



India, US moving from cooperation to 'co-creation' in space sector: Ambassador Sergio Gor

New Delhi. (Agency)

The United States and India are moving beyond cooperation in the space sector towards "co-creation", jointly designing instruments, supporting startups and co-authoring the future of human discovery, US Ambassador to India Sergio Gor said on Monday.

He was speaking at the inaugural ceremony of the ninth edition of the Bengaluru Space Expo (BSX), being organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in partnership with ISRO, IN-SPACe and NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), from September 7 to 9 at the Bangalore International Exhibition Centre (BIEC).

Referring to the ninth US-India Civil Space Joint Working Group recently held in Bengaluru, the US Ambassador said that those discussions affirmed that our partnership is no longer just about cooperation; it is about co-creation. "We are no longer just sharing data; we are co-designing instruments, co-funding startups, and co-authoring the future .

Amid 'Vijay for PM' chant by TVK, KC Venugopal says Rahul Gandhi will lead INDIA bloc in 2029 polls

New Delhi. (Agency)

Senior Congress leader and AICC general secretary K C Venugopal on Sunday said Rahul Gandhi would lead the INDIA bloc in the 2029 Lok Sabha elections, dismissing reports that Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) chief and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay was being projected as the alliance's prime ministerial candidate.

Venugopal was responding to questions about reports suggesting that the TVK had sought to project Vijay for the prime minister's post ahead of the 2029 parliamentary elections. He said the party had made no such demand. "Nobody should create any such confusion. Rahul Gandhi will be the face of the INDIA alliance," Venugopal said.

Asked specifically whether Gandhi would lead the alliance in the 2029 elections, Venugopal said, "Definitely. Rahul Gandhi is the most prominent leader loved by the people of India today. Everyone is listening to Rahul Gandhi's decisions and actions with great attention." He said Gandhi's campaigns on issues concerning students, farmers and the youth had received widespread attention across the country.

"It is the fight he is leading that is being discussed the most in India today, whether it is for students, farmers, or the youth. Everyone has accepted that," he said.

"Basement Frequently Filled With Water": Delhi Building Collapse Survivor

Delhi building collapse survivor said that the walls had started developing cracks and that there was frequent waterlogging in the basement.

New Delhi(Agency)

A Sunday afternoon turned into a nightmare after a building in Delhi's Satya Niketan came crumbling down, trapping over a dozen students. The four-storey building collapsed like a deck of cards and turned into rubble within seconds. An unstable pillar coupled with water accumulation in the basement is said to have triggered the collapse. But it was a tragedy in the making. "The walls had started developing cracks. The basement frequently filled with water," Ankit, one of the 12 rescued from the rubble, told.

Ankit, a third-year student, had been living in the area, a few meters from Delhi University's South Campus, for over three years. He alleged that the area, which has a high population of college students, was never inspected for safety reasons. Neither any notice was served nor any action was taken, he alleged. Talking about

the state of his PG, Hostel Daze, which collapsed on Sunday afternoon, he alleged that the building had started developing cracks and that there was frequent waterlogging in the basement. The food and the overall condition of the PG were poor, he added.

Student Safety Goes For A Toss As Owners Prioritise Money

Limited hostel seats leave college students with no other option than to either take a room in a PG or rent an apartment. The safety standards of these accommodations have always remained a concern. The preliminary investigation has revealed that the 50-year-old building had been vacated nearly a year ago. It was a dilapidated structure in a sea of hostels. A

couple of months ago, the owner, Hari Ram Bansal, began renovation work and in August, he welcomed tenants to his newly



opened men's PG, 'Hostel Daze'. The repair work, however, was not complete.

According to the rent agreement, a copy of which has been accessed by NDTV, the PG authorities hold no responsibility for any

casualties or risks faced by the tenant.

Renovation, Unstable Pillar, Weak Structure

Preliminary information accessed by has revealed that a pillar became unstable during the repair work, weakening the structure and causing the building to collapse. Seven people have died in the collapse, including a labourer. Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Monday said preliminary findings indicate that water accumulation in the basement, coupled with repair work on the ageing structure, led to the collapse.

Speaking to reporters, she said, "It is certain that there was water in the basement, and the accumulation of water-combined with ongoing repair work on the old structure-caused the building to collapse."

'Half a Survey, Full Claims!': Why Are Marine National Park and the Gulf of Kutch Left 'Out of Coverage' in Minister Arjun Modhwadia's Environment Probe?

India firmly asserted its national map boundaries for Jammu, Kashmir

MAHANAGAR METRO

GANDHINAGAR — A major environmental crackdown initiated by the Gujarat Government with much fanfare appears to have gone up in smoke. While extensive paperwork and probe reports have been prepared for water, land, and village grazing lands (Gauchar), the crackdown's bulldozer seems to have ground to a halt right before reaching the state's most ecologically sensitive zone—the marine ecosystem and India's first Marine National Park. Despite multiple deadline announcements on paper, official authorities appear to have maintained a questionable silence over illegal activities taking place amidst the coastal waves. Following directives from Environment Minister Arjun Modhwadia, officials demonstrated swift action across several fronts. However, sharp questions are now being raised about whether the most critical ecological zone was intentionally kept outside the probe's purview, or if authorities falsely de-

clared victory prematurely. The Inspection Ledger: Where Action Was Taken vs. Where Mercy Was Shown Crackdown on Water & Land: Authorities cracked down on industrial units discharging chemical waste into rivers and streams. Notices were served, units sealed on paper, and legal action was initiated against illegal land use. Accounting for Gauchar Lands: The department audited unauthorized encroachments and commercial exploitation of village grazing lands across rural belts, submitting its findings to the ministry. Total Silence on Marine Protected Zones: Extending from Jamnagar through the Gulf of Kutch, the delicate Marine National Park—home to rare coral reefs, endangered marine species, and a fragile ecosystem—remains under threat from illegal operations. Yet, before investigators reached the coastline, the survey was abruptly declared "complete." Sharp Questions Raised by 'Pakko Gujarat': Why stamp the probe 'Finished' halfway? After in-

specting rivers, land, and grazing pastures, why was the coastal belt left out? Are officials lacking the resolve to extend their inspections to the marine perimeter? Protection for influential figures? What is holding authorities back from taking strict action against industrial units and illegal operations thriving near the Marine National Park? Is Minister Modhwadia being misled? While the Environment Ministry showed momentum on land-based violations, is the bureaucracy attempting to keep the minister in the dark by dressing up a partial job as a total success? Half-Hearted Probe, Complete Threat to Ecology Excluding the ocean and Marine National Park from an in-depth investigation



threatens to turn all previous land and water enforcement into an empty paperwork stunt. If Minister Arjun Modhwadia's department aims to demonstrate genuine environmental stewardship, it must turn its investigative focus toward the sea. A complete audit cannot end on land. The state must reject partial reports and immediately launch Phase Two of the probe, targeting the Marine National Park and Gujarat's entire coastal belt.

No place is safe anymore: Defence chief lists challenges of modern warfare

At Aaj Tak's Suraksha Sabha, Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General NS Raja Subramani said that modern warfare can reach far beyond the front lines. He said India must build multi-domain capacity, resilience and self-reliance to stay prepared.

New Delhi.(Agency)

Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General NS Raja Subramani on Monday warned that warfare was rapidly changing, with the battlefield expanding beyond traditional front lines and military bases, logistics hubs and critical infrastructure all vulnerable to attack.

Speaking at Suraksha Sabha, a security summit hosted by India Today's sister channel Aaj Tak, General Subramani said national security was no longer the sole responsibility of the armed forces. The government, industry, technology community, academia and society would all have to contribute as threats and technology evolved, he said.

The CDS said recent conflicts had shown that bases, force concentrations, logistics nodes and critical infrastructure could all be targeted. "No place is safe any more," he

said, adding that the battlefield could extend deep into the country.

The growing use of drones, missiles and precision weapons has changed the dynamics of attack and defence, he said.

General Subramani stressed that protecting military and critical national infrastructure, along with strengthening logistics and industrial capacity, was therefore crucial.

FROM JOINTNESS TO MULTI-DOMAIN WARFARE

General Subramani said simple coordination between the armed forces was no longer sufficient. Future operations will have to integrate land, sea, air, space, cyber and electronic warfare. He called for a shift from a platform-centric to a capability-centric approach, with platforms functioning as interconnected nodes in a "system of systems".

"Technology is merely a medium; how it is used is more important," he said, stressing

the need to move from information superiority to decision superiority. Battlefield transparency is also increasing through space-based surveillance, unmanned sensors, open-source information and networked intelligence. The time between detecting a target and striking it has shrunk from hours to minutes and sometimes seconds.

The advantage, he said, would lie with those who can see, understand, decide and act first, making artificial intelligence and robust data networks increasingly important.

RESILIENCE AND SELF-RELIANCE

General Subramani said India needed greater resilience and technological self-reliance to withstand prolonged conflicts and continue operations despite network or system disruptions.

Domestic capacity to repair and replenish equipment and rapidly scale up supplies during a conflict would be essential, he said. "Self-reliance on defence means



manufacturing as much equipment and critical supply chains as possible in-house," he said. He also stressed that technology would not make manpower irrelevant.

Instead, technically trained personnel would become more important, with the focus shifting from "man versus machine" to "empowering man with machine".

SECURITY BEYOND BORDERS

As India moves towards becoming a developed economy by 2047, digital infrastructure, energy networks, ports, industrial clusters, semiconductor facilities, financial and communication networks and space infrastructure will increasingly become strategic assets, the CDS said.

"Security is no longer limited to borders," he said, pointing to supply chains, technology, infrastructure and information warfare as emerging dimensions of national security.

Man stabs his colleague to death after spat in Gurgaon

Gurgaon.(Agency)

A 25-year-old woman was allegedly killed by a co-worker after a quarrel over a routine work-related task escalated into a fatal attack at a private company in Sector 37 on Saturday, police said. The accused, 35-year-old Aslam Mian, was arrested on Sunday and the scissors allegedly used in the attack were recovered, police said. The deceased, Shivani, had joined NDR Auto Components Pvt Ltd on July 13, less than two months before the incident. According to police, she and Aslam were working at the company when an argument broke out over sheet-cover cutting work. The quarrel escalated after Shivani allegedly slapped Aslam. Police said Aslam, in anger, attacked Shivani's neck with a pair of scissors, leaving her critically injured. She was rushed to Vaidik Hospital on Pataudi Road in Kadipur, where she died during treatment. Police were informed about the incident on Saturday and a team reached the hospital. Shivani's body was subsequently sent to the Gurgaon mortuary for post-mortem examination. The crime team and fingerprint experts inspected the company premises and collected evidence, including blood-stained clothes and other material believed to be relevant to the investigation. Shivani's father approached police on Sunday and lodged a complaint stating that his daughter had sustained injuries during a quarrel with Aslam at the company and later died during treatment. A murder case was subsequently registered at Sector 37 police station. Police arrested Aslam from Sector 37 on Sunday. He is a resident of East Champaran district in Bihar. "On the basis of the complaint, a case was registered and the accused was arrested on September 6. The pair of scissors used in the offence was also recovered at his instance," a police officer said.

30-year-old Nepalese man killed in Gurgaon hit and run

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

A 30-year-old Nepalese man died after an unidentified truck allegedly hit him in Harijan Colony, Sector 43, in the early hours of Saturday. Police have registered an FIR against the unknown truck driver and are working to trace the vehicle. According to the complaint filed by the deceased's cousin, Subhash, the deceased, Nirmal, a resident of Dodhara Chandni in Nepal currently staying in Greater Noida, had come to visit him in Gurgaon on Friday evening. Around 1 am on Saturday, the two were returning to their room after dinner when a truck, allegedly being driven at high speed and in a negligent manner, hit Nirmal on the main road in Harijan Colony. Subhash told police he could not note down the truck's registration number. Subhash took Nirmal to Paras Hospital in Gurgaon, where doctors declared him dead. Police reached the hospital after being informed of the death, took the body into custody, and registered a case at Sushant Lok police station under Sections 281 (rash driving) and 106 (death by negligence) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) on Subhash's complaint. "On the basis of the complaint, a case has been registered. The investigation has been taken up and efforts are being made to identify the vehicle involved in the accident," a police officer said. "Further action will be taken after the vehicle and driver involved in the accident are identified." The officer said the deceased's family members had been informed and the body was sent to the mortuary for further proceedings. In a separate accident, a man was hit by a Bolero pickup truck near the Emaar building in Sector 62 on Sunday morning. An officer privy to the investigation said, "An information was received from the civil hospital in Sector 10. The accident occurred around 9 am and the body was lying on the roadside.

Whiteboards, markers, almanacs make a return as Noida schools revive offline learning to cut screentime

Noida.(Agency)

Private schools in the city are bringing back offline learning practices following a district magistrate's directive to limit students' screen time. Amid concerns raised by parents over excessive screen exposure, district magistrate Medha Roopam issued a directive last month to limit smartboard use to 30 minutes a day for Classes I to V and 60 minutes for Classes VI to VIII. The Aug 13 circular also asked school managements to ensure balanced use of digital boards. The circular noted that average screen exposure among students had climbed to four to five hours a day in some cases, even as use of blackboards, greenboards and whiteboards declined. It also flagged poor attention to backlight and screen settings on digital boards. Following the directive, several schools have switched to whiteboards, outdoor and hands-on learning activities. Others have returned to diaries for homework instructions and communication with parents instead of apps. At DPS Greater Noida, principal Seema Roy said the school has adopted a selective approach towards technology, with digital resources being used only when they enhance the learning experience. "The school is also promoting reading, storytelling, discussions, role plays, art and craft and collaborative activities. Technology should remain a facilitator of learning and not become a substitute for meaningful human interaction, physical activity and experiential learning," Roy said. Grads International School principal Aditi Basu Roy agreed that post-Covid, screen addiction among students impacted their physical and mental well-being. "Our teachers have started using colourful marker pens to write on whiteboards.

Deep craters and waterlogging make commute a nightmare on internal roads in Gurgaon Sector 14

Noida.(Agency)

Residents of Sector 14 have been navigating damaged internal roads as potholes and waterlogging have made travel hazardous. The road near the sector's main entrance has remained damaged for a long time. Residents said the stretch, constructed around three years ago, deteriorated because of poor-quality work. A complaint was also filed through the CM Window, but residents said the issue was not resolved. "Sector 14 road has become a nightmare for us. The road is filled with potholes and whenever it rains, the entire stretch gets flooded, making it impossible to see where the potholes are. Every journey becomes a dangerous exercise of guessing where the next deep pothole will be," a resident said. No other resident said the condition

was especially difficult for people who use the stretch regularly. "As I travel this road daily with my pregnant wife, the constant jerks and sudden braking are extremely difficult for her to bear. We are not asking for luxury, but just a safe, motorable road. The authorities need to act fast," he said. Residents said minor patchwork was carried out around three months ago, but it was only a temporary measure. MCG has awarded the contract for the resurfacing of the sector's internal 18-metre roads. However, the road work will have to be coordinated with planned utility works, including the laying of a new water line and drainage. In the absence of timely repairs, residents earlier used



construction debris generated in the sector to fill some potholes as a temporary measure. "We have been informed by MCG that the contract has been awarded for road resurfacing. But the new water line and

drainage work have to be laid first, after which the roads will be constructed. We have requested the road contractor and an MCG official to temporarily repair the badly damaged portions near Gate 5 and the Lady Fatima School road at Gate 3 to make the stretches motorable until the planned resurfacing and utility works are completed," said Vikas Verma, RWA president of Sector 14. Meanwhile, a senior official of MCG said the work has been allotted for the resurfacing of internal roads in Sector 14. "Water pipeline and drainage work will be started soon and we aim to complete the road resurfacing by Nov."

