

SCO declaration: Double standards in fight against terrorism unacceptable

NEW DELHI. (Agency)

STRESSING THAT “double standards” in the fight against terror are unacceptable, leaders at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) on Tuesday called on the international community to combat terrorism, including the cross-border movement of terrorists. This is part of the ‘Bishkek Declaration’ adopted by India, Pakistan, Iran, Russia, China and the Central Asian countries in the SCO grouping. The declaration is important since India has always maintained that Pakistan is responsible for cross-border terrorism in the country. On terrorism, the joint declaration adopted at the end of the SCO leaders’ summit in the Kyrgyz’ capital, Bishkek, stated: “Member States, reaffirming their firm commitment to combating terrorism, separatism and extremism, emphasise the inadmissibility of attempts to exploit terrorist, separatist, and extremist groups for selfish purposes.

Youth's progress govt's priority: Nadda welcomes CJP decision to call off Sept 5 march

New Delhi. (Agency)

Union minister Jagat Prakash Nadda on Tuesday welcomed the Cockroach Janta Party's decision to call off their proposed march on September 5 in the heart of Lutyens' Delhi and said the success and progress of the nation's youth is the biggest priority of the BJP-led NDA government. Nadda and his Cabinet colleague Jitendra Singh had multiple meetings with CJP representatives at the peak of protests at Jantar Mantar last month over the latter's demands. His statement followed the Centre's submission to the Supreme Court that the government would not pursue criminal cases lodged against students over the July 20 protests, which also saw clashes between protesters and security personnel. “On 25 July 2026, my colleague Shri Jitendra Singh and I had a conversation with the student representatives regarding the ongoing protest at Jantar Mantar. Keeping the students’ future in mind, we had assured on behalf of the Government of India that the cases registered against the protesting students would be withdrawn and no harsh action would be taken against them in the future either,” Nadda said. “In this regard, we held discussions with the governments of BJP-ruled states as well, and now we are moving forward in the direction of fulfilling that promise. We welcome the decision to call off the September 5 protest announced by the CJP’s spokesperson... For the government, the progress and development of the youth is its topmost priority,” he said.

Rahul Gandhi's ‘vote theft’ jab after 2.07 crore Maharashtra voters deleted

New Delhi(Agency)

The Election Commission has said the 2.07 crore figure should not be seen as the definite number of voters to be deleted from the rolls.

PM Narendra Modi, Vladimir Putin and Xi Jinping shared a striking moment of camaraderie at the 26th Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit in Bishkek on Tuesday, with the three leaders smiling and forming a chain as they shook hands. The moment was captured as SCO leaders gathered for the official family photograph, a traditional feature of the annual summit. A video posted by the Kremlin pool captured the Prime Minister and the two Presidents smiling as they held hands in a brief but striking display of the plenary session. The episode came after PM Modi and Sharif had been seen keeping their distance at the 2025 summit. In one family photograph, the two leaders stood several places apart, while at a banquet they were seen seated with their backs turned to each other.

Then he mentioned West Bengal SIR before the Assembly polls, which saw BJP storming to power. “Of the names struck off in the SIR, 91% had to be reinstated after appeals. That means 9 out of every 10 names were wrongly



deleted, and added back only after the election. I said it then, and I say it today: This was vote theft,” he said. Gandhi said that now in Maharashtra, “2.07 crore voters have been removed from the draft list — that’s every fifth voter. Lok Sabha 2024:

9.29 crore; Vidhan Sabha 2024: 9.7 crore; SIR 2026: 7.78 crore... Which list was correct?” Hitting out at the BJP, he said, “For a government built on vote theft, the people are not important — that’s why this BJP neither listens to the people nor obeys their command.” Congress president and Leader of the Opposition in Rajya Sabha, Mallikarjun Kharge, said that “where it suits the BJP, voters are added. Where it doesn’t, votes are split to perpetrate vote theft”. “The BJP’s conspiracy to hollow out Indian democracy by stealing votes is coming out into the open,” said Kharge. “Instead of acting as the guardian of fair elections, the Election Commission is functioning like the ‘Save BJP’s Chair Commission’,” he said. “The country is now uniting against vote theft... The nation has understood the BJP’s conspiracy. The thief has been caught... Punishment will surely be meted out for holding democracy captive,” Kharge said in a post on X.

Mass relief operations continue across Nepal following catastrophic Himalayan flash floods

Air Vice Marshal Shakti Sharma became the highest-ranking woman non-medical officer in the Indian Armed Forces after taking over as Assistant Chief of the Air Staff

MAHANAGAR METRO

Ahmedabad: The Gujarat Dialysis Programme (GDP), launched to provide free dialysis facilities to poor and needy patients close to their homes, is facing serious questions over its functioning amid allegations of administrative irregularities, outsourcing, and problems faced by technical staff. The Gujarat Dialysis Programme is operated with the involvement of the Institute of Kidney Diseases and Research Centre (IKDRC-ITS). According to official reports, the programme was created to expand access to quality dialysis across the state, with centres established within a targeted distance of patients' homes and remote monitoring through telemedicine. However, employees and sources associated with the programme have now raised several concerns regarding its present functioning. Allegations Against Administrative Decisions Questions have been raised over the policies being followed under the leadership of IKDRC Director Dr. Pranjal Modi. Sources allege that differences have

emerged over the approach towards dialysis and kidney transplantation. They claim that certain remarks and decisions have created an atmosphere in which the future of the dialysis programme and the interests of patients are becoming a matter of concern. The allegations, however, require an official response from IKDRC and the Gujarat Government. Experienced Technicians Allegedly Removed Employees associated with the programme claim that several experienced technicians who had been working for nearly 10 years have been removed or affected following changes in the outsourcing system. According to the allegations, these technicians were responsible for handling technical problems at dialysis centres, including dialysis machines and Reverse Osmosis (RO) plants. Staff members also claim that remuneration and working conditions have been adversely affected under the new outsourcing arrangements. Questions Over Outsourcing Costs Another major issue concerns the financial impact of outsourcing. According to em-

ployees, the new outsourcing arrangement could increase the government's expenditure by around 24 per cent. Questions are therefore being raised over whether outsourcing is actually reducing the government's financial burden or increasing expenditure. The government has not publicly clarified the basis of the alleged 24 per cent additional cost. Donated Dialysis Machines Become a Question Sources also claim that more than 200 dialysis machines had previously been provided free of cost by the Fairfax India Charitable Foundation. Employees allege that communication with the foundation has subsequently reduced or stopped, while government funds may now be required for procurement of new machines. The issue raises questions over whether available donation-based resources are being fully utilised before spending public money



on new equipment. Maintenance Work Also Allegedly Outsourced According to employees, GDP's in-house technical teams previously handled maintenance and repair work related to dialysis machines and RO plants. They claim that this system helped reduce maintenance expenditure. The employees allege that maintenance work is now being moved towards external agencies under outsourcing arrangements, raising concerns over additional costs and the availability of experienced technical support.

CM DK Shivakumar may review Bill to use 5% of parkland

BENGALURU (Agency)

After stiff opposition from various quarters, the state government is likely to review the Karnataka Government Parks (Preservation) (Amendment) Bill, 2026, that was passed in the legislative Houses recently. Speaking to reporters on Tuesday in Bengaluru, Chief Minister DK Shivakumar said he would examine why the proposal to allocate 5% of parkland for other purposes was brought in, what previous governments did and who was allotted which land. “I will get the files and the issue can be discussed again in the Assembly,” he said. There is a need to check the Lalbagh land given for Metro and at also at other places across, he said. **CM slams Opposition for skipping discussion** The chief minister said he is open to suggestions from the Opposition and will also consider views of the public. “My intention is not to create any confusion. Any decision will be taken keeping the larger public interest in mind,” he said. Even though the monsoon session ended last week abruptly, Shivakumar is planning to hold a special legislative session soon. Responding to questions on park land in Bengaluru, the CM said there was no need for anyone to panic. “Nobody needs to be worried. I know how to protect park land,” he said. Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Tuesday said the government will create four Lalbagh gardens in Bengaluru. “How many parks did BJP create when they were in power,” he questioned. He also slammed the Opposition for not taking part in the debate when the Bill was tabled in the House.



CM Vijay announces withdrawal of cases against protesting farmers, teachers filed under DMK govt

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay announced the withdrawal of cases filed against protesting farmers and teachers during the previous DMK government, citing their democratic right to raise livelihood and rights-related demands.

Tamil Nadu (Agency)

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay on Wednesday announced that cases registered against farmers and teachers for protests during the previous DMK regime would be withdrawn. He accused the former government led by MK Stalin of treating people who engaged in democratic protests in an “inhuman” manner. Addressing the state Assembly, Vijay said several cases were registered against protesting farmers and teachers between May 2021 and 2026 for their livelihood, rights and legitimate demands. He added that many of those involved continue to face difficulties as the cases remain pending. “This government will stand by farmers and

teachers and their just demands... This move will further strengthen democratic rights and reinforce trust between common people and



government,” the Chief Minister said. He cited cases registered against farmers protesting the proposed SIPCOT industrial estate in Tiruvannamalai district, including instances in which farmers were booked

under the Goondas Act. Vijay also highlighted the protests by farmers in Parandur against the proposed airport, where they had raised concerns over the loss of agricultural land, water bodies and their livelihoods. “Even though teachers protested in a democratic manner, cases were filed and are still pending,” Vijay said. He added that, in view of the difficulties faced by those booked in such cases, the Tamil Nadu government had decided to withdraw all cases registered against the protesting farmers and teachers. Meanwhile, the CPI has called on the Vijay-led TVK government to extend the decision to cases filed against those who protested against the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET), including students.

'Went out to eat biryani without informing': Faridabad student jumps to death after '4-hour punishment'

Gurgaon.(Agency)

A student of Class 11 jumped to her death from the third floor of a private school on Ghazipur Road, Dabua Colony, in Faridabad on Tuesday.

Police said the incident occurred around 1pm. The school staff took the student to a nearby hospital where the doctors declared her dead. Her father has alleged that the teacher had punished her. He said his daughter felt humiliated and took the extreme step. "There was no issue at all; in every way she was doing well, even in studies she was fine. I asked the children and they said that the teacher had made her stand for four hours outside the classroom," he said. He claimed that some students were fighting over lunch and his daughter had no role in it; however, the teacher punished her.

The parents of the deceased student also claimed that she was scolded by her teacher as "she had gone out to eat biryani without informing anyone", according to the police. The principal has denied the father's claims. He told TOI, "It is not possible that she had been punished for four hours. She had sought permission to go to the washroom after which she jumped."

SHO Dabua Sumer Singh said, "The family has not yet filed a complaint. Action will be initiated as soon as a complaint is received."

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



Gurgaon.(Agency)

While all 95 urban areas in Haryana have round-the-clock power supply, 1,145 of the state's 7,250 villages are still receiving electricity for only 16 hours a day, according to data presented by energy minister Anil Vij in the state assembly. Of these, 980 villages are in south Haryana. The figures show that 6,105 villages, or 84.2% of the state's villages, have been brought under the 24-hour supply system, while the remaining 1,145, or 15.8%, are yet to be covered. The 16-hour figure refers to the scheduled supply available to these villages through the distribution network; it does not necessarily reflect the total electricity actually received, which is often affected by local breakdowns or faults. Vij said the govt was working to bring the remaining villages under the 24-hour system in phases. "The transition depends on strengthening the distribution infrastructure in these areas and bringing feeder loads within prescribed limits," he said. Under Dakshin Haryana Bijli Vitran Nigam (DHBVN), 2,686 villages are receiving 24-hour supply, while 980 receive 16 hours. Under Uttar Haryana Bijli Vitran Nigam (UHBVN), 3,419 villages have 24-hour supply, while 165 receive 16 hours. The gap in scheduled supply remains significant for rural households and businesses that depend on electricity for irrigation, small industries, shops and other daily activities. During 2025-26, Haryana purchased electricity worth Rs 40,918.30 crore. The state generated or received 2,13,013.29 lakh units from within Haryana and procured another 5,55,604.30 lakh units from outside the state, taking the total to 7,68,617.59 lakh units.

Flyover to bypass choked Hapur Chungi junction may be ready next June

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

Work on the Hapur Chungi elevated road will begin this month after the tender for the project was awarded to a company. Officials said the project is expected to be completed within nine months and opened to traffic by June next year.

The Hapur Chungi roundabout handles traffic from Kavinagar, RNE, DM office and police lines, and sees bottlenecks even during non-peak hours, as vehicles heading in different directions currently have to negotiate the junction that has no grade separation. Many commuters heading towards Hapur also use the city roads—Surdas Marg and Rani Jhansi Marg—via the intersection instead of NH-9 or DME, adding to the already heavy local traffic. "The project report for Hapur Chungi flyover is ready, and the project is estimated to cost Rs 125 crore," said a Ghaziabad Development Authority (GDA) official. The flyover will provide direct access from RNE township to Diamond Flyover, which is connected to NH-9 near Kavinagar Industrial Area. The stretch, running from RNE towards Kavinagar and Shastri Nagar, will bypass Hapur Chungi roundabout, enabling free traffic flow to and from the police lines side. Officials said the 1.2-km-long, four-lane flyover will begin near ALT junction and descend on Surdas Marg, about 500 metres ahead of Diamond Flyover. The Thakurdwara-Dasma stretch forms Ghaziabad's administrative nerve centre, flanked by the offices of GDA and Ghaziabad Municipal Corporation, police lines, Rajnagar District Centre, Ghaziabad Court, including the CBI court, police headquarters, the collectorate, the passport office and other central and state govt offices.

Garbage heaps mount as sanitation strike in Gurgaon enters 4th week

Gurgaon.(Agency)

Sanitation services in the city are likely to remain disrupted as the workers' strike entered its 27th day on Tuesday, with protesting MCG employees burning an effigy of chief minister Nayab Singh Saini at Agrasen Chowk on Old Railway Road. Municipal Employees Union, Haryana, is set to decide its next course of action on Wednesday after alleging that its delegation was mistreated during a meeting with officials of urban local bodies (ULB) department on Monday. "We had a meeting with the ULB department officials in Panchkula on Monday. However, their behaviour towards us was uncalled for. We will decide on the further course of action on Wednesday before 2pm. We are being compelled to go on an indefinite stir," said MCG Employees' Union president Basant Kumar. The union also criticised



urban local bodies minister Vipul Goel and social justice and empowerment minister Krishan Bedi, alleging that assurances of talks have not resulted in a settlement. The union's protest comes amid mounting garbage across the city, with Sadar market, Sikanderpur, Old

Delhi-Gurgaon Road and Golf Course Extension Road among the affected areas. For residents, the ongoing agitation has wider civic implications, as sanitation and garbage collection are essential public services. "There is persistent garbage dumping, a terrible

stench and an extremely unkempt appearance along the portion of Delhi-Mumbai Expressway just in front of Islampur village. The situation is particularly bad around the underpass just before Subhash Chowk, where garbage is dumped almost round the clock," said a resident of JMD Gardens, Archana Gulati. MCG officials said a policy decision on the workers' demands will be taken by the state govt, while the civic body was deploying outsourced workers to clear accumulated waste. The union's key demands include ending the contractual system in sanitation and sewer work, filling vacant regular posts and resolving the issue of regularisation of contractual municipal and fire employees. It has also accused the govt of using police deployment against striking workers and resorting to alternative arrangements instead of addressing its demands.

Satam: Faith, Culture, and the Heartfelt Anticipation of Lord Krishna's Arrival

Mahanagar Metro Desk

Author: Rupesh Solanki

In the land of Gujarat, festivals are not merely dates on a calendar; they are deeply rooted traditions woven into the rhythm of life. They bring together the beautiful colours of faith, folk traditions, family, joy, and social harmony. Satam-Aatham, the sacred festival associated with the birth of Lord Krishna, is one such celebration filled with profound emotions and cultural richness. Satam feels like a sacred prelude to Krishna's birth celebration—a time when both nature and society seem to sense the approaching arrival of joy. As the rainy season of Shravan gradually gives way to the month of Bhadrapada, the first glimpse of festivity begins to appear in the atmosphere. From villages to cities, a special excitement can be felt everywhere. Homes are cleaned and decorated, temples are beautifully adorned, markets become vibrant with festive colours, and the familiar enthusiasm of the festival once again shines on people's faces. Satam is not merely the eve of Aatham; it is a living thread of tradition that connects one generation with another. Satam-Aatham holds a special place in Gujarat's folk culture. Particularly in various regions of Saurashtra and Gujarat, the festival is associated with traditional fairs, religious programmes, devotional singing, Raas-Garba, folk songs, and numerous cultural activities. Such

fairs are not merely sources of entertainment; they preserve the memories of folk life while keeping the spirit of coexistence, togetherness, and brotherhood alive. The Spirit of Celebration Begins with the Morning of Satam. From early morning on Satam, a special atmosphere fills the home. Mothers and sisters prepare traditional delicacies, decorate the house, and make preparations for the festival together with all the members of the family. Some prepare to visit temples for darshan, while others worship the Lord at home with devotion. The happiness visible in these preparations is not merely the happiness of celebrating a festival. Behind it lies a quiet desire to spend time with family, preserve traditions, and pass cultural values on to the next generation. For children, Satam-Aatham is a particularly joyful occasion. Their affection for the child form of Lord Krishna inspires them to dress as Krishna and participate enthusiastically in activities such as the traditional Matki Phod celebration. A little Kanha with a peacock feather on his head, a flute in his hand, and an innocent smile on his face seems to spread the purity of childhood throughout the entire atmosphere. Krishna Is Not Merely a Deity; He Is a Philosophy of Life. The personality of



Lord Krishna is unique in Indian culture because he embraces every shade of life. He is the mischievous Kanha of Gokul, the beloved child of Yashoda, the enchanting beloved of the Gopis, the symbol of divine love associated with Radha, the cherished friend of Sudama, and the charioteer of Arjuna on the battlefield of Mahabharata. Yet Krishna's greatest glory lies in his wisdom and words. People meeting one another at village fairs, reunions with old friends, families coming together, and the joyful laughter of In such times, festivals like Satam-Aatham remind us that true happiness is not found on a screen; it is found in sitting beside



our loved ones and sharing moments with them. A smile exchanged in the crowd of a fair, an embrace from a friend met after many years, the taste of a dish prepared by one's mother, and an evening spent with family—these are treasures that cannot be purchased in any marketplace. Let Traditions Change, but Let Values Remain. Times change. Lifestyles change. The ways in which festivals are celebrated also evolve. Yet, amidst all these changes, the essence of our cultural values must remain alive. While celebrating Satam-Aatham, along with devotion, we should give importance to cleanliness, discipline, environmental responsibility, and social harmony. The joy of a festival becomes truly meaningful only when our celebration causes no pain to others and when our festivities spread the message of love, unity, and goodwill throughout society.

