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Sharad Pawar, Supriya Sule Meet PM Modi Amid Buzz Over NCP Support To NDA

NEW DELHI. (Agency)

Even as the Opposition MPs protested and raised slogans against the government outside Parliament on Wednesday, a meeting at the Prime Minister's Office has raised political eyebrows.

NCP (SP) chief Sharad Pawar and his daughter and MP Surpiya Sule met Prime Minister Narendra Modi at his office on Wednesday. In pictures from the meeting the veteran Maratha leader and the prime minister were seen sharing a hearty laugh while exchanging some notes. In another picture Prime Minister was seen receiving the senior leader at the door of his room. During the meeting Sharad Pawar submitted a memorandum to the Prime Minister listing the issues faced by the farmers in the country and issues related to irrigation.

The meeting comes in the backdrop of government's efforts to muster up a two-thirds support in Parliament for the Delimitation Bill

that the Centre plans to bring again in the ongoing Monsoon Session.

NCP (SP)'s eight MPs are key to government's Parliament strategy. The NCP had earlier indicated that may support the bill if the



government gave a written assurance on the 50% seat increase across the board.

"Give the 50 percent seats increase condition on paper, then we will discuss," Supriya Sule had said at a press conference last week.

There has also been speculation of a section of Sharad Pawar's party pushing for a merger with

the NDA. But the BJP, sources told NDTV, is clear that any official alignment of the Sharad Pawar faction with the NDA would require the reunification of the NCP's two rival groups.

There have been rumblings of a political reunion in Maharashtra, fuelled by recent meetings between leaders from both NCP camps and key figures in the ruling dispensation.

According to sources within the BJP, the party's position is that the NCP as an entity would be considered for closer ties with the NDA only after the two factions resolve their differences and merge. There is little appetite, sources say, for bringing Sharad Pawar or his key associates into the alliance on an individual basis. In this context, the political symbolism of the high-level

meeting between Pawar and the Prime Minister cannot be overstated. The meeting of a key constituent of the Opposition bloc on a day when the Opposition is scaling up attacks on the government is not devoid of larger political meaning.

Congress agitation in new Delhi delays Karnataka cabinet expansion

BENGALURU. (Agency)

Karnataka Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Tuesday evening hinted that the expansion of his cabinet may further get delayed as Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, and other central leaders of the party, were detained and taken away by the police after leading a sit-in protest outside PM Narendra Modi's residence in New Delhi.

The CM said that he will be returning to Bengaluru on Wednesday. It is to be seen whether he holds talks with the Congress high command leaders before boarding a special flight at 11 am or not.

"If I am given the opportunity today, I am ready to finalise the list today. I do not want to postpone it. I had to come on Monday. I had to do my duty in Hassan (attend the funeral of former PM HD Deve Gowda's wife Chennamma). That is why I came to Delhi on Tuesday. It was decided to hold a meeting on Tuesday night. But our leaders have been arrested," Shivakumar said. Shivakumar said that Governor Thaaawarchand Gehlot's permission was obtained to expand the cabinet and hold the swearing-in ceremony of the new ministers on Wednesday. "Today, our leaders were arrested while protesting. When the police tried to drag me, Rahul Gandhi warned them not to touch the Chief Minister. Then he appealed to me, and I stepped aside," he elaborated.

When asked about the yardstick Rahul Gandhi has in mind in selecting the new ministers, he said, "Will anyone discuss the expansion of the cabinet in front of the media? Didn't Boseraju become a minister even though he was not an MLA? Didn't Chandrashekhar get elected in Krishna's government? Didn't mediapersons.



Have govt-Congress struck a deal? Akhilesh fumes in Lok Sabha over NEET debate

New Delhi. (Agency)

Tempestuous scenes rocked Parliament for the third consecutive day on Wednesday, with Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav fuming over not being allowed to speak on the NEET-UG paper leak and the crackdown on the July 20 youth protest. It prompted Akhilesh to question whether the government



and the Congress had reached an understanding after the Lok Sabha Speaker allowed Congress's KC Venugopal and Union Minister Kiren Rijiju to speak.

As the Lok Sabha assembled on Wednesday, there was an uproar from the opposition over demands for Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation and a discussion on the NEET paper leak. With the opposition refusing to back down despite an adjournment, Speaker Om Birla allowed members from the BJP and the Congress to speak.

Abhishek Banerjee's Legal Notice To Rebel Who Called Him "Criminal, Murderer"

Kolkata (West Bengal). (Agency)

Trinamool Congress (TMC) MP Abhishek Banerjee on Tuesday sent a legal notice to rebel TMC MLA Madan Mitra, who joined Ritabrata Banerjee's faction a few days ago, alleging that the legislator made false, reckless and defamatory statements against him.

According to the legal notice shared by the All India Trinamool Congress (AITC), Mitra allegedly made remarks accusing Abhishek Banerjee of criminal activities, including allegations of involvement in killings and hiring contract killers.

The notice stated, "You made several false, reckless, malicious and highly defamatory statements against my client (Abhishek Banerjee). You went to the extent of describing my client as a 'criminal', 'murderer', alleged that my client gets persons killed by paying money and/or engaging contract killers ('supari'), and further imputed that he possesses a criminal instinct. Each of these allegations is demonstrably false, fabricated, malicious, and entirely devoid of any factual.

MAHANAGAR METRO EXCLUSIVE

'Khaki' and 'Khadi' Illicit Operations Uncovered

Monthly Black-Money Hub Spanning 99 Villages; Bootlegging and Gambling Dens Active Just 2 KM From Karjan Police Station

MAHANAGAR METRO

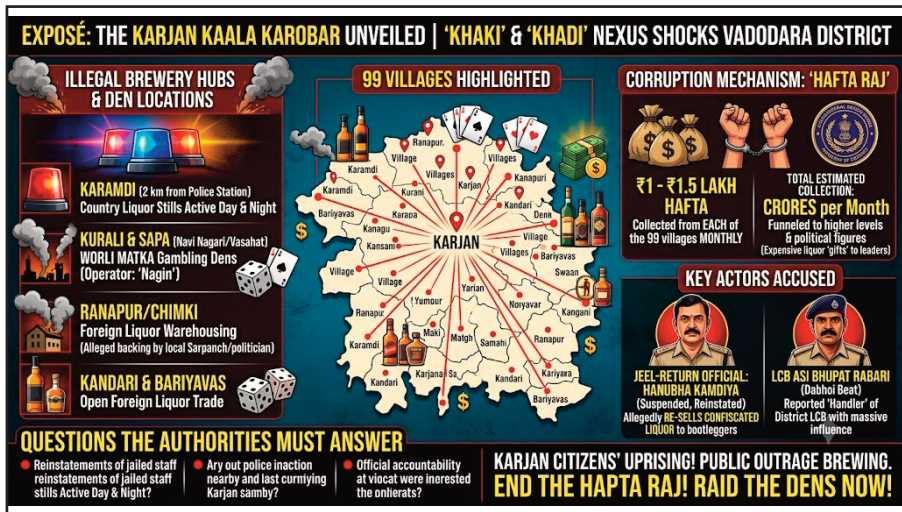
Dabhoi / Karjan / Vadodara: While stories abound regarding prohibition in Mahatma Gandhi's Gujarat existing solely on paper, the recent state of affairs in Karjan taluka of Vadodara district presents an extreme breakdown of law enforcement. Right under the nose of Karjan Police Station—just two kilometers away in Karamdi village and across nearly 99 villages in the taluka—illicit country-made alcohol stills, foreign liquor trade, and Worli Matka gambling dens are operating completely unchecked.

An unholy nexus between politically connected individuals ("Khadi") and corrupt police officials ("Khaki") has systematically turned the entire Karjan region into a thriving criminal hub.

Detailed reports highlight specific villages where these illegal rackets operate under political and administrative protection: Karamdi Village (2 KM from Karjan Police Station): Country-made liquor stills emit smoke day and night. Police vehicles pass through sounding sirens, yet fail to raid or dismantle these nearby operations.

Kurali Village (Navi Nagari): Near the water tank, an operator named Nagin openly runs Worli Matka numbers gambling, targeting local youth. Sapa Village: Near the new settlement, the same operator, Nagin, fearlessly runs a second gambling den. Ranapur and Chimki Villages: Severe allegations point to Ranapur Sarpanch Parth Shah, who allegedly utilizes his position within the BJP Youth Wing to facilitate the offloading and distribution of major foreign liquor (IMFL) consignments in Chimki village.

Kandari Village: Near the mobile tower, an individual named Pradeep Vasava openly manages foreign liquor sales. Bariyavas: Habitual bootlegger Paresch Kantilal runs an open foreign liquor trade in this locality. Reinstatements and Administrative Allegations The scandal deeply implicates designated "vahiwatdars" (official handlers) operating within the police machinery:



1. Re-Entry of Suspended Official

'Hanubha Kamdiya': Previously incarcerated and suspended for serious foreign liquor offenses, Hanubha Kamdiya was reportedly re-stationed at Karjan Police Station at the behest of an influential local politician. Sources allege that rather than impounding seized foreign liquor from Karjan Sub-Jail or surrounding areas, Hanubha illegally sells the confiscated liquor back to bootleggers for

massive illicit profit.

2. Influence of LCB ASI Bhupat Rabari: ASI Bhupat Rabari, stationed at the Dabhoi beat, reportedly manages administrative oversight for the entire district Local Crime Branch (LCB). Reports within the Vadodara police department suggest his influence exceeds standard administrative channels.

3. Crores Extracted Monthly Across 99 Villages: Payoffs (hafta) collected across all 99 villages in Karjan taluka—estimated at ₹1 lakh to ₹1.5 lakh per village—generate crores in black money monthly to bribe higher officials. Additionally, expensive bottles of foreign liquor are allegedly supplied directly to influential politicians.

The open operation of these illegal activities directly challenges official zero-tolerance policies against organized crime:

1. Under whose political backing was an official previously jailed in a liquor case re-assigned directly to Karjan?
 2. Why are country-made liquor stills operating just 2 km from the police station invisible to the District SP and LCB Inspector?
 3. What legal proceedings will be initiated against Hanubha Kamdiya for allegedly re-selling confiscated contraband to bootleggers?
 4. Is ASI Bhupat Rabari officially authorized to direct operations across the entire district LCB?
 5. Who holds ultimate public accountability—the District SP, LCB Inspector, or the local MLA—if this criminal nexus results in severe violent crimes or fatalities?
- Public frustration in the region continues to grow as citizens demand immediate raids and decisive legal action against all bootleggers and protection networks involved.

News box

Driver for 12 years, held for stealing Rs 9L from businessman's car

Noida.(Agency)

A 34-year-old driver was arrested for allegedly stealing Rs 9 lakh from the car of his employer, an Aligarh-based hardware businessman. The accused, Kapil, a resident of Aligarh, had been working for the businessman, Sudhir Bansal, for the past 12 years. Police said the incident took place on July 18 when Bansal visited a shopping mall in Noida with his family. Before entering the mall, he kept a bag containing Rs 9 lakh in cash inside the car while Kapil stayed back. Police alleged that the driver fled with the cash-filled bag while the family was inside the mall. After discovering the theft, Bansal approached Sector 20 police station, where an FIR was registered. Additional DCP Manisha Singh said police traced the accused using electronic surveillance and technical evidence. Kapil was arrested on Monday from a park near Lal PathLabs in Sector 20. The entire stolen amount of Rs 9 lakh was recovered from his possession. Police also allegedly recovered a knife from him, following which a separate case under Arms Act was registered. During interrogation, Kapil allegedly confessed to the theft, telling police that he was tempted after seeing the large amount of cash kept in the vehicle. According to police, he planned to use the money to repay his debts and later open a shop to start his own business. Investigators said he claimed he kept the plan to himself and involved no one else to avoid detection.

Man uses ambulance to smuggle 64kg cannabis, arrested

Noida.(Agency)

An interstate drug smuggler who was using an ambulance to transport cannabis from Odisha to Delhi-NCR, exploiting the emergency vehicle's exemption from routine checks and toll inspections, was arrested on Monday. Officers seized 64kg of cannabis from the vehicle, valued at approximately Rs 13 lakh in the international market. The ambulance has also been seized. According to additional DCP Manisha Singh, the Phase 1 police station team received a tip-off about the operation. Officers set up checks near the Jhundpura border based on the information on Tuesday and intercepted a Maruti Eeco ambulance without a registration number plate. A search later led to the seizure of the drugs and Omveer Singh, a resident of Agra, was arrested on the spot. The accused told cops that he regularly procured a special variety of cannabis from Odisha and transported it to Delhi using the ambulance, staying under the radar as emergency vehicles generally aren't stopped at toll plazas or during routine police checks. Once the drugs were smuggled into Delhi, the cannabis was divided into smaller packets and supplied to customers in different parts of Delhi-NCR. An FIR has been registered against the accused under the provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act. Efforts are now being focused on identifying the interstate network behind the racket. Investigators are trying to determine the gang in Odisha that supplied the cannabis and trace the buyers and distributors operating in Delhi-NCR.

Biodiversity park loses its quiet as deer safari construction begins

Gurgaon.(Agency)

A boundary wall has started to rise along a 32-acre stretch within the Biodiversity Park, to mark out land for deer enclosures meant for a night safari. Nearby, workers mix cement, sand and stone, the shrill whirr of a concrete mixer cutting through the silence of the otherwise green zone. A bulldozer shifts earth as workers break stones, adding to the din. The ongoing construction activities, residents say, have disrupted the tranquillity within the 75-acre park. "We used to walk, run, and cycle in the Biodiversity Park every day. Now the space has shrunk, and our fitness routine has taken a hit," said Kumar Gaurav, a resident of Exotica Fresco in Sector 137, who started working out in the park, preferring it over a gym, since it opened in Aug 2020. He added that the noise and dust had affected the fitness activities within the park. Residents from sectors 137, 93 and 92, many of whom have spent years treating the park as an extension of their own backyards, said the Biodiversity Park in Sector 91 offered something increasingly rare in the fast-growing NCR city: a green sprawl. That calm, they claim, was now being renegotiated acre by acre, as Noida Authority started work on a Deer Park meant to bring sunset safaris and rescued wildlife onto the same grounds where they once ran their morning miles. While they are not averse to the idea of a deer park itself, several residents and walkers fear the construction will take from them the open paths.

Sanitation contractor fined Rs 5L for staff, vehicle shortage

Noida.(Agency)

MCG on Tuesday issued a show-cause notice to a private sanitation contractor and imposed a penalty of over Rs 5.3 lakh after inspections found the agency failed to deploy the required number of sanitation workers and tractor-trolleys. The action was taken against KS Multifacility Services, the agency responsible for sanitation work in Zone 4, for allegedly violating the terms of its contract by deploying fewer resources than mandated under the work order and the request for proposal (RFP). According to MCG officials, the contractor was required to deploy 10 tractor-trolleys and 70 sanitation workers every day. However, inspections conducted on multiple days found shortages in both manpower and vehicles, affecting waste collection and sanitation



operations in the zone.

