



# Devotees feel betrayed: **Rahul Gandhi** writes to PM for probe into Ram temple theft

NEW DELHI. (Agency)

Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, and Congress president, Mallikarjun Kharge, on Sunday wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, demanding an independent and comprehensive investigation into the alleged embezzlement of donations at the Ram temple in Ayodhya.

They said lakhs of devotees who had contributed their hard-earned money with faith and devotion felt "betrayed by the theft" and called for complete transparency in the handling of the temple's funds.

In the letter, the two senior Congress leaders said the Prime Minister's silence on the issue was 'unacceptable'. They urged him to ensure accountability, order a thorough inquiry and make the findings public along with the Trust's financial records. Sharing the letter on X, Kharge wrote,

"Our joint letter to PM Modi demanding an independent and comprehensive investigation into the financial affairs of the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust. Lakhs of



devotees who donated their hard-earned money with faith, devotion and trust are feeling betrayed by the theft".

The controversy over the alleged theft of donations emerged in the first week of June. Since then, eight people have been arrested

and two senior office-bearers of the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust have resigned. On June 25, police registered an FIR based on a complaint filed by the Trust and arrested eight accused in connection with the case. Referring to the trust's formation, Gandhi and Kharge said Prime Minister Modi had announced its creation in Parliament following the Supreme Court's directions, while its members were appointed by the Union government. They also claimed that the Trust's members were publicly known to have links with the RSS, VHP and affiliated organisations, and noted that the Trust's former general secretary was a close associate of the Prime Minister.

"Your silence now in the face of such a crime is unacceptable. It is your duty to ensure accountability and restitution. We urge you to immediately order an independent and comprehensive investigation into the financial affairs of the Trust, including the handling of all offerings, including cash, gold, silver," the letter said.

## Uttarakhand stops felling of 4,369 trees for Rishikesh highway after local protests

Dehradun. (Agency)

The Uttarakhand government has temporarily halted the felling of 4,369 trees for the proposed Rishikesh highway widening project following widespread public protests, Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami announced. The decision comes after days of demonstrations by environmentalists, local residents and social organisations, who have opposed the large-scale tree cutting in the Ranipokhari-Rishikesh forest division.

Protesters have been demanding that the government suspend the tree-felling exercise and explore an alternative alignment for the highway to minimise environmental damage. The state government has now put the project on hold while it reviews the concerns raised by the public.



The issue also drew political attention on Friday when Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi met a delegation of campaigners associated with the forest conservation movement while returning from an event in Dehradun.

During the meeting, the delegation briefed Gandhi on the proposed project and its environmental implications. Gandhi assured them that he would raise the matter in Parliament, according to the protesters.

## Mother Chennamma was guiding light for lakhs of families, says HDK

BENGALURU. (Agency)

Chennamma Deve Gowda, wife of former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda, passed away on Saturday after suffering a massive cardiac arrest. She was 89. She was undergoing treatment at Manipal Hospitals on Old Airport Road in Bengaluru.

Chennamma was admitted to the hospital on July 15 with breathing complications, chest congestion, and other age-related ailments. She was placed under the care of a multidisciplinary team led by Pulmonologist Dr Satyanarayana Mysore and Dr Sunil Karanth.

While she was responding well to treatment and was on the road to recovery, her condition worsened suddenly on Saturday afternoon.

In a statement issued by the hospital, doctors said, "Ms Chennamma suffered a massive cardiac arrest at 4 pm on Saturday despite her being on the road to recovery earlier". Following her demise, her mortal remains were taken from the hospital to the Deve Gowda family's residence in Padmanabhanagar.

## Plan to cut 4,000 trees for Bhaniyawala-Rishikesh road on hold, took 'serious note of concerns': CM Dhami

Dehradun. (Agency)

Following protests and an FIR against dozens, the Uttarakhand government has suspended felling of trees for the Bhaniyawala-Rishikesh road in Dehradun.

The National Highways Authority of India project proposes to widen the 19-km stretch near the airport and had earmarked 4,369 trees for felling.

The Chief Minister said that he has directed the Chief Secretary and officials to hold detailed consultations with all stakeholders, residents, public representatives, and experts before the resumption of tree-felling.

The NHAI had claimed that it deposited more than Rs 1.97 crore towards compensatory afforestation and its maintenance for the next ten years. And to facilitate compensatory afforestation, 40 hectares of non-forest land have been transferred by the State Government to the Forest Department for the development of new forests.

### Protests

However, the episode has caused anger among the locals as the road passes through the Shivalik elephant reserve.

## MAHANAGAR METRO EXCLUSIVE

# Volcano of **Public Anger** Erupts Against Power-Drunk Leadership in Karjan

## MAHANAGAR METRO KARJAN/VADODARA:

A massive political explosion has rocked the Vadodara District BJP and the politics of Karjan taluka. When the glaring gap between the words and deeds of power-drunk politicians ends up snatching the daily bread from the mouths of the poor, a terrifying public outcry is inevitable—and Karjan's Baman village is serving as living proof of this reality. The dark secrets behind the overnight closure of the 'Modern Company' near Por on Highway 48, and the alleged mastermind behind it—Vadodara District BJP General Secretary and Karjan APMC Chairman Jaydeepsinh Chauhan—have now become the talk of the town. According to shocking details from reliable sources, when Modern Company was fully operational, it was the primary source of livelihood for hundreds of local youths, particularly from Baman village. Jaydeepsinh Chauhan held a highly responsible position as the HR Manager at this very company. Locals level serious allegations that instead of protecting the interests of the sons of his own village, he misused his power and position to systematically lock down the company.

Under the guise of the company's closure, massive allegations are echoing across Karjan of a multi-crore scam involving the illegal sale of valuable machinery and scrap. As a result, sons of thousands of poor and middle-class families were left out on the streets overnight, struggling to even keep their kitchen stoves burning.

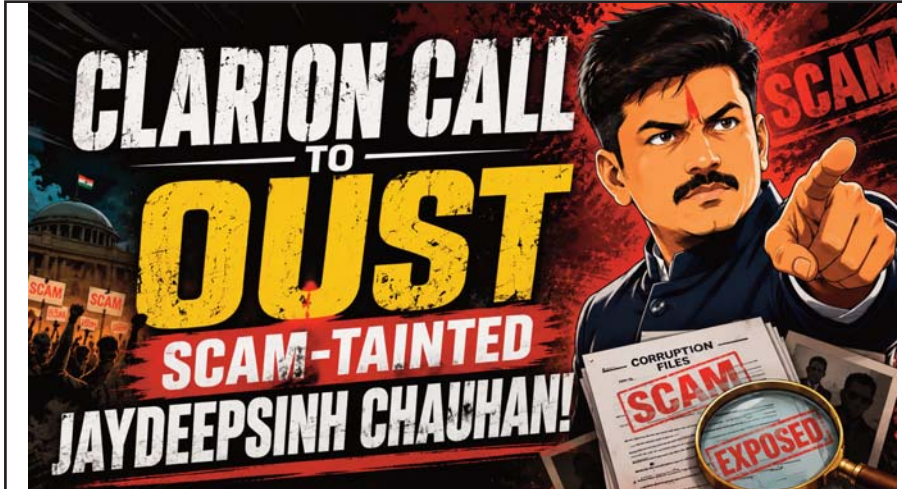
On the flip side, while the company sank, HR Manager Jaydeepsinh Chauhan allegedly joined the ranks of billionaires overnight. Furious over this brutal betrayal, aggrieved villagers have previously staged fierce protests outside the leader's residence and on public roads, shouting heavy slogans against him to vent their outrage. The public of Karjan taluka is now looking straight into the eyes of the BJP state leadership and demanding answers. No matter how much top BJP leaders preach the discipline of 'One Person, One Post' from the stage,



these rules have been blatantly shredded in the case of Jaydeepsinh Chauhan. Are these disciplinary talks limited to paper? Does this policy not apply to APMC elections? Currently, he enjoys the power of two major posts:

General Secretary of Vadodara District BJP Organization  
Current Chairman of Karjan APMC Citizens are openly questioning: Does switching from the Congress to the BJP provide an official license to commit scams? Is the BJP a "washing machine" where all the dark deeds of a leader are washed clean upon joining? Has the Vadodara BJP run out of clean, honest, and popular faces, forcing them to repeatedly hand over powerful chairs to controversial leaders who face severe public ire? Who is the powerful political boss shielding this dictatorship fueled by the intoxication of power?

The atmosphere surrounding the Karjan APMC elections has reached a fever pitch. Despite facing grave allegations of multi-crore scrap theft, Jaydeepsinh Chauhan has once again staked his claim for the Chairman's post, causing the farmers to lose their temper. The innocent farmers of Karjan taluka have faced injustice for years, but this time, a fierce battle is on the horizon. Farmers are in no mood to tolerate a leader with a "trader mentality" or a "scrap thief" at the helm of an institution meant for



farmers. This fight has now evolved into an all-out war between Jaydeepsinh Chauhan and the true sons of the soil. All farmers of Karjan taluka, big and small, have united to deliver a final ultimatum to the BJP High Command: Do not make the mistake of giving the mandate to a tainted or controversial candidate in the APMC elections. The mandate must solely be given to a genuine, clean-imaged farmer. If the BJP, blinded by the arrogance of power, rejects this justified demand and once again pours its blessings on a scam-tainted leader, the farmers have issued an open threat to completely boycott the party and defeat the BJP on the Karjan-Sinor seat in the upcoming Gujarat Assembly Elections. What message is the BJP ultimately trying to send to the people of the Karjan constituency? Do the annadatas (food providers/farmers) have no value in the eyes of the ruling party? Why is a party that preaches discipline in its

speeches completely silent on such grave malpractices? It is precisely because of such leaders, sitting on crores of rupees in alleged benami (proxy) properties, that the BJP's image is being tarnished among grassroots workers and the general public.

The public is no longer a slave to politicians, nor are they a flock of sheep. To send home the leaders who kicked the stomachs of thousands of youths and betrayed their own village, the people of Karjan have sounded the battle cry. It remains to be seen whether the BJP organization wakes up in time and mandates a clean candidate, or if, blinded by affection for their favored tainted leader, they invite the massive political damage of erasing the BJP's existence from the Karjan region.

The public's anger is at its peak, and they are now ready to settle the accounts—with interest!

## News box

## Six girls enrol as Jewar gets its first govt women's degree college

Noida.(Agency)

Jewar has got its first govt women's degree college. Six students enrolled on the first day of admissions after the college was inaugurated on Thursday, bringing higher education closer to home for girls from the town and surrounding villages.

"The opening of this college will ensure girls from Jewar and surrounding villages do not have to travel long distances to pursue graduation. It will make higher education more accessible and encourage families to educate their daughters further," MLA Dhirendra Singh said while inaugurating the college. Affiliated to Chaudhary Charan Singh University, Meerut, the college was built at a cost of Rs 11 crore under the Centre's Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram. The project was sanctioned in 2019, with 60% of the funding provided by the Centre and the remaining 40% by Uttar Pradesh govt, with the vision of strengthening educational infrastructure and expanding opportunities for women in the region. The college has begun admissions for its BA programme for the current academic session, offering courses in eight subjects — Hindi, English, education, sociology, history, Sanskrit, economics and home science. Three assistant professors have been appointed, along with a staff member. Officials said admissions would continue over the coming weeks. Residents said the college would reduce the burden of commuting and help curb dropouts among girls after school.

Ramesh Singh, a resident of Kanigarhi village, said the new college would particularly benefit students from rural areas. "Daily travel is expensive and time-consuming. Some girls discontinue their education because of distance.

## Residents protest hike in upkeep fee at Godrej Oasis

Gurgaon.(Agency)

Residents of Godrej Oasis in Sector 88A staged a protest on Saturday against a steep hike in common area maintenance (CAM) charges, alleging poor maintenance services, lack of financial transparency, delays in resolving long-pending society issues and non-payment of salaries to housekeeping staff. Residents said they have been raising concerns with the developer for several months through emails and meetings but have received no satisfactory resolution.

According to them, the CAM charges were increased from around Rs 4.79 per square foot to Rs 6.58 per square foot, excluding 18% GST. They alleged that the hike was imposed without any detailed justification or consultation with residents. On Saturday, the housekeeping services were disrupted in the society after sanitation workers stopped work over unpaid salaries. A group of residents gathered outside the management office and placed garbage there as part of the protest to highlight the deteriorating situation. "We are paying substantially higher maintenance charges, but the quality of services has only deteriorated. We repeatedly sought a detailed breakup of expenses and audited financial records to understand the reason behind the increase, but no satisfactory explanation has been provided," said Rajnikanth Patri, general secretary of the residents' association.

## Weeks after a hill was flattened, fresh road work breaches Mangar Bani core

Gurgaon.(Agency)

Weeks after a hill was flattened in the Mangar forest landscape, another alleged violation has surfaced inside its most protected pocket. A road is now being laid through the core area of Mangar Bani — Haryana's ecologically significant sacred grove — despite multiple legal safeguards, reigniting concerns over repeated attempts to alter one of Aravalis' most fragile forest ecosystems.

A TOI visit on Saturday found heaps of stone aggregates spread along a forest track and stacks of interlocking paver blocks inside the forest, indicating that construction was underway in the core zone. Local residents said forest guards stopped the work on Friday evening, but it resumed next morning. The road is being constructed from the valley in Mangar Bani to the temple in the hills. Work was stopped on Friday evening, but resumed again on Saturday morning," said Harender Nagar, a villager. Forest officials said no permission had been granted for any construction inside the protected forest. Divisional forest officer Jhalkar Uyake said the department would seize the construction material. "The material will be seized and action will be taken in keeping with law," he added. Conservator of forests (south Haryana) Raj Kumar also said action would be initiated against those responsible. The latest episode marks the third reported instance this year of alleged ecological damage in the Mangar landscape.

## Greater Noida condo first to get rooftop solar panel to power lifts, corridor lights, water pumps

Noida.(Agency)

A highrise in Greater Noida West has become the first in the district to install a 500-kWp rooftop solar power panel under the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana. Commissioned in June at Arihant Ardent, the project will power common facilities such as lifts, corridor lighting, water pumps and other shared utilities. It is expected to reduce the society's annual common area electricity bill by about Rs 45 lakh. The Rs 2.3-crore plant, supported by a Rs 90-lakh govt subsidy, will not supply electricity to individual flats. The residents of 1,519 units will continue to use separate power connections through their individual prepaid meters. The apartment owners' association financed the

project through an overdraft against its fixed deposit, without imposing any additional charge on residents. The association's president, Nishith Kant Chaturvedi, claimed it is the first society in NCR to solarise its common-area electrical connections. "Our society consumes nearly 1,000 units a month for the common area operations. We had been discussing a shift to solar panels with Noida Power Company Limited for the past couple of months," he said.

