



Nearly 2,900 criminals detected in Jantar Mantar protest, govt says in Parliament

NEW DELHI. (Agency)

A document tabled in Parliament has claimed that facial recognition system (FRS) vans deployed during the CJP protest at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi identified 2,873 persons with criminal records through real-time facial recognition.

According to the document, 2,402 individuals were identified through the Crime-Kundli database, and another 471 were matched against Dossier records, taking the total number of identified persons to 2,873. The document categorises the identified individuals across a range of criminal offences. It states that 101 individuals were linked to murder cases, 62 to attempt to murder, and 284 to dacoity and robbery-related offences.

It has further claimed that 61 individuals were identified in connection with rape cases, while six were linked to offences under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. Another 25 persons were categorised under molestation of women cases.

Yes, Gen Z crossed the line at CJP protests. But it was a mind virus

New Delhi. (Agency)

It is a weird juxtaposition. Actor-MP Kangana Ranaut and philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche. But the situation, many believe, is weirder. Gen Zers, privileged and educated, using the choicest of expletives for the prime minister of the country. They crossed the



line, say many. But the reaction to that can't be a knee-jerk one — blame an entire generation and move on.

The use of sexist expletives by protesters at the Cockroach Janta Party's (CJP's) protest at Jantar Mantar in Delhi and Mumbai to attack the prime minister on camera will be difficult for anyone to try and defend.

The youngsters, for once, forgot that the prime minister is the head of the government elected democratically by millions across the country. Democracy gives you the right to criticise him, but decency expects you to refrain from abusing him. That too, in public.

PM chairs high-level security meet in Parliament; top ministers, Ajit Doval present

NEW DELHI. (Agency)

Prime Minister

Narendra Modi is

chairing a high-level

Cabinet Committee on

Security meeting to

assess the fallout of the

West Asia situation on

India's energy security

and review contingency

measures to safeguard

fuel supplies.

A high-level meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS), chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is underway in Parliament, with the country's top ministers and security officials in attendance. The meeting is reviewing the evolving situation in West Asia and its implications for India's energy security and fuel supplies, sources said.

Among those attending the meeting are Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Union ministers Piyush Goyal, Kiren Rijiju and JP Nadda. Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri and Ports,

Shipping and Waterways Minister Sarbananda Sonowal are also present.

National Security Adviser Ajit Doval is



attending the meeting, along with other senior government and security officials.

According to sources, the discussions are focused on the rapidly evolving situation in

West Asia and its potential impact on India's imports of crude oil, petroleum products, liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) and other critical energy supplies.

The security meeting is also reviewing the country's energy preparedness and contingency measures to ensure uninterrupted supplies in the event of any further escalation in the region. The presence of the country's top security, diplomatic, economic and energy leadership underscores the seriousness with which New Delhi is monitoring developments in West Asia, a region that accounts for a significant share of India's crude oil and liquefied natural gas (LNG) imports. An official statement on the outcome of the meeting, which took place amid the Monsoon Session of Parliament, is awaited.

Unchecked Loot of Natural Wealth

Unchecked Mining Mafia in Bhavnagar Leaves Administration Helpless! Will SP Nitesh Pandey Expose the 'Merchants of Death'?

MAHANAGAR METRO

NEW DELHI / AHMEDABAD — Bhavnagar. Bhavnagar district and its surrounding rural areas currently appear to be in the grip of the mining mafia. From the Shetrunji riverbed to remote rural border areas, unchecked thieves are looting natural resources day and night. Under the very nose of the Geology and Mining Department as well as local police, illegal excavation of Sabarmati sand and other minerals worth crores of rupees is taking place, yet the administration remains a helpless and silent spectator. These 'merchants of death' are not only stealing minerals but are also putting innocent lives at risk by driving overloaded dumpers recklessly.

Silence of the Mining Department or Collusion?

According to local residents, complaints regarding illegal mining have been submitted to higher authorities repeatedly. However, authorities satisfy themselves by conducting nominal raids or imposing minor fines to wrap up the matter.

Burning Question: Who is providing political or administrative backing to



these mining mafias running a black-money business worth crores? Can such a massive empire of black money operate without the collusion of certain officials in the Mining Department?

Hellish Conditions for Villagers
Overloaded dumpers carrying illegal minerals speed through narrow village roads. As a result, the roads have been completely ruined, leading to a series of accidents. Schoolchildren,

cattle rearers, and local commuters are forced to step out of their homes every day in constant fear.

High Hopes from SP Nitesh Pandey!

Known as a strict and fearless officer who strengthens law and order in Bhavnagar, the presence of IPS officer SP Nitesh Pandey has sent panic through the ranks of criminals. Now, the public's eyes are fixed on District Police Chief SP Nitesh Pandey. Will SP Nitesh Pandey dismantle this mining mafia syndicate?

Will the network of these 'merchants of death' be exposed and sent behind bars? Will the police vigilance team carry out a surgical strike on extortionists involved in mineral theft? The citizens of Bhavnagar now demand that the police department register cases against these mafias under strict laws like PASA (Prevention of Anti-Social Activities Act) and GUC-CTOC (Gujarat Control of Terrorism and Organized Crime Act), setting an example to stop the plunder of natural wealth and make common citizens feel safe.

No further extension to rebel camp: Mamata urges EC to end TMC control dispute

New Delhi. (Agency)

Former West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee has asked the Election Commission to conclude its inquiry into the dispute over the ownership of the Trinamool Congress name, election symbol and organisational control, saying the rival faction led by Leader of the Opposition Ritabrata Banerjee had failed to respond despite repeated extensions.



latest push from the Mamata Banerjee camp for an early ruling in the contest that will decide which faction is recognised as the "real" All India Trinamool Congress, and who will be entitled to its poll symbol, organisational identity, assets and funds.

The communication has come at a politically sensitive time, with the Election Commission examining rival claims over the recognised state party after an unprecedented split within the Trinamool Congress.

In a letter addressed to Election Commission secretary Ashwani Kumar Mohal on Wednesday, the TMC founder-chairperson said the rival group should not be given any further opportunity and urged the poll panel to bring the proceedings to a close "as early as possible" because the matter has "serious political ramifications in West Bengal". The letter is the

Unhappy over party role

OPS may quit DMK just 6 months after joining

Chennai. (Agency)

Sources said that Panneerselvam has not been given any role in the Theni Lok Sabha constituency, despite becoming the legislator from there, as DMK MP Thanga Tamil Selvan continues to dominate the constituency. This has led Panneerselvam and his son, O P Raveendranath, to contemplate quitting the DMK and joining TVK.

Weeks after former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and DMK legislator O Panneerselvam (OPS) dismissed reports of him leaving the party, sources within the OPS camp have said that both he and his son are unhappy over not being given any role, even six months after joining the DMK. Sources further said that Panneerselvam has not been given any role in the Theni Lok Sabha constituency, despite becoming the legislator from there, as DMK MP Thanga Tamil Selvan continues to dominate the constituency. This has led Panneerselvam and his son, OP Raveendranath, to contemplate quitting the DMK and joining Tamilaga Vetti Kazhagam (TVK). Earlier this month, Panneerselvam had rejected speculation that he was preparing to leave the DMK and join the ruling TVK, saying

the claims being circulated on social media were merely rumours spread by political mischief-makers.



He said political discourse in Tamil Nadu was increasingly being driven by talk of leaders changing parties, and described such speculation as a betrayal of the trust placed in them by the people. He also went on to call the reports baseless and politically motivated.

News box

Month-old stunt video lands man in police net

Gurgaon.(Agency)

A 24-year-old man was arrested after police took suo motu cognisance of a month-old viral video showing a sports car driving recklessly on Dwarka Expressway. The accused, Pranav Manchanda, a resident of The Palm Springs Golf Course in Sector 54, was allegedly seen rapidly accelerating the car, weaving across lanes and overtaking other vehicles at high speed, while another car recorded the stunt. After examining the video and identifying the vehicle, Rajendra Park police registered an FIR and launched an investigation. The accused was traced and arrested within a day.

Police have also seized the car, a Lamborghini, allegedly used by the accused.

Officials are also examining CCTV footage and other evidence to determine whether any additional offences were committed.

Police said that they have intensified surveillance of videos uploaded on social media depicting dangerous driving or traffic violations. "We are continuously monitoring viral videos and complaints received from the public. Anyone found putting the lives of commuters at risk by performing stunts or violating traffic rules will be identified, and strict legal action will be taken," police spokesperson Sandeep Turan said.

Police appealed to motorists not to treat public roads as racing tracks and warned that reckless driving for social media content can have fatal consequences for both drivers and commuters.

RWA moves NGT against SEIAA stand on Amaltash environmental clearance in Gurgaon

Noida.(Agency)

Haryana's decision not to revisit the environmental clearance (EC) granted to a project in Sector 28 has been challenged before National Green Tribunal (NGT). The tribunal has now given Amaltash Residential Welfare Association (ARWA) — which has challenged Haryana govt decision — four weeks to file objections to State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) compliance report. The matter will be heard next on Oct 16.

Despite recommendations for a fresh traffic impact assessment, SEIAA had given the EC to Silverglades Infrastructure for its Amaltash Residential Project. The core issue is whether Amaltash Residential Project in the city complied with environmental conditions attached to its EC, particularly in relation to traffic access and environmental safeguards.

The tribunal recorded in its order: "The counsel for the applicant — ARWA — seeks four weeks' time to file objections to this compliance report. Prayer is allowed." It listed the matter for further hearing on Oct 16. The case relates to implementation of NGT's earlier orders on the project. During Tuesday's hearing, SEIAA told the tribunal that it had complied with the directions and filed an affidavit detailing the action taken. According to the affidavit, a three-member committee that inspected the project found that the traffic management plan relied on internal roads passing through neighbouring residential societies.

New Noida land acquisition begins in August, 40% area earmarked for industries

Noida.(Agency)

Noida Authority will begin land acquisition for its Dadri-Noida-Ghaziabad Investment Region project, also called New Noida, in Aug, with lekhpals set to conduct ground surveys across 37 villages identified for the first phase. Of these, 13 villages are in Gautam Buddh Nagar and 24 in Bulandshahr, including Jokhabad, Sanwali, Birondi Fauladpur, Birondi Tajpur, Kaithara, Kishanpur, Muradabad and Nawada. Officials deployed for field-level work will identify the land revenue records, co-ownership details, and inheritance claims. A subsequent physical survey will verify boundaries, existing land use, crops, structures, roads and other assets. Authority's officer on special duty (OSD) Kranti Shekhar said the land acquisition process will start in seven to 10 days. "The govt has deployed four revenue officers, and a fifth will also be appointed to expedite the process," he said. New Noida — a planned smart city and industrial hub spanning 209 square kilometres across 84 villages in Gautam Budh Nagar and Bulandshahr — was notified on Oct 18, 2024. Designed to ease pressure from rapid urbanisation in Noida, it will serve as a major economic corridor linked to the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor, itself part of the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor. The connectivity is expected to strengthen the region's logistics network and improve transport links between the NCR and the industrial belts of Haryana.

Pumping machinery not installed in time, MCG suspends junior engineer

Gurgaon.(Agency)

MCG has suspended a junior engineer for a delay in installing pumping machinery during heavy rainfall on Tuesday, which left several parts of the city waterlogged for hours.

Junior engineer Sumit Chahal, who was responsible for sectors 14 and 17C, has been placed under suspension with immediate effect after pump sets were not installed on time despite prior directions to station them at vulnerable locations before the rainfall. According to MCG, all officials had been instructed before the monsoon to ensure pump sets were deployed at identified waterlogging-prone locations and that rainwater was drained out without

delay. However, pump sets were not available in sectors 14 and 17C when heavy showers hit the city on Tuesday. Terming the lapse as serious negligence, MCG suspended the junior engineer under the Haryana Civil Services (Punishment and Appeal) Rules, 2016. "Our sector was submerged, and, in some areas, waterlogging continued till Wednesday morning. It was only after help from the councillor that a water tanker was arranged and stagnant water was pumped out. Moreover, the rainwater harvesting pits, which were constructed last year, are not functional. The pits have been built, but there is no proper arrangement for rainwater to flow into them. We have repeatedly raised this issue with



officials, but nothing happened," said Hitesh Bharadwaj, RWA president of Sector 17C. Meanwhile, the civic body levied a Rs 1.9 lakh penalty on Hazarilal Cooperative Labour and Construction Society Ltd, the agency contracted to provide pumping

machinery in Ward 25 during the monsoon season. MCG said despite repeated instructions, the agency failed to install the required machinery at identified locations.

The notice stated that the absence of pumping equipment during Tuesday's rainfall led to prolonged waterlogging, causing hardship for residents. The agency has been asked to submit its explanation within two days. MCG has warned that if the response is found unsatisfactory, it may terminate the work order, forfeit the agency's security deposit, blacklist the contractor and initiate other action as per the contract conditions. Municipal commissioner Pradeep Dahiya said negligence in monsoon management would not be tolerated.

Gurgaon to publish draft electoral roll on July 31; claims, objections open till Aug 30

Gurgaon.(Agency)

The draft voter list will be published on July 31. The publication of the draft electoral roll will mark the beginning of the claims and objections process. The final electoral roll is scheduled to be published on Oct 3. State election commission (SEC) has completed preparations for the next phase of the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. The door-to-door verification and collection of enumeration forms by booth-level officers (BLOs) — which formed the first phase of the revision exercise — was completed, according to SEC.

Eligible residents will be able to apply for inclusion, corrections or deletion of names between July 31 and Aug 30, SEC officials said after a training programme for electoral officers on Tuesday. Officials said notices related

to claims and objections will be issued between July 31 and Sept 28, wherever required. The training, hld at Mini Secretariat, was attended by assistant



electoral registration officers (AEROs) from the city, Sohna, Pataudi and Badshahpur assembly constituencies. Officials were briefed on handling claims and objections, issuing notices, verifying documents and updating the electoral roll. During the month-long window, residents can apply for

inclusion of their names as new voters, seek corrections in existing entries or request deletion of names in cases such as a voter shifting to another location. Applications can be submitted both online and offline. Electoral registration officers (EROs) and AEROs will examine applications digitally before passing orders. The training also focused on the verification of supporting documents required for different age groups. According to Election Commission guidelines, voters born between July 1, 1987, and Dec 1, 2004, will have to submit prescribed documents relating to themselves and their parents. Those born on or after Dec 2, 2004, will need to furnish documents pertaining to themselves as well as both parents. Officials clarified that while Aadhaar can be used as proof of identity, it will not be accepted as proof of age or residence.

