

Revanth Reddy gets nod for 4-nation tour, court relaxes bribe case bail conditions

Hyderabad. (Agency)

An Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) court in Hyderabad has granted conditional permission to Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, the prime accused in the cash-for-vote case, to travel abroad, temporarily relaxing the conditions imposed on him in connection with the case.

Reddy had moved the court seeking interim custody of his passports and permission to travel to the United Kingdom, the United States, Germany and China from August 17 to September 10. In his plea, the Chief Minister said the official visit was aimed at meeting industry leaders and attracting investments to Telangana.

The special ACB court noted that the Telangana government had approved the proposed tour, subject to Reddy obtaining the necessary political clearance from the Ministry of External Affairs. It also recorded that the investigating officer had raised no objection to his travel, provided certain conditions were imposed.

I am wealthy: Diary exposes railway officer, daughter's Rs 1.67-crore loan fraud

New Delhi. (Agency)

A father-daughter duo has been arrested in Uttar Pradesh's Gorakhpur for allegedly cheating multiple people through a personal loan fraud worth over Rs 1.67 crore. The accused are Dhruv Narayan Singh, a railway station superintendent who was posted at Sahjanwa railway station, and his daughter Garima Singh.

According to police, Garima married contractor Bhanu Pratap Singh, a resident of Kushinagar, in 2020. When his contracting



business declined, he moved to Gorakhpur and began living with his in-laws. During the investigation, police recovered a diary allegedly belonging to Garima Singh that they claim reflected her obsession with becoming wealthy.

One of the entries allegedly read: "I, Garima Singh, am the owner of billions of rupees. I have luxury cars and immense wealth. Thank you, God." Police said she had written similar affirmations on different dates.

Apologise or face action: House panel's 3-day ultimatum to Mark Zuckerberg on PM video row

New Delhi. (Agency)

Calling the removal of PM Modi's video an "attack on democracy", a parliamentary panel has given Mark Zuckerberg three days to apologise or risk action against Facebook.

The Standing Committee on Communications and Information Technology has given Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg three days to apologise over the brief removal of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's July 23 video from Facebook and take action against those responsible for the removal.

The panel, headed by BJP MP Nishikant Dubey, termed the removal of PM Modi's video an "attack on democracy", saying it targeted the representative of 1.4 billion Indians. According to sources, the committee has warned that failure to comply within three days could prompt the government to consider revoking Facebook's safe harbour protection, potentially exposing the platform and its officials to direct legal action. The loss of safe harbour protection could leave

Facebook and its officials more exposed to legal liability, including criminal proceedings, over content on the platform. The controversy stems from the brief removal of PM Modi's video on July 23,



which was originally posted on Instagram before being shared on Facebook.

The selfie-style video, PM Modi's first direct address in that format, promised

stringent action against paper leaks amid student protests led by the satirical Cockroach Janta Party (CJP). Meta briefly restricted the Facebook version of the post before restoring it following widespread backlash.

Earlier this week, the panel summoned and questioned Meta officials over the incident. The company apologised and attributed the removal to a "technical glitch". The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, however, rejected the explanation as "not reasonable", saying that if the incident was indeed caused by a technical error, Meta, as a technology company, should strengthen its systems to prevent such lapses. The brief disappearance of the video was quickly noticed by BJP leaders and online commentators, who flagged the issue with Meta and demanded answers.

PM Modi's Vision Plagued by ₹43 Crore Dialysis Machine Scam

Innocent Staff Scapegoated, Real Culprits Unpunished, Reveals 'Mahanagar Metro'

MAHANAGAR METRO

Gandhinagar: Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision to establish dialysis centers across Gujarat—aimed at providing free, localized kidney care to poor patients in remote areas—has come under the shadow of a major corruption scandal. An investigative report by *Mahanagar Metro* has exposed serious irregularities in the procurement of 600 dialysis machines worth ₹43 crore, a matter that previously sparked heated debates in the Gujarat Legislative Assembly.

High-Level Approvals vs. Scapegoating Junior Staff

The investigative report highlights critical flaws and systemic double standards in the government's response:

Top-Level Authorization: The procurement of 600 dialysis machines was explicitly sanctioned by the then Health Minister and Health Secretary. **GeM Portal Procurement:** The Institute of Kidney Diseases and Research Centre (IKDRC / Kidney Hospital) acquired the machines through a reverse auction process on the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) portal to secure competitive rates. **Retaliation by Disgruntled Contractors:** Influential vendors who lost out due to the transparent digital bidding process allegedly launched a smear campaign targeting both the government and the hospital administration. **Protection for Senior Officials:** In response to public backlash, the government suspended four contractual employees. However, no action or inquiry was initiated against the senior officials whose signatures formally authorized the purchase. The suspended contractual workers have now approached the court to establish their innocence, exposing what critics describe as a deliberate strategy to shield senior leadership.



Financial Burden Shifted onto Impoverished Patients
The ongoing conflict and sudden halt in operations have left vulnerable patients stranded:
Halted Medical Care: Several regional dialysis centers have suspended operations, cutting off life-saving treatment for low-income patients.

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Halted Medical Care: Several regional dialysis centers have suspended operations, cutting off life-saving treatment for low-income patients.

Debts for Private Healthcare: Discharged from government facilities without alternative arrangements, patients are reportedly borrowing money at exorbitant interest rates to afford dialysis at private clinics.

The crisis raises urgent questions regarding accountability within the administration and whether senior bureaucrats are evading executive oversight.

Demands for Immediate Action
Mahanagar Metro has issued a three-point demand to the state administration:

- Independent High-Level Inquiry:** Formation of a judicial or high-level independent committee to thoroughly investigate the entire procurement process.
- Accountability for Decision-Makers:** Immediate legal scrutiny and investigation into the roles played by former ministers and senior secretaries who signed off on the procurement, rather than penalizing junior contractual staff.
- Emergency Restoration of Services:** Immediate, war-footing re-opening of all shut dialysis centers across the state to restore critical care and prevent further loss of life.

Vile and abusive: Court orders removal of fake videos linking Gadkari to E20 row

Granting interim relief, the Bombay High Court on Wednesday directed intermediaries, including Meta, to take down deepfakes, AI-generated images and other posts falsely linking Union Minister Nitin Gadkari and his family to the E20 fuel controversy, describing the content as "vile and abusive."

Mumbai, (Agency)

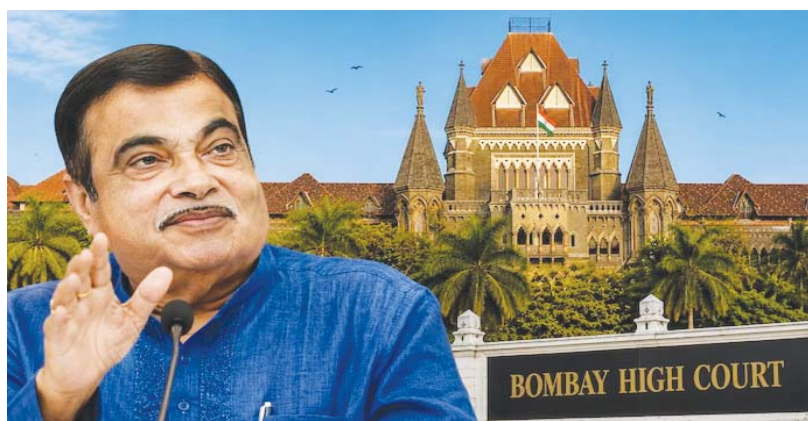
Granting interim relief, the Bombay High Court on Wednesday directed intermediaries, including Meta and YouTube, to take down deepfakes, AI-generated images and other posts falsely linking Union Minister Nitin Gadkari and his family to the E20 fuel controversy, describing the content as "vile and abusive." The court also said that if any such posts come to Gadkari's notice in the future, he may notify the intermediaries, who will then be required to take the necessary action.

Last week, Gadkari had approached the Bombay High Court seeking Rs 11 crore in damages over alleged violations of his personality rights through abusive social media posts, AI-generated deepfakes and fabricated content.

In the suit, Gadkari said the material falsely links him and his family to the Centre's E20 ethanol-blending programme and to alleged corruption. In the 86-page suit, filed through advocate Sandeep Laddha, Gadkari said he has no role in formulating, administering or implementing the Ethanol Blending Programme or the E20 initiative. The

petition said the programme falls under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, and not the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, which he heads.

The suit traces the Ethanol Blending Programme to a Government of India policy from 2003 and said it has gradually expanded to the current 20 per cent ethanol blending target for the 2025-26 ethanol supply year. Gadkari said all policy decisions, implementation and regulatory oversight linked to E20 are handled exclusively by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.



News box

Women taking pregnant cow home accused of animal slaughter, thrashed

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

A woman and her mother, who claimed they were taking home a pregnant stray cow after residents requested them to care for the animal, were allegedly assaulted by a group that accused them of taking it for slaughter in Modinagar. Police have registered an FIR after a video of the incident surfaced on social media. Deepa (31) and her mother, Suman, both residents of Nand Nagri, told police the cow had been wandering in the locality for several days without anyone looking after it. Fearing it could give birth at any time, some residents approached them because they had been rearing cattle for years and asked them to shelter the animal. "We were taking the cow home when a woman, Sapna Aggarwal, and two others stopped us. They accused us of taking it for slaughter, abused us and began assaulting us. Sapna slapped us repeatedly, and they threatened to kill us. Both my mother and I suffered injuries," Deepa said in her complaint. Police said they traced the victims after examining the video on social media and subsequently registered a case. ACP Bhaskar Verma said an FIR was lodged against Sapna Aggarwal and two unidentified persons under sections 115 (voluntarily causing hurt), 352 (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of peace) and 351(3) (criminal intimidation) of the BNS. "A police team has been formed. We are examining the evidence and action will be taken against the accused accordingly," Verma said.

Yamuna Authority plans 100-acre VFX park near International Film City

Noida.(Agency)

Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA) plans to develop a 100-acre animation, visual effects, gaming, comics and extended reality (AVGC-XR) park next to the upcoming Film City in Sector 21. YEIDA chief executive officer RK Singh said the project will house animation studios, VFX studios, game development and game design centres, motion capture studios, virtual production facilities, artificial intelligence-based content creation centres and laboratories for virtual reality (VR), augmented reality (AR) and extended reality (XR). It will offer an integrated ecosystem for animation, visual effects, gaming, comics and extended reality industries, which are increasingly being used in films, web series and digital content production. The park's proximity to the proposed Film City, officials said, was expected to enable collaboration between filmmakers, animation studios and digital content creators. Noida International Airport will also allow seamless domestic and international connectivity, while air cargo facilities, expressway links and logistics infrastructure are expected to attract global investors and technology companies.

Truck on wrong side runs over biker on Dwarka Expressway

Noida.(Agency)

A truck allegedly being driven on the wrong side of Dwarka Expressway killed a 32-year-old motorcyclist and left his friend critically injured early on Sunday. The crash has renewed concerns over unchecked wrong-side driving and the absence of effective monitoring on a speed corridor that has witnessed a string of serious accidents in recent weeks. The victim, Prem Goyal (32), a resident of Dwarka in Delhi, died after the truck allegedly rammed the motorcycle he was riding near Sector 111. His friend, Shankar, who was from Rajasthan's Beawar district, suffered critical injuries and was referred to PGIMS Rohtak. According to a complaint lodged by Prem's brother, Amit Goyal, the two had left Dwarka around 10pm on Saturday on a TVS Sport motorcycle and were heading to Gurgaon in search of work. When Prem could not be contacted the following morning and his phone remained switched off, Amit began looking for him. His search ended on Dwarka Expressway, where he learnt that the motorcycle had been hit by an Eicher truck. In his complaint, Amit alleged that the truck (DL1MA4900) was being driven on the wrong carriageway at high speed and in a rash and negligent manner when it crashed into the motorcycle.

"After receiving information, a team from Bajghera police station reached the spot and shifted both injured men to the civil hospital in Sector 10 in a private ambulance. Prem was declared dead on arrival, while Shankar was referred to PGIMS Rohtak as his condition was critical," a police officer said. Police seized both the truck and the damaged motorcycle. "We also recovered two mobile phones from the victims, which helped us establish their identities and contact their family members," the officer added.

The Sacred Confluence of Patriotism and Nature: The Spiritual and National Significance of the Delightful Month of August

Mahanagar Metro Desk

Across the infinite canvas of time, each month within the sequence of twelve brings its own unique grandeur and character. However, the month of August, serving as the eighth milestone of the year, holds a distinct and extraordinary position in the collective consciousness of the Indian people. This month is not merely a means to change dates on a calendar; it is a magnificent three-fold confluence—a vibrant chorus of patriotism, a poignant remembrance of the sacrifices made by freedom fighters, and an unbridled display of nature's pristine beauty. With the onset of August, the atmosphere swells on one hand with a powerful wave of devotion and national pride, while on the other, nature blossoms in all its glory, draping the earth in a lush green canopy. The history of August is indelibly stained with the blood of India's independence struggle. This is a month through whose very veins the spirit of revolution courses. On August 9, 1942, the 'Quit India' movement, launched under the inspiring clarion call of Mahatma Gandhi, shook the very foundations of the British Empire. The culmination of this relentless uprising manifested on the 15th of August, when our nation broke the centuries-old shackles of colonial rule to emerge as a sovereign



country. For this reason, Independence Day on the 15th of August is not merely an official state celebration; it represents the pulse and national identity of millions of Indians. The tricolor unfurling majestically from the ramparts of the Red Fort reminds us of the profound dedication of our martyrs and inspires us to commit ourselves to the service of the nation. Alongside national consciousness, this month ushers in a continuous sequence of religious and social festivals. As the sacred days of the Ashadh and Shravan months coincide during this period, an atmosphere of deep spiritual devotion envelopes the entire landscape. Raksha Bandhan, a sacred symbol of affection between brothers and sisters; the holy Mondays dedicated to the worship of Lord Shiva; and Janmashtami, the auspicious celebration marking the birth of Lord

Krishna, brighten public life around this time. The rhythmic cheer of traditional fairs and the resonant melodies of the shehnai offer a vivid glimpse into the enduring cultural heritage of India during this month. This vibrant tapestry of festivals serves to strengthen human relationships, rendering them more meaningful and affectionate. From nature's perspective, the month of August is akin to the earth adorning itself in finest garments. With the monsoon season reaching its peak, rivers, waterfalls, and lakes overflow with abundant water. The heavy mist rolling over the mountains and the playful game of hide-and-seek among the clouds bring a sublime sense of inner peace. The very pen with which we document our daily anxieties becomes eager during this month to capture the magnificent expressions of the natural world. The



sweet fragrance of the rain-washed earth and the dark, dense clouds gathering in the sky lift the human mind out of its internal void, delivering a timeless message of hope, resilience, and rebirth. Presenting this reflection to newspaper readers brings with it the profound realization that August connects us with our glorious past while driving us forward toward the future with positive energy. It gently teaches us that just as nature blossoms vibrantly after a harsh, scorching summer, a brilliant new dawn invariably follows the most severe adversities, physical ailments, or mental struggles in human life. Let us, therefore, open our hearts to welcome this sacred month of patriotism and love, and take a firm resolve to contribute our priceless efforts toward the holistic development of our motherland.

