

After Governor accepts Nagendra's resignation, CM heads to Delhi to fill two cabinet berths

BENGALURU. (Agency)

Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot on Sunday accepted the resignation of Planning and Statistics Minister B Nagendra, bringing to an end his brief 25-day stint in Chief Minister DK Shivakumar's cabinet.

Nagendra's exit has come as a setback for the state Congress government, which had brought him back into the Cabinet despite the political controversy surrounding the alleged Maharshi Valmiki Scheduled Tribes Development Corporation scam. Nagendra had earlier resigned as ST welfare minister in 2024, during Siddaramaiah's tenure, after the alleged multi-crore scam came to light.

The BJP had been relentlessly targeting the Congress government over Nagendra's re-induction, staging protests both inside and outside the legislature and demanding his dismissal.

Soon after the governor accepted the resignation on Sunday, Shivakumar left for Delhi to meet the high command and discuss the next course of action, particularly the filling of the two vacant cabinet berths.

Maritime environment increasingly contested, threat landscape evolving: Navy chief

New Delhi. (Agency)

Amid heightened tensions in West Asia, Navy chief Admiral Krishna Swaminathan on Monday said the world is witnessing a period of "significant strategic churn", with the maritime environment becoming increasingly contested and threat perceptions evolving rapidly. Speaking after commissioning the Indian Navy's deep-sea diving vessel INS Nipun in Mumbai, Swaminathan said emerging threats were taking



newer forms, adding to the complexity of the maritime security environment. "We are living today through a period of significant strategic churn; the maritime environment is becoming increasingly contested," he said. INS Nipun is equipped to support diving operations at depths of up to 300 metres and has the capability to undertake rapid submarine rescue missions. The vessel can also be deployed for disaster relief and humanitarian assistance operations. The Navy chief said the constantly changing threat landscape was presenting newer challenges that required enhanced preparedness and capabilities.

India A "Vishwaguru, Not A Mahashakti": RSS Chief Mohan Bhagwat In Toronto

Toronto(Agency)

RSS Chief Mohan Bhagwat recalled historical and modern examples of India stepping up during international humanitarian crises.

Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) Chief Mohan Bhagwat stated that India became a "Vishwaguru" (world teacher) through its selfless service to humanity rather than by acting as a "Mahashakti" (superpower), emphasising that the country's civilisational DNA is rooted in universal friendship, refuge, and respect for diversity.

Addressing the "Hindu Vishwa Bandhu - Embrace the World in Friendship" gathering in Toronto, Bhagwat highlighted India's historical role as a sanctuary for those fleeing persecution and war worldwide. "One may call Bharat a superpower, but it was not one. It served the world and by its own character, it became 'Vishwaguru', not Mahashakti," he said. Bhagwat recalled historical and modern examples of India stepping up during international humanitarian crises. Recalling the plight of Polish refugees during the Second World War, he noted how the Maharaja of

Jamnagar offered them refuge and protection until they could safely return home.

"There are so many instances; it is still continuing," Bhagwat said, referring to Bharat's tradition of extending assistance



during crises. Pointing to modern conflict evacuations in the Middle East, he highlighted how Indian military transport aircraft rescued not only Indian citizens but also nationals from seven other countries trapped in the war zone.

"When, some years back in the Middle East war, people were trapped, the military planes of Bharat went there and rescued not only

Bharatiya citizens; citizens of seven countries were rescued from there by Bharatiya," he said. He noted that Muslims, Christians, Jews, and Parsis have historically found peaceful refuge and knowledge in India without fear of persecution. "Anywhere in the world, if someone was persecuted, he got asylum in Bharat only," Bhagwat said.

The RSS chief contrasted India's historic global outreach with imperial expansionism, stating that Indian civilisation spread knowledge rather than dominance.

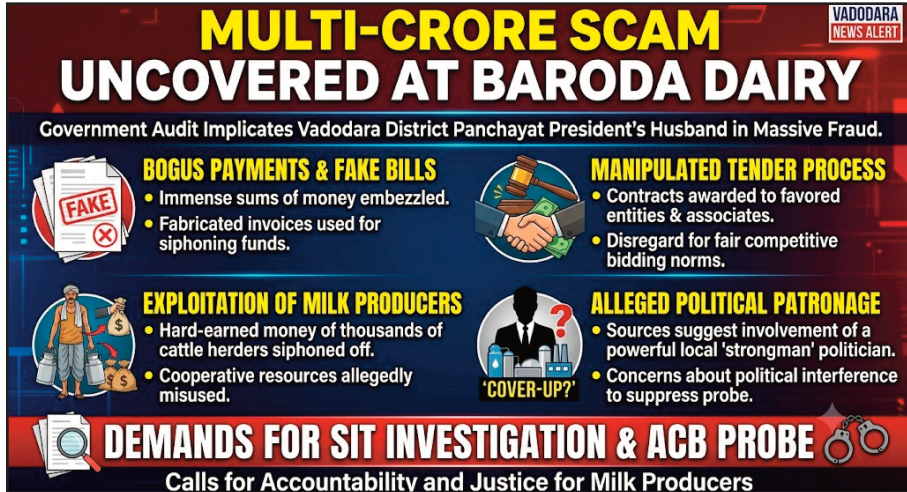
"Our ancestors travelled from Mexico to Siberia... They crossed the Himalayas on foot, went to Southeast Asia through small boats, but they conquered no country. They gave knowledge, astronomy, ayurveda, imparted civilisational values... Even today, when an ordinary Bharatiya goes to any country, the people there offer Namaskara," he added. Underscoring Bharat's civilisational tradition of helping others, the RSS chief said the country never refused assistance when people in distress sought its help and often extended help without being asked.

Multi-Crore Scam Exposed at Baroda Dairy Audit Report Implicates Vadodara District Panchayat President's Husband in Massive Fraud

Government audit reveals millions siphoned through fake bills and manipulated tenders at the Sagdol chilling plant, sparking urgent demands for an SIT probe.

MAHANAGAR METRO

VADODARA: A massive financial scandal has sent shockwaves through the political and cooperative dairy sectors of Vadodara district following a damning government audit report. The audit has exposed a multi-crore scam at the Baroda Dairy's Sagdol chilling plant in Karjan taluka, directly implicating the husband of the Vadodara District Panchayat President. This staggering revelation has laid bare a systematic operation of corruption, wherein the hard-earned money and cooperative resources of thousands of impoverished local cattle herders and milk producers were allegedly siphoned off to line the pockets of politically connected individuals. Delving into the dark underbelly of this financial mismanagement, the official audit report highlights a series of brazen irregularities and procedural violations orchestrated at the Sagdol facility. The meticulously documented findings reveal that immense sums of money were embezzled through the creation



of fabricated invoices and bogus payment vouchers. Furthermore, the perpetrators demonstrated a complete disregard for established governmental and cooperative norms by thoroughly manipulating the tender process. Lucrative administrative and operational contracts were handed out to favored entities and close associates without any fair competitive bidding. Alongside this, official accounting records were allegedly

manipulated to reflect inflated payments that vastly exceeded the actual market value of the services rendered, constituting a massive drain on the dairy's treasury. As the explosive details of the scam come to light, highly placed sources suggest that this entire operation was executed under the protective umbrella of a powerful 'Bahubali' (strongman) politician affiliated with the ruling BJP in Karjan taluka. This alleged political patron-

age has sparked deep public concern regarding potential efforts to leverage political muscle to suppress the investigation and shield the accused from legal scrutiny. The spotlight is now firmly on the state administration to see whether the government possesses the political will to act against its own functionaries and mandate an impartial probe by the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) or the Vigilance Department. Demanding immediate and decisive intervention, local stakeholders and watchdogs are urgently appealing to the Chief Minister and the State Home Department to constitute a Special Investigation Team (SIT). They are calling for the immediate registration of First Information Reports (FIRs) against all involved parties and their political backers, warning that if the authorities attempt to sweep this under the rug with a "sham investigation," every piece of documentary evidence and the hidden faces behind this scam will be publicly exposed.

Assam Clears Rs 50,000-Crore Package For Women, Health, Roads, Schools

Guwahati. (Agency)

The Assam Cabinet has cleared the framework for implementing the Rs 50,000-crore development package announced by Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Independence Day.

A substantial part of the package will go towards public infrastructure. The government has set aside around Rs 700 crore for upgrading nearly 1,000 high schools across Assam. The plan also provides for about 6,000 new Anganwadi centres, aimed at replacing older centres and improving the facilities available to children and mothers. Of the total amount, around Rs 30,000 crore is proposed to be mobilised through NABARD funding. The remaining Rs 20,000 crore is expected to come from the state government's own resources, mainly through higher revenue collection. Several constituency-level projects are part of the package as well. The government plans to set up two markets focused on women in every Assembly constituency. It has also proposed a stadium in each constituency, along with additional stadiums at the district level. Auditoriums are also proposed in every Assembly constituency.

The package will also cover the government's earlier announcement of providing Rs 1.5 lakh for the construction of houses for tea garden workers. The projects under the package are expected to start from 2027 and will be taken up in phases over seven years, with the programme extending up to 2034.



PM Modi, China's Xi to share SCO stage in Bishkek, won't meet one-on-one: Sources

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping are in Bishkek for the SCO summit, though a formal bilateral meeting is unlikely. Their presence comes as India and China continue border discussions and wider diplomatic engagement.

New Delhi(Agency)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping are both in Bishkek for the 26th Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit, but no formal bilateral meeting between the two leaders is likely, according to sources. The Prime Minister arrived in the Kyrgyz capital on Monday for the two-day summit scheduled to take place later in the evening. Xi had arrived a day earlier. The presence of the two leaders at the same multilateral forum comes at a time when India and China have been pushing forward discussions on their long-running border dispute, including through the Special Representatives

mechanism.

PM Modi was received at the airport by



Kyrgyzstan's Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers and Head of the Administration of the President, Adylbek Kasymaliev. Soon

after his arrival, he paid tribute at the Mahatma Gandhi memorial, which was unveiled by the Prime Minister during his 2015 visit. The SCO summit brings together 10 member states, 15 partner countries and two observer countries for discussions on regional and global issues.

PM Modi is scheduled to hold several bilateral meetings on the sidelines of the summit, including with Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Xi's September schedule is expected to include a BRICS summit in New Delhi on September 12-13, followed by a possible visit to the US for a meeting with President Donald Trump.

Dumper runs over two labourers sleeping outside construction site in Faridabad

Gurgaon.(Agency)

Two labourers died days after a dumper ran over them while they were sleeping on the roadside outside a construction site in Faridabad. The two brothers — Badal Manjhi (22) and Karan Kumar (23) — died at BK Hospital on Saturday, four days after they suffered leg injuries in the incident that took place in Sector 65 on Tuesday night. A police officer said, “We have registered a case against the unidentified dumper driver on a contractor’s complaint. An autopsy is being conducted.” Police identified the deceased through their Aadhaar cards. Originally, the residents of Bihar’s Munger district, the duo had been working with the contractor in the city for about 10-15 days.

According to police, contractor Sanjay Yadav, a resident of Uncha Gaon, was carrying out soil-filling work at his construction site. On Aug 25, the two labourers settled their accounts with the contractor and left the site. However, the following night, they returned to the area and slept in front of the plot.

“Around the same time, a dumper loaded with soil arrived at the construction site. The driver was moving the vehicle back and forth while manoeuvring it to unload the soil when the men came under its wheels,” an officer said. Badal managed to call Yadav to inform him about the accident. The contractor reached the spot and rushed them to BK Hospital, where doctors referred them to AIIMS Trauma Centre in Delhi. However, they could not be admitted there and were brought back to BK Hospital, where both died.

Murder convict denied bail after he opens fire in spat

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

A sessions court refused to give relief to a murder convict after he was accused in a fresh attempt to murder case while he was out on bail.

While refusing to grant bail, sessions judge Vinod Singh Rawat said without going into the merits of the case, there was no sufficient basis to release the applicant. The matter is linked to a complaint filed by Akshay Sindhu, a dairy farmer, on Aug 21. He said that the accused, Dev Kumar, came to his house with a pistol in his hand and started abusing him. He then started threatening him and suddenly opened fire in his direction, the complainant said. The complainant’s family then overpowered him and handed him over to police. The defendant’s counsel said Kumar had been falsely implicated in the case. “The complainant himself invited him to his home and, out of conspiracy and enmity, severely assaulted him, resulting in severe injuries,” he said, producing a medical report on the injury. District govt counsel (criminal) Rajesh Chandra Sharma strongly opposed the bail application, arguing that the accused, under the influence of alcohol, abused and fired a pistol with the intent to kill Sindhu. Kumar was apprehended at the scene with the pistol and cartridges, he added. Sharma also pointed out that the accused was previously convicted for killing his wife and, if bail was granted, there is a strong possibility that he may tamper with the evidence.

Buses don’t stop here: Bus shelters across Ghaziabad and Noida give way to repair shops, food stalls

Noida.(Agency)

Bus stops across Ghaziabad and Noida are increasingly turning into “ghost shelters” as buses no longer halt at many of these designated locations. In several parts of Ghaziabad, abandoned bus stops have been encroached upon and converted into tyre repair shops, tea stalls and eateries. In Indirapuram’s Gyan Khand, one such abandoned shelter now houses a paratha stall with three plastic tables laid out for customers. Benches meant for passengers waiting to catch a bus double up as seats for customers.

Sahil, who runs the stall, said he bus stop remained vacant for years before he moved in. “It was just lying empty. People pass by throughout the day, so I thought it would be a good place to start my stall,” Sahil said. A few kilometres away in Kanawani, Danish has been running a tyre repair shop for the last eight years. “I have never seen a single bus pull up at this spot. When I opened my shop, the shelter was already lying unused. Nobody from any department has ever asked me to vacate it because there is no bus service here,” Danish said. Of the city’s fleet of 50 city buses, only 33 currently operate, across six routes, far below the city’s requirement. The city has 63 bus stops, most of which commuters say have become redundant. “We don’t stand at the bus stop anymore because the buses don’t stop there. Everyone knows the point where the driver usually slows down. That’s where we wait,” said Lakshmi Verma, a resident of Raj Nagar Extension, who was seen waiting along the roadside in Indirapuram to catch a bus to Muradnagar. Another commuter, Ravi Choudhary, said most people travelling short distances prefer private buses or shared vehicles because they run more frequently. “If we stand at the shelter, we’ll miss the bus. We stand where we think it will stop. And generally, once we wave in the direction of the bus, the driver stops, so we are forced to wait along roadsides,” he said, adding most bus stops were dirty and lacked maintenance. On the 22-km Old Bus Adda-Loni route via Shaheed Sthal New Bus Adda, Hindon River, Arthala and Mohan Nagar on the Red Line, besides Hindon Civil Terminal and Ghaziabad’s rapid rail station, 13 buses run at 15-minute intervals.

EC extends Haryana electoral roll claims deadline to Sept 30

Gurgaon.(Agency)

Election Commission of India (ECI) has extended the deadline for filing claims and objections under special intensive revision (SIR) of Haryana’s electoral rolls to Sept 30, giving eligible citizens more time to seek inclusion or correction in the voter list.

Under the revised schedule, disposal of claims and objections will continue till Oct 28, and the final electoral roll will now be published on Nov 6, according to district election officer and Gurgaon deputy commissioner Uttam Singh.

Singh said ECI revised the schedule keeping voters’ interests in mind, and that the district administration was working to ensure every eligible citizen is included in the roll with accurate, error-free details.