"They facilitated the permissions, installed the grid and we installed the panels on June 30." Chaturvedi added that the society is expecting to save nearly Rs 40 to 45 lakh a year. "We are expecting that this will reduce the common area power expenses in the longer run," he



said. The society has installed a 500-kilowatt peak (kWp) rooftop solar plant. One kWp refers to the maximum power a solar panel system can generate under ideal, standardised laboratory conditions (for example, on a bright, cloudless, sunny day at 25 degrees Celsius). In India, 1 kWp can produce approximately 4-5 kilowatt-hours of energy under ideal conditions. Actual generation may vary depending on

solar irradiation, system performance, weather conditions and operational practices such as module cleaning. The total common area power demand for the society stands at approximately 650 kilowatts. "We are committed to promoting sustainable development and green energy," the apartment association's secretary, Lokesh Tyagi, said. "This project is just the beginning of our journey towards implementing more energy-efficient and environmentally friendly technologies."

"Our collaboration played a crucial role in providing necessary approvals and technical support, fostering a smooth execution of the project," said NPCL spokesperson. "We are thrilled to see the positive steps taken towards sustainable energy.

## Two from Noida lose 54L in stock trade frauds

Noida.(Agency)

Two residents, one from Noida and the other from Greater Noida West, lost a combined Rs 54 lakh to separate cyber scams after they were lured into making fake stock market investments through WhatsApp in exchange for lucrative returns. According to police, the accused promised lucrative returns on investments, displayed fabricated profits on a bogus trading platform and encouraged the victims to transfer increasing amounts of money. The frauds came to light only when the victims attempted to withdraw their funds and found that no money could be recovered. Rajesh, an employee of a private company, was contacted by two women on WhatsApp a year ago. They posed as representatives of TCS Capital Group and claimed their advice on stock market investments would generate high profits for him.

Rajesh was asked to download a mobile application and initially encouraged to make small investments. They allegedly transferred modest profits to his bank account in the early stages to

gain his confidence. Believing the investment scheme to be genuine, the complainant continued investing and transferred nearly Rs 33 lakh by Aug 8, 2025. When he later tried to withdraw



both his investment and the accumulated profits, the fraudsters demanded additional payments in the name of taxes and warned that his account would be frozen if he failed to comply. After he refused to make further payments, they stopped all communication with him. In a similar

case, an elderly homemaker from Greater Noida West was contacted through WhatsApp on June 9, 2025. She was added to a stock investment group and persuaded to download a trading application. Lured by promises of substantial profits, she transferred nearly Rs 21 lakh. When she attempted to withdraw the amount, the fraudsters stopped responding to her calls. Both victims lodged complaints on the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal (NCRP) as well as with the Cyber Crime police station. A senior police officer said separate cases have been registered and an investigation is under way. Police are tracing the bank accounts used in the transactions, analysing the money trail and collecting details of the digital platforms involved. Officials said efforts are being made to identify and arrest the accused at the earliest.

Police have advised citizens to verify the authenticity of investment platforms and avoid transferring money based solely on unsolicited WhatsApp messages or promises of unusually high returns.

## E-rick carrying rods that impaled cab driver drove 3km on Dwarka away undetected

Noida.(Agency)

The e-rickshaw carrying iron rods that killed a 22-year-old cab driver should never have been on Dwarka Expressway in the first place. Yet, police have found that it travelled nearly 3km on the access-controlled highway undetected — much of it in the fastest right lane — before its protruding rods pierced the windscreen of a Hyundai Aura and impaled Shivendra Kumar. The

findings have raised questions about enforcement and checks on one of NCR's fastest corridors, where vehicles routinely travel at 100kmph or more. Police are now scanning CCTV footage from the expressway and adjoining roads to establish exactly where the e-rickshaw entered the speedway and identify its driver, who fled after the accident. Police suspect the e-rickshaw accessed the expressway either from Delhi-Jaipur Highway or Southern Peripheral Road. From there, it is

estimated to have travelled around 3km before the collision near Sector 36A. What has surprised cops even more is the lane the driver chose. Instead of staying to the left, the e-rickshaw was allegedly moving in the overtaking lane on the extreme right — meant for the fastest traffic — despite carrying iron rods protruding several feet beyond its rear. The crash occurred around 1.30pm when Shivendra's Hyundai Aura rammed into the rear of the e-rickshaw.

## At Ghaziabad mall construction site where 7-year-old was raped-murdered, children are on their own

Noida.(Agency)

A tin sheet separates a jhuggi settlement from a mall being built 200 metres away, where a seven-year-old girl was raped, savagely assaulted and murdered earlier this month. The child was snuck away by two men, both workers at the mall site, people she knew. Nearly 50 families — mostly migrant workers from Bihar, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand, brought in by contractors to plaster, paint, and lay wires and bricks for the mall — live in rows of one-room shanties. Many of these families have two or three children. The rooms hold little more than a bed and a few utensils. Two washrooms at the end of the compound serve everyone, their gates left open and unattended. A single pipe supplies the water for cooking, washing and drinking. There is no crèche at the site. So, like the child who was raped and murdered, all other children living here are on their own through the day as parents go to work from 9 am to 5.30 pm. For most of the day, they play in ones and twos, dragging empty plastic bottles tied to string or simply passing

around mobile phones.

It is often the oldest children who fill in for the parents. Nandini, who came to the city from Madhya Pradesh, said her 14-year-old daughter looks after her two younger siblings when she is at work. "There's no facility for us here," she said. Since the rape-murder, she has told her children to stay inside, to speak to no one when she is away. "Everyone is a stranger here. We do not know who to trust," she said. Her husband has suggested she stop working entirely, at least until they find someone to watch the children. Khushbo (26) from Bihar's Saharsa district said staying at home was not an option for her. "We are poor people, we've come here for work, and if one of us stays back to look after the children, who earns for the family?" she said. "We cannot take them to the site. We work between bricks and cement." She hopes to enrol her three children in a school, but the nearest one, a govt-run composite school, sits in the neighbouring Sikri Kalan village. A girls' inter college lies four or five kilometres off, in Raj Nagar and Shastri Nagar. "For most families

here, that distance is itself a kind of wall," she said. Lal Babu, a migrant from Bengal with two children, said restrictions have also been imposed on the movement of labourers at the



site since the incident. The only tin gate to the settlement closed after 6 pm, a measure, workers said, meant less to protect the families than to keep them from speaking to the media. "But there are many small girls here. They run to play around, and we cannot run after them all day," Babu said. Many families, he said, were now weighing whether to leave altogether. The jhuggi where the murdered girl

lived with her parents and two elder brothers for the past two years now stands locked. The family has moved out. Neighbours said no one had seen the two men lead her into the mall on the evening of July 11.

The girl suffered more than 25 injuries, including 17 to her head and two fractures to her left leg, the autopsy found. She was allegedly assaulted with an iron rod before her body was thrown into a shaft from the mall's third floor. Two labourers, Vinay Kumar (18) and Sahibuddin (22), have been arrested so far. Police said Vinay had often played with the girl and her brothers, offering them chips and toffees, and that both men lured the child on the promise of snacks and a soft drink. They were sent to judicial custody on Sunday. Nandu, another worker, said all they could do was pray that nothing happened to the kids while they were at work. "Since the girl's death, my mind keeps going back to my own daughter, alone at home. Every evening when I come back, I check on her first before I even wash my hands," he said.

## Red alert for extremely heavy rain issued for two days in Himachal

Chandigarh. (Agency)

The State Disaster Management Authority has directed all departments to remain on high alert and ensure immediate response to any weather-related emergencies as the India Meteorological Department (IMD) in Shimla has sounded a red alert for very heavy to extremely heavy rains in isolated areas of four to five districts of Himachal Pradesh on July 20 and 21.

Departments have been asked to submit regular updates to the State Emergency Operations Centre. The IMD sounded a red alert for Chamba, Kangra, Mandi and Sirmaur on July 20 and for Chamba, Kangra, Kullu, Mandi and Sirmaur on July 21. An orange alert has been sounded on July 19 in Kangra, Shimla and Mandi districts for heavy to very heavy rainfall, while a yellow alert has been sounded in Chamba, Kullu, Hamirpur, Sirmaur, Una, Bilaspur and Solan.

Also, an orange alert has been issued for Kangra, Mandi, Sirmaur and Shimla on July 22, with yellow alerts continuing in several other districts.

Very heavy rains imply rainfall between 115.6 and 204.5 mm, while extremely heavy rains indicate rainfall over 204.5 mm in a day, according to the IMD.

Director of the Meteorological Centre, Shimla, Shobhit Katiyar, said, "A red alert for extremely heavy rainfall has been issued for two days, while an orange alert for heavy to very heavy rain will remain in force for three days. A yellow alert has also been issued for two days, and residents have been advised to remain vigilant."

## 'Our future is at stake': Jauhar University students begin indefinite sit-in against demolition notice

Rampur. (Agency)

Students of Mohammad Ali Jauhar University in Uttar Pradesh's Rampur district on Saturday launched an indefinite sit-in outside the university's main gate, demanding that the demolition order against 38 campus buildings be withdrawn and the counselling centre established by the district administration outside the campus be removed.

The protest comes days after the Rampur Development Authority (RDA) ordered the demolition of 38 out of the university's 40 buildings, alleging they were constructed without the required approvals.

Speaking to The Indian Express, protesting students said the agitation was aimed at protecting the future of thousands studying at the university. Mehroza Khan, a law student at the university, told The Indian Express, "Our career and future are at stake. We have decided to stage this sit-in because we want the government to reconsider its decision to demolish the university. We would not be able to continue our studies elsewhere, especially at colleges located far away."

## Sleeping pills, venomous krait, Rs 20L cover: Wife among 4 held for murder

BENGALURU. (Agency)

Atul Panwar (35) and his wife, Damini (30), had built a modest life together in Meerut's Hastinapur. They married for love in 2019 and had a six-year-old son.

For the past four months, the family had been living in a rented house in J Block Colony. They opened a private school in April, hoping to establish a livelihood. On Friday morning, Atul was found dead.

Damini, police said, told neighbours he had been bitten by a snake — it turned out to be a venomous krait — while he was asleep. She claimed she found him motionless when she went into the room to serve him tea. His body bore bite marks on his hands and legs.

By then, local residents had gathered at the house and, police said, several reported seeing a snake in the room. Damini told police that because of the summer heat, she and their son had slept outside while Atul slept in the room.

Atul was rushed to the Community Health Centre in Hastinapur, where doctors declared him dead on arrival.

The case might have ended there as another accidental snakebite death. Instead, a series of questions raised by the victim's family set police on a path that would expose a far more chilling story involving Atul's wife, her alleged lover, two snake charmers and a Rs 20 lakh life insurance policy.

# A fake senior executive, 63 transfers, Rs 10 crore gone: Inside India's new 'Boss Scam'

He had spent three decades at the company. The contact number saved on his phone had his boss's photo, his boss's name. For 13 days, nothing seemed wrong. What unravelled the fraud was a routine request for invoices, and what police found next, they had never seen before

Mumbai. (Agency)

Girish Amin, a Mumbai-based deputy general manager with a reputed corporate company with offices across the country, received a message from his boss. Sidharth Jain, the executive director of the company, wanted him to transfer a sum of Rs 46.5 lakh to a particular bank account from the company's funds. Over the next few days, Amin received similar instructions, which he duly acted upon. In under two weeks, he ended up transferring Rs 10.40 crore in 63 transactions.

On June 16, it was Amin's turn to contact Jain, this time through an official channel. He asked his boss to share

invoices related to the transactions for accounting purposes.

Then came the truth. It wasn't Jain whose instructions he had been acting upon all this while.

Amin's ordeal is, however, just one example of a new kind of scam that has emerged from the world of cybercrime. India's top cybercrime sleuths have a term for it: Boss Scam. In "Boss Scam", scamsters get in touch with employees at major corporate firms, impersonating their seniors, preferably the CEOs. Then they get them to part with huge amounts of company money.

On June 22, a week after Amin's case came to light, the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) issued an



advisory in this regard, asking citizens, especially industries, to be careful.

**From con call to 'con' call**

An industry veteran who has spent more than three decades at the company, Amin is no novice. But when he received the message from an unknown number on June 3, telling him that it was from his

boss Jain, he was convinced. For one, it displayed Jain's image in the DP (display picture). On top of that, the text in fine font, which appears right above an unknown phone number, clearly stated "Sidharth Jain".

Around the time Amin approached the police, a banker at IDFC FIRST bank's Jasola branch in Delhi, over a thousand kilometres from Mumbai, noticed a suspicious looking pair of young men entering the premises. They asked to withdraw a total of Rs 8 lakh in cash from their bank accounts. "They were shabbily dressed. Plus, the fact that they asked to withdraw such a huge amount minutes after it had been credited in their accounts made the banker suspicious.

## Live tracking, CCTV, capped fares: How Maharashtra's new school bus rules affect your child

Mumbai. (Agency)

School bus operators in Maharashtra will no longer be free to decide fares on their own, and parents will soon be able to track buses live and access CCTV footage on a mobile app, under new rules notified by the state government.

For the first time, school bus fares come under an official regulatory framework, with Regional Transport Authorities (RTAs) empowered to fix fare structures. The rules also mandate GPS tracking, CCTV cameras, seat belts, panic buttons and digital attendance systems for school transport vehicles across the state.

The Maharashtra Motor Vehicles (Regulations for School Buses) (First Amendment) Rules, 2026, notified by the



Home (Transport) Department on July 16, amend the 2011 regulations for educational institution vehicles and take effect after a three-month compliance window. Draft rules had been issued in

April for stakeholder feedback.

**What changes for parents?**

Fares to be regulated: The RTA will fix a base fare per kilometre per student for school buses, vans and educational institution buses. Operators' monthly or

quarterly fares cannot deviate more than 10 per cent from the RTA fare.

Live tracking and CCTV access: Every bus and van must install a Digital Safety Monitoring System with GPS, CCTV and integration with the state's monitoring platform. Parents must get live tracking and CCTV feeds through a certified mobile or web application. Schools must preserve footage for at least 30 days and produce it for transport, education or police authorities when required.

Seat belts, panic buttons mandatory: Every vehicle must have a Vehicle Location Tracking Device (VLTD) with a panic button, a Fire Detection and Alarm System or prescribed fire safety equipment, and seat belts for every seat. Digital attendance: Schools and operators must record every student's boarding and de-boarding times daily.

