



From nuclear deal to Quad: The making of the India-US partnership in 21st Century

New Delhi. (Agency)

It was November 19, 1999. Republican presidential candidate George W. Bush was outlining his foreign policy vision when he said something few in Washington had heard from a major American politician before.

"Often overlooked in our strategic calculations is that great land that rests at the south of Eurasia. This coming century will see democratic India's arrival as a force in the world."

At a time when India-US ties were still weighed down by decades of Cold War mistrust, it was a striking statement. Within a few years, it would begin to look prophetic.

9/11 AND THE NUCLEAR DEAL

An event just months after Bush entered the White House that accelerated the transformation.

The September 11, 2001 attacks fundamentally reshaped Washington's approach to terrorism. For years, the US had largely sidestepped India's concerns over cross-border terrorism

emanating from Pakistan. 9/11 brought those concerns into sharper focus.

As Washington prepared for military operations in Afghanistan, New Delhi emerged as an important partner, sharing intelligence



and logistical support. In 2002, under Operation Sagittarius, the Indian Navy escorted 24 US-flagged vessels through the Strait of Malacca in support of American operations.

The expanding security convergence was soon formalised. In 2005, the two countries signed the New Framework for the US-India Defense

Partnership, identifying maritime security and counterterrorism as its key pillars. The framework has been renewed twice since.

The defining moment, however, came on July 18, 2005, when Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and President Bush announced the framework for the landmark India-US Civil Nuclear Agreement.

Finalised in 2008, the deal ended India's decades-long isolation from global civil nuclear commerce, despite New Delhi remaining outside the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and retaining its nuclear weapons programme. Washington successfully pushed for a special waiver from the Nuclear Suppliers Group that allowed India to engage in civilian nuclear trade. More than a nuclear pact, the agreement transformed India-US ties into a comprehensive strategic partnership.

GROWING PARTNERSHIP

The relationship had by then acquired a bipartisan character. Changes in political leadership in Washington.

Punjab Congress crisis: Channi's rebellion brings back 2022 memories, high command faces another tough test

The campaign is the first step in India's bid to take its place in the Asia-Pacific bloc.

New Delhi. (Agency)

The latest trouble in Punjab Congress has brought back memories of the political turmoil that hit the party before the 2022 assembly elections. Former Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi's opposition to party's state President Amarinder Singh Raja Warring has added to the leadership's problems as it tries to resolve internal differences ahead of the upcoming electoral battles.

Congress general secretary in-charge of Punjab, Bhupesh Baghel, who was sent to Chandigarh to resolve the dispute, has returned to Delhi after meeting several state leaders, including Channi. According to sources, Channi and his supporters made it clear that they are not ready to accept Raja as the Punjab Congress president under any circumstances.

Baghel has said that he will submit his report to the Congress high command after his meetings. The party leadership will now decide the next course of action based on his assessment and other inputs available with it. In an apparent reference to Raja, Channi camp leader and Rajya Sabha MP Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa has clarified his position by saying the party does not need a "compromised leader". According to him, the state Congress president has not been aggressive enough in taking on the Punjab government.

Baghel's report and the high command's challenge

The Congress leadership has another report prepared by a committee comprising Ajay Maken, Meenakshi Natarajan and Bhajan Lal Jatav. Earlier, Rahul Gandhi and party president Mallikarjun Kharge had held meetings with Punjab Congress leaders and advised them to work together and fight elections with collective leadership.

Forced me to drink cow urine: Sena UBT leader's daughter-in-law alleges harassment

Thane. (Agency)

A sensational case has surfaced in Maharashtra's Thane, where a former parliamentarian and his son have been accused of performing black magic and inflicting mental and physical torture on his daughter-in-law. The woman has also claimed that she was forced to drink cow urine. A case has been filed in the matter, with Shiv Sena leader and ex-MP Vinayak Raut, and his son Gitesh Raut, the complainant's husband, named as accused.

Charges have also been invoked against two self-styled occultists, named Firoz Baba and Kazi Baba. The complainant, Girija, has claimed that she was forcibly made to drink cow urine by the accused. She has also alleged that they plucked strands of her hair from her head for use in occult practices. Firoz and Kazi Baba were allegedly involved in performing the alleged black magic, per the FIR. Further investigation is underway into the case.

Why hold polls if J&K run from Raj Bhawan: Omar Abdullah slams Centre

Jammu, Srinagar. (Agency)

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah alleged Saturday attempts to engineer defections within the National Conference, accusing the Opposition Bharatiya Janata Party of trying to bribe one of his MLAs to defect.

Addressing party workers in Srinagar, Omar said the BJP should not consider the NC weak: "They are designated to the back seats and that's where they will remain." The remarks come ahead of the NC's statehood protests in Delhi, with Omar adopting an increasingly confrontational tone towards the Centre.

Referring to a conversation with one of the party MLAs from Jammu, he said, "An MLA from Jammu came and told me that a Supreme Court lawyer affiliated with the BJP offered him between Rs 20 to 30 crore, a ministry and statehood. No one sitting here will leave the party for Rs 20 crore or 100 crore."

Omar also lashed out at the Centre over the delay in restoring statehood to J&K while incentivising Ladakh despite widespread protests there.

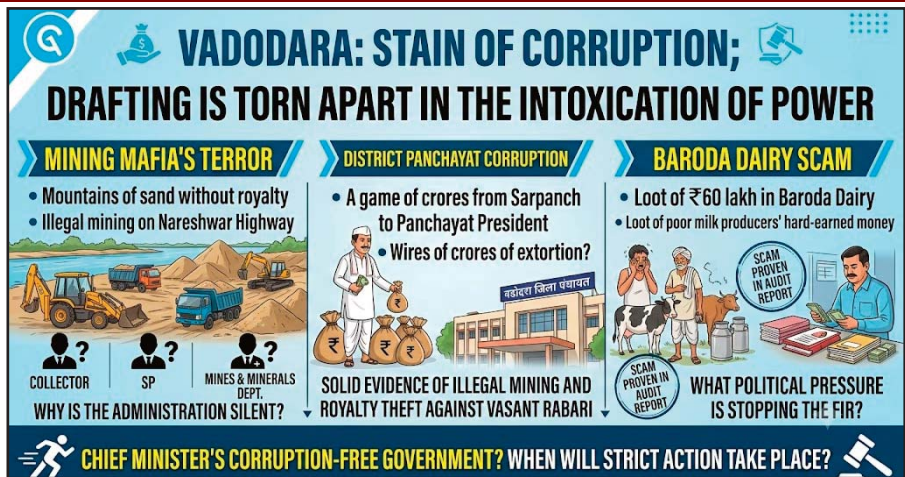
Law Mocked in Vadodara Amid Intoxication of Power From District Panchayat to Baroda Dairy, Corruption Thrives as Administration Bows to Mining Mafia

MAHANAGAR METRO

VADODARA/KARJAN: Despite the Gujarat government making grand claims of a "corruption-free" administration and "zero tolerance" from Gandhinagar, the ground reality in Vadodara district paints a starkly different picture. The entire administrative machinery appears to have surrendered to the insatiable greed of white-collar politicians from the ruling party. From the Sarpanch's chair to the District Panchayat President, the district has become a swamp of corruption where a multi-crore black market operates in broad daylight. Solid evidence of illegal sand mining, extortion, and massive royalty theft allegedly involving Vasant Rabari, husband of Vadodara District Panchayat President Jyotsnaben Vasantbhai Rabari, has sent shockwaves through state politics.

Open Loot of the Narmada River: Why are the SDM and Mamlatdar Silent?

According to highly reliable sources, massive stockpiles of illegally mined sand have been dumped along the main road leading from Nareshwar to Palej without any government approval or royalty passes. Heavy machinery like JCBs and dumpers are



relentlessly tearing through the holy Narmada River day and night, openly plundering natural resources. The most shameful question is: despite this massive scam happening in plain sight on a main highway, why have Karjan SDM Shivam Baria, the Vadodara Collector, the District Superintendent of Police (SP), and the local Mamlatdar turned a blind eye? Is the share of this multi-crore extortion reaching Gandhinagar, rendering the entire system helpless and reducing it to a silent spectator before these mafias? The greed of these alleged leaders has grown to such an extent that even poor milk producers and farmers are not being spared. An offi-

cial audit report of Baroda Dairy has made a sensational revelation that has shaken the foundation of the cooperative sector. Government documents have proven a massive financial scam of approximately **₹50 to ₹60 lakh** at the dairy's chilling center located in Subdol village. Why is the dairy management failing to gather the courage to file an FIR against the influential leaders who squandered the hard-earned money of poor farmers for their personal gain? Why are the Vadodara BJP District President and local MLAs allegedly trying to cover up this grave injustice? A written complaint with all the evidence and documents regarding this open

loot and institutionalized corruption has been sent directly to Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel. Despite this, the lack of any concrete or strict orders from the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) is deeply disappointing. The entire administrative and police machinery of Vadodara is either bowing to political pressure or has become a silent partner in this multi-crore racket. Karjan Taluka is being openly plundered, while the government sits blindfolded like Dhritarashtra. When the law comes down heavily on ordinary citizens for minor rule violations, why is a red carpet rolled out for politicians who use their power to loot the Narmada River and swallow the money of poor cattle herders? 'Mahanagar Metro' asks the Chief Minister directly: Is your slogan of a corruption-free government limited only to election speeches? When will these white-collar scammers be put behind bars? If strict legal action is not taken against these corrupt leaders and the officials protecting them in the coming days, the public of Vadodara will launch a fierce agitation reaching all the way to Gandhinagar—and the entire responsibility will lie with this helpless and compromised administrative system!

Crowded libraries indicator of nation's future, says Amit Shah

New Delhi. (Agency)

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday inaugurated the Jayaprakash Narayan Public Library in the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) area, describing the facility as a true measure of a nation's future and urging greater efforts to cultivate reading habits among young people.

Addressing the inaugural ceremony, Shah said the strength of a country should not be judged solely by its economic prosperity, industrial growth or bustling markets, but by the vibrancy of its libraries and the presence of young readers. "The future of a nation can best be assessed by seeing how

crowded its libraries are and whether young people are reading there," he said, adding that knowledge and wisdom form the foundation of nation-building and that libraries remain the primary institutions for nurturing both.

Calling for greater engagement with students, Shah urged the library administration to collaborate with schools in the surrounding areas and introduce children to the facility. "Bring young people here once. The books will do the rest. Once a person develops the habit of reading, they learn to distinguish between right and wrong on their own," he said.

The Home Minister said the library would



provide access to around 32,000 printed books and nearly one crore e-books. He also expressed hope that the Delhi government would integrate libraries across the city into a common network and strengthen their links with educational institutions. Shah also welcomed the

NDMC's decision to name the library after Loknayak Jayaprakash Narayan, recalling his contributions to the freedom movement and his commitment to public life. He noted that Narayan embraced different ideological streams over the course of his life while striving for excellence in every role. Shah also recalled Narayan's daring escape from Hazaribagh Jail during the Quit India Movement to rejoin the struggle against British rule. Chief Minister Rekha Gupta described the library as a valuable addition to the capital's educational infrastructure, particularly for students preparing for competitive examinations, including the UPSC.

News box

Who planned op? Cops to quiz 5th shooter soon

Gurgaon.(Agency)

Shivam (22), the lone surviving shooter involved in Thursday night's gunfight in Sushant Lok, is expected to become the most crucial witness in unravelling the conspiracy behind the failed contract killing and the gang's wider network. Sources said Shivam, a resident of Nuh, has been shifted out of intensive care after undergoing surgery for a bullet injury to his abdomen. Doctors have declared him fit to give a statement, paving the way for police to begin questioning him. Police believe Shivam could provide vital leads on who planned the operation, how the shooters travelled to Gurgaon, where they collected the weapons recovered after the encounter, and the communication chain within the Deepak Nandal gang. Officials are also hoping his statement will help identify those who arranged logistics, weapons and shelter for the shooters before the planned attack on the businessman's house over an alleged Rs 10-crore extortion demand. Police are conducting raids to trace a resident of Bahadurgarh who is suspected of providing logistical support.

7-yr-old girl raped & killed at Ghaziabad mall site, minor among 2 detained

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

A seven-year-old girl, whose brothers, also children, saw two men offering her chips and a cold drink before taking her away with them, was allegedly gang-raped, murdered and thrown into the sub-basement of a mall under construction in Raj Nagar Extension, where her parents work as labourers. Her body was recovered nearly five hours after she went missing. Police have detained at least two suspects, one of them a juvenile, identified through CCTV footage recovered from the site. The accused, police said, allegedly sexually assaulted the child on the third floor and threw her body down a shaft three levels below. The girl's head and face had gashes, and it appeared her hands and legs were broken when the body was found around 1 am. ACP Priyashree Pal said, "A team from Nandgram police station and forensic units inspected the scene to collect evidence. They analysed CCTV footage from the site to identify the culprits." Cops said footage from 7.40 pm on Friday showed the two suspects walking away with the girl. The girl's father told TOI he has been living in the locality for four years. "We usually get free around 5 pm from work. After that, I went out while my wife was preparing food. Around 7 pm on Friday, my daughter and her two brothers (aged 8 and 10) were playing outside. When the two boys came home around 8 pm, my wife started looking for our daughter," he said. The child's mother said the construction site has guards, and several labourers and their families live in shanties around the construction area, but no one had so far come up to identify the accused. "I don't know the people who have been arrested for this. But I want whoever did this to my daughter to be hanged," she said. A neighbour said the accused had arrived just four days earlier to work at the site.

3-member panel to probe 10 schools that denied RTE admission

Noida.(Agency)

The district administration has constituted a three-member inquiry committee to investigate complaints against 10 private schools accused of denying admission to children allotted seats under the Right to Education (RTE) quota. Officials said strict action, including proceedings to revoke the recognition of schools, will be initiated if the allegations are found to be true. According to officials, around 150 students were allotted seats in these 10 schools during the current admission cycle. However, parents complained that several schools either refused to allow the children inside the premises, denied admission outright or sought documents that were not required under the admission process. "Verification of documents is the responsibility of the education department. Once a child has been allotted a school under the RTE portal, the institution is required to complete the admission process. The committee has been formed to verify these complaints," a senior basic shiksha adhikari department official said.

