

CJI holds bilateral meetings on justice delivery mechanism with counterparts

New Delhi. (Agency)

The BRICS Chief Justices' Forum, which brings together chief justices, presidents of supreme courts and senior judicial leaders from BRICS member states and partner countries under one umbrella, commenced in New Delhi on Friday.

The Supreme Court of India—which was hosting the forum here from September 4 to 6 -- in the programme brought together chief justices, presidents of SCs and senior judicial leaders from BRICS (Building for Resilience Innovation Cooperation and Sustainability) member states and partner countries. On Friday, CJI Surya Kant held bilateral meetings with senior judicial leaders from BRICS member states and partner countries. "The forum provides a platform for dialogue among the participating judiciaries and for exchange of views on contemporary issues relating to justice delivery, international dispute resolution, technology and sustainable development," the SC said.

'If this can happen to Cong president, imagine what must be happening to Dalits': Ashok Gehlot on Haldwani row

New Delhi. (Agency)

Senior Congress leader and former Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Saturday described the alleged 'purification' ritual conducted after Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge's rally in Haldwani as a serious incident, saying it had caused pain to the Dalit community. "This is a serious incident. If this can happen to the Congress president, just imagine what must be happening to the Dalit community across the entire nation. Under their rule, this negligence has only increased," Gehlot told ANI.

He said incidents of injustice, oppression and persecution had continued, adding that the episode involving Kharge had hurt Dalits, backward classes, tribals and the poor.

"Such incidents of injustice, oppression and persecution have been ongoing, but the incident that happened with Mallikarjun Kharge has caused immense pain to the entire Dalit community of the country, the backward classes, tribals, or any poor person—anyone who has sympathy for Dalits," he said.

Gehlot also referred to Leader of the House JP Nadda's assurance in the Rajya Sabha on the matter, saying people had expected action following his statement. Nadda had said in the Rajya Sabha that the matter was being taken seriously and that action would be taken. Gehlot said the assurance from the Leader of the House had raised expectations, but no action had followed.

Build education system with equal opportunities: Rahul Gandhi's Teachers Day message

Congress MP Rahul Gandhi marked Teachers Day by urging teachers to help build an equitable education system. Congress leaders also honoured India's second President Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, underscoring education's central role in nation-building.

New Delhi(Agency)

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday urged teachers to help build an education system that gives every student equal opportunities and quality education. In social media posts on Teachers Day, he greeted teachers and said their role in shaping students and guiding future generations was invaluable. Gandhi also paid tribute to India's second President, Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, on whose birth anniversary Teachers Day is observed. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and party general secretary Jairam Ramesh also remembered teachers and hailed Radhakrishnan's contribution to education and public life. In his post in Hindi, the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha said, "Through your knowledge, service, and dedication, you shape the future of students

and provide direction to the nation's coming generations — your contribution is invaluable."

He added, "Today, India's education system poses several serious questions before us. Together, we must build a system where every student has access to equal opportunities, quality education, and a bright future."

Kharge also paid tribute to teachers and to the former President. In a post on X, he said, "Teachers shape minds, nurture values and build the foundations of our nation's future." He described Dr Radhakrishnan as an "eminent philosopher, teacher and statesman whose wisdom remains timeless and forever inspiring." Ramesh remembered

Radhakrishnan as a "renowned philosopher, brilliant writer, mesmerising speaker, an impactful diplomat for a short

while in the USSR, and a man deeply devoted to the cause of education and institution building." In another post on X, he said, "His was the sole portrait to adorn

the Rajya Sabha for decades — sadly, not any longer in the new architectural monstrosity — to remind its members of the colossus who presided over the Council of States so effectively for a decade." He also shared what he called three "memorable photographs" of Radhakrishnan with Congress leaders and a former President. "One is with newly appointed Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri and K. Kamaraj in June 1964. One is from Nov 1964 with Vice President Dr Zakir Hussain and Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri. The last is from 1954 with President Dr. Rajendra Prasad and Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, with whom he shared the warmest personal relationship for decades," he wrote.



Halol police negligence or corruption? 18 years of a young man's life lost behind bars!

A man who had been in jail since 2008 was labelled a 'fugitive' on paper!

MAHANAGAR METRO
Ahmedabad / Halol:

The very system that is meant to protect citizens and uphold law and order allegedly turned a piece of paperwork into a nightmare that cost a young man nearly 18 precious years of his life, dreams and freedom. A major lapse by Halol Police Station, coupled with an allegedly incorrect report prepared without proper verification, resulted in a man spending 18 years and 7 months behind bars, while he continued to fight to prove that he was never a fugitive. What is the alleged truth behind the case? The 2008 incident and the controversial report filed an official report before the court against a 20-year-old man. The report allegedly claimed that the accused had "escaped from police custody" and was absconding. Behind bars, but declared a 'fugitive' on paper. The report, according to the allegations raised in the matter, was completely contrary to reality. The young man had not escaped anywhere. He was already lodged in jail — including Sabarmati Central Jail in Ahmedabad

and a Central Jail in Maharashtra — in connection with imprisonment and court proceedings. Yet, instead of verifying his actual whereabouts, the police allegedly continued to portray him as an absconding accused on official records. Was there no basic verification? The biggest question is: How could the police fail to verify whether a person was actually in custody? The allegations suggest that even basic verification was not carried out before the report was submitted to the court. As a result, the man remained trapped in a legal and administrative maze for years. 18 years and 7 months of a nightmare. A 20-year-old who had his entire life ahead of him continued to insist from behind prison walls: "I am not a fugitive. I have been in jail since 2008." But it allegedly took the system 18 years and 7 months to hear that voice. For nearly two decades, the man was forced to fight a battle simply to establish one basic fact — that he had never escaped from police custody. The big questions: Who will be held accountable? A stain on the khaki? How was an allegedly false report prepared



without proper verification? Who will take responsibility? Who will answer for the 18 most valuable years of a young man's life that were lost behind bars? Justice or justice delayed? If a person has to spend 18 years and 7 months proving that he was not a fugitive, can such a system truly be called justice? Today, the man has finally walked out of jail. But the 20-year-old who entered prison is no

longer the same young man. His youth, dreams, relationships and nearly two decades of his life were consumed in a battle to erase the label of "fugitive" from his name. Pakko Gujarat News raises the question: Will action be taken against the police officers responsible for this alleged lapse, or will this file too disappear beneath the dust of the system?

Omar Abdullah Meets Amit Shah, Discusses Early Restoration Of J&K's Statehood

New Delhi (Agency)

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah called on Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday to deliberate on crucial matters regarding the Union territory, especially the early restoration of statehood and finalising governance protocols.

The meeting was the first interaction between the two leaders since Abdullah staged a protest in the national capital on the inaugural day of the Monsoon session of Parliament on July 20 to demand the restoration of full statehood for Jammu and Kashmir.

The demand has been a central political issue since August 5, 2019, when the Union government revoked Article 370 and bifurcated the former state into two Union territories - Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. While the Centre has maintained that statehood will be restored at an appropriate time, the elected government has repeatedly highlighted administrative hurdles under the current framework. During the meeting, the chief minister raised matters related to public welfare, administrative efficiency and long-term development in the region.

According to a statement posted on X by the Chief Minister's Office (CMO), the discussions focused prominently on the early restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir, alongside the finalisation of the Transaction of Business Rules to streamline administrative governance. "Chief Minister met Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah in New Delhi today and discussed key issues concerning Jammu and Kashmir.



On Teachers Day, President Murmu urges scientific outlook with nation-first spirit

On Teachers Day, President Droupadi Murmu urged educators to raise ethical, curious and confident students. Her message placed teachers at the centre of India's inclusive development and social progress.

New Delhi.(Agency)

President Droupadi Murmu on Saturday asked teachers to shape generations of students who develop a scientific outlook, remain rooted in ethics and move forward with the spirit of "nation first". She said India is steadily moving towards the goal of becoming a developed nation with social inclusion at the core.

In an article written on the occasion of Teachers Day, titled 'Shaping Minds; Building the Future', the President said teachers have a sacred duty to guide students to become good human beings. She said students who achieve prosperity and glory while remaining ethical in their thoughts and actions are living embodiments of a

teacher's success." As we advance on this journey, I want our teachers to shape generations of students who value the



richness of our cultural heritage and traditions; who develop a scientific outlook and work for the welfare of humanity; who uphold the ideal of Antyodaya; who protect

the environment and all living creatures; who strive for individual and collective excellence, and who move forward with the spirit of 'nation first'," President Murmu said.

She said parents and guardians place the highest trust in teachers when they send their children to study. "They believe that the teachers will treat the children as their own and take utmost care of the child's safety and development. It is the dharma of every teacher to uphold this sacred trust placed in them," she said. A teacher's attitude, conduct and behaviour, she added, should not create fear or anxiety in children, break their morale or allow any sense of inferiority to develop. Good teachers, she said, help students become the best versions of themselves.

Labourer electrocuted by broken power line during rain in Gurgaon

Gurgaon.(Agency)

A 32-year-old man died on coming in contact with a broken high-tension power line lying on the road in Bajghera village Thursday night.Mauji, a native of Ramkot in UP’s Sitapur, worked as a labourer. According to police, it was raining and dark at the time, and he did not spot the wire.Nearby residents rushed to the spot on hearing his screams and took him to a nearby hospital. However, Mauji had died by then. His body was handed over to his family after a postmortem Friday.Mauji’s family went to the police, alleging negligence on the part of the electricity department.A police officer said, “We are verifying how the power line came to be lying on the road and whether there was any lapse in maintenance.” Cops said appropriate action would be taken if negligence was established.

Heavy vehicles off Lal Kuan stretch of GT Road to ease rush hour snarls

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

The Lal Kuan to Bulandshahr Road Industrial Area stretch of Grand Trunk Road, long notorious for traffic jams, will remain off-limits to heavy vehicles for five hours daily, from 5 pm to 9 pm. “GT Road passes through the Bulandshahr Road industrial area and for a long time now, the stretch, especially during peak hours, has remained stuck in snarls due to the movement of heavy freight vehicles. We will close it from Saturday for five hours daily,” an officer from the traffic department said. “We will assess the situation after some time, but as of now, till further orders, it will remain closed for heavy vehicles.” Traffic police recently held a meeting with an industry body and got their approval for closing the stretch, the officer added.This remains a short-term solution, as GT Road passes through one of the most congested areas of the old city. NHAI had earlier planned to decongest GT Road by proposing to build an elevated corridor over the Thakurdwara flyover using portal pier engineering. However, the plan failed to materialise. PWD then tried to widen the stretch by removing the shops on both sides of GT Road, but they too found that it was not feasible.Ghaziabad Development Authority is now also planning an elevated road along the stretch. The proposed 2 km, four-lane flyover would run from Ghantaghar (Ramlila Ground) to Bhatia Mod, directly crossing and decongesting the bottlenecked Chaudhary Mor intersection. The proposal was placed before the GDA Board on Aug 21 this year and has been passed. “The cost of the project has been pegged at Rs 200 crore. It will be taken up under the Urban Challenge Fund, which has already been sanctioned by the state govt.”The official said the elevated road will decongest busy stretches like Bhatia Mod, Choudhary Mod and Ghantaghar. This project will also ease traffic on GT Road to Aligarh and it is being planned by IIT Roorkee.

Puri to pasta: Iskcon to offer 508 bhogs on Janmashtami



Ghaziabad.(Agency)

Iskcon temple in Sector 33 was decked up for Janmashtami celebrations on Friday. Devotees will serve 508 bhogs, including laddus, makhan mishri, kheer and puris at one end, and pasta, pizza and cakes at the other, a spread the temple is billing as its largest yet.Around 5 lakh devotees, including those from countries like the US, France, Germany and Malaysia, participated in the celebrations. The day-long celebration was live-streamed on YouTube, Budhimanta Das of the temple management committee said. A huge pandal has been built on the premises, and it has been decorated with both real and artificial flowers. A performance by the Govinda Rock Band and children from Prahlad school was organised on Friday. Following the midnight celebrations, festivities will continue from 4:30 am on Saturday with mangal aarti, darshan, chanting and prasad distribution.“Special floral decorations or Phool Bangla, silver swings for Laddu Gopal, and devotional programmes starting early in the morning have also been planned,” Das added.A team of over 30 female devotees has been preparing the prasad spread. They have been chanting throughout the day while cooking the meal. “This bhog will be offered with deep love and reverence. The offerings included makhan-mishri (butter and rock sugar) alongside a diverse range of dishes from India and abroad, such as cakes, biscuits, pastries, patties, pizza, pasta, lasagna, tacos, parathas, puris, kachoris, laddus, kheer (rice pudding), shakes, and various other sweets and savoury snacks,” said Das. As Lord Krishna’s infant avatar is worshipped on this day, the food items were chosen keepinPanchagavya Abhisheka (ceremonial bathing with a mixture of five sacred substances) of the Lord is a major attraction for the devotees after the birth at midnight. As part of the security arrangements, visitors are screened using door-frame metal detectors and hand-held detectors.

Dengue count rises fivefold in a month in Gurgaon, reaches 53

Gurgaon.(Agency)

The city’s reported dengue cases have risen more than fivefold in a month, from 10 on Aug 3 to 53 on Sept 4, with three new cases detected on Friday. No confirmed dengue death has been reported.While most patients are recovering with supportive care, doctors said some have developed complications including severe thrombocytopenia (a sharp drop in blood platelets) and serositis (inflammation of the membranes around organs).“Dengue cases have been rising steadily following the monsoon rains. However, no cases of dengue shock syndrome or acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) have been reported so far this year,” said Dr MK Singh, director and senior consultant, internal medicine, Narayana Hospital. In ARDS, severe lung inflammation interferes with oxygen exchange, potentially leading to respiratory failure. Dengue shock syndrome is a critical dengue-related



complication that can result in dangerously low blood pressure and organ dysfunction.According to the district health department’s latest available bulletin, the cumulative dengue count was 53 on Sept 4. At the current count, this year’s caseload is already over 80% of the total recorded in

2025.The rise in cases has come amid intensified surveillance by the health department. Rapid fever survey teams covered 12,109 houses on Sept 3, taking the cumulative number of houses surveyed to nearly 11.2 lakh since the exercise began. The teams screen residents for fever, help identify

suspected cases early and spread awareness about vector-borne diseases.Civic authorities have also stepped up efforts to check mosquito breeding, with 1,919 notices issued by Sept 3 to premises where breeding sites were found. Dengue testing has also increased considerably over the past month. The number of samples collected rose from 4,096 on Aug 3 to 9,029 on Sept 3, an increase of 4,933 samples.Malaria, meanwhile, has remained relatively contained. The district had recorded four cases till Aug 3, rising to five by Sept 3, with no new case reported on Thursday. Health teams have collected nearly 1.9 lakh blood samples for malaria surveillance since Jan.Doctors said preventive measures were particularly important during and after the monsoon, when stagnant water can provide breeding sites for mosquitoes. They advised residents to prevent water from accumulating around homes and protect themselves from mosquito bites.