Man handed life term for killing Ghaziabad trader 17 years ago

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

A Meerut man who had a criminal past has been sentenced to life in prison for abducting and killing a trader who owned a shop in the city's Loha Mandi and his driver 17 years ago. One of the other accused was acquitted of murder and abduction charges but was sentenced to three years in prison for stealing from the trader. An FIR had been registered at the Kavinagar police station on Dec 23, 2009, after Vijay Shankar Agarwal told the cops that his father Devishankar Agrawal had left their shop in Loha Mandi with his driver Sunil the previous night but never returned home. When he contacted Sunil's family the next day, they told him that two bodies had been found in the forest of Kadarabad and they had been identified as those of Sunil and his father. But Rs 70,000 that Agarwal had with him had been looted. His watch and ring had also been stolen.

The FIR was filed against unidentified persons under sections 364 (abduction for murder), 302 (murder), and 394 (voluntarily causing hurt while attempting robbery) of the IPC. Since Sunil belonged to the Scheduled Castes, charges under section 3(2)(v) of the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act

were also added.

When police interrogated people from the mandi, another shop owner, Dheer Singh, said he had seen two men in a Santro follow Agarwal's Skoda Fabia. Another eyewitness claimed that he had seen a history-sheeter, Ajayraj alias Don, driving the Skoda while Agarwal sat on the back seat. The Santro, he alleged, was driven behind by another criminal, Ankit Sharma. Through intelligence inputs and surveillance, police named four people — Ajayraj, Ankit Sharma, Sandeep and Jogendra — as the prime suspects.

Ankit Sharma was killed in a gunfight, but Ajayraj and Sandeep were eventually arrested. Police recovered Agarwal's watch and ring from Sandeep. Jogendra, however, remained absconding, and the cops separated his file while submitting a chargesheet against Ajayraj and Sandeep on Aug 23, 2010. The court framed charges against the duo on Jan 25, 2014, under IPC sections and Section 3(2)(v) of the SC/ST Act. Both denied the charges and sought to be tried. Section 411 of the IPC (dishonestly receiving stolen property) was added to the charges. Defence argued that if any

witness had seen the deceased with Ajayraj right before the incident, why he had not informed the deceased's family or the police. Special public prosecutors Akhilesh Kumar and Rajni Kanta argued that Dheer Singh had said accused Ajayraj and Ankit were wanted



criminals, so he did not dare to name them immediately. "Ajayraj was arrested on Jan 3, 2010 and Singh revealed Ajayraj's name to the police during the arrest process," they explained.

The court relied on the time of death, as recorded by the postmortem report and corroborated by the physician. It matched the time, almost an hour after

Agarwal and Sunil had left the shop at Loha Mandi.

Additional sessions judge Jeetendra Mishra questioned Ajayraj's whereabouts between 9 and 10 pm on Dec 22, 2009. "He had ample opportunity to present his own explanation to the court and explain where the deceased were during that one hour. However, no such attempt was made by Ajayraj," he said.

In the absence of that testimony, the judge said, "The prosecution has succeeded in proving that Ajayraj abducted the deceased Devishankar Agrawal and his driver Sunil with the intent to murder them. He inflicted injuries with the intent to commit robbery, and during this time, he shot the deceased in the head and killed them."

He declared Ajayraj alias Don guilty under Sections 364 (abduction for murder), 302 (murder), and 394 (voluntarily causing hurt while attempting robbery) of the IPC, awarding a life term with a cumulative fine of Rs 20,000, while his associate Sandeep was convicted under Section 411 of the IPC only. They were both also acquitted of the charges under section 3(2)(v) of the SC/ST Act.

Haryana: Two Army jawans missing after boat capsizes during training near Yamunanagar



Chandigarh. (Agency)

Two Army jawans of Special Forces are reported to be missing at Hathnikund barrage near Yamunanagar in Haryana after their boat capsized in river Yamuna during a training exercise on Tuesday.

Army troops belonging to 1 Parachute Battalion (Special Forces), which is based at Nahani in Himachal Pradesh, had reached Hathnikund barrage for a training exercise. A motorboat deployed for the exercise reportedly developed a technical problem and began sinking. The soldiers aboard the boat, wearing life jackets, reportedly jumped into the water but were carried downstream by the strong current. A source said that two of the soldiers managed to swim to safety but two others went missing.

According to Rohitash Kumar, SHO of Pratap Nagar police station, they received the information about the accident at around 6 pm. "A search operation has been launched by the State Disaster Relief Force (SDRF) of Haryana as well as Uttar Pradesh," he said. IAF helicopters too have been pressed into service to locate the jawans downstream.

Gujarat Confidential: New Role

Ahmedabad. (Agency)

PRASHANT SINGH, who was closely associated with Khelo India and later preparing Indian teams for multiple sporting events such as Commonwealth Games, Asian Games and the Paris Olympics, has been appointed as Regional Director of the Sports Authority of India's (SAI) regional centre at Gandhinagar. Singh, who hails from Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, will handle SAI



operations in Gujarat and Rajasthan, according to a government statement. Prior to this latest assignment, he was already posted in Gandhinagar with responsibility of implementing various schemes under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports in the two states.

Retirement, rejig?

RAJU BHARGAVA, a 1995-batch IPS officer who was transferred as Rajkot police commissioner days after the TRP Game Zone fire that claimed 27 lives in May 2024, superannuated on Monday as DGP, Armed Units. Piyush Patel, Director, Anti-Corruption Bureau, will now hold additional charge of the Armed Units. With the Surat police chief's post also vacant, sources said an IPS reshuffle could happen soon.

13-year-old 'dies by suicide' after mother asks him to stop playing games on phone

Surat.(Agency)

A 13-year-old boy allegedly ended his life after his mother reprimanded him for using phone when dinner had been served, in Surat's Rander town on Monday evening, police said. The boy was reportedly playing a game on his phone when he was reprimanded, after which he and his elder sister sat down to eat even as their mother stepped out of the house to meet her neighbours in the apartment building, the police added. "When she returned 20 minutes later, the boy was found hanging with her dupatta from the common staircase railing", police said. Rander police inspector T B Pandya said, "The woman scolded her son to have dinner when he was busy playing games on the mobile phone. It could be that the boy felt hurt by that." The boy was taken to a nearby doctor's clinic, where he was declared dead, said police. The body was sent to the New Civil Hospital for post-mortem. The siblings' maternal uncle said, "On Monday evening, my sister scolded both her children. The boy was in Class 7." In a similar incident last month, a 13-year-old boy allegedly died by suicide in Surat after his parents asked him to keep the phone aside and complete his homework.

Past rejections by Centre cast shadow over Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann's proposed Europe visit

The Punjab government is treading cautiously regarding Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann's proposed tour to Italy and France after the Ministry of External Affairs previously denied him permission for overseas visits on multiple occasions.

Chandigarh. (Agency)

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann and around a dozen officers from the Cooperation Department, Chief Minister's Office and other departments are likely to travel to Europe in October to attend exhibitions in France and Italy, where the state is expected to showcase agricultural

and food products of MARKFED and Punjab Agro. The exhibitions are scheduled to begin on October 21, with the state government working on plans for the proposed visit. Sources said the government was likely to seek political clearance from the Centre for the Chief Minister's travel. However, there is still debate within the government over whether to send an application to the Centre. The hesitation stems from Mann being denied political clearance for foreign travel on at least two occasions since becoming Chief Minister. Sources said the government is expected to move the proposal for political clearance, but the process was not initiated till Tuesday.

"There is a plan. The CM wants to see the exhibitions as the state will be showcasing its products. Let us see. Maybe we will apply for permission in the evening. We had to do so last evening, but this was not done. Our department had prepared the entire set of documents and sent these forward to the Chief Minister's Office," a source said. Political clearance from the Centre is mandatory for foreign travel by senior public

functionaries, with the government taking into account the nature of the visit, the invitation and other diplomatic considerations. The proposed visit comes



against the backdrop of the Centre having blocked Mann's foreign travel in August 2024, when the Ministry of External Affairs denied him political clearance to travel to Paris to watch the Indian men's hockey team compete in the Olympic Games. Mann was scheduled to be in Paris from August 3 to 9. The decision triggered a political confrontation, with the AAP accusing the Centre of deliberately

preventing the Punjab Chief Minister from travelling.

The issue resurfaced in January 2026 when the MEA denied political clearance for Mann's proposed visit to the United Kingdom and Israel. The visit, planned as an investment outreach mission ahead of the Progressive Punjab Investors' Summit, was to be led by Mann along with Industries Minister Sanjeev Arora. The Punjab government had sought to meet potential investors, but the proposed tour was cancelled after the Centre did not grant clearance.

Restrictions faced by other leaders

The AAP government had again raised the issue of political clearance when other Punjab leaders faced similar restrictions. In August 2025, Industries Minister Harbhajan Singh ETO was denied clearance to visit the US, while then-Speaker Kultar Singh Sandhwan had been denied permission in 2023 to attend a legislative conference in Kentucky. In 2022, then-Renewable Energy and Governance Reforms Minister Aman Arora was denied clearance for a study tour to Europe.

With langars and trolleys, farmers begin seven-day sit-in on Mohali-Chandigarh border

The farmers are demanding complete waiver of loans, legally guaranteed MSP for all crops.

Mohali.(Agency)

On the first morning of September, the Mohali-Chandigarh road offered a glimpse of the preparations for a seven-day farmers' protest, with elderly farmers brewing tea at roadside langars, vegetables being chopped for community kitchens, and tractor-trolleys doubling up as temporary shelters. The scene stretched from Phase 11 towards Chandigarh up to the Sector 48 motor market, as farmers from different parts of Punjab continued to arrive on Tuesday morning for the Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM)-led sit-in scheduled from September 1 to 7. The administration has allotted a site near Sectors 48-49 on the Airport Road in Chandigarh for the protest. Led by farmer leader Balbir Singh Rajewal, the protest is being supported by 32 farmer organisations affiliated with the SKM. Leaders who joined the protest on Tuesday included Rajewal, BKU (Lakhawal) president Harinder Singh Lakhawal, BKU (Dakonda) leader Boota

Singh Burjigill, Manjit Singh Dhaner and Angrez Singh of the BKU (Dakonda Dhaner) group, All India Kisan Sabha leader Prem Singh Bhangu, Kirti Kisan Union leaders Raminder Singh Patiala, Nirvair



Singh Dhudike and Rajinder Singh Deep Singh Wala, BKU (Kadian) president Harmit Singh Kadian, Kisan Sangharsh Committee president Kamalpreet Singh Pannu, Jamhoori Kisan Sabha president Satnam Singh Ajnala, Doaba Kisan Committee president Jangvir Singh

Chauhan and Krantikari Kisan Union president Harbhajan Singh Buttar, among others. BKU (Ekta Ugrahan), though an associate member of the SKM, is not part of this protest and is holding a separate agitation. The farmers are demanding a legally guaranteed Minimum Support Price (MSP) for all crops, MSP based on the recommendations of the M S Swaminathan Commission, complete loan waiver for farmers and farm labourers, and an increase in the sugarcane price to Rs 500 per quintal. The SKM has also demanded a special session of the Punjab Assembly to review and scrap previous agreements concerning the state's river waters and formulate a fresh framework in Punjab's interests. Its demands include restoration of Punjab's representation on the Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB), repeal of the Dam Safety Act, withdrawal of the Disaster Management Act, 2024, and opposition to proposed free-trade agreements with the US and European countries.

A helicopter, stolen phone, frantic road journey: How 4 UP men escaped Nepal floods

Lucknow. (Agency)

For 23-year-old Ashutosh Mani Upadhyay, his first flight was also his way out of flood-hit Nepal. He had travelled to the country just two months ago to work as a junior pipeline fitter at a factory in Rasuwa district. But before he could settle into his new job, he found himself being evacuated by helicopter along with five other Uttar Pradesh residents. Rasuwa was among the worst-hit regions, though Ashutosh said he was further away from the affected area. "There was a sense of fear and uncertainty everywhere in Nepal," he recounted. "I was told to board a helicopter that would take us to a safer place. I was excited because I had never travelled by air before. The flight lasted only a few minutes but I will remember for the rest of my life," he added. The six were flown to a cantonment area, where they completed the necessary formalities before hiring a vehicle to travel to Gorakhpur in Uttar Pradesh. Ashutosh

reached his hometown of Mureri Gadwa village on Monday. For families across Uttar Pradesh, the wait for news from relatives stranded in Nepal has begun to ease. The Uttar Pradesh Relief Commissioner's emergency helpline received calls regarding



22 people in Nepal who couldn't be reached by their families. Families of 10 of them have since told authorities that their relatives are home and safe, an official said. Some were evacuated with the help of the Nepal government and officials stationed there,

while others made their own way back. The Indian Express spoke to those who made it home about the fear, uncertainty, and scramble to get out of the country.

"I was afraid the borders could be sealed"

Krishna Pratap Singh, 45, had travelled from Aligarh to Nepal on August 21 in search of work.

Five days later, the floods hit.

"I was terrified after hearing that a large number of people had been killed and property damaged just a few kilometres from where I was staying. There was a huge rush in Kathmandu, with people from outside the city struggling to find a way back home. There was no local government official or organisation to help us," said Singh, who works in the wood business.

He said he tried to contact his family but couldn't reach them. "I decided to return... The family with whom I was staying also pressured me to go home. I was also afraid that the borders could be sealed," he said.

Change of land use scam: ED files 200-page reply in HC, again seeks FIR from Punjab DGP

Amritsar. (Agency)

The Enforcement Directorate has for a third time sought registration of an FIR against a number of private persons and senior officials of Punjab government allegedly involved in corrupt practices. In a third letter, written to DGP Gaurav Yadav on August 31, the ED has sought that the FIR be registered against the said persons under Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 and copy of the same be supplied to the federal agency at the earliest.

Ed's ongoing action is triggered by searches conducted between May 7 and May 10 at the premises of Ajay Sehgal, Nitin Gohal and Suresh Kumar Bajaj in connection with a money-laundering investigation regarding a multi-crore land and Change of Land Use fraud. It is connected with the Rs. 348 crore money laundering case connected to Suntec city project. The matter pertains to an alleged "large-scale and institutionalised corruption" allegedly involving senior state officials as alleged in a PIL filed in the

Punjab and Haryana High Court last week. On August 28, the High Court sought to know from the Punjab government what action it proposed to take on allegations of "large-scale and institutionalised corruption" involving senior state officials, observing that the "nature of allegations made are serious" and would require a "careful response from the respondents".

A Division Bench of Acting Chief Justice Ashwani Kumar Mishra and Justice Rohit Kapoor also directed the ED to place before it the communications allegedly sent to the Punjab DGP and sought the State's stand on the matter.

"Before we proceed to take cognizance of the grievance raised... it would be appropriate to call upon the counsel representing ED, to place before the court the communications sent to the DGP... as is alleged by the petitioner. If such communication is sent, we would also like to know from the Advocate-

General, Punjab, as to what stand/action is proposed to be taken by the State police and the State itself," the bench said while listing the matter for September 3. The directions came on a petition filed by Advocate Nikhil Saraf alleging abuse of official position,



criminal conspiracy and manipulation of governmental, tender and administrative processes. The petition alleges that senior Punjab officials were involved in various scams, including "cash for transfers; cash for getting favourable policies; cash for tenders,

and such other illegal activities". The Punjab police had sought more details from the ED citing that the documents/ transcripts annexed by ED while seeking registration of FIR were "not legible".

Responding to Punjab Police's communication, ED on August 31 wrote: "It is submitted that the information along with material was shared under Section 66(2) of the PMLA-2002 vide this office's communications dated July 30 and August 7 and via email on August 7 only after due examination, investigation and assessment by this office and approval of the competent authority, and upon this office being satisfied that the material disclosed contravention of the provisions of law administered by your office. Section 66(2) casts an obligation on this office to share such information with the concerned agency for necessary action; it does not, in itself, contemplate or require the receiving agency to call for further authentication, chain of custody or original source data as a pre-condition to registration of FIR".

The missing votes and the politics of electoral deletion

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has betrayed the trust of the Supreme Court by persuading it to believe that the special intensive revision (SIR) was not intended to be exclusionary, but to clean up the voters' list by removing duplicate entries, the names of those who have changed their place of residence, dead voters and infiltrators who claim to be Indian citizens. The Supreme Court held that while the annual updation of voters' lists by the ECI itself cannot be trusted, this exercise was required to address the very concerns the ECI enumerated.