Law Mocked Under Intoxication of Power in Vadodara

Corruption Eats Through District Panchayat to Baroda Dairy; Administration Helpless Before Mining Mafia

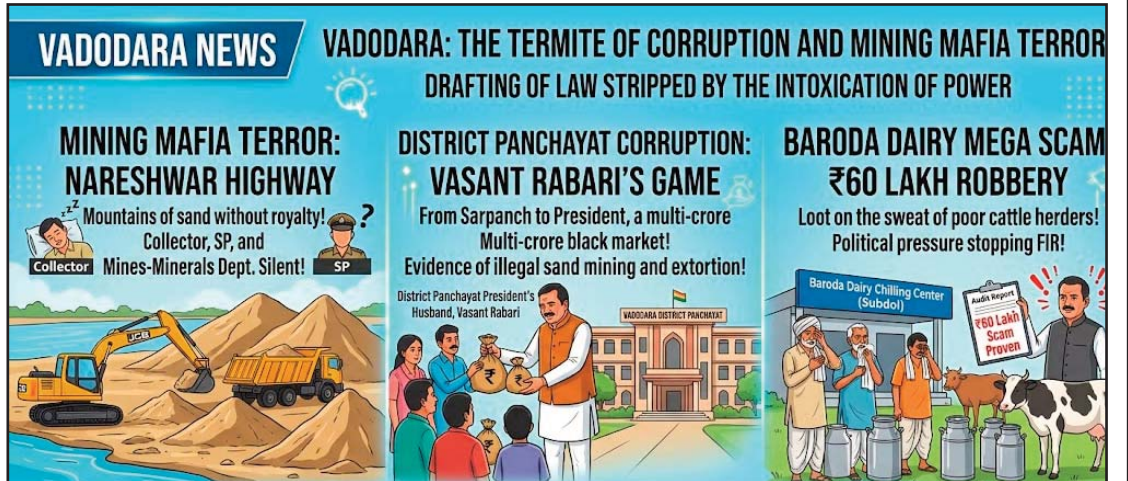
Mountains of sand stand without royalty on the Nareshwar highway, yet the Collector, SP, and Mines & Minerals Department remain silent; which offices are receiving the multi-crore extortion payouts?

Mahanagar Metro Desk

KARJAN/VADODARA: The Gujarat government may make grand claims of a corruption-free administration and "zero tolerance" from its seat in Gandhinagar, but the ground reality is starkly different. In Vadodara district, the entire administrative machinery has seemingly surrendered to the insatiable greed of the ruling party's white-collar politicians. From the Sarpanch's chair to the District Panchayat President, the district has devolved into a swamp of corruption where a multi-crore black market flourishes in broad daylight. Solid evidence has surfaced against Vasant Rabari, husband of Vadodara District Panchayat President Jyotsnaben Vasantbhai Rabari, exposing his alleged involvement in illegal sand mining, extortion, and crores of rupees in royalty theft. This revelation has caused a massive uproar across state politics. According to highly reliable sources, a massive stockpile of illegal sand has been amassed on the main road from Nareshwar to Palej, entirely without government approval or royalty passes. Heavy machinery, including JCBs and dumpers, tear through the holy Narmada River day and night, engaging in the blind plunder of natural resources. The most shameful question remains: despite this massive scam occurring in plain sight on the main highway, why are Karjan SDM Shivam Baria, the Vadodara Collector, the District Superintendent of Police (SP), and the local Mamlatdar turning a blind eye? Is the echo of multi-crore weekly extortion payouts reaching all the way to Gandhinagar, rendering the entire system a helpless, mute spectator before these mafias?

The greed of these so-called leaders has grown to such an extent that they are not even sparing poor milk producers and farmers. An official audit report of Baroda Dairy has made a sensational disclosure that has shaken the foundations of the cooperative sector. Government documents have conclusively proven a major financial scam of approximately ₹50 to ₹60 lakh at the dairy's chilling center located in Subdol village.

Why is the dairy management failing to muster the courage to file an FIR against these influential leaders who squandered poor farmers' money for their selfish interests? Why are the Vadodara BJP District President and local MLAs trying to cover up this massive sin? A written complaint detailing this open loot and institutionalized corruption, backed by substantial evidence and documents, has been sent directly to State Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel. Despite this, the lack of any concrete or strict orders issued by the Chief



Minister's Office (CMO) to date is deeply disappointing. The entire administrative and police apparatus of Vadodara is either bowing to political pressure or has become a silent partner in this billion-rupee game. Karjan Taluka is being stripped of its dignity in broad daylight, while the government sits blindfolded like Dhritarashtra.

'Mahanagar Metro' Asks a Direct and Piercing Question: When Will the Hammer of Law Fall on Corrupt Leaders? When the baton of the law is swiftly swung at an ordinary citizen for minor rule violations, why is a red carpet rolled out for politicians who use the power of the state to loot the Narmada River and

swallow the money of poor cattle herders? 'Mahanagar Metro' poses a direct question to the Chief Minister: Is your slogan of a corruption-free administration limited only to election speeches? When will these white-collar scammers be thrown behind bars? If strict legal action is not initiated against these corrupt leaders and the officials shielding them in the coming days, the public of Vadodara will launch a fierce agitation that will echo all the way to Gandhinagar. The complete responsibility for this fallout will lie squarely on the shoulders of this helpless and compromised administrative system!

Nearly half of Gurgaon's voters not yet enumerated, three days before SIR deadline

Gurgaon.(Agency)

With three days left for the first phase of Haryana's special intensive revision (SIR) to be completed, nearly half of Gurgaon's voters remain unenumerated — the worst showing among the state's 22 districts. Booth level officers (BLOs) have been unable to even deliver or collect forms from large sections of the population living inside condominiums. Gurgaon has recorded the lowest digitisation rate in the state at 53.95%, followed by Faridabad at 55.91% — this despite both districts having better digital infrastructure, higher literacy and greater administrative resources than most of rural Haryana.

Rural districts, by contrast, are nearing completion: Fatehabad leads at 90.14%, followed by Kaithal (87.18%), Mahendragarh (85.87%) and Charkhi Dadri (85.8%). Eleven districts have already crossed the 80% mark. Statewide, forms for 1.5 crore of Haryana's over 2 crore

electorate had been digitised as of 10am Friday, about 74% overall. Roughly 17 lakh electors, or one in every 11 voters (around 8%), remain unverified because their forms could not be collected. The gap between best-performing Fatehabad and worst-performing Gurgaon exceeds 36 percentage points. Faridabad recorded the highest number of unverified forms at 1,92,540, followed by Gurgaon (1,71,288) and Sonipat (1,30,384).

Yamunanagar had the highest unverified rate at 13.27%, followed by Panchkula (11.65%), Gurgaon (11.02%), Ambala (10.89%) and Sonipat (10.67%) — all above the state average of 8.35%. Election officials attribute the urban slowdown to factors specific to large cities — restricted access to gated societies, a highly mobile workforce, summer travel, a large migrant population, vacant apartments, and difficulty

reaching residents during working hours. BLOs have repeatedly found homes locked or been asked to return later, delaying both collection and digitisation.



"The numbers point to a challenge that is less about technology than access," an official said. Two districts bucked expectations: Nuh, often seen as administratively challenging, posted 82.26% digitisation — comfortably above the state average — while Hisar, despite having one of Haryana's largest electorates at over 13 lakh voters, crossed the average with 76.71%.

Officials said this suggests district size alone doesn't determine performance. The district administration had earlier asking recognised political parties to mobilise voters and assist BLOs in ensuring enumeration forms are submitted on time. At a meeting chaired by district officials, parties were urged to help BLOs reach eligible voters and encourage residents to submit forms before the deadline. Officials said the revised draft electoral roll will be published on July 21, after which claims and objections can be filed. Meanwhile, the electoral registration officer of the 76-Badshapur Assembly constituency suspended a BLO posted at Govt Senior Secondary School, Bhangrola, for alleged negligence after the officer was found absent from fieldwork despite repeated directions and allegedly failed to discharge his assigned duties. Before the final roll is prepared.

Innovation Lab transforms dreams into success in AP

VIJAYAWADA. (Agency)

When four students from GNR High School boarded a train to Mumbai last November, they carried with them a model they had spent weeks building and a head full of nervous excitement.

They were about to compete at a national Internet of Things (IoT) and robotics competition alongside students from some of India's best private schools. More significantly, they were the only government school team from Andhra Pradesh and the only school representing the State. They did not return with an award. Instead, they came back with something more valuable- confidence.

"They saw projects that were much bigger and more advanced than ours," recalled Internet of Things (IoT) instructor Pranathi. "But not once did they feel defeated. On the journey back, they kept saying, 'Ma'am, next time we can do this... next time we can add that.' They didn't lose confidence; they became more determined." And that determination fills every corner of the school's Innovation Lab. Established by the Sujana Foundation in collaboration with Seeds Impact and inaugurated by Vijayawada West MLA YS Chowdary, the lab is one of a kind in a government school in Andhra Pradesh, VV Ravi Kumar, school headmaster asserts. Here, students don't simply learn about technology- they build with it.

Amid uncertainty over Mettur dam opening, farmers in TN bank on monsoon

NAGAPATTINAM. (Agency)

Even though recent rainfall enabled summer ploughing in parts of Nagapattinam, farmers say they are banking on a favourable northeast monsoon for the upcoming samba season amid uncertainty looming over the Mettur dam opening.

The district recorded an average rainfall of 7.6 mm during the 24 hours ending at 6 am on Saturday, according to the district administration. Nagapattinam taluk received the highest average rainfall of 36 mm, followed by Vedaranyam with 4.33 mm and Kilvelur with 1.8 mm, while Thirukkuvalai recorded no rainfall.

Among the individual rain gauge stations, Nagapattinam recorded 36 mm, Thalaigsnayar 13.6 mm and Velankanni 3.6 mm, while Thirupoordi, Vedaranyam, Kodiyakkarai and Thirukkuvalai recorded no rainfall. The district received a cumulative 53.2 mm of rainfall across its seven rain gauge stations.

SRTamilselvan of the Tamil Nadu Farmers' Protection Association said the rainfall would help farmers prepare their fields for cultivation. He noted that agriculture in much of Nagapattinam depends on Cauvery irrigation, as groundwater in several parts of the district is saline and inadequate, making timely rainfall.

Students' plea drives TNSTC to launch minibus to school

TIRUCHY. (Agency)

Responding to a social media video that highlighted the hardships faced by school students from Meenakshiyur, Kumarapatti, Sukkavalli, Keeranur and nearby villages, and a subsequent report by the TNIE that threw light on the narrow railway subway hindering regular bus operations, the Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation (TNSTC) on Friday evening introduced a special mini bus service to Pudukudi Government High School. The service was inaugurated by Manapparai MLA R Kathiravan.

TNIE had reported the issue on July 10, a day after the video surfaced online, detailing the students' daily struggle to reach school and explaining how the narrow railway subway on the Tiruchy-Dindigul railway line had prevented the operation of regular buses on the route.

Students from Nadupatti, Sukkavalli, Meenakshiyur, Kumarapatti and Keeranur had alleged that poor public transport connectivity forced them to walk up to a total of 8 km every day to attend classes at the Government High School in Pudukudi. Earlier only one bus was operated through the area at around 7.45 am and another at about 4.15 pm.

Mumbai's Dharavi has 590 religious structures. A state panel has begun deciding which stay, move or go

Mumbai. (Agency)

A committee constituted by the Maharashtra government to examine religious structures within the Dharavi Redevelopment Project (DRP) in Central Mumbai has recommended removal of 8 religious structures and relocation or consolidation of three others in its first interim report submitted to the Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis last week, officials said. The report deals with 12 priority religious structures in Sector 1 of the project area. Of these, 11 were adjudicated, while one was excluded from consideration after a revision in the project boundary. The committee has conducted 149 hearings so far. According to the report, 590 religious structures have been



identified in the Dharavi redevelopment area. Under the consolidation framework, structures that cannot survive individually, because they violate the DRP

complex provided their stakeholders cooperate.

The first interim report covers only 12 priority structures even as hundreds of religious structures remain to be examined.

The committee said further phase-wise reports would be submitted after examination of the remaining structures. The committee recommended removal of eight structures after finding that they had come into existence after September 29, 2009, the cut-off date set by a Supreme Court order directing states and Union Territories not to permit unauthorised religious structures on

public streets, public parks and other public places. The structures recommended for removal are Muthmaruyamma Trust structure, two Hanuman Mandirs, two Shiv Mandirs,

and three Sai Baba Mandirs. Three structures, Shree Dashmani Hanuman Temple, Mariamman Temple and Shree Kartik Swami Mandir, were also recommended for relocation or consolidation.

The report states that these structures existed before September 29, 2009 and were therefore considered under categories that permit relocation or consolidation rather than removal. It also records that the representative of the Shree Dashmani Hanuman Temple agreed to consolidate with other religious structures of a similar nature. The report says the three structures can be shifted or accommodated with similar religious structures elsewhere instead of being removed. Under the framework being followed by the committee, structures that cannot remain at their present locations but are eligible for protection.

Over 4,800 cases disposed of in a day at Lok Adalat in Surat

Surat. (Agency)

A 10-YEAR-OLD cheque-bounce dispute over Rs 76 lakh was among 4,865 cases resolved in a single day during a Lok Adalat in Surat on Saturday, with the directive that the complainant be paid the amount.

Surat district has topped the state for the fifth consecutive year in terms of the highest number of cases settled through National Lok Adalat, said a press release issued by District Legal Service Authority secretary D R Joshi. Among 4,865 cases disposed of in a single day, includes 10 cases that were pending for over 20 years and 172 cases pending for more than 10 years.

According to sources, the dispute originated in 2015, when Manohar Capital Markets Limited, Surat, invested Rs 1.36 crore in a wind energy project promoted by Win Wind (India) Limited, Mumbai, after the company represented that it was developing a large-scale windmill project at Mahudha, Rajkot, Gujarat, promising attractive returns on the investment.

However, the project was allegedly not completed as assured. By 2017, the company refunded Rs 60 lakh, while issuing cheques for the remaining Rs 76 lakh. The cheques were subsequently dishonoured, compelling Manohar Capital Markets Limited, through its Advocate Naresh Gohil, to initiate proceedings for cheque dishonour before the competent court.

During the pendency of the case, the accused company entered insolvency proceedings, giving rise to complex legal issues regarding the maintainability of the complaint. The matter was extensively contested before the Surat Sessions Court and the Gujarat High Court. Despite these proceedings, the accused company failed to obtain any relief and the cheque bounce case continued.

With two buffaloes and a goat, and scientific approach, Punjab farmer creates Rs 1 cr in assets

Unlike commercial dairy farmers who begin with heavy investments, Gurdeep started with almost nothing.

Jalandhar. (Agency)

As thousands of young Punjabis chase dreams of settling on foreign shores, Gurdeep Singh, 35, of Bhagi Bandar village in Bathinda district chose to stay back. Nearly a decade later, that decision has helped him build a debt-free integrated farming enterprise worth Rs 1 crore. And all of it started with two family buffaloes and a goat of Beetal breed that he bought.

Today, Gurdeep's model of goat breeding, Neeli Ravi and Murrah buffalo rearing, apart from farming generates an annual turnover of Rs 36-37 lakh and a net income of around Rs 25 lakh. The success, he says, is proof that livestock farming, when managed scientifically, can become a reliable route

to prosperity. "Dairy and goat breeding are not businesses that push farmers into debt. If managed properly, they can actually help



farmers come out of debt," says Gurdeep. After completing his BA, Gurdeep secured a job as a typist at the District Administrative Complex in Bathinda. Though the private job offered financial

security, it never gave him satisfaction. "Sometimes you have to compromise with your principles. I wanted to earn honestly and independently. So, in 2014, after working for four years, I left the job and joined my father in farming," he recalls. "That decision completely changed my life." Unlike commercial dairy farmers who begin with heavy investments, Gurdeep started with almost nothing. His family already owned two buffaloes for household milk consumption, while he purchased a single Beetal goat for a few thousand rupees. "Instead of spending the earning, I reinvested every rupee into expanding the livestock enterprise. Over the next 10 years, careful breeding transformed that modest beginning into a thriving and profitable farming business," he says.

