

From Delulu to FOMO, Gen Z lingo spices up Lok Sabha NEET debate

NEW DELHI. (Agency)

The Lok Sabha's debate on the anti-paper leak amendment Bill on Tuesday took an unusual turn as lawmakers across party lines peppered their speeches with Gen Z slang such as 'delulu', 'FOMO', 'MIA' and 'clock it', even as the House discussed the fallout of the NEET-UG 2026 paper leak and reforms to India's examination system.

The youth-centric vocabulary, more commonly seen on social media than in Parliament, became a talking point during the marathon debate, with MPs using the expressions to target political opponents, prompting NCP (SP) leader Supriya Sule to object that Parliament was discussing an education crisis, "not the Oxford online dictionary", PTI reported. Shiv Sena MP Shrikant Shinde was among the first to lean into Gen

Z lingo while attacking the Opposition over its July 20 protest outside Prime Minister Narendra Modi's residence.

"I would like to sum up the Opposition's protest in Gen Z language. They were MIA (missing in action) for the first 37 days...



Then came FOMO (fear of missing out)... Finally, they became 'delulu' (delusional), believing the protesting students would join them, but no one did," he said, according to PTI.

BJP MP Bansuri Swaraj also borrowed a popular Gen Z expression while defending the government's response to the NEET crisis.

"Where Congress created a policy vacuum, Modi clocked it, if I may borrow the language of Gen Z, and created a solution," she said, using the slang phrase that means noticing or calling something out. BJP MP Tejasvi Surya continued the trend, calling the Opposition "delulu" for believing young voters had rallied behind it because of the paper leak controversy. "I want to tell the Opposition... there is no bigger delulu than this," he said, adding that students were more interested in systemic reforms than political sparring. "As they say in Gen Z language, you need to fix the source code to fix the system," Surya remarked while arguing for structural reforms in the examination process.

After 23 years, is Vijay planning to hand liquor sales to private players?

Chennai. (Agency)

Speculation is mounting that the Vijay-led Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) government is considering privatising Tamil Nadu State Marketing Corporation (TASMAC) liquor outlets in corporations and municipalities. If implemented, the move would mark the state's first major shift towards private liquor retail since 2003, when the AIADMK government brought liquor sales under the state-run TASMAC.

While the government has made no official announcement on the proposal, political circles are abuzz with reports that legislation paving the way for the move could be introduced in the upcoming Assembly session. Opposition parties have alleged that the Vijay government is preparing to privatise TASMAC operations, arguing that such a move would increase alcohol consumption rather than advance the long-stated goal of prohibition.

The reported proposal has drawn sharp criticism from Pattali Makkal Katchi (PMK) president Anbumani Ramadoss, who warned that privatising government-run liquor outlets would only fuel alcohol consumption and undermine the objective of prohibition.

In a statement, Anbumani referred to media reports claiming that nearly 2,500 of Tamil Nadu's 4,048 TASMAC outlets, largely located in urban areas, could be handed over to private operators. "If these reports are true, the government's decision deserves strong condemnation," he said. He argued that the state's focus should be on the phased closure of liquor shops and the eventual implementation of total prohibition, rather than privatisation."



Priyank Kharge's Comment On Savarkar Sparks Row, His Grandnephew Hits Back

NEW DELHI. (Agency)

A major political row has erupted following comments made by Karnataka Minister and senior Congress leader Priyank Kharge on the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and Vinayak Damodar Savarkar. The comments have triggered a sharp counter from Savarkar's family with his grandnephew, Satyaki Savarkar slamming the Congress.

Accusing Kharge of making statements to chase political clout, Satyaki Savarkar came out strongly in defence of his granduncle and the RSS, accusing Congress leaders of deliberately smearing freedom fighters due to political frustration over being out of power.

Earlier, Kharge had targeted Savarkar's role during India's independence movement, contrasting it with Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's resistance against British rule. "When Subhas Chandra Bose was putting together Indian National Army during the freedom struggle, Savarkar was asking Hindus to join the British Army. This is their history", he said.

Kerala Cabinet Clears Five Reforms To Digitise Governance, Track Every Rupee

New Delhi. (Agency)

The Kerala Cabinet on Wednesday approved a series of governance reforms aimed at modernising public administration, improving transparency and making government services more efficient. Announcing the decisions after the Cabinet meeting, Chief Minister VD Satheesan said the measures would create a comprehensive digital governance framework, strengthen project monitoring and help plug financial leakages that have cost the state over the years.

At the centre of the reforms is the launch of the Special Asset Management Platform for Administration, Tracking and Harmonisation (SAMPATH), a centralised digital registry that will maintain records of all government-owned assets, including land, buildings, heritage structures, roads, dams, bridges, vehicles and machinery. The Cabinet also approved an upgrade of the existing PlanSpace portal into PlanSpace 2.0, a GIS-enabled project registry that will digitally track all government capital projects. Every project will be geo-tagged with details such as its location, implementing agency, approving authority, funding source and stage.

"He Is The One Who Shot You"

Rahul Gandhi Sparks Political Earthquake With Explosive Direct Attack On Amit Shah, Triggering Nationwide BJP-Congress Clash

MAHANAGAR METRO

NEW DELHI / AHMEDABAD —

Indian politics witnessed a major tremor as senior Congress leader and Leader of Opposition (LoP) in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, launched one of his most direct and scathing personal attacks to date against Union Home Minister Amit Shah. Addressing a packed public gathering, Gandhi made grave allegations pointing directly at Shah, remarking, "This is the man who shot you, he is the one who hit you." The remarks have instantly ignited a massive political storm, drawing sharp lines between the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Opposition Congress, while triggering a high-decibel war of words across political corridors.

Rahul Gandhi's address marked a dramatic escalation in his critique of the ruling dispensation. Bypassing usual political subtleties, the Congress leader took aim at the central leadership, raising intense questions regarding governance, accountability, and the working style of the Home Ministry. The statement has significantly energized Congress cadre, who have



taken to public platforms to amplify Gandhi's message. Party supporters framed the speech as a fearless confrontation with power, asserting that the Leader of Opposition is giving voice to critical public concerns without hesitation.

The ruling BJP responded with swift

and sharp retaliation, calling an immediate press conference to condemn Gandhi's remarks. Senior party leaders and national spokespersons termed the statement non-constitutional, deeply irresponsible, and an attempt to incite division and hostility. BJP leaders further alleged that such

aggressive language reflects desperation within the opposition rank and file, warning that personal attacks against constitutional post-holders degrade the standard of democratic debate.

"Rahul Gandhi has reached a new low in political discourse. Lacking substantive policy arguments or real issues to bring before the public, he is resorting to vulgar, defamatory, and completely baseless rhetoric against the Home Minister of India. He must issue an unreserved apology to both the Home Minister and the nation."

Video clips of the controversy quickly dominated social media platforms, with opposing hashtags trending nationwide. Political analysts point out that this latest clash comes at a delicate juncture, signaling an even more confrontational relationship between the treasury and opposition benches in the coming parliamentary sessions. With both parties refusing to back down, the fallout from Rahul Gandhi's statement is expected to spill onto the streets, setting the stage for prolonged political agitation across key states.

Activists being detained is normal: Nadda defends police action on CJP protesters

New Delhi. (Agency)

Mallikarjun Kharge accused the BJP government of making democracy unsafe and questioned the absence of accountability for police excesses against student protesters. JP Nadda countered that police action was necessary to restore order, drawing on his own experience of being detained during the Emergency.

A war of words broke out between Union Health Minister JP Nadda and Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Wednesday, with Nadda saying that students who choose to engage in activism must be prepared for police action. Defending the police crackdown, Nadda, the Leader of the Upper House, recalled his days as a student activist during the Emergency, saying he was picked up from his classroom twice.

Nadda was responding to Kharge's charge that democracy under the BJP is not safe and his claim that those responsible for using "brutal force" against student protesters were still roaming freely. Replying to the Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, Nadda said the



police were justified in taking all necessary steps to bring the law-and-order situation under control. The Opposition has been pressing the government and Union Home Minister Amit Shah to address the alleged "police brutality" on July 20 and has also sought an apology from Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The row over police crackdown erupted on Wednesday when

Rajya Sabha MP John Brittas raised an incident in which a Delhi Police team barged into the CPI(M)'s national headquarters to arrest student leader Aishe Ghosh. Brittas said her only "mistake" was participating in the Jantar Mantar protest. The CPI(M) MP said he was present at the spot and confronted the police, questioning why they had entered and raided the office of a national political party. When he sought an explanation, the police told him that a 2021 case against Ghosh was pending in connection with a protest on the JNU campus. Alleging an attempt to silence protesters, John Brittas demanded answers from Union Home Minister Amit Shah in the Rajya Sabha. Kharge subsequently doubled down, saying, "Democracy is not safe, people are not safe," triggering a heated exchange with Nadda.

News box

Guards catch accused who gave cops slip in Greater Noida

Noida.(Agency)

A man who gave police the slip was caught by the security guards of a society. Twenty-five-year-old Narendra Kumar was arrested after he ran into Purvanchal Royal City society in Greater Noida after seeing police. The accused, who worked as a delivery boy, possibly went there to deliver something, police said.

After Aligarh police alerted the security guards of the society, more than five security guards surrounded Kumar and caught him. Guards handed him over to the police. Kumar, who had allegedly thrashed a shopkeeper and vandalised the victim's shop over cigarettes in Gaunda area, was on the run. Ecotech-1 SHO Arvind Kumar told TOI that on Tuesday, some police officers from Aligarh came to the police station, saying Kumar, a resident of Aligarh, was absconding after beating up the shopkeeper. An FIR was registered against him in Gaunda police station in Aligarh under sections 324 (4) (mischievous causing damage to the amount of Rs 20,000 but less than Rs 1 lakh), 115 (voluntarily causing hurt), 352 (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of the peace), 351(3) (criminal intimidation) of BNS.

"The officers also told us that Narendra is working as a delivery boy for an online platform and they traced him in Purvanchal Royal City where he had gone for delivery. I provided the force to them. Around 7.30pm, the police tried to stop him when he was entering the society, but he started running and went into the society. But cops alerted the security guards and they caught him," the SHO added.

2 book cabs and rob drivers at gunpoint, arrested

Noida.(Agency)

Two men suspected of robbing a cab driver were arrested after a brief exchange of fire in Ecotech-I area. Police recovered the stolen sedan and mobile phone. Illegal firearms and phones allegedly used to book cabs through ride-hailing apps were also seized from their possession.

Additional deputy commissioner of police (Greater Noida) Santosh Kumar said Raman Sharma (22) and Abhishek Singh (19) booked Uber and Ola cabs before robbing drivers at gunpoint at isolated locations. The men came under the cops' radar after a cab driver filed a complaint at Ecotech-I police station on July 26. "The driver alleged that he had accepted a trip from Delhi to Dankaur through the Uber app on July 24. Two passengers boarded his Swift Dzire and when they were plying on the Yamuna Expressway, they threatened him with a country-made pistol," he said. They took away his phone, threw the driver in the middle of the road and drove off in his car. The driver told police that the incident had traumatised and frightened him. Hence, he was unable to report the robbery immediately. He returned to his village in Rajasthan before mustering the courage to file a complaint last Sunday. Police registered an FIR under sections BNS 309(4) (robbery) and 351(2) (criminal intimidation). Multiple teams were formed to trace the suspects. Using electronic surveillance, confidential inputs and CCTV footage analysis, investigators tracked Sharma and Singh to an area behind AMR Mall on the Yamuna Pushta road.

One Stop Centre staff face SIT probe over rape, intimidation charges

Gurgaon.(Agency)

Police have set up a special investigation team (SIT) after a woman placed in a One Stop Centre in Nuh accused a watchman at the institution of raping and sexually harassing her and other staff members, including a counsellor, of threatening and intimidating her. The SIT was constituted following a grievance committee meeting chaired by cabinet minister Vipul Goel on Friday. An FIR has also been registered in the matter. In her complaint, the woman alleged she was sexually harassed and assaulted multiple times during her stay at the govt-run shelter from Feb to May. She said the watchman first started harassing her by forcing her to make tea for him and do other chores. When she threatened to complain against him, he allegedly told her no action would be taken against him because several of his relatives are employed at the Centre. The issue then escalated and he started touching her inappropriately, she claimed. On one occasion, she said the watchman mixed an intoxicating substance into her food, causing her to lose consciousness. When she regained consciousness, she realised that he had sexually assaulted her. She alleged that when she tried to go to the authorities, the accused threatened to have her husband killed. According to the woman's complaint, when she informed the centre's counsellor — who she found was a family member of the watchman — about the alleged misconduct, she dismissed her concerns, saying the watchman might have mistakenly touched her.

Double-stack rail link to cut freight costs from Dadri hub

Gurgaon.(Agency)

Exporters and manufacturers in Noida and Greater Noida are set to benefit from lower freight costs and faster cargo movement after Container Corporation of India (CONCOR) on Tuesday launched double-stack container train services between Dadri multi-modal logistics park and Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA) in Navi Mumbai.

Until now, only single-stack trains operated on the route. By carrying nearly twice the number of containers in a single trip, the new service is expected to reduce transportation costs per container, improve turnaround time and make products manufactured in the region more price-competitive. Simply put, if a trader earlier spent, say Rs 100, to move a container, the freight cost is

expected to come down as almost double the cargo can now be transported in one journey.

Officials said the service would strengthen one of north India's busiest freight corridors while helping the Dadri depot achieve its target of handling 10 lakh containers annually by 2028. Commissioned on Jan 26, 2004, the 260-acre Dadri logistics park is among north India's largest inland container depots. It is connected to JNPA as well as the ports of Mundra, Pipavav and Kandla, and houses five container freight stations under one roof. The depot handled more than 1.7 lakh TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent units) of exports in 2025-26, including meat products, handicrafts, garments, food items, tractor parts, tyres, auto parts and furniture. Imports crossed 1.5 lakh TEUs, comprising waste paper, electronics,

machinery, metal scrap, glass products, PVC items and fabrics.

CONCOR chairperson and managing director Sanjay Swarup said Dadri's connectivity to both the western and eastern dedicated freight corridors



gives it a distinct advantage. "The western corridor connects Dadri with Gujarat and Mumbai, through which most exports move, while the eastern corridor links it to Bengal. Double-stack trains to Mumbai will reduce

freight costs and further strengthen the region's logistics network," he said. Swarup said lower logistics costs would directly improve the competitiveness of Indian products in global markets and encourage higher exports. CONCOR also plans to increase the depot's annual handling capacity to 10 lakh containers by 2028. The logistics park is also working with Noida International Airport to integrate air cargo operations. "Cargo can be customs-cleared at Dadri before being shipped by air. The airport and the depot will complement each other," Swarup said. Industry representatives said the dedicated freight corridor had already transformed cargo movement. "When we operated through Tughlakabad, goods took about a week to reach Gujarat or Mumbai.

RWAs yet to file power audit reports, 307 condos get notices

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

The power department has issued notices to 307 housing societies across the city for failing to submit mandatory annual electricity audit reports, intensifying efforts to monitor common-area power consumption and prevent RWAs and AOA from overcharging residents. Common-area facilities in the audit include electricity consumed in common facilities such as lifts, lobbies, basements, parking areas, clubhouses and street lighting. Around 350-360 housing societies in the district are required to submit annual audit reports. So far, only 53 societies have complied.