- Rupesh Solanki

Ahmedabad District Health Department Conducts Intensive Surveillance and Vector Control Following Heavy Rainfall

389 teams complete intensive health surveillance covering more than 1.3 million people and 253,000 households

Larvicidal Spraying, Fogging & IRS Conducted in Waterlogged Areas

Mahanagar Metro Desk

(Vandna Nilkanth Vasukiya)

Viramgam : Following heavy rainfall in Ahmedabad district over the past several days, the District Health Department has launched extensive preventive measures to stop the spread of vector-borne diseases such as malaria and dengue in rural areas affected by waterlogging. Under the guidance of the District Collector and the District Development Officer, and under the direct supervision of the District Health Officer and the District Malaria Officer, intensive vector control activities have been carried out across the affected areas. Major Disease Control and Surveillance Measures House-to-House Surveillance and Rapid Testing Over the past eight days, 389 surveillance teams covered 253,304 households and a population of 1,300,735. People with fever were identified, and Rapid Diagnostic Tests (RDTs) were conducted on-site wherever necessary. No cases of malaria or dengue have been reported so far. Larvicidal and Insecticidal Measures Mosquito breeding sites



were identified, and larvicides such as Abate, Diflubenzuron, and Mosquito Larvicidal Oil (MLO) were applied to stagnant water to prevent mosquito breeding. Fogging and Spraying Operations With the support of local Gram Panchayats, lime was

spread in muddy and waterlogged areas. Fogging operations were conducted to control mosquito populations, while Malathion dusting and Indoor Residual Spraying (IRS) using Alpha-Cypermethrin 5% were carried out in areas suspected to be at risk

of Chandipura virus transmission. Public Awareness and Cleanliness Campaign AASHA workers and health workers visited households to provide health education. Public awareness campaigns were also conducted through pamphlets, banners, school outreach programmes, and public announcements to educate residents about disease prevention. Public Advisory Issued by the Ahmedabad District Health Department 1. Do not allow water to stagnate around your home, terrace, or in open containers. 2. Clean and cover all water storage containers at least once a week. 3. If you develop a fever, avoid self-medication and immediately visit the nearest government health centre. 4. Wear full-sleeved clothing, keep doors and windows closed during early morning and evening hours, and use mosquito nets or mosquito repellents. The Ahmedabad District Health Department is continuously monitoring the situation and ensuring that all preventive and disease-control measures remain actively in place.

PFRDA opens NPS distribution network to co-operatives, farmer support bodies

Panchkula. (Agency)

The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) has expanded the National Pension System (NPS) distribution network by allowing Point of Presence (PoP) entities to appoint Cluster-Based Business Organisations (CBBOs) and registered co-operative societies as Pension Agents for schemes regulated under the PFRDA Act, 2013.

This decision was announced in a circular issued on July 30.

This move expands the range of entities eligible to serve as Pension Agents under the PFRDA (Point of Presence) Regulations, 2018. The circular builds on previous guidelines for engaging and operating Pension Agents.

Under Regulation 45, Regulation 2(1)(j)(iv), and Schedule IV of the PFRDA (Point of Presence) Regulations, 2018, the Authority now allows PoPs to engage Cluster-Based Business Organisations (CBBOs) empanelled or appointed by central or state government bodies, or agencies such as SFAC, NAFED, NCD, and NABARD. These organisations support the formation and promotion of Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs). The regulator has also authorised PoPs to appoint co-operative societies, unions, and federations registered under the Multi-State Co-operative Societies Act, 2002, or relevant Central or State Acts as Pension Agents.

8th Pay Commission to hold stakeholder meetings in Jaipur, Rajasthan-based employee bodies invited

Panchkula. (Agency)

The 8th Central Pay Commission will consult with Central Government and union Territory employee representatives in Jaipur on Aug 31 and Sept 1 as part of its ongoing engagement with employee organisations.

According to an official communication, the Commission will meet with associations, federations, unions and other stakeholders of Central Government and union Territory employees located in or registered in Rajasthan.

The Commission invites appointment requests from eligible stakeholders who have submitted their memorandum but have not yet met with the Commission.

These organisations should submit their interaction requests through the designated online portal by Aug 18, including the unique 'Memo ID' provided when submitting their memorandum.

The Commission will inform selected participants of the venue and meeting times by email.

The Commission clarified that similar meetings will be organised in other states and union Territories in the coming months, with details to be posted on its website.

Centre rules out review of HRA policy for government employee couples living in official accommodation

Panchkula. (Agency)

The Central Government has confirmed it will not review the current House Rent Allowance (HRA) policy, which states that HRA is not granted to a government employee if both spouses work for the Central Government, are posted at the same location, and live in government accommodation allotted to either spouse.

In a written reply to an unstarred question in the Rajya Sabha, Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Choudhary stated that House Rent Allowance is provided to Central Government employees who do not receive government accommodation, to compensate for the cost of renting a residence.

He explained that if both spouses are government employees posted at the same location and either has been allotted government accommodation, the family is considered to have received government housing. As a result, the other spouse is not eligible for HRA.

The Minister informed the House that the Government has not received any requests from employees or their associations to reconsider the policy.

Now, you don't need to visit police station for passport verification in Gujarat

Gujarat Director General of Police (DGP) G S Malik has clarified to the police force certain issues to further streamline the passport application and availment process in the state.

Ahmedabad. (Agency)

The Gujarat Police on Tuesday said the passport verification process in the state has been further streamlined and the applicants would no longer be required to visit police stations as the exercise will now be limited to checking citizenship and criminal antecedents.

Gujarat Director General of Police (DGP) G S Malik has clarified to the police force certain issues to further streamline the passport application and availment process in the state.

A statement issued by the DGP's office on Tuesday said, "Clarifications have been made regarding some important



amendments in the administrative process so that citizens do not have to face unnecessary hassle for passport verification." A key aspect is that "there

will be no need to call the passport applicants in person at the police station for the verification process. During the police verification, only the citizenship of the applicant and their criminal history are to be verified." Further, "The police are not required to separately verify the address of the passport applicants. Not only this, the police are not required to meet the applicant in person or take the applicant's signature. In cases where the police find anything suspicious or need to do further verification, the police will have to visit the place of residence only in exceptional cases. However, even in these cases, there is no need to call the applicant to the police station."

Why Uttar Pradesh madrasas can no longer offer college-level degrees

Lucknow. (Agency)

The Uttar Pradesh Cabinet on Tuesday approved a proposal for an amendment to the UP Board of Madarsa Education Act, 2004, under which the Madarsa Education Board will no longer be empowered to regulate or award higher education qualifications equivalent to undergraduate and postgraduate degrees, officials said. The decision was taken in a meeting chaired by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath before the second day of the Assembly's Monsoon session was to convene.

The proposed amendment, officials said, has been brought in to align the state's law with the Supreme Court's November 2024 judgment, which upheld the Madarsa Education Act but held its provisions concerning "Kamil and Fazil"

courses of higher education as unconstitutional.

Under the amended framework, the Board will continue to oversee madarsa education up to the Class 12-equivalent

governed by the higher education system. Minister of State for Minority Welfare Danish Azad Ansari told The Indian Express that the changes were necessitated by the apex court order.

"The Supreme Court had made it clear that Kamil and Fazil, being higher education courses, cannot remain under the Madarsa Board. The necessary amendments have now been approved in accordance with the judgment," Ansari said, addi that Government officials said the state is working on the mechanism through which Kamil and Fazil courses would be governed in the future.

Khawaja Moinuddin Chishti Language University in Lucknow is among the institutions being considered as part of the higher education framework, they said.



level, including courses such as "Munshi, Maulvi and Alim", an official said. The Kamil and Fazil courses, which fall in the higher education category, will now have to be brought under a framework

Kanwar Yatra 'effect': Bareilly Sufi festival drops meat from menu for first time

Lucknow. (Agency)

For the first time, meat has been removed from the menu at the Urs-e-Razvi, as devotees from around the world are set to arrive in Bareilly for the three-day annual event commemorating the death anniversary of the 19th-century Sufi scholar Imam Ahmad Raza Khan Bareilvi.

The Ala Hazrat Dargah administration has taken the decision in view of the ongoing Kanwar Yatra, following discussions with law enforcement and local authorities. All langar committees or groups preparing meals have been asked to serve pilgrims (zaireen) only vegetarian food this year, rather than the meat dishes offered every year. The Dargah administration has also changed the dates of the 108th Urs-e-Ala Hazrat, which has fallen in Sawan this year, from August 7-9 to August 6-8 to avoid traffic congestion and to keep devotees from the two communities from crossing paths or coming into direct contact. On August 10, a Monday, Bareilly will see a particularly large turnout of returning Kanwar pilgrims and local

devotees, making their final water offerings in the last Sawan stretch.

"The decision to change the dates was taken keeping in mind the presence of large numbers of Kanwariyas in the city on the following day, as well as a request made by the district administration and



police," said Nasir Qureshi, media in-charge of the Ala Hazrat Dargah.

Though the Urs was originally scheduled for August 7-9, the day on which the concluding Kul Sharif ceremony was to be held — August 9 — coincided with major Kanwar processions passing through the city, said Qureshi, adding that the dates

were changed over crowd management and public order concerns.

"Following a directive from Dargah chief Maulana Subhan Raza Khan (Subhani Miyan), an eight-member panel of Islamic scholars was constituted to examine the issue and recommend whether the dates ought to be changed. Senior police and administration officials also visited and met with the Dargah leadership, requesting that the event be rescheduled in the interest of public order and security," he said.

"Following consultations with the scholars, and taking the administration's request into account, it was decided that the 108th Urs-e-Razvi would instead be held from August 6 to 8 — Thursday, Friday and Saturday."

The revised schedule, Qureshi said, was being communicated to devotees across India and abroad through social media, so that pilgrims who had planned their travel around the previously announced dates of August 7-9 could adjust their arrangements accordingly.

Industrial Plot Allotment Scam | Punjab CMO officials on radar, ED searches 11 locations; AAP: witch-hunt to target Mann

Chandigarh. (Agency)

The Enforcement Directorate, Tuesday, conducted searches at 11 locations across Punjab as part of its ongoing investigation into alleged irregularities in the allotment and transfer of industrial plots by the Punjab Small Industries and Export Corporation Limited (PSIEC).

Although ED was yet to release an official statement about its findings from the day-long searches, sources revealed that certain high-ranking officials with their linkages in the chief minister's office and the state government have come under scanner. The role of each individual is yet to be elaborated by the investigating agency.

Sources said that ED's action was related to the ongoing investigations into the money laundering case against Cabinet Minister Sanjeev Arora. However, the ruling Aam Aadmi Party termed the ED

action a witch-hunt and "political vendetta" by the BJP-led union government.

The AAP, in a late night statement, alleged that the ED was being misused to target the Punjab government after failing to find any evidence of any wrongdoing against Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann.

"The massive public anger against the 'ED Party' (BJP), as witnessed during the Jantar Mantar protest, has clearly rattled Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Instead of addressing the growing public outrage, the ED Party (BJP) has chosen to misuse central agencies and pursue political vendetta against its opponents," it said.

It added that BJP-led Centre "has already deployed the ED, CBI and Income Tax Department against Punjab and CM Mann. Despite repeated investigations, they have failed to find any evidence

against him. Having failed to level any credible allegation against the Chief Minister himself, the ED Party (BJP) has now resorted to targeting and maligning



people associated with him."

"This is nothing but a desperate attempt by the ED Party (BJP) to defame Punjab's elected government through baseless allegations, without any evidence or factual basis. The ED Party (BJP) is trying

to achieve through propaganda what it could not achieve through investigations. The Aam Aadmi Party strongly condemns this politics of vendetta and intimidation.

The people of Punjab and the country can clearly see that these actions are driven not by facts or law, but by political frustration and a desperate attempt by the ED Party (BJP) to silence those who are working honestly for the public," the statement further said.

The searches were conducted at premises linked to current and former PSIEC officials, property dealers and alleged benamidars [pseudo-owners].

Those searched included PSIEC executive director Bhai Sukhdeep Singh, retired chief general manager Surendra Pal Singh, retired general manager Jaswinder Singh Randhawa and retired sub-divisional engineer Savtej Singh.

Small fixes or full reform is the question

From prisons to courtrooms, Sri Lanka's crises continue to unfold across multiple fronts, with the government's push to increase the retirement age of judges sparking a fierce debate over timing, motives and governance implications.

A swift and contentious debate over judicial terms has opened a fresh rift between the executive and the judiciary. At the heart of the friction is a legislative effort to raise the retirement age of the nation's judges, an initiative backed by the administration as a remedy for chronic court delays but widely viewed by critics as a move to alter the leadership trajectory of the highest courts.

While ruling leaders describe the changes as a structural measure needed to clear severe case backlogs and modernise public institutions, legal scholars, civil society groups and independent observers widely view the sudden timing as a move designed to influence judicial leadership succession. From crowded prisons to overburdened courtrooms, the nation's crises continue to unfold across multiple fronts, rendering the debate over judicial retirement ages a pivotal flashpoint regarding the future of constitutional democracy and democratic governance in Sri Lanka.

