

Bihar, Jharkhand govts sign MoU on water sharing to resolve 25-year-old dispute

NEW DELHI. (Agency)

Twenty-five years after a dispute over water sharing between Bihar and Jharkhand, the two states on Monday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on sharing the Sone River water in the presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah. Shah said the agreement resolved a long-standing water dispute in eastern India and would provide irrigation water to lakhs of farmers across large rural areas of Bihar and Jharkhand, besides ensuring drinking water supplies.

He said the resolution was an excellent example of the 'Team Bharat' vision and cooperative federalism championed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Shah added that this was the fourth water-sharing agreement reached between states this year, which would improve water availability for irrigation, rural development and drinking purposes. The Union Home Minister said the agreement would ensure adequate water for drinking and irrigation for a large population across Bihar's districts of Bhojpur, Buxar, Rohtas, Kaimur, Aurangabad, Arwal, Gaya and Patna.

Modi Govt misleading people, giving them high-voltage inflation shock: Congress

New Delhi. (Agency)

The Congress on Tuesday accused the Modi government of misleading the people through "statistical jugglery", while delivering a "high-voltage shock" of rising prices to the country. Congress leader Jairam Ramesh alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is "preoccupied with generating fake headlines" and has even snatched away the common person's dream of building a home.

"The Modi government is delivering a fresh, high-voltage shock of rising prices to the country every week," he said in a post in Hindi on X. Inflation is no longer confined to the kitchen; from home construction to electrical goods, the poor and middle class are feeling the painful 'electric shock' of rising costs in every aspect, Ramesh said.

"The price of copper wire has surged from Rs 850 to Rs 1,700 per kg, and aluminum has risen from Rs 350 to Rs 650 per kg. The cost of wiring a 1,000-square-foot house has doubled from Rs 50,000 to nearly Rs 1 lakh," he said, citing a media report. Solar panels have become 10-15% more expensive while costs for fans and false ceilings have also risen, he said.

Household appliances, such as electric irons, have seen price hikes of up to 20%, while the prices of LEDs and halogen lights have also jumped by approximately 20%, Ramesh claimed. Every expense associated with building a home -- from switches, sockets, and main-line cables to tiles, wiring, and labour charges -- is on the rise, he said. "Inflation is giving a shock to the public's pocket hard from all directions, yet the arrogant Modi government remains intent on masking this reality and misleading the people through statistical jugglery," Ramesh said.

PM Modi, Putin and Xi make a statement with handshake moment at SCO Summit

New Delhi(Agency)

The moment between PM Modi, Vladimir Putin and Xi Jinping was captured as the SCO leaders gathered for the official family photograph, a traditional feature of the annual summit.

PM Narendra Modi, Vladimir Putin and Xi Jinping shared a striking moment of camaraderie at the 26th Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit in Bishkek on Tuesday, with the three leaders smiling and forming a chain as they shook hands. The moment was captured as SCO leaders gathered for the official family photograph, a traditional feature of the annual summit.

A video posted by the Kremlin pool captured the Prime Minister and the two Presidents smiling as they held hands in a brief but striking display of bonhomie. The Kremlin pool shared the video with the caption: "Strategic alignment: Russia-India-China." While PM Modi and Putin held a bilateral

meeting on Monday, no one-on-one meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping was scheduled. As PM Modi briefly exchanged



words with Xi and Putin before posing for the group photograph earlier in the day, Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif was seen approaching the Russian President moments later. As Putin walked away from the podium,

Sharif appeared to stop him by holding his hand before engaging him in a conversation.

The latest visuals bring back memories of another much-noticed PM Modi-Putin-Xi moment at the 25th SCO Summit in China last year.

At the time, the Prime Minister and Putin were welcomed by Xi as they entered the summit venue, following which the three leaders engaged in a lengthy conversation marked by handshakes and laughter.

Their interaction soon turned into a huddle as their aides gathered around them, with the conversation lasting nearly a minute and a half. Visuals later showed PM Modi and Putin walking past Sharif as leaders lined up for a group photograph ahead of the plenary session. The episode came after PM Modi and Sharif had been seen keeping their distance at the 2025 summit. In one family photograph, the two leaders stood several places apart, while at a banquet they were seen seated with their backs turned to each other.

Revanth Reddy's "Bull-Pig" Comparison With KCR Draws Sharp BRS Criticism

Revanth Reddy, speaking at a public programme in Hyderabad, questioned KCR's absence from active politics and the Telangana Assembly.

Hyderabad(Agency)

Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's personal remarks against former Chief Minister and BRS president K Chandrashekar Rao, or KCR, have triggered a fresh political controversy between the ruling Congress and the BRS.

Revanth Reddy, speaking at a public programme in Hyderabad, questioned KCR's absence from active politics and the Telangana Assembly. "What kind of comparison can there be between you and me?" Revanth Reddy said, targeting his predecessor. Using a Telugu saying, he said, "The difference is like between a 'Nandi' (sacred bull of Lord Shiva) and 'Pandi' (pig). How can you be compared with me?" The Chief Minister also used another

comparison, saying, "A donkey doesn't know the fragrance of sandalwood. No matter how much paint you put on a donkey, it will never



become a racehorse. "The remarks drew a strong response from BRS

leaders, who accused the Chief Minister of lowering the level of political debate by making personal comments against KCR. BRS leader T

Harish Rao criticised Revanth Reddy and said the Chief Minister was resorting to personal attacks instead of answering questions about his government's performance. Harish Rao has repeatedly accused Revanth Reddy of using KCR as a target to divert attention from issues facing the state.

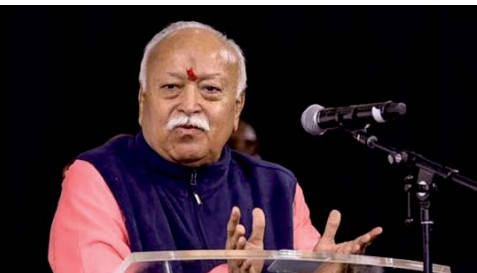
The controversy comes amid an intensifying political fight over KCR's role as Leader of the Opposition. Revanth Reddy has alleged that KCR has remained largely confined to his farmhouse for around 1,000 days and questioned why he should continue as Leader of the Opposition if he is not attending to his responsibilities.

India has always believed humanity fundamentally united, says Bhagwat

Bhagwat said serving others was a fundamental duty and said, "One may call Bharat a superpower, but it was not one.

NEW DELHI. (Agency)

RSS chief Dr Mohan Bhagwat, who arrived in Canada on Monday as part of his three-nation global outreach, said Indians travelling abroad had never sought to convert local populations but instead shared India's ancient traditions of the Vedas, Yoga and Ayurveda. Addressing more than 2,000 delegates from 175 host organisations at 'Hindu Vishwa Bandhu: Embrace the World in Friendship' in Toronto, Bhagwat said India's outlook was rooted in the belief that humanity is fundamentally united despite differences in physical appearance, complexion and other



external characteristics. "The entire earth is one family and, in essence, we are all one," he said, adding that those who are open-minded and knowledgeable embrace Vasudhaiva

Kutumbakam. Bhagwat said serving others was a fundamental duty and said, "One may call Bharat a superpower, but it was not one. It served the world and, by its own character, became Vishwaguru, not Mahashakti." He said the ancestors of Indians who travelled across the world neither sought to conquer other peoples nor engaged in organised conversion. Instead, they shared India's knowledge, philosophy and traditions. "Our ancestors moved from Mexico to Siberia. They moved also and crossed Himalayas on foot, went to Southeast Asia through small boats but they conquered no country. They gave knowledge.

'Will there be any accountability?': Rahul Gandhi slams Centre, UP govt after gang-rape on moving bus

NEW DELHI (Agency)

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday slammed the Centre and the Uttar Pradesh government over the alleged gang-rape of a minor in a moving bus in Noida, and said there was no chance of any accountability being fixed for the police under Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath as this crime too shall have a curtain drawn over it.

The Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha said Delhi-NCR has become so unsafe for women that a minor girl was gang-raped for 47 km in a sleeper bus from Greater Noida to Delhi. It's astonishing that neither the entire Delhi police nor the Noida police had the slightest inkling of it, Gandhi said in a "This bus crossed the Noida-Greater Noida Expressway, Delhi's Ring Road, the border -- all of it -- without being stopped even once at a single checkpoint.

Curtains were drawn over the bus seats so no one could see what was happening inside. And the perpetrators had no fear of the administration whatsoever," he said. Even after so many years since the 'Nirbhaya' case, after so many such incidents, why are the rules for checking and monitoring such buses still not being followed, Gandhi asked. "Those curtains weren't just drawn on that one bus - it is the result of curtains being drawn year after year by the government over the administration's failures, leaving women unable even to take a safe journey.



Samajwadi Party leader's 'vote for a dog' remark on Akhilesh Yadav stokes row

A Samajwadi Party MLC's remark urging voters to back Akhilesh Yadav has triggered a row in Uttar Pradesh. The viral clip drew BJP criticism, prompted the SP to distance itself and surfaced amid the party's 2027 poll push.

Lucknow(Agency)

A controversial remark by Samajwadi Party MLC Lal Bihari Yadav about party chief Akhilesh Yadav has sparked a political row in Uttar Pradesh, after a video of his statement went viral on social media. Addressing an event, Yadav said voters should continue to back Akhilesh Yadav regardless of the circumstances. "It doesn't matter, even if he ties a bell around the neck of a dog, you still have to vote for him, because only he will solve your problems," he said. The remarks have drawn sharp reactions from political parties, with the BJP accusing the SP leader of insulting democracy, while the Samajwadi Party sought to distance itself from the controversy. BJP leader Alok Awasthi launched a sharp

attack on the SP MLC over the remark.

"Soon, all the dogs will be standing outside the SP office with leashes on. No one can insult democracy more than this. The public



will tell us in the elections," Awasthi said. Meanwhile, SP leader Deepak Ranjan played down the controversy, saying the remark should not necessarily be attributed

to the party.

"In a democracy, the public has records of who wins, and we shouldn't go into what they said or didn't, and these could be personal statements," Ranjan said. Also reacting to the controversy, Congress leader Surendra Rajput questioned the BJP's objection to the statement.

"What problem does the BJP have with the statement? They're talking among themselves. Your leaders have no objection to Thakurs and Pandits becoming Dalits. The BJP has a problem with other leaders," Rajput said. The controversy comes as Akhilesh Yadav has launched a booth-level campaign ahead of the 2027 Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections, sharpening his attack on the BJP government and calling it the most corrupt dispensation in the state's history.

Contractor kills labourer with broken beer bottle over Rs 500 row

Gurgaon.(Agency)

A 30-year-old labourer was killed when a dispute with his contractor over Rs 500 escalated into a violent attack in Gandhi Colony, Faridabad, on Sunday night. The accused first struck the labourer, Sagar (30), on his head with a beer bottle and then attacked him in the neck with the glass shard. The injured man was taken to ESIC Hospital by his family, where he was declared dead. The accused, Virendra alias Kalu, was arrested by a team from New Industrial Township (NIT) police post. According to police, Sagar had gone to collect wages from Kalu at a liquor vend near the NIT railway station on Sunday. An argument broke out between the two when Sagar asked for arrears to be paid. Kalu allegedly picked up a glass bottle and attacked Sagar. He died of the injuries. Sagar's father, Ompal, had filed a complaint against the contractor at NIT police station. "Police have arrested Kalu and are questioning him. The accused will be produced before the court on Tuesday," Faridabad police spokesperson Yashpal Yadav said. Sagar's body has been shifted to a hospital mortuary for postmortem.

Illegal two-storey showroom built on HSVP land in Gurgaon Sector 39 razed

Gurgaon.(Agency)

Haryana Shahari Vikas Pradhikaran (HSVP) on Monday demolished a two-storey showroom being constructed illegally on its acquired land in Sector 39,



officials said. The demolition was carried out in the presence of police personnel and no resistance was reported from the occupants or those involved in the construction. The HSVP demolition squad reached the site around noon with police personnel. The construction was coming up on acquired land belonging to Jharsa village and covered nearly 250 square yards. Officials said labourers working at the site were asked to leave before the demolition operation began. A bulldozer was then deployed to pull down the under-construction structure. The nearly three-hour operation brought the building down to rubble. An official said HSVP had been issuing notices to the person carrying out the construction since work began. Despite the notices, the person, a resident of Jharsa village, continued with the construction and had raised a two-storey structure on the acquired land. "Despite repeated notices, the construction continued and a two-storey building had been raised. The structure was demolished on Monday," he said. The official said compensation for the land had already been paid, making the construction on the acquired parcel unauthorised. The HSVP action comes amid efforts to prevent encroachment and unauthorised construction on land acquired by the authority.

Man told to move car at Ghaziabad petrol pump, ploughs into three; held

Noida.(Agency)

Three people were severely injured after a car ploughed into them at high speed at a petrol pump near Silver City on GT Road in Kotwali on Sunday night. The accused, who was arrested on Monday, allegedly crashed into the group after a worker at the petrol pump asked the driver to park the car towards the dispenser in the correct manner. The accused was caught on CCTV crashing a white Swift into the group before fleeing the scene. One of the victims was thrown five feet into the air by the impact. The car



use in the incident has also been seized, police said. The pump's manager, Anurag Chaudhary, filed a police complaint at Kotwali station. He alleged that a group of intoxicated youths drove into the petrol pump a little after 10 p.m. on Sunday. One of the workers, Manoj Kumar, asked them to turn the car towards the machine for refuelling. The accused then allegedly sped up their car and, while turning, hit Manoj as well as two customers – Sanjesh Kumar and Vikash Kumar – with the car. Manoj was allegedly run over before the accused fled the spot. All three were rushed to the district hospital, but Manoj was later referred to GS Medical College Pilkhuwa due to the severity of his injuries. All three are currently undergoing treatment. Chaudhary said two machines for filling diesel were also damaged in the incident. ACP (Kotwali) Upasana Pandey said an FIR has been registered against the driver, Deepu, under BNS sections 281 (rash driving), ty damage or loss).

Haryana orders teacher reshuffle as SIR duty leaves schools short-staffed

Gurgaon.(Agency)

The Haryana elementary education department has ordered a review of teacher strength across govt schools and directed district authorities to undertake internal adjustments or deputations of teachers wherever shortages have emerged due to their deployment on SIR duty, raising fresh concerns about the impact of non-teaching assignments on classroom learning. In an order dated Aug 30, director elementary education Manita Malik directed all district elementary education officers (DEEOs) to review the staff position of every school and issue orders wherever required, with a clear instruction to ensure that each school has at least the minimum required number of teachers. The department has specifically clarified that DEEOs can depute teachers to schools facing shortages in view of administrative

exigencies arising from the deployment of teachers for SIR-related work. The officers have also been asked to submit a report on the action taken by the evening. The directive comes against the backdrop of persistent staff shortages in the city's govt schools following the deployment of teachers for election-related duties. A recent report had highlighted that nearly 90% of govt schools in the district were facing shortages at some level, with teachers assigned as booth level officers (BLOs) or BLO assistants. At Govt Senior Secondary School, Fazilpur Jharsa, 15 teachers were assigned BLO duties and four more as BLO assistants, leaving the school with around 780 students and its head struggling to manage teaching, supervision and administrative responsibilities. Similar shortages were reported from schools in Bhondsi, with teachers stretched across multiple classes and duties. School heads had also

raised concerns about arranging invigilators, distributing question papers, maintaining attendance, supervising students, collecting answer sheets and completing evaluation work with limited staff ahead of examinations. Teachers had said the prolonged BLO assignments were disrupting classroom teaching and had sought either the return of teachers to schools or alternative staffing arrangements. The latest SIR-related directive indicates that the problem of teachers being pulled away from classrooms for administrative duties has now necessitated formal staff redistribution by the education department. "When teachers are moved out for administrative duties, the immediate challenge is to ensure that children do not lose regular teaching hours. Internal adjustment may provide a temporary solution, but schools need adequate teachers throughout the academic session," said a govt school

teacher, requesting anonymity. Another teacher said the shortage becomes particularly difficult in schools where the existing staff is already managing multiple classes and responsibilities. "A teacher deputed for SIR work is not available in the classroom, and the remaining teachers have to manage additional students or classes. This affects lesson planning, individual attention and completion of the syllabus," the teacher said. Parents and students have also expressed concern over the disruption of regular classes. "We come to school expecting our teachers to teach us according to the timetable. If teachers are sent for other duties, sometimes one teacher has to handle more students, and it becomes difficult to understand everything properly," said Class 9 student Aarav. With teachers increasingly being assigned election and administrative responsibilities.

Krishna Janmashtami Celebrated with Great Enthusiasm at Government Higher Secondary School, Bhachau

Students enthusiastically participate in traditional celebrations, promoting Indian culture, values and team spirit.

Mahanagar Metro Desk
Bhachau, September 1, 2026:

Krishna Janmashtami was celebrated with great enthusiasm and devotion at the Government Higher Secondary School, Bhachau, managed by Shri Leva Patidar Boarding. A traditional Matki Phod programme was organized on the school playground on Tuesday, September 1, bringing students and teachers together in a vibrant festive atmosphere. Students participated enthusiastically in the celebrations, many of them dressed in traditional attire. During the Matki Phod event, the students displayed excellent teamwork, coordination, discipline and determination. The energetic chants and celebrations echoed across the school campus, adding to the festive spirit. Students dressed as Lord Krishna were also a special attraction of the programme. The programme was organized under the guidance of School Principal Shri Prakashkumar Champaklal Pidit. The teaching staff and school employees made dedicated

efforts to ensure the smooth and successful conduct of the event. The programme also received valuable support from Shri Bharatbhai Kavatra, Managing Trustee of the campus. The cooperation of the teachers and staff members played an important role in making the celebration successful. The event was organized with the objective of connecting students with Indian culture, traditions and festivals while encouraging values such as unity, cooperation, creativity, discipline and team spirit. Speaking on the occasion, Shri Rupeshbhai Solanki, Senior Teacher at the Government Higher Secondary School, Bhachau, managed by Shri Leva Patidar Boarding, and Senior Vice President of the Kutch District Grant-in-Aid Secondary Section of Akhil Bharatiya Rashtriya Shaikshik Mahasangh, said that cultural programmes of this nature contribute significantly to the overall development of students. He emphasized that such celebrations help students understand Indian tradi-



tions and values while providing them with meaningful opportunities to participate in cultural activities. Krishna Janmashtami conveys timeless values of righteousness, duty, truth, love, friendship and humanity. Celebrations such as these provide students with an opportunity to learn

about these values beyond the classroom. The joyful Janmashtami celebrations and Matki Phod programme transformed the school campus into a lively festive venue. The excitement and happiness visible among the students reflected the success of the programme.

