



Nagendra issue: Karnataka CM DKS invites Oppn for debate

BENGALURU. (Agency)

Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Friday appealed to the Opposition in the Council to serve notice and participate in a discussion before protesting in the House demanding removal of Statistics and Planning Minister B Nagendra from the Cabinet for his alleged role in the Karnataka Maharshi Valmiki Scheduled Tribes Development Corporation scam. Addressing the agitating Opposition members, Shivakumar said everyone has the right to protest in a democracy and that the State Government had no objection to it. "However, give a notice to the Chairman, hold a discussion on Nagendra and place the matter before the people", Shivakumar said. "You (opposition) are not serving any notice. You are not coming into the well of the House and protesting. You are not discussing," Shivakumar said. Questioning the Opposition, Shivakumar asked what evidence or information it had against Nagendra. "Why should Nagendra resign? What have you unearthed? Let the House and the people know what the CBI, ED, SIT have found," Shivakumar said. Assuring the Opposition that the government would respond to the allegations, Shivakumar said he could explain why he had inducted Nagendra into his Cabinet. He said it was not reasonable to call Nagendra corrupt, allege that money has gone to LoP in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi and term his government corrupt without even holding a discussion.

Nitin Nabin holds first meeting with BJP's new national team; poll strategy, grassroots outreach in focus

New Delhi. (Agency)

BJP national president Nitin Nabin on Saturday chaired his first meeting with the party's newly appointed national office-bearers at the BJP headquarters, with discussions focusing on poll strategy and strengthening grassroots outreach, party sources said. The meeting focused on preparations for upcoming state assembly elections, grassroots mobilisation and communicating government initiatives to the public, the sources told PTI. More meetings are scheduled later in the day, with state presidents, state in-charges and chief ministers of BJP-ruled states expected to attend, they said. The BJP announced a new national team under Nabin earlier this week. It comprises 65 office-bearers, with 51 new faces. The new team includes 13 national vice presidents, including former Rajasthan chief minister Vasundhara Raje Scindia and former RSS functionary Ram Madhav, while former Union minister Smriti Irani has been appointed as one of the eight national general secretaries. B L Santhosh has been retained as national general secretary (organisation) and Vinod Tawde and Sunil Bansal as general secretaries. The new team includes 12 women and six leaders from minority communities. Union minister Piyush Goyal has been named national treasurer, a post he held before becoming a minister in the first Narendra Modi government in May 2014.

Jayant Chaudhary's "Cheap" Retort To Akhilesh Yadav's "Chavanni" Jibe

New Delhi. (Agency)

Former allies-turned-rivals Akhilesh Yadav and Jayant Chaudhary have crossed swords. While SP chief Akhilesh Yadav took the first shot, Union Minister and RLD chief Jayant Chaudhary has now hit back. The showdown in western UP politics is over Yadav's "chavanni" (25 paise) jibe, which was seen as mocking Chaudhary. Addressing an event recently, Yadav said, "Jaane kahan-kahan se aa gaye the log gathbandhan banane. Humne chavanni ka rupya bana diya tha, tab bhi humein chhod kar chale gaye wo (I don't know from where all people came to form an alliance with us. We had increased their value from 25 paise to one full rupee, yet they left us and went away)." He said several people had left the SP, but his party had resolved to "tie up with the public, establish social justice, trust the people, give them respect and the public will support us". While Yadav did not name anyone, it was seen as a reference to Chaudhary's "chavanni" comment during the 2022 Uttar Pradesh Assembly election campaign, when he had rejected BJP overtures while being an SP ally, saying he was not a "chavanni" who could be "flipped" easily. On Saturday, Chaudhary hit back at Akhilesh Yadav, saying that if he had to make "cheap" political remarks, he should have taken his name.



Amit Shah in Siliguri today to review Chicken's Neck security, Darjeeling solution

Siliguri. (Agency)

Amit Shah will hold key meetings in Siliguri on border security and the Darjeeling hills issue. The talks could shape the Centre's approach to the Siliguri Corridor, also known as Chicken's Neck, and a long-promised political settlement.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah is scheduled to hold a series of meetings in Siliguri on Saturday, with the security of the strategically important Siliguri Corridor – also known as Chicken's Neck – and a "permanent political solution" to the long-standing issues of the Darjeeling hills expected to dominate the agenda. The meetings will take place on the final day of his three-day visit to Bengal. According to his official itinerary, Shah will chair two back-to-back meetings from 11 am at the hotel where he is staying in Sukna on the outskirts of Siliguri town. He is likely to leave for Delhi from Bagdogra airport at around 2.30 pm. Sources said Shah will review border security, with a focus on coordination among the BSF, SSB, intelligence agencies and the state administration. The meeting is significant

because of Siliguri's proximity to the international borders with Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh, and the importance of the narrow corridor that connects the Northeast with the

is expected to focus on the BJP's pre-poll promise of a "permanent political solution" for the Gorkha community and other residents of the hills.



rest of the country. The Home Minister is also likely to meet elected representatives and political leaders from the Darjeeling hills to discuss the region's long-pending political issues, though there was no official confirmation of this meeting. The discussion

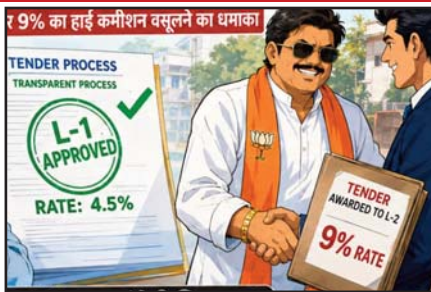
Gorkha Janmukti Morcha president Bimal Gurung and the party's general secretary Roshan Giri are among the leaders expected to attend the meeting. BJP Darjeeling MP Raju Bista, state ministers and legislators from the hills are also likely to take part. The Darjeeling hills have for decades seen demands for a separate Gorkhaland state. Earlier governments had tried to address the issue through arrangements such as the Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council and the Gorkhaland Territorial Administration. During the 2026 Assembly election campaign, Shah had promised a "permanent political solution", raising expectations among hill-based political groups for long-term peace and economic and political stability in the region.

Tender Raj in Karjan: The Multi Crore VGL Gas Project Controversy

Mahanagar Metro's Tough Questions: Why Are the Administration and State Leadership Silent?

MAHANAGAR METRO

Karjan. A swirl of controversy surrounds the VGL gas project, fueled by powerful politicians and "gangsters"! A scandal involving the L-1, who was allegedly extorted a high commission of 9% by threatening the L-1, has surfaced. A sensational case of serious corruption and mafia activity has surfaced in the multi-crore Vadodara Gas Limited (VGL) gas line project in Karjan taluka. Serious allegations of a tender syndicate, which is siphoning off government funds and public tax revenues, and blatantly flouting the law, have heated up political discourse from Karjan to Vadodara. Tender-Free at Gunpoint?: L-1 Contractor Removed from the Road The entire scandal began with an ₹8 crore gas line tender issued by Vadodara Gas Limited. According to the rules, after a transparent process, the agency that quoted the lowest rate (L-1) was approved for the work at a 4.5% commission. However, this approval did not go down well with arrogant members in Karjan! The Karjan syndicate



mafia issued a clear and unequivocal threat to the owner of the L-1 contractor: "If you've won the tender, keep it on paper. If you step into Karjan or start work, you'll lose your life!" The L-1 contractor, risking his life, refused to work. Instead of taking action against those who threatened him in accordance with government policy and regulations, VGL quietly restarted the tender process. The Game of a Powerful Turncoat: Duped by a 9% Higher Fee! In the second tender process, a powerful leader who had joined the ruling party from another party entered Karjan's politics. Arrangements were made to flout all rules and regulations and award the

tender to the L-2 (second-ranked) contractor at a higher commission rate of 9% instead of 4.5%! Direct Consequences of this Scam: Double Financial Burden on the Municipality: Initially, Karjan Municipality was supposed to pay ₹3.6 million for this work, but due to this corrupt system, the municipality has now been hit with a burden of ₹7.2 million. Misuse of Chief Minister's Funds: A grant of ₹8 crore was received from the Chief Minister's fund for this project, but it is being used to fill the pockets of politicians and mafias instead of serving the public. Direct Involvement of a Corporator: Serious allegations exist that a powerful corporator embezzled crores of rupees from the municipal treasury by securing this contract in the name of his associates. Mahanagar Metro's Tough Questions: Why Are the Administration and State Leadership Silent? Why has no FIR been filed against those who threatened to kill the L-1 contractor? When will strict action be taken against this powerful leader who overnight became

the owner of property worth crores of rupees after joining the ruling party from another party? Which VGL officials caused losses to the government treasury by approving tenders at a higher rate of 9% instead of 4.5%? Complaint to Reach PMO: Demand for ED and ACB Investigation: There has been a massive outcry among the conscious citizens of Karjan against this loot. The public and Mahanagar Metro clearly demand: This tender process should be immediately investigated by a high-level vigilance team. The ED (Enforcement Directorate) and ACB (Anti-Corruption Bureau) should conduct raids against this leader with disproportionate assets and his associates. A detailed presentation with evidence of the collusion between corrupt officials of Vadodara Gas Limited and politicians will be sent directly to the PMO. Mahanagar Metro openly challenges: Evidence of the misdeeds of corrupt VGL officials and corrupt leaders will be revealed in the next issue!

"They Have Their Own Agenda": India Slams US Body Seeking Sanctions On RSS

The External Affairs Ministry spokesperson, Randhir Jaiswal, said that the US body has been making "disparaging and inflammatory remarks" about India.

New Delhi. (Agency)

India has criticised the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) for urging sanctions against Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), calling it a "biased organisation". The External Affairs Ministry spokesperson, Randhir Jaiswal, said that the US body has been making "disparaging and inflammatory remarks" about India. "It is a biased organisation. I would say that we should keep away from such organisations as they have their own agenda and lack any credibility... We do not expect that the USCIRF will engage with the

reality of India's pluralistic framework or acknowledge the harmonious coexistence



of its diverse communities," Jaiswal said. USCIRF chair Asif Mahmood - a Pakistan-born American citizen who has maintained

close ties with his homeland's political and diplomatic leadership - had opposed RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat's upcoming visit to the US and called upon the US government to impose sanctions on the RSS. Bhagwat is scheduled to visit New York on August 29. The US body also asked Washington not to extend diplomatic courtesies to its leaders, and described RSS as an "umbrella organisation" whose sub-groups have "perpetrated attacks on religious minorities". Instead, the USG (US Government) should focus on imposing sanctions on RSS members found responsible for FoRB (freedom of religious belief) violations," the US body said.

News box

After protests over teachers & toilets, Gzb to inspect schools

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

Amid student protests in several districts of Uttar Pradesh over govt school infrastructure, the Ghaziabad administration has formed a three-member team to inspect schools. The team, comprising a block education officer, block development officer and an engineer, will assess infrastructure, basic facilities and other arrangements in schools across the district. DM Ravinder Mander told TOI, "The officials will inspect schools, speak to students and submit a detailed report after completing the survey. Deficiencies found during the inspection would be addressed and necessary corrective measures taken." The district magistrate will monitor Chief Minister Abhyudaya classes conducted at Sarvodaya Vidyalaya in Nidori and Bhagirath School in Sanjaynagar through CCTV cameras. "The social welfare officer has been directed to ensure that necessary facilities are available for students attending the Abhyudaya classes, where free coaching is provided for competitive examinations, including the UPSC," the DM added. The administration will also review the progress of Kayakalp projects that aim at improving basic infrastructure in govt schools across the district. Meanwhile, minister of state for disabled welfare and empowerment Narendra Kashyap held a meeting with department officials on Thursday and directed them to closely monitor schools and universities across the state. TOI had earlier reported that several schools in the district have been facing shortages of classrooms, toilets, drinking water facilities and playgrounds. There is also a major shortage of teachers, particularly in schools located in urban areas of the district.

Snatcher steals gold chain from 70-year-old 400m from DM's house



Ghaziabad.(Agency)

A 70-year-old woman was robbed of her gold chain by an assailant in Raj Nagar on Friday morning. The incident took place about 400 metres from the district magistrate's house. CCTV footage showed the accused, wearing a helmet and covering his face with a white cloth, first walking around the area before approaching the victim. According to the complainant, Jitendra Singh, his mother Rajbala, a resident of Raj Nagar District Centre, was walking near her home when the assailant approached her around 6.20am. The accused snatched the gold chain and locket from her neck. "When my mother opposed him, the accused pushed and shoved her, and also dragged her on the road. My mother was seriously injured," Singh said. CCTV footage shows the accused, wearing a helmet with his face further covered with a white cloth, roaming the area on foot, looking for a target. When he spots Rajbala, he crosses the road and snatches the chain from behind her. He is later seen escaping on his bike, which was parked at a distance.

7UAPA cases against Shehzad Bhatti network in a year; 6 operatives in jail

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

Haryana Police intensified the crackdown on Pakistan-based gangster-turned-terror operative Shehzad Bhatti's network, registering seven cases under Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) against Bhatti and his local associates across Ambala, Karnal, Hisar and Kurukshetra over the past year. Six of Bhatti's alleged local operatives are currently lodged in Haryana jails in cases registered across the state, including the case relating to the IED blast at Ambala's Baldev Nagar police station. Police recovered seven grenades, two IEDs and around 2kg of RDX from the network during 2025-26. More than 150 people suspected of being in touch with Bhatti through social media were rounded up, of whom 52 were detained for further investigation ahead of Independence Day on Aug 12, officials said. While most were released after questioning, police also alerted the families and village elders of those with suspected links to or online engagement with Bhatti. National Investigation Agency (NIA) had in July filed a chargesheet against eight accused, including Bhatti, in connection with the Ambala blast on Jan 11 this year. The NIA investigation alleged that Bhatti was running operational modules in India and directing local operatives to arrange logistics, explosives and other material for attacks on police establishments. The crackdown comes amid a wider probe into Bhatti's efforts to establish operational modules in India by recruiting vulnerable youths through social media and encrypted communication platforms.

14-year-old takes SUV out for a spin in Noida, crashes into sedan

Noida.(Agency)

A case of rash driving was registered after a 14-year-old boy allegedly rear-ended a sedan carrying a family with a 13-month-old child in Sector 119 on Wednesday. Police said the boy, a resident of Sector 122, had taken out his family's Grand Vitara for a joyride with his younger brother and driven nearly one kilometre before ramming into a Honda City near a CNG pump opposite Homes 121 around 5.30 pm. The Honda City owner, Kumar Shivam, said the boy hit his car with considerable force, causing significant damage to the rear. He claimed the boy tried to flee before passersby caught him. In a video recorded after the crash, the boy's mother is heard saying their driver had not turned up and she had sent the minor



to pick up his younger brother. She added that he had not driven the car

before. An FIR was filed at Sector 113 police station under BNS sections 281 (rash driving) and 324(4) (mischief). Police said they would also file a complaint against the boy's parents and the vehicle's owner under Section 199A of the Motor Vehicles Act, which holds guardians and owners liable when a minor commits a traffic offence. Penalties include imprisonment of up to three years, a fine of Rs 25,000 and cancellation of the vehicle's registration for 12 months. Charges under MV Act sections 181 (driving without a licence) and 180 (allowing an unauthorised person to drive) may also follow.

