



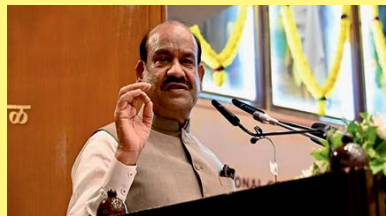
INDIA bloc boycotts LS

Speaker's tea party; Kharge, Sonia attend RS chairman's get-together

In the Rajya Sabha, opposition leaders, including Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and former party chief Sonia Gandhi, attended the tea party hosted by Chairman C P Radhakrishnan.

New Delhi. (Agency)

The Congress, the Trinamool Congress, and the Samajwadi Party boycotted the customary tea party hosted by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Thursday after the House was adjourned sine die. Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) leader



Kanimozhi attended the traditional get-together though, sources said.

In the Rajya Sabha, opposition leaders, including Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and former party chief Sonia Gandhi, attended the tea party hosted by Chairman C P Radhakrishnan.

According to sources, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, and several other senior leaders and ministers were present at the tea party in the Lok Sabha Speaker's chamber. A senior Congress leader stated that leaders from the Congress, SP, TMC, and various other INDIA bloc parties did not participate in the event.

Punjab seeks Rs 1.44 lakh crore water royalty from Rajasthan, warns of legal action

CHANDIGARH. (Agency)

The Punjab government has demanded an outstanding Rs 1.44 lakh crore in water royalty from Rajasthan for water supplied for irrigation and drinking. It has warned that legal action may follow if the dues remain unpaid.

Despite repeated reminders from Punjab, including letters sent on March 18 and May 4, Rajasthan has not paid the royalty for river water used between 1961 and 2025, a letter exchanged between the authorities of both the states showed.

The premise of the issue goes back to 1920, when the rulers of Bikaner in Rajasthan, Bahawalpur (now in Pakistan), and Punjab signed a water-sharing agreement in Shimla.

Rajasthan had paid royalty until the Indus Waters Treaty was signed in 1960. At the time, Bikaner was charged Rs 6.50 per acre annually for water supplied through Punjab's rivers.

Sources said dues at the current rate of Rs 141.20 per acre per annum have been calculated by the state government, and royalty is claimed for an average of 10 million acre-feet, along with 8 per cent interest.

Punjab has also billed Haryana Rs 281.78 crore from the Bhakra Main Line Division in Patiala, and Rs 30.80 crore from the Mansa Division. But Haryana, too, has not paid for canal maintenance since 2015-16. The Bhakra Canal allocation is 12,455 cusecs, of which Haryana has a share of 63 per cent, Punjab 25 per cent, Rajasthan 7 per cent, Delhi 4 per cent and Chandigarh 1 per cent. Thus, in a separate letter, Punjab Chief Secretary KAP Sinha has written to his Haryana counterpart Anurag Rastogi, seeking Rs 312.59 crore owed to Punjab for the operation and maintenance of common carrier channels in the canal. Punjab Water Resources Minister Barinder Kumar Goyal said the state government has calculated royalty as per applicable rates and has twice written to Rajasthan, but till date has not received a response.

Sukhbir Badal attacked by Nihang with Kirpan in Maharashtra, suffers injury to hand

Nanded. (Agency)

Shiromani Akali Dal chief Sukhbir Singh Badal was attacked with a sharp weapon, reportedly a kirpan, inside a gurdwara in Nanded, suffering a minor injury to his right hand.

Shiromani Akali Dal chief and former Punjab deputy chief minister Sukhbir Singh Badal was attacked by a Nihang with a sharp weapon, said to be a kirpan, inside a gurdwara in the Mata Sahib Kaur area of Nanded, Maharashtra, on Thursday. The incident took place around 11 am, shortly after Badal arrived in Nanded from Punjab. He was on a personal visit and had been provided security as per the scheduled security arrangements. Badal



suffered a minor injury to his right hand in the attack and was taken to a private hospital for treatment. He is undergoing

was also attacked and suffered minor injuries while trying to protect him.

The attacker was detained by police shortly after the incident. Police are questioning the attacker and conducting further investigation into the incident.

The attack took place inside the gurdwara premises. Sukhbir Singh Badal is the son of former Punjab chief minister Parkash Singh Badal.

In December 2024, former Babbar Khalsa International (BKI) terrorist and Khalistani activist Narain Singh Chaura opened fire at Badal at the entrance of the Golden Temple.

Badal was serving as a 'sewadar' at the temple entrance as part of a religious punishment at the time.

Rahul Gandhi goes to SC against CBI probe order on disproportionate asset claims

Rahul Gandhi has moved the Supreme Court challenging Allahabad HC orders directing the CBI and ED to verify allegations of disproportionate assets made by a Karnataka BJP worker.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has approached the Supreme Court challenging orders passed by the Allahabad High Court in a case over the allegations that he holds assets disproportionate to his income.

Gandhi has challenged the High Court's directions to the CBI and the Enforcement Directorate (ED) to verify allegations raised by Karnataka-based BJP worker Vignesh

Shishir.

In an order passed in May, the Allahabad High Court directed



that the allegations in the complaint against the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha be verified in accordance with

law.

The High Court had observed that if the complaint had been received, the allegations could be verified as per law.

It also said that the CBI or ED could take appropriate steps permissible under the law." It is expected that if the complaint of the petitioner has been received, the allegations of the complaints may be verified as per law. It is needless to say that the CBI or ED may take appropriate steps which are permissible under the law," the High Court had said.

A controversy has erupted after a right-wing outfit held a purification ceremony at Uttarakhand's Ram Lila Ground, two days after Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge addressed a public rally there. The issue echoed in the Rajya Sabha on Thursday.

Parliament erupts over 'shuddhikaran' event after Kharge rally, Nadda reacts

New Delhi. (Agency)

The Rajya Sabha witnessed a massive uproar after Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge said a 'shuddhikaran' (purification) ceremony was held at the venue where he addressed a rally in BJP-ruled Uttarakhand. As soon as Kharge raised the issue, Union Minister JP Nadda called the incident "unfortunate" and asserted that the BJP doesn't subscribe to such activities.

The issue has already created a political stir in Uttarakhand, where the Congress and the BJP have been trading barbs over the ritual at Haldwani's Ram Lila Ground.

It was held by a right-wing outfit two days after Kharge, a Dalit, addressed a public rally at the venue. On Thursday, the last



day of the Monsoon session of Parliament, the issue echoed in the Rajya Sabha.

WHAT MALLIKARJUN KHARGE SAID IN

PARLIAMENT?

As the proceedings kicked off, the Congress chief alleged that BJP workers performed a "havan" and carried out a "purification" of the stage from which he addressed a rally on August 8.

"There were lakhs of people present at the time. I did not name any community or religion.

I only spoke about the problems faced by the people there. But after my speech, BJP workers performed a havan," Kharge said. Is this the way in a democracy? How are you protecting the Constitution? I am the LoP... I never wanted to politicise these issues," Kharge, only the second Dalit leader to head the Congress, said.

'Matter of regret': Rajya Sabha Chairman voices concern over disruptions during Monsoon Session

Rajya Sabha Chairman CP Radhakrishnan urged the members to uphold the dignity of the august House and discharge their parliamentary responsibilities in the highest traditions of Indian democracy.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Rajya Sabha Chairman CP Radhakrishnan on Thursday voiced "deep concern" over repeated disruptions, saying they had "derailed" the proceedings of the House during the Monsoon Session.

As he adjourned the House sine die,

he urged the members to uphold the dignity of the august House and discharge their parliamentary responsibilities in the highest traditions of Indian democracy. During the Monsoon Session that



started on July 20, Radhakrishnan highlighted that 12 Bills were either passed or returned even as the productivity was only 39 per cent because of disruptions.

"As the 271st Session of the Rajya Sabha draws to a close, I reflect on its proceedings with a deep concern. It is a matter of regret that the Session was marked by persistent disorder and frequent disruptions, which repeatedly derailed the business of the House," the Chairman said.

The loss of precious working hours also deprived the House of meaningful discussion and debate on matters of national importance, he added.

The Upper House saw several disruptions and adjournments as Opposition parties were protesting on several issues, including police action on students protesting against NEET paper leak and alleged theft of donations at Ram temple in Ayodhya.

Bihar bans AK-47, INSAS, SLR use in law-and-order, crowd control duties

According to the latest instructions issued by the state police headquarters, these weapons will now be used only in cases related to insurgency, terrorism and major crimes.

Patna. (Agency)

A day after Leader of the Opposition in the Bihar Assembly Tejashwi Prasad Yadav announced a state-wide protest on August 19 over the AK-47 firing on students in Siwan, Bihar Police on Thursday announced a ban on the use of assault weapons like AK-47, INSAS and SLR during law-and-order duty and crowd control.

According to the latest instructions issued by the state police headquarters, these weapons will now be used only in cases related to



insurgency, terrorism and major crimes.

"No police officer or jawan will be able to use these weapons during law-and-order or crowd-control duty," the order issued to all SPs and other senior officials said.

The alleged use of an AK-47 rifle during a student protest in Siwan escalated into a political controversy after the main Opposition party, RJD, announced that it would launch a protest march, alleging that no action had been taken against those responsible for the firing, which left three individuals injured. Leader of the Opposition Tejashwi Prasad Yadav told the

News box

19-year-old Nuh woman found hanging, kin allege dowry harassment and murder

Gurgaon.(Agency)

A 19-year-old woman was found hanging at her in-laws' house in Kol village, Nuh. Her family alleged she was harassed over dowry, beaten and burned before being hanged, claiming that there were burn marks on her face and injury marks on her body. The victim, Fiza Tarjuma, got married to Jamshed last year. Her family said that dowry demands for a vehicle and money had continued since the marriage, despite giving them gifts and other items. "We would give them some money at times, which would calm things down for 5-10 days, but then the harassment would continue," a family member said. Fiza's family said they had not approached police earlier as the matter was being settled by community elders. They said the harassment got worse after Fiza gave birth to a daughter three to four months ago. "Four days ago, my father had gone there and even after explaining to them and getting a settlement done, still yesterday they first beat her, then burned her, and after that they hanged her," the family member alleged.

Fiza's grandfather, Haji Yakub, said the family reached her in-laws' house after receiving information about the incident and found her body hanging from a noose. The allegations of assault, burning and murder are yet to be established and will be subject to the post-mortem examination and police investigation, a police officer said. "A case has been registered against four people, including Fiza's husband," the officer added.

Police said further action would be taken on the basis of the post-mortem report and evidence collected during the investigation. The post-mortem report is awaited.

From deficit to surplus: 141mm rain in 12 days in monsoon swings

Gurgaon.(Agency)

It may have been a hot and humid Wednesday in the city, but the monsoon has made a sharp turnaround over the past fortnight. After ending July with a 13% rainfall deficit, the district has moved into surplus territory, receiving 140.9mm of rain between Aug 1 and 12, according to the latest India Meteorological Department (IMD) data. The district has now received 333.9mm of rain between June 1 and Aug 12, which is 12% above normal (298.1mm) for this period. Till July 31, cumulative rainfall was only 193mm — 13% below normal. Around 42% of the season's rainfall so far has come in just 12 days of Aug, effectively wiping out the entire deficit recorded during June and July.

The city on Wednesday recorded a minimum temperature of 22°C — the lowest in Haryana and 4.3°C below normal — 6°C lower than Tuesday's minimum of 28°C. Tuesday's maximum stood at around 34°C. The cooler morning did not bring much respite during the day, with high humidity making conditions uncomfortable despite the relatively low minimum temperature.

The break from rain may be brief. IMDs district-wise forecast shows isolated rainfall in the district on Aug 13, followed by a more widespread spell on Aug 14, when the district falls in the 'many' category — meaning 50-75% of rainfall reporting stations are expected to receive rain.

Water shortage escalates in Noida and Greater Noida

Noida.(Agency)

Residents across various sectors in Noida and Greater Noida complained of low-pressure, poor-quality water supply for only one hour instead of three hours on Wednesday, impacting daily chores. Some of the affected areas include sectors 100, 51 and 27 in Noida and Sectors Beta 2, Alpha and Delta in Greater Noida and parts of Greater Noida West. President of Century Apartments, Sector 100 RWA, Pawan Yadav, demanded urgent action regarding the deteriorating water situation. Residents from other sectors also expressed frustrations over the consistently poor quality of drinking water for several days. Residents of Greater Noida West have been facing water shortfall for almost a month now, especially Mahagun Mywoods society. "While the current water requirement is 20 lakh litres per day, the society receives only about 3 to 4 lakh litres per day. The remaining supply is sourced from borewells and tankers," said AOA vice president of Mahagun Mywoods society Ashutosh Singh Sikarwar. He also added that "the problem escalates over the weekends when demand peaks, with all family members present at home." GNIDA manager Gaurav Baghel has assured residents that work has been underway for a permanent solution. However, residents remain sceptical as poor supply continues.

Late-night resto rush below metro stations triggers parking chaos, snarls

Noida.(Agency)

For commuters returning home late from work, the stretch below Sector 51 metro station has become a daily test of patience — and, after 11pm, a safety concern. Restaurants continue to draw customers, but parking spills onto the service lane and main road while the metro station's footbridge and parking facility are shut for the night. Two weeks ago, a Sector 77 resident, Sumit Dubey, stopped at one of the restaurants below the station while returning from work. With the restaurant's designated parking full, he parked at the NMRC facility across the road. When he returned, however, the parking had closed for the night. "I was just five minutes late and was charged a Rs 300 penalty," he said.

For residents and daily commuters, parking is only one part of the problem. The restaurant cluster, they said, adds to congestion on an already crowded stretch. "There is not a day when we are not stuck in traffic for 10 to 15 minutes," said Brajesh Sharma, a Sector 78 resident who works at Khel Gaon and travels through the stretch every day. He said restaurant customers frequently park along the service lane and, when that fills up, vehicles spill onto the main road. Others stop to pick up or drop off passengers, further slowing traffic. "The service lane is parked, the main road is full. Where will commuters move?" he asked. Nisha Rai, another Sector 77 resident, described the stretch as a "mall road", with restaurants, a CNG station, e-

rickshaws, autos and private vehicles competing for limited space. Residents said the problem becomes more pronounced after 11pm, when



the metro station closes and the foot overbridge can no longer be used. Pedestrians heading to the parking facility across the road are then forced to cross the busy stretch. "Even if you get dropped here in a cab after 11pm,

we have to cross the carriageway because the foot overbridge is closed. You have to be careful that you don't get hit," she said.

A group of residents has now written to the NMRC, Noida Authority and traffic police, alleging that restaurants operating from spaces leased by NMRC below the station are contributing to congestion. They said the combination of restaurant traffic, roadside parking, the CNG station and public transport vehicles has turned the stretch into a daily bottleneck. An NMRC official said the parking spaces and the cafes were laid out after the plan had been approved. "The footbridge comes under the Noida Authority and we can request them to look into it," said the official.

