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Education Department is a lobby of RSS: AICC President Kharge

KALABURAGI. (Agency)

AICC President and Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge on Saturday said the Union education department has become a lobby of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS). Participating as the guest of honour at the launch of the book titled ‘Dheemant Dhurina’ (based on Mallikarjun Kharge) at SM Pandit Ranga Mandir in Kalaburagi, Kharge said RSS leaders in the education department are misguiding young students. Kharge said recently RSS chief Mohan Bhagavat has also changed his tone and is saying that untouchability should be eradicated. The people living in poverty and facing distress conditions are all Dalits, he said. “Let the BJP and RSS tell what they have done to eradicate untouchability in the past 12 years,” Kharge said. Actor Prakash Raj, who inaugurated the book release programme, said to divert the attention of people, they have raked up the controversy of Vande Mataram, he said.

Minister Kumaraswamy continues attack on CM Shivakumar over Bidadi, NICE issues

HASSAN. (Agency)

Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel HD Kumaraswamy on Saturday continued his attack on Chief Minister DK Shivakumar in connection with the NICE and Bidadi Township Project. He said even though JDS supreme HD Devegowda had signed a Memorandum of Understanding with NICE when he was the CM, the successive governments allegedly paved the way for looting money in the name of the project. Addressing media persons at Haradanahalli, Kumaraswamy said the leader who formed Bengaluru Mysuru Infrastructure Corridor (BMIC) project and headed the institution should be held responsible for the current crisis in NICE project. Kumaraswamy said the hands of the state government were tied due to collusion with the NICE company. Senior officials misled the court, and ultimately the project was abandoned. Even after 20 years, most of the farmers who gave up their lands for the project are yet to be compensated, he said. The Union minister said the government is turning a blind eye towards the NICE authorities continuing to collect toll and hiking the fees exorbitantly. The NICE only developed 5km against the 111km agreed upon in the MOU. He also said he stands firm on his appeal to people not to pay the toll. Kumaraswamy said the state government has no clarity over Bidadi Township, which he said is also a ploy to loot money. He criticised the Cabinet decision to form a committee headed by a retired judge to prepare a report on the township project.

Karnataka government must do more to end the stalemate

New Delhi. (Agency)

Political confrontation between the ruling and opposition parties often takes precedence over substantive public concern. The ongoing session of the state legislature – the first after the new government headed by DK Shivakumar assumed charge – is no different. The stand-off between the Congress and BJP over the induction of a legislator facing



serious allegations in a case of multi-crore financial irregularities in the Karnataka Maharishi Valmiki Scheduled Tribes Development Corporation Limited (KMVSTDCL) disrupted proceedings in both houses of the state legislature for the entire week. The BJP is demanding the resignation of Planning and Statistics Department Minister B Nagendra, citing corruption charges. The Congress is backing its minister. They are blaming each other for disruptions in the Legislative Assembly and the Council. No party seems to be doing enough to end the stalemate. So much so that the legislators from the opposition and the ruling party, including many ministers, have resorted to protests and counter-protests on the Vidhana Soudha premises. Around the same time, many Bills were passed in the Assembly amid the pandemonium, making a mockery of the legislative process.

Unsafe transport, harassment: Students flag barriers to women's education to Rahul

Pune. (Agency)

At the Chhatron ki Goonj programme, women students told Congress MP Rahul Gandhi how harassment, unsafe travel and high fees hinder their education. Their accounts underlined how safety, affordability and support systems shape women's access to study and work.

Students speaking with Congress leader Rahul Gandhi at the 'Chhatron ki Goonj' programme in Pune said sexual harassment, fear for personal safety, unsafe public transport and financial hardship continue to limit women's access to education and economic independence. They said these problems affect girls and women at multiple levels, from daily travel and family decisions on higher education to the ability to afford specialised courses. The students said safe mobility, affordable education and freedom from harassment were essential for equal opportunity. Suchitra Pagi, an economics student from Vasai in Palghar, recounted incidents of harassment she faced as a 13-year-old while walking home from school and later while travelling on public transport. She said the

experiences left her frightened of men, but added that not all men are the same. She urged people to step in when they see a woman being harassed and appealed to women and men to



support victims instead of staying silent. Maitri, a psychology student in Pune, said safety concerns can become a barrier to education, especially for girls from rural areas. She said parents in villages often hesitate to send their daughters away for higher

education because of safety worries and may instead choose to educate their sons. She said this thinking is also linked to social norms that assume sons will support their parents financially, while daughters will marry and leave the family.Pradnya Gavande, a second-year BSc student of Cyber and Digital Science, spoke about the financial barriers to specialised courses such as cybersecurity. She said reputed colleges charge around Rs 3 lakh for such courses, making them unaffordable for students from weaker financial backgrounds. Gavande, who also works part-time, called for more cybersecurity courses in government colleges and scholarships for students. She also raised concern over the growing misuse of artificial intelligence to create obscene images of women and extort money from them, and stressed the need for stronger cybersecurity awareness and skills.

Reservation not charity: Chirag Paswan amid anti-quota protest at Jantar Mantar

Chirag Paswan said at Patna airport that reservations cannot be abolished on demand. He said it remains a constitutional tool for social justice and should be explained through dialogue.

Patna. (Agency)

Union Minister Chirag Paswan on Friday said reservations cannot be abolished at anyone's demand, asserting that it is a constitutional right meant to support communities that have faced social discrimination for generations.Speaking to reporters at Patna airport before leaving for Delhi, Paswan was asked about the student protests at Jantar Mantar demanding an end to the reservation system. “Reservation is not something that can be ended at anyone's demand, nor is it charity given to anyone,” Paswan said. He emphasised that reservation is a constitutional provision and not a concession extended at the discretion of any government.



'RESERVATION AIMED AT SOCIAL INCLUSION'

Paswan said the reservation system was introduced to bring sections of society that had faced prolonged social discrimination into the mainstream.Referring specifically to Scheduled

Castes and Scheduled Tribes, he said the Constitution identified these communities and provided reservation as a means of supporting their advancement. He also argued that instances of social discrimination continue to occur in society, indicating that discussions on strengthening social justice remain relevant. Paswan referred to an incident in Uttarakhand involving Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge while making his point about continuing discrimination and the need for greater focus on social justice. Asked about Union Minister Ramzas Athawale's remarks on those protesting against reservation, Paswan said the protesters were expressing their concerns.

NSA Ajit Doval to hold India-China boundary talks with Wang Yi in Beijing

Doval and Wang are scheduled to hold the talks on Tuesday as part of the dialogue mechanism established in 2003 to address the 3,488-km India-China boundary dispute.

New Delhi. (Agency)

National Security Advisor Ajit Doval will travel to Beijing on Monday for the 25th round of India-China Special Representatives (SR) talks on the boundary issue with Chinese Foreign Minister and his counterpart Wang Yi, officials said.Doval and Wang are scheduled to hold the talks on Tuesday as part of the dialogue mechanism established in 2003 to address the 3,488-km India-China boundary dispute.Although the mechanism has not resolved the boundary question, officials on both sides view it as an important channel for managing tensions and keeping



communication open. The talks come ahead of Chinese President Xi Jinping's expected visit to India for the BRICS summit in New Delhi on September 12-13.

'Matter Of National Economy Security': Rajnath Singh On Preventive Healthcare

Rajnath Singh said non-communicable diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, heart disease, cancer, kidney failure and mental health disorders were increasingly becoming major health concerns.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday described preventive healthcare as the "future model" of the healthcare system, citing changing disease patterns, rising treatment costs and India's ageing population as key reasons for shifting the focus towards early detection and prevention. Addressing the inauguration of a Mahajan Imaging and Labs facility here, Singh said non-communicable diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, heart disease, cancer, kidney failure and mental health disorders were increasingly becoming major health concerns."These diseases do not develop in a day. They

develop gradually in the body over years. High sugar, high cholesterol, fatty liver and



borderline blood pressure are all warning signs. The future of healthcare lies in identifying these warning signs in time," he

said. Singh said preventive healthcare also made economic sense as treating advanced diseases could cost lakhs of rupees, while annual health check-ups, lifestyle counselling, early screening and basic medication could cost hundreds or a few thousand rupees. "As health expenditure increases, the government, insurance companies and employers will all want diseases to be stopped at an early stage," he said. He cited demographic changes as another reason for adopting the preventive model. India currently has a predominantly young population, but a large proportion of the population is expected to be elderly by 2050.

Girl jumps from third floor of Faridabad district court

Noida.(Agency)

A 14-year-old girl jumped from a third-floor bathroom window at Faridabad district court in Sector 12 on Saturday afternoon and suffered serious injuries. She was rushed to a nearby private hospital for treatment. The girl had gone missing from home a few days earlier, prompting her family to file a missing-person complaint. Police traced and brought her back on Friday. An officer said she had eloped with a youth and was traced to Punjab, though the girl told investigators she had gone to a relative's house. She was medically examined and brought to the district court on Saturday to record her statement. During the proceedings, she told the woman constable accompanying her that she needed to vomit and was taken to the bathroom. The constable waited outside while the girl opened the bathroom window, which had no protective barrier, and jumped from the third floor, landing on a tin shed below. The loud impact drew the attention of lawyers and others present at the court complex, who rushed to bring her down before she was taken for treatment. Police said they are investigating whether the girl was sexually assaulted, though sources said she is not willing to lodge a complaint against the youth. A kidnapping case was registered following the family's missing complaint, and additional sections will be added if sexual assault is confirmed. Police said the circumstances surrounding her disappearance are still being investigated.

Two workers lose balance, fall 14 floors to death at Greater Noida building site

Noida.(Agency)

Two workers died after falling from the 14th floor of an under-construction building at Golf Homes Society in Greater Noida West on Saturday. Police have detained the contractor for questioning and are investigating whether safety lapses at the construction site contributed to the accident. The deceased have been identified as Sarkar (19) and Jamal Sheikh (45). They were residents of Kalmati village under Sahibganj police station in Cooch Behar district of West Bengal. According to police, the two had been working at the construction site for the past seven months. Some of their family members were also employed at the same site. Police said the incident took place around 4pm when they were engaged in construction work on the 14th floor of the tower. They allegedly lost balance and fell. Fellow workers raised an alarm and called police. A team reached the spot and rushed them to a nearby hospital, where doctors declared them dead. Their bodies were subsequently sent for autopsy. There are conflicting accounts regarding the circumstances leading to the fall. Some workers claimed that the two were not wearing safety belts at the time of the incident. However, police said their preliminary inquiry indicated that the workers might have been wearing safety harnesses, which allegedly got loose, leading them to lose balance. Another possibility being examined is that the accident may have involved a construction lift being used to transport material to the upper floors. Sources said the two workers may have been on or near the lift when the incident occurred. Police and forensic teams have collected evidence from the site to establish the exact sequence of events. A senior officer said the contractor had been detained on suspicion of negligence, while the site supervisor was also questioned. Police said further action would be taken after examining the evidence and post-mortem findings.

Don't panic, maintain hygiene: NCR on alert after H1N1 spike in Delhi

Noida.(Agency)

With Delhi recording over 1,700 H1N1 positive cases in the past weeks, health authorities across NCR, including Noida and Ghaziabad, have stepped up monitoring and urged residents to focus on preventive measures. Hospitals across the city said they are seeing more patients with high-grade fever and symptoms resembling swine flu. "We are seeing more patients with sudden onset fever, cough, sore throat, body ache, headache and marked fatigue. A proportion of patients, particularly those with underlying lung disease or other co-morbidities, are also presenting with breathlessness, oxygen desaturation or pneumonia," said Dr Rahul Sharma, director of pulmonology and respiratory critical care at Fortis Noida. Doctors noted that Delhi has reported more than a six-fold increase in laboratory-confirmed H1N1 cases compared to the same period last year. "The actual number of infections is likely to be considerably higher because many patients with mild illness are neither tested nor reported and recover at home. There is currently no evidence that this surge is being driven by a new H1N1 strain or an antigenic shift. The increase is likely multifactorial, with increased transmission during the monsoon, indoor crowding, accumulation of susceptible individuals and waning immunity contributing to the rise," said Sharma. Amid the rise in infection, Ghaziabad health department has issued an advisory on seasonal influenza, including H1N1 or swine flu, urging residents to remain cautious and follow preventive measures. The advisory said influenza is a contagious respiratory illness that spreads through coughing, sneezing or close contact with an infected person. "Residents have been advised to watch for symptoms such as sudden high fever or chills, dry cough, sore throat, runny or blocked nose, headache, severe body and joint pain, and extreme fatigue. Children may also experience vomiting or diarrhoea. Maintain hand hygiene, cover their mouth and nose while coughing or sneezing, avoid touching their face with unwashed hands and use masks in crowded or poorly ventilated spaces," read the advisory.

2-hour rain floods city, shuts Medanta underpass again

Gurgaon.(Agency)

An overnight spell of rain lasting around two hours from 1am on Saturday cooled the morning but exposed the city's waterlogging problem once again, inundating several residential roads, major stretches and underpasses. Water accumulated on internal roads in sectors 14 and 15, Old MG Road and several parts of the old city. Waterlogging was also witnessed around Police Lines, Dhanwapur Road, sectors 4, 7, 9 and 10, Arjun Nagar, Jyoti Park, New Colony, Kadipur, Basai Road, Sushant Lok, Sheetla Mata Road, Old Delhi Road and near Aggarwal Dharamshala Chowk, among other areas. Medanta underpass was shut and barricaded after rainwater accumulated on the carriageway — the third time this monsoon that National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has had to close it due to flooding. At Mahavir Chowk, the underpass was also flooded,



though traffic continued to move through the waterlogged stretch, with the accumulation slowing movement during the morning rush. NHAI officials said rainwater had overflowed from the main road into the Medanta underpass, forcing its closure as a precaution, and that pumping machines had been deployed to drain the

water and facilitate reopening. The authority is now looking at a longer-term fix instead of relying solely on pumping out water after each spell. "An authority engineer has been asked to conduct a detailed study of the site and examine what interventions can be made. The study will assess the drainage arrangement, identify measures to

prevent rainwater from overflowing from the main road into the underpass, and recommend remedial steps," an NHAI official said. Rainfall intensity varied across the city. Kadipur and Harsaru recorded the highest rainfall at 83mm each, followed by Gurgaon tehsil at 75mm and Wazirabad at 69mm. Badshapur recorded 62mm, Sohna 55mm, Farrukhnagar 15mm, Manesar 4mm and Pataudi 3mm. The weather turned humid later in the day under a clear sky. The overnight showers brought the night-time temperature down by three degrees, with the city's minimum recorded at 24.3°C, down from 27.7°C a day earlier. At NorthCap University, the minimum fell to 25°C from 28.3°C on Friday. The maximum temperature stood at 33.9°C, marginally lower than 34.4°C the previous day (34.7°C at NorthCap University). India Meteorological Department has forecast light to moderate rain over the next three days.

The Inherent Spiritual Grandeur Bound by a Silken Thread: The Auspicious Festival of Affection on Raksha Bandhan

Mahanagar Metro Desk

In the magnificent history of human culture and relationships, if there is a single festival that transcends the boundaries of materialism to rest entirely upon internal moisture and purity, it is Raksha Bandhan. This auspicious day of Shravani Purnima is not merely a festival of a single cotton thread, but a divine celebration of the selfless love, unshakeable trust, and mutual dedication between a brother and a sister. In today's materialistic era, where definitions of relationships are altering, this sacred silken bond calls upon us to return to our familial roots and moral values.