On the ground, these deletions were and are being done by booth-level officers (BLOs). This procedure was followed in almost all states which went to the polls after the 2024 Lok Sabha election. The evidence available in the public domain, some of which was also brought to the court's notice, should have alerted the Supreme Court. Several instances—especially in Delhi—of hundreds of persons living at the same address; statements of BLOs on record; trains assigned to carry people from Haryana to Bihar and from Surat to West Bengal; messages conveyed on WhatsApp to BLOs; the illogical concept of 'logical discrepancies'; the burden cast on voters, both literate and illiterate, to fill forms seeking information that was and is often hard to access; along with a host of other issues, should have been enough to scrap this exercise.

However, the court found this exercise necessary and brushed aside all objections and instances of wrongdoing that were sought to be brought to its notice. The inference that the ECI deliberately deleted names, either directly or indirectly, to help the BJP electorally, gains credence from what has been found by the tribunals set up by the Supreme Court to adjudicate the claims of voters whose names were deleted and whose appeals could not be decided before the publication of the final voters' list. In this context, the reply to the Right to Information application filed by Congress MP Isha Khan Choudhury revealed that the total number of appeals submitted for adjudication was 38,10,620, of which only 82,782 (a bare 2.17 percent) have been disposed of thus far. Of the deleted names, 75,443 (about 91 percent) were restored, while 7,339 (a bare 8.86 percent) were excluded.

What does this tell us? That 91 percent of genuine voters were wrongly deleted. It can be assumed that BLOs, spread throughout West Bengal, could not have acted in such a uniform manner to cause such massive deletions. The question is: who directed those names to be deleted, and which party benefited from these deletions? Presumably, the massive restoration of 91 percent of the deleted names may have impacted the overall result of the Assembly elections. The tribunals, working at this pace, would take about 25 years to dispose of these appeals. It is a travesty of justice that the procedure adopted will disenfranchise lakhs of voters in the coming elections.

It is also significant that the appeals in constituencies with the highest Muslim population, where the Trinamool Congress had a strong presence, have not yet been disposed of. For example, of the 7,47,305 appeals filed in Murshidabad, only 487 have been decided (of which 434 restored); of 5,31,149 appeals in Malda, only 1,471 (all restored) have been decided; of 3,58,872 appeals in North 24 Parganas, only 277 (all restored) have been decided; of 3,21,332 appeals in South 24 Parganas, 20,107 names were restored and only 24 were alleged to be rightly excluded; and of 2,77,242 appeals in Purba Bardhaman, only 83 have been decided. It seems that the Supreme Court was more concerned about the voters being wrongly included in the voters' list. It was contended that not one such voter should be included in the voters' list. It now appears that lakhs of voters who were entitled to vote have been excluded and a minuscule number were prima facie not entitled to vote.

Sunrise in empire's shadow

Empire left the Himalayan frontier unsettled; two civilisations can now outlive its shadow

THERE was a time when an unsettled frontier was an asset. Imperial statecraft valued ambiguity because it created room for manoeuvre. A frontier under permanent negotiation could be more useful than one settled. That was the logic of empire. It should not become the inheritance of Asia. The eight-point consensus reached between India's National Security Adviser Ajit Doval and China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi at the 25th round of Special Representatives' talks is more than its provisions. New hotlines and meeting points matter. Better ways to prevent misunderstanding matter. But one phrase matters more: an "Early and Substantial Harvest" in boundary delimitation. After decades of managing the Line of Actual Control, India and China have tentatively reopened the harder question: can the boundary itself be settled? The timing could hardly be more consequential.

The order built after 1945 is under strain. American primacy is contested. China has risen without yet earning the trust that leadership demands. Europe is diminished. Wars are back in the vocabulary of great powers. Climate, artificial intelligence, pandemics and debt ignore borders even as nations retreat behind them. The British left behind an unsettled line. Today's global dynamics make its persistence more dangerous. In an era of escalating US-China rivalry and shifting Indo-Pacific alignments, an unsettled border remains permanently vulnerable to miscalculation. I saw in 1971, on the march to Dhaka, how genocide turns political fracture into human blood. As the world fractures again, we cannot treat borders as a game of risk. The cost is always paid in blood.

Humanity is the ultimate global common. Yet it has no boundary, no Security Council veto, no bloc to defend it. Only human beings can join those dots.

For India and China, this fractured moment is not only danger. It is also opportunity. SendMoney Overseas

The Third Pole: When nature roars

Climate is already reminding us that some lines on maps matter less than the forces moving across them. Carbon knows no sovereignty. Floods carry no passports. The vast Himalayan and Tibetan cryosphere, often called the Third Pole, holds the largest concentration of ice outside the polar regions and feeds Asia's great river systems.

What happens there cannot remain the concern of one country because what begins there does not remain there. Geography may establish sovereignty. Nature establishes interdependence. India and China share a Himalayan ecology in which rivers, glaciers and climate recognise no political line. Cooperation is its natural logic, but

cooperation rests on reciprocity and responsible conduct. When either fails, it is human beings who suffer when nature roars. Both nations now call themselves not merely modern states but civilisations returned to history. Yet they still pour military strength and political attention into an unsettled Himalayan inheritance. It is an irony history may not forgive.

2047 meets 2049

India will mark a century of independence in 2047; China, a century of the People's Republic in 2049. For the first time in the modern era, the developmental clocks of Asia's two giants approach their milestones together. That synchronisation can become a collision course or a strategic opportunity. The choice is architectural, not



tactical. SendMoney Overseas

When human beings are the central concern, ideology remains a civilisational choice, not a contest. India and China will remain competitors. India will guard its autonomy, China its own idea of power. But competition does not require confrontation. Their strengths differ: India's youth and market, China's industrial depth. Yet neither can escape geography: the same sea lanes through Hormuz and Malacca, the same Global South whose markets they seek. The sharpest geography is the mountain. The Himalayas they have militarised for sixty years are also the water tower of Asia. Their glaciers feed the rivers on which both civilisations were built. China can patrol every peak and still lose the glacier. India can guard every pass and still drown in the flood. The water does not care about the Line of Actual Control.

That is why water must redraw the map. Two states that contest a ridge can together secure a river basin for three billion people. One is a quarrel. The other is a contribution. Retire the inheritance

The Line of Actual Control should never become the permanent imagination of India-China relations. It is an instrument for managing an unresolved boundary, not a boundary itself. The dispute carries the residue of imperial cartography, competing claims and decades of mistrust. India and China did not create all of it. But after three quarters of a century, they own the responsibility for resolving it. The British Empire could value unsettled frontiers because it would eventually leave them behind. India and China cannot. In 2047, when India looks back on a century of freedom, and in 2049, when China marks a century of renewal, let the record show that two great civilisations did not merely manage an inherited line. They settled it and, having retired one of the last frontiers of another age, helped open the door to the next.

The fracture is upon us again. This time, those who see the dots must have the courage to connect them, not with wishful thinking, but with deadlines, verification and the recognition that sovereignty may divide the mountains, but responsibility for what flows from them is shared.

BRICS sunrise moment Boundary peace is the beginning, not the destination. China cannot seek a transformed world order while treating India's place in it as somebody else's problem. A nation of 1.5 billion, among the world's largest economies and a voice of the Global South, cannot forever sit outside permanent membership of the Security Council. Beijing has for years treated India's seat as a card to withhold rather than a cause to advance. For China, backing India's permanent membership would be the single most convincing proof that its rise seeks a larger table, not a smaller one. A new world order cannot be built for all of us while being governed by only some of us.

India, equally, must separate accommodating China's legitimate interests from acquiescing in Chinese primacy. The first is statecraft; the second would betray strategic autonomy. SendMoney Overseas The coming BRICS summit provides an opportunity for Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Xi Jinping to shape a new compact: a 2030 horizon for boundary delimitation through statecraft, not surrender; Chinese support for India's permanent place on a reformed Security Council; and an institutional compact to protect the waters of the Third Pole. These are not sequential bargains, but concurrent pillars of one strategic choice. Together, they could turn a managed rivalry into an architecture for coexistence and offer the world an example of two great Asian civilisations choosing resolution over inherited rivalry.

Congress risks paying for internal discord

Whatever its immediate political context, charges inevitably have consequences beyond the local rivalry that may have prompted it. Political parties need space for differences and dissent

The Congress government in Telangana is facing an avoidable political problem. Opposition criticism is part of democratic politics. More damaging, however, are controversies arising from within the ruling party, which inevitably provide its opponents with fresh ammunition.

The latest episode involving Endowments Minister Konda Surekha has again brought this into focus. Her daughter publicly expressed displeasure after Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy reportedly promised the Parkal Assembly seat, which she had sought, to another leader. The controversy has acquired greater significance in the context of earlier episodes involving the minister and her family. Reports that the party's disciplinary committee has recommended action against Surekha indicate that the leadership views the matter seriously.

Nor is this an isolated instance of internal differences spilling into the public domain. Chinna Reddy's allegation that Assembly tickets were sold for crores of rupees is



another example. Whatever its immediate political context, such a charge inevitably has consequences beyond the local rivalry that may have prompted it.

As the Congress government approaches its third year in office, these distractions come at an inopportune time. It is already facing criticism over issues such as the controversy surrounding Section 22A and the inclusion of private properties in the prohibited list. Internal discord can only add to its difficulties. Political parties need space for differences and dissent. But when disagreements repeatedly become public spectacles, they affect both the party and the government. The Congress leadership will have to deal with such matters with political sensitivity, taking into account the influence and constituencies of individual leaders while also preserving organisational coherence. The larger issue is not the resolution of one controversy but the impression created by a succession of them. The Telangana Congress would do well to ensure that internal contests do not distract attention from governance and the agenda on which it sought and received the people's mandate.

Green-blue infra, heritage for a timeless city

As India advances towards the PM's vision of Viksit Bharat-2047, Delhi must demonstrate how a growing metropolis can combine development with environmental restoration and heritage conservation.

Great cities are defined not only by the infrastructure they build, but by what they preserve, restore and pass on to future generations. Delhi is uniquely endowed in both respects. The Yamuna and its floodplains, the ridge, urban forests, biodiversity parks and neighbourhood greens form its ecological foundation. Simultaneously, its monuments, historic precincts, archaeological sites and traditional neighbourhoods embody centuries of history and culture. As India advances towards the Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision of Viksit Bharat-2047, Delhi must demonstrate how a growing metropolis can combine development with environmental restoration and heritage conservation. The Master Plan for Delhi-2047 (MPD-2047) provides an opportunity to place these principles at the heart of the capital's future.

Natural capital as core infra

Climate change has rewritten the rules of urban planning. Rising temperatures, extreme rainfall, acute water stress, deteriorating air quality and biodiversity loss affect the health and quality of life of our citizens. Consequently, rivers, forests, wetlands, lakes and parks can no longer be viewed merely as environmental amenities or aesthetic additions. They are essential components of urban infrastructure. MPD-2047 envisages an interconnected green-blue network that integrates the Yamuna, the ridge, forests, biodiversity parks, water bodies, drains, neighbourhood parks and open spaces into an ecological system. Such a network yields strategic benefits. Green corridors and urban forests clean the air, temper urban heat island effects and shelter native biodiversity. Rejuvenated water bodies, wetlands and floodplains accelerate groundwater recharge and boost the city's capacity to absorb heavy rainfall. Parks, walking trails



and cycling networks promote active lifestyles and offer accessible spaces for community recreation.

Restoring Yamuna and ridge

No vision for Delhi's green-blue future is complete without the Yamuna. For centuries, it has shaped Delhi's geography, history and civilisation. Yet rapid urbanisation has placed stress on its ecosystem. MPD-2047 places the Yamuna at the centre of Delhi's ecological regeneration. Nearly 1,700 hectares of the Yamuna floodplains are proposed to be protected and ecologically restored through systematic restoration initiatives. To tackle pollution at its source, the strategy focuses on intercepting and treating drains flowing into the river through upgraded sewage treatment infrastructure, constructed wetlands and bioremediation. Together, these measures

will restore the river's ecological health and natural floodplain functions. The larger objective, however, goes beyond environmental restoration. Delhi must also rebuild its relationship with the river. A proposed 52-kilometre cycling corridor, alongside walking trails, public greens and managed recreational spaces will reconnect citizens with the waterfront. A rejuvenated Yamuna can therefore become both an ecological lifeline and a defining public space for the capital.

Complementing the Yamuna is Delhi's other major ecological pillar—the Delhi ridge, an extension of the ancient Aravalli range. MPD-2047 plans the ecological restoration of approximately 7,784 hectares of the ridge, prioritising native species and scientific ecosystem management. The objective is not simply to increase the

number of trees, but to restore healthier ecosystems capable of supporting local biodiversity and strengthening the capital's long-term environmental balance. Keeping heritage alive

Delhi's natural and cultural heritages are deeply connected. As Delhi modernises, protecting this inheritance becomes even more important. Heritage must remain a living part of the city, protected and preserved, while continuing to serve contemporary needs and remain connected to the lives and aspirations of its people.

MPD-2047 envisages bringing around 1,500 heritage assets under Cultural Resource Management Plans, creating a systematic framework for their long-term protection and sensitive management. This will help move heritage conservation from an isolated effort towards a more structured and integrated approach.

A key part of this approach is adaptive reuse. Heritage buildings can be sensitively adapted for museums, libraries, hotels, offices and cultural activities, allowing them to remain active and useful parts of the city while retaining their historic character. The plan also seeks to make conservation more practical and economically viable through planning and financial incentives, including Transferable Development Rights (TDR), facade retention and appropriate relaxation of space standards by the competent authority, while ensuring necessary fire and life-safety requirements. The objective is to ensure that conservation is not seen as a burden, but as an opportunity to preserve Delhi's identity, while giving heritage properties a sustainable future. MPD-2047 proposes heritage, cultural and festival circuits connecting monuments, historic precincts and public spaces.



Buy the right deodourant

If we go by TV commercials, deodourants are potential matchmakers — spray some and you will have the opposite sex going weak in their knees. With such irresistible 'possibilities' and promises, it's no surprise that you want to give almost every new deodourant a try. But before randomly buying any product, it's important to know about its contents. Read on to know more about how to buy the right deodourant:

Know the contents

Deodourants that contain harmful chemicals can be hazardous. For example, there are safer deodourants — available over-the-counter — that don't contain harmful chemicals like aluminium chloride. Many ingredients in deodourants can cause skin irritation, which ranges from mild redness and burning sensation to a full allergic reaction, warns dermatologist Dr Smriti Shetty.

Avoid alcohol-based sprays

Deodourants and antiperspirants prevent body odour caused by bacterial growth.

Cosmetic dermatologist Dr Sadhana Deshmukh says aluminium compounds — present in most deodourants — and other active antiperspirant ingredients are often dissolved in alcohol because it dries quickly and feels cool on the skin.

"A small percentage of people are allergic to aluminium and may experience dermatitis or allergic, axillary granuloma response. When applied to the axillae (underarms), it could be irritating and may promote sensitisation to other ingredients in the product. If this happens, consult a dermatologist. To avoid the problem, I would suggest an alcohol-free deodourant," she advises.

Sensitive Skin?

Most deodourants are alcohol-based and contain antibacterial properties — the reason why they remove the odour. Perfumes can't remove body odour, but their fragrance lasts longer. The sweet smell of a deodourant, on the other hand, is short-lived. Whether expensive or cheap, almost all deodourants contain 6-15% solution of fragrance oil mixed with 80% of alcohol. Perfumes usually contain 15-25 % of fragrance oil in

pure alcohol.

"If you have sensitive skin, pick one without much fragrance. Also, cheaper deodourants and fragrances can lead to cosmetic allergy, contact sensitisation, lichenoid reactions, macular or patchy pigmentation — the last may spread from axillae to face, neck, chest and even abdomen and needs to be treated. So, be careful while choosing a deo. Apply it only on the underarms; do not spray it on the entire upper body. Perfumes should be applied on clothes and not on body," cautions

Steer clear of these chemicals

Dermatologist gives a list of chemicals that you should avoid in deodourants:

Aluminium-based compounds are active ingredients in antiperspirants. They block the sweat glands, thus preventing sweat from reaching the skin's surface. Some studies have suggested that aluminum compounds may be absorbed by the skin and can cause changes in the estrogen receptors of breast cells. Parabens in their many forms — Methylparaben, Propylparaben, Ethylparaben, or

Don't just go by the fragrance, it's equally important to know what went into the making of your scented spray.



Butylparaben — are a class of artificial preservatives widely used in cosmetics and personal care products. They are being investigated for their possible role in breast cancer.

Most conventional deodourants contain a slew of toxic chemicals, such as Aluminum Chlorohydrate,

Parabens, Propylene Glycol, Triclosan, TEA (triethanolamine), DEA (diethanolamine), FD&C colours (artificial/synthetic colours approved by the US Food and Drug Administration for food, drug and cosmetics), and Talc (hydrous magnesium silicate), among others.

This summer, discover natural ingredients that can help protect your skin from the harsh summer heat



Aloe vera: A popular and effective ingredient to remove that horrid sun tan during summer is aloe vera. There are many Aloe vera benefits from health to nutrition, from acne treatment to skin care. It is widely grown as an ornamental plant; however it is equally popular as medicinal plant due to several Aloe vera uses. The healing properties of ayurveda make it beneficial for skin care and helps in restoring skin's natural beauty. It is also an outstanding skin moisturizer and provides oxygen to the cells which strengthen the skin tissues and helps to keep the skin healthy.

Sandalwood: A mixture of sandalwood powder (1tsb), turmeric powder (1 tsb), and a pinch of camphor mixed with few drops of sandalwood oil works in a great way on acne and pimples. Frequent use of this mixture helps pimple and acne to vanish and it is useful against blackheads also. For best results one should leave the mixture on the face overnight. Sandalwood oil is said to be a softening agent. Frequently massage face with sandalwood oil to exfoliate the skin and make it soft and supple.

