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S Jaishankar Meets UN Chief, Discusses Middle East, Ukraine Crisis

New York. (Agency)

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar met United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres in New York, where the two discussed key global developments, including the conflicts in West Asia, Ukraine and Sudan, as India formally launched its campaign for a non-permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) for the 2028-2029 term.

The high-level meeting took place on the sidelines of the launch of India's UNSC campaign at the UN Headquarters, marking the beginning of New Delhi's diplomatic outreach to secure the support of UN member states ahead of next year's election.

Sharing details of the meeting on X, Jaishankar wrote, "Glad to meet @antonioguterres, Secretary General of the @UN in New York today. Discussed global developments, including of West Asia, Ukraine and Sudan.

Also recognised the strength of India-UN cooperation."The discussions focused on pressing international crises and the continued



cooperation between India and the United Nations on a range of global issues.Earlier in the day, EAM Jaishankar formally launched India's candidature for the Security Council with a six-point vision centred on SHANTI - Securing Holistic Advancement through

Norms, Trust and Integrity.

Addressing diplomats and delegates from across the world, he said India would serve as the voice of the Global South on the Security Council and highlighted the country's record of supporting developing nations, contributing to UN peacekeeping operations, and working to strengthen multilateral institutions.

India's SHANTI framework outlines six major priorities for its UNSC campaign. These include strengthening the voice of the Global South in international peace and security, advancing a reformed multilateral system that is democratic, representative and effective, creating a future-ready peacekeeping architecture equipped with modern technology, promoting a human-centric approach to artificial intelligence, supporting a free, open and rules-based maritime order in accordance with international law, and intensifying global efforts to counter terrorism and terror financing.

Assam Repatriated Over 1600 Illegal Immigrants To Bangladesh In 2 Years

Assam reports 193 foreigners pushed back under the 1950 Expulsion Act in two years

Guwahati. (Agency)

During the question hours of the ongoing budget session of the Assam Assembly, for the first time, the Assam government has come on record in terms of the number of suspected illegal immigrants from Bangladesh who have been 'pushed back' in the past one year, invoking the 1950 Immigrants Expulsion Act revived in the last two years.

Bangladesh has been vehemently opposing the 'pushback' mechanism now adopted by India.

Replying in the state legislative assembly The Assam government has said that a total of 193 people declared foreigners by Assam's Foreigners Tribunals have been "pushed" into Bangladesh over the last two years, including 67 'declared foreigners' who have been sent across the border by The Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma submitted the data to the legislative assembly on Monday.

In a reply to AIUDF MLA Badruddin Ajmal, Sarma said a total of 1679 illegal immigrants have repatriated (deported/ sent back/ expelled) from Assam to Bangladesh in the last two years.Sarma said that the repatriations took place between July 1, 2024 and June 30 this year but did not provide further details. He had previously said that the illegal immigrants from the neighbouring country were being 'pushed back' under provisions of the Immigrants (Expulsion from Assam) Act (IEAA), 1950.



Kejriwal seeks meeting with PM Modi over E20 petrol, demands pure petrol option at fuel pumps

New Delhi. (Agency)

AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday sought an appointment with Prime Minister Narendra Modi to discuss concerns over E20 petrol, urging the Centre to offer consumers the choice of buying either pure petrol or E20 petrol at fuel stations.

In a letter to the Prime Minister, Kejriwal said he wanted to present the technical issues surrounding E20 petrol and share the feedback he had received from the public during the proposed meeting.

Kejriwal said consumers should be free to choose between pure petrol and E20 petrol at fuel stations.

"If someone wants pure petrol, they should get that option and those wanting E20 should also have that choice," he said.He also urged the government to reduce the price of E20 petrol, arguing that the ethanol-blended fuel delivers lower mileage than regular petrol.Kejriwal said he decided to write to the Prime Minister after interacting with people and understanding their concerns about E20 petrol.

"If Only": A Fake Trump Post, Omar Abdullah, And J&K Statehood Demand

NEW DELHI. (Agency)

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday turned to an unexpected source in his quest to restore Jammu and Kashmir's statehood - US President Donald Trump. Except, he didn't, not really.

The National Conference leader followed Sunday's scathing attack on the BJP, during which he announced the 'Chalo Delhi' rally beginning on July 20, by sharing a satirical post on X that imitated Trump's enthusiastic style of communication.

The spoof post, written in the president's trademark bombastic and self-congratulatory tone with indiscriminate capitalisation, stated: "Big things happening in Jammu & Kashmir! I have to give a BIG shoutout to my friend, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah - what a guy! He's working hard, talking smart, and fighting for Statehood like a lion (without the roar... mostly).""Let's bring back Statehood and make Jammu and Kashmir GREAT AGAIN! Believe me, nobody restores better than me... except maybe Omar in J&K," the mock 'Trump' post declared.On Sunday, the National Conference leader, who led his party.

‘Mahanagar Metro’ Will Not Bow to Threats

'Earning Son' Bhupat Rabari Panics After Expose; Editor Pawan Makan Receives Death Threats, Ruckus in Police Department!

MAHANAGAR METRO

VADODARA/KARJAN: KARJAN/VADODARA: Sensational disclosures regarding multi-crore weekly payoffs, illegal country-made and foreign liquor dens, and gambling rackets in the Karjan taluka of Vadodara district have triggered a massive earthquake within the empire of corrupt officials, administrators, and bootleggers. Following a thoroughly documented expose by **Mahanagar Metro** unmasking Bhupat Rabari—the alleged "earning son" of the Vadodara LCB PI and an extortionist administrator—the panicked government clerk made a desperate and despicable attempt to intimidate the fourth pillar of democracy.

Drunk on alleged power and authority, Bhupat Rabari called **‘Mahana-gar Metro’** Editor-in-Chief Pawan Makan, issuing open death threats and hurling vile abuses. The administrator threatened, *"If you publish anything against me or my boss again, I will eliminate you on the streets and beat you mercilessly."*

Refusing to back down, the fearless Editor Pawan Makan immediately dispatched a formal written complaint along with evidence to the Chief Minister, Minister of State for Home Harsh Sanghavi, and Vadodara Dis-



trict Superintendent of Police (SP) Sushil Agrawal, demanding an immediate FIR and rigorous imprisonment for the rogue administrator.

Wake-up Call for the Administration: The True 'Power' of PI Administrator Bhupat Rabari!

The audacity of this administrator, who draws a government salary and wears a uniform meant to protect the law, has reached a point where he is now trying to choke the voice of the media. The threats follow a hard-hitting report exposing rampant illegal activities operating just 2 kilometers away from the Karjan Police Station. The report detailed:

Over 15 chemical-based country liquor distilleries running in Karamdi

village.

Worli Matka gambling rackets operating openly in Kulari and Sapa villages.

A foreign liquor black-marketing ring allegedly run in the name of BJP Yuva Morcha office-bearer Parth Shah.

An extensive English liquor network active in Kandari-Bariyavas.

The investigation further revealed a treasonous modus operandi: before the State Monitoring Cell (SMC) can conduct a raid, this corrupt nexus within the Vadodara LCB tips off the bootleggers, warning them, *"The squad has left, shut down the den!"* Fearing a complete halt to the multi-crore weekly collections (hafta) enjoyed by his handlers, a desperate Bhupat Rabari has resorted to outright thuggery.

Direct Questions to the Vadodara District Police Chief (SP): Is There Silent Support for the Corrupt?

1. Why are the Inspector General of Police and Vadodara SP Sushil Agrawal failing to take immediate action against Bhupat Rabari, who is running a multi-crore extortion racket and threatening a journalist under their very noses? Does the distribution of these weekly payoffs reach the top brass?

2. If Bhupat Rabari continues to roam

free even after issuing such severe threats to an Editor, the reputation of the Vadodara Police will be dragged through the mud. When will a criminal case be registered against such hooligans?

3. How long will the state government in Gandhinagar close its eyes to these corrupt administrators who mimic the authority of Home Minister Harsh Sanghavi while making a mockery of the state's law and order?

‘Mahanagar Metro’ Will Neither Bend Nor Stop!

Mahanagar Metro sends a clear and loud warning to these corrupt police officers and administrators: the fourth pillar of democracy will never be suppressed by such cowardly threats. Our journey to serve as the voice of the public and publish the truth will continue with even greater vigor.

‘Mahanagar Metro’ is fully prepared to launch a massive legal and journalistic crusade against the corrupt duo of Bhupat Rabari and Khoda Rabari, as well as their entire extortion network. All eyes are now on Gandhinagar to see when the hammer of justice will drop on this corrupt official who is tarnishing the clean image of the Chief Minister and Home Minister, and send him behind bars!

Average car owner can't check mileage on their own: Nitin Gadkari amid E20 row

New Delhi. (Agency)

Amid the growing controversy over ethanol-blended petrol, Road Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari said the average car owner cannot accurately measure their vehicle's fuel efficiency on their own and should rely on tests conducted by authorised dealers.

Gadkari, in an interview with ABP News on Monday, was responding to a journalist who claimed her car's mileage in city driving had plummeted after switching to government-mandated E20 petrol.

When the journalist said the mileage of her car, purchased in 2023 and presumably E20 compliant, had fallen from 11 km/litre to 7 km/litre recently, Gadkari questioned how the figure had been calculated."I checked it in my car just as everyone

does," she replied, referring to the dashboard mileage display.

To this, Gadkari, who has staunchly defended the ethanol-blending programme, reiterated that accurate fuel-efficiency readings can only be obtained through manufacturer-authorised testing equipment."You and I can't check the mileage. A car's mileage can only be checked using a company-authorised dealer's machine," he said.

The exchange comes days after the Centre acknowledged that E20 petrol can reduce fuel economy by 3-5% in some vehicles, even as it defended the fuel policy.

Last week, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas released a question-and-answer document aimed at addressing criticism of the Ethanol Blended Petrol Programme. In it, the government



acknowledged that E20 petrol may lower fuel efficiency in some vehicles but argued that mileage is not the only factor to consider."It is true that in some vehicles there may be a 3-5% reduction in fuel economy. But mileage is only one parameter," the ministry said.

The Centre mandated the nationwide sale of E20 petrol from April 1 as part of its push to increase ethanol blending, reduce

dependence on imported crude oil and cut emissions.

The rollout has, however, received pushback from motorists and sparked concern among sections of the automobile industry. Car owners are reporting a drop in mileage, and some manufacturers have raised questions about the blended fuel's performance in older vehicles.

CAN DRIVERS ACCURATELY CHECK MILEAGE AT HOME?

Not entirely. But they can get a fairly reliable estimate. Modern cars calculate fuel economy using data such as fuel injected into the engine, distance travelled and inputs from the engine control unit (ECU). While dashboard readings are estimates, they are often within 2-5% of manual calculations over a full tank, depending on the vehicle.

News box

Taxi driver held for injuring biker, assaulting cops in Gurgaon

Gurgaon.(Agency)

A 26-year-old taxi driver was arrested on Sunday for allegedly driving rashly, injuring a motorcyclist in Sector 51, and later assaulting police personnel who reached the spot. The accused, Ajay Kumar, a native of Madhubani in Bihar who was living in rented accommodation in the city, was arrested by a team from Sector 50 police station. Police also seized the Swift taxi allegedly involved in the incident. According to police, the accident occurred on Sunday morning when the motorcyclist was returning home after work. As he approached Ocus Mall in Sector 51, a Swift car allegedly hit his motorcycle from behind at high speed, causing him to sustain injuries and damaging the two-wheeler. The injured biker was taken to the civil hospital in Sector 10A, where doctors treated him and later declared him fit to give a statement. Based on his complaint, an FIR was registered at Sector 50 police station under the provisions of BNS for rash and negligent driving causing injury. Police said the taxi driver was taken to the police station by an emergency response vehicle team. ERV in-charge head constable Harendra, in a separate complaint, alleged that the accused misbehaved with the police team, assaulted personnel and obstructed them from discharging their official duties when they responded to the accident. During questioning, Kumar allegedly admitted that the accident occurred while he was driving the car at high speed in a rash and negligent manner.

Truck crashes into another, labourer standing in between crushed to death in Gurgaon

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

Two men lost their lives in separate road accidents over the weekend. While a labourer was crushed between two trucks in Palam Vihar, a 23-year-old biker died after his motorcycle skidded in Sector 37C. On Sunday, Arjun, 60, from Bihar's Samastipur, was standing behind a stationary truck when its driver began reversing, while another truck approached from behind, leaving the labourer sandwiched between the two heavy vehicles, police said. Arjun suffered fatal injuries and died at the spot. A police officer said, "The container truck was tilted and another truck was reversing. He thought that he would move, but could not." No formal complaint has been received from the family so far. Police said after the autopsy, the body was handed over to the family. In another accident on Sunday night, the motorcycle-borne youth died near a school. Rahul, from Uttar Pradesh's Kasganj, who lived in Gadoli Kalan village in Gurgaon, worked with his father, who operates a loading auto in the area. Police said Rahul was riding the bike with his friend, Tushar, 24, a resident of Indira Awas Colony in Gadoli Kalan, after attending the birthday celebration of the latter's daughter. Their motorcycle suddenly lost balance and skidded. Neither of them was wearing a helmet. Rahul suffered severe head injuries and died during treatment.

Yamuna level rises, UP keeps flood watch teams ready

Gurgaon.(Agency)

The irrigation department and district administration have set up a flood monitoring cell along Yamuna in Loni and fortified the Alipore embankment. A permanent office has been established at Panchayara, where sandbags and construction material have been stockpiled to plug a breach if needed. Officials said the water level had risen marginally and there is no cause for concern at present. The water discharge at the Okhla barrage is currently recorded at around 10,000 cusecs against a design capacity of 3 lakh cusecs. A flood-like situation typically arises when discharge crosses 1 lakh cusecs. Alipur, Navada, Badarpur, Mirpur Hindu and the Tronica City industrial area in Loni were heavily affected after the embankment had breached in 2023 and 2024. Loni areas vulnerable to flood also include Panchayara, Elaichipur and Lutfullapur villages. "This time we are not leaving things to chance, and preparations have already been made. The irrigation department has also set up watchtowers and is keeping a round-the-clock vigil. The water level has risen but marginally, and there is no reason to worry as of now," said Binod Kumar Singh, executive engineer, irrigation department. Of the 18km Alipore embankment, which runs along Yamuna, 9.6km falls in Loni while the rest is under Baghpat district. The embankment can withstand water pressure in excess of 2 lakh cusecs.

Tyranny and Multi-Crore Corruption Racket in Vadodara Mining Mafia Unchecked, Narmada River Threatened, Billions Siphoned from Baroda Dairy to District Panchayat!

Crores in Royalty Theft Under the Patronage of Mines Dept Commissioner Dhaval Patel and Flying Squad's Chavda; 'Mahanagar Metro' Blows the Lid Off the Sins of Ruling Party Bigwigs!

The Hafta Racket Exposed: Are Mines Commissioner Dhaval Patel & Flying Squad's Chavda Fueling the Mafia?

Mahanagar Metro Desk

KARJAN/VADODARA: The laws of a government promising honesty and transparent governance are being blown to pieces in Gujarat. From the District Panchayat to the co-operative sector, a deep-seated rot of corruption is hollowed out Vadodara from within. Irrefutable evidence of illegal mining and massive royalty theft has emerged against Vasant Rabari, husband of District Panchayat President Jyotsnaben Vasantbhai Rabari, leaving a massive stain on the white clothes of local politics. The entire administrative machinery stands completely subservient to leaders drunk on power.

The Bleeding of Narmada: System Helpless Before Ruthless Plunder of Natural Resources!