Decreasing Social Responsibility and Decline of Moral Values Among Today's Youth

Mahanagar Metro Desk

Author: Rupesh Solanki

Bhachau: In this modern era of the 21st century, it is a matter of joy that our young generation is making unprecedented progress in the educational and economic fields. However, along with this, the erosion of the sense of social responsibility and moral values among them is a matter of serious concern. According to Rupesh Solanki, Senior Vice President of Kutch District for the Akhil Bharatiya Rashtriya Shaikshik Mahasangh (Secondary Granted Cadre) and Senior Teacher of Bhachau, merely obtaining a degree is not true education, but becoming a cultured and responsible citizen is the real purpose of education. This detailed article, which gives a new direction to today's youth and awakens them against blind western imitation, is presented below in a single, continuous layout. Today, the young generation, running after the blind imitation of Western culture, is turning away from its magnificent Indian culture and family traditions. In the blind race to achieve personal freedom and material comforts, young people are losing respect for elders and the spirit of a joint family. Instead of becoming sensitive and helping when a difficulty arises in so-

ciety, today's generation prefers to remain engrossed in its own world. The contribution of youth in the development of the country and society should be paramount, but instead, a materialistic approach and narrow thinking of 'only my well-being matters' are dominating the youth mind, which can prove to be dangerous for the social system in the long run. The strength of any nation depends on the character of its youth. Today's young generation often adopts shortcuts in the mad desire to achieve a luxurious lifestyle very quickly, which leads them down the wrong path. Apart from this, the increasing rate of addiction, violation of moral boundaries, and quick anger among the youth are damaging their future. Young people are forgetting that moral values like truth, honesty, compassion, and restraint take life to true heights. If a student who scores high marks in exams is uncultured in practical life, then that education proves to be useless. Young people should use their power not only to earn a livelihood but also to make society better. An inspiring and beautiful poetic stanza that explains this ideological delusion of the youth generation and the necessity of character building is presented



here: "Do not blow away this grand heritage of values in the Western wind, do not lose your character in this temporary infatuation of material pleasures; awaken and recognize your duty towards the country and society, look 'Rupesh', on this path of morality itself you will get your true respect one day." These lines call upon the youth to come out of the illusion of materialism and join the sacred work of nation-building. Imparting values along with education is the biggest demand of the present time. As a teacher, Rupesh Solanki strongly states that instead of giving only bookish knowledge in schools and colleges, it has become absolutely indispensable to teach moral education and values. Parents should also instill qualities of social service, mutual respect, and humility towards elders in their children instead of just giving them expensive things or facilities. Young people should also awaken themselves and occasionally devote time to the service of the deprived and weaker sections



of society, so that the spirit of social harmony is strengthened among them. The final essence of this detailed article is that progress without morality is incomplete and short-lived. Our young generation has wonderful intellectual talent and capability. If this capability is combined with high human values and social responsibility, no one can stop India from becoming a world leader. Come, through this special ideological article today, let us all youth take a firm resolve that we will renounce blind Western imitation, keep our glorious family spirit alive, never leave the side of morality even in the most difficult circumstances, and with a positive approach, continue to give our best inspiring contribution to the rebuilding of the nation and society.

Network working for foreign-based gangsters busted, 7 held

Gurgaon.(Agency)

Police have unearthed a local criminal network working for gangsters Deepak Nandal, who was allegedly behind the Sushant Lok firings earlier this year, and Himanshu Bhau, arresting seven men and recovering four pistols, 18 live cartridges and six mobile phones. Police said the weapons were smuggled from Pakistan using drones. A hawala operator from Delhi's Chandni Chowk, Gaurav Arora, was also taken into custody. He allegedly helped route crime proceeds to gang members. The gang operating across Haryana and Delhi-NCR targeted builders, businessmen, music artists and those associated with Bollywood for extortion, acting on instructions from the gangsters who are abroad, said ACP (crime) Lalit Dalal. The gang had conducted reconnaissance of a businessman in Sector 38. Police said the businessman is a relative of the fashion designer from whom Deepak Nandal gang had allegedly demanded

Rs 5 crore before firing a shot outside his office on Golf Course Road in Feb. Before the gang could execute its plan, the crime branch team from Sector 40 unit, led by SI Lalit, arrested the seven men. The local network handled different stages of the operations, including identifying targets, conducting reconnaissance of their homes and offices, arranging weapons and facilitating the delivery of extortion money. They also used social media to claim responsibility for crimes, create fear and project the gang's influence, according to police.

Investigators found that Sandeep, Balwinder alias Sonu Nandal, Yogesh alias Kachhua and Shubham Sikka, along with their associates, also supplied mobile numbers of businessmen to the gang. The probe has also revealed hawala operator from Chandni Chowk transferred around Rs 3 lakh to the gang. A half currency note, allegedly used in hawala transactions, was recovered from him. According to police, Rs 10 note had been torn into two halves as

part of the hawala mechanism. One half was given to Arora, while the other was kept by the person receiving the money. Police said the matching halves were used to verify the identity



of the person involved in the transaction and facilitate delivery of funds. Investigators said Nandal and Bhau remain in contact with the local network through social media applications and continue to coordinate criminal activities. Their financial transactions, digital contacts and links with other associates are being scrutinised. The gang members have been identified as Yogesh alias Kachhua Subham Sikka from Kamla Nagar, Sandeep Hooda of Preet Vihar,

Rohit alias Shakti of Maina, Balwinder alias Sonu of Nandal, Surjeet of Makdoli. All are from Rohtak, while Arora is a resident of Delhi's Paschim Vihar. Police said they are between 30 and 35 years old. "The accused have a substantial criminal record. Yogesh has eight cases registered against him in Delhi and Haryana, including cases of assault, criminal intimidation, theft and violations of the Arms Act. Sandeep has two cases registered in Rohtak for murder and violations of the Arms Act, while Rohit faces two cases in Rohtak involving murder, attempt to murder and Arms Act offences," ACP Dalal said. Balwinder has 17 cases registered against him in Haryana, including murder, attempt to murder and kidnapping and violations of Arms Act, NDPS Act and Prison Act. Police said the accused collectively face around two dozen criminal cases. The recovered mobile phones and other digital evidence are being examined to identify additional members, financial transactions.

GBA extends deadline for Bengaluru vacant site owners to clear plots till August 22

BENGALURU. (Agency)

Following requests from owners of vacant sites to allow a few more days to clean the plots, as they are struggling to get contractors to clear garbage and debris, the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) has published a notification extending the deadline to August 22. The earlier deadline was August 15.

“We appeal to all property owners across the city to use the additional time to clean their premises and contribute to the city-wide effort. Cleaning debris from public spaces is our responsibility. Taking care of private property is the responsibility of the property owner. Bengaluru will become better only when all of us join hands and do our part,” the GBA said in a release.

About concerns that the charges for clearing garbage were high, the GBA said the rates have not been arbitrarily determined. “The rates are based on the Government’s Schedule of Rates (SR), which provides standard rates for various types of work. The cost of cleaning a vacant site is calculated based on the size of the plot, the quantity of debris and other work involved, with transportation costs also being taken into account,” the release said.

Bengaluru’s 1.2-km Mathikere double-decker to stack road and suburban rail on one corridor

BENGALURU. (Agency)

A 1.2-km double-decker structure at Mathikere is emerging as a key engineering feature of Corridor-2 (Benniganahalli-Chikkabanavara) of the Bengaluru Suburban Transport Project (BSTP), designed to accommodate road and rail infrastructure within the same limited urban corridor.

According to the latest newsletter released by Rail Infrastructure Development Company (Karnataka) Limited, the structure will be constructed along Mohan Kumar Road between Mathikere and Yeshwanthpur, and has two levels.

The first level will serve as a road flyover to facilitate vehicular movement, while the second will carry the elevated suburban rail viaduct of Corridor-2, the newsletter added.

Woman’s lover kills husband to ‘remove obstacle’ in Tiruttani

CHENNAI. (Agency)

A 32-year-old mechanic died after he was assaulted with an iron rod near Tiruttani police station on July 18. The police have arrested a construction worker in connection with the murder, saying he attacked the victim to remove an obstacle in his alleged relationship with the victim’s wife.

The victim, Tamilarasan of J J Ravi Nagar in Tiruttani, was found critically injured on the roadside at Kannikapuram. He was admitted to Tiruttani Government Hospital and later shifted to Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital in Chennai, where he died on August 5.

The accused, Jayakumar (32), is a construction worker from Katpadi. Investigation, including CCTV analysis and questioning of Tamilarasan’s wife Priya, revealed that she had been in a relationship with Jayakumar before marrying Tamilarasan in 2021.

According to the police, Jayakumar contacted Tamilarasan on July 18, asking him to service a motorcycle. The two later consumed alcohol near Kannikapuram. When Tamilarasan was intoxicated, Jayakumar allegedly threw chilli powder into his eyes and attacked him with an iron rod before fleeing.

Police said Jayakumar confessed to the crime during interrogation. He was arrested and remanded in judicial custody on Wednesday.

98 killed in Himachal road accidents during monsoon; Chamba, Sirmaur among worst-hit

Shimla. (Agency)

With the monsoon continuing to expose the vulnerability of Himachal Pradesh’s mountain roads, 98 people have reportedly died in road accidents across the state so far between June 30 and August 12, with reasons being the falling of boulders, shooting stones, poor road conditions, adverse weather and human error emerging as major risks. Some of the worst accidents this season have involved falling rocks rather than conventional high-speed crashes.

According to the data from the Himachal Pradesh Traffic Police, Chamba and Sirmaur recorded the highest number of road accident fatalities with 16 deaths each in this period. On August 5, a pilgrim from Punjab was killed after a boulder crashed through the sunroof of an SUV

on the Chamba-Bharmour road.

On August 8, eight people were killed while 10 were injured after a private bus rolled down a steep slope and fell onto another road near Chaluj Morh on the Bairagarh-Tissa road in Chamba.

More recently, a 63-year-old Shimla resident was killed, while his wife and son were injured, after a boulder fell on their moving car on National Highway-205 in Solan.

Superintendent of Police (SP), Chamba, Vijay Kumar Saklani, said, “There can be many reasons behind a road accident ranging from human negligence to the mechanical fault in the vehicles. In the mountainous areas situated at a height, chances of road accidents during adverse conditions

always remain high.” A Chamba traffic police officer said, “Vulnerability to road accidents in Chamba was being recorded even before the onset of the monsoon. On May 11, six people, including five tourists from Gujarat and

Indian Road Congress member calls for better coordination among Revenue, Forest and PWD personnel, argued for relaxation in seat belt norms



a local driver, were killed when their SUV skidded off the road and plunged into a deep gorge near Kakira on Lahru-Tunnuhatti road. Spot inspection didn’t

rule out the possibility of low visibility.” SP (Sirmaur) Nishchint Negi told The Indian Express, “We have been analysing each fatal road accident. In many parts of our districts, including Sangrah and Haripurdhar, which are at a height, and even Majra, which is in a plain area, reasons vary. In the upper areas, we found a shortage of concrete or iron-made crash-breaker parapets. In areas like Majra, there is a need for speed barriers at a specific distance. We have written about these things to the NHAI (National Highways Authority of India) and Himachal Pradesh PWD as well.” The road safety experts

argue that with certain precautions these casualties could be reduced to ‘zero’.

Ravneet Singh Bittu backs his grandfather’s assassin Hawara’s parole, meets Governor

In a departure from his earlier stand, Bittu met Kataria at Punjab Lok Bhawan in Chandigarh on Wednesday evening “to thank him for sending a positive report”.

Chandigarh. (Agency)

Former Union minister and grandson of slain CM Beant Singh, Ravneet Singh Bittu, Wednesday said his grandfather’s assassin Jagtar Singh Hawara is likely to get parole to meet his ailing mother, as Punjab Governor and UT Administrator Gulab Chand Kataria has sent a positive report to the Centre on humanitarian grounds. In a departure from his earlier stand, Bittu met Kataria at Punjab Lok Bhawan in Chandigarh on Wednesday evening “to thank him for sending a positive report”.

Bittu has been a strong votary of strict punishment for militants. After meeting

the Governor, Bittu told The Indian Express, “I met him to thank him for sending a positive report. I was in touch with the Governor for the last 10 days



over the issue. He has now sent a positive report. He had been in touch with the Union Home Ministry for the last 10 days.” He said the Chandigarh Police had

also sent a positive report to the Centre, stating that Hawara’s visit to meet his mother would not pose any threat to law and order or peace in the state. “He will certainly come out. He will meet his mother. I cannot say how many days of parole he would get. I had gone to thank him,” Bittu said. On why he had taken a divergent stand this time, Bittu said, “This is purely on humanitarian grounds. His mother is ailing.

We have been told she misses her son. She has been remembering him and not drinking water. If something happens to her without meeting her son, it will be a reflection on our society as a whole.”

Mob thrashes doctor after his car hits stray cow in UP

Lucknow. (Agency)

A group of people allegedly dragged a 36-year-old government doctor out of his Mahindra Scorpio and assaulted him after his vehicle struck a stray cow in Uttar Pradesh’s Badaun on Tuesday. The animal later died during treatment. Purported videos of the incident show the assailants vandalising the doctor’s vehicle, and even attempting to overturn it in the course of the attack. Four persons have been arrested in the case, said Ankita Sharma, Superintendent of Police, Badaun. Police said the incident occurred when Dr Rahul Siddharth, originally from Bareilly, was heading to the Badaun

market from the Community Health Centre in Usawan. He was posted there as a Medical Officer In-Charge (MOIC). In the Myaun area, his car struck a stray



cow that was standing on the road and it collapsed. Witnessing the accident, villagers rushed to the spot. Police said the doctor could not escape from the car

as the animal was lying close to the vehicle. The enraged villagers allegedly beat the doctor even as he folded his hands and pleaded for forgiveness.

Others vandalised his Scorpio, smashing its windows with bricks and sticks. On being alerted to the situation, police arrived at the scene and rescued the doctor from the crowd. The injured cow was given treatment and sent to a cowshed (gaushala), where it died a short while later. Madhav Singh Bhist, Station House Officer of Alapur police station, said all four accused — aged between 25 and 30 years — hail from Bichpuri village and do odd jobs for a living.



moniker “sugarcane leopards”. The affected villages lie in the belt where Moradabad and Bijnor meet the Uttarakhand border, a landscape of vast sugarcane fields and stretches along the Ramganga river that offers leopards ample cover. Bijnor lies roughly 100 km from Moradabad. A forest official said the department suspects that this year’s surge in leopard activity may be linked to lower rainfall, combined with the regular movement of villagers into sugarcane fields to collect fodder and other materials.

Officials also suspect the leopard may have moved into Moradabad from Bijnor but have no clear estimate of how many are currently active in the region.

Gurcharan Singh Kaler, who made Shingar Cinema a part of Ludhiana’s history, dies at 89

Ludhiana. (Agency)

Renowned businessman Gurcharan Singh Kaler, owner of Shingar Cinema and a prominent figure in Ludhiana’s business community, died late Tuesday night. He was 89.

Kaler, who hailed from Raikot constituency in Ludhiana district, had settled in Ludhiana city and expanded the family business over the years. He remained actively involved in his business ventures throughout his life. He is survived by two sons and grandchildren. His daughter, a doctor, died a few years ago.

His elder son, Sandeep Kaler, said, “He was very active throughout his life and remained involved in his business till the end. However, he had a heart

condition and had not been keeping well for the past few months. He was admitted to a hospital for some time; we brought him back home about four days ago.” Apart from Shingar Cinema, Kaler was associated with New Akal Transport and Bharat Transport and was also the General Secretary of the Radha Soami Sect. Paramjeet Singh Ranu, the National President of the Sehajdhari Sikh Party, expressed grief over Kaler’s death and said, “He was not only a towering industrialist but also a pillar of noble social and spiritual values. His dedication to society and religious service will always be remembered.”

Ranu said Kaler had remained closely connected with Raikot despite settling in Ludhiana and had also opened a charitable hospital there. The hospital,

however, is currently closed as the building requires renovation, according to Kaler’s family. Shingar Cinema and a defining chapter in Ludhiana’s history Shingar Cinema, located in Ludhiana’s



old city area, was opened in 1975 and remained a popular source of entertainment for generations of residents. The cinema closed around six months ago after serving the city for

nearly five decades.