Based on the shortfall, the civic body imposed a penalty of Rs 5,30,943, including Rs 1,47,500 for failing to provide the prescribed number of tractor-trolleys and Rs 3,83,443 for the shortage of sanitation workers. The corporation has directed the agency to immediately deploy the required manpower and equipment in

accordance with the contract. Officials warned that continued non-compliance could invite further penalties and action under the contract conditions. The development comes amid growing complaints from residents in several parts of the city over irregular garbage collection and poor sanitation. The action suggests that the civic body acknowledged

deficiencies in service delivery in at least one zone and held the contractor accountable for failing to meet contractual obligations.

MCG commissioner Pradeep Dahiya said, "The corporation won't tolerate negligence in sanitation services, and all private agencies engaged by the MCG will be required to deploy manpower and machinery strictly as per contractual terms."

MCG officials said the civic body recently gave the contract to private agencies to provide tractor-trolleys and sanitation staff to maintain cleanliness in each ward. These agencies had to provide the manpower and vehicles to the ward councillors to further address cleanliness-related complaints in their respective wards. However, the shortfall led to an increase in complaints, said the officials.

Dr. Abhijit Sarkar Honoured with the Global Leader Award 2026 at GLC Dubai

Dubai, UAE: Dr. Abhijit Sarkar, FRICS, Founder & Chairman of Indratech Solutions Pvt. Ltd., has been conferred the prestigious Global Leader Award 2026 at the Global Leadership Conclave (GLC) Dubai 2026, organized by Edufam Training Services UAE and Eco-Visionaries Global Group. The award recognizes Dr. Sarkar's outstanding contributions to leadership, innovation, administration, procurement, facility management, research, and professional excellence. A distinguished industry thought leader, speaker, and researcher, he has



played a significant role in advancing best practices, leadership standards, and organizational excellence across multiple sectors. The Global Leadership Conclave (GLC) Dubai 2026 was held on

20 June 2026 at Deira, Dubai, United Arab Emirates, and brought together eminent leaders, professionals, entrepreneurs, and changemakers from across the world to celebrate excellence in leadership and global impact. The recognition further reinforces Dr. Sarkar's commitment to driving innovation, ethical leadership, and service excellence through Indratech Solutions Pvt. Ltd., while contributing to the growth of the facility management, administration, procurement, and business leadership ecosystem.

2 Delhi youths on way home after World Cup screening killed in Dwarka Expressway crash

Noida.(Agency)

A late-night drive from Delhi to watch the FIFA World Cup final ended in tragedy Monday as two youths were killed and a young woman was injured after their car rammed into a truck that allegedly abruptly changed lanes and hit the brakes on Dwarka Expressway. The victims were identified as Dipank Malik (20), a third-year BSc student at PIET College in Panipat, and Saksham Sachdeva (22), who worked as an event manager. They were residents of Uttam Nagar's Vani Vihar and Vijay Vihar, respectively. Their friend, Pragati Vashishth (22), also from Vani Vihar, is under treatment but is said to be out of



danger. The unidentified truck driver fled the spot in his vehicle. In his complaint lodged at Sector 10A police station, Dipank's cousin, Mohit Sachdeva, said the trio left Delhi's Uttam Nagar in Saksham's i10 around 12.30 am Monday. They headed to a club on Gurgaon's Sohna Road for a screening of the Argentina-Spain match. Police said the accident took

place around 5.20 am near Pareena Towers in Sector 99, when they were on their way back. Mohit told TOI that Saksham was at the wheel, Pragati in the seat next to him and Dipank asleep in the back seat. According to the complaint, the truck, allegedly travelling at high speed, suddenly swerved in front of them and braked. The i10 crashed into its rear. Passersby pulled the three out of the mangled vehicle and rushed them to Venkateshwar Hospital in Sector 18, Dwarka. Dipank and Saksham were declared brought dead, while Pragati was admitted with multiple injuries, including a fractured hand. Police said they got information about the accident from the hospital.

MCG faces property ID backlog, 5k applications yet to be processed

Gurgaon.(Agency)

As many as 5,390 property ID objections and applications are pending with MCG, with 51% (2,740) of these cases still stuck at the civic body's level itself, leaving thousands of property owners waiting for their records to be corrected and information on their property tax bills. Another 1,764 objections (32.7%) relating to existing property IDs have been returned to residents for additional documents or clarifications before they can be processed further and are pending at the residents' level.

The problem extends to fresh property ID creation as well. Of the 886 new property ID applications pending, 585 are awaiting action by MCG, while 301 have been sent back to applicants for additional information. For every pending case, a homeowner is stuck waiting for a correction in the official records, which are used to calculate property tax and serve as the primary municipal record for their property. Data also suggests that the



correction exercise is slowing down at multiple stages. While MCG is yet to act on more than half the total cases, over 2,000 applications have already been scrutinised once and returned to residents for additional clarifications, prolonging a process that many homeowners say has become tedious and time-consuming.

The pendency comes despite repeated drives by MCG to clean up the database. RWAs and property owners have repeatedly flagged cases involving duplicate property IDs,

incorrect categorisation of residential and commercial properties, faulty ownership records, and erroneous tax calculations on the basis of incorrect plot size, forcing thousands to seek corrections. "There are around 80 to 100 clerks handling property tax objections and applications across all eight zones of the city, and each clerk receives at least 30 to 40 objection files every day. As a result, the pendency is high. Moreover, the state govt has extended the property tax rebate deadline till Aug 31, prompting many

property owners to rectify or self-certify their property details," said a taxation department official.

It was in May this year that the civic body transferred 134 clerks from its property tax branch following serious allegations of corruption, file tampering, and collusion with brokers. The action was ordered after mounting complaints from residents accusing officials of deliberately stalling applications, arbitrarily cancelling files, and forcing applicants into dealing with middlemen to get their work cleared.

According to officials, many of the clerks remained posted in the same branch for nearly a decade, creating what insiders describe as an entrenched network operating with little oversight. For the first time in 10 years, these employees were removed from their positions and reassigned to other departments across the corporation. Clerks from sanitation, engineering, establishment, and other branches were brought into the property tax department.

J&K: Crime Branch files charge sheet against four in AAI job scam

Srinagar. (Agency)

The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of the Crime Branch in Kashmir submitted a chargesheet to the Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court in Srinagar against four people accused of a job scam that tricked unemployed youth with false promises of jobs at the Airports Authority of India (AAI), officials said on Wednesday.

The chargesheet was filed in connection with 2018 FIR registered under Sections 420 and 120-B of the Ranbir Penal Code (RPC), read with Section 66(D) of the Information Technology Act. The chargesheet was filed against Mohit Sharma alias Bhardwaj of Noida, Uttar Pradesh; Mukesh Kumar of New Delhi; Mehmood Khan of Sarita Vihar, New Delhi; and Ram Lakhan of Dumariyaganj, Uttar Pradesh. According to the Crime Branch, the case was registered after complaints were received from several districts of the Kashmir Valley alleging that the accused had cheated job aspirants by collecting lakhs of rupees from them on the pretext of arranging appointments in the Airports Authority of India.

Officials said the investigation established the allegations against the accused, following which the Economic Offences Wing completed the probe and filed the charge sheet before the competent court for judicial proceedings.

Crime Branch files chargesheet against four in AAI job scam

Srinagar. (Agency)

The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of the Crime Branch, Kashmir, filed a chargesheet before the Court of the Chief Judicial Magistrate, Srinagar, against four persons allegedly involved in a job fraud racket in which unemployed youth were duped on the false promise of securing jobs in the Airports Authority of India (AAI), officials said on Wednesday.

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Railway Board reiterates uniform implementation of healthcare rules for pensioners, UMID card holders

Panchkula. (Agency)

The Railway Board has clarified that railway pensioners, family pensioners, and other eligible beneficiaries holding a valid UMID card should receive treatment in accordance with the existing Railway healthcare policy and has asked all Zonal Railways to ensure uniform implementation of the instructions already issued by the Board.

The clarification has come in response to representations made by the All India Railwaymen's Federation (AIRF) regarding difficulties being faced by pensioners in availing treatment at empanelled hospitals.

In a communication, the Railway Board informed AIRF that every issue raised by the federation has already been addressed through detailed instructions circulated earlier and directed railway administrations to ensure strict compliance with those guidelines.

The Board reiterated that under the existing healthcare policy, all Railway medical beneficiaries are eligible for treatment at Railway Hospitals and Health Units and, where referral or emergency treatment is required, at any Indian Railways empanelled Health Care Organisation, subject to the provisions of the policy.

'Clear intention was to harm us, not disperse': Punjab student in Delhi crackdown

Aameen, who ended a 23-day hunger strike at Jantar Mantar, says protesters were branded "virus" and "cockroaches" instead of being heard.

Ludhiana. (Agency)

A Punjab-born PhD scholar is among the student leaders spearheading the ongoing agitation in Delhi over the alleged NEET paper leak, accusing the BJP-led Centre of suppressing peaceful protests instead of addressing students' concerns.

Aameen, 28, a PhD student at Dr B R Ambedkar University, Delhi, and joint secretary of the All India Students Association (AISA) university chapter, ended his 23-day hunger strike at Jantar Mantar on Monday along with fellow protesters Neha and Manish.

The student-led agitation, organised by the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP), has

intensified its demand for accountability in the alleged NEET paper leak and the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan.

The protests reached a flashpoint on July 18 when educationist and climate activist Sonam Wangchuk, who had been on an indefinite hunger strike for 21 days at Jantar Mantar, was detained by Delhi Police and taken to hospital.

Hours after Aameen and the two others ended their fast, Delhi Police allegedly used tear gas shells and lathi-charged protesters marching from Jantar Mantar towards Parliament. Speaking to, Aameen alleged



that the police action was intended to injure protesters rather than disperse them. "It is amply clear that they were trying to harm us intentionally. The way

tear gas shells were being thrown at the protesters, the intention was to harm, not to control or disperse the crowds. This is not how you treat the youth of your country which is just trying to wake you up to the reality," he said.

Aameen is the son of Prof Surjit Singh of Punjabi University, Patiala, and Dr Jagdish Kaur, who teaches at Punjab Agricultural University (PAU), Ludhiana.

Describing the police action as "lethal", Aameen claimed that tear gas shells were fired directly at students in violation of protocol.

Haryana: Draw for subsidy on agricultural equipment concluded, 1,319 farmers selected

Kaithal. (Agency)

The Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Department, Kaithal, organized an online lottery draw today to provide a 40 to 50 per cent subsidy on agricultural equipment under the Samaim scheme, in which 1,319 farmers were selected.

The draw was conducted under the chairmanship of SDM Kaithal Dr. Sanjay Kumar, Deputy Agriculture Director Dr. Ravinder Hooda, and Assistant Agriculture Engineer Jagdish Malik.

Assistant Agricultural Engineer Jagdish Malik stated that farmers in the district enthusiastically applied under the scheme. A total of 2,414 farmers had applied for 4,439 pieces of agricultural machinery. All 41 eligible farmers from the Scheduled Caste category have been selected under the scheme's conditions. Additionally, 235 farmers who prioritized

agricultural machinery other than rotavators and laser land levellers during their applications were also selected.

He stated that 445 farmers out of 895 applications received for rotavators and 598 farmers out of 1,188 applications



received for laser land levellers were selected through an online draw. A 25 per cent waiting list has also been prepared for both agricultural implements. If a

selected farmer does not purchase the equipment within the stipulated time, the next eligible farmer on the waiting list will be given the subsidy.

He said that the entire selection process was conducted in a transparent and fair manner. Selected farmers will be required to submit all necessary documents, including PAN card, Aadhaar card, Scheduled Caste certificate (where applicable), Patwari report for small and marginal farmer categories, valid RC of tractor registered in Haryana, affidavit stating that no departmental subsidy was availed on the concerned machine in the last three years, and self-declaration of not burning crop residue, to the Assistant Agricultural Engineer's office in Kaithal by August 18. Only after verification of documents will the selected farmers be issued permits to purchase agricultural equipment.

17 involved in Moga police station grenade attack case held

Chandigarh. (Agency)

In a major breakthrough Moga Police has thwarted a possible terror conspiracy with the arrest of 17 accused persons, including three main executors involved in the low-intensity grenade attack at Police Station Sadar Moga, said Director General of Police (DGP) Punjab Gaurav Yadav here on Tuesday.

Police have also recovered an Improved Explosive Device (IED) along with explosive material and electronic detonator and one 9MM Glock pistol along with a magazine, besides, impounding the Splendor motorcycle (PB-03-AH-3088) used in committing the grenade attack.

As per the information, some unidentified persons threw a low-intensity grenade at

the building of Police Station Sadar Moga during the early morning hours at around 3.15 am on July 8, 2026.

The three main executors who executed the grenade attack have been identified as Gagan alias Kali, a resident of Dheru, Ferozepur; Rajesh alias Khanna, a resident of Lal Kurti Cantt, Ferozepur; and Shubham alias Bhinder, a resident of Kotwal, Ferozepur.

Remaining arrested accused—who assisted in logistics, network expansion, and harboring the operatives—have been identified as Lajjar alias Aman and his wife Parveen Kaur, both residents of Sia Paadi in Ferozepur; Swaran and Gobind, both residents of Kotwal in Ferozepur; Sagar and John, both residents of Lal Kurti Cantt in Ferozepur; Ruth, Raj and Sarabjit

Kaur, residents of Talwandi Nepala in Ferozepur; Gurpreet Singh, Rahul and Karandeep Singh, residents of Ajitwal in Moga; Lovepreet of Dheru in Ferozepur; Sukhwinder Kaur of Sherkhan in Ferozepur.

DGP Gaurav Yadav said that preliminary investigation has revealed that Iqbal Singh alias Ravi Dhaliwal, currently based in the UK and allegedly involved in criminal activities, was the mastermind behind the conspiracy. On his directions, the accused carried out the grenade attack at Police Station Sadar Moga and were planning to plant an IED in a train running from Ferozepur to Jammu, he said.

The DGP said that further investigation is underway to uncover the entire network and identify all associates involved.

Brows raised as Punjab orders fresh river desilting in the middle of monsoon

Srikakulam. (Agency)

Even as the monsoon is in full swing, the Punjab government has, in a surprising move, directed Deputy Commissioners in 10 districts to urgently undertake desilting at 37 additional sites along the Sutlej, Ravi, Siswan, Badi Nadi and Ghaggar rivers. The move has been justified under the Disaster Management Act.

The order, issued on July 16 by Krishan Mohan, Principal Secretary, Department of Water Resources, comes weeks after the ideal pre-monsoon window for desilting closed.

The directive, accessed by The Indian Express, adds to an earlier list of 99 sites transferred to district administrations under the Disaster Management Act. The fresh list covers 37 sites across 10 districts, with the highest number in Ropar (11), followed by Gurdaspur and Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar (five each).

The July 16 letter cites the need to restore the carrying capacity of rivers during the ongoing monsoon. It refers to an earlier communication issued by the Chief Engineer (Drainage) on June 16, under which 99 desilting sites had been handed over to the respective Deputy Commissioners for execution under the Disaster Management Act.