Pearl: Pearl is very helpful to brighten the skin, improve the skin texture, balancing the skin moisture, giving radiant glowing skin. Pearl has the ability to tone and regenerate the skin, revitalizing it, making it look more youthful. It helps reduce blemishes, dark marks, pimples and acne, and it can be used both in form of paste and powder. Pearl helps in minimising the large pores on the skin and therefore reduces redness. Large pores make the skin look unhealthy and uneven redness causes skin loose its' pH balance. Pearl helps to reduce both of these and makes skin look toned and even. Pearl is also largely available as an ingredient in soaps, facewashes and facepacks.

Khus: Popularly known as Khus, Vetiveria zizanioides is an ideal coolant to beat the summer heat. Owing to its effective cooling properties and fragrance, khus is often included in high quality soaps, powders, aroma therapy products and perfumes. With anti-inflammatory and antiseptic effects providing relief from inflammation, the oil obtained from khus also has sedative effect and aids in the treatment of emotional outbursts, such as anger, anxiety, epileptic and hysteric attacks, restlessness, nervousness, etc. Known for increasing the energy levels and fortified with various minerals like manganese, zinc, copper, magnesium and iodine, khus seeds (poppy seeds) are widely used to make Khus sharbat/syrups which are largely consumed by people in summers.

Beat the heat, naturally

Ginger: Ginger, just like khus is also a cooling agent for the body. It is surprising to know that ginger being a spice infact cools the body because of its property at the time of ultimate assimilation in the body. Also, it also helps to resolve skin related issues. Hypopigmentation is also easily solved by ginger. One just needs to do is to cut a part of the ginger and dab it in the pigmented areas of the skin.

Rose water: Rose water face wash is perhaps one of the oldest and most sought after techniques of skin care. It effectively removes skin clogs and blackheads and reduces blotchiness and stickiness from the face. It helps clear all the impurities your face has collected through the day. Rose oil is said to have anti-inflammatory properties. Frequent use of the same will help clear off problems related to redness due to skin burns (over heat), and irritation. Proper face massage with rosewater will remove excess oil in the skin, keeping it evenly moisturised and exfoliated, thus restoring the lost pH balance and skin texture, preventing acne and pimples, removing the dirt that gets accumulated in the skin pores.

Neem: One of the wonders of Ayurveda that has been ignored by urban folks in favour of more synthetic ingredients is the humble neem. An ideal solution to all your summer related skin problems, neem is the best medicine available to you. The benefits of neem can be utilized to the maximum extent in this hot sultry condition. The usage of different parts of the neem plant differs from one season to another. The juice of the neem leaves is specially useful for purification and maintenance of our skin and blood. Neem is also available as an ingredient in ayurvedic facewash and soaps that can be an ideal companion for you this summer.



Home remedies for dry hair



We can do a lot to prevent hair from becoming dry and brittle during winter season. Read on It is a fact that hair becomes dry during the winter season. While we cannot escape the seasonal vagaries, we can do a lot to prevent our hair from becoming dry and brittle during the season. Here are a few tips to keep you in good stead.

-It is best to avoid hair colouring and ironing during the season. However, if that is next to impossible, at least avoid shampooing during the season.

-Massage the scalp using hot oil. You can either use coconut oil or olive oil for best results

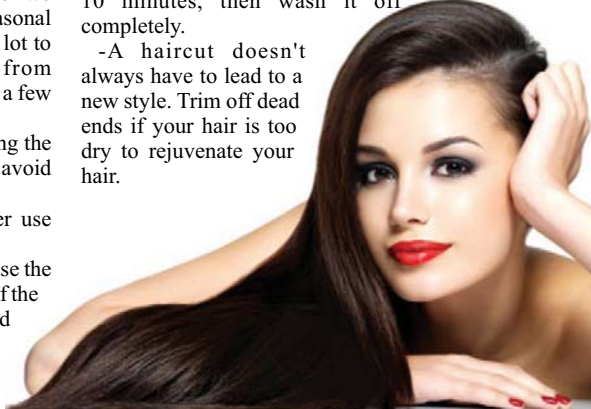
-Do not wash your hair in hot water as it can increase the dryness of the scalp, resulting in flaking and scaling of the skin of the scalp. Use lukewarm water instead and shampoo hair only once or twice a week.

-Use a shampoo and a separate hair conditioner. And leave the conditioner on the tip of the hair

avoiding the roots for at least 10 to 15 minutes to moisturise the hair and prevent hair fall.

-The stretch apart, beer is a great hair conditioner and so is coconut milk. For a protein packed conditioner, mix eggs and yogurt and rub it into your scalp. Leave on for five or 10 minutes, then wash it off completely.

-A haircut doesn't always have to lead to a new style. Trim off dead ends if your hair is too dry to rejuvenate your hair.



There are times when we are in a rush or just too exhausted to go through elaborate beauty rituals. While taking the easy way out is okay at times, certain shortcuts are better avoided.

Styling wet hair with heat:

You have just shampooed hair and exactly ten minutes if you want to make it to work on time. You grab your blow-dryer, straightening iron or curling tongs and try to style your hair to look presentable. Problem solved? Wrong. You might think you are speeding up the drying process what you are instead doing is sapping your hair off moisture and turning it into a frizzy mess.

Makeup on makeup

You have

No shortcuts to beauty

a date right after work but have had absolutely no time to prettify yourself so you merely add some more makeup on the makeup that you did earlier in the day? Terrible idea. Adding foundation on your existing foundation will make your face look loaded with makeup. It

will clog pores and invite a pimple or two.

Not washing brushes

When was the last time you gave your beauty tools a thorough clean up? Makeup brushes and other tools are breeding grounds for bacteria. Product build up can worsen the situation if you don't clean them regularly. Cleaning your tools is as important as disposing off old



Do all this for gorgeous

hair

Another bad hair day? A glorious crown of healthy hair can really make or break your entire look. Here are some simple points that when adhered to, can make your hair healthier.

A dermatologist says, "Biotin (vitamin H) consumed daily in 10mg dosage is good for hair and nail." The expert however, adds that it is better to get individual problems tackled by professionals — for example, dry, frizzy hair can be a sign of hormonal imbalance or thyroid

deficiency or due to malnutrition or protein deficiency. Correction of the cause works well. When

your hair is dry and frizzy, a once-a-week hot oil massage followed with a normal shampoo and conditioner can help. Avoid too much colouring, perming and other chemical treatments for a few weeks. Our expert adds, "Use a zinc pyrithione and ketoconazole containing shampoo once a week. If the scalp is too itchy, use sebowash shampoo once a week for few washes."

Home-made hair masks and simple tips like avoiding blowdrying on high heat

Make this simple hair mask at home

- Take half a cup of fenugreek (methi) seeds.

- Soak it in two-and-a-half

cup of water overnight.

- Now take the soaked

methi seeds and put it in a mixer-grinder jar. Add some water and grind till smooth.

- Now apply this methi paste on your scalp.

- Leave it on for a while and

then wash off.

While shampooing your hair...

Make sure that you concentrate on cleansing the scalp, so, gentle but firm fingers should massage the scalp along with the lather. After washing, apply a creamy conditioner. Coat every section of your hair and then wash off properly.

Avoid

- Heat-styling your hair or using irons and hot curlers. Let your hair dry naturally.

- Products like some hair styling gels that contain alcohol.

- Using unclean accessories. Keep your combs and brushes clean always.

- Washing your hair with harsh shampoos too often.

Tip

After a tiring day we usually tend to crash as soon as we reach home. Experts say it is ideal to tie your hair before you go to bed, especially if you have long hair. Tie it up in a loose braid or two plaits. Braided hair will remain better protected while you are asleep.

Massage your scalp with oil

- Oiling your hair regularly will make a difference to the quality of your hair, say experts. Massage the oil into the scalp in slow gentle movements.

- Olive, jojoba, almond or coconut oil infused with herbs that help enhance its properties, can provide the scalp some nutrition.

- A nice head massage also promotes sleep and you wake up refreshed and raring to go the next day. - When you are

oiling your hair, you should also apply a little to the ends.

Losing hair?

You need:

Half a cup of methi seeds
500 ml pure coconut oil
And a lot of sunlight

Method:

- Soak methi or fenugreek seeds in coconut oil in a glass jar and leave it out under the direct rays of the sun, everyday, for a week.

- This oil when massaged into to your scalp thrice a week can prevent hair loss.

How to make your coconut oil better

Take a double boiler (a heat-proof dish placed over boiling water) and put in 500 ml of coconut oil. Add dried hibiscus leaves and flowers, a few pieces of dried amla, Maha Bhringaraj leaves (these are available at Ayurvedic stores) and let the oil melt. You can add flavouring ingredients like rose, lavender, camomile also. Do not boil it for long. Once heated, let the oil sit for a day or two and your infused oil is ready.



While we often stress out about our sartorial transitions — from formal work wear to chic party wear — we seldom realise that a make-up transition is just as important.

Your day look may be appropriate for boardroom meetings but it wouldn't suffice once the sun goes down. And transforming your look can be quite an effort if you have to take off all that make-up and start from scratch. Here's how a few make-up tricks can turn your simple day look into something more striking, just within minutes.

Says make-up expert Kapil Bhalla, "The trick to a successful make-up transition is making sure you keep your day look as minimalistic as possible, so that it's easier to work on later, with least amount of changes." Your day look should act as a base for whatever you want to apply at night — for example, use a light eye shadow during the day, which can be developed later by adding new dimensions with darker shades.

To begin, go with a simplistic day-time look that will be appropriate for office — a tinted sunscreen and no foundation to let your skin breathe; a touch of eyeliner just to define your eyes and a tinted lip balm to keep your lips supple all through the day.

Now, just as you are about to step out of your sedentary domain, here is what you need to do for an elegant and fast transition:

Quick cleanse

Start by removing traces of tiredness that a whole day's work may have left on your face. Says Sufiyan Kapadia, beauty expert, Clere and BenNye, "Since there is no time to do the whole cleansing-toning-moisturising routine, use a blotting paper to clean out impurities, dirt and oil residues from your skin." Make sure your dab it gently all over your face, neck and other exposed areas. Alternately, use alcohol-free baby wipes as they are gentle on your skin.

Glam up your eyes

Your eyes will be the focus of your entire look at any evening party. Therefore, for a sultry night-time look, use a darker shade of your day eye shadow or apply extra coats of the same. You could also try a metallic eye shadow to enhance your eyes — the colours of the season are purple, navy blue, silver or platinum. If you have enough time, outline your eyes with a white or silver eye pencil to hide the tiredness. Now, contour your eyes with a gel-based eyeliner. If you want a rather dramatic effect, instead of using mascara, go with a set of false eyelashes. They are easy to apply, don't result in clumps and are flirty too!

Skip the blush

You don't need as much blush at night as you do during the day. Since you have been up all day, your blood circulation is working well, therefore your face will already have a rosy tinge. Instead of adding more to it and giving your face a flushed red appearance, skip the blush. Says Sushma Khan, national trainer, make-up, Lakme Salon, "Experiment with sparkles instead, as it is hassle free and quite effective for a nightclub look. Use a shimmer powder to highlight your cheekbones, chin, forehead and neck. If you're going to show some skin around your shoulders, collar bone or cleavage area, don't forget to add some to those parts too."

Go with bright lips

To make your pout look glam, go with a lip colour that's a few shades darker than your natural lip colour. Top it off with a high-shine lip gloss to add a little extra something you need for the night. Bold and fun colours are in vogue and are easy to pull off especially when you are pressed for time. Try the trusted hot pink lip shade — one added advantage is that it makes your teeth look extra white! However, skip the gloss if you are going with hot pink.

Quick make-up fixes

Just five minutes in hand to prep for a girls' night out at the club? Here is what you can do to spruce up your office look.

What you need: A dark brown shade lipstick, a black gel-based eyeliner, a volumising mascara, a nude shade

Make-up transitions to go from day to night



concealer stick, a nude compact, a peach blush, a coral lipstick, moisturising lip balm, a bronzer or a gold highlighter.

Face: Bronze the T-zone and camouflage the dark circles
Time investment: 2 minutes

How to:

Use a wet wipe to remove oil that may have accumulated over the day.

Use a concealer stick as a quick make-up base, especially under your eyes. Mix a bit of shimmer in the concealer and apply at the under-eye bag area. This will make you look vibrant, well-rested and ready for fun.

Brush on some compact to smoothen the look. Finish off with a mild coat of bronzer on your T-zone to get a reflective dewy look.

Eyes: Go with the smudged-smokey look

Time investment: 2 minutes

How to:

Close your eyes and apply a thick coat of the dark brown lipstick on your eyelids, along the bulge of your eyeball. Use your fingertips to smudge the surface, thus blending the colour in.

Contour your eyes with the gel eyeliner — avoid winged or block-edged as it will take the focus away from the smokey effect. Apply two coats of a volumising mascara.

Finally, blend in some nude concealer at the bulge of your eye, outwards, till you reach the brow bone. This will hide the sharp colour edges.

Lips: "Coral lip colour not only complements Indian complexion, but is also suitable for both the day and night," says Bhalla.

Time investment: 1 minute

How to:

Apply a thick coat of quick absorb moisturising lip balm. Then apply two coats of the lipstick. Avoid contouring lips when you're in a hurry.

Skin care is a tricky area. Your skin needs nourishment and care if you want it to look radiant and healthy.

And with advances in medical science, you can greatly delay the signs of ageing. Here are some skin facts and myths that you should be aware of...

- Teens wanting blemish-free skin and fairness with over-the-counter (OTC) products advertised by film stars must identify the need for using these products. Radiant and lustrous hair cannot be achieved using OTC products. Consult a dermatologist - use the products they give instead of fancy OTC products whose unsupervised, prolonged usage can lead to hyper-pigmentation.

- The young woman just out of her teens blessed with good hair and healthy skin needs to pay attention to what she eats, make sure she gets adequate sleep (seven to eight hours), exercise regularly and avoid taking stress. She must cleanse properly, moisturise and use an effective sunscreen.

- What you put in your mouth is more important than what you put on your skin! If your core is healthy, it will show on your face. Have a diet rich with Vitamin A and antioxidants, lots of coloured fruits and vegetables. Regular exercise improves circulation and blood supply, and flushes out toxins.

- Bad hair days exist. The weather can wreak havoc on your hair. Dry weather can make your hair frizzy, humidity can make it limp, stress can turn it oily. Products and treatments that don't agree with you will also give you bad hair. So use only what suits you.

- Stress increases cortisol levels and this over-activity of the oil gland will make one prone to breakouts. Psychological problems can lead to acne.

- Most skin problems if identified and treated early can be reversible. - The ageing process depends on the genes, but in a woman, it

is any time between the mid 20s to late 30s. - If you get adequate sleep (the skin repairs and rejuvenates itself when we're asleep), eat the right diet, stay active and keep yourself hydrated, you won't regret it. Water retains moisture in the skin making it glow. Decrease stress levels and know your skin type (oily, dry, a combination, sensitive or mature skin) and use products accordingly. Sunscreen will avoid blotchiness and dullness. Exfoliate your skin at least once a week. This will remove dead skin and help the moisturiser absorb better. - Men shouldn't shy away from approaching dermatologists for skin problems. Men have an added skin advantage - because shaving daily is an excellent exfoliating process. - All commercially sold beauty products are not harmful. If made well and prescribed for a valid reason by an expert, they are beneficial; but certainly not when self-prescribed. - Continuous and long-term use of makeup does not damage the natural oils and texture of the skin as long as the makeup is of good quality, applied correctly, suitable for your skin type and removed properly. - Botox, fillers, wrinkle erasers, skin tightening machines, laser and mild non-invasive treatments are a boon. - Women in their 20s want fairer skin. A woman in her 30s fears blotchy and dehydrated skin, pigmentation etc. By the time she is 40, she fears lines, crow's feet, creases, deeper folds, wrinkles and sagging skin. Women in their 20s and 30s can start with microdermabrasion non-chemical peels, which remove dead, outer skin layers and delay the ageing

Skin facts you should know

process. As a woman ages, her dermatologist can tell her what she needs and doesn't. A woman in her 40s may need to get rid of wrinkles and folds near her nose and mouth and can opt for fillers and skin tightening. A woman in her 50s can go in for laser rejuvenation. This can erase 10 years off her face. -

external as well as internal skin problems - something that a cosmetologist can't do. The skin is a mirror of one's internal system. It can indicate more problems than just advancing age. - Botox does not harm the body. What is injected is a purified toxin. It relaxes the muscle where it is injected and is an excellent treatment for lines, creases, wrinkles, crow's feet etc. - It is never too late to salvage your skin. There are several non-invasive treatments like chemical peels and hydra dermabrasion which rejuvenate the skin. Non-abrasive skin tightening machines can also help a great deal. - The world has become a smaller place, and is constantly brimming with great advances in medical science. Indian dermatologists update themselves by attending international conferences and undergoing constant training. The same



Dermatology and cosmetology are not the same. A dermatologist has done an in-depth study of skin, skin care and its problems. A cosmetologist is an expert on cosmetic procedures. A dermatologist can treat

treatments available in New York can be availed at a clinic in India. Increasingly, people are starting to prefer undergoing these treatments here in India instead of heading out abroad.

From Metro rides to jazz: How 2 IIT researchers are reimaging Delhi transit

An Instagram page, then community rides and a website dedicated to Delhi Metro --- two researchers from IIT have got creative for a cause.

Delhi. (Agency)

Delhi does not have to be a city where owning a car is the preferred option for daily commute. This is the idea that drove Atishay Khanna, 27, and Adwitiya Pramanik, 23, researchers at the Transportation Research and Injury Prevention (TRIP) Centre at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) in Delhi to grow a community for encouraging the use of public transport. A multifaceted approach has helped them bring their vision to life.

