

Pilot in driver's seat as Congress looks to avoid crash-landing in Punjab

New Delhi. (Agency)

Congress leader Sachin Pilot has seen several ups and downs in his over two-decades-long career but the party's youth poster boy is fast-emerging as its go-to trump card to swing electoral fortunes in tough states.

That his stature in the Congress is becoming formidable can be gauged from the fact that he has been entrusted with putting the house in order in Punjab where the party is facing infighting right at the cusp of assembly polls with several factions battling it out for an upper hand. The Congress on Saturday carried out a major organisational reshuffle and appointed Pilot as general secretary in-charge of poll-bound Punjab, replacing Bhupesh Baghel. Incidentally, Pilot till now was in-charge of Chhattisgarh where Baghel is a key leader and a former chief minister. Baghel will now look after Assam, replacing Jitendra Singh. Punjab goes to polls early next year and Pilot's immediate challenge will be to address factionalism within the state unit ahead of crucial elections.

Nine ISRO employee associations seek clarity on reports of core functions being shifted to private sector

New Delhi. (Agency)

Days after the successful launch of the GSLV F17-EOS 05 mission, nine employee associations representing various Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) centres and units have sought an official clarification on the government's policy regarding the transfer or privatisation of the space agency's manufacturing and operational functions, news agency ANI reported.

In a joint representation dated September 4 to Department of Space Secretary and ISRO Chairman V Narayanan, the associations raised concerns over reports and public statements suggesting that several activities currently undertaken by ISRO could be transferred to private companies and public sector undertakings (PSUs).

The associations cited remarks by IN-SPACe Chairman Pawan Kumar Goenka at a summit on August 21, where he was reported to have said that ISRO would eventually stop making launch vehicles, with their production being undertaken by the private sector or PSUs. According to the representation, the transfer process has already begun with SSLV technology and production rights handed over to Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), while similar transfers are proposed for the PSLV and LVM3. The associations also claimed that routine satellite manufacturing could be moved out of ISRO and that private entities could operate new launch infrastructure, including the Space Launch Complex at Kulasekarapattinam.

Amid Youth Pitch At Top Delhi College, PM Modi Targets "Dimagi Naxals"

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's address reached out to Gen-Z with a message about how to outline an aspirational vision for a developed nation

New Delhi(Agency)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi took a swipe at Opposition leaders by bringing back his recent "dimagi Naxal" while addressing the centenary celebrations of Shri Ram College of Commerce (SRCC) in Delhi on Saturday.

PM Modi, in a youth-focused message, said the term acted as a homeopathic pill that forced critics to reveal their true colours. "You may have heard my speech from Red Fort. I gave a homeopathic pill from the Red Fort - dimagi Naxal. According to the principles of homeopathy, when you begin homeopathic treatment, the disease initially gets worse. That is the nature of homeopathy," PM Modi said. "Similarly, as soon as I gave the 'dimagi Naxal' homeopathic pill, all the 'dimagi Naxals' started coming out one after another. And now the public is also seeing

the true colours of those who are promoting this illness," the prime minister said.

His address reached out to Gen-Z with a message about how to outline an aspirational vision for a developed nation. As examples, PM Modi cited the crises that his government had navigated and urged the students to reflect on the past.

"I have told you so many things. Some people may think, 'What is this? This is a country of 140 crore people. It was very easy. What new thing did Modi do?' But was it really that easy? I want to take you back to the old days once again," he said. Criticising the handling of past national emergencies, he added, "Remember, when you were in school, there was a disaster in Kedarnath in 2013. The entire government was shaken. They

simply did not know what to do or how to respond."



He said the previous government's response to the 2008 global financial meltdown was weak and ineffective. "When the banking crisis came in 2008, the government at the time tried to hide behind the crisis for years. It did not even have the

courage to tackle it. The entire banking system of India was pushed to the brink of collapse," he stated.

Narrating the challenges his government faced and how he faced them head-on, PM Modi said, "First came the COVID-19 pandemic, which brought the entire world to a standstill. Then the war between Russia and Ukraine broke out. After that, there was a period when trade and supply chains began to be weaponised. Then came the crisis in West Asia. Every time, people said, 'Now India will not survive.' And those who are my biggest admirers were happy, thinking, 'Now Modi is trapped. Now Modi has fallen. Now they will crush him.' But the blessings of the people of my country have so much strength, so much strength, that every wish of those who want India to fail.

Time for Tough, Not Soft Decisions: Why Are Only One or Two Officials Being Punished in Land Scams? When Will Action Be Taken on the Kheda District Scam?

Sharp Questions Raised Over the Collusion Between Revenue and Police Departments

MAHANAGAR METRO
Gandhinagar / Kheda:

The Bhupendra Patel government, after turning a blind eye to the irregularities and corruption in land deals in Gujarat, has now suspended officials from Bhavnagar and Mehsana. While the Chief Minister's decision is being welcomed, a major and difficult question has arisen from across the state: "Will this punitive action be limited to just one or two districts?" An Abundance of Land Scams in Kheda District Cases of land and government properties being sold off in bulk have frequently come to light in the Kheda district. According to allegations made by locals and petitioners, many such complaints are registered in the records of the district's Revenue and Police departments: * Sardar Patel's Land Deal: It is alleged that historic land in Mahemdavad, associated with the country's first Home Minister, revered Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, was also sold off wholesale. * Irrigation Department Lands Grabbed: Some-

time back, valuable government lands belonging to the Irrigation Department in Kheda district were grabbed, and fake documents were forged.

* Action Only on Paper: After such scams were exposed, the police and administration only registered complaints against common citizens or private individuals, putting on a 'show' of taking action. However, no action was taken against the real 'bosses' of the Revenue Department who actually prepared these documents. Why Do Revenue Officials Who Prepare the Documents Escape? Whenever any government or private land is bought or sold, its documents, records, and approvals must go through the Revenue Department. Even when fake and bogus documents are prepared in government offices, strict action is never taken against the responsible officials who approve them. Suspending one or two lower-level employees in the state will not stop these multi-crore land scams. Demand for Strict and Comprehensive



sive Action from the Chief Minister The time has come for Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel, who holds a 'soft but firm' image, to take tough decisions across the state against the land mafia and the officials harboring

Thorough Investigation: Just like in Bhavnagar and Mehsana, a Special Investigation Team (SIT) should be formed to investigate the Revenue and Police departments of Kheda district. * Direct FIR Against Document

Creators: Criminal cases should be registered not just against the buyers and sellers, but directly against the Sub-Registrar, Mamlatdar, and Collector-level officials who approve these illegal documents and entries.

* Strict Punishment: Corruption can only be eradicated from the system if stringent steps are taken to reopen all old cases of government land grabbing and to confiscate the properties of the guilty officials.

UN-backed proposed world map must depict J&K, Ladakh as per India's official map: MEA

New Delhi (Agency)

India on Sunday said any UN-initiated world map must show the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh in accordance with the country's official map, warning that any "inaccurate" or "misleading" depiction would be unacceptable.

The statement came two days after India voted in favour of a UN General Assembly resolution seeking to correct the world map and promote a more accurate representation of continental landmasses.

Titled "Correct the Map: Rebalancing Global Cartographic Representation and Promoting Equitable Representation of the World's Regions, Particularly Africa", the resolution was adopted by the UN General Assembly on September 4.

External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said India highlighted that the resolution does not constitute endorsement of any specific map, projection or depiction of national boundaries. "India voted in favour of the resolution and also made an explanation of vote stressing on the underlying principle of promoting equal - area cartographic representation," he said. Jaiswal was responding to a media query on the issue. "India's sovereign territory, including the Union Territories,



Shashi Tharoor Calls For Paid Maternity Leave To Improve Breastfeeding Rates

Shashi Tharoor pointed out that over 16 crore women operate in India's unorganised sector and go back to work within weeks after delivery to sustain economic stability

New Delhi.(Agency)

Senior Congress MP Shashi Tharoor on Saturday raised concerns over the sharp decline in Exclusive Breastfeeding (EBF) for infants under six months across India as women in rural areas return to work sites within weeks after delivery to earn their livelihood.

In a post on X addressed to Union Health Minister JP Nadda and Union Minister for Women and Child Development Annpurna Devi, Tharoor cited data from the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-6). Tharoor noted that while institutional deliveries in India have reached 90.6%, exclusive breastfeeding for infants under six months dropped from 63.7% to 55.8%.

"A curious data point, and what it might mean: According to the latest NFHS-6 data,

while institutional deliveries in our country have soared to an impressive 90.6%, exclusive breastfeeding (EBF) rates for



infants under six months have sharply declined from 63.7% to 55.8%. This alarming drop is steepest in rural areas and major states like Uttar Pradesh and Haryana," he said. "This decline exposes a tragic disconnect between public policy and

ground reality. Over 16 crore women toil in India's unorganised sector," he added.

Tharoor pointed out that over 16 crore women operate in India's unorganised sector and go back to work within weeks after delivery to sustain economic stability, making the very important time frame of six months of breastfeeding for the development of a child impossible.

"Without paid maternity leave or job security, thousands of working mothers are forced back into informal labour within weeks of delivery just to survive, making the recommended six months of exclusive breastfeeding an economic impossibility," he said. The Congress leader further attributed the decline to structural challenges within the healthcare and commercial sectors, specifically highlighting.

Two-wheeler theft gang busted in Noida, three held

Noida.(Agency)

Police have busted an alleged two-wheeler theft gang with the arrest of a 20-year-old man and detention of two juveniles, recovering nine motorcycles and a scooter suspected to have been stolen. The action was taken by Phase-3 police on Wednesday following beat policing and confidential information. The accused, Vansh, a native of Bijnor and currently living in Mamura, was arrested near an HP petrol pump on the service road in Sector 71, police said. A .315-bore country-made pistol and two illegal knives were also recovered from the accused, officials said. According to Central Noida ADCP Swatantra Kumar Singh, Vansh conducted reconnaissance in different parts of Delhi-NCR before targeting two-wheelers parked at isolated or deserted locations. The stolen vehicles were then kept at secluded places before being sold at low prices, police said. Police said the accused cited financial difficulties and allegedly used the proceeds for personal expenses and leisure activities. The weapons were accaried to intimidate people, officials said. Police records show that Vansh has 12 cases registered against him in Gautam Buddh Nagar since 2023. The cases include allegations of robbery, dealing in stolen property, narcotics, illegal arms and liquor, among other offences. Several cases were registered at Sector 58 and Phase-3 police stations.

Man falls to his death from 23rd floor of Ghaziabad condo

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

A 35-year-old man died after falling from the 23rd floor of ATS Advantage Society in Indirapuram on Saturday morning, with his body found stuck in the balcony of a first-floor flat. Indirapuram ACP Suryabali Maurya said the victim, Tarun, a resident of nearby Gyan Khand 3, had been undergoing treatment for mental health problems in Delhi for around three years. CCTV footage from Tower 10 of the society showed him taking the elevator to the 23rd floor around 8 am. Police suspect Tarun may have jumped, but the fall was broken when he got stuck on the balcony awning of a first-floor flat.

According to police, Tarun left home, where he lived with his elder brother and parents, around 7 am and was seen walking outside the society for some time. He initially tried entering through the main gate but could not do so as security guards were stationed there. Around 7.45 am, he allegedly managed to enter the premises amid the movement of schoolchildren, then went directly to Tower 10 and took the lift to the top floor. After being alerted, a police team reached the spot and retrieved Tarun's body from the balcony. The body was sent for autopsy. ACP Maurya said police were examining CCTV footage from the society to establish how Tarun entered the premises and reached the top floor. Police said there was no immediate indication of any other person's involvement.

Second day of rain leaves roads flooded again, Ggn asks residents to avoid non-essential travel

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

Heavy rain lashed the city for a second consecutive day on Saturday, waterlogging roads in sectors 3, 5, 10, 14 and 31, along Sohna Road, Sheeta Mata Mandir Road and Old Delhi-Gurgaon Road, and pushing daytime temperatures down by seven degrees. Manesar recorded the day's highest rainfall at 64mm between 8am and 3pm, followed by Sohna at 52mm, Kadipur and Harsaru at 39mm each, Gurgaon tehsil at 28mm, Wazirabad and Pataudi at 25mm each, Badshapur at 24mm and Farrukhnagar at 13mm. The district had already recorded substantial rain in the preceding 24 hours: Manesar logged 54mm between Friday and Saturday 8am, followed by Wazirabad at 42mm, Gurgaon tehsil at 41mm, Kadipur and Harsaru at 29mm each, and Sohna at 26mm.

With more intense rain forecast, District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) issued an advisory asking residents to avoid non-essential travel and stay clear of waterlogged roads, underpasses and low-lying areas. The advisory followed an IMD nowcast issued at 10.38am, warning of rainfall exceeding 15mm an hour, accompanied by thunderstorms and gusty winds. The administration also asked commuters not to attempt crossing flooded stretches and to stay away from trees, electric poles and overhead wires during the storm.

"All concerned departments and emergency response agencies to remain vigilant and take precautionary measures," the order said. DDMA circulated the warning to GMDA, police, MCG, traffic police and education authorities for wider dissemination. Some residents said the advisory shifts responsibility onto them. "Instead of working to fix the problem facing Gurgaon every monsoon, the authorities are refusing to take the responsibility and issue advisory asking people to stay indoors," said Sushant Sharma, a resident of Sector 47. IMD has forecast light to moderate rain with thunderstorms and lightning at a few places in Haryana on Sunday, tapering to isolated rainfall thereafter, with isolated heavy showers still possible. Thunderstorms and lightning are also forecast over the city, Palwal, Faridabad, Nuh and neighbouring districts on Sunday. The sustained downpour strained the city's drainage network, with water accumulating across residential areas and major traffic corridors. It also brought a sharp dip in temperature: Gurgaon KVK recorded a high of 27.3°C, down from 32.5°C a day earlier.

Ahmedabad: The Beating Heart of Modern Gujarat, Embraced by History

Mahanagar Metro Desk

Author: Rupesh Solanki

Gujarat is home to many cities, each with its own distinctive character and identity. Yet, Ahmedabad occupies a special place. It is not merely a metropolis built of bricks and stone; it is a living chronicle that carries centuries of history, culture, struggle, creativity, and human emotions within its heart. In its old lanes, one can almost hear the footsteps of history, while on its modern roads, the pace of the future can be felt racing ahead. Ahmedabad is a remarkable confluence of tradition and progress. On one side, the intricately carved wooden houses, beautiful balconies, traditional facades, and narrow lanes of the old city speak eloquently of its rich heritage. On the other, broad av-

enues, industries, educational institutions, modern commercial centres, and expanding urban infrastructure reflect the identity of the new Ahmedabad. From Ashaval to Ahmedabad: A Journey Through History The history of Ahmedabad is far older than the founding of the city itself. The region situated along the banks of the Sabarmati River has been an important centre of human settlement and trade since ancient times. Historical references to Ashaval and Karnavati bear testimony to the long and fascinating history of this region. In 1411 CE, Sultan Ahmed Shah founded the city of Ahmedabad on the banks of the Sabarmati River. With the establishment of the city came the development of fortifications, markets, mosques, palaces, and

residential settlements. Over time, Ahmedabad emerged as an important centre of Gujarat's political, economic, and cultural life. Bhadra Fort, Teen Darwaza, Jama Masjid, and the pols of the old city continue to stand as living witnesses

to Ahmedabad's glorious past. The Pol: Ahmedabad's Unique Way of Life Ahmedabad's identity is not defined only by its historical monuments; its distinctive pol culture is equally significant. A pol is not merely a cluster of houses—it represents a rich tradition of community living, social



bonds, mutual cooperation, and coexistence. The houses in the old pols were designed in a manner that encouraged strong social relationships among neighbours. Heavy rains, strong winds, and thunderstorm warnings have been issued across 14 states. Beautifully carved wooden doors,

Political Reshuffle: Congress has appointed Sachin Pilot as the new in-charge for Punjab, replacing Bhupesh Baghel, alongside appointing Randeep Surjewala for Gujarat in a major organizational shakeup.