A glance at the main road leading from Nareshwar to Palej reveals artificial mountains of illegally excavated sand, operating entirely without government royalty passes or permits. A massive network of sand theft operates day and night from the bed of the holy Narmada river using JCB machines and dumpers. Karjan SDM Shivam Baria, the District Collector, and the local Mamlatdar have turned into mute spectators to this blatant plunder. The thick trail of black money driving this official silence and political pressure is wide open for all to see.

The Baroda Dairy Mega-Scam: A Direct Blow to Poor Milk Producers!

This corrupt syndicate has not even spared the cooperative structure, which serves as the lifeline for local farmers and poor milk producers. An official audit of Baroda Dairy has unmasked a massive financial fraud to the tune of ₹50 to ₹60 lakhs at the chilling center located in Subdol village. Despite this colossal embezzlement being officially documented in the government books, neither the dairy administration nor the BJP district organization leaders have shown the courage to register a criminal case against the perpetrators. Who is shielding these corrupt politicians who are draining the blood, sweat, and tears of poor farmers?

Suspicious Silence of the Mines & Minerals



Department Commissioner and Flying Squad! Grave allegations have surfaced that the very department responsible for stopping this plunder—the Mines & Minerals Department—is actively hand-in-glove with the mafia. Right under the noses of Department Commissioner Dhaval Patel and Flying Squad Chief Chavda Saheb, the state exchequer is being defrauded of crores of rupees. Local sources reveal that these top officials have allegedly reduced their roles to merely collecting regular monthly kickbacks (hafta), leaving the mining mafia with absolutely no fear of the law.

Direct Questions from 'Mahanagar Metro' to the CMO and State Government:

1. Direct Question to Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel: The Mines and Minerals Department operates directly under your control, yet a multi-crore royalty theft racket thrives under your watch. Why is strict action not being taken against these mafias, even after all the evidence has landed directly at your office?
2. When will a strict probe be launched against Dhaval Patel and Chavda?: When will the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) investigate the disproportionate assets of Mines De-

partment Commissioner Dhaval Patel and Flying Squad's Chavda Saheb and file a formal case?

3. When will the looters of milk producers go to jail?: Why has no criminal case been registered against the thieves who siphoned off lakhs of rupees from the Subdol chilling center of Baroda Dairy? Why are they not behind bars?

4. When will the bulldozer action begin?: When will the administration, which ruthlessly enforces the law on common citizens, drop the hammer of justice on powerful scammers like Vasant Rabari, who are plundering natural resources using political muscle?

The entire government structure and police administration in Vadodara are either active partners in this multi-billion black game of corruption or have been completely silenced by political terror. 'Mahanagar Metro' issues a clear challenge: if immediate and stringent legal action is not initiated against these corrupt politicians and negligent officers, 'Mahanagar Metro' will escalate this fight and echo the voice of the public even louder in the corridors of Gandhinagar!

NGT data shows Noida spent 40% NCAP funds

Gurgaon.(Agency)

Noida Authority utilised 40% of the funds allocated under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) over the last five years, with most of the expenditure directed towards road construction. Dust mitigation measures, the Authority said, helped reduce PM10 levels by 20%.

Of the Rs 84 crore released by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) between 2021 and 2026, Noida Authority has spent Rs 34 crore so far. Around Rs 22 crore, nearly 60% of the expenditure, went into building roads. The data, obtained from Prana portal that monitors 130 non-attainment cities on air pollution control, was submitted by Noida Authority before the National Green Tribunal (NGT) recently. A petition filed by environmentalist Amit Gupta last year accused the Authority of noncompliance with environmental norms during cable-laying, pipe repair, optical fibre and gas line work, and other construction activities that triggered dust pollution.

In an affidavit submitted in response to the petition, the Authority's manager (civil), Rahul Kumar, said the applicant had exaggerated the issue,



arguing that developmental and maintenance works inevitably cause temporary "teething problems" until completion, a situation common to every city, including the national capital.

Kumar submitted that Noida Authority spent Rs 34.3 crore of the total Rs 84.2 crore NCAP fund release. Of this, Rs 5.8 crore was spent purchasing 25 sprinkler-mounted trucks, Rs 2.1 crore on four mechanical road-sweeping machines, Rs 3.9 crore on 15 anti-smog guns, Rs

2.4 lakh on outdoor hoardings for public awareness, and Rs 22.6 crore was spent on strengthening roads.

The Authority also submitted that the current average annual PM10 level stood at 155 micrograms per cubic metre (µg/m³), a 21% reduction from 197 micrograms per cubic metre recorded in the base year of 2020-21. Kumar said PM2.5 levels largely depended on combustion sources such as vehicular and industrial emissions and biomass burning, which do not entirely fall under the

Authority's jurisdiction.

The petitioner, however, claimed that most of the work undertaken by the Authority existed only on paper while ground conditions continued to worsen. He also pointed out that the Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board had imposed nearly Rs 30 crore in environmental compensation across roughly 2,200 air and dust pollution cases in Noida over the past decade, even when the Authority claimed that its pollution control measures had been effective.

Jharkhand: Hazaribagh cop killed in Dhanbad road crash

Dhanbad. (Agency)

A police constable was killed and three others were injured after a Hazaribagh police vehicle returning from a raid rammed into a stationary trailer on the GT Road in Dhanbad district early on Tuesday, police said.

The accident occurred around 4 am near Jora Pipal under Barwadda police station limits. The police team from Chalkusha police station in Hazaribagh district was returning after conducting a raid in Maithon when the vehicle collided with the trailer parked on the roadside.

The deceased was identified as Ram Lakhan Yadav. The injured, identified as Naresh Kumar, Green Paswan and Gaurav Kumar, were admitted to Asharfi Hospital at Baramuri in Dhanbad for treatment.

Police said the impact severely damaged the front portion of the vehicle. Preliminary investigation indicated that overspeeding could have caused the accident, though officials are also examining the circumstances under which the trailer was parked on the roadside and whether safety norms were followed.

Barwadda police reached the spot, cleared the damaged vehicle and restored traffic. Further investigation is underway.

Tripura minister meets union Textile minister for strengthening handloom sector

Agartala. (Agency)

Agartala, July 14 (UNI)The minister of handloom, handicraft, and tribal welfare in Tripura, Bikas Debbarma, on Tuesday met the union minister for textiles, Giriraj Singh, in New Delhi and discussed the development of the state's textile, handloom, handicraft, and sericulture sectors. During the meeting, Debbarma presented strategic proposals geared towards strengthening Tripura's traditional industries and expanding their presence in national and international markets.

The proposals included the establishment of an Integrated Textile Park, a Silk Park, a National Institute of Design (NID), an Indian Institute of Handloom Technology (IIHT), and a Central Silk Reeling School (CSRS) in the state.

The minister emphasised the importance of promoting bamboo, pineapple, and banana fibre-based industries; developing craft villages and a handicrafts museum; enhancing export infrastructure; and improving institutional capacity to support artisans, weavers, and entrepreneurs.

The proposal underlined Tripura's textile and handicraft sector with national initiatives such as Viksit Bharat @2047, Vocal for Local, Make in India, and Textiles for Global Markets. Debbarma highlighted Tripura's rich heritage in handloom, bamboo, and cane handicrafts, sericulture, and tribal craftsmanship, emphasising the state's significant potential to contribute to India's textile economy.

IIT-ISM alumnus pledges Rs 10 crore in centenary year

Dhanbad. (Agency)

IIT (ISM) Dhanbad has honoured distinguished alumnus Dr Mohinder Singh Gulati with its Special Centenary Award after he pledged Rs 10 crore for the construction of a multi-purpose convention hall on the campus.

The award was presented at Gulati's residence in the United States by IIT (ISM) Director Prof Sukumar Mishra and Dean (Alumni Affairs) Prof Rajeev Upadhyay as part of the institute's centenary year celebrations. A 1962 Petroleum Engineering graduate and Stanford University alumnus, Gulati is internationally recognised for his contributions to geothermal energy exploration and development.

The institute said the donation, among the largest by an alumnus in its history, would support construction of the convention hall in the proposed Centenary Building and strengthen academic, cultural and community activities on the campus.

Prof Mishra described Gulati as a global ambassador of IIT (ISM) whose professional achievements and commitment to the institute reflected the values of excellence and service.

Prof Upadhyay said Gulati's contribution would inspire alumni across generations and strengthen the institute's global alumni network.

Elephant trackers, face recognition database to scan 'suspects', drones to avoid stampede: What's new in Ahmedabad's 149th Jagannath Rath Yatra

The process will include the three massive chariots of the deities, 18 bhajan mandalis, and 101 decorated trucks.

Ahmedabad. (Agency)

Elephants that will be part of the 149th Rath Yatra procession to be held on July 16, will have a GPS tracker sound monitoring sensors, gyroscope based movement detectors and be under live surveillance to prevent incidents like last year when two elephants ran amok injuring two and trampling on a media crew camera, causing panic.

Taking no chances the Ahmedabad City Police will be using advanced "Gajarakshak" Elephant Monitoring System to enhance both public safety and animal welfare.

Each of the 18 elephants that will take part in the 16-km-long procession, will be equipped with these devices for real-time monitoring from the Central Control Room. PI Dhenu Thakar told the Indian Express, "The system will enable early detection of abnormal movement,



excessive noise exposure, and route deviations, allowing immediate response by police, mahouts, veterinary teams, and Quick Response Teams (QRTs)."

Ahmedabad Rath Yatra is the largest after the Puri-Jagannath yatra which sees nearly one lakh participants and passes through the narrow streets of the old city,

including areas known to be communally sensitive.

Facial Recognition at temple entry

The Ahmedabad City Police will use its in-house developed PINAC 2.0 Facial Recognition System at the main gate of the Jagannath Temple. The AI-enabled system is integrated with a database of over 65,000

known pickpockets and other criminals, enabling real-time identification of suspicious persons and strengthening preventive security measures for devotees during the festival.

AI-Based Stampede Avoidance System

The Detection of Crime Branch (DCB) will deploy more than 65 drones for continuous aerial surveillance across the Rath Yatra route, covering live crowd monitoring, procession movement, traffic regulation, sensitive locations, and critical junctions as part of AI-based Stampede avoidance System that was introduced in the 2025 Rath Yatra. It will calculate the density of people in a particular area of certain square metres and determine, based on space parameters, if a stampede is imminent or not. Based on the results of this system, alerts will be sent out to officers deployed in the Rath Yatra, to disperse crowds at certain places to avoid the unfortunate outcome of a stampede.

Bengaluru tunnel road will cost 1.5 times more than Metro per km

BENGALURU. (Agency)

The proposed 16.75-km Tunnel Road from KR Puram to Hebbal will cost 1.5 times more per kilometre than the Metro Red Line running along a similar corridor, with the respective detailed project reports (DPRs) pegging construction costs at Rs 1,061 crore and Rs 687 crore per km.

The DPR of the Namma Metro Phase 3A (Red Line) was made available on public



platforms on Monday. A comparison of the DPRs for the Red Line and the proposed Tunnel Road Project highlights a sharp contrast in construction costs, with the Metro emerging as the less expensive option on a per kilometre basis despite serving a similar and a longer corridor through the city.

According to the DPR, the proposed 37.80-km Metro Phase 3A, connecting Sarjapur to Hebbal, is estimated to cost Rs 25,999 crore, translating to around Rs 687 crore per km. The corridor comprises 23.524 km of elevated viaduct with 17 stations and 14.28 km of underground section with 10 stations, totalling 27 stations.

In comparison, the proposed 16.75-km tunnel road is currently estimated to cost Rs 17,780 crore, or Rs 1,061 crore per km. With the possibility of the project cost to escalate by up to 45% by the time of completion, the per kilometre cost could rise to approximately Rs 1,538 crore.

Karnataka, Bengaluru lead in higher education

Karnataka emerged first in terms of college density, which is measured by the number of colleges per lakh eligible population (age group of 18-23 years).

BENGALURU. (Agency)

Bengaluru Urban has been crowned as the Indian district with the highest number of colleges (1,148), as per the All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) report for the year 2023-24, recently released by the Union Ministry of Higher Education. Jaipur comes the closest with 742 colleges, followed by Pune (517), Hyderabad (465), Prayagraj (408), and Nagpur (354), the report says.

Karnataka emerged first in terms of college density, which is measured by the number of colleges per lakh eligible population (age group of 18-23 years). The median college density of the country was found to be 32; Karnataka's was a whopping 69, followed by Telangana (56), Andhra Pradesh (51), Himachal Pradesh (51), Kerala (50), Rajasthan (47) and Tamil

Nadu (43). The state stood tall in terms of enrolment of foreign students, emerging as the top destination among all states. In the 2023-2024 academic year, Karnataka



saw the enrolment of 7,914 foreign students across its public and private colleges.

Of this figure, five male and five female students comprised the 10 students in certificate courses, and nine males and 38

females comprised the 47 students in integrated courses. In total, 4,735 male and 3,179 female students made up the final figure. Punjab came closest to Karnataka's feat, with 7,902 foreign student enrolments.

Deputy Chief Minister Dr G Parameshwara took to X on Monday to celebrate the achievement. "Karnataka has earned recognition as the country's leading education hub through its superior academic infrastructure.

This is precisely why foreign students are choosing our state for their learning. It's a proud moment for Kannadigas.

Research opportunities, strong infrastructure, AI-driven learning and student safety -- together they've earned the trust of students from India and abroad," he wrote in a post shared on the platform.

Odisha teen falls from 10th floor while fleeing girlfriend's apartment, loses life

BHUBANESWAR. (Agency)

A 16-year-old boy died after allegedly falling from the 10th floor of an apartment in Chandrasekharpur here on Monday. He was reportedly trying to escape through a bathroom window after his girlfriend's mother returned home unexpectedly.

According to police, the boy and girl are both Class XI students of a private English-medium school in the city. The boy had visited the girl's flat in her mother's absence. However, the girl's mother, who works in a private university in the city, returned home before time as

her daughter was keeping unwell.

Panicking on her arrival, the boy is said to have hid inside the bathroom. On suspicion, the mother knocked on the bathroom door and the boy attempted to flee through the window. He climbed on to exterior pipes running along the building, where he reportedly lost his footing and fell to the ground from the 10th floor.

Staff at the apartment complex heard a loud thud and found the boy lying in a pool of blood. Chandrasekharpur police were alerted and he was rushed to a hospital, where doctors declared him dead. Preliminary probe suggests the boy

panicked and fell while attempting to escape using the pipes outside the bathroom. His schoolbag was later found hanging from the pipes on the ninth floor. "A scientific team visited the spot to investigate the incident. CCTV footage and statements from eyewitnesses are being examined. A case of unnatural death has been registered and further investigation is underway," said Bhubaneswar DCP Jagmohan Meena.

Police said the girl's father works outside the state and she lives in the city with her mother. They are still ascertaining whether the boy fell while trying to hide or attempting to climb down the pipes.

Punjab caps private school fee hike at 5%, extra charge in last 3 years to be returned

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann said a regulatory committee headed by Deputy Commissioners will scrutinise fee hikes.

Chandigarh. (Agency)

Private schools in Punjab that raised fees by more than 5 per cent annually over the past three years will have to refund the excess amount, Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Monday said, adding that such institutions will also not be allowed "the escape route" of "adjusting" the overcharged money.

"Those private schools that have increased fees by more than 15 per cent over past three-year period will be required to refund the excess amount to parents. For example if a school increased fee by 25 per cent during past three years, then they will have to refund parents the excess 10 percent," Mann said.