Citizens have been advised to check their names and details in the voter list without waiting for the deadline, and to file claims or objections wherever

discrepancies are found. Those whose names are missing can apply for inclusion through Form 6, along with the required documents and declaration.

Voters can approach their booth level officers (BLOs), electoral registration officers (EROs) or assistant electoral registration officers (AEROs) for

assistance, or use ECI’s ECI-ENet platform, including its ‘Book a Call’ facility. The voter helpline number 1950 is also available for queries related to the electoral roll and the SIR exercise.

Singh had earlier said an accurate and updated electoral roll was essential for ensuring that every eligible citizen could participate in the democratic process. He appealed to residents to actively participate in the SIR exercise rather than wait for the revision process to conclude. “Awareness and cooperation of citizens are equally important for preparing an error-free and updated voter list,” he said. He also directed AEROs, EROs, supervisors and BLOs to work in coordination and accelerate the SIR Phase 2 exercise. Officials have been

asked to complete all necessary procedures within the prescribed timelines.



A Small Step, A Great Transformation: The Power of Positive Resolutions in Everyday Life

Mahanagar Metro Desk

Author: Rupesh Solanki

Transformation in a person’s life is not an event that happens in a single day; rather, it is the beautiful outcome of the small decisions we make every day. We often wish to accomplish something great in life, but we do not know where to begin. As a result, our resolutions remain confined to paper, while life continues to move forward at the same old pace. In reality, changing one’s life does not always require great opportunities. Waking up on time in the morning, giving up a bad habit, reading something every day, speaking lovingly with the elders in the family, helping someone in need, or remaining sincere and dedicated to one’s work—such small things become the foundation of great transformation in life. We are often impressed by the achievements of successful people, but we rarely notice the years of hard work, failures, inner struggles, and continuous efforts hidden behind those achievements. No one becomes successful in a single day. Success is the accumulated wealth of consistent effort. In today’s fast-paced world, people have more conveniences, but peace is gradually becoming scarce. We have smartphones in our hands and access to the world’s information at our finger-

tips, yet we often lack the time to sit and talk with our own family. Despite being connected with thousands of people through social media, finding even one person with whom we can openly share our innermost thoughts has become difficult. In such circumstances, we should ask ourselves a simple question—Are we using technology to make our lives simpler, or is technology controlling our lives?

Spending some time every day away from mobile phones and sitting together with the family can itself become a meaningful resolution in today’s world. Spending time with our parents, listening attentively to our children, and having an open and honest conversation with our life partner—these are invaluable forms of wealth that keep relationships alive. The development of society also begins within the four walls of our homes. Resolving not to throw garbage on the roads, avoiding the wastage of water, preventing unnecessary use of electricity, protecting public property, and caring for trees—these seemingly small actions are what ultimately build a responsible and cultured society. Patriotism is not limited to saluting the national flag; patriotism also means fulfilling our responsibilities with honesty and sincerity. If a student becomes sincere toward educa-



tion, a teacher offers the best of their knowledge, a businessperson maintains honesty in every transaction, an employee considers work not merely a duty but a responsibility, and citizens understand their duties along with their rights, then society would need no miracle to bring about change. When failure comes in life, one must not allow oneself to break. Failure is not the final outcome; sometimes it is the most accurate indication pointing us toward the path of success. Falling down is not a defeat in life, but refusing to rise after falling is the real defeat. We should also stop comparing ourselves with others. Every person has a different situation, ability, struggle, and timeline. Looking at the brightness of



someone else’s life and considering our own life inferior is nothing less than an injustice to our own potential. It does not matter if your pace is slow, as long as your direction is right. Let us adopt one good thought every day, gain control over one bad habit, make one person happy, and perform one useful act. At the end of the year, we may then discover a better and more refined version of ourselves. Talking about changing society is easy, but beginning to change ourselves is difficult. Yet every great transformation begins with the lighting of a small lamp within the human heart. We do not need to begin by changing the world; we need to begin by bringing one positive change within ourselves. Perhaps that very change may become the first chapter of a better society tomorrow.

40 FIRs filed, 3k illegal power lines snapped in Hindon floodplain

Noida.(Agency)

More than 3,000 illegal power connections were disconnected by the electricity department over the past three days in Chotpur, Sadullapur and Chhajarsi areas of Hindon floodplain as part of a drive against electricity theft.

Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation Limited (UPPCL) had been conducting the drive since Friday with the aim to tackle aggregate technical and commercial losses in Noida, which has consistently been identified as a ‘high-loss zone’. According to a report submitted by state transformation commission to chief minister on Thursday, Chhajarsi itself has 13,000 illegal electricity connections. Any effort to disconnect such power lines led to a law-and-order situation with the locals, CM was told.

With CM’s go-ahead, officials of the electricity department, district administration and police launched the operation to disconnect illegal power lines. According to Amit Tripathi, an executive engineer of the raid and enforcement team, till Saturday, around 3,000 illegal connections had been disconnected and 29 FIRs had been filed against those involved in using electricity from these lines. These connections were leading to a loss of 97.5 kW of electricity. “On Sunday, 200 more



illegal connections were disconnected. FIRs have been filed against 12 people. The connections were causing a loss of 28.2 W,” he said, adding that 300 metres of illegal 11 kV primary conductor — utilised for unauthorised electricity distribution — were confiscated during the operation along with 10 unauthorised distribution transformers.

In Parthala village, a 200 kVA transformer was found in a locked house. The owner was illegally supplying electricity to an entire colony, charging Rs 300 per metre for the connection line and Rs 11 per unit used. The owner is absconding and a lookout notice has been issued against him, the official said. According to a 2017 NGT order, no

electricity connections are allowed in flood-prone areas, which include Chotpur, Sadullapur and Chhajarsi. “While the case is still ongoing, people in these areas tap into a nearby electricity pole and draw a connection,” a senior official said.

Umesh Yadav, superintending engineer of the electricity department, said several attempts to check these illegal connections before had failed. “Several attempts were made earlier to control power theft in Chhajarsi. But every time, the residents reconnected the supply from the pole and would create a law-and-order situation. They had earlier gheraoed the homes of the DM and the local MLA. For three months, they had

gheraoed our office too,” he said.

Meanwhile, residents of the area staged a protest after the power lines were cut to their homes. They alleged that the electricity department disconnected supply lines without providing prior notice. “The lack of electricity amid the summer heat is causing great hardship to children, the elderly, and others,” said Ravi Singh, a resident of the area. Farmers in Chotpur also held a protest against the drive on Sunday. The protest was led by Sukhbir Khalifa, the president of Baratiya Kisan Parishad. According to officials, the enforcement campaign is not just about financial restitution but also emphasises public safety. “Illegal and unsafe electrical networks pose a significant risk to residents and infrastructure in the vicinity. By cracking down on such practices, UPPCL aims to ensure safer living conditions and restore integrity to the power supply system,” Sanjay Kumar Jain, chief engineer, Noida power department, said. UPPCL has urged all consumers to obtain valid electricity connections and to ensure that their consumption is registered through the appropriate metering systems installed at their premises. “The department has reiterated that electricity theft and illegal distribution are serious offences, punishable under the law,” Jain said.

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

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 Duroto 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 has 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

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

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.

Defining industry: In with the old, on with the new

The landmark verdict delivered on August 20 by the Supreme Court regarding the legal definition of 'industry' preserves the 1978 framework for old disputes, while leaving the new Labour Codes to develop their own meaning of the term. The judgement's real test will be in using it to combine labour protection with greater economic flexibility. The term 'industry' is crucial in Indian labour law, as it determines the statutory protections for workers and responsibilities of employers. Classifying a workplace as an industry subjects it to various industrial relations laws, impacting both workers and employers. In Uttar Pradesh vs Jai Bir Singh, the Chief Justice-led nine-judge Constitution Bench brought an important measure of clarity to a question that had troubled labour law for nearly five decades since the landmark Bangalore Water Supply & Sewerage Board (1978) decision. But the latest judgement should not be read as simply overturning the old one. The significance of the change lies in its ability to distinguish the earlier legal regime from the new framework established by the Industrial Relations Code, 2020. Section 2(j) of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 contained a wide definition of industry. In the BWSSB case, a seven-judge Constitution Bench gave that provision its most influential interpretation. It evolved the famous triple test, under which an activity could qualify as an industry if there was systematic activity, cooperation between employers and employees, and the production, supply, or distribution of goods or services to satisfy human wants or wishes. The motive to make profit was not decisive.

The outcome was a deliberately broad interpretation. Hospitals, educational institutions, municipalities, charitable organisations and various service providers could be included in the definition if their activities met the criteria. The focus was on the activity and the employer-worker relationship, rather than simply on whether the organisation called itself commercial, charitable or governmental. For workers, this was a significant expansion of legal protection. What changes, what remains

The Supreme Court has upheld the triple test for unresolved disputes under the Industrial Disputes Act. The interpretation established in 1978 remains applicable to these cases, which ensures legal continuity for disputes stemming from the repealed statute and protects workers from losing the benefits of the law simply because their cases have taken years to resolve. The important change concerns the future. The Industrial Disputes Act has been replaced by the Industrial Relations Code, 2020. Section 2(p) of the code contains its own definition of industry. It retains the broad concept of systematic activity involving cooperation between employer and worker in the production, supply or distribution of goods or services to satisfy human wants or wishes. It also makes clear that the presence or absence of capital investment and the motive to make profit are not, by themselves, decisive. At the same time, the code excludes activities such as designated charitable, social and philanthropic institutions, domestic service and government functions related to sovereign duties. Thus, Parliament itself has drawn some boundaries that were not expressed in the same manner under the old law. The Supreme Court has now made a key distinction: Section 2(j) of the old Act will follow the 1978 jurisprudence, while Section 2(p) of the new code will be interpreted in light of its own language and legislative scheme. This is the judgement's main significance. The definition of industry sets the boundaries between economic activity and labour regulation. A broad definition enhances worker protection by preventing employers from evading labour obligations based on their organisation type, such as hospitals or non-profits. This is especially important in today's economy, where outsourcing and public-private partnerships are common. However, regulation comes with economic costs. Compliance requirements and dispute resolution processes can raise the cost of hiring labour.

Hindu Kush glaciers losing ice at double the rate

The largest area losses are concentrated in the Indus, Ganga and Brahmaputra basins, where over 74% of the region's glaciers are found.

GLACIERS across the Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH) are melting at an accelerating rate, with ice loss rates doubling since 2000, according to two new reports by the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD). The reports, Changing Dynamics of Glaciers in the Hindu Kush Himalaya Region from 1990 to 2020 and HKH Glacier Outlook 2026: Insights from 50 Years of Himalayan Glacier Monitoring, provide comprehensive evidence of glacier change in the region. They reveal a loss of up to 27 metres of ice thickness since 1975, sounding an alarm for the nearly two billion people downstream who depend on meltwater from the 'Water Towers of Asia'. The HKH holds the largest volume of ice outside the poles, with an inventory of over 63,700 glaciers covering nearly 55,782 square km. These glaciers are the source of at least 10 major Asian river systems, supporting the food, water, energy, and livelihood security of billions. However, around 78% of this glacier area, located between 4,500 and 6,000 metres above sea level, is highly exposed to elevation-dependent warming. "This isn't a distant problem; it's a crisis unfolding in real-time, with new disasters every summer and monsoon. The fact that ice loss rates have doubled this century should shock us all into action," said Pema Gyamtsho, Director General of ICIMOD. "The Hindu Kush Himalaya is at a crossroads. The rapidly escalating impacts we're seeing from water uncertainty to catastrophic floods underscore that we are in a critical decade for the cryosphere. We must scale up monitoring and invest in adaptation now. These aren't blind spots becoming surprises anymore; they are our new reality." The comprehensive analysis reveals that between 1990 and 2020, HKH glaciers lost about 12% of their total area and 9% of their estimated ice reserves. According to Sudan Bikash Maharjan, Remote Sensing Analyst at ICIMOD and lead author of the glacier dynamics report, the most immediate threat comes from the region's smallest glaciers.

"Between 1990 and 2020, HKH glaciers lost about 12% of their total area, but the losses are most acute for the region's smallest glaciers — those below 0.5 km² — which are shrinking more rapidly than others," said Maharjan. "This poses immediate risks of localised water shortages for high mountain communities and intensifies hazards like glacial lake outburst floods. The danger is magnified because three-quarters of the region's glaciers fall into this vulnerable size class. We are not just losing ice; we are facing a rapid escalation of risks." The HKH Glacier Outlook 2026 synthesises data from 38 monitored glaciers, revealing that widespread wastage has doubled post-2000, signalling that parts of the



Himalayan cryosphere may be nearing critical tipping points toward irreversible retreat. Yet, the reports highlight a critical data gap: of those 38, only seven meet the global benchmark monitoring standards of the World Glacier Monitoring Service (WGMS). Major glacierised regions, including the Karakoram, Sikkim, Zaskar, and Bhutan remain largely unmonitored. TestWater Quality "We are trying to navigate a rapidly changing future with an incomplete map," said Mohd Farooq Azam, a cryosphere specialist at ICIMOD and one of the report's authors. "Large parts of the Himalaya remain blind spots. Without expanding our monitoring networks and standardising methodologies, accelerated changes in water flows and cryosphere risks could remain undetected until the impacts are severe. Sustained monitoring of representative glaciers like Mera and Rikha Samba in Nepal, and Chhota Shigri in India, is critical, they are our early warning indicators for the entire mountain system."

The reports highlight that glacier losses are spatially skewed, with the highest percentage of area loss in the

eastern Hengduan Shan mountains, where some areas lost up to 33% of their glacier area in just three decades. However, the largest absolute area losses are concentrated in the Indus, Ganges, and Brahmaputra basins, where over 74% of the region's glaciers are found, underlining their critical vulnerability.

The larger glaciers above 10 km² hold nearly 40% of the region's natural water reserves. The heavily glaciated Karakoram range, home to 18 of the 25 largest glaciers, remains highly vulnerable to long-term water, food, and disaster risks with ramifications for the entire region.

With 2025 designated as the International Year of Glaciers' Preservation and the start of the Decade of Action for Cryospheric Sciences (2025-2034), these findings serve as a stark reminder of the urgent need for action. The authors call for a massive scale-up in glacier monitoring, better standardisation of methodologies, and robust investment in climate-resilient adaptation planning to mitigate the impacts of a rapidly changing cryosphere.

More needed than pact to address social media addiction among kids

Social media addiction is known to cause a range of problems among the young, particularly mental health issues. Meta bearing responsibility and legal consequences in the US is a much-welcome development

In a landmark deal with potentially far-reaching beneficial impact on children, Meta Platforms on Wednesday agreed to pay up to \$18 billion over the next 10 years and strictly limit how teenagers use Facebook and Instagram. The agreement with almost all US states followed a trial over allegations that Meta's products were harmful as its social media platforms are designed to get children addicted. The agreement, which cut short multiple lawsuits, requires Meta to disable most push-notifications to teenagers during school hours and enhance measures to prevent them from accessing age-restricted content. It is hoped that such limits can be tightened further if other social media platforms like YouTube and Snapchat adopt similar terms to help tackle growing social media addiction among youngsters. The accord is being seen as an unprecedented template to resolve thousands of other lawsuits against social media companies. Not just the US, governments across the world are trying to grapple with



the issue. Australia, Indonesia, Malaysia and Brazil have banned or mandated strict parental control for social media use by children under 16; the UK is considering a similar move. Several Indian states are talking along the same line. Social media addiction is known to cause a range of problems among the young, particularly mental

health issues (depression and anxiety, low self-esteem, sleep disruption); brain and cognitive effects (shortened attention span and reduced grey matter, particularly affecting parts of the brain linked to self-control and decision-making); withdrawal symptoms when staying offline (social isolation, lower productivity and strain in relationships)—all contributing to mental health issues. Many of these have ended tragically in suicides in India and elsewhere—which is why the Wednesday accord is viewed as a much-welcome development. However, addressing these problems requires much more than what the deal promises. Experts—including influential social and cultural psychologist Jonathan Haidt—have pointed out that Meta's still-running AI-powered recommendation engine continues to maximise engagement with harmful content. This brings into play the importance of responsible parenting, robust counselling (in academic institutions and outside).