Construction waste plant faces heat over approval, tree-felling charges

Noida.(Agency)

A construction and demolition (C&D) waste processing plant planned at Babupur along the Dwarka Expressway has come under scrutiny after locals reported seeing several trees cut down at the site and questioned whether the facility had the required environmental clearances to take such actions. The proposed facility in Sector 108 is surrounded by the residential sectors 102, 106, 107, 108 and 109 and sizeable green cover. Many who live in these

sectors have expressed concern over a waste processing plant being built near a residential area and said it could affect their health. The concerns gained further weight after Haryana State Pollution Control Board regional officer Akanksha Tanwar told TOI that the board has not received any proposal for setting up a construction waste processing plant at Babupur. Under the Construction and Demolition Waste Management Rules, 2016, operators of such facilities are required to obtain authorisation from the state pollution

board before construction begins.

When contacted, MCG said construction for the project was yet to start. Documents accessed by TOI, however, show that MCG had already initiated preparatory work.

A letter of acceptance issued on Oct 10, 2025 awarded a Rs 90 lakh contract for the construction of a 6-metre-high boundary fence around the plant and a construction waste dump site for the project at Babupur. The contract prescribed a construction period of 150 days.

Ghaziabad to get 100 EV charging stations across 20 junctions by year-end

Gurgaon.(Agency)

Ghaziabad Municipal Corporation is set to install 100 electric vehicle (EV) charging stations across 20 locations in the city to encourage residents to invest EVs. Officials said EVs will help cut down the levels of pollution.

According to an analysis by Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA), Ghaziabad was the most polluted city last winter. Particulate matter such as PM2.5 and PM10, driven heavily by the transport sector, road and construction dust, and industrial emissions, is a major pollutant. The state govt has outlined a series of measures for controlling road dust. Ghaziabad, spread across 210 sq km with a population of 30 lakh, has 386 industries and a road network of 2,774 km. The city recorded an average AQI of 227 in 2021, which improved to 176 in 2025, and has set a target of 163 for 2026. PM2.5 levels are targeted to fall from 85 in 2025 to 77 next year, while PM10 levels are



expected to reduce from 175 to 158.

"Keeping all of it in mind, we are in the process of creating 100 EV charging stations across the city before winter," municipal commissioner Vikramaditya Malik said. Work is already underway at 13 junctions, including Rajendra Nagar, Bus Adda, Rajnagar Extension, Crossings

Republik and Sai Upvan. The other locations are Hindon Crematorium, Akbarpur-Behrampur, Diamond flyover, Patel Nagar, GT Road, Govindpuram, Swarnjyantiapuram, Taj Highway, Vivekanand rail overbridge, Ret Mandi and Rajnagar. Locations for at least seven junctions are being identified. According to RRO

records, in Ghaziabad, over 70,000 e-vehicles are registered. This includes 39,415 e-rickshaws, 1,525 e-carts, 17,856 e-bikes, 7,143 electric three-wheelers, 4,578 electric four-wheelers and 59 electric buses. "I was told he had met with an accident. Only after reaching the hospital did we learn he had been killed.

Heavy security in place as voting begins for Bankipur assembly by-election

Patna. (Agency)

Polling for the Bankipur Assembly by-election began at 7 a.m. on Thursday amid tight security arrangements. Even before polling commenced, voters, especially morning walkers, were seen outside several polling booths.

District Election Officer-cum-District Magistrate Kundan Kumar and Senior Superintendent of Police Kartikeya K. Sharma said extensive security measures have been put in place to ensure free, fair, and peaceful polling. Fourteen companies of Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) have been deployed across the constituency.

In addition, the administration has deployed nine Flying Squads, 18 Static Surveillance Teams, six Video Surveillance Teams, three Video Viewing Teams, and 42 Sector Magistrates. A district-level control room has also been established to monitor polling and coordinate election-related activities throughout the day.

The District Magistrate said 16 Zonal Magistrates and eight Super Zonal Magistrates have also been deployed for the by-election.

Over 1.20 lakh TB patients benefit from Odisha's community support initiative

Bhubaneswar. (Agency)

More than 1.20 lakh tuberculosis patients in Odisha have received nutritional and social support through over 21,000 registered Ni-kshay Mitras, making the state one of the leading performers in implementing the Pradhan Mantri TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyan (PMTBMA), officials said on Wednesday.

The state's extensive community participation under the Ni-kshay Mitra Initiative has helped build one of the strongest support networks under the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP), reinforcing Odisha's commitment to achieving the goal of a TB-free state while contributing to the national mission of a TB-Mukt Bharat.

Officials said the registered Ni-kshay Mitras have provided sustained nutritional assistance and social support to TB patients throughout their treatment.

As part of the initiative, more than 3.90 lakh nutritional food baskets have been distributed across the state, helping improve patients' nutritional status and treatment adherence.

The programme also recorded dedicated youth participation, with over 15,000 volunteers from My Bharat, the National Cadet Corps (NCC) and the National Service Scheme (NSS) joining awareness campaigns, supporting TB patients, reducing stigma and strengthening community outreach.

Bombay HC directs BMC to initiate criminal action against those dumping garbage in public places

Mumbai. (Agency)

The Bombay High Court has directed the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) to initiate criminal action against citizens who repeatedly dump garbage in public places. The court observed that the irresponsible behaviour of citizens not only puts additional pressure on the civic administration but also causes serious damage to the environment. It stressed that strict enforcement of existing laws and stringent preventive measures are essential to address the problem effectively. A division bench comprising Justice Girish Kulkarni and Justice Aarti Sathe issued the directions while hearing petitions related to persistent foul odour and gas emissions from the Kanjurmarg dumping ground.

The bench remarked that the problem has, to a significant extent, been created by citizens themselves, who have been negligent in following basic civic responsibilities. The court made it clear that there is no alternative to strict action against those repeatedly violating civic norms. Unless firm measures are taken, the municipal administration will continue to face similar problems, the bench observed.

Man who sent hoax bomb threat aspired to become an influencer, say police

Surat. (Agency)

Days after the Surat district court received a hoax bomb threat, police arrested a diamond factory worker who allegedly used his friend's phone to send the email on July 13.

Identified as Raman Rambabu Mishra (36), the suspect, who lives on Ved Road in Surat, is a native of Bihar's Darbhanga district. He has been living in Surat for a decade and is employed as a diamond polisher/cutter. Police said he aspired to become a social media influencer.

Police said that over the last three weeks, he had mostly stayed at home with his wife and kids and spent a lot of time on YouTube.

Mishra was arrested on Tuesday under BNS sections 351(3&4) (criminal intimidation), 353 (1) (B) (false



statements, rumors, or reports), and other relevant charges. A court sent him to four days of police custody on Wednesday. Deputy Commissioner of

Police (Cyber Crime) Bishakha Jain said, "The accused took his friend's phone to send the threat... He wanted to become a social media influencer. On checking his

Identified as Raman Rambabu Mishra (36), the suspect, who lives on Ved Road in Surat, is a native of Bihar's Darbhanga district. He has been living in Surat for a decade and is employed as a diamond polisher/cutter. Police said he aspired to become a social media influencer.

Dharamshala rockfall near bus stand: Major mishap averted

Dharamshala. (Agency)

A major tragedy was averted on Wednesday after a landslide and rockfall occurred on the hillside adjoining the Dharamshala Bus Stand, prompting the Kangra district administration to order an immediate assessment of the affected area. The incident took place at around 8:15 a.m. when large boulders began rolling down the hillside.

A tree was also uprooted and fell downhill during the rockfall. The continuous fall of rocks posed a threat to the nearby Kangra Art Museum building. Fortunately, no buses or other vehicles were parked inside the bus stand premises at the time of the

incident. Officials said the situation could have turned disastrous had passenger buses or a large number of commuters been present. Alert local residents immediately warned people in the vicinity and helped them move to safer locations, preventing any loss of life or injuries.

Residents attributed the rockfall to the incessant rainfall over the past several days, which they said had weakened the hillside, causing rocks and trees to collapse.

They urged the administration to conduct a detailed geological survey of the slope above the bus stand and the Kangra Art Museum and take measures to stabilise the hillside, remove vulnerable rocks and

implement long-term safety measures. Kangra Deputy Commissioner Hemraj Bairwa said the area had witnessed landslides in the past as well.

Keeping this in view, the Public Works Department (PWD) had already been directed to undertake slope restoration and stabilisation work, which was in progress. He said the latest landslide had created fresh risks to properties located on the upper side of the slope.

The Deputy Commissioner said PWD officials had been instructed to visit the site immediately, reassess the situation and submit a report on urgent safety measures that could be implemented without delay.

Paper leak law a historic step, democracy must not turn into mob rule: Shanta Kumar

Palampur. (Agency)

Former Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Shanta Kumar hailed Parliament's approval of a stringent anti-paper leak law, describing it as a historic measure that would effectively curb the menace of examination paper leaks.

In a statement issued here on Wednesday, Shanta Kumar said that after a prolonged struggle against paper leaks and corruption in the examination system, two significant developments had taken place. The first was the passage of a tough law by the Lok Sabha to prevent paper leaks.

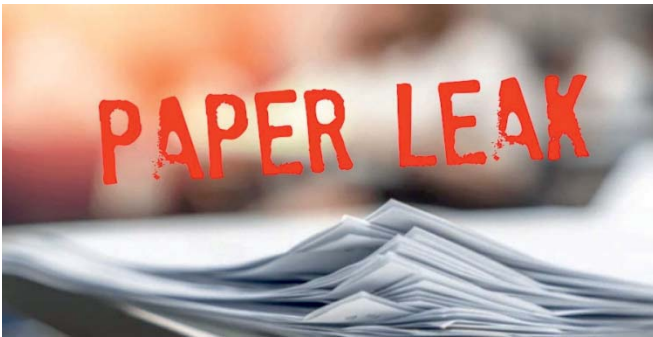
The BJP leader thanked all opposition parties for supporting the legislation,

saying the law would decisively deal with the serious crime of paper leaks and help restore the credibility of competitive

solutions to the issue. He expressed confidence that the committee's recommendations would help address the problem in a comprehensive manner.

Referring to the recent developments across the country, the former Chief Minister said that while watching the unfolding events on television, he often felt concerned and saddened. He warned that there was a growing fear that India's democracy should not be allowed to degenerate into "mob rule." He appealed to leaders of all political parties

to make every possible effort to safeguard democratic values and ensure that democracy remained strong and protected from the influence of mob rule.



examinations.

Shanta Kumar said the second important development was the constitution of a committee comprising six eminent national scholars to suggest long-term

8th Central Pay Commission to hold stakeholder interactions in Chandigarh from Sept 16-18

Panchkula. (Agency)

The Eighth Central Pay Commission (8th CPC) will hold stakeholder interactions in Chandigarh from September 16 to 18, 2026. Central Government employees, pensioners, associations, unions, and institutions from Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, and the union Territory of Chandigarh can share their views and suggestions on pay and service matters.



According to a notice, the Commission has asked interested stakeholders who wish to meet its members during the Chandigarh visit to submit an online request through the prescribed portal to schedule an appointment. The Commission said requests for appointments must be submitted by August 25, 2026, along with the Unique Memo ID generated after submitting the memorandum.

The venue and detailed schedule of interactions will be communicated separately to applicants. The Chandigarh outreach is part of the Commission's consultative process to gather direct feedback from regional stakeholders before finalising recommendations on pay, allowances, pensions, and other service conditions for Central Government employees and pensioners.

Rajasthan youth's death in 'accident': Why was UPSC aspirant found walking naked on road before his death, asks Gujarat HC, seeks report from govt

The state also informed the court that a narco test was conducted on the former MLA's son on December 11 last year, following permission received from the Rajkot court, with a set of 31 questions and the result of the narco test "was not in favour of the prosecution".

Vadodara. (Agency)

THE GUJARAT High Court (HC) has directed the state government to file a further investigation report into the circumstances under which a 23-year-old UPSC aspirant had been seen walking naked on a road shortly before his death, observing that the issue requires closer scrutiny before it proceeds with hearing his family's plea for a CBI investigation.

Hearing a petition filed by the man's father, Justice M R Mengdey of the Gujarat HC on Tuesday accepted the state's request to grant time to the investigating officer to submit an additional report specifically addressing the circumstances in which the man had been found roaming naked on a road on March 3, 2025. His dead body was recovered on March 9 on an overbridge on the Rajkot-Ahmedabad highway and an FIR

registered at the local police station on an accidental death.

Justice Mengdey orally asked the Public Prosecutor to explain if there was any animosity between the deceased and the accused, why the deceased and his father had visited the house of the suspects and what transpired during the visit as well as a detailed investigation into the circumstances that led to CCTV footage that showed the man naked on the streets.

In an oral order, the court said, "At the request of learned Public Prosecutor to enable the Investigating Officer to submit further report on the aspect of the circumstances under which the man got naked and was roaming on the road ..., (stand over) 25.08.2026."

The Gujarat HC is hearing a petition filed by the man's seeking to transfer

investigation in the FIR lodged on March 9, 2025 under Sections of Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita for 106(1) (causing death by negligence), 125 (endangering life or personal safety of others), 281 (rash



driving or riding on a public way) as well as the Motor Vehicle Act. As per the petition before the HC, the father of the deceased has "raised doubt that his son was murdered" as he was missing since

March 2. The petitioner had approached the police giving details of the incident on March 5.

The petition alleges that a former MLA and his son were involved in the matter and accuses the local police of protecting them. The family has sought transfer of the investigation to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). According to the petitioner, the UPSC aspirant went missing on March 2, 2025, after allegedly being assaulted at the residence of one of the accused. He had left home wearing a grey T-shirt and blue trousers. The family contends that CCTV footage later showed him walking naked on the Rajkot-Ahmedabad highway. Later, in another CCTV clip, he was seen wearing different clothes, while the clothes he had originally worn were never recovered.

No longer gullible enough to be taken in

At last, Modiji woke up and smelt the coffee. The Cockroach Janta Party, an idea that captured the imagination of the country's youth, found its voice at Jantar Mantar. This government has never lost an opportunity to discourage any form of protest, especially in the heart of Delhi. Why it allowed Abhijeet Dipke to do so is still a mystery. Perhaps it was done to divert public attention from other simmering issues, including the loot at the Ram Janambhoomi temple. Then came Sonam Wangchuk, who decided to go on a fast unto death demanding the resignation of Dharmendra Pradhan—a demand that was non-negotiable. The movement was not gathering much pace till the government realised that Wangchuk's continuing fast may have repercussions it may not be able to handle. So, on July 18, he was surreptitiously moved to Safdarjung Hospital without any notice, on the strength of a Delhi High Court order that, I suspect, was the result of a collusive exercise by the government appearing and submitting that every citizen's life is a matter of great concern to it. The battle that followed in court resulted in Wangchuk being allowed to go to Medanta Hospital in Gurugram to be treated by doctors of his choice.