The Historical Saga of Ahmedabad: How the City on the Sabarmati Transformed from Sultan Ahmed Shah's 1411 Royal Capital into India's First UNESCO World Heritage Metropolis and the Cradle of Freedom

Tracing Ahmedabad's Journey from Sultanate Capital to World Heritage City

Mahanagar Metro Desk
Author: Rupesh Solanki

Gujarat is home to many cities that have established their distinctive identities through their history, culture, traditions, and development. Among them, Ahmedabad holds a special place. Situated on the banks of the Sabarmati River, Ahmedabad is not merely a city; it is a living symbol of Gujarat's history, freedom struggle, trade, industry, architecture, education, and cultural heritage. Over the centuries, the city has witnessed numerous historic events, and every era has enriched Ahmedabad's unique identity. A Historical Journey Beginning with Its Foundation Ahmedabad was founded in 1411 CE by Sultan Ahmed Shah I of Gujarat. With the establishment of the new city on the banks of the Sabarmati River, Ahmedabad gradually developed into an important centre of Gujarat's political and commercial life. Bhadra

Fort, Bhadra Kali Temple, Teen Darwaza, and numerous historical remains of the old city bear witness to Ahmedabad's ancient grandeur. Various popular beliefs exist regarding the origin of the city's name, but historically, Sultan Ahmed Shah I holds a prominent place as its founder. During his reign, the city began moving towards planned development and eventually emerged as one of the major cities of Gujarat. From Bhadra Fort to the Culture of the Pols Ahmedabad's identity is incomplete without its historic architecture. The pols of the old city continue to preserve and showcase the lifestyle of the past. Narrow lanes, intricately carved wooden houses, traditional community platforms, heritage residences, and closely connected neighbourhoods reflect Ahmedabad's unique social and cultural character. The pols were not created merely as residential areas. They were also built around ideas

of social unity, mutual cooperation, and security. Even in the modern era, the pols of old Ahmedabad remain an invaluable part of the city's cultural heritage. The Growing Centre of Trade and Industry Over time, Ahmedabad developed into an important centre of trade and industry. Particularly because of the growth of the textile industry, the city came to be known as the "Manchester of India." Textile mills not only accelerated economic development but also provided employment opportunities to thousands of families. The contributions of industrialists, traders, and social reformers also encouraged the growth of educational institutions, healthcare, arts, and social organisations in Ahmedabad. Several prominent business families and institutions have played an important role in the development of the city. Ahmedabad's Historic Role in the Freedom Struggle Ahmedabad occupies a highly significant



place in the history of India's freedom struggle. After returning to India from South Africa in 1915, Mahatma Gandhi came to Ahmedabad and established the Kochrab Ashram. Later, the Sabarmati Ashram became an important centre of the freedom movement. From the Sabarmati Ashram, Mahatma Gandhi spread the principles of truth, non-violence, Swadeshi, and self-reliance throughout the country.

Man gets life term for murder, 2 'accomplices' who took victim to hospital acquitted

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

A man was awarded a life term in a murder case, while two accomplices were let off. The duo had taken the victim to the hospital, where the victim succumbed to his injuries two years ago. On Wednesday, a city court also imposed a fine of Rs 25,000 on Gaurav — declaring him guilty of the murder of his friend Momin — while acquitting the accomplices — Raju and Ankit — after being convinced that the duo, accused of conspiracy with the assailant, were in fact simple onlookers. Additional district and sessions judge Manish Nigam said "it becomes clear" that Gaurav killed Momin by striking him on the head with an axe. "The court is of the opinion that the ends of justice will be served by sentencing the convicted offender to a life term in prison with a fine of Rs 25,000 while the accused, Raju and Ankit, are acquitted of the charges. They are directed to submit a personal bond of Rs 25,000 and two sureties of the same amount in compliance with Section 437A of the CrPC," the judge ordered. Two years ago,

an FIR was registered by Linkroad police station based on a written complaint of Naushad, Momin's brother and a resident of Prahladgarhi. Police filed a chargesheet against the trio on May 31 the same year and the sessions court framed charges on Oct 10. All three accused denied the charges and sought to be tried. On Wednesday, the judge noted, "The plaintiff (complainant) said Raju and Ankit were accused based on a video clip. However, the video does not clearly state whether the accused shouted 'kill him' or not. The plaintiff's statement also states that the deceased had an altercation with accused Gaurav over interest payments. However, no witness has provided any statement regarding the grudge that accused Ankit and Raju had against the deceased. The prosecution failed to prove beyond reasonable doubt that on the said date, time, and place of the incident, the accused, Ankit and Raju, assisted in the incident or incited the assailant to kill the deceased." In the FIR, the complainant had alleged that his elder brother Momin (22) used to work at a tea stall in Sabji Mandi, Sahibabad. He had an altercation with his

friend, Gaurav, a resident of Jhandapur village, some time ago. On the night of April 2, 2024, after finishing his work, when his elder brother went to sleep at his makeshift vendor outlet in Sabji Mandi, Gaurav went to him and started attacking him with an iron rod without any reason. As a result, his brother sustained severe injuries on various parts of his body. Naushad claimed that the entire incident was witnessed by his brother's two other friends, Raju and Ankit. Momin was admitted to Atlantica Hospital, Vasundhara, where he died. Based on the complaint, police registered the FIR on April 3 under Section 302/34 of the IPC against Gaurav and arrested him. In the course of the investigation and on the basis of the statement of the plaintiff given to police under Section 161 of the CrPC, police included the names of Raju and Ankit as co-accused. The prosecution presented 10 witnesses, including parents of the victim and an eyewitness. They also presented a video clip recorded at the time of the assault and the autopsy report besides the iron rod used as the murder weapon, recovered from the home of one of the

accused. Appearing as PW1, the plaintiff told the court that a day after the incident, the video clip was in circulation on social media in which he could see Gaurav assaulting his brother while Ankit and Raju could be seen standing there and someone was shouting and inciting the attacker to kill his brother. Convinced that it was Raju and Ankit who incited Gaurav to attack, he included their names as assailants in his statement given to police. The defence lawyer questioned the authenticity of the video clip and also challenged the prosecution for not getting a forensic voice-matching test of the audio clip. The defence also questioned the authenticity of the murder weapon as it was not recovered from the place of crime or in the presence of any neutral witness. Referring to the nature of wounds as described in the autopsy report, the court said that the prosecution has proved beyond reasonable doubt that the recovered murder weapon, an iron axe, was used by accused Gaurav to inflict injuries on the deceased and cause his death. He was admitted to the hospital by Ankit and Raju.

NEWS BOX

'Send my piggy bank to Nepal': Why an 8-year-old from UP gave away his savings

BENGALURU (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.

Jail inmate runs criminal network in Bengaluru Central Prison, conspires fatal attack on rival gang

BENGALURU (Agency). An accused lodged in Bengaluru Central Prison allegedly operated a criminal network from inside the jail using a mobile phone and hatched a conspiracy to launch a fatal attack on members of a rival gang. This has raised serious concerns over prison security and the availability of unauthorised mobile phones to inmates.

The network came to light when the Organised Crime Wing of the Central Crime Branch (CCB) was collecting information about rowdy elements in the KG Halli police limits. The police received information that rowdy-sheeter Syed Maaz (24), who was released on bail, was absconding and failing to appear before the court in several cases. The police also learnt that he was in possession of a machete and other unlawful weapons and was creating fear among the public.

The probe further revealed that he was allegedly conspiring to carry out a fatal attack on a rival gang. An FIR was registered against him under the Arms Act and for criminal conspiracy. A police officer told TNIE that during questioning, the accused revealed information about Mehraj Khan, who is currently in judicial custody at Bengaluru Central Prison, Parappana Agrahara. The probe revealed that Khan, along with his associates Syed Maaz and Afghan, was conspiring to carry out a fatal attack on their rival gang. Khan remained in contact with his associates through WhatsApp and Instagram while in judicial custody. He allegedly directed them to collect information about rival gang members, procure and store weapons, and carry out criminal activities.

FDA seizes medicines from Amazon facilities in Bengaluru Rural

BENGALURU (Agency). The Drugs Enforcement Wing of the Karnataka Food Safety and Drug Administration (FDA) has cracked down on the illegal storage and distribution of pharmaceuticals, seizing medicines worth over Rs 4 lakh during simultaneous raids on unlicensed e-commerce storage facilities in Bengaluru Rural.



The raids were carried out based on intelligence inputs regarding major compliance violations in the storage and distribution of medicines on two Amazon-linked premises in Anekal and Devanahalli. A team led by Manohar, Assistant Drugs Controller (ADC), State Intelligence Branch, along with regional drugs inspectors, raided the unlicensed premises of M/s Amazon Seller Services Pvt Ltd at Thattanahalli, Anekal Taluk and seized stockpiled medicines worth Rs 2,45,352, which were stored without a valid drug licence.

Simultaneously, a team led by Vibha, Drugs Inspector, Bengaluru Rural, along with accompanying drugs inspectors, conducted a targeted raid at the unlicensed facility of M/s Amazon in Devanahalli of Bengaluru Rural district. Medicines valued at Rs 1,57,000 were seized from the premises.

Suspected drone movement near Amritsar airport prompts diversion of 7 flights to Delhi

Malaysia Airlines, IndiGo, Air India and Air India Express flights were among those diverted, said the officials.

Chandigarh (Agency). Multiple suspected drones around the operational area of Amritsar International Airport prompted authorities to divert seven flights, including two international ones, to Delhi, an official said on Monday, according to news agency PTI. The incident took place at around 10 pm on Sunday (Sep 7) when a drone-like object's movement was detected near the runway area. This triggered an immediate security response, with Punjab Police and other central security agencies being alerted, the official said. Shri Guru Ram Das Ji International Airport Director Anirudh Kumar said multiple suspected drones were seen hovering around the operational area of the airport on Sunday night, prompting authorities to inform police. For about 1 hour and 30 minutes, all flight operations remained suspended. He said that

activity involving drone-like objects was detected close to the runway area. Malaysia Airlines, IndiGo, Air India and Air India Express flights were among those diverted, said the officials.



According to the Amritsar police, the drones were flown during a sports tournament in a village near the airport. Flying drones within

an 8 km radius of the airport is prohibited.

Police say drones were used to film sports event

An investigation by the Raja Sansi police station in Amritsar revealed that the drones seen near the airport were not part of any suspicious activity. A sports tournament was being organised in a village located at a short distance from the airport. A person had flown a drone to videograph the tournament. Raja Sansi SHO Gurpreet Singh stated that duty officer ASI Niranjan Singh reached the outer area of the airport and investigated the matter.

"These drones originated from the video recording of a sports tournament. Drones were used for this purpose without permission. It is not allowed to fly drones in 8 kilometres radius of the airport. We will take legal action in this matter," said the SHO.

Canada Police release photos of Indians charged in extortion cases

Most accused are of Punjabi origin and were in Canada on student or work visas. Only one of the 16 charged remains in custody.

Chandigarh (Agency). The police in Canada's Calgary have released photographs of 15 men charged in connection with a series of violent extortion incidents targeting the city's South Asian community, urging the public to provide information about the suspects and their associates. The Calgary Police Service (CPS) said 16 people face 56 charges linked to the extortion investigations. The police said only one remains in custody, while the others have been released on bail, and none of those charged is Canadian citizens.

Most of the accused are of Punjabi origin from India and are in Canada on student or work visas, according to police briefings and media reports. Jeff Bell, Superintendent, Criminal Operations and Intelligence Division, said investigators were seeking information about the suspects' associates, where they spend their time, whether they are working, and other details that could assist the investigation. Some of the accused were known in the community by aliases. In one case, Bell said, a roommate did not know a

suspect's real name until the police informed him. Bell described the release of most of the accused back into the community as "concerning". Bail decisions are made by courts after the Crown presents its position.

Extortion cases



The Calgary cases are part of a wider pattern of extortion targeting South Asian communities in Canada, particularly in British Columbia and the Greater Toronto Area. The police have described a model in which criminal networks recruit individuals to threaten victims or use violence, including shootings

at homes and vehicles, to demand money.

The Calgary police said they have documented 49 extortion-related incidents since April 2025, including 19 shootings. Of these, 18 were directed at victims or their property and one involved suspects shooting at each other.

Two dedicated police operations, Orion, focused on investigations, and Outage, involving increased police presence and community engagement, are continuing. Bell said the operations had helped reduce violence. Nine extortion-linked shootings occurred in the first 60 days of 2026, he said, compared with two in the following roughly 100 days.

"So that tells us right there that we've driven down the amount of violence that's happening," Bell said. The police are seeking information about the accused and their associates, as well as help locating Germanjeet Singh, who is wanted on warrants. Anyone with information has been asked to contact Calgary police or Crime Stoppers anonymously.

Gujarat Hardlook | Long shadow of West Asia War: Why 'made in Surat' garments could be 30% costlier this Diwali

Thane.(Agency).

At Govind Nagar Industrial Estate in Surat's Udhna suburb, home to more than 500 powerloom units, Kesarali Peerzada has been running a textile weaving unit for nearly 25 years. His factory, Mallika Textiles, is in a ground-plus-two building where he keeps watch over the shop floor from a part-wood, part-glass office, backed up by CCTV cameras across the shop floor.

The unit houses 48 powerloom machines, along with machines for twisting yarn into thread and a warping machine that threads yarn through small holes to form a beam, which is then fed into the looms to produce grey (unfinished) fabric. A total of 25 workers keep the operation running. The rising costs of running his unit, he says, are directly linked to the West Asia conflict and the resulting shortage of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) following the disruption in crude oil supply. When LPG, which lit the kitchen fires in the quarters of the labourers working in the power loom unit, ran short, the workforce headed homeward to the states of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Odisha, and West Bengal.

In April this year, the Udhna railway station was teeming with migrants queuing to go home, breaking through barricades to board already packed trains. At one point, there were over 20,000 people on the platform and its premises, spending the night with their baggage to make it on time for the train. "These workers don't have local documentation and were dependent on the black market for their supply of cooking gas. When the gas containers ran short and prices went through the roof, they migrated to their native place and returned a month later, during which our factory remained shut.

For Varanasi's flood-hit children, the walk to school is now just a few steps

Lucknow (Agency). At 8 am on Monday, 10-year-old Ayan put on his school uniform, picked up his bag and walked into his classroom at the Government Primary School. He did not have far to go. For the past week, Ayan, his parents and his six siblings have been living in the school building in Varanasi's Saraiya after floods drove them from their home.

That morning, he joined 11 other children for a lesson taught by principal Bhaiya Lal Singh and two other teachers. "There's excitement every day getting ready for class — we play games and study too. I love staying here," Ayan said. Inside the classroom, desks and benches have given way to white sheets spread across the floor, where barefoot children sit cross-

legged in front of Principal Singh who occupied a red plastic chair. Mothers in dupattas sit near the windows. Stainless steel cooking pots and food provisions are stacked in open wall alcoves, while personal belongings line the walls beneath faded educational charts.

"The school is home to 10 flood-displaced families, said Principal Singh said. "Classes are running at the scheduled time." It is one of 22 relief camps across Varanasi where the administration has made arrangements for children to continue studying. Together, the camps are sheltering 2,675 people, including 663 children, with the Basic Education

Department deploying a teacher to each camp. Another teacher, Shiksha Mitra Aftab Alam, has been travelling about a



kilometre from Government Primary School in Saraiya, where he is posted, to teach eight children at a madrasa turned camp. The children, aged between seven

After Saharanpur mosque demolition, an unexpected discovery under debris

Nagpur (Agency). A day after a mosque within the Saharanpur collectorate compound was demolished following a district court's ruling, district officials on Sunday said that they found a well beneath the debris.

The well, covered by a stone slab, was found to be around 20 feet deep and 1.5 metres wide. Additional District Magistrate, Saharanpur, Santosh Bahadur Singh said that as an earthmover was clearing the debris following the demolition of the mosque, it suddenly got stuck on a slab. "Workers then used a cutter to break open the slab, revealing the well beneath," the ADM said, adding that the administration was yet to decide on its next course of action.

Sources, however, said that the district administration is planning to call experts from the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to estimate the age of the well and its historical significance, if any.

At present, the well has been covered to prevent debris from falling in, and police teams have been deployed, and barricades have been put up to keep outsiders from entering the area.

The mosque was demolished three days after a district court dismissed an appeal against an earlier ruling that had declared the structure unauthorised, holding that it stood on government land. Vikas Tyagi, on whose complaint the district administration had conducted an inquiry into the mosque before filing a case in the City Magistrate's court, demanded that a detailed probe be carried out into the well as well. He demanded that an ASI team be called to ascertain what else might lie beneath the mosque.

The mosque had been declared an "unauthorised structure" in July, when the City Magistrate ordered its eviction within 30 days.

Punjab's empty chair message at High Court Chief Justice oath ceremony

In a resolution passed at an emergency meeting Sunday evening, the Punjab government said that the Centre appointed Justice Mishra as Chief Justice without waiting for the state government's views

Chandigarh (Agency). Justice Ashwani Kumar Mishra took the oath as the Chief Justice of Punjab and Haryana High Court on Monday, a day after the Punjab cabinet passed a resolution demanding his "appointment and administration of oath... be put on hold".

Punjab Governor Gulab Chand Kataria administered the oath of office to Justice Mishra at a ceremony at Lok Bhawan in Chandigarh. While Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini attended the ceremony, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann did not. Judges of the Punjab and Haryana High Court were present at the event.

On September 5, the Appointments Division of the Department of Justice under the Union Ministry of Law and Justice issued a formal notification, appointing Justice Mishra as Chief

Justice of Punjab and Haryana High Court. The notification, issued under Article 217(1) of the Constitution, states that the President was pleased to appoint "Shri Justice Ashwani Kumar

following the appointment of Justice Sheel Nagu, then Chief Justice, as a Supreme Court judge.

Born in 1968, Justice Mishra graduated in Economics from Kirori Mal

College in Delhi before completing his LL.B from Campus Law Centre, University of Delhi. He enrolled as an advocate in 1993, and primarily practised in civil, constitutional and service law. He was designated a Senior Advocate in 2013 and named an Additional Judge of the Allahabad High Court in 2014. He

became a permanent Judge of the Allahabad High Court in 2016. Justice Mishra served at the Allahabad High Court until July 20, 2025. He was then transferred to the Punjab and Haryana High Court and joined the Bench on July 21, 2025.



