

Centre in mission mode to fast-track NEET-UG paper leak prosecutions

The Centre plans to invoke the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024 in four NEET-UG paper leak cases and seek dedicated fast-track courts for daily hearings. Two of the cases fall under the Bombay High Court's jurisdiction, according to government sources.

NEW DELHI. (Agency)

Following Prime Minister Narendra Modi's announcement on setting up fast-track courts for paper leak cases, the Centre has gone into mission mode to expedite prosecutions in the NEET-UG paper leak cases.

According to government sources, the accused in the NEET paper leak cases will now be prosecuted under the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024, which came into force on June 21, 2024. The Centre is preparing to request the concerned state governments and High Courts to establish special fast-track courts to hear these cases. The proposal is aimed at ensuring day-to-day hearings and the speedy disposal of cases.

WHAT IS THE NEW LAW?

The Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair

Means) Act, 2024 provides for stringent action against paper leaks, cheating and other malpractices in public examinations.

Since NEET is conducted by the NTA, cases

According to sources, four FIRs have so far been registered under the new law in connection with the NEET paper leak case.

To ensure their speedy trial, the Centre is planning to set up fast-track courts under the jurisdictions of the Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi and Madhya Pradesh High Courts. Of the four FIRs, two fall under the jurisdiction of the Bombay High Court, sources said.

Earlier in the day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said he had directed all concerned authorities and officials to take the necessary steps to curb paper leaks amid nationwide protests over the issue.

"Nothing is more important than the welfare and future of our youth! Those who try to harm the future of our youth will not be spared," PM Modi said in a post on X. "This continues our series of steps for safeguarding the interests of students," the PM added.



relating to paper leaks and other unfair means in the examination fall within the ambit of this law.

FAST-TRACK COURTS PROPOSED IN FOUR JURISDICTIONS

"Got The Date Wrong": Omar Abdullah Fact-Checks JP Nadda On J&K Paper Leak

BENGALURU. (Agency)

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday fact-checked Union Minister JP Nadda over the latter's paper leak comment in the Union Territory. Addressing a press conference on Wednesday night, Nadda hit back at Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi's charge that 150 paper leaks happened in the last 10 years but there was no conviction. Nadda listed a number of paper leak incidents that occurred under Congress governments and its allies.

One of the mentions was regarding Jammu and Kashmir. "If I talk about the paper leak in the Service Selection Board examination in Jammu and Kashmir... the government is of Congress and NC, National Conference," Nadda said at the press meet.

That drew a quick fact-check from the Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister. Omar Abdullah pointed out that while Nadda was right about the paper leak, he got the date and the government wrong. Correcting the Union Minister, Abdullah stated that the paper leak happened in 2022 when the Union Territory was under Central rule with the Lieutenant Governor in charge. "You are absolutely correct about the SSB paper leak in J&K @JPNadda ji but you have got the date wrong. It was 2022. The government wasn't of NC & Congress. It was a government headed by the Lt Governor," Abdullah posted on X, cheekily adding, "but thank you for reminding everyone of this failure".

Ramping up the attack, Omar Abdullah also attached the J&K High Court's observations on the case with his post.



Amit Shah says welfare, bright future of youth remain Modi govt's top priority and resolve

New Delhi. (Agency)

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday said the welfare and bright future of the country's youth remain the Modi government's top priority, asserting that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's decision to set up fast-track courts for paper leak cases reflects that commitment.

In a post on X, he said, "The welfare of the youth and their bright future is both the highest priority and the resolve of the Modi government." This important step by Prime Minister Narendra Modi against those who toy with the future of the youth due to paper leaks will prove to be a milestone.

Earlier in the day, the PM said the welfare of the country's youth is the top priority of his government and asserted that anyone trying to harm their future will not be spared. Modi's outreach to the youth came three days after thousands of students led by the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) took part in the 'Sansad Chalo' march against irregularities in the NEET exam and to demand the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan.

'Too little, too late': Congress says PM Modi's fast-track courts pitch cannot hide 12 years of paper leaks

New Delhi. (Agency)

The Congress on Thursday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi's announcement on setting up fast-track courts to punish those involved in paper leaks was "too little, too late and too deceptive", alleging that the government had covered up and enabled such incidents over the past 12 years. Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said the students demand genuine accountability for the Modi government's failure to prevent paper leaks, its unwillingness to acknowledge them when they happen, and its inability to investigate them with fairness.

"The demands are clear: 1. Sack Mantri Pradhan. 2. Apologise to the students. 3. Take action against those who assaulted them," Ramesh said on X.

"The Pradhan Mantri's announcement of fast-track courts to punish those involved in paper leaks is too little, too late, and too deceptive," he said. The PM must first grapple with the truth of how it has covered.

MAHANAGAR METRO EXCLUSIVE

Den of Extortion Across 99 Villages & a Monthly Black Market Worth Crores!

Massive Exposé on the Black Trade of 'Khaki' and 'Khadi' in Karjan!

MAHANAGAR METRO

Dabhoi / Karjan / Vadodara: Barely 2 kilometers from the local police station, illegal dens for country-made liquor, Indian-Made Foreign Liquor (IMFL), and Worli Matka gambling are operating rampant without fear. Under the regime of jailed-and-turned administrator Hanubha and LCB ASI Bhupat Rabari, the Home Minister's claims of "Zero Tolerance" are being blown to shreds.

You may have heard numerous stories of how prohibition in Gandhi's Gujarat exists only on paper, but the open auction of law and order in the Karjan taluka of Vadodara district is enough to embarrass the entire Home Ministry and police department. Blended with power-drunk political figures (Khadi) and extortion-blind police personnel (Khaki), Karjan has been turned into a rotting hub of crime.

Village-by-Village Breakdown: Facts & Locations Exposed

The detailed revelation of where, under whose protection, and under which political masters this illicit trade runs:

Karmadi Village (Just 2 km from Police Station): Right under the nose of Karjan Police Station, smoke continuously billows from country liquor stills day and night. Police vehicles pass by sounding their sirens, but lack the courage to touch these distilleries. Kurali Village (Navi Nagari): Near the water tank, an individual named Nagin openly runs a Worli Matka gambling racket, robbing local youth of their hard-earned money.

Sapa Village: Near the new settlement, a second gambling den is operated fearlessly by the same individual, Nagin.

Ranapur and Chimki Villages: Explosive allegations suggest that Ranapur



village Sarpanch Parth Shah—backed by his post in the BJP Yuva Morcha—is bringing in and distributing massive consignments of foreign liquor in Chimki village.

Kandari Village: Near the tower, an individual named Pradeep Vasava is fearlessly selling English liquor.

Bariyavas: Habitual bootlegger Paresh Kantilal runs an open trade in foreign liquor.

Re-entry of Suspended Administrator: "The Cop is the Bootlegger!"

The most shameful aspect of this entire racket is the role played by alleged administrators hiding behind the Khaki uniform:

1. High-Handedness of Suspended Hanubha Kamadiya: Formerly jailed and suspended in connection with serious foreign liquor cases, Hanubha Kamadiya was redeployed at Karjan Police Station at the behest of an influential local politician. Shocking leaks reveal that instead of seizing English liquor confiscated across Karjan Sub-Jail or the taluka, Hanubha sells it right back to bootleggers to



generate millions in black money.

2. Dominance of LCB ASI Bhupat Rabari: Serving in the Dabhoi beat, ASI Bhupat Rabari reportedly manages operations for the entire district's LCB (Local Crime Branch). Talks within Vadodara police circles suggest his clout rivals or even exceeds that of the District Superintendent of Police (SP).

3. Black Extortion Engine Across 99 Villages: Calculating a conservative monthly bribe of ₹1 to ₹1.5 lakh per village across Karjan's 99 villages, crores of rupees in black money are collected monthly and routed to senior officers. Additionally, expensive bottles of foreign liquor are delivered to influential politicians as gifts. Open Defiance of the Home Minister's 'Zero Tolerance' Claims The State Home Minister frequently delivers speeches promising "Zero Tolerance" against illegal liquor and crime. However, the ground reality in Karjan indicates that corrupt police personnel and politically connected figures are trampling directly on those



orders. The youth are being ruined by alcohol and gambling while authorities profit.

5 Lethal Questions by 'Mahanagar Metro' — Answer If You Dare:

1. Under whose political instructions was an employee previously jailed in a liquor case re-stationed directly in Karjan?

2. Why are liquor stills operating just 2 km from the police station invisible to the District SP or LCB PI? Is the extortion cut reaching them?

3. When will a criminal case be registered against Hanubha Kamadiya for selling confiscated liquor back to bootleggers, and when will he be sent back to jail?

4. Is it true that Dabhoi beat ASI Bhupat Rabari effectively runs the entire district LCB?

5. If families are destroyed or a severe crime like murder occurs due to Karjan's liquor-gambling network, who will take responsibility? The SP, the LCB PI, or the local MLA?

Public Anger and Warning: When protectors turn into predators and the police act as bootleggers, who can citizens turn to for justice? A volcano of anger is brewing among local residents. Mahanagar Metro warns that unless immediate raids are conducted and strict action is taken against these corrupt extortionists and bootleggers, the enraged public of Karjan will take to the streets to break this syndicate.

News box

Cyber cons pose as Maharashtra cops, cheat elderly woman of Rs 18.5L

Noida.(Agency)

An 83-year-old woman was allegedly placed under “digital arrest” and cheated of Rs 18.5 lakh by cyber fraudsters posing as Maharashtra Police officers, who told her that her bank account had been used for money laundering and criminal activities. The victim, a retired doctor, remained on call with the callers for five days, who threatened her with arrest unless she cooperated with the “investigation”. According to her complaint, she received a call from an unknown number on July 13. The caller said that a bank account, opened using her Aadhaar details, was being used for criminal activities. He then connected the victim to another person, who posed as a Maharashtra Police officer. Scared by the threats, she shared details of her bank accounts, fixed deposits, post office savings and other investments. On July 14, she transferred Rs 10.5 lakh to a bank account. Three days later, she transferred Rs 8 lakh to another account. When the scamsters stopped calling her, she realised that she had been cheated and approached the cyber police. A case was registered with the cyber crime police station. Police urged people to remain vigilant against scams, stressing that no law enforcement agency conducts investigation or demands money over phone or a video call.

Four of interstate gang arrested for hacking ATMs

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

Four members of an interstate cyber fraud gang were arrested on Wednesday for allegedly hacking ATMs and cash deposit machines using app-controlled smart plugs to steal money. Ahsan, 27, Siraj, 34, and Rahish, 22 — all residents of Nuh in Haryana — and Aarif, 26, a resident of Mathura in Uttar Pradesh, live in Sahibabad’s Shaheed Nagar area. The accused would preinstall smart plugs in the power supply of the machines and control them through the Smart Life app, police said, adding the accused have been involved in “similar crimes in other states, including Haryana and Maharashtra”. “The accused confessed that when a customer deposited or withdrew cash, they would hack the machine and disrupt its functioning, trapping the cash. After the customer left, they would open the machine with the help of a screwdriver and a tool made from a bicycle’s iron spoke and take the cash out,” DCP Surendra Nath Tiwari said. The DCP said the accused carried out most robberies before the ATMs opened or on holidays. While Ahsan and Siraj hacked the machines, Aarif and Rahish kept watch. On Tuesday, Canara Bank’s Rajendra Nagar branch manager Chhavi Airan lodged a complaint with police alleging unknown people tampered with the bank’s cash deposit machine between June 27 and June 29. “The CCTV footage showed suspicious activity around the ATM premises between about 3 a.m. and 9.25 a.m. Upon physical verification of the ATM and cash reconciliation, a cash shortage of Rs 8,37,100 was found,” Airan said. Following the complaint, a case was registered at Sahibabad police station. ers and distributors operating in Delhi-NCR.

10-year-old found alone in Gurgaon reunited with family within hours

Gurgaon.(Agency)

A 10-year-old boy who was found wandering alone near a CNG pump on Dwarka Road was safely reunited with his family after the Missing Person Cell (West) of Gurgaon Police traced his parents through sustained inquiries. Police said the child, identified as Sameer, was found in an abandoned condition near the CNG pump under the jurisdiction of Sector 9 police station on July 21. After receiving information, a police team reached the spot, took the boy into safe custody and began efforts to locate his family. The Missing Person Cell (West) carried out inquiries in the surrounding areas and continued the search until officers established contact with the child’s father, Sulendra Sahni, a native of Begusarai district in Bihar who is currently living in Dayanand Colony in Gurgaon. After completing the required legal formalities and verification, police handed the child over safely to his parents. “The family thanked the police team for reuniting them with their son”, Sandeep Turan, police spokesman said. Police appealed to parents and guardians to keep young children under constant supervision and advised that any child found wandering or reported missing should be brought to the attention of the nearest police station or by calling the emergency helpline 112 immediately.

Gujarat Government Assigns IAS Officers to Surat, Navsari and Valsad Amid Heavy Rainfall

(Vandna Nilkanth Vasukiya)

Viramgam : In view of the extremely heavy rainfall and flood-like situation in the South Gujarat districts of Surat, Navsari, and Valsad, the General Administration Department (GAD) of the Government of Gujarat has assigned two senior IAS officers to oversee and coordinate relief operations with immediate effect. According to the government order, Ramya Mohan, IAS — Commissioner of Municipalities Administration, Managing Director of the Gujarat Urban Development Company Limited (GUDC), and Additional Chief Executive Officer of the Gujarat



Urban Development Mission (GUDM), Gandhinagar — has been assigned responsibility for Navsari and Surat districts.

Meanwhile, Alok Kumar Pandey, IAS, Secretary, Tribal Development Department, Government of Gujarat, has been assigned re-

sponsibility for Valsad district.

The officers have been directed to immediately proceed to their respective districts and work in close coordination with district-level officials and other government agencies/departments to monitor and manage the situation.

Notably, they have also been instructed to coordinate with the respective District Collectors and other government departments to supervise relief and rescue operations. The officers will remain stationed in their assigned districts and continue monitoring the situation until further orders from the state government.

DMRC erects 58-metre steel span across DME & NH-9 near Electronic City station

Noida.(Agency)

Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) has erected a 58-metre steel span across NH-9 and the Delhi-Meerut Expressway near Noida Electronic City station on the Blue Line. The span is part of a reversal facility being built to allow trains to turn around after completing trips. The project involves the installation of two steel spans — 58 metres and 73 metres — both crossing NH-9 and the expressway. The 58-metre span has now been installed between piers 384 and 385, while the 73-metre span is expected to be erected later this year. DMRC said tracks will be laid, electrified and other system works will be taken up after the civil work is completed. Principal executive

director of DMRC Anuj Dayal said the span was erected without disrupting traffic. “The operation was particularly



challenging as the span also had to pass beneath an energised high-tension overhead power line near pier 384. For the installation, steel trestles were erected at designated locations on the highway and expressway, on which support beams were placed,” he said. The prefabricated steel span was then

launched from the Indrapuram side and slowly pulled into position using specialised machinery until it was placed between the piers. The span has been installed about 14 metres above the highway and expressway. DMRC has previously executed such construction works over busy road intersections, including the Moolchand intersection and the Airport Line and Pink Line viaducts at Dhaura Kuan. However, officials said this is the first instance of a Delhi Metro viaduct being constructed over an operational expressway without interrupting traffic.

In May, the construction of a metro pillar by DMRC on the Indrapuram side of NH-9/DME led to the closure of the slip road connecting NH-9 to CISF Road.

Newborn spotted in Ghaziabad park after dogs barked finds home

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

Over the past four years, 40 children, several of them infants abandoned right after their birth, were rescued from parks, roadsides and hospitals across the city. Twenty-eight of them — 22 girls and 18 boys — were adopted, said Child Welfare Committee (CWC). Officials said Ghaziabad has seen several cases of newborns being abandoned in public places. One such case involved a baby girl found in a park in Madhuban Bapudham with her umbilical cord still attached. “Her tiny body, smeared with blood, had been discarded in the park moments after birth,” a child protection official said. The infant was discovered nearly a month ago after a local resident, out on his morning walk, heard stray dogs

barking and went close to take a look. “He found the girl, barely alive, lying on the ground and immediately called the emergency helpline,” the official said. “When our team reached the spot, we found the child lying in blood. She appeared to have been abandoned immediately after birth. Had the caller not alerted us in time, the stray dogs could have attacked her.” The infant was shifted to the adoption centre and is expected to be declared legally free for adoption next month, the official added. The Madhuban Bapudham case is not an isolated one. About six months ago, another baby girl had been left behind at a hospital in Nandgram. She had disability and was abandoned before she could even feel the warmth of a mother’s embrace. Hospital staff who found her believed

that her disability may have been the reason her parents never returned to take her home. They called up CWC, and it took the infant into its custody. A year earlier, another child met a similar fate. A baby boy, born with severely impaired hands, was found abandoned near Dasna in Ghaziabad, left to the mercy of strangers with little clue to his identity or future. For these three infants, life began with rejection instead of celebration. After months, they found new families. Over the past four years, the Ghaziabad CWC has declared 40 children ‘legally free for adoption,’ CWC chairperson J B Bhadradas said. “Twelve children — five boys and seven girls — are still waiting to find their homes, but we hope that they will find a home soon,” he said.