From both a literary and cultural perspective, this distinct time elevates the emotions of the heart to a supreme height. The bond between a brother and a sister is a wonderful creation of nature and destiny. That innocent mischief of childhood, sweet quarrels over

trivial matters, and the subtle anxiety for one another constitute the genuine identity of this relationship. When a sister ties the protective thread (Rakshasutra) upon her brother's wrist, she does not merely pray for his longevity, but silently wishes to absorb all the hardships of her brother's life onto herself. On the other hand, the brother also takes a firm resolve

Rupesh, Woven into this silken thread is the priceless melody of eternal love. "This sacred festival does not merely inspire us to distribute sweets or exchange gifts, but also imparts a profound message of social harmony. Raksha Bandhan is a symbol of honoring womanhood. History bears witness to the fact that this silken thread has halted wars and bound



society and in protecting her dignity. The hearts of the people always praise this sacred emotion of culture and dedication in this way: "Man may venture anywhere today in the blind pursuit of material pleasures, but upon witnessing his sister's Rakhi, his entire heart overflows with profound emotion." Today, in the twenty-first century, when India is showcasing its economic, technological, and social prowess on the global stage, familial festivals like Raksha Bandhan keep our cultural heritage intact. The harmony of education and values will make the future generations genuinely capable and aware of family values. Moving forward in the direction of crossing terrestrial boundaries to become a global leader, this purity of relationships and this immortal love between brother and sister are destined to spread the fragrance of humanity for centuries to come. **Author: Rupesh Solanki.**

Man kills wife, teenage daughter after row over medication in Ghaziabad

GURGAON.(Agency)

A 47-year-old man allegedly slit the throats of his wife and 16-year-old daughter at their fourth-floor flat in Lokpriya Vihar of Khoda on Friday night after the wife repeatedly urged him to take his depression medication. He also attacked their younger daughter (14), who escaped with injuries after neighbours overpowered him and snatched the knife. The accused, Mohammad Raja Ansari, originally from Madihar in Bihar's Araria district, has since been arrested. Ansari works as an accountant at a meat shop in Ghazipur Mandi. The victims were identified as Baby Tabassum Ansari (43), Sana (16) and Zoya (14). The family had been living at the flat for three years. Ansari and Baby married in 2002. According to police, the family had dinner and went to bed around 10pm. Before sleeping, Baby reminded Ansari to take his medicines. He refused, and an argument broke out when she insisted again. Around 11.30pm, Ansari got up, went to the kitchen and picked up a large knife. He



allegedly attacked Baby in her sleep, inflicting a fatal throat injury. Hearing her mother's screams, Sana entered the room and tried to hide under a staircase, but Ansari spotted her. As she ran towards her mother, he struck her

abdomen with the knife, then allegedly dragged her by the hair, tilted her head back and slit her throat. She collapsed at the spot. Zoya arrived next and was also attacked, the knife striking her hip. She managed to run to the main door and

open it. Two neighbours standing outside rushed in on hearing the commotion, overpowered Ansari and snatched the knife, restraining him until police arrived. All three were taken to a nearby hospital, where doctors declared Baby and Sana dead. Zoya, who was treated for her injuries, is stated to be out of danger. Police registered a case against Ansari under sections 103(1) (murder) and 109(1) (attempt to murder) of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, based on Zoya's complaint. During questioning, Ansari said he killed his wife over her insistence that he take his medicines, and then decided to kill his daughters because he believed he would be jailed after his wife's death and feared there would be no one to look after them. He told investigators he had been suffering from depression and undergoing treatment for a long time. "We will verify Ansari's claim of depression by obtaining his medical records from the concerned hospitals," Indirapuram ACP Suryabali Maurya said.

After decades of wait, drought-hit regions in Andhra to get water project

VIJAYAWADA. (Agency)

Marking the end of a three-decade wait for the drought-prone regions of Prakasam, Markapuram, Nellore and Kadapa districts, Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has announced that Phase-I of the Poola Subbaiah Veligonda Project will be officially commissioned on August 31, 2026. At a programme held at his Camp Office on Saturday, the Chief Minister handed over the third-tranche rehabilitation and resettlement (R&R) compensation cheque for Rs 250 crore to 2,027 displaced families.

This brings the total R&R compensation disbursed by the NDA government to Rs 768 crore across 6,206 affected families in just 48 days. The breakdown includes Rs 318 crore released to 2,557 families in Phase 1, Rs 200 crore to 1,622 families in Phase 2, and Rs 250 crore to 2,027 families in Phase 3, leaving only Rs 132 crore in remaining dues that the State has committed to clearing swiftly.

Phase-I of the project will immediately draw floodwaters from the foreshore of the Srisailem Reservoir near Kollam Vagu through twin 18.8-km tunnels drilled across the Nallamala Hills into the Nallamala Sagar reservoir.

This initial phase will supply drinking water to nearly 4 lakh people and irrigate 1.19 lakh acres. Over the last two years alone, the State government has pumped Rs 2,250 crore into accelerating civil and tunnel works to ensure the project deadline is met. Addressing the displaced families, Naidu reflected on his personal link to the project, noting that he laid its original foundation stone in 1996.

Four of a family, include two children killed as commercial vehicle explodes in Gujarat's Kutch

AHMEDABAD. (Agency)

Four people, including two brothers and two children, were killed after a small commercial vehicle, locally known as a tempo, exploded in Gujarat's Kutch district on Saturday, police said.

The incident took place in the Bhaganwada area near Kotda Jadodar in Nakhatrana when the vehicle was passing through the area. The deceased were identified as Mamad Ilyas Kumbhar, around 30, his brother Noor Mamad Ilyas Kumbhar, around 26, and two children, both aged around three years, police said. The explosion was reportedly powerful enough to tear away the rear portion of the vehicle, while its sound was heard in surrounding areas. The blast caused panic among residents and people in the vicinity. Nakhatrana police reached the spot after receiving information about the incident and launched an investigation. Police teams secured the area and collected evidence to determine the cause of the explosion.

The exact cause of the blast is not yet known. Investigators are examining the material that was being carried inside the vehicle and whether it could have triggered the explosion. A Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) team has also been involved in the investigation and is examining the vehicle and material recovered from the site to establish the nature and source of the explosion.

Week after labour unrest, Surat textile industry agrees to workers' key demands to 'ensure peace & productivity'

Ahmedabad. (Agency)

AHEAD OF another weekend, Surat's textile industries gave in to some of the demands raised by labourers one of which was extra pay for working on Sundays or off days. Last Sunday (August 16), labourers in the Vedant Eco Park in Amroli industrial estate forced shutting down of embroidery units, prompting workers to exit the factories, leading to a clash with the police.

In all three FIRs were registered at the Amroli police station following the violence and the labour unrest and eight persons were arrested. On Friday, representatives of the state labour department and around 400 textile industrialists met for the second time in the week, with the intervention of city police officers, to discuss the demands by the labourers – weekly off on Sundays or extra wages, eight-hour daily shifts instead of 12, salary to be paid in the first week of the month and Diwali bonus.

In the meeting led by Assistant Commissioner of Police Parth Chovatiya, police officers tried to convince the industries to concede to their demands so that production is not hampered and there were no law and order issues. Those textile embroidery units that participated were from Ambrotech industrial estate, Sai Ambro, Vedant Eco park 1 and 2, Anajani estates and others. A labour department official, who did not wish to be named, told this newspaper, "After the meeting, we realised that finding no platform to air their grievances, they resorted to social media to convey the message to the unit owners.

CJP convenor Abhijit Dipke booked over alleged school intrusion in Maharashtra's Latur

FIR alleges Dipke and others disrupted proceedings and shared footage of the school online

Mumbai. (Agency)

Cockroach Janata Party (CJP) convenor Abhijit Dipke has been booked along with CJP's Ajay Shinde and four to five unidentified persons for allegedly entering a Zilla Parishad school in Latur district without permission, questioning teachers in front of students, filming the proceedings and circulating the footage on social media.

The case was registered at AUSA police station on Saturday following a complaint by a 53-year-old Zilla Parishad education department employee.

According to the police record, the incident took place around 1.10 pm on August 20 at a Zilla Parishad school in Urdh AUSA, around

two km from AUSA in Latur district.

The complaint states that Dipke, Shinde and the unidentified persons entered the school premises and sat among the students. They allegedly questioned those present about teaching and government-related work, disrupting the functioning of the school. The complainant claimed that the group recorded the proceedings and circulated the footage on social media. The complaint states that the footage portrayed the school in a manner suggesting that students from another school had been made to sit there, thereby defaming the institution.

The complainant further alleged that the accused confronted a teacher and, when questioned about their conduct, threatened him with suspension. The complaint records an alleged remark that the teacher would be suspended and had no shame.

"The accused persons, acting in connivance

with each other, went and sat among the schoolchildren and asked various questions, thereby creating an obstruction in the teaching work and government work. They also entered the school without



authorization, recorded the incident and made it viral in the media. Although the children were students of the same school, they alleged that students of another school had been made to sit there, thereby defaming the school. They also looked at the teacher

there and said, "'Yeh log haram ka khat hain' (These people take illegal money) and threatened him, saying, 'I will get you suspended,'" the First Information Report (FIR) states. The FIR alleges that the accused obstructed teaching and government work at the school. Police have invoked Section 132 of the BNS, which deals with assault or use of criminal force against a public servant to deter him from performing his duty, as well as Sections 329(3) (criminal trespass), 351(2) (criminal intimidation), 356(2) (defamation) and 3(5) (acts done by several persons in furtherance of common intention).

Dipke had launched the 'School Thik Karo' campaign on Independence Day in his native Hingoli after spearheading protests over the NEET paper leak, which led to the resignation of then Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan. The campaign aims to improve facilities in government schools.

Mumbai corporators keep getting disqualified, and the rivals they beat stand to gain

Eight months after Mumbai finally elected a civic house, five wards are already without a corporator, the latest set to be Sena UBT leader and former mayor Vishakha Raut's. The Indian Express went on the ground to see who residents now turn to.

Mumbai. (Agency)

Through July, a single clogged drain ran through the lives of the chawls around Govandi's Raman Mama Nagar. Every downpour sent it over, and the muck it pushed back into homes turned the narrow gully into a gutter. When the residents took their complaint to the BMC's M/East ward office, they were sent looking for someone who no longer existed on paper. "When we went, the BMC official said that the corporator could use their development funds to clean the drain and resolve our problem," said Reshma Singh, who lives in one of the chawls with her family of five. The corporator in question, ward 137's Shamir Ramzan Patel, had been disqualified weeks earlier over an allegedly invalid caste certificate. With the seat empty and no development fund to tap, the residents eventually pooled money from their own

pockets and had the drain cleared on July 31. That small act, citizens paying to do a corporator's job, is the clearest picture of



what has quietly happened to a stretch of Mumbai this monsoon.

Barely eight months after the city finally elected a civic house, following a gap of nearly four years under an administrator, five BMC wards are already without a

corporator. A sixth is about to join them. In almost every case the reason is the same. A caste certificate submitted at nomination has been ruled invalid, and the elected representative removed. One of the five is different, a death rather than a disqualification. But the pattern across Govandi, Bhandup and Kurla holds at the cruelest moment, peak monsoon, when residents lean on their corporator the most.

Challenged by rival

In case after case, the person who challenged the winner's caste certificate is the rival that the winner had beaten at the polls. Flagging an invalid certificate is well within their rights, and under the civic body's rules there is a direct consequence to it, when a corporator is disqualified, the candidate who finished second in that ward is declared the new incumbent. The challenger stands to move into the seat.

Explained: Haryana's stamp duty exemption for daughters' children

Chandigarh. (Agency)

Haryana has clarified a long-standing ambiguity over its 100 per cent stamp duty exemption on lifetime transfers of immovable property within families. The clarification now makes it clear that daughters' children are entitled to the same stamp duty benefit as sons' children. The issue arose from a 2014 notification whose English and Hindi versions used different terms for "grandchildren". The discrepancy led to confusion at the local level and, in some cases, denied daughters' children the exemption. The government has now formally corrected the wording through a gazette corrigendum. Here is what the clarification means, why the issue surfaced and how it relates to women's property rights.

What exactly happened?

On June 16, 2014, the Haryana government

remitted 100 per cent stamp duty under Section 9 of the Indian Stamp Act, 1899, on property transfer deeds executed during the owner's lifetime in favour of specified blood



relations, including parents, children, grandchildren, siblings and spouses. However, while the English version of the notification broadly used the term "grandchildren", the Hindi version mentioned only 'pautra-pautri', which

generally refers to a son's children. This created confusion at the level of local sub-registrar offices and, often, resulted in daughters' children being denied the stamp duty exemption.

Why did it not become an issue earlier?

The issue remained largely unnoticed because property transfers in Haryana have traditionally followed a patriarchal pattern. Agricultural land, residential plots and other immovable property are generally transferred by parents to their sons, while transfers in favour of daughters have historically been less common. In some cases, property owners also transferred property directly to their grandsons or granddaughters. However, since transfers to daughters themselves were relatively fewer, transfers to their children were even less common. As a result, the ambiguity in the notification did not emerge as a major administrative issue.

HC questions UT administration's appeal in teacher's pay-parity case, asks DSE, Education Secretary to explain

The court said the administration failed to show "any single difference" between Suman Lata and teachers who had already received the benefit from the Supreme Court

Chandigarh. (Agency)

The Punjab and Haryana High Court has dismissed an appeal filed by the Chandigarh Administration against an order directing it

to pay differential salary to a teacher of a privately managed school, observing that the administration had failed to point out "any single difference" between her case and that of similarly placed teachers who had already secured the benefit from the Supreme Court.

A Division Bench of Justice Harsimran Singh Sethi and Justice Amarinder Singh Grewal, in its order, also directed the administration's Director School Education and the Education Secretary to remain present before the court on September 2.

Earlier, the Single Bench allowed the petition filed by Suman Lata and recognised her claim of pay parity. The appeal by the Chandigarh Administration challenged this order. Lata had been working as a Political Science lecturer with Vedic Girls High School since January 2002. The school was receiving 95

per cent grant-in-aid from the Chandigarh Administration up to Class 10, while she was teaching Classes 11 and 12. Teachers



teaching Classes 11 and 12 were not being paid salary according to their entitlement as there was no grant-in-aid for those posts. The high court noted that the issue had already attained finality before the Supreme Court in the Rajni Vali case, where directions had

been issued to Chandigarh Administration to provide aid for such posts in privately managed institutions.

The high court noted that when it asked the Chandigarh Administration's counsel about the difference between Lata and Rajni Vali case, the counsel was not "able to point out any single difference".

"Once, it is a conceded position even in the appeal that there is no difference between the respondent No.1 (Suman Lata)... and Rajni Vali who has been granted the benefit by the Supreme Court of India, except respondent herein was not party to the said litigation, this court finds difficulty as to on what account, the judgment of the single judge is being impugned," the bench held. The Bench further said the appeal had been filed "for the sake of litigating and in order to get a different view rather than implementing the settled principle of law".

Recasting India's Arctic policy

India's Arctic Policy released in 2022 was framed for a world that no longer exists. Once a domain of climate research and environmental stewardship, the Arctic has become a zone of competition over energy resources, shipping routes, critical minerals and military positioning. Accelerating ice melt is making the Northern Sea Route (NSR) along Russia's Arctic coast a viable maritime corridor between Europe and Asia. New technologies, from autonomous underwater vehicles to satellite-enabled seabed mapping, are transforming Arctic security as strategic fault lines deepen.

The Ukraine war has severely disrupted cooperation within the Arctic Council. With Finland and Sweden now in NATO, Russia is the Arctic Council's only non-NATO member, while renewed US interest in Greenland's critical minerals and energy resources has heightened geopolitical tensions. For India, an observer in the Arctic Council, the implications extend well beyond climate science to commerce, connectivity and security. The Arctic is changing rapidly and India's stated Arctic policy must catch up with the region's transformation. The Arctic states have recently recast their policies. Russia has placed the Arctic at the centre of its strategy, developing the NSR and coastal energy projects. The US Arctic Strategy of 2024 treats the region as a theatre of strategic competition. Canada unveiled an Arctic Defence Plan in March 2026, while Norway's High North Strategy of 2025 balances climate cooperation with growing security concerns.