Mann was addressing a press conference to announce the immediate implementation of an ordinance on capping fee hike by private schools in the state. He said Governor Gulab Chand

Kataria has given his approval to the "Punjab Regulation of Fee of Un-aided Educational Institutions (Amendment) Ordinance, 2026", which the Cabinet had cleared last month.

Mann said a regulatory committee headed by Deputy Commissioners will scrutinise fee hikes. "We will not allow 'vidya mafia' (education mafia) to be created. We have already tackled various kinds of mafia, we don't want one more. This is a historic decision and Punjab will become the first state where private schools will refund excess fees charged," he said, adding "we will not allow private schools to become factories for profit only". He said the Ordinance would bring relief to 32 lakh students studying in 7,800 private schools in the state. The Ordinance caps annual fee

hike at 5%, mandates refunds where fee increase has exceeded 15% over the last three years, treats all charges, including transport and building fee, as part of



tuition fee, and prescribes stringent penalties, including derecognition, for violations. Mann said all private schools would be required to submit details of fees charged during the past four years within

10 days. The information would be uploaded to the Education Department's portal where it will be scrutinised by the government over the following month.

He said the government would conduct audit of schools to examine fee collections. He said schools would not be allowed to escape scrutiny by collecting money under different heads. "Any mandatory payment collected from parents will be treated as fee, irrespective of whether it is shown as tuition fee, building fund, transport fee, computer fee, sports fee or under any other head," he said.

If schools don't adhere, then fines ranging between Rs 50,000 and Rs 1 lakh will be imposed and later affiliation will be cancelled, Mann said.

Why the missing 'h' in my name

My name is Sujata, and there is no 'h' in my name — that's how I introduced myself when I made Mysuru my home 25 years back. Landing straight from a Punjabi North Indian household into Mysuru, a city deeply immersed in South Indian ethos, was a cultural shock. I noticed that 'h' seemed to be the default letter in names — Geetha, Aniketh, Parvathi, Bharath, Pramodh, Vidhya...

Initially, I thought the extra 'h' was for good luck like the extra 'a' some celebrities add to their names for an additional dose of auspiciousness. It was only later that I understood that in the South, people spell names the way they pronounce them, so the 'h' naturally finds its place.

It wasn't that people in the South are partial to 'h'; they love all letters equally. Because the English alphabet lacks separate letters for these specific phonetic characters, South Indian transliteration traditions use the 'h' to signal a harder or aspirated pronunciation: same name, different linguistic traditions.

My gas connection records and even my bank spell my name as Sujatha. Initially, my Aadhaar card also had an 'h'. I had to apply for a correction. The authorities obliged, but wondered why I didn't want my name to be 'spelt correctly'.

Despite repeatedly informing my bank, I continue to be Sujatha. The spelling doesn't match my Aadhaar card or passport, but nobody seems to care. The 'h' must follow the 't'. Period.

Explaining this every single time became exhausting. Eventually, I stopped resisting and accepted it wholeheartedly. After all, if you can't convince them, join them. I, too, started adding an 'h' after 't' and 'd' in names without a second thought, and I was right every time. Well almost. Clearly, I had imbibed the culture of my adopted state rather quickly. A while ago, I interviewed an accomplished woman and wrote her name as Shruthi. "Why did you add an 'h'?" There is no 'h' in my name," she said. I could empathise.

"But you're from the South, aren't you?" I reasoned. "Yes, I am. But there is no 'h' in my name," she said. Note to self: when you do things blindly, you may be right most of the time, but not always. Another cultural surprise was the practice of using a father's or husband's name after a woman's first name. Initially, I was puzzled. Why did women have two names but no surname?

For years, and even now, some people assume Rajpal is my husband's first name.

"How is Rajpal doing?" they ask.

"Which Rajpal?" I reply. "We have three and a half Rajpals in our family. My husband and sons are authentic Rajpals, whereas I'm only half a Rajpal. Gulati is my maiden surname."

It took me some time, but I eventually understood the cultural logic behind using a father's or husband's name. Once I did, it made perfect sense. But when you assume that things work the same way everywhere, mishaps happen. Recently, I met a friend and asked, "How is Kumar doing?" Pat came the reply: "You're the only one who calls him Kumar. His name is Kiran."

"Oops.""Kumar is our family name," she explained. "We use our family name."

Another cultural variation. In many families, especially in South India, surnames don't always follow the same pattern. Father, mother, brothers, and sisters may all have different second names because they may use their father's name, grandfather's name, ancestral village, or family name in different ways. It is fascinating and often becomes a wonderful conversation starter. In North India, surnames often openly signal caste. In Tamil Nadu, and Kerala, many dropped caste surnames due to Dravidian movement politics. Well, that is what makes our country such a beautiful potpourri of cultures, traditions, and identities. We may pronounce, spell our names differently, but every name deserves to be called just as its owner chooses. My name. My choice.

Govt cannot ignore pros, cons of ethanol policy

It must present convincing evidence about the benefits of E20 petrol, instead of attributing motives to critics and dismissing public outrage about its negative impact

The government policy to aggressively push ethanol-blended petrol has come under severe public scrutiny in recent weeks, though the policy has been in force since 2022. The original target to achieve 20% ethanol blending was 2030, but it was preponed to 2025. There are no independent, peer-reviewed studies to back the claims about the effects of ethanol-blended fuel on vehicles. The government needs to be clear about the policy goals and present convincing evidence about its benefits, instead of attributing motives to critics and dismissing public outrage about its negative impact, writes science commentator Dinesh C Sharma in his Edit article Credible data must fuel ethanol drive. Like any new technology, green technologies — be it ethanol-blended petrol or electric vehicles — can have unintended adverse impacts when rolled out on a large scale. All new technologies need to be field-tested under different conditions over a period of time, and the data should be made available to independent experts for review, he writes.

The controversial release and removal of Satluj has raised many issues related to the dark period (1978-93) of Punjab. The lifestyle and psyche of those living under the shadow of terrorism, with persistent threats of murder, kidnapping, etc, were adversely affected. The fear generated by both the State (police/paramilitary) and militant groups badly affected the social, economic and political fabric of the society, writes former GNDU prof Jagrup S Sekhon in his Op-Ed article Punjab deserves to know the whole truth. It is in this context that there is a need to give a balanced perspective on the events of the days of militancy in Punjab, he stresses. The document that serves as practical proof of citizenship for a citizen by birth is a passport issued under Section 5 of the Passports Act. Certainly, it is not the only mode of proof but that is all a citizen has. Any sincere citizenship determination exercise must be anchored in one unshakeable maxim: the burden to prove citizenship does not rest on the citizen; but the burden to rebut the presumption of citizenship rests on the State, writes Lok Sabha MP and former I&B minister Manish Tewari in his Op-Ed article How do I prove my Indian citizenship. It must not become a Kafkaesque gauntlet in which the poor, the disaster-borne, the landless and the illiterate are presumed



aliens until they prove their citizenship, without the means — or even knowledge of what document would suffice — to do so.

Prime Minister Modi has taken keen interest in the construction of new buildings, which seek to blend India's ancient traditions with the aspiration of Viksit Bharat. The government's Central Vista project can pave the way for a new Presidential residence, writes former Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs Vivek Katju in his Edit article Fate of Rashtrapati Bhavan at stake. Detailing various parts of the Raisina Hill the British took 20 years to build, he writes the construction of a new Presidential residence will also be a project of mammoth proportions, and it will also

be controversial. THE 36th NATO summit (July 7-8) was held in Türkiye. For many of its European members, the alliance's biggest strategic uncertainty today lies not in Moscow. It lies in Washington, writes former Ambassador to Russia Ajai Malhotra in his article India's gaze fixed on NATO summit. European NATO members are now quietly questioning how much certainty alliances still provide. India should dismiss any framing of it by NATO as a balancing partner against China, he writes. India chooses partnerships to serve its national interest, external vindication is neither sought nor needed. For India, Ankara is not a meeting to influence; it is one to interpret, he writes.

Protect doctors: Violence dents their morale, impacts healthcare

The theme of this year's National Doctors' Day (July 1) is "Behind the Mask: Who Heals the Healers?" This question has become all the more important after a Shiv Sena corporator, Ramesh Mhatre, assaulted two doctors at a hospital in Maharashtra's Thane district. Mhatre and his accomplices have been arrested, even as one of the aggrieved doctors has submitted his resignation after having received threatening phone calls and messages. A few months ago, doctors were attacked by patients or their relatives at hospitals in Bidar (Karnataka) and Bikaner (Rajasthan). Holidays & Seasonal Events These incidents are symptomatic of a disturbing pattern in India's healthcare system: doctors are expected to save lives while fearing for their own safety. The Thane episode also reveals the vulnerability of the medical staff to political intimidation. The attack was carried out in a fit of rage over the non-availability of a neonatal ICU bed. The doctors could not afford to



make adjustments because a critically ill newborn already occupied the only available emergency bed. They even arranged for the patient's transfer to another facility. Yet, frustration was directed at frontline health

workers performing their duty under severe constraints. An FIR was registered only after widespread public outrage, video evidence that went viral and sustained pressure from the medical fraternity. The Shiv Sena led by Maharashtra Deputy CM Eknath Shinde has condemned the corporator's misconduct and promised disciplinary action. However, justice will depend largely on whether the police are allowed to complete their probe without political interference.

Assaults on doctors and other staffers trigger strikes and disrupt hospital services, ultimately impacting patient care. India urgently needs a stronger legal framework to curb violence in healthcare facilities. Emphasis should also be laid on improved hospital security, faster investigation of such offences and greater public awareness about the realities of medical emergencies and resource limitations. A nation cannot expect its healers to serve fearlessly while leaving them defenceless.

Modiplomacy: A billion people, one brand

Opposition leaders argue the travels came at cost of roughly Rs 762 crore over a decade. But the bigger picture is arithmetic before charisma.

It was 6°C outside Marvel Stadium in Melbourne on Thursday night, but inside, nearly 30,000 people were generating their own heat. Giant mandalas glowed behind the stage, and the red carpet stretched improbably long. When Narendra Modi walked out beside Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, the arena did not so much applaud as detonate.

Albanese, who has hosted Bruce Springsteen at the same venue, joked that even 'The Boss' hadn't seen a reception quite like this one. Chants of "Modi, Modi, Modi" collided with an Australian sporting refrain "Oi! Oi! Oi!" This was the Melbourne leg of Modi's latest three-nation tour of Indonesia, Australia, New Zealand—one unmistakable style, road-tested across more than a hundred foreign visits to around 100 nations since 2014. It's a record unmatched by any Indian Prime Minister before him. What sets apart Modiplomacy is not merely its volume, but its geography and grammar. Where American, Russian, Chinese and many European leaders have historically circled a familiar loop of Washington, Moscow, Beijing, London, Paris and Tokyo, Modi has, by design, repeatedly stepped off it. He became the first Indian PM to visit Israel, Palestine, Mongolia, Rwanda, and, weeks before this trip, Slovakia since its independence. He has traveled to Fiji, Seychelles, Mauritius, Papua New Guinea, Trinidad and Tobago—nations that rarely feature on major-power itineraries, yet host sizeable populations of Indian origin. Everywhere, a connecting line keeps surfacing. It's about retrieval of a diaspora no previous PM had systematically courted—in Houston's 'Howdy Modi' rally and now in a sold-out Docklands arena in Melbourne, where he told the crowd their weekends of bhajan-clubbing and backyard cricket proved a life built abroad and an identity rooted in India need not contradict each other.



Layered onto that geography is a more personal grammar than statecraft's usual communiqués and restrained handshakes. The Modihuglomacy—extended to leaders from Barack Obama to Emmanuel Macron—is now so recognisable that foreign media outlets anticipate it as a symbolic gesture. Gestures like unveiling a two-decade-old photograph of himself with former Australian captain Steve Waugh at the Melbourne Cricket Ground this week, a memento from when Modi was still

Gujarat's Chief Minister, define Modi's style. Numbers, too, have entered the repertoire, deployed as literal equations rather than abstract talk of "connection". In Jakarta, Modi told the Indian community that Republic Day, January 26, could be read as 2+6=8, echoing President Prabowo Subianto's own milestones, a flourish that didn't quite land since Republic Day is an annual event, not the "last year" event his arithmetic implied. Opposition parties mocked

it as gimmickry. In Melbourne, he reached for a different sum, describing the India-Australia relationship as 1+1=11, insisting the partnership was not merely additive but exponential. He called this trip his "hat-trick" in Australia, urging the diaspora to "hit fours and sixes" for their adopted country, reaching for a metaphor his audience lives inside. Strip away the choreography and the visits still carry a dense agenda: 16 agreements in Jakarta spanning defence and space cooperation between Isro and Indonesia's BRIN, a decade-stalled uranium deal and expanded defence roadmap in Melbourne, and talks in Auckland building on this year's India-New Zealand trade agreement. Modi now holds more than three-dozen international civilian honours—Indonesia's Bintang Adipurna the latest—making him India's most internationally decorated PM. Opposition leaders argue the travels came at cost of roughly Rs 762 crore over a decade. But the bigger picture is arithmetic before charisma. India, a nation of 1.4 billion people, is the fastest-growing major economy on the planet. When Modi lands in Melbourne, Jakarta or Berlin, he facilitates access to Indian consumers and a multimillion-strong diaspora.

That leverage buys latitude: a PM whose country other governments need something from can set the terms of his own reception—for one, a stadium instead of a banquet hall. Host governments build itineraries around the informality rather than merely tolerating it. Albanese personally patronised the 30,000-seat stadium event. The mayor of Nice ordered India's tricolour flown over the city hall, a courtesy rarely extended to visiting dignitaries. None of this sits in any protocol handbook; it exists because hosts have concluded that meeting Modi on his own terms is worth more than insisting he meet them on theirs.

Learn how to make Pizza from scratch



For perfect pizzas- follow these foolproof tips by celebrity chef Mohan mundetiya .

HOW TO MAKE THE DOUGH

Homemade dough takes just 15 minutes to make but at least 2 ½ hours to rise. if you won't

be able to tend to it ,mix up a batch in the morning and let it rise slowly in the fridge (8 to 12 hours). Dough balls can be wrapped separately and frozen for up to three months. To shape the dough, pat it flat with your hands .

Pick up the dough and rotate your hands around the edge to create a circle. Place the round over the tops of your knuckles, and pull gently to stretch it into a 10 -to 12 -inch pie. Continue until you've stretched it very thinly - that's what it crispy. (If it breaks, simply pinch it together with your fingers.) You will find the recipe for the home made dough here on my website.

SPREAD THE SAUCE

Place the dough of on to parchment paper and put a dollop of sauce in the center. Start with less then you need - otherwise your pie will be soggy - and use the back of your spoon to distribute. If using pesto, simply dot spoonfuls around the dough.

LAYER THE TOPPINGS

If using delicate greens like spinach, start with those. Otherwise, sprinkle a layer of cheese first, but go easy so the other ingredients shine. Next add any fresh herbs , seasonal produce , and proteins you like . Drizzling olive oil over fresh vegetables will ensure they roast nice. You can also turn left overs into toppings; try cooked greens, veggies and cooked meats (sprinkle with a little more cheese so they don't dry out during baking).

Some tips and suggestions

- Think of the pizza as a blank slate for what's in season and use that for a topping.
- Try mixing various varieties of cheese for improved flavors.
- Innovate on the toppings. Do not add too many at a time or all the flavors get lost.
- Remember to add a protein in the topping as well.
- Fresh greens work very well on pizzas. Try baby spinach leaves, mint, basil, even coriander!
- Brush the pizza with a little olive oil as soon as you take it out of the oven. It prevents the pizza from drying out and adds on to the flavor as well.