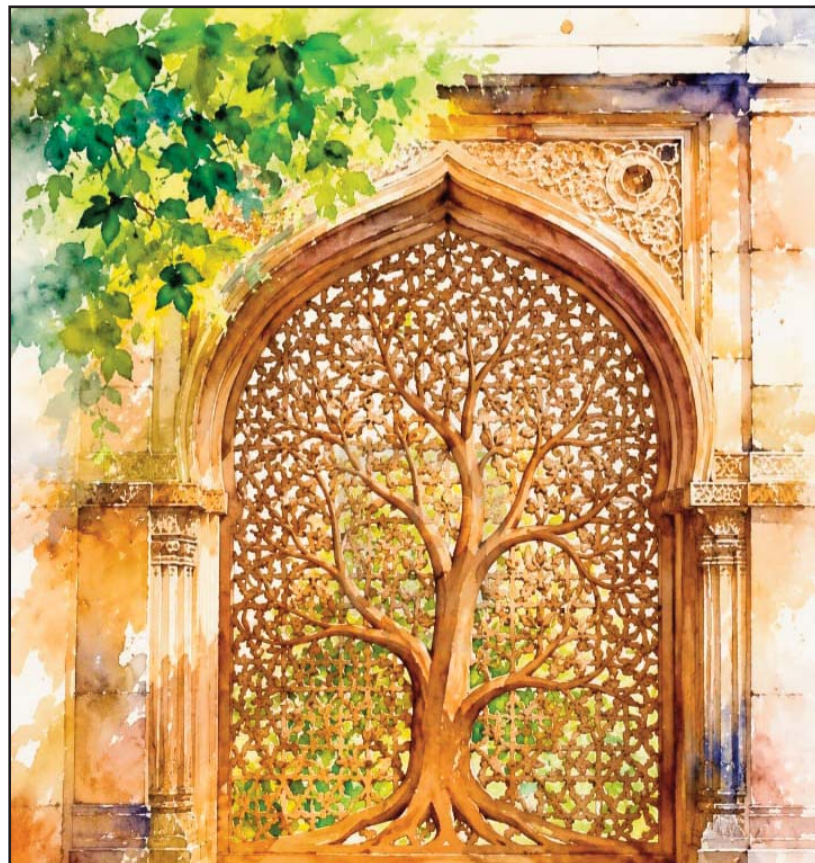
Police said underage driving remains rampant despite repeated awareness drives. Until July, 77

underage drivers had been challaned — 12 in Jan, 27 in Feb, five in March, nine in April, 13 in May, three in June and eight in July — in the city. Officers said many told police they had slipped away with their parents' car keys out of fascination for driving. The incident is the latest in a series. In Feb, 23-year-old Sahil Dhanesha died in Dwarka after an SUV allegedly driven by a minor hit his motorcycle, reportedly being driven recklessly for social media reels. Last Dec, a 17-year-old rented a Mahindra Thar online for Rs 4,000 and crashed into several two-wheelers in Noida's Sector 24. In Oct 2025, a 16-year-old girl fatally hit a 64-year-old pedestrian in Shahbad Dairy. In Aug last year, a factory worker died after being dragged 600 metres by a car driven by a minor in Samaypur Badli.

The Holy Lotus Blossoming in Stone: The Sculptural Grandeur of the World-Renowned Sidi Saiyyed Ni Jali

Mahanagar Metro Desk

If one wishes to witness a divine confluence of human history and architectural art that renders even the harshness of stone flexible and poetic, it is the world-famous 'Sidi Saiyyed Ni Jali' situated in the heart of Gujarat, Ahmedabad city. Located in the Lal Darwaja area of Ahmedabad, this mosque is not merely a religious structure, but an immortal sculptural epic carved in stone. Built during the Sultanate period between 1452 AD and 1573 AD by an elite art-loving soldier named Sidi Saiyyed who hailed from Yemen, this architecture elevates us to an unparalleled height of ancient artisans' unique patience, vision, and supreme artistic grandeur. The architectural and geometric distinctiveness of this entire framework is highly enchanting and astonishing. The artistic stone-carved lattices created within the semicircular windows of the mosque's western wall leave even modern engineers astounded. A grand peepal tree and a vine with palm leaves have been interwoven into the stone with such delicacy that it appears as if a skilled artist has meticulously drawn a sketch with a pencil on paper! This art of bending solid yellow stone like the wave of water is extraordinary. This vivid sculptural grandeur of stones and the skill of the artisans can be carved into poetic words in this manner: "Even



the heart of the stone was caressed with absolute love. Artisans kept the entire history alive with a chisel from above. "This art is not merely a symbol of physical beauty, but an immortal saga of the unique concentration and spiritual dedication of Indian sculptors. Imagine that even a tiny error could render the entire stone and months of hard work completely useless, yet the artisans completed this masterpiece with

unshakeable faith. During the British regime, numerous foreign rulers including Lord Curzon were mesmerized upon witnessing the artistry of this lattice, and the replica of this jali has today become the global logo of Ahmedabad. In today's modern and digital era, we erect massive buildings of cement and iron, but that spiritual warmth and the supreme melody of art seem to be missing somewhere today. The



hearts of the people always praise this supreme union of absolute wonder and art in this way: "No matter how far machines advance, human hands remain unparalleled. In this lattice blossoming in stone, the supreme realm of art is heralded. "Today, in the twenty-first century, when India is showcasing its cultural identity and educational heritage on the global stage, this lattice of Sidi Saiyyed imparts a message to preserve our magnificent heritage and to take pride in our art-filled background. This historic architecture provides immense inspiration in making our future generations genuinely capable, inquisitive, and culture-loving. There is no doubt that this banner of victory of sculpture, crossing terrestrial boundaries to constantly attract tourists, historians, and researchers from all over the world, will wave proudly for centuries and bear witness to our glorious heritage.

Author: Rupesh Solanki.

One village, three names, endless verification hassles for residents

GURGAON.(Agency)

A village in Nuh has been trapped in an administrative anomaly for over four decades, with three different names — 'Lahabas', 'Allahabad' and 'Allahbas' — coexisting across govt records. Panchayat documents use 'Lahabas', revenue records and other govt databases call it 'Allahabad', while education department records list it as 'Allahbas'. The mismatch has real consequences. Certificates, job applications and verification processes such as the family ID are repeatedly flagged, forcing students and jobseekers in particular to furnish multiple supporting documents and make repeated trips to govt offices just to prove their identity. Applying for govt jobs, securing domicile and caste certificates and verifying identity documents have all been complicated by what residents describe as a "seemingly small" spelling variation. The origin of the discrepancy, according to officials, is down to an administrative separation over three decades ago. Before 1991, the village was part of Rahapwa panchayat in Pinangwan block and was recorded as

'Allahabad', carrying the local govt (LG) code 063384. The village broke away from Rahapwa in 1991, and following the 1995 panchayat elections, a new, independent panchayat was formed — but registered under the name 'Lahbas' instead of 'Allahabad', the name already in use in earlier records. Today, the village carries three separate identities: revenue records list it as 'Allahabad' (LG code 063371); the panchayat is registered as 'Lahbas' (village code 29550 on the e-Gram Swaraj portal); and the education department records it as 'Allahbas' (school code 06132). The local patwari confirmed that 'Allahabad' and 'Lahbas' refer to the same village.

While the administrative split dates back to the 1990s, residents say the discrepancy remained largely dormant until the govt middle school was built roughly two decades ago — after which certificate mismatches began surfacing regularly for students. Residents insist the revenue record is the sole authoritative source, and that other departments simply need to align with it — though repeated requests to do so have gone nowhere. Explaining how the

discrepancy has persisted, a villager said the revenue record's name, Allahabad, forms the basis for the voter list, property registry and all official documents such as domicile or caste certificates issued by



the tehsildar. "The panchayat's use of 'Lahabas' on its stamp was simply a mistake, since elections are conducted using the same voter list that reads 'Allahabad'. The school's use of 'Allahbas' — differing by a single letter — was likely just a spelling error," he said. While the panchayat itself does not issue certificates, he said it must still align its records with the revenue department if it wants to correct the

discrepancy. He noted that revenue records can only be changed through a formal govt notification, drawing a parallel with Allahabad's renaming to Prayagraj, and maintained that there are, in effect, no "three names" — only a panchayat error and a school spelling mistake, with the revenue record remaining the sole authority. Deputy commissioner Akhil Pilani acknowledged the discrepancy and said the name would be verified and corrected. He noted that such mismatches often arise when new panchayats are formed but older names continue to be used in practice — Nuh district, still commonly referred to by its former name Mewat, being a case in point. "The matter was brought up only last week," he said.

To correct a village name in revenue records, the gram panchayat needs to pass an official resolution detailing the discrepancy and submit a formal application to the tehsildar or the DC. Revenue officers then verify historical land records, after which the tehsildar approves a fard badar (correction memorandum) to update digital portals like Web-HALRIS.

The best of Gujarati writing, curated for 4.9 million diaspora

Ahmedabad. (Agency)

At a time when the reading of books and periodicals for pleasure continues to decline, what could be a way to reach out to potential new readers? A prominent United States-based nonprofit committed to the preservation of the Gujarati language, literature, and knowledge has launched an initiative to offer a selection of articles from a range of contemporary sources to readers for free on the Internet. A curated selection of the finest contemporary writing in Gujarati

The Ekatra Foundation, which says its aim is "to deliver the finest works of Gujarati literature to a vast readership in the blink of an eye", has launched a digital magazine to reach out to Gujarati readers including the Gujarati diaspora living both within and outside India.

The first issue of the magazine, 'Vachan Milap', which is edited by the retired civil servant and noted literary figure from Ahmedabad Dankesh Oza, was published online on Independence Day.

In a note on the launch of the digital magazine, two core members of Ekatra Foundation, Atul Raval and Rajesh Mashruwala, said, "This is an attempt to address a specific and imminent need of contemporary times. That need is of authentic, enriching and thought-provoking reading carefully curated from abundant reading material." 'Vachan Milap', Raval and Mashruwala said, "is a humble and dedicated effort of Ekatra Foundation to bring contemporary Gujarati writings to every reader".

Fewer autos on Mumbai roads as drivers stay home over Marathi test

Mumbai. (Agency)

As the Maharashtra government's crackdown on non-Marathi speaking auto-rickshaw and taxi drivers entered its second day on Friday, fewer commercial passenger vehicles were seen plying on roads in parts of the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR), with several drivers opting to stay off the roads amid fears of being served notices and facing eventual suspension of their licences and badges.

In Thane, Sion, and parts of Kurla, drivers said the enforcement drive had prompted some of their colleagues to take a day off. "Many of my peers decided to lock up their taxis and stay home on Friday under pressure of being slapped with notices for lacking basic Marathi proficiency," said 58-year-old Izhar Mohammed, who originally hails from Prayagraj in Uttar Pradesh.

Mohammed was among 1,268 drivers served notices on the first day of the statewide checking drive on Thursday for inadequate "working knowledge of Marathi". Across Maharashtra, 8,217 drivers were tested on the first day, including 3,995 in the MMR, where 604 were found lacking the required proficiency. In the rest of the state, 4,222 drivers were tested and 664 were issued notices. Mohammed said he had been trying for weeks to secure admission to a Marathi training class at the RTO or other local language training facilities but had been unable to do so. "I now have no choice but to resort to private Marathi tutoring; I have no idea how much it will cost," he said.

Andhra MP's son tests negative for alcohol after Aston Martin crash, avoids arrest

Hyderabad. (Agency)

Preliminary alcohol and drug tests conducted on Lingamaneni Sanjush, 21, son of Andhra Pradesh Rajya Sabha MP Lingamaneni Ramesh, have returned negative following the fatal Aston Martin crash in Hyderabad, police said.

Sanjush was driving the luxury car when it struck 26-year-old sales executive Bharati Mukhi near Inorbit Mall on August 16. Bharati sustained critical injuries in the collision and was taken to Apollo Hospital, where she was declared dead on arrival.

According to police, Sanjush was driving at high speed and in a rash and negligent manner when the accident occurred. The luxury vehicle has since been seized and inspected by a Motor Vehicle Inspector (MVI), with the inspection report awaited.

BLOOD SAMPLE SENT FOR FORENSIC EXAMINATION

Although preliminary tests for alcohol and drugs were negative, police have sent Sanjush's blood sample to the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) for further examination. The forensic report, along with the MVI report and post-mortem findings, will form part of the ongoing investigation. Police have registered a case under Section 106(1) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), which deals with causing death by a rash or negligent act and carries a maximum punishment of five years. Police said they did not find grounds for Sanjush's immediate arrest based on the material available at the time. He was instead served a notice under Section 35 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita.

Nagpur mayor seeks inquiry after only two stanzas of Vande Mataram sung at meeting

The incident comes amid the political row between the BJP and Congress over the rendition of the national song. The Congress Working Committee recently decided to restrict its singing at party events to the first two stanzas, drawing criticism from the BJP.

Nagpur. (Agency)

The Nagpur Municipal Corporation's (NMC) administration has found itself in an awkward spot after only two stanzas of Vande Mataram were sung before Thursday's general body meeting, with

Mayor Neeta Thakre seeking an inquiry and action against those responsible. The incident comes amid the political row between the BJP and Congress over the rendition of the national song. The Congress Working Committee recently decided to restrict its singing at party events to the first two stanzas, drawing criticism from the BJP.

The BJP-controlled NMC general body met at the District Planning Bhavan on Thursday. Singing Vande Mataram before House proceedings is a customary practice.

Congress corporator Abhijeet Jha alleged that only two stanzas were played. He also said the House initially failed to pay tribute to former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi on his birthday on August 20, and members had to be reminded. NMC officials said a formal tribute had already been paid at the civic headquarters earlier in the morning. The controversy deepened after civic officials gave conflicting

explanations over who was responsible for the rendition. Municipal secretary Ranjana Lade said the matter fell under the Sports and Cultural Department. "This is the work of the Sports and Cultural Officer. This is not



the first time that only two stanzas have been played; this has been a tradition for a long time. However, we have sought an explanation from the Sports and Cultural Officer," she said. Sports Officer Piyush Ambulkar, however, said the responsibility

rested with the civic secretariat. "This is the responsibility of Sachivalaya. Our responsibility is only on August 15 and January 26. On August 15, we played the entire song in the premises," he said.

Thakre has now written to NMC Commissioner Vipin Itankar, calling for an inquiry and action against those responsible. In her letter, she said Vande Mataram had been an important source of inspiration during the freedom struggle and that "due respect and discipline" were expected while rendering it. The mayor termed the partial rendition at an important official meeting "inappropriate" and asked the commissioner to determine why action should not be taken against those responsible.

She has also sought a clear procedure for the rendition of the National Anthem and Vande Mataram at NMC meetings, saying this would prevent such an incident from being repeated.

'Meter chalu karo' now part of Marathi test: How Maharashtra is grilling auto, cab drivers

Starting Thursday, August 20, officials from the Regional Transport Office (RTO) began their rounds, testing auto and taxi drivers on their working knowledge of Marathi through everyday conversation they are likely to have with the passengers.

Mumbai. (Agency)

Maharashtra's Marathi language rule for auto-rickshaw and cabbie drivers has turned the state's roads into examination halls. Officials from the Regional Transport Office (RTO) played the examiners, putting thousands of your local auto and taxi wala bhaiyyas through a grilling question-and-answer session, one Marathi communication at a time. Starting Thursday, August 20, officials from the Regional Transport Office (RTO) began their rounds, testing auto and taxi drivers on their working knowledge of Marathi through everyday conversation they are likely to have with the passengers.

The questions are specific and show everyday conversations – "Please start the meter", "How much time will it take to reach...", "Do you have change?", "How do I pay you, cash or online?", etc.

Some of them are situation-based – "Rain has started", "Please stop ahead, I have to pick someone up", "Where is the rickshaw stand?", etc.



The drivers are then expected to understand the question and answer appropriately in Marathi, often with the phrases they have already been taught during a 105-day Marathi training and assessment drive. By the end of Day 1 of the Marathi test, over

8,000 drivers had been assessed; of these, as many as 1,268 who couldn't answer the questions in Marathi were issued notices. On Day 2 of the state-wide drive, 1,499 non-Marathi-speaking auto-rickshaw and taxi drivers were issued notices for not having enough working knowledge of the language. The Marathi language checks are being carried out by flying squads as well as during the renewal of vehicle fitness certificates at RTO offices.