The policy initiative was pushed through a cabinet paper last week by Justice and National Integration Minister Harshana Nanayakkara. If enacted by parliament, statutory retirement limits would expand across the bench by two years: Supreme Court justices would serve until age 67 rather than 65; Court of Appeal judges would remain on the bench until 65; High Court jurists would serve until 63; and lower-tier magistrates alongside district court judges would retire at 62. Proponents within the administration maintain that prolonged terms will preserve institutional expertise, curb professional brain drain, expand administrative capacity and operationalise key campaign commitments of the National People's Power (NPP) aimed at building a modern, efficient and transparent justice framework that could guarantee the delivery of justice at speed. Despite these formal justifications, the abrupt submission of the cabinet paper has triggered immediate scepticism and public criticism regarding the governing NPP coalition's motives. Detractors argue that utilising a commanding parliamentary supermajority to adjust sitting limits mid-service strikes at the heart of institutional independence and destabilises constitutional safeguards. In particular, critics allege that the primary impetus behind the legislative push is to prolong the tenure of the incumbent chief justice while quietly blocking the advancement of the bench's next senior Supreme Court judge from being elevated to the top position. This perception of political expediency sparked public debate, with the legal fraternity convening a historic general meeting of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka (BASL) on July 29, drawing unprecedentedly high attendance via physical and virtual channels. More significant than the numbers is the unanimous adoption of a resolution opposing mid-service tenure alterations. The legislative drive has also exposed internal discord within the government's own base of support. Key legal figures affiliated with the ruling party, such as senior practitioner Lal Wijanayake, publicly broke ranks with the administration line during the BASL assembly, revealing that the party's primary decision-making bodies had never requested the extension scheme. This internal friction was further corroborated by senior party insiders who noted off the record that global benchmarks were being retroactively cited to justify a measure that was never part of the original legal overhaul envisioned by the administration. Furthermore, representative bodies such as the Judicial Service Association of Sri Lanka, which represents district judges and magistrates, warned of severe administrative ripple effects, noting that freezing positions at the top tier would inevitably suppress promotional pathways, delay career advancement and worsen operational bottlenecks throughout the judicial hierarchy.

A constitutional beacon: Why Madras High Court's conversion verdict matters

The principles laid down by the Court have implications far beyond Tamil Nadu.

The Hon'ble Madras High Court's recent judgment dated June 25, 2026 delivered by Justice G R Swaminathan striking down the Tamil Nadu Government Order that permitted converts to Islam to claim the status of "Backward Class Muslim" is one of the most significant constitutional decisions on reservation in recent years. The principles laid down by the Court have implications far beyond Tamil Nadu. At the heart of the case is Tamil Nadu Government Order (G.O. Ms. No. 31 of 2024), what one may call as "religion shopping". It allows persons belonging to any of the State's 360 Hindu BC, MBC, DNC, SC or ST communities who convert to Islam to be assigned to a new muslim caste and claim reservation under a separate muslim category.

The Madras High Court rightly reaffirmed the settled legal principle, first laid down in *G. Michael v. S. Venkateswaran* (1951) and consistently followed thereafter, that when a Hindu converts to Islam, he ceases to belong to his birth caste and simply becomes a Muslim (Mussalman), without belonging to any caste. While a person is free to change religion, the law does not recognise the automatic acquisition of an entirely new caste merely because of conversion. What makes the G.O. unprecedented is that it effectively allows a convert to be assigned an entirely new caste identity that neither the individual nor his ancestors ever possessed. More remarkably, the State argued before the Madras High Court that the Jamath—a private Muslim religious body—would determine which Muslim community the convert belongs to, and that this determination must be accepted by the State Revenue Authorities. Simply put, if a Hindu Nadar convert to Islam, the muslim Jamath will decide that his new caste will be "Muslim Labbai" and the State does not have any say in it. It is like handing over of Hindus to muslim Jamath to convert and assign a new identity. The High Court rightly ruled that this arrangement is unconstitutional and it's judgement deserves to be welcomed because it preserves the constitutional architecture of reservation. The Constitution guarantees every citizen the freedom to choose a religion according to conscience. That freedom is compromised if the State itself creates

substantial material incentives that make one religious choice more advantageous than another. Governments cannot structure public benefits in a manner that makes religious conversion economically or educationally attractive. The quashed Government Order created precisely this concern, because it allowed a convert to Islam to enjoy a cumulative set of additional advantages. Itsignificantly incentivized conversion from Hinduism to Islam. Through the GO, the State created



what may be called a "reservation arbitrage"—an opportunity to obtain substantially better access to government jobs and educational institutions through conversion to Islam. Tamil Nadu's own admission data shows that candidates in the Backward Class Muslim (BCM) category are often admitted with significantly lower cut-offs than candidates in the Backward Class (BC) category. In the 2022 NEET counselling, for instance, the last admitted candidate in the BC category secured admission at rank of about 62,857, whereas the corresponding cut-off for the BCM category extended to nearly 80,758—almost 18,000 ranks lower. Similar differences have appeared across subsequent years, indicating that the advantage is not an isolated occurrence but a recurring feature of the system. The same pattern is visible in public employment. Recruitment data from various State government bodies shows that, for several posts, BCM candidates qualified with noticeably lower cut-off marks than candidates in the BC category. The

Government Order therefore does not confer a merely symbolic status. It opens access to seats and jobs that would otherwise remain beyond reach under the applicant's original reservation category. A person assigned to a Backward Class Muslim community may compete for reservation benefits available under that category while simultaneously becoming eligible for constitutional and statutory protections available to religious minorities, including opportunities associated with minority educational institutions.

Whether viewed individually or collectively, these benefits create an asymmetry that is unavailable to similarly placed persons who do not convert.

A Judgment With National Consequences

The issues raised by this case are not confined to Tamil Nadu. Across India, governments increasingly face demands relating to reservation, religious identity and sub-classification. As these debates intensify, constitutional consistency becomes even more important. The Madras High Court has reminded governments that reservation cannot become an instrument for engineering religious identities or encouraging shifts between communities through executive policy. Equally, it has reminded citizens that freedom of religion is not strengthened when governments attach economic or educational incentives to religious choices. It is strengthened when the State remains neutral. A Beacon for Future Constitutional Adjudication The Madras High Court judgment has already made an important contribution. It reinforces that caste cannot be manufactured by executive notification after conversion. It protects the neutrality that lies at the heart of Article 25. And it preserves the principle that constitutional classifications cannot be delegated to private religious institutions. It is a reaffirmation of constitutional boundaries. If those boundaries continue to guide courts in future conversion-related disputes, this judgment may well be remembered as a landmark—a constitutional beacon for the next generation of jurisprudence on conversion and reservation. Reservation exists to uplift weaker sections, not for "religion shopping" by attaching tangible public benefits to conversion.

More girls adopted marks welcome shift in Indian attitudes

The trend suggests that more families are willing to look beyond age, gender and disability while adopting a child. If sustained, this could become one of the most meaningful changes in India's adoption landscape

More girls than boys were adopted in India in 2025-26. Official figures show 2,574 girls and 2,448 boys finding adoptive families. The difference is not large, but it is noteworthy in a country where discussions on gender have long centred on son preference and discrimination against daughters. Since adoption is a conscious choice, the numbers suggest a possible change in how families view the girl child. The figures do not explain the reasons behind this shift, but they do raise questions about a long-held assumption in discussions on gender. The rise in girl-child adoptions comes as overall adoptions have also increased. For the first time in more than a decade, India crossed the 5,000 mark in a year. Data shared by the Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) shows that 5,022 children were adopted in 2025-26, including 4,685 through domestic adoption and 337 through inter-country adoption. This was higher than the 4,515 adoptions recorded in 2024-25. The increase, however, also highlights the challenges within the adoption system. Nearly 26,000 prospective adoptive parents are registered



with CARA. However, parents wanting to adopt a child below two years wait three and a half years. The central challenge is the pace at which children who cannot be reunited with their biological families are declared legally free for adoption and matched with waiting parents. Protecting the rights of biological families is essential, but

avoidable administrative delays postpone a child's opportunity to grow up in a permanent home. Equally noteworthy is the 25 percent increase in the adoption of children with special needs. These children have traditionally faced greater barriers in finding permanent families. The trend suggests that more families are willing to look beyond age, gender and disability while adopting a child. If sustained, this could become one of the most meaningful changes in India's adoption landscape. Greater transparency from CARA, including state-wise details on waiting periods, children declared legally free for adoption and adoption outcomes, would help policymakers distinguish social change from administrative progress and design better reforms. The record of 5,022 adoptions is, therefore, not just an administrative achievement. It points to an India that is becoming more open to adoption, more accepting of daughters and more willing to embrace children with special needs. Public policy must now keep pace by ensuring that every child.

Education system must focus on job skills

The reform agenda should match the aspirations of the young generation

THOUSANDS of youngsters, including students, marching peacefully towards Parliament on July 20 to demand accountability from a system that had betrayed their trust, were "brutally welcomed" with batons, barricades and pellet guns wielded by the police and Rapid Action Force personnel. Broken bones and pellet wounds were the government's reply to a generation seeking nothing more than the right to a fair shot at their future. It was the moral nadir of an establishment that treats aspiration as nuisance, and its own repeated institutional failures as a "public relations problem" to be managed. The resignation of the Education Minister is all but mere tokenism. Proposed amendments to the anti-paper-leak law may expedite investigation and trials, but the deterrent effect remains an open-ended question in a country that is over-legislated and under-enforced. The fundamental truth is that the Indian education system is broken, perhaps irretrievably. It does not catalyse critical thinking or creativity. Rote learning is still the name of the game. Until we encourage pre-primary, primary, middle and high schoolers to think for themselves and incentivise audacity that demolishes conformism, we will only build a society that will continue to pay obeisance to a feudal social order. It is only the ability to think and act freely that can break the chains of patriarchy. Band-aid solutions cannot do it. That is what Parliament should have discussed — how to liberate the next generation from the shackles of mental slavery that is intrinsic to the DNA of India's education system and, by extension, its political and social milieu. Nonetheless, imagine a utopian scenario: all higher education seats are filled on merit free from paper leaks and all sanctioned government posts are filled. The majority of India's youth would still be trapped in a limbo of unemployability, for the simple reason that the number of aspirants exceeds available government

jobs and quality institutional seats by multiples that no examination reform can bridge.

For decades, the education policy has been obsessed with access, measured by enrolment ratios, while neglecting learning outcomes and their translation into livelihoods. India Skills Report 2026 puts the aggregate employability at 56.35%, with the deficit concentrated in non-technical competencies (communication, problem-solving and digital fluency). Ergo, one in two graduates emerges from the system not readily employable in any industry.

This chasm between 'credentials' and 'capability' is a consequence of an academic architecture that relegates employment integration to residual luck of campus placements and prestige hierarchy of limited eminent institutes. The vast majority of students enrolled in tier-2 and tier-3 city colleges, state universities and private self-financing institutions traverse their entire college life without any structured interface with a productive economy. Every education and training facility needs a minimum industry interface as a design principle that determines local or regional demand for particular skills. South Asians & Diaspora Curricula from the secondary stage onwards (under the National Skills Qualifications Framework) and across all undergraduate/postgraduate programmes must embed mandatory apprenticeships, internships and live industry projects. Public sector enterprises, joint ventures under the PPP (public-private partnership) model and private corporations, including through their CSR (corporate social responsibility) mandate, must be enjoined to organise placement-linked training opportunities in collaboration with education departments. The failure of the education system to produce skilled workers is

compounded by chronic underinvestment. Public expenditure on education as a percentage of GDP remains stagnant at about 4%, far below the 6% target.

The government school enrolment share dropped from 71% in 2005 to 49.24% in 2024-25 (as per NITI Aayog's School Education Report), despite massive outlays under



the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, PM-SHRI and PM-POSHAN. This signals that the problem is not only of resources but of resource effectiveness.

The rising cost of education has pushed families into a brutal calculus. The 381st Report of the Parliamentary Committee on Education bespeaks the need for fixing the financial architecture for higher education. The committee's recommendation, reiterated after an unsatisfactory government response, is that the annual family income ceiling be uniformly enhanced to Rs 8 lakh

across all schemes, all types of courses and all institutions, without any conditionality based on quality rankings. On the priority sector lending front, the RBI's revision of the education loan limit from Rs 20 lakh to Rs 25 lakh falls far short of the committee's recommendation of Rs 50 lakh, which reflects real escalation in the cost of higher education. An equally pernicious dimension of the rising costs is unregulated commercialisation of coaching, which has metastasised from a supplementary aid into a parallel system. Coaching centres have proliferated like kirana stores, operating with no regulatory oversight and extracting heavy financial and psychological toll from families already stretched thin. Non-schooling educational institutes must be brought under a regulatory framework that mandates transparency in fee structures, faculty qualifications, verifiable outcome disclosures and minimum pedagogical standards. Compounding the cost problem is the pedagogical damage wrought by the automatic promotion policy, which has done more to hollow out the quality of education than any other measure. It has produced a swelling cohort of the uneducated literate, promoted grade-to-grade without academic knowledge or employable skill that a performance-based evaluation system would have enforced. The 2024 ASER (Annual Status of Education Report) and PARAKH (Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development) findings reveal that nearly half of Grade-5 children in rural India cannot read a Grade-2 text; fewer than 55% of Grade-3 students can handle basic money transactions, and less than 30% of Grade-6 students have adequate fraction competency.



draws blood in a manicure. A website reports how singer and American Idol judge Paula Abdul suffered long, painful thumb infection that she apparently picked up at a Los Angeles nail salon and testified before legislators in support of a bill to increase nail-salon health standards. Mike Comins, chairman of the British Association of Cosmetic Doctors, says: "Hepatitis C is a robust virus that can live outside the body for quite a long time and may not display any symptoms at all. It can linger for decades, increasing your risk of cirrhosis and liver cancer. It's very contagious and not routinely tested for." Adds skin doctor Rita Shah, "One has to be careful. If the instruments are not sterilised properly, there's a risk they could spread blood-borne infections." Hair and now! Ever thought a simple blow dry could nix it for you? That's apparently that case.

You can actually suffer 'asphyxiation' from a Brazilian Blowdry as a major ingredient in the straightening treatment d u b b e d t h e Brazilian, or permanent, blowdry is

said to be formaldehyde. And inspite of certain restrictions on the amount of the chemical that can be used, and new formaldehyde-free formulations, certain firms are still selling products that can cause breathing difficulties and other unpleasant side-effects. That's a scare, not counting smaller woes like head lice from dirty brushes! And don't forget hot wax has the potential to be seriously dangerous if it's not handled properly or even a stroke from a washbasin! If you have managed to just end up with a crick in your neck and shoulder after a shampoo, count your blessings. Research indicates that the position in which you have to hold your



neck while being shampooed over a basin could, in a few cases result in a stroke, known as Beauty Salon Stroke Syndrome. The result can be dizziness, facial numbness, and even a blood clot in the brain. This is especially dangerous for those with high blood pressure. The warning signs are out, next time you might want to do a re-think before your hairdo or manicure.

Can your Beauty Salon harm you?

If you're planning on some post party indulgence, here's why you should think twice

The quickest way to pamper yourself is to indulge at the salon. However, a recent study claims that a simple fish pedicure that involves tiny toothless carp nibbling away at dead skin could spread deadly infection and disease. And that's just the tip of the proverbial iceberg. So, if you have intentions of stopping by the salon for a beauty treatment, read on.

Skin-tilling? ...not at all! If you have a weak immune system, or condition like diabetes and psoriasis in particular, experts advise you to stay away

from your local beauty parlour. They warn of the dangers of contracting Hepatitis C from the use of unsterile scissors (through a nick during a haircut or even a manicure). A website even reports how American singer Paula Abdul suffered a long and painful thumb infection she picked up at a Los Angeles nail salon and testified before legislators in support of a bill to increase nail salon health standards.