It was among the earliest multi-screen theatre complexes in the region, decades before the arrival of modern multiplexes. The complex, comprising three sections — Shingaar, Mini Shingaar and Midi Shingaar — offered audiences multiple screens under one roof and soon became a prominent landmark on Ludhiana’s Samrala Road.

It was reportedly inaugurated by legendary actor Raj Kapoor and his brother Randhir Kapoor, with the screening of Dharam Karam. Over the decades, Shingar Cinema became more than just a theatre for Ludhiana residents, emerging as a familiar part of the city’s cultural and entertainment landscape.

The Mecca pact: Into the age of hybrid warfare

The Türkiye-Saudi Arabia-Pakistan defence agreement signed in Mecca on August 7 has attracted the label ‘Muslim Nato’. It may be useful for headlines, but is less useful for understanding what the three seek to build. The key question is what ‘mutual defence’ means when wars are increasingly undeclared and hybrid, fought below the threshold of conventional conflict.

The agreement states that an armed attack on one will be regarded as an attack on all, resembling Nato’s Article 5. Yet it does not specify the nature or scale of assistance. That ambiguity may be deliberate; the pact’s deterrent value could depend on keeping its meaning open.

Wars today are rarely declared. They arrive through drones, missiles, cyberattacks, terrorism, proxy forces, maritime disruption, attacks on critical infrastructure and information warfare. The line between war and peace is increasingly blurred.

Saudi Arabia’s experience with the Houthi threat illustrates this. A weaker actor could impose costs through missiles and drones while threatening energy infrastructure and shipping. A future threat to Saudi Arabia need not involve conventional forces; it could involve drone swarms, attacks on oil facilities, maritime disruption or cyber operations. This changes mutual defence. Pakistan’s useful contribution could be naval assets, maritime surveillance, intelligence, logistics, training and ammunition, while Türkiye could provide drones, electronic warfare and defence technology. Such cooperation could make the pact meaningful without making it a Nato. Saudi Arabia has a particular reason to seek such redundancy. Recent turmoil has shown that even a wealthy, well-armed state remains vulnerable to relatively inexpensive asymmetric weapons. The US remains Saudi Arabia’s principal external security partner. The Mecca agreement should therefore be seen not as abandoning Washington, but as an additional layer of insurance. For the US, this need not be unwelcome. Pakistani naval capabilities and Turkish defence technology could help Saudi Arabia protect shipping, infrastructure and territory, sharing some of the regional security burden. The equation changes if the pact becomes a mechanism for military action against Israel. As long as it remains defensive, Washington could welcome greater regional responsibility. Saudi Arabia can deepen ties with Pakistan and Türkiye while retaining its US relationship and keeping open eventual normalisation with Israel. The most practical area of cooperation may ultimately be less dramatic than combat; the ability to sustain a war. Modern conflict is increasingly a contest of endurance. Advanced weapons are of limited value if ammunition cannot be replenished, equipment repaired, shipping protected and energy supplies maintained. The three countries possess complementary strengths. Saudi Arabia has financial resources and energy importance; Türkiye possesses a growing defence industry and experience with drones and other technologies; and Pakistan has a large military establishment, defence-production capabilities and operational experience. Their cooperation could therefore focus on intelligence-sharing, joint exercises, maritime surveillance, logistics, maintenance, defence production, ammunition stocks, technology and contingency planning. This may be the most realistic path: converting solidarity into practical support without requiring every member to fight every conflict. The agreement should be seen as aspirational—the signing may trigger progressively deeper cooperation rather than complete an operational military alliance. The real difficulty begins with Iran. If Iranian missiles or drones attack Saudi targets, the Article 5-type provision would acquire a different meaning. Would Pakistan strike Iranian targets? That appears highly unlikely. Islamabad has strong reasons to avoid direct confrontation with Tehran. Türkiye faces an equally difficult calculation: Iran is its neighbour, competitor and economic partner, while Ankara has vital interests in Syria, Iraq and the Caucasus.

The room: Fourth layer of the India Stack

PART II : The nation must build the certifier that trains no one and is trusted by everyone

CAPABILITY, when it is allowed to speak, still humbles pedigree. In 1911, on a Calcutta maidan, a barefoot Mohun Bagan beat a booted English regiment for the IFA Shield, and a subject nation learned that the master could be met and beaten even on even ground. It was no flash in the pan. At Melbourne in 1956, India reached an Olympic football semifinal, the only Asian side till then to do so. The lesson has not aged. A couple of weeks ago in Glasgow, Asmita Dey, a bicycle mechanic’s daughter from Belonia in South Tripura, won India its first Commonwealth judo gold, taking the final from a Canadian in sudden death. Birth placed her beside a bicycle repair shop. Mastery carried her to Glasgow. That is Vivekananda’s argument in the language of sport, proven against the empire and proven again in freedom. The perfection is within, and it does not ask permission from scale or birth.

Building the room & the digital Stack

The first objection, that India is too vast and too poor to build such a thing, has already been answered by India itself. Aadhaar solved at population scale the exact problem a capability record rests on, knowing for certain who a person is. UPI then made that identity transact, and now carries close to half the real-time transactions on earth, on a rail cheaper and faster than anything the older economies built. DigiLocker settled a third principle, that a citizen can carry credentials as trusted, verifiable and universal, held by the citizen and honoured everywhere. A country that has built those three is not being asked to attempt something new. Identity settled who you are. Payment settled what you can move. The document settled what you can prove. The Capability Smart Card settles what you can do. It is the same architecture one floor higher, the fourth layer of the India Stack. The instrument is a national capability architecture, a trusted and portable record of what a person can actually do, carried for life, a card the citizen holds as surely as an identity card today. It is upgradeable when revalidated, much as KYC is refreshed. A degree becomes one chapter in it rather than the last page. The skill mastered in a workshop, a regiment, a hospital or a field stands in the same record, in the same currency, as the classroom.

The gold standard of trust

India has not failed to issue certificates. It has failed to make them worth anything. Barely one worker in twenty carries a formal skill certificate, against roughly three in four in Germany and almost everyone in South Korea, and even that thin paper too often buys no trust, no standing and no wage. A certificate is worth nothing until it can be trusted, and trust has a precise condition. The one who trains cannot be the one who certifies. Britain understood the principle. Bodies such as City & Guilds establish independently recognised standards and assessments,

separate from the particular employer or workshop in which competence was acquired. That separation gives the qualification portability and trust. India’s difficulty is not that it lacks certifiers. It is that the certifiers it has command no trust. The bodies raised to accredit the colleges and the technical institutes have too often been drawn into the patronage they were meant to stand above,



staffed by appointment rather than merit, captured by the interests they were built to judge. When the accreditor is neither independent nor clean, its seal certifies nothing. A certifier folded into the system it judges is not a certifier. It is a rubber stamp with a letterhead.

India must build that certifier, one that trains no one and is trusted by everyone. Its independence would have to be structural: a statutory charter, fixed professional tenures, published standards, anonymised assessment, auditable results and no representation for any institution it certifies. And it must let the certificate live, revalidated

through a working life rather than frozen at graduation.

From credential to credit

A certificate that is trusted, independent and current is no longer a memento. It changes what a person is worth to a lender. A welder’s verified grade and a nurse’s proven competencies do not become collateral the way land does, for no one can foreclose on a skill, but they lower the risk of lending to the person who holds them, and lowered risk is the beginning of credit. A bank can price them. An employer can bid for them. A family can invest behind them. Capability, once certified, becomes economic standing that walks with the person and grows.

And it must move in two directions, for this is the true failure of the single staircase. It must move sideways, so a life can change course at forty without beginning again at eighteen, the technician becoming the entrepreneur, the soldier the administrator, carrying earned capability across the boundary rather than surrendering it at the gate. What is new is the ambition to give the welder and the nurse, by right, the same portable claim the credentialed now carry by fortune. It must also move upward, and this we have most neglected. The value a person builds across a working life is an inheritance too, the only inheritance a Republic should honour, and it should climb. The certified craftsman should rise to teach his craft, and from teaching to certifying it. The master should reach the chair he has earned as a professor of practice. Parity leaves him where he stands. Ascent lets him rise. A house with many doors is only half a house if none of its staircases climb.

The vote made every Indian equal before the State. An architecture of trusted, encashable, ascending capability makes every Indian equal before opportunity. The first was a right. The second is an instrument.

The architecture of Viksit Bharat

Return, at the end, to the two men. Macaulay built a mind to serve an empire, and the empire is gone. Vivekananda’s mind served no master, only the perfection within, and he said so to a world that applauded and went home. We have quoted him for a century and built nothing on him. Build it now. This is what makes the journey to Viksit Bharat real. It gives the vision both its destination and its route, with every citizen included. Not a nation that merely builds a faster staircase for a few, but one that opens a way upward for the welder, the nurse, the weaver and the artisan. It makes India the skill capital of the world, not a capital that rules but a capital that supplies, the place from which trusted human capability flows to a world running short of it.

Like across India, rot in Jharkhand exams need deeper surgery

The agitators’ desperation is accentuated by the high value attached to government jobs in Jharkhand, where household income is about half the national average

The students protesting at Ranchi’s Jaipal Singh Munda Stadium seem to be taking forward a flame lit at Delhi’s Jantar Mantar. The agitation in the Jharkhand capital, which got going in earnest just around the time the one in the national capital was called off, is drawing attention to a series of exam irregularities. Like Sonam Wangchuk in Delhi, student leader Devendra Mahto has gone on a fast along with a few other protesters. And on Monday, the protesters marched to the legislature, from where they were evicted by force. But that is where the similarities end.

Unlike in Delhi, no demand for any minister’s resignation has been aired yet in Ranchi. Instead, the students are demanding a CBI investigation into a series of recruitment glitches. Although the government has held three rounds of talks with them and cancelled the Jharkhand Public Service Commission’s (JPSC) latest exam held in April, along with previous rounds held in 2023 and 2025, the students are steadfast in calling for a wider probe into the state Staff Selection Commission’s



Combined Graduate Level exams as well as the Lucknow-based testing agency at the centre of the allegations. The government has dismissed a former JPSC chief and pointed to a court-mandated CID probe going on in the Staff Selection Commission’s exam. Also, the state police have been far less brutal in pushing back the students,

using lathis and water cannons—not pellet guns, whose use in Delhi is being litigated in the Supreme Court, or assault rifles, whose use in neighbouring Bihar is being investigated. However, Rahul Gandhi—leader of the Congress, which has four ministers in Jharkhand’s 11-member Cabinet—has decried the use of force against students in Ranchi. The agitators’ desperation is accentuated by the high value attached to government jobs in Jharkhand, where household income is about half the national average. The situation is made worse by large-scale displacement disrupting livelihoods. The students are up against a system they allege is stacked by those who paid their way into government jobs. Like across the nation, the rot in Jharkhand’s exam system runs deeper than a few cosmetic changes can address. It would be best if political parties, whose student arms seem keen on crowding into the protest space, stay away to let the students ensure a fairer future for themselves.

Two minutes, two storeys, two stories

—In the Tarun Tejpal case, very few asked the only question that matters in a court of law: which judgment better respects the rules?

IN November 2013, Goa hosted a festival of ideas. Tehelka magazine organised it. Tarun Tejpal was its Editor-in-Chief. A young woman journalist worked on his staff. She was a friend of his daughter. Robert De Niro was the star guest. On the night of November 7, the editor and the journalist escorted De Niro to his suite at the Grand Hyatt. They rode down together in a guest lift. The ride lasted about two minutes. The lift travelled two storeys. The next night, they rode the same lift again. What happened inside is fiercely contested. She said he assaulted her, on both nights. He said it was drunken banter that went nowhere. From those two minutes, and those two storeys, have flowed thirteen years of litigation, two irreconcilable stories, and now two irreconcilable judgments. The trial took seven years. In May 2021, an Additional Sessions Judge at Mapusa, a woman, acquitted Tejpal in a judgment of 527 pages. In August 2026, a bench headed by a woman judge of the Bombay High Court at Goa, in an appeal filed by the State, reversed the acquittal and convicted him of rape and allied offences. The public reaction split along predictable lines. Those who believed the woman celebrated. Those who believed the man despaired. Very few asked the only question that matters in a court of law: which judgment better respects the rules by which we try our fellow citizens? Consider first what the trial court did. It did not disbelieve the woman because she was a woman, though it committed sins we shall come to. It disbelieved her because her account collided with machinery. Her constant refrain, from her first email to her testimony, was that the lift doors absolutely did not open during the two minutes, because the accused pressed buttons to keep the lift “in circuit.” The hotel’s security manager said the doors open automatically at every floor. The Mitsubishi elevator supervisor said the same. So did the panch witness and a police officer. The lift simply cannot be kept moving with

its doors shut. The CCTV showed the lift opening twice on the ground floor within the crucial window. Confronted with this in cross-examination, seven years after the event, the witness abandoned the buttons and offered one button, and said she no longer knew whether the lift moved at all.

The trial court found more. The two apologies the accused sent, on which the prosecution leaned heavily, were not spontaneous confessions. The evidence suggested the formal apology was drafted by the managing editor, under the complainant’s own pressure, on her terms. The court declined to treat a procured apology as a confession of rape. And the investigation was a scandal in itself. The CCTV footage of the first floor, where one incident allegedly occurred, vanished. The recorder was never sealed. No hash value was generated, so tampering could never be excluded. The defence got clean copies of the footage only in 2016, after orders of the Supreme Court. On this record, the judge gave the accused the benefit of the doubt. Let it be said plainly: the trial judgment was not spotless. It dwelt on how the complainant behaved afterwards, on her partying, on her staying back in Goa, even on her mother’s travel plans. The Supreme Court, in Aparna Bhat’s case, has condemned exactly this kind of reasoning. There is no approved way for a victim to behave. Those passages deserved censure, and the High Court gave it. But here is where the High Court appears to have gone wrong. It treated the trial court’s bad reasoning as licence to discard its good reasoning. It purged the stereotypes, restored the complainant’s credibility, read

the apologies as admissions, and convicted. What it did not do, convincingly, is confront the machinery. The Mitsubishi engineer did not testify about rape myths. He testified about doors. If the central physical claim of a witness is disproved by the physics of the scene, a court that still convicts on her sole word owes us a



demonstration, not an assertion, of why the contradiction does not matter. Condemning the trial court’s moralising, however deserved, is not that demonstration. The law here is old and settled. Since Sheo Swarup in 1934, through Chandrappa in 2007, to a stream of recent decisions, the Supreme Court has held that an accused enjoys a double presumption of innocence after acquittal.

The first presumption every accused carries into trial. The second he earns when a court, having seen the witnesses, finds the case unproved. An appellate court may review the whole evidence. But if two views are reasonably possible, it must adopt the one that favours the accused. It may reverse only if the acquittal is perverse, meaning no reasonable judge could have reached it. A judgment resting on the sworn evidence of elevator engineers, on CCTV, on a demolished central claim, and on destroyed footage, is many things. Perverse it is not. One may prefer the High Court’s view. Preference is not the test. The High Court substituted its view for a possible one, and that is precisely what the double presumption forbids.

This is not a technicality. The double presumption is the difference between a legal system and a lottery. It tells the citizen that an acquittal means something, that it cannot be casually displaced because a higher bench, reading a cold record years later, feels differently about the same witnesses. When it is displaced casually, every acquittal in the land becomes provisional, and every trial merely a rehearsal. A civilised system also provides the remedy. The Code of Criminal Procedure does not leave a man first convicted in appeal to the mercy of discretionary review.