An unusual contest in Punjab

— The Great Game: Ask not what Punjab can do for you, but what you can do for your beloved state

THIS weekend in Punjab, it isn't just the turn of the season. The south-west monsoon, which feeds the lands which feeds the state and the rest of the country, is drawing to a close, as it is wont to do every year, ticking the box off the month of 'sawan' in the Hindu calendar. And so last night when the full moon rose, on Rakhar Punya or Raksha Bandhan, the last full moon of 'sawan,' its golden glory also contained the secret of the coming season — which political party will claim the crown of Punjab's winter of content, with Assembly elections readying to be held a few months from now. The seeds have been laid on Rakhar Punya at the historic Baba Bakala gurdwara — where the ninth Guru, Guru Tegh Bahadur, was revealed in 1664 — with all the political parties showcasing their best at rallies traditionally held on this day. For the first time, the BJP also held a rally, signalling its intent to reclaim Punjab, either as a partner with its former ally, the Shiromani Akali Dal, or on its own. With six months to go, the countdown has been accentuated by a Mood of the Nation poll brought out by the India Today group, which tells us that the BJP-led NDA is still up and away at 45.1% of the national vote share, compared to 39.1% for the INDIA bloc — certainly, there's no challenge to PM Modi here. Only the keen political watcher will note that the NDA vote share is down 2% from the 47% forecast this January and even lower than the 46.7% a year ago. Indianews updates So what does this mean for elections slated to take place in Uttar Pradesh, Goa, Manipur and Uttarakhand alongside Punjab, early next year? Certainly, the BJP will be determined to maintain the winning streak it has held since the 2024 Lok Sabha poll — it has convincingly won several states since, whether Haryana, Maharashtra, Delhi, Bihar or West Bengal.

And now the BJP wants to win Punjab. It knows it will likely win Uttar Pradesh, despite the stealing in the Ram Mandir; and Manipur, despite a three-year ethnic conflict that remains unresolved; and Goa, which it has won three times in a row. Having won Bengal, the BJP's ambition now extends to the other end of the country. That's why Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan travelled to Baba Bakala to appeal to the people. Vote for us, he said, we will fix your problems. Beginning with PM Modi, that message has been coming to Punjab for some time now. We will clear your debt, stop the drugs coming in via drones from across the border, revamp your agriculture, fix your schools, tar your roads and resolve the water-sharing issue with Haryana and Rajasthan. The unspoken message? Vote for the BJP. Certainly, there's something special about Punjab. Its people are capable of an extraordinary generosity — note the gurdwaras opening up to help CJP protesters in Delhi and Punjabis going to help Assam flood-hit in recent weeks — that is unequalled by any other state in the country. It shares a border with a difficult neighbour, but cannot understand why the BJP refuses to reopen the Kartarpur Sahib corridor. Unlike Bengal, which has also shared an uncomfortable relationship with Delhi most of the last 80 years since Independence, except for the last few months, Punjab has been chopped up twice — into Himachal Pradesh and Haryana — its self-image further battered by terrorism, the flight of industry and an agricultural revolution turning upon itself.

There's a word that Punjabis use, oh-so-casually, about everything, but it taps into their deepest sense of being — the word is dhakka, and it translates into, 'don't bully me.'

Mere ton dhakke naal kam na karvao. Don't force me to do anything against my will.

It's a phrase every political party wanting to win Punjab should memorise and use as a slogan in their internal documents. The unsolicited moral of the story is, don't salami-slice Punjab's 2.1 crore voters — now 1.9 crore,



after a loss of 20-odd lakh after they've been through the SIR grinder — by dissecting religion (Sikhs, Hindus), caste (Jats, Khatri, Ravidassias, Ramdassias, Valmikis etc), deras (Radha Soami, Sachkhand Ballan, Sacha Sauda), godmen (Sant Niranjan Dass, Ram Rahim), and believe you can add up the vote. Don't trash the state you want to win — schools are bad, colleges are worse, the Buddha Nullah is a sewer, industries are discharging effluents without a care, gangsterism is rife, drug abuse is rampant — even if much of it is true. If you want to win the state, help it turn the corner. The state, clearly, needs

your help. Subscribing To Political News Outlets

As Punjab, then, 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. Interestingly, the PM realises this unusual state needs monitoring, which is why his newest pointman is his close confidant from Gujarat, the four-time MP from Navsari and the first non-Gujarati head of the Gujarat BJP, Jal Shakti Minister CR Patil. An alliance between the two former partners is likely not because they want it as much as they need it. The contest is increasingly unusual. The ruling AAP in Punjab has taken a leaf out of PM Modi's subsidies for women — what the BJP has successfully done elsewhere in the country, in Haryana and Maharashtra and Delhi, by putting money into women's bank accounts, AAP is doing in the state. The Congress, which may have otherwise put up a strong showing, must resign itself to third place, not least because Rahul Gandhi is unable to decide which leader should lead his party — his visit to the state in the coming week will finally put a stamp on the fragmentation.

Meanwhile, speculation is rife about Waris Punjab De, led by the jailed MP Amritpal Singh, and why its influence is gaining ground. The next six months are key before the vote is cast. That's because Punjabis will evaluate political parties and their candidates not because of the colour of the turban they wear — or why raiding parties from neighbouring states only wear it sometimes — 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: Ask not what Punjab can do for you, but what you can do for your beloved state.

Relationships

Yes, parenting is a tough task, especially for those who also juggle a career.

"However, sharp and smart individuals know that the scenario at work and at home are almost similar. The situations and the solutions are almost always interchangeable. The tactics that you apply at office can also work wonders with your children," says parental adviser and psychologist Rashmi Desai. Here are some simple corporate survival techniques you can try when dealing with your kids...

SETTING OBJECTIVES MAY LEAD TO NOWHERE

The only place where 'goals' look nice is probably on your

Corporate

hacks you can try while dealing with

Kids

employee who is encouraged by way of citation and letter of appreciation is more likely to work harder than the one who has been reprimanded in front of his colleagues."

HEADS, I WIN, AND TAILS, YOU LOSE

It's okay to accede to your child's whims and fancies once in a while. But often, give them options such that they choose what you want. Sri Dixit, communication head with a reputed MNC, says, "I learnt this trick from my boss, who casually told me I could either do the official tour I so hated with his team now or during the weekend when I had plans of celebrating my wedding anniversary. I now use this on my son, who is in Class IV, all the time. I give him a choice between doing his homework now or when his favourite cartoon is on. Either way, I accomplish what I intended to."

BE A ROLE MODEL

It's important for a boss to set a good example for their subordinates to follow. Similarly, kids learn by watching their parents. Rashmi says, "If you lose your cool at the drop of a hat, your child will do the same. Children follow on their parents' footsteps. Be tolerant, soft-spoken, kind and selfless if you want your kid to be the same."

BE OPEN TO CHANGES

Flexibility and willingness to adapt and adjust your parenting style will make your journey much easier. Rehana says, "The work environment at a new office will be different from the one at your old place. You need to be flexible to sail through smoothly. When my daughter was two, she would listen to everything I said, even though she wouldn't understand most of it. But now, she is eight and has formed her own opinions. So, instead of mollycoddling, I behave like an adult with her. We reason things out and choose what's best."

AT TIMES, IT'S OKAY TO CALL IT A DAY

Overworking and burning yourself out at your workplace will lead to no good. It's fine to just go home when you know things are going nowhere. Adapt the same policy with your kids as well. Rashmi adds, "It's perfectly fine to give in to your child's tantrums, but only sometimes. If they insist on staying up late on weekend, tell them it's fine as long as they don't create a ruckus and finish their school work the next day. If they don't want to eat their spinach, give them a healthy alternative. Parenting is all about little compromises."

BE CREATIVE

Narendra says, "My wife whips out these nice looking, interesting lunches every day so our twins gobble them up without making a fuss. She presents the dishes



resume. For, many parents vouch that setting objectives, both at home and office, is almost always pointless. Narendra Jain, a marketing manager and father of two, says, "I convince myself that I need to achieve a specific target within two months, but I never manage to do that because my goals are influenced by external factors as well. In the end, I am left feeling dejected. Similarly, my wife and I vowed that we would potty train our twins by the time they are two. But we kept racing between our bedroom and the restroom till

they turned four. Letting things take its own course is one of the parenting mantras we follow now."

BONUS, INCREMENT, BRIBES ARE GOOD MOTIVATORS

'Carrot and stick approach' works brilliantly well both with kids and at office. Rehana K, an HR professional, says, "Just like how bonus and increment push staff to perform better, promise of extended playtime and a picnic over the weekend motivates my daughter to

study and behave well. Bribery is a punishable offence, but all is fair in love, war and parenting."

CITATION AND WORDS OF APPRECIATION ARE LIFESAVERS

Encourage your child by appreciating accomplishments; this boosts their self esteem. Rehana adds, "Your body language and tone matters a lot. If your son has tied the shoelace on his own, make sure you compliment him. Avoid making comments that belittle his efforts. An

creatively, just like how we rack up our brains to present our ideas differently to our clients."

IT'S ALRIGHT TO FIB

While being transparent and honest are important for any relationship to survive, it's okay to lie sometimes. Gauri Manjrekar, a fashion consultant, says, "I fib to my six-year-old son so that he drinks his glass of milk, comes with me for a medical checkup, goes to bed on time and doesn't OD on chocolates. I'm not being dishonest, I just say few harmless lies so we both can co-exist peacefully."

Kids cause greater strain in relationships than illness



Schicka, who conducted the research as part of her PhD thesis, explained that women often abandon or substantially reduce their participation in the labour market once they become a mother, because of lack of institutionalised child care facilities. This also generates a great deal of frustration. On the other hand, illness and accidents are seen as linked to bad luck and not personal responsibility.

There is therefore less grief and bitter thoughts between partners when the latter occur, Schicka stated.

The study also found that transition to retirement succeeds in reuniting couples at an age that is generally not perceived as the most romantic one.

The research demonstrated that while the various styles of conjugal interactions generally remain stable along the life course, some critical life events and transitions weigh much more on relationship quality than others, sometimes in unexpected ways.

Having kids, the main purpose of matrimonial relationships, can bring in greater strains in romantic relationships than illness of partners, a new study suggests. The study looked at the relationship quality of 721 couples in Switzerland over a period of thirteen years. "Transition to parenthood is associated with a higher degree of closure of the couple, as well as greater differentiation of functional roles," said researcher Manuela Schicka from the University of Geneva in Switzerland in an official

5 ways to keep your kids safe online

With the proliferation of new technologies and social media apps, it seems these days as if our children are almost constantly online, and as parents/guardians, we sometimes have a tough time keeping pace.

How can we ensure that we are as good parenting online, as we are offline? Use these five tips to educate, empower and protect yourself, as well as your children, to have safer and more meaningful online experiences.

Use technology together This is a good way to teach online safety, and it creates the opportunity for you to address safety issues as they arise. Be involved in your child's online life. Discuss also the importance of unplugging from their mobile device, and establish phone-free times such as during class, at family dinners or after a certain time on school nights.

Use privacy settings/ parental control on devices There are many sites for sharing ideas, photos, videos and more. Many of these service providers offer privacy settings and controls that will determine who can see your content before you post it. Talk with your family about what they



should and should not share publicly. Teach your family to communicate responsibly: one good thumb rule is, if you would not say it in person, then do not text it, email it, instant message it, or post it as a comment on someone's page. Discuss how what you say online might make other people feel, and come up with guidelines about what is appropriate communication. Help them respect the privacy of others by keeping the personal details about family or friends private, and by not identifying people by name in publicly shared social media. This

should include personal information such as phone numbers or home addresses. Teach your family not to accept files or to open email attachments from strangers. Write down the rules and keep them near the computer.

Check age restrictions Many online services have age limits restricting who can use their services. For example, for an email account, you would have to meet age requirements; some email products are restricted to users who are 18 years and older. Always check a website's terms of usage before allowing your child/ward to sign up for an account, and be clear with them if you have rules on which websites and services they can use. Supervise computer use. If possible, the family computer should be kept in a common area of the house. You should also set reasonable limits on computer

usage. Show your children the value of privacy: encourage them to protect their passwords and personal information, as they would with something like a diary. Children under eight should have direct supervision while online. Tweens, those from eight to 12, should have more freedom, but a parent/guardian should still be close by, with privacy settings at their highest level. Teens, due to smart phones, laptops and school computers will have more Internet access, which is why it is important to set the rules early and encourage ongoing conversations.

Keep the conversation going Staying safe is not a one-off event; technology evolves, and so will the needs of your family. Make sure you keep up an ongoing dialogue. Check in on everyone's progress, change the rules if necessary, and set aside time to chat at regular intervals, for example, at family dinners. Encourage their questions. Invite conversation.



Stuck in the wrong job? Brave enough to have changed careers, three go-getters explain how you can exchange 'earning a living' to 'living a life'.

Stuck in the Wrong Career?

Strong performances certainly helped make Raju Hirani's 3 Idiots a record breaking success, but more than the calibre of its actors, what seemed to resonate more with the country's young audience was its message -one's career choice should not be dictated by parents or peers. It should, instead, reflect one's own predilections. Shalini Umachandran's new book *You Can Make Your Dreams Work* profiles 15 individuals who have managed to fight against all odds and pursue a career option of their choice years after having started out in another profession. Umachandran says the motivation was simple -people switched careers to follow their own interests or passions. "Not all of us have one overarching passion. We don't always know what we want, but you need to zero in on what you like most," says the author and journalist. Most of the profiles in Umachandran's book are of people who had spent five-six years in a certain profession before they decided to make a shift. So, one would imagine that they had a body of work to fall back on. But

Umachandran informs that none of them considered their previous profession as a backup. "When you decide to take the plunge, you ought to have an 'all or nothing' perspective. If you have a 'plan B', you won't be as committed. They also said it is best not to give oneself a deadline like: 'I'll try it out for a year'," explains the author.

Featured in Umachandran's book, here are three career mavericks who have managed to ditch their old jobs to follow their dream. They tell us how to figure out if you're in the wrong profession, find what's best for you and prepare for metamorphosis.

FROM TOXICOLOGY TO SOCCER

Abhijit Barse was living the great American dream after a PhD in aquatic toxicology. He had joined a German company in the US as a toxicologist, but a year and a half later, he somehow felt empty.

Barse returned to India and decided to teach at a college in Nagpur and then quit teaching to join Nagpur-based Slum Soccer in 2010, an organisation that uses football to keep

kids in school and off drugs."