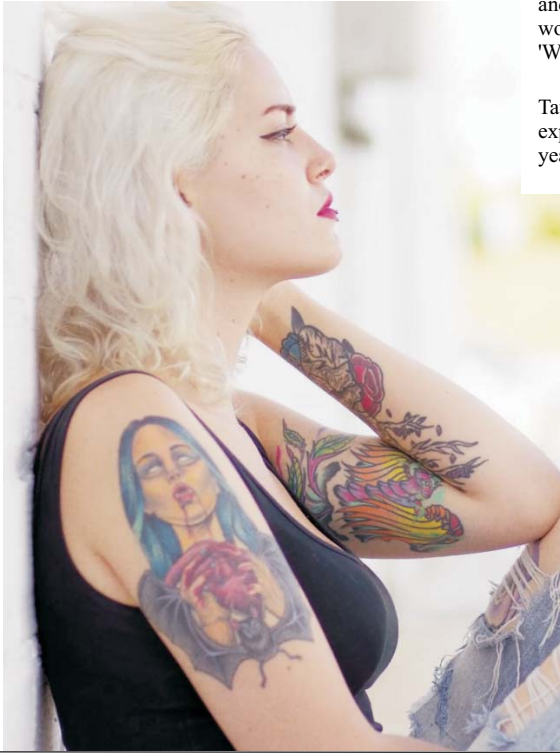
"If a person is already infected with a bacterial or

fungal infection and warts or molluscum (viral) and bleeds into the water in the tank, then there definitely is a very chance this could be passed to another client, either via the fish or contaminated tank water; if this not taken care of it can be harmful," says skin expert Dr Krupa Amonkar. In addition, there is a danger of contracting the Hepatitis c virus from unsterile scissors either through a nick during a haircut or during a slip that

Finding a good tattoo artist is half the job done, yet there are things even the most professional ones might withhold from you. Here are some of them:

Tattoos hurt... a little The pain you will experience while getting a tattoo is relative, and a lot of it is in the mind. Says tattoo artist Lama, "I've had body builders who start crying once the needle pierces the skin and middle-aged women who doze off while they are getting a tat." If you are confident in your artist and excited about the design, experts say that you're more relaxed and the pain is miniscule. It also boils down to the skill of the artist. If he doesn't know the levels to push the needle, is too rough or doesn't know the level of thickness of the skin's layers, it could cause bleeding and scarring. The tattoo needle shouldn't make you bleed.

Asking for the shop minimum is an insult



The shop minimum at a tattoo parlour is the overhead costs that it takes to get you tattooed. Keeping the equipment clean and sterile costs money. This includes needles, ink and workstations. Asking your tattoo technician a question like, "What's your shop minimum?" can dampen his mood.

Never get a tattoo in summer

Tattoo ink is made up of pigments that can fade easily when exposed to the sun's ultraviolet rays. With the weather hot all year-round in Mumbai, you can't deprive yourself of tattoos.



Tattooing

etiquette and tips for newbies

So, while your tattoo is healing, cover it up. Wear clothing while walking in direct sunlight and avoid the beach.

White tattoos are a waste

Transparent and white tattoos are a growing trend that will almost always leave you with regret. Says tribal tattoo expert Mo Naga, "You're going through the pain and healing for something that is sort of invisible. White ink falls out, gets splotchy and yellow over time. It usually ends up looking like a scar or birthmark." You don't want to go through the entire process of healing for something that looks good only for a day.

Machine users aren't tattoo artists

"There are many people around calling themselves tattoo artists because they know how to use the equipment," says tattoo artist Sunny Bhanushali. A tattoo machine is just a tool, knowing to use it doesn't make a person a tattoo artist. While choosing the tattoo artist, always ask to see his finished work. A good tattoo artist will be very good at drawing, painting or any other art form. So the easiest way to find the right artist around you is to look at his tattoo portfolio and drawings. Don't tattoo the name of anyone besides your parent or child. Tattooing the girlfriend's name on your arm is risky business so hold off on name tats. Brash youthfulness, saving broken relationships, and even branding a partner as yours makes name tattoos a cover-up job. After his split with long-time girlfriend Winona Ryder, Hollywood actor Johnny Depp had to change the tattoo on his right arm from 'Winona Forever' to a weird 'Wino Forever'. The bottom line is: Young love ends, the tattoo stays.

All inks should be in disposable caps Ink, cream and other materials must be divided into separate containers for each client. Visit a tattoo parlour and you will see rows of tiny white caps on a tattoo artist's work station. Tattoo ink is placed into

If you belong to that shrinking breed of people who've never been inked, you're probably still contemplating that oft-repeated question of tattoo virgins: Does it hurt? Get past the temporary pain once you've set your mind on getting inked, and decide on the design.

these caps because throughout the tattooing process, the artist has to constantly dip the tattoo needle into the colour of ink. Like old fountain pens, tattoo needles retain a tiny amount of ink on the tips that have to be constantly replenished. If they were to keep dipping the tattoo needle into a central, main pot of ink, it would cross-contaminate every client.

Have your concept ready

Says Sunny, "You need to have some concept for your tattoo. The artist will convert your idea into a creative design. If you don't have any idea about what exactly you want on your body, the artist will be at a loss about what to suggest and you might get something you regret." Also, amateur tattoo artists in the city download ready designs from internet. Don't settle for clones. Demand a custom design. It's your right to ask your artist to draw something specially for you.



Beauty rituals from around the world

Do not dismiss your granny the next time she gives you an earful about the virtues of a good old champi

There is wisdom in those words. Beautiful skin, hair and nails do not have to be synonymous with lighter wallets and wasting hours on end. We bring you a compilation of some amazing beauty techniques from around the world. Not only are they intriguing, but also completely natural. From soothing a flaky scalp to getting lustrous skin, there's a way to have it all.

Spanish circles

You surely must have tried cucumber slices to lighten dark circles around your eyes. And there's also a range of haemorrhoidal creams to treat under-eye circles. Weird as it sounds, it is supposed to work like a dream! Not brave enough

to try it? Then follow Spanish women and use very thin potato slices over your eyes. Keep them on for ten minutes. You will notice that they actually lighten the skin reducing the blueness of the veins under your eyes.

Kiss cellulite goodbye, the Brazilian way

Cellulite is every woman's despair and there seems to be no way to shooing it away. Here's a thing to learn from Brazilian women, who rub sand on their bodies. When it comes to cellulite, dry brushing is the best, natural and probably, the only way to getting rid of them. So, use sand to kiss cellulite goodbye.

Greek TLC for lips

Beauty regimens need not mean spending a bomb on products or devoting a lot of time to it (unless you are greatly inspired by Cleopatra). Some of the most easily available things straight off your kitchen shelves can be used for beautifying your self. Greek and Italian women use olive oil to sooth and repair chapped lips. It is the best treatment to heal dry and irritated skin. It also conditions skin and lips while making it glow beautifully.

Chinese anti-ageing

Want skin that defies age-related problems? Sip on white tea like the

Chinese do. It protects your skin from free radicals and you don't need to worry about Botox, fillers, collagen and the likes.

Australian dandruff cure

Suffering from dandruff? Add a few drops of eucalyptus oil or tea tree oil to your shampoo and kiss those flakes goodbye. This is a foolproof trick from down under to getting rid of dandruff. Be careful with the essential oils though. Massage your scalp with a few drops to see the change.

Scandinavian skincare

They aren't called the world's most beautiful women for nothing.

Scandinavian women are credited with flawless skin and aging gracefully. Water plays an essential role in their skincare regime, drinking lots of spring water along with treating their face to it. Steaming your face while in the shower helps open the pores and unclog all the impurities lodged in them. You can also use a hot towel to cover your face for a few minutes for this purpose. Then splash your face with ice cold water. Cold water closes the pores and tightens the skin. It also helps eliminate

puffiness. A good 20 splashes with cold water should do the trick.

Dominican way to stronger nails

So what is the secret to the super strong nails of women from the Dominican Republic? Garlic. It is the natural way to strengthen your nails and to ward off vampires! Want sturdy nails? Chop fresh garlic pods and add them to a bottle of clear nail polish. Leave them in there for seven to eight days. Paint your nails with this concoction. Although it will smell initially, it is a small price to pay to getting rid of brittle nails.

Be scorching hot at Parties this summer



With Mumbai summer refusing to bow out, we are left to deal with a rather long stint of heat and humidity. But are you letting it affect your social life, or rather, 'look'? Here are a few tips to keep in mind when stepping out for a party this summer...

Keep it simple

Beauty consultant Manasi Bhakade states, "Always begin day makeup with a sunblock (at least SPF 30), followed by a light oil-free foundation or BB/CC cream. Shadow and mascara on your eyes and a nourishing lip tint later, you are good to face the day." According to

senior makeup artiste Sonic Sarwate, one should choose makeup that blends well with the skin and doesn't feel heavy.

Use concealers

Dr Geeta Oberoi, dermatologist, says, "Use mineral-based makeup and keep your base to a minimum. Rather than using heavy foundation, use concealers to get a flawless face."

Do a double cleansing

Removing makeup is a must before you hit the sack. "Do a double cleansing procedure to unclog pores — a cleanser followed by medicated face wash," says Dr Oberoi. If you have oily skin, do not work your skin too much because it will end up making your skin more oily.

Close pores

You must use an alcohol-free toner after every wash to close open pores.

If you sweat a lot...

"Use lotions containing aluminium chlorohydrate. It works as an antiperspirant. However, in some cases, it can cause skin irritation. So, ask your dermatologist first," Dr Oberoi explains.

Use the right makeup

Dr Sama Rais, dermatologist and cosmetologist, advises using makeup that is 'non-comedogenic' or 'non-acnegenic' — it won't clog pores or cause pimples. Dr Poonam Wadhvani, cosmetic dermatologist, suggests, "Wear dark colours that hide sweat patches. For dark circles, try home remedies like applying cool tea bags on the eyes for 15 minutes or applying cucumber juice and potato juice."

Get this look

- Use a concealer and then apply a hydrating base that matches your skin tone.
- Use a light-brown or coral-toned blush.
- Apply highlighter on your brow bone, cheeks and in the inner corner of your eyes.
- A warm eye-shadow will enlarge and brighten your peepers.
- Line your eyes with smudge-proof kohl.
- Curl your lashes; apply a coat of mascara.
- Now apply a bright lipstick.



Hair care becomes a difficult and time-consuming job in the monsoon season. But it is also important for healthy hair to stay away from chemicals and outside treatments as much as possible. Well, here are some easy home remedies that can answer your tress woes -

For dry, frizzy hair, apply a paste of two bananas and honey and leave it for about an hour. This will help moisturize hair and keep it soft. Apply lemon juice on your scalp for 15 minutes and then wash it off. This will



ensure an oil-free scalp. Soak fenugreek (methi) seeds in water overnight. Mix two spoons of curd

Home remedies for hair-care in Monsoon

Here are some easy home remedies for the smooth and silky hair in monsoon.

Strain the water the next day and use this water to wash your hair. Methi is effective for many hair problems like hairfall, dandruff and dryness. The rains and sweatiness due to the humid weather results in an itchy scalp. Add a spoon of vinegar to water and rinse your hair with this at the end after you shampoo it. This will help you get rid of the itchiness. Mix two spoons of curd

with an egg and apply it on your hair for 15-20 minutes. Use this mixture as a conditioner after you shampoo your hair. It will make your hair soft and shiny.

Home remedies to cure dry, Flaky skin

Dry skin is a horrible problem to have. People suffer from stretchy, white looking skin that may even crack and bleed. Not only that, dry skin causes itchiness and discomfort too. Here are a few home remedies you can use to solve the problem.



Banana pack -

Mash one ripe or over ripe banana until it forms a paste and mix one teaspoon of honey with it. Apply a thick layer of this mixture on face and leave it on for 20-30 minutes. Wash it off with cold water and repeat the process twice a week to get moist fresh skin.

Almond pack -

Grind soaked almonds to make a paste. Add some cold milk, lemon juice and besan (gram flour) to this mix and apply a thick layer on the face and other dry areas. Scrub it off once dry and wash face with lukewarm water.

Yogurt pack -

Make a pack by mixing cold yogurt, lemon juice and honey and apply on face. Leave it on for 20 minutes and wash it off with cold water.

Aloe Vera Gel -

Apply a generous amount of Aloe Vera gel all over the face and leave it on until it dries. Wash it off with cold water. This not only provides moisture to the skin but also prevents ageing and acne.

Delhi plans to process all daily municipal waste by 2028, sets up interim segregation facilities

The MCD will create 8,000 TPD of additional processing capacity while using temporary segregation centres to prevent fresh waste from piling up.

Delhi. (Agency)
NEW DELHI: The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) is planning to achieve 100% daily processing of the city’s municipal solid waste by 2028 by creating processing capacity equal to the waste generated each day. Until then, it will rely on a network of interim fresh waste segregation facilities to prevent newly generated waste from adding to the city’s mounting waste burden. According to an official aware of the plan, the interim facilities will bridge the gap between Delhi’s existing processing capacity and the larger infrastructure planned over the next few years. Delhi generates around 13,500 tonnes of municipal solid waste every day but can process only about 7,500 tonnes, leaving a daily gap of nearly 6,000 tonnes. To

eliminate this deficit, the MCD plans to add around 8,000 tonnes per day (TPD) of processing capacity by 2028. Explaining the interim strategy, the official said that if the city continues to generate around 13,500 tonnes of waste every day while processing only about half of it, unprocessed waste will continue to accumulate until the permanent facilities become operational. To avoid this build-up, the MCD plans to establish fresh waste segregation facilities with a combined capacity of around 6,000 TPD at locations including Singhola and Narela. The facilities, reported earlier by this newspaper, will segregate freshly collected waste before disposal until the planned processing infrastructure is commissioned.

The official said the civic body’s long-term objective is to ensure that all waste generated each day is processed without



leaving any fresh accumulation of waste. “What is being generated is being processed. Nothing is being left behind. If I leave even 10% of waste behind, it will be

accumulated. Even a small daily backlog can eventually lead to a large volume of accumulated waste,” said the MCD official. The planned capacity expansion also factors in an estimated annual increase of around 3.9 per cent in waste generation driven by population growth and rising economic activity. The official, however, said that apart from expanding the waste management infrastructure, improving door-to-door collection and segregation at source in line with the Solid Waste Management Rules was “extremely crucial”. The corporation is also working to improve compliance with the rules, strengthen public awareness and information campaigns, and encourage more residential colonies to adopt better waste segregation practices.