Recipe: Stuffed cobra

Rice roll



Indulge in mouthwatering South Indian cuisine with a grand festival at Southindies, Shivajinagar. Choose from the exotic dishes from all the four southern states of India. The personalised meal experience at the Grand Maharaja Banquet in Southindies is on till September 1 and will make us feel pampered like a king. To start with, choose from an array of unique flavoured rasams to go along with puris. It is followed by some of the mouthwatering starters like grilled pineapple, pazham-pineapple, the spicy Andhra chilly mushroom, podi tossed idli or the cocktail idlis tossed with gunpowder. Don't forget to try out the Madras bhel.

The best part is the maincourse, which is served to you with a choice of appams, iddiappams and parathas, along with kaistew, spicy kozhambu or a kurma. The buttermilk sorbet, served between the maincourse, is an absolute must try. One can savour some authentic curd rice with an array of interesting pickles as well.



For those who have a sweet tooth, the desserts like the tender coconut payasam — a signature dish of Southindies and an array of other desserts to choose from the dessert buffet spread, are a must-try.

So indulge in the the Grand Maharaja Buffet at Southindies, Shivajinagar, Ganeshkind Road from 7 pm onwards. It is priced at `500 plus taxes per person.

5 Easy and healthy

Non Vegetarian Recipes

Adequate protein intake is crucial for muscle growth and maintenance.

Today we're looking at some quick and healthy protein-rich non-vegetarian recipes that will help you clock your daily protein requirement without spending too much time in the kitchen. Let's get started!

Baked Chicken Legs

Ingredients

8 chicken legs - skinned
1 teaspoon curry powder
2 teaspoons French mustard
½ cup yogurt
1 cup breadcrumbs

Method

- Combine, curry powder, mustard and yoghurt and mix well . Coat chicken legs in mixture before rolling in breadcrumbs. Place on a plate in fridge for 30 minutes.
- Preheat oven to 350 F. Grease an ovenproof dish. Place chicken legs in dish and bake turning once or twice.
- Bake for approximately 45 minutes or until chicken is cooked through and crumb is golden and crisp.

Grilled Chicken Breasts

Ingredients

1/3 cup mustard
1/4 cup honey
2 tablespoons mayonnaise
1 teaspoon steak sauce
4 skinless, boneless chicken breast halves

Method

- Preheat the grill for medium heat. In a shallow bowl, mix the mustard, honey,

mayonnaise, and steak sauce.

- Set aside a small amount of the honey mustard sauce for basting, and dip the chicken into the remaining sauce to coat. Lightly oil the grill grate.
- Grill chicken over indirect heat for 18 to 20 minutes, turning occasionally. Watch carefully to prevent burning!

Fish Teriyaki

Ingredients

1 cup Soy Sauce
¼ cup Sugar
¼ cup Salad Oil
2 tsp Ginger 2 cloves Garlic
700 g Fish Fillets
1 tbsp Sesame Seeds

Method

- Mix together soy sauce, sugar, oil, ginger, and garlic in a large bowl. Cut fish fillets into four equal portions. Marinate fillets in the prepared mixture.
- Place fish on a broiling pan, reserving the marinade.

Simmer fish fillets 4-5-inch above the heat for 3-4 minutes, basting with reserved marinade frequently.

- Sprinkle fish fillets with sesame seeds. Remove from pan and serve hot.

Egg White Omlette with Veggies

Ingredients

3 large egg whites
1 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon freshly ground pepper
1/2 cup thinly sliced spinach
1 tomato chopped

Method

- Whisk egg whites, water, salt, and pepper together in a medium bowl. Toss spinach, tomato in another bowl. Lightly coat with oil and heat over medium heat 1 minute.
- Pour egg mixture into pan and cook until eggs begin to set on bottom. Cook 2 minutes. Slide omelet onto a serving plate and garnish with reserved filling.

Prawn Salad

Ingredients

Red chillis chopped
1 clove garlic
2 tablespoons olive oil
800 green prawns peeled and de-veined
1 cup cherry tomatoes
100 g green beans
100 g peas
1 red capsicum thinly sliced
juice of 1 lemon
freshly ground black pepper

Method

- Place chilli and garlic with oil in a food processor and blend until lightly chopped. - Transfer half the mixture to a mixing bowl. Add prawns and toss to coat thoroughly. Allow this to marinate for 30 minutes.
- Preheat oven to 200 °C. Transfer remaining mixture to dish. Add tomatoes, beans, and peas. Toss to combine. Microwave on high for three minutes, or until vegetables are just cooked.
- Transfer prawns to a baking tray and bake for ten minutes, or until cooked. Remove from oven and tip prawns and cooking juices into cooling vegetables.

One serving of nostalgia, please

d classic dishes are back by demand on city restaurant menus, in a fun, new avatar. It's a case of old wine in a new bottle come to life in the city. For of the biggest spillover trends of last year (and one that is set to be the highlight this year, too) is the return of the forgotten food. The things we ate when we were younger -from ol' comfort khichdi to ladi-pav keema, there seems to be a revival of nostalgic fare across eateries. Are you ready to say deja vu?

ABITE INTO CHILDHOOD

Remember sucking on those chilled flavoured ice lollies, that hardly cost a buck or two? The quirky ice delights in kala khatta, orange, kachhi kairi and raspberry are now part of a full-fledged menu at a new eatery at Kala Ghoda.

How many of us have dipped raw mango or guava into red chilli powder and salt and relished that? Chef Floyd Cardoz of a restaurant at Lower Parel has come up with Guava Tan-Ta-Tan, which is a dessert comprising pieces of guava with lal mirch and caramel sauce, a hark back to earlier times.

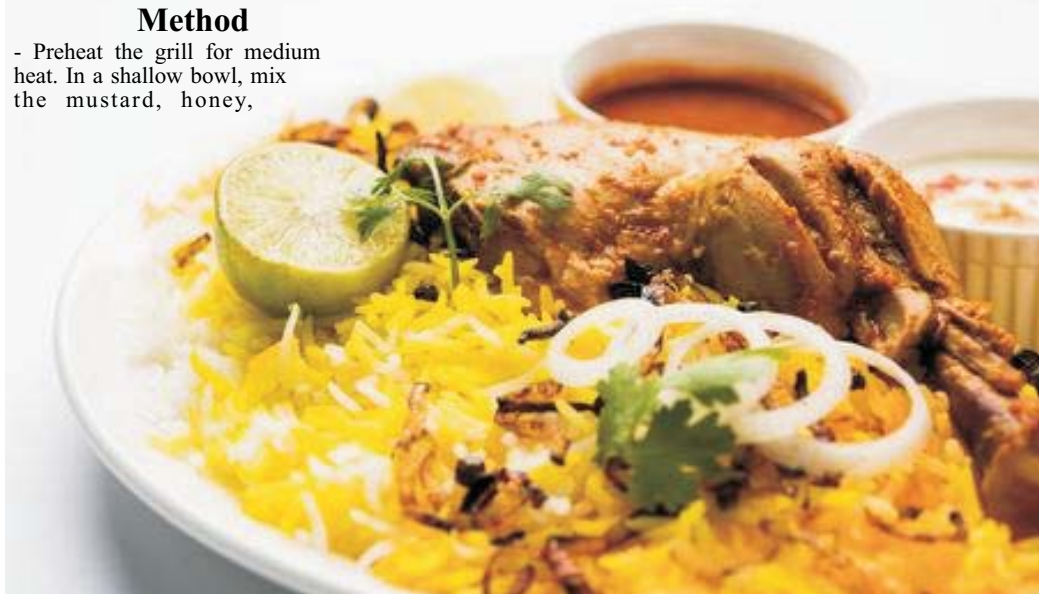
And, if you nibbled on chalk as a child, you may just be able to bring that quirk back albeit safely . A much-in-demand dessert at an eatery at BKC has Edible Mitti made of chocolate brownie, hazelnut chocolate and chocolate sauce as well as an Edible Chalk, made using icing sugar.

TRADITION, REVISITED

Another huge movement is see ing classic dishes back on the menu in several places. While Irani eateries seem to be fading out, such food is now back under the spotlight. Dishes like bun-



maska, dhansak and keema-pao are the new fine-dine bite. Agrees food blogger Perzen Patel, "This whole revival has been happening in restaurants where they take a lot of simple fare most people grew up on, and bring them onto the plate in a fancier way . For instance, there is a defi nite revival of Parsi food -one restau rant does have keema stuffed in a bun, while a city food truck does it in a brun. berry pulao is on many menus too." Comfort food also gets a delicious twist. Chef Hardik Patel has brought back Akuri on Ladi Pav at an eatery at Worli. "It was created using an inhouse spice mix. It got so popular that we made it a regular on the menu," he says. And a restaurant based on the stock market format at BKC has come up with a Misal Pav Fondue. This desi-videsi combination has Mumbai's popular spicy misal with farsan go creamy in a continental fondue pot with sprouts and crispy croutons to match. Crunchy peanuts are added to the Maharastrian masala used in the gravy. And ever fancied a non-veg misal? Chef Amol Patil has given the traditional dish a twist with a 'Chicken Missal' and a 'Mutton Missal'. He also does a Continental Pav Bhaji, where the bhaji is prepared with a variety of English veggies, such as broccoli, zucchini and peppers, infused with Indian flavours. The dish is served with focaccia sticks instead of the good ol' pav.



*Light, open
and airy,
complete with
a high ceiling,
Seasonal
Tastes, the
24-hour dining
facility at
The Westin
Chennai,
gives you a
sense of well-
being every
time you
enter.*

Recipe: Masala baked

Eggs



A yummy egg and spinach baked dish.

Preparation time: 15 mins

Cooking time: 5-6 mins

Serves: 01

Recipe Ingredients:

1 tbsp butter
4 tbsp cooked chopped spinach, that's been squeezed to extract excess liquid
2 eggs
½ tomato
2 tbsp heavy cream
2 tbsp grated parmesan
½ tsp oregano
¼ tsp grated nutmeg
Salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste

Recipe Method:

Heat oven to broil. Grease two 8-oz. gratin dishes with butter. To each dish, add 2 tbsp. spinach. Using your fingers, make 2 wells in each pile of spinach and crack 2 eggs in each well. Cut tomato into 4 wedges and nestle 2 wedges on opposite sides of each dish.



Pour 1 tbsp. heavy cream into each dish. Sprinkle each dish with 1 tbsp. parmesan, ¼ tsp. oregano, 1/8 tsp. nutmeg, and salt and pepper to taste. Transfer to oven rack and broil until the cheese is golden brown, the whites of the eggs are set, and the yolks are still slightly soft, about 5 minutes.

Restaurant Review Seasonal Tastes

Decor

It is soothingly done up in subtle colours: white, lilac, blue, green etc, offset by light wood. I, of course, choose the window table, and look out at the greenery and the gurgling water bodies through the tall glass wall.

Food

Here's my chance to go completely healthy, I thought, as I went through the menu and its many interesting options. Several are vegetarian, I noted. Dishes containing pork can be spotted, thanks to a tiny pink

sign. My taste buds craved Bubblicious, Westin's Sunday brunch. Those live counters looked so inviting with their global food — Indian, Thai,

Chinese, Japanese, Grills, Continental, Moroccan and lots more. Our starters came to our table, and we had a wide variety, including paneer tikka, tandoori

fish, chicken along with a choice of chutneys. And some crisp-around-the-edges with stringy cheese, thin crust pizza. Succulent meat, I must say. It was moist and tender, yet perfectly charred, to give that smoky charcoal-y taste one expects from the tandoor.

The salads were bursting with life, begging to be eaten, while the limited sushi was nice. What I did enjoy, though, was the pasta. Getting it right is an art. You've got to know when to stop. The chef has mastered the technique of not going overboard. Each Sunday sees the chef bringing out new, innovative food, a feast for the eyes and the taste buds.

They have a separate section for kids on the menu too — their food is placed in their play area, on low counters. Someone watches over them so they can eat and get their fun in peace while their parents are kept out of the way. Desserts could spoil you for choice. The cold stone ice cream had me experimenting with flavours and toppings. Liquid Nitrogen-dipped chocolate could have me addicted to their cold crispness encasing soft gooeyness on the inside.



Restro review: ICHIN@BARLEYZ (Indian/Chinese)

Decor

White leather furniture, LED pin lights in the ceiling, a glass-walled display kitchen and a huge buffet counter form the decor elements here. A PDR (private dining room) and a dedicated area for kids make it unique and family-friendly. You can watch the dim sum experts at work while you wait to be served.

Service

As you can imagine, the name stands for Indian+Chinese — arguably the two most popular cuisines in India, at least when dining out. Start with a hearty sliced Chicken with Pak Choy and Noodles in a Star Anise-flavoured Broth, it's quite substantial. Some of the starters we liked were the



Carrot, Shitake Mushrooms and Beansprouts; Steamed Popiah with Sweet Soya and Sesame Seeds; and Chicken with Shredded Ginger. Sliced Lamb and Bell Capsicum in Crushed Black Pepper Sauce should appeal to those with a penchant for 'teekha'. From the Indian section of the menu, we liked the three-style Tikki made with anjeer, potato and beetroot with mango chutney. Paneer 'Khurchan' — the term may be debatable, but IChin's version is good and made with assorted peppers, onions, tomatoes and dry kasoori methi. Other mains like Dum ki Raan, Nalli Boti Qorma and Gosht ki Nihari with aromatic 'potli' spices were simply outstanding. Order a Saffron Lassi to go with the desi khana.

The Barleyz Brewery complex is a labyrinth of F&B outlets and IChin is one of them. An added advantage is that you can sample their brews before you start your dining experience.

Malpua Yaquiti — rice and lentil pudding, layered between Malpua, was unusual and delicious.

Plus and minus

A great location helps, but balancing two cuisines in a single menu can be a procedural nightmare. Lunch buffets, especially during weekends, can get quite noisy.

Venue: IChin @Barleyz, Barleyz, 2/3, 3rd Floor, 80 Feet Road, Koramangala, Bangalore — 560034

Meal for two: ₹1,200

Timings: 12 pm to 3.30 pm (lunch), 7 pm to 11 pm (dinner); Call: 67169610

Rating

Food: 3.5

Service: 3.5

Decor: 3.5

Must try: Tikkis, Nihari and Saffron Lassi

Importance of eating oatmeal every morning

Oatmeal is grounded oats that can be used in several ways to prepare a healthy breakfast. Consuming oatmeal has several health benefits due to its nutritional value and high fibre content. So, if you want to get fit, healthy and energised, try eating oatmeal for breakfast. You can add fruits, cinnamon, nutmeg and nuts to your oatmeal for added flavour and nutrition. You can also prepare a smoothie with oatmeal for a healthy and nourishing breakfast. Oatmeal can also be used to prepare pancakes, upma, cookies, muffins and pies.

Health Benefits of Oatmeal in the

Morning:

1. Keeps you satiated for a long time, so is likely to induce weight loss.
2. Since it is rich in fibre, oatmeal helps reduce bad or LDL cholesterol levels.
3. Reduces the risk of high blood pressure.
4. Reduces risk of diabetes.
5. Prevents heart diseases.
6. Oatmeal is also a good source of vitamin B, iron, protein and magnesium.
7. Improves digestion.
8. Low in calories.
9. Oatmeal can fight risk of cancer.
10. Boosts immunity.



