

‘Marvel superhero’ vs strategic shield: How Australian media framed Modi’s defiance of Chinese dominance

New Delhi. (Agency)

The Australian media has lauded Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s recent visit to Australia and several leading newspapers have termed it a big boost for bilateral ties, economy and diplomacy.The Australian, one of the country’s most widely read newspapers, said the visit was “a good sign for the economy and diplomacy”. The timing of the visit, which occurred amid China’s missile activity in the South Pacific, pointed out the growing strategic importance of deepening ties with India, it said. India’s long experience in dealing with Chinese aggression offers valuable lessons for Australia and its Pacific partners, the paper said. The enthusiasm was visible on the ground, too. Melbourne’s Herald Sun captured the vibrant public reception with the headline “Modi Mania: Indian PM’s a Marvel Superhero,” reporting how 35,000 people gave PM Modi a rousing welcome at Marvel Stadium.The visit

produced important results beyond optics. “It is a relationship that has matured and India and Australia now think of each other as long-term strategic partners rather than just important bilateral friends,” a detailed report



in The Diplomat noted on Prime Minister Modi’s three-day trip from July 8 to 10. The two countries signed a raft of pacts covering defence, economic security, energy, education, science, technology and culture. Key highlights include a new Joint Declaration

on Defence and Security Cooperation, an India-Australia Maritime Security Collaboration Roadmap and increased military interoperability through more joint exercises and logistics support.

In a landmark development, both sides finalised arrangements for the export of Australian uranium to India for peaceful purposes, a significant step that underscores the growing trust between the two nations. Prime Minister Modi noted that the deal would boost India’s clean energy goals. Progress was also made on education and people-to-people ties, with more Australian universities receiving approvals to set up campuses in India. The Australian Financial Review reported that the number has

now reached eight. The Age newspaper highlighted the personal chemistry between PM Modi and Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, noting that both leaders are pushing forward with a Free Trade Agreement.

Central Vista should be called Kartavya Bhawan area: Union Minister Manohar Lal

Manohar Lal said that like Vice-Regal Lodge and Council House built by the British were renamed Rashtrapati Bhawan and Parliament after Independence, the entire area should now be called Kartavya Bhawan area.

New Delhi. (Agency)

UNION MINISTER for Housing and Urban Affairs Manohar Lal on Sunday said the Central Vista area, which covers the stretch from Rashtrapati Bhawan to India Gate, should now be called the “Kartavya Bhawan area”, named after the new secretariat buildings.

Speaking at the Central Public Works Department’s 172nd foundation day event, the Minister said that like Vice-Regal Lodge and Council House built by the British were renamed Rashtrapati Bhawan and Parliament after Independence, the entire area should now be called Kartavya Bhawan area.

The government is in the process of redevelopment of the area, with 10 new secretariat buildings proposed. So far, the government has completed three of the buildings and named them Kartavya Bhawan 1, 2 and 3, while also renaming Rajpath as Kartavya Path.

“So far we have been calling it Central Vista, from now on please call it Kartavya Bhawan area,” the Minister said, adding that this should be reflected in documents as well.

He also flagged the importance of transparency within the organisation, speaking of the new transfer policy rolled out this year.



CJI Surya Kant welcomes two professionals from Bhutan as Supreme Court law clerks

New Delhi. (Agency)

Two young professionals from Bhutan joined the Supreme Court as law clerks on Monday, with Chief Justice of India Surya Kant welcoming them as part of an initiative to strengthen judicial cooperation between the two countries.

“In terms of our commitment and judicial cooperation with Bhutan, we have entered into an MoU. Two young persons have joined today. Both of them are welcome as law clerks,” the CJI said. The Supreme Court has entered into a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the apex court of Bhutan to facilitate the exchange of young legal professionals. The CJI had said that under the MoU, two law clerks from Bhutan will be engaged by the Supreme Court here for a period of three months.The clerks will receive the same honorarium as Indian law clerks, and their travel.

BRICS ministers adopt resolution on sustainable infra in transport sector

NEW DELHI. (Agency)

Marking a significant milestone in deepening transport cooperation among member countries, the 3rd BRICS transport ministers’ meeting concluded in Nagpur under India’s BRICS chairship 2026. A resolution on infrastructure circularity and other areas was adopted during the meeting. The ministerial declaration was unanimously adopted, outlining shared ideas and a framework for collaboration on circularity in infrastructure, Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF), Transport Decarbonisation, Urban Mobility Hub, Logistics Supply Chain Cooperation and BRICS Railway Research Network, according to an official release. The ministerial meeting, held on Saturday, was preceded by the 3rd BRICS Transport Working Group (TWG) Senior Officials’ Meeting on July 9-10, during which senior officials finalised the agenda outcomes. The communique stated that with a consensus and a participative approach, the transport ministers and heads of delegation were able to conclude the declaration, which captured collective commitment .

Home Minister Harsh Sanghavi’s Drive Mocked in Karjan!

Crores in Hafta Raj Thrives Amid Mysterious Silence of SP and PI; Sensational Allegations of Vadodara LCB Leaking Locations Before SMC Raids!

MAHANAGAR METRO

VADODARA/KARJAN: While the Gujarat government makes grand claims of strict prohibition and Minister of State for Home, Harsh Sanghavi, rolls out high-profile campaigns for a drug-free Gujarat, the ground reality emerging from the Karjan taluka of Vadodara district has shattered the peace of top officials in Gandhinagar. Law and order are being openly mocked in Karjan. The entire taluka has practically become a safe haven for bootleggers and gamblers. Flouting all government regulations, a multi-crore illegal network is flourishing right under the nose of the Karjan Police Station. Most shockingly, the reins of this dark empire are reportedly held by none other than a favored police middleman, Hanubha Kamadiya alias Hanu Bootlegger, a notorious criminal who has previously been jailed for large-scale liquor smuggling and was suspended from official ties. Today, this seasoned criminal allegedly pulls the strings of the entire Karjan taluka police force.According to highly sensational information received from internal sources, Bhupat Bhai Rabari of the Dabhoi beat and Khoda Bhai Rabari, who are notorious within the department as the LCB PI’s top cash



cows and confidants, are the primary masterminds of this entire operation. These two middlemen run an organized syndicate, collecting lakhs of rupees in monthly protection money from liquor mafias, gambling dens, and illegal operators across Karjan taluka and the wider Vadodara district. This money is then allegedly funneled directly into the PI’s coffers. Due to this deep-rooted collusion between corrupt police personnel and private agents, bootleggers have become completely fearless, and the local police lack the spine to raid these illegal establishments. Fueled by this multi-crore hafta system, more

than 15 illegal distilleries are operating without fear in Karamdi village, located just 2 kilometers from the Karjan Police Station, producing toxic, chemically tainted country liquor. Other exposed locations include Kulari Village, where near the new colony’s water tank, a bootlegger named Nagin is openly running a Worli Matka gambling den. In the new settlement area of Sapa Village, Worli Matka betting operations are running smoothly without interruptions. Along the Seamdi to Ranpur Road, Parth Shah, a local village sarpanch and president of the BJP Yuva Morcha, is allegedly running a

massive foreign liquor syndicate across Karjan taluka, with concrete evidence suggesting massive stashes of illicit liquor are hidden along the route. Furthermore, near the tower in Kandari Village, a bootlegger named Amit Vasava is boldly retailing English liquor, while in the Bariyavas area, a man named Paresh Chunnawada is executing home deliveries and open sales of English wine without any fear of the law.The biggest explosive revelation in this case involves the betrayal of operational secrecy. Whenever alert citizens register online complaints with the State Monitoring Cell in Gandhinagar, the local machinery swings into counter-action. Mahanagar Metro demands answers from the government and administration regarding why Vadodara District Police Chief Sushil Agrawal and Karjan PI Patel are turning a blind eye to this multi-crore extortion racket and the blatant corruption of their trusted henchmen, Bhupat Rabari and Khoda Rabari. It remains a mystery what massive financial collusion lies behind this silence. Additionally, raising questions about whether extortion money is more important than the lives of ordinary citizens.

Vijay Government Secures Supreme Court Stay Against Cow Slaughter Ban Order

New Delhi. (Agency)

Underscoring that it required "correction", the Supreme Court on Monday stayed the Madras High Court order directing the Tamil Nadu government to ensure that no cow or calf is slaughtered in the state on the eve of Bakrid or on any other day. The Vijay-led Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam, or TVK, government had filed a special leave petition in the Supreme Court against the May 27 direction of the Madras High Court to impose a ban on cow slaughter across the state by implementing an August 1976 government order.Challenging the high court's order, the state contended that when the legislation permits the slaughter of a particular category of cows in designated places, a judicial direction contradicting

the statutory provision cannot be sustained.

The Madras High Court order, passed by a Division Bench of Justices GR Swaminathan and V Lakshminarayanan, was based on the 1976 order which prohibited cow slaughter in the interest of milk production and improvement of rural economy.Justice Swaminathan, who authored the decision, had highlighted that Article 48 of the Constitution required the state to take steps for prohibiting the slaughter of cows, calves and other milch as well as draught cattle. Even during the debates in the Constituent Assembly, it had been underlined that cow was a revered animal

and that it had been associated with our civilisation from the time of Lord Krishna,



the judge stressed. Traditionally, Muslims perform animal sacrifice during Bakrid at private premises

and religious congregations in accordance with local regulations, while several Hindu temples in Tamil Nadu also conduct ritual animal sacrifices during annual festivals. Community leaders argue that confining such sacrifices only to licensed slaughterhouses is impractical, as many facilities lack the capacity to handle festival demand.

The Tamil Nadu government has maintained that existing laws, including the Tamil Nadu Animal Preservation Act and other regulations governing slaughterhouses, already regulate where and under what conditions animals may be slaughtered but do not impose a total prohibition.

News box

Warmer week ahead for Gurgaon as IMD predicts only isolated showers

Gurgaon.(Agency)

After a brief spell of monsoon last week, the city is likely to witness a warmer and more humid week, with the India Meteorological Department (IMD) forecasting only isolated spells of rain or thundershowers and no major rainfall activity in the district over the next several days.

IMD said Haryana is likely to witness isolated rainfall activity from July 13, with no weather warnings in place for the state after Sunday. While heavy rain has been forecast at isolated places in northern parts of Haryana on Sunday, no alerts have been issued for the following six days, indicating subdued monsoon activity.

In Gurgaon, temperatures are expected to remain close to seasonal normal despite the monsoon. On Sunday, the city's automatic weather station recorded a maximum temperature of 35.4 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 25.8 degrees Celsius, with no rainfall recorded during the 24 hours ending at 5.30pm. The forecast suggests partly cloudy skies with the possibility of one or two spells of rain or thundershowers, but prolonged or widespread rainfall is unlikely. Maximum temperatures are expected to stay around 35 to 37 degrees Celsius, while minimum temperatures are likely to remain between 26 degrees Celsius and 29 degrees Celsius, keeping humidity levels high and discomfort elevated. Across Haryana, only very light rain was reported at isolated places during the past 24 hours. The state's average maximum temperature rose by 1.5 degrees Celsius compared with the previous day, though it remained within the normal range for this time of year.

Four held for cheating job seekers with fake airline recruitment offers

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

Four people were arrested for allegedly cheating job seekers by offering fake jobs in a private airline and collecting registration and processing fees from them, police said on Sunday. The accused are Sudesh Singh (36) and his brother Brijesh Singh (38), both from Mainpuri, Ashok Singh (24) of Trilokpuri in Delhi, and Sandeep Kumar Tiwari of Rewa, Madhya Pradesh. Police said Tiwari had worked with SpiceJet before leaving the airline a year ago. According to police, Sudesh, Brijesh and Tiwari operated a fake recruitment call centre from a rented office in Sector 2, Noida, while living in New Ashok Nagar in Delhi. Ashok allegedly arranged documents used to open mule bank accounts into which victims transferred money. Manisha Singh, additional deputy commissioner of police, said the gang came under the scanner after police detected suspicious transactions linked to bank accounts under the jurisdiction of Phase 2 police station through the national cyber crime reporting portal. ers of jobs as ground staff in SpiceJet.

Gang filmed attack to prove to Nandal, video now key evidence

Gurgaon.(Agency)

A mobile phone recovered from the scene of Thursday night's encounter in Sushant Lok 1 has given police what investigators call one of the strongest pieces of evidence in the failed contract killing case — a video allegedly shot by the attackers as they opened fire on a businessman's house.

The footage, retrieved with help from ballistic and forensic experts, shows the shooters pointing their weapons at the house and firing indiscriminately, while one of the five accused records the attack on his phone. Investigators said the video was meant to



be sent to fugitive gangster Deepak Nandal, who allegedly orchestrated the operation from abroad — proof that the assignment had been executed, after which the shooters were to receive their final payment.

Law Openly Mocked by Drunk-on-Power Elements in Vadodara
Horrific Termites of Corruption Plague District Panchayat to Baroda Dairy; Entire Administrative Machinery Stands Impotent Before the Blind Terror of Mining Mafia!

Crores in Royalty Theft Amidst Silence of Mines and Minerals Department Commissioner Dhaval Patel and Flying Squad's Chavda Saheb

Mahanagar Metro Unleashes a Mega Explosion Against the Misrule in the Department Directly Under Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel!

Mahanagar Metro Desk

KARJAN/VADODARA: While the Gujarat government sits on the throne of Gandhinagar making sky-high claims of corruption-free governance and zero tolerance, the ground reality is that the entire government machinery has knelt before the blind hunger of white-collared politicians of the ruling party in Vadodara district. From the seat of the village sarpanch to the president of the district panchayat, a swamp of corruption has developed where a black market worth crores of rupees is flourishing openly. The discovery of solid documents exposing illegal sand mining, extortion, and crores in royalty theft against Vasant Rabari, husband of Vadodara District Panchayat President Jyotsnaben Vasantbhai Rabari, has sent shockwaves through state politics.

According to highly sensational information received from internal sources, massive mountains of illegal sand have been erected on the main route from Nakeshwar to Palej without any official approval or royalty passes. Day and night, the natural wealth of the sacred Narmada river is being brutally plundered using JCBs and dumpers. The biggest and most shameful question remains that when this mega-scam is visibly out in the open on the main road, why are Karjan SDM Shivam Baria, the Vadodara Collector, the District Police Chief, and the local Tehsildar sitting with their eyes closed? It remains to be exposed which offices are catching this multi-crore weekly hafta net, leaving the entire system paralyzed and helpless before these mafias.

The greed of these power-hungry political heavyweights has deteriorated to the point where they are not even refraining from swallowing the hard-earned money of poor milk producers. A terrifying truth has emerged in the official audit report of the dairy that has shaken the foundation of the cooperative sector. The official government papers prove that a major financial scam worth nearly 50 to 60 lakh rupees has occurred at the Subdol village chilling center of Baroda Dairy. Despite this, the dairy management has failed to show the



courage to register a first information report against these influential leaders who blew the poor farmers' money for personal gain. Observers wonder what kind of pressure the Vadodara BJP district president or local MLAs are exerting to cover up this grave sin. The most shameful role in this entire syndicate is emerging from the Mines and Minerals Department. According to sources, no action is being taken against this blatant illegal excavation by the head of the flying squad Chavda Saheb and the Mines and Minerals Department Commissioner Dhaval Patel. Departmental insiders claim that the top officials are solely focused on collecting the lakhs in weekly payoffs arriving each month, allowing the mining mafia to fearlessly rob the government treasury.