## Gujarat HC rejects minor rape survivor's plea to terminate 8-month pregnancy

Surat. (Agency)

Stating that the procedure could pose a threat to her life, the Gujarat High Court has rejected the application seeking termination of the eight-month-old pregnancy of a 17-year-old rape survivor.

The minor was allegedly assaulted by her brother, who was arrested on July 10 on rape charges, a police official said.

The Court also asked the state government to bear all expenses of the child, from birth to adoption.

The order, passed by Justice MR Mengdey and made available on Saturday, states:



"The Medical Superintendent, New Civil Hospital Campus, Surat shall take appropriate steps for follow-up of the

health of the minor victim till she delivers the child. Special treatment to the newborn child is also ordered to be provided, including neonatal care, as per the requirement, for better growth and health of the newborn."

The order added that the newborn's custody be handed over to the Specialised Adoption Agency, Surat, under the supervision of the Child Welfare Committee as per the wishes of the minor. The Court also directed the District Legal Services Authority to take appropriate steps and provide interim compensation to the minor as early as possible.

## The one-kanal miracle: from 1/8 of an acre, Moga farmer's pigs earn him Rs 61 lakh per annum

**His farm currently maintains around 150 pigs, including 40 breeding sows. A sow has a gestation period of around 114 days, followed by nearly 60 days of nursing before piglets are weaned.**

Jalandhar. (Agency)

For visitors, the first stop on Jasmeet Singh's Moga Mega Pig Farm isn't the bio-secure sheds or the breeding units. It's a one-kanal plot, barely one-eighth of an acre. Home to around 40 breeding sows and 110 piglets and market-ready pigs, the plot tells the story he wants every visitor to hear.

"This one kanal is generating nearly Rs 61 lakh annually even when pig prices are at their lowest. When the market was functioning fairly, this same farm was generating Rs 1 crore in annual revenue," says the 41-year-old BCA graduate from a marginal farming family that owns just 1.5 acres. Then comes the comparison that leaves the traditional farmers stunned.

"One kanal of scientific pig farming can generate income comparable to what a farmer earns from nearly 50 acres under

Punjab's wheat-paddy cycle. The difference is that my revenue keeps coming throughout the year."

His farm currently maintains around 150 pigs, including 40 breeding sows. A sow has a gestation period of around 114 days, followed by nearly 60 days of nursing before piglets are weaned. Each litter produces about eight healthy surviving piglets on average. Piglets are usually sold at 60-65 days of age, while others are retained for fattening. Market-weight pigs reach around 110-115 kg in about 210-220 days before sale.

Ironically, pig farming was never meant to be his main business. Until 2019, the family's livelihood came from a fleet of nearly 10 commercial vehicles operating across northern India. Pig farming began as a side venture after Jasmeet underwent

scientific training at Guru Angad Dev Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (GADVASU), Ludhiana, and



invested around ₹3.5 lakh. His family was unconvinced. "They would say, 'Assi surran wale kahaawange' (people will call us pig rearers)," he recalls. "But everything changed when pigs saved us economically during Covid."

Within months of launching the farm, the pandemic paralysed the transport business. "Our trucks stopped overnight.

Payments got stuck. The losses ran into lakhs," he says. "But the pigs kept breeding. Piglets kept being born, buyers kept coming. Had I not started pig farming before Covid, recovering from the transport losses would have been extremely difficult."

Within a year, the side business had become the family's primary source of income. Today, the farm rears Large White Yorkshire, Hampshire, Landrace and crossbred pigs and maintains around 150 animals, including 40 breeding females. Every year, they produce nearly 350 piglets and another 350-400 market-ready pigs, ensuring year-round cash flow.

## Sardar Teja Singh Samundri's life of Service & Sacrifice

There are inheritances that come not as wealth or possessions but as values, stories, and a sense of duty passed from one generation to the next. For my family, the legacy of my grandfather, Sardar Teja Singh Samundri, is one such inheritance. His name belongs not only to our family history but also to the history of Punjab, the Sikh community and India's freedom struggle. On the eve of his death anniversary, it is important to remember Sardar Teja Singh Samundri not only as a martyr but also as one of the architects of modern Sikh public life. He was among the founding figures of the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC), a leading force in the Gurdwara Reform Movement, a champion of education, an advocate of an informed public sphere and a defender of Sikh, civic and political rights. Born in 1882 into a Sandhu Sikh family associated with Tarn Taran and later Samundri in Lyallpur district, he came from rural Punjab, where faith, community and service were closely connected. After serving in the British Indian Army, his deeper loyalty remained with Sikh principles and the dignity of his people. Though he had limited formal education, he possessed remarkable courage, clarity of purpose and commitment to public duty.

The early twentieth century witnessed growing demands to reform Sikh gurdwaras, many of which had fallen under colonial regime-backed hereditary mahants. Their resources, intended for the sangat and seva, were often treated as private property. Reform, therefore, became not merely a religious cause but a struggle for accountability, dignity and the community's right to govern its own sacred institutions. Sardar Teja Singh Samundri emerged as one of the most respected leaders of this movement. The establishment of the SGPC asserted that Sikh institutions belonged to the Panth rather than colonial patronage or private control. During the Rakab Ganj Sahib agitation in Delhi, when colonial authorities demolished part of the gurdwara's boundary wall, he joined the campaign to restore it. What the British regarded as an administrative matter was, for Sikhs, a question of religious honour. The successful restoration demonstrated that disciplined non-violence could compel the colonial government to retreat. His leadership became even more significant during the Guru Ka Bagh Morcha of 1922. As Chairman of the SGPC's Council of Action, he guided a movement in which peaceful protesters endured arrests and brutal assaults while maintaining strict non-violence. His sacrifices were also deeply personal. Following the Nankana Sahib massacre of 1921, when the Akali press faced severe financial penalties, he offered surety even at the risk of losing his agricultural land. On another occasion, he pledged much of his land to finance an SGPC legal appeal. His standing within the Sikh community was further recognised in 1923 when he was chosen among the Panj Pyaras to lead the kar seva for cleaning the Golden Temple sarovar. In Sikh tradition, such recognition reflected trust earned through humility, service and sacrifice. Education remained central to his vision. He helped establish several educational institutions in Punjab. At a time when women's education was neglected in many parts of society, the establishment of schools at Sarhali and Lyallpur in 1917 was a forward-looking act that demonstrated his conviction that education was not a privilege reserved for a few. He also recognised the importance of the press.

Alongside other Sikh leaders, he supported establishment of newspapers and publications, including Hindustan Times, that gave voice to the reform movement and challenged colonial narratives.

## All is not well in Balen's Nepal

Recent protests are a warning to the PM that Gen Z doesn't entirely consist of blind camp followers

HISTORY often remembers movements through dramatic events and landmark victories, but the individuals who sustain those movements through years of sacrifice are sometimes overlooked. Among the architects of the Sikh Gurdwara Reform Movement, few figures embodied perseverance, humility and public service more completely than Sardar Teja Singh Samundri. Nearly a century after his death in Lahore Central Jail on July 17, 1926, his life continues to offer lessons in leadership, integrity and devotion to the common good. For Sikhs around the world, Teja Singh Samundri occupies a special place in the story of religious reform and community self-governance. He was not merely a participant in the struggle to reclaim Sikh institutions from colonial influence and mismanagement; he was also one of the movement's principal organisers and strategists. His contribution helped shape the modern framework through which Sikh religious affairs are administered today.

Born in 1882 into a farming family in Punjab, Teja Singh grew up in an environment where faith, hard work and community responsibility were deeply intertwined. Like many young men of his generation, he briefly served in the British Indian Army. Yet his lasting commitment was not to imperial authority but to the values of the Sikh tradition and the welfare of community. The opening decades of the 20th century were a period of profound challenges across India. Political awakening, demands for reform and resistance to colonial rule were gaining momentum. Within the Sikh community, concern was growing over the management of many historic gurdwaras. Institutions built through the devotion of generations of Sikhs had, in numerous cases, come under the control of hereditary custodians whose administration was increasingly viewed as unaccountable and inconsistent with Sikh principles. GeographicReferenceThe demand for reform was therefore about more than religious administration. It was a question of accountability, community rights and the protection of institutions that carried immense spiritual and historical significance. The movement that emerged would eventually transform

Sikh public life and Teja Singh Samundri would become one of its most respected leaders. His leadership became especially significant during the creation of the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) in 1920. The SGPC represented a historic assertion that Sikh institutions should be governed by the Sikh community itself rather than by private interests or colonial patronage. Samundri played an important role in building support for this vision and helping establish structures that continue to influence Sikh religious administration to this day. His commitment was demonstrated repeatedly during major campaigns of the Gurdwara Reform



Movement. During the agitation concerning Gurdwara Rakab Ganj Sahib in Delhi, Sikhs protested against the demolition of a section of the shrine's boundary wall by colonial authorities. For many observers, the dispute may have appeared administrative, but for the Sikh community, it represented a challenge to religious dignity and historical memory.

The successful campaign to restore the wall became an early example of how organised and disciplined resistance could produce results. It was replicated in Guru Ka Bagh and Chabiyana Wala Morcha.

What distinguished Teja Singh was not only his public leadership but also his willingness to make personal sacrifices for the causes he believed in. Following the Nankana Sahib tragedy and subsequent pressures placed upon the reform movement, he accepted substantial financial risks in order to support Sikh institutions and publications. On more than one

occasion, he used his own property and financial resources to ensure that legal appeals and community initiatives could continue.

His understanding of service extended beyond religious reform. He recognised that education would play a crucial role in the future of Punjab. At a time when educational opportunities remained limited for many, particularly for women, he supported efforts to establish schools and promote learning. The creation of educational institutions, including at Sarhali (Tarn Taran) and Lyallpur (Faisalabad), associated with his efforts reflected a belief that an informed and educated community would be better equipped to

preserve its values and shape its future. GeographicReference

Equally significant was his appreciation of the role of public communication. Reform movements depend not only on activism but also on the ability to inform and mobilise people. The mass leader understood the importance of newspapers and public discourse in challenging official narratives and giving voice to community concerns. His initiatives related to publications connected to the reform movement helped strengthen an emerging Sikh public sphere during a critical period in

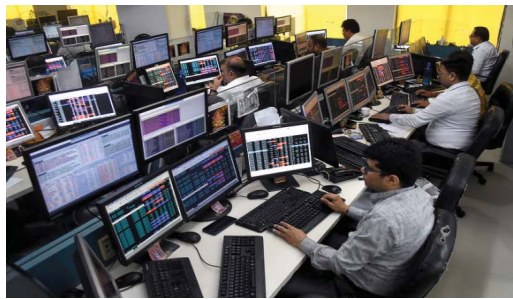
Punjab's history.

Recognition from the community followed naturally. In 1923, he was selected among the Panj Pyare to lead the kar seva for cleaning the sacred sarovar at the Golden Temple. The final chapter of his life revealed the depth of his convictions. Even after the passage of the Sikh Gurdwaras Act in 1925, tensions between colonial authorities and Sikh leaders did not immediately disappear. Several prominent Akali leaders remained imprisoned. Officials sought written assurances from detainees regarding future political activity and acceptance of government-imposed conditions. Teja Singh Samundri refused to compromise his principles in exchange for personal freedom. He remained in jail and died there at just 43 years of age. His death deprived the Sikh community of one of its most capable organisers at a pivotal moment in its history.

## New services index a significant first step that needs calibration

Tomorrow's world may well be shaped by geopolitical tolls, higher freight insurance and military escorts. Geography will not merely influence commerce—it will set the price

With the release of the Index of Services Production, India has taken a major step towards measuring the performance of its largest economic sector with greater precision. The monthly indicator will measure activity across 19 services segments. Until now, the sector that contributes nearly 60 percent of India's GDP was tracked far less frequently. So the ISP fills a gap among India's economic indicators that has been felt for long. It complements the Index of Industrial Production to provide a more comprehensive picture of economic activity and augments the list of indicators used for compiling national accounts statistics. The first release of the ISP states that this April, as many as 14 of the 19 segments recorded double-digit growth over the previous April, with accommodation and food services emerging as the fastest-growing at 37.2 percent. Barring air transport (-13.9 percent) and rail transport (-0.4 percent), all other sectors were in the positive territory. It must be noted that eight sectors dominate the trial index, accounting for 86.8 percent of the total;



so they can inordinately influence the sectoral picture. Wholesale and retail trade together account for 23 percent of the basket, followed by information services at 22.5 percent, and administrative and support services at 15 percent. The data for compiling the index is currently sourced from two channels—GST filings and administrative sources for sectors such as air transport, railways, banking and insurance. Since GST

data is available in value terms, the statistics ministry has employed various deflators such as the Wholesale Price Index, Consumer Price Index (CPI), services CPI and other sector-specific CPIs to convert nominal values into real production estimates.

Though it's an effort well begun, the biggest limitation of the ISP in its present form is that it covers only formal segments, without taking into account the informal segments that remain a significant component of India's services landscape. Moreover, key sectors such as health and education are yet to be included. The statistics ministry plans to incorporate these sectors in future releases using data from the Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises.

As the ISP evolves, expanding sectoral coverage and improving data quality will be crucial to make it a reliable barometer of India's service-led growth. That will enhance policymakers' ability to monitor trends and take informed decisions based on much more timely and granular data than available at present.

## Rocket force | Divider disguised as multiplier

A separate rocket force would complicate coordination, foster turf battles, duplicate infrastructure and strain budgets. Comparison with China and Pakistan can be misleading because their command structures are quite different. A better way could be for the services to build domain expertise

India is debating the creation of an independent rocket force (RF) modelled on China's People's Liberation Army Rocket Force and Pakistan's Army Rocket Force Command. Some voices are also pushing for a combined drone, rocket, artillery and missile (DRAM) force. The proponents point to the prominent role of drones, missiles and rockets in the Russia-Ukraine and Israel-Iran wars as proof that these systems can be decisive. Their importance is indeed undeniable, and we need them in large numbers. The defence ministry is investing significantly in such weapons across the three services. However, the assumption that a separate command structure is superior to integrated employment is flawed. A dedicated RF would create silos focused on narrow objectives rather than synergistic application. The wiser approach would be to let each service develop capabilities aligned with its concept of operations and then empower theatre commanders to orchestrate effects using all available assets, including drones, rockets and missiles, under a 'joint fire plan' within integrated theatre commands. Creating an independent RF would undermine the hard-won push for jointness through integrated commands. Theatre commanders must control the tempo of operations without having to negotiate with another headquarters every time deep strikes are required. Placing an RF outside the integrated theatre command structure would introduce friction, duplicate effort and weaken power projection abilities. Comparisons with the Strategic Forces Command are misplaced. The SFC exists to deter weapons of mass destruction and manage escalation; it is an organ of last resort. An RF would be a weapon of first resort and operate on an entirely different paradigm and logic.