Then on July 20, those at Jantar Mantar were subjected to a brutal lathi-charge. Three All India Students' Association activists, who were also fasting for 23 days, managed to prevent being moved out. The images of the lathi-charge, the use of tear-gas along with the Rapid Action Force's senseless pellet-gun shots fired at three individuals spread like wildfire. A couple of pellet shot victims may partially lose sight. Despite a counter-narrative in a section of the media, social media platforms allowed people throughout the country and around the world to see heartbreaking images from the site. The movement, non-political in nature, gathered pace on its own. People of all ages, especially eloquent young men and women, thronged the site. Fiery emotive speeches were made and the youth of the country celebrated the protest peacefully, not willing to back off unless Pradhan resigned. Rajnath Singh had once claimed that the NDA was unlike the UPA, which allowed its ministers to resign. This government felt they could manage the situation by somehow silencing the crowd through might or creating a situation where the protesters were seen as a security threat or branded as 'infiltrators' or 'anti-nationals'. The pelting of stones, some suggest, was perhaps at the instance of those who might have infiltrated to create a situation for the government to further crack down on the protesters. The movement was supported by ordinary, unknown citizens who provided food and the necessary wherewithal for the movement to survive. On July 25, Pradhan finally resigned. The government also agreed to the conditions for calling off the strike. It undertook that no FIRs would be filed against any of the protesters, and that the families of each of those children who died by suicide following the NEET paper leak would be compensated. However, by itself, Pradhan's resignation has no impact on the structural changes that are required in the education sector. Budgetary allocations for education, both at school as well as higher education levels, are grossly inadequate in the context of the need to ensure quality education for our children. The problem of inadequate number of qualified teachers will continue and conducting NEET exams for over 22 lakh students will continue to pose challenges. A national debate is urgently needed on whether NEET offers a fair and equal opportunity to students outside the CBSE system. Those from state boards remain at a clear disadvantage. There is also a need to re-look at the concept of a centrally-administered national examination for admission to a degree in medicine and other disciplines. We need a debate whether or not the admission process should be decentralised. Under the present system, universities are left with little autonomy; seats are allocated through centralised counselling based on a single merit list.

GenZ rekindles the idea of India

Popular mobilisation rises above identities of caste, religion, region and class

AFTER a 36-day sit-in at Jantar Mantar in the gruelling heat, the "young cockroaches" had their way. A regime known for its firmness and disregard for public criticism was left with no choice but to give in. The Union government accepted the protesters' demands, including the resignation of Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan. This was only the second time — the first being the withdrawal of the three farm laws — that the Modi government had given in to the demands of a social movement. However, even during the year-long farmers' agitation of 2020-21, none of the Union ministers was asked to quit. Democracies are supposed to be accountable to the people. Fixing accountability for mismanagement or corrupt practices is not new to India. There have been several cases in the past when after a major event such as a train accident, the minister concerned offered to resign or was asked to do so. TrendingVideos

However, over the past 12 years, the Union government has been working with a different template: a 'strong' leader pursuing the party's vision with unwavering determination. This has involved deviations from existing democratic conventions and even constitutional norms. Its strategy of political opinion-making has revolved around unapologetic exploitation of pre-existing fault lines, particularly of religion and caste. Though limited to their immediate concerns, the GenZ protests of the summer of 2026 can have far-reaching implications for the idea of the Indian Republic. Over a period of just five weeks, they seem to have brought back the idea of India as imagined by its foundational thinkers: Ambedkar's constitutionalism, Gandhi's Sarva Dharma Sambhav and Nehru's secularism. Social scientists often analyse popular mobilisation and political life in India by invoking identities of caste, religion, region, ethnicity or class. The GenZ protests managed to overcome nearly all these differences. Though identities were clearly visible, they seemed to be of



no substantive concern. Abhijeet Dipke, who initiated the movement, is a Dalit from Maharashtra, but it hardly seemed to matter to anyone, whether on online platforms or at the protest sites. The other prominent face, Sonam Wangchuk, also came from the social and political margins. It was his indefinite fast that helped draw the nation's attention to the

protest. The others who observed a fast along with Wangchuk were left-wing students from university campuses in Delhi. But they did not carry with them portraits of Marx or Mao. Perhaps the most striking aspect of the social composition of the protesters was the active participation of young women. They mostly came on their own; some stayed at the protest site. Many were injured, some seriously, during the police lathicharge on July 20. The majority of them had never been part of any student organisation or participated in protests. For many of the girls, as also for some boys, it involved a struggle with their families.

A good proportion of those present at Jantar Mantar were visibly from urban middle-class families. In most cases, their parents had voted for the current regime. Some said they had come out without telling their parents, but showed little anxiety about the latter finding out that they were at the protest site.

Whether at the protest site or marching to Parliament, women were not merely present as tokens of their gender. They made their presence felt. The posters they carried were among the most provocative, targeting not only the regime but perhaps also making some men uncomfortable. Many young women came wearing shorts but did not feel insecure. They did not

encounter the kind of violence young women experience in crowded areas. It was a site and a space of freedom. Being out in the sultry weather or not having a proper place to sleep is tough, and even tougher for those who have never done this before — but it is also a source of great joy. Even more importantly, it can be a great learning experience, a moment of political socialisation. Social movements are not merely moments of being; they are also moments of becoming.

Beyond the individuals, this brief coming together of the young from diverse social backgrounds also offers a template for a different kind of national politics, perhaps one that is much closer to the vision of Ambedkar, Gandhi and Nehru.

Ambedkar's influence seemed to be more prominent because he has come to symbolise constitutional democracy. Equally important was the loud opposition to communal politics, which used "Hindu-Muslim" differences as a political slogan.

However, this was only a "moment", not a social revolution. The minister's resignation is unlikely to make any difference to the crumbling system of education in India. The way forward lies in making the system transparent and accountable through democratic negotiations with stakeholders, institutions and individuals. To make it happen, the system needs to move towards decentralisation. TrendingVideos

Another "stringent" law is likely to further centralise authority. However, we should not underestimate or undermine the value of the political opening that GenZ has managed to secure. This has the capacity to open many doors.

Health schemes failing to reach vulnerable women

Maternal nutrition, antenatal care, menstrual hygiene, livelihood support and access to healthcare cannot continue to function in silos. They require a mission-mode approach backed by real-time monitoring, doorstep delivery and accountability

Two recent surveys have concurred on the same alarming fact—the extremely poor maternal and menstrual health of women from particularly vulnerable tribal groups in Odisha. A comprehensive, 591-page report by Utkal University revealed that more than half the women from these groups are anaemic. It's not surprising given that anaemia can be attributed to poor maternal healthcare during frequent pregnancies. On an average, a woman from these communities gives birth to three children, with the difference between the first and last child at about 6 years. On top, one in every four pregnant women does not receive the micro-nutrients she requires. The research found chronic malnutrition and stunting among the surveyed communities, with the average body mass index for men at 19.8 and women at 18.9. On menstrual health, it was found that more than four-fifths of the women used repurposed cloth. Another such exercise by



Sambalpur University arrived at similar outcomes.

Taken together, the findings expose the failure of successive governments in translating a multitude of welfare schemes into tangible improvements in the health of particularly vulnerable tribal group members. The surveys also found about half the population of 10

such groups, out of the state's 13, outside the workforce. Just about an eighth of them owned pucca houses. Ration cards assigned to below-poverty-line households were found among most.

Odisha houses the largest cohort among the 75 particularly vulnerable tribal groups identified across the country. It would be an understatement to demand a policy reset for these groups. The PM's Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan promises a saturation of basic services for these communities, while the state has its own tribal welfare programmes. Yet the surveys underline the failure of both in delivering outcomes.

Maternal nutrition, antenatal care, menstrual hygiene, livelihood support and access to healthcare cannot continue to function in silos. They require a mission-mode approach backed by real-time monitoring, doorstep delivery and accountability.

Modern dogma in ancient myth

Reinvention keeps literature alive, but there is a difference between retelling and replacement. Christopher Nolan's Odyssey is less a tribute to Homer than its woke critique.

History is often altered not just by erasure but also by revision. Imagine that nearly three millennia from now—a distance that separates us from Homer—a filmmaker produces a holographic epic in which, say, Indra Gandhi is portrayed with Chinese features. Would we applaud artistic freedom, or object that a historical person has been rewritten into someone she never was? Recently, Netflix docu-series Queen Cleopatra depicted her as dark-skinned, prompting objections from Egyptian scholars and officials. Critics argued that the portrayal conflated modern identity politics with inconclusive evidence: Cleopatra VII belonged to the Ptolemaic dynasty, generally considered to be of Macedonian Greek descent, and surviving portraits and coinage suggest Hellenistic features. Opponents said the series blurred the line between historical probability and creative invention. Supporters countered that ancient Egypt was cosmopolitan and that ethnic appearance cannot be determined definitively from limited material evidence. The dispute showed how reimagining a historical figure can inflame questions about evidence, intent and who gets to tell the past. Well, who gets to tell it? Mostly whites. And that is precisely why the argument cannot be reduced to casting alone: representation matters, but so does the right to distinguish between evidence and projection. In Christopher Nolan's Odyssey, Helen is black. Many in Greece have objected. One could argue that Helen is not a historical character. But myths are a part of our consciousness. And so their depiction must be plausible. If not, why not depict Odysseus as an Arab Bedouin? If a retelling keeps the names—Penelope, Calypso, Circe, Troy—and the Bronze-Age Greek setting while rewiring

the poem's moral imagination to suit contemporary assumptions, why retain the ancient setting at all? At some point, the work stops being a retelling of Homer and becomes a political argument wearing Homeric costumes. When does artistic licence become historical revision? Every generation rewrites the classics, but a retelling succeeds only when it grows naturally from the original. When modern assumptions are grafted onto an ancient text while retaining its prestige and trappings, the result risks being less a conversation with Homer than a platform for a spectacle that soothes Western colonial guilt—what is often labelled political correctness.

Nolan's protracted act of self-expiation has made him millions richer; in that sense, the exploitation continues at the expense of the less privileged. Nolan is the system even when he appears to oppose it. The language of correction, in other words, can become another form of domination when used to overwrite rather than interpret.

Reinvention keeps literature alive, but there is a difference between retelling and replacement. V S Khandekar's Yayati, for example, begins with a fragment from the Mahabharata and expands what the original merely suggests—probing desire in old age, choice and consequence. James Joyce in Ulysses never pretended Leopold Bloom was literally Odysseus (in his Latin name); he transplanted the epic's themes—identity, survival and homecoming—into modern Dublin. Bloom's alcoholic binges and scurrilous adventures are the essence of his human condition; his rise can be effected only through his fall. Joyce's achievement

lies in the openness of the transplant: he relocates the epic without pretending otherwise. These works grow from the originals' spirit rather than grafting modern dogma onto ancient myths. If fidelity matters for geography, chronology and mythology, why should it not also matter



for character and moral vision? Conversely, if fidelity is unnecessary, why not relocate the story entirely? The honest alternative, then, is adaptation without agendas of an overt political nature. Consider Odysseus's character. If he were not cunning and morally ambiguous, his role in the Trojan war would be next to nil. In Homer's telling, his survival often comes at the cost of others; that 'toxicity' is

his character. At the same time, when Odysseus confronts Penelope's suitors, he relapses into violence with vengeance rather than relying on guile. Penelope, who earlier says, "It's a man's world and I am doing what I can," accepts this. How deep, then, was Nolan's

transformation of character? If the hero's intelligence, ruthlessness and irony all turn to regret, the myth loses its charm. Or Circe. Nolan recasts her as a contemporary ideological figure; Homer's Circe is more mythic and ambivalent. She turns men into swine not to prosecute masculinity (Nolan's Circe says that a man is a pig in disguise), but because enchantment is her nature. She is a compulsive and practising witch. When Odysseus resists her spell with Hermes's help, she restores his companions and becomes his guide—dangerous, compassionate, seductive and wise. But her complexity comes from myth, not manifesto. She is not a slogan in human form but a being of power, ambiguity and enchantment.

Nolan's Odyssey, four years in the making and costing roughly \$250 million, reads less as a tribute to Homer than as its woke critique. It is prescriptive. It is long on political intention and short on dramatic complexity. Syncopy, the company he co-owns, spent \$125 million—to build the woke illusion. The winner is Nolan, not Homer. And so, at the end of it all, Nolan—a privileged British white male—sails into the sunset in his private yacht, just like his Ulysses. A pleasure trip to the West, where the death of the East began and continues. Like his hero, Nolan gets to kill, mourn and to holiday. The white man wins again.

5 ways to get back to normal life after having a Baby

Having babies is surely one of the best experiences in the world, as they say, there's no greater feeling than motherhood.

However, with parenthood, come responsibilities, most of which cannot be shared. Mothers have to invest a great deal of time and energy with the newborn, while fathers feel to have been ignored by their wives. Here's how you can strike a balance and live life your way, even after babies.

Go out on coffee or dinner dates with your spouse

Make sure you do not give up on spending quality time with your spouse, as the newborn will take up a lot of your time. Making it a routine won't be possible since kids don't have a fixed routine either, but you can

always sneak out for a while, when he/she is asleep. You can always use your balcony as a perfect setting for long night chats over coffee, or a cozy candlelight dinner whenever you have reliable help to take care of your kid for a while.

Catch up on some gossip while shopping with your girlfriends

Nothing beats an afternoon of shopping followed by loads of juicy gossip over sumptuous lunch. It doesn't have to be dragged for hours, even three- four hours of outing with your friends will rejuvenate you. You must understand that although taking care of your baby is

important, it is equally important for you to stay fresh and excited about motherhood, than being tired and hassled.

Never think of giving up your career

After a maternity break, you wouldn't feel like joining back soon since your baby needs you a lot this time, you can try working from home. If your employer is considerate enough, you can opt for a work-from-home set up, if not take up some freelance assignments. Your career is your high-point, even if you are a woman; get out of home and look at new opportunities.

Make your baby nanny and

grandparent-friendly

This will prove to be of great help, since the kid won't be too dependent on you, which will ensure you have enough time for yourself. Moreover, he/she would also learn values from the grandparents. This will also help you when you start working full-time or have to go on social outings without your baby.

Indulge in quality 'me' time

Do anything you love, read, listen to music, yoga or simply 'do nothing'. Spend enough time, just for yourself, this will help you de-clutter and start afresh. Indulge in 'me' time more often, since a happy you will keep everyone around happy.

Kids with disability don't affect couple's Divorce Risk

Couples raising a child with developmental disabilities do not face a higher risk of divorce, especially if they have larger families, as compared to those couples raising typically developing kids, new research has found.