According to executive engineer (trans-Hindon), UPPCL Amit Jha, the department initially gave societies 15 days to submit the reports and later extended the deadline till July 31. "As

most societies either did not comply or furnished unsatisfactory responses, fresh notices have now been issued, granting another 15 days," he said, adding that non-compliance will now attract penalties. Societies will now be fined Rs 5,000 for the first default, Rs 10,000 for the second and Rs 15,000 for the third. Continued failure to submit the audit report could also lead to disconnection of the electricity connection, officials said. Jha said notices have so far been issued to housing societies in Indirapuram, Vaishali, Vasundhara, Kaushambi, Raj Nagar Extension, Mohan Nagar and other parts of Ghaziabad, covering several multi-storey residential complexes. "Every year, the RWA or AOA has to submit an electricity audit report. The audit should clearly mention the energy charges, fixed charges and other billing components

so that we can verify residents are not being overcharged," Jha said.

Recently, the power department received several complaints from residents across the city about discrepancies in common-area electricity bills, including inflated consumption and excess recovery by RWAs or maintenance agencies.

The audit requirement is particularly important for older societies that continue to operate on single-point electricity connections, Jha added. In 2018, such societies were directed to switch to multi-point connections following complaints that some builders were charging residents more than the actual electricity cost. While many societies have since migrated, several older complexes continue to operate on single-point connections, making annual audits essential to ensure transparency in billing.

Soil-water contamination: File report in 4 weeks, NGT tells UP

Noida.(Agency)

National Green Tribunal (NGT) has directed Uttar Pradesh govt to file compliance reports concerning the contamination of soil and water sources in three districts within four weeks. While hearing four separate applications pertaining to chromium and heavy metal contamination, NGT sought to know from the govt whether it is prepared to establish one heavy metal testing laboratory in each of the three affected districts — Kanpur Nagar, Kanpur Dehat and Fatehpur. The principal bench comprising chairperson Justice Prakash Shrivastava and expert member Dr Afroz Ahmad also sought clarification regarding recruitments to Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board (UPPCB).

"The amicus has also raised the issue that the selection and recruitment to UPPCB have been assigned to IIT Kanpur by entering into an MoU. This issue needs to be clarified by the state," the bench said on July 21. The tribunal also observed that complete information regarding the medical treatment and assistance provided to all persons whose blood samples showed chromium and mercury contamination has not yet been furnished. "Counsel for the state has referred to the list of 255 people and has submitted that the needful in terms of the order of the tribunal has been done, whereas the amicus has referred to the long list which starts from page 4,953 and goes up to page 4,970 and has submitted that in respect of each of the persons disclosed.

Bail denied to woman accused of marrying men to extort money

Noida.(Agency)

A city court has rejected the bail application of a 33-year-old woman accused of allegedly luring men into marriage to extort money, observing that the allegations against her are grave and that her release could hamper the ongoing investigation.

The FIR, registered at Sector 65 police station on June 25, stated that Versha Rani concealed her previous marriages and criminal cases before marrying complainant Sandeep Kumar in June 2023, later extorting Rs 18 lakh by threatening false criminal cases. Judicial magistrate (first class) Nidhi Beniwal dismissed the bail plea



noting the prosecution's contention that the accused had allegedly concealed her previous marriage, cheated the complainant, prepared false documents relating to his property and projected herself as the owner of his commercial units.

The complainant also alleged that Rani illegally occupied his office at EMAAR

Digital Green in Sector 61 and stole Rs 2 lakh in cash along with important documents. He also accused her family of criminal intimidation, criminal conspiracy and trespass, alleging that they threatened to kill him when he approached the police. Based on his complaint, an FIR was registered under sections 318(4), 329(4), 61, 62, and 82(2) of BNS against Rani, her mother Usha, her father Narendra, and her brothers Mohit and Deepak.

Police have told the court that 13 FIRs are registered against the accused and her family members, including six cases alleging extortion from men after luring them into marriage.

Auto driver beaten to death with iron rod in road rage at office hub in Gurgaon

Gurgaon.(Agency)

A 32-year-old auto-rickshaw driver was beaten to death with an iron rod and an awl by a cabbie in the city's busiest office district after a fight over who should give way. The assault unfolded in full public view in Udyog Vihar phase V on Monday evening, when the victim's family alleged that passersby stopped to watch but did not intervene. They also claimed Arvind Kumar lay bleeding on the road before a commuter arranged an auto and rushed him to hospital.

Arvind, who was from Rae Bareilly in UP but lived in Jharsa, died from severe head injuries. Dalip Kumar (32), a cab driver from Delhi's Uttam Nagar, was arrested and an FIR was registered against him for murder.

According to police, the incident took place around 8.30pm on an internal road in Udyog Vihar. Dalip's Ertiga was approaching from the main road while Arvind's auto was coming from the opposite direction. An argument over right of way began while both men remained inside their vehicles.

But the confrontation turned deadly within moments, as they stepped out and exchanged blows.

Police alleged Dalip attacked Arvind with an iron rod and an awl, repeatedly striking him on the head. The auto driver collapsed on the road, bleeding heavily. "The iron rod used in the attack has been recovered and the car seized. Further legal proceedings are underway," a police officer said.

Dalip, according to cops, was alone in the cab and was arrested soon after the assault. His family, however, disputed the police version, alleging he was accompanied by others who actually carried out the attack. "The injuries show he was brutally assaulted. His head was bleeding profusely and there were deep wounds caused by a sharp-edged weapon. One blow pierced through his hand," a family member alleged.

Police said the allegations are being verified. The attack took place amid evening congestion near Peepal Chowk, where a traffic signal had developed a technical fault and

remained non-functional for nearly four to five hours. "Our personnel had to manually regulate traffic for several hours, leading to long queues on roads approaching the intersection," a traffic police officer



said. The incident also triggered questions over public apathy during violent crimes. A commuter who reached the spot moments after the assault claimed he found Arvind lying on the road while a crowd stood around. "I saw a large crowd surrounding a man lying on the road, with blood oozing from his head. I arranged for an auto-rickshaw and rushed him to a nearby private

hospital," he said. Arvind was later referred to Civil Hospital, where doctors declared him dead. His body was sent for an autopsy. A pan shop owner near the spot corroborated that several people witnessed the assault but did not step in. "I heard screams for help and saw one man repeatedly hitting another with rods. Many people had gathered, but no one intervened or tried to rescue him," he alleged. For Arvind's family, the tragedy ended years of struggle just as life seemed to be improving. He had spent the past decade driving an auto in the city and had

bought a new vehicle about a year ago, which he was still paying for in instalments. "He never picked fights. He had finally started overcoming financial hardships. He got married three years ago and left behind a two-year-old daughter," his relative Pintu Yadav said. Another friend, Dhiraj Yadav, said he called Arvind around 9.30pm, but a police officer answered the phone.

Tripura aims to eliminate Hepatitis within four years: CM

Agartala. (Agency)

Tripura Chief Minister Dr Manik Saha expressed the goal of making Tripura hepatitis-free within the next four years through increased screening, vaccination, and public awareness campaigns while addressing the celebration of World Hepatitis Day last evening.

Dr Saha emphasized the government's commitment to prioritizing public health and highlighted the global impact of hepatitis, with nearly 300 million people affected by Hepatitis B and C viruses worldwide. He also commemorated the significance of World Hepatitis Day, which marks the birth anniversary of Dr Baruch Blumberg, the discoverer of Hepatitis B virus and its vaccine.

The CM outlined the collaborative efforts of the Centre and state government to eliminate hepatitis, stressing the importance of scientific treatment, public awareness, expanded screening, and enhanced training for health workers in both rural and urban areas.

He noted the significant improvement in Tripura's healthcare infrastructure, including the establishment of nine super-specialty blocks and advanced medical facilities at GB Pant Hospital, leading to reduced referrals to major hospitals.

NCW Chairperson arrives Tripura on a three-day visit

Agartala. (Agency)

The Chairperson of the National Commission for Women (NCW), Vijaya Rahatkar, arrived here for a three-day visit focused on the aspects of women's safety, welfare institutions, and meetings with civil and police officials.

During her visit, Rahatkar is set to participate in the 'She Serves' programme organized by the Gomati Zilla Parishad in Udaipur, and visit the One Stop Centre to engage in an awareness programme addressing child marriage and its social consequences at Rajarshi Hall today.

She plans to meet with district administration and police officials to discuss issues related to women and child safety. Tomorrow, Rahatkar's itinerary includes inspecting Agartala Central Jail, followed by discussions with the state's acting Director General of Police and other senior police officers.

Further, she is scheduled to partake in an awareness programme focusing on preventing stalking, the launch of the Tripura Women's Commission's official website, and a workshop on the prevention of sexual harassment at workplaces at Sukanta Academy.

Top Maoist Misir Besra arrested in Jharkhand

Ranchi. (Agency)

In a major breakthrough in the anti-Maoist campaign, Jharkhand Police arrested CPI (Maoist) Politburo member Misir Besra, carrying a reward of Rs 1 crore, along with two other senior Maoists during a joint operation in Dhanbad district. Police said Besra was arrested from the Maniadih area under Barwadda police station limits during a joint operation on Tuesday late evening. The two others arrested have been identified as Regional Committee member Mehnat alias Mochu, who carried a reward of Rs 15 lakh, and Gaurav alias Saurabh. They are being questioned at a secure location.

Besra, a native of Giridih district, is the only Politburo member of the banned CPI (Maoist) from Jharkhand and has been one of the country's most wanted Maoist leaders for nearly two decades. He is accused in more than 100 cases, including attacks on security forces, IED blasts, murder and Arms Act offences. He was also allegedly involved in planning the 2003-04 landmine attacks in West Singhbhum that killed dozens of security personnel.

Security agencies said the arrest is expected to deal a major blow to the Maoist network operating in the Saranda, Kolhan and adjoining tri-junction areas of Jharkhand, Odisha and West Bengal. Investigators are questioning the arrested cadres to gather information on weapons caches, IEDs, logistics and underground supporters. The arrest comes a day after 16 Maoists linked to Besra's squad surrendered before the Jharkhand Police under Operation Navjeevan-II.

Himachal Pradesh: 179 roads blocked, 62 electricity distribution transformers & 59 drinking water affected

Chamba Deputy Commissioner Mukesh Repaswal said, “An alert was issued well in advance, but the unprecedented surge in the seasonal nullah caused extensive damage. Officials are clearing debris, rocks and silt from the affected area and assessing losses.”

Shimla. (Agency)

As many as 179 roads remained blocked across Himachal Pradesh till Tuesday evening, while 62 electricity distribution transformers (DTRs) and 59 drinking water supply schemes reported affected as heavy monsoon rains continued battering the state on Tuesday, triggering a flash flood in Chamba town, disrupting public utilities across the state and prompting fresh weather warnings from the India Meteorological Department (IMD).

The worst damage was reported from Mohalla Sultanpur in Chamba, where an overflowing seasonal nullah swelled into a flash flood following heavy rainfall, damaging two pucca houses, 26 other houses, one shop and a government building, while washing away or severely

damaging more than three dozen vehicles, including cars and two-wheelers parked along the nullah.

Chamba Deputy Commissioner Mukesh Repaswal said, “An alert was issued well in advance, but the unprecedented surge in the seasonal nullah caused extensive damage. Officials are clearing debris, rocks and silt from the affected area and assessing losses.”

Repaswal said vehicles parked in the open in the close vicinity of the seasonal nullah were washed away. Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu on Tuesday took stock of the situation arising from a flash flood in Mohalla Sultanpur of Chamba, and directed the district administration to provide immediate assistance to the affected families. Sukhu urged the people

to remain vigilant in view of the forecast of heavy rainfall over the coming days. He advised them not to venture near rivers,



nallahs and seasonal khuds, as there is a risk to life due to the sudden rise in water levels. The heavy rainfall also crippled infrastructure across Himachal.

According to the State Emergency Operation Centre (SEOC), 179 roads remained blocked across the state by

Tuesday evening, although the number had improved from 230 blocked roads in the morning. Mandi district accounted for the highest number with 58 blocked roads, followed by Kullu (42) and Chamba (30). Due to transformer failure at stage-2 of Satluj Water Supply Project and heavy silt and flooding at the other water sources, there could be disturbance in water supply in Shimla for the next few days until the transformer

issue is resolved, a statement issued by the Shimla Jal Prabandhan Nigam Limited (SJPNL) on Tuesday said.

Odisha mangrove conclave calls for community-led conservation

Bhubaneswar. (Agency)

Seeking greater community participation in protecting Odisha's fragile coastline, more than 15 leading NGOs, government officials, researchers, environmental experts and media representatives on Tuesday resolved to strengthen collaboration for mangrove conservation at the two-day Mangrove Warriors' Conclave Odisha 2026.

The conclave, organised by the Indo Global Social Service Society (IGSSS) in collaboration with United Spirits Limited (USL) and the Indian Institute of Education and Care (IIEC), concluded here after deliberating on strategies to conserve and restore the state's fragile coastal ecosystems. Former Head of Forest Force and Lokayukta member Debabrata Swain inaugurated the conclave, while Dr Janaka Hemathilaka, CEO and Executive Director of Janathakshan Guarantee Ltd., Sri Lanka, attended as the special guest.

Among those present were Arthanari Perumal, Dr Sudarsan Panda, Dr Ambika Nanda, Madhav Chandra Mishra, Prafulla Kumar Malik, Sisirabhatta Mishra, Akshaya Kumar Sahoo, Shisir Kumar Das and Subrat Kshetriya.

Speakers highlighted that mangrove forests, with their intricate root systems, serve as natural bio-shields by stabilising coastlines, reducing erosion and mitigating the impact of storm surges, tides and cyclones. Odisha has around 259 sq km of mangrove forests, the second largest expanse in the country after the Sundarbans in West Bengal, with the largest stretch located in Bhitarkanika National Park. Mangroves are also found along the coasts of Balasore, Bhadrak, Jagatsinghpur and Puri districts.

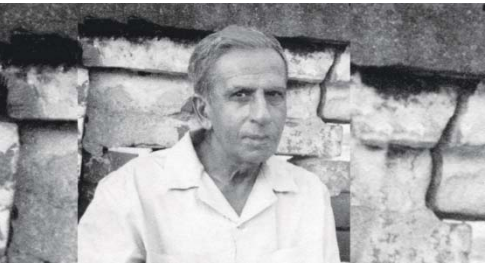
Punjabi University institutes award in name of Bhagat Singh's teacher Chhabil Das

Ludhiana. (Agency)

The Punjabi University has instituted the 'Principal Chhabil Das Yadgari Award' for researchers, which will be given every year on the birth anniversary of revolutionary and legendary freedom fighter Bhagat Singh. Chhabil Das was a teacher and principal at the National College, Lahore, — founded by Lala Lajpat Rai, when Bhagat Singh completed his Faculty of Arts (FA) studies in 1923.

The award, at the Patiala-based university, has been instituted with an endowment fund provided by Chhabil Das's granddaughter, Saba Dewan, a gifted writer, Prof Chaman Lal, a retired

professor from JNU with a long association with PU as a faculty member and Head of the Hindi department.



“Bhagat Singh completed his FA studies in 1923, before jumping into full-time revolutionary activities and joining the Hindustan Revolutionary Association/Army (HRA) in 1924, which

later became the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association/Army (HSRA) in 1928. The HSRA is known for killing JP Saunders, a British police superintendent, as revenge for the death of Lala Lajpat Rai who died after sustaining injuries in a police lathi charge. It is also known for throwing harmless bombs in the Central Assembly, Delhi 'to make the deaf hear,' said Chaman Lal, an eminent researcher on Bhagat Singh. “Along with Chhabil Das and his fellow students such as Sukhdev Thapar and Bhagwati Charan Vohra and Ramchand, Bhagat Singh had founded Naujwan Bharat Sabha (NBS) in National College, Lahore, said Chaman Lal.