It started with the creation of an Instagram page – Ministry of All Public Transport Ever. This platform then helped them get in touch with like-minded enthusiasts and organise weekend gatherings to go beyond conversations and create an experience during Metro and bus rides. The latest trip that they organised with a group was on August 29. They called it the “RRTS Tour” on Namoh Bharat, said to be India’s fastest

rapid transit and regional train system.

“We did not want to just promote the idea that RRTS is a perfect solution,” Khanna says, and adds, “We just wanted to talk about who the system is actually accessible to, who benefits, and what happens to the people who still have to depend on cheaper, slower modes of transport while a faster alternative is out of reach.” Bonding over trivia, experiences

Playing transit trivia is what many in these groups have bonded over during these community gatherings over the weeks. For some participants like Suryaansh Chopra, a 21-year-old B Com graduate, these gatherings have been “full of zeal and warmth”. “I have this newfound passion for accessibility and affordability of public transport,” he shares,

adding that friends now get “tired” of him narrating random bus routes he spots on the street. For others, the experience holds a



deeper meaning. No erasure — the promise that the duo made in one of the posts was what drew a 26-year-old participant to a Pride-themed ride in June. He was hesitant at first but then he met a non-binary rider who

spoke about the anxiety of being frisked while commuting, leading to a conversation about how public transit intersects with identity in ways that rarely make it into policy conversations. “Being bisexual, I have not been welcomed for pride events. Such gatherings helped bring my queerness and love of public transit together without friction,” he shares. Aindri Dasgupta, 22, another participant, who is pursuing Masters in Sociology, points to the Delhi Metro’s affordability and its provisions for disabled and elderly riders to ensure inclusivity. She describes the women’s compartment, in particular, as a rare space where she can let her guards down. “It is hard to instantly change the patriarchal system... but spaces like these are safe spaces.”

No curtains, no unauthorised stops: Delhi government’s new order over bus safety

Delhi. (Agency)

Days after a 17-year-old girl was raped on a moving bus enroute Delhi from Greater Noida, the Delhi government on Tuesday ordered bus operators to implement safety measures, including GPS trackers, panic buttons. According to the Delhi Transport department’s order, no buses should have curtains or tinted glass.

The order also prohibited stopping at unsafe or unauthorised locations, particularly in the middle of the road or at intersections. It also directs bus operators to



sensitise drivers, conductors and other crew members about preventing harassment and the serious consequences of any misconduct against women passengers. The development comes after a Class 11 student from Mainpuri in Uttar Pradesh was allegedly raped on a sleeper bus that travelled nearly 47 km from Greater Noida to Old Delhi’s Kashmere Gate without being checked at a single police picket.

‘You funded Red Fort blast’: Fake NIA officers put Delhi couple under 7-day digital arrest

Delhi. (Agency)

On November 23 last year, a 74-year-old retired Indian Railways employee was getting ready to attend a relative’s wedding when he received a call around 4 pm. “We are from the NIA (National Investigative Agency),” the caller said.

“It has been found that you were funding the Red Fort attack. Your account was used to fund the



terrorists,” said the caller, according to the Delhi Police. The man was shocked. Just 10 days earlier, on November 10, a car blast at the historic fort had killed 13 people. But the caller was not from the NIA. He was a cyber fraudster. Over the next seven days, police said, the elderly man and his wife were subjected to digital arrest and were eventually duped of Rs 30 lakh — their savings.

Police have since recovered Rs 12 lakh and arrested one of the accused in the case. They said the case shows how cyber fraudsters are increasingly using high-profile criminal cases, fake notices and the threat of arrest to make their targets believe they are caught up in a police investigation.

‘You are under investigation’

A police officer said that after the Red Fort blasts, the incident became a new ‘panic button’ for digital scammers to scare victims. “They will call them and tell them that they are named in the blast. It was a much more believable thing to sell victims since the incident was recent and its investigation was in the news,” says a police officer.

Delhi stockbroker killed: Niece, 3 others came for Rs 80 lakh — found much less

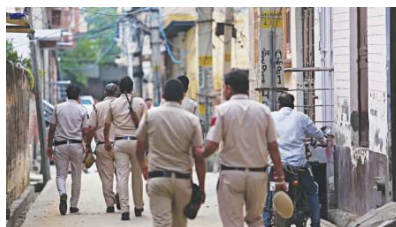
Police said the victim’s niece knew of the deal and allegedly hatched a plan with three others to make off with the money.

Delhi. (Agency)

Stock broker Rajesh Khanna, 60, had recently come into money after selling a flat for Rs 80 lakh. Everyone in his family knew about the deal, including his niece, Simran Taneja.

Police said the 23-year-old primary school teacher allegedly saw an opportunity. They said she roped in three others, including a friend who owned a gym, to execute the plan. On Tuesday night, police said, they went to Khanna’s Rohini home

expecting to walk away with Rs 80 lakh. Instead, they found just Rs 1 lakh and some jewellery. By the time Khanna’s wife returned from grocery shopping, Khanna was dead — he had allegedly been smothered — and the four had fled with the cash and jewellery. Police



arrested them in the early hours of Wednesday. The plan

According to police, Khanna lived in a two-floor building in G Block, Sector 3, Rohini, with his wife.

“Khanna had recently sold a flat for

about Rs 80 lakh; everyone in his extended family knew about it, including Simran,” said a senior police officer. On August 30, police said, Simran called her friend, Himanshu, the owner of Baba Gym, where she worked out. “She told him about the sale and claimed that Rs 80 lakh was lying in the couple’s house. Himanshu then called a trainer at his gym, Chirag, 22. The three went to receive the house,” said DCP (Rohini) Shashank Jaiswal.

After chalking out the in and outs of the building, the trio allegedly hatched a plan: they would rob the house on September 1, around 8 pm, when Khanna’s wife would go out for daily grocery shopping. Police said they then brought in a fourth person, 19-year-old Paras, to help execute the plan.

Ankit Balyan murder: Jailed Gogi gang boss under UP Police scanner

Delhi. (Agency)

The murder of Haryanvi singer Ankit Balyan in Shamli has led the Uttar Pradesh Police to probe a possible link with the Gogi gang, with investigators examining whether jailed gangster Rohit Rana alias Rohit Moi — who handles operations of Gogi gang in the Capital — directed gangster Rahul alias Bholu Shahpuriya to target the singer. The Indian Express has learnt. The probe follows a purported social media post claiming responsibility for the killing in the name of Shahpuriya, who is originally from Sonapat in Haryana. The UP Police, however, has so far not claimed that the singer had any association with any gangster group. Balyan was shot dead outside a gym in

Shamli last Wednesday. On Monday, two alleged shooters — Sumit and Mohit, both from Sonapat — were killed in an encounter with the UP Police. According to sources in the police, four



shooters were involved in Balyan’s murder and that they were acting on Shahpuriya’s instructions.

The UP Police is now trying to trace the other two alleged shooters and Shahpuriya, who is believed to be

abroad and operating with the help of his brother in Canada. Haryana Police has announced a reward of Rs 50,000 for information leading to his arrest.

Two jailed gangsters to be quizzed

Sources said the UP Police may question Moi, who is lodged in Tihar Jail, in connection with the case. Another gangster Rakesh, who is also a member of the Gogi gang and a close associate of Rohit Moi, could also be questioned by the UP Police. Rakesh is currently lodged in Haryana’s Karnal Jail.

Bholu has more than 12 cases, including murder, attempt to murder and extortion, registered against him in Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Delhi, said a source.

‘Made to stand for 4 hours’: Faridabad teen ‘dies by suicide’ at school

Delhi. (Agency)

A 16-year-old student allegedly died by suicide after jumping from the third-floor terrace of a private school in Faridabad’s NIT area on Tuesday afternoon. Her family has alleged that she was made to stand outside her classroom for nearly four hours, as punishment, before the incident. School authorities have denied the allegations, a police spokesperson said.

According to police officers, the incident occurred between 1-1.30 pm, around the time classes concluded for the day. School staff rushed the student, studying in Class XI, to a local healthcare facility, following which she was moved to the district civil hospital, where doctors declared her dead on arrival due to injuries sustained in the fall.

‘She was unfairly disciplined’

The teenager’s father told the police that she was allegedly subjected to punishment during school hours, which left her deeply distressed.

Speaking to reporters, he claimed that a dispute had occurred among some students earlier in the day and that his daughter had been unfairly disciplined. He alleged she was made to stand outside the classroom for nearly four hours. “She was doing well in her studies. Her behaviour was completely normal when she left for school in the morning. She felt humiliated by the punishment,” he told mediapersons Tuesday. He claimed that the family was alerted to the incident only after a significant delay.

School denies claims

The school, however, strongly refuted the allegations of mistreatment and the four-hour punishment before the police, senior officials said. According to police, the school principal stated that the student had asked for permission to use the washroom and was accompanied by a female staff member. But she went towards the terrace and jumped before anyone could intervene, it claimed. The management added that it is fully cooperating with the authorities in the ongoing probe.

Free solar panels for Delhi homes using 400 units of power

Delhi. (Agency)

Delhi households with an average monthly electricity consumption of up to 400 units will now be able to get rooftop solar systems of up to 3 kW installed without any upfront cost.

This is among key provisions of the amended Solar Policy announced by the Delhi government on Tuesday, which is part of a push to make rooftop panels more affordable to residents. The policy had been notified in March 2024 with the stated aim of increasing the city’s installed rooftop solar capacity to 750 MW (mega watt). According to government figures, 10,073 solar systems have been installed in Delhi, a bulk of which are on government buildings. The biggest hurdle identified has been the high upfront cost of installation, which can go up to Rs 2 lakh for larger systems. On Tuesday, Chief Minister Rekha Gupta announced a target of installing solar systems on 2.3 lakh rooftops, and of adding 500 MW of

additional rooftop solar capacity under the policy by March 2027. Zero upfront cost for 3 kW rooftop system Among the key components of this push announced is that eligible domestic consumers with average monthly electricity consumption of up to 400 units will be provided rooftop solar systems of up to 3 kW at zero upfront cost, subject to technical feasibility.

The Central government’s Rs 78,000 subsidy will be supplemented by a capital subsidy of Rs 78,000 by the Delhi government, along with an additional top up by the Delhi government to cover the difference between the subsidy and the tendered cost of the solar plant. Free maintenance for five years

Gupta also announced that the system installed by the government will be mandatorily operated and maintained by the vendor concerned for five years.

“There was a capital constraint for households. People found it difficult to make such a huge payment upfront. The second is that incentives we used to give would be made in installments later after



installation, which we have now moved upfront to the time of installation. People would also find operation and maintenance difficult. Now for five years, our vendor will operate and maintain it,” she said. After this period, consumers will

be able to opt for maintenance and insurance facilities through electricity distribution companies as per their choice, the government has stated. It has stated that eligible consumers will continue to receive the existing electricity subsidy — free electricity for monthly consumption of up to 200 units and a 50% subsidy for those using 201 to 400 units — and export their surplus solar generated electricity to the grid.

A 3 kW solar system is estimated to generate around 300 units of electricity, and consumers who export the surplus to the grid will be paid at the average power purchase cost of Discom. It has stated that eligible consumers will continue to receive the existing electricity subsidy — free electricity for monthly consumption of up to 200 units and a 50% subsidy for those using 201 to 400 units — and export their surplus solar generated electricity to the grid.

The Rs 6-cr Subhash Chandra plan was never the real issue. Now there isn't even an order

New Delhi. (Agency)

On September 1, 2026, a five-member bench of the National Company Law Tribunal stayed the order the country had spent a week doing arithmetic on. It held that no clear majority view existed, issued a notice to every party, said it would hear the matter afresh, and restrained Subhash Chandra Goenka from alienating any property, directly or indirectly. Read that last direction again. Seven years after the Essel group's defaults began and four years after this guarantee was invoked, the first enforceable restriction on this guarantor's ability to move assets came from a tribunal, on its own motion, at an interim stage in a contested proceeding.It did not come from a loan covenant. There was no loan covenant. That is the whole argument of this piece, delivered by the record itself.

THE NUMBERS BRIEFLY

On August 25, a third member of the tribunal approved a repayment plan setting aside Rs 6.25 crore for creditors and Rs 25 lakh towards the cost of the process, against admitted claims of roughly Rs 22,006.57 crore. Within hours the commentary had written itself. A 99.97 per cent haircut. Two and a half paise in the rupee.Alongside it sat a second number. Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) data as of June 2026 shows about Rs 234.56 crore recovered across 64 concluded resolutions of personal guarantors since the chapter was notified in FY20, against total guarantor debt of roughly Rs 2.86 lakh crore as of December 2025.

ICICI Bank raises \$17.88 billion under RBI's FCNR(B) swap facility

New Delhi. (Agency)

ICICI Bank has mobilised about \$17.88 billion through foreign currency non-resident (FCNR-B) deposits under the Reserve Bank of India's special dollar-rupee swap facility, the lender said in an exchange filing on Wednesday. Of the funds mobilised, loans provided by the bank's international branches and subsidiaries against such deposits amounted to about \$9 billion, while standby letters of credit issued by the bank to other lenders against loans backed by such deposits stood at about \$3.63 billion, it added.However, reports claim that over \$100 billion have been mobilised via RBI's dollar deposit scheme.In addition, ICICI Bank said it had issued an aggregate \$3.55 billion of US dollar-denominated bonds during July and August 2026.The disclosures come after the RBI's special USD-INR forex swap facility for FCNR(B) deposits, external commercial borrowings and overseas foreign currency borrowings closed for FCNR(B) deposits on August 31.

The RBI had introduced the facility on June 8 to boost foreign exchange inflows amid pressure on the rupee. Moreover, authorised dealer banks had mobilised \$72.848 billion in forex inflows under the scheme as of August 21, according to the central bank with FCNR(B) deposits accounting for \$65.397 billion.While ECB and OFCB inflows under the facility contributed another \$7.451 billion as of August 21. The facility for ECBs and OFCBs remains open until December 31, 2026.

The government had said in August that the scheme had generated a surge in foreign exchange inflows and described it as the largest and fastest foreign-currency mobilisation exercise undertaken by India, surpassing the scale of the 2013 FCNR(B) swap scheme.

Nirmala Sitharaman meets IMF, World Bank chiefs; discusses growth outlook, deepening cooperation

New Delhi. (Agency)

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has met IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva and discussed the global economic outlook and India's evolving growth trajectory.She has also met World Bank President Ajay Banga and discussed further strengthening the partnership between India and the international finance institution to deepen corporate, infrastructure and municipal bond markets.Sitharaman met both of them on the sidelines of the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) Meeting, in Asheville, on Tuesday.After the meeting with Georgieva, the Finance Ministry said in a statement, "The discussion also covered the structural shifts underway in India and the importance of appropriately reflecting these developments in macroeconomic assessments and growth projections".It said, the two leaders discussed the global economic outlook and India's evolving growth trajectory."Excellent exchange of views with India's Finance Minister @nsitharaman - reflecting on India's stellar growth performance, the global outlook, and our shared resolve to work ever-more-closely together," Georgieva said in a post on X.The IMF Managing Director appreciated India's strong economic performance and track record, noting the strength built by the IndiaThe Finance Minister highlighted India's strong macroeconomic fundamentals and the importance of robust, evidence-based surveillance frameworks that adequately reflect structural shifts in Emerging Markets Developing Economies (EMDEs).n economy, the Finance Ministry statement said.

Sunny side down: Egg inflation leaves households scrambling, survey finds

The survey based on more than 67,000 responses from household consumers across 287 districts, found that 62% of respondents reported that egg prices had risen by 10-50% or more in the past six months.

New Delhi. (Agency)

An egg used to be one of the easiest ways for Indian families to add some protein to a meal without stretching the household budget. That equation is changing. As egg prices have climbed sharply over the past six months, households are responding in a way that is already showing up on the breakfast table — buying fewer eggs, buying them less

often or looking for cheaper sources.A new survey by LocalCircles, based on more than 67,000 responses from household consumers across 287 districts, found that 62% of respondents reported a 10-50% or more increase in egg prices over the past six months.Nearly half, or 48%, said they had reduced either the quantity or frequency of their egg purchases.The survey also found that 10% had switched to cheaper alternatives or sources, suggesting that rising egg prices are beginning to change not just how much households buy, but where they buy from.

THE EGG PRICE SHOCK

The increase appears to have been widespread. Among 21,469 respondents asked how much egg prices had risen for their household, 31% reported an increase of 10-25%, while another 31% said prices had gone up by 25-50%. Another 22%

reported an increase of up to 10%, while 16% could not estimate the rise.That means 84% of respondents reported some increase in egg prices, while 62% saw an



increase of 10-50%. Not a single respondent said prices had remained unchanged.The increase is also visible further up the supply chain. Ex-farm egg prices have risen to around Rs 7 per egg, from roughly Rs 4.94 a year earlier, according to the survey report. Retail prices in many markets are now around

Rs 8.50-9 per egg, while some online platforms have seen prices approach Rs 14.That works out to a rise of roughly 35-40% in a year at the farm gate.

EGGS VS ETHANOL

A large part of the pressure starts with what chickens eat. Feed accounts for around 65-70% of the cost of producing an egg, according to the report. Maize makes up roughly 50-55% of poultry feed and has become significantly more expensive, rising to around Rs 26,500 per tonne from about Rs 14,000 three years ago.Soybean meal has climbed to around Rs 65,000 per tonne from Rs 40,000, while de-oiled rice bran has risen to Rs 22,000 from Rs 12,000. Overall, poultry feed costs in July 2026 were 15% higher than a year earlier.The report also points to the growing use of maize for ethanol production. Maize supplied to distilleries rose from 8.3 lakh tonnes in 2022-23 to 125.75 lakh tonnes in 2024-25.