Ambala police station car blast case: NIA chargesheets Pak terrorist Shehzad Bhatti, 7 Indians

Panchkula. (Agency)

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Saturday filed a chargesheet against eight accused, including Pakistan-based gangster-turned-terrorist Shehzad Bhatti, in connection with the IED blast in a car in parking area of Baldev Nagar police station in Haryana's Ambala this January.

The other seven accused are Indian nationals. The chargesheet filed before the Special NIA Court in Panchkula identifies them as Karamjit Singh alias Tony, Akash, Soureb alias Sobi alias



Sourab, Raman Kumar, Satyam, Sukhdev Singh alias Sukha, Amarjeet Singh alias Ambi.

According to the NIA, the accused have been chargesheeted under relevant provisions of the Unlawful Activities

(Prevention) Act, 1967, the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, the Explosive Substances Act, 1908, and the Telecommunication Act, 2023.

In the chargesheet, the agency has "detailed the roles of the accused and the conspiracy orchestrated by Bhatti to attack Baldev Nagar police station with the aim to spread terror among the people by targeting police establishments."

The NIA said Bhatti, wanted in other terrorist cases too, had "established operational modules in India, and assigned.

He spent 22 days in jail for his daughter's 'murder'. Then she walked into a police station, alive

CM Devendra Fadnavis admitted in the Assembly this week that police made a "serious mistake" arresting Bapuram Kalmekar and his son without scientifically confirming a burnt, headless body was his daughter's. A month after his release, Kalmekar says no apology or compensation has come, and the body remains unidentified.

Nagpur. (Agency)

For 22 days, Bapuram Kalmekar sat in jail for murdering his daughter. Then his daughter, Shivani, walked into a police station, alive.

This week, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis admitted in the Maharashtra Assembly that the police had committed a "serious mistake", arresting the 55-year-old daily-wage labourer and his son without scientifically establishing that the burnt, headless body they had found was Shivani's. He announced the suspension of the investigating officers, directed that criminal cases be registered against them, ordered a departmental inquiry to be completed within three months, and announced compensation for the family. More than a month after his release, Kalmekar, a resident of Khadki village in Madhya Pradesh's Burhanpur district, says none of it has reached him. "No police

officer has apologised to me till date," Kalmekar told The Indian Express. "No one has contacted me regarding any financial assistance. I came to know about the chief minister's announcement only after someone showed me a video."

The knock on the door

On an evening in the first week of May, six policemen from Maharashtra's Buldhana district arrived at Kalmekar's house in MP's Khadki village, accompanied by a local constable. "They told me my daughter, Shivani, had died and that they had found her body," Kalmekar recalled.

"They told me they were taking me to identify her body, but instead they kept me at Khaknar police station for a night and a day. I never got to see the body till the end," he said.

What followed, he alleges, was assault and coercion. "They started beating us. They



separated me from my son, Ajay. They told me my son had confessed, and they told my son that I had confessed. Believing that my son had admitted to it, I too said 'yes' under pressure. I was tired," he said.

"We started saying yes to everything the police asked us," said Ajay (28). The father and son were arrested for what police alleged was an "honour" killing. "I kept telling the police that I had not killed my daughter," Kalmekar said.

Asked about the allegations of custodial assault and extortion, Buldhana

Superintendent of Police Nilesh Tambe said, "Departmental inquiry is on. All allegations will be verified."

A complaint, a body, a theory

The case began with Shivani's own father reporting her missing. Around April 23, after Shivani left home, Kalmekar lodged a missing person's complaint at Khaknar police station. Shivani had been married and had returned to her parental home when she left. The family had not disclosed this in the complaint, and it was only after Maharashtra Police detained and interrogated Bapuram and Ajay, Inspector Abhishek Jadhav, Station House Officer of Khaknar police station, said that police learnt she had left with Arun Kalmekar, a resident of Khadki village.

"Shivani had already been married and had returned to her parental home for a few days when she and Arun met again. Based on this information, we registered a missing person's complaint.

Measuring worth of bilateral deals in outcomes

With no let-up in high-level summertime visits to New Delhi—unlike in the capital’s searing heat until some years ago—there is no dearth of bilateral agreements India is concluding with foreign countries this year. Add to this Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s travels abroad, and such agreements abound. On the face of it, these are more than India can handle.

Instead of quibbling over them, it would be a good idea to do an audit a year from now how many of these outcomes have survived and how many have fallen by the wayside. Parliament’s Standing Committee on External Affairs should demand such an audit in the interest of taxpayers, who are paying for most of these outcomes. In tiny Seychelles, there were 19 outcomes, including memoranda of understanding, programme launches and development aid agreements during the PM’s three-day stay in June. In equally small Slovakia, where Modi spent two days in June, there were 11 MoUs and letters of intent in addition to three other outcomes. The PM visited France twice in June, which resulted in 13 LoIs, MoUs, agreements and similar outcomes.

May and June, both hot months in New Delhi, saw four incoming presidential visits, one vice-presidential visit and, most high-profile of all, the highly anticipated arrival of the US Secretary of State, Marco Rubio. Whatever was agreed when Venezuela’s Acting President, Delcy Rodriguez, came to India from June 3 to 7 will now have to be reworked because of two devastating earthquakes. Venezuela’s needs and priorities have changed with this natural disaster which befell the country 17 days after the Acting President returned to Caracas. Because of distance and connectivity problems, India cannot fulfil these changed priorities of short-term relief and long-term rehabilitation beyond the token help that New Delhi has already dispatched to the twin earthquake’s epicentre. Rubio’s four-day visit in May began in Kolkata, took in Jaipur and Agra in addition to New Delhi, but fell short of its main expectation of fixing the date for a long-delayed Quadrilateral Security Dialogue or Quad Summit in India. Donald Trump told Rubio after he briefed the US President on his trip that he can visit India only next year. Hopes that the atmosphere would improve for concluding an India-US trade deal—although it is the turf of trade and commerce officials in both countries—also did not materialise after Rubio’s otherwise-cordial meetings in India. There was a discordant note to the celebrations of America’s 250th birthday in Rubio’s presence when angry bhakts began tearing down commemorative rexine posters with Trump’s face on them. Their ostensible reason was that the Central Command of US Defense Department had approved the bombing of merchant ships with Indian sailors, causing collateral damage. The real reason for the bhakts’ anger was that the posters put up on the backs of 8,000-odd autorickshaws by the US embassy in New Delhi had displaced posters on of the national capital’s three-wheelers extolling 12 years of the ruling regime at the Centre.

On a rough calculation, these six incoming VVIP visits in May and June produced approximately 50 outcomes. While considering any audit for a balance sheet of productive items for all visits—incoming and outgoing—what must be borne in mind is that throughout independent India’s history, there is a lot of dramatic attention paid to a visit when it takes place. Once the visit is over, the outcomes are, more often than not, forgotten. Only the most important ones are followed up. Which was why Myanmar’s foreign minister once joked with his then Indian counterpart, S M Krishna, that India had joined Nato. He explained to a puzzled Krishna that the ‘Nato’ he was referring to meant ‘no action, talk only’. Sweet talk during VVIP visits is cheap. What is important is implementation after visits conclude.

Fate of Rashtrapati Bhavan at stake

The govt’s Central Vista project can pave the way for a new Presidential residence



after Maulana Azad. Vayu Bhawan and Rail Bhawan were also built. For some of these buildings, the houses of the Executive Councillors were brought down. In time, the only one which remained was that of the Vice President of India. Later, the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts and the Jawaharlal Nehru Bhawan were also constructed. In all these changes, an attempt was made to retain the integrity of the Vista.

During his tenure as PM, Modi has been radically changing the Vista. Thus, a new Parliament building and Secretariat buildings have been constructed. North and South Blocks have been abandoned and will be converted into museums. A new Vice President’s residence has been built and a new Prime Minister’s House is under construction. Several post-Independence and pre-Independence buildings have been brought down. A grand War Memorial has come up in front of the National Stadium, near India Gate. And, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose’s statue is now under the canopy where once stood that of George V.

Yet, while the reconstruction of the Vista is in progress, can Modi’s ambitious project be said to be complete as long as the structure which was the crowning edifice of British imperial authority remains the residence of India’s Rashtrapati? The PM has taken keen interest in the construction of the new buildings, which seek to blend — both in their architecture and interiors — India’s ancient traditions with the aspiration of Viksit

Bharat. Certainly, it was important for Modi to change “subsidiary” buildings, but all this may not be enough as long as the apex structure of the Raj remains the seat of the Republic’s power. That is, in itself, incongruous. Can it continue indefinitely in view of the ruling party’s ideology and Modi’s project? Would they not prefer that the Rashtrapati Bhavan become a historical monument like so many in Delhi? Naturally, the construction of a new Presidential residence will be a project of mammoth proportions. It will also be controversial, but the PM has never shied away from dissent in matters which he considers essential to his ideology and legacy. The second aspect is the need for land. Clearly, unlike the construction of the new Parliament building while the old one has become an adjunct cannot be a model for a new Presidential residence. The present structure’s size and location make that impossible. Hence, land will have to be found in the centre of Delhi. The steps being taken to cancel leases of imperial institutions and land parcels of adjoining government structures can make sufficient land available for a new Presidential residence. Indeed, while other reasons are being given for some of these lease cancellations, does the actual one lie in wanting a new Presidential residence? A new one which harmonises India’s ancient glory with its current resurgence and the promise of Viksit Bharat will be far removed in nature and spirit from the imperial building where the Rashtrapati currently resides.

Education data : Shift from govt schools worrying

Going by ground reports, quality education remains an unfulfilled promise

THE Centre’s database for tracking school infrastructure, enrolment and teacher statistics across the country confirms a steady shift of students from government to private schools. Nearly 86 lakh have moved out in just two years. Over the same period, private unaided recognised schools have absorbed an additional 88 lakh students. The Unified District Information System for Education Plus has also reported a marginal decline in school enrolment from the foundational to the secondary level from 24.8 crore in 2023-24 to 24.72 crore in 2025-26. Government school enrolment dropped sharply from 12.75 crore to 11.89 crore. The numbers are proof that despite the shortcomings and fading appeal, government schools remain the default option for a vast majority. This only adds to the responsibility of



governments to prioritise the sector. Going by ground reports, quality education remains an unfulfilled

promise.

There are positives too. The dropout rate has declined across preparatory and secondary levels. Zero-enrolment schools have fallen from 12,954 to 5,663, and single-teacher schools from 1.11 lakh to 1.01 lakh. The teacher workforce is now 1.03 crore, improving the overall pupil-teacher ratio from 25 to 24. The uptick in girls’ representation to 48.4 per cent is encouraging. Some claims sound too good to be true. The report says 58.2 per cent of the schools are equipped with ramps and handrails for students with disabilities, and 98.5 per cent have toilets for girls. Handwashing stations are available in 96.9 per cent of schools, while 99.5 per cent have access to safe drinking water. Mere provision of a facility in no way means it is functional or being put to optimum use.

The past and future road to entrepreneurship in Kerala

—Kerala’s shift from anti-bourgeois rhetoric to embracing entrepreneurship can be reflected in changing plotlines. While red tape thwarts a small business in 1989 film Varavelpu, a modern-day idea in 2025’s Hridayapoorvam finds expression. Land-starved Taiwan can teach the state a lesson in making do with less

Back when I was growing up in 1990s Kerala, among the films I remember watching were Varavelpu and Mithunam. Both told the story of the protagonists’ struggles to start new businesses. In Varavelpu, Murali tries to start a bus service; in Mithunam, Sethu tries to open a biscuit factory. They face union leaders with red flags, regulations upon regulations, and bureaucrats empowered by those regulations. Murali had to eventually give up his business and go back to the Gulf. The films captured a culture in which small business owners were not seen as job creators but as suspicious profit-seekers—they were petite-bourgeois figures.

Today they would be called entrepreneurs. Murali’s bus service and Sethu’s biscuit factory would be called startups. On WhatsApp, their stories would be forwarded from group to group. Young people would find inspiration in their hard work to create something new in Kerala. Politicians and pundits would praise them. Society would appreciate their efforts to create jobs. Clearly, the culture has shifted. As politics tends to be downstream of culture, the communists moved from restraining the bourgeoisie to openly praising entrepreneurs. In a revealing turn, former industry minister P Rajeev said, “We communists are not working in a communist system. We are working in a capitalist system.” I grew up hearing the berating of ‘bourgeoisie’ all around me—in newspapers, at street rallies and during strikes at my college. “Down with the bourgeoisie! End the hegemony!” the communists would protest. Nobody I knew had a convincing counterargument. But this story began long before my time. In 1957, Kerala elected a communist government, which quickly enacted policies that went with anti-bourgeois ideas. Land reforms rolled back feudal



systems. Since then, leftists have managed to get elected in roughly every other election in the state. Congress-led governments, when they came to power, rarely enacted radically different policies despite being somewhat pro-capitalist in rhetoric. These policies shaped the risk perception of private enterprises, although they were not the only reason for Kerala’s failure to industrialise at scale. In that climate, businesspeople feared unions, strikes and forced shutdowns. The brave ones, like Murali and Sethu, learned their lessons the hard way. Youth flocked to the Gulf. Students did not say “businessman” when teachers asked what they wanted to become. By the end of the 20th century, large-scale private industrial ambition in Kerala felt moribund. Today, ‘bourgeoisie’ is being replaced by

‘entrepreneurs’—you find it all around on social media, college campuses and even in textbooks. Many students openly aspire to become entrepreneurs. Schools run ‘studentpreneur’ events. The LDF government celebrated 2022-23 as the Year of Enterprises and set out “to identify and handhold aspiring entrepreneurs”.

Decades ago, the leftists had set out to curb bourgeois interests. The contrast today is striking—from ‘fighting bourgeoisie’ to ‘handholding entrepreneurs’. The left parties in the state call this pragmatism. Such a shift is not unheard of—they have been noted for the communist regimes in Bengal and China. One could perhaps describe Kerala’s transformation as ‘socialism with Malayali characteristics’. There have been signs of progress. Kerala was recently recognised as a top

achiever under the Business Reforms Action Plan. Under the LDF, Kerala got its first startup unicorn: Open, a fintech platform. The LDF deserves credit for supporting a more open environment for private enterprise in more recent years. With entrepreneurship broadly accepted by society and administrative burdens easing, Kerala is now better positioned for a serious growth push. Yet, the state’s manufacturing sector is thin, partly due to heavy constraints around land conversion and labour flexibility. The new government could consider easing those constraints. A common excuse—from the left to the right—is that Kerala has little land. But scarcity is not destiny. Taiwan had advantages that Kerala lacks. But with a comparable area, it built high-value industrial clusters while keeping planned industrial land below 1.5 per cent of its territory. For Kerala, that scale is roughly the total area of Cherpu plus three neighbouring block panchayats. The lesson is simple: Kerala does not need more land; it needs the will to use a small portion of it well. The government may wish to explore coastal reclamation for industries after strict environmental-impact review. It could also consider modernising labour regulation to enable fixed-term contracts, clear notice and severance rules, and portable benefits. Any such reform would need to balance economic growth with environmental safeguards and worker protections.

Sethu and Murali would cheer on the ongoing transformation in Kerala. Their contemporary is Sandeep in the 2025 film Hridayapoorvam, who runs a cloud-kitchen chain seemingly without interference from union leaders or regulatory officers. It is fitting that Mohanlal played all three characters—the same star, a different Kerala.