Panjab University scholar dies of electrocution on campus, students protest

Chandigarh. (Agency)

A PhD scholar at Panjab University (PU) died on Tuesday after she was allegedly electrocuted while crossing a waterlogged stretch near Girls' Hostel No. 8 on the university's South Campus, triggering protests by students who accused the university administration of negligence.

The incident occurred around 9.15 am near the rear gate of Girls' Hostel No. 8 when Jyoti, a fourth-year PhD scholar in the Department of Microbiology, was on her way to the department. According to students, she received an electric shock while walking through stagnant rainwater and cried out for help. She was rushed to Government Multi-Specialty Hospital, Sector 16, where

doctors declared her dead. The death sparked protests outside the Vice-Chancellor's office, with students



demanding accountability from the university administration. They submitted a charter of demands to Vice-Chancellor (V-C) Prof Renu Vig, seeking

strict action against officials of the university's Executive Engineer (XEN) office, the constitution of an audit committee to examine campus infrastructure, adequate compensation for the victim's family, suspension of the Chief Security Officer and the Vice-Chancellor's resignation.

University officials, however, said the exact cause of death was yet to be established and maintained that the possibility of electrocution appeared low.

“The electric pole is 12-13 feet away, and all the wires are intact with their covers put onto them,” Lakhwinder Singh, SDE, PU, said, adding that the area had been barricaded and an investigation was underway.

Ahead of Independence Day, Intel flags ISI-backed plan of petrol bomb attacks in Punjab

Chandigarh. (Agency)

Intelligence inputs have flagged a sharp escalation in Pakistan's ISI-driven terror strategy in Punjab, with petrol bombs emerging as a key new weapon in planned attacks timed for Independence Day 2026 and the weeks leading up to it.

Described as low-grade, easy to fabricate and yet highly effective for spreading terror, these devices form part of an expanded arsenal that also includes remote-controlled RDX-based prefabricated IEDs, alongside traditional RDX tiffin bombs, hand grenades, automatic weapons and small firearms.

In the early hours of the night of July 25-26, two miscreants hurled petrol bombs at the BJP district office in Sangrur. One bottle struck the outer wall near the kitchen area, causing burn marks and a low-intensity fire, while a second fell outside. Punjab Police officials say the attack was carried out on the instructions of Pakistan-based gangster Shehzad

Bhatti, acting on the orders of ISI. The assessments, drawn from recently busted terror modules, tech-based espionage cases and cross-border recoveries of weapons and narcotics, point to a recalibrated multi-pronged approach intensified after Operation Sindoor in May 2025.

The aim remains to destabilise law and order and communal harmony in the state. Pro-Khalistan terrorist nodes, mainly Babbar Khalsa International (BKI), as well as transnational organised criminal networks operating from Germany, France, Portugal, the UK, Canada, the US, Malaysia and elsewhere, are expected to receive large consignments of militant hardware for these operations. ISI is also preparing direct strikes through its own operatives disguised under pseudo pro-Khalistani entities to ensure deniability. Senior Punjab Police officials say targets have widened beyond police, CAPF and

defence establishments, serving and retired Punjab Police personnel linked to counter-terror work, and right-wing party offices and leaders. Plans now include random attacks on police personnel, railway and other critical infrastructure



in Punjab, and locations with high public footfall.

In 2026 alone, till July 27, Punjab Police has busted 10 terror modules through intelligence-led operations, arresting 137 persons. Recoveries include 7 automatic

rifles, 76 revolvers/pistols, 12 RDX-based prefabricated IEDs, 3.756 kg of RDX, 9 detonators, 49 hand grenades, 1 RPG with launcher and 7 walkie-talkie sets. Six cases of tech-based espionage involving solar-powered CCTV cameras relaying live feeds to Pakistan have also been neutralised, while 183 drones have been recovered.

These successes mirror a series of recent foiled plots. On July 26, Counter Intelligence Jalandhar and Jalandhar Rural Police busted an ISI-sponsored BKI module, arresting key operative Satbir Singh of Padiana village, Adampur, and seizing a 1.3 kg-IED packed with high explosives, shrapnel and ball bearings meant for a high-impact strike.

An FIR was registered under relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Explosive Substances Act and Arms Act; investigations into foreign handlers and local networks continue.

A victory that must become transformation

The national capital has witnessed a historic victory penned by hundreds of young Indians. They took to the streets not to raise any partisan demand, but to demand accountability and justice. The stepping down of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Saturday is a testament to their steadfast resolve and a severe blow to the authoritarian tendencies of the Narendra Modi government. The BJP regime, which initially turned a Nelson's eye to the groundswell of protests and the tears of millions of students, has finally been forced to recognise the sheer power of democracy. However, the resignation of a single minister does not mark the end of the gross crisis facing our educational sector. The credibility of the National Testing Agency (NTA) has been completely shattered. This hyper-centralised apparatus has collapsed into a fragile single point of failure. Rather than establishing a clean meritocracy, the agency has subjected millions of candidates to an endless cycle of paper leaks, solver syndicates and abrupt cancellations.

Even eight decades after our independence, educational opportunities in the country remain grossly unequal. Some states have focused on providing quality school education in the public sector free of cost. Kerala had undertaken a mission to provide high-quality universal primary education at zero cost to every child of school-going age in the last decade. Without recognising the disparities in the school education system, a centralised admission procedure to professional courses like NEET has led to substantial exclusion. Imposed by the Centre in blatant violation of federal principles, these exams trample upon the rights of the states. Stripping states of their authority did not dismantle the corrupt testing market; it merely centralised the racket, creating a multi-crore national mafia.

It is now clear as daylight that the real goal behind these moves is the commercialisation and saffronisation of the education sector. Instead of empowering states to tackle the root of the problem, efforts have been made to impose a curriculum to suit the ideological interests of the Sangh Parivar, perfectly embodied by the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020, which has commercialisation, centralisation and communalisation at its core. The ill-thought-out reforms of the entrance procedure for courses have resulted in the present impasse. The repeated paper leaks, abnormal scores obtained by a large number in the examination that defy logic at first glance and an expensive coaching industry that fleeces students and parents are the consequences of the present regime's lackadaisical approach, which has been in power for the last twelve years. The centralised format disproportionately disadvantages rural and state board students. Marginalised students who cannot afford entrance coaching are systematically excluded, while urban, CBSE-educated candidates who can afford expensive coaching institutions flourish.

At the same time, the hyper-competitive, single-filter system has transformed coaching hubs into high-pressure environments. The alarming rise in student burnout and suicides in these centres is not merely a series of individual tragedies; it represents the collateral damage of a systemic policy failure that ruthlessly classifies young people before it serves them. India's coaching industry earns approximately ₹58,000 crore annually, and families spend around ₹1.23 lakh crore each year on their children's preparation for competitive examinations, which is almost equal to the national education budget. Since 2014, the nation has witnessed 152 major examination paper leaks. In 2024, 67 NEET-UG candidates scored a perfect 720/720 before marks revision, compared with only seven between 2016 and 2023. In 2026, NEET-UG question papers were allegedly leaked 15 days before the examination, leading to an unprecedented suo motu cancellation.

Education overhaul is a long haul

Pradhan's resignation is only the beginning of a challenging journey

THE Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) is to be commended for drawing national attention to the policy quagmire that has suffocated the Indian education sector for years. The resolute protests at Jantar Mantar compelled Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan to tender his resignation. The CJP's first objective has been realised. Hopefully, the Modi government will consider the party's other demands in an empathetic manner and make amends for the brutal action against students on July 20 — a black day for India.

Pradhan's resignation is only the beginning of the gigantic overhaul that the education sector needs.

The challenge is to acknowledge a deep systemic distortion, wherein education has become the handmaiden of venal politics. From schools to colleges, universities and research institutions, the education ecosystem needs a root-and-branch policy overhaul. The NEET paper leak and the death of more than 20 students by suicide were the proverbial straw that broke the camel's back. This led to the Jantar Mantar protests, but the underlying factors include a distorted, corruption-ridden edifice, where unscrupulous revenue generation and ideological fealty have trumped the mission of imparting knowledge. The education outlay has dropped in a decade from 4.6% of the Union Budget (2013-14) to 2.5% (2024-25). The resulting gap has been filled by private entities, mostly driven by commercial interests. India has 3.4 lakh private schools, while over 10 lakh are government-run. In the past decade, about 94,000 government schools have been shut down. The proliferation of privately run colleges (often with links to politicians) is more pronounced. Only 17% of the colleges are government-run, while the rest are private, with the faculty and facilities being the bare minimum and often substandard. WorldNews SectionThe number of private universities has risen to over 500, while 700-plus are government-managed. Private universities have expanded at nearly three times the rate of government ones over the past decade.

The quality of government-run schools varies from state to state, but surveys reveal that students

generally acquire educational skills that are below par. Hence parents from all strata of society are sending their kids to tuition centres for better primary education and to prepare them for entrance exams. The coaching industry is worth Rs 60,000 crore, and admission in schools and colleges is an ordeal for parents. In recent years, the appointment of heads of educational institutions has been determined more by political ideology and RSS endorsement than merit. This has long-term implications for the quality of education imparted since the senior faculty can serve till the age of 65. While there still are a few islands of



academic excellence, the overall trend is one where the Hindu majoritarian orientation and the revival of a selectively burnished — and often mythical — ancient past acquire pedagogic priority.

The education-employment linkage is critical for GenZ in India. Employment opportunities are shrinking. For the 80 lakh students who graduate annually, the scramble for jobs is daunting. The most-sought-after option is the sarkari job, and here the numbers are stark. Every year, two crore young Indians apply for around one lakh government jobs. In the UPSC exam — the creme de la creme — there are around 13 lakh aspirants for nearly 1,000 posts. The chance of success is just 0.08%. Cynics aver that India is not nurturing an education system for

enabling its future generations but running a lottery, where many results are fixed.

What is the way forward? India's major sectoral reforms that pulled the country back from the brink merit a recall. The Green Revolution of the late 1960s enabled India to move away from food dependency and the begging-bowl image. It succeeded because then PM Indira Gandhi entrusted the food ministry to a senior minister, C. Subramaniam, who had a team of world-renowned professionals that included MS Swaminathan and BP Pal. Likewise, the White Revolution that led to an abundance in milk

production was ably steered by Dr Verghese Kurien, a proven professional. The 1991 economic reforms worked because then PM PV Narasimha Rao had an acclaimed economist, Dr Manmohan Singh, at the helm as the Finance Minister and Montek Singh Ahluwalia leading a top-notch team of professionals in the bureaucracy. In both cases, domain experts with no political axe to grind were hand-picked. Politics stepped back, while competence led from the front. The government's focus on education today is more ideological than academic (with distortions and changes in school textbooks). Political pandering and uncritical ideological compliance have led to greater centralisation, privatisation and revenue extortion.

What India needs now is a National Education Reform Commission comprising the nation's most credible educationists, academics and

other domain experts, with a 12-month mandate to review and re-evaluate the educational infrastructure. The recommendations of this commission must be debated in Parliament and within civil society so that policy changes can be implemented to lay the foundation for a revised national education framework — one that will enable and educate the student in a normative manner. WorldNews SectionIndia's GenZ is frustrated with paper leaks and a distorted education system, where merit is less important than pedigree and honesty is ridiculed. The choices are clear: PM Modi can either make cosmetic changes and wait for a bigger explosion like Jantar Mantar, or pick up the gauntlet as India did in the past and embark on a rewiring of education.

Earning trust demands reform, not merely a ministerial resignation

Administrative action could not erase the perception that the examination system had drifted into crisis under Pradhan's watch. Joshi's additional charge can only be a temporary arrangement

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation over the NEET leaks marks a rare moment of political accountability in the Modi government's third term. It reflects a belated recognition that the scale of public anger—driven largely by a spontaneous Gen Z mobilisation—had been seriously underestimated. The decision to entrust the ministry to Pralhad Joshi as an additional charge, and to constitute an examination reforms task force under Nandan Nilekani, suggests the government now recognises that restoring confidence requires more than crisis management. The political storm gathered with startling speed. A government that has preferred to ride out public protests rather than concede political ground found itself confronting an agitation that cut across regions, social backgrounds and political affiliations. The indefinite strike by the Cockroach Janta Party in Delhi, Sonam Wangchuk's 26-day fast and the Rapid Action Force's heavy-handed dispersal of the youth march to Parliament on July 20 combined to transform



an examination scandal into a movement over fairness, opportunity and the credibility of public institutions. The government's reading of the public mood proved to be seriously flawed. Prime Minister Narendra Modi responded with speed, ordering a NEET retest, tightening security around the movement of question papers and promising stronger safeguards against examination fraud. Wangchuk eventually called off his fast after assurances that these measures would be expedited. Yet administrative action could not erase the

perception that the examination system had drifted into crisis under Pradhan's watch. His resignation became politically unavoidable. The BJP has done well not to alienate Gen Z voters, whose anxieties extend far beyond an examination to concerns over educational opportunity and employment. Their mobilisation is a reminder that young Indians can organise rapidly around issues that shape their futures. It should caution any government against assuming that parliamentary numbers alone are sufficient to carry politically contentious decisions. Public sentiment remains the ultimate test of political legitimacy. Joshi's additional charge can only be a temporary arrangement. Education is too large and too consequential a portfolio to be managed indefinitely as an adjunct responsibility. The government should appoint a full-time minister without delay. The task force must produce time-bound reforms that restore public faith in an examination system on which the aspirations of millions of young Indians depend.

If Congress wants debate, Parliament is waiting

✚ If Congress believes it has a better solution to protect India's students, it should bring its amendments to Parliament instead of substituting slogans for serious legislative engagement.

Sonia Gandhi's article, "An Education System's Collapse, Young India's Trauma", is long on rhetoric but remarkably short on accountability. It seeks to indict the Government while ignoring the most important fact: Parliament is in session, the prime minister has announced a Bill to strengthen India's legal framework against paper leaks, and Congress, led by the article's author, has spent the last four days disrupting proceedings instead of debating the legislation.

There is an obvious contradiction here. One cannot demand parliamentary deliberation through a newspaper editorial while preventing it inside Parliament. Laws are made in the House, not on opinion pages. Editorials do not prosecute those who leak examination papers, restore students' lost academic years or strengthen institutions. Legislation does. If Congress believes it has a better solution to protect India's students, it should bring its amendments to Parliament instead of substituting slogans for serious legislative engagement. The central accusation in Sonia Gandhi's article is that the Modi government has deliberately evaded accountability on education. The record suggests the opposite. When the NEET examination was compromised, the government did not defend a tainted process. It cancelled the examination, conducted one of the largest re-examinations in India's history for over 22 lakh candidates, ensured admissions were not delayed, transferred the investigation to the CBI, secured arrests, and announced stronger legal safeguards, including fast-track courts. Accountability is measured by action, not speeches. Cancelling a compromised examination, protecting honest students, prosecuting offenders and strengthening the law is what

accountability looks like.