Why is Marathi mandatory for auto, taxi drivers?

The state Transport Department reasons that all drivers should be able to communicate with the passengers in the state's native language. The move followed complaints that they were unable to understand basic instructions or communicate with passengers in Marathi. The state has also amended the Maharashtra Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989, to implement the requirement.

Does Golconda Fort have a secret tunnel? What Archaeological Survey team found

The Archaeological Survey of India said a team was sent to the site after reports of a tunnel being found at the iconic Golconda Fort in Hyderabad to verify the claim. The structure was discovered during work being carried out by the Army's Artillery Centre, Golconda, behind the fort.

Hyderabad. (Agency)

The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) on Friday said a structure recently found near the historic Golconda Fort in Hyderabad is not a tunnel, as had been reported, but a small rectangular chamber made of granite stone. The clarification came after reports said a tunnel had been found during work being carried out by the Army's Artillery Centre, Golconda, behind the fort. The ASI said a team was sent to the site to verify the claim and its preliminary inquiry found that the structure was a chamber whose exact purpose is not yet known. In a release, the ASI said the team included an archaeologist, an engineer, a surveyor and the site in-charge of Golconda Fort. It said the area where the structure was found falls within the prohibited zone of Golconda Fort, which extends beyond 100 metres from the fortification wall. "Upon preliminary

inspection, it was observed that the said structure is not a tunnel but a rectangular-shaped chamber measuring approximately 1.2 m 1.8 m in length and width and 2.2 m in depth," the release said. It added that the



chamber is constructed of granite stone, with rough stone masonry forming an internal wall-like structure. The team also found a few red-coloured potshers, which appear to belong to the medieval period, the release said. While the preliminary

investigation has made it clear that the structure is not a tunnel but a small chamber, its exact purpose or use could not be identified without a detailed investigation, it added. The ASI Hyderabad Circle said it will report the matter to the Director General, ASI, and that a detailed investigation will be taken up after approval to establish the purpose and use of the chamber and find out whether similar chambers exist in the surrounding area. It also said the Bala Hissar portion of Golconda Fort is located on a hillock and that the fortification wall encloses several other minor structures built for public utility when the fort functioned as a residential settlement. The ASI Hyderabad Circle has told the Artillery Centre, Golconda, not to continue with levelling the land until further investigation provides a clear picture of the discovery. In sum, the ASI has ruled out reports of a tunnel and said the find is a small granite chamber whose nature will be examined in detail.

National award for Punjab teacher who created a virtual physics lab for students

Kumar, who has a PhD in Physics, has been teaching at the 120-year-old British-era Government Victoria Girls Senior Secondary School in Patiala for more than ten years now. He said that he has always tried to ensure that his students do not fear physics.

Ludhiana. (Agency)

Physics might be a scary subject for most, but not for the students of Dinesh Kumar — a teacher at a government school in Punjab's Patiala.



The 52-year-old Kumar, who has created his own "Virtual Physics Lab" for his students, is the only teacher from Punjab who was selected for the National Award. He will be honoured by the President of India in Delhi on Teacher's Day (September 5). Kumar, who has a PhD in Physics, has been teaching at the 120-year-old British-era Government

Victoria Girls Senior Secondary School in Patiala for more than ten years now. He said that he has always tried to ensure that his students do not fear physics.

He told The Indian Express: "I have been in the teaching profession for 25 years now. I have created my virtual physics lab for students via computer programming so that

even if there's no apparatus, they can perform practicals on computer systems. I have also created more than a hundred teaching aides to make physics easier for the students." Despite being UGC-NET qualified, Kumar has continued being a school teacher. "Primarily, that's because there were no government jobs available for colleges in the past years.

But now, I also feel that my soul lies with teaching in school, where I also help underprivileged students whenever they need my guidance." Kumar was also honoured by the Punjab government with the State Award in 2020.

More than 50 of his ex-students are currently attaining higher education in engineering, pharmacy, nursing, etc., at top universities and colleges. "I teach physics to my students by correlating topics with their daily lives and using teaching aids. I created the virtual lab using my PhD experience so that lack of lab apparatus doesn't stop practicals.

Everything else burnt. Her TISS degree is the only paper left in her name

Mumbai. (Agency)

A degree will be waiting for Shrutika Baranwal at the 86th convocation of the Tata Institute of Social Sciences today. A testimonial will also summarise her achievements and life on campus. But, unlike the testimonials for her batchmates, hers will be issued posthumously. Shrutika, 25, was among 21 people who died in a fire that engulfed a bed and breakfast facility in south Delhi's Hauz Rani in June.

Her parents, Ramesh Prasad Baranwal and Babita, have travelled from their home in Jaina More in Jharkhand's Bokaro district to Mumbai to receive the Master's degree in Water Policy and Governance that their daughter had earned. TISS authorities told The Indian Express that Shrutika secured a first-class result. For the Baranwals, the degree certificate will now be the only original document in their daughter's name that the family has. "Everything else was



burnt in that fire," Babita, her mother. Shrutika was in the national capital on June 3 to complete the joining formalities for a job she had secured at the Rubber, Chemical & Polymer Skill Development Council via campus placement.

"We could not bring back anything from the site. My son went to check for her belongings, but everything – her phone, laptop, bag – was burnt to ashes," Babita said. Since Shrutika loved documenting her activities, her family keeps returning to photos and videos she shared with them. "She was a bright, young girl who was not just ambitious but determined to make every effort to achieve her goals. Even the career she chose was different from choices made by children from our family. But she was confident about building a successful career in this field, and had travelled to Delhi with all that excitement," said Ramesh. That confidence wasn't always there. In Bokaro, preparing for engineering, medicine, CA or other competitive exams is the most preferred higher education path.

Although it is true that there are no such things as "bad" exercises, certain faulty techniques can make an exercise useless and compromising.



While some of these exercises aren't optimal for fitness, some others should be avoided as they can easily lead to injury. However, it is important to understand that they are not always unsafe or unproductive. Adopting or avoiding any exercise technique depends on an individual's personal fitness goals and objectives. Read on to know more about these common red flags...

Spot reduction exercises: An ineffective method of 'burning fat' followed by many people is spot reduction. The popularity of this belief can be largely attributed to the many exercise gimmicks that we often see in infomercials regarding localized weight reduction. But always keep in mind that weight loss can never be isolated to a particular area. Localized strengthening and toning exercises will only help to firm muscles but will have no effect on the fat content of the target area. A better alternative is to adopt a well-rounded full-body weight reduction program.

Leg extensions (Seated): A very popular exercise for working the anterior thigh muscles, seated leg extensions are actually one of the most dangerous exercises in the gym. This is because the exercise places an unhealthy amount of stress on the knee joint. According to a research published in the "Journal of Orthopaedic and Sports Physical Therapy", individuals who worked on the leg extension machines found no benefit during functional tests. This can be particularly dangerous for those who have any kind of knee problems. Safer alternatives are simple lunges and squats without any added weights.

Leg press: Another form of exercise that should be avoided is the leg press as this can place undue amount of stress on the lower back. This can thus predispose a person to low back injuries. Although, many claim that seated leg press exercises can train your hams, quadriceps and gluts, in reality, it does not engage these muscles at all. All it does is force the spine into a flexed position. Hence, instead of this, try working on body weight squats.

Seated abduction or adduction: Just like leg press, seated abduction/adduction movements can place great amounts of stress on your spine. Also, such movements only train these muscles as prime movers. But, in reality, during actual physical activity, they are used only as stabilizers and not as prime movers. An easy and effective alternative is lunges which can be used to train these muscles for their actual purpose of stabilizing.

Leg curls: According to strength and conditioning coach, Charlie Weingroff,

7 exercises you need to Avoid



exercises like deadlifts are more effective than leg curls. This is because the latter trains the hams only as knee flexors while, during activity, they are used mainly as hip extensors.

Sit ups: As per the recommendations by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health

(NIOSH), a person should never apply more than 3400 newtons of force on his back at a time. Crossing this limit would place unnecessary stress on the back muscles leading to stress or injury. On an average, a regular sit-up program contributes around 3413 newtons of force on the

back muscles. To avoid this, opt for short range crunch movements or tabletops.

Lat pulldown exercises (behind the head): This is a big "no-no" without proper form, as this may affect your shoulder joint functioning. Only those with extreme shoulder joint

flexibility can opt for this exercise and that too, with extreme care for correct form. A better alternative for working your lats is by pulling the bar towards your chest and not behind the head. But, remember to keep your spine straight and abs pulled in while performing this.

How papaya, fenugreek leaves can control

Dengue

Giloy is helpful in building the immune system and papaya leaves cure dengue fever, an expert says.



Pankaj Aggarwal, from the capital-based Agrawal Homoe Clinic, has suggested some easy home remedies to control platelet loss and recovery from dengue fever

Giloy (herb): This is helpful in building the immune system, giloy stem marks immediate recovery when consumed in frequently during the fever. Boil two or three giloy stems for ten minutes and serve the patient for better immunity.

Papaya leaves: The budding leaves of papaya tree cure dengue fever and helps in removing excess toxins from the body. The intake of its juice from crushed leaves can help in rising the platelet count.



Fenugreek leaves:

Fenugreek leaves help in reducing the pain of the patient and help in restful sleep. It reduces the level of fever stabilizing the blood pressure and heartbeat of the patient.

Goldenseal: The herb proves to be an excellent remedy for its ability to clear up the symptoms of the dengue fever. The leaf when consumed in form of juice helps in eliminating the dengue virus from the body strengthening the immunity of the body against its signs.

Feeling blue? You have impaired your ability to identify colours

Taking the association between our mood and colours beyond a mere metaphor, new research has found that feeling sad can impair our ability to accurately identify colours on the blue-yellow axis.



"Our results show that mood and emotion can affect how we see the world around us," said study first author Christopher Thorstenson from University of Rochester in New York, US.

"Our work advances the study of perception by showing that sadness specifically impairs basic visual processes that are involved in perceiving colour," Thorstenson noted.

In the study, the researchers had 127 undergraduate participants watch an emotional film clip and then complete a visual judgment task.

The participants were randomly assigned to watch an animated film clip intended to induce sadness or a standup comedy clip intended to induce amusement.

After watching the video clip, the participants were then shown 48 consecutive, desaturated colour patches and were asked to indicate whether each patch was red, yellow,

green, or blue.

The results showed that participants who watched the sadness video clip were less accurate in identifying colours than participants who watched the amusing clip, but only



for colour patches that were on the blue-yellow axis.

They showed no difference in accuracy for colours on the red-green axis.

The results cannot be explained by differences in participants' level of effort, attention, or engagement with the task, as colour perception was only impaired on the blue-yellow axis.

"We did not predict this specific finding, although it might give us a clue to the reason for the effect in neurotransmitter functioning," Thorstenson said.

The researchers noted that previous work has specifically linked colour perception on the blue-yellow axis with the neurotransmitter dopamine.

The new research was published in the journal Psychological Science.

Here's how you should make turmeric

Milk

Much has been said about the benefits of drinking turmeric milk - or 'Golden Milk' as it is fondly called by the Orientals.

It has been advocated by several schools of native medicine, including Ayurveda. A simple Web search on 'turmeric milk' will tell you about benefits ranging from decongestion to weight loss, so I am not going to delve into that much in this post.

Instead, I want to share with you an authentic method of preparing it, which I zeroed in on after trying several recipes advised by Ayurvedic doctors, and found in many books.

1. Take an inch-long stick of turmeric. Remember that turmeric powder is never as effective as crushed turmeric sticks, because the chances of contamination in the powder are high, plus its efficacy is also bound to reduce during the heat-generating grinding process. So, take a stick of turmeric (the variety used in cooking; varali manjal in Tamizh) and crush it coarsely using a mortar and pestle.

2. Crush a few peppercorns too. The white variety is better.



3. Mix a cup of water with a cup of milk, add the crushed turmeric and pepper and bring to a boil.

4. Simmer for 20 minutes. By this time, the milk will reduce to a cup. This is the reason why I suggest you begin with a mixture of milk and water; else you will end up with a very thick, kheer-like drink that won't be as soothing.

5. Remove from the stove, filter, add a spoonful of honey or palm sugar, and enjoy the drink warm.

6. If you are taking this to relieve a sore throat, add 1/2 teaspoon of ghee to the hot turmeric milk before drinking it. The ghee will melt and coat your throat, relieving you of cough as well.

Note: The most important part is to sit and relax with this cuppa for a few minutes, relishing its soothing flavour and rustic aroma! This will enhance the feel-good factor.

What's Stressing You out?

At a time when a lot of youngsters are not even aware of the fact that they might be really stressed, we decode symptoms, reasons and solutions...

Ever lost your cool at the tiniest thing, and five minutes later wondered why? Sometimes small things that happen every day, like spilling water or being unable to find your socks, can send you into a flying rage. But why did you lose your cool? You are not going through any life crisis — your job doesn't require you to clock in insane hours and your personal life is looking up. What many of us don't realize is that stress can be caused by several little factors that, on the surface, seem harmless.

Smartphones

Your do-it-all phone is supposed to make your life easier since you can check your mail, chat with friends, play games and add final touches to your presentation, all on the go. So if anything, it should be a stress-buster, right? Wrong. The ability to stay in touch wherever you are and at any time of the day, makes it hard for you to focus on the task at hand; be it in the office, in a party or a picnic. And that phantom buzz — the feeling that your phone vibrated even when it didn't — is a classic sign of stress. People get obsessed with their phones and keep thinking about why they haven't got any calls or texts in a while. All this constantly inflates your stress.

Cubicle-free offices

Most offices today have done away with cubicles. In 'open plan' offices, everyone can see what everyone else is doing. And without realizing it, the things that your colleagues do can add to your stress. Strong perfumes, loud conversations, squeaky chair wheels or the constant prying eyes on your computer screens, can all evoke a reaction within you. Haven't we all clenched our fists in frustration and felt the need to punch the person sitting next to/across from us at least once?

Noise

Finding a quiet corner has become close to impossible, even in our homes. Throughout the day we are bombarded with noises — horns blaring in the traffic, phones ringing in the office, the passing of cars outside your bedroom, the buzz of tube lights or the hum of your computer fan. We are used to many of these noises and don't even notice them anymore, but that doesn't mean that you are immune to their effects. Constant background noises raise your blood pressure, and secretly also affect your ability to pay

attention, all thanks to the build up of stress.

Rude encounters

Being hung up on by someone on the phone, told off by the auto driver or ignored by a salesperson — all these can result in stress. When you feel insulted, the thought tends to linger long after the incident has passed. This plays on your mind, and any negative thoughts can spark off stress. In the long-run, it can alter your hormones and weaken your immune system.

Automated customer assistance

Waiting for what seems like an eternity and pressing all the buttons on your keypad just to get to speak to the customer care representative is a shared irritant. These systems are designed to save companies money, but all they manage to do is steadily raise your frustration. Even though you may not use this service on a daily basis, a single call is enough to stress you out. Getting agitated during or after the call is an instant sign of this.

Bedroom lights

Finding complete darkness is difficult. It's late, you have turned off all the lights in your bedroom and drawn the curtains, but still the light from the streetlamp manages to find its way into your room. If not that, it's the bright LED air conditioner display, your glow-in-the-dark alarm clock, or simply that you have left the TV on. Sleeping eight hours a night is not enough; mind needs uninterrupted, good-quality sleep, and this is not possible with a bright stimulus.