"In view of the ongoing monsoon season and in light of the orders of the National Green Tribunal in OA No. 316/2026 dated 08.06.2026, another list of 37 sites is hereby shared, which includes the sites under the volume share model of tenders, price bid tenders and sites allotted to landowners for desilting but which were at a halt due to local protest or any other reason. The Deputy Commissioners are requested to take stock of the requirement of work for ensuring safe passage of flood water at critical river sites

in their respective jurisdiction and execute the work either through landowners or as per the SOP already issued vide letter dated 15.06.2026," the letter states.

According to the order, the additional 37



sites are located in Ropar (11), Gurdaspur (5), Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar (5), SAS Nagar (4), Amritsar (3), Ludhiana (2), Patiala (2), Ferozepur (2), Tarn Taran (2) and Fazilka (1).

Earlier, Chief Engineer (Drainage-cum-Mining), Water Resources Department, Hardeep Singh Mendiratta, had written to Deputy Commissioners on June 16 directing that 99 sites be desilted under the Disaster Management Act, either

through landowners or as per the department's SOP issued on June 15.

The June 16 letter said the directions were based on decisions taken at the Council of Ministers meeting on June 10 and communicated by the Department of General Administration the same day.

"Deputy Commissioners shall take stock of the requirement of work for ensuring safe passage of flood water at critical river sites in the district

and finalise the critical sites. Approvals for such critical sites shall be given within one day of the issue of this letter and works shall be completed before June 30, 2026," the communication stated.

Two alleged shooters arrested after exchange of fire with police near Barnala

Barnala.(Agency)

Two alleged shooters, including a wanted gangster, were arrested after they allegedly opened fire at a police team during a naka operation near the defunct Mehal Kalan toll plaza on the Barnala-Ludhiana highway early Tuesday, police said.

The accused have been identified as Arshdeep Singh alias Arshi, a resident of Bakhtgarh in Barnala district, and Gursharan Singh, a resident of Raunta village in Moga district. According to police, the incident took place at around 5.30 am when a joint team of the CIA staff, Mehal Kalan police and Counter Intelligence personnel had set up a bulletproof barricade following specific intelligence inputs. The operation was led by CIA Barnala Inspector Baljit Singh.

Police said the team signalled the occupants of a suspicious Hyundai Verna car, which was approaching from the Mehal Kalan side, to stop. Instead, the occupants allegedly fired at the police and attempted to flee. During the chase, the car veered off the road and got stuck in a roadside ditch. As the police surrounded the vehicle, the accused allegedly fired again.

The police overpowered and arrested both men without any reported injuries to police personnel. Police recovered two country-made pistols — one .30 bore and one .32 bore — along with live cartridges from the accused.

DDMA extends ex gratia aid to families affected by Sikkim NHPC tunnel collapse

Siliguri.(Agency)

The District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), Gangtok, on Tuesday distributed ex gratia assistance to 23 households whose homes were damaged in the recent disaster at 7th Mile on Old J.N. Road under Kyongnosla GPU.

The assistance was provided under the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) norms. The cheques were handed over during an inspection of the affected area led by District Collector-cum-Chairman, DDMA, Rohan Ramesh Agawane, who reviewed the relief and rehabilitation measures and interacted with affected residents at the relief camp.

Addressing the families, Agawane expressed solidarity with those affected and said seven families continue to stay at the relief camp. He assured them of continued administrative support until permanent rehabilitation arrangements are made. The administration noted that the situation has worsened due to persistent rainfall and ongoing ground instability. Officials reviewed immediate measures, including uninterrupted relief, essential services, enhanced safety arrangements and continuous monitoring of the vulnerable zone.

Discussions also focused on long-term rehabilitation, including detailed geotechnical studies, slope stabilisation and identification of suitable sites for permanent resettlement of the affected families.

ED searches eight Bengal locations in Rs 160 cr fraud case

Kolkata.(Agency)

Kolkata. The Enforcement Directorate (ED) launched search operations at eight locations across West Bengal, including Kolkata, on Tuesday in connection with a Rs 160 crore fraud case.

Apart from Kolkata, the ED also conducted raids at four locations in Bongaon of North 24 Parganas district. ED officials visited the residence of an individual named Bishal and subsequently searched the home of his relative, Rajib Biswas.

A businessman Biswajit Biswas, accused of orchestrating fraud by setting up businesses under various names, has also come under the ED's scanner.

Allegations suggest that many people from outside the state were defrauded between 2014 and 2020 with promises of high interest rates on their deposits.

Crores of rupees were allegedly misappropriated under the pretext of facilitating access to government scheme benefits. It is believed that a syndicate was

Gujarat in education ministry's 'red zone' as secondary school dropouts surge

Gujarat's overall secondary school dropout rate of 15.7 per cent against the national average of 9.5 per cent indicates the state has failed to retain students once they reach secondary school

Ahmedabad.(Agency)

Gujarat is in the 'red zone' of an education ministry report that has flagged the state for recording an above 15 per cent dropout rate in secondary schools, which means that more than 15 of every 100 students drop out by the time they reach secondary school in the state.

The latest Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+) 2025-26 data also show that enrolment in state secondary and higher secondary schools is far below the national average, despite the government running Shala Praveshotsav, a dedicated school enrolment programme for more than two decades. UDISE+, the central education management information system

that enables schools to record and submit data in real-time mode, also reveals a lower age-specific enrolment rate (ASER) in



Gujarat. According to the 2025-26 report, the net enrolment rate for higher secondary schools in Gujarat is 29.1, which is the

number of students enrolled in a particular education level divided by the population of the official age group for that level. The net enrolment rate for girls in the same section is 29.6 per cent, lower than the national average of 41.1 per cent.

UDISE figures show Gujarat's higher secondary school enrolment has dropped from over 40 per cent in 2022-23 to 34.7 per cent in 2023-24 and to just 24 per cent in 2024-25—well below the national average of 35.8 per cent—before improving to 29 per cent in 2025-26.

The ASER figures show that 31.3 per cent of Gujarat students eligible for secondary or higher secondary school actually enrolled, both far worse than the national averages of 51.3 per cent and 52.5 per cent, respectively.

How a leopard has changed a neighborhood in Ahmedabad

Ahmedabad.(Agency)

As the leopard spotted in the surveillance cameras of a posh gated society in Ahmedabad remained elusive, the fear of the prowling beast kept its residents on edge. A day after the sighting, they stopped going for morning walks or even taking their pet dogs for a stroll; security personnel don't patrol alone. These were some of the precautionary measures that were suggested to the residents by the forest department.

Around 2 am Monday, the leopard was seen climbing the walls of Serendeeep Mansions, situated on VIP Road in Ghuma in the southwest part of the city.

The leopard left the society premises in just seven minutes to exit into a vacant plot across the road. The plot has thick babool (prosopis juliflora) trees. When The Indian Express visited the society on Monday, a Wildlife Rescue Van of the forest department was stationed on VIP Road. A few vehicles of media persons were parked

opposite the society and near the vacant plot. Forest officials were seen camping on the open plot as they coordinated a search operation in the area.

One of the security personnel who patrols



the society at night said: "The leopard crossed the society's garden just a minute after I did while patrolling. While the night patrolling continues, there is one change: three to four of us stick together at any point. And we arm ourselves with sticks and the

like for self-defence."

President of the society's resident welfare association (RWA) Gaurang Shah said, "As the forest department's efforts to rescue the leopard continue, we have been instructed not to venture out after sunset. We have been advised not to go out (at night). If we are to do so, we go out in our cars. We don't walk alone. None of us, especially senior citizens and children, go out of the house after it gets dark."

"We have been told that the leopard is a nocturnal animal and moves around after it is dark. We have stopped early morning walks, taking out pets for walks, or letting children play in the clubhouse garden," Shah added. Serendeeep Mansions is a housing society comprising 105 individual bungalows, the sizes of which vary from 350 square yards to 1,500 square yards.

Ghuma is a rapidly developing residential area in southwestern Ahmedabad and is adjacent to Sanand, an emerging automobile and semiconductor hub of Gujarat.

Haryana Roadways Employees Joint Front to take out 'Justice March' on July 25 to press for regular recruitment

Kaithal.(Agency)

Under the banner of the Haryana Roadways Employees Joint Front, a meeting was held at the Haryana State Transport Kaithal Depot to prepare for the Justice March to be held on July 25 at the Transport Minister's residence.

State leaders of the Joint Front, Krishna Kishana, Mahavir Sandhu, Jasvir Singh, Depot Head Praveen Kumar, Vice Head Sushil Kumar, and Secretary Balwan Kundu, alleged that the Haryana government is continuously neglecting the Roadways Department.

Due to years of lack of regular recruitment, thousands of posts for drivers, conductors, mechanics, helpers, sweepers, and other employees remain vacant.

This is directly affecting the employees, who are forced to operate

transport services amid heavy workloads. This is increasing the mental and physical strain on employees, and passengers are not receiving adequate transportation facilities. They pointed out that instead of strengthening public transport, the government is operating electric buses on expensive contracts. These buses do not offer various concessions and free travel benefits provided by the Haryana government to government roadways buses, causing inconvenience to the general public. Expensive contracts are continuously increasing the roadways department's losses, while no attention is being paid to strengthening the government fleet.

Amit Sharma, Dilbag, Jai Bhagwan, and Manoj Kumar alleged that the government repeatedly holds talks with union representatives, and many of the employees' demands are

considered justified in the meetings, but they are not implemented.

The main demands of the roadways employees include, increasing the pay grade of conductors and drivers; making drivers, conductors and all other employees employed under the Haryana Skills Department permanent from the date of appointment; giving the employees the reduced earned leave as before; giving laundry allowance as before; paying the bonus that has been pending for years; taking the Group D employees of 2018 out of the common cadre and promoting them to technical posts; making a transfer policy in the interest of the employees; making the drivers of 2016 permanent from the date of appointment; removing all the conditions imposed in the ex-gratia policy; giving risk allowance to the employees doing risky duty.

Punjab Cabinet clears Monsoon Session from Aug 3, approves key decisions

Chandigarh.(Agency)

The Punjab Cabinet led by Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Tuesday gave the nod to hold the Monsoon Session of the state assembly from August 3 to 10.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, Mann said several bills and ordinances will be presented during the week-long session. He added that the duration of the session could be extended if needed. The formal recommendation has been sent to the Governor.

In a major policy change for Punjab Police, the cabinet decided to stop direct recruitment for Sub-Inspector (SI) posts. Going forward, direct hiring will take place at the Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) level instead. About 30 per cent of ASI posts in District, Intelligence, Investigation, and Technical cadres will be filled directly, along with 10 per cent in the Armed Cadre. The state government reasoned that since ASIs handle most field investigations, direct entry at this level will bring better-qualified officers into police stations. To boost food welfare, the state announced plans to issue 10 lakh new ration cards. Applications will open on July 22 via online portals, Seva Kendras, and the food department website. Seven lakh cards are set aside for new eligible families, while three lakh will go to e-Shram registered workers and migrants.

Mumbai IMD weather forecast: City under yellow alert; Thane, Palghar brace for very heavy rainfall

The IMD's five-day forecast, issued Monday morning, keeps Mumbai under a yellow alert till 8.30 am on Friday, July 24. Palghar, Thane, Ratnagiri and Raigad are under an orange alert for the next 24 hours.

Mumbai.(Agency)

Mumbai IMD weather forecast: Mumbai has been kept under a yellow alert by the India Meteorological Department (IMD) until Friday, July 24, as rains continue to lash the financial capital for the third day today. Thane, Palghar, Raigad and Ratnagiri, on the other hand, brace for very heavy rainfall. The IMD has sounded an orange alert in the region for the next 24 hours. Mumbai woke up under heavy rainfall and gusty winds on Monday, July 23, as the city continued under yellow

recorded 48.4 mm of rainfall, while Colaba recorded 35.6 mm. The BMC's automatic weather system showed the western suburbs at 64.91 mm, eastern suburbs at 48.7 mm, and the island city at 36.65 mm.

"At present, a low-pressure system has developed over Mumbai and coastal Maharashtra, which is resulting in spate of heavy to moderate spell of rainfall. This will continue for the next 24 hours," an IMD official told The Indian Express.

of up to 50-60 kmph. Rains push Mumbai's water stock



The IMD also forecasts a likelihood of up to 50-60 kmph. BMC data shows the water stock in the damaged 6,000 MLD. The current stock is

8.95 lakh litres against a capacity of 14.47 lakh litres, on Wednesday morning, up 4.15 percentage points in 24 hours.

Tansa Lake started overflowing Wednesday morning, the second of the seven lakes to reach full capacity this year after Tulsi earlier this month. Catchment areas recorded between 65 mm and 224 mm of rainfall in the last 24 hours, with Upper Vaitarna the highest. On July 22 last year, the water stock stood at 85.32 per cent, against 47.29 per cent in 2024.

The BMC supplies 3,850 MLD against a

Kitchen remedies for a glowing Skin

With the year end festival excitement in the air, everyone like to have a clear skin. Let's take some help from the kitchen and use natural ingredients which will lighten, brighten & even out your skin tone while at the same time reduce dark spots, acne marks, pigmentation & sun tan for your true complexion to stand out.



Fresh fruit

Take one tsp of pineapple juice, one tsp of coconut milk and half a tsp of honey to this. Mix well and apply this for 20 minutes. Wash with normal water.

Turmeric

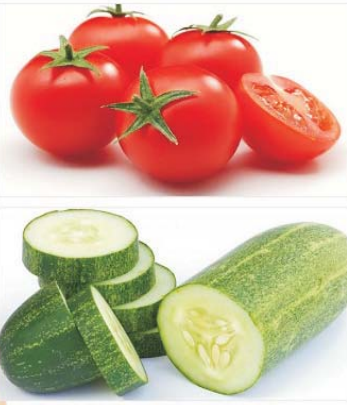
With its lovely antiseptic properties, it's no wonder that turmeric is part of ceremonies before marriage. Take one tsp of milk cream, a pinch of turmeric and 2 drops of almond oil. Mix well and apply on face avoiding eyes. It is recommended to use ambe haldi (stocked in ayurvedic stores). Wash with lukewarm water when dry.

Lentils

Take 1 tbsp of red masoor or green moong dal powder, add curds and few drops of coconut oil to this. Mix well and apply this on your face, leave till dry. Use lukewarm water and see the glow.

Fruit peels

Take orange and lemon peels and dry them under the sun. Powder them and store them to be used for use as and when required. You can mix a tsp of both these powders with rose water and use it twice a week. Keep it on for 20 minutes and then wash with normal water.



Let your Eyes speak with these Makeuptips

If your eyes are the window to your soul, they deserve to be dressed up. Our selection of the season's favourite eye makeup looks is a good place to start. The humble eyeliner and mascara are two makeup essentials that you'd find in every woman's makeup bag. But the casually-applied line has now graduated to cat-eyed, winged and blocked. Take your pick and let your eyes do the talking this festive season.