The article repeatedly invokes the figure of 152 paper leaks over the past twelve years, including nine involving the National Testing Agency. Yet the arithmetic undermines its conclusion. If only nine of the 152 incidents involved the NTA, then 143, nearly 94 per cent, occurred under state examination boards and recruitment agencies across governments of every political persuasion, including those in Congress-ruled states.

Paper leaks did not begin in 2014; they have plagued India's examination system for decades. The difference is that India now has, for the first time, a dedicated national law against organised examination fraud. The Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024 introduced stringent imprisonment and penalties of up to 10 years. When the 2026 examination was compromised, it was cancelled, re-conducted under the heaviest security architecture ever deployed, and followed by arrests and prosecutions. Previous governments largely responded with investigations and re-examinations; this Government has sought to build a permanent institutional framework to prevent them. Equally selective is Sonia Gandhi's criticism of the National Testing Agency. She argues that it lacks parliamentary accountability while omitting that the proposal for a national testing agency was first conceived by the UPA Government in 2013. The Modi Government operationalised it and is now taking the next step through the Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan Bill, before a Joint

Parliamentary Committee, to replace multiple regulators with a statutory framework created through Parliament. In other words, the Government is legislating precisely the accountability that the article claims is absent. The editorial's treatment of education spending is equally misleading. It points to a decline in education's share of



the Budget while ignoring that education has received the highest allocation in India's history—1.39 lakh crore in 2026-27, including ₹55,727 crore for higher education. As the overall Union Budget expands, percentage shares naturally change. What matters is actual investment in scholarships, institutions, research, digital learning and educational infrastructure, all of which have expanded over the past decade. The claim that the Modi Government has shut nearly one lakh public schools is similarly devoid

of context. School administration is a State subject, and governments of different political parties have consolidated schools with low enrolment into neighbouring institutions with better infrastructure. That is an administrative response to demographic change and migration, not evidence of a centrally directed assault on public education.

The article's assertion that graduate unemployment averages around 40 per cent also deserves scrutiny. Official Periodic Labour Force Survey data places graduate unemployment far lower, while the frequently cited 40 per cent figure comes from a narrow age cohort in a specific study. Graduate employment remains a structural challenge rather than one unique to the last decade. Meanwhile, India has seen over 2.35 lakh recognised startups, millions of startup-linked jobs, employment through Production Linked Incentive schemes, and a major expansion of Skill India and PMKVY. Perhaps the most troubling

aspect of the article is its treatment of police action. Sonia Gandhi writes that pellet guns were "undoubtedly" authorised by the Union Home Minister. That allegation has been denied and remains before the courts. Public figures have a responsibility to distinguish between allegations and established facts. Similarly, the article alleges that the NTA relies on politically affiliated "mediocre" experts and that authorities profit from the examination system, without supporting evidence.



Beauty benefits of

Charcoal

Gone are the days when you walk into a beauty store and the saleswoman tries to sell you products with tea tree oil extracts or salicylic acid. If you are looking for an excuse to lay off the chemicals in skin products available in the market, charcoal is the best option. With international celebs posting pictures of wearing charcoal face masks on social networking sites, it's definitely on our lust list this month. CT finds out what's there to love about it.

THE SECRET OF BLACK MAGIC...

If you think charcoal has made it to the beauty and the health market recently, you cannot be more wrong! This ingredient first started doing the



rounds in the 19th century as a cure for hangovers and flatulence. Beautician Nishi Anand explains, "Charcoal has come back to the beauty market again because of its ability to absorb toxins and cleanse the system. Whether it is in the form of capsules, beauty masks or otherwise -this product is nowadays used for a maximum number of beauty and health purposes."

PURIFIES AND DEEP CLEANS THE SKIN

Charcoal is known to absorb 100 to 200 times its weight in removing impurities from your system, thereby keeping your skin clean, youthful and flawless. Beauty professional Riddhima Negi says, "When it comes to domestic market, the beauty industry is opening up to the benefits, charcoal has to offer. It's effective in treating body odour, acne and relieving from insect bites and rashes."

OFFERS ANTI-AGEING BENEFITS TOO...

Due to its ability to prevent cellular damage to the adrenal glands, its important to cleanse toxins and

When it comes to beauty , it's always a confusion between what you need, what you want and what really works. Products come and go, few making it to your permanent beauty kit. Charcoal beauty products were there since long but showed great effects only recently. Sure, a lot of people are intimidated by the colour of a skin product but trust us to say that it can make a huge difference to your look.

chemicals routinely from your body. Health experts and doctors often recommend the use of creams or face masks that contain charcoal in it to prevent ageing and delay the signs of it. It tightens skin to shrink bags and smooth fine lines. Take that, saggy jawline and wrinkly neck! jawline and wrinkly neck!

CHARCOAL AVAILABLE IN VARIOUS FORMS

Face wash: These days, markets are flooded with face washes that contain charcoal for both men and women. Formulated for all skin types, it prevents acne and pigmented skin.

Toothpaste: Those that contain charcoal protects your gum, while whitening your teeth. A wide range of charcoal toothpastes are easily available in the domestic market too.

Soaps: While there is an abundance of face washes and toothpastes that contain charcoal in the market, soaps are easily available online. Apart from taking care of your facial skin, charcoal soaps ensure that if you have any skin problems on your hands, legs and other parts of the body , it prevents skin ailments like rashes, body odour etc.

A new polish to Jewellery

Jewellery has been as integral part of our culture since time immemorial.

Trendy designs and deeper pockets have resulted in rise in jewellery demand. The best way to make a man feel like a king, or a woman, a queen, is by way of precious gems and jewels. An adornment beyond ages and boundaries, it has reached new heights with innovations and realisations. The amalgamation of skill and design over the years has resulted in contemporary pieces that leave one awestruck. From sparkling stones to solitaires, all of us have our personal favourites. Speaking more on it, Kunal Narula, an entrepreneur, said, "Jewellery caters a variety of demand today. India proudly boasts of a large number of legacy workers mastering jewellery making and that of various intricacies including polki, kundan, cut work and others. The modern age sees an emergence of simple and elegant designs as well as recycled and junk jewellery, which have become a part of the run."

Adding on, he said, "Today, gems or other precious stones are not only the definition of primness, but it is the way they are carried and that makes the difference. Junk jewellery has reached the pinnacle of its curves and is widely worn and appreciated." Other jewellery that is gaining popularity is the one made of silver. It is affordable and is seen having wide options. The jewellery industry has also given rise to many new professions due to its increasing demand, such as designers, gemmologist, enterprising e-



own language beyond words. India is a country, where jewellery is a symbol of riches and power. Hence, India is a hub of different and intricately-patterned jewellery that is appreciated and known worldwide. Jewellery is no more restricted to a domain of females only; males have taken on the adornment to show a to tally new dimension. Collar jewellery seems to have gained popularity with in the affluent class and is normally worn with kurtas and sherwanis.



How to do Eyelash tinting look in five steps

Your home can be a great source for skin care products, especially your kitchen is full of natural elements that help take care of your kin.



These simple skincare techniques, are all homemade and can be easily done; they are excellent ways to help you achieve that flawless glowing skin.

1. Mash fresh fruits well and applied directly on the skin. It will give your skin a fresh glow.
2. Mix 1 part of lemon juice, 1 part rose water and 4 parts of chilled water. Spray it on your face regularly during the day. It will keep your skin dew fresh and cool.
3. Multani mitti or fuller's earth is the main element in major face packs. Known for its skin cleansing benefits, it is also rich in minerals to nourish your skin. Try this soothing face pack. Mix 2 tbsp of multani mitti with half a tablespoon of sandalwood powder and 2 tbsp of chilled rose water. Apply even on your face and neck. Leave it on till the mask dries. Rinse off with cool water and find your skin refreshed and clean.
4. Powder sun dried orange peel and mix it with milk. Apply this to your face regularly and watch your skin glow.
5. Raw potato juice is an excellent remedy for treating marks and scars on your skin.

Homemade remedies for flawless and glowing Skin



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Wear right Makeup during summer

Using the right makeup products during summer can be a tedious task for women, but keeping some factors in mind can help.



Makeup artist Rishab Khanna, who has styled some of the prominent Bollywood faces including Kajol, Karishma Kapoor and Neha Dhupia, suggests some quick tips:

- * Wear a primer after moisturising your face and before foundation. This extra step will hold your foundation better and for a prolonged time.
- * Instead of foundation, use tinted moisturiser that has SPF in it. This will make you feel light on the face while it is hot and steamy outside and protect you from the sun.
- * Instead of a thick layer of lipstick, use bright and fresh colours on your lips. Use

bright coloured tinted lip balms and lip tints. These will add colour to your face.

- * Try a subtle tint for your cheeks and avoid heavy cakey blush. If you love bronze, use bronzer on high points of your face to get a sun-kissed look.
- * For eyes, wear a gel liner with water proof mascara so that it stays in place even if you sweat. You can dab some powder eyeshadow with an angular brush on top of the liner to make it stay intact for long.
- * Use a light foundation for your neck and shoulders so that it does look different from your face. Keep it light and always use a SPF sunscreen.



tips to keep skin problems away!

How to keep skin problems away!

Avoid spicy and oily food:

To keep your skin healthy in the monsoon season, avoid spicy, oily and sour foods. The high humidity levels cause the digestive system to weaken and heavy food can lead to an upset stomach. These types of food also aggravate pitta which is responsible for a variety of skin breakouts and eruptions in this season. Eat light and easily digestible foods, cooked or steamed vegetables, zucchini, squash, pumpkin, steamed salad, fruits, moong dal, khichree, corn, chickpea flour, and oatmeal etc.

Say no to pitta aggravating beverages:

We understand that you can't begin your day without a cuppa but try to reduce your daily intake. Coffee and alcohol is a strict no because it is notoriously known for aggravating pitta and acidity. Replace them with pitta pacifying herbal teas.

Keep your skin dry:

Getting a little wet or sometimes getting drenched is not uncommon when you are outdoors during the rainy season. However, don't let your skin remain wet for a long time while enjoying the monsoon showers. It is important to keep your skin folds and feet dry and clean at all times. Damp skin is a breeding ground for fungal infections.

Wheat grass, a tonic for your skin:

Wheatgrass is a tonic for your skin. It is helpful in boosting the immune system and helping you in warding off or controlling skin

disorders in monsoon. A healthy immune system is reflected in a healthy and glowing skin. Wheatgrass is rich in antioxidants and is instrumental in detoxifying the blood.

Drink a lot of fluids:

No, we are not talking about the one that gets you tipsy! Drink at least 8-10 glasses of clean water daily. Though you need to keep dry outside in this season to prevent skin problems it is important to consume adequate quantities of water to keep your skin hydrated.

Eat fresh: Eat fresh and unprocessed food to keep your body and your skin functioning at an optimum level. Don't rely on packed, refrigerated and processed food. Instead of ordering pizzas, burgers or feasting on chips, relish some fresh homemade food. Eat a lot of fruits and green vegetables.

Avoid alcohol-based skin cleansers:

You should avoid alcohol-based skin cleansers because it irritates and dries your skin. Instead use a herbal soap or cleanser regularly to get rid of excess oil, grime and dust, and of course to keep you skin free of bacterial infections.

Use cooling herbs:

It is beneficial to use the herbs that have cooling effects on the body (pitta pacifying) such as fennel, coriander seeds and Indian gooseberry (amla) for a glowing skin in monsoon. Amla helps to detoxify the liver and aids

digestion - and is also a good source of Vitamin C and other minerals. One of the benefits of taking it regularly is a flawless complexion.



Why coconut oil is good for Your Skin

Coconut oil is considered one of the best oils that is mostly used for treating any kind of hair problems — be it dandruff, itchy scalp etc.

However, coconut oil according to Ayurvedic experts is also considered to be one of the best ways to treat any skin-related disorders. Here are a few problems that can be healed using coconut oil.

Acne and acne scars

The application of coconut oil can help reduce the occurrence of acne. Mostly acne happens when the pores of your skin gets blocked. Coconut oil not only helps clear the pores but also reduce the swelling around the area. Further, acne scars can also be treated using coconut oil. Regular application of this oil

will lessen the scar and also clear your complexion.

Itchy skin

Another advantage of using coconut oil on your skin is that it helps treat itchy skin. It soothes the skin and also hydrates it so there is no way you can develop dry skin.

Cures skin rashes

Skin rashes are common during this season. Thus, the application of coconut oil will make your skin super soft and will reduce the occurrence of rashes.

Three office Makeup looks for the season

Boardroom presentation

Highlight one of your features, either the lips or eyes. For instance, colour your lips in a bright shade and let your eyes have the bare minimum of colour. If red is too bright for you, pick lip colours like plum or burgundy.

Dinner party

An office party or post-work hangout allow you to bring a little drama to your look. Do a winged cat-eye and keep the liner thick on the lower inner rims as well. Use a pink lip gloss to finish off.

Corporate lunch

A hint of peachy blush will add some freshness to a dull afternoon. Outline your lips with a lip pencil in a corresponding shade and fill it in with a creamy matte lipstick in the same shade. You can choose from colours like light pink, peach, nude or even a lighter shade of brown. Make a thin outline around your eyes. and don't make it too high.

Dos and don'ts

Stick to neutral colours for a corporate office environment. Don't overdo the colours and compact. Opt for blushers in colours like rose and apricot. Indigo blue browns and grey are great options for eye shadows and liners. Don't wear yellow-tinted colours like coral and fuchsia, since they could make your teeth appear yellow. Keep the foundation to a minimum. For an alert look, don't forget the mascara and curl your lashes with an eyelash curler before stepping out. Air-conditioned environment dehydrates the skin. So, keep lip balm and hand lotion handy in your bag.



Hope farmers, students corner Modi govt from all sides: CJP after meeting Rakesh Tikait

CJP leaders met farmer leader Rakesh Tikait in Delhi to discuss a joint platform for farmers, students and youngsters. The outreach signals wider agitation as the outfit presses for the withdrawal of FIRs against student protesters who participated in the Jantar Mantar protest.

Delhi. (Agency)

The Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) on Tuesday reached out to farmer leader Rakesh Tikait as it sought to forge a joint front of farmers, students and youngsters. CJP spokesperson Ashutosh Ranka, who met Tikait, said he hoped all groups would "surround the Narendra Modi-led government from all sides". The meeting was attended by Ranka and several other CJP leaders, along with Tikait and members of the Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU). According to the CJP, the discussions focused on a future

strategy to bring together farmers, students and young people on a common platform. Following the meeting, Ranka said the outfit hoped to build a wider coalition against the Narendra Modi-led government. "We hope that our farmer brothers and the students and youth of this country will work together to surround the Modi government from all sides," Ranka said. The meeting came days after the CJP suspended its 36-day protest over paper leaks and exam fraud cases, indicating that it now intends to broaden its campaign to include issues affecting farmers and youngsters

alongside its education-related demands. The outfit alleged that assurances made by the Centre and some state governments during the student protests had not been fully implemented. It claimed that students continued to face action in several states, alleging that cases had been registered against protesters in Bihar and West Bengal, while FIRs were still being filed against students in states such as Rajasthan. CJP leaders also sought Tikait's support for their demand that cases registered



against students be withdrawn. The outfit warned that if no action was taken, it could launch a nationwide agitation in collaboration with farmer organisations and youth groups.

Tikait had extended support to the student protests during its protest at Delhi's Jantar Mantar, visiting the site on multiple occasions and backing the protesters' demands. The CJP-led march on July 20 at Jantar Mantar witnessed clashes between protesters and security personnel, who used lathis and teargas shells to disperse crowds attempting to move towards Parliament. The protests escalated and spread to several other states. The protesters were demanding the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra.