BABRA: THE PRIDE OF SAURASHTRA, WHERE THE PAST LIVES ON AND THE FUTURE CONTINUES TO RISE

A TIMELESS LAND WHERE HISTORY, HERITAGE, FAITH AND CULTURE COME ALIVE

Mahanagar Metro Desk
Author:Rupesh Solanki

The land of Saurashtra is renowned for its traditions, valour, culture and warmth. Babra, in Babra Taluka of Amreli district, is also a distinctive centre of this rich heritage. Babra is not merely a taluka headquarters; it is a place where history, faith, folk life and development come together in beautiful harmony. Speaking of history, according to local belief, Babra is associated with Babhravahana, a legendary figure from the Mahabharata era. The Babhravahana Kund, also known as Panchkund, located near Babra, keeps the memory of this ancient tradition alive. The historical and religious heritage found across Babra continues to narrate the glorious stories of the past. Babra holds a special place from a religious and cultural perspective. The Neelkanth Mahadev Temple is an important centre of faith for devotees. The fair held on the oc-

casion of Bhadarvi Purnima becomes a celebration not only of religious devotion but also of folk culture, trade and social togetherness. The rural life of Babra is deeply connected with agriculture and animal husbandry. The hard work of farmers, their love for the land and their traditional way of life form an integral part of the region’s identity. Along with agriculture, industries such as ginning and pressing also contribute to the growth of the local economy. The true identity of Babra lies in its simple, hardworking and sensitive people. During festivals, religious occasions and social gatherings, people stand by one another. This spirit of mutual cooperation and warmth further enriches the social culture of Babra. In the modern era, Babra is also steadily progressing on the path of development. Changes can be seen with the expansion of education, agriculture, trade, industries and modern facilities. However, along



with development, it is equally important to preserve the region’s historical heritage, folk traditions and cultural values. Babra is not merely a place; it is an emotion. Its soil carries the sweat of farmers, its temples shine with the lamp of faith, its folk life carries

the fragrance of values, and the hearts of its people are filled with the warmth of relationships. “Babra is the identity of his-torBabra is the fragrance of cul-ture Babra is the land of faitAnd Babra is a living address nestled in the heart of Saurashtra.”

HERC launches probe into power rule violations in housing societies

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

Haryana’s electricity regulator has launched a suo motu inquiry into what it describes as “deliberate, continuous, and systemic” non-compliance with rules governing electricity supply to group housing societies — a development with particular significance for the city, where single-point electricity connections, internal distribution infrastructure, billing and the role of developers and RWAs have long been sources of dispute. Haryana Electricity Regulatory Commission (HERC) inquiry concerns alleged non-compliance with its Single Point Supply Regulations, 2020, and the non-implementation of unified billing software (UBS) mandated through DHBVN sales circular D-23/2022. DHBVN, its superintending engineer (IT) in Gurgaon, and defaulting developers, builders and RWAs operating under the discom’s jurisdiction have been named as respondents. Single-point supply is a system under which a group housing society receives electricity through one bulk connection from the discom, rather than individual connections for each flat. The society



then distributes the power through its internal network and bills individual residents, subject to HERC’s rules on tariffs, metering and consumer rights. Some violations include illegal disconnections over maintenance disputes over unpaid non-electricity dues, inflating tariffs, combining bills to hide “operational fees,” withholding utility rebates, and charging full commercial rates for standard domestic add-ons (like common-area corridors or small convenience shops that fall outside standard definitions) instead of mapping them appropriately via the regulation’s sanctioned limits.At the Aug 25 hearing,

instead of submitting a compliance picture, DHBVN sought two months’ time. Its counsel told HERC that “the compliance is on the part of developers/RWA” and that data was still being collected from field offices. The commission allowed the request, directing respondents to file their reply by Oct 7, with the matter next listed for hearing on Oct 12.Navdeep Singh, a Sector 104 resident who has been raising the issue of single-point connection, said the regulator’s use of the words “deliberate, continuous, and systemic” makes the proceeding significant. “It indicates that HERC is examining not an

isolated billing dispute but whether compliance with its regulatory framework has failed across the system,” said Singh. The commission’s final finding is yet to be made.The 2020 regulations were framed after HERC received petitions from group housing societies and RWAs involving developers and distribution licensees, recording complaints over metering, billing, inadequate supply and inadequate electrical infrastructure installed by developers. The commission subsequently held interactive sessions with RWAs, residents and developers in the city and Faridabad before revising the framework.In 2022, DHBVN introduced a unified billing system for single-point (multiple-user) connections to group housing societies, intended to check excess billing and tariff violations and to provide relief to residents who were being charged above the approved tariff and above actual consumption. Under the new norms, bills for single-point connections were to be generated through discom-created software. s, condominiums and colonies. Under this arrangement, DHBVN prepares one consolidated bill for the entire society.

NEWS BOX

Flyover traffic curbs kick in, Bengaluru motorists not happy

BENGALURU (Agency). Restrictions on the movement of two-wheelers, autorickshaws and heavy goods vehicles on four flyovers in the city have drawn criticism from riders and drivers, who said they have been forced to take longer routes, adding to the traffic congestion in the city. Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) introduced the restrictions on Friday morning as part of measures to curb accidents and improve road safety. Banners announcing the restrictions have been placed near the flyovers and police personnel used microphones to raise awareness among the motorists.

The restrictions were imposed on the BGS Flyover on Mysuru Road, Peenya Elevated Corridor, International Airport Road Elevated Corridor (from Sanjeevnagar Cross to Vidyavihar Junction), and the Double-Decker Flyover (from Silk Board to Ragigudda). Meanwhile, restrictions on the Electronics City Elevated Corridor will come into effect on September 11.

Two-wheelers have been prohibited only on the International Airport Road Elevated Corridor. Autorickshaws have been banned on some flyovers, while the movement of goods vehicles, including heavy trucks, has been prohibited during peak hours.

Task force soon to stop footpath re-encroachment in Bengaluru

BENGALURU (Agency). To prevent re-encroachment of footpaths that have already been cleared across the city, Greater Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda directed officials to constitute joint task forces comprising police and civic officials in each city corporation jurisdiction. The task force will ensure continuous monitoring and undertake joint enforcement action against re-encroachment. Addressing officials at a virtual meeting on Friday, which was convened to review the issue of footpath encroachments, the minister said instances of encroachment returning to the same locations after clearance must be treated seriously and repeat violators face stringent legal action.

Byre Gowda stressed that merely clearing an encroachment was not enough. "A system must be put in place to ensure that the same stretch is not encroached upon again. Each City Corporation should have a joint task force with police and civic officials working in coordination. Cleared footpaths should be subjected to regular as well as surprise inspections, with immediate action taken if re-encroachment is detected. Cases of re-encroachment should be identified promptly and reported with photographic and geo-tagged evidence. Marshals and beat police personnel should jointly conduct regular inspections," he directed.

"It is not enough to say that encroachments have been cleared. There must be continuous monitoring to ensure that the cleared locations are not encroached upon again. FIRs should be registered against repeat violators, the materials used for the encroachment should be seized and higher penalties imposed as per the rules," he said.

Sanitary workers suspend protest, but key demands remain unfulfilled

CHENNAI (Agency). Sanitary workers, who have been staging a protest on Ripon building premises for the past 16 days, have decided to put their agitation on hold until October 3 after the state government agreed to several of their demands, including a daily food allowance of Rs 50 and withdrawal of cases registered against them during last year's protest.

The decision followed a two-hour meeting between representatives of Uzhaiyoor Urimai Iyakkam (UUI), which organised the protest, and four ministers — N Anand (Rural Development and Water Resources), Aadhav Arjuna (Public Works and Sports Development), A Rajmohan (School Education) and CTR Nirmal Kumar (Energy Resources and Law) at the Ripon building on Friday.

GCC Commissioner G S Sameeran was also present at the meeting. The ministers promised the workers that there would be "happy news" on October 3, when a second round of talks will be held. Speaking to reporters after the meeting, UUI president K Bharathi and minister Rajmohan said the government has agreed to provide a food allowance of Rs 50 per day from October. Toilets and rest areas will be provided in all 200 wards by September 30. More than 13 cases registered against lawyers, trade union leaders and sanitary workers during their 100-day protest last year will also be withdrawn. Besides, the ministers also promised 300 new battery-operated vehicles (BOVs) for zones 4, 7 and 8, as the existing vehicles are over 10 years old and in poor condition.

Ahead of fresh stir, Punjab proposes to hike DA of 85,000 employees to 60%

The concession, however, has failed to satisfy employee organisations, which described it as an attempt to divide the workforce.

Chandigarh (Agency). Punjab government will raise the Dearness Allowance (DA) of around 85,000 employees from 42 per cent to 60 per cent, at par with the Central pay pattern, Cabinet Minister Aman Arora said Friday, three days after the AAP dispensation challenged a Punjab and Haryana High Court order on the pending arrears in the Supreme Court. The fresh decision covers employees recruited after July 17, 2020, whose basic pay is based on the Central government's 7th Pay Commission matrix, but whose DA is based on Punjab's pay pattern. It comes just four days before government employees are set to launch another round of agitation over pending DA instalments and arrears. Employee organisations have called for mass casual leave from September 8 if the government does not withdraw its disciplinary action notice against those who participated in the August 27 statewide strike. The move also comes a day after the

government had defended its position on the wider DA dispute, arguing that Punjab employees in several major cadres already receive salaries substantially higher than their Central government counterparts and



that the state's financial position did not permit an immediate settlement of all their demands. The decision to hike the DA was taken by a three-member Cabinet Sub-Committee comprising Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema, Industries and

Commerce Minister Arora and Social Security Minister Baljit Kaur. The recommendation will now be sent to Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann for final approval. Arora said the government could not ignore the disparity faced by employees recruited after July 17, 2020. Under a change in the state's recruitment pay structure, fresh recruits were brought under the Central government's 7th Pay Commission pattern, resulting in lower entry-level basic pay than that enjoyed by employees governed by Punjab's pay scales. However, their DA continued to be calculated at Punjab's rate of 42 per cent.

"Employees recruited before July 2020 continue to benefit from Punjab's higher basic pay scale. Employees recruited post-July 2020 were brought under the Central Pay Scale pattern but continued to receive Punjab's DA at 42 per cent. This distinction could not be ignored," Arora said, calling the proposal a "Janmashtami gift".

Mosque in UP's Saharanpur declared 'illegal', bulldozed

An illegal mosque in Uttar Pradesh's Saharanpur collectorate was demolished following a court order. Samajwadi Party MP Iqra Hasan was placed under house arrest to prevent an escalation.

Lucknow (Agency). A mosque within the collectorate office campus in Uttar Pradesh's Saharanpur that was declared illegal was demolished on Saturday morning. A large police force was deployed during the operation. The administrative action follows a September 4 ruling by the District Judge's court, which dismissed an appeal by the mosque management committee and upheld an earlier decision which held that the religious structure was encroachment on government property. The City Magistrate had declared the mosque illegal in July and issued an order for its demolition. Abhishek Singh, Saharanpur DIG, said, "There was a mosque here at the Saharanpur Collectorate. The court of the city magistrate found it to be illegally constructed on government land. The appeal [against the demolition] of the Mosque Committee was cancelled."

"We have taken all preventive steps to maintain law and order. We are following all legal procedures in taking this action." Ahead of the demolition, Samajwadi Party Lok Sabha

MP Iqra Hasan was allegedly placed under house arrest at her residence in Kairana to prevent her from traveling to Saharanpur, reported news agency. To stem potential unrest, a large contingent of police personnel



was stationed outside MP Iqra Hasan's residence overnight. "A large police force was deployed at my Kairana residence overnight, and I was placed under house arrest to prevent me from going to Saharanpur. I intended to visit Saharanpur to meet officials regarding the Collectorate mosque issue and to voice the concerns of the

people of my constituency, but I was not even allowed to leave my home," Hasan was quoted as saying by . Speaking to news agency , Samajwadi Party spokesperson Dharmendra Kumar Singh said, "This is a government that, from the very first day, wants to run away from basic questions and create a narrative of this kind. There is a system in the Indian judiciary and the Constitution of India. The opportunity for justice extends through all the courts, up to the Supreme Court. And once the Supreme Court gives a judgment, it is final. So, what needs to be seen is whether they were given an opportunity to appeal. Everywhere, after an order is passed, there is a period for filing an appeal, one month or some other stipulated period. They have as many days as are allowed to file an appeal and, if there has been an error in the higher court's order, get it corrected by the court above it. But this government continuously gets orders from the courts and immediately takes action in such a way that it creates hatred in society."

Maharashtra Man Honeytrapped For 17 Lakhs. Case Against 7, Including Cop



Thane. (Agency).

A 56-year-old man from Maharashtra's Thane district was allegedly blackmailed out of Rs 17.65 lakh by seven people, including a police personnel, who threatened to leak an objectionable video of him on social media, police said on Saturday. According to the first information report registered on Thursday, the victim — a private firm employee residing in Kalyan — was honeytrapped by a 28-year-old woman who filmed a compromising video of him. She, along with her accomplices, used the clip to extort Rs 17.65 lakh from the complainant over the last three months.

The police have named the main accused, Seema Jagtap, a resident of Dombivli, her mother, Bharati Sham Thakur (55), her husband, Sumit Singh and three others, including an unidentified police constable, in the case registered under section 308(2) (extortion) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, an official said. No arrests have been made so far, and efforts are underway to trace the suspects, he said.

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The move also comes a day after the government had defended its position on the wider DA dispute, arguing that Punjab employees in several major cadres already receive salaries substantially higher than their Central government counterparts and that the



state's financial position did not permit an immediate settlement of all their demands.

The decision to hike the DA was taken by a three-member Cabinet Sub-Committee comprising Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema, Industries and Commerce Minister Arora and Social Security Minister

Baljit Kaur. The recommendation will now be sent to Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann for final approval.

Arora said the government could not ignore the disparity faced by employees recruited after July 17, 2020. Under a change in the state's recruitment pay structure, fresh recruits were brought under the Central government's 7th Pay Commission pattern, resulting in lower entry-level basic pay than that enjoyed by employees governed by Punjab's pay scales. However, their DA continued to be calculated at Punjab's rate of 42 per cent. "Employees recruited before July 2020 continue to benefit from Punjab's higher basic pay scale. Employees recruited post-July 2020 were brought under the Central Pay Scale pattern but continued to receive Punjab's DA at 42 per cent. This distinction could not be ignored," Arora said, calling the proposal a "Janmashtami gift".

Row erupts after Sikh Man says arrested, tortured in custody for showing black flag to Punjab CM

Patiala (Agency). A 37-year-old man, arrested after allegedly showing a black flag and raising slogans during Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann's programme in Sangrur district has alleged that he was brutally tortured in police custody, a charge that authorities said was under investigation even as they cited a list of cases in which he had been previously booked. The incident took place on September 2 during a Lok Milni programme in Sheron village, which falls under the Sunam Assembly constituency. Mohanjeet Singh, a resident of the village, reportedly stood on the rooftop of a neighbouring house, showed a black flag towards the CM and raised slogans questioning the government's claims on

tackling the drug menace. Police subsequently brought him down and arrested him. Mohanjeet was booked under Sections 126 and 170 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) and released on bail on September 3. He was later admitted to Civil Hospital, Sangrur, where he remained under treatment on Friday.

Speaking from the hospital, Mohanjeet alleged that he was beaten after being detained and tortured at the police station. "I was raising questions about the Punjab government's claims regarding the eradication of drugs. I protested peacefully by showing a black flag while standing on the rooftop of a house. First, I was beaten up in the village

itself by DSP Harinder Singh Khaira and was later taken to the police station, where my hair and beard were disrespected.



Blades were allegedly used on my thighs and salt was later sprinkled on my wounds," he alleged. He further alleged that his family members were abused and

threatened to keep him from speaking out. Mohanjeet, a father of two children, has been associated with an anti-drug club in Sheron and has regularly posted videos questioning the government's anti-drug campaign. Villagers said he had earlier battled drug addiction and subsequently became involved in efforts to discourage others from using drugs. Police, however, said Mohanjeet appeared to be under the influence of drugs when he was detained. Sangrur Rural DSP Dalbir Singh Sidhu said a dope test conducted on September 2 returned positive. He also claimed that eight FIRs were pending against Mohanjeet, including one relating to an attempt to murder.