Three children’s home inmates slip out of Noida school, rescued from Aligarh

Noida.(Agency)

Three minor inmates of a govt children’s home slipped out of their school during lunch break on Monday, took an autorickshaw to Pari Chowk and boarded a bus to Aligarh before being spotted hours later, still in their school uniforms, wandering on a road in Khair. They were brought back and counselled before being shifted to a one-stop centre. The girls — aged 10, 12 and 13 — were brought to the children’s home in Sector 62 from child care institutions in Aligarh, Ghaziabad and Amroha. On Monday, they arrived at a Sector 51 school by bus, accompanied by a woman helper. During the lunch break, they told the helper they were going to the washroom and slipped out unnoticed. When the helper could not locate them after an initial search, she alerted the school principal and police were called in. A case was registered under BNS Section 137(2) at Sector 49 police station. Multiple teams were deployed to scan CCTV footage from the school, nearby roads and bus stands. By late evening, Khair police station in Aligarh reported that three girls matching the description were found. A local resident spotted them wandering on a road and dialled 112. Police took them into custody and informed their Noida counterpart. During questioning, the girls said they did not want to remain at the children’s home and had planned to make their way to distant relatives. Police said all three were rescued earlier from difficult family situations involving violence. The escape plan, officers said, was devised by the youngest of the three.

UP approves cricket stadium, Tulsi Niketan revamp under Centre’s scheme

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

UP govt gave in-principle approval to four projects that are to be developed under the Urban Challenge Fund, a market-linked central govt scheme for developing urban infrastructure, by Ghaziabad Development Authority (GDA). The projects that will be executed under the corpus include redevelopment of Tulsi Niketan (Rs 600 crore), a two-kilometre flyover from Choudhary Mod (Rs 200 crore), an international cricket stadium (Rs 680 crore) and multi-level parking in Raj Nagar District Centre (Rs 100 crore). On Monday, GDA vice-chairperson Nand Kishore Kalal gave a presentation of how the civic body aims to redevelop the four projects to a committee headed by UP chief secretary SP Goyal. His approval greenlit the disbursement of the funds from the state and central govts. “We are hoping to get the money within four months and work will begin soon after that,” said Kalal. Under the scheme, central assistance



will cover 25% of costs, while the rest will be raised through municipal bonds, bank loans and PPP.

The revamp of Tulsi Niketan was also approved under UP Urban Redevelopment Policy 2026, which aims to renovate buildings that are more than 25 years old.

Tulsi Niketan, which was built in the 1990s, has 220 LIG flats, 2,004 EWS

flats and 60 shops. Lack of maintenance over the years has led to the gradual deterioration of the structure, and it is now one of the most unsafe buildings in the city.

Choudhary Mod intersection, located in the market area between GT Road and Ambedkar Road, sees heavy traffic every day. Chaudhary Cinema and a temple — two popular

destinations at the intersection — have only compounded the issue.

“In the past, various plans were discussed to decongest the stretch but to no avail. Either due to lack of funds or logistics issues, they never got off. The proposed 2-km flyover should provide some relief,” said a GDA official. Raj Nagar District Centre, a commercial hub that attracts 15,000 visitors on weekends, has long witnessed unruly parking around it because the parking areas cannot accommodate that many cars. “Multiple multi-level parkings are required for the smooth running of RDC. One such parking will be built by funds from UCF,” the official said.

The cricket stadium, being jointly developed by Uttar Pradesh Cricket Association and GDA in Morti, is likely to seat 55,000 spectators. The stadium will be integrated with upcoming Harnandipuram and Aero City townships. Now, GDA has proposed a Rs 185 crore embankment to secure the site from the Hindon river when the water level increases and a 7-km road project to improve connectivity.

Odisha: Five killed, two critical as SUV plunges into pond

Bhubaneswar. (Agency)

At least five persons were killed and two others sustained critical injuries after the SUV they were travelling in skidded off the road and plunged into a roadside pond in Odisha's Dhenkanal district late on Wednesday night.

The victims were returning home after attending a marriage function when the accident occurred near Chhatia village under Dhenkanal Sadar police limits.

Hearing cries for help, local residents rushed to the spot and launched a rescue operation. They managed to pull out two survivors from the submerged vehicle, while the bodies of five occupants were later recovered.

The injured were admitted to the Dhenkanal District Headquarters Hospital, where their condition remains critical.

Police have registered a case of unnatural death and launched an investigation into the incident. Preliminary findings suggest that the driver may have either been speeding or fallen asleep at the wheel, causing the SUV to veer off the road and plunge into the pond.

The exact cause of the accident will be ascertained after a detailed investigation, police said.

After policeman killing, 2 homes of blown up overnight in Anantnag

Srinagar. (Agency)

Intensifying the crackdown following the killing of a policeman, security forces allegedly blew up two houses belonging to the families of militants in south Kashmir.

The demolitions began on Wednesday night with the house of Lashkar-e-Taiba member Adil Ahmad Thoker's family in Bijbehara, Anantnag. Another house demolished was that of Haroon Ganai's family. The locals said the houses were "demolished using explosives".

Police are yet to comment on the development. The action came a day after the Jammu and Kashmir Police head constable was shot dead in south Kashmir's Anantnag district, prompting a massive security operation and a Valley-wide crackdown on suspected terror networks. Nearly 2,000 suspected Over Ground Workers (OGWs) have been detained in several districts for questioning in the major crackdown.

After the Pahalgam terror attack in April last year, at least nine houses belonging to the terrorists were demolished.

Sikkim tunnel tragedy: Death toll rises to 22 as night-long rescue continues

Siliguri. (Agency)

The death toll in the NHPC Teesta Stage VI Hydropower Project tunnel disaster in Sikkim has risen to 22, as rescue operations continued through the night with specialised teams battling extremely challenging conditions inside the collapsed tunnel.

A second rescue team from Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL), Asansol, reached the site at around 10 p.m. on Wednesday and immediately joined the operation. 'Rescue personnel worked relentlessly until midnight in a coordinated effort to locate and recover the remaining trapped workers, District Information Officer, Namchi, said.

According to the latest official update, the bodies of 22 victims have so far been recovered from the tunnel. Search and rescue operations are still underway, with specialised agencies continuing efforts to locate the remaining victims.

The Sikkim government, district administration and all concerned agencies are closely monitoring the situation while extending all possible support to the rescue teams and the bereaved families. The tragedy unfolded on Monday afternoon after a blast, possibly caused by a methane gas leak inside the under-construction tunnel in Sikkim's Namchi district. Rescue teams recovered the first seven bodies during the early hours of Tuesday.

Rs 1,214-cr Sector 62 site back on the block: GMADA opens e-auction for 36 commercial properties

Focus on Aerocity, IT City and Sector 62; 14 SCOs and one booth also up for bidding; e-auction to continue till August 19.

Mohali. (Agency)

The Greater Mohali Area Development Authority (GMADA) on Wednesday launched e-auction for 36 commercial and mixed land use (MLU) properties, with the spotlight once again on Aerocity, IT City and Sector 62.

GMADA Additional Chief Administrator (ACA) Amrinder Singh Malhi said, "The authority generated Rs3,136 crore in revenue during the previous e-auction. Encouraged by that response, GMADA has launched another round of e-auctions and is optimistic of securing strong investor participation and substantial revenue in the current bidding process."

Among marquee offerings is the 27.78-acre MLU site at Sector 62. Notably, GMADA had earlier put the Sector 62 MLU

site up for e-auction in March 2026 with a reserve price of Rs1,213.72 crore, but it failed to attract any bidders. The authority

has now re-listed the property with a marginally revised reserve price of Rs1,214.16 crore, hoping to generate a better market response.

The e-auction will continue till August 19.

GMADA has put 11 large MLU sites under the hammer. These include an 18.19-acre site in Sector 83 Alpha with a reserve price of Rs 744.82 crore, a 14.10-acre site in Aerocity Block H priced at Rs 523.82 crore, and a 9.01-acre site in Sector 66 Beta with a reserve price

of Rs 413.56 crore. Several other MLU sites in Aerocity Blocks I, E, G and J are also part of the auction.



Apart from MLU properties, GMADA has listed three hotel sites in Sector 66 Beta. A

five-acre hotel site carries a reserve price of Rs 139.59 crore, while two 4.02-acre hotel sites have been priced at Rs 112.23 crore each.

The authority has also offered three composite commercial sites in Sector 67, with a combined reserve price of Rs 128.29 crore, and a commercial site in Sector 79, with a reserve price of Rs 114.48 crore.

In addition, sites earmarked for hospitals in Aerocity Block A, Sector 83 Alpha and Sector 79 have been included in the auction. A petrol pump site at Medicity, New Chandigarh, is also available for bidding.

AAP sarpanch killed after being run over by car twice in Punjab's Hoshiarpur

Jalandhar. (Agency)

An AAP sarpanch was allegedly run over by a car and then attacked with sharp-edged weapons in a parking brawl outside his house in Anandgarh village of Hoshiarpur late Tuesday.

The deceased has been identified as Satpal Singh, 55. A case has been registered, and several suspects detained. His family members and eyewitnesses said that the incident took place when around 15-20 men allegedly parked two cars and several motorcycles outside Satpal's house. An argument broke out and the situation soon escalated when the men allegedly

attacked the sarpanch with sharp-edged weapons when he came outside to intervene. Satpal's son Rahul said that



when his father was attacked with swords. "When my father caught hold of a weapon to defend himself, the accused drove him. They reversed the vehicles and ran him

over again. When they saw that my father was still breathing, they got out of the cars and attacked him again with khandas (sharp-edged weapons)," he said, adding that the accused fled once other family members came out of the house.

Rahul said, "When we were taking my father to the hospital, they intercepted the way and blocked the road with a Bolero vehicle. To save our lives, I reversed the vehicle and hit the Bolero and drove straight to the police station. Satpal was then taken to hospital but he had succumbed to his injuries.

The family members said that around 20 people were involved in the attack. DSP City Kulbhushan Sharma said that several suspects have been detained.

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The tragedy unfolded on Monday afternoon after a blast, possibly caused by a methane gas leak inside the under-construction tunnel in Sikkim's Namchi district. Rescue teams recovered the first seven bodies during the early hours of Tuesday. By the end of the day, the death toll had risen to 12. However, persistent

heavy rainfall and severe waterlogging inside the tunnel forced authorities to suspend rescue operations temporarily as conditions became too hazardous.

Officials said the exact cause of the incident is yet to be established. However, workers reportedly heard a loud explosion-like sound before the tunnel was inundated with toxic gases, suspected to include methane.

According to NHPC officials, 25 workers, including engineers, were trapped inside the tunnel when the collapse occurred.

A medical officer in Sikkim said post-mortem examinations of the first four bodies recovered from the collapsed tunnel in Namchi district confirmed that the victims died of asphyxia and burn injuries.

IMD sounds red alert for Gujarat's central, north districts amid heavy rain

Heavy rain is expected in Ahmedabad, Anand, Amreli, Bhavnagar, Gir Somnath, and Botad till July 26, while the rest of the state is expected to receive light to moderate rainfall.

Ahmedabad. (Agency)

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) Thursday issued a red alert for extremely heavy rain in the central and northern parts of Gujarat, following similar alerts for Valsad and Navsari in the south over the last two days.

The Panchmahal, Dahod, and Mahisagar districts are under red alert until Friday, according to IMD. "Heavy to very heavy rains at isolated places with isolated extremely heavy falls in the districts of North Gujarat region, namely Panchmahal, Dahod and Mahisagar," the weather department said.

On Thursday morning, Umbergaon in Valsad recorded 7.2 inches of rainfall within two hours till 8 am. Other talukas of

Valsad, including Pardi (3.7 inch), Kaprada (3.3 inch), Nanapondha (3.27 inch), and Dharampur (2.99 inch) received heavy rainfall, according to the State Emergency Operation Centre (SEOC) in Gandhinagar.

Umrapada in Surat district also recorded 5.12 inches of rainfall till 8 am Thursday.

IMD forecasts for other parts

Heavy rain is expected in the districts of Ahmedabad, Anand, Amreli, Bhavnagar, Gir Somnath, and Botad until July 26, while the rest of the state is expected to receive light to moderate rainfall. IMD's red alert is in place for Panchmahal, Dahod and Mahisagar for Thursday, and Dahod and Mahisagar for Friday. Meanwhile, Sabarkantha

Gandhinagar, Aravalli, Kheda, Vadodara, Chhota Udepur, Narmada, Dang, Navsari, Valsad, and Tapi are on an orange alert



Thursday. A similar alert has also been issued for Friday for Gandhinagar, Mehsana, Sabarkantha, Aravalli, Kheda, Panchmahal, and Chhota Udepur.

The weather bureau has also issued an orange alert for Sabarkantha and Aravalli on Saturday, and for Banaskantha and Sabarkantha on Sunday.

Trains, roads affected
Several north-bound trains passing through Gujarat were delayed after the railway tracks were flooded amid heavy rain. The state government announced the closure of 47 panchayat roads to vehicular traffic in Dang district, which borders Maharashtra. Motorists have been asked to be careful and follow the necessary instructions. The district administration is taking steps for citizen safety, and work is underway to reopen the roads at the earliest, a government statement said.

Shifting shape when economy goes K-shaped

The Indian economy is sending out two very different signals. One comes from the launchpad and the international Olympiads. Skyroot Aerospace has successfully completed India's first private-sector orbital launch. And Indian students have performed spectacularly at the international Olympiads in mathematics, physics, chemistry and biology, with every participant returning with a medal. These are not merely feel-good stories. They reveal a deep reservoir of scientific talent, entrepreneurial ambition and institutional capability. The other signal comes from the household budget. Prices are rising again, consumer confidence is weakening and many families are borrowing simply to maintain ordinary consumption. The economy is certainly not in crisis. But neither is it gliding effortlessly towards another year of exceptionally high growth.

The global backdrop has become less friendly. The IMF expects the world economy to grow by around 3 percent, while the World Bank and Moody's Analytics put it closer to 2.5 percent. These numbers imply that global growth is slow, fragile and highly uneven. The surge in artificial intelligence has lifted demand for semiconductors, data centres, advanced electronics and specialised machinery. Technology-heavy Asian economies plugged into these supply chains are benefiting. But many other countries and industries are falling behind. The phrase 'K-shaped economy' is now applicable to the world itself and the divergence is widening. India will still grow much faster than the world. But it will not repeat last year's 7.7 percent. Services, construction and some manufacturing sectors will provide important cushions. Early corporate results show healthy growth in profits. The banking sector is in excellent health. Bad loans are at historic lows, capital buffers are comfortable and corporate balance sheets are far healthier than a decade ago. Yet, this coexists with financially fragile borrowers. Household debt has climbed to 48 percent of GDP. A growing share of loans is for consumption, rather than for housing, running a business or financing education. Lower-income households account for a disproportionate share of fresh retail defaults. Gold loans have expanded rapidly, sometimes because families are using higher gold prices to borrow more and roll over earlier debt. Financial stress is shifting to the household balance sheet.

This helps explain the RBI's recent consumer confidence surveys. Urban confidence declined for the third successive round. Consumers remained pessimistic about the present, and even expectations for the year ahead weakened. This is reflecting anxiety about jobs, incomes, debt and the cost of living. Retail inflation is inching closer to 5 percent. Wholesale inflation was ominously close to 10 percent, while fuel and power inflation component was above 27 percent. Fuel and power costs are inflation waiting in the pipeline. Costlier energy affects fertilisers, chemicals, plastics, packaging, refrigeration and animal feed. The effects eventually travel from the factory gate and the farm to the neighbourhood shop.