Parenting a child with a developmental disability involves challenges and rewards that are unique to each family and prior research has shown that parents of a child with a developmental disability tend to experience greater marital stress compared to peers raising typically developing children. As a result, there has been "a conception that, in general, parents of children with disabilities are more likely to experience divorce, and we wanted to test that assumption", said first author of the study Eun Ha Namkung from University of Wisconsin-Madison, in the US. The team used data from the Wisconsin Longitudinal Study that has been following more than 10,000 men and women who graduated

in Wisconsin high schools in 1957 and some of their siblings for more than 50 years. The researchers found that about 22 percent of parents with a child with developmental disability experienced divorce over the span of the study. They also found that among couples with children without any disabilities, the risk of divorce was lowest for couples with one child and increased with each successive child. In contrast, the risk of divorce for parents of children with developmental disabilities remained unchanged with increasing family size. "Our results clearly show that the effects of having additional children are different for families of individuals with developmental disabilities compared to the effects on the general population," said Namkung. He suggested that "other children in the family may be a vital support system for parents coping with the care of a child with a developmental disability".



How to have a pet-friendly Diwali

While you might be planning on having a blast during Diwali, it's your pet who will suffer from all the noise pollution during the festival. No matter how happy-go-lucky your pet is, he or she will end up hiding somewhere in the house for fear of those noisy crackers. This Diwali, ensure that you take care of your pets so that they stay protected.

Stay Around them

One of the best means to make pets feel comfortable is to not leave them alone as the sudden noise caused by firecrackers can scare them or cause discomfort. Anchal Animesh Devjani, who has two Labradors, of two months old each, said, "My pets are still young, so I am going to take special care of them. In our colony other residents also have pets, so we are going to take special care not to burst crackers inside the colony premises and will avoid creating any unnecessary noise that would alarm our pets. Even the children in our society will be using only phuljhadi or a chakri." Supriya Pathak, another dog lover who owns three pets — one German Shepherd, one Labrador and one Pomeranian, said, "We have an underground room in our apartment specially constructed for the dogs. During a festival like Diwali, we take them to this room where we have a play area built for them. Either someone from my family or I always takes care of them." Rashmi Raja who owns a six-year-old pug, said, "A festive day like Diwali also means one has to be more attentive towards one's pet."



For my pet's sake There are some people who prefer a cracker-free Diwali. Pradeep Tiwari who owns a three and a half year old German Shepherd, said, "Ever since Sheru became part of our family, we have not burst crackers in order to ensure that he is comfortable. We keep the windows closed to create a protected environment and never leave him unattended." Meghna Kumar who owns a Pomeranian, said, "My Pom, Goli, is very disciplined. She feels comfortable with my mom and stays with her during the festive period. However we only buy a packet of phuljhadi and chakri so that our pet is not hassled by the noise. In fact Goli sits besides my mom while we burst the crackers. We ensure that she remains at a specific distance to avoid accidents."

Feed them and keep them in a protected room

Most festivals bring in lot of engagements that might lead to pets staying unattended at times. So it is essential to ensure that the pet does not starve while you are busy attending to guests. Dr Parag Pandya, a veterinary surgeon, said, "It's better to feed the pet ahead of the celebrations. Pets are not habituated to sudden loud noises and are taken by surprise on occasions like Diwali. Pets should be fed in a room where windows are closed so that they have no fear of loud noise. It is advisable to allow pets to get acquainted with the surroundings."

Corporate hacks you can try while dealing with Kids



Yes, parenting is a tough task, especially for those who also juggle a career. "However, sharp and smart individuals know that the scenario at work and at home are almost similar. The situations and the solutions are almost always interchangeable. The tactics that you apply at office can also work wonders with your children," says parental adviser and psychologist Rashmi Desai. Here are some simple corporate survival techniques you can try when dealing with your kids...

SETTING OBJECTIVES MAY LEAD TO NOWHERE

The only place where 'goals' look nice is probably on your resume. For, many parents vouch that setting objectives, both at home and office, is almost always pointless. Narendra Jain, a marketing manager and father of two, says, "I convince myself that I need to achieve a specific target within

two months, but I never manage to do that because my goals are influenced by external factors as well. In the end, I am left feeling dejected. Similarly, my wife and I vowed that we would potty train our twins by the time they are two. But we kept racing between our bedroom and the restroom till they turned four. Letting things take its own course is one of the parenting mantras we follow now."

BONUS, INCREMENT, BRIBES ARE GOOD MOTIVATORS

'Carrot and stick approach' works brilliantly well both with kids and at office. Rehana K, an HR professional, says, "Just like how bonus and increment push staff to perform better, promise of extended playtime and a picnic over the weekend motivates my daughter to study and behave well. Bribery is a punishable offence, but all is fair in love, war and parenting."

CITATION AND WORDS OF APPRECIATION ARE LIFESAVERS

Encourage your child by appreciating accomplishments; this boosts their self esteem. Rehana adds, "Your body language and tone matters a lot. If your son has tied the shoelace on his own, make sure you compliment him. Avoid making comments that belittle his efforts. An employee who is encouraged by way of citation and letter of appreciation is more likely to work harder than the one who has been reprimanded in front of his colleagues."

HEADS, I WIN, AND TAILS, YOU LOSE

It's okay to accede to your child's whims and fancies once in a while. But often, give them options such that they choose what you want.

Sri Dixit, communication head with a reputed MNC, says, "I learnt this trick from my boss, who casually told me I could either do the official tour I so hated with his team now or during the weekend when I had plans of celebrating my wedding anniversary. I now use this on my son, who is in Class IV, all the time. I give him a choice between doing his homework now or when his favourite cartoon is on. Either way, I accomplish what I intended to."

BE A ROLE MODEL

It's important for a boss to set a good example for their subordinates to follow. Similarly, kids learn by watching their parents. Rashmi says, "If you lose your cool at the drop of a hat, your child will do the same. Children follow on their parents' footsteps. Be tolerant, soft-spoken, kind and selfless if you want your kid to be the same."

BE OPEN TO CHANGES

Flexibility and willingness to adapt and adjust your parenting style will make your journey much easier. Rehana says, "The work environment at a new office will be different from the one at your old place. You need to be flexible to sail through smoothly. When my daughter was two, she would listen to everything I said, even though she wouldn't understand most of it. But now, she is eight and has formed her own opinions. So, instead of mollycoddling, I behave like an adult with her. We reason things out and choose what's best."

AT TIMES, IT'S OKAY TO CALL IT A DAY

Overworking and burning yourself out at your workplace will lead to no good. It's fine to just go home when you know things are going nowhere. Adapt the same policy with your kids as well. Rashmi adds, "It's perfectly fine to give in to your child's tantrums, but only sometimes. If they insist on staying up late on weekend, tell them it's fine as long as they don't create a ruckus and finish their school work the next day. If they don't want to eat their spinach, give them a healthy alternative. Parenting is all about little compromises."

BE CREATIVE

Narendra says, "My wife whips out these nice looking, interesting lunches every day so our twins gobble them up without making a fuss. She presents the dishes creatively, just like how we rack up our brains to present our ideas differently to our clients."

IT'S ALRIGHT TO FIB

While being transparent and honest are important for any relationship to survive, it's okay to lie sometimes. Gauri Manjrekar, a fashion consultant, says, "I fib to my six-year-old son so that he drinks his glass of milk comes with me for a medical checkup, goes to bed on time and doesn't OD on chocolates. I'm not being dishonest, I just say few harmless lies so we both can co-exist peacefully."

Kids cause greater strain in relationships than illness



Having kids, the main purpose of matrimonial relationships, can bring in greater strains in romantic relationships than illness of partners, a new study suggests. The study looked at the relationship quality of 721 couples in Switzerland over a period of thirteen years. "Transition to parenthood is associated with a higher degree of closure of the couple, as well as greater differentiation of functional roles," said researcher Manuela Schicka from the University of Geneva in Switzerland in an official statement.

Schicka, who conducted the research as part of her PhD thesis, explained that women often abandon or substantially reduce their participation in the labour market once they become a mother, because of lack of institutionalised child care facilities. This also generates a great deal of frustration. On the other hand, illness and accidents are seen as linked to bad luck and not personal responsibility.

There is therefore less grief and bitter thoughts between partners when the latter occur, Schicka stated. The study also found that transition to retirement succeeds in reuniting couples at an age that is generally not perceived as the most romantic one. The research demonstrated that while the various styles of conjugal interactions generally remain stable along the life course, some critical life events and transitions weigh much more on relationship quality than others, sometimes in unexpected ways.

5 ways to keep your kids safe online

With the proliferation of new technologies and social media apps, it seems these days as if our children are almost constantly online, and as parents/guardians, we sometimes have a tough time keeping pace.

How can we ensure that we are as good parenting online, as we are offline? Use these five tips to educate, empower and protect yourself, as well as your children, to have safer and more meaningful online experiences.

Use technology together This is a good way to teach online safety, and it creates the opportunity for you to address safety issues as they arise. Be involved in your child's online life. Discuss also the importance of unplugging from their mobile device, and establish phone-free times such as during class, at family dinners or after a certain time on school nights.

Use privacy settings/ parental control on devices There are many sites for sharing ideas, photos, videos and more. Many of these service providers offer privacy settings and controls that will determine who can see your content before you post it. Talk with your family about what they



should and should not share publicly. Teach your family to communicate responsibly: one good thumb rule is, if you would not say it in person, then do not text it, email it, instant message it, or post it as a comment on someone's page. Discuss how what you say online might make other people feel, and come up with guidelines about what is appropriate communication. Help them respect the privacy of others by keeping the personal details about family or friends private, and by not identifying people by name in publicly shared social media. This

should include personal information such as phone numbers or home addresses. Teach your family not to accept files or to open email attachments from strangers. Write down the rules and keep them near the computer.

Check age restrictions Many online services have age limits restricting who can use their services. For example, for an email account, you would have to meet age requirements; some email products are restricted to users who are 18 years and older. Always check a **website's terms of usage** before allowing your child/ward to sign up for an account, and be clear with them if you have rules on which websites and services they can use. Supervise computer use. If possible, the family computer should be kept in a common area of the house. You should also set reasonable limits on computer

usage. Show your children the value of privacy: encourage them to protect their passwords and personal information, as they would with something like a diary. Children under eight should have direct supervision while online. Tweens, those from eight to 12, should have more freedom, but parent/guardian should still be close by, with privacy settings at their highest level. Teens, due to smart phones, laptops and school computers will have more Internet access, which is why it is important to set the rules early and encourage ongoing conversations.

Keep the conversation going Staying safe is not a one-off event; technology evolves, and so will the needs of your family. Make sure you keep up an ongoing dialogue. Check in on everyone's progress, change the rules if necessary, and set aside time to chat at regular intervals, for example, at family dinners. Encourage their questions. Invite conversation.

Delhi CP Anurag Kumar sets priorities for force; stresses integrity, professionalism

Delhi Police Commissioner Anurag Kumar directs officers to ensure integrity, visible policing, transparent transfers and strict action against corruption and misconduct.

Delhi. (Agency)

Newly appointed Delhi Police Commissioner Anurag Kumar has asked his colleagues to maintain the highest standards of integrity, professionalism and ethical conduct irrespective of their ranks.

At an interaction with senior officers held on July 18, Kumar underlined a set of policing priorities for districts and units, stressing visible policing, timely complaint disposal, integrity in administration and better coordination among agencies. The meeting was

attended by special commissioners of police, joint commissioners of police, additional commissioners of police, and deputy commissioners of police.

“He (CP Kumar) told officers that the Delhi Police are counted among the finest police forces in the country, a standing that is tested every day under intense scrutiny and in an increasingly complex operating environment. But its reputation and image have to be restored through credible, visible and result-oriented policing on the ground,” a senior police officer, who attended the meeting, said. One of the key directions

issued at the meeting was to make basic policing the priority of every officer. On internal discipline, Kumar underlined a zero-tolerance approach towards corruption, unethical practices and undesirable conduct.

Kumar clearly conveyed that “strict action will be taken against erring officials” and that supervisory officers maintain continuous oversight over subordinate staff. “He (Kumar) asked to ensure transparency,



fairness and objectivity in transfers and postings, and administrative decisions. There will not be any instance, under

any circumstances, of transfers/postings against illegal gratification,” the officer added.

Officers were directed to monitor platforms for feedback, intelligence and ground-level sentiment, and to use official handles for public communication and grievance redressal. Kumar also cautioned that organisational goals should guide the use of social media and that it should not be used for “self-promotion”.

Class 5 student sexually assaulted in school van, driver and helper arrested

New Delhi. (Agency)

A 11-year-old girl, a Class 5 student of a public school in North Delhi, was allegedly sexually assaulted by her school van driver and his helper, police said on Wednesday.

The accused were arrested on Friday, said police. They have been booked under Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

According to the police, the incident came to light on



Friday, when the girl came to her class teacher and narrated her ordeal. “She told her teacher that the driver would drop her near her house after dropping all other students travelling in the van... After dropping everyone, he would allegedly sexually assault her along with his friend,” said a source in the police. “This kept on happening for months. Every time she would resist, the accused would threaten to make her videos viral,” the source added.

Police said the teacher informed the girl’s parents, who filed a police complaint against the accused. “The girl has been counselled and we are trying to find out whether the accused have been involved in similar incidents,” the source said.

Vector-borne disease cases in Delhi log lower than 2025

New Delhi. (Agency)

The city has reported 212 dengue cases, 62 malaria cases and 14 chikungunya cases so far this year, according to the latest Municipal Corporation of Delhi vector-borne disease report.

The report said six fresh dengue cases, four malaria cases and one chikungunya case were recorded during the last week.

Of the 212 dengue cases reported so far in 2026, 194 were recorded in areas under the MCD, while the remaining 18 were reported from the NDMC, Delhi Cantonment and Railways. The city has not reported any dengue-related death this year.

For malaria, the cumulative tally stood at 62, including 59 cases from MCD areas and three from other civic agencies. No malaria-related death has been reported so far this year, according to the report.

The report also showed that Delhi has recorded 14 chikungunya cases this year, with 13 reported from MCD areas and one from the railways. No deaths due to the disease have been reported.

Among MCD zones, west reported the highest number of malaria cases at 16, followed by south with 10 and the central with nine. For dengue, Najafgarh topped the list with 40 cases, followed by West with 36 and Central with 28. The figures are lower than the corresponding period last year, when Delhi had reported 277 dengue cases, 124 malaria cases and 18 chikungunya cases by the same week.

Hathnikund Barrage releases water over last two days, Yamuna sees staggered rise

New Delhi. (Agency)

Varying amounts of water released from the Hathnikund Barrage over the last two days have led to a staggered rise in the level of Yamuna river, with the Central Water Commission’s (CWC) monitoring stations recording different levels of water between the barrage and Delhi. The CWC has forecast a gradual rise in the river water in the Capital over the next two days.