Not paying attention to your appearance

You may pretend to not care about how you look, or how the world views you, but one frown after looking in the mirror is a sign that your appearance has an effect on your psyche. There is a strong link between how you present yourself and how the world views you. When people respond positively, you feel good, and the opposite holds true when you get negative feedback. Not being happy with how you look hits your confidence, and constantly thinking about it, leads to stress.

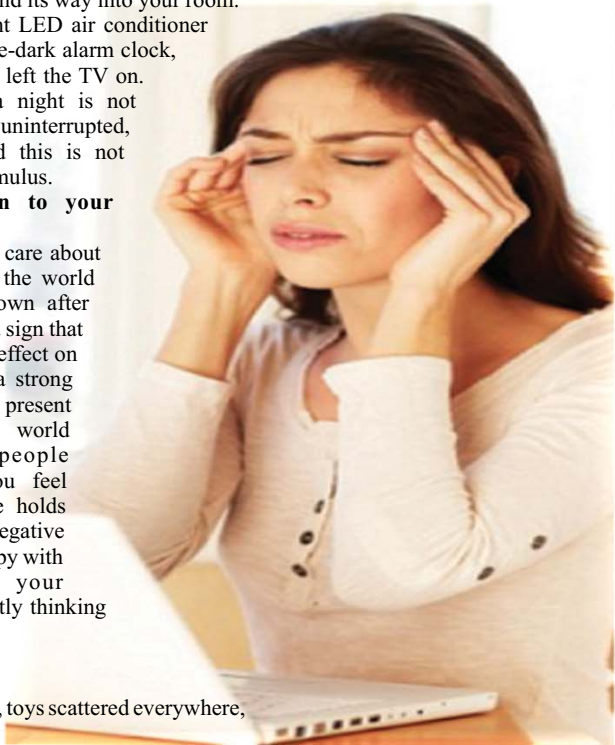
Mess

Gravy stain on the carpet, toys scattered everywhere,

or the stack of dirty dishes in the sink. A messy living environment can make anyone irritated, especially if it feels like you are the only one who seems to give a hoot about it. Coming back to a messy house after a long day at work makes things that much more annoying. This only adds to your to-do list, no longer making your home a place where you unwind and relax.

Dieting

Ever noticed how someone on a diet is easily irritated? Dieters consume fewer-than-required calories and even end up skipping meals. This sends the body into craving mode, resulting in irritation, headache and fatigue. Cheating on the diet makes you guilty, and blaming yourself for the binge trip results in enormous stress.



Is stomach your worst

Body feature?

With stomach voted the most hated part in a recent study, here's your guide to losing the flab.

Want to flaunt your waist, but shy because of the flab on your stomach? Well, you're not the only one. According to a recent study conducted in the UK, stomachs have reportedly been voted the most hated part of the body, followed by love handles and bingo wings.

What the study says: When it comes to their worst features, almost a third of Britons voted for their stomachs, followed by the dreaded muffin top — basically the fat on the waist, flabby upper arms also known as bingo wings, thighs and noses. One fifth of the respondents also noted their chests or pecs as one of their worst features, as well as teeth and legs.

The study revealed that most people who consider one of their body parts as worst features don't opt for correction through cosmetic surgery. Among those surveyed, 85% said that they aren't planning on having any cosmetic surgery. However, almost four in 10 say they would consider changing something about their body if money wasn't an issue.

Think twice before heading for

correctional surgery: According to experts, most people have hang-ups about their appearance, but cosmetic surgery is a big step and some operations are irreversible. Anyone looking into any kind of procedure should be 100% sure they are doing it for the right reasons and have realistic expectations of the results.

Researchers also advise on thorough research before heading for a correctional surgery. Choose a practitioner you're comfortable with and don't be hesitant to ask for second opinion. Although price can be a determining factor, make sure it isn't your sole focus. Aftercare is also essential. Ways to burn belly fat:

Brisk walking: Go for a 20-minute walk every evening. Alternate the routes and try slopes for a full body workout.

Bicycle crunches: Lie on a mat and press your back against the floor. Link your fingers and bring them behind your head. Bend your legs at a 45-degree angle, lift your right knee up to the chest while straightening out your left leg. Simultaneously, raise your upper body from the ground and get your left elbow near your right knee. Switch to the other side in a way that you are in a bicycle riding motion. Repeat for one minute, three times a day. **Kettlebell swing:** With your feet apart from the hips, hold a kettlebell with both your hands. Squat with a straight back and swing the kettlebell through legs and up to your chest. Continue swinging for 30 to 60 seconds.



Irresponsible, careless kids at obesity risk

A study has found that children showing low conscientiousness (e.g., irresponsible, careless, not persevering) could later in their life be battling obesity.

The Oregon Research Institute (ORI) study examines the relationship between childhood personality and adult health and shows a strong association between childhood conscientiousness (organized, dependable, self-disciplined) and health status in adulthood.

ORI scientist Sarah Hampson, Ph.D., and colleagues at the Kaiser Permanente Center for Health, Hawaii helped complete the study. Hampson said that these results are significant and unique as they show the far-reaching effects of childhood conscientiousness on adult health. She said that others have shown that more conscientious children live longer but now they



have shown that these conscientious children are also healthier at midlife. This is the first study in which all the Big Five personality traits (extraversion, agreeableness, conscientiousness, emotional stability, and intellect/imagination) assessed in childhood have been used to predict objective health status assessed by multiple biomarkers over 40 years later in older adulthood.

In the 1960's, over 2,000 children from entire classrooms in elementary schools on two Hawaiian Islands were comprehensively assessed on their personality characteristics. ORI researchers were funded in 1998 by the National Institute of Mental Health to locate and examine the health-related behaviors and

mental and physical health status of these individuals.

Almost 75 per cent of those in the original group who could be located (mean age 51 years) have agreed to participate, and over 800 individuals completed a medical and psychological examination supported by subsequent grants from the National Institute on Aging.

Hampson said that these findings suggest avenues for further research that may lead to interventions.

She asserted that people who are more conscientious tend to have better health habits and less stress, which protects them from disease.

Hampson added that self-control is a key part of being conscientious, so our findings confirm the importance of teaching children self-control to enable them to grow up to be healthy adults.

Brain exercises that will boost your memory

While you can't prevent the deteriorating effects of ageing, you can slow down memory loss in the long run through brain-driven activities.

One of the frightening things about ageing is the loss of memory that comes with it. While one cannot prevent the cognitive decline that comes with age, one can slow them down or even reverse them through productive brain-boosting activities.

Talk to yourself: Having conversations with yourself isn't stupidity. Studies have shown that people who talk to themselves are at lower risk of developing dementia. In fact, telling yourself stories might delay memory loss and help you stay focused on important details of day-to-day living.

Learn a new language: Knowing how to speak and write in a new language will add one more feather to your talent cap, boost your confidence and even reverse memory loss. Learning a new language leads to a better understanding and recognition of objects and words. It leads to improved vocabulary and grammar, as well as more mental and verbal fluency.

Solve puzzles and word games: Get cracking at that Sudoku puzzle in the morning paper, the cryptic or classic crossword in your Sunday read or that game of scrabble gathering dust in your top drawer. Anything that stimulates your mind with new words and word associations helps prevent memory loss.

Use melotherapy: Music therapy, commonly

referred to as melotherapy, is an enjoyable way to enhance mental focus. Studies have shown that listening to classical music boosts the brain capacity and verbal skills of babies and teens, music is also a great healer for memory loss. All you have to do is to listen to your favourite genre of music and try to remember the melody or lyrics. Sing along if you want to!

Read many books together: Read as many books as you can and try to remember their plots. It doesn't matter if you are drawn to books, a magazine article or a newspaper report. Use the spare time you get while commuting to work or during breaks to read something other than work-related material.

Adobe Techie Had A Fight With Wife. His In-Laws Thrashed Him To Death

The incident took place this morning when an argument broke out between the victim, Vinay Gupta, and his wife, Rekha, over giving medicine to their child.

Delhi. (Agency)

A domestic fight at a home in Delhi ended in a tragedy when a 31-year-old software engineer died after he was allegedly beaten to death by his in-laws.

The incident took place this morning when an argument broke out between the victim, Vinay Gupta, and his wife, Rekha, over giving medicine to their child.

During this time, Rekha left the house after contacting her family members, who later arrived at the couple's residence in Delhi's Nihal Vihar. Around 10 minutes later, she returned with her two brothers, sister-in-law, father and uncle, along with other family members.

CCTV footage from the incident showed Rekha wearing a red suit and her sister-in-law in a blue suit. The footage also

purportedly showed Rekha's two brothers, her father and another man in a car.

Subsequently, they began assaulting Vinay. According to the victim's mother - who was living with the couple - she had stepped out to arrange water and refreshments for the visitors when the alleged assault began. When she returned, she found her son being attacked. She tried to intervene and called for help, pleading with them to stop, but the assault continued, his family members said.

The victim's family said his in-laws strangled him and inflicted blows and kicks on his chest. They alleged that the attack was a part of a pre-planned conspiracy, claiming that Rekha had switched off all the CCTV cameras in the

house before the incident.

Minutes after the assault, Vinay's neighbour

hospital where doctors declared him dead.

Vinay used to work at Adobe - a Noida-based software company - and had an annual package of around Rs 60 lakh.

He had married Rekha around three-and-a-half years ago. The couple had twins - a boy and a girl - who were born around four-and-a-half months ago. At the Delhi home, Vinay and his wife lived on the third floor of the house, while his parents lived downstairs. According to his family, Rekha used to cook separately and alleged that her brother had earlier threatened to kill Vinay over minor disputes. Police have arrested four people in connection with the case - Rekha, her two brothers and one sister-in-law.



No construction activities in Delhi from December 10 to January 20 to curb pollution

Delhi. (Agency)

Construction activities will be completely banned in the city from December 10 to January 20 as part of the government's measures to curb air pollution during the winter, Chief Minister Rekha Gupta said on Friday.

Gupta, in a post on X, urged citizens to report violations, adding that construction sites spanning more than 500 square metres would be monitored through the government's Dust Portal and AI-enabled cameras. "Construction will be completely banned from 10 December to 20 January. If you spot any violation, inform the MCD, MLAs, or me," she said.

Construction activities had continued at some sites during the previous winter despite the implementation of the Graded Response Action Plan, she said, with work being carried out behind covers. This year, such sites will be monitored in real time through the Dust Portal and AI-enabled cameras, with alerts being sent to the government's control centre, she said. "Notices, warnings and fines will follow," Gupta said.

The AI-powered Dust Portal 2.0 was launched in July to improve enforcement of pollution control measures. The portal, developed by the Delhi Pollution Control Committee, integrates GIS mapping, live 360-degree PTZ cameras, PM10 and PM2.5 sensors and AI-based analytics to monitor compliance at construction sites. The system generates yellow, orange and red alerts based on pollution levels and facilitates digital compliance certificates and enforcement notices in case of violations.



Transport hubs in Delhi could host budget hotels, shelters

Delhi. (Agency)

The transport hubs in the city could take on a much wider role than simply moving passengers under the proposed Master Plan for Delhi-2047. The draft framework, as mentioned in the plan, will allow a range of facilities, including budget hotels, hostels and shelters for the urban homeless within railway terminals, integrated passenger terminals, ISBTs and even bus depots.

For rail terminals and metropolitan passenger terminals, the list of permitted activities includes railway operations; passenger and goods facilities; offices; retail and public/semi-public facilities, besides hotels and budget hotels; shelters for urban homeless; passenger/staff accommodation; service apartments; and hostels. The plan says such development should be undertaken in a composite manner. A similar provision applies to inter-state bus terminals (ISBTs). Delhi currently has three operational ISBTs, including Maharana Pratap ISBT at Kashmere Gate, Swami Vivekanand ISBT at Anand Vihar and Veer Hakikat Rai ISBT at Sarai Kale Khan, according to the Delhi Transport Infrastructure Development Corporation.

Two additional ISBT sites, at Dwarka and Narela, have been identified but are not operational currently. At ISBTs, the proposed permissible mix includes bus operations and parking, offices, retail, budget hotels, shelters for urban homeless, passenger/staff accommodation, service apartments and hostels. This means large transport interchanges could potentially become mixed-use complexes where mobility, commercial and social-support functions coexist.

As of now, none of the ISBTs have hostels or service apartments or budget hotels, etc. The provision is even broader for bus depots. Along with bus operations, maintenance, parking and passenger facilities, the draft permits hotels/budget hotels, shelters for urban homeless, retail, offices, service apartments and hostels. It also states that, as far as possible, bus depots should function as bus terminals. The scale is significant. The Delhi Transport Corporation's current locator lists 37 depots, while a recent DTC tender document described 34 depots in Delhi and one in Noida, indicating that the network and classification of facilities have been evolving.

105-year-old murder convict walks free as Supreme Court orders early release

The Supreme Court on Friday freed 105-year-old murder convict Rasik Chandra Mondal, waiving his remaining life sentence due to his advanced age and health.

Delhi. (Agency)

A 105-year-old murder convict will now live as a free man after the Supreme Court on Friday closed the case against him and waived the remaining period of his life sentence, taking into account his advanced age and health condition. The court also expressed surprise that Mondal had lived beyond the age of 100 and remained in a position to give legal

instructions in his case.

A bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana said it was



closing the case against Rasik Chandra Mondal and waiving his remaining sentence, if any, considering his age.

"Even if the life sentence is not over, he will not be taken back in custody," Chief Justice Surya Kant said. The bench also made the interim bail order granted to Mondal in 2024 absolute and final.

Mondal was born in 1920 in West Bengal's Malda district. He faced allegations of murdering his brother, Suresh Mondal, in 1988 following a

property dispute. A court convicted Mondal in 1994 when he was 74 years old and sentenced him to life imprisonment. He remained in jail until November 29, 2024, when the Supreme Court granted him interim bail. The Calcutta High Court dismissed his appeal against the conviction in 2018. Mondal later

approached the Supreme Court, which also dismissed his plea. In 2020, at the age of 99, Mondal filed a plea seeking premature release, citing his advanced age and age-related ailments. In May 2021, the Supreme Court issued notice to the West Bengal government in the matter.

One killed, three hurt as two-storey building collapses in Delhi

Delhi. (Agency)

A labourer was killed and three others were hurt on Friday when a two-storey building collapsed amid demolition in central Delhi's Karol Bagh area.

According to the Delhi Fire Services (DFS), it was alerted about the incident at 11.49 am on Friday, following which two fire tenders were rushed to the spot to carry out rescue operations.

The incident was also reported to the Karol Bagh police station, which immediately dispatched a team to assist in the rescue efforts. A preliminary inquiry into the matter has found that the building was being demolished by a private contractor engaged by the owners without obtaining the requisite permission from the agency concerned,

a police officer said.

The structure is said to have suddenly collapsed as the razing work was being carried out, trapping labourers in it.



Four labourers were affected in the incident. One of them, identified as Sheikh Shamshad, succumbed to his injuries. His body has been shifted to the mortuary at LHMC Hospital.

Another one, Mohammad Ayub sustained a head injury and fracture of the right hand. He was referred to Dr RML Hospital and his condition remained critical at the time of filing this report. Sheikh Saidul sustained limb injuries and is undergoing treatment at Jeevan Mala Hospital, while Rafik-Ul sustained minor injuries and subsequently left for his residence.

Police, along with fire management personnel, ensured that the injured persons were shifted to hospital for treatment. The building owners and the contractor have been detained for an inquiry. Further legal action under appropriate provisions was initiated after the verification of facts and assessment of the circumstances leading to the collapse, police said. Cops are also questioning the eyewitness.