Sleeper bus where teen was raped registered in Firozabad, run by Noida firm

Noida.(Agency)

The sleeper bus in which a 17-year-old girl was allegedly raped on Aug 4 was registered on April 28 this year in the name of Firozabad resident Anil Jadaun and had an all-India permit, Noida assistant regional transport officer Udit Narayan Pandey said. The vehicle, however, was being operated by Vishwanath Tour and Travels out of a shop in Chhalera at Sector 44.

On Aug 4, the teenager, who had boarded the sleeper bus (UP83ET3789) alone from Pari Chowk for Noida, was allegedly gang-raped by the conductor and driver in the moving vehicle for nearly 47 minutes before being dumped near Delhi's Kashmere Gate.

The minor, who belongs to Mainpuri, had taken a bus to meet her cousin in Noida allegedly after a fight with her mother earlier that day. She got off at Pari Chowk by mistake amid heavy rain and darkness and had signalled the empty bus passing through the area for help. According to police, the driver and conductor allegedly let her board and assaulted her as the bus travelled towards



Delhi. Both men were arrested and the bus seized for forensic examination. An employee of the travel company claimed the firm operated two buses, connecting

Delhi primarily with smaller towns including Firozabad, Etawah, Auraiya and Hamirpur.

When TOI visited the spot on Monday

evening, the company's board had already been pulled down, and several adjoining tour and travel businesses were also shut. Residents said the board had been removed earlier that morning after two of its staffers were arrested in the rape case.

An advertisement put up by the operator online said it offered air-conditioned (AC) and non-AC sleeper coach services, with daily departures to towns across UP and Bundelkhand region, including Mahoba, Shrinagar, Chhatarpur, Lodhi, Chandla, Kabrai, Naugaon, Bharua, Banda, Hamirpur, Kurara, Kadaus, Jaitpur, Kalpi, Bhognipur, Auraiya, Etawah, Firozabad, Urai and Raath. It also listed two contact numbers — 8130871921 and 9266831916. But both remained out of reach on the day. Multiple such private sleeper buses offer connectivity between NCR cities and smaller UP towns, offering relatively cheaper, direct connectivity but leaving passengers with little information about vehicle ownership or the credentials of those operating it.

Tripura LoP accuses BJP of using religious slogans to attack opposition

Agartala. (Agency)

Agartala. Leader of the Opposition in Tripura and CPI(M) State Secretary, Jitendra Chaudhary, accused the ruling BJP of using religious and nationalist slogans to target opposition parties and their supporters, suggesting a growing fear of political opposition within the saffron bloc. Addressing a blood donation programme of CPI-M's youth front, the Democratic Youth Federation of India (DYFI), in Agartala, Chaudhary highlighted the current political situation in Tripura and drew parallels with a period of serious political violence in the late 1980s and early 1990s, when ethnic polarisation turned into insurgency. Chaudhary emphasised the Left Front's focus on strengthening democratic institutions, protecting the Constitution, creating employment opportunities for the youth, safeguarding farmers' rights, and further strengthening the ethnic and communal fabric across communities.

He criticised the BJP for using nationalist and religious slogans to justify attacks on opposition leaders, party offices, and residences, questioning the appropriateness of linking such slogans to acts of violence. Chaudhary also mentioned the incidents of attacks in Agartala and expressed concern over the misuse of political slogans to instil fear and intimidate opponents. Furthermore, he raised questions about irregularities in the collection of donations for the Ram Temple and urged his party workers and supporters not to succumb to political violence or threats.

Suitcase murder accused nabbed in Manipur's Jiribam

Imphal. (Agency)

A joint operation by Manipur and Tamil Nadu Police has led to the arrest of a couple wanted in connection with the gruesome discovery of a woman's dismembered body inside a suitcase aboard the Tamil Nadu Express, nearly four weeks after the case first came to light. According to police, on August 5, passengers travelling on the Chennai-New Delhi Tamil Nadu Express complained of a foul smell from an unreserved compartment. When the train reached Agra Cantonment station, Railway Police found an unclaimed red trolley suitcase containing decomposed, headless human remains wrapped in polythene.

A joint probe by Agra Police and the Government Railway Police traced the suitcase back to Chennai using CCTV footage, which showed a man and woman carrying it before boarding the Agra-bound train and then travelling on to Guduvanchery. Forensic analysis and further investigation identified the victim as Hayathun Nisha, an Odisha native who lived in Guduvanchery and worked at a private garment firm near Tambaram. Her 19-year-old son, who lived separately in Mudichur, had earlier filed a missing-person complaint, which was later converted to a murder case once the remains were identified. Police identified the suspects as Manik Uddin Laskar, from Sonabarighat in Cachar district, Assam, and his wife Bhagabati Majhi from Radhapur village in Kendujhar district, Odisha.

Maha: Crores worth of onion buffer stock rots in Lasalgaon warehouse, raising questions over storage management

Nashik. (Agency)

Concerns have been raised over the management of the government's onion buffer stock after a large quantity of onions reportedly rotted at a warehouse in Lasalgaon in Maharashtra's Nashik district. The Centre had launched a large-scale onion procurement drive from May 15 through NAFED and NCCF under the Price Stabilisation Fund (PSF). The initiative was aimed at preventing a sudden rise in onion prices and releasing stocks into the market whenever required. However, a portion of the stock stored at Lasalgaon has reportedly deteriorated, raising questions over storage conditions and management practices. According to reports, a substantial quantity of onions stored at the Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) warehouse on the Lasalgaon-Manmad Road has gone bad. Local residents and sources said the onions had started rotting and several sacks were infested with worms. A foul smell has reportedly spread inside and around the warehouse.

144 years on, Kipling Bungalow set to be transformed as Mumbai's new art hub

The idea, according to officials, is to create a place for Mumbai's art and cultural community akin to Delhi's Bikaner House, a former royal residence, converted into a premier cultural and art center.

Mumbai. (Agency)

For over a century, the Kipling bungalow at Mumbai's Sir J J School of Art Architecture and Design was home to the institute's principals, deans and directors, before the building deteriorated considerably, prompting a conservation project

undertaken by the state government, over a decade ago. Today the 144-year-old heritage structure is being reimagined as a cultural destination with four art galleries, an amphitheatre, landscape spaces and areas for performances and public events. The idea, according to officials, is to create a place for Mumbai's art and cultural community akin to Delhi's Bikaner House, a former royal residence, converted into a premier cultural and art center.

The wood and brick structure that reflects the architectural character of colonial Bombay, was originally called the Dean's Bungalow, for serving as residence of the heads of the institutions. It became popularly known as Kipling Bungalow, following its connection with the Jungle Book author Rudyard Kipling, an intrinsic part of the institute's history. In 1865, the author was born in the campus of the School of Art, where his father – artist and educator John

Lockwood Kipling served as the first dean of the institution. The present bungalow however was built in 1882, nearly two decades after Kipling's birth at the same place. The bronze bust of Rudyard Kipling



sits on the plinth of the porch of the bungalow, which the authorities now will reimagine as a performing art space. "It would be magical when there will be a singing performance happening here on the porch, while an art exhibition is being displayed inside the gallery to be built in the

main bungalow structure. Tasteful sculptures spread across the campus, which are creations of our students, and will be displayed in the yards spread around bungalow with strategic lights placed on top of it," said Prof. Him Chatterjee, VC of the Sir J J School of Art Architecture and Design, Deemed to be university under De-Novo category, as he stood on the porch explaining the vision behind the new version of the Kipling bungalow. In fact, it was Prof. Chatterjee's question about where he would live that has set the plan in motion for the new life of the Kipling bungalow.

Coming from Himachal Pradesh, Prof. Chatterjee became the first person in many years to head this historic premier art institution in the city; as a complete outsider to Mumbai or Maharashtra. As he began to look for accommodation after taking charge, the process unexpectedly brought the forgotten bungalow back into focus.

Don't assume 2.07 crore voters are permanently out: Maharashtra CEO on SIR

The draft electoral roll under the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) will be published Monday, marking the next crucial stage in an exercise in which 2.07 crore Enumeration Forms could not be collected. Maharashtra Chief Electoral Officer S Chockalingam speaks to Vallabh Ozarkar, explaining what the figure means, how the cases were classified and, most importantly,

Mumbai. (Agency)

The draft electoral roll under the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) will be published Monday, marking the next crucial stage in an exercise in which 2.07 crore Enumeration Forms could not be collected. Maharashtra Chief Electoral Officer S Chockalingam speaks to Vallabh Ozarkar, explaining what the figure means, how the cases were classified and, most importantly, what voters should do if their names are missing from the draft.

What should every voter do now that the draft is published?

My appeal is to every voter to check the draft electoral roll. Do not simply look at the statewide number. Check whether your own name is there and whether your details are correct. If the name is missing, apply for



inclusion. If there is an error, seek correction. If there is an issue concerning deletion, you can apply to include your name by filling in Form 6. The draft is not the final list. There is a full claims and objections process before the final roll.

What is the final breakup of the 2.07 crore Uncollectable Efs?

The category-wise breakup is 75.52 lakh absent/not found, 76.80 lakh permanently shifted, 34.81 lakh dead, 17.63 lakh already enrolled elsewhere/duplicate and 2.23 lakh

others. The draft rolls are being published on the websites of the respective district collectors so that people can check their names. The lists are also being made available to booth level agents of political parties through the concerned election authorities. But these are various stages of the process. We are not claiming 100 per cent accuracy at this stage.

What verification was done before these voters were put in the Uncollectable category?

The BLOs were expected to visit the elector at least once and if not found, thrice. After that, depending on what was established, the case was categorised. If somebody is absent/not found, we simply do not know what has happened to that person. The person may have shifted somewhere else or he may be absent due to some other reason.

'Delay in justice took his life': 14 years on, Gujarat families seek answers

Ahmedabad. (Agency)

Almost 14 years ago, three young Dalit men were killed in alleged police firing in Gujarat's Surendranagar district, in what remains one of the most sensitive and controversial cases of its kind in the state in recent years. Earlier this week, the father of one of the three men died on the railway tracks in Thangadh, allegedly by suicide, barely metres from a memorial erected to the memory of the youths – Mehul Rathod, Prakash Parmar, and Pankaj Sumra.

Prakash Parmar's father Babubhai had died of heart failure in 2015. After Pankaj Sumra's father Amarshi Sumra died on Wednesday night, only one of the three grieving fathers now survives. Valji Rathod, the father of Mehul Rathod, told The Indian Express he believed it was the failure to get justice for their sons that had in some way led to the deaths of

both Babubhai and Amarshi. "We believe it is the delay in justice that finally took the life of Amarshi Sumra, just like it did of Babubhai Parmar a decade ago," Valji Rathod said. Mehul Rathod, Prakash



Parmar, and Pankaj Sumra were allegedly shot dead by police in two separate but related incidents on September 22 and 23, 2012, which followed a clash between

Dalits and non-Dalits at a local fair.

Prakash Parmar was 26 years old when he was killed. Mehul Rathod and Pankaj Sumra were only 17 and 16 respectively. "Amarshi Lakha Sumra, the 53-year-old father of Pankaj Sumra, died at 10.21 pm on August 26 after he was run over by the 12268 Hapa-Mumbai Central Duronto Express as the train crossed Thangadh," ASI Jagdish Dhoraliya of Government Railway Police, Surendranagar, said. Police have registered an Accidental Death (AD) report. But the three Dalit families see a link between Amarshi's death and those of his son and the two other youths in 2012. "No one can really comprehend a father's grief over the loss of his son. These three men, Amarshibhai, Valjibhai, and Babubhai, went through pain that is hard to describe," Vinu Bagda, Amarshi Sumra's younger brother, said.

Bullet-riddled body of Lucknow businessman found in canal, driver detained

Lucknow. (Agency)

The body of a 40-year-old businessman, riddled with bullets, was recovered from the Dubbaga area of Lucknow on Monday. Police have detained the driver of the businessman in connection with the murder and seized the SUV, which allegedly had bloodstains. Police suspect that Dharendra Pratap Singh, who was from Unnao and had been running a transport and real estate business in Lucknow for several years, was murdered over a property dispute. Singh's wife on Sunday lodged a police complaint, saying her husband had gone missing and she suspected that he was murdered. She also alleged that the driver, Ravi Tiwari, could be involved in her husband's disappearance. She claimed that Singh left home on Saturday. When she called the driver, he allegedly said that her husband was with his friends. Despite repeated attempts to speak to her husband, the driver, who was carrying Singh's cellphone, did not put the call through to him, police said. The driver later stopped responding to her calls, further raising her suspicion. Police detained Tiwari and his associate for questioning. They also seized Singh's SUV. Police suspect that Singh may have been shot inside the vehicle before his body was dumped near a canal in the Dubbaga area.

"We are questioning the driver as part of the investigation. Six police teams have been formed to investigate the case. The teams are examining surveillance inputs, CCTV footage and other technical evidence, while also collecting other evidence to establish the sequence of events and identify those involved in the murder," Deputy Commissioner of Police (Lucknow South), Mohd Mushtaq said.

According to police sources, Tiwari reportedly said that he had taken Singh for shopping and to several other places in Lucknow on Saturday evening. However, after police checked the CCTV footage from the locations mentioned by Tiwari, they found that the driver's account did not match the footage. Police also learnt that Singh was involved in a land dispute with another group in Unnao, and they are examining whether the dispute had any connection with the murder. The body has been sent for post-mortem examination, and the report is awaited.

2 months after Manjit Kaur was burned alive, cops find out she was pregnant

Bengaluru. (Agency)

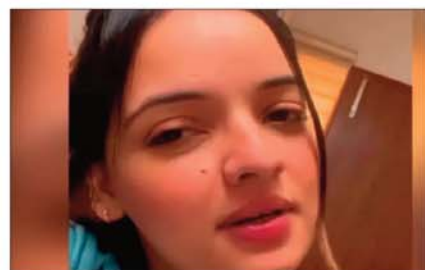
Nearly two months after Punjabi social media influencer Manjit Kaur was allegedly abducted, taken towards a forested area near Morinda, tied to a tree and set on fire, police are now staring at a case with more questions than answers. The CCTV trail has largely gone cold. The vehicle remains unidentified. And the most important witness, who was also the victim, is no longer alive.

In addition to this, a postmortem finding has introduced a new question into an already baffling case. According to police, the autopsy report of Kaur revealed that she was around seven weeks pregnant when she died. Kaur, who had suffered severe burn injuries in the alleged attack early in July, succumbed to sepsis (an infection) at PGIMER, Chandigarh, on August 26. The PGI records initially attributed Kaur's injury as 40 to 45 per cent burns sustained in an LPG cylinder leak, a PGI spokesperson told. The victim was referred to PGIMER after initial treatment at a private hospital, and received

intensive care and specialised treatment in the Burns ICU. Despite all efforts, she developed complications affecting vital organs, the spokesperson said. She required mechanical ventilation and advanced critical care, but her condition continued to deteriorate. The case has finally been registered at Sector 34 police station in Chandigarh, and the Chandigarh Police has taken over the investigation, but the Station House Officer (SHO) admits they are having to work backwards through a trail that is nearly two months old. Inspector Shadi Lal, SHO, Sector 34 Police Station, said, "The biggest challenge before us is that this is a two-month-old case. By the time we started looking for CCTV footage now, crucial recordings had already been overwritten. Toll plazas generally retain footage for only around 15 days."

The missing vehicle has emerged as one of the first major puzzles for police that kept contesting the jurisdictional issue. Chandigarh police said they are yet to establish which vehicle was allegedly used

by the acquaintances who took Kaur away. Police have also been trying to reconstruct the route from Chandigarh towards Morinda. The SHO said, "We are checking whatever CCTV footage is available. We have checked footage from shops and a petrol pump here in



Sector 34 and near the route as well. But there is no clear clue about the vehicle or the accused. Even the mother is clueless. If we knew the vehicle, it would have been easier." Police sources said, "At present, we do not have any concrete clue and only the mobile phone can help." Police are also expected to

examine whether digital evidence can help bridge the gaps created by the loss of physical evidence such as CCTV footage.

The postmortem findings have changed the questions. The autopsy has added perhaps the most startling dimension yet.

The reports suggested that Kaur was approximately seven weeks pregnant. She was pregnant at the time of the alleged assault, and during the period she remained under treatment at PGIMER. For police, the case therefore goes beyond identifying who allegedly took her away and in which vehicle. The involvement of Chandigarh-Punjab boundaries has resulted in what sources describe as weeks of back-and-forth between the two police forces. However, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Mohali, Harmandeep Singh Hans told The Indian Express that the abduction took place in Sector 34, and the case fell under the Chandigarh police's jurisdiction. One of the most troubling questions being raised is why Kaur's statement was not recorded when she was reportedly in a position to speak.

Punjab DGP orders senior-level probe as Chandigarh Police takes over case after jurisdictional back-and-forth.

Your pain cannot be another person's death sentence

A child needed medicine. An argument began between the husband and wife. The wife called her family and they killed the husband. In Lucknow, a woman was shot dead by her estranged husband. He then killed his own sister, and turned the gun on himself. Why? They were getting divorced.

I don't know about you, but I cannot stop thinking about the terrifying idea that seems to hover around both these horrific crimes: when did being hurt become an excuse to hurt someone else? When did I am in pain become therefore, you must pay? Because that, ultimately, is the monstrous entitlement beneath so much violence.

