

J&K's first international film festival opens with 135 films from across the world

New Delhi. (Agency)

The first ever international film festival in Jammu and Kashmir got underway on Monday with 135 films including 60 foreign entries to be screened during the four-day festival in an attempt to revive J&K's long-association with the world of cinema and make it once again a preferred destination for film making and film making.

The 4-day film festival themed "Rang-e-Cinema" (colours of cinema) is being held from September 7-10 at Srinagar, Jammu and world famous ski resort of Gulmarg in north Kashmir. Organised by J&K Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) in collaboration with the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC), the festival opened on Monday with the screening of Lebanese filmmaker Sarah Francis's film "Dead Dog" at INOX, Srinagar's only multiplex. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah inaugurated the festival at Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC), Srinagar yesterday evening marking a new chapter in Jammu & Kashmir's long.

Bombay HC rejects Rahul Gandhi's plea against 2019 defamation summons over remarks on Modi

New Delhi. (Agency)

The Bombay High Court on Tuesday refused to quash summons issued to Congress MP and Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi in a 2019 defamation case over his remarks against Prime Minister Narendra Modi, whom he had called a "commander-in-thief". single bench of Justice N R Borkar dismissed Gandhi's petition against the magistrate court's order, but extended by six weeks an earlier directive to the lower court to defer hearing on the defamation plaint. Gandhi, the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, sought the extension so that he can file an appeal in the Supreme Court. The direction to defer the hearing on the defamation complaint meant that Gandhi would not be required to appear before the magistrate. Justice Borkar said it did not find any "perversity and illegality" in the magistrate's order and hence no reason to interfere. "This court finds no infirmity in the order. Hence, the petition is dismissed," the HC said. The complainant, M H Shrishrimal, had opposed Gandhi's plea in the High Court, claiming that being a member of BJP, he too was aggrieved by the remarks made against his leader. The court refused to accept Gandhi's contention that the complainant was not an aggrieved party as the remarks were against a person and not the political party.

'Naraz fufa ji' now has work, PM snipes after unveiling Rs 35,000-crore projects

At a Vadodara event, PM Modi unveiled and launched Rs 35,000-crore projects and mocked critics as 'naraz fufa ji'. He used the dedicated freight corridor to contrast his government's record with the UPA and to underline self-reliance in manufacturing.

New Delhi(Agency)

Stepping up his attack on the Opposition, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday doubled down on his epithet for those who question his government's development record: Naraz Fufa ji, or angry uncle. PM Modi made the remarks at the NaMo for Viksit Bharat event in Gujarat's Vadodara, where he inaugurated and laid the foundation stones for development projects worth Rs 35,000 crore. The projects include a 2,800-kilometre dedicated rail freight corridor, which he called a "historic achievement of the 21st century".

Using the corridor to contrast the "work culture" of the BJP and Congress governments, PM Modi said the project was conceived under former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee but made little progress during the UPA government

led by Manmohan Singh. "The freight corridor project was conceived in 2004 but nothing moved till BJP came to power in 2014," he said. Without naming anyone, the Prime Minister then took a dig at naysayers who would question the utility of the project. "One naraz fufa ji will be crying out, 'What will the truck drivers do?' Uncle Ji now has work," he jibed. He said the freight corridor is taking rail connectivity to places that had remained without it even after independence. The project, he added, was part of a broader push to build an Indian supply chain to strengthen Atmanirbharta (self-reliance). Taking another swipe at the erstwhile UPA regime, PM Modi said, "After 2014, India built 50,000 modern railway coaches; previous regime could not

build even 50,000 toilets in 10 years." The Prime Minister said India was now entering a new manufacturing era, "from chips to ship", with both components and finished



products being made domestically. **WHEN PM COINED 'NARAZ FUFU JI'**

"Naraz fufa ji" is the latest in PM Modi's growing arsenal of sarcastic labels for

critics. He first used the term last week at the Shri Ram College of Commerce Centenary event, where his speech was peppered with Gen Z lingo as part of his outreach to young voters. At that event, he used the analogy while hitting out at those who questioned India's stronger-than-expected 7.8 per cent GDP growth in the first quarter of 2026-27. He said "negative people" had made a sport of opposing government initiatives. "Outside the campus, you will find two types of people: those who positively transform the power of society into the power of the nation and the others who turn into naraz fufa as soon as any work begins," he said. Stung by the characterisation, opposition leaders had pushed back. Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge accused PM Modi of coming up with "a new adjective" every year.

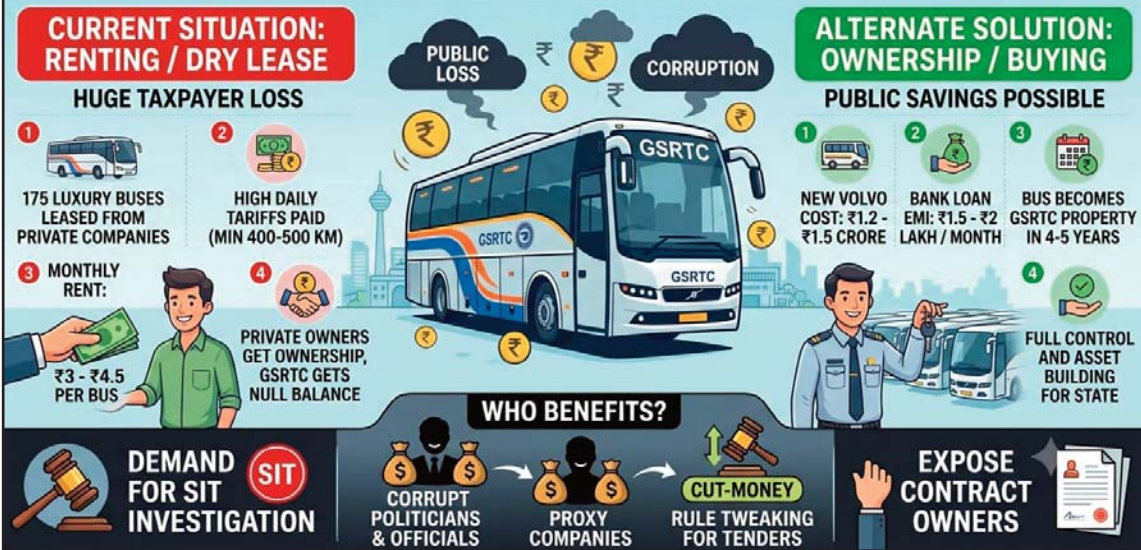
Mega ₹1,000 Crore Scam Alleged in GSRTC Volvo Bus Lease Contracts