Mahanagar Metro directly demands answers from Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel regarding why crores in royalty theft continue right under his nose when the Mines and Minerals Department comes directly under his purview. Even after written complaints with concrete evidence reached the Chief Minister Office, no strict action has been taken, raising ques-

tions about whether these corrupt elements are being shielded under a clean political image. The public also demands to know when the Anti-Corruption Bureau will conduct raids against Dhaval Patel and Chavda Saheb to investigate their unrecorded properties, and when the leaders who swallowed 60 lakh rupees of pastoralists at the Baroda Dairy chilling center will be sent behind bars.

The administration must answer when the government, which uses the stick of the law on ordinary citizens for minor rules, will drive its bulldozer over the illegal empire of mafias like District Panchayat President's husband Vasant Rabari, who is plundering the Narmada river using political clout. The entire administrative and police machinery of Vadodara is either completely suppressed under political pressure or is an equal shareholder in this multi-billion game. Mahanagar Metro directly warns the government that if a strict legal hammer is not dropped on these corrupt leaders and negligent officers in the coming days, the angry public of Vadodara will be forced to surround the fortress of Gandhinagar.

Doors shut on BLOs, info wall for voters: Why SIR is limping in Gurgaon

Gurgaon.(Agency)

A combination of inaccessible gated communities, demanding work schedules, complicated documentation requirements and technological limitations has slowed the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in one of Haryana's most urbanised districts.

Hoping to complete the SIR, every morning at 9, Shweta begins knocking on doors in DLF-3. Most doors, however, never open. At several homes, domestic helps answer instead of residents. Those who do respond often ask her to return after office hours. "What am I supposed to do the whole day? It reduces our efficiency greatly," she said, describing a routine that has become emblematic of the challenges facing booth level officers (BLOs) in Gurgaon's upscale residential societies.

With the deadline for the first phase of the SIR exercise looming, the Gurgaon district administration has identified nearly 100 polling booths where enumeration remains critically low.

Ground visits by TOI to several societies reveal that the poor response is not merely the result of voter apathy. The difficulties are particularly acute in Gurgaon because a large proportion of voters remain "unmapped". While mapped voters can complete the process by simply entering their name and EPIC number, only around 35% of voters in Gurgaon district are mapped. In Badshapur assembly constituency, which covers much of the Millennium City, the mapped voter percentage is only 21%, making verification significantly more time-consuming.

Besides, repeated visits often test residents' patience, says Praveen Malik, a BLO assigned to Sector 23, adding, "People get irritated because we visit again and again. Most ask us to come either on weekends or in the evening. But our duty is for the entire day. That reduces our productivity."

For Ajay Kumar, who covers Paras Irene, Tower Grace and Pyramid Homes in Sector 70A, even entering a society is a challenge. "Security clearance itself takes time. Once inside, residents ask us to sit in the

clubhouse and allot us a two-hour window. During that period, only a limited number of residents come. It becomes impossible to cover the entire society," he said.



Even after reaching residents, the work often extends beyond distributing and collecting forms. "Most people are unable to fill the forms themselves and become angry with us. We end up filling every form. Officially, our role is to distribute, collect and upload the forms while guiding people. But in reality, we are filling forms for almost everyone. There is only so much we can do in a day," another BLO said. The job has occasionally turned hostile. In Palam

Vihar, a resident allegedly suspected a BLO of attempting theft and called the police. The BLO was taken to a police station before being released after intervention by the sub-divisional magistrate. In another incident in the DLF area, a resident allegedly let loose a pet dog on a BLO, leaving the official injured and requiring medical treatment for a dog bite.

Residents, however, argue that they are being unfairly blamed for the slow pace of enumeration. SN Garg, a Gurgaon resident since 1988, said the process itself is proving difficult. "People are struggling to locate their details from the 2002 electoral records. Many BLOs are unable to help. The administration should have organised assistance camps to help residents fill the forms, as was done in Delhi and even Panchkula. Holding residents solely responsible for the slow digitisation is not correct. The administration also has a responsibility to facilitate the process," he said. Another resident, Sidharth Sharma of Sector 50, questioned the cumbersome process of tracing old electoral records.

Where faith meets forest: Century-old pilgrimage keeps Kanaisar Hill's living heritage alive

Jhargram. (Agency)

Every monsoon, long before sunrise breaks over the forests of Bengal's Junglemahal, thousands of devotees begin a silent ascent up the rocky slopes of Kanaisar Hill. Carrying terracotta horses, vermilion and flowers, they climb not merely to offer prayers but to renew a centuries-old covenant between humans and nature.

More than 105 years after historian Yogesh Chandra Basu chronicled this extraordinary pilgrimage in Medinipur Itihas (History of Medinipore), Kanaisar Hill remains one of eastern India's most enduring folk shrines—where mythology, indigenous traditions and ecological reverence continue to shape a living cultural landscape.

The festival is far from over. The second and concluding phase of the annual Kanaisar Hill Puja will be held on July 19, the first Sunday of Shravan, when another wave of pilgrims from West Bengal, Jharkhand and Odisha is expected to gather at the hill on the inter-state border. While the rituals are open to the public, local custom traditionally bars women from entering the shrine area on that day. The observance follows the main festival held on July 4, which drew thousands of devotees and transformed the forested hill into a vibrant centre of worship and folk celebration.

Bengal: Tutor in Kolkata arrested for alleged sexual assault on Class XII student

Kolkata. (Agency)

A private tutor in Lake Town area of city has been arrested on charges of allegedly sexually assaulting a Class XII student at his residence, police said today. The incident has sparked fresh concern over the safety of students in the city, with the victim's family alleging that the accused used the pretext of coaching to commit the crime. According to police, the alleged incident took place about four days ago. The tutor had called the student to his home for lessons. The girl alleged in her complaint that the accused offered her a drink during the session. She claimed that she fell unconscious shortly after consuming it. The student further alleged that she was sexually assaulted while she was in that state. When she regained consciousness, she felt unwell and insisted on returning home. She later went back to her residence on her own. The family said the girl narrated the entire episode to them subsequently. Based on a written complaint lodged at Lake Town police station, police registered a case and launched an investigation.

The accused was arrested on Saturday. On Sunday, he was produced before the Bidhannagar court. Police informed the court that an investigation into the matter has begun and sought the accused's custody for further interrogation.

BMC launches 'Catch the Rain' campaign to promote water conservation

Bhubaneswar. (Agency)

The Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) on Sunday launched the 'Catch the Rain' awareness campaign to promote rainwater harvesting and water conservation in the city.

Mayor Sulochana Das inaugurated the campaign in the presence of Deputy Mayor Manjulata Kahar, Standing Committee on Health and Sanitation Chairman Biranchi Narayan Mahasupakar, Additional Commissioner Subhendu Kumar Sahu, local corporator Biplab Behera and other corporators. Part of the nationwide initiative of the National Water Mission under the union Ministry of Jal Shakti, the campaign encourages citizens and institutions to adopt rainwater harvesting, groundwater recharge and sustainable water management practices.

Sanitation workers, volunteers, students and local residents participated in the programme and took a pledge to promote water conservation. The BMC said the initiative will also focus on reviving traditional water bodies, desilting ponds, promoting Miyawaki plantations and removing encroachments from major drains to improve rainwater management and reduce urban flooding.

Speeding Mercedes runs over two outside Chandigarh nightclub, driver flees

Viral video captures alleged hit-and-run; police identify driver, CCTV footage under scrutiny

Mumbai. (Agency)

Two youths were seriously injured after a speeding Mercedes allegedly hit them outside a nightclub in Sector 26 of Chandigarh on Saturday evening. The driver allegedly fled the spot with the vehicle. Police said the driver has since been identified, and legal action is being initiated.

The injured have been identified as Amjad, a resident of Babu Dham Colony in Sector 26, and Alliance Preet, a resident of Sector 44. Both were rushed to the Government Medical College and Hospital (GMCH), Sector 32, where they are undergoing treatment. According to the preliminary investigation, the two had visited a nightclub in Sector 26 on Saturday

evening. As they came out of the club, a speeding Mercedes allegedly rammed into them. The impact threw both onto the road, leaving them seriously injured. The driver did not stop after the collision and allegedly fled with the vehicle.

A video of the incident surfaced on social media on Sunday and has since gone viral. The footage appears to show a Mercedes-Benz being driven at high speed outside the nightclub. The vehicle is then seen reversing before one of the men is struck. It also appears to show the car leaving the spot immediately



after the incident. Police from Sector 26 police station reached the spot after receiving information and shifted the

and further action will be taken based on its findings.

injured to the hospital. Police have also seized CCTV footage from the spot and nearby areas as part of the investigation. The footage is being examined to establish the sequence of events and corroborate other evidence collected during the probe.

Inspector Sarita Roy, who is holding the additional charge of Station House Officer (SHO), Sector 26 police station, said, "The driver of the car has been identified. We are taking action as per law." Police said the investigation is underway

Gujarat Hardlook: In the State Capital, Indroda Fort set to rise from ruins

Gandhinagar city proposes to restore the dilapidated fort of Indroda, about which very little is documented. PARIMAL A DABHI pieces together the lore and stories about it

Gandhinagar. (Agency)

A diya burns in a makeshift niche carved in a brick wall that was once part of a fort. Next to the wall stands a shrine protected by a diamond-mesh cage with a tin sheet used as its roof. The shrine, dedicated to a local deity, has an access gate. Inside, some people are busy with rituals.

Built on the banks of the Sabarmati on the Gandhinagar side, barely anything remains of the Indroda Fort's ramparts, except for a broken bastion, sections of the wall, and several folklores. However, given its location overlooking the ravines, it becomes a popular haunt in the monsoon. "This is a temple built in the memory of Raambai. She is our 'dadi' (ancestor) who lived here hundreds of

years ago. She worked in the stables of the kings who lived in this fort. We believe that she died after a horse kicked her. This shrine has been here for generations, and



we regularly offer prayers. We believe that if anybody comes here with any problem, it gets solved," says Kalubhai Nadia, 48, who has roots in the Indroda village but now lives in Vavol, another village in Gandhinagar, and makes his

living cleaning cars.

"But I don't know about the kings or the history of the place. I have only heard the stories in my family." Nadia recalls that the fort's ramparts were intact not long ago. "Over the years, the fort's condition has deteriorated. Most of the walls collapsed in monsoon rains. I saw the fort deteriorating rapidly after 2006." The fort that takes its name from the village is believed to be over 600 years old. Also, it is the only heritage structure of its kind in the state capital, which was founded in

1965. Now, Gandhinagar Municipal Corporation has proposed its restoration to promote tourism in the state capital. It has floated a tender for the works at Rs 11 crore.

1,856 trees fell, 3 died in 11 days: Why India's richest civic body can't predict the next collapse

Mumbai. (Agency)

Three people died and more than 12 were injured after 1,856 trees collapsed across Mumbai between June 30 and July 10, an average of more than seven every hour during one of the city's most destructive spells of tree falls in recent years.

Among the dead was 11-year-old Vihaan Srivastava, who was killed in Chembur after a peepal tree crashed onto his school bus. The tree's entire base had been concretised, and the BMC's own garden department had twice flagged unscientific excavations around it. The Indian Express had earlier reported.

The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has attributed the recent spate of tree falls largely to unusually strong winds. Municipal Commissioner Ashwini Bhide said wind speeds during the recent spell were nearly three times the normal velocity and announced that experts from IIT Bombay and the University of Mumbai would study how Mumbai's tree cover could coexist with rapid urbanisation and infrastructure expansion.

But an examination of civic records by The Indian Express suggests the recent surge in tree falls cannot be viewed only through the lens of extreme weather.

The records show that the BMC still has no system for conducting periodic scientific assessments of tree health, relying instead on visual inspections and complaints from citizens to identify hazardous trees. They also show that before the city's ambitious road concretisation project began in 2023, the roads department neither consulted the civic tree department nor sought the views of the statutory Tree Authority. The authority itself had not been constituted then because the civic body was functioning under an administrator after the expiry of the elected corporation's term.

West Bengal's new anti-goonda law comes into force, grants preventive detention and externment powers

Kolkata. (Agency)

The West Bengal government's new anti-organised crime legislation came into effect from Monday, empowering police and district authorities with sweeping powers, including preventive detention for up to one year, externment of habitual offenders, and confiscation of properties acquired through organised criminal activities. West Bengal Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari had announced the implementation of the legislation during a visit to Baruaipur on Friday.

The state headquarters in Nabanna said the law has been brought into force to further strengthen the state's law and order machinery and create a deterrent against organised crime and anti-social activities. Officially titled the 'The West Bengal Public Safety and Control of Anti-Social Activities Act, 2026', the legislation significantly expands the powers of the police and civil administration to curb organised criminal networks and habitual offenders.

One of the key provisions of the Act is preventive detention. Under the new law, authorities can detain an individual without trial for up to 12 months if they believe the person poses a threat to public safety or is planning to commit a major anti-social or organised criminal offence.

Legal experts have compared the provision to those available under the Centre's National Security Act (NSA).

The Act also introduces "externment orders", allowing District Magistrates, Police Commissioners and officers of the rank of Deputy Inspector General (DIG) or above to direct habitual offenders to leave a specified area or even an entire district for up to one year if their presence is considered likely to disturb public order.

10 years of Una flogging | 'Will fight till we are alive': Father of two of four Dalit victims

A total of 41 persons were facing criminal trial in the case, including four policemen from the Una police station.

Nagpur. (Agency)

Dalits from across the state called for support for the family of the Una flogging victims, who have filed an appeal in the Gujarat High Court against the verdict of March 16, when a court in Veraval sentenced only five of the 40 accused facing trial and acquitted the remaining. At the state-level 'Justice and Solidarity Convention' held at the Mangal Pandey Auditorium here on the tenth anniversary of the alleged flogging incident on Saturday, Balu Sarvaiya, father of two of the four men who were allegedly flogged by self-styled 'cow vigilantes' in public, proclaimed that they would "fight" till they live. "After ten years of struggle, our case was hushed up at the Veraval sessions court... We are angry, and we want to fight. We have moved the high court; we will take it up to the Supreme Court if we have to. We will fight for as long as we live. If

even the Supreme Court doesn't give us justice, we will then agitate against the government," Sarvaiya said. Exhorting others to support and strengthen the 'movement', Sarvaiya said, "Atrocities happen, but the community does not fight back. We also got several offers [to settle the case], but we did not give in." Congress working president and Vadgam MLA Jignesh Mevani urged the community to pressure the state government to file an appeal against the verdict. "We want the remaining 35 people, including the policemen who were in the procession when the victims were being flogged and dragged, to also be put behind bars," said Mevani. "It is also the responsibility of the state home and the social justice departments to ensure social justice... We must build pressure on the government," he noted. Drawing comparisons with the cases against Patidars charged in the quota agitation

violence cases of 2015, Mevani said the government should also withdraw those registered against Dalits, who protested after the self-immolation of Bhanubhai



Vankar. Vankar had allegedly set himself ablaze outside the Patan collector's office in 2018.

