

Congress demands Amit Shah’s resignation; BJP demands SIT probe against Rahul Gandhi

NEW DELHI. (Agency)

BJP Member of Parliament Nishikant Dubey on Monday launched a scathing attack on Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi, demanding an investigation into the Congress leader's foreign visits while the Opposition protested in Parliament over the police action against students at Jantar Mantar. The remarks came as Opposition MPs staged a demonstration at Makar Dwar of Parliament, holding banners and demanding accountability from Union Home Minister Amit Shah over the police action against students protesting the alleged NEET paper leak and other examination-related irregularities. Reacting to the protest, Dubey said Rahul Gandhi, rather than the government, should answer questions. He alleged that there had been no transparency regarding

the Congress leader's foreign visits over the years.

"It is Rahul Gandhi who should be held accountable. No one knows about all the



foreign trips he has undertaken from 2004 to 2026. He goes abroad, whom he meets, what he does, what kind of movement he talks about, and what funding he talks about. How were Soros' people present on his trip? What happened between Congress and China in 2008? No one knows it to date.

This is not transparency," Dubey told reporters.

The BJP MP further argued that the Leader of Opposition carries responsibilities similar to those of a national representative while travelling abroad and should present India's policies before the international community.

"He is the Leader of Opposition, and when the LoP embarks on a foreign visit, he has to act like a de facto Prime Minister; he has to tell people about India's policies. However, whenever Rahul Gandhi has visited foreign nations, he has always spoken against India, the government and the Constitution," Dubey said. Dubey also said he would seek Rahul Gandhi's removal from the post of Leader of Opposition and urged the government to constitute a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to examine the Congress leader's foreign visits.

PM Modi says border villages are now India's 'first villages'

NEW DELHI. (Agency)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said the government now regards border villages as the country's "first villages", highlighting their strategic and cultural importance and stressing that developed villages are the foundation of a developed India. Addressing nearly 5,000 volunteers from 245 villages across the country virtually under the Viksit Vibrant Village Programme, Modi said the initiative aims to strengthen nation-building by connecting young people with border communities. Speaking to the participants, he said, "Today's programme is very special, with young people from nearly 250 districts across the country participating. I would like to congratulate all of you".

The Prime Minister highlighted the government's My Youth India (MY Bharat) platform and said it has attracted millions of young people. He said, "Today, millions of young people from all over the country have joined it, and they are doing commendable work nationwide". Praising the volunteers, Modi said, "From the Viksit Bharat Dialogue to the Viksit Vibrant Villages programme, all of you have showcased your strengths". Recalling the earlier perception of frontier settlements, he said, "Until a few years ago, border villages were often viewed as isolated and neglected, left to fend for themselves without access to basic facilities. Today, we can take pride in the fact that, despite these challenges, the patriotism of the people in border villages has remained strong". Describing young people as a key force in the country's progress, Modi said, "Today's youth are both the driving



Dharmendra Pradhan zindabad: Hero's welcome for ex-minister at Parliament

New Delhi. (Agency)

Dharmendra Pradhan received a hero's welcome from NDA leaders in Parliament on Monday, signalling a strong show of solidarity with the former Education Minister who resigned two days ago amid nationwide protests over the NEET paper leak. BJP MPs gathered at the Makar Dwar entrance ahead of Pradhan's arrival and waited to receive him.

As he entered the Parliament complex, party colleagues escorted him inside, greeted him and presented him with a ceremonial cap in a show of solidarity.

On their part, Opposition leaders, led by Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, staged a protest over the alleged use of excessive force against students during the nationwide protests. While raising slogans of "Shiksha Chori" (theft of education), the leaders called on Union Home Minister Amit Shah to apologise for what they described as "police brutality" against peaceful protesters.

Govt to pass paper leak Bill even if Opposition skips debate, says Kiren Rijiju

New Delhi. (Agency)

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju on Monday said the government would press ahead with the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill, 2026, even if the Opposition boycotts the debate, asserting that the legislation would be passed regardless.

Speaking in the Lok Sabha ahead of the scheduled eight-hour discussion on the Bill, Rijiju said the government was prepared for a debate but would not allow the legislation to be held up if Opposition parties chose not to participate. "If the Opposition parties do not want to discuss the Examination Reforms Bill, the government will get the Bill passed without discussion," he said.

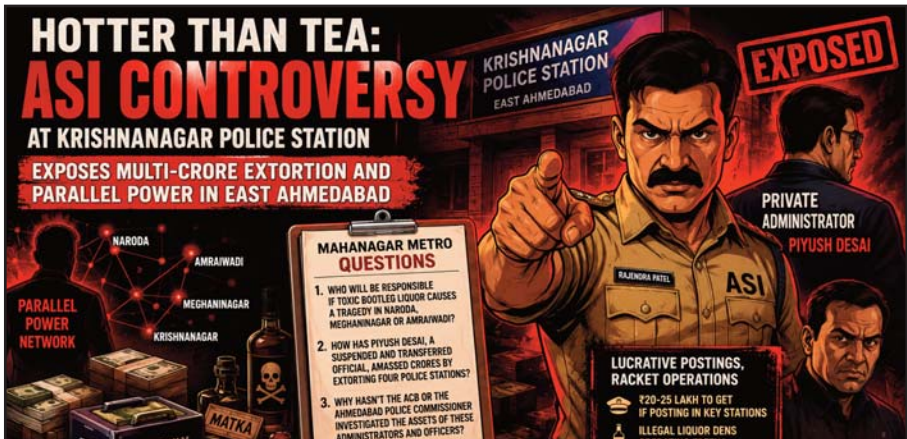
After Rijiju's remarks, the Speaker said that all parties should hold consultations so that discussion is taken up at 5 pm. The BJP and NDA have submitted to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla a list of leaders who will participate in the discussion on the Bill. The government is likely to propose an eight-hour discussion on the legislation. The Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha by Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh. Around 12 NDA leaders have been finalised to speak on the legislation, including,

Hotter Than Tea

ASI Controversy at Krishnanagar Police Station Exposes Multi-Crore Extortion and Parallel Power in East Ahmedabad

Shadow administration controls East Ahmedabad police stations.

MAHANAGAR METRO
AHMEDABAD : An embarrassing situation unfolding at the Krishnanagar Police Station in East Ahmedabad has left the entire police force stunned. An Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI), Rajendra Patel, allegedly overstepped all boundaries of authority, acting with the swagger of a Police Inspector (PI). Beyond individual misconduct, major revelations have surfaced regarding a multi-crore extortion syndicate and illegal rackets operating across East Ahmedabad. Reports indicate that private administrators, rather than uniformed officers, are effectively running operations in Krishnanagar, Meghaninagar, Amraiwadi, and Naroda police stations. Parallel Administration and Unchecked Influence Questions are being raised over how a single individual appears to control the financial administration across four major police stations. A controversial private administrator, Piyush Desai, who was previously suspended following multiple controversies, has re-emerged at the center



of the scandal. Despite being transferred out of the district on paper, Desai reportedly remains in Ahmedabad, leveraging backing from senior officials to operate a parallel power network. Reports allege that Desai manages the illegal monthly extortion collections for Police Inspectors, Sector officers, and senior personnel across Krishnanagar, Meghaninagar, Amraiwadi, and Naroda. To facilitate local operations, a sub-administrator named Krunal Desai has reportedly been deployed in the field, specifically targeting liquor dens and gambling hubs to collect illegal

cash. Lucrative Postings and Racket Operations Sensational reports suggest that securing a posting as a Police Inspector in high-profile stations like Naroda, Amraiwadi, Meghaninagar, or Krishnanagar requires an upfront expenditure of 20 to 25 lakh rupees. To recover this investment, officers allegedly permit open operations of local and foreign liquor dens, Matka gambling, and illegal gaming houses. Dense residential areas in Naroda, Meghaninagar, and Amraiwadi are reportedly seeing widespread distribution of illicit alcohol spiked with toxic chemicals. Direct Questions

Raised by Mahanagar Metro Who will bear responsibility if toxic bootleg liquor triggers a major tragedy or loss of innocent lives in Meghaninagar, Amraiwadi, or Naroda? Is the onus on the administrator or the Police Inspectors turning a blind eye? How has Piyush Desai, a previously suspended individual transferred out of the district, managed to amass immense wealth by allegedly extracting crores every month across four police stations? Why have the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) and the Ahmedabad Police Commissioner not launched an immediate investigation into the financial assets of these controversial administrators and Police Inspectors? Call for Action When law enforcement agencies tasked with public protection end up catering to private administrators and extortion networks, the law and order situation across East Ahmedabad collapses. All eyes are now on the Home Department and the Police Commissioner of Ahmedabad to see whether decisive action will be taken against those tarnishing the force, or if the issue will once again be swept under the rug.

Nitin Gadkari goes to High Court against posts linking him, family to E20 gains

New Delhi. (Agency)

According to Nitin Gadkari's suit, the disputed material includes posts and deepfake content linking the Union Minister and his family to profits from the E20 ethanol programme, despite the ethanol blending policy being administered by the Petroleum Ministry.

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari has approached the Bombay High Court against defamatory posts and deepfake content linking him and his family to profits from the E20 ethanol programme, with the court granting him permission to file a civil suit against Meta, other social media platforms and unidentified entities alleged to have hosted or helped spread the materials. Gadkari, who has emerged as one of the government's most prominent advocate of ethanol blending, filed a leave petition under Clause XII of the Letters Patent, a procedural requirement that must be invoked when part of the cause of action arises outside the territorial jurisdiction of the Bombay High Court.



The provision enables the court to entertain a suit on its original civil side even when aspects of the dispute extend beyond its territorial limits. According to the proposed suit, the disputed material includes posts and deepfake content linking Gadkari and his family to alleged profits from the E20 ethanol programme, despite the ethanol blending

policy being administered by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. The matter was heard by Justice Abhay Ahuja, with advocate Sandeep S Ladda appearing for Gadkari, arguing that the online materials were accessible to users in Mumbai and intended to be viewed there, giving rise to a substantial part of the cause of action within the court's jurisdiction. At the same time, he submitted that the same material was also available outside Mumbai through internet platforms, making leave under Clause XII necessary. After hearing the submissions, Justice Ahuja granted Gadkari permission to institute the suit. The development comes nearly two weeks after an FIR was registered in Nagpur against four social media influencers accused of spreading.

News box

Excavator operator buried alive as pit caves in during sanitation work in Faridabad

Gurgaon.(Agency)

Another Excavator Pulls Out Jahir (32) After Removing Debris, But He Succumbs To Injuries

Gurgaon: A 32-year-old excavator operator died after being buried under the soil when a pit caved in during the sanitation work in Faridabad on Sunday afternoon. Jahir Khan was operating the heavy machine at the site where a sewer line was being laid along the service road of Delhi-Mathura-Agra Highway under Sector 31 police station limits. Another excavator was brought to the site to remove the debris and after nearly 20 minutes of digging, Jahir was pulled out. By then, he succumbed to his injuries. Jahir was working as the heavy machine operator for the past five to six years. He is survived by his wife and four children. According to police, the accident occurred around 3pm when workers were excavating the pit nearly eight feet deep. A police officer said, "Jahir — a native of Hathin area in Palwal — died after being buried when the soil collapsed during sewer line excavation. No complaint has been received from the family so far." "During the operation, the front bucket of the excavator became lodged in soil and stones. Along with this, some wire also got stuck. Jahir and a labourer, Ghanshyam, got down from the machine and entered the pit to free the bucket when the loose earth suddenly collapsed, burying him beneath it. Ghanshyam also came under the impact of the cave-in but escaped with injuries to his hands and legs as he was standing near the edge of the pit," the officer said, adding that the labourer's condition is stable at a hospital. Police shifted the body to the mortuary at Badshah Khan Civil Hospital for an autopsy. They are examining the circumstances surrounding the accident, including whether adequate safety measures were in place at the excavation site.

Youth taking selfie falls into Yamuna, his body found after three days

Faridabad.(Agency)

A 20-year-old man from Uttar Pradesh died after falling into the Yamuna while allegedly trying to film a selfie video from the railing of Manjhawali bridge on July 24. His body was recovered on Sunday after a three-day search by the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) and police. The deceased, Titu, a resident of Sihawali village in Sambhal district, had come to Faridabad to visit relatives in Nacholi. Police said he went to the bridge with a relative around 7pm on July 24 after riding there on a motorcycle. According to police, Titu climbed onto the nearly four-foot-high railing to shoot a selfie video with the Yamuna in the background. While trying to adjust his position for a better angle, he lost his balance and fell into the river. A team from Tigaon police station and the SDRF were immediately deployed for the search. Rescue teams searched several stretches of the Yamuna for two days but failed to locate him. On Sunday, the third day of the operation, Titu's body was found lodged in bushes along the riverbank near Chandpur village, several kilometres downstream from the spot where he had fallen. The SDRF team recovered the body and sent it to the Civil Hospital mortuary for postmortem examination. Police said a preliminary investigation indicated that the death was accidental. The victim's family has been informed, and the body will be handed over to them after the postmortem.

Man poses as Himachal SP to pressure SHO into restoring power to wife's shop, arrested

Gurgaon.(Agency)

A 51-year-old Delhi resident was arrested after he allegedly impersonated a senior Himachal Pradesh Police officer to pressure a Gurgaon SHO into restoring electricity to his wife's shop in a city mall. The accused, Karan Kumar Sakuja, a resident of Neb Sarai in south Delhi, was arrested by DLF Sector 29 police on Saturday. Sakuja's wife owns a shop in Mega Mall, where the electricity supply had been disconnected by mall management over a monetary dispute. Instead of taking up the matter with the management, Sakuja allegedly called the official mobile phone of DLF Sector 29 SHO, introducing himself as "SP Chandan Singh" of Himachal Pradesh Police. He demanded that power to the shop be restored immediately, invoking the director general of police's name to lend credibility to his claim. "The caller attempted to exert pressure on the SHO by citing the DGP while demanding immediate restoration of electricity to a showroom," police spokesperson Sandeep Turan said. The SHO grew suspicious and deputed a team to verify the caller's identity. The verification revealed that the caller was not a police officer but Sakuja himself. "A case was immediately registered," Turan said.

Greater Noida to sterilise 600 dogs a month, hire agency

Noida.(Agency)

Greater Noida Industrial Development Authority (GNIDA) has assigned 2,000 square metres of land near Jalpura Gaushala to set up a sterilisation centre for stray dogs and will soon hire an NGO or animal welfare organisation to run the establishment. The selected NGO must vaccinate and sterilise 600 dogs every month, deploy qualified veterinary doctors and maintain records of every dog sterilised, vaccinated and released. GNIDA has issued a request for a proposal in this regard. The development authority said dogs brought to the centre will be captured only against complaints received from resident welfare associations, apartment owners' associations or other authorised organisations. "Operations shall strictly comply with

the Animal Birth Control Rules, 2023, and the Animal Welfare Board of India's revised 2025 guidelines. Dogs must be captured humanely, sterilised, vaccinated against rabies and released at the same location from where they were picked up," a GNIDA official said. The NGO running the centre will be required to have a dedicated dog-catching vehicle, a trained driver and staff, including at least two trained dog handlers and a representative nominated by an animal welfare organisation. Before capturing any dog, public notices shall be displayed in the locality, informing residents about the sterilisation programme and clarifying that the dogs will be released back into the same area after treatment.