The pass-through is neither immediate nor complete. Companies may initially absorb higher costs through lower profit margins. The government may cut taxes or use subsidies. Weak demand may prevent firms from raising prices. Oil prices may fall before the entire shock is transmitted. Food inflation is manifest in higher prices of maize, soybean meal and other feed ingredients that affect poultry and livestock. This pushes up the cost of eggs, chicken and eventually milk. Shortages of fodder and water can further hurt dairy and animal husbandry, which are important sources of rural income. El Niño may not be as devastating as it once was. Irrigation coverage has improved, reservoirs provide some protection, and better seeds and crop diversification have reduced agriculture's dependence on rainfall. But the timing, geographical distribution and intensity of rain remain crucial. A normal national average can conceal severe deficiencies in particular districts. Pulses, oilseeds, coarse cereals, fodder and horticulture remain vulnerable.

Why this student movement will endure

Physical sites can be regulated or barricaded; democratic aspirations cannot

The images from this Monday afternoon, as Cockroach Janta Party protesters marched to Parliament — images of police lathicharge, blood, and tear gas — will be difficult to wipe away. Today was the culmination of a sequence that had begun on July 18, when Sonam Wangchuk, one of the most prominent faces associated with this movement, was picked up by the police on what appeared to be flimsy and unconvincing grounds. Through Saturday and Sunday, the protest at Jantar Mantar carried on, undeterred in his absence. But if the intention behind this violence was to break the movement, these past days have proved just the opposite. It doesn't matter who started the movement, who leads it now or whether everyone standing there agrees on every issue. What matters is that young people, by turning out in huge numbers, have staked their claim to it collectively. This is bigger than any one face, name or party. It's a groundswell of democracy itself.

I went to Jantar Mantar on July 18 to stand in solidarity with the fasting students. I could not be there earlier because I was in my home state, attending to urgent commitments. When news of that morning's detention broke, I wondered whether it was appropriate to visit the protest site at such a time. The atmosphere, I imagined, would be sombre and dispirited. But I reminded myself that solidarity has meaning precisely when movements are confronted with attempts to intimidate or demoralise them. What I encountered at Jantar Mantar was different from what I had imagined. Instead of despondency and exhaustion, I found determination and resilience. The mood was animated by hope, moral conviction and an extraordinary sense of collective purpose. These young people had gathered under the banner of the Cockroach Janta Party, a name that is itself an act of defiance. When a slur from one of the highest seats of authority likened the country's restless and unemployed youth to cockroaches, they wore it as a badge of belonging. Having spent decades teaching and engaging with the sociology of social movements, I could not help reading the protest through both scholarly and political lenses. It bore many features that theorists of New Social Movements identify in contemporary democratic

struggles. Unlike the classical mobilisations organised around material redistribution or class interest alone, this was also equally concerned with reclaiming democratic space, constitutional morality, and the dignity of citizenship. Politics

What stayed with me had less to do with any framework and more with what this first large mobilisation had already proved about itself. Here, the repression of these past days becomes, unwittingly, the movement's strongest testimonial.



That so many should gather, and gather with such coherence of purpose, was proof that the movement is no inorganic contrivance, worked up for effect.

It carries the unmistakable texture of something grown from real grievance and conviction. Nor, as states so often hope, does it appear to be ephemeral, a momentary flare soon spent. Most telling of all, on the very morning that its most recognisable face was picked up and carried away, the gathering neither faltered nor dispersed but held its ground with a composure that spoke of a maturity and a resolve one does not always associate with the young, demonstrating that it can sustain itself without any single commanding leader at its head.

A movement that can lose its most visible figure on Saturday morning, hold its ground through the weekend, and still march to Parliament on Monday, as it had resolved to do, shows that it does not depend upon any one person to endure. What has given the

mobilisation this reach is that it has struck an emotive register shared by a wide range of citizens, each arriving with anxieties of its own and yet finding here a common language. There is a recognition that systems of every kind are being hollowed out and that education has become the starkest exemplar of that decay. And presiding over it all is the same government whose response to fasting students, as this afternoon made brutally plain, is the lathi and the tear gas shell. Part of what gives this gathering its breadth is that grievances usually kept separate are finding a common chord within it. The democratic concerns are the most immediate. A crisis of citizenship is being felt in more ways than one: from uncertainty over who is entitled to belong, to the shrinking room for dissent, to the sense that the ordinary citizen's voice now counts for less. Alongside these are the social ones. Who has not felt the relentless strain on the fabric that holds a plural society together, a polarisation that is actively encouraged and the erosion of everyday civility.

Underlying both are the economic pressures that fall hardest on the young. They are contending with unemployment, inequality and increasing cost of living. That grievances so different in origin should recognise one another here is a sign that this is a wider democratic concern. This is precisely why I believe this movement will not disappear anytime soon. States often assume that protests are temporary eruptions that can be managed through arrests, attrition by fatigue or administrative restrictions.

Once a movement succeeds in producing a shared democratic identity, it acquires the capacity to reproduce itself across spaces and generations. It no longer depends upon a single venue or a handful of leaders because it begins to live in conversations, relationships and collective memory.

Physical sites can be regulated or barricaded, democratic aspirations cannot. Every act of repression carries within it the possibility of enlarging the circle of citizens who ask difficult questions about power, justice and constitutional citizenship. We are seeing similar protests taking place across the country.

Build on business trust with timely execution

The advantages Odisha enjoys over several other states—abundant mineral resources, fiscally-resilient government finances and political stability—can surely help it expand the industrial base. But its biggest challenge lies in execution

The first Investment Friendliness Index released by Niti Aayog has come bearing good news for Odisha. Its national ranking of fourth among the large states is an endorsement of its credibility and the Mohan Majhi government's endeavours to market the state aggressively before domestic and global investors. Over the past two years, the state government put together an investment pipeline of over The Niti Aayog report also serves as a timely reminder that investment intents and MoUs are only the beginning, pointing at institutional ambience and regulatory ease as areas that need improvement. Delay in environmental clearances and limitations of the single-window system, inadequate logistics infrastructure and weak contract enforcement continue to weigh on investors' minds. Land acquisition for big projects is another weak area that the government needs to pay adequate attention to improve. In aviation, though the state has rapidly grown its infrastructure, restricted connectivity is keeping the sector from taking off.

The advantages Odisha enjoys over several other states—abundant mineral resources, fiscally-resilient government finances and political stability—can surely help it expand the industrial base. But its biggest challenge lies in execution. The Majhi government has succeeded in attracting investors. Its next—and more important—task is to ensure that the projects hit the ground without delay, and generate the employment and economic transformation they promise. Good ranking builds confidence, but timely execution builds a reputation to last ?20 lakh crore. Recent proposals include a ?1.10-lakh-crore IHC-Adani joint venture in aluminium billed as the state's largest foreign direct investment. The expansion plans of Vedanta and the Aditya Birla Group also highlight India Inc's confidence in the state's industrial ecosystem. Niti Aayog notes the advantages of Odisha's resource availability as well as its fiscal health. The state tops in the production of metallic minerals and coal, while its low borrowings and other liabilities have

put it in a better economic shape than most others. Of greater significance is the changing composition of the investment pie. While mining and metals continue to dominate, sectors such as green technology, semiconductor materials, aerospace, defence and precision manufacturing are beginning to occupy more space. Earlier this month, the government signed a memorandum with Haryana-based Acme and Japan's IHI for multiple clean energy projects. That's precisely the direction Odisha must pursue. The Niti Aayog report also serves as a timely reminder that investment intents and MoUs are only the beginning, pointing at institutional ambience and regulatory ease as areas that need improvement. Delay in environmental clearances and limitations of the single-window system, inadequate logistics infrastructure and weak contract enforcement continue to weigh on investors' minds. Land acquisition for big projects is another weak area that the government needs to pay adequate attention to improve.

No country for adolescents

Recent violence at a juvenile home in Chhattisgarh and escape from one in Tamil Nadu are emblematic of a spurt in crimes committed by children. Those put up in such homes often carry physical and mental scars that strip them of usual inhibitions. Reforms are urgently needed

On July 14, four inmates of a juvenile home in Chhattisgarh's Sarkanda killed a security guard and fled. Just two days earlier, 12 inmates escaped from a government-run place of safety near Chengalpattu in Tamil Nadu after assaulting the warden, breaking the main gate, stealing motorcycles and robbing passers-by. These incidents are not isolated; they reveal the fragile state of India's juvenile justice system, where institutions meant to rehabilitate children in conflict with the law often becoming sites of desperation, violence and escape. Juvenile homicide rarely stems from a single cause. It arises from a convergence of neuro-biological vulnerabilities and severe biopsychosocial stressors. My field visits and research shows that many such children carry neurological impairments, histories of abuse and psychological disturbances that strip away ordinary inhibitions. Growing up in violent or dysfunctional homes teaches them that aggression is a primary tool for survival and control. Cultural influences deepen this fracture. Indian cinema often glorifies violence, portraying villain heroism. These narratives, rooted in a toxic masculine culture, celebrate aggression and revenge as virtues. For impressionable youth—especially those scarred by trauma—such portrayals blur moral boundaries and desensitise them to violence. The protagonist who resorts to lethal force becomes a distorted role model, reinforcing the belief that extreme aggression is an acceptable response to injustice.

Psychoanalytic perspectives shed further light. Severe early trauma can leave children trapped in archetypal prisons: an overactive Id, a weakened Ego, and a defective Superego. Carl Jung's frameworks of the

'death mother' complex, where neglect and despair breed destructive survival instincts, and the puer aeternus archetype in which the 'eternal boy' unable to individuate illustrate how stunted psychological growth leaves youth vulnerable to raw paradigmatic forces like the 'warrior' or 'destroyer'. Violence becomes an eruption of unresolved inner chaos. Modern influences add another layer. Social media platforms have become accelerators of crime. Juveniles flaunt expensive bikes, daring stunts and lavish lifestyles, fuelling a culture of narcissism and status-seeking. For children from dysfunctional backgrounds, this digital theatre of bravado often escalates into theft, assault and more serious offences.

The National Crime Records Bureau confirms the gravity of the crisis. In 2024, India recorded 34,878 juvenile crimes, an 11 percent rise from the previous year. The states of Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar together accounted for almost half of all cases across the nation, with offences ranging from petty theft to murder and sexual assault. These figures underscore that juvenile crime is not confined to minor mischief but extends to grave acts, reflecting systemic neglect, poverty and unequal access to justice.

Socioeconomic disparity compounds the injustice. Wealthier juveniles often exit correctional homes swiftly through appeals and resources, while poorer children remain confined for years, deepening resentment and reinforcing perceptions of bias. First-

time offenders who commit petty theft may languish for three years, while those accused of murder or offences recognised under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act often serve less than one. The absence of standardised operating procedures across



states leaves justice arbitrary, and juvenile justice boards frequently fail to recognise that a child in conflict with law is also a child in need of care and protection.

The Chhattisgarh killing and Tamil Nadu escape are not

aberrations but warnings. When juvenile homes function as punitive cages rather than rehabilitative sanctuaries, desperation mutates into rebellion. Reform, therefore, is urgently needed.

Positive models exist. The Art of Living prison reform programmes have transformed over 800,000 inmates and staff across 100 Indian prisons, demonstrating that dignity, meditation and life-skills training can rewire despair into resilience. Similar approaches integrating counselling, de-addiction, vocational training in weaving, pottery and permaculture can foster self-reliance and healing. Reform must be multi-layered. Child-friendly justice requires safe enquiry spaces, confidentiality and sensitised police. Psychological support through regular counselling, trauma therapy and life-skills education must be strengthened. Inter-departmental coordination between social welfare, police, child protection units and private reform programmes is essential. Digital literacy campaigns can counter harmful social media influences, while responsible media portrayal can dismantle toxic narratives of violence. After-care transition homes must ensure reintegration. Juvenile homes must evolve from holding cells of despair into gardens of renewal. Tamil Nadu's structural ambiguity on the department that looks after juvenile homes demands clarity. Establishing additional places of safety for 18-21 year olds is critical, as Chengalpattu alone cannot serve the entire state. Rehabilitation, not punishment, must be the guiding principle.

Here are some simple tips to keep the negativity at bay. If you are employed, chances are you often spend more time at office than home. And so, it's very important that you are happy and relaxed when at work. But that's easier said than done. A tyrant boss, backstabbing colleagues, poor pay packages, office politics, unequal distribution of work, favouritism — there are countless reasons to put one off work. Job stress can take a huge toll on your mental and physical health. Changing jobs constantly is not a solution, especially in today's economic scenario. So, here's how to make the most of what you have.

Eat out

Forget home-cooked food and that boring canteen fare. It's a great idea to step out for lunch with your colleagues. It will help you bond with them. If you hate going out, order take-away. And if you are the kind who always eats out, get a home-cooked dish sometimes. Good food will uplift your mood.

Be optimistic

Whatever the nature and number of problems you face at work, they're not going to disappear at the snap of your fingers. You need to be optimistic that the situation will improve slowly and steadily. Do not fall prey to negative thinking. If you find it tough to be optimistic, fake it. With time, your fake positivity will turn real. All you need is a little practice.

Change your attitude

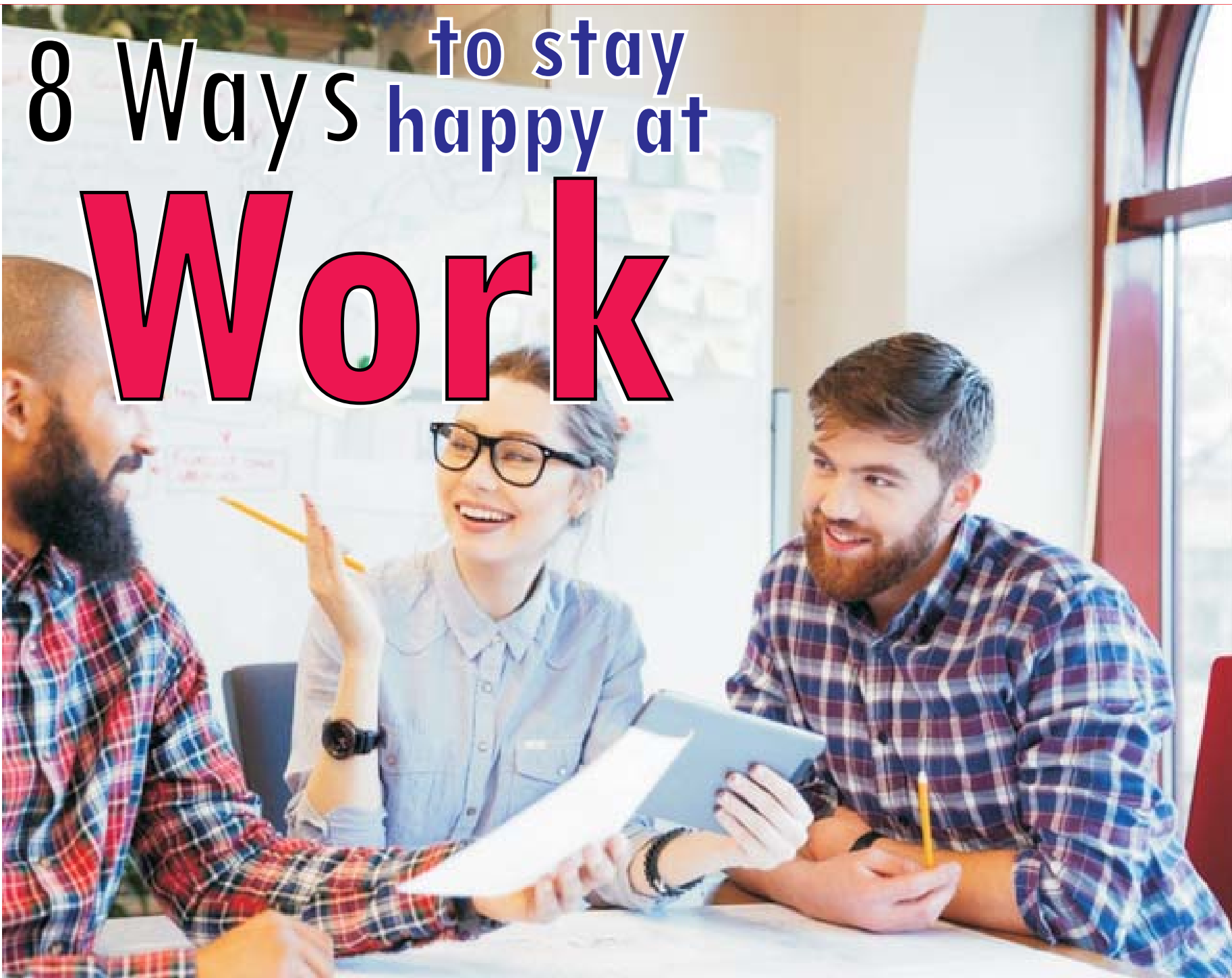
Even if you hate your job, make the most of it. Analyse how you can improve yourself — make fewer mistakes and increase your efficiency. Whenever you leave a job, you should know that it has enhanced your skills, even if it is in a minor way.

