency)

Indonesia's Charge d'Affaires Yudho Sasangko spoke to India Today Group's Pranay Upadhyaya on the trajectory of India-Indonesia ties at a moment when both sides are looking to move beyond symbolism into structured economic and strategic delivery. The interview came as Prime Minister Narendra Modi prepares for his visit to Indonesia, a trip being viewed in Jakarta as an opportunity to inject momentum into long-pending initiatives across defence, trade, connectivity and cultural cooperation.



The visit is taking place against the backdrop of the 2018 Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, which set an ambitious framework but has seen uneven progress across sectors. While political engagement has remained steady, implementation on the ground has lagged in key areas such as supply chains, infrastructure connectivity and defence-industrial cooperation.

'MSMEs being strangled': Rahul Gandhi alleges transport rules hurting small bus, truck body-builders

New Delhi.(Agency)

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Monday accused the Centre of framing transport regulations that are crippling small bus and truck body-building workshops, alleging that micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) are being "deliberately strangled" instead of being supported.

The Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha shared a video on social media of his recent visit to a bus and truck body-building workshop in Jaipur, where he interacted with artisans and manufacturers and heard their concerns.

"Sheets of iron... welding sparks... the sound of hammers... amidst all this, artisans forge India's future through their hard work and skill. In the local bus and truck body-building workshops of Jaipur, one witnesses an India that creates both employment and the nation's momentum with its own hands," Gandhi said in his post in Hindi along with the video.

"Yet, regrettably, regulations framed within the Ministry of Transport in Delhi are stifling these small-scale industries across the country. The blame for bus fires caused by technical faults is being laid at the door of these artisans who merely construct the vehicle bodies," the former Congress president said.

MSMEs that ought to be supported are instead being "deliberately strangled," Gandhi alleged. "Make in India" and "Vocal for Local" are merely slogans, and the Modi government's policies cater only to big industrialists, he further alleged.

If these factories shut down, it won't just halt business as skills will be lost, jobs will vanish, and the burden of inflation on the common people will rise, Gandhi said. As always, it is the hardworking and skilled Indians who will keep paying the price, he added.

Mahanagar Metro Desk Pawan Mekan

VADODARA / KARJAN: In a blatant mockery of the Gujarat government's 'Zero Tolerance' policy, a highly sensitive and shameful racket has surfaced from the Karjan taluka of Vadodara district. Beneath the tall claims of absolute prohibition on paper, a syndicate of English wine, chemical-laced country liquor, gambling, and narcotics (charas and ganja) is flourishing fearlessly across villages—allegedly under the direct patronage of the local police. The strings of this dark trade are tied to a notorious 'Vahivatdar' (middleman/collector) within the Karjan Police Station's D-Staff, who operates the entire network as if the law resides in his pocket.

Kurali (Near the Water Tank): In the New Nagri area, a blatant 'Varli Matka' (gambling) racket is being run openly, ruining the lives of the younger generation.

* Sapa Village (New Vasahat): This village has turned into a 'Safe Haven' for gamblers from Vadodara city. Outsiders flood the area daily to try their luck, while the local police remain mute spectators.

Kandari Village: Illicit country liquor dens have cropped up in every nook and corner of the village, showing absolute defiance of the law.



* Karamdi Village: This village has become a breeding ground for country liquor breweries spewing poison 24/7. Chemical-laced toxic liquor is being produced here at a massive scale. Is this corrupt system waiting for another 'Latthakaand' and a heap of innocent corpses on the soil of Karjan?

Kamadiya has previously served jail time for his direct collusion with bootleggers in a massive 23-lakh foreign liquor scam, following which he was suspended and externed from the district.

However, the shocking question remains: Which political kingpin pulled the strings to get this fearless constable posted back to the lucrative Karjan Police Station right after his

release?

For Karjan's Police Inspector (PI) Patel, Hanubha has reportedly become a "golden goose." Under the protective umbrella of PI Patel, Hanubha is once again directly coordinating with bootleggers to smuggle and offload (cut) large consignments of foreign liquor. Sources reveal that through this black trade, he has amassed benami properties worth millions and built a personal empire. Millions in Bribes to LCB? Home Minister's Directives Fail at Karjan Border!

Disturbing inputs indicate that the network is not just limited to alcohol and gambling; a well-entrenched cartel of narcotics like ganja and charas is also highly active. The district's Local Crime Branch (LCB) has turned a blind eye to these dens. Sources claim this inaction is bought by Vahivatdar Hanu Kamadiya, who allegedly channels millions in hafta (weekly/monthly bribes) to the top brass.

The audacity of this middleman has peaked to the extent that he openly defies the strict orders of the State Home Minister and Deputy Chief Minister, severely tarnishing the government's image. Written complaints regarding this nexus have reportedly reached the State Monitoring Cell (SMC) in Gandhinagar.

Straight and Sharp Questions by 'Mahanagar Metro News':

1. Will Vadodara District Superintendent of Police (SP) Agrawal order a high-level inquiry into the disproportionate assets of this jail-returned corrupt Vahivatdar Hanu Kamadiya and his protector PI Patel, and suspend them—or will this extortion game continue unchecked?
2. When will Gandhinagar's State Monitoring Cell (SMC) launch covert raids on the dens of Kurali, Sapa, Kandari, and Karamdi villages to run a bulldozer over this Khaki-Bootlegger nexus?
3. When will strict action be taken from Gandhinagar against the bootleggers and corrupt faces in Khaki who operate fearlessly under political patronage?

Open Challenge by Mahanagar Metro News:

The citizens of Karjan are living in sheer agony due to this hellish environment. If these drug and liquor dens and multi-million corruption networks are not dismantled immediately, 'Mahanagar Metro News' will trigger a major expose in the next edition with solid audio-video evidence and official documents detailing their millions in benami properties. Be prepared!

Mumbai-Pune Expressway 'missing link' shut 2 months after launch due to rain damage

New Delhi.(Agency)

Traffic on the Pune-to-Mumbai carriageway of the Mumbai-Pune Expressway's newly opened 'missing link' was diverted early Monday after a landslide occurred near the exit of Tunnel 2 following heavy rainfall, officials said. The Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation (MSRDC) said the diversion came into effect at 4 am as a precautionary measure to ensure commuter safety. Authorities are monitoring the situation in coordination with the Highway Traffic Police and have urged motorists to avoid travelling on the route unless essential. The Highway Traffic Police control room said vehicular movement on the Khandala Ghat



stretch of the Mumbai-Pune Expressway has also been affected due to waterlogging and the landslide, leading to traffic disruptions.

The closure of the Mumbai-bound carriageway on the Missing Link has resulted in vehicles being rerouted through

Lonavala, triggering long traffic snarls. A motorist travelling from Sangli to Mumbai told news agency PTI that he had been stranded near Lonavala since around 4 am after traffic was diverted. "With the Missing Link closed, we had to take the Lonavala route and are now caught in bumper-to-bumper traffic on the expressway stretch passing through the town," the commuter said.

The Missing Link project, inaugurated around two months ago, is a 13-km bypass on the Mumbai-Pune Expressway that passes through the Sahyadri hills. Designed to ease congestion on the Khandala Ghat section, it reduces the travel distance by about 6 km and cuts journey time between Pune and Mumbai by an

estimated 25 to 30 minutes.

Meanwhile, relentless monsoon rain crippled connectivity between Mumbai and Pune on Monday morning, triggering landslides and flooding that suspended rail services and shut both the Mumbai-Pune Expressway and the old Mumbai-Pune Highway, stranding commuters and severely disrupting travel between the two cities.

According to railway authorities, at least 16 trains were cancelled and nine others were diverted due to heavy rainfall, while the India Meteorological Department (IMD) issued an orange alert for Mumbai and a red alert for Pune. Police, in a public advisory, urged commuters to avoid travelling between Pune and Mumbai until weather conditions improve.

News box

Six-year-old girl crossing road run over by bus in Faridabad

Gurgaon.(Agency)

A six-year-old girl died after being hit by a bus while crossing a road in Faridabad's Palla area on Saturday afternoon. An FIR has been registered against the bus driver, who is absconding. The accident occurred around 2pm. Kavya, an LKG student and a resident of Saraswati Colony, was crossing the road with her mother while on their way to a relative's house when she was hit by the bus. Police said the child sustained critical injuries and was taken to a nearby hospital before being referred to a hospital in Delhi, where she succumbed to her injuries. An officer said, "The bus driver took her to the hospital and then to Delhi. However, after that, he went missing." Eyewitnesses alleged that the driver was using a mobile phone while driving and failed to notice the child crossing the road. Police said the allegation is being examined. The driver has been identified as Deepak, a native of Firozabad in UP, who was residing in the Palla area. Police said he was driving a traveller bus engaged by a private company to transport employees, and staff members were present in the vehicle at the time of the accident. The girl's body was brought to Faridabad Civil Hospital, where an autopsy was conducted on Sunday. It was later handed over to the family. The girl's family members gathered at the police station, demanding action against the driver. A senior police officer said an FIR has been registered on the family's complaint and further legal action will be taken based on the investigation.

Air fight taking a hit? RTI reveals 30% posts vacant at CAQM

Noida.(Agency)

An RTI response has revealed that the country's apex air pollution watchdog is itself battling a manpower shortage. Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM), responsible for coordinating pollution control measures across NCR — one of India's worst pollution hotspots — is functioning with barely 70% of its sanctioned workforce. Worse, there is no plan to fill the remaining vacancies. The reply has raised concerns over the commission's ability to effectively monitor and enforce pollution-control measures, including Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP), across 27 districts spanning Delhi, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan. According to the response received by Noida-based environmentalist Amit Gupta, CAQM has only 40 personnel against a sanctioned strength of 56, leaving 16 posts vacant. The commission also stated that no recruitment process is currently underway to fill these vacancies. Last year, only three appointments were made, while one post was filled in 2024, the reply said. The revelation comes at a time when CAQM is expected to coordinate action across multiple states, oversee implementation of GRAP, enforce compliance and respond swiftly to pollution episodes during winter. While the RTI did not mention any alternative staffing plan, CAQM has separately floated a tender to appoint consultants for a project management unit (PMU) to provide programme management, technical and analytical support. Without commenting on the vacancies, a CAQM official said the PMU would strengthen planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of annual action plans. "It will manage the GRAP control room and support programmes monitored through Integrated Information and Coordination Centre (I3C), all aimed at improving air quality in Delhi-NCR and adjoining areas," the official said. Technical and financial bids for the project are scheduled to be opened on July 8. Gupta said he sought the information on vacancies after repeatedly noticing weak enforcement by pollution control agencies. "I wanted to know the staffing position of the apex body responsible for tackling NCR's air pollution. If CAQM itself is short-staffed and has no recruitment plan, planning and implementation are bound to suffer," he said.

Yamuna Authority to boost outdoor advertising



Noida.(Agency)

The Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA) has floated a request for proposal (RFP) to empanel an advertising agency to manage its outdoor publicity as the region prepares for increased commercial activity following the operationalisation of Noida International Airport and other major projects. The selected agency will oversee branding campaigns, outdoor advertising, event management and communication initiatives for an initial period of two years, extendable by one year based on performance. Additional chief executive officer Rajesh Kumar said bids were invited for the assignment. The agency will install hoardings, banners, posters, illuminated signages and exhibition displays, besides organising seminars, conferences and promotional events. It may also provide foreign-language translation services for official campaigns and investor outreach, as YEIDA has been receiving investment proposals from countries including Japan and South Korea. The last date for submitting bids is July 15, while technical proposals will be opened on July 17. According to YEIDA, it has allotted 3,175 industrial plots, with lease deeds executed for 2,495. Land possession has been handed over in 1,785 cases, building plans approved for 716 plots, 314 units are under construction and nearly 92 are operational. Officials said the airport's opening and rising traffic along the Yamuna Expressway are expected to increase demand for outdoor advertising, particularly along the airport corridor and adjoining industrial sectors. Separately, YEIDA has initiated the process of appointing a social media agency to manage its presence on platforms including Facebook, X, Instagram, YouTube and LinkedIn.

How this Ghaziabad gang turned car into moving sex-test clinic

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

A portable ultrasound machine, probe jelly and a power unit connected to a battery had turned an Ertiga into a moving illegal sex determination clinic, allowing a four-member gang to allegedly conduct foetal gender tests from inside the vehicle while constantly changing locations to evade detection. Acting on a tip-off, a joint team of police and officials under the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act laid a trap near Mahamaya Stadium early on Sunday and arrested four men allegedly involved in the racket. Police seized the portable ultrasonography (USG) machine, accessories used for the scans and Rs 20,000 in cash.

Those arrested were Sandeep Kumar (38) of Baghpat, Tasleem alias Sahil Rana (48) of Bulandshahr, Salman (26) from Hapur and Sahid Ahmad (46) of Ghaziabad. ACP Upasana Pandey said the raid was



carried out after an informer alerted police that sex determination tests were being conducted inside an Ertiga. A PCPNDT

team was constituted, with the SDM nominating a naib tehsildar to join the operation before the vehicle was

intercepted. "Inside the car, the team found a portable USG machine, probe jelly and equipment that drew power from the vehicle to run the machine," Pandey said. During questioning, Salman allegedly admitted that he conducted the scans, while Sandeep arranged contacts with Sai Hospital, where illegal abortions were allegedly carried out. Tasleem and Sahid, police said, brought pregnant women to the vehicle. The gang had already conducted foetal sex determination tests on two women and was waiting for a third when the team struck. According to police, the accused charged between Rs 5,000 and Rs 10,000 for each test.

An FIR was registered under sections 61(2) (criminal conspiracy), 318(4) (cheating) and 319 (cheating by personation) of the BNS, along with relevant provisions of the PCPNDT Act. The accused were produced before a court and remanded in judicial custody.

Debris dumping & open garbage burning leave societies fuming

Gurgaon.(Agency)

Residents of several housing societies in sectors 99-102 have flagged illegal waste dumping by developers and contractors, rampant landfilling, unchecked construction debris, air and dust pollution, open garbage burning, and the absence of basic sanitation facilities near residential areas. Residents said workers at multiple construction sites are living in makeshift huts without access to proper toilets and basic sanitation, forcing many to resort to open defecation. A mobile toilet reportedly installed at one of the sites has remained unusable due to poor maintenance, adding to sanitation concerns. They said such conditions are direct violations of the Swachh Bharat Mission guidelines and reflect negligence by MCG, the state pollution board, RERA authorities, and the district administration. Despite complaints, geo-

tagged photographs, and video evidence, no concrete action has been taken by the concerned departments, they alleged. "There are recent geo-tagged photographs from vicinities close-by. Huts have been



constructed without providing basic sanitation and hygiene facilities for occupants, while garbage continues to be openly burnt in several corners. Despite

repeated complaints and sufficient evidence, no effective action appears to have been taken," said Monika Ailawadi, a resident of Amstoria, Sector 102.

Residents have demanded a multi-department inspection of the affected areas, strict penalties against violators under RERA and National Green Tribunal provisions, enforcement of Swachh Bharat compliance at all active construction sites, and compensation for residents allegedly affected by prolonged exposure to pollution and unhygienic conditions. They warned that continued inaction by authorities would amount to complicity in ongoing public health and environmental violations.

"We will intensify our surveillance through sanitation security staff to check illegal dumping of debris if it is happening in these areas," said MCG additional commissioner Ravinder Yadav.

Husband and lover arrested six weeks after woman found shot dead

Gurgaon.(Agency)

Nearly six weeks after the decomposed body of a 22-year-old woman was found inside a locked bathroom in a private building in IMT Manesar, police have arrested her husband and his alleged first wife for murdering her before fleeing to Nepal. The accused, Ankit, 25, and Rajni Devi, 38, have been remanded in police custody for five days. The victim, Madhu, had married Ankit on Feb 19 this year and had been living with him in Manesar. On May 22 Madhu's mother approached filed a complaint alleging she had gone missing a day earlier. In her complaint, she accused Ankit and his family of withholding information about Madhu's whereabouts and expressed suspicion over their involvement in her disappearance. She said that when the family reached Ankit's house to ask him where she could have gone, he left the house without providing a

satisfactory answer. She also claimed he and his relatives repeatedly discouraged them from approaching the police, insisting that doing so would bring embarrassment to the family. Police initially registered a kidnapping case.

Later that day, Madhu's body was recovered from a locked bathroom above a bank on Kasan Khoh Road — later revealed to Rajni's rented accommodation — after locals complained of a foul smell coming from the room. The body had a gunshot injury to the head, following which police added murder charges to the FIR. During the investigation, police found that Ankit runs a tobacco shop in Manesar while Rajni worked at a beauty parlour in the area. Police said the two had known each other for nearly three years and had also got married.

According to a police officer, "Ankit took Madhu to Rajni's room on May 21, where

the two murdered her as part of a pre-planned conspiracy. Ankit procured the pistol used in the crime from Uttar Pradesh about two months before the murder."

Investigators said the motive behind the killing was Ankit's relationship with Rajni. After the murder, the duo first fled to Haridwar and then to Nepal to evade arrest. "They returned to India on June 30 and were tracked down and arrested," the officer added. Madhu's family said Ankit had concealed his relationship with Rajni before his marriage to Madhu. They claimed they learnt about Rajni only after Madhu went missing and suspected that the affair was the reason behind the murder.

The investigators are now questioning the accused to recover the murder weapon and collect further evidence. Police are also examining the role of others, if any, in helping the accused conceal the crime or evade arrest.

SUV struck from side on Dwarka away, two friends die

Gurgaon.(Agency)

Two men were killed and another was critically injured after an unidentified vehicle rammed into the SUV they were travelling in at the Bamdoli traffic signal on the Dwarka Expressway stretch late Friday night. Two other occupants of the car escaped with minor injuries. Police registered a case against the unknown driver and launched an investigation. The accident occurred around 3am. The deceased, Umang Beniwal and Rahul Gil, were residents of Shekhpura village in Sonipat and Khareti village in Rohtak. The injured, Rahul Khatri, also a resident of Rohtak, is undergoing treatment.