Public Money Siphoned by Politicians and Officials

MAHANAGAR METRO GANDHINAGAR — The Gujarat State Road Transport Corporation (GSRTC), widely considered the lifeline for ordinary citizens, is currently embroiled in allegations of a massive financial irregularity. Sensational reports have emerged indicating a ₹1,000 crore mega-scam involving the leasing of 175 luxury Volvo and premium buses. Critics allege that corrupt officials and influential ruling party politicians are orchestrating this "cut-money" game, draining public tax money under the guise of dry and wet lease agreements. The Financial Loophole: Leasing vs. Buying Simple mathematics exposes the alleged corruption behind these leasing contracts. GSRTC currently pays heavy daily tariffs based on a fixed minimum calculation of 400 to 500 kilometers per day. Exorbitant Rent: The Corporation pays a staggering ₹3 lakh to ₹4.5 lakh in monthly rent per bus to private companies. The EMI Reality: A brand-new luxury Volvo or high-end premium bus costs approximately ₹1.20 crore to ₹1.50 crore. If the GSRTC were to take a bank loan to purchase these buses, the monthly

EMI would only be around ₹1.50 lakh to ₹2 lakh. Total Loss to Exchequer: By paying EMIs, the GSRTC could take full ownership of these buses in just 4 to 5 years. Instead, by opting to pay exorbitant rent for years, the Corporation's bank balance is being depleted, while ownership of the buses permanently remains with private operators. Who is Shielding the 'Big Fish'? Sources reveal that ordinary operators are not behind this massive fleet of 175 buses. Instead, companies with benami (proxy) partnerships involving high-ranking politicians in Gandhinagar and corrupt serving or retired officials are pulling the strings. It is alleged that tender rules and conditions were systematically altered to favor these specific private agencies and politically

GSRTC: THE ALLEGED ₹1,000 CRORE VOLVO LEASING SCAM



backed companies, allowing crores of taxpayers' money to flow directly into their private vaults. Burning Questions and Demand for an SIT Probe The blatant misuse of funds has sparked outrage, raising critical questions against the administration: Why Rent When You Can Buy? If the Corporation is financially capable of purchasing its own buses, why are crores of rupees being handed over to

private companies as rent every month? Who Are the Real Owners? Which companies were awarded the contracts for these 175 Volvo buses, and who are the actual directors and masterminds behind them? Why Not Cancel the Contracts? Why is the GSRTC not canceling these allegedly corrupt agreements to buy its own fleet and save public money?

Delhi Buildings Over 50 Years Old To Face Safety Audits: Minister

New Delhi (Agency)

Buildings more than 50 years old under the Delhi Development Authority could soon face safety audits at regular intervals, Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Manohar Lal Khattar said today, a day after seven people were killed in a building collapse in Delhi's Satya Niketan.

Manohar Lal Khattar said the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs is considering a plan to conduct safety audits of all DDA buildings that are more than 50 years old. He also said audits could be carried out at intervals of 10 years, five years and three years. "I am deeply saddened by the heart-wrenching incident that occurred yesterday at Satya Niketan in Delhi," Khattar said. He said the Municipal Corporation of Delhi should also take action at its level to ensure that such incidents do not happen again. The proposal comes after a five-storey building

in Satya Niketan, near Delhi University's South Campus, collapsed on Sunday, killing seven people and trapping several others under the debris. Twelve people were rescued during the operation. The building was being used as a boys' paying guest accommodation. Preliminary information suggested that repair work was being carried out in the basement when the structure collapsed. Water accumulation in the basement and the repair work have emerged as possible factors, though the exact cause is still being investigated.

"Waiting For My Retirement": Chief Justice Rejects Aravalli Panel's Extension

CJI Surya Kant asked the committee to work day and night to complete the exercise within the stipulated period.

Jaipur.(Agency)

During a court hearing, Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant said on Monday that the high-powered committee constituted to examine the definition and conservation of the Aravalli range appeared to be seeking time until after his retirement.

A three-judge bench led by CJI Surya Kant was hearing the matter when the committee sought time until February 27, 2027, to submit its report. Responding to the request, the CJI said, "It appears from the committee's request that they are waiting for my retirement." The Supreme Court rejected the request for six months and directed the committee to submit its report within three months, by November 30, 2026. CJI Surya Kant asked the committee to work day and night to

complete the exercise within the stipulated period.

The matter will next be heard by the Supreme Court on December 2, 2026.



CJI Surya Kant directed the committee to follow a comprehensive consultation process before arriving at its final conclusions. The committee has been asked to consider the views of all stakeholders affected by decisions concerning the

Aravalli region, including tribal communities in Rajasthan and Gujarat. The court also permitted the committee to submit an interim report, so that proceedings do not have to wait until the completion of the entire consultation process. The dispute over the definition of the Aravallis intensified following a Supreme Court order dated November 20, 2025, which permitted mining on hills below 100 metres. The decision triggered widespread concern over the potential impact of the 100-metre criterion on the protection of the Aravalli range. On November 29, 2025, the Supreme Court stayed its own order. It subsequently directed the formation of an expert committee to examine the issue and sought responses from the Centre and the four states associated with the Aravalli range -- Rajasthan, Gujarat.

Sunny start to week as temperatures rise sharply

Gurgaon.(Agency)

The city’s week began on a sunny note, with a sharp rise in temperatures on Monday. The maximum temperature climbed up by more than six degrees in parts of Gurgaon. The maximum temperature was recorded at 35 degrees Celsius at NorthCap University, up from 28.5 degrees Celsius a day earlier, while Gurgaon KVK recorded 34 degrees Celsius, compared with 28.1 degrees Celsius on Sunday. The minimum temperature, however, dipped marginally to 24.6 degrees Celsius, from 24.8 degrees Celsius a day earlier. According to India Meteorological Department (IMD), the mercury is likely to rise gradually during the week, with daytime temperatures expected to remain above 33°C. While no weather warning has been issued for the state for the upcoming week, scattered rain is likely over parts of Haryana till Sept 11 and light to moderate rain accompanied by thunderstorms and lightning is possible at isolated places. The temperatures are likely to remain on the higher side between rain spells. With a low-pressure system over central Uttar Pradesh and a trough stretching from south Gujarat towards the state, weather conditions remain favourable for rain over parts of north India. A western disturbance over Kashmir is also persisting, which could further influence weather activity in the region. Rainfall has remained above normal in the city this month. During the first seven days of September, Gurgaon recorded 57 mm of rainfall against the normal 34 mm, an excess of 68%.