Be friendly with colleagues

A friendly atmosphere makes a huge difference. If you're aloof, chances are you will feel left out at some point of time. We're not asking you to go shopping with them and share details of your personal life, but be cordial.

Take a chill pill

Slogging for 12 to 16 hours a day will leave anyone grumpy, stressed out and unable to concentrate. So, small 15-minute breaks are a must in between. Take a nap, read jokes or play games online, listen to music or chat with a friend. If napping and playing games online are prohibited, listen



to some good music to pep up your mood.

Be grateful

Typing furiously on the keyboard, slamming the phone, and pushing the drawers of the cabinet

forcefully may help you vent anger, but think about how lucky you are. In the current market scenario, there are many unemployed people who would love to be in your shoes.

Be assertive

Nobody likes to be bullied and harassed at work. If your detractors are under the impression that you can't speak up for yourself, it encourages them to trouble you even more. So, stand up for yourself.

Ask for feedback

It's important to ask for a feedback from your boss. Good communication will give you a clear idea of what's expected of you.

Bad bosses damage health Quality of life



A good boss is like having a good neighbour. If you are not lucky enough to have such a boss, then it can be incredibly damaging to your health and quality of life.

According to health experts, abusive bosses who humiliate, insult employees and isolate them from co-workers not only harm company's growth but also affect performance and overall life of co-workers. Psychiatrist, Dr Manish Jain, says, "There are three types of personality groups which generally a boss falls into. In the first category are those, who mistrust co-workers, the second one has those who wants assigned work to be done anyhow and the third ones are those who are insecure and anxious about how they and their co-workers work." He added saying that such personality trait are harmful for company as well as the employees. Workplace stress increases the risk of heart disease and stroke, increases risk of insomnia, depression and anxiety, weakens immune defence and can cause chronic muscle pains and migraines. Another doctor Manoj Jain said, "Problems in professional life affect brain activity. It causes stress and affects quality of life. Professional issues looms all the time and managing family and spending time with them gets difficult. Irritation, high blood pressure and diabetes occurs in such cases." Recently, a survey conducted by ASSOCHAM also revealed that 69% of corporate employees who quit their jobs complained about the indifferent attitude of their bosses or immediate supervisor while remaining move to a new position in the same company. Survey also found that around 42% of

employees have been a victim of workplace bullying and almost 56% are bullied by their boss. About 82% of respondents said that a good work environment was often much more important than their current pay level. Workers are quitting their jobs and even switching to another career because they're fed-up with their current boss, adds the survey. Meanwhile, human resource professionals believe that they are careful in selecting employees and managers but predicting personality trait is a difficult task. Prateek Balbhadra, a human resource professional said, "Employees selection is a critical decision of HR professional as they have huge impact on the retention and turnover of the organisation. But, understanding personality of employees sometimes gets difficult and once the mistake is done it cannot be undone."



Are you emotionally intimate enough?



Try this quiz to know if you are one among those who is hesitant to express yourself in front of your partner. Intimacy, both physical and emotional, is to be considered when in a relationship. It is crucial to prioritise sharing feelings and thoughts with one's partner, in order to increase trust and a feeling of security. A relationship, which is devoid of emotional intimacy, is prone to break easily. Here's a set of questions which will help you know if you are emotionally intimate with your partner.

You had a rough day. The boss gave you grief, colleagues were tough to deal with, and everything fell out of place. When you get back home:

- A. You don't cringe to tell your partner about it.
- B. You shut up intentionally, and refrain from venting your frustration in front of your partner.

When you are extremely angry with your partner, you ensure:

- A. You give them an explanation why you are upset.
- B. Your partner receives the silent treatment from you. You think he/she won't understand what you feel.

Your partner's sibling, on several occasions, has been articulate about how much they dislike you being romantically associated with his/her sister/brother.

- A. You tell your partner about it and seek advice on how to handle the situation.
- B. Your way of tackling this is to not tell your partner a thing and ignore it.

When your partner is not right about something...

- A. I walk up to him/her and make it clear that I disapprove of it.
- B. I refrain from giving an opinion fearing how he/she'd react.

Do you think you can communicate easily with your partner?

- A. Yes, I tell my partner what is on my mind.
- B. No. I wish I could express myself better.

If most of your answers are:

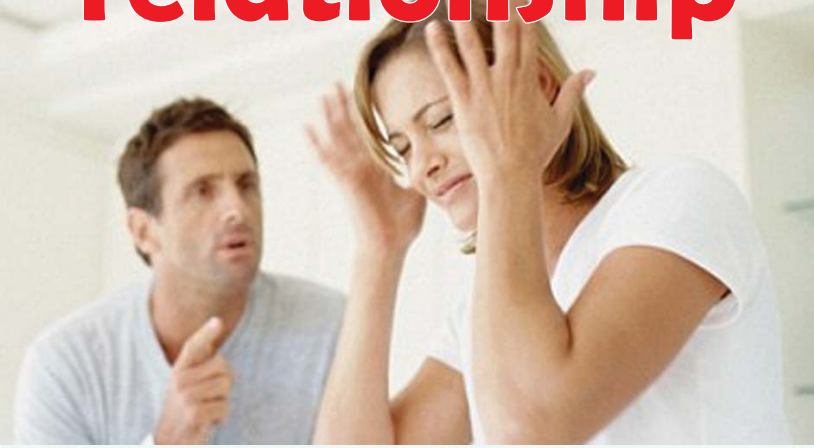
A's: You are emotionally intimate with your partner and you know it's the key to preserving your relationship. Confiding in your partner and letting them know what's

on your mind is important.

B's: You need to be vocal about what you think. Tell him/her what you feel. Don't shut up because you fear his/her reaction. If you want the relationship to last, be frank with your partner. Start by giving them your day-to-day accounts, and then, move on to the more important things in life.



Ways to prevent abuse in your relationship



The first step to prevent emotional abuse is to spot the signs. Often in a relationship you tend to overlook certain aspects of your partner that may in due course of time become unhealthy and pose to be a threat for you.

According to psychologists, the initial sign of emotional abuse might be something in the pit of the stomach, a feeling suggesting that something is going wrong in your relationship.

1. Don't let your partner dominate you
It all starts with your partner taking decisions for you and controlling your life by using abusive techniques. There

insignificant errors or you know that there's something terribly wrong but you can't express it.

3. Bring up the issue in a calm environment
Never throw down an accusation in the midst of a heated argument — it is the perfect recipe for disaster. Instead look for a convenient time. Do not start accusing your partner, instead leave room for a healthy discussion.



4. Seek help from family or friends
Having a trusted friend or a family member who can evaluate the situation and help you out is a great option. It will be easier to solve issues when you have some support with you.

5. Look for a professional

becomes a power imbalance in your relationship and your partner makes you feel like a victim more than a spouse. When you begin to notice such signals, it is better to address the situation there and then instead of prolonging it to another time. Seek help from family, friends or therapist as and when required.

2. Beware of gaslighting
This is a form of mental abuse where you doubt your memory, perception and sanity. Known to be a subtle form of emotional abuse, it is quite damaging in reality. Some common examples would be that you always apologise, even for

If your situation is completely out of hand, or you have nobody to ask for help — look for a therapist to bring you out of this state. Whether you want to stay in the relationship or not, it is very important to see a professional so that you can focus on healing your wounds and move forward.

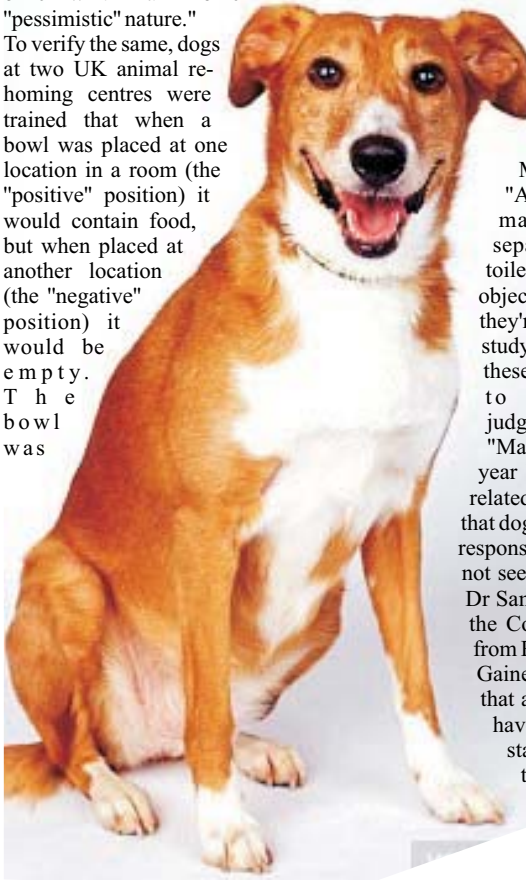
6. Break the cycle
It is important to realise that you need to stop being the victim when in an emotionally abusive relationship. Be wary of allowing yourself to be abused by someone else. If you see yourself falling into a victim-like situation with your partner, stop immediately and take charge of your life.

Dogs can also be pessimists!

It seems unlikely that a dog could be pessimistic, but a new study suggests that sometimes even they see the glass half empty.

A study at the University of Bristol has shown that "a glass-half-full" dog is less likely to be anxious when left alone than one with a more "pessimistic" nature."

To verify the same, dogs at two UK animal re-homing centres were trained that when a bowl was placed at one location in a room (the "positive" position) it would contain food, but when placed at another location (the "negative" position) it would be empty. The bowl was



then placed at ambiguous locations between the positive and negative positions.

"Dogs that ran fast to these ambiguous locations, as if expecting the positive food reward, were classed as making relatively "optimistic" decisions," explained Professor Mike Mendl.

"Around half of dogs in the UK may at some point perform separation-related behaviours - toileting, barking and destroying objects around the home - when they're apart from their owners. Our study suggests that dogs showing these types of behaviour also appear to make more pessimistic judgements generally," he added.

"Many dogs are relinquished each year because they show separation-related behaviour. Some owners think that dogs showing anxious behaviour in response to separation are fine, and do not seek treatment for their pets," said Dr Samantha Gaines, Deputy Head of the Companion Animals Department from RSPCA.

Gaines added that this study suggests that at least some of these dogs may have underlying negative emotional states, and owners are encouraged to seek treatment to enhance the welfare of their dogs and minimise the need to relinquish their pet.



Businesses are increasingly looking towards social media not only to promote their ventures but also build their brand.

Businesses need a big online presence

ashok Mundetiya tells you why it is important to have an online presence in today's times

When CEO Aamita Mehta, passionately launched, Unived, a vegan healthcare company last year, he knew he would integrate an inhouse social media team. "Apart from being a lowcost, global marketing tool, social media lets you strike a personal relationship with people. That's something money can't buy."

Today, the various social media platforms are a fertile ground for potentially lucrative, two-way conversations with your target audience. They have the power to peddle a brand story, boost awareness, build relationships and finally, drive sales.

Make it real "Innovation means bringing the real and social media world together. In one of our campaigns for watches, we used social media engagement for getting a discount at the store. Customers could show their 'Like' and avail a discount," informs Mayur Milan, director, Orbit Marketing and Communications Private Limited. Mehta adds, "We promoted our products by running contests. We uploaded pictures of medicinal plants and asked people to identify them. The winners received gift hampers."

Sindhuja Rai, head of media and digital, Cadbury India, speaks about how their digital campaign leveraged the real-time nature of the medium and delighted fans. They invited consumers to share their best shubhaarambh (auspicious beginning) moments during this year's Indian Premier League (IPL). "It added a lot

of credibility and buzz."

Factor your costs Social media marketing requires a very limited budget. It provides a level playing ground. A small manufacturing unit has the same resources as a brand. Unlike the fixed minimum cost of buying ad space in print, radio, outdoor or television, in social media you can have the power to decide your own spend. What's costly is just patience during the slow growth curve. As Rai puts it, "It's more time intensive than investment intensive." Once the tipping point has been reached, growth will be much

quicker and more cost effective. "Through social media campaigns, brands can achieve a quick turnaround. A promotional offer is perfect to counter a competitor's massive campaign," says Milan. From a pure investment efficiency lens, it is a competitive platform. The bigger picture emerges once you start evaluating the effect on the brand metrics. They key is to invest in shareworthy content to unlock the true potential of this medium. Adds Vijay Jain, CEO, ORRA, that ran a campaign wherein fans were invited to share a message for their loved ones which would be telegraphed on their behalf, "Social media fosters engagement with consumers, which results in a better return on investment (ROI) in the long term."

Abhishek Chandran, business manager, social media, Maxus Global, has a

slightly different perspective, "To do justice to your marketing efforts, crafting quality content is a must."

And quality comes at a price." Milan agrees, "Nothing is free. Regular social media campaigns are better for growth than just one big mainline campaign every year more so in this slowdown."

Content, consistency and conversation Content is the key. You have to be extremely agile in your approach and respond in real-time to drive engagement. Amassing a huge fan base is useless, unless you are engaging them on a regular basis. Concurs Chandran,

"Organic content, in the right context, will spark relevant conversations for the brand. This will showcase the brand in a positive light." Milan adds, "Never sell on social media. Instead, concentrate on creating a product or brand related dialogue with the audience. It's about being social, not a one-way communication."

It's times! Many feel that social media is still just a drop in the ocean since internet penetration in India is low. However Mehta opines, "Internet usage is on the rise each day. There are several companies without brick and mortar stores who survive only via online sales. Tablet sales in India tell you that people in tier III and IV cities are also online."

So if you want to reach a wide user base for building your brand, you know where you should be.

Best way to do it?



Try making your brand a likeable Understand consumer base well and recognise what they seek Communicate your brand ethos and always develop content so consumers participate Make it funny, engaging or contradicting.

Giving massage to your Newborn



Choosing the perfect massage oil is very important for your baby's comfort

Keeping your baby's skin moist is very important. During the first couple of months after the baby is born, regular oil massages and bathing are crucial.

Usually, a masseur for babies is assigned the task in Indian households. However, giving gentle oil massage and bathing one's own baby lets a mother get closer to the baby and it feels great. The satisfaction is intangible.

Mother-child bond is very special. And getting involved in the child's daily routine only strengthens the bond.

If you are confused on which oil to use, the market has all the answers to it. While branded baby oils are always at your service with brands like Pigeon, Johnson & Johnson, Himalaya, Chicco et al offering baby oils which can be tried. At the same time grandma's preferred oils like pure sesame and olive oil too can be tried.

Here are tips on how to go about the baby oil

1. Before trying any baby oil on your baby's skin, just apply a little bit on the hand to see if it is compatible with your baby's skin.
2. If your baby develops rashes on the applied patch then avoid the kind of oil. But mostly, almost all the baby oil brands suit the baby skin.
3. Gently pour the oil over your baby's stomach and start with gentle strokes. Do not put unnecessary force while giving the massage. It is not required.
4. Always keep in mind that your baby's comfort level is important. Give massage only when your baby is up to it.
5. Observe your baby's waking up cycle and then decide on what time you want to give massage to your baby. Usually, after a good massage, babies tend to go to sleep. So let your baby enjoy a good sleep after the massage and ones he/she wakes up then go for giving a bath.

Surrender in 3 weeks: SC cancels honeymoon murder accused Sonam Raghuvanshi's bail

The Supreme Court cancelled the bail of Sonam Raghuvanshi, the prime accused in the honeymoon murder of her husband Raja Raghuvanshi in Meghalaya, directing her to surrender within three weeks.

Delhi. (Agency)

In a major setback to Sonam Raghuvanshi, the prime accused in the murder of her husband Raja Raghuvanshi during their honeymoon in Meghalaya, the Supreme Court on Thursday cancelled her bail and directed her to surrender before the trial court within three weeks.

A bench of Justices MM Sundresh and PB Varale allowed the Meghalaya government's appeal challenging the bail granted to Sonam, observing that her remaining free at this stage of the trial was likely to hinder the judicial process. The court, however, observed that if the trial does not progress expeditiously, she would be at liberty to move a fresh bail

application after six months.

The 25-year-old woman from Indore had travelled to Meghalaya with her husband, Raja Raghuvanshi, for their honeymoon in May last year. The couple went missing during the trip and Raja's body was recovered from a deep gorge a week later. A subsequent probe found that Sonam, along with her lover Raj Kushwaha, had conspired with hired assailants to murder her husband for financial gains. She was arrested in June 2025.