According to a complaint lodged by Shubham, who was also inside the car when the accident took place, he and three other friends went to Rahul's flat in the car owned by Umang. After spending some time there, the group left for tea. "As they crossed the Bamdoli traffic signal and were heading towards the Dwarka Expressway, Shubham told police an unidentified vehicle, allegedly being driven at high speed and in a rash manner, struck their car from the side," an officer said.

It is suspected the SUV was taking a U-turn when the other vehicle hit it from the side. Police reached the accident spot near Okasa Cafe in Sector 85 after receiving information about the crash. By then, all the injured had been shifted to Arvy Hospital in Sector 90, where doctors declared Umang and Rahul dead. Following a complaint from Shubham, an FIR under was registered under Sections 281 (rash driving) and 106 (causing death by negligence) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita against the unidentified driver. Police are examining CCTV footage from the area to identify the offending vehicle and trace its driver. In another accident, a 35-year-old Delhi resident died after his scooter collided with an SUV near IFFCO Chowk on Friday afternoon. Police registered an FIR against the driver of the SUV on charges of rash driving and causing death by negligence.

Waste piles, roads waterlogged in Greater Noida

Noida.(Agency)

Mounting garbage and recurring Ganga water pipeline leakages have triggered fresh complaints from residents across several Greater Noida sectors, with recent rain worsening the situation. Areas including Alpha, Beta, Delta and Gamma reported overflowing waste dumps, while pipeline leakages in Alpha and Gamma sectors flooded roads and green belts.

Despite officials promising better sanitation in the area, residents said little is actually being done to address the problem. "If there's a small pile of garbage, the truck will not collect it. The workers say the sweepers will take it later. Why are we paying for garbage collection then, if sweepers will do it instead?" said Neelam Yadav, a resident of Sector Beta 1.

Residents across Alpha 1 and 2, Beta 1 and 2, Delta, Surajpur-Dadri road and more raised concerns that standards of waste management are deteriorating. Noting that piling waste could lead to various health hazards, residents said the Greater Noida Authority needed to take immediate action to remedy the issue of overflowing garbage bins in parks. In response to the complaints, Gaurav Baghel, manager at Greater Noida Industrial Development Authority (GNIDA), directed senior public health inspectors to investigate the ongoing



issues. Residents, however, remained sceptical, claiming there has been little progress so far. Reports of leaks in the Ganga water pipeline on Sunday added to residents' woes, with some areas seeing

dirty water running through their taps. The area saw showers on Sunday afternoon that left many stretches waterlogged, with the leaks only exacerbating the issue. Residents alleged pipeline leaks and water

contamination have been a recurring issue across the city. The quality of drinking water is seeing a severe decline, residents said, adding that dirty water flowed through taps at some homes on Sunday too. "I had lodged a complaint with the Authority previously, but there was no response. How long must the residents of the sector continue to drink contaminated water?" said Pawan Nagar, RWA president of Gamma 2.

Harinder Bhati, Beta 1 RWA general secretary, criticised GNIDA's water department for inaction, adding, "Treated Ganga water constantly flows onto the streets of Greater Noida. How long must the city's residents continue to drink contaminated water?" In Beta 1, residents claim the pipeline has sprung persistent leaks near Vishwa Bharati School for several months now, but was only repaired over the weekend. Now, open pits have been left behind after the ground was dug-up for repairs. Residents also claimed work was only undertaken here after they began posting about the issue on social media, alleging negligence on the part of officials. Ganga water is spilling on the streets and green belts of the Sector, instead of the taps in the households. The water pipeline was laid by GNIDA but it has burst or leaked nearly 50 times in two years," said Subhash Bhati, RWA president of Alpha 2.

Short news

Fifth batch of over 5700 Shri Amarnath Yatra pilgrims leave from Jammu

Jammu.(Agency)

The fifth batch of more than 5700 Shri Amarnath Yatra pilgrims on Monday left here from the Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas base camp for the twin base camps of the cave shrine in the South Kashmir Himalayas amid tight security arrangements.

Officials said that 5794 pilgrims left the Jammu base camp in a fleet of 257 vehicles comprising light motor and heavy motor vehicles.

The batch comprised 2304 pilgrims for Baltal and 3490 for Pahalgam, who left for the pilgrimage under a multi-layered security grid, with coordinated arrangements by the civil administration, police, security forces and the Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board to ensure the Yatra is conducted safely, securely and smoothly.

The Jammu and Kashmir administration has also appealed to the pilgrims to perform the pilgrimage only after confirmed registration and on the scheduled date of the yatra, as no unregistered pilgrim shall be allowed to proceed to the base camps.

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha flagged off the first batch of yatra on July 2 from Jammu.

Provide confidential information about drug trafficking on National Narcotics Helpline: DC Aparajita

Kaithal.(Agency)

Deputy Commissioner Aparajita today stated that the central government has launched the National Narcotics Helpline, MANASA-1933, to combat drug abuse.

This helpline is an important step toward achieving the goal of making the country drug-free by 2047. The MANASA helpline number is operational 24 hours a day. People can share information about drug trafficking on this helpline. The identity of the informant will be kept strictly confidential.

The central government's Manasa initiative will crack down on drug dealers and efforts will be made to bring those struggling with addiction into the mainstream. Counselling and rehabilitation facilities will also be available to help overcome addiction.

Aparajita stated that this helpline is linked to anti-narcotics task forces across the country, ensuring prompt action against traffickers. To expand the platform's reach and facilitate quick response, the public is being made aware of this helpline so they can report drug trafficking and seek counselling for those affected by drug addiction.

She urged the public to actively contribute to the national vision of making the country drug-free by 2047.

TMC faces crucial test as rival factions await Election Commission decision

Kolkata.(Agency)

In a significant development, two factions of Trinamool Congress – one led by Ritabrata Banerjee and another by Mamata Banerjee herself – will present their documents before the Election Commission on Monday in support of their claim to control party symbols, funds and party offices.

The submissions and cross submission have put the future of the previous ruling parties in jeopardy as both the factions claim to be the real Trinamool Congress and the matter now rests largely with Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, who will examine the evidence and determine which faction holds legitimate control over the party. The faction led by Mamata Banerjee, referred to by rivals as the "Kalighat Trinamool", and the group led by Ritabrata Banerjee, claiming to be the "real" Trinamool Congress, are both presenting their cases before the Election Commission.

The crisis follows the party's severe electoral setback in the 2026 elections, after which the TMC reportedly witnessed major internal divisions. The parliamentary and legislative wings of the party have allegedly seen large-scale defections.

Earlier, 21 Members of Parliament under the leadership of Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar have moved to the NCPI and are seeking separate seating arrangements in the Lok Sabha.

In the state legislative wing, 65 MLAs led by Ritabrata Banerjee have reportedly withdrawn support from the Kalighat leadership and formed their own national executive committee.

Both factions had earlier approached the Election Commission seeking recognition and control over the party organisation.

Following their appeals, the Commission asked both sides to submit evidence supporting their claims, particularly proof of majority support. Monday marks the final deadline for the submission of documents. Sources said senior TMC leader Derek O'Brien has already left for Delhi on behalf of the Mamata Banerjee camp, while the Ritabrata faction has also completed last-minute preparations.

As Dalai Lama turns 91, a call for compassion and renewed focus on Tibet

The Central Tibetan Administration's executive branch said the values championed by the Dalai Lama have become increasingly relevant amid growing armed conflicts, humanitarian crises, and environmental challenges.

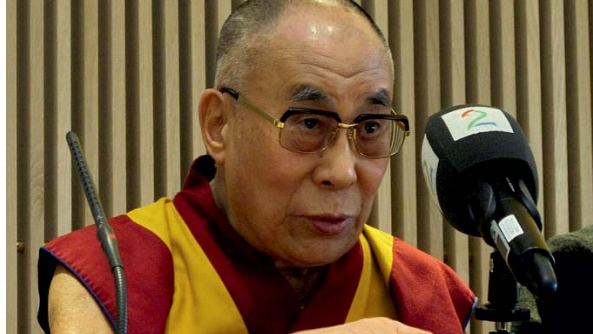
Chandigarh.(Agency)

The Dalai Lama turned 91 on Monday, with celebrations taking place across the world as the Tibetan spiritual leader continues to recuperate in Leh, Ladakh, following knee replacement surgery he underwent last month in New Delhi.

Marking the occasion, the Kashag—the executive branch of the Central Tibetan Administration (CTA)—issued a statement paying tribute to the 14th Dalai Lama's lifelong commitment to peace, compassion, non-violence, and interfaith harmony. It extended greetings to Tibetans inside and outside Tibet, as well as to Buddhist monastics and supporters worldwide participating in the celebrations.

The Kashag said the Dalai Lama's Four Principal Commitments—promoting universal human values, fostering harmony among religions, preserving Tibetan religion, culture,

and the fragile ecosystem of the Tibetan campaign had inspired exhibitions, conferences, cultural festivals, educational programmes, documentary screenings, book distributions, humanitarian initiatives, environmental campaigns, and community service activities across Tibetan settlements and among supporters worldwide. It also welcomed the decision by several cities, particularly in the United States, to proclaim the Dalai Lama's birthday as a "Day of Compassion".



guiding vision for addressing global challenges and building a more compassionate world.

Reviewing the "Year of Compassion", launched during the Dalai Lama's 90th birthday celebrations last year, the CTA said the

environmental challenges, urging individuals and governments alike to embrace compassion, ethical conduct, and dialogue as enduring principles rather than temporary campaigns.

The announcement was made by the state government in an official release on Sunday.

Gujarat to have region specific anti-snake venom in a year

Mumbai.(Agency)

Gujarat is expected to have the first batch of its region specific anti-snake venom in around a year, a development that is expected to significantly strengthen snakebite treatment in the state and contribute to India's goal of reducing snakebite deaths by 50 per cent by 2030.

Gujarat government's Dharampur-based Snake Research Institute (SRI) has recently handed over lyophilised (freeze-dried) venom of four major venomous snake species found in the state to a Telangana-based licensed anti-venom manufacturer and the company is expected to manufacture first region specific anti-snake venom for the state within a year.

The announcement was made by the state government in an official release on Sunday.

The four major venomous snake species found in Gujarat include Indian Cobra, Common Krait, Russell's Viper and Saw-scaled Viper. "Last week, the Snake Research Institute, which functions under the Gujarat Forestry Research Foundation (GFRF), handed over the venom purchased through an e-auction to Telangana-based M/s Vins Bioproducts Limited, which is engaged in developing life-saving antisera for snake and scorpion bites, as well as tetanus, diphtheria, and gangrene antitoxins. The consignment comprised 33.37 grams of Indian Cobra venom, 2.67 grams of Common Krait venom, 30.82 grams of Russell's Viper venom, and 1.71 grams of Saw-scaled Viper venom," the statement said. "The milestone comes shortly after the institute received higher-than-expected prices during its first e-auction of lyophilised snake venom, reflecting the high quality of the venom produced under internationally accepted standards," it added.

Mumbai chawl collapse: Mother, children among dead, Mayor says shanty 'illegal'

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has expressed grief over the deaths and announced an ex gratia of Rs 5 lakh each for the families of the dead.

Mumbai. (Agency)

Late on Sunday, a four-storeyed shanty came crashing down on another at Janata Nagar in Mumbai's Mankhurd, killing six persons, five of them children, taking the death count in this Mumbai monsoon to 10. According to preliminary information, the dead in Mankhurd include a mother, her children, as well as children from a neighbouring structure who came over to stay at their residence. The victims have been identified as Aliya (7), Muskan (14), Nihal (6), Nabiya (2), Munaf (7), and Soni (32). Officials from the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) said that while Munaf was taken to Ghatkopar's Rajawadi hospital, the other five were taken to Shatabdi hospital, where they were declared dead. A passerby, who was trapped in the debris when the shanties collapsed, was

grievously injured. He has been identified as Rehan Ali (24), and healthcare staff said his condition is normal now. The incident was reported at 8.30 pm. The fire department



launched a rescue operation and a team from the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) joined in. The NDRF finished its operation around 3.20 am and officials said

no other person was found trapped in the debris. Speaking to the media, Mumbai Mayor, Ritu Tawde, said the shanty that collapsed was "completely illegal" and

operated as a godown. "The structure had three storeys built one upon another and was completely illegal. It functioned as a godown, and was completely stacked with goods. When the building collapsed, the goods came crashing on the neighbouring building where a woman, her children and some kids from the neighbourhood were staying," said Ritu Tawde. According to sources, the shanties were located on government land, and the residents had been issued multiple notices, asking them to vacate. Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has expressed grief over the deaths and announced an ex gratia of Rs 5 lakh each for the families of the dead.

Livelihoods lost, Bengaluru street vendors face uncertainty

Chandraiah said the least the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) could have done was to provide vendors with an alternative before commencing the eviction drive.

BENGALURU. (Agency)

For 53-year-old Chandraiah, each day would begin before sunrise, with a quick trip to KR Market. He would purchase vegetables from the wholesale market and carefully arrange them on his pushcart parked outside Cariappa Park in Rajarajeshwari Nagar.

A native of Maddur, Chandraiah came to Bengaluru 30 years ago in search of a livelihood, and ended up as a vegetable vendor. He says he earns a modest income by selling vegetables and supports his family of four, including two school-going children. Today, his routine has come to a sudden halt due to the ongoing Safe Footpath campaign.

Chandraiah said the least the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) could have done was to provide vendors with an alternative before commencing the eviction drive. He pointed out that the

space where he sold vegetables is now occupied by vehicles. "If footpaths are occupied by vehicles, won't pedestrians be forced to walk on roads?" he asked. "I have loans. I have to pay my house rent



and my children's school fees."

Chandraiah's predicament is echoed by scores of vendors across the city who complain that they have lost their livelihoods. Among them is 30-year-old Manu Shaivas, a Mandya native who ran

a food cart on the footpath outside the Krantiveera Sangolli Rayanna (KSR) Railway Station for the past two years.

"We never blocked the movement of people. We were running our business without causing inconvenience to pedestrians," he said.

Manu said vendors selling biriyani, fruit juice, bakery items, mobile accessories, sweaters, bags and clothes have all been removed. "What happens to their livelihoods now?" he questioned.

While admitting that some vendors occupied entire footpaths, forcing pedestrians on to roads, Manu said those operating without obstructing pedestrians have also become victims of the drive. He urged the GBA to arrive at solutions where vendors are allowed to carry out their business without obstructing pedestrian movement.

Tripura police imposed a fine of Rs 25,000 on parents of a juvenile for reckless driving

Agartala.(Agency)

Tripura police have imposed a fine of Rs 25,000 on the parents of a juvenile who was caught allegedly riding a motorcycle recklessly on city roads on Sunday here, Traffic officials said.

Police said the action was taken under Section 199A of the amended Motor Vehicles Act, which holds parents, guardians, and registered vehicle owners accountable if they allow a minor to operate a motor vehicle.

According to the police, a motorcycle with the registration number TR01AN7801 was stopped during a traffic check due to alleged reckless riding. Upon verification, it was confirmed that the rider was under the legal age of 18 and therefore not permitted to hold a driving licence.

Subsequently, the vehicle was impounded, and the registered owner, Chandana Rudra Paul, wife of Arun Paul, was summoned to the police station, where a fine of Rs 25,000 was issued through a challan.

Officials emphasised that the amended provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act also outline the possibility of imprisonment for parents, guardians, or vehicle owners in such cases, in addition to financial penalties.

From Captain vs Bajwa to Warring vs Channi: The forever 'versus' situation in Punjab Congress

Punjab Congress infighting has once again come into focus as the party grapples with persistent factionalism ahead of key political battles.

HYDERABAD.(Agency)

"With friends like these, who needs enemies?" The popular American comedian and aphorist Joey Adam's witty one-liner quite aptly sums up what the Congress party in Punjab has been practising for over a decade now: scripting their own defeats before rival parties would.

Ahead of every crucial election in the past decade, the Punjab Congress has found itself in an "action replay" mode: A "versus" situation between two senior party leaders, and other leaders jostling to join either "camp". In every such situation, one senior party leader is seen pitted against the other,

either to grab a plum posting or become the Chief Ministerial (CM) face.

Here's a look at how Punjab Congress's bigwigs have been engaged in such "battles of political umpmanship" and how the party is always seen divided into "two camps" for over a decade now:

Captain Amarinder Singh Vs Partap Singh Bajwa (2015) After the Congress lost the 2012 Punjab Assembly polls and the 2013 Moga bypoll to the SAD-BJP under his leadership, Captain Amarinder Singh, then



president, was removed in 2013 and replaced by Partap Singh Bajwa. However, ahead of the 2017 Punjab assembly

elections, Captain Amarinder (now in the BJP) spearheaded a rebellion against Bajwa. Captain's supporters held multiple rallies and protests, flaunting the slogan: "Captain Liyao, Punjab Bachao" (Bring Captain, Save Punjab). The demand was to remove Bajwa as PPCC president and announce Captain as the CM face for the 2017 polls. Ultimately, Captain Amarinder got his way. After a series of rallies against his leadership, Bajwa was forced to resign as the PPCC president in November, 2015. Returning as the PPCC president, Captain then led the party to victory in the 2017 assembly polls.

Remembering the Emergency for vigilance and resistance

Kapil Sibal

Half a century has passed since the end of the Emergency, an episode in independent India's history that Gen Z has little knowledge of. Even parents from that generation seem to have forgotten it. Those with lived experiences of it are now in their Seventies and Eighties. Why, then, should we remember it?