1.6k factories, 2 pumps, choked drains: Why Ecotech-3 turns a flood zone

Noida.(Agency)

Waterlogging continues to plague Ecotech-3, the largest industrial cluster under the Greater Noida Industrial Development Authority (GNIDA), during the monsoon, with inadequate drainage leaving roads and industrial units flooded. The area houses more than 1,600 industrial units, including large manufacturers, garment exporters, aerospace parts and automobile companies, besides MSMEs. The weekend showers have once again exposed the area’s drainage shortcomings. “Despite yearly assurances from authorities to resolve the persistent issue, this year has proved no different, with entrepreneurs facing devastating losses of nearly Rs 15 to Rs 20 lakhs due to inadequate drainage infrastructure during the monsoon season,” Amit Upadhyay, president, Industrial Business Association (IBA), Ecotech 3, said. The area is home to several prominent manufacturers and multinational corporations such as New Holland Tractors, Yamaha and various engineering firms, and plays a significant role in the state’s economy. The region’s drainage systems, however, have not been updated to accommodate the rapid industrial growth, leading to severe flooding during heavy rainfall, entrepreneurs claim. The IBA had previously raised demands for several high-capacity dewatering pumps to be deployed in preparation for the monsoon, but GNIDA officials failed to act adequately. “Our repeated calls for preventive measures and proper drainage infrastructure were ignored. The situation in Udyog Kendra-2 is particularly dire, with areas completely submerged and businesses at a standstill,” Upadhyay said. He added that many people suffered loss of raw materials on top of financial losses, as materials were submerged in rainwater. The workforce also took a hit as employees could not make it to work due to the possibility of having to wade through knee-deep water, while some had to leave early because of flooding.

Noida fixes uniform rate of Rs 86k for IT/ITeS plots

Noida.(Agency)

Noida Authority has reset the price of IT/ITeS land, fixing a uniform allotment rate of Rs 86,000 per square metre and scrapping the earlier phase-wise system that offered sharply different figures across the city. Under the old policy, plots were divided into three categories – Phase 1 at Rs 77,620 per sqm, Phase 2 at Rs 39,580 and Phase 3 at Rs 27,560. The new rate will apply to fresh allotments for software parks, data centres, KPOs, BPOs, call centres and online customer support facilities. The move comes as Noida’s existing land bank continues to shrink after decades of planned urban and industrial expansion. Spread across 20,316 hectares, the city has more than 150 sectors and 100 villages, leaving little vacant land for fresh large-scale allotments. “The decision was taken in view of limited availability of land in Noida. We held a meeting and decided to do away with the categorisation of plots. The new allotment rates will be applicable from this month,” said additional CEO Vandana Tripathi. Noida has, meanwhile, emerged as a major IT/ITeS destination in Delhi-NCR. Sectors 62 and 63 remain its traditional technology belt, while the Noida Expressway corridor, stretching through sectors 125, 126, 132, 135, 142 and 144, has developed into another major corporate cluster. “Noida International Airport, a dedicated freight corridor and major expressways have strengthened regional connectivity and made the city a preferred destination for fresh investment,” an official said. Officials said some IT/ITeS plots along the expressway are still available and will now be allotted at the revised rate. The pricing change also comes amid a broader upward revision in the cost of land around Noida.

NHAI stops soil testing on service road for flyover construction near Ambience Mall in Gurgaon

Gurgaon.(Agency)

NHAI on Monday stopped soil investigation being carried out by DLF for a proposed six-lane flyover between Ambience Mall and Cyber City. The move came after officials found that drilling was being carried out on the service road without the required permission. NHAI officials said permission had been granted to the agency for soil investigation, including bore logging, but it did not cover drilling on the main service road, particularly near the edge of a flyover’s retaining wall. Barricades and traffic diversions put up for the soil testing had slowed movement on the service road, with a queue extending towards the pedestrian underpass on the expressway. “Permission has been given for soil investigation. However, it should not be carried out on the main service road. Bore logging cannot be carried out there without first assessing the ground



profile through ground-penetrating radar, as there are several underground utilities in the area. Bore logging can be done at suitable nearby locations, preferably on the green space. The work has been stopped for now,” an NHAI official said, adding that NHAI is

issuing a letter to the A DLF representative said they had obtained the necessary permission for the soil investigation. “We have taken permission for the soil investigation to check the soil and ground condition for the proposed flyover,” the official

said. The stoppage comes amid concerns over underground utilities along the Delhi-Gurgaon Expressway. Last month, a 30ft-wide sinkhole developed near IFFCO Chowk after a master sewer pipeline was damaged. DLF has in-principle approval for the proposed flyover, which is planned to provide direct connectivity from the Ambience Mall U-turn underpass towards Cyber City. The proposed six-lane structure would run above the existing four-lane service road, which would continue to carry traffic below. Ramps are also proposed to allow vehicles using the U-turn underpass to access the elevated corridor towards Cyber City and IFFCO Chowk. The project is intended to reduce conflicts between through traffic heading towards Cyber City and Udyog Vihar and vehicles emerging from the U-turn underpass and areas around Ambience Mall, Leela Hotel and Lagoon.

IndusInd Bank Fraud: Ceramic Company Assistant Manager Duped of ₹50,000 in Bareja; FIR Filed at Aslali Police Station

Victim was sent a fake link to enter credit card details and tricked into sharing OTPs twice

Mahanagar Metro Desk BAREJA (DASKROI): In a concerning case of cyber-crime, Samir Patel, an assistant manager at a ceramic company residing in Bareja, Daskroi taluka, was allegedly cheated of ₹50,000 by a cyber fraudster posing as an IndusInd Bank representative. Following the victim's complaint, the Aslali police have registered an FIR and launched an investigation to track down the culprit. How the Fraud Unfolded According to the police complaint, the incident occurred when the victim received a phone call from an unidentified mobile number. The caller impersonated an IndusInd Bank official and fraudulently claimed that a health insurance policy had been activated on his credit card due to a system error on the bank's end. When the victim requested to cancel the unwanted policy, the fraudster sent a link via WhatsApp, reassuring him that the insurance could be easily de-

activated by clicking it. Credit Card Details & OTP Compromised Trusting the caller, the assistant manager opened the link and entered his credit card information. Shortly after, an OTP (One-Time Password) was delivered to his mobile phone. Following the step-by-step instructions given by the caller, he unknowingly shared the OTP. Within moments, ₹30,000 was debited from his account, followed immediately by another transaction of ₹20,000, bringing the total loss to ₹50,000. Police Action & Cyber Helpline Realizing he had been scammed after receiving debit alert messages from his bank, the victim immediately called the official cybercrime helpline 1930 to report the fraud and freeze further unauthorized transactions. He subsequently lodged an official complaint at the Aslali police station. The police have initiated legal proceedings and an active investigation against the mobile



number holder and any other accomplices involved in the racket. Cyber Safety Advisory: Never Share OTPs: Bank officials will never ask for your OTP, PIN, CVV, or passwords over a phone call or text message. Avoid Unverified Links: Do not click on unknown links sent via SMS or

messaging platforms like WhatsApp to cancel services or update account details. Act Quickly: If you fall victim to financial cyber fraud, immediately dial 1930 or report the crime online at cyber-crime.gov.in within the golden hour to maximize the chances of recovering your funds.