China's PLARF is a distinct service branch reporting

directly to the Central Military Commission, in charge of both conventional as well as strategic weapons. Within that construct, operational control of conventional assets is exercised through theatre commands, which operate under a dual military-political leadership in which party committees and political commissars ensure loyalty to the Chinese Communist Party. Essentially, in China, the party commands the gun. Pakistan's ARFC is an army-specific command reporting to the army chief. Neither model aligns with India's democratic civil-military relations or its current drive towards integration.

A practical alternative is to create a joint staff position of joint-force-DRAM commander within each theatre, working alongside the joint force air component commander. Together, they could synchronise deep strikes, coordinate fires and intelligence-surveillance efforts; and execute the theatre's war plan without adding an additional layer of command.

The efficiency of drones, missiles and rockets does not require new bureaucratic structures. A centre of excellence, operating under the Integrated Defence Staff, could develop a joint doctrine, standardise tactics and procedures, and continuously study global developments. Inspiration can be drawn from organisations such as Russia's Rubicon Center of Advanced Unmanned Technologies.

A separate RF might promise quicker kinetic action, but it cannot control the enemy's inevitable response or manage escalation. Theatre-level coordination is better suited to handle the full spectrum of consequences. Rapid technological change further

weakens the case for a new force. In Ukraine, systems such as the Bayraktar TB2 and Himars, immensely successful in the beginning, saw their effectiveness decline sharply within months. This reality calls for more agile procurement processes, not the creation of another headquarters that would still be bound by the



existing procurement rules.

Should the government nevertheless decide to raise an independent RF, three fundamental constraints would remain. Time: Even with strong political backing, the theatisation process has taken five years to merely reach the 'being examined' stage. A new RF would likely require 5-7 years for limited operational capability and 10-15 years for full capability. By then, directed-energy weapons, quantum technologies, hypersonics and AI-controlled drone swarms would

have rendered much of the original force structure obsolete. Budget: Significant upfront and recurring expenditure would be needed for the headquarters, training infrastructure, logistics and C4ISR (command, control, communications, computers, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance). With a stretched

defence budget, the RF would compete with the services for funds. The services are unlikely to transfer their existing inventories. For instance, the Navy would resist placing ship-launched BrahMos under a land-based RF commander. The result would be duplication, as already visible in the distribution of Apache helicopters between the army and the air force. Manpower: The armed forces already face shortages exacerbated by the Agnipath scheme's high turnover. Creating a new entity would require shedding trained personnel from existing units. The 2018 experiment with tri-service agencies for space, cyber and special operations—which relied on seconded personnel who never materialised—has a lesson. Those organisations have largely become coordination desks under the Integrated Defence Staff.

Thus, a separate RF would complicate coordination, foster turf battles, duplicate infrastructure, strain budgets and slow decision-making—the very problems military reforms seek to eliminate.

The path to modern warfare lies in deeper integration: services building domain expertise, theatre commanders orchestrating joint fires and a centre of excellence driving doctrine and adaptation. Fragmentation is not progress; integration is.

## Tips to attract 'good'

## Energy

for your home



In the science of Feng Shui, it is said that chi is influenced by everything concrete in our lives. Our possessions and where they are located can all affect chi energy. Even the layout of our homes and offices affects Chi energy. By adding and taking away objects, changing the positioning of furniture, plants, wall art and more, we can increase our good luck.

Feng Shui has two parts, the visible and the invisible. The visible factors are walls, doors, streets. The invisible factor is chi. This life force energy and predecessor influences are energies of people who previously lived in your house, ghosts, energies in the land. Every person, place and thing is alive with the universal energy

adapting it in the design of homes calls for precision combined with tasteful aesthetics. When we look at a building the first impression we derive determines the kind of energy existing within it and you get a feel about the lifestyle of the occupants too. Comfort and convenience are key factors when planning a home or even a room placement, storage, furniture arrangements and layout.

If you live in a house with bad history, or you've had many negative experiences in the house, you need to cleanse the space with saline water, incense sticks and lights. If you have two or more doors in direct alignment, especially if it is the front door and back door, suspend wind chime or crystal or a moving object to slow down the chi flow.

An attractive, well-kept door will attract good chi, whereas a run-down door will cause bad chi to enter your home.

Clear pathways and keep hallways, driveways,



In Feng Shui, the exterior surroundings are the most important aspects affecting the chi flowing into your home. Hence, looking at the exterior, environment and the interior of a home will help in ascertaining the flaws and the positive trends

the building inherits. Creating balance and harmony through proper arrangement of the interior layout and inviting exterior will ensure that the Feng Shui of the space is beneficial to the occupants in turn giving rise to

prosperity and happiness. It's a fact that home is where we spend most of our time with the family and all those who are dear and close in our lives. Hence, focusing on the quality of energy, keeping the flow clean and smooth is essential.

called 'Chi'. Everything is connected by this vital energy that is always changing. When we integrate the Feng Shui principles into our lives, we see and interact with the world in a new powerful way.

Understanding the science of Feng Shui and

open and clear free for energy to flow. De clutter attics, lofts, garage and basement and keep them clean. Pay particular attention to clogged drains and leaky pipes. As conduits for energy, they should be kept clear at all times.

## Clean home, better health



Here are seven reasons why keeping your home spic and span is good for your overall wellbeing:

1. Looks better and fresh. Isn't it obvious that any place which is clean, tidy and organised makes you feel better?
2. It makes you more productive. Studies say that people who live and work in clean surroundings tend to be more focused and productive at work.
3. Keeps allergies at bay. Regular cleaning helps keep dust and allergies at bay.



cluttered home includes lots of things for you to trip over and fall.

6. Gets your creative juices flowing. When everything is sorted at your place, your mind is free to focus on rediscovering your hidden creative side.

7. It is exercise. Cleaning helps you burn calories. Even a little amount of cleaning and dusting can up your fitness.

## How to take care of Wooden flooring

- Use carpets and door mats or rugs wherever required to keep the wooden flooring clean.
- Easy to clean, hygienic and dust free, wooden floorboards also offer high impact resistance and better acoustics.

Floors help to anchor the look of a home. Of the multitude of options available to homeowners, wooden floor's offer timeless elegance like no other. The richness of grain and the healthy sheen of a wooden floor are not the only attributes that appeal to most people; the strength, durability, resilience and the exclusivity it offers are equally tempting. A wooden floor can make a room look bigger and lighter and adds value to your house. They also blend well with any kind of decor. The timeless beauty of wood helps in recapturing minds of the people. Easy to clean, hygienic and dust free, wooden floorboards also offer high impact resistance and better acoustics. Timber flooring does not trap dust, pollen and other allergens. With all the joy's and excitement of the festive season, the last thing you would be worried about is

the potential damage to your wooden floors, that would be endured with the increase of activity and people scampering on it. Festive season would mean increase of traffic in your home, which would lead your wooden flooring to more scratches, abrasions and possibility of wear and tear.

To ensure that your wooden flooring doesn't have to bear the brunt of the festive season here are some of tips to maintain and protect your hardwood flooring during the festive season to make it look fantastic:

- Vacuum the floor to remove dirt and debris. Don't wear slippers when you clean the wooden flooring, as the dirt underneath your slipper may leave permanent scratches on your floor.
- Use carpets and door mats or rugs wherever required to keep the wooden flooring clean
- Use rugs or mats which are specialized for hardwood floors. Normal rugs and mats can
- Never use water to clean wooden flooring. Water spoils the wood and damages it.
- Sticky stains can be removed with a wet sponge or a damp towel or cloth piece. It is best
- Never use oily soap solution or ammonia cleaners to clean the hardwood floor.
- For wiping out the spills from the floor, use a damp cloth.



# 5 Must dos while Shifting home



Anyone who has shifted homes will be able to tell you it is no easy task. The entire business is emotionally and physically taxing. From hiring the best movers to telling goodbyes to friends, every step should be closely planned. Here are five simple steps which will help you move to your new home comfortably.

## The A to Z list:

Take time and prepare a checklist. Write down everything which needs to be done, from paying your newspaper boy to the list of people you need to say goodbye. It is easy to let something important slip away while you are having so much in your mind. A list will give you the confidence that you will not miss out on anything.

## Plan your move in advance:

The more time you have the easier the shift is. A gradual change is better than a last-minute huff-puff. It not only gives you enough buffer time in case everything does not go according to plan but also helps you and your family to emotionally adjust to the fact that you are moving to a new home.

## Talk to your children:

Dealing with kids while shifting is one helluva task. Most of them will find leaving their friends and surrounding traumatic. Sit with them and tell them what will change and what will remain the same. Ask them to collect phone numbers and mail ids of their friends so that they can stay in touch. Talk to them about their new school and type of people they will come across. Involve them while packing up their bags and goodies so that they feel responsible and not left out.

## Pack with care:

Today packing is well taken care by professional movers. But that does not mean you should not be involved. Who would like to see their favourite vase broken during the moving process. Make sure everything is properly bundled and fragile items are well packed before loading. Consider taking your favourite items along with you in the car.

## Be positive:

Yes, shifting residence will sap your energy. Do not let the grief of leaving your home and anxieties

about the new surroundings overwhelm you. Learn to take one day at a time. Focus on the shift and hope for a good home and happiness. The positive energy will help you move forward without trouble.



## Best kept sliver cleaning secrets

Experts from Episode Silver give you some damage control tips to maintain your silverware this monsoon...

### Tarnish

Silver tarnishes when in contact with atmospheric sulphur. Therefore use your silver regularly as usage breaks the sulphur sulphide film that causes tarnish.

For food products, be sure to wipe dry after washing. Use of soft cloth.

For decorative products, wipe daily during the daily house dusting process. This delays tarnishing.

### Cleaning Silver

Heavily tarnished pieces can be cleaned with :- Foam, Sprays or liquid paste silver polishes.

Both Indian and imported polishes are

It is easy to fall in love with sparkling silverware, well-polished and winking in delight at its own splendour. But maintaining the pristine glow is a herculean task, especially in Mumbai where humidity levels are usually high.

easily available in the market. Use a soft chamois cloth. Silver dips are also very effective. Use a weak solution of washing soda and water to clean heavily stained Tea or Coffee pots. Pierced work should not be cleaned with a cloth as it may get stuck on the edges. Use a soft brush. Silver can be washed in dishwashers, but avoid contact with stainless steel as a reaction can occur.



## 6 Simple tips to host a potluck party



The one thing that makes potluck parties a fun event is that it gives everyone an opportunity to involve in hosting the party. However, it requires some planning for sure.

We give you 6 simple tips to hosting a successful potluck party

### Make a guest list

To begin with, slot a day and time as per the convenience of everyone. A potluck party should have atleast 6 to 7 people or couples for it to be fun and memorable. The more the

better.

### Let each one pick a dish

Once you figure out the guest list, you can ask each member what they would like to prepare instead of you deciding the dish for everyone. Every individual has a speciality dish that he/she can cook well. Co-ordination is a must to ensure there are a perfect number of appetizers, main course and desserts.

### Do not miss out on the essentials

If you are of the view that a potluck party host just needs to provide the venue, you are wrong.

The basic items such as plates and utensils, tissue papers, water and other drinks is solely your responsibility. So ensure that everything is well stocked.

### Pay attention to the food

Apart from the essentials, you also have to take care of the food and the temperature at which it is

served. If a dish needs to be warmed in the oven before serving or if some dessert has to be refrigerated, do it.

### Opt for use-and-throw wares

If there are too many guests coming over, choose dishes or plates made of thermocol,

paper or plastic. This way you would not need to wash all the utensils once the party is over and in turn save up all your time and energy. Moreover, keep a huge bin near the kitchen so that the guests can dispose the plates in

### the bin after use.

Appreciate and thank everyone

After the successful potluck party, do not forget to thank each and every guest individually for attending the party and also for taking all the necessary effort in making it a memorable one.



# 10 dead, many missing as torrential rain triggers flash floods in J&K's Rajouri, Poonch

Torrential rain triggered flash floods and landslides across Rajouri and Poonch, killing at least 10 people, leaving several others missing, damaging homes and vehicles, and forcing large-scale rescue and evacuation operations.

**New Delhi. (Agency)**  
Flash floods triggered by incessant overnight rain wreaked havoc across Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri and Poonch districts on Sunday, leaving at least ten people dead, many others missing and forcing hundreds of residents to evacuate as overflowing rivers submerged low-lying areas, officials said. Nine people were killed in Poonch district after a house collapsed amid torrential rain, while one person died in Rajouri following landslides, flash

floods and heavy rainfall. Rescue teams continued search operations for people who remain unaccounted for. In Poonch's Haveli area, seven houses were damaged due to the severe weather. Rajouri town bore the brunt of the flooding, with dozens of vehicles swept away or submerged after rivers breached their banks, causing widespread disruption. Rescue and relief teams, assisted by the local administration, launched evacuation operations while officials assessed the extent of the damage. The flooding



came amid a weather advisory forecasting moderate to heavy rainfall across Jammu and Kashmir till July 23. Rajouri district witnessed continuous rainfall from Saturday evening, followed by intense overnight showers

that caused rivers and streams to overflow. According to official rainfall data, Reasi recorded the highest rainfall in the last 24 hours at 106 mm, followed by Rajouri (103 mm), Udhampur (101.6 mm), Katra (85 mm), Poonch (77 mm) and Batote (57.5 mm). Officials said all major rivers in Rajouri, including the Darhali, Khandli, Suktoh and Jamola, were in spate, with most flowing close to or above the danger mark, inundating several low-lying localities. The Darhali River breached a flood

protection wall near Bela Colony, sending floodwaters into the new bus stand where dozens of vehicles were either washed away or left submerged. The slum settlement near Abdullah Bridge was among the worst-hit areas, with more than 50 families forced to leave their homes after floodwaters entered the locality. Floodwaters also inundated the area near Tariq Bridge, prompting police and emergency personnel to respond to multiple distress calls and assist residents in moving to safer locations away from riverbanks.