Each captured dog will be fitted with a numbered collar linked to capture records to ensure it is returned to its original location. Sterilisation surgeries and vaccinations will have to be carried out by qualified veterinarians under the supervision of veterinary officers in a properly equipped operation theatre, GNIDA

said. To ensure transparency, GNIDA has mandated that all dog-catching vehicles be equipped with GPS trackers and cameras to record the capture and release process. The sterilisation centre must also have CCTV cameras, with footage stored on the cloud for at least six months.

The authority has scheduled the opening of bids on July 30, while bid submissions will close on July 28. Greater Noida does not have an official census of its stray dog population. However, estimates suggest the city has around 30,000 stray dogs.

The selected NGO must vaccinate and sterilise 600 dogs every month, deploy qualified veterinary doctors and maintain records of every dog sterilised, vaccinated and released.

Special Article: A Luminous Signature of Journalism, Senior Editor of Dhani Media Group, Shri Pawan Makan



In the field of journalism, which is recognized as the fourth pillar of democracy, the truth of the pen and conceptual clarity are the real assets of any media house. In the current era, when the scope of information and news is expanding globally, the monumental task of delivering an unbiased and fearless newspaper to the masses by understanding the pulse of society can only be accomplished by an efficient and visionary editor. In the media world of Gujarat, and especially among the newspapers published from the economic and cultural capital Ahmedabad, there is one such respectable, influential, and inspiring name — Shri Pawan Makan. He is serving as the Senior Editor of 'Dhani Media Group'. He is not just an editor, but a true worshipper of words and a powerful vehicle for value-based journalism. The beautiful poetic lines that highlight the power of words in literature and journalism are memorable here: Those who adorn the pen by honoring the words, Awaken the entire world alongside the truth; Where public interest converges on the edge of the pen, There resonates the true voice of authentic journalism. Shri Pawan Makan has carved out a distinct identity in the media sector through his remarkable administrative skills and dedication

to journalism. He is working as the successful Media Group Editor of the popular and sharp newspaper 'Pakko Gujarat' Daily Newspaper, published with pride from Ahmedabad. 'Pakko Gujarat', true to its name, has always been a leader in presenting the pride, culture of Gujarat, and the issues of the common public in positive yet sharp words. Under the able guidance of Shri Pawan Bhai, this newspaper has earned an unbreakable place of trust and respect in the hearts of the readers. The vision and scope of journalism of Shri Pawan Ji are not limited only to the regional language, but he is a strong proponent of multilingual journalism. He is playing a highly competent role as the editor of powerful newspapers like 'Maha Nagar Metro' Hindi News Daily, which is enriched with national and international news for Hindi-speaking readers, and 'Maha Nagar' English Daily Newspaper,

which expands the horizons of English readers globally. Efficiently editing daily newspapers in three languages — Gujarati, Hindi, and English simultaneously from a metropolis like Ahmedabad, and maintaining the dignity of each language as well as the interest of the readers, reflects his high intellectual capacity and strong grip on the media world. As a senior editor, Shri Pawan Makan has always given utmost priority to ground reporting, factual accuracy, and the protection of democratic values, instead of chasing cheap popularity. Along with fearlessly wielding his pen against the shortcomings of the administrative machinery, his pen is always at the forefront of giving a voice to the positive and inspiring actions of society. Under his efficient leadership, all three newspapers are consistently advancing on the path of progress today.

It is a sincere wish that Shri Pawan Makan, a worshipper of words and knowledge, will continue to guide society in a new direction through journalism in the times to come and bring more laurels to Gujarat in the world of newspapers. A heartfelt salute to such a true soldier of the pen and senior editor.

Author: Rupesh Solanki
(Assistant Teacher - Bhachau, Kutch)

Haryana govt rolls out life support withdrawal guidelines, to set up medical boards

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

Haryana govt has begun putting into practice Supreme Court's judgment on right to die with dignity, asking hospitals across the state to follow a legally defined protocol for end-of-life care, appoint specialist medical boards and implement the framework governing living wills. The health department has asked civil surgeons to ensure compliance with the court's guidelines, while districts have been told to nominate doctors for secondary medical boards — an essential safeguard before life-sustaining treatment can be withdrawn from terminally ill patients. In Gurgaon, the civil surgeon has directed all hospitals registered under the Clinical Establishments Act to implement the protocol and submit compliance reports. The district has nominated physician Kajal, anaesthesiologist Suman Khurb and anaesthetist Kusum to its secondary medical board. The framework results from Supreme Court's judgment in "Common Cause vs Union of India" case. While the apex court recognised the right to die with dignity under Article 21 in its March 9, 2018, verdict, it substantially simplified the procedure for living wills and withdrawal of life support through its Jan 24, 2023, order, making the safeguards more practical for hospitals and families. A living will, or advance medical directive, allows an adult to record in advance how they wish to be treated if they become terminally ill and lose the ability to communicate or make medical decisions.

Monsoon intensifies in Gurgaon, heavy rain spell likely this week

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

After two days of subdued monsoon activity, rainfall is expected to intensify in the city from Monday. India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast light to moderate rain at a few places on Monday, followed by heavy rainfall accompanied by thunderstorms and lightning at some places on July 28 and 29. According to the forecast, light to moderate rain is expected at many places on July 30 and 31 before the intensity gradually eases. On Sunday, the city recorded a maximum temperature of 34.2 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 25.6 degrees Celsius at the KVK automatic weather station. Compared with Saturday, the maximum temperature rose by 1.6°C, while the minimum dipped by 0.4°C. Across Haryana, rainfall activity is expected to intensify from Monday under the influence of a low-pressure area over southwest Rajasthan. IMD has forecast heavy rain at some places on July 27 and heavy to very heavy

rainfall at some locations on July 28 and 29. IMD's Meteorological Centre, Chandigarh, said weak monsoon conditions will persist over Haryana until the night of July 27, after which rainfall activity is expected to increase significantly. Widespread rainfall is likely across the state between July 28 and 30, with some places in northern and eastern Haryana expected to receive heavy to very heavy rainfall exceeding 12cm. The weather office attributed the expected increase in rainfall to a low-pressure area persisting over southwest Rajasthan and adjoining areas, along with an associated cyclonic circulation extending up to 5.8km above mean sea level. A western disturbance over north India is also influencing weather conditions. According to the forecast, light to moderate rainfall is likely at a few places on July 27 and Aug 1, at most places on July 28 and 29, and at many places on July 30 and 31. Heavy rainfall is likely at some places on July 27, 30 and 31, while heavy to

very heavy rainfall is expected at some locations on July 28 and 29.

The heaviest rainfall is expected over northern and eastern districts. Panchkula, Ambala, Yamunanagar,



Kurukshetra, Karnal, Sonapat and Panipat are likely to receive heavy to very heavy rainfall at some places on July 28 and 29, while Gurgaon, Faridabad, Rohtak, Jhajjar and adjoining districts are expected to receive heavy rain at some places during the same period. Over the past 24 hours, light to moderate rainfall

occurred at a few places in Haryana, while thunderstorms and gusty winds were reported at some locations. Bapouli in Panipat recorded the highest rainfall at 3cm, followed by Ismailabad in Kurukshetra and Lakhanmajra in Rohtak with 2cm each.

Karnal recorded the highest wind gust of 44kmph, while Fatehabad reported gusts of 39kmph. The state's average minimum temperature fell marginally by 0.1°C from the previous day and remained near normal. Narnaul recorded the lowest minimum temperature at 24.5°C. IMD has warned that the active monsoon spell could lead to a rise in water levels in rivers and seasonal streams, flash flood risk, waterlogging in low-lying areas, closure of some underpasses, traffic congestion and short-term disruption of municipal services, including water and electricity supply. Damage to standing crops and harvested produce kept in the open is also likely.

J&K: Schools reopen across Kashmir after three-week closure

Srinagar. (Agency)

Schools across Kashmir reopened on Monday after remaining shut for three weeks due to an unprecedented heatwave followed by heavy rainfall and flood-like conditions.

Educational institutions across Kashmir were initially closed for the summer vacation from July 6 to July 19 amid an unprecedented heatwave that pushed temperatures well above normal. However, as heavy rains replaced the heatwave around July 18, widespread waterlogging and flood-like conditions forced the government to extend the vacation twice—first until July 22 and later until July 26.

With improvement in weather conditions and the situation returning to normal, students and teachers resumed classes on Monday, officials said.

HP SDRF conducts area familiarisation exercise in Dharamshala to strengthen disaster preparedness

Dharamshala. (Agency)

The Himachal Pradesh State Disaster Response Force (HP SDRF) on Sunday conducted an area familiarisation exercise in Siddhpur (Ward No. 16) and Siddhwari (Ward No. 17) of the Dharamshala Municipal Corporation to strengthen disaster preparedness and enhance emergency response mechanisms.

A 15-member SDRF team from Kangra participated in the exercise, which focused on improving pre-disaster planning and coordination at the local level.

During the exercise, the SDRF team interacted with ward councillors, members of Self-Help Groups (SHGs), and other local stakeholders to gather information on available resources, local coordination systems, and arrangements for immediate relief and rescue operations during emergencies.

The team also inspected vulnerable and disaster-prone locations in the area. It assessed safe evacuation points, open spaces suitable for relief operations, road connectivity, and alternative access routes to ensure that rescue and relief efforts can be carried out swiftly and effectively in the event of any disaster.

The HP SDRF said that the objective of such area familiarisation exercises is to strengthen coordination with local communities, keep information on available resources updated, and ensure a prompt and effective response during emergencies.

The force added that similar exercises will continue to be conducted regularly in different parts of the state to further strengthen the disaster management system.

The sea returns Mumbai's garbage: 2,500 MT washes ashore after heavy rains

Mumbai.(Agency)

More than 2,500 metric tonnes (MT) of garbage washed up on Mumbai's beaches after a week of heavy monsoon rain and high tides, exposing the staggering volume of waste flowing through the city's drains into the Arabian Sea. The clean up, undertaken by the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), has once again highlighted how indiscriminate dumping and inadequate waste management continue to pollute Mumbai's coastline.

Civic officials said plastic waste, thermocol, clothes, wooden debris and other household refuse dumped into open drains and nullahs is carried into the sea through stormwater drain outfalls before being pushed back onto the shoreline during high tides.

"The waste disposed of in the sea and creeks does not sink and continues to float. During the monsoon, high tidal waves push this floating waste back onto the beaches," a civic official said.

According to BMC data, Juhu Beach alone accounted for 1,824 MT, nearly 72 per cent of the total waste recovered. It was followed by Versova (277.6 MT), Dadar Mahim Chowpatty (152 MT), Chimbai (127.2 MT), Madh Marve (44.24 MT), Gorai (38.82 MT) and Girgaon Chowpatty (33.66 MT).

Punjab Police busts Pakistan-linked BKI terror module, arrests key operative

The operation also led to the recovery of an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) packed with 1.3 kg of explosive, along with shrapnel and ball bearings, indicating preparations for a high-impact attack aimed at disturbing public peace, Director General of Police Gaurav Yadav said.

Jalandhar. (Agency)

The Punjab Police Sunday claimed to have busted an ISI-sponsored Babbar Khalsa International (BKI) module, operated by foreign based handlers, and arrested its key operative from Jalandhar. The operation also led to the recovery of an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) packed with 1.3 kg of explosive, along with shrapnel and ball bearings, indicating preparations for a high-impact attack aimed at disturbing public peace, Director General of Police Gaurav Yadav said. The accused has been identified as Satbir Singh, a resident of village Padiana in Adampur, Jalandhar. Apart from recovering explosives, police teams have

also recovered his motorcycle, which he was riding, the police said in a statement.

Sharing operational details, the DGP said that the Counter Intelligence team had received reliable inputs that an operative of the BKI module had retrieved a consignment of explosives on the directions of his foreign-based handlers. Acting swiftly, the Jalandhar unit of Counter Intelligence and Jalandhar Rural Police, jointly laid a 'naka' at village Dhandaur and intercepted the motorcycle of the arrested suspect, he said, adding that during the



search, a bag containing an IED was recovered. An FIR has been registered at

Patara police station under the relevant sections of the BNS, the Explosive Substances Act, and the Arms Act, he said.

Further investigation is underway to establish the complete terror network, including foreign handlers, local support networks, and all forward and backward linkages involved in the conspiracy, the DGP said.

Yadav said Punjab Police remains committed to dismantling terror networks, curbing organised crime and maintaining peace and security in the state.

Exclusive Exposé: Kagdapith Becomes a 'Hub of Crime' Illegal Empire Thrives Under Police Protection

Mahanagar Metro Desk

AHMEDABAD: Despite the Gujarat Government and the Home Department boasting a 'Zero Tolerance' policy against crime, the ground reality in Ahmedabad's Kagdapith Police Station area tells a completely different story. Under the lax supervision of the current Senior Police Inspector (PI) S.A. Gohil and his favored 'administrator', Vijay Singh, the entire area has transformed into a massive den for illicit liquor and Matka gambling. When the protectors of the law become its predators, the resulting collapse of law and order is clearly visible on the streets of Kagdapith.

Confidential sources from Mahanagar Metro have exposed a sprawling network of illegal businesses operating fearlessly across every corner of the Kagdapith area, fully shielded by men in uniform:

Jyoti Ankur Gali: Dangerous country liquor dens are operating in this residential area. Anti-social elements gather here day and night, making life miserable for local residents, especially women.

Near Anil Lakha, Rojani Vora: A massive Worli Matka gambling racket operates here, openly flouting the law.

Munna Shriram, Near the Tea Stall (Suria and Lata's Den): Right next to a public tea stall, bootleggers named Suria and Lata are openly selling country liquor.

Near Hanumanji Temple (Mukesh-Tejal Huladiya): Disrespecting the



sanctity of a religious site, Mukesh and Tejal Huladiya are running liquor breweries and dens right next to the Hanumanji temple.

Santok Pasha (Behrampura): Santok Pasha runs a massive country liquor empire in the Behrampura area, supplying bottles across the region.

The Wholesale Supply Network: Major wholesale bootleggers—Akshay, Raju Koshti, Harry Potter, and Gelo—are smuggling and supplying chemical-laced liquor across Ahmedabad city. Meanwhile, an individual named 'Jenny' operates the main Worli Matka gambling syndicate. This situation serves as a massive alarm bell for the residents of Ahmedabad and the Home Department.

The horrific Kantodiawas hooch tragedy (Latha Kand), which took place near Kagdapith, is still fresh in people's minds. Numerous innocent lives were lost and countless families were destroyed after consuming toxic country liquor. According to shocking new information, bootleggers are once again mixing deadly chemicals and urea into the liquor to increase its potency in a blind race for higher profits. This toxic liquor is being

supplied throughout the city. If another hooch tragedy strikes the streets of Kagdapith, who will be held responsible? Will PI S.A. Gohil, who has seemingly turned a blind eye, take responsibility? Or will the so-called administrator Vijay Singh, who allegedly manages crores in extortion money, be held accountable? The most severe and shocking aspect of this scandal is that Police Officer Vijay Singh's official posting is in the Police Control Room. Instead of fulfilling his duties there, Singh is reportedly seen roaming the busy Kagdapith police station area all day, holding meetings with known bootleggers.

A 10-Year Dark History: For the past decade, Vijay Singh has allegedly operated without performing any official duties. He previously acted as an unofficial 'administrator' at the Narol police station before moving his operations here.