Heavy rains, strong winds, and thunderstorm warnings have been issued across 14 states

Mahanagar Metro Desk

COPENHAGEN/NEW DELHI

— Marking a significant moment of global academic recognition for Indian healthcare professionals, prominent academician and physiotherapist Dr. Amit M. Patel (Ph.D.) has been invited to deliver an exclusive webinar address for the Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences at the prestigious University of Copenhagen, Denmark. The special session, scheduled for September 8, 2026, will commemorate World Physical Therapy Day 2026. Addressing Cardiovascular Health & Women's Empowerment. Dr. Patel's talk—titled "From Risk to Resilience: Physiotherapy Empowering Women Against Heart Disease and Stroke"—will focus on the vital role of physical activity and structured physiotherapy interventions in safeguarding women's cardiovascular health. His address will highlight: Preventive Care & Early In-

tervention: Strategies to reduce cardiovascular risks before clinical onset. Active Management & Rehabilitation: The clinical role of targeted exercise routines in recovery post-stroke and post-cardiac events. Community Impact: The pivotal role played by women—particularly in South Asia and India—in fostering healthier families and resilient communities. The session aligns directly with the official 2026 World Physical Therapy Day global theme: "The role of physiotherapy and physical activity in the prevention, management, and rehabilitation of cardiovascular disease and stroke." Global Exchange & Academic Pride: Founded in 1479, the University of Copenhagen stands as Scandinavia's second-oldest university and ranks among Europe's premier research institutions. Dr. Patel's invitation to address its Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences underscores the increas-



ing global influence and international respect commanded by Indian healthcare scholars and clinicians. This international webinar aims to serve as a platform for knowledge exchange, strengthen-

ing academic ties between Europe and India while highlighting the proactive potential of physiotherapy in modern preventative medicine. (Attached: Official display photo of Dr. Amit M. Patel)

Rahul Gandhi's Questions Shake the Election Commission and Political Circles! 10 Unknown Parties

Mahanagar Metro Desk

NEW DELHI / AHMEDABAD:

Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha and Congress MP Rahul Gandhi has launched a scathing attack on the Election Commission of India (ECI) and the ruling party, citing a shocking media report. According to the report, 10 registered yet virtually unknown political parties in Gujarat received a staggering ₹4,300 crore in political donations between FY 2019–20 and 2023–24. The revelation has triggered massive political turmoil across the nation. Mind-Boggling Stats: Donations in Crores, Election Expenses in Lakhs! Media reports indicate that across three major elections—the 2019 and 2024 Lok Sabha elections and the 2022 Gujarat Assembly polls—these 10 obscure parties fielded a total of only 43 candidates. Combined, all these candidates polled a mere 54,069 votes across Gujarat.

Massive Discrepancy in Reports:

In the official election expenditure reports submitted to the ECI, these parties declared a total election spend of just ₹39.02 lakh. Audit Books Tell a Different Story: Conversely, their audit reports and financial accounts reflect expenditures exceeding ₹3,500 crore. How parties that the general public in Gujarat has never even heard of managed to pull in and move such colossal sums remains a deep mystery. Rahul Gandhi's Hard-Hitting Questions Taking to social media platform 'X', Rahul Gandhi raised critical questions regarding the role and oversight of the Election Commission: 1. "Where did these thousands of crores come from?" 2. "Who is actually running these anonymous parties from behind the scenes?" 3. "Where was all this money utilized, and where was it diverted?" 4. "Will the Election Commission



conduct an impartial probe into this matter, or will affidavits be demanded here as well?" A Route for Laundering Black Money Through Shell Parties? Political analysts and financial experts suspect that following the scrapping of Electoral Bonds, non-operational and paper-only political en-

tities (Shell Political Parties) are being actively used as conduits to launder illicit funds. Observers emphasize that unless the Election Commission orders a stringent investigation, public trust in democratic transparency and fair elections will be severely eroded.

Gujarat murder accused tied with ropes, flogged in public by police; SHO says 'rare case'

Ahmedabad. (Agency)

A 20-year-old homeless man accused of murdering his woman partner in Gujarat's Bhavnagar was on Saturday allegedly flogged in public by police, hours after his arrest in the case. Videos of the purported incident, which went viral on social media platforms, show police taking the accused Faizal alias Khatki Rafiq Lakhani, who was tied with ropes, around the GSRTC bus stand in Bhavnagar and holding him against their patrol vehicle, pillars and walls on the premises and hitting him with their batons during the reconstruction of the crime scene.

Lakhani was arrested on September 4 by the Bhavnagar police for the alleged murder of 40-year-old Kajal, with whom he lived on the street outside the bus stand. On September 3, Lakhani had allegedly accosted Kajal and a mutual friend, Ravi alias Boda Rajendra Gohel, at the main gate of the bus stand and started beating them, accusing them of having an affair while he was in prison in another case. The assault was recorded in the CCTV cameras in the area. Kajal was declared dead the same night at Sir Takhtasinhji General Hospital, Bhavnagar.

When asked about the videos of him and his team allegedly thrashing Faizal Lakhani in public, Police Inspector D P Unadkat, the SHO of Nilambaug police station, said that the incident had taken place during reconstruction of the crime scene on Saturday (September 5). "We did it because this is a rare case," he said. "He is not a gang member as such, but he is in the habit of being a nuisance. There are many others who engage in similar activities."

German Shepherd bites Ahmedabad woman for 2nd time in 4 months, owner booked

Ahmedabad. (Agency)

The owner of a German Shepherd was booked for negligence by the Ahmedabad City Police on Saturday after her pet dog allegedly bit a 54-year-old neighbour in the Ramol area of the city. An FIR was registered on the basis of a complaint by 54-year-old Kapila Mahendra Prajapati, a resident of Vastral.

In the FIR, she said that the incident occurred around 5:30 pm on September 4 when she was sweeping her front yard. When she stepped out of her house, the front door of her neighbour Dharmishtha Dinesh Prajapati was open and her dog, a German Shepherd, bit her on her right hand. Prajapati's daughter immediately called an ambulance and took her to the nearby Community Health Centre (CHC). Kapila alleged in the FIR that the same dog had bitten her on her right leg and left hand about 4 months ago. Dharmishtha Dinesh Prajapati was booked under BNS sections 291 (negligent conduct with animals) and 125(a) (negligent act that endangers the life or personal safety of others). Following the incident, officials of the Cattle Nuisance Control Department (CNCD) of the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC), along with a veterinary officer and the Ramol Police, conducted an inspection.

'One more bite at the cherry': Justice Nariman criticises reopening of Delhi Metro arbitration award

Vadodara. (Agency)

By the time the 2008 Delhi Metro arbitration dispute reached the Supreme Court through a curative petition, the arbitral award had already travelled through the tribunal, the Delhi High Court, the Supreme Court and review proceedings. Yet the award was ultimately reopened and set aside in 2024 — an illustration, in former Supreme Court judge Justice Rohinton F Nariman's words, of how Indian litigation can offer "one more bite at the cherry after the cherry is eaten".

For Justice Nariman, the extraordinary final intervention raises a larger question for Indian arbitration: when does an arbitral award actually become final? Speaking at GHAC Arbitration Week 2026, being organised by the Gujarat High Court Arbitration Centre (GHAC) in collaboration with the High Court of Gujarat, Justice Nariman said on Friday that the Supreme Court's curative intervention in the Delhi Metro dispute "led to very far-reaching consequences".

"The bench, as a matter of law, has laid down something," he said, adding that the court could instead have confined its ruling to the "peculiar circumstances" of the case and stated that it was not to be treated as a precedent. Instead, he said, the judgment had laid down that "a miscarriage of justice, which is equal to an interference on facts in an arbitral award, can take place to set aside the award at the fag end after it has become completely final and everything is over".

IISER Mohali withdraws admission by-laws amid student concerns

Undertaking called for non-participation in protests, students declaring they do not have any mental illness

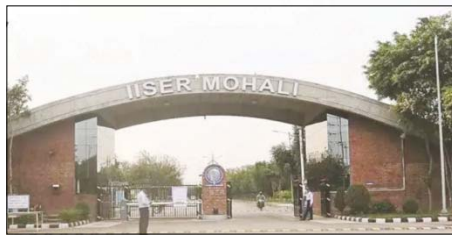
Chandigarh. (Agency)

A day after The Indian Express reported the IISER Mohali seeking an undertaking from students that they will not participate in protests or agitations on campus, the institute on Saturday withdrew its admission by-laws, saying all documents signed under the provisions stand cancelled. The move follows days of unrest on campus, including questions over a fatal lift accident, the death of a first-year student and an undertaking

students allege was introduced without Senate approval. In an email to the Student Representative Committee (SRC), Dean (Students) Dr Adrene Freeda D Cruz said the by-laws, based on those of IISER Bhopal last year, had been withdrawn.

"Any document signed by students pursuant to these by-laws shall stand cancelled and have no further force or effect," D Cruz said. The administration has now constituted a committee, including student representatives, to draft a document specifying the "Rights, Privileges and Responsibilities of Students". The draft will be placed before the Senate for consideration and approval, with the provisions coming into effect only after such approval. The withdrawal, however, has not ended the controversy. Students are seeking clarity on who authorised the disputed undertaking and how it became part of the admission documents without approval from the Senate. A student leader, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the administration had repeatedly given assurances but failed to act on them. "The Director has been bypassing the requisite

bodies, including the Senate as mandated under the IISER statutes, while pursuing his own ideas and approaches," the student alleged. The controversy comes days after a September 2 incident in which an employee of a private logistics company died in a lift-related accident on campus. Students alleged that the incident was not initially



communicated to the wider student or faculty community and that the Registrar issued a statement only after repeated questions through emails. The student community has demanded an internal inquiry into the lift's maintenance and repairs, besides an independent safety audit of similar campus infrastructure. Hostel

Once mocked for working in fields, this Moga woman generates Rs 80L annually from leased land

Mandeep Kaur Khaira, 40, has just half an acre at Talwandi Mallian village of Moga district, but she farms 40 acres, owns three tractors and seven trolleys and farm equipment worth around Rs 80 lakh, and has built an agricultural enterprise, generating around Rs 80 lakh annually, from the land that almost belongs to others. [...]

Jalandar. (Agency)

Mandeep Kaur Khaira, 40, has just half an acre at Talwandi Mallian village of Moga district, but she farms 40 acres, owns three tractors and seven trolleys and farm equipment worth around Rs 80 lakh, and has built an agricultural enterprise, generating around Rs 80 lakh annually, from the land that almost belongs to others. When Mandeep and her husband began farming on the leased land nearly two decades ago, people in her village did not see a woman in the field as something to admire, and questioned her husband Jagdeep Singh Khaira (41). "Villagers used to say that, despite being a woman, she is made to work in the fields. Fields are not a woman's work. They used to make fun of us, saying what we

would make from leased land, but we never cared," Mandeep, a Class XII pass, recalls. After her marriage, Mandeep, who comes



from an agricultural family, started farming on about 9-10 acres of leased land. Her husband owned only half an acre and was also in sand transportation using his tractor-

trolley. Mandeep wanted to farm on a larger scale and discussed the idea with Jagdeep. They decided to lease land — though it was not an easy start, as landowners generally prefer farmers with financial backing.

"For someone with a little holding, it was difficult to gain their trust. Landowners wanted to be sure that even if there was a loss due to crop failures, their lease money would be safe," she says. The family gradually increased the leased land to around 16 acres. As they established themselves as dependable tenants, they were offered another 24 acres a few years ago, taking their total leased land to about 40 acres. The growth came gradually through farming income, reinvestment and the family's ability to continue making the leased land work.

Distressed after watching Nepal videos, UP boy gives his piggy bank for flood relief

Lucknow. (Agency)

On Thursday, an eight-year-old boy walked up to the district magistrate of Bahraich carrying a gulak — a small earthen piggy bank — he had lovingly filled with coins and cash over the past year. Alfaz Sheikh, a Class III student, asked that it be sent, just as it was, all the way to Nepal, to help people whose lives had been upended by the recent flash floods.

Officials are now working out a way to honour the boy's wish and ensure his gift reaches its destination intact, coins and all. Bahraich, a district in Uttar Pradesh sharing its border with Nepal, saw 14 unidentified bodies — believed to be flood victims — being swept down the Gandak River from Nepal into India. After conducting postmortems and preserving DNA samples, the district administration handed the bodies over to Nepali authorities. But amid this solemn exchange, a small act of a child's kindness found itself caught in bureaucratic limbo. Sources said that when officials tried to hand over Alfaz's gulak along with the bodies,

Nepali authorities reportedly declined to accept it, asking instead that the money be deposited directly into a bank account. Now, officials are exploring another route — reaching out to the Nepal Embassy with a request to ensure that Alfaz's gulak, exactly as he had given it, finally makes its way to



the flood-affected people of Nepal.

"District Magistrate Mahender Singh Tawar has directed that the gulak be sent to the Nepal Embassy, so it can reach Nepal along with other relief items. It represents a child's own savings — a small gesture of solidarity from him — and every effort is being made to

ensure it reaches the Embassy intact," an official said. Speaking to The Indian Express over the phone, the child said: "Mujhe achha nahi laga mobile par video dekh kar, log pareshan hain Nepal mein baad aane par. Humney apney baba se kaha hum apna paisa dena chahte hain pareshan logo ko, toh unhone kaha theek hai aur humne de diya (I felt bad watching videos on the mobile — people are suffering in Nepal because of the floods. I told my grandfather I wanted to give my money to the people in trouble, and he said okay, so we gave it)."

Alfaz, a resident of Betiya village in Kushinagar, is the third of four children born to Imran Siddiqui, who works in Riyadh, and Nusrat Parveen. "Alfaz wanted to give away the savings he had collected in his gulak over the past year to the flood victims. These were coins and small notes he had received from elders over time — we believe there must be around Rs 2,000 in there. When I told his father about it, he said that if Alfaz wished to do this, we should find a way to send it to Nepal," said his grandfather Qasim Ali.

Men didn't want to obey her, so they killed Razia Sultan: Punjab textbooks smash gender bias

Ludhiana. (Agency)

What Sidhak wants is a kitchen set. All her friends have one, and when her "Daarji", who's cooking in the kitchen, ignores her, she gets petulant. "Daarji just doesn't care," she says. Instead, her grandfather asks her to watch the Republic Day parade.

Reluctantly, Sidhak watches it and sees a woman fighter pilot salute her national flag. Then she forgets all her annoyance. "How big are these? Can I also fly them?" she asks, just as her grandfather intended. Sidhak forgets all about the kitchen set and instead gets a miniature fighter jet as a "gift".

The story, titled 'A Gift for Sidhak', is part of the Class 7 curriculum in Punjab government schools and the state government's campaign to buck gender stereotypes and redefine gender roles. Five years after the Punjab Education Department collaborated with the NGO Breakthrough and The Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab South Asia (J-PAL) in 2021 to integrate 'Gender Sensitisation' into the regular curriculum, the change is visible on the pages.