Frozen faultlines along a common, bloodied ground

August was a turbulent month in Manipur. While the ethnic conflict between the Meiteis and Kuki-Zo tribes seems to have eased a little, unfortunately, another conflict front—which had opened up between the Nagas and the Kukis in February—escalated. A string of gruesome violent incidents, the latest of which were two outrages in quick succession, bore testimony to the conflagration. First, an ambush on August 27 on a passenger vehicle on the Imphal-Tamenglong Road between Kangpokpi district headquarters and Tamei, killing four Naga passengers and injuring several more. Second, an August 31 attack on a Kuki village along the same road, killing three and injuring four. Conspicuous by their absence now are the crusaders who had rushed in to report the earlier conflict, many of whom earned a reputation for themselves for the self-righteous stands they took. Their plots seem completely lost on this new front. Although it is an extension of the earlier conflict, in no conceivable way can this new development of a feud between the Nagas and the Kukis be portrayed as a Hindu majority targeting Christian minorities, or vulnerable tribals being victimised by a bigoted majority, or be fitted into other familiar templates of communal tensions elsewhere in the Indian heartland. Quite obviously, and sadly, all the widely-heard diagnoses of the Manipur problem all along have been at best partially right, if not completely off the track. When the diagnosis went wrong, it is only imaginable that remedial measures too would have gone wrong. In this scenario, it is also difficult not to recall Bertrand Russell's 1926 essay, 'The harm that good men do'. The pictures Manipur's endemic crisis continue to evoke, though often ignored, are of the conflict faultlines frozen and embedded within the very fabric of this multi-ethnic society. For indeed, this story is also about traditional communities who lived in isolation, now having to grapple with the reality of postcolonial modernity. So long as these hostilities remained dormant, a deceptive semblance of peace prevailed. Johan Galtung, a pioneer of conflict studies, termed this as "negative peace". Given the provocation, these underlying hostilities can reactivate to cause infernos. This theory probably explains the periodic and cyclic eruption of ethnic violence in places like Manipur, and indeed the entire Northeast and the contiguous geographical belts beyond. Anthropologist James C Scott has a convincing profile of this conflict landscape in his book *The Art of Not Being Governed: An Anarchic History of Upland Southeast Asia*. The region's mountainous massif is punctuated by numerous fertile, well-irrigated valleys. Stable and productive agrarian revolutions in these valleys led to surplus economies, ultimately making way for the emergence of what Scott calls "paddy States". By contrast, the mountain people were still living off a subsistence economy of primitive jhum agriculture and hunting-gathering, with community affiliations rarely extending beyond isolated clans and villages. They, therefore, had no need for the centralised bureaucracy of a State. A peculiar relationship between these paddy States and the non-State-bearing populations in the mountains is, in Scott's words, only to be predicted in this 'Zomia' theatre. This relationship is not always of hostility, as a great deal of heritages and legends of origin are shared; but it certainly meant different levels of development and power, as well as worldviews. It is in this traditional world that colonialism arrived and superimposed its understanding of modernity and statehood as defined by the Westphalian model. This readjustment remains incomplete in the postcolonial era; therefore the faultlines remain hidden in this conflict landscape even today. In this mix of primordial and modern worlds, the notion of land ownership is where the potential for conflict is foremost. Before the modern world's intervention, for the feudal principalities, the idea of land was not confined to their subjects' immediate habitation, but extended into the State's spheres of control and interest. Likewise, for sedentary populations, the idea of land was a fixed territory in the vicinity of their immediate settlement, under their control.

Tortuous journey of India-China talks

Special Representatives framework has degenerated into an exercise in crisis management

TWENTY-FIVE rounds, 23 years, one agreement, and even that has been subject to constant revision through reinterpretation. India counts the rounds held; China counts the ridgelines held. Conceived in 2003 under then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee to bypass diplomatic hair-splitting and forge a high-level political settlement, the Special Representatives framework has slowly degenerated into a procedural exercise in crisis management. Its sole structural milestone, the April 11, 2005, Agreement on Political Parameters and Guiding Principles, also essentially lies hollowed out. Article VII of this agreement was intended to protect "settled populations" — safeguarding territories like Tawang. New Delhi read the compact as "Tawang secured". Beijing has spent two decades unread it. Finally, in March 2017, then Chinese Special Representative Dai Bingguo declared that Indian concessions in the east were key to Chinese "accommodation" elsewhere. When the two current Special Representatives met in Beijing on August 25 for the 25th round of the dialogue, the mechanism turned 23 with not even a kilometre of the boundary settled. Since the April-June 2020 Chinese intrusions across the Line of Actual Control (LAC), the mandate has inverted: India finds itself negotiating a tactical disengagement and friction-point buffer zones rather than strategic boundary demarcation, effectively trading established patrolling rights to preserve a fragile peace. The eight points of consensus and outcomes arrived at on August 25 read more like a crisis management mechanism than a boundary dispute settlement process. Even the terms of reference of the Expert Group on Boundary Delimitation and the Working Group on Border Management under the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination (WMCC) on India-China Border Affairs are yet to be mutually settled. Conversely, the promised "Early Harvest" in sector-wise delimitation, hyped after the 24th round on August 19, 2025, has been given a quiet burial in the latest pronouncements, leaving behind in concrete terms only a scheduled 26th round in India next year. A device created to deliver a settlement now exists to administer its absence. Is the mechanism working, or is it merely meeting? The western sector is the oldest wound. The Treaty of Chushul (1842) between the Dogra Durbars, Lhasa, and the Qing dynasty pledged old, established frontiers without defining one. WH Johnson's 1865 survey placed Aksai Chin within Kashmir. Claude MacDonald's note of March 14, 1899, to the Tsungli Yamen offered China most of the Aksai Chin plains. Peking never replied. The silence was weaponised. China drove its Xinjiang-Tibet highway through Aksai Chin,

announcing it in 1957. Ten Indian policemen were killed in a firefight at Kongka Pass on October 21, 1959, while roughly 38,000 square km of Ladakh came under unlawful Chinese occupation. Another 5,180 square km of the Shaksgam valley, illegitimately occupied by Pakistan, was signed away on March 2, 1963, to China. All of this territory rightfully belongs to India. The eastern sector is the newest claim. The McMahon Line was delineated in notes exchanged by Henry McMahon and Lonchen Shatra at Simla on March 24-25, 1914. China's



plenipotentiary initialled the draft Convention on April 27, but Peking repudiated it. Britain and Tibet signed a revised version of the Convention on July 3, proceeding without China. On that repudiation rests Beijing's claim to roughly 90,000 square km of Arunachal Pradesh. Why Tawang, above all? Because the sixth Dalai Lama was born at Urgelling near Tawang in 1683, and whoever holds Tawang holds a veto over the politics of reincarnation, the only legitimising currency of Chinese rule in Tibet. The claim is theological, but the gains sought are territorial. The middle sector, some 2,000 square km from Barahoti to Shipki La, is the only one whose maps were exchanged, in 2000-01, under Article X of the Confidence Building Measures Agreement of November 29, 1996, binding both sides to "speed up the process of clarification and confirmation" of the LAC. When western sector maps were shown in June 2002 during the 14th Joint Working Group meeting, the Chinese side withdrew them within minutes, and the exercise has been dead since then. It was never attempted

in the case of the eastern sector. Why does Beijing refuse to clarify the LAC? Because cartographic ambiguity is a standing licence for coercion, and every unclarified kilometre is a future salami slice.

Then Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai carried the original bargain to Delhi in April 1960: China would recognise the McMahon Line in the east if India surrendered its claim over Aksai Chin in the west. India declined. The Officials' Report of February 1961 recorded two irreconcilable cases, and the Lok Sabha resolution of November 14, 1962, vowed to recover every inch of "the sacred soil of India," a parliamentary lock no government has dared to pick since then. By 1985, during the sixth round of the border talks, Beijing upended its own offer, demanding the east, meaning Tawang, as its price.

Vajpayee's China policy bookended the irony. On May 11, 1998, he justified Pokhran-II to US President Bill Clinton by citing "an overt nuclear weapon state on our borders" that had committed armed aggression in 1962. This was leaked to *The New York Times* in two days, and repairing that damage took five years and came at a price. In the 2003 Beijing Declaration, Vajpayee recognised Tibet as part of China and gained implicit Chinese recognition of Sikkim in turn. Article VII of the April 2005 agreement was supposed to protect settled populations. Beijing has systematically neutralised this clause on the ground by populating contested frontiers with over 600 dual-use Xiaokang border villages, converting uninhabited buffer zones into State-backed civilian strongholds. Beijing has tenanted the dispute before negotiating it. India's

answer, the Vibrant Villages Programme, approved by the Union Cabinet only on February 15, 2023, committed Rs 4,800 crore to developing hamlets already emptying out. Can a demographic offensive be answered with a pilot scheme? Broad theatre-level transgressions by China happened between April and June 2020. If nobody intruded, what then did 21 rounds of corps commander-level talks disengage? Whose land became the buffer zones Indian patrols cannot enter? What of the 26 of 65 patrolling points reported beyond reach at the January 2023 DGPs' conference? The understanding reached on October 21, 2024, restored coordinated patrolling at Depsang and Demchok, not the status quo ante of April 2020 in all areas. When did status quo ante quietly exit our lexicon? Beyond the choreography, the Special Representatives process has been repurposed from settlement to a sedative. Instead of actually resolving the border dispute, it is now used just to keep things calm before major summits — such as the upcoming BRICS event in Delhi.

Beyond Bishkek: Strategic bid to shape region's architecture

With Central Asia gaining greater prominence within the SCO, India should make the region the centrepiece of its engagement, combining political outreach with connectivity, education, healthcare, energy, technology and cultural partnerships

The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation is entering a consequential phase on its silver jubilee. The Bishkek Declaration reflects a bloc moving beyond its traditional security mandate towards connectivity, economic resilience, technology and wider Eurasian cooperation. For India, that evolution presents a clear opportunity, but also a test of whether New Delhi can move from participation to agenda-setting. The bloc's condemnation of the US-Israeli strikes on Iran adds a sharper geopolitical edge to the declaration. By backing Tehran and invoking the UN Charter, the grouping has reiterated its push for a more multipolar world order. However, the declaration's strongest signal is on terrorism. SCO members rejected "double standards" and approved regulations for a coordination body to fight regional terrorism. Prime Minister Narendra Modi called for dismantling the entire ecosystem of terrorist financing, recruitment, radicalisation and safe havens, warning against States that use terrorism as an "instrument of policy"—a pointed



message to Pakistan. The larger opportunity lies in shaping the organisation's emerging economic and technological agenda. The declaration highlights transport corridors, multimodal connectivity, digital commerce, energy security, industrial cooperation, startups, national-currency settlements and resilient supply chains. These

are areas where India can press for tangible outcomes: interoperable digital systems, streamlined customs, logistics cooperation and greater access for Indian businesses to Eurasian markets. Technology is an equally important frontier. The SCO's focus on artificial intelligence and information security gives India a chance to shape regional norms rather than simply adapt to them. The security dimension will be crucial, too, particularly on cross-border terror, narcotics and transnational crime. Yet, India should be realistic about the SCO's limitations. Its members have sharply divergent strategic interests, making consensus for a communiqué easier than implementation. It should be judged more by what it delivers, not by the breadth of its declarations. For New Delhi, the most important shift is geographical. With Central Asia gaining greater prominence within the SCO, India should make the region the centrepiece of its engagement, combining political outreach with connectivity.

Why job engine stalls at state borders

With Central Asia gaining greater prominence within the SCO, India should make the region the centrepiece of its engagement, combining political outreach with connectivity, education, healthcare, energy, technology and cultural partnerships

The Periodic Labour Force Survey for the current financial year's first quarter—April-June, 2026—was published recently. On the surface, the macroeconomic figures depict a picture of reassuring stability. Urban unemployment remained steady at 6.7 percent, the nationwide active workforce was estimated at 56.6 crore persons, and the share of regular salaried employment continued to grow slowly in both rural and urban India. However, these headlines mask a deeper, more urgent structural narrative. Careful examination reveals a persistent spatial and institutional disconnect in India's economy. The Union government crafts macro policy, deploying multi-crore production-linked incentive schemes, relaxing foreign direct investment rules and trying to maintain fiscal discipline. The transmission of these moves into productive employment, however, remains severely constrained. The primary bottleneck of economic growth is no longer in the policy corridors of Delhi, but in the state capitals across the country. Consider the rural labour shifts documented between the January-March and April-June quarters of 2026. The rural labour force participation rate (LFPR) contracted notably from 58.2 percent to 56.9 percent. At the same time, agricultural employment's share of the rural workforce dropped sharply by 2.9 percentage points from 55.8 percent. In a classical structural transformation, workers exiting agriculture would move into high-value manufacturing or urban services. In India today, this labour is predominantly absorbed by the rural secondary sector, comprising construction, quarrying and small-scale manufacturing, which grew from 22.6 percent to 24.4 percent, alongside a modest increase in tertiary rural activity to 22.7 percent.

While the decline in agricultural dependency may be structurally desirable, the nature of absorption raises concerns. Construction and informal secondary activities often act as informal sponges, soaking up displaced workers without building the kind of compounding productivity that manufacturing or services can offer. This structural reallocation looks worse when viewed through a gender lens, with the female LFPR trends revealing a vast divergence between geographies. While urban female participation showed resilience—edging down only marginally to 22.8 percent while female urban unemployment dropped from 9.1 percent to 8.7 percent—rural female LFPR suffered a steep decline of two full percentage points in a single quarter, falling to 37.2 percent. This sudden contraction exposes a structural vulnerability in women's work. Rural women are disproportionately drawn into agriculture, unpaid helper roles or casual labour. As farm activity shifts seasonally, they drop out of the formal labour force rather than transitioning into non-farm wage work. Because areas outside the major urban clusters lack localised industrial and structured service hubs, women workers are deprived of stable alternatives. The drop in rural female participation isn't merely a seasonal blip; it is a direct consequence of localised economies failing to provide formal, high-density opportunities for women transitioning out of farm work. Urban markets present a similar story of institutional

inertia. The urban LFPR remained flat at 50.2 percent, while the worker-population ratio held near 46.8 percent. Although regular wage and salaried employment accounts for nearly half of urban jobs, the whole pie is simply not expanding fast enough to absorb new entrants or rural migrants seeking higher-productivity work. The underlying issue stems from factor-market friction.



National industrial policies assume that capital investment will automatically translate into factory jobs. In practice, manufacturing firms face exorbitant power tariffs, rigid state labour regulations, prolonged land acquisition processes and inadequate municipal infrastructure connecting production hubs to freight corridors—all of which represent localised friction points. Central tax incentives or national trade agreements

cannot resolve these operational hurdles.

The core imperative then is for India's employment strategy to shift focus from federal capital expenditure to state-level administrative reform. The divergence in states' execution capacity is already shaping regional inequality. Southern and western states such as Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Karnataka and Maharashtra have built industrialised ecosystems capable of capturing supply-chain shifts and supporting urban service density. Whereas populous northern and eastern states continue to struggle with high youth unemployment and underemployment, functioning primarily as labour exporters. If India is to harness its demographic window, represented by the 56.6 crore working citizens counted in the PLFS bulletin, state governments must take ownership of three core economic reforms. First, they should rationalise power and factor costs. Cross-subsidisation of electricity, where industrial units pay inflated tariffs to subsidise domestic and agricultural usage, penalises job-creating manufacturing. States must restructure utility distribution to lower input costs for light manufacturing. Second, they must undertake industrial cluster governance. State industrial development corporations must move beyond land-allotment and become integrated service providers. Resolving local environmental clearances, building last-mile logistics to freight corridors and providing worker housing near industrial clusters are essential state responsibilities.