DOUBLE TROUBLE

What could be better than one perfect sweep of eyeliner? Two perfect sweeps! While the darker shade helps define the eyes, a colourful liner adds a fun pop of colour to the entire look. Damian Garozzo, makeup artist, who created the look for the Clinique Colour Pro Program shows how to get this look. Apply a thin layer of black eyeliner across the outer two thirds of your upper lash line, slightly winging it at the outer corners. Follow this by layering a blue eyeliner tightly on the inner third of your lash line. Apply two coats of a volumising mascara to get a contrast with the colours. Complete the look by grooming the



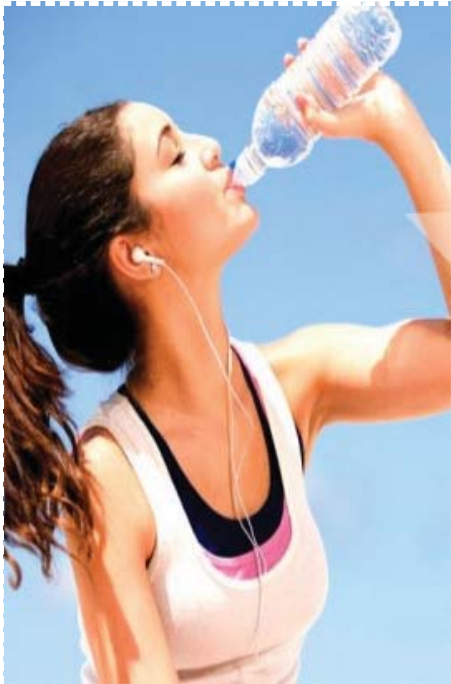
brows.

WINGWOMAN

The swinging 60's gave us one of our favourite eyeliner trends--the winged eyeliner. Ever since, this look has seen different versions in every decade. Asha Hariharan, colour consultant for hair and makeup says, "The look can be glamorous or sultry. Keep the look 'Indian' and young for this festive season. The most important part is the angle of the wing." She shares her secrets for nailing the look.

The first step is doing your natural line. A lot of people make the mistake of starting with the wing. Start with a thin line at the inner corner of the eye. This line should gradually become thicker, being the thickest at the outer corner. Now, take a 45 degree angle from the bottom lid and create the wing. (We often mistake this angle to be taken from the top lid) The wing can be short or long depending on whether or not you want drama. Once you've got your desired length, it's a question of attaching the wing to the line on top of your eyelid. With so many trends to choose from, you'll be spoiled for choice. And even if you're a novice, there's nothing a little practice won't fix.

Just like our body, our skin too needs a detox. Thanks to the fact that we are exposed to so many chemicals and toxic substances daily, our bodies and skin go through a lot of abuse affecting our health in a bad way.



Our skin takes the brunt of it. Dr KE Mukadam, dermatologist and laser surgeon says, "Overload of toxic materials causes skin eruptions, allergies, dry skin, pigmentation, eczema and psoriasis." The skin acts as the backup organ of elimination for the kidney and bad skin is usually an indication of toxicity in the body. Dr Apratim Goel, dermatologist and laser surgeon adds, "Toxins could be those produced within the body and not eliminated naturally, or they are the ones ingested orally or inhaled or another way of

For healthy skin get rid of these toxins



penetration of toxin is through skin i.e. makeup, skincare products as well as pollution." Some of them are... Free radicals Cosmetologist Dr Rashmi Shetty says, "Free radicals are singlet oxygen cells and are produced due to various chemical reactions in the body like breathing, digestion or when you are stressed, or are smoking." They can cause a lot of damage by harming the good cells of the body including affecting collagen production and pigmentation pathways. Dr Shetty adds, "This can be treated either by topical application of Vitamins A, E and C, Q10, aster xanthine, glutathione, (orally or serum). Glutathione is a powerful antioxidant but its absorption is poor so it is given as an intravenous drip, along with vitamin C. Tablets, serums and creams are available over-the-counter."

Heavy metals

Bismuth, lead (in lipsticks), arsenic, copper and other heavy metals can be ingested through food as well as through makeup and skincare products. They produce toxicity when their levels rise beyond a critical level and the body is unable to eliminate them.

Environmental pollutants

Pollutants like sulphur gases, carbon monoxide, dust particles, bacteria, viruses, fungus, moulds make skin sensitive, intolerant, dry, dark and patchy.

Contaminated drinking water

There has been a lot of emphasis on water

purification processes with carbon, UV light as well as reverse osmosis technology. Water ingested could be contaminated with toxins, bacteria, fungus, spores, parasite, ova etc.

Medications

Most medicines are metabolised by the liver or kidney or both. In case of reduced function either, or in case of cumulative over dosage of chemicals, they tend to accumulate and cause harm to the skin as well as other organs. Iron ingested for a long time (years) can produce black pigmentation on skin.





Detox your skin and hair with your favourite Beverage

While a shot of coffee instantly uplifts your mood and a cup of tea can relax you after a hard day at work, have you ever imagined the wonders it can do if you applied these on your skin and hair? Read on to know more about these beauty secrets...

Coffee

For your skin: "Caffeine helps in treating dark circles and is often found in most cosmetics, which are imported. It also helps reduce the build-up of blood under your eyes, which contribute to eye shadows," says beauty professional Nishi Karamchandani. Apart from this, it contains anti-ageing properties, which delay the signs of ageing. Phytosterols (friendly plant sterols and stanols that blocks cholesterol absorption in our system) promote moisture and provides

chemical-free sun protection. It also reduces the appearance of cellulite and tightens the skin. One can also use coffee beans as scrubs for the face and body. **For your hair:** It has rich antioxidant properties, which aid in repairing damaged hair and prevent breakage. Coffee also stimulates hair growth and thickens the mane. One can use coffee in hair packs as well. Several beauty parlours use coffee along with other ingredients when applying henna on a client's hair. This adds shine and lustre to the hair. It is also an antioxidant that counteracts the effects of pollutants in the air.

Tea

Green: Apart from aiding in weight loss, tea also protects the skin from damage and reactivates dying skin cells. **For your skin:** EGCG (epigallocatechin gallate) in the

green tea reactivates your dying skin cells. It also protects your skin from the harmful UV rays of the sun. Moreover, it gives a glow to your skin. It contains antioxidants, which help rejuvenate your skin and protects it against free radicals. Karamchandani says, "Green tea is also used as a skin toner, especially for those with oily skin. Soak green tea leaves in hot water for half an hour. Cool, strain and use the liquid to tone your skin." Green tea bags can be dipped in water and applied over your eyelids like eye pads for instant cooling and relaxation. They help reduce the puffiness around your eyes and add brightness. Neha Matang, skin professional, says, "Green tea also serves as an exfoliator. If you use it in the form of a face mask, it will naturally help in getting rid of unwanted toxins and make you look healthy and add

shine."
For your hair: This tea may also be used as a hair rinse, as the tannin in the tea helps to add lustre to your hair. Boil used tea leaves again in enough water. After boiling, cool and strain the water. Then add lemon juice to it and use this as a last rinse after shampoo. Matang says, "Green tea helps in reducing dandruff. It also stimulates hair growth and softens your hair. It contains vitamin C, vitamin E and panthenol, which are used as common ingredients in hair conditioners. Chamomile: Chamomile tea helps you achieve those golden streaks. Steep two chamomile tea bags in two cups of hot water for 5-10 minutes. Then add two tsps of lemon juice to the mixture. Use this as a final rinse on your hair after using a normal shampoo and conditioner. But do not rinse it out. This will help you bring the natural blonde or red tones in your hair and slightly lighten your hair without looking drastic or fake. Black: It helps fight free radicals that fasten the process of ageing of your skin. If you need a quick-fix for your under-eye bags, instantly dip two bags of black tea, cool and strain and put these on your eyes. It also serves as a natural astringent. All you need to do is make some tea, cool it and then splash it on your face for instant refreshment. Ginger: The anti-inflammatory properties of ginger help your skin against acne. Highly antiseptic in nature, it keeps your skin clean and blemish-free. Ginger is invigorating and stimulating to your skin, it is also used topically to treat cellulite. Ginger tea is excellent for

Tips to take care of your beard and make a statement

As many Kollywood actors are seen sporting beard in their recent films, growing beard has become a fad among youngsters. But maintaining beard isn't all that easy. One cannot leave it unkempt. Here are a few tips on how to maintain your beard... First, grow your beard to a good length. Once it has enough length, it can be trimmed to any desired shape. Ensure that the shape of your beard matches the shape of your face. Go through catalogues at salons before finalising on a shape.



Wash it regularly and take care of it just like your mane. Use shampoos that are available specifically for beard. Use a towel to gently pat and wipe your beard dry. Wash it once in two weeks. This will help you to avoid frizz and split ends. Use beard oil to nourish your beard and make it softer. If you trim your beard on your own, use a comb and a scissors instead of an electric trimmer. This way, you will never go wrong with the shape. The electric trimmer can be used to trim the sides. Comb it regularly. Specific beard brushes are available in market.

How to supercharge your skincare schedule



Want to give your skin an at-home bespoke treatment that skincare professionals swear by? Here are a few simple ritual that you need to follow daily in order to the best **Acids** Dead skin cells on the out layers of our skin invisibly block pores and lead to skin problems. They also stop active skincare ingredients to penetrate the skin. This is where acids come in - alpha hydroxy acids or the popular acronym AHAs are the essential for your daily skincare. These acids help to dissolve dead skin cells. Use a face mask that has AHA. You could also use a cleanser with AHAs **Massage your face** Giving a massage to your face daily helps creams percolate into your facial skin and the gentle pressure and movements of your fingers speeds up the microcirculation. This encourages capillaries to carry oxygen to remotest cells and



rejuvenate them. Use a face massage tool Or You can take some face oil and gently massage it in with circular motion in the outward and upward directions. Begin from the center and move outwards. **Apply skin softeners** These are special lotions called skin softeners that can be applied on your face before you apply the serum. These skin softners actually help to pull in skibcare ingredients deeper into your facial skin. **Use products in the correct order** Layering of products wrong can stop them from functioning optimally. Products ideally should be applied in fthe order of thickness Post cleansing Begin with toning. Then use a softening lotion followed by a serum. Next comes the eye cream. Top this with a moisturizer and the finally the sunscreen.

Simple tips to keep your hair healthy and glowing



With Navaratri round the corner, people are quite excited and keen on buying new clothes and accessories. While doing so, you must also take some time to groom yourself, so that you look your best during this festive season. And for that, it is important that you pay attention to your hair first. Here are a few tried-and-tested tips that will be helpful to take care of your hair. 1 Apply pre-shower moisturising cream and rinse it off after 20 minutes. It will give your hair a silky texture. 1 Nourish your hair with coconut oil. Get an oil massage at least twice a week. It will make your hair roots strong. 1 Dry shampoo is a good option for those who have dandruff flakes and itching on scalp. 1 To add volume to your hair, use a blow drier regularly. 1 When your hair gets greasy, the best solution is to go for braids. 1 If your hair gets tangled easily, get a detangling brush and use it regularly. Tangled hair looks messy and unkempt. 1 Use a hair spray. It will keep your hair frizz free. 1 It is important to have a balanced diet which includes a lot of veggies and fruits to maintain your hair healthy.

Delhi Police probe assault on RAF personnel by ‘CJP protesters’

The incident comes a day after the clashes during the Cockroach Janata Party's Parliament march.

Delhi. (Agency)

The Delhi Police registered an FIR after personnel of the Rapid Action Force (RAF) were allegedly assaulted by protesters of the Cockroach Janata Party (CJP) near Jantar Mantar late Tuesday.

A senior police officer said the First Information Report was registered against unidentified persons under relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), including charges of assaulting public servants.

The police said the incident occurred around 10 pm at the intersection of Tolstoy Marg and Parliament Street while

RAF personnel were changing shifts. According to the police, a “group of protesters” was shouting slogans and standing at the intersection when a few RAF personnel attempted to cross the road.

A 35-second video circulating on social media shows two RAF personnel being attacked by a crowd. One officer falls on the road and is kicked and punched by several people before others intervene and pull him to safety. The injured personnel were taken to a hospital and are undergoing treatment, the police said.

Previous FIRs

The incident came a day after clashes

erupted during a CJP protest march from Jantar Mantar towards Parliament. The Delhi Police have so far registered nine FIRs in connection with Monday's violence.

Of the nine FIRs registered over Monday's violence, three were lodged at Parliament Street Police Station, three at Connaught Place Police Station, and one each at Mandir Marg, Barakhamba Road, and Kartavya Path police stations. The cases were registered against unidentified persons under sections related to rioting, damage to



public and private property, and assaulting public servants. Around 70

protesters were detained during Monday's clashes but were released later the same day. The police said no arrests have been made so far. Investigators are examining whether Monday's violence was part of a larger conspiracy, with the Special Cell and Crime Branch assisting local police in the investigation.

Security has been tightened around the protest site at Jantar Mantar and officers have been instructed to exercise restraint and avoid confrontation with demonstrators, a senior police officer said.

‘Doing seva’: Meet volunteers keeping Jantar Mantar functioning and clean

New Delhi. (Agency)

On Tuesday afternoon, as the number of protesters in front of the re-erected stage at Jantar Mantar steadily swelled, a group of men were hard at work, scooping out mud from a clogged drain with their bare hands.

One of them, Suhail Khan, said he had been coming to Jantar Mantar every day since activist Sonam Wangchuk was taken away by police on July 18. “It is our responsibility to keep a place clean, whether it is our home, a mandir, a masjid, a gurdwara, or any other place in our country. Wherever we stay, eat, or protest, we will keep it clean,” Suhail said.

With Suhail was Pramod Pal, who said he had come from Faridabad because it was important to keep the protest area clean. “If we are not here today, the [hygiene] situation may be worse tomorrow,” he said.

There is a more personal reason too, Pramod said: “I am here for my daughter... She too may want to become a doctor one day.” Suhail and Pramod are among the many volunteers at Jantar Mantar, working silently to keep the protest site clean and functional as the tide of protesters ebbs and flows through the day and night.

Some of the volunteers have registered with student organisations; others have simply turned up to help. “Mera naam Hindustani hai,” said a man who was walking around, collecting garbage in a large bag. He had been at Jantar Mantar since morning, he said — moving with his bag from the stage to a dumping spot created by the volunteers at the far end of the protest area, near the police barricades and a water truck.

Delhi court grants interim bail to Parliament security breach accused Sharma

New Delhi. (Agency)

A Delhi court has granted 30-day interim bail to Sagar Sharma, an accused in the December 2023 Parliament security breach case, on humanitarian grounds to enable him to perform his father's post-cremation rituals. Additional Sessions Judge Amit Bansal granted the relief while directing Sharma not to speak to the media or make any social media posts regarding the case.

The accused submitted that his father had died of cancer on July 14 and, being the only male member of the family, he was required to perform the post-cremation rituals. In an order dated July 17, which was made available on Tuesday, the court clarified that the interim bail was granted solely on humanitarian grounds and not on the merits of the case. The prosecution did not oppose the plea during the hearing.

The court directed Sharma to furnish a bail bond and a surety bond of Rs 50,000 each. It also imposed several conditions, including appearing virtually before the court on hearing dates, reporting to the concerned police station three days a week, not seeking an extension of the interim bail, refraining from committing any similar offence, and neither tampering with evidence nor influencing witnesses.

On December 13, 2023, Sharma and co-accused Manoranjan D allegedly jumped into the Lok Sabha chamber, released smoke, and raised slogans.