Complaint on Rs 10K unearths Rs 70 cr cyber fraud syndicate

New Delhi. (Agency)

A cyber fraud complaint involving Rs 10,000 has led the Delhi Police to unravel a nationwide mule account syndicate that allegedly routed cybercrime proceeds to the tune of Rs 70 crore via 248 corporate bank accounts opened using shell firms and fake business entities. The investigation arose from a complaint lodged by a resident of Patel Nagar claiming that he had been lured by unknown frauds offering online work-from-home freelancing opportunities on social media. On the pretext of job registration and account processing fees, the victim was induced to transfer Rs 10,000 in multiple instalments, after which the fraudsters reportedly blocked him and deleted all chats. The investigators used digital profiling and followed financial trails to nab the field recruiter, Mohit Soni, and nabbed him on July 8. His arrest and subsequent technical recoveries exposed an organised, multi-layered international racket running a supply chain of pre-activated mule bank accounts used in cyber fraud operations in India, Dubai and the UK over the past three to four years, DCP (central) Rohit Rajbir Singh said. The investigation exposed a structured system of procuring and selling mule accounts across Delhi-NCR—recruiters identified gullible individuals and obtained their identity documents. Fake proprietorships and shell business entities were created.

Lieutenant-Governor Taranjit Sandhu lays foundation stone for dog shelter with modern infra in Dwarka

New Delhi. (Agency)

Delhi Lieutenant-Governor Taranjit Singh Sandhu on Tuesday laid the foundation stone of a modern dog shelter in Dwarka's Sector 29 to be developed by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) in the presence of Mayor Pravesh Wahi, civic body commissioner Sanjeev Khirwar and other officials. Spread across nearly 6,050 square metres, the facility will provide safe shelter, care and rehabilitation for stray dogs, with modern infrastructure designed to ensure their welfare and well-being. Highlighting the project as a fine example of public-private partnership, Sandhu said, "The shelter is being developed at zero cost to the MCD through corporate social responsibility support extended by the GMR Varalakshmi Foundation." The L-G commended the foundation's contribution towards this cause, noting that such collaborations between civic bodies and private institutions further strengthen Delhi's commitment to animal welfare and demonstrate how corporate resources can be meaningfully directed towards compassionate public causes without burdening civic finances. The initiative is expected to serve as a model facility for the humane and scientific care of stray animals in the Capital, reflecting Delhi's evolving approach towards animal welfare as an integral part of its civic responsibilities. Officials noted that as the city continues its journey towards a 'Viksit Dilli,' such projects reinforce the idea that genuine urban progress must also be measured by how sensitively a city cares for its most vulnerable and voiceless residents, both human and animal.

Why CJP's Abhijeet Dipke is turning down marriage proposals? His mother reveals

New Delhi. (Agency)

Even as the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) remains locked in a standoff with the Centre over its demand for the withdrawal of FIRs against students, its founder Abhijeet Dipke appears to have put another major life decision on hold. According to his family, the 30-year-old activist has been receiving a steady stream of marriage proposals, but says he wants to become financially independent before settling down. Dipke's mother, Anita Dipke, in an interview with news agency PTI, said that the family had been receiving marriage proposals for nearly two years, even before the CJP's nationwide agitation over the NEET-



UG paper leak catapulted him into the national spotlight. "We have been getting proposals for the last two years," she said, adding that despite the growing interest, her son has consistently maintained that he would marry only after becoming financially stable. "He told us, 'Let me earn something after finishing my studies. Otherwise, how will I get married?' I told him we have enough money, but he said he wants to earn for himself. He is so honest that he won't take anything other than clothes for his wedding," she said. When Abhijeet Dipke arrived in New Delhi from Boston on June 6, 2026, he was largely known as an online activist. Within weeks, however, he emerged as the face of nationwide student protests over irregularities in the NEET-UG examination. The movement eventually culminated in the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, one of the key demands raised by the protesters. Although the agitation has now ended, Dipke has continued to dominate public discourse, with his personal life also drawing attention.

Traffic goes out of gear as major streches in city choke under water

New Delhi. (Agency)

As heavy showers lashed the city on Tuesday, traffic movement was disrupted, leaving commuters struggling in waterlogged roads accompanied by fallen trees and power disruptions. Major congestion was reported on stretches including Greater Kailash-II to Savitri Cinema, Chirag Dilli, Hauz Khas, RK Puram, Sangam Vihar to Khanpur via MB Road, NH-8 near Shankar Vihar, Zakir Hussain Road, Delhi Cantt-Naraina Flyover-Mayapuri stretch, ITO, Old Rohtak Road, Madhuban Chowk-Netaji Subhash Place,



Peeragarhi, NH-48 near AIIMS, Delhi-Noida Road, Kalindi Kunj and Vikas Marg. A major traffic jam was also reported on NH-09 near Ghaziipur Border (UP Gate), while congestion was witnessed at Azadpur, Malviya Nagar, Prahladpur and Kalindi Kunj.

Nikhil Kumar, an east Delhi resident, said his commute to south Delhi turned into a slow crawl. "The first bottleneck was at Anand Vihar, which is already one of the city's busiest transport hubs. The situation worsened near Ghaziipur, where waterlogging brought vehicles to a near standstill. Even Sarai Kale Khan was moving at a snail's pace," he said. Commuters travelling to Delhi from Noida, Ghaziabad and Gurugram also faced delays as waterlogging affected key roads and slowed traffic. In Gurugram, videos circulating on social media showed flooded

Delhi University buzz returns on Day 1 of session

New Delhi. (Agency)

A mix of excitement, curiosity and nervousness marked the first day of the new academic session at Delhi University (DU) Tuesday as thousands of freshers stepped into campus life, beginning a new chapter. Across North Campus colleges, including Miranda House, SGTB Khalsa College and Hansraj College, students were welcomed with orientation programmes, introductions to student societies and volunteer assistance, creating a vibrant atmosphere on campuses. The freshers were also introduced to academic procedures, student committees and the wide range of extracurricular opportunities available. Volunteers guided newcomers through college the premises, helping them locate classrooms, auditoriums and orientation venues while introducing them to the culture that defines Delhi University. The freshers were greeted with tilak, showered with flower petals and offered sweets at several colleges as part of the 'Welcome Freshers' campaign organised by student organisation units. At DAV College, members of the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP), the National Students' Union of India (NSUI) and other student bodies were present to assist the newcomers. Aatrija, a newcomer at Miranda House, said students were welcomed with planters before being taken to the auditorium for the orientation programme. "We were introduced to various committees and societies. What interested me the most were the dance societies, Tanz and Mridang," she said. Aarohi a fresher from Jesus and Mary College pursuing political science, said the experience of finally entering the university felt different from what she had imagined. "I had seen so much about college life online, but being here and walking through the campus helped me feel it for real," she said. Senior students, many of whom had returned to the campuses to welcome the incoming batch, were just as excited. Gul, a second-year student at Hansraj College, recalled her own first day and the emotions that accompanied it. "I was a little hesitant. All I remember is volunteers in white shirts welcoming us. I was excited and had no idea what all things were coming," she mused. As students explored campuses, many were seen clicking photographs and interacting with society members eager to recruit fresh talent.

Poll duties must not be unbearable: Delhi High Court

The high court bench passed the order while dealing with a public interest litigation (PIL) petition against requisitioning of school teachers for the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in the capital.

New Delhi. (Agency)

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday directed the Election Commission of India (ECI) to ensure that poll duties do not impose an "unbearable" burden on school teachers or cause them excessive stress. A bench of Chief Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya and Justice Tejas Karia said that while there was no dispute over the ECI's power to engage teachers for electoral roll revision duties, the mandate under the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act cannot be lost sight of. The act bars teachers from doing non-educational work, excluding three exceptions: population census, disaster relief work and election-related duties. The high court bench passed the order while dealing with a public interest

litigation (PIL) petition against requisitioning of school teachers for the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in the capital. During the hearing, the bench also took note of ECI's affidavit comprising details of teachers requisitioned and engaged in election duties and its powers to do the same. The bench also said that the petitioner "must prove" that teachers have been engaged in SIR work during school hours in violation of the SC judgement. The affidavit of the poll panel stated that no teacher was being engaged in SIR duties during school hours. The court, however, directed the poll body to take appropriate measures while assigning such duties to ensure they do not impose an excessive or unbearable workload on teachers. "They have filed

a factsheet and given the total number of BLOs deployed and BLO volunteers deployed. They have given the



numbers. If you have anything contrary to this, file it," the bench said to the petitioners. The court also asked the petitioners to file a reply to the ECI affidavit before August 20.

Medical test ordered to ascertain disorder

A city court has directed a medical test to ascertain if Sarabjeet Singh, an accused in Assembly security breach case, was of unsound mind and incapable of entering his defence. The court passed the order after the counsel submitted that Singh was suffering from bipolar disorder and sought directions for the constitution of medical board.

Plea against cop in CJP protest junked

A fundamental right to protest does not extend to damaging the seat of sovereignty, i.e., Parliament, the Delhi High Court said on Tuesday, while junking a petition seeking withdrawal of a pending enquiry from police officer Sandeep Lamba, who was seen slapping a woman during the CJP's Parliament march protest.

TCS, Infosys, Coforge jump up to 5%: Why are IT stocks rising for second straight day?

New Delhi. (Agency)

IT stocks extended their rally for a second straight session on Wednesday, helping lift the broader market as investors continued to rotate into the sector ahead of the US Federal Reserve's policy decision later in the day. The BSE Sensex climbed 758.30 points, or 0.99%, to 77,524.22 in early trade, while the NSE Nifty50 gained 217.20 points, or 0.91%, to 24,202.55 as of 9:55 am. Technology shares once again led the gains. The Nifty IT index jumped 2.45%, taking its gains over the last four sessions to nearly 11%. Among the biggest gainers were Coforge, which surged 4.39%, Infosys (3.26%), LTIMindtree (2.68%), Persistent Systems (2.65%), TCS (2.55%) and Oracle Financial Services Software (2.35%). Wipro, Tech Mahindra and HCLTech also traded firmly in the green. The latest rally is being driven by two key factors—a global shift towards Indian IT companies as AI-linked stocks come under pressure, and expectations that the US Federal Reserve will keep interest rates unchanged.

INDIAN IT EMERGES AS A SAFE HAVEN

The first trigger remains the same one that sparked Tuesday's rally. For nearly two years, Indian IT companies were criticised for "missing the AI bus" as global investors poured billions of dollars into AI chipmakers, semiconductor companies and hyperscalers building data centres.

Rupee rises 5 paise to 95.77 against US dollar in early trade

New Delhi. (Agency)

The rupee appreciated by 5 paise to 95.77 against the US dollar in early trade on Wednesday, staying firm for the fourth consecutive day amid a weak American currency and lower crude oil prices. The local currency also found support from positive domestic equity market sentiment after foreign institutional investors turned to buying Indian stocks, according to forex traders. At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 95.70 and slipped to 95.77 against the greenback, registering a gain of 5 paise from its previous close. The Indian currency settled 17 paise higher at 95.82 against the US dollar on Tuesday, after gaining 74 paise in the previous two back-to-back sessions. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading down 0.12 per cent at 101.14, ahead of the Federal Reserve monetary policy announcements. Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, were trading 4.27 per cent higher but remained lower at USD 87.68 per barrel. According to analysts, even as mediators tried to get the US and Iran back to negotiations and toward a ceasefire, crude oil prices rose overnight as the brief pause in fighting was shattered after the US military said that Iran launched multiple ballistic missiles at American forces on Tuesday.

ITR filing 2026 checklist: Documents and steps you must check now

New Delhi. (Agency)

The July 31 deadline for filing Income Tax Returns for Assessment Year 2026-27 is now just two days away. Salaried taxpayers and other eligible individuals should file early rather than leaving the process for the final evening, when heavy traffic may slow the e-filing portal. Before submitting the return, taxpayers need to match their income, tax deductions and investments with official records. Form 16 alone may not show bank interest, dividends, share sales or mutual fund transactions reported against the taxpayer's PAN. **Why filing before July 31 matters** July 31, 2026, is the due date for many salaried individuals filing ITR-1 or ITR-2. The Income Tax Department has asked taxpayers to file early and avoid a last-minute rush. ITR-1, ITR-2, ITR-3 and ITR-4 facilities for AY 2026-27 are live on the official portal. Missing the applicable deadline can lead to a late filing fee, interest on unpaid tax and delayed refunds. Certain losses may no longer be carried forward if the return is filed late.

Vietnam's Vingroup expands in India, Africa and beyond as home market slows

HANOI. (Agency)

Vietnam's biggest conglomerate, Vingroup, is moving into global markets as business at home slows, planning nearly two dozen projects in at least 15 countries, from a "Vietnam Town" in Uzbekistan to smart cities in India and a riverfront development in Congo. Profits from Vingroup's flagship real estate business have long funded its investments in diverse industries including automaking and technology. But Vietnam's once sizzling property market is cooling, while its electric vehicle company VinFast is losing money. As opportunities for large developments at home become harder to find, Vingroup, Vietnam's largest privately

owned company, is looking overseas to generate the money needed to fund its ambitions in EVs, artificial intelligence and robotics, industries central to Vietnam's goal of becoming Asia's next tiger economy.

In Uzbekistan, Vingroup signed an agreement in December to build a "Vietnam Town" in its capital, the ancient Silk Road city of Tashkent. In Central Asia's largest metropolis, it envisions a development modeled on its signature projects in Vietnam, combining homes, shopping centers, schools, hospitals and EV charging stations. Other projects include tourism ventures like a zoo in India and smart-city projects in Africa to plans to develop motors and moving parts needed for robots in Germany.

Like China before it, Vietnam wants to build globally competitive companies now that the export-led model that has



lifted the country out of poverty is, in the words of Communist Party General Secretary To Lam, under "unprecedented strain." "Growth is slowing. Public debt and the cost of capital are rising. Climate change is threatening the livelihoods

of hundreds of millions. Disruptive technologies create immense opportunities, but also new divides," he said in a speech at the Shangri-La Dialogue, Asia's premier defense summit. Vingroup leads Vietnam's overseas push Vietnam steppe up its expansion into other global markets after tariffs imposed by U.S. President Donald Trump exposed the risks of relying too heavily on a handful of export destinations. The U.S. accounts for over 30% of Vietnam's exports.

Central Asia has become one focus. Trade with Uzbekistan reached \$202 million in 2024, up 26.5% from a year earlier, while Vietnam elevated ties with Kazakhstan to a strategic partnership in 2025.

BPCL expects Rs 633 crore monthly compensation for under-recoveries on LPG sales

New Delhi. (Agency)

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (BPCL) is in talks with the Central government regarding compensation for its under-recoveries on the sale of domestic LPG (Liquefied Petroleum Gas) below the market prices amid the West Asia crisis, with the firm expecting a compensation of Rs 633 crore per month till October, according to an NDTV Profit report that cited a company statement on Tuesday. The oil and gas company stated that it was confident of government backing regarding LPG losses, due to the fact that the firm has been selling its domestic LPG, petrol, and diesel below the market prices. This

development comes amid the ongoing conflict between Iran and the US in West Asia, which led to a choking of the Strait of Hormuz,



through which 20 per cent of the world's oil and gas exports transit during normal times. This had led to a spike in global crude and gas prices. BPCL's LPG compensation buffer was at Rs 15,804 crore as of June 30. This buffer includes an adjustment for Rs 7,594 crore. The

public sector oil company expects the government to continue its LPG compensation schemes, in line with past practices.