From explaining how gifting kitchen sets to girls and cars or aeroplanes to boys can influence gender roles to highlighting women previously relegated to the margins of history, the new curriculum is aimed at one thing: understanding, questioning and countering gender biases from a very young age.s.

These efforts are particularly visible in the English and social studies curriculum — from stories such as 'A Gift for Sidhak' to viewing important historical figures such as Razia Sultana and Nur Jahan through a different lens. The efforts are not just for students but also for teachers, Sunita Prabhakar, component head for the Gender Sensitisation curriculum of the Punjab Education Department, tells.

"The teaching material or books alone can't bring the change. We have trained teachers on how to convey such lessons in the classrooms. The curriculum now also includes stories on how families should support women's career ambitions and men should also participate in household chores," she says.

Census date reset puts early Punjab poll buzz to rest

Chandigarh. (Agency)

The Centre on Saturday advanced the population enumeration for Census 2027 in Punjab and three other poll-bound states, effectively putting to rest speculation that the Assembly elections in the border state could be held in November this year.

According to a gazette notification issued by Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India Mrityunjay Kumar Narayan, population enumeration in Punjab, Goa, Uttar Pradesh and the non-snow-bound areas of Uttarakhand will be conducted from December 1, 2026, to January 4, 2027. A revisional round will follow from January 5 to 9, while citizens in these areas can opt for self-enumeration between November 16 and 30. The reference date for Census 2027 for these states will be 00:00 hours of January 5, 2027. All of these are poll-bound states and the terms of their Assemblies will end by May 2027. The revised schedule is significant for Punjab, where the five-year term of the Assembly is due to end on March 15, 2027. Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann had taken oath on March 16, 2022, after the Aam Aadmi Party stormed to power winning 92 of the 117 Assembly seats. The Census

schedule also makes it difficult for the Election Commission to hold the Assembly polls in November, as had been speculated in political circles since June.



A large number of government employees, particularly teachers, are deployed for Census work as well as election duties. Conducting the two exercises simultaneously would create considerable logistical and manpower challenges, an official said. The development comes nearly three months after AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal triggered speculation by

suggesting that Punjab could go to the polls in November 2026 instead of February 2027. Addressing an AAP gathering in Bathinda in June, Kejriwal had claimed he had been told

that the elections would be held in November and not February. He asked party workers to begin preparations, saying they would have only about four months. His remarks triggered a political row, with BJP leaders questioning the basis of the claim and maintaining that the Assembly elections were due in February 2027. An early election would have sharply compressed the political

parties' preparations, leaving little time for candidate selection, organisational mobilisation, booth-level planning and campaigning. Among others, a tight deadline would have affected the BJP, which is seeking to expand its footprint in Punjab and emerge as a serious contender in the 2027 elections. Having ended its long-standing alliance with the Shiromani Akali Dal, the party is looking to build an independent organisational base across the state, even as speculation persists over a possible rapprochement between the two parties.

The BJP won only two Assembly seats in the 2022 polls and drew a blank in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. However, the party has been seeking to position itself as a serious contender by expanding its organisation and inducting leaders from rival parties.

The 2022 Punjab Assembly elections were held on February 20 after polling was postponed from February 14 following a request from then Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi, who had cited the large number of devotees expected to travel for Guru Ravidas Jayanti. Votes were counted on March 10, with the AAP winning 92 seats. Mann took oath as Chief Minister on March 16.

PYJAMA needed, not scrapping over top GDP numbers

Consider two snapshots. Lakhs of young people protesting at Delhi's Jantar Mantar, hopeless and anxious about their future. India announcing it's the fastest-growing economy in the world, with record double-digit nominal GDP growth. These events are not decades or years apart, as they may seem—they are separated by just four weeks.

How can lakhs of Gen Z youth be out on the streets in protest against the government when the nation is supposedly experiencing its best economic conditions in recent history? This, in essence, sums up the brouhaha over the GDP figures for the latest quarter released a few days ago.

First off, there is a lot that is wrong with India's economy and its GDP measurement. But the sheer math behind the 7.8 percent real GDP growth is not one of them, contrary to what a former government bureaucrat has claimed. The economy is perhaps the only thing reduced to a statistic that every individual—rich or poor, Hindu or Muslim, rural or urban—experiences every single day. Then, how can millions of Indians be so disenchanted with the economy when the measure says it is robust?

If the math behind the measure is not the problem, then it follows that either what we measure as GDP is wrong, or there is a disconnect between GDP and living conditions for the average Indian, or both.

Former Chief Economic Advisor Arvind Subramanian argues that it is the former. He has demonstrated with reasonable evidence that ever since the GDP estimation methodology was changed in 2015, the correlation between economic indicators such as electricity consumption, taxes collected, exports, bank credit and the GDP measure has broken down. Put simply, accompanying indicators of a strong or weak economy do not match up to the GDP estimate as they did earlier.

Measuring GDP ain't enough

While this may be true, what is more worrying is that GDP, even if measured accurately, is no longer sacrosanct as an indicator of a society's wellbeing. Incomes and the prices of goods and services are how people experience the economy every day. Incomes are generated through jobs, and prices are determined by demand-supply forces. India's economic structure is largely driven by private enterprise, unlike China's State-controlled economy. So, only the private sector can generate jobs at scale for India's huge labour force. Then, the surest measure of job creation in the economy is private corporate investment. In the maze of economic measures and statistics, this is the single most important indicator of a sustainable and robust Indian economy.

Only when the private sector invests does it create jobs, which then translate into incomes for the vast majority of people in the labour force. Private sector investment has languished at about 10-12 percent of GDP over a decade, down from 14 percent in the decade before. Had India's corporates invested with the same enthusiasm as in the previous decade, they would have put in a whopping \$700 billion more than they actually did. When corporates are reluctant to invest, the government can step in to do the heavy lifting for a year or two but not for long, since government finances are already stretched. But the private sector has stubbornly refused to invest and expand for a decade now. This is despite the Modi government's misguided attempts to woo the private sector to invest by giving it huge tax cuts. In September 2019, even before Covid struck, the government slashed corporate tax rates ostensibly to boost private sector investment. Corporate taxes collected fell from 3.7 percent of GDP before the cuts to 2.9 percent in the five years after. The government lost roughly \$100 billion in revenues over five years due to the corporate tax cuts. Put in other words, the \$100 billion was an 'unconditional cash transfer scheme' to the private sector.

The case for jurists as judges

Constitutional mandate for appointments should not remain unused

IN the autumn of 1947, a quiet Indian civil servant went choosing ideas for a Constitution. BN Rau, constitutional adviser to the Constituent Assembly, sailed to America. In Washington, he called on Justice Felix Frankfurter, who told him to keep "due process of law" out of the Indian Constitution. Rau carried the warning home. Article 21 speaks instead of procedure established by law. We remember the advice. We have forgotten what the man himself was. Frankfurter taught at Harvard from 1914 to 1939, and had never been a judge of anything when US President Franklin D Roosevelt sent him to the highest court in America. The man India's constitutional adviser consulted about a Supreme Court was a law professor.

Two years later, the Constituent Assembly wrote him into our text without knowing it. On May 24, 1949, HV Kamath moved an amendment to draft Article 103, to give the President a third door. Ambedkar accepted it, but he was unsure whether "distinguished" or "eminent" was the better word, and he left the choice to the Drafting Committee. The Committee kept "distinguished". That clause is now Article 124(3)(c). A citizen who is, in the President's opinion, a distinguished jurist may be appointed to the Supreme Court. However, nobody has ever been so appointed. Justice Ujjal Bhuyan of the Supreme Court said so recently at the convocation of National Law University, Delhi. He called it one of our Constitution's unused mandates. Either the Collegium finds our academia too shallow, he said, or nobody has tried. He dismissed as shallow the objection that scholars lack practical experience. We filled the Court from two pools instead: High Court judges by seniority, and advocates from the Bar. That second route opened later. SM Sikri, Advocate General of Punjab, came directly from the Bar in February 1964. Subimal Chandra Roy followed in 1971, then Kuldip Singh, Santosh Hegde, Rohinton Nariman, UU Lalit, L Nageswara Rao, Indu Malhotra, PS Narasimha and KV Viswanathan. Justice V Mohana, sworn in this June, is the eleventh. Eleven in seventy-six years. Everyone else climbed the High Court ladder. The ladder has always had loose rungs for the right person. TL Venkatarama Aiyar sat on the Madras High Court for

under three years. He retired on his sixtieth birthday in 1953 and joined the Supreme Court six weeks later, as an advocate of long standing and not a judge of five years. VR Krishna Iyer left the Kerala High Court after three years for the Law Commission, and reached the Supreme Court from there in 1973. Both entered through clause (b), as appointments of a mind rather than of a queue. When the appointing power wanted a particular intelligence, it found a door. It has never wanted a



professor. It came close once. In the Justice PN Bhagwati years (Chief Justice of India in 1985-86), an American university addressed Prof Upendra Baxi as "Judge Baxi" in a seminar invitation. Justice Bhagwati had told them that Baxi would be on the Court within four months. Baxi's verdict, decades later, was drier — Presidents had looked for a jurist through a telescope and found none, so jurists must not exist. Four things keep the clause asleep. There is no nursery: Article 217 has no jurist clause, so nobody can be tried out on a High Court first. There is no mechanism: the Memorandum of Procedure knows only how to find judges and advocates. There is the arithmetic: a jurist appointed young sits long and disturbs the succession to the office of Chief Justice. And there is our own rulebook. We forbid our academics the courtroom, then disqualify them for never having been in one.

Age narrows the field cruelly. Judges retire at sixty-five, and the Court in practice takes nobody under fifty-five. Let's discuss a few names only for illustration, and I apologise to the many I have left out. The argument is for the search and not for these names alone. Upendra Baxi is eighty-seven. G Mohan Gopal and Amita Dhanda are also past the line. We simply lost them. At the other end stand scholars still too young. Sudhir Krishnaswamy, who wrote the standard study of the Basic Structure Doctrine, is fifty-one. Aparna

Chandra, Anup Surendranath and Tarunabh Khaitan, who work on the Court, the death penalty and discrimination law, are still younger. Their turn may come later, if at all, in the next decade.

One name sits inside the window between. Faizan Mustafa is nearly sixty. He has taught constitutional law for three decades and has built three national law universities. He would sit on the Court for around five years. That is the answer to the objection nobody states aloud. A jurist appointed at sixty-two can never enter the line for Chief Justice. A Collegium wishing to test the clause cheaply could begin here. In the late 1980s, the first woman judge of the Supreme Court, Justice Fathima Beevi, was similarly appointed for a term of less than three years. The case for activating the distinguished jurist clause is not that scholars judge better. They may or may not. They judge differently. Frankfurter the professor became the great preacher of restraint. William O Douglas came from Yale and became the least restrained judge

of his century. Lord Burrows moved from the Oxford chair of English law to the UK's Supreme Court in 2020, after twenty years of part-time judging. England built a bridge but India built a wall. Some academics were fine judges while some were not. A directly appointed lawyer gave us Kesavananda Bharati (1973), and judges with seniority gave us ADM Jabalpur (1976). A court recruited from one pool thinks in one groove. It is slower to ask where a rule came from and whether it still deserves to stand.

Ambedkar's only worry was the adjective. Seventy-six years on, it has done no work at all. One appointment would not transform the Court. It would tell our law schools that scholarship leads somewhere. And it would remind the Court that when Rau wanted to know how to build a Supreme Court, he went to see a professor.

Court verdicts raise serious question on coercive use of law

The court did not say that students are immune from criminal law. It held that bona fide participation in a protest cannot by itself justify treating a young person as accused and putting their future at risk

Two recent judicial interventions should concern anyone who believes that the State must be firm in dealing with disorder but equally careful in dealing with dissent. The Allahabad High Court's decision to cancel the detention of student and activist Aakriti Chaudhary under the National Security Act raises questions about how the police built their case. Chaudhary was accused of instigating stone-pelting and arson during the Noida workers' protest this April, but the State could not immediately produce the video it claimed established her role. The court also pointed out several procedural lapses in the sequence of her arrest and the manner of issuing notices. It described the State's version as a "concocted story" and even ordered compensation. Similar concerns are reflected on a wider scale in the Supreme Court's intervention in the cases arising from student protests during July 20-25. It ordered the closure of FIRs connected to the protests lodged around the country and barred fresh cases from being opened. At the same time, it allowed proceedings



against those identified as having serious criminal antecedents. That distinction is important. The court did not say that students are immune from criminal law. It held that bona fide participation in a protest cannot by itself justify treating a young person as accused and putting their future at risk. The police response, however, needs closer

examination. A protest can turn violent, and those responsible must be investigated and prosecuted. But being at a protest does not make a person responsible for the violence. The police have to show what the individual accused actually did; a mere allegation cannot stand for proof. The Allahabad judgement also draws attention to the way the detention was carried out. The safeguards laid down by law cannot be treated as formalities, especially when the State applies a law as stringent as the NSA. The case raises a fundamental question: did the circumstances warrant the use of a law that permits preventive detention? The manner in which it was invoked makes the question difficult to avoid. The larger issue is whether the State is exercising its coercive powers with the restraint and legal discipline that democracy requires. In these two cases, the courts have had to insist on proportionality, evidence and due process that should have guided the executive response to the protests in the first place.

Who'll pay for the next disaster?

—A business loses revenue. A borrower struggles to repay a loan. A state government finds additional money for relief and reconstruction.

Disaster finance cannot begin only after a disaster. States need to know in advance which losses they can absorb, which to insure and those that must be shared more widely. Disasters like the one that struck Nepal expose an important weakness in how countries like India financially prepare for extreme events. While investments in disaster response, mitigation and reconstruction are essential, the financing of residual losses often remains largely reactive. In many cases, the question of who ultimately bears the economic cost—governments, households, businesses or insurers—is resolved only after the disaster has occurred. India needs to change that. When a flood destroys a small enterprise, a heatwave reduces a worker's earnings or a cyclone damages public infrastructure, the economic loss ultimately lands somewhere. A household runs down its savings. A business loses revenue. A borrower struggles to repay a loan. A state government finds additional money for relief and reconstruction. Uninsured risk is, therefore, not risk that has disappeared. It is risk that governments, households and businesses have retained often without consciously deciding to do so. This matters because India's economic exposure is rising. Estimates suggest that \$26-29 trillion (around Rs 2,500 lakh crore) of assets across the country are exposed to different natural hazards. Across Asia, only about 8 percent of economic losses from natural catastrophes in 2025 were insured. The answer is not to insure everything. Rather, India needs to decide systematically which risks should be borne by whom. A useful starting point would be for every state to prepare a disaster-risk financing strategy alongside its disaster-management plan. States already assess hazards and vulnerability. They should now estimate their potential financial exposure: what could a severe flood cost? How much loss could existing disaster

funds absorb? At what point would reconstruction begin crowding out other development expenditure? Which risks are predictable enough to insure? This would create a simple hierarchy. Frequent, smaller losses could continue to be met through public funds and existing safety nets. Larger but measurable shocks could be partly insured.

Truly catastrophic events could be shared through reinsurance or other mechanisms so that neither a single insurer nor a state budget bears the entire loss. The timing is particularly relevant. The Sixteenth Finance Commission has recommended Rs 2,04,401 crore for state disaster response funds between 2026-27 and 2030-31, including Rs 40,880 crore for mitigation. It has also asked the government to examine and finalise single-peril parametric insurance products.