## Gurgaon court slams cop for 'casual, unprofessional' probe in property dispute case

**New Delhi. (Agency)**  
A city court in Gurgaon recently rapped an investigating officer (IO) over the alleged lapses during the probe into a high-stakes real estate dispute in Sushant Lok. The dispute arises from two parties allegedly securing bank loans against the same plot using conflicting documents. While granting interim anticipatory bail to a 52-year-old woman accused in the case, Additional Sessions Judge Dr Gagan Geet Kaur pulled up the IO. In its order dated July 15, which was uploaded Saturday, the court said that it "is constrained to observe casual and unprofessional conduct on the part of the IO concerned that he did not enquire into original sale deed ... from complainant and no enquiry is made about the bank accounts of the seller and purchaser with regard to the transfer of consideration amount." The case stems from an FIR registered at the Sushant Lok Police Station on May 19 this year, alleging encroachment and illegal construction on his plot. The court noted that the matter "does not appear to be a matter of simple case of transfer of the same property," but rather "is a matter of more serious concern as the loan has been obtained against the same property from two different banks by two persons". When prompted by the court to verify the original documents, the IO's submitted reports revealed that a private bank held the 1993 sale deed, which had been legally deposited by Suman Lata, the accused, in March.

## Delhi court accepts charge sheet in rape-murder of IRS officer's daughter

**New Delhi. (Agency)**  
A Delhi court on Saturday formally took cognisance of the charge sheet against a former domestic worker accused of the sexual assault and murder of a senior IRS officer's 22-year-old daughter. Judicial Magistrate Deepika Thakran accepted the investigative report during a hearing on the charges against the accused, Rahul Meena. As part of the proceedings, the court ordered law enforcement to preserve all video evidence related to the case and share those files with the defense counsel ahead of the next hearing on August 1. The charge sheet was filed before the court on Thursday, after the completion of the investigation by the Amar Colony police station in southeast Delhi. The matter was listed for hearing Saturday, the officials said. The victim, an IIT graduate preparing for the civil services examination, was found dead by her parents at their Kailash Hills residence in East of Kailash on the morning of April 22 after they returned home from a gym. According to police, Meena (23), who was dismissed from his job in February over alleged financial misconduct, entered the house early that morning by using his prior knowledge of a spare key kept on the premises. Police said he raped the woman and strangled her with a mobile phone charging cable after she resisted his demand for money. Police said Meena then stole cash amounting to between Rs 5 lakh and Rs 7 lakh, changed into the victim's brother's clothes and fled the house. Police said the charge sheet states that fingerprints, palm prints and thumb impressions lifted from the crime scene match those of the accused, while DNA profiling has conclusively matched his DNA with the biological evidence found during the probe.

## Seat at the table for TMC rebels at all-party meeting, INDIA bloc MPs walk out

**New Delhi. (Agency)**  
High drama unfolded at the Centre's all-party meeting ahead of the Monsoon Session of Parliament on Sunday as MPs from the INDIA bloc walked out of the meeting, amid a controversy over separate seating arrangements for rebel Trinamool Congress (TMC) MPs. The Opposition leaders, however, later rejoined the meeting, describing their walkout as a symbolic protest. The meeting, convened by Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju at the Parliament Annexe, was attended by floor leaders of major political parties to discuss the government's legislative agenda and issues likely to dominate

the upcoming session. The Opposition's walkout came after the government invited representatives of the Nationalist Congress of Progressive India (NCPI), a group comprising around



20 rebel TMC MPs, and allotted them a separate table at the meeting. The development assumed significance as Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla has not yet recognised the rebel MPs as a separate

parliamentary party. Sources said the rebels were given separate seating after they sought not to be seated alongside TMC MPs. While the exact trigger behind the walkout was not officially stated, Opposition leaders were understood to have objected to the government's decision to accord separate space to the rebel group despite the absence of formal recognition by the Speaker. Explaining the Opposition's protest, TMC MP Mahua Moitra said all INDIA bloc parties, including the Congress, Samajwadi Party, DMK, Jharkhand Mukti Morcha, Aam Aadmi Party, National Conference, Left parties and Shiv Sena (UBT), had walked out in protest against the presence.

## Hanuman Mandir in Connaught Place to get cafeteria in next two months

**New Delhi. (Agency)**  
The New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) has planned to upgrade the Hanuman Mandir Vatika near Connaught Place by constructing a cafeteria, a Hawan Kund and carrying out other civil works, officials said on Saturday. The Vatika houses three prominent temples, including the historic Prachin Hanuman Mandir, Ganesh Mandir, and Shiv Mandir and witnesses heavy footfall on a daily basis. The civic body has invited bids for the work, which is estimated to cost Rs 26.6 lakh and is expected to be



completed within two months of being awarded. In June 2025, NDMC inaugurated two public welfare facilities including a shaded shoe house and a 'Free Drinking Water Facility' at Shiv Mandir, situated within the Vatika. The upcoming project is part of a broader road and related civil works

package being taken up by the NDMC's Civil Engineering Department during 2026-27, according to the tender notice. The work has received administrative approval and expenditure sanction of Rs 28.13 lakh. The detailed estimate has been pegged at Rs 27.93 lakh, the notice said. The proposed cafeteria will provide improved food and refreshment options, while the new Hawan Kund will facilitate ritual ceremonies. The initiative is part of the larger road maintenance and infrastructure upgrade programme for the NDMC area during 2026-27, officials said.

## 79K accept undergraduate seat allotments at DU, 10K complete fee payments

**New Delhi. (Agency)**  
More than 79,000 candidates accepted the undergraduate seats allotted to them by the University of Delhi on Saturday, the last day for accepting seats under the first allocation list of the Common Seat Allocation System (CSAS). According to the university, 79,404 candidates had accepted their allotted seats by 6 pm. Of these, 26,061 applications had reached the "Approved for Payment" stage, while 10,746 candidates had completed the admission process by paying the requisite fee. The first allocation list, announced on Thursday, allotted seats to 93,033 candidates against more than 71,000 available seats across 221 undergraduate programmes in 67 colleges for the 2026-27 academic session. The allocations were made from 2,08,043 candidates who completed Phase II of the admission process by submitting their programme and college preferences. Overall, 2,18,284 candidates completed registration on the CSAS portal. According to the university, 93,033 candidates, including 42,019 male and 51,014 female applicants, received seat allotments in the first round, reflecting an allocation rate of 86.1 per cent. A total of 15.94 lakh unique programme-college preferences were considered. Among special category admissions, 1,243 single girl child candidates and 242 orphan candidates, including 109 male and 133 female applicants, were allotted seats. Candidates allotted seats in the first round have until 11.59 pm on Saturday to accept their allocations. Colleges will continue verifying applications, following which candidates can complete the fee payment process. The university has advised candidates seeking higher-preference courses or colleges in subsequent rounds to opt for the "upgrade" option. The second allocation list will be released on July 25. Meanwhile, the Delhi University Sports Council has announced that sports trials under the Sports Supernumerary Quota will be held from July 29 to August 3 across various venues in Delhi. **Results declared** The CBSE on Saturday declared the Class X Second Board Examination 2026 results. The overall pass percentage rose to 96.78%, while the compartment pass percentage stood at 52.40%.

## Delhi Mango Festival showcases BrahMos variety inspired by Operation Sindoor

**New Delhi. (Agency)**  
A mango variety named BrahMos, inspired by the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile's role in Operation Sindoor, was unveiled at a mango festival in the national capital. The event brought together senior military officers, defence officials and mango growers. Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan, Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal AP Singh, Vice Chief of the Air Staff Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit, former Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhaduria and BrahMos Aerospace CEO Dr Jaiteerth R Joshi attended the event. The guests sampled different mango varieties and interacted with growers. They also discussed

contemporary national issues. The exhibition featured 16 mango varieties from across the country, including Dussehri, Langda, Chausa, Amrapali, Mallika, Rataul, Ram Kela, Jafrani, Love-e-Mashook, Dinga Desi, Gulab Khas, Kalmi, Zalim Anda, Gulab Jamun, Hasan Ara and Sukha Matiyar. **'BRAHMOS INSPIRED BY THE MISSILE'** Mango grower Asad Khan, who showcased the collection, said the newly named BrahMos mango was inspired by the BrahMos missile's contribution during Operation Sindoor. He said he was pleased to present the variety in the presence of Dr Joshi, CEO and

Managing Director of BrahMos Aerospace. Khan said the exhibition was organised by the GBR Memorial Foundation of India, which regularly hosts such events to bring together people from different walks of life through cultural and agricultural initiatives. General Chauhan and his wife, Anupama Chauhan, interacted



with exhibitors to learn about the characteristics of the different mango varieties and sampled several of them. Air Chief Marshal AP Singh and his wife, Sarita Singh, also visited the exhibition and appreciated the diversity of the mango collection. The festival was attended by several prominent personalities, including former Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) chief Samant Goel, former BrahMos Aerospace CEO Dr Sudhir Kumar Mishra, Air Marshal Sandeep Singh, former Union Home Ministry Additional Secretary RK Singh, National Disaster Management Authority member Dr Dinesh Aswal, Air Vice Marshal.

## Karur Vysya Bank Hikes MCLR On Select Tenures: Check Latest Lending Rates

New Delhi. (Agency)

Tamil Nadu-based private lender Karur Vysya Bank has hiked lending rates for specific tenures, effective from Wednesday, July 22, the bank said in an exchange filing.

With the latest revision, MCLR rates of Karur Vysya Bank range from 8.75% to 9.35%, based on the tenure of the loan. Prior to the revision, the MCLR rates ranged from 8.65% to 9.25%, when the bank hiked MCLR, base rate and BPLR in June. The filing read, "Marginal Cost of Funds Based Lending Rates (MCLR) of the Bank would be revised with effect from 22nd July 2026."

Marginal cost of funds-based lending rate (MCLR) is the minimum interest rate a bank must charge for loans, introduced by the RBI in 2016.

Check Latest Karur Vysya Bank Lending Rates

The lender has raised overnight, one-month, three-month, six-month and one year lending rates. The overnight MCLR has been revised to 8.85% from 8.75%, while one-month rate has been hiked to 8.75% from 8.65%.

The bank has revised six-month MCLR to 9.15% from 9.10% and one-year lending rate to 9.35% from 9.25%. Notably, the three-month MCLR remains unchanged at 8.95%. The base rate stands at 11%, while BPLR is at 16%

## The Hidden Reason India's Largest Private Lender Slowed New Account Openings

New Delhi. (Agency)

Opening a bank account has usually been one of the easiest parts of dealing with a bank. Unlike a loan, there is no credit score to clear or income threshold to meet for most savings accounts.

Yet HDFC Bank chose to slow something most banks try to accelerate.

The lender said it deliberately slowed one part of its business over the past few years. The reason was not weak demand for bank accounts, slower economic growth or higher interest rates. Instead, it was responding to a problem that had become harder to ignore across the banking system.

### The Shift

HDFC Bank said it tightened the way it onboarded new customers even though customer additions are central to growing deposits.

Banks rely on deposits collected through savings and current accounts to fund loans. A higher deposit base can reduce dependence on wholesale borrowings and help banks support future lending.

"We did see a fair amount of fraudsters using accounts as mules," Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Sashidhar Jagdishan said during the earnings call on Saturday. The bank, he added, slowed new customer acquisition while it put in place systems aimed at improving the quality of new accounts.

## Raymond's Gautam Singhania Says China+1 Is No Longer Just A Trend But An 'Operational Imperative'

New Delhi. (Agency)

Raymond Chairman Gautam Singhania said the China+1 strategy has evolved beyond a business trend and become an operational necessity for multinational companies as they diversify their supply chains. Speaking at the company's annual general meeting earlier this week, Singhania said companies were increasingly looking for manufacturing partners that could help strengthen supply chain resilience

"The accelerating China-Plus-One strategy is no longer just a trend — it is an operational imperative for multinational corporations seeking supply chain resilience," he said.

The comments come as manufacturers continue to diversify production beyond China amid geopolitical tensions and efforts to build more resilient global supply chains. Singhania said global original equipment manufacturers were seeking manufacturing partners that could deliver speed, quality and scale, adding that Raymond had positioned its engineering business to benefit from the shift.

"Global OEMs are looking for trusted, high-precision manufacturing partners who can deliver speed, quality and scale," he said. He said India continued to strengthen its position in global manufacturing, supported by domestic demand, infrastructure investment and government initiatives aimed at expanding local production.

# Axis Bank appoints ex-Bandhan Bank finance chief Rajeev Mantri as CFO

**Mantri will assume charge on September 28, 2026, subject to the necessary regulatory and statutory approvals, the bank said in a regulatory filing.**

CHENNAI. (Agency)

Private sector lender Axis Bank on Saturday announced the appointment of Rajeev Mantri, the former finance chief of Bandhan Bank, as its new Chief Financial Officer (CFO). Mantri will assume

charge on September 28, 2026, subject to the necessary regulatory and statutory approvals, the bank said in a regulatory filing.

He succeeds Puneet Sharma, who resigned in June to pursue opportunities outside the bank. Sharma, who has served as Axis Bank's CFO since March 2020, will be relieved from the close of business on August 31, 2026.

Mantri brings more than two decades of experience in banking and financial services. He joins Axis Bank from Bandhan Bank, where he served as CFO and was responsible for financial strategy, capital management, business finance, investor relations and

regulatory engagement.

Before joining Bandhan Bank, Mantri spent over 15 years at ICICI Bank, holding senior leadership roles across finance, business planning, analytics and strategy. Axis Bank said Mantri's appointment has been approved by its board and is subject to the approval of the Reserve Bank of India and shareholders, where applicable.

The appointment comes at a time when India's third-largest private lender is focused on strengthening profitability, managing asset quality and driving growth across its retail and corporate banking businesses.



## Gold and silver could rise sharply, says Robert Kiyosaki: Advices buying on dips

**Famous investor and author of "Rich Dad, Poor Dad", Robert Kiyosaki has claimed that both gold and silver will witness sharp rises despite the recent decline. His opinion is that one should purchase more gold and silver.**

New Delhi. (Agency)

Kolkata: Gold and silver prices have been steadily going down for a few months since the peaks reached earlier in the year. Against this backdrop, Robert Kiyosaki, author of "Rich Dad, Poor Dad" and renowned investor, thinks that both gold and silver prices could see a significant increase in the coming years. He said that instead of panicking about the recent decline, one should detect buying opportunities. Kiyosaki says that the global economy is going through a difficult period, and gold and silver could be a good investment option during such times.

**Jim Rogers' prediction**

Citing legendary investor Jim Rogers, Robert Kiyosaki said that gold and silver prices could experience a "moon-rushing" rally in the future. However, he also



acknowledged that a sharp price decline (retracement) would also be possible during this period. Kiyosaki said that he completely agrees with Jim Rogers' opinion. Both are of the opinion that with debt growing and inflation

continuing, investors usually seek a safe haven. The dips in the price of the white metal and yellow metals are temporary and the eventual rally will benefit those who accumulate during dips. Both think retail investors should monitor the broader backdrop of central bank balance sheets, inflation rates and geopolitical risk which can generate higher demand for physical gold.