According to CWC data, water released from Hathnikund Barrage rose from 2,149 cusecs at 6 am on Tuesday (July 28) to 23,235 cusecs by 4 pm, touching 24,576 cusecs at 6 pm before falling later in the night. Another spike to 24,478 cusecs was recorded at 2 am on

Wednesday, after which the discharge fell to 8,119 cusecs by 11 am. Bhim Singh Rawat, a member of the South Asia Network on Dams, Rivers and People (SANDRP) said the



fluctuations were due to the rainfall received in the upper Yamuna catchment, upstream of the Hathnikund Barrage, in the last few days. “The impact of these releases would be reflected in Delhi typically

after 48 hours,” he added. The rainfall comes against the backdrop of a largely subdued monsoon witnessed by much of Haryana. According to India Meteorological Department’s (IMD) data, Yamunanagar, where the barrage is located, has received 274.2 mm of rain against the usual 303.1 mm. Panchkula, Ambala and Karnal have also recorded deficit rainfall, while Chandigarh has received above-normal rainfall, showing uneven rainfall across the upper Yamuna basin.

Between Hathnikund and Delhi, the first cluster of CWC monitoring stations comprises Western Yamuna Canal, Fatehgarh, Panchkuan, Ghodopipli and Kala Naur. Of these, Panchkuan and Ghodopipli are flowing above their warning levels.

Amid CJP warning of protests again, Delhi Police welds barricades at Jantar Mantar

New Delhi. (Agency)

Following the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP)’s warning that it would resume its protest if all FIRs lodged against the protesters are not immediately withdrawn, the Delhi Police has beefed up security by deploying additional personnel and welding barricades at Jantar Mantar.

At Jantar Mantar, where the CJP had staged a 36-day protest demanding the resignation of Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, barricades have been installed and welded together with iron at both the sides. A company of the Rapid Action Force (RAF), along

with local police personnel, has also been deployed round the clock, officers said. When contacted, Delhi Police sources said the security



arrangements had been made in anticipation of a gathering at Jantar Mantar. On Tuesday, the CJP

threatened to resume its agitation, accusing the Centre of backtracking on its promise to not take legal action against protesters. CJP spokesperson

Ashutosh Ranka alleged a “complete breach” of the July 25 understanding with the Centre, claiming that hundreds of students had been arrested in BJP-ruled states. He demanded the immediate withdrawal of all FIRs, the release of detained protesters, an end to the registration of fresh criminal cases by the Delhi Police, central agencies and police in BJP-ruled states, and the immediate sharing of the signed agreement.

HPV vaccine: 120 adverse events after 56 lakh doses, Delhi HC declines to stay rollout

New Delhi. (Agency)

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday refused to stay the HPV vaccination drive currently underway across India after it was informed by the Centre that out of around 55.9 lakh doses administered so far since February, only 120 cases reported adverse events following immunisation (AEFI) as on July 25.

The court, which was hearing a PIL that flagged concerns over safety of administering Merck’s HPV vaccine Gardasil, noted that there was “no instant harm”. Out of the 120 AEFI cases, 42 were classified as “serious/severe”, but no deaths were reported, the Centre mentioned. Of the 42 AEFI cases, causality assessment has been completed in 20 cases, it said, adding that none of the AEFI cases required hospitalisation beyond a maximum of two days.

ASG Chetan Sharma, along with the Centre’s standing counsel Ashish Dixit, told a bench of Chief Justice D K Upadhyaya and Justice Tejas Karia that the overall reporting rate of AEFI cases — approximately 0.0022% of the total doses administered — “is much below the normal, even FDA-considered (benchmark) of AEFI”. “The data which has now been given to us, suggests that there is no instant harm. There may not be long-term benefits but there is no instant harm... as of today, I do not see any reason why this vaccination should be stopped,” the court remarked.

The submission was made by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in response to a public interest litigation by gynecologist and obstetrician Dr Sujata Mittal and health entrepreneur Jitendra Chouksey.

The PIL relied on past reports of adverse events with the vaccine, pointing out that an earlier attempt at rolling out the HPV vaccine in 2009, with clinical trials conducted in Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh, had led to several deaths in 2010 in a village in Andhra Pradesh’s Khammam. The government had in February rolled out the vaccination drive, offering a free single dose of quadrivalent HPV to eligible 14-year-old girls to prevent cervical cancer. Gardasil 9 vaccine provides protection against nine strains of HPV.

Digital to cash: The changing way in which people pay for Delhi Metro rides

New Delhi. (Agency)

Nearly three-fourth of the revenue of Delhi Metro — the country’s largest Metro network — now comes from cashless transactions. This marks a reversal in trends eight years ago when income in cash accounted for almost three-fourth of its revenue, according to the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation’s (DMRC) internal data. The Indian Express has learnt.

This year, so far, digital transactions have accounted for 73.56% of earnings against 26.44% in cash — largely representative of the trends in the two categories. In 2018, this split was almost the opposite with 77.93% cash transactions and 22.07% cashless earnings.

Preference of average commuter Notwithstanding the shift, Smart Cards

are preferred by around half of the Metro commuters, the data shows. Habit, faster entry and exit at gates, and fare discounts are understood to be some of the factors behind the preference, according to officials. As per the data, slightly more than 3% of passengers use the Virtual Smart Card, available on the Delhi Metro Sarthi App.

QR-based paper tickets, bought at counters, or ticket vending machines, account for about 18% of the transactions.

Digital QR tickets booked through mobile apps and messaging platforms (including the Delhi Metro Sarthi app, Paytm, PhonePe, WhatsApp and ONDC-linked platforms such as Rapido and Uber) make up around 9% of rides.

Bank-issued National Common

Mobility Cards (NCMC), including interoperable travel through NCMC

those issued via Airtel Payments Bank across Metro networks nationally.

under the “One Nation, One Card” “Over time, there has been a gradual shift towards contactless options like UPI, QR-code based tickets, and

upgraded NCMC (National Common Mobility Cards),” an official said.

Gradual shift

According to officials, a series of tie-ups with different companies has led to increased usage of cards.

DMRC first launched an online Smart Card recharge facility over a decade ago in 2014. UPI app Paytm followed with Smart Card recharge in March 2016,

and PhonePe in October 2018. In 2021, Amazon Pay launched a feature to recharge smart cards in 2021 and WhatsApp launched it in 2024.



trips. Officials have attributed the digitisation push to a need to cut queues at counters and token vending machines, reduce cash handling, and enable

Sensex, Nifty start flat after Fed pause as IT stocks cushion the market

New Delhi. (Agency)

Benchmark indices traded on a muted note on Thursday as investors weighed the US Federal Reserve's latest policy decision and its hawkish commentary, while gains in information technology stocks helped limit losses across the broader market. At 9:21 am, the BSE Sensex was up 15.96 points, or 0.02%, at 77,670.56, while the NSE Nifty50 gained 22.25 points, or 0.09%, to trade at 24,272.45 after briefly touching an intraday high of 24,273.45. Market breadth remained weak despite the benchmark indices holding firm. Eleven of the 16 major sectoral indices traded in the red, while broader markets underperformed. The Nifty Midcap 100 and Nifty Smallcap 100 declined around 0.3% each, while India VIX edged up 1.04%, indicating a cautious undertone. The biggest support for the market came from information technology stocks, which extended their rally for a fifth consecutive session. The Nifty IT index rose 1.87%, making it the best-performing sector in early trade. Infosys climbed 2.55%, Tech Mahindra gained 1.68%, HCLTech rose 1.37% and TCS advanced 1.28%, helping offset weakness in several heavyweight banking and consumption stocks. Among Sensex constituents, Infosys emerged as the top gainer, followed by Tech Mahindra, HCLTech, TCS, Sun Pharma and Mahindra & Mahindra. On the other hand, Asian Paints fell nearly 3%, Adani Ports declined 2.75%, Eternal slipped 1.67%, InterGlobe Aviation (IndiGo) lost 1.17% and Axis Bank dropped 0.86%.

Rupee rises 13 paise to 95.63 against US dollar in early trade

MUMBAI. (Agency)

The rupee strengthened by 13 paise to 95.63 against the US dollar in early trade on Thursday, supported by positive momentum in domestic equity markets and inflows of foreign capital. However, the Indian currency's gain was capped by a strong dollar index after the US Federal Reserve kept interest rates unchanged, forex traders said. At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 95.59 and lost some ground to 95.63 against the greenback, registering a gain of 13 paise from its previous close. The rupee gained paise to settle at 95.76 against the US dollar on Wednesday. The 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 up 0.06 per cent at 101.79. Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, were trading 1.26 per cent lower at USD 89.60 per barrel. According to analysts, crude prices reclaimed USD 90-per-barrel levels amid renewed fear of disruptions in global energy supplies, as fresh flare-ups between the US and Iran, after a brief calm for three days, shattered hopes of ending the five-month conflict in West Asia.

Samsung reports record profit as South Korean chip giants benefit from global AI boom

New Delhi. (Agency)

South Korean technology giant Samsung Electronics on Thursday reported a record operating profit of 89.5 trillion won (\$62 billion) for the April-June period, a day after crosstown rival SK Hynix also reported record earnings, as the world's two largest memory chipmakers continue to ride the global artificial intelligence boom. Despite their soaring profits, the companies' shares have fallen sharply this week in South Korea's volatile stock market, where retail investors often drive sharp swings in share prices, as concerns grow over their plans to spend massively on increasing manufacturing capacity and the prospects of intensifying competition from China. Samsung's second-quarter operating profit was a more than 19-fold increase from a year earlier, and nearly all of it came from its semiconductor business, which benefited from rising chip prices driven by demand for AI servers and increased shipments of advanced high-bandwidth memory chips used to power AI applications. That outweighed an operating loss in its mobile, TV and home appliances division, partly due to higher component costs.

World's biggest tech companies are racing to dominate AI. But at what cost?

New Delhi. (Agency)

As Big Tech pours hundreds of billions of dollars into artificial intelligence, debt markets are beginning to ask a question that equity investors have largely ignored: Can companies eventually earn enough to justify the spending? For more than two years, the artificial intelligence boom has been powered by optimism. Every new AI model, every record-breaking Nvidia earnings report and every multibillion-dollar investment announcement reinforced the belief that the industry was entering a once-in-a-generation technological revolution. Investors rewarded companies that spent aggressively, convinced that today's costs would eventually translate into tomorrow's

profits.

RECORD AI SPENDING

The latest quarterly earnings from Microsoft and Meta show why the debate over AI spending is becoming increasingly nuanced. Microsoft delivered another blockbuster quarter, with revenue rising 18% to \$90 billion, Azure revenue surging 43%, Microsoft Cloud revenue climbing 27% to \$59.3 billion and Microsoft 365 Copilot crossing 30 million paid users. Investors rewarded the results despite the company spending \$41 billion on capital expenditure during the quarter, sending its shares sharply higher in after-hours trading. Meta, however, painted a more complicated picture. Revenue climbed 28% to \$60.8 billion,

but free cash flow plunged 91% as spending on AI infrastructure accelerated. The company raised the lower end of its annual capital

returns. Those contrasting reactions capture the divide now emerging across financial markets. Equity investors continue to reward companies that can demonstrate tangible AI-driven growth, while debt investors are becoming increasingly focused on whether the industry's unprecedented borrowing binge can eventually produce sustainable returns.

DEBT CHALLENGE FOR AI COMPANIES

The change is not coming from the stock market, where AI companies still command enormous valuations. It is emerging from the far quieter world of corporate debt, where investors are demanding higher premiums to lend money to some of the companies leading the AI race.



expenditure guidance to between \$130 billion and \$145 billion, underscoring how expensive the AI race has become. Its shares fell sharply after the results as investors questioned whether spending was running ahead of

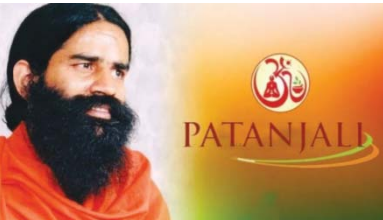
Patanjali to enter insurance? IRDAI clears Baba Ramdev-led firm's Magma General acquisition

New Delhi. (Agency)

Patanjali Ayurved, best known for its ayurvedic products, packaged foods and personal care range, might make an entry into India's insurance sector. The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has approved Patanjali Ayurved and the DS Group's acquisition of Magma General Insurance, clearing the final regulatory hurdle for the nearly Rs 4,500 crore deal, reported The Economic Times. The approval paves the way for Baba Ramdev-led Patanjali to formally enter the financial services space by becoming the promoter of the general insurer.

WHAT DOES THE DEAL MEAN?

The transaction, first announced in March, will see Patanjali acquire a 73.6% stake in Magma General



Insurance, while the DS Group will acquire 24.5%. The stakes are being purchased from Adar Poonawalla-owned Sanoti Properties and other selling shareholders, including Celica Developers and Jaguar Advisory Services, ET reported. Following IRDAI's approval, Patanjali will become the

promoter of Magma General Insurance and is expected to continue infusing capital to support the company's growth and solvency, while the DS Group will join as a co-investor.

WILL PATANJALI START SELLING INSURANCE?

Not immediately.

The approval does not mean Patanjali is launching a new insurance company or introducing "Patanjali Insurance" products overnight. Instead, it is acquiring control of an existing general insurance company that already offers more than 70 insurance products across segments, including motor, health, property and other general insurance categories, according to the report.

How to file your ITR on the e-filing portal in 10 easy steps

New Delhi. (Agency)

With just two days left until the income tax return (ITR) filing deadline, the clock is ticking for taxpayers who are yet to file. The good news is that the e-Filing portal has made the process much simpler, and if your documents are ready, you can complete your return in just a few easy steps. Nishant Shanker, Tax & Investments Expert at Navraj Global Advisors, said, "One should keep Form 16, PAN, Aadhaar, Form 26AS, AIS, TIS, bank statements, interest certificates, investment proofs, and details of any other income such as dividends, rent or capital gains. Having all documents ready before logging in significantly reduces filing time." Also, if you plan to claim deductions under the old tax regime, keep the relevant investment proofs handy as well.

Further, ensure that your PAN is linked with Aadhaar, as you will not be able to proceed without it.

HOW TO FILE YOUR ITR ONLINE IN 10 EASY STEPS

Log in to the e-Filing portal

Visit the Income Tax Department's e-Filing portal and log in using your PAN and password.

Start a new return

Click on 'File Income Tax Return', select the Assessment Year 2026-27 and choose the online filing option.

Select the correct ITR form

Choose the return form that matches your income. Salaried taxpayers usually file ITR-1, but the correct form depends on your income sources. Select carefully. Verify your personal details. Check your name, address, bank account details and choose your preferred tax regime—old or new.

Review the pre-filled information

The portal automatically fills in much of your income using Form 16, AIS and Form 26AS. Don't assume everything is correct. Compare the figures with your own records and add any missing income.