Multi-Crore Empire: By collecting monthly installments (haftas) running into lakhs from liquor and gambling dens, he has reportedly amassed black assets worth crores. The Godfather's Protection: Sources indicate that Vijay Singh enjoys the full backing of a highly powerful and 'famous administrator' (PSI) in Ahmedabad. This political and police connection has made him completely fearless. State Home Minister Harsh Sanghavi and the Ahmedabad Police Commissioner advocate for strict action against

crime, but Kagdapith's administrator, Vijay Singh, is openly making a mockery of their orders. Due to the protection and fear surrounding Vijay Singh, not only the local police but even the PCB, Crime Branch, DCP Squad, and Sector Squad hesitate to raid these specific locations in Kagdapith. It appears evident that PI Gohil has either surrendered his authority to Vijay Singh or is complicit in the operations.

Direct Questions Raised by Mahanagar Metro:

1. Government Salary vs. Billionaire Assets: How is Vijay Singh, ostensibly holding a regular Control Room job, living such a lavish lifestyle with massive unexplained wealth?

2. Why No Investigation? Why haven't agencies like the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) or the Enforcement Directorate (ED) launched an investigation into the bank accounts, benami properties, and illicit earnings of Vijay Singh and his associates?

3. Will Public Trust in Khaki Be Restored? Will senior police officials take strict action against this internal extortion and black-market syndicate, or will they wait for another mass tragedy to claim innocent lives before waking up?

It remains to be seen whether the Home Department will take decisive action following this report, or if Vijay Singh's dark empire will be allowed to flourish unabated.

Monsoon return back in UP: Heavy rains predicted in 17 districts

Bengaluru. (Agency)

Lucknow, July 27 (UNI) Amidst the humid heat, the weather in Uttar Pradesh set to change once again with prediction of return of monsoon in most part of the state from on Monday. Flood situation in the state also remained grim as several rivers in the state are near the danger level. On Sunday, clouds remained scattered throughout the day in the Terai region, while light to moderate rain was recorded in several districts, including Banda, Orai, Bareilly, and Shahjahanpur. The Meteorological Department predicts that the monsoon will reactivate in the state starting Monday, and rain will resume for the next few days.

Atul Kumar Singh, senior scientist at the Regional Meteorological Centre, said that due to the monsoon trough shifting northwards again and the low pressure area formed in the Bay of Bengal strengthening, there is a possibility of



widespread rainfall in eastern and western Uttar Pradesh between July 27 and 30. An orange alert for extremely heavy rain has been issued for Bahraich and Lakhimpur Kheri on Monday. In

addition, heavy rain warnings have been issued for 17 districts and thunderstorms and lightning warnings for 48 districts. Heavy rain warning on Monday has been alerted in the districts of Bahraich,

Lakhimpur Kheri, Sonbhadra, Mirzapur, Chandauli, Varanasi, Kushinagar, Maharajganj, Siddharthnagar, Gonda, Balrampur, Shravasti, Sitapur, Hardoi, Rampur, Bareilly, Pilibhit, Shahjahanpur, and Badaun in the surrounding areas.

Meanwhile, due to the rain in the mountains, rivers in Uttar Pradesh are in spate. In Ballia, a government primary school was swept away by the Saryu River on Monday early morning. The entire building collapsed in just three seconds. On Sunday, half of the same school had collapsed into the river.

In Ballia's Doharighat area, a canal embankment breach submerged hundreds of acres of paddy crop.

Besides in Gonda, erosion has intensified due to the Ghaghra River's decreasing water level. In the Tarabganj and Karnailganj tehsil areas, the river's water level has been steadily decreasing for the past 24 hours, exacerbating the difficulties faced by farmers.

A U-turn for the US in its 250th birthday

As the United States of America celebrates the 250th anniversary of its independence, it is useful to reflect on the nation's ascent. History and geography foremost. A virgin territory for European colonisers provided a fresh start escaping the encumbrances, distinctions, hatreds and internecine wars of the Old World. It is a continent protected by two, as President Donald Trump puts it, "beautiful" oceans. Other than the revolution for independence, war of 1812, the civil war and the Mexican-American war, it has largely avoided major warfare on the mainland.

Today, it happens to be the third-largest continent blessed with fertile soil, plentiful freshwater, forests and mineral deposits including iron ore, coal and oil—most of it obtained cheaply by forcibly dispossessing and exterminating indigenous owners. The drive and ambitions of generations of immigrants with little were central to development. In the 20th century, it attracted talent from other countries across disciplines. Foreigners are central to US industry and science. Today, more than half of Silicon Valley's technology workers are foreign-born and trained overseas at the cost of their native countries. Agriculture, hospitality and construction benefit from cheap immigrant labour, particularly for physically demanding, repetitive or menial jobs. Abundant resources facilitate a strong agricultural and industrial base, which underpins its military power. America's free enterprise ethos is overstated. Public investment on infrastructure, education and research, such as funding from the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, are important. The Internet and Google's search engine were partially supported by government funds. American industry benefitted from tariff protection. Low wages are central. Many G20 countries have significantly higher minimum wages than the US level of \$7.25 per hour (higher in some states). America's Gini Coefficient—a measure of inequality—is higher than many comparable economies. America's 'get-rich' and 'everybody-can-be-a-winner' culture is central to acceptance of these discrepancies. American tolerance for failure is significant. F Scott Fitzgerald was wrong believing "there are no second acts in American lives". For most entrepreneurs, bankruptcy is conveniently a rite of passage. The US dollar's status as a reserve currency in the post-war monetary order allows American businesses to minimise currency risk, heavy government borrowing to finance large budget and current account deficits while boosting US financial markets. Strong protection of rights and good governance, historically, gave confidence to domestic and foreign actors.

These advantages have diminished over time. America faces resource constraints. Agricultural output is affected by declining soil quality, the use of fertilisers and pesticides, and climate change effects on rainfall, wildfires and temperature. Monocultural farming practices have increased exposure to disease. Forests have been overharvested. Many raw material reserves are now reaching the end of their economic lives. The US's oil reserves may last for roughly 50 years, depending on consumption and new discoveries. Their expected life, excluding shale oil, may be less than 10 years. Deindustrialisation and outsourcing of production have substantially reduced its industrial base. Business largely provides services or focuses on branding, marketing, advertising and selling other's products rather than on manufacture. Tesla views itself as a technology firm, recycling a product first considered by Thomas Edison and Henry Ford. It has fallen behind Chinese firm's like BYD. Industrial giants, like GE and Boeing, are in decline. Important innovation hubs like Bell Labs and PARC are less influential.

The Street is the Opposition's best bet

The Great Game : What the Congress does next to take charge of the upheaval will be critical

OVER the space of the last week, thousands of students from all over the country have demanded the attention of the country and got it. They have overcome their fear, put their anxieties on hold, gone on a hunger strike, marched, laughed at themselves, held aloft pictures of Ambedkar, Gandhi and Che Guevara — and most important of all, put the political class on notice. The Congress is all charged up. Rahul Gandhi even sat on dharna outside PM Modi's house earlier this week, from where he and Priyanka got picked up and were briefly detained in two police stations. By Thursday evening, the INDIA bloc, whatever's left of it, came together to climb into a bus and drive to Gandhi Smriti. If the first success of the student protesters has been to sustain their month-long agitation against the Modi government, the second has been to focus the mind of the Leader of the Opposition — the latter, no mean feat either. Rahul had promised to hold student protests on the NEET issue, but then he went off on his summer vacation. Luckily, when he returned after a month — during which time Congress politics all over the country, including in Punjab, was put on hold — he realised that 'Chhatron Ki Goonj' events elsewhere in the country were not having the same impact. That in the month he had been away, and no one else in the party had cared to see, the centre of gravity had shifted to Jantar Mantar in the heart of Delhi. The July 20 students' march sealed the argument.

For the first time since 2014, the Street has overtaken political parties in invigorating the idea of the Opposition. Just like the 2011 Anna Hazare fast for a Lokpal, the 2012 Nirbhaya agitation — when Delhi's women were subjected to water cannons as they protested the gang-rape of a girl on a bus — is a distant memory. Nor does the 2020 protest over the Citizenship Amendment Act count as it degenerated into Hindu-Muslim rioting in which 53 people were killed. Monday's march, on the other hand, while pock-marked by pellet gun injuries — bringing the flavour of Kashmir to Delhi — as well as stone-throwing, tear-gas and a serious lathi-charge, demonstrated that the students possessed an incredible equanimity far beyond their years. The

video of a young man being brutally thrashed by policemen, saying, "aur maaro, aur maaro", is emblematic of this young people's movement which has held up copies of the Constitution as shields.

This discovery by India's GenZ, that sheer defiance can be a weapon, especially if a few thousand people are wielding it together, has travelled with the speed of social media light across the country — what can the State do, after all, if you sing protest songs, like is being done in Mizoram? Or when a young woman in a hoodie single-handedly stops a Mumbai police van packed with protesters?

Asked by India Today why GenZ, better known for partying hard rather than driving change via a political party, was finally beginning to care, the girl



answered, "In GenZ, Z stands for 'ziddi,' which is what we are." GeographicReference

What is interesting about these young Indians, unlike their counterparts in Nepal and Bangladesh who overthrew their respective regimes over the last two years, is that they may or may not care about ousting Modi from power, or bringing the Congress back — they are just sick to the gills of a "system" so corrupt and so inured to change. Modi ji gave us hope when he first became PM, these young people say, "na khaaunga, na khaane doonga," (I won't take bribe,

nor let anyone take it), but things have only become worse. The NEET paper leak has become a tipping point for a wider and deeper malaise defined by shrinking opportunities and falling incomes. Meanwhile, the rich got richer. GenZ began to feel it was treading water. Everything was shutting down.

Certainly, the BJP is admitting grudging respect. None other than the PM posted a video selfie past midnight on Friday, promising education reform, after which Sonam Wangchuk broke his fast. What's more, the student movement is infusing new life into political parties, like the Congress, whose politics has been faltering in the face of the mighty juggernaut. The grand old party has lost election after election recently, making Rahul increasingly look like a pretender to the throne. Certainly, the Congress has seemed incapable of finding the BJP's Achilles heel.

The Congress, like the BJP, has understood that the powerlessness-turned-defiance of the students has caught the imagination of the country — why else would anonymous donors keep up a food supply with Jantar Mantar as destination? No wonder social media handles from Karachi to Connecticut are giving a two-finger salute to these casually brave young people more or less at the bottom of the food chain. (Pakistanis are watching, agog, asking why they don't have the courage to challenge their own

military establishment, which has been regularly 'disappearing' protesting students as well as people of all ages.) With Sonam Wangchuk having broken his fast, the Jantar Mantar protest will now move into the next phase. The PM's personal response to the students is significant — even though Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation was not on the menu. He will want the debate to return to Parliament, where the BJP can control it; Rahul has realised that if he and his party stay on the Street, he is better able to tell the story.

Pharma firms must work with government to mitigate impact of Trump tariff

Trump's goal of making pharma companies shift their manufacturing to the US would be commercially unviable for most because of the significantly higher labour and compliance costs

Donald Trump's latest salvo on trade threatens a 200 percent tariff on generic medicines. The President has declared that the US's import duty for such off-patent drugs, currently at zero, would be increased in phases over three years beginning August 2028—rising to 100 percent initially and doubling to 200 percent within a year. The stated objective is to compel generic drug manufacturers to set up production in the US, hence the transition period. The Trump administration has already imposed a 100 percent tariff on imported branded and patented medicines as well as key pharmaceutical ingredients under Section 232 of the US Trade Expansion Act of 1962. The latest announcement would concern a large section of Indian drug manufacturers who derive 40-50 percent of their revenues from the US market, where they account for almost a fifth of pharmaceutical imports and a dominant share in generics. Covering nearly 47 percent of all generic prescription drugs in the US, Indian companies are the largest source of affordable



medicines for American consumers. This dependence may provide some cushion, as manufacturers could pass on a part of the tariff burden across the value chain. Trump's goal of making pharma companies shift their manufacturing to the US would be commercially unviable for most because of the significantly higher labour and compliance costs. Labour costs in the US

are estimated to be 10-15 times those in India, making relocation an expensive proposition. By value, generics contribute only about 13 percent of the total prescription drug spending in the US. Many large Indian companies already have manufacturing and distribution operations in the US, which would help mitigate the impact of higher tariffs. Another source of relief is the extended implementation timeline. The industry will hope for a trade agreement or policy reversal to soften the impact in the interim, particularly since Trump's current term runs until January 2029. Despite these possible escape hatches, Trump's proposal is likely to disrupt an industry that's a key contributor to India's export earnings. Like in several other sectors, pharma companies should proactively work with the government to diversify its export markets. The companies must also strengthen their presence in patented and specialty medicines to reduce dependence on low-margin generics.

Need to decolonise the police

Heavy-handed policing on student protesters is reminiscent of colonial tactics. Frantz Fanon explained how brown or black sahibs slid into the roles of departing white sahibs to maintain a superstructure of colonialism. Confusing decolonisation with atavism does not help

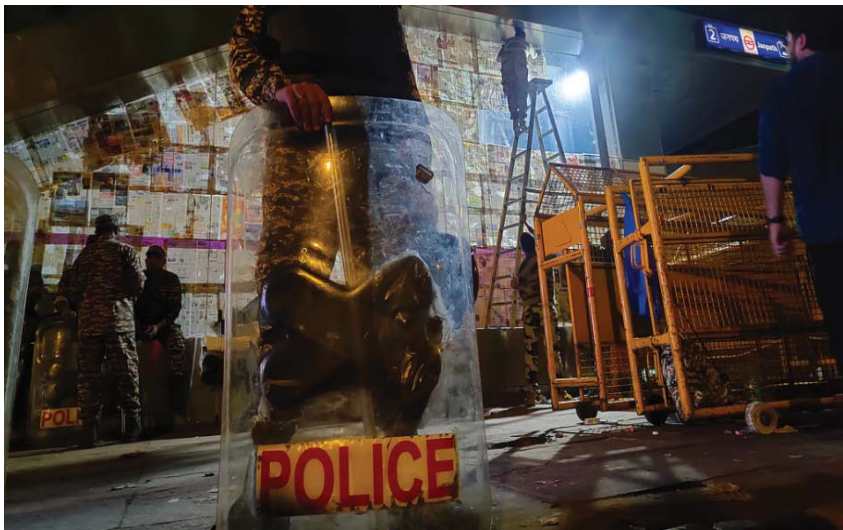
Jantar Mantar has become a time machine. Grievous head injuries incurred there recall the death of Lala Lajpat Rai from wounds sustained in a lathi charge on a peaceful protest against the Simon Commission. With steadfast impunity, the British colonial authorities had insisted that Rai died of heart failure, not the assault. A century later, the Delhi Police are denying the use of illegal force at Jantar Mantar. But now, with cameras everywhere, the Delhi Police and the Rapid Action Force risk looking like colonial thugs brutalising a native population. It so happens that I'm re-reading Frantz Fanon's *The Wretched of the Earth*, which explains such things clearly. It's the Grove Press edition foreworded by Harvard postcolonialist Homi K Bhabha, who brought the 1961 text up to speed with our era.