High blood pressure: Exercise and tips

This is largely due to unawareness regarding early detection and cure. In India, around 16 per cent of people above 20 years of age suffer from high blood pressure. However, a single high reading does not necessarily imply that you have hypertension. Moreover, even if you were informed recently that you have the condition; there is absolutely no reason to panic. All you need are some basic lifestyle tips and a well-planned exercise routine and you will be as fit as a fiddle.

Overview:

High blood pressure or hypertension is a medical condition when the difference between the maximum (systolic) and minimum (diastolic) pressures exerted by the circulating blood on your blood vessels increases the desirable value (above 90-119 systolic and 60-79 diastolic).

Prime risk factors:

Some of the major factors that increase your risk of developing the condition are:

Age Increased levels of blood pressure are closely associated with age and the effects of an unhealthy lifestyle

gradually build up.

Ethnicity Generally, it is observed that people belonging to the African-Caribbean and South-Asian communities have increased probability of developing hypertension.

Family history Having a family history of high blood pressure places you at a greater risk of developing the condition.

Lifestyle issues It is a well-known fact that your lifestyle can affect your risk of developing it. Major lifestyle flaws include high intake of alcohol, excessive smoking, too much salt and not eating sufficient fruits and vegetables.

Tips to prevent and

control:

One of the primary steps to ensure that you do not develop the condition is by adopting a healthy lifestyle. By healthy lifestyle, we refer to the complete cycle of following a healthy eating plan, and moderate indulgences. Broadly, the prevention and control tips can be segregated into:

- Maintaining a healthy weight - Practice moderation if you drink alcohol - Quitting smoking - Regulating the excessive intake of salt and sodium - Frequent regulation of your health by visiting health care professionals at periodic intervals.

Exercise tips for managing blood pressure:

Becoming active and incorporating regular physical activity in your day-to-day living helps make your heart stronger. This, in turn, can lead your heart to pump more blood with less effort, thereby lowering the force on your arteries and the subsequent reduction of blood pressures.

Aerobic training This form of training can have a major influence on your blood pressure levels. This can include anything from walking, running and hiking to biking and even swimming. On an average, target at least 30 minutes of aerobic activity for most days of the week. In case, you are unable to manage

Commonly referred to as a 'silent killer', high blood pressure or hypertension is a leading cause of death globally.

this time set, you can also opt for shorter bursts of activity as they count too.

Weight training Although these exercises can lead to sudden spikes in your blood pressure levels, they can have long term benefits. Make sure that you consult a physician before embarking on any weight training programs.

Yoga and meditation In order to prevent this condition, yoga postures and meditation techniques should also be incorporated in your daily routine. The prime effect of these fitness programs is that they help combat stress and saturate the mind with tranquility.

Deep-breathing exercises According to a recent research published in the American Journal of Hypertension, a person can regulate his blood pressure level by 'harnessing' the body's own natural pressure regulator. Breathing techniques are easy and effective ways to curb elevated levels of blood pressure. Regular and right breathing techniques can help you maintain normal blood pressure.

However, for long term effects, always remember that you will have to follow these exercise and lifestyle tips on a regular basis. The benefits last as long as you continue with the planned fitness regime.

'Fitness at workplace' is the latest mantra in the corporate world. Companies have realised that regular exercise boosts employee morale, enhances productivity,

reduce

s absenteeism and signs of burnout or depression.

Nowadays, the corporate employees not only stretch themselves beyond their responsibilities, but also stretch their muscles in the office gym.

A little bit of planning and a few small additions in one's office routine can help one a healthier lifestyle. According to a World Health Organisation report, India could incur losses to the tune of \$237 billion by 2015 due to rise in lifestyle diseases like heart disease, diabetes, stroke and cancer, because of unhealthy workplaces.

Here are some easy everyday things you can do to get healthy and fit while at your workplace:

Stay hydrated:

Water helps your body with physical and mental performance, detoxification and

Fun ways to keep fit in your office

avoid monotony.

Make reasons to walk around:

Give yourself several reasons to take a break and move around after every 40 minutes. Simply getting up and moving around for a few moments can keep you focused, less fatigued and feeling better. For example, avoid ordering a cup of coffee/ tea at your desk, go and get it yourself or while speaking with someone on cell phone walk around till you end the call. Get down from your car if driven by a chauffeur a few blocks before your office and walk the remaining distance provided you leave home 10 to 15 minutes before your usual time.

Hit the office gym in lunch hours:

Try to exercise for 30 minutes during the lunch time and grab a bite at your desk afterwards. Encourage having an area of a simple gym in your office. It could be jogger or a stationary bicycle or a treadmill.

Simple stretching:

People often face stress, back and joint pains and weight gain problems at work. To get rid of such health problems, while sitting in your chair, flex your feet and circle your ankles, stretch your legs and arms as frequent as you can.

Take the stairs:

Whenever possible, get moving and take the stairs rather than the elevator. Taking stairs will keep you fit and energetic.

Pack healthy snacks:

Rather than buying chips, junk food and sodas during office hours, bring some granola, fruit or raw veggies to snack on. This healthy diet will keep your energy levels fit and steady.

Conduct meetings on the go:

When it's practical, schedule walking meetings or brainstorming sessions. Do laps inside your building or take your walking meetings outdoors.

Participate in different office games:

Office games such as table tennis, basket ball are an interesting way to keep healthy and fit. These games not only keep your energy levels high but also keep your body in good shape.

Use neem oil, garlic for mosquito free home

As the national capital battles one of its worst dengue seasons, experts suggest natural methods like neem and coconut oil concoction or garlic to keep the mosquito-borne tropical disease at bay.

Neem oil acts as a great indoor mosquito-repellent owing to its smell that wards off mosquitoes. One can make an effective insecticide by mixing neem oil and coconut oil in equal proportion and rub it on the exposed parts of a body.

- Another natural method to keep mosquitoes at bay is to plant Tulsi near the window panes. The plant has properties that do not allow mosquitoes to breed.

- A mixture of lemon oil and eucalyptus oil is extremely effective in warding off mosquitoes naturally. Both have the active component cineole in it carrying antiseptic and insect repellent properties, which makes them effective when applied to the skin.

- Camphor is an easily available ingredient that kills mosquitoes in a house. Made from the extract of a tree, this compound has been found to have the longest mosquito repellent effect as compared to other natural products. Burning camphor in a closed room can be extremely effective in keeping mosquitoes at bay.

- Garlic might smell bad, but that is exactly why mosquitoes stay away. All you need to do is crush a few pods of garlic, boil them in water and spray the liquid in the room.



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

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

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

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

Leg press: Another form of exercise that should be avoided is the leg press as this can place undue amount

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

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



Leg curls: According to strength and conditioning coach, Charlie Weingroff, exercises like deadlifts are more effective than leg curls. This is because the latter trains the hams only as knee flexors while, during activity, they are used mainly as hip extensors.

Sit ups: As per the recommendations by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), a person should never

apply more than 3400 newtons of force on his back at a time. Crossing this limit would place unnecessary stress on the back muscles leading to stress or injury. On an average, a regular sit-up program contributes around 3413 newtons of force on the back muscles. To avoid this, opt for short range crunch movements or tabletops.

Lat pulldown exercises

(behind the head): This is a big "no-no" without proper form, as this may affect your shoulder joint functioning. Only those with extreme shoulder joint flexibility can opt for this exercise and that too, with extreme care for correct form. A better alternative for working your lats is by pulling the bar towards your chest and not behind the head. But, remember to keep your spine straight and abs pulled in while performing this.



How papaya, fenugreek leaves can control Dengue

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



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

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

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



Fenugreek leaves:

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

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

Feeling blue? You have impaired your ability to identify colours

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



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

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

In the study, the researchers had 127 undergraduate participants watch an emotional film clip and then complete a visual judgment task. The participants were randomly assigned to watch an animated film clip intended to induce sadness or a standup comedy clip intended to induce amusement.

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

green, or blue.

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

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

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

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

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

The researchers noted that previous work has specifically linked colour perception on the blue-yellow axis with the neurotransmitter dopamine. The new research was published in the journal Psychological Science.



Here's how you should make turmeric

Milk

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



At Delhi's Ridge, contempt of court claims 'pause' removal of invasive trees

Delhi. (Agency)

In the petition submitted in the High Court, questions were raised on the approach followed by the Forest department to remove the invasive species.

Freshly cut trunks, piles of branches and stretches of vegetation removed: the forest behind Buddha Jayanti Park near Dhaula Kuan in South Delhi bears signs of recent clearing. Even as the Delhi government's Forest department initiated the clearing to remove invasive vilayati keekar to make way for indigenous plantation under a Centre-approved Delhi Eco-restoration Plan 2026-30, the work in the Central Ridge — hailed as the Capital's green lungs — has been paused after the High Court on September 1 sought the department's response to allegations of violations of its earlier directions, officials have told. In the petition submitted in the High Court, questions were raised on the approach followed by the Forest department to remove the invasive species. While the work is said to have been paused, the controversy is still brewing with claims being made about machines operating inside

the forest area. In response, officials said tyre marks visible in geotagged photographs from September 3 are of water tankers used for maintenance work, adding that there has been no new activity.

Court scrutiny
The HC order on September 1 came on a contempt petition filed by activist Lt Col (Retd) Sarvadaman Singh Oberoi, Managing Trustee of the Aravalli Bachao Citizens Movement, against senior Forest department officials, alleging disobedience of earlier court directions relating to the protection of the ecologically sensitive Central Ridge. Questions were raised on the manner in which invasive vegetation is being removed, as well as the timing. Under the restoration plan, the government has envisaged planting more than one crore plants over four years. For the current plantation season, officials said the target is set 14 lakh plants, with September 30 set as

the deadline. The monsoon window is important because planting before the dry months gives young plants better access to soil moisture, according to the department. Officials have said that work and timeline

Conservator of Forests and Head of Forest Force; and Rajeev Verma, Chief Secretary, Delhi government. The matter is listed next for September 24. The matter is listed next for September 24.

What the High Court said earlier

On August 28, 2023, the HC recorded assurances that no construction of any kind of trail or park would be undertaken through the Central Ridge and there would be no clearing of land by felling trees without its permission. In another order, on September 4 the same year, the High Court said the Central Ridge should be preserved in its natural form and directed against concretisation and construction, observing that the Ridge could not be reduced to a park. On May 6, 2024, the court, while noting concerns over illegal felling and degradation, directed that there be no further felling of trees or removal of shrubs without its permission.



has been affected amid the contempt proceedings. In its order, the High Court sought replies from Vipul Pandey, Deputy Conservator of Forests (West Division); Shyam Sundar Kandpal, Principal Chief

Activist Swatantra Bhardwaj, who bragged about 'cracking man's skull', arrested

Delhi. (Agency)

Swatantra Bhardwaj, the influencer and activist who bragged about "cracking the skull" of a student protester's father during the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) agitation at Jantar Mantar, was arrested on Saturday. Bhardwaj, who was detained from Uttar Pradesh's Bulandshahr on Friday following protests by the CJP and the opposition, was later sent to one-day police custody. The developments come a day after CJP leaders, along with Lok Sabha MPs Chandra Shekhar and Pappu Yadav, protested at Parliament Street police station in New Delhi demanding Bhardwaj's arrest. While the police assured action within three days, Bhardwaj was eventually detained within hours near Dhamra Nara village as he attempted to flee Bulandshahr.



Shared details of excluded voters, BLAs should have noted addresses: Delhi poll office

Delhi. (Agency)

The Delhi poll office has strongly denied the allegations made by Opposition parties AAP and the Congress that they had been provided with incomplete details of voters removed from the draft rolls. The election body stressed that it had shared the necessary information and that the booth-level agents (BLAs) of the parties should have noted down the addresses of the voters.

The sharp rebuttal comes after AAP and the Congress alleged that the addresses of the voters marked under the absent, shifted, dead, duplicate' (ASDD) categories, who were removed from the draft rolls published on August 31, were not provided to the parties. The draft rolls were published after the completion of the special intensive revision (SIR) exercise, in which 47.5 lakh electors out of the 1.45 crore voters in the Capital were excluded.

Both AAP and Congress leaders had earlier written to the office of the Delhi chief electoral officer, seeking details—including addresses and photos—of those placed under the ASDD categories.

"We repeatedly told the Election Commission that the names, phone numbers and addresses of those whose names were deleted should be shared with the political parties, so that they can be verified," AAP Delhi president Saurabh Bharadwaj had said. Replying to the claims, the Delhi CEO's office said in a statement that the political parties had been requested to direct their BLAs to approach the concerned booth-level officers (BLOs) associated with SIR for noting the addresses and other details of electors placed under the ASDD list.

Those excluded from the rolls can file their claims till September 30 through Form 6 with supporting documents. The final voter roll will be published on November 4.

Molestation case riddled with contradictions: Delhi court acquits father-son duo

A Delhi court acquitted a father and son in a molestation case after finding major contradictions in the prosecution's evidence. The order raises serious questions over the police probe and the possibility of malicious prosecution.

Delhi. (Agency)

A Delhi court has acquitted a father-son duo in a molestation case, saying the prosecution failed to prove the allegations beyond a reasonable doubt and that the case suffered from "fatal, irreconcilable infirmities". The two were also cleared of charges of attempted disrobing, house trespass and criminal intimidation.

Additional Sessions Judge Hargurvarinder Singh Jaggi acquitted Pramod, alias Akash, and his father, Mohar Singh, who were facing trial in

a case registered at Neb Sarai Police Station in February 2018.

In an order dated August 25, the court said, "The prosecution's case has collapsed under the weight of its own contradictions. The prosecutrix directly exonerated Mohar Singh. Further, the prosecutrix's testimony against Pramod alias Akash is riddled

with progressive improvements and material contradictions." The court said the case against Mohar Singh was completely weakened after the woman stated during her deposition that "accused Mohar Singh has done nothing against me". It noted that while she had earlier made allegations against him in her statement before a magistrate, that statement was not substantive evidence and could only be used for corroboration or contradiction. The court also found that the prosecution's sole public



eyewitness, Vakil, alias Parvinder, turned hostile during cross-examination. Though he had initially been cited as the person who rescued the woman and saw the alleged assault that followed, he later told the court under oath that he was not present at the time and had not witnessed any beating or molestation. The judge said this complete retraction left the prosecution with "absolutely no independent or public corroboration" for several charges.

Delhi govt appoints 39 sub-registrars through randomisation

Delhi. (Agency)

In a first, the Delhi government has appointed sub-registrars across all 39 sub-divisions through a technology-assisted randomisation process. The move, officials said, was aimed at making governance in the city more transparent, fair, effective and citizen-friendly.

The process was conducted in the presence of the additional chief secretary (services). The number of sub-registrar offices has also been increased to 39 from 22, with one now serving each of the city's 39 sub-divisions. The aim is to bring the sub-division and the sub-registrar services closer to residents under the 13 revenue districts. The sub-registrar offices deal

with important revenue and registration-related matters that have a direct bearing on the general public. Making the process of appointing



officers to these posts transparent and fair will, therefore, help make citizen services more streamlined, said officials.

Some officers have been retained as sub-registrars, while others have been

transferred from their existing assignments. Appointments were made from among officers meeting prescribed criteria, including good health, sufficient remaining service tenure and vigilance clearance.

Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Friday called upon the newly appointed sub-registrars to work with "complete honesty and dedication to provide better and more effective services to the people of Delhi". She said that her government's objective is to strengthen systems that make government functioning more transparent, organised, effective and convenient for citizens. She said that she expects the newly appointed sub-registrars to discharge their responsibilities with seriousness and a spirit of public service.

Preparations in full swing ahead of BRICS Summit in Delhi

Delhi. (Agency)

Ahead of the BRICS Summit scheduled to be held at the Bharat Mandapam on September 12 and 13, the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) has stepped up civic preparations across key roads, markets, hotel areas and VIP routes in the national capital, with a focus on sanitation, beautification, illumination and traffic-route readiness.

Discussing the preparations, NDMC vice-chairperson Kuljeet Singh Chahal said, "Work orders for decorative illumination at 17 major roundabouts, 11 hotels and 10 NDMC buildings & sites have already been issued so far, with installation work under way. The works are scheduled to be completed by September 9."

Among the roundabouts being illuminated are Patel Chowk, Windsor Place, Mandi House, Teen Murti, Q-Point, Lok Kalyan Metro Station, Man Singh and PM Roundabout. Hotels including Taj Palace, ITC Maurya, Ashoka, Samrat, The Leela, Taj Mansingh, Claridges and The Imperial will also be decorated with illumination, along with trees around the hotel areas.

The civic body has also completed 100% verification of streetlights along the summit-related routes and replaced faulty lights identified during the exercise. Further, about 350 electrical panel boxes along roads have been given a facelift using flex stickers.

Additionally, as part of the branding exercise, 309 sites have been identified based on designs shared by the Ministry of External Affairs. These include 154 digital media screens, 83 PTU (public toilet utilities) or CTU (community toilet utilities) flex sites and 72 bus queue shelters. Installation at all these locations has been completed.

The NDMC also said that 41 major roads along delegate and VIP routes are being monitored circle-wise. Repairs to roads, footpaths and bus shelters have been completed, while painting has been finished on 32 roads. Work on the remaining nine roads is currently under way. The civic body is also deploying more than 15,000 flower pots, floral boards at 15 locations and floral fountains at nine sites. Mist-spraying will be undertaken at five locations, including Lodhi Road, Tilak Marg and Shantipath, to control dust and pollution.

Russia to Rio: Bengal tourism ad takes you everywhere except Bengal

Delhi. (Agency)

Bengal's new tourism ad was meant as a renewed push to put the state on the global tourism map. However, if you give a casual glance, you would have spotted the Eiffel Tower, Russia's Saint Basil's Cathedral, pyramids, and Rio's Christ the Redeemer. What you might not have spotted is Bengal itself. Only the iconic Howrah Bridge makes a brief cameo - a blink-and-you-miss-it appearance. It has invited widespread ridicule online, with users asking the obvious question: Where is Bengal?

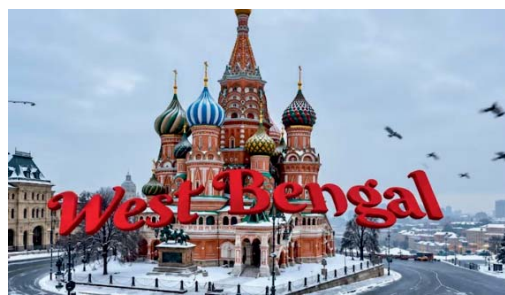
The ad was released as Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari unveiled a new logo, along with a fresh brand identity, for Bengal tourism. He also announced a Rs 500-crore push to develop tourism infrastructure in the state - whose geography stretches from the mangroves in the Sundarbans to the snowy peaks of the Himalayas in the north. "We have

destroyed the tourism infrastructure in our state. Tourists pass through Darjeeling and Kalimpong in our state and travel to Sikkim. We are determined to change this," Suvendu said at the event.

BENGAL'S TOURISM AD GETS TROLLED

The logo, along with the catchline - 'West Bengal: Where India feels different' - was released by Suvendu with much fanfare at the Dhono Dhanyo auditorium on Friday. The initiative is part of the BJP government's move to do away with Mamata Banerjee's famous 'Biswa Bangla' branding that was conceptualised to show how the new tourism ad has not gone down well with the Bengali bhadralok. The ad, however, opens promisingly, showing a montage of the iconic Howrah Bridge. And then, like a tourist wandering off from a group tour, it simply leaves the state. It takes viewers on a whirlwind tour

of deserts, pyramids and other iconic destinations that are nowhere in Bengal. Global landmarks and skyscrapers that have no diplomatic relationship with Digha or Darjeeling make guest



appearances. The Victoria Memorial, famous Terracotta temples of Bishnupur, the Darjeeling toy train, etc., are nowhere to be seen. However, the new tourism ad has not gone down well with the Bengali

bhadralok. The ad, however, opens promisingly, showing a montage of the iconic Howrah Bridge.

And then, like a tourist wandering off from a group tour, it simply leaves the state. It takes viewers on a whirlwind tour of deserts, pyramids and other iconic destinations that are nowhere in Bengal.

Global landmarks and skyscrapers that have no diplomatic relationship with Digha or Darjeeling make guest appearances. The Victoria Memorial, famous Terracotta temples of Bishnupur, the Darjeeling toy train, etc., are nowhere to be seen.

WHERE IS BENGAL, USERS

ASK
The irony was not lost on social media users. Leading the criticism was TMC MP Derek O'Brien. "Trash is a mild word for this communication," he tweeted. Former Tripura and Meghalaya.

India’s BRICS Chairship brings \$1 trillion sovereign capital summit to Delhi

New Delhi. (Agency)

Sovereign wealth funds, pension funds and family offices managing a combined USD 1 trillion are set to meet in New Delhi on September 12-13 for talks on cross-border investments, non-dollar settlements and payment systems among BRICS economies.

According to a press release issued by the Sovereign Wealth Fund Institute (SWFI), the inaugural iBRICS Summit, a separate sovereign investment event convened by the SWFI on the sidelines of the BRICS Leaders’ Summit, is expected to bring together over 500 institutional investors, finance ministers and business leaders. A closed-door roundtable involving around 250 participants will discuss non-dollar settlement corridors and capital deployment targets, while bilateral meetings will focus on potential projects in infrastructure, technology, critical minerals and energy transition.

The summit will also include the signing of a proposed “Sovereign Capital Compact” on September 12. The release, however, did not disclose the value of any investment commitments or identify specific projects expected to receive funding. Lakshmi Narayanan, chairman of SWFI and lead co-chair of iBRICS, said, “With tariffs and sanctions stressing traditional corridors, funds and ministries need direct access to allocate capital differently.” Discussions are also expected on linking national fast-payment systems such as India’s Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and Brazil’s Pix, along with interoperability between central bank digital currencies. SWFI said the meeting is intended to connect institutional capital with infrastructure, energy and digital projects across BRICS member and partner countries.

As BRICS Chair 2026, India will be hosting the 18th BRICS Summit on September 12-13 at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi. The Summit will bring together leaders of BRICS Member and Partner Countries as well as Outreach Invitees.

CBI books Subhash Chandra, others in alleged Rs 1,322-crore LIC Housing Finance fraud

New Delhi. (Agency)

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has registered a case against Subhash Chandra and others for allegedly defrauding LIC Housing Finance Ltd (LICHFL) of approximately Rs 1,322 crore. The case is based on a complaint submitted to the CBI Head Office concerning loan facilities granted by the housing finance company to several private firms. Two loan facilities detailed

The complaint said LICHFL extended a Rs 500-crore loan to Vasant Sagar Properties Pvt Ltd and co-borrower Pan India Infra Projects Pvt Ltd. It was sanctioned as a Home Entity Loan for takeover and top-up for business expansion.

The facility was granted under loan account number 610700003341 and secured through a continuing guarantee executed by Chandra on March 28, 2018. The complaint described it as “A loan facility of Rs. 500 Crores to Vasant Sagar Properties Pvt. Ltd. and Pan India Infra projects Pvt. Ltd. (Co-borrower) as a Home Entity Loan (Takeover & Top-up for Business Expansion) under Loan Account No. 610700003341 secured by a Letter of Continuing Guarantee dated 28th March 18 executed by Subhash Chandra (Vasant Sagar Loan Facility).

NSE IPO to ring in D Street festivities: Price band next week, listing on Sept 25, says report

Kolkata. (Agency)

The mega NSE IPO is going to hit the market before Jio Platforms issue. Reports state that NSE is targeting a listing date of September 25. The IPO price band could be revealed on September 11. The much-anticipated IPO of the country’s largest stock exchange NSE, for which investors were waiting for more than a decade, has received the final approval from market regulator SEBI. This public offering of approximately Rs 30,000 crore is expected to be the country’s largest IPO unless the JIO IPO better its record.

NSE’s IPO stuck for 10 years

Plans to list on the NSE stock exchange had been stalled for a long time. Regulatory issues related to co-location and dark-fiber remained a major hurdle. Now, progress in the legal and regulatory disputes related to these matters has cleared the way for the IPO. NSE filed a draft red herring prospectus for the IPO in June 2026. Now, after SEBI’s approval, the next process will move forward for the company and its existing shareholders.

Size about Rs 30,000 crore

The NSE IPO is estimated to be worth approximately Rs 30,000 crore. The current record for the biggest public issue in India is held by Hyundai Motor India which mobilized Rs 27,870 crore. Importantly, the proposed IPO could involve NSE selling the stakes of existing shareholders rather than raising new capital itself. This could primarily be in the form of an Offer for Sale.

NSE valuations also under scrutiny

There’s also considerable discussion in the market about the potential valuation of NSE ahead of the IPO.

GDP dust settles, but trust emerges as the real fault line

India's 7.8% GDP growth has triggered a debate over data credibility, methodology and revisions. While Arvind Subramanian flagged a trust deficit and sought greater transparency, KV Subramanian defended the figures and dismissed the alternative 2.6% growth estimate as "absolutely bogus."

New Delhi. (Agency)

The dust over the Narendra Modi government's release of GDP data is eventually beginning to settle. Whether the country has recorded a nominal growth of 10.3% or 2.6% depends on the perception one is peddling. The issue was

first raked up when former Finance Secretary Subhash Chandra Garg argued that India’s GDP for the first quarter (April, May and June) would have shown nominal growth of only 2.6% had it been based on the old GDP series with 2011-12 as the base year, which the Centre changed to 2022-23 in February this year. This sparked a debate around two central questions. First, was Garg comparing Q1 2026 from one data series with Q1 2025 from another -- effectively comparing apples and oranges, as many of his critics point out? Second, did the government actually revise the Q1 2025 estimate from the initial Rs 86 lakh crore to Rs 80 lakh crore to make the Q1 2026 figures appear more impressive? In an exclusive interaction with India Today

TV, India's two former chief economic advisors have offered sharply contrasting assessments of India’s latest GDP numbers, with Arvind Subramanian questioning the credibility and transparency surrounding the data, while KV Subramanian rejected the alternative

2.6% growth estimate as “absolutely bogus.” Speaking to India Today TV, Arvind Subramanian said the government was half right technically and directionally on the latest numbers,



acknowledging that economic activity appeared to be improving. However, he said the government had “a lot to answer for” over the magnitude of the 7.8% growth figure. “The government is sort of half right, technically and kind of directionally on the numbers, i.e., things are improving. But on the magnitude of the 7.8% growth itself, how it is felt, the larger doubts raised by the critics, I think the government has a lot to answer for,”

HUGE TRUST DEFICIT: ARVIND SUBRAMANIAN

Even while cautioning that the real 7.8% GDP growth figure should be taken with a pinch of salt, Arvind Subramanian said former Finance Secretary Subhash Garg’s calculation of 2.6% growth was technically flawed and “overstated” because it compared figures from the old and new GDP series.

He described it as an “apples to oranges” comparison. According to him, the revised 2022-23 figure should be compared with the corresponding figure under the new methodology. However, speaking about Garg, Subramanian said there was a “kernel of truth in the spirit of what he is saying”, pointing out that Garg had raised a broader and legitimate question about why the earlier GDP estimate was revised downward, particularly amid a wider trust deficit over the government’s handling of data in recent years

RBI to absorb Rs 7 lakh crore surplus liquidity through 30-day auction

New Delhi. (Agency)

he Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is stepping up efforts to absorb surplus liquidity from the banking system as excess cash reaches record levels following a surge in foreign-currency inflows from overseas Indians. The central bank will conduct a 30-day variable-rate reverse repo auction for Rs 7 lakh crore (\$74.1 billion) on Monday, according to a statement issued by the RBI. The move marks a shift toward a longer-duration liquidity absorption operation compared with recent auctions of up to 15 days. The longer tenor will allow the RBI to keep surplus funds out of the banking system for an extended period, helping it exert greater control over short-term money-market conditions. However, the reverse repo mechanism remains relatively less forceful than some other liquidity-management tools because banks can decide how much

money they want to park with the central bank. India's banking system is currently facing an unprecedented liquidity surplus, with excess cash



estimated at around Rs 10.5 lakh crore, according to a Bloomberg Economics measure. The surplus has built up after the RBI converted large amounts of foreign currency raised by banks through deposits from overseas Indians into rupee liquidity. The RBI's initiative to attract foreign-currency deposits from the Indian diaspora proved highly

successful, raising a record \$127 billion before the scheme was closed a month ahead of schedule in August. Along with subsidised overseas borrowing by banks and state-owned companies, the measures brought in about \$136.4 billion into the financial system.

While the inflows strengthened India's external financing position, they also created a significant liquidity-management challenge for the central bank. The RBI now has to withdraw the additional rupee liquidity without disrupting financial markets, particularly as policymakers remain increasingly focused on containing inflation. The impact of the surplus liquidity is already visible in money-market rates. The weighted average call rate, which reflects the overnight rate at which banks lend to one another and serves as a key indicator of monetary conditions, has fallen below the RBI's policy rate as abundant cash pushes borrowing costs lower..

India’s forex reserves hit new peak: Rises to \$740.80 billion, adds \$11.47 billion in a week



MUMBAI. (Agency)

India’s foreign exchange reserves have once again reached a new record high. According to the latest RBI data, reserves surged by \$11.475 billion in the week ended August 28. This brought the country’s total foreign exchange reserves to a new all-time high of \$740.803 billion. The previous week also saw a sharp increase of \$12.422 billion. This continued

strengthening of foreign exchange reserves is being considered a positive sign for the Indian economy.

\$11.47 billion jump

According to data from RBI, the country’s foreign exchange reserves increased by \$11.475 billion in the week ended August 28, bringing the total to \$740.803 billion. In the previous reporting week, reserves had increased by \$12.422 billion to reach \$729.328 billion. Previously, reserves had reached a record high of \$728.494 billion in the week ended February 27. Now, the new figure has surpassed that previous record.

Highest increase in foreign currency assets

Foreign currency assets constitute the largest portion of the country’s foreign exchange reserves. They increased by \$9.337 billion in the week ended August 28, bringing the total value of foreign currency assets to \$600.67 billion. Changes in the value of other currencies, such as the euro, pound, and yen, against the dollar also impact this figure.

Foreign exchange reserves increased since June

The growth in foreign exchange reserves has accelerated since June.

Global sugar prices surge 11.9%: Adverse weather, lower Brazil production, India's duty-free import drive rise

Hot and dry weather in Europe, El-Niño's effect on production in key Asian countries for sugar production, lower production in Brazil, and India's duty-free raw sugar imports are some of the reasons driving sugar prices up.