Not always the same kind of entitlement. Not always exercised by the same kind of person, or directed at the same gender. But the logic is chillingly familiar. You hurt me. You embarrassed me, rejected me, disagreed with me. And therefore — you must suffer. The argument could be about a child's medicine. Money. Infidelity. Divorce. Custody. A WhatsApp message. A reel. A perceived insult. A refusal to obey. The trigger changes. The underlying belief does not. Somewhere, a human being decides that his emotional pain is so significant, so sacred, so all-consuming that another person's right to live becomes secondary to it. And that is what I find impossible to comprehend. Because pain is not permission. Anger is not authority. Humiliation is not a hunting licence. And heartbreak, betrayal, rejection or rage — however devastating — are not death sentences you are entitled to hand out to another human being. Yet increasingly, it feels as though we are living in a world where people have lost the ability to sit with discomfort. Everything must be answered. Every insult must be avenged, every rejection corrected. Every disagreement must have a winner. And if you cannot control the situation, then perhaps you can control the person. Or, destroy them. That is the terrifying escalation. We have become extraordinarily good at talking about feelings and extraordinarily bad at managing them. We know the vocabulary of trauma. We know our triggers, how to announce our boundaries, articulate our pain and demand accountability. But some of us seem to have confused having feelings with being entitled to act upon every feeling we have. You are allowed to be furious, devastated, feel betrayed. You are allowed to scream into a pillow, leave a marriage, block a number, seek therapy, go to court, walk away, cry until your eyes swell shut, spend three months in bed watching bad TV and questioning every decision you have ever made. But you are not allowed to kill someone because you are angry, or to destroy someone because they destroyed your heart. You are not allowed to decide that because another person caused your suffering, their life now belongs to you. This should not even need saying, but clearly, it does.

For women, this entitlement has a long and ugly history. A woman leaves a marriage, and suddenly her husband believes her decision is an assault on his masculinity. She rejects a man, and he believes it is humiliation. A woman chooses another life — and the man she has left behind believes that her freedom is something for which she must be punished.

This is why so much violence against women is not about love. It's about ownership. It's the belief that if I cannot have you, no one can. That after everything I have done for you, how dare you leave? That my suffering is your responsibility. Horrifically, that rage does not stop with the woman. It spills over. Onto sisters. Mothers. Children. Anyone standing nearby. But this particular sickness is not limited to men or to violence against women. And, of course, violence does not become less violent because the perpetrator is a woman. A human life does not become less valuable because the person who takes it has also suffered. And that is the principle we must refuse to compromise on. Your pain explains you. It does not excuse you.

Deadly Nepal floods expose risks of living downstream

For a transboundary river, cross-border communication should be a part of disaster preparedness

More than 600 people have died in the devastating floods in Nepal, with many still missing. For a transboundary river, cross-border communication should be a part of disaster preparedness, writes Sushim Thapaliya, photographer and writer, Nepali Times in her article Danger of living downstream. For the Bhotekoshi, that means reliable data-sharing with China, monitoring glacial lakes and unstable terrain, incorporating satellite and scientific research into government risk assessments, and establishing clear protocols for district authorities, hydropower operators, and communities, she writes. Whether it is India or Nepal, the Himalayan disasters require no complicated science for understanding. Water will seek the easiest route downhill. In the mountains, that route is usually the valley. When enormous quantities of water, ice, boulders and debris descend rapidly, narrow valleys act almost like funnels. We should neither create alarm nor imagine that every hazard can be predicted. Science will progressively improve our understanding of it. The immediate objective should be more practical, one among them being a warning in time, writes Lt Gen Syed Ata Hasnain (ret'd) in his Op-Ed article Similar Himalayan disasters, different beginnings. Identify vulnerable valleys, monitor known threats, create warning mechanisms and rehearse evacuation wherever concentrations of people exist. Whether it is India or Nepal, the Himalayan disasters require no complicated science for understanding. Water will seek the easiest route downhill. In the mountains, that route is usually the valley. When enormous quantities of water, ice, boulders and debris descend rapidly, narrow valleys act almost like funnels. We should neither create alarm nor imagine that every hazard can be predicted. Science will progressively improve our understanding of it. The immediate objective should be more practical, one among them being a warning in time, writes Lt Gen Syed Ata Hasnain (ret'd) in his Op-Ed article Similar Himalayan disasters, different beginnings. Identify vulnerable valleys, monitor known threats, create warning mechanisms and rehearse evacuation wherever concentrations of people



exist. India's employment challenge contains a troubling paradox. There is both a shortage of jobs and a shortage of suitably skilled people. Education, skills and the structure of employment are badly out of alignment, writes Ajit Ranade, senior fellow, Pune International Centre in his Edit piece Skilling alone won't solve the job problem. Thus India's employment problem has at least three dimensions: a mismatch of skills, an inadequate supply of productive work, and millions of young people. The skill mismatch is perhaps the most immediately repairable.

India should not expect every young person, or even a majority, to obtain a conventional permanent salaried job. The future will contain much more self-employment, freelancing, platform work, short contracts and multiple sources of income. There may be plenty of work without enough conventional jobs. Our social security architecture must adjust accordingly, he writes.

As Punjab enters the last six-month lap before polls are held, it's increasingly clear that neither BJP nor SAD can individually whip up the enthusiasm to cross the finishing line. The next six months are key before the vote is cast, writes Editor-in-Chief Jyoti Malhotra in her weekly column (The Great Game) article An unusual contest in Punjab. Punjabis will evaluate political parties and their candidates not because of the colour of the turban they wear but whether they really mean what they say in rallies and speeches and street-corner meetings. It's a bit like turning the well-worn John F Kennedy slogan on its head:

Service quality in focus as telcos ring in hikes

Indian customers are now moving away from being price-sensitive to value-sensitive decisions, while operators are shifting focus from infrastructure rollouts to revenue generation

Telecom tariffs in India are back in spotlight with analysts expecting a broad-based increase in the coming months after a two-year pause. Recent stealth price hikes by the country's two leading telecom operators have fuelled anticipation of a 10-15 percent industry-wide increase. If Bharti Airtel removed its select entry-level prepaid plans with 28-to-60-day validity, effectively raising the price of some of its lower-end offerings earlier this month, Reliance Jio followed suit with a similar move. While it retained its entry-level data plan intact, it reintroduced Jio Prime membership at a one-time fee of ₹300. This price protection guarantee till September 2027, in a way, signals that a hike is likely in the next six months, according to brokerage Motilal Oswal Financial Services. Another factor prompting speculation over higher tariffs is that price hikes in India often follow a 2-3 year cycle and the last such increase occurred in July 2024. Raised rates in the past have led to higher average per-user revenues of about



₹15-20 a month even though operators lose subscribers. Data from the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India shows that the three leading operators—Jio, Airtel and Vodafone—together shed 23.14 million subscribers between June and September of 2024 following the last round of hikes. Indian customers are now moving away from being price-sensitive to value-sensitive decisions,

Ask not what Punjab can do for you, but what you can do for your beloved state, she writes. Field Marshal Asim Munir met Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian in Tehran on August 24. The US won't protest if the Field Marshal keeps ex-PM Imran Khan in jail. Ironically, what made Munir the supreme figure in his country was the impact of Operation Sindoor on Pakistan, writes Vivek Katju, former Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs in his Edit piece Munir holds all the aces in Pakistan. The latest manifestation of Munir's control over Pakistan was the government's defiance of the Court's order that Imran be transferred to a private hospital. Pakistan's judiciary has almost always kneeled before the Army. It is unlikely to adopt a pro-Imran position now because Munir will simply not tolerate any move to "dilute" Imran's imprisonment. The former PM will continue to languish in jail. And Munir will remain Pakistan's unchallenged boss in the foreseeable future, he writes.

The Union government's recent decision to bring another 405 defence items under domestic production signals a broader shift in economic policy. For decades, India's economic reforms focused on the ease of doing business. Today's economic challenge differs from that of 1991, writes former Ambassador to Russia Ajai Malhotra in his Edit article Change gears to build capabilities. The conflicts in Ukraine and West Asia, the US-China technology rivalry and growing competition over energy, semiconductors and critical minerals have shown how quickly trade and supply chains can become instruments of geopolitical pressure. India cannot rely solely on being a more efficient destination for existing industries. It must also become a more attractive place to build new ones, he suggests. Articles, reviews and literary work can now be produced with little human involvement with the help of AI. So AI-writing detection programmes have become commonplace. The latest entrant in this field is Pangram Labs, which claims an accuracy of 99.98%. The larger concern is not where Pangram was built, but the authority we choose to give systems like it, writes

Lt Gen DS Hooda (ret'd), former northern army commander in his Edit piece Handle AI detection with caution. AI detection carries a similar potential. It could become another chokepoint through which information is increasingly authenticated and trusted, he writes.

while operators are shifting focus from infrastructure rollouts to revenue generation. This is essential given that India is the world's second-largest telecom market by subscriber base. Of the total 1.348 billion connections, the broadband subscriber base alone surged past 1.08 billion owing to rising smartphone use, affordable tariffs and growing demand for high-speed connectivity in both urban and rural areas.

Even though teledensity stood at over 90 percent, expanding connectivity and improving service quality in rural and remote areas remain a challenge. Call drops continue to be a major problem, with operators facing intense pressure to improve network reliability and deliver uninterrupted data services. At the same time, adoption of next-generation technologies such as internet-of-things and Cloud-based communications has increased cybersecurity risks. All of this means telecom companies must strengthen network security and safeguard customer data at all costs.

Universe: Ballads of breeze and breath

Vayu, Marut, Vata and Prana represent different ways in which breeze as well as breath were imagined

Vayu is the oldest and most cosmic of the wind gods. In the Rig Veda, he is a swift-moving deity who rides across the skies, often in the company of Indra. He is associated with breath, speed, and life-giving motion. Vayu is also linked to soma, the sacred drink, which he is said to taste first among the gods, suggesting his role as the first receiver of life-energy. In later mythology, Vayu becomes the divine father of Hanuman as well as Bhima. Here, wind becomes heroic vitality, the force that animates epic action. Marut or the Maruts are storm gods, often described as a troop of fierce, young warriors who accompany Indra in battle. They ride the winds, shake mountains, uproot trees, and release thunder and rain. They are the sons of Rudra and embody violent atmospheric energy. In many hymns, they assist Indra in slaying the dragon Vritra, who holds back the waters. Their role is to create turbulence so that rain can fall and fertility can return. Unlike Vayu, who is singular and subtle, the Maruts are collective and aggressive. They represent the roaring winds of the monsoon, the storm that breaks drought. In them, wind becomes destruction that enables renewal. Marut is why Hanuman is called Maruti.

In Ayurvedic thought, Vata becomes one of the three bodily doshas, governing motion, circulation, nerve impulses, and respiration. When balanced, Vata enables creativity and agility. When disturbed, it causes anxiety, dryness, and disease. Here, wind shifts from mythic deity to physiological force. It causes restlessness, bloating and fatigue. Prana represents the most inward and subtle understanding of wind. It is breath, life-force, and consciousness-energy combined. In the Upanishads, prana is described as the ruler of the body. When prana leaves, life ends. The organs quarrel about their importance, but when prana prepares to depart, they



collapse, proving its supremacy. In yogic traditions, prana flows through subtle channels called nadis and concentrates in energy centres known as chakras. Through breath control, or pranayama, one learns to regulate not just respiration but emotion, attention, and awareness. Prana is not weather or storm but inner wind, the movement of life itself. Indianews updates Stories reflect these layered meanings. When Hanuman leaps across the ocean to Lanka, it is Vayu's son mastering

external wind. When Indra battles Vritra with the Maruts, storm winds tear apart cosmic blockage. When yogis suspend breath and enter deep meditation, prana is stilled, revealing inner silence. When Ayurvedic texts describe nervous disorders as Vata imbalance, wind becomes physiological rhythm. Together, these forms show how Hindu imagination refused to reduce wind to a single idea. Wind could be divine father, storm warrior, elemental force, bodily principle, and spiritual energy. This

multiplicity reflects an ecosystem-based worldview, where air connects sky, earth, body, and mind. Unlike Greek or Biblical traditions, which often personify wind as singular deities or angels, Hindu thought preserves its plurality. Wind is many because life itself is many. From thunderclouds to breathing lungs, from battlefield fury to meditative stillness, wind becomes the thread linking cosmos, body, and consciousness. In this layered vision, to breathe is to participate in the universe.

Khoya Paneer Roll

Khoya Paneer Roll is a quick North Indian recipe that can be served as a snack and also as a main course. On days you do not want to prepare an elaborate meal, this roll recipe can come to your rescue. It is loaded with veggies and hence is filling and scrumptious. This non messy easy-to-make roll is a perfect dish to pack and conveniently carry to work, road trips and picnics. You can tweak this easy roll recipe in your own way by adding ingredients as per your choice. This easy recipe makes a perfect Diwali snack. So don your chef's hat and prepare this dish and impress your loved ones with your culinary skills.

Recipe: Naresh Chinni, Executive chef at The Drunken Botanist, Gurugram.

Ingredients of Khoya Paneer Roll

1 cup cashews
2 tablespoon ghee
1/4 cup yoghurt (curd)
5 green chilli
4 tablespoon coriander leaves
1/4 shredded ice berg lettuce
1 medium chopped onion
1 small chopped cucumber
salt as required
500 gm paneer
1/2 cup grated khoya
1 tablespoon ginger
5 green cardamom
5 roomali rotis
1 medium chopped capsicum (green pepper)
1 medium chopped tomato
5 gm chaat masala

How to make Khoya Paneer Roll

Step 1

To prepare this easy

snack recipe, start with grinding boiled cashews and keep them aside. Now, take a pan and put it over the medium flame. Heat it and add ghee, green chillies and green cardamom to it, let it pop.

Step 2

Now, add cashew nut paste, beaten curd and salt to it. Stir well and cook for at least 10 minutes. Then add, grated khoya, paneer cubes and chaat masala, stir again.

Step 3

Take a roomali roti and keep it flat. Stuff it with shredded ice berg lettuce, chopped onion, tomato, cucumber and capsicum along with the prepared mixture. Add some more chaat masala for taste. Garnish with mint leaves if you like and serve hot!



Tomato Shorba

Tomato Shorba is a North Indian recipe that is a staple in almost every north indian households. This vegetarian recipe would surely be a family favorite and would be prepared on a regular rotation in your house. The best part about this thick flavorful shorba is that it is quiet easy to prepare at home as it involves the use of all the fuss free ingredients like tomatoes, coconut milk, green chillies, coriander leaves, curry leaves which are easily available in one's kitchen. You can serve this mouth-watering shorba recipe on occasions like kitty parties, game nights, buffets, birthday parties with bread sticks and enjoy with your family and friends. Try making this sumptuous dish at home over the weekend and we are sure everyone in your house will lick their bowls clean. Happy hogging!

Ingredients of Tomato Shorba

3 cup chopped tomato
1 teaspoon gram flour (besan)
1 teaspoon cumin seeds
2 green chilli
3 pinches salt
2 tablespoon chopped coriander leaves
1/2 cup coconut milk
1 tablespoon ghee
6 curry leaves
1 tablespoon sugar
2 cup water

How to make Tomato Shorba

Step 1

Start by finely chopping the tomatoes and then place a saucepan over medium flame. Pour water in it along with the chopped tomatoes and allow it to boil for minimum 10 minutes. Then add these boiled tomatoes in a blender jar and blend on a high speed for a few seconds till you achieve a smooth puree. Keep it aside.

Step 2

Combine coconut milk and gram flour in a bowl and then keep it aside for a while. Place a deep bottomed saucepan over medium flame and pour ghee in it over medium flame. Once the ghee starts to melt and is hot enough add cumin seeds and allow them to crackle.

Step 3

When the seeds crackle add the curry leaves and sliced green chillies to the same pan. Saute well on a medium flame for a minute or two. After a minute add the tomato puree and coconut-gram flour mixture along with salt and sugar in the pan. Stir well and cook for 5-7 minutes over medium flame.

Step 4

Your tomato shorba is now ready. Transfer it to a separate soup bowl and garnish with chopped coriander leaves. Serve hot along with bread sticks and enjoy.