The Central government informed the Lok Sabha on July 23 that state-run oil marketing companies are still under a lot of pressure due to high crude oil prices and LPG under-recoveries amid continuous geopolitical concerns in West Asia.

Brent oil prices "continue to heavily fluctuate and have increased again," Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas Suresh Gopi said in a written reply. The crisis in West Asia "has not abated and the resultant geopolitical situation is highly volatile".

Apple touches landmark \$5 trillion valuation, second only to Nvidia

MUMBAI. (Agency)

Apple crossed the \$5 trillion market valuation mark on Tuesday, becoming only the second company in history to reach the milestone after Nvidia, as investors continued to back the iPhone maker's strategy of prioritising products over expensive artificial intelligence (AI) infrastructure. Shares of Apple rose as much as 0.72% during trading to touch a record high of \$342.89, lifting the company's market capitalisation to about \$5.036 trillion before paring gains. The stock was last trading at \$339.33, valuing Apple at around \$4.98 trillion, according to

Reuters. Earlier this month, Apple overtook Nvidia to reclaim the title of the world's most valuable company. Nvidia had held the top spot since June 2025 and was the first company to cross the \$5 trillion valuation milestone.

WHY APPLE'S SHARES ARE RISING

Unlike many of its Big Tech rivals, Apple has largely stayed away from the race to spend hundreds of billions of dollars on building artificial intelligence infrastructure. The company has instead focused on strengthening its product ecosystem while relying on Google's AI technology to power new features, including a

revamped Siri. That approach has helped Apple avoid the heavy spending on data centres that has weighed on the cash flows of several technology giants. The company's pricing strategy has also supported demand. While Apple raised prices for MacBooks and iPads last month, it kept iPhone prices unchanged, prompting many consumers to buy the flagship device ahead of expected price increases later this year, analysts said. Apple's shares have gained about 25% so far this year, outperforming other members of the so-called "Magnificent Seven", including Nvidia, Microsoft, Meta and Alphabet.

Coca-Cola loses value share in India's beverage market despite strong global Q2 growth

The apparent contradiction reflects a broader pattern within the Asia Pacific segment, where unit case volume grew 8%, the fastest of any operating segment, but price/mix declined by 9%.

New Delhi. (Agency)

If Coca-Cola lost value share in India's non-alcoholic ready-to-drink (NARTD) beverage market during the June quarter, dragging on its broader Asia Pacific segment even as the company posted strong headline growth globally, according to its second-quarter 2026 results released in Atlanta on July 28. "The company lost value share in total NARTD beverages, as gains in Japan and China were more than offset by a loss in India," Coca-Cola said in its earnings release,

describing performance in its Asia Pacific operating segment for the quarter ended July 3, 2026. The company did not disclose the magnitude of the India share loss or provide country-level revenue or volume figures, reporting results only at the consolidated and operating-segment levels. The share loss came even as India was cited as one of the leading contributors to Coca-Cola's global unit case volume growth of 5% for the quarter, alongside China, the United States, and Brazil. The apparent contradiction reflects a broader pattern within the Asia Pacific segment, where unit case volume grew 8%, the fastest of any operating segment, but price/mix declined by 9%. The company attributed the price/mix decline to an unfavourable mix and affordability initiatives, pricing and packaging

moves typically aimed at defending volume and share among cost-conscious consumers rather than driving revenue growth. Concentrate



sales in Asia Pacific ran 3 percentage points ahead of unit case volume during the quarter, which the company said was due to the timing of concentrate shipments to bottling partners rather than underlying demand. Asia Pacific's reported net operating revenues were roughly flat, rising 1% to \$1.58 billion, while organic revenues (non-GAAP) grew

2%. Reported operating income rose 1% to \$656 million, and comparable currency-neutral operating income was flat year on year.

The company said organic revenue growth and lower operating expenses in the segment were offset by higher input costs and increased marketing investment. For the first six months of 2026, the segment's picture was weaker still: reported operating income fell 6%, and comparable currency-neutral operating income declined 8%, versus consolidated operating income growth of 14% and 9%, respectively, over the same period. India's growth showed up more clearly in Coca-Cola's separate Bottling Investments segment, which houses the company's consolidated, company-owned bottling operations rather than the licensing-heavy model used elsewhere.

Mehbooba calls for emergency measures to transport Kashmir's fruit to other parts of country

Srinagar.(Agency)

Peoples Democratic Party president Mehbooba Mufti on Wednesday called for immediate and emergency transport measures to ensure the timely evacuation of Kashmir's horticultural produce amid repeated disruptions on the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway caused by landslides and adverse weather.

Expressing concern over the growing distress among fruit growers, Mehbooba said prolonged road blockages were threatening the quality and market competitiveness of perishable produce, particularly apples, during the peak marketing season.

"Every harvesting season represents a year of patience, investment and hope for our orchardists. Today, many growers are anxiously watching truckloads of their produce remain immobilised because the Valley's road connectivity has been severely affected. The administration must recognise that this is not merely a traffic management issue but an economic emergency," she said. Mehbooba called for immediate steps to facilitate the movement of fruit-laden trucks and said all safe alternative routes, including the Mughal Road for suitable commercial vehicles, should be actively considered whenever road conditions permit.

Chhari Mubarak begins sacred journey to Amarnath cave shrine

Srinagar.(Agency)

The traditional Chhari Mubarak, the holy mace of Lord Shiva and the most revered symbol of the annual Amarnath Yatra, was ceremonially taken out from the historic Dashnami Akhada at Maisuma here on Wednesday, marking the beginning of its sacred journey to the Amarnath cave shrine.

Amid the chanting of Vedic hymns, a group of sadhus led by Mahant Deependra Giri, custodian of the holy mace, departed for the Gauri Shankar Temple in Pahalgam, where the Bhoomi Pujan of the Chhari Mubarak will be conducted.

The holy mace would follow the traditional pilgrimage route via Pahalgam, Chandanwari, Sheshnag and Panchtarni before reaching the holy cave shrine on August 28 on the auspicious occasion of Shravan Purnima.

Giri said around 4.25 lakh pilgrims had so far undertaken the Amarnath Yatra this year, describing the turnout as a very pleasant aspect of the pilgrimage despite adverse weather conditions.

Man convicted in Kashmir for securing IRP constable job with fake 10 2 certificate

Srinagar.(Agency)

A court in Srinagar has convicted a Budgam resident for fraudulently securing appointment as a constable in the Indian Reserve Police (IRP) battalion by using a forged 10 2 qualification certificate.

The conviction was secured by the Crime Branch Kashmir, now known as the Economic Offences Wing (EOW) Kashmir, in a long-pending recruitment fraud case.

The Special Mobile Magistrate, 13th Finance Commission/Railway Magistrate, Srinagar, convicted Nazir Ahmad Malik, a resident of Budgam, for offences punishable under Sections 420 and 471 of the Ranbir Penal Code (RPC).

During the investigation, the allegedly forged 10 2 certificate educational qualification certificate was seized and sent to the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE) for verification. The Board subsequently confirmed that the certificate was fake.

Following the trial, the court sentenced Malik to three years' imprisonment and imposed a fine of Rs 1,000 under Section 420 RPC.

HC Bar suspends work till July 30, Bar Council reiterates support for review of LADC scheme

Chandigarh.(Agency)

The row over the Legal Aid Defence Counsel (LADC) system continued on Tuesday with the Bar Council of Punjab and Haryana on Tuesday reiterating its support for the demand seeking a rollback and review of the scheme, while the Punjab and Haryana High Court Bar Association resolved to suspend work till July 30.

The Bar Association also issued a show-cause notice to advocate Arvind Seth over his PIL seeking "uninterrupted functioning" of district courts, and sought suspension of licences of LADCs across Punjab, Haryana and Chandigarh.

In a statement issued after the meeting, the Bar Council said it had once again reiterated support for the "genuine demand" seeking rollback and review of the scheme. The decisions came after the Sub-Committee of the Bar Council met to discuss the legal aid scheme, which has triggered the ongoing

agitation in Punjab, Haryana and Chandigarh. The Bar Council said the issue concerning the LADC system had been under discussion for a long time and that lawyers across Punjab, Haryana and Chandigarh had been agitating against the scheme, claiming that its implementation



had led to "significant ramifications and side effects" over the years.

The Bar Council further said that the Supreme Court had already constituted a committee, which reportedly took

cognisance of the issue and was actively reviewing the scheme, with its report awaited. It added that, in support of the cause, the Sub-Committee along with leaders of Bar Associations from Punjab, Haryana and Chandigarh had met the Chief Justice of India, the Union Law Minister, the

Acting Chief Justice of the Punjab and Haryana High Court and judges of the High Court's Administrative Committee. According to the Council, apart from highlighting the adverse impact of the scheme on the legal fraternity, it had also represented that the LADC scheme was "detrimental to the interest of the ordinary citizen and is in no way supportive" of the cause of the access to justice.

Meanwhile, the General House of the Punjab and Haryana High Court Bar Association resolved to issue a show-cause notice to advocate Arvind Seth, alleging that the filing of PIL was "contrary to the legal fraternity".

'Don't know if it is a leak yet, probe on': Gujarat Ayurveda University V-C on BAMS exam

Ahmedabad.(Agency)

More than 2,000 Bachelor of Ayurveda, Medicine and Surgery (BAMS) students enrolled in 26 colleges in Gujarat took the Shalya Tantra-1 exam, the questions of which are suspected to have been leaked. The alleged leak is now under investigation by the Gujarat Ayurved University (GAU).

This comes just days after nationwide protests over exam paper leaks, which eventually led to the resignation of Dharmendra Pradhan as the Union Education Minister.

Meanwhile, the Jamnagar-based university has had no full-time vice-chancellor since Mukul Patel, who was appointed by the government in March 2022 and retired in March 2025. After Patel's retirement, the government named Vd. Nareshkumar D Jain, Principal of JP

Government Ayurved College in Bhavnagar, the in-charge GAU VC in the same month.

Speaking to media persons in Jamnagar, Jain said, "The exam for the (Shalya Tantra-1) paper was held between 9 am and 12:30



pm. Then we found out that the paper shared similarities with a message going around on WhatsApp. When the university came to know about this, we called the police and set up an internal investigation committee, which included two principals

and one reader. Whenever we get details either from the police or our committee, we will send the report to the government for further action." However, Inspector NM Gadhvi of Jamnagar City B Division police station told The Indian Express that the university had not approached the police and was probing the matter internally.

On Monday and Tuesday, The Indian Express attempted to reach out to Jain and in-charge Registrar H P Jhala for clarifications on these contradictions. Jain did not respond to queries. Jhala remained unavailable for comment.

Speaking to local mediapersons, Jain had said that their exam squad was at Shree Balahanuman Ayurved Mahavidyalaya in Mansa, Gandhinagar, when they learnt about the WhatsApp message. Jain also confirmed that around 2,000 students of 26 Ayurved colleges under the GAU had taken the examination on July 20.

Woman killed in Ahmedabad house collapse; son rescued

The collapsed structure was a two-storeyed house in dilapidated condition further weakened by the heavy rainfall Ahmedabad witnessed last week.

Ahmedabad.(Agency)

A 55-YEAR-OLD woman was killed after a dilapidated house collapsed in the eastern part of Ahmedabad city in the early hours of Tuesday.

Parveenbanu Yakub Mansuri was trapped under the rubble while her son Altaf Yakub Mansuri (30) was rescued by firefighters and taken to Ahmedabad Civil Hospital for treatment, firefighters said.

The incident took place at Mansuri Mohalla near Kalupur. When the control room received the call around 12:05 am, vehicles from four stations, Panchkuwa, Shahpur, Maninagar, and Naroda, were dispatched by the Ahmedabad Fire and Emergency Services. The collapsed structure was a two-storeyed house in dilapidated



condition further weakened by the heavy rainfall Ahmedabad witnessed last week. Firefighters worked for nearly four hours, till 4 am on Tuesday, to retrieve the woman's body from under the rubble.

Firefighters said that other houses in the vicinity of the collapsed structure were also in dangerous condition, leading to the rescuers not being able to extensively use heavy machinery next to them to clear the rubble.

Gujarat: Polling for high-stakes local body bypolls ends

Voting held a day after HC set aside interim order that had stayed polling on two of the six seats in Devgad Baria Municipality

Vadodara.(Agency)

After months of political upheaval, defections, disqualification of elected representatives and a last-minute legal reprieve from the Gujarat High Court, voting for the six vacant seats of the Devgad Baria Municipality concluded peacefully on Tuesday. Meanwhile, polling for panchayat by-elections in Chikhlod of Kheda district and the Palaj District Panchayat seat in Anand district was also held.

Polling for the six vacant seats in Devgad Baria Municipality was held in three wards under tight security arrangements. The district administration deployed police personnel at all 10 polling stations to ensure free and fair voting, while election officials monitored the process throughout the day. The by-election was

necessitated after six BJP councillors were suspended for alleged anti-party activities. As many as 7,406 voters were eligible to decide the political fate of candidates. Ward No. 1 witnessed a triangular contest between the BJP, the AAP, and an independent candidate. In Ward No. 4, the BJP and the AAP were locked in a direct fight for two seats, while Ward No. 5 saw a straight contest between the BJP and the Congress for three seats.

On Monday, the Gujarat High Court set aside an interim order by a single judge that had stayed polling on two of the six seats, clearing the way for Tuesday's voting.

The underlying challenge to the disqualification of six councillors, however, remains pending before the High Court, with the matter scheduled for final hearing on August 10. The political

dispute began in October last year when a no-confidence motion was moved against the BJP-ruled municipality president Dharmendra Kalal within seven months of his election. The High Court had earlier



ruled that the motion violated the Gujarat Municipalities Act, quashed the subsequent election of another president, which restored Kalal to office

in December 2025. The disqualification of six councillors by the competent authority on May 18, 2026, subsequently triggered the present by-elections.

Meanwhile, polling was also conducted for the vacant Chikhlod seat of the newly formed Phagvel Taluka Panchayat.

The by-election assumed significance as villagers had boycotted the general election in protest against the state government's decision to carve Chikhlod out of Kapadvanj taluka and merge it into the newly created Phagvel taluka. Voting was held from 7 am to 6 pm at three polling stations—two in Chikhlod and one in Kapdivav, for 2,385 eligible voters. Following the withdrawal of an independent candidate, the contest narrowed to a direct fight between the BJP's Hiral Rathod and the Congress's Sonal Parmar.

'Post-flood, no more asphalt': Gujarat CM pushes for cement-concrete roads in cities

Gandhinagar.(Agency)

Henceforth, all internal roads within the limits of municipalities and municipal corporations in the state will be made from cement-concrete (CC) instead of asphalt, the Gujarat cabinet has decided.

The decision was taken in a meeting chaired by Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel on Tuesday and made public by senior minister and government spokesperson Jitu Vaghani.

According to Vaghani, citizens face several difficulties as heavy rains damage asphalt roads. "This decision was taken as a permanent remedy for that," Vaghani said. "The cost of CC roads is higher than that of asphalt roads... CC roads are stronger and more durable. They are also convenient for heavy traffic, and their maintenance cost is also less," the minister said.

He also said that a similar decision was taken for village roads with heavy traffic movement and where waterlogging was frequent in the monsoon. "These roads will also be converted into CC roads, gradually."