Mishra, Judge of the Punjab and Haryana High Court, to be the Chief Justice of the High Court of Punjab and Haryana with effect from the date he assumes charge of his office."

In fact, the Centre asked Justice Mishra on June 1 to perform the duties of Chief Justice of the High Court

Himalayan nations must unite to help science help them

On the morning of August 26, within minutes, a flash flood swept through the Nepal-Tibet border region, taking homes, livelihoods, and lives with it. As rescue and recovery efforts continue, our thoughts remain with those still coming to terms with all they have lost. Scientific assessments are still underway and it would still be premature to draw a firm conclusion about what triggered this disaster. Questions remain and answers will emerge as the investigations continue. But one lesson is already clear: climate risks in the Hindu Kush Himalaya are evolving faster than our capacity to understand, let alone anticipate, them. The challenge before us is not simply to learn more. It is to learn how to act in a world where uncertainty itself is becoming one of the defining features of climate risks. What we witnessed was an extraordinary and devastating hazard rooted in changes to the cryosphere, where water exists mostly in solid form, unfolding with immense speed and force across borders. Climate change is destabilising high mountain environments. Ice, snow, rock, water, and mountain slopes are interacting in ways that are becoming increasingly dangerous and increasingly difficult to predict. This is not an isolated event. For more than a decade, the Hindu Kush Himalaya has experienced major cryosphere disasters, including floods, landslides, glacial lake outburst floods, avalanches, thawing permafrost, and cascading hazards that have destroyed lives and erased years of development progress in a matter of hours.

×The question before us is no longer whether such disasters will occur again. They will. The question is whether our institutions and investments are prepared for when they do. Historically, past events helped guide expectations about future risks. That assumption is becoming harder to sustain. Climate change is altering glaciers, snow fall, permafrost, river systems and mountain slopes in ways that are reshaping the very conditions on which those historical assumptions were built. Past data and past experience remain essential. But they can no longer be treated as reliable guides to the future on their own. In mountain regions particularly, this creates a profound challenge. The Hindu Kush Himalaya cryosphere stretches across vast and often inaccessible terrain. Understanding what is happening across such a landscape is an enormous scientific undertaking. Many of the changes underway are difficult to observe, difficult to model, and even more difficult to predict. Knowing when a hazard may occur is challenging. Knowing where it may emerge can be harder still. At the same time, climate change is making research more difficult precisely when the need for knowledge has never been greater. Extreme weather events and shifting seasonal patterns increasingly disrupt field monitoring. Observation networks remain incomplete. Funding for long-term monitoring, modelling, and scientific observation continues to lag behind the scale of change that mountain regions are now experiencing. The lesson from this tragedy is that uncertainty must be incorporated into how we plan, invest and prepare. Waiting for complete certainty before taking action is no longer a responsible option in a climate that is changing so rapidly. Every major investment in these mountains must account for the risks posed by a warming and increasingly unstable climate. Infrastructure that appears economically viable today may carry far greater costs tomorrow if climate risks are underestimated. Risk can no longer be treated as a secondary consideration added at the end of planning processes. It must become a central consideration from the beginning.

Teachers must rise to save education

The stark decline of our academic institutions is taking its toll on students

I have no hesitation in saying that I feel happy when my students send me their wishes on the occasion of Teachers' Day and recall those beautiful days of working and evolving together. And with deep gratitude, I too recall many great educationists who shaped my ways of engaging with the vocation of teaching. Of course, I invoke Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan — his scholarship and philosophical insights. I recall Savitribai Phule — her courage and dedication to spread the light of awakening among the oppressed and the marginalised in a patriarchal, caste-ridden society like ours. And in my own way, I engage with the likes of Paulo Freire and bell hooks — the spirit of libertarian education through which they inspired us; or I love to be inspired once again by Rabindranath Tagore's lyrical essay "A Poet's School", Jiddu Krishnamurti's book *School Without Fear* and Gijubhai Badheka's amazing pedagogic experiment as articulated in his book *Divaswapna*. I feel happy that it was not the lure of power but the joy of learning/unlearning/teaching that shaped my destiny. Yet, I must admit that in these turbulent times, some sort of anxiety has begun to confront me. Can I really feel happy and celebrate Teachers' Day when I witness the decline of our academic institutions and feel the agony of our students? I ask myself: is there any reason to celebrate this day anymore? Think of the anguish of this generation of discontented students. Yes, they are uncertain of their future; and they are stressed and anxiety-ridden. No matter whether one is a student of a highly pampered elite institution or a young aspirant from a small town preparing for a high-stakes standardised test like NEET, the stress that this generation is going through is indeed a matter of concern. As I write this piece, IIT-Delhi is on edge after the suicide of an MSc student and the administration's cold bureaucratic response to this tragedy. Likewise, it breaks my heart to know that several students died by suicide after the NEET cancellation and rescheduling caused by a major paper leak controversy. As I look at the data provided by the National Crime Records Bureau — 14,488 cases of student suicides in 2024 — I realise the damage that the race for upward social mobility in this highly uneven and asymmetrical society has caused to the mental health of our students. Likewise, think of the pathetic state of our schools and universities. While English-medium/private schools with fancy names can be seen even in little-known villages and small towns, government schools are in a terribly bad shape. As per a recent report published by NITI Aayog, 94,000 government schools were shut down in a decade. Not only that, see how the establishment devalues and trivialises the vocation of teaching. Otherwise, how do we explain the way government school teachers are often asked to leave their classrooms and perform all sorts of non-academic/administrative



tasks such as election work, Census operations and voter roll revisions? Moreover, here is a system that demoralises those who love to teach. How can a teacher teach if young students refuse to attend classes and prefer to be taught by all sorts of coaching strategists? Yes, you and I must reflect on the close relationship between the normalisation of "dummy schools" and India's Rs 58,000-crore coaching industry. When the traders of "success manuals" decide how physics, mathematics, chemistry and biology have to be taught, is there any space left for those who wish to teach deeply and meaningfully — not merely for NEET and JEE, but for nurturing young minds, sharpening their critical thinking and developing a truly democratic and scientific temper? Frankly speaking, as I see the colonisation of the realm of education by the coaching mafia, I find no meaning in celebrating Teachers' Day. Also, when academic freedom is denied in our universities and an environment of fear and surveillance continues to disrupt the flow of ideas, debates and contestations, Teachers' Day seems to have lost its meaning. I am not sure whether as teachers we are realising the danger confronting the

field of education. If the instrumental rationality implicit in the discourse of neo-liberalism reduces education to a mere training for jobs or a set of technical skills the technocratic industry needs for enhancing what it regards as "productivity", we cause severe damage to the very spirit of liberal/humanistic education. This sort of instrumental learning erodes the very spirit of democracy. How can we teach critical thinking, gender studies and subaltern histories if we are told that the worth of everything has to be measured in terms of its monetary value? Likewise, as the agenda of hyper-nationalism becomes normal in these toxic times, the spirit of critical pedagogy is bound to die. Under these circumstances, will it be possible for a teacher to interrogate what the discourse of hyper-nationalism has normalised — militarism, social conservatism, majoritarianism and constant 'othering' of the minorities? Even amid this crisis, it is good to see our students raising their voices, taking all sorts of risks and protesting against the ongoing onslaught on education. As teachers, if we do not come forward, raise our voices and initiate a movement for saving education, is there any reason to feel good.

Telangana government steadies ship, need eyes on horizon

he image of a disunited state leadership has been a running theme giving ammunition to the opposition BRS and BJP. With half its tenure gone, the Congress government has no time to lose

As the Congress celebrates 1,000 days in office in Telangana, it has several achievements to count. But, as happens so often with the party, the headlines are crowded with news of the party emerging from yet another internal tussle. When the Congress came back to power in the state in late 2023 after a decade in wilderness, it rode high on public expectations and aspirations. Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy and his team quickly waived crop loans up to ₹2 lakh, introduced free bus rides for women, focused on infrastructure, housing for the poor, distribution of new ration cards and refined fine rice, and drafted a plan for development. Reddy's brainchild HYDRABAD went on a spree of demolishing encroachments in Hyderabad that invited both praise and criticism. Similarly, the government's focus on artificial intelligence, upgrading industrial training institutes, establishing new schools and attracting investment has been a work in progress, with some tangible results thus far. Nonetheless, the party's celebrations have been clouded by a controversy



involving firebrand leader Konda Surekha, who was dropped from the Cabinet for indiscipline. Similar action had to be taken against Chinna Reddy, a long-time party loyalist and vice-chairman of the State Planning Board. The move was inevitable given the way Surekha's family

was damaging the credibility of the party and the CM. It must be said that the Congress leadership acted shrewdly in bringing in a woman from the backward classes to replace Reddy and elevating two other women from the same community to deflect charges of class-based discrimination. However, the episode highlights a larger malaise within the party. The image of a disunited state leadership has been a running theme giving ammunition to the opposition BRS and BJP. With half its tenure gone, the Congress government has no time to lose. The Surekha saga has sent a message that the CM enjoys the party high command's confidence, giving him and the state leadership the power to quell dissidence. Its effect will be seen in the way the expected Cabinet reshuffle takes shape. But that's only half the job. Good governance must prioritise the spirit of service. At the same time, public outreach online and offline must be improved. Else, the Congress may lose out in the perception battle.

Where did 6 lakh crore go? Nowhere

One may debate the quality of economic growth, but not the GDP numbers thrown up by two incompatible series. Similar shifts have happened earlier when the base year was shifted. Nothing has disappeared from the economy. The new estimates reflect fuller records

Over the past few days, a few commentators have stirred a controversy around India's latest GDP release. Nominal GDP for the first quarter of 2025-26, earlier placed at ₹86.05 lakh crore under the 2011-12 series, is now estimated at ₹80 lakh crore under the 2022-23 series. Their question is simple: where did ₹6.05 lakh crore go? They then compare the quarterly GDP of ₹88.27 lakh crore under the new series with ₹86.05 lakh crore under the old one, and conclude that nominal growth was only 2.6 percent, rather than 10.3 percent. The claim may sound dramatic, but it is statistically invalid because it combines two different measuring systems. The first legitimate question is whether the shift from the 2011-12 series to the 2022-23 series can change nominal GDP at all. The answer is yes, though not because statisticians have simply replaced one set of prices with another. Nominal GDP, or GDP at current prices, values production at the prices prevailing for the period being measured. Base-year prices matter more directly for real GDP, which holds prices constant to isolate changes in the volume of production. The new national accounts series, however, is not simply a new price tag. It is a statistical renovation that incorporates fresh enterprise surveys and GST data, fuller company and government accounts, revised classifications, wider coverage, updated input ratios, corrections for duplication and improved quarterly allocation. It uses Annual Survey of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises and Periodic Labour Force Survey data more directly for parts of the unincorporated sector, refines the treatment of multi-activity companies, updates construction ratios and financial-sector coverage, and draws on the newer Index of Industrial Production, producer-price and banking-services indices. These

changes can alter the measured value added even at current prices. It is, therefore, wrong to argue that nominal GDP must remain unchanged when a new base-year series is introduced. A change in base-year prices by itself does not alter current-price GDP, but the associated revisions to sources, coverage and methods certainly can. Consider a simple illustration. Suppose Q1 nominal GDP was initially estimated at ₹1,000 crore. New GST records and surveys reduce small-business value added by ₹15 crore, complete company filings reduce it by ₹10 crore, and final government accounts reduce it by ₹5 crore. Wider coverage adds ₹20 crore of previously unrecorded economic activity, while removing duplication subtracts ₹25 crore. Updated input ratios reveal ₹20 crore more intermediate consumption, and better quarterly benchmarking assigns ₹15 crore of activity to later quarters. The revised estimate is therefore ₹930 crore, a fall of ₹70 crore, or 7 percent. Nothing has disappeared from the economy, and no base-year price has been imposed on the quarter. The same quarter has simply been re-estimated with fuller records, broader coverage and a better method. This illustration explains the mechanism; it is not a decomposition of India's actual ₹6.05 lakh crore revision. The official sequence is clear. The old series placed Q1 2025-26 nominal GDP at ₹86.05 lakh crore in August 2025. The new series estimated it at ₹80.32 lakh crore in February 2026, ₹80.44 lakh crore in June and ₹80 lakh crore in August, after incorporating the latest IIP, producer-price and administrative data. Most of the change, therefore,

occurred months before the Q1 2026-27 release. These are successive statistical vintages, not a missing pile of money. The movement from ₹86.05 lakh crore to ₹80 lakh crore represents a 7.03 percent downward revision. Is a change of this magnitude unprecedented, or is it routine? The answer is neither. It is not a routine quarterly



adjustment, but revisions of a comparable, or even larger, magnitude have occurred when India has introduced a comprehensive new GDP series. When the 1993-94 series replaced the 1980-81 series, GDP at factor cost for 1993-94 rose from ₹7,32,874 crore to ₹7,99,077 crore, an increase of 9.03 percent, largely because the coverage of

private consumption improved. That concept is different from today's headline GDP at market prices, but the measurement lesson is clear. When the 2004-05 series replaced the 1999-2000 series, nominal GDP at market prices for Q1 2008-09 rose from about ₹12.35 lakh crore to ₹13.33 lakh crore. That 7.94 percent revision was close to today's 7.03 percent change, although it moved upward. Revisions do not always raise GDP. During the transition to the 2011-12 series, nominal GDP for 2011-12 fell from ₹90.10 lakh crore to ₹87.36 lakh crore, a reduction of about 3 percent. A new series can move estimates in either direction; the result depends on the data, coverage and methods. The next question is empirical: does the wider economy resemble the near-stagnation suggested by the invalid 2.6 percent calculation? The evidence does not support such a conclusion. In Q1 2026-27, cement production grew 8.9 percent, IIP for infrastructure and construction goods 7.2 percent, electricity IIP 9.3 percent, and capital-goods output 15.2 percent. Commercial-vehicle sales rose 18.3 percent, goods-transport vehicle registrations 20.1 percent, finished-steel consumption 8.3 percent and major-port cargo 6.2 percent. These are not the footprints of near-zero real growth. Several of these indicators feed into quarterly GDP estimates and are, therefore, corroborative rather than wholly independent. Even so, the broad pattern points to expansion, not stagnation.

Restaurant review: Moonshine Café & Bar

Wondering how the concept of Moonshine and a cafe-bar could go together? This place truly resonates the American concept of distilling liquor at night "by the light of the moon,"



A venture by five friends - Kabir Marwaha, Anuj Pawra, Nitin Chaudhary, Ankit Dayal, Amit Saxena kicked off pretty well. Surprisingly none of the group members come from a hotel management background but have crafted a good way to attract the customers. The Moonshine Café & Bar occupies largely young adults, where the big space transforms into a dancing floor in no time. Decor & Music Located at Hauz Khas Village, Moonshine Café & Bar seamlessly divides the interiors into sections which play different genres of music suiting your aural senses. American pop-culture is the core of the theme: Chicago's skyline on the walls, posters (ad or film?), in the backdrop of an industrial design, softened with dim-lighting. The place is furnished with tall wooden tables and chairs and long couches. The music stays the focal element of Moonshine Café & Bar: Wednesdays are Sufi

nights; the cafe also has live performances and the performers do play music on demand. While electronic, house, classic rock and popular jazz are regular on cafe's playlist, series of medley keeps the sensation at the top of barometer. Cocktails Try the Refresh Cooler (a blend of white rum, old monk, fresh pineapple juice, orange juice and grenadine syrup), because when you are having a grilled platter the ingredients of refresh cooler do quench the thirst better than others. You get a refreshing kick back of your mind. People looking for something in-house can try the Moonshine Caprioska (a mixture of orange juice, vodka, orange chunks, chat masala topped with soda). Caprioska describes the taste of an ardent cocktail admirer, the spice of chat masala lingers on your tongue. Try for a fine balance of tanginess and masala. A few other good options from the bar

Food/snacks And to compliment your cocktail, Cheese and Jalapeno croquettes would be good - these barrel shaped deep fried fritters are served with barbeque sauce and house salad; thinly sliced jalapenos, beetroot and tomatoes give you a perfect taste. For the non-veggies, Beer Batter Fish served with tartar sauce and french fries, is a fine choice, the upper crust of deep fried fish is crispy and melts down with the tangy sauce within). Apart from the regular chart, Moonshine burgers are worth a try. These small-sized burgers could be eaten in one go and act like a topping. Enjoy these burgers with your personalised drink. However, you feel there are lesser options for the mains, apart from Thai green curry, fajitas, keema pao and few more dishes; the menu could be pushed further to choose from a varied range. People looking for a party place with friends/colleagues and even family, Moonshine Café & Bar could be a good option, not certainly you should wait for the weekend to move to this place.