Also in court

HC declines stay on Parvez, Mehraj bail

The Delhi High Court refused to stay the bail granted to Kashmiri activist Khuram Parvez and journalist Irfan Mehraj in a UAPA case. However, it imposed additional conditions, directed them to report to the investigating officer twice weekly.

Delhi government to propose alignment of police station jurisdiction with 13 reconstituted revenue districts

New Delhi. (Agency)

The Delhi government is planning to move a proposal with the Centre to align jurisdictions of police stations with the 13 reconstituted revenue districts in the city to ensure better services, said officials.

The government reconstituted the revenue districts last year. “There are 11 police districts. The government is planning to move a proposal for their expansion to 13. Discussions are currently underway,” said a government official.

The Centre, meanwhile, has amended the Fourteenth Schedule of the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act, 1957, to formally align the names of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) zones with the new revenue district nomenclature. Through a notification issued by the Union



Schedule of the Act will help strengthen coordination between Delhi's Revenue administration and the municipal corporation.

“A uniform nomenclature for administrative areas will improve coordination among departments,

enable more effective implementation of government schemes and make it easier for Delhi's citizens to access public services. The move reinforces the Prime Minister's broader vision of making citizens' lives easier through technology, better coordination and good governance,” Gupta said.

The Delhi government in December last year notified and created 39 subdivisions/tehsils and 13 revenue districts in the NCT of Delhi. These were aligned with the 12 zones of the MCD, the NDMC and the Delhi Cantonment area.

“Keeping administrative efficiency and public convenience in view, the names of the existing MCD zones have now been formally aligned with the new revenue district nomenclature.

Hanumankind attends CJP’s Jantar Mantar protest as Indian rap community backs NEET stir

New Delhi. (Agency)

Bengaluru-based global rap star Sooraj Cherukat, better known as Hanumankind, who has performed at some of the world's biggest music stages including Coachella and New York's Nassau Coliseum, ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's address to the Indian diaspora in 2024, marched alongside students and civil society groups on Monday in New Delhi's Jantar Mantar, demanding Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation over the NEET paper leak controversy and alleged



irregularities in higher education. Wearing a blue India cricket jersey, a black mask and a hat, Hanumankind, one of India's most well-known and internationally visible rappers at this point, initially blended into the

crowd until protesters recognised him. Videos circulating on social media show the rapper pausing to interact with several of them during the Cockroach Janata Party's (CJP) attempt to march to the Parliament on Monday. He also posted photos and videos of the police lathi charge unleashed upon protesters on his Instagram and wrote in a story, “There's no justification for this kind of force being used against the people that showed up today. Believing we deserve better is not a crime”. He also re-posted a note that read: “I witnessed two very different demonstrations.

Delhi Metro shuts 16 stations across amid heightened security for CJP protest

New Delhi. (Agency)

Lutyens' Delhi has been placed on high alert as the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) protest and the Youth Congress demonstration gather momentum in the national capital. Delhi Police have deployed personnel across multiple locations to manage the protests.

According to sources, a multi-layered security arrangement has been put in place around Connaught Place, Jantar Mantar, Rafi Marg, Parliament Street and other sensitive areas to maintain law and order.

As part of the security measures, the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) on Wednesday shut 16 Metro stations across central Delhi.

The Metro stations that remain closed include:

1. Lok Kalyan Marg
2. Rajiv Chowk
3. Patel Chowk
4. Ramakrishna Ashram Marg
5. Barakhamba Road
6. Supreme Court
7. Seva Teerth
8. Janpath
9. Mandi House
10. Central Secretariat
11. ITO
12. Delhi Gate
13. Indraprastha
14. Khan Market
15. Jor Bagh
16. Shivaji Stadium

Additional police and paramilitary personnel have been deployed at key intersections and other vulnerable points, while anti-riot units, quick reaction teams and reserve forces remain on standby.

Security has also been tightened around Parliament, key government buildings and other vital installations in the Lutyens' Delhi area. Police teams are conducting intensive vehicle checks and frisking at strategic locations, while security at Metro stations and other public places has been enhanced.

Officials said adequate arrangements have been made to deal with any situation arising out of the protests and appealed to organisers and participants to maintain peace and cooperate with law enforcement agencies.

At Jantar Mantar, a night of poetry and solidarity after police crackdown on CJP protests

At the entrance, volunteers managed the steady stream of people entering through the barricades, greeting them with brightly coloured hand-held fans to offer relief from the heat.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Around 2:30 a.m, Mohammed Irfan, a daily wage labourer dressed in white, settled cross-legged on the road with a plate of matar biryani beside him. “Can I recite a poem?” he asked.

The conversations around him quietened. A small circle formed as Irfan began reciting Urdu poet Ahmad Farhad's Kafir hun sar-phira hun mujhe maar dijiye, a poem about defiance and the cost of independent thought. When he finished, the silence gave way to applause.

It was well past midnight, but Jantar Mantar showed little sign of slowing. Less than 24 hours after Delhi Police used batons and tear gas to disperse

protesters during clashes at the site, thousands had returned. Chants of “Azadi,” “Jai Bhim” and “Inquilab Zindabad” rose and fell through the crowd as fresh groups arrived.

The gathering cut across generations and professions. Nine-year-old Farheen Siddiqui sat on her brother Fardeen's shoulders, holding a sketch of Sonam Wangchuk. Nearby stood NEET aspirants from Uttar Pradesh, UPSC candidates, daily wage workers, a Zepto delivery worker who had arrived after finishing his shift, retirees and families with young children.

For many, returning after Monday's violence was itself the point. “I came alone, but now so many others from my

community will be joining the who is recognised across the world, here fighting for our Right to Education. It is a matter of great shame that the government has not even sent a minister to engage in dialogue with him. What then is the meaning of democracy?”

Inside the protest site, care had become part of the demonstration.

Volunteers handed out bottles of water, and packets of food to people arriving through the night. Almost every few metres, someone offered refreshments to strangers.

“You look tired, you should eat something,” one protester told another as he passed him a kachori.

Dausa, Rajasthan, who had spent the previous five days at the protest. Gesturing towards a poster of Wangchuk, Meena said, “Sonam sir,



Nestlé India posts 48% jump in Q1 profit on strong volume growth

New Delhi. (Agency)

Nestlé India reported a 47.9% year-on-year rise in net profit for the first quarter of FY27, driven by robust volume-led growth across its portfolio, higher exports and continued premiumisation, while stepping up investments behind its brands. The FMCG major posted a profit after tax of Rs 975.1 crore for the April-June quarter, while total sales rose 25.4% to Rs 6,363.3 crore, with domestic sales growing 25% and exports increasing 35.6% despite geopolitical headwinds. EBITDA margin stood at 24.2%.

"We delivered a strong quarter with sales growth of 25.4% led by volume growth," Chairman and Managing Director Manish Tiwary said, adding that the company accelerated operational cost savings while increasing advertising and brand-building expenditure by more than 40% during the quarter. All four major product groups registered double-digit growth, supported by strong performance across sales channels.

The confectionery business continued its momentum with volume-led double-digit growth, aided by premiumisation and e-commerce, with KitKat gaining market share. The powdered and liquid beverages segment posted its 20th consecutive quarter of double-digit growth, driven by rising coffee consumption, premiumisation and expansion of the Nespresso retail footprint. The prepared dishes and cooking aids business, led by the Maggi brand, delivered strong growth through product innovations, urban consumer engagement and rural expansion, while the milk products and nutrition portfolio recorded broad-based volume growth across brands and channels. The pet food business also posted double-digit growth following portfolio expansion and new product launches in the cat food category. General Trade continued to record double-digit growth across town classes, with rural markets leading the momentum.

Asian shares edge higher after Wall Street climb, even as Brent oil keeps rising

TOKYO. (Agency)

Asian shares were mostly higher Wednesday following a rally on Wall Street, despite concerns about higher oil prices and inflation.

Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 rose 1.9% to 67,511.12, after the government reported that both imports and exports rose last month from a year earlier, as the weakening yen raised the value of both when converted from dollars to yen. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 added 0.4% to 8,830.60. South Korea's Kospi surged 4.6% to 7,061.36. The Hang Seng dipped 0.7% to 24,947.30, while the Shanghai Composite gained nearly 0.5% to 3,882.95.

More gains for makers of computer chips and other companies benefitting from the artificial-intelligence boom carried Wall Street higher. The S&P 500 climbed 0.9%. The Dow Jones Industrial Average added 385 points, or 0.7%, and the Nasdaq composite rose 1.3%. AI stocks once again were at the center of the action, and they rose for a second straight day after tumbling the week before. After rocketing higher because of the boom in investment in AI chips and data centers, they've come under pressure in recent weeks on worries that they shot too high.

Govt's outstanding debt rises to Rs 201 lakh crore

MUMBAI. (Agency)

India's outstanding liabilities rose to Rs 201.17 lakh crore in FY26 (provisional), up 8% from Rs 185 lakh crore in FY25, even as the Centre maintained that the country's public debt remains fiscally sustainable due to a declining debt-to-GDP ratio and rising government revenues that have helped meet increasing interest payment obligations. Responding to a question in the Rajya Sabha, Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary said the debt-to-GDP ratio has been broadly on a declining trajectory since the Covid-19 pandemic, indicating fiscal sustainability of public debt. He added that increasing revenue receipts have enabled the government to service interest payment obligations in a fiscally sustainable manner.

Of the total Rs 201 lakh crore, public debt formed the overwhelming bulk of this, accounting for 91.2% of total liabilities at Rs 183.43 lakh crore. Within public debt, internal debt made up ₹173.55 lakh crore while external debt, valued at the current exchange rate, added a further Rs 9.89 lakh crore to public debt.

Data furnished by the Finance Ministry showed that interest payments increased steadily over the past five years, rising from Rs 8.05 lakh crore in FY22 to Rs 12.43 lakh crore in FY26.

ITR filing 2025: Waiting for July 31 deadline extension? This mistake could cost you — here's how

Taxpayers can avoid filing troubles by checking their records and tax choices well before the deadline. Early preparation can help prevent refund delays and last-minute corrections.

CHENNAI. (Agency)

The last week of July often sees a rush on the income tax portal as many taxpayers hold back their filings in the hope of an extension. If the deadline is not extended, late filers may find it

difficult to resolve errors, arrange documents or claim eligible tax benefits in time. Tax experts say deadline extensions are usually announced only in special situations, such as technical issues on the income tax e-filing portal or administrative difficulties affecting a large number of taxpayers. Most individuals can face unnecessary complications if they plan their return around an expected extension. Filing the return early gives taxpayers enough time to check financial records, correct mistakes and make better tax decisions before the deadline arrives. Why taxpayers should check AIS and Form 26AS early

One of the biggest problems taxpayers face during the final days of July is finding mismatches in their financial

information. When people log into the income tax portal at the last moment, errors in documents such as the Annual Information Statement (AIS) or Form 26AS can become difficult to resolve before the deadline.

"If a discrepancy appears in your Form 26AS or the AIS close to the filing deadline, verifying and addressing it with your financial institution takes time," said Adhil Shetty, CEO, Bankbazaar. He further added, "Filing early gives taxpayers the crucial window needed to resolve these issues so they do not miss out on eligible tax credits or face refund delays."

Tax professionals advise taxpayers to review these statements well before submitting their returns. For example, if a bank fixed deposit earned Rs 45,000

in interest during the financial year, the income entry and the tax deducted at source (TDS) by the bank should appear correctly in the records.

If there is any mismatch in the information, taxpayers may have to get in touch with their bank or financial institution and get the records corrected before filing the return. Similar checks are required for salary-related TDS, mutual fund dividends and capital gains from investments. Tax regime choice may need another look. Another area where taxpayers can make mistakes is choosing between the old and new tax regimes. Many salaried employees select a tax regime at the beginning of the financial year based on their expected income and investments.

Why are your foreign bank accounts and investments showing in AIS?

New Delhi. (Agency)

If you recently logged into your Annual Information Statement (AIS) and were surprised to find details of your foreign bank account, overseas shares or dividend income, there is no need to panic. The Income Tax Department has clarified that this is not a new investigation or scrutiny exercise. In a post on X, it has said that the appearance of foreign financial information in AIS is part of a taxpayer facilitation initiative and not a sign of any investigation. The move is intended to make it easier for taxpayers to verify the information available with the department and accurately disclose their foreign assets and income while filing their tax returns.

WHY IS FOREIGN INFORMATION

APPEARING IN AIS?

The department said India receives financial information from more than 100 countries. This includes details such as foreign bank accounts, investments, interest income and dividends. As a result, eligible taxpayers may now see these details reflected in their AIS. The department said the facility has been introduced to make the tax filing process smoother by allowing taxpayers to compare their records with the information already available to the tax authorities. It also clarified that this information is visible only to the taxpayer through their secure login on the e-filing portal. Also, along with the social media post, the Income Tax Department shared a short video to explain the new feature in simple language.

The video also highlights that taxpayers can now check exactly what information the department has before filing their ITR. This gives them an opportunity to ensure that the required schedules relating to foreign income and overseas assets are filled correctly, reducing the chances of mistakes or omissions. The message is clear: the department wants taxpayers to see this feature as a tool for transparency and easier compliance rather than as a reason for concern.

FOREIGN ASSETS MUST STILL BE REPORTED

The Income Tax Department has reminded taxpayers that the responsibility to disclose foreign assets and foreign income continues to rest with them.

SEBI asks depositories to implement ISIN-level freeze framework for promoter holdings by August 1

Kolkata. (Agency)

Capital markets regulator SEBI on Tuesday asked depositories to put in place the operational framework and required system upgrades by August 1 to facilitate the implementation of the newly introduced ISIN-level freeze mechanism for promoter and promoter group holdings during share buybacks. In a circular, the regulator directed depositories to issue detailed operational guidelines covering the implementation of the ISIN-level freeze, including the format to be used by listed companies while issuing instructions for freezing promoter holdings. The framework

will also specify the operational procedures for allowing promoters to tender shares in buybacks conducted through the tender offer route. In addition, it will outline the



process for the invocation or release of encumbrances created before the commencement of the buyback period. SEBI clarified that even in cases where such encumbrances are invoked or released, the freeze

will continue to apply to the affected shares or other specified securities. "The depositories shall ensure that the operational framework and the necessary system enhancements are put in place before August 1, 2026," the regulator said in the circular. The latest directive follows Sebi's notification issued on July 1, 2026, amending the SEBI (Buy-back of Securities) Regulations, 2018.

Under the amended regulations, promoter and promoter group holdings, including those held by their associates, will remain frozen at the ISIN level from the date the board of directors or shareholders approve the buyback proposal until the closure of the buyback offer.

RBI's new Prudential Norms from 1 October 2026: What happens after a bank seizes your property during recovery of bad loans?

The RBI rules apply to immovable properties that banks acquire during the recovery of bad loans.

Kolkata. (Agency)

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued prudential norms governing how banks should deal with immovable properties acquired during the recovery of bad loans. The central bank has said that a bank that takes possession of a borrower's home or commercial property after their default on a loan is not allowed to keep it indefinitely or sell it back to the borrower. The rules, which come into effect from October 1, 2026, address everything from how such properties should be valued to how quickly they must be sold.