Claim eligible deductions

If you are filing under the old tax regime, claim all deductions and exemptions that apply to you, such as Section 80C investments, health insurance, HRA or home loan benefits.

Meta, Microsoft, Alphabet: What Big Tech earnings reveal about the AI spending race

MUMBAI. (Agency)

For nearly two years, Wall Street has largely cheered the world's biggest technology companies for pouring unprecedented sums into artificial intelligence. Data centres, AI chips, cloud infrastructure and next-generation models have become the new battleground, with Big Tech expected to spend well over \$700 billion on AI this year alone. Morgan Stanley estimates that figure could cross \$1 trillion next year. But this earnings season marks a turning point.

The latest quarterly results from Meta, Microsoft and Alphabet suggest that investors are no longer willing to reward AI spending

alone. Instead, they are asking a tougher question: Is all that investment translating into stronger businesses, healthier



profits and sustainable cash flows? While Microsoft is increasingly convincing investors that its AI strategy is paying off, Meta is facing growing questions over whether its massive spending will generate returns anytime soon.

Alphabet finds itself somewhere in the middle, delivering blockbuster cloud growth but struggling to reassure investors about rising costs and delays to its flagship AI models. Meanwhile, Apple, the company that largely stayed away from the AI infrastructure race, may emerge as an unlikely winner, while Amazon's upcoming results are expected to provide the next major test. AI SPENDING IS FINALLY SHOWING UP IN THE

NUMBERS

For months, investors largely ignored the mounting costs of building AI infrastructure because the focus remained on long-term opportunities.

8th Pay Commission: When can central government employees expect a salary hike?

8th CPC update: The Finance Ministry told the Rajya Sabha that the 8th Pay Commission is expected to submit its report by around May 2027.

New Delhi. (Agency)

More than seven months after the 8th Central Pay Commission (CPC) was constituted, lakhs of central government employees are still waiting for clarity on when their salaries will be revised. While the government has not announced a fitment factor or the new pay structure, it has now indicated when the Commission is expected to submit its recommendations. Replying to a question in the Rajya Sabha, the Finance Ministry said the 8th Pay Commission will submit its report within 18 months from the date of its constitution on November 3, 2025.

This means the Commission is expected to submit its recommendations by around May 2027. At the same time, the Commission has announced another round of stakeholder consultations in Delhi, Chennai and Puducherry, indicating that it is continuing to gather feedback from employee organisations before finalising its report. So, when can central government employees expect a salary hike, and where does the 8th Pay Commission process currently stand?

WHEN CAN CENTRAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES EXPECT SALARY HIKE?

The Finance Ministry has reiterated that the 8th Pay Commission will submit its recommendations within 18 months of its constitution, as provided in the Resolution dated November 3, 2025. Since the Commission was constituted on November 3, 2025, the

report is expected by around May 2027. However, employees should note that the report itself will not automatically



lead to higher salaries. After the Commission submits its recommendations, the Centre will examine them before deciding whether to accept them fully or with modifications. Only after the government's approval will revised salaries be implemented. This means there is no official date yet for when employees will begin receiving higher salaries.

GOVT SAYS COMMISSION WORKS INDEPENDENTLY

The clarification came in response to questions in the Rajya Sabha on the number of meetings held by the Commission, the employee unions consulted, demands regarding the fitment factor and the likely timeline for submission of the report.

The Finance Ministry said the 8th Pay Commission has been allowed to devise its own procedure. It also clarified that the Commission's Terms of Reference do not require it to keep the government informed about the progress of its work, its consultations or the recommendations under consideration during the course of its deliberations. As a result, the government said it does not have details regarding the Commission's meetings or the employee unions consulted so far.

No more compromising patient safety: Centre plans strict safety norms for two-wheeler ambulances

Panchkula.(Agency)

The days of risky rides for patients in two-wheeled ambulances may soon be over. The Central Government is pushing for a sweeping upgrade of safety standards for bike ambulances nationwide. The new draft rules aim to guarantee that every patient-carrying vehicle is not only mechanically reliable and fully equipped, but also truly safe for emergency journeys.

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has set its sights on amending the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989, to create a special set of regulations for two-wheeled ambulances. This step comes as bike ambulances become lifelines for accident victims, cardiac patients and the critically ill, especially in traffic-choked cities and far-flung villages where traditional ambulances struggle to reach in time. If the new rules take effect, every patient-carrying bike ambulance will face a thorough inspection before it can hit the road.

Inspectors will scrutinise everything from how securely the patient compartment is mounted to the stability of stretchers, the reliability of safety belts, and the readiness of emergency lights and fire extinguishers. Any vehicle falling short of these tough standards will be kept off the road.

Schools across Haryana encouraged to join WWF's Global Ocean Challenge 2026

Panchkula.(Agency)

The Haryana School Education Department has invited all government and private schools in the state to participate in the WWF Wild Wisdom Global Challenge 2026. This global environmental education initiative aims to foster scientific curiosity and environmental responsibility among students.

The campaign, themed "The Ocean is Deeper Than All Our Questions," encourages students to explore ocean mysteries and understand their essential role in sustaining life.

A spokesperson for the Haryana School Education Department stated that the competition is open to students in Classes VI to IX, and they are welcome to enter. Each school must register at least 50 students. All participants will receive an e-certificate, and one teacher coordinator per school will be recognised with a Certificate of Recognition.

AP Govt committed to provide quality education, skills to jobless minority youths: Minister

Vijayawada.(Agency)

Andhra Pradesh Minister for Minority Welfare SMD Farooq reiterated the government's commitment to provide quality education and technical skills for youths of the minority community.

The Minister inaugurated the 'Centre for Education Development of Minorities' (CEDM) office at Vaddeswaram near here in Guntur district on Wednesday.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister Farooq said that as per the orders and instructions of State Education and IT Minister Nara Lokesh, a free coaching programme has been started for minority youth through CEDM.

"Keeping in mind the students living in remote areas of the State and unable to attend live classes, free online coaching is being provided with quality teachers as well as offline classes," he revealed, adding that the government's goal is to provide quality training to students wherever they are.

The Minister expressed happiness that the recently released DSC results, which showed that 11.5 percent minority candidates had passed, despite the minority population in AP being about 7.5 to 8 percent, are a testament to the government's efforts for their uplift.

BMC revives golf course plan for Mulund dumpsite as Adani lease proposal hits a roadblock

Mumbai.(Agency)

The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation's (BMC) proposal to lease a portion of the reclaimed Mulund dumping ground to the Adani Group-led Navbharat Mega Developers Pvt Ltd (NMDPL) for the Dharavi Redevelopment Project (DRP) may have hit a pause, but the civic administration is simultaneously reviving another proposal for the site — an international-standard golf course. The erstwhile Mulund dumpsite spans 64 acres, of which 15 acres are proposed to be leased to NMDPL for five years to set up a ready mix concrete (RMC) plant and a casting yard for the Dharavi housing project. The remaining 49 acres, BJP MLA from Mulund Mihir Kotecha said, are sufficient to develop a nine-hole golf course.

"I have spoken to the Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI) CEO earlier this week and asked them to immediately begin the feasibility study at the Mulund site. The land

is being leased to the DRP only for five years. After that, it will be converted into a green zone," Kotecha told *The Indian Express*.

The proposal is not entirely new. In November last year, the PGTI wrote to the BMC seeking permission to carry out a feasibility study for developing a golf course



on the reclaimed landfill. A month later, the civic administration permitted the organisation to undertake geotechnical surveys and other preliminary studies at its own expense. PGTI CEO Amandeep Johl said

the organisation was awaiting the BMC's final confirmation before beginning the exercise.

"We are looking forward to carrying out the study. Once we receive the final confirmation from the BMC, we will begin the feasibility exercise," Johl said. He said the study would assess the site's topography, soil quality, drainage, slope and other geological factors required for constructing and maintaining a golf course. "Our proposal is for a nine-hole golf course. Once the study is completed, we will prepare a detailed blueprint," he said. The developments come a day after the BMC's Improvements Committee deferred a proposal to lease the 15-acre parcel to NMDPL. According to the proposal tabled before the committee, the company sought the land to establish an RMC plant and casting yard for the Dharavi Redevelopment Project. The civic body expects to earn nearly Rs 103 crore through the proposed five-year lease.

Jamnagar Police look for body buried on factory premises

Man kills lover's husband, buries body in 2024; victim's wife told his family he had 'immigrated to Australia'

Ahmedabad.(Agency)

THE JAMNAGAR Police on Wednesday evening was hard at work manually digging through a layer of concrete and then 12 feet of soil — looking for the body of a man who disappeared two years ago and whose wife claimed he had "immigrated to Australia".

On July 26, the police received an application from the siblings of one Jignesh, alleging that his wife had "killed him and admitted to the same." The investigation, led by Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) Pratibha of Lalpur division, brought the woman in for questioning as well as her alleged lover. The suspicion was that these two had conspired, killed Jignesh and buried the body under a factory in Dared GIDC, an industrial area around 10 km from Jamnagar City. ASP Pratibha told The Indian Express

that the police had questioned the woman and her alleged lover over two days and claimed that they admitted to having committed the crime in May 2024 and



burying Jignesh's body in a 12-foot-deep pit inside an empty factory that Jignesh and the suspect lover had taken on lease back then. However, after Jignesh's body was buried there, the suspect let go of the factory lease

and it has since been leased to a metal works company for whom Wednesday was a routine day until the police arrived, moved their machinery and began digging through their factory floor.

Meanwhile, ASP Pratibha said Jignesh's family had alleged that his wife had kept telling them that he had gone to Australia for work and kept saying that he was not allowed to use his phone. Till late evening on Wednesday, labourers contracted by the police were still at work and had drilled through a foot of solid concrete and were digging through the soil manually because there is no space for heavy machinery such as a bulldozer to enter the premises. An FIR and arrest of the suspects now depends on whether the police find any remains, finding them positive as human remains and then conducting DNA profiling to confirm those as Jignesh's body.

Paper 'leak' at Gujarat Ayurved University: V-C says prof from Junagadh raised alarm; students wings of 3 political parties stage protests

Ahmedabad.(Agency)

THE SHALYA Tantra-1 (surgical methods) paper of the Bachelor of Ayurveda Medicine and Surgery — suspected to have leaked — had been put through the two-person authentication system.

Since Tuesday, several student organisations, including the RSS-backed Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) and the Congress's National Students Union of India (NSUI), organised protests over the issue. They demanded an investigation and immediate action against those responsible.

On July 20, five days before a nationwide agitation led by the Cockroach Janta Party and activists against the NEET paper leaks led to the resignation of senior BJP leader Dharmendra Pradhan as Union education minister, a suspected "paper leak" alert went up from Gujarat's capital, Gandhinagar.

A flying squad of invigilators

suddenly dropped into Shree Balahanuman Ayurved Mahavidyalaya in Mansa, Gandhinagar, one of 26 colleges in the state, where the Shalya Tantra-1 paper of third year students of Bachelor of Ayurveda Medicine and Surgery (BAMS) was underway.



A professor from the Government Ayurved College in Junagadh, who was part of the squad, learnt that there was a text message being circulated that contained "important questions" for the same paper. He alerted top officials of Gujarat Ayurved University (GAU) about a "suspect" paper leak as 11 of the 12

questions in the message were indeed also in the examination paper that day, something that could impact the 2,000-odd students across 26 Ayurved colleges under GAU who took the examination on July 20.

Vd Nareshkumar D Jain, the in-charge Vice Chancellor (V-C) of GAU, said the professor from the Junagadh ayurved college raised an alarm suspecting a leak.

Jain has set up a three-member committee of two principals and one Reader to internally probe the suspect paper leak. The matter would come to public knowledge only a week later. A group of ABVP members on Wednesday went to the V-C's office, asking him to "resign if he couldn't stop paper leaks". Devansh Brahmabhatt, Gujarat state secretary ABVP told The Indian Express, "The committee formed in this matter to investigate the paper leak should disclose the names of all those involved and take legal action against them at the earliest.

Gujarat Confidential: Aerial 'Surveillance'

Ahmedabad.(Agency)

EYES IN the sky are now watching Vadodara's potholes. With a two-day respite from rainfall, the Vadodara Municipal Corporation (VMC) has rolled out drones to keep tabs on the quality and pace of the city's massive patchwork drive. With over 2,500 potholes identified across the city being filled, aerial surveillance is aimed at ensuring that "contractors don't cut corners".



Municipal Commissioner Arun Mahesh Babu, who convened a special review meeting on Tuesday and issued "strict instructions" about the repair quality — even asking engineers to start hot mix plants. He also inspected repair sites on Wednesday and directed officials to carry out "durable repairs" that survive the next spell of rain. Civic teams have been pressed into action across all zones, with the administration aiming at restoring battered roads on priority.

'Citizens or slaves?': Court cancels orders banishing 3 men from Mumbai for 7 months

Mumbai.(Agency)

For nearly seven months, Saeed Ahmed Abdul Wahid Choudhary lived in a rented room in Mumbra, uncertain about when he would return home; Akbar Hussain Sayyed, a delivery agent and local political worker, could not be with his wife, infant daughter and ailing mother for four months; Mohammad Rafiq Gulam Rasul Ansari fretted about not being able to meet his 68-year-old mother for months; and Firoz Abdul Wahab Khan had to miss the birth of his second child.

Between December 2025 and early 2026, the four were externed by the Mumbai Police from the city relying largely on FIRs lodged against them over political protests in 2019 and 2025 on a range of issues, from the Citizenship

(Amendment) Act and National Register of Citizens, to the Ayodhya Ram temple and Varanasi Gyanvapi mosque rows, and azaan on loudspeakers plus local issues. Under Sections 56 and 58 of the Maharashtra Police Act, a person can be externed for up to two years if there is fear that they may commit offences.

The four accused, with nothing common between them apart from their association with the Social Democratic Party of India (SDPI) — the political wing of the banned Popular Front of India (PFI) — moved into a shared rented accommodation in Mumbra, Thane district, after they were externed. Over several hearings since March, Justice Madhav J Jamdar of the

Bombay High Court has questioned the basis of the police action, asking if externment — generally used against gangsters, bootleggers and habitual



offenders — could be sustained when the underlying allegations relate to political dissent. Setting aside Sayyed's

externment order in March, Justice Jamadar said it "infringes upon his fundamental rights" and "cannot be sustained". On July 2, quashing the externment of Choudhary, the judge observed if by targeting citizens for opposing government decisions, they were being turned into "slaves of the government". On July 28, Justice Jamdar set aside the externment orders against Khan as "totally illegal", and asked if "selective" action was taken "as they (the accused) belonged to one religion" given that members of other political parties too had participated in the protests.