HONG KONG. (Agency)

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has ordered a Nepali billionaire-owned company that produces the famous Wai Wai noodles to stop manufacturing certain products after food safety inspectors found broken noodles collected from the factory floor being used to make Indian snacks, news agency Reuters reported. This comes amid a nationwide crackdown against eateries, outlets and restaurants over food

hygiene and quality, with popular brands such as Pizza Hut and Dd multiple violations. Explaining the major factors, FAO said, "The surge reflected expectations of lower sugar beet yields in the European Union due to adverse weather, concerns over the impact of El Niño on production prospects in key producing countries in Asia, lower sugar production in Brazil, and India's announcement of duty-free raw sugar imports." FAO Food Price Index measures the monthly change in prices of a basket of food commodities. The index is calculated as the average of five commodity group price indices: cereals, vegetable oils, meat, dairy, and sugar, weighted according to their average export share over 2014-2016.

The FAO Food Price Index has experienced a broad-based increase of 1.9 percent, or 2.5 points, from July,

currently averaging 133.3 points. The index is 16.8 percent lower than its peak in March but remains 2.5 percent higher as compared to last year. The surge is led



primarily by sugar, which has undergone the steepest rise among the five commodities. The supply is hindered due to various factors, including climatic disruption, geopolitical tensions, and disturbances in trade logistics. FAO Chief Economist Maximo Torero said,

“August’s increase in global food prices is a warning that the risk premium is returning to food markets: climate shocks, geopolitical tensions and

disrupted trade logistics are converging to tighten supply expectations, showing that resilience, open trade and secure input flows are now central to global food-price stability.”

Apart from sugar, the FAO Cereal Price Index also increased by 2.2 percent from July to 116.3 in August amid the rise in global prices of all major grains due to robust import demand, weather-related concerns over crop production, and uncertainty regarding trade flows.

The Vegetable Oil Price Index went up by 0.6 percent to 196.9 points in August, the Meat Price Index surged 1 percent to stand at 127.9 points, and the Dairy Price Index rose by 2.3 percent from July, currently reaching 119.2 points.

NEWS BOX

Uniform Rs 13/kWh tariff at EV charging points in Hyderabad

HYDERABAD (Agency).

Electric vehicle (EV) users in Hyderabad can access public charging stations at a uniform tariff of `13/kWh, with Telangana Renewable Energy Development Corporation Limited (TGREDCO) set to hand over the operation and maintenance of 200 charging stations to private Charge Point Operators (CPOs) for 10 years.

Around 90% of these charging points are either functional or awaiting commissioning, while work on the remaining 10% is expected to be completed soon. The stations, located at strategic and high-demand locations across the Core Urban Region (CURE), will be operated by private agencies under strict service standards. The move is aimed at ensuring that charging infrastructure created with public investment is put to effective use while providing EV users with reliable and seamless charging services.

The 200 stations have been divided into six geographically dispersed clusters — Cluster-1 with 34 stations, Cluster-2 with 33, Cluster-3 with 34, Cluster-4 with 33, Cluster-5 with 33 and Cluster-6 with 33. The clustering is intended to streamline operation and maintenance while ensuring coverage of key locations across the metropolitan region.

IIIT-H probes future of learning in the age of AI

HYDERABAD (Agency).

As artificial intelligence becomes increasingly embedded in education and workplaces, the International Institute of Information Technology-Hyderabad (IIIT-H) will launch the Centre for Educational Technology and Learning Sciences (CETLS) on Saturday to examine a fundamental question: How can humans continue to learn deeply when machines can provide answers instantly? According to IIIT-H, the new centre will bring together learning sciences, cognitive science, psychology and AI to develop new learning methods, tools and environments. It will collaborate with schools, universities, edtech companies and international experts. The centre will initially have two full-time faculty members — Prof Vasudeva Varma and Prof Praveen Garimella — and plans to expand to five to 10 faculty members over the next three to four years. Prof Varma, who is leading the centre, said its focus would not be on resisting AI but on using it to strengthen human abilities such as attention, curiosity, critical thinking, problem-solving and the ability to work through difficult ideas. He said the centre would explore “slow learning”, which involves doing, questioning, experimentation and deep thinking. AI, he said, should not merely make learning effortless but create “productive struggle”, challenging learners without overwhelming them. IIIT-H Director Prof Sandeep Shukla said the widespread availability of generative AI had raised questions about conventional teaching and assessment methods. With students able to generate answers and assignments instantly, educators need to rethink how knowledge and understanding are taught and evaluated.

Hyderabad firm, MIL team up on combat drones

HYDERABAD (Agency).

Hyderabad-based Drogo Aerospace has signed an MoU with Munitions India Limited (MIL), a Defence Public Sector Undertaking under the Ministry of Defence, to collaborate on indigenous unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) and loitering munitions. The MoU was signed in Pune on Friday by Drogo Aerospace founder and CEO Yashwanth Bonthu and MIL Executive Director Kumar Vaibhav Gaur. Under the partnership, Drogo Aerospace will design and manufacture UAV platforms and payload hardware, while MIL will contribute expertise in munitions design,



explosives, fuzing and warhead technologies. The two organisations will also work on UAV-munition integration, safety evaluation, field trials and quality certification. MIL manufactures ammunition, explosives, rockets and bombs for the armed forces and other customers.

The partnership follows Drogo Aerospace's recent test of its indigenous Delta Wing Kamikaze UAV/loitering munition platform in Hyderabad. According to the company, the one-way system is being developed for long-range defence applications, with a proposed range of up to 1,000 km and warhead capacity of around 20-30 kg.

‘Reached Moon, not free from caste evil’: Bombay HC slams Maharashtra’s manual scavenging compensation rule

The high court also noted that our country is not "free from the social evil that has haunted us for ages" despite more than 75 years of adopting the Constitution.

Mumbai (Agency).

The Bombay High Court observed recently that while “we boast about reaching the other side of the Moon,” some are being made to do work “below human dignity” due to the “social evil of the caste system” that, it said, is still being followed in India. The high court made these observations while noting the deaths of sanitation workers engaged in manual scavenging. The court also set aside a portion of the December 2019 and April 2025 Government Resolutions, saying they discriminated against sanitation workers employed with private establishments under private contractors by paying them lower compensation than those employed by the state government and its undertakings.

A bench of Justices Bharati H Dangre and Manjusha A Deshpande passed the ruling on August 13, as reported by The Indian Express, the detailed judgment of which was made available Thursday night. Senior advocate

Gayatri Singh, along with advocates Sudha Bharadwaj and Khalil Rehman appearing for Shramik Janata Sangh and others, argued that the state government must pay compensation



to the five deceased workers’ kin as per the Supreme Court judgment in the Safai Karmachari Andolan case. “We boast about reaching the other side of the Moon, yet the hard reality that stares us in the face is that the

social evil of the caste system is still followed in our country, which forces some of our citizens to do work that is below human dignity. Though the Constitution guarantees all its citizens, equality before the law and equal protection of the law, even after 75 years of adopting the Constitution, our Country is not free from the social evil that has haunted us for ages,” Justice Deshpande noted. Manual scavenging, the court added, “is one such practice, which is still followed in our country, which forces a particular class of society to undertake this inhumane practice for generations,” despite various Supreme Court rulings and laws prohibiting it.

The court also entitled the kin of five private sanitation workers who died while engaged in manual scavenging to Rs 30 lakh compensation from the state authorities and directed the government to identify all persons who died while doing such work within six months and provide Rs 30 lakh compensation to their dependents.

Called anti-Ganesh, atheist; abused while being attacked: Bapat in FIR

Pune (Agency).

In the FIR registered against his attacker, Vidyanand Bapat alleged that he was called ‘anti-Ganesh’ and ‘atheist,’ and had explicit abuses hurled at him during the attack on September 4. Bapat has risen to fame for opposing noise pollution during Ganesh festival in Pune. He was attacked on Tilak Road while giving an interview to news channel TV 9 Marathi.

Bapat further alleged that the attacker said, “You environmentalists are like this only, you create hurdles for our Ganesh festival, you speak against DJs...I will now kill you, I will see how you stay alive.” The FIR was filed against an unidentified person, however the police identified him as Santosh Chavan and booked him under BNS 115 (2) (Voluntarily causing hurt), 353 (2) (Statements

conducting to public mischief), 352 (Intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of peace), 351 (2) (Criminal



intimidation), and 296 (Obscene acts and songs). The attacker was arrested the same day by the police and Police Commissioner Amitesh Kumar assured strict action against

him. The DCP Krushikesh Rawale informed that according to the initial inquiry, the attacker did not like Bapat's views on Ganesh festival that he has been expressing over the past few days. He informed that the accused has two previous cases registered against him in 2014 and 2015. The FIR further describes that the attack took place around 11:45 am when the interview with the TV channel was going on opposite Mahesh Nagari Sahakari Bank on Tilak Road. At a press conference a day after the attack, Bapat said, “They don't have anything to say to oppose me. If they use violence it takes the issue to another dimension. The person has done it for cheap publicity and it makes no difference. Pune is called cultural capital, is this your culture?”

How a Pune school teacher is shaping next generation of acting stars

Pune (Agency).

It is a common complaint among students that teachers force them to focus strictly on academics and finishing the syllabus. But at Pune's New English School, Ramanbaug, Ravindra Satpute does things differently. He joined the school in June 2003, as a Marathi and Hindi teacher. Over the last two decades, he



has turned theatre into a powerful tool for learning. Before he started teaching, he acted in plays and studied the art form. He completed a theatre appreciation course at the National School of Drama and attended workshops with well-known directors like Satyadev Dubey, Vijay Kenkre, and Chandrakant Kulkarni. When he stepped into the classroom, he quickly realised that ready-made scripts did not fit the minds of his young students. He started writing his own stories, suitable

for their age and energy levels. Satpute soon noticed that standard drama competitions only allowed twenty-five to thirty kids on stage. He wanted to include a lot more students from the school's massive strength of over two thousand boys. To solve this, he turned his focus to large group theatre events. This idea

reached its peak when he directed the famous play “Jaanta Raja” with 2550 students and school staff members. They performed it in front of Babasaheb Purandare and even earned a spot in the

Limca Book of Records. He teaches his boys that making a play is not just about the person saying the dialogue. Students learn to handle makeup, art direction, and music editing. In fact, several of his former students now have successful careers in Marathi film and theatre industry.

Around Town: Inside Nepali Tales, a cloud kitchen in Thane that failed twice before Prajakta Koli called it ‘the best momos in India’

Ranchi (Agency).

If you have been on Instagram in the past week, chances are high that you have stumbled upon a reel where content creator Prajakta Koli (@mostlysane) spoke about a brand in Thane that, according to her, made “the best momos I have eaten in India.” Koli was talking about Nepali Tales, a barely nine-month-old cloud kitchen in Kasarvadauli, Thane, serving a handful of momo variants made fresh from scratch every day in a home kitchen, delivered via porter service, and strictly available on pre-order. Coming from Koli, who is married to a Nepali, this was a big compliment. “It has flooded our Instagram DMs and WhatsApp,” said the duo behind it, Ashika, 27, and Dipesh Pradhan, 32. The couple hails from Jaigaon, a town in West Bengal on the Indo-Bhutan border. Ashika, who always wanted to be a chef and has a diploma from Bangalore's Whitecaps International School of Pastry, is the heart of this venture; Dipesh, who

manages to run it alongside a 9-to-5 corporate job, and has his roots in Nepal, is its backbone. The duo begins work at 6 am — sourcing vegetables, making a fresh batch of veg (onion, cabbage and soya) and non-veg stuffing (chicken and onion), two kinds of chutney (peanut and spicy red), a thick jhol paste that's diluted and heated as needed, and kneading dough, among other prep. To get it consistently right, they measure everything: 7 gm of dough per momo, two forkfuls of stuffing, and so on. Their now-viral chilli oil is prepared fortnightly in a big batch — they don't sell it separately for now, though the demand has them considering it if they can find the resources to manage both.

Nepali Tales offers five kinds of veg momos and four non-veg — steamed, jhol (with a mildly spiced peanut-sesame gravy), shaphaley (deep-fried, gujiya-shaped, with pan-fried stuffing), kothey (pan-seared at the base), in vegetarian and chicken variants, plus a simple fried veg momo.

20 years after Century Mill shut, workers’ families set to get new homes

Mumbai (Agency).

Nearly two decades after Century Mill shut operations and its workers' families were left in ageing tenements in Worli, the BMC is set to clear a redevelopment plan that will give them new homes while earning the civic body Rs 1,351 crore from the prime land parcel. The proposal to redevelop the Century Mill plot is scheduled to be placed before the BMC House on Monday. Under the plan, the 21 existing buildings housing families of erstwhile mill workers will be replaced with modern residential towers. Around 500 flats measuring 300 to 400 sq ft have been earmarked for rehabilitation, while the remaining flats can be sold by the developer at market rates.

The BMC selected Peddar Realty as the successful bidder in May this year. According to a civic official, the developer will pay Rs 1,351 crore to the BMC for the project. The land is currently valued at around Rs 660 crore. The lease is for 30 years and includes a renewal clause under the private participation model. The existing Century Mill colony comprises 476 tenements and 10 shops across 21 buildings, with the existing homes measuring around

180 sq ft. “The primary clause of this project is that all the families of the erstwhile mill workers who have been living in these 476 housing tenements should get rehabilitated. The residents will get new houses accompanied with all modern civic amenities,” a civic official said. The redevelopment had been stuck since 2006, when the mill suspended operations, amid a prolonged legal dispute over ownership and the terms of the original lease.

The land was originally owned by the BMC and leased to Century Spinning and Manufacturing Company in 1927 for 28 years at an annual rent of Re 1 under the Bombay Improvement Trust Transfer Act. The lease expired in 1955, but the BMC did not immediately seek eviction of the mill management. The dispute resurfaced after the mill suspended operations in 2006 and the company issued a

legal notice to the BMC in 2007 seeking transfer of the land. The Bombay High Court initially ruled in favour of Century Mills. The BMC challenged the order in the Supreme Court, which in January 2025 held



that the lease terms did not require the civic body to hand over the land to the company. The Supreme Court ruling cleared a key legal hurdle for the BMC to proceed with the

redevelopment.

Opposition questions valuation. The Congress in the BMC has questioned whether the civic body is getting adequate value from the project. Congress leader in the civic body Ashraf Azmi, in a letter to Municipal Commissioner Ashwini Bhide, claimed that the land's development potential under the current Floor Space Index could be worth around Rs 13,000 crore. “BMC is giving away a Rs 13,000 crore development opportunity for just around Rs 1,300 crore. After fighting for seven decades to reclaim Century Mill land, the civic body should not now surrender its value. The existing families of mill workers must be rehabilitated first, and Mumbai's prime land must benefit its people,” Azmi said. The proposal will now be placed before the civic House for final clearance.

NEWS BOX

Brydon Carse sidelined again as England ask him to address off-field issues



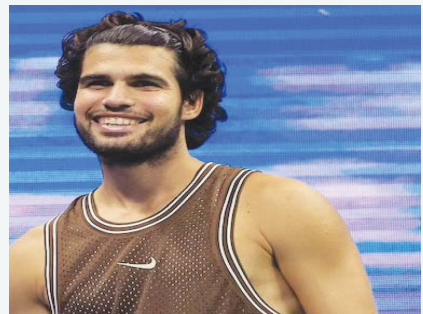
New Delhi. (Agency)

Brydon Carse has been left out of England's white-ball squads for the upcoming series against Sri Lanka and told to "work through the issues" surrounding an off-field incident in Derby last month. The 31-year-old was handcuffed by police outside a bar in Derby in August and is currently under investigation by the Cricket Regulator. Derbyshire Police are also investigating an alleged assault linked to the incident, although Carse's involvement has not been established. Carse's omission comes after he was removed from England's plans for the ongoing Test series against Pakistan following the incident. While he remains technically available for selection, England have decided against picking him for the three T20Is and three ODIs against Sri Lanka, which begin in Southampton on September 15.