Fanon explained the rise of brown and black sahibs, who slid into the roles of departing white sahibs and maintained the superstructure of colonialism. Decolonisation, proposed by the German academic Moritz Julius Bonn in the 1930s, was developed by Fanon in this 1961 book, his last work. It changed the world's understanding of colonialism and its aftermath. But Fanon couldn't have anticipated that decolonisation would be embraced by a wide spectrum of interests, sometimes in a garbled form, and that the structure of colonialism would survive his hopeful era. A colonial police force flourishes in 21st-century Delhi. It sees political leaders as masters and the people as an underclass. Police reform should have erased this peculiarity. In 2006, former IPS officer Prakash Singh won a landmark ruling against the Union of India, in which the Supreme Court issued directions for insulating the police from political influence. But in the Delhi riots of 2020 and the current cockroach protest, the police feature as colonial oppressors. As always. The Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) aims to decolonise the Modi

government, which treats citizens as subjects. Ironically, the BJP had won office by promising to decolonise Indian minds. Its method has been to trash past elites, especially Congress leaders, as deracinated brown sahibs. It positioned itself as the only autochthonous, authentic party, and branded the Congress and the opposition inauthentic. This was hailed as a cleansing, purifying process, taking the nation closer to its authentic roots. The BJP tried to decolonise India's very landscape by changing the names of streets (Aurangzeb ceded to Abdul Kalam), railway stations (Mughalsarai to Deendayal Upadhyaya), towns (Ajmer to Ajaymeru), institutions (Planning Commission to Niti Aayog) and even statutes (CrPC to BNSS). And via temple agitations, it relentlessly promoted a return to the authenticity of antiquity.

But real decolonisation looks ahead. It does not look back to seek validation. Fanon had lamented the frictionless ease with which newly independent African states backslid into clannish and tribal politics. Real decolonisation also equalises, but India's people are still divided into rulers and subjects. In his preface, Bhabha recalls the India Shining campaign which cost the BJP the 2004 election, because it insulted darkest India. Now, another insult has raised a cockroach army. The BJP can never decolonise anything, because it confuses the process with atavism. The lens of colonialism/decolonisation now explains many modern

social and political phenomena. Neocolonialism, the appropriation of the wealth of weaker nations via commerce, without bothering to invade them, has been closely studied. Bhabha writes of the extractive nature of IT body-shopping and outsourcing, and reminds us that



Joseph Stiglitz, former chief economist of the World Bank, said that the Bretton Woods institutions have "the feel of the colonial ruler". But the device is equally useful for understanding everyday phenomena. Doesn't the system of migrant labour also have a colonial feel, whether it's Biharis working the fields of Punjab or Indian techies in Fortune 500 companies? Without the dubious

theory that an Aryan invasion and settler colonialism ended the Harappan civilisation, would north and south India remain in cultural opposition, vying for archaeological supremacy in Rakhigarhi and Keezhadi? For years, the author has been speaking easy to a surprisingly tolerant public. The gated colony built on erased farmland, the club that insists on Western dress code, the five star hotel which stops autorickshaws at the gate—aren't these colonial institutions? Indeed, any dual population of the empowered and the powerless exhibits features of colonialism. The Jantar Mantar protest, the latest faceoff between rulers and the ruled in a turbulent decade, also raises questions about the Westminster model, a relic of the colonised past. Protest is the last resort of democracy, but it has become a routine mode of engagement with power. Also, protests are focused on issues. Many protesting students and farmers support the ruling party but oppose it on specific issues. Our democracy, based on party lines and ideologies, cannot readily accommodate such specificity. The CJP is not even a party. It cannot stand for election. Yet it is a lightning rod swiftly communicating public anger which was lost in transmission in the formal political system. Their protest actually provides an opportunity to decolonise the Westminster model, to include mechanisms for citizens to be heard directly, so that they don't have to fight street battles to have every anxiety addressed. The cockroach is the bug in the system that can keep Indian democracy alive at a difficult time.

Here's why you should take a power nap at

Work without being apologetic



Sleep without being sorry!

The next time you feel sleepy and are unable to focus at your work, don't think twice before taking a power nap! Yes, you read it right. While your colleagues might roll their eyes on seeing you sleeping at your desk, here's how taking a power nap can tremendously help you boost your productivity.

Say bye to stress

A power nap demands you to take your eyes off your laptop, cut-off from engagements (think meetings and workshops) and give yourself some much needed me-time during office hours. For the next 20 minutes, your simply relax and keep the thoughts of your deadlines aside. You might be groggy for a few minutes but you will wake up with a refreshed, attentive and focussed frame of mind. In turn, you will better problem solving approach and ability to remember information.

If you can manage this

We know we hardly get time to blink an eyelid during office hours. But if you can manage to snooze for at least 60 mins, then you can reap some scientifically proven benefits that are better than having a cup of coffee. According to a study done by University of California, napping for 60 to 90 minutes can improve performance in perceptual learning, procedural motor skill and verbal memory considerably more than caffeine.

Have you heard about coffee nap?

The concept of coffee nap is smart and science-backed. What you need to do is to sleep for half an hour after having your caffeinated beverage (think coffee!). The caffeine level would be at its peak in your blood by the time you wake up and hence, your concentration levels, alertness and focus would be much, much better. The concept of coffee nap is smart and science-



backed. What you need to do is to sleep for half an hour after having your caffeinated beverage (think coffee!). The caffeine level would be at its peak in your blood by the time you wake up and hence, your concentration levels, alertness and focus would be much, much better.

According to a study published in The Archives of Internal Medicine, taking a power nap for half an hour thrice a week decreases the risk of having a heart disease. Whoa!

Remember this

You might not be able to have a sound power nap from your very first attempt. In fact, your mind might not be conditioned to sleep in the afternoon and you will find yourself staring at

your desk during this time. The key is to continue practising deep breathing for the first few days and make sure your environment is noise-free. Eventually, you will develop the habit to take a power nap and see the benefits for yourself.

10 types of people who get

Better Jobs

Research says the following 10 types are most likely to be gainfully employed. Do you see yourself here?

The cheerleader:

What's a good sport without a happy bunch of cheerleaders? All work and no promotion, makes the company disappear in the market. So your small law firm maybe known in the circles, but a little push from a marketing guru will make the world aware of your facilities, capabilities, which will result in acquiring more clients. The marketer works in tandem with the founder to position the company that suits his or her vision and build the brand. This personality type is highly assertive, understands urgency and is willing to gamble (even when the founder develops cold feet).

The multi-tasker:

So your company is tiny and everyone is a bit stretched. There are some who just can't handle the pressure, but there are few who can grin and bear it all, and can put their hands in several puddings all at once -be admin one day, and a creative executor the next. These multi-taskers serve as real assets to smaller firms whose budgets are meagre and manpower a handful. Young entrepreneurs are constantly on the look out of talent that not only can juggle many roles, but also switch parts as and when required.

The obligator:

What's the difference between an accommodator and multi-tasker?? The former is a 'willing personality', while the latter is just blessed to focus on too many

things at the same time. But as an owner of a small business, you need an accommodator in your squad, too. Read: These personalities are not spineless 'yes minister' kinds, but understand when they need to up their game, and do whatever it takes to work with impossible demands and deadlines.

Reverse role player:

Small firms have a strong tendency and leaning to employ people who are like-minded, but HR officials reckon that a personality whose views and beliefs are opposite of that of the company would do the latter good and result in growth. He/she would bring in the perspective and insight that owners would fail to notice. Sometimes, they'll also serve as mock rivals, thus further enhancing the chances of success and productivity.

The decision maker:

When an entrepreneur has just started off in the business, he/she is always a bit averse to taking big risks and making concrete decisions. They are constantly turning to people who can use their own judgment and give them sound advice. Remember, they need someone who is not afraid to pull the trigger in times of distress. If you're a firm decision maker, then you are just the person your boss needs by his/ her side.

The cautious player:

Likewise, if you're the kind of entrepreneur who has a tendency to run with his/her dreams, an employer who likes to play it carefully is always a good hand in the team. You need this type of personality as a



counterbalance to risk takers. They are risk-averse, but sometimes you need such people to bring in stability and caution you from getting too excited and taking on more than your resources can manage.

The planner:

A person skilled in drafting policies and planning the next action the company must take is a key member to have in the team. Many serve as efficient executors,

but few as effective planners (who essentially run the ship). These are the guys who can identify long-term goals, have a vision for the future and can work on a calculated measure to get there.

The organiser:

It's one thing to be a good strategist, and another to pull it all together. The best ideas go for a toss if you do not have someone who is task-oriented to put them into action. So if you are a master at organising, then it's imperative to add that in your CV.

The analyst:

While the strategist and organiser have their own skill sets to execute the idea into action, it takes an observant kind -who has one eye firmly on the markets and another on the rivals -to help you weigh the pros and cons and work accordingly.

The helper:

If you have wetted your hands in the hospitality business, and are looking to make a switch, be sure you retain the 'service-oriented' trait in your next job, too. A person who has a willingness to help others always makes for a great team player. They balance administrative qualities, understand urgency and have the patience to deal with finicky clients.



• Personal Interview is the foremost tool to judge the abilities of a person.

• In the face-to-face contact between the interviewer & interviewee, it is possible to record more than only verbal responses; which are often superficial.

Tips for a Personal Interview

Personal Interview is the foremost tool to judge the abilities of a person. In the face-to-face contact between the interviewer & interviewee, it is possible to record more than only verbal responses; which are often superficial. When human beings communicate directly with each other, much more information is communicated. The nature of words used, facial expressions & body language- together contribute in judging a person. According to Meha Bhargava, an Image Management professional, you must keep the following in mind while going for an interview.

Do the Research

Extensively research not just about the profile you are interviewed for, but the

company profile, their achievements, their story of success, their products & services, their target market etc.. All this will make you confident enough to answer every question diligently.

Look sharp

Being smartly and elegantly dressed not only makes you feel good but also has a strong impact on the interviewer. Like the mantra 'The way you dress, defines the way you think, act and how other's react'

Listen carefully

Giving full attention to not only what is said but also to what is not said will make

you know about what they have in store for you. Sometimes important things are left unsaid between the lines, make sure you catch up to every bit.

Show enthusiasm with body language

A firm handshake, smile, eye contact and positive responses ensure that the interviewer feels confident in you and your abilities to be hired. What you feel reflects by your body language. Even if you are nervous, don't let it show. Sit in a correct, firm and comfortable posture avoid fidgeting with

your legs, or hands. This distracts the interviewer and gives an impression of a feeble personality.

Answer only what is asked

Do listen carefully what you are being asked, if you don't understand confirm it again and while answering do not deviate from one thing to another. Straightforward

and to the point answers are only what they love to hear.

Ask questions

Don't be blank at the end of the interview, ask questions, be it on your profile, about the company, pay working hours etc. No questions give an impression of disinterest in the company and the job. But make sure your questions are appropriate.

Skill vs degree

What works for you?

In India, we place too much emphasis on what is often just a piece of paper, instead of the knowledge or skills one should acquire to earn it. If a student is looking for higher education, a degree is the normal study route. There are numerous careers and fields of work that require advanced knowledge and skills training.

However, all students may not and sometimes cannot take advanced courses and prefer to develop skills that do not necessarily require the rigour of a degree curriculum. In other words, every person with skills may not receive a degree. Similarly, there are many graduates who have theoretical knowledge but no practical



attempting to change students' attitude towards skills that can earn them jobs. However, there needs to be greater synergy between prospective employers and the skills training centre so that students are well-placed with salaries that can attract other youngsters. Also, often, employers ask for a degree irrespective of how adequately trained such a candidate may be. Therefore, students prefer to pursue a degree without a job in sight, rather than skill themselves through training that can better provide a job. The

experience. A number of jobs and careers require various skills -for example, in the computer and IT sector. So, without worrying if it is a degree or not, many students can study a course that would help them find work. The government's skill development programme is

solution is to analyse what a student is made for -a degree or a skill-based programme -and which one would work best for him/her.

Usha Albuquerque, Career Counsellor, Delhi

College prepares you

When students decide on a career path, it is essential for them to understand the importance of a degree and how it contributes to their future. A degree programme makes a student's 'generalised' approach more focused. At the college level, applicants pick a stream and then study a specific field such as engineering, medicine, commerce, science, humanities, law, architecture, etc. The student learns about things ranging from the finer points of a particular discipline to communication and people skills.

Students must opt for a degree course since it trains them to understand - through guest lectures, industry visits, etc -how industry functions. They, thus, know what employers expect. They develop a world view of the field they would work in, explore it in-depth and be ready to face challenges in their professional lives.



Why you need a 'disconnected' break

Taking your laptop along on your upcoming holiday? Do a rethink, for you might be committing a huge mistake, which might actually add more stress that you imagine. Experts warn how one should not cart along work and stay rooted to any social networking sites and microblogs, while on a getaway. The 'digital detox break' is being considered as the ideal 'me time'. The idea has taken root so much so that packages are being tailor-made to force stressed folk to wean away from all their gadgets. Here's how it benefits you:

"What we're doing here is providing evidence that how people relate to God matters for their commitment and satisfaction at work," Kent noted.

You see the world differently

You might throw fleeting glances to what's going around you if you're stuck to your smartphone screen. But being away from it allows you to view the world minus distraction.

It builds better interpersonal relations

How many people actually remember a good old-fashioned conversation? With no gadget around you can communicate face-to-face better.

You become less aggressive

Being answerable to someone on the opposite end means that you are having to answer to a demand all the time, which causes a sense of hostility and repressed anger in you. Take away such feeling by simply unplugging.



Honour your promise: CJP sets deadline for govt to scrap cases against protesters

The Cockroach Janta Party warned of 'further steps' if the Centre does not honour its promise of no punitive action against protesters by releasing all detainees and withdrawing FIRs.

Delhi. (Agency)

The Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) on Monday urged the Centre to honour its assurance that no punitive action would be taken against participants of its nationwide protest, expressing concern over reports of student protesters being detained or arrested in several states. The party demanded the immediate release of all detainees, withdrawal of FIRs registered against them and warned that it would take "further necessary steps" if its demands were not met by Tuesday.

In a statement issued by CJP leader Saurav Das, the party said it had received "multiple reports" of students and other protesters being "targeted, detained, or arrested" by various state agencies, particularly in Assam, West Bengal and Bihar.

It said these reports were "a matter of grave concern" because the CJP had suspended its nationwide agitation only after the Government of India assured it that "no punitive action would be taken against any protestor, either now or in the future, in any BJP-ruled or NDA-ruled states." Seeking to reassure those

facing action, the party said its legal team had been working since the first day of the protests to provide assistance. "We wish to assure every protestor that our legal team is already coordinating with brilliant lawyers in the concerned states to secure the release of those detained and to extend all possible legal assistance," the statement said. The CJP also called upon the Centre, particularly BJP president and Union Health Minister JP Nadda and Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh, to intervene immediately.



"We call upon the Government of India, particularly JP Nadda ji and Dr Jitendra Singh ji, to immediately honour the assurance given to us by ensuring the release of those detained and by

directing that no coercive or retaliatory action is taken against any protestor anywhere in the country. The FIRs registered ought to be withdrawn too," the party said.

Das further reminded the government of its commitment to provide a written guarantee on the issue by Tuesday. According to the statement, the CJP had suspended its nationwide protest "in good faith" and solely on the basis of the government's assurance that it would stand by its word.

AAP calls for 'National Town Hall Against E20' in Delhi

New Delhi. (Agency)

Escalating its campaign against mandatory E20 petrol, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has announced a 'National Town Hall Against E20' to be held at the Constitution Club of India on August 1. Addressing a press conference on Monday, AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal urged people to participate in large numbers in the meeting.

"We are inviting people to join in large numbers this



platform where we will discuss how to create pressure on the central government to withdraw the E20 petrol. Experts and people who have faced problems with their vehicles, all are invited," he said. "Next week, I will go to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's house with the online petition. But that would be after this meeting," Kejriwal said. The AAP had earlier launched an online petition to make the E20 fuel optional, which has been signed by almost 2 lakh people, the former chief minister said.