Keep

kitchen

clutter under control

The kitchen is one of the most utilised places in your home. Moreover, it's the place where you prepare all your meals and hence you should make sure it's both clean and clutter-free! Here's how to keep the kitchen looking great without too much fuss.

Here's how to keep the kitchen looking great without too much fuss.

Make proper use of your counter space

To avoid having your countertops look cluttered, make sure everything that is not kitchen-essential is moved out of that room. Instead of just putting bananas on the counter, find a great banana hook or three-tiered platter that you can display fruit on without taking up added countertop area.

Keep things at the right place

Don't just drop your keys, wallet and cell phone on the counter when you come home from a long day. Hang an organizer shelf on one wall and store those items there until you need them again.

Utilize technology

Posting coupons all over the fridge is a great way to ensure you'll see them every day, but it doesn't make for a streamlined look. Invest in an inexpensive coupon box or plastic envelope and refer to it when you are making your grocery list.

Avoid piling up

Don't allow dishes to pile up in the sink, put them straight into the

dishwasher or hand wash the items you've used and put them on a drying rack or hand dry them immediately. If you have company, of course, wait until the party's over to get to the dirty work.

Hide unnecessary items

Though accessories like spice racks and utensil caddies are designed to be part of your kitchen decor these days, try to limit the number of accessories and small appliances (such as coffeemakers, automatic can openers, juicers, etc.) that sit out on your counter. Keep these items in cabinets or your pantry and pull them out only when you need them.



Use old scrap for chic Interiors

There's more you can do with your interiors; use old scrap to make pretty home decor items. ashok kumar mudetiya tells you how...

We have moved into an era where all people can think is about going green. Recycling is passe. The trend that has made a buzz now is upcycling, that is, reusing vintage products such that you can make it into something of a higher value.

Basically, it is about using products for a little more time before there is place in the landfill so it can be discarded. Though greentailing is not all that hyped up in India as it is abroad, it sure has grabbed many an eyeball. Gone are the days, when all that youth could think of is draining their brains. A lot of our youngsters are making a business out of recycling and well, what's better when you can both make money and tell mother nature that you care.

Upcycling, like mentioned earlier, is quite a rage in the West, especially when it comes to home decor. But fret not! For all of you who like trying out and customising goods at home, here are some fun ideas for you to try out yourself at home:

1. Bind your old hard cover books together (side by side), such that it looks like a plank. You can use this as a book shelf and place them on your wall. This is a funky way of upcycling.
2. To get that rustic look, you can use cane sieves (the ones with which your moms and mom-in-laws sieve rice in) to make it into a photo-frame. How? Well, just paint them in funky ways, give them different strokes with different hues and you can paste your photographs on them before placing them on the wall. You could also make a photo wall, by placing many sieves in different angles

(like if you place one horizontally, place the other vertically and otherwise).

3. Use your old coasters as a wall hanging. Use colourful ribbons or threads to tie up the coasters after they're painted in your style, and then place them on your wall. You could do the same with your tea sieves, by painting them up and hanging them on the wall.
4. Radhika Khaitan, who is an upcycler herself, says you can use old baked



beans tins, or beer bottle tins in many ways. Clean the tins up and paint it to use it as a flower vase. She also says that you can stack many a newspaper together, glue them up together and cut them such that they make pretty coaster.

5. Take small boxes, glue up your favourite magazine articles on them, and also sequence the edges to use it as a showpiece for your desk.
6. Another upcycler, Suren Vikhash U says, "You can use tetra pack containers to make pen stands by cutting them partially in the middle. This is a good and easy way to upcycle."
7. Use your old cartons and boxes, paint them or cover them up with colourful paper, place sequins on them, and use the end-product as a magazine or newspaper holder. These are just some simple methods you can use to make your home decor look both classy and eco-friendly. Well, there are a lot more ways to do the same and customise your home decor according to your personal style. After all, your home should reflect your personality and what better way to do up your interiors your way.

Ideas to maintain indoor potted plants

- Don't over or under water them. Most plants don't want to have their roots submerged in a damp swamp.
- Indoor plants like a constant temperature, so keep them in an area that does not become too cold or too hot.
- They don't like draughts or any sudden moves and they like some feeding because they have no access to nutrients beyond their pot or container.
- Many indoor plants will like a moist environment, in other words, humid air.
- You'll find there are indoor plants suitable for the bathroom, ones that



are almost indestructible and some that are pure delights — flowering or fruiting plants that are easy to tempt into dazzling displays a few times a year. If you're growing a foliage species that is cleaned and pampered by a rainy climate, you can mimic that situation by a simple applied mist.

- For wonderful impact in a bright and sunny room, try something with flowers or berries.
- Oh, and you can forget air fresheners — indoor plants will purify the air.



Make your kitchen Look bigger

The size of kitchens in the city are shrinking with time. What used to be the most important area in the house has now been limited to only utilitarian purposes. However, when it comes to doing up your kitchen, you can work wonders with limited space at hand. Small kitchens can be difficult to work in, specially for individuals who want everything to be accessible and neat. They can be made to look big with a few adjustments.

"There is no fixed dimension for a kitchen. When it comes to individual houses we can do anything and everything according to the customers need. But apartments have limited space. Putting an accessory in a small kitchen will not help save space. Open shelves make better sense because of the ease of access. It helps in utilising 100 per cent of the space in the kitchen. Modifying a kitchen with open shelf increases the space. You not only have more storage space, the room looks a lot bigger," says S Selvapathy, chief executive, Master Design Kraft Modular Kitchen.

Woodwork plays a significant role in kitchen fittings. The right kind of wood for your kitchen depends mostly on weather and climate. P Aravindan, designer, Amphaa Projects, talks about three types of wood. He says, "Rubber wood, a light-coloured tropical hardwood is obtained from the rubber tree. It is commonly known as an environmentally friendly wood.



Kitchen design can be tricky but some smart adjustments can make your kitchen appear bigger and spacious.

Plywood, is a sheet material manufactured from thin layers of wood and membrane wood is manufactured using optimum quality wood. Moisture resistant plywood is widely used in Chennai kitchens."

You have to choose your colours wisely if you wish to give a spacious look to a small kitchen. "Choosing light colours like white, cream or soft beige for your kitchen will reflect light and make the space feel bigger. The wall colour should be in contrast with the cabinets and the floor colour. You can also go for pop-colours. Just choose a color that is equally light, like pale yellow, sky blue, or blush. This will make the space to open and airy, not dark and congested," he adds.

Good lighting helps by allowing you to make the best use of the space you have. "My husband and I wanted to make our kitchen space look big and bright. We painted the walls in light blue colour and opted for open shelves instead of upper cabinets which makes our kitchen look spacious. We also installed cabinet lights which makes it bright," says Swetha Reddy, a housewife from the city.



Decor trends: Pad it up

Living alone has its perks and when it comes to decor, sky is the limit.

A bachelor's life has its own perks and privileges. One can be free in his or her way without making compromises or any responsibility. When you think of a bachelor's home, there are some striking features that come instantly to your mind. An unkempt living room, a messy bedroom and a completely unorganised kitchen. However, these are mostly movie and sitcom cliches which mould our perception of

bachelor pads. It will be surprising to some to know what can be done with minimum effort when it comes to designing a perfect bachelor pad.

bachelor pad is the entertainment centre. Be it the television, music system, Playstation or Xbox, all the other decor elements complement these accessories," she says. "The kitchen elements are minimal and utilitarian. Even the living room has furniture like bean bags, lounge chairs and La-Z-boys."

The living room is the sanctum sanctorum for a bachelor pad. They have gotten together at their place quite often and they ensure that they have necessary pieces of furniture to have a blast. Gautam Dhiman, an advertising professional, handpicked all his living room furniture. He says, "I want my friends to relax and feel free when they come over. Each and every piece of my living room furniture is directed towards my entertainment unit. Brightly coloured, no-fuss chairs are my first choice to adorn the living space instead of bulky couches. I have made a small dining space with four chairs and a small glass table and hung a bulb over it. Bean bags are a must for any bachelor pad and today you have a lot of options at

hand."

Designer Harish Mehta believes that simplicity is what defines a bachelor's home. He says, "You don't see huge pieces of furniture in a bachelor's abode. It is all about utility and space saving. Today, one has many options in light-weight and trendy furniture. I personally suggest bachelors to opt for cane furniture for their living room. It not only provides a classic look but is also sturdy enough to survive the weekend parties. Even a well-placed mattress with lots of brightly coloured cushions can do the trick. For bachelors, it is important that they keep the maintenance part in mind before going in for any kind of decor element." He maintains that there is no definition for a bachelor's pad design. He adds, "This is the most important aspect of doing up a bachelor's space. The ideas are unique and completely out-of-the box with no limitations of elements and designs."



Go eclectic for unique décor

You can bring an exotic feel to your home with an eclectic style of interior decor.

Give your home an exotic feel by combining various styles, time periods, colours, textures and patterns. This decor style, called eclectic, is for people who love something about different decor styles. It is a combination of both old and new styles and allows for a great deal of flexibility. An eclectic home has many elements but they all share a commonality, whether it's tonality, line, shape or pattern. Eclectic style grants you the freedom of mixing and matching different decor styles and creating your own unique decor. There is only one major rule for this style the decor should look consistent and harmonious.

DESIGN PRINCIPLES

This style undeniably requires skill, basic knowledge of design principles and a vision. Contrast is an important characteristic of an eclectic style. Accessories could also be a point of contrast. Follow the concept of closeness in seating pieces.

To tie together a variety of decorative styles, it is important to give parts of the interior a timeless treatment. For windows, however, choose treatments that defy time, such as straight-hanging drapery. Roman shades are easy to live with. It's not always important to match the knick-knacks you pick up with the theme of your home, as long as you introduce just a few pieces. But if possible, match them with the decor.

COLOUR AND CHARACTER

Colour is a crucial point for this design theme. Add character to your eclectic decor by mixing the wood finishes or fabric patterns. Otherwise, create a unique feature by purchasing readymade drapes and adding a band of custom fabric to the top or bottom.

Spaces decorated in an eclectic style can easily change according to mood, inspiration and

budget. Blend a mix of styles. Don't overwhelm small rooms with an abundance of upholstery. Select furnishings with slender lines. Remember, pale and neutral colours have a low impact on the decor.

An eclectic style can combine smooth shiny tiles with deep rich wood. Go for uniquely-designed items, customised range of furniture or display accessories.

Don't be hesitant to mix patterns, textures and colours. Experiment with silks, wood, glass and different textures to highlight design elements unique lighting is a must. Opt for LEDs for concealed light ing.

CONTRASTS

Contrast is key to an eclectic style. Sometimes the lesser pieces have in common, the more they set each other off. However, it is important to pick your contrasts carefully as too many contrasts create chaos.

Though you are provided with the freedom to dare with this style, the principles concerning form, scale, composition and proportion are to be kept in mind while designing under this style. Contrasts in textures offer interesting visuals. Green plants add a fascinating backdrop to smooth ceramic pots, figurines or sculptures. Bamboo blinds will add a soothing texture to a multifaceted room with an eclectic ensemble of furniture and accessories.

DISTINCT STYLE



The house you stay in is an extension of you and should echo your taste while keeping the rules of the decor style in which it is done up. Most handicraft stores have an interesting array of things that will fit right into your home. When you buy an object, think of all the ways in which you can use it besides its original purpose. You will be surprised to discover the possibilities. Let your style reflect in everything you bring into your home. It's a sure-shot way to make your decor unique.

Two Pakistanis arrested in Karnataka for obtaining IDs by hiding nationality

Police said Farah Naz and her son Mohammed Fardeen, Pakistani nationals living in Bagepalli, were arrested after an inquiry found they allegedly obtained ration and voter cards by hiding nationality details.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Two Pakistani nationals have been arrested in Karnataka after police found that they had allegedly obtained a ration card and a voter identity card by concealing details about their nationality, officials said on Sunday. The accused have been identified as Farah Naz and her son, Mohammed Fardeen. A criminal case has been registered against them under relevant provisions of the Bharatiya

Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), the Foreigners Act and the Representation of the People Act, Chikkaballapura Superintendent of Police Kushal Chouksey said. "Credible information was received that Farah Naz and her son Mohammed Fardeen, both Pakistani nationals, had obtained a ration card and voter ID," news agency PTI quoted the SP as saying in a statement.



According to police, an inquiry revealed that Mohammed Ayub Khan, a resident of Bagepalli who was working in the United Arab Emirates,

had married Farah Naz, a Pakistani national, in the UAE. The couple has four children, including Mohammed Fardeen, who was born in Pakistan. Police said Farah Naz and Mohammed Fardeen are Pakistani nationals, while Ayub Khan and the couple's other three children are Indian nationals. The family is currently residing in Bagepalli. Following the police inquiry, authorities examined the records and cancelled the ration card after finding

that it was allegedly obtained by suppressing material information related to nationality, the SP said. The voter identity card issued to the accused was also cancelled by the competent authority. The action was initiated after a complaint was filed by Bagepalli Tahsildar. Based on the complaint, a case was registered against Farah Naz and Mohammed Fardeen under applicable sections of the BNS, the Foreigners Act and the Representation of the People Act.

Delhi Behind the scenes | Waste has a colour too and black means bad

New Delhi. (Agency)

For MCD officials battling the leagcy landfills of the capital, the arrival of monsoon isn't the only dampener. After the waste is scientifically processed, what's left behind is a black, soil-like material. However, its biggest problem isn't quality; it's colour. To many residents, if it's black and came from a dump, it must still be garbage or dirty. An official joked that convincing people otherwise is almost as hard as reducing the landfill itself. Turns out, machines can process waste with ease, but giving it a respectable public image is a recycling challenge of an entirely different kind.

Blue Line welcomes commuter Sandhu

Delhi's most observant commuter took the Blue Line on Saturday. L-G Taranjit Singh Sandhu ditched his chauffeur-driven car for the Metro, settling among office-goers who briefly wondered if governance had gone undercover. Between Rajiv Chowk-bound halts, he turned co-passenger, collecting grievances like tokens.

Public complaint box hijacked for internal grievances

To encourage greater public participation and improve policing, a Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) of a district has installed a public complaint and suggestion box in his office. The initiative was aimed at providing residents with a simple and accessible platform to share their grievances, suggestions, and concerns. However, some personnel from the department have been using the box to submit complaints against their colleagues on internal administrative matters.

Twisha Sharma death: AIIMS Delhi confirms skin tissue on gym belt in final report

New Delhi. (Agency)

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is examining the final forensic report submitted by an AIIMS Delhi medical board in connection with the death of former model Twisha Sharma, who was found hanging at her marital home in Bhopal in May. Officials said the report concluded that a gymnastics belt could have been used as the ligature in the incident.

The 11-page report, submitted to the central agency in a sealed cover on July 10, confirmed the presence of skin tissue on the alleged ligature material, a gymnastics belt fitted with a metal ring. Sources said the findings indicated that the belt matched the injury pattern observed on Twisha's neck.

Twisha, 33, had married Samarth Singh in December last year. She was found hanging at her marital home on May 12. Sources told news agency PTI that the CBI is studying the findings of the AIIMS medical board, which was constituted following an order of the Madhya Pradesh High Court directing a second post-mortem examination.