Kaju Katli

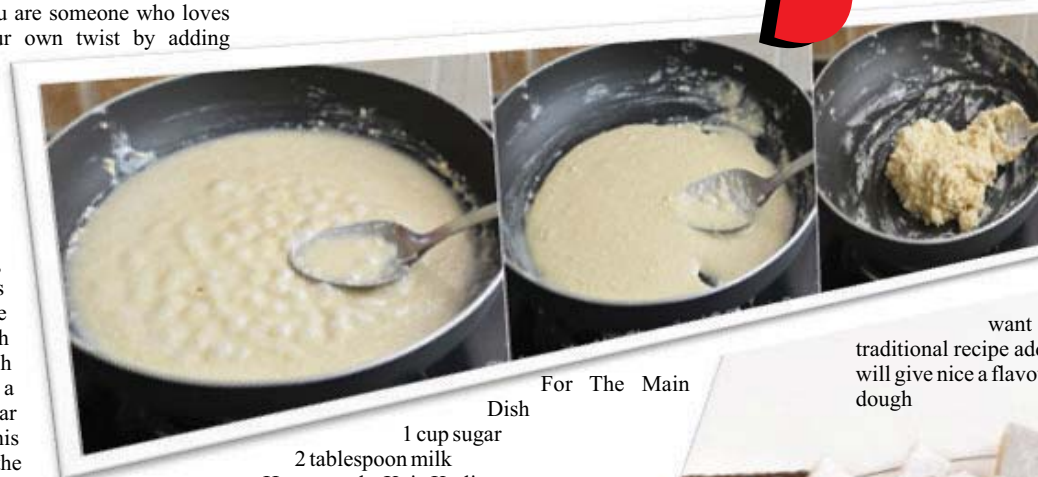
Kaju Katli (also known as Kaju Barfee or Cashew Burfi) is an easy as well as popular North Indian sweet, often made during Diwali and special festive occasions. This lip-smacking dessert recipe is loaded with the goodness of cashews and is truly delicious. This easy-to-make recipe is a perfect amalgamation of balanced sugar and creaminess of cashew nuts. Unlike other sweet recipes, this delicacy is very simple and easy. It is one of the most popular sweet delight, and making it at home is much better than buying from any sweet shop. Homemade Kaju Katli tastes much better, simply because you can control the quantity and quality of ingredients used to prepare this sweet delicacy. What makes it a delectable sweet recipe, is the use of sugar syrup blended with powdered cashew nuts. If you are someone who loves experimenting, you can add your own twist by adding ingredients as per your palate preference. However, the basic recipe will remain the same. It also makes for a nice festive treat and a perfect option to devour after an elaborate meal. If you have guests dropping by and you don't have much time to prepare something exotic and elaborate, then, treat your guests with this homemade Indian delicacy and we bet your guests will shower you with appreciation. If you are health conscious and want to prepare it in a healthy way, you can replace regular sugar with stevia or sugar free, this will give you the liberty to delve in the indulgent taste of this dish, without g guilty. So try this delicacy at home and impress your loved ones. What's more, if you are preparing for the festival season then we have curated some easy Diwali recipes like Besan laddoo, nariyal ke laddoo, balushahi, mysore pak, malpua, jalebi, basundi, rasgulla, shahi tukda

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and impress your loved ones. What's more, if you are preparing for the festival season then we have curated some easy Diwali recipes like Besan laddoo, nariyal ke laddoo, balushahi, mysore pak, malpua, jalebi, basundi, rasgulla, shahi tukda

Ingredients of Kaju Katli

2 cup powdered cashews
1/2 cup Water
2 teaspoon ghee
4 inches Silver vark



For The Main

Dish

1 cup sugar

2 tablespoon milk

How to make Kaju Katli

Step 1

Here's how you can prepare kaju katli at home, without putting in much efforts. To prepare this delicious dessert, grind the cashews to a smooth powder. Then prepare the cashew paste by adding little water, ensure that the paste is thick in consistency. Take a shallow pan and heat in on medium flame and add some water in it. Add sugar and stir continuously until it is fully

dissolved.

caramel

Step 2

Bring the syrup to a boil until it reaches to one string consistency. When the sugar syrup is ready, add the cashew powder and stir well. Stir this mixture for about 5-10 minutes or till it starts to thicken and remove it from the flame. If you

want to add your own twist to this traditional recipe add a pinch of cardamom powder, this will give nice a flavoursome twist to this traditional dish. dough

Step 3

Then transfer this cashew paste to a large plate or bowl and allow it to cool slightly. When it has cooled enough, then knead the mixture well. Flatten the dough (you can use a rolling pin). Grease a plate with ghee and transfer this cashew dough on it.

Step 4

Using a rolling pin, gently roll until the dough has evenly spread out on the plate. Allow it to cool completely and cut the dough in small diamond shapes. Serve with savouries and delve into the indulgent flavours of this sweet dish.



Moong Dal Shorba

Moong Dal ka Shorba is a tasty recipe, best for appetizers as well as main course. You can easily prepare this gluten-free nutritious soup for your loved ones during the winter season. The key ingredient to this hot-pipping homemade easy recipe is yellow split lentils. This thick and creamy lentil-based soup is rich in proteins and is very healthy. People with a weak stomach can have it comfortably as it is easy to digest and prepared with simple ingredients excluding spices. This soup is the best way to make your fussy eaters intake some really necessary nutrients. Tickle your taste buds by trying this refreshing digestible tasty soup following these really simple steps.

Ingredients of Moong Dal Shorba

50 gm moong dal
1/4 teaspoon ginger
1/4 teaspoon cumin seeds
1 tablespoon butter
salt as required
20 gm onion
1/4 teaspoon garlic
1/2 teaspoon lemon juice

1/4 teaspoon turmeric water as required
For Garnishing
1 teaspoon mint leaves
1 teaspoon coriander leaves

How to make Moong Dal Shorba

Step 1

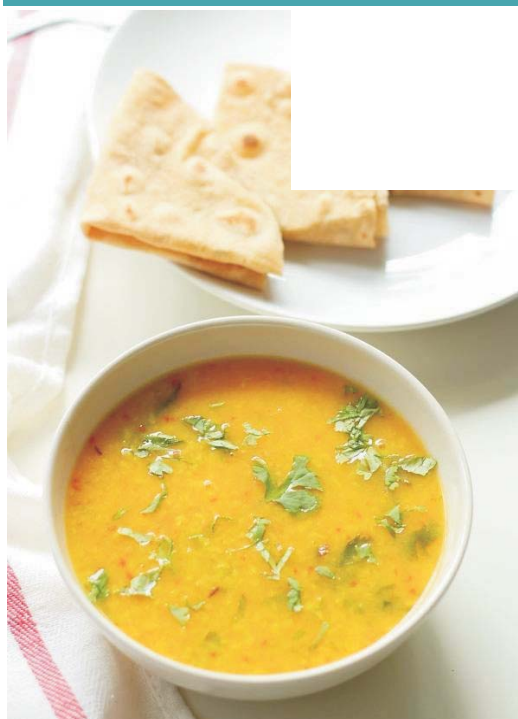
Heat some butter in a pan over medium flame. When it melts, and add onions in it. Saute for 30 seconds & add chopped garlic, ginger, green chillies, turmeric powder, and salt. Add moong dal and give it a stir. Now add three cups of water and bring it to a boil.

Step 2

Simmer for fifteen minutes, till the dal becomes soft, keep removing scum from time to time. Blend the dal mixture and strain. Heat remaining butter in a pan, add cumin seeds to it.

Step 3

Add pureed dal, and bring it to a boil. Adjust seasoning and consistency by adding water if desired. Finish with lemon juice. Serve this delicious dish hot, garnish it with fresh mint & coriander leaves.



What top chefs have as Comfort food

We all have that one comfort food that we unfailingly turn to -be it at the end of a long, tiring day or the beginning of a bad break-up. Those with limited culinary skills may have to make their peace with instant noodles and chopped sausages, or a double cheddar pizza ordered as takeout, but what do chefs rustle up to combat a bad day? Here, three city chefs share their go-to, home-cooked comfort food, with basic ingredients.

Kayzad Sadri

Former executive chef, Intercontinental, Marine Drive "I was on a trip to Italy a few years ago and I had this dish at a small trattoria in the countryside of Tuscany and even though it was a simple dish, I remember its flavour even today. I made it at home for the first time and it turned out well but I remember putting the prawns in the sauce instead of grilling them. But the next time, I grilled them instead of putting them in the sauce because that's how I like it best. The result was phenomenal. The first time I made it, I used regular pasta. Now I use whole wheat as it's a healthier alternative."

Ingredients

Whole wheat pasta (40 gms per person)

medium sized prawns (cleaned and peeled, 10 pieces)
tomato (400 gms, blanched, peeled and roughly chopped)
garlic (3 cloves)
onion (1 small, very finely chopped)
salt and pepper (to taste)
chilli flakes (to taste)
oregano (preferably fresh or dried, 2 to 3 sprigs)
basil (2 to 3 sprigs)
extra virgin olive oil (1+1+1 tsp)

Method

- Boil pasta in boiling salted water.
- Take one teaspoon olive oil in a pan.
- Add onion and garlic. Saute till soft

Add chilli flakes and tomatoes.

- Season with salt and pepper and cook for 30 minutes till done.
- Marinate prawns with salt, pepper, chilli flakes and olive oil. Grill and cook in a pan for two minutes on each side. Do not over cook Toss the pasta in the sauce and cook for five minutes till well combined.
- Finish the pasta with basil and check seasoning.
- Top with the grilled prawns, chopped fresh herbs and grated parmesan cheese.
- Pour a little extra virgin olive oil on top

for better flavour.

Chef Sahil Singh

Pa Pa Ya

"Rajma chawal is my comfort food and I can consume it to my heart's content any day. Coming from a Punjabi household, my mother would cook it for us and serve it with other accompaniments like mango pickle, poppadums and home-made fresh coriander and mint chutney. The best thing is to have it hot, straight from my mother's kitchen."

Ingredients

Red rajma (300gms)
ginger paste (40gms)
garlic paste (40gms)
onion paste (120gms)
tomato paste (120gms)
garam masala (20 gms)
deggi mirchi (20gms)
red chilli powder (20gms)
zeera powder (20gms)
black cardamom (5gms)
hing (2gms)
tej patta (10gms)
corinader seeds (15gms)
water (500ml)

chopped coriander (30gms)
green chillies for garnish (20gms)

salt to taste
basmati rice (300gms)

Method

- Soak rajma and rice overnight. Pour oil in a pressure cooker.
- Add tej patta, black cardamom and hing. Saute. Add ginger garlic paste. Add the onion paste. Saute till golden brown.
- Add the tomato paste. Cook. Add other ingredients. Saute.

- Add water. Cover the cooker. Wait till six whistles.

- Serve with steamed basmati rice. Garnish with chopped coriander and green chillies.

Chef Dhvani Agrawal

Sr. Sous Chef, Masala Library by Jiggs Kalra "I have fond childhood memories of my mother's Sindhi Kadi Chawal. Since it takes time to make the dish, mom usually made this on Sundays, thus making it the Sunday special. It was something we would eagerly look forward to every week. All my friends would ask me to treat them to my mom's Sindhi Kadi Chawal as it was a hit amongst all. Till date, when I go home, she cooks it as she knows that it will make my day. When I am ill, it is my mom's version of chicken soup for the soul."

Recipe for 4 portions

Ingredients

Besan (4 t-spoon)
tomatoes (pureed and strained, 8-10 nos)
drumsticks (cut 3 inch long, 2 nos)
yam (cubed, 250 gms)
cluster beans (100 gms)
potatoes (cubed), okra (slit and fried, 150 gms)
curry leaves (23 strings)
oil for roasting & frying
salt to taste methi seeds (12 tspn)
whole jeera (12 tspn)
hing (a pinch)
turmeric powder (1 tspn)
fresh coriander leaves (chopped, to garnish),
whole red chillies (dry, 2-3)
kokum, 6 nos
tamarind pulp (3 tbslspn)

Method

- Heat oil in pan. Roast besan on low flame till light brown.
 - Add hing, dry red chillies, methi seeds, whole jeera Add tomato puree.
 - Add water and bring to boil. Add turmeric powder, salt and all vegetables except okra. Add kokum and curry leaves and boil Add tamarind pulp, fried okra after vegetables in the curry are cooked.
 - Garnish with chopped coriander
- For Tuk - Fry the cubes of potatoes in slow fire till half done Remove from oil, cool, flatten lightly and fry on high flame Sprinkle turmeric powder, red chilli powder, salt and amchoor.

Recipe: Bengali Fish Fingers



Apopular and easy to make Bengali style appetizer/snack. These fish fingers are well suited for any occasion, party or can also be served as an evening snack.

Ingredients

White Fish Fillets - 300 gms, skinless, boneless
Eggs - 2
Fennel Seeds - 1 tsp
Cumin Seeds - 1 tsp
Mustard Seeds - 1 tsp
Nigella Seeds - 1 tsp
Fenugreek Seeds (Methi) - 1/2 tsp
Maida - 1 1/2 tbslp
Besan Flour - 1/2 tbslp
Red Chilli Powder - 1 tsp
Garlic - 3 cloves, crushed
Ginger - 1 inch piece, grated
Oil as required
Breadcrumbs - 1 to 2 cups
Coriander Leaves - handful, chopped
Salt as per taste

Method

- Combine the cumin seeds, fennel

seeds, mustard seeds, nigella seeds and methi in a mixer jar.

- Grind them together and transfer to a bowl.
- Add the maida, besan, red chilli powder, garlic, coriander leaves, ginger and enough salt.
- Mix well.
- Beat the eggs in a bowl and add to the flour.



- Gently whisk until combined.
- Chop the fish fillets into small bite-sized pieces or strips.
- Heat oil in a deep frying pan.
- Dip the fish fillets into the batter and remove.
- Allow any excess

to drip off and dredge it in the breadcrumbs, coating it fully Gently slide them into the hot oil and fry until cooked through or crisp and golden brown.

- Remove and drain excess oil.
- Serve with chutney or sauce of choice.

Chef Manu Chandra suggests 17 homegrown ingredients that can up the quotient of any plate

I think as one matures as a chef, intrinsically it becomes easier to look around oneself to be inspired and innovate rather than looking too far. Something similar has been happening with me despite my years working abroad and at some stellar restaurants at that. The depth and variety of what is available in our country is often overlooked by the restaurating ethos and instead most embrace hard-to-find western ingredients in the development of their menus and offerings.

While it would be unfair to say that some chefs haven't already attempted and been trying to champion Indian ingredients, I still feel that we have a very long way to go and being able to develop our brand of adopted cuisines (much like France, America, Australia have done).

Here's a list of 17 of perhaps hundreds of relatively unseen or underestimated ingredients, which I feel would add a lot of spunk to any menu, cuisine notwithstanding. Bon appetite.

1. Bathua: A seemingly wild growing green always found in certain parts of North India. Bathua is a fantastic replacement for spinach, which has always been associated with contamination. It's delicious, earthy and lends itself to many applications.

2. Kachampoli: Almost never heard of outside of Coorg, this is India's answer to Balsamic Vinegar even though it's neither sweet nor made with grapes. Watch it transform a non-vegetarian dish with it's deep dark colour and lip-smacking tang.

3. Singhara: This absolutely delicious water vegetable is barely seen on any menu. Peeled and sliced, it would make the most wonderful salad.

4. Makhana: Lotus seeds that have been dried are an incredible way to thicken sauces and gravies after frying and powdering. It's a great snack too, albeit a little heavy.

5. Bhetki: Despite the battle between the sea fish vs the fresh water fish lovers, the glorious Bhetki stands out as an outstanding fish. Its suppleness is a close second to the phenomenally expensive and imported varieties of bass. I would pass up a John Dory for a good Bhetki any day.

6. Melon seeds: So used are we to seeing pine nuts on menus, that we often forget how delicious roasted melon seeds can be. I've found them equally enticing on pastas, salads and even desserts. A must try.

7. Bhut Jhalokia: Also known as the Naga chilli, I find myself reading more about this in foreign media than seeing it in our own

17 unexplored, exotic Indian Ingredients



res taurants. It's got a kick that will make most people chuck out the imported bottles of hot sauce.

8. Gondhoraj lemon: By far one of my favorite citrus flavours, the perfumey fragrance from this north-eastern lemon can convert the simplest dish into a stunner. Infuse it in a little vodka, or try a sorbet with it. A lemon tart with some zest and juice from the gondhoraj can give key lime pies a run for its money.

9. Kalimpong Cheese: Almost Gouda like, this cheese from Sikkim probably has a very small production, but can fool the finest of gourmets. Watch it transform the most humble bake or a simple chili cheese toast, if you can get your hands on it, that is.

10. Rhododendron: Literally the rose tree, these beautiful flowers from the hills of Nainital and around, make for the most amazing drinks and coolers. Instead of lapping up artificial green apple syrups in martinis, it would be fabulous to see bartenders adapt to this refreshingly different ingredient.

11. Kashundhi: Bengali cuisine would be unimaginable Bengali cuisine. Try it in dressings, as a condiment on steaks and fish, or even a sandwich spread and English mustard may not seem so attractive after all.

without this. This sharp and well- rounded mustard still remains within the confines of

Bengali cuisine. Try it in dressings, as a condiment on steaks and fish, or even a sandwich spread and English mustard may not seem so attractive after all.

12. Jaggery: For a country that almost knew no refined sugar, the jump to white sugar and caramel-coloured refined sugar seem odd. Jaggery in its many forms still makes for an excellent sweetener for confections and puddings. Some practice will get you stunning results.

13. Mustard and sesame oils: So here we are, a nation with a rich enough history of our own oils with arguably as many health benefits as some other oils; yet we look at the olive for gourmet reasons. Not true. Both sesame and mustard oils have

amazing flavour characteristics and make some great dressings, sautes, marinades etc. Pick up a bottle of each for your kitchens today.

14. Aam Ada: This ginger root which has the most keen palates confused owing to its distinctively green mango flavour can be an amazing addition to soups, broths and relishes. It's again seen in very isolated cuisines, but I'm sure can gain a following as much as lemongrass if marketed well.

15. Indian Vanilla Bean: Many people will be unaware that some excellent Vanilla grows in the hills of Chikmaglur and Coorg and any place with coffee plantations. Substitute the sub par artificial essence with some caviar from a vanilla bean and watch a dessert move a step closer to Nirvana.

16. Golden Apple: As children one almost looked forward to apple season (yes, we ate seasonally as early as 20 years ago) for those incredibly juicy and sweet Golden Apples from Himachal. Today I'm hard pressed to find them. Instead I can easily settle for pretty, waxy and tasteless imported green and red apples. Eat an apple pie made from golden apples, and a whole generation may rethink the apple (edible) completely.

17. Gulkand: A stalwart of the pan shop, gulkand in all its rosy and sweet avatar can be an amazing ingredient. It's mellow yet lucid on the palate. Try it with cheesecake or with nuts and honey on warm almond cookies.

Delhi CM orders sealing of playschool after student sexually assaulted, tied to chair

CM Rekha Gupta has assured the family that legal support would be extended if required.

Delhi. (Agency)

A day after the arrest of an attendant over the alleged sexual assault of a three-year-old boy, the playschool in Northeast Delhi was sealed on Monday following directions from Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, said officials. Police on Sunday said that a case under relevant sections of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act and the Juvenile Justice Act has been registered against the attendant and a teacher at the playschool was served a notice. The teacher has now been suspended. In an official statement, the Chief Minister's office on Monday underlined, "On the directions of the CM, the District Magistrate has initiated proceedings to seal the premises of the school. Police investigation is underway. The Delhi government will ensure that responsibility is fixed and those found guilty face the strictest action under law." The CM



has assured the family that legal support would be extended if required. The FIR in the case names four persons, including the owner of the school and the principal, as the

accused. As per police, the incident came to light on August 16 when the child's parents noticed bruises on his arms and face. "On August 16, I saw bruises on his face and

arms. Two days later, when he came home, he started vomiting. We took him to an ENT (Ear, Nose, and Throat) specialist. The doctor said his eyes were swollen. Some tests were run and it was found that his eardrums were damaged," said the child's father. The father also claimed that once he and his wife approached the school authorities, they allegedly refuted their claims, but "reluctantly agreed to share the CCTV footage". "On August 26, we saw the footage. About 9.45 am on August 18, he was tied to a chair for three hours. He managed to open it... then was beaten up by the attendant. On August 17, he was slapped by the teacher," the child's father said. Some of the clips, officers said, show the child being tied to a chair in a classroom full of children, and being stacked against the wall. On August 27, the family got a medico-legal certificate for the child and then got an FIR registered.