Sensex, Nifty fall nearly 1% as crude oil surge triggers risk-off mood

New Delhi. (Agency)

Equity markets came under heavy selling pressure in early trade on Wednesday as renewed tensions in the Middle East pushed crude oil prices higher and raised concerns about inflation and interest rates. The escalation came after the US and Iran exchanged strikes overnight, adding to worries over the impact of higher oil prices on global inflation.At 9:33 am, the BS Sensex was down 612.09 points, or 0.80%, at 76,332.19. The index opened at 76,471.32 against Tuesday's close of 76,944.28 and moved between an early high of 76,521.67 and a low of

76,135.72.The Nifty 50 was down 228.45 points, or 0.95%, at 23,827.35. It opened at 23,858, touched an early high of 23,882.95 and a low of 23,786.80.The sell-off was broad-based, with all major sectoral indices in the red. Nifty Auto was the worst-performing sectoral index, falling 2.03%, followed by Nifty Realty, which declined 1.88%. Nifty IT fell 1.62%, while Nifty Media lost 1.44%. Nifty Financial Services declined 1.03%, Nifty FMCG fell 0.92%, Nifty Metal declined 0.95% and Nifty Oil & Gas was down 0.67%.Nifty Pharma was relatively resilient, falling 0.28%, while Nifty Healthcare declined

0.31%. Nifty Private Bank fell 0.64% and Nifty PSU Bank declined 0.51%.The broader market was also under pressure. Nifty 100 fell 1%, Nifty 200 declined 1.04% and Nifty 500 dropped 1.02%. Nifty Midcap 50 fell 1.23%, while Nifty Midcap 100 declined 1.20%. Nifty Smallcap 100 was down 0.85%. India VIX, the market's fear gauge, rose 4% to 11.95, pointing to increased volatility.Among Sensex stocks, Sun Pharma was the top gainer, rising 0.49%, while Adani Ports gained 0.09%. Kotak Mahindra Bank, Power Grid, ICICI Bank and Larsen & Toubro were among the stocks trading lower.

Taiwan chip industry sees revenue soaring 40% in 2026 despite headwinds

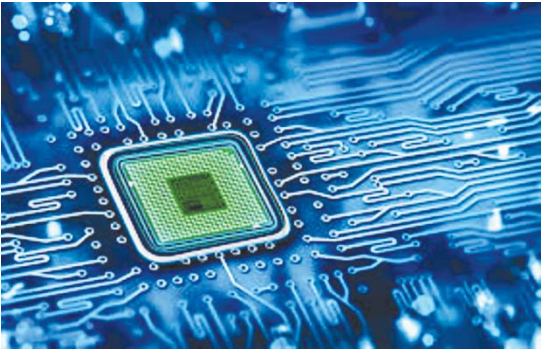
TAIPEI. (Agency)

Revenue from Taiwan's semiconductor chip sector is expected to soar 40 per cent this year, a top industry official said Wednesday, driven by skyrocketing demand for artificial intelligence technology.

The island is a global powerhouse in the manufacturing of chips that are used in everything from smartphones to electric vehicles, with nearly all of the most advanced ones made there.Taiwan's dominance of the critical sector has been a source of friction with the United States, with President Donald Trump accusing it of stealing the American chip industry and pressuring Taiwanese companies to build more on US soil.

"We are in a new era of the semiconductor industry from a technology point of view," Wu Chih-i, president of the Taiwan Semiconductor Industry Association, said at the opening of the SEMICON expo in Taipei, noting AI has pushed the development of new technology.

"This year Taiwan's semiconductor industry performs even better. Our total revenue is projected to be close to US\$300 billion. That's more than 40 percent growth over last year," Wu said.However, he added that energy supply, talent and cyber security were "becoming more critical" for the industry and "no single country" could dominate the chip supply chain."Continuous progress will require even closer semiconductor collaboration between many countries," Wu said.Governments and



tech giants are pouring billions into building data centres that can train and run AI tools such as chatbots, image generators and agents that can execute tasks.This has turbocharged earnings of companies such as Taiwanese chip giant TSMC and driven global stock markets to all-time highs this year.But there are concerns over when that investment will see a return, and warnings that company valuations have gone too far.This would be the decade of AI, said Ajit Manocha, the head of SEMI, a global industry association for chip design and manufacturing supply chain.But Manocha noted that the world was in the "early innings" and there would be "a lot more challenges" with the technology.

"It's not going to be a straight line," Manocha told SEMICON.

TCS to take over Best Buy India GCC: Inside the deal with US' largest consumer electronics retailer

The deal between TCS and Best Buy, estimated at around Rs 2,000 crore, comes after TCS emerged ahead of Accenture in the final stage of the selection process.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has won a five-year technology services mandate for Best Buy's India global capability centre (GCC), strengthening its relationship with the US-based consumer electronics retailer and expanding its role across data, analytics and artificial intelligence, reported Times of India.The deal, estimated at around Rs 2,000 crore, comes after TCS emerged ahead of Accenture in the final

stage of the selection process, according to the report. Wipro was also understood to have been part of the initial shortlist. Best Buy is the largest consumer electronics specialty retailer in the United States. Its India operations are becoming increasingly important as the company invests in digital commerce and technologies such as AI.

WHAT DOES THE TCS – BEST BUY DEAL INCLUDE?

Best Buy had floated a request for proposal (RFP) for a technology services engagement covering its India GCC operations.TCS won the mandate on the back of competitive pricing, aggressive service-level agreements (SLAs) and productivity benefits, according to people familiar with the matter cited in the report.The five-year deal covers Best Buy's India GCC operations as well as a broader technology services engagement. The scope includes areas such as data, analytics and AI.Best Buy's India GCC,

located in Bengaluru, has around 600 employees. The estimated Rs 2,000-crore value



covers the GCC operations and the broader technology services offering. The companies themselves had not publicly disclosed the value of the contract. Emails sent to TCS, Accenture, Wipro and Best Buy seeking comments had not received a response at the time of the report.The new mandate is expected to deepen TCS's existing relationship with Best Buy.TCS already works with the retailer on technology services and

digital transformation. Phil Fersht, CEO of HFS Research, estimated the existing TCS relationship with Best Buy at \$75 million-\$100 million in annual revenue, while noting that there is no publicly disclosed contract value.

The latest deal would therefore give TCS a broader role in supporting Best Buy's technology operations in India.

It also comes at a time when Best Buy is placing greater emphasis on AI and digital commerce, areas that are increasingly central to its technology strategy.Best Buy established a 70,000-square-foot technology centre in Bengaluru in 2024 to accelerate its digital transformation.The centre was designed as an innovation hub covering digital strategy, product management, design, engineering, infrastructure and operations.The retailer had said it intended to make the India hub a key centre for innovation around mobile and AI platforms and planned to build and expand teams in those areas.

Elphinstone bridge reopening hits hurdle, pushed to 2027

Mumbai.(Agency)

A year after Mumbai lost its 112-year-old Elphinstone bridge, its replacement is still several months away, with the railway portion now targeted for completion only by November and the bridge unlikely to open to traffic before January-February 2027. The next major hurdle is the launch of four steel spans across the railway tracks, a process that will require at least 39 railway blocks over 25 days.

The reconstruction, being executed as part of the double-decker Elphinstone bridge-Sewri-Worli connector project, was initially expected to progress faster. MahaRail, which is handling the railway portion, is now assembling the spans at the site and hopes to begin launching them by the end of September, subject to the rains.

The four spans, all of which arrived in Mumbai on August 15, comprise two 92.5-metre and two 34.5-metre structures. The longer spans will carry the two carriageways over the railway tracks at Prabhadevi and Parel, while the shorter ones will provide space for future railway lines.

Of the 39 blocks, 32 will be required for launching and seven for preparatory work. Officials said these will largely be night-time corridor blocks, giving workers about 2.5 hours between the last and first trains. "Even if for whatever reason, due to the rains or later trains due to the festival season, we get shorter railway blocks, we will continue the work so that there is some progress," a MahaRail official said.

JDS workers face off with cops near Congress office in Bengaluru



Bengaluru.(Agency)

BENGALURU: JDS workers on Tuesday attempted to lay siege to the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) office on Queens Road in Bengaluru, demanding the resignation of Home Minister Priyank Kharge over alleged irregularities in the recruitment of assistant executive engineer (Grade-I) posts.

The protest was led by Greater Bengaluru JDS president HM Ramesh Gowda with former MLA Akhanda Srinivasamurthy and hundreds of party workers and leaders taking part. However, police stopped most of the protesters before they could reach the KPCC office.

Police put up barricades to prevent the protesters from entering the KPCC office, leading to heated arguments between the police and JDS workers. Tension escalated as protesters tried to push through the barricades. Police subsequently detained several leaders and workers.

The JDS workers condemned the government for attempting to suppress the protest. Speaking to the media, Ramesh Gowda alleged irregularities in KPSC recruitment and alleged that the government was supporting them.

GCC inks deal for 11 AC bus shelters

CHENNAI.(Agency)

Commuters waiting for buses at 11 busy locations in the city will soon have access to air-conditioned shelters equipped with drinking water, free Wi-Fi, charging points and accessible ramps. The Greater Chennai Corporation is introducing the shelters as a pilot project using CSR funds. Seven companies signed MoUs with the corporation on Tuesday in the presence of GCC Commissioner GS Sameeran and Greater Chennai Police Commissioner A Amalraj. Unlike conventional bus shelters, the facilities will have enclosed, air-conditioned waiting areas with toughened or laminated safety glass. All these shelters will have bus route information displays, CCTV cameras and panic buttons.

The 11 locations identified are DMS on Anna Salai, Mylapore Bus Stand, Jawaharlal Nehru Road in Vadapalani, Vijay Nagar Bus Terminus in Velachery, Vadapalani Bus Stand near SIMS Hospital (incoming), SIMS Hospital (outgoing), Little Mount, Guindy, Avichi School on Arcot Road, Alandur Metro and Egmore (north and south sides). In the first phase, agreements were signed with seven entities: Apollo Hospitals, Kauvery Hospital, Guru Nanak College, SIMS Hospital, Rohini Hotels, SRM Prime Hospital and Freyer International Logistics. The respective companies will construct, maintain the shelters and deploy a security guard at each facility. In return, they will be allowed to display advertisements at the shelters without paying charges to the corporation.

‘Hub-and-spoke’ flight ops start at Ahmedabad airport

As per the release, ‘hub and spoke’ is an airline operational system under which passengers from smaller cities (spokes) are brought to a major central airport (hub), where they are transferred to connecting international flights.

Ahmedabad.(Agency)

Ahmedabad became the third Indian city to be equipped with hub-and-spoke international flight services as the services were launched from Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport (SVPI) in the presence of Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel, Union Civil Aviation Minister K. Ram Mohan Naidu, Union Minister of State for Civil Aviation Murlidhar Mohol and others, said an official release Tuesday. The other two cities that offer the services are Amritsar and Varanasi, it added. As per the release, ‘hub and spoke’ is an airline operational system under which passengers from smaller cities (spokes) are brought to a major central airport (hub), where they are transferred to connecting international flights. Under this facility, all baggage, customs and immigration-related checks of passengers will be completed at the originating airport itself, eliminating the need for repeated security checks or check-in at the hub airport. Automated baggage transfer and

simplified procedures will save passengers’ time and reduce airlines’ operating costs. Quoting Naidu, the release stated, “The ‘hub and spoke’ model has been launched from Ahmedabad in line with the Prime Minister’s vision to take India’s civil aviation sector to new heights globally. Given Ahmedabad’s



global connectivity, Gujarat’s large NRI community and the needs of trade and industry, this model will play an important role.” He added, “The model will provide easier connectivity from Ahmedabad via Delhi to

around 15 international destinations. Passengers will be able to complete baggage checks and immigration procedures at Ahmedabad itself. They will not face the hassle of repeating these procedures while changing flights at Delhi.”

The Civil Aviation Minister also said, “In 2014, the country had 74 airports, which have now increased to more than 160. Over the next ten years, there are plans to develop another 100 airports with the expansion of the UDAN scheme. The civil aviation sector is emerging as an important means of driving the country’s economic growth, employment and trade and industrial development... The growing air connectivity of Ahmedabad will give new momentum to sectors including hospitality, tourism, textiles, pharmaceuticals, diamonds and gems, engineering, semiconductors and manufacturing. Initiatives such as the ‘UDAN Yatri Cafe’, airport library and digital boarding pass are also being undertaken to further enhance passenger convenience and experience.”

Acid attack case: Gujarat High Court grants interim relief to woman awarded 10-year sentence

Vadodara.(Agency)

Convicted this past July for launching an acid attack on a man, a woman has received interim relief from the Gujarat High Court, which suspended the 10-year sentence awarded to her for the time being, after observing that her identification was not “established by the prosecution beyond reasonable doubt”.

The HC was hearing an appeal filed by Mahezbinnanu Chhuvra against her conviction and granted the interim suspension of sentence pending final hearing in the appeal. Justice Vimal K Vyas passed the judgment in the interlocutory application on Monday, noting several prima facie gaps in the prosecution evidence, including the identification of the assailant, the CCTV footage and the failure to seize the clothes and gloves allegedly worn by the accused. In July, the Ahmedabad City Civil & Sessions Court convicted the 42-year-old woman for

launching an acid attack on the complainant, Rakesh Brahmabhatt (51), out of “malice and jealousy” after he allegedly ended their relationship. She was awarded 10 years of rigorous imprisonment and slapped with a fine



of Rs 1 lakh. The HC judgment noted that “the identification of the present applicant-convict has not been established by the prosecution beyond reasonable doubt”. The prosecution

case was that an attack on Brahmabhatt, a bus conductor, occurred around 8.30 pm on January 27, 2024, when he was at AMTS Control Cabin No. 7 near the Pumping Station at Kalupur Railway Station in Ahmedabad.

According to the prosecution’s case, Chhuvra and her friend Meet Sharma approached Brahmabhatt. Sharma allegedly gave her a plastic can containing acid, which she allegedly threw at Brahmabhatt. The prosecution said she then fled the spot. Brahmabhatt suffered injuries to his right eye, back and private parts and was taken to a hospital. The High Court, however, noted that the evidence regarding the person seen fleeing the scene did not conclusively establish Chhuvra’s identity. “Except the complainant, all saw a person clad in a burqa running away from the cabin towards Kalupur Railway Station and the face of the person was not visible,” the judgment recorded.

Mumbai hospital issues notice to guard after woman alleges she was told to remove burqa

Mumbai.(Agency)

A woman visiting Dr R N Cooper Municipal General Hospital in Vile Parle was allegedly asked by a female

security guard to remove her burqa completely before entering the post-neonatal ward on Sunday. The hospital has since issued a show-cause notice to the guard, while the dean clarified that there is no protocol requiring women to remove their burqa. The incident took place around 4.15 pm on August 30, when the woman, advocate Jahanara Shaikh, arrived at the ward. According to Shaikh, the security guard asked her to remove her burqa before allowing her inside. “I told the security staff that I am not hiding my face and identity and should be allowed to go in. I told them that I cannot be

asked to remove my burqa entirely. It is our right to dress as we like and I am showing my face,” Shaikh said. Dr Chhaya Shinde, dean of Hinduhrdaysamrat Balasaheb



Thackeray Medical College and Dr R N Cooper Municipal General Hospital, said the guard had misunderstood the security protocol. “There is no such protocol that women have to remove

their burqa entirely. There was a miscommunication with the security guard appointed by the BMC. We have taken action against the security guard as well and the matter has been resolved now,” Shinde said.

She clarified that Shaikh was a visitor to the post-neonatal ward and that the guard should only have asked her to show her face or move her veil aside for identification. According to the hospital, stricter security measures have been put in place in the ward as a precaution for the safety of newborn babies. The guard, who was on a 10-day duty assignment, later apologised to the advocate. The hospital administration has also issued her a show-cause notice over the incident. Shaikh said she subsequently spoke to hospital officials and the police.

ATM heist trail leads TN cops to Telangana and Jaipur, suspect held

CHENNAI.(Agency)

A 28-year-old man, allegedly part of an interstate gang from Haryana, was arrested on Tuesday in connection with the theft of ₹9 lakh from an ICICI Bank ATM near Sriperumbudur on August 25. Police said another team from the same gang allegedly stole around ₹11 lakh from an Axis Bank ATM at Gummidipoondi two days later.

The arrested man, O Pawan Kumar, a native of Uttar Pradesh, was allegedly part of the group that carried out the Sriperumbudur heist. Police said the gang, which operated out of Haryana’s Nuh district, had split into two teams to carry out the two ATM thefts. The arrest came after the Tambaram police traced the vehicle allegedly used in the Sriperumbudur heist to Telangana. Acting on further leads and information received from their sources, a special team travelled to Haryana in search of the suspects. The investigation eventually led the police to Jaipur, where Kumar was arrested. Kumar had, meanwhile, been arrested by the Jaipur police in connection with another case registered at the Vaishali Nagar police station in Rajasthan.

‘Digital arrest’ fraud: Senior citizen in Surat loses Rs 2.96 cr

The caller added that Patel was under “digital arrest” in connection with the case, his family and house were being “monitored” and all his bank accounts would be frozen unless he complied with all their instructions.