The initial post-mortem could not identify the ligature used because the gymnastics belt was not available with the forensic experts at the time. Police later recovered the belt and sent it to the AIIMS Delhi-led medical board for examination.

According to the FIR, Samarth Singh took Twisha to AIIMS Bhopal and informed doctors that she had hanged herself at home at around 10.20 pm on May 12. However, a doctor at AIIMS Bhopal informed the police on May 13 that she had been brought dead to the hospital, following which a medico-legal case was registered.

Delhi Police arrests 3 Lawrence Bishnoi gang shooters, foil targeted killing plot

New Delhi. (Agency)

Three alleged shooters associated with the Lawrence Bishnoi gang have been arrested by Delhi Police, officials said on Sunday. According to sources, the suspects were planning to carry out multiple target killings.

The accused were being tracked after inputs were received about their plans, the sources said. The trio were allegedly receiving information and instructions through handlers and a network settled abroad. They also have a criminal

background, the sources said, adding that their names have surfaced in previous shooting-related cases. Notably, the arrests



come days after it was first reported that the prosecutors in the United States charged Bishnoi, who is currently lodged in Gujarat's

Sabarmati jail, and his close aide Satinderjeet Singh alias Goldy Brar with ordering the assassination of India-designated Khalistani terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar in Canada. The indictment came as part of a sweeping FBI-led international crackdown on three transnational organised crime networks that led to 24 arrests across North America and Europe. The charges were announced under "Operation Hard Ball," a years-long investigation targeting criminal syndicates allegedly involved in murder, extortion, drug trafficking, weapons offences and other organised crime activities across multiple countries.

Case against UP man for securing 3 passports with different details

New Delhi. (Agency)

A case has been registered against a man in Uttar Pradesh's Pilibhit district for allegedly obtaining three passports using different dates of birth and personal details, officials said. The alleged fraud came to light during the police verification of his application for a Police Clearance Certificate (PCC), according to news agency PTI. The accused has been identified as Simar Preet, a resident of Jamunia Jagat village in Pilibhit district.

Passport Office (RPO) in Bareilly flagged the case after scrutinising the PCC application and finding that the



applicant had allegedly obtained two other passports earlier using different dates of birth and personal particulars. The RPO informed the Pilibhit

Superintendent of Police about the suspected irregularity and sought an inquiry as well as legal action. In its communication, the Senior Superintendent of Passports stated that the applicant had allegedly secured multiple passports with differing identity details. Acting on the complaint, Ghunghchai police registered an FIR on Saturday and launched an investigation. Circle Officer Vidhi Bhushan Maurya said the matter was being investigated thoroughly and further action would be taken based on the evidence collected.

Supreme Court to hear plea regulating airfares, hidden charges today

New Delhi. (Agency)

The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear on Monday (July 13) a plea seeking guidelines to regulate what it describes as the "unpredictable fluctuations" in airfares and ancillary charges levied by private airlines, along with the creation of an independent regulator to ensure transparency and strengthen passenger protection in the civil aviation sector. A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta will hear the petition filed by social activist S Laxminarayanan. The matter came after the top court earlier expressed concern over sharp variations in airfares, particularly the steep increases during festivals, and asked the Centre to address the issue. On May 15, the Supreme Court observed that there should be some rationalisation of airfares and asked the Centre to provide relief to passengers. It noted that airlines often charge significantly different fares for the same route on the same day, raising concerns over the lack of pricing consistency.

The Centre, while acknowledging the issue, informed the court that the Bharatiya Vayuyan Adhiniyam, 2024, came into force in January 2025 and that the corresponding rules are currently under consultation. Representing the petitioner, senior advocate Ravindra Srivastava argued that similar provisions already existed under the Aircraft Act, 1937, but were not being effectively implemented.

On November 17 last year, the Supreme Court sought responses from the Centre and other stakeholders on the petition. During an earlier hearing on January 19, the court indicated that it would examine the issue of "unpredictable fluctuations" in airfares and also highlighted the sharp fare hikes witnessed during festive seasons.

India condemns attack on ship off Oman carrying 11 Indians; 10 rescued, one missing

New Delhi. (Agency)

India on Sunday condemned the attack on the merchant vessel that was hit by a so-called warning shot fired by Iranian forces near the coast of Oman, saying there were 11 Indian seafarers onboard. Ten of them have been rescued, while one reportedly remains missing, New Delhi said.

"We condemn the attack on the commercial vessel GFS Galaxy off the coast of Oman, earlier today. Of the 11 Indian nationals on board, 10 have been rescued so far, while 1 Indian National is reportedly missing," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said in a statement. It added that the Indian Embassy in Muscat is coordinating with Omani

authorities in the search and rescue efforts. "Our Embassy in Oman is closely monitoring the situation and proactively coordinating with the Omani authorities in the ongoing Search and Rescue operation. We thank the Omani authorities for their support," the ministry stated. **'WARNING SHOT' AND FRESH STRIKES** The Cyprus-flagged GFS Galaxy was hit by what Iran described as a warning shot fired shortly before it declared the Strait of Hormuz closed once again. The incident came as tensions between Iran and the US witnessed a

new high after days of fragile peace. Following the strike on GFS Galaxy, Tehran claimed it was transiting along an unapproved route on the



conflict-hit waterway, warning that any retaliation over the incident would be met with a "severe response." The United States launched a fresh

round of military strikes against Iran, citing the attack on the American wave of attacks on Iranian targets this week. According to the US Central Command (CENTCOM), approximately 140 Iranian military targets were hit during the latest round of US strikes. The targets included Iranian missile and drone sites, naval capabilities, ammunition storage facilities, communication networks, and coastal surveillance locations, it said. During three nights of strikes this week, US forces have struck more than 300 targets, the military added in its statement.

Bank FD: What are the interest rates offered by top lenders in India in July? Have a look

Kolkata. (Agency)

The love story between common Indians and bank fixed deposits is an affair that has survived the transformation of the country from a command economy to a market-oriented one. Though the focus of many on fixed instruments are shifting to more mature age brackets, millions of Indians still consider fixed deposits as a safe haven to preserve capital and for appreciation that can beat the inflation rate, even if by a slender margin. Fixed deposits, as indicated by their nomenclature, are not market-linked. As a result, they do not carry the same degree of risk as mutual funds or stocks do in exchange for their lure of higher returns. let's have a look at the returns offered by top banks of the country. Keep i mind that the following are interests offered to non-senior citizens. The interest offered to senior citizens are about 50 basis points higher than those mentioned below. Don't rush to the nearest bank

Nilanjan De, director of Kolkata-based Wishlist Capital and an investment strategist of about quarter of a century, says that individuals should not rush to the bank where they have a salary or a savings account and open an FD account. "Depositors should ideally compare interest rates offered by banks rather than rush to the one closest at hand. Even a small difference in rate of interest can mean a big difference in eventual payout, especially over an extended period of time. Also it would be quite imprudent to select a bank only on the basis of interest rates offered. Depositors should also take into account the financial soundness of the institution," he said.

Age-related discrimination could wipe out \$500 billion in OECD productivity: Report

New Delhi. (Agency)

Ageing populations across Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) economies are emerging as one of the biggest workforce challenges over the next two decades, with age-related discrimination threatening to wipe out nearly \$500 billion in productivity by 2040, according to a report by the World Economic Forum (WEF) and Marsh.

The OECD is a grouping of 38 mostly high-income countries that work together on economic policy, trade and development.

The report warned that labour markets are entering a period where the number of older adults is growing far faster than the pool of working-age people, making it increasingly costly for economies to sideline experienced workers. "OECD countries, it is estimated, will suffer nearly \$500 billion in productivity losses by 2040, due to under- and unemployment of adults aged 55+ relative to younger workers," it stated, as quoted by ANI. Globally, the population aged 65 years and above is expected to jump from 856 million to 1.3 billion by 2040, an increase of more than 50 per cent. Over the same period, the population between 25 and 64 years, considered the core working-age group, is projected to expand by only 13 per cent. Against this backdrop, the report estimates that OECD countries could collectively forgo almost \$500 billion in productivity by 2040 because workers aged 55 and above are more likely to remain unemployed for longer or leave the labour market altogether than their younger counterparts.

Markets rally for 2nd day, sensx up 827 points



New Delhi. (Agency)

Both sensx and Nifty ended 1% higher respectively on Friday, extending gains for the second day, aided by a rally in heavyweights Reliance Industries, ICICI Bank and HDFC Bank, and positive global cues. Easing crude oil prices and buying in IT stocks propelled the rally. Sensx jumped 828 points to settle at 77,569.

India's Russian crude imports hit record in Jun even as Moscow's oil revenues slip

New Delhi. (Agency)

India's imports of Russian crude oil surged to a record high in June, rising 34 per cent from the previous month despite a decline in Russia's overall oil export revenues, according to a report by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA). India bought Russian crude worth EUR 4.5 billion in June, accounting for 83 per cent of its total Russian fossil fuel imports of EUR 5.5 billion, making it the second-largest buyer of Russian hydrocarbons after China, the report said. The sharp increase came as India's overall crude imports rose 5.4 per cent month-on-month, with Russian supplies to key refineries posting steep gains. Deliveries to Reliance

Industries' Jamnagar refinery jumped 150 per cent from May, while imports at Indian Oil Corp's Paradip refinery rose 126 per cent. BPCL's Kochi refinery and Nayara Energy's Vadinar refinery recorded increases of 83 per cent and 45 per cent, respectively, CREA said. The surge in Indian purchases helped lift Russia's crude export volumes by 14 per cent in June, even as its crude oil export revenues fell 8 per cent month-on-month to EUR 348 million a day due to lower prices. Overall, Russian fossil fuel export revenues declined 1 per cent to EUR 734 million per day despite a 7 per cent rise in export volumes, the report added. "India was the second-largest buyer of Russian fossil fuels in June 2026, importing a total of EUR 5.5



billion of Russian hydrocarbons.

Crude oil constituted 83 per cent of India's purchases, totalling EUR 4.5 billion. Oil products (EUR 488 million) and coal (EUR 444 million) constituted the remainder of their monthly Russian imports," CREA said. India continued to play a key role in global trade flows of refined fuels produced

from Russian crude. Refineries in India, Turkiye, Brunei and Georgia exported oil products worth EUR 814 million to countries that have imposed sanctions on Russia in June, including the European Union, Australia and the United States. An estimated EUR 369 million of those exports were refined from Russian crude, it added. The report noted that despite the European Union's ban on imports of oil products made from Russian crude, two shipments from Indian refineries using Russian crude were unloaded at EU ports in June. It also said the United Kingdom received its first cargo of jet fuel from Jamnagar after allowing imports of diesel and jet fuel refined from Russian crude under an exemption.

IPOs next week: 3 issues to mop up about 12,000 cr; investors loosen your purse strings

Three public issues will hit Dalal Street attempting to raise as much as Rs 12,000 crore. This perhaps marks the formal signature of revival of the primary market in the country which has been languishing this year in the first six months. The largest IPO will be SBI Funds Management, which intends to mop up Rs 11,693 crore. Alpine Texworld and Millworks Technologies are the two other mainboard IPOs.

New Delhi. (Agency)

The week starting July 12 will be an eventful one for Dalal Street. It will bring many opportunities for investors in the primary market, and, in a sense will also formally signal the revival of the primary market which was languishing this year in the first six months. Three IPOs will open in the mainboard and SME segments starting July 14th. The largest of these will be from SBI Funds Management, which is aiming to raise Rs 11,693 crore.

Alpine Texworld and Millworks Technologies will also bring their issues to investors. Consequently, the IPO market is expected to be quite busy next week. Significantly, one IPO is signaling a listing gain of more than 117% two days before the bid opens.

SBI Funds Management

The biggest IPO next week will be from SBI Funds Management. The issue will open on July 14 and close on July 16. The company has set a price band of Rs 545-574 per share. A lot will consist of 26 shares, for which retail investors will have to invest a maximum of Rs 14,924. The entire issue is an offer for sale, so the company will not receive any new capital.

SBIMF the biggest

SBI Funds Management is the country's largest asset management company. It operates SBI Mutual Fund and is a joint venture between State Bank of India and Amundi. By 2025, the company had assets under

management of Rs 16.32 lakh crore. It has over 1.6 crore investors. In FY26, the company's revenue increased by 17% to Rs 4,976.11 crore, and net profit surged 21% to Rs 3,067.38 crore.

Alpine Texworld IPO

Alpine Texworld's IPO of Rs 126.25 crore will also be open from July 14 to July 16. The company has set a price band of Rs 100-105 per share. The smallest lot will consist of 142 shares, for which investors will have to pay Rs 14,910. This is a completely fresh issue, and the proceeds will be used to set up a new weaving unit and repay debt.

Alpine Texworld financials

The company reported strong performance in the last financial year. Its revenue increased 47% to Rs 350.18 crore in FY26. Net profit rocketed by a whopping 152% to Rs 21.72 crore. The company's EBITDA also increased from Rs 27 crore to Rs 47.45 crore, reflecting vastly improved operational performance.

SAIL, Indonesia's Krakatau Steel eye up to 1 MT stainless steel project

New Delhi. (Agency)

SAIL and Indonesia-based PT Krakatau Steel, which have signed a MoU to set up a joint venture, are exploring a stainless steel project with a capacity of 500,000 tonnes to 1 million tonnes under the proposed JV, a source with direct knowledge of the plans said.

Earlier this week, the steel PSU and the Indonesian entity signed a memorandum of understanding to explore a joint venture to manufacture stainless steel slabs to meet the commodity's increasing demand in India.

"SAIL and PT Krakatau Steel would explore setting up a stainless steel project. It can be of 0.5 million tonnes (MT) capacity, or it can also be of 1 MT. But that will be discussed after the formation of a joint venture," the source said.

If the JV is formed, the slabs will be produced in Indonesia and supplied to SAIL's Salem Steel Plant (SSP) in Andhra Pradesh, which specialises in the production of austenitic, ferritic, martensitic and low-nickel stainless steels, catering to diverse sectors including nuclear, petroleum, chemical and automotive industries. Producing slabs will be cheaper in Indonesia, which has access to one of the world's richest nickel reserves, a key raw material for stainless steel manufacturing. SAIL Chairman Ashok Kumar Panda has said access to reliable raw materials and strategic partnerships become increasingly important as demand for stainless steel continues to grow across sectors such as infrastructure, mobility, renewable energy and manufacturing. According to SAIL, the details regarding the proposed joint venture, including project capacity, investment structure, implementation schedule and technology configuration, will be finalised following completion of the feasibility studies and receipt of the necessary approvals from both organisations and the respective governments. Under the Ministry of Steel, Steel Authority of India Ltd (SAIL) is India's largest public-sector steelmaker, with over five decades of experience.

Nuclear power prospects boosting these two stocks: Check their fundamentals

New Delhi. (Agency)

With the growing demand for clean energy worldwide, the importance of nuclear power is rapidly increasing. It is also happening in this country and India is rapidly working towards increasing nuclear energy capacity. Currently, 24 nuclear reactors are operational in the country, while half a dozen new reactors are under construction. Under the Nuclear Energy Mission announced in Budget 2025-26, a total provision of Rs 20,000 crore has

been made for the research, design, development and deployment of small modular reactors. Investors in India cannot invest directly in uranium, and no domestic ETF or mutual fund is available on this theme. As such, companies associated with the nuclear and uranium value chain are becoming a major investment option for this theme. Among these, stocks like NTPC and L&T could be tracked by investors. NTPC is the country's largest power utility. It is pursuing a plan to develop 30 gigawatts of

nuclear power capacity by 2047. The company is developing this project through a joint venture with the Nuclear Power Corporation of India. It is also exploring investment opportunities in uranium mines in countries such as Canada, Australia, Kazakhstan, and South Africa.