Section 379, read with the Enlargement of Criminal Appellate Jurisdiction Act of 1970, gives him a full appeal to the Supreme Court as of right, on facts and on law, where a High Court reverses an acquittal and imposes a substantial sentence. That appeal will now be filed. The Supreme Court will read both judgments, and the record, as neither cheering section has done.

5 characteristics of a great Workplace

1. Inspired you to be the real you:

Do you ever wonder why 99% of your workforce puts up facades of themselves at work that are very different from who they are in their personal lives? Why is there this dichotomy? Your energies should be focused on the market, your employer's competition, managing your time well, the opportunities and risks at work not within yourself. When you work for an organisation that connects with your authentic self, you not only do your best, but also inspire others around you.

2. Focusses on a mission close to your heart:

The best jobs allow you to do work you believe in and enjoy. Successful start-ups in particular are often characterised by the collaboration of inspired individuals who could not imagine doing any other work. This type of environment allows people who are creatively oriented and talented to work with organisations that match their passion and push the boundaries of technology and innovation.

3. Honours merit

over tenure;
ideas over
hierarchy
:

At every stage in your career, the decision of where to work is in many ways life-shaping beyond just the immediate tangible financial impact. Unfortunately, not many realise this until well into their career. Where you work is a choice of how and on what you want to spend your time and what you want to receive in return for that invaluable investment. While ultimately where to work is each individual's choice based on their priority and needs, in my opinion, there are five key criteria to look for in a company.

Apple's legendary co-founder firmly believed companies that want to retain great employees have to let them make decisions. Enlightened leadership teams ask employees to contribute ideas because they recognise managers and executives don't have all the answers. Leaders should also encourage debate

and action on ideas. In 2006, IBM invited 150,000 employees, family members, business partners and clients to an online brainstorming session called 'Innovation Jam'. Participants from 104 countries responded, and their ideas led to \$100 million in investments by IBM on suggested projects.

4. Offers prospects to continue

your educational journey:

Look for an environment where you can challenge the status quo, even unlearn past assumptions and misplaced beliefs, and ultimately learn a set of new skills and principles that enable you to continuously stretch and raise the bar for yourself.

5. Provides a pace to enjoy the journey:

With mobile phones, a constantly connected world, a growing number of virtual offices and global teams that make collaborating across time zones critical to success, the boundaries between work and home life are now blurred. A good organisation will allow employees to take from this the benefits and leave behind the disadvantages. You want to be able to transition seamlessly between work and home life without it seeming like you have a strained wall of defined separation from your "home you" and your "work you".

While every individual needs to strive hard to hit the upper echelon of their potential, the path to get there should always be enjoyable and fun or it will always feel like hard work and make it even more difficult to achieve. A workplace that offers you the environment where the journey is just as exciting as the destination is a must in my book.

The key to success

One of the common purposes of life for most of us is to achieve success that gives rise to prosperity, peace, happiness, and a sense of inner fulfillment. In our journey to achieve success in different walks of life; some of us grow and develop, while others seem to be trapped in patterns that limit their happiness and joy. Some do extremely well in certain areas of their lives while failing miserably in others. A few may be highly successful by conventional and conformist measures more so in the eyes of others, however, they are continually frustrated and disgruntled from within. One common thread defining success is to set goals and priorities for oneself and greater confusion and lack of clarity in thinking to achieve success in totality.

The first step to continually grow and develop requires an individual to set specific goals. These goals must be significant and relevant to the individual concerned and need to be absolutely clear to him/her as a part of success of life's larger intent and purpose. Accomplishment deadlines should be set and strictly adhered to. Criteria to measure the outcomes should be well-defined. Clarity about goals constitutes around 80 per cent of success, achievement and joy in life. It is lack of clarity, which results in frustration and underachievement. Individuals with clear, written goals, achieve far more in a given time frame than those who lack such clarity. The power of thought The power of thought and will, if channelled intentionally in a focused manner, generates an abundant flow of energy to overcome and respond to challenges, obstacles and difficulties that come in the way of achievement of our goals.

Individuals with clear goals achieve far more in a given time frame than those who lack such clarity



The basic sequence for success in different walks of life begins with desire, backed by sincere efforts and goal directed actions. A desire to do something gives us the intent, plan and purpose, but it is the 'will' that activates and energises us to act and keep pursuing till we achieve our desired goal. In our journey, even if

and will power is to be backed by an intense sense of commitment, seriousness and sincerity to achieve the set goals. By committing ourselves to accomplish the goals, we take the most crucial and decisive step in our pursuit for excellence. The power of thoughts backed by commitment and determination transforms dreams into reality. It is dedication to work for well-defined goals that helps in taking steps towards excellence and achieving success. Thus, success is for those who use the power of thought, will power and commitment in pursuit of their well-defined goals.

we fail to achieve the ultimate goal, what matter the most are the lessons learnt, enjoyment derived while working and determination to keep working towards the goal. The power of commitment The power of thought



Tips on how to impress your mom-in-law

1. Do your homework first:

Ask your fiancé what she likes and dislikes. What are her hobbies and how she likes to unwind. Once you know what kind of a person she is and what really makes her happy, then it becomes easy for you to break the ice even in the most difficult situation.

2. Dress to impress:

Whether you notice or not but your mother-in-law will notice the way you have dressed. We aren't asking you to dress like a princess but clothes that aren't ironed or clothes that are out of place and doesn't suits the occasion might not go down well with her. So put that little extra time and dress well so that she's impressed.

3. Seek her advice:

Yes, you are an independent woman and have taken all your life decisions on your own, but there's no harm in taking your mom-in-law's advice or suggestions. After all she has seen the world more than you and who knows her advice can help you to make a better decision.

4. Meet her often:

So he proposes you in the most romantic way ever and you have said a 'yes.' And with that you have started to think, plan and fix a lot of things in order to get the ball rolling for your D-day.

Before and after marriage meet her often and spend time with her. Try and make a bond just like the one you shared with your mom.

5. Be open in communication:

Always keep the door of communication open when talking with her. Talk her as much as possible and keep her updated about what's going on in your life.





5 signs you are working in a happy

Workplace

Communication's the word:

In a happy workplace, communication is free flowing. You don't feel that the atmosphere is prison/war room like. There's a sense of openness and willingness to share information. And most importantly everybody knows (from top to the bottom) what's happening on the work front.

Are you working in a happy space? Do you look forward to go back to work on a Monday? There are five simple ways to know that you are working in a happy space

Involved professionals:

Everybody feels that he/she is a part of the team. And that every single member of the team counts in the larger picture and they are not just cog in the wheels. When people feel involved in their work place, they are naturally happy and ultimately this makes it a happy work zone.

Opportunities to grow:

In a happy workplace, team leaders and top bosses provide everyone with the opportunity to advance and grow. They believe in the art of delegation rather than the concentration of power, authority and responsibility. The employees are encouraged to push their creative boundaries and regular opportunities are given for growth.

Upbeat mood:

If you are looking forward to come to work on Mondays then you are definitely working in a happy space. A happy work place exudes positive energy and instead of grumpy faces, you will notice happy people working, chatting and laughing. It's difficult to miss this kind of warmth.

Embracing change:

One of the most important factors of a happy workplace is the ability to welcome change. The team should have faith in their ability to be in sync with the changes of their industry or sector. And the top authorities are also equipped to understand the dynamics of change and encourage the team to think differently.

A happy and healthy marital trust each other is the first and foremost condition - to trust each other. People want to feel safe and confident with the elements which it maintains. The belief that someone is always with you and his behavior will not hurt you. Is believed to be the most important long-term relationships.

A - The second focus

People who spend long experience of married life that now is being given too much emphasis on autonomy and independence. Live with each other - talk is about to get up, but this dependence should not be negative polarity. In such cases they do not understand is no harm in joining them. He felt that the balance of power among themselves - dependent and - other than taking care of the remains.

Living with each

Maintaining long term relationships, couples - would feel all the pleasures of being with each other. His Abhirucian and activities are slightly different than usual and had a - to strengthen ties with other partners felt. Even when they live together, one - has considerable interest in the other.

vein of experience Sey

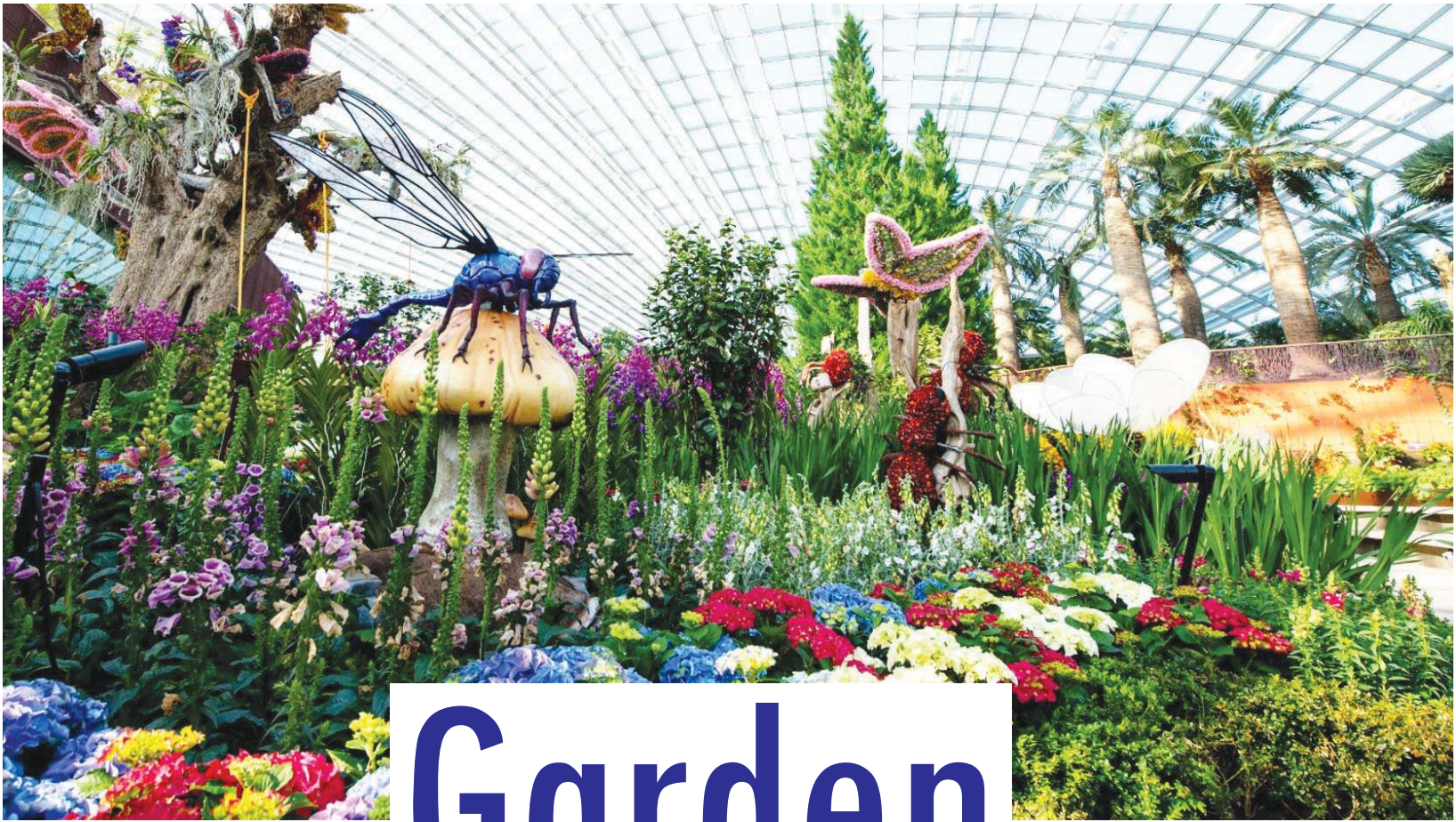
The texture is the most important part of the history of the partnership relationships. Couples sharing the same experiences also refers to the future. have increased. To face the future with confidence power. - Second confidence grows and builds strong relationships.

Consider yourself lucky

Many couples said their relationships remain major roles such luck. She also felt themselves lucky that they found such a partner with which they can move forward. The journey of life they themselves fortunate to be relatively easy experience.

Ability wife welcome

Some men came to the position that his wife suddenly started



Garden are occupied Life..



going to work, because the wife felt the need to raise revenue. Leigh was a great event that some of these people, because they were accustomed to seeing the family as the axis. Yet while admitting he needs a creative twist positions and wife welcomed the move. People happy married life has spent so long that he felt the need to change it, he felt no fear. They change as the end of the relationship, not just seen as a situation that was overcome, the strength of the relationship was the most important for them.

Live with differences

You are a supporter of the party and supporters of the other spouse. He can not change his political views, you must learn to live with these differences. According to psychologists, "such a little - little things are wrangling Do not burn bridges with your sweat and time. Entangled in the same things you can win jointly. This does not mean that you ignore the important issues. The intent is simply to accept the differences as essential truth of life, the habit of living with them. Do not marry the person with whom one can not live without you, but the person with whom you can live with."

The notion of stability

They know that the household is the same as driving, sitting silently on the other is not. He is trying his behalf.

Al-Qaida-linked group behind 2025 Red Fort blast that killed 11: UN report

UN Security Council monitoring team has attributed the November 2025 Red Fort blast to Al-Qaida's Indian Subcontinent (AQIS), warning of its expanding regional network.

Delhi. (Agency)

The November 2025 blast near Delhi's Red Fort that killed 11 was carried out by an offshoot of the global terrorist organisation Al-Qaida, according to a report by the United Nations Security Council's monitoring team, which also warned of the outfit's expanding regional network.

Marking a significant development in the international assessment of the attack, the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team's report also noted that Al-Qaida in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS) remained active in southeastern Afghanistan and was seeking to exploit Bangladesh to establish operational cells. The report described the Red Fort attack as the clearest evidence yet of the outfit's

growing operational capabilities.

"Al-Qaida in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS, not listed) continued to evolve from a fragmented group into a regional terrorist entity; it established logistics and financial networks, working in decentralised small, scattered cells instead of large units. The attack in November 2025 on the Red Fort in Delhi was initially attributed to AQIS. There was some concern about AQIS trying to exploit Bangladesh to establish cells there," the report said.

The blast took place on November 10, 2025, when a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device exploded near the Red Fort. The NIA identified Umar un-Nabi, a former assistant professor of medicine at Al-Falah University in Faridabad, as the primary perpetrator. He died in the explosion. The NIA had

identified the module as being inspired by AQIS and had said the attack was part of a wider terror conspiracy. The latest UN assessment adds an international dimension to the Indian agency's findings.

AQIS REBUILDING AS REGIONAL NETWORK

According to the report, AQIS has evolved from a fragmented and weakened outfit into a more structured regional terrorist network. Rather than operating through large formations, the group is increasingly relying on small, decentralised cells that are more difficult for security agencies to detect and disrupt.

The UN monitors also flagged the group's logistics and financial networks, suggesting that AQIS has

retained the capability to plan and support operations despite years of counterterrorism pressure.

The Red Fort attack was cited by the



monitors as evidence of this evolving operational capability.

The report also raises concerns that AQIS could seek to expand its presence into Bangladesh by establishing new cells, potentially widening its operational footprint across South Asia.

PAKISTAN-AFGHANISTAN TENSIONS

The UN report separately highlights a sharp escalation in cross-border violence between Pakistan and Afghanistan during the reporting period.