The 136-year-old mosque that refused to move from Kolkata airport

Over the decades, a mosque standing right within the premises of Kolkata airport has remained a point of contention. In fact, the Bankra mosque predates the airport. Now, the BJP government in Bengal has renewed efforts to relocate the mosque.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Ever since the British built the Dum Dum aerodrome in Kolkata in 1924, a mosque abruptly standing right within the premises has remained a point of contention. Over the decades, the aerodrome evolved into what is now the Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose International Airport, chief ministers came and went, but the Bankra mosque stayed put despite safety concerns raised by aviation authorities. Now, with the BJP in power at the Centre and

at the state, efforts to relocate the mosque have gathered fresh momentum. Over the past week, entry to the 136-year-old Bankra mosque, also known as the Gauripur Jama Masjid, has been stopped by the Suvendu Adhikari-led government due to security concerns. The Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) has flagged the issue of allowing devotees access to a high-sensitive zone based only on Aadhaar cards. On normal days, around 50 people are



allowed to offer namaz at the mosque after being frisked by the CISF at the airport entry gate. They are required to show only Aadhaar cards. Biometric checks and background verification

mandatory for airport entry were not carried out. The devotees are then taken to the mosque by bus. During Friday prayers, the count swells to well above 80. **CHALLENGES POSED BY MOSQUE** But, more than security, the bizarre location of the mosque poses an obstacle to the airport's secondary runway. Once surrounded by open land, the mosque now stands just 165 metres north of the secondary runway. As per rules, any building has to be at a minimum distance of 240 metres from a

runway. Moreover, an adjacent pond led to additional complications for aircraft movement. This prevented full utilisation of the second runway, whose operational length became limited to 2,832 metres. In comparison, the primary runway is 3,633 metres. As a stop-gap measure, the issue was circumvented by shifting the runway's touchdown point southward by 88 metres. However, this arrangement was adequate for only narrow-body aircraft like Airbus A320 and Boeing 737.

5.9K ton waste to be processed daily at five places

New Delhi. (Agency)

The Municipal Corporation of Delhi has awarded contracts to process nearly 5,900 metric tonnes of fresh municipal waste daily at five locations, including landfill sites at Okhla, Bhalswa and Ghazipur, officials said on Monday. Under the contracts, Bhalswa will process 1,800 metric tonnes of fresh waste daily, followed by Okhla (1,400 MT), Narela-Bawana (1,200 MT), Ghazipur (800 MT) and Singhola (700 MT). Officials said the move aims to prevent fresh garbage from piling up at landfill sites while remediation of legacy waste continues. Different firms have been awarded the contracts and will set up the required infrastructure before beginning waste processing. The Municipal Corporation of Delhi has been working to clear legacy waste at the Ghazipur, Bhalswa and Okhla landfill sites. Delhi generates around 10,000 metric tonnes of fresh waste every day across its 12 zones, posing a major challenge as new garbage continues to accumulate alongside ongoing remediation work. Officials said remediation has progressed faster at Bhalswa and Okhla than at Ghazipur, where disposal of processed material has been delayed due to the lack of a designated dumping site. Bhalswa continues to receive the highest volume of fresh waste daily.

DERC okays 8 per cent increase in fuel, power surcharge

New Delhi. (Agency)

The Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (DERC), the city's power regulator, has allowed distribution companies to impose an additional fuel and power purchase adjustment surcharge (FPPAS) of up to eight per cent on consumers for a second month, which could inflate monthly electricity bills further. Last month, the DERC permitted the power discoms to impose additional surcharge for April at the rate of 7.94% to BSES Rajdhani Power Limited (BRPL), 7.43% to BSES Yamuna Power Limited (BYPL) and 6% in case of Tata Power Delhi Distribution Limited (TPDDL). An order issued by the DERC on July 10 stated that the FPPAS for May was calculated at 25% for BRPL, 19.91% for BYPL and 12.21% for TPDDL. The three power discoms in June and July had sought relaxation from the DERC on the ground that the actual power purchase cost for May increased significantly as compared to the prevailing base power purchase cost. As per the DERC regulations, there is a cap of 10% on this surcharge in a billing cycle. The surcharge is determined by the DERC monthly. It is calculated as a percentage of the total of the fixed charge and the energy charge of a consumer. The DERC has allowed the discoms to recover, in addition to the capped FPPAS of 10%, the additional FPPAS for May, thereby removing the difficulties they faced in recovering "at least the reasonable part of the increase" in power purchase costs, according to the order. The additional FPPAS is permitted at the rate of 7.94% for BRPL, 7.43% for BYPL and 2.21% for TPDDL. The maximum total FPPAS permitted for May in 17.94% in the case of BRPL.

Begging you: Why actors, netas and even Dipke urging Sonam Wangchuk to end fast

New Delhi. (Agency)

As activist and educationist Sonam Wangchuk's indefinite hunger strike entered its 17th day on Tuesday, concern over his deteriorating health has prompted politicians, activists, writers, actors and academics from across the country to urge him to end his fast and continue the campaign through other means. Eminent personalities like former Maharashtra CM Uddhav Thackeray, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav, Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra, author Arundhati Roy, actor Naseeruddin

Shah and several others have requested Wangchuk to end his hunger strike. Wangchuk, who joined the



Cockroach Janta Party's (CJP) protest at New Delhi's Jantar Mantar on June 28, has become the face of the protest demanding the resignation of Union

Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan over alleged irregularities in the NEET examination. While backing the movement and its demands, several eminent personalities have now appealed to 59-year-old Wangchuk to prioritise his health, arguing that the struggle requires his continued leadership. According to the CJP, Wangchuk has lost 8.2 kilograms since beginning his fast. His latest medical parameters showed a blood pressure of 107/70 mmHg and a blood glucose level of 67 mg/dL, adding to concerns about his physical condition.

Targeting of commercial shipping must cease: Delhi after Hormuz strikes kill Indian

New Delhi. (Agency)

India on Tuesday condemned the attacks on merchant vessels, calling them acts of violence targeting seafarers and disrupting free and safe navigation through international waterways such as the Strait of Hormuz. The statement came shortly after the Ministry of External Affairs summoned the Deputy Chief of Mission of the Iranian Embassy in New Delhi and lodged a strong protest over the missile attack on two vessels transiting the strait, in which one Indian seafarer was killed, and several others were injured. The Ministry of External Affairs said

it was deeply concerned by the attacks on the UAE-flagged vessels MT Al Bahiyah and MT Mombasa, which together had 30 Indian crew



members among a combined crew of 46. It also voiced concern over the renewed attacks and escalating hostilities in West Asia, calling for an immediate cessation of violence and

a return to dialogue and diplomacy in the interest of regional peace, security and stability. In its statement, the ministry said attacks on commercial shipping and civilian infrastructure in the region must cease so that free and unimpeded navigation and commerce through international waterways can be restored at the earliest in accordance with international law. According to the ministry, one of the 12 Indian nationals aboard MT Al Bahiyah was killed and another was injured. Of the 18 Indians on MT Mombasa, nine sustained injuries, including two who are reported to be in a serious condition.

Delhi, UP See Monsoon Pause. When Will Rain Return?

New Delhi. (Agency)

July began with relentless downpours, bringing much-needed relief from the blistering summer heat. However, after a dramatic spell, the monsoon appears to have suddenly lost momentum across northwest India, including Delhi-NCR and parts of Uttar Pradesh. Dense rain clouds have given way to clear skies, humidity levels have fluctuated, and temperatures have begun climbing once again. **Why has the monsoon slowed down?** Experts say the primary driver behind the current dry spell is a meteorological phenomenon known as a "break monsoon" condition, coupled with a significant shift in monsoon trough. In the context of Indian weather, a trough is an elongated region of low atmospheric pressure. It is represented on weather maps as a dashed line and typically brings heavy clouds, moisture, and rainfall as it forces warm, moist air to rise. The IMD primarily tracks two major types of troughs that influence Indian weather, namely the monsoon



trough and the offshore trough. **The shifting monsoon trough** Per experts, the monsoon trough which essentially is a low-pressure belt stretching across the country acts as a highway for rain bearing winds, has now migrated away from the plains of northwest India. M Danish, scientist at IMD Lucknow, said, "The monsoon belt shifted to the Terai belt in the northern part of Uttar Pradesh. So, due to that, only northern portion is experiencing rainfall". Speaking on the slowdown of the monsoon, he added, "The slowdown means shifting of the monsoon trough. One low-pressure system was formed last week, so it's shifting in the northern part. Due to that, the monsoon trough is also shifted." Due to the northward shift toward the Himalayan foothills, the rainfall has been concentrated in the Northern parts of UP such as Gorakhpur, Balrampur, and Kushinagar and East India, leaving Delhi-NCR and Western UP dry.

Government summons Iranian diplomats after Indian sailor killed in Hormuz strikes

New Delhi. (Agency)

India has summoned Iran's Deputy Ambassador to the Ministry of External Affairs after an Iranian missile strike on two UAE-flagged tankers in the Strait of Hormuz killed one Indian crew member and injured eight others, government sources said on Monday. The diplomatic move came a day after the UAE said Iranian cruise missiles struck the tankers Mombasa and Al Bahiyah in the southern shipping lane of the Strait of Hormuz, within Omani waters. The attack killed one Indian crew member and injured eight others. According to the UAE, those injured included six Indians and two Ukrainians. Four of the injured are

still in critical condition. The tankers named in the strike were Mombasa and Al Bahiyah. After the recent attacks, the IRGC once again accused the US of facilitating the transit of vessels through what it called an "illegal route" closer to the Omani side of the Strait. It also described the route as dangerous, claiming that mines had been laid in those waters, ent of violence and mistrust. The summoning of Deputy Chief of Mission (DCM) Mohammad Javad Hosseini and other Iranian diplomats came after India voiced concerns and sought reassurances over the attack in Omani territorial waters in the Strait of Hormuz. The strike killed an Indian crew member and injured

eight others, including six Indians and two Ukrainians. Four of the injured remain critical. Following the attacks, the Ministry



of External Affairs called for immediate de-escalation and said the repeated incidents were "deeply worrisome." "We reiterate our call for immediate de-escalation of tensions, and the conclusion of ongoing negotiations

for a diplomatic solution so that peace and stability can return to the region," the MEA said. "The targeting of commercial shipping and civilian infrastructure in the region must end, and free and unimpeded navigation and commerce through the international waterways in the region, in keeping with international law, must be restored at the earliest," it said. The UAE said two Iranian cruise missiles hit the oil tankers Mombasa and Bahiya, setting both on fire. The attack killed an Indian crew member and injured eight others, including four Indians and two Ukrainians, six of them seriously. Abu Dhabi called it a "brazen" violation of international law.

Markets tumble in early trade as rising oil prices dent sentiment; Sensex drops 553 points

MUMBAI. (Agency)

Market benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty declined in early trade on Tuesday dragged by a sharp rally in crude oil prices due to the renewed flare-up in West Asia.Fresh foreign fund outflows and a weak trend in global peers also put pressure on the markets.

The 30-share BSE Sensex dropped 552.99 points to 77,063.41 in early trade. The 50-share NSE Nifty declined 160.45 points to 24,050.55.

From the Sensex pack, InterGlobe Aviation, HCL Tech, Bajaj Finance, Mahindra & Mahindra, UltraTech Cement and Larsen & Toubro were the biggest laggards.Bharti Airtel, Tata Consultancy Services, Adani Ports and Tata Steel were among the winners.Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, quoted 1.63 per cent higher at USD 84.60 per barrel."There are some headwinds blowing again which might impact the Indian market in the near-term. The escalation of US-Iran conflict has pushed Brent crude to USD 84. If this spike continues it will again start impacting India's macros," VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Investments Limited, said.In Asian markets, South Korea's Kospi traded 3.71 per cent lower. Japan's Nikkei 225 index, Shanghai's SSE Composite index and Hong Kong's Hang Seng index were also quoting lower.US markets ended in negative territory on Monday.

Rupee falls 48 paise to 96.16 against US dollar in early trade

MUMBAI. (Agency)

The rupee depreciated 48 paise to 96.16 against the US dollar in early trade on Tuesday as heightened geopolitical uncertainty put pressure on most Asian currencies, including the rupee.

Forex traders said the rupee came under pressure due to a combination of factors, crude oil prices climbed on renewed geopolitical tensions, while demand for the US dollar increased as investors moved toward safe-haven assets.At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 95.95 then lost ground and touched 96.16 registering a fall of 48 paise from its previous close.

On Monday, the rupee depreciated 30 paise to close at 95.68 against the US dollar.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading at 101.17, down 0.06 per cent.Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, was trading higher by 2.02 per cent at USD 84.98 per barrel in futures trade amid concerns over disruptions to supplies through the Strait of Hormuz.India being a major oil importer, higher crude prices remain negative for the rupee," said Anil Kumar Bhansali, Head of Treasury and Executive Director Finrex Treasury Advisors LLP.Bhansali further said higher oil import costs have raised concerns about India's currency account and trade balance, weighing further on the currency.On the domestic equity market front, the BSE Sensex declined 0.42 per cent to 77,294.12 while the Nifty was down 0.64 per cent at 24,144.60.

TCS wins tech mandate for JFK Airport's \$19-billion terminal project

New Delhi. (Agency)

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has secured the technology and innovation mandate for New Terminal One at New York's John F Kennedy (JFK) International Airport, the company said in an exchange filing.

Under the contract, TCS will develop and manage the terminal's digital infrastructure, including passenger processing systems, cybersecurity, enterprise applications, artificial intelligence-led operations and IT infrastructure management. New Terminal One is part of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey's \$19-billion redevelopment of JFK Airport. The project includes two new terminals, upgrades to two existing terminals, a new ground transportation hub and a redesigned road network.The technology system, built on TCS' Cognix and ignio platforms, will provide real-time information on passenger processing, baggage handling and terminal security. TCS said this would help airlines manage operations and costs more efficiently.

MAHANAGAR METRO

EPFO simplifies PF transfers: What the new rule means for job switchers

New Delhi. (Agency)

Starting a new job usually comes with a long checklist, i.e., updating documents, completing paperwork and settling into a new workplace. Until now, employees also had to submit a separate request to transfer their provident fund (PF) balance from their previous employer.That process is now becoming much simpler.

The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has introduced a new system under which eligible employees will no longer have to submit a separate PF transfer request after changing jobs. If the Universal Account Number (UAN) is linked with Aadhaar and other conditions are met, the PF balance will be transferred

automatically when the employee joins a new employer.

WHAT HAS CHANGED?

Earlier, employees had to apply separately to transfer their PF balance from the previous employer's PF account to the new one. The request had to be processed by EPFO and, in some cases, verified by the employer as well.With the new system, EPFO will automatically transfer eligible PF balances for members whose Aadhaar-authenticated UAN is linked correctly. This removes the need to file a separate online or offline transfer application. The change has been introduced after EPFO shifted to its Centralised IT Enabled Services (CITES) platform, which is designed to bring member records and services onto a single

centralised system.

HOW DOES THE NEW PROCESS WORK?

A Universal Account Number (UAN)



remains the same throughout an employee's working life. However, every time an employee joins a new organisation, a fresh PF member ID is created.Under the new system, EPFO can automatically connect these

member IDs under the same UAN and transfer the eligible PF balance without requiring a separate request from the employee.

WHY THIS MATTERS FOR EMPLOYEES

Many employees change jobs several times during their careers. As a result, they often end up with multiple PF member IDs linked to the same UAN.Bringing these accounts together makes it easier to keep track of retirement savings. It also helps maintain a continuous employment record and allows employees to see their PF balance in one place instead of across multiple accounts.The move is expected to reduce paperwork, speed up the transfer process and make job changes less stressful for employees.