Nigerian national critically injured after jumping during NCB raid at Delhi’s Mehrauli

Delhi. (Agency)
A Nigerian national sustained serious injuries after she allegedly jumped from the balcony of a building in south Delhi’s Mehrauli area during a Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) raid, officials said on Tuesday. The woman was rushed to the AIIMS Trauma Centre, where she is undergoing treatment. Her condition is stated to be stable, an officer said. The raid was conducted as part of an ongoing investigation into suspected narcotics-related activities. During the operation, the NCB apprehended two Nigerian nationals from the premises. Suspected narcotic substances were also recovered from the spot. Officials said the nature and quantity of the recovered contraband are being verified and further investigation is underway. The incident comes nearly two months after a similar case in north Delhi’s Swaroop Nagar, where an African woman died after allegedly jumping from the fourth-floor balcony of a flat during an Anti-Narcotics Squad (ANS) raid. In that June operation, police had arrested Romeo alias Sky while probing an NDPS case linked to accused Frank Dashmond. Around 30 grams of MDMA and 1.5 grams of heroin were allegedly recovered from his residence. Police said the woman, identified as Stella Pius, jumped from the balcony after officers entered her flat. She was taken to Burari Government Hospital, where she was declared brought dead. During the search, police recovered a key from another African national, Martin Aaron, which was used to open a locked room in Stella’s flat. Investigators found chemicals, beakers, pipes, sacks and weighing machines inside the room and suspected it was being used as a drug manufacturing or raw material storage facility. Officials said the investigation into the Mehrauli case is continuing and further legal action will be taken based on the findings.

Neeraj Bawana gang member arrested after encounter in outer Delhi

New Delhi. (Agency)
Delhi Police on Tuesday arrested an alleged member of the Neeraj Bawana/Naveen Bali gang following an encounter near GT Karnal Road. The accused is allegedly involved in six criminal cases, including murder, attempt to murder, assault and Arms Act offences. Police identified the accused as Savinder alias Baba (36). Acting on a tip-off, a team laid a trap around 10 pm on Monday on the GT Karnal Road-Hiranki Pushta Road stretch to nab him. “Savinder is a key active member of the dreaded Neeraj Bawana/Naveen Bali gang. He had been running a reign of terror in the Alipur and Narela areas, systematically extorting businessmen and property dealers. He was also suspected to be planning another attack on a victim that very night,” a senior police officer said.

Police said that when the accused was intercepted and asked to surrender, he allegedly opened fire indiscriminately at the police team. The police retaliated, injuring him in the left leg, following which he was overpowered, an official said. “During the encounter, no police personnel sustained injuries,” DCP (Outer North) Shobhit D. Saxena said. The accused was immediately taken to Raja Harishchandra Hospital and was later referred to Lok Nayak Jai Prakash (LNJP) Hospital. He is now stable and conscious, the DCP said. Police recovered a pistol, three live cartridges and five empty cartridges from his possession.



‘If she can’t be mine, I won’t let her be yours’: Threat before Faridabad teacher’s killing

On Wednesday, the school will gather for a havan in the memory of Sandhya Karhaja, a beloved teacher who always wanted to teach.

New Delhi. (Agency)
Dried blood marks the spot where an ordinary school day had descended into horror. The classrooms of Saraswati Senior Secondary School in Faridabad’s Sikrona were silent on Tuesday, its gates locked a day after a 21-year-old youth in a mask allegedly walked in, dragged a teacher out of her classroom in broad daylight and stabbed her at least 20 times, leading to her death. On Wednesday, the school will gather for a havan in the memory of Sandhya Karhaja, a beloved teacher who always wanted to teach. Born in Dabua in Haryana’s Faridabad, Sandhya married for love seven years ago and moved to nearby



joining Saraswati Senior Secondary School. On Monday morning, her classroom was where the 30-year-old taught for the last time. Amit from

Sikrona with her husband, Vikas, neighbouring Kot village entered the school around 9.40 am, dragged Sandhya out of her classroom and stabbed her to death before fleeing on a motorcycle. He was arrested within two hours. According to Sandhya’s family, Amit was a former student in a school in Kot where Sandhya had previously taught. She allegedly rejected his advances and stopped speaking to him. “Nine months ago, he began following her after she rejected him and stopped talking to him. She filed a police complaint, but his relatives came with folded hands asking us not to pursue the case. They promised they would handle the boy, so we let it be,” said Vikas, a driver.

Delhi SIR deadline extended for 2nd time within weeks

New Delhi. (Agency)
With only around 63% of enumeration forms digitised in Delhi, the Election Commission (EC) on Tuesday extended the door-to-door verification exercise under the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls until August 17. Now, the final electoral rolls will be published on October 27. The extension comes with just four days left before the earlier August 8 deadline. Data released by the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), Delhi, showed that only around 63% of the forms had been digitised by 8 pm on

Tuesday. The enumeration phase, which began on June 30 and was originally scheduled to end on July 29, had already been extended once



to August 8. It will now continue until August 17. In this phase, booth level officers (BLOs) conduct door-to-door visits to distribute enumeration forms,

electors fill out their details and BLOs upload the details on the EC portal. The draft electoral rolls will now be published on August 24 instead of August 17. (See box) The final electoral rolls will now be published on October 27 instead of October 19. In a statement, the CEO’s office said the schedule had been revised “keeping in view the main objective of the SIR that ‘no eligible citizen is left out while no ineligible person is included in the electoral roll’” and to give electors more time to submit their enumeration forms. It also requested all electors, who are yet to submit their enumeration forms, to do the same at the earliest.

Delhi records 137 clean air days till August 4, five-day run of satisfactory AQI continues

The government credited sustained planning and scientific interventions for the improvement, with the capital logging seven more clean air days than last year.

Delhi. (Agency)
The city has recorded 137 clean air days till August 4 this year as against 130 during the corresponding period last year, the government said on Tuesday, attributing the improvement to sustained planning and scientific interventions. Delhi has recorded five consecutive days of ‘satisfactory’ air quality until Tuesday, with the Air Quality Index (AQI) remaining within the range of 51 to 100, the government said. The capital recorded an AQI of 64 on Tuesday. Pollution hotspot Vivek Vihar recorded an AQI of 43, which falls in the ‘good’ category (0-50). In 2016, Delhi logged only 110 clean air days, the statement said. Environment Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa said the improvement was a result of sustained planning and scientific interventions, among other things. “The steady improvement in the city’s air quality

reflects the outcome of sustained planning, scientific interventions and round-the-clock efforts by multiple government agencies, as well as sustainable and environment-friendly practices adopted by citizens,” Sirsa said. He said the government will continue to strengthen enforcement, dust mitigation measures, biomining of legacy waste, pollution hotspot management and continuous monitoring to further improve air quality. The minister urged citizens to support the government’s efforts by avoiding open waste burning, maintaining vehicles properly, reducing unnecessary vehicle use and planting more trees. “The fight against pollution cannot be won by the government alone. Every citizen has an important role to play,” Sirsa said. The anti-pollution drive continued across the capital over the past 24 hours, he said, during which around 2,243 metric tonnes of construction and demolition (C&D) waste were lifted and scientifically disposed of.



Enforcement teams issued 11,797 challans measures, monitoring of pollution hotspots for violations contributing to vehicular and traffic management interventions were also carried out.

Rupee jumps 39 paise to 94.89 against US dollar ahead of RBI monetary policy decision

MUMBAI. (Agency)

The rupee gained 39 paise to 94.89 against the US dollar in early trade on Wednesday supported by falling crude oil prices following progress in US-Iran talks and a pause in planned strikes. Forex traders said investors are closely awaiting the upcoming RBI monetary policy decision for further cues. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 94.90, then touched 94.89, registering a gain of 39 paise from its previous close. On Tuesday, the rupee closed at 95.28 against the American currency. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading at 99.80, down 0.06 per cent. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, was trading lower by 1.11 per cent at USD 78.48 per barrel in futures trade. On the domestic equity market front, the Sensex climbed 375.01 points to 78,803.96 in early trade, while the Nifty was up 62.7 points to 24,677.60. Foreign institutional investors purchased equities worth Rs 2,446.47 crore on a net basis on Tuesday, according to exchange data. Forex traders said attention has now shifted to this week's RBI policy meeting. The three-day meeting of the Reserve Bank of India's rate-setting panel started on Monday amid expectations of a status quo on the benchmark repo rate, with the Monetary Policy Committee slated to announce its decision on August 5.

Govt replacing 135-year old law to make electronic bank records admissible in court

Kolkata. (Agency)

The Centre is about to replace a law that deals with production of banking records in courts as evidence to make way for the production of electronic evidence in sync with the modern-day technology. Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman has introduced the Bankers' Books Evidence Bill, 2026 in Parliament on August 3 to this end. It is designed to replace the Bankers' Books Evidence Act, 1891 that has determined the production of banking records in courts for over a century and a quarter. Features of Bankers' Books Evidence Bill, 2026 The proposed legislation was introduced in Lok Sabha on August 3. Titled The Bankers' Books Evidence Bill, 2026 it is designed to replace the 1891 law. The Act lays down that certified copies of bank records to be used as evidence in courts without requiring production of the original records. The proposed legislation intends to modernise the law to meet the requirements of the present banking system, which has undergone huge technological changes in the past century. The most prominent change that the government wants to introduce is the admissibility of electronic records in courts. According to the Bill an electronic/digital record of a banker's book will be admissible and legally enforceable as evidence. However, it will be subject to certain conditions.

Stocks to watch today: Meesho, Poonawalla Fincorp, Sudeep Pharma and more in focus

New Delhi. (Agency)

After four consecutive sessions of gains, the Nifty 50 fell 0.64% on August 4 to close lower, thanks to profit booking and consolidation. Despite the decline, the overall trend remains strong, as the index is trading above all key moving averages. Investors will be keeping an eye on some stocks today (August 5) since some companies have won deals and some companies will report quarterly results. Let us have a look at some of these stocks.

Q1FY27 results expected today

The following companies are supposed to announce their Q1 financial results today: Power Grid Corporation of India, PB Fintech, Aurobindo Pharma, Berger Paints India, Biocon, Cummins India, eClerx Services, AllCargo Logistics, GE Vernova T&D India, Inventorous Knowledge Solutions, JK Laxmi Cement, Sri Renuka Sugars, SIS and Whirlpool of India.

Stocks in focus

Life Insurance Corporation of India: The Government of India has decided to use the oversubscription option for a 4% stake in Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) i.e. 50.59 crore equity shares through 'Offer-for-Sale' on August 5. This is in addition to the base issue size of 31.62 crore equity shares (or 2.5% stake). One 97 Communications (Paytm): Elevation Capital V sold 10.20 lakh shares worth Rs 139.55 crore in One 97 Communications, while SAIF III Mauritius Company sold 97.43 lakh shares worth Rs 1,332.7 crore.

RBI's forex buffer gets a boost, closer to \$700 billion: What's behind the jump?

NEW YORK. (Agency)

India's foreign exchange reserves have climbed to their highest level in nearly three months, giving the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) a stronger cushion against global uncertainties. The country's forex reserves rose sharply by \$10.5 billion in just one week, marking the biggest weekly increase in six months, reported Reuters. According to RBI data, India's foreign exchange reserves stood at \$692.9 billion as of July 31, 2026. BIGGEST WEEKLY RISE SINCE JANUARY The latest increase is the strongest weekly gain since the week ended January 30. The sharp rise has taken India's forex reserves close to the \$700 billion mark. A larger forex reserve gives the RBI greater flexibility to

manage volatility in the rupee, particularly at a time when global crude oil prices and geopolitical tensions continue to create uncertainty.

WHAT DROVE THE INCREASE?

According to market participants, the jump in reserves was largely supported by strong inflows under the RBI's Foreign Currency Non-Resident (FCNR) deposit scheme. The central bank launched the special foreign currency deposit drive in June to strengthen India's balance of payments. As of July 31, banks had mobilised \$36.7 billion through FCNR deposits. Banks are also allowed to swap these foreign currency deposits with the RBI under a zero-cost hedging facility, which will remain available until the end of September. Market

experts believe these inflows could push India's forex reserves above the \$700 billion mark in the coming weeks.

RBI SAYS RESERVES REMAIN



COMFORTABLE

Speaking during the latest monetary policy announcement, RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra said India's foreign exchange reserves remain adequate on all key measures. "India's foreign exchange reserves continue to be

adequate in terms of the standard metrics of reserve adequacy with import cover of over 10 months and external debt cover of 90.8%," the Governor said. Import cover refers to the number of months of imports that can be financed using the country's foreign exchange reserves. A higher import cover is generally seen as a sign of stronger external stability.

WHY DO FOREX RESERVES MATTER?

Foreign exchange reserves play an important role in protecting the economy during periods of global uncertainty. They help the RBI manage sharp movements in the rupee, meet external payment obligations and maintain confidence in India's financial stability.

What India's biggest investor bought and sold: Inside LIC's June quarter portfolio

NEW YORK. (Agency)

Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), the country's largest domestic institutional investor, reshuffled its massive Rs 16.30 lakh crore equity portfolio during the June quarter, buying shares worth an estimated Rs 16,578 crore while selling stocks worth over Rs 13,400 crore across its biggest portfolio changes.

The insurer emerged as a net buyer during the quarter, with telecom major Bharti Airtel, automobile giant Maruti Suzuki and FMCG heavyweight ITC topping its shopping list. On the other hand, LIC pared its holdings in Coal India, State Bank of India (SBI), Hindustan

Unilever and Tata Steel, among others.

Despite fresh investments, LIC's



share of the NSE-listed equity market slipped to an all-time low, highlighting that the broader stock market expanded at a faster pace than the insurer's portfolio.

BHARTI AIRTEL, MARUTI LED

LIC'S BUYING

Bharti Airtel emerged as LIC's biggest stock purchase in the June quarter, with the insurer buying shares worth an estimated Rs 2,721 crore. LIC increased its holding in the telecom company by nearly 1.47 crore shares, taking its total holding to 25.82 crore shares as of June 30.

Maruti Suzuki was the second-largest addition to the portfolio at Rs 2,267 crore, followed by ITC, where LIC bought shares worth Rs 1,742 crore. During the quarter, the insurer added around 17.02 lakh shares of Maruti Suzuki and 5.84 crore shares of ITC.