EVALUATE YOUR PRIORITIES

Today, there are a lot of ways to find out what would be your ideal job. There are consultants who help you do that. Figure out what is it that drives you. For someone hoping to make more money, it's a no-brainer. But if there's something missing at work, you surely need to evaluate your priorities. If you're always complaining about work, you're in the wrong job.

PRIOR RESEARCH IS ESSENTIAL

If you're just beginning your career, it's easier to make a shift. As time passes, responsibilities pile up and you can't chuck one job and pick another easily. I didn't do it overnight. I eased myself into it. A change of job can leave you with psychological problems, especially when you go from a '9 to 5' job to one where you don't have assigned timings. When I started out, there was no money, projects or structure, so I had to study about the field. This is essential before you nose-dive into a new profession. You need to know exactly what your job description

would be and what the job entails.

FROM WALL STREET TO SOCIAL WORK

Vikram Bhat, a Wall Street analyst in New York, gave up his 10-year career in finance and computer engineering in 2008. Having moved to Bangalore, Bhat decided to teach in a school for children from low-income families.

AVOID UNREALISTIC EXPECTATIONS

Financial security is the biggest obstacle when trying out a new profession. At 33, when I decided to figure out what I wanted to do, I was old enough to not have to listen to my parents. My wife is a doctor and it helped that she had a stable income and was willing to support me. The biggest challenge when you enter a new career is that you have unrealistic expectations about how satisfying it will be. We all have a certain vision of ourselves, but we don't build on it much. Try to figure out how practical or impractical that vision is by making it more realistic for yourself.

INTERNSHIP BRIDGES A GAP

Before you take up a new job, an internship can help bridge the gap, as it did for me. From the outside, it all looks great, but it has to make sense to you on a daily basis. You have to have your basic finances sorted and have close ones on board with your decision. Find yourself a mentor and periodically remind yourself why you made the shift. You have to be patient as

you will face disappointment in your new career. You need to envision the progress you see for yourself in this new chapter.

FROM LAW TO LEH

Piya Bose ditched the legal profession to launch *Girls On The Go*, an allwomen's travel company, in 2008. Initially clueless about what she wanted to do, the former corporate lawyer's only mission was, 'I would rather live than spend my life earning a living'.

EMBRACE THE UNPREDICTABLE

I was working at a reputed law firm in Mumbai and I took home a fat paycheck. But the work I was doing failed to inspire me. I had no doubt that I was stuck in the wrong job. Stepping into a new profession without a guide was a trial by fire. Startup cash was a challenge. I overcame that with a zero-cash business model. Entrepreneurship is all about unpredictability, a certain risk appetite and having faith in the invisible forces that govern the market. I once went through a prolonged rough patch when things didn't work out as planned. I encountered aggressive clients and started losing faith in myself, but I couldn't give up.

IT IS AN ADVENTURE

The only way to figure out your best career choice is through a series of eliminations. Be clear about the reasons you are opting for a career change. Is it only because you will earn more or is it because you want a new lease of life? Treat it as an adventure and you will stay inspired when the going gets tough. If you are able to hold on even when you're at the bottom, the rewards will be very satisfying.

Effects of workplace

Gossip

Gossip in the workplace can function as a weapon to attack people's reputation or a gift in enhancing it, according to researchers.

Lead researcher Tim Hallett, assistant

professor in Indiana University Bloomington's Department of Sociology, and team looked at the power dynamics involved in organizational charts as the gossip unfolded. The study "identifies subtle ways that people who are targets of gossip

are negatively evaluated during formal work meetings, including veiling criticism with sarcasm or talking up another colleague for comparison.

"It also discusses how efforts to embark on negative gossip can be effectively -- and again, subtly -- derailed, by changing the subject, targeting someone else for criticism or by pre-emptive comments that are positive."

Hallett said: "When you're sitting in that business meeting, be attentive to when the talk drifts away from the official task at hand to people who aren't present."

"Be aware that what is going on is a form of politics and it's a form of politics that can be a weapon to undermine people who aren't present. But it also can be a gift. If people are talking positively it can be a way to enhance someone's reputation."

The research, co-authored by IU sociologist Donna Eder, a leading authority in gossip research, and Brent Harger, now a sociologist at Albright College, further discovered that gossip in a formal setting is more likely to involve veiled criticism.

Hallett said: "If you're interested in learning how an organization works, you can look at the organizational chart, which can be useful."

"But often people say, 'I still can't tell how things get done, who the prime movers are.' If you're attentive, you can see who has the informal status, which isn't on the formal charts. It can help you understand how work actually gets done."



How to deal with bad day at work



A bad day at work can really put you down and you may feel like you hate your job. Here's how you can deal with when it is just not your day...

- Talk it out with someone at workplace as it helps in bringing out another perspective to it. You might want to speak to your immediate senior in order to sort out the issue. Someone who is generally positive and looks at the larger picture than on the minute details.

- Rather than focusing on what you hate, try looking at the brighter side by looking at things you like about

your work. Don't take an impulsive decision by deciding to put your papers down. As time passes, the feeling, too, shall subside.

- Listen to your favourite song or read your favourite book or watch an old favourite movie or series in order to divert your attention.

- Meet a friend for a cup of coffee and some conversations. You may or may not talk about your day at work. The best would be to faintly mention about it, get over the topic and go back to talking about something more fun and end the day on a lighter note.

No reason to presume trouble: Supeme Court refuses to halt CJP's Sept 5 march

The Supreme Court declined to pass any immediate order against the CJP's September 5 protest march in Delhi. It said law and order was for the authorities to manage, while allowing the petitioner to return if the situation turns alarming.

Delhi. (Agency)

The Supreme Court on Monday declined to pass any immediate order against the Cockroach Janata Party's (CJP) proposed September 5 protest march from India Gate to the New Delhi Police Headquarters, saying there was currently no basis to assume that the demonstration would lead to an untoward incident.

A bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant said the immediate issue of maintaining law and order was for the government and police to handle and asked the petitioner to approach the authorities concerned. "At least as of now, we will presume that everybody will act and behave in a very responsible manner and in a peaceful and lawful manner," the CJI said. The top court noted that the matter involved two aspects—law and order as well as policy considerations—and said the stakeholders should first engage with the authorities. "We are quite sure that they will act within the legal framework," Justice Surya Kant said, referring to the responsibility of the



Centre and Delhi government to maintain law and order. The court did not find any immediate circumstance warranting a pre-emptive restriction on the march. However, it left the door open for the petitioner to return if the situation changes.

"If something alarming is happening, then you can always make a mention," the CJI said, while making it clear that any such intervention would have to concern a matter within the court's judicial domain. The matter is scheduled to be heard on September 10.

On August 24, the CJP announced the fresh protest march, accusing the Centre of failure to honour assurances given when its massive nationwide agitation against the NEET paper leak was called off on July 25.

The CJP has since claimed that some of the commitments, particularly those concerning FIRs and written assurances, have not been fulfilled. While announcing the September 5 protest march, CJP spokesperson Saurav Das said the demonstration would be peaceful, while accusing the government of "vishwasghaat" (betrayal) towards the protesters and bereaved families.

"The National Working Committee expressed serious doubts over whether the Government of India intends to honour its commitments made to the young generation on July 25.

Therefore, a peaceful protest march is called for which will start at the India Gate all the way till the new Delhi Police Headquarters. The protest will be led by the families of the NEET students who died by suicide and victims of July 20 police brutality," he said at the time.

Delhi draft electoral roll out; 47.7 lakh voters dropped after SIR

Delhi. (Agency)

The Delhi Election Office on Monday published the draft electoral roll, excluding the names of 47.7 lakh electors from the city's total electorate of 1.45 crore following a house-to-house enumeration exercise under the Special Intensive Revision (SIR).

The Chief Electoral Officer said those whose names do not figure in the draft roll can seek inclusion by filing claims along with supporting documents through Form 6 by September 30. The final electoral roll is scheduled to be published on November 4.

According to the revised schedule of the Election Commission, the claims and objections will be examined and the process of issuing notices and disposing of them will continue until October 29.

The draft roll includes around 97.5 lakh electors whose enumeration forms were received and digitised during the SIR exercise, which began on June 30 and concluded on August 17. Overall, forms of 67.18 per cent of Delhi's 1.45, 10, 299 electors were digitised.

The remaining 47.7 lakh electors were classified as "uncollectable" under the categories of Absent, Shifted, Dead, Duplicate and Others (ASDDO), and their names were consequently left out of the draft roll.

The rate of digitisation varied significantly across Delhi's 70 Assembly constituencies. Rohini recorded the highest rate at 83.43 per cent, while Tughlakabad had the lowest at 52.15 per cent.

The SIR was undertaken to prepare the electoral roll through house-to-house verification. Electors whose enumeration forms were not received during the exercise can now seek inclusion through the claims and objections process.

Demolition, encroachment removal drive around Jama Masjid begins following Delhi HC order

Delhi. (Agency)

The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) on Monday launched a demolition and encroachment removal drive in the Jama Masjid area, following directions from the Delhi High Court to survey illegal constructions and clear encroachments around the historic Mughal-era monument.

A senior MCD official said civic teams began removing encroachments from public spaces and parks in and around the Jama Masjid area in the morning.

"Encroachment of public places and parks was done, which is being removed around the monument," the official said.

At least three parks in the area are being cleared of encroachments, another senior official said. The action follows a Delhi High Court directive instructing the MCD to survey illegal constructions and encroachments in and around Jama Masjid and take appropriate action to remove them.

MCD teams reached the area early in the day and began clearing structures and other encroachments occupying public spaces around the monument.

A senior police officer said adequate security had been deployed to maintain law and order during the drive.

"There is an encroachment drive near Jama Masjid by authorities. We have provided adequate security to ensure there is no breach of law and order," the officer said.

Jama Masjid, one of Delhi's most prominent Mughal-era landmarks, draws large numbers of visitors and worshippers. The surrounding lanes are also a busy commercial hub. The civic action forms part of the follow-up to the High Court's directions on illegal constructions and encroachments in the vicinity of the historic monument, officials said.

Delhi's draft electoral roll published, 47.7 lakh of 1.45 crore voters excluded

Delhi's draft electoral roll is out and 47.7 lakh of the city's 1.45 crore electors have been excluded after the Special Intensive Revision (SIR). Those left out can seek inclusion through Form 6 with supporting documents by September 30.

Delhi. (Agency)

Delhi's draft electoral roll was published on Monday, with 47.7 lakh of the city's 1.45 crore electors excluded from the list following the Special Intensive Revision (SIR). The final electoral roll will be published on November 4.

Delhi Chief Electoral Officer Ashok Kumar said those left out of the draft roll can seek inclusion by filing claims through Form 6 along with supporting documents by September 30.

Voters can check whether their names appear in the draft electoral roll either on the Election Commission's voter services portal. <https://voters.eci.gov.in/download-eroll?stateCode=U05>

According to the revised Election

electors whose enumeration forms were received and digitised during the house-to-house SIR exercise, which began on June 30 and ended on August 17.

Forms of around 67.18 per cent of Delhi's 1,45,10,299 electors were digitised during the exercise. The remaining 47.7 lakh electors were categorised as "uncollectable" under the Absent, Shifted, Dead, Duplicate and Others (ASDDO) categories and do not figure in the draft roll.

Digitisation rates varied significantly across Delhi's 70 Assembly constituencies.

Rohini in northwest Delhi recorded the highest rate at 83.43 per cent, while Tughlakabad in southeast Delhi had the lowest at 52.15 per cent.



Commission schedule, the claims and objections will be examined, with the notice and disposal process continuing until October 29. The draft roll includes around 97.5 lakh

'Mohammad Deepak', who stood up for Muslim shopkeeper, gets relief in clash case

Delhi. (Agency)

Dehradun gym owner Deepak Kumar, popularly called 'Mohammed Deepak' after standing up for a Muslim shopkeeper during a confrontation with Bajrang Dal members in Uttarakhand, secured legal relief on Monday, with the Supreme Court staying proceedings against him in the case.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta issued notice on Deepak's plea challenging the FIR registered against him and stayed further proceedings arising from the case. The court also stayed an order of the Uttarakhand High Court that had restrained Deepak from making social media posts or issuing public statements about the case.

The development comes months after

Deepak became a social media sensation following his confrontation with Bajrang Dal members, who objected to a Muslim shopkeeper using the word "Baba" in his shop's name.



During the confrontation in February, he was heard responding, "My name is Mohammad Deepak". Videos of the incident went viral on social media, sparking a wider debate over communal tensions and religious

polarisation.

Appearing for Deepak, Senior Advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi, argued the gym owner had himself lodged complaints regarding the incident, but that no action had been taken on them, while an FIR was registered against him.

"How can a good Samaritan be subjected to this kind of a complaint?" Singhvi told the court, according to Live Law. Singhvi also pointed out that the rioting charge under Section 191 of the BNS had also been invoked against Deepak, even though the required conditions

for the charge were not met. The charge was later dropped for the same reason. Deepak had approached the High Court seeking cancellation of the FIR registered against him. However, the High Court had refused.

UP teen gang-raped on bus while travelling to Noida; driver, conductor held

Delhi. (Agency)

A 16-year-old Class 11 student from Uttar Pradesh was allegedly gang-raped inside a sleeper bus after she sought help from its driver and conductor during heavy rain, police sources said. The incident took place on August 4, when the teenager was travelling from Mainpuri to Noida to meet her cousin.

According to police sources, the girl had left home after an argument with her mother and boarded a bus for Noida Sector 63. However, amid heavy rain and poor visibility, she mistakenly got off at Pari Chowk.

She later flagged down a bus and sought help. The vehicle had no passengers at the time. After the conductor told her that the bus was headed towards Noida Sector 63, she boarded it.

The conductor allegedly made inappropriate advances towards her soon after the bus began moving. The driver and conductor then allegedly sexually assaulted the girl inside the bus and threatened her with dire consequences if she resisted, sources said. The accused allegedly abandoned her near the Kashmere Gate bus terminal late that night and fled.

The teenager subsequently approached Kashmere Gate police, who arranged for her medical examination in the presence of a woman police personnel. An FIR was registered on the basis of her statement under relevant provisions pertaining to gang rape, kidnapping and assault.

Police teams examined CCTV footage and traced the bus and the accused. The conductor was arrested from a parking facility in Timarpur, while the bus was seized for forensic examination. Police have also collected CCTV footage and other evidence as part of the investigation.

Sources said the bus had been returning empty after undergoing repairs at a workshop in Surajpur. The vehicle had developed a mechanical problem and was taken to the workshop. After the repairs, the driver and conductor were travelling towards the Timarpur parking facility when they encountered the girl at Pari Chowk.

How ODOP took Barabanki weavers from Rs 18 lakh loan to Rs 1 crore business

Barabanki weavers Javed and Zafar Ahmed say an ODOP loan helped them expand from traditional looms to a Rs 1 crore business. Their growth into export markets reflects how local weaving units are scaling up through new buyers and wider reach.

Delhi. (Agency)

For Javed and Zafar Ahmed, weaving has been a family trade for three generations. But for years, keeping the business going was a struggle. Today, the brothers say their annual turnover has reached around Rs 1 crore, with about 60 people associated with their work. The brothers, who live in Zaidpur village of Uttar Pradesh's Barabanki district, have been involved in weaving for around 37 years. Their family had been in the trade for generations, but hard work did not always translate into a stable income. That began to change in 2018, when they decided to expand their traditional weaving business under the government's One District, One Product (ODOP) scheme.

They received a loan of around Rs 18 lakh,

which they used to install eight powerloom machines. The expansion also allowed them to employ around 20 weavers. Over time, they brought women's groups into the work as well.