Some states have already begun experimenting. Nagaland has purchased multi-year parametric cover against excess rainfall. Unlike conventional insurance, where losses are assessed after an event, parametric insurance releases a predetermined payment when an agreed threshold such as rainfall, temperature or wind speed is breached. Existing disaster-mitigation guidelines have also been interpreted as permitting states to use part of these funds towards insurance premiums. Public money should not simply become a new source of insurance premiums. States should first demonstrate that transferring a particular risk is cheaper or more effective than retaining

it. Premiums should be competitively procured, and governments should periodically evaluate whether the cover is actually reaching the losses it was intended to address.

The second challenge is trust.

Parametric insurance is fast precisely because it does not



measure each person's actual loss. But this also creates the possibility that people suffer damage while the official trigger is not crossed. In heat-insurance experiments, comparisons of weather datasets have shown differences of around 3-3.5°C, enough in some places to determine whether a payout occurs. India therefore needs a public framework establishing which weather data can

determine payouts, how thresholds are validated and what happens when data sources disagree. The India Meteorological Department, disaster-management authorities, insurers and state governments will need a common protocol. Without that, scaling parametric insurance could create distrust precisely among households that have the least capacity to absorb a failed payout. There is also a case for states to cooperate rather than buy disaster cover entirely on their own. India's climate risks vary enormously across its geography. A cyclone affecting the eastern coast may have little relationship with drought conditions in western India or excess rainfall in the Northeast. Pooling carefully selected, imperfectly correlated risks could potentially allow states to share administrative costs and negotiate more efficiently with insurers and global reinsurers.

But financial protection cannot replace physical protection. Better drainage, early-warning systems, heat-action plans, resilient roads and safer construction must remain the first line of defence. Insurance should finance residual risk, not become an excuse to tolerate avoidable vulnerability.

That distinction is particularly important for vulnerable households and informal workers. The State cannot withdraw from its responsibility for disaster relief merely because a financial product exists. The important question before the next flood, cyclone or heatwave is not simply how much money will be available afterwards. It is whether governments have decided beforehand which losses they can absorb, which they should insure and which risks must be shared beyond the budget.

5 ways to organise your Book shelf

1. Categorise it alphabetically:

One of the best ways and the most common method of organising your book shelf is by arranging the books according to the alphabets. You can either do it by the author's first or last name or by organising it according to the book title.

2. According to genre:

This is the easiest way to organise your books and also find them when you are looking to read a particular genre. Make separate shelves for comedies, classics, thriller, suspense etc.

3. Colour coded:

You can turn your book shelf into a giant rainbow by arranging them according to the colour of the book. For example, if most of your books are black and white, you can create a monochrome section.

4. Arrange according to publications:

If you do not wish to mix your books, the ideal way to arrange them is by separating them according to the publisher. You can build different sections for each publisher, so that you do not get confused while arranging your books.

5. According to emotions:

You don't have to ideally follow the usual method of arranging books. You can do it a bit differently. If there are books that have been gifted to you by friends and family, you can make a separate section for them and label it accordingly. While the books that you have bought for yourself can be organised in another section and labeled.



If you're a bookworm and not a particularly organised person, you're sure to have tons of books lying around the house. It is easy to segregate your book collection in an organised and functional manner, this not makes your work easy but also makes your work and space a lot more clear and consistent. Here are a few ways you can organise your book shelf

How to clean a paddle brush

How to have a neat, clean and hygienic paddle brush for an everyday use.

Ask any women and her biggest nightmare will be a bad hair day. And to steer clear away from these real nightmares women resort to many helping tools and techniques. However, the most trusted helping tool is the paddle brush. But have you ever realized that these brush apart from giving our hair luster they consume a lot of dust, oil, moisture and germs as they are always kept in open. It's mandatory to clean up your paddle brush twice every month for a lustrous and healthy hair. Here are some tips:



1. Take a pen/pencil and start sliding it in the paddle brush under the accumulated hair. Slowly pull up until the hair starts to loosen; slowly remove the hair. Keep on repeating until your brush is clean.

2. Once you are done doing that, take a big bowl in which the bristles can be completely soaked. Now add some warm water in the bowl with a teaspoon of baby/mild

shampoo and stir well. Now soak the paddle brush in it for about two hours. It will remove the dust, oil and all the unwanted particles.

3. Remove the brush and rinse off the remaining water and pat it dry or dry it with the help of a drier.

4. Once dried, again soak your brush in a bowl filled with warm water and a pinch on baking soda for an hour. This works as a disinfectant.

5. Pat dry your brush and once it's completely dried you have a brand new brush there

How to manage your daily chores

Not everyday would you like to get involved in cleaning up act at home that involves you spending most of the time doing up the chores. Here's how to go about handling your daily chores wisely that would allow you spend more quality time with your loved ones:

Plan the day's activities: This sounds like chalking out a school time table, but planning out in advance makes your life simpler. Taking from giving a particular time slot to washing clothes to arranging the utensils in the kitchen, allotting a set time to a set activity can take away the hassle of piled up and pending work.

Do not postpone things: Unless it is unavoidable, take up activities as per the plans. If you keep postponing doing things, the work load will multiply the next day. Sticking to a time table is always better. However, altering the time table to suit your work and home requirement also can be tried.

Club events: If on a shopping trip, club the allied activities like going out for a lunch before or after the shopping or picking up essential things for home needs can be thought upon. This will not only save you making another trip on another day, but also enable you spend some more quality time with family.



Uncluttered space:

One fundamental rule of having a happy, inviting space is to have uncluttered space. Clutter gives a feel of stress to the space. Nobody likes to see piles of clothes, stacks of bills, magazines, books lying here and there. Keep your space uncluttered and bring in a sense of happiness.

Let your space be unobstructive:

For creating a comfortable environment, the space needs to have a sense of free flow. The idea is to make moving through your home — getting from the front door to the seating areas, the dining space, the bathroom and more — obstacle-less. Don't put huge, bulky furniture all over the place so that no one can squeeze through, and don't put too many floor pillows so that your guests will have difficulty in navigating.

Bring in your personality:

Your home should reflect your distinct personality. When people visit your house, they should be able to strike a connection with your personality. The essence lies in creating a space that feels like you. So, make all efforts to bring in different facets of your personality in your decor. Sprinkle unique design details around the house. For this, you need not spend a fortune. Push your creative boundary and indulge in some DIY projects.

Let your house smell fresh:

Good fragrance is heady. So make sure that your house smells nice. Keep some nice floating aromatic candles in the house. And of course nothing can beat the smell and aesthetics of fresh flowers.

A touch of green:

Having green space in your home makes it definitely a space worth visiting again and again. So, create your own green space no matter how small/ big your house is. If you want to extend a 'green' welcome to your guests then put some potted plants at the entrance/hallway.



Having a home that is inviting — that welcomes visitors with a touch of warmth and lingers in the minds of guests long after they have left your home— definitely makes for an enjoyable and memorable place. Here are five simple ways to make your space inviting





17 ways to do up your

Living Room

'My place has everything that a party house needs'

About A Boy is a film about a guy who has not worked a single day. He gets royalty out of a song that his dad sang. But what is really cool about him is his apartment. Punit's apartment is inspired by that. Like the character in the film, Punit too, would like to be self-sufficient in life

"I wake up in the morning and go down to the second floor for breakfast to my parents' place (Punit stays on the 22nd floor) or the breakfast comes up. They have started teasing me that this is why I meet them. Then lunch comes up and for dinner, I usually go down."

"My kitchen is totally stocked with ingredients and everything required to cook, though it has never been used. I also have a fully stocked bar even though I don't drink. And, surprisingly, my dad stocked it up for me."

"When my dad came to see my place for the first time, he opened my room and died of shock seeing the fully open shower. He said, 'What if someone opens the door and sees you?' To make it worse, I had put a blue light in the shower. I can see the world taking a shower from inside, though the world cannot see me from outside. He found it ridiculous and could just not get it. Manish (Malhotra who is Punit's chacha) came and said, 'I thought it will be cool, but the bathroom is too sexy.' It was too much for him to handle. My grandfather came in and said, 'How will your wife take a bath here when you get married?'"



Interior expert Raseel Gujral lists simple fun ways to do up your living room.

Personality

I want to walk into a space that makes me sigh! The living room should be designed in such a way that it speaks to you with volume and personality.

Unusual pairing

The rush of being surprised by unexpected beauty. For example a beautiful antique in an otherwise contemporary living room setting is something unexpected.

Art talks

Nothing can replace the timeless appeal of original art. Exquisite pieces of art can hold an entire space together. Touch of unapologetic glamour Glamour needs no justification. Every living room should have a hint of glamour — need not be loud, just a touch of Venetian glass can change the look of a room!

Colour

Colour is oxygen — it makes you breathe. Each colour makes you feel different — it lights up your life!

Transform the mundane The layering of materials can transform the simple to the sublime. An intricately worked on carpet in an empty space can transform the otherwise mundane area to something interesting. A simple sofa with exotic cushions can change the look of your living room.

Sense of origin Never lose it. When you fill your room with furniture it should not shout but should have gentle flavours.

Conversation pieces Key pieces should anchor a space, not let it float away. You may have a small room and fill it with a hundred small pieces. Visually it's unappealing and your pieces do not get noticed either. Have one large painting or one large sculpture in the room instead.

Let your experiences and travels talk There is no substitute to personal style. Your living room should reflect it in the things that you pick on your travels!



Find your own inspiration

Fashion, art, life — everything is a stimulus. One is inspired by books, clothes, fashion shows etc. This inspiration should be brought in to your rooms.

Dare to differ

There is nothing more boring than the black dress syndrome. Do not follow the herd. Do up your house differently. Paint a wall in a deep mahogany!

Minimalism

Today to be minimal means leaching every bit of personality. Minimalism is in! Do not do anything over the top. Your room should be simple and sophisticated. Minimalist interiors don't necessarily mean everything is stripped down. It

means everything serves a specific function.

Lift your spirits Details. Ones that make you fall in love over and over. Fill your room with little things that give you joy. It can be a simple photo frame, a beautiful vase, anything that lifts your spirit!

Surprise yourself

The compulsion to constantly surprise yourself. The furniture you place in the living room should have a story, so every time you walk in, it should surprise you.

A thing of beauty is a joy forever Buying objects of beauty — is beginning a love affair, every time. The joy of finding something new and bringing it home — like picking up a lamp in an antique market.

Change is good

The drama of everyday life. Keep changing the look of your home. Paint a sculpture an electric red this will add drama!

Lighting The play of light and shadow — in pattern and history. Place your pieces in such a way that the light and shadow will form designs in your room.

A good night's sleep is very essential for a healthy life. It is not just the number of hours that plays an important role in ensuring a good sleep but also the level of comfort that depends on the mattress that you choose to relax on.

6 simple tips to choose a

Mattress



Mattresses are not the same for every person; some are designed to cushion your stiff back while others provide support according to a person's height, age or weight. We generally do not pay much attention to these factors before buying a mattress; but neglecting such concerns can affect our sleeping habit.

Puneet Verma, General Manager of a US-based mattress firm and store (with several branches in many cities in India) shares some guidelines on what to keep in mind before selecting a

mattress:

Age of your existing mattress

If you've been having trouble sleeping, the problem might not be your mattress, but its age. Every mattress comes with its own expiry date. After a certain period of time, mattresses no longer retain their original comfort quality. This is the time that you should consider changing your mattress to prevent further troubles to your body.

The three S's

Softness, support and size are

three important attributes of a mattress. In India, most customers tend to prioritise the cost of the mattress over other components and end up complaining later.

Test before you finalise

Once you've made up your mind on a particular mattress, try lying down on it for at least 10 to 15 minutes. This will help you check for its comfort and reliability. Do not hurry with the big purchase and let not your decision be only influenced by the salesman.

Check for all options and variations

Check whether the mattress is firm, stylish and accompanied with a pillow-top the brand promises to offer. Do not settle for anything mediocre.

Shop at a real mattress store

Avoid shopping from department stores. Salespeople at a mattress store are usually more trained and skilled enough to help you with the correct choice.

Do not forget to check the warranty

A good mattress will have a minimum of a 10 year 'full' replacement or a 'Non-prorated warranty'.



Delhi HC cancels FIR in fight between friends, orders community service in Manipur

Delhi. (Agency)

Observing that the chances of the case ending in a conviction were remote, the court said continuing the criminal proceedings would serve no useful purpose.

The Delhi High Court has cancelled an FIR lodged after a fight between friends, saying the dispute had been amicably settled and ordering the two accused to perform community service at a hospital in Manipur. The court said the complainant and the accused remained friends and had no subsisting grievance against each other. Observing that the chances of the case ending in a conviction were remote, the court said continuing the criminal proceedings would serve no useful purpose. It made the relief of cancelling the FIR conditional on community service and payment of costs. In an order passed on August 21, Justice Prateek Jalan said, "... I am of the view that it would be appropriate to make the relief sought (quashing of FIR) subject to undertaking community service and paying appropriate costs. The petitioner and respondent no. 4 (both accused) shall

undertake community service for a total of six sessions of two hours each at Regional Institute of Medical Science, Manipur." The court said both men must report to the hospital's medical superintendent, who will assign suitable duties to them. The court directed that the community service be completed within two months from the date of commencement. After that, the medical superintendent will issue a compliance certificate, which is to be placed on the court record. The two men were also directed to collectively pay Rs 10,000 to the Delhi High Court Bar Association within two weeks. The order came while allowing a plea seeking cancelling of an FIR registered at Dabri Police Station in Delhi. The FIR, registered in March last year, was based on a complaint by a man who alleged that he was living in a rented flat with his friend when both accused forcibly entered

the premises and assaulted him and his friend.

According to the FIR, one of the residents was allegedly kicked and punched, causing him to fall headfirst onto the kitchen slab and

causing the head injury. The court was told that the parties had settled the matter without any coercion or undue pressure and had signed a settlement deed.

The injured person also told the court that he had recovered from the injury and was not suffering from any lasting consequences. The parties said they remained friends and had no subsisting grievances against each other. While cancelling the FIR, the court noted that the dispute arose from a quarrel between friends and was resolved shortly after the FIR was registered.

"In these circumstances, continuation of the criminal proceedings would serve no meaningful purpose and would only perpetuate discord and animosity between parties. The ends of justice would, therefore, be better served by bringing the proceedings to a quietus," the court observed.



suffer a head injury.

In its order, the court noted that the FIR did not allege the use of any firearm or sharp weapon, or any separate act directed towards

MCD to set up 24 'Nigam Shree Vidyalayas' across Delhi to mentor neighbouring civic schools

Delhi. (Agency)

The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) will establish 24 'Nigam Shree Vidyalayas' across its 12 zones, with two schools in each zone, as part of an initiative aimed at improving the quality of education in municipal schools. Mayor Pravesh Wahi made the announcement during a 'Teachers' Day function organised by the civic body at the Civic Centre on Saturday.

The proposed schools will serve as mentor institutions for neighbouring MCD schools and help improve teaching practices and educational standards. Wahi said MCD schools had witnessed considerable improvement, highlighting the availability of smart classrooms and teachers. He said the civic body had a responsibility to provide quality education and facilities to children studying in its schools.

The Mayor also announced the 'Sahbhagita Initiative', which will seek to improve education quality while involving parents through technology. Another initiative, the 'Nigam Mini League', will identify sporting talent among municipal school students in cricket and football.