NEWS BOX

Dilip Gavir's epic surge in the rain takes him from Maharashtra farmlands to CWG gold

Kolkata. (Agency)

A late burst of speed on a rain-slicked track in Glasgow delivered India a historic 1-2 finish in the men's 100m T47 at the Commonwealth Games. Dilip Mahadu Gavir's mighty surge in the final meters helped him snatch the gold medal, albeit from his own countryman, Mohammed Basil Morssinganakath. Basil, hailing from a small coastal town in Kerala, was looking strong for the top prize, but he had no answer for Dilip's Games Record time of 10.71 seconds. The victory showcased the raw resilience Dilip developed long before he ever stepped onto a synthetic track. Born in Toran Dongari, a small village near Nashik, Maharashtra, Dilip lost his right arm below the elbow



following a fall from a tree when he was around five years old. Due to a lack of immediate medical facilities in the area, the injury developed into gangrene, forcing an amputation. The farmlands of Maharashtra present an unrelenting struggle for small farming families, where harsh sun and water scarcity make daily existence precarious. "My family would work as laborers when there was not enough rain to farm our own land, but I couldn't even do that. I was seen as something useless," Dilip told Sportstar after the race. Yet, despite his disability, Dilip was drawn into the daily grind of village life. Working in the fields built a strong physical engine, and the one thing that brought him solace in a difficult childhood was running. He began sprinting on the dusty dirt roads of his village, where his natural speed eventually caught the eye of local coach Vajinath Kale.

Murali Sreeshankar was told he'd never jump again. He gifts them his 2nd CWG medal

Glasgow. (Agency)

Everyone thought Murali Sreeshankar's career was over in 2024, when he completely tore his patella tendon. Many told him that to his face as well. But here we are, two years later, with a silver medal hanging around his neck at the Commonwealth Games 2026 in Glasgow. Sreeshankar returned to the Commonwealth Games podium on Wednesday, producing a best jump of 8.09m to win his second successive silver medal in the men's long jump. Jamaica's Tajay Gayle took gold with 8.15m, while Scotland's Stephen Mackenzie finished third with 8.08m. India's Lokesh Sathyanathan was fifth with a best effort of 7.97m. For Sreeshankar, though, the medal was about far more than



defending the silver he had won in Birmingham four years ago. "Everyone who said that I would not be jumping ever again in my career. This medal is for you," Sreeshankar said after the competition.

THE INJURY THAT CHANGED EVERYTHING

Sreeshankar had been one of India's brightest hopes for the Paris Olympics. He had won silver at the 2022 Commonwealth Games, followed it with another silver at the 2023 Asian Games and was steadily building towards the biggest opportunity of his career. Then, in April 2024, a seemingly routine jump during training in Palakkad changed everything.

BGT-winning captain Ajinkya Rahane retires from all formats

Ajinkya Rahane has called time on his playing career that took him from Mumbai's domestic cricket circuit to some of India's greatest Test triumphs. From his defining century in Australia's 2020-21 series to repeated battles for a spot in the Test team, Rahane leaves behind a career built on resilience, timing and putting his team ahead of himself.

New Delhi. (Agency)

A teary-eyed Ajinkya Rahane announced his retirement from international cricket on Thursday, July 30, bringing an end to a career that took him from the local grounds of Mumbai to some of the biggest stages in world cricket. Rahane, who led India to one of their most famous Test series victories in Australia, announced his decision through a social media video. After 85 Tests, 90 ODIs and 20 T20Is for India, the former captain

decided that the timing was right to close the international chapter of his career. "The reality of life is that everything has a beginning and everything has an end. When the time comes, we simply have to respect it and move forward. I have always relied on timing in my batting and I have always understood its importance. Today, I feel the timing is right for me to move on and announce my retirement from international cricket and all formats," Rahane said. For much of his career, Rahane was defined by timing. At the crease, it was about balance, patience and knowing when to play his shots. Away from it, his career followed a similar pattern, with opportunities appearing, disappearing and returning when he least expected them.

FROM DOMBIVLI TO THE INDIA CAP

Rahane's journey began in Mumbai, where he spent his formative years

coming through the city's famously competitive domestic system. The dream, he said, was simple.

"From those early days traveling from Dombivli as a young boy just to practice, I



gave this game everything I had. Every single day, every innings, every opportunity I got to bat, the dream was always to wear the India cap. I lived by one simple rule: always put my country and my team ahead of myself."

He made his first-class debut for Mumbai in 2007 and spent years building a reputation as one of the country's most technically sound young batters. The India call finally came in 2011, when he made his T20I debut, before his ODI debut followed later that year.

His Test debut came against Australia in Delhi in 2013. By then, Rahane had already begun to develop a reputation that would become one of the defining features of his international career. He was particularly comfortable in conditions outside India, where his technique and temperament made him one of India's most reliable middle-order batters. His first Test century came against New Zealand in Wellington in 2014. Later that year, he scored 103 at Lord's as India secured their first Test win at the historic venue in 28 years.

Commonwealth Games made Neeraj Chopra great. He returns for a fresh start in Glasgow

New Delhi. (Agency)

For Neeraj Chopra, the Commonwealth Games is more than just another multi-sport event. It was here, on Australia's Gold Coast in 2018, that the Indian javelin star truly arrived on the senior stage. His gold medal-winning throw of 86.47m not only made him the first Indian to win the men's javelin title at the Games but also marked the beginning of an extraordinary journey. Four months later, he rewrote history with Asian Games gold and a national record of 88.06m. Olympic gold in Tokyo followed. Then World Championship gold in Budapest. An Olympic silver medal came next. Each achievement cemented his place among the greatest athletes India has ever



produced. Now, eight years after his breakthrough moment, Chopra returns to the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow carrying not the tag of a promising youngster but that of India's biggest athletics icon. Yet something is fundamentally different this time. He is not returning burdened by doubt. He is returning ready.

THE FEAR IS GONE

A persistent back injury derailed Chopra over the past year. It culminated in the worst finish of his career at the 2025 World Athletics Championships in Tokyo. But the setback forced a reckoning. Between September 2025 and June 2026, he parted ways with legendary coach Jan Zelezny and took charge of his own training.

Bangladesh an extremely safe country: Tamim Iqbal hopeful India tour will go ahead

New Delhi. (Agency)

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president Tamim Iqbal remains optimistic that India's much-anticipated white-ball tour of Bangladesh will go ahead as scheduled, insisting the country is "extremely safe" while confirming that discussions with the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) are ongoing. India are due to travel to Bangladesh for a six-match white-ball series comprising three ODIs and three T20Is. The tour was originally scheduled for August 2025 but was deferred by mutual agreement between the BCCI and the BCB, with both boards agreeing to move it to September 2026. Speaking at a press conference on Wednesday, July 29, Tamim admitted there was no final confirmation yet but

stressed that every effort was being made to ensure the series takes place.

"Unfortunately, I don't have any news



regarding the India series. I am in discussions with the BCCI and there's an exchange of emails happening between BCB members, and we are trying from all quarters," Tamim said. The former Bangladesh captain also sought to allay any concerns over security.

"Bangladesh's series against India, the

excitement is at a different level, I'm sure from journalists, from fans, cricketers, everyone. Bangladesh is an extremely safe country, and I am very hopeful that they will come. Whatever steps need to be taken from our side, we are trying," he added.

AFGHANISTAN SERIES LIKELY TO MAKE WAY

The proposed September window has created a scheduling challenge for India, with the Men in Blue originally slated to host Afghanistan for a three-match T20I series during the same period. To accommodate the Bangladesh tour, the Afghanistan series is expected to be postponed, although the final decision remains subject to approvals from the respective governments and the completion of logistical arrangements.

0 losses: Ajinkya Rahane signs off with one of India's rarest Test captaincy records

Ajinkya Rahane retired from international cricket with one of India's rarest captaincy records, never losing a Test in six matches as skipper. His crowning achievement remains the historic 2020-21 Border-Gavaskar Trophy triumph in Australia, where he inspired an injury-hit side to a famous 2-1 series win.

GLASGOW. (Agency)

Ajinkya Rahane's international career will be remembered for elegant batting, remarkable composure and understated leadership. Yet, among the many numbers that define his journey, one stands apart as one of the rarest in Indian cricket. While some of the

game's greatest captains built their legacies over dozens of Tests, Rahane signed off having never lost a Test



match as India's captain, winning four and drawing two of the six matches. The Mumbai batter announced his retirement from all forms of cricket on Wednesday with a simple yet emotional

message: "Cap 278 signing off. Thank you for all the love and support over the years. Forever grateful." It brought the curtain down on a career that featured memorable centuries across the world, but his legacy will forever be shaped by one extraordinary tour of Australia.

Among India's 38 Test captains, only four have remained unbeaten. Kris Srikkanth led India in four Tests without defeat, while Hemu Adhikari and Ravi Shastri each captained the side once and remained unbeaten. Rahane now joins that exclusive list, but with one distinction that sets him apart — he is the only one among them to have led India to a historic overseas Test series triumph. As he led.

Ex-India captain blasts saffron jersey for Hockey World Cup: This is embarrassing

Former India captain Viren Rasquinha has criticised Hockey India's decision to replace the team's iconic blue jersey with a predominantly saffron kit ahead of the 2026 FIH Hockey World Cup, calling the move "embarrassing".

New Delhi. (Agency)

Former India hockey captain Viren Rasquinha has strongly criticised Hockey India's decision to replace the national team's iconic blue jersey with a predominantly saffron kit ahead of the 2026 FIH Hockey World Cup, calling the

move "embarrassing" and questioning the logic behind the colour change.

Rasquinha, one of India's most respected former internationals, voiced his disappointment in a post on X, even as he acknowledged the progress Hockey India has made in recent years. "I must say that @TheHockeyIndia has done many good things for Indian hockey. But this is embarrassing. The legacy & identity of the Indian team has always been BLUE. I wore the Blue jersey with pride for many years. Fans want to see our Indian team in blue. What is the logic of orange?" His remarks have resonated strongly, given his stature in Indian

hockey. The former midfielder was a key member of India's 2001 FIH Junior World



Cup-winning team before going on to captain the senior national side. He represented India at the 2004 Athens Olympics, featured at the 2006 Men's

Hockey World Cup, and played in the Champions Trophy, earning recognition as one of the country's finest midfielders of his generation.

INDIA ENTER FINAL PHASE OF WORLD CUP PREPARATIONS

The jersey debate comes at a time when India are entering the decisive stage of their preparations for the 2026 FIH Hockey World Cup. Under head coach Craig Fulton, the team has focused on tactical refinement, mental conditioning and high-performance training to maximise its chances at the tournament. As part of those preparations, the squad recently travelled to Switzerland for a three-day high-intensity camp led by renowned mental conditioning coach Paddy Upton.

Shivangi Joshi's

Team Defends Her After Trolls Call Her Struggle Story 'Fake': 'She Remembers What She's Said'

Television actress Shivangi Joshi shared a heartbreaking secret about her father and her family's financial struggles on Lock Upp 2. Following the episode's airing, many called her story fake and made up. Now, amid the trolling, Shivangi's team has issued an official statement slamming the negativity.

Shortly after Shivangi revealed her secret, social media labelled her "fake" and "jhoothi" in the comments as an old interview of Shivangi with Pinkvilla resurfaced, where she said that her father served in the Army. The comments section of the video was filled with trolling remarks.

Now, slamming the negativity, the actress' team has issued an official statement saying, "Rest assured, Shivangi remembers exactly what she's said in her interviews."

What seems to have slipped past you is simpler: a person is allowed more than one chapter. Her father served, took voluntary retirement, then went into business. Army first, business later. Both true. That's not a lie. That's just a life you only knew half of. #TeamShivangi."

Shivangi Joshi Gets Trolled Shivangi Joshi's team's official statement, too, met with negativity. While reacting to the statement, one wrote, "Lol, ek jhoot bachane ke liye 100 jhoot bolne padte hai. Won't be surprised if her dad was a panipoori wala also."

"Served in the Army, took retirement, started a business, suffered losses, came on the streets with no food, and then built a bungalow. So much in 14/15 years of her life. Also, someone who saw struggles would be humble enough to acknowledge things and would not have trouble adjusting in one room in Mumbai," another one wrote.

Meanwhile, a fan, while backing Shivangi, said, "The people who don't know her, she has two homes, five cars, managed the entire wedding of her sister, supports her family financially since such a young age. Bhai, one needs so much determination and courage to build so much all by yourself."

What Shivangi said?

Shivangi revealed that her father's transport business suffered huge losses, pushing the family into a severe financial crisis. She recalled they were left with almost nothing, struggled for daily meals, and her parents even washed dishes at a café to make ends meet.



Archana Puran Singh Was Caned 10 Times By School Head Nun At Age 6: 'She Called Me A Wicked Child'



Archana Puran Singh has recalled one of the most painful memories from her childhood, revealing that she was caned 10 times by the head nun at her convent school when she was just six years old. The actor said she still remembers the punishment, even though she cannot recall what she had done to deserve it.

Speaking to Fever FM, Archana was asked if she had ever been called to the principal's office. Looking back at her school days, she said, "I was caned when I was in first standard. I was taken to the head nun. It was a long cane and she called me 'wicked child' and she caned me 10 times on my hand. I was 6 years old. I don't remember what I did but I only remember getting caned." Archana said strict discipline was a part of life at her convent school in Dehradun. Instead of punishments like making students squat, she recalled that children were made to kneel outside the classroom if they misbehaved. "The nuns at our school wouldn't say 'bakra' or 'murga' but we were told, 'Kneel down, my wicked child'. So we would kneel down outside the class. It was very humiliating in a convent school because we were all supposed to be very good children. I loved my school but they had different rules," she said.

Despite those experiences, Archana said she did well in academics and was among the top students in class. Recalling how her teachers reacted to her career choice, she shared, "I was a topper, a front bencher but I was also very naughty so my teachers would always say, 'What a waste of your talent and ability.' And when I became an actor, they said, 'We thought you would become an IAS, IFS, but you became an actor. Your whole life has been destroyed now.'"

Esha Deol Shares Heartwarming Birthday Post For Sister Ahana Deol: 'Papa's Blessings Are Always With You'



Actress Esha Deol shared a heartfelt birthday note for her younger sister Ahana Deol. She expressed her love and affection while reminding her that their father, veteran actor Dharmendra's, blessings are always with her.

Taking to Instagram, the 'Dhoom' actress shared a special message for Ahana, celebrating their bond and wishing her happiness, love and success. Sharing their picture, Esha wrote, "Happy Birthday My Anni Baby. The youngest and the wisest: Papa's blessings are always with you. Stay happy, healthy & strong. Love you always." In the image, the sister duo could be seen smiling while posing together.