"The Chief Minister has taken this people-centric decision without worrying about the additional expenditure, and to ensure that citizens get durable and high-quality infrastructure that will serve them for years," the government stated in an official statement.

In another decision, for the flood-affected parts of Ahmedabad, the government has decided to provide financial assistance similar to the one announced for Surat recently.

CBSE extends affiliation application deadline for 2027-28 session to September 30

Panchkula.(Agency)

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has extended the last date for schools to submit online applications for affiliation for the 2027-28 academic session through the SARAS 7.0 portal. Schools can now apply till September 30, 2026.

CBSE said the decision was taken after considering requests from schools and in continuation of its earlier circular issued in February this year.

The Board has also given relief to schools that could not complete their work because the SARAS 7.0 portal remained non-functional for some time.

Such schools will get an additional 30 days from the date of the notification to submit pending compliance after affiliation is granted. Schools that need to remove deficiencies at the Part-A stage will get 15 extra days to complete the process.

CBSE said the timelines for inspection-related activities, including obtaining consent from inspection committee members, fixing inspection dates, conducting inspections and submitting inspection reports, have also been extended accordingly.

NEWS BOX

Ryan ten Doeschate joins KKR in new role a day after leaving India's coaching staff

Kolkata. (Agency)

Ryan ten Doeschate did not stay away from coaching for long. Barely 24 hours after stepping down as India's assistant coach, the former Netherlands all-rounder has returned to familiar territory, rejoining the Knight Riders family in a newly created global leadership role.

Knight Riders Sports announced on Wednesday, July 29, that Ten Doeschate has been appointed as its Head of Cricket Strategy, a position that will see him oversee cricket operations across the franchise's growing global network while also returning to on-field coaching duties with three overseas teams. The appointment comes a day after India Today reported that Ten Doeschate had resigned as India's assistant coach, despite the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) offering him an extension until 2027. "We are delighted to welcome Tendo back to the Knight Riders family. His deep understanding of our



philosophy, combined with his experience across franchise and international cricket, makes him ideally suited for this role. He will help shape the next phase of growth across the Knight Riders ecosystem," Knight Riders Sports CEO Venky Mysore said. Ten Doeschate, who spent two years with India's men's team under Gautam Gambhir, said the opportunity to work across multiple franchises and build long-term cricket structures was a key attraction. "I'm excited to be back with the Knight Riders in this role. This is a unique opportunity to work with the coaching & analytics teams across our global franchises to strengthen our scouting/player development systems, and to build a long-term cricket strategy."

How one simple instruction helped Gulveer Singh script CWG history for India

Glasgow. (Agency)

Long-distance runner Gulveer Singh revealed that a simple instruction from coach Scott Simmons helped him script history after becoming the first Indian man to win a medal in the 10,000m at the Commonwealth Games. Trusting the race plan to perfection, the national record holder clinched a historic silver medal in Glasgow on Tuesday. Gulveer clocked 27:49.8 to finish behind Australia's Ky Robinson (27:48.93) at Scotstoun Stadium, while David Mullarkey of the Isle of Man claimed bronze. Speaking to reporters after the race, Gulveer said the race had unfolded exactly the way his coach had planned it,



with one clear instruction dictating every move he made on the track.

CWG Day 5 Highlights

"My coach told me not to do anything special. He asked me to stay behind the leaders, follow the pace and then give everything in the final 400 metres. The coach said the medal would be decided by speed in the closing stages, so I had to stay with the group and then make my move at the end." The strategy demanded immense patience against a quality field featuring multiple African runners and 2023 World Championships silver medallist Daniel Ebenyo. Rather than responding to every surge, Gulveer stuck to Simmons' blueprint before producing a perfectly timed finishing kick in the closing stages.

"My only strategy was to win a medal for the country. At one point, things became a little difficult because the pace kept changing.

How a father's faith forged Harjinder Kaur into a CWG silver medallist

A father's Rs 350 and unwavering belief helped shape Harjinder Kaur's Commonwealth journey. Four years after winning bronze, the Indian weightlifter returned to Glasgow and fulfilled her promise by upgrading it to silver.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Every time Harjinder Kaur travelled from her hometown of Nabha to her college hostel in Sri Anandpur Sahib, her father would quietly hand her just enough money for the journey and a little extra for expenses. On Tuesday in Glasgow, those modest sacrifices culminated in the 29-year-old standing on the Commonwealth Games podium with a

silver medal around her neck. India's weightlifting contingent continued its rich medal haul at the 2026 Commonwealth Games as Harjinder won silver in the women's 69kg category, upgrading the bronze she claimed in Birmingham four years ago. Speaking to The Indian Express before the Birmingham Games, Harjinder had revealed the sacrifices her father made to keep her dream alive. August 11.

CWG Day 5 Highlights

"My father would give me Rs 350 for the return fare from Nabha to the college hostel in Sri Anandpur Sahib and another Rs 350 as pocket money. I felt ashamed to ask for more money." The remark summed up the financial struggles her family endured as Harjinder chased a career in weightlifting. Every trip to college, every training session and every competition rested on the belief that the sacrifices would one day be worthwhile.



"If I win a medal, I would say that the fodder I cut on a toka helped me build strong arms and it helped me when I took up weightlifting." That medal eventually arrived in Birmingham as bronze. Four years later in Glasgow, Harjinder returned with a bigger ambition — to change the colour of it.

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED IN

He has it in him: R Ashwin backs Saransh Jain for his India Test debut vs Sri Lanka

CHENNAI. (Agency)

Saransh Jain's maiden India Test call-up may have been years in the making, but one of the country's greatest off-spinners believes the Madhya Pradesh all-rounder has earned every bit of it. Former India spinner Ravichandran Ashwin, who has closely followed Jain's rise in domestic cricket, said he hopes the 33-year-old gets the opportunity to prove himself at the highest level.

India named Jain in their 15-member squad for the two-Test series against Sri Lanka on Tuesday, rewarding a decade of consistent domestic performances. Speaking on his YouTube show Ash Ki Baat, Ashwin said Jain possesses the qualities needed to succeed in Test

cricket, even if competition for places could delay his debut. "I am very happy for him. I have seen him. I think very highly of him. He bowls wide off the



crease. He attacks. He is a different type of off-spinner. His job is to take wickets. He has done a very commendable job." Ashwin also acknowledged that breaking into India's playing XI would not be straightforward, with Ravindra

Jadeja, Kuldeep Yadav and Manav Suthar expected to be among the spin options. However, he backed Jain to grab his chance whenever it comes. "I hope he gets a chance. Manav will play. Jadeja and Kuldeep will play, so he might have to sit out too. But I really hope because he has it in him to perform." Jain's selection comes at a crucial time, with Washington Sundar included in the squad subject to fitness clearance as he recovers from a hamstring injury. The selectors opted for the experienced off-spinning all-rounder after he impressed on the recent India A tour of Sri Lanka, claiming six wickets across two matches and scoring an unbeaten 70 in conditions similar to those expected in the Test series.

2026 CWG: Harjinder's record lifts, Gulveer's historic run add silver sheen to India's campaign

Harjinder, standing just 5ft 3in, produced the performance of her career to claim silver in the women's 69kg category.

GLASGOW. (Agency)

Weightlifter Harjinder Kaur and long-distance star Gulveer Singh emerged as India's standout performers, pushing themselves to the limit to clinch hard-fought silver medals, while three Indian boxers punched their way into the semifinals to guarantee the country more podium finishes at the Commonwealth Games here on Tuesday. Harjinder, standing just 5ft 3in, produced the performance of her

career to claim silver in the women's 69kg category. The 29-year-old rewrote the Commonwealth Games record twice



each in both the snatch and clean and jerk, upgrading the bronze she had won in the 71kg category at Birmingham four years ago and delivering India's seventh weightlifting medal of the Games.

India are currently placed ninth in the medal standings with two gold, seven

silver and three bronze medals, taking their overall tally to 12.

Australia continued to dominate the table, sitting comfortably at the top with 33 gold, 17 silver and 27 bronze medals for a commanding total of 77 medals.

The diminutive Harjinder lifted like a champion, but even her extraordinary effort was eclipsed by Canada's Charlotte Simoneau, who produced a breathtaking display to dominate the competition. Harjinder first broke the Games record in the snatch with a 99kg lift before improving it to 101kg with a confident final attempt.

She then continued her record-breaking spree in the clean and jerk, successfully lifting 123kg before raising the bar to 126kg for a total of 227kg.

GLASGOW

Harjinder delivered the finest performance of her Commonwealth career, lifting personal-best weights of 101kg in the snatch and 126kg in the clean and jerk for a total of 227kg. She twice rewrote the Games record in the snatch before setting new marks in the clean and jerk, only for Canada's Charlotte Simoneau to eclipse every record on her way to gold with a total of 240kg. Australia's Nya Phebe Hayman finished third on 218kg as Harjinder secured India's seventh weightlifting medal of the Games. Speaking to reporters after the medal ceremony, Harjinder said upgrading her medal had been the goal ever since Birmingham. "I am very happy to have won the silver medal. At the last Commonwealth Games in Birmingham, I won a bronze medal, and this time I came with the aim of changing the colour of my medal.

Manu Bhaker reflects on mixed feelings after World Cup bronze: Could have done better

New Delhi. (Agency)

For most athletes, a World Cup medal is a reason to celebrate. For Manu Bhaker, it was another reminder that her standards are far higher than a place on the podium. The double Olympic medallist admitted she had "mixed feelings" after claiming bronze in the women's 25m pistol event at the ISSF World Cup in Hangzhou, where compatriot Esha Singh struck gold to complete a memorable one-two finish for India. Rather than basking in another international medal, the 24-year-old chose honesty.

"Another bronze. I have mixed feelings about this one. I am happy that I was able to improve my performance, but at the same time, I know I could have done better,"



Bhaker wrote on X after the competition. "What makes me happy is seeing that the hard work is showing. There's still plenty of room for improvement, and that's what keeps me motivated. One step at a time." Those words perfectly capture the mindset that has defined Bhaker's career. Ever since becoming the first Indian to win two medals at a single edition of the Olympic Games in Paris, expectations have followed her everywhere. Yet, the shooter from Haryana continues to measure herself not by medals alone, but by how close she comes to executing the perfect match. MANU'S EYES FIRMLY FIXED ON BIGGER TARGETS

The Hangzhou bronze also extended an unusual run for Bhaker in 2026. Despite remaining among India's most consistent pistol shooters, she is still searching for her first individual gold medal of the season.

The 'Clicky Ponting' scandal that has left the cricket world stunned

A bizarre finger-clicking allegation has rocked the North Yorkshire and South Durham Cricket League. The man nicknamed "Clicky Ponting" now finds himself at the centre of cricket's strongest cheating investigation.

New Delhi. (Agency)

A bizarre cheating allegation in English club cricket has turned an amateur player into an unlikely viral sensation. Nicknamed "Clicky Ponting", the fielder is accused of clicking his fingers to trick umpires into believing batters had edged the ball. The controversy has struck a chord because matches in England's club

cricket leagues are played without technology such as DRS or Snickometer. Unlike the international game, where replays and audio technology help determine whether the ball has brushed the bat, umpires in these community-run competitions rely entirely on what they see and hear on the field. With no video reviews available, trust between players and officials remains central to the game, making the allegations particularly serious. The North Yorkshire and South Durham Cricket League launched an investigation after videos circulating online appeared to show Saltburn Cricket Club fielder Brian Devine, stationed at slip or silly point,



clicking his fingers as the ball passed the bat before the wicketkeeper completed the catch. The alleged tactic earned him the nickname "Clicky Ponting" — a play on Australian great Ricky Ponting, and quickly became one of cricket's most

talked-about stories. Speaking after the controversy erupted, the league confirmed it had begun a formal probe into the matter. "The League have received a formal complaint regarding alleged incidents in a Division Two game on Saturday 25th July 2026. A full investigation has been initiated and until such time as the formal processes are complete no further comment will be made." The player at the centre of the allegations has since been identified by the English media as veteran club cricketer Brian Devine. The company secretary and director of a livestock auction business declined to discuss the controversy when approached by the Daily Mail.

Wamiqa Gabbi

Debuts Bold Pixie Cut, Internet Crowns Her 'Bollywood Ki Zendaya'

Wait... is that Wamiqa Gabbi or Zendaya? That's the exact question fans have been asking ever since the Bollywood actress debuted her brand-new pixie haircut on social media. Wamiqa basically did what most of us keep saying we'll do after one bad hair day but never actually go through with. She chopped off all her

hair. And honestly? The internet

can't get enough of her bold new look. In her latest Instagram video, Wamiqa Gabbi is seen getting a dramatic new makeover as she gets her long locks chopped off. Later, we see her flaunting a bold tomboy-inspired pixie cut. The actress captioned her post, "Cheers to letting go."

The video begins with Wamiqa sitting in a salon, thinking about whether she should go ahead with the big chop. A few moments later, she finally says yes and is seen happily showing off her brand-new pixie haircut with a big smile on her face. Fans were quick to compare Wamiqa's new look to global fashion icon Zendaya, with one social media user even calling her the "Bollywood ki Zendaya." The comparison soon caught on, with many others agreeing that the actor was giving off major Zendaya vibes. Wamiqa's Pati Patni Aur Woh Do co-star Ayushmann Khurrana also reacted to the makeover as he commented, "Yeh sirf tu hee kar sakti thi Gabs."

Wamiqa Gabbi's latest theatrical movie release was the romantic comedy Pati Patni Aur Woh Do. She has a series of projects lined up.



Sunny Deol Shares Emotional Post For Mother Prakash Kaur Ahead Of Batwara 1947 Trailer



Sunny Deol has struck an emotional chord ahead of the trailer launch of his much-awaited period drama Batwara 1947. The actor shared a heartfelt post dedicated to his mother, Prakash Kaur, while announcing that the film's trailer will be unveiled on Tuesday. Calling his mother his greatest source of strength, Sunny also said the film is a tribute to mothers everywhere. The announcement quickly gained traction on social media, with fans showering love on the actor's emotional message.

Sunny Deol's Heartfelt Tribute To His Mother

Sharing a picture with his mother, Sunny Deol expressed how important she has been in his life. Alongside the photograph, he wrote, "Meri Maa hi mera Rab hain, Mera pyaar, mera hausla, meri taakat." He went on to dedicate Batwara 1947 to his mother as well as mothers across the world, writing, "Batwara 1947 main apni Maa aur duniya ki har Maa ko samarpit karta hoon." Ending the post on an exciting note, the actor simply added, "Trailer out tomorrow." The emotional announcement resonated with fans, many of whom praised the actor for the heartfelt tribute while expressing excitement for the film.

New Character Posters Offer A Glimpse Into The Film

Ahead of the trailer launch, the makers also unveiled a fresh set of character posters, introducing the film's principal cast. Sunny Deol appears visibly emotional in his new look, while Preity Zinta, dressed in a traditional salwar suit, sports an intense expression. Shabana Azmi's poster hints at mystery and grief, with the veteran actress peeking from behind a door.

Ali Fazal and Abhimanyu Singh also feature in striking period-inspired looks. Sunny's son, Karan Deol, who plays a significant role in the film, has also been introduced through the promotional campaign.