The Taliban's de facto authorities have been accused of continuing to provide support to the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), which has intensified attacks against Pakistani security forces. The rise in attacks has contributed to retaliatory military action and heightened tensions along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border.

AQIS was also linked to attacks attributed to Ittihad-ul-Mujahideen Pakistan (IMP) in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, including a deadly suicide bombing and vehicle-borne explosive attack near a security.

Education Minister Ashish Sood trashes AAP's claim on cycles

Delhi. (Agency)

Delhi Education Minister Ashish Sood on Wednesday rejected the Aam Aadmi Party's allegations of irregularities in the procurement of bicycles under the Vidya Vahini scheme, saying the bicycles were procured through the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) after a transparent bidding process.

Addressing a press conference, Sood said more than 3,000 girl students had received bicycles in the first phase of the scheme. "Our bicycles are bought from GeM. GeM has been a transparent portal for 10 years," he said, adding that bids floated on the portal were subject to prescribed parameters. A bid could not proceed if it contained a restrictive clause or if a complaint against it remained unresolved, he said.

Sood accused the AAP of changing its allegations and figures regarding the procurement. He said the party had initially alleged a 70 per cent commission on August 3, followed by a claim of 40 per cent commission, or a Rs 36 crore loss out of an alleged '90 crore scam, on August 6. On August 7, the figures were revised to 43 per cent and 66 per cent, while on August 8, the party claimed a 75 per cent figure, he said. "Their changing figures expose their political desperation," Sood said. He said the procurement was conducted strictly in accordance with statutory guidelines through GeM. According to Sood, the system rejects tenders containing restrictive or biased clauses.

"No vendor or party submitted a single complaint on the GeM portal during the bidding window. The tender was awarded strictly to the lowest eligible L1 bidder chosen by the system," the minister said.

Sood said Education Department officials had followed all codal formalities and rejected the opposition's claims as baseless. "In today's era, everything is transparently available on GeM."

863 birds, animals rescued in raids on pet shops at Kabootar Market

New Delhi. (Agency)

Delhi Police, in coordination with animal welfare organisations and the Forest and Wildlife Department, rescued 863 birds and animals, including 431 protected birds, during a joint raid at the Kabootar Market in Jama Masjid, officials said. Five people were identified as accused and bound down as per law, officials added.

Of the 431 protected, banned or scheduled birds, 72 were Plum-headed Parakeets, 183 Ring-necked Parakeets, 63 Alexandrine Parakeets and 113 Munia birds. The birds were seized by World Wide Animal in coordination with the Forest and Wildlife Department, Delhi, the officials said.

The other birds and animals rescued included 148 Budgerigars, 57 Cockatiels, 96 Lovebirds, 18 guinea pigs, nine grey squirrels, 41 white mice, 11 rabbits, and 52 non-protected parakeets and other pet birds.

Police received a tip-off on Sunday from People for Animals (PFA) regarding the alleged illegal sale, possession and unlawful confinement of protected birds and animals at pet shops in the market. Police subsequently informed World Wide Animal and officials of the Forest and Wildlife Department, Delhi.

"A joint raid was conducted. During the operation, various pet shops were systematically inspected. A large number of birds and animals were found confined in cages, many of which were overcrowded and maintained in unhygienic conditions," Deputy Commissioner of Police (Central) Rohit Rajbir Singh said.

Why Professor Jiang thinks Pakistan could use nuclear weapons first

Chinese-born Canadian educator Professor Jiang Xueqin is known for his predictions, which he backs by theories. Professor Jiang has said that he believes if nuclear weapons were to be used in a conflict, Pakistan could be the first country to do so.

New Delhi. (Agency)

The most frightening question in a nuclear age is not who has the most nuclear weapons. It is who could be the first to use one. The first and the only time nuclear bombs were used was during World War 2. Since then, many countries have gained nuclear weapon technology, which itself has become deadlier.

Chinese-born Canadian educator and geopolitical commentator Professor Jiang Xueqin, known for his theory-backed predictions, answered — who could be the next to use nuclear weapons? Professor Jiang appeared on YouTuber Raj Shamani's podcast. Videos of the



interaction were uploaded on August 11. When asked to assess the possibility of nuclear weapons being used in a future conflict, Jiang made a prediction that puts India's western neighbour at the centre of the nightmare scenario.

Pakistan, Professor Jiang said, would be the country most likely to use nuclear weapons first.

Professor Jiang, who has gained popularity for his geopolitical predictions like Trump's return to power in 2024 and the possible war between the US and Iran, was not predicting an imminent nuclear war. In fact, he made the opposite point. "I personally do not believe that nuclear weapons will be used in our lifetimes ever because there's a universal taboo against nuclear weapons," he said. But then came the caveat by the 50-year-old educator. "But if I had to guess which nation would most likely use the nukes first, it would be either India or Pakistan. Possibly Pakistan," he said.

The reason, according to Professor Jiang, is less about Pakistan's willingness.

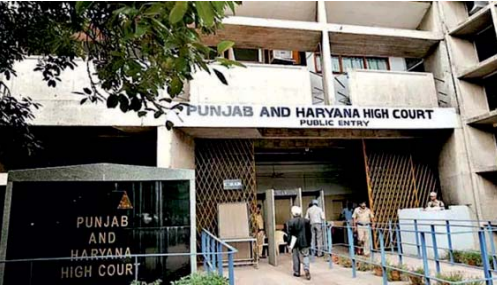
Punjab HC stays appointment of 454 pharmacy officers over cheating racket row

Delhi. (Agency)

The Punjab and Haryana High Court has stayed the appointment of 454 pharmacy officers in Punjab until the next hearing on September 17, raising questions over the state's recruitment process. The court passed the stay order on a plea filed by Keshav Kamboj and others, who sought cancellation of the written examination held on July 19 for recruitment to posts under the Punjab Health and Family Welfare Department.

The petitioners alleged that an organised cheating racket had compromised the examination.

The BJP on Thursday targeted AAP national convenor Arvind Kejriwal over



Delhi, BJP MP and national spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi asked whether Kejriwal would now seek the resignation of the Punjab government. He also linked the issue to the Opposition's conduct in

Parliament and alleged that leaders who claim to speak for students have remained silent on developments in Punjab and Jharkhand.

Trivedi said the High Court's order raised a "very serious question" about the recruitment process.

"So now we want to ask Kejriwal ji, who remained silent on the issues from Jharkhand to Punjab. When your government's lie is proved in court, will you now seek its resignation?" he said.

The High Court has also stayed another recruitment process in Punjab until the next hearing. On Wednesday, it stayed the recruitment of 41 Block Programme Managers and 44 Cluster Coordinators under the Punjab State Rural Livelihoods Mission until the next hearing on September 2.

Hit with sticks, leg fractured: Teacher accused of kicking first wife out of house

New Delhi. (Agency)

A case has been registered against a teacher in Bihar's Muzaffarpur district after his wife of nearly 28 years accused him of thrashing her and forcing her out of their home following a dispute over his second marriage.

The complainant, Suman Kumari, said she married the accused, Baidyanath Kumar Yadav, on May 7, 1998. In her complaint, she alleged that he had subjected her to harassment over demands for a vehicle and other items as dowry.

Suman further claimed that she later learnt that her husband had married another woman and even had a daughter with her. She alleged that last week, on August 7, Yadav returned home and told her that he wanted to live with his second wife and asked her to leave the house.

When she objected, he hurled abuse and physically assaulted her, Suman said in her complaint. She claimed that she was beaten with sticks, a rolling pin, and other household items, resulting in a fracture to her leg. She also alleged that an attempt was made to strangle her to death. According to the complaint, neighbours arrived after hearing the commotion, following which the situation was brought under control.

Her family members purportedly arrived the next day and, after seeing her condition, informed the police. She was taken to a nearby health centre and later referred to the district hospital, where her injured leg was plastered, per the police complaint.

Suman has also alleged that her jewellery, cash and other belongings remain at her marital home and that she has been receiving threats from her husband and his family. She submitted treatment records and photographs of her injuries along with her complaint.

Yadav, however, has denied all the allegations. The teacher claimed that his first wife had given a written declaration in 2015 saying that she would not live with him. He said he subsequently married for a second time in 2021, but continued to keep his first wife with him as well.

India withholds approval for Chinese-owned firm's herbicide over cancer scare

Syngenta has suffered a major setback in obtaining regulatory approval in India for its new herbicide, S-metolachlor Technical 96% (S-metolachlor). Taking serious note of the EU's restrictions and tumours detected in lab rats, the application has been put on hold.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Foreign agrochemical companies seem to believe that they can easily introduce any herbicide into the Indian market simply by waving around approvals obtained in other countries. However, the Modi government's tough stance appears to have dispelled that misconception.

Syngenta, owned by a state-owned Chinese company called Sinochem Holdings through a subsidiary, has suffered a major setback in obtaining regulatory approval in India for its new herbicide, S-metolachlor Technical 96% (S-metolachlor). Taking serious note of the European Union's restrictions and tumours detected in laboratory rats, the company's application has been put on hold. The Centre has made it clear that unless the company proves that the

chemical will not contaminate groundwater and is safe for humans, it will not be allowed into the Indian market.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the Registration Committee (RC) functioning under the Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare. The panel issues certificates for the import, manufacture, or sale of any new pesticide or herbicide in the country. It is headed by the Agriculture Commissioner of the Government of India. When a company seeks approval for a new chemical, the committee thoroughly examines its claims. It assesses how safe the chemical is for humans, animals, and the environment. Only after it meets the required safety standards will permission be granted for

its use in India.

WHAT'S THE ISSUE: OVERVIEW

Syngenta, which has a multinational presence, seeks to sell S-metolachlor in

reduce farmers' costs while also lowering the overall chemical load on agricultural fields.

To strengthen its case, Syngenta purportedly cited the examples of the United States, Japan, and Canada, arguing that if such major countries have given the chemical the green light, why should India object?

However, when the Indian government's scientific committee examined the chemical in detail, two major concerns emerged, undermining the company's claims.

LIVER TUMOURS IN LAB RATS

It has been reported that rats exposed to S-metolachlor during laboratory tests developed liver tumours. Syngenta's experts allegedly argued that the effect was specific to rats and was unlikely to pose a similar risk to humans.



India. The company claims that the product is a more advanced herbicide, requiring only 40% of the application volume used for older alternatives. According to Syngenta, this could help

Rupee falls 7 paise to 95.40 against US dollar in early trade

MUMBAI. (Agency)

The rupee depreciated 7 paise to 95.40 against the US dollar in early trade on Thursday pressured by elevated crude oil prices and lingering geopolitical risks. Forex traders said investor sentiment remains fragile as the standoff between US and Iran does not seem to be coming to an end with Iran warning of keeping the Strait of Hormuz closed till 2029 while the US President saying that the Hormuz is in US's command.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 95.40, registering a fall of 7 paise from its previous close. On Wednesday, the rupee closed at 95.33 against the American currency. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading at 100.01. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, was trading lower by 1.22 per cent at USD 87.89 per barrel in futures trade. With oil prices near to USD 88 a barrel but the dollar index higher at 100.01, the rupee opened at 95.40 on Thursday, after rising to 95.25 on Wednesday, said Anil Kumar Bhansali Head of Treasury and Executive Director Finrex Treasury Advisors LLP.

"RBI has been continuously bacing the rupee at 95.41-95.45 despite oil demand taking it lower," Bhansali said. Foreign institutional investors offloaded equities worth Rs 1,002.50 crore on a net basis on Wednesday, according to exchange data. On the domestic equity market front, the Sensex was trading lower by 152.97 points at 77,813.38, while the Nifty was down 84.80 points at 24,351.15.

EPFO withdrawal: 12-month or 36 month wait? Govt explains rules

New Delhi. (Agency)

The central government has responded to questions relating to the 25 percent minimum balance and 36 months waiting period for pension withdrawal. Lok Sabha MP Kirti Azad raised the question in Parliament regarding the details of the recent amendments notified by the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) regarding conditions for partial and full withdrawal of provident fund balances and pension accumulations. He also sought clarity on whether the government has received representations or objections from employees, trade unions or employers regarding the impact of the said new rules on access to workers' savings, particularly relating to the 25 percent minimum balance and 36 months waiting period for pension withdrawal. The Parliamentarian further asked whether the government has conducted any review or consultation to assess the implications of the said changes on workers' financial security and liquidity and the details of corrective or mitigating measures proposed by the Government to address hardship or implementation challenges arising from the said withdrawal restrictions.

UPI: MDR or tiered incentive structure, govt weighing 2 options, FimMin tells Parl panel

New Delhi. (Agency)

The government is weighing two options to make UPI (Unified Payments Interface) financially independent and eliminate the subsidy crutch. While one is to restore MDR of merchant discount rate for high-value transactions, the other is to draw up a tiered incentive structure. These options has been conveyed by the Union finance ministry to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance. reports stated. But the general impression is that the common people won't have to bear any additional financial burden due to these steps.

Option to apply MDR on UPI

According to the Department of Financial Services, the government is looking at the possibility of implementing MDR on certain and large UPI transactions. MDR is a fee charged to merchants who accept digital payments. The government's second option is to introduce a tier-based incentive system. Through this, the government support given to UPI can be gradually reduced in the next few years. Its objective is to make the UPI system financially sustainable in the long run. However, there has not been any clarity on what will happen if merchants who have to pay MDR will realise it from the common people conducting these transactions.

MDR was levied earlier

Earlier MDR was applicable on UPI merchant transactions in India. Till 2019, MDR of up to 0.30% of the amount under transaction was charged on some UPI merchant transactions.

Noel Tata faces 3 big questions over Tata Sons as N Chandrasekaran resigns

New Delhi. (Agency)

N Chandrasekaran's decision not to seek another term as Tata Sons chairman has shifted the spotlight to Noel Tata, the chairman of Tata Trusts and one of the key figures who will have a say in what comes next at the \$400-billion Tata group.

Chandrasekaran announced on August 12 that he would not seek reappointment when his current term ends on February 20, 2027. His decision came six months after the Tata Sons board deferred a proposal to give him another five-year term because it did not receive unanimous support. Chandrasekaran did not name the director who withheld support, but the development has

been widely linked to differences with Noel Tata. The immediate task is to find Chandrasekaran's successor. But for Noel Tata, the questions go beyond who occupies the chairman's chair. Tata Trusts collectively own about 66% of Tata Sons, giving them enormous influence over the holding company of the group. Noel, who became chairman of Tata Trusts in October 2024 after the death of his half-brother Ratan Tata, is also on the Tata Sons board. That puts him at the centre of three questions that could shape Tata Sons over the next few years.

WHO WILL REPLACE CHANDRASEKARAN?

The first and most immediate question is who Noel Tata and the Tata Sons

board want to lead the group after Chandrasekaran. Chandrasekaran has asked the board and shareholders to



decide on succession and has urged an early process so that there is an orderly transition. With his current term running until February 2027, the group has several months to identify and appoint a successor.

The Tata Sons board is expected to focus on setting up a search process for the new chairman. The board currently has six directors, including Noel Tata, Tata Trusts vice-chairman Venu Srinivasan, group CFO Saurabh Agrawal and independent directors Harish Manwani and Anita Marangoly George. The choice will matter beyond the personality of the next chairman.

Chandrasekaran has spent nearly a decade reshaping the Tata group, with major bets in areas including semiconductors, electronics manufacturing, aviation and digital businesses. His successor will inherit projects that are already at critical stages.