Collective security efforts are also intensifying. The 2026 Ankara NATO summit underscored the High North's growing prominence as a critical theatre for European defence. Canada and 11 European states committed in July 2026 to strengthen Arctic maritime security, surveillance and deterrence. The EU is updating its Arctic policy this year, broadening its traditional focus on climate, biodiversity and Indigenous rights to include defence, economic security, shipping and critical minerals. The strategic reassessment extends beyond the Arctic. China, Russia's principal Arctic partner, has invested heavily in Russian Arctic LNG projects, ports and offshore facilities as part of its 'Ice Silk Road'. Its 2025 agreement with Russia to jointly develop the NSR signals long-term strategic intent. On 12 August 2026, Chinese shipping company Sea Legend launched a weekly Ningbo-Felixstowe (UK) container service via the NSR. In June 2026, Japan directed a cross-ministerial revision of its Arctic policy, citing the region's growing geopolitical importance. South Korea has expanded investment in Arctic shipping and logistics. India too must actively respond to the changing Arctic.

India's 2022 Arctic Policy emphasises scientific research, sustainable development and international cooperation. Although eighty per cent of the Arctic Ocean lies within national jurisdictions, changes there have consequences far beyond its waters. The Arctic is warming over three times faster than the global average. Ice loss, particularly in the Barents-Kara Sea, is increasingly linked to variability in the Indian summer monsoon and rising sea levels threatening India's coastal cities and islands. India's multi-alignment provides the framework for deeper Arctic engagement, underpinned by partnerships with all Arctic states. India's Arctic connection goes back further than often appreciated. In his 1903 book *The Arctic Home in the Vedas*, Bal Gangadhar Tilak suggested an India-Arctic civilisational link. India was an original signatory to the 1920 Svalbard Treaty. Indian merchant seamen served on Arctic convoys carrying Lend-Lease supplies to the USSR in World War II; seven who died in 1942 are buried at Murmansk, inside the Arctic Circle. India has long standing ties with the Arctic ports of Arkhangelsk and Severodvinsk, which I visited as Ambassador to Russia; Indian naval programmes have a history of cooperation with the Sevmaash and Zvezdochka shipyards there. More than 1,500 Indian students currently study medicine at the university in Arkhangelsk.

An intelligent way to ensure AI sovereignty

As India tries to emerge as the AI use capital, it needs to properly measure the tech's impact and strategically manage dependency on others. Independent evaluation would be essential for both

India's AI opportunity is not to win the race to the most advanced model. It is to show the world how AI can be made useful to real people, solving real problems. That is what India's own strategy says, and what framed the 2026 India AI Impact Summit. India has the ingredients: linguistic and cultural diversity, digital public infrastructure at scale, a young technical workforce, and startups working on problems that matter.

Two things stand in the way.

The first is that we are measuring impact the wrong way. In the current policy discourse, impact has come to mean adoption and diffusion—how many sectors, how many users, how many languages. These are useful numbers, but they say nothing about whether the systems being adopted actually deliver, and nothing about the new vulnerabilities they create. A system that performs adequately where institutional oversight is strong can cause serious harm where that oversight is thin. The same conditions that let India leapfrog also leave it exposed. Impact has two halves; we are counting one.

The second is dependency. India's ecosystem of context- and domain-specific models is genuinely vibrant, but almost all of it sits on top of a handful of American labs. Dependency in itself is not the problem; it exists in many sectors. It becomes a problem when you cannot negotiate its terms. AI credits have meanwhile become a form of development assistance, as seen in agreements being signed between leading AI companies and global philanthropies. Neither problem has a single fix. Both will need competition policy, public compute, better redress mechanisms and much else. But one piece is common to both, and it is the piece India has invested in least: independent evaluation. To define impact fully, India must be able to see how the systems it adopts actually perform across its languages and settings, and to detect the harms adoption produces. To manage dependency, it must be able to set conditions on what it accepts, and to act when those conditions are not met. Both turn on the same capacity. This makes evaluation strategic rather than merely technical. It is the layer at which India can assert sovereign authority even where the underlying models are not sovereign. Sovereignty in AI need not mean building the models. It can mean choosing between them on terms India has set. Procurement is where this becomes real. The Indian state is unusual in the scale of its role as an AI adopter: among the largest purchasers, a builder of public compute and datasets, and a funder of indigenous foundation models. A procurement regime that requires

independent evaluation—demonstrable performance in Indian languages, evidence of safety in the deployment context, post-deployment monitoring for high-stakes uses—turns the State's buying power into a tool for raising market standards. The light-touch approach of the November 2025 AI Governance Guidelines makes this more urgent: rules that rely on principles and self-regulation only work alongside continuous evidence generation. None of this is easy, and the field is far from settled. A systematic review of 445 large-language model benchmarks found only 16 per cent used rigorous methods to compare model performance, and roughly



half claimed to measure abstract qualities like "reasoning" or "harmlessness" without defining them. The problems compound across languages: test datasets do not exist for many low-resource languages, and translating English ones fails to capture how people speak or prompt. Even good benchmarks are not enough, because the most consequential effects of AI are not visible at the model level. They emerge as people use systems over time. A frontline health worker who routinely defers to an AI recommendation may lose judgement she once exercised. A welfare officer who overrides an algorithmic flag may face pressure to do so less often. Beyond these interaction harms sit systemic ones—effects on labour markets, on human agency, on cognitive ability.

This is where the gap is starkest. Serious work is now under way in India on model performance, including multilingual benchmarking. On interaction and systemic harms, there is almost nothing—a global survey of generative AI evaluations found fewer than 6 per cent accounted for human-AI interaction. These harms need observational, longitudinal, often qualitative methods,

and domain knowledge more than technical knowledge.

They are slower, costlier and harder to reduce to clean numbers, which is why they are barely funded. Public trust is also a factor. Across much of the West, enthusiasm for AI has given way to suspicion. India is in a different position: public sentiment here remains optimistic about technology. That optimism is an asset, but it is not permanent. It will hold only if these systems prove safe as well as useful, and if failures are caught by someone other than the companies that built them. Evaluation is how that gets demonstrated. India should also choose its niche. Frontier capability testing is already being done in the UK

and the US, which have the compute and secure infrastructure for it; there, India needs partnerships for joint testing and timely sharing of results. Its comparative advantage lies in the application layer, multilingual evaluation and post-deployment monitoring—work every country in the Global South will need, which makes it exportable. Three steps would get us started. Fund application-layer sandboxes, as Singapore does, where third-party evaluators test commercial AI applications and the state turns findings into public guidance, but built around domain communities of practice, with doctors, teachers, farmers and legal aid workers designing the rubrics. Focus the AI Centres of Excellence in health, agriculture and education as certification and assurance bodies rather than pushing them only towards commercial products; assurance is

the clearer public-interest mandate.

Third, and most neglected: grow an ecosystem of independent third-party evaluators. None of this works without people to do the work, and India today has very little capacity—some at technical institutions, some in civil society, nothing near what the task requires. The field has to be actively cultivated: training, shared methods and tooling, and institutional homes where an evaluation career is possible. It should be a named budget line for governments and development finance agencies funding AI adoption, not an afterthought. Civil society organisations belong at the centre of that ecosystem, not at its edges. They see systems in use, in context, over time—a vantage no laboratory has, and exactly what interaction and systemic harms require. Their absence from formal evaluation says more about how we have defined technical expertise than about what the work demands. Finally, evaluation is labour. Building datasets and running safety tests exposes people to disturbing content, as content moderation does. Fair pay, psychological support and transparent contracting belong in any publicly funded evaluation programme.

Heed Supreme Court's call for continuity in NTA reforms

The top court directed the Centre to file an affidavit within three weeks detailing steps taken to implement the Radhakrishnan Committee's recommendations along with indicative timelines

The Supreme Court has rightly emphasised institutionalising reforms within the National Testing Agency, the agency entrusted to conduct pre-medical and other entrance exams of massive consequence to the nation. It directed the Union government to ensure that the newly-constituted taskforce on exam reforms headed by Nandan Nilekani improves upon the K Radhakrishnan committee's June 2024 recommendations, rather than replacing them "lock, stock and barrel". The apex court has stressed the need to build on institutional memory and ensure continuity in the process of making exams fool-proof. Paper leaks at the May 2026 NEET-Undergraduate exams—the gateway for students seeking admission to MBBS, BDS, AYUSH and nursing BSc courses—affected at least 23 lakh students aspiring for careers in the medical profession, and led to countrywide protests that tragically saw a dozen students dying by suicide purportedly due to severe anxiety caused by the leaks and re-examination. A CBI probe was ordered and

arrests were made. Yet the students at Jantar Mantar



demanding accountability for repeated lapses faced a brutal police crackdown before Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan stepped down. Following this, the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means)

Amendment Act, 2026 was enacted and the taskforce led by Nilekani constituted, which the Centre called "landmark measures" against future paper leaks. However, all of this is still being viewed as inadequate considering the frequency with which exam irregularities keep occurring across India. The Radhakrishnan Committee had recommended shifting India's entrance exams away from paper-based delivery—which are vulnerable to leaks during printing and transport—to a secure digital mode, using artificial intelligence analytics, biometrics and Aadhaar to prevent impersonation; and change in testing formats, wherein large exams are split into multi-session tests of the candidates' specific skills or knowledge. The Supreme Court directed the Centre to file an affidavit within three weeks detailing steps taken to implement the Radhakrishnan Committee's recommendations along with indicative timelines.

The apex court cited the Union Public Service Commission exams as large tests held "without a hitch".

An intelligent way to ensure AI sovereignty

As India tries to emerge as the AI use capital, it needs to properly measure the tech's impact and strategically manage

At any petrol pump across India, a quiet shift is occurring beneath the surface of daily life. When a motorist fills their tank, they are no longer merely relying on crude oil sourced from the distant oil wells of the Gulf. Instead, nearly a fifth of that fuel is now derived from domestic sources, specifically, the sugarcane fields of Maharashtra and the maize barns of Uttar Pradesh.

This transition to E20 fuel, petrol blended with 20 per cent ethanol, is not merely a slogan or a recent, knee-jerk administrative reaction. It is the culmination of over a decade of deliberate, sustained policy effort. Yet, despite the meticulous planning involved, recent months have seen a surge of misinformation. Rumours regarding reduced mileage, catastrophic engine damage, and even bizarre claims about raw sugarcane juice being used as fuel have clouded public understanding.

To separate the signal from the noise, it is essential to examine E20 through the lens of data, scientific study, and the real-world experiences of manufacturers, rather than succumbing to baseless assertions.

The narrative that ethanol blending is a "hasty" decision made in haste is demonstrably false. The programme originated as a pilot project as early as 2001. A five per cent blend (E5) was rolled out in various states in 2006, followed by a formal notification in the official gazette in January 2013. The National Biofuel Policy of May 2018 subsequently broadened the scope of feedstocks to include maize and surplus grain, rather than relying solely on sugarcane. By 2013-14, blending levels were barely at 1.5 per cent, constrained by feedstock availability. The strategic pivot occurred in June 2021, when NITI Aayog released a roadmap based on extensive consultations with vehicle manufacturers, oil companies, and agricultural experts. The goal was ambitious: to roll out E20 nationwide between 2023 and 2025. The progress has

been steady and quantifiable: 8.1 per cent in 2020-21, rising incrementally each year to hit the 20 per cent target in the November-June cycle of 2025-26. This trajectory reflects a carefully orchestrated process of capacity building, investment, and regulatory readiness, not a sudden or unplanned policy shift.

The Three Pillars: Security, Economy, and Environment

At the core of this policy is the urgent need for energy security. India currently imports approximately 88.5 per cent of its crude oil, leaving the national economy vulnerable to global price volatility and geopolitical instability. The resilience of the country's fuel supply chain was tested during the February 2026 conflict, where supply chains in the Gulf were threatened; yet, domestic supply remained stable, proving the value of this energy diversification strategy. According to data shared in the Lok Sabha by the Minister of State for Petroleum, Suresh Gopi, on 23 July 2026, the programme has yielded massive dividends: roughly ₹1.97 lakh crore saved in foreign exchange since 2014-15, the substitution of 316 lakh metric tonnes of crude oil, and a reduction in carbon dioxide emissions by approximately 952 lakh metric tonnes. Furthermore, the policy has transformed the economic landscape for Indian farmers. The capital that was once flowing to foreign oil producers is now redirected into the pockets of the agricultural sector. Farmers have received direct payments exceeding ₹1.66 lakh crore, playing a crucial role in clearing pending sugarcane dues and improving the profitability of maize cultivation. By evolving into "energy-providers," farmers are now diversifying their income streams, creating a more robust rural economy. Debunking the Performance and Damage Myths

Perhaps the most persistent claim is that E20 sharply reduces fuel efficiency. This myth gained traction because ethanol has a calorific value roughly 30 per cent lower than petrol, leading some to erroneously conclude that mileage must drop by the same margin. The reality is far less dramatic. As clarified by Rahul Bharti, a senior official at Maruti Suzuki, the actual calorific value



difference between E20 and E10 is only about three to three-and-a-half per cent. In practical terms, for a vehicle achieving twenty kilometres per litre, the impact is a negligible 0.6 kilometres per litre, a margin easily overshadowed by factors like tyre pressure or maintenance. Similarly, fears of engine damage have

proven to be entirely unsubstantiated. With over twenty crore two-wheelers and three crore cars running on this blend, if there were legitimate issues with corrosion or component degradation, they would have manifested as a spike in warranty claims. Instead, data from industry giants like Maruti Suzuki, which serviced 2.84 crore vehicles in FY 2025-26 alone, and Hero MotoCorp shows no evidence of engine failure linked to E20.

Technical analysis supports this: ethanol has a high Research Octane Number (approximately 108.5), which contributes to smoother combustion and better anti-knock properties in high-compression engines. Additionally, its higher heat of vaporisation cools the intake manifold, leading to better pickup and a smoother ride.

Clearing the Fog

The misinformation campaign has also targeted the insurance and political spheres. Claims that insurance companies would reject claims for E20-related damage were debunked as a misrepresentation of out-of-context screenshots; the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) has confirmed that warranties and insurance policies remain fully valid.

Furthermore, allegations that the government is "forcing" ethanol imports due to international political pressure have been categorically denied. The Ministry of Commerce and Industry and Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan have both clarified that ethanol is explicitly excluded from international trade concessions. The programme is a domestic initiative, born of India's unique needs, and entirely unrelated to external trade

Brighten up your house with vibrant Colours

Monsoons are obviously not a very good time for refurbishing your home, when it comes to things like painting or doing up the house. However, small changes and additions can do the trick of brightening up your house, while the weather outside is dull and dark. Here's your guide on how to make your home bright!

Colours like pink, orange, red, yellow, etc. go very well to brighten up your interiors during the monsoons. For a quick makeover, bright coloured curtains and cushion covers do the trick. "Since painting is not an ideal thing during monsoons as the weather outside is wet and so as the walls, hence experimenting with soft furnishings, wall papers and decoratives will make a significant difference," say experts.

Wallpapers:



Getting a wall highlighted with bright coloured textured wallpapers can be a good option. You can choose from colours like fuchsia pink, yellow, orange, turquoise, etc would look very attractive and bright during this dull weather. Similarly, you can also put up artistic murals or paintings on light coloured walls to make them look bright.

Pop-colour your home:

Try experimenting with pop colours, be it curtains, cushions, artefacts, wall papers, bed linen, etc, a sudden hint of bright colour will give your home that bright look. Colourful cushions can make a simple house look glow; make sure you choose silk or shining fabrics for cushion covers.

Goretro:

While, many people like to move away from the conventional styles of

home decor, and love to experiment with something funkier. Retro style home furnishings are doing rounds these days; they come in bright colours and look uniquely innovative. Be it lampshades, chairs, stools or tables; these retro style furniture and home furnishings are sure to enhance the look of your house.

Play with lights:

Moreover, playing with lights is the best thing to do refurbish your home, using warm colours like yellow or orange at neglected corners would make your home look mysteriously gorgeous. Different shaped lights like a swan, dew drop, a petal or any artistic shape when placed anywhere in the living room stands out as a statement. Interestingly, 3D carpets are the newest attraction in the market. Available in pastel colours, the designs will leave you in an optical illusion when laid on the floor.



5 appliances every cook must have

Take a look at some of them...

Aparing knife

This is the basic one, needed to cut small vegetables and fruits. You can easily slice fruits with it, cut the peels of potatoes and other thick skins, devein shrimp, de-seed and section fruits, etc. Always look for one with a comfortable handle.