Well, an event remembered by a nation or a community is not determined by how old or recent it is. On June 25, the day marking the 51st anniversary of the imposition of Emergency rule by Indira Gandhi's Congress government, a clip went viral on social media. In it, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian joined mourners, all clad in black, at a Muharram ceremony. They were not mourning the deaths of those who perished in the recent war on Iran by the US and Israel. Rather, it was the annual Ashura commemoration, when all Shias mourn the killing, more than 1,300 years ago, of Imam Hussein ibn Ali, the grandson of Prophet Muhammad. Such remembrance is not a ritual. It is an antidote to protect what one regards as precious and sacred. India should remember the Emergency for three reasons.

Democracy is precious and sacred for us. It is the main pillar of our Constitution, and the defining identity of our Republic. Hence, we should remember the Emergency of 1975-77 because it was the darkest period in the history of Indian democracy. Almost all opposition leaders were imprisoned, including Morarji Desai, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Lal Krishna Advani, George Fernandes, Chandrashekhar, A K Gopalan, and, above all, Jayaprakash Narayan, who did not belong to any political party but was the Gandhian 'conscience keeper' of the Republic. Along with the top leaders, tens of thousands of anti-Congress political activists were similarly punished, most spending the entire 19 months of Emergency rule in prison. Parliament became the handmaiden of the ruling party. Many anti-democratic provisions were introduced into the Constitution by the Congress party's brute majority in the House.

General elections, due in 1976, were postponed. Press freedom came under the severest censorship, the kind not witnessed even during British rule. Independent judiciary, the pride of India and the guarantor of people's inalienable democratic rights, was muzzled. Congress president Dev Kant Barooah infamously said, "Indira is India, and India is Indira."

India should remember the Emergency for another reason. Beneath the calm surface, underground resistance was building. The eerie silence itself was making threatening sounds that those in government could hear, and what they heard made them nervous. Indira Gandhi understood that the continuation of the Emergency was unsustainable, and she lifted it on March 21, 1977.

In the parliamentary elections that followed, Indian voters taught the Congress—also, future dictators—a sobering lesson. Not only was the party unseated from power, but even Indira Gandhi and her son Sanjay, one of the main architects of the assault on democracy, could not return. But there is also a third, and most important, reason why we should remember the Emergency.

No evil ever becomes a thing of the past completely. It has a way of being resurrected—sometimes by the very forces that fought against it. History bears witness to the fact that leaders and cadres of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh, then led by Vajpayee and Advani, played a key role in opposing Indira Gandhi's authoritarianism. It is also a third, and most important, reason why we should remember the Emergency. No evil ever becomes a thing of the past completely. It has a way of being resurrected—sometimes by the very forces that fought against it. History bears witness to the fact that leaders and cadres of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh, then led by Vajpayee and Advani, played a key role in opposing Indira Gandhi's authoritarianism.

Vaapsi on the wings of love

Main Vaapas Aaunga offers us new avenues for engaging with our past

Surinder S Jodhka

The egg is a modest food, yet in India's school meals it has acquired political weight. The reported decision in West Bengal to replace eggs with vegetarian options in government-aided schools managed by a vegetarian provider has reopened a quetoo hungry or undernourished to learn. This is also not a predictable Partition love story where two young lovers are separated by the 'border' between two nations and, as the movie progresses, their uncorrupted love either triumphs or ends tragically. With veteran actor Naseeruddin Shah (Ishar Singh Grewal) in the lead role, supported by Diljit Dosanjh (Nirvair/Nivi), Sharvari (Jiya), Vedang Raina (Keenu, young Ishar) and others, Imtiaz Ali weaves a story layered with multiple messages. The movie begins with a grumpy nonagenarian (Ishar Singh) developing signs of dementia. He has forgotten that India and Pakistan are two different countries, and that Sargodha, the town where he grew up, is on the other side of the border. Seized by a desire to visit the town and meet the girl he loved, he instructs his driver to take him to an address that is now across the international border in Pakistan. The driver resists, but he insists. As expected, the border security personnel stop him and try to reason with him, but this adds to his agitation, and he suffers a stroke. For the rest of the movie, he is bedridden, with rapidly progressing dementia and an increasing urge to meet his beloved and redeem a pledge. His two sons wait for him to die, with varying degrees of resignation and impatience. However, his grandson (Nivi) returns from Britain when he learns of his grandfather's condition and manages to communicate with him through the fog of his confusion. Piecing together the puzzle that had seemed increasingly impossible and fantastical, Nivi gradually begins to understand his grandfather's desperation to return. As a British passport holder, Nivi is able to cross the border and connect his grandfather with his past via a video call. Much of the story of young Keenu's love for Jiya and the violence of the Partition play out in the background, even as Ishar Singh's sons begin to develop a new understanding of and love for him. The movie ends with Nivi standing with his backpack against a backdrop of bombings across different parts of the world, rendering millions homeless. In the tragic helplessness of the victims, the movie invokes a parallel with the Partition of 1947.

Not just a movie

As with most good stories, the film has multiple layers. While themes of love, loss, violence and separation are

universal and the film resonates with a wide range of audiences, each viewer's response is likely to be subjective.

I come from a Partition family, and that was indeed actively on my mind when I went to watch the film. Though the specifics of the story had little in common with what I had heard from my elders, nearly everything seemed familiar. Over the past 10 years, I saw two elders of my family die in their late nineties after suffering from dementia in their late years. Neither of them expressed any great desire to return to the land of their birth, the home left behind. Nor did they mention any specific



person they wished to meet. The members of their biradaris had all come with them, or had been killed. Or this is what we were told.

However, there indeed were commonalities. Among the things that resonated with me was a scene where Keenu tells his brother, Pali, to get up and leave, and not to look back, *pichhe mud ke nahin dekhna*. This happens during the only occasion when he returns to Sargodha in 1956 and discovers that the girl he loved has already been married to his classmate. Her husband takes them home and goes to call his wife, but they leave before she arrives. Decades later, from his hospital bed, Ishar Singh keeps pleading to be taken to Sargodha; his brother repeats, "Veerji, *pichhe mud ke nahin dekhna*," but with little effect.

Pichhan, not to return

Growing up in the 1960s and 1970s, I heard the word *pichhan*, meaning the place left behind, almost every day, in one context or another. Rarely did my elders refer to it as Pakistan or the other country. Everything about *pichhan* was great and authentic, from the fields and food to friendships and fashion. Even the weather seemed better there. However, nostalgia did not mean that they wanted to go back. By the time I was growing up, they had come to identify with the Indian nation, and perhaps also with Nehru's idea of progress. *Pichhan* was the past, the

land and memories left behind, never forgotten, and not to be carried forward.

We were also told every other day, almost like a ritual, how our family was saved by a Muslim neighbour, an influential widow who hid all of them in her house and kept them there until she felt that it would be impossible for her to keep them safe anymore. Even when she asked them to leave, she did her best to ensure that everyone in my immediate family crossed the border safely. The Partition had been an extremely difficult experience. Like most others, my family spent months in camps. It took them several years to rebuild their lives in a completely new setting. Though everyone in my immediate family on my father's side survived, my maternal grandfather and many other relatives were killed during the Partition violence.

However, they never spoke of their lives as stories of misery and hopelessness. They had crossed the border with virtually nothing; they had worked hard to rebuild their lives, reasonably successfully. They were helped by the Nehruvian State, which gave them titles to lands and houses left behind by Muslims. They also took to Nehruvian progressivism, the promise of a new life in an independent nation.

The ending

The movie ends with Ishar Singh's grandson travelling to Sargodha and providing him with the closure he desperately sought. However, that's not all that the movie shows us. It tells us about the energy and agency of love amid persistent violence, hatred and bombings, and the sadness of Nirvair. For Imtiaz Ali, this was perhaps the best way to end the story.

However, such an ending also offers us new avenues for engaging with our *ichhan*, not merely for those who are deeply nostalgic about the village or town of their birth, left behind in another nation, which is hard to travel to because of the prevailing geopolitical conditions, but also for humanity at large confronting meaningless violence and a perpetual sense of homelessness.

This is particularly true for South Asia, where the Partition continues to serve as the default moment of self-imagination and national identity formation. The only way to counter violence and hatred is through love, the enduring affection between Keenu and Jiya, his *Mallika-e-Dilfareb*. Modern technology could help make such a *Vaapsi* possible, a journey that takes us forward. Though the grandson could easily cross the border and travel to Sargodha because of his British passport, we ought to also invoke and explore our traditions of love and forgiveness, richly available in the teachings of our Gurus, pirs and fakirs, Buddha and Guru Nanak, Farid and Kabir, Bulleh Shah and Mirabai, and many more.

Right to protest : Bombay HC reaffirms that dissent is not a crime

Dissent is not a crime; it is a form of expression protected under Article 19 of the Constitution

STAGING a peaceful protest is every Indian citizen's democratic right, as repeatedly affirmed by the Supreme Court and various high courts. Can the police be justified in slapping FIRs on a protester and debarring him from entering a city merely for criticising the government and the ruling party? The Bombay High Court's answer is an unequivocal "no". Setting aside the Mumbai Police's extermine order against a political activist, the HC has observed that a morcha or a protest against decisions of the BJP-led Centre cannot by itself be a ground for drastic action that impacts the person's fundamental rights. Justice Madhav J Jamdar's sharp observation that "citizens cannot be made slaves of the government" is set to have reverberations far beyond Maharashtra. Dissent is not a crime; it is a form of expression protected under Article 19 of the



Constitution. Treating it as a threat to public order without credible evidence of violence or danger erodes

the very freedom that distinguishes a democracy from an authoritarian state. The HC rightly noted that the FIRs registered against the petitioner largely related to alleged violations of prohibitory orders during protests, punishable by relatively minor provisions of the law. Such allegations fall far short of justifying the severe restriction of banishing him from his city for a whole year. Justice Jamdar's assertion that the police are "public servants" and not servants of political leaders is equally significant. His suggestion, made in a lighter vein, that the petitioner should consider switching parties to get the FIRs quashed through the government's "washing machine" sums up the sorry state of affairs in the season of defections. The ruling serves as a timely reminder that citizens are not subjects to be silenced — they are the sovereign voice of the Republic.

India-Indonesia ties | Acting East with strategic vision

India's bilateral relation with Indonesia has grown from maritime cooperation to include defence, healthcare and food security. The PM's upcoming visit presents a chance to deepen the strategic partnership. Critical minerals, pharma and fintech could be among the new pillars of engagement

Gurjit Singh

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's forthcoming visit to Indonesia will occur at a particularly favourable moment in bilateral relations. India and Indonesia, the two largest democracies in the Indo-Pacific, have spent the last decade transforming a historically cordial relationship into a comprehensive strategic partnership. What distinguishes the relationship today is the extent to which commitments made during Modi's 2018 visit to Jakarta and President Prabowo Subianto's January 2025 visit to India have been translated into practical cooperation. The 8th India-Indonesia Joint Commission Meeting, held in New Delhi on June 7, demonstrated that both countries are now focused on implementation. The modern phase of the relationship began with Modi's 2018 visit, when the ties were elevated to a comprehensive strategic partnership. The vision articulated then was fundamentally maritime. Cooperation on security, defence, connectivity, the blue economy and Indo-Pacific governance became the pillars of the relationship.

Eight years later, many of those objectives have matured. Naval exercises have become more regular, defence exchanges have expanded and coordination on maritime domain awareness has significantly improved. The strategic logic underpinning the partnership has strengthened as both countries seek to preserve a stable, rules-based Indo-Pacific without becoming part of rigid alliance structures. The symbolism of President Subianto's State



visit last year as chief guest on Republic Day was important—it signalled India's desire to prioritise Southeast Asia despite the distractions of great-power competition. The two sides emphasised defence-industrial cooperation, critical minerals, digital technologies, health, food security and supply-chain resilience. The

technologies, pharmaceuticals, fintech and shipping. These sectors are directly linked to the economic security agenda being pursued by both governments. Critical minerals represent perhaps the most promising new frontier. Indonesia possesses some of the world's largest nickel reserves and is emerging as a major electric vehicle battery hub. India, meanwhile, is seeking reliable access to critical mineral supply chains to support its energy transition and manufacturing ambitions. The discussions indicate that both sides recognise the complementarities. While defence cooperation has not yet reached the depth of India's partnerships with countries such as Singapore, Vietnam or the Philippines, the trajectory is positive. Indonesia increasingly views India as a stabilising maritime partner, while India values Indonesia's geographic position near critical sea lanes. Enhanced naval engagement, coordinated patrols, officer exchanges and defence-industrial cooperation could become defining features of the next phase. If Indonesia optimises its interest in obtaining Brahmos missiles, it economically, however, the partnership still underperforms relative

to its potential. Bilateral trade falls short of what should be expected between two G20 economies with a combined population over 1.7 billion. Investment flows also remain modest. Hence, the June meeting focused on expanding cooperation in trade, investment and strategic industries. Fintech, digital payments, cybersecurity and artificial

intelligence could emerge as major pillars of cooperation over the coming decade. Another underappreciated strength of the relationship lies in its civilisational ties. Indonesia's cultural landscape retains deep influences from Indian civilisation, reflected in language, art and religious traditions. Yet tourism, educational exchanges and cultural cooperation have not matched this historical affinity. Greater connectivity between universities, think tanks and businesses could help create a broader constituency. The forthcoming Modi visit, therefore, presents an opportunity to move the relationship from steady growth to genuine strategic acceleration. Several deliverables could help achieve this objective. First, the two countries should launch a dedicated critical minerals partnership. Second, maritime cooperation could be upgraded through enhanced information-sharing and expanded naval exercises in the eastern Indian Ocean. Third, a bilateral framework on digital public infrastructure and fintech cooperation would align with both countries' economic priorities. Fourth, cooperation in pharmaceuticals and healthcare could strengthen regional health security. Finally, greater institutionalisation of leader-level and ministerial dialogues would ensure sustained implementation of agreed initiatives. The broader geopolitical context also favours closer ties. Both India and Indonesia seek strategic autonomy, support a multipolar Asia and favour inclusive regional institutions. Their convergence on these issues creates a durable foundation that extends beyond individual governments. The challenge for the forthcoming Modi visit is to deepen implementation. If concrete advances can be secured in critical minerals, maritime security, digital connectivity and defence, the visit could mark the beginning of a more ambitious phase in one of the Indo-Pacific's most consequential relationships.

Career

Business meeting with clients to get positive results or output - with your own image and reputation is also Stablis. Professional altitude at the meeting and could make an impression Manor. It is necessary to continue to update their skills. Additionally, whenever you go to a Inporrtet meeting, make absolutely sure you follow a few basic business Attikets, as it works to prevent negative effects.

Time Access

Perfect leader arrived at the meeting place at the time. Indeed, professional timing and place of the meeting is already Decide. Therefore Sr. or Jr., must take care of all time. Those arriving late to a meeting is deemed negligent. If you're hosting the meeting, according to the protocol is necessary to arrive on time.

Proper Introduction

Introduction to the Role of the Business Meeting is very important, therefore, Highest rank first or the most senior person to introduce yourself. At the time of introduction, smiles and decency should have. Also, when you arrive at a meeting, then greet Gests and Business Partners in a civil manor. To her handshake. Let them take their business card business card, it

will have the best effect.

Sitting position

Business meeting in accordance with Hararki Select a seating area. After sitting sit in seniors. Lead the meeting of the members should have the position of the head table. Similarly, clients or customers for meeting all Inporrtet need to reserve the power seat. Getting up at the end of the meeting, you have to follow the same Ethics. Professional Manor is considered good in this kind of meat.

Listen first, then talk to keep

Professional meeting and listen to others, you have to keep your thing. So when someone is speaking and some things you do not agree with them, then write on her notepad. Token not speaking to anyone in between. If there is any debate on any issue, it must be in the language and tone control completely. At the time of presentation or debate complete control over the language, so people will listen to you more closely.

Consntreshn

Key to Success in Business

Inporrtet

The patient should be listening to the speakers at the meeting. Then the question and answer session, so consider who said what and what the logic behind it, has he? When it becomes clear, then, that no one Kwashen Related to the meeting. Jmaga your impressions and the rest of the meeting will not take you too lightly.

Professional meeting came several times on mobile calls are disturbing. Many big corporate houses in meeting the Strictly Mobile is instructed not to move. Meetings are taking the mobile, then switch off or put on silent mode. Lay on the table during a meeting or a hand-held mobile professionals Attikets also be considered against.

Focus on the agenda

Professional is pre-fixed agenda of the meeting. As such it becomes the responsibility of having to conduct the meeting that he attended a meeting agenda wander from anyone else. When that happens, then the meeting will be effective. People who want to keep their things, they should make arrangements in advance, To The Point. Start with the tag line 'strong point. Additionally, Ricorridg and documentation of Proceedings after meeting members to share Attikets part of the business. Simple Business Attikets such a significant affect on the image.



Ship's Engineer



ship building or B.Tech., BE, B.Sc. Ship Building and Repairing of course can be.

Indian Mritaim University, Cochin University of Science and Technology (Siuosatti), the Institute of Nautical Science and Engineering from the Indian Ship Building and Repairing course you can. In addition, the Institute of Ship Building B TECH. Course is also available, such as - Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering at IIT Madras B.Tech. Course you can. For admission to this course CET (Common Entrance Test) is conducted, the Aiamayyu (Indian Mritaim University) does conduct. For admission in 12th physics, chemistry and math is required at least 55 per cent marks. In addition, 50 per cent marks in English in the 10th and 12th should be. The opportunity to apply those same students who do not pass the CET exam. 180 objective type written test for admission are concerned, the PCM / English / General Knowledge and reasoning are based on. Ship Building and Repairing all new BSc course. There is good scope of placement after the course.