THIS Xiaomi SUV can fit a coffee table inside it; 421hp, swivel seats & more

The SkyNomad N90 rides on Xiaomi's new Kunlun Architecture, and it marks the brand's first range-extender EV.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Xiaomi just pulled the wraps off the N90 in China, the first car from its new sub-brand called SkyNomad. The SU7 sedan and YU7 SUV were built for people who love driving. The N90 takes a different path. It's a big three-row SUV, and it's all about comfort and practicality.

Exterior design

The SkyNomad N90 looks boxy and upright. That's a big shift from the sleeker SU7 and YU7. It measures 5,285mm long, 1,998mm wide, and 1,825mm tall. The wheelbase stretches to 3,080mm, and it weighs a hefty 2.8 tonnes.Up front, you'll spot a full-width panel with LED

headlamps and T-shaped DRLs that look a lot like Volvo's design. The SkyNomad wordmark sits right in the middle. Below that, there's a wide air dam with slim vertical air intakes on either side. Look closely at the roof's leading edge, and you'll



find a LiDAR sensor tucked in there too. On the side, it gets 21-inch alloy wheels, light body cladding, flush door handles and a large glass area. The rear overhang is long, which hints at a spacious cabin inside. At the back, a rectangular LED light bar steals the show, with another SkyNomad wordmark sitting inside

it. Add a large roof spoiler, a gently sloped windscreen, and generous cladding on the rear bumper, and that's the look.

Interior and features

Xiaomi hasn't shown off the full dashboard yet. But from the images

we do have, you can see a massive floating touchscreen and barely any physical buttons. There's a tan interior finish, a screen for second-row passengers, and a dual-pane sunroof too.Seating is really where the N90 shines. The 7-seater version gets powered, reclining captain seats in the second row, complete with ottomans. The third row seats up to three people. The front seats can even swivel around to face the back. And in the 5-seater version, you can fit an actual coffee table between the first and second rows. Powertrain and range

India, UK trade pact to come into force from July 15: An Explainer

New Delhi. (Agency)

The comprehensive economic and trade agreement (CETA) that was signed between India and the UK on July 25, 2025, after several rounds of negotiations, will come into force from July 15, 2026.This will be the sixth free trade agreement to be implemented by the Narendra Modi government. Earlier, India implemented such pacts with Mauritius, UAE, Australia, EFTA (European Free Trade Association), and Oman.The agreement, one of

the biggest for New Delhi in the past few years, will unlock duty-free access for nearly 99% of Indian exports.Below are some of the key points to understand the significance of CETA for Indian businesses and consumers:Advantage India All labour-intensive sectors such as garments, textiles, footwear, carpets, processed food, cereals, vegetables, fruits and spices, fish, meat and processed products will now enter in the UK market with zero duty. At present, the duty on

these goods ranges between 4 to 16 per cent. The other sectors that will gain from the pact include automobiles, motorcycles and parts; machinery, electronics and fabricated metal products; and ceramics, glass, stone and cement productsDuty reduction on British goods such as salmon, lamb, machinery, electronics, chocolates, soft drinks, cosmetics, cosmetics-like soaps, perfumes, shaving creams, and nail polish may lead to cut in prices in the Indian market.ears.

SBI Funds Management IPO GMP hints at 16% listing gains, but should you subscribe?

SBI Funds Management is India's largest asset management company (AMC) and manages the SBI Mutual Fund. It is a joint venture between State Bank of India and French asset manager Amundi.

New Delhi. (Agency)

The initial public offering (IPO) of SBI Funds Management opened for subscription on Tuesday, July 14, amid strong interest from investors, looking to raise Rs 9,812.91 crore. The IPO has also attracted attention in the grey market, where the latest grey market premium (GMP) indicates a potential listing gain of over 16%.As of 9:29 am on July 14, the SBI Funds Management IPO was commanding a GMP of Rs 93. Based on the upper price band of Rs

574 per share, the estimated listing price stands at around Rs 667, implying a potential listing gain of 16.20%.However, market experts say investors should look beyond the GMP and focus on the company's long-term prospects before making a decision.

WHAT IS DRIVING INVESTOR INTEREST?

SBI Funds Management is India's largest asset management company (AMC) and manages the SBI Mutual Fund. It is a joint venture between State Bank of India and French asset manager Amundi. The company enjoys a strong position in India's growing mutual fund industry, supported by a wide distribution network, rising systematic investment plan (SIP) inflows and increasing financial awareness among investors. Experts believe these factors make it well placed to benefit from the long-

term shift of household savings towards financial assets.

SHOULD YOU SUBSCRIBE?



Prasenjit Paul, Fund Manager at 129 Wealth & Research and Research Analyst at Paul Asset, believes the company has strong long-term growth potential but advises investors not to expect very high listing gains despite the healthy grey market premium. SBI Funds Management is the market

leader in the mutual fund industry with a strong brand and consistent profitability. The company is well-placed to benefit from the long-term financialisation of household savings and rising SIP penetration across smaller cities and towns," he said.

He added that while the IPO is priced at a slight discount to listed peers such as HDFC AMC, Nippon Life India AMC and ICICI Prudential AMC, investors should remember that the issue is entirely an Offer for Sale (OFS)."Considering the large issue size and the fact that it is entirely an Offer for Sale (OFS), investors should not expect significant listing gains. We believe the IPO is better suited for investors with a 2-3 year investment horizon rather than those looking for quick listing profits," Paul said.with peers.

Food minister inspects CM’s breakfast scheme at Mylapore school

Chennai.(Agency)

Food and civil supplies Minister P Venkataramanan on Monday inspected the implementation of the chief minister’s breakfast scheme at the Corporation Primary School in Nochikuppam under the Mylapore constituency.

During the inspection, the minister reviewed the quality, taste, hygiene and nutritional value of the breakfast served to students. He also interacted with students and teachers to gather feedback on the scheme and enquired about its impact on school attendance and learning outcomes.

Venkataramanan directed officials to ensure that breakfast is served to all eligible students every day on time while maintaining quality and hygiene standards. The minister also inspected the school’s classrooms, drinking water facilities, toilets, cleanliness and other basic infrastructure. He instructed officials to take necessary steps to ensure a safe and conducive learning environment for students.

Body of five-year-old exhumed after parents allege medical negligence

Chennai .(Agency)

The body of a five-year-old girl, who died after being admitted to a private hospital in Ambattur with a fever, was exhumed on Monday, eight months after her burial, as her parents have alleged medical negligence.

The child, Neslinria, daughter of Sheenu Alexander and Jisha of Athipattu, was admitted to a private hospital on Dec 3 last year and died the following day.



Following a recommendation by the Tamil Nadu Medical Council, the body was exhumed from a private christian cemetery at Iraiymangalam near Mappedu in Tiruvallur district. A medical team from the Government Medical College Hospital conducted the postmortem in the presence of Tiruvallur RDO Ravichandran, revenue officials and Ambattur police.

The child’s mother had lodged complaints with the Ambattur police and the Tamil Nadu Medical Council, alleging negligence in the treatment provided by the hospital. She alleged that the treatment was accorded to the child without taking opinion from paediatrician.

1 killed, 4 injured as boiler explodes at steel melting unit in Tamil Nadu

CHENNAI.(Agency)

A guest worker was killed, and four others sustained severe burn injuries after a boiler exploded at a steel melting unit in the SIPCOT Industrial Estate in Gummidipoondi on Tuesday.

The four injured workers suffered serious



burn injuries and were rushed to a nearby hospital for treatment. The explosion triggered panic among workers in the industrial estate, prompting police, fire and rescue services to rush to the spot and launch rescue operations. Preliminary investigations suggest the explosion originated from the boiler, though the exact cause is yet to be ascertained.Authorities have launched a detailed probe to determine whether any safety lapses or technical faults led to the accident.

Hyd pharmacies continue OTC sale of cough syrups despite ban

Hyderabad.(Agency)

Despite a ban by the Union health ministry, several pharmacies across Hyderabad are still selling commonly used cough syrups over-the-counter (OTC) without a doctor prescription. If that’s not all, they are even listed on quick e-commerce platforms -- delivered at the doorstep in 10 mins or less.

TOI visited multiple pharmacies in Khairatabad, Madhapur, Sanathnagar, Rasoolpura and other parts of the city on Monday, where representatives behind the counter were spotted readily handing out cough syrup bottles to customers. They neither asked for a doctor’s prescription nor enquired about the customer’s symptoms.

Many pharmacy owners admitted that implementing the rule is difficult. “This is the flu season and most people come with common cough or cold symptoms asking for the same syrup they have used before. If we insist on a prescription every time, they simply walk into another pharmacy,” said K Suresh, a pharmacist in Khairatabad.

Mohd Hassan, a pharmacist in Sanathnagar

said regular customers expect medicines without prescriptions. “We have known many of them for years and are aware of their medical history, so we don’t always ask for a prescription,” he said.



In June this year, the Centre amended the Drugs Rules, 1945, removing cough syrups from the list of medicines that could be sold over-the-counter. While cough tablets, lozenges and pills can still be purchased without a prescription, cough syrups now require a valid doctor’s prescription. The amendment follows global safety

concerns.“This practice poses serious health risks, especially for children,” warned Dr Sivaranjani Santosh, pediatrician. She explained: “A cough is only a symptom and may be caused by viral infections, pneumonia, asthma or other illnesses. Pediatric cough syrups, particularly for children below four years, should not be given without a doctor’s advice. Overdosing can lead to breathing problems, abnormal heart rhythms and, in severe cases, coma.”The easy availability is not limited to neighbourhood pharmacies. TOI found that several online platforms continue to dispense prescription medicines after quick teleconsultations. “AI-generated or altered prescriptions are increasingly being uploaded online, making it harder to verify their authenticity,” said Dr Sree Bhushan Raju of NIMS.

Members of the Telangana Chemists and Druggists Association (TCDA), said that it has sent advisories to pharmacies to discontinue this practice immediately. “We have even sent messages in Telugu so that they can reach pharmacists even in remote areas.

IIT-Bhubaneswar researchers come up with technology to build faster computers

BHUBANESWAR.(Agency)

In a major breakthrough, a team of scientists and researchers from IIT-Bhubaneswar and other international institutions have come up with a technology that could help build future computers capable of solving difficult problems much faster while consuming only a fraction of energy used by today’s computing machines.

The team from IIT-Bhubaneswar, University of Gothenburg (Sweden) and Tohoku University (Japan), in the discovery published in the Nature Nanotechnology journal, have demonstrated the world’s largest synchronised network of more than 1,00,000 nanoscale spintronic oscillators, which are tiny magnetic devices that can work together like a perfectly coordinated orchestra.The synchronised network is said to be nearly 1,000 times larger than

previously demonstrated coherent spintronic systems, proving that such technology can be scaled up for practical applications and development of next-



generation computing hardware.

The researchers said it has the potential to transform many areas of everyday life and the future applications may include faster and energy-efficient artificial intelligence (AI), smarter communication networks, real-time data analysis, financial modelling

and optimisation, intelligent transportation systems and scientific simulations that require enormous computing power.

According to the researchers, unlike conventional computer chips that process information sequentially, these miniature devices naturally synchronise with one another within only 45 billionths of a second (45 nanoseconds). Working together, they can process information extremely quickly while consuming far less energy than today’s electronic technologies.

Nilamani Behera, assistant professor in the department of physics at IIT-Bhubaneswar and one of the lead authors of the study, said the demand for computing power is growing rapidly, especially with the rise of artificial intelligence. “This opens exciting possibilities for developing future computing technologies that are both faster and far more energy-efficient,” Behera said..

Community group provides school essentials to children of fire victims

BELAGAVI.(Agency)

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Lucknow: Lucknow Connection Worldwide (LCWW) on Monday organised a support programme for school-going children from families affected by the recent Vikas Nagar fire, distributing educational essentials at Jai Hind Park.

Around 30 students, most from Career Convent School in Vikas Nagar, received school shoes, socks, notebooks and pens to help them continue their studies after the incident disrupted their households.

Programme coordinator Sanjay Srivastava said the initiative marked the second phase of LCWW’s assistance campaign for affected families. He added that the organisation conducted a ground assessment to map immediate needs before planning the distribution drive



and would continue support as required. LCWW founder Sunil Mishra, visiting Lucknow for the second time in 10 days, praised volunteers for sustained efforts. He said disaster response typically progresses through rescue, relief and

rehabilitation, requiring coordination between govt, voluntary organisations and civil society. Mishra said LCWW consulted families and identified urgent requirements before extending aid.

OCCL engineer found to own 4-storey lodge, nine plots during raids by Vigilance

BHUBANESWAR.(Agency)

Vigilance raids on Monday unearthed property worth crores of rupees allegedly belonging to an executive engineer of the Odisha Construction Corporation Limited (OCCL) in Bhubaneswar.

The raids were conducted at seven locations linked to Sanjay Kumar Kispatta, currently deputed to the lower Suktel project in Balangir. The searches were carried out at his parental house in Sundargarh’s Lateimundi village, rented accommodation in Koraput, quarter in Bhubaneswar, office chamber in Balangir and other places.

The anti-corruption agency found Kispatta and his family in possession of a four-storey commercial building spread

over 8,000 sq ft in Koraput town, which is functioning as a lodge with 23 rooms equipped with comforts of a three-star hotel. This apart, he was also found to own nine high-value plots including six in Koraput town, two in Rourkela and one in capital city Bhubaneswar.

Among his other property unearthed by the Vigilance include an under-construction three-storey building (7,715 sq ft) at Lateimundi village and another under-construction house in Koraput town. Besides, Rs 1.16 lakh cash, bank deposits amounting to Rs 46.09 lakh, gold ornaments weighing 325.56 gm and silver 1.12 kg, two expensive cars and household articles worth Rs 36.52 lakh were also found from his possession.

“The measurement and valuation of the

buildings and plots owned by Kispatta are being carried out by the Vigilance’s technical wing. He is being questioned in the matter. Investigation is underway and further action will be taken accordingly,” said a Vigilance officer. Kispatta had joined government service in 2011 as an assistant engineer at Narayanpatna block in Koraput district with Rs 9,300 monthly salary. He was regularised in 2016 and served in various capacities in Koraput before his promotion to the post of executive engineer in March this year. He was then posted at OCCL, Bhubaneswar.

Subsequently, he was deputed to OCCL, Balangir, and has been serving there as an executive engineer till date. He spent nearly 15 years of his career in Koraput district.



Pocso accused in 6 murders found dead, police suspect suicide

Hyderabad.(Agency)

Sixty hours after launching an intensive manhunt for Raj Kumar, the Pocso case accused alleged to have killed six persons, including three children, police on Monday found him dead at Penjerla village in Kothur mandal of Rangareddy district, bringing the chilling murder spree to an end.

Future City police commissioner Tarun Joshi said a pesticide bottle was found near the body, leading investigators to suspect that Raj Kumar had died by suicide.

Police had been carrying out an extensive search operation with little success when a local villager alerted them through a Dial 100 call about an unidentified body lying amid overgrown grass in a real estate layout at Penjerla. When local police reached the spot at 3 pm, they found that the deceased was Raj Kumar, the prime accused they had been searching for since July 10 night.

Addressing the media later in the day, Joshi said police recovered Raj Kumar’s mobile phone and came across a selfie video allegedly recorded around 4 pm on July 10. Police also recovered a suicide note purportedly written by Raj Kumar on a Rs 100 stamp paper.

The commissioner partially played the video before the media. In it, Raj Kumar spoke about his reported plan to kill the minor girl’s family and then his own family members. He also reportedly claimed that he had entered into a relationship with the girl at her insistence and alleged that her family repeatedly extorted money from him while threatening to reveal the matter to his wife.