Delhi begins Jantar Mantar clean-up after protest ends, 60 tonnes of waste to be cleared by NDMC

New Delhi. (Agency)

The New Delhi Municipal Corporation (NDMC) on Sunday continued a clean-up operation in and around the Jantar Mantar, a day after the Cockroach Janta Party called off its protest, with officials saying nearly 60 metric tonnes of waste is expected to be cleared from the site and its adjoining roads.

Sanitation workers, heavy vehicles and mechanised cleaning equipment were deployed through the night to restore the area after protesters dispersed on Saturday, following the resignation of Dharmendra Pradhan as the education minister over the NEET paper leak row.

NDMC Vice Chairperson Kuljeet Singh Chahal, along with other senior officials, reached Jantar Mantar immediately after the conclusion of the protest and remained at the site throughout the night, supervising the cleanliness, waste removal, repair and restoration works. Officials concerned were directed to complete all works soon.

The operation was carried out jointly by the Health & Sanitation, Civil Engineering and Horticulture Departments. From last night until today, more than 500 officers and employees participated in the drive, undertaking cleaning, washing, repair and restoration of roads, footpaths, walls, green belts, etc.

Slogans cleared

Over 50 workers were deployed for the operation. They carried out road & footpath cleaning using four jetting machines & removed slogans from walls.

RAF used pellet guns on protesters during Parliament march, probe on: Sources

New Delhi. (Agency)

The CRPF has begun a detailed review of reports that RAF personnel fired pellet rounds during the July 20 'Sansad Chalo' march from Delhi's Jantar Mantar, after some protesters were injured by pellets that hit the ground, with sources further indicating that pellets were used.

The review and the latest development come amid categorical denials by the police and government that pellet guns were used during the protest, even as victims have since come forward with accounts of pellet injuries. The CRPF is preparing a detailed report on the incident, with the official

CRPF/RAF investigation report expected after the review.

According to CRPF sources, more than 47 RAF personnel were also



injured in the Connaught Place area, some of them seriously. The Delhi Police and RAF had used crowd-control measures, including tear gas and lathi-charges, during the protest.

The CRPF is now conducting an internal professional review of the

RAF's actions after the agitation.

Such post-event assessments are part of the force's Standard Operating Procedure following every major operation and will examine all aspects of the RAF's actions and the overall operation. At least four cases of pellet-gun injuries among protesters at Delhi's Jantar Mantar have been reported so far. India Today Digital spoke to one such victim, whose medical records showed that he sustained pellet injuries during the CJP's 'Sansad Chalo' march on July 20.

On Friday, Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi addressed the media alongside one such victim, Sahil Lohchab, whose injuries were visible across his body and face.

No UPI, no cabs: Hit by CJP protests, Connaught Place traders say recovery still a month away

New Delhi. (Agency)

After 49 days of protests at Jantar Mantar and the violence that followed on July 20, normalcy is returning to Connaught Place (CP), one of the biggest commercial hubs of New Delhi. Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation on Saturday, and the Cockroach Janta Party's (CJP's) withdrawal of the protests have brought relief for both shoppers and traders in Connaught Place, located only 650 meters north-west of Jantar Mantar.

As the protests intensified for over a month, business establishments took a big hit. Connaught Place or CP, the

British-era complex, is lined with offices, shops, restaurants and other establishments and is one of the



busiest business districts of the capital, bringing in hundreds of thousands of people, from workers to tourists every day. According to some estimates, the area features 1,400

retail shops and over 1,000 corporate and commercial offices.

The area was also caught in the crosshairs after thousands of protesters descended upon Jantar Mantar and the nearby areas of Lutyens' Delhi after the violent crackdown on July 20 which also saw the use of pellet guns by security personnel. India Today Digital documented how restrictions imposed by authorities, including the suspension of mobile internet services, the mandatory closure of offices after 6.30 pm, and the shutdown of several Metro stations left thousands of commuters trapped in a traffic nightmare.

Land deal with Flipkart caused Rs 12.86 crore loss to Bengal govt agency: CAG

New Delhi. (Agency)

The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) has flagged a loss of Rs 12.86 crore to the West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation Limited (WBIDCL) in the allotment of land to Instakart Services, the logistics arm of e-commerce major Flipkart, at the Haringhata Industrial Park in Nadia district.

The finding is part of the CAG's 2024 report on Public Sector Undertakings for the period ending March 31, 2023, which was tabled in the West Bengal Assembly by the BJP government on Friday. The report noted that the erstwhile Trinamool Congress (TMC) government had not tabled CAG reports for four financial years up to 2024-25.

According to the auditor, WBIDCL incurred the loss after computing the base price of the land without excluding large water bodies within the project site, a move that deviated from the Corporation's own pricing policy.

LAND ACQUISITION AND ALLOTMENT
The report said the Mamata Banerjee-led then West Bengal government decided in August 2017 to transfer 1,326.93 acres of land to the Industrial Development Corporation for industrial purposes. A month later, the Corporation decided to develop an industrial park at Haringhata in phases. The state government sanctioned Rs 206.73 crore towards the cost of acquiring 358.19 acres of land. The amount was paid to the Land and Land Reforms and Refugee Relief and Rehabilitation Department in March 2018, and the Corporation took possession of the land in October 2018.

In August 2018, WBIDCL floated an expression of interest inviting investors for the Haringhata Industrial Park, fixing the land price at Rs 63.49 lakh per acre for a 99-year lease on an "as-is-where-is" basis.

Instakart Services applied in September 2018 for 107.35 acres to establish a regional distribution centre, proposing an investment of Rs 991 crore. WBIDCL's board approved the proposal in October 2018, while the state Cabinet's Standing Committee on Industry cleared the allotment in December 2018. The Corporation allotted the land to Instakart in January 2019 for Rs 68.16 crore, with possession handed over in April 2019. A further 1.77 acres was allotted in March 2020 for Rs 1.07 crore, and possession was transferred in June 2020. A 99-year lease deed covering 109.12 acres was executed in February 2021.

System is murderous: Rahul Gandhi seeks PM's apology over AK-47 firing on students

Rahul Gandhi accused the Modi government of attacking students during protests in Bihar and Delhi. He demanded action against those responsible and an apology from the prime minister.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Monday attacked the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government over the use of AK-47 rifles against protesting students in Bihar. He demanded action against those who attacked the students and asked the PM to apologise to them. Gandhi also accused the central government of being "dishonest" and said reform was beyond its capability. His remarks came as the Opposition is seeking immediate discussion in Parliament over the police action on protests linked to the NEET paper leak in Delhi, Bihar and other parts of the country. In a post on X in Hindi, Gandhi said, "The entire system is downright murderous against

students. Reports are coming in that AK-47s have been fired at protesting students in Bihar, and hundreds have been arrested and booked under FIRs."

He said, "Modi ji, what happened to your promise that no FIRs would be filed against students and that they would be released? Instead, they are being subjected to deadly attacks and brutality." Gandhi also said, "Pellet guns were used against students in Delhi, and AK-47s in Bihar. Whether it is Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Bihar, or Delhi -- the pattern is the same everywhere."

The Congress leader further said, "I have said it before: this government is dishonest. Reform is beyond its

capability. It will renege on its promises and use every tactic to suppress the students' voices." Gandhi called on



Modi to apologise to the country's students and take action against those who attacked and brutalised them instead of acting against the students.

Left-wing student organisations held demonstrations across Bihar on

Saturday in support of a statewide bandh over the NEET paper leak and police action on protesting students.

Some of the protests turned violent. Bihar Assembly Leader of Opposition Tejashwi Yadav also flagged that police fired AK-47s at protesters during the protest in Siwan. Earlier, during the Cockroach Janta Party-led 'Sansad Chalo' march in Delhi on July 20 against the NEET paper leak, police and security forces used batons and tear gas to disperse protesters, most of whom were students. Scores of protesters and police personnel were injured. Overall, Gandhi used these incidents in Bihar and Delhi to accuse the government of suppressing student protests and demanded accountability and an apology from the prime minister.

Global crude oil prices plunge up to 7% as US-Iran pause strikes

New Delhi. (Agency)

Global crude oil prices witnessed heavy selling pressure on Monday, with key oil benchmarks plunging up to 7 per cent after the United States and Iran paused military strikes over the weekend. International benchmark Brent crude fell more than 7 per cent or about \$7 to hover around the \$91-a-barrel mark. On the other hand, US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude also declined over 7 per cent, shedding around \$6.4 to trade below \$85 a barrel.

The sharp decline came after Iran indicated it would refrain from further attacks as long as the US also halted military operations, fuelling expectations that the conflict could move towards a diplomatic resolution.

The latest correction follows a sharp rally in oil prices over the past three weeks, during which Brent briefly crossed the \$100-a-barrel mark amid fears that the conflict would disrupt crude supplies through the Strait of Hormuz and the Bab el-Mandeb Strait -- two of the world's most critical energy shipping routes.

According to market experts, attacks claimed by Iran-backed Houthi forces on Saudi Aramco facilities at the Red Sea ports of Jizan and Yanbu underscore that geopolitical risks remain elevated. Despite Monday's sharp correction, experts pointed out that crude oil prices are still nearly 40 per cent higher this month as supply disruptions spread from the Strait of Hormuz to the Red Sea, a vital route for Saudi oil exports, they said. They also cautioned that supply chain risks have not completely disappeared, with shipping through the Strait of Hormuz yet to return to normal.

Who can receive PF money in case of death of EPF members? How to file online claim and documents required? Explained

New Delhi. (Agency)

If an Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) member passes away, the money saved in their EPF account is not lost. The nominee or eligible legal heirs can claim the savings. Families of EPF members can claim the dead member's provident fund, pension and insurance benefits online through the EPFO portal. In case of death of EPF members, the provident fund is usually paid to the nominee registered by the member. If no nomination has been registered, the amount is given to eligible family members such as a spouse or children. If the member had no family but had nominated someone to receive the pension benefits, that person can claim the pension. If the member had no family and had not nominated anyone for a pension, the dependent parents can claim the benefit.

EPFO Death claim: How to file the claim online?

The claim can be submitted online through the EPFO member portal. Enter the deceased member's UAN along with the beneficiary's Aadhaar details and date of birth. An OTP will be sent to the registered mobile number registered with the member's EPF account for verification. After verification, select the death claim option and enter the date of death and upload the death certificate. Provide the beneficiary's contact, address and bank details and upload a cancelled cheque. Complete the submission using the OTP sent to the Aadhaar-linked mobile number of the beneficiary.

AI workloads outpace traditional data use as Indian firms earmark dedicated budgets: Snowflake

New Delhi. (Agency)

AI workloads are growing faster than traditional data workloads, with Indian enterprises increasingly setting aside dedicated budgets for artificial intelligence even as they grapple with rising token costs, according to Snowflake India. Vijayant Rai, Managing Director of Snowflake India, said companies have moved beyond AI pilots and are now deploying the technology at scale, prompting higher investments. While some organisations are reallocating existing IT budgets towards AI, others are creating separate budgets for AI initiatives. "We are very clearly in discussions with customers who tell us that a certain percentage of their IT budget will now be allocated to AI. In some cases, it is part of the existing budget and has been reallocated, while in others, entirely new AI budgets are being created," Rai told The New Indian Express.

Gold jumps Rs 1,000, silver surges Rs 2,500: Why bullion is rallying again, and should you buy?

CHENNAI. (Agency)

Gold and silver prices staged a comeback on Monday, with MCX gold rising more than Rs 1,000 and silver climbing over Rs 2,500, as easing geopolitical tensions in the Middle East, a weaker US dollar and falling crude oil prices revived demand for precious metals. At around 11:30 am, MCX Gold futures were trading at Rs 1,44,130 per 10 grams, up Rs 1,024 or 0.72%. MCX Silver futures jumped Rs 2,525, or 1.14%, to Rs 2,24,663 per kg. The rally comes after both precious metals corrected from the record highs they hit towards the end of January this year. While the recent decline had prompted some investors to stay on the sidelines, Monday's

rebound has once again shifted attention to whether bullion is preparing for another leg higher.

WHY ARE GOLD AND SILVER RISING TODAY?

The biggest trigger for Monday's rally has been a combination of lower crude oil prices and a weaker US dollar. Global gold prices gained after signs of a pause in Middle East hostilities eased fears of further disruptions to global oil supplies. Iran has indicated it will halt attacks as long as the United States does the same, while Washington has paused its bombing campaign, reducing immediate concerns over an escalation of the conflict. The development sent crude oil prices tumbling more than 4%, easing

inflation worries that had earlier weighed on bullion. Gold is a clear



beneficiary today of the dual price action in oil and the US dollar," Tim Waterer, Chief Market Analyst at KCM Trade, told Reuters. The US dollar index also slipped below the 101 mark, making dollar-priced commodities such as gold and silver more affordable for buyers using other currencies and

boosting global demand.

A REVERSAL AFTER RECORD HIGHS

Gold and silver have witnessed sharp swings this year. Both metals touched record highs towards the end of January as investors rushed towards safe-haven assets amid geopolitical uncertainty and expectations that major central banks would eventually begin cutting interest rates.

However, prices later corrected as the conflict in the Middle East pushed crude oil prices sharply higher, fuelling inflation fears and leading markets to believe the US Federal Reserve could keep interest rates elevated for longer. A stronger dollar and rising US Treasury yields also reduced the appeal of non-yielding assets such as gold.

Over 4 crore ITRs filed: Here's your essential filing checklist before you hit submit

Kolkata. (Agency)

With the July 31, 2026 deadline fast approaching for taxpayers filing ITR-1 and ITR-2, the Income Tax Department has urged people not to wait for the last-minute rush. The department said more than 4 crore income tax returns (ITRs) for Assessment Year (AY) 2026-27 have already been filed, and the number is continuing to rise.

In a post on X, the department said, "4 Crore+ ITRs for AY 2026-27 filed and counting! Avoid the July 31, 2026 deadline stress and file your ITR 1 & 2 early. File your ITR 1 & 2 for AY 2026-27 now, before the last-minute rush." The message comes as taxpayers typically rush to file returns in the final few days before the deadline, often leading to heavy

traffic on the e-filing portal and avoidable mistakes.

WHY FILING EARLY MAKES SENSE



Tax experts say filing your return well before the deadline gives you enough time to review your details, fix errors, and avoid unnecessary stress. Gaurav Makhijani, Tax Head at Makhijani Gera & Associates, advised taxpayers not to delay the process. "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," he said.

According to him, taking some time to match all income and tax details before submitting the return can help prevent notices or delays later.

CHECK THESE DETAILS BEFORE SUBMITTING YOUR RETURN

Makhijani said taxpayers should make sure they are using the correct ITR form and reporting every source of income. "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," he said.

How should Crypto tax be paid in India? Income tax department issues guidance -- Read FAQ

New Delhi. (Agency)

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has issued a detailed guidance note for Indian crypto platforms and foreign exchanges operating in the country to explain in a simple manner the issues related to reporting taxes and transactions under the provisions of the Income Tax Rules, 2026.