RBI's stand on non-banking assets

The RBI rules apply to immovable properties that banks acquire during the recovery of bad loans. The RBI said that banks generally do not transact in immovable assets as part of their core business operations other than in exceptional cases where they acquire such immovable assets in satisfaction of their claims on the borrower. In order to provide clarity on the prudential treatment of such specified nonfinancial assets, including non-banking assets acquired by a bank through various mechanisms, the bank decided to issue prudential norms applicable in such cases. The RBI has clarified that banks generally do not deal in immovable assets as part of their regular lending business. These standards only come into play when a loan has become a non-performing asset, legal or contractual recovery mechanisms have been invoked and the bank has acquired ownership of the property offered as collateral. The framework also requires banks to

adopt board-approved policies covering the acquisition, valuation, management and disposal of such



assets. Banks cannot sell recovered properties back to borrower

The RBI has said that banks cannot sell recovered properties back to the borrower or its related parties. In response to feedback received on the draft directions, the RBI said it had considered proposals to allow borrowers to repurchase such properties but decided against the proposal. The apex bank said allowing such sales could create a moral hazard and weaken credit discipline by giving defaulting borrowers a preferential

opportunity to reclaim the asset.

Dispose immovable assets within timeline

The RBI has said banks should dispose of acquired immovable assets within the timeline specified in their internal policy, subject to a maximum period of seven years. The banking regulator has also directed banks to make all efforts to sell these assets at the earliest instead of retaining them on their books for long periods. The RBI said that banks should make all efforts to dispose of the acquired immovable properties at the earliest through a public auction.

Valuation of immovable property

The RBI has also prescribed how banks should value such assets after taking ownership. The apex bank said upon acquisition, the property must be recorded in the balance sheet at the lower of the net book value of the extinguished exposure or the distress sale value determined by at least two independent external valuers.

Two alleged shooters arrested after exchange of fire with police near Barnala

Barnala.(Agency)

Two alleged shooters, including a wanted gangster, were arrested after they allegedly opened fire at a police team during a naka operation near the defunct Mehal Kalan toll plaza on the Barnala-Ludhiana highway early Tuesday, police said.

The accused have been identified as Arshdeep Singh alias Arshi, a resident of Bakhtgarh in Barnala district, and Gursharan Singh, a resident of Raunta village in Moga district. According to police, the incident took place at around 5.30 am when a joint team of the CIA staff, Mehal Kalan police and Counter Intelligence personnel had set up a bulletproof barricade following specific intelligence inputs. The operation was led by CIA Barnala Inspector Baljit Singh.

Police said the team signalled the occupants of a suspicious Hyundai Verna car, which was approaching from the Mehal Kalan side, to stop. Instead, the occupants allegedly fired at the police and attempted to flee. During the chase, the car veered off the road and got stuck in a roadside ditch. As the police surrounded the vehicle, the accused allegedly fired again.

The police overpowered and arrested both men without any reported injuries to police personnel. Police recovered two country-made pistols — one .30 bore and one .32 bore — along with live cartridges from the accused.

DDMA extends ex gratia aid to families affected by Sikkim NHPC tunnel collapse

Siliguri.(Agency)

The District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), Gangtok, on Tuesday distributed ex gratia assistance to 23 households whose homes were damaged in the recent disaster at 7th Mile on Old J.N. Road under Kyongnosla GPU.

The assistance was provided under the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) norms. The cheques were handed over during an inspection of the affected area led by District Collector-cum-Chairman, DDMA, Rohan Ramesh Agawane, who reviewed the relief and rehabilitation measures and interacted with affected residents at the relief camp.

Addressing the families, Agawane expressed solidarity with those affected and said seven families continue to stay at the relief camp. He assured them of continued administrative support until permanent rehabilitation arrangements are made. The administration noted that the situation has worsened due to persistent rainfall and ongoing ground instability. Officials reviewed immediate measures, including uninterrupted relief, essential services, enhanced safety arrangements and continuous monitoring of the vulnerable zone.

Discussions also focused on long-term rehabilitation, including detailed geotechnical studies, slope stabilisation and identification of suitable sites for permanent resettlement of the affected families.

ED searches eight Bengal locations in Rs 160 cr fraud case

Kolkata.(Agency)

Kolkata. The Enforcement Directorate (ED) launched search operations at eight locations across West Bengal, including Kolkata, on Tuesday in connection with a Rs 160 crore fraud case.

Apart from Kolkata, the ED also conducted raids at four locations in Bongaon of North 24 Parganas district. ED officials visited the residence of an individual named Bishal and subsequently searched the home of his relative, Rajib Biswas.

A businessman Biswajit Biswas, accused of orchestrating fraud by setting up businesses under various names, has also come under the ED's scanner.

Allegations suggest that many people from outside the state were defrauded between 2014 and 2020 with promises of high interest rates on their deposits.

Crores of rupees were allegedly misappropriated under the pretext of facilitating access to government scheme benefits. It is believed that a syndicate was operating behind this fraud.

Gujarat in education ministry's 'red zone' as secondary school dropouts surge

Gujarat's overall secondary school dropout rate of 15.7 per cent against the national average of 9.5 per cent indicates the state has failed to retain students once they reach secondary school

Ahmedabad.(Agency)

Gujarat is in the 'red zone' of an education ministry report that has flagged the state for recording an above 15 per cent dropout rate in secondary schools, which means that more than 15 of every 100 students drop out by the time they reach secondary school in the state.

The latest Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+) 2025-26 data also show that enrolment in state secondary and higher secondary schools is far below the national average, despite the government running Shala Praveshotsav, a dedicated school enrolment programme for more than two decades. UDISE+, the central education management information system

that enables schools to record and submit data in real-time mode, also reveals a lower age-specific enrolment rate (ASER) in



Gujarat. According to the 2025-26 report, the net enrolment rate for higher secondary schools in Gujarat is 29.1, which is the

number of students enrolled in a particular education level divided by the population of the official age group for that level. The net enrolment rate for girls in the same section is 29.6 per cent, lower than the national average of 41.1 per cent.

UDISE figures show Gujarat's higher secondary school enrolment has dropped from over 40 per cent in 2022-23 to 34.7 per cent in 2023-24 and to just 24 per cent in 2024-25—well below the national average of 35.8 per cent—before improving to 29 per cent in 2025-26.

The ASER figures show that 31.3 per cent of Gujarat students eligible for secondary or higher secondary school actually enrolled, both far worse than the national averages of 51.3 per cent and 52.5 per cent, respectively.

How a leopard has changed a neighborhood in Ahmedabad

Ahmedabad.(Agency)

As the leopard spotted in the surveillance cameras of a posh gated society in Ahmedabad remained elusive, the fear of the prowling beast kept its residents on edge. A day after the sighting, they stopped going for morning walks or even taking their pet dogs for a stroll; security personnel don't patrol alone. These were some of the precautionary measures that were suggested to the residents by the forest department.

Around 2 am Monday, the leopard was seen climbing the walls of Serendeeep Mansions, situated on VIP Road in Ghuma in the southwest part of the city.

The leopard left the society premises in just seven minutes to exit into a vacant plot across the road. The plot has thick babool (prosopis juliflora) trees. When The Indian Express visited the society on Monday, a Wildlife Rescue Van of the forest department was stationed on VIP Road. A few vehicles of media persons were parked

opposite the society and near the vacant plot. Forest officials were seen camping on the open plot as they coordinated a search operation in the area.

One of the security personnel who patrols



the society at night said: "The leopard crossed the society's garden just a minute after I did while patrolling. While the night patrolling continues, there is one change: three to four of us stick together at any point. And we arm ourselves with sticks and the

like for self-defence."

President of the society's resident welfare association (RWA) Gaurang Shah said, "As the forest department's efforts to rescue the leopard continue, we have been instructed not to venture out after sunset. We have been advised not to go out (at night). If we are to do so, we go out in our cars. We don't walk alone. None of us, especially senior citizens and children, go out of the house after it gets dark."

"We have been told that the leopard is a nocturnal animal and moves around after it is dark. We have stopped early morning walks, taking out pets for walks, or letting children play in the clubhouse garden," Shah added. Serendeeep Mansions is a housing society comprising 105 individual bungalows, the sizes of which vary from 350 square yards to 1,500 square yards.

Ghuma is a rapidly developing residential area in southwestern Ahmedabad and is adjacent to Sanand, an emerging automobile and semiconductor hub of Gujarat.

Haryana Roadways Employees Joint Front to take out 'Justice March' on July 25 to press for regular recruitment

Kaithal.(Agency)

Under the banner of the Haryana Roadways Employees Joint Front, a meeting was held at the Haryana State Transport Kaithal Depot to prepare for the Justice March to be held on July 25 at the Transport Minister's residence.

State leaders of the Joint Front, Krishna Kishana, Mahavir Sandhu, Jasvir Singh, Depot Head Praveen Kumar, Vice Head Sushil Kumar, and Secretary Balwan Kundu, alleged that the Haryana government is continuously neglecting the Roadways Department.

Due to years of lack of regular recruitment, thousands of posts for drivers, conductors, mechanics, helpers, sweepers, and other employees remain vacant.

This is directly affecting the employees, who are forced to operate

transport services amid heavy workloads. This is increasing the

mental and physical strain on employees, and passengers are not receiving adequate transportation facilities. They pointed out that instead of strengthening public transport, the government is operating electric buses on expensive contracts. These buses do not offer various concessions and free travel benefits provided by the Haryana government to government roadways buses, causing inconvenience to the general public. Expensive contracts are continuously increasing the roadways department's losses, while no attention is being paid to strengthening the government fleet.

Amit Sharma, Dilbag, Jai Bhagwan, and Manoj Kumar alleged that the government repeatedly holds talks with union representatives, and many of the employees' demands are

considered justified in the meetings, but they are not implemented.

The main demands of the roadways employees include, increasing the pay grade of conductors and drivers; making drivers, conductors and all other employees employed under the Haryana Skills Department permanent from the date of appointment; giving the employees the reduced earned leave as before; giving laundry allowance as before; paying the bonus that has been pending for years; taking the Group D employees of 2018 out of the common cadre and promoting them to technical posts; making a transfer policy in the interest of the employees; making the drivers of 2016 permanent from the date of appointment; removing all the conditions imposed in the ex-gratia policy; giving risk allowance to the employees doing risky duty.

Mumbai IMD weather forecast: City under yellow alert; Thane, Palghar brace for very heavy rainfall

The IMD's five-day forecast, issued Monday morning, keeps Mumbai under a yellow alert till 8.30 am on Friday, July 24. Palghar, Thane, Ratnagiri and Raigad are under an orange alert for the next 24 hours.

Mumbai.(Agency)

Mumbai IMD weather forecast: Mumbai has been kept under a yellow alert by the India Meteorological Department (IMD) until Friday, July 24, as rains continue to lash the financial capital for the third day today. Thane, Palghar, Raigad and Ratnagiri, on the other hand, brace for very heavy rainfall. The IMD has sounded an orange alert in the region for the next 24 hours. Mumbai woke up under heavy rainfall and gusty winds on Monday, July 20, as the city continued under a yellow alert. The IMD Santacruz observatory

recorded 48.4 mm of rainfall, while Colaba recorded 35.6 mm. The BMC's automatic weather system showed the western suburbs at 64.91 mm, eastern suburbs at 48.7 mm, and the island city at 36.65 mm.

"At present, a low-pressure system has developed over Mumbai and coastal Maharashtra, which is resulting in spate of heavy to moderate spell of rainfall. This will continue for the next 24 hours," an IMD official told The Indian Express.

The IMD also forecast a high tide of 3.32 metres around 5.30 pm, and gusty winds

of up to 50-60 kmph.

Rains push Mumbai's water stock



BMC data shows the water stock in the city's seven lakes stood at 61.9 per cent, or

8.95 lakh litres against a capacity of 14.47 lakh litres, on Wednesday morning, up 4.15 percentage points in 24 hours.

Tansa Lake started overflowing Wednesday morning, the second of the seven lakes to reach full capacity this year after Tulsi earlier this month. Catchment areas recorded between 65 mm and 224 mm of rainfall in the last 24 hours, with Upper Vaitarna the highest. On July 22 last year, the water stock stood at 85.32 per cent, against 47.29 per cent in 2024.

The BMC supplies 3,850 MLD against a demand of 4,200 MLD. The current stock is set to last 375 days.

Haryana unveils education-to-employment roadmap for youth

Panchkula.(Agency)

Signalling a decisive shift towards outcome-based education, the Haryana government today unveiled a roadmap that connects schools, universities, research laboratories and industries, with Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini asserting that the state's education policy is now focused on producing innovators, skilled professionals and entrepreneurs.

Speaking at the Yuva Samvad programme in Pinjore, Saini announced a Rs ₹20 crore research grant for state universities, saying investment in research and innovation would determine Haryana's future competitiveness.

The Chief Minister highlighted reforms spanning the entire education ecosystem—from 'Mission Buniyaad' in government schools and the 'Super-100 programme' for competitive examinations to Youth Parliament initiatives, industry-linked skill training and entrepreneurship support. He said the government's education reforms are producing measurable outcomes. Of the 400 students trained under Super-100 this year, 271 secured admission to premier institutions, while 61 cleared NEET. Students from government schools are also making their way into leading engineering institutions, including IIT Kharagpur and IIT Roorkee. Saini said transparent recruitment has restored confidence among youth, enabling deserving candidates to secure government jobs solely on merit.

Punjab Cabinet clears Monsoon Session from Aug 3, approves key decisions

Chandigarh.(Agency)

The Punjab Cabinet led by Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Tuesday gave the nod to hold the Monsoon Session of the state assembly from August 3 to 10.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, Mann said several bills and ordinances will be presented during the week-long session. He added that the duration of the session could be extended if needed. The formal recommendation has been sent to the Governor.

In a major policy change for Punjab Police, the cabinet decided to stop direct recruitment for Sub-Inspector (SI) posts. Going forward, direct hiring will take place at the Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) level instead. About 30 percent of ASI posts in District, Intelligence, Investigation, and Technical cadres will be filled directly, along with 10 percent in the Armed Cadre. The state government reasoned that since ASIs handle most field investigations, direct entry at this level will bring better-qualified officers into police stations. To boost food welfare, the state announced plans to issue 10 lakh new ration cards. Applications will open on July 22 via online portals, Seva Kendras, and the food department website. Seven lakh cards are set aside for new eligible families, while three lakh will go to e-Shram registered workers and migrants.

NEWS BOX

David Warner pleads guilty to drink driving, faces up to 9 months in jail

New Delhi. (Agency)

David Warner's cricket career might have hit another roadblock, with the former Australian opening batsman at serious risk of losing the Sydney Thunder captaincy after pleading guilty to a mid-range drink-driving charge.