Job Oprchunitij

After the course the shipyard, ship, cargo ship and can find jobs in the Merchant Navy. Ship Building Industry, naval dockyards and shipping companies, naval architects and ship technology nowadays in great demand by the people involved. To perform better in the field of promotion opportunities are good.

Salary Jess in the field -

such as your merit increase, promotion and salary increase will tend to be easier. There is no limit to growth. Assistant managers and CEO's salary starts from Rs 30 lakhs is reached. News Feature

ships. Over time, the increasing size of ships increase in jobs in the region. If you have passion and deal with the challenges the country - is fond of foreign travel, then a career as Naval Architecture nautical miles at a speed of several permits. Ship Operations professionals in this field, technical maintenance etc are attached to tasks.

Nature of Work

Director of Indian Institute of Nautical Science and Engineering Kulshreshtha said Sanjeev, a special branch of engineering is it. Naval Architecture, Ship Building and Ship under shipping technology designing, construction, maintenance and equipment used in maritime traffic, etc., are taught such repairs ships and submarines. Naval engineering Ktrej can guess from the fact that the professional course related to it sit empty. Naval Engineers currently in demand not only in India but also abroad is cool.

Courses and qualifications

Naval Architect or ship technologist career as a naval architecture, marine engineering,



Today every business in the world by sea is shipped.

The Naval Architect or Naval Engineers are in demand also grew. Today, most jobs are in the field. How to make career in this field..

The first short sea trade - used by small ship, but their place is taken by large

Careers with No Risk Insurance Underwriter

If a career option recession and uncertainty found in the environment, where the risk is minimal, then who would Nhinajmana involvement. Particularly if he is interested in finance or accounting. Insurance underwriters for such people the opportunity to become the Finance Sector Stablis ourselves, because everyone needs insurance has become today.

Work responsibility

In addition to the client or the company's risk management underwriter, insurance is a study of the proposals, their background and their applications to accept or collect Information is discarded. Review and fix the responsibility of the insurance policy premium is also Inhinki, ie how much of an insurance company must charge the policy holder, it is the underwriter decides. Between the company and the policy holder can say that it serves as Mediator. Or renew insurance coverage to cover new individuals and companies, both he helps.

Basic Skills

Powerful ways you can keep your talk, with excellent communication and interpersonal skills with the knowledge of computers, you can debut as underwriter. Underwriters often have to take sudden decisions. The analytical and decision making skills are essential. Additionally, the maths should also be strong, because the whole thing is associated with the risk and premium calculation. They should also have the capability Judgment.

Growth Options

As underwriter, you can find opportunities to work in many Areas like - life insurance, health insurance, mortgage insurance and property

insurance. In addition, Auto, Loan, Commercial, Farm and group health insurance underwriter as growth in the area are good options. By the way, people who want to become medical underwriter, for them to have a medical background is Inporrtet.

Courses and Institutes

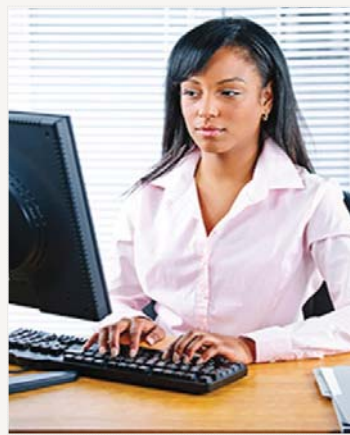
Insurance Companies to act as underwriter in Finance and Business Adimistreshn must be graduate. With specialization in the accounting, then even better. If desired, Insurance and Risk Management BA in Management and Marketing of Insurance or can. Graduate in any stream candidates can work as an insurance underwriter. There are many institutes and universities in India, from where you can do the course:

- Asia-Pacific Institute of

Management Studies, Delhi
- Birla Institute of Management Technology, Greater Noida
- Guru Nanak College of Arts, Science and Commerce, Mumbai
SS Institute of Management, Lucknow
- APJ Insting of Management,

Jalandhar

Many opportunities in this field India is the underwriter of the new field, but it's enough growth opportunities. In addition to Finance and Commerce, Medical Professionals Traditional jobs are not coming from the background, medical underwriter can earn as well. Mathematical and analytical skills with the Basic Kwolifikeshn would benefit from having.



How startups are cutting ballooning

Salary Bills



combination of factors is driving more startups to scout for talent from tier-II B schools and engineering colleges at lower salaries.

HiveMinds, a startup in social media, has chosen to approach tier-II B schools as it finds itself low on the priority list of the top-notch ones. "The top B-schools fix slots for bluechip companies in the first few days and they get the cream of students. Startups like ours, which cannot offer a hefty remuneration, get slotted on the last day and get the

remaining ones," said CEO of HiveMinds MS Shan.

The limited fund flow into startups is one of the reasons for the hunt shifting to the non-IIM category of B-Schools. Vinod M, CEO, Cloudcherry said due to healthy funding or the promise of it last year, companies were more enthusiastic about recruiting from top B-schools at higher pay.

"The funding sentiment has cooled down now and only heavily-funded startups would go on to recruit in top B-Schools," he said. Vinod said divergence, a skill required in startups, may not necessarily be available in Tier-1 schools.

Going to the Tier-II B-Schools has clearly given him a wider choice of options. They offer more scope for interaction at a pace that helps recruiters analyse and take a more measured decision. "Such options are not available with Tier-1 schools where we are pressured to make a decision fast," said Shan.

PSG College of Management, Coimbatore had four new startups hiring students this time around. "Technology startups such as Zoho and Kaar Technologies looking for managerial positions have turned to us," said the institute's placement director Umesh C.

Startups find graduates from engineering colleges like VIT and SRM take risks and work for lower salaries than

graduates from top B-schools demand.

"We prefer to hire from B-Schools such as NMIMS or engineering colleges," education startup ChalkStreet CEO Venkat V said.

B-Schools have reported a surge in recruitment from startups. Management Development Institute from Gurgaon has had 57% more startups visiting them compared to last year. Students too were keen in getting placed in them with 15 of the 17 offers getting accepted. "The 'Startup India Stand Up India' campaign will act as a catalyst in the ecosystem

providing huge growth opportunity for students," said Kanwal Kapil, chairperson, placements from MDI.

For internships too, startups are gaining more currency, said students of Mumbai-based B-School KJ Somaiya Institute of Management Studies and Research. "We are more open to taking risk which is reflected in the drive to take up a job in a startup than in a secure environment of a MNC or an Indian corporate," second-year student anil kumar said.



A survival guide for Office rookies



ur first job teaches you lessons no college does. Here's how you survive the initial months of your career Young and reckless -that's what we are in our 20s. We motorcycle our way through life with no helmet on, until we hit the career highway. Suddenly, we are expected to be responsible and mature, or at least on the path to being 'settled'. The transition from wild to mild is not easy and takes some discipline. But steer clear of these major faux pas and you'll be cruising in auto-mode in no time.

Don't be late

If you have a nine-to-five job, stick to the company's official timings. If you have flexible work hours, stick to your word instead. Walking in at 1pm when you promised to report at 11 am reflects on your commitment. In your first year, you want people to take you seriously. And how will anyone do that if you can't even honour your own word?

Don't use office as Tinder

Office romance isn't a cardinal sin, but get to know your colleagues and the rules of your workplace better first. The first year is definitely not the right time for you to swipe imaginary rights on those hotties in office. How about you learn more about the job first?

Stay sober at parties

Office parties involve a lot of free booze and that's reason enough to get drunk, right? Wrong! Many inappropriate things can be said and done when drunk and you don't want to face the consequences of something you don't even remember doing!

Don't abscond

Sometimes, it's hard to deal with the repercussions of unpleasant decisions that we take at the workplace -like quitting the job. But remember, this is professional, not personal. Your organisation will be far more appreciative if you resign formally and serve your notice period instead of pulling a disappearing act. Take Shreeji

he secured admission in a premium college. Unsure of how to break the news to his boss, he simply stopped reporting to work. "That affected our relationship completely. If I had manned up, we would have probably remained in touch," says Doshi. Absconding can also lead to a bad reputation in the job market, blacklisting and even legal tussles.

Private means private

You may find your colleagues friendly, but that doesn't mean that they are your friends. Khusbhu Merchant learnt this the hard way, when she started discussing her personal problems with her teammates. "If I messed up at work, people started attributing it to my personal life, even when it was unrelated," says Merchant. In the first year of your job, people may try to exploit your vulnerabilities; don't throw your personal problems to the mix.

Think before saying 'yes'

You don't have to impress your bosses all the time. You are new to the job and they understand that. So if they ask you to tackle something brand new, seek help. Here's how: Boss: Rohan, can you make a case study out of our last project? You: Yes sir, but can I do it with someone who has done it before so that I get it right, as this is my first time? Boss: Of course, of course. Sit with Shreya. This way, your boss will not only realise that you are aware of where you need to improve at work but also that you have good communication skills.

Wait for approval

If you have a client-facing job, you might be in a position where clients ask you something that you don't have the official answer to. In such situations, do not respond. It is absolutely fine to say that you will get back to them, even if you know what the answer should be. Similarly, do not perform any task without your boss's instruction or approval. Nithin SV, a software consultant, says, "Once, I discussed a software upgrade with a customer who seemed interested. So I got cocky and did the upgrade before getting an approval. I got a lot of heat from the customer and my boss. This happened on the second day of my job."

Stay away social from media

It's one thing to say, "I hate Mondays" and quite another to say, "Today I worked on the Reliance accounts file". You could put your company in trouble or inadvertently give information to your company's competition. You could even put your organisation, and yourself, at risk of legal action.

Keyboard skills
How to type faster

height.

3. Get your hand position right Wrong hand position is the first and most common mistake people make while typing. To type better, place your hand and fingers over the keys in the 'home row' and return to that position while at rest. The home row keys are as follows:

- Left index finger on the letter F.
- Left middle finger on the letter D.
- Left ring finger on the letter S.
- Left pinkie on the letter A.
- Right index finger on the letter J.
- Right middle finger on the letter K.
- Right ring finger on the letter L.
- Right pinkie finger on the colon/semicolon (; and :) key.
- Left and right thumbs should rest on the space bar.

4. Try and practice some simple typing



Typing fast is a skill that is fast becoming a necessity in today's time. How many times has it happened that you start typing and get bogged down by your slow speed? If you are hoping for some secret tips and tricks to help you type faster in a jiffy, let us tell you there aren't any. But there are ways, which with can help you improve your typing skills with regular practice. 1.

Setup a proper workplace for your self

The first thing you'll need before you sit and start typing is spacious and a comfortable workplace. Also you'll be better off working or typing on a table than your lap.

2. Believe it or not, the right body posture matters

Try and sit straight and keep your wrists at level with the keyboard, so that your fingers can properly arch over the keys. Try not to slouch too much and sit at a comfortable

exercises like:

- Start with the home keys: asdf <space> jkl;
- Then, type the home keys in capital letters, using the shift key: ASDF <space> JKL;
- ? Now come to the bottom letters and type the bottom row: zxcvbnm..
- Next, skip over to the top row: qwertyuiop
- Without looking at the keyboard try writing the complete alphabet.

5. Learn touch typing (typing without looking at the keyboard)

It's a difficult skill to execute at first but touch typing is generally the fastest way to type once you've mastered it. So start slowly and try to type without looking at the keyboard. Build up your speed gradually and try to stick with it even if you find it difficult

initially.

6. Practice, practice and practice Well, there are no shortcuts to practice and the more you perform the better and faster you'll get.



Doshi's case, for example. A fresh graduate, he joined a company while simultaneously appearing for post-graduate courses' entrance exams. Just ten days into the job,

Government launches new DTC bus route: See which areas it will connect

Transport Minister Pankaj Kumar Singh said the route is part of the government's effort to strengthen Delhi's public transport network and make commuting easier across the city.

New Delhi.(Agency)
The Delhi government on Sunday introduced a new Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) bus route connecting Mori Gate ISBT with Kheri Baba Pul in west Delhi. Officials said that the aim is to improve public transport connectivity for residents of Janakpuri, Vikas Puri, Uttam Nagar, Hastal and neighbouring areas. Route 753 Ext has been launched on an experimental basis, officials said. It has established a direct bus link between central Delhi and several densely populated residential localities in west Delhi, while also

improving access to the Mori Gate interstate bus terminal. According to the Transport department, the route starts from Mori Gate Terminal and passes through Kashmere Gate, Red Fort, Delhi Gate, Ajmeri Gate, Paharganj, Rajendra Place, Shadipur, Naraina, Maya Puri, Janakpuri, Uttam Nagar, Vikas Puri, Hastal and Shiv Vihar before ending at Kheri Baba Pul. Transport Minister Pankaj Kumar Singh said the route is part of the government's effort to strengthen Delhi's public transport network and make commuting easier across the city. "The newly introduced route

will significantly improve accessibility for residents of Janakpuri, Vikas Puri, Hastal, Shiv Vihar, Uttam Nagar, Hari Nagar and adjoining localities by providing them with a direct and affordable public transport connection to Central Delhi and Mori Gate," Singh said in a statement. Officials said the route has been designed to cater to office-goers, students and daily commuters by connecting several residential areas with

commercial hubs, Metro stations and major transport interchanges.

Kashmere Gate and Mori Gate ISBT, one of the Capital's busiest interstate bus terminals.



Besides passing through key arterial roads, it links passengers to

changes in transport for long-distance passengers, officials said.

DU plans to scrap 6 programmes at College of Vocational Studies, replace them with 'more popular' courses

New Delhi.(Agency)
With Delhi University's (DU's) undergraduate (UG) admissions currently open, faculty members at the College of Vocational Studies (CVS) have raised concerns against a proposed overhaul to discontinue six UG programmes of Vocational Studies, The Indian Express has learnt. According to minutes of meeting of the college's Department of Commerce, held on June 26, faculty members discussed a university proposal to discontinue five B.A (Vocational Studies) programmes — Human Resource Management, Marketing Management and Retail Business, Materials Management, Small and Medium Enterprises, and Insurance Management — and replace them with new interdisciplinary B.A.programme combinations such as Commerce with Economics, Commerce with Computer Science, Hindi with Commerce, Economics with Mathematics and History with Political Science. The department unanimously resolved to oppose the move and decided to submit representations to the DU Vice-Chancellor, the Dean of Academics and the Dean of Admissions "requesting that the existing B.A. (Vocational Studies) programmes be continued".The developments follow an earlier decision by the College Staff Council and Governing Body. According to the Governing Body minutes dated February 7, the college resolved to discontinue the B.A. (Vocational Studies) in Modern Office Management (MOM) that had 111 sanctioned seats.

'Left mall job, doing course in politics': A night at Cockroach Janta Party's Delhi protest

New Delhi.(Agency)
Around 3 am Saturday, at Jantar Mantar in the heart of Delhi, Vikas Kumar opens his small bag and pulls out a crumpled A4 sheet announcing his political party. The 20-year-old, wearing a white kurta with a blue scarf around his shoulder, stands with folded hands. The sheet carries his picture which, he says, is enhanced with AI. He runs his finger down it: "Apna Bharat Sena Party-ABS Party", it reads. For the past 15 days, Kumar, from Hajipur in Bihar, has been part of the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) protest demanding the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan over the NEET exam paper leak. Now, he is preparing to start his own political party.Kumar is one among several volunteers — from artists to workers — for whom the protest site has also become a "political classroom" of sorts. On the stage, activist Sonam Wangchuk, who is on a hunger strike, and CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke, sleep with a table fan for relief. Others lie on thick black sheets on the floor. A few fan their neighbours with plastic fans, while many sit in circles, exchanging ideas with strangers about everything under the moon. Kumar, for his part, is busy learning. "Just like people pay money to take courses in digital marketing and computers, I'm doing a course in politics here. I get food and a place to sleep. It's been 15 days since I started the 'course'. Once it's over, I'll become a politician. Already 17 people have joined my party here," he says. After completing a polytechnic course at Ambala in Haryana, Kumar says he moved to Noida for a job at a hardware firm and has since switched jobs across Delhi-NCR. On June 19, he left his "supervisor job" at a mall in Gurgaon to join the protest. "My family's financial condition is not good, so I had to start earning. I know the value of education and how important it is to reach higher. Rich fathers can hand over established businesses to their children, while middle and lower-class parents struggle to even give an education.

'We'll lose our livelihood': Delhi EV policy sparks anxiety in Karol Bagh's repair hub

New Delhi.(Agency)
Sanjay Kumar has no idea of the number of scooters and motorcycles his thick, grease-stained fingers have checked, fixed, and got going again — definitely hundreds, possibly thousands. This is the only thing that Sanjay knows; this is what he has been doing since the time he was a child — for 40 of his 52 years. The Delhi government's mandate in favour of a full transition to battery electric two-wheelers is intended to address the problem of air pollution in the capital. For Sanjay, the phasing out of petrol bikes is a question of his survival. "Yeh (petrol bikes) bandh ho jayenge, saare electric ho jayenge," he says, adjusting his worn black cap and glasses. "Dheere dheere aa hi rahe hain market mein (EVs)... Jab yeh (petrol) gaadiyan aane bandh ho jayenge, toh hum bilkul bekar ho

jayenge." (These bikes will no longer be allowed, there will be only EVs... They have been entering the market anyway; after petrol vehicles stop, there will be nothing left for me to do.)



Beside Sanjay, 23-year-old Abhishek is bent over the skeleton of a scooter. It is Friday morning, and a large part of the road in Karol Bagh's bustling two-wheeler repair hub has turned into a workshop. The clanking of metal and revving engines are part of

the sounds of traffic that flows by haltingly. Besides the workers, mechanics, and their apprentices, others who earn their livelihoods in this teeming market include the owners and workers of wholesale dealerships of two-wheeler spare parts and accessories, vehicle modification workshops, and dozens of shops selling helmets. Inside a shop selling motorcycle engine oil, grease, and metal and plastic spare parts, the dealer begins his conversation with a customer with a key question: "BS 6 or 4?" The Bharat Stage — BS — emissions standard is fundamental to the regulatory framework for tailpipe emissions in petrol and diesel vehicles. The question is asked and answered countless times in the market that exists for internal combustion engines.