"Then Chief Minister Anandiben Patel had made three promises to the Una victims: land to till, government jobs, and plots for houses. When will you fulfil these promises?" Sarvaiya's sons Ramesh and

Vashram, their cousin Ashok and relative Bechar were allegedly stripped to the waist, tied to a car and flogged by the "vigilantes" on July 11, 2016, in Mota Samadhiyala village of then Una taluka in Gir Somnath district. They were accused of killing a cow. Sarvaiya was also allegedly beaten when he went to save them. The incident sparked outrage across the country. Investigations later showed that a lion had killed the cow the four men were skinning. The cow was owned by one Najabhai Ahir of Bediya village, and he had asked Sarvaiya to pick up the carcass, the CID (Crime) probe showed.

The people convicted and awarded five years of imprisonment are Ramesh Jadav, Rakesh Joshi, Nagjibhai Vaniya, Pramodgiri Gausvami and Balvantgiri Gausvami, all of whom are out as their sentence was counted as concurrent with their jail custody.

Techno bubble blooms again in amnesiac rush

The listing of SpaceX and forthcoming artificial intelligence floats bear similarities to the lead-up to the 2000 dot-com crash, which resulted in losses of over \$5 trillion. Even survivors like Amazon, Microsoft, Cisco, Dell and eBay, which had sufficient cash to ride out the turmoil, suffered massive falls in share price that took years to recover. Today, familiar mistakes around technology, investment approach, business models, valuation and oversight are being repeated. Like the actress Tallulah Bankhead, investors believe that if they have to live life again, they want to make the same mistakes—only sooner. The dot-com boom was built around the internet, its enabling infrastructure and retail commercialisation as applications developed. Investors with little technical knowledge piled in, hoping for huge returns. Today's focus is space and AI. Take SpaceX, an unwieldy conglomeration of Starlink satellite operations, a space launch business, a controversial social media service, a struggling AI venture as well as plans for orbital data centres, a moon base and an inter-planetary colonisation programme. The satellite broadband and X platforms use established technologies, but the launch business's cost advantage relies on reusable rockets that remain a work in progress. Orbiting data centres and interplanetary colonies are technically unproven. The SpaceX prospectus provided unhelpful techno-babble—extending “the light of consciousness to the stars” and harnessing the sun “to power a truth-seeking AI”. During booms, investors aggressively finance prospects with limited understanding and less due diligence, feeding herd-like tactics and poor business models that amplify risks and speculative excess. While some lessons have been learnt, others are recurring. SpaceX's launch revenues are underwritten by the US government. That business and Starlink will face significant challenges from nationally sponsored and subsidised competitors, especially in Europe and Asia, because of increasing reluctance to outsource critical national infrastructure to US interests. Then there are other AI businesses hitting the stock market in the months ahead. One reason OpenAI pivoted away from a retail to an enterprise focus, replicating Anthropic's strategy, was lacklustre conversion of free users to subscriptions. But companies have balked at the cost as suppliers switch from subscription models to payment for tokens, with many users now placing caps on usage. OpenAI and Anthropic's income and growth are also affected by increasing competition from cheaper, open-sourced—primarily Chinese—models, the threat of regulation and export bans because of potential AI security applications. The cost of the models themselves is growing because of scarcity of skills alongside shortages of processors, electricity and water for cooling. These businesses all have uncertain paths to profitability, with SpaceX, whose primary profitable business currently is Starlink, warning in its prospectus: “We have a history of net losses and may not achieve profitability in the future.” Burning cash rapidly, with large unfunded commitments, these businesses are all dependent on uncertain funding access. Yet, valuations have again decoupled from reality. In October 1999, shortly before the dot-com crash, the market cap of 199 internet stocks tracked by Morgan Stanley was \$450 billion, against annual sales of about \$21 billion and collective losses of \$6.2 billion. Now consider that SpaceX raised around \$75 billion in June, based on a market valuation of almost \$1.8 trillion, or over 90 times of current revenue and 220 times earnings. Analysis by Morningstar argued that even using generous assumptions SpaceX was worth less than half that amount. OpenAI and Anthropic are expected to be valued in excess of \$1 trillion. These values would be higher than those implied by their latest funding rounds.

Time to remember and heal

THE GREAT GAME: Punjab's catharsis demands collective grieving — not finger-pointing or name-calling

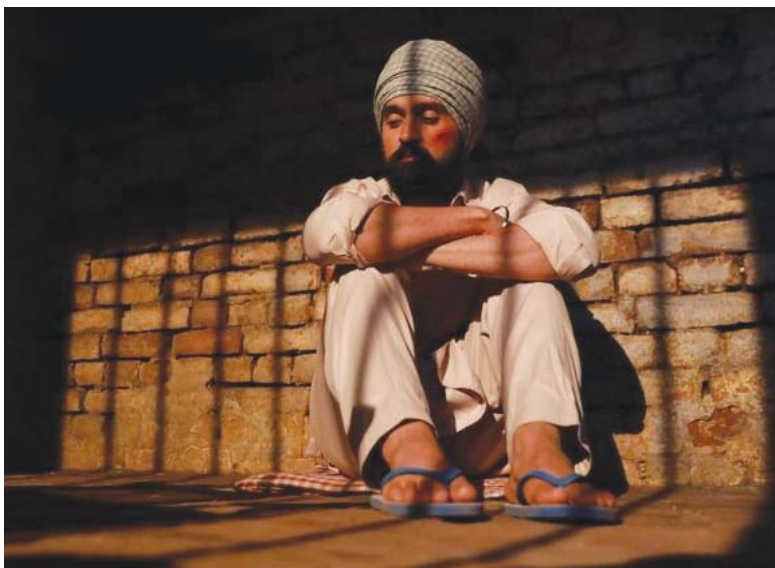
OVER the last few weeks, life has been imitating two pieces of art which have been trying to make sense of life as it happened decades ago. The first is the 1947 Partition movie by Imtiaz Ali, Main Vaapas Aaunga, which goes back 80 years to tell the story of a forced migration of a people, forced to uproot themselves from one home in search of another, forever condemned to be called “refugees” — living in imitation colonies called Model Town pretty much beyond the pale of Delhi University on the outskirts of Delhi, in memory of the Model Town they left behind in Lahore; sending their children to imitation schools like Lyallpur Senior Secondary Girls School in Jalandhar, in memory of a town called Lyallpur back home which doesn't even exist anymore. Lyallpur's new name has been Faisalabad for a while, but who's to tell the folks in Jalandhar that.

That's the problem with memory — you can't unsee what you saw with your eyes or unhear what you've heard. Even if you didn't personally see or hear, a remembrance of that time is enough to bring back nightmares. Friends in Chandigarh won't take their parents to see Main... lest it bring back some of the trauma they once went through.

Not that Punjab is a stranger to trauma. The two motifs of revenge — and reconciliation — as Rajmohan Gandhi brought out so evocatively in a book by that name have resonated across the decades, even centuries, across Punjab. If Delhi was the acme of your ambition, the “sone ki chidiya,” then Punjab lay en route and you had to cross all the rivers of Punjab to reach your goal. Some stopped short, most notably Alexander, in 326 BC — he turned around on his heels in the Punjab, and left; it remains the only state in India that has deserved an article before its name. Meanwhile, the ebb and flow of the ticking clock, just like its rivers, washed up invaders, intruders, democrats, assassins, terrorists, militants, human rights activists — the list is endless, across all sins of omission and commission. India Specific Content These days, as the monsoon covers the country, our rivers are in spate. The Chenab, still called a Punjabi river although it hasn't touched Indian Punjab since 1947, roars along its embankments in the Jammu region before it enters Pakistan Punjab — you cannot stop its flow. Geography simply won't accede to politics, before or after Op Sindoor. Speaking of the Chenab, can Satluj be far behind — not the river, the movie. All of Punjab has watched it, or is watching it — on large screens set up by village committees, in the shadow of a gurdwara or just in an open ground, after dusk falls, the Centre's ban tossed by the wayside. Even

the Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee is organising screenings in the heart of the capital. The irony is complete.

Every political party is watching carefully, with polls barely six months away, each one of them keenly aware that if they don't say the right thing, or use the right phrases, they could be swept away by the tide of emotion that is roiling the state. Every one of my colleagues in The Tribune says that “everyone knows everything, about what happened those years.” But what does that really mean? What is it about Satluj that has touched off a chord in Punjab? Does the Centre's ban really mean



that it's too soon, that it needs another few decades before Punjab can look back at its horrors, just like Main Vaapas Aaunga has done after 80 years, and that it's better not to disturb the darkness, leave alone challenge it. At the end of the day, let's face it, Diljit Dosanjh lives in Amreeka, not back home in the pind.

Here's the fear. That Punjab will be riven once again. People will take sides. Criticism that the movie is “too one-sided” really means that only one side, the side of the human rights activist, Jaswant Singh Khaira, has seen the light of day. Not how terrorists mowed down innocent people, both Hindu and Sikh. Not how Punjab's police force was also cut down by terrorists and how their families suffered. Not how Hindus suffered. Not how god-fearing Hindus and Sikhs fought back. Certainly not how Pakistan fanned the fire of a flame

that was already lit in Punjab. Fact is, Satluj has scraped the surface, revealing a dark, ugly side — it's not yet clear how people will come to terms with it. The movie quotes Khaira as saying that 25,000 innocent people were killed. Writing in The Tribune in 2019, security analyst and relative of former Punjab DGP KPS Gill, Ajai Sahni, said that between 1981 and 1995 — in the year both then chief minister Beant Singh and Khaira were killed — 11,696 civilians and 1,746 security force personnel (1,415 of the Punjab Police) were killed by terrorists, while the police killed 8,090 terrorists. That's 21,532 people. Meanwhile, social media is full of contestations, both sound and fury.

BJP leader Ravneet Singh Bittu's X handle is replete with black-and-white videos of the time, showing clean-shaven dead men — none of the faces are masked. You could legitimately ask the question: Why are these videos being dug up now, and how are they being allowed to get past social media's strict censors? But as Bittu tells my colleague Shivani Bhakoo, the BJP has not banned the movie. Perhaps he hasn't seen the order from the Information & Broadcasting Ministry.

‘Let Satluj flow,’ stated an editorial in this newspaper earlier this week, arguing that the collective trauma of Punjab can only attempt a catharsis if more and more writers, filmmakers, the media — people, all — talk about what happened, and how, and perhaps even why. Except that a collective catharsis demands a collective grieving — not finger-pointing or name-calling, or blaming. Neither the Congress nor the Akali Dal or the BJP (when it was in alliance with the Akali Dal) have done much in the years they were in power, in that direction. ePaper Subscription It has taken 80 years and the passing on of a generation to be able to watch Main Vaapas Aaunga and it's still a tear-jerker. It's been 112 years since Punjab sent half a million men to fight on behalf of the British army in the First World War — tomorrow, Sunday, wait for the story in The Tribune of how 9,909 of them, forgotten and consigned to the dustbin of history, have finally been recognised. It's been about 30 years since the end of terrorism in Punjab — let's take the first steps today not to forget, or deny our dark past, but to remember and heal. It's time.

Urban deluge: NCR's rain woes a governance challenge



very monsoon, Delhi-NCR seems to relearn the same painful lesson. A few hours of rain are enough to turn roads into streams, trap thousands of commuters and reveal how fragile the region's urban infrastructure really is. This week's downpour, which triggered widespread waterlogging, traffic paralysis and even a fatal building collapse, is only the latest reminder that the National Capital Region remains woefully unprepared for heavy rainfall. Weather warnings indicate that such spells are likely to become more frequent as the climate changes. The problem lies not with the rains, but with the way the region has grown. Natural drains, ponds and floodplains have been built over, while stormwater systems have failed to keep pace with the spread of concrete. Gurugram, celebrated as a symbol of modern India, captures this contradiction perfectly: gleaming towers and expressways stand alongside flooded service lanes and paralysed traffic. The recent cave-ins and damage to stretches of

major roads have further exposed the cost of neglecting resilience in planning and maintenance. Residents

natural geography does so at its own peril.

have every reason to feel frustrated. They pay taxes, endure daily commutes and expect basic civic services. Weather

Urban flooding can no longer be dismissed as an unavoidable inconvenience. It is a governance challenge that demands foresight and accountability. The way forward is clear. Stormwater networks must be redesigned to suit a changing climate, wetlands and natural drainage channels restored, and responsibility fixed for lapses in maintenance and construction. Technology can improve forecasting and emergency response, but only sustained political will can prevent the NCR from lurching from one monsoon crisis to the next. The rains have once again delivered their annual verdict: a city that ignores its

Professional ethics: A missing link in education

Technical institutes reveal large gaps in efforts to inculcate professional ethics, which can't be learnt by signing a pledge. They don't prepare students for digital citizenship. Freshly minted doctors, lawyers and managers must understand professional identity no longer ends with their working hours

The recent controversies involving a medical student at Mumbai's KEM Hospital and a corporate employee from Gurugram have triggered animated debates about free speech, humour and professional conduct. The discussion has largely centred on whether institutions should discipline individuals for remarks made outside the classroom or workplace. An equally important question has received far less attention: what do these incidents reveal about our education system?

Every year, universities and professional colleges celebrate the number of graduates they produce and the jobs they secure. The emphasis is on employability, technical competence and industry readiness. Worthy goals, indeed. But they leave little room for another equally important responsibility in education: helping students develop ethical judgement, empathy and an understanding of their professional and civic responsibilities. When graduates fail to recognise why certain remarks diminish human dignity, the problem cannot be reduced to simply a moment of poor judgement. It raises important questions about what they have learned over years of education. Let us consider the controversy surrounding the Mumbai student first. Critics argued that remarks about cadavers made during a stand-up comedy performance showed a lack of respect for people who had donated their bodies to medical science. Cadavers are, indeed, remains of individuals whose final act was one of generosity. And respect for human dignity is one of medical profession's ethical

foundations. The institution's concern is therefore understandable. Society places enormous trust in doctors. Patients expect medical professionals to combine knowledge with compassion and technical skill



with ethical responsibility. Professional education cannot ignore these expectations.

The larger question, however, is also why conversations about professional values often begin only after a controversy erupts. Institutions often respond with disciplinary action once public criticism gathers momentum. Worryingly, our educational system appears far less interested in sustained conversations

about ethics before such incidents occur. This reflects a wider problem. Professional courses are increasingly focused on technical knowledge only. It's the most essential component, for sure. But that focus leaves little space for ethical reasoning in the curriculum. Students may attend a few lectures on professional ethics or sign codes of conduct during orientation. Such exercises rarely shape attitudes or habits. Ethical judgement develops only through continuous engagement with real situations, difficult conversations and thoughtful reflection. That process requires time and institutional commitment. The digital world has made this educational gap even more visible. Every public remark can now be shared and judged by millions within hours. Students enter professions where their public conduct increasingly shapes public trust. Professional identity no longer ends after working hours. Universities know this reality. But very few prepare students for it.