New ward-level teams to track garbage points, sweeping and collection in Gurgaon

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

MCG on Monday appointed 36 ward-wise sanitation nodal assistants-cum-assistant sanitary inspectors to regularly inspect and monitor sanitation across the city. According to an order issued by the civic body, the nodal assistants will oversee garbage vulnerable points (GVPs), door-to-door waste collection, road sweeping, and cleanliness of roads, streets and public areas. They have been directed to conduct regular field inspections and immediately report sanitation deficiencies to the concerned field staff or agency. All inspections must be recorded on MCG inspection app, along with observations, deficiencies found and action taken. The nodal assistants will also monitor complaints received through govt grievance redressal platforms, official channels and other legitimate sources. They will verify such complaints and ensure their timely resolution. Complaints related to vulnerable points, door-to-door garbage collection and road sweeping will be addressed on priority.



They are required to maintain records of complaints and issues, including their source, action taken, time taken for resolution and pending status. MCG commissioner Pradeep Dahiya said regular field-level monitoring and accountability were essential to improving the city’s sanitation system. “Ward-wise appointment of sanitation

nodal assistants will make it more effective to identify deficiencies in sanitation services, monitor complaints and ensure their time-bound resolution,” he said. Dahiya directed officials to take immediate action on serious or recurring sanitation problems and ensure continued follow-up until deficiencies identified in the field are resolved.

Serious, repeated or unresolved sanitation problems must be immediately brought to the notice of joint commissioners for intervention. Joint commissioners will monitor the functioning of nodal assistants under their jurisdiction and ensure timely resolution of sanitation-related complaints. The order also requires joint commissioners to submit a consolidated report by 11am to additional commissioners, with a copy to the additional commissioner (HQ). The report must include the number and details of complaints received or noticed, ward-wise status, source or platform of complaints, action taken, issues resolved, pending matters with reasons, and cases requiring further intervention. MCG has directed strict compliance with the daily reporting mechanism. Serious sanitation issues requiring immediate attention must be reported to higher authorities without waiting for the scheduled daily report. The order clarifies that merely reporting a sanitation deficiency will not be considered compliance, and nodal assistants must follow up until the issue is actually resolved.

NEWS BOX

Clean Air Measures Can Improve Delhi's Air Quality By 20% By 2040: UN Report

New Delhi (Agency).

Delhi must reduce PM2.5 exposure burden by 20 per cent by 2040 if it achieves current national air quality standards on schedule starting in 2026, a new report claims. The report says that if there is a delay of about eight years (the expected average global implementation delay) in reaching the standards, the reduction would only be 10 per cent, translating into substantially greater health impacts over the period. The report, 'Hidden Assets: The Economic and Health Case for Climate and Clean Air Action', was released by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) on Monday. The report is the first comprehensive global economic assessment of integrated climate and clean-air action. The document identifies 25 solutions to tackle both problems simultaneously – measures that are already feasible, like renewable power and energy efficiency, increasing clean cooking and heating solutions, and tighter vehicle emission and efficiency standards.



The annual economic benefits of implementing those measures would be equivalent to 2.8 per cent of global GDP in 2035, 4.5 per cent of the global GDP in 2050, and 11.4 per cent of the global GDP in 2100, according to the analysis. Each year of delay foregoes more than 0.5 per cent of global GDP in benefits, equivalent to more than USD 1.5 trillion in combined market and non-market value.

"Strengthening enabling conditions -- economic, social, technological and institutional -- can bring all 25 solutions fully into place up to a decade sooner, substantially boosting reductions in PM2.5 and ozone precursors over the 2025-2050 period," the report says. Implementation delays of 7.5 to 8 years are expected globally on average, with institutional barriers the single largest contributor, accounting for approximately 2.4 years over a notional 15-year implementation window. "A delay of this scale roughly halves the emissions reductions achievable by 2035," it says.

Mouse, leaking water, unauthorised passengers: Man's ride on Gorakhpur-Mumbai Express turns into nightmare

LUCKNOW (Agency). A mouse nibbling at food, water leaking inside the coach and unauthorised passengers crowding a reserved compartment. For Anoop Singh, a journey aboard the Gorakhpur-Lokmanya Tilak Terminus Express turned into a running list of complaints, which he documented through a series of posts on X. Singh, travelling on train 15018 in B1 coach on seat number 70 on Monday, repeatedly tagged Railways authorities, including RailMinIndia, RailwaySeva, RailMadad and RPF, seeking assistance during the journey.

In one post, Singh claimed that he spotted a mouse inside the coach and that the rodent damaged food items he was carrying. Photographs shared by him showed food packets that he alleged had been damaged. He sought immediate intervention from onboard housekeeping and pest-control staff. Singh also posted a video alleging water leakage inside the coach and asked railway authorities to send assistance.

His complaints did not stop there. Singh alleged that unauthorised passengers had crowded the reserved B1 coach, including its doorway and passage. He shared a photograph purportedly showing passengers sitting near the coach entrance. In a series of posts, he repeatedly sought deployment of RPF personnel and the travelling ticket examiner to clear the coach. Singh claimed that even after the TTE asked the passengers to leave, they continued to remain inside. "No one is here for past 30 minutes," he wrote in another post while seeking intervention. Singh also complained that the train was running significantly late, adding to his ordeal. An official response from the office of the Divisional Railway Manager, Lucknow Division of North Eastern Railway, was awaited on the passenger's allegations and action taken, if any.

Case against Kerala anchor over remarks during debate on cleric's sexist comments

Aparna Kurup, a Kerala television journalist, is facing a police case over remarks made during a debate on cleric Kanthapuram AP Aboobacker Musliyar's misogynistic comments about women.