For the brothers, the loan was a starting point. They began travelling to markets in Kanpur, Delhi and Mumbai to find buyers and expand their business. As demand grew, so did the scale of their operations. They now say the business has reached an annual turnover of around Rs 1 crore. The brothers credit the ODOP scheme as well as their own efforts for the growth.

From Barabanki to overseas

Javed and Zafar mainly make cotton stoles, scarves and gamchas. Their products, they say, are now finding buyers

outside India as well.

They recently got an opportunity through the Textile Department to showcase their products at an exhibition at Pragati



Maidan in Delhi.

Visitors from Japan, Germany and the US showed interest in their products and placed orders, according to the brothers. They are currently preparing samples for

those orders.

The brothers have also had an earlier experience of supplying to an international market. Zafar said that in 2021, they supplied stoles to Walmart in the US. The order, he said, was for around 20,000 pieces and was worth Rs 30 lakh. Zafar said the loan they received under the government scheme has since been repaid on time. He said the business is no longer dependent on loans for expansion and that they are now receiving export orders, with payments being made in advance.

A scarf with a surprising connection

For the brothers, one of the more unusual milestones in their journey is linked to Iran. Zafar said a scarf seen around the neck of Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei was made by weavers.

Government notifies Rs 1.27 lakh crore Semicon 2.0 scheme to boost chip ecosystem

New Delhi. (Agency)

The government has notified the Semicon 2.0 scheme with an outlay of Rs 1.27 lakh crore to boost the chip manufacturing ecosystem in the country. The scheme has been divided into six segments covering designing of chips by Indian firms, setting up units for capital equipment required for chip production, semiconductor fabs, chip assembly, packaging and testing, etc.

"The government has decided to provide ... sustained policy support to the semiconductor sector in India by notifying the Semicon 2.0 Scheme for the development of semiconductor design and manufacturing ecosystem in India.

"Semicon 2.0 provides fiscal support to various verticals across the complete value chain of the semiconductor industry, ranging from chip design, fabrication and packaging to various segments of the semiconductor ecosystem," the notification said. The scheme will aim to build resilient, trusted, and sovereign semiconductor technologies by focusing on designing, development, and deployment of target segment technologies for the national strategic and critical infrastructure. It will target local development of semiconductor Intellectual Property (IP) cores, Chips, System-on-Chips (SoCs), and modules for electronic products, as may be identified from time to time based on national importance and strategic priorities.

"To achieve this, building blocks will be developed, including standard IPs for various types of Compute, Memory, RF, Power, Networking, Sensors, etc.," the notification said.

Deputy managing director Kaizad Bharucha to succeed HDFC Bank's CEO Jagdishan?

New Delhi. (Agency)

HDFC Bank's deputy managing director Kaizad Bharucha may be the leading contender to succeed Sashidhar Jagdishan as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) after the incumbent decided against seeking another term, according to a report. Profit -- citing sources -- reported that with Jagdishan's current term set to end in October, Bharucha could be placed at the top of the list of candidates that the country's largest private sector lender may submit to the Reserve Bank of India for approval. The RBI requires private sector banks to submit two to three potential candidates for the CEO post, in order of preference for regulatory consideration. In addition, Bharucha has served as HDFC Bank's deputy managing director and has been on the bank's board since June 2014.

However, his potential tenure as CEO could be limited by regulatory rules governing the tenure of whole-time directors. Bharucha is legally eligible for the position, but would face a regulatory cap limiting a whole-time director's continuous service to 15 years, the report said. Having joined the board in June 2014, Bharucha would reach that ceiling in June 2029 potentially leaving less than three years for a CEO term beginning in October 2026, unless the RBI grants a special extension, it added.

The IPO rush: 37% of issues close below issue price on listing day; know the red flags

New Delhi. (Agency)

The IPO market in India has left its gloom of the first half of 2026 and is now pulsating with energy and investor confidence. As of August 26, 2026, companies have raised approximately Rs 22,400 crore through IPOs. Many more companies may enter the market before September 30, as the one-year validity of SEBI approval expires for many companies. However, the increased activity in the IPO market has also increased the risk for investors. So far in 2026, 37% of IPOs have closed below their issue price on the day of listing. This figure was 33% in 2025. Nearly two-fifths of companies listed since 2022 were also trading below their IPO issue price as of August 26, 2026. In this scenario, it is not prudent at all for investment solely on the basis of the IPO size, the gray market premium, or the company's popularity. Before investing in a primary issue, it is important to carefully read the company's Red Herring Prospectus since it provides important information regarding the company's business, financial position, risks, management, fund use, and legal matters.

Growth, profits and cash flow

Before investing in an IPO, consider the company's growth, profitability, and valuation together. Just because a company's revenue is growing rapidly one should not jump into an investment. If revenue is growing but profits are weak or the company consistently generates negative cash flow, investors should be cautious. It's important to review a company's financial statements to determine whether the declared profits are being translated into actual cash. Consistently negative cash flow may indicate that the company's profits are not being able to generate actual cash. Additionally, the IPO's valuation should be compared to listed companies in the same sector. Even a company with strong growth can prove to be a poor investment at an expensive valuation. Deployment of IPO proceeds

The "Objects of the Issue" section of the RHP is crucial. It outlines the management's intention to use the proceeds from the IPO.

Asian shares, US futures retreat and oil prices surge after US strike on Iranian rocket launchers

New Delhi. (Agency)

Shares were mostly lower in Asia and U.S. futures also declined Monday on expectations that the U.S. Federal Reserve may raise interest rates soon. Oil prices surged about 3% after U.S. forces struck Iranian rocket launchers on the Strait of Hormuz, marking their first military action in a month. The Trump administration just days earlier had shifted its focus to economic pressure, and a return to open conflict would be dangerous for the region. Brent crude, the international standard, was up 2.9% at \$90.61 per barrel early Monday. U.S. benchmark crude oil jumped 2.7% to \$85.66 per barrel. "The Middle East had finally gone quiet enough for oil traders to start sanding some of the war premium out of crude. Then Sunday arrived, with a reminder that quiet in the Strait of Hormuz is not the same as peace," Stephen Innes of SPI Asset Management said in a commentary. Markets in Asia fell

An official survey released Monday showed Chinese factory activity remained in contraction for a second straight month in August.

following a speech Friday by Fed Chairman Kevin Warsh that reinforced expectations the U.S. central bank will do what is needed, such as raising rates, to bring inflation down despite possible short-term pain for the economy. The futures for the S&P 500 and the Dow Jones Industrial Average slipped 0.3%. In



okyo, the Nikkei 225 lost 0.4% to 66,164.66, while the Kospi in South Korea declined 0.5% to 6,757.67.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng lost 0.4% to 25,479.52 and the Shanghai Composite index gained 0.4% to 3,967.94. Shares in e-commerce and fast fashion giant Shein are due to begin trading in Hong Kong on Tuesday in the city's biggest initial public offering this year, part of a trend toward big Chinese-founded companies raising funds in Chinese markets. An official survey released Monday showed Chinese factory activity remained in contraction

for a second straight month in August, though there were slight improvements in some areas such as new export orders and production.

Elsewhere in the region, Australia's S&P/ASX 200 lost 0.2% to 9,076.80. Taiwan's Taiex fell 0.4% and the Sensex in India slipped 0.6%. On Friday, the S&P 500 fell 0.2% and the Dow industrials dipped by less than 0.1%. The Nasdaq composite fell 0.5%. In what is seen as a big move for the bond market, the yield on the two-year Treasury, which closely tracks expectations about Fed moves, jumped to 4.35% from 4.22% just before Warsh's speech at an annual economic symposium held in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. Worries had grown that his tough talk about getting inflation down to the Fed's 2% target may be just that. The Fed could hike short-term interest rates to get price increases under control, but it could also be reluctant to do so because that would slow the economy and hurt prices for investments.

Sensex opens 280 points lower, Nifty tops 24,000; HDFC Bank up 2%

MUMBAI. (Agency)

- Benchmark indices opened lower on Monday as renewed escalation in the Iran war pushed crude oil prices above \$90 a barrel and triggered caution across global markets. Investors were also bracing for volatility from the latest MSCI index reshuffle and India's new closing-auction system. The BSE Sensex fell 224.04 points, or 0.29%, to 77,040.47, while the Nifty 50 declined 110.85 points, or 0.46%, to 24,064.80 as of 9:25 a.m. The Sensex opened at 77,130.73, while the Nifty began at 24,117.55. HDFC Bank, however, bucked the broader weakness and jumped 2.44%, making it the strongest gainer

among the Sensex stocks. The rally came after India's largest private-sector lender said CEO Sashidhar Jagdishan would not seek reappointment when his current term ends in October. ICICI Bank also gained 0.16%, while Eternal rose 1.19%. The gains in HDFC Bank provided some support to the benchmarks, but selling remained broad-based. Infosys was the biggest Sensex loser, falling 1.96%, followed by Tata Steel and NTPC, both down 2.01%. Adani Ports, Asian Paints, Bajaj Finance, Power Grid, Bajaj Finserv and Ultratech Cement were also among the major laggards. The market is starting the week against a difficult global backdrop. Brent crude rose 2.24% to

\$90.07 a barrel, while WTI crude gained 1.89% to \$84.98, as the escalation in the Iran conflict raised fresh concerns over energy supplies. Dr. V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Investments Limited, said the market faces several headwinds, including the renewed escalation in tensions between the US and Iran and higher global bond yields. "Another headwind is the renewed escalation of tensions between the U.S. and Iran pushing the Brent crude above \$90," Vijayakumar said. He added that the rise in bond yields following comments from Fed chief Kevin Warsh suggesting that persistent inflation could require further policy.

Rupee falls 13 paise to 95.56 against US dollar in early trade

MUMBAI. (Agency)

The rupee fell 13 paise to trade at 95.56 per US dollar on Monday morning pressured by rising crude oil prices and geopolitical strain. Forex traders said



market participants have raised the probability of a September Fed rate hike, pushing US Treasury yields higher and triggering a broad dollar rally, denting investor sentiments further. At the interbank foreign exchange market the rupee opened at 95.56, registering a fall of 13 paise from its previous close. On Friday, the rupee rose marginally by 2 paise to settle at 95.43 against the US dollar.

The rupee opened lower as the dollar index was at 99.62 level, while most other assets fell from their levels on Friday, said Anil Kumar Bhansali, Head of Treasury and Executive Director Finrex Treasury Advisors LLP. The rupee is expected to be in the range of 95.25 to 95.75 with exporters to sell near 95.60 levels and importers to buy all dips that they get with no directional movement being seen in the currencies, Bhansali added. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading at 99.62, lower marginally by 0.07 per cent. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, was trading higher by 1.34 per cent at USD 89.28 per barrel in futures trade, driven by a renewed Middle East supply-risk premium after the US strike on Iran's Larak Island and subsequent Iranian retaliation, raising fresh concerns about oil flows through the Strait of Hormuz. Forex traders said RBI is intervening in the market to stem any significant depreciation in the rupee.

Moreover, better-than-expected flows under the FCNR(B) scheme also boosted investor sentiments. On the domestic equities market front, Sensex declined 226.60 points to 77,028.56, while the Nifty fell 120.40 points to 24,053.55. Foreign institutional investors offloaded equities worth Rs 5,039.80 crore on a net basis on Friday, according to exchange data. India's forex reserves jumped USD 12.422 billion to a new all-time high of USD 729.328 billion during the week ended August 21, the RBI said on Friday.

Prestige Group expect to grow 20% in FY27, aims launch pipeline of Rs 60,000 crore GDV

CHENNAI. (Agency)

South India's leading real estate developer Prestige Group is expecting to grow at 20% in the current financial year as the Bengaluru-based company aims at achieving the launch pipeline of Rs 60,000 crore gross development value (GDV) by March 2027.



The company reported Rs 30,000 sale in FY26 in residential segment. Praveer Shrivastava, head of residential sales at Prestige group, said, "In the current financial year, we are launching Rs 50,000-60,000 crore worth of homes. In the first quarter of FY27, we launched Rs 10,000 residential units. In the third and fourth quarter, we are planning to launch Rs 40,000 crore

of inventories."

He said that the company is focusing only in tier-1 cities as it believes there are a lot of untapped opportunities in these major cities. Shrivastava added that the company will also be expanding in Mysuru, Pune and Goa.

"We are already there in Ghaziabad of Delhi-NCR region. We will expand this financial year in Noida and Gurugram. Though it depends on opportunity, and the expansion in Tier-2 cities is our cards, however, several untapped opportunities in tier-1 cities."

The Prestige Group executive also said the realtor has seen the input cost rising 2-3% due to the West Asia crisis. "The input cost has gone up by 2-3% on all raw materials excluding the usual inflation due to the West Asia crisis. We expect it to remain at same level for the financial year."

He further added that despite this price rise, the demand in the residential remains robust and some of its projects in Chennai, Mumbai, Hyderabad and Bengaluru have seen record sale. "Bengaluru, Hyderabad and Chennai will drive next phase of growth in the residential segment. We will going be little slow in Delhi-NCR region as in the region there is no dearth of inventory. Between the ticket size of Rs 6 crore to Rs 12 crore, the unsold units stood at over 1,000." He further said that mid-income projects in Bengaluru, Chennai and Hyderabad are seeing huge demand for the realtor.

Subhash Chandra's Rs 22,000 crore case: Is a guarantor liable to repay the full loan?

Subhash Chandra's insolvency case puts the mechanics of personal guarantees under scrutiny, raising questions over what a guarantor owes, how claims are calculated and what creditors ultimately recover.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Essel Group chairman Subhash Chandra is at the centre of an insolvency case involving admitted creditor claims of Rs 22,006.57 crore. Yet the repayment plan approved by the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) provides Rs 6.25 crore for creditors, along with Rs 25 lakh towards the insolvency process. That raises a basic question. How can there be claims of more than Rs 22,000 crore

against Chandra when he says he never personally borrowed that money?

The answer lies in his role as a personal guarantor. The loans at the centre of the case were taken by companies associated with the Essel Group. Chandra had provided personal guarantees for some of their borrowings. He was therefore not the original borrower, but had undertaken a separate obligation towards the lenders if the borrowing companies failed to meet obligations covered by his guarantees. That distinction is important to understanding both the case and what a personal guarantee means.

WHAT IS A LOAN GUARANTEE?

A guarantee is a legal promise made by one person to a lender to meet the obligation of another person if that person defaults, subject to the terms of the guarantee. The law governing contracts of guarantee in India is the Indian Contract Act, 1872. Section 126 of the Act refers to three parties. The

person whose liability is being guaranteed is the principal debtor. The person giving the guarantee is the surety, commonly called the guarantor. The person receiving the guarantee is the creditor. Take a simple example. A person borrows Rs 10 lakh from a bank and another person agrees to guarantee the loan. The guarantor does not receive the Rs 10 lakh. The borrower does. But by signing the guarantee, the guarantor makes a legal commitment to the bank. If the borrower defaults, the bank can seek payment from the guarantor, subject to the terms of the guarantee. The same principle applies when a company borrows money and its promoter gives a personal guarantee. The company receives the loan, while the promoter gives the lender a separate commitment that can make him personally liable if the borrower defaults. So a guarantee can involve one individual guaranteeing another individual's borrowing, or an

individual guaranteeing a company's borrowing. What matters is the legal promise to answer for another person's or entity's obligation.