Surat.(Agency)

AN ELDERLY man and former Non-Resident Indian (NRI) now based in Surat lost over Rs 2.96 crore after falling victim to “digital arrest” fraud as a gang who posed as Mumbai Police personnel threatened to arrest him in a ‘money laundering’ case, police said on Tuesday. The victim, Prabhuhai Patel (82), a resident of Bardoli town in Surat district, registered a complaint at the Bardoli police station on Monday. Patel went to the US in 1980 and was based in Mississippi. After his retirement, Patel and wife Damyanti, moved to his native town of Bardoli, where they have been staying since 2007. The couple have three children, who are all settled in the US. Patel alleged that on August 8, he received a WhatsApp message that mentioned “Mumbai Police headquarters.” He soon received a call from the same number, with the caller, a



woman, claiming to be a Mumbai Police officer. She told him that using his Aadhaar Card data, a bank account was used in “money laundering to the tune of Rs 122

crore”. The caller added that Patel was under “digital arrest” in connection with the case, his family and house were being “monitored” and all his bank accounts would be frozen unless he complied with all their instructions. Later, another caller, a man who claimed to be a senior Mumbai Police officer, warned Patel of dire consequences unless he “arranged for funds” that would be returned to him after the “investigation is completed”. Between August 11 and 21, Patel transferred Rs 2.96 crore to different bank accounts linked to the accused. It was only on Monday (August 31), after Patel talked to his sons, who are in the US, about the chain of events that he contacted the police. Bardoli police inspector V A Sengal said, “We have registered an offence against unidentified persons. We are also taking the help of cyber crime investigation teams to nab the culprits.”

NEWS BOX

Has Novak Djokovic finally met the man he can't outlast?



New Delhi. (Agency)

Novak Djokovic cried on Arthur Ashe Stadium on Sunday night. That was the image that stayed. Not Mariano Navone celebrating. Not the scoreboard showing 6-7 (5), 7-5, 6-4, 2-6, 1-6. Not even the strange brutality of watching a 24-time Grand Slam champion get sick courtside, cramp up and struggle to move through the final two sets.

It was Djokovic crying.

Because for perhaps the first time in a career built on making his body do things it had no business doing, he looked like a man who had finally realised that for years, Djokovic's greatest weapon was not the forehand, the return or the elastic defence. It was the extraordinary faith he had in his own physical limits, or rather, in his ability to keep moving those limits. He could hurt. He could limp. He could look finished. Then he would somehow find another gear at his body was no longer entirely his. On Sunday, there was no gear left. It was almost like watching an old Premier Padmini that had spent decades making people stop and admire it suddenly coughing and spluttering at a traffic signal. This was once the machine that made everyone go wow.

The engine was not supposed to sound like this. Mariano Navone, ranked 49th in the world and playing the longest Grand Slam match of his career, beat Djokovic in four hours and 36 minutes. It was the longest opening-round match Djokovic has ever played at a Grand Slam and ended his run of 77 consecutive first-round wins at the majors. 77. That's a streak spanning nearly a couple of decades. And it ended against a player who had never won a five-set match before. If you have watched Djokovic for long enough, you know the script. He gets ahead, starts looking almost bored, then something goes wrong. The legs get heavy. The serve loses a little snap. He grabs at his back. He crouches at the baseline.

Manchester United want to be a top club. They just don't operate like one



New Delhi. (Agency)

For most of last season, Manchester United fans were basking in the glow of a brilliant 2025 summer window. The recruitment was so good that club bosses clearly stuck to the same template this year: three forwards and a goalkeeper in 2025 became three midfielders and a goalkeeper in 2026. You do not need an Oxford degree to work out that 2027 is shaping up to be the year the defence finally gets sorted at Old Trafford. And that is the real question hanging over this summer: have they actually done enough?

Last year United had finished 15th and just needed to stop the rot. This year, after a season that went way beyond expectations, the bar should have been much higher. But the way the club operates still does not match the ambition it keeps talking about, and that is what made this summer so frustrating. To be fair, United did some good business. Their midfield needed rebuilding, and they addressed it properly, bringing in Andrey Santos, Youri Tielemans and Carlos Baleba, with Karl Darlow arriving as free goalkeeping cover and Tynan Thompson added as a young winger for the future. The rebuild alone cost around 150 million pounds. But you cannot build a squad one department at a time, and that is where this window falls apart. United finished third last season, getting back into the Champions League under Michael Carrick, who took a team that had finished 15th the year before and blew past every reasonable expectation. That result should have changed how the club approached this summer completely. Instead, it felt like United were fixing one problem while quietly accepting that another could wait. The window has now closed, and the questions United had at the start of the summer are still sitting there unanswered.

Aaqib Javed calls for Imam injury inquiry, defends Pakistan's Test squad overhaul

Pakistan selector Aaqib Javed has sought an inquiry after Imam-ul-Haq missed both innings at Lord's with a calf injury. The demand came as Javed defended Pakistan's sweeping squad and coaching changes after two defeats vs England.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Pakistan selector Aaqib Javed has called for an inquiry into Imam-ul-Haq's calf injury after the opener was unable to bat in either innings of the second Test against England at Lord's. Javed also defended Pakistan's decision to recall seven players from England following consecutive defeats in the series. Imam suffered the injury while fielding on the opening day and did not return to bat during Pakistan's 194-run



defeat. Speaking to Geo TV on Tuesday, Javed questioned how the opener could miss both innings after pulling up with a muscle problem. "An inquiry will be conducted into this matter," Javed said. "How is it possible that you failed to come out to bat in both innings after pulling up a muscle?" Former chief selector Mohammad Wasim was among those to raise concerns

over Imam's injury. The opener was seen on the field before play on Sunday, but was visibly limping while shadow-batting, with his left calf heavily strapped. The injury controversy comes after Pakistan made sweeping changes to their squad and coaching staff following defeats at Headingley and Lord's. Seven players were recalled from England, while head coach

Sarfraz Ahmed and bowling coach Umar Gul also departed.

WHAT LED TO THE PAK TEST OVERHAUL?

Javed said Pakistan could not afford to continue with the same combination after two heavy defeats. The selectors brought in five uncapped players, while openers Saim Ayub and Abdullah Fazal were also recalled, with the seven replacements having only 10 Tests of combined experience.

"We can't just keep waiting," Javed said.

The selector also revealed that he had spoken to Babar Azam and the coach after the first Test about making changes to the Lord's XI. Javed wanted fast-bowling all-rounder Ubaid Shah and wicketkeeper-batter Ghazi Ghori included, while Mohammad Rizwan was left out.

"I had actually spoken to both the captain and the coach after the first Test, suggesting they include Ubaid, who bowls at 140 kph," Javed said. "Agha was rightly rested, Ghazi Ghori was available on the tour and should have played instead of Rizwan."

Gael Monfils turns 40 with a US Open comeback win, reveals Svitolina's special gift

Gael Monfils could hardly have scripted a better start to his final US Open appearance. On his 40th birthday, the French showman fought back from a set down to beat Adolfo Daniel Vallejo 2-6, 6-1, 6-2, 6-0, before revealing the special gift wife Elina Svitolina gave him to mark the milestone.

London. (Agency)

Gael Monfils celebrated his 40th birthday in the best way possible, producing a stirring comeback to open his final US Open campaign with a win. The Frenchman recovered from a slow start to beat Adolfo Daniel Vallejo 2-6, 6-1, 6-2, 6-0 on Tuesday night and book his place in the second round. Monfils struggled for consistency in the opening set and allowed Vallejo to take an early lead. But once he found his range, the match quickly swung in his favour. He won the second set comfortably, dominated the third and never allowed his Paraguayan opponent to

regain a foothold. For Monfils, playing in New York on his 40th birthday made the occasion particularly meaningful. "That was definitely very special, to play on the day of my 40th birthday," he said during



his on-court interview as the crowd sang Happy Birthday. "You guys always make it electric. The atmosphere is unbelievable. I feel great here. I always try to put on a great show, so let's keep it up for the second round." Among those watching was his wife, Elina Svitolina, who stayed in the stands despite having her own singles campaign to continue on Wednesday. The couple have shared the

court at this year's US Open, reaching the mixed doubles semi-finals last week. Svitolina was back in the crowd on Tuesday to support Monfils as he began his farewell appearance at Flushing Meadows. Asked whether she had bought him a birthday present, Monfils revealed that Svitolina had given him a watch for the milestone.

"I think she's playing tomorrow, so it's a great effort for her to stay here [and support]," he said. "It was an amazing gift. If she allows me to say, she [gave] me a great watch for my 40th." The win was particularly significant given what happened 24 hours earlier, when fellow veteran Stan Wawrinka played the final Grand Slam match of his career.

Monfils has already confirmed that he will retire at the end of the 2026 season, meaning every tournament now carries an added sense of finality. But there was little sign of a player ready to bow out as he fought back from his early setback and fed off the energy inside Louis Armstrong Stadium.

Pakistan cricket has become a laughing stock and the circus rolls on

New Delhi. (Agency)

There was a time when Pakistan cricket's chaos was almost part of its charm. The team could be unpredictable, volatile and wonderfully gifted at the same time. A collapse could be followed by an extraordinary comeback, sometimes when nobody saw it coming. But there is a difference between unpredictability and dysfunction. Pakistan cricket now seems to be struggling to tell the two apart. It has, increasingly, become a laughing stock. Just when it feels like the team has reached a new low, something happens to take it further down. Losing heavily to England was bad enough. Going 2-0 down in the Test series with one match still to play was

worse. Then came the extraordinary mid-series overhaul involving seven players, changes to the coaching staff and more



upheaval in the selection setup. And all of this happened while Pakistan were still in England, with one Test left and a chance, however slim, to salvage something from the tour. Pakistan lost the

first Test at Headingley by an innings and 103 runs before England beat them by 194 runs at Lord's. They failed to reach 200 in any of their first four innings, scoring 171, 135, 110 and 194. The cricket was poor. The response was extraordinary.

TOO MANY CHANGES, TOO SOON

The scale and timing of the response are what stand out. Seven players — Mohammad Rizwan, Salman Ali Agha, Imam-ul-Haq, Ali Usman, Aamer Jamal, Awais Zafar and Khurram Shahzad — were released, with seven replacements brought in, including five uncapped players.

Michael Hussey rejects England coaching role for Australia job in Ashes twist



New Delhi. (Agency)

Former Australia batter Michael Hussey has rejected the chance to become England's Test batting coach and is instead set to take up a part-time consultancy role with Cricket Australia. The decision is a boost for Australia ahead of next year's Ashes and leaves England Test head coach Stephen Fleming looking for another option in his backroom staff.

According to a report from The Guardian, Hussey has chosen the Australia role because its flexibility allows him to continue his existing commitments in franchise cricket, The Hundred and commentary. The 51-year-old had held talks with Fleming last month about joining England's coaching staff but has opted to remain in Australia. The decision comes as England prepare for a demanding period before the 2027 Ashes. England have already sealed their ongoing Test series against Pakistan, taking an unassailable 2-0 lead with one match still to play, but Fleming's side face tours of South Africa, Bangladesh and Australia before the Ashes. For Hussey, the choice also means he can continue his work with Welsh Fire in The Hundred and Chennai Super Kings in the Indian Premier League (IPL), while retaining his commentary and punditry commitments with Fox Sports. He was Welsh Fire's head coach this year and has worked as CSK's batting coach. Hussey already has a connection with England, having worked as a part-time consultant during their successful 2022 T20 World Cup campaign. He also has a long relationship with Fleming after the pair spent 18 years together at CSK, first during Hussey's playing career and later in coaching roles.

Balogun, Camara and a Deadline Day twist that left Everton and Chelsea stunned

New Delhi. (Agency)

Deadline Day had already delivered its fair share of twists, but the extraordinary saga involving Folarin Balogun, Lamine Camara, Everton, Chelsea and Monaco took the chaos to another level. What began as a straightforward move for Balogun quickly spiralled into a series of late negotiations and reversals. His medical put the Everton transfer in doubt; Chelsea then seized the opportunity to agree a deal for Camara, only for Everton's decision to renegotiate with Monaco to prompt the French club to pull out of its agreement with Chelsea. Everton eventually revived the Balogun move, but the striker changed his mind and rejected the transfer, leaving both Premier League clubs empty-handed. Everton had agreed a deal worth around 40 million pounds with Monaco on Monday night for Balogun, who was expected to replace Beto after the

Brazilian completed his move to Fiorentina. Balogun travelled to Merseyside around lunchtime on Tuesday for his medical, but complications during the examination raised doubts over whether the transfer could be completed before the deadline.

With the clock ticking, Everton began exploring alternatives and approached Manchester United about taking Joshua Zirkzee on loan with an option to buy. United rejected the proposal, forcing Everton to return to Monaco and find a way to keep the BaChelsea had already made two unsuccessful bids for Camara and were considering other midfield options. The club had also agreed to sell Enzo Fernandez to Manchester City for 125 million pounds and had initially been prepared to begin the season without another midfielder. Logun transfer alive. The uncertainty around Balogun changed Monaco's position and gave

Chelsea an opening. The Blues moved quickly and reached an agreement with Monaco for the 22-year-old Senegal international, who was set to sign a six-year



contract with the option of another year. After weeks of negotiations, Chelsea believed they had finally secured Camara. A full written agreement was reached between

the clubs and the midfielder appeared set to move to Stamford Bridge. Everton, however, were still working to rescue their own deal. They returned to Monaco, renegotiated the terms of Balogun's transfer and reached fresh agreement. A deal sheet was then submitted to the Premier League, giving the clubs additional time to complete the move. With Balogun's transfer back on, Monaco reconsidered its agreement with Chelsea and withdrew from the Camara deal. The decision left Chelsea furious, particularly because the club believed the agreement had already been settled in writing. Chelsea had already allowed Fernandez to leave for Manchester City and were now without the midfield reinforcement they had expected to bring in. Their late move for Camara had looked like the answer, but the opportunity disappeared as quickly as it had emerged.

Aneet Padda

Stars In Hunkkaar – The Roar With Fatima Sana Shaikh; Priyanka Chopra Backs Courtroom Drama

Aneet Padda, who shot to fame with the release of Saiyaara (2025), will next be seen in the courtroom drama ‘Hunkkaar – The Roar’, which will premiere soon on JioHotstar. It also stars Fatima Sana Shaikh, Mohd Zeeshan Ayyub and Arjun Mathur. The makers shared the actors’ first look posters, leaving fans intrigued about the crime thriller, directed by Nitya Mehra and Karan Kapadia. Meanwhile, the teaser will be unveiled tomorrow, on September 1. As per reports, Aneet had already shot for this project before landing her career-defining role in ‘Saiyaara.’

Aneet Padda’s First Look From Hunkkaar- The Roar Unveiled

On Monday, the makers unveiled the character posters of Aneet Padda, Fatima Sana Shaikh, Mohd Zeeshan Ayyub and Arjun Mathur. Aneet looks intense in the poster, and is seen in a simple look with her hair tied back. Meanwhile, Fatima is seen in a police officer’s uniform. Check out the first look posters below!



The character posters for Hunkkaar also reveal that the series has received an A rating, making it unsuitable for audiences below 18. Raghubir Yadav is reportedly set to play the antagonist in the gritty drama.

The series also features Ram Kapoor, Zoya Hussain, Charu Shankar, Veen Harsh and Rajesh Sharma in supporting roles. Heeraz Marfatia is

reportedly among the writers attached to the project.

About Hunkkaar- The Roar

According to reports, Aneet will portray a victim who takes a courageous stand against a powerful godman accused of misconduct. The film reportedly unfolds as an intense courtroom drama centred on her fight for justice, while exploring themes of power imbalance, courage and women seeking accountability.

Hunkkaar is jointly directed by Nitya Mehra and Karan Kapadia and is backed by Birla Studios and Applause Entertainment, in association with Priyanka Chopra’s production house Purple Pebble Pictures, and Mangata Films. Nitya Mehra, who has helmed Baar Baar Dekho (2016), has also directed episodes of Made in Heaven. Kapadia, meanwhile, has worked as an assistant director on films including Luck By Chance (2009), Raavan (2010) and Talaash (2012).

This marks Aneet’s second collaboration with Nitya Mehra, following Amazon Prime Video series ‘Big Girls Don’t Cry.’

Aneet Padda’s Projects

Apart from Hunkkaar, Aneet Padda has several other exciting projects lined up. She will next be seen in Shakti Shalini and an untitled film directed by Mohit Suri, which will mark her reunion with Saiyaara co-star Ahaan Panday.



Manasi Parekh Breaks Down After Reuniting With Family In Mumbai Following Nepal Flood Ordeal



Manasi Parekh is finally back home in Mumbai. The actress landed safely in Mumbai after a harrowing journey from China, escaping flash floods near Nepal-Tibet border during her Kailash Mansarovar Yatra. Now, a video that is going viral on social media, shows her breaking into tears and getting emotional as she reunited with her family at the Mumbai airport.

Manasi Parekh Breaks Down As She Arrives Safely In Mumbai

Manasi had travelled to China as part of Sadhguru’s Isha Foundation’s Kailash Mansarovar pilgrimage. After days of uncertainty and a difficult journey, the actress has now made it safely back to Mumbai. A video from Manasi’s arrival at the Mumbai airport has surfaced online, capturing an emotional homecoming.

The video from the Mumbai airport shows her getting emotional and hugging her husband, singer Parthiv Gohil, and their daughter Nirvi. The family welcomed her with a garland, and the reunion quickly turned emotional as Manasi was seen shedding tears after seeing them.

The moment came after what had been an especially stressful few days for the actor, making her return home all the more emotional.

Manasi Parekh Shares Note

Manasi, who was in Tibet as part of the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra, shared details of her journey back home. Sharing a note on Instagram, she said that getting out of China and reaching the Nepal border “felt like winning a war”. “Thank you so much for all the love, messages, calls and prayers.. the last 3-4 days have been overwhelming and getting out of China and reaching the Nepal border felt like winning a war.. there was a huge land slide at the China town of Nyalam which kept us waiting in our bus for 4 hours till we could start our journey out of China by road,” she wrote.

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

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

Javed Akhtar Recalls Shabana Azmi Joining CJP Protests Despite Health Scare: ‘I’m Proud Of Her’



Javed Akhtar has said he is “proud” of Shabana Azmi for joining the Cockroach Janata Party (CJP) student protests in New Delhi last month, revealing that his wife’s decision did not surprise him. The veteran actor had joined students at Jantar Mantar during demonstrations over the NEET paper leak, even as only a handful of Bollywood personalities participated on the ground.