The guidance note reiterates that the primary compliance burden falls on Reporting Crypto-Asset Service Providers (RCASPs), not directly on individual investors. It further explains reporting mechanisms for entities transacting across different jurisdictions which have kicked in with the Union Budget introduced

in February 2026. The Guidance Note is intended to explain the reporting obligations of Reporting Financial Institutions (RFIs) contained in the relevant Rules notified by the Government of India in a simple manner. Given that the Common Reporting Standard (CRS) is developed jointly by participating jurisdictions, including India, working with the OECD, the Commentary on CRS and other relevant materials have also been cited, so as to facilitate their reference by the RFIs, where so required, according to the CBDT statement. The guidelines further clarify that crypto service providers should not treat a 'crypto asset user' as an individual user, if it benefits or accounts for another individual or entity as an agent, custodian,

nominee, signatory, investment advisor, or intermediary. "Instead, the individual or entity on whose behalf the Crypto-Asset User relationship is in place should be treated as the Crypto-Asset User, and identification should be carried out on that basis," the guidance note states. The note also makes it clear when a crypto service provider transfers payments made in crypto assets from a customer to the merchant for a value greater than \$50,000 and acts as an agent for the customer, it should report such transfer as a 'Reportable Retail Payment Transaction'. In the case of the service provider acting as an agent of the merchant, the transfer will be reported as such and not as a retail transaction. In this case,

citizens when dealing with government offices. EVEN TAX OFFICIALS FACED BUREAUCRATIC HURDLES

Using the construction of the new Income Tax office as an example, Sitharaman said officials had themselves experienced the delays and procedural hurdles that citizens often complain about. "Can this incentivise you to understand the position of a common citizen when he approaches you? Don't make them run from pillar to post where your authority is required; do the work for them," she told the officers. She clarified that she was not asking officials to bypass rules or extend undue favours. Instead, she stressed that people should not have to struggle for services or benefits that they are legally entitled to receive.



Inheritance vs Gift: Which is the most tax-efficient way to transfer property?

If you're planning to transfer property to a family member, the method you choose can have important tax and legal implications. So, is a gift or an inheritance the better option?

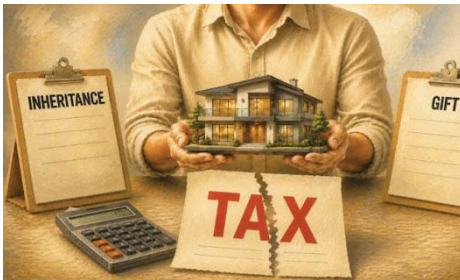
New Delhi. (Agency)

For many Indian families, passing on a home is about much more than bricks and mortar. It is about securing the next generation, preserving family wealth and avoiding future disputes. But when the time comes to transfer property, one question often crops up: Is it better to gift the property during your lifetime or pass it on through inheritance? Take the case of parents who want to hand over their house to their children while they are still

around. Should they execute a gift deed today, or leave the property through a will? Or consider siblings who inherit a family home and later wonder whether gifting it earlier would have saved taxes. The answer isn't always straightforward. While both options allow property to be transferred, they differ in terms of taxes, stamp duty, legal formalities and even future capital gains. Choosing the right route could save a family a substantial amount of money, and plenty of legal headaches. WHY INHERITANCE OFTEN COMES OUT AHEAD

When it comes to minimising the immediate cost of transferring property, inheritance generally has the upper hand. Akash Pharande, Managing Director, Pharande Spaces, says inheritance is often the

more tax-efficient route because India no longer levies estate duty, and legal heirs do not have to bear the upfront charges that usually come with gifting. "Generally,



inheritance is more tax-efficient. In India, estate tax has been abolished, so when legal heirs inherit property there is no estate tax at the time of transfer. With gifts, even if the transfer is exempt from income tax for specified relatives, stamp duty and registration charges usually apply immediately. Those costs are

based on the property's current market value and can be substantial. From a cash flow perspective, inheritance often avoids these upfront expenses. Aman Gupta, Director at RPS Group, agrees that the biggest difference lies in when the costs arise. "The key difference is in the timing and the charges involved. Inheritance takes effect after the owner's death and is exempt from both income tax and stamp duty for legal heirs. A gift, even if made to a close relative and exempt from income tax, still attracts stamp duty and registration charges in many states. Those charges can range from 2% to 7% of the property's value."

THE HIDDEN COST MANY FAMILIES OVERLOOK

Income tax often grabs all the attention, but experts say the real deciding factor is usually stamp duty.

Former Haryana minister, calls for social unity

Panchkula.(Agency)

Senior BJP leader and former Haryana Finance Minister, Captain Abhimanyu, today called for an end to caste-based politics, stating that those who promote casteism dishonour the sacrifices of the nation's martyrs. He emphasized the importance of unity and encouraged citizens to strengthen social cohesion and work together for national progress.

Speaking to the media after the Sarv Samaj Bhaichara Sneh Milan at Chaudhary Chhotu Ram Jat Bhawan, he said that while each generation faces challenges, societies that foster unity and trust are most successful. He pointed out that nearly 11 districts in Haryana have held similar gatherings to unite communities, and this movement is expected to grow.

He said the dream of India's freedom fighters and martyrs can only be realised when society rises above caste and sectional interests. "Political competition is natural, but it should never weaken social unity. Every individual and organisation must contribute towards strengthening society from their respective platforms," he said.

Taking a firm stand against caste-based politics, Captain Abhimanyu reiterated his opposition to caste-based politics, stating that reliance on caste identities can undermine self-confidence.

Kishan Reddy inaugurates Komuravelli Punyakshetram railway station in Telangana

Siddipet (Telangana).(Agency)

union Coal and Mines Minister G Kishan Reddy today inaugurated the newly constructed Komuravelli Punyakshetram Railway Station in Siddipet district, saying the facility would fulfil the long-pending dream of lakhs of devotees visiting the famous Sri Mallikarjuna Swamy temple.

Addressing the gathering, Kishan Reddy said the railway station, built at a cost of Rs 6 crore, was constructed with modern amenities reflecting the grandeur of the temple despite not being part of the original railway project. The station comes on the Manoharabad-Kothapalli railway line, with the 76-km Manoharabad-Siddipet section already completed.

He announced that DEMU trains operating between Secunderabad and Siddipet would now halt at Komuravelli, providing affordable travel for devotees, students, employees and traders. The fare from Secunderabad to Komuravelli is only Rs 25, he said, adding that the station would significantly boost pilgrimage tourism and local business.

Drug suspect rams car into police in Hyderabad, head constable seriously injured

Hyderabad.(Agency)

A suspected drug peddler allegedly rammed his car into police personnel while trying to escape during a narcotics operation in Hyderabad on Sunday, leaving a Head Constable seriously injured and two other policemen with minor injuries.

According to police, acting on a tip-off about drug trafficking in the Abids area, a team from the Hyderabad Narcotics Enforcement Wing laid a trap near Payal Footwear. After detaining a person who allegedly handed over a suspicious packet to the accused, police asked the man inside the car to step out. Instead, he suddenly reversed the vehicle, running over Head Constable Mahender Yadav's leg and injuring Inspector Srikanth and another constable before fleeing.

The accused, identified as Saif, a resident of Hussaini Alam, was chased and apprehended in the Afzalgunj area. Head Constable Mahender Yadav, who suffered a leg fracture, is undergoing treatment at a private hospital in Somajiguda.

Mounting civic issues on Bengaluru's Seshadri Road raise alarm

BENGALURU.(Agency)

Seshadri Road, surrounded by educational institutions and commercial establishments and frequented by people from all walks of life, is slowly emerging as a yellow spot, with multiple civic issues taking root. Footpaths with gaping holes, illegal parking and public urination along the stretch highlight failures across all three pillars of civic responsibility – the corporation, enforcement agencies and citizens.

The stretch, surrounded by Maharani Cluster University, CMS Business School, Race Course, Freedom Park and several commercial streets, is a busy arterial road. People, particularly students, use it daily, navigating damaged and unclean footpaths while contending with roads narrowed by the illegal parking of vehicles. CIVIC-Bangalore executive trustee Kathyayini

Chamaraj said, "The root cause of such issues, in general, is a lack of coordination. Ward-level committees and Area Sabhas in urban spaces not being empowered to take independent decisions."



She said local bodies in Bengaluru are not equipped to discharge the 18 core municipal functions under the Twelfth Schedule of the 74th Constitutional Amendment Act. She

said strengthening governing bodies is key to prevent civic issues from escalating in an area.

Referring to Seshadri Road's gradual emergence as a yellow spot despite the presence of a pay-and-use toilet within 50 metres of the location, people who visit the area for various works regularly say that increasing the number of free-to-use toilets may help tackle the issue.

Swachh Survekshan expert V Ramprasad differed. "Health inspectors and the chief marshal must take accountability if an area emerges as a yellow spot. And if payment at public toilets is the issue, a proven solution is to introduce a monthly pass system. That way, the fee remains nominal, toilet managers receive a steady income."

A GBA official said, "The traffic police should work hand in hand to solve illegal parking.

Users seek correction as Bengaluru Metro breaches fare cap

BENGALURU.(Agency)

While Namma Metro commuters are already paying a maximum fare of Rs 90, Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd's (BMRL) own documents project a maximum fare of only Rs 75 in 2031.

The June 2024 detailed project report (DPR) for Metro Phase 3A (Red Line: Hebbal to Sarjapur) projected a maximum fare of Rs 75 in 2031, assuming a 12% increase every three years. BMRL has already been charging up to Rs 90 since February 2025 following the Fare Fixation Committee's (FFC) fare revision.

Interestingly, the revised 2026 Phase 3A DPR continues to assume a 12% fare increase every three years, even though the FFC had recommended annual hikes of up to 5%. The discrepancy has strengthened demands for a fare correction, but BMRL

has remained silent on the issue despite calls for a review.

Critics have already alleged that BMRL misapplied the fare formula, resulting in a



steep hike of 105% which was eventually revised to 71%. Commuters are estimated to be paying more than the fare projected in BMRL's own DPR. Commuters have also questioned why BMRL has remained silent

on the issue for several months after the latest hike proposal.

"Before implementing another fare hike, the existing fare structure must be corrected. The 5% increase should not be imposed without first addressing the misapplication of the fare formula and concerns over the earlier steep hike," said Rajesh Bhatt, co-convenor of the Bengaluru Metro Commuters Association.

He also demanded that BMRL publish a white paper detailing its expenditure, revenue and profits. "Commuters have a right to know how fares are being determined and who is responsible for the current structure," he said. Bhatt also called for a review of the existing fare fixation process, saying commuters and other stakeholders were not adequately represented.

AP: Kakinada doctor's low-cost HIV-TB test research earns international recognition

Kakinada.(Agency)

Research by Kakinada-based physician Dr Yanamadala Muralikrishna demonstrating the use of the low-cost Mantoux test to assess disease severity in HIV-Tuberculosis (TB) patients has received international recognition.

The study has been published as a full-length original research article in the August 2026 issue of the internationally reputed Journal of Clinical Tuberculosis and Other Mycobacterial Diseases, published by Elsevier.

Addressing the media here today, Dr Muralikrishna said the research provides scientific evidence supporting the use of the Mantoux test as a practical prognostic tool for HIV-associated tuberculosis in resource-limited settings, offering clinicians an affordable alternative to

assess disease severity where sophisticated laboratory investigations are not readily available. He said research that enables effective patient care using locally available and affordable resources is particularly valuable for low- and middle-income countries, expressing hope that the findings would contribute to improving the management of HIV-associated tuberculosis in regions with limited access to advanced diagnostic facilities.

Dr Muralikrishna noted that HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis continue to pose a major public health challenge in developing countries.

He pointed out that expensive prognostic investigations such as CD4 cell count and HIV viral load tests remain inaccessible to many patients in resource-constrained settings. Even today, nearly 40 per

cent of people living with HIV in several developing countries seek medical care only after developing advanced HIV disease, with a large proportion also suffering from tuberculosis, he added.

The researcher said the study involved 107 HIV-TB patients and 100 tuberculosis patients without HIV, evaluating the usefulness of the Mantoux test in assessing disease severity.

Dr Muralikrishna recalled that he had initiated his research on HIV-TB during 1998-99 while pursuing postgraduate studies at Sri Rangaraya Medical College.

The research paper was presented at the 13th International AIDS Conference held in Durban, South Africa, where it was selected among the top 25 abstracts from over 5,300 submissions received from across the world.

BMC QR-code drive uncovers 3,167 ‘ghost’ hawker licences

Mumbai.(Agency)

A fresh verification drive undertaken by the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) as part of its long-pending exercise to issue QR code-enabled identity cards to authorised hawkers has found that 3,167 vendors identified as legal in the city's 2014 survey have died.

The civic body is now considering a policy to transfer their vending licences to their eligible kin, even as it moves to create a verified database of nearly one lakh authorised hawkers and intensify action against illegal vending across Mumbai. The BMC began issuing QR code-enabled

identity cards in May this year to distinguish authorised hawkers from illegal vendors. Under the exercise, all 99,345 hawkers identified as eligible in the 2014 survey were asked to report to their respective ward offices to verify their credentials.

"During this verification process, it was revealed that 3,167 vendors have died since the first survey was conducted," a civic official said. The findings were placed before the BMC's law committee last week, following which members suggested framing a policy to transfer the licences to the deceased vendors' legal heirs. "In many cases, the

deceased vendors had not specified nominees who could inherit the licences. We have asked civic officials to formulate a standard operating procedure to



identify and verify the immediate next of kin before transferring the licence," Diksha Karkar, chairperson of the BMC's

law committee said.

So far, the BMC has issued around 48,000 QR code-enabled identity cards. Officials said the highest number of verifications has been carried out in Dadar, a major hawking hub, followed by Colaba and Churchgate in South Mumbai and Goregaon in the western suburbs. During the verification process, each hawker's identity, survey number and vending location are cross-checked. Officials said the QR code cards will enable the BMC and Mumbai Police to instantly verify whether a vendor is authorised, making it easier to identify and take action against illegal hawkers.

HP: Health Minister Shandil pays tribute to GS Bali at Grand Cultural Evening of Bal Mela 2026

Dharamshala.(Agency)

The first grand cultural evening of Vikas Purush Shri G.S. Bali Bal Mela 2026 commenced in a colourful manner at the historic Gandhi Ground in Nagrota Bagwan today, with Himachal Pradesh Health Minister Dr Dhaniram Shandil paying rich tributes to late Congress leader G.S. Bali and describing him as a leader who would "remain immortal in the hearts of the people".

Addressing the gathering as the chief guest on the third day of the Bal Mela, Dr Shandil said the annual event keeps alive the memories and legacy of the "Vikas Purush" every year. He recalled working closely with the late G.S. Bali and said he had personally witnessed his relentless efforts to resolve public grievances and work for the welfare of the people.

The Health Minister was welcomed by Bal Mela Committee Chief Patron RS Bali and members of the organising committee. Among those present were AICC Co-Incharge Chetan Chauhan, MLAs Sudarshan Babloo, Chandrashekhar and Vivek Sharma, HRTC Vice-Chairman Ajay Verma, former CPS Chaudhary Surinder Kaku, Block Congress President Man Singh, members of the Bal Mela Committee and a large number of local residents.

Dr Shandil said it was due to the sustained efforts of late G.S. Bali that Dr Rajendra Prasad Government Medical College at Tanda was established in the Nagrota constituency.

Mumbai: Water stock in 7 lakes crosses 88 pc after heavy rains

Mumbai.(Agency)

Mumbai's drinking water stock crossed the 88 per cent mark on Monday after heavy rainfall in the catchment areas of the city's seven reservoirs led to a sharp rise in storage levels, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) said.

According to the BMC's Hydraulic Engineer's Department, the combined live water stock in Upper Vaitarna, Modak Sagar, Tansa, Middle Vaitarna, Bhatsa, Vihar and Tulsi reservoirs stood at 12,79,534 million litres (ML) at 6 am on Monday, accounting for 88.40 per cent of the total live storage capacity of 14,47,363 ML.