NTPC financials

NTPC's income has grown at a compound annual rate of 10.9% over the past five years. During the same period, the company's net profit has grown at a CAGR of 13%. In FY2026, the company's income exceeded.

Executive Centre India leases 114,950 sq ft at Worldmark for 309 cr

The flex workspace operator will pay rent for a chargeable area of 114,950 sq ft at Worldmark 6 in Delhi's Aerocity, with a 15 per cent escalation every three years

New Delhi. (Agency)

Flex workspace operator Executive Centre India has leased nearly 115,000 square feet of office space in Delhi's Worldmark complex, owned by Bharti Real Estate, the realty arm of Bharti Enterprises, which also includes Bharti Airtel. According to lease documents accessed by Propstack, the deal will involve a total rental outlay of ₹309 crore over a nine-year tenure. The company will pay rent for a chargeable area of 114,950 square feet, putting the monthly rent at ₹2.47

crore. Executive Centre has already paid a deposit of ₹14.83 crore as part of the fresh lease, which commenced in March 2026. The company will take space on the seventh floor of Worldmark 6. According to the documents, the leased space will see a 15 per cent rent escalation every three years. Worldmark is Bharti Real Estate's commercial real estate campus in New Delhi's Aerocity, spanning 20 million square feet (msf). The deal with Executive Centre comes at a time when Bharti Real Estate is expected to complete the second phase of the Worldmark complex, which includes Worldmark 6, by 2027. Last month, Hero MotoCorp signed a fresh lease for 231,109 square feet of space for a tenure of nine years in Worldmark 6, with an estimated total rental outlay of ₹593.8 crore. Global co-working space provider WeWork had also leased

113,976 square feet of office space in the same building for a tenure of 10 years, with a total rental outlay of



₹328.5 crore. According to a report by real estate consultancy Knight Frank India, office absorption in Tier-I cities reached 40 msf in the January-June period of 2026 due to high leasing activity by global capability centres (GCCs), technology firms, and domestic companies.

Bharti Real Estate's managing director (MD) and chief executive officer (CEO)

had earlier told Business Standard that while there is strong demand for Grade A-plus office space in India, the biggest challenge remains the limited availability of premium office real estate. "There are very few developers in this segment because here you need corporations with deep pockets. A rental or leasing model requires you to invest your entire corpus in advance, years before you actually start getting your money back in terms of revenue," he added.

Developments such as Worldmark, he said, have piqued the interest of three types of organisations: those planning to enter India, those moving to premium locations from regional centres, and government as well as semi-government institutions.

He added that Bharti Realty is in a sweet spot in terms of location, offerings, and competition.

UP court sentences man 27 years after fake affidavit helped him get police job

Agra.(Agency)

A court in Agra, Uttar Pradesh, has sentenced a man to three years in prison, nearly 27 years after he secured the police job by submitting a fake affidavit during the recruitment process.

The court found Bhojraj, a resident of Sithrapur village in Uttar Pradesh's Hathras district, guilty of cheating and using forged documents to obtain employment in the Provincial Armed Constabulary (PAC). In addition to the jail term, the court imposed a fine of Rs 3,000. Failure to pay the fine will result in additional imprisonment.

The case dates back to 1998-99 and remained in the judicial system for more than two-and-a-half decades before reaching its conclusion.

According to the prosecution, Bhojraj submitted a false affidavit while applying for the post of constable in the PAC in 1999.

During the verification of his documents, authorities detected irregularities, triggering an investigation into the recruitment process.

Madhya Pradesh woman kills husband with lover's help, body exhumed after 3 months

Bhopal .(Agency)

Three months after a 26-year-old man went missing in Madhya Pradesh's Satna district, police have alleged that he was murdered in a conspiracy hatched by his wife and her lover, leading to the arrest of both accused and the recovery of the victim's body.

The case pertains to Rampur Baghela area, where Vipin Kumar Yadav was reported missing in March by his father. During the investigation, police uncovered evidence suggesting that Vipin's wife, Aanchal Yadav, had been in a relationship with Sunil Kushwaha since before her marriage. According to officials, the two allegedly conspired to eliminate Vipin to continue their relationship. Police said Sunil Kushwaha, along with his associate Sandeep Bahroliya, allegedly lured Vipin on the pretext of an outing before murdering him. The accused initially disposed of the body by throwing it into a well. However, as the investigation gathered pace and fearing arrest, they allegedly retrieved the body from the well and buried it at another location. Acting on information obtained during the probe, police carried out an excavation in the presence of an Executive Magistrate and recovered.

How Yogi govt's ODOP push revived Moradabad's brass industry, boosting exports

Moradabad.(Agency)

Uttar Pradesh's Moradabad, known globally as the "Brass City", has witnessed renewed growth in its traditional metal handicraft sector, with artisans and traders crediting the One District One Product (ODOP) scheme for helping improve skills, productivity and market opportunities.

Industry stakeholders said ODOP support, along with better law and order and government initiatives, has helped create a more favourable ecosystem for manufacturers, exporters and artisans associated with the brass industry.

Brass trader Rahul Agarwal said the business environment has improved significantly since the Yogi Adityanath government assumed office. According to him, concerns over security that once affected commercial activity have eased considerably. Traders now feel safer. They can work late into the night without fear and travel freely across the city. Stronger law and order has directly benefited industry and trade," Agarwal said while speaking to Tania Bhatia, a sourcing professional and buyer recruiter, said foreign buyers are now more willing to visit Uttar Pradesh than they were earlier.

"Overseas clients, who previously hesitated due to security concerns, now find it easier to travel and conduct business in the state.

Nine maternal deaths in a week expose Rajasthan health system

This grim escalation of deaths over the past week has been preceded by similar maternal deaths earlier in Kota, Bikaner and Jodhpur over the past two months.

JAIPUR.(Agency)

The deaths of five pregnant women in six days in Bhilwara and four more in as many days in Banswara have once again triggered serious concerns over patient safety and infection control at government hospitals in Rajasthan.

This grim escalation of deaths over the past week has been preceded by similar maternal deaths earlier in Kota, Bikaner and Jodhpur over the past two months. In Bhilwara, the women died after undergoing caesarean deliveries at the Mother and Child (MCH) Wing of Mahatma Gandhi Hospital.

The controversy escalated after reports claimed that microbiological culture tests detected bacterial contamination in one of the hospital's operation theatres. Allegations also surfaced that the hospital continued performing caesarean surgeries despite the report and that it conducts 30-40 C-sections daily with only five surgical

instrument sets, raising concerns over sterilisation.

Families of the deceased have accused the hospital administration of medical negligence, while Medical Superintendent

has alleged that the hospital administration attempted to suppress the case by handing over the body without conducting a post-mortem. These tragic deaths in two more districts of Rajasthan have triggered sharp political reactions.

Former CM Ashok Gehlot demanded a high-level probe, alleging gross negligence and questioning the state's healthcare system. LoP Tikaram Jolly also criticised the BJP government and urged CM Bhajan Lal Sharma to visit the affected families instead of attending public events. In response, Medical and Health Minister Gajendra Singh Khinvsar said the state government is taking the incidents seriously and has deputed expert teams from the Medical and Health Directorate to Bhilwara and Banswara. A meeting of gynaecologists from across the state has been convened on Monday to review the cases and recommend corrective measures.



Dr Arun Gaur said the women had been referred in critical condition from other hospitals. Meanwhile, four maternal deaths in four days have been reported from Banswara's main government hospital.

The family of one of the deceased women

‘This is our last conversation’: Retired teacher dies by suicide, former UP top cop booked

A retired Uttar Pradesh DGP-rank officer and five others have been booked for abetment of suicide after a 78-year-old retired teacher in Lalitpur allegedly consumed poison and left handwritten notes.

Lucknow.(Agency)

allegedly subjected the victim to public humiliation.

LV Kumar retired from service this year.

A case has been registered on charges of abetment of suicide against LV Antony Dev Kumar, a retired director general-rank officer of the Uttar Pradesh Police, following the death of a 78-year-old retired government schoolteacher who died after allegedly consuming a poisonous substance at his home in Lalitpur district on Thursday.

The deceased, Rajaram Goswami, a resident of Buragaon Chiglaua village, had been facing trial in a case registered against him under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act in 2002 when LV Kumar was superintendent of police in Lalitpur and had



Goswami's family has said the case was filed on a false complaint by a local resident belonging to the Scheduled Caste

community. Police have recovered three handwritten suicide notes, allegedly written by the deceased.

Based on a complaint filed by the deceased's 52-year-old son, Anurag Goswami, police registered a case on charges of abetment of suicide and extortion against the retired police officer and five Buragaon Chiglaua village residents — Gokul Prasad, Kamta Prasad, Devendra Kumar, Gulab and Chotte Lal.

Circle Officer Ashish Mishra said the investigation was underway and that no one had been taken into custody yet.

The criminal case in which Rajaram Goswami was facing trial since 2002 remains pending in a court, with the next hearing scheduled for July 16, he added.

Telangana HC gives TSIC 3 months to clear 404 RTI pleas

Justice Surepalli Nanda directed the TSIC to issue fresh notices to RTI activist Vaddam Shyam and dispose of all his 404 pending second appeals and complaints within three months.

HYDERABAD.(Agency)

More than 400 Right to Information (RTI) pleas filed by a single activist have remained pending before the State Information Commission (TSIC), prompting the Telangana High Court to step in and set a three-month deadline for their disposal.

Justice Surepalli Nanda directed the TSIC to issue fresh notices to RTI activist Vaddam Shyam and dispose of all his 404 pending second appeals and complaints within three months. The court also made it clear that the panel must follow both its earlier

directions and the Supreme Court's guidelines on using technology to improve access to justice.

The order came on a writ petition filed



by Shyam, secretary of Jana Telangana Rights Society. He told the judge that despite a high court order

passed on September 18, 2025, the TSIC had neither issued fresh notices nor taken up his cases for hearing.

The dispute dates back to an earlier attempt by the TSIC to list all 404 appeals and complaints for hearing on a single day without providing case-wise details. The high court set aside that notice last year, directing the TSIC to issue fresh notices containing the particulars of each case and to hear them in manageable batches.

When the matter came up for hearing, the TSIC informed the court that the Information Commissioner had been on leave for six months and resumed office on June 27, 2026.

No change: Conductor asks Karnataka minister to get off bus during surprise check

Bengaluru.(Agency)

What began as a surprise inspection turned into a reality check for Karnataka Transport Minister Byrathi Suresh, who was asked to get off a BMTC bus after the conductor found he did not have the exact fare. Travelling incognito in Bengaluru on Saturday, the minister experienced firsthand the difficulties faced by daily commuters.

Travelling with a face mask for nearly two hours across more than 10 BMTC buses, the minister witnessed several issues that regular commuters often complain about. The most serious incident occurred when one BMTC bus allegedly failed to stop at the Fun World bus stop despite a passenger signalling to get down. Acting on the spot, Suresh ordered the suspension of both the driver and conductor.

The undercover inspection also put the minister in the middle of a familiar commuter grievance. While travelling on a Hebbal-Nagashettyhalli route bus, he reportedly handed the conductor a Rs 100 note to buy tickets.

Bombay High Court ruling that could change cluster redevelopment of old buildings in Mumbai forever

Mumbai.(Agency)

Clearing the way for cluster or integrated redevelopment of massive Maharashtra Housing and Area Development Authority (MHADA) layouts in Bandra Reclamation and Adarsh Nagar (Worli), the Bombay High Court earlier this month reaffirmed its recent approach of favouring integrated redevelopment of the city's largest MHADA layouts over fragmented redevelopment by individual housing societies, holding that such a policy serves the "larger public interest".

Besides the Bandra and Worli redevelopment projects, together valued at over Rs 37,000 crore, the High Court in recent years has upheld cluster redevelopment of the city's biggest

MHADA layouts, including Motilal Nagar in Goregaon (West) and Abhyuday Nagar in Kalachowki, affecting thousands of families.

A bench of Justices Makarand S Karnik and Shriram M Modak of the Bombay HC on July 2 dismissed pleas by Societies challenging the Bandra-Worli layouts tender process and the Government Resolutions (GRs) of April and December 2025, observing that "MHADA-led redevelopment is justified considering the nature and size of the layout, the age of the buildings, the public housing-policy framework and the need for integrated planning."

The GRs introduced a policy for integrated or cluster redevelopment of

MHADA layouts spanning 20 acres or more in Greater Mumbai and suburban areas, enabling a single private C&D



agency instead of individual housing societies separately redeveloping their buildings.

The layouts comprise buildings constructed in the 1950s and 1960s as

"affordable housing" for the Middle Income Group (MIG) and Lower Income Group (LIG), with hundreds of housing societies, some now dilapidated.

The petitioner housing societies claimed they were "forced" into rehabilitation, depriving them of an independent redevelopment opportunity under the Development Control and Promotion Regulations (DCPR), and that the policy illegally dispensed with individual consent of owners and societies while giving a "free hand" to the appointed C&D agency.

Upholding the state's stand, the HC observed that whether redevelopment to be independent or integrated is a planning and policy decision of the State and MHADA.

Worker killed, another injured as temple dome collapses during demolition drive in UP's Chandauli

Lucknow.(Agency)

A worker was killed and another injured when the dome of a 200-year-old Kali temple collapsed on them during a demolition drive for a road-widening project in Mughalsarai town of Uttar Pradesh's Chandauli district on Friday night.

The demolition was part of a Public Works Department (PWD) road expansion project that has been underway for the past four months. According to officials, both victims were employees of the private contractor engaged by the PWD to execute the road-widening project. The accident occurred when the contractor was using a bulldozer to demolish the temple to clear the route for the expanded roadway.

The deceased was identified as Baldev Yadav (45), a local resident who was helping with the demolition by holding a guide rope when the temple's dome suddenly collapsed.

Chandauli District Magistrate Chandra Mohan Garg said he had summoned PWD officials to ascertain the cause of the accident.

Officials said the demolition was carried out without prior intimation to the local administration or the police, who were not informed before the work began.

The temple stood in the alignment of the proposed road and had to be removed to facilitate the work, he added.

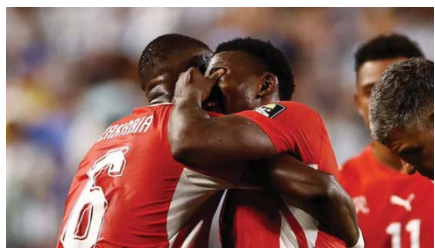
Officials said the dome first struck the bucket of the bulldozer, causing it to deflect before crashing onto Baldev and another man standing nearby.