From Rs 100 a day on petrol to Rs 20 a charge: Why Delhi is turning to EV scooters

New Delhi.(Agency)
The TVS showroom in Laxmi Nagar, in East Delhi, is quiet on a Friday morning. Rows of blue, red, and yellow motorcycles gleam beneath showroom lights. Sales executives wait behind their desks, looking up whenever someone slows outside the glass entrance. "Most days, we barely get around 15 visitors," one salesman says. "There are long stretches when there's hardly anyone in the showroom." The stillness ends at the branch manager's desk. Pawan Suryavanshi spends much of the day answering his phone. Since last week, the 32-year-old says, it has rung 70 to 80 times a day, each call from someone asking about an

electric scooter. How much subsidy is available on the TVS iQube? When will it be released? How far does it go on a single charge?

Watching him work, it would be easy to



mistake the calls for sales. They are not. His showroom doesn't sell electric scooters. "We don't even sell our electric scooters from this branch.

There is a separate branch nearby for that," Suryavanshi says. "But my phone number was given on some website, so I get 70 to 80 calls a day asking about electric scooters." Even the customers who do walk in are often looking for something the showroom doesn't have. "Out of 15 people who come in every day, around 10 are asking for electric models," he says. The conversations are playing out at dealerships across Delhi, Suryavanshi says. "When I talk to other managers, I clearly see growing excitement around electric two-wheelers." That interest has accelerated since the Delhi government announced a new electric vehicle policy this week.

'No child has been missed, right?': Inside campaign after polio virus found in Ghaziabad sewage



New Delhi.(Agency)
At 11 on a Thursday morning, Rajkumari balances a blue vaccine cold box in one hand and a pink file in the other as she knocks on an iron gate in Vijay Nagar, a densely packed neighbourhood in Ghaziabad. A little girl leans out from a second-floor window: "Is there a small child in the house?" Rajkumari calls. Moments later, a young mother emerges carrying her five-month-old daughter. Rajkumari asks the baby's name, age and father's name, recording each answer in her register. Beside her, an ASHA worker gently tilts the infant's head back. Two drops of polio vaccine land on her tongue. The baby bursts into tears. Before leaving, Rajkumari pauses. "No child has been missed, right?" she asks. "Tell me honestly." The team moves on. They weave through narrow lanes lined with closely packed houses. Some doors stay shut despite repeated knocks. Others are locked, their occupants away at work. Each missed house is marked in Rajkumari's register for another visit. A few hundred metres away, Vijay Nagar's concrete homes give way to a cluster of tin-roofed shelters beneath an under-construction apartment tower. Families from Bihar and nearby districts of Uttar Pradesh have made homes here, many of the men working at construction sites while the women care for children or work as domestic helpers. Stepping past piles of garbage and algae-covered drains, Rajkumari and Manisha stop at every shack.

Rs 700-cr medical supplies fraud: Key suspect 'manipulated tenders', missing; hunt on

Rangila, said officers, is a key suspect in the case. He has been named in the FIR for allegedly creating fake companies and firms using fictitious owners.

New Delhi.(Agency)
The Anti-Corruption Branch (ACB) of the Delhi government has conducted multiple raids after Rajiv Rangila, a "supplier and pharmaceutical trader" accused of manipulating tenders linked to the Rs 700-crore procurement fraud case, was found missing from his home in East Delhi's Laxmi Nagar area, sources told. Rangila (50) was summoned for questioning by the ACB last week in connection with the fraud case linked to the Central Procurement Agency (CPA) and the Directorate General of Health Service (DGHS). After serving him multiple notices, when he failed to appear before the agency, ACB officials launched searches for him across Delhi-NCR and Uttarakhand, sources said. Rangila has been actively supplying

medicines and medical equipment in Delhi and Uttarakhand for over a decade, according to investigators. The agency is also planning to issue a look out circular (LOC) against him, sources added. Rangila, said officers, is a key suspect in the case. He has been named in the FIR for allegedly creating fake companies and firms using fictitious owners. He is accused of colluding with manufacturers of medical equipment to fix supply rates and the kickbacks that were to be paid back in cash. "Some of these firms include F Med Devices, Technocrats, Raj Shree, Ashi Surgical and Pharmaceuticals, and M Sahib and Sons Pvt. Ltd. Even as these firms were created with others registered as owners, the actual operator

is Rajiv Rangila," the complaint filed by the Vigilance Department with the ACB states. The ACB converted the



complaint into an FIR on June 2. The alleged irregularities first came to light in May this year when the Vigilance Department conducted raids at the offices of the Central Procurement

Agency (CPA), the nodal agency responsible for procuring and supplying medicines, vaccines and medical equipment to Delhi government hospitals and healthcare facilities, following complaints. Sources said the tender specifications and terms were allegedly drafted to favour chosen firms and fake companies were put on records to create confusion. Rangila allegedly prepared restrictive specifications in collusion with manufacturers, after which the documents were routed to Dr Vinod Kumar Ranga, Head of Office (HOO) of the CPA, who placed them before the tender committee. Ranga was the first one to be arrested in the case on June 18.

Why even 5-star cars may not be enough: Euro NCAP exposes a deadly truck design flaw

New Delhi.(Agency)

For nearly 30 years, Euro NCAP has helped improve vehicle safety and reduce road deaths. Now, the organisation is focusing on a major safety issue involving trucks and trailers. According to Euro NCAP, around 400 people lose their lives every year in Europe and the UK due to rear underrun crashes involving heavy vehicles.

The latest research was started with support from the UK's National Highways using real-world crash data. Testing was carried out at laboratories in the UK, Germany and the United States. Several organisations took part in the project, including Germany's ADAC, Horiba Mira, Sweden's Trafikverket and the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) Older ADAS systems struggle to detect parked trucks

As part of the study, Euro NCAP tested both Advanced Driver Assistance Systems (ADAS) and the underrun protection barriers fitted to heavy trucks and trailers. The results showed a clear gap between old and new safety technology.

Modern ADAS systems performed much better, but many older systems failed to recognise stationary trucks and trailers. This means drivers using older vehicles could still face a serious risk if a truck is stopped on the road. The tests included different types of heavy vehicles, such as curtainside trailers, skeletal trailers and impact protection vehicles used at roadwork sites. Euro NCAP believes it could take another 15 years before most cars on the road are equipped with ADAS that can reliably detect these hazards.

Seven OPEC+ members approve 188,000 bpd oil output increase for August

NEW DELHI.(Agency)

Seven OPEC+ members have agreed to raise their combined oil production by 188,000 barrels per day (bpd) in August, marking another step in the gradual rollback of voluntary output cuts while reaffirming their commitment to market stability.

The decision was made during a virtual meeting on Saturday involving Saudi Arabia, Russia, Iraq, Kuwait, Kazakhstan, Algeria and Oman. The countries have been implementing additional voluntary production cuts since 2023 as part of broader efforts to support the global oil market. The planned increase is the latest phase in reversing the voluntary reductions first announced in April 2023. OPEC+ said future production adjustments will remain dependent on market conditions and could be accelerated, paused or reversed if required to maintain balance.

Under the August 2026 production schedule, according to ANI, Saudi Arabia and Russia will each increase oil output by 62,000 barrels per day (bpd), the largest increases among the participating OPEC+ members. Iraq will raise production by 26,000 bpd, followed by Kuwait with 16,000 bpd, Kazakhstan with 10,000 bpd, Algeria with 6,000 bpd and Oman with 5,000 bpd. Following the increase, Saudi Arabia's required production level will reach 10.416 million bpd, while Russia's will rise to 9.887 million bpd. Iraq's production target will stand at 4.405 million bpd, Kuwait's at 2.660 million bpd, Kazakhstan's at 1.618 million bpd, Algeria's at 1.001 million bpd and Oman's at 836,000 bpd.

Rupee falls 10 paise to 95.28 against US dollar in early trade

MUMBAI.(Agency)

The rupee fell 10 paise to 95.28 against the American currency in early trade on Monday, weighed down by the broad strength of the American currency in the overseas market. Forex traders said whenever fresh foreign inflows enter the country, the central bank is likely to use the opportunity to rebuild its reserve position rather than allowing the rupee to strengthen too much. Moreover, uncertainty prevailed over the progress of US-Iran peace talks keeping a geopolitical risk premium in the market. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 95.25, then touched 95.28 against the US dollar, registering a loss of 10 paise from its previous close. On Friday, the rupee appreciated 17 paise to close at 95.18 against the US dollar. "The message from last week is simple. When the rupee cannot rally on good news like falling oil and a softer dollar, it tells you the underlying mood is fragile. Any fresh negative trigger could push USDINR towards the 95.80 to 96.00 zone, while support holds near 94.80 to 95.00," 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 100.95, up 0.10 per cent.

"The dollar index eased to around 100.90 as weak US jobs data continued to weigh on it. Normally, a softer dollar is exactly what the rupee needs to catch a breath. This time, it simply did not happen, and that is the part worth watching closely this week," Pabari added. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, was trading lower by 0.58 per cent at USD 71.70 per barrel in futures trade. On the domestic equity market front, Sensex climbed 281.40 points to 78,051.03 in early trade, while the Nifty rallied 74.60 points to 24,347.05. Foreign institutional investors turned net buyers, purchasing equities worth Rs 1,355.33 crore on a net basis on Friday, according to exchange data.

India's forex reserves dropped USD 5.654 billion to USD 666.933 billion during the week ended June 26, the RBI said on Friday. In the previous reporting week, the kitty jumped USD 963 million to USD 672.587 billion. The kitty had expanded to an all-time high of USD 728.494 billion during the week ended February 27 this year before the onset of the West Asia conflict, which led to several weeks of a drop as the rupee came under pressure and the RBI had to intervene in the forex market through dollar sales.

Sitting on idle gold? Government may soon give you a reason to earn from it

The Centre may soon unveil a revamped Gold Monetisation Scheme that allows jewellers to collect household gold deposits. The proposed shift is aimed at drawing idle gold into the formal system and reducing reliance on imports.

New Delhi.(Agency)

If you have gold jewellery or coins lying idle at home, the government may soon give you a new reason to put them to work instead of keeping them locked away.

The Centre is likely to announce a revamped Gold Monetisation Scheme (GMS) within the next two weeks, reported Moneycontrol. One of the biggest proposed changes is that jewellers, and not just banks, could be allowed to collect gold deposits from households. The move aims

to unlock thousands of tonnes of gold lying idle in Indian homes while reducing the country's dependence on gold imports.

WHAT IS THE GOLD MONETISATION SCHEME?

Launched in 2015, the Gold Monetisation Scheme was designed to encourage people to deposit their unused gold with banks instead of storing it at home. The deposited gold is tested, melted and converted into gold bars. In return, the depositor earns interest on the gold while retaining its value. When the deposit matures, investors can receive either physical gold or its equivalent value in cash, depending on the type of deposit. The idea was simple: instead of importing more gold every year, India could use the enormous quantity of gold already sitting inside households.

WHY IS THE GOVERNMENT REVAMPING IT?

According to Moneycontrol, although India is estimated to hold around 25,000 tonnes of gold, only about 38 tonnes had been monetised even after nearly a decade. One of the biggest reasons was that only



banks could accept deposits. The proposed overhaul could allow jewellers across the country to act as "collection partners", making it easier for households to participate. Industry bodies believe that if even 5% of household gold is brought into

the formal system, it could unlock nearly \$90 billion worth of liquidity for the economy.

WHY DID THE OLD SCHEME FAIL?

The Gold Monetisation Scheme looked attractive on paper but struggled in practice. Many families were reluctant to part with jewellery that had sentimental or religious value because the gold had to be melted before it could be deposited.

There were also concerns about paperwork and possible tax scrutiny on old family gold. For banks, the scheme offered little commercial incentive, while the government had to bear the cost of paying interest as well as the increase in gold prices, making the scheme expensive to run.

WHAT COULD CHANGE THIS TIME?

The biggest proposed change is convenience. Instead of approaching a bank, people may be able to deposit their gold through jewellers, who already have trusted relationships with customers.

Sensex opens 250 points higher, Nifty above 24,300; HDFC Bank up 2%

New Delhi.(Agency)

Benchmark equity indices opened higher on Monday, supported by strong gains in banking stocks after HDFC Bank and Axis Bank reported healthy June quarter business updates. Lower crude oil prices and improving monsoon conditions also lifted investor sentiment.

The BSE Sensex was up 0.33% at 78,020.50, while the NSE Nifty50 gained 0.33% to trade at 24,349.95 around 9:30 am. HDFC Bank surged 1.73%, Axis Bank gained 1.30%, ICICI Bank advanced 1.19%, while BEL climbed 2.85% to emerge as the top gainer on the Sensex. Bharti Airtel, HCLTech, M&M, Eternal, SBI, Trent, Titan, Sun Pharma and Maruti were also trading in the green. On the other hand, Kotak Mahindra Bank was the biggest laggard, falling 3.16%. Bajaj Finserv, TCS, Power Grid, ITC, UltraTech Cement, IndiGo, Asian Paints, Reliance, LT and Tech Mahindra were among the other losers in early trade. Dr. VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Investments Limited, said the revival of the monsoon and the return of foreign institutional investors as buyers are positive triggers for the market.

"Revival of monsoon and FIIs turning buyers last Friday are positives for the market in the near-term. From this week onwards the market will start responding to the Q1 results which will begin on July 9. Overall, Q1 results will be subdued due to the energy shock and macro headwinds triggered by the conflict in West Asia. Now that the macro headwinds are behind us, the market will be looking forward to the potential trends in the rest of the year by taking cues from Q1 results," he said.

He expects financials and automobiles to outperform in the June quarter, while IT companies are likely to report subdued earnings and modest guidance. "In Q1, financials and autos are likely to outperform while IT will report subdued results and modest guidance. Financials will report better-than-expected results driven by impressive credit growth of 17%. NBFCs in gold loans and consumer financing will report revenue and profit growth around 20%. In automobiles, commercial vehicles and two-wheelers will report impressive numbers since Q1 sales in these segments have been better-than-expected. Buying on dips would be a good strategy in the near-term," Vijayakumar added.

BANKS LEAD THE RALLY

The rally was led by banking stocks after HDFC Bank and Axis Bank announced strong provisional business updates for the June quarter.

Made over Rs 1.25 lakh in equity gains? Here's why ITR-1 may not be enough this year

Before filing your return, it is worth checking your capital gains statement carefully to ensure you choose the correct ITR form and avoid unnecessary notices or delays.

Kolkata.(Agency)

Choosing the right Income Tax Return (ITR) form isn't always as straightforward as it seems. This year, many salaried taxpayers are discovering that a small change in the rules has made ITR-1 more useful, but only up to a point. If you earned long-term capital gains from equity shares or equity mutual funds that crossed Rs 1.25 lakh during the financial year, you may have to move beyond the simpler ITR-1 and file ITR-2 instead. Here's what the rules say for Assessment Year (AY) 2026-27.

WHY ITR-1 IS NOT THE RIGHT FORM ONCE GAINS CROSS Rs 1.25 LAKH

For AY 2026-27, the government has widened the scope of ITR-1 (Sahaj), giving relief to many small investors. Resident individuals can now report long-term capital gains (LTCG) under

Section 112A from listed equity shares and equity-oriented mutual funds in ITR-1, provided those gains do not exceed Rs 1.25 lakh.

This is a significant change because, until last year, any capital gains from



these investments generally meant filing ITR-2. However, relaxation comes with one important condition. The moment your long-term capital gains under Section 112A exceed Rs 1.25 lakh, ITR-1 is no longer available. In that case, you must file ITR-2 and disclose the details of your gains under Schedule CG. **WHY THE Rs 1.25 LAKH FIGURE MATTERS**

The Rs 1.25 lakh limit is not an arbitrary number. It is also the exemption

The company powering Nvidia's AI chips wants a \$28 billion Wall Street debut

NEW DELHI.(Agency)

The global artificial intelligence (AI) boom is creating another stock market heavyweight.

South Korean chipmaker SK Hynix, one of Nvidia's biggest suppliers, is set to launch a massive \$28 billion listing in the US this week in what is expected to be one of the world's largest new share sales. The company is tapping into soaring investor demand for AI-linked businesses after its stock surged about 273% this year. SK Hynix plans to sell 17.79 million new shares through American Depositary Receipts (ADRs) on the Nasdaq. The final price is expected to be set later this week before trading begins on Friday.

WHY IS SK HYNIX LISTING IN THE US?

Over the past two years, investors have poured billions of dollars into companies

seen as beneficiaries of the AI revolution. While firms such as Nvidia grabbed headlines, SK Hynix quietly emerged as one of the biggest winners by supplying the advanced memory chips needed to power AI systems.

The company's shares have risen around 273% this year, making it one of the best-performing technology stocks globally. The Nasdaq listing is expected to help it capitalise on that investor enthusiasm while raising fresh capital for expansion.

WHAT DOES SK HYNIX DO?

Although it is less well known than Nvidia or Samsung Electronics, SK Hynix plays a crucial role in the AI supply chain. The company manufactures High Bandwidth Memory (HBM) chips, a specialised type of memory that allows AI processors to quickly access and process massive amounts of data. These chips are

essential for training and running advanced AI models.

Its customers include Nvidia and Google, whose AI products rely heavily on high-performance memory. Strong demand for these chips has helped SK Hynix outperform rivals such as Samsung Electronics and Micron during the AI boom.