IndiGo Goa-Delhi flight returns to airport after mid-air engine failure

Delhi. (Agency)

An IndiGo Goa-Delhi flight made an emergency landing at the Goa airport on Tuesday after reporting a mid-air engine failure, prompting Air Traffic Control (ATC) to briefly declare a full emergency, sources said. IndiGo flight 6E 2102 departed from Goa at 9:16 am and began returning to the airport after an issue with one of its engines was reported. ATC declared a full emergency around 9:30 am as the aircraft was routed back to Goa for a safe landing, according to sources. The aircraft



landed safely on Runway 28 at 9:51 am and was fully parked at Stand 6, following which ATC terminated the full emergency at 10:03 am. All passengers disembarked safely and were accommodated in the boarding area. Data from aviation tracker Flightradar24 showed the aircraft returning to Goa from over the coast of southern Maharashtra. It was flying at an altitude of around 14,000 feet when it turned back towards the airport. The flight's departure for Delhi has been rescheduled for 3:30 pm, subject to aircraft clearance and operational requirements. Further details about the nature of the engine issue were not immediately available.

AI can create original work but can't be its author, Copyright Office holds

Delhi. (Agency)

An Artificial Intelligence (AI) system cannot be named the author of something it creates. But the work itself can be protected by copyright law, according to the Copyright Office. The finding came in a case involving US AI researcher and Imagination Engines CEO Stephen Thaler, who sought copyright registration for an artwork — 'A Recent Entrance to Paradise' — generated by his AI system DABUS. Thaler has so far approached 16 jurisdictions worldwide seeking DABUS's copyright over the artwork. In March 2025, a US court refused his application saying the US Copyright Act requires human authorship.

On Monday, the Copyright Office, under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, primarily emphasised that the provisions of the Copyright Act identifies an 'author' as a 'person' — that is a human being — who causes the work to be created. The law, it said, "distinguishes between the technological mechanism through which the output is generated and the legally recognised person to whom authorship is attributed". The decision comes months after the Delhi High Court in April had directed the Office to decide on whether an AI system can claim sole authorship over a work created using the system.

The case behind the ruling

The artwork was generated by DABUS, short for Device for the Autonomous Bootstrapping of Unified Sentience, an AI system developed by Thaler. The authorship, in the application, was solely attributed to DABUS. Thaler, through his advocate Ankit Sahni, had argued that once DABUS was configured and trained through visual and linguistic inputs, the final artwork was generated through the AI's internal operational process without real-time human intervention and any text prompt.

NCLT pauses Rs 6.25-crore Subhash Chandra pay order, bars sale of properties

The special bench, which began hearing the matter on Tuesday, noted that the earlier orders showed differences and that there was no clear majority view capable of being given effect to.

Delhi. (Agency)

The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) on Tuesday stayed its August 25 order in the insolvency case involving Essel Group chairman Subhash Chandra and directed that he, as guarantor, shall not alienate his properties either directly or indirectly. The matter has now been placed before a special five-member NCLT bench after differences emerged in the orders passed by three members hearing the case. The special bench,

which began hearing the matter on Tuesday, noted that the earlier orders showed differences and that



there was no clear majority view capable of being given effect to. The tribunal has also issued notices

to all parties in the matter. The development comes days after an NCLT order had cleared the way for Chandra to settle his insolvency proceedings by paying around Rs 6.25 crore, despite claims of more than Rs 22,000 crore against him. The earlier order had triggered questions over how the admitted claims could be settled for a fraction of the amount. With that order now stayed, the five-member bench will consider the matter afresh.

The tribunal's latest direction also prevents the guarantor from directly or indirectly transferring or disposing of his properties while the proceedings are being considered. The five-member bench is expected to examine the conflicting views of the earlier members before deciding the next course of action in the insolvency proceedings.

SC Collegium recommends new chief justices for Rajasthan, MP, J&K-Ladakh HCs

Delhi. (Agency)

The Supreme Court Collegium, headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, has recommended new chief justices for the Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh high courts. The recommendations were made at its meeting on Monday. The collegium, comprising the CJI and Justices Vikram Nath, BV Nagarathna, MM Sundresh and PS Narasimha, recommended Justice Sanjay K Agrawal for the Rajasthan High Court, Justice Alpesh Yeshwant Kogje for the Madhya Pradesh High

Court, and Justice Dr Pushpendra Singh Bhati for the Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court. Justice Agrawal, whose parent high court is the Chhattisgarh High Court, has been

recommended as the Chief Justice of the Rajasthan High Court. The recommendation comes against the backdrop of allegations made by Supreme Court judge Justice Sandeep



Mehta against the Rajasthan High Court's Acting Chief Justice Sanjeev Prakash Sharma. Justice Mehta, whose parent high court is also the Rajasthan High Court, had written three letters to the CJI on August 2, 10 and 17, urging

the appointment of a permanent chief justice from outside the state.

Justice Kogje, a judge of the Gujarat High Court, has been recommended as the Chief Justice of the Madhya Pradesh High Court. Justice Bhati, whose parent high court is Rajasthan, has been recommended as the Chief Justice of the Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court. Separately, at its meeting held on August 6, the collegium recommended the appointment of Justice Krushna Ram Mohapatra, a judge of the Orissa High Court, as the Chief Justice of the Chhattisgarh High Court. The recommendation

was made in view of the retirement of the incumbent Chief Justice on September 4. These recommendations will take effect after the government makes the necessary appointments under the constitutional process.

'Derogatory' remarks against Buta Singh: 'Scheduled Caste panel seeks arrest within 5 days'

Delhi. (Agency)

The National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) on Monday recommended that authorities take immediate steps to arrest the accused persons in a case concerning alleged derogatory remarks against former Union Home Minister late Buta Singh during an election campaign in Punjab's Tarn Taran district last year.

The Commission, headed by Kishor Makwana, expressed "serious concern" over the delay in the investigation, arrest of the accused and submission of an action taken report (ATR), despite directions issued at its previous hearing. It sought the status of action on the arrest within five days and recommended that the investigation be completed "expeditiously" and the chargesheet filed before the competent court without further "undue delay".

According to the Commission, the hearing was held in connection with alleged derogatory remarks made by Punjab Congress president Amrinder Singh Raja Warring against Buta Singh in November last year. Warring was booked under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act and Section 196 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (promoting enmity on grounds including religion and race), following a complaint by Buta Singh's son, Sarabjot Singh Sidhu, at the Cyber Crime Police Station in Kapurthala.

Punjab Police officials, including DSP Harpreet Singh and DSP Gulzar Singh, EO and Cyber Crime, appeared on behalf of the respondent authorities, while petitioner Sarabjot Singh was also present.

During the hearing held on May 5, the Commission had recommended that the investigation be completed within the stipulated period in accordance with the rules. It had also taken note of Sarabjot Singh's complaint that he was receiving threatening calls from the alleged accused and directed that he and his dependents be provided necessary protection under Section 15A of the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989.

CBI files FIR against food agency officials over subsidised rice diversion in Delhi

The CBI has filed an FIR alleging FCI and NERAMAC officials diverted subsidised rice meant for poor labourers to private traders.

The agency says the alleged scheme breached policy and caused a loss of over Rs 28 crore to FCI.

Delhi. (Agency)

The CBI has registered an FIR over alleged irregularities in the allocation of subsidised rice by the Food Corporation of India to the North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation, alleging that rice meant for poor labourers was diverted to traders for profit.

The agency has named senior officials of FCI and NERAMAC and alleged policy violations, pressure on officials, diversion of rice and the creation of false records, saying the actions caused a loss of more than Rs 28 crore to FCI. According to the FIR, NERAMAC had sought rice under the Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic) 2025-26 for supply at affordable rates to the public in Delhi. The CBI said the stated aim was to support daily wage

earners, labourers, migrant workers and people not covered under the public distribution system, but the rice was instead routed to private traders through agreements with three firms. The agency alleged that the additional general manager of NERAMAC, Guwahati, wrote on January 7 to the "minister (food and civil supply), Government of NCT Delhi" seeking allocation of 31,000 MT of rice per week under the category "Sale of Rice without participation in e-auction".

The FIR said, "The objective was to ensure availability of rice at affordable rates to the general public, daily wage earners, the labour class, migrant workers residing in Delhi, and persons not covered under PDS due to non-availability of ration cards." The inquiry alleged that

NERAMAC later entered into MoUs with three private entities, which then facilitated the lifting of rice by traders.



The CBI said NERAMAC's managing director signed three separate MoUs on March 26, empanelling the entities as channel partners to distribute agricultural products to consumers and organisations such as private retailers, wholesalers and

NGOs. The FIR alleged, "The stated purpose mentioned in these MoUs was different from that mentioned in the proposals sent by NERAMAC on January 7 to the Govt. of NCT, New Delhi. The officials of NERAMAC falsely mentioned in the said MoUs that NERAMAC was authorised to procure and distribute rice under the OMSS(D) policy, though it was not authorised by FCI." Acting on a report by the Department of Food and Public Distribution, the CBI said FCI Delhi allocated about 62,000 metric tonnes of rice to NERAMAC between April 13 and May 15 under the scheme. The agency alleged that NERAMAC was not eligible for allocation of rice at a concessional rate without e-auction under the 2025-26 policy.

GST collection rose by nearly 15% to Rs 1.99 lakh crore in August

MUMBAI. (Agency)

India's gross GST collection for the month of August rose by 14.8% year-on-year to Rs 1.99 lakh crore, primarily due to the surge in tax collections on import of goods, according to provisional data released by the Ministry of Finance on Tuesday. While there has been a surge in GST collection in August as compared to the same period, there has been a slight dip in collection from July, when the gross GST collection stood at Rs 2.11 lakh crore. Out of the gross collections in August 2026, domestic revenue contributed Rs 1.37 lakh crore, as its collection rose by 9.3% from Rs 1.25 lakh crore collected in August 2025. On the other hand, gross import revenue surged by 29%, to Rs 62,604 crore in August. For the total gross GST revenue, Central GST (CGST) accounted for Rs 38,413 crore, State GST (SGST) stood at Rs 46,316 crore, and Integrated GST (IGST) at Rs 1.15 lakh crore. Total GST refunds in August 2026 jumped by 67.9% to Rs 31,795 crore from Rs 18,935 crore in August 2025, with domestic refunds accounting for Rs 18,490 crore and export refunds accounting for Rs 13,305 crore. After adjusting for these refunds, total net GST revenue for August 2026 has gone up by 8.3% to Rs 1.68 lakh crore compared to Rs 1.55 lakh crore in the corresponding month of the previous fiscal. Net domestic GST revenue has gone up by 3.4% to Rs 1.18 lakh crore, while net customs revenue rose 22.3% to Rs 49,299 crore. "While gross GST revenue expanded by 14.8% year-on-year, domestic collections grew 9.3%, whereas import-related GST surged 29%, indicating that trade-linked activity continues to make a disproportionately higher contribution to revenue buoyancy," said Manoj Mishra, Partner and Tax Controversy Management Leader, Grant Thornton Bharat.

UPI transactions near record level of Rs 29.8 lakh crore in August

New Delhi. (Agency)

Transactions through the popular Unified Payments Interface (UPI) were at Rs 29.8 lakh crore in August, near the record-high level, according to data released by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI). UPI transactions touched a record high of Rs 29.9 lakh crore in May and July 2026. As per the data released on Tuesday, UPI transactions in volume terms touched a record of 24.51 billion in August, much higher than 23.66 billion in the previous month. The volume was 22.72 billion in June and 23.2 billion in May of this year. The value of transactions was Rs 29.82 lakh crore in August, up from Rs 24.85 lakh crore in the same month a year ago, registering 20 per cent annual growth. At the same time, UPI volume rose by 22 per cent on an annual basis to 24.51 billion in August as against 19.63 billion in the same month last year, according to NPCI data. NPCI, an initiative of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Indian Banks' Association, is an umbrella organisation for operating retail payments and settlement systems in India (IBA). It runs the UPI used for real-time payments between peers or at merchants' end while making purchases. The volume growth in August was further bolstered by festive activity such as Raksha Bandhan, which naturally drove a surge in everyday peer-to-peer (P2P) transfers and small-ticket gifting, and consistent aggregate transaction value with an increase in volume over the past three months underscores the expanding reach and depth of the UPI ecosystem, Cashfree Payments co-founder Reeru Datta said.

Oracle layoffs, Microsoft PIPs: Workforce restructuring hits India's tech sector

New Delhi. (Agency)

Employees at Oracle are bracing for another round of job cuts as the technology giant restructures its workforce while dramatically increasing spending on artificial intelligence and data-center infrastructure, according to The Economic Times. In India, Oracle employs roughly 30,000 people, and reports indicate that approximately 3,000 positions could be eliminated. The latest round follows a much larger workforce reduction during Oracle's fiscal 2026. The company's annual filing showed that its global headcount fell from about 162,000 employees to 141,000, a reduction of roughly 21,000 positions, or 13% of its workforce. Oracle has linked workforce reductions in part to the adoption and deployment of AI technologies across its operations. The manner in which some employees have reportedly been informed has added to anxiety among Oracle workers. Previous rounds of layoffs were reportedly communicated through brief Zoom meetings or early-morning emails sent under the name "Oracle Leadership." In some cases, employees have said their access to company systems and workplace communication platforms was revoked shortly after receiving notification. The reported Oracle layoffs come amid broader workforce restructuring at Microsoft in India. According to a report, Microsoft has placed around 500 employees in India on performance improvement plans (PIPs).

SBI saw Rs 1 lakh crore gap across 300 loan settlements over 9 years: Report

Between FY2016-17 and FY2025-26, SBI technically or prudentially wrote off Rs 1,51,857 crore in loans involving large borrowers who owed more than Rs 100 crore, according to the RTI response.

New Delhi. (Agency)

State Bank of India (SBI) recovered around Rs 1 lakh crore less than the amount it had claimed in loans resolved through the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) and similar forums over nine years, according to an RTI response cited in a Moneylife report. The data, obtained through an RTI application filed by Pune-based activist Vivek Velankar, shows that SBI had taken 309 loan accounts to the NCLT or similar

resolution forums between FY2017-18 and FY2025-26. The total claims in these cases stood at Rs 1,49,895 crore, while the bank recovered Rs 49,727 crore through resolution plans. This translates into a haircut of Rs 1,00,168 crore, or roughly 67% of the total claims, according to the figures reported by Moneylife.

The figures mean that, across the 309 accounts covered by the data, SBI recovered around one-third of the amount it had claimed through the resolution process. The remaining amount represents the difference between the claims admitted or pursued by the bank and what was ultimately recovered through the resolution plans.

The data provides a broad picture of how much lenders can potentially forgo when loans are resolved through insolvency proceedings. However, the figures relate

to multiple accounts over several years and should not be treated as representative of every individual NCLT case.

SBI ALSO WROTE OFF RS 1.51

FY2016-17 and FY2025-26, SBI technically or prudentially wrote off Rs 1,51,857 crore in loans involving large borrowers who owed more than Rs 100 crore, according to the RTI response cited

in the report. Against these write-offs, the bank had recovered Rs 20,838 crore, or around 14%, according to the data. The two figures — NCLT haircuts and loan write-offs — represent different categories and should not be conflated.

A haircut in a resolution process refers to the difference between the amount claimed by a creditor and the amount recovered under the approved resolution plan. A technical or prudential write-off, meanwhile, concerns how a

bank accounts for loans it does not expect to recover and does not by itself mean that the borrower has been legally released from the obligation.



LAKH CRORE

The report also highlights a separate set of figures relating to loans technically or prudentially written off by SBI. Between

ATF price up 5.46%; commercial LPG rates rise by up to Rs 11 from September

New Delhi. (Agency)

Aviation turbine fuel (ATF) prices were increased by 5.46% on Tuesday, September 1, while the price of commercial LPG cylinders used by hotels, restaurants and other establishments was also raised, in line with changes in international benchmark prices. The price of ATF, or jet fuel, for domestic airlines was increased by Rs 6.28 per litre to Rs 121.28 per litre, from Rs 115, according to state-owned oil marketing companies. This is the second consecutive monthly increase in ATF prices, following a Rs 5 per litre hike in

August. Meanwhile, Indian Oil Corporation increased the price of 19-kg commercial LPG cylinders



across major cities from September 1. In Delhi, the price of a 19-kg commercial LPG cylinder was increased by around Rs 9.50 to Rs 2,747.50. In Mumbai, the revised price stands at Rs 2,701, while in

Chennai it is Rs 2,916.50. Kolkata saw the steepest increase among the cities listed, with the price rising by Rs 11.50 to Rs 2,884 per 19-kg cylinder. In Bengaluru, the price increased by Rs 10 to Rs 2,831, while Thiruvananthapuram also saw a Rs 10 increase, taking the price to Rs 2,784. Commercial LPG prices in Bhubaneswar and Hyderabad rose by Rs 11 to Rs 2,919 and Rs 2,996, respectively. In Patna, the price of a 19-kg cylinder remains above the Rs 3,000 mark, rising to Rs 3,029 after the latest hike. DOMESTIC LPG PRICES UNCHANGED In a relief for households, oil marketing companies have not increased the price of 14.2-kg domestic LPG cylinders.