Lenskart shares jump 7% after Q1 results: Should you buy the stock? What brokerages say

New Delhi. (Agency)

Lenskart Solutions shares jumped as much as 7% to Rs 627 on Thursday after the eyewear company's first-quarter results showed a sharp improvement in profit, revenue and margins. The strong Q1 performance has also prompted several brokerages to raise their target prices for the stock. For investors wondering whether Lenskart shares are still worth buying after the recent rise, the brokerage view remains largely positive. Jefferies, Morgan Stanley, Goldman Sachs, Macquarie and Motilal Oswal are bullish on the stock, while Citi has a Neutral rating and believes much of the expected growth is already reflected in the valuation.

LENSKART Q1 RESULTS PUSH STOCK HIGHER

Lenskart reported a 182.3% year-on-year jump in net profit to Rs 228 crore in Q1 FY27. Revenue from operations rose 33.6% year-on-



year to Rs 2,214 crore, while EBITDA increased 61.3% to Rs 589 crore. The improvement was not limited to its India business. Revenue from India increased 30.7%, while international revenue grew 38%. Margins also improved significantly. Lenskart's consolidated product margin crossed 70% for the first time,

reaching 70.3% compared with 68.7% a year earlier. EBITDA margin increased to 21.7% from 18%. This combination of strong revenue growth and improving margins is one of the main reasons brokerages have turned more positive on the stock.

WHAT BROKERAGES SAY ABOUT LENSKART

Jefferies has maintained a Buy rating and raised its target price to Rs 680 from Rs 600. Based on the stock's Rs 627 price mentioned in the report, that implies around 8.5% upside. The brokerage said Lenskart's growth and margin expansion story has strengthened after the Q1 performance.

It also highlighted around 70,000 daily eye tests, suggesting that supply rather than demand is emerging as a constraint in India.

Dhoot Transmission IPO allotment status: How to check shares on BSE, NSE and Kfintech

Dhoot Transmission IPO allotment is expected to be finalised on August 13 after strong investor demand. With the issue subscribed 75.06 times and a grey market premium of Rs 276, investors are closely watching the outcome ahead of listing.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Dhoot Transmission IPO allotment is expected to be finalised on Thursday, August 13, after the Rs 3,066.89 crore issue received a massive response from investors. The IPO was subscribed 75.06 times by the time bidding closed on August 12. The qualified institutional buyer (QIB) portion, excluding anchor investors, was

subscribed 209.02 times, while the non-institutional investor (NII) portion was subscribed



53.13 times. The retail portion was subscribed 8.32 times. Investors who applied for the Dhoot Transmission IPO can check their allotment status online through the BSE and NSE websites, the IPO registrar Kfin Technologies, or their respective trading platforms.

HOW TO CHECK DHOOT TRANSMISSION IPO ALLOTMENT ON KFINTECH

Kfin Technologies is the registrar for the Dhoot Transmission IPO and is one of the main platforms investors can use to check their allotment status. Investors can visit the Kfin Technologies IPO status page and select Dhoot Transmission Limited from the dropdown menu. They can then check their application using any of the available details, including: PAN, Application number, DP ID/Client ID, Bank account number/IFSC. After entering the required details and submitting the form, the allotment status will be displayed.

Govt directs Uber, Ola and other cab aggregators to stop asking for pre-ride tips

New Delhi. (Agency)

Passengers booking cabs through Uber, Ola and other ride-hailing apps will no longer be asked to pay a tip before their journey begins.

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has directed motor vehicle aggregators to remove pre-ride tipping prompts from their apps with immediate effect, saying passengers cannot be encouraged to make an additional payment in the hope of getting a cab faster or improving their chances of getting a ride. The government action follows reports of ride-hailing platforms displaying messages such as "Advance Tip", "Choose an Add-on" and "Improve your chances of quicker ride confirmation" during the booking process.

The prompts had raised concerns because they could give passengers the impression that paying a tip might influence whether a driver accepts their booking or how quickly a ride is confirmed.

NO 'TIP TO GET YOUR CAB FASTER'

The government has asked all motor vehicle aggregators to immediately review their mobile applications and digital platforms and remove features that do not comply with the Motor Vehicle Aggregator Guidelines, 2025. Under the direction, an app cannot display a tip prompt, message, add-on or payment option before the completion of a ride if it suggests that paying extra could influence the availability or quality of the

service. This includes whether a driver accepts the ride, how quickly the booking is confirmed, which



driver is allocated or how long a passenger has to wait. In simple terms, passengers booking a cab should not be made to feel that paying an additional amount could improve their chances of getting a ride. The government has directed aggregators to make the necessary changes without delay and ensure

their apps comply with the 2025 guidelines.

CAN YOU STILL TIP YOUR DRIVER?

Yes.

The government has not banned tipping. Under Clause 14.15 of the Motor Vehicle Aggregator Guidelines, 2025, passengers can voluntarily tip drivers, but the option can be offered only after the journey has been completed. The entire tip must also go to the driver. The aggregator cannot deduct any amount from it.

The distinction is therefore straightforward: passengers can choose to reward a driver after a ride, but a tip cannot be presented before the ride as a way to improve the chances of getting a cab.

Domino’s, Pizza Hut outlets in Mumbai shut after food safety body raids

Mumbai.(Agency)

Maharashtra’s food safety body, under Tukaram Mundhe, suspended the licences of four Domino’s Pizza outlets and one Pizza Hut establishment after a statewide inspection revealed severe violations. While three of the suspended Domino’s Pizza outlets are in Vile Parle West, Borivali West, and R-City Mall in Ghatkopar West, the fourth is in Malkapur near Karad in Satara district – all run by Jubilant FoodWorks Ltd.

The Maharashtra Food and Drug Administration (FDA) officials who inspected the Domino’s and Pizza Hut outlets cited violations of Schedule-4 of the Food Safety and Standards (Licensing and Registration of Food Businesses) Regulations, 2011, which lays down hygiene and infrastructure norms for food establishments.

At the Borivali outlet, inspectors recorded a compliance score of just 54 percent, flagging inadequate segregation of raw and cooked food, oily residue on pizza-preparation surfaces, and gaps in pest control.

Mumbai AC Local: Railways changes plan for 238 new trains, first rake by 2027

Mumbai.(Agency)

Mumbai AC local trains: The Ministry of Railways has decided to manufacture 238 new AC local trains for Mumbai’s suburban network at three of its production units. The move is aimed at speeding up the process, as the earlier procurement plan was facing delays and could have taken until 2030. The national transporter had approved these 238 rakes, each with 12 coaches, under the Mumbai Urban Transport Project (MUTP)-III and IIIA.

The trains were aimed at increasing passenger capacity and improving safety. They were also planned to have an automatic door-closing system. The project had been approved at a cost of Rs 19,293 crore.

Sharing a video on social media, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said that 238 new AC local trains sanctioned for Mumbai will now be manufactured at three railway production units – Integral Coach Factory (ICF, Chennai), Rail Coach Factory (RCF, Kapurthala) and Modern Coach Factory (MCF, Raebareli). Under the new plan, the first new AC local train is expected to be ready by next year.

Woman who wanted to join Maharashtra Police dies by suicide; teacher arrested

Ludhiana.(Agency)

A 25-year-old woman aspiring to join the Maharashtra Police allegedly died by suicide on August 10 after being harassed by a teacher at a private academy in Junnar in Pune district, the police said.

The victim, Bhagyashri Bhaskar Bhandari, was from Parner in Ahilyanagar district. She had moved to Alephata in Junnar to attend classes at Sahyadri Academy, which trains candidates for police recruitment exams. Following a complaint filed by Bhandari’s sister, a government official, a First Information Report was registered at Alephata police station against Mayur Ashok Dumbre, a teacher at the academy. He was arrested on the same day on charges of abetment of suicide. The police said preliminary findings suggested that Bhandari, who was found dead at her Alephata residence, was upset over the alleged harassment and insulting treatment by Dumbre. The police also recovered chat messages between her and a friend that allegedly pointed to such harassment.

“During investigation, we found chats between the victim and her friend, which revealed that she faced harassment by the accused. So we arrested him on August 10,” Police Inspector Vishwas Jadhav said.

Jamtara man arrested for ‘duping’ Chandigarh residents with fake Adani Gas disconnection threats

After obtaining access to the devices, he allegedly carried out unauthorised transactions through debit cards, credit cards and UPI, causing financial losses to victims.

Chandigarh.(Agency)

A 23-year-old man from Jharkhand’s Jamtara allegedly posed as an Adani Gas representative, contacted customers through WhatsApp messages and calls, claiming their bills were pending or needed updating, and sent them malicious APK files to gain unauthorised access to their mobile phones, Chandigarh Police said.

After obtaining access to the devices, he allegedly carried out unauthorised transactions through debit cards, credit cards and UPI, causing financial losses to victims. The Chandigarh Police Cyber Crime unit arrested the accused, identified as Bimal Kumar Mandal, alias Vidur, from Jamtara in connection with an FIR registered on June 15. The case has

been registered under Sections 318(4), 319(2), 336(3), 338, 340(2) and 61(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita at the Cyber Crime police station in Sector 17.

According to police, the case was



registered on the basis of a complaint in which the victim was allegedly contacted through WhatsApp and falsely informed that his Adani Gas connection would be disconnected because of non-payment of

the previous month’s bill. The victim was allegedly induced to download an APK application, following which his mobile device was compromised. Unauthorised banking transactions were then carried out, resulting in a financial loss of around Rs 6 lakh, police said.

During the investigation, police allegedly found that Mandal was obtaining Adani Gas customer data and malicious APK files from a person through Telegram. He used the customer data to contact Adani Gas consumers through WhatsApp messages and calls, claiming that their bills were pending or that their gas connections needed to be updated, police said. Police said the accused would then instruct customers to follow certain steps for updating their gas connections and send them malicious APK files.

One vacancy, two officers sparks chaos in Ahmedabad fire safety department

Ahmedabad.(Agency)

An order issued by the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) on August 10 handing out additional charge of Chief Fire Officer (CFO) of the Ahmedabad Fire and Emergency Services (AFES) to two officers has created confusion among the lower-rank officers, sources in the department said. The order was issued after the services of CFO Amitkumar Anandrao Dongre were terminated following his arrest by the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB). In the order, the AMC has given additional charge of two top posts, that of CFO and Head of Prevention Wing, to two Additional CFOs, leaving a pertinent question: who would be the final signatory of the Fire Safety Certificates (FSCs) issued to buildings in

Gujarat’s largest city? According to the August 10 order, Mithun P Mistry was appointed in-charge CFO of Ahmedabad and Jayesh P Khadia was made in-charge of the Prevention Wing of the AFES that



looks after matters of Fire Safety Certificates (FSCs), training and awareness initiatives. The Indian Express

spoke to several officers in the AFES who claimed that the “ambiguity” in the AMC order has made it difficult to decide whether Mistry was in-charge of the force including the prevention wing, or that the civic body had separated the powers of the CFO and divided them among the two officers.

However, Ahmedabad Municipal Commissioner Bancha Nidhi Pani clarified that interim CFO Mithun Mistry has final say on all matters of the AFES, including the Prevention Wing. He affirmed that “the powers have been devolved, not divided.”

“Mithun Mistry is the senior-most officer according to the merit list, so he has been given charge of CFO with the powers to approve the FSCs,” the Commissioner told.

30 hours on, rescuers race against time to find man trapped under boulder

Mumbai.(Agency)

Over thirty hours have passed since a part of the hillock above Gaushiya chawl in the Kurla area of Mumbai came crashing down, killing seven and trapping several beneath the rubble. Dozens of rescuers have since raced against the time to save those trapped in the Mumbai landslide. But even after 30 hours, Saddam Hussain Shaikh remains trapped beneath a huge boulder that fell on his shanty.

The rescue operation after the Mumbai landslide started at 5 am on Wednesday, August 12, and is yet to be called off. Speaking to The

Indian Express, officials from the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and Mumbai Fire Brigade (MFB) said the rescue operation



has become extremely challenging because the area is highly confined, densely populated, and mountainous.

“In some portions, there is barely a

2- to 2.5-foot passage, making it extremely difficult for our personnel to enter, move around, and carry out the search. There are mountains and houses in the area, with people also living on the slopes,” an NDRF personnel said.

Challenges after Mumbai landslide: Narrow lanes, shaky ground After the landslide, the chawl ground has become highly shaky and unstable, hindering the rescue mission.

Besides narrow lanes and shaky ground, another challenge facing the rescuers is the presence of large boulders that have stacked on those that fell on the chawl.

CCTV, live tracking, fire-safety systems mandatory for school transport vehicles in Pune

Pune.(Agency)

School buses and vans transporting students in Pune district will have to comply with additional safety requirements, including functional CCTV cameras, vehicle location tracking and fire-safety systems, failing which their licences could be suspended or cancelled.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the Pune District School Bus Safety Committee held on Wednesday at the Pune Police Commissioner’s office. The meeting was chaired by Sanjay Darade, Joint Commissioner of Police, Pune city. The committee directed schools and school transport operators to strictly follow the school bus safety rules and ensure that vehicles used to ferry students meet the prescribed safety standards.

One of the key directions is that CCTV cameras will be mandatory in every vehicle used for school student transport.

Sarnath’s UNESCO tag: UP to survey buildings, map buffer zone

The Uttar Pradesh government also plans to link six Buddhist sites, improve visitor facilities and connectivity, and attract more international tourists.

Lucknow.(Agency)

Sarnath’s UNESCO World Heritage tag is set to give Uttar Pradesh’s Buddhist tourism plans a fresh push, with the state government working on a circuit linking six sites associated with Buddha’s life and teachings.

The circuit will connect Sarnath, Kushinagar, Shravasti, Kapilvastu, Kaushambi and Sankisa. Together, the destinations recorded nearly 82 lakh visitors in 2025, including 4.4 lakh foreign tourists. In the first six months of 2026, they recorded more than 30 lakh visitors, including over 2 lakh foreign tourists, according to the UP Tourism Department.

The government plans to strengthen connectivity, visitor facilities and interpretation centres, while

encouraging tourists to travel between the sites. To safeguard Sarnath’s cultural landscape following its UNESCO recognition, the Varanasi Development Authority will undertake a comprehensive survey of buildings within the site’s buffer zone. Drone mapping, physical measurements and individual verification will be used to assess building heights, design, setbacks, unauthorised construction and the visual impact of development around the protected area.

Based on the findings, revised construction and conservation norms will be prepared in coordination with the Archaeological Survey of India and the Tourism Department. The guidelines will also cover greenery, environmental protection and solid

waste management in line with UNESCO standards, officials said.

“We are also hosting curated familiarisation visits for



entrepreneurs, artisans, scholars and researchers to help them experience Sarnath’s archaeology, living Buddhist traditions and wider cultural significance. A 50-member women’s delegation from FICCI will also explore Sarnath as part of this outreach. Such engagements will help build informed

advocacy, strengthen institutional partnerships and take Sarnath’s spiritual and cultural relevance to wider national and international audiences,” Tourism Secretary Amrit Abhijat said.

Sarnath as the entry point

Sarnath, where Buddha is believed to have delivered his first sermon after attaining enlightenment, is expected to be a key entry point to the Buddhist circuit. The Tourism department plans to leverage Sarnath’s proximity to Varanasi, which offers an international airport, rail connectivity and a well-established hospitality infrastructure. The site already has an international Buddhist presence, with Thai and Japanese temples and institutions linked to Sri Lankan, Myanmar and Tibetan Buddhist traditions.