The league will focus on children in the Under-9 and Under-11 age groups. Education Committee chairman Yogesh Verma said the 24 Nigam Shree schools would provide a "new direction" to MCD's education system and contribute towards the goal of a developed India by 2047. The announcements were made during a ceremony where 87 MCD educators—4 principals and 83 teachers—were felicitated for their contributions. Union Minister of State and Delhi BJP president Harsh Malhotra, who attended the event, urged teachers to ensure students continue their education as they progress from primary to higher classes.

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Shahpur Jat residents protest MCD move to use their only open space for waste-management vehicles

Residents say the 6,500-sq-m parcel is their only space for festivals and allege that work has damaged the Siri Fort Wall and uprooted trees.

Delhi. (Agency)

"We have given everything for the development of Delhi. Siri Fort, Hauz Khas and Panchsheel have all been developed on the land of Shahpur Jat village and this is the only piece of open land that we have to celebrate festivals like Holi, Diwali, Dussehra. But the MCD is being very insensitive," says Saroj Panwar, a senior citizen from Delhi's Shahpur Jat. Residents have been sitting on a dharna against the Municipal Corporation of Delhi's (MCD) decision to allot a 6,500-sqm

land parcel, which they call the area's only open space, to waste management contractor South Delhi MSW Solutions Pvt. Ltd. (SDMSWSPL) for parking vehicles and other activities. The protest has been joined by senior citizens and young residents, who are demanding withdrawal of the civic



body's August 31 authorisation letter. Residents have also formally approached the Archaeological Survey of India and Forest Department, alleging damage to the Siri Fort Wall and uprooting of trees after work

Delhi govt honours teachers, vows to address gaps in school infra, curriculum

Delhi. (Agency)

The Delhi government on Saturday felicitated 118 teachers and principals with State Teachers Awards 2026, with Chief Minister Rekha Gupta saying the government was working to improve education by addressing gaps in school infrastructure and curriculum. Addressing the Shikshak Mahakumbh—State Teachers Awards 2026 at Thyagaraj Stadium, Gupta said the government aimed to take education to "great heights", but the process had to begin by ensuring basic facilities in schools.

"We want to take education to great heights and make a lot of progress, but the previous governments did not do anything in 12 years. So, after coming to power, we have had to start working

from a very low level," she said. Gupta said the government was repairing toilets, ensuring water facilities, carrying out maintenance, whitewashing and undertaking other



repair works in schools.

"Many schools had very poor toilet facilities. Once, I went for an inspection to a very good and reputed school, which the previous government used to boast about. When I saw it, there was no gate in the toilet. How would our girl

students have been using it?" she said.

The Chief Minister said the government was also working on courses and curriculum, with the Education Department and Education Minister Ashish Sood continuously reviewing the issues. Calling teachers the "strong foundation" of society, Gupta said they not only impart textbook knowledge but also instil values, skills, confidence and a sense of duty among students. She said Rs 19,148 crore had been allocated for education in the 2026-27 financial year. Education Minister Ashish Sood said the recruitment process for 10,417 teachers had been initiated to address shortages, while 613 special teachers would also be recruited to support students with special needs. He said the government was working to resolve teachers' administrative.

Delhi Metro Issues Warning To Influencers Over Dangerous 'Phone Sticking' Reel Trend

Delhi. (Agency)

Delhi Metro train windows recently became a new target of social media reels, with the trend going viral across all platforms. A growing online trend, where influencers paste or stick their mobile phones onto the glass of moving trains to record videos, has drawn strict action from the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC). The authorities posted an official advisory on Instagram after several clips flooded platforms like Instagram Reels.

DMRC warned creators that filming such content is prohibited on Metro premises and stated that offenders will face necessary action.

"The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation has noticed that some social media content creators are pasting their mobile phones on the Metro train windows and shooting videos with the moving train," the



statement read. "This act can cause inconvenience or even injury to other passengers and can damage the mobile phone devices of the users."



"DMRC authorities are viewing this with all seriousness and if any content creator is caught indulging in such a shoot, necessary action shall be taken."

Delhi HC fines DTC Rs 1 lakh for dragging 32-year-old bus conductor back-wage dispute through courts

Delhi. (Agency)

The Delhi High Court has imposed costs of Rs 1 lakh on the Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) for pursuing a 32-yearold litigation against a bus conductor over payment of back wages for 17 months, terming it an abuse of the process of law. Justice Amit Mahajan, while dismissing the DTC's appeal against a 2004 Industrial Tribunal order in the conductor's favour, said the department's continued litigation over such an "inordinately long period" had resulted in avoidable expenditure of public money.

The court said DTC could recover the costs from the officer responsible for pursuing the "insignificant dispute". Of the Rs 1 lakh cost, Rs 25,000 will be paid to the Delhi High Court Legal Services Committee, Rs 50,000 to the



PM Relief Fund and Rs 25,000 to the conductor.

The case arose after the conductor was accused of failing to issue tickets to three passengers despite receiving Rs 67 as fare in November 1994. He was suspended and later removed from service in August 1996, though the order was subsequently set aside.

In 1998, the DTC chairman directed his reinstatement without back wages and with reduced pay.

The Industrial Tribunal in 2004 held the punishment illegal and said he was entitled to wages on his regular pay scale and arrears. The High Court had stayed the tribunal's order in 2005. Justice Mahajan said the tribunal's findings were reasonable and based on available material, warranting no interference.

"Therefore, the content creators are hereby directed to not shoot such videos within the Delhi Metro premises."

What Is the Trend?

The trend originally started abroad before spreading to social media creators in India. Creators attach a mobile phone, often using suction mounts, to the window of a Metro coach.

Many videos feature the creator dancing or posing on the platform, then dramatically sprinting after the train as it pulls away, making it look like they left their phone behind. However, they stick their phone out of the window while remaining inside the train, with another person in the coach holding onto it, and safely retrieve it afterwards.

One viral video from a local creator amassed over 135 million views, sparking a wave of duplicate videos across Delhi Metro stations.

FPIs turn sellers again, pull out Rs 7,443 crore from Indian equities in first week of September

New Delhi. (Agency)

Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) turned net sellers of Indian equities in the first week of September, withdrawing Rs 7,443 crore after investing in the market for two consecutive months. The latest selling came as a rebound in crude oil prices, rising US bond yields and a firm dollar weighed on risk appetite.FPIs had infused Rs 30,919 crore into Indian equities in August and Rs 20,200 crore in July. Before the two-month buying streak, foreign investors had remained net sellers for four consecutive months from March to June.

With the latest withdrawal, the total amount pulled out by FPIs from Indian equities in 2026 has risen to Rs 2.32 lakh crore. This is higher than the Rs 1.66 lakh crore withdrawn during the whole of 2025.

Crude rebound, yields and dollar weigh on sentimentRajkumar Rath, chief investment officer at YES Securities, said the recent selling was driven by a rebound in crude oil prices, which raised concerns over India's inflation and current account outlook."Further strengthening US bond yields and a firm dollar index have reduced foreign risk appetite for emerging markets," he said.Rathi also pointed to India's premium equity valuations, particularly in growth sectors and the mid- and small-cap segments, as factors prompting foreign funds to book profits and rebalance portfolios.

Despite the selling in the secondary market, he said foreign investor appetite for India's primary market has remained "structurally resilient".

Global cues to guide FPI flows

Looking ahead, global bond yields are likely to remain a key driver of FPI flows, VK Vijayakumar, chief investment strategist at Geojit Investments, said.Brent crude prices, evolving US-Iran geopolitical tensions and upcoming US inflation data ahead of the Federal Reserve's mid-September policy meeting will also influence foreign fund flows, said Pabitra Mukherjee, Deputy Vice President-Research at Bajaj Broking.

Europe is moving its gold out of America; where is it headed

New Delhi. (Agency)

Gold is supposed to be the ultimate safe haven. But as geopolitical uncertainty rises, European central banks are rethinking where they keep their most trusted reserve asset. After France and Germany, Netherlands became the latest to make an exit, shifting part of its gold holdings from North America to London.

The relocation has raised concerns about whether central banks are bracing for a major economic shock.Experts, however, say that the move is less about predicting a crisis and more about preparing for an increasingly uncertain world, where geopolitical tensions, trade wars, inflation and interest rates are reshaping how countries manage their reserves.

Why the Netherlands shifted its goldBetween March and August, De Nederlandsche Bank (DNB) relocated 86 tonnes of the roughly 313 tonnes it held in the US and Canada to the Bank of England vaults in London. According to DNB, the move was made "in view of increasing geopolitical unrest" so that the gold could be "readily available for use in a crisis situation".Governor Olaf Sleijpen, as cited by BBC, said that it was "necessary to strengthen our resilience and preparedness." The move comes amid trade disputes and military conflicts, including an ongoing trade dispute between the US and Canada, with both countries announcing fresh tariffs after failed trade talks.

India's headline inflation expected to hit 4.88% in August on food, fuel pressures: Report

New Delhi. (Agency)

India's headline retail inflation is expected to accelerate to 4.88 per cent in August from 4.44 per cent in July, driven by persistent food price pressures and a further rise in fuel inflation, according to a report by Union Bank of India.

"We expect India's Consumer Price Inflation (CPI) to rise to 4.88% in August' 26 from 4.44% in July, marking the second consecutive monthly acceleration and highest reading in the 23-24 series," the report said.Food inflation is projected to rise to 6.03 per cent in August from 5.24 per cent in July, driven by continued price pressures across key food items. However, the composition of food inflation is expected to shift, with vegetable inflation projected to moderate sharply to 0.39 per cent year-on-year. This decline is likely to be offset by continued price increases in other essential food categories.Sugar inflation is expected to rise sharply to 11.53 per cent month-on-month in August 2026, its highest level on record, following an estimated 15 per cent increase in sugar prices during the month.As per Union Bank, price trends from the Department of Consumer Affairs indicate broad-based increases across several categories, with sugar, vegetables, cereals and edible oils witnessing continued upward price movements, while pulses and milk prices remained largely firm.At the same time, "milk inflation is expected to strengthen in the next couple of months following the recent upward revisions in retail milk prices across several states," while cereal inflation likely rose further to "2.2%, while pulses inflation increased to 2.

CIBIL score: Maintain these habits for quicker loan approval

Credit Information Bureau (India) Ltd (CIBIL) is a credit information company that gathers the financial and credit payment history of individuals or businesses from banks, NBFCs, and other institutions on a monthly basis.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Keeping a strong credit score may significantly improve your chances of loan acquisition. How well you maintain your credit score signals lenders about your ability to pay them back on time. The three-digit number is gauged by your

financial stability and creditworthiness over time, depending on your ability to pay back borrowed money on time. A CIBIL score ranges from 300 to 900, and a score of 700 and above is considered good.Credit Information Bureau (India) Ltd (CIBIL) is a credit information company that gathers the financial and credit payment history of individuals or businesses from banks, NBFCs, and other institutions on a monthly basis. For a lender to approve your loan, you must build habits that give you a higher CIBIL

score: Pay your bills on time: Set reminders and keep a note of payments to be made. Late payments can reflect poorly on your credit history; late or missed payments can ruin an otherwise good credit score. Maintain a long credit history: Having a strong and long credit history makes it

easier to get a loan. To maintain a lengthier history, try to keep your old credit card for as long as it helps in making timely payments. A longer



history helps ease loan approval, since lenders deem you a more responsible borrower. Conversely, regularly applying for new cards can shorten your history, thus reducing your score.

Manage your credit utilisation ratio:

Keep a check on your credit utilisation ratio and enhance your credit limit when needed, as per your expenses. It is better when your card usage is well below the limit, since keeping your expenditure at the edge of it can negatively impact your reliability as a borrower. Restrict your credit usage according to the limit to maintain a good score for a longer duration.Choose longer loan tenors smartly: Choosing loans with a longer tenor can be a smart move to maintain a good score, since the EMI is usually lower. A low EMI is easier to pay, thus helping you make repayments on time. This builds up your credit score and indicates your financial stability.Avoid taking multiple loans simultaneously: Taking multiple loans at once indicates a lack of funds. It is better to apply for a new loan only once you have made the complete repayment of your previous one.

India emerges as key diesel supplier to Europe amid Russian export disruptions

New Delhi. (Agency)

India accounted for 60 per cent of the diesel transiting through Bab-el-Mandeb to Europe in August, as per the report from energy intelligence firm Vortexa. India has established itself as a significant supplier amid restricted Russian exports and weakening US shipments.The strategically important shipping route halted the passage of vessel amid the Middle East crisis in March and April. However, the volume bounced back nearly to the previous year's level with 2,00,000 barrel per day of diesel being transitted through Bab-el-Mandeb in August. A significant portion out of this was exported from India owing to its extensive refining capacity.The recent figure highlights India's importance to Europe's eastern diesel supply. Being the fourth largest oil refiner in the world the country's refining capacity is

higher than the domestic fuel demand. India refines 258.1 million tonnes crude oil per year.

India has emerged as a major



exporter as geopolitical tensions, sanctions, refinery disruptions, and changing global trade routes are reshaping the flow of refined products. During 2025-2026 the country has been one of the largest exporter of refined fuel with a total export of 61.5 million tonnes petroleum products. These products are now landing significantly in European and Russian market.

However, the import of crude oil in India has experienced a low for a second consecutive month in August. Crude and condensate shipments dropped from 4.8 million bpd a year earlier to around 3.8 million bpd. Therefore, sustainability of India's continued supply of refined products becomes dubious. Moreover, the situation may become increasingly tensed for Europe since its major supplier Russia's export has drastically reduced.

The average export of Russia's seaborne diesel and gasoil was around 1,50,000 bpd during the first 25 days of August, down by about 6,10,000 bpd from a year earlier. Also, it is 81 percent below the five-year seasonal average, Vortexa states.Ukraine has launched 32 attacks on refineries during July and August and as a result of these continued attacks, the Russian refineries and export infrastructure is severely disrupted.

IPOs raining this week: 11 issues to mobilise Rs 7,055 crore, know details of each

Kolkata. (Agency)

It will be raining IPOs this week on Dalal Street. A total of 11 companies are launching their IPOs between September 7 and 15 with the design to raise approximately Rs 7,055 crore. Significantly, six IPOs will open simultaneously on Wednesday, September 9, while three companies will launch their issues on Tuesday, September 8. One IPO will open each on Monday, September 7 and Thursday, September 10. However, IPOs from several other companies may also be announced next week.Three companies will also be listed on the stock market. Purple Style Labs will be listed on Monday, while Rage of Belief and Deep Jewellers will begin trading on Dalal Street on Tuesday. Pranav Constructions IPO

Pranav Constructions' initial public offering (IPO) will be open from September 7 to 9. The company has set a price band of Rs 118-124 per share, with a lot size of 120 shares. The total IPO size is Rs 351.03 crore, consisting of a fresh issue of Rs 315.60 crore and an OFS of Rs 35.43 crore. Allotment of shares is expected on



September 10th, while listing on the BSE and NSE is expected on September 15.

3 IPOs to open on Tuesday

Glass Wall Systems IPO, Prasol Chemicals IPO and Kanahar Electricals IPO will open on September 8. Glass Wall Systems IPO of Rs 427.89 crore will be open from September 8 to 10. Its price band is Rs 172 to Rs 182 per share and the lot size is 82 shares. The issue consists of a fresh issue of Rs 60 crore and an OFS of Rs 367.89 crore. Allotment is expected on September 11, and listing on September 16 on the BSE and NSE.

Oil price, US jobs data, rising bond yields may impact Indian stock market next week

The benchmark indices ended higher on Friday, but surrendered most of their intra-day gains and closed near the day's lows after the closing auction session (CAS).