Speaking on the podcast Lets Talk With DevnaG, Javed recalled Shabana’s long history of activism and said standing up for causes has been part of her life since before the two became a couple.

Javed Akhtar Says ‘Old Shabana Had Woken Up’

Javed revealed that Shabana called him while he was in London to tell him that she planned to travel to Delhi for the protests. “She called me when I was in London to tell me she’s going to Delhi for the protests. When she told me, I knew she would. It’s the call of the conscience. Not once I told her to not go or think twice,” he said.

Javed added, “The moment she told me I cannot not go, I knew the old Shabana had woken up, and nobody can stop her. And good she did! I’m proud of her.”

Shabana was present at Jantar Mantar alongside protesting students. After Delhi Police hurled tear bombs during the July 20 demonstration, she suffered an asthma attack. She was subsequently diagnosed with H1N1, preventing her from joining another student protest in Mumbai a few days later.

Javed Recalls Bailing Shabana Out Of Police Station

Javed said Shabana’s participation in protests is hardly a recent development. “This isn’t the first time she’s done this. She’s aged now, so does it less now,” he said with a laugh. “I’ve gone to the police station to bail her out. She’s gone for a hunger strike in Mumbai. She’s been quite active,” Javed recalled.

Shalini Pandey

Slams ‘Fake, AI-Generated’ Video Of Her Circulating On Social Media: ‘Deeply Disturbing’

Arjun Reddy actress Shalini Pandey has broken her silence over a fake AI-generated video of her being circulated online. Setting the record straight, she clarified that the video is ‘completely fabricated’ and does not depict her. She also strongly condemned the misuse of technology and AI to create videos that harm women. Shalini further urged social media users to act responsibly if they come across the video. Rather than engaging with or sharing the content,



she asked people to report it.

Shalini Pandey Slams Her ‘Fake AI-Generated Video’

On Monday, Shalini Pandey took to Instagram to share a note slamming the fake video. “I want to address a fake, AI-generated video of me that is currently being circulated online.

The video is completely fabricated and does not depict me. It is deeply disturbing to see technology being misused in this way to target and harm

individuals, especially women,” she wrote. The actress further slammed the misuse of AI, and wrote, “I strongly condemn this kind of abuse and believe such misuse of technology should never be normalised.

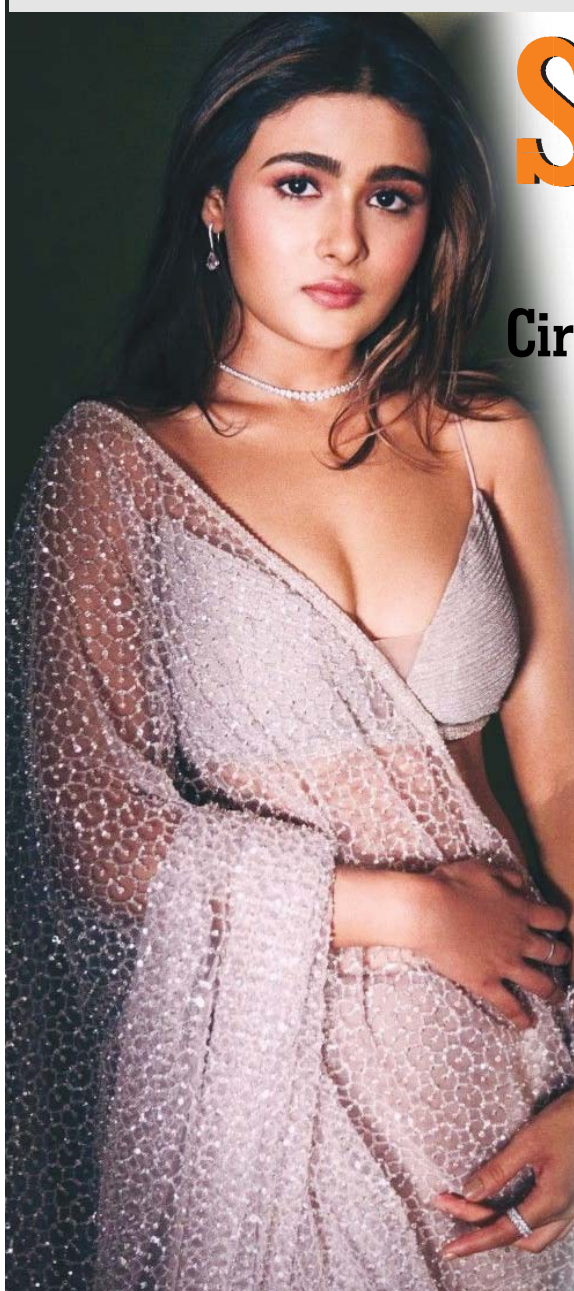
If you come across this video, please do not share, forward, download, or engage with it. Instead, please report it immediately. I request everyone to be responsible and mindful, and help stop its circulation rather than giving it further reach. Thankyou!”

Netizens React

Netizens showed their support to Shalini, and expressed their shock over the fake video. “The video is circulating badly on twitter! I was so shocked to see it too . . . Really sad how AI is taking over and how badly ppl are misusing social media!!! Sending you love @shalzp,” wrote one fan, while another one commented, “Gov should do something on this AI fakes..making life difficult for girls specially.” A third comment read, “What a violation! So sorry this is happening!”

About Shalini Pandey

Shalini Pandey made her acting debut with the 2017 Telugu film Arjun Reddy, in which she starred opposite Vijay Deverakonda. She went on to feature in films across Telugu, Tamil and Hindi cinema, including Mahanati (2018), 118 (2019), 100% Kadhal (2019), Jayeshbhai Jordaar (2022) and Maharaj (2024). She was last seen in the film ‘Rahu Ketu’ starring Pulkit Samrat, Varun Sharma and Chunky Panday.



NEWS BOX

US military completes latest strikes on Iran; Tehran vows retaliation after wedding home hit, killing five

WASHINGTON.(Agency)

The US military hit targets in Iran on Tuesday and Tehran fired missiles and drones at various sites across the region in response as hostilities flare once again in an intermittent war that has lasted more than six months. One US strike hit a home hosting a wedding, killing five people and wounding dozens, local officials said. U.S. Central Command said in a statement Tuesday evening that it had completed the latest barrage against Iranian military targets including air defense sites, radar systems and maritime assets. The US strikes followed others on Sunday that abruptly ended a month without military action and threatened to fully reignite a conflict that has spiked global oil prices and posed political problems for Republicans in November's midterm congressional elections.

Late Tuesday, US President Donald Trump said he would not force Iran to the bargaining table.

"I couldn't care less if they sign a worthless, to them, agreement. I like our position now much better, with almost total control of the Hormuz Strait, and their economy totally collapsing. They are just playing out the inevitable. When are the Iranian people going to rise up and fight?" Trump wrote on social media. Earlier, Trump had appeared to pivot toward trying to bend Iran to his will through economic sanctions. He warned that if Iran retaliated for the new strikes, "they will be hit again at a much harder and higher level." US Central Command said the latest attacks were in response to Tehran trying to hit commercial ships and American forces in the Middle East. The president offered an additional explanation, telling Fox News in a phone call that U.S. forces struck Iran's radars.

US judge sends Charlie Kirk murder case to trial with killer Robinson facing potential death penalty

WASHINGTON.(Agency)

A US judge ruled Tuesday that the man accused of killing conservative firebrand Charlie Kirk will face trial for murder, finding that prosecutors have sufficient evidence to proceed.

The 23-year-old defendant Tyler James Robinson, faces the death penalty in the state of Utah for allegedly killing Kirk, who was shot in the neck during a rally on a college campus on September 10 last year. "For the foregoing reasons and based off the record and parties' submissions, it is hereby ordered that the defendant, Tyler James Robinson, is bound over for trial," Judge Tony Graf said in court.

The decision follows a preliminary hearing during which both sides presented arguments about whether such a trial should proceed.

The prosecution presented Robinson's video gamer chats and text messages that they said proved the suspect killed Kirk, because he was "fed up" with the "hate" spread by the influencer. The defense, for its part, focused primarily on casting doubt on the validity of DNA evidence linking the defendant to the murder weapon. Following the judge's Tuesday decision, Robinson pleaded not guilty to the charges against him, according to US media. The event at which Kirk was killed at age 31 was planned by his right-wing youth organization, Turning Point, which campaigned for President Donald Trump in 2024. The group is now led by his wife, Erika Kirk.

"Today's decision, which comes nearly a year since Charlie was taken from us, marks an important step in our family's pursuit of justice for him," Erika Kirk said in a statement posted on X. The Kirk killing alarmed Americans and sent shockwaves through the political world. Kirk had become a popular leader in a Christian Nationalist movement that preaches traditional values while voicing intolerance for diversity and LGBTQ communities.

US defends Trump Venezuela oil deal as energy secretary lands in Caracas

CARACAS.(Agency)

US officials on Tuesday defended President Donald Trump's oil deal with Venezuela, saying it would lower oil prices for Americans and counter Russian and Chinese influence on Washington's doorstep. Venezuela's government-dominated National Assembly on Tuesday backed the multibillion-dollar agreement that grants the United States control of about one-fifth of Venezuelan reserves. But there have been major questions about the deal, which comes as Washington maintains an unprecedented grip on the government in Caracas after toppling Venezuelan president Nicolas Maduro in January. Late Tuesday, US Energy Secretary Chris Wright arrived in Venezuela, with a signing of the agreement set for Wednesday. Oil giant Chevron is expected to announce a major expansion in Venezuela on the same



day. Trump earlier met oil executives at the White House as he tries to tame gas prices that are spiraling because of the Iran war, with his administration hoping the Venezuela deal could help. "We are

unleashing American Energy Dominance!" Trump said on his Truth Social network after the meeting.

In a Spanish-language interview posted Tuesday to YouTube, Secretary of State

Marco Rubio told US-based Venezuelan journalist Sergio Novelli that a private company is working with the United States to "normalize the Venezuelan economy." "Essentially, this is now an agreement with the US government -- specifically involving the Defense Department, which holds a special account allowing it to take possession of a certain percentage of these assets," Rubio said. "Now, we have a system where this company will increase production. With US support, it will be able to attract the private investment needed to develop the productive capacity of these fields," Rubio said, adding that the "vast majority" of the 17 fields were "in Chinese and Russian hands" until now.

Under US Control

In Caracas, some opposition lawmakers abstained from the show-of-hands vote to approve the US deal, arguing they should first be able to view the written terms.

For a century, journalists have had a voluntary ethics code. Editors are giving it an AI-era reboot

NEW YORK.(Agency)

Walk into a corner of a newsroom somewhere and you can often find it affixed to a bulletin board, perhaps peeking out from behind the coffee pot: the Society of Professional Journalists's Code of Ethics. It's less than a thousand words, fitting neatly on a poster. But those words -- organized around four key journalistic principles -- are important enough, asserts Dan Axelrod, that they just might save our democracy. "I'm going to just say it," says Axelrod, chairman of the SPJ Ethics Committee and former longtime Gannett business reporter. "This is the way to protect democracy. This is to protect society. There but for the grace of God goes a

society without journalists." Axelrod is talking not only about the existence of the code but the need, every so



often, to update it. It's a laborious process, taking about a year and countless hours of meetings and feedback, virtual and in person.

Yet as the media landscape seems to shift daily and new technologies emerge, SPJ has decided that the time

is at hand -- for the first time in 12 years, and only the sixth in the code's century-long history. A conclave, of sorts, to update the code. The seriousness of the undertaking brought the committee and other media ethics experts to Indianapolis in June, after lots of virtual meetings. Seems it wasn't the most relaxing way to spend a weekend.

"Passions definitely got heated," Axelrod says. "Well, there were no fistfights," quips his colleague, Chris Roberts, vice chairman of the committee and a journalism professor at the University of Alabama. He explains there was "a lot of smiting of the words."

The result: No white smoke, but a 967-word draft code, 73 longer than the existing one.

Funerals in Nepal for missing, a week after deadly floods

Scientists say the Himalayas, the world's highest mountain range, are warming rapidly as global temperatures rise, accelerating glacier melt.

NUWAKOT.(Agency)

Nepali families were holding symbolic funeral ceremonies to "liberate the souls" of loved ones missing since deadly flash floods swept away their villages and homes in the Himalayan region a week ago. Emergency teams have recovered more than 1,000 bodies, and nearly 4,500 people are missing after the gigantic wave of freezing water, rocks and debris triggered by a high-altitude glacial collapse roared down the China-Nepal border on August 26. After days of searching shelters and mortuaries, relatives of some of the missing lost hope and began conducting last rites. "We had to do this to set his soul free, so that he is at

peace and happy wherever he is," said Dolma Newar Tamang, flanked by her sobbing son, at a funeral for her husband. He had been en route to China when the disaster struck. "I saw the news and called him," she



told AFP. "I called repeatedly, but he never picked up." A week on from the colossal disaster, Nepali rescuers remained hopeful about finding survivors, particularly in multiple tunnels of hydropower plants across the region. So far, rescuers have recovered only bodies from tunnels blocked by sludge, but teams were still digging, drilling and blasting

through debris in the hopes of reaching survivors. Nepal's Foreign Minister Shisir Khanal said he still hoped some of the thousands missing could be alive. "Miracles do happen," he told AFP in an interview. "At this point, I do not want to completely give up hope."

Global Responsibility

Nepal's Prime Minister Balendra Shah said the catastrophe was "a serious indication that the risks we face in the Himalayan region are increasing alongside climate change." "Climate change is a global contribution, and disaster response is also a global responsibility," he added in a post on Facebook. Scientists say the Himalayas, the world's highest mountain range, are warming rapidly as global temperatures rise, accelerating glacier melt. Glaciers in the wider Himalayan and Hindu Kush ranges are a crucial water source for around 240 million people in the mountainous regions.

US aircraft carrier arrives in Thailand after months at sea

THAILAND.(Agency)

A US aircraft carrier at the centre of controversy over conditions on board arrived in Thailand on Wednesday for its first port call in nine months. The 5,000 sailors and Marines on board the USS Abraham Lincoln, arriving from the war in the Middle East, are headed for the Thai resort of Pattaya, a rest-and-recreation stop for US troops since the Vietnam War. Tugs guided the huge nuclear-powered carrier, dozens of warplanes lined up on its flight deck, towards the port of Laem Chabang on Wednesday morning, AFP reporters saw. "Our arrival in Laem Chabang provides a well-deserved opportunity for our Sailors and Marines to rest and recharge," Rear Admiral Robert Loughran, commander of the US Carrier Strike Group 3, said in a statement.

The Lincoln's commanding officer, Captain Dan Keeler, added that its first port visit of the "historic deployment" -- after 286 days at sea -- would allow "our crew to enjoy this

beautiful and historic country".

An official in Pattaya said it was due to dock shortly before lunchtime.

The Lincoln left California in November 2025 for duty in the South China Sea and was rerouted to the Middle East before US-Israeli attacks on Iran that began six months ago. Reports of deteriorating living conditions and poor mental health on board -- including attempted suicides -- made headlines in the United States and provoked criticism of President Donald Trump's war against Iran. Pattaya is hugely popular with foreign tourists, known for its beaches and a nightlife scene that has long drawn scrutiny over sex tourism. Pattaya's mayor, Poramase Ngampiches, told AFP this week that there had been a recent crackdown on sex workers but denied it was linked to the US arrivals.

Outside one bar in the resort on Tuesday was a sign saying "Welcome all US military personnel. Thank you for your service". The mayor said buses have been laid on to transport the sailors from the ship to Pattaya and back until the carrier departs on Sunday.

TEHRAN.(Agency)

Iran pushed ahead with strikes targeting American interests around the Middle East on Wednesday, vowing "severe" consequences to US attacks, including one that the Iranian Red Crescent said left four people dead at a wedding celebration.

The latest flare-up is part of a cycle of retaliation that followed US strikes on Iran, with fighting over the Hormuz strait expanding to Washington's Gulf allies, military bases and commercial shipping. Tehran said it launched ballistic missile attacks on two US bases in Jordan, according to Iranian media. Washington did not immediately comment on the reports, although US President Donald Trump had warned earlier of "much harder and higher" attacks if Iran retaliated to US strikes.

The Jordanian army said it intercepted 10 ballistic missiles fired from Iran, and did not confirm any injuries or hits. Three other missiles landed in remote areas, it said. Missile and drone attacks were also reported in Kuwait, where the army said they

were responding to Iranian hostilities, and AFP reporters in Bahrain heard alert sirens for airborne attacks ring out early Wednesday. Iran's army said it launched drone attacks targeting US forces at an air base in Bahrain, a key Washington ally in the



Gulf. In Iraq's autonomous Kurdistan region, Iran's Revolutionary Guards said Wednesday that they struck US bases with missiles and drones, destroying a maintenance centre, warehouses and equipment, state-run IRNA reported. The latest round of conflict began when Washington hit Iranian targets on

Sunday, the first known strikes in several weeks, after which Tehran's forces targeted US troops in Jordan and the United Arab Emirates, and projectiles struck two oil tankers in unclaimed attacks. More US strikes came on Tuesday, with Iranian state television reporting explosions in the country's south along the Hormuz strait and on an island in the Gulf, and that US forces hit an airport in the southern province of Kerman. The Iranian Red Crescent said shrapnel from a US missile attack hit a home where a wedding celebration was taking place in the city of Kuhestak, killing four people, including a child, and wounding more than 50. And IRNA reported that "four projectiles hit areas within the counties of Chabahar and Konarak", without specifying whether there was any damage. Trump said the "large and powerful" strikes were "in retaliation for the Iranians' failed attempt at adding sea mines to the Strait" and "the Iranians shooting eight missiles, all successfully knocked down, at our Military Base in Jordan".