Sensex opens nearly 100 points lower, Nifty below 24,100; ITC up 4%

New Delhi. (Agency)

Benchmark indices opened marginally lower on Tuesday despite a stronger-than-expected 7.8% GDP growth print for the first quarter, as renewed tensions between the US and Iran and elevated crude oil prices kept investors cautious. Weakness in pharma and healthcare stocks weighed on the market, while IT stocks provided some support. The BSE Sensex was down 25.93 points, or 0.03%, at 76,931.34 as of 9:29 am. The index opened at 76,994.11 and touched an early high of 77,03.49 and a low of 76,835.79. The Nifty 50 was down 17.20 points, or 0.07%, at 24,063.20. It opened at 24,077.55 and moved between 24,082.60 and 24,027.80. Dr. V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Investments Limited, said the 7.8% Q1 GDP growth was reassuring and indicated that India remained on track to achieve 7% growth in FY27. "Services and secondary sectors growing at 10% and 8.5% respectively reflect a robust economy which can deliver decent earnings growth in FY27," he said. However, Vijayakumar cautioned that global headwinds could continue to weigh on equities despite strong domestic fundamentals. "In the near-term the global headwinds from elevated crude and excessive U.S. bond yields might impact the market negatively," he said, pointing to the US 10-year bond yield at 4.77%

and the 30-year yield at 5.24%. He added that foreign investor selling was another concern, with FIIs selling equity worth Rs 13,025 crore in the cash market over the previous two sessions. "Flight of capital to safe US bonds is inevitable in this context," Vijayakumar said. He expects the Nifty to remain range-bound despite the competing domestic and global factors. "In brief, while high U.S. bond yields and elevated crude, more importantly the former, will negatively impact the market, the fundamentals will support the market. In other words, the Nifty range of 23,000-25,000 will hold in the near-term," he said.

IT STOCKS PROVIDE SUPPORT

Among Sensex stocks, IT shares were among the strongest performers. ITC was the top gainer, rising 3%, followed by HCLTech, which added 2.43%, and Infosys, which gained 1.43%. Bharti Airtel advanced 1.42%, Kotak Mahindra Bank rose 0.92% and Reliance Industries added 0.68%. Tech Mahindra, Asian Paints, Adani Ports and M&M were also in the green. On the other hand, Indigo was the biggest loser, falling 1.89%. Bajaj Finserv declined 1.74%, SBI lost 1.31%, Axis Bank fell 1.21% and Sun Pharma declined 1.02%. Bajaj Finance, HDFC Bank, Eternal, Power Grid and Maruti were also trading lower. The broader market was weaker, with Nifty 100 down 0.21%, Nifty 200 losing 0.36% and Nifty 500 declining 0.33%.

Less milk, less meat, smaller meals: How Pakistan's food crisis is changing diets

New Delhi. (Agency)

Pakistan's food crisis is showing up on the dinner table, with families cutting back on meat, milk and other everyday staples as rising prices squeeze household budgets, according to a report by Pakistani news outlet Pakistan Today.

The report, citing data from the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS), found that household consumption has fallen across almost all major food categories over the past six years. The decline is visible in both rural and urban areas, with families consuming less wheat, rice, meat, milk and tea. At the same time, food insecurity has risen sharply.

The share of households classified as moderately to severely food insecure increased from 15.92% in 2018-19 to 24.35% in 2024-25, according to the data cited in the report. Severe food insecurity more than doubled during the same period, rising from 2.37% to 5.04%. The figures point to a growing problem of food affordability, with households increasingly having to adjust what they buy and how much they consume.

CUTTING BACK ON BASIC FOODS

The shift is visible in everyday eating habits.

Families are consuming less wheat and rice, cooking meat less frequently and cutting back on milk. Tea consumption has also declined, according to the data cited by Pakistan Today. One food, however, is bucking the trend: vanaspati ghee.

Monthly consumption of vanaspati ghee rose 81%, from 690 grams to 1.25 kg. The increase stands out against the broader decline in consumption across major food categories. The pattern suggests that as household budgets come under pressure, families may be changing not just how much food they buy, but also the composition of their diets. Meat and milk can be relatively expensive sources of protein and other nutrients, while cheaper, calorie-dense alternatives may become more attractive when household budgets are squeezed. The consumption data alone, however, does not establish why households are buying more ghee. That link needs to be assessed alongside food-price and income data.

WHEN FOOD COSTS MORE

The deterioration in household diets comes despite Pakistan's long-standing identity as an agricultural economy. Pakistan Today's report also notes that the country has been a net importer of food since at least 2021. But the bigger issue emerging from the household data is not simply whether food is available. It is whether families' food prices rise and purchasing power comes under pressure, households may respond by buying smaller quantities, switching to cheaper alternatives or cutting certain foods altogether. can afford enough of it.

Government data shows 2,223 food samples crossed pesticide safety limits

Government monitoring found pesticide residues above FSSAI limits in thousands of food samples collected from markets across India. The findings have renewed questions over food safety, banned chemicals and weak local testing capacity.

New Delhi. (Agency)

A government monitoring programme has found pesticide residues above the prescribed safety limits in 2,223 food samples collected across India between 2023 and 2026. The samples were collected from markets under the Ministry of Agriculture's National Pesticide Residue Monitoring (MPRNL)

programme. A total of 70,652 samples of vegetables, fruits, spices, cereals, pulses, herbs, tea, milk and eggs were tested during the period. Of these, 2,223 were found to contain pesticide residues above the maximum residue limits (MRLs) prescribed by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).

The samples were collected from 23 states and Union territories, including Karnataka, Telangana, Punjab, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Haryana, Uttarakhand, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Odisha, Jammu and Kashmir, Assam, Jharkhand, Delhi and Chhattisgarh.

KARNATAKA RECORDS HIGHEST NUMBER OF CASES

Among the states highlighted in the data, Karnataka recorded the highest number of samples in which pesticide residues exceeded the prescribed FSSAI limits.

The state had 9,176 samples tested, of which 334 were found to have pesticide levels above the safe limit.



Maharashtra followed, with 260 such samples out of 5,295 tested. Gujarat recorded 170 cases from 6,035 samples, while Haryana reported 152 cases from 2,371 samples. The presence of pesticide residues above prescribed limits is a food-safety concern because consumers can be exposed to chemicals through food. The report highlights concerns

around pesticides such as organophosphates and endocrine-disrupting chemicals. It links exposure to concerns including cancer, tumours, hormonal disturbances and developmental problems. The report also raises concerns about exposure among pregnant women and the possibility of chemicals affecting unborn children, including through potential developmental and cognitive effects.

WHY DOES THE NATIONAL AVERAGE OF PESTICIDE USE MATTER?

The report also examines the argument that India's pesticide consumption per hectare is relatively low compared with several other countries. It points out that a national average can mask significant differences in pesticide use across regions and crops. Large agricultural areas may have relatively low pesticide use, bringing down the national average.

Why Panjab University poll results have pushed fresh political narrative in Punjab — for BJP and AAP

Chandigarh.(Agency)

On a day a senior BJP leader ruled out any alliance for 2027 Punjab Assembly elections, the Panjab University Campus Students Council (PUCSC) presidential election result on Monday evening added fresh fuel to the political speculations gaining ground in the poll-bound state. RSS-affiliated Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) retained the PUCSC president's post for a second consecutive year, with its candidate Ankit Bidhan defeating Aam Aadmi Party student outfit ASAP's Adil Brar by 506 votes. The victory assumed added significance as the Students' Organisation of India (SOI), the student wing of Sukhbir Singh Badal-led Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD), had extended support to the ABVP candidate just a day before polling. Bidhan polled 3,143 votes against Brar's 2,637, while Congress student organisation NSUT's Gurman Sidhu finished third with 2,263 votes. The ABVP-SOI victory revived discussion about whether the former allies BJP and SAD could eventually find common ground ahead of the 2027 electoral outing. The SAD had parted ways with the BJP in 2020 after remaining alliance partners for nearly two decades.

Kaushambi firecracker blast: Owner of illegal unit arrested after encounter



Lucknow.(Agency)

Police Tuesday arrested the owner of an illegal firecracker factory in Uttar Pradesh's Kaushambi after an encounter, following an explosion at the unit that killed 11 people, including eight children, who lived in the vicinity. Circle Officer, Kaushambi, Shivank Singh said they received information early morning that the key accused, Naushad, was in the Charwa area and was attempting to flee.

A police team rushed to the location and cordoned off the area. Police said Naushad opened fire when he spotted the team, prompting the policemen to retaliate. He sustained a bullet injury to his leg and was taken to hospital for treatment. Police said his condition was stable and he was out of danger.

The incident

The explosion occurred at the factory on Monday, which was running out of a house in Manauri village, located on the border of Kaushambi and Prayagraj districts. The blast was so powerful that, besides the building where the factory was operating, six nearby houses were also damaged. Police said the licence of the manufacturing unit owned by Naushad had been suspended at the time of the explosion.

Mumbai IMD update: After a dry August, will September bring relief?

Mumbai.(Agency)

Mumbai ended August with a rainfall deficit, receiving just 35 per cent of its monthly average amid strengthening El Niño conditions and inactive weather systems, making it South Mumbai's second-driest August in a decade. For September, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted below-normal rainfall and a rise in maximum temperature. The IMD said Mumbai is likely to continue receiving drizzle in the coming days, bringing respite to the city.

After a prolonged wet spell in July, Mumbai and the extended metropolitan region saw only patchy spells of drizzle in August, with heavy rainfall largely eluding the city.

IMD data showed that the Santacruz observatory recorded 318 mm rainfall between August 1 and 31 morning, 57 per cent of its August average of 560.8 mm. Colaba recorded 164.2 mm, against its average of 471.9 mm, a deficit of 65 per cent. The dry spell made August the second-driest in South Mumbai in a decade. The driest was 2023, when Colaba recorded 111 mm, followed by 2018 with 188 mm.

This marked a sharp reversal from July, when Mumbai received 66 per cent more rainfall than its monthly average. Mahesh Palawat of Skymet Weather Services attributed the deficit to the absence of weather systems and strengthening El Niño conditions. "In the month of July, active weather systems were present in the central Bay of Bengal which developed and brought rainfall to the western coast.

Maharashtra SIR shocker, over 2 crore names dropped from draft voter list

The draft electoral roll for Maharashtra's 288 Assembly constituencies was published on Monday, with 7,71,65,562 electors making it to the revised list. This represents 78.86 per cent of the state's previous voter base of 9,78,54,049.

Mumbai.(Agency)

More than 2 crore electors, or 21.14 per cent of Maharashtra's previous voter base, have not figured in the state's draft electoral roll following the Special Intensive Revision (SIR), according to poll officials. The draft electoral roll for all 288 Assembly constituencies was published on Monday, with 7,71,65,562 electors making it to the revised list. This represents 78.86 per cent of the state's previous voter base of 9,78,54,049. The draft roll comprises 3,95,89,905 men, 3,75,72,570 women and 3,087 third-gender voters. According to election authorities, 2,06,88,487 electors were not included in the draft list because their enumeration forms could not be collected.

The reasons include voters being absent or untraceable at their registered addresses, having shifted residences, being deceased, having duplicate or multiple registrations, or being registered elsewhere. The category also includes voters who did not fill in or submit

their enumeration forms. Among the districts, Pune recorded the highest number of uncollectable enumeration forms at 28.6 lakh, followed by Thane with 28.5 lakh, Mumbai Suburban with 26.5 lakh, Nagpur with 14.43



lakh, Nashik with 10.27 lakh and Mumbai City with 9.5 lakh, officials said.

CLAIMS, OBJECTIONS WINDOW OPEN

Voters whose names are missing from the draft electoral roll can file claims and objections

from August 31 to September 30. Those seeking inclusion can submit Form 6 along with the required declaration. Objections to an entry can be filed through Form 7, while corrections to details such as name, address, age or gender can be sought through Form 8. A total of 288 Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) and more than 7,000 Assistant Electoral Registration Officers (AEROs) have been appointed for the state's 288 Assembly constituencies. The process involving claims, objections and notices is scheduled to continue until October 29. The final electoral roll is scheduled to be published on November 4, according to the Election Commission's timetable.

CONGRESS REVIVES 'VOTE CHORI' CHARGE

The massive number of exclusions immediately triggered a political row, with the Congress alleging that the figures vindicated Rahul Gandhi's earlier claims of "vote chori" and "rigged" elections.

900 fingerprint samples, 85 witnesses: Surat cops probe charging cable murder

Surat.(Agency)

Around 3:30 am on August 24, a farmer from a village in Surat district and his wife returned home from a pilgrimage and found the body of their youngest daughter, 25, on the terrace of their house with her hands tied and head covered in a polythene bag bound at the neck with a mobile charging cable.

A week later, the Surat Rural Police still have no solid leads in the case — except that a couple was "questioned on suspicion". By Monday, the police collected 900 fingerprint samples, trying to match them with prints found around the house with those of villagers, but in vain. The village sarpanch has announced a reward of Rs 1 lakh to anyone — underlining that their identity would be concealed — who provides leads on the accused. The farmer last spoke to his daughter around 9:30 pm on

August 23, asking her to keep the doors and windows closed and her mobile phone ringer on. On August 21, he and his wife left on a pilgrimage and returned in the early hours on



August 24. They rang the doorbell repeatedly, but got no response. The door was locked from inside and their daughter was not answering her phone. She had been alone the whole of August 23, after her aunt, who visited on August 22 with her husband and 24-year-old

son, from Surat, left. According to the FIR, she left because of "some health issues".

The farmer spoke to his daughter on the afternoon of August 23 after his sister left and then again on the night of August 24. A senior police officer said, "We are sure that the culprits behind the incident are known to the woman and her family members. After killing her on the ground floor, the accused lifted her body, took it to the terrace, tied both her hands and put a polythene bag over her face. We found some fingerprints in different places of the house. After the incident, we have taken statements from around 85 people known to the deceased's family, including her friends. We have also taken fingerprints from 900 people in the village to match them with those found at the scene, but none matched. It has been confirmed that there was no rape committed against the victim, but there are signs of sexual assault."

'Stigma has to go': Court flags rules that denied HIV+ woman promotion in CRPF

Ahmedabad.(Agency)

The Gujarat High Court has warned the Centre and senior officers of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) of contempt proceedings if its directions to amend service rules that discriminate against HIV positive personnel are not followed within a deadline. The court's strong observations came in a case of a woman CRPF officer, who had been denied promotion for being HIV positive.

The High Court's warning came on Monday, when a division bench of Chief Justice Sunita Agarwal and Justice DN Ray rejected the Union Home Ministry's affidavit. The court noted that the paramilitary force had not amended provisions to comply with the HIV and AIDS (Prevention and Control) Act, 2017, which aims to

counter discrimination against those living with HIV. "It is not about combat forces... it is about people who are there in your institution... This stigma has to go... The Act does not permit you to



discriminate... if one catches HIV virus during service," the court orally remarked on Monday.

The question of amendment of rules came up when the petitioner, now

retired, moved the High Court in December through Advocate Swapneshwar Goutam. The petitioner sought "clarification" on the court's August 2025 order regarding her promotion. The woman officer — a Sub Inspector (Ministerial) — approached the court in 2025 on being denied timely promotion to Inspector (Ministerial) and, later, Assistant Commandant (Ministerial); she was placed in a lower medical category because she is HIV-positive. In its judgment on August 4, 2025, the High Court not only ordered that she be given promotion and consequential financial benefits, but also directed the authorities to amend the CRPF's medical and recruitment rules to remove provisions that discriminate against HIV-positive personnel.

DYFI demands filling of 2.14 Lakh vacant government posts in Andhra Pradesh

NELLORE.(Agency)

DYFI State secretary G Ramanna said 2.14 lakh posts were vacant in AP government departments, while the State was filling only about 10,000 under the job calendar. He demanded immediate recruitment to 11,639 Police Department vacancies. Addressing the media on Monday, Ramanna urged youth and the public to make the DYFI's 16th State

Conference in Nellore from September 1 to 3 a success. He said a rally would be held from VR High School grounds at 3.30 pm on September 1, followed by a public meeting at Narthaki Centre. Ramanna alleged that the coalition government had failed to fulfil promises to unemployed youth and demanded that the Centre fill eight lakh vacancies nationwide. He also criticised inadequate sports facilities outside Amaravati and alleged that farmers' land acquired for industries was being mortgaged to banks.



Cash shortage in UP bank leads to discovery of Rs 7.40 crore fake currency

According to a senior PNB official, the discrepancy in the bank's Saharanpur branch first came to light when currency sent to the RBI around August 10-11 was reconciled and a shortage of Rs 4.36 lakh was detected.

Uttar Pradesh.(Agency)

A routine check of cash sent from a Punjab National Bank (PNB) currency chest in Uttar Pradesh's Saharanpur to the Reserve Bank of India found a shortage of Rs 4.36 lakh. A subsequent audit uncovered fake currency worth around Rs 7.40 crore. According to PNB Chief Manager Nisha Singh, the discrepancy first came to light when currency sent to the RBI around August 10-11 was reconciled and a shortage of Rs 4.36 lakh was detected. An enquiry was subsequently initiated at the PNB circle office in Saharanpur. During the probe, investigators found what the bank estimates to be Rs 7.40 crore worth of fake notes in the currency chest. "The investigation is not yet complete," Singh said, adding that the details of how the fake currency reached the chest would be clear only after the enquiry report is submitted. The development was

reported to police by a senior PNB official after the audit team detected the counterfeit notes during the routine checking process.

Saharanpur SSP Abhinandan said the police had received a complaint from a senior bank official regarding the discovery. "The audit team found fake notes worth Rs 7.40 crore while matching the cash," the SSP said. The probe will focus on the movement of cash into the currency chest, records maintained by the bank, and the people responsible for counting, packing and reconciling the notes. Meanwhile, PNB management has suspended four people in connection with the matter, while stressing that their individual roles have not yet been

established. The individuals are Ravi Kumar, senior manager at the divisional



office and nodal officer; Sushil Sharma, currency chest manager; and Amit Kumar,

currency chest manager at Khara Bazaar in Jagadhri, Haryana. The fourth person has not been identified. Separately, a report has been filed against housekeeper Vishal Kumar in connection with the Rs 4.36 lakh cash shortage. The two matters are being investigated separately, police said. The bank has maintained that the suspected counterfeit currency was not put into circulation and was not distributed to any of its branches.