WHY DO LENDERS ASK FOR GUARANTEES?

A company is a separate legal entity from its promoter or shareholders. Its debt is ordinarily its own obligation. A lender may nevertheless ask a promoter to provide a personal guarantee as an additional source of recovery if the company defaults. For the promoter, that means a debt taken by the company can eventually affect his personal finances. The extent of that liability depends on the guarantee document. Section 128 of the Indian Contract Act says that the liability of the surety is co-extensive with that of the principal debtor unless the contract provides otherwise. In simple terms, the guarantor can be liable for the borrower's obligation, subject to the terms of the guarantee.

'Bam Bam Bhole' chants echo across Trimbakeshwar as thousands head for Brahmagiri Parikrama

Nashik / Trimbakeshwar.(Agency)

The temple town of Trimbakeshwar in Nashik district came alive with chants of "Bam Bam Bhole" as thousands of devotees gathered here on Sunday for the third Shravan Monday and began making their way towards the sacred Brahmagiri Parikrama.

Around 70,000 to 75,000 devotees were estimated to have gathered in Trimbakeshwar on Sunday, while the administration has made arrangements on the lines of the Kumbh Mela in view of the large turnout. Police personnel have been deployed in large numbers, and extensive barricading has been put in place across the town. Devotees began arriving in Trimbakeshwar on Sunday evening. After taking rest, having darshan and taking a holy bath, many pilgrims proceeded towards the Brahmagiri Parikrama route during the midnight and early morning hours on Monday. Several devotees had already started moving towards the route.

The administration expects the number of devotees to touch around two lakh and has implemented traffic and crowd-management arrangements on a large scale.

Year on, GBA fails to fix Bengaluru's civic woes

BENGALURU.(Agency)

While Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), which was conceptualised to bring governance closer to citizens and address grievances effectively, turns a year old on Wednesday (September 2), the hardships faced by citizens – be it bad roads, lack of footpaths, garbage menace, or a simple task like getting documents without a hassle by visiting corporation offices – appear unchanged. Let alone serving the citizens, it seems the five corporations created under the GBA are facing several administrative issues. The staffing issue remains a major concern, as the government objected to GBA's request for 6,500 staff, including officers under A, B, C and D categories, due to which the availability of engineers to attend to complaints on garbage management, potholes, setback violations, unauthorised buildings and others remain unsolved and keep resurfacing. Activists have termed the formation of GBA itself unconstitutional, and say the very idea of splitting the municipality was to delay the election and continue with MLAs' rule over wards through officials. But the government claims that elections to the five corporations will "surely happen". Greater Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda told TNIE that GBA has created a framework for coordination among city corporations and enabled a shift towards more proactive and long-term governance. The minister acknowledged that the administration's performance had been impacted by multiple surveys and exercises conducted back-to-back during the transition. Over the next three months, GBA will prioritise repairing 2,500km of roads and improving garbage management.

Another fire breaks out at Kodungaiyur dump

CHENNAI.(Agency)

A fire broke at the Kodungaiyur dump yard on Sunday afternoon, which spread on about two acres and covered vast areas with dense white smoke. Firefighters and Greater Chennai Corporation staff brought the blaze under control after more than three hours, using seven excavators to lift portions of the garbage and pour water over them. Owing to lack of space, fire engines struggled to enter the site. Around 5.20 pm on Sunday, an official said 95% of the fire had been doused. T K Shanmugam, president of the Federation of North Chennai Residents' Welfare Association, described it as one of



the major fires in recent times and urged the civic body to address the repeated incidents. "Old waste at the dump yard must be cleared expeditiously through bio-mining. Until then, permanent monitoring systems, fire safety measures and smoke pollution prevention measures must be put in place to prevent further fire incidents. The lives and health of the people of Kodungaiyur must not be risked," he said. Asked about the repeated fires at the dump yard, a senior SWM official said they were caused by methane generated from biodegradable waste and claimed that no fire had been reported since July. In June, at least two fires were reported at the dump yard within a week. The official alleged that ragpickers had set fire to the garbage to extract metals.

Finally, a metro to Bhiwandi, Kalyan and Ulhasnagar: Centre clears Line 5 and extension 5A

After years of delays over land, rehabilitation and road conflicts, MMRDA can now tender the extended corridor; first Thane-Bhiwandi phase likely by December

Mumbai.(Agency)

The long-delayed metro connectivity to Bhiwandi, Kalyan and Ulhasnagar in Maharashtra's Thane district has moved a step closer to reality on Saturday, August 29, with the Centre approving the realigned Mumbai Metro Line 5 and its Line 5A extension. The approval to extend metro connectivity to Bhiwandi, Kalyan and Ulhasnagar clears the way for the Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) to begin the tendering process for the remaining stretches of the corridor. The extended metro network will eventually connect Thane with Bhiwandi, Kalyan and Ulhasnagar through a revised alignment designed to overcome land acquisition, rehabilitation and road-infrastructure hurdles that had stalled the original plan.

Metro Line 5 first phase features

Work on the first stretch, phase 1 between Thane and Bhiwandi, is nearing completion and scheduled to open this December, officials said. The 11.9-km first phase, built for Rs 6,741.34 crore, runs from Balkum in Thane to

Dhamankar Nagar in Bhiwandi and has six elevated stations. The corridor will also provide an interchange with Metro Line 4, which is expected to open part of its Thane stretch in the current financial year. The original Line 5 was planned as a 24.9-km



Thane-Bhiwandi-Kalyan corridor. However, extensive resettlement and rehabilitation requirements held up the second phase amid a conflict with the Bhiwandi Bypass Flyover, prompting the MMRDA to revise the alignment. Under the new plan, a short section around Bhiwandi will be underground, while the corridor has been extended through Line 5A

towards Kalyan and Ulhasnagar.

Metro Line 5 second phase features

The second phase of Line 5 will run 10.48 km from Bhiwandi to Durgadi in Kalyan and is estimated to cost Rs 7,326 crore. Line 5A will then extend the network by another 11.83 km, at an estimated cost of Rs 4,063 crore, with the spur toward Kalyan. There, it will provide an interchange with Metro Line 12 towards Navi Mumbai, and a main route towards Ulhasnagar.

The extended network, however, is still several years from completion, with construction targeted for 2030-31. For Bhiwandi, Kalyan and Ulhasnagar, the significance is less about another metro line and more about an alternative to an already strained transport network.

Metro Line 5 stations: Kapurbawdi, Balkum, Kasheli, Kalher, Purna, Anjur Phata, Dhamankar Naka, Bhiwandi, Temghar, Rajnoli, Govegaon, Kongaon West and Kongaon East. Metro Line 5A and spur stations: Durgadi, Khadakpada, Bhoirwadi, Chhatrapati Shivaji Path, Kalyan, Shanti Nagar, Chhatrapati Shivaji Chowk and Ulhasnagar.

Nepal floods: Family of missing Himachal engineer urges Centre to intervene in rescue work

Shimla.(Agency)

The family of a Himachal engineer, who is feared trapped in a tunnel of the Upper Trishuli Hydropower Project in Nepal, has urged the Centre to intervene and expedite the rescue operation. The engineer, Sukhvinder Singh Rattan, 30, has been missing since August 26, when flash floods hit the project area in Nepal. His cousin and elder brother, who are currently in Kathmandu, said they were increasingly worried as the rescue operation was yet to reach the tunnel where Sukhvinder and other Indian workers are believed to be trapped.

"The pace of the rescue operation being carried out by the Nepal government through its Army is not meeting the urgency of the situation. With each passing day, our hope of finding those trapped inside alive is fading," said Sukhvinder Rattan's cousin Shubham Rattan. Shubham Rattan told The Indian

Express that, according to Nepali workers rescued from the Trishuli project, Sukhvinder Rattan was trapped in Tunnel-1. "So far, the Nepali rescue teams have not reached Tunnel-1. There are four to five more tunnels between



Tunnel-1 and the point where the rescue teams have reached," he said. "We have been urging the Indian Ministry of External Affairs and Ministry of Defence to make their way to Nepal and actively assist in the rescue

operation. The Nepal government has agreed to accept technical assistance from India, but what they require is trained manpower and equipment. Five days have passed since the tragedy. We are running against time," Shubham Rattan added. Sukhvinder Rattan

had been working as a site engineer at the Upper Trishuli Hydropower Project for the past three years. His wife, Saravjit Kaur, said he had returned to Nepal on August 14 after visiting India earlier this month. "I plead with the Indian government to do something to carry out rescue operations in Nepal. My husband is an Indian. Our government has the right to rescue its own citizens struck in an emergency in any corner of the world," Saravjit Kaur said.

She shared that her husband assured her that he would return in November to celebrate Diwali at home. "Last time, he called us on August 25, a day before the tragedy struck," Saravjit Kaur added.

5 killed in blast at firecracker unit operating from house in UP village

Lucknow.(Agency)

Five people were killed and several others injured after an explosion at a firecracker factory in Manauri village, located on the border of Kaushambi and Prayagraj districts, on Monday. The factory was reportedly being operated from a house situated in the middle of agricultural fields. Police said the blast was so powerful that four to five houses nearby were damaged.

"So far, five bodies have been recovered, including those of men and women," said Kaushambi Circle Officer Shivank Singh. He said the exact jurisdiction of the site was yet to be ascertained and would be decided

later. "At present, the priority is to carry out the rescue operation," he said.

Following information about the explosion, local police and fire



department teams rushed to the spot. Several fire tenders were deployed to control the flames and assist in the rescue operation. Earthmover machines

were also brought in to remove the debris and search for people who may be trapped underneath. According to a preliminary inquiry, a series of

powerful explosions reportedly occurred after which smoke was seen billowing from the building, prompting villagers to rush towards the spot. The explosions continued for a considerable period, triggering panic in the surrounding villages. The injured were taken to hospitals in Prayagraj for treatment. Police said the exact number of casualties and the extent of the firefighting and rescue operations are completed.

642 candidates appear for UPSC Mains in Chennai

CHENNAI.(Agency)

The UPSC Civil Services (Main) Examination 2026 concluded on Sunday, with 642 of 651 registered candidates appearing across three centres in Chennai, according to the Directorate of Government Examinations (DGE). Nine candidates were absent.

Among those registered in Chennai, 13 were persons with disabilities (PwD) and were given an additional hour to complete the papers. The examination was held on August 21, 23, 29 and 30, in two sessions from 9 am to noon and 2.30 pm to 5.30 pm. The DGE said attendance was verified through a face-authentication app, and no complaints were received regarding the conduct of the examination.

Aspirants had mixed reactions to this year's mains, with many describing the Ethics paper, General Studies Paper IV, as the toughest. Candidates noted a significant change in its pattern. Unlike last year, when the paper had 13 direct questions and six case studies, all 19 questions this year were case-study based, requiring practical application. "The questions were much more application-oriented and included scenarios involving medical ethics and real-life decision-making," an aspirant said.

Rain to continue over northwest India till Sept 5: IMD

Mumbai.(Agency)

Panchkula, Aug 31(UNI) Rainy conditions are likely to persist across northwest India until September 5, with the India Meteorological Department predicting scattered rain over Haryana, Punjab, Chandigarh, and Delhi, while heavier showers are expected in the western Himalayan region. According to the IMD's All India Weather Summary and Forecast Bulletin issued on Monday morning, Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi and Punjab are likely to receive isolated to scattered rain from August 31 to September 5. Rainfall is expected to remain isolated on August 31 before becoming more scattered from September 1. However, the IMD has not issued any heavy rainfall warning for Haryana, Punjab, Chandigarh or Delhi during the period. The weather is likely to be more severe in Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir.

Fairly widespread to widespread rain is expected over Jammu and Kashmir from August 31 to September 2 and over Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand from August 31 to September 5. Uttarakhand is likely to get isolated very heavy rain on August 31 and September 1, followed by isolated heavy rain from September 2 to 5.

Isolated heavy rainfall is likely over Himachal Pradesh from August 31 to September 3 and over Jammu and Kashmir on August 31 and September 1.

Western Uttar Pradesh is likely to receive



isolated heavy rainfall from August 31 to September 5, while eastern Uttar Pradesh may witness isolated very heavy rainfall on August 31 and heavy showers from September 1 to 5.

Thunderstorms accompanied by lightning are likely at isolated places over Jammu and Kashmir and Uttarakhand until September 5. Similar conditions are forecast over

eastern and western Uttar Pradesh on August 31 and September 1.

The rainfall activity is being driven by an active monsoon trough extending from Amritsar through Patiala, Bareilly,



Sultanpur and Gaya to a low-pressure area over Gangetic West Bengal, adjoining north coastal Odisha and the northwest Bay of Bengal. The trough extends southeastwards towards the east-central Bay of Bengal.

A western disturbance also persists as a cyclonic circulation over north Pakistan and adjoining Jammu and Kashmir at about 5.8 km above sea level. The low-pressure area

over eastern India remains active and its associated cyclonic circulation extends up to 7.6 km above sea level. The system is expected to move west-northwestwards across northern Odisha and Gangetic West Bengal during the next 24 hours. The strongest warning in the bulletin is for Odisha and Chhattisgarh, where heavy to very heavy rain, with isolated extremely heavy rain, is likely on August 31.

The IMD defines rain between 64.5 mm and 115.5 mm as heavy, between 115.6 mm and 204.4 mm as very heavy, and rain over 204.4 mm as extremely heavy.

Isolated heavy to very heavy rain is also likely on August 31 over Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, eastern Madhya Pradesh, eastern Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Uttarakhand and the Nagaland-Manipur-Mizoram-Tripura region. Heavy rain has been forecast separately at isolated places over Assam and Meghalaya, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, West Bengal, Sikkim, and western Uttar Pradesh.

The heavy rain is expected to spread further into central India. Eastern Madhya Pradesh may get isolated very heavy rain from August 31 to September 3. Chhattisgarh is also likely to have very heavy rain on September 1, while western Madhya Pradesh may get very heavy showers from September 3 to 5.

NEWS BOX

Joe Root's message to England after Pakistan series win: Keep celebrations sensible



New Delhi. (Agency)

Captain Joe Root has urged England to celebrate their Test series win over Pakistan in a "sensible, grown-up way" after securing their first multi-game series victory since 2024. England beat Pakistan at Lord's to take an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match series, giving Ben Stokes' side a much-needed boost after a difficult period.

Root believes the players should enjoy the achievement but avoid the off-field controversies that have followed some of England's recent celebrations. "It's important we're not talking about [off-field matters], absolutely," Root said. "But it's hard to win Test matches, it's hard to win Test series, so enjoy it and celebrate it, but in a sensible, grown-up way..It's been a really good start to, I don't know what you want to call it, this new team." England's recent celebrations have occasionally been overshadowed by controversy, and Root is keen for the focus to remain on their performances on the field. ENGLAND VS PAKISTAN 2ND TEST DAY 4 HIGHLIGHTS

The series win is also a welcome result for Root personally after a difficult summer with the bat. He is averaging 29.44 after nine innings, well below his career Test average of 50.38, and has been dismissed lbw seven times, including twice in the Lord's Test.