Recipe: Mutton Curry in mustard oil



Cooking mutton curry in pressure cooker involves a few easy steps
Ingredients: One kg mutton, salt, turmeric powder, mustard oil, ginger garlic paste, dahi, garam masala, potatoes, four or five big onions, green chillies, one big tomato.

Method: Lightly wash the mutton pieces, remove water and keep in mixing bowl. Do not over wash mutton. Sprinkle salt, turmeric powder, mustard oil and a little bit of ginger garlic paste, and let it marinate for a while. You can add a spoon of dahi too. The onions need to be thinly sliced. In a

pressure cooker, heat mustard oil till it starts smoking and add all the Bengali garam masalas (cloves, cardamom, cinnamon and tej patta) and green chillies according to your taste. When they start spluttering, add the chopped onions and saute till they are almost red. Now add the ginger garlic paste and stir well. Add tomato and fry till oil separates, then add turmeric powder, dhaniya and jeera powder. Stir well and cook for about 5 to 7 minutes. Add the mutton pieces and stir well. Cook for at least 15-20 minutes by stirring occasionally. This is a crucial step. Next, taste and fix the salt. You can add a little bit of garam masala and pepper powder according to your preference. Add warm water to get the gravy. Now, add the potatoes. Generally, a big one is sliced into halves. You can fry the potatoes at the onset and leave them aside, before adding them at this point. Cover and cook on high flame till you get about 5 or 6 whistles in pressure cooker. Now reduce the flame to check the seasoning and adjust salt. Add some ghee to it if you want it rich.

Despite her busy schedule, the beautiful actress never misses a date with her first love—cooking

It was a foregone conclusion at her para in Jalpaiguri that one day she would become a chef or open her own restaurant, but Mimi Chakraborty ended up entertaining her neighbours and other Bengal residents alike as an actress. That, of course, didn't mean a premature end to her love affair with all things culinary. "As it is said, you shouldn't marry your best friend. Likewise, I believe not every passion should be transformed into a profession. Cooking is my stress-buster, my hobby, my love," said the actress with a twinkle in her eye.

"Not many know that I go shopping for various spices ahead of Puja to rustle up special dishes during the festival," said the actress, who is busy adding to her sari collection for Puja. "I love experimenting with spices and coming up with exotic dishes.

After all, proper seasoning is crucial. I once made brinjal curry with thyme leaf paste and my friends said that it tasted like heaven. Why, one day, I might even mix oregano in gourd curry!" laughed Mimi, who can cook for at least 50 people without aid.

"On Saptami, at least 30 of us go pandal hopping all night long and the meeting place is my house. So, dinner is on me. My friends can digest anything under the sun; so, the best thing to cook for them is khichuri! But then again, they hate veg khichuri. So, this year, I'm cooking keema khichuri for them. But that's not enough for my friends, who are always dying of hunger! Some of them want kebabs to go with the khichuri," the actress said, her glowing face showing how much she loved to cook for her friends.

Mimi was always keen about cooking and used to help out her ma and kakima to prepare items for their food stall near their neighbourhood Durga Puja pandal in Jalpaiguri. "Ma is an awesome cook and the egg devils and fish chops used to sell like hot cakes from our stall. I wish to write a cook book some day," smiled the actress, before sharing her own keema khichuri recipe with us. "I've altered the traditional khichuri recipe handed down to me by ma to

Taking the place of My Humble House, it uses all the possible scientific methods to not just infuse taste but also enhance the flavours of ingredients. You not only watch the drama unfold at this grand five star eatery right in front of you on your table, but also participate in this stimulating dining.

Name the technique, and chef Vikramjit Roy has used it. Cooking the meats sous vide, using dehydrated fruits and veggie slices to having soups ooze out of an infuser—there's no trick in the book that Vikramjit has not tried. It is no wonder that it is being hailed as a 'game-changer.' Be prepared to enjoy a Thai dish with lemongrass smoke to awaken your olfactory system or tickle your taste buds with frozen fruits used as dry ice.

One has to give it to chef though that despite using all the avant garde cooking techniques, he has kept the fare familiar. It's a lot of fun on every plate. The menu also steers clear of regular nomenclature and terms starters as 'The curtain raiser' with lamb satay and Thai fish cakes with peppery condiments while soups are named 'The prelude' featuring purity of earth soup high on dehydrated sliced carrots and mushrooms with an infuser pouring the stock! The main course dishes are named 'Star cast' featuring herbed John Dory served with garlic spinach and kabocha (Korean squash) mash and duck red curry (their very own version of Thai red curry) made sous vide in a coconut shell.

The staff has been trained to inform each diner about the ingredients and process of preparing each dish. The

Mimi's kitchen Escapades



make it tasty yet healthy. And it takes just 30 minutes to cook! After all, during Puja, the priority is to look my best. So, cooking any dish that takes too much time is a no-no," she said.

Keema Khichuri (serves 4)

Ingredients:
Mutton keema: 250 gm
Rice: 2 cups
Moong dal: ¼ cup
Masoor dal: ¼ cup
Onion: 3 (chopped)
Ginger paste: 3 tsp
Garlic paste: 3 tsp
Tomato: 1 (chopped)

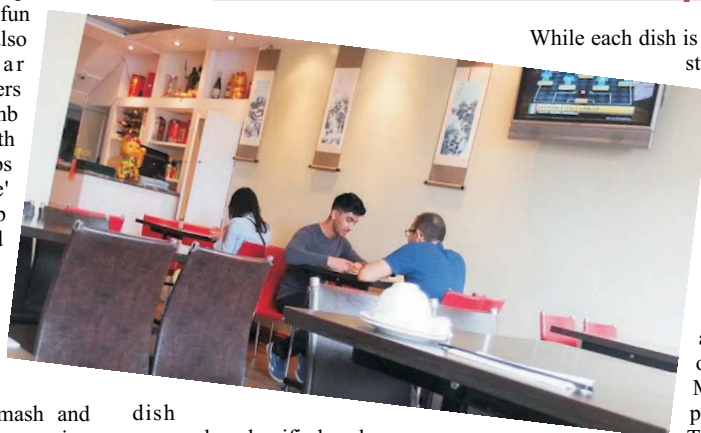
Bay leaves: 2
Red chillies: 2
Garam masala (whole): 1 tsp
Garam masala (powder): 1 tsp
Turmeric powder: 1 tsp
Olive oil: 3 tbsp
Salt: to taste

Method

Wash the mutton keema, mix with salt and keep aside for an hour. Soak the rice and dal separately in water. Heat two-three tablespoons of olive oil in a pressure cooker and once it's hot, add the bay leaves, red chillies, whole garam masala, garlic paste, ginger paste, chopped tomato, onion slices and salt. Stir fry for a while. Add a little water and let it boil on a medium flame for a while. Add the keema and cook for five-seven minutes. Strain the soaked rice and dal and add to the keema mixture. Add water and turmeric powder and stir for a few minutes. Pressure cook till three to four whistles. Once done, add garam masala powder and stir the khichuri for three-four minutes. Garnish with fried onions and serve hot.

Restaurant Review: Tian

Tian calls itself 'Asian cuisine studio.' It could well call itself a food lab too. For a meal at this new restaurant is nothing short of delectable experiment.



While each dish is a star in its own right, the real star of the dining experience remains the 'eat off your table' dessert. Frozen chocolates here, nitrogen cooled ingredients there and you have special sweet treat on your table. That may be part of chef's special menu only though.

It's a five star treat you mustn't miss. Try it for novelty sake and we bet you can't have it just once.

Must Try: Red duck curry, purity of earth soup, lamb satay, Thai fish cake with spicy mango

relish
Where: ITC Maurya, Diplomatic Enclave, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi
Meal for two: Rs 5,000 approx; Timings: 7-11.30 pm

FOODS

Boost your child's Energy with Coconut water



Coconut water is a wonder tonic for treating the cold and flu. It's also a great source of calcium and vitamin C.

Coconut water is a naturally refreshing and energising liquid inside the coconut fruit. Coconut water is low in fat and calories but immensely filled with minerals, vitamins and other nutrients. Key nutrients include iron, chloride, potassium, sodium, phosphorous, magnesium, lauric acid and calcium. It is known to consist of twice the potassium content than one banana. One coconut offers an 11 ounce serving of water. Packed with nutrients and offering a sweet taste, coconut water is great for your little one. It's also a great source of calcium and vitamin C and can help prevent dehydration when your tot is unwell as it replenishes the natural salts that are lost

when they're sick or have diarrhoea. Coconut water is a wonder tonic for treating the cold and flu. It contains the exact portion of vitamins, minerals, and salts for treating fever and even aids with gastrointestinal diseases. For the best natural remedy against the cold and flu, coconut water is your ultimate option. Infants between six months to eight months are fed coconut water, and experts recommend not giving the child coconut chunks but rather, coconut water alone. Babies and infants usually can digest coconut water from the moment they start consuming solid foods.

Coconut water should not be given to babies below six months as there might be chances of allergic reactions. Coconut water is known to have high sugar and sodium content, which is why, it is recommended to mix it with rice before serving it to babies to dilute its contents.

Health benefits:

●Boosts Skin Health

Drinking coconut water moisturises your child's skin from within and eliminates the excess oil. Coconut water possesses anti-bacterial, anti-microbial, and anti-viral properties that help cure skin infections effectively. Hence, it prevents blemishes and acne from surfacing on the skin when you apply it topically. Coconut water tones your little one's skin and helps them have clean, clear and healthy skin.

●Promotes Digestion

If your kid is constantly suffering from digestion disorders, drinking coconut water provides great relief to your little one. Coconut water contains a high concentration of fibre, which promotes digestion and minimises the occurrence of acid reflux.

●Develops Strong Bones

Coconut water contains a high amount of calcium. So drinking the calcium-rich water helps your kid have strong and healthy bones.

●Boosts Energy

Coconut water contains low sugar and sodium, and high amounts of calcium, chloride and potassium. The abundance of various nutrients helps rehydrate, replenish and refresh your child's body. Your little one will feel energetic after drinking a glass of coconut water.

Regular intake of coconut water for kids can prove to be healthy and extremely nutritious. Keep your child energetic, enthused and refreshed with this



Soon, you'll be spraying not drinking coffee

A Harvard researcher has developed a spray that will give you your much needed caffeine fix without having to drink it.

Harvard undergraduate Ben Yu and Venture Capitalist Deven Soni are betting that their new product, Sprayable Energy, will give coffee and energy drinks a run for their money as the world's stimulant of choice.

The concept is refreshingly simple. Sprayable Energy consists of water, caffeine and an amino acid that helps the body absorb it.

Four sprays of the odorless solution on a person's neck or wrists will provide roughly the same caffeine as a small cup of coffee, but because the product is absorbed through the skin, it comes with less of a jolt and fewer lingering jitters than your average Starbucks coffee or Monster energy drink.

Soni told the New York Daily News that their goal is not for people to feel like they've had that big caffeine rush, but to make them feel more awake.



Four years in the making, this independent house finally got an identity and a new lease of life with D-Cafe. D-CafeAnd it has the warmth — literally — and the feeling of openness with plants, gardens and relaxed ambience. This works to make it a chilled out hangout place.

Decor

I loved the mystery of walking alongside the house, on wood stumps and round white stones strewn to make a pathway that led me to a bridge. I wondered what awaited me on the other side. "Backyard," my brain said, gleefully. "Maybe, but a beautiful one," my heart said, optimistically. My heart won when I saw this lovely burst of smiling greenery in a quiet space. I could not miss this huge cup sitting in a corner. It reminded me of an amusement park ride with gleeful kids in it. Looking down at my table, where the digital menu was placed, I saw a whimsical use of buttons in different shapes, sizes and colours. "The owners manufacture buttons from natural sources," the chef informed me as he showed me around. I liked the warmth of this place, its colours, and laidback feel. "The fine dining space will be air conditioned, and is scheduled to open in a couple of weeks," the chef added.

Food

Navigating a digital menu is quite unlike flipping through proper paper pages, but still, we managed to zero in on the main course. No starters this time. We went for the Poulet Champignon, which, roughly translated, is chicken, French style. It is a char grilled piece of slightly chewy boneless white meat, coated in a mushroom sauce and served with herbed rice and a sauce on the side. If you like your

Restaurant review: D-Cafe

Four years in the making, this independent house finally got an identity and a new lease of life with D-Cafe. D-CafeAnd it has the warmth — literally — and the feeling of openness with plants, gardens and relaxed ambience. This works to make it a chilled out hangout place.



chicken like that, fine, but if you want melt-in-the-mouth stuff, let the chef know. The sesame teriyaki fish — the chef's interpretation of a classic Japanese fish dish — is interesting. To my delight, I could actually taste the sesame seeds, but felt slightly deprived that I didn't get any sauce to

go with my cilantro rice. Plates cleaned, we moved to dessert. I particularly wanted to try the strawberry cheesecake, but no such luck. It's not available, I was told. I settled for chocoholic cake; it turned out to be nice and heavy.

Plus and minus

Its ambience is soothing, just like the seating. The waiters could do with a little more clarity in terms of accent and knowledge of the food on the menu and what to recommend.

Times food guide

D-Cafe: 35A, Bazullah Road, T Nagar, Chennai
Meal for Two: Rs 1,200
Timings: 11 am to 11 pm; AC: Partly; Liquor: No; Home Delivery: No
Rating: Food: 3.00 Service: 2.50 Decor: 3.00

Atal Awasiya Vidyalayas: UP's free residential schooling scheme explained

Uttar Pradesh's Atal Awasiya Vidyalaya scheme offers free CBSE residential education to children of construction workers and other vulnerable families. It aims to give children of migrant and marginalised households stable schooling through Class 12.

Delhi. (Agency)

Launched in Uttar Pradesh as a residential schooling programme for children of registered construction workers, the Atal Awasiya Vidyalaya (AAV) scheme provides free education and boarding facilities from Class 6 to Class 12. The schools are intended, among other things, to ensure that children's education is not disrupted when their parents migrate for work.

The scheme is implemented by the Uttar Pradesh Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board (UPBOCW) under the Labour Department.

What is Atal Awasiya Vidyalaya?

There are 18 Atal Awasiya Vidyalayas across Uttar Pradesh, with one school in each of the state's 18 divisions. The schools have been

set up as residential campuses for students from Class 6 to Class 12 and follow a CBSE-affiliated curriculum.



Sixteen of the schools were inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in September 2023. The 18 schools were built at a reported cost of around Rs 1,115 crore, with each campus designed to accommodate up to

1,000 students.

Admissions are offered for Class 6 and Class 9, with students continuing at the same school up to Class 12.

Who is eligible?

The scheme primarily covers children of construction workers registered with the UPBOCW. Eligibility also extends to certain children orphaned during the Covid-19 pandemic and other categories identified by the state government. The child must be the child of a registered construction worker meeting the prescribed registration requirements. A maximum of two children from one family can apply.

50% of seats are reserved for girls.

Admissions are made through entrance examinations for Class 6 and Class 9. Eligibility requirements can vary by admission year and notification. For

example, a 2025-26 admission notice in Gorakhpur required construction-worker registration to have been completed for a specified period and prescribed age limits for applicants.

What do the schools provide?

The schools provide residential facilities along with education. Students receive accommodation, meals, uniforms and textbooks, along with facilities for sports and extracurricular activities.

The campuses include separate hostels for boys and girls, classrooms, laboratories, playgrounds, dining facilities, medical support and staff accommodation. Each school has been designed with a capacity of around 1,000 students.

The residential model is aimed at providing continuity in schooling for children whose parents may move between locations for work.

Cybercrime battle fails to dismantle financial bridges

Delhi. (Agency)

The unabated rise of cyber fraud and "digital arrests" in Delhi has exposed a disturbing weakness in the fight against financial crime. While the police chase fraudsters across jurisdictions and dismantle their digital networks, the banking channels through which the stolen money flows often appear to escape the same level of scrutiny.

The question is no longer merely how cybercriminals manage to dupe unsuspecting citizens. It is also how they are able to open, operate and repeatedly use bank accounts through which lakhs and, in many cases, crores of rupees are siphoned off without triggering adequate safeguards.

A recent case from Dwarka illustrates the sophistication and audacity of the fraudsters. A 74-year-old retired Indian Railways employee and his wife were allegedly subjected to a seven-day "digital arrest" by men posing as officials of the National Investigation Agency and the Anti-Terrorism Squad. The victims were made to believe that they were implicated in a serious criminal case and were kept under virtual surveillance while the fraudsters extracted money from them.

Such cases are no longer isolated incidents. But behind every successful digital arrest is another, less visible infrastructure that is the financial network that allows the money to move. This is where the role of banks deserves much closer examination.

In several cyber fraud cases, investigators have found that the money transferred by victims does not disappear into some sophisticated, untraceable digital wallet. It frequently passes through ordinary bank accounts. Many of these are "mule accounts" meaning accounts opened or controlled by individuals who allow criminals to use them for receiving and transferring illicit funds.

CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke questions PM Modi over student safety after Delhi boys PG collapse

Delhi. (Agency)

Cockroach Janata Party founder Abhijeet Dipke on Sunday questioned Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the state of educational infrastructure and student safety after a five-storey hostel building collapsed in south Delhi's Satya Niketan area, leaving three people dead and several others feared trapped.

In a post on X, Dipke said Modi had visited Delhi University a day earlier and delivered a political speech in which he invoked the term "dimagi naxal", but had little to say about the condition of educational infrastructure in the country. "Today, a hostel building in South Campus has collapsed, with students feared trapped under the debris. The number of casualties is still unknown," he said.

Rescue operations were underway at the building, identified as Hostel Daze, with nine people pulled out from the debris. Locals said some of those trapped had been making phone calls seeking help. "How long must students be made to pay the price for failing infrastructure?" Dipke asked.

He said students in tribal areas were dying due to inadequate care and support, while those studying in the national capital were also facing safety concerns.

"Adivasi students are dying in tribal belts due to a lack of care and support, and even students studying in the national capital are not safe," he said, demanding safe classrooms, safe hostels and basic dignity for students.

"Is that really too much to ask?" Dipke said, asking whether the Prime Minister would visit DU again and explain how the building collapsed. According to locals, the building had around 15 rooms, with two to three students staying in each room. Construction or repair work was reportedly underway in the basement.

32 IAS officers resigned since 2010, Bengal saw most exits: RTI

An RTI response has shown that 32 IAS officers had their resignations accepted between 2010 and 2026, with West Bengal recording the most exits. The data also underlines that announced resignations are not final until accepted, leaving withdrawals outside the central record.

Delhi. (Agency)

At least 32 IAS officers resigned from the service between 2010 and 2026, with West Bengal recording the highest number of exits among cadres, a Right To Information (RTI) response has revealed.

The data, obtained through a RTI request filed by India Today, includes the names of the officers, their cadres and the dates on which their resignations were accepted. The figures, however, come with an important caveat.



EXITS

The resignations were far from evenly distributed across the years. Six IAS

officers had their resignations accepted in 2010, making it the year with the highest number of exits in the period covered by the RTI response.

In most subsequent years, the number remained between one and four. There were, however, smaller clusters in 2018, when four resignations were accepted, and 2024, when three officers left the service. The figures suggest that IAS resignations remain relatively uncommon, particularly when measured against the size of the cadre.

WEST BENGAL TOPS THE LIST

At the cadre level, West Bengal recorded the highest number of accepted IAS resignations since 2010. It was followed by Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh and Karnataka, which also figure prominently in the list.

Air India Express flight turns back after engine oil pressure drops dangerously

Delhi. (Agency)

An Air India Express flight from Kochi to Abu Dhabi was forced to turn back mid-flight after the crew detected a rapidly falling oil quantity in one of the aircraft's engines, with the oil pressure entering the danger zone.

The Boeing 737 operating flight IX 415 later landed safely at Cochin International Airport.

Sources said the aircraft was around 50 minutes into the flight and flying at an altitude of 36,000 feet when the pilot and co-pilot noticed that the oil quantity in Engine 1 was dropping rapidly, news agency ANI reported.

The crew carried out a FORDEC assessment, a decision-making framework, after detecting the abnormal oil indication. However, as



the oil quantity continued to fall, they decided to abandon the Abu Dhabi sector and return to Kochi, sources said.

As the situation progressed and the oil

pressure in Engine 1 entered the danger zone, the crew was forced to shut down the engine. The aircraft subsequently returned to Cochin International Airport and landed safely.

Delhi HC agrees urgent hearing on influencer Swatantra Bhardwaj's plea against arrest

Delhi. (Agency)

The Delhi High Court on Monday agreed to an urgent hearing on a plea

filed by right-wing influencer Swatantra Bhardwaj against his arrest in a case linked to the alleged assault on the father of a student activist during a protest at Jantar Mantar.

The habeas corpus petition was mentioned before a bench of Chief Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya and Justice Tejas Karia, which

allowed it to be listed during the day. Bhardwaj was detained in Bulandshahr on September 4 and, on Sunday, was produced before a duty magistrate

through video conferencing and sent to one-day judicial custody.

Appearing for Bhardwaj, advocate



Umesh Sharma sought an urgent listing of the matter and told the court, "the person is in custody for last three days, I am praying that the habeas corpus

petition be listed today".

Delhi Police has added provisions of the

(Prevention of Atrocities) Act and criminal intimidation to the FIR against Bhardwaj over the alleged assault on Sanjay Kumar, the father of a teenage student activist, during the Cockroach Janta Party-led protest at Jantar Mantar in June. A Pocco case has also been registered against him.

Bhardwaj was detained hours after the Cockroach Janta Party staged a protest outside the Parliament Street police station, demanding his arrest in the case.

Following his arrest, he was produced at the residence of a sessions judge in Delhi on September 5, which allowed the police plea seeking one-day custodial interrogation of the accused.

The police action followed outrage over an interview in which Bhardwaj claimed he had "cracked the skull" of the student activist's father during the June 23 protest and escaped arrest because of his political connections.

In the interview, he said, "I cracked the skull... Do you know which section this crime attracts? Section 307. He needed 60 stitches.". The student had earlier alleged that she received rape threats, verbal abuse and morphed images after speaking out against the alleged assault on her father and filing a police complaint.

The case centres on the alleged assault on Sanjay Kumar during the June 23 protest at Jantar Mantar, with Bhardwaj now challenging his arrest even as police have added fresh charges and the High Court has agreed to hear his plea urgently.

'Dad, You Will Be Proud': Delhi Tragedy Victims' Family Holds On To Memories

Delhi. (Agency)

Akshat Singh Yadav, a second-year student of Delhi University's PGDAV College, is among one of the seven victims who died in Delhi's Satya Niketan building tragedy on Sunday. After receiving news of his death, his family arrived at the AIIMS Trauma Centre in New Delhi today morning.

His parents were devastated seeing his body, while his sister, Lichi is in a state of shock and is unable to speak. Akshat's family lives in Dubey Colony in Katni, Madhya Pradesh. His father works in Kota, Rajasthan, while his mother is a homemaker. Akshat had spoken to his mother over a video call just two days before the incident.

Last Video Call

Looking at her son's photograph on her phone, Akshat's mother struggled to hold back tears. She recalled speaking to him over a video call just two days before the incident, never imagining it would be their final conversation.

The child I carried in my womb for nine months, whom I raised in my arms, today I am looking at his body," she said. According to family members, Akshat had recently visited home during Raksha Bandhan. His father had tried to persuade him to stay longer, but Akshat insisted he had to return to Delhi because his ticket was already booked.

Passionate About Swords

Akshat had a keen interest in swords. His mother said that a sword worth Rs 2,500 had recently been delivered to their home. When the family showed it to him during a video call, he was delighted and asked them to make sure his sister Lichi saw it before it was put away. Today, the family is holding on to that memory.

Loved Books And Academic Competitions

Family members describe Akshat as a bright student who loved reading books. Whenever he had spare money, he would buy books. He also actively participated in competitions and quiz contests. Akshat is survived by his parents and sister. His grieving mother said, "Earlier we were four, now only three of us are left."

UPSC Aspirant

His father said Akshat's teachers often praised his academic performance. Akshat would tell him, "Dad, one day I will become an officer and make you proud."

Maruti Suzuki increases prices of some car models by Rs 20,000, third hike this year

New Delhi. (Agency)

Buying a Maruti Suzuki car is set to become costlier again, with the country's largest carmaker announcing its third price hike since May as rising input costs and inflationary pressures continue to weigh on the auto industry. Maruti Suzuki India said on Monday that it will increase prices of select car models by up to Rs 20,000 from September.

Unlike the previous two rounds, which covered the company's entire passenger vehicle portfolio, the latest hike will be limited to select models. The latest move means customers looking to buy certain Maruti Suzuki models will have to shell out more at a time when the festive season is approaching and car demand typically picks up. **THIRD PRICE HIKE SINCE MAY**

Maruti Suzuki's latest price revision comes after two earlier increases announced within a span of a few months. The company had first announced a price hike of up to Rs 30,000 from June, citing rising input costs. It then announced another increase of up to Rs 30,000 from August, marking its second portfolio-wide price revision in about two months. The August increase covered the company's passenger vehicle range, with the exact increase varying from model to model. The lineup included cars such as the Alto K10, S-Presso, Celerio, WagonR, Swift, Dzire, Baleno, Fronx, Brezza, Ertiga, Grand Vitara, Jimmy, Invicto and Victoris. The September increase is different, however. This time, Maruti Suzuki has said the price revision will apply only to select models, with the increase capped at Rs 20,000.

WHY IS MARUTI SUZUKI RAISING PRICES?

The company has pointed to continued inflationary pressures and elevated costs. Maruti Suzuki had earlier said it was absorbing a significant part of the increase in manufacturing costs through internal cost-saving measures. However, with commodity and other input costs remaining high, the carmaker said it had to pass on part of the additional burden to customers while trying to limit the impact on prices.

Why is the Supreme Court seeking a CBI probe into DLF Primus project?

New Delhi. (Agency)

The Supreme Court has directed the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to conduct a Preliminary Enquiry (PE) into the construction of DLF Primus in Gurugram over alleged deviations from the project plan shown to homebuyers.

The Bench of Justice Ahsanuddin Amanullah and Justice R. Mahadevan said housing projects must be built and delivered in line with the plans and representations made to buyers through the brochure. The Court noted that a 24-metre-wide road shown through the DLF Primus project does not exist in the way it was shown in the original plan.

COURT FINDS MAJOR DEVIATION IN ROAD PLAN

The Court had assigned CBI officer Saurabh Gupta, IPS, to examine whether the nature of the road had been changed. In his status report submitted on August 3, 2026, Gupta found that the road did not exist within the project as shown in the original plan. Parts of the area marked for the road are being used for parking, while another portion has been developed as a green track.

The Court found the deviation to be substantial. Of the 147-metre stretch earmarked for the road, around 52 metres has been developed as a green patch, while the remaining portion is being used for parking by residents.

Rupee rises 4 paise to 94.39 against US dollar in early trade

New Delhi. (Agency)

The rupee traded in a narrow range and appreciated 4 paise to 94.39 against the US dollar in early trade on Monday, as the support from strong FCNR-related dollar inflows was negated by elevated crude oil prices amid persistent global headwinds.

Forex traders said the rupee continues to draw strength from the robust liquidity wave, but renewed military strikes have driven Brent crude toward USD 97 per barrel, reigniting fears over Middle Eastern energy supply disruptions.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 94.40 against the US dollar, then touched 94.39, registering a gain of 4 paise from its previous close. On Friday, the rupee settled higher by 8 paise at 94.43 against the US dollar.

"The rupee entered the week on a stronger footing, supported by heavy FCNR-related dollar inflows. However, the global backdrop remains a challenge. 94.00–94.20 remains the key support zone. If global headwinds intensify, USDINR could move back towards 95.00, 95.50 and eventually 96.00," CR Forex Advisors MD Amit Pabari said.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading at 99.18, higher by 0.01 per cent on safe-haven demand amid renewed US-Iran tensions. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, was trading higher by 0.80 per cent at USD 97.05 per barrel in futures trade, amid escalating US-Iran tensions and fears of disruption to oil flows through the Strait of Hormuz.

Jaguar Land Rover faces 4,000 job cuts as UK rules out bailout for Tata-owned carmaker

The proposed job cuts are part of a wider restructuring plan aimed at making the carmaker more competitive as it faces pressure in key markets.

New Delhi. (Agency)

The UK government has ruled out a financial bailout for Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) as the Tata-owned carmaker prepares to cut jobs and reduce costs amid weak sales, higher expenses and growing competition from Chinese carmakers. JLR is expected to cut around 4,000 jobs over the next two years, according to a Times report. The proposed cuts are part of a wider restructuring plan aimed at

making the company more competitive as it faces pressure in key markets.

JLR PLANS \$2.3 BILLION IN SAVINGS

JLR has started a voluntary redundancy programme as it looks to save around \$2.3 billion over the next two years. The company has not said how many employees could be affected by the programme. The carmaker is also aiming to lower its break-even point to around 300,000 vehicles. As part of the restructuring, it plans to simplify its operations and adjust its business to changing market conditions. UK Business Secretary Jonathan Reynolds said the government would not intervene in the running of JLR or stop the company from restructuring its workforce, when asked by BBC.

Reynolds has spoken with JLR's chief

executive and the general secretary of Unite and is expected to meet them early this week. The government has said it wants to limit job losses while allowing the company to take steps needed to remain competitive.



CHINESE CARMAKERS ADD TO PRESSURE

JLR's restructuring comes at a difficult time for Europe's car industry. Chinese manufacturers such as BYD and Chery are expanding their presence with lower-priced electric and hybrid vehicles,

putting pressure on established European brands. Several major carmakers are also cutting costs. Volkswagen recently received approval for a plan that could result in a further 50,000 job reductions.

JLR is also looking to strengthen its position in the US, which is its biggest market. The company has been working to expand its operations there as it reviews the role of its UK manufacturing base.

UK AUTO INDUSTRY FACES WIDER CHALLENGES

JLR employs around 33,000 people in the UK and about 40,000 worldwide. The company is owned by Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles Ltd.

Its revenue fell nearly 10% in its latest quarter, while pre-tax profit dropped 69% to 109 million pounds. The company has faced several operational setbacks in recent years, including flooding at a key supplier and a cyberattack that stopped production at its plants around the world.

Hidden price of inheritance: Survey says 58% of families paid bribes to transfer assets

New Delhi. (Agency)

When a family member dies, especially the bread winner, the grief is often followed by a long list of practical tasks, such as transferring a house, bank deposits, shares, mutual funds, jewellery and other assets to the rightful heirs. But for many families, completing that process can come with another, less expected cost: bribes. A survey by LocalCircles found that 58% of families who transferred the assets of a deceased family member said they had to pay bribes to complete the process. The problem was not limited to a single point of contact either. While 29% said they had to pay bribes in one or two places, another 29% said they had to pay in "lots of places". The findings come even as governments and regulators have been pushing digitisation of property, financial and other records

in an effort to make such processes easier and more transparent. **ONLY 32% FOUND THE TRANSFER PROCESS EASY**

The LocalCircles survey received more than 32,000 responses from citizens across 349 districts. Of the



11,319 respondents who answered the question on the experience of transferring assets after a family member's death, only 32% said the process was easy. The remaining families reported difficulties at different stages.

About 11% said the process was straightforward because there was a

registered will. Another 21% said they did not have a registered will but were still able to complete the transfer process. However, 16% said that despite having a registered will, they had not been able to complete the transfer. Another 21% had no registered will and found the process very difficult, while 16% did not have a registered will and had not been able to complete the process. A further 10% said they had not yet initiated the transfer process but needed to do so.

This suggests that having a will, while potentially making succession clearer, does not necessarily make the administrative process of transferring assets straightforward. **BRIBES HAVE ACTUALLY RISEN SINCE 2022**

One of the most striking findings is that the incidence of reported bribery has increased rather than declined over the past four years..

Sensex, Nifty fall as IT stocks drag markets; crude near \$97

Kolkata. (Agency)

Benchmark indices started Monday's session lower, extending a four-week losing streak as investors grappled with a difficult mix of global and domestic pressures. Rising tensions in the Middle East, crude oil prices nearing \$97 a barrel and growing expectations of a US rate hike in September are weighing on risk appetite. At home, a rush of large IPOs is also drawing liquidity away from the secondary market. At 9:36 am, the BSE Sensex was down 170.94 points, or 0.22%, at 76,344.49. The index opened at 76,446.05 against Friday's close of 76,515.43. It touched an early high of 76,477.19 and a low of 76,251.46. The Nifty 50 was down 52.85 points, or 0.22%, at 23,844.85. It opened at 23,883.15 and moved between a high of 23,890 and a low of 23,818.50. The weakness was broader than the headline indices suggested. Nifty 100 fell 0.26%, Nifty 200 declined 0.24% and Nifty 500 slipped 0.21%. Nifty Midcap 50 was down 0.13%, while Nifty Midcap 100 fell 0.16%. Nifty Smallcap 100 was almost flat, declining 0.05%. India VIX, however, rose 1.87% to 10.88. Here are the key factors driving the market lower: **IT STOCKS LEAD THE SELL-OFF**

IT stocks were among the biggest drags on the market



after stronger-than-expected US jobs data strengthened expectations of a Federal Reserve rate hike in September. The Nifty IT index fell 1.72% in early trade, making it the worst-performing major sectoral index. Indian IT companies derive a significant portion of their revenues from the US, and higher interest rates can weigh on corporate technology spending and client budgets. Among major stocks, Infosys fell 1.28%, HCL Technologies declined 1.49%, while Tech Mahindra was down 0.10% in the broader sectoral picture. TCS was also lower by 0.89%. Dr V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Investments Limited, said the stronger US jobs data had increased the chances of a September rate hike.