Sonam was originally granted bail by a Shillong trial court in April, which was subsequently upheld by the Meghalaya High Court in late June. However, the Supreme Court rejected her bail on Thursday, saying she was not entitled to

bail."On fact, we find that the respondent is not entitled to bail. It is not as if the respondent was not served with the grounds of arrest. There is a difference between non-service and giving adequate reasons thereunder. While the first category might vitiate the arrest, in the second one has to see the prejudice," the bench said. The woman was granted bail on technical grounds after the trial court held that the mandatory requirement for furnishing the grounds of arrest had not been complied with. Upholding the order, the Meghalaya High Court observed that the police had failed to provide proper written grounds of



arrest and said the arrest memo reflected a "total non-application of judicious mind" as it cited the wrong provision of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) for murder.

During the hearing before the Supreme Court, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta,

appearing for the Meghalaya government, argued that the defect in the arrest memo was merely a clerical or typographical error and could not invalidate the arrest. He also contended that Sonam posed a flight risk if she were allowed to remain on bail.

While the Supreme Court reasserted that bail is the rule and jail is the exception, it noted that since the trial has already begun in the case, her "continued enlargement" on bail at this stage might hinder the ongoing proceedings. Accordingly, the bench cancelled the bail order and directed Sonam Raghuvanshi to surrender within three weeks.

How Delhi band The Treble Makers of young children are using music to make a difference

New Delhi. (Agency)

Performing on stage is often about the thrill of the spotlight, the applause that follows, and the excitement of sharing something one loves with an audience. But for The Treble Makers—a band of six students aged between eight and 11—their sold-out debut performance at The Piano Man last week carried a deeper purpose.

Mentored by singer-songwriter and music director Sumer Bhatia, the young band comprises Shreehan Dhawan on drums; Nirvaan Nehru on piano and guitar; Saanvi Alung on guitar; Abeer Raj Kohli on tabla; and Sharika Nehru, Samaira Dhawan and Ayaansh K. Jain on vocals. Their concert, held in support of the Ripudaman Charitable Trust—it works with children affected by hearing loss across India—became an opportunity to understand the power of music not only as an art form, but also as a means of creating social impact.

Finding their rhythm

The children, who study at The Shri Ram School, have known each other since the first day of school, at the school gate, says Shreehan Dhawan and Ayaansh K. Jain. Others laugh and chime in with memories of classrooms shared since second grade, when Saanvi Alung joined them. Most of them also knew Bhatia through friends and the older students he had taught over the years. "The greatest thing was that they had the zeal to learn and really wanted to play together as a group," says Bhatia.

Delhi Development Authority offers 25% discount on flats

New Delhi. (Agency)

The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has launched the DDA Karmajeevi Awaas Yojana 2026, a special housing scheme offering a flat 25 per cent discount on more than 1,200 ready-to-move flats at Pocket-11, Sector A1-A4, Narela.

The scheme has been launched under the guidance of Lieutenant-Governor Taranjit Singh Sandhu with the objective of making home ownership more affordable and accessible for working professionals, while furthering DDA's commitment to planned urban development and inclusive growth in the capital.

The Karmajeevi Yojana 2026 has been designed for serving and retired Government employees, as well as working professionals from the corporate, business, entrepreneurial and professional sectors. Through this initiative, DDA aims to facilitate home ownership for individuals who have contributed, and continue to contribute, to nation-building and India's economic growth.

Under the scheme, more than 1,200 ready-to-move flats in 1 BHK, 2 BHK and 3 BHK categories will be available at discounted prices. After the 25 per cent discount, the starting prices are `33.40 lakh for a 1 BHK, `75.55 lakh for a 2 BHK and `1.065 crore for a 3 BHK flat.

Registration under the scheme will begin on July 24, while booking of flats will open on August 15 through the First Come, First Serve (FCFS) mode on the DDA Awaas Portal. The project is located at Pocket-11, Sector A1-A4 in Narela, which is emerging as one of Delhi's fastest-growing urban corridors. According to the DDA, the area has strong road and public transport connectivity and is witnessing the development of major educational, institutional and sports infrastructure, making it an attractive destination for homebuyers and long-term investment.

Roach wave sweeps India as student protests spread beyond Delhi

New Delhi. (Agency)

What began as a small protest at Delhi's Jantar Mantar has snowballed into a nationwide movement, with demonstrations now being reported across multiple states as protesters continue to demand Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation over the NEET-UG paper leak row.

The agitation gained momentum after police cracked down on protesters marching from Jantar Mantar to Parliament, using tear gas to disperse the crowd.

Since then, the Cockroach Janata Party (CJP) has refused to back down, insisting on accountability in the paper leak and Pradhan's

resignation. Organisers say they have no plans to scale back the agitation and claim every crackdown has only drawn larger crowds to the protest.

The CJP kicked off the day with a

despite heavy police deployment. Around 1,500 protesters, including several actors and comedians, gathered on the rain-soaked streets of Shivaji Park and raised slogans seeking Pradhan's resignation.



video on X showing hundreds of young protesters gathering in Chandigarh to demand Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation. In Mumbai, protests intensified on Wednesday

Police said the demonstration did not have the required permission and detained around 200 people. Officials said a larger crowd that gathered later was dispersed peacefully and that further legal action was being initiated.

One of the most widely shared moments of the day also came from Mumbai. A viral video showed a man opening the latch of a police van carrying detained protesters, after which several youths climbed out and ran before police could respond.

'Citizens of Delhi suffering': High Court to hear on Friday PIL seeking probe into CJP protest

New Delhi. (Agency)

-The Delhi High Court will on Friday hear a public interest litigation (PIL) seeking a probe into the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP)-led protest over alleged examination irregularities at Delhi's Jantar Mantar.

The PIL was mentioned before a bench comprising Chief Justice D K Upadhyaya and Justice Tejas Karia, with the petitioner's counsel urging that the matter be listed urgently.

"This is against the so-called student agitation. They have made the entire Delhi hostage. Roads have been blocked. Citizens of Delhi are



suffering," advocate Barun Kumar Sinha submitted.

"Alright. Tomorrow," Chief Justice Upadhyaya responded.

Filed by Satish Kumar Aggarwal, former vice-president of the Akhil Bharat Hindu Mahasabha, the

petition questions the nature of the agitation, alleging that the participation of political leaders, activists and foreign-funded organisations has raised concerns over its objectives.

The PIL argues that these allegations warrant a "comprehensive investigation" to determine whether "external elements were involved in activities prejudicial to public order, national security, and the sovereignty and integrity of India".

It further alleges that political parties transformed what began as a student protest into a political movement.

Delhi government reduces processing time for 84 services: Here's what changes

New Delhi. (Agency)

In a move aimed at making government services faster, simpler and more transparent, the Delhi government has reduced the processing time for 84 services available through the Single Window System. Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Tuesday said the initiative was undertaken as part of the Deregulation Exercise—Phase II under Priority Area-21. The Information Technology Department carried out a detailed study to assess the time taken to deliver services available on the Single Window System—from the submission of an application to its final disposal—and identify measures to reduce processing time.

Gupta said the government is committed to improving the ease of accessing public services for citizens and businesses by leveraging technology and streamlining administrative procedures.

According to the CM, the study covered 18 departments and included a detailed review of 95 key services available on the Single Window System. She said the digital platform enables citizens and businesses to apply online for a wide range of licences, permits, approvals and clearances through a single portal, eliminating the need to approach multiple departments separately.

Based on the findings of the study, the government introduced several process improvements to reduce delays in service delivery. As a result, the processing time for 84 services has been reduced significantly. In addition, some services are now being delivered instantly, further improving the efficiency of the system.

Gupta said the initiative is expected to improve the ease of doing business in Delhi by reducing procedural delays and making government services more transparent and efficient. "The objective is to simplify government procedures for citizens and businesses alike while ensuring faster delivery of public services through digital governance," she said.

The Chief Minister added that the Information Technology Department will continue to work towards strengthening citizen-centric governance by adopting technology-driven solutions and improving work processes.

Will intervene if Supreme Court metro station is not opened by lunch: Chief Justice

The Chief Justice said the Supreme Court administration had already been asked to take up the matter with the Delhi Metro authorities and assured the Bar that if the issue remained unresolved by lunchtime, he would personally intervene.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant on Thursday said he would intervene if the Supreme Court Metro station was not reopened by lunchtime, after the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) raised concerns over the closure of metro stations due to the ongoing student protests, saying the restrictions had severely disrupted access to the court. The issue was mentioned before a bench led by the Chief Justice by SCBA President Vikas Singh, who said the closure of several Delhi Metro stations, including the Supreme Court station, was causing considerable hardship to lawyers, litigants and court staff travelling to court.

"If nothing is done by lunchtime to

reopen them, and if the DMRC has not taken any action by then, we will look into the matter," the CJI said, assuring the Bar that he would step in if required.

The Chief Justice also clarified that no adverse judicial orders would be passed merely because lawyers were unable to reach the court owing to the Metro shutdown.

Responding to the concerns, CJI Surya Kant said the Supreme Court administration had already been asked to engage with the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) to find a workable solution. "I informed them in the morning. It is up to them to talk to the authorities. He is exploring this also as one of the solutions. By lunchtime, if there is a solution, that is fine.



said. During the hearing, SCBA President Vikas Singh suggested a restricted-access mechanism under which only lawyers, litigants and Registry staff possessing valid Supreme Court proximity cards or identification

would be permitted to exit at the Supreme Court Metro station after security screening.

"In the Metro, there is one advantage that when they come out of the train, there is an exit point. There they can be screened. People having proximity cards, and Registry staff, can be permitted to come out, and the rest can be told to take the other train and go," Singh submitted.

The court's observations came after the DMRC shut 16 Metro stations, including the Supreme Court station, until further orders in view of the ongoing student protests in the national capital. Meanwhile, less than 24 hours earlier, on July 22, the Chief Justice had declined to urgently hear a plea seeking the Supreme Court's intervention.

Sensex, Nifty extend losses as Middle East tensions push oil past \$95

New Delhi. (Agency)

Benchmark stock market indices opened lower on Thursday as Brent crude oil climbed above \$96 a barrel, intensifying concerns over inflation and India's import bill amid escalating tensions in the Middle East. Weak June-quarter earnings from Dr Reddy's Laboratories and HPCL also weighed on investor sentiment. The BSE Sensex fell 314.62 points, or 0.41%, to 76,440.43, while the NSE Nifty50 slipped 82.50 points, or 0.34%, to 23,913.75 around 9:30 am. The weakness came after fresh US strikes on Iran and attacks by Yemen's Houthi rebels on oil tankers in the Red Sea, pushing crude oil prices to their highest levels in more than a month. CRUDE OIL SURGES ABOVE \$96

Brent crude rose 2.32% to \$96.25 per barrel, while WTI crude gained 1.92% to \$88.50, extending gains after geopolitical tensions heightened fears of supply disruptions. Higher crude prices are a major concern for India, the world's third-largest importer and consumer of crude oil, as they can fuel inflation, widen the current account deficit, weaken the rupee and squeeze corporate margins.

Dr. VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Investments Limited, said the latest developments in West Asia have worsened the market outlook.

"The Houthi's aggressive entry into the Iran-US conflict by attacking Saudi Arabian tankers in the Red Sea is aggravating the West Asia crisis and pushing Brent crude higher. When Brent crude trades above \$95, which is the price now, it is bound to have sentimental impact on the Indian market. India's vulnerability to high oil prices is once again becoming a macro concern," he said. DR REDDY'S, HPCL RESULTS WEIGH

Apart from geopolitical concerns, disappointing earnings from Dr Reddy's Laboratories and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) also hurt market sentiment.

Asian shares are mostly higher, and Mideast tensions push Brent crude past \$96

BANGKOK. (Agency)

Asian shares were mostly higher on Thursday, while the intensifying war with Iran pushed Brent crude past \$96 a barrel.

South Korea's Kospi rose 3.7%, to 7,028.66 as investors' appetite for stocks related to artificial intelligence revived despite a retreat on Wall Street. Samsung Electronics gained 3%, while memory chipmaker SK Hynix advanced 3.4%.

In Tokyo, the Nikkei 225 picked up 0.5% to 66,461.62. Technology companies led gains, with stocks in SoftBank Group climbing 3.3%.

The U.S. dollar was trading at 163.05 yen as the Japanese currency wavered near its lowest level in 40 years. Expectations that the gap between U.S. interest rates and Japanese interest rates will widen due to higher inflation in the U.S. have helped to drive the dollar higher against the yen.

Elsewhere in Asia, Hong Kong's Hang Seng rose 1.3% to 25,227.06, while the Shanghai Composite index slipped 0.2% to ,859.69. In Australia, the S&P/ASX 200 gained 0.7% to 8,883.00.

Taiwan's Taiex lost 1% and the Sensex in India fell 0.3%. U.S. futures declined after U.S. stock indexes barely budged on Wednesday as oil prices rose 3%. The S&P 500 edged 0.1% lower to 7,498.96, and the Dow Jones Industrial Average dipped less than 0.1%, to 52,218.

UBL expands beyond brewing beer; enters barley sourcing, malt production

New Delhi. (Agency)

United Breweries Ltd (UBL) is expanding beyond brewing beer into barley sourcing and malt production as India's largest brewer steps up its investments to secure raw material supplies and strengthen its supply chain amid rising input costs and global disruptions, according to its FY2025-26 annual report.

The company said it has partnered with Soufflet Malt to set up a new malthouse in south Rajasthan with an initial annual capacity of 110,000 tonnes. The project is expected to source up to 250,000 tonnes of barley annually and train more than 50,000 farmers, strengthening UBL's backward integration and reducing its dependence on external malt supplies.

The investment is part of a broader expansion programme that includes a greenfield brewery in Uttar Pradesh, a high-capacity canning line in Telangana, brownfield capacity additions, and contract manufacturing partnerships as the company prepares for long-term growth in India's beer market.

JPMorgan to add 1,000 tech jobs across India GCCs despite AI-driven workforce changes

The new hiring will be aimed at technology specialists with expertise in cloud architecture, cybersecurity and AI data pipelines.

CHENNAI. (Agency)

Even as artificial intelligence (AI) is changing the way work gets done across the banking industry, JPMorgan is preparing to expand its technology workforce in India. The Wall Street lender plans to hire around 1,000 technology professionals for its global capability centres (GCCs), reported

Moneycontrol. The move comes at a time when the bank has said AI has reduced staffing needs by 30% to 40% in some parts of its business, highlighting how companies are balancing automation with fresh investments in specialised technology talent.

HIRING TO FOCUS ON TECHNOLOGY ROLES

The new hiring will be aimed at technology specialists with expertise in cloud architecture, cybersecurity and AI data pipelines. Candidates are expected to go through HackerRank-based assessments that will test their coding skills, data structures, algorithms and system architecture knowledge, the report mentioned. The recruitment is expected to support



JPMorgan's global technology and digital transformation initiatives while strengthening its India GCC operations.

INDIA REMAINS A KEY TECHNOLOGY HUB

JPMorgan Chase currently operates in five Indian cities and employs around 55,000 people in the country through its global capability centres. Its major

operational hubs are located in Bengaluru, Hyderabad and Mumbai. The planned hiring also aligns with the company's broader expansion strategy in India. JPMorgan has recently committed to building Asia's largest 2-million-square-foot GCC campus in Mumbai by 2029. The new campus is expected to accommodate

around 30,000 technology and operations professionals. Here, it must be mentioned that JPMorgan Chase (JPMC) is the global parent company, while its India GCC serves as an internal technology and operations hub for both the JP Morgan investment bank and the Chase retail banking business.

Adani seeks rule change to launch airline, challenge IndiGo-Air India duopoly

New Delhi. (Agency)

The Adani Group has approached the government seeking changes to a rule that currently prevents operators of Delhi and Mumbai airports from owning more than a 10% stake in a scheduled airline, reported The Economic Times report. If approved, the move could pave the way for the conglomerate to launch its own airline and challenge the dominance of IndiGo and Air India in India's aviation market, even if certain information does not appear in the AIS, taxpayers are still required to declare all foreign assets in Schedule FA while filing their

income tax returns. Any applicable foreign income must also be reported in the relevant schedules of the return. The development comes just a day after reports suggested that the government was considering allowing airport operators such as Adani Group and GMR Airports to enter the airline business to increase competition in a market where IndiGo and Air India together account for around 90% of domestic passenger traffic.

According to the report, Adani has requested dilution of a clause that was included when Delhi and Mumbai airports were privatised in 2006. The provision bars operators of the country's two busiest airports

from holding more than a 10% stake in a scheduled airline. The Ministry of Civil Aviation is understood to be seeking the opinion of Solicitor General Tushar Mehta on whether the clause can be amended retrospectively. Any such change would require Cabinet approval.