Henry Crocombe has replaced Carse in the ODI squad. The uncapped Sussex seamer has made headlines by claiming back-to-back hat-tricks over the past week. An England spokesperson said the decision was made to give Carse time to deal with the circumstances surrounding the incident.

"Given recent events, we feel it is important for [Carse] to work through the issues that led to the Derby incident and take time for a proper reset," the spokesperson said. "This decision does not prejudice the outcome of any investigation." Carse, who has a central contract with England and is a close friend of white-ball captain Harry Brook, appears to have fallen out of favour with the wider England management as the team looks to strengthen standards around conduct and culture. Test captain Joe Root had previously urged England players to act as "role models." Carse is not the only player missing from England's white-ball plans. Jacob Bethell will also sit out the Sri Lanka fixtures after undergoing surgery on the knee problem that has kept him sidelined since mid-July.

US Open: Carlos Alcaraz fixes Nipplegate, brings attention back to tennis



New Delhi. (Agency)

Carlos Alcaraz has had plenty of reasons to smile at the US Open this year. He is back on court after more than four months out with a wrist injury, has reached the fourth round and is steadily looking more comfortable with every outing. But there was one rather unusual problem that followed the defending champion around Flushing Meadows: his nipples. Alcaraz's loose-fitting brown Nike tank top, part of a Travis Scott x Cactus Jack collaboration, became one of the talking points of his first two matches at the US Open. The sleeveless outfit kept slipping during points, exposing more of the Spaniard's chest than he apparently intended. Former WTA player Eugenie Bouchard even joined in on the fun, jokingly telling the seven-time Grand Slam champion to "put the nip away".

By the time Alcaraz walked onto Arthur Ashe Stadium for his third-round match against China's Wu Yibing on Friday, however, the outfit had undergone a small but noticeable change.

The brown tank top was still there, but Alcaraz had added a white undershirt underneath it. And after his 6-3, 6-4, 6-1 victory over Wu, the 23-year-old revealed the surprisingly simple reason for the change. "Well, I think I've been seeing too much of my nipples lately," Alcaraz said with a laugh. "I figured I could cover them up for today's match." There was no intervention from Nike, either.

Alcaraz made it clear that the decision to add the extra layer was entirely his.

"No, it was my decision," he said. "I wouldn't have minded playing like that again, but if we can sort it out this way, it was good."

In the era of Mondo Duplantis, Emmanouil Karalis wins his maiden Diamond League final title

Emmanouil Karalis made the most of Mondo Duplantis' absence to win his maiden Diamond League final title in Brussels. The Greek cleared 6.12 metres to not only claim the biggest title of his career but also break the meeting record previously held by Duplantis.

New Delhi. (Agency)

In the era of Mondo Duplantis, it takes something special to win a Diamond League final. On Friday night, Emmanouil Karalis got his moment. With Duplantis forced to withdraw from the Wanda Diamond League final in Brussels due to a minor leg injury, Karalis seized the opportunity and cleared 6.12 metres to win his maiden Diamond League final title at the Allianz Memorial Van Damme. And he did it by breaking a meeting record set by the



man who has dominated pole vaulting like few athletes have dominated any event. Duplantis had set the Brussels meeting record at 6.11m in 2024. Karalis went one centimetre higher on Saturday, clearing 6.12m to cap a memorable night for the

Greek vaulter.

KARALIS WINS HIS MAIDEN DIAMOND LEAGUE FINAL

The 6.12m clearance was enough to give Karalis the biggest title of his Diamond League career, but the circumstances made

the victory particularly significant. For much of his career, the 27-year-old has had to compete in the shadow of Duplantis, the Swedish world-record holder who has turned the pole vault into a thrilling duel with Mondo, but unfortunately injuries are just part and parcel of our sport," he said.

"His withdrawal gave someone else the chance to win, and I'm absolutely delighted that I seized that opportunity." He vaulted into his own playground. Karalis certainly made the most of it. The Greek produced a 6.12m clearance to secure the title and, in the process, put his name alongside one of the many records that Duplantis has accumulated during his extraordinary career. For Karalis, though, the significance went far beyond the height he cleared. "This is my first victory in a Diamond League final, a trophy that symbolises the fact that I'm currently living my dreams." There was another reason the victory felt particularly special. The Allianz Memorial Van Damme was packed with Greek supporters.

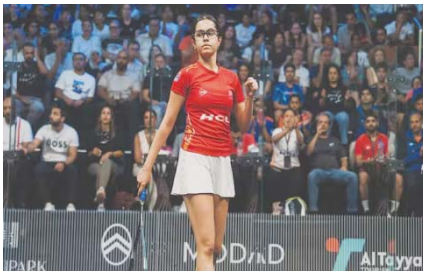
Anahat Singh's impressive London Squash Classic run ends in quarters

India's Anahat Singh's campaign at the London Squash Classic ended in the quarterfinals on Friday after she was beaten 4-11, 4-11 by Malaysian world No. 5 Sivasangari Subramaniam at the PSA Gold event.

New Delhi. (Agency)

India's Anahat Singh's impressive run at the London Squash Classic came to an end in the quarterfinals on Friday after the 18-year-old went down 4-11, 4-11 to Malaysian world No. 5 Sivasangari Subramaniam in the PSA Gold event. The Indian teenager, ranked 20th in the world and the reigning world junior champion, struggled to find her rhythm

against the third-seeded Sivasangari, who controlled the match from the opening rally and completed a comfortable straight-games victory in just 17



minutes. Sivasangari consistently applied pressure by hitting with greater intensity into the back corners, forcing Anahat to spend long periods deep in the court. The Malaysian's approach left the Indian with little time to dictate rallies or make the most of her attacking game. The defeat brought an end to a promising campaign for Anahat, who had reached the

quarterfinals after producing one of the notable results of the tournament by overcoming eighth seed Nele Gilis of Belgium in a three-game thriller. Anahat had entered the London Squash Classic looking to continue her rise on the PSA Tour, but found herself up against a player ranked 15 places above her and one who is among the leading contenders ahead of the Asian Games. Sivasangari, the former champion and third seed, was in control throughout the quarterfinal, taking the first game 11-4 before repeating the scoreline in the second to seal her place in the last four. The Malaysian said she was pleased with the way she handled the pressure of the best-of-three format and praised Anahat for the challenge she has provided to leading players.

"I'm happy with how I played today; Anahat is a very talented player. She's beaten some of the top players and challenged the majority of them," Sivasangari told SquashTV.

Paris Saint-Germain extend Luis Enrique's contract to 2030, renew deals of five players

CHENNAI. (Agency)

Paris Saint-Germain have rewarded Luis Enrique for delivering the most successful spell in the club's history by extending the head coach's contract until 2030, while also tying down five key players to new deals. Luis Enrique, 56, has signed a three-year extension after joining PSG in July 2023. His previous contract was due to expire at the end of this season. The Spaniard has won 13 trophies with PSG, including three Ligue 1 titles and two Champions League crowns. He guided the club to their first European title with a 5-0 victory over Inter Milan in the 2025 Champions League final, before leading them past Arsenal in last season's final.

Luis Enrique, who previously managed

Barcelona and the Spain national team, also led PSG to six trophies during the 2024-25 season and took them to the final of the inaugural FIFA Club World Cup in



the United States. The announcement came before Friday evening's Ligue 1 home fixture against Monaco.

Four PSG players, Joao Neves, Willian

Pacho, Lucas Beraldo and Senny Mayulu, have signed contract extensions until 2031. Fabian Ruiz has agreed a new deal until 2028, with an option for a further year. Portugal international Neves has made 100 appearances for PSG since joining from Benfica in 2024, while Ecuador centre-back Pacho has played 105 times since arriving from Eintracht Frankfurt in the same year. Beraldo joined PSG from Sao Paulo in January 2024, while France Under-21 international Mayulu came through the club's academy after joining at the age of 12. Ruiz, 30, moved to PSG from Napoli in 2022 and has made 171 appearances for the club, scoring 16 goals and providing 28 assists. PSG have drawn both of their opening Ligue 1 matches this season ahead of Friday's meeting with Monaco.

Just like Dad: Medvedev's daughter breaks racket in hilarious tennis moment



New Delhi. (Agency)

Daniil Medvedev's fiery reputation appears to be rubbing off on his daughter, who gave her coach a hilarious reminder of the Russian's famous temperament during a tennis practice session. Medvedev was speaking after reaching the fourth round of the US Open when he was asked whether playing a five-set Grand Slam match or spending a day at home with his daughters was more demanding mentally. The question prompted the 2021 champion to share an amusing story about one of his daughter's trips to practice. "Oh my God, they are both tough. Impossible to say," Medvedev said during his on-court interview. "I have to say the day at home with the family. Even if sometimes, you know, with the daughter mentally can be tough and some days are amazing. It's, at the end of the day, it's always a nice experience." Medvedev said the comparison was not entirely fair because a tough day with his family still ends on a positive note, unlike a painful defeat after five sets. "I have to be honest, when you lose a five-set, at the end of the day, it's a very bad experience. Your body hurts, your mind hurts, you lost a match, you have to go home, you have to, I don't know, book your tickets, think about how you practice the next days, what you do. So definitely better to be at home with the family." He then recalled taking his daughter to a clay-court practice session. She was enjoying herself and, despite not really watching her father's matches yet, suddenly decided to throw a racket across the court.

Even my wife watched Duleep Trophy for Vaibhav Sooryavanshi: Kris Srikkanth

New Delhi. (Agency)

There was a point during the IPL when it became hard to miss who the crowd had come to watch. Children would turn up with Vaibhav Sooryavanshi's name on their lips, and the back of their T-shirts. Older fans, too, were keen to see the 15-year-old in action. It did not matter that he was playing alongside some of the biggest names in the game. There was a curiosity around Vaibhav that made people want to see him for themselves. That curiosity has now followed him into domestic cricket. Former India captain Kris Srikkanth, speaking on his YouTube show, offered a glimpse of Vaibhav's pull when he revealed that he and his wife had sat down to watch the teenager in the Duleep Trophy semi-final between East Zone and Central Zone earlier this

week.

"Now, all of us sat and watched Duleep Trophy, right? That's his pull," Srikkanth said. "Most of us tuned in when he was batting. Even my wife was watching the Duleep Trophy match."

THE VAIBHAV PULL

It was not an international match. It was not the IPL. The Duleep Trophy does not ordinarily draw that kind of attention from the wider cricket audience. But Vaibhav has been giving people a reason to tune in. In the semi-final against Central Zone, he smashed 92 off 81 balls, with seven sixes and seven fours. He missed another century, but his innings helped set up East Zone's win. He followed it with 42 in the second innings as East Zone chased down 159 to reach the final for the first time in 14 years.

**NERVOUS NINETIES?**

Srikkanth, though, has a small grouse with Vaibhav's habit of falling short of three figures. "Hey, you have again missed a century. But look at the way he is hitting," he said. "It was brilliant to watch him in the semi-final. Why are even people doubting if he is capable of playing higher-level

cricket? He is playing very well." Vaibhav's habit of getting out in the 90s has become something of a running joke. He had three scores in the 90s in the IPL this season, making 93, 97 and 96, before adding another 92 in the Duleep Trophy semi-final. "Why da Vaibhav? He is getting out in the 90s more than me," Srikkanth joked. "From the IPL, he must have missed five centuries this

season." Srikkanth believes it is Vaibhav's attacking approach that sets him apart.

"He is smashing medium pacers over their heads. He hit seven sixes in the first innings," he said. "Once he stabilises and proves his thing, he will play cricket on a different level."

Karishma Tanna

Reveals Son's Name On Janmashtami, Introduces 'Little Miracle' Ved Tanna Bangera

Karishma Tanna and her husband Varun Bangera have finally revealed the name of their baby boy, more than a month after becoming parents for the first time. The couple chose the occasion of Janmashtami on Friday, September 4, to introduce their son as Ved Tanna Bangera. Karishma and Varun welcomed Ved on July 29, 2026, which coincided with Guru Purnima. While announcing his arrival earlier, the actress had shared the significance of the date. The couple, however, had kept their newborn's name private until Janmashtami.

Karishma Tanna And Varun Bangera Introduce Son Ved

Karishma and Varun made the announcement through a joint social media post. Sharing a template carrying their son's name, they revealed that they had chosen "Ved" for their first child. "On the auspicious occasion of Janmashtami, with Kanha's blessings, we lovingly introduce our little miracle... VED



TANNABANGERA. A name that means sacred knowledge, wisdom and light. With all our love, Karishma & Varun," the couple wrote. The announcement came a little over a month after Ved's birth and on another religiously significant occasion for the family. Their son was born on Guru Purnima, while his name was publicly revealed on Janmashtami.

What Does Karishma Tanna's Son Ved's Name Mean?

The name Ved comes from the Sanskrit word "Veda", which is associated with the ancient sacred scriptures of India. As Karishma and Varun explained in their announcement, the name represents "sacred knowledge, wisdom and light."

The announcement came a little over a month after Ved's birth and on another religiously significant occasion for the family. Their son was born on Guru Purnima, while his name was publicly revealed on Janmashtami.

Archana Puran Singh's Family Reacts To Samay Raina's 'Nalle Bete' Joke On Latent: 'Didn't Get Offended'



Archana Puran Singh has addressed the discussion around Samay Raina's jokes about her family during her appearance on India's Got Latent. While some viewers felt that the comedian's comments crossed a line, Archana and her family have said they did not take the remarks personally. Archana spoke about the episode in a video shared on her son Aaryamann Sethi's YouTube channel, Aary Vlogs. She was joined by Aaryamann and her husband, actor Parmeet Sethi.

Archana Puran Singh's Son Aaryamann Defends Samay Raina's Jokes

Aaryamann, who was sitting in the audience during the episode, said he usually does not comment on such matters but felt the need to address the reactions this time. He explained that he found the joke funny and was not offended by it. According to Aaryamann, Samay's comments were not intended as a personal attack on him or the family.

"I usually don't say something about all this but I thought we should say something this time just because I feel like... it's very funny. I mean, the joke was also funny because, to be fair, when we vlog, we are at home only, so that's not wrong and my mother also does laugh for a living. First of all, let's just point this out- it's a joke. And it's okay. He did not mean to hurt me or anyone in my family," said Aaryamann. During the episode, Samay had joked about her husband Parmeet Sethi and their sons, saying they don't do any work.

Archana Puran Singh Says She Knew What To Expect

Archana Puran Singh said she was aware of the kind of comedy associated with India's Got Latent before agreeing to appear on the show. She explained that she did not view the jokes as an attempt to insult her or her family. She also drew a comparison with her equation with comedian Kapil Sharma. Archana pointed out that Kapil frequently jokes about her on his show, but she understands that the humour comes from a place of familiarity and is not intended to hurt her.

Ranvir Shorey SLAMS Swara Bhasker Over Jauhar Remark; Rashmika Says Injury Gave Her More Time With Vijay Deverakonda



Swara Bhasker's recent comments on Jauhar have sparked criticism from Ranvir Shorey. The actress spoke about the portrayal of Jauhar in Deepika Padukone's 2018 film Padmaavat. She said that the climax of the movie had disturbed her and questioned the message it could send to survivors of sexual violence. Ranvir Shorey took to X (formerly Twitter) to react to her remarks, questioning what connection there was between Jauhar and rape survivors, saying the two involved completely different contexts. He also questioned the intention behind making such a comparison.