Sugar shock could turn festive season bitter as food makers consider price hikes

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 festive season is approaching, but consumers could face higher prices for sweets, biscuits, cookies, chocolates and other sugar-heavy products as food companies grapple with elevated sugar costs. Sugar prices have risen sharply in recent months, putting pressure on manufacturers and sweet makers just as demand typically increases ahead of the festive season. Companies are now weighing higher retail prices and smaller pack sizes as they try to absorb the increase in raw-material costs. For consumers, that could mean paying more

for some festive treats — or getting a smaller quantity for the same price.

Data from the Consumer Affairs Ministry showed the all-India average retail price of sugar at around Rs 62 per kg in September, compared with Rs 47 per kg in June. The increase has come as domestic availability has tightened ahead of the festive season. Sugar prices had risen particularly sharply through August. The all-India average retail price increased from 48.18 per kg on July 20 to Rs 55.70 per kg on August 20, according to government data. There has been some easing since then. The average retail price fell 3.85% in the week to September 2 to Rs 62.57 per kg, while wholesale prices also declined. However, the reduction has yet to fully feed through to the costs faced by food companies.

WHY HAS SUGAR BECOME EXPENSIVE?

One of the main reasons is a tighter domestic supply outlook. Sugar

production for the 2025-26 season is now estimated at around 30.6 million tonnes, significantly below the initial estimate of 34.3 million tonnes. Excessive rainfall,



crop diseases and other disruptions have affected sugarcane production in key growing regions. At the same time, sugar demand typically rises before major festivals as households, sweet shops and food manufacturers stock up. The result is

a basic supply-demand squeeze: there is less sugar available than initially expected at a time when buyers are looking for more of it.

India is also heading towards the end of the sugar season with relatively low stocks. That has added to concerns among traders and manufacturers about availability during the high-demand festive period.

COMPANIES FEEL THE PRESSURE

Higher sugar prices do not automatically translate into an equivalent increase in the price of every food product. Companies can absorb some of the additional cost, cut other expenses, improve efficiencies, raise prices or reduce the quantity in a pack.

But some companies have already started adjusting prices. Bikaji Foods, for instance, has begun implementing a roughly 2% price increase across its sweets portfolio.

NEWS BOX

High drama in Telangana Assembly: KTR, Harish Rao detained; BRS MLA pulled by hair

HYDERABAD (Agency).

Chaos ensued in the Telangana state assembly on Monday as it commenced its monsoon session. BRS leaders, including working president KT Rama Rao and MLA Harish Rao, were detained for protesting against the Congress government. Meanwhile, the BJP also called for a judicial probe over the land issue in the state. Tensions escalated after Bharat Rashtra Samithi legislators wore black outfits in the Assembly, as a mark of their protest against the Revanth Reddy government. BRS leaders staged a protest at Gunpark regarding the "Congress government's failure after 1,000 days in office." Speaking to reporters, KTR accused the Congress of coming to power by making "reckless and false promises." "Congress came to power by making reckless and false promises. It deceived all sections of society. It made 420 promises, saying they would be implemented within 100 days. These promises were even given in writing on bond paper. They said the promises would be implemented within 100 days, but even after 1,000 days, not a single promise has been fulfilled so far," the BRS leader said.

Not abducted, says Kinjal Rabari, refutes husband's claims

Ahmedabad (Agency).

Kinjal Rabari's 'kidnapping' outside a Chandkheda mall on Sunday took a dramatic turn within hours, with the singer denying that she was abducted and saying she had voluntarily returned to the man she had fallen in love with and married. The episode began when Mukesh Desai, who called Kinjal his wife, contacted Ahmedabad police claiming that unidentified men had abducted her as the couple stepped out of CBD Mall after watching a movie. Desai allegedly told police that men arrived in two cars and restrained him before taking Kinjal away. Police rushed to the spot and examined CCTV footage from around the mall. The footage appeared to show a man holding Desai while Kinjal opened the door of a car and got inside herself. The vehicle then left the spot, prompting police to examine whether the episode was an abduction or a planned departure. Soon after, Kinjal released a video denying the abduction claim. She said she was safe and had gone voluntarily to Ashok Chaudhary, whom she described as her husband. The statement brought the spotlight back on the matrimonial dispute around the singer since her inter-caste marriage. Kinjal said she and Chaudhary married on May 2, 2024, after she chose to be with him despite opposition from her family. According to Kinjal, she had again gone with Chaudhary on March 10 this year after trying unsuccessfully to convince her family to accept their relationship. She alleged that her own family subsequently took her back against her wishes and that she was made to initiate divorce proceedings at Radhanpur court.

What Tukaram Mundhe wants 'punished' and why his kids are 'unhappy'

Mumbai (Agency).

A week after completing 100 days as Maharashtra FDA Commissioner, Tukaram Mundhe says food safety is a public health crisis that demands a more visible and assertive regulator. In an interview with The Indian Express, Tukaram Mundhe discusses his first 100 days, the FDA's testing backlog, what needs to be punished, regulation of hospital consumables and pharmaceuticals, and his controversial push for healthier food in schools. IE: The FDA was last widely noticed for action against JJ and Cadbury in 2004-05. What's different about your approach compared to how bureaucrats normally work, and why are you seen as an outlier?

Tukaram Mundhe: It's difficult for me to answer objectively since I'm an interested party. But "outlier" can be positive or negative. You are outside the normal course of action, depending on the prism you use. I distinguish between doing a "job" and doing a "role". When I say "I", I mean the institution, not myself. I look at the FDA Commissionerate as an institution.

Over time, we have started viewing public service through a lens of distrust. I believe we should instead look at it critically: applaud what is done right and punish what is done wrong. Public service is a trust vested in us by the Constitution and the people. When we join the services, we take an oath to uphold constitutional values such as equality, fraternity, liberty and development. We have to act not only on the letter of the law but its spirit. As a public servant, I ask myself daily: am I honest, transparent, responsible and accountable? Beyond being answerable to seniors and the government, I am answerable to my conscience. Have I made a difference in people's lives, or made things worse?

Driver stops to 'drink water'. Then tries to 'assault, disrobe' Mumbai woman; manhunt on

According to the Navi Mumbai Police, the incident took place on Sunday around 1.30 am when the woman was returning from a party.

Mumbai (Agency).

The Navi Mumbai Airport police have launched a manhunt to trace a cab driver accused of molesting a woman passenger during the early hours of Sunday, September 6. The alleged molestation case came to light when the woman approached the police station to register an FIR.

According to the Navi Mumbai Police, the incident took place on Sunday around 1.30 am when the woman was returning from a party. "The woman said that she had gone to attend a party in the Chembur area and was returning home when the cab driver assaulted her. We are investigating the matter," the police said. In her complaint, the woman has alleged that the cab driver stopped the car on a deserted service road on the pretext of drinking water. He returned after some time, sat on the rear seat next to her and grabbed her hand.

"The victim told the cab driver to go back to the driver's seat; however, he then attempted to disrobe her," the police said. After the incident, the driver fled the scene. She then contacted her family and approached the Panvel police station, the police said. The police said they



have identified the accused as Mohammed Afzal Shaikh and raised a manhunt to trace his whereabouts. "Based on the woman's statement we have registered an FIR in this matter. Considering the seriousness of the situation, several teams have been made to

trace Mohammed Afzal Shaikh. Appropriate legal action will be initiated against the accused," the police said. "We will trace him using technical and human intelligence, and several teams have been made to investigate the matter," they said.

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

Mumbai (Agency).

A day after stand-up comedian Kunal Kamra publicly questioned whether the Mumbai Police would step in if his shows in the city were disrupted, a senior IPS officer said the comedian has not approached the police over any threats or sought protection.

The police also said that anyone fearing disruptions can seek police protection, but such requests cannot be considered based on social media posts. A senior IPS officer said, "Firstly, for an indoor show, there is no permission needed from the police, so that question does not concern us."

He added, "As far as the issue of him apprehending a disturbance to his show, as per procedure, he can write to the police station, and based on our findings of the threat perception, we will decide on the issue."

However, merely posting such things on social media cannot amount to anything. The rules are the same for everyone." The IPS officer was responding to Kunal Kamra's post on X on Sunday, where he sought to know when he can perform in the city next and if the police would uphold the law if it is disrupted. "For all who keep asking when I will be performing in Mumbai next: I have that same question for @MumbaiPolice. When can I perform my stand-up in the entertainment capital? I understand that my previous work has caused some amount of administrative excitement over the years. I also appreciate that the Mumbai Police has many important responsibilities—maintaining law and order, preventing crime, managing traffic, watching India's Got Latent and, occasionally, deciding whether I am allowed to tell jokes in a room,"

Kamra said.

"All I'm asking is if 40-50 humourless people turn up to cancel/disrupt the show or harm the venue, will you allow the hecklers to exercise their veto? Will a mob of people who didn't buy tickets to actually come watch my show get to decide what freedom allows?" the comedian asked. "Actually it's down to just one question, are you with the mob or are you with law?" In March 2025, at his "Naya Bharat" show at The Habitat comedy club, Kunal Kamra performed a parody song referring to Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde as a "gaddar" (traitor), triggering a controversy. After his performance, some Shiv Sena workers vandalised the venue before it the Mumbai civic body ran a bulldozer over it. Kamra hasn't performed in Mumbai ever since

IIT Kharagpur inaugurates sustainable phase of affordable healthcare research

KOLKATA (Agency).

The Sustainable Phase of the Common Research and Technology Development Hub (CRTDH) on Affordable Healthcare at IIT Kharagpur was inaugurated on Saturday by Dr N. Kalaiselvi, Secretary of Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR) and Director General of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).

The hub has successfully completed its initial grant-supported phase, established in 2019, and will now operate as a self-sustaining national facility meeting its operational costs through user fees, translational partnerships, and industry sponsorships. Addressing the attendees at the Ben Gupta Auditorium, Dr. Kalaiselvi emphasised the role of DSIR and the network of CRTDHs in enabling MSMEs, start-ups and individual innovators to strengthen indigenous capability in medical technology. She said, "The continued functioning of a CRTDH beyond the period of DSIR support demonstrates the intended outcome of the programme i.e. to serve industry and

innovators in a self-sustaining mode." She emphasised that wider utilisation of these facilities would contribute to strengthening the country's indigenous technological capabilities, advancing self-reliance in medical device technologies, and supporting the vision of the Prime Minister for Viksit Bharat 2047.

Highlighting the journey of the 5,000-square-foot facility, IIT Kharagpur director Suman Chakraborty noted the critical role of frugal innovation in real-world healthcare delivery. He stated that "designing technologies for use in settings without sophisticated infrastructure and by frontline health workers requires engineering solutions that are robust and accessible".

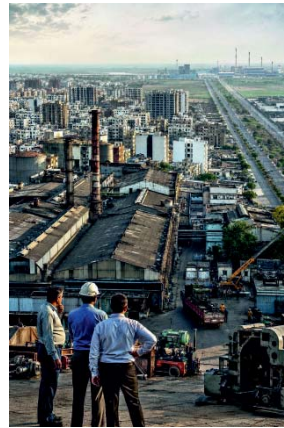
Chakraborty, also the principal investigator, CRTDH, said, "The sustainable phase of the CRTDH marks an important transition from developing technologies to building an enduring ecosystem that can take innovation from the laboratory to the market and, ultimately, to the communities that need it most."

Times Dhandho: Ahmedabad industries face the relocation test

Ahmedabad (Agency).

Ahmedabad's Project THRIVE. The scheme offers higher floor space index, waivers on conversion and five decades. GIDC estates such as Vatva and FSI-change charges, wage support and Naroda were developed on the city's outskirts to keep manufacturing away from dense habitation. Urban expansion has since surrounded these clusters with residential and commercial development.

The clusters are now weighing Gujarat's push to move industries outside city limits, but high relocation costs are making businesses cautious. According to sources, the state plans to stop expansion permissions for polluting industries within Ahmedabad and require their relocation outside the urban area by 2030. The move aims to reduce urban pollution and ease infrastructure pressure, with relocation incentives proposed under



supply chains. Ajay Patel, chairman of the GIDC committee of GCCI, said relocation could not happen overnight. "Relocation is not just packing up and moving. South 24 Parganas, are among those displaced by the rising sea level and the consequent loss of their agricultural land. Gobinda moved his family towards Kakdwip, while Tapas, who works as a labourer in Thakurpukur, sent his to a relative's home in Namkhana. The same cycle plays out along the Ganga in Malda, where entire settlements have disappeared with the river constantly changing course. Md Taher Ali, 71, a resident of Sahabattola in Malda's Manikchak, has been uprooted thrice — in 1966, 1994 and 1997. "I had to relocate because of erosion. I am glad Census 2027 is recognising the reason (for the change of address)," said Ali, a retired railway employee. Census officials, however, said the data collated under the category "natural calamities" should not be treated as a direct measure of climate change-induced migration. The migration data could nevertheless offer researchers and policymakers a clearer window into disaster-linked displacement — particularly whether temporary movement eventually turns into permanent relocation.

From Bay to Malda, Census to record migration forced by rising waters

Kolkata (Agency).

For a family living in the Sundarbans or along a river in Malda, leaving home may not always be a choice dictated by a job, marriage or better prospects in a city. Sometimes, the house is swallowed by a river, farmland turns saline or a cyclone leaves little behind to return to. For the first time in decades, India's population Census is preparing to give such journeys a distinct place in its migration data by recording "natural calamities" as a reason for migration — potentially offering a clearer official picture of people displaced by erosion, floods, cyclones and other disasters. In ecologically fragile areas, enumerators for the ongoing Census have been drawn from local communities who know the terrain, dialects and history of disasters that have displaced residents. Census officials said this familiarity could help families speak more freely about sensitive experiences involving loss of homes, land and livelihoods. Such experiences are nowhere more stark than on islands in South 24 Parganas such as Mousuni and Ghoramara. Cyclones, tidal surges and erosions have steadily eaten into homes and farmland on those islands,

forcing families to shift to the mainland. Ghoramara perhaps offers the starkest illustration. The island was spread across around 7.2 sq km in 1972. By 2022, it had shrunk to about 3.6 sq km — half its landmass disappearing into surging seawater in five decades. Researchers estimate that if the trend persists, only around 2.6 sq km may remain by 2032. Coastal geomorphologist Sunando Bandyopadhyay of Calcutta University, who studies erosion and climate change, said Sagar Island, too, has lost substantial land to the sea over the decades. From around 256 sq km in 1922, it has shrunk to around 230 sq km. For families affected by the steady loss of land, migration is often not about opportunity but survival. The new Census classification could make such journeys easier to identify in official statistics. The 40-question population enumeration schedule lists natural calamities — alongside employment, business, education, marriage, movement after birth, movement with household and "any other" — as a reason for migration. Majed Shah, 55, once owned two bighas in Mousuni. Over the years, the sea reduced it to a tiny

patch, which eventually disappeared after a cyclone. He and his family now stay with a relative in Fraserganj in South 24 Parganas.

"Each year, some of us lose our homes as the sea relentlessly gnaws at the island," Shah said, adding that another major surge could

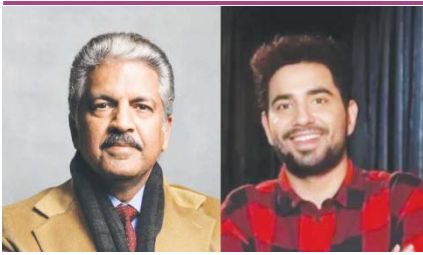


swallow whatever remained of Mousuni. "My official documents are still in Mousuni. But in current Census, I want to be counted as a resident of Fraserganj," he said. Farmers Gobinda Karak and Tapas Karak from Ghoramara, another island in

NEWS BOX

How Samay Raina provoked Anand Mahindra into starting Global Chess League

Anand Mahindra has revealed the unusual story behind starting the Global Chess League. He has revealed how a provocation from Samay Raina brought the league to life.



New Delhi. (Agency)

Industrialist Anand Mahindra has revealed how a challenge from comedian Samay Raina eventually led to the creation of the Global Chess League, a project he jokingly describes as the "most expensive joke" ever played on him. Raina had challenged Mahindra during an online interaction in 2020 to start a global chess league. Mahindra took him seriously, setting in motion a series of conversations that eventually brought FIDE president Arkady Dvorkovich and five-time world champion Viswanathan Anand into the project. "Usually, comedians provoke laughter but Samay in a way provoked a global chess league," Business Line reported Mahindra as saying at the fourth season of the Global Chess League in Bengaluru. Mahindra explained that he had been watching Raina and chess commentator Sagar Shah stream the 2020 Chess Olympiad when he noticed the growing interest around their broadcast. "I saw that in every 15 minutes the crowd of people watching grew larger," he recalled.