WHY ADANI WANTS AN AIRLINE

The Adani Group has steadily expanded its presence across the aviation value chain over the past few years. Besides operating eight airports, it has built businesses in pilot training, aircraft maintenance and repair (MRO), and ground handling. The group owns a 74% stake in Mumbai International Airport.

Uber layoffs: Company cuts 10% of customer service jobs as AI

New Delhi. (Agency)

Uber Technologies has cut 10% of jobs in its customer service division as the ride-hailing company expands its use of artificial intelligence (AI), simplifies operations and asks remote employees to relocate to office hubs, reported Bloomberg. The layoffs affect employees in Uber's community operations team, which handles customer support for riders, drivers and delivery partners. The company said the move is part of a broader effort to simplify its organisation, strengthen in-person collaboration and make greater use of AI across its operations. In addition to the job cuts, employees who had been working remotely have been asked to relocate to designated hub offices, in line with Uber's return-to-office policy.

WHY UBER IS CUTTING JOBS

According to the report, Uber believes its customer service organisation has become too complicated to fully benefit from AI. In an internal memo to employees, Megha Yethatika, Uber's Vice President of Global Community Operations, said the organisation had become "too complex and siloed." She said the company had already made progress in adopting AI but needed a simpler organisational structure to fully unlock its potential. "We cannot scale frontier technology on top of fragmented processes," she wrote in the memo, according to Bloomberg. The company has not disclosed how many employees work in its customer service operations, so the exact number of jobs affected is not known.

SECOND ROUND OF JOB CUTS IN TWO MONTHS

This is Uber's second round of workforce reductions in less than two months. In June, the company cut 23% of its people division, which amounted to less than 1% of its global workforce of around 34,000 employees. Those layoffs came after a new head took charge of the department as Uber looked to simplify its organisational structure. The latest move is also the first time Uber has directly linked job cuts to its AI strategy, making it one of the latest technology companies to say artificial intelligence is reshaping how it operates.

Earnings at Musk's car company fall as research spending cuts into profit from selling cars

New Delhi. (Agency)

Tesla said Wednesday that its profits fell last quarter as the car company run by Elon Musk shoveled more money into research and development, cutting into profits from a sharp increase in vehicle sales. The Austin, Texas, company reported second-quarter net income of \$1.11 billion, or 32 cents per share. Excluding certain items, earnings were 33 cents per share, well short of the 53 cents per share forecast by Wall Street analysts, according to FactSet. Revenue rose 26% to \$28.24 billion, beating analysts' forecast of \$26.42 billion. While the core car business had a solid quarter, Tesla is now focused on building out the infrastructure and AI software that underpins its robotaxis and robotics businesses, which Musk has said



are the future of the company. And doing so requires a lot more spending. Research and development spending surged about 49% from a year earlier to \$2.37 billion — higher than its been going back at least four quarters. "We're investing a lot in growing the core business and really preparing for the future," Musk said during a conference call with Wall Street analysts, promising that the spending will yield "incredible returns." CFO Vaibhav

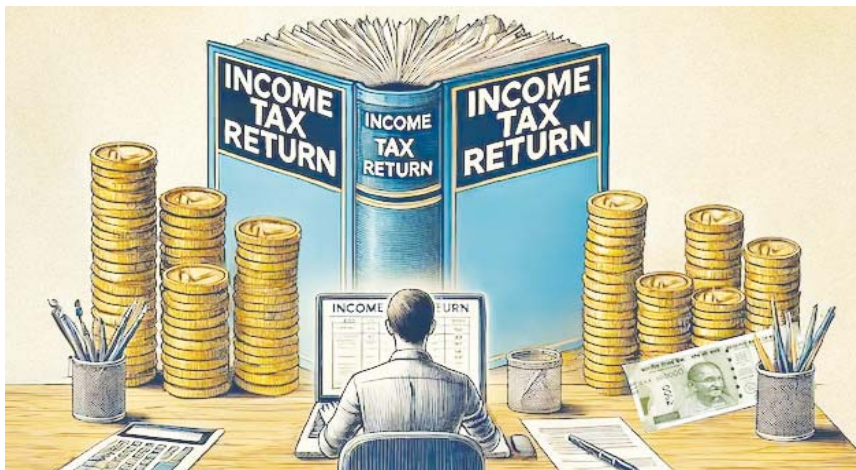
Taneja told analysts that the company expects capital expenditures will increase further in the second half of this year, driving full-year spending to more than \$25 billion. Taneja also forecast that spending on capital expenditures will continue growing for the next "2 to 3 years," as the company seeks to expand its fleet of robotaxis, add AI compute infrastructure and build more production capacity for its Optimus humanoid robot, among several other products. Tesla shares fell 4.1% in after-hours trading shortly. The stock ended the regular trading session 1.3% lower and is down just under 17% this year. Earlier this month, Tesla reported that it delivered 480,216 cars in the second quarter, a 25% increase from the same period last year and its second straight quarterly gain.

Don't click 'submit' yet! These 3 last-minute ITR checks are a must

Filing your ITR before the deadline is important, but filing it correctly is even more important. These three last-minute checks can help you avoid costly errors.

New Delhi. (Agency)

As the Income Tax Return (ITR) deadline draws closer, thousands of taxpayers are logging into the e-filing portal with one goal in mind—submit the return before time runs out. But tax professionals say the real challenge isn't just meeting the deadline. It is making sure the return is accurate. A few simple checks before clicking the submit button can help taxpayers avoid unnecessary trouble later. A rushed return can lead to far more trouble than a late evening spent checking documents. A missed bank interest entry, an incorrect ITR form, an overlooked capital gain or even forgetting to e-verify the return can



delay refunds, trigger tax notices or, in some cases, leave the return legally invalid.

DON'T WAIT UNTIL THE FINAL HOUR

One of the biggest mistakes taxpayers make is leaving everything until the deadline. Apart from the risk of portal congestion, last-minute filing leaves little time to identify and correct errors. Before filing, taxpayers should match the income reported in their

documents with the details available in the Annual Information Statement (AIS), Taxpayer Information Summary (TIS), Form 26AS, Form 16, bank statements and investment records. Any mismatch could invite questions from the Income Tax Department later. Experts say that spending a little extra time before pressing the 'Submit' button can save taxpayers from unnecessary stress later.

RECONCILE YOUR INCOME BEFORE

FILING

According to Gaurav Makhijani, Tax Head at Makhijani Gera & Associates, taxpayers should complete all reconciliations before submitting their return. We would recommend not to wait until the last minute, reconcile income with AIS, TIS, Form 26AS, Form 16, bank statements and investment records before filing. They should ensure they have selected the correct ITR form, correctly reported all sources of income, carefully computed capital gains and verified their bank account details. Take benefits wherever applicable."

He added, "The return should be e-verified promptly after filing, as an unverified return is treated as not filed. If you have to choose old regime, it is important that you file the return on time and get it verified as per law."

His advice highlights that simply submitting the return is not enough. Missing e-verification means the Income Tax Department will treat the return as if it was never filed.

Omar counters Nadda, says JKSSB paper leak occurred under LG administration

Srinagar.(Agency)

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday hit back at union Minister and senior BJP leader J P Nadda over his remarks on the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) paper leak, accusing him of misstating facts and reminding him that the recruitment scam took place in 2022 under the Lt Governor-led administration, not during an NC-Congress government.

Omar also questioned the fate of the High-Level Committee constituted to probe the leak, asking Nadda to disclose its findings in his next press conference.

Addressing a press conference on the ongoing students' protest over alleged examination irregularities, Nadda on Wednesday evening claimed that the JKSSB paper leak had occurred when the Congress and National Conference were in power. "You are absolutely correct about the SSB paper leak in J&K, @JPNadda ji, but you have got the date wrong. It was 2022. The government wasn't of NC & Congress. It was a government headed by Lt. Governor but thank you for reminding everyone of this failure. It involved these observations & orders of the J&K High Court," Omar said on X. "We have no idea what happened to the High Level Committee or its report. Perhaps you can share that with us in your next press conference."

Toll in Sikkim NHPC tunnel tragedy rises to 15 as three more bodies recovered

Gangtok.(Agency)

The toll in the NHPC tunnel disaster at Samardung in South Sikkim's Namchi district rose to 15 on Wednesday evening after rescue teams recovered three more bodies from the collapsed tunnel.

Speaking to UNI, Namchi Superintendent of Police Sonam D. Bhutia confirmed that, as of 6.30 p.m. on Wednesday, three additional bodies had been recovered, taking the total number of fatalities to 15.

The tragedy unfolded on Monday afternoon when a section of the under-construction NHPC tunnel collapsed, trapping several workers inside. 16 injured workers were rescued on Monday late evening.

Rescue teams recovered the first seven bodies during the early hours of Tuesday. By the end of the day, the number of bodies recovered had risen to 12. However, persistent heavy rainfall and severe waterlogging inside the tunnel forced authorities to suspend the rescue operation as conditions became too hazardous. Fresh rescue operations resumed on Wednesday afternoon.

Teams comprising personnel from the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), specialised mining rescue experts from Asansol, and other agencies re-entered the tunnel. During the operation, three more bodies were recovered one after another, raising the number of confirmed deaths to 15.

Shanta Kumar Seeks Honour for Couple Who Saved Nine Families During Cloudburst

Dharamshala.(Agency)

Former Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister and former union Minister Shanta Kumar on Wednesday urged the state government to honour a couple from Spaida village in Shahpur subdivision for their timely warning that reportedly saved several lives during a cloudburst-triggered disaster.

Referring to reports of the incident, Shanta Kumar said that after heavy rainfall, a cloudburst occurred on the hill above Spaida village, sending a torrent of water, mud and boulders downhill. Seeing the muddy floodwaters, Pappu Ram and Ranu Devi immediately raised an alarm, prompting villagers to rush out of their homes.

According to reports, around nine houses and cattle sheds were completely washed away. Shanta Kumar said that had the couple not alerted the residents in time, nine families might not have survived.

Jammu-Srinagar Highway shut again amid fresh rain in J&K; death toll reaches 23

Relentless rain continued to batter Jammu and Kashmir, keeping the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway shut for a second day, leaving over 600 vehicles stranded, and pushing the death toll to 23.

Jammu.(Agency)

Relentless rain in Jammu region has kept the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway shut for the second day, while rescue teams stepped up searches for seven missing people in flood and landslide-hit areas of Poonch and Rajouri. Officials said the five-day spell of rain has so far left 23 people dead.

The closure of the 250-km highway, the only all-weather road linking Kashmir with the rest of the country, has stranded more than 600 vehicles at several points.

Officials said restoration work was under way, but continuous rain was slowing efforts to clear debris and repair damaged

stretches. The highway has been blocked at five places because of landslides, shooting



stones and road erosion at multiple points between Jakhani in Udhampur district and Banihal in Ramban district. A traffic police

advisory said, "Jammu-Srinagar National Highway is still closed for vehicular movement due to landslides and shooting stones at several locations." Authorities have asked commuters to avoid travel until the weather improves and the highway is declared safe. Officials said additional personnel had been deployed in Poonch and Rajouri to search flood channels and other vulnerable areas for the seven missing people. Rescue and relief operations have been intensified in the affected districts, with teams from the civil administration, police, SDRF, NDRF and other agencies working round the clock to evacuate stranded residents, restore connectivity and assess the damage.

Skyroot's Vikram-1 Successful, But Operational Payloads Have Mixed Results

Bengaluru.(Agency)

Skyroot Aerospace's maiden orbital launch vehicle, Vikram-1, has achieved what many thought would take years for a private Indian start-up. The rocket successfully reached space and demonstrated that a privately developed Indian orbital launcher can perform a complex mission. Yet for many of the experimental payloads riding atop the rocket, the story has been more nuanced.

While some payloads achieved all their objectives, others only partially succeeded. But across the board, mission teams agree on one thing - The flight delivered invaluable real-world space data that could never have been obtained on the ground.

The mission carried a variety of experimental and operational payloads,

including technology demonstrations, nanosatellites and space debris removal technologies. For India's growing private space ecosystem, Vikram-1 represented a rare opportunity to test ambitious hardware



in orbit.

One of the most closely watched experiments was CosmoServe's Active Debris Removal payload called Embrace. The mission aimed to demonstrate a soft

robotic capture system designed to help tackle the growing problem of dangerous space debris orbiting Earth.

According to Chiranjeevi Phanindra, the company's founder, the payload successfully survived launch, and several critical systems operated exactly as expected once in orbit.

"CosmoServe's maiden mission, Embrace, was successfully launched on board Skyroot's Vikram-1. The soft robotic capture system withstood all launch conditions, and major systems like the actuation system, along with our software, functioned as expected," he said. The robotic petals that were designed to open after reaching orbit failed to deploy.

According to the company, detailed investigations suggest that an unusual settling of the petals may have occurred because of a combination of extreme space conditions.

Pannun releases video claiming Zoom talk with CJP leaders as Nihangs join protest venue in New Delhi

Chandigarh.(Agency)

The ongoing agitation led by the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) in the national capital took a dramatic turn after pro-Khalistan operative Gurpatwant Singh Pannun released a video message claiming he held a virtual interaction via Zoom with key leaders of the movement.

In the widely circulated video, Pannun claimed that strategic discussions were held during the online meeting about the demonstration's future trajectory in New Delhi. Making inflammatory statements directed at the central leadership, Pannun called for political disruption and claimed that structural disintegration was the ultimate solution. However, official sources and independent media channels have not verified the authenticity or the exact timing of the alleged virtual interaction.

Simultaneously, the protest site at Jantar Mantar witnessed major developments as members of the Blue Force Nihang group arrived late Tuesday evening to express solidarity with the demonstrating students. Protesters present at the location welcomed their presence, with several students expressing renewed energy following Monday's clashes with law enforcement personnel. Elaborating on their involvement, Blue Force Nihang group chief Varinder Singh stated on Wednesday that a contingent of 30 to 40 members had reached Jantar Mantar, with additional members arriving continuously from various parts of Punjab. He added that the team is actively coordinating on-ground logistics to assist the youth, including providing cooling equipment such as fans and distributing essential supplies among the demonstrators.

The mobilization follows high-voltage drama on July 20, when security forces used lathicharge to disperse CJP demonstrators attempting to march toward Parliament. During the commotion, several fleeing students sought refuge inside the historic Gurdwara Bangla Sahib. Demonstrators managed to secure the entrance gates from within, preventing police personnel from entering the religious premises. Reacting to the incident, Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) President Sukhbir Singh Badal and Member of Parliament Harsimrat Kaur Badal released video footage documenting the standoff outside the shrine. Expressing gratitude toward community volunteers, Harsimrat Kaur Badal praised the spirit of selfless service, noting that supporting those in distress represents the community's greatest legacy.

9 Hurt In Bengaluru PG Cylinder Blast. Windows Were Shut To Avoid Mosquitoes

Bengaluru.(Agency)

Nine migrant workers from West Bengal sustained severe burn injuries after a massive gas leak explosion tore through a private Paying Guest (PG) accommodation in Bengaluru early this morning.

The incident occurred around 6:30 AM on the second floor of a three-storey building. The blast, which was triggered by a gas leak in the kitchen, was so powerful that it shattered glass windows and doors of the entire floor and also damaged a neighboring building.

All nine victims were crammed into a single-bedroom unit with a small kitchen and bathroom. While a worker jumped from the building and sustained a minor fracture, other workers sustained over 60 per cent burn injuries. Doctors have stated that all the injured are currently stable despite the severity of the burns.

They were identified as Debasis Halder, Debasis Malik, Subrata Bera, Hsbibul Rehman, Sourav Chowdhary, Santan Ray, Syed Alahuddin, and Diswanath, all hailing from West Bengal. After inspecting the site, Joint Commissioner (East Division) Ramesh Banoth said that "everything there is a violation." He confirmed that investigators are probing how nine people were permitted to stay in one room.

Houses of two LeT terrorists demolished in J&K's Anantnag hours after cop's killing

The demolitions were carried out less than 24 hours after Head Constable Aashiq Hussain Qureshi was shot dead at close range near the bustling Lal Chowk area of Anantnag while on duty.

Srinagar.(Agency)

The houses of two active Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir's Anantnag district were demolished by the authorities overnight, hours after a police head constable was shot dead in Anantnag during his patrolling duty.

According to the sources, the demolished houses belonged to Adil Thokar, a resident of Guree in Bijbehara, and Haroon Ganaie, a resident of Hassanpora. Both have been identified by the security establishment as active LeT operatives, officials said.