HONG KONG. (Agency)

The Indian stock market is likely to remain sensitive to global cues next week, with crude oil prices, rising bond yields, stronger-than-expected US jobs data and foreign investor flows emerging as key factors that could shape investor sentiment. Renewed tensions between the US and Iran, uncertainty over the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz and shifting expectations around US interest rates are expected to keep volatility elevated.

The benchmark indices ended higher on Friday, but surrendered most of their

intra-day gains and closed near the day's lows after the closing auction session (CAS). The Sensex gained 363 points to close at 76,515, while the Nifty rose more than 24 points to finish below the 23,898 mark.The broader market performance remained mixed, with the Nifty Midcap 100 slipping into negative territory, while the Nifty Smallcap 100 managed to end in the green.One of the biggest concerns for investors heading into the new week is the renewed rise in crude oil prices. Oil gained around 8 per cent during the week after the US and Iran exchanged strikes following a month-long lull, reviving fears of a supply disruption as the Strait of Hormuz remains shut for oil transit.

The prolonged disruption has also prompted a reassessment of crude price expectations. Citi has raised its average Brent crude price forecast for the third quarter to \$86 a barrel from its earlier estimate of \$80, citing expectations of a longer-than-anticipated timeline for the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz.

Higher oil prices could put additional pressure on inflation and corporate costs in oil-importing economies such as India. Investors will therefore closely monitor developments in the Middle East and any



indications of when normal oil shipments through the strategic waterway could resume.Another major concern is the sharp rise in global bond yields. A bond-market selloff of a scale not seen in decades has pushed yields across several major economies to multi-year highs. Markets are currently dealing with a combination of oil-driven inflation,

expectations of tighter monetary policy and deteriorating fiscal conditions.

The rise in crude prices and fuel costs has increased inflationary pressures while also pushing up government borrowing costs globally. At the same time, investors are assessing the possibility that tighter financial conditions could weigh on economic growth if there is no meaningful easing in inflationary pressures.US monetary policy expectations could add another layer of volatility. A stronger-than-expected US jobs report has brought the possibility of a September interest-rate hike back into focus, creating a difficult policy choice for Federal Reserve Chair Kevin Warsh amid pressure from US President Donald Trump for lower borrowing costs.US employers added 162,000 jobs in August, almost three times the number expected by economists. The labour force participation rate also increased to 61.6 per cent.

“Every move has consequences”: Team of women prisoners set for global chess championship

Pune.(Agency)

“Chess teaches us to think several moves ahead. If I had done that before making the mistakes in my life, I would not have been here,” an inmate who is in her 40s and lodged at Yerawada Women’s Prison told her chess coach, Pradnya Khaire — this during an endgame lesson a few weeks ago. As Khaire explained how a single move in the final stages can decide a game, the lesson seemed to extend beyond the board.

“We learnt that every move has consequences and invites a response from the opponent. In life, too, every decision sets something in motion,” said another team member to Khaire during a recent practice session.

For the six women on Yerawada’s team, chess has become an exercise in patience, strategy and consequences. The team has now, for the first time, qualified for the FIDE Intercontinental Chess Championship for Prisoners. The championship will bring together correctional institutions from around the world. “For these female inmates, it is not just an international competition, but an opportunity to put into practice a lesson they have learned one move at a time: think ahead,” said Sunil Dhamal, Superintendent of Yerawada Central Prison. One of the oldest prisons in India, established in 1871, Yerawada Central Prisons Women’s wing was established in 1927.

Bengaluru's first ‘Circular Textile Lab’ aims to prevent textile waste reaching landfills

Bengaluru.(Agency)

A first-of-its kind Circular Textile Lab aims to prevent ‘virgin textile waste’ from reaching the landfills. The lab will convert textile discards into useful and creative products through a circular, skills-based approach, train women from underprivileged communities and provide opportunities to develop sustainable livelihoods by reusing and transforming textile waste. An initiative of Bengaluru South City Corporation, the city’s first Circular Textile Lab and Solid Waste Management (SWM) Learning Centre, will be inaugurated at the ward-level integrated SWM Centre, in Koramangala on Monday, aimed at promoting sustainable waste management and reducing the amount of waste sent to landfills.

The SWM Learning Centre is being established as a practical learning and capacity-building facility for school and college students, citizens, corporate employees, government personnel, NGOs and SWM workers. Located within an operational waste management facility that processes 18 tonnes of different waste streams daily, the centre will combine classroom learning with first-hand exposure to waste processing.

Through interactive programmes, demonstrations, games and facility tours, participants will learn about waste segregation, the seven R’s of sustainability, composting, dry and reject waste management, zero-waste campuses and events, and ways to reduce waste at source.

Four booked for fraudulent compensation claim in Bengaluru

BENGALURU.(Agency)

The Bidadi police in Bengaluru South district have registered two FIRs against four persons for allegedly attempting to fraudulently claim Rs 5 crore in land acquisition compensation by submitting forged ownership and property documents in connection with the Greater Bengaluru Integrated Township (GBIT) Project. The accused allegedly fabricated documents to establish ownership of land covered by the acquisition process and sought compensation from funds earmarked for the project.

The alleged fraud came to light when officials overseeing the land acquisition process scrutinised the documents submitted for claiming compensation. During verification, discrepancies in the ownership records reportedly raised suspicion and the complaint was filed.

Kishan Kalal, Special Land Acquisition Officer, has filed separate complaints against the four accused on Thursday. The cases have been registered at Bidadi Police Station against Shankar Reddy and Krishna Reddy in crime number 289/ 2026 and H Venkatesh and H Rajasekhara in crime number 290/2026. The accused allegedly posed as landowners and submitted forged family trees, land records and identity documents to claim compensation from the government.

Nepal floods: DNA identification crucial for families of missing travellers

Arrangements for forensic DNA sample collection have been established at state-run forensic laboratories in Mumbai, Pune, and Nashik.

Pune.(Agency)

Following the devastating floods in Nepal, one of the biggest challenges after the recovery of bodies and human remains has been their identification. “Given the condition of many of the recovered remains, visual identification is often difficult or impossible. DNA profiling has therefore become a crucial tool in the identification process,” Umesh Zirpe, veteran mountaineer and president of the Akhil Maharashtra Giriyarohan Mahasangh (AMGM), . The AMGM and its Maharashtra Mountaineers Rescue Coordination Centre (MMRCC) have been in continuous coordination with the Maharashtra State Disaster Management authorities. Arrangements for forensic DNA sample collection have been established at three locations in Maharashtra—state-run forensic laboratories in Mumbai, Pune, and Nashik. “So far 51 people from across Maharashtra have agreed to send their samples,” Zirpe said. The floods and landslides that struck Nepal 11 days ago have left a heartbreaking trail of

destruction. A large number of travellers from India, particularly from Maharashtra, were in Nepal for the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra when the disaster occurred. As rescue operations continue, bodies and human remains are being recovered from vast quantities of mud and debris. Because of the large number of



casualties, hospitals and mortuaries in cities such as Kathmandu, Pokhara, and Chitwan are facing severe shortages of space and refrigeration facilities. The condition of many recovered bodies makes visual identification difficult. Authorities are therefore

photographing the bodies and collecting DNA samples before carrying out identification and, where necessary, the final rites.

The Nepal government has issued advisories urging the close relatives of missing persons to come forward and provide DNA samples. A dedicated online portal has also been established to facilitate information collection and coordinate the identification process. The DNA profiles collected from relatives in Maharashtra will be used for comparison with DNA profiles obtained from unidentified bodies and human remains recovered in Nepal. A positive match can help establish the identity of a missing person through the appropriate official process. “This is an important and sensitive stage for the affected families. Until the forensic identification process is completed and the authorities formally confirm the identity, information about recovered remains must be treated with caution. For families searching for their missing loved ones, DNA identification offers a scientific and reliable pathway towards certainty, dignity, and closure.

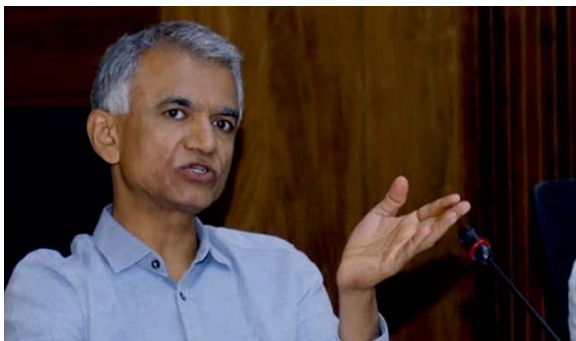
Minister Krishna Byre warns officials against negligence in civic upkeep in Bengaluru

Bengaluru.(Agency)

BENGALURU: Greater Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda on Saturday directed civic officials to give top priority to cleanliness, waste management and maintenance of basic infrastructure, warning that negligence in these areas would invite action against the officials concerned.

The minister’s direction came in the backdrop of an early-morning surprise inspection of several areas under the Bengaluru East City Corporation, including Horamavu, Banjara Layout, Agara Lake, Jayanthinagar, Ramamurthy Nagar and Kasturinagar. He directed officials to ensure that pourakarmikas collect waste from every household every day

and that the collected waste is properly disposed of. He also reviewed the functioning of marshals and instructed them to maintain



continuous vigil against the dumping of garbage in public places. As part of his inspection at Agara Lake and its surroundings,

he directed officials to take immediate action as per the law wherever encroachments are found. With the North-East Monsoon next month, the minister inspected a rajakaluve along Ramamurthy Nagar Main Road, reviewed its cleanliness and maintenance, and directed officials to undertake regular desilting and cleaning of storm-water drains and ensure that they remain free of accumulated silt and waste. Officials were directed to ensure effective implementation of daily door-to-door waste collection, proper and scientific disposal of collected waste, and priority resolution of issues such as public dumping, footpath encroachments, construction debris and potholes. He directed the concerned departments to work in coordination and respond quickly to civic problems.

A bus, a letterbox and a forgotten Mumbai

Mumbai.(Agency)

There was a time when passengers could post a letter without getting off a BEST bus. For about two years between 1928 and 1930, some buses had scarlet-red letterboxes fitted into their middle sections. Passengers could drop in their mail as they travelled through the city. The letterboxes are no longer in Mumbai’s buses. But one of the stories about them survives at the BEST Museum, tucked away on the third floor of the undertaking’s administrative building at Anik Depot in Sion. The museum has no grand setting. What it does have is a collection of objects that offer glimpses of how Mumbai travelled, used electricity and paid for public services several decades ago.

There are old tickets, miniature bus models, wooden tram benches, street lamps, lighting models and traffic stops. Among them are objects that now seem unusual, a bell punch machine, a

brass table fan used for advertising and photographs of a tram that once went around neighbourhoods as a mobile repair unit. The museum came about almost by accident. In 1972, the undertaking decided to publish a book tracing its history. Departments were



asked to send in old documents, photographs and objects that could help with the project.

The response was much larger than expected. Staff Liaison Officer P D Paranjape, who was coordinating the collection, began gathering the material. Eventually, BEST decided

that the objects should be preserved separately. The first collection was kept in a 150-sq-ft warehouse at Dharavi Depot in 1981. The museum opened at Kurla Depot in 1984 and moved to Anik Depot in 1993 as the collection grew.

A postbox on a bus

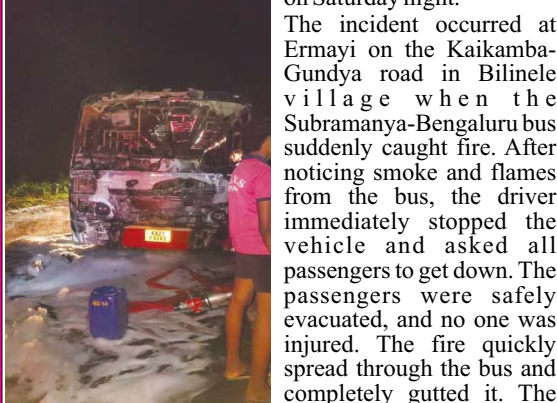
BEST’s first motor bus service began on July 15, 1926, between Afghan Church and Crawford Market. There were 24 buses, each with seating for about 24 passengers and space for two standing passengers.

The service grew quickly. Nearly six lakh passengers used it in its first six months and the number rose to 38 lakh in 1927. But the following years brought a series of disruptions, including the textile strike of 1928, communal riots in 1929 and the Civil Disobedience Movement. Passenger numbers dropped and BEST tried several measures to encourage people to use its services. One of them was the letterbox.

Driver’s alertness saves 37 passengers lives after moving KSRTC bus catches fire in Dakshina Kannada

MANGALURU.(Agency)

A KSRTC bus driver saved the lives of 37 passengers after a moving bus caught fire in Kadaba taluk of Dakshina Kannada district on Saturday night.



The incident occurred at Ermayi on the Kaikamba-Gundya road in Bililele village when the Subramanya-Bengaluru bus suddenly caught fire. After noticing smoke and flames from the bus, the driver immediately stopped the vehicle and asked all passengers to get down. The passengers were safely evacuated, and no one was injured. The fire quickly spread through the bus and completely gutted it. The bus staff informed the fire and police departments, which rushed to the spot. A short circuit is suspected to have caused the fire.

In the shadow of the cloud: Thane protests proposed hyperscale data centre

As Mumbai Metropolitan Region races to become a data centre hub, Thane residents are asking what the digital boom will cost a city already struggling with water, power and space

Mumbai.(Agency)

When the areas of Balkum, Majiwada and Dhokali in Thane first heard that Amazon was coming to their neighbourhood, they thought of jobs. For some, the land beside their homes, once occupied by a chemical company, had been lying vacant. An Amazon facility sounded like an opportunity for a community that had already lost livelihoods when the factory shut. It was only later that residents learnt what was actually being built: a 53-acre hyperscale data centre expected to consume 422 MW of power, 125 kilolitres of treated water daily and have 193 diesel generators on standby. That discovery has turned excitement into resistance. For villagers and residents of sprawling apartment complexes living next to the site, the question is no longer what Amazon might bring to Thane, but what the city may have to give up for it: water, power, quiet

and, they fear, a little more room to breathe. Data centres have entered public consciousness alongside the rise of AI and have faced protests in countries such as the US. Now, that backlash has reached the Mumbai Metropolitan Region, even as it races to establish itself as one of India’s biggest data centre hubs.

The Thane protests

Sprawled across 53 acres, the Amazon Web Services facility is set to come up in Thane’s Balkum area, surrounded by highrises, small padas and at least eight schools and hospitals. AWS purchased the land from developer Kalpataru Buildings during the Covid period to establish the hyperscale facility. “Earlier, this land housed a chemical company which employed the local villagers. After it was closed over health concerns, thousands had lost their source of income. So, when we first heard that there was an Amazon centre coming up, we were

hoping it would create jobs,” said Rohidas Patil, a native farmer of Balkum whose home is next to the facility’s boundary wall. “But last year, we found out that this was no ordinary facility, it was a hyperscale



data centre,” he said. Residents subsequently began looking into data centres and the protests they have triggered elsewhere. The #WakeUpThanekar movement took shape around a central

question: how could a hyperscale facility be permitted in the middle of a city?

On July 18, hundreds of residents formed a human chain in a silent protest against the proposed centre. Shiv Sena MP Nareish Mhaske has also backed the residents. A bureaucrat from the MMR region said the Thane project differed from several other data centres in Mumbai and Navi Mumbai, which have largely come up in existing industrial complexes such as the Airoli Mahape belt and Chandivali Powai. “The one difference when it comes to Thane as against most data centres in MMR like Navi Mumbai and Mumbai is that data centres in these cities are slated to come up in already existing industrial complexes ... and are hardly surrounded by any residential accommodation,” the bureaucrat said. “The proposed data centre in Thane is near a residential area, which means extra precautions will have to be put in place,” the bureaucrat added.