Man kills father after he refuses to sell land for bike instalments

Kanpur.(Agency)

A dispute over selling family land to repay the instalments of a motorcycle allegedly ended in murder after a man bludgeoned his 68-year-old father to death in Lohiya Nagar ward of Mohammadabad in Farrukhabad late Sunday.

The victim, who was sleeping on a cot outside his house, was allegedly attacked with a chair and a brick by his 45-year-old son, who fled after the crime.

Police said the accused had purchased a motorcycle on instalments earlier that day and had been pressuring his father to sell a portion of the family’s land to arrange the repayment. When the father refused, the argument allegedly escalated into the fatal attack.

The deceased, Ramdas, had two sons. After partitioning the house, both families lived separately. His elder son, Lalit, had died, while Lalit’s wife, Guddi Devi, had gone for her daughter-in-law’s delivery.

The younger son, Shyam Kumar, lived with his wife and children. He worked as a farmer. On July 7, he had married off his elder daughter, Kajal. His wife told police that Shyam had purchased a motorcycle on instalments on Sunday but did not have money to pay the instalments. She said Kajal had visited her parental home the same day, and Shyam asked her to hand over her jewellery so he could pawn it to arrange the money.

NEWS BOX

Can Afghanistan women dream? ICC targets 2030 qualification pathway for refugee team

New Delhi. (Agency)

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has strengthened its commitment to Afghan refugee women cricketers by endorsing the continuation of its Development Pathway Programme and setting a target of integrating the side into ICC qualification events by 2030. The decision was ratified during the ICC's Annual Conference in Edinburgh, where the governing body also reconstituted a Special Task Force to devise a long-term roadmap for the team. The move marks a major milestone for a group of players whose cricketing dreams were shattered after the Taliban returned to power in Afghanistan in August 2021. The regime's restrictions on women's education and sport effectively dismantled women's



cricket in the country, forcing dozens of players to flee and rebuild their lives in exile. Many eventually found refuge in Australia, while others settled in England and Canada. The revamped task force includes representatives from the BCCI, Cricket Australia, and the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB), alongside ICC independent director Dr Ros Rivaz and ICC Chief Executives' Committee member Sarah Keane. Its mandate is to develop a sustainable high-performance structure that could allow the refugee team to participate in ICC qualification pathways by the end of the decade. "I am honoured to join the ICC Special Task Force and contribute to this important initiative," Dr Rivaz said. "The Task Force has been entrusted with developing a clear and sustainable roadmap that supports the continued development of Afghan refugee women cricketers through structured coaching, meaningful competitive opportunities.

Mbappe cleared fit as France coach plays mind games before semifinal vs Spain

New Delhi. (Agency)

Didier Deschamps wasted no time shifting the psychological burden onto his opponents ahead of France's FIFA World Cup semi-final against Spain at AT&T Stadium. The France manager laid his cards on the table during Monday's pre-match press conference, eagerly handing the "favourites" tag to La Roja despite managing the world's top-ranked side. "I can confirm Spain are the favorites," Deschamps told reporters, kicking off his trademark pre-match



mind games. "I don't want to put pressure on Luis de la Fuente and his team, because he knows people have high expectations for Spain. They know how to attack and defend very well, conceding only one goal in seven matches." While Deschamps sought to unburden his squad from external expectations, his most significant tactical boost came in the fitness room. France captain Kylian Mbappe, who caused concern after being substituted during the quarter-final win, has been given a clean bill of health to lead the line on Tuesday. We can't go beyond 100. He is at 100 per cent. "The news provides immense relief for Les Bleus, who are managing a few remaining squad niggles. Midfielder Aurlien Tchouameni, who sat out the 2-0 quarter-final triumph over Morocco with a hamstring strain, remains short of peak fitness but has been cleared to feature in the matchday squad.

EXPECT A SPECTACLE: DESCHAMPS

France has been the most explosive attacking side in the competition. Led by a relentless Kylian Mbapp,

France vs Spain: Mbappe and Yamal headline World Cup semi-final showdown

FIFA World Cup 2026: France and Spain meet in the World Cup semi-final in Dallas after contrasting runs to the last four. The tie pits Mbappe's direct attacking threat against Spain's control, with a place in the final at stake.

New Delhi. (Agency)

This World Cup has quietly rewarded two completely different ways of playing football. France have spent the last month looking exactly how most people imagined they would. Fast, direct and frightening whenever Kylian Mbappe, Ousmane Dembele or Michael Olise get within touching distance of the penalty area. There have been moments when Didier Deschamps' side haven't looked entirely in control of games, but it has hardly mattered. Give them five or 10 good minutes, and they can leave

opponents wondering what on earth just happened. The first semi-final of the 2026 FIFA World Cup between France and Spain kicks off Tuesday, July 14 (12:30 am Indian Time on Wednesday), at Dallas Stadium in Arlington, Texas. Nobody has blown teams away the way France have. Spain haven't needed to. Rodri has controlled matches almost without raising his heartbeat, Pedri has dictated the rhythm like he owns it, while Aymeric Laporte and Pau Cubarsi have quietly formed one of the tournament's standout centre-back pairings. Time and again they have snuffed out danger before it had the chance to become a problem, with Marc Cucurella adding his usual aggression and energy from the left. Spain have conceded just once all tournament and, even when Portugal and Belgium threatened to make life awkward, there

was never any real sense that they were losing their grip on the contest. Which is why Tuesday night in Dallas feels less like a semi-final and more like a football



argument waiting to be settled. France are perfectly happy if matches become stretched and chaotic because that's when Mbappe, Dembele and Olise become almost impossible to contain. Spain spend ninety minutes making sure games never reach that point. One side trusts moments. The other trusts control.

Somewhere between those two ideas lies a place in the World Cup final.

There are, of course, easier ways to sell this game. Mbappe against Lamine Yamal will dominate every television graphic between now and kick-off, and understandably so. One is chasing another World Cup final and another Golden Boot. The other is trying to become the youngest player to inspire his country into football's biggest match. It is football's present against what increasingly feels like its future. The names and venues

have changed, but the feeling has stayed the same. First came Euro 2024, when a fearless 16-year-old Yamal curled one into the top corner before Spain completed the comeback. Then came last year's Nations League semi-final, a ridiculous nine-goal thriller that ended 5-4 with Yamal scoring twice.

Draped in diamonds, birthday boy Lamine Yamal delivers strong message against racism

New Delhi. (Agency)

Lamine Yamal is operating in a stratosphere where the usual laws of teenage gravity simply do not apply. On Monday, Spain's generational talent walked into his pre-match press conference in North Texas ahead of the World Cup semi-final against France, sporting a glittering white gold and diamond necklace. It was a statement piece, unashamedly flash, but the Barcelona winger was quick to pre-empt any assumptions about who had bought it for his 19th birthday. "And the necklace... It's not a gift because I paid for it myself," Yamal said. "A gift from me to me." The lighthearted moment set the tone for a remarkably poised press conference. On the eve of Spain's FIFA World Cup semifinal against France at Dallas Stadium, Yamal carried himself with the easy elegance of a veteran, deflecting political controversy, media



scrutiny, and the suffocating pressure of a World Cup semi-final with the same effortless grace he uses to bypass fullbacks. Yet, beneath the diamond-encrusted exterior and the relaxed smiles lay a deeply mature young man. The most poignant moment of the afternoon came when Yamal was asked to address the ugly political undercurrents that have threatened to overshadow this European heavyweight clash. Last week, former Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy sparked widespread condemnation after writing a column for El Debate in which he claimed that France was a top-level team but did "not have any French players", a thinly veiled swipe at the multicultural heritage of Didier Deschamps' squad.

Coaching England, Brendon McCullum roots for Virat Kohli in ODI series vs India

New Delhi. (Agency)

Brendon McCullum may be plotting England's downfall against India in the upcoming ODI series, but the former New Zealand captain admits he still wants Virat Kohli to flourish. Days after stepping down as England's Test head coach following a four-year stint, McCullum offered a glowing tribute to the Indian batting great, describing him as one of cricket's all-time greats.

The England and Wales Cricket Board confirmed earlier this week that McCullum would continue in charge of the white-ball sides after England's disappointing run in Tests, which included defeats in the Ashes and against New Zealand. Speaking to the ECB ahead of the three-match ODI series, McCullum reflected on Kohli's extraordinary impact on the game and revealed that he still hopes to see the

Indian star score heavily. "That's a difficult question because we're talking about one of the game's great players," McCullum said. "I had the privilege of sharing a dressing room with Virat for a



year at Royal Challengers Bengaluru, and I thoroughly enjoyed spending time with him."

MCCULLUM AND KOHLI'S RCB CONNECTION

McCullum and Kohli were teammates at Royal Challengers Bengaluru during the 2018 IPL season, when the former

New Zealand skipper spent his final year in the tournament before retiring from all forms of cricket. Kohli captained the franchise, while McCullum featured in six matches and scored 127 runs. The pair forged a strong bond during their time together, and McCullum's admiration for Kohli has only grown over the years. Despite now occupying opposite camps in international cricket, the England coach had no hesitation in praising the former India captain. "He is fiercely competitive and leaves absolutely nothing out on the field.

He plays with his whole heart and is an extraordinary cricketer," McCullum said. "He has inspired an entire generation to fall in love with cricket and has transcended the sport. He has become a global superstar, someone recognised not just in cricket or in India, but across the world and in many other sports as well."

FIFA World Cup 2026: Semi-finals are decided by fine margins, says German goalkeeping great Kahn

CHENNAI. (Agency)

Two of Europe's best football teams meet in a high-voltage World Cup final in Dallas on Tuesday night. What makes this tie more interesting is the prospects of a high-scoring match. The last time these two sides met was in the UEFA Nations League last year, with La Roja emerging 5-4 winners. With the rivalry set to reach new heights in this high-pressure battle, former Germany great and Zee5 expert Oliver Kahn believes room for error for players in this match is virtually non-existent. Kahn believes that this tie offers "one of the most fascinating tactical battles." Spain usually employ their renowned

possession-based football, while France are known for their attacking quartet of Kylian Mbappe, Desire Doue, Ousmane



Dembele and Michael Olise. "The team that controls the midfield without sacrificing its defensive structure will have the upper hand. Semi-finals are often decided by fine margins rather

than sustained dominance," the goalkeeping great, who is part of Zee5's expert panel for the FIFA World Cup's broadcast, said. "Spain have to stay patient but purposeful. They need to move the ball quickly, create overloads and maintain strong defensive balance because France are one of the best teams in transition.

"The German great also believes the battle in midfield will determine the outcome, "It's not about pressing constantly - it's about pressing intelligently. Whichever side controls the central areas and prevents the opposition from playing through the middle will probably control the game."

Harry Kane blames English mentality for rumours of rift before Argentina semifinal

FIFA World Cup: Harry Kane has dismissed suggestions of a rift between Thomas Tuchel and the England squad following Jude Bellingham's emotional post-match remarks after the quarter-final win over Norway, insisting the camp remains united as focus shifts to the World Cup semi-final against Argentina.

ARLINGTON. (Agency)

England captain Harry Kane has moved swiftly to defuse suggestions of a dressing-room rift under Thomas Tuchel, urging the public and media to reject attempts to manufacture division on the eve of the country's biggest match in a generation. The Three Lions face

defending champions Argentina in a highly anticipated FIFA World Cup semi-final at the Atlanta Stadium on Wednesday. However, the build-up to the grudge match has been dominated by the fallout from Saturday's dramatic 2-1 extra-time quarter-final victory over Norway in Miami. Despite securing a place in the last four, manager Thomas Tuchel delivered a bracingly blunt post-match assessment, labelling the performance "sloppy" and "lucky". The remarks visibly irked match-winner Jude Bellingham, who had dragged England through with a sensational brace in punishing 33-degree Celsius heat. Exhausted and speaking minutes after the final whistle,

Bellingham counter-punched, suggesting the German manager "doesn't



know what it's like to play in those conditions" and stressing the need to protect the squad's "positive environment". With speculation mounting that Tuchel's uncompromising style is alienating key

members of the squad, Kane instilled calm, characterising the manager's public honesty as a form of "tough love" that the players fully understand. "Yeah, I'll probably understand it," Kane told the BBC, when asked about the manager's critical post-match remarks. "I think players on the pitch know more than anyone when you're playing well and when you're not playing well. That's part and parcel of football. We understood what the boss meant. He's been so complimentary about us as a group, and he also spoke about the mentality side of it, which is sometimes the hardest part. We're operating at the highest level, and we have been for a period of time now.

Kusha Kapila

Needed Therapy To Overcome 'Shame' After Samay Raina's Roast: 'I Will Never Be On Latent'

Kusha Kapila has broken her silence on the fresh controversy linking her to comedian Samay Raina, revealing that healing from their 2024 roast fallout took her therapy and time. The actress took to her Instagram Stories on Sunday to shut down viral claims, including an AI-altered clip, claiming she had personally asked Samay for a spot on his show, India's Got Latent. Addressing meme accounts directly, Kusha Kapila wrote, "Kitni seeding karogey, meme accounts? Ruk jao." She went on to ask, "Will I have to reveal the jokes at this point to justify my anger?" before adding that she has stopped attending parties altogether: "Maine kisi party mein hee nahi jaana ab."

Samay Raina-Kusha Kapila Pretty Good Roast Show Controversy

The fallout between Kusha and Samay dates back to December 2024, when Samay graced as a panelist on Pretty Good Roast Show, hosted by stand-up comedian Ashish Solanki. What started as wordplay on Kusha's name, "Kusha Ka Peela," escalated fast. Samay went on to call her a "gold digger" and made a joke about her pet dog that referenced Kusha Kapila's divorce from Zorawar Ahluwalia. The jokes drew massive backlash once the episode aired publicly.

Kusha said she hadn't seen a script beforehand and called joining the roast a "rookie mistake" since she had trusted the comedians involved as friends. She described the experience as "shockingly unkind" and "dehumanising" at the time.

Kusha Kapila On The Jokes Samay Raina Cracked On Her

In her latest story, Kusha shared what she called the "facts" point by point. She confirmed she and Samay "were friends," and that there was "no script shared, no contract signed, and no jokes shared beforehand" during the infamous roast. Everything, she said, was done in good faith, and she "had no idea what was coming."



Kusha Kapila Hints At Revealing Samay Raina's 'Horrible' Roast Jokes On Her, Warns Meme Pages: 'Ruk Jao'



Kusha Kapila has hit back at meme pages over fresh claims linking her to comedian Samay Raina, even hinting she may have to reveal the jokes from their controversial 2024 roast to explain why she reacted the way she did. Taking to her Instagram Stories on Sunday, Kusha shot down viral speculation, including an AI-altered clip claiming she had asked Samay for an invitation to his show, India's Got Latent, streaming on YouTube and Netflix. Calling out meme pages, she wrote, "Kitni seeding karogey, meme accounts? Ruk jao."

She went on to question whether she would have to disclose the jokes that were made about her during the infamous roast to justify her anger. "Will I have to reveal the jokes at this point to justify my anger? Wapas case ho jayega bhai. Move on, bhai. Maine kisi party mein hee nahi jaana ab," she wrote.

Kusha revisits the Samay Raina roast controversy

Kusha also laid out what she called the "facts" behind the controversy that erupted after Samay graced as a panelist on Ashish Solanki's Pretty Good Roast Show. She said there was "no script shared, no contract signed and no jokes shared beforehand", adding that she had no idea what was coming her way when she agreed to participate. Standing by her earlier criticism of the roast, Kusha wrote, "The jokes made at my expense were horrible, and I stand by my stance that they should have been censored."

The actor also revealed the emotional impact the episode had on her, saying she blocked both Samay Raina and Ashish Solanki after the show. "It has taken me a lot of time and therapy to undo the shame and ridicule I felt that day. I genuinely wish that roast had never happened to me," she wrote.