Measuring cup

It's not always possible to cook saying, 'take a handful of this or that'. Every kitchen must have a

measuring cup or jar to measure liquids like milk or stick or even dry ingredients like sugar, before cooking. It's better to get a transparent plastic one that allows you to see what you are measuring.

Bnderle

A blender and hand blender are must-have appliances in the kitchen. The electric blender is used to mix foods and liquids like summer mocktails and soups and is available in different sizes. Blenders with a jug make it more convenient.

Vegetable peeler

Vegetable peelers or potato peelers are a most utilised appliance. They can get the skin off

carrots and apples quickly and make the cooking process effortless. There are several designs available, like the Y or straight type. You can also use the peeler to cut slices of cheese or make thin ribbons of chocolate.

Garlic press

This nifty little gadget is most useful as we Indians uses a lot of garlic in cooking. The press pushes the cloves through holes to get the peels. So you need not mince the garlic with a knife anymore, if you have this.



Planning to cook? Then there is a list of appliance s that you must have in your kitchen.

How to take care of artificial Jewellery

Avoid spraying deodorant/perfume on the jewellery while getting ready. After removing your jewellery, store it in a soft zip up pouch so that dust doesn't easily get to it. Don't use tissues to cover them as they might cause scratches.



Do not wear your jewellery while taking a shower.

If you have to clean your jewellery, try and use only warm water.

Clean your jewellery with a soft cloth and mild detergent with warm water if required. Don't clean any jewellery piece that is broken or damaged since cleaning it might damage it more.

Inspect your jewellery at regular intervals to ensure that it isn't tarnished.

How to organize your dresser

We always focus on organizing our closet, which is definitely a vital storage area to keep clean and organized for easy dressing, but your dressers are important too. Here are a few tips for getting your dresser drawers clutter-free.

Overhauling: Every month, take everything out of your drawers and refold them. It will also help you to pull out stained or torn clothing to throw away and set aside clothes you haven't worn in awhile.

Avoid stacking: Rather than stacking T-shirts, try organizing them according to their colour. This will easily help in getting to that item, stacked at the bottom, without disrupting the rest of the clothing.

Use containers: Use containers in your drawers to hold the small stuff, like a box for watches and necklaces, plus a large bowl to hold bow ties.

Pick dividers: If you have a particularly large drawer, consider picking up dividers or organizers.

Store Candles: Whether it's a new or even just a little nub of a mostly burned one, a candle placed in your drawer will keep your clothes smelling lovely. You can also use bars of soap.



Tips to ensure your linen lasts really long

Everyone loves to wear linen, and for good reasons too. Said to be one of the most durable materials around, it's soft and also has a high level of penetration for colours and dyes.

However, there's a lot of myth surrounding it too. For one, it's often said that linen cannot be washed at home, and needs to be dry-cleaned. Needless to add, there are ways beyond dry-cleaning to make linen last longer and be as soft as possible. Here's what you should keep in mind to do that: Only oxygen-type bleaches should be used for white linen laundering.



Bleach-free detergents must be used for washing coloured linen articles. Also remember to always use lukewarm water for the purpose. Do not wring out linen before

drying. Lay out your laundered item, pull it into shape and pat it flat to minimize wrinkles and thereby, save your ironing time. If you postpone ironing your linen items until some time later, put laundered items in a plastic bag and place it in the refrigerator or a freezer for six to 24 hours. It will help them remain damp and prevent mildew formation. If there is a stain on your linen blouse or trousers, find out if it is water based or oilbased first. If it's water-based, try to blot the stain using a damp white cloth and then wash it with a mild detergent. If the stain is oil based, then you get it done by experts. How you store your linen also plays a big role in making it last longer. So, wherever you decide to store it, just avoid plastic bags and cardboard boxes.

Simplest ways to decorate your Bachelor pad

Living in a bachelor pad doesn't always mean a lot of mess, you can decorate your bachelor home with simple steps, those that will fit your budget too.

Going against the popular notion that living in a bachelor pad means living in a lot of mess is not only simple, but also a lot of fun. Now you can surprise your friends and even girlfriend by decorating your man-place with simple ways, steps that will not only make your house look great and welcoming but also will fit your budget.

Decide the usability
Decide what your apartment needs to be for. Whether you want it to be an entertainment zone or more like a hangout/chill out zone. Go according to your need.

Light and lamp
While yellow light is almost out of the vocabulary now, even fluorescent light is old fashion. Experiment with different coloured lights, use lamps to bring some more impact and 'atmosphere' into your pad. But make sure you have at least one main light that you can switch on when needed.

Change and upgrade
We all know washing them or sending them to the laundry is too unlike men. So instead, get a few pairs of bedsheets, which can be changed every few days. Running out of them will automatically hit the panic button in you to put them to laundry. Make sure the colours are dark. Anything light or white will not suite the apartment. Same goes for towels and napkins. Darker shades will always work better.

Make a 'sound' purchase
Having a good sound system always works well for any occasion. Whether you simply want to relax or have a party, a good sound system will always come in handy.

Invest in glass
And we are not only talking about the mirror, but also in some good glasses. Having a party and serving in disposables is alright, but good glasses will always add a bit more shine to your party.

Additional somethings
Get a pair of curtains for your living room. Buy a few paintings, and no need to feel guilty if they are not originals. Empty your dust bin often. Having a book shelf is a good idea. If you are experimental enough, paint your rooms with colours that bring some flamboyance. Reds and oranges are good shades.



This whole month, online sales will loom large on the horizon. People in your office, your friends, family members and even fellow travelers on your local commute will be seen discussing a great buy they clinched or they heard someone else get, or some buy they just lost.



It's obvious you'd want to be a part of the sale zeitgeist. However, a lot of times it happens that people buy on these sales just for the sake of getting a cheap deal but end up spending on useless things for which they pay almost the same. So here's a handy guide to get a bang for your buck

Make a WishList:
Tech blogger Abhimanyu Ghoshal says that a good idea to shop wisely is to make a wish list beforehand, so that you don't end up getting overwhelmed by the number of products being offered on a discount. "A wishlist is a feature where you can select those things which you always wanted to buy but are waiting for the prices to become affordable. During these mega sales, you can always check your wishlist, which will show you if the product is being offered on sale." This way, you won't be buying for the sake of it and getting what you actually want. Another benefit is that you don't have to search for what you want to buy, because the stocks get over rather quickly, at times within minutes.

Shop on apps:
Almost all the websites that promote online shopping have a mobile app. While the speed of your internet connection

remains the same, their interface is less cluttered and it can help you get to your product much easily. Also, the checkout time is lesser than it is on websites. Sahanand Agarwal, who paid less than 70% for a high end mobile phone on a recent sale said it was the app that helped him make the purchase so quickly. "The phone I wanted was sold out literally within minutes because it was too good a deal to resist. But because I had browsed the app before, I knew just how to reach the phone. It took me less than ten seconds to make the purchase," he beams. This is very much like knowing the inside of a store and making a dash for something that is literally flying off stands.

Browser extensions:
If you are shopping on your computer, another nifty trick is to use browser extensions to help you make a good choice. Ghoshal says that he regularly uses these lightweight extensions as they help him avoid blinkered purchases and gather more knowledge about where the product is available cheaply. "These extensions tell you if the product you are buying is available on any other site for cheap. This way, you can avoid all the marketing gimmicks and cut to the chase and see

whether the thing that you're buying is actually on a discount or are the rates simply being jacked up, which happened in a recent online sale."

Subscribe earlier: What a lot of people waste time on is when they put in their address and other shipping details right when they make the purchase. This could result in the thing you're purchasing quickly going out of stock as thousands of people are literally clicking away furiously trying to buy the item. At a recent online sale, a similar thing happened with Nausheen Virani, a Navi Mumbai based resident who was trying to buy an electronic gadget. "When I clicked on the gadget, it was in stock, but I took ten or 15 minutes in putting my shipping and card information. On the checkout screen I got to know that the item was already out of stock," she rues. So, it's best to register your address and card information beforehand.

Time your purchase:
In big ticket online sales, timing is of utmost importance. With thousands of people trying to buy the same thing at the same time, the best deals get over within matter of minutes, at times even seconds. So, be alert when there is a big online sale coming up. Know what time the deals start rolling. Very often, these sales starts early in the morning, and if you're up at the time, you can get some incredible deals right

Guide to shopping on 'Cyber Monday' Sales



away. Check websites that give you information on when the sales start.

Many a times, big-ticket retailers themselves leak the information to these websites to attract more customers a month in advance.

Cash on delivery: If you spot a deal and are not registered on that particular website, a good idea is to enter your shipping details and ask for a cash-on-delivery option instead of paying by card. Of course, the biggest advantage is that you completely cut the risk of not getting the product that you have paid for and you don't need to chase the online retailers. Also, it saves you time since you don't have to enter payment details from your card; a process which is manual most of the times and could easily take as much as three to 10 minutes. Also, it's a lot safer, because you are not entering any sensitive credit card information.

Stick to the list:
While shopping online, one can follow the same rules that one follows in a shopping mall. The reason is, one can always get lured by glitzy advertising and indulge in impulse buys which one is then stuck with, as most of these websites don't have the option of a refund. So, if you want to avoid wasting money on buying things you would later regret, make a shopping list first. If the product you wanted isn't on that list, strike it off and move on to the next item. This will help you budget well and avoid unnecessary purchases.

What is cyber monday Sale?
- Cyber Monday is a marketing term for the Monday after Thanksgiving in the United States first used in 2005.
- In India, 12 December, 2012 was when the first Cyber Monday was held - According to research, most people shop from their work places on Cyber Mondays, with the main reason being to indulge in shopping away from the eyes of family members!
- The biggest Cyber Monday sale in history was on 27 November 2006 in USA, when customers spent \$610 million dollars in 24 hours.
- According to research, most people shop heaviest around 3 pm on these sales, as Monday is a workday

Tips to declutter refrigerator



Organise your refrigerator to ensure that you know what's in your fridge, what's in date and what you need to get rid of.

Keep the items you use most at the front of the fridge: Having a streamlined fridge can make a positive difference to someone on a busy day, given the number of times we go in there - for that morning cup of tea, when making breakfast, lunch and dinner and everything in between. Having the items you use most to hand as soon as you open the fridge door can make a lot of difference.

Make the food items more visible: With such busy lives how could we be expected to remember every single item we own or have bought. The easier the contents of your fridge are to see, the less likely you are to be saddled with out-of-date products.

Keep what you want to eat most in front: If you're trying to eat more healthily, then make sure your fresh fruit and vegetables are the first thing you see when you open the fridge and hide the chocolate as much as possible.

Store childrens' items at the lowest possible height: It might involve creating their own area so that items they are allowed to help themselves to are within easy reach and then placing the 'treats' higher up or hidden away so they can't just help themselves.

Make the most of flexible storage: You can often move your refrigerator shelves up and down. So, adjust to suit what you are storing to ensure you don't have any dead space



Monsoon Session formally not ended 10 days after adjournment amid delimitation bill buzz

Ten days after Parliament was adjourned indefinitely, the Monsoon Session has not been prorogued. The delay has intensified questions over a possible push by the Centre for a delimitation-linked women's reservation amendment.

Delhi. (Agency)

Ten days after both Houses of Parliament were adjourned sine die, the Monsoon session has still not been formally ended, fuelling speculation that the government may be keeping its options open to pass a key bill without calling a new session.

The Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha were adjourned sine die on August 13. Usually, a session is prorogued, or formally ended, within three to four days. However, no notification proroguing the Monsoon session had been issued till Sunday morning.

The Budget session had ended on April 18 and was prorogued on April 20. Under constitutional provisions, the president summons and prorogues Parliament on the recommendation of the government. There has been strong speculation that the

government could bring a bill to amend the women's reservation law so that it can be implemented before the 2029 parliamentary polls. An earlier attempt during the Budget session had failed as the government could not gather the numbers. Opposition parties, especially those from the south, were concerned that population-based delimitation would reduce their strength in the Lok Sabha.

To address these concerns, the government has worked on a formula to increase the number of Lok Sabha seats across states and Union territories by a uniform 50 per cent. There were also strong indications that the government could try to get the Constitution amendment bill passed after Independence Day. The Congress on Sunday questioned why the session had not been prorogued even 10 days after it was

adjourned sine die. Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh asked whether Union Home Minister Amit Shah was still



looking for his "super-tainted" two-thirds majority to pass the delimitation-linked Constitutional amendment bill in a special session. Ramesh said the gap between the Lok Sabha being adjourned sine die and its prorogation is usually two to four days, though there have been several instances

when both happened on the same day. "Ten days have gone by since this Lok Sabha was adjourned sine die but still there is no information on its prorogation," he said.

He added that while the gap for the Monsoon session in 2015 was 28 days and in 2021 it was 20 days, there were no "diabolical" moves afoot then.

Speculation over the government's next move on the delimitation-linked Women's Reservation Bill has continued after Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay raised the issue at the Southern Zonal Council meeting in Mahabalipuram on August 21, which was chaired by Shah. "I urge the Union government to provide a clear legislative assurance that no state will suffer a reduction in its percentage of representation in Parliament on account of its success in population stabilisation," Vijay said.

Three Delhi police personnel injured in chilli powder attack, 17-year-old arrested

Delhi. (Agency)

Police have apprehended one of two accused, a 17-year-old, for allegedly attacking three personnel with bricks and sticks and throwing chilli powder into their eyes while they were patrolling the Bhalswa Dairy in Delhi's Mukundpur on Saturday. The other accused, however, fled the scene.

The incident took place around 3.30 pm after staff of Bhalswa Dairy police station returned to the area following the seizure of a motorcycle allegedly being driven without valid documents under Section 66 of the Delhi Police (DP) Act, they said. Head Constables Dinesh and Rajesh had found the motorcycle during patrolling and brought it to the police station for deposition.

"Later, the motorcycle owner and some of his family members allegedly confronted the policemen and turned violent. The accused allegedly threw chilli powder into the eyes of the police personnel and attacked them with bricks and sticks," a police officer said.

"Head Constable Tinu, who reached the spot to assist his colleagues, was also attacked," officer said. All three personnel sustained injuries. Of them, Dinesh suffered a head injury. They were provided medical treatment and are stated to be stable.

A video purportedly showing the assault on the police personnel also went viral on social media following the incident. An FIR has been registered at Bhalswa Dairy police station. Police said the main accused, Sunil alias Pankaj, who remains absconding, is a known bad character in the area. According to officials, five criminal cases have been registered against him, including two under the NDPS Act and others involving serious offences.

Delhi University clarifies on CUET admissions, says 'Class 12 route only for vacant seats'

Delhi. (Agency)

Delhi University on Saturday clarified that admissions through the Common University Entrance Test (CUET) remain the primary mode of undergraduate intake, with students allotted colleges and courses strictly on the basis of merit and preference.

DU Registrar Vikas Gupta said CUET-based admissions prioritise student choice from nearly 1,500 college-course combinations. "When admission happens via CUET, we prioritise the student's choice.



They select their preferred college and course from nearly 1,500 combinations. Allocation is done strictly on the basis of marks and ranking," he said. He added that students receive seats according to their merit position, with some opting for colleges closer to the main campus and others choosing institutions across the capital.

Gupta clarified that admissions based on Class 12 marks are a separate exercise, limited to programmes and colleges where seats remain vacant after CUET rounds. "These are not a replacement for CUET admissions," he said, adding that the process was only to fill remaining vacancies. Gupta said the university had nearly filled its sanctioned undergraduate capacity, with around 70,512 admissions against approximately 71,439 seats.

Delhi HC seeks NALSA's stand on PIL seeking free aid for needy to tender electronic evidence

The bench observed that prima facie, the inability of the needy to present electronic evidence in the absence of means to seek assistance of an expert impinged upon their right to access to justice.

Delhi. (Agency)

Delhi High Court has sought the stand of the Centre and NALSA on a PIL seeking free forensic expert assistance for the needy to enable them to present electronic evidence in court under the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam.