In July, Rashmika Mandanna suffered a hip injury during the shoot of her action thriller Mysaa, after which she was recovering at home. Now, weeks later, the actress is all set to resume work. In a recent chat with Hindustan Times, she shared an update about her health. She said that while the doctors cleared her to return to work within a week, she chose to resume in a day as her film Ranabaali is up for release soon, and she still has a few days of shoot left. Meanwhile, speaking about her injury break, the actress revealed that it gave her and Vijay Deverakonda much-needed time together.

Lollapalooza India has finally dropped the lineup for its fifth edition, and the 2027 festival is bringing together artists from vastly different corners of the music world. Grammy-winning singer Olivia Dean and nu-metal giants Limp Bizkit will headline Lollapalooza India 2027, which returns to Mumbai's Mahalaxmi Racecourse on January 23 and 24. Krystle D'Souza and Rida Tharana have emerged as the winners of Traitors Season 2. The finale episode was dropped on Thursday, September 3, in which the two contestants lifted the trophy and took home prize money of Rs 66 lakh.

Ahaan Panday

Aneet Padda

Dance Together In Now-Deleted Reel; Saiyaara Fans Can't Keep Calm

Aneet Padda and Ahaan Panday are back in the spotlight after a video of the Saiyaara co-stars dancing together surfaced online. According to social media users, Aneet briefly posted the reel on her account before deleting it within minutes. By then, however, fans had already recorded it, and the clip quickly began circulating across social media.

The video shows Aneet and Ahaan dancing to Gali Gali Mein Phirta Hai. Neither actor has addressed why the reel was reportedly removed, but its short-lived appearance was enough to send their fans into a tizzy.

Aneet Padda Deletes Reel With Ahaan Panday?

Sharing a recording of the deleted reel, one social media user wrote, "Aneet Padda posted a reel with Ahaan Panday and deleted it just 2 minutes later. Now everyone's wondering- accidental post or intentional tease?"

Others simply enjoyed seeing the two actors together. One user described their contrasting social media styles as "Dubsmash Ahaan, Reels Aneet," while another joked, "When life gives you lemons, dance like Ahaan and Aneet."

Their chemistry also revived the conversation surrounding their off-screen equation, with

one fan calling them "Truly made for each other." Neither Aneet nor Ahaan has confirmed whether the reel was accidentally uploaded or why it disappeared shortly afterwards.

Video Surfaces Amid Recent Trolling Around Ahaan

The clip also appeared amid trolling directed at Ahaan over an unrelated and unverified claim



circulating on social media. Screenshots purportedly showing a private Instagram account linked to the actor recently went viral, with users claiming that the account followed an OnlyFans model. However, there has been no independent confirmation that the account belongs to Ahaan.

Some fans subsequently connected the timing of Aneet's reel to the online chatter. One wrote, "Aneet and Ahaan responding to chaos with whatever THIS."

NEWS BOX

US approves \$5 billion sale of bombs to Saudi Arabia

WASHINGTON.(Agency)

The United States on Friday announced the approval of a \$5 billion sale of bombs, guidance kits and other equipment to Saudi Arabia, which has been repeatedly attacked during the US-Israeli war against Iran. "The proposed sale will improve Saudi Arabia's airborne defense capability to counter current and future regional threats, strengthen its homeland defence, and improve interoperability with systems operated by US forces and other Gulf region partners," the US State Department said in a statement. The sale will also "support the foreign policy goals and national security objectives of the United States by improving the security of a Major non-NATO Ally," the department said.



Saudi Arabia has been targeted with drone and missile strikes by Iranian forces and Yemen's Tehran-backed Houthi rebels since the United States and Israel launched their war against Iran earlier this year. The State Department has notified Congress of the proposed sale of the bombs to Riyadh, which still needs to be approved by US lawmakers.

Trump administration scrubs data on gender-based bullying from school civil rights survey

world .(Agency)

The Trump administration this week quietly released an update to a major survey on civil rights in schools that was scrubbed of all data related to nonbinary students or bullying based on gender identity. The numbers come from the Education Department's Civil Rights Data Collection, a federal survey of nearly every public school in the nation. The release this week covers the 2023-2024 school year, when the survey included "nonbinary" as a gender category alongside male and female. However, an Associated Press analysis shows that in every column for information related to gender identity, the numbers were replaced with a code indicating "Suppressed in Compliance with Executive Order." That refers to an executive order that President Donald Trump signed on his inauguration day calling for the federal government to define sex as only male or female. The government also suppressed the number of allegations of harassment or bullying based on gender identity in schools, information about whether the districts had written policies prohibiting such harassment, and any links to those policies. Those questions in the data collection are designed to capture the experiences of transgender and nonbinary students — whether they experience harassment, participate in sports or face overly harsh discipline, said Seth Galanter, a senior fellow at the Edley Center on Law and Democracy and a former attorney with the Education Department's Office for Civil Rights under the Biden and Obama administrations. Only school districts that already collected data on trans and nonbinary students were required to report it to the federal government, Galanter said, and roughly 1,800 out of the more than 13,000 U.S. school districts reported data in the last collection.

Shoes scattered, lungs torn out: Eyewitnesses recount US strike on Iran wedding

A US missile strike hit Kuhestak in southern Iran, with residents reporting a wedding gathering was caught in the blast. The attack, which killed at least five people and injured more than 50, is now under US scrutiny amid escalating hostilities with Tehran.

Kuhestak, Iran.(Agency)

The shoes were scattered across the ground, children were among the wounded and a wedding celebration had been turned into a scene of devastation in Kuhestak, a small coastal town in southern Iran. Days after the US strike, the signs of the blast remained etched across the town — damaged buildings, piles of rubble and

belongings left behind as residents fled the chaos. At least five people were killed, including a child, while more than 60 others were injured, according to Iranian media and rights groups. There was dust and smoke everywhere. Someone was shouting, someone was screaming," local resident Suleiman Zakiri Fard told Iran's WANA news agency, according to Reuters. "People were coming out one by one, some with blood all over their faces."

Fard said he witnessed two drone strikes that hit the wedding gathering after a missile strike on a nearby telecommunications tower. The wedding had been about to begin when the explosions struck. According to AP, women and children had gathered at a family compound for the ceremony, although the bride and groom had not yet

arrived.

THE SCENES WERE VERY HEARTBREAKING'

For 34-year-old Sasan Zarei, a local



vendor, the aftermath was equally harrowing. Zarei said he was outside the town when he heard the explosions on Tuesday. He rushed towards the site after learning that the home of local resident Ali

Mallahi had been hit and joined others searching through the rubble.

"We rushed to help, and recovered people and stuff from under the rubble. Most of the injured were kids," Zarei told the Associated Press (AP). He recalled seeing shoes scattered around the blast site and described the injuries suffered by children. "The scenes were very heartbreaking. The shoes had been scattered everywhere. One of the kids had their lungs torn out. They are now hospitalized," Zarei said, according to AP. Zarei also disputed the suggestion that the area was a military site. "The US, out of desperation and fear of Iran's missiles, (hit) the innocent people. This was not a military area or anything like that," he said. The reported strike has since become the focus of questions over whether a US munition directly.

Jaishankar to address UN General Assembly on September 26 amid global conflicts

WELLINGTON.(Agency)

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will address the annual high-level session of the UN General Assembly on September 26, according to a revised provisional list of speakers released on Friday. The 81st session of the UN General Assembly will begin on September 8, while the General Debate of the 193-member organisation will run from September 22 to 28. Jaishankar is scheduled to speak in the afternoon session on September 26. He had also addressed world leaders from the UN lectern last year. The high-level session, considered the United Nations Headquarters' "busiest

diplomatic season" of the year, comes amid continuing geopolitical conflicts across the world. Brazil will be the traditional first speaker when the General Debate opens on September 22, followed by the United States. US President Donald Trump will address world leaders from the UN General Assembly podium on September 22, in what will be his second address to the UN session in his second term in the White House. The year-long 81st session of the UN General Assembly will be presided over by Bangladesh Foreign Minister Khalilur Rahman, who was elected in June to lead the 193-member body. The heads of government of Bangladesh and

Nepal will address the General Debate on September 24, followed by Pakistan a day later. The session this year comes amid continuing geopolitical conflicts, including the months-long US-Israel war against Iran, which the report said has had a devastating cascading impact on countries of the Global South as well as the least developed nations, affected by rising food and fuel costs due to continued disruption in the Strait of Hormuz. Meetings scheduled during the UNGA session include a high-level session to mark the 40th anniversary of the Declaration on the Right to Development, a meeting on climate action and the just transition.

UN endorses new world map that depicts Africa's size more accurately; US slams move

ABUJA, Nigeria.(Agency)

The United Nations General Assembly voted Friday to adopt a new world map that makes the African continent bigger while shrinking North America and Europe, drawing ire from Washington. Aimed at "a more accurate representation" of continental landmasses, the resolution was supported by 164 countries while the United States voted against it and six other states abstained. The new map -- known as the Equal Earth cartographic projection -- improves "the accuracy of the cartographic representation of the world," the resolution said. It urges member states to use the new map in place of the traditional Mercator projection, which was designed for maritime navigation by Flemish cartographer Gerardus Mercator in 1569. Foreign Minister Robert Dussey of Togo, which sponsored the resolution, said maps "guide education, nourish the imagination, and influence collective perceptions." "They are therefore never neutral; when they present a distorted image of our planet, they risk perpetuating inaccurate representation that is passed down through generations." The United States however slammed the resolution, saying such moves are "the reason this institution is losing its credibility." "Instead of focusing on genuine problems... this body is debating map projects from the 16th century and their role in promoting reparations and cognitive justice," US representative Yaryna Ferencovych said ahead of the vote. The Mercator projection focused on accurate depictions of the shapes and angles of land masses, but their relative sizes were often inaccurate -- largely due to the challenge of rendering a three-dimensional globe onto a two-dimensional map.

It inflated northern regions and compressed equatorial ones, making Europe and North America appear much larger, while shrinking Africa and South America. A group of cartographers launched the Equal Earth projection in 2018. It makes Africa, Latin America, South Asia and Oceania appear much larger. "Equal Earth preserves the relative surface areas of continents and, as much as possible, shows their shapes as they appear on a globe," one of the cartographers, Bojan Savric, told AFP in 2025. France -- which co-sponsored the resolution in support of the new map -- announced Friday that it would abandon the Mercator projection. In that map, "the United States, Russia and China take on a disproportionate visual prominence compared to Africa, Latin America or southeast Asia," while "Greenland appears almost as big as Africa," Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot said.

Mexican ruling party lawmaker found dead in car with gunshot wound

Zenyazen Escobar, a lawmaker from Mexico's ruling Morena party, was found dead inside his car with a gunshot wound. The incident came ahead of key elections in Mexico amid warnings over political-criminal violence.

Mexico City.(Agency)

A member of Congress from Mexico's ruling Morena party was found dead from a gunshot wound in the eastern state of Veracruz on Friday, less than a year before local and federal elections. Zenyazen Escobar, a federal legislator representing the coastal state -- home to some of the country's oil complexes -- was found dead inside his car with at least one gunshot wound. "The investigation file is

being compiled," state Attorney General Lisbeth Jimenez told reporters, without providing further details. The secretary general of



Veracruz, Ricardo Ahued, said the lawmaker's vehicle showed no signs of violence. Mexico's lower house of Congress expressed its condolences to Escobar's family and friends and urged judicial authorities to conduct a "thorough investigation into the facts." The death occurred as the country prepares to hold elections on June 6 to renew mayoral, state legislative, city council and

gubernatorial positions.

In previous elections, various regions have experienced incidents of violence linked to organised crime groups seeking to co-opt political figures and consolidate territorial control. According to the human rights organisation Data Civica, in July alone, there were at least 30 incidents of "political-criminal violence" across 11 states in Mexico, 14 of which were homicides. The states with the highest registered cases were Zacatecas, with 10 cases; Michoacan and Quintana Roo, with four each; Oaxaca, with three; and Baja California and Veracruz, with two each. Data Civica describes political-criminal violence as threats, murders, armed attacks, assassinations attempts, disappearances and kidnappings.

Israeli strikes on Lebanon kill three, injure 23 despite truce

BEIRUT.(Agency)

Israeli strikes in southern and eastern Lebanon late on Friday killed at least three people and injured 23, the Lebanese health ministry said. The ministry said in a statement that strikes hit five locations in the southern Tyr and Nabatieh regions and the Bekaa region in the east. It updated an earlier toll given by Lebanese official media which had reported two of the deaths in the south. The strikes came despite a truce between Israel and the Iran-backed Hezbollah militant group. Lebanon's state-run National News Agency (NNA) reported the strike hit near the strategic Ali al-Taher ridge, which the Israeli army said it had captured, though Hezbollah did not confirm losing it. Two young men were targeted while riding a motorcycle in the city of Nabatieh, NNA said, adding that rescuers transported their bodies to a local hospital. Israel announced on Thursday it had taken control of the ridge. Defence Minister Israel Katz said the

military would work to "prevent the enemy from re-establishing itself in the area".

Israel stepped up strikes in the Nabatieh region on Friday and also targeted the village of Rmadiyah in the Tyre area, located more than 10 kilometres from the Israeli border. The ministry said the third person was killed and 15 others hurt there, including two children, three women and six rescuers. A rescue service source earlier told AFP that the strike in the village, which is sheltering people displaced from other southern areas, had hit a house. Israel and Hezbollah have been trading fire since March when the militant group dragged Lebanon into the wider Middle East war by attacking Israel in support of Iran. Israel responded with airstrikes and a ground invasion that Lebanon says have killed more than 4,300 people. The conflict has calmed since a US-Iran memorandum of understanding and a framework agreement between Israel and Lebanon was agreed in June, but Beirut still reports Israeli strikes.

Mistrial is declared in Lindsay Clancy child killings case after jury deadlocks

PLYMOUTH, Mass.(Agency)

A judge in the Lindsay Clancy murder trial declared a mistrial Friday after jurors failed to reach a verdict in a case that sharply divided many Americans over whether the Massachusetts woman should be criminally responsible for killing her three young children. The trial generated intense interest for weeks, drawing attention to maternal mental health after childbirth. Clancy, a 36-year-old former labor and delivery nurse, never disputed that she killed the children. But her attorney said she had a rare condition called postpartum psychosis when she strangled her kids -- the youngest just 8 months old -- then tried to take her own life in 2023. Prosecutors said Clancy knew what she was doing. Friday's mistrial, on the seventh day of deliberations, leaves the case unresolved. In the end, the decision seemed to surprise no one in the courtroom. Neither Clancy nor her family showed emotion as the judge announced the trial was ending without

a resolution. Clancy's attorney believes she was close to acquittal. Clancy remains charged with murder and is expected to stay at a



psychiatric hospital until her case is resolved. Her lawyer, Kevin Reddington, said he believes she would have been acquitted if not for a juror who was the subject of a

dispute over whether the judge's instructions were being followed. Reddington said Clancy was "not good" when a reporter asked how she was doing after the mistrial.

Her parents and her sister were escorted from the courthouse by state police, saying nothing to reporters. Ex-husband Patrick Clancy, the trial's first witness, has said in past interviews that he forgives her and believes her actions were the result of mental illness. A statement released by his attorney Friday said "the prospect of reliving this tragedy through another trial is extraordinarily painful." Lindsay Clancy could face another trial. The prosecutor who decided to charge Clancy said there would not be an immediate decision about a second trial. He said public opinion would not be a factor. "This was and has always been about getting justice for those three little babies," said Plymouth County District Attorney Timothy Cruz. "This case is not about the healthcare system, or about how women are treated in it, or what diagnoses there are."