NEWS BOX

Breel Embolo devastated after costly blunder vs Argentina ends his World Cup dream

New Delhi. (Agency)

Breel Embolo's FIFA World Cup campaign came to an abrupt end after the Switzerland striker was sent off for simulation during his side's quarter-final against Argentina on Saturday. Embolo was left ruing a costly dive after receiving a second yellow card following a VAR review. The striker, who had already been booked late in the first half, was initially awarded a free-kick by referee Joao Pinheiro, who cautioned Argentina midfielder Leandro Paredes. However, after reviewing the incident on the pitch side monitor, the referee overturned his decision, withdrew Paredes' booking and instead cautioned Embolo for



simulation. The dismissal came with the score locked at 1-1 and 18 minutes remaining, leaving Switzerland to play the closing stages with 10 men against the defending world champions. It was a dramatic twist in a contest that had swung in Switzerland's favour only moments earlier.

Dan Ndoye had levelled the scores with a composed finish from a tight angle after exchanging passes with Ricardo Rodriguez, cancelling out Alexis Mac Allister's first-half opener, which had come from a Lionel Messi corner. Just minutes after the equaliser, Embolo chased a loose ball inside the Argentina half with Leandro Paredes tracking back. Pinheiro initially penalised the Argentina midfielder and produced a yellow card, but the incident was referred for an on-field review. After watching the replay on the pitchside monitor, the referee overturned his decision. The footage showed there had been no contact from Paredes, with Embolo appearing to go to ground before any challenge arrived.

Conor McGregor's comeback ends in injury heartbreak: What happened at UFC 329

New Delhi. (Agency)

Conor McGregor's highly anticipated return to the octagon after a five-year hiatus ended in immediate heartbreak at UFC 329, with a severe leg injury forcing a first-round stoppage against Max Holloway. The Irish superstar, making his first competitive appearance since breaking his tibia and fibula against Dustin Poirier in July 2021, suffered what appeared to be a catastrophic knee or lower-leg injury just seconds into the main event at the T-Mobile Arena in Las Vegas, Nevada, United States. The official stoppage came at just one minute and nine seconds of the very first round, leaving the capacity crowd in Las Vegas



stunned and casting serious doubt over the 37-year-old's future in mixed martial arts. The contest, a rematch 13 years in the making following McGregor's unanimous decision victory over Holloway in 2013, began with characteristic theatre. Sporting a new Mohawk and walking out to a wall of smoke, McGregor looked physically imposing and full of his trademark confidence.

However, the bravado dissolved almost instantly upon the opening horn. Seeking to make an aggressive statement, McGregor rushed across the canvas and unleashed a leaping lead kick. As his right foot slapped against his opponent, the former two-division champion landed awkwardly, with his knee visibly buckling beneath his weight. Refusing to back down, McGregor attempted a second strike moments later, only to collapse instantly onto the canvas.

Messi's heated exchange with Portuguese World Cup referee goes viral: Don't be disrespectful

Lionel Messi found himself at the center of another viral World Cup moment, this time after a heated exchange with Portuguese referee Joao Pinheiro during Argentina's dramatic 3-1 extra-time win over Switzerland.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Lionel Messi was involved in a tense exchange with Portuguese referee Joao Pinheiro during Argentina's FIFA World Cup quarter-final against Switzerland on Saturday, with the confrontation quickly going viral on social media. The incident came during Argentina's dramatic 3-1 extra-time victory over 10-man Switzerland, a result that booked the defending champions a blockbuster semi-final against England in Atlanta on Wednesday. Messi's side kept alive their

bid to become the first nation to successfully defend the World Cup since Brazil in 1962, but one of the biggest talking points from the contest came long before the final whistle. The exchange took place in the first half as Switzerland prepared to take a free-kick. Standing in Argentina's defensive wall, Messi appeared unhappy with the manner in which Pinheiro instructed him to move back the required distance. Television cameras captured the Argentina captain responding immediately before approaching the referee again after the free-kick had been taken. According to lip-reading from the broadcast, Messi told the official, "Speak to me properly. Don't disrespect me. Speak to me properly. I spoke to you properly." Despite the animated conversation, Messi remained composed throughout the exchange, keeping his



hands behind his back while speaking to the referee. Pinheiro did not caution the Argentina captain, and the brief confrontation had no impact on the match. The clip quickly spread across social media, becoming one of the defining moments from a quarter-final packed with drama. Argentina eventually prevailed after Julian Alvarez and Lautaro Martinez struck in extra time to

seal a 3-1 victory, ending Switzerland's impressive World Cup run and sending the reigning champions into the last four.

WHO IS JOAO PINHEIRO?

Joao Pinheiro is one of Portugal's leading referees and has established himself among Europe's top officials. The 8-year-old made his debut in Portugal's top division in 2015 before receiving his FIFA badge a year later.

Since then, he has officiated in the UEFA Champions League, Europa League and the 2025 UEFA Super Cup, performances that earned him selection for the 2026 FIFA World Cup. While his exchange with Messi dominated discussion online, Pinheiro chose not to take disciplinary action against the Argentina captain, allowing play to continue uninterrupted in one of the tournament's most dramatic quarter-finals.

Messi's streak ends, but Argentina scrape into semis to keep World Cup dream alive

New Delhi. (Agency)

Cape Verde nearly did it. Egypt had Argentina two goals down before the great escape. This time, it was 10-man Switzerland, defending with remarkable resolve and pushing the world champions all the way to the 112th minute before Julian Alvarez finally delivered the decisive blow. er never so much as glanced back. The Argentina captain's remarkable World Cup scoring streak came to an end after nine consecutive matches on the scoresheet, the longest such run in the tournament's history. Yet, even without a goal, Messi still shaped the contest. His pinpoint corner created Alexis Mac Allister's opener, taking his tally to 10 World Cup assists across six editions, the most by any player in the competition's history. He threatened on several occasions in the second half and extra time but was unable to add to his tally of eight goals at this World Cup.



Argentina 3-1 Switzerland, FIFA World Cup quarterfinal: Highlights

It looked routine to begin with. Ten minutes on the clock and Alexis Mac Allister rose above two defenders, meeting Messi's corner and glancing it into the far corner. Arrowhead erupted. Blue and white smoke, thousands of voices, the whole stadium bouncing. Job done, surely. Argentina would cruise from here. They did not cruise. Not even close. Switzerland had other ideas. Murat Yakin sent his players out to press, to pass, to make life uncomfortable, and for long stretches of that first half they had the better of it. seriously enough.

FIFA World Cup semis: England vs Argentina, Spain vs France promise epic showdowns

New Delhi. (Agency)

The stage is set for a truly seismic conclusion to the 2026 FIFA World Cup as the 48-team tournament is whittled down to a final four of pure footballing royalty. Defending champions Argentina, a resilient England, an electric France, and a flawless Spain have navigated the treacherous knockout fields to stand just one match away from the sport's ultimate showcase, setting up two massive blockbusters that pit the clinical precision of Europe against the flair and unyielding passion of South America.

The looming dream final offers a mouthwatering rematch of the legendary 2022 Qatar epic between Lionel Messi and Kylian Mbappe. While a sequel is firmly on the cards, getting

there will be anything but easy. Before either superstar can book a date with destiny, they must first survive two brutal semifinal tests against a stubborn



England and a flawless, high-flying Spain. For world champions Argentina, the road to the final four has been anything but comfortable, defined by extra-time survival, narrow tactical victories, and flashes of world-class individual brilliance. Argentina booked

their place in the semifinals by surviving a relentless, chaotic scare against Switzerland in Kansas City on Saturday. Lionel Scaloni's side initially found comfort inside 10 minutes when Lionel Messi rolled back the years to carve open the Swiss defence, teeing up Alexis Mac Allister for a cool opener. However, Switzerland fought back with ferocious intent, levelling via Dan Ndoye in the second half. A red card to Swiss forward Breel Embolo threatened to derail the Europeans, yet they dragged the reigning champions into a gruelling extra-time period. It was there that Argentina's squad depth proved decisive. Julin lvarez shattered the deadlock in the 112th minute with a curler into the top corner before Lautaro Martnez put the gloss on a dramatic 3-1 victory with seconds remaining.

Erling Haaland's father blasts referee after Norway's World Cup exit to England

Miami. (Agency)

Alf-Inge Haaland, the father of Norway striker Erling Haaland, criticised the officiating after England defeated Norway 2-1 after extra time to reach the FIFA World Cup semi-finals in Miami on Saturday. Norway vs Englnd, FIFA World Cup 2026: HIGHLIGHTS Jude Bellingham scored twice, including the extra-time winner, as England came from behind after Andreas Schjelderup had given Norway a first-half lead. The result ended Norway's historic World Cup run at the quarter-final stage. Following the final

whistle, football journalist Fabrizio Romano praised Bellingham on social media, prompting a sarcastic response



from Alf-Inge Haaland. The post quickly drew attention online as Norway's controversial exit became one of the major talking points after the quarter-

final. The Norwegian camp was left aggrieved by two major decisions during the contest. England's equaliser came in first-half stoppage time after a goal-kick appeared to brush an overhead camera cable before dropping into England's possession. Norway protested, believing play should have been stopped, but FIFA later said technology showed there had been no contact. The sensor in the Connected Ball showed no peak in the 'heartbeat of the ball' when in the air, and therefore no evidence that the ball touched the overhead wire and changed the movement of the ball," FIFA said in a statement.

A freer Zverev, an unstoppable Sinner. Wimbledon final promises blockbuster

Wimbledon 2026: Fresh off his maiden Grand Slam triumph at Roland Garros, Alexander Zverev faces his toughest test yet as world No.1 Jannik Sinner stands between him and a second straight major title.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Alexander Zverev finally buried his Grand Slam demons at Roland Garros last month, but an even sterner examination awaits him at Wimbledon.

Standing between the German and a second straight major title is world No.1 and defending champion Jannik Sinner, who has turned their rivalry into one of the most one-sided contests on the ATP Tour. Zverev arrives at Centre Court chasing yet another slice of history after becoming the first German man since Boris Becker to win a Grand Slam title, beating Flavio Cobolli in a gripping five-set French Open final. Having spent years carrying the tag of the best player never to win a major, the 29-year-old now has the opportunity to become the first man in the Open Era to follow up his maiden Slam triumph with another title at the very next major. Yet, unlike in



Paris, where he faced a first-time Grand Slam finalist, Sunday's challenge promises to be far tougher. Sinner has not only emerged as the dominant force in men's tennis over the last two seasons, but he has also enjoyed near-total control over his rivalry with Zverev.

The Italian has beaten the German in each of their last nine meetings, transforming what was once a closely fought battle into a daunting mental hurdle. More remarkably, Sinner has not dropped a set in any of their last six meetings, winning 14 straight sets against Zverev heading into the Wimbledon final.

SINNER INTO ANOTHER WIMBLEDON FINAL

If there were any lingering doubts over Sinner's form after his heartbreaking defeat in Paris, the defending champion has answered them emphatically at the All England Club. The 24-year-old delivered arguably.

Alia Bhatt

Dances To 'Maahi Ve', Video From Akansha Ranjan Kapoor's Wedding Goes Viral

Akansha Ranjan Kapoor is all set to marry her beau Sharan Sharma and their pre-wedding festivities have already begun. On Friday night, the couple hosted a sangeet ceremony in Mumbai which was attended by several of their friends, including Bollywood actress Alia Bhatt. In a video that surfaced on social media,



Alia was seen dancing her heart out to Shah Rukh Khan's song 'Maahi Ve' from his 2003 movie Kal Ho Naa Ho.

Alia was also joined by Akansha's sister, Anushka Ranjan and her husband Aditya Seal. The squad was seen laughing their hearts out as they all grooved to some of the iconic tracks at the sangeet ceremony. Watch one of the videos here:

Previously, a source close to the couple shared exclusive details of the wedding with News18 Showsha and told us, "Akansha and Sharan won't be having traditional pheras or any elaborate religious ceremonies. Instead, they've chosen to keep things simple by opting for a registered marriage. The legal formalities will take place at the Ranjan residence in Mumbai."

"The couple will sign the marriage documents in the presence of their near and dear ones. The emphasis is on celebrating the union with loved ones rather than following conventional wedding customs, making it a deeply personal and low-key occasion."

After their intimate wedding, the couple will also host a grand reception in Mumbai on July 12. However, not much details about it are known as of now.

Akansha and Sharan have been dating since 2022 but had kept their relationship under wraps. On the work front, Akansha was last seen in the Prime Video series, Gram Chikitsalay season two and Netflix film Ikka. As for Sharan, he had last directed Mr & Mrs Mahi starring Rajkumar Rao and Janhvi Kapoor.



Neha Kakkar

Reveals She Had A Crush On Rajeev Khandelwal: 'Indian Idol Ki Baat Hai'

Bollywood singer Neha Kakkar confessed to having a huge crush on actor Rajeev Khandelwal as Sujal from his iconic television show, 'Kahiin Toh Hoga'. The singer, along with her husband, who appeared on the reality show, Tum Ho Naa – Ghar Ki Superstar, reminisced about having a crush on the actor during his iconic stint as Sujal in the hit television show 'Kahiin Toh Hoga'.

Speaking to Rajeev, who is also the host on the show, Neha recalled how she had openly named him as her favourite celebrity during her Indian Idol days. "Toh Indian Idol ki baat hai. Main contestant thi aur mujhse channel ne pucha, 'Aapka favourite celebrity kaun hai? Unka naam batayiye.' Maine bola, 'Rajeev Khandelwal'."

(This goes back to my Indian Idol days. I was a contestant, and the channel asked me, Who is your favourite celebrity? Tell us their name. I said, Rajeev Khandelwal.) Neha went on to reveal that her admiration for Rajeev only grew stronger after he paid her a surprise visit when she was recovering from chickenpox during the singing reality show. Pointing towards her husband, Rohanpreet Singh, she quipped, "Mujhe pata hai ye inko sunn ke thoda jealous feel ho raha hoga. But sahi mein kamaal ka kaam kiya hai Sony Entertainment Television ne. Mujhe kuch problem ho rahi thi. Actually,

chickenpox ho gaya tha aur uss time mujhe Indian Idol discontinue karna pada tha. Main ghar pe rest kar rahi thi aur jab main resume karne wali thi, toh mujhe get well soon karne ghar pe kaun aaya tha? Rajeev Khandelwal. Itna toh sabko idea hoga. Matlab, Sujal har ek ladki ka... itni chhoti, itni badi, har kisi mahila



ki deewangi tha Sujal, and I am standing right here next to Sujal."

(I know he must be feeling a little jealous hearing this. But Sony Entertainment Television did something really special. I had chickenpox and had to discontinue Indian Idol for some time. I was resting at home, and when I was about to resume, do you know who came home to wish me a speedy recovery? Rajeev Khandelwal. Everyone knows this. Sujal was every girl's crush, young or old, and today I'm standing right next to Sujal.)

Aamir Khan Accused Of 'Love Jihad', Bajrang Dal Protests Against Actor's 3rd Marriage To Gauri Spratt



Members of Bajrang Dal in Bihar's Forbesganj area recently held a protest against Aamir Khan's third marriage to Gauri Spratt. They burnt Bollywood actor's effigy and accused him of practicing 'love jihad'. During the protests, slogans like "Aamir Khan murdabad" and "Aamir Khan jihadi Bharat chodo" were also raised.

In a statement that Bajrang Dal leader Manoj Soni released, he said, "Aamir Khan lagataar Hindu behen betiyon ko shaadi racha kar ke line laga raha hai (Aamir Khan is repeatedly marrying Hindu women and daughters, effectively lining them up)" to insult the Hindu society.