Markets climb in early trade on falling crude oil prices; RBI monetary policy decision awaited

MUMBAI. (Agency)

Stock market benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty climbed in early trade on Wednesday following a decline in crude oil prices and foreign fund inflow. Investors are also awaiting the RBI monetary policy decision to be announced shortly. The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 397.59 points to 78,826.54 in early trade. The 50-share NSE Nifty went up by 62.7 points to 24,677.60. From the Sensex pack, InterGlobe Aviation, Mahindra & Mahindra, Trent, NTPC, Larsen & Toubro and Bajaj Finserv were among the major winners. Sun Pharma, Tata Consultancy Services, Titan and Bharat Electronics were among the laggards. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, traded 1.16 per cent



lower at USD 78.44 per barrel.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth Rs 2,446.47 crore on Tuesday, according to exchange data.

"The sharp dip in Brent crude to below USD 80 and record closing in the US markets augur well for the Indian market today. The focus of the market today will be the monetary policy," VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Investments Limited, said. The growth resilience in the economy,

improving corporate earnings growth and FIIs turning buyers for the sixth day in a row are positives from the market perspective, he added. In Asian markets, South Korea's KOSPI jumped 4 per cent, Japan's Nikkei 225 index climbed 3 per cent. Shanghai's SSE Composite index and Hong Kong's Hang Seng index were also trading higher. US markets ended sharply higher on Tuesday. Domestic sentiment has also improved as foreign portfolio investors continue to rebuild positions in Indian equities following a prolonged period of outflows. The recent recovery in the rupee, supported by softer crude oil prices and improving global risk sentiment, has further enhanced the appeal of Indian financial assets.

RBI leaves repo rate unchanged: Will banks increase FD interest rates now?

Planning to park your money in a fixed deposit after the RBI's latest policy decision? Will banks now offer higher FD interest rates?

SAN FRANCISCO. (Agency)

If you were hoping for banks to raise fixed deposit (FD) interest rates after the Reserve Bank of India's latest monetary policy, you may have to temper your expectations. The RBI has kept the repo rate unchanged at 5.25%, which means deposit rates are likely to remain broadly stable for now. The decision was announced after the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), led by RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra, concluded its three-day meeting held from August 3 to August 5. Explaining the decision, Governor Sanjay

Malhotra said the Indian economy remains resilient despite global uncertainties, including geopolitical tensions in West Asia, trade-related challenges and fluctuations in commodity prices. He said strong domestic demand, steady growth in manufacturing and services, and healthy exports continue to support economic growth.

WILL FD RATES GO UP? The RBI's decision means banks are unlikely to make any significant changes to FD interest rates immediately. According to Adhil Shetty, the central bank's decision has helped maintain stability in deposit rates rather than pushing them higher.

"By keeping the repo rate unchanged at 5.25%, the RBI has supported stability in deposit rates. Public sector banks are currently offering around 6.6% to 6.8% on popular one-to-three-year

fixed deposits, while private banks are offering roughly 6.4% to 7.0% for similar tenures," he said. In other words, people looking to invest in FDs can expect banks to continue offering



rates broadly in the current range unless there is a future policy change or banks revise their rates independently.

WHAT SHOULD FD INVESTORS DO NOW?

Shetty believes investors should focus on making the most of the current rate

environment instead of waiting for higher returns. "Rather than investing the entire amount in a single FD, savers can consider laddering FDs by spreading deposits across different maturities. This provides periodic access to funds while reducing the risk of locking the entire corpus into one interest rate," he said.

FD laddering means splitting your investment into multiple deposits with different maturity periods. This allows part of your money to mature at regular intervals while the rest continues to earn interest.

LOOK BEYOND THE INTEREST RATE

Shetty also advised investors not to judge an FD only by the headline interest rate. "As always, investors should evaluate returns after factoring in taxes and inflation, not just the headline FD rate," he said.

Surge in Hepatitis A, E cases in Kerala this monsoon due to contaminated water: Expert

Thiruvananthapuram.(Agency)

Kerala is witnessing a concerning surge in Hepatitis A and Hepatitis E cases during the ongoing monsoon, largely due to contaminated food and drinking water caused by heavy rainfall, waterlogging and poor sanitation, according to National Communicable Disease Control Programme Advisor Dr. Naresh Purohit.

In a statement issued here on Wednesday, Dr. Purohit, a noted epidemiologist and Visiting Professor at the Kerala University of Health Sciences' School of Public Health, said hepatitis is a serious liver disease that can become life-threatening if not diagnosed and treated in time, stressing that early detection is crucial to reducing complications.

He said the monsoon season creates ideal conditions for the spread of Hepatitis A and Hepatitis E viruses, with overflowing drains, contaminated water sources and inadequate sanitation significantly increasing the risk of infection.

Explaining the different forms of the disease, Dr. Purohit said Hepatitis A is mainly transmitted through contaminated food and water, while Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C spread through infected blood, unsafe injections, improperly sterilised medical equipment and unprotected sexual contact.

Minister Krishna Byre Gowda orders action plan to expedite removal of abandoned vehicles

BENGALURU.(Agency)

Greater Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda on Tuesday directed officials to prepare corporation-wise action plans and operational schedules to speed up the removal of abandoned vehicles from roads and public spaces across the five city corporations under the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA).

Reviewing the progress of abandoned vehicle removal and footpath encroachment clearance drives during a virtual meeting held on Tuesday, the minister instructed officials to monitor field-level staff closely and regularly review the implementation of the campaign to accelerate the removal of abandoned vehicles.

Batting for better coordination between civic authorities and the police department, Byre Gowda directed the traffic police and city corporations to jointly conduct the enforcement drive. He directed officials to submit accurate data on abandoned vehicles identified, notices issued, vehicles towed and those released after payment of penalties.

The minister also instructed city corporation commissioners to initiate the auction of abandoned vehicles that remain unclaimed for 15 days after notices have been served and the vehicles have been towed away.

Conflict at home, not academics, behind Bengaluru students' anxiety

BENGALURU.(Agency)

Family conflict emerged as the top cause behind children and teens in Bengaluru needing psychological help, revealed a report released by Cadabams Hospitals on Tuesday. The city-based organisation conducted a study with Karnataka (mostly Bengaluru) students involving 58,000 touchpoints (including students themselves, teachers, parents and others) across 3,569 documented counselling sessions conducted by its psychologists. About 92 per cent of the touchpoints – taken from 20 institutions across the state – were from Bengaluru with other districts like Mysuru accounting for the rest. Students between ages 10 and 21 were assessed for the study. Expectedly, anxiety accounted for nearly one in three counselling concerns (29%). As a cause, family conflict (14%) ranked ahead of academic stress (10%), followed by relationship distress (8%) and loneliness (7%).

Mumbai's Noor Mohammadi, Shalimar and K Rustom to reopen after FDA stays licence suspensions

Mumbai.(Agency)

Nearly a month after Churchgate's iconic ice-cream destination K Rustom and three weeks after Mohammad Ali Road's popular eateries Noor Mohammadi Hotel and Shalimar Hospitality Pvt Ltd had their FSSAI licences suspended, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on Tuesday stayed the suspension orders, allowing the establishments to resume business.

During the intervening period, all three establishments carried out renovations and addressed deficiencies flagged by the FDA. They then filed appeals against the suspension orders. FDA teams conducted re-inspections and submitted their findings, following which Maharashtra FDA commissioner Tukaram Mundhe granted

stays on the suspensions on Tuesday afternoon.

"They have scored over 95," an FDA official said, adding that the establishments received stays rather than revocation of the suspension orders because Noor Mohammadi and Shalimar are yet to submit food sample test reports, which could not be obtained while the restaurants remained shut. "They also do not have records of their Food Safety Management Plan (FSMP), which they need to obtain. K Rustom also needs to submit an FSMP and a food sample test report."



Thursday, depending on how quickly supplies could be arranged.

Amid Cauvery row, Chennai receives 1 tmcft of Krishna water from Andhra

CHENNAI.(Agency)

At a time when Tamil Nadu and Karnataka governments are entering into a fresh legal battle for Cauvery water, the Andhra Pradesh government has released close to 1 tmcft of water to Chennai from Krishna River.

As per data, Andhra Pradesh has released about 0.9 tmcft of water between July 1 and August 3. Krishna water from Kandaleru reservoir in the neighbouring state is flowing into Poondi lake in Chennai at a rate of about 400 cusecs.

The AP government is required by the Telugu Ganga Agreement to provide the state with 12 tmcft of water annually. Interestingly, AP released only 5.6 tmcft of water for the entire 2025-2026 cycle, of which about 2 tmcft were received between February and June this year. With

steady flow to Poondi, the overall storage of five lakes - Poondi (1,048 mcf), Cholavaram (92 mcf), Redhills (1,706 mcf), Kannankottai-Thervoykandigai (265 mcf)



and Chembarambakkam (2,082 mcf) - stood at 5,193 mcf on Tuesday morning against the combined total storage capacity of 11,757 mcf, which is 29 mcf more than the

storage on Monday.

Officials from the water resources department said that the neighbouring state has been requested to release water continuously until the city lakes are full. Based on the requests, the AP government has increased the rate of release following a slump in June when the amount of water received at the Zero Point at the state border went down to less than 200 cusecs, the official said.

Quarries inspected Metro Water MD T Anand on Tuesday inspected the abandoned stone quarries at Sikkarayapuram and Erumaiyur, maintained as emergency water storage sources for Chennai, and directed officials to ensure proper upkeep. The quarries, with a combined storage capacity of 0.7 tmcft, can supply water during emergencies.

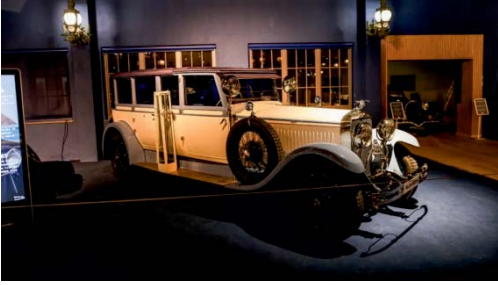
2 of Pranalal Bhogilal's vintage cars on display at automobile museum at France

The two cars remained on display as part of the special two -month exhibition at the museum which the statement claimed was the "first occasion on which historic vehicles from Asia have been exhibited in France's national automobile museum."

Chandigarh.(Agency)

TWO VINTAGE cars from the private collection of the late Pranalal Bhogilal will be on exhibit at the National Automobile Museum (Musée National de l'Automobile) in France till the end of August.

A statement issued by Dastan Auto World, the automobile museum set up by Bhogilal on Ahmedabad's outskirts on Tuesday said the two cars – a 1927 Hispanzo-Suiza H6C and a 1936 Mercedes-Benz 540K – were invited to participate in the Concours d'Elegance International at the museum in Mulhouse, France held on June 27-28 where the former was awarded "Best of Show".



from Asia have been exhibited in France's national automobile museum."

Representatives of the Dastan Autoworld Museum met Bruno

Fuchs, Member of the French National Assembly, Chairman of its Foreign Affairs Committee, and President of the Board of the Musée National de l'Automobile in an effort to "develop closer cooperation between the two museums through the exchange of significant historic vehicles, collaborative exhibitions, and initiatives that promote greater cultural, automotive and industrial dialogue between France and India," Fuchs was quoted as saying.

The National Automobile Museum at Mulhouse was a former woolen mill bought over by the Schlumpf brothers in 1957 to house their collection of automobiles.

Woman dies after lift malfunctions in Chandanagar

HYDERABAD.(Agency)

A 43-year-old woman died after she was allegedly trapped and dragged upward while entering a lift at an apartment in Chandanagar on Tuesday morning. The deceased has been identified as Dhadi Anasuya, a native of Kulkacharla.

Anasuya and her husband, Dhadi Srinivas, had gone to visit his uncle, Dhadi Govind, at Chhatwal Mansion in Annapurna Enclave. Srinivas told police that he entered the lift first. As Anasuya was stepping into it, the lift suddenly moved upward before the doors closed, trapping her between the lift and the entrance. She suffered severe injuries to her waist and other parts of the body and lost consciousness. Following Srinivas' cries for help, residents shifted her to a nearby hospital, where doctors declared her dead.

Srinivas alleged that lift maintenance work was underway at the time of the incident. He claimed that technician Anil Kumar carried out the repairs without switching off the main power supply or placing caution boards to warn residents.



Surat civic body forms team to rehabilitate displaced

The monitoring team comprises Deputy Commissioners Nidhi Siwach and Swati Desai and Additional City Engineer M A Chavda, who also holds charge of the affordable housing department of the SMC.

Surat.(Agency)

ACTING ON the Gujarat High Court's (HC) directive, Surat Municipal Commissioner M Nagarajan on Tuesday announced a three-member monitoring team, comprising two deputy commissioners and an additional city engineer, for allotment of houses to those displaced in the wake of the controversial demolition at Nasirnagar on a private piece of land in Ved Road area of Surat on May 30.

Later on Tuesday, SMC officials carried out a survey at the demolition site and also met several of the affected persons and collected information.

The monitoring team comprises Deputy Commissioners Nidhi Siwach and Swati Desai and Additional City Engineer M A Chavda, who also holds charge of the

affordable housing department of the SMC. SMC Additional City Engineer M A Chavda said, "We got the appointment letter from the SMC Commissioner on Tuesday afternoon. We will first contact the petitioners and provide them a list of documents they should submit to us regarding their stay in Nasirnagar. These include property tax bills, electricity bills, etc. There is a condition that the beneficiary or his family member should not have another house in the city and at least they should have stayed for one year at Nasirnagar."

He added, "Once we get the documents, we will verify and note down details of the people. We will prepare a report on such

beneficiaries and submit it to the SMC commissioner within the next four-five days. We are planning to relocate the



affected families to the Jehangirpura EWS colony. We have around 130 empty units there."

On Tuesday afternoon, a team of SMC

officials visited the Bharimata community hall, where people affected by the Nasirnagar demolition were accommodated by SMC authorities temporarily. The officials counted the number of affected families and told them to prepare to submit the documents. The teams, accompanied by some of the affected persons, also visited the site of the demolition in Nasirnagar and counted the houses that were partially or completely demolished.

Congress councillor Arshad Jariwala told The Indian Express, "The houses demolished at the site had multiple floors but now SMC officials told us that they will give a one-bedroom hall-kitchen house to each beneficiary."

NEWS BOX

Explained: Why KL Rahul practised vs spin on damp pitch ahead of Sri Lanka Tests



New Delhi,. (Agency)

KL Rahul gave fans a glimpse of his preparation for India's Test tour of Sri Lanka through an Instagram video that was anything but routine.

Instead of batting on pristine practice wickets, the vice-captain was seen training on a damp, muddy surface in Mumbai. The ball gripped, turned sharply and occasionally stayed low, creating the kind of unpredictable conditions Rahul is likely to encounter against Sri Lanka's spinners. The Indian Test squad arrived in Sri Lanka on August 4 ahead of a three-day warm-up match beginning on August 7. As vice-captain and the only batter in India's current squad to have featured in India's previous two Test tours of Sri Lanka, in 2015 and 2017, Rahul carries valuable experience into the series.