FROM A JOKE TO A GLOBAL LEAGUE

The idea soon moved beyond a conversation between Mahindra and Raina. FIDE president Arkady Dvorkovich contacted Mahindra to find out whether he was serious about creating a league. Mahindra was, and discussions followed over the next few months. Five-time world champion Viswanathan Anand subsequently joined the project, giving the proposed league the backing of one of the biggest names in chess. The Global Chess League eventually took shape as a franchise-based team competition, bringing some of the world's leading players together in a format designed to make chess more accessible to a wider audience. Unlike traditional individual chess tournaments, the league puts players into teams, with franchises competing across a season.

Dewald Brevis ties with JP Duminy, becomes 4th-highest six-hitter for SA in T20Is

WINDHOEK. (Agency)

South African batter Dewald Brevis tied with former batter JP Duminy to become joint fourth-highest six-hitter for South Africa in T20I cricket. Brevis achieved this feat during his side's tri-nation series final against Zimbabwe at Windhoek on Sunday. During the clash for the trophy, he made 32 in 23 balls, with two fours and two sixes, with a strike rate of over 129. Now Brevis



has 71 sixes in 35 T20Is, as compared to Duminy's 71 sixes in 81 T20Is. The top three six-hitters for South Africa in T20Is are: David Miller (139), Quinton de Kock (133) and Aiden Markram (83). Brevis ended the series as 'Player of the Series' with 226 runs in five innings at an average of 56.50 and a strike rate of over 166, with two fifties and a best score of 75*. He smashed 16 sixes in the series. Now in 35 T20Is, he has 923 runs in 33 innings at an average of 30.76 at a strike rate of 163.94, including a century and three fifties, with best score of 125*. Coming to the match, Proteas posted 205/5 in 20 overs after opting to bat first, with knocks from Jordan Hermann (53 in 29 balls, with eight fours and a six), Brevis and Connor Esterhuizen (32 in 23 balls, with three fours and two sixes) being the standouts. During the chase, Zimbabwe was skittled out for just 157 runs in 18 overs, with a half-century coming from Brad Evans (56* in 31 balls, with four boundaries and four sixes). Skipper Bjorn Fortuin (3/24) and Duan Jansen (3/38) were standouts with the ball.

US Open: Ben Shelton ends Tsitsipas' resurgent run, sets up Alcaraz showdown

Ben Shelton ended Stefanos Tsitsipas' impressive US Open revival with a dominant straight-sets win to reach the quarter-finals. The American now faces defending champion Carlos Alcaraz, with a place in the semi-finals and a bigger piece of history at stake.

New York. (Agency)

Ben Shelton ended Stefanos Tsitsipas' resurgent run at the US Open on Sunday, overpowering the Greek 6-2, 6-3, 6-4 on Arthur Ashe Stadium to reach the quarter-finals and keep alive American hopes of a first men's Grand Slam champion in more than two decades. Tsitsipas had arrived in the fourth round having finally found his way deep into a Grand Slam again. The 27-

year-old, ranked 53rd in the world, had not reached the fourth round of a major since the French Open in 2024, but had put together an impressive run in New York, beating 10th seed Arthur Fils, South African qualifier Lloyd Harris and Jiri Lehecka. Against Lehecka, Tsitsipas had shown the kind of fight that had been missing from his recent Grand Slam campaigns, recovering from a set down to win 2-6, 6-1, 7-6(3), 6-1. He also fired 12 aces in that victory. The eighth seed was ruthless from the start, blending raw power with a delicate touch and sharp decision-making to overwhelm Tsitsipas in an opening set that lasted just 31 minutes. Shelton never allowed his opponent to settle into the contest, taking a two-set lead before adding a touch of showmanship to an already dominant performance. A soaring overhead smash drew a roar from the Arthur Ashe crowd before the American raced away to complete a comfortable hold and seal the straight-sets victory. "It was a

good match from start to finish. It was my first straightforward match this year and I'm happy I can play this way in front of you," Shelton said. US OPEN: SHELTON VS ALCARAZ IN QF



The 22-year-old is now one win away from returning to the US Open semi-finals, but standing in his way is defending champion Carlos Alcaraz. Alcaraz has been in sensational form in New York after returning from an injury layoff, and Shelton knows he will need something special to

stop the Spaniard.

"The level that he's playing at is really impressive. To not play for almost five months and do what he's doing is superhuman and we're happy to have him back," Shelton said. "He lights up stadiums and I think there's going to be fireworks again on Tuesday." Shelton is also carrying a bigger American hope into that showdown. He is bidding to become the first American man to win a Grand Slam since Andy Roddick's 2003 triumph at Flushing Meadows. The pressure of playing on Arthur Ashe Stadium has not always been easy for Shelton, but he felt he finally found his rhythm against Tsitsipas.

"My team told me that if I didn't show up fully focused they would leave," he joked.

"When you play on this court every year, it feels like you start over again and the nerves hit. I finally found my groove and was in a flow state. Playing on the greatest court in the world is an unbelievable feeling."

Carlos Alcaraz crushes Tommy Paul, Linda Noskova storms into maiden US Open quarters

Carlos Alcaraz stormed into the US Open 2026 quarterfinals with a straight-sets win over Tommy Paul, extending his impressive run in New York. Wimbledon champion Linda Noskova also reached the last eight for the first time after edging Marta Kostyuk in a gruelling three-set battle.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Carlos Alcaraz continued his dominant march at the US Open 2026, brushing aside American Tommy Paul 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 to reach the quarterfinals in New York. The defending champion was tested early, but once the Spaniard found his rhythm, Paul struggled to keep pace with his relentless baseline game. The second seed had to work for the opening set as Paul looked to use the home crowd and his



aggressive tennis to unsettle Alcaraz. But the Spaniard remained patient, absorbing the American's pace before turning defence into attack. A crucial break late in the set gave Alcaraz the advantage, and he made sure Paul had little opportunity to fight his way back. Alcaraz carried that momentum into the second set, taking control of rallies with his powerful forehand and exceptional movement. Paul was repeatedly forced into defensive positions as the Spaniard dictated play from the baseline. Alcaraz broke at key moments and protected his own serve to move within one set of another convincing

victory. The third set followed a similar pattern. Paul continued to compete and refused to surrender easily, but Alcaraz remained composed whenever the pressure increased. The Spaniard eventually closed out the match in straight sets, extending his remarkable record at Flushing Meadows. The victory was Alcaraz's 11th consecutive win at the US Open, his 18th straight Grand Slam win on hard courts and his 15th Grand Slam quarterfinal. It was also his fifth US Open quarterfinal.

ALCARAZ KEEPS TITLE DEFENCE ON TRACK

Alcaraz will next face either Ben Shelton or Stefanos Tsitsipas in the quarterfinals. Shelton, seeded eighth, and Tsitsipas were scheduled to meet in the other fourth-round clash, with both players looking to earn a blockbuster meeting with the defending champion. Alcaraz's run is particularly impressive given that he spent four months away from competition because of a wrist injury.

PSG go for three in a row as Champions League returns

PARIS. (Agency)

Another UEFA Champions League season gets going this week with the beginning of the league phase as Paris Saint-Germain bid to join the tiny band of clubs to have won the competition three years running. PSG successfully defended their title last season when they beat Arsenal on penalties in Budapest, retaining the trophy they won for the first time in their history 12 months earlier. Luis Enrique's side have already secured their status as one of the competition's greatest teams by winning it back-to-back, something only Real Madrid had previously achieved since the inception of the modern Champions League in 1992. Winning three in a row would be on another level entirely. Real did exactly that under Zinedine Zidane between 2016 and 2018. The only other teams to manage such a feat are Ajax (1971-73) and Bayern

Munich (1974-76), while Madrid also won the first five editions of the European Cup from 1956 to 1960. "Our objectives are clear. I want to win important trophies and



there are none more important than the Champions League," said Luis Enrique, who also led Barcelona to glory in 2015. The back-to-back titles for the French giants have coincided with the introduction of the new Champions League format, with 36 teams in the league phase now playing eight games against

eight different opponents. The Parisians struggled in the league phase in each of the last two campaigns, finishing outside the top eight and having to come through the additional play-off round to make the last 16. Tough draws were partly responsible for that, and PSG will face some familiar opponents this time in Manchester City, Barcelona and Aston Villa. With each passing year, the prospect of a team other than one of Europe's super clubs winning the Champions League seems more remote.

Arsenal to take next step?

The Premier League's financial strength means all of its representatives can be expected to feature prominently, with Arsenal chief among them. Over the last three years, the Gunners have lost in the quarter-finals, the semi-finals, and then the final. There is therefore a logical next step for Mikel Arteta's side. Arsenal topped the league phase last season with a perfect record.

After US Open fiasco, Wimbledon likely to crackdown on content creators



Miami. (Agency)

Wimbledon could take a tougher stance on influencers and content creators after a series of disruptions at the US Open. The incidents have raised concerns among players about the changing atmosphere at major tennis tournaments. The All England Club is not expected to introduce a separate accreditation category for influencers or content creators, according to the Press Association. Wimbledon is also likely to take a strict approach to items such as ring lights and other equipment that could interfere with matches. **WHY IS WIMBLEDON BANNING INFLUENCERS?**

The potential crackdown comes after several incidents at this year's US Open, where players have complained about spectators using bright lights, talking loudly and filming content during points. The New York Grand Slam has made a conscious effort to bring new audiences to tennis, including by officially accrediting around 100 content creators alongside traditional journalists and broadcasters. But the experiment has also highlighted the difficulty of balancing social media-driven engagement with the etiquette expected at a major tennis tournament.

US OPEN: COCO GAUFF HITS OUT

Coco Gauff, one of the biggest stars of the women's game, has argued that certain behaviours from influencers needs to change. "I think it's great to have a different demographic to the sport," Gauff said after her second-round win over Paula Badosa on September 3. "I have no problem with influencers. I've met some of them and follow some of them online." Gauff, however, stressed that everyone attending a tennis match needs to understand the environment they are entering. "Any venue you come to, you have to follow that etiquette towards it," she said, suggesting that brands hosting guests at tournaments could do more to make first-time spectators aware of the rules.

Pakistan fans hurl sexist abuse at Kranti Goud during IND vs PAK clash

Women's Asia Cup: A video from the India-Pakistan clash shows sexist remarks directed at Kranti Goud, triggering online outrage and renewed debate over gender-based abuse in sport.

Dubai. (Agency)

A video from India's Women's Asia Cup clash against Pakistan has sparked outrage after Kranti Goud appeared to be subjected to sexist and gender-based abuse from spectators during the match. In the video circulating on social media platform X, voices can be heard making derogatory remarks about the Indian cricketer's gender

and appearance, including repeatedly claiming that she was a man. The identity of the spectators and the circumstances surrounding the incident could not be independently verified. The incident has drawn criticism online, with users condemning the abusive remarks directed at Goud during one of the biggest rivalries in women's cricket. **SEXIST ABUSE CAUGHT ON VIDEO**

The alleged heckling came during India's dominant seven-wicket victory over Pakistan in their Women's Asia Cup T20 clash on Saturday. While the video has triggered debate on social media over the treatment of women athletes, Goud's name and the nature of the remarks have



become a major talking point following the match.

Gender-based abuse and comments about the physical appearance of women athletes have remained a recurring problem in sport, particularly on social media and in stadiums. The video involving Goud has once again

brought the issue into focus, with fans calling out the remarks as unacceptable. **SPINNERS POWER INDIA'S ROUT**

On the field, India produced a thoroughly dominant performance, bowling Pakistan out for just 55 in 18.1 overs, their lowest-ever total in T20 internationals.

Young spinners Shree Charani and Prema Rawat led the demolition, picking up three wickets each. Charani returned figures of 3/7 from four overs, while leg-spinner Prema claimed 3/9. Deepti Sharma took 2/5, while Shafali Verma also chipped in with a wicket. Pakistan had started confidently, reaching 27 without loss, but collapsed dramatically after India's spinners took control. Harmanpreet Kaur's bowlers delivered a staggering 78 dot balls as Pakistan lost six wickets for just nine runs to slip from 27/0 to 36/6.



Priyanka Chopra

Jennifer Lawrence Can't Stop Giggling Together In Paris



Jennifer Lawrence and Priyanka Chopra Jonas were all smiles as they chatted and giggled together at a star-studded event in Paris. They reunited at the 13th LVMH Prize for Young Fashion Designers on Friday, September 4. It was hosted at the Fondation Louis Vuitton. Jennifer Lawrence and Priyanka Chopra Jonas shared a sweet moment at the LVMH Prize in Paris. The two stars were seen chatting, laughing and giggling together at the star-studded event. Their fun interaction has caught the attention of fans online. The video is now going viral on the internet.

The nine finalists had an impressive jury to win over, featuring some of the biggest names in fashion. Pharrell Williams, Jonathan Anderson, Sarah Burton, Maria Grazia Chiuri, Nicolas Ghesquière, Stella McCartney, Jack McCollough and Lazaro Hernandez, Camille Miceli, Nigo, Phoebe Philo and Michael Rider were among the jury members. LVMH Prize founder and Dior CEO Delphine Arnault was also present at the event.

Meanwhile, on the work front, Priyanka Chopra is currently wrapping up SS Rajamouli's Varanasi, which also stars Mahesh Babu and Prithviraj Sukumaran. The film is scheduled to hit theatres in April 2027.

Jennifer Lawrence and Priyanka Chopra Jonas attended the 13th LVMH Prize for Young Fashion Designers at Fondation Louis Vuitton in Paris.

Maithili Thakur Calls Out Swara Bhasker Over Padmaavat Jauhar Remark: 'First Study It, Then Speak'



Bihar BJP MLA and singer Maithili Thakur has criticised Swara Bhasker over her recent remarks about the depiction of Jauhar in Sanjay Leela Bhansali's Padmaavat. Maithili called Swara's comments "ugly" and said the actor should study the subject before speaking about it. Swara has been facing criticism online after questioning the message conveyed by the film's climactic Jauhar sequence, particularly when viewed from the perspective of a rape survivor.

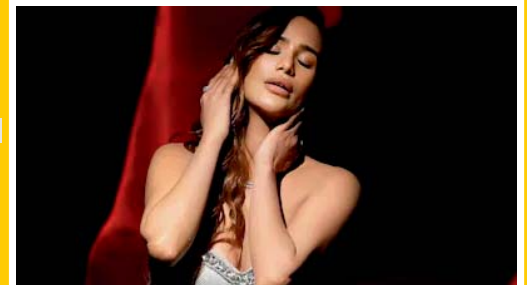
Maithili Thakur Hits Back At Swara Bhasker Speaking to the media, Maithili responded to Swara's comments and strongly disagreed with her assessment of the sequence.

"This was a really ugly remark. She made a useless remark with full confidence. I think she should not speak on it, if she has no knowledge of it. She should first study it and then speak on it," Maithili was quoted as saying by ANI. Swara had made the remarks at an event in New Delhi earlier this week. She reportedly argued that Padmaavat glorified Jauhar, the historical practice of mass self-immolation by Rajput women to avoid capture by invading forces.

What Swara Bhasker Said About Padmaavat Explaining her objection, Swara questioned what the sequence could communicate to women who have survived sexual violence.

"I was watching it, and I thought that if God forbid, I was a rape survivor, what is this film telling me? I would feel like a coward that I didn't commit suicide to save my honour. Is that what you want to tell in a society like ours where I feel like anyway there is a rape epidemic," she said. Swara continued, "Is this what we want to tell our survivors that they don't deserve to live, that if you actually would have been a honourable and brave woman, you would have killed yourself. Are we saying that rape is end of a woman's life? This scene was so problematic." The actor also singled out a shot featuring the belly of a pregnant woman participating in the Jauhar sequence, saying that the visual had particularly disturbed her.

Poonam Pandey Calls Her Erotic Content 'Social Service', Demands Prostitution Be 'Legal In India'



Poonam Pandey is yet again making headlines as the actress shared her views on erotic content and said that legalising prostitution in India can decrease the crime rate and benefit women. The actress even called her erotic videos a social service that is helping men cope with daily stress and frustration. Speaking to RVCJ Movies, she called erotic videos a "very big social service" and continued, "People are stressed out, a lot of men are stressed out. And if my one video helps them calming them down, toh ismein problem kya hai? Bahar crime rates kya ho raha hai. Prostitution legal karna chahiye in India, fir crime rates kitne kum hojayeenge, crime against women."

Poonam Pandey has spoken about facing massive criticism for the type of content she has produced and shared that even her friends sometimes crack jokes about her despite enjoying watching the videos she has made.

The actress said there are times when she loses her calm and wishes to hit back at trolls, but her standards stop her from stooping so low. "Sometimes mujhe bhi mann karta hai ki main bhi likhun, 'Teri maa ki...' Then I think, Poonam, you have some standards," she said.

Why Is Poonam Pandey Often Trolled?

Over the years, Poonam Pandey has become synonymous with controversies and is often trolled online. Recently, the actress faced criticism after she seemingly soft-launched her boyfriend on social media. She dropped a series of romantic pictures with a mystery man but did not reveal his face. However, soon after the photos were shared, netizens claimed that it must be another of her publicity stunts.