Sources also said that the demolition of the two residences was part of an intensified crackdown aimed at dismantling terror networks and destroying the logistical support infrastructure used by militants in the Kashmir Valley. The action was carried out during the intervening night of Wednesday and Thursday, shortly after Head Constable Aashiq Hussain Qureshi, 35, was killed in a targeted attack at Lal Chowk in Anantnag on Wednesday afternoon. According to PTI reports, a lone terrorist opened fire



on Hussain while he was deployed on security duty for the ongoing Amarnath Yatra. The policeman succumbed to his injuries, triggering a massive security operation across the district.

Soon after the attack, security forces cordoned off the area and launched a massive search operation to track down the assailant. Additional reinforcements were deployed, and checkpoints were established at key locations across the district. Officials said efforts are underway to identify and apprehend those responsible. The attack comes amid heightened security across Jammu and Kashmir, with forces maintaining an intensified counter-terror grid following Operation Sindoor. The motive behind the killing is being investigated.

NEWS BOX

World Cup winner Rodri set for back surgery amid Real Madrid transfer speculation

New Delhi. (Agency)

Spain captain Rodri is set to undergo surgery on a back injury after leading his country to FIFA World Cup 2026 glory, casting fresh uncertainty over his immediate future at Manchester City. The Golden Ball winner has no confirmed timeline for his return, with the latest setback coming amid continued speculation over a possible move to Real Madrid. The 30-year-old enjoyed a memorable summer in North America, captaining Spain to their second World Cup title while being named the tournament's best player. Rodri started all eight matches as La Roja lifted the trophy, capping a remarkable comeback after two injury-hit seasons at club level. However, his celebrations have been tempered by another fitness concern. Reports suggest the midfielder will require surgery to address a back issue, although neither Manchester City nor the player has



indicated how long he could be sidelined. The latest injury comes at a crucial point in Rodri's career, with just one year remaining on his current contract at the Etihad Stadium. RODRI TRANSFER NEWS Rodri's importance to Manchester City has never been in doubt, but injuries have repeatedly interrupted his progress over the past two seasons. The midfielder missed almost the entirety of the 2024-25 campaign after rupturing his anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) before suffering hamstring and groin problems during the following season. Those setbacks limited him to just 33 appearances in all competitions, including only 17 Premier League starts.

Keep faith in government: Shikhar Dhawan urges patience from students amid protests

New Delhi. (Agency)

Former Indian cricketer Shikhar Dhawan has urged students to remain patient and keep faith in the government amid the CJP protests at Delhi's Jantar Mantar. The statement from the former India opener came as demonstrations over the alleged NEET-UG 2026 paper leak and examination irregularities have continued to garner nationwide attention and support from big names. In a statement on his official X account, Dhawan said that while it was essential to understand the youth who are protesting



for cause, it was also important to believe in the country's institutions and the ruling government.

"Our youth are the future of our nation. It is essential to understand their dreams, but at the same time, it is equally important to maintain patience in difficult times and keep faith in the country's institutions and government," said Dhawan. Dhawan continued by saying that patience will be key at this hour. "I believe that the solution to every challenge emerges with patience. India has always moved forward and will continue to progress," said Dhawan. The statement from the former Indian opener comes after Yuvraj Singh also spoke about the protests and urged the government and CJP to resolve their issues through dialogue.

To every child, student, woman and man: you deserve the opportunity to learn in peace, grow with safety, and chase your dreams", Yuvraj wrote on Instagram.

Sergio Ramos takes a jibe at Messi by recreating Argentina star's iconic World Cup pic

After Spain beat Argentina in the 2026 World Cup final, Sergio Ramos recreated Lionel Messi's viral trophy-sleeping photo to take a light-hearted jibe at the Argentina captain. Messi and Co. were beaten by Spain 1-0 in the showdown in New York.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Fresh off Spain's triumph over Argentina in the 2026 FIFA World Cup final, Sergio Ramos celebrated in a way that football fans quickly recognised. The former Spain captain shared a series of photos on Instagram after his country's 1-0 victory, but one image stood out above the rest. Ramos was pictured asleep with two FIFA World Cup trophies beside him,



a playful recreation of Lionel Messi's viral photograph following Argentina's 2022 World Cup success. The post appeared to be a tongue-in-cheek nod to Messi, whose original image of sleeping alongside the World Cup trophy became one of the defining moments after Argentina's title win in Qatar. While the



recreation was unlikely to match the extraordinary popularity of Messi's post, it instantly caught the attention of football fans familiar with the reference. Ramos and Messi spent over a decade on opposite sides of one of football's fiercest rivalries, representing Real Madrid and Barcelona respectively

during the peak of El Clasico. However, they did share a dressing room together when both men were a part of Paris Saint-Germain before Messi left the team to join MLS in 2023. Having lifted the World Cup with Spain in 2010, Ramos now has reason to celebrate a second title for his country. Spain's latest triumph in 2026 doubled the nation's World Cup tally after their maiden success 16 years earlier, when Andres Iniesta's extra-time strike sealed a 1-0 victory over the Netherlands in South Africa. Ramos was not the only Spaniard to reference Messi's iconic celebration. Midfielder Fabian Ruiz also recreated the famous image while travelling home with the World Cup trophy, adding another light-hearted tribute to Spain's title celebrations. Messi's original photograph, taken after Argentina finally ended their long wait for World Cup glory in 2022, showed him asleep with the trophy tucked into his arms.

How Lovlina Borgohain got India Commonwealth Games 2026 medal before opening ceremony

New Delhi. (Agency)

India have reason to celebrate at the Commonwealth Games 2026 even before the opening ceremony has taken place. Boxer Lovlina Borgohain became the country's first guaranteed medallist after securing a direct place in the women's 75kg category semifinals on Thursday, July 23.

COMMONWEALTH GAMES 2026: INDIA SCHEDULE

The Olympic medallist received a bye in the final four in her category, which means that she is assured of at least the bronze medal. Under the Commonwealth Games boxing format, both losing semifinalists receive bronze medals, meaning Lovlina is guaranteed a place on the podium before stepping into the ring in



Glasgow. Now, Lovlina will kick off her campaign on July 31 against T.K.B.P. Taafaki, with a place in the gold medal bout at stake. A win will take the Indian boxer into the final, while a loss would

still see her return with the bronze medal she has already secured.

HOW DID LOVLINA REACH THE SEMIFINALS?

Seeded No. 1 in the women's 75kg middleweight category, Lovlina

advanced straight to the semifinals after receiving a bye in a five-boxer field. With only five athletes competing in the division, three, including the Indian, were handed direct semifinal berths, while the remaining two will contest the lone quarterfinal. This comes as a welcome relief for India as it will boost their hopes of breaching the 30-medal mark this time around. India finished with 61 medals last time in Birmingham, but with the events being trimmed to just 10 in Glasgow, there were doubts if the nation could replicate the same form they showed four years ago. Wrestling, badminton, table tennis, hockey, and cricket all brought medals home for India, and none of them are part of the events list this time. All these events combined to give India a total of 28 medals in Birmingham.

Argentina fans launch petition to replay the World Cup 2026 final. Here's why

New Delhi. (Agency)

A section of Argentina supporters has launched an online petition calling on FIFA to replay the 2026 World Cup final, with the campaign rapidly gaining traction after the defeat to Spain. The petition, created by fan Gisela Sanchez on Change.org, raises concerns over the officiating of Slovenian referee Slavko Vincic, claiming that several key decisions during the final had a decisive impact on the result. Argentina were beaten by Spain in the final 1-0 in what was a one-sided affair. According to a report from Bein Sport, in the petition, Sanchez argues that video footage from the match shows a pattern of decisions that allegedly favoured one side and influenced the flow of the contest. She

says those calls left players, coaching staff, and supporters feeling deeply



disappointed. The appeal urges FIFA to conduct a thorough and transparent review of the officiating in the final. It also asks the governing body to consider staging the match again, alleging that the outcome was affected by biased refereeing. Describing the campaign as

a fight for fairness "not only for Argentina, but for the future of world football," the petition has already attracted more than 67,500 signatures.

WHAT DID SCALONI SAY ABOUT REFEREEING IN FINAL?

One of the most-talked-about moments from the game was the tackle from Enzo Fernandez on Pau Cubarsi, which earned him a red card after being booked for the second time. While fans were unhappy with the referee's performance, coach Lionel Scaloni said that Spain was the better team at the end of the day and no blame should be put on Vincic. "Was the officiating unfair?" No, we lost because Spain were better than us," Scaloni told reporters upon his return to Argentina.

Indian judoka Arun Kumar cut from Commonwealth Games 2026 after doping test failure

New Delhi. (Agency)

India suffered a major setback just hours before the start of the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow as judoka Arun Kumar was ruled out after being notified of an Adverse Analytical Finding (AAF) following an out-of-competition doping test.

As a result, Arun has been ruled out of the men's 73kg event at this year's judo competition after being deemed ineligible. The National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) served the notice on Wednesday, following which Arun's name was removed from the 2026 Commonwealth Games Sports Entries System. After being informed of the AAF, the International Judo Federation (IJF) notified the organisers, while the Indian Olympic Association (IOA)



was also kept informed of the development. "Glasgow 2026 has received confirmation from the International Judo Federation that Arun Kumar is not eligible to compete at Glasgow 2026. As a result, they will be removed from the Sport Entries System," Ellise Anderson wrote on behalf of the organisers.

NO REPLACEMENT FOR ARUN

Judo Federation of India president Mukesh Kumar, said that they had big hopes from Arun during the games and said that they won't be able to name a replacement before the event gets underway on Thursday, with the medals events starting from Friday. His notice only came yesterday that says he has to send his reply in 15 days. We will give him time but as per the rules, he cannot compete.

CJP Protest: Students use Norway's viral Viking Row with a twist in Mumbai

The students in Mumbai, who are part of the CJP protests, decided to use the Norway football team's iconic Viking Row as a medium to voice their concerns in Mumbai.

New Delhi. (Agency)

The students in Mumbai, who are part of the CJP protests, have held the spirit of the Norway team at this year's World Cup close to their hearts. It seems like they were influenced by the team's iconic Viking Row, so they decided to incorporate it as a way to raise their

voice. The Norway fans used the Viking Row during the tournament as a way to show their solidarity towards the team. Soon enough, players like Erling Haaland and Martin Odegaard joined and had the entire team perform it with the fans after wins.

CJP Protests at Jantar Mantar, New Delhi: UPDATES

While Norway's campaign ended in the quarterfinals with a loss to England, the spirit of the Viking Row continues to live on. In a video circulating on social media, students were seen battling the rainy conditions to make their feelings felt and use the celebration. But there was a twist to it. Usually, the participants shout 'row' during the routine but this time the students decided to replace it with

'resign' instead. WHY ARE THE STUDENTS PROTESTING The protests, organised by the



Cockroach Janta Party (CJP), were sparked by allegations surrounding the NEET-UG 2026 paper leak. What began as a student-led demonstration has since grown into a nationwide campaign

calling for sweeping changes to India's examination system, with participants demanding greater transparency and accountability. Among the key demands raised by the protesters are stronger measures to prevent question paper leaks, structural reforms to the examination process, financial relief for affected aspirants, and the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan. The movement first took shape at Delhi's Jantar Mantar on June 20 before reaching a major flashpoint during the 'Chalo Sansad' march on July 20. Thousands of students attempted to head towards Parliament, but were stopped by police, leading to clashes that triggered widespread criticism and intensified the agitation.

Katrina Kaif's

Fans Upset, Shut Down Fan Account Amid CJP Protests: 'You Do Not Have A Spine'

A group of Katrina Kaif's fans is upset and disappointed with her 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". The Instagram fan page is named 'katholic_fans' and has over 70,000 followers. 'I have been your fan since childhood, but you can't say a word for us Indians and students who love you from the bottom of our hearts. You don't have the spine to speak against the government. You betrayed us when we supported you at your



lowest. I am unfollowing you and closing this fan page. You don't deserve it," the fan page wrote in a statement.

Soon after the post was shared, several social media users reacted to it and praised the decision. "Respect for the admin," one of the users wrote. "I am glad you're closing fan page," added another.

Katrina's Fans Defend Her However, some of Katrina Kaif's fans also defended her, saying she can choose what to support or not. "If you live in a democracy, so does she. If you can choose what you want to support, so can she. And if you can't support her for what she chooses to support—even if you completely disagree—you were never a true fan. Also, stop blackmailing people over who they support. She's an adult, and she knows what's right and what's wrong," one of the fans wrote.

It should be noted that while Katrina Kaif has not issued any statement, as of now,

regarding the ongoing CJP protests, several other Bollywood celebrities have openly expressed their support to the students. Among others, Shabana Azmi, Preity Zinta, Riteish Deshmukh, Sonu Sood, Sonakshi Sinha and Prakash Raj have voiced their concerns.

Sunidhi Chauhan

On Stepping Away From Reality Shows: 'Yeh Meri Jagah Nahin Hai'

Celebrated singer Sunidhi Chauhan revealed why she walked away from reality shows during a candid conversation with veteran actor Shekhar Suman during the chat show, 'Shekhar



Tonite'. During the episode, host Shekhar Suman pointed out that Sunidhi has made a conscious choice to stay away from controversies and was also no longer seen judging singing reality shows. Sunidhi admitted that the decision was entirely her own. "I was for a very, very long time. But then I stopped because mujhe laga ki yeh meri jagah nahin hai," she said. When Shekhar asked what made her take this

decision, Sunidhi pointed out that in today's time, the thin line between music production and reality television had started to blur.

"It's a very sad thing. Earlier, auto-tune or Melodyne was used in songs for a certain effect. But you can't do that in a reality show where you're supposed to be all real and honest. Jab woh wahan shift ho gaya, mujhe laga yeh kahin aur ja raha hai... which I can't be on," the singer shared. While interacting, Shekhar and Sunidhi also shed light on the challenges faced by artists during live performances. Shekhar referred to various incidents involving singers like KK and Sonu Nigam, and asked Sunidhi if she had ever had to face such situations while on stage.

Sunidhi expressed gratitude that such a thing has never happened to her. The singer replied, "Main bahut lucky hoon because aaj tak mere saath is tarah ka behaviour maine nahin dekha hai. Bahut pyaar diya logon ne... sirf pyaar hi nahin, samman bhi dete hain (I am very lucky because I have never seen this kind of behavior with me before. People have given a lot of love... not just love, they also give respect)."



'Kashmir Has Changed Tremendously': Huma Qureshi Expresses Wish To Collaborate With Local Artists



Huma Qureshi is happy and proud that her recently release film, Baby Do Die Do, is witnessing houseful in Jammu and Kashmir. The actress visited a Jammu theatre when she revealed that Kashmir is her 'nanihal (maternal grandparents' house)'. Huma spoke fondly about Kashmir and also expressed her desire to collaborate with the local artists there.

"For Kashmir is my Nanihal because mymama's from here. So I always consider Jammu and Kashmir to be my, you know, Nannihal. And I always get so much love Jammu. In fact, especially so also because I shot here. You know, I shot three seasons of Maharani over here and it was absolutely lovely," Huma said, as quoted by .

"Kashmir has changed tremendously. I feel like it needs more change. Like I would want to be part of that change. I feel like as part of my legacy and my nanihal. I want to be able to like, you know, do more. Whether it means engaging with young people over here, who could be interested in performing arts or cinema over here. Whether it means bringing my industry over here, whether it's shooting opportunities or exchange opportunities, collaborating with writers, musicians, actors, storytellers from here there's so many, so many incredible things that could happen," the actress added.

"The possibility of that and I hope inshaallah, fingers crossed, you know, all of us together are able to write that. Because of park sponsor terrorism Jammu and Kashmir had been known for all wrong reasons. But now people here see you as one of the ambassadors of this region," she stated.

Huma Qureshi's Baby Do Die Do hit theatres on July 3 and clash at the box office with Alia Bhatt's spy thriller, Alpha. Baby Do Die Do received mixed reviews from all and has collected close to Rs 6 crore as of now.

Why Doesn't Aryan Khan Smile During Media Appearances? Raghav Juyal Reveals



Raghav Juyal, who will next be seen in Bhai Tera Star Hai, shares a very close bond with Shah Rukh Khan's son, Aryan Khan. Raghav starred in Aryan's directorial debut series, Ba**ds of Bollywood*, and ever since, the two have become close friends. Now, in a new chat, the ace dancer got candid about Aryan and replied to questions about why he doesn't smile during media appearances.

While Raghav revealed that Aryan is quite a fun person, he also shared that he doesn't wish to fake his smile at all. Speaking to Pinkvilla, Juyal shared, "He doesn't want to fake it, and I don't think he wants to put on an act. That's just who he is, and I think he should be allowed to be that way.