Scandinavian Airlines to resume operations to India, first flight to take off on October 1

Delhi. (Agency)

Scandinavian Airlines (SAS) is set to resume operations in India after a 17-year hiatus, following the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) granting the airline the required authorisation. SAS will operate its first flight from Copenhagen to Mumbai on October 1.

SAS had earlier attempted to operate flight SK 969 to India on June 2 without securing the necessary clearance. The airline turned the Airbus A330 back to Copenhagen midway through the journey as it approached Azerbaijan. This newspaper was the first to report the incident. It was denied regulatory permission to enter the Indian airspace due to improper documentation submitted by the airline for clearance. A source at DGCA said, "The airline has submitted all the requisite documents for authorisation. The DGCA has given it the permission for operations."

Under the Aircraft Act 1934 and the Aircraft Rules 1937, an operating authorisation from the DGCA is mandatory for any foreign airline. The airline later announced a temporary suspension in operations for a few days, which then extended into many weeks.

In an official statement, Scandinavian Airlines announced it would restore operations from October 1, 2026, and would run direct, non-stop flights between Mumbai and Copenhagen five times a week. "The route restores SAS' presence in India after 17 years, expanding its intercontinental network and opening access to one of the world's fastest-growing economies," it said.

DGCA gives approval

The airline was denied regulatory permission to enter the Indian airspace due to improper documentation submitted by the airline for clearance.

A source at DGCA said, "The airline has submitted all the requisite documents for authorisation. The DGCA has given it the permission for operations."

Centre asks states to step up surveillance as H1N1 cases surge in Delhi, adjoining areas

Health Minister JP Nadda reviews preparedness, urges early detection and timely treatment amid over 1,700 swine flu cases in Delhi

Delhi. (Agency)

As H1N1 virus, often known as swine flu, rages in the country, especially in Delhi and adjoining areas, the centre on Friday asked states to closely monitor influenza trends, identify and quickly manage any unusual increase or clustering of cases.

Union Health Minister JP Nadda, who held a review meeting of the prevailing situation, especially in the national capital, which has recorded over 1,700 cases of swine flu this year, called for continued strengthening of early detection, timely testing and appropriate clinical management of influenza cases. At the meeting, which was also attended by Delhi Health Minister Dr. Pankaj Kumar Singh, Nadda reviewed the preparedness of healthcare facilities in

the national capital, including the availability of hospital beds, critical care facilities, oxygen-supported beds, ventilators, essential medicines, diagnostics, and other critical supplies.

Stressing the importance of adequate surge capacity and seamless referral mechanisms, particularly for patients requiring specialised or critical care, he called for continued strengthening of early detection, timely testing and appropriate clinical management of influenza cases, along with effective utilisation of the existing surveillance and laboratory network.

The minister called for a proactive and preparedness-oriented approach by state governments, with active participation of municipal councillors and other local bodies in generating

awareness among communities on the prevention, spread and control of seasonal diseases.

Nadda also emphasised public

difficulty or other warning signs to seek medical advice promptly.

The minister reviewed the national surveillance and epidemiological situation, Influenza-like illness (ILI) and Severe Acute Respiratory Infection (SARI) trends, testing and laboratory surveillance, and preparedness of healthcare facilities to manage seasonal influenza cases.

Nadda emphasised the need for continued vigilance, robust surveillance and proactive preparedness, with close monitoring of influenza trends and timely identification and management of any unusual increase or clustering of cases. He reiterated that the situation is being closely and continuously monitored, while emphasising the need for sustained and coordinated.



awareness and preventive health practices, including respiratory hygiene and hand hygiene, and advised individuals with persistent or severe respiratory symptoms, breathing

Govt restricts 2-compound fixed drug combinations for children under 4

New Delhi. (Agency)

In a significant step to safeguard the health and safety of young children, the government has imposed restrictions on the manufacture, sale and distribution of all fixed dose combinations containing Chlorpheniramine Maleate and Phenylephrine Hydrochloride, mandating a clear warning that these medicines shall not be used in children below four years of age. Earlier, vide a notification dated April 15, 2025, the government had restricted certain fixed dose combinations (FDCs) containing the two chemical compounds, subject to the same age-specific warning. The latest notification extends this requirement to all formulations containing these two ingredients. The decision followed recommendations by an expert committee and the Drugs Technical Advisory



Board (DTAB). The government noted that the use of such combinations may pose risks to children below four years of age and that safer alternatives are available. Manufacturers have been directed to clearly display the warning "Fixed Dose Combination shall not be used in children below four years of age on the label, package insert and promotional literature associated with these formulations. The notification has been issued under Section 26A of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, and is effective from the date of its publication in the official gazette.

4.3 million vehicles recalled in China over safety risks; Tesla accounts for 2.98 million

New Delhi. (Agency)

Tesla and eight Chinese automakers are recalling about 4.3 million vehicles in China after regulators raised concerns that occupants could struggle to open their doors during emergencies, making it the country's largest automotive recall.

The action included recalling 2.8 million Tesla vehicles, along with hundreds of thousands of cars from Xiaomi, Leapmotor, Xpeng, Geely and other manufacturers. China's State Administration for Market Regulation said the recalls address risks associated with emergency door-release systems, particularly when a crash disables a vehicle's electrical system.

Tesla's recall covers about 2.98 million imported and China-made Model 3, Model Y, Model S and Model X vehicles. The company will begin the recall on September 25, with the remedy including software changes and warning labels to make emergency releases easier to identify.

The regulator said a severe collision followed by electrical failure could leave the mechanical release difficult for occupants or rescuers to locate or use, potentially delaying escape from the vehicle.

The recalls come as Beijing tightens safety oversight of China's rapidly expanding new-energy vehicle industry. Automakers have been locked in an intense price war while introducing increasingly software-dependent features, including electronic and concealed door-opening systems.

Apple expected to expand manufacturing beyond iPhones: Govt

New Delhi. (Agency)

NEW DELHI: India expects Apple to widen its manufacturing footprint beyond iPhones, whereas Google could shift a substantial share of its export-oriented device production from China to India, electronics and IT minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said.

Vaishnaw told reporters that Apple could expand its manufacturing ecosystem in India to other hardware categories, building on the scale it has already created around iPhone production. On Google, he said India could emerge as a major export manufacturing base as the company looks to diversify production away from China.

The comments came as the govt notified the Rs 62,500-crore Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme, which will run from the current financial year to 2020-31 and succeed the earlier production-linked incentive programme for large-scale electronics manufacturing. The scheme is aimed at increasing scale, deepening domestic value addition and supporting Indian mobile phone brands, said Vaishnaw.

Under the new framework, companies will be eligible for incentives ranging from 2.25% to 5% on eligible sales. An additional incentive of up to 1.5% will be available for domestic sourcing of specified components, such as display and camera modules, enclosures, batteries and USB cables.

Gold loan: After the Tatas and Godrej, Aditya Birla Capital announces major push

New Delhi. (Agency)



The rapidly expanding gold loan market in India attracting the biggies of India Inc. After the Tatas and Godrej, Aditya Birla has entered the ring. With the market size reaching Rs 3.3 lakh crore, the entry of the big brands will heat up competition with the entrenched players in the sector also upping their ante.

Kolkata: The impact of rising gold prices in India is no longer limited to the jewelry market only. It is also puffing up the gold loan sector, so much so that big names of India Inc is joining the bandwagon. The latest to step into the ring is the Aditya Birla group with

Aditya Birla Capital announcing a major push. Earlier, the Tatas and Godrej have entered this market. This is expected to further intensify competition within the gold loan sector.

According to repots, the quantum of outstanding loans against gold jewelry in India has reached about Rs 3.3 lakh crore by May 2026. The gold loan

segment witnessed an astounding growth of nearly 50% in the FY26, making it possibly the fastest-growing areas within retail lending. Rapid growth is also being witnessed among NBFCs in the gold loan business. Despite strict regulatory oversight, the gold loan portfolio of NBFCs have grown by about 70% on a YoY basis.

Rising gold prices

The surge in gold prices plays a pivotal role in the growth of the gold loan market. As gold prices rise, customers can secure larger loans by pledging the same quantity of jewelry. This enhances the customers' borrowing capacity and accelerates business growth for lending companies.

However, the companies' interest is not limited solely to high gold prices; the growing demand for secured loan products is also a significant driver.

Tata and Godrej adopted acquisition route

To enter this market, Tata Capital and Godrej Capital have opted for the acquisition route. Tata Capital has agreed to acquire an 88.6% stake in Kerala-based Yogloans. The platform operates over 160 branches and serves nearly 32,000 customers. Its loan book is more than Rs 700 crore.

Godrej Capital has followed the same strategy and acquired the gold loan business of Kanakadurga Finance. Through this deal, it has gained a portfolio worth around Rs 280 crore, 12,000 customers and 54 branches. The company aims to grow its gold loan book to Rs 5,000 crore by 2031.

Birla to launch 1,000 branches in 3 years

Unlike other companies, Aditya Birla Capital has decided to build its own gold loan network from scratch. The company plans to open approximately 1,000 dedicated gold loan branches over the next three years, with a target of launching 200 to 300 branches by March 2027. It will serve customers in urban and semi-urban areas through both physical branches and digital channels.

Pressurised heavy water reactors emerge as top pick for companies in nuclear power expansion

New Delhi. (Agency)

Indigenous pressurised heavy water reactors (PHWRs) are emerging as the preferred pick for new entrants into India's civil nuclear power sector due to the established supply chain and good ecosystem, as the country opens the tightly regulated strategic sector to private players.

The country has an ambitious target of scaling up the domestic civil nuclear capacity to 100 gigawatt-electric by 2047. At a panel discussion at the BloombergNEF Summit in New Delhi, representatives from NTPC, Adani Atomic Energy and Jindal Steel said that existing 700 megawatt-electric (MWe) PHWR technology could be a good start to scale up the capacity in initial phase

given the availability of established design standards, a mature domestic supply chain and an existing ecosystem of vendors and expertise. NTPC's capacity target is 30 gigawatts electric (GWe) while



Adani group's target is 10 GWe and that of Jindal Steel is 18 GWe in coming years. According to them, foreign reactor technologies and small modular reactors (SMRs) could play a role at a later stage as the sector matures.

The discussion took place nearly a week after India released draft rules of SHANTI Act, laying out the regulatory framework for a broader nuclear power ecosystem, including private participation, captive generation, licensing, safety oversight and nuclear liability.

'Established ecosystem of PHWRs' Vivek Sharma, Business Head of Adani Atomic Energy, said the major challenges facing the sector are the availability of a robust supply chain and the lack of standardised reactor designs. "We have an advantage in India that we have 700 MWe design, which is standard, approved, operational, and has regulatory blessings. And most importantly relative supply-chain in India. It's almost indigenized, 90-95%," Sharma said.

TikTok reaches \$400 million settlement with US Justice Department over children's privacy

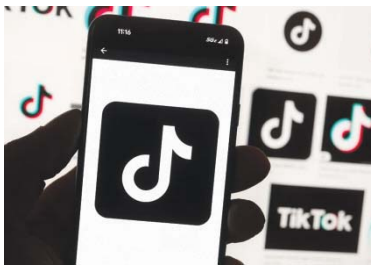
New Delhi. (Agency)

TikTok has reached a \$400 million settlement with the U.S. Department of Justice, ending a 2024 lawsuit alleging the company violated federal children's privacy laws. The DOJ said Friday that TikTok will pay \$300 million immediately and another \$100 million after an order vacates an earlier consent decree against its predecessor company, Musical.ly.

"This settlement is a major victory for American children and parents," said U.S. Associate Attorney General Stanley E. Woodward Jr. in a statement. "The Department's priority is ensuring that children are protected online and that companies entrusted with their personal information meet their legal obligations. This resolution secures a substantial recovery while reinforcing the protections that families expect and deserve."

Since the DOJ's lawsuit in 2024, TikTok has undergone major changes, most notably in the ownership structure of its U.S. arm. In January, the social video platform company signed agreements with major investors

including Oracle, Silver Lake and the Emirati investment firm MGX to form the new TikTok U.S. joint venture. Representatives for TikTok did not immediately respond to a message for comment Friday. The latest lawsuit focused on allegations that TikTok and its China-based parent company, ByteDance violated a federal law that requires kid-oriented apps and websites



to get parental consent before collecting personal information of children under 13. It also says the companies failed to honor requests from parents who wanted their children's accounts deleted, and chose not to delete accounts even when the firms knew they belonged to kids under 13.

The settlement comes as social media companies face an avalanche of lawsuits over children's safety and privacy and a growing number of countries are banning young kids and teens from social media apps. Instagram's parent company, Meta Platforms, is currently on trial in federal court in Oakland, California, over allegations it violated the 1998 Children's Online Privacy Protection Act, or COPPA, along with various state statutes.

Car buyers take fancy to mid-size SUV models

CHENNAI. (Agency)

Indian car buyers' love for sports utility vehicles (SUVs) is moving up the price ladder. After years in which compact SUVs powered the country's shift away from hatchbacks and sedans, mid-size SUVs are now taking a bigger slice of the passenger vehicle (PV) market, having gained share faster than most other segments over the past two years.

Mid-size SUVs-crossovers above four metres that automakers classify in this category-accounted for 18.2% of domestic PV sales in the first quarter of FY27, up from 12.4% two years earlier and 15% a year ago, according to estimates by Kotak Institutional Equities. Compact SUVs (under four metres in length), by contrast, have seen some moderation in their share. Their share fell to 14.6% in Q1FY27 from 16.2% a year earlier and 15.3% in Q1FY25. The shift towards mid-size SUVs signals that buyers are increasingly prioritising space, comfort and features. For instance, sunroof-equipped



variants have accounted for a significant portion of Hyundai's SUV volumes.

"This indicates a continuing premiumisation trend in the PV market, with consumers increasingly opting for higher-value vehicles that offer greater versatility and comfort," said Poonam Upadhyay, director at Crisil Ratings. "Mid-size SUVs offer more cabin and luggage space than their smaller counterparts, making them well-suited for family and long-distance travel. As household incomes rise and ownership cycles mature, many buyers are willing to pay a premium for these benefits. "Features such as connected technology, advanced safety systems and convenience equipment are further strengthening the appeal," she added.

New models boost market

The supply side is also responding. A steady stream of new models and facelifts has widened choice and intensified competition. Hyundai Motor India, for instance, plans to launch a new mid-size internal-combustion-engine SUV during the festive season, according to MD and CEO Tarun Garg. The company already sells the Creta in the segment.

Kisan Vikas Patra: In what time does this post office instrument double your money?

Kisan Vikas Patra currently offers an annual interest rate of 7.5%. At this rate, your investment can double in about nine years and seven months. An investment of Rs 1 lakh will yield approximately Rs 2 lakh upon maturity, although the terms of investment can be changed by the government.

Kolkata. (Agency)

Kisan Vikas Patra or KVP is one of the most secured instruments of investment which is available in post offices and is technical referred to as small savings instrument. If you're looking to grow your money any degree of risk, the Post Office's Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP)

scheme could certainly be an option. It's one of the government's small savings schemes and offers returns based on a fixed interest rate. At the current interest rate, your KVP investment can double in approximately 9 years and 7 months.

Rate of interest in KVP

Kisan Vikas Patra currently offers an interest rate of 7.5% per annum. This interest is calculated on a compounded basis. This means that the interest earned on your investment also contributes to future interest earnings. This is why the investment amount gradually grows rapidly over time. However, the KVP interest rate is subject to change during the government's review of small savings schemes.

How much will Rs 1 lakh be in KVP?

If an individual invests Rs 1 lakh in Kisan

Vikas Patra and stays invested for the entire maturity period, this amount could grow to around Rs 2 lakh based on current interest rates. This means the investor's money could double in approximately 9



years and 7 months. During this time, the investor does not have to worry about daily market price fluctuations like with stocks or mutual funds.