The water stock increased by 2.22 percentage points over the previous 24 hours, owing to continuous rainfall in the catchment areas between 6 am on Sunday and 6 am on Monday.

Among the reservoirs, Modak Sagar, Vihar and Tulsi have reached full capacity and are overflowing, while Tansa has climbed to 98.45 per cent of its storage capacity. Upper Vaitarna and Middle Vaitarna also registered substantial storage levels following the recent spell of rain.

NEWS BOX

Yash Dayal switches to Chhattisgarh for domestic season amid ongoing POCSO case

New Delhi. (Agency)

India pacer Yash Dayal is set to begin a fresh chapter in his domestic career after deciding to leave Uttar Pradesh and represent Chhattisgarh in the 2026-27 season. The move comes months after the left-arm pacer was suspended by the Uttar Pradesh Cricket Association (UPCA) following criminal cases, including one under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

According to ESPNcricinfo, Dayal's no-objection certificate (NOC) is currently being processed and he has already joined Chhattisgarh's pre-season camp in Alur, Karnataka, under new head coach Amay



Khurasiya. The switch marks his return to a domestic setup after a prolonged absence from competitive cricket. Dayal has not played a competitive match since the IPL 2025 final. Although Royal Challengers Bengaluru retained him ahead of IPL 2026, the franchise chose not to include him in the squad because of his ongoing legal situation.

RCB director of cricket Mo Bobat had explained the decision before the season began. "It wasn't in Yash Dayal's or RCB's best interests to pick him due to his personal situation."

WHAT LED TO STATESWITCH

The move to Chhattisgarh follows Dayal's exclusion from the Uttar Pradesh setup. While he had initially been retained by the Gorakhpur Lions for the UP T20 League and had begun training with the franchise.

Andrea Pirlo loses Italy coaching job over Russian betting controversy

New Delhi. (Agency)

Andrea Pirlo's hopes of becoming Italy's next national team coach have come to an abrupt end after political opposition over his commercial association with a Russian betting company forced him out of the running.

The World Cup-winning midfielder confirmed on Monday that he was no longer being considered for the role, ending weeks of speculation over his potential return to Italian football. Pirlo had emerged as a leading candidate to replace Gennaro Gattuso, but growing scrutiny over his sponsorship agreement with Russian bookmaker Fonbet ultimately derailed his chances amid Italy's continued support for Ukraine following Russia's invasion.

Pirlo revealed the decision through a post on Instagram, saying he had been informed the previous night that his candidacy had been dropped.

The controversy stemmed from his role as a global ambassador for Fonbet, a deal he signed while coaching Dubai United in the United Arab Emirates. His appearance alongside former Italy teammate Marco Materazzi at a promotional event in Moscow earlier this year further intensified criticism, with several Italian politicians arguing that such an association was incompatible with leading the national team.

The Italian Football Federation (FIGC) did not publicly comment on the matter, but the issue reportedly became a major point of discussion within football and political circles as the federation searched for a new head coach.

PIRLO DEFENDS RUSSIAN BETTING DEAL

Responding to the criticism, Pirlo insisted that the partnership was purely commercial and had no political implications. He also expressed disappointment that his professional work had become the centre of a wider public debate.

A silver worth more than gold: How Rishikanta Singh made history for Manipur

A knee injury denied Rishikanta Singh Commonwealth Games gold, but the Indian still scripted history by becoming the first male weightlifter from Manipur to win a medal at the Games after claiming silver in the men's 60kg event.

New Delhi. (Agency)

The gold was there for the taking. Rishikanta Singh had just broken the Commonwealth Games snatch record and stood atop the leaderboard in the men's 60kg weightlifting competition. Then his troublesome knee gave way. The clean and jerk became less about battling through pain. By the end of the evening in Glasgow, the Indian settled for silver. Yet as he stepped off the platform, the colour of the medal mattered far less

than what it represented. Rishikanta had become the first male weightlifter from Manipur to win a Commonwealth Games medal, carving out a place in the sporting history of a state that has produced some of India's finest lifters.

THE GOLD THAT GOT AWAY

The 28-year-old looked destined for the top of the podium after producing a Commonwealth Games record lift of 121kg in the snatch. It handed him the overall lead heading into the clean and jerk, where he needed one more strong performance to clinch gold. But an injury suffered just a week before the competition returned at the worst possible moment. Rishikanta managed to successfully complete a lift of 143kg but failed in his attempts at 148kg and 151kg as his injured knee prevented him from

generating the power required to push the bar overhead. He finished with a total of 264kg, enough for silver but not the gold he had travelled to Glasgow hoping



to win. "I came here for gold. After the snatch, I was in the leading position, but my knee created a problem. I was able to clean the weight but could not push

because one thigh was not working properly. I tried my best," Rishikanta told .He later revealed that securing a medal became the priority once the injury worsened. "I told guruji that we should take one lift to secure the medal and then push. I did not want to lose the medal," he said.

A FIRST FOR MANIPUR

For Manipur, however, Rishikanta's silver was about much more than finishing second. The northeastern state has long been regarded as India's weightlifting heartland, producing world-class athletes and international medallists, particularly on the women's side. Yet, remarkably, no male weightlifter from Manipur had previously represented India at the Commonwealth Games.

Esha Singh beats Olympic medallist Manu Bhaker to shooting World Cup gold

New Delhi. (Agency)

Esha Singh continued to establish herself as one of India's brightest shooting stars by edging Olympic medallist Manu Bhaker to the gold medal in the women's 25m pistol event at the ISSF World Cup in Hangzhou on Monday. The 21-year-old held her nerve in a high-quality final to top the podium, while Manu battled her way to bronze as India celebrated a memorable double podium finish.

The result was another reminder of India's enviable depth in women's pistol shooting. Just weeks after rewriting the record books in Munich, Esha once again delivered when it mattered most, overcoming the pressure of expectations to claim another World Cup title. Manu, meanwhile, showed her trademark resilience, surviving a tense shoot-off to finish on the podium and continue building momentum ahead of the World Championships and the Asian Games.

India had already stamped its authority during qualification, with Manu leading the field on 586-20x and Esha finishing just one point behind on 585-18x to secure places in the eight-shooter final. Former Asian Games champion Rahi Sarnobat also impressed with 582-16x, while Simranpreet Kaur Brar and Abhidnya Ashok Patil delivered solid performances while competing under Ranking Points Only (RPO) status.

Once the medals were up for grabs, however, it was Esha who stood tallest. She remained composed throughout the final, registering 40 hits to seal the gold medal. Manu, after winning a crucial shoot-off to stay alive in the contest, eventually finished with 28 hits to add another World Cup medal to her growing collection.

ESHA THRIVES UNDER EXPECTATION

Having already set both the senior and junior world records with 43 hits at the ISSF World Cup in Munich earlier this season, Esha admitted the challenge in Hangzhou was as much mental as technical. With success came greater expectations, but the Hyderabad shooter was pleased to overcome that burden.

FIFA president Gianni Infantino blasts World Cup critics in 15-page note

CHENNAI. (Agency)

FIFA president Gianni Infantino has hit back at critics in the aftermath of the 2026 FIFA World Cup, urging them to "meditate, pray or watch a football match" instead of "spending time hating" the governing body. In a lengthy social media statement, Infantino defended FIFA's handling of the tournament and insisted the World Cup should be remembered for bringing people together rather than the controversies surrounding it. The FIFA chief, who did not address the media during or after the tournament, said the competition showcased "humanity at its best" and accused sections of the media and critics of overlooking the joy experienced by billions of football fans across the globe. If you have some extra time, instead of spending it hating, meditate, pray, smile, spend it with your loved

ones, or watch a football match. "To all of you who missed watching kids, babies, grandparents, and parents come together for the beautiful game, I say sorry that the matches are now over



and sorry that you missed all that joy and togetherness. "Sorry that you were so consumed by hate and criticism that you missed it all." Infantino also defended FIFA's work during the tournament, saying the organisation remained focused on delivering the

biggest sporting spectacle in the world despite constant scrutiny.

INFANTINO DEFENDS FIFA WORLD CUP 2026

Infantino described the World Cup as a celebration of football that attracted billions of viewers worldwide and praised the efforts of volunteers, host nations and security personnel. He claimed the tournament passed off safely and argued that isolated refereeing and disciplinary controversies should not overshadow the success of the event. He also rejected criticism surrounding FIFA's disciplinary decisions, saying similar calls are routinely accepted in domestic leagues across the world.

WORLD CUP FACED SEVERAL CONTROVERSIES

Despite Infantino's glowing assessment, the tournament was overshadowed by several off-field issues.

Vaibhav Sooryavanshi's maturity becomes VVS Laxman's biggest IND vs ZIM takeaway

New Delhi. (Agency)

India's interim head coach VVS Laxman believes Vaibhav Sooryavanshi's biggest transformation over the past six months has not been his strokeplay, but his maturity. After the 15-year-old capped a remarkable Zimbabwe tour by winning both the Player of the Match and Player of the Series awards, Laxman said the teenager's game awareness had "skyrocketed", allowing him to thrive under pressure. Sooryavanshi finished the three-match T20I series with 151 runs at an average of 50.33, including a match-winning 81 in the final game as India completed a 3-0 clean sweep. The



performances marked a stunning turnaround after the youngster endured a difficult debut series against England, where scores of 13, 14 and 15 saw him

dropped for the final T20I. India vs Zimbabwe, 3rd T20I: Updates | Scorecard Laxman, who is leading India in Gautam Gambhir's absence, said Sooryavanshi's rapid growth has been evident both on and off the field. "What is really impressive is the way he's evolved as a person. The maturity level, the understanding, and the awareness over the last six months has actually skyrocketed. And that's why he's been able to handle tough situations." The former India batter also pointed to Sooryavanshi's rise over the past year, from the Under-19 World Cup to dominating the IPL before announcing himself on the international stage.

How the defiant 1970s still outruns India's modern athletic machine

From barefoot runners and handmade spikes to Olympic gold and data-driven high performance, Indian athletics has travelled a remarkable distance. But has all that progress made today's generation greater than the athletes who came before them?

New Delhi. (Agency)

To look at two distinct eras in Indian athletics is to flip a coin where both sides refuse to match. On one face, you have the 1970s, a decade that romanticised the absolute limits of human endurance on nothing more than raw ambition, army rations, and handmade leather. On the other, the mid-2020s, a factory-line ecosystem that yields Olympic hardware but operates with the predictable warmth of instant coffee. As the sports



ministry and its relevant arteries go about their business ahead of another Asian Games cycle, the corridors of power are afloat on a familiar, state-sponsored cloud of positivity. The official narrative says Indian athletics is launching into a brave new future. But if you want to follow and understand where the spike marks are actually

leading, you have to look at the historical fault lines.

This isn't a battle between heroes and villains. It's a clash of two different worlds: the romantic hero of the twentieth century, driven by unsupported defiance, versus the pragmatic machine of today. No one is suggesting there is anything sinister

about the modern world; it's just clinical. It treats sport as a science - or to paraphrase it further, as data. Yet, when you pit the taped-up, barefoot survivors of the past against the data-driven elite of today, a paradox emerges. Against the push of the Indian athletic machine, the clock is trying to keep pace, but the soul of Indian track and field remains stubbornly locked in the past.

THE AGE OF SCARCITY

In the decades immediately following 1947, Indian athletes operated within an ecosystem characterised by soul-crushing scarcity. These were the days when athletes emerged from conditions of severe economic marginalisation, carrying onto the track not just a burning ambition, but the physical baggage of their upbringings - chronic Vitamin D and B12 deficits that left them vulnerable to career-destroying injuries long before they ever reached their promised primes. To evaluate which decade truly owns the soul of Indian athletics.



Priyanka Chopra

Arrives In Hyderabad For Varanasi Shoot; Nick Jonas And Malti Marie Accompany Her

Desi girl Priyanka Chopra is back in India! The actress turned heads as she arrived at Hyderabad airport with husband Nick Jonas and their adorable four-year-old daughter, Malti Marie. The family made a rare public appearance together, leaving fans pleasantly surprised. The actress is reportedly in Hyderabad for the shoot of SS Rajamouli's highly anticipated upcoming film Varanasi, which also stars Mahesh Babu and Prithviraj Sukumaran.

Priyanka Chopra Arrives In Hyderabad With Nick Jonas And Malti Marie

Priyanka kept it effortlessly chic as she walked through the airport alongside Nick and little Malti, with videos and pictures of the trio quickly making the rounds on social media. The actress kept her airport look effortlessly chic yet comfortable in a dark brown co-ord set featuring an off-shoulder top. She completed the look with a beige cap, black sunglasses, and brown flats, striking the perfect balance between style and ease.

Meanwhile, Nick Jonas opted for a relaxed all-black outfit, pairing a black shirt with matching trousers. He rounded off his look with white-and-black sneakers and tinted sunglasses. The singer was also seen carrying Malti Marie in his arms as the family made their way out of the airport together.

With Priyanka back in India and Nick Jonas accompanying her along with Malti Marie, fans are eagerly waiting for more glimpses of the family during their India visit!

Priyanka Chopra's First Look Glimpses From Varanasi

Priyanka celebrated her 44th birthday on July 18, and on this special occasion, director SS Rajamouli treated fans by sharing the first glimpses of her character 'Mandakini' from the film. The first photo showed Priyanka in an intense and fierce look. Wearing a black sheer outfit, with her wavy hair tied up in a messy bun, the actor exuded confidence. The second photo showed a different mood altogether. Priyanka was seen smiling as she jumped in an open field with her arms stretched wide. Sharing the photos on social media, SS Rajamouli described her character with a striking caption: "Grace when she smiles. Fire when she doesn't." He added, "Mandakini... @PriyankaChopra in #Varanasi," offering fans a glimpse of the different emotions attached to her character.

About Varanasi

The film is directed by SS Rajamouli and written by Vijayendra Prasad. It marks the filmmaker's first feature since the global success of RRR and brings together Mahesh Babu, Prithviraj Sukumaran and Priyanka Chopra. The film brings together mythology and Indian folklore with science-fiction elements, including time travel, to create a globe-trotting adventure. Varanasi also marks Priyanka Chopra's return to Indian cinema after an eight-year gap. The actor's comeback, combined with Rajamouli's first film after RRR, has made the project one of the most closely watched productions currently in development. While a major portion of the film has already been shot, only a few smaller interconnecting scenes remain. Earlier, SS Rajamouli had shared that the team is hopeful of wrapping up filming by September or October this year.



Shagufta Ali Claims Karisma Kapoor Had 'A Lot Of Attitude' On Hero No. 1 Sets: 'She Was Hardworking But...'



Veteran actor Shagufta Ali has spoken candidly about working with Karisma Kapoor in the 1997 comedy Hero No. 1. While acknowledging Karisma's discipline and work ethic, Shagufta claimed the actor was "over-ambitious" and carried considerable attitude on set. In a conversation with Siddharth Kannan on his YouTube channel, Shagufta was also asked why the popular screen partnership of Govinda and Karisma Kapoor eventually came to an end despite delivering several successful films together.

Shagufta Ali On Govinda And Karisma Kapoor's Pairing

Offering her assessment, Shagufta said, "Interest khatam ho gaya hoga. Pyaar mohabbat khatam ho gaya hoga. Heroines ke mood ka bhi kya bharosa hai. Aur bahut zyada ambitious hona bhi achha nahi hai. Karisma over-ambitious thi. She was very hardworking, lekin attitude bhi bahut zyada tha."