Chandigarh (Agency). The Kerala Police on Monday registered a case against television journalist Aparna Kurup over remarks made during a political debate on controversial comments by Sunni Islamic scholar Kanthapuram AP Aboobacker Musliyar about women appearing in public.

The case was registered against Kurup, senior coordinating editor of Malayalam news channel Big TV, on the basis of a complaint filed by Abdul Hakkim, a native of Kasaragod, after her comments sparked a massive row. According to the FIR, during the debate, Kurup remarked that certain individuals act as if consuming cannabis, being arrested for narcotics offences, or engaging in sexual misconduct is permissible under the teachings of the Quran. The complaint alleged that she made the remarks with the intention and knowledge that they could cause a breach of peace and potentially lead to a riot, while also deliberately hurting the religious sentiments of members of a



religious community. The sections invoked against her relate to provoking riots, deliberately hurting religious sentiments, wounding religious feelings through words or gestures and promoting enmity between different groups. The offences carry

punishments ranging from up to six months to three years in prison, a fine, or both. A section of the Kerala Police Act, which carries a punishment of up to one year in prison, a fine of up to Rs 5,000, or both, has also been invoked.

The case relates to Kurup's introductory remarks before the television discussion on comments made by Kanthapuram about women appearing on public platforms. Kanthapuram, one of the tallest Muslim clerics in Kerala and the Grand Mufti of India, recently said Islam prescribes that women must be confined to their homes and that if they step out, it would lead to "great destruction". According to the police, Kurup made the alleged remarks while criticising Kanthapuram's statement. Following the broadcast, she faced severe criticism from several sections, particularly Muslim organisations. She also faced attacks on social media, following which the journalist filed a separate case, police said.

Sharia courts can give religious opinions, not grant divorces: Chhattisgarh High Court

The Chhattisgarh High Court has declared a Raipur Sharia court order declaring a woman divorced from her husband as void. It said private religious bodies may offer opinions but cannot alter legal marital rights through binding orders.

Chandigarh (Agency). The Chhattisgarh High Court has ruled that a private religious body functioning as a Sharia court does not have the status or authority of a legally established court to grant a divorce. The court declared void an order passed by a Sharia court in Raipur, which had declared a woman divorced from her husband, holding that such private religious institutions may offer religious opinions but cannot judicially determine marital rights or dissolve a marriage through binding orders. The case concerns 38-year-old Nirosah Abbasi, whose first husband died in 2015, following which she married Mohammad Abid Khan in 2022.

A dispute subsequently arose between the couple over the adjustment of the children to their new family. According to Abbasi, her husband thereafter initiated divorce proceedings. She said her husband gave triple talaq through communications sent on

August 31, September 30 and October 30, 2021. Abbasi, meanwhile, accused her husband and in-laws of harassment, cruelty and abuse. Counselling also failed to resolve



the dispute. She lodged a complaint on October 7, 2021 and an FIR was registered on November 1. Amid the dispute, the Raipur Sharia court issued an order on January 18,

2022, declaring Abbasi divorced from her husband. When the matter came before the High Court, Justice Amitendra Kishore Prasad declared the Sharia body's order void.

The court held that private institutions such as Darul Qaza, which issue fatwas or religious opinions, are not legally constituted courts.

Such bodies may express religious views, the court held, but their opinions cannot compulsorily alter a person's legal rights, marital status or obligations. The High Court, however, did not decide the constitutional validity of a divorce in the case. Instead, it confined its ruling to the authority of the private religious body, making clear that the legal determination of divorce and marital rights can only be made through a competent judicial or legislative process.

Farmers call off week-long stir after Punjab govt gives written assurances

Mohali (Agency).

The week-long farmers' protest on the Chandigarh-Mohali borders was called off on Monday evening following written assurances by the state govt on demands raised by farmer organisations. These included river water agreements, the Punjab Reorganisation Act, the Dam Safety Act, seed legislation, farmers' loans and sugarcane payments. The decision followed a meeting between representatives of 24 farmer organisations affiliated with the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM), Punjab agriculture minister Gurmeet Singh Khuddian and health minister Dr Balbir Singh. After the meeting, the farmers dismantled their protest camp and began their journey back home. Farmer leader Balbir Singh Rajewal announced the withdrawal of the morcha after agriculture minister Khuddian handed over a written letter of assurance covering the demands. Rajewal, accompanied by Raminder Singh Patiala and Dalbir Singh Sidhupur, said copies of the letter would be provided to all participating organisations. A key assurance was that the Punjab Vidhan Sabha session would be convened within a month. The govt has agreed to place several issues before the House through resolutions, which would subsequently be forwarded to the Centre.

Thane Teen With 95.7% Marks Dies By Suicide After College Admission Failure

According to police, the boy's family suspects no foul play, attributing the extreme step entirely to academic distress.

Thane (Agency). A 17-year-old student, who had scored 95.7 per cent marks in his Class 12 science exams, allegedly died by suicide in Maharashtra's Thane city after failing to secure admission to his preferred higher education institute, police said. The boy, whose family resided in an upscale housing complex in Hiranandani Estate on Ghodbunder Road, sent a message to his family's WhatsApp group stating his intention to end his life.

However, before anyone could intervene, the boy jumped to his death from the 22nd-floor refuge area of a residential building on September 4 evening, the police said on Monday. According to police, the boy's family suspects no foul play, attributing the extreme step entirely to academic

distress. The teenager recently passed his Class 12 science exams with a score of 95.7 per cent and aspired to pursue a BS-MS dual degree at the Indian Institute of Engineering



Science and Technology (IIEST), Shibpur (Kolkata), the police said. However, he fell short of securing a seat after ranking 10,474 in the aptitude test. His disappointment deepened after failing to secure

admission in the reputed institute, they said.

According to police, the teenager left his residence around 7.30 pm on September 4, telling his family he was going for cycling. At around 8.15 pm, he sent a message to his family's WhatsApp group stating his intention to end his life. Upon seeing the message and finding his phone switched off, his family immediately alerted the Kasarvadavali police.

The police and family members rushed to search the locality and found the teenager lying severely injured on a pavement near his apartment. He was rushed to the Civil Hospital in Thane, where doctors declared him dead on arrival, the police said. An accidental death report (ADR) has been registered based on a statement given by the teen's father.

Tukaram Mundhe acts against 880 Maharashtra pharma units, Rs 11-crore stock seized

The Maharashtra FDA has acted against 880 drug manufacturing and sales establishments in a three-month drive. The action highlights a wider enforcement push under Tukaram Mundhe against unsafe and unauthorised medicines.