Mandira Bedi Opens Up On Husband Raj Kaushal's Sudden Death, Reveals What Helped Her Heal



Actor and television host Mandira Bedi has broken silence on turning to therapy after the death of her husband, filmmaker Raj Kaushal, saying professional counselling played a key role in helping her cope with one of the toughest phases of her life.

Speaking at the trailer launch of her upcoming film Max, Min and Meowzaki, Mandira revealed that seeking therapy is not something she started after her personal loss. She shared that she has been consulting therapists and counsellors for nearly two decades whenever she felt emotionally overwhelmed or out of balance.

Mandira Bedi Opens Up On Therapy Recalling how her family initially reacted, Mandira said, "Therapy, counselling and trying to understand myself better have been important parts of my life. I first went to therapy about 20 years ago.

When I told my mother that I had attended a therapy session, she asked, 'Why? What happened to you?' I told her that I needed to get out what was going on in my mind. My mother then said, 'You could have talked to me.' But I replied, 'No.'"

The actor became emotional while speaking about losing husband Raj Kaushal in 2021 and explained why she chose to continue taking professional help. She said, "Whenever I felt something was wrong or unbalanced in my life, I sought the help of a therapist and counselor. It always benefited me a lot. When I lost my husband, therapy became a source of healing for me, which is why I resorted to it."

Mandira Bedi And Raj Kaushal

Mandira Bedi married filmmaker Raj Kaushal in 1999. The couple later welcomed their son, Veer, and expanded their family by adopting their daughter, Tara, in 2020. Raj Kaushal died of a heart attack in June 2021 at the age of 50.

About Max, Min And Meowzaki

Mandira Bedi will next be seen in Max, Min and Meowzaki, directed by Narasimha Murthy. The trailer follows Max and Min, a young couple whose relationship falls apart during a difficult period in Max's life. As he struggles to move on after the heartbreak, he finds comfort in a pet cat named Meowzaki.

Urvashi Rautela

Says She 'Loves' Directing Films, Wants To Make 'Something Like Titanic' In Viral Video

Urvashi Rautela and her statements often make headlines, and in a recent media interaction, a fresh statement by her has the internet talking. Urvashi, who is already an established actress, has a production house, and now she is planning to venture into politics soon. She also has a genre in mind for her first film.

While speaking to Instant Bollywood about producing a film, she said, "So plan mein hai, but according to the current situation, I was a little occupied."

When asked if, just like production, she ever wanted to venture into direction, Urvashi Rautela, without any hesitation, instantly said yes. "Ya, I do sing, and I love directing, so for sure I will direct," Urvashi said. While revealing what kind of story she would want to make for her first film, the actress added, "As a person, I am a very emotional person, so I would want to direct a die-hard love story, maybe something like Titanic."

As soon as the video was dropped, netizens started reacting to it. One wrote, "First actress to give an interview holding a jar." "It will be called TryPanic," another user wrote. A third user wrote, "She's trying way too hard to act like a Hollywood actress, but ends up looking like a." "Many came to Urvashi's defence. One wrote, "My shining star, I am so proud of you." "She should, she is

talented," another user wrote.

Urvashi Rautela on work front

The actor was among the Indian celebrities who attended the 2026 Cannes Film Festival this year. During an interaction with Brut from the red carpet, the actor said, "Whenever I represent my country, I'm no more Urvashi, I'm India... I'm wearing this very beautiful



designer from Vietnam called JoliPoli, and it's my pleasure to represent my country, India, at the opening ceremony of the Cannes Film Festival 2026."

Urvashi was recently seen in her series, Inspector Avinash Season 2. Talking about the series, she earlier shared in a statement, "Inspector Avinash Season 2 is bigger, bolder, and more explosive than ever. Being part of a story packed with action, emotion, and unexpected twists has been an incredible ride. Every scene pushes the intensity to another level."

NEWS BOX

Death toll from Bangkok pub fire rises to 30, dozens remain in hospital

BANGKOK.(Agency)

The death toll from a huge fire in a Bangkok music bar has increased to 30, officials said Tuesday. More than 70 people remain hospitalized, with 24 of them in critical condition, according to Bangkok city officials. The blaze at the Rong Beer Na Ladprao bar, the city's deadliest in 17 years, broke out late Sunday in a northern part of the Thai capital. Firefighters needed half an hour to bring it under control. The bar, which in Thai calls itself a brewery or beer hall, claimed to accommodate as many as 600 customers. It was not clear how many were present Sunday night. An investigation into the cause of the fire and whether the bar was following safety regulations is ongoing. Most of the people who were killed were found trapped in windowless bathrooms



where they may have sought to escape the flames, police said. Former patrons of the bar and other mourners visited the site Tuesday, adding to the growing pile of flowers leaning on the guardrails cordoning off the location of the blaze. Handwritten messages in Thai and other languages, including Korean, were left alongside white flowers, expressing condolences to the victims. Debris from the bar — like melted musical instruments and blackened chairs — lay scattered along the sidewalk, moved there Monday by Thai officials investigating the cause of the fire.

Can US Or Iran Control Strait Of Hormuz Here's What Law Says

world.(Agency)

A focal point of the Iran war is increasingly about who controls the Strait of Hormuz - a narrow, elbow-shaped waterway that for decades was a relatively safe and reliable transit route for Middle East oil and natural gas supplies. By saying that an interim ceasefire gave it the right to establish the terms under which ships traversed the strait, and threatening and firing upon vessels that did not use its preferred route, Iran has sought to exert control over the waterway and gain negotiating leverage with the United States. On Monday, President Donald Trump sought to tip the scales. He reimposed a blockade on Iran and said the U.S. controls the strait and would charge fees to ships for safe passage - essentially borrowing from the Iranian playbook. The announcement came as the US and Iran have been ramping up attacks against each other to assert control over the strait, threatening a return to all-out war.

US Man Solves 3x3x3 Cube Blindfolded, Sets Guinness World Record

World.(Agency)

A new speed record has been set in blindfolded puzzle cube solving as Tommy Cherry completed a 3x3x3 rotating puzzle cube in just 11.56 seconds. The achievement showed a faster performance than the previous record time, reported Guinness World Records. Tommy Cherry from the United States achieved the record at the Mid-Atlantic Quiet Championship 2026 event in Branchburg, New Jersey, USA, on 28 June 2026. Cherry solved the 3x3x3 rotating puzzle cube while blindfolded, recording a time of 11.56 seconds. The achievement surpassed the previous record of 11.67 seconds, which was set by Charlie Eggins at the Cubing at The Cube 2026 event in Sydney, New South Wales, Australia, on 10 January 2026, reported Guinness World Records. Cherry currently also shares the average version of this record with Eggins, with an average time of 14.05 seconds.

Tommy Cherry's achievement shows the incredible concentration and skill needed to solve a puzzle cube while blindfolded. By breaking the previous record, he has set a new milestone in competitive cubing and inspired puzzle enthusiasts around the world.

'Mojtaba Khamenei is 90% gone': Trump makes big claim as US-Iran conflict spirals out of control

DUBAI.(Agency)

US President Donald Trump has claimed that Iran's senior military leadership has been wiped out, alleging that Mojtaba Khamenei, the son of the late Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, is "90% gone" as tensions between Washington and Tehran continue to escalate. Speaking to Fox News on Monday, Trump said recent joint US-Israeli military operations had destroyed Iran's military capabilities. "They have no navy. They have no air force. It's all gone. Their anti-aircraft is gone. Their leaders have all been killed," he said. Trump also asserted that Iran's top strategic commanders had been killed in the strikes. "Their est leaders have been killed. They're gone.

Khamenei is gone," he said, referring to Ali Khamenei, who was reportedly killed during the initial wave of US-Israeli airstrikes in late February.

The US Presiden frther claimed that Mojtaba Khamenei, widely seen as his father's likely successor, had also been severely wounded. "Mojtaba Khamenei is 90% gone," Trump said, without providing further details or evidence. The remarks came after he US and Iran exchanged fresh missile strikes over the weekend, raising fears of a wider regional conflict. Trump also announced that the US would reimpose what he described as an "Iranian blockade" in the Strait of Hormuz and require commercial vessels using the strategic waterway to pay for US protection. In a post on Truth

Social, Trump said the US military would act as the "Guardian of the Hormuz Strait". "The Hormuz Strait is OPEN, and will remain OPEN, with or



without Iran. We are reinstating THE IRANIAN BLOCKADE... All other countries will have fair and open use of the Strait," he wrote. He added that countries using the route would be required to reimburse the US for

safeguarding shipping, proposing a 20% tariff based on the value of cargo transported through the strait.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi rejected the proposal, insisting that Iran has historically been responsible for securing the waterway. "Iran has always been the GUARDIAN of the Strait and will remain so FOREVER. Twenty per cent is, of course, too much. We will be fair," Araghchi wrote on social media. The exchange highlights the growing confrontation between Washington and Tehran as both sides assert competing claims over the security of the Strait of Hormuz, a vital shipping route through which a significant share of the world's oil and gas supplies passes.

Trump reduces size of two national monuments in Utah as Republicans reshape land management

BANGKOK.(Agency)

President Donald Trump on Monday sharply reduced the size of two national monuments in Utah, undoing protections established by his Democratic predecessors on public lands that are sacred among many Native Americans.

Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante national monuments in southern Utah have ancient cliff dwellings, petroglyphs and scenic canyons, as well as coal and uranium deposits that state officials want made available for development. Trump, a Republican, issued proclamations under the Antiquities Act to reduce their size by about 90% each. He took similar actions during his first term, but those were reversed by President Joe Biden, a Democrat.

The latest move comes as Trump and other Republicans have drastically reshaped the management of vast taxpayer-owned lands concentrated in Western states. Trump administration officials and congressional Republicans have sought to expand drilling, mining and logging on public lands, while removing protections for imperiled species and rolling back rules for conservation. "They took the land from the people quite honestly," Trump said at a signing event at the White House Monday. "We're giving it back." President Bill Clinton, a Democrat, established Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in 1996, and President Barack Obama, also a Democrat, created Bears Ears National Monument in 2016 under the

Antiquities Act. The 1906 law gives presidents the powers to protect sites considered historic, archaeologically significant or culturally important.

Davin Smith-Idjesa, a citizen of the Navajo Nation and co-chair of the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition, said tribal leaders had braced for a reduction since Trump was elected to a second term. She said it was "heartbreaking" and accused federal officials of sidestepping their legal responsibility to consult with tribal nations that would be impacted. "From a Navajo perspective, Bears Ears is not simply a piece of federal public land," Smith-Idjesa said. "This is a living cultural site that holds our histories, our ceremonies, our traditional foods and medicines and our ancestors' footprints."

Iranian-American Engineer Found Guilty Of Exporting Technology To Iran

BOSTON.(Agency)

An Iranian-born engineer was convicted on Monday of US charges that he conspired to illegally export technology with potential application in military drones to a company in Iran whose customers included the country's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps.

Mahdi Sadeghi, a dual US-Iranian citizen and resident of Natick, Massachusetts who had worked at Analog Devices prior to his December 2024 arrest, was found guilty by a federal jury in Boston on three counts, including conspiracy to export technology to Iran in violation of US sanctions. The jury found Sadeghi not guilty on two other counts alleging violations of

the International Emergency Economic Powers Act. US District Judge Indira Talwani scheduled his sentencing for October 13.

Sadeghi's lawyers declined to comment. They had argued at trial that he was innocent and had no reason to risk his career and the life he had built in the US. Prosecutors charged Sadeghi alongside an Iranian businessman they say ran a company that made a navigation system used in Iran's military drones, including one that struck a US outpost in Jordan in January 2024. The attack by Iran-backed militants killed three US service members and wounded over 40 others. The businessman, Mohammad Abedini, was arrested in Italy at the request of the US

government but was released in January 2025 after Iran detained an Italian journalist, who was also freed later, in an incident that drew international attention. Sadeghi, 43, proceeded to trial alone on charges against him, none of which concerned the attack in Jordan. The judge overseeing the case barred prosecutors from introducing evidence about the Jordan incident at his trial to avoid "unfair prejudice." Instead, the case focused on what prosecutors said were Sadeghi's efforts to illegally procure and export technology, particularly sensors, from Analog Devices to Abedini's Iran-based company, San'at Danesh Rahpooyan Aflak Co, or SDRA.

Indian sailor killed, eight injured as Iranian missiles hit UAE tankers in Hormuz

WASHINGTON.(Agency)

An Indian crew member was killed and eight others were injured after two UAE oil tankers were struck by Iranian cruise missiles in the Strait of Hormuz. The UAE Ministry of Defence confirmed that the attack on the tankers killed one Indian national and injured six Indians and two Ukrainians. "The UAE reserves its full right to respond to this escalation and to take all necessary measures to protect its territory, its citizens and residents," the ministry said. Bahrain also came under renewed attack early Tuesday as Iran retaliated following the latest round of US airstrikes. The country sounded its missile alert sirens, urging the public to seek shelter. There was no immediate word on any damage or casualties. The

Iranian strikes on the UAE oil tankers were in retaliation for the US strikes on Tehran early Tuesday morning, hours after President Donald Trump said Washington was "reinstating" a blockade on Iran in the Strait of Hormuz. Trump separately suggested the United States will charge other ships for safe passage, upending hundreds of years of American policy supporting freedom of navigation across the globe. After the tankers were hit, the Emirates threatened to retaliate against Iran, potentially drawing the nation home to Abu Dhabi and Dubai back into fighting with Tehran. The tacks come as Iran and the US both vie for control of the strait through which a fifth of all crude oil and natural gas once passed in peacetime. The price of benchmark Brent crude oil rose 7.8% to

\$81.92 a barrel, still well below the nearly \$120 reached at the height of the war but threatening to make costs everywhere higher. US Central



Command announced on social media that the US military had begun another round of strikes against Iran.

"These strikes will continue imposing a

heavy cost on Iranian forces and degrade their ability to attack innocent civilians and commercial shipping in the Strait of Hormuz," the US military said. Moments after the military announced the new strikes, Trump called it "another major attack." "We're hitting them very hard. And it'll continue, and we'll see what happens," he told reporters in the Oval Office. "We're knocking out all of their offensive capability and we're controlling the straits. We're putting the blockade back." Trump also provided new details on his administration doing an about-face and suggesting it will charge tolls for ships going through the strait, after previously suggesting that it wouldn't. "We're protecting a very rich portion of the world," he said.



before crossing the country's central region via the Yellow Sea between Tuesday and Wednesday, according to Pyongyang's state-run Rodong Sinmun newspaper. The country's weather agency issued warnings for heavy rainfall and strong winds, the paper said. All officials and workers are "urged to remain on maximum vigilance and take steps to minimise damage," Kim was quoted as saying. Rodong said rainfall of 80-120 millimetres (3.1-4.7 inches), with downpours of 30-60 millimetres per hour, is forecast on Tuesday across parts of the country's northern and central regions. The southern regions, among others, are set for 150-200 millimetres of rain, as well as winds of 10-15 metres per second along the west coast and in some inland areas. North Korea has stepped up disaster prevention efforts, the Korean Central News Agency reported last week. Heavy rain also battered South Korea recently, dumping up to 200 millimetres in some areas. Hundreds of residents in the central Chungcheong province evacuated the area or were stranded by flooding. A man in his 70s was reported missing after being swept away by a swollen river in the southern region of Gyeongsang, according to broadcaster KBS. Seoul's weather agency forecast rain across the country from Tuesday through Wednesday, with heavy downpours expected in central regions and the southern province of Jeolla.