### Buying in dips

According to Kiyosaki, gold and silver prices recently fell sharply. He claimed that gold fell from its highs, while silver also saw a significant decline. He says that many investors buy at high prices and sell when prices fall, while he added more gold and silver to his portfolio during this decline.

## Vande Bharat-powered stocks: Know how these shares can benefit from the railways showpiece

Kolkata. (Agency)

Vande Bharat trains are expanding rapidly in India and 164 trains run on 82 routes. In the next few years, many more Vande Bharat trains will be added to the network. The government's focus is on railway modernisation, domestic manufacturing and strengthening the high-speed rail network. This is creating new business opportunities for many companies involved in train manufacturing, propulsion systems, braking systems, safety technology, railway components and infrastructure. Stock market investors can also

benefit from this exercise as it will benefit companies across the entire railway supply chain. Let's see the prospects of eight companies playing a key role in the Vande Bharat project.

### BHEL

**Market price (Friday's closing): Rs 421.30**

In collaboration with Titagarh Rail Systems, BHEL has begun supplying semi-high-speed traction transformers, traction converters, and traction motors for the Vande Bharat Sleeper train project. The company has also received an order for Rail Borne Maintenance Vehicles, further

strengthening its presence in railway infrastructure.

### Titagarh Rail Systems

**Market price (Friday's closing): Rs 859.10**

According to a report by Trade Brains, a consortium of Titagarh Rail Systems and BHEL has received an order from the Indian Railways worth approximately Rs 24,000 crore.

This includes the manufacture of 80 Vande Bharat Sleeper trainsets and their maintenance for 35 years. Final assembly of the trains will take place at the railway's manufacturing units in Chennai and Latur.

# New land policy for West Bengal to be announced on Aug 15 to catalyse investment

**The newly-elected BJP government in West Bengal is going to announce a land policy for the government on August 15. It is expected to be a sharp departure from the completely hands-off land procurement policy followed by the Mamata Banerjee government who thought any attempt to obtain land for industry could be viewed as anti-farmer.**

Kolkata. (Agency)

To catalyse investment in the state that was hamstrung by a completely hands-off land procurement policy by the Mamata Banerjee government, a new land policy will for West Bengal be unveiled on August 15, state finance minister Swapan Dasgupta has announced. Dasgupta mentioned the urgent need for a comprehensive land

policy that envisaged putting to use the land held hostage by closed industries in the state while speaking at a capital markets conclave organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Eastern Region. "The Bengal government is committed to creating an industry-friendly ecosystem and is working on a comprehensive roadmap to accelerate industrial growth across the state. The objective is to position West Bengal as a leading industrial destination by 2027 through a transparent and modern industrial policy, supported by investor-centric reforms," industries minister Tapas Roy said at another function organized by the same chamber of commerce.

### Single-window clearance

According to the ministers, the new industrial policy that the new government will follow would have all the features that will balance the interests of the investors as well as the land owners and feature facilities that

will promote ease of business. It will have a streamlined single-window clearance mechanism, GIS-enabled land banks, clear incentive framework, cluster-based industrial development, quick approval processes apart from improved



logistics and infrastructural support. "An expert committee is being constituted to simplify compliance requirements and further enhance the ease of doing business in the state. The government's focus extends beyond attracting investments to creating quality employment opportunities and

ensuring inclusive economic growth," said the industry minister.

### Employment generation in focus

In all these changes, employment generation remains in focus of the government. This point was emphasised by chief minister Suwendu Adhikari at a ground-breaking ceremony at the Shyam Steel Group's expansion project in Bankura district in south Bengal. "Our incentives will depend not on how much you invest, but on how many jobs you create," Adhikari said.

### Urban Land Ceiling Act

The new government could move beyond the standard acquisition model by promoting negotiated purchases directly from landowners, which could be facilitated by faster approvals and better compensation/rehabilitation. The government has also plans to scrap the Urban Land Ceiling Act, which it views as a constraint to investment climate.

## Students beaten, made to clean toilets: Parents stage protest at Jharkhand school

Ranchi.(Agency)

Tension gripped a residential school in Jharkhand's Dhanbad after parents accused the institution of physically assaulting students, verbally abusing them and forcing them to clean toilets. The allegations triggered a protest outside the school, with family members demanding action against the management and raising concerns over the safety and welfare of children.

The incident was reported at the residential Saraswati Shishu Vidya Mandir in Bapunagar area. Following the allegations, a large number of parents gathered at the school and sought a thorough investigation into the functioning of the institution.

According to the parents, children staying at the hostel are routinely subjected to physical punishment, verbal abuse and made to clean toilets. They alleged that such treatment has left several students mentally distressed and questioned the school's standards of care. Parents also claimed that hostel facilities were overcrowded, alleging that 16 to 18 children were accommodated in a single room, which also served as their classroom. They said the arrangement had adversely affected both the students' living conditions and their studies. Family members further alleged that complaints of physical assault had surfaced earlier as well, but no action had been taken against those responsible.

## Dead on paper, man arrested 27 years after killing of Agra cops

Agra.(Agency)

Nearly three decades after the killing of two police personnel during a sensational instance of robbery in Uttar Pradesh's Agra, the law has finally caught up with the main accused, who has been arrested from Madhya Pradesh after being found living under a fake identity.

Bhura, who was carrying a reward of Rs 50,000 on his head, had been absconding for 27 years. He was recently arrested in Bhopal after the police laid a trap to catch him. To evade arrest all these years, he allegedly faked his death by manipulating government records.

The case dates back to 1999, when a robbery attempt on some police personnel in Agra ended with the death of two of them, officials said. After the incident, Bhura fled Agra and spent some years living in forests to evade cops.

He later moved to Madhya Pradesh's Itarsi, where he worked as a labourer to earn a living. He then shifted to Bhopal, worked in construction for some time, and eventually became a truck driver.

### NEW IDENTITY, NEW FAMILY

While on the run, Bhura allegedly changed his name to Jameel, and married a woman and also had children with her. The police said that he made every possible effort to erase his real identity.

## UP woman who killed 4-year-old son with spade, tried to burn body gets life term

Bijnor.(Agency)

An Uttar Pradesh court has sentenced a woman to life imprisonment for the brutal murder of her four-year-old son, bringing legal closure to a case that sent shockwaves across Bijnor district. The court also imposed a fine of Rs 60,000, directing that Rs 40,000 be paid to the child's father as compensation.

The verdict was delivered by Special Additional District and Sessions Judge (POCSO) Lokesh Nagar, who convicted accused Aadesh Devi of murdering her son Harsh and attempting to burn his body to destroy evidence.

The horrific crime took place on June 12, 2024, in Jalalpur Hasna village under Heempur Deepa police station limits. According to the prosecution, the child's father, Kapil Kumar, had gone to work in the fields when the incident occurred.

When he returned home, he allegedly found his wife attacking their four-year-old son with a spade. The prosecution said she then tried to throw the critically injured child into burning firewood in an attempt to set the body on fire.

# Should tribals who convert get quota benefits? Why Maharashtra has set up a panel

The GR, however, does not specify any deadline for the committee to submit its recommendations.

Mumbai.(Agency)

The Maharashtra government has constituted a 27-member committee to examine whether Scheduled Tribe (ST) members who convert to another religion should continue to receive reservation and other government benefits, reopening a politically and constitutionally sensitive issue that has long been raised by RSS-affiliated organisations and sections of the BJP.

A Government Resolution (GR) issued by the state's Tribal Development Department on July 16 said the committee, headed by Tribal Development Minister Ashok Uike, will examine the constitutional and legal position governing reservation and welfare benefits for STs after religious conversion, study the approach followed by the Centre and other

states, and recommend a policy for Maharashtra. The issue is legally distinct from that of Scheduled Castes (SCs). While SC reservation is linked to religion under the



Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950, there is no such restriction for STs. Under Article 342 of the Constitution, STs continue to be recognised as STs, irrespective of the religion they profess.

The issue has figured in the Sangh Parivar's

tribal outreach agenda. In May this year, the Janjatiya Suraksha Manch (JSM), backed by the RSS-affiliated Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram, submitted memoranda to President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking the "delisting" of STs who convert to another religion. It argued that those who give up traditional tribal faith, customs and culture after conversion should no longer be entitled to ST benefits. It also sought amendments or clarifications to the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950, a statutory definition of 'Scheduled Tribe' and stronger anti-conversion laws.

The demand gathered momentum in May, when a large Sangh-affiliated Adivasi gathering in New Delhi, attended by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, sought the "delisting" of STs who convert to Christianity or Islam.

## Students protest against Sonam Wangchuk's detention, Mumbai police book organisers

Mumbai.(Agency)

Student organisations and Opposition supporters staged separate protests in south Mumbai on Saturday against the Delhi Police's removal of activist Sonam Wangchuk from his hunger strike at Jantar Mantar, with Mumbai Police detaining protesters and registering cases against organisers for holding demonstrations without permission.

Under the banner of Mumbai Against Suppression of Students (MASS), members of the Students' Federation of India (SFI), All India Students' Federation (AISF), Aamchi Padhai Aamchi Ladai and other groups gathered outside Azad Maidan to condemn Wangchuk's detention and express solidarity with students protesting over alleged irregularities in the NEET-UG 2026 examination.

According to organisers, around 100 people

participated in the protest. They alleged that police detained around 50 protesters shortly after the demonstration began, citing the



lack of permission, before later releasing them.

"We organised this protest against the illegal detention of Sonam Wangchuk at Jantar Mantar. We stand in solidarity with him and condemn the actions of the Delhi Police as well as the detention of students protesting here in Mumbai," an SFI member said.

In a statement, MASS alleged that the Centre was attempting to suppress democratic protests and student movements. The organisation also appealed to Mumbaikars to join future demonstrations in support of Wangchuk and the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP). Separately, a group of 15 to 20 Nationalist Congress Party (Sharad Pawar) workers staged a protest near Mantralaya over the same issue. Marine Drive police detained the protesters and later released them after registering an FIR against four to five organisers and issuing notices.

Police also registered a case against seven persons after around 25 CJP supporters assembled outside Azad Maidan without permission and raised slogans against the Delhi Police's action. The organisers have been booked under charges of disobedience to a public servant's order, wrongful restraint, unlawful assembly and relevant provisions of the Maharashtra Police Act.

## Nepalis top foreign arrests in Panchkula, Nigerians in almost every heroin case

Chandigarh.(Agency)

From the streets of Lagos to the hills of Kathmandu, foreign nationals from four countries have figured in criminal cases registered in Panchkula over the past five years, with drug trafficking emerging as the single biggest offence.

Data accessed by The Indian Express shows that 26 foreign nationals were arrested in the district between 2021 and 2026. Of these, 18 — nearly seven out of every 10 — were booked under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, making narcotics offences the dominant reason for police action against foreigners.

Nepal accounted for the highest

number of arrests, with 17 nationals booked during the period, followed by seven Nigerians. One national each from Kenya and Zimbabwe was also arrested.



Heroin was the drug most frequently seized. Almost all Nigerian nationals were arrested in separate heroin recovery cases, while the Kenyan national was also booked under the NDPS Act.

The remaining eight arrests were

spread across a range of offences.

Two foreign nationals were booked in cheating cases and two under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. One case each related to theft, gambling, the Excise Act and a road accident.

The accused were largely young adults. The youngest was 19-year-old Nepalese national Sachin Kumar, who was arrested in 2024 under the POCSO Act and relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) in a case involving alleged sexual assault of a minor. The oldest accused was 63-year-old Dal Bahadur, also from Nepal, who was arrested in 2021 under the Excise Act. Unlike most foreign nationals arrested in Panchkula, his case did not involve narcotics.

## ‘2 pyaj, 30 danay’: Police chargesheet traces coded WhatsApp message, Portugal link

Chandigarh.(Agency)

A coded WhatsApp message referring to a parcel containing "2 pyaj aur 30 danay" set in motion the movement of a consignment of two grenades, a pistol and 25-30 cartridges through Punjab BJP office in Chandigarh, according to a UT Police chargesheet filed in a Chandigarh district court.

In his disclosure statement, accused Charanjit Singh, alias Channi, allegedly told police that Portugal-based Baljot Singh, alias Jota, instructed him to collect the parcel from a salon owner in Majari village and pass it on through a chain of couriers.

The chargesheet, accessed by The Indian Express, alleges that the April 1 attack on the BJP office at Sector 37 was the outcome of a larger cross-border network involving Pakistan-based drone consignments, Portugal-based handlers, encrypted communication, local couriers and digital money transfers.

According to police, several accused were assigned different roles in receiving, transporting and delivering narcotics, weapons and explosives before the attack was carried out.

According to Channi's disclosure statement, on March 16, he received a WhatsApp call from Baljot Singh, who allegedly asked him to collect a parcel



identified as "2 pyaj aur 30 danay" from Amazing Hair Salon in Majari village. The salon owner, Balwinder Lal, alias Shammi, allegedly handed over the consignment. Channi told police that acting on Jota's instructions, he later travelled to Bharapur village in Nawanshahr district and handed over the

parcel to Jasvir Singh, alias Jassi.

The disclosure statement further alleges that Jassi was instructed to deliver the consignment at his village bus stop. At around 6 pm, Gurtej Singh, alias Teji, and Rubal Chauhan allegedly arrived on a TVS motorcycle and took possession of the parcel.

Police said they cited the sequence of events to reconstruct the movement of weapons before the attack. The chargesheet contains disclosure statements of several accused, each allegedly describing a different link in the chain. According to police, Teji allegedly disclosed that he was contacted by a person identified as "Angela", who instructed.

## Tribals' protest against Ken-Betwa project in MP ends as cops clear agitation site

Chhatarpur.(Agency)

A 15-day-long protest against the Ken-Betwa Link Project and other development works in Madhya Pradesh's Chhatarpur district came to an end on Sunday after police removed protesters from the agitation site and transported them back to their villages. While some demonstrators claimed that movement leader Amit Bhatnagar had been detained, the police denied making any arrests.

The protest, spearheaded largely by tribal women, had been underway on the banks of the Barana river near Kupi village since July 3. Bhatnagar, who led the agitation, had been observing an indefinite hunger strike for the past 11 days.

The protesters opposed the Ken-Betwa river-linking project along with other development initiatives in the region. During the agitation, they staged several forms of symbolic protest, including jal satyagraha, chita satyagraha and faansi satyagraha. Bhatnagar demanded action over alleged irregularities in the execution of the project and sought adherence to environmental norms and legal provisions.