A bench of Chief Justice D K Upadhyaya and Justice Tejas Karia issued notices to the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) and the Centre on the PIL filed by two lawyers, Zeeshan Ekhlaque and Aman Bhide. The bench observed that prima facie, the inability of the needy to present electronic evidence in the absence of



means to seek assistance of an expert impinged upon their right to access to justice.

"We accordingly require the NALSA to consider the matter and apprise the court of a possible scheme which may be applicable," the court said on August 19.

The petitioners said that under the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA), tendering electronic evidence in a case by any person required a certificate

signed by an expert and those belonging to marginalised, vulnerable and poor backgrounds may lack the financial means to obtain this assistance.

The petition said that in response to an RTI application, NALSA specifically stated that "there is no provision of expert assistance" to persons entitled to free legal aid for preparing certificates as per Section 63 of the BSA, 2023.

Delhi Behind the scenes A tale of consent and confrontation in a Metro ride

Delhi. (Agency)

A routine Metro ride turned into a dramatic confrontation at AIIMS station this week. A woman reportedly accused CISF personnel of photographing her, triggering an argument with fellow passengers. What began as a complaint soon escalated into a scuffle, with passengers confronting the security official. The incident has since prompted an inquiry, and the CISF personnel were suspended pending investigation.

Yet another extension

The electoral roll revision in Delhi now reads less like a schedule and more like a series of polite extensions. The draft roll, initially scheduled to be out on August 5, has had over three revisions.

The final roll, once due in early October, is currently set for November 4. Deadlines seem to follow a familiar script: Arrive, pause, and ask, almost



apologetically, for a little more time. **90-minute standoff saves family from fake officials**

A real-life crime thriller unfolded in Rohini when a group posing as CBI officials arrived at a businessman's

home this week, to allegedly conduct a raid. But they met a tough gatekeeper. The businessman's wife refused to open the door, demanding proper identification and a search warrant. For nearly 90 minutes, she held her ground as the alleged officials tried to convince her. Neighbours eventually gathered and questioned them. Unable to produce any documents, they fled.

Biometric machines meet a water crisis

Government offices found an unusual problem with their biometric attendance system: water. Engineers reportedly discovered water inside several attendance machines, despite no nearby plumbing or apparent source. The discovery raised suspicions that some devices may have been deliberately damaged to disrupt attendance recording.

Land pooling for infra push gets boost in master plan

Delhi. (Agency)

The Delhi Master Plan 2047 has strengthened the city's land pooling framework to facilitate planned development across nearly 200 sq km of Delhi's Urban Extension areas, with the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) planning around 600 km of new roads to support the expansion.

The strengthened framework seeks to shift development in these areas towards an infrastructure-first approach, with roads of 30 metres and above to be notified and developed by the DDA. The new urban areas are also planned with schools, healthcare facilities, parks, green spaces, commercial centres and other public amenities alongside housing.

Originally notified in 2018, the land pooling policy allows private landowners to voluntarily participate in the planned development of Delhi's Urban Extension areas, with the DDA acting as a facilitator. Under the new master plan, the framework provides multiple development models aimed at accelerating implementation.

Apart from voluntary assembly of land by individual landowners and development through consortiums, the plan introduces Town Planning Schemes as an alternative mechanism for integrated and contiguous development. The minimum area for such a scheme has been fixed at 20 hectares. The plan also introduces inclusive zoning, allowing a mix of activities within residential plots depending on the Right of Way of roads. The provision is aimed at creating neighbourhoods where housing, economic activities and essential services are located closer together.

Another major feature is the proposed high-density mixed-use development along Urban Extension Road-II (UER-II). The land pooling area covers 105 revenue villages across six planning zones—K-I, L, N, P-II, part of P-I and J—which are divided into 138 sectors. According to the DDA, more than 7,615 applications had been received and over 7,885 hectares of land registered or pooled till July 2026.

India's Rocket Launches Costliest Among Major Space Powers: Cambridge Study

While the global average launch cost in 2025 stood at \$3,868 per kilogram, the US averaged \$3,225 per kilogram, Japan \$5,287, China \$5,809, Russia \$6,682 and Europe \$9,897. India topped the list at \$13,302 per kilogram.

Delhi. (Agency)

As India marks its third National Space Day, celebrating the success of Chandrayaan-3 and the country's expanding ambitions in orbit and beyond, a new detailed academic study from two of Europe's most respected institutions has thrown up an uncomfortable question for the Indian space establishment. A 2026 University of Cambridge study finds India's per-kilogram launch costs are four times higher than America's and, in fact, the costliest in the world. A peer-reviewed paper published in the respected Elsevier journal Economics Letters by economists Alessio Terzi of the University of Cambridge and Francesco Nicoli of Politecnico di Torino, Turin,

Italy's oldest technical university, repeated claims associated with India's space programme. For decades, ISRO has been cited globally as a model of public imagination.

Such comparisons have often shaped public perception. In 2014, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, "A one-km auto rickshaw ride in Ahmedabad takes Rs 10, and India reached Mars at Rs 7 per km by Mangalyaan, which is really amazing," while speaking about India's talent pool and its potential to become one of the top most countries in the world. At times, such comparisons have arguably done the programme's public image



frugal engineering. From launching few missions at a fraction of Western costs to popular comparisons between space CEOs and founders of 20 Indian space startups, where he called for creating an ecosystem and an environment

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Is infrastructure-led growth reshaping Mumbai's next wave of residential demand?

Kolkata. (Agency)

Mumbai is witnessing heightened activity in the residential real estate market, according to data from industry players and property registrations in June might have reached a 14-year peak in the month of June. Developers think that infrastructure development is turning into one of the strongest drivers of residential demand in Mumbai and the wider MMR. The impact is not limited to improving travel times; better connectivity is changing the relative attractiveness of micro-markets by bringing previously peripheral locations closer to employment hubs, commercial districts and established neighbourhoods, thinks Shankesh Sanghvi, managing director of Sanghvi Realty.

Better connectivity drives up demand

"We are already seeing this reflected in Mumbai's housing activity. The city had 80,221 property registrations in the first half of 2026 which was up 6% year-over-year and the best first-half performance since 2013. This was due to better facilities and connectivity, which kept end-user demand high," he said. Sanghvi says the next phase of residential growth will likely be led by corridors rather than concentrated in already established areas. New places to live are popping up all over the MMR thanks to road connections, metro growth, and big regional infrastructure projects. "Recent market activity in places that have benefited from projects like the Metro network, Atal Setu, and other upgrades to connectivity shows how infrastructure can bring value to micro-markets that haven't been explored much before," he remarked.

Not a standalone trigger though

However, he is quick to point out that though significant, infrastructure is not a standalone trigger for housing demand. "Connectivity needs to be accompanied by employment opportunities, social infrastructure, retail, education and healthcare for a micro-market to develop sustainably.

Don't buy crypto in India: Radhika Gupta's blunt advice to investors

New Delhi. (Agency)

Asked whether investors should consider cryptocurrency as a way of creating wealth, Radhika Gupta, MD & CEO of Edelweiss Mutual Fund, had a three-word answer:

"Don't buy crypto."

Speaking at the India Today Woman Summit 2026, Gupta said her concern was not necessarily with crypto as an asset class globally. Her objection was specifically to investing in crypto in India, where she argued that investors could face problems if things went wrong. "I have no problem with crypto. I have a problem with crypto in India," she said. DON'T INVEST IN WHAT YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND

Gupta's first warning was a familiar one: investors should not put their money into products they do not understand. She recalled an incident involving an uncle who wanted to buy crypto. When she asked him why, he could not explain why he wanted to invest in it. That, according to Gupta, is itself a red flag. Her advice is particularly relevant when an investment becomes popular because everyone else appears to be making money from it. Popularity does not necessarily mean an investor understands the underlying asset, the risks involved or what could happen when markets turn. "Don't buy things you don't understand," she said.

Cracks, questions and a changing guard at Tata

New Delhi. (Agency)

Tata is a household name in a way few companies are. From the salt on the dining table to the car in the driveway, from the tea in the morning to the software running behind some of the world's biggest businesses, the Tata name has become part of everyday life. It has built steel plants and power stations, iconic hotels and an airline. It owns Jaguar Land Rover, makes jewellery and watches, and is now spending billions of rupees



to build semiconductors. But some difficult questions are now gathering behind that familiar name. Air India, brought back into the Tata fold with much fanfare, is still bleeding money and faces a turnaround that could take years. TCS, long the group's most dependable money-spinner, is confronting an artificial intelligence revolution that could change the economics of IT services. Jaguar Land Rover is under pressure after a sharp fall in quarterly profits. And Tata is committing more than Rs 1 lakh crore to semiconductor projects that will take years to prove themselves. Then, as all this unfolds, comes a change at the top.

US-Canada tariff war: Ottawa refuses to bow to Trump, will slap duty on US goods from Sept 8

Kolkata. (Agency)

Following the collapse of trade talks, Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney announced that his government would impose tariffs on US goods starting September 8. He said details would be announced in the coming days and that the tariffs would be based on the dollar value of the new US tariffs to protect Canadian workers and businesses.

The trade deal between Canada and the US has collapsed leading to unprecedented fireworks between the two neighbours. While the Trump administration has decided to impose 50% tariffs on about \$28 billion worth of Canadian imports, Ottawa has vowed to get even by imposing counter tariffs on imports from America. In a statement that mirrored dollar-for-dollar retaliation, Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney said, "We cannot accept the US offer, and we will not give them what they have demanded." He has also told the media that his government will announce details of the new tariffs in the new few days.

Uncompromising stand of Canadian PM

Mark Carney has said Canada was prepared to remove its remaining retaliatory tariffs as part of a broader trade agreement. These would be particularly applicable on US sectors like steel,

aluminum and automobiles. However, he also pointed out that his government was not willing to compromise on industries it considers essential to Canada's economy. The breakdown in talks occurred when the United States imposed 50% tariffs on



approximately \$20 billion worth of Canadian products on Saturday morning. This move affects approximately 5% of Canada's annual exports to the US and covers a wide range of goods. Canada has responded by preparing matching tariffs. Mark Carney said Canada will match those tariffs dollar-for-dollar to protect its workers and businesses.

He said details of the new measure would be released in the coming days, and it was expected the retaliatory action would focus on sectors such as steel and dairy. The US and Canada were working toward a deal to continue negotiations after Washington extended the tariff deadline, but Carney cited last-minute changes to the US proposal, which led to the breakdown of talks.

America has changed

The Canadian PM slammed last-minute changes to the US proposed terms which he described as incorrect and uneconomic. He further stated that he had halted negotiations and ordered the Canadian negotiating team to return from Washington to Ottawa. However, US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer blamed Canada for the failure, saying that Ottawa had refused to finalise the deal despite receiving good treatment. Carney stated that Canada's intention was never to secure a deal at any cost or by any deadline.

Starbucks India to accelerate store expansion after business recalibration

Mumbai. (Agency)

Starbucks India is set to resume its aggressive store expansion strategy following nearly two years of recalibrating its business model amid a broader slowdown in discretionary spending, Tata Consumer Products Managing Director and CEO Sunil D'Souza has said. Starbucks, which operates in India through JV partner Tata Consumer Products Ltd (TCPL), used the last 18-24 months as an "opportunity to recalibrate" its entire business model -- from store size and capital expenditure per outlet to the pricing of beverages, he told.

According to D'Souza, things have "started to fall into place" as Tata Starbucks has now reported four successive quarters of same-store sales growth. "We had four

successive quarters of same-store sales growth now, and we are seeing acceleration coming in. Now, we will again start to expand the number of stores aggressively," he said. TCPL has a 50:50 JV with US-based



Starbucks Corporation -- Tata Starbucks -- which operates around 500 Starbucks cafes in India. The company had earlier targeted opening around 100 Starbucks stores annually and sustained that pace for a few years, but moderated expansion over the last 18-24

months amid softer demand across the discretionary consumption and quick-service restaurant (QSR) segments. "But we also took the opportunity to recalibrate our entire business model, because we do think

Starbucks has a significantly longer runway in India," D'Souza said. On the shape of the renewed expansion, he said it would combine both new store additions and greater density in existing markets. Starbucks has a presence in about 80 cities, which D'Souza considers "a good number" to operate in, with only limited additions to the city count going forward. "I think 80 is a good number in terms of operating, but I think you will find density of stores in cities also going up significantly," he said, adding that operating more than five stores in a city brings efficiencies of scale.

Mahindra & Mahindra to intensify exports with new pickup 'Lifestyler'

New Delhi. (Agency)

Homegrown auto major Mahindra & Mahindra is gearing up to intensify exports with its newly unveiled pickup targeting markets like South Africa, Australia, West Asia, and Latin America, according to company ED & CEO, Auto & Farm Sectors, Rajesh Jejurikar. The company, which has witnessed a multi-fold increase in its electric passenger vehicles sales last fiscal, is also confident of maintaining the growth trajectory with new products hitting the market, Jejurikar told.

Recently, the company unveiled its pickup 'Mahindra Scorpio Lifestyler' which will hit the market in India in April 2027 and it will be launched as the 'Mahindra Lifestyler' in global markets. "The Lifestyler pickup was developed as a global platform for access for mainly leveraging a global opportunity...It is an important part of our global growth strategy. We have been outlining that the 'Lifestyler' will be an important part of our global growth strategy," he said. Sharing which global markets the upcoming



pickup can be exported to, he said it can go to markets like South Africa, Australia, West Asia, and Latin America. Even in the Asean region where there is a lot of demand for pickups, the company could look at possible markets for the new Lifestyler, he added. "We are not present in the Asean markets except Indonesia. So we

would have to open up those markets with these products," Jejurikar said when asked if M&M would export to countries of the bloc thereby looking to increase overall exports. According to M&M's annual report for 2025-26, the company's automotive sector posted an export volume of 41,030 vehicles as against the previous year's exports of 34,709 vehicles, representing a growth of 18.2 per cent. The company exports its SUVs to global markets such as Australia, New Zealand, West Asia, Africa and South America.

Jejurikar, however, said the pickup, which will be sold in India as 'Mahindra Scorpio Lifestyler' "could also have a play" in the domestic market. "We now see a potential emerging product opportunity in India for a product like that as well.

Indian Oil to supply entire petroleum imports requirement of Mauritius

New Delhi. (Agency)

Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) has signed an agreement with the State Trading Corporation (STC) of Mauritius for the supply of petroleum products, under which IOC will meet the country's entire import requirement of motor spirit (MS), high-speed diesel (HSD) and aviation turbine fuel (ATF). The agreement was signed in the presence of India's Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri and Mauritius Prime Minister Navinchandra Ramgoolam. Puri was on a two-day visit to Mauritius starting August 20.

"The five-year agreement between Indian Oil Corporation and STC is an assured long-term supply commitment to Mauritius, providing the country with security of supplies and shielding it from price volatility," the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas



said in a statement. This is the first long-term supply agreement concluded by an Indian public sector undertaking (PSU) oil marketing company outside South Asia in recent years. The agreement positions India as the anchor fuel supplier to Mauritius and strengthens its strategic and economic footprint in the Indian Ocean region.

"India has emerged as a major global refining hub, with an annual output of 267 MMT of refined petroleum products across 23 refineries, making it a net exporter of refined products," the petroleum ministry said. It added that India already meets the petroleum demand of Nepal and Bhutan and supplies significant quantities to other countries in the region and beyond. Even during the West Asia crisis, India fulfilled its supply commitments to Nepal and Bhutan, making it a dependable energy security provider for the region. During the visit, Puri also held bilateral meetings with Patrick Gervais Assirvaden, Minister of Energy and Public Utilities; John Michael Tzoun Sao Yeung Sik Yuen, Minister of Commerce and Consumer Protection; and Dhananjay Ramful, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade. Puri also participated in the groundbreaking ceremony of Indian Oil (Mauritius) Ltd's 27.5 thousand metric tonne bunker marine fuel storage facility at Mer Rouge, Port Louis.