Comes with a sovereign guarantee

KVP is one of the small savings schemes

issued at post offices of the country. It is backed by the government of India and, therefore, almost no risk compared to any market-linked investment options. Since the risk is negligible, the potential for generating returns is also limited. Therefore, it is important to consider your financial goals and investment horizon before investing.

Is early withdrawal permitted?

Kisan Vikas Patra is a long-term savings scheme. Premature withdrawals are available after investing under certain conditions. However, if the investor maintains the investment for the specified period, they receive the maturity amount as per the scheme's rules. This lock-in period is 30 months. Therefore, KVP may be particularly useful for those who wish to keep their money invested safely for a long period.

1 lakh candidates to compete for 629 AEE posts in AP

VIJAYAWADA.(Agency)

In a major employment drive across AP's power generation, transmission, and distribution sectors, APTRANSCO, APGENCO, APSPDCL, APEPDCL, and APCPDCL, are conducting a common recruitment examination for 629 Assistant Executive Engineer (AEE) positions. Almost 1,05,566 candidates registered till July 20. Of the total 629 posts, APTRANSCO accounts for 200,



APEPDCL for 135, APSPDCL for 134, APGENCO for 100, and APCPDCL for 60. Selected candidates will earn a consolidated pay of Rs 75,000 per month during a two-year probation before shifting to regular pay scales.

The CBT runs from August 23 to 27, across 94 centres (81 in AP and 13 outside). Hall tickets on apvidyutrecruitment.apcfss.in. The schedule starts on August 23 with Civil Engineering, followed by Mechanical Engineering on August 24. Telecom/Electronics on August 25, while Electrical Engineering on August 26 and 27.

Awareness in cyber frauds in Bihar getting a move through community radio story

Bihar.(Agency)

As digital payments, smartphones and online government services become increasingly integrated into farmers' daily lives, awareness of cyber fraud has emerged as an important component of rural digital literacy and Bihar is taking a proactive outreach in it. Addressing this growing concern, Bihar Agricultural University (BAU), Sabour, through its community radio station Radio Green FM 90.8 MHz, hosted a special programme on cyber safety for farmers on Friday.

The programme featured cyber security expert and author of Webkoof, Abhinav Das, who discussed common forms of cyber fraud and outlined simple precautions farmers can take to protect their money, mobile devices and personal information. The discussion was held in the context of Cyber Secure Bihar, an awareness initiative involving Bihar Police, State Bank of India (SBI) and Intenext Solutions Private Limited, aimed at promoting safer and more responsible digital behaviour across the state. According to a statement shared with this newspaper, Das explained cyber fraud.

Big win! 'Periyar Kullan' gets national recognition as Kerala's second indigenous cattle breed

KOCHI.(Agency)

Bringing joy to around 200 farmers in Ernakulam and Thrissur who have been working for its conservation, Periyar cow, aka Periyar Kullan, has been recognised as a cattle breed indigenous to Kerala.

The ICAR National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources registered Periyar Cow as an indigenous cattle breed, making it the second to get the tag in the state after Vechur Cow. The recognition follows three years of study by a team of researchers from Kerala University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences.

Locally called Kuttampuzha cattle and Andukanni, Periyar cows are mainly seen in Koovappady, Angamaly, Kothamangalam and Chalakudy regions. With minimal human interaction, they thrive under semi-feral and silvopastoral condition (grazing in a single managed unit in vegetation comprising trees, shrubs and grass) rather than open pastures. They are small to medium in size and weigh between 150 and 200 kg. The Vechur cows weigh around 130kg.

"The Periyar breed has a dark brown colour which makes it stand out from other native varieties. Usually, the cows, once let out from sheds, wander around and graze in the plantation areas before returning to their farms by evening," said R Thirupathy Venkatachalapathy, a professor of animal genetics & breeding and director of farms at Kerala Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (KVASU). "Those seen in forest fringes, the ones not reared by farmers, have some typical locations to seek shelter at night. Due to the breed's wandering behaviour, studying its features was a difficult and time consuming process," he said.

Jharkhand Students, Hemant Soren Party Workers Clash Over Burning Of Effigy

The student leaders alleged that the police and workers of the ruling Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) tried to prevent them from holding a peaceful march.

Ranchi.(Agency)

Clashes broke out between the protesting students and police in Jharkhand's Capital Ranchi and several other places in the state on Friday evening as the agitators attempted to burn effigies of Chief Minister Hemant Soren and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, officials said.

Similar incidents were reported from Hazaribag and Giridih, where JMM workers clashed with students trying to burn effigies of Soren. Student leaders under the banner of the 'JPSC-JSSC Reforms Manch' have accused the Jharkhand government of "deceiving" and "betraying" job aspirants, after the high court stayed some notifications cancelling appointments through the 11th and 13th JPSC exams besides the JSSC-CGL.

"They gathered in large number at the prominent Albert Chowk to burn effigies of CM Soren and Rahul Gandhi. When the police tried to control them, a scuffle broke out... JMM workers were also present at the spot," police said.

Ranchi DSP KV Raman said the scuffle broke out after protesting students changed the designated route and brought traffic to a halt.

"The students changed the route defined for the march and effigy burning... They went to the



JPSC office and brought traffic to a halt there. The agitators did not listen to our repeated pleas to adhere to the designated route," Raman said. The student leaders alleged that the police and workers of the ruling Jharkhand Mukti

Morcha (JMM) tried to prevent them from holding a peaceful march.

They cannot stop us from holding peaceful and democratic protests," JPSC-JSSC Reforms Manch leader Ravindra Paswan said.

Piyush Kumar Singh, another student leader, claimed that one of the core committee members of the Manch, Kunal, was detained by the police, but he fainted and was subsequently taken to Sadar Hospital.

The agitators also alleged that even female protesters were thrashed during the scuffle by JMM workers. The students had called off their agitation earlier this week after the Soren government decided to cancel the JPSC exams where irregularities were alleged. The high court on Friday stayed notifications cancelling the appointments of Child Development Project Officers (CDPOs) and those recruited through the JSSC-CGL examination.

On Thursday, the court had stayed notifications cancelling the 11th and 13th Jharkhand Public Service Commission (JPSC) examinations, and also stayed the order cancelling the appointments of food safety officers.

Tensions In Andhra As Student Groups Clash On Road, Hit Each Other With Sticks

Visakhapatnam.(Agency)

Tension gripped Andhra Pradesh's Marikavalasa-Thimmapuram Master Plan Road in Visakhapatnam on Thursday after a group of around 20 young people clashed, prompting police intervention and the detention of 17 persons. According to the police, the fight was triggered after a dispute between two students near Chandrapalem School.

What began as an argument later escalated after the youths formed two groups and allegedly confronted each other with sticks. Four people were reportedly attacked during the clash.

Police said some of them were suspected to have consumed alcohol before the incident. The situation became tense again later on Thursday night when some of those involved

allegedly attempted to confront each other at Shivashakti Nagar on Thimmapuram Road.

"A case has been registered against six youths in connection with the incident. Three of them



are majors, and three are minors. We are investigating the role of each person involved," CI Balakrishna said.

On receiving information about the renewed

confrontation, police reached the spot. The young people reportedly fled after seeing the police.

Officers later traced and detained 17 of the 20 accused identified in connection with the incident. Police have registered six cases and are examining CCTV footage, statements and other available evidence to establish the sequence of events and determine the individual roles of those involved. "Strict action will be taken against anyone involved in violence or attempts to disturb public order. We appeal to youngsters not to take the law into their own hands or settle personal disputes through violence," CI Balakrishna said. Police are also verifying whether alcohol or drug consumption contributed to the escalation of the dispute and whether any additional persons were involved.

Penthouse, Gold, Cash: Rs 6.87 Crore Assets Unearthed In Raids Against Telangana Revenue Officer

Hyderabad.(Agency)

The Telangana Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Thursday registered a disproportionate assets case against a Tahsildar (revenue officer) and estimated his assets at over Rs 6.87 crore. The officer has been identified as Desani Srinivas Reddy, currently working as a divisional administrative officer in Ibrahimpatnam in Ranga Reddy district. Searches at Reddy's residence, office and five other locations on August 20 led investigators to documents of several properties valued at Rs 6.87 crore. This includes two residential flats valued at Rs 2.63 crore,

a ground-plus-three penthouse valued at Rs 1.61 crore, 10 acres of agricultural land and eight open plots in various locations in the city and its outskirts.



Reddy had additionally invested Rs 86 lakh as his share in a bar and restaurant. Rs 4 lakh in cash, bank deposits, 680 grams of gold, three four-wheelers, two

two-wheelers, and several household articles and electronic items have also been recovered.

While the ACB's documented valuation stands at Rs 6.87 crore, the market value of the immovable properties is reportedly several times higher and is estimated at around over Rs 50 crore.

The ACB alleges that Srinivas Reddy amassed the assets through corrupt practices and beyond his known sources of income.

Reddy has been arrested and will be produced before the special judge for judicial remand. A disproportionate assets case had earlier been registered against Reddy in December 2009, when he was working as a mandal.

Odisha High Court finds manipulation in district judge exam marks

CUTTACK.(Agency)

In a significant development, the Orissa High Court has found that the marks secured by a candidate in the General English paper of the District Judge recruitment examination in 2023 were manipulated, depriving her of an opportunity to appear for the interview.

A division bench of Justice Manash Ranjan Pathak and Justice Sibho Sankar Mishra have asked the registrar general to place the matter before the Chief Justice on the administrative side and initiate steps to conduct the interview of petitioner Geetanjali Majhi for direct recruitment to the District Judge cadre from the Bar.

The bench directed that the interview process be completed within two weeks from August 18, after constitution of a committee of judges by the Chief Justice.

Majhi had appeared in the written examination conducted on November 5, 2023, for 23 District Judge posts. Although she secured 65 marks in Paper-I and 52 in Paper-II, she was shown to have obtained only 42 marks in Paper-III (General English), three marks short of the stipulated qualifying score of 45 in each paper.

She subsequently obtained a copy of her answer script from the state public information officer and found that she had actually secured 45 marks in General English. Claiming that the marks had been wrongly computed in the tabulation sheet, she approached the High Court.

Cockroach, Flies, Fakes: Action Against Mumbai McDonald's Outlet, Elite Clubs

The inspection at the Bombay Presidency Radio Club uncovered active fly infestations in various kitchen areas, a dead cockroach, and open cockroach traps in the utensil-washing zone.

Mumbai.(Agency)

The Maharashtra Food and Drug Administration (FDA) suspended the food licences of prominent South Mumbai establishments, including The Bombay Presidency Radio Club, the Colaba outlet of McDonald's and the Status Restaurant in Nariman Point, following surprise inspections in August.

The FDA has suspended the food licence of The Bombay Presidency Radio Club due to severe violations of safety and hygiene regulations. During the inspection of the club's kitchen on Wednesday, officials found a massive breach of food safety and sanitation standards.

The inspection uncovered active fly infestations in various kitchen areas, a dead cockroach, and open cockroach traps in the utensil-washing zone. Authorities found flaking ceiling plaster directly over food

preparation areas, posing a risk of falling into food, as well as washing powders and chemicals stored right alongside food items.

Utensils and food products were discovered to be kept directly on the floor, non-vegetarian refrigerators were unhygienic, and food items were not being thawed properly.

Staff members' sweaty helmets and clothing were found stored alongside food, kitchen doors were improperly sealed, waste bins were placed next to cooking stoves, and signs of spitting were noticed on the premises.

The inspection revealed an overall non-compliance rate of 47 per cent by the establishment. Citing public health and safety, the FDA suspended the licence under Section 32(3) of the Food Safety and Standards (FSS) Act, 2006. The club has been ordered to immediately

halt all food purchases, sales, and distribution during the suspension period, with a warning of stern legal action for any



violations.

Authorities found widespread disregard for basic protocols, such as staff handling food without washing hands, uncalibrated refrigeration units, and a complete lack of

temperature monitoring logs. The McDonald's kiosk in Colaba was penalised for failing 18 out of 20 safety points, submitting falsified 148-page compliance reports, and deceptively using cheese analogues without menu declarations.

Operating licences have been suspended with immediate effect under the FSS Act, 2006, barring all food manufacturing, sales, and distribution until full compliance is legally verified. Following the raids, McDonald's said they have zero-tolerance towards food safety hazards and are reviewing the FDA report. "At McDonald's, we take pride in maintaining high food safety standards across our restaurants and have a zero-tolerance approach to food safety issues. We respect the regulatory process and are reviewing the observations referenced."

New 'players' increase police 'bandwidth' as 126 musicians join Kerala Police band

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM.(Agency)

For two years, Dani J Stanly, a native of Adoor, worked with Vineeth Sreenivasan's music band as a guitarist. He travelled extensively, performing with the group. Now, Dani is on the verge of hitting another major milestone in his life: he is among 126 cadets who will officially become part of the police band unit on Saturday after having completed nine months of training at the Police Training College in Thiruvananthapuram. The induction of civil police officers to the band unit is a milestone for the police as well. It is for the first time in police history that the band members have been recruited through the Public Service Commission (PSC). The police band was formed in 1975 and the department in the past would bring in local artists or transfer personnel with artistic inclination to meet the band's requirements.

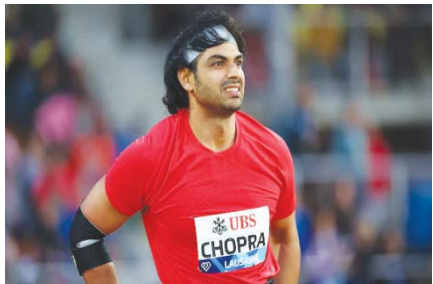
This method continued until 2006, after which there was a freeze in hiring. The current recruitment via PSC was done to fill the vacancies and to strengthen the band unit, which had shrunk in size over the years.

The band unit is responsible for playing marching tunes for the Independence Day, Republic Day and police parades. The unit also provides its service during VIP visits and other major departmental events. Once they pass out, the band unit members will be attached to various camps across the state and they will be responsible for performing during police events for the next 25 to 30 years.

Dani, who specialised in playing the euphonium during training, said he chose the police job on account of it being a stable profession where he can pursue his passion as well.

NEWS BOX

Lausanne Diamond League: Neeraj Chopra warms up for Asian Games with season-best throw



New Delhi. (Agency)

If the Commonwealth Games was seen as progress for Neeraj Chopra, then the Lausanne Diamond League can be viewed as a statement and a step in the right direction for the Indian ace. Neeraj produced his season-best throw of 88.05 m to finish second at the Lausanne Diamond League.

Once again, it was Rumesh Pathirage who continued his fine form to clinch the top spot with a throw of 88.14m. Grenada's Anderson Pieters finished third with a season-best performance of 86.69m ahead of Keshorn Walcott in fourth.

This will serve as a great preparation for the Indian ace as he looks to defend his Asian Games crown in Japan next month.

A DIFFERENT NEERAJ ON DISPLAY

"Although we always want the National anthem to play, I did my season's best and the comeback is going okay. There are other competitions as well. I am happy." These were the words of Neeraj right after winning the silver medal at the recent Commonwealth Games in Glasgow. While we don't often celebrate silvers in our country, it truly felt like a moment of jubilation for the fans of the javelin star.

For months, he was struggling with injury and a lot of changes to his coaching staff also happened. He went back to his roots and decided to find a new way to return to the top. On Friday, we saw a different side to Neeraj. The Indian ace wasn't content with finishing second and was pushing for the top prize. He started the day with an 83.54m throw after Pathirage set the benchmark with his first attempt of 85.99. From that moment, it felt like the battle for the top spot was going to be between the two South Asians in Lausanne. Pieters then produced a stunning throw to send Neeraj down to third for a bit, and the fans would have been wondering if it was going to be one of the nights of despair. Pathirage had already extended his lead and all eyes were on Neeraj.