Preparing on wet surfaces during Mumbai's monsoon serves a clear purpose. When the ball lands on damp turf, it can grip sharply, skid through or stop on the surface, creating the kind of uncertainty batters often encounter on worn pitches in Galle and Colombo.

By facing quality spinners and taking throwdowns on these unpredictable tracks, Rahul has spent the build-up conditioning himself to play with soft hands, delay his stroke-making and make late adjustments against sharp turn and uneven bounce. The drills also encourage precise footwork and patience, two qualities that are often decisive on Sri Lankan surfaces.

Rahul's own record in Sri Lanka has been steady rather than spectacular. He averages 33 in Tests in the country, with a century and two half-centuries from his previous tours.

The island India conquered: A look at their Test dominance in Sri Lanka

CHENNAI. (Agency)

When India walk out for the opening Test in Galle on August 15, it will mark their first red-ball assignment in Sri Lanka in nine years. Much has changed since Virat Kohli's side completed a 3-0 clean sweep in 2017. There is a new captain in Shubman Gill, several familiar faces have moved on, and India will begin another chapter in their quest to climb the World Test Championship standings. One thing, however, has remained remarkably consistent - India's dominance in Test cricket on Sri Lankan soil. The island has transformed from one of the toughest destinations for visiting teams into a venue where India



have repeatedly asserted their superiority. Since losing a three-Test series 2-1 in 2008, India have not lost a Test series in Sri Lanka, underlining nearly two decades of sustained success.

FROM MENDIS' MAGIC TO INDIA'S REIGN

India's last Test series defeat in Sri Lanka came in 2008, when debutant mystery spinner Ajantha Mendis ran through the visitors with 26 wickets in three Tests, while Muttiah Muralitharan claimed 21 as Sri Lanka sealed a 2-1 series victory. It remains one of the most memorable spin-dominated contests in modern Test cricket. India recovered from defeat in the opening Test to draw the three-Test series 1-1 in 2010. After the second Test ended in a draw, they bounced back with a five-wicket victory in Colombo to level the series. Five years later, Kohli's men scripted one of India's finest overseas comebacks. s.

Carlos Alcaraz's comeback put on hold as he pulls out of Cincinnati Open

Glasgow. (Agency)

Carlos Alcaraz's long-awaited return to competitive tennis has been put on hold after the Spaniard withdrew from the Cincinnati Open, raising fresh questions over his preparations for the US Open later this month. Tournament organisers confirmed on Tuesday that the world No. 2 will not feature in the ATP Masters 1000 event, where he was due to defend the title he won last year. However, neither Alcaraz nor his team publicly disclosed the reason behind the withdrawal. The decision comes just days before the hard-court tournament begins and leaves the 23-year-old without a competitive match since April, despite recent signs that his comeback was nearing.

"We know Carlos is doing everything he can to get back to playing tournaments as soon as possible," Cincinnati Open tournament director Bob Moran said in a

statement. "We wish him the best with his recovery and look forward to welcoming him back to Cincinnati in the future."

COMEBACK ON HOLD Alcaraz has not played since suffering a right wrist injury during the Barcelona Open in April, a setback that forced him to miss several major events, including the Madrid Open, Italian Open, French Open and Wimbledon.

In recent weeks, however, optimism had been building around his return. The seven-time Grand Slam champion shared videos and photographs of himself back on the practice courts, while Spanish media reported that his absence from the Canadian Open was part of a carefully managed recovery programme rather than a fresh setback. That had fuelled expectations that Cincinnati would mark his return to the ATP Tour. Instead, the Spaniard has opted to skip one of the biggest lead-up

events to the US Open, although no official reason has been given for the decision. The withdrawal means Alcaraz misses a valuable opportunity to test his fitness and regain match sharpness



before the year's final Grand Slam.

US OPEN PREP TAKES A HIT

Cincinnati represented more than just another tournament for Alcaraz. As the defending champion, he was set to protect crucial ATP ranking points while also building momentum ahead of his US

Australia reveal unique blueprint to conquer India for Border-Gavaskar series in 2027

New Delhi. (Agency)

Australia are leaving nothing to chance in their quest to conquer India. More than five months before the Border-Gavaskar Trophy begins, the visitors have already mapped out a unique blueprint, prioritising a specialised training camp over a traditional practice match in a bid to hit the ground running when the five-Test series gets underway next year. Head coach McDonald revealed that Australia will not play a warm-up fixture before the blockbuster series, instead choosing to prepare at a location that closely replicates Indian conditions and climate. While the venue is yet to be finalised, the move reflects Australia's belief that a

controlled training environment will offer greater value than a tour match. "We feel as though we've got



enough time to immerse ourselves in those conditions. We won't be taking on a practice game. It'll just be more around the location," McDonald told cricket.com.au.

The much-anticipated five-Test Border-Gavaskar Trophy begins in Nagpur on January 21 before moving to Chennai, Guwahati, Ranchi and Ahmedabad. BLUEPRINT IN MOTION

McDonald said Australia are weighing up multiple options for their preparatory camp, including the UAE, where they have trained in the past, or a venue capable of recreating conditions similar to those expected in India.

"We've got a couple of options there. We have gone to the UAE previously and we have also gone into India last time into Bangalore, so we're just working through what that would look like in terms of how we then manage the individuals," he said

FIFA is blackmailing us: Jordan football president launches public attack on Infantino

New Delhi. (Agency)

Jordan Football Association president Ali bin Al Hussein has launched a scathing public attack on FIFA president Gianni Infantino, accusing him of "blackmail". Hussein alleged that the world football governing body offered to help resolve Jordan's football-related issues only if he publicly backed Infantino's leadership.

The strongly worded statement, posted on social media on Tuesday, makes Jordan the latest football association to openly criticise Infantino, whose position has come under increasing pressure after his controversial proposal to sell a stake in FIFA's commercial rights was abandoned following widespread opposition. Ali bin Al Hussein claimed FIFA had ignored repeated requests for assistance over several issues affecting Jordanian football before making



what he described as a political demand during the recently concluded FIFA World Cup. "It was verbally communicated to me during the World Cup that if I endorsed Infantino it would go a long way to helping our FA out," he wrote. "We pride ourselves in Jordan in upholding ethical values. We did not endorse him before and certainly will not now. But the whole situation amounts to blackmail and we refuse to give in to that."

FIFA DELAYING PAYMENTS

The Jordan FA chief outlined several grievances faced by his association following the country's historic first qualification for the FIFA World Cup.

TNPL: Dindigul outclass Tiruppur in opening tie

P Bhuvaneswaran and Nirankar

Sharma pick up three wickets apiece as Dindigul post handsome victory

CHENNAI. (Agency)

P Bhuvaneswaran (3/32) and Nirankar Sharma (3/21) picked up three wickets apiece to help Dindigul Dragons overcome Tiruppur Tamizhans by seven wickets in the opening match of the TNPL in Dindigul on Tuesday evening. Set a target of 108 for a win, Dindigul achieved the same without much fuss. Anuraag Rajesh made 34, while Vimal Khumar was unbeaten on 33. Tiruppur bowlers tried their best but could not succeed. Put in to bat, the Tiruppur Tamizhans

did not convert their starts into strong partnerships. Amit Sathvik and Tushar Raheja got runs in the beginning but were sent back early. From then on, a lot



depended on skipper R Sai Kishore — who promoted himself to No 3 — and Pradosh Ranjan Paul. But the duo failed to rise to the occasion and fell due to poor shot selection and timing. Tiruppur were reduced to 42 for 4 in 4.1

overs.

After that it was a massive toil for Tiruppur as their batters lacked the patience and footwork to play spinner Nirankar. Nirankar was accurate and bowled stump to stump and the manner in which he castled Ganesh with a peach of a delivery that beat the batter and the inside edge, carrying on to the stumps.

In reply, Dindigul lost wickets in quick succession in the fourth and fifth over but Anuraag and Vimal steadied the ship. Dindigul eventually reached the target in the 19th over with seven wickets to spare.

Brief scores: Tiruppur Tamizhans 107 in 15.4 ovs (Sathvik 20, Sasidev 17, Prasath 17 n.o; Bhuvaneswaran 3/32, Nirankar 3/21) lost to Dindigul Dragons 111/3 in 18.3 ovs (Anuraag 34, Vimal 33 n.o).

DPL chaos: Himmat Singh's kick in frustration sparks freak run-out to force Super Over

Delhi Premier League 2026: New Delhi Tigers captain Himmat Singh was at the centre of an extraordinary finish in the Delhi Premier League as his kick in frustration after a fumble ricocheted onto the stumps for a freak run-out, forcing a Super Over.

New Delhi. (Agency)

What looked like a costly moment of frustration turned into one of sheer relief for Himmat Singh and New Delhi Tigers in the Delhi Premier League (DPL) on Tuesday, as the captain effected a freak run-out off the final ball to force a Super

Over in a dramatic finish.

Chasing 136 in a 15-over contest, Outer Delhi Warriors needed just one run from the last delivery to seal victory. The batter attempted a big hit but could only push the ball straight down the ground. Although the single was never really on with Himmat positioned close to the non-striker's end, both batters took off knowing it was the final ball of the innings. Himmat reached the ball in time but fumbled what appeared to be a straightforward run-out chance. In frustration, he kicked the ball away. In an extraordinary twist, the ball rolled directly onto the stumps at the non-striker's end before Pratham Saluja could make his ground, resulting in a run-out and bringing the match level. The extraordinary sequence quickly went

viral on social media. Himmat's body language captured the drama of the



moment as his frustration instantly turned into celebration after realising the ball had crashed into the stumps. Several of his teammates, who had their heads in their hands after the initial fumble, erupted in celebration as the match headed into a Super Over. Outer

Delhi Warriors, however, held their nerve to win the contest in the Super Over after surviving the dramatic finish. The incident has become one of the most talked-about moments of the ongoing DPL, with the final-ball drama drawing widespread attention online. Himmat made his Indian Premier League debut for Lucknow Super Giants in 2025 after joining the franchise as a replacement for Australia all-rounder Mitchell Marsh. He had caught the eye during the 2024 Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy, scoring 197 runs in eight innings at a strike rate of 148. The right-handed batter is yet to make a significant impact in the IPL. He did not get an opportunity to bat in the three matches he played during the 2025 season.

Why Did

Rakul Preet Singh

Take Up The Role Of Surpanakha In Ramayana? Actress Reveals

Rakul Preet Singh is playing the key character of Surpanakha in Ranbir Kapoor's Ramayana. Surpanakha, the sister of Ravana, is a negative character in the mythological epic. What made Rakul Preet Singh say yes to the role? The actress revealed the reason while replying to a heartfelt letter penned by a fan. Taking to X, Rakul Preet Singh replied to a special letter penned by a fan and wrote, "Thank you for this beautiful letter. ♥ What made me say yes to Surpanakha was exactly what you mentioned, her complexity. History often remembers her for one moment, but there is so much more to her story. As an actor, roles that challenge perception are the most exciting. I hope audiences discover her with an open mind when Ramayana arrives."

Who Plays What in Ramayana

Ranbir Kapoor plays Lord Rama, the prince of Ayodhya, while Sai Pallavi plays Mata Sita. Ravie Dubey plays Lakshman, Adinath Kothare appears as Bharat, while Nitish Sharma plays Shatrughna, completing the four princes of Ayodhya.

Arun Govil, who remains closely associated with Lord Rama because of Ramanand Sagar's television adaptation, takes on the role of King Dasharath.

Sonal Jha has been cast as Sumitra, the mother of Lakshman and Shatrughna. Seeba Chaddha plays Manthara, Kaikeyi's attendant. Yash steps into the role of Ravana, the ruler of Lanka and the principal antagonist of the film. Kajal Aggarwal plays Mandodari, Ravana's queen, while Shobhana appears as Kaikeyi, his mother. Vivek Oberoi has been cast as Vidyutjiva, while Rakul Preet Singh plays Surpanakha. Sunny Deol plays Lord Hanuman, one of the most consequential characters in the epic. Kunal Kapoor plays Lord Indra, while Mukesh Tiwari appears as Sage Agastya.

What the Ramayana Trailer Reveals

The trailer begins with Ravana arriving at a palace and striking its massive doors before receiving an aggressive welcome. Ranbir is then introduced as Prince Ram, who fights demons to protect his kingdom with the support of his brother Lakshman, played by Ravie Dubey.



Nora Fatehi

Dating Moroccan Goalkeeper Yassine Bounou? Actress Reacts: 'He's A Very Kind, Amazing Person'

Nora Fatehi has finally addressed the dating rumours surrounding her and Moroccan footballer Yassine Bounou. The dancer-actress blushed when reacting to dating rumours with Bounou, but maintained that he is a really good friend. She called him 'kind' and 'humble', while also appreciating his skills as a goalkeeper, calling him one of the best goalkeepers in the world. Earlier, there were also rumours about Nora dating Achraf Hakimi; however, she denied dating him.

Nora Fatehi Denies Dating Achraf Hakimi

During a recent conversation on The Kris Fade Show, Nora Fatehi was asked about rumours linking her to Achraf Hakimi. Dismissing the speculation, Nora said she was not sure where the rumours came from and clarified that she had only met him recently through a group of friends.

"I actually never met him before. I just met him recently with a bunch of friends, like 'Hi, hello'. We have never really connected like that," she said. However, she added that she has great respect for Hakimi and praised his contribution to Moroccan football.

Nora Fatehi On Dating Rumours With Yassine Bounou

Talking about Yassine Bounou, Nora had nothing but appreciation for the footballer. She blushed and called him a close friend. "Oh yeah. He is my friend. I think he is an amazing person. And I am sorry but one of the best goalkeepers in the world, which I am so proud of and I am consistently celebrating that. But yeah, he is a really good friend," she said. When the interviewer mentioned

that they would make a good-looking couple, Nora laughed and responded, "Oh really?" She also revealed that she watches the Moroccan team's matches and admires Bounou's incredible saves. "So I watch the whole Moroccan team play. But yeah, I mean, have you watched him play? Have you seen some of his saves? They're unheard of in



the goalkeeper world if you study football. So, massive support for him," she said. Describing him as a person, Nora said Bounou is "very kind" and "humble." She explained that they share the same manager and had known each other from a distance before becoming friends a few months ago. "He is also very kind. I mean, we share the same manager. So I have known him for a long time vaguely, distantly. We only connected a couple of months ago," she said. "He doesn't care about social media and fame. He only cares about his stats and how he plays," Nora said, praising his dedication to football.