NEWS BOX

2 Champions Leagues, 2 Super Cups: PSG juggernaut continues in world football



New Delhi. (Agency)

The PSG juggernaut continued in world football as the Luis Enrique side won back-to-back UEFA Super Cups, beating Aston Villa 2-1 on Wednesday. Khvicha Kvaratskhelia and Desire Doue scored for the French side, who followed up their second straight Champions League triumph by retaining the UEFA Super Cup. PSG took the lead in the 20th minute through a stunning strike from Kvaratskhelia, but Aston Villa hit back just before half-time through Brian Madjo. Doue restored PSG's advantage in the 61st minute, racing onto a through ball from Ousmane Dembele before curling his shot into the far corner. Villa thought they had avoided defeat when the offside flag went up, but a VAR check confirmed that Doue had stayed onside and awarded the goal. PSG, who beat Tottenham Hotspur on penalties in last year's Super Cup, held on to their lead despite Villa enjoying plenty of possession late in the game.

PSG CONTINUE DOMINANCE

The victory further underlined PSG's remarkable run under Luis Enrique. The French club have now won back-to-back Champions League titles and followed both victories with Super Cup triumphs. PSG have become only the third team after AC Milan and Real Madrid to retain the UEFA Super Cup. Despite many of his players only recently returning from the World Cup, Enrique named a formidable starting XI, with nine players from the side that won the Champions League final featuring from the start. Kvaratskhelia opened the scoring after combining with Doue before dancing past Matty Cash inside the area and firing an unstoppable effort into the net.

Xavi takes over Netherlands as Dutch appoint first foreign coach in 48 years



New Delhi. (Agency)

Barcelona legend Xavi Hernandez has been appointed as the new head coach of the Netherlands. The managerial change comes on the back of the Netherlands' debacle in the FIFA World Cup 2026, where the team were knocked out in the Round of 32 by Morocco. The Dutch football federation has opted to completely change its style of play, moving away from the defensive resilience of Koeman to a more possession-based, attacking style under Xavi. The 46-year-old replaces Ronald Koeman, who vacated the position after the World Cup exit, and will take charge of a national team for the first time in his managerial career. Xavi has been out of work since leaving Barcelona in 2024 after three seasons in charge of the Catalan giants. He has now been handed a contract through the 2030 World Cup. Xavi's first assignment with the Netherlands will come against Germany in the Nations League on September 24. His appointment marks a significant shift for the Dutch side, who have traditionally been associated with coaches from their own country. Xavi becomes the Netherlands' first foreign head coach since Austria's Ernst Happel led the team at the 1978 World Cup.

WHY NETHERLANDS TURNED TO XAVI

Xavi arrives with a coaching philosophy heavily influenced by the positional-play principles he learned during his remarkable playing career at Barcelona.

No multiple India vs Pakistan matches in Asian Games 2026, only to meet in medal clash

India and Pakistan have been kept on opposite sides of the draw for the Asian Games 2026 cricket competitions, ruling out multiple meetings between the arch-rivals. The two teams can face each other only in the gold-medal match or bronze-medal play-off in both the men's and women's tournaments.

New Delhi. (Agency)

India and Pakistan will not face each other multiple times at the Asian Games 2026. The tournament draw ensures that the arch-rivals can meet only in a medal match in both the men's and women's cricket competitions. According to a report by Cricbuzz, India and Pakistan have been placed on opposite sides of the

draw for the Asian Games cricket tournament in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan. Unlike recent International Cricket Council tournaments, where the two sides have regularly been drawn together in the group stage, the Asian Games format keeps them apart until the business end of the competition. The two teams can therefore meet only in the gold-medal match or the bronze-medal play-off. There is also a possibility that they may not face each other at all if they fail to reach the same medal match.

ASIAN GAMES MEN'S CRICKET SCHEDULE

Pakistan to play Quarter-final 1

India to play Quarter-final 2

Semi-finals:

Winner of Quarter-final 1 vs Winner of Quarter-final 3

Winner of Quarter-final 2 vs Winner of Quarter-final 4

The Asian Games will be held from

September 19 to October 4, while the cricket competition will run from September 17 to October 3. The women's tournament will be played first, with the



men's competition following it. All matches will be played in the T20 format at the Paloma Mizuho Stadium in Nagoya.

INDIA, PAKISTAN ON OPPOSITE SIDES

In the men's competition, 10 teams will take part, with India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka receiving direct entry into the quarter-finals. India

have been placed in Quarter-final 2, while Pakistan will play Quarter-final 1. Both matches are scheduled for September 28, with the four seeded teams set to face opponents emerging from the group stage. The remaining six teams, including Afghanistan, will have to negotiate the group stage to reach the last eight. Nepal, Hong Kong, China, Japan, Malaysia and Oman are also part of the preliminary round. The semi-final draw further separates India and Pakistan.

The winner of Quarter-final 1 will face the winner of Quarter-final 3, while the winner of Quarter-final 2 will take on the winner of Quarter-final 4. The semi-finals are scheduled for October 1.

That means India and Pakistan cannot meet in the semi-finals. If both teams win their respective quarter-finals and then make it through the semi-finals, they can meet only in the gold-medal match.

Bangladesh pacers bring Australia down to their knees on Test return after 23 years

Asan. (Agency)

The tables were turned on Australia on Thursday, August 13, when Bangladesh's fast bowlers ran riot in Darwin on the very first day of their return Down Under. The subcontinental side, playing their first Test in Australia in 23 years, produced a stunning display on Day 1 of the first Test, bowling the hosts out for just 198 runs. Right-arm fast bowler Hasan Mahmud starred with a career-best six-wicket haul as Bangladesh bowled Australia out in just 53 overs. Australia, who fielded a full-strength team, were dismissed for their lowest total



in seven Tests against Bangladesh. Thursday's horror show came nine years after they were bowled out for 217 in Mirpur on their way to their only Test defeat against the South Asians, in 2017. Hasan's haul of 6/55 is the third-best by a Bangladesh fast bowler in a Test innings, behind Shahadat Hossain's 6/27 and Hasan's teammate Ebadot Hossain's 6/46.

BANGLADESH PACERS RUN RIOT

Bangladesh pacemen Hasan Mahmud, Taskin Ahmed and Ebadot Hossain exploited the helpful conditions at the Top End to leave Australia struggling at 74/4 after the first session. Mahmud struck in his sixth and seventh overs after Australia had raced to 45 without loss following skipper Pat Cummins' decision to bat first. Darwin-born Jake Weatherald had a partisan crowd behind him but was never really settled on a green-tinged wicket.

Ashish Yadav: The milkman's son from Mirzapur carrying India's javelin legacy forward

New Delhi. (Agency)

There were no elite facilities, sophisticated training programmes or a clear pathway to the top when 19-year-old Ashish Yadav took up javelin in Mirzapur, Uttar Pradesh. He started out competing in village and district-level meets, using wooden javelins provided by a relative. At the time, Ashish had no idea where sport could take him.

His father sells milk back home. Growing up, Ashish wasn't convinced that sport could become a career. Seeing my father sell milk, I didn't have much confidence that I would be able to do something big. Initially, I thought I would just get a job," Ashish said in a select media interaction facilitated by the Athletics Federation of India (AFI).

For a boy who once saw a job as the

safest route to a future, the journey since then has been extraordinary. Ashish is now a World U20 silver medallist, having thrown 74.09m in the



men's javelin final in Oregon.

FROM 60M TO THE WORLD STAGE

The turning point came when Ashish moved to Hisar and began working with coach Arvind. It was there that his training became systematic and scientific. His official competitive journey also began after he started

working with Arvind. When he arrived, Ashish was throwing around 60 metres. He wasn't thinking about world medals or senior championships. His target was much simpler: 70 metres.

The 70m barrier soon became a stepping stone. Arvind worked on Ashish's technique, something the youngster admits he did not properly understand earlier. Strength training and gym work became part of his routine, while nutrition and recovery were brought into the picture.

His physical development followed. Ashish said he weighed around 65-66kg when he arrived in Hisar. He now weighs around 85kg. The approach was not limited to throwing and lifting weights. His nutrition was monitored, his body composition was assessed and blood tests were conducted every three months.

Hockey World Cup: All you need to know about India's schedule, livestreaming details

MADRID. (Agency)

The Indian men's and women's teams are all set to enter the hockey World Cup 2026, with the aim of ending a jinx that has lasted for more than 50 years. The Indian men's team, who won the World Cup in 1975, haven't played in the semi-finals ever since then. The women's side finished fourth in the inaugural edition of the Women's World Cup in 1974 and have since been going through a similar jinx. However, this time, both teams will be aiming to make The Indian men's team will be in Group D, where they will face arch-rivals Pakistan, Wales and England. The women's team are also in Pool D, where they will face South

Africa, China and England.

The International Hockey Federation



(FIH) have made a big change to the current edition of the World Cup as the quarterfinals have been removed, keeping a solid impression and aim. With this, the first two teams from each group will go

into E and F, with the last two teams from each group going into G and H.

In the second phase, each team will play three additional games against sides they did not encounter in the opening round. However, when two teams advancing from the same initial pool meet again in Phase 2, the outcome of their earlier encounter will be carried forward and count towards the next stage. This will then determine who will make it to the semi-finals and how the rest of the ranking matches will pan out.

With the stakes high, all eyes will be on the Indian teams to see if they can bring back gold.

Lionel Messi gets impromptu hug from rival on return after father's death. Moment goes viral

New Delhi. (Agency)

Lionel Messi's emotional return to football was made even more special when Club Leon defender Jhohan Romana stopped him for a heartfelt hug during Inter Miami's Leagues Cup clash on Thursday, August 13.

The touching moment came just four days after the death of Messi's father Jorge and drew a warm response from the fans at Miami's Nu Stadium. Leon later shared the moment on social media, dedicating the hug to the Argentine superstar. This hug is from Leon, from everyone, from soccer, and it's for you, dear Lionel," the Mexican club wrote, ending its message with words of "respect and affection." Messi had returned to the pitch for the first time since his father's death, coming on at the start of the

second half. The Argentine had been expected to take an extended break after travelling to his native Rosario to attend his father's funeral. The return was particularly emotional after Messi admitted in a tribute to Jorge that he was unsure about continuing his football career. "I don't know what I'm going to do without you. I don't know how to keep going. All I ever did was play soccer, and now I have serious doubts about whether I'll keep doing it for much longer," Messi wrote in a post on Jorge Messi, who died aged 68, played a fundamental role in his son's career. He served as Messi's agent and managed his business affairs from the early stages of the footballer's journey.

MESSI RETURNS BUT MIAMI CRASH OUT

Messi's return, however, could not

inspire Inter Miami to victory as Leon came from behind to win 3-2 and advance to the Leagues Cup knockout stage.



Messi started the second half after being named on the bench and received a loud ovation from the home fans as he entered the pitch. Inter Miami had taken the lead in the 42nd minute through Daniel Pinter, who finished after an assist from

Ian Fray. But Leon produced a strong second-half comeback. Juan Pablo Domnguez levelled the score before Daniel Arcila scored twice, including the go-ahead goal in the 83rd minute. Arcila's second goal was his fourth of the tournament. Yannick Bright scored for Inter Miami, but the Herons could not find another equaliser and were eliminated from the competition. The defeat came after Inter Miami had already lost 2-1 to Monterrey in their previous match. Their hopes of progressing were slim heading into the game, with only the top four teams from MLS and Liga MX advancing to the quarter-finals. Leon, who had won their first two matches of the tournament, moved to the top of the Liga MX standings.



Akansha Ranjan

Reveals What Went Wrong Before Her Wedding: 'A Storm Sweeping The City...'

Actress Akansha Ranjan and filmmaker Sharan Sharma married on July 11, 2026, in Mumbai. They chose this date for their wedding as it marked the exact fourth anniversary of when they first started dating. While the much-in-love couple's intimate wedding looked every bit dreamy, the actress has now revealed that the celebrations came together amid quite a bit of last-minute chaos.

Akansha recently shared a glimpse of the unexpected hurdles she faced ahead of her wedding day. A last-minute change of venue, no teams in place and a storm hitting the city left the celebrations hanging in the balance, but everything eventually came together beautifully.

Even though the plans kept changing, Akansha said the day ended up being "absolutely perfect". She credited the people around her for stepping in at the right time and making sure everything fell into place. From turning her home into a lovely venue to sorting out the food, catering and other details, she thanked everyone who helped make the intimate celebration special.

Akansha shared, "A last-minute venue change, no teams in place, a storm sweeping the city... and yet, this day turned out to be absolutely perfect. Only because I had the most incredible people by my side." Akansha and Sharan tied the knot on July 11 in an intimate ceremony held at their apartment building in Mumbai. The couple, who had reportedly been dating for four years, chose to skip traditional wedding rituals and instead opted for a registered marriage at home. News18 Showsha had earlier exclusively reported that the couple would not be having traditional pheras or elaborate religious ceremonies. A source had shared that Akansha and Sharan wanted the focus to remain on their union and the presence of loved ones, rather than conventional wedding customs.

On the professional front, Akansha Ranjan has been receiving praise for her work in Gram Chikitsalaya Season 2 and Ikka. The actress is now set to appear in an upcoming South project, although details about the film are yet to be revealed.



Khushi Kapoor Gets Delhi HC Protection, Court Orders Takedown Of Allegedly Pornographic Content



The Delhi High Court has ordered social media platforms to remove allegedly obscene and pornographic content concerning actor Khushi Kapoor. The court has also directed the takedown of material linked to the unauthorised sale of merchandise using her name and personality attributes.

As per Free Press Journal, Justice Jyoti Singh passed the directions on Wednesday while hearing Khushi's suit seeking protection of her personality and publicity rights. The court also indicated that it would issue a John Doe order in her favour as part of other plea for interim protection.

Khushi Kapoor Seeks Protection Of Her Personality Rights

A John Doe order allows a court to protect a person against unidentified individuals who may be involved in the unauthorised use or exploitation of their identity. In Khushi's case, the protection relates to the alleged misuse of her identity through online content and merchandise.

Khushi was represented by India Law, through partners Asav Rajan and Abha Shah, during the proceedings. The court's directions cover allegedly obscene and pornographic material shared on social media as well as merchandise that allegedly uses Khushi's personality attributes without authorisation.

Janhvi Kapoor Also Gets Similar Court Protection

The order comes just a day after the Delhi High Court passed similar directions concerning Khushi's sister, actor Janhvi Kapoor. A coordinate bench had ordered the removal of allegedly objectionable content involving Janhvi and directed action against the unauthorised exploitation of her personality rights. The developments involving the two sisters have come within a wider series of cases concerning the misuse of celebrity identities online.

Why Celebrity Personality Rights Are Becoming A Legal Issue

The Delhi High Court has dealt with an increasing number of cases involving the unauthorised use of celebrities' names, photographs, voices, likenesses and other recognisable personality.

Mallika Sherawat Claims Tom Cruise Messages Her in DMs: 'He Has a Crush on Me'



Mallika Sherawat has once again grabbed everyone's attention with one of her big claims. In a recent episode of The Traitors 2, she opened up about her equation with Hollywood superstar Tom Cruise. Mallika claimed that Tom personally messages her on social media and even suggested that the Mission: Impossible star has a crush on her.

It all started after co-contestant Aditya Kulshrestha asked Mallika, "Have you ever had a crush on anyone? No. Or everyone has had a crush on you?". To this, actress responded, "Everyone has had a crush on me. Tom Cruise has had a crush on me recently. I'm not lying. If I had a phone, I would've shown you his videos". Asked what type of videos is he sending her, Mallika added, "No, when we were partying together and all. He's fabulous".

However, it should be noted that remain the actress's claims and there is no independent confirmation from Tom Cruise or his representatives regarding the nature of their alleged conversations.

About The Traitors 2

The Traitors Season 2 will begin streaming on August 13, 2026, exclusively on Prime Video. The new season follows the success of the show's debut edition, with Karan Johar returning as the host.