Esha and Ahana are the daughters of Dharmendra and actress Hema Malini. Over the years, the sisters have often shared glimpses of their close bond and stood by each other during special occasions and family celebrations. Ahana Deol, the younger daughter of Dharmendra, has largely stayed away from acting. She is a trained classical dancer and director.

She married businessman Vaibhav Vohra in 2014. Veteran actor Dharmendra passed away on November 24 at the age of 89 after a brief illness at his Mumbai residence. The legendary actor made his final big-screen appearance in Sriram Raghavan's much-awaited war drama '1947', which also starred Agastya Nanda. The film was released on December 25, 2025.

Earlier, in May, Esha had revealed that she shares a similar taste with her late father, Dharmendra. At an event, she was asked whether she preferred a maximalist or minimalist approach when it came to interiors and design.

Esha shared that her taste closely matched her father's, adding that both of them appreciated the use of wood, white tones and elements of nature in their spaces.

"My taste and my father's taste were very similar. Papa and I would spend hours, you know, discussing different landscapes, simple spaces and he would always say, 'Lage raho bete, karte raho (keep going, give it your all), and those words I carry even today with me, which guide me. It was his faith in my creativity that gave me the courage to wholeheartedly pursue it today," shared Esha Deol.

'I Worked For Free, Izzat Nahi Mili'

Shehnaaz Gill

Says She Still Fights For Money She Deserves

Shehnaaz Gill had once revealed that she had the lowest remuneration on Bigg Boss 13, earning about Rs 4.5 lakh per week. But her popularity skyrocketed soon after as she emerged as the most expensive celebrity after leaving the reality show. "Sabse sasti main hi thi aur ab sabse mehengi ban ke nikli hoon," she had said on The Kapil Sharma Show in 2023.

Today, as she dabbles in both the Hindi and the Punjabi film industries, Shehnaaz Gill has become a much sought-after name, bagging major brand endorsements, music videos and films. A massive social media following has further boosted her viability and credibility. But speaking exclusively to News18, she says money continues to remain a point of contention before signing a film. "Money is very important. It gives you respect. When I ask for what I deserve today, I sometimes get that, sometimes I don't and sometimes it's lesser than what I quote for myself. But har kisi ko apne haq ke liye ladna chahiye. I work really hard and I've been through a lot to reach the place that I'm in today," shares Shehnaaz, who recently had a release with Ishqnama. Unlike her initial years, she seems to have no intention of working without any remuneration anymore.

Citing the reason for the same, she tells us, "Yes, there was a time when I did a lot of work for free. But

uski mujhe izzat nahi mili. Maine logo ke liye itna kuch kiya hai! But now, I do fight for what I deserve. I compromise only on occasions when the film that I've been offered is really good." But she also knows how to pick her battles wisely. "Agar koi hai hi leechar aadmi, usse kya hi maatha maaro? Sometimes, you know that they won't pay you well but you still get into it knowing that the script is meaningful. But if you ask me if I've ever done a project just for money by compromising on the quality of the work, I'll have to tell you that I've never done that," says Shehnaaz.



The actor continues, "When it comes to films, I don't let money come in the way. I know that I can earn money from ads, endorsements and events. For me, cinema is a very pure and precious medium. Main bahot tareeke se films choose karti hoon." But is there something she still wants to learn to navigate the industry better?

"I can't convince people to cast me in a role. Some people have a lot of convincing power. That's something I want to learn," says Shehnaaz. The one thing that she, however, takes pride in is her ability to not bow down before big-ticket films that don't offer her much.



NEWS BOX

Russia Fires Ballistic Missiles At Ukraine Amid Rising Tensions

World.(Agency)

Russia was striking the Ukrainian capital of Kyiv with ballistic missiles in the early hours of Thursday, Mayor Vitali Klitschko said in a Telegram post, asking people to seek shelter.

Multiple explosions were heard in the city, according to a Reuters witness. Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky had warned on Wednesday that a massive Russian attack on Ukraine was likely. A few non-residential sites in Kyiv caught fire, Klitschko said.

Zelenskiy said that the safety of Ukrainians depended on the willingness of allies to provide anti-missile defences, as he returned from the United States where he said President Donald Trump agreed to give Ukraine licenses for Patriot missiles.

Report Reveals 'Devastating' Sexual Abuse Claims At Epstein-Linked School

world.(Agency)

Two people who attended a prestigious Michigan fine arts school reported conduct of a sexual nature by Jeffrey Epstein, a major donor, according to an investigation that also uncovered dozens of allegations spanning decades against nearly 50 other people. Interlochen Center for the Arts operates a summer camp and performing arts school that draws students from around the world. It hired a law firm in 2024 to investigate reports of sexual abuse by faculty and staff. Subsequently, it expanded the work to include information about Epstein, the 66-year-old financier who killed himself in jail in 2019. Interlochen removed Epstein's name from a lodge after he was convicted of sex offenses in Florida in 2008. The building, renamed the Green Lake Lodge, was recently demolished after the US Justice Department released millions of pages about him that had been compiled over the years. Sanghavi Law Office says it collected 70 accounts from alumni alleging "physical conduct of a sexual nature" by 47 faculty and staff members affiliated with Interlochen from the 1950s through the 2010s, most before 2000. The information gathered during this investigation is, simply, devastating," the 97-page report says, noting that alumni reported grInterlochen said it has provided names of people accused of misconduct to Grand Traverse County authorities in northern Michigan to determine what steps, if any, might be taken. None are currently employed there, and more than a third are deadooming, flirting, sexual touching and sex.

Trump Seeks To Overturn Defamation Verdict In Author's Sex Abuse Case

world.(Agency)

President Donald Trump and the Justice Department are asking the Supreme Court to toss an \$83 million defamation verdict won by writer E. Jean Carroll after she accused him of sexual assault, saying he can't be sued for comments he made while he was president.

It's the second time Trump has asked the justices to nix damages awarded by a jury to Carroll, a longtime advice columnist and former TV talk show host. The Supreme Court refused in June to hear his appeal of another verdict, for \$5 million, that found him liable for sexual abuse and defamation. The latest case centers on comments Trump made during his first term as president. The Justice Department wants to invoke the Westfall Act, which shields government employees from being sued for doing their jobs.

"Absent this Court's intervention, the sitting President is facing nearly a hundred million dollars of personal liability for conduct that was well within the scope of his federal office," federal attorneys wrote. "That alone deserves this Court's attention." The appeal was filed electronically and is expected to be formally docketed with the court Wednesday. Trump's lawyers, meanwhile, argued that an appeals court "engaged in procedural contortions" to avoid addressing Trump's claims that presidential immunity protects him from the \$83 million award because he made the statements in question in 2019 while he was president. The lawyers argued that the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Manhattan ruled in a manner that "cries out for this Court's review in this unprecedented case" and called the damages "grossly excessive."

"This is the first case in our nation's history in which a court has imposed damages liability on a president for his conduct in office," the lawyers wrote.

US launches strikes on Iranian targets after Trump's 'Will hit them very hard' warning

The latest barrage came after the US partnered with Saudi Arabia to strike Iran-backed militias in neighboring Iraq, killing at least 20 fighters and six Iranian advisers.

BAGHDAD.(Agency)

The US military said early Thursday it had completed "a heavy wave of strikes against Iran" conducted in response to an earlier Iranian missile attack on a US base in Jordan. The latest barrage came after the US partnered with Saudi Arabia to strike Iran-backed militias in neighboring Iraq, killing at least 20 fighters and six Iranian advisers.

Central Command said in a social media post that over two hours the US

struck "dozens" of targets belonging to Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps, including military command centers as well as missile and drone facilities, and coastal surveillance and defense sites. The new strikes came hours after US President Donald Trump vowed to hit Iran "very hard" after it targeted a base in Jordan that hosts U.S. troops. Iranian state media said two people were injured in attacks on the island of Qeshm in the Strait of Hormuz and that explosions were also reported in Khuzestan province to the northwest. Elsewhere, drone strikes ignited fires on two natural gas vessels at the Egyptian port of Damietta, according to British maritime security firm Ambrey. It was not immediately clear who was responsible for the strikes on a U.S.-owned floating storage facility and a Greek-owned tanker. No injuries were

reported. The flare-ups on multiple fronts after several days of relative calm raised the risk of a return to all-out war. It also underscored the difficulty of

fighting was also likely to add to concerns that the US is further drawing down already diminished stockpiles of sophisticated munitions needed to defend its bases and allies.

Egypt, a close US ally and regional mediator, is one of the only countries in the Middle East to have been spared direct military action during the war. A strike by Iran or its allies, if confirmed, would mark a significant widening of the conflict. Asked during an Oval Office event if Iran was responsible for the strikes on the natural gas vessels, Trump responded: "It's a little more of the same." "In the meantime, we're going to be hitting them very hard because it's our turn to hit them," he added.



winding down a five-month conflict that has jolted the world economy and is unpopular among Americans. The

Man convicted in terrorism trial over the 2022 stabbing of author Salman Rushdie

world.(Agency)

A man was convicted Wednesday of federal terrorism charges in the 2022 stabbing of Salman Rushdie, the author who has faced a decades-old death threat over his novel "The Satanic Verses." After just a couple of hours of deliberations, a jury found Hadi Matar guilty of all the charges against him, including engaging in an act of transnational terrorism. Rushdie, who was about to speak on writers' safety, was slashed 15 times on an amphitheater stage in 2022. He was gravely wounded and lost the sight in his right eye. Prosecutors asserted that Matar was motivated by the late Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's 1989 call for Rushdie's death because of "The Satanic Verses." "His brutal attack on Mr. Rushdie during a peaceful speaking event is a chilling reminder of the

global reach of Iranian terrorism," Assistant Attorney General for National Security John Eisenberg said in a statement after the verdict, adding that "justice has been done." Iran's government has denied



involvement in the attack. Matar's defense: No evidence of his state of mind. Messages seeking comment on the verdict were sent to Matar's attorneys and Rushdie's assistant. During the trial, defense lawyer Nathaniel Barone said the government had no proof of what was in Matar's head. Matar himself

declined to testify. Rushdie did, telling jurors: "I can't say what his ambitions or his aim was, but the wounds were dispersed across my body." Matar, 28, is already serving a 25-year New York state prison sentence on an attempted murder conviction in the stabbing. His federal sentencing is set for Nov. 3, when he faces a potential life term.

Rushdie won Britain's prestigious Booker Prize for his 1981 novel "Midnight's Children," about his native India. "The Satanic Verses," a novel of magical realism about the lives and dreams of two actors who survive a plane explosion, followed in 1988. It drew critical acclaim in the United Kingdom but engendered protests around the Muslim world over what some believers saw as blasphemous suggestions about Islam's Prophet Muhammad, particularly in a dream sequence.

"Misleading, Incorrect": India Slams New York Times' Terminology On PoK

Washington.(Agency)

India has issued an objection to The New York Times (NYT) over its report on Islamabad's bloody crackdown on protests in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK). The Indian Embassy in the US criticised the phrasing of the illegally occupied Indian territory as "Pakistani Kashmir" in the headline of the US media report, calling it "misleading and incorrect. The objection to the terminology came after the New York-based newspaper carried a report with the headline "Clashes Erupt in Pakistani Kashmir as Voting in Local Election Begins," referring to



violence in PoK during local elections. "Misleading and incorrect headline by @nytimes. There is no Pakistani Kashmir, only Pakistan-occupied Kashmir," the embassy said in a post on X. "The Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh have been, are and will always remain an integral and inalienable part of

India. Pakistan has illegally occupied parts of these territories and is now using violence against the occupied people," it added.

India's Stand On PoK

India maintains that the entire Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh are integral and inalienable parts of it. New Delhi also asserts that Pakistan has been in "illegal and forcible occupation" of parts of these Union Territories. Earlier this month, New Delhi noted that protests in PoK were a "direct consequence" of Islamabad's decades-long "systemic exploitation and administrative oppression" in areas under its "forcible."



Argentine Security Minister Alejandra Monteoliva expressed her condolences on X. "I stand with each of the families and their fellow officers in this moment of profound grief," she wrote. A local journalist and friend of one of the victims, police officer German Videla, told TN television channel that the pair had been in contact about an hour before the crash. The helicopter "shattered into a thousand pieces. It's shocking," said journalist Mauricio Davila, who had also spoken with rescue teams at the crash site. San Juan's local government declared three days of mourning following the accident, during which the national and provincial flags will be flown at half-mast.

La Rioja, a semi-arid region roughly the size of Austria, has been grappling with several forest fires in mountainous areas since the beginning of the week. Hundreds of hectares have burned in just three days, local firefighters told AFP.

Bullets that killed two at Seattle food festival weren't from teen shooter's gun, says police

The shooting in the waning hours of the Bite of Seattle festival near the Space Needle left three people dead, including a 19-year-old suspect, and at least four bystanders injured.

SEATTLE.(Agency)

Preliminary testing showed the bullets that killed two bystanders during a shootout at a crowded Seattle food festival last weekend didn't come from the gun a 15-year-old arrested at the scene was seen firing, police said in court documents filed Wednesday. The teen repeatedly shot an untraceable ghost gun into a crowd,

police said, and the King County prosecutor's office filed charges of first-degree assault with a firearm and unlawful possession of a handgun.

In a statement supporting the charges, police said preliminary testing of bullets recovered from the two bystanders killed showed they did not match that weapon. The shooting in the waning hours of the Bite of Seattle festival near the Space Needle left three people dead, including a 19-year-old suspect, and at least four bystanders injured, including a toddler. Police believe it was gang-related, and they continue searching for others who might have been involved. Police Chief Shon Barnes had previously said there was possibly another person with a gunshot wound that investigators were

looking to speak with, but the department said Wednesday there was no eighth victim. Testing on shell casings found at the scene suggest four weapons were fired, the statement said. Police said they recovered three guns, but only two of them had been fired, which means two weapons involved in the gunbattle were not found at the scene. It isn't clear which weapon or weapons fired the bullets that hit the festival attendees. Dozens of officers were at Seattle Center, a sprawling park, providing security for the event, when the shooting began. Some heard the gunshots, and one officer saw the 15-year-old firing, police said. A witness told investigator that he heard gunshots and saw the people around him duck, Detective Matt Blackburn

wrote in the statement. The witness saw a man in a light blue top who started running; the witness believed that was where the first shots came from. The witness reported that he then saw the 15-year-old unzip a bag that was strapped around his torso and pull out a gun with an extended magazine. The teen shot multiple times toward the other suspect, Blackburn wrote. Two shell casings from the teen's ghost gun were found at the scene. The teen surrendered when confronted by an officer. As police escorted him past the dead 19-year-old's body, he said, "Love you bro," Blackburn wrote. Prosecutors on Wednesday asked a judge to move the case to adult court, a decision that can take months after the judge considers arguments from both sides.