At a local court in Sydney on Wednesday, legal counsel Bobby Hill formally entered a guilty plea on behalf of the 39-year-old, who was not present in court. The charge follows an incident on Easter Sunday (April 5), when police intercepted Warner's vehicle in Sydney's eastern suburb of Maroubra. Police reports noted



that Warner pulled over short of a roadside random breath-testing site before being approached by officers. A secondary breath analysis conducted at a local police station recorded a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of 0.104—more than double Australia's legal limit of 0.05. Addressing media outside the court, Hill stated that Warner took full responsibility for a "reckless and foolish decision" to drive home after consuming three glasses of wine at a friend's flat, finishing his final drink just 11 minutes before getting behind the wheel rather than ordering a rideshare service. While formal sentencing is set for August 18, under New South Wales law, a first-offence mid-range PCA conviction carries a maximum penalty of up to nine months imprisonment, fines reaching A\$2,200, and an automatic driving disqualification of six to 12 months.

Tilak Varma gives perfect response to strike-rate critics. Here's what he said

New Delhi. (Agency)

India's T20I vice-captain Tilak Varma has clapped back at his strike-rate critics with a perfect response ahead of the Zimbabwe series. Tilak's strike-rate has seen a serious dip in the last few years since he made his breakthrough into the team.

ZIMBABWE VS INDIA T20IS: FULL COVERAGE

From 187.73 in 2024, the southpaw's strike-rate this year has been 143.12 as he has struggled against spin. During the recent UK tour, Tilak had a strike-rate of 152.94 in England and 110.44 in Ireland. Speaking at a press conference ahead of the Zimbabwe series, Tilak said that he always keeps the team's needs at the forefront. The southpaw claimed that he can hit the ball hard from ball one, but



said his approach with the bat is dictated by the team's need at a given situation. In this game, you have to bat in different places, and especially in such conditions, it's not easy. At the same point, I always say that I do whatever is required for the team. If I have to stop and play for the team, then I stop and play. If I have to hit, then I hit and play," Tilak said in a press conference on Tuesday. I can go and hit the first ball. But at the same point, I'm playing for the country, so there are a lot of responsibilities. So what are the conditions of the team? If I have to play for the team till the end, then our team planning keeps changing.

Chelsea take sly dig at Arsenal after completing record Morgan Rogers deal

Chelsea completed a record British deal to sign Morgan Rogers from Aston Villa after beating Arsenal to him. The Blues decided to a cheeky dig at their London rivals after Rogers picked them over the current Premier League champions.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Chelsea have taken a sly dig at Arsenal as they announced the signing of Morgan Rogers from Aston Villa in a record British deal. Reports suggest that the Blues have signed the midfielder on a deal worth 117 million pounds, making him the most expensive British player in history.

PREMIER LEAGUE: FULL COVERAGE

However, Chelsea swooped in at the right



time and were able to land the midfielder. In the video announcing his arrival, it seemed like they decided to rub the fact on Arsenal's face with a simple message. Rogers was linked with a move from Villa after his heroics last season for them as the midlands club won the Europa League and made it to next season's

Champions League. The 23-year-old was considered to be the main target for Arsenal this season and many reports stated that he was on the verge of joining the current Premier League champions. Rogers, who is capable of operating both out wide and in an advanced midfield role, ends his two-

year spell at Aston Villa after playing a key part in the club's Europa League triumph in May. The England international was on the scoresheet in Villa's 3-0 win over Freiburg in the final, helping secure the club's first major European title since 1982. The 23-year-old arrived from Middlesbrough in 2024 and went on to net 31 goals across 125 appearances for Villa. His impressive performances also earned him his senior England debut later that year. Rogers carried that form onto the international stage, featuring in seven of England's eight World Cup matches as they finished third. He also enjoyed his most productive Premier League campaign last season, registering 10 league goals.

WHY DID ROGERS PICK CHELSEA?

Talking about the move, Rogers said that he views Chelsea as the biggest club in London and always admired them as a kid. "I'm so excited," said Rogers in a club statement.

Think India will bludgeon past Zimbabwe in the T20I series? Think again

New Delhi. (Agency)

India will walk into their T20I series against Zimbabwe carrying the tag of overwhelming favourites. They have the bigger stars, the deeper talent pool and a recent history of dominating teams ranked below them in bilateral cricket. On paper, it looks like a mismatch. But cricket has a habit of making a mockery of predictions.

For all of India's strengths, this is not the all-conquering side that lifted the T20 World Cup a few months ago. The team is still searching for consistency in the format and enters the Zimbabwe tour on the back of a forgettable campaign in the UK, where they failed to win a single T20I. The defeats exposed flaws in both the batting and bowling departments and underlined

the challenges facing a side that is still trying to settle on its best combination. Zimbabwe, meanwhile,



are no longer content with merely competing. Led by the evergreen Sikandar Raza and buoyed by the rise of youngsters such as Brian Bennett, the hosts have begun to believe that they belong on the same stage as cricket's traditional heavyweights. That belief did not emerge overnight. It has been

built over months of encouraging performances and, more importantly, tangible results. ZIMBABWE'S WORLD CUP RUN CHANGED THE CONVERSATION

Zimbabwe may not have reached the knockout stages of the 2026 T20 World Cup, but their campaign altered perceptions around the team. They did not just participate; they competed. Their defining moment came against Australia in Colombo. Few gave Zimbabwe a chance against the defending champions, but they produced one of the tournament's biggest upsets with a stunning 23-run victory. Bennett anchored the innings with an unbeaten 64 off 56 deliveries, while Tadiwanashe Marumani and Ryan Burl chipped in with 35 runs apiece as Zimbabwe posted 169 for two.

La Liga chief accuses FIFA of destroying football, calls for Infantino to resign

New Delhi. (Agency)

La Liga president Javier Tebas has called for FIFA president Gianni Infantino to step down, accusing world football's governing body of "destroying the football industry" by expanding international competitions at the expense of domestic leagues and clubs. Tebas, who has repeatedly criticised FIFA over fixture congestion and plans to expand the World Cup, said Infantino's tenure should come to an end. "In my opinion, yes, I think his time is up," Tebas told Italian newspaper La Gazzetta dello Sport when asked if Infantino should resign. Infantino, who has been FIFA president since 2016,

announced in April that he would seek a fourth term. The election for the 2027-31 cycle is scheduled to take place in



Morocco on March 18 next year. Tebas, however, admitted that Infantino continues to enjoy strong support among national federations, making it difficult for anyone to challenge him. "He shouldn't stay, but the current state

of affairs means he won't leave," Tebas said. "There's no opposition candidate; no one wants to run to lose. This is the system, and it's a system that's flawed from the ground up. 'I've heard a lot of people against Infantino, who don't agree with what he's doing. They say it, but then they don't do anything.'"

BALOGUN BAN UNDER SCRUTINY

Tebas also criticised FIFA's decision to postpone the one-match suspension handed to the United States striker Polaris Balogun after his red card at the World Cup. The decision came after the intervention of U.S. President Donald Trump. Belgium went on to beat the United States 4-1 in the Round of 16.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Imagine being Rohit Sharma. You've been told at the workplace that July 20 might well be your last working day. You have more than 20 years of experience, but you've been told you're not needed any more. But then there's a lifeline. You have one last day. Can you pull through? Can you give your best when you've been told you're not needed? There are young ones waiting in the wings to take his spot. Looked at from a purely non-emotional angle, maybe it's time for someone like Yashasvi Jaiswal to get a good run. Rohit is 39. He'll be nearing 41 when the ODI World Cup gets underway in South Africa next year. What if he goes through a lean patch? What if his body doesn't work in



sync with his mind in 16 months' time? The thought of moving on from Rohit isn't entirely wrong. But what if he wants to put himself through the grind a while longer? What if he's still scoring the runs? What if he's willing to stay away from vada pavs for a couple more years?

Yet Rohit Sharma did it. He hit 138 from 110 balls in the third and final ODI of a series against England at Lord's on Saturday. Yes, he was tentative to start, understandable, with the axe hanging over his head. But, as they say, he found the zone. India were set 388 in the series decider, and Rohit scored a daddy hundred, going past Sourav Ganguly's previous highest score of 90 at Lord's to become the first Indian to hit an ODI century at the iconic venue.

Did FIFA let Argentina's Leandro Paredes off the hook after World Cup final brawl?

Leandro Paredes' red card after the brawl following the World Cup final has been deleted by FIFA. Paredes was seen coming to blows with Eric Garcia and Gavi after the end of the game.

New Delhi. (Agency)

It seems like FIFA have let Leandro Paredes go off the hook after his part in the brawl that followed after the World Cup final. Following the defeat on Sunday to Spain, many of the Argentina stars were seen in an altercation with the La Roja players, with Paredes being at

the forefront. Shortly after the final whistle, television cameras caught the Argentina midfielder confronting Spain defender Eric Garcia during the celebrations. The Argentina midfielder charged toward Garcia as the Spaniard celebrated the World Cup triumph and struck him twice, sparking a heated altercation. As the confrontation intensified, Gavi rushed in to pull the pair apart and calm the situation involving his Barcelona teammate. Paredes, still visibly furious, then appeared to swing an arm towards the Spain midfielder. Argentina's Thiago Almada tried to intervene by shoving Gavi away from the flashpoint in an attempt to keep him out of harm's way, but Paredes' arm still made contact with Gavi's face as tempers flared.

The commentators announced that



Paredes was shown a red card for his actions. Or so we thought.

FIFA DELETES PAREDES RED CARD

According to a report from BBC sport, FIFA's commentator information system initially indicated that referee Slavko Vincic had shown Leandro Paredes a red card for allegedly grabbing Spain

defender Eric Garcia by the throat.

However, the dismissal was removed from the system moments later. FIFA subsequently clarified to BBC Sport that no disciplinary action had been taken against Paredes during or after the incident.

FIFA APPOINTS DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

In the aftermath of the World Cup final, FIFA has established a disciplinary panel and appointed an independent disciplinary and ethics prosecutor to investigate the incidents that unfolded after the final whistle at MetLife Stadium. Those found responsible for their role in the clashes could face suspensions, while the Argentine Football Association (AFA) also risks financial penalties.

Yash Kisses

Tara Sutaria

Gets Cozy With Her In A Bathtub | Fans Call Toxic New Song Is 'Too Hot'

As Toxic: A Fairy Tale for Grown-Ups continues to unveil the many layers of its story, the film's new song, Madhosh, has now grabbed everyone's attention and set social media on fire. It offers audiences a fresh glimpse into the world of Raya (played by Yash) and Rebecca (played by Tara Sutaria). While the previously released track Tabaahi showcased the intensity and all-consuming nature of Raya's relationship with Kiara Advani's character, Madhosh explores the easygoing, carefree dynamic he shares with Tara Sutaria's Rebecca.

The song is filled with moments that effortlessly showcase the chemistry between Raya and Rebecca. From an unconventional proposal that perfectly captures their mischievous bond to candid laughs, quiet conversations and fleeting glances, Madhosh paints the picture of two people completely at ease with one another. In the music video, we also see Yash and Tara's characters getting cozy with each other. The former is seen planting a kiss on Tara's cheeks. The two are also seen spending some time together in a bathtub. The song also offers a glimpse of Nayanthara's character.

Soon after the music video was released, several social media users reacted praised it and called it "too hot to handle". "Stunning Visuals, an Unpredictable Plot, Yash looking Top-Tier Hot, and a CHARTBUSTER track by Tanishk #Madhosh ticks Every Single Box!" one of the users wrote on X.

About Toxic: A Fairy Tale for Grown-Ups
Written, produced and headlined by Yash, Toxic: A Fairy Tale for Grown-Ups is directed by internationally acclaimed filmmaker Geetu Mohandas and produced by KVN Productions and Monster Mind Creations. The film stars Yash, Nayanthara, Kiara Advani, Tara Sutaria, Rukmini Vasanth and Huma Qureshi in pivotal roles. Shot simultaneously in English and Kannada, and dubbed into Hindi, Telugu, Tamil, and Malayalam, Toxic is set for a worldwide theatrical release on 26th August 2026.

'Mainu Anti-Nationalist Keha Jaega': Diljit Dosanjh Backs CJP Parliament March, Recalls Farmers' Protest Backlash



Singer-actor Diljit Dosanjh has publicly voiced his support for students protesting under the CJP movement, saying they deserve to be heard even if speaking up once again leads to him being labelled "anti-national." Taking to Instagram Stories, Diljit shared a strongly worded note after reports of action against student protesters. He urged the authorities to listen to the students' demands and said the way they were being treated was not right.

Diljit Dosanjh Backs Student Protest

In his Instagram Story, Diljit wrote, "Aj Jo hoyea Baut Maada Hoyea.. Students Naal Edan Treat Nhi Hona Chaida c.. Mai Authorities Nu Request Karda Ke Students Dian Demands Nu sunn Leya Javey.. Lokan Di Avaaz Rab Di Avaaz Hundi Aa.."

The post translates to him saying that what happened was very unfortunate, students should not be treated this way, and that the authorities should listen to their demands because "the voice of the people is the voice of God."

'I'll Be Called Anti-Nationalist Again'

Diljit Dosanjh also referred to the criticism he faced during the farmers' protest, saying he is prepared for similar backlash this time. He wrote, "Mere Te Already Anti Nationalist Da Tag Baut Vaar Lagg Chuka.. Hun V Mainu Anti-nationalist Keha Jaega. After Kisan Protest.. I faced a Lot of Backlash & Legal Problems which I can't Even Discuss.. BAKI RAB SAB DEKH REHA, BABA BHALLI KARU." The singer said he has previously been called "anti-national" several times and believes the same label will be used against him again. He also claimed he faced a lot of backlash and legal issues after supporting the farmers' protest, adding that some of those matters are still not something he can discuss publicly.

'Poore Desh Ka Dil Toota': Sonakshi Sinha Shares Heartbreaking Photos From CJP Jantar Mantar Protest



Actor Sonakshi Sinha has once again spoken out in support of the CJP-led student movement, this time sharing powerful images from the July 20 'Sansad Chalo' protest in Delhi. Her post came after the march witnessed clashes between protesters and police, with videos showing alleged lathi-charge, tear gas shelling and injuries to several students demanding action over the NEET paper leak controversy and the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan.

Sonakshi Sinha Shares Photos From The Protest

Sharing a series of photos from the protest on Instagram, Sonakshi wrote, "20th July..bohoh logon ki haddiyaan tooti aur ek POORE DESH ka dil toota. Yaad rakhna." The photos showed injured protesters, police action and scenes from the demonstration that have since gone viral on social media.

Sonakshi Sinha Had Earlier Backed Sonam Wangchuk

This is not the first time Sonakshi has spoken in support of the movement. Ahead of the July 20 march, she had urged people to stand with Sonam Wangchuk and the protesting students, saying every voice deserves to be heard in a democracy. She also criticised Wangchuk's removal to hospital and appealed for peaceful demonstrations, expressing hope that the authorities would begin a meaningful dialogue with the protesters.

While Sonam Wangchuk is on a hunger strike, his team, on his behalf, responded to Sonakshi's post, thanking her for the support. The comment under the post read, "Thank you for your solidarity. We truly appreciate your support. With gratitude, Office of Sonam Wangchuk."

What Did Sonakshi Sinha Say About CJP Protest?