Translated, she suggested that the two stars may simply have lost interest in continuing the partnership. She added that excessive ambition could also create problems, describing Karisma as hardworking but someone who, in her view, displayed a great deal of attitude.

Govinda and Karisma were among Hindi cinema's most successful comic pairings during the 1990s. They worked together in films such as Coolie No. 1, Raja Babu, Saajan Chale Sasural, Haseena Maan Jaayegi and Shikari.

'There Has To Be Give And Take'

Shagufta then explained why she believed an actor's conduct away from the camera could influence the work being done on screen. "It was evident everywhere. The attitude you bring to the set and the way you behave make a difference too. If someone is your co-actor, there has to be give and take," she said. She argued that actors sharing a scene or an interview should allow each other equal space. According to Shagufta, cooperation also extends to being present while a co-star performs and providing cues when required.

Amaal Mallik Warns Tanishk Bagchi On X, Says 'Main Laut Aaunga Teri Band Bajaane': 'Aukaat Mein Rehna'



Singer-composer Amaal Mallik has deleted the social media posts in which he levelled a series of allegations against fellow music composer Tanishk Bagchi. However, the musician has now clarified that he still stands by everything he said. In a new statement shared on X on July 26, Amaal explained that the decision to delete the posts was only to clean up his timeline. He said the move came from "a place of clarity" and maintained that he had already "done the needful."

Amaal Mallik Says He Has Not Retracted His Allegations Against Tanishk Bagchi

Reacting to the speculation surrounding the deleted posts, Amaal made it clear that he was not distancing himself from the allegations he had made earlier. He wrote that deleting the posts was simply a way to "get rid of the garbage" from his social media account and not an indication that he had changed his stand.

The singer also reflected on why he chose to speak out now, claiming he had stayed silent for years before deciding to make his allegations public. "It has taken a lot of patience, of almost 10 years to keep my anger held inside. Today after a decade, I had to stand up... because no one wants to stand up for the right thing," he wrote, while alleging that he had chosen to call out what he described as the "scums" of the music industry.

Amaal Mallik Issues Warning to Tanishk Bagchi

Even after deleting the posts, Amaal continued to target Tanishk Bagchi in his latest statement. Claiming he had exposed the "truth" about "a very bad man", Amaal said he believed karma would eventually take its course. He also addressed Tanishk directly, writing in Hindi, "Bete, mujhse toh aukaat mein hi rehna," and described it as a "life long warning."

What Amaal Mallik Had Alleged

Amaal had accused Tanishk Bagchi of copying music and taking credit for the work of others. He also alleged that he was being threatened using Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis' name. That apart, Amaal claimed that Tanishk had allegedly emotionally abused a woman after promising to marry her.

Raveena Tandon

Says Hooligans, Political Parties Hijacked CJP Student Protests: 'Some Were There To Make Reels'

Actress Raveena Tandon has shared her thoughts on the student protests that swept across the country, praising the peaceful demonstrations in Mizoram while expressing concern that similar movements elsewhere were taken over by people with political interests and those seeking publicity. Her post comes a day after Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan resigned following weeks of CJP-led protests at Delhi's Jantar Mantar over the alleged NEET-UG 2026 paper leak.

Taking to Instagram, Raveena wrote she was hopeful that the voices of students were finally being heard and that the protests could bring meaningful change to the country's education system.

Raveena Tandon Praises Peaceful Protests in Mizoram

Sharing a series of pictures on Instagram, Raveena wrote the recent student protests had given her hope. "Happy and Proud that voices are finally being heard, #studentsprotest #Rishikeshprotest, and there is hope. Till now environmental/ community animals / wildlife / deforestation protests were reaching dead ends and losing battles. People are awakening and the future generations have to realise that this is the only planet we have. There is no Planet B. This is it. This is what we have to save for their future."

Raveena then praised the way students in Mizoram conducted their demonstrations.

"The peaceful protests in Mizoram and other states have led by example. Salute to Them. Unfortunately, some states the peaceful student movement was hijacked by hooligans,



political parties and some there just for opportunities to make reels and get some limelight. Ultimately, it was a Victory for the rightful demands."

'Violence Could Have Derailed the Protest'

The actress also condemned incidents of violence and damage to public property, saying such actions did not represent the students' movement. "The violence and damaging public property was definitely unruly elements at work. Those Non students could've derailed this protest. Nonetheless, after this hoping and praying.



NEWS BOX

Singapore tightens monetary policy as Iran war drags

SINGAPORE.(Agency)

Singapore tightened monetary policy on Monday for the second time in three months, as the fallout from the US war against Iran keeps global energy markets volatile and inflation risks elevated.

The Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) said it would increase the rate of appreciation of the local dollar's trade-weighted value.

The move comes as oil prices remain elevated owing to tensions in the Middle East, sparked by the US-Israel attacks on Iran that began on



February 28, and continue to cast a shadow.

Because the city-state imports most of its needs, higher global prices for food and energy directly drive up local living costs. Unlike many central banks, the MAS manages inflation by adjusting the Singapore dollar against a basket of currencies of its main trading partners within an undisclosed band, rather than setting interest rates. A strong Singapore dollar eases the effects of rising import costs.

Netanyahu accuses Mamdani of 'fomenting hate' and calls ICC war-crimes charges 'bogus'

WASHINGTON.(Agency)

Israel's Benjamin Netanyahu said Sunday that New York Mayor Zohran Mamdani is "fomenting hate" by calling the prime minister a war criminal who should be arrested over the war in Gaza if he visits the city for the United Nations General Assembly. Netanyahu said he intends to be in New York in September to address the annual UN gathering of world leaders, despite the mayor's suggestion that he is not welcome.

Mamdani said last week that while New York City does not have legal authority to execute an arrest warrant issued by the world's top war-crimes court, he encouraged the federal government to do so. "He's supposed to be the mayor of all New Yorkers, Jews, Christians, Muslims, everyone," Netanyahu said on Fox News Channel's "Sunday Morning Futures" with Maria Bartiromo. "But he's trying to turn one group against the other."

The prime minister has become an increasingly polarizing figure over Israel's war in Gaza. Israel also joined the US in starting the war against Iran on February 28 before launching a ground invasion in southern Lebanon in response to fire from the Iranian-backed Hezbollah group.

Japan PM Takaichi's Approval Rating Drops To 57% Over Rising Living Costs

world.(Agency)

The approval rating of Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi's administration slumped in July to the lowest level since she took office last year, the Yomiuri newspaper reported on Sunday, a sign that rising living costs were hitting her popularity. The sliding popularity adds to headaches for Takaichi, who has seen her expansionary fiscal and monetary policy bias cause a spike in bond yields and a slump in yen to four-decade lows.

Such market pressures and opposition even from within her own ruling party have delayed the government's decision on whether and when to cut an 8% levy on food sales - a pledge Takaichi made to cushion the blow from rising living costs. In a poll conducted between July 24 and 26, the approval rating for Takaichi's administration fell to 57%, down from 69% in June and the first time it has dropped below 60% since she took office, Yomiuri said. The percentage that disapproved of her administration rose to 34% from 21% in June, the newspaper said. Those polled who disapproved of her administration's efforts to combat the rising costs of living rose to 71%, up from 56%, it said. Other recent media polls have also seen Takaichi's approval ratings slide. Kyodo news agency reported on Friday Takaichi may reshuffle her cabinet in August or September.

In Israel vote, ex-army chief emerges as main rival to Netanyahu

A recent Channel 12 poll put Eisenkot's new party, Yashar (Hebrew for "Straight" or "Upright"), ahead of Netanyahu's Likud, projecting 23 seats to Likud's 22 in the 120-member Knesset.

JERUSALEM.(Agency)

As Israel heads into a fiercely contested general election on October 27, former military chief Gadi Eisenkot has emerged as the principal challenger to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Eisenkot's rise comes at a pivotal moment in Israeli politics, with the

election widely viewed as a referendum on the long-serving premier's leadership in the violent aftermath of Hamas's October 7, 2023, attack on Israel. A recent Channel 12 poll put Eisenkot's new party, Yashar (Hebrew for "Straight" or "Upright"), ahead of Netanyahu's Likud, projecting 23 seats to Likud's 22 in the 120-member Knesset. The same survey found that 43 per cent of respondents considered Eisenkot, 66, the most suitable candidate for prime minister, compared with 34 per cent for Netanyahu. Eisenkot -- who has dismissed calls for a future Palestinian state as irrelevant after the October 7 attacks and pioneered Israel's strategy of disproportionate military responses

in Lebanon -- has built his campaign around a 10-point platform that he says will restore Israel's security, unity and democratic institutions.

Chief of staff of the Israeli military between 2015 and 2019, Eisenkot was among those credited with developing the "Dahiya Doctrine", named after a Beirut suburb that is a Hezbollah stronghold. Advanced on the premise that Hezbollah conceals fighters and weapons among civilian homes and infrastructure, the doctrine calls for a devastating Israeli response against enemy population centres when Israeli communities come under long-range attack. At the top of his civilian manifesto is a pledge to establish a state commission of inquiry into Hamas's

bloody 2023 cross-border attack, which triggered the Gaza war and quickly expanded into a broader regional conflict, and which led to Netanyahu's government being accused of overseeing an intelligence failure. Tens of thousands of Israelis have repeatedly demonstrated in support of such an inquiry, but Netanyahu's coalition has instead proposed a commission whose members would be chosen by politicians. Eisenkot also promises a "new long-term national security doctrine" aimed at strengthening the military and reinforcing Israel's borders. A central plank of this is a "universal national service law" that would extend compulsory service to ultra-Orthodox Jews and Arab citizens.

Explosion, 'suspected bomb' in Philippine capital before Marcos speech

MANILA.(Agency)

A homemade bomb detonated near the entrance of the Philippine justice ministry early on Monday, officials said, hours before a suspected unexploded device was found near the country's Senate.

The explosion just after midnight, which resulted in no casualties, and the discovery of the second suspected bomb came hours before Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos was due to give an annual State of the Nation address. National police chief Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr told reporters on Monday there was a "big possibility or probability that the two (incidents) are related". He said that, while police had contingency plans for "bomb threats, actual bombings and other (things)... something got past us

and exploded in front of the Department of Justice". It was not immediately clear how large the early morning blast had been.

"We are still investigating, so we



cannot give you details on how massive or small the explosion was," Manila police spokesman Philipp Ines told AFP.

Images posted by Philippine media showed what appeared to be a vehicle windshield cracked by the blast and a small amount of debris. Police said in one report that the

device at the Senate had been spotted on a street abutting the building just before 8:30am (0030 GMT) by a tow truck driver, who alerted security staff. Personnel trained in handling explosive ordnance removed material from the scene that included a blasting cap, clock and a jar containing a "brown powder" for testing.

Regional police spokeswoman Hazel Asilo declined to estimate the size of the explosion the device could have produced.

Marcos's speech on Monday comes at a time of heightened political tensions, with Vice President Sara Duterte in the middle of an impeachment trial, while voters have also been roiled by a corruption scandal tied to bogus flood control projects.

Gaza teen triumphs despite war, loss and displacement

MAGHAZI.(Agency)

Just days before her final secondary school examinations, the house opposite the temporary home where 18-year-old Saba Rabah was living in central Gaza was bombed. She and her family fled, leaving behind everything they had. It was only the latest ordeal in a war that had already claimed her father's life, destroyed their family's home and forced them into repeated displacement. Yet against overwhelming odds, Rabah emerged as the top-ranked student in the science stream of the Palestinian national high school exams, known as Tawjihi -- the first to be held in the territory since the

war erupted in October 2023.

"I achieved a score of 99.9 percent,



ranking first in the nation in the science stream," Rabah told AFP, dressed in her graduation gown as relatives and neighbours gathered to celebrate in Al-Maghazi refugee camp in central Gaza.

The Tawjihi examinations were held in June simultaneously in Gaza, the Israeli-occupied West

Bank, Egypt and several other countries with Palestinian communities for the first time in three years. Since the war erupted in October 2023, the vast majority of Gaza's school and educational buildings have been damaged or destroyed by airstrikes or shelling, leaving tens of thousands of children without homes and neighbourhoods were destroyed, many surviving school buildings were transformed into overcrowded shelters for hundreds of thousands of displaced families. Around 89,000 students sat the secondary school examinations this year, including more than 25,000 in the science stream, where Rabah secured the highest score.

Two mosques in the West Bank are set on fire during a deadly surge in settler violence

TEL AVIV.(Agency)

Two mosques in the Israeli-occupied West Bank were set on fire overnight in an apparent Israeli settler attack, officials said Sunday, after a spate of deadly violence that killed four Palestinians and two Israeli soldiers. Palestinians and the Israeli opposition accuse Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's hard-line government of turning a blind eye to attacks by settlers against Palestinians, which threaten to ignite widespread violence across the territory. Israeli soldiers and police fanned out across the West Bank after the attack, closing off major roads and blocking access to a hospital where it said two militants were hiding. Israel also arrested more than 70 Palestinians over the weekend as they attempted to contain the escalating violence.

Israel's military says it condemns such incidents



The mosques, in the villages of Qusra and Kour in the northern West Bank, suffered extensive damage in the fires. In Qusra, the attackers spray-painted "revenge Benayahu," referring to one of the Israeli soldiers killed on Friday, and "the land of Israel is redeemed with blood." The soldier lived in a nearby settlement. Ahmed Abu Mahmoud, 64, who lives next to the Qusra mosque, said he heard noises at 3 a.m. and discovered the mosque had been set on fire. The fire was too large for him to fight on his own, so he called for help. "The military arrived here, saw with their own eyes and then left," Mahmoud said. Security footage in Kour obtained by The Associated Press showed three people dressed in civilian clothes setting off a large explosion in the entrance of the mosque in the middle of the night. On Sunday, residents held prayers despite damage to the entrance. Israel's military said it was working with police to investigate the mosque attack.

Two killed, multiple injured in shooting at Seattle food festival

SEATTLE.(Agency)

A shooting killed two people and wounded five including a child on Sunday evening during a popular food festival near the Space Needle in Seattle, a city fire department spokesperson said. The gunfire erupted around 6 pm at the Seattle Center during the Bite of Seattle festival. Police were investigating the shooting and urged people to avoid the area just northwest of downtown. Authorities did not immediately say if anyone was in custody. Two people died at the scene, said Grace Nuñez, spokesperson for the Seattle Fire Department. Five patients were transported to Harborview Medical Center, including a 56-year-old woman in serious condition, Nuñez said. A 2-year-old boy, a 23-year-old man and a 39-year-old woman are in stable condition, while a 40-year-old woman had minor injuries,



she said. Vendor booths lined the sprawling Seattle Center outdoor events complex while thousands of people sampled various cuisines and played games. A large number of police and emergency crews responded and

began evacuating the area. Faith Adia Hunter said she and her friends had just gotten food from a crepe vendor when gunfire broke out. She realized the shooter was near them. "We were right next to him when it started so we took off

running," Hunter said. "So we took off running too into the building with the crowd." Hunter said she and others found shelter in the nearby Seattle Children's Museum. Estan Wakonabo said he and his girlfriend were at the festival waiting in line for a photo booth when he was shoved from behind and he turned to see a rush of people fleeing. "People were hiding, were pushing, people were falling on the ground, baby strollers were falling," Wakonabo said, adding that was when he heard gunshots. "Once I heard a 'pop, pop, pop,' that's when I knew it was a shooter," he said. After he escorted his girlfriend to safety, he returned to the scene to make photos and saw multiple victims on the ground, Wakonabo said. The annual festival started in 1982 and draws 350,000 attendees over "three days of food, drink, and community celebration," according to its website.