Mumbai (Agency). The Maharashtra Food and Drug Administration acted against 880 drug manufacturing and sales establishments and seized illegal medicines and cosmetics worth Rs 11.41 crore between June and August.

The action comes as FDA Commissioner Tukaram Mundhe has stepped up inspections of hotels, pubs and eateries, cracking the whip on businesses flouting rules to ensure food safety and regulatory compliance across the state.

DRUGS UNITS FACE ACTION

During the latest three-month drive, FDA teams conducted 2,902 inspections: 607 at manufacturing establishments and 2,295 at sales outlets. Regulatory action was taken against 140 manufacturing units and 740 sales establishments. The department

suspended 677 licences and cancelled 203 licences, the FDA said in a press release.

It also carried out 104 search-and-seizure operations, registered 20 FIRs and arrested 21 people in cases involving illegal drugs and cosmetics. The seized stock was valued at Rs 11.41 crore. The FDA said this compared with Rs 13.64 crore worth of goods seized during the previous financial year.

UNSAFE MEDICINES UNDER SCRUTINY

The inspections uncovered a range of violations, including the manufacture of substandard and unauthorised medicines, gaps in quality-control procedures and production records, and the sale of medicines without the supervision of registered pharmacists.

Officials also found medicines being sold without bills, scheduled drugs being dispensed without prescriptions, expired



medicines being improperly handled and temperature-sensitive products such as insulin and vaccines being stored incorrectly. The department said enforcement had increased sharply

compared with the previous financial year. Complaints rose 557 per cent, while investigations into complaints were up 378 per cent. Search-and-seizure operations increased 217 per cent and the value of seized goods rose 234 per cent, according to the FDA.

"Ensuring safe, quality and regulated medicines for citizens is the highest priority of the Food and Drug Administration. The inspection process has been accelerated to ensure effective regulatory oversight at every stage, from manufacturing to final sale," FDA chief Tukaram Mundhe said. He said establishments that follow the rules would be supported, while violators would continue to face strict action.

Sar tan se juda not same as Jai Shri Ram: UP violence accused's bail plea junked

The Allahabad High Court rejected the bail plea of the main accused in the September 2025 Bareilly violence case. It said the "Sar tan se juda" slogan cannot be treated as a devotional chant and is not protected as free speech.

UP (Agency). The Allahabad High Court has rejected the bail plea of Maulana Tauqeer Raza Khan, the main accused in the September 2025 Bareilly violence, and observed that the "Sar tan se juda" slogan cannot be equated with religious chants such as Jai Shri Ram and Allahu Akbar. On September 26 last year, a mob attacked police teams and raised "Sar tan se juda" slogans at the direction of Maulana Tauqeer Raza Khan during violence in Bareilly.

Clashes had erupted after Friday prayers when protesters opposing FIRs registered over "I Love Muhammad" posters were not allowed to hold a demonstration and confronted the police. The police named Maulana Tauqeer Raza Khan as the prime accused in the case. During the hearing on Monday, a single bench of Justice Ashutosh Srivastava said the religious slogans cited in the case express reverence and respect for God, while "Sar tan se juda" challenges the authority of law as well as the sovereignty and integrity of India.

The court observed that such a slogan can incite people towards violent rebellion and taking up arms, which is punishable under law. It further noted that freedom of speech cannot protect threats to the authority of law, distinguishing such chants from religious slogans expressing devotion. In view of the gravity of the matter and the allegations, the bail plea was declined.

The year the ‘Maharani of America’ came calling

The instant my eyes settled on the historic photograph of Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru flanked by Jacqueline Kennedy (JK) and her sister at a dinner table at his residence, which appeared in Spectrum, my mind drifted to BK Nehru’s (BK) 1997 memoir, ‘Nice Guys Finish Second’. For a while, I remained on a long, pleasant reverie of sophisticated diplomacy laced with elegance, before fetching our copy of the engaging autobiography from a shelf. As we learn from BK’s memoir, the implicit purpose of JK’s nine-day visit was “to make the maximum public impression of American friendship for and appreciation of India” in the guise of a goodwill ambassador arriving aboard an Air India scheduled flight. The airline rose to the occasion, modifying the front few seats for the retinue. With matching enthusiasm, the Indian bureaucracy ensured that the “route from Palam was crowded... very large numbers came from villages... in their bullock carts to have a darshan of the ‘Maharani of America’”.

The plane was dot on time but kept circling overhead, making the Prime Minister irritable and even more so when BK (the Indian Ambassador to the US at the time) informed that “Madam had not finished her toilet... that for this First Lady, beauty and elegance took primacy” over protocol, etc. Of the three days in Delhi, they were guests of the Prime Minister at the Teen Murti residence where to start with, “the young and beautiful had been invited” for a regal dinner. Believe it or not, from among all the invitees, Homi Bhabha walked up to BK suggesting that we ask the ladies “to come out dancing with us...” at ‘The Tavern’ at Imperial Hotel. Sadly for the merry duo, JK was witty enough to decline, acting the prim and proper First Lady! For all intents and purposes, JK and her sister, Lee Radziwill, were the guests of the US Ambassador, JK Galbraith, but on the insistence of the First Lady, BK would accompany as her personal guest. And for the remaining six days of the itinerary, again upon JK’s preference, the entire retinue travelled by train; “...it was clear that Jackie was enjoying hugely the luxuries of this unusual and unhurried mode of travel”. JK remained the bundle of enthusiasm sightseeing Fatehpur Sikri, Agra, Varanasi but it was at Udaipur that the fortress — palace of the Maharana — left JK so wonderstruck that on the termination of dinner after all invitees had exited, she sat on a marble bench with BK by her side and “Jackie wrote to her husband that the White House would get lost in one of its wings... overlooking the Pichola Lake... most glorious view in the moonlight” and so on. Sonu Kapadia (Foreign Office Liaison Officer) was heard mentioning the following morning that the Indian security personnel were agog, alerting their American counterparts at breakfast that “our saheb (BK) kidnapped your mamsaheb (JK) last night and you didn’t even know!” As usual for such occasions, Jaipur city and Amber fortress were the last destinations; and Lee Radziwill was a personal friend of the Maharaja and Maharani. “They had asked the two girls to stay with them, and this is what they wanted to do.” However, going by the Government of India protocol, a compromise was made — guests of the state Governor and stay at the Raj Bhavan on the first night and that of the Maharaja for the remaining two. But that fancy arrangement led to a nt-so-fancy episode. The venerable Governor, a distinguished freedom fighter, courteous and polite, ate his dinner as usual at 7 pm, and two hours later, at the dinner table, flanked by JK and Radziwill, the host ate nothing but belched often and rather audibly, which “really put the lid on Mrs Kennedy’s dislike”.