The investigation will now examine the entire cash trail, including currency received from different branches, records of deposits and withdrawals, the counting and packing process, reconciliation documents and CCTV footage.

NEWS BOX

Marnus Labuschagne axed from Australia ODI squad for World Cup rehearsal



New Delhi. (Agency)

Marnus Labuschagne has been dropped from Australia's ODI squad for the upcoming series in Zimbabwe and South Africa, putting his place in the team's plans for next year's World Cup defence under serious doubt. Labuschagne, who was born in South Africa, has been a regular member of Australia's ODI side since 2022 and played a key role in their successful 2023 World Cup campaign in India. However, his recent form in the 50-over format has not helped his case. The 32-year-old right-hander averages just 21.87 in ODIs since the start of 2024, with an unbeaten 77 as his highest score during that period. He was consequently left out of Australia's 17-member squad announced on Tuesday for six ODIs across Zimbabwe and South Africa.

Australia chief selector George Bailey stressed that Labuschagne's omission was specific to the ODI format and declined to comment on his future in the Test team, where he is also facing questions after a difficult run of form. "We're separating those formats out, so this was a one-day cricket conversation," Bailey said during a video call with reporters. Bailey also highlighted the significance of the upcoming tour, with the matches in Zimbabwe and South Africa serving as an important rehearsal for next year's World Cup, which will be staged in those two countries. "I think this is a pretty important tour for us. It's hard to get the link, but Zimbabwe and South Africa, that's where the World Cup will be played late next year," he said. Australia have limited opportunities to play ODIs before the World Cup, making the upcoming six matches particularly important for players competing for places and established roles. "There's not a whole lot of (ODI) games (before that) and the opportunity that's ... awarded to some of those other players to continue building out their roles."

Dwarshuis, Konstas, McSweeney headline Australia squad for India A series



New Delhi. (Agency)

Australia on Tuesday named a 14-member squad featuring several players with international experience, including Ben Dwarshuis, Sam Konstas and Nathan McSweeney, for their India A series in Puducherry. The tour will allow Australia's players to adapt to subcontinental conditions ahead of the senior team's five-Test tour of India early next year. A strong performance in the red-ball matches could also strengthen the players' claims for a place in the Test squad. Australia A will play two four-day matches and three one-day games, with all five fixtures scheduled to take place in Puducherry. The first four-day match will begin on September 22, while the second unofficial Test is scheduled to start on September 29. The three unofficial ODIs will be played on October 6, 9 and 11.

GEORGE BAILEY ON INDIA A TOUR Cricket Australia's National Selection Panel said the tour was an important part of exposing players to conditions they are likely to encounter during the senior team's visit to India. CA chairman George Bailey said the series would provide opportunities for both experienced international players and those continuing to push for higher honours. "We are excited by these squads and what they might achieve out of the series. Many of these players have played international cricket, whilst for others it's a continuation of previous opportunities across Australia A and CAXI formats," Bailey said. Peter Handscomb, Brendan Doggett, Konstas, McSweeney, Jhye Richardson and Todd Murphy have all played Test and international cricket.

Nick Kyrgios's cocaine ban was no surprise, knew it was happening: Tsitsipas

Stefanos Tsitsipas has said Nick Kyrgios' suspension after testing positive for cocaine came as no surprise to him, revealing that he knew about the situation before the Australian's provisional ban was announced.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Stefanos Tsitsipas has revealed that Nick Kyrgios' suspension after testing positive for cocaine did not surprise him, saying he already knew about the case before it was officially announced. Tsitsipas was asked about Kyrgios after beating No. 10 seed Arthur Fils in the first round of the US Open on Monday. The Greek said he had heard about the situation before it became public and was more surprised by the timing of the

announcement. "Pretty much expected, to be honest," Tsitsipas said. "I am surprised it came so late, though." Kyrgios tested positive for cocaine after providing a sample while competing at an ATP 250 event in Mallorca, Spain, in June. The positive test was confirmed on July 17 at a World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)-accredited laboratory. A provisional suspension was imposed on August 4 following the positive test. Kyrgios then announced the case on August 19 in a post on Instagram, describing it as "a huge mistake Tsitsipas said he had been aware of the situation before Kyrgios' announcement on social media. "I mean, to be entirely honest with you, I knew about this before the announcement. Myself, I knew about it," Tsitsipas said. "So what can I tell you? I will just tell you the truth. I knew about all of this before any announcement was made, and when I saw it on social media, I was, like, 'Here we go.' I kind of expected it, to be honest."

TSITSIPAS CLAIMS HE KNEW ABOUT KYRGIOS

Tsitsipas went on to say that his knowledge was not limited to the positive test, claiming he had heard about Kyrgios' behaviour away from the tennis courts from people in the sport. "I knew that those were things that were happening away from the tennis



courts. I will tell you that," Tsitsipas said. "I'm not going to try and cover up someone that I know the truth for. I'll consider myself a nice person with everyone, but these were behaviors that I personally heard on the tour and heard other people in that same environment saying those sort of things to me." The 28-year-old then reiterated his

view that the suspension itself was not unexpected. "When I saw [the suspension], I was, like, well, pretty much expected, to be honest. I am surprised it came so late, though."

KYRGIOS ADMITS MAKING HUGE MISTAKE

Kyrgios revealed the positive test in August after the provisional suspension had already been imposed. The Australian admitted that he had tested positive for cocaine after competing in Mallorca and accepted responsibility for what had happened.

"I wanted you to hear this from me first. I recently failed a drug test in Mallorca after testing positive for cocaine," Kyrgios wrote on Instagram. "I made a huge mistake and I take full responsibility for it." Kyrgios also apologised to those affected by the situation, including his supporters and family. "I'm sorry to my fans, my family, my sponsors and everyone close to me. Above all, I'm sorry to the kids who follow me. I know the example this sets and I'm deeply disappointed in myself."

Shaheen Afridi-Babar Azam rift blamed for Pakistan cricket's downfall

Former Pakistan batter Basit Ali has blamed the fallout between Shaheen Shah Afridi and Babar Azam for the decline of Pakistan cricket, claiming the dispute over captaincy was the moment everything started to unravel for the national team.

London. (Agency)

Babar Azam's leadership has come under fresh scrutiny after former Pakistan batter Basit Ali blamed his rift with Shaheen Shah Afridi for the national team's decline in international cricket. Basit claimed their fallout over the captaincy had a damaging impact on Pakistan cricket. Basit's explosive comments came after Pakistan suffered a crushing 194-run defeat to England at Lord's, leaving them 0-2 down in the three-match Test series. Pakistan have come under severe criticism

for their performances in the first two Tests, with the team accused of showing little fight against Joe Root's side. Babar stepped down as Pakistan captain after the 2023 ODI World Cup, with Shaheen taking over the T20I captaincy. However,



Pakistan's poor results in New Zealand led to Babar reclaiming the role, with Shaheen removed from the captaincy. Basit believes the change in leadership contributed to a rift between the two senior players. "Babar Azam is not a strong captain. I am not speaking about this based

on the performance in England. He has made many wrong decisions. The main reason for Pakistan cricket's downfall is the rift between Shaheen and Babar. When there was a falling-out between the two over the captaincy, Pakistan cricket was ruined that day," Ali said on the 'Game Plan' show. "Many statements were made, saying Shaheen is a very good bowler and Babar is a very good bowler. The rift, whoever created that, the side effects can be seen now," he added. Babar was removed from the T20I captaincy again after Pakistan failed to reach the semi-finals of the 2024 T20 World Cup. The team subsequently adopted separate captains across formats, with Babar leading the Test side, Shaheen captaining the ODI team and Salman Ali Agha in charge of the T20Is. The PCB made further changes following the Lord's defeat. Seven players, including Mohammad Rizwan and Salman Ali Agha, were sent home, while Test coach Sarfaraz Ahmed and bowling head Umar Gul were also removed from their positions.

Why Indian hockey's crisis begins at the grassroots and bleeds to the top

New Delhi. (Agency)

Indian hockey doesn't have a crisis at the World Cup; it has a crisis of delusion. Finishing eighth isn't an upset - it's the exact mathematical reality of a system that is not only hollowed out but crumbling. Yet, the irony is starkly underlined by the women's team, who quietly outperformed all low expectations to finish fifth with zero administrative backing or hype, proving once again that grit alone cannot permanently mask a collapsing foundation. My argument is this: did we really expect anything different? On what logic and reasoning do we claim that results should have been different? The layman's argument is that we won consecutive Olympic medals after

breaking the agonizing 41-year medal drought between 1980 and Tokyo 2020, we are a continental powerhouse, and so



reaching the last four of the World Cup was a given. First of all, in sport, nothing is given. Whatever little hangover we have of the eight Olympic gold medals - won in an era where we played and the rest of the world was still finding their feet - looks

good statistically and nothing more. History always needs to be studied in proper perspective, otherwise, it loses relevance. In India, a lack of success in Olympic sports creates false impressions. When failure happens, analysis goes out of the window. The usual pattern of 'misses,' 'ageing,' 'not prepared,' and 'overhyped' becomes the script. Digging deep, understanding the roots of hockey as a sport, and analysing why we succeeded when we succeeded is never taken into view. If cricket found massive success in the Indian Premier League (IPL) as a commercial engine, every other sport feels compelled to take the exact same path, irrespective of whether they command the same following.

US Open Day 3 schedule: Gauff, Zverev lead star-studded line-up

New Delhi. (Agency)

The first round of the 2026 US Open reaches its final day on Tuesday, September 1, with several of the tournament's biggest names finally getting their campaigns underway. Coco Gauff, Alexander Zverev, Taylor Fritz and Madison Keys headline a packed Day 3 at Flushing Meadows. The second day already gave the tournament plenty to talk about. Carlos Alcaraz returned from a four-month wrist injury lay-off with a straight-sets win over Roman Safiullin, while defending champion Aryna Sabalenka also made a winning start, beating Camila Osorio 6-2, 6-4 to extend her US Open winning streak to 14 matches. Iga Swiatek was equally convincing, beating Wang Xiyu 6-2, 6-3, while last year's runner-up Amanda Anisimova marked her birthday with a 6-1, 6-3 victory over Ashlyn Krueger. Both moved into the second round without dropping a set. Now the first-round spotlight shifts towards the players still waiting to enter the tournament. Arthur Ashe Stadium



gets the star treatment, with Gauff, Zverev, Fritz and Keys all scheduled to play, while Elena Rybakina, Mirra Andreeva, Lorenzo Musetti, Alex de Minaur, Gael Monfils and Alexandra Eala headline the action elsewhere.

**GAUFF, ZVEREV LEAD THE WAY**

Coco Gauff comes into her home Grand Slam with some momentum behind her after a strong run through the North American hard-court swing. The 2023 US Open champion will begin her campaign against

Zeynep Sonmez on Arthur Ashe Stadium, with their match scheduled for 4:30 AM IST on September 2. Gauff will be looking to make the most of another run in New York after her breakthrough title here three years ago. Sonmez, meanwhile, has the rather unenviable job of opening the tournament against one of the home crowd's biggest favourites. Alexander Zverev follows Gauff on Ashe, beginning his campaign as the men's top seed. The German arrives as the reigning Roland-Garros champion and will face Italy's Lorenzo Sonego in his opening match.

Before them, Taylor Fritz will take on Darwin Blanch, while Australian Open champion Madison Keys opens the day's action against Alina Korneeva. There is plenty of heavyweight action away from Ashe as well. Second seed Elena Rybakina faces Thea Frudin on Grandstand, fifth seed Mirra Andreeva meets Janice Tjen on Louis Armstrong Stadium, while Lorenzo Musetti, Alex de Minaur, Gael Monfils and 17th seed Alexandra Eala are also in action.



New Delhi. (Agency)

Naomi Osaka made a bold fashion statement ahead of her US Open night-session opener against Anastasia Zakharova, drawing inspiration from NBA great Allen Iverson.

The four-time Grand Slam champion arrived at Arthur Ashe Stadium for her first-round match against Anastasia Zakharova in a long white skirt and a hooded robe covered with newspaper clippings about herself. She later removed the robe to reveal a black outfit, completing the look with cowrnrows, a hairstyle famously worn by Iverson during his NBA career with the Philadelphia 76ers.

Osaka had already made her admiration for Iverson clear before stepping onto the court. She wore a shirt featuring the former NBA star when she met the media on the eve of the tournament and called him a "trailblazer". I think he's also someone that I look up to a lot, because he's kind done a lot in fashion, whether it's on purpose or not, but he's shifted the way that NBA players dress," Osaka said Saturday. "I also think the whole conversation around clothes in sports and also just expressing yourself through style, I feel like he's someone that I look up to in that regard." Osaka said she had never spoken to Iverson, but that changed when the NBA legend reacted to her look on Instagram. Iverson posted a message to Osaka on Monday, writing: "Wow, what a honor!! BIG FAN can't wait to meet you." The Japanese star has become known for her fashion choices at major tournaments, though she insists she does not set out to make a statement with every appearance. "Honestly, like, nothing I do, I do to make a statement," she said of her photoshoots in and around the Billie Jean King National Tennis Center. "I think it just ends up being that way."

Manasi Parekh

Calls Returning To Mumbai Amid Nepal Floods 'Like Winning A War'

Actor Manasi Parekh returned to Mumbai after a harrowing journey out of China amid the devastating flash floods in the Nepal-Tibet border region. Manasi, who was in Tibet as part of the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra, took to her social media account to share details of her journey back home, saying that getting out of China and reaching the Nepal border "felt like winning a war".

She revealed that a massive landslide in the Chinese town of Nyalam left her group waiting inside their bus for nearly four hours before they could continue their journey by road, adding that the journey further also comprised of a bus ride of around 40 miles. She added that despite the difficult journey, the actor said it was all worth it as it meant returning to Mumbai, her family and her daughter.

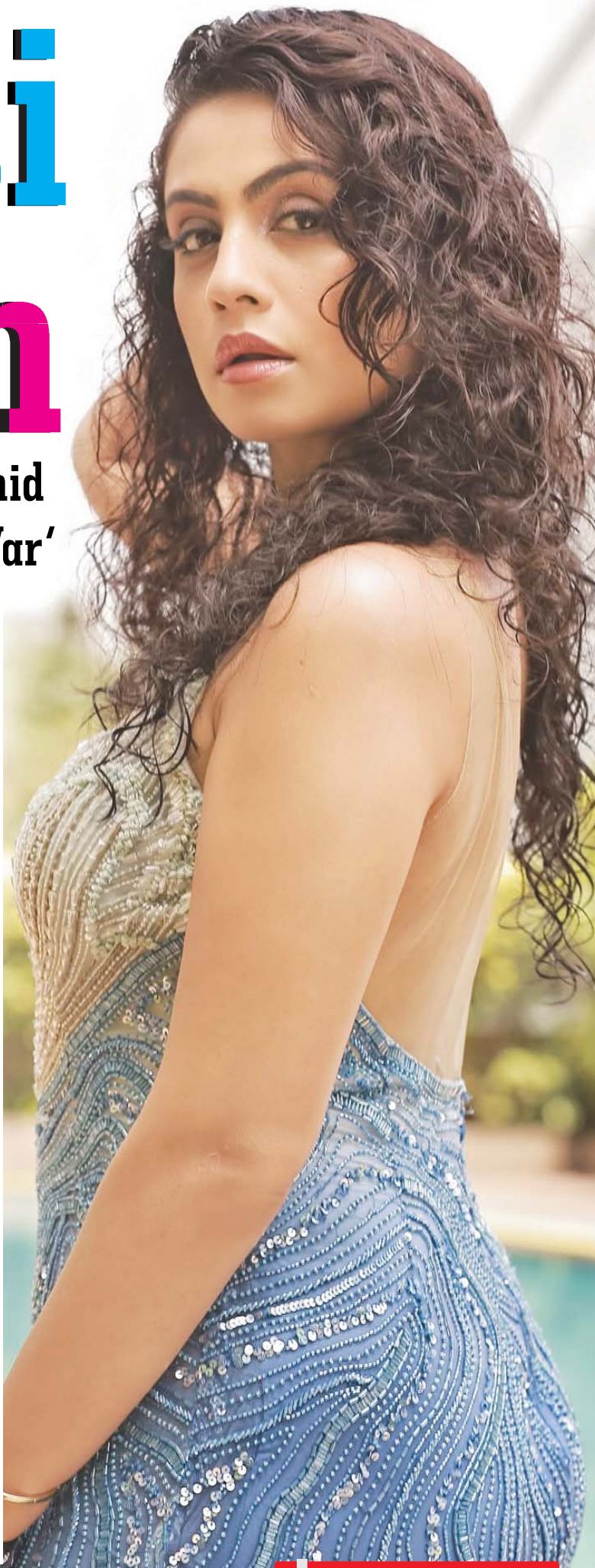
Sharing an update on her social media account, Parekh wrote, "Thank you so much for all the love, messages, calls and prayers.. the last 3-4 days have been overwhelming and getting out of China and reaching the Nepal border felt like winning a war.. there was a huge land slide at the China town of Nyalam which kept us waiting in our bus for 4 hours till we could start our journey out of China by road"

She further wrote, "Then after a long bus ride of 40 miles we reached the border of Nepal where there had been another landslide which we had to walk through as there was no other way for us to make it till the buses waiting on

the other side."

Sharing another update, she said, "And then it was the bumpiest bus ride of our lives as we made our way to Kathmandu which was 4 hours away. But all this was worth it because it meant coming back to Mumbai, To my family and getting to kiss my daughter"

Manasi Parekh's return comes days after she revealed that she had been at the same location in Tibet just five days before the devastating floods. The actor had been travelling with a group on the Kailash Mansarovar pilgrimage when the disaster struck the region. On August 27, she shared visuals of the devastation and wrote, "This is what happened We were sup to be here tomorrow morning."



Kareena Kapoor

Feels She Has Become A Better Actor Since Becoming A Mother

Kareena Kapoor opened up about the emotional sensitivity involved in portraying her character in 'Daayra' during the film's trailer launch event.