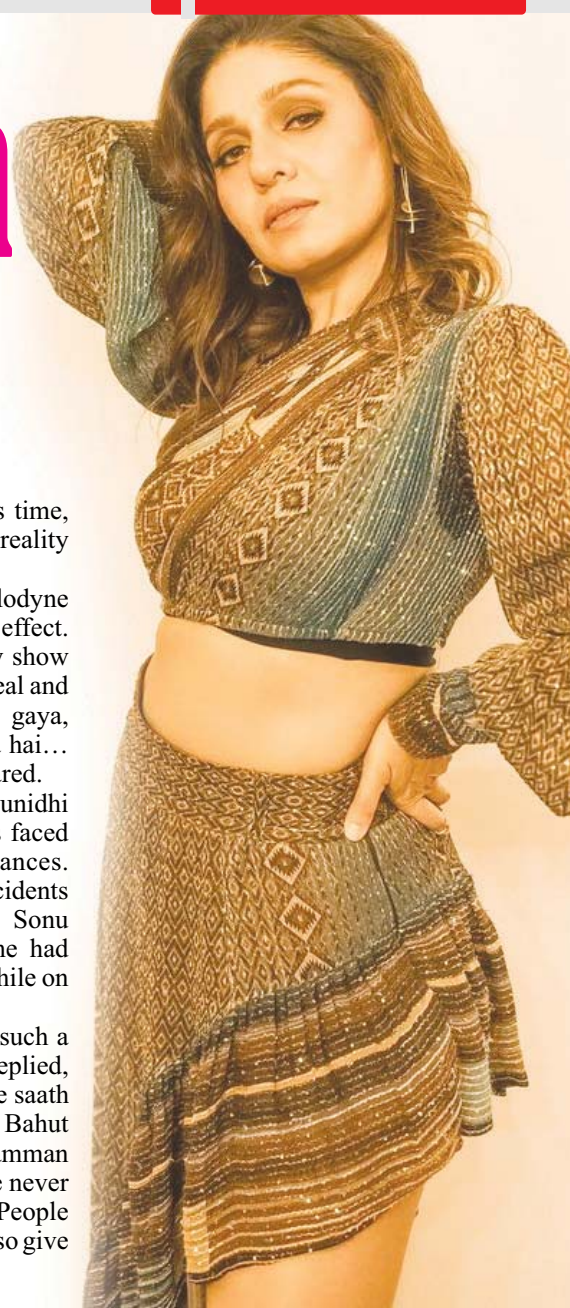
He's incredibly creative, free-flowing, and kind. That's his nature." The Kill actor further continued and shared that Aryan is quite a lot of fun at home. He said, "If he doesn't want to smile, that's his choice. At home, he laughs, jokes around, and has fun." Earlier, in a chat with Bollywood Hungama, Raghav revealed Aryan's unusual habit. "He has a phobia of smiling in front of the camera. He won't smile in front of the camera, usko bahot pasand hai attitude mein rehna. But, with us he makes faces as well. He has a very childlike energy in him."

Raghav Juyal's birthday party left Aryan Khan uncomfortable

As per the Free Press Journal, Raghav Juyal had planned to host a grand yet private birthday bash and invited his close friends, including Shah Rukh Khan's son Aryan Khan and his co-star Bobby Deol.

He had booked a fine-dining restaurant in Bandra for the celebration. Later, a request came to Raghav from a certain politician's inner circle, saying that since Raghav's birthday coincided with his, they should host a joint party. Raghav reportedly agreed, a decision that allegedly became his biggest mistake.

Within minutes of the celebrations beginning, Aryan Khan and Bobby Deol found themselves in the midst of an awkward situation, surrounded by fans and guests seeking photos. From that point on, everything went downhill.



NEWS BOX

Daniel Siad found dead: French recruiter named in Epstein files dies near Paris

SANTIAGO.(Agency)

A French professional model recruiter who for over a decade arranged for the late sex offender Jeffrey Epstein to meet multiple models, was found dead in his home near Paris on Monday, CNN and multiple other news sites reported.

Daniel Siad's body was found in his house in Colombes, a suburb of the French capital, Marie-Céline Lawrysz, CNN said quoting deputy public prosecutor at the Nanterre Judicial Court Siad's name appeared in more than 1,000 documents released as part of the declassified Epstein files. He likened his efforts to recruit women to fishing. "In This busyness I feel like fisherman some time I cache quick, some time no fish," Siad wrote to Epstein in 2014, according to Le Monde.

French authorities in 2020 arrested modelling agent Jean-Luc Brunel after allegations he procured women for the US billionaire. He was found dead in prison in 2022.

US carries out 12th night of strikes on Iran as both sides threaten civilian infrastructure

DUBAI.(Agency)

The U.S. military announced Wednesday that it was conducting a 12th night of strikes against Iran as both sides increasingly targeted civilian infrastructure.U.S. Central Command said the attacks were designed to "further degrade Iran's ability to threaten civilian mariners and commercial vessels transiting regional waters," as the Americans push to regain control over the Strait of Hormuz and restore the flow of international shipping.President Donald Trump warned earlier Wednesday that the U.S. would destroy one bridge or power plant each time Iran shoots at a ship in the strait.

"From this point forward, any time the Islamic Republic of Iran shoots at a ship in the Strait of Hormuz, whether it be by Missile, Rocket, Drone, or any other device or weapon, the United States will bomb and destroy ONE BRIDGE OR POWER PLANT," Trump wrote on social media.

The continued American airstrikes are occurring even as diplomatic efforts show little public sign of progress and officials on both sides have dug in on the dispute over the crucial waterway for global energy that remains largely closed. The unpopular war threatens further worldwide economic disruption and is sending fuel prices up ahead of midterm U.S. elections this fall.

Seyed Abbas Araghchi, Iran's foreign minister, said his country would adopt an "eye for an eye" defense doctrine."Any aggression against Iran, including our infrastructure, will compel a powerful and decisive response," he posted Wednesday on X.

9 Indian Fishermen Arrested By Sri Lankan Navy

Colombo.(Agency)

At least nine Indian fishermen were arrested, and their trawler seized for allegedly poaching in Sri Lankan waters, the island nation's Navy has said.The fishermen were fishing in the island nation's waters north of Talaimannar after crossing the International Maritime Boundary Line, the Navy said.The arrests come amid continuing tensions over the fishermen issue, a long-standing irritant in India-Sri Lanka ties.

The fishermen were apprehended on Wednesday evening during an operation after more than 50 Indian fishing trawlers were found to have allegedly trespassed into Sri Lankan waters south of Iranativu and engaged in illegal fishing, the Sri Lanka Navy said in a statement.

The nine arrested fishermen and their seized trawler were handed over to the Fisheries Inspector of Mannar for further legal proceedings, the Navy said in a statement on Wednesday.As of April 15, 128 Indian fishermen had been arrested, with 18 trawlers being seized by the Sri Lankan Navy so far for alleged poaching in Colombo's waters this year.

The fishermen issue is a contentious one in the ties between India and Sri Lanka, with Lankan Navy personnel even firing at Indian fishermen in the Palk Strait and seizing their boats in several alleged incidents of illegally entering Sri Lankan territorial waters.The Palk Strait, a narrow strip of water separating Tamil Nadu from Sri Lanka, is a rich fishing ground for fishermen from both countries.Fishermen from both countries are arrested frequently for inadvertently trespassing into each other's waters.

Rubio to revive prospect of US helping end war in Ukraine in meeting with Russian counterpart

The meeting between Rubio and Lavrov is slated to occur on the sidelines of a gathering by Southeast Asian foreign ministers.

MANILA.(Agency)

Secretary of State Marco Rubio is set to meet Thursday with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov in the Philippines, where he's expected to renew the prospect of the U.S. trying to broker an end to the war in Ukraine.

The meeting between Rubio and Lavrov is slated to occur on the sidelines of a gathering by Southeast Asian foreign ministers, among the most high-profile

side meetings the region's top diplomats were having at the Association of Southeast Asian Nations event in Manila.U.S. efforts to broker an end to the Russia-Ukraine war have dropped off as indirect talks stalled and the Iran war took center stage. Renewed strikes by Washington and Tehran have been intensifying after an interim ceasefire deal collapsed.Rubio told reporters in Manila on Wednesday that he plans to raise the conflict in Ukraine with Lavrov, saying that the U.S. remained open to playing a role in ending the conflict "if that opportunity presents itself."He acknowledged that those efforts have "kind of fallen off a little bit over the last few months" but said the meeting would explore whether there's an opportunity to renew talks."We have to have a relationship with the Russian

government, even though we have areas of disagreement," Rubio said, noting that they are two largest nuclear-armed countries.Lavrov, seaking to reporters at the ASEAN meeting, said he



would ask Rubio about the latest statements by U.S. President Donald Trump predicting that a settlement is getting close.Expectations for renewed discussions about ending the war comes as Ukraine has made significant progress this year but a rift between

defense leaders has threatened to derail its efforts. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has undertaken a major government reshuffle, including its top military brass.But Ukraine would not be the only issue on the table. Rubio said he would use the meeting to find other areas of potential cooperation between the U.S. and Russia — the kind of wide-ranging agenda that the ministers have touched on in their huddles around the ASEAN meeting.Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong renewed her country's alarm over the Chinese navy's recent test-launch of a missile from a nuclear-powered submarine in the region, which she said "came with too little information and notification, including to the Philippines — over which the missile flew — and Pacific nations, near where the missile landed.

Wisconsin police officer shoots, kills man on city street near state Capitol in Madison

MADISON, Wis.(Agency)

A Madison police officer shot and killed a man who had injured him with a knife while resisting arrest, the city's police chief said Wednesday.

Cellphone video of the shooting circulated on social media shortly after the incident. Three gunshots can be heard on the cellphone video.Madison Police Chief John Patterson stressed at a news conference that the footage circulating was just one perspective of what happened."I want to take a moment to honestly and sincerely offer my heartfelt sympathies to his family for this loss," Patterson said. The dead man was in his 30s, Patterson said, but police did not release his name.

The shooting happened on a city street in a popular neighborhood lined with restaurants, bars, shops and residential homes less than two miles from the state Capitol. Footage of the incident shows numerous cars stopped in the intersection with people watching as it unfolded.A white police officer shot and killed Tony Robinson, who was biracial, on the same street in 2015, a shooting that spurred large protests. The district attorney did not file charges against police in that incident, determining the officer was justified.The race of the officer who fired his gun on Wednesday and that of the man killed were not released by police. But advocates for the Black community in Madison said the man killed was Black."Another Black man is dead on a Madison street, and our community watched him die before we even knew his name," said Brandi Grayson, the head of the Madison-based Black community advocacy group Urban Triage. "That is the cruelty of state violence."A crowd formed near where the shooting occurred on Wednesday with people chanting, "Arrest the cops!"They placed flowers and candles where the man was shot and held a vigil.

Protesters also marched to the Wisconsin State Capitol and took the stage at a summer concert series, demanding the name of the officer and that he be held accountable. The Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra announced on social media the show was canceled.Police were responding to calls that someone was attempting to enter parked vehicles in the neighborhood, Patterson said. The suspect fled on a bike through nearby backyards in an attempt to get away before officers contacted him in the street, Patterson said.

France recorded 5,700 more deaths than usual during its historic June heat wave

PARIS.(Agency)

France recorded at least 5,700 more deaths than usual during a historic heat wave last month, the public health agency said Wednesday, sharply increasing its estimates of the feared toll from record-shattering temperatures.Public Health France said regions hit by the heat from June 17 to July 2 recorded 21,674 deaths from all causes. But without a heat wave, those same regions would have been expected to have seen far fewer deaths, or 15,910, based on statistical modeling using data from previous years, it said.The difference between expected and actual deaths—a total of 5,764—are therefore considered to be "excess" deaths during the heat wave, the agency said.It said the excess

mortality, with 36% more deaths that would normally have been expected, was the highest from any heat wave since 2003. A historic heat wave that year caused an estimated 15,000 deaths in France.France registered its hottest-ever days on June 24 and June 25 this year — with a national average of 30 C (86 F) — as well as record heat at night and peak temperatures that soared well above 40 C (104 F) in many places.

Just over half of the unexpected deaths occurred during and in the immediate wake of that hottest period, over three days from June 25 to June 27, the public health agency said."This unprecedented episode, characterized by its early onset, intensity, and duration, exposed nearly the entire population to extreme heat during a

period when school and work activities were still in full swing," the agency noted.All told, across Europe, extreme temperatures that hit exceptionally early and hard this year saw well over 10,000 more deaths at the height of the heat wave than would normally have been expected, according to figures that are still emerging across the continent.In France, the Paris region appears to have been hardest hit, recording 1,999 unexpected deaths — around 80% more than would otherwise have been anticipated without a heat wave, the French health agency said.Funeral service directors in Paris said they struggled to find places to store bodies before burial or cremation, with some mortuaries saying they were full and having to turn bodies away.

US and Saudi Arabia sign new nuclear agreement that could pave way for kingdom to enrich uranium

WASHINGTON.(Agency)

The U.S. and Saudi Arabia on Wednesday forged a new agreement that could potentially provide the kingdom with uranium enrichment capability for its civilian nuclear program.

U.S. Energy Secretary Chris Wright and Saudi Minister of Energy Abdulaziz bin Salman formally signed the nuclear cooperation agreement, known as a "123 agreement," alongside what the Trump administration described as a "bilateral safeguards agreement."The U.S. administration released scant details of the deal, but the framework paves the way for the building of a uranium enrichment

facility in Saudi Arabia after a joint U.S.-Saudi study, according to a person familiar with the matter who was not authorized to



comment publicly and spoke on the condition of anonymity."These agreements reflect our two nations' shared commitment to strengthening U.S.-Saudi commercial relations, delivering prosperity at home and security to our allies abroad," Wright said in a

statement. "Rest assured, these agreements uphold the highest standards of nuclear safety and nonproliferation, while relying on the world's best nuclear technology and scientists, designed right here in the United States."Earlier, Secretary of State Marco Rubio sought to head off emerging criticism of the decision under questioning by reporters about the risk that helping the Saudis fulfill their long-standing desire to enrich their own uranium could lead to new rounds of nuclear proliferation and competition in a volatile region.

"The U.S. is not going to reach any agreement with any country in the world that leads to the risk of proliferation," said.

What to know about the autopsy and investigation into Nolan Wells' death

OCEAN SPRINGS, Miss.(Agency)

The family of Nolan Xavier Wells is still searching for answers about what exactly led to the 18-year-old athlete's death during a July 4 boat trip with friends off Mississippi's Gulf Coast. Though Wells traveled by boat with his friends to Horn Island, he didn't return with the group that afternoon as planned. His body was found two days later off the island's coast.An independent autopsy commissioned by the family was inconclusive, civil rights attorney Ben Crump announced Wednesday, and the Mississippi sheriff's department investigating Wells' death hasn't made a public statement about the case in recent

days.Wells' parents say the tragedy is riddled with conflicting stories and missing details. That distrust has been deepened by the state's long legacy of racism. Wells was the only Black person in the group that day — everyone else with him on the outing was white.

Here's a look at what's known and what's next in the search for answers. Wells was reported missing within hoursWells' mother Christine Wonsley became concerned when one of his friends called around 11 pm on July 4. After trying to track her son down on her own, she reported him missing to police. One of Wells' friends had also reported him missing to the US Coast Guard.Wells didn't make it back to the mainland, but his phone and car keys

did. Wonsley used an app to track Wells' phone, and, after a friend went to where it was on land to pick it up, noticed that some of his messages appeared to be deleted. Wells' father, Elmore Wonsley, went to retrieve his son's keys from the boat, which was at the home where Wells had stayed with his friends the night before their trip. He said his son's car was still parked in the yard.The day after Wells' body was found, Jackson County Sheriff John Ledbetter said Wells' friends were cooperating with authorities and that investigators did not suspect foul play.

Ledbetter said people interviewed by investigators said Wells chose to stay on the island with the assumption that he was going to ride back to the mainland

with someone else. Crump said another witness reported Wells had planned to leave on the boat with his friends.

The independent autopsy found the cause of death is 'undetermined' The independent autopsy report showed no evidence of fractures or deep tissue injuries, and described a "red discoloration" on the back of Wells' skull as "inconclusive" and meriting further investigation, Crump said.

Dr. Roger Mitchell, the forensic pathologist who performed the autopsy, wrote in the report that he could not rule out the possibility that "non-accidental factors contributed to or caused the death." He listed the cause of death as "undetermined" pending further investigation.