ONE OF THE BIGGEST SHARE SALES IN THE WORLD

The proposed listing is expected to rank among the world's largest equity offerings. According to Reuters, it would be second only to SpaceX's \$85.7 billion fundraising last month and larger than Saudi Aramco's \$25.6 billion IPO in 2019 as well as Alibaba's landmark listing in 2014. The size of the offering reflects the enormous investor appetite for companies that are directly linked to artificial intelligence infrastructure.

The Bhubaneswar meetings, held on July 6 and 7, are part of the Commission's nationwide consultation exercise, where it is meeting employee unions, pensioner associations and other stakeholders before preparing its recommendations for the Centre.

New Delhi,.(Agency)

The 8th Pay Commission's two-day stakeholder consultations in Bhubaneswar will conclude on Monday, marking another important milestone in the panel's work to revise the salaries, pensions and allowances of nearly 55 lakh central government employees and around 69 lakh pensioners. The Bhubaneswar meetings, held on July 6 and 7, are part of the Commission's nationwide consultation exercise, where it is meeting employee unions, pensioner associations and other stakeholders before preparing its recommendations for the Centre. With the Odisha consultations set to wrap up later today, the focus will now shift to Kolkata, where the Commission is scheduled to hold

its next round of discussions on July 9 and 10. The consultations come after the Commission closed the window for submission of memorandums on June 15, signalling a shift from collecting written proposals to engaging directly with stakeholders across the country.

WHY THE BHUBANESWAR MEETINGS MATTER

The regional consultations are one of the most important stages in the functioning of the 8th Pay Commission.

After receiving memorandums from employee organisations and pensioner bodies, the Commission is now hearing their views in person before drafting its recommendations. The feedback received during these meetings is expected to help shape recommendations on several key issues, including minimum basic pay, the fitment factor, Dearness Allowance, pension revision, allowances and other service conditions. While employee unions have reiterated demands such as a higher fitment factor, a revised minimum basic pay and pension reforms, the Commission has not indicated any proposed figures so far.

WHAT HAS HAPPENED SO FAR?

The 8th Pay Commission was announced

by the Union Cabinet on January 16, 2025, before the formal Terms of Reference



(ToR) were approved in October that year.

The Commission was officially constituted on November 3, 2025, beginning the process of reviewing the pay structure of central government employees and pensioners. Over the past several months, the Commission has invited suggestions and memorandums from stakeholders, with the final deadline for submission ending on June 15, 2026. Employee organisations used this opportunity to place a range of demands before the Commission. Among the key proposals were increasing the fitment factor beyond the 7th Pay Commission's 2.57, revising the minimum basic pay, merging Dearness Allowance

with basic pay, reviewing the family-unit formula used to calculate minimum wages, improving allowances and strengthening pension benefits. The Commission has now entered the consultation stage, holding meetings with employee representatives across different regions before finalising its recommendations.

THE BIG ISSUES BEFORE THE COMMISSION

Several issues are expected to dominate the Commission's deliberations in the coming months. One of the biggest debates is over the fitment factor, which determines how existing salaries and pensions are revised.

Under the 7th Pay Commission, a fitment factor of 2.57 increased the minimum basic pay from Rs 7,000 to Rs 18,000. This time, some employee organisations have sought a fitment factor of 3.83, which could raise the minimum basic pay to nearly Rs 69,000 if accepted. Another major demand relates to the minimum wage formula. Employee unions have argued that the existing calculation is outdated and should better reflect today's cost of living, rising healthcare and education expenses, changing family structures and inflation.

Short news

Destination Tripura Business Conclave targets 1200 billion US dollars investment

Agartala. (Agency)

Tripura is anticipating investment proposals worth approximately 1200 billion US dollars during the upcoming two-day Destination Tripura Business Conclave-2026, commencing on July 9, said Chief Minister Dr Manik Saha. Dr Saha said the participation of union Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia in the conclave underscored the crucial role of attracting both domestic and foreign investment in generating employment, boosting per capita income, and enhancing the state's Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP).

He mentioned that there are prospects for an investment of about Rs 100,000 Cr in this year's Business Conclave, with dedicated efforts from the concerned departments to achieve this goal. Significant investments are anticipated in sectors such as healthcare, education, information technology, transport, and tourism, with the aim of fostering development and progress in Tripura.

Reflecting on the previous edition of the conclave, CM noted that memorandum of understanding (MoUs) worth approximately Rs 30,000 Cr were inked last year, with projects involving about Rs 8,000 Cr already in progress. He conducted a comprehensive review of the event preparations and urged officials to ensure its successful execution. Authorities disclosed plans for over 20 exhibition stalls by various state departments and central public sector undertakings at the International Fair premises during the conclave, expecting participation from around 500 delegates from India and abroad.

UP govt will create new history again on July 12 with 35 cr tree plantation

Lucknow (Agency)

The Uttar Pradesh government will create new history again on July 12 when over 35 crore saplings will be planted across the state in a single day with public participation.

The Nodal (Forest, Environment and Climate Change Department) has begun preparations for this under the Tree Plantation campaign 2026. To ensure the success of the campaign, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath will communicate with public representatives from today onwards and will also hold regular meetings with officials to provide necessary guidance.

The Forest Minister will also meet with ministers from other departments to discuss its success.

On the Chief Minister's instructions, the mega-campaign will be conducted as a festival with extensive public participation, including central and state government departments, public representatives, social organisations, schools, and colleges. Along with extensive public participation, the central and state government departments will jointly plant 35 crore saplings this year.

The Forest, Environment, and Climate Change Department will plant the most, 15.50 crore saplings. The Rural Development Department will plant 10 crore saplings, the Agriculture Department will plant 3.25 crore saplings, the Horticulture Department will plant 1.50 crore saplings, and the Panchayati Raj Department will plant 1.22 crore saplings.

Around 5.50 lakh saplings will also be planted along the Ganga Expressway. Forest, Environment, and Climate Change will be the nodal department. Regular meetings of the District Tree Plantation Committee are also underway. The UP government establishes new special forests every year.

Shri Krishna Janmabhoomi Sangharsh Trust offers Muslim side 10 acres of land in Mewat and full cost of Mosque construction

Mathura.(Agency)

A surprising and significant initiative has emerged to resolve the decades-old dispute between the Shri Krishna Janmabhoomi and the Shahi Eidgah Mosque through an out-of-court settlement. The Shri Krishna Janmabhoomi Sangharsh Trust has presented a new proposal to the Muslim side and the top leadership of the Samajwadi Party.

The Trust states that if the Muslim side voluntarily releases the disputed land of the Shri Krishna Janmabhoomi, the Sanatani Hindu community is ready to give them 10 acres of land in Mewat, Haryana, and bear the full cost of building a new mosque there.

In this regard, two important letters have been issued by Shri Krishna Janmabhoomi Sangharsh Trust President Pt. Dinesh Falahari Ji Maharaj. In the letter sent to Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav, he has been reminded that he is a Yaduvanshi, a descendant of Lord Krishna. The Trust has requested him to personally mediate in this sensitive matter and resolve the impasse by speaking with the Idgah Committee.

The second letter has been sent to Tanveer Ahmed, Secretary of the Idgah Mosque Committee and SP leader. It appeals to him to support the liberation of the Janmabhoomi by promoting Ganga-Jamuni culture and mutual brotherhood. Trust President Dinesh Phalahari has openly written in the letters that the Mughal rulers illegally occupied the Shri Krishna Janmabhoomi Temple at the point of the sword. In today's era, if the Muslim side speaks of brotherhood, the Hindu side is also ready to take two steps forward.

‘Not my role’: Ram Mandir Trust treasurer distances himself from donation row

In the first detailed public response by a senior functionary of the Trust on the controversy, treasurer Swami Govind Dev Giri also sought to separate his statutory responsibilities as treasurer from the day-to-day handling of donations and financial administration.

Ayodhya. (Agency)

Signalling deepening discontent within the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust over the alleged embezzlement of donations at the Ram Temple in Ayodhya, its treasurer Swami Govind Dev Giri sought to distance himself from the controversy and called for strict action against those responsible, irrespective of their position. In the first detailed public response by a senior functionary of the Trust on the controversy, Giri also sought to separate his statutory responsibilities as treasurer from the day-to-day handling of donations and financial administration. In a two-page statement, he asserted that his responsibility was limited to

maintaining audited accounts and records. “The police and investigating agencies should catch the guilty. No matter how big the accused may be, they



should be brought before the court and given strict punishment without regard to their name or position,” he said.

Giri's statement came a day after

Ayodhya's Sant Mandal sought to fix accountability on the Trust's treasurer over the alleged irregularities.

“I have never sought or made any effort to obtain any position,” Giri said, adding that he had accepted the responsibility of treasurer “only as a service to Lord Ram”. He said he visits Ayodhya “only once every one-and-a-half to two months” because of religious engagements across the country, and has never claimed reimbursement for his travel or stay. “My responsibility is limited to maintaining audited records of income and expenditure; accepting donations, operating bank accounts or authorising payments is not part of my role... As treasurer, all audited records of income and expenditure from the beginning have

been securely maintained and can be examined by authorised agencies at any time,” he said.

Explaining the accounting system, Giri said the Trust's chartered accountants and full-time accounting staff maintain and verify the accounts every month, while he reviews the audited records during his periodic visits.

Seeking to distance himself from devotees' offerings, Giri said, “Since becoming a trustee, I have never personally accepted any cash donation or material offering for the temple from anyone.” He said the only exceptions were donations from two close relatives — Rs 11,000 from his late elder sister and a 9-kg silver brick from another relative — both of which were immediately deposited with the Trust.

Leaders pay tribute to Syama Prasad Mookerjee on 125th birth anniversary, highlight legacy of national unity

Kolkata. (Agency)

On the 125th birth anniversary of Dr Shyama Prasad Mookerjee, leaders across the political spectrum paid homage to the former union minister, educationist and founder of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh, recalling his contributions to national unity, Bengal's political history and his role in shaping modern India.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, union home minister Amit Shah, Governor R.N. Ravi, chief minister Suvedu Adhikari and several political leaders described Mookerjee as a visionary leader whose ideals continue to inspire generations.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said he had penned an op-ed on Dr Mookerjee's life and highlighted his contributions across multiple fields. Referring to his role in strengthening national integration, Modi noted that Mookerjee's “diverse accomplishments, be it vice chancellor, minister, political leader and more” reflected the breadth of his public life. He also underlined that the “removal of Articles 370 and 35(A) in 2019 remains a fitting tribute to his efforts”.

Union home minister Amit Shah remembered Mookerjee as “the founder of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh and a fierce proponent of the nation's unity, integrity, and cultural nationalism.” Paying homage, Shah wrote that “Dr Mukherjee made the ideal of ‘Nation First’ the guiding principle of his life.”

He further said that Mookerjee's “visionary leadership during the partition of Bengal and his lifelong struggle to keep Jammu and Kashmir as an integral part of India will forever be remembered in Indian history.”

West Bengal Governor R.N. Ravi also paid tribute, describing Mookerjee as “a visionary nationalist leader, a revolutionary par excellence for the cause of united Bharat and an eminent scholar.”

He said that during the partition, “his resolute leadership proved decisive in ensuring that West Bengal remained an integral part of Bharat”.

Referring to the constitutional changes in Jammu and Kashmir, Ravi said that Mookerjee's “supreme sacrifice for the full integration of Jammu & Kashmir in Bharat inspired generations and eventual fulfilment of his dream in 2019 with the abolition of Article 370.”

Diljit Dosanjh shares ‘Satluj’ village screening post after ZEE5 removes film in India

Sources said the screening of ‘Satluj’ in the Rajasthan village was planned regardless of Zee5 withdrawing the movie in India.

Amritsar. (Agency)

Hours after the Diljit Dosanjh-starrer Satluj became unavailable on the streaming service ZEE5 in India, the actor shared a clip on social media Sunday showing the residents of a village in Rajasthan's Sri Ganganagar district watching the movie on a massive projector under the night sky. “Hun Ni Rukni Film Khalra Saab Di Avaaz Nu Koi Ni Dabaa Sakda (Now this film won't stop, no one can suppress the voice of Khalra Saab),” Dosanjh said in the post. The community screening of the biopic based on human rights activist Jaswant Singh Khalra's life took place at the local gurdwara in 6 H village.

The event was organised by villager Bhupinder Singh, who had previously circulated an emotional appeal on Instagram inviting families, youth, and children to

watch the film together.

“This film is based on the inspiring story of the struggle, courage, and truth of Martyr Jaswant Singh Khalra Ji, who dedicated his



life to human rights. This is not just a film, but an opportunity to remember and draw inspiration from the great sacrifice made for history, humanity, and truth,” Singh

said. Sources said the screening was planned regardless of Zee5 withdrawing the movie in India.

Satluj, directed by Honey Trehan and produced by Ronnie Screwvala's RSVP alongside MacGuffin Pictures, premiered on ZEE5 on July 3 after facing certification hurdles for nearly three years. However, just two days later, the film was suddenly pulled from the platform for Indian audiences.

The film, though, remains accessible internationally via ZEE5 Global.

“In light of the current developments, Satluj will be unavailable in India until further notice. We remain committed to exploring every appropriate avenue through due process to bring the film back to our audiences at the earliest opportunity,” ZEE5 said in a statement on its X account.

‘Sororicide’ in the hills: Story of a daylight murder in Shimla

Shimla . (Agency)

Around 6 pm on June 13, Manisha Mittal, 41, walked out of the main gate of Saraswati Paradise International Public School (SIPS) in Shimla. Suddenly, two masked men appeared on the narrow mountain pathway that connects the main road to the school entrance. One of them shot Manisha from the rear, and moments later, the other fired from the front. She collapsed. It was a holiday and there was no one in the school.

The lone security guard, Yashpal, who was standing at the entrance, saw the assailants. But he could do nothing. “I froze,” he recalled. “They were masked. They appeared from nowhere and by the time I could react, they had already shot her and ran away”. This private school in Sanjauli, a four-storey building nestled in a

picturesque valley across eight bighas of land with the hills in the background, is



prime property worth crores. Manisha was the school's administrator. The audacious murder left the hill town in shock.

Immediately, Shimla Police began its

investigation to identify the two masked killers. The murder had been recorded by the school's CCTV cameras. The police also found out that the killers had parked their car, a white Maruti Swift on the main road, 50 metres downhill, and then walked up. Visuals of the car were picked by other CCTV cameras in the vicinity. However, it had a fake number plate. How had the killers appeared outside the school entrance exactly when Manisha walked out? Police investigators knew that the answer to this question would help solve the mystery.

They quickly seized the Digital Video Recorder (DVR) of the CCTV cameras installed on the premises to reconstruct the victim's final moments and gather clues about the attackers.

Punjab jail officials arrested after gangster claims illegal drug racket ring

SIT Probe into claims of drug racket and extortion inside Hoshiarpur Central Jail leads to arrests; investigation continues

Mohali.(Agency)

A Deputy Superintendent of Hoshiarpur Central Jail and a jail warden have been arrested following a Special Investigation Team (SIT) probe into allegations made by jailed gangster Manpreet “Manna” Singh in a viral video, in which he accused prison officials of running an illegal drug racket and extorting inmates.

The arrested officials — Deputy Superintendent Harbhajan Singh and jail warden Ravinder Singh — were taken into custody by the CIA Staff after investigators reportedly found evidence to support some of the allegations.

The arrests followed a viral video allegedly recorded by Manpreet Manna from inside Hoshiarpur Central Jail. In the video, he levelled serious allegations against prison officials, prompting an investigation. Harbhajan Singh was arrested by the CIA

Staff during the intervening night of July 4 and 5 in connection with an FIR registered at Hoshiarpur City Police Station on June 14. Harbhajan Singh has been booked under the Punjab Prisons and Correctional Services Act, the NDPS Act and the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

Senior Superintendent of Police Sandeep Malik said the case was registered following a complaint from the Jail Department. He said an SIT led by SP Major Singh was constituted to investigate the allegations. During the preliminary inquiry, a mobile phone was recovered from inside the jail, leading to further action.

SSP Malik said the SIT probe revealed money transactions linked to the allegations, while contraband was also

recovered from the jail. He added that at least 12 arrests have been made so far and further investigation is underway. The controversy began when Manpreet



Manna, currently lodged in Hoshiarpur Central Jail, allegedly recorded and circulated a video from inside the prison

using a mobile phone. In the video, Manna displayed what he claimed was a packet of “Ice” (methamphetamine) and questioned how both a smartphone and drugs could be available inside a high-security jail.

“I am inside Hoshiarpur Jail. This is a phone in my hand, and this is ‘Ice’ in my pocket. Tell me how these reached inside the jail. We are forced to sell drugs here,” Manna alleged in the video. He further claimed that inmates were regularly pressured to pay money to jail officials and alleged that those refusing to comply were assaulted with the help of police personnel brought

in from outside. Manna also accused prison authorities of allowing illegal activities inside the jail.

NEWS BOX

Osaka beats world number one Sabalenka in Wimbledon last 16

LONDON. (Agency)

Naomi Osaka stunned world number one Aryna Sabalenka with a 6-2, 7-6 (7/2) victory on Sunday as the Japanese star moved into the Wimbledon quarter-finals for the first time.

Osaka avenged a straight-sets defeat against Sabalenka in the French Open last 16 in June by eliminating her fellow four-time Grand Slam champion with a superb display on Centre Court. It is five years since Osaka lifted her most recent Grand Slam trophy at the Australian Open. Revitalised by coach Tomasz Wiktorowski, who mentored Iga Swiatek, the 28-year-old reached the semi-finals of the US Open last year and has carried that momentum into 2026. Osaka is yet to drop a set across her opening four matches at Wimbledon.