Women's Hockey World Cup: India's semifinal qualification scenario explained

New Delhi. (Agency)

India's hopes of reaching the semi-finals of the FIH Women's Hockey World Cup 2026 remain alive despite a 0-2 defeat to the Netherlands in the second round. The loss has left the Salima Tete-led side fourth in Group E with one point, but India can still finish among the top two and book a place in the last four. The top two teams from the second round will advance to the semi-finals, leaving India with a straightforward requirement heading into their final group-stage match: they must beat Australia. Alcaraz won his first Gran Slam title in the 2022 U.S. Open, a victory that at 19 made him the youngest man to hold the No. 1 spot in the ATP rankings. Australia also have one point after drawing 1-1 with China, but



currently sit above India because of their superior goals-scored tally. That makes Sunday's clash between India and Australia a must-win encounter for the Indian side.

WHAT INDIA NEED TO QUALIFY

The result of the Netherlands-China match, which will take place before India face Australia on Sunday, will also have a major bearing on the qualification scenario.

India will want the Netherlands to avoid defeat against China. If the Dutch beat China, it would leave India in a strong position to capitalise with a victory over Australia.

A draw between the Netherlands and China would also keep India's hopes alive. China would move to three points, and if India then beat Australia, the Indian side would move to four points and could finish second in the group. The situation becomes considerably more complicated if China beat the Netherlands.

Vaibhav Sooryavanshi can give Test cricket an exciting future: Rahul Dravid

Rahul Dravid believes Vaibhav Sooryavanshi's red-ball development could have a major impact on Test cricket's future, urging patience with the 15-year-old as he prepares to play for East Zone in the Duleep Trophy.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Rahul Dravid believes Vaibhav Sooryavanshi could give Test cricket an "exciting future", but the former India captain wants the 15-year-old's development to be carefully managed as he begins another chapter in red-ball cricket. Sooryavanshi is set to feature for East Zone in the Duleep Trophy, giving him an important opportunity to build continuity in the longer format after making a huge

impact in white-ball cricket. Dravid, who coached him at Rajasthan Royals in IPL 2025, believes that balance could ultimately determine whether the teenager develops into an all-format cricketer.

"Hopefully someday if he does well and performs well like he has in white-ball cricket, he might become a red-ball player for India," Dravid told Cricinfo. "And how exciting that would be for the world game as well." The comments come as Sooryavanshi prepares to spend more time in the format that has so far formed the smaller part of his rapidly developing career.

A DIFFERENT CHALLENGE

Sooryavanshi has played only eight first-class matches and averages 17.25, with his appearances lacking the continuity that comes from spending a sustained period in domestic red-ball cricket.

The Duleep Trophy offers him exactly that opportunity. More red-ball cricket could follow when India A face Australia A in two unofficial Tests in September. For Dravid, that exposure is more important than



rushing the teenager into an endless cycle of T20 competitions. "I think you always have to find that balance," he said. "And I think it's a great thing that Vaibhav is getting the experience of playing some white-ball cricket through the IPL in India, but he's also having the time to go back and play red-ball cricket in the Indian domestic system and grow his red-ball career."

The shift from T20 cricket to the longer format will demand a different kind of adjustment.

Sooryavanshi has already shown that he can dominate attacks with aggressive strokeplay, but first-class cricket will test his ability to build an innings, absorb pressure and maintain concentration over much longer periods.

No excuses: India needs 60 minutes of pure hockey to stun Netherlands in World Cup

India has no other option but to win against the Netherlands when both teams square off in phase two of the men's hockey World Cup on Saturday, August 22. India will need to sharpen themselves in defence and other areas to ensure that their semi-final hopes don't come to an end.

Dhaka. (Agency)

The equation is simple for the Indian men's hockey team. The margin for error doesn't exist and certainly, there is no more space to have excuses. India will head into the clash against reigning Olympic Champions, the Netherlands, knowing that only a win will do for them.

After finishing second in Pool D, India moved into the second phase in a pickle. This is down to the new format introduced by FIH, meaning that the result from the previous pool gets carried on into the new one. India won

against Wales and edged past a spirited Pakistan, but the loss to England meant that they will start the second phase on the backfoot.

To top it all, they will be facing the Netherlands and Argentina, two teams ranked above them in the FIH rankings. A loss on Saturday, August 22 against the Dutch will be curtains for them and their hopes to ending a wait of more than 50 years to make it to the World Cup semi-finals.



Never seen Pakistan so timid: Vaughan delivers stark verdict after Headingley rout



New Delhi. (Agency)

Former England captain Michael Vaughan has warned that Pakistan are in a troubling position after their heavy first-Test defeat at Headingley, admitting he "really fears" for a side he felt looked more timid than any Pakistan team he had previously seen. England crushed Pakistan by an innings and 103 runs in a one-sided contest that lasted barely three days, with the hosts completing victory before tea despite losing more than half a day's play to rain. Joe Root's return as England's permanent

captain could hardly have begun better. England recovered from the turmoil surrounding their Test setup following the series defeat by New Zealand eight weeks ago, with Ben Stokes stepping down as captain and Brendon McCullum relieved

of his red-ball duties.

After England added 43 runs to their overnight score to reach 409 and secure a first-innings lead of 238, their pace attack dismantled Pakistan for just 135 in 37.3 overs.

‘NEVER SEEN THEM SO TIMID’

Josh Tongue and Ollie Robinson claimed three wickets apiece in the second innings, while Jofra Archer finished with 3-50 to complete a commanding performance from England's seamers. Pakistan's batting never threatened to make a contest of the chase. Mohammad Rizwan top-scored with only 41, while Imam-ul-Haq fell without a run on the board for the second time in the match. The gulf between the sides prompted a bleak assessment from Vaughan, who was speaking on BBC Test Match Special. "They've been absolutely blown away. They've been hammered. I've never seen them look so timid," Vaughan said. "The tactical side wasn't there. The skill level and the class between the sides, Pakistan look a long way short." Vaughan's concerns extend beyond one heavy defeat. Pakistan have struggled for consistency in Test cricket, with their latest collapse raising fresh questions over the direction of the team. "I look at this side and feel quite sad watching them this week," Vaughan said. "I've seen many Pakistan sides play and this side just seem to be lacking all that spirit and fight we've become accustomed to seeing."

Mitchell Starc all smiles as wife Alyssa Healy interviews him after fiery Mackay spell



Mackay. (Agency)

Mitchell Starc had already put together a morning to remember in Mackay before his post-session interview took an unexpectedly familiar turn. After ripping through Bangladesh with 6/12, the Australian quick walked off the field to find former Australia women's captain and his wife, Alyssa Healy, waiting with a microphone and a few questions of her own.

Starc's spell helped Australia bowl Bangladesh out for just 64, their fourth-lowest Test total, after their shock nine-wicket defeat in Darwin. Speaking to Fox Sports at lunch, Healy mixed the cricket with some familiar banter as Starc walked off the field with a huge smile. "Yeah, who would have thought they'd stitch this one up? I paid for dinner last night. Does that mean it's now your turn?" Healy asked. "You're paid the bigger bucks than I am," Starc replied.

Healy then turned to the cricket, asking whether winning the toss and choosing to bowl was exactly what Australia had hoped for. "You said it before, you've played here more than the rest of us, but, yeah, I mean, we clearly weren't at our best last week," Starc said.

"To get first use of that wicket, a lot of the Queenslanders here have said it's a lot like the Gabba. So, yeah, to make first use of that in the first session, you can't be too unhappy. Six in the first session, can't beat that. Obviously a little bit of anger. It's worked well so far, hopefully we can keep it up."

Starc had every reason to be pleased. He removed Shadman Islam with the first ball of the Test, completed his five-for in just 22 deliveries and then returned to take the final Bangladesh wicket, dismissing Shoriful Islam to finish with 6/12.

STARC LEADS AUSTRALIA'S REDEMPTION

The spell was exactly the response Australia needed after their defeat in Darwin. Starc dismissed Shadman, Tanzid Hasan, Najmul Hossain Shanto, Mominul Haque, Litton Das and Shoriful as Bangladesh were bundled out for 64.

Cristiano Ronaldo kickstarts probable final season with 977th career goal

Cristiano Ronaldo has begun what could be his final season with another landmark goal. The 41-year-old scored his 977th career goal for Al Nassr, leaving him just 23 short of the historic 1,000 mark.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Cristiano Ronaldo has begun what could be his final season as a professional footballer in typically familiar fashion. The 41-year-old came off the bench to score his 977th career goal as Al Nassr began their campaign with a 4-0 win over Al Riyadh on Friday. Ronaldo had recently suggested that



this season could be his last as a professional footballer, adding extra significance to his return to action. The Portugal star had also recently married Georgina Rodriguez and was back in the Al Nassr squad after missing their opening Saudi Pro League win over Al Fateh and King's Cup victory against Al

Diriyah.

Al Nassr had already built a three-goal advantage by the time Ronaldo entered in the 62nd minute. Abdulrahman Al-Amri, ngelo Gabriel and Joo Felix had found the net to put the visitors firmly in control. Ronaldo needed only 21

RONALDO'S 1000-GOAL AIM BEFORE RETIREMENT

The goal was Ronaldo's 130th for Al Nassr since his move to Saudi Arabia in December 2022. It also extended his remarkable scoring run across 25 consecutive professional seasons.

Ronaldo comes into the new campaign after scoring 35 goals for club and country during the 2025-26 season. His latest strike also means he is now only 23 goals away from reaching 1,000, a landmark no player has officially achieved in senior professional football.

minutes to make his presence felt. Aiman Yahya's low cross found him inside the box, and the forward controlled the ball before sweeping his finish into the net from close range to take his career tally to 977.



Kiara Advani

Calls Toxic A 'Peculiar Alchemy', Urges Everyone To Book Tickets For Yash Starrer

Actress Kiara Advani described her upcoming film 'Toxic' as more than just a fairy tale and shared that the creative vision and talent from across the board came together to create what the film's director calls a "peculiar alchemy."

Kiara took to Instagram, where she shared a BTS video from the making of the film and wrote: "A fairy tale isn't just what this film is. It's also what making it was. One string of thought, talent from everywhere, each doing right by their craft, avalanching into TOXIC. "Peculiar Alchemy," as our Director calls it."

Kiara on August 18 had spoken about her experience of working on 'Toxic: A Fairy Tale for Grown-Ups' and shared that the film pushed her out of her comfort



zone and taught her to embrace the unfamiliar and discover new skills along the way.

For the caption, she wrote: "Films have a beautiful way of making us step into worlds we've never known, sometimes quite literally. Every new character, every new set, every crazy challenge teaches you something you didn't know you were capable of."

Kiara added: "This one taught me to be comfortable with the unfamiliar, to stay curious, to keep learning and to find joy in the adventure of it all. Because growth, for me, has always been about saying yes to the things that scare you a little... and loving the journey that follows."

Toxic: A Fairy Tale for Grown-Ups is a gangster film. It stars Yash in a dual role, alongside Kiara, Nayanthara, Huma Qureshi, Tara Sutaria and Rukmini Vasanth.

The film explores the life of Raya, a violent gangster and playboy who rose to power in the underworld crime before his eventual downfall. Years later, he has to face his biological son Rumi / Ticket, who prepared his revenge on Raya, after the latter abandoned him and his wife.

Deepika Padukone

LEAKED Spirit's Plot, Wanted 10 Per Cent Profit: Pranay Reddy Vanga On Real Reason Behind Exit

Sandeep Reddy Vanga's brother, Pranay Reddy Vanga, who is a producer on Spirit, has opened up about Deepika Padukone's exit from the film. Deepika's exit became highly controversial as many rumours clouded this



decision. It also sparked a debate about pay parity and work hours in the Indian entertainment industry.

'Deepika Was Unhappy With Salary, Sandeep Let Her Go'

Pranay has now confirmed that Deepika had to exit the project due to issues regarding remuneration, scheduling and more. Pranay told NTV Telugu, "The reason is the same as what was already mentioned. One was remuneration, the second was timing. Apart from that, there are some other reasons too. I don't remember on the top of my head right now, but there were multiple things. It was Sandeep's call."

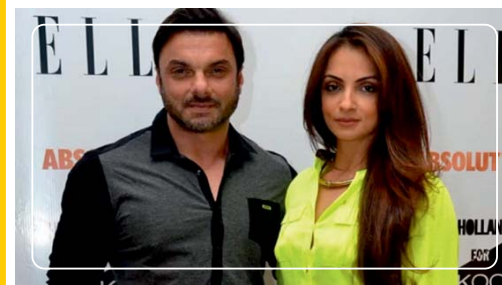
'Deepika Wanted 10 Per Cent Of Film's Profit' He claimed that Sandeep was keen to cast Deepika and had been in touch with her for 1.5 years. However, "She demanded 10 per cent from the film's profit. Soon after, everything went overboard. See, she can ask for anything. If we are willing to give, we can give. But the economics (budget) should also work out for us. We thought that it was not working. This is why we thought of other options".

'Deepika Leaked Spirit Plot' He even alleged, "Once we started looking for other options, they started leaking everything... We discussed the story and character with her. Things discussed internally should not be revealed, but she leaked all of them. That is why we are disturbed." Pranay said that they were willing to pay Deepika Rs 5-6 crore more; however, it was the overall budget of the film that became an issue for the actress.

'Triptii Dimri Roped In, Spirit Release Date' Deepika has yet to react to these claims. Meanwhile, after Deepika's exit, Triptii Dimri was roped in to star opposite Prabhas. Triptii has previously worked with Sandeep in Animal, which made her a household name. Spirit is scheduled to be released in theatres on March 5, 2027.



Seema Sajdeh Says Ex-Husband Sohail Khan Is A 'Creature Of Habit And Routine': 'Likes His Comfort Zone'



Actor Sohail Khan's ex-wife, Seema Sajdeh, has said that the actor is an extremely private person and likes to keep to himself. She also opened up about her approach to relationships and shared that, while she remains open to companionship someday, she is currently completely comfortable being on her own. Seema recently spoke with actor couple Neha Dhupia and Angad Bedi on 'Double Date', and said that Sohail generally gets along with people but is not someone who engages in too many conversations. She explained that he tends to keep to himself and is most comfortable within his own familiar environment. Seema said, "He likes his comfort zone". As the reality show 'Alliance' progressed, Sohail began missing his family, his home and his children. She described him as a "creature of habit and routine". She also spoke about her outlook on relationships; post her divorce with Sohail Khan, she admitted that after a long day, what she really wants is to go home to her dogs. She said that if another person were sitting there waiting for her, she is not sure she would necessarily be comfortable with it anymore because she has become accustomed to being herself, saying, "I'm very happy by myself". She also revealed that she has opted for cosmetic surgeries like Fillers, Botox, and Profhilo treatments along with laser treatments for skincare and beauty routine. She appeared comfortable discussing the treatments she has undergone, reflecting her straightforward approach towards beauty, ageing and self-care. Seema's candid conversation in Double Date was ultimately about finding comfort in one's own identity. She addressed different aspects of her life without shying away from difficult conversations.

Shah Rukh Khan Helped Niki Walia Uncover Truth Behind Her 2000 Car Accident: 'He Saw The Same Van'



Niki Aneja Walia has recalled how Shah Rukh Khan helped her uncover what had gone wrong after she was run over by a car while shooting for a television serial in 2000. The accident left the Astitva actor hospitalised for more than a month and disrupted several projects she was working on at the time.

According to Niki, Shah Rukh visited her in hospital and shared a crucial detail about the vehicle involved in the accident. That information eventually helped her learn that an inexperienced man had allegedly been put behind the wheel for the scene.