The Ken-Betwa Link Project, India's first river-linking initiative under the National Perspective Plan, is designed to transfer surplus water from the Ken river to the Betwa river. The project aims to improve irrigation and provide drinking water in the drought-prone Bundelkhand region spanning Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.

## Unlock my home now: 13-year-old confronts District Magistrate, video goes viral

Lakhimpur Kheri.(Agency)

A routine public grievance hearing in Uttar Pradesh's Lakhimpur Kheri turned into a dramatic confrontation when a 13-year-old boy fearlessly challenged District Magistrate Anjani Kumar Singh, demanding immediate action over a family property dispute and questioning the administration's response.

The Class 8 student, Amitabh Gupta, arrived alone at the district's Sampurna Samadhan Diwas with an application seeking the removal of a lock allegedly placed on part of his family's jointly owned house by relatives.

As the DM asked whether he had come alone, the boy confidently explained that his father suffers from mental illness, his mother works in homes to support the family, and repeated complaints had failed to bring relief. He said the locked portion of the house could be rented out, helping fund his and his sister's education.

The exchange became increasingly intense when the boy repeatedly interrupted officials, insisting they should not merely promise action but ensure the lock was removed. When a police inspector assured him the matter would be resolved, Amitabh replied, "Don't say you will do it, do it quickly."

## NEWS BOX

## Rohit Sharma eyes defining Lord's innings as retirement rumours grow louder

New Delhi. (Agency)

For much of the past week, conversations around India's tour of England have centred on Rohit Sharma's ODI future rather than cricket on the field. Speculation over whether the third ODI at Lord's would mark the end of the former Indian captain's ODI career threatened to overshadow an important series, but with the BCCI stepping in to dismiss the rumours, attention has finally shifted to Sunday's decider. The 3rd ODI will be played at Lord's, London. The toss will take place at 3 pm IST. Sony Sports will provide TV coverage in India. The match will be live streamed on JioHotstar in India. The timing of the controversy could hardly have been worse for India. Having



squandered an opportunity to seal the series in Cardiff, Shubman Gill's side now face a winner-takes-all encounter at the Home of Cricket, carrying concerns over form, injuries and team selection.

A day after the BCCI categorically rejected reports suggesting that Rohit was preparing to retire from ODI cricket, the veteran opener appeared relaxed during India's optional training session. Rohit was seen sharing a light-hearted conversation with head coach Gautam Gambhir and batting coach Sitanshu Kotak, offering a sense of calm after days of intense speculation.

### BCCIDRAWSA LINE

The retirement rumours gathered pace following India's defeat in Cardiff, where Rohit managed only 26 runs from 47 deliveries.

## Messi's greatest triumph could come where he once walked away from Argentina

New Delhi. (Agency)

Take yourself back to 2016. Leicester City had just shocked the footballing world. Pep Guardiola was preparing for his first season at Manchester City. Kylian Mbappe was still an exciting teenager waiting for his big breakthrough. Cristiano Ronaldo would go on to win the Euros the same year with Portugal.

But one thing that did not pan out was Argentina and Lionel Messi. He had just announced his retirement from international football after suffering yet another heartbreak with Argentina in the Copa America, falling victim to Chile for the second year straight after skying his penalty off target. Things looked bleak for the Argentine who was still at the peak of his powers. Just one season earlier, he was the key cog in the South



American attacking troika with Neymar and Luis Suarez for FC Barcelona, where they won the treble under Luis Enrique. Messi was also on his Ballon d'Or winning spree, having claimed five already by 2016. Yet there was something missing when he played for Argentina. Whether an individual problem or a team problem remained unclear. But still, he had managed to get Argentina to the World Cup final in 2014. That major international trophy he desperately wanted always eluded him. On June 27, 2016, at the MetLife Stadium in New Jersey, he dropped the bombshell. "For me, the national team is over," he said after defeat against Chile in the Copa America final, as reported by the BBC. "I've done all I can. It hurts not to be a champion."

# Is this Messi's last World Cup match for Argentina

## Emotional post fuels farewell talk

**Lionel Messi sent an emotional message to Argentina's squad before the World Cup final against Spain. However, fans started to speculate it was his final match in Argentina colours, atleast at the World Cup.**

New Delhi. (Agency)

Lionel Messi spoke his heart out to the entire squad ahead of the World Cup final. It was a rather simple rallying cry but it was bound to pull the heartstrings. However, it also raised speculation that it could turn out to be the superstar's final game in Argentina colours, atleast at the World Cup. Messi is all set to chase World Cup glory once again when Argentina take on Spain in a mouth-watering clash.



Before the match, he decided to speak to his teammates, the coaching staff and the rest of the Albiceleste squad via social media. Messi reflected on his time with the national team and the bond he has formed with the players. "The nicest thing about all these years was never just the

titles, but all the way. Share the day to day with this group, compete together, get up in the difficult moments and enjoy every step," said Messi. Messi also expressed his gratitude towards the people working behind the scenes to keep the family atmosphere going within the team. He

credited the unity within the squad as the main reason for the continued success of the team. "Thanks to each one of my teammates, to the coaching staff, and to all the great people who work every day to keep this National Team as a family," Messi said. Ahead of the tough test on Sunday, Messi decided to look past the immediate result of the final, saying that the team has already written a beautiful story in the tournament. Whatever happens tomorrow, this group has already written a story that we will never forget and that no one will be able to erase," Messi wrote.

### MESSI'S MESSAGE LEAVES WIFE TEARY-EYED

This brought in multiple reactions from fans and well-wishers of Messi, who thanked him for his contributions to the national team. Most of them were emotional when it came to their response for the superstar.

## WWE debut, NBA audition. Novak Djokovic leaves fans speechless in New York

New Delhi. (Agency)

A WWE debut and an NBA audition in style. Is there something Novak Djokovic can't do? This was the question that fans had at the Fanatics Fest in New York on Saturday, July 18, as the Tennis legend showed off his skills in other sports. Djokovic was part of the celebrity list for the event, which is taking place over two days in the city ahead of the FIFA World Cup 2026. The Serbian has been in the thick of the action, interviewing Lionel Messi and asking him how he has handled pressure, much like a true journalist. He quickly mixed things up on Saturday, first entering in style on the WWE ramp. The 24-time grand slam



energy remained high like a WWE superstar throughout the entrance, as he even gave a few high fives to the crowd and a werewolf scream at the end

before taking off his mask. He rounded it all up with a Roman Reigns-inspired pose to end it. You can see the full video below: Next up, it was a three-point challenge on the basketball court and there was minimal fuss from Djokovic. He went on to hit three straight three-pointers with ease to the amazement of the crowd, with a bit of showboating to go with it. Djokovic joined Justin Bieber, Tom Brady and the celebrities in trying his hand at the UFC striking challenge punching bag and got a reading of 590 on the punching scale.

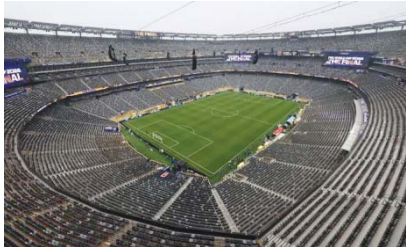
### DJOKOVIC CONTINUES CHASE FOR 25TH GRAND SLAM

On the court, there was heartbreak as he lost the semi-final of Wimbledon to Jannik Sinner.

## Argentina vs Spain: Will storms or wildfire smoke affect FIFA World Cup final

New Delhi. (Agency)

The weather has emerged as an unexpected talking point ahead of the FIFA World Cup 2026 final, with concerns over Canadian wildfire smoke and severe thunderstorms raising questions about conditions for Argentina's showdown against Spain in New York. While heavy rain and lightning disrupted preparations on Saturday, the latest forecasts suggest the weather could ultimately work in FIFA's favour. Smoke from the Canadian wildfires has blanketed much of the northeastern United States in recent days, prompting air quality warnings across several states. Speaking to the Associated Press, senior AccuWeather meteorologist Tyler Roys said the storm



system moving through the region is expected to push the thickest smoke away before Sunday's final. "There could be some lingering smoke that would make things hazy, but very faint," Roys said. "In terms of the thickest smoke, the smoke that has really been eye-popping and leads to poor air quality, that is not expected across New York City or much of the Northeast." Jeff Berardelli, chief meteorologist and climate specialist at

WFLA-TV, echoed that assessment, saying the storms would effectively clear the atmosphere before kick-off.

"It won't be dangerous anymore," Berardelli said. "It's going to be dramatically better."

The improving forecast will come as a relief for FIFA after Saturday's storms briefly disrupted preparations. Spain's training session was suspended because of lightning in the area, while heavy rain lashed the New York/New Jersey Stadium. Authorities also asked people inside the venue to take shelter as thunderstorms rolled through East Rutherford. FIFA later confirmed it remained in close contact with local authorities while monitoring both the weather and air quality ahead of the final.

## England's win over France is first step towards football's elite: Thomas Tuchel

**Thomas Tuchel believes England's dramatic 6-4 win over France is the first major step towards closing the gap on international football's elite. The England boss praised his players' mentality after securing the World Cup bronze medal.**

New Delhi. (Agency)

England manager Thomas Tuchel believes his side have taken a significant stride towards competing with international football's heavyweights after a thrilling 6-4 victory over France secured bronze at the FIFA World Cup 2026. While the result did little to ease the

pain of England's semi-final defeat to Argentina, Tuchel insisted overcoming France, one of the most consistent teams in world football over the past decade, proved that his squad is heading in the right direction. Bukayo Saka starred with a hat-trick in Miami, while Declan Rice, Ezri Konsa and Jude Bellingham also found the net as England survived a spirited French comeback in the third place fixture.

### CLOSING THE GAP

Tuchel refused to declare England equals of France just yet, but felt Saturday's performance represented an important milestone. "We have the ability to close it, but they have the ability to open it up again," Tuchel told BBC Sport. "Eight years ago they were the

champions. Four years ago they were in the final. There is a slight gap, but no problem. We want to close it."



The German revealed he had challenged his players before kick-off to use the third-place playoff as the first building block towards matching the world's elite. I said yesterday today is the first step to closing it. We did it. We beat them. The

next one will be Spain in the Nations League. "Despite ending the tournament with bronze, Tuchel admitted England

would still struggle to move on from missing out on the World Cup final.

"To see a team fight like this gives you energy. The tiredness will come after. We will still feel the pain when tomorrow is the final. This will take a while, but overall it gives me more energy than it takes from me."

### PRIDE IN RESILIENCE

England raced into a stunning 4-0 half-time lead before France stormed back after the break, with Kylian Mbappe scoring twice to reduce the deficit to a single goal. Saka's penalty and Bellingham's stoppage-time strike eventually settled an extraordinary contest.



opponent she has now faced 30 times on the international circuit. "Women's singles' golden generation is not over just yet," commentator Gillian Clarke remarked as the two veterans of the sport stood together on the podium, smiling and exchanging a few words. Sindhu then invited her coach, Irwansyah, the legendary Indonesian tactician, onto the podium to celebrate the triumph. Since his arrival in her camp in 2025, the Indian star has rediscovered the aggression and attacking intent that once made her one of the most feared players on the tour. More importantly, with a single-minded focus on her fitness, Sindhu has looked sharper than she has in years, consistently reaching the quarter-finals and semi-finals of major events.



# Anushka Sharma's

## Rare London Outing With Krishna Das Goes Viral; Restaurant Shares Photos

Anushka Sharma recently stepped out in London with spiritual teacher and singer Krishna Das, and pictures from their visit to a city restaurant have now surfaced online. The actor, who has maintained a relatively low public profile in recent months, was seen posing with Krishna Das and members of the restaurant team. The photographs were shared by OMNOM London on its official social media page, along with a lengthy note recounting the visit.

### Restaurant Staff Recall Meeting Anushka Sharma

In the pictures, Anushka kept things simple as she smiled for the camera beside Krishna Das. The restaurant's team described the actor as gracious and approachable, saying her demeanour left a lasting impression on those present.

"Some days leave your heart a little fuller... and today was one of them! We were blessed to welcome the wonderful @anushkasharma ji and the ever-inspiring @krishnadasmusic ji to @omnom London," the restaurant wrote.

The note went on to praise Anushka's conduct during the outing. "Anushka ji's warmth, humility and grace are even more beautiful in person. She has such a calming presence that instantly makes everyone feel at home," it added.

The post also reflected on Krishna Das' influence as a musician and spiritual figure. Calling him "a soul whose music has touched millions around the world," the restaurant said his presence carried the same sense of peace, devotion and affection associated with his kirtans.

### OMNOM Says The Visit Reflected Its Larger Vision

The restaurant linked the meeting to the philosophy behind OMNOM and Namaste Village, describing the establishments as more than places to dine. "Moments like these remind me why we created @namastevillage and @omnom, not just as a restaurant chain, but as spaces where people can connect, nourish themselves and feel at peace," the note read.



## Raaka: Deepika Padukone Pulls Night Shifts, Films Intense Action Scenes In 3rd Trimester Amid 8-Hour Shift Row



Deepika Padukone is currently juggling work and personal milestones as she gears up to welcome her second child while shooting for her upcoming film, Raaka. Directed by Atlee, the big-budget action entertainer marks her first on-screen collaboration with Allu Arjun. Ever since the project was announced, it has generated significant buzz, with fans particularly excited to see Deepika take on a high-octane action role. The latest report suggests that the actress, who is in her third trimester, has been shooting intense action scenes almost every day.

According to Variety India, Deepika Padukone has reportedly been filming extensively for Raaka, with her shooting almost every day to complete her portions on time. Despite the recent debate around her support for a structured eight-hour work shift, the actress has remained dedicated to the project and is working towards wrapping up the film before taking maternity leave. Now seven months pregnant, she has reportedly been filming night schedules and performing physically demanding action sequences, balancing the film's demanding shoot while preparing to welcome her second child. A crew member told the portal, "It is inspiring for everyone on the sets to see Deepika perform like this. Not to forget, she has a one-and-a-half-year-old daughter at home, who she also gets her unwavering attention."

The 8-hour work shift debate started after reports claimed that Deepika had exited Sandeep Reddy Vanga's Spirit and Nag Ashwin's Kalki 2 over disagreements regarding her work schedule. It soon sparked a wider conversation in the film industry about working hours, especially for new mothers. Atlee's Raaka is touted to be one of Indian cinema's biggest upcoming spectacles. Starring Allu Arjun and Deepika Padukone, the film reportedly also features Rashmika Mandanna, Janhvi Kapoor and Mrunal Thakur in key roles. It explores a world of science fiction and fantasy, backed by large-scale action and an ambitious vision that has already generated immense buzz ahead of its 2027 release.