In her video, Sonakshi expressed concerns for Sonam Wangchuk's health and said, "I've never given a statement out like this, but today we can't ignore him. Sonam Wangchuk. We all know him. We know what he has done for our country, what his achievements are and how many awards he has won."

Diljit Dosanjh

Reacts To CJP's Jantar Mantar Protest; Sahiba Bali Opens Up About Arjun Kapoor Link-Up Rumours

Singer and actor Diljit Dosanjh has voiced support for students protesting over the NEET paper leak controversy. Amid the Cockroach Janta Party's (CJP) protest and the "Sansad Chalo" march on July 20, he urged the authorities to listen to the students' demands. Diljit also strongly condemned the violence that broke

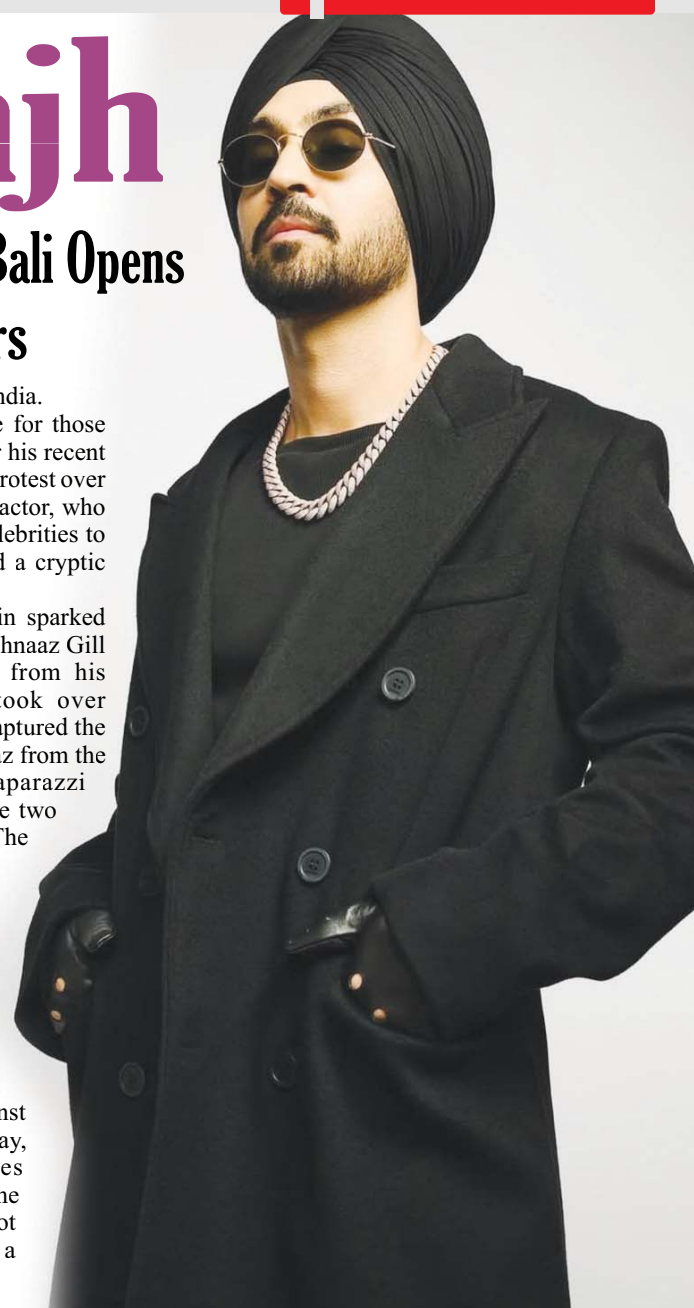
Janata Party's (CJP) ongoing protest in India. Vijay Varma seems to have a message for those who unfollowed him on Instagram over his recent posts supporting the ongoing students' protest over the NEET paper leak controversy. The actor, who has been among the few Bollywood celebrities to publicly support the movement, shared a cryptic post on his Instagram Stories on Sunday.

Raghav Juyal once again sparked dating rumours with Shehnaaz Gill recently after a video from his birthday celebration took over social media. The clip captured the actor protecting Shehnaaz from the crowd as fans and paparazzi surrounded her while the two were leaving the venue. The gesture quickly caught the internet's attention, reviving speculation about their relationship. A group of Katrina Kaif's fans is upset and disappointed with her



out during the NEET protest at Jantar Mantar Actor and digital creator Sahiba Bali has called out media coverage surrounding her personal life and dating rumours with Arjun Kapoor, urging news outlets to shift their attention to more important issues. Her statement came after she shared a photograph from a gathering outside the High Commission of India in London, where members of the Indian community assembled in support of the Cockroach

for not speaking up in support of students protesting in New Delhi against the NEET exam paper leak. On Tuesday, admin of one of actress' fan pages announced that they are shutting down the Instagram handle because they do not want to support anyone who does "have a spine to speak for Indians".



NEWS BOX

Death toll rises to 13 in Chile's severe storms

SANTIAGO.(Agency)

Heavy rains in Chile have killed at least 13 people and left more than 60,000 others cut off due to washed out roads, government officials said in a report Tuesday, as the recovery effort focused on restoring basic services. The storm that began July 15 in the southern part of the country hit the typically arid regions of Coquimbo and Atacama, where extreme rainfall is unusual. "We have 13 dead and seven missing," Alicia Cebrian, director of Chile's SENAPRED national emergency service, told reporters. Around 2,800 homes have been destroyed in the rains, and swollen rivers and roads blocked by water and mud have left a number of towns cut off, the government said.

"I'm 57 years old and I had never seen an emergency like this," Patricia Alborno, a community leader in Coquimbo, told AFP by phone. "The most shocking thing was seeing how the rivers and ravines overflowed."

Interior Minister Claudio Alarado said the rains were expected to ease, but that risks still remain due to "swollen riverbeds and ravines."

President Jose Antonio Kast declared a state of emergency in the affected areas on Monday.

Mamdani says NYC can't arrest Netanyahu, but the federal government should

NEW YORK.(Agency)

New York Mayor Zohran Mamdani said late Tuesday that the city would not be able to execute an arrest warrant issued by the world's top war-crimes court for Israel's Benjamin Netanyahu, but urged the federal government to do so.

In the video Mamdani described the Israeli prime minister as a "war criminal" and said he is not welcome in New York City. "It is clear that we do not have the independent legal authority to enforce this warrant," he said in a video posted on X. "The federal government however does and I call on them to join the ICC and execute this warrant," he added, referring to the International Criminal Court. Mamdani had told the New York Times earlier this month that he and the city's legal department were discussing arresting Netanyahu if he comes to New York City for the U.N. General Assembly in September.

President Donald Trump on Monday told Netanyahu in a social media post that he "will not be arrested, in any way, shape, or form, while in the United States of America." The post did not directly mention Mamdani. Mamdani had said throughout his mayoral election campaign last year that he would seek to order the city's police to arrest Netanyahu under the criminal court's warrant over Netanyahu's role in the war in Gaza.

In his video message Tuesday, Mamdani said his administration has reviewed all avenues available and determined the city can't execute the arrest warrant. "I want to be equally clear, Benjamin Netanyahu is not welcome in New York City, nor is any other war criminal at large," he said. Danny Danon, the Israeli ambassador to the U.N., responded by telling the mayor "enough."

France bans social media for under-15s, sparking global debate on kids' online safety

world.(Agency)

France banned children under 15 from using social media on Tuesday, becoming the first country in the European Union to pass a blanket ban on the platforms as concerns grow worldwide over the harmful effects of digital content on kids. Both chambers of the Parliament voted in favor of the measure, a flagship initiative of French President Emmanuel Macron's second term. The bill also bans the use of mobile phones in high schools.

Several families in France have sued TikTok over teen suicides they say are linked to harmful content. Children's advocates and parents applauded the vote. "We've been campaigning for this bill from the start because, frankly, we have no other option, no other way to counter tech giants," said Gaëlle Berbonde, a 52-year-old who lives in the Paris region. "The only thing we can do is protect our children, just as we protect our children from drinking alcohol."

Berbonde told The Associated Press that her daughter was in seventh grade when she got her first smartphone. A parental control app helped monitor what she did online, but Berbonde had no idea what TikTok really was. After a few months, the family realized that the daughter was cutting herself and was suffering from anorexia and depression. She spent a year and a half in the hospital but is now 16 and well. Macron wants the ban in place for the new school year. The legislation is one of the final major measures adopted under Macron's presidency before he leaves office next year.

Ukraine's Zelenskyy fires military chief after protests, names replacement

Zelenskyy's latest move marks his second major

reversal under public pressure after protests earlier forced him to restore anti-corruption watchdog powers.

KYIV.(Agency)

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Tuesday fired Gen. Oleksandr Syrskiy as commander-in-chief of Ukraine's armed forces and named his replacement, following days of mass protests in Kyiv, the country's capital, and other cities across the nation demanding his removal.

It was the second major change Zelenskyy has made under street pressure, after protests last summer forced him to undo a law weakening Ukraine's anti-corruption watchdogs. Zelenskyy appointed Mykhailo Drapatyi as the new army chief, according to a statement on social media. "Our shared wish is one — victory over the enemy and conditions at the front and in pressure on Russia that would force Russia toward peace," Zelenskyy said. The Ukrainian leader said he made the decision after a series of meetings with military commanders. They began shortly after protests broke out demanding the reinstatement of former Defense Minister Mykhailo Fedorov, seen by demonstrators as a driver of military modernization, and the removal of

Syrskiy, who they said embodied the army's old, Soviet-style command culture. Zelenskyy thanked Syrskiy for



his achievements in Ukraine's fight against Russia and praised him for the defense of Kyiv and for operations in Kharkiv and Kursk. "I am grateful to Oleksandr Syrskiy and to every one of our warriors for Ukraine's strong front-

line positions," he said. "I am grateful to Mykhailo Drapatyi for holding that same view." Drapatyi wrote in a Facebook post that serving Ukraine "has always been an honor for me, and during this war for independence, it means absolute responsibility."

He thanked Syrskiy for his consistent work strengthening the Ukrainian military. "I grew up in it," he added, referring to the army. "I will work responsibly, with focus and with respect for the people defending our state today." Zelenskyy said Drapatyi and other commanders must present an updated defense strategy, including continued reform of the corps system, faster weapons and drone deliveries, stronger air defense against Russian strikes and a clearer mobilization plan, heard.

Venezuela's Nicolás Maduro back to court for pretrial hearing in his US drug trafficking case

NEW YORK.(Agency)

Nicolás Maduro returns to court with his lawyers Wednesday and is expected to continue objecting to the U.S. military action that snatched the Venezuelan president from power and deposited him in New York to face drug trafficking charges. Maduro, 63, and his wife Cilia Flores, 69, have been held at a Brooklyn jail ever since U.S. forces seized them from their Caracas home in a stunning middle-of-the-night raid and brought them to New York in early January. Both have pleaded not guilty. They face potential life prison sentences if a jury agrees that they were part of a conspiracy

to send cocaine into the U.S. President Donald Trump's administration has defended the



raid as a "surgical law enforcement operation" in a criminal case first brought six years ago. Maduro has called himself a prisoner of war and his capture a kidnapping. U.S.

prosecutors say Maduro carried out a conspiracy to move thousands of tons of cocaine into the U.S. by colluding with Venezuelan law enforcement to help drug kingpins. "I am not guilty. I am a decent man, the constitutional president of my country," he said in Spanish at his arraignment in January. Maduro's lawyer, Barry Pollack, has said he expects to contest the legality of Maduro's "military abduction." The lawyers have said there are complex legal defenses that the court must address before a trial can begin. Maduro and Flores have not asked to be released on bail. Judge Alvin K. Hellerstein has yet to set a trial date.

Britain's new prime minister must solve the old riddle of how to reinvigorate a slow-growing economy

In an effort to balance the competing demands,

Burnham surprised pundits by naming former Defense Secretary John Healey as his Treasury chief.

LONDON.(Agency)

U.K. Prime Minister Andy Burnham's announcements during his first 24 hours on the job underscore the political and financial challenges he faces as he tries to jump-start the country's sluggish economy. Burnham, from Britain's left-leaning Labour Party, faces restive voters seeking relief from the high cost of living. At the same time, the investors who help

finance the government by buying its bonds are demanding that he reduce public sector debt that has



ballooned to levels last seen in the 1960s. In an effort to balance the competing demands, Burnham surprised pundits by naming former Defense Secretary John Healey as his Treasury chief. Healey, who served in the Treasury under former Prime Minister Gordon Brown, is seen as someone who will make sure the government lives up to its pledge to reduce Britain's debt pile. Then,

first thing Tuesday morning, Burnham made a down payment on his commitment to ease the pressure on cash-strapped consumers. The government announced it would scrap the tax on home electricity use for at least six months beginning in October, saving the average household 45 pounds (\$60) a year. Importantly, the government said the move could be paid for by canceling plans to introduce digital ID, in an effort to reassure investors that Burnham isn't about to go on an unfunded spending spree. Treasury chief has a big job ahead. Healey has a daunting task on his hands," said Victoria Scholar, the head of investment at interactive investor. "The government has ambitious plans to tackle cost-of-living pressures."

Terrorism trial set to open in stabbing of author Salman Rushdie

BUFFALO, N.Y.(Agency)

The man who was convicted of trying to kill Salman Rushdie is going on trial again, this time in a federal terrorism case that is probing deeper into what allegedly motivated the stabbing on a lecture stage in 2022. Opening statements are set for Wednesday in Hadi Matar's trial in the federal courthouse in Buffalo, New York. It's about 70 miles (113 km) from the arts and intellectual retreat where the renowned author and free-speech advocate was attacked as he was about to discuss writer safety.

The Booker Prize-winning Rushdie, now 79, is expected to be among the first witnesses, again describing the

stabbing that nearly killed him and left him blind in one eye. He has recounted the moment and his lengthy recovery in testimony at Matar's state-court attempted murder trial, in a memoir and in multiple interviews.

"The thing that happens when you get really a close-up look at death — that's as close as you can get without actually doing the dance of death and heading off to nowhere — it stays with you," he told The Associated Press in 2024. "There's a shadow." Matar, 28, already is serving a 25-year New York state prison sentence on a state-level attempted murder and assault conviction. That case focused mostly on the details of the knife attack itself; the federal one delves more into questions of motive.



Matar has pleaded not guilty to federal charges that include engaging in an act of transnational terrorism. If convicted, he faces a potential life sentence. Prosecutors have argued that he was acting out of loyalty to Iran's theocratic government and the Iran-backed Hezbollah militant group after the Islamic Republic's late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini called for Rushdie's

death because of his 1988 novel "The Satanic Verses." Matar's electronics included information on the fatwa, or Islamic religious ruling, that sought Rushdie's death, and Matar kept a journal and sticky notes logging his research on Rushdie and possible ways and places to kill him, prosecutors said in a 2025 court filing. In Matar's New Jersey bedroom, federal agents found photos of Khomeini and now-deceased successor Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the filing said. "When he attempted to carry out the fatwa, he believed he was doing so on behalf of" Hezbollah, which the US government designates as a terrorist organization, assistant US Attorneys Timothy Lynch and Charles Kruly wrote in the filing.