Soni further claimed that Aamir Khan is working "to weaken the Hindus as part of a massive conspiracy." He further threatened to teach Aamir Khan a lesson "if he does not stop such antics soon".

"Shaadi karta hai Hindu beti se aur paida karta hai Taimuz, Afroz, Salman, kahan ka niyam hai bhai. Akhir unko Muslim samaj ke bahu beti se pyaar kyun nahi ho raha hai? Hindu beti se unko pyaar kyun ho raha hai (He marries a Hindu woman but names the children Taimur, Afroz, or Salman — what kind of rule is this? Why doesn't he fall in love with the daughters or daughters-in-law of the Muslim community? Why does he only love Hindu women?)," Soni said in the video, as quoted by Siasat. He also urged the courts and the government to take action against the actor, accusing him of trying to disrupt harmony in the country.

For the unversed, Aamir Khan first married Reena Dutta in 1986. The two parted ways in 2002. The actor later married filmmaker Kiran Rao in 2005. However, they also got separated in 2021. Aamir recently married Gauri Spratt at his Mumbai residence.

Who Is Gauri Spratt?

Gauri, reportedly, has a Tamilian mother and an Irish father. Her grandfather was a freedom fighter. Gauri has a professional background in hairdressing and holds an FDA in Fashion, Styling, and Photography from the University of Arts, London.

Amid 'Love Jihad' Row, Details Of Aamir Khan And Gauri Spratt's Marital Home Surface



Aamir Khan tied the knot with his long-time partner Gauri Spratt on July 5 in an intimate ceremony at his rented apartment in Pali Hill, Mumbai. Following his wedding with Gauri, Aamir is now facing severe hate as members of the Bajrang Dal in Bihar's Forbesganj area recently held a protest against him, accusing him of "Love Jihad." Amid this, details of Aamir and Gauri's spacious sky villa-style marital home have surfaced.

As per the Free Press Journal, while the couple is currently living in Aamir Khan's rented apartment in Wilmona, Nargis Dutt Road, Pali Hill, Mumbai, that is not their permanent address. The Bollywood superstar has already planned everything in advance, and the couple's marital home will be at the high-rise coming up in Marina Apartments, in Virgo Co-operative Society, Union Park, Khar, Mumbai.

Aamir Khan has made multiple investments in Marina over the decades, and he has allegedly bought a dozen apartments on the premises and allotted homes to his family members. It has been said that the top three floors in the building will house Aamir Khan, Gauri Spratt, and their son, Quinn, and it is reportedly being designed to resemble a sky villa.

A source told the portal, "Aamir is getting a floor readied for his 33-year-old actor son, Junaid Khan, from his first marriage to Reena Dutta. Besides this, some of the other flats in the building will also go to filmmaker Kiran Rao and Azad (Aamir's son from his second marriage to Kiran)." It has been said that there are apartments in the same building for Aamir's mother, Zeenat Hussain, and his two sisters, actress Nikhat and Farhat (married to Reena's brother, Rajeev Dutta). It is being reported that the actor has allegedly paid an advance of over ₹100 crore as a down payment for the additional apartment blocks he is acquiring for his family.

About Aamir Khan's personal life

For the unversed, Aamir Khan first married Reena Dutta in 1986. The two parted ways in 2002. The actor later married filmmaker Kiran Rao in 2005. However, they also separated in 2021. Aamir recently married Gauri Spratt at his Mumbai residence.

NEWS BOX

14 nations say China's South China Sea claims remain illegal

Manila.(Agency)

The United States, United Kingdom and 12 other Western and Asian countries on Sunday reaffirmed that China's sweeping claims in the South China Sea are illegal under a 2016 arbitration ruling. In a joint statement marking the July 12, 2016 decision, the countries said they rejected "destabilising" actions in the disputed waters that threaten regional peace.

The statement described the ruling by a tribunal set up in The Hague under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea as "a significant milestone and is final, legally binding and definitive". China, which rejected the ruling and continues to assert claims over virtually the entire sea passage, did not immediately respond on Sunday, but has recently said it would never recognise what it called an "illegal, null and void" decision.

China refused to take part in the arbitration, which was initiated by the Philippines in 2013 after a tense standoff in the contested waters a year earlier that ended with Beijing effectively seizing a disputed shoal. The tribunal largely ruled in favour of the Philippines, saying that under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, "there was no legal basis for China to claim historic rights to resources" in the South China Sea outside its regular territorial areas recognised under the convention. The joint statement said: "We reaffirm the Arbitral Tribunal's decision that there is no legal basis for China's expansive maritime claims in the South China Sea, including those based on 'historic rights'."

Pakistan, Saudi raise alarm over US-Iran clashes despite Islamabad MoU

Islamabad.(Agency)

Pakistan and Saudi Arabia have expressed concern over the rising conflict in West Asia, saying the recent clashes between the US and Iran threaten regional peace and stability. The concern was raised during a telephone conversation between Pakistan Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar and his Saudi counterpart Prince Faisal bin Farhan on Saturday. The call came a day after Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif held separate talks with the leaders of Iran and Qatar as part of efforts to revive the stalled US-Iran negotiations. Officials said diplomatic efforts had gathered pace to repair the broken peace process after the recent escalation and attacks on rival targets.

The US and Iran signed the Islamabad MoU on June 18, aimed at restoring peace in West Asia. This was followed by technical-level talks in Switzerland on June 21, with Pakistan and Qatar acting as mediators. According to Pakistan's Foreign Office, the two foreign ministers "exchanged views on the recent developments in the region and expressed deep concern over the escalations despite the signing of the Islamabad MoU between the United States and Iran in June 2026."

Iran closes Strait of Hormuz after firing warning shot at vessel

World.(Agency)

Iran on Sunday said it had closed the Strait of Hormuz after a vessel travelled on an "unapproved route" and was struck, warning that any retaliation over the incident would draw a "severe response."

The Navy of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) said in a statement that "a vessel that had jeopardized maritime security by switching off its systems was struck and brought to a halt," but did not identify the ship or provide further details.

The IRGC said several ships attempted to pass through the strategic waterway using an "unauthorised route" and ignored repeated warnings to alter their course. The force announced that the Strait of Hormuz would remain closed "until further notice" and until "the end of US interference in this region."

The IRGC also warned that any acts of aggression against Iran "will be met with a severe response, and new enemy bases in the region will be targeted." The announcement came after senior US officials told reporters on Friday that Washington was demanding Iran publicly declare it would stop attacks on ships in the Strait of Hormuz and guarantee that all shipping lanes would remain open without tolls.

On Friday, US President Donald Trump said the United States and Iran had agreed to continue talks despite an escalation in hostilities during the week. He also declared that the ceasefire was over. A senior Iranian source told Reuters that Iran, the United States, Qatar and Pakistan had agreed to negotiate through talks that mediators were attempting to arrange for Saturday while Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi.

Gulf on edge as Tehran retaliates after US hits 140 Iranian targets in fresh strikes

Missile and drone threats spread across the Gulf after fresh US strikes on Iran, prompting Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar and the UAE to activate emergency security measures. Iran claimed attacks on multiple US bases in the Gulf and warned that "the era of one-sided deals is over" as tensions escalated.

world.(Agency)

The Middle East is on the boil again after the United States launched a fresh wave of strikes on 140 Iranian targets on Sunday, following Tehran's announcement that it was closing the

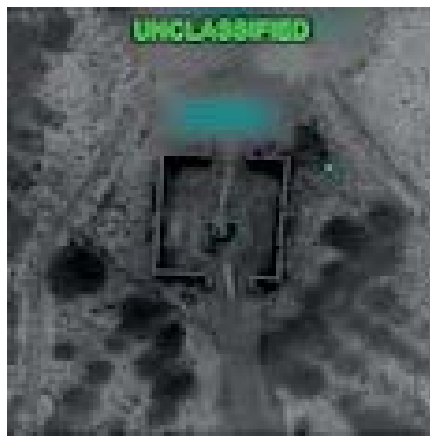
Strait of Hormuz "until further notice". Hours later, Iran retaliated with missile attacks on Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates, sharply escalating regional tensions.

The strikes prompted Gulf nations to activate air defence systems, tighten airspace security and issue emergency warnings, amid fears that the escalating US-Iran conflict could spread across the Gulf again and threaten one of the world's busiest maritime trade routes.

UAE ACTIVATES AIR DEFENCES

The United Arab Emirates announced that its air defence systems had intercepted a missile threat as Gulf states strengthened defensive measures.

The UAE did not immediately disclose



details about the intercepted missiles or identify their origin, but the announcement reflected growing concerns that the conflict could spread across the wider Gulf region.

KUWAIT INTERCEPTS HOSTILE AERIAL TARGETS

Kuwait's armed forces said they were actively intercepting hostile aerial targets within Kuwaiti airspace, although authorities did not immediately disclose how many objects had entered the country's skies or identify their origin.

Separately, Iran claimed it launched waves of drone attacks targeting US military facilities in Kuwait, saying explosive drones struck a Patriot air defence system, an ammunition depot and a radar installation. The claims have not been independently verified. The developments marked one of the most serious security incidents involving Kuwaiti airspace recently.

US businessman who sold land to Jared Kushner for resort suspected of faking deeds

World.(Agency)

A Miami-based businessman wanted in Albania on accusations of laundering drug money is also suspected of forging ownership deeds for the land where Jared Kushner plans to build a multi-billion-dollar resort, according to case files from Albania's Special Structure Against Corruption and Organised Crime (SPAK) reviewed by the news agency Reuters.

The businessman, Artur Shehu, denies all accusations through his lawyer, Kujtim Cakrani, who confirmed that Albanian prosecutors have issued an arrest warrant seeking Shehu for laundering money linked to drug gangs.

According to the 200-page case files dated June 12, 2026, SPAK accuses Shehu and his associates of trafficking South American cocaine into European ports and laundering the proceeds by building a real estate empire using forged land-ownership documents.

"Reasonable suspicions are formed, based on evidence, that the above-mentioned assets were acquired through the use of forged documents," prosecutors wrote in the files.

"Nothing that has been alleged regarding Mr. Artur Shehu's character is true. He is neither a drug trafficker nor a forger of property documents," he said.

He added that Shehu was aware of the allegations but maintained "that the truth is entirely different from what the prosecution claims." A spokesperson for the US Justice Department declined to comment on whether US authorities had received any request from Albania to locate or detain Shehu in Miami.

LAND SALE FOR KUSHNER-BACKED RESORT

In April, Shehu sold a stretch of pristine Albanian coastline earmarked for the planned resort to Albania Land Development, a company owned by the Kushner-backed project's developers, Sazan Real Estate Development, along with other investors.

The SPAK files do not accuse Kushner, Sazan Real Estate Development, Albania Land Development or any other investors of wrongdoing.

Iran made poor choice, now they pay: Pete Hegseth after US strikes on Tehran

World.(Agency)

US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth on Saturday said Iran was "paying the price" for its actions after the United States launched another round of military strikes against the country.

Hegseth made the remarks in a post on X while resharing a statement issued by the US Central Command (CENTCOM), which confirmed the latest military operation. "Iran made a poor choice. Now they pay," he wrote.

According to CENTCOM, the latest operation marked the third wave of US strikes against Iran this week. The military said the action was launched after Iran allegedly targeted a commercial vessel

transiting the Strait of Hormuz.

CENTCOM said the strikes began at 7.15 pm ET after forces of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) "blatantly attacked" the Cyprus-flagged container ship M/V



GFS Galaxy. The fresh US strikes came shortly after Iran's IRGC Navy claimed it had intercepted and attacked a container ship attempting to exit the Strait of Hormuz through what it described as an unauthorised route after the

vessel allegedly ignored repeated warnings. The latest exchange marked a further escalation in tensions between Washington and Tehran, with both sides accusing each other of provoking the confrontation in one of the world's most strategically important maritime corridors. The US military said Iran had been given "yet another opportunity" to comply with the Memorandum of Understanding following previous attacks on commercial shipping but had once again failed to do so.

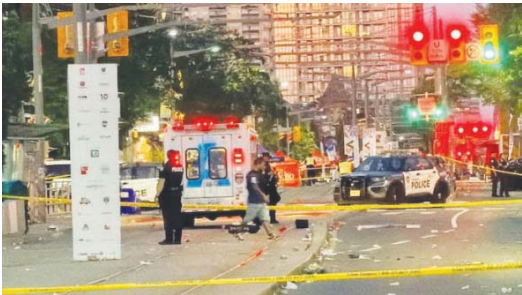
"In response, the United States is imposing a heavy cost by continuing to degrade Iran's ability to attack civilian mariners and commercial ships freely transiting the strait," Centcom said.

Ex-UK MP Found Dead At Home With 'Serious Injuries', Murder Suspect Arrested

World.(Agency)

At least two people were killed and six others injured after a shooting at a street festival in Toronto, Canada, prompting a major police response as authorities searched for the suspect, according to BBC.

Toronto Police said they received reports of an active shooter on St Clair Avenue at around 8:12 pm local time. Officers arriving at the scene found six people suffering from gunshot wounds, while two victims



remain at large. Investigators have secured the area and urged

residents to avoid the neighbourhood as a heavy police presence continues and the investigation remains underway.

The shooting occurred during the annual Salsa on St Clair Latin Festival, a popular community event celebrating Latin culture with live music, dance performances and local food. The 22nd edition of the festival was being held on St Clair Avenue, a busy midtown Toronto street lined with shops and restaurants.

US launches fresh strikes on Iran after IRGC attacks ship, shuts Strait of Hormuz

World.(Agency)

The United States launched a new round of strikes against Iran on Saturday after Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) forces attacked the M/V GFS Galaxy, a Cyprus-flagged container ship transiting the Strait of Hormuz, the US military said.

The US Central Command (CENTCOM) said its forces began launching the strikes at 5:45 am, marking the third round of US strikes against Iran this week.

In a statement posted on X, CENTCOM said the attack on the commercial vessel left a civilian crew member missing. "A civilian crew member is missing, and the vessel is unable to

continue the journey due to an onboard fire and significant engine room damage," the statement said. CENTCOM said Iran had been given "yet another opportunity" to demonstrate adherence to the Memorandum of Understanding after being held accountable for earlier attacks on commercial vessels but "has again failed."

The US military said it launched the strikes in response to impose "a heavy cost" on Iran by continuing to degrade its ability to attack civilian mariners and commercial ships transiting the Strait of Hormuz.

CENTCOM said the strikes were carried out at the direction of the Commander



in Chief, President Donald Trump. US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth, commenting on the strikes in a post on X, said: "Iran made a poor choice. Now they pay."

Meanwhile, Iran's Press TV reported explosions in Bushehr and Asaluyeh in southern Iran. Reports of explosions were also heard near Iran's Chabahar,

according to state television.

Iran's Mehr News Agency reported explosions on Qeshm Island, while Iran's state broadcaster IRIB said three explosions were heard in Bandar Abbas and two explosions in Sirik. The IRNA news agency also reported that more than 10 explosions were heard in the port city of Jask in the southern Hormozgan province.

IRAN CLOSES STRAIT OF HORMUZ

Strikes come hours after Iran said it considers the Strait of Hormuz closed once again after a vessel using an 'unauthorised route' was struck by a warning shot in the critical waterway, further jeopardizing the already tenuous ceasefire agreement.