Digital citizenship is an essential life skill. Students need to understand the permanence of online communication, consequences of public speech and responsibilities that accompany professional identity. They also need opportunities to discuss the boundaries between humour, criticism, disagreement and disrespect.

The Gurugram incident also demonstrates the same challenge in a different setting. A comment made during an audience interaction eventually cost an employee his

job. The incident again raised questions about where professional accountability should end and personal freedom begin.

It must be noted that institutions have a responsibility to uphold professional standards. They also have a responsibility to act fairly. There is an important difference between poor judgement, ethical misconduct and criminal behaviour. Responsible institutions must recognise those distinctions rather than responding only to public outrage. Here's where education plays an important role again. Students should understand that freedom of expression carries responsibilities. They should also understand that institutions must respect due process and proportionality when dealing with alleged misconduct. These ideas strengthen both democratic values and professional integrity.

Interestingly, many universities proudly describe themselves as centres for ‘holistic education’. The phrase appears in mission statements, accreditation reports and admission brochures. Holistic education requires institutions to engage seriously with questions of ethics, public responsibility, digital behaviour and human dignity throughout a student's educational journey. This responsibility extends beyond professional colleges. Schools also have a role in developing respectful communication, empathy and responsible citizenship, too. These values cannot be introduced during a professional ethics lecture in the final year of university. The challenge is to strengthen the moral and civic dimensions of Indian education. Technical excellence alone cannot sustain public trust in professions that serve society. The recent controversies should become an opportunity for reflection rather than merely punishment.

Stuck in the wrong job?
Brave enough to have changed careers, three go-getters explain how you can exchange 'earning a living' to `living a life'.

Stuck in the Wrong Career?

Strong performances certainly helped make Raju Hirani's 3 Idiots a record breaking success, but more than the calibre of its actors, what seemed to resonate more with the country's young audience was its message -one's career choice should not be dictated by parents or peers. It should, instead, reflect one's own predilections. Shalini Umachandran's new book You Can Make Your Dreams Work profiles 15 individuals who have managed to fight against all odds and pursue a career option of their choice years after having started out in another profession.

Umachandran says the motivation was simple -people switched careers to follow their own interests or passions. "Not all of us have one overarching passion. We don't always know what we want, but you need to zero in on what you like most," says the author and journalist. Most of the profiles in Umachandran's book are of people who had spent five-six years in a certain profession before they decided to make a shift. So, one would imagine that they had a body of work to fall back on. But Umachandran informs that none of them considered their previous profession as a backup. "When you decide to take the plunge, you ought to have an 'all or nothing' perspective. If you

have a 'plan B', you won't be as committed. They also said it is best not to give oneself a deadline like: 'I'll try it out for a year'," explains the author.

Featured in Umachandran's book, here are three career mavericks who have managed to ditch their old jobs to follow their dream. They tell us how to figure out if you're in the wrong profession, find what's best for you and prepare for metamorphosis.

FROM TOXICOLOGY TO SOCCER

Abhijit Barse was living the great American dream after a PhD in aquatic toxicology. He had joined a German company in the US as a toxicologist, but a year and a half later, he somehow felt empty. Barse returned to India and decided to teach at a college in Nagpur and then quit teaching to join Nagpur-based Slum Soccer in 2010, an organisation that uses football to keep kids in school and off drugs.

EVALUATE YOUR PRIORITIES"

Today, there are a lot of ways to find out what would be your ideal job. There are consultants who help you do that. Figure out what is it that drives you. For someone hoping to make more money, it's a no-brainer. But if there's something missing at work, you surely need to evaluate your priorities. If you're always complaining about work,

you're in the wrong job.

"PRIOR RESEARCH IS ESSENTIAL"

If you're just beginning your career, it's easier to make a shift. As time passes, responsibilities pile up and you can't chuck one job and pick another easily. I didn't do it overnight. I eased myself into it. A change of job can leave you with psychological problems, especially when you go from a '9 to 5' job to one where you don't have assigned timings. When I started out, there was no money, projects or structure, so I had to study about the field. This is essential before you nose-dive into a new profession. You need to know exactly what your job description would be and what the job entails.

FROM WALL STREET TO SOCIAL WORK

Vikram Bhat, a Wall Street analyst in New York, gave up his 10-year career in finance and computer engineering in 2008. Having moved to Bangalore, Bhat decided to teach in a school for children from low-income families.

"AVOID UNREALISTIC EXPECTATIONS"

Financial security is the biggest obstacle when trying out a new profession. At 33, when I decided to figure out what I wanted to do, I was old enough to not have to listen to my parents. My wife is a doctor and it helped that she had a stable income and was willing to support me. The biggest challenge when you enter a new career is that you have unrealistic expectations about how satisfying it will be. We all have a certain vision of ourselves, but we don't build on it much. Try to figure out how practical or impractical that vision is by making it more realistic for yourself.

"INTERNSHIP BRIDGES A GAP"

Before you take up a new job, an internship can help bridge the gap, as it did for me. From the outside, it all looks great, but it has to make sense to you on a daily basis. You have to

have your basic finances sorted and have close ones on board with your decision. Find yourself a mentor and periodically remind yourself why you made the shift. You have to be patient as you will face disappointment in your new career. You need to envision the progress you see for yourself in this new chapter.

FROM LAW TO LEH

Piya Bose ditched the legal profession to launch Girls On The Go, an allwomen's travel company, in 2008. Initially clueless about what she wanted to do, the former corporate lawyer's only mission was, 'I would rather live than spend my life earning a living'.

"EMBRACE THE UNPREDICTABLE"

I was working at a reputed law firm in Mumbai and I took home a fat paycheck. But the work I was doing failed to inspire me. I had no doubt that I was stuck in the wrong job. Stepping into a new profession without a guide was a trial by fire. Startup cash was a challenge. I overcame that with a zero-cash business model. Entrepreneurship is all about unpredictability, a certain risk appetite and having faith in the invisible forces that govern the market. I once went through a prolonged rough patch when things didn't work out as planned. I encountered aggressive clients and started losing faith in myself, but I couldn't give up.

"IT IS AN ADVENTURE"

The only way to figure out your best career choice is through a series of eliminations. Be clear about the reasons you are opting for a career change. Is it only because you will earn more or is it because you want a new lease of life? Treat it as an adventure and you will stay inspired when the going gets tough. If you are able to hold on even when you're at the bottom, the rewards will be very satisfying.

Effects of workplace

Gossip

Gossip in the workplace can function as a weapon to attack people's reputation or a gift in enhancing it, according to researchers.

Lead researcher Tim Hallett, assistant professor in Indiana University Bloomington's Department of Sociology, and team looked at the power dynamics involved in organizational charts as the gossip unfolded.

The study "identifies subtle ways that people who are targets of gossip are negatively evaluated during formal work meetings, including veiling criticism with sarcasm or talking up another colleague for comparison.

"It also discusses how efforts to embark on negative gossip can be effectively -- and again, subtly -- derailed, by changing the subject, targeting someone else for criticism or by pre-emptive comments that are positive."

Hallett said: "When you're sitting in that business meeting, be attentive to when the talk drifts away from the official task at hand to people who aren't present.

"Be aware that what is going on is a form of politics and it's a form of politics that can be a weapon to undermine people who aren't present. But it also can be a gift. If people are talking positively it can be a way to enhance someone's reputation."

The research, co-authored by IU sociologist Donna Eder, a leading authority in gossip research, and Brent Harger, now a sociologist at Albright College, further discovered that gossip in a formal setting is more likely to involve veiled criticism.

Hallett said: "If you're interested in learning how an organization works, you can look at the organizational chart, which can be useful.

"But often people say, 'I still can't tell how things get done, who the

prime movers are.' If you're attentive, you can see who has the informal status, which isn't on the formal charts. It can help you understand how work actually gets done."



How to deal with bad day at work

A bad day at work can really put you down and you may feel like you hate your job. Here's how you can deal with when it is just not your day...

- Talk it out with someone at workplace as it helps in bringing out a n o t h e r perspective to it. You might want to speak to your immediate senior in order to sort out the issue. Someone who is generally positive and looks at the larger picture than on the minute details.
- Rather than focusing on what you hate, try looking at the brighter side by looking at things you like about your work. Don't take an impulsive decision by deciding to put your papers down. As time passes, the

feeling, too, shall subside.

- Listen to your favourite song or read your favourite book or watch an old favourite movie or series in order to divert your attention.

- Meet a friend for a cup of coffee and some conversations. You may or may not talk about your day at work. The best would be to faintly mention about it, get over the topic and go back to talking about something more fun and end the day on a lighter note.



Things you should know before starting your

Career



A senior human resource professional ruminates on what she should have known while starting out in her career.

Having been in the industry for more than two decades, I'm constantly asked this question by young women, "What do you wish you knew when you were starting your career?"

Here are my top 5:
It is okay to be ambitious just back it up with results

We often see talented young women hold themselves back and stay within the confines they have set for themselves. While it is up to you to define your ambition, don't let your gender, lack of a good support system or social or cultural norms define what you can accomplish. Believe in yourself so others can believe in you too. But, always keep in mind that merely being ambitious does not make you more successful than someone else. Work hard at it. Deliver results and maximise your performance; keep learning; leverage the resources



around you; meet new people, etc. And if a job really isn't matching your expectations or giving you opportunities to learn, find something new. This could be in your current company too.

Having a mentor is very important

It is always good if you seek the advice of

people who hold seats you'd like to someday occupy. But, make it a point that you build genuine relationships, and not use it to gain career advice. Also, formalise the mentoring process: rather than taking off-hand advice, try to set expectations and establish a frequency of discussion.

Good organisations offer mentoring opportunities to employees as part of their talent management programme.

Invest in yourself while rising in your career

Women often set unrealistic expectations for themselves both, personal and professional. Be kinder to yourself, invest time to think, take stock, deepen your faith, and equally



importantly, to reflect on your accomplishments, strengths and learnings. These are very important in the journey towards selfrealisation and personal growth. Also, ask for help when you need it from family, friends or coworkers because it is okay to need others and let them help you. Those who truly want to help will actually appreciate the opportunity to contribute to your success.

Effectively balance your work and life

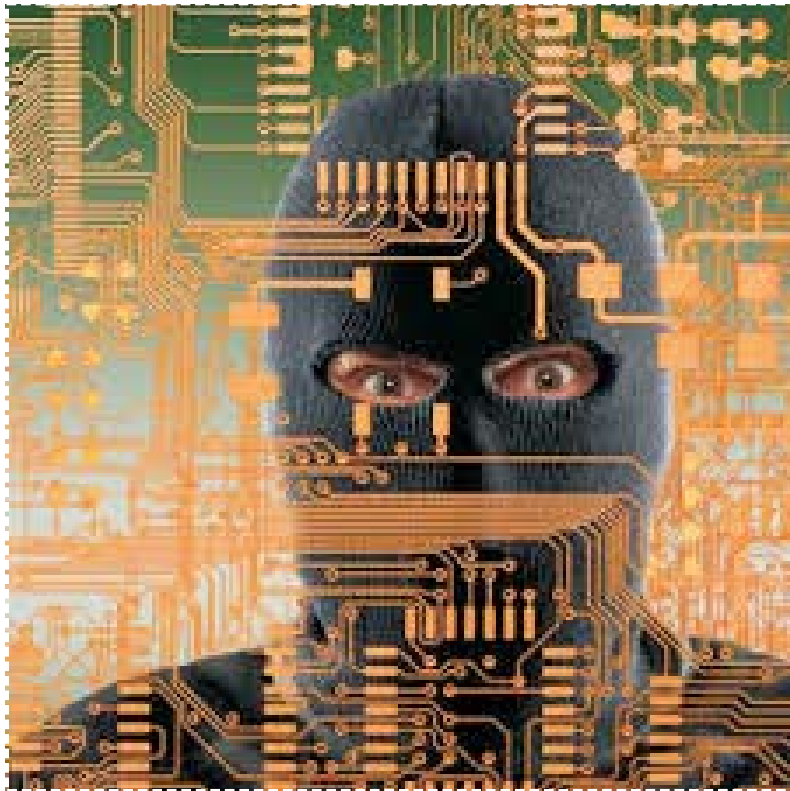
I work with women from different cultures and ethnic groups, but one common theme that I see is the "fine balancing act" that is at the back of each of our minds. Yes, pursuing

ambitious goals sometimes demands a woman to make choices that an average man may not have to worry about. For most female professionals who are wives and mothers, it is impossible to achieve "balance". Instead, constantly hone your ability to "juggle". It is important to constantly and actively prioritise, to not feel guilty about your choices and to recognise "you got this" many fans are rooting for you from family, to friends, to coworkers, to the community, at large.

Stay competitive to be powerful in tech

If you wish to make it big in a high-tech company, learn early on in life that you need to stay competitive throughout your career. For instance, the semiconductor industry that I represent is one of the most advanced and fast-paced industries. To stay ahead of technology advancements, we need to constantly innovate; clearly, this is something we look for in our employees.

Chinese hacker arrested for blackmailing Gaming company



Chinese hacker allegedly involved in blackmailing an online gaming company has been arrested in east China's Wuxi city, a media report said. Police arrested the hacker for attacking the servers of the company and extorting a protection fee. The arrest came after the online games could not run normally, prompting hundreds of complaints from its users. The hacker attacked the company's 20 servers between July 19 and 21 this year, state-run china.org.cn reported. After the attack, the hacker contacted the company and admitted that he had hacked its servers.

He then extorted a protection fee of 1880 yuan (around \$296) per month from the company, threatening it with repeated attacks if it refused to pay up. On August 12, the hacker attacked the company's servers again and this time asked it to pay the protection fee for the next month in advance. The company reported the case to the security authorities on July 22 this year. A number of US firms have complained of hacker attacks originating from China which Beijing consistently refute, saying it is also a victim of cyberattacks.