However, the former England captain remains confident that a big score is around the corner. "I've always been quite good at understanding and eventually problem-solving," Root said. "I'll continue to keep working hard. I might have been lbw a few times, but lots of those have been umpire's call. If they go the other way, it might not be as much of a talking point." We've also seen the ball move more than it ever has. So there has to be a sense of calm and realism around things. I know I'm a good player, and I'd like to think there's a big score around the

Manchester United showed stubbornness: Michael Carrick hails Ipswich comeback



New Delhi. (Agency)

Manchester United manager Michael Carrick praised his side's mentality after they recovered from another early setback to beat Ipswich 5-2 at Old Trafford on Sunday. Bruno Fernandes led the response with a hat-trick as United bounced back from their opening-weekend defeat to Hull City. United found themselves behind again when Leif Davis put Ipswich ahead in the 29th minute, raising memories of their disappointing 2-0 defeat at Hull. Speaking after the match, Carrick highlighted the way his players responded to going behind and backed that character to become an important part of United's progress.

"You've got to deal with the setback. We spoke before about trying to overcome last week, and then we took a mini setback, going a goal behind." "Showing stubbornness, belief, confidence, and togetherness the boys showed at that stage was really pleasing for me. The way they bounced back, that's probably the biggest thing to take." Fernandes eventually dragged United level in the 40th minute with a powerful finish at the end of a counter-attack. The captain then converted a penalty in the second half before completing his hat-trick, putting United firmly in control. BRUNO LEADS UNITED'S RESPONSE

Carrick was full of praise for Fernandes, who has captained United since January 2020 and had recently collected both the Professional Footballers' Association and Football Writers' Player of the Year awards. "He means a lot to us. He's the captain, he's been here for a good number of years now," Carrick said. "Times like today, when you're looking towards certain players to give us that little bit of something, and he did that particularly well."

Emotional Djokovic sparks retirement fears after US Open exit: Hated every moment

Novak Djokovic's US Open campaign ended with a gruelling first-round defeat and an emotional breakdown. The 39-year-old admitted he is unsure how much longer he can continue after vomiting and battling severe physical issues in New York.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Novak Djokovic has admitted he is unsure "how much longer" he can continue after a punishing physical ordeal ended his US Open campaign in the first round. The 39-year-old broke down in tears after losing 7-6, 5-7, 6-4, 2-6, 6-1 to Mariano Navone, with his comments raising fresh questions over his future in tennis. Djokovic's physical problems were visible from the early stages of his first-round clash with

Navone, as he struggled with the humid conditions at Arthur Ashe Stadium. Speaking at the press conference after the match, the 24-time Grand Slam champion revealed the extent of the issues that had

affected him throughout the contest. "The vomiting, the gagging, it's a serious problem. Then my whole body started to give way, with cramps and pain," Djokovic said. "In the end, my back and shoulder also gave out, and I couldn't finish the match. I was a break up in the fourth set, but I had already been struggling a lot from the fourth game onwards." Djokovic was then asked how he could address the physical problems and what he had learned from the difficult period. His response offered perhaps the biggest indication yet that he is beginning to question how much longer he can continue at the highest level. "I don't know [how I can solve it]. At the moment, I don't want to go into too much detail. I'm just trying to understand what's going on and how much longer I can keep going like this," Djokovic

said. The Serbian had looked increasingly drained as the match progressed. He vomited during the third set but somehow recovered to win the second and third sets after dropping the opener, only for Navone



to regain control in the fourth before dominating the deciding set.

DJOKOVIC FOUGHT THROUGH THE PAIN

Djokovic's physical struggles were evident even before the vomiting incident. He used an ice bag on his head during the humid conditions and asked whether the air

conditioning could be switched on after the roof was closed because of rain.

After vomiting during the third set, Djokovic received tablets from a tournament physio and fluids from his team court-side. He still managed to break Navone and move ahead in the fourth set, but his back and shoulder problems eventually affected his serve. Navone capitalised on Djokovic's fading energy, winning the fourth set 6-2 before taking the decider 6-1. Djokovic admitted that the thought of stopping had crossed his mind, but he refused to walk away. "Yes, I did," Djokovic said when asked whether he had considered giving up. "But then I won one set and then another. At that point I said to myself: 'OK, maybe there is a chance.' I didn't want to give up in the fourth or fifth set. I wanted to finish the match."

AN EXTRAORDINARY GRAND SLAM RUN ENDS

The defeat brought Djokovic's remarkable Grand Slam opening-round record to an end.

Worst in 70 years: Mohsin Naqvi-led Pakistan board slammed after England debacle

Former Pakistan captain Rashid Latif has launched a scathing attack on the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) and chairman Mohsin Naqvi after Pakistan suffered a 194-run defeat to England in the second Test at Lord's.

London. (Agency)

Former Pakistan wicketkeeper-batter Rashid Latif has launched a scathing attack on the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), selection committee and coaching staff, saying they are among the worst the country has had in the last five to seven decades after Babar Azam's side suffered a 194-run defeat to England at Lord's on Sunday, August 30. The loss gave England an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match series and extended Pakistan's miserable run on their tour of the UK. The visitors have struggled to compete with England,

with their batting emerging as their biggest concern. Pakistan are yet to score 200 in an innings in the series, while their



overall performances have drawn criticism from the British media. Latif agreed with suggestions that this is the "worst Pakistan side in the last 50 years" but insisted the players should not take all the blame. Instead, the former wicketkeeper-batter turned his attention towards the PCB administration, selection committee, and coaching staff.

ENGLAND VS PAKISTAN 2ND TEST DAY 4 HIGHLIGHTS

"Everyone is talking about the Pakistan team, and how it is the worst touring team in the last 50 years. But nobody is speaking about how the current board is the worst in the last 70 years. Nobody is talking about the worst selection committee and coaches," Latif said on Geo News. "If you combine these issues, you will get the answer to your question. You will know who has ruined this team. Now you are losing consistently. This is the worst PAKISTAN BATTING COLLAPSE

Pakistan's batting has been a major reason for their poor showing against England. They have failed to cross the 200-run mark in any innings across the first two Tests.

Babar Azam missed the opening Test but returned at Lord's in the hope of strengthening a fragile batting line-up. However, the Pakistan batter had a disappointing outing, scoring only eight and six.

Five sets against GOAT: Navone savours career-defining US Open win vs Djokovic

New Delhi. (Agency)

Argentine Mariano Navone struggled to find the words after pulling off the biggest win of his career. The 25-year-old, who grew up idolising Novak Djokovic, stunned the 39-year-old in a gruelling five-set battle at the US Open on Sunday night.

Navone revelled in the victory, admitting he was still stunned to have beaten a player he considers the greatest of all time (GOAT). "It was very tough for me because you are playing with the 'GOAT' on this court," Navone said after the match. "For sure it's the best thing I've had on court. This is an amazing court and the biggest stage. It's amazing, the way we played. I

mean, five sets. I'm very happy. I don't know. What can I say?" Navone, ranked



49th in the world, defeated fourth-seeded Djokovic 6-7(5), 7-5, 4-6, 6-2, 6-1 in four hours and 36 minutes to send the Serbian out in the first round. The defeat ended Djokovic's bid for a record 25th Grand

Slam title and a fifth US Open crown. It was also his earliest exit at a major since the 2006 Australian Open.

For Navone, the victory was even more remarkable given his record in five-set matches. He had lost all four of his previous Grand Slam matches that went the distance. Djokovic, meanwhile, had won 42 of his previous 54 five-setters. The Argentine had to fight hard from the start. Djokovic raced into a 3-0 lead in the opening set in humid conditions at Flushing Meadows, but Navone fought back to level at 4-4 before forcing a tie-break. Djokovic was already hewing signs of discomfort, and Navone took advantage to win the opener 7-6(5). Rain then caused a brief interruption, with the roof closed on the main show court.

Lakshya Sen, Satwik-Chirag eye China Masters boost ahead of Asian Games



New Delhi. (Agency)

Lakshya Sen and the Satwiksairaj Rankireddy-Chirag Shetty combination headline India's challenge at the USD 1.25 million China Masters Super 750, with the tournament offering an important opportunity to build momentum ahead of the Asian Games. Sen begins his campaign against newly crowned world champion Alex Lanier of France, while Satwik and Chirag will also face a tricky opening-round assignment. For Sen, the tournament comes at an important juncture after a disappointing World Championships campaign. The 24-year-old, who made history by becoming the first Indian man to reach an Olympic singles semi-final at Paris 2024, suffered a surprise second-round defeat to world No. 92 Garret Tan and will now be looking to rediscover the form that took him Lanier, however, presents a formidable first hurdle. The Frenchman arrives in China as the reigning world champion, making Sen's opening match one of the standout contests in the men's singles draw.

India's other leading singles hope, former world No. 1 Kidambi Srikanth, will take on Chinese Taipei's Chi Yu-jen. Srikanth reached the US Open Super 300 final in June but has struggled to maintain that level since, retiring from his Canada Open match with an injury before exiting the Korea Masters in the opening round, to the All England final earlier this season.

SATWIK-CHIRAG LOOK TO BUILD MOMENTUM

Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty enter the Super 750 as the fourth seeds and will be among India's strongest medal hopes. The pair ended a two-year wait for an international title by winning the Singapore Open earlier this year, but their World Championships run ended in the third round on home soil.

US Open Day 2 schedule: Alcaraz begins title defence, Sabalenka and Swiatek in action

New Delhi. (Agency)

The second day of the 2026 US Open brings several of the tournament's biggest names into action, with defending champion Carlos Alcaraz and two-time defending champion Aryna Sabalenka among those starting their singles campaigns. Iga Swiatek, Naomi Osaka, Ben Shelton and Frances Tiafoe are also scheduled to take the court as the first-round action continues in New York. Day 1 produced an immediate blockbuster upset as Mariano Navone sent four-time champion Novak Djokovic crashing out in a five-set battle. Djokovic's defeat came after the Serbian battled vomiting and severe physical discomfort, bringing his remarkable run of 78 consecutive Grand Slam first-round victories to an end. Alcaraz will now begin



his title defence against Roman Safiullin. The second-seeded Spaniard comes into the tournament after a lengthy absence from tour-level singles, having missed the French

Open and Wimbledon because of a wrist injury. His return to Flushing Meadows had already begun in mixed doubles, where he partnered Serena Williams.

Sabalenka, meanwhile, starts her pursuit of a third consecutive US Open crown against Camila Osorio. The world No. 1 has been placed on Arthur Ashe Stadium, while Swiatek will meet Wang Xiyu later in the day and Osaka faces Anastasia Zakharova in the evening session.

ALCARAZ, SABALENKA LEAD STAR POWER

Alcaraz is scheduled to face Safiullin at 10:30 pm IST, with Sabalenka's clash against Osorio beginning at 9 pm IST. Swiatek's opening match is set for 4:30 am IST on Tuesday, followed by Osaka's contest at 6:30 am. Amanda Anisimova, who finished runner-up last year, begins her campaign against Ashlyn Krueger. Seventh seed Karolina Muchova faces Sinja Kraus, while 15th seed Diana Shnaider takes on Daria Snigur.

Priyanka Chopra

And Nick Jonas Have A Blast At Backstreet Boys Concert In Las Vegas

Priyanka Chopra and Nick Jonas enjoyed a fun night out in Las Vegas with their friends and family members. Several viral videos on social media show the couple attending a Backstreet Boys concert at the Sphere in Las Vegas on August 29. Joe Jonas and Kevin Jonas were also seen enjoying the concert with their friends.

Priyanka Chopra and Nick Jonas At Backstreet Boys' Concert

Priyanka Chopra and Nick Jonas never fail to shell out major couple goals. The two were seen standing close together on a balcony, grooving and dancing to the Backstreet Boys' hit songs during their night out in Las Vegas. They let their hair down, and were seen enjoying to the fullest and singing along with the crowd. At one point, the two were seen grooving to



the iconic Backstreet Boys song 'I Want It That Way'. Priyanka looked stunning in a white halter neck dress, while Nick also wore a white tee with a matching shirt and black jeans. Check out the viral videos below!

Joe Jonas and Kevin Jonas were also spotted at the concert with their friends. The Jonas family appeared to be having a relaxed and fun night as they enjoyed the Backstreet Boys perform live at the Sphere.

Priyanka Chopra's Upcoming Projects

On the Indian film front, Priyanka Chopra is set to star in SS Rajamouli's Varanasi alongside Mahesh Babu and Prithviraj Sukumaran.

The action-adventure is scheduled to release in April 2027 and will mark Priyanka's debut in Telugu cinema. The film's story has been written by V Vijayendra Prasad and SS Kanchi, while Rajamouli has penned the screenplay. KL Narayana and SS Karthikeya are backing the project as producers.



Laikey Laika Makers Plan Special Dance Number For Rasha Thadani After 'Uyi Amma' Success



Laikey Laika has been one of the most talked-about films this year. The movie stars Rasha Thadani and Abhay Verma in the lead in an intense love story, and ahead of the film's release, a source has informed CNN-News18 Showsha that the makers have planned a special dance number for the actress.

Following the massive success of Uyi Amma, the dance number Rasha Thadani performed in her debut film Azaad, our source informed us, "Whoever has watched the film during post-production has said that they loved Abhay and Rasha's performances. However, in a day and age where music also plays an important role in Bollywood cinema, and considering Rasha has had a hit unlike any other in her generation, the makers want to use that in their stride, and hence one more song is being planned to be shot separately, which can work to increase the reach among Bollywood cinema-goers."

The genre of the song and details are being kept under wraps, while the makers plan to shoot for it soon and prep the film for release.

Laikey Laika Announcement

Taking to their Instagram handle, Phantom shared a video in which the actors were seen announcing the project, "She's the chaos. He's the calm. Or is it the other way around? Get ready for #LaikeyLaika in theatres, Summer 2026!" Shanaya Kapoor, who is also working with Abhay Verma in her next, wrote, "Woooooowoooooo letssssgooooo."

Rasha Thadani and Abhay Verma are all set to collaborate for the first time in Saurabh Gupta's directorial debut.

Abhay And Rasha's Work Front

On the work front, Abhay Verma has been basking in positive reviews for Safed Sagar and also has a tremendous lineup with King and Jacob Cardoso coming up, making him one of the most promising actors of the new generation. On the other hand, Rasha has had Uyi Amma as one of the most viral songs we have had in recent times, which was also number one globally on YouTube last year with 600 million+ views. Rasha, along with Laikey Laika, also has a film opposite Vir Hirani, Rajkumar Hirani's son, in her lineup and is already being touted as one of the most promising faces of this current generation.

'Indian Heath Ledger': Yo Yo Honey Singh Gives Yash A New Nickname After Watching Toxic



Yo Yo Honey Singh has joined the list of celebrities praising Yash's Toxic: A Fairy Tale for Grown-Ups. The singer and music composer watched the Geetu Mohandas directorial on Friday and subsequently shared a string of Instagram Stories about the film, including a striking comparison between Yash and late Hollywood actor Heath Ledger. Honey Singh's reaction comes after Kannada stars Upendra and Kichcha Sudeepa also spoke positively about Toxic. The film, meanwhile, has witnessed a decline in its daily box office collections following a massive opening.

Honey Singh Calls Yash 'Indian Heath Ledger'

Before watching Toxic, Honey Singh shared a post featuring Yash and wrote, "Tonight Lets get Toxicated with @thenameisyash bhai."

His subsequent Stories revealed his reactions to different moments from the film. Sharing a picture of Nayanthara, who plays Ganga, Honey Singh referred to the sibling equation between her character and Yash's Raya. "Raya n ganga Happy raksha bandhan the movie is madness," he wrote. Honey Singh watched the film on Friday, coinciding with Raksha Bandhan celebrations. Another Story featured Yash in his clean-shaven avatar. The look reminded the singer of his own appearance from an earlier phase of his career. "This looks like old yoyo SATAN one," he wrote.