NEWS BOX

US Open Day 8 schedule: Sabalenka, Alcaraz headline fourth-round action

Aryna Sabalenka and Carlos Alcaraz lead the US Open Day 8 fourth-round schedule in New York.

Quarter-final spots are on the line alongside several key American match-ups.



New Delhi. (Agency)

The 2026 US Open enters its second week on Sunday, September 6, with the fourth round taking centre stage at Flushing Meadows. The round of 16 features several of the tournament's biggest names, with defending champions Aryna Sabalenka and Carlos Alcaraz among those beginning their push towards the quarter-finals. Sabalenka, the women's top seed, will resume her title defence against American Taylor Townsend. The Belarusian is chasing a third consecutive US Open crown and has been one of the most consistent players in the draw so far, while Townsend will have the home crowd behind her as she looks to reach the quarter-finals. Alcaraz will also face American opposition as the second seed takes on 20th-seeded Tommy Paul on Arthur Ashe Stadium. The defending champion is targeting an eighth Grand Slam title and will be tested by Paul, who has already battled through a demanding path to reach the last 16.

The schedule also features several intriguing clashes involving other major contenders. American eighth seed Ben Shelton takes on Stefanos Tsitsipas, while 2021 champion Daniil Medvedev faces 11th seed Frances Tiafoe. On the women's side, third seed Jessica Pegula meets 16th seed Sorana Cirstea, while Emma Navarro and Anna Kalinskaya also battle for a quarter-final place. With the tournament now entering its second week, every match carries greater significance as the remaining players look to secure their place in the final eight. The fourth-round action will be spread across Arthur Ashe Stadium, Louis Armstrong Stadium and Grandstand.

Coco Gauff, Naomi Osaka advance as Iva Jovic ends Alexandra Eala's US Open run

New York. (Agency)

Coco Gauff advanced to the fourth round of the US Open for a fifth consecutive year, while Naomi Osaka also survived a tense three-set battle to keep her campaign alive. Iva Jovic then completed a memorable night for the American women by edging Alexandra Eala in a marathon clash to set up an all-American meeting with Gauff. Gauff, the fourth seed and 2023 champion, overcame Spain's Cristina Bucsa 6-3, 6-4 on Arthur Ashe Stadium. She did not produce her cleanest tennis, particularly on serve, but recovered from early setbacks and found another level when the pressure increased. "I'm just happy with how I



fought through, even when I wasn't playing my best," Gauff said.

The 22-year-old fell behind 1-3 in the opening set but responded by taking control from the baseline. She broke Bucsa again in the eighth game after a lengthy 21-shot exchange and closed out the set. Gauff then produced another crucial break late in the second before sealing victory at the net. "I feel like I'm used to getting to the second week now," Gauff said. "Last year, I put so much pressure on myself. I'm enjoying the experience out here."

OSAKA BATTLES IT OUT

Two-time US Open champion Naomi Osaka continued her comeback at Flushing Meadows with a hard-fought 6-3, 3-6, 7-5 win over 23rd seed Elise Mertens. The Japanese 13th seed moved into the fourth round after recovering from a breakdown in the deciding set. Osaka made the brighter start, building a 4-1 advantage in the opening set, but Mertens fought back and levelled the contest. The Belgian then looked capable of completing the turnaround before Osaka regained her composure late in the decider.

Alexander Zverev overcomes Tabilo wobble to reach US Open fourth round

Alexander Zverev beat Alejandro Tabilo in straight sets to reach the US Open fourth round. He recovered from a second-set wobble and set up a last-16 meeting with Luciano Darderi.

New York. (Agency)

Alexander Zverev survived a mid-match wobble to maintain his push for a deep US Open run, defeating 25th seed Alejandro Tabilo 6-2, 7-6(2), 6-2 on Saturday. The top seed recovered his composure after surrendering a lead in the second set to book his place in the fourth round at Flushing Meadows. Zverev came into the contest having already spent nine hours and 26 minutes on court across back-to-back five-set battles against Lorenzo Sonego and

Quentin Halys. The German made sure he would not be dragged into another marathon, making a blistering start against Tabilo and taking the opening set in 43 minutes. The 29-year-old broke Tabilo twice early and dictated proceedings with his powerful groundstrokes. He continued in the same vein at the start of the second set, moving 4-2 ahead and appearing firmly in control before his level unexpectedly dipped. Tabilo capitalised, winning three games in succession and moving within a game of taking the set. Zverev eventually stopped the slide and forced a tiebreak, where he rediscovered his rhythm. After Tabilo took two of the opening three points, Zverev reeled off six straight to claim the set and put himself firmly in command.

ZVEREV MARCHES ON

The German carried that momentum into the decider, although Tabilo threatened immediately by creating break-point opportunities in the opening game. Zverev held firm, using two winners to escape danger before Tabilo's backhand error handed him the game.



From there, Zverev took control. He broke for a 4-2 advantage in a 12-point game, eventually converting after Tabilo produced a double fault, and held serve to move within a game of victory. The top seed then closed out the contest without further trouble. He finished with 42 winners compared with Tabilo's 22 and converted

six of his 13 break-point opportunities, while the Chilean struggled to maintain the level that had briefly unsettled his opponent. Zverev's victory sends him into the fourth round, where he will face 21st seed Luciano Darderi. A place in the quarter-finals will be at stake when the pair meet in the last 16.

Who will retire Rohit Sharma?

Rohit Sharma's retirement has been announced, discussed and speculated about several times, but the 39-year-old keeps scoring runs. So, who gets to decide when India's former captain's career is finally over?

New Delhi . (Agency)

Every simple movement is a tell-tale sign in Indian cricket. A player sits on a balcony with his teammates, and suddenly it is a farewell. A cricketer's family turns up at an IPL game, and retirement rumours begin. A senior player signs up for reality television, and that too, is apparently a clue. In Indian cricket, retirement is no longer something a player announces. It is something everyone else tries to predict. Outside noise is one of the most frowned-upon phrases in Indian cricket, even

before the day and age of social media. Sachin Tendulkar had his own 'Endulkar' pieces following him. MS Dhoni, Virat Kohli and now Rohit Sharma have all had to deal with it. At 39, the former India captain is dealing with so much more than just form and fitness. Let's do a quick recap, because keeping track of Rohit Sharma's retirement has become a full-time beat in itself.

Ever since Shubman Gill was appointed as the ODI captain, there were murmurs that Rohit was not going to get the ticket to South Africa in 2027. He then hit a 70 and a hundred in Australia. Since then, he has hit two fifties and a hundred in nine matches. But the rumours hit a fever pitch earlier this year. Before the tour of England, the whispers began that this would be his last assignment in India colours. By the time the Lord's ODI came around, those whispers had hardened into certainty. This, everyone agreed, was the end. The Home of Cricket, a fitting final bow, roll credits. Except

Rohit did not appear to have read the script. He walked out at Lord's, ground down England's bowling attack and brought up his hundred with a sweep off Adil Rashid to become the first Indian to score an ODI century there. India lost the match and the series 2-1, but the story of



the day was written in one paragraph and one man's bat. Asked about the noise afterwards, Rohit did not so much address it as shrug it off with the weariness of a man who has been having this conversation for the last couple of years.

Pakistan still the best: Coach's bizarre take after India bundles them out for 55

Dubai. (Agency)

"Pakistan is the best side in this Asia Cup" — Wahab Riaz's claim would have been surprising in any context, but it came moments after his team had been bowled out for 55 by India. The Pakistan coach's assessment left everyone puzzled as India chased down the target in just 8.4 overs to seal a seven-wicket win in Dubai on Saturday. Riaz made the bizarre statement during his post-match press conference, backing Pakistan to lift the Women's Asia Cup despite their emphatic defeat. He argued that the conditions suited his team and insisted the players could quickly put their poor showing against India behind them. "I still believe Pakistan is the best side in this Asia Cup to lift the trophy because the conditions really suit us," Riaz told reporters. The confidence came after

Pakistan endured a disastrous batting display. They were dismissed for 55 in 18.1 overs, their lowest total in recorded T20I cricket, before India reached the target with 68 balls remaining. "We will go



back and discuss what we did wrong against India. We will try not to commit the same mistakes," Riaz said. Pakistan struggled to build any sort of partnership, with only Muneeba Ali and Shawal Zulfiqar managing double-digit scores.

India's bowlers kept the pressure on throughout, with Shree Charani taking three wickets while Deepti Sharma and Prema Rawat picked up two each. RIAZ DEFENDS SQUAD OVERHAUL Riaz was also asked about criticism from former Pakistan captain Sana Mir over the decision to make seven changes to the squad after the T20 World Cup earlier this year. The Pakistan coach defended the overhaul, arguing that the experienced players who were left out had not produced the results expected of them. "We have made changes with the future in mind. The players who were playing before, they have played a lot of World Cups and Asia Cups but we weren't getting the results," Riaz said. "It was time to go with new faces and bring new girls into the mix to build the team for the upcoming tournaments," he added.

Lionel Messi starts life after Argentina with two assists in Inter Miami draw

Miami. (Agency)

Lionel Messi returned to club football after announcing his Argentina retirement and immediately made his presence felt for Inter Miami, setting up both goals in a 2-2 draw against Atlanta United. The result denied Miami a victory on a rain-hit night, but Messi once again showed that stepping away from international duty has not diminished his influence on the pitch.

The match marked Messi's first appearance since he confirmed that his time with Argentina was coming to an end. Despite a delay of more than 90 minutes because of heavy rain and lightning, the 39-year-old received a huge reception when he emerged for the warm-ups, with the crowd particularly vocal when he came out of the tunnel.

"It was very emotional," Inter Miami midfielder Rodrigo De Paul said before the



match. "We lived with so much excitement having him out there on the field. It brought us so much joy to see the Argentina jersey all over the world, and it always had a No. 10 on the back," he added. Messi then turned that anticipation into an influential performance. He delivered an outswinging corner in the 32nd minute that Casemiro powered into the far corner with a header, putting Miami ahead. Atlanta responded almost immediately through Miguel Almiran, but Messi was involved again before half-time. His involvement in the move helped create the opening for Telasco Segovia, whose perfectly weighted pass found Luis Suarez.

Gianii Infantino dodges FIFA future questions amid fallout over failed World Cup plan

Gianni Infantino declined to discuss his future at FIFA when asked at the Under-20 Women's World Cup in Poland. His silence comes as scrutiny persists over FIFA's failed plan to sell a share of future World Cup profits.

Katowice. (Agency)

FIFA president Gianni Infantino refused to shed light on his plans for the future as he attended the opening match of the Under-20 Women's World Cup in Poland on Saturday. Infantino was asked about his position amid continued scrutiny following the collapse of his controversial proposal to sell off a share of FIFA's future World Cup profits. Infantino was in the stands as hosts Poland faced Argentina on the opening day of the tournament. Asked by Sky News about his future, the FIFA president said there would be a time to address the issue, but insisted the focus should remain on football. "There will be a lot to say, but there will be a right

place and a right time to say this. It's not today, it's not here, but here and today, we are enjoying football," Infantino told Sky News. He did not directly respond when asked whether he had considered resigning or whether he still planned to seek a fourth term in next year's FIFA presidential election. Instead, Infantino pointed towards FIFA's wider work and its aim of expanding football's reach globally. "We are continuing at FIFA, of course, to work to give every corner of the world a chance, an opportunity, a dignity, to find ways and means for them to become better and to participate and to celebrate football,



which we all love," he said. INFANTINO UNDER PRESSURE Infantino has faced mounting opposition since details emerged in July of a proposed

20 billion USD FIFA subsidiary that would have controlled commercial rights, including those linked to the World Cup. The plan involved investors led by a New York fund created by Joshua Kushner, with FIFA's 211 member associations offered \$20 million each.

The proposal was withdrawn within four days after opposition from several confederations, including UEFA, the Asian Football Confederation and CONCACAF, as well as criticism from senior FIFA officials. European nations also threatened to boycott the U-20 Women's World Cup before FIFA provided assurances that the plan would not be revived.



Khushi Kapoor

Buys Tiny 180 Sq Ft Mumbai Apartment For Rs 63 Lakh

Khushi Kapoor, daughter of Boney Kapoor and late Sridevi, has made a real estate investment. Janhvi Kapoor's sister Khushi Kapoor has purchased a residential flat in Mumbai's Bandra West for Rs 63 lakh, according to property registration documents accessed by CRE Matrix. The property is located in Samtadeep Building on 25th Road in Bandra West, a well-known residential and celebrity neighbourhood in Mumbai. According to the documents, the flat has a carpet area of 180 sq ft and a built-up area of 216 sq ft. According to the registration document, Kapoor bought the property from Farooq Chagla for Rs 63 lakh. She also paid Rs 3.15 lakh in stamp duty for the transaction, which was registered on September 1, 2026.

Based on the registered sale value and the flat's carpet area, Kapoor paid around Rs 35,000 per sq ft for the property. Calculated against the built-up area, the rate comes to approximately Rs 29,167 per sq ft.

On the work front, Khushi Kapoor made her acting debut with The Archies in 2023 as Betty Cooper. She has since starred in the romantic comedies Loveyapa and Nadaaniyan (both 2025). Kapoor did her schooling at Mumbai's École Mondiale World School. She later did a year acting course at the New York Film Academy in New York City, in 2019.



Bigg Boss 20: Salman Khan Starts Grand Premiere Shoot, His Cowboy Hat Look Grabs Attention



The countdown to Bigg Boss 20 has officially entered its final stretch. Salman Khan has begun shooting for the landmark season of the reality show and, on Friday, September 4, gave fans their first look at him on the grand premiere set. Salman shared a four-picture carousel from the set on Instagram, keeping his caption characteristically brief with just "#BiggBoss20". The photographs show him posing against a massive gold installation of the number 20, two days before the new season goes on air.

Salman Khan Shoots For Bigg Boss 20 Grand Premiere

For his latest appearance, Salman opted for a fitted black T-shirt, dark trousers and a grey waistcoat. He completed the look with a black cowboy hat. In the first two pictures, the actor poses in front of the giant "20" installation, while the remaining photographs show him standing inside the zero of the number.

The post quickly drew attention as preparations for the premiere gathered pace. Salman began shooting for the grand premiere in Mumbai on Friday. Photos and videos of the actor from the set have also surfaced online. Salman is returning as host for the twentieth Hindi season. The actor has been associated with Bigg Boss since Season 4 and has remained the face of the show through most of its run.

What's New In Bigg Boss 20?

This year's theme is titled "Tathas-Two", with the season introducing an "Extra Jeevan Daan" twist. Salman had earlier teased that while the game changes every year, Season 20 would also alter the way contestants play it. Details about exactly how the additional life will operate inside the house are being kept under wraps until the show begins. The house itself has undergone a major makeover. Designed around the idea of duality, it includes unusual installations such as a teapot transformed into a couch, an octopus holding chess pieces and a hot-air balloon converted into a seating space. A mysterious Room No. 20 has also been created, although its purpose has not yet been revealed.

Samay Raina Accuses Varun Dhawan Of 'Ruining' Border 2, Actor Responds 'Voh Chali Thi'



Samay Raina roasted Varun Dhawan in the latest episode of India's Got Latent 2 and accused him of ruining Border 2. It all started after a contestant asked the judges to choose a number from 1 to 5. Varun chose 1, saying, "I like 1."