## Hema Malini Recalls Dance Classes With 'Choti Si Ladki' Rekha: 'Isse Pakadna Mushkil Hai, Mischevious Thi'



Bollywood superstar Hema Malini recalled the beautiful and enduring bond between her and colleague and Bollywood superstar Rekha.

The upcoming episode of music reality show 'Indian Idol' will take viewers on a nostalgic journey as Hema Malini will be seen elaborating on her friendship with Rekha, further revealing that their bond began years before they shared the screen. During the conversation, host of the show Aditya Narayan said, "Jahan tak mujhe pata hai, Rekha ji aur aapne lagbhag aath film mein saath mein ki hain. Main jaana chahunga ki Rekha ji ke saath kaam karne ka aapka experience kaisa raha?" (As far as I know, Rekha ji and you have worked together in nearly eight films. I would like to know what your experience of working with Rekha ji has been like)

Hema Malini recalled, "Maine Rekha ko tab dekha tha jab woh bahut chhoti thi. Main Bharatanatyam seekh rahi thi Chennai mein, lekin uss waqt maine Kuchipudi bhi seekhna shuru kiya tha. Main Guru Vempati Chinna Satyam ji ke paas training ke liye jaati thi. Tab meri film 'Sapno Ka Saudagar' release ho chuki thi, lekin filmon ke saath-saath main stage performances bhi karti thi. Dance hamesha meri zindagi ka ek bahut bada hissa raha hai aur aaj bhi hai."

(I first saw Rekha when she was a very young girl. I was learning Bharatanatyam in Chennai and had also started training in Kuchipudi. I used to train under Guru Vempati Chinna Satyam. By then, my film 'Sapno Ka Saudagar' had already been released, but alongside films, I continued performing on stage. Dance has always been a very important part of my life, and it still is) She continued, "Jab main dance classes mein jaati thi, Rekha bhi wahaan aati thi. Woh tab ek chhoti si ladki thi. Guru ji hamesha kehte the ki yeh dance rehearsal se bhaag jaati hai, isse pakadna bahut mushkil hai. Woh bahut hi mischievous thi." (Whenever I went for dance classes, Rekha would also come there. She was just a little girl then. Guru ji would always say that she would run away from rehearsals and was very difficult to catch. She was extremely mischievous)

# Dia Mirza

## Reveals She Was Told To 'Enhance Her Breasts, Inject Lips': 'It Has Always Come From Men'

Dia Mirza has opened up about the beauty pressures she faced in Bollywood, recalling that she was told to enhance her look and make changes to her appearance. She revealed that comments like 'inject your lips' and 'enhance your breasts' always came from men in the industry, and that such remarks made her feel inadequate, despite her achievements.

In a conversation with SheThePeople about beauty standards, ageing and cosmetic procedures, Dia spoke about how women are often made to feel that their natural features need to be changed. She said the world today places too much importance on external appearances, while



there is far less focus on understanding and accepting one's own body and mind.

"It's terrifying because I feel like there are more women interested today in getting cosmetic surgery than ever before. And it's very interesting because the drivers of the industry are men. And they drive the industry completely and entirely focused and based on fear, right? If a woman rejects

her natural features and wants to enhance them — or thinks she is enhancing her features through cosmetic surgery — it's because some man somewhere has told her she is not good enough. Or she is not young enough. And I feel like this constant trap that so many women who have access are taken in by is terrifying because what's happening there is that they are going out, trying to get these things changed about themselves. And somehow it doesn't really make them feel what they should be feeling," said Dia Mirza.

### Dia Mirza Recalls Being Told To Enhance Her Looks

When asked whether she has faced ageism, the actress replied, "Of course I have! And I have also been told how I should change, get things done. What I can do to enhance the way I look. And it has always come from men. It's never been a woman who sat me down and said, 'Go inject your lips. Your lips are too thin.' or 'Enhance your breasts. They're too small.' It's always a man who tells you that. It's true."



## NEWS BOX

## Hungary's president signs a constitutional amendment ending his term

**BUDAPEST.(Agency)**

Hungary's president signed a constitutional amendment into law on Saturday that ends his term in office, bringing to a close a dispute between him and the country's new government that was seeking to oust him as part of a purge of officials appointed during the reign of Viktor Orbán. Hungarian Prime Minister Péter Magyar, who defeated the long-serving Orbán in a blowout election in April, had repeatedly called on the Orbán-appointed president, Tamás Sulyok, to resign, arguing he had failed to live up to his role as president by neglecting to stand in the way of antidemocratic steps by Orbán's government. When Sulyok refused, lawmakers with Magyar's pro-European, center-right Tisza party passed a constitutional amendment this week that called for an immediate end to his term. Sulyok had five days to sign the amendment into law, which he did on the final day before the deadline. In a video posted to Facebook Saturday evening, Sulyok — whom Magyar had frequently referred to as Orbán's "puppet" — said that being made to sign the amendment was "lasting proof that the fundamental values of a free society, the rule of law, democracy, the principle of power-sharing, have been trampled on in the interest of power." Sulyok's term will officially end at midnight on Monday, when speaker of Parliament, Ágnes Forsthofer, will automatically assume his duties until lawmakers elect a new president, a task which has a 30-day deadline. Since taking office in May, Magyar's administration has quickly gone to work dismantling what he calls Orbán's "mafia" by removing numerous political appointees and heads of institutions viewed as having facilitated Orbán's autocratic government.

## Social media influencers Andrew and Tristan Tate arrested in Miami: US Marshals Service

**world.(Agency)**

Influencer brothers Andrew and Tristan Tate, whose social media empire promoting wealth, male dominance and misogyny has made them among the world's most polarizing internet personalities, were arrested Saturday in Miami as British authorities sought their extradition on rape and sex trafficking charges. The brothers were taken into custody by the U.S. Marshals Service on a sealed warrant, agency spokesperson Brady McCarron told The Associated Press, placing the United States at the center of an international legal saga that has stretched from Romania to Britain. British prosecutors announced Saturday that they were seeking the brothers' extradition on charges alleging they raped and trafficked women between 2010 and 2017. The dual U.S. and British citizens moved to Romania in 2016. They were arrested there in 2022, accused of participating in schemes to lure women for sexual exploitation. They denied those allegations and the case didn't go forward because of legal and procedural irregularities. The brothers are expected to appear in Miami's federal court early next week, according to a person familiar with the matter who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive law enforcement operations. The pending charges in the United Kingdom accused the brothers of abusing women in an area north of London, where they grew up.

## Iran Demands "Blood For Blood" In New Billboard With Trump's Family In Coffins

**world.(Agency)**

Iran has unveiled a new banner in central Tehran, which has portraits of US President Donald Trump along with all of his family above coffins that are draped in the Stars and Stripes. The banner, which has a burning White House as a backdrop, features Trump's five children: Ivanka, Don Jr, Eric, Tiffany, and Barron Trump; and the First Lady, Melania Trump, along with the US president. The banner bears the slogan "Blood for Blood" in Persian and is the second time Iran has threatened the US President on a billboard. Iran had put up another billboard in Enghelab Square in central Tehran, showing the US president lying in a coffin. Iran has long used public spaces as a tool of political communication. But since the beginning of the war against the US-Israeli forces in late February, giant billboards, reflecting revolutionary imagery, war memorials, and ideological messages, have been placed in some of the busiest and most visible parts of Tehran as part of the Islamic republic's broader visual communication strategy.

# Rescuers in China search the rubble for survivors of landslide that killed 8 and left 34 missing

**Massive amounts of rocks and soil roared down a slope and buried more than 10 residential buildings early Friday in Pengshui County on the outskirts of Chongqing.**

**CHONGQING.(Agency)**

Rescue crews used excavators on Sunday to comb through the rubble in search of survivors from a landslide in the southwestern Chinese city of Chongqing that killed at least eight people and left another 34 missing. Massive amounts of rocks and soil roared down a slope and buried more than 10 residential buildings early

Friday in Pengshui County on the outskirts of Chongqing. On Sunday morning, about nine rescuers were seen carrying a sealed orange bag from the scene. It was not immediately clear if a victim had been pulled out. State broadcaster CCTV reported that all the residents staying in 21 buildings in the potential impact zone had been evacuated. Authorities carried out the evacuations from buildings on slopes and in low-lying areas within a kilometer radius of the disaster site, relocating over 1,100 people, Chongqing authorities said in a WeChat post published Sunday. Authorities said one of 10 survivors was discharged from the hospital while the other nine were in stable condition. Eight people pulled

from the rubble had died.

On Saturday, rescue crews aided by



dogs and detectors found signs of life, confirming that at least one survivor was still trapped beneath the rubble. But authorities said the crews needed to carefully map out a rescue plan since a reckless excavation could risk triggering a secondary collapse,

especially with the boulders at the scene. The landslide contained about 18,000 cubic meters (635,500 cubic feet) of rocks and debris, with one boulder being around 3,000 cubic meters (106,000 cubic feet), Wang Chuanjun, head of Planning and Natural Resources in Pengshui County, told reporters Friday. More than 120 experts were deployed to the scene to help with the operation. The rain-triggered landslide occurred near a stretch of the

Wujiang River that cuts through karst mountains peppered with small towns and terraces.

Pengshui County is located in the southeast part of Chongqing, bordering the provinces of Hubei and Guizhou.

## Rescuers find five survivors and are still looking for 20 others after boat sinks in Indonesia

**PALU.(Agency)**

Rescuers on Saturday evening found five survivors, including a 7-year-old girl, from a passenger boat that sank earlier in the week in eastern Indonesia waters and were searching for 20 other people still missing. The KM Nurul Salsa, which was carrying 78 passengers and crew, experienced engine failure and sank Wednesday about 43 nautical miles (79 kilometers) from the port in the Selayar Islands, in South Sulawesi Province.

The five survivors were found late Saturday afloat, clinging to a fish trap belonging to a local fisherman,

Muhammad Arif Anwar, head of the Makassar Search and Rescue Office, said in a statement. At least one person is known to have died from the accident. The Makassar



Search and Rescue Office previously reported that the boat was carrying 74 people when it

departed from Jampea Island, but the figure was later raised. The five survivors, one man and four women, were found before dark and evacuated by a fishing boat that passed near Matallang Island before they were finally taken to the search and rescue boat.

"They were taken to the port in Benteng town for health checkups and information gathering," Anwar said. Passenger boats are a common form of transportation in Indonesia, an archipelago with more than 17,000 islands. Lax safety standards and problems with overcrowding frequently result in accidents.

## A centuries-old festival in Japan brings Shinto traditions and towering floats to the streets

**Gion Matsuri festival, born more than 1,000 years ago as a ritual to ward off epidemics and celebrated in the former imperial city of Kyoto throughout July.**

**KYOTO.(Agency)**

There's a special moment when Katsushi Horikawa feels closer to the gods. It comes as he rides atop one of the towering floats pulled through the streets in a centuries-old procession in Japan. This is the Gion Matsuri festival, born more than 1,000 years ago as a ritual to ward off epidemics and celebrated in the former imperial city of Kyoto throughout July. I am conscious of

them when I'm riding on top," Horikawa said. "When we're assembling it as well, but I think the main time is when I'm riding on it." The parades — accompanied by dances, music and song — draw large crowds and tourists every year. The biggest floats can weigh up to 12 tons. Yet behind the festive atmosphere lies a tradition rooted in the worship of deities and rituals of protection.

"Those performances are not meant primarily for the entertainment of people," said Fabio Rambelli, a religious studies professor at the University of California, Santa Barbara. "They are offerings to the gods." A festival that has layers of religious history The Gion Matsuri originated in the late 9th century as a ritual to appease spirits believed to cause epidemics and to pray for

protection from disease. It takes its name from Kyoto's Gion District and "matsuri," the Japanese word for festival. At the heart of the celebration is Kyoto's Yasaka Shrine, a Shinto site whose principal deity has long been revered as a protector against calamities. But the shrine's history also reflects centuries of interaction between Shinto and Buddhism in Japan. "Until about 150 years ago it was a Buddhist temple," Rambelli said. "That's part of the religious changes that have taken place in Japan." Back then, the sanctuary's main deity was Gozu Tennō, an ox-headed figure believed to have the power either to spread epidemics or to avert them. It was a kind of syncretic deity — probably of Indian origin — with connections to Korea and local folklore," Rambelli said.

**The United States granted him parole into the country earlier this week, according to a social media page maintained by his friends and supporters.**

**MIAMI.(Agency)**

A famous Cuban dissident artist and musician, Luis Manuel Otero Alcántara, arrived in Miami on Saturday after being released from a five-year prison sentence on the condition that he leave his country. Alcántara, 38, was greeted at the airport by a crowd that was cheering, singing and holding their phones high in the air to get a photo of him. They draped him in a Cuban flag, printed with the words

"Patria y Vida" — "Homeland and Life" — the title of a song he shared a Grammy for that became an anthem for Cuba's political opposition against repression. The United States granted him parole into the country earlier this week, according to a social media page maintained by his friends and supporters. They wrote that he accepted exile as the only way to escape persecution and continue his art and activism. Alcántara co-founded a group of Havana artists, writers and musicians called the San Isidro Movement — named for the neighborhood where Alcántara lived. He was arrested on July 11, 2021, during a public protest. In 2022, a court sentenced him to five years in prison for public disorder, contempt and

disrespect toward national symbols. His arrest and incarceration had long been denounced by human rights organizations and the U.S. government. Groups including Amnesty



International called him a political prisoner, an allegation the Cuban government rejected. Alcántara was held in a maximum-security prison, he said, and was expected to be released

last week. But for days, advocates said they still could not contact him and did not know where he was. The organization Cbalex, which legally advises dissidents and reports human rights violations from outside of the country, filed a habeas corpus petition on his behalf Monday. Until he boarded a plane Saturday, his advocates were not sure of his location, or if he was truly free. His said his first stop on American soil would be at the Shrine of Our Lady of Charity to make an offering. Other political prisoners remained imprisoned, including his fellow artist Maykel "Osorbo" Castillo Pérez, his advocates said, and they hoped Alcántara's release would prompt insistence that Pérez also be set free.



Liberation Front, or FLA, separately claimed responsibility for the attack as a joint operation in statements that spoke about "great human losses" and "serious material damage" on the side of the Malian army. The groups said the convoy was made up of both the Malian army and Russia's Africa Corps, whose forces have been supporting Mali's military on the ground. It is the latest such partnership between the two groups that observers say poses great risks to Mali's stability and its ruling junta. "There were many soldiers killed, others captured alive. Army cars including armoured cars were destroyed and others seized in good condition," said FLA spokesperson Mohamed Elmaouloud Ramadane.

## Cuban artist and dissident exiled from country after 5 years in prison arrives in US