SBI's total business may double to 200 trillion by 2030: Chairman

SBI came into existence on July 1, 1955 through an Act of Parliament, which, among other things, provided for the transfer of the undertaking of the Imperial Bank of India

Kolkata. (Agency)

State Bank of India's total business could potentially double to around ₹200 trillion by 2030, when the bank celebrates its platinum jubilee, given the current growth trajectory, Chairman C S Setty said. SBI came into existence on July 1, 1955 through an Act of Parliament,

which, among other things, provided for the transfer of the undertaking of the Imperial Bank of India. The country's biggest lender crossed the landmark of ₹100 trillion total business, which is an aggregate of total loans and advances in the second quarter of the last financial year. This further increased to ₹110.01 trillion at the end of June 2026. Whether the bank had set a specific target for its platinum jubilee year, Setty said there was no formal milestone, but the bank's growth trajectory could take its total business to ₹170-180 trillion and potentially as high as ₹200 trillion by 2030. "We don't have any milestone, but if you take the current growth rate, I think we should be around ₹170-180 trillion, or maybe reaching ₹200 trillion. That would be another important milestone," he told in an interview. Setty said the scale of SBI's operations is closely linked to the performance of the Indian economy. "For a bank of our size, scale is



imminent, and it is fully intertwined with what is happening in the Indian economy," he said. He noted that if the Indian economy continues to grow at 7-8 per cent, SBI's balance sheet has the potential to expand around 11-12 per cent annually. "If the Indian economy grows at 7-8 per cent and our balance sheet has a potential to grow at 11-12 per cent, it means again coming to my

favourite theme that every six years SBI's balance sheet gets doubled. So I think it's potentially possible by 2030 we may have ₹200 trillion overall business," he said.

Setty further said SBI has Vision 2030, which focuses on ensuring that all bank's activities benefit or address the requirements of four key stakeholders -- customers, employees, shareholders, and the government and regulators, including the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). "We are working on the requirements of all these four stakeholders. When we benchmark ourselves against the best globally, we should be able to measure up to the best standards in each of these areas," he said. For customers, he said, the focus is on improving service and experience. For employees, SBI aims to simplify processes, improve productivity and create an environment where they feel satisfied and can deliver their best.

Rs 31,800 crore tech plans take shape in Andhra

VIJAYAWADA.(Agency)

In a major push toward high-tech industrialisation and digital infrastructure, the State government has approved two major investment projects totalling over Rs 31,800 crore across Visakhapatnam and YSR Kadapa districts.

Together, the State has sanctioned a 512 MW green artificial intelligence (AI) data centre facility and a large-scale electronics manufacturing unit, which are projected to generate 8,000 jobs. Under G.O. Ms. No.59 issued by the IT, E&C Department, the State approved a proposal by M/s. AM AI Factory (Vizag) Private Limited to establish a 512 MW Green Integrated AI Data Centre Facility at Amanam village in Bheemunipatnam mandal, Visakhapatnam district.

Carrying a cumulative investment of Rs 31,387 crore and an employment potential of 1,000 jobs, the project has been categorised as a Mega Project under the Andhra Pradesh Data Centre Policy (4.0) 2024-29, with a completion timeline of two years and four months. To support the massive facility, the government approved tailored non-fiscal and fiscal incentives. Non-fiscal support includes power infrastructure facilitation by APTRANSCO at the proponent's cost, guaranteed treated water supply, road connectivity via APIIC, and the realignment of an existing stream (vagu) and road passing through project survey numbers. The fiscal package for the AI data centre features a stamp duty exemption capped at Rs 16 crore, a 10% capital subsidy on plant and machinery capped at Rs 300 crore over 10 years, and 100% net SGST reimbursement.

Newborn dies, 3 suffer burns after hospital cradle warmer catches fire

Chhindwara.(Agency)

A fire broke out in a warmer at the Special Newborn Care Unit (SNCU) of Chhindwara District Hospital in Madhya Pradesh in the intervening on Saturday night, injuring three newborn babies. One of the injured babies later died at Jabalpur Medical College, where all three were referred for better treatment.

According to Civil Surgeon Kanchan Dubey, sparking occurred in the warmer used to keep newborn babies, causing the machine to catch fire.

Three babies kept in the warmer suffered burn injuries. The hospital provided them immediate treatment before referring all three to Jabalpur for further care due to their serious condition.

There were 33 babies in the SNCU when the incident occurred. Hospital staff quickly removed the other babies from the unit and shifted them to another ward, helping prevent further casualties.

Dubey said the incident appeared to be an accidental case and that she did not see any negligence. She said the administration would investigate the incident.

Delhi-to-Kerala MDMA racket using women as carriers busted, 4 arrested

KOCHI.(Agency)

The Excise Department has busted a drug racket that allegedly smuggled MDMA from Delhi to Kerala using women as carriers, and arrested four people in two operations, officials said on Sunday. A total of 279.3 grams of MDMA was seized from the accused, along with three grams of hashish oil, six mobile phones and Rs 69,500 in cash.

Officials said the racket was targeting young people for its operations. Joint Excise Commissioner S Vinod Kumar said the accused used a Mahindra Thar SUV to bring the contraband into Kerala and then sold it in smaller quantities.

Kumar said the Excise Enakulam Range first arrested two people, including an 18-year-old woman, from a luxury hotel in Kaloore a few days ago and recovered 49.3 grams of MDMA from them. "Upon arresting and interrogating the two individuals, information was received regarding a person named Varun Dev, a wholesale dealer who traffics MDMA into Kerala. On getting information that they were coming to Enakulam district on Saturday and that a deal was likely to take place, a search was conducted," he told reporters.

Excise officials then intercepted a vehicle at Vyttila after it got caught in a traffic block on Saturday. Kumar said 230 grams of MDMA and three grams of hashish oil were recovered from a secret compartment built under the steering wheel. The two occupants of the vehicle, identified as Varun Dev, 35, and Vipin S Kumar, 30, both from Pathanamthitta district, were arrested.

Kadapa teacher makes learning creative and meaningful

Jawahar entered the teaching profession on 26 October 1998 under the Janmabhoomi Act at Thuvvapalli.

KADAPA.(Agency)

For Jawahar Munneer Shaik, 56, an SGT at MPPS, Lingareddy Nagar, Proddutur town, sees teaching as more than a profession. For her, it is a lifelong mission built on compassion, creativity and the belief that every child has the potential to excel. Her journey in education reached another milestone when she was honoured with the prestigious State Best Teacher award 2025.

Born into a family of educators, Jawahar was inspired by her parents, Rahamthunnisa Begum and Masthanvalli, both teachers. Masthanvalli received the State Best Teacher award in 1992, while Rahamthunnisa was honoured with a District-level Best Teacher award. Their dedication laid the foundation for Jawahar's own career. Jawahar entered the teaching profession on 26 October 1998 under the Janmabhoomi Act at Thuvvapalli. Since then, she has devoted herself to educating, encouraging and empowering generations of children. Her teaching philosophy emphasises

making students active participants in the learning process. She has a particular passion for using low-cost and no-cost teaching-learning materials (TLM) and encourages children to prepare and use them. "I always try



to see how moral values can be incorporated into school education, how children can use teaching-learning materials related to the topic and how low-cost and no-cost TLM can help overcome learning gaps and achieve learning outcomes," she says.

Jawahar's leadership skills were evident

during the Nadu-Nedu programme, launched to improve infrastructure in government schools. Between 2019 and 2021, she worked tirelessly to complete development works at her school within tight deadlines and budgets.

She lost her husband during this period and continued working through the COVID pandemic. Her commitment earned her the 2021 Nadu-Nedu Best Headmaster award, making her the only headmaster from Kadapa district to receive the honour that year. Her achievements continued to build on her family's legacy in education. She received the District Best Teacher award in 2016, followed by Best Teacher honours from the Rotary Club and Inner Wheel Club, Delhi, in 2024. On 8 March 2025, she was honoured by Samskruthi Swachhanda Samstha and Vikasitha Foundation, and later that year received the Maulana Abul Kalam Azad award. The crowning achievement came in 2025 when she received the State Best Teacher award from Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu and Education and IT Minister Nara Lokesh.

Mangaluru move pushes Palakkad railway division to explore new 'tracks'

PALAKKAD.(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.

Senior health officers deployed in four Odisha districts for post-flood management

BHUBANESWAR.(Agency)

With floodwater receding, the state government on Saturday deputed senior health officials to strengthen post-calamity healthcare services in four affected districts of Balasore, Bhadrak, Keonjhar and Jajpur.

Special secretary Dr Bijay Mishra has been assigned to Balasore, while public health director Dr Rabindra Mishra has been sent to Bhadrak. Similarly, family welfare director Dr Rajendra Panigrahi and health services director Dr MM Panda have been deputed to Keonjhar and Jajpur respectively.

Chief secretary Anu Garg said the Health department is taking required preventive measures to ensure that no epidemic or outbreak of disease occurs in the flood-affected areas following the

prolonged flooding. Sanitation and disinfection of villages that remained submerged for a



prolonged period will be accorded the highest priority. Once the floodwaters recede, extensive cleaning and disinfection of submerged villages, roads and public places will be undertaken, she said.

Garg said special emphasis will be laid

on preventing outbreak of waterborne and communicable diseases, ensuring the safety of drinking water, maintaining adequate stocks and availability of essential medicines, providing appropriate healthcare services and responding promptly to any emerging health-related issues.

She said steps will be taken to ensure the cleaning and disinfection of drinking water sources and immediate removal of decaying and spoiled food items, animal carcasses and other decomposable materials left behind in the affected areas. "The state government is working with full commitment to ensure continuous field-level surveillance, early identification of potential health risks and their prompt management," Garg said.

In Surat weaving hub, factories to stay shut 2 days a week

Surat.(Agency)

THE IRAN-US-Israel conflict that has affected the supply of crude oil has also impacted the textile weaving industry in Surat. Prices of polyester yarn have skyrocketed, and buyers are not offering higher prices for woven textile grey cloth. The Unn Industrial Estate in Surat has decided to keep its factories shut for two days a week in the coming days, stakeholders said on Saturday.

The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SGCCI) had earlier made a representation to Union Textile Minister Giriraj Singh and requested exemption in the basic customs duty on DTY (draw textured yarn), POY (partially oriented yarn) and FDY (fully drawn yarn), polyester yarn be reduced to 0 per cent for three months. The demand was accepted by the government, keeping in mind the international conflict situation; and the basic customs duty on PTA and MEG was exempted to 0 per cent for three months from April 2 to July 15, 2026, hoping that the situation may stabilise by then. The demand was accepted by the government, keeping in mind the international conflict situation; and the basic customs duty on PTA and MEG was exempted to 0 per cent for three months from April 2 to July 15, 2026, hoping that the situation may stabilise by then.

From 6 classrooms under terracotta roof to 2-storey school with studio, VR lab: A Gujarat teacher's journey

The school now has a 7D VR lab, student-run news studio, QR-based lessons, science centre and other innovations.

Ahmedabad.(Agency)

Nitinkumar Mahendrakumar Pathak was, since 2007, teaching at Kadoli Government Primary School in Jalalpur of Navsari district, barely five km from his house. In 2015, as a 28-year-old, he sought a transfer to a tribal school in Rangpur village of Vansda taluka, 72 km away in the same district of South Gujarat.

The school was like any typical village school, located on a hillock—a single-storey building with a terracotta tiled roof, the walls adorned with portraits of freedom fighters. In the 10 years that Pathak spent there, the school has transformed into a double-storeyed building with a play area, a garden, the centrepiece being a studio where students record "news bulletins."

Pathak, now 39, is the only primary school teacher shortlisted from Gujarat for the national award by the Ministry of Education

ahead of Teachers' Day on September 5.

"I worked in an urban area for seven years but wanted to work in a tribal area. Rangpur Government Primary School was a remote school where hardly anyone visited. Today, the Rangpur Government Primary School has emerged as a centre of educational innovation, attracting 2,900 teachers, officers, professors, and educationists from across the state during the past five years. Visitors have not only appreciated the school's innovative practices but have also adopted and replicated many of its initiatives in their own institutions," Pathak told The Indian Express.

In a village with a population of 1982, the school has 274 children enrolled in schools. Of these, 180 are from Rangpur village, the rest from villages around it. Over the years, the school has grown from

six rooms to eleven rooms with support from donations totaling Rs 1,48,76,724 received through "public participation". Apart from the fact that the school's



capacity grew from 171 to 274, in the current academic session it enrolled 14 students from private schools which is the highest in the decade that has seen a total of 71 students migrate to the Rangpur

government school.

Vansda, which is a tribal taluka has less than a dozen private schools of which two closed down, says Pathak, a social science teacher and in-charge headmaster of the Rangpur school. Pathak's ten-year-old son too studied in the same school from Class I till IV before enrolling in the Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Vansda this year in Class V. His wife, Dipika, also a government primary school teacher in Vansda is elated by declaration of the award. "It is all possible because of the hard work and combined efforts of Nitinkumar, school staff, students and the villagers," she says. To curb dropout rate, the school produced a film on the importance of education which was shared by then Education Minister Kuber Dindor on his official platform. Dindor gave the school the title.

4K TN water tanks completely dry, farmers forced to deepen borewells

CHENNAI/THANJAVUR .(Agency)

Tamil Nadu is facing a severe water crisis as 4,208 of its 14,141 water tanks have completely dried up. Failure of southwest monsoon and record summer heat have depleted water resources across the state. The situation is particularly alarming in delta districts, considered the rice bowl of the state, where 95% of the 764 tanks hold nearly nil water as the Mettur Dam was not opened on the scheduled date of June 12 due to delay in release of Cauvery water by Karnataka.

According to Water Resources Department (WRD) officials, as many as 5,814 tanks across the state have only 1% to 25% of their storage, while the overall storage condition of over 10,000 tanks is extremely poor. Madurai has recorded the highest number of dry tanks in the state, as 1,123 out of the 1,340 tanks in the district have no water.

The Cauvery delta districts — Thanjavur, Tiruvarur, Nagapattinam, Mayiladuthurai and Pudukkottai — have a total of 737 system tanks maintained by the WRD, of which, 694 get water from Grand Anicut canal, 41 from Vennaru river and two from Cauvery.

Thanjavur district has the highest number of such tanks (537), followed by Pudukkottai (170) and Tiruvarur (28). Besides, there are 27 non-system tanks in the region.

Dry lakes in Thanjavur district have caused groundwater levels to plummet, disrupting Kuruvai crop irrigation.

Farmers are facing severe additional financial strain because of the need to deepen the borewells to save their crops. Additionally, dried waterbodies force owners to herd their cattle to distant areas just to find drinking water for their livestock.

NEWS BOX

Olise helps Bayern past Dortmund in German Supercup



DORTMUND. (Agency)

Michael Olise scored a goal and created another as Bayern Munich won 2-1 at old foes Borussia Dortmund in the season-opening German Supercup on Saturday. After a starring role with France at the World Cup, Olise was Bayern's most dangerous attacker, regularly tearing down the right flank. He found makeshift midfielder Nathaniel Brown for Bayern's 28th-minute opener and then scored one of his own just before the break. A late goal for former Wolves striker Fabio Silva brought Dortmund closer and the hosts could have levelled deep into stoppage time but Maximilian Beier scuffed a golden chance when through on goal. "It's a magnificent victory to kick off the season," Bayern striker Harry Kane told Sky. "Winning the trophy away at our league rival's home stadium is, of course, a great start to the season." Bayern were rusty and barely resembled the barnstorming side which lost just once domestically last season but had enough quality to see off a rebuilding Dortmund team playing in the season opener for the first time since 2021. The victory meant Bayern won the trophy for the 12th time and a second time in a row since it was renamed for club legend Franz Beckenbauer in 2025. Bayern coach Vincent Kompany said the win showed his side had the hunger to repeat last year's heroics. Some people maybe think we'll have a drop because we won everything last year. But that won't be the case, we won't rest and will try to win everything," Kompany told reporters. With new German coach Jurgen Klopp watching on, Bayern boss Kompany pulled a selection shock by naming left-back Brown behind Kane in attacking midfield. Summer arrival Brown seemed to struggle in the unfamiliar role early but was on the spot to put Bayern in front.

An on-rushing Olise was felled on the edge of the box but the ball fell to Brown, who calmly slotted home.