The contestant line-up includes Mallika Sherawat, Munawar Faruqui, Shweta Tiwari, Ranveer Brar, Rhea Chakraborty, Krystle D'Souza, Dalip Tahir, Parul Gulati, Soundous Moufakir, Shahneel Gill, Harman Singha, Ikka, Sahil Salathia and Abhishek Malhan. The contestants come from diverse backgrounds spanning films, television, music, food, reality shows and social media.

The remaining contestants are Aditya Kulshreshtha (Kullu), Tanya Puri, Karan Singh, Rida Tharana, Ansh Chopra and Prish. They bring experience in comedy, content creation, private investigation, mentalism and fashion and beauty content to the strategy-based competition.



Rhea Chakraborty

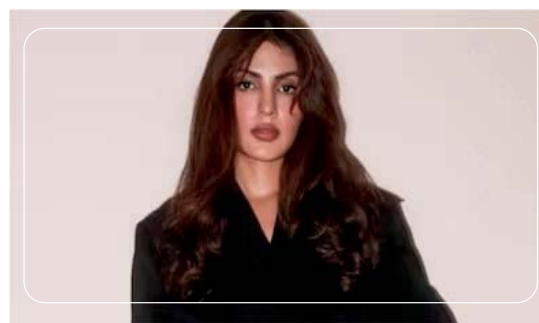
Says 'People Inside Jail Are Better', Teases Book On Her Prison Days: 'Chudail Ka Badla'

More than five years after Sushant Singh Rajput's death, the impact of the case continues to affect Rhea Chakraborty despite getting a clean chit from the CBI. The actress and entrepreneur was at the centre of intense public scrutiny following Rajput's death in June 2020 and spent nearly a month in Mumbai's Byculla Jail after being arrested by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) in a separate drug-related case. She was arrested by the NCB in September 2020 and was granted bail by the Bombay High Court in October that year. While the CBI investigation has since moved towards closure, the experience of the case and the intense media and public scrutiny surrounding it have continued to feature in Rhea's conversations about her life and healing. In a recent conversation, she spoke about still dealing with the emotional impact of what happened.

While speaking to Tanmay Bhat on his YouTube channel, Rhea Chakraborty spoke about the people she met inside the jail. She said, "I feel people inside jail are better than people outside jail. Because most people in the undertrial prison, at least for women, are innocent. And there's no hierarchy. Everyone's equal, everyone's a number, there's no name."

Rhea also recalled how undertrials would often spend their time in prison, saying they

would sing, dance and even make thecha, a spicy Maharashtrian preparation. When she was asked about the food in jail, Rhea replied, "Guys, I am writing this book, padh lena." When asked about the name of the book, she quipped, "The book is called Chudail ka badla." The actress also joked about the food in jail and said, "You get sushi, champagne, vada pao, and chaat."



Following the CBI's closure report in the Sushant Singh Rajput case, Rhea also got her passport back. Speaking about the same, she shared, "I went on a holiday with my parents. It felt strange to not be stopped at immigration, and being told, 'Okay ma'am, you can go.' I was like, 'What do you mean?'"

Rhea also recalled how the atmosphere would change when she walked into a room after her time in jail, saying people from the film industry would suddenly become noticeably serious in her presence.

NEWS BOX

Student wounded and young suspect is in custody after shooting at Georgia high school

WARNER ROBINS, Ga.(Agency)

A shooting at a Georgia high school Wednesday left one student wounded, and a teenage suspect who fled was later taken into custody, police said. The shooting at Warner Robins High School involving two ninth-graders occurred just one week into the new school year and prompted a response from dozens of law enforcement officers. Warner Robins is about 102 miles (164 kilometers) southeast of Atlanta. "Today a call that we train for every year happened to come to Houston County," Sheriff Matt Moulton said at an evening news conference. The injured student was taken to a hospital for treatment of non-life-threatening injuries. Moulton did not specify the type of injuries the student had. It wasn't immediately known whether the school has metal detectors in place. Moulton declined to take questions at the news conference, citing the active investigation. The sheriff said a group of students was inside a school bathroom when a verbal altercation between two students escalated into a physical fight. One student was shot at 2:15 p.m., and the suspect fled. A school resource officer arrived quickly, applied tourniquets to the student's injuries and remained until emergency services personnel arrived. n hour later, the suspect was caught "without further incident" in a neighborhood about a half-mile (800 meters) from the school, Moulton said.

Indian-origin teen accused of killing mother, brother after ChatGPT searches

CHANDIGARH.(Agency)

A 17-year-old Indian-origin student has been charged with the murders of his mother and 14-year-old brother in Acton, Massachusetts, after police said he had used the internet and ChatGPT to explore ideas about killing his family.

As per the police, Arjun Aravind (17), a student at Acton-Boxborough Regional High School, is accused of killing his mother, 45-year-old Sudha Venkatesan, and his brother, Siddarth Aravind (14). He has been charged with two counts of murder, two counts of assault and battery on a household or family member, two counts of assault and battery, use of a vehicle without authority, and theft of a motor vehicle, and was arrested after an overnight manhunt that ended early Wednesday morning. Middlesex District Attorney Marian Ryan and Acton Police Chief Douglas Sturniolo said that Arjun allegedly fatally assaulted his mother and brother inside their house on Martha Lane in Acton, some 48 kilometres from Boston, on Tuesday before he fled from the spot in his mother's Honda Accord. They said that police received a call from his father shortly after 6.37 pm on August 11 after he was unable to contact his family, as he had last spoken to his wife, Sudha, early Tuesday morning before leaving for work, while Siddharth was last seen around noon.

Mideast War To Continue Till Trump's Term Ends? Iran's "Pay A Cost" Warning

world.(Agency)

A senior Iranian military officer has said that Tehran could "prolong" its war with the US until President Donald Trump's term ends, which is scheduled to conclude on January 20, 2029.

Mohammad Reza Naqdi, a general in the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps and a close aide of Iran's Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei, said the move will send a message that "there is a cost" of attacking Iran. "The longer this war lasts, the more experience we gain. We had never seen a real war to gain real experience to learn how to fight with America. In these five months, we have learned how," he said in a rare interview with US broadcaster PBS. The war in the Middle Est broke out when the US and Israeli forces conducted joint strikes on Iran on February 28, killing a swath of the country's leadership, including the then 86-year-old Supreme Leader, Ali Khamenei. In response, the Iranian forces attacked American and Israeli assets in the Middle East.

Asked if Iran's objective is to drag out this war till Trump is out of office, Naqdi said, "We have to attain deterrence so that the enemy never dares to attack us so we can live with security. One way is to prolong this war until we get to the next term of the presidency and cause attrition so that if anyone else wants to attack Iran, they will know there is a cost." On US' Nuclear Bomb Threat

Asked if the US is expected to use a nuclear bomb in the war, the IRGC commander warned it could "end up being a mistake for them".

ICE's plan to give officers electric shock gloves draws outrage and fears of misuse

BOSTON.(Agency)

Immigration and Customs Enforcement's plan to give officers gloves that deliver painful electric shocks faced criticism Wednesday from Democratic elected officials and civil rights advocates, who called it unnecessary and cruel. ICE plans to spend between \$10 million and \$20 million to outfit officers and agents with "conductive distraction and de-escalation devices," according to a notice published Monday and revealed first by The Associated Press. The devices known as the G.L.O.V.E., which stands for Generated Low Output Voltage Emitter, are normal patrol gloves until an officer presses a button to activate its electrical mode. They must be applied directly to someone's

skin to produce a voltage that causes pain, which is intended to gain compliance from people who are resisting. Unlike Tasers, they do not leave burn or contact marks. New York AG says she is 'outraged' by plan. The size of the purchase suggests ICE plans to give the device to most or all of its officers. The gloves have been used by local departments more often in jails than in the streets, where ICE officers have increasingly used force to extract people from cars and faced protests over their actions carrying out President Donald Trump's crackdown on illegal immigration. "We are outraged," New York Attorney General Letitia James said at a news conference Wednesday, where she warned that ICE officers who misuse the gloves in her state could face criminal and civil

consequences. The Department of Homeland Security, ICE's parent agency, issued a statement that did not mention the product specifically or explain why it had been chosen. "ICE is constantly assessing the needs of our officers in the field to ensure they have the tools and equipment necessary to safely arrest and remove criminal illegal aliens from our country," the statement said. "Every decision is made with careful consideration and appropriately reviewed to ensure that any technology ICE utilizes is consistent with all applicable law enforcement policies and standards." Lawsuit alleges shocks from gloves contributed to man's death

While the devices are marketed as nonlethal and safe for the heart, a pending lawsuit alleges a 43-year-old

man died in 2024 after he was shocked 27 times with the gloves and 13 more times by a Taser at a jail in Richmond, Kentucky. An internal investigation found two of the glove shocks lasted 45 and 99 seconds apiece, far more than the manufacturer's recommended 15-second limit. "These actions not only inflicted unnecessary pain but also heightened the risk of serious health complications," the investigation by the Madison County Detention Center found, according to court documents. An Associated Press review found two other lawsuits alleging injuries from the gloves, including a man with heart problems who was shocked at a Las Vegas trade show and a defendant who said he was laughed at after he was unnecessarily shocked in court. Both cases have been dismissed.

Oman oil spill spreads to mainland beaches, threatens Masirah Island

BEIRUT.(Agency)

Oil leaking from a tanker grounded off the coast of Oman is not only endangering a nearby island but has now also reached beaches on the Gulf Arab country's mainland, to the north of the island, Oman's environment authority said Wednesday. Crude oil has been leaking from the tanker Caroline Bezeni — a sanctioned tanker believed to be part of Russia's "shadow fleet" — that was carrying nearly 1 million barrels of oil when it reported an explosion in June.

No party has claimed responsibility for the incident and the cause of the explosion has not been revealed.

Environmental experts said an oil spill has been spreading quickly in recent weeks from the partially

submerged tanker off the shores of Qabilyah Island, endangering a marine protected area there.

Oman's Environment Authority



said it has been monitoring the leak and found that contamination has also reached the beaches of Ras Madrakah on mainland Oman, some 200 kilometers (125 miles) to the north of Qabilyah Island.

The authorities also warned that the southern coasts of Masirah

Island, over 300 kilometers (185 miles) north of the submerged tanker's location, may also be affected in the coming hours.

The 247-meter (899-foot) Caroline Bezeni is believed to be part of Russia's "shadow fleet" and has been sanctioned by the British government and the European Union for carrying Russian oil. It had left the Black Sea port of Novorossiysk, in Russia, in May, according to geospatial data tracking company SynMax Maritime. The vessel's owners are believed to be Shanghai-based. Recent satellite images showed the spill is covering an area of over 600 square kilometers (231 square miles), spreading quickly amid strong winds and currents of the monsoon season.

US: Two killed in military helicopter crash near Fort Hood base in Texas

ISLAMABAD.(Agency)

An Army Apache helicopter crashed in a central Texas field on Wednesday, killing both people on board and sparking a wildfire that forced several homes to be evacuated, a sheriff's official said.

Officials from nearby Fort Hood announced that the AH-64 Apache helicopter had crashed. Cliff Coleman, spokesman for the Bell County Sheriff's office confirmed that both occupants died. A military official tells the Associated Press that the crashed Apache was out on a routine training flight when it went down. The official spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss a developing situation. No cause of the crash was immediately announced. Fort Hood's criminal investigation division was leading

the crash investigation, Coleman said. Fort Hood is a massive base with 214,968 acres (336 square



miles) that is used to train and deploy heavy forces. The Army says the rolling, arid terrain around the base provides an ideal training ground.

In November 2015, four soldiers were killed when a Black Hawk helicopter crashed during a

training exercise. And nine Fort Hood soldiers died in 2016 when a rain-swollen creek swept their vehicle into rushing waters.

The helicopter did not hit any homes or other structures when it crashed, Coleman said. You could tell it was a violent crash," Coleman said. Photographs from the scene showed firefighters walking around a charred field as plumes of dark smoke rose from flames still burning in the wreckage. "Our immediate priority is securing the site and supporting the initial response efforts," said Brig. Gen. Ethan Diven, acting commanding general. "Our thoughts are with the crew and their families as we await further information." The AH-64 Apache attack helicopter has been a key part of the military's fleet since the first versions were deployed in 1984.

Afghanistan's Taliban rulers detain two members of the UN political mission

UNITED NATIONS.(Agency)

Afghanistan's Taliban rulers have detained two Afghan members of the U.N. political mission in the country, the United Nations said Wednesday. The Taliban's General Directorate of Intelligence detained the two staffers in the western city of Herat on Sunday, U.N. deputy spokesman Farhan Haq told U.N. reporters. He said the U.N. mission has not been informed of the charges against the two men or been able to visit them.



The mission has called on the Taliban "to ensure compliance with the privileges and immunities of the United Nations and its officials," Haq said.

The Taliban seized power on Aug. 15, 2021, as U.S. and NATO forces withdrew from the country after two decades of war. Shortly after, it barred girls from secondary schools and later extended the restrictions to higher education, employment and other sectors, effectively excluding women and girls from public life.

The U.N. mission's mandate from the U.N. Security Council includes promoting and supporting humanitarian assistance to the Afghan people, promoting human rights, equality for women and girls, inclusive governance and economic stability. The two men were detained as a humanitarian crisis in the poverty-stricken Asian nation is worsening and as Taliban forces are engaged in cross-border fighting with Pakistani forces.

Clashes escalated sharply in February when Afghan forces launched a raid into Pakistan in retaliation for Pakistani airstrikes inside Afghanistan. Islamabad later declared it was in "open war."

Karoline Leavitt: The Youngest US Press Secretary And Trump's "Most Trusted" Aide

world.(Agency)

Karoline Leavitt, one of US President Donald Trump's "most trusted" aides, will step down as White House Press Secretary by the end of this month, citing her responsibilities as a mother. Leavitt, who welcomed her second child in May, said serving as press secretary for the past year and a half had been "the honor and adventure of a lifetime." She thanked Trump for giving her the opportunity to work closely with him in the White House, travel with him and meet world leaders.

"The truth is since returning to the White House after the birth of my daughter, I have felt in my heart that I cannot be the best mom my two young children deserve while devoting the constant time, energy, and attention

required of the White House Press Secretary — and that is why I have ultimately made the bittersweet decision to depart the White House and embark on a new chapter in my life," she explained. All about Karoline Leavitt

Karoline Leavitt was born on August 24, 1998, in New Hampshire. She reportedly grew up in a small town and worked at her parents' ice cream shop during holidays. She attended Saint Anselm College in New Hampshire and graduated in 2019 with a degree in politics and communication. She was also a softball player and attended college on a softball scholarship. In college, she volunteered at the New Hampshire Institute of Politics and began working as an intern at Fox News during the 2016

election. She was also active in the student newspaper, where she wrote an



opinion piece that the "liberal media" was unfair to Trump. After graduating in 2019, Leavitt joined Trump's first administration, working as a presidential writer and later as an assistant press secretary in the White House press office. After Trump lost the

2020 presidential election, Leavitt joined Republican Congresswoman Elise Stefanik as her communications director. In 2022, Leavitt decided to run for Congress herself in New Hampshire's 1st Congressional District. She presented herself as a "Generation Z conservative". However, she lost the election to her Democratic opponent. In January 2024, Trump appointed her as his campaign press secretary, according to Iowa State University.

Leavitt is one of the youngest members of Donald Trump's second term. She has served as the White House press secretary since January 2025. At 27, she became the youngest person to hold the post.