How to communicate effectively at work

Clear communication is of utmost importance in a professional atmosphere, and the sooner an employee understands this mantra, the better it is for his/her growth on the professional front. How one communicates with one's managers is extremely crucial in today's workplace dynamics. Manuel D'Souza, director-HR, Serco Global Services, suggests that the employees should list out their messages and weigh the queries and challenges beforehand before presenting their thoughts. "Before initiating discussions, if the employees list and ponder over their thoughts, it will be of great help as they will be able to convey the message correctly, without creating confusions and controversies. An effective way of communicating during such instances would be to tailor make your message while reaching out to certain people at the workplace." He adds that it surely goes a long way to have effective communication with your supervisors as they are the ones who monitor your performance and contribute greatly to your growth path. While one can make a list of things before taking them up with his/her supervisors, nonetheless, it is not as easy when it comes to

dealing with your peers. While things like working an extra hour or working on the weekends may not be on your wish list, blatantly refusing to do your bit may not go down too well with your peers. It is understandable that everyone tends to be a bit relaxed when dealing with their peers, but it is important to be polite in one's professional life. Swapnil Kamat, founder, CEO and chief trainer, Work Better Training, suggests, "Communicating at the workplace requires one to be tactful at all times. Being tactful in your communication with colleagues helps you to be honest while ensuring that you do not hurt the other person's feelings. Owing to a formal environment at work, it is important that professionals say the right thing at the right time. Doing so helps preserve professional relationships, demonstrates thoughtfulness and also builds credibility." He cautions that in case one comes across rumours at the workplace, the best way to tackle that situation is to ignore loose talk and refuse to get involved and engage in unnecessary conversations. Lee Iacocca has rightly said that you may have brilliant ideas, but if you can't get them across, your ideas won't go

You might be the most efficient worker at your workplace, received accolades and earned some of the best remarks for your work, but if you are unable to convey your words effectively in the most efficient manner, even the excellent work done by you might pass unnoticed.

anywhere. Having said that, it is an accepted fact in today's workplaces that if one wishes to climb the corporate ladder without being blocked for failing to put across their standing, one needs to learn the art of effective communications. Zubin Zack, director and chief recognition strategist, India Profile, provides clear advice when he says, "Even if a professional has lost a few opportunities in the past due to lack of effective communication, there is absolutely no point in crying over spilt milk. One should rather focus on rebuilding the communication. Clear and effective communication is the key element for building trust and a healthy environment at work and is imperative to success. Define objectives of your communication and be specific and concise. Identify the right time to communicate things that matter. Prioritise and organise your thoughts to avoid speaking too little or going overboard." To conclude, D'Souza gives an advice to the employees looking to expand their horizons by communicating effectively at their workplace, "Executives looking for growth should speak to their supervisors regarding their areas of interest and grasp prospects that they think will benefit their careers."



SC seeks Ram Mandir donation theft report, to hear CBI probe plea next week

The case concerns the theft of cash and valuables donated at the Ram Temple in Ayodhya, with the Supreme Court directing the Special Investigation Team (SIT) to report on its probe's progress.

New Delhi. (Agency)
The Supreme Court on Monday sought a status report from the Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the embezzlement of donations at the Ram Temple in Ayodhya and said it would hear next week a batch of petitions seeking a court-monitored CBI investigation into the matter. A bench led by the Chief Justice of India, Surya Kant, issued notices to the Centre, the Uttar Pradesh government, and the Shri Ram

Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust. The court also directed the SIT, constituted by the UP government, to submit a status report detailing the progress of the investigation along with the composition of the probe team. During the hearing, the Solicitor General opposed the issuance of a notice to the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust. However, the bench proceeded to issue a notice to the trust as well. The Chief Justice observed that since



an SIT had already been constituted and the investigation was underway, the court wanted to examine the progress made so far before considering further reliefs sought by

the petitioners. The Solicitor General informed the court that the status report would be filed in a sealed cover. When the petitioners sought a copy of the report, the Solicitor General opposed the request. The Chief Justice remarked, "You know the law... Eventually they will see the report". The bench also made a light-hearted remark during the proceedings, telling one of the lawyers, "You don't need to shout here because you need to preserve your

voice for outside".
RAM MANDIR DONATION THEFT
The case relates to the misappropriation of cash and valuables donated by devotees at the Ram Temple in Ayodhya. In response to the allegations, the Uttar Pradesh government constituted a Special Investigation Team on June 13 under the chairmanship of Lucknow Divisional Commissioner Vijay Vishwas Pant. The SIT submitted its preliminary findings to the state government on June 23.

The next oil shock won't shake India like in the past. Story of a 90-day shift

New Delhi. (Agency)

The renewed US-Iran military confrontation has once again thrust the Strait of Hormuz into the centre of the global energy crisis, with fresh American strikes, Iranian retaliation, repeated threats to shut the strategic waterway and another attack on a merchant vessel carrying Indian seafarers, underscoring just how fragile one of the world's busiest oil chokepoints has become. For India, however, the latest crisis is unfolding very differently from the one that triggered months of fuel shortages globally. This is a story of how India diversified its crude imports, expanded spot-market purchases and reduced dependence on long-term Gulf contracts in the last 90 days. With the shift, India is better placed than it was in March to deal with global energy disruptions. The process to armour-clad energy security is still on. After disruptions to oil and gas supplies in March exposed the risks of relying heavily on the Gulf, New Delhi has quietly begun reshaping its energy security strategy. State-owned refiners have diversified crude purchases beyond the Middle East, increased spot-market buying, expanded imports from suppliers such as Russia, the United States and West Africa, and sought more flexible supply arrangements that reduce dependence on any single region. The strategy is designed to cushion India against geopolitical shocks exactly like the one now again unfolding in the Gulf. While the Strait of Hormuz remains a critical artery for global energy trade and any prolonged closure would still send oil prices soaring, India's broader supplier base and more flexible procurement model are expected to make it better equipped to withstand supply disruptions.

India's Theatre Command Plan Nears Approval After 20 Years Of Talk

New Delhi. (Agency)

For nearly two decades, India's push to reorganise its armed forces into unified theatre commands has lived mostly in seminar rooms, committee reports, and the occasional pointed speech by a service chief. That is now changing. With General Anil Chauhan's tenure as Chief of Defence Staff behind him and General NS Raja Subramani appointed to the role since the end of May, the file on theatreisation is reportedly close to landing on Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's desk for a decision that could reshape how India fights its next war. The presentation, NDTV has learnt, will take place post Kargil Vijay Diwas later in July. Officials familiar with the process describe the plan as being in its most advanced state yet, with the broad architecture largely settled and the remaining friction confined to a handful of thorny questions, chief among them how resources, personnel and command authority get carved up between the services and the new theatre commanders who would sit above them. **What Changes, In Plain Terms** Today, India's Army, Navy and Air Force each run their own show. They train separately, plan separately, and when a crisis erupts, they coordinate rather than operate as one force. Theatreisation would flip that. Under the proposed model, geographically or functionally defined commands would take charge of army, navy and air assets in a given area, with a single officer directing operations across all three services in that zone. The current blueprint reportedly centres on three formations: a command oriented towards the China border in the north, one focused on Pakistan in the west, and a maritime command tasked with securing India's coastlines and surrounding waters.

CBI clean chit to senior Delhi civic body officials in 2024 coaching deaths case

New Delhi. (Agency)

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has filed a supplementary final report before a Delhi court, seeking closure of the probe into the role of two senior Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) officials in the 2024 Rau's IAS Study Circle coaching centre deaths case. In its closure report, the CBI requested the court to accept the report and pass the necessary orders, stating that it found no material on record to indicate any criminal negligence or lapse on the part of the two senior civic officials. The agency said there



was no evidence to prosecute them for allowing the basement of the building to be used as a library. The CBI informed the court that the closure report was filed in compliance with its direction to examine the possibility of dereliction of duty by senior MCD officials.

While clearing the two senior officers, the agency found dereliction of duty and negligence on the part of three officials from the MCD's Building Department. According to the report, their negligence in discharging official responsibilities contributed to the continued unauthorised commercial use of the basement where the library was operating. The CBI also informed the court that the MCD has already initiated departmental proceedings against the three officials based on the agency's recommendations, and those proceedings are currently underway.

Decide citizenship via fair process: SC relief for 27 declared foreigners in Assam

New Delhi. (Agency)

The Supreme Court on Monday ruled that questions relating to citizenship and foreigner status must be decided through a "fair, lawful and reasonable" process, setting aside Gauhati High Court judgments that had upheld the declaration of 27 individuals as foreigners in Assam. A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta allowed 27 appeals and remanded the cases to the respective Foreigners Tribunals for fresh adjudication. The court said citizenship is a matter of significant constitutional and legal importance, requiring strict



adherence to principles of fairness during adjudication. "Citizenship and foreigner status occupy a field of high constitutional and legal significance. The State has a legitimate and compelling interest in ensuring that persons who are not legally entitled to claim Indian citizenship do not secure such status by misuse of process, by false claims

or by taking advantage of delays," LiveLaw quoted the bench as saying. However, the court stressed that this objective cannot override procedural safeguards. "At the same time, the determination of such status must be made through a process which is fair, lawful and reasonable. The statutory burden under Section 9 of the Foreigners Act, 1946 remains fully applicable," the court observed. The bench clarified that its order was limited to ensuring a fresh and legally valid determination of the cases and that it had not examined the merits of the citizenship claims made by the appellants.

Has CJP's dancing Vijeta Dahiya failed to impress a fasting Sonam Wangchuk?

New Delhi. (Agency)

For artists, an empty stage is an invitation to perform. The sprawling platform setup at New Delhi's Jantar Mantar for the Cockroach Janta Party's (CJP) protest demanding Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation has become more than just a site of sloganeering. It has turned into a stage for music and dance. Among those making the most of it is CJP spokesperson Vijeta Dahiya, whose energetic dance performances have become one of the most talked about aspects of the protest. "I want to be the world's first dancing activist," Dahiya told India Today Digital with a chuckle, insisting that dance is not a distraction from protest but a form of resistance in itself. "I'm using dance as a tool to protest against Brahmanvad," he added. But while Dahiya dances before addressing the gathering, just a few metres away, climate activist and educationist Sonam Wangchuk continues his indefinite hunger strike, which is entering its 15th day. Some join Dahiya on the stage while other participants dance below. However, a fasting Wangchuk seems to be numb to the efforts. Wangchuk isn't alone. History is filled with towering personalities who frowned upon dance. Russian novelist Leo Tolstoy reportedly dismissed it as a frivolous pursuit, while English statesman Oliver Cromwell viewed dancing and theatre with suspicion. Videos from the protest site show the activist from Ladakh maintaining a subtle silence as Dahiya grooves to music on stage, showing little sign of joining in or even acknowledging the performances. But, according to Dahiya, the dance performances at the protest site are not bothering him. Rather, "Wangchuk motivates them," he said.

Thousands of dog-owners had to put pets to death in Punjab; a terrorism horror story

New Delhi. (Agency)

Diljit Dosanjh's film Satluj tells the story of nameless Sikhs killed in Punjab due to alleged police excesses during the 1990s, and of Jaswant Singh Khalsa, who demanded justice for them. In the era of Khalistani terrorism, casualties are broadly accounted for under three categories: civilians, police personnel, and terrorists. Then come further sub-categories, such as how many Hindus died, how many Sikhs, how many Namdharis, how many journalists, politicians, or judges. **advertisement** However, in this fight for justice, an innocent creature is always left out -- the dogs of Punjab. Innumerable

dogs were slaughtered in Punjab following Khalistani decrees. The terrorists' enmity with dogs remains one of the most painful chapters of human cruelty. **That horrific scene** It is a terrifying night in a Punjab village enduring the peak of Khalistani terrorism. Sandwiched between terrorist attacks and police operations, even the silence of the village triggers fear. Every passing second is heavy with the apprehension of some impending doom. In such a tense environment, a village dog begins to bark. Its barking does not seem normal. The villagers are terrified that the noise might draw the police or the



CRPF into the village. On the other hand, there is an equal dread that if the terrorists suspect the dog is signalling their movements, they will brand the villagers as enemies. Thus, in that atmosphere, the simple barking of a dog is perceived as an invitation from Yama, the god of death. The villagers initially try to silence it. Someone scolds it,

someone throws stones, and someone tries to coax it. But the dog, true to its nature, keeps barking. It remains blissfully unaware that in the human world, fear has altered the basic rules of its normal life. The villagers' anxiety mounts. The dog no longer appears to be a loyal companion but a threat. Ultimately, attempts are made to drive it away from the village or get rid of it by any means necessary, so that its voice does not bring catastrophe upon the village. But this is where the story delivers its deepest message. The dog takes no sides. It belongs neither to the police nor to the terrorists. It is merely doing what nature.

Sensex opens 600 points lower, Nifty tops 24,000; IndiGo down 3%

Kolkata. (Agency)

Benchmark indices opened sharply lower on Monday as renewed fighting in the Middle East and Iran's move to shut the Strait of Hormuz pushed crude oil prices higher, raising concerns over inflation and India's import bill.

The BSE Sensex fell 626.40 points, or 0.81%, to 76,942.99, while the NSE Nifty50 declined 184 points, or 0.76%, to 24,022.90 in early trade. The indices had opened lower at 76,963.35 and 24,039.40, respectively, before extending losses. Selling was broad-based across Dalal Street. All 16 sectoral indices traded in the red, while the Nifty 100, Nifty 200 and Nifty 500 slipped around 0.7%. Midcap and smallcap stocks also came under pressure, although they outperformed the benchmark indices. India VIX, the market's fear gauge, jumped over 10%, reflecting a rise in investor nervousness.

CRUDE OIL SURGE HITS SENTIMENT

Investor sentiment weakened after U.S. and Iranian forces exchanged heavy missile and drone attacks over the weekend. Tehran said it had again closed the Strait of Hormuz, a key global oil shipping route, raising fears of supply disruptions. The geopolitical escalation pushed oil prices sharply higher. Brent crude climbed more than 4% to \$79.12 a barrel, while WTI crude rose over 4% to \$74.33. Higher crude prices are a key concern for India, which imports most of its oil needs. A sustained rise in crude can increase the country's import bill, fuel inflation and put pressure on corporate earnings.

TCS expands ABB partnership with multi-year AI network operations deal

New Delhi. (Agency)

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), India's largest IT services player, announced that it has expanded its collaboration with ABB, a global technology leader in electrification and automation, to transform its global network operations. As part of this multi-million, multi-year deal, TCS will scale its role from managing infrastructure and applications to delivering end-to-end global network operations, through an integrated network-as-a-service model. The financial details of the deal were not disclosed.

TCS will help ABB improve user experience, enhance operational efficiency, strengthen security and compliance, scale service delivery, and prepare for next-generation digital operations. At the core of this engagement is ABB's Future Network Model programme, an enterprise-wide initiative to transform its global network into a standardised, centrally managed digital infrastructure. Alec Joannou, Group CIO, ABB, said, "The Future Network Model represents an important milestone in reinforcing the digital foundation of ABB's global operations. As our business evolves, it is critical to have an ecosystem that is resilient, secure, and aligned with long-term transformation goals."

As a strategic programme partner, TCS will design, integrate, and run ABB's global network ecosystem as a secure, modern, and AI-driven service. It will also orchestrate ABB's multi-vendor environment to ensure seamless, standardised operations worldwide. TCS will further enable end-to-end monitoring and orchestrations, delivering high-performance connectivity across ABB's network services.

LTM bets on Anthropic's Claude to drive enterprise AI transformation

New Delhi. (Agency)

LTM, formerly LTIMindtree, has partnered with Anthropic to bring its Claude family of artificial intelligence (AI) models to enterprise clients, joining a growing list of IT services firms forging alliances with leading AI developers as customers move from pilot projects to large-scale deployments. Under the partnership, LTM will integrate Claude, Claude Code, and Claude Cowork into its BlueVerse AI platform to support software engineering, application modernisation and other enterprise workflows, the company said in a BSE filing.

Announcing the collaboration on Monday, LTM said it will also expand its AI1000 initiative to train thousands of Claude-certified architects and engineers, while setting up a dedicated Claude Centre of Excellence (CoE) to develop reusable AI agents, reference architectures and governance frameworks for enterprise deployments.