Kujur, Gurindervir humbled at home before Asian Games. And that is a good thing

Bhubaneswar. (Agency)

Animesh Kujur and Gurindervir Singh, the trailblazers of Indian 100m sprinting, were humbled at home at the Continental Tour Silver meet in Bhubaneswar on Saturday, August 22. The result was significant. It was the first time since April 2025, in more than a year, that neither Animesh nor Gurindervir won a race in India. The result, in front of a packed Kalinga Stadium crowd, mostly composed of young students, also meant that their poor results stretched into a second competition. Animesh and Guri were India's trailblazers at the recently concluded Commonwealth Games in Glasgow. Battling chilly conditions and, in Guri's case, a slight hamstring injury, both runners failed to reach the final of their individual events. Gurindervir put up a horror show in the men's 100m sprint,



finishing in 10.39 seconds and failing to progress from the heats. In comparison, Animesh did well in his 200m sprint, qualifying for the semi-final. But an unfortunate Lane 1 in the semis meant that he could not use his height and stride to his advantage, clocking 20.65 seconds and failing to progress to the final.

Animesh's coach, Martin Owens, rued the fact that it was his mistake that prevented Animesh from reaching the final.

"I should have read the rules better. It was my failure," Owens lamented before Saturday.

A CHANCE TO RESET AT HOME

What Owens meant was that they should either have run faster in the heats to get out of being placed in Lane 1, or run fast enough in the block before the competition to earn a bye to the semi-finals, which would have given Animesh a better lane at the CWG.

Shoriful Islam scripts history with seven-wicket haul vs Australia in Mackay Test

AUS vs BAN: Shoriful Islam produced Bangladesh's best away Test bowling figures with 7/48 on Day 2 in Mackay. His record spell helped bowl Australia out for 210 and gave Bangladesh a 146-run first-innings lead.

Mackay. (Agency)

Shoriful Islam produced a sensational spell on Day 2 of the second Test between Australia and Bangladesh in Mackay on Sunday, August 23, claiming 7/48 as the hosts were bowled out for 210. The left-arm pacer's career-best haul gave Bangladesh a 146-run first-innings lead after they had been dismissed for just 64. Australia resumed the day on 165/8 and added 45 runs in 12.3 overs before being bowled out before lunch. Shoriful completed his seven-

wicket haul by trapping Cameron Green lbw for 67 with a sharp inswinging yorker, while Taijul Islam removed Josh Hazlewood for six to bring Australia's innings to an end. Nathan Lyon remained unbeaten on 32 and, alongside Hazlewood, frustrated Bangladesh with a 24-run partnership for the 10th wicket. Lyon's resistance ensured Australia crossed 200, but Bangladesh had still secured a sizeable advantage after their remarkable bowling effort. Shoriful's figures were the standout performance of the innings and marked the first seven-wicket haul by a Bangladesh bowler against Australia. His 7/48 also became the best innings figures by a Bangladesh bowler in an away Test, surpassing Taijul Islam's 7/138 against Zimbabwe earlier this year.

SHORIFUL MAKES HISTORY IN MACKAY

The 24-year-old's spell was particularly significant given the context of the series. Hasan Mahmud had taken 6/55 in the first Test in Darwin, which had been the best figures by a Bangladesh bowler against

Australia in Tests. His nine wickets in that match played a major role in Bangladesh securing their first-ever Test win in



Australia. Shoriful has now gone one better in Mackay, producing the best figures by a visiting bowler against Australia since Curtly Ambrose took 7/25 in 1993. His wickets included key members of Australia's batting order and prevented the hosts from turning a precarious position into a commanding total.

Australia had slipped to 41/3 before Steve Smith and Green put together a 77-run partnership. Smith made 42 off 74 balls, hitting six fours, while Green's 67 came from 105 deliveries and included 10 boundaries. Shoriful then broke through to put Australia under sustained pressure, eventually finishing with seven wickets.

STARC STRIKES, BUT BANGLADESH STILL LEAD

Bangladesh's advantage was quickly reduced when they began their second innings. Mitchell Starc struck twice in the third over, having Shadman Islam caught by Marnus Labuschagne for one before bowling Mominul Haque for a duck with the very

next delivery. Pat Cummins then removed Tanzid Hasan for nine, caught by Starc at deep fine leg after a miscued pull. Bangladesh reached 39/3 at lunch, still 107 runs ahead, with captain Najmul Hossain Shanto unbeaten on 23 and Mushfiqur Rahim on four.

Saransh Jain makes Test debut in Colombo at 33, Kuldeep Yadav misses out

IND vs SL: Saransh Jain finally received his maiden India Test cap at 33 after years of domestic consistency. His debut in Colombo came as Kuldeep Yadav missed out with an infection, adding another twist to India's spin selection.

Colombo. (Agency)

Saransh Jain was handed his much-awaited maiden India Test cap as he made his debut in the second Test against Sri Lanka in Colombo on Sunday, with Kuldeep Yadav left out of the playing XI. The Madhya Pradesh all-rounder received his cap from temmate and veteran all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja during the team huddle before the start of the Colombo Test. India won the toss and captain Shubman Gill elected to bat first at the Sinhalese Sports Club. Gill confirmed Jain's debut at the toss, but his explanation for Kuldeep's absence came as a surprise, with the India captain revealing that the left-arm wrist-spinner



had been dropped because of an "infection".

IND vs SL, 2nd Test Day 1: UPDATES

India entered the second Test with a 1-0 lead after their commanding 165-run victory in Galle. Kuldeep had played the opening Test but managed only one wicket

from 25 overs, while Ravindra Jadeja and debutant Manav Suthar made a greater impact with the ball.

Jain had strengthened his case with years of consistent performances in domestic cricket and a productive stint in Sri Lankan conditions. During India A's recent tour, he took six wickets across two matches and scored an unbeaten 70, further underlining his suitability to the conditions. His selection gives India another right-arm finger-spin option while also adding batting depth to the lower order. With India continuing to favour a five-bowler combination, Jain's ability to contribute in both departments provides the team with a different balance.

Men's Hockey World Cup: How India can still reach the semifinals

New Delhi. (Agency)

Absolutely. I'd place the subhead **after the opening two paragraphs**, once the qualification scenario has been established. That gives the story a natural break before getting into the complicated calculations. India's hopes of reaching the semifinals of the 2026 Men's Hockey World Cup are still alive, but their route to the last four is a complicated one. Following Argentina's 3-1 win over England, India have been handed a lifeline despite losing both of their matches in Pool E. The Netherlands have already secured their semifinal place with six points, leaving India, Argentina and England fighting for the remaining spot.

INDIA NEED A BIG WIN

The equation is straightforward on the surface. India must beat Argentina in their final Pool E match, while the Netherlands must beat England in the other game. An



England win or draw against the Dutch would end India's semifinal hopes.

The margin of victory, however, could prove decisive. India have scored three goals and conceded seven so far. A 3-1 win over Argentina, for example, would take India to six goals scored and eight conceded. If the Netherlands then beat

England 2-0, England would finish with five goals scored and seven conceded, allowing India to move ahead. But if India win 3-1 and the Netherlands beat England 3-1, both India and England would finish with six goals scored and eight conceded. The qualification battle would then move to the next tiebreaker: field goals. That is where the equation becomes even more difficult for India. They currently have just one field goal in Pool E, scored by Dilpreet Singh against England. England, meanwhile, have three field goals, all of them coming against India. India therefore need to win by as big a margin as possible against Argentina, while also hoping the Netherlands can beat England convincingly enough to keep the goal calculations in their favour. There is an added challenge waiting for India in Argentina. The two teams have already met twice in the FIH Pro League this year, with Argentina winning both encounters.

Vaibhav Sooryavanshi out for 8 on Duleep Trophy debut as vice-captain



Mackay. (Agency)

Vaibhav Sooryavanshi's much-anticipated first day as East Zone vice-captain ended in disappointment as the teenage batter was dismissed for just eight runs in the Duleep Trophy 2026 quarter-final against North East Zone. After all the attention surrounding his red-ball audition, his stay at the crease lasted only six deliveries. Opening alongside Abhimanyu Easwaran after East Zone were asked to bat first at the BCCI Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru, Sooryavanshi initially looked ready to make an impact. Right-arm medium pacer Bishworjit Konthoujam was the bowler, and the left-hander immediately showed the attacking intent that has become a trademark of his rapid rise. Two boundaries came off successive deliveries. The first was tucked through mid-wicket after Konthoujam angled the ball into him, before Sooryavanshi punched the next delivery through cover for another four.

But just when it appeared the 15-year-old was settling into his innings, Konthoujam found the answer. He corrected his line and length for the final delivery of the over, bowling a good-length ball just outside of Sooryavanshi's reach to play the ball on the up through point, but the shot carried straight to the fielder at gully. Just like that, the big red-ball audition was over, with the youngster walking back for eight and East Zone losing one of their most closely watched batters.

A DISAPPOINTING START FOR SOORYAVANSHI

There was plenty riding on Sooryavanshi's Duleep Trophy campaign. The Bihar youngster had been handed the added responsibility of East Zone vice-captaincy, serving as deputy to India wicketkeeper-batter Ishan Kishan in a squad that also includes veteran fast bowler Mohammed Shami. f and cramping Sooryavanshi for room.

8,000 fans at a badminton carnival. How Delhi smashed the doubts at BWF Worlds

As many as 8,000 fans packed Delhi's IGI Stadium on the semifinals day, turning the BWF World Championships into a badminton carnival. They came for stars, found new heroes and smashed doubts about Delhi's appetite for badminton.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Two young girls took a quick sprint towards the vantage point at the Indira Gandhi Stadium in Delhi. An Se Young, the World No. 1 women's singles shuttler and one of the biggest names on the circuit, was about to pass through the replica of the India Gate, the entry point to the tunnel through which players enter and exit the court. She defeated

World No. 2 Wang Zhi Yi in an hour and a minute, her first match at the BWF World Championships that extended beyond an hour. "We have come today. We will come tomorrow as well," said Devasyaa Kadam and Adira Sinha, best friends who go to the same school in Gurugram.

"An Se Young Rules," read one of the two banners they had handcrafted for their Saturday trip to the national capital.

"Yes, we are huge fans of An Se Young. There was extra motivation to cheer for her because Wang had beaten PV Sindhu yesterday," Devasyaa said. The Olympic champion has been the undisputed queen of badminton over the last few years, and it showed in the way fans in Delhi adored her. She had already won the India Open three times, including earlier this year, and is yet to lose a completed match in India.

But Saturday was different.

For perhaps the first time, An played in front of a hall packed to the rafters. It felt like a



carnival, a crowd unlike anything badminton had seen in the country.

And An was moved.

After winning the last point of her semifinal, she turned towards the stands. She waved, bowed and acknowledged the chants of her name. Eventually, she ran towards

one section of the crowd, removed her famous 'Rambo' bandana and flung it into the stands. A couple of hours earlier, the main gallery had been brimming with people, energy and chants of "Bharat Mata Ki Jai". It was not for PV Sindhu, the biggest name in Indian badminton at the moment. It was not for Lakshya "bhai superstar" Sen, who generally draws healthy crowds in Delhi. It was for Gayatri Gopichand and Treasa Jolly. The women's doubles pair had won over the national capital during the week. When usual suspects Sindhu, Lakshya and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy-Chirag Shetty failed to make it to the weekend, Gayatri and Treasa became the Indian pair keeping the home crowd invested in the first World Championships hosted by India in 17 years.

Ayush Shetty, who stunned World No. 1 Shi Yuqi on the opening day, and Unnati Hooda had provided flashes of brilliance. But only Gayatri and Treasa made it to the podium.



Kareena Kapoor

‘Not Pregnant’, Close Ally Dismisses Report That Actress Is Expecting Third Baby

Kareena Kapoor is not pregnant, confirms the actress’ close ally. A video of the actress is going viral, with social media users speculating that the actress is expecting her third child with Saif Ali Khan. However, a source close to the actress has now confirmed that there is no truth to these rumours. The video shows Kareena Kapoor in her gym wear, coming out of a building as her team tries to cover her with an umbrella. During her exit from the building and entry into the car, in a blink-and-miss appearance, a section of people noticed what looked like a baby bump. Reacting to this viral clip, a source told HT, “Kareena is not pregnant. This is not true.”

Kareena Kapoor recently went on a holiday with her family to celebrate the 55th birthday of her husband and actor, Saif Ali Khan. Following the trip, she even shared a series of pictures on Instagram, and it was her bikini shot that took our breath away. Saif and Kareena got married on October 16, 2012, in a private ceremony in Mumbai. The couple are parents to two sons, Taimur Ali Khan and Jehangir Ali Khan, and Kareena often shares glimpses of their family holidays and special moments on social media.

When Kareena Told Saif Not To Have More Kids

In an earlier interview, Kareena Kapoor Khan opened up about her family plans and revealed that she had told Saif Ali Khan that they should not have any more children. “Saif has had a child every decade—in his twenties, thirties, forties and now in his fifties. I’ve told him, in your sixties, that’s not happening. I think only a man as broad-minded as Saif could be a father of four children at very different stages. He gives his time to them all. And now, with Jeh, we are trying to balance it out. We’ve made a pact that when he’s shooting for a film, I will try not to work on one at the same time [and vice versa],” Kareena said while speaking to Vogue.

Kareena Kapoor On The Work Front

Kareena Kapoor will next be seen in Daayra. The film is described as a gritty exploration of crime, punishment and justice, with an intense focus on societal realities. The movie marks Meghna Gulzar’s next project after her 2023 film Sam Bahadur. While announcing the movie, the director posted a couple of pictures on Instagram, captured alongside the lead stars. “When the lines of Law and Justice cross. Thrilled to embark on DAAYRA with Kareena Kapoor Khan and Prithviraj Sukumaran. A much-anticipated journey with Jungle Pictures and my co-writers Yash Keswani and Sima Agarwal,” she wrote.



Bhagyashri Borse NOT Opposite Aditya Roy Kapur In Milap Zaveri’s Next, T-Series Clarifies



Reports had recently suggested that Bhagyashri Borse would star as the female lead opposite Aditya Roy Kapur in Milap Zaveri’s upcoming film. The casting buzz, however, has now been addressed by the makers, with T-Series clarifying that the actor is not part of the project.

A T-Series spokesperson said in a statement, “The reports of Bhagyashri Borse being a part of T-Series and Milap Zaveri’s upcoming project with Aditya Roy Kapur are untrue. The production house will officially announce the actress soon.”

The production house has kept all the details regarding the film under wrap as of now. They are yet to reveal who has been cast opposite Aditya.

Milap Zaveri had earlier described his upcoming collaboration with Aditya Roy Kapur as an ‘intense and violent’ love story. Speaking to PTI in July, the filmmaker said romance has become an important part of his storytelling. “I feel maybe I’ve found my forte with romance. Earlier, Marjaavaan succeeded in a big way; Ek Deewane Ki Deewaniyat was a blockbuster,” he said. He added, “So, romance is a key integral part of my stories, and I think going forward it will remain along with action. So, romance, action, dialogue baazi, these are things I like to do as a director-writer and till audiences like my films, I’ll try to keep doing them.” Zaveri did not share any further details about the project at the time.

Meanwhile, Bhagyashri has several projects in the South lined up. She will next be seen alongside Sivakarthykeyan in the Tamil film Seyon, which is being produced by Kamal Haasan.



Arjun Kapoor Loses Cool Over Fan For Recording Him Without Permission



Arjun Kapoor, who is known for his fun nature, was seen losing his cool over a fan for recording him without his knowledge. The video, which is now going viral, shows Arjun Kapoor sitting in his car when he was spotted by a fan who is known for clicking pictures of and spotting Bollywood stars. The video has the fan asking Arjun if he could click a picture with him, to which the actor obliged. However, Arjun lost his cool when he noticed that the fan was already recording him.

The video has Arjun Kapoor sitting in his car and sporting a casual look. The actor looked smart with a sharp beard and styled hair. He paired a white T-shirt with a blue unzipped jacket and accessorised the entire look with a stylish dog tag. In the now-viral clip, after noticing that the fan was trying to record a video of him, Arjun rolled up the windows while saying, “Video kyu bana raha hai? Photo le na,” as he rolled up the window of his car.