Touchstones: When teachers mattered

eachers’ Day once honoured learning; today, neglected schools expose systemic failure

I am old enough to remember the first Teachers’ Day, declared by Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru in 1962, which was the year Dr S Radhakrishnan became the President of India. It was the perfect tribute to the erudite scholar-statesman. Sadly, somewhere along the way (as is often the case), we forgot this iconic scholar, so that today September 5 is one of the many reasons why schoolchildren celebrate it as a welcome holiday. Many schools put up special performances by students to honour their teachers, arrange a lavish tea party and they then go home to spend the rest of the day as far away from the school and their teachers as possible. I am writing this in the aftermath of the Cockroach Janta Party’s (CJP) determined bid to expose the pitiful condition of our government schools across the country. Run out of broken, dilapidated ‘buildings’, they lack even the basic amenities of toilets, proper desks and benches, fans and electricity. As for the government teachers and school principals, the less said the better. They are mostly untrained and have no idea that corporal punishment is now a crime. The mid-day meal (served free and often the reason that such schools attract students) are cooked in the most unhygienic conditions and literally thrown on the thalis the students bring with them. What is worse, the absentee staff send someone else in their place while the ‘real’ teacher or ‘principal’ runs another ‘business’.

It did not have to take the CJP to expose this dismal state of affairs but because these are children of a lesser god, the state of primary and secondary education was ignored as it did not affect the children of the saheb log. Those children went to private schools, for their parents have long seceded from this India. However, others who have no other choice and are often illiterate put up with this. In any case, who would listen to their complaints? Often they are forced to send their children to private tutors, who are extortionists of another kind. All in all, it is not just successive governments that are to blame, it is equally our fault that we have allowed this state of affairs to flourish because it does not touch us. Health care and primary and secondary education have been beneath the radar of each government. It was not always so: up until two generations ago, I can recall the excellent teachers our government schools had. My own experience is worth recalling. In the 1960s, many states had an Intermediate exam that students passed after their Senior Cambridge to enter the university. My father had served as the secretary of the UP High School and Intermediate Board in Allahabad and it was respected by every university. After my SC exam, we were in Nainital and my parents insisted I attend the local girls’ Intermediate College before I went to Allahabad University.

I will never forget the huge culture shock I got when I went there, kicking and screaming. The girls came from a completely different social class from the posh students



who were my peers in our convent. The state of the classrooms, with names scratched in with a divider on the desks, the ink-stained floors and the samosas and oily snacks served by a halwai (no tuck shops here) were bad enough. But, to me, the most shocking fact was that the medium of instruction was Hindi. To hear the lungs described as ‘phuphus’, the pleura as ‘phuphusi avaran’ and the pulmonary artery as the ‘phuphusi dhamani’ floored me. I wept and told my parents that I’d prefer to do the courses privately, but they were adamant I would attend the Rajkiya Uchchatar Madhyamik Vidyalaya.

Today, I bless them. First, it declassified me in a way that was needed. It showed me how much more there was to learn from those committed teachers and the girls who sat next to me. Today, if my translation skills are rewarded, I have to thank my parents and those teachers who guided me into the labyrinths of another language that I never really considered my mother tongue.

And now to another area that has had all political parties lock horns with each other: delimitation and the women’s

reservation Bill. While every righteously angry political leader has sworn eternal allegiance to giving women their due, they somehow find ways of slithering out of passing it in Parliament, or even giving women a token presence in their governments and party structures. How long they can blame each other is going to be interesting to watch because the day is not far when women will turn the tables on them and hijack those issues that men preach but do not practice. Now let me leave you with another point worth considering and that is limiting the tenure of a government to just two consecutive terms. In the US, this is applied to the President but here we follow a different form of democracy. There is no reason why we cannot formulate a variation on that model.

Look deeply, and it is always the case that after two terms, all governments tend to become dictatorial, corrupt or fascist. The enthusiasm and zeal of the first two terms become a tired routine and the Opposition becomes irrelevant and wilts.

Tricky interest rate choice for RBI amid problem of plenty

The central bank’s liquidity management operations seem to be getting more complicated. The shift from shortfall of dollars to a swimming pool of rupees suggests that in public policy, humble policy efforts can sometimes turn counterproductive

RBI’s special measures to overcome the shortage of dollars have landed it in a surplus liquidity situation. Even though the central bank rolled back the foreign currency non-resident bank deposit scheme a month ahead of its deadline in anticipation of a dollar rush, it still mobilised a substantial \$127 billion. The large inflows, which raised the nation’s foreign exchange reserves to a record \$729.3 billion, may end up complicating the central bank’s liquidity management operations. Domestic liquidity touched a four-year high, well above RBI’s preferred level of about ₹2.7 lakh crore, according to Barclays. System surplus liquidity stood at ₹9.71 lakh crore as on September 2, and may rise further with inflows from the other two swap facilities open till December—external commercial borrowings and overseas foreign currency borrowings. It’s now estimated that core banking liquidity will likely peak ₹10-11 lakh crore during the upcoming festive season. The shift from shortfall of dollars to a swimming pool of rupees suggests that in public policy, humble



policy efforts can sometimes turn counterproductive. The primary motive was to strengthen the rupee, which had depreciated to a historic low of 96.97 to a US dollar in May. While RBI’s measures prevented the currency from weakening further, the rupee continues to hover around 95

notwithstanding the dollar flush. Some of the surplus will likely be drained due to higher currency demand during the festive season, potential forex interventions and maturities in RBI’s forward book. About \$32 billion of the central bank’s forward book is estimated to mature in a year, which could ease the liquidity pressure. But this will not be enough by itself.

So, economists expect the RBI to aggressively step in with traditional liquidity absorption tools, such as variable-rate reverse repo operations over and above such auctions worth ₹53.5 lakh crore announced between August 6 and September 2, besides a temporary increase in incremental cash reserve ratio, forex swaps and open market operations to mop up excess liquidity. The trouble is that surplus liquidity expands the money supply and, as banks have more funds to lend, it puts a downward pressure on interest rates just when the central bank quietly retired the easing bias in its August policy review.