Shah Rukh Khan's Co-Star Sana Saeed Says 'I Carried So Much Shame' As She Opens Up About Battling Bulimia



Remember little Anjali from Kuch Kuch Hota Hai? Shah Rukh Khan's co-star Sana Saeed recently opened up about one of the most heartbreaking stories of her life regarding her health. The actress opened up about secretly battling bulimia for years, admitting she lived with shame, believed she was completely alone, and didn't even realise she had an eating disorder. Looking back, Sana says society's obsession with being skinny and constant comments about appearance made her relationship with food and her body deeply complicated.

Sana Saeed on her battle with Bulimia

Talking to Hindustan Times, Sana Saeed said, "I first came to Los Angeles to study acting and filmmaking in 2016. When I went home, I couldn't name it yet, but I knew I had to return. I was being called to it. I'd lived my whole life in India up to that point and I think my soul just wanted a new adventure. Leaving my friends and family was harder than I expected. I knew the move would affect my work and I'd made peace with that going in. Starting over somewhere nobody knows your history is humbling, but it also cleared space for me to decide who I actually wanted to be."

The actress added, "My husband had already been living here for a while by the time I made the move. Our production company, Beyond Magic Studios, is new and it's something we've built together and we're genuinely excited about it. We've come to believe, in our own ways, that going after what you want and taking risks, is the only way we want to live. I'm married to my best friend and now I get to work with him on the very thing I've loved my whole life. Things really do have a way of working out."

Sana further said, "What it looked like to me was a bad habit I'd developed, something I had to figure out alone. I carried so much shame around it, thinking I was the only one dealing with this. For six years I had no name for what I was going through. I was desperate to get better and find a healthy way to eat and eventually I came across a book on recovery that gave me the language for what I was actually dealing with. That's when the real healing began, and it took four years to recover completely."

Kangana Ranaut vs Saurav Das

BJP MP blasts CJP spokesperson over age, work, Gen Z protests

After Saurav Das said no one takes her seriously, actor-politician Kangana Ranaut hit back, calling the CJP spokesperson 'useless.'

Kangana Ranaut has hit back at Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) spokesperson Saurav Das after he criticised her remarks on Gen Z protesters and urged politicians to "uphold the dignity of their position." The exchange began after the actor-politician shared a series of Instagram Stories in which she called some young women participating in the CJP-led student protests "Generation Gutter", accused protesters of glorifying "drugs, drinks and endless body counts", and earlier described videos from the demonstrations as "puke-inducing."

Saurav Das's reply to Kangana Ranaut

Responding to Kangana Ranaut's recent remarks about the CJP protests, Saurav Das dismissed the BJP MP's criticism, claiming she wasn't taken seriously even within her own party. "Kangana Ranaut is not taken seriously by her own party. So why should we take her seriously? I don't think anyone in Gen Z, or in Gen Alpha, or any younger generation takes her seriously. Or listens to her."

Saurav then referred to an earlier video in which

Kangana had spoken about adjusting to life as a first-time MP, saying it contradicted her criticism of the younger generation.

He said, "She is a politician. There were some videos of her when she visited Himachal Pradesh. She said, 'I thought I would have to work a little. Here you have to work a lot as an MP.' So this shows her seriousness."

Saurav Das added that Kangana Ranaut's own remarks had undermined her criticism of Gen Z. "She is calling us an unserious generation. But she has exposed her seriousness. I won't say much on this."

Saurav also objected to the language Kangana had used in her Instagram posts, saying public representatives should exercise restraint. "The wording is not right. Politicians should take responsibility for the wording. Politicians should uphold the dignity of their position."

Defending the younger generation, he concluded by saying Gen Z had contributed significantly to strengthening democracy in the country. Saurav said, "Many times more than you, Gen Z has done for this country. Is doing. Gen Z has done the work of reawakening trust in this country's democracy. You haven't done it."



NEWS BOX

'Are We In 1930s?' Netanyahu Tears Into "Hate-Spewing" Zohran Mamdani

WASHINGTON.(Agency)

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Tuesday (local time) sharply criticised New York City's mayor, Zohran Mamdani, accusing him of promoting hatred against Jewish residents and dismissing suggestions that he could face arrest during a planned visit to the United Nations in September.Speaking to Fox News host Sean Hannity, Netanyahu confirmed that he intends to travel to New York for the annual UN General Assembly despite remarks made by the city's mayor Mamdani.When Hannity said, "You've got this, this lunatic mayor in New York thinking you may get arrested if you go to New York, which will never happen," Netanyahu responded, "First of all, I'm going to New York. I'd love to see you there when I go to the UN in September."

Netanyahu then launched into a broader criticism of the New York mayor. "But I'm definitely going there. I'm going to speak the truth in front of this, you know, this hate-spewing elected official who's pitting one group of New Yorkers against the others; he's turning them against New York Jews. I mean, what are we, in the 1930s? What is this, you know, so much hate, so many lies," Netanyahu said.His remarks come as Mamdani on Monday (local time) said that he was "not interested in getting into a back-and-forth" with Netanyahu after being asked about the Israeli leader's criticism of his past calls regarding the International Criminal Court (ICC), according to Fox News.Speaking during an unrelated press conference in Brooklyn, Mamdani was asked to respond to Netanyahu's comments on Fox News (on Sunday), in which the Israeli prime minister reportedly accused him of "fomenting hate" in the context of an Upper West Side attack being investigated as a suspected hate crime.

"Serious Challenge": Pakistan's Business Community Claims Silent Visa Ban By UAE

Karachi, Pakistan.(Agency)

Members of Pakistan's business community have claimed to be hit by a silent visa ban by the United Arab Emirates, with business leaders complaining about export losses and disruptions to international trade and activities.

According to reports in Pakistani media, the UAE government has reportedly frozen visa issuance for Pakistanis, including businessmen, investors and traders.Officially, UAE authorities maintain there is no visa ban and all categories continue to be processed."Yet there appears to be a noticeable gap between the official position and the experience reported by many Pakistani business travellers," Shahid Anwar, former secretary general of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry, told The Express Tribune newspaper.A top business leader said that even Pakistanis with long-standing commercial relationships and real estate owners in Dubai, Sharjah and Abu Dhabi have been unable to secure visas.

History Made As Qantas Plane Flies Nonstop For More Than 24 Hours In Record-Breaking Flight

world.(Agency)

Qantas has completed what is believed to be the longest commercial flight ever, with a specially modified Airbus A350 remaining airborne for more than 24 hours before landing in Toulouse, France. The record-setting journey is a major milestone for the airline's long-delayed Project Sunrise, which aims to operate nonstop flights from Australia's east coast to London and New York from 2027.The aircraft departed Melbourne at 5:27 pm local time on July 27 and landed at Airbus' headquarters in Toulouse at around 9:52 am local time on July 28 after flying for 24 hours and 23-24 minutes, according to Airbus and flight-tracking data. The plane covered 23,075 kilometres (14,338 miles), crossing the Pacific Ocean, the United States, Canada and the Atlantic before arriving in southern France.

The flight surpassed the previous commercial flight duration record of 22 hours and 42 minutes, set by a Boeing 777-200LR during a Hong Kong-London test flight in 2005.

The aircraft, registered F-WULR, briefly performed a go-around before landing, drawing the attention of more than 120,000 people tracking it live on Flightradar24. The flight-tracking platform said the journey became the second most-tracked flight in its history, with more than 3.6 million people following its progress. Only the flight carrying Queen Elizabeth II's coffin attracted more viewers.

Keiko Fujimori becomes Peru's President, marking another conservative win in South America

Keiko Fujimori, a four-time presidential candidate, took office as Peru's ninth president in a decade, promising stability, security and growth.

LIMA.(Agency)

Conservative leader Keiko Fujimori was sworn in as Peru's president on Tuesday after winning the June presidential runoff by a margin of fewer than 50,000 votes, a victory that confirmed a regional shift in South America toward the conservative wing.With the ceremony, Fujimori, a four-time presidential candidate and leader of Peru's largest political party, takes office as the country's ninth president in a decade.The 51-year-old is hoping to

stabilize Peru's turbulent politics, reduce crime and boost economic growth.Over the past decade, only three of Peru's presidents have been elected by popular vote. The rest have come into office after their predecessors resigned or were removed by congress amid protests or corruption scandals.

Fujimori's Popular Force party and its main ally, Popular Renovation, will hold half the Senate seats once the new legislature is installed, making it harder for opposing legislators to attempt to remove her as president.An incoming president with a political past and promises for the futureFujimori centered her campaign around promises to improve security in a nation where extortion rackets have become a significant problem. She has also promised to develop infrastructure by making it easier for government

agencies to form partnerships with private investors.She is the daughter of former President Alberto Fujimori, who led the country in the 1990s and



stabilized its economy while defeating terror groups, but was later imprisoned for human rights abuses committed under his rule by the Peruvian military as his government took an authoritarian turn. He was pardoned in December 2023 and died in September the following year.During her campaign, Keiko Fujimori pledged to

fight crime with an "iron fist," implementing some policies adopted by Salvadorean President Nayib Bukele, and also build a megaprison modeled after the notorious Cecot penitentiary in El Salvador.To guarantee judges their safety, she has said she will implement reforms to enable them to hide their identities as they oversee criminal trials.

She also said on Tuesday she would reorganize social services to fight malnutrition in rural communities and announced a 15% increase in the nation's minimum wage.Fujimori said that the nation's military will "temporarily" lead security operations in crime afflicted areas. And she also said she will focus on preparing the South American nation for the latest onset of El Niño, a weather pattern that warms ocean temperatures and often leads to flooding along Peru's coast.

Curfew extended indefinitely in parts of Nepal bordering India, PM Balendra Shah expresses grief over violence

The restrictions in the district were first imposed on Monday after communal violence erupted on Sunday in the Kaptangunj area.

KATHMANDU.(Agency)

Curfew has been extended indefinitely in parts of Nepal's India-bordering Sunsari district, as Prime Minister Balendra Shah expressed grief over the communal violence that left one person dead and several injured.The restrictions in the district were first imposed on Monday after communal violence erupted on Sunday in the Kaptangunj area.One person was killed and more than a dozen people, including security personnel, were injured when police opened fire to disperse clashing groups after a dispute during celebrations by two religious communities, police

said.Expressing grief over the violence, Prime Minister Balendra Shah in a social media post on Tuesday pledged justice for the



bereaved family, compensation for those affected and action to bring those responsible to justice.Shah paid tribute to the person killed and wished the injured a speedy recovery."The government stands

in deep solidarity with the affected families and reiterated its commitment to ensuring justice for them," he said."The death and injuries of citizens from gunfire by security personnel are matters of serious concern, and an investigation has been initiated," the prime minister said. He promised action against those found guilty.

The government is seriously reviewing the entire incident, and necessary decisions and corrective measures will be implemented, Shah said.He urged citizens to remain restrained, refrain from provocation, anger, and retaliation, and contribute to maintaining social harmony, mutual trust and tolerance.

Death toll rises to 13 as rescuers search for the missing after Japan earthquake



YAME.(Agency)

Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi said 13 people have been found dead after a powerful quake shook part of southwestern Japan and rescue work was continuing Wednesday morning for the

missing.A magnitude 7.1 earthquake struck the Kumamoto area on the southern main island of Kyushu late Tuesday afternoon. Takaichi said many other people were injured or still missing as rescue work continued overnight. Part of a shopping center collapsed,

apparently due to a gas leak, and a huge chimney at a paper factory collapsed.The quake collapsed the second floor of the Aeon Mall in Kashima Town, trapping people, according to the fire department in the prefectural capital of Kumamoto.

A chimney collapsed at the Nippon Paper Industries Co.'s Yatsushiro factory, trapping people under the debris, the Kumamoto emergency team said.The Fire and Disaster Management Agency said more than 260,000 people were advised to evacuate, most of them in Kumamoto prefecture, but also in the neighboring Nagasaki prefecture.

Senate takes first steps on Russian sanctions as Zelenskyy watches from Senate gallery

SEATTLE.(Agency)

The Senate took the first steps toward passage of a sweeping Russian sanctions bill on Tuesday with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in the Capitol, moving forward on the legislation to penalize countries that continue to buy Russian oil, gas and other exports after more than a year of negotiations.The bipartisan 86-12 procedural vote came hours after a funeral for Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, the bill's chief negotiator. Zelenskyy, who was in Washington to attend the service for Graham, met with senators beforehand and told them Ukraine is making gains in its war with Russia, but still needs more help from the U.S.Zelenskyy then went to the Senate gallery to watch the vote, waving in support at the senators down below.At the meeting, Zelenskyy told senators that the sanctions legislation "is important as a moral signal to a country that is weary and tired,



though holding its own and then some against Russia," Republican Sen. Todd Young of Indiana said as he left the meeting.In a post on X, Zelenskyy wrote, "We discussed many issues, first and foremost, anti-ballistic defense.""It was an honor to be present as the votes were counted," he said, adding, "This is the first step toward implementing Lindsey's plans, and certainly a step toward peace."Graham and Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., announced a deal with the White House on the sanctions legislation on July 10, a day before his sudden death, likely from an aortic tear. Graham had just returned from a trip to Ukraine, where he met with Zelenskyy.

US Senate confirms Jay Clayton as Trump's intelligence chief

UNITED STATES.(Agency)

The US Senate confirmed Jay Clayton as Donald Trump's top intelligence official Tuesday, putting a permanent chief in charge of the country's spy agencies as the president revives unsupported election fraud claims ahead of the midterms.Senators voted 51-47 to confirm Clayton's appointment, with all Democrats in the upper chamber voting against it."Jay is outstanding in every way, and will do a spectacular job as Director!" Trump said in a post on Truth Social shortly after the vote.

The former securities regulator and federal prosecutor succeeds Tulsi Gabbard, who resigned last month, and inherits an 18-agency intelligence community shaken by leadership turnover and staff cuts.His appointment comes as concern mounts that Trump is drawing national security agencies into his effort to relitigate the

2020 election and cast doubt on the integrity of the coming vote.

Earlier this month, Trump used a televised White House address to release declassified intelligence he claimed showed Chinese interference while again falsely asserting that the 2020 election was stolen.Clayton takes over from acting director of national intelligence Bill Pulte, a Trump loyalist with no relevant experience whose brief tenure alarmed lawmakers in both parties.Pulte has used his other role as federal housing regulator to refer several of Trump's political opponents for possible prosecution and oversaw sweeping cuts at the Office of the Director of National Intelligence.

Hours before Clayton's confirmation vote, Pulte boasted that a fifth round of dismissals would bring staffing reductions at the intelligence coordinating body to about 30 percent within weeks.- 'Serious reservations' -



Democrats had initially welcomed Clayton as a more conventional alternative to Pulte, but turned sharply against him during his confirmation hearing.Repeatedly asked whether Democrat Joe Biden won the 2020 presidential election, Clayton would only say that Biden had been "certified" as the winner."I'm not an election denier," Clayton told senators, without directly answering the question.Senate Intelligence Committee vice chair Mark Warner said he "came away from his

confirmation hearing with serious reservations about whether he would be willing to stand up to political pressure."I sincerely hope he proves those concerns unfounded, because the Intelligence Community deserves steadier leadership than it has received in recent months," Warner said in a statement after the vote.Chuck Schumer, the party's leader in the upper chamber of Congress, previously called Clayton's hearing performance "abysmal."Republicans dfended Clayton's record as chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission during Trump's first term and, more recently, as US attorney for the Southern District of New York.Senate Majority Leader John Thune, a Republican, said Clayton's experience fighting financial crime and handling national security cases made him a proven leader at a time of heightened threats.