Honey Singh reserved his most notable comparison for his final Story. Sharing another glimpse of Yash from Toxic, he simply described the Kannada superstar as "Indian Heath Ledger." The singer's multiple posts arrived after Toxic received praise from other members of the Kannada film industry. Kichcha Sudeepa recently applauded Yash for attempting something "out of the box" instead of choosing a predictable follow-up to his previous commercial success. Upendra has also praised the film.

Urvashi Rautela

Joins Kriti Sanon Rakhi Ad Debate After Kangana Ranaut: 'We Have To Respect India'



Urvashi Rautela has weighed in on the controversy surrounding Kriti Sanon's Raksha Bandhan-themed jewellery advertisement, which drew criticism over the actress' outfit and the way the festival was depicted. The advertisement, which featured Kriti wearing an off-white bralette-style blouse, was subsequently removed.

Reacting to the debate, Urvashi said that creative freedom should be accompanied by sensitivity when religious and cultural occasions are being used for brand promotions. At the same time, she clarified that she does not believe in judging women on the basis of their clothes.

Urvashi Rautela Reacts To Kriti Sanon's Raksha Bandhan Ad Row

Speaking to IANS, Urvashi said she believes "creativity should not come at the cost of cultural sensitivity."

The actress made it clear that her argument was not about policing what women choose to wear. She said she does not judge a woman based on her clothing, but felt that brands need to consider the cultural context when creating campaigns around festivals such as Raksha Bandhan.

"I think that while we celebrate freedom and creativity, we should also ponder over the fact that, even if it is a brand promotion, Raksha Bandhan comes with a lot of sensitivity," Urvashi said. The Daaku Maharaj actress also spoke

about her own respect for Indian culture and described Raksha Bandhan as a beautiful celebration of the relationship between a brother and sister. "So, we need to draw a line on what we need to do," she added.

'At The End Of The Day, We Are Indians'

Urvashi further placed the responsibility on brands to be careful about how cultural occasions are incorporated into advertising campaigns.



She said that the people behind such campaigns should exercise caution because "we cannot merge two worlds altogether."

"At the end of the day, we are Indians, and we have to respect our country, India," she concluded.

Her comments come after the advertisement became a subject of discussion online. Kriti's bralette-style outfit was among the elements criticised by some social media users. The advertisement was later taken down.

NEWS BOX

Ice-rock avalanche triggered Nepal floods, say Nepalese scientists

world.(Agency)

A preliminary report by Nepalese scientists has attributed the devastating floods that ravaged the Bhotekoshi-Trishuli corridor to a massive ice-rock avalanche in the high Himalayas, ruling out conventional rainfall as the trigger. The report, commissioned by the Nepal Environment Society (NES), was released on Sunday. The death toll from flash floods in Nepal rose to 903, authorities said on Monday, with bodies continuing to be recovered. The study found that a huge mass of ice, rock and debris fell from around 5,200 metres in the Langtang-Lirung area of Rasuwa and entered the Lhende River. The surge then travelled downstream through the Bhotekoshi and into the Trishuli, generating a powerful debris-laden flood, My Republica reported. The disaster devastated towns and villages in northern and central Nepal on August 26. The study concluded that the disaster was not caused by a glacial lake outburst flood (GLOF). The researchers analysed satellite imagery, hydrological and meteorological data, terrain characteristics and changes in elevation and slope along the river system. No evidence of a GLOF, the report added. According to the study, the ice-rock mass began falling from the northern part of Langtang-Lirung at around 8:37 am Wednesday. It descended steep terrain from about 5,200 metres before reaching the Lhende River at around 2,930 metres. Satellite images showed major geographical changes across about 10 square kilometres, while a section of glacier covering approximately 0.56 square kilometres had broken away. However, experts said further field investigation is needed to establish the precise geological mechanism, the contribution of melting ice and whether the river was temporarily blocked upstream.

Nepal buries dead as rescuers seek thousands missing

BIDUR.(Agency)

Nepal was burying on Monday some of the hundreds of bodies retrieved after a deadly, tsunami-like flood crashed through the Himalayan region, sweeping away villages and leaving thousands still missing. Distraught families have packed rescue stations and hospitals in search of their missing relatives, while others have faced the grim task of identifying bodies at overflowing morgues. The huge wave of ice, rocks and debris that smashed into villages and towns n Wednesday claimed at least 797 lives in both Nepal and Tibet -- across the border in China -- with reports of some bodies possibly swept downstream as far as India. At least 3,048 people remain missing, including many tourists and pilgrims to Tibet's sacred Mount Kailash. There are also 933 workers at hydropower plants among those unaccounted for in Nepal. Nepali army troops and engineers drilled through debris on Sunday towards workers believed trapped in a tunnel at the Trishuli 3A hydroelectric site in the Himalayan river valley after they successfully inserted a pipe into the passage. Workers who managed to get out described horrifying scenes when the disaster struck. Surendra Dowluri, 33, from India's Andhra Pradesh state, said raging water swamped the Upper Trishuli-1 site, where he was working. We heard a very loud sound... and saw that the turbine floor was submerged with slush, and six workers were stuck in that," Dowluri told AFP in the Nepali capital Kathmandu after his rescue four days into the disaster. "We managed to rescue five of them, but one person lost his life," he said, describing how some workers reached higher ground or construction areas out of reach of the torrent.

In one Nepal district, flood catastrophe is measured in bodies and burial trenches

KATHMANDU.(Agency)

The devastating flash floods in the Himalayan region swept so many people downstream that authorities in one Nepalese district have begun burying bodies in temporary graves before they can



be identified, prompting accusations that Hindu funeral traditions are being ignored. In south-central Nepal's Chitwan district, the scale of the catastrophe was evident in

some 250 bodies awaiting identification and the hastily dug trenches for their temporary burial following Wednesday's catastrophic floods and mudslides, which killed at least 800 people and left more than 3,000 missing in Nepal and Tibet. The bodies were carried hundreds of kilometers downstream by the Bhotekoshi River from the flood's epicenter before being recovered in Chitwan. Authorities carried out a temporary burial of about 100 victims on Saturday, officials said, as forensic teams struggled to cope. A convoy of vehicles carrying bodies entered a lush, forested area as an excavator dug a wide trench in the red earth while officials and media looked on.

Anil Thapa, a police inspector coordinating the handling of the bodies, said another 50 bodies were having DNA samples taken ahead of their likely burial Sunday. Authorities preserve the DNA samples, photograph distinguishing facial features and record other identifying details, Thapa said.

The body of a 46-year-old man was recovered Sunday evening near Crystal Rapids along the Colorado River, the park service said without providing additional details.

FLAGSTAFF.(Agency)

One person died and about 15 people are missing or unaccounted for after a major flash flood at the Grand Canyon forced evacuations, swept large boulders into the Colorado River and knocked out the sole water pipeline that serves tourists and residents, the National Park Service said Sunday. The body of a 46-year-old man was recovered Sunday evening near Crystal Rapids along the Colorado River, the park service said without providing

additional details. Coroner's officials were at the scene. Weekend flooding in Arizona's Bright Angel Creek, which flows into the river, happened Saturday afternoon. More than 60 people were evacuated from the depths of the canyon. The park service said it had yet to account for 15 people and asked anyone with details about hikers or campers in the canyon to get in touch. The Arizona Department of Public Safety was helping with additional evacuations Sunday. Because the main water line was out of service, starting Monday tourists won't be able to stay overnight at lodges and hotels within Grand Canyon National Park. Year-round residents are being asked to conserve water. "These measures are crucial for ensuring the safety and sustainability of water resources," the park said in a statement. Parth Desai was hiking through

a narrow passage in Bright Angel Canyon with fellow physicians and a park ranger



when the downpour started Saturday. "We saw the creek flood, waterfalls coming up out of nowhere, boulders, mud, landslides happening everywhere," he said. Later, as they made their way toward Phantom Ranch, a colleague shouted "Up, Up, Up, Up, Up!" as a 4-foot (1-meter) debris wall headed toward them and they ran up into a patch of cacti, he said. They were

rescued by helicopter late Saturday after making it. Torrents of water wiped out footbridges over the creek and altered the landscape, widening the creek bed and extending an existing river rapid or creating a new one. The flood was a major blow to an enduring effort to modernize the pipeline that serves 6 million visitors a year and roughly 1,600 residents of Grand Canyon Village. "Heaven help us if the whole thing down there at the bottom has to be reconstructed," said Jack Schmidt, director of the Center for Colorado River Studies at Utah State University. "Where are they going to get the money? It's a nightmare for the park service. And thank God nobody was hurt or killed." Halting overnight stays at the park because of a lack of water is rare, although the pipeline frequently has failed over the years. To the Phantom Ranch area, he said.

Trump still teases a third presidential run, but he's talking more and more about life after 2028

WASHINGTON.(Agency)

President Donald Trump has frequently suggested he wants to seek a third term, posting about mounting another campaign, donning 2028 caps and discussing ways to make it happen -- even as he's acknowledged the Constitution prohibits it. But lately, Trump has begun showing signs that even he doesn't really believe another run will happen. During recent speeches, the Republican president has begun describing life after the White House when his term ends in January 2029, predicting he'll be at home and agonizing as his successor claims credit for his accomplishments. "Your next president is going to say, 'What a great job I did,'" Trump told an event on Long Island, New York, this month. "He'll be sitting around,



watching television. A real stiff. Unless you vote Republican, of course." A sitting president talking about becoming a former one is always politically fraught. But with midterm elections now just nine

weeks away, Trump is approaching the point of his presidency where there will be more and more reminders that his power will soon wane. Being willing to say he's contemplating a White House without him marks a notable shift for Trump. Going back to his first term and from virtually the moment he won a second, he's left the door open to staying put for more than eight years. "He is all over the place," said Brian Kalt, a Michigan State University constitutional law professor. "And what that does is, it allows him to point to his own words to support any number of mutually exclusive things." Trump can say, "Oh yeah, I made it clear that I wasn't gonna run," Kalt said. "Or, if he decides that he will, he could say, 'Well, you know, I never said I wouldn't."

Pak's human rights body flags 'disproportionate' force against PoK protesters, questions credibility of polls

A report by the fact finding mission of the HRCP attributed the unrest in PoK to longstanding political and socio-economic grievances, institutional distrust and governance deficits.

world.(Agency)

Pakistan's human rights body has accused the state of using "disproportionate force" against protesters in PoK, while also raising serious concerns over the credibility of an electoral process tainted by violence and allegations of large-scale rigging. A report by the fact finding mission of the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) released on Saturday attributed the unrest in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir

(PoK) to longstanding political and socio-economic grievances, institutional distrust and governance deficits. An increasingly confrontational state response,



including the disproportionate use of force has further deepened polarisation and eroded public trust," the HRCP said and added its mission received sharply conflicting accounts about the scale of violence and the conduct of security forces. Elections to 45 seats to the so-

called PoK legislative assembly were held in three phases from July 27 to August 10. The banned Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC), which had been holding a series of protests in PoK since June over the contentious 12 refugee seats, has alleged that the establishment manoeuvres these seats to install a prime minister, to lead the so-called government in PoK, of its choosing. After negotiations between the government and JAAC failed on May 30, the Kashmir government proscribed the organisation on June 5 under an anti-terrorism act. According to the JAAC, over 40 people were killed during the first phase of polls held on July 27. Besides, it claims that some 400 protesters have been killed since the first week of June, a claim refuted by the federal government.

Toll in Nepal floods mounts to 903, over 4,000 still missing; PM says nation facing 'unimaginable' disaster

world.(Agency)

The death toll from the devastating flash floods in Nepal climbed to 903 on Monday with more bodies being recovered, while nearly 4,250 people remained missing, authorities said. Bodies have been recovered from all eight affected districts as rescuers race against time to search for those missing and rescue those stranded on the sixth day since the disaster. The disaster, believed to have been triggered by a collapse or avalanche of ice and rock near the Nepal-Tibet border, devastated towns and villages in northern and central Nepal on August 26. The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA) said the death toll from the flash floods has surged to 903. So far, 272 bodies have been recovered from Chitwan, 207 from Nawalparasi East, 151 from Nawalparasi West and 62 from Gorkha districts, the



NDRRMA said. Similarly, 95 bodies have been recovered from Nuwakot, 55 from Dhading, 37 from Tanahu and 24 from Rasuwa. It said 4,247 people are also missing, including 85 security personnel and 320 foreigners. Meanwhile, Nepal's Prime Minister Balendra Shah has said the country is facing an "unimaginable and heartbreaking" disaster with authorities struggling to assess the full scale of devastating floods. "Our country has been facing an unimaginable and heartbreaking natural disaster," Shah said in a social media post late Sunday. "The devastating floods in the Bhothe Koshi River in Rasuwa have made it extremely difficult to collect a complete account of the loss of life, property, and infrastructure," he added. "Although this task remains challenging due to adverse weather, difficult terrain, and ongoing risks, we are moving forward with determination to protect the lives of the citizens."

Iran retaliates with ballistic missiles at US bases in Jordan after Larak Island strike

world.(Agency)

Iran launched ballistic missiles at two US-operated air bases in Jordan on Sunday, state media reported, hours after US forces struck Iranian rocket launchers on Larak Island in the Strait of Hormuz. Iran vowed on Monday a "decisive response" to the first American strikes on its territory in a month, in a fresh flare-up in the West Asia war. Tehran's powerful Revolutionary Guards said they had retaliated to Sunday's attack by striking two US military air bases with ballistic missiles in Washington-allied Jordan, causing "heavy damage." Jordan's army said it had intercepted eight missiles, without stating their origin. The Guards also said on Monday they had shot down a US drone over the Strait of Hormuz. The attacks came after the United States said Sunday it had attacked Iranian rocket launchers on a small island in the strategic shipping lane. Washington said its attacks were aimed at preventing Iran from launching more sea

mines into the strait, days after it announced it had completed clearing explosives from the waterway. "US forces took limited, precise action against IRGC (Iran's Revolutionary Guards') minelaying forces posing an imminent threat in the Strait of Hormuz," the US Central Command wrote on X. The Guards said the US strikes resulted in "casualties" and that their subsequent attack on Jordan was "in response to the US-Zionist aerial aggression." "We are not seeking war, but we will deliver a decisive response to the aggressors," Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said in a statement quoted by state TV. Pezeshkian was speaking before traveling to Kyrgyzstan for the summit of a bloc that seeks to be a counterinfluence to the West, along with Russia's Vladimir Putin and China's Xi Jinping. The exchange of fire between the United States and Iran came shortly after their war hit the six-month mark, and at a time when hostilities had been subsiding. In recent weeks, the

administration of US President Donald Trump has prioritized "economic warfare" over military strikes on Iran. Tehran has effectively blocked the Strait of Hormuz, a strategic sea lane through which one-fifth of the world's oil passed before the United States and Israel triggered hostilities with strikes on Iran on February 28. "Last week, CENTCOM completed clearing sea mines from the strait's international shipping routes," said Navy Captain Tim Hawkins, a spokesman for US Central Command. "US forces are monitoring the area closely and remain prepared to protect the free flow of commerce through this essential waterway," he said.

Unpopular war

Diplomatic efforts, spearheaded by mediators including Pakistan and Qatar, have tried for months to bring an end to the war. While a ceasefire was agreed in April and a memorandum of understanding towards a final peace deal was signed in June, no agreement has been forthcoming.