Crude oil rises over 4% to \$80: Here are the 3 biggest reasons why

New Delhi. (Agency)

For a few days, it looked like oil prices had started to cool off. But that relief did not last long. Crude oil has climbed \$80 a barrel, reminding the world how quickly events in the Middle East can change the direction of energy markets. Every fresh military strike, every threat to shipping routes and every sign that diplomatic talks are falling apart is pushing traders to prepare for possible supply disruptions. For countries like India, which imports more than 85% of its crude oil requirement, higher oil prices are more than just a global headline. They would trigger fuel prices, inflation, the rupee and even

household budgets.

CRUDE OIL REBOUNDS AFTER FRESH MIDDLE EAST TENSIONS

At the time of writing, Brent Crude Oil rose 4.46% on Monday, clocking \$79.40 per barrel mark after the United States and Iran exchanged fresh military strikes over the weekend. The latest escalation comes amid continuing tensions in the Gulf region and concerns over shipping through the Strait of Hormuz, one of the world's busiest oil transit routes. The renewed conflict has revived fears that global oil supplies could be disrupted, prompting traders to push prices



higher. The rise also marks a sharp reversal from last week's decline, when hopes of easing tensions had briefly pulled oil prices lower. "Recent US military strikes on Iran, along with the continuing exchange of attacks across the Gulf region and the Strait of

Hormuz, have heightened concerns over regional stability and further disruptions to global energy supplies, weighing on overall market sentiment," said Ponnudi R, CEO of Enrich Money.

3 KEY REASONS BEHIND THE RISE IN CRUDE OIL PRICES

Fresh military strikes have increased supply concerns. The biggest trigger has been the renewed military action between the US and Iran. The latest exchange of attacks has raised fears that the conflict could spread further across the region. Since the Middle East accounts for a significant share of the world's oil production,

Gold, silver prices fall up to 2% amid stronger dollar, Fed rate hike concerns

On the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), gold futures (August 5) opened at Rs 1,42,633, down Rs 845 or 0.58 per cent from the previous close of Rs 1,43,478.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Gold and silver prices traded lower on Monday, falling by up to 2 per cent as a stronger US dollar and rising expectations of higher US interest rates outweighed safe-haven demand amid escalating tensions between the US and Iran.

On the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), gold futures (August 5) opened at Rs 1,42,633, down Rs 845 or 0.58 per cent from the previous close of Rs 1,43,478. The yellow metal fell as much as 1.33 per cent or Rs 1,921 to an intraday low of Rs 1,41,557 at around 10 am.

At the last count, MCX gold was trading at Rs 1,42,100, down Rs 1,378

or 0.96 per cent. So far in the session, it has touched an intraday high of Rs 1,42,633. Meanwhile, silver futures (September 4) declined as much as 2.41 per cent or Rs 5,387 to an intraday low of Rs 2,17,277.

At the last count, the white metal



was trading at Rs 2,18,665, down Rs 3,999, or 1.80 per cent. It recorded an intraday high of Rs 2,18,844.

Weakness was also seen in the international market. COMEX gold was down 1.27 per cent at \$4,061 per ounce, while COMEX silver fell 0.58 per cent to \$58 per ounce.

According to market experts, gold

prices remained under pressure as a stronger US dollar and renewed geopolitical tensions in the Middle East heightened concerns over persistent inflation and the possibility of higher US interest rates. Fresh US military strikes on

Iran and retaliatory actions by Tehran pushed crude oil prices higher, reviving fears of energy-driven inflation, they said.

Elevated US Treasury yields and a firm dollar also reduced the appeal of non-yielding assets such as gold, they added. Going ahead, investors will closely monitor developments in the US-Iran conflict, upcoming US economic data and commentary from the US Federal Reserve for cues on interest rates and the near-term direction of gold prices, according to market experts. Meanwhile, the Dollar Index rose to 100.90.

Narayana Murthy's family invested Rs 290 crore in these 2 stocks: Keep a watch on them

New Delhi. (Agency)

Former Infosys chairman N R Narayana Murthy's family office, Catamaran Ventures, has recently attracted eyeballs on Dalal Street by investing in two manufacturing companies. According to shareholding filings for June 2026, the family office has invested a total of approximately Rs 290 crore in just two stocks — TD Power Systems and Vardhman Special Steels. The significant point about these two is that both are almost zero-debt, have export-oriented businesses and

have strong collaborations with Japanese companies. TD Power Systems attracts the biggest investment of these two companies, the largest investment of Catamaran Ventures is TD Power Systems shares. The family office has acquired a 1.46% stake in the company which is valued at approximately Rs 262 crore. The company manufactures AC generators and electric motors used in various industrial sectors, including steam, gas, hydro, wind, and diesel power plants. The company exports its products to

over 100 countries and has a long-standing manufacturing partnership with Japan's Toshiba Group.

Vardhman Special Steels

Catamaran Ventures has made its second investment in Vardhman Special Steels. It holds a 1.02% stake in the company, which is currently valued at approximately Rs 28 crore. The company manufactures special alloy steel bars for the automobile industry. Its major customers include automobile majors such as Toyota, Maruti Suzuki, Hyundai, and Hero MotoCorp.

What's behind India's tougher stance in trade talks with US

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)

For months, the assumption was that India would have to move quickly to secure a trade deal with the United States and avoid higher tariffs on its exports. Instead, New Delhi is doing the opposite. Despite the threat of fresh US duties, India has hardened its stance in trade negotiations, signalling that it would rather wait than sign an agreement that does not offer clear advantages. The shift reflects a growing belief within the government that India's bargaining position has

improved while Washington's ability to pressure trading partners has weakened. Even after months of negotiations, India and the US failed to finalise an interim trade pact during US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer's visit to New Delhi last month despite expectations that a limited deal was within reach.

DELAY OVER TWO KEY DEMANDS

Indian negotiators held back after Washington failed to provide assurances on two key demands — a tariff advantage over competitors such as China and a guarantee against fresh US levies after the agreement. Our position is clear. We don't intend to rush into a deal that is not on favourable terms or compromise on red lines like ceding ground on agriculture," an Indian government official familiar with the negotiations



told international news agency Reuters.

A day after Greer's visit, Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal reinforced that stance, saying India would not implement a trade deal unless it secured a clear advantage, signalling that New Delhi was willing to risk higher US tariffs rather than settle for unfavourable terms. One reason for that confidence is the growing uncertainty surrounding the

Trump administration's trade policy.

BEHIND INDIA'S TOUGHER STANCE

The tougher negotiating stance comes after India's position received a major boost from the US Supreme Court's February 2026 ruling striking down President Donald Trump's sweeping 50% tariffs.

In a landmark 6-3 judgment, the court held that the administration had exceeded its executive authority by invoking the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) to impose broad import duties without congressional approval. Before the landmark US Supreme Court ruling, India had been negotiating under the pressure of a 50% penalty regime, which combined a 25% reciprocal tariff with a 25% punitive tariff linked to Russian oil purchases.

Maha: International Bharatanatyam exponent urges artists to give back to society

Pune.(Agency)

Every artist grows with inspiration and support from society and therefore it is their responsibility to give back, said internationally acclaimed Bharatanatyam dancer Kalaimamani Bala Devi Chandrashekar while addressing a programme organised by the educational institution FUEL here today. She praised FUEL's work in enabling underprivileged women from both rural and urban areas to become self-reliant and reaffirmed her commitment to supporting the organisation's mission. The renowned dancer further said she travelled from the United States to perform at the event free-of-cost in support of FUEL's efforts towards women's empowerment.

She also congratulated FUEL founder Dr. Ketan Deshpande for launching the Mauli project and assured her continued support to initiatives that strengthen rural women through education and skill development. Sharing her thoughts on Indian philosophy, Kalaimamani Bala Devi Chandrashekar said Bhakti Yoga is not confined to personal spiritual growth but also inspires people to uplift others.

Maha: Mumbai's Taj Hotel gets bomb threat; nothing suspicious found

Mumbai .(Agency)

The iconic Taj Mahal Palace Hotel in south Mumbai was put on high alert today afternoon following an alleged bomb threat call. Mumbai Police carried out a thorough security check, but no explosive substance was found and the threat was later declared a hoax.

According to police, an unidentified caller called Navi Mumbai Police control room and said that terrorists would target the Taj Hotel. Mumbai Police was informed immediately. They acted quickly. Bomb Detection and Disposal teams, dog squads and senior officers were sent to the hotel. Entry and exit gates were closed. Guests and staff were checked. A deep search was conducted inside the hotel and in the nearby areas. Security was also intensified in Colaba and other nearby business areas.

"Extensive searches were done at the hotel and around it. However, nothing suspicious was found," a senior police officer said. Officials later said the threat was a hoax. Normal work at the hotel started again after the extensive search. The police are now trying to find out who made the call. The Taj Mahal Palace Hotel was one of the places attacked during the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks.

Nayab Singh Saini launches BJP's 'Swachhta Se Swagat Abhiyan' in Haryana

Panchkula.(Agency)

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini launched the Bharatiya Janata Party's 'Swachhta Se Swagat Abhiyan' this morning from Sector-20 Market in Panchkula, urging people to actively participate in cleanliness and environmental conservation ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Haryana on July 17.

Marking the beginning of the five-day campaign, the Chief Minister personally wielded a broom, collected garbage and participated in a cleanliness drive, giving the campaign a symbolic start. He also planted saplings under the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' initiative, reiterating the government's commitment to environmental protection.

Former Haryana Assembly Speaker Gian Chand Gupta, Panchkula Mayor Shyamlal Bansal, along with several BJP leaders, public representatives and local residents, participated in the programme. Speaking to media persons after the event, the Chief Minister said the 'Swachhta Se Swagat Abhiyan' has been launched from Panchkula and will continue across the state till July 17, when Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to visit Haryana.

Heavy rainfall likely over Uttarakhand, east UP; scattered showers expected in Haryana, Delhi and Punjab till July 18: IMD

Panchkula.(Agency)

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast an active monsoon spell across large parts of the country till July 18, with heavy to very heavy rainfall likely in several states and isolated to scattered rainfall expected over Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi and Punjab.

The weather office has also warned of thunderstorms, lightning and gusty winds over several regions of the country.

According to the All India Weather Summary and Forecast Bulletin issued by the National Weather Forecasting Centre on Sunday morning, fairly widespread to widespread rainfall is likely over Uttarakhand from July 13 to 18 and Himachal Pradesh on July 17 and 18.

The IMD has forecast isolated to scattered rainfall over East Rajasthan, East Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi,

Punjab and West Uttar Pradesh during July 13-18, while West Rajasthan is likely to witness similar weather activity from July 14



to 18. The weather department has predicted isolated heavy rainfall over Uttarakhand during July 13-18 and East Uttar Pradesh from July 13 to 16, which may lead to localised waterlogging in low-lying areas and disruptions in vulnerable locations.

The IMD has warned of isolated thunderstorms accompanied by lightning

and gusty winds with speeds of 40-50 kmph, gusting up to 60 kmph, over Jammu-Kashmir, Ladakh, Gilgit-Baltistan and Muzaffarabad during July 13-18.

Isolated thunderstorms accompanied by lightning are also likely over Uttarakhand during the same period. In Central India, isolated to scattered rainfall is likely over Chhattisgarh, East Madhya Pradesh, West Madhya Pradesh and Vidarbha during July 13-18. Thunderstorms accompanied by lightning are expected over Chhattisgarh and East Madhya Pradesh from July 13 to 16, while Vidarbha is likely to experience similar conditions on July 16.

The IMD has also forecast isolated heavy rainfall over Chhattisgarh during July 14 and 15. The weather office has forecast fairly widespread to widespread rainfall over Gangetic West Bengal, Sub-Himalayan West Bengal & Sikkim, Jharkhand, Odisha and Bihar during the forecast period.

BMTC issues 50K student passes in first month

Lucknow.(Agency)

BENGALURU. A month after applications opened for Karnataka's free student bus pass scheme, the Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) has issued around 50,000 passes, a quarter of the nearly two lakh passes it distributes for an academic year.

The scheme announced by the state government aims to ease travel costs for students. However, many applicants are still waiting for the passes as verification and processing are in progress.

A teacher at the Government Urdu School on Mosque Road said, "More than 50% of our students use BMTC buses. We have already applied for the bus passes, but they are yet to be issued. Until then, the students either pay the fare or show their school identity cards to commute." Some students, however, have already received the passes. A student of a government pre-university college in Malleswaram said he and several of his

classmates have received the passes a few days ago. The BMTC clarified that students who had purchased bus passes before the government announced the scheme have been reimbursed the charges collected.



According to the corporation, 234 passes were issued before the order came into effect. The BMTC also said that according to the Seva Sindhu portal, after the applications are submitted, there is a 15-day waiting time. The BMTC has arranged a

professional team to approve the applications within two or three days.

Incomplete applications, which are missing details such as college receipts, residential information and proper travel route will be rejected, officials said. The BMTC also clarified that it has extended the validity of 2025-26 student bus passes for professional, degree, technical and medical students for two months, considering the ongoing classes and examinations. Students can avail the facility at the Kempegowda Bus Station on a payment of Rs 100 processing fee, subject to verification by their educational institution.

BMTC addresses commuter complaints

The Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) has issued a series of directives to improve passenger services and address commuter complaints following Transport Minister Byrathi Suresh's surprise inspection of BMTC buses on Saturday.

Belagavi youth stabbed to death by roommate in Nepal

The deceased has been identified as Sahil Riyaz Ahmed Momin (25), a resident of Muslim Ningapur Galli in Khanapur.

BELAGAVI.(Agency)

A 25-year-old man from Khanapur, Belagavi was allegedly stabbed to death by his roommate in Nepal, leaving his family and the local community in mourning. The accused fled the scene after the attack, and Nepal police have launched a manhunt.

The deceased has been identified as Sahil Riyaz Ahmed Momin (25), a resident of Muslim Ningapur Galli in Khanapur. The accused, identified as Saddam Hussain, is reportedly a native of Uttar Pradesh. A murder case has been registered against him by the Nepal police.

According to the police, Sahil had previously worked in Dubai and later in Thailand. About 25 days ago, he

travelled to Damak, Nepal, to work at a hotel, where he shared accommodation with Saddam Hussain. A day before the incident, Sahil had invited a friend from



Belagavi to join him at the same hotel for work, and the friend stayed with them in the same room.

Later that night, an argument reportedly broke out between Sahil

and Saddam, but the dispute was resolved after a friend intervened. However, in the early hours of Friday, at around 5 am, Saddam allegedly attacked Sahil with a knife while he was asleep, stabbing him in the abdomen before fleeing the scene. Hearing Sahil's cries for help, the friend attempted to chase the accused but was unsuccessful.

Sahil was rushed to a nearby hospital, where doctors declared him dead. The family approached Irfan Talikoti, Taluka President of Anjuman-e-Islam and a social activist, seeking assistance in bringing Sahil's body back to India. Talikoti met senior police officials in Belagavi and sought their help in coordinating with Nepal police to expedite the legal formalities.