Samay interrupted the actor and took a dig at him, saying, "Why did you spoil Border 2 then." While the response left Varun laughing out loud, the actor defended the film and clarified that it earned money. "Yaar voh chali thi," he said.

Following this, Samay asked Varun to name his last film, Hai Jawani Toh Ishq Hona Hai. The stand-up comedian then gave a hilarious twist to the name of the film and said, "Hai papa director toh actor toh hona he hai."

About Border 2

Directed by Anurag Singh, Border 2 released on January 23, 2026. The film stars Sunny Deol, Varun Dhawan, Ahan Shetty and Diljit Dosanjh, and serves as a sequel to the 1997 war classic Border. The film is produced by Bhushan Kumar, Krishan Kumar, JP Dutta and Nidhi Dutta, and is presented by Gulshan Kumar & T-Series in association with JP Films.

The film received mixed reviews and performed decent at the box office. It had a lifetime collection of around Rs 465 crore.

Samay Jokes About Varun Dhawan's IGL Appearance

During the show, Samay Raina also took another dig at Varun Dhawan and recalled how Alia Bhatt had also featured on his show after the last year's controversy. "I have got such big stars after the FIR - Alia Bhatt and now Varun Dhawan, the show keeps going down," he said. Sharon Verma also joked about a statement Varun made in the past. "I am a big fan of you Varun. My favourite performance is when you said 'Dilwale is like Inception,'" she said. However, Varun clarified that he said it sarcastically.

Shreya Ghoshal

Calls Out Bollywood's 'Male-Heavy' Music Industry: 'It's A Patriarchal, Gender-Based Thing'

Some of Bollywood's biggest hits have also carried lyrics that women might have every reason to question. Shreya Ghoshal says she has turned down such songs in the past, even when they went on to become hugely popular. For the popular playback singer, the issue is bigger than a few questionable lines as it points to a music industry she still considers "very male-heavy."

In an interview with The Male Feminist Podcast, Shreya Ghoshal was asked about saying no to songs which had inappropriate lyrics. The singer said, "The lyrics are one thing. There is also a composition and singing style. There were some popular songs which did very well, but I said no. Thankfully, now, those songs have become quite less. After a point, the songs in films became such that only those types of songs were given to female singers. The rest are male songs, and there are some romantic duets."

"So we have to see where it is stemming from. The problem is for singers and actresses and everyone who is part of this industry. It is a slightly patriarchal, gender-based thing. But the good thing is now, because of independent music, it is changing. But still, I feel it is very

male-heavy. I have spoken very strongly about it earlier, and I don't mind if it is taken in a good way or a bad way," she added.

Meanwhile, in 2025, while talking to Lilly Singh, Shreya had confessed to singing some raunchy songs in her career, including Chikni Chameli. However, she said that she would not sing them today. Shreya had said, "There is a very fine line between being sensual, sexy, and being outright



objectified, or objectifying women in general. The reason I've become more conscious over time is that I see little girls singing these songs without understanding their meaning. They're just dancing to them, and they come to me saying, 'Oh, we love your song! Can we sing it for you?' and I feel very embarrassed. A little girl, just five or six years old, singing those lyrics, it doesn't sound right."



NEWS BOX

"Situation Not Simple": Putin Meets US Envoys, Talks To End Ukraine War Begin

world.(Agency)

Russian President Vladimir Putin began talks with US envoys Jared Kushner and Steve Witkoff on ending more than four years of war in Ukraine in the Kremlin Saturday, ahead of their first visit to Kyiv expected on Sunday. Both Russia and Ukraine vowed not to strike each other's capitals for three days during the negotiations, as Washington tries to revive US-led talks to end Europe's worst conflict since World War Two. US President Donald Trump earlier said his son-in-law Kushner and business ally Witkoff were bringing "a proposal to end the war". "Dear colleagues, I warmly welcome you to Moscow. The situation is, of course, not simple," Putin told the envoys in a grand Kremlin hall in footage aired by Russian TV. "But before we begin to address it, I would like to ask everyone to convey their best wishes and words of gratitude to US President Mr Trump," Putin said. The talks come as the grinding war saw increasing civilian deaths and attacks this summer. Putin has repeatedly said Moscow intends to seize the rest of east Ukraine. The war, launched by Russia in 2022, has killed hundreds of thousands and displaced millions. Russian strikes on Ukraine Saturday killed at least seven people, including in the Kyiv suburbs, Ukrainian officials said. The Kremlin said it would not strike Kyiv from midnight Saturday, while Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said he would halt strikes on Moscow "from now" until Monday. "The Russian president, the commander-in-chief, has given the order from midnight tonight not to strike Kyiv for three days," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said.

"We had to let him go": TikTok-famous golden retriever Tucker Budzyn dies at 8 after sudden complications from lymphoma

world.(Agency)

Tucker Budzyn, the golden retriever who became a beloved internet star through his funny videos and unmistakable personality, has died at eight. His death came just two weeks after his family revealed his lymphoma diagnosis. Despite responding well to treatment, Tucker developed a serious complication that worsened rapidly. His owner, Courtney Budzyn, shared the heartbreaking news with followers across social media, including Instagram, Facebook, YouTube and TikTok.

Tucker Budzyn dies at 8 after sudden health complication. Tucker's death came as a shock because his family had initially seen encouraging signs after his cancer diagnosis. Courtney had announced on August 30 that Tucker was undergoing treatment after veterinarians discovered lymphoma.

His treatment included the CHOP chemotherapy protocol, along with herbal therapies overseen by a veterinary oncologist. Courtney later said that Tucker had entered partial remission after only a week. Even while dealing with cancer, the eight-year-old dog continued to enjoy many of his favorite activities. He went swimming, took walks and visited parks. Courtney said he remained active despite appearing slightly "dumppier" than normal. The situation changed unexpectedly.

According to Courtney, Tucker had lymphoma in his intestines. As chemotherapy worked on the cancer, it left a hole in the affected area, allowing an infection to develop. His condition deteriorated quickly, leaving the family with little time to respond.

Mudslide kills two and leaves 10 missing in China after heavy rain from Typhoon Saudel

The mudslide hit part of a village in Suichuan County in Jiangxi province early Saturday, prompting rescuers to rush to the scene and relocate residents to safer ground to prevent further danger.

BEIJING.(Agency)

A mudslide killed two people and left 10 missing in eastern China, damaging a dozen houses following days of torrential rain brought by Typhoon Saudel, state media said Sunday. The mudslide hit part of a village in Suichuan County in Jiangxi



province early Saturday, prompting rescuers to rush to the scene and relocate residents to safer ground to prevent further danger, authorities said in a statement. One person pulled out was found dead, while two others were rescued alive and in

good condition, it said. Rescuers on Sunday morning found one of the missing people, who was dead among collapsed houses, state broadcaster CCTV reported. CCTV separately reported that two people were killed in Hunan province in south-

central China following downpour brought by the typhoon. The report did not specify what caused the death but said the rain triggered landslides and other disasters. Saudel made two landfalls in Zhejiang Province on Aug. 28 and made a third landfall as a tropical storm in Fujian Province Thursday, Chinese official news agency Xinhua reported. Both provinces neighbor Jiangxi.

In Fujian, local authorities said Friday that multiple residents were left unaccounted for after days of heavy rain, Xinhua reported. The exact number is unclear, but more than 100 houses collapsed in Huating Town in Putian city, it said. A dike was breached Thursday afternoon, flooding villages and trapping residents, it added. About 600,000 residents have been evacuated from risky offshore and onshore areas in Fujian as of Friday night, Xinhua reported.

Indonesia cancels flights at Jakarta airport as Anak Krakatau volcano erupts

JAKARTA.(Agency)

Indonesia's Anak Krakatau volcano erupted early Sunday, prompting the cancellation of all flights at Jakarta's Soekarno-Hatta International Airport as volcanic ash drifted across parts of western Indonesia. Indonesia's Geological Agency said the volcanic island located in Indonesia's Sunda Strait between the main Java and Sumatra islands had showed signs of activity since Friday before erupting for 30 seconds at 3:53 a.m. Sunday. The agency's closed-circuit camera showed lava flares at the mountain. There were no casualties reported and no evacuation order issued. The nearest settlement is more than 16 kilometers (10 miles). But the agency warned residents and visitors to stay at least 3 kilometers (1.9 miles) from



the volcano's active crater.

Volcanic ash spread across parts of the capital Jakarta and Lampung province on the southern tip of Sumatra island, Indonesia's Center for Volcanology and Geological Hazard Mitigation said. "Due to increased activity from the Mount Anak Krakatau eruption, Soekarno-Hatta International Airport has temporarily suspended flight operations from 5:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.," the airport said in a travel

advisory early Sunday. Passengers at the country's busiest airport sought refunds and reclaimed checked baggage as departure boards displayed a growing list of canceled flights. Indonesia's Directorate General of Civil Aviation said it was closely monitoring the eruption's impact on air travel and coordinating with airlines, airport operators, air navigation services and the meteorology agency.

It said 170 aircraft parked overnight at Soekarno-Hatta remained on airport aprons. The closure had affected 209 flight movements and about 22,800 passengers on Sunday, including the busy domestic route to Makassar in South Sulawesi, while Singapore was the international destination with the highest number of disrupted flights.

Two Nepal rescues revive hopes 10 days after flood that left over 5,500 missing

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

KATHMANDU.(Agency)

Rescuers in Nepal pulled alive a Chinese national from a tunnel and a local woman from her partially submerged home on Saturday, as emergency teams searched with fresh urgency for thousands missing since catastrophic flooding 10 days ago.

A team comprising personnel from the Nepal Army and foreign experts rescued the Chinese man from 225 metres (738 feet) inside the tunnel of



the Upper Trishuli-1 Hydropower Project in Rasuwa district, a military statement said. A picture on the army's Facebook page showed the man, identified only as Luhaitao, supported by two camouflage-clad rescuers. He appeared alert, but his hands were covered in thick, wet mud. "His health is currently being assessed and further search and rescue operations are continuing," the army said. The man was among hundreds of hydropower workers who went missing after a tsunami-

like wall of water and mud swept through the China-Nepal border following a vast glacial and rock collapse on August 26.

Authorities later in the day said members of Nepal's Armed Police Force had pulled Chandrika Shrestha, 64, alive from her buried home in Nuwakot district. "A police team found her as they were clearing the area. She has been airlifted to Kathmandu for treatment," police deputy superintendent Iqbal Hawari told AFP. A video released by the police force showed only part of her house visible, with the lower floors submerged by thick sludge. Prime Minister Balendra Shah said Shrestha's rescue "has given hope to the entire nation". "Hope and responsibility" The energy ministry said rescuers were planning to use customised drones provided by Switzerland to assist in the tunnel search operations.

Top US military officials face lie-detectors in hunt over leaked munitions data

WASHINGTON.(Agency)

The Pentagon has launched a lie-detector dragnet to comb through high-ranking military officials and identify who leaked information about US munitions stockpiles, according to US press reports.

In July, reports emerged that the United States was rationing munitions -- its missile interceptors, in particular -- over supply concerns after several months of fighting Iran. Administration officials vehemently denied those reports, with US President Donald Trump saying "we have a lot of ammunition, different types," while acknowledging that "for some of the more sophisticated stuff, we'd certainly like to have more." Late Friday, The New York Times reported that some 50 members of the military's Joint Staff -- the Pentagon's planning and advisory staff -- were being required to take polygraph tests as part of



an investigation into how classified stockpile information made its way into journalists' hands.

CBS News later also reported the wide-scale use of lie detectors, while adding that the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Dan Caine, had not been tested. Asked by AFP about the reports, the Pentagon's chief spokesman, Sean Parnell, refused to comment on "internal personnel or investigative matters," but said that it "takes all leaks of classified national security information extremely seriously and investigates accordingly." "Securing classified information is critical to ensuring the security of the United States and of our troops deployed around the world," Parnell added. Both the Times and CBS noted the scale of the polygraph testing.

Lie-detection testing is routine during background screenings and security clearance renewals for government staff with access to the most sensitive state secrets. But the wide-scale deployment of the detectors as part of a leak investigation was rare, if unprecedented, the outlets reported, citing analysts and unnamed officials.

Homes lost, hungry babies: In crowded shelters, Nepal's mothers struggle to nurture life

KATHMANDU.(Agency)

The Nepal floods took away Sharmila Shrestha's home and separated her from her baby for days. Now, reunited at a crowded shelter, she can do little more than helplessly watch her toddler eating the same



food as the adults because there is nothing else. Her 14-month-old daughter sleeps with her on the floor of a classroom in northwest Kathmandu, alongside her sister-in-law's 18-month-old son.

There is no baby food for either child

"They aren't giving any special food for babies. We are forced to feed that same

heavy adult food to the small child," Shrestha was quoted as saying by The Kathmandu Post newspaper on Sunday.

The 33-year-old mother had walked for six hours through the hills to find her daughter after the floods separated them for two or three days. "I only want decent, proper place to stay. That would bring some peace of mind," she said. For mothers like Shrestha, the August 26 flash floods in Nepal have created a crisis within a crisis, one unfolding not in the rising waters but in crowded shelters, around feeding times, on classroom floors and along treacherous roads leading to hospitals. Babies are hungry. Mothers are struggling to breastfeed. Pregnant women worry about reaching a hospital if something goes wrong. And in shelters filled with hundreds of displaced people, even the most basic requirement of motherhood, a quiet, private place to feed and comfort a child, can feel like a luxury. At Trishuli, Pariyar, a mother three months into breastfeeding her newborn, fled her home on August 26 as floodwaters surged.

Trump Planning "Something Much Bigger" For Middle East After Iran War: Report

JERUSALEM.(Agency)

The Trump administration is looking beyond the Iran war and working on a broad plan that could reshape the US approach to the Middle East after the war ends, according to a report by Axios. The strategy, still being drafted, is expected to focus on building a regional front to contain Iran while pushing Israel towards deeper ties with its neighbours, two US officials and two other people familiar with the discussions told the publication.

Trump has privately told people that he is working on "something much bigger" for the Middle East once the war with Iran is over. According to the US officials, the strategy is being developed both by senior advisers and by officials across several US government agencies. Three Pieces Of The Plan

The first strategy is the idea of bringing US allies in the region into a closer alignment against Iran, with Washington potentially acting as the security guarantor. The administration is also looking at ways to wind down some of the conflicts and tensions

that followed the October 7, 2023 attacks.

That could include moving ahead with the next phase of Trump's Gaza plan, negotiating a security arrangement between Israel and



Syria and putting the existing Israel-Lebanon agreement into effect. The third major goal is expanding the Abraham Accords and securing a normalisation deal between Israel and Saudi Arabia. A Saudi-Israeli agreement would be a major prize for Trump and could give his administration a centrepiece achievement in the region after the Iran war.

Israel Election Could Complicate The Plan

Israel is due to hold elections on October 27, while the US midterm elections are scheduled for November. Trump's team is

hoping the Israeli government that emerges from the election will be prepared to work with Washington on the new strategy. But the administration does not appear ready to wait for Israeli politics to settle. Some US officials believe Trump will press ahead even if the election results produce another political deadlock, according to the sources

Plan Still Taking Shape

Trump has already discussed the emerging strategy in two meetings with senior advisers in recent weeks, where different ideas were put on the table. However, one source briefed on the process said officials could need several more weeks before the strategy is ready. They are cooking it, but it is not yet cooked," the source said.