The actress was asked how she balances her own instincts as a mother while performing emotionally intense scenes involving a mother and her child. Responding to the question, Kareena said that "Daayra" is one such film whose emotional impact has stayed with her. She also praised writer-director Meghna Gulzar for creating a character that gave her a new perspective and added another dimension to her life.

Talking about how motherhood has influenced her performance, the 'Jab We Met' actress said she feels she has become a better actor since becoming a mother.

Kareena stated, "Definitely. The Daayra is one such film. It always stays with you. And certain parts, I just feel like the part, like Ajooni, what Meghna has written has given me more Darja in my life. I feel that as a mother, as an actor, I just feel like a part written by her, and I had this opportunity to play it. It has stayed with me. And I think, I don't know, I feel ever

since I have become a mother, I have also become a better actor. I don't know why."

On Monday, the makers of the upcoming film "Daayra" unveiled its trailer at a grand event. The trailer offers a glimpse into the intense story, with the two lead characters Kareena Kapoor Khan and Prithviraj Sukumaran finding themselves on opposite sides of the debate over



justice. It also introduces the film's ensemble cast, including Jitendra Joshi, Kshitee Jog, Kanwaljeet Singh, Sandeep Kulkarni, and Trupti Khamkar. Produced by Jungle Pictures and Dr Jayantilal Gada (Pen Studios), "Daayra" is directed by National Award-winning filmmaker Meghna Gulzar. Inspired by true events, "Daayra" follows the aftermath of a crime that sparks widespread outrage across the country.

Fact Check: Samay Raina Joins LinkedIn As Head of Communications And Ethics Amid Bihari Row On Latent?



A viral screenshot claiming comedian Samay Raina has landed a job at LinkedIn as its Head of Communications & Ethics is fake, with no credible evidence supporting the appointment. The screenshot attributes the report to The Daily Ledger, but the specific article carrying the claim could not be independently verified by News18, and there is no credible announcement from LinkedIn confirming that Raina has joined the company.

The claim surfaced as Samay Raina is facing backlash over a segment from Season 2 of India's Got Latent. In the episode, Raina and fellow comedian Sharon Verma exchanged jokes about their Bihar and Kashmir backgrounds, with clips from the interaction spreading online and drawing political reactions.

Is Samay Raina Really LinkedIn's New Head Of Ethics?

The answer, based on the available evidence, is no. A search of publicly available information has not produced any credible confirmation that the stand-up comedian has taken up the role mentioned in the viral screenshot.

The screenshot claims that The Daily Ledger published a report on August 18 under the headline, Samay Raina Joins LinkedIn as Head of Communications & Ethics. While The Daily Ledger is the name of a real American newspaper based in Canton, Illinois, the specific report about Raina seems to be a satire.

The claim was also addressed by G Harshith Aditya Varma, a LinkedIn creator from the Greater Hyderabad Area, who called the headline fake in a post. His LinkedIn profile lists him as Head of Growth at LinkedInspire.

What Started The Latest Samay Raina Controversy?

The viral claim surfaced shortly after the latest episode of India's Got Latent featured a roast exchange between Raina and Sharon Verma. Sharon, who graced as a panellist after participating in the show's first season, traded jokes with Samay about their regional backgrounds. During the segment, Samay introduced her with a joke about Bihar, her hometown. She replied with a joke about his Kashmiri identity, while he later referred to her move to Mumbai for work.

Did Jaya Prada Slap Dalip Tahir For Getting Carried Away During Rape Scene? Old Comments Resurface Amid Traitors 2



Dalip Tahir's recent interaction with Rida Tharana on The Traitors 2 caught everyone's attention as it made the young influencer feel awkward. Dalip told Rida he knew she was Malayali because "when you are angry, you look so good". Dalip's comment, coupled with Rida's reaction, didn't sit right with fans. In the same episode, Shalini Passi and Krystle D'Souza also said they wanted to stay away from Dalip.

Shalini even refused to sit closer to him. Clips went viral on social media, and many felt the senior actor was making the women feel awkward and uncomfortable. While they are yet to address these allegations, old reports about Dalip and Jaya Prada have now resurfaced. It was earlier claimed that during the shoot of the 1986 movie Aakhree Raasta, Dalip got carried away while filming a rape scene and Jaya slapped him.

But what really happened?

Reports claimed that Dalip had initially refused to do the scene but was threatened that his career would be over. He was also told that Jaya had consented to filming the scene with him. However, when Dalip finally shot the scene, he reportedly got carried away, and Jaya slapped him. Dalip later reacted to these allegations and said that he has never shared the screen with Jaya.

During an interview with Siddharth Kanan, Dalip Tahir explained, "When I read those reports, I was quite surprised. I really respect Jaya Prada ji, and she is one of the most beautiful actors. But I was wondering what is this film? Yeh kaunsi picture thi? If someone can point out which film it is, I would know. From what I know, I don't think I have shared any screen time with her. I haven't done any film with her."

The actor also shared that he was always vocal when any director wanted him to "go with the flow" while filming intimate scenes. He would ensure the actresses involved were aware of it. "I have always believed in creating a respectful space. I have always been arrogantly against all of it and even threatened to leave a film rather than crossing the line," he stated.

NEWS BOX

Government bombing raid kills 20 guerrillas in Colombia: President

world.(Agency)

Twenty guerrillas have been killed in Colombia in the latest bombing raid on insurgent-controlled areas ordered by the new government, the president said Monday."We neutralized 20 narco-terrorists, captured five... and rescued two minors," President Abelardo de la Espiella said in a video on X. The operation took place at dawn Monday in Guaviare, southern Colombia. It was against guerrillas under the command of the country's most-wanted rebel, known as Ivan Mordisco. The deaths come as the newly elected hardline president, a staunch ally of US President Donald Trump, ramps up military operations against armed groups funded by drug trafficking, illegal mining and extortion.It follows two deadly airstrikes against guerrillas earlier in August. Mordisco is the leader o the Central General Staff (EMC) dissident group, one of the largest outlawed armed groups in the South American nation, which is grappling with its worst violence in a decade. The EMC broke away from the now-defunct Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) after it signed a 2016 peace deal.A source from the forensics authority told AFP on Monday that four minors were among the dead in an airstrike last week.Rights groups warn that children and teens are increasingly being recruited by armed groups through slick social media campaigns.

Batman-Themed Roller Coaster Accident In Spain Leaves Man With Both Legs Fractured

world.(Agency)

A Batman-themed roller coaster in Spain allegedly left a visitor with serious injuries in both legs. According to Fox News, he suffered fractures in both legs. The incident on Saturday led the authorities to shut down the attraction at Batman Gotham City Escape at Parque Warner Madrid. Now, the experts will conduct a safety probe.According to a local media outlet, Europa Press, the 49-year-old rider suffered an open fracture in his left leg and a closed fracture in his right leg. When the incident happened, the ride was stopped immediately, and the emergency personnel responded quickly to the scene and administered first aid.Also read| Bartender Shaves Woman's Head After She Fails To Pay Huge Bar Bill|The affected person was attended to immediately by emergency medical services," Parque Warner said as quoted in the report.Juan Jose Molina, who was one of the visitors, described the situation. "There were people crying and having anxiety attacks," he said as quoted.The park issued a statement extending a get-well-soon message to wish the injured man. He confirmed that the attraction will remain closed until state regulators and independent safety inspectors complete a full review and certify it as completely safe for visitors.Visitors Evacuate 245-Foot Roller Coaster In TexasEarlier this year, dramatic visuals showed dozens of visitors evacuating one of the park's tallest roller coasters at an American amusement park, Six Flags in Texas. They were stuck for nearly an hour after a park-wide power failure, and were forced to walk along the tracks.The outage shut down electricity across Arlington Park. Some local reports linked it to strong wind gusts that knocked out power to roughly 30,000 customers in North Texas the same weekend. However, it was not confirmed.A Six Flags spokesperson said that Six Flags Over Texas in Arlington temporarily lost power on that day because "an external construction crew made contact with an underground power line".

US Has No Plans To Deploy Troops At Polling Sites In November: Top General

KATHMANDU.(Agency)

The highest-ranking officer in the US military says there are no plans to send troops to polling places during November's midterm congressional elections, addressing concerns among Democrats that the Trump administration could use the military to interfere with the vote.Gen. Dan Caine, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, made the statement in a letter to Michigan Democratic Sen. Elissa Slotkin, who recently asked Caine and Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth to confirm they won't send troops to the polls."The Joint Force has no plans to send Federal military personnel or Federalized members of the National Guard to polling places during the 2026 elections," Caine said in the letter to Slotkin, which was obtained Monday by The Associated Press. "Likewise, the Joint Force has no plans to use such personnel to seize ballots, voting machines, or other election-related material."Caine, who advises Hegseth and President Donald Trump on military matters, also wrote: "I have neither received

nor anticipate receiving any unlawful order concerning the role of the Joint Force in the upcoming November 2026 midterm elections."Anxiety among Democrats that the Trump administration could try to meddle in the midterm elections has grown, particularly after the president deployed federal agents in Democratic-led states over the objections of local leaders.sing by the time they were recovered.Slotkin told the AP earlier in August that Trump has been laying the groundwork to claim the elections were stolen. She noted that Trump contemplated using the military to seize voting machines after his loss in 2020 and has deployed the National Guard to cities against the wishes of Democratic leaders. He also deployed active duty Marines to Los Angeles during his immigration crackdown in 2025.Federal law prohibits the deployment of armed federal forces to election locations unless "necessary to repel armed enemies of the United States." If any element of the military were to get involved, it would likely be the National Guard under state control.

After six months of war, the foes remain at an impasse, with Iran keeping the strategic Strait of Hormuz closed and the US persisting with a counter-blockade of Iranian ports.

FLAGSTAFF.(Agency)

US President Donald Trump threatened on Monday to hit Iran "hard" after the two foes traded fire for the first time in weeks, as his Treasury secretary vowed to keep up a pressure campaign aimed at hobbling Tehran's economy.After six months of war, the foes remain at an impasse, with Iran keeping the strategic Strait of Hormuz closed and the US persisting with a counter-blockade of Iranian ports.On

Sunday, the United States carried out strikes on an Iranian island in the Strait of Hormuz, with Tehran quickly retaliating by attacking US military targets in the Middle East.The exchange raised fears of a return to major hostilities, with the US president vowing to respond."We're going to hit them hard," Trump said, according to a Fox News reporter who spoke to him briefly. "There will be a response." The United States said it attacked Iranian rocket launchers on the island of Larak to prevent Tehran planting mines in the key shipping lane.Iran responded with missile and drone attacks aimed at Jordan and the United Arab Emirates, saying they targeted US forces there, but President Masoud Pezeshkian later on Monday called for dialogue."We continue to strive for a path of agreement and understanding, and we

believe that continuing the war is neither in our interest, nor in the interest of the region," he said at a summit in Kyrgyzstan, adding "the solution to the



existing problems is dialogue and cooperation."- Missiles, drones - **Missiles, drones** State media reported that three people were killed in the US attack Sunday on Larak, with several others wounded.

Iran's powerful Revolutionary Guards said the ballistic missile attack targeting two US air bases in Jordan caused "heavy damage".But Trump told Fox that all the missiles fired at US forces had been shot down, except for one that was determined not to pose a threat. Jordan's army said it had intercepted eight missiles, without stating their origin.Iran also said it targeted US personnel at an air base in the UAE, and shot down an American drone over Hormuz.Abu Dhabi said it intercepted a drone over the country's waters, but dismissed claims that Al Minhad Air Base had been targeted as "baseless."The Guards reported knocking out a second US drone over the Hormuz on Monday evening, and Iran's armed forces central command reiterated a warning to its regional neighbours not to allow the US to use their territory to carry out attacks.

US Army Secretary Driscoll submits resignation: White House

WASHINGTON.(Agency)

US Army Secretary Dan Driscoll has submitted his resignation, the White House confirmed Monday, following reports of tensions with Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth.Asked about a Wall Street Journal report that Driscoll had resigned, White House Principal Deputy Press Secretary Anna Kelly did not deny it."Driscoll has been highly effective in advancing President Trump's agenda to Make America Strong Again at the Department of the Army," Kelly said. She cited his "outstanding leadership" during US military operations, "restoring an emphasis on readiness and lethality, assisting with negotiations between Russia and

Ukraine, and more."She added: "The United States Army is more powerful than ever thanks to his work alongside the Commander-in-Chief



and Secretary of War."If accepted, Driscoll's resignation would mark the latest departure of a senior military leader under President Donald Trump's administrationA former law school classmate of Vice President JD Vance, Driscoll had reportedly

benefited from their friendship within the administration, but clashed with Hegseth.The most senior Democrat on the Senate's Armed Services Committee, Jack Reed, laid the departure's blame at the defense secretary's feet, saying, "I do not welcome Secretary Driscoll's resignation... It is far past time for President Trump to recognize the lasting harm that Pete Hegseth is inflicting on the Department of Defense."An Army veteran who served in Iraq, Driscoll ran unsuccessfully for Congress in 2020 and later advised Trump's 2024 reelection campaign.With the Iran war entering its seventh month, the resignation could effectively leave the Army without permanent civilian or uniformed leadership.

Woman stabs two in New York's Times Square; two dead, including accused

➤The woman approached a 68-year-old man and stabbed him in the abdomen. Twenty seconds later, she attacked a 32-year-old woman, also stabbing her in the abdomen, wounds from which she later died.

NEW YORK.(Agency)

A knife-wielding woman stabbed and killed a person and injured another in New York's tourist-filled Times Square on Monday, before she was shot and killed by police. Mayor Zohran Mamdani announced the deaths in a press conference, saying that the second victim was in stable condition in a hospital. The attacker, identified as 49-year-old Queens resident Pamela Cisneros, who was known to have mental health issues, pulled two large knives from a bag bearing the logo of a well-known supermarket chain before

threatening passersby in broad daylight, New York Police Commissioner Jessica Tisch said. She then approached a 68-year-old



man and stabbed him in the abdomen. Twenty seconds later, she attacked a 32-year-old woman, also stabbing her in the abdomen, wounds from which she later died.The victims' identities are not being released pending notification of their families.Police quickly intervened and tried to persuade Cisneros to drop her weapons."The officers engaged the woman in dialog for four minutes and gave her numerous commands to drop the knives, which

she refused," Tisch said."During the encounter, she told the officers, 'I'm not dropping anything. I would rather kill both of you,'" Tisch added.One witness told local TV outlet PIX11 that the suspect had two knives in her hands and was tased by police before she rushed at officers. "They shot her twice," said the unnamed witness.Police confirmed that they had unsuccessfully used a stun gun before firing their handguns.Local news reports said the suspect was pronounced dead at hospital.Tisch said that they do not believe the attack was terror-related."This was an extraordinarily dangerous situation unfolding in the heart of Times Square, the crossroads of the world," the police chief said. "At any given moment, there are 1000s of New Yorkers, commuters, tourists, families, workers moving through these streets."An AFP journalist at the scene saw a large emergency services presence and officials inspecting a patch of blood in Times Square.

Indian-origin taxi driver stripped of US citizenship after rape conviction

world.(Agency)

An Indian-origin taxi driver has been stripped of his US citizenship after being convicted of rape. The 55-year-old man, Gurmeet Singh, was convicted in 2014 and sentenced to 20 years in prison after he abducted and raped a female passenger at knifepoint in New York in 2011.In a statement issued by the US Department of Justice on August 31, 2026, Attorney General Todd Blanche said: "American citizenship is not a shield for criminals."Gurmeet Singh, a



convicted rapist from India, is no longer a US citizen. He concealed a rape and kidnapping during the naturalization process, and a federal court has now revoked his citizenship. This Department took this case across the finish line, and we will continue to move expeditiously on denaturalization referrals. Fraudulently obtained citizenship will not protect criminals from justice," the statement said. "Singh unlawfully obtained the privileges of U.S. citizenship by concealing horrible criminal acts," said Assistant Attorney General Brett A. Shumate of the Justice Department's Civil Division. "The Department will continue to protect the integrity of the citizenship process and hold accountable those who defraud our immigration system."A native of India, Singh entered the United States in February 1992 as a visitor for a temporary period not to exceed six months. He then remained in the United States without authorization for years until a family-based immigrant visa petition allowed him to become a permanent resident in June 2000, the statement said.

Canada Slaps Up To 50% Tariffs On Hundreds Of US Goods. See The Full List

world(Agency)

Canada will place counter-tariffs on several hundred products made in the US as retaliation for a new set of import taxes by the White House. US steel, aluminum, furniture, golf clubs, milk and apparel are among the goods that will be taxed at as much as 50% when they cross the Canadian border, Prime Minister Mark Carney's government announced Tuesday.he measures, which are to take effect September 8, apply to products that represented C\$27.6 billion (\$19.9 billion) worth of imports from the US, based on 2024 data. Carney's government is focusing on protecting industries such as steel that have been damaged by US protectionism. Here are some of the major categories affected, with the complete list available here:Steel and aluminum products (25% or

50% tariff). This list includes semi-finished products, flat-rolled steel, stainless steel bars and rods. Many of these items are taxed at 50%, but some derivative products made out



of metal, such as pipe-cutters, have a lower tariff rate. Dairy products. Milk, cream and whey products receive a 50% levy, while cheese and curd will be taxed at 25%.Plywood and paper products (25% or

50%). That includes toilet paper, facial tissue and other paper and paperboard. Appliances (15% or 25%). Stoves, fridges, dishwashers, laundry machines, radiators, air conditioners and water heaters will all be subject to levies. Furniture, carpets and lighting (25% or 50%). Metal furniture, seats and chandeliers are listed.Farm equipment, machinery and tools (15%, 25% or 50%). Lawn mowers, chain saws, tower cranes and industrial robots are among the targets.Certain vehicles. Rail locomotives (25%), motorcycles (50%) and trailers (25%) are on the tariff list.Copper wire and wood charcoal (50%). These were among the items added to the tariff list on Aug. 26 in place of fish products. Canada also announced a C\$7.5 billion aid package that includes loans and changes to employment insurance.