HSVP extends deadline for one-time settlement scheme till December 31

Chandigarh.(Agency)

In a major relief for plot allottees, the Haryana Shehri Vikas Pradhikaran (HSVP) has extended the deadline for its 'Vivadon Se Samadhan Scheme (VSSS)-2026' till December 31, 2026, giving thousands of beneficiaries another opportunity to settle long-pending dues and disputes. The extension comes in response to requests from plot allottees seeking additional time to avail the scheme's benefits. According to HSVP, the scheme has received an encouraging response since its launch, with over 5,000 beneficiaries already availing its provisions.

The 'Vivadon Se Samadhan Scheme (VSSS)-2026' aims to resolve disputes related to residential, institutional, industrial, group housing and other categories of HSVP plots through a one-time settlement mechanism. The scheme also offers Plot Enhancement Benefits, enabling eligible allottees to settle enhancement-related liabilities and obtain clear ownership of their properties.

Under the extended timeline, eligible allottees can submit applications online through the official VSSS portal and complete the required formalities by December 31, 2026.

In a show of strength, Rohit Mishra takes charge of BJYM UP chief with a roadshow

Lucknow.(Agency)

Rohit Mishra formally took charge as the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) Uttar Pradesh president on Sunday after leading a roadshow in Lucknow that turned into a show of strength, with a large convoy of vehicles and thousands of supporters accompanying him.

The procession began at the 1090 crossing and ended at the BJP state headquarters. At the starting point, a crane was used to place a giant floral garland around Mishra, while videos from the roadshow showed him waving a sword. The procession caused traffic congestion for nearly an hour in parts of central

Lucknow. After assuming charge at the BJP's state headquarters, Mishra



addressed party workers at a "Yuva Samvad" programme, where he targeted the Samajwadi Party and the Congress,

accusing them of pursuing caste politics while asserting that the BJP would unite society through nationalism. "They will come with the arithmetic of caste, while we will go to the people with the account of development. They will divide society in the name of caste; the BJP will unite it through nationalism," he said. Looking ahead to the 2027 Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections, Mishra said every BJYM worker would work with "full energy and commitment" to ensure the BJP's return to power for a third consecutive term. He urged party workers to take the Narendra Modi government's achievements to every

household and begin preparations for the polls immediately.

Claiming that the BJP government had ensured transparent recruitment and expanded infrastructure through expressways, airports and medical colleges, Mishra alleged that Uttar Pradesh before 2017 was known for crime, corruption and "caste-based recruitment", while under Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, law and order had improved and recruitment was being conducted on merit. Former BJYM state president Pranshudutt Dwivedi said the youth wing had played an important role in nation-building and expressed confidence that the organisation would expand further under Mishra's leadership.

NEWS BOX

Zverev aims to move beyond tennis' 'third guy' tag, close gap on Sinner and Alcaraz

New Delhi. (Agency)

Alexander Zverev believes he is closer than ever to challenging Jannik Sinner and Carlos Alcaraz after reaching his maiden Wimbledon final, with the German convinced his new attacking style has put him in contention to compete consistently for tennis' biggest titles.

The 29-year-old will rise to world No. 2 in the ATP rankings on Monday despite losing 6-7(7), 7-6(2), 6-3, 6-4 to Sinner in Sunday's Wimbledon final. More importantly, the run capped a breakthrough few weeks after Zverev



claimed his maiden Grand Slam title at the French Open, marking the most successful spell of his career. For years, Zverev has been viewed as the player just behind Sinner and Alcaraz. Now, he believes the gap has narrowed significantly. "There was always this conversation, 'Who will be the third guy?'" Zverev said after the final.

"I've always been the third guy, but I was just far away from those two. I've always been No. 3 in a way. So if I get closer to them, if I can be in the mix competing and winning the big tournaments, it would be great." NEW ATTACKING STYLE DRIVING SUCCESS

Zverev's transformation has been built around a more aggressive brand of tennis, something he committed to at the start of the season despite mixed results early on. Instead of relying primarily on his baseline consistency, the German has looked to dictate points with his forehand and take more risks whenever opportunities arise. "I've said it at the beginning of the year, and I've stuck to it. That's the tennis I want to play. That's the game style I want to play," Zverev said.

Wimbledon: Not at full throttle, Jannik Sinner still stands atop the tennis world

New Delhi. (Agency)

There are champions who overwhelm opponents with brute force and there are champions who survive through sheer conviction. Jannik Sinner's successful defence of his Wimbledon crown belonged firmly to the latter category.

Wimbledon 2026 men's singles final Highlights

For the better part of the last two years, the Italian has looked untouchable on the biggest stages, collecting Grand Slam titles with an air of inevitability. Yet, his run to the 2026 Wimbledon title was



anything but straightforward. There were moments when he flirted with disaster, stretches when his game lacked its usual sharpness and days when the world No.1 had to lean on his resolve rather than his devastating baseline power. And still, when the dust settled on Centre Court on Sunday evening, it was Sinner who stood with the trophy in his hands once again. The 24-year-old defeated Alexander Zverev 6-7 (7), 7-6 (2), 6-3, 6-4 in the final to retain the Wimbledon title and claim the fifth Grand Slam crown of his career. The triumph also cemented his position at the summit of men's tennis, adding another chapter to a remarkable rise that has brought him titles at the Australian Open, the US Open and now back-to-back championships at the All England Club. The result, however, tells only a fraction of the story. This was not Sinner operating at his irresistible best. This was a champion discovering yet another way to win. .

IPL: Stephen Fleming steps down as CSK head coach after 17 years at helm

IPL: Chennai Super Kings parted ways with head coach Stephen Fleming after an 18-year association, drawing the curtains on the IPL's most successful coaching era. CSK finished three consecutive seasons outside the top four.

New Delhi. (Agency)

The most enduring and successful coaching tenure in the history of the Indian Premier League has drawn to a close. Chennai Super Kings on Monday announced they have mutually parted ways with head coach Stephen Fleming, ending an extraordinary 18-year association that defined the league's benchmark for stability and tactical excellence. The decision was finalised following what the franchise described as a series of "open and honest discussions" between the former New Zealand captain and the Super Kings

management. The announcement follows a disastrous campaign for the Texas Super Kings-Chennai's sister franchise in Major League Cricket—who finished bottom of the six-team US league. Fleming, who also oversees the Dallas-based outfit, managed just three wins from 10 outings as the franchise collected its first wooden spoon. Fleming's association with Chennai began as a player during the tournament's inaugural season in 2008, before he transitioned into the head coach's role in 2009. Over the subsequent 17 years at the helm, he constructed a modern cricketing dynasty. Under his stewardship, Chennai Super Kings secured five IPL titles, two Champions League Twenty20 crowns, and achieved a record 12 playoff appearances alongside 10 final excursions.

At the core of this unprecedented success was the telepathic captain-coach



relationship forged between Fleming and MS Dhoni. Backed by a franchise management that famously granted the duo absolute autonomy, they cultivated a dressing-room culture insulated from the volatile pressures typical of franchise cricket.

3 SEASONS, 3 FAILURES

However, the weight of recent results ultimately made a structural overhaul inevitable. While the franchise long prided itself on an almost permanent presence in the tournament's knockout

stages, the post-2023 cycle has proved severely challenging. Following their fifth title triumph three years ago, Chennai have failed to qualify for the playoffs in three consecutive seasons. The nadir arrived in 2025 when the side finished bottom of the table to collect the wooden spoon for the first time, followed by a disappointing eighth-place finish in the 10-team tournament earlier this year.

Confirming the departure, Chennai Super Kings owner Rupa Gurunath paid tribute to the legacy left by the departing coach.

"Stephen Fleming has been the heartbeat of our coaching unit for almost the entire journey of this franchise," Gurunath said. "For nearly two decades, he has helped shape our identity, vision, and pursuit of excellence. While our journey together on the field comes to a close, he will always remain an integral part of the team's legacy."

India's T20I freefall explained: Did Gambhir and Agarkar fix what wasn't broken?

New Delhi. (Agency)

Two months after India lifted their third T20 World Cup, Suryakumar Yadav was sacked as the T20I captain. In came Shreyas Iyer, the prolific run-scorer who had dominated the Indian Premier League over the last two seasons.

When the news broke to Shreyas, he was not surprised. Instead, in his casual, confident manner, his first words were that he knew it was coming. He had "expected it." It was an odd statement from a player who had not played a single T20I since December 2023. But then again, that is who Shreyas is, right? A player of tremendous self-belief. His numbers in domestic cricket and the IPL justified another shot in India's T20I setup, while his tactical acumen had long earned praise from teammates and coaches alike. There was little debate over

whether he deserved a return. Making him captain, however, was a far bigger call. Shreyas was handed the captaincy of a world champion side and a dressing room full of proven match-winners.



Seven matches later, that confidence has met a brutal reality check. Things have gone horribly wrong and, naturally, the horror results reflect the heaviest on the captain. Shreyas Iyer became the first India captain to go winless in his first seven T20Is, while the defeat in England marked India's worst bilateral performance in the

format. The seven defeats also leave him alongside Shikhar Dhawan as the only India captains with more losses than wins. It is a stark fall for a team that had not lost a single series between the 2024 and the 2026 World Cups, winning the tournaments on either side of it. In fact, since losing the semi-final of the 2022 World Cup, the Indian T20I team has been in tremendous ascendancy and has not really seen days like this before.

HOW THE MIGHTY HAVE FALLEN

But this isn't really a story about Shreyas Iyer. Captains wear results more than anyone else, but India's collapse across Ireland and England says as much about the people building this team as the man leading it. Gambhir and the selection committee chose to reset a T20 side that had just won the World Cup. Seven matches later, it is fair to ask whether that reset has created more problems than it has solved.

The Bazball verdict: Brilliant at home, exposed by the elite

New Delhi. (Agency)

Brendon McCullum's Bazball philosophy transformed England's Test cricket. But four years later, sacked after losing 1-4 in Australia, the numbers reveal a stark truth: it worked brilliantly at home against weak teams. Against India and Australia, it crumbled.

In June 2022, England were in crisis. Sixteen of their last seventeen Tests lost. McCullum arrived with Ben Stokes as captain. Their solution: make Test cricket fearless. Players would have freedom to play attacking shots, make bold decisions, chase results. No more defensive caution. Just positive

intent. The results were immediate. Bazball worked. England climbed to



second in the ICC rankings. A 55 per cent win rate. Twenty-seven wins in forty-nine Tests. By November 2023, the term

had entered the Collins dictionary.

THE EARLY WINS

In June 2022, England played New Zealand and won all three Tests - at Lord's, Nottingham, and Leeds. Batsmen attacked from the first ball. Bowlers set aggressive fields, sacrificing run-saving for wickets. When India arrived, England won at Birmingham. Batsmen played shots that would have been criticised under the old regime. They scored quickly. They put pressure on elite bowlers. The wins kept coming. They whitewashed Pakistan. They grabbed a victory in New Zealand. By late 2023, the narrative felt unshakeable. Bazball had cracked something fundamental.



not his strongest suit, then below him you need someone who is absolutely across everything and doesn't miss a trick," Hussain told Sky Sports. "For me, the best person for that would be Andy Flower by a country mile. Flower took England to number one in the world. I love Flower's approach to coaching. He was meticulous in everything that he did. That's what's been lacking in this England Test side. I would do anything if I was Rob Key and the ECB to go and get Andy Flower."

Yamal aims to steal Mbappe's World Cup thunder in semi-final showdown

Mbappe has the greater experience, has already won the World Cup and is confident speaking publicly in English — those factors help make him one of the faces of this tournament in the US.

ARLINGTON. (Agency)

Lamine Yamal is hoping to emulate Kylian Mbappe by winning the World Cup as a teenager, but first his Spain side will have to get the better of France and their superstar captain in Tuesday's semi-final. When Mbappe scored in France's win over Croatia in the deciding match of the 2018 tournament, he was just 19 years and 207 days old. He therefore became only the second

teenager to score in a World Cup final after a 17-year-old Pele in 1958. Mbappe's love affair with the World Cup began then, while this is Yamal's first experience of the competition. He has already had his big breakthrough in a major tournament, however — Yamal's stunning goal in the Euro 2024 semi-final against Mbappe's France helped Spain to a 2-1 victory. That came four days before he turned 17. His birthday was the day before the final. Spain beat England, and Yamal was named young player of the tournament. This time his 19th birthday comes on the eve of the semi-final in Arlington. Such a young player with his best years to come. But he is clearly eager to leave a firm mark on this World Cup. Perhaps too eager, having at one point been a doubt for the tournament



after missing the end of the season with Barcelona due to a hamstring injury. "I was afraid it might be serious and, above all, that even if it wasn't serious, I could suffer a setback and end up missing the World Cup," Yamal admitted in late May.

Anxiety?

After coming off the bench in Spain's opening 0-0 draw with Cape Verde, Yamal started against Saudi Arabia and scored before being replaced at half-

time in a 4-0 victory. He has started every game since, without adding to that solitary goal — that might be getting to him. "I think Lamine needs to calm the anxiety he sometimes has because he wants to show how important a player he is for us," Spain captain Rodri said Sunday. "Given he was able to show that level of maturity at that European Championship, when he is two years older you are not so impressed by what he is able to do," he added. With Ymal not as decisive, Spain have lacked the deadly verticality that made them so hard to stop at the Euros. France, meanwhile, have rediscovered a cutting edge that evaded them at the Euros, and have the most thrilling attack at this World Cup. Mbappe, now 27, is the talisman and seems intent on leaving a legacy as an all-time World Cup great. .



Aanksha Ranjan Kapoor

**Marries Sharan Sharma; Disha Patani
On Making Her Hollywood Debut**

Aanksha Ranjan Kapoor has finally shared the first pictures from her intimate wedding ceremony with filmmaker Sharan Sharma, and the photos are all heart. The actor took to Instagram to post a carousel from the couple's wedding proceedings, offering fans a glimpse into a celebration that looked deeply personal, warm and refreshingly fuss-free.

Disha Patani is now going global. The actress is all set to make her Hollywood debut with Holiguards Saga – The Portal of Force. The film is directed by none other than Kevin Spacey, marking his fifth project since his acquittal on sexual assault charges in the UK. In Holiguards Saga, Disha will be seen playing a pivotal role.

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. Television actor Rohit Chandel, who is best known for his roles in Pandya Store and Kashibai Bajirao Ballal, has been arrested by the Mumbai Police.

He has been accused of allegedly stalking, repeatedly calling, harassing and assaulting a 16-year-old girl. A case has been registered against the actor under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. Taylor Swift and Travis Kelce may still be keeping their wedding album locked away, but the newlyweds have already given fans their first real glimpse of married life. Just a week after reportedly tying the knot in New York, the couple was photographed together for the first time as husband and wife, and naturally, the internet lost its collective calm.



Kareena Kapoor Swims In A White Bikini In The Aegean Sea During Her Greece Vacation



Bollywood star Kareena Kapoor seems to be making the most of her summer getaway in Greece. Giving fans a glimpse of her vacation, the actress shared stunning pictures of herself taking a peaceful swim right in the middle of the crystal-clear waters of the Aegean Sea.