Niki Walia Clarifies Her Equation With Shah Rukh Khan

During an interview with Buzzzooka Prime, Niki was asked about Shah Rukh, with the host referring to him as her close friend. She quickly clarified that while they knew each other and had worked together, they weren't best friends. "He has been my friend, my colleague. But, you all need to please stop thinking that he is my best friend," Niki said.

The two had worked together on live shows and world tours. Niki was also initially supposed to play the female lead in the 1997 film Yes Boss, but eventually opted out due to personal reasons.

Shah Rukh Visited Niki At 12.30 AM

Recalling her hospitalisation, Niki said Shah Rukh was filming at Film City at the time and had noticed something that made him question whether her accident was simply an unfortunate mishap. "I was in such a bad state. I was in the hospital for over a month," she recalled.

Shah Rukh deliberately waited until 12.30 am to visit her because photographers were stationed outside the hospital, Niki said. Rumours about her condition had also spiralled, with some even falsely claiming that she had died.

"He wanted to meet me personally and know how I was doing," she said, adding that he also wanted to find out whether the incident had been caused by someone's carelessness.

What Shah Rukh Khan Had Seen Before The Accident

Niki said Shah Rukh was shooting Devdas when his car was briefly held up because a man was learning to drive on Khandala bridge. The detail became significant when Shah Rukh subsequently heard about her accident.

NEWS BOX

Syria requests to join anti-chemical weapons partnership

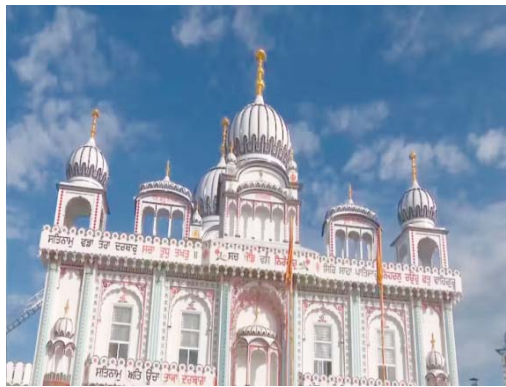
DAMASCUS.(Agency)

Syria on Friday said it had requested to join the International Partnership Against Impunity for the Use of Chemical Weapons on the anniversary of a 2013 chemical attack on a suburb of the capital Damascus. In a joint statement with France commemorating the attack during former leader Bashar al-Assad's rule on rebel-held areas, Syria announced its bid to join the partnership of dozens of countries, launched by Paris in January 2018. France welcomed the step as "a clear demonstration of Syria's commitment to strengthening accountability and justice and combating impunity" following its more than decade-long civil war. Damascus and Paris also said they "commemorate the victims, extend their deepest sympathies and solidarity to their families, and reaffirm their joint commitment to supporting efforts to uncover the truth, ensure justice, and hold those responsible for these crimes accountable". In August 2013, the Syrian army under Assad was accused of using chemical weapons to target areas then under rebel control. According to US intelligence and rights groups, more than 1,400 en, women and children died as a result.

Day After Release From Jail, Man Stabs 2 At Canada Gurudwara With Screwdriver

world.(Agency)

Two men were stabbed inside a gurdwara in Canada on Friday morning after they tried to stop a man attempting to access the prayer area. The accused, a 27-year-old, has been arrested for stabbing two people with a screwdriver and disrupting morning prayers at the Nanaksar Gurdwara Gursikh Temple in Edmonton. On Friday morning, at 4:49, the Edmonton Police Service (EPS) received reports of a male walking in traffic on Highway 15 near Horseshill Road. Less than half an hour later, at 5:05, police began receiving reports of a stabbing at the gurdwara in the area. According to preliminary reports, a male entered the gurdwara and attempted



to access the prayer area when he was confronted by staff. "The confrontation then escalated and two male patrons of the gurdwara were stabbed. Witnesses intervened and detained the man until Northeast Branch patrol officers arrived at 5:10 am and immediately took him into custody," the police said. The two victims -- a 75-year-old male and a 51-year-old male -- were taken to the hospital with non-life-threatening injuries. The accused has a history of attacks, Acting Inspector Eric Stewart said during a press briefing. At this time we can tell you that the 27-year-old man is known to police and has a significant history of violent offences dating back to 2015. We have learned that he was released from a federal institution yesterday, August 20, where he had been serving a sentence for aggravated assault and assaulting a peace officer, and he failed to report to his designated Edmonton halfway house," Stewart said. Investigators are probing whether the incident was motivated by hate.

More than 16,000 doses of Ervebo vaccine arrive in Ebola-hit DRC

KINSHASA.(Agency)

More than 16,000 doses of the Ervebo vaccine arrived in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) late Friday, an AFP journalist saw, as the country faces the deadliest Ebola outbreak in its history. The DRC's 17th Ebola outbreak, which has killed thousands of people, was declared on May 15 but is thought to have been spreading for several weeks prior. It has hit regions in the north and east where the presence of the state is weak, health infrastructure is largely lacking and myriad armed groups have roamed for decades. The World Health Organization (WHO) announced on Thursday that the DRC would receive a total of 70,000 doses of the Ervebo vaccine, produced in Germany. The vaccine, developed by the pharmaceutical company Merck, is approved against the Zaire strain of the virus, but not against the Bundibugyo strain currently circulating in the country. WHO experts still do not know whether Ervebo protects humans against the

Bundibugyo strain, but early data, notably from animal trials, suggest it could offer some protection. The Ervebo vaccine "has already been used several times, and in particular on a very large scale during the 2018-2020 outbreak", Samuel Roger Kamba, the DRC's minister of health, told the press. He was speaking on the tarmac of Kinshasa airport, where a batch of 16,250 doses was delivered by plane on Friday. Of the 70,000 doses made available to the DRC, 20,000 are intended for a clinical trial, and 50,000 for "frontline and health workers" in the DRC, the WHO explained on Thursday. The Ebola outbreak in the DRC has already caused 2,516 deaths among 5,290 confirmed cases, according to the latest data published by the Congolese authorities. It "is growing exponentially", warned Julien Harneis, the UN's senior Ebola coordinator, on Friday. This month, WHO vaccine experts recommended a full-scale human trial of Ervebo, the only existing approved Ebola vaccine, to see if it offered cross-protection against the Bundibugyo strain.

US imposes 50% tariffs on USD 20 billion worth of Canadian products; Carney vows to retaliate

WASHINGTON.(Agency)

Hefty US tariffs on some Canadian products took effect on Saturday after days of negotiations that went down to the wire failed to produce an agreement. Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney vowed that his country will match the US tariffs "dollar for dollar to protect our workers and businesses", after officials said late Friday that Washington and Ottawa had not managed to strike a deal. The lack of a final agreement means that new 50-percent duties, set to impact some USD 20 billion of Canadian exports to the United States, took effect on Saturday. US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer told reporters on Friday that "tonight, Canada declined to finalize the trade deal under the terms agreed earlier this week." That came despite Washington's offers for tariff reductions in sectors like steel and aluminum, he added. The surprise

announcement came after Trump said that the United States "should be able to have a deal with Canada," citing his "good relationship" with Carney.

After hours of trade talks on Friday, however, Canada's top negotiator Dominic LeBlanc told reporters that officials still "have more work to do." LeBlanc and Greer also met for around three hours on Thursday. Greer said that the Trump administration put on the table "significant tariff reductions on steel, aluminum, autos and lumber" in exchange for concessions from Canada. He said that Canada was also maintaining its "prolonged retaliation" against the United States. But Carney said in a statement that "last-minute changes in the US proposed terms were unfair, uneconomic, and called into question the reliability of any deal." "Discriminatory treatment" Canada's regional leaders said previously that the United States was particularly irritated by

one retaliatory measure: the removal of US alcohol and wine from liquor stores. The White House had alleged "discriminatory treatment" by Canada



against US alcohol, automobile and dairy products in introducing the duties. They were originally set to take effect on Wednesday, before Trump issued a last-minute delay of three days -- citing major progress in talks. Canadian negotiators

have been camped out in Washington this week to firm up a deal that aimed to address various flash points. Canada has been seeking relief from Trump's tariffs on autos, steel and aluminum, which have battered the country's economy, forced job losses and strained what was once an iron-clad trade relationship. Carney has repeatedly told Canadians that relations with the United States have been forever changed, regardless of what happens with an individual trade deal. He says the country must diversify and reduce its reliance on the United States, which currently accounts for roughly 70 percent of Canadian exports. Beyond the ongoing negotiations, the United States and Canada still have to agree on revisions to the North American free trade agreement, USMCA, which Trump declined to renew last month.

16 killed, 130 injured as Russian drones slam into busy shopping centre in eastern Ukraine

KYIV.(Agency)

Russian drones slammed into a busy shopping centre in eastern Ukraine Friday, killing 16 people in an attack condemned as "cynical and despicable" by President Volodymyr Zelensky. The attack on Kryvyi Rig, Zelensky's hometown, comes as Russia has intensified its bombardments of Ukrainian cities in recent months.

Four more people, including three minors, were killed in another strike in the southern Mykolaiv region, Interior Minister Ivan Vygodsky said on Telegram. Videos on social media of the Kryvyi Rig incident showed rescuers rushing to

help the wounded on the street outside, as smoke poured out of the



building. A second drone smashed into the roof of the building around half an hour after the first -- a repeat strike that Zelensky said in a post on X was "targeting the emergency

responders". Ukrainian emergency services initially said the attack had killed 15 people, wounding 130 others, 23 of them children. Oleksandr Ganzha, the head of the Dnipropetrovsk regional military administration, later posted on Telegram that "the death toll from the enemy attack has risen to 16". In his X post, Zelensky condemned "an absolutely cynical and despicable strike... carried out by the Russians against an ordinary shopping centre". Kryvyi Rig, an industrial city roughly 60 kilometres (37 miles) from the front line, has come under repeated Russian attacks throughout the war.

Iran president says time to end war while in position of strength

Talks between the longtime foes remain on hold, and the war started by the US and Israel in February has been locked in a stalemate.

SACRAMENTO.(Agency)

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said Friday it was time to end the months-long Middle East war with the United States because Tehran appeared to be in a stronger position than Washington. Talks between the longtime foes remain on hold, and the war started by the US and Israel in February has been locked in a stalemate. Tehran is keeping the key Strait of Hormuz partially shut and Washington is persisting with a naval counter-blockade of Iran. "It is better that we bring the war to an end now as we are in a position of power and dignity," Pezeshkian said in a meeting with doctors. "The whole world acknowledges our victory and

emphasises that America has attacked our schools, hospitals and infrastructure in violation of all regulations and is hated around the



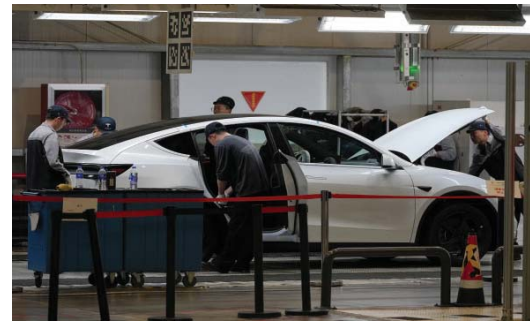
world." Pezeshkian also defended a memorandum of understanding agreed with the US in June aimed at ending the war, insisting it did not signal a defeat for Tehran. "They cannot find even a single clause in this agreement that indicates capitulation. All the commitments concern the other side," he said. His remarks came weeks after Iran's supreme leader Mojtaba Khamenei said he had approved the deal to end the war

despite having "different views". Hardline lawmakers in Iran's parliament have criticised the government over the deal, accusing it of giving concessions to the US, mostly over the re-opening of Hormuz. According to reports in US media, the American navy has been organising and protecting secret convoys of tankers through the southern sector of the strait, enabling between five and 10 million barrels a day of oil to be exported. Tehran's claims to be in the stronger position followed a US announcement that it would ramp up sanctions to heap pressure on the Islamic republic. The American plan drew condemnation from Iran's foreign ministry, which accused the US of "economic terrorism", adding the "instigators of these sanctions are deserving of trial and punishment". US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent on Thursday vowed Washington would "collapse" the Iranian regime with its threatened sanctions campaign.

Tesla recalls nearly 3 million vehicles in China over door handle safety risks

HONG KONG.(Agency)

Tesla and other Chinese carmakers are making a major recall of more than 4 million vehicles over safety concerns mostly related to their door handles, according to Chinese authorities on Friday. The U.S. carmaker is recalling about 2.98 million China-made and imported EVs including Model 3, Model Y, Model X and Model S over door handle safety risks, according to China's State Administration for Market Regulation. The recall, the largest this year according to Chinese media, comes a few months after Chinese authorities said in February that starting next year, it would be banning hidden car door handles that are commonly seen on Tesla electric vehicles and many



Chinese EV models. China has stepped up scrutiny recently on hidden, or flush, car door handles following EV accidents in the country and elsewhere, in which cars' hidden electronic doors failed and trapped people inside. In a notice on the Chinese regulator's website, it cited safety risk. In extreme situations, such as a severe collision that causes an electrical system failure, the car handles could hinder car users from quickly opening the doors to escape, or prevent rescuers outside the car from gaining access, the notice said. Tesla will perform software updates on the vehicles to mitigate risks, the notice added. Tesla did not immediately respond to a request for comment on Friday. Xiaomi, the Beijing-based Chinese technology giant, is recalling more than 390,000 vehicles. Hangzhou-based Leapmotor is recalling over 370,000 cars. Other Chinese carmakers, including Geely and XPENG are also recalling some vehicles. The reasons given in each case were similar, mostly relating to issues with their car door handles. A report published by the People's Daily, the official newspaper of China's ruling Communist Party, said the large-scale recall "serves as a unified safety upgrade" for existing vehicle models ahead of the 2027 implementation of the ban on hidden car door handles.

Pakistan rejects allegations of mistreatment, medical neglect of imprisoned ex-Premier Imran Khan

ISLAMABAD.(Agency)

Pakistan's government on Friday rejected allegations by the family and party of imprisoned former Prime Minister Imran Khan that he was being subjected to "cruelty, mental torture, punitive solitary confinement and medical neglect" as baseless, saying the accusations weren't supported by prison and medical records. Khan isn't being held under a government order, but as a "convicted prisoner" serving sentences imposed by courts following judicial proceedings, the Ministry of Information said in a written response to The Associated Press. The government's response came hours after Khan's family and opposition party accused authorities of violating a Supreme Court order by taking him to a government hospital for a medical examination instead of a private hospital designated by the court. Khan's sister, Uzma Khan, told a news conference that she was at the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences, a government-run hospital in Islamabad, when her brother

was brought there overnight.

Khan's sister said that during a meeting with her, Khan complained that he had been kept in solitary confinement, which she said amounted to mental torture for him. Suhail



Afridi, a senior leader of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party, or, also accused the government of violating the order by taking Khan to the public hospital. Khan's personal physician, Dr. Faisal Sultan, said that he had

been escorted to Shifa International Hospital, where he waited for Khan until early Friday. Sultan said he was eventually told that Khan had been returned to Adiala prison in the garrison city of Rawalpindi. Information Minister Attaullah Tarar said earlier Friday that Khan had been returned to prison after doctors examined him and found him medically fit. The ministry also rejected allegations that Khan was being held in solitary confinement or denied meaningful contact with his family. It said that Khan had received more than 900 visits from family members, lawyers, doctors, political representatives and other approved visitors since his imprisonment in 2023. It said that he also has been allowed weekly meetings with his wife, and telephone, landline and WhatsApp contact with relatives in Pakistan and abroad. According to the ministry, Khan's most recent recorded telephone conversation with one of his sons was on March 21.