Sunny Deol Visits Takht Sri Patna Sahib Gurudwara With Son Karan Deol Ahead Of Batwara 1947 Release



Sunny Deol is gearing up for the release of his upcoming film Batwara 1947 and, ahead of the film's big release, the actor visited the revered Takht Sri Patna Sahib Gurudwara in Bihar along with his son, actor Karan Deol. Visuals from Sunny Deol's visit have surfaced on social media, drawing the attention of the actor's fans. In the visuals that have surfaced from Sunny Deol's visit to the spiritual place, he is seen offering prayers to Guru Gobind Singh Ji and spending time in prayer. Takht Sri Patna Sahib is a very important and revered place in Sikhism, as it is the birthplace of Guru Gobind Singh Ji. This Gurudwara is among the five Takhts, and it holds immense value for Sikhs. The Gurudwara witnesses thousands of devotees from across the world throughout the year. Following his visit, Sunny also took to Instagram and shared pictures. While sharing the post, he wrote, "Feeling truly blessed to have visited Takht Sri Harimandir Ji Patna Sahib, the sacred birthplace of Shri Guru Gobind Singh Ji."

About Batwara 1947 Trailer

Sunny Deol delivers a commanding performance as a man who refuses to surrender his conscience, while Shabana Azmi is extraordinary as an elderly woman whose grace and wisdom become the film's moral centre. Preity Zinta brings warmth, grit, and emotional depth to a woman fighting to hold her family together through impossible circumstances. The trailer offers a glimpse into the devastation caused by the Partition while also focusing on the resilience of those who lived through it. Blending large-scale visuals with emotionally charged moments, it sheds light on the human cost of one of history's most painful events. Led by performances from Shabana Azmi, Sunny Deol, Preity Zinta, and the rest of the cast, Batwara 1947 appears to be aiming for an emotionally powerful cinematic retelling of the era.

More About Batwara 1947

The film also stars Karan Deol, Ali Fazal, and Abhimanyu Singh and marks the much-awaited reunion of Rajkumar Santoshi and Sunny Deol after nearly three decades.

CJP's Abhijeet Dipke Gave Rs 1 Lakh To Uorfi Javed To Back Jantar Mantar Protest? Actress Reacts



The CJP protest at Jantar Mantar and the founder of the party, Abhijeet Dipke, have been questioned for a while now. In a recent report, social media influencer Faizal Ansari claimed that CJP's Dipke paid influencers and celebrities to back the protest. He also claimed that Uorfi Javed received ₹1 lakh to put out a reel in support of CJP. Now, Uorfi Javed has slammed the report and called out the influencer for spreading fake news.

While reacting to the report, Uorfi Javed first shared the news on her Instagram Story and wrote, "1 Lakh??? 1 Lakh!!!" She then posted a long video slamming Faizal for spreading misinformation and said, "Ye jo aadmi hai na, jo ye claim kar raha hai, vo itna bada ch*****a insaan hai. Ye vo hi insaan hai jisne bola tha ki Uorfi transgender hai. Ye vo hi insaan hai jisne mere baare mein bohot fake news failayi hai. Ye bohot hi media-hungry insaan hai. Aur ₹1 lakh रुपये? Chiku, jaakar pata kar main 1 reel ka kitna charge karti hoon. Main ₹1 lakh mein 1 reel, standing for no reason? Oh my God!" She further showed her disappointment with the media house and questioned them for putting out news based on the claims of someone who holds no credibility.

In another Story, Uorfi added, "Mujhe paise mile nahi hain, mere paise chale gaye hain. Kitni aisi brands hain jo mere saath ab kaam nahi karna chaah rahi hain." She later challenged a leading media house to prove its claims that she took money for the reel and said that if they proved her guilty, she would delete her Instagram account.

What did Ansari claim?

Speaking to the news agency ANI, Ansari claimed that he has filed a complaint against Dipke. While showing a copy of the FIR, he said, "I have filed a written complaint against Abhijeet Dipke, the founder of the CJP party, with the Delhi DCP because I have proof that his men attacked me. I was attacked in Pune and in Aurangabad. There are already two cases filed on that. I want the Delhi Police to immediately arrest Dipke."

NEWS BOX

Team Trump Plans To Make H-1B Visa Extensions Costlier. How It May Affect Indians

WASHINGTON.(Agency)

The Donald Trump administration in the United States is planning to make the extension of H-1B and L-1 visas more expensive, a move that could increase costs for large US companies that depend on foreign skilled workers, including thousands of Indian professionals. A final rule is expected in July to expand the "9-11 Response and Biometric Entry-Exit Fee" to petitions seeking work visa extensions, according to the Department of Homeland Security's regulatory agenda.Under the current rule in the US, employers with over 50 employees, over half of whom hold H-1B or L-1 visas, need to shell out an additional \$4,000 for H-1B petitions and \$4,500 for L-1 petitions only when filing an initial petition or when an employee changes employers.11 Response Fees will apply to all H-1B and L-1 extension petitions," the rule states.

\$100,000 H-1B Visa Fee

The new proposal follows a recent legal setback to the Trump administration after a US federal appeals court declined to pause a lower court ruling striking down its proposed US\$100,000 fee on new H-1B visas. As workers with the H-1B visas typically require visa extensions after their initial three-year stay, the proposed changes could increase immigration-related costs for companies that rely heavily on foreign talent, including Indian professionals.

Zelensky Sacks US Envoy Amid Push For More Patriot Missiles

world.(Agency)

The glass door closes, and a curtain of cool air spills over your head, neck and shoulders, delivering instant relief from the punishing summer heat. This is what it's like to chill in the Do Hiemon Box, an oversized stainless-steel refrigerator that looks big enough to fit a human being, because that's exactly what it's designed to do. Trusco Nakayama Corp. has sold about 200 of the 1.5 million yen (\$9,500) booths to steel mills, construction sites, golf courses, universities and leisure facilities since it went on sale earlier this year.As global temperatures climb, Japan's summers have been getting hotter and more humid, with readings regularly exceeding 35C (95F). The country's weather agency has had to come up with new terminology for sizzling-hot days, while national broadcaster NHK routinely warns viewers of heatstroke risk. During the season, pharmacies and household-goods stores fill their shelves with blue-toned products promising cooling relief.Trusco's contraption, effectively a tall box on wheels with a window and a bench that plugs into a standard electrical outlet, is meant to be used in places without easy access to air conditioning. Following last week's earthquake that struck Kumamoto, the company sent units to evacuation shelters.

Armed Man Arrested At Trump LA Golf Course Before President's Visit

WASHINGTON.(Agency)

An armed man was arrested at President Donald Trump's golf course in Los Angeles two days before the US leader's visit on Tuesday, the local sheriff's office said.The suspect, identified as 38-year-old Jeanine John Taele from nearby Downey, California, was arrested on Sunday afternoon at the golf course in Rancho Palos Verdes.Plainclothes federal agents spotted him "walking throughout the golf course grounds taking photographs and videos and appearing to monitor security-planning activities," the sheriff's office said in a statement.

Trump arrived by helicopter at the golf club Tuesday evening to attend a fundraising dinner hosted by the Republican National Committee.During the detention, deputies recovered a 16-round magazine containing hollow-point ammunition from the suspect's pants pocket, according to the statement.eputies then searched the suspect's vehicle and recovered a loaded pistol with a round chambered, along with an additional loaded magazine containing hollow-point ammunition.

Investigators from the sheriff's department and the FBI's counterterrorism unit later searched Taele's home, where they found an assault-style rifle, a pistol, a bulletproof vest, high-capacity magazines, ammunition, two radios as well as "multiple notebooks containing concerning statements."The Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office will decide whether to file charges after investigators presented the case on Tuesday morning.

Netanyahu says no Israeli withdrawal from Gaza until Hamas has been completely disarmed

DEIR AL-BALAH.(Agency)

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Tuesday that Israel will not withdraw from its current lines in Gaza until Hamas has completely disarmed and pushed back on a recent deal announced by U.S. President Donald Trump.Netanyahu's remarks cast more doubt on the deal to disarm Hamas, which was seen as a potential breakthrough for ending the war. It also marked a rare public display of friction with the Trump administration.The agreement called for Hamas to begin disarming and for Israel to halt its strikes and begin withdrawing from the roughly 60% of Gaza it currently controls. It was based on an October ceasefire agreement that

ended major military operations and brought about the release of the remaining hostages held in Gaza but has stalled on other fronts.Netanyahu, who faces a tough battle for reelection in October, reiterated his stance that disarmament should come first. He said Israeli forces would continue to "do whatever is necessary to protect themselves, our territory, and our citizens."The Trump administration "sent us a draft. We did not agree. It is not our draft. We sent our comments. ... This is our position," Netanyahu said in a video posted on social media.Mass funeral held for dozens killed in 2023 strikeEarlier on Tuesday, Palestinians gathered for a mass funeral of more than 100 bodies finally

recovered from a deadly Israeli strike in Gaza in 2023. More than 300 people were killed on Nov. 22, 2023, weeks into the war with Hamas, when warplanes



flattened a residential block in Gaza City's Sabra neighborhood.Around 40 bodies were recovered soon afterward in a frantic scramble of rough tools and

bare hands, but most were buried deep beneath the rubble. Reports of the high number of victims in one of the war's deadliest attacks took days to reach the public in the chaos just before its first ceasefire.Over the weekend, first responders dug through the destroyed buildings and recovered remains of 112 victims, including 40 children, according to the Civil Defense, a rescue agency operating under the Hamas-run Interior Ministry.It said 157 bodies still have not been found.

"The only crime of these martyrs was that they remained steadfast and resilient in their homes, believing that these homes would protect them," one relative, Taysir al-Hassayna, told The Associated Press following the funeral prayers.

US close to interim Strait of Hormuz deal with Iran and Oman to restore shipping: Report

WASHINGTON.(Agency)

The United States is close to finalising an interim agreement with Iran and Oman to reopen the Strait of Hormuz, with an announcement expected as early as Wednesday, Axios reported, citing two regional sources and a US official.According to the report, the proposed arrangement is aimed at restoring the ceasefire between Washington and Tehran, which reportedly collapsed last month, and creating space for renewed negotiations on Iran's nuclear programme and other issues.The reported breakthrough comes after US President Donald Trump decided on Saturday to hold back from carrying out previously threatened large-scale military strikes against Iran, opting instead to allow more time for diplomacy following consultations with Gulf partners. Axios said Trump had

nevertheless warned that military action remained an option if negotiations failed.The report added that the draft agreement envisages a 60-day temporary



arrangement between Oman and Iran governing maritime traffic through the Strait of Hormuz, with provisions for an extension.Under the proposal, all inbound vessels entering the Gulf would use a northern shipping lane through Iranian waters, while outbound traffic heading towards the Arabian Sea would use a southern lane in Omani waters, coordinated with Iran, the report said.The

report added that no transit fees or tolls would be levied during the 60-day period.Axios further reported that the agreement includes a plan to clear naval mines from the median shipping lane within 30 days. Once the lane is cleared, it would be used for both inbound and outbound shipping under a permanent arrangement to be negotiated between Oman and Iran.According to the report, the White House, Oman and regional mediators believed they had secured a similar understanding with Iran nearly three weeks ago. However, the effort reportedly collapsed after Iran allegedly resumed attacks on ships, triggering two weeks of fighting that brought the region close to a broader conflict.The report said officials from Qatar, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia also played mediation roles alongside Oman, while the White House remained actively involved in the negotiations.

'Attack On Christians': US Lawmaker's 'India Ties' Warning Over Foreign Funds

BUENOS AIRES.(Agency)

A US lawmaker has raised concern over New Delhi's proposed amendments to Indian laws governing foreign donations received by NGOs, trusts, educational institutions, and religious organisations, threatening that the changes could affect bilateral relations. Republican Congressman from West Virginia, Riley Moore, has claimed the amendments to the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) would give power to the Indian government to take over churches and religious charities, a

move he described as a "clear attack against Christians"."Christians have been in India since St Thomas the Apostle travelled to the Malabar Coast just decades after the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. But despite this long Christian history, India's Parliament is considering amending Foreign Contribution Regulation Amendment (FCRA) rules to permit government takeovers of churches and religious charities," Moore, a member of President Donald Trump's party, said in a post on X."This is a clear attack against Christians. If this bill proceeds in this way, it would be a

point of major concern in our bilateral relationship with India," the first-term congressman added. What's New FCRA Amendment ProposalThe Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026 seeks to empower the government to create a "Designated Authority" to take over the management of foreign contributions and assets created using foreign contributions when an organisation's FCRA registration is cancelled, surrendered or ceases because it is not renewed.The bill also states that in case of assets that are a place of worship, the authority must ensure that its religious.



available.Videos that emerged on social media showed black smoke billowing in the night sky near a residential neighborhood. The UAE has been on high alert throughout the US-Iran War, given that it has been a frequent target of Tehran's retaliatory strikes on US allies in the region.

US revokes Brazilian Ambassador's visa as diplomatic rift with Lula deepens

WASHINGTON.(Agency)

The Trump administration has revoked the visa of Brazil's ambassador to the United States in retaliation for Brazil's denial of visas last month for two American diplomats who sought to visit ahead of upcoming elections as well as what it said was Brazil's stalling on approving President Donald Trump's nominee to be ambassador in Brasilia. The State Department said the decision was a reciprocal response to Brazil's actions, and officials said the step had been delayed several times to give Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva room to back down, something he did not do. Officials said, however, that it could be quickly reversed if Brazil takes appropriate action and accepts

Trump's ambassadorial choice.

Brazil's government in a statement responded by accusing the United States of not following international law in nominating its ambassador to Brazil. It said the U.S. government's decision to revoke the Brazilian ambassador's visa was politically driven with the aim of influencing Brazil's election in October.

Trump has had a fractious relationship for some time with Lula's administration, which has opposed him on numerous policies, particularly in the Western Hemisphere regarding Venezuela and Cuba. Their relationship also has been strained by Trump's fondness for Lula's first term successor and then predecessor, Jair Bolsonaro, who is currently under house arrest,



and his son Flávio, who is Lula's main opponent in the election.Lula has spared Trump himself from criticism and claims they liked each other when they first met at the United Nations Assembly General in September of last year. The Brazilian leader has blamed Secretary of State Marco Rubio for some of the actions against his country.

Brazil's ambassador is not being expelledDespite the revocation of her visa, Brazil's ambassador Maria Luiza Ribeiro Viotti is not being expelled from the United States, said one State Department official, who like several others spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the sensitive diplomatic matter. The ambassador was previously a senior United Nations official.She could be allowed to resume her official duties if the Brazilian government accepts Trump's choice of former Florida House speaker Danny Perez to be U.S. ambassador to Brazil. Perez was nominated to the post in June and the official said Brazil had signaled it would not act on the appointment until after the first round of Brazil's election on Oct.