Why Is Arjun Kapoor In The News?

Arjun Kapoor made headlines after rumours of his relationship with Sahiba Bali, nearly two years after his breakup with Malaika Arora, surfaced on social media. Speculation surrounding Arjun and Sahiba first surfaced after they attended the India vs England third ODI at Lord’s on July 19. Photos and videos from the stadium showed the two watching the match together, prompting social media users to wonder if there was more than friendship between them. As discussions gathered pace online, Sahiba addressed the chatter in her own way without directly commenting on the rumours.

Arjun Kapoor Confirmed He Is Single

The renewed speculation comes nearly two years after Arjun confirmed that he was single.

The actor was previously in a long-term relationship with Malaika Arora. The couple made their relationship public in 2018 and remained together for several years before reportedly parting ways in 2024.

During promotions for Singham Again later that year, Arjun put rumours about his relationship status to rest. Responding to fans who asked about Malaika during a public event, he smiled and said, “Nahi nahi, abhi single hoon, relax karo.” Professionally, Arjun was last seen in Mere Husband Ki Biwi, alongside Bhumi Pednekar and Rakul Preet Singh. While the actor is yet to announce his next project, his latest social media banter with Sahiba Bali has once again become a talking point, keeping both fans and gossip mills busy, even if the two continue to insist, at least indirectly, that not everything on the internet should be believed.



Mini Mathur

Says Her Father Initially Had Concerns About Kabir Khan: ‘Papa, He Is A Muslim’

Mini Mathur has spoken about marrying filmmaker Kabir Khan at a time when interfaith marriages were not necessarily an easy conversation in every household. The former MTV VJ revealed that despite coming from a conservative Mathur family, she faced no opposition from her parents. More than two decades later, Mini and Kabir have also chosen not to assign a religion to their children, Sairah and Vivaan.

In a conversation with Hauterrfly, Mini discussed marriage, surnames and how the couple decided to raise their children without formally identifying them with either parent’s faith.

Mini Mathur Did Not Change Her Name After Marriage

Mini married Kabir before her MTV years, when he was still making documentaries. She recalled that some people were surprised to discover she was already married after she won the VJ hunt.

“I was told by certain people saying, ‘We didn’t know you were married’,” she said.

Marriage, however, did not prompt Mini to change her identity on official documents. She said, “I never wanted my husband’s name in my passport. I didn’t change my name.” She followed a similar principle

while deciding her children’s names. “My kids shouldn’t have either of the parents’ names. I said if they are writing Khan, then they should write Mathur as well,” Mini explained.

According to her, neither the BMC nor the passport authorities objected when she



registered her children’s names.

‘I Knew That I Had To Get Married To Kabir’

Mini also recalled how her relationship with Kabir was received at home. Describing herself as a “conservative Mathur” girl, she said she had grown up being told that marriages generally happened within the same caste. Her father, whom she described as both conservative and loving, had allowed her to pursue television. Mini said this made her particularly conscious of her choices and public image.

NEWS BOX

Centre denies US clearance to Revanth Reddy, IOC USA alleges double standard

Newyork.(Agency)

The Indian Overseas Congress (IOC) USA Telangana Chapter on Saturday said it was "deeply disappointed" by the Centre's decision to deny political clearance to Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy for his planned visit to the United States. Reddy, who is currently in London, was scheduled to travel to the US after concluding his UK visit on August 23.

The Ministry of External Affairs said on Friday that it assesses visits by chief ministers and other dignitaries before granting political clearance. MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said in New Delhi, "The programme proposed in such cases should be appropriate to the office held and the purpose of the visit. In this particular case, that was not so in respect of the US." He added, "Therefore, clearance has not been given. Incidentally, his visit to the UK has been cleared." In its statement, the IOC USA Telangana Chapter said Reddy's planned US tour had included a major public reception in New York and high-level engagements with leading American academic institutions. It said the main aim of the visit was to support Telangana's effort to make Hyderabad a global centre for education, innovation, skills and research through partnerships with some of the world's leading universities.

Responding to the MEA's decision, Reddy said the only purpose of his US visit was, "as part of the New Education Policy of the Centre, bring the world's best institutions to India, to Telangana and to Hyderabad". He said, "They would have been an answer to our youth's aspirations to get education, skills, and training from the best Ivy Leagues and top global institutions. I have always believed we should all think beyond politics and elections when it comes to nation-building and the future of the youth."

Eastern Japan quake injures 23, disrupts Tokyo transport with no tsunami risk

World.(Agency)

A moderate earthquake struck eastern Japan, including the Tokyo area, early Sunday, injuring 23 people, most of them slightly, and causing some disruption to transport and power supply. Officials said there was no danger of a tsunami. The Japan Meteorological Agency said the quake had a preliminary magnitude of 5.9 and occurred in southern Ibaraki prefecture at a depth of 70 kilometres, an area that is prone to frequent earthquakes. The US Geological Survey recorded a preliminary magnitude of 5.8. Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi said on X that the government had set up a task force to assess possible damage. According to prefectural officials, the injured were reported from four prefectures in the region: nine in Saitama, nine in Kanagawa, four in Chiba and one in Ibaraki. Most were hurt after falling or hitting furniture or doors when they were startled awake by the quake and got out of bed in a panic. The Yomiuri newspaper reported that a woman in her 80s in Yokohama, in Kanagawa prefecture, fell off her bed and suffered a serious hip injury. The quake also affected transport services. East Japan Railway Company said express trains serving Tokyo and Narita Airport, as well as other local trains in north-eastern regions, were delayed. However, Shinkansen bullet train services were running normally. The tremor triggered emergency earthquake alerts on mobile phones and was strongly felt in Tokyo. NHK public television showed traffic in nearby cities, including Mito and Saitama, appearing normal. In Tokyo's eastern ward of Koto, an underground water pipe ruptured and water spilled onto the road, according to NHK footage. The pipe was later repaired and the leak was stopped. TEPCO Power Grid said the earthquake caused blackouts in about 460 homes in Tokyo, but power was restored by later Sunday morning.

Indian-origin store owner shot dead during robbery in US, daughter watched in horror

World.(Agency)

A 62-year-old Indian-origin store owner was shot dead during an armed robbery at his shop in Tennessee, US, as his 19-year-old daughter stood beside him and watched in horror when the gunman opened fire, police said on Saturday. The shooting took place on Thursday night and the motive remains under investigation.

Suresh Patel, who was from Gujarat's Mehsana district, was killed at Ridgecrest Cellars Wine and Spirits in Jackson around 9 pm, according to the Jackson Police Department. Local media reported that Patel had taken over the store just days before the shooting and that his daughter was at the store when he was shot dead. According to local broadcaster WBBJ, witnesses told police that a masked man entered the store, pulled out a gun and demanded cash from employees.

Suresh Patel, a 62-year-old businessman from Gujarat, was shot dead during an armed robbery at his store in Jackson. His 19-year-old daughter stood beside him and watched in horror as the gunman shot his father dead. The killing triggered a manhunt for the suspect.

After receiving the money, the suspect fired multiple shots, striking Patel. He died at the scene, police said.

The suspect, who was caught on CCTV, was described as a Black man wearing a grey hoodie, jeans and black work-style boots. His face was covered with a paintball-style mask. Police said he fled the store in a white sedan and warned that he should be considered armed and



dangerous. WBBJ reported, citing sources, that Patel had taken over Ridgecrest Cellars as its new owner on Monday, just three days before the shooting. The broadcaster also reported that a 70-year-old employee who had worked at the store since it opened fell during the incident and broke her wrist. Police have launched a manhunt for the

suspect and appealed to the public for information. Anyone with information has been asked to contact the Jackson Police Department or Crime Stoppers.

Patel's killing came amid continuing concerns over violent robberies involving Gujarati convenience store and business owners in the US. In May 2025, 30-year-old Paresch "Prince" Patel was

shot dead during a robbery at a gas station in Tennessee. Two months ago, Gujarati woman Meghna Patel was shot dead inside her store in Norfolk, Virginia.

In September 2025, Kiran Patel, originally from Charotar, was shot dead in a parking lot after confronting an armed robber who had entered her store.

Hind Rajab killing: After 933 days of denial, will the IDF deliver accountability?

World.(Agency)

On the morning of January 29th 2024, the Hamada family did what the Israeli military told them to do. They packed whatever they could carry, they put their children into a car, and they followed the evacuation route that Israeli forces had published for civilians fleeing northern Gaza. They followed the rules. They believed that following the rules would keep them safe. Israeli forces opened fire on the vehicle as it moved along that route. Her uncle, her aunt and four of her cousins were killed in the car. One person survived that first attack. Her

name was Hind Rajab. She was five years old, and she was now trapped inside a bullet-ridden vehicle, surrounded by the bodies of her family, unable to open the door,



unable to get out, and entirely alone in the wreckage of a war that had been raging around her for months.

So she did the only thing a five-year-old child could think to do. She called for help.

The phone call that the world heard The Palestine Red Crescent Society answered. A responder named Rana Faqih stayed on the line with Hind for hours, talking to her, keeping her calm, telling her that help was on the way. Hind told Rana that she was scared. She asked Rana not to hang up. Rana did not hang up. A recording of that call was later broadcast globally and drew immediate international condemnation, not only for what had happened to the child but for the circumstances in which she had been left to face it.

2 cops among 7 killed as car travelling wrong way hits police vehicle in UK

The police said the incident occurred at 03.39 am (0239 GMT) near the South Bank area east of Middlesbrough and that all occupants of the two vehicles died at the scene.

London.(Agency)

Seven people, including two police officers, died in a car crash in northeast England on Saturday after a car heading the wrong way down a major road hit a marked police armed response car, the local police force said. Cleveland Police said the incident occurred at 03.39 am (0239 GMT) near the South Bank area east of Middlesbrough and that all occupants of the two vehicles died at the scene. "This is an incredibly sad day for Cleveland," Cleveland Police Chief Constable Victoria Fuller said. The police force said it had formally identified the passengers in the other



car, a Volkswagen Passat, and was contacting their families. Fuller named the two dead officers as police constables Matthew Blades, 37, and Tom Clough, 38, describing them as "brave officers ... who didn't return home to their families at the end of their shift." Prime Minister Andy Burnham also released a brief statement expressing his sadness at the incident, which as usual in such cases, will be reviewed by Britain's Independent Office for Police

Conduct. Following two recent head-on crashes near Dublin, one of which killed five people, Ireland's police chief this week warned that some young people were driving the wrong way on the motorway "for social media likes".

An Irish parliament committee has asked short-form video platform TikTok to explain how it removes content "that appears to glorify dangerous and illegal behaviour on our roads".

Bhupendra Patel woos US investors for Gujarat in New York and New Jersey

Newyork.(Agency)

Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel met industry leaders and members of the Indian diaspora in New York and New Jersey, with the talks centred on expanding trade and investment ties between Gujarat and the United States. The meetings covered the gems and jewellery sector, young entrepreneurs, institutional investors, financial institutions, manufacturing industry leaders and the Global Capability Centre sector. Patel also invited investors and industry leaders to take part in the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit 2027 and explore partnership and investment opportunities in the state. Patel arrived in New York on Wednesday from Washington DC and met industry representatives, business executives and elected officials in New Jersey. The Consulate General of India in New York said it organised an interaction between him and representatives of the gems and jewellery sector from New York and New Jersey. According to the Consulate, participants, including members of the Saurashtra Diamond Association, "discussed opportunities for expanding trade and investment, as well as issues relevant to the growth of the sector and stronger India-US commercial linkages." A roundtable with young entrepreneurs and business leaders was also held in New Jersey. Mayor of Edison Sam Joshi and Mayor of Parsippany-Troy Hills Pulkit Desai met Patel during the visit. The Consulate said, "The discussions focused on opportunities for enhancing trade, investment and entrepreneurship linkages between Gujarat and the United States, with participation from young business leaders across diverse sectors." In New York, the Indian Consulate, in partnership with the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum, hosted Patel for a roundtable with institutional investors, financial institutions and manufacturing industry leaders. The Consulate said the interaction showcased Gujarat's manufacturing ecosystem, infrastructure, FinTech capabilities, investment opportunities and strengths in key sectors.

It added that discussions explored avenues for greater investment, technology partnerships and deeper business engagement between Gujarat and the United States, contributing to the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.

An interaction was also organised with industry experts and senior leaders from the Global Capability Centre sector. The discussions highlighted Gujarat's expanding Global Capability Centre ecosystem, its talent base and its capabilities in technology, innovation and digital services. The Consulate said, "The interaction explored opportunities for greater investment, partnerships and deeper engagement between global companies and Gujarat, while underscoring the growing role of GCCs in strengthening India-US economic and technology ties."

We got attacked: Carney says Canada at war with US over Trump's 50% tariffs

World.(Agency)

"You're at war when you're attacked, and we got attacked," a defiant Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney said on Saturday as he announced "dollar-for-dollar" retaliatory tariffs on US goods from September 8, escalating a bitter trade war between the two long-standing allies.

The Canadian counter-tariffs will target US



goods across sectors including dairy, steel, household appliances, farming equipment, electronics, and pulp and paper, Carney said in a televised speech. On the other hand, the US's 50 per cent tariffs, imposed early Saturday, affect roughly 5 per cent of

Canada's annual exports to the United States, with products ranging from hockey sticks and tongue depressors to industrial goods. In his 22-minute speech, Carney said Ottawa had been prepared to remove its existing counter-tariffs on US aluminum, steel and motor vehicles if Washington substantially reduced its own levies. Canada was also willing to encourage provinces to resume sales of American alcohol, he added. "But the final terms offered by the Trump administration were unacceptable. They asked too much and offered too little. We cannot accept what they offered, and we will not give what they asked. We were not prepared to compromise Canada's sovereignty or undermine our key industries," he said.

Carney said the trade war marked a fundamental change in Canada's relationship with its southern neighbour. "We've recognised from the start that America has changed. We recognise that sometimes, its signature is written in pencil," he said. "We're not going back to the old relationship," the Canadian Prime Minister added.

Macron promises new missile interceptors for Ukraine as Russian strikes surge



World.(Agency)

France on Saturday promised to deliver new interceptor missiles to Ukraine amid a surge in Russian strikes that have pushed civilian deaths in the four-and-a-half-year war to their highest since the first months of Moscow's invasion. At least 13 people were killed in strikes overnight and through Saturday – seven in Ukraine, four in Russia and two in Russia-annexed Crimea. The

Ukraine has for weeks faced a critical shortage of advanced missile interceptors — chief among them, US-made Patriots. Kyiv's own weapons are not able to shoot down the high-arching ballistic missiles that Russia has been firing in their dozens.

latest deadly attacks come as rescuers in the eastern Ukrainian city of Kryvyi Rig were sifting through the rubble of a part-destroyed shopping centre, where 16 were killed a day earlier in a Russian drone attack. Ukraine's allies in the Coalition of the Willing – an initiative led by France and Britain – will meet on Monday to look at how to ramp up pressure on Moscow to halt its invasion.

Diplomacy has stalled with the United States, which had brokered several rounds of direct talks between Kyiv and Moscow, but which is now distracted by its war on Iran and frustrated the conflict has not been as easy to

solve as President Donald Trump once touted. Announcing the new missile interceptors, French President Emmanuel Macron wrote on X: "It is crucial to provide Ukraine with all the necessary means to defend its skies and thwart this aggression."

Russia has pounded Ukraine – the capital Kyiv especially – with ballistic missile attacks in recent months. The hard-to-intercept superfast weapons reach their target within minutes, making it virtually impossible for locals in Kyiv to reach an underground shelter in time.

Among the deadly attacks on Saturday was a Ukrainian drone strike on a house in southern Russia, killing two children and wounding their parents, the head of the Krasnodar region said.

"This morning, civilian infrastructure and residential buildings in the Yeysk district came under a drone attack," Governor Veniamin Kondratyev said. "As a result of yet another vile and cynical strike ... two children were killed, and two adults are in the hospital," he added.