Prior to this, in April, the actress dropped another set of pictures in which she was seen flaunting her baby bump. However, she soon revealed that it was an April Fool's prank. Back then, too, Pandey was heavily trolled online.



Bipasha Basu

Recalls People Warned Her Against Doing Jism: 'They Said I Would Be Finished'

When Bipasha Basu decided to do 'Jism' (2003), she knew she was taking a risk. In a recent interview, the actress recalled that at the time, several people in the industry advised her against doing the film. The concern was that its erotic elements and bold subject could end up hurting her career. However, Bipasha wasn't convinced and decided to star in the film anyway. For the unversed, she starred opposite John Abraham in the erotic thriller Jism, directed by Amit Saxena.

Bipasha Basu Was Told Her Career Would Be 'Finished' If She Starred In Jism

In a conversation with Elle India, Bipasha recalled the time when people from the film industry warned her against doing Jism. "Everybody in the business told me, 'Do not do this film.' They said I would be finished if I did something which had a little bit of erotica," she said. For Bipasha, however, Jism was simply an adult love story, and she was comfortable with that. "And my take was that I'm an adult. It's an adult love story. It is made as an adult film. It is not for the kids," she said, explaining that she understood exactly what kind of film she was signing up for.

What drew her in was also the character of Sonia and the different shades she got to explore through the role. "I really enjoyed the shades of

Sonia in that film, and I just knew that I had to do it," she said.

Released in 2003, the erotic thriller arrived at a crucial point in Bipasha's early career. She had already made an impression with films such as Ajnabee and Raaz. Directed by Amit Saxena and written by Mahesh Bhatt, Jism starred Bipasha as Sonia Khanna, a woman caught in a



dangerous relationship with Kabir Lal, played by John Abraham in his film debut. Gulshan Grover played her wealthy husband, Rohit Khanna. The film was produced by Pooja Bhatt and Sujit Kumar Singh.

The Risk Paid Off

And despite the concerns surrounding it, Jism did not end Bipasha's career. Quite the opposite, in fact. The film emerged as a hit, with a reported India net of Rs 8.14 crore and worldwide gross of about Rs 13.41 crore, according to Box Office India.

NEWS BOX

India, Bangladesh deepen cultural ties around Nazrul Borsho celebrations

Dhaka.(Agency)

India and Bangladesh on Sunday discussed ways to deepen cultural cooperation, including exchanges in classical music, folk art and heritage conservation, with a focus on Dhaka's year-long celebrations of revolutionary poet Kazi Nazrul Islam's legacy. The discussions took place during a meeting between Indian High Commissioner Dinesh Trivedi and Bangladesh Cultural Affairs Minister Nitai Roy Chowdhury. According to a social media post by the Indian High Commission in Dhaka, the two sides spoke about the "deep-rooted cultural connection" between the peoples of the two countries and the need to strengthen cultural engagement between the neighbours. Minister of State for Cultural Affairs Ali Nawaz Mahmud Khayyam was also present at the meeting. The mission said the two sides "discussed potential cooperation and exchanges in the fields of classical music, folk art, heritage conservation, institutional linkages and joint cultural programmes and conferences, especially as part of Nazrul Borsho celebrations, which are all aimed at promoting people-to-people ties". Nazrul Borsho, or Nazrul Year, is being observed in Bangladesh from May 25, 2026, to May 25, 2027, to mark the 127th birth anniversary of the country's national poet. The year-long observance seeks to highlight his literary, musical and cultural legacy through programmes across Bangladesh and international initiatives.

Indonesia volcano erupts again; 8 airports shut, over 170,000 passengers stranded

world.(Agency)

About 170,000 passengers were stranded in Indonesia after Mount Anak Krakatau erupted again on Sunday, sending volcanic ash into surrounding airspace and disrupting air travel. Authorities suspended more than 1,500 flight operations at the country's main international airport and seven other airports. Schools across Jakarta were also ordered to shift classes online from Monday amid the heightened volcanic activity. The eruption of Anak Krakatau, located in the Sunda Strait between the islands of Java and Sumatra, produced a plume of volcanic ash that spread into surrounding airspace, disrupting hundreds of flights and prompting authorities to extend airport closures into Monday. Indonesia's airport authority said the suspension at the affected airports had been extended until 8.59 am local time on Monday because of "increased eruptive activity at Mount Anak Krakatau".

1,558 FLIGHTS DELAYED
Indonesia's transport ministry said 1,558 flights had been delayed across the eight affected airports, affecting around 170,000 passengers. More than 900 of the affected flights were to or from Jakarta's Soekarno-Hatta International Airport, the country's principal international aviation hub. Operations were also suspended at seven other airports, including Husein Sastranegara International Airport in Bandung and Radin Inten II International A. Authorities said several airports, including those serving Semarang and Surabaya, had been prepared to handle diverted flights and provide alternative landing options. The disruption left thousands of travellers scrambling to rearrange their journeys, with airlines forced to cancel or reschedule flights. One passenger, Henny Yensan, 44, told news agency AFP that she had planned to return to her hometown with her mother but had to reschedule her flight for Tuesday. irport near Bandar Lampung on Sumatra. "Everybody was disappointed," she said, adding that passengers understood the cancellations were caused by a natural disaster.

Ukraine weighs legalising porn to raise war funds, 30,000 drones in focus: Report

KATHMANDU.(Agency)

Ukraine is considering legalising and taxing its largely underground pornography industry to raise money for its war against Russia, with the move potentially



generating enough revenue to fund around 30,000 drones, The Wall Street Journal reported. A bill seeking to legalise pornography has cleared its first reading in Parliament and is awaiting a second. Lawmaker Yaroslav Zhelezniak, who chairs Parliament's finance committee and co-authored the legislation, estimates that

taxing the industry could generate up to \$25 million annually. The proposed revenue would be modest compared with Ukraine's overall wartime spending. Kyiv estimates it needs roughly \$120 billion annually for defence, but lawmakers say even a relatively small additional stream could help pay for critical military equipment. Yaroslav Zhelezniak, a lawmaker who chairs Parliament's finance committee and co-authored the bill, estimates that the potential \$25 million in annual taxes could finance approximately 30,000 drones. The proposal seeks to resolve what lawmakers describe as a legal and tax contradiction. While Ukraine's adult-content industry has grown rapidly, producing and distributing pornography remains illegal. This means creators who declare their income to tax authorities can potentially expose themselves to criminal prosecution. The scale of the online industry has nevertheless become difficult to ignore. Data cited by the Journal showed that around 7,900 Ukrainians earned more than \$131 million through OnlyFans in 2023, highlighting the potential tax base.

Germany moves to end ICJ case over its military support for Israel in Gaza war

Berlin will argue the UN court lacks jurisdiction or that Nicaragua's claims are inadmissible as four days of hearings begin in The Hague.

THE HAGUE.(Agency)

Germany will Monday ask the top United Nations court to toss out a case brought against it by Nicaragua, which has accused Berlin of "facilitating genocide" with its support of Israel. Lawyers for Germany will kick off four days of hearings at the International Court of Justice (ICJ), the court based in The Hague that rules on disputes between countries. The case dates back to 2024,

following the start of Israel's offensive in Gaza. Nicaragua urged ICJ judges to impose emergency measures to force Berlin to halt all aid to Israel, in particular military equipment. The court threw out Nicaragua's request in April of that year, saying "the circumstances, as they now present themselves" did not justify emergency orders. The case is nevertheless ongoing and Germany is now seeking to have it removed, either by persuading judges they do not have the power to rule in the case or that Nicaragua's argument does not stack up. Berlin has filed so-called "preliminary objections to the jurisdiction of the Court and to the admissibility of certain claims" presented by Nicaragua, according to an ICJ statement. The detail of Berlin's case has not yet been made public. Genocide claim After Germany presents its case on

Monday, Nicaragua will respond before both countries get another chance to address the court on Wednesday and



Thursday. It takes on average six months for the court to hand down a ruling in such cases. The court could either side with Germany and throw out the case completely or rule against Berlin, meaning the case would then be

considered "on the merits" in more detail. During hearings at the court in April 2024, Nicaragua said Germany was "pathetic" to provide aid to Gaza while also simultaneously furnishing Israel with weapons. Nicaragua's ambassador to the Netherlands, Carlos Jose Arguello Gomez, told the court: "Germany seems not to be able to differentiate between self-defence and genocide." Germany retorted that Nicaragua's case was "grossly biased", strongly denying the accusations that it was in breach of the 1948 UN Genocide Convention. Israel launched its offensive in Gaza in response to the deadly October 7, 2023 attacks against it by Hamas militants. Due to its Nzi past, Germany has placed Israel's security "at the core" of its foreign policy, its representative told the court in the 2024 hearings. Germany aid its arms trade with Israel was subject to "detailed scrutiny."

AfD wins Saxony-Anhalt vote but falls short of solo rule

Magdeburg.(Agency)

The far-right Alternative for Germany, or AfD, won a regional election in Germany's eastern state of Saxony-Anhalt on Sunday by a wide margin, but fell just short of the absolute majority it needed to govern alone. The result is a major setback for Chancellor Friedrich Merz's Christian Democratic Union, which has led the state for 24 years and suffered a sharp decline. AfD, which is anti-migration and seen as friendly towards Russia, said the result gave it a clear mandate to govern. But with the party finishing three seats short of a majority in the 83-member state parliament, it remained unclear how any stable government could be formed, as mainstream parties have long refused to work with AfD. Final results showed AfD winning 43.8 per cent of the vote, more than double its share from five years ago, and taking 39 seats. Merz's CDU polled 17.2 per cent, about half its

previous support, and won 15 seats. The centre-left Social Democrats got 9.3 per cent, the Greens 8.9 per cent and the Left Party 8.6 per cent, with eight seats each. The BSW party won 5.3 per cent and five seats. Ulrich Siegmund, AfD's 35-year-old candidate for governor, told public broadcaster ARD that "we have written history" and that voters had sent a signal that "things cannot carry on like this". He also said that "a very good campaigner for us in this election campaign was Friedrich Merz". He said AfD would not engage in "games" such as forming a minority government. AfD had been aiming to secure an outright majority and break through the so-called firewall under which mainstream parties refuse to cooperate with it. A first state government would be the biggest prize in the party's 13-year history. Even if it does not enter government, the result is a serious blow to Merz at a time of broad discontent with the national

government and its failure so far to convince voters that it can revive Germany's sluggish economy. Modern Germany has not had a far-right or right-wing populist party lead a national, state or majority government. AfD is the biggest opposition party in the national parliament and is strongest in the formerly communist and less prosperous east, where Saxony-Anhalt is located. Its regional branch in Saxony-Anhalt is among several that Germany's domestic intelligence agency has classified as a proven right-wing extremist group, citing among other things members' denigration of migrants from Muslim countries. The party talks of "remigration", a politically charged term for the deportation of immigrants. In a neighbouring state, one of its leaders appealed two convictions for knowingly using a Nazi slogan. AfD rejects accusations of extremism and says they are politically motivated.

Nepal mourns flood dead as nearly 5,000 remain missing

Kathmandu.(Agency)

Nepal observed a national day of mourning on Monday, the 13th day after the Rasuwa flash flood disaster, to honour more than 1,340 people killed in one of the country's deadliest natural disasters in recent years. Nearly 5,000 people are still missing, including 589 foreign nationals, after flash floods hit Rasuwa, which borders China, and adjoining districts on August 26 following an ice-rock avalanche in the high Himalayas. The disaster caused widespread loss of life and heavy damage to infrastructure in northern and central Nepal, even as search and rescue operations continued in the worst-hit areas. The government declared September 7 a national day of mourning for victims of the floods that swept through Rasuwa, Nuwakot, Dhading and other areas along the Bhotekoshi and Trishuli river systems. The mourning is being observed on the 13th day after the disaster, in line with the Hindu practice of marking the thirteenth day after a death. In many Hindu communities, this day is seen as an important part of the mourning period, when rituals are performed to honour the dead and mark the end of the formal mourning period.

"The national flag will be flown at half-mast at government offices across the country and at Nepali diplomatic missions abroad," the Ministry of Home Affairs said in a statement issued on Sunday. The floods caused large-scale destruction of homes, roads, bridges, hydropower projects, government offices and other critical infrastructure. Search and rescue operations are continuing, including inside hydropower project tunnels, with security personnel and specialised international rescue teams working to trace missing people and recover bodies. At least 32,000 families have been displaced, around 7,500 houses have been completely destroyed, and livelihoods and essential infrastructure across central Nepal have been severely disrupted. The government has mobilised the Nepali Army, Nepal Police, Armed Police Force and other agencies for search, rescue, relief and recovery work. Specialist teams from neighbouring countries, including India, have also joined efforts to rescue people believed to be trapped in hydropower tunnels. Meanwhile, the government has declared Tuesday, September 8, a public holiday to mark Gen Z Martyrs' Day. On the same day last year, Gen Z-led protests broke out in Kathmandu against a government decision to ban social media platforms, alleged corruption, and what protesters described as the ostentatious lifestyles of the children of influential politicians and officials. The protests turned violent after security personnel opened fire near the Parliament building, killing 72 people, including children, and eventually forcing then prime minister K P Sharma Oli to resign.

Gyirong post wiped out: Nepal flood jolts 2016 China-Nepal BRI rail plan

→ The flash flood near the Nepal-China (Tibet) border has wrecked the Himalayan nation's key road link to Tibet, highlighting the risks facing Beijing's proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) railway between Tibet and Kathmandu. Experts have called for a rethink of the design and disaster safeguards before the railway project moves beyond paper.

KATHMANDU.(Agency)

The intense flash floods left very little recognisable of what was the Gyirong Land Port between Nepal and China (Tibet). The land port has collapsed, while roads and bridges have disappeared under mud and debris. Rescuers arriving at the site found

"nothing but ruins". The devastation at the border post, located at around 1,800 metres (5,900 feet) above sea level in the fragile Himalayan terrain,



has wiped out a crucial land-based trade route between Nepal and China. But the damage could have wider implications. With Gyirong and its surrounding areas devastated, the floods have also thrown into question China's proposed Belt and Road

Initiative (BRI) railway linking Tibet with Kathmandu. The railway, which has barely progressed beyond paper since it was conceived in 2016, now faces a fresh and formidable challenge. The floods have exposed the hazards of building such a project in the fragile Himalayan terrain, prompting experts to call for a reassessment. Any such project in this vulnerable region could also have adverse strategic implications for India. Experts have flagged the construction of a mega dam near the Namcha Barwa, right before the Brahmaputra enters India. Experts have sought cross-border hydrological studies, real-time warning systems and a new disaster-management framework.

North Korea commissions second destroyer as Kim calls for stronger deterrent

Seoul.(Agency)

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has commissioned the country's second naval destroyer and called for a more reliable nuclear deterrent, according to state media reports on Monday. The move came as the United States, South Korea and Japan began a five-day trilateral military exercise that Pyongyang sees as a security threat. The development also comes as North Korea steps up pressure on Washington after rejecting President Donald Trump's decision to scale back a major US-South Korea military drill as a conciliatory gesture towards Kim. Observers say Pyongyang is seeking bigger concessions from the US. The destroyer, named Kang Kon, was commissioned into North Korea's navy on Sunday at a ceremony in the eastern port city of Wonsan. Kim attended the event with his teenage daughter, whom South Korea's spy agency has described as his likely heir. State media photographs showed her in a white dress and blazer, walking beside her father on

a red carpet, touring the warship and posing with sailors. The Kang Kon and the Choe Hyon, which was commissioned in June, are both 5,000-tonne destroyers equipped with nuclear-capable missiles. They are North Korea's most advanced warships. In a speech at the ceremony, Kim said the back-to-back commissioning of the destroyers had instilled fear in enemies and that the nuclear armament of North Korea's navy made it possible to use its nuclear deterrent in a more diversified and practical way. "Concerns of the enemies will be surely deepened," Kim said. "We must establish more clearly a powerful and reliable nuclear war deterrent, to put into practice the diverse and effective operation of our nuclear combat systems and further strengthen our military activities for maritime defence and war deterrence." On Monday, the US, South Korea and Japan were set to begin their Freedom Edge exercise in waters off South Korea's southern Jeju island. South Korea's military has said the exercise is defensive in nature and is

meant to respond to North Korea's nuclear threats. Last week, North Korea's Foreign Ministry accused the US of more clearly showing a confrontational posture towards the North, citing the Freedom Edge exercise and reported comments by US officials that Washington remains committed to the complete denuclearisation of North Korea. On August 21, the US and South Korean militaries ended their annual Ulchi Freedom Shield exercise six days earlier than originally planned after Trump said he had ordered the Pentagon to "substantially reduce" the drill. Trump cited what he described as a good relationship with Kim, who views the exercise as a rehearsal for invasion. But Kim's sister and senior official Kim Yo Jong dismissed the outreach, saying merely shortening the drill would not change its "provocative, aggressive nature". North Korea later launched about 10 short-range ballistic missiles towards the sea, apparently carrying out its earlier threat to respond to the US-South Korean exercise.