Seeded 14th, she is finally finding her groove on grass, helped by the eye-catching outfits she arrives on court wearing. Her walk-on costumes have included a kimono, a bomber jacket with a long train and a cloak that looks like an open kimono. The 28-year-old believes all the talk



about her haute couture has taken the pressure of her tennis. Once again she treated fans to a memorable outfit before delivering a tailor-made performance that left Sabalenka's Wimbledon challenge in tatters in the last 16. Osaka faces Czech 10th seed Karolina Muchova for a place in the last four.

"For me this court is so special. This is the first match I've won on this court. It means a lot," Osaka said. "It's been a long time since I've had so much fun on the court and to do it here, really means a lot. I lost to her three times in a row. That really sucked. I wanted to have the opportunity to over-turn that."

Home-cooking

Praising her mother's home-cooking, who was watching from the players' box, for inspiring her success over the last week, Osaka added: "She cooks a lot. I feel like her cooking is powering me. I would like another meal tonight. She cooks a lot of Japanese food." Osaka and Sabalenka had already collided three times in 2026, with the Belarusian winning on the hard courts of Indian Wells and on clay in Madrid and Roland Garros.

Beth Mooney stars as Australia hammer England in women's World Cup final

LONDON. (Agency)

Australia thrashed England by seven wickets to win a record-extending seventh women's T20 World Cup title in a sold-out final at Lord's on Sunday. Beth Mooney (64) and Phoebe Litchfield (48) did the damage in a second-wicket partnership of exactly 100 runs as Australia reached a modest target of 151 with 17 balls to spare. Victory meant Australia had now won all seven of their world finals, across both one-day international and T20 cricket, against arch-rivals England for whom Sunday's defeat meant the end of their record of winning every major global women's cricket event they had hosted. Australia arrived in England not holding either the 50-over or T20 world titles, with player-of-the-match Mooney saying at the presentation ceremony: "We're just happy to be here -- it has been pretty well-documented that we haven't made it this far in the last two ICC events." I thought Georgia Voll hit the ball really well before her unfortunate dismissal. "Phoebe Litchfield came out and nailed it from ball one. I just kept going and tried to make sure we got ahead in the game as early as possible." Tight Australia bowling backed up



by typically impressive fielding restricted England to a below par 150-4. England captain Nat-Sciver Brunt (58 not out) and Freya Kemp (44 not out) shared an unbroken stand of 80 that revived the innings from 70-4. The new-ball duo of Kim Garth (1-20 in four overs) and Lucy Hamilton (1-19 in three) were the pick of the attack in Australia's first global final at Lord's.

"I thought the bowlers did an exceptional job to hold them (England) to that total," said Australia's Annabel Sutherland. England, bidding for a first major title since winning the 2017 50-over World Cup final at Lord's and with the memory of a 16-0 rout by Australia in the last multi-format Ashes still fresh in the memory, rarely looked in with a chance.

Dear Neymar, thank you for teaching a generation what Joga Bonito looked like

For millions who grew up in yellow and green, Neymar was never just Brazil's greatest player of a generation. He was our childhood, our impossible hope and our reason to believe that football could still be beautiful, even when it broke our hearts.

New Delhi. (Agency)

There is an unwritten rule in most Bengali households. Sooner or later, football will find you. And when it does, someone older, louder and infinitely more opinionated than you will ask the question that has divided living rooms for generations.

Brazil or Argentina?

There are no neutral answers. It's almost

hereditary. You inherit a football nation long before you understand what offside means.

In my family, Brazil had already won that battle. So when I was born in 2001, there wasn't really a choice to make. The yellow shirt was waiting for me before I could even walk. A year later, Brazil lifted their fifth World Cup in Yokohama. Unfortunately, one-year-old me wasn't particularly interested. I was probably more occupied with learning how to stand upright than watching Ronaldo Nazario bulldoze Germany in a World Cup final. Looking back now, it feels like a terrible piece of timing.

Because here I am, 25 years later, still waiting.

That 2002 triumph remains the last time Brazil conquered the world. Somehow, I was born into the most successful football nation on the planet and have grown into adulthood without ever seeing the Selecao lift another World Cup. Yet strangely, that isn't the first thing that comes to mind when I think about supporting Brazil. Neymar is.

MY BRAZIL WAS NEYMAR

I belong to a generation that heard stories about Ronaldinho rather than lived them. Ronaldo Nazario's genius arrived through grainy YouTube compilations, old DVDs and



those endless conversations with older cousins that always ended the same way: "You should've seen him in his prime." Rivaldo, Cafu and Roberto Carlos felt like characters from football folklore. We knew what they had done, but we never felt it in real time.

My Brazil was Neymar.

He became my introduction to what everyone

kept calling Joga Bonito. Not because Brazil always won, or because every tournament ended with confetti in yellow and green, but because Neymar played football like someone hopelessly in love with the ball.

There was a softness to every touch that made you lean forward in your seat. Every dribble carried the promise that something ridiculous might happen next. A roulette, an elastico, a rainbow flick or a no-look pass - not because it was necessary, but because football, in Neymar's world, was supposed to be fun. Not the one measured only by trophies.

The one measured by joy.

Even Zlatan Ibrahimovic, a man who rarely hands out compliments, perhaps summed up Neymar better than anyone else. He once said people would always feel Neymar could have achieved more because everyone expected him to win the Ballon d'Or. Yet in the very next breath, Zlatan admitted that Neymar would always be remembered as a great footballer because his talent was simply "crazy".

Why Bruno Guimaraes took Brazil's penalty over Vini Jr vs Norway? Ancelotti explains

New Jersey. (Agency)

Brazil head coach Carlo Ancelotti revealed that Bruno Guimaraes was only his side's third-choice penalty taker during the Selecao's shock 2-1 defeat to Norway in the FIFA World Cup Round of 16, with both Neymar and Raphinha unavailable when the crucial spot-kick was awarded. Brazil were handed a golden opportunity to take the lead in the first half after winning a penalty. With Vinicius Jr on the pitch, many expected the Real Madrid forward to step up, having taken penalties for the Spanish giants in the past. Instead, Guimaraes took responsibility, only to see his effort brilliantly saved by Norway goalkeeper Orjan Nyland. The miss proved costly as Erling Haaland struck twice in the second half before Neymar's stoppage-time penalty served only as a consolation in Brazil's tournament-ending defeat.

ANCELOTTI EXPLAINS PENALTY CALL

Addressing the decision after the match, Ancelotti explained that Brazil have a pre-



determined order for penalties and that Guimaraes was next in line when the spot-kick was awarded. "Neymar is our first penalty taker and Raphinha is the second," Ancelotti said. "Neither of them was on the pitch at that moment, so Bruno was next." The Italian coach added that Guimaraes had shown enough confidence and quality from the spot in training to earn that responsibility. "These things can happen. Bruno has trained well and we had complete confidence in him. Sometimes you score, sometimes the goalkeeper makes a great save." The explanation also clarified why Vinicius Jr, despite his experience from the penalty spot with Real Madrid, was overlooked for the decisive moment.

MISS PROVED DECISIVE

Guimaraes opted for a stuttering run-up before aiming low to Nyland's right, but the Norwegian goalkeeper guessed correctly and produced a superb save to keep the scores level.

Ochoa retires in tears as England end Mexico's home World Cup dream

Guillermo Ochoa's storied career ended in heartbreak on Sunday as the legendary goalkeeper retired after Mexico's 3-2 defeat to England in the FIFA World Cup Round of 16.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Guillermo Ochoa's career ended in heartbreaking fashion on Sunday after Mexico were knocked out of the FIFA World Cup with a 3-2 defeat to England in the Round of 16. Moments after the final whistle at the Azteca Stadium, the veteran goalkeeper broke down in tears as teammates and coaches gathered around. The 40-year-old had confirmed his retirement from professional football, bringing an end to a journey that stretched across two decades and six World Cups. Images of an emotional Ochoa quickly spread across social media, with fans, former players and football organisations paying tribute to the

goalkeeper who became the face of Mexico for an entire generation.

Among those to honour Ochoa was Nike, which described him as a legend of Mexican



football. The company praised not only his record-equalling sixth World Cup appearance but also the leadership, professionalism and resilience that defined his career. Supporters echoed those sentiments, thanking Ochoa for the unforgettable saves, iconic performances and commitment he showed every time he

wore the Mexico shirt, knowing they had witnessed the end of one of the greatest careers in Mexican football. Ochoa first traveled to a World Cup as part of Mexico's squad in Germany in 2006.

Although he did not play during that tournament, he established himself as the country's first-choice goalkeeper in the years that followed and went on to appear at the 2010, 2014, 2018, 2022 and 2026 editions. His performances on the biggest stage, particularly against Brazil in 2014, earned worldwide recognition and cemented his place among the finest goalkeepers of his generation. His final appearance was fittingly dramatic. After the match was delayed by an hour because of thunderstorms, Mexico started brightly in front of a packed Azteca crowd. England, however, struck twice in quick succession through Jude Bellingham to take control of the contest.

Freak celebration injury! Jordan Henderson rushed to hospital after England win

Houston. (Agency)

England's celebrations after their dramatic FIFA World Cup last-16 victory over Mexico took a painful turn as midfielder Jordan Henderson was rushed to hospital with a serious wrist injury sustained moments after the final whistle. The 36-year-old suffered the injury while celebrating with England supporters at the Azteca Stadium following the team's thrilling 3-2 win. Henderson is believed to have fallen over the advertising hoardings during the squad's customary rendition of Oasis' 'Wonderwall', landing awkwardly on his wrist. Television footage later showed him being stretchered off the pitch. England manager Thomas Tuchel confirmed after the match that Henderson had been taken to hospital, admitting the injury looked serious.

"He injured his wrist. He is at the moment in the hospital. It is quite a serious injury," Tuchel said. It just doesn't fit with the evening

that Jordan is now not with us. I don't know the procedure that is going on. I just finished the media duties and the doctor told me he's



in the hospital." Speaking to BBC, Tuchel added: "Jordan just fell over and injured his wrist. It looks really bad." Defender Dan Burn said Henderson fell over one of the advertising boards as England's players made their way to the travelling fans after the match. The incident cast a shadow over one of

England's most memorable World Cup victories in recent years. Thomas Tuchel's side overcame Mexico 3-2 in a pulsating contest to book their place in the quarter-finals despite playing more than half an hour with 10 men. Jude Bellingham scored twice in quick succession to put England in control before Julian Quinones pulled one back for the hosts before half-time. Jarell Quansah was then sent off following a VAR review early in the second half, leaving England to withstand relentless Mexican pressure.

Harry Kane converted a penalty to restore England's two-goal advantage, only for Raul Jimenez to score from the spot at the other end and set up a tense finale. England, however, held firm to seal a famous victory and set up a quarter-final clash against Norway. Henderson had remained on the bench throughout the match but was shown a yellow card in the closing stages.

I've lost my voice: Harry Kane revels as England oust Mexico in Azteca epic

Harry Kane could barely speak after England's thrilling 3-2 win over Mexico in the FIFA World Cup Round of 16, admitting he had "lost his voice" after celebrating a famous victory with teammates and travelling supporters at the Azteca Stadium.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Harry Kane had little left to give by the time he walked into the television interview area after England's gripping 3-2 victory over Mexico in the FIFA World Cup Round of 16.

Kane had scored the decisive penalty, helped England survive a frantic finish with 10 men and then joined teammates and supporters in celebration inside the Azteca Stadium. By the time the microphones were placed in front of

him, his voice had all but disappeared. "My voice has gone," Kane said during his post-match interview with the BBC. "It was a crazy game. We had to fight. We had to find something. I've just been singing. I can't really talk. The occasion, the team, everything against us, we found a way."

His voice sounded even weaker moments later during an interview with FOX. "Speechless. I can't even talk," Kane said, laughing. There was little surprise Kane had lost his voice. England had just come through one of the most dramatic matches of the tournament, surviving a fierce Mexican fightback to book their place in the World Cup quarter-finals.

Jude Bellingham's quickfire first-half double had put Thomas Tuchel's side in control before Julian Quinones pulled one back for the hosts just before the break. The contest swung again early in the second half when Jarell Quansah was sent off after a VAR

review, leaving England to play the final 36 minutes with 10 men. Rather than retreat, England found another way to hurt Mexico. Anthony Gordon raced through on goal before being brought down by goalkeeper Raul



Rangel, allowing Kane to calmly convert from the penalty spot and restore his side's two-goal advantage. Mexico refused to surrender. Raul Jimenez converted a penalty after another

VAR review before the hosts launched wave after wave of attacks in front of a packed Azteca Stadium. Jordan Pickford stood firm with a series of crucial saves as England dug deep to preserve their lead and end Mexico's dream of winning the World Cup on home soil. Looking back on the contest, Kane admitted England had been pushed to their limits. "I thought I got to the ball first," he said of the penalty awarded against him. "It was one of those days. The ref gave a lot against us. In the end it didn't matter, so I'm happy."

Relief quickly gave way to celebration after the final whistle. England's players made their way to the travelling supporters, belting out "Wonderwall" and "Three Lions" as the celebrations gathered pace inside the famous stadium. By the time Kane reached the mixed zone, his voice had paid the price.

Tuchel said England's mentality had made the difference on a night when his side were repeatedly forced to dig deep.

Toronto-Born

Nora Fatehi

Backs Morocco Ahead Of FIFA World Cup Clash With Canada: 'Everyone Knows...'

Actor and dancer Nora Fatehi has made her choice ahead of the FIFA World Cup 2026 Round of 16 clash between Canada and Morocco, and it's not the country where she was born. Despite growing up in Toronto, Nora says her heart is firmly with Morocco, the team she has backed ever since its unforgettable run at the 2022 World Cup. With Canada set to face Morocco at Houston Stadium on Saturday, fans flooded Nora's social media with one question: Which team is she supporting? She answered it in a video, while also making sure to congratulate Canada on its historic campaign.

Nora Fatehi Congratulates Canada

Nora began by applauding Canada's progress at the FIFA World Cup, saying the team's journey deserves recognition. She also praised the country's growing football culture and highlighted players such as Alphonso Davies and Stephen Eustaquio. "So, everybody has been messaging me and asking me, who am I supporting—Canada or Morocco? So, I'm here to set the record straight," Nora said. She continued, "Congratulations to Canada, they've come so far. It used to be all about hockey, it used to be all about basketball, but now to see so much time, effort and energy put into the football team of Canada—congrats, hats off. I think that's amazing."

Nora also praised Canada's performances during the tournament, including its win over South Africa and the emphatic 6-0 victory over Qatar.

Why Morocco Has Her Heart

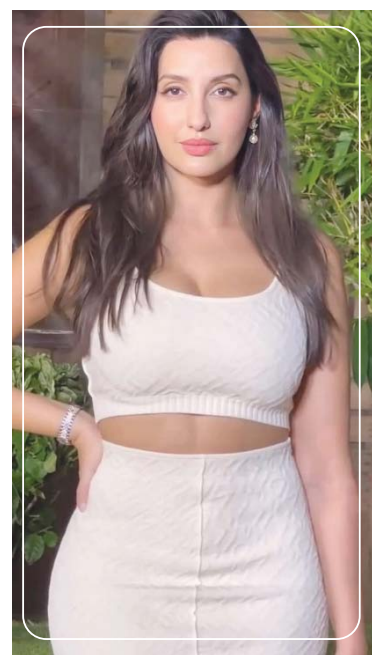
While Nora had words of praise for Canada, she made it clear that Morocco is the team she will be cheering for. "Everyone knows I've been supporting Morocco from my heart since 2022. Their story of determination and resilience is something that I

resonate with. Morocco is no longer an underdog, they are a strong contender, and their story really inspires me," she said.

Nora explained that Morocco's remarkable rise over the last few years is what drew her to the team. She said watching them grow from underdogs into one of the world's top-ranked sides has made their journey even more special.

Her Message For Morocco

Calling Morocco "a symbol of hope," Nora said she hopes the team continues its impressive run in the tournament and reaches the quarterfinals. She also praised head coach Walid Regragui, saying the team's success has inspired people across Africa and the Arab world.



Kajal Aggarwal

Reveals Her Role In Ramayana Is 'Very Limited', Says 'It Was Amazing To Work With Yash'

Nitesh Tiwari's Ramayana is one of the most anticipated films of 2026. Featuring Ranbir Kapoor as Lord Ram, Sai Pallavi as Sita, Yash as Ravana, and Sunny Deol as Lord Hanuman, the epic has already generated immense excitement with its first glimpse. Ahead of its next asset reveal, actress Kajal Aggarwal recently spoke about the film. She will be seen playing the role of Mandodari,

"We've only filmed part one and of course, Lanka is lesser in that, and I am Mandodari. So my role is obviously very limited. Regardless of that, it's been wonderful. It's been an amazing experience to just be a part of something, a magnum opus which is going to be a world film. World cinema is a fantastic feeling and I'm just really grateful that I'm a part of something which is so close to our hearts."

Further talking about her connection to the source material, Kajal said the story of the Ramayana has been an integral part of her upbringing. She shared that it felt like a tale familiar to every household, recalling how her generation grew up watching it every Sunday on Doordarshan. Calling it culturally and spiritually significant, Kajal added that she feels deeply connected to both the epic and the work being done on the film.

Kajal also opened up about working with Yash, who essays the role of Ravana, while she portrays

his wife, Mandodari, in the film. She said, "He's a wonderful actor. I've always admired his work and it was amazing to work with him on this particular project.

He's so invested in the film as well. So I just think it's really exciting for all of us. He's extremely professional and of course immensely talented."



Ravana's wife, in the film. She opened up about her role in Ramayana, revealing that her screen time in the first installment will be limited. Explaining the reason, she shared that the portions set in Lanka occupy a smaller part of the narrative in the opening chapter of Nitesh Tiwari's ambitious two-part adaptation.