Taking to her social media account, Kareena posted a series of pictures from the picturesque location. In one of the pictures, the actress can be seen floating calmly in the middle of the turquoise-blue Aegean Sea, while in another picture, a closer look at her relaxing swim beside a yacht is seen. Along with the picture, she wrote, "Just me and the Aegean Sea."

In another story, Kareena shared a scenic picture from aboard the yacht. The picture featured her husband Saif Ali Khan and their son Taimur, seated at the front of the boat. Kareena captured the family moment from behind. She captioned it, "Into the blue."

Though Kareena has not officially disclosed the exact location, the actress is reportedly vacationing in Greece with husband Saif Ali Khan and their two sons. Over the past few days, she has been sharing glimpses from the European getaway.

Earlier, she had also shared a picture of her husband walking straight out of the water after a relaxing swim, as she sat on the shore at the beach. The actress called him her 'hot husband' in the picture. On the work front, Kareena was last seen in Rohit Shetty's cop drama 'Singham Again', alongside Ajay Devgn, Deepika Padukone, Ranveer Singh, Akshay Kumar, Tiger Shroff, Arjun Kapoor and Jackie Shroff.

She also received a good response for her performance in Hansal Mehta's mystery thriller 'The Buckingham Murders'.

Kushal Tandon Thinks 'Voh Salman Khan Hai Bigg Boss Ka': Dolly Javed SLAMS Actor After Alliance Eviction



Dolly Javed has been eliminated from Alliance. Her elimination came at a time when she was fighting with Kushal Tandon and calling him out for "bullying" other contestants on the show. Now, in a new interview, she opened up about Kushal's behaviour and called him a man-child with a fragile ego. Dolly told Hindustan Times, "I wish I had just one tag for Kushal, but I have so many: man-child, egoistic, toxic masculinity, fragile ego, and old man. I feel Kushal has so much free time in his life because usne kuch kaam kiya hai nahi (he hasn't done anything worthwhile)."

She added, "He's getting an ego boost thinking, 'Wow, I picked a fight with kids. Oh my God, I managed to get Vanshaj and Dolly, who are 20 years younger than me, eliminated through planning and plotting. What a mastermind I am.'" Dolly continued, "That's how his mind works. I think this is very disturbing. I think Kushal needs a therapist. He genuinely needs help. I would like to offer him money. I don't have much money, but whatever I have, I would like to help him."

She said, "And I was fighting with this guy and this man, who is 20 years older than me, was picking a fight with me, and nobody in the house supported me."

He spoke badly about my family. He told me that I was just some random nobody who had shown up from anywhere, and people were trying to silence me instead."

She continued, "Nobody said a word to him. I felt so alone. I sat by myself and cried because I had no one. Everyone was so nice to his face, but behind my back they would tell me, 'What you said was right, but your tone was wrong.' I was very depressed."

"Jaise jaise Kushal ki age badi ho rahi hai, uska dimag chota hota ja raha hai. Kushal ki dikhat yeh hai ki usko lagta hai woh Salman Khan hai, par woh nahi hai."

Usko lag raha hai ki woh show ka host hai, aur yeh abhi bhi Bigg Boss chal raha hai aur woh ab Salman Khan hai Bigg Boss ka. Yeh buddha jaa chuka hai. Woh acting community ke liye insaaf le raha tha, lekin acting community ko pata hi nahi hai ki woh usmein abhi bhi included hai," Dolly concluded.



Jasmine Sandlas

**Hinted At Her Engagement Months Before
Introducing Fiancé Shekhar Chaudhary?**

Jasmine Sandlas recently gave fans a glimpse into her personal life by introducing her fiancé, Shekhar Chaudhary, during the opening concert of 'The Dream Girl India Tour' in Delhi on July 11. The singer, known popularly for the song 'Shararat' from Dhurandhar, invited him on stage and announced her engagement, marking the first time she publicly acknowledged their relationship. While the announcement came as a surprise to many, it appears Jasmine had dropped a few hints about her love life much earlier.

Singer Had Earlier Revealed She Was In A Committed Relationship

In an interview with Shubhankar Mishra in July 2025, the Dhurandhar singer revealed that she had been in a committed relationship for two years. Although she chose not to reveal her partner's identity at the time, she shared a small detail that caught fans' attention. Jasmine said she had learned Hindi quite late and had been practising the language because of someone special in her

life. "Hindi mai badi late sikhi hai, main do saal to practice kar rahi haan kise naal (I learned Hindi quite late. I have been practising it for the last two years with someone)," she said, as quoted by Kiddaan.

She also mentioned that her family had become comfortable speaking Hindi around him, giving



fans another subtle clue that the relationship had become serious.

Jasmine Sandlas Flaunted Her Ring

Another moment from the same interview added to the speculation. Jasmine was seen wearing a sparkling ring, which immediately sparked questions about a possible engagement. When the interviewer asked if people should expect a wedding invitation soon, she smiled and vaguely replied, "Maybe you saw him today."

NEWS BOX

Iran Claims US Military's Drone Fleet In Bahrain Destroyed In Fresh Strikes

Tehran.(Agency)

The US military and Iranian forces exchanged fire in the Gulf region, escalating the standoff over the Strait of Hormuz. At least one person was killed, and four others were wounded in an American attack at an agricultural water pumping station in Iran's Mahshahr, with Tehran saying the latest strikes had "rendered futile" all the diplomatic efforts of the past few months. A US military spokesperson claimed the new strikes come after Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) targeted another commercial vessel trying to pass through the narrow mouth of the Persian Gulf, which once saw a fifth of all oil and natural gas pass through it. Both Washington and Tehran have been making contradictory claims about the status of marine traffic through the strait, which is key to Tehran's leverage in negotiations under the deal signed by the two nations.

US military bases in the region also came under Iranian fire over the weekend, with Tehran acknowledging the latest attacks, marking another escalation in the diplomatic breakdown between the countries. Follow Live Updates What US Said

The US military began launching more strikes against Iran on Sunday, with US Central Command (Centcom) saying it hit "dozens of targets at multiple locations with precision munitions to degrade Iran's ability to continue attacking international shipping flowing through the Strait of Hormuz."

91-Year-Old Man Skydives, Raises Over Rs 4 Lakh For Charity

world.(Agency)

Most people slow down in their 90s, but 91-year-old Alan Still chose adventure instead. He skydived to raise over \$5,000 (Rs Rs 4,76,652) for a Surrey community centre, calling the experience "absolutely thrilling." Still described the jump as "absolutely thrilling." He undertook the challenge to support the organisation, which strengthens the local community through activities ranging from bingo nights to excursions to Windsor Castle. The community centre posted a video of Still's adventure on Instagram and thanked him for his contribution. The organisation said a very special thank you goes to Alan. It said that at 91 years young, he showed remarkable courage and determination by taking on the challenge and inspired everyone along the way. Still said he will never forget going out of the aeroplane and falling through the air, but it was all over so quickly. To mark the skydive, staff and neighbours from the Rowleys Center presented him with a personalized "thank you" mug featuring a photo of his jump, so he will be reminded of the experience with every cup of tea. Still said he never imagined he would be doing anything like this at 91, but he enjoyed it so much that he is now planning more fun adventures.

Take off your uniform: Pak leader slams army, dares leadership to contest polls

World.(Agency)

Senior Pakistani leader and Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman has strongly criticised the country's military leadership, rejecting calls for civilians to form armed groups to fight militancy and daring army leadership to enter electoral politics if he wishes to wield political influence. In a video widely circulated on social media, Rehman said the responsibility for defending the country rests with state institutions, not ordinary citizens. "Why do you throw the favour of your blood on me? You are taking your salaries from the taxes earned through our blood and sweat, and then you ask us to mobilise militias and fight armed groups. I have taken no salary. I will not form any Lashkar," he said. "You will leave, but you are pushing my country toward personal vendettas for generations to come, pushing it forever toward murder and plunder," Rehman added. Taking a veiled dig at Pakistan Army chief Field Marshal Asim Munir, the veteran Pakistani leader dared him to take off his military uniform and contest elections. "If you want to do politics, then take off the uniform and come; participate in the elections, and it will become clear what votes people give to those in uniform," he said. It is your prerogative to give government to whomever you want and snatch it away from whomever you wish," Rehman added.

US launches more strikes on Iran as the standoff over the Strait of Hormuz escalates

DUBAI.(Agency)

The United States and Iran each asserted Monday they controlled the Strait of Hormuz after a weekend of attacks stretching across the wider Middle East, further threatening any diplomacy to end the war. The attacks, sparked by Iran striking a container ship Sunday in the strait off the coast of Oman, again underlined that the waterway that once saw a fifth of the world's traded crude oil and natural gas pass through it remained the key issue in negotiations. The narrow mouth of the Persian Gulf has seen shipping disrupted since the start of the war as Iran maintained a chokehold on it by attacking commercial vessels around it, intimidating shippers.

Iran and the U.S. are nearly at the midway point of the 60-day period of an interim deal that was supposed to set up talks for a permanent end to the war. Instead, it has devolved into a series of attacks over the strait and its future, worrying world leaders the Iran war fully could resume. "A return to full-scale hostilities would have catastrophic consequences," United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres said in a statement.

US says it strikes dozens of targets in Iran. The U.S. military's Central Command described its forces as hitting dozens of sites in the strikes Monday, including air defense systems, radar sites, missile and drone



equipment and small boats.

"The Strait of Hormuz is a vital maritime corridor for global trade," Central Command said. "Iran does not control it." Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard, a key power center in the country's theocracy that controls its ballistic missile arsenal,

sharply rejected America's statement.

"The Strait of Hormuz is our territory, and we will not allow a rogue and child-killing army from the other side of the world to continue its illegal interference in it," the Guard said. Missile alert sirens sounded twice Monday in Bahrain, home to the U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet, and Kuwait

said it was intercepting hostile fire. There was no immediate word on damage in either country. In Jordan, the kingdom's military said it shot down four Iranian missiles in an incident that "resulted in zero casualties or material damage." Jordan also hosts U.S. military forces and aircraft.

27 killed, dozens injured in fire at Bangkok pub

BANGKOK.(Agency)

A huge fire engulfed a pub in Bangkok early Monday morning, killing at least 27 people and injuring dozens before firefighters brought the blaze under control, officials said. Footage shared online by first responders shows a huge blaze raging and plumes coming out of the front door of the Na Ladprao pub in the northern part of the Thai capital. People are seen trying to flee as thick black smoke billows into the sky. Rescuers said the fire was reported around midnight. Thailand Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul told reporters at the scene that 27 people died. He said the cause of the fire is under investigation. Anutin said a musician who was performing at the pub told him that he saw smoke

coming out of a circuit breaker near the stage before the power went out, then an explosion was heard



and thick smoke quickly filled the place. Many of victims were found at the restrooms at the back of the pub, Anutin added. Bangkok Gov. Chadchart Sittipunt said 63 people were taken to the hospital, 22 of them in critical conditions. He said authorities are working on identifying victims as many did not carry an ID or were

unconscious. Firefighters took about half an hour to bring the fire under control. Photos of the aftermath show charred tables and chairs, and the damaged interior of the pub. A registration spot was set up to gather information from relatives coming at the scene looking for their loved ones. Singer Sukanya Wongwongwai said she was performing nearby when she heard news of the fire and rushed to the scene because several of her bandmates were performing at the pub. She said one of them died, three were hospitalized, and one hasn't been located. "From what I heard from people who were inside, when the fire started everything went dark. The power was out and there was smoke everywhere, so they couldn't locate other people," she said.

Mapping The Odyssey: The Geography Behind Homer's Epic Journey

Loughborough (UK).(Agency)

Homer's Odyssey is a quest, following King Odysseus's ten-year journey back home to Ithaca after the Trojan war. It is a tale with distinct geographic, spatial and temporal dimensions. It is no wonder that for centuries, people have been intrigued by the places mentioned in the Odyssey, wondering how many of them were real. Few historians and classical scholars argue that the Odyssey is only poetry. As a work of art and pure mythology, they claim, there is no point looking for these places on a map. The ancient Greek polymath Eratosthenes, who was the first person to measure the circumference of the Earth, disputed that the Odyssey had anything to do with geography. He said: "You will find the scene of the

wanderings of Odysseus when you find the cobbler who sewed up the bag of the winds." I have researched the history of cartography and



mental mapping for more than two decades. To me, the geographical elements of this story are what grounds it. Odysseus's desire to find a way home lies at the very heart of the poem. And Odysseus changes as he moves across these various places and spaces. Mapping the myth. The ancient Greek historian Polybius, who came 600 years after Homer, believed The

Odyssey was a real story with some myths, rather than the reverse. He insisted that some of the fishing practices near Scylla, for example, were similar to those in the islands of Sicily, so Scylla must be located off the coast of Sicily. Strabo was a Greek philosopher and geographer writing almost seven centuries after Homer. His 17-volume Geographica is a comprehensive atlas and encyclopaedia of Greek life during Emperor Augustus. It also tells the story of islands of men and women in the Indian Ocean, just as Homer depicts in The Odyssey: In the ocean, there is a small island, not very far out to sea, situated off the outlet of the Liger River; and the island is inhabited by women of the Samnitate, and they are possessed by Dionysus and make this god propitious by appeasing him.

'Trump wants to exhaust the possibility of achieving an agreement on Iran nuclear issue': Netanyahu

WASHINGTON.(Agency)

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said that US President Donald Trump wanted to "exhaust the possibility" of a diplomatic agreement with Iran before considering other options on its nuclear programme. In an interview with NBC's Meet the Press, Netanyahu said Trump would not hesitate to use military force if Tehran failed to honour its commitments. "I think President Trump wants to exhaust the possibility of achieving an agreement, especially on the nuclear issue, through negotiations. But he is obviously not shy about using force when the Iranians break every commitment they make--and usually a few hours or a few

minutes after they make it. So, I think we should let the President have his opportunity," Netanyahu said. The Israeli Prime Minister expressed gratitude for the US-Israel cooperation in countering Iran's nuclear ambitions, stating that their joint efforts had prevented Tehran from acquiring nuclear weapons and the means to deliver them. "You know, Israel is keenly grateful for the fact that America joined--and Israel joined forces--to prevent Iran from getting nuclear weapons and the means to deliver them, not only against us but against the entire West and against the United States," he said. Netanyahu noted that many people do not realize how close Iran had come to advancing its nuclear capabilities, adding that

recent military operations by the US



and Israel had significantly set back Tehran's program. "The fact that we had these two operations, which are called Midnight Hammer and Epic Fury... we call them Rising Lion and Roaring Lion; we actually drove it back," he added. These remarks come against the backdrop of renewed tensions between the US and Iran. On Sunday, the United

States launched strikes on 140 Iranian military targets using precision munitions deployed by land- and sea-based fighter aircraft, drones, and naval vessels. Targets included Iranian missile and drone sites, naval capabilities, ammunition storage facilities, communication networks, and coastal surveillance locations. This development followed an attack by the IRGC on the Cyprus-flagged container vessel M/V GFS Galaxy in the Strait of Hormuz. Further, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) of Iran claimed it has carried out a "heavy and surprise" attack on logistics support centres and refuelling platforms used by US aircraft carriers at the Port of Duqm in Oman, according to the IRIB state broadcaster.