While speaking to Zoom, Kajal Aggarwal said,



Vicky Kaushal Shares Intense 'No Days Off' Workout Video Amid Mumbai Monsoon



Vicky Kaushal has once again given fans a look at his intense fitness routine. The actor, known for his disciplined approach to training, shared a glimpse from his workout session on social media and made it clear that there are "no days off" when it comes to staying fit. Taking to his social media account, Vicky posted a monochrome video from the gym. In the clip, the actor is seen performing a bear crawl exercise, showcasing his strength, stamina and focus.

Vicky Kaushal Shares Intense Workout Video

Sharing the video, Vicky simply wrote, "no days off." The short caption was enough to sum up the actor's commitment to his fitness routine. The clip shows Vicky pushing himself through the demanding exercise, giving fans another peek into the preparation and discipline that go behind his physically demanding roles. Over the years, the actor has often shared snippets from his gym sessions, keeping his followers updated about his fitness journey.

Vicky Kaushal's Film Journey

Vicky Kaushal made his Bollywood debut with Masaan in 2015 and gradually carved a space for himself as one of the most reliable performers of his generation. He went on to deliver acclaimed performances in films such as Raazi, Sardar Udham and Sam Bahadur, among others.

His performance in Uri: The Surgical Strike was also widely praised, with the film becoming one of the defining projects of his career. Vicky was last seen in Chhaava, which earned him strong reviews from critics and audiences alike.

Vicky Kaushal's Personal Life

On the personal front, Vicky Kaushal married Katrina Kaif in December 2021. The couple tied the knot in an intimate yet grand ceremony in Rajasthan, attended by close friends and family members. Vicky and Katrina welcomed their son in November 2025, marking a new chapter in their lives.

Vicky Kaushal's Upcoming Film

Vicky will next be seen in Sanjay Leela Bhansali's Love And War. The film also stars Ranbir Kapoor and Alia Bhatt in lead roles and is among the most awaited upcoming Bollywood projects.

Akanksha Chamola Confirms She Is Bisexual, Had Relationships With 'Few Females': 'Shaadi Se Pehle Thi'



Akanksha Chamola has confirmed that her "bisexual" secret, which Shreya Kalra revealed on Lock Upp 2, is, in fact, true. She confirmed to hosts Ritesh Deshmukh and Farah Khan that she had relationships with a few women before marrying Gaurav Khanna. She mentioned that women are her safe space.

When asked to open up about her secret, Akanksha Chamola said, "Toh main shaadi se pehle bisexual thi. Mere relations rahe hain kuch ladkiyon ke saath. Bohot zyada intimate relations nahi rahe hain, but I have been in relations with a few females. And, bas, vohi hai, mujhe ladkiya pasand hain."

She added, "Main admire karti hoon. Main attract hoti hoon unki taraf. Bas, I think, mera voh safe space hai. Growing up, mujhe aisa lagta ki it's a very male-dominated world aur hamesha se aap mummy ki taraf jaate ho, bheno ki taraf jaate ho toh kahin na kahin voh ek comfort zone jo unse milta hai, I love that comfort."

"I love that feminine energy. I think I thrive in that. Jahan pe aise society main rehte hain na, log bolte hain 2 ladkiya kabhi dost nahi ho sakti, unke beech main hamesha koi na koi jealousy hota hai ya competition hota hai, mere main voh feeling hi nahi aati. Main hamesha, like, for me, all females are beautiful. Bas mere liye voh pyaar hi hai, ab aap usko jo bhi tag... It's a tag which society has given. For me, it's pure love," she mentioned.

Akanksha's co-contestants were visibly emotional after she came out on the show, and the hosts lauded her for owning her truth. Akanksha teared up as Farah Khan hugged her and lauded her strength. She mentioned that she felt like being on the show was a mistake, as her secrets have been getting exposed since the first day. With this statement, she was referring to when she revealed that she and Gaurav Khanna are separated and getting a divorce.

NEWS BOX

Make NATO European? How Trump is reshaping the alliance

BELGIUM.(Agency)

As doubts swirl over US President Donald Trump's commitment to protecting NATO, both sides of the Atlantic agree: Europe needs to take more responsibility for its own defence. The shift away from relying on America's might will be a key focus as leaders from the 32-country alliance meet for a summit in Ankara this week. From what's happening to how far it could go, here are some of the key issues:

- US steps back -

Trump has not been shy about his criticisms of NATO -- most recently lashing out at European allies over their response to his war against Iran. The mercurial leader has repeatedly undercut faith in the United States by casting doubt on whether he would stand by the alliance's Article Five mutual defence clause. But it's not just words coming from Washington now. Since Trump's return to power, his administration has made it crystal clear it wants Europe to take the lead on defending the continent as the United States focuses on other parts of the globe. Washington rattled NATO by abruptly announcing in May that it would pull 5,000 troops from Germany and halt a deployment to Poland, before flip-flopping. The Pentagon then told allies it was scaling back the military assets it puts at NATO's disposal and has announced a six-month review of its forces in Europe. "We're doubling down on our effort to make NATO what it always was supposed to be, a balanced alliance with Europe in the lead for its own defence," US defence secretary Pete Hegseth said.

As Venezuela quake deaths pass 3,000, attention turns to mourning, burials

VENEZUELA. (Agency)

Deaths from Venezuela's devastating twin earthquakes rose to at least 3,342 on Sunday as officials began to bury dozens of bodies left unidentified 11 days after the disaster. The June 24 double shocks, one of Latin America's worst quake disasters, toppled scores of buildings in the La Guaira coastal area north of Caracas and left thousands of people missing. As international rescue teams packed up and ended attempts to find survivors, attention shifted to mourning those lost and burying the remains that families have recovered from the ruins. In a secluded area of La Esperanza cemetery in La Guaira, gravediggers buried more than 150 bodies still unidentified since the earthquakes, AFP journalists saw. A line of simple white crosses with small bouquets at their foot marked a long row of individual graves. Each one had the same date of death: June 24, 2026.

Two excavators were working to dig more graves in the light brown earth. "We are first and foremost overcome with grief," said local resident Eli Zavala, who was helping with the burials. "We started here on July 25th, the very next day, to do all the work... so that all those people could have dignified burials." According to updated official figures on Sunday, at least 3,342 people died and another 16,700 were injured.

With nearly 200 buildings totally collapsed, most of them in La Guaira, more than 17,000 people have been left homeless and are sleeping in shelters and temporary camps. The government has not given any figure for those still missing, but the UN estimates that as many as 50,000 people may still be unaccounted for after the shocks. Many families are still trying to search for relatives in the rubble. "I've lost track of the days.

Iran begins a procession through Tehran for Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's funeral

TEHRAN.(Agency)

Iran began a procession Monday through its capital, Tehran, for the funeral of the late Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. Khamenei's flag-draped coffin, and those of his family killed Feb. 28 in an airstrike at the start of the war launched by Israel and the United States, will be carried on board a truck. They will be taken through the streets of Tehran on their way to Mehrabad International Airport. Iran's theocracy plans to see large crowds attend the ceremony across the city to show popular support for the



government. Iranian state television reported the procession had started. Authorities have shut down streets, airspace and daily life for the mourning, which began Saturday and will end Thursday as the 86-year-old Khamenei is buried at the Imam Reza shrine in Mashhad, his birthplace. The U.S. is meanwhile pressing ahead with negotiations with Iran aimed at fully reopening the Strait of Hormuz, rolling back its disputed nuclear program and reaching a permanent end to the war. Talks appear to be on hold until after the burial. As the funeral has gone on, however, there's increasingly been threats from mourners to avenge Khamenei's death. Mourners and the signs they carry have called for the killing of both US President Donald Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. US federal authorities have been tracking Iranian threats against Trump and other administration officials for years, stemming from Trump's ordering the 2020 killing of Gen. Qassem Soleimani, who had led the elite Quds Force. Iran has repeatedly denied plotting to kill Trump, though hard-line propaganda footage long has suggested Trump was in Tehran's crosshairs. Trump meanwhile promised to destroy Iran's civilization during the war, among other threats.

Super typhoon Bavi batters US Pacific territories; major damage reported in Rota

The National Weather Service (NWS) said that the "entirety" of Rota was in the eye of Super Typhoon Bavi, with winds of up to 180 miles (290 kilometers) per hour before moving "ever so slowly away" westwards.

UNITED STATES.(Agency)

A "super typhoon" with the force of a category-five hurricane tore through the US Pacific territories of Northern Marianas and Guam on Monday, with authorities saying they had received reports of "major" damage on the small island of Rota.

The National Weather Service (NWS) said that the "entirety" of Rota was in the eye of Super Typhoon Bavi, with winds of up to 180 miles (290 kilometers) per hour before moving "ever so slowly away" westwards.

But the group of islands -- several thousand kilometres (miles) west of the mainland United States -- was by midday still being buffeted by fierce winds and driving rain that left residents holed up indoors.

When the storm first hit early Monday, the NWS urged Rota's roughly 1,500 residents on X to "treat these imminent extreme winds as if a tornado was approaching and move immediately to an interior room or shelter NOW!" Local authorities on Rota -- the southernmost part of the Northern Marianas, less than 80 km (50 miles) north of Guam -- said they had received reports of "major damages", but with communications difficult the extent was unclear. "We are hanging in there. We are experiencing heavy winds and flooding here... Some people are already reporting major damages," the Rota Municipal Operations Center's public information officer Lou Rosario said. Rosario added that some cellphone services were down because of a fallen tower. Previously, the NWS had warned that



a direct hit on Rota would make most of the island "uninhabitable for weeks, perhaps longer" with nearly all trees snapped and power outages for "weeks to possibly months". The island of Tinian, northern parts of Guam and the southern tip of Saipan experienced winds equivalent to a category-one hurricane, NWS meteorologist Marcus Landon Aydtlett told a briefing on Facebook Live. "Super Typhoon Bavi is leaving the area," he said. "Gradually, conditions are

going to be improving." The Northern Marianas and the nearby separate US territory of Guam are collectively home to around 210,000 people. Authorities on Guam had said the island could see eight to 12 inches (20 to 30 centimeters) of precipitation, resulting in potential flash flooding. The NWS said that winds of 50-80 mph and gusts of 100 mph were expected to last through late afternoon. "Residents should remain sheltered in place. NWS continues to describe this as an extremely dangerous and life-threatening situation," it said. Edwin Santa Theresa, a 56-year-old health clinic worker on Tinian, said that residents were "prepared" for the storm. "I think our main problem will be fuel because the supply is limited," he told AFP. "Our power was only restored to my house four days ago (from a previous typhoon in April), but now it's out again. I just hope that after this typhoon passes, electricity will be restored quickly."

Three girls killed, four injured in suspected quadcopter strike in Pakistan's South Waziristan

The strike reportedly targeted the home of Mohammad Gul Wazir in the Dinor subtribe area during the early hours of Sunday morning.

TEHRAN.(Agency)

Three young girls were killed and four members of the same family were injured after a suspected quadcopter drone allegedly dropped munitions on a residential house in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Lower South Waziristan early Sunday, reports quoting local sources said.

The strike reportedly targeted the home of Mohammad Gul Wazir in the Dinor subtribe area during the early hours of the morning. The explosives directly hit the residence, killing three girls, aged between six and 15, on the spot, ANI reported.

Four other family members—including a woman and three young

boys—sustained serious injuries. Residents rushed to the scene immediately after the explosion,



carrying out rescue efforts before shifting the injured to the District Headquarters (DHQ) Hospital in Wana. Hospital officials confirmed that the victims were receiving treatment and remained under medical observation.

Despite the deadly incident, Pakistani authorities had not issued any official statement at the time of reporting regarding the nature of the attack, its cause, or those responsible. The lack of official confirmation has drawn criticism from local residents, who have expressed anger over what they describe as continued state inaction and the failure to protect civilians. The

attack has left the local community in mourning, with residents demanding an independent and transparent investigation into the incident. Community members have urged authorities to establish the facts surrounding the strike and identify those responsible.

The Dawn quoting local sources said that similar suspected quadcopter drone attacks have previously been reported in several areas of Birmal tehsil, including Azam Warsak, Guldona Ghundai, Karmazi, Staff, and Kalotai.

Residents allege that these incidents have claimed multiple civilian lives over time, contributing to growing fear and insecurity across the region. Locals also say the security situation in Lower South Waziristan has deteriorated significantly over the past 18 months. They cite a rise in bomb explosions, targeted killings, kidnappings for ransom, extortion, and attacks on police and security personnel, calling on authorities to take urgent measures to restore law and order. The latest incident follows a series of similar attacks reported across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in recent weeks.

UK schools close as Europe heatwave hits record temperatures

LONDON.(Agency)

Like hundreds of other schools across the U.K., the Welsh school where Mark Morris teaches was forced to close its gates during Europe's latest record-smashing heat wave. With no air conditioning or fans, and intense sunlight coming in from windows that don't open very far -- some don't even open at all -- Morris said it would have been impossible to conduct his design and technology classes when the mercury hit a record 35.9 degrees Celsius (96.6 Fahrenheit) in Wales. "Even in a normal summer, the heat on those south-facing windows becomes unbearable," said Morris, who teaches high school children things like woodworking and food preparation. "If there's anything that you need to turn the oven on, you can forget about it. There's no way anybody could carry on." More than 1,000 U.K. schools closed for days or sent children home early in late June, when temperature records were toppled across Europe, disrupting learning and impacting the wider economy as working parents

scrambled to find childcare. Experts say the school closures have exposed how unprepared Britain is in coping with



what climate scientists call a "new normal" of more intense and regular heat waves, with aging and poorly funded public infrastructure like schools, hospitals and care homes among the worst affected. Air conditioning is uncommon, and the insides of buildings often become suffocatingly hot because of poor ventilation. The British government's climate advisers said in a recent report that these buildings were "built for a

climate that no longer exists today" -- to keep warm in cold winters, not stay cool in prolonged periods of high temperatures. In schools that stayed open during the June heat wave, children and teachers made do with low-tech solutions like mini handheld fans and water sprayer bottles to stay cool. Salads and popsicles replaced some hot dishes at lunch. Blinds were drawn and some sought refuge by lying in the semi-darkness on the floor, the coolest part of the room. Some even sat with their bare feet in buckets of water. Still, with 30 bodies typically crammed inside each classroom, lessons could become a health hazard. "We've had members teach in extremely hot conditions, to the extent that we've had reports of members passing out in classrooms while trying to teach," said Wayne Bates, a health and safety spokesperson with the teachers' union NASUWT. Along with other unions, Bates' group has long called for Britain's government to introduce a maximum workplace temperature.

China says successfully conducted test missile launch in Pacific Ocean; foreign countries express concern

At 12:01 pm on July 6, China said a PLA Navy nuclear submarine launched a strategic missile with a training warhead, landing in the Pacific Ocean.

BEIJING.(Agency)

China's navy said it successfully conducted a test missile launch in the Pacific Ocean on Monday, after nations in the region warned that Beijing was planning to test an intercontinental ballistic missile. "At 12:01 pm on July 6, a strategic nuclear submarine of China's People's Liberation Army Navy successfully launched a... strategic missile carrying a training simulation warhead into the relevant high seas of the Pacific Ocean, accurately landing in the designated sea

area," spokesperson Wang Xueming said in a statement posted on a navy WeChat account. "This missile test launch is a routine arrangement of China's annual military training, and relevant countries were informed in advance," Wang said. The launch came on the same day that China and Russia were due to begin their annual joint naval exercises off Qingdao, a major military port and seaside resort in China's east. It was not immediately clear if the missile launch was part of those drills.

Papua New Guinea's foreign minister and a New Zealand government source told AFP earlier on Monday that China was preparing to test-fire a nuclear-capable missile into the Pacific Ocean. "Yes, China has briefed me. I was personally called by the Chinese ambassador," Papua New Guinea Foreign Minister Justin Tkatchenko said when asked if he had been warned. A New Zealand government source also told

AFP China had alerted them about an upcoming intercontinental ballistic missile



test.

They did not make clear where the missile was expected to land. China's elite Rocket Force fired a dummy warhead into the sea near French Polynesia in September 2024, its first long-range missile launch over international waters in more than 40 years.

It appeared to be one of China's advanced Dong Feng-31 missiles, analysts said at the time, a weapon capable of delivering a thermonuclear warhead. The long-range missile splashed into a patch of ocean long designated a nuclear-free zone under an international treaty. New Zealand's Defence Force has privately warned that Beijing's naval forays and ballistic missile tests would become a "persistent" feature of the Pacific, according to an internal document obtained by AFP last month. Australia's foreign minister has said China's test launch of a long-range missile in the South Pacific risks "destabilising" the region. "Australia has been clear with China that we regard this as destabilising to the region," Foreign Minister Penny Wong told reporters. China confirmed the test hours after Australia signed a landmark defence alliance with its Pacific island neighbour, Fiji.



Union's Copernicus satellite mapping agency showed. The EU Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid said that Spain sent 120 firefighters and 45 vehicles as reinforcements to Portugal on Friday, while three firefighting aircraft from Italy and Spain were also dispatched to help. By Sunday afternoon, the fire appeared to be abating somewhat, with Portuguese media quoting officials as saying it no longer had major active fronts but that some hot spots remained. In Spain, a wildfire burning since Friday in the northeastern Girona region had burned nearly 2,200 hectares (5,400 acres), the EFE news agency said. Catalan Fire Service head of operations Eduard Martinez said the blaze had a perimeter of 40 kilometers (25 miles) and firefighters may not be able to bring it under control on Sunday, EFE said. Toxic smoke from wildfire in northern Greece On the other side of southern Europe, in Greece, a fast-moving blaze at a recycling plant broke out Saturday evening near the Oraiakastro suburb of Thessaloniki, triggering evacuation alerts for three suburbs and a facility housing 157 people with disabilities.