Minding the gap, for everyone’s sake

Inauthentic dissent, as against authentic dissent, can cause people to become more entrenched in their original beliefs

Let me, again, turn to childhood memories and the different branches of the family that, one to the other, led very varied lives. My father’s side, for want of a better phrase, was ‘quite Westernised’, even Anglicised. For an outsider, it could seem strange that conversations were conducted in a fluid mix of English, Hindi and Punjabi. This was the result of their backgrounds. In late 19th-century Lahore, my grandfather was orphaned early and he and his older brother brought each other up. Both educated themselves and became academics. My grandfather’s brother, Bihari Lal, was in Jalandhar for several years and at one point, also helped Himachal’s ‘apple man’, Satyanand Stokes, set up a school in Thanedar. The younger brother, my grandfather, Sardari Lal, taught mathematics and astronomy for decades at Panjab University and at the famous Kinnaird College in Lahore. He retired just a month before Partition and, leaving my father behind to ‘keep a (futile) eye on things’, sensibly packed his bags and left with the rest of the family before the worst of the mayhem. As the years went by, the family dispersed. Many went overseas to study, work or settle. This branch, even if they were occasionally broke, wore Harris tweeds, and dinner jackets where the bow tie would never, ever be a store-bought pre-tied one. Nor would they think twice about eating a parantha with a fork and knife. My mother’s family came from Mirpur in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, and settled in Jammu after Partition. Again, for want of a better phrase, my grandparents were

‘conservative’ Hindus. My grandfather’s day began by feeding the cows. He would bathe and then hand-feed the pair of brown Jerseys with fresh rotis. If I was awake, I would accompany him and watch with fascination as he milked them and carried the pail back to the house. Then, he would spend the next hour or so wrapped in prayer. He told us stories from the Ramayana and made the Mahabharata come alive. As my cousins were much younger, I did not have any real company and spent much of those winter weeks walking or reading. Much of my reading material had been brought along and consisted, initially, of books by Enid Blyton and others that were similar. Here lay the rub of irony. Those books transported one to a different world — a world that one made one’s own without realising it, or without having experienced a fragment of it. This was soft power at its best. I had never seen a double-decker bus and certainly not a yacht. I had yet to see the sea or take my first trip on a plane. In the shed across the house, the cows were loved if not venerated. Sitting a few yards away, in the books that I read and loved, the characters ate potted beef sandwiches and drank root beer. I had tasted neither. Of late, one has been subjected to a spate of rather sanctimonious talk. Very little of it is informed and what’s worse, has almost no room for another viewpoint — especially if it is another equally sanctimonious one. Not surprisingly, there is no kindness or compassion in those singular viewpoints. A moment came when, perhaps, I was too blunt and instead of calling a spade a

spade, called a spade a shovel. Or perhaps I wasn’t blunt enough and hesitated to say what one actually wanted to. The conversation, if one can call it that, was built (destroyed?) on a lethal mix of religion and politics. The arguments shifted, as they often do, to so-called holy men and godmen avatars. One fine gentleman piped up about a particular godman and with great pride stated: “We were blessed to have him stay with us.” That opened the floodgates for followers of a competing godman.

Why do these stories or conversations and their seeming contradictions matter? Let me turn to another writer whose work I admire and enjoy: Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. A Nigerian, she too belongs to a corner of the world that was created by the colonial experience. She speaks of the dangers of a single story and its linear narrative. She, too, and far better than I, has articulated the complexity of the impact that reading these writings has had on us, even if we are a postcolonial generation. In another context, but somewhat relevant here, it has been contended that inauthentic dissent — as against authentic dissent — can cause people to become more entrenched in their original beliefs. Perhaps a level of perversity has something to do with this. Many of us would have travelled on the Delhi Metro. We would have heard Rini Simon Khanna’s dulcet tones telling us to ‘mind the gap’ as a station approaches. While this is the result of an idle mind on a long(ish) Metro journey, in more ways than one, it would be a good idea to constantly ‘mind the gap’





Here's how to create a

Positive image at Work

Adopting the right approach towards your work life such as paying attention to your attitude, dressing style and your approach towards work can help attract a number of positive benefits. These can pave the way for building a solid professional life by helping you attract your superiors' attention, maintaining a healthy relationship with your immediate colleagues and coming across as a dependable employee. Here are a few things you should incorporate in your daily work life to create a positive image at your workplace.

Fit in

Every organisation has a different work culture. When you join a firm, try and understand its work culture and priorities. It is equally important to understand your job profile and what the organisation expects from you. "It is a good idea to be cautious of the conversation that you make with your co-workers. Do not intrude into your colleague's personal space. Compliment your colleagues and team mates for their achievements. Refrain from gossiping at

work, it will most likely back fire someday. Avoid using a commanding tone while you communicate. Instead of commanding while you manage a team, ask your peers for their opinion on a particular subject. This goes a long way in building a strong team," says Sheena Agarwal, Director, Urbanista Image Consulting LLP.

Dress well

It is essential to pay attention to how you dress at work. Groom yourself and

maintain a neat appearance keeping your job profile in mind. While dressing up casually at work may be acceptable at times, one needs to understand that they cannot dress casually while attending a meeting or presenting to a client. Another thing to keep in mind is that you are comfortable in the clothes you wear. This will help avoid distractions.

"Grooming is important to the extent of being neat, tidy and professional. One doesn't need to wear expensive clothes, perfumes, makeup, etc, to be well groomed.

Presenting yourself well at the workplace can help you boost your career.

At the same time, one cannot sport an unkempt, dishevelled look or that which is unbecoming of the workplace culture," says Saba Adil, Head, HR, AEGON Life Insurance.

Pay attention to your body language

While we don't pay attention to our posture at work, it is important to understand that a professional's posture says a lot about his attitude. A professional with a straight posture suggests that they are attentive and enthusiastic about their work. On the other hand, being sloppy or sitting with your hands crossed suggests that you are rigid and are not open to suggestions.

Value time

Whether it means meeting deadlines or reaching on time at work, being punctual is crucial. Making sure that you meet your deadlines will not only help you develop a stress-free work atmosphere, but also displays your commitment towards your work. Additionally, maintaining a record of

the assignments you have completed will make you look organised.

"Everyone likes employees who complete their assignments on time. Maintaining a punctual work schedule helps the team coordinate better and meet deadlines. Focusing on the projects at hand will also ensure that you don't get involved in office politics and gossips, thus keeping you at bay from a negative work environment," says Arun Bala, COO of Invenio Business Solutions.

Be open to criticism

Everything that your colleagues say is not always negative or to pull you down. At times, your peers' advice can be beneficial to you. Do not take every critical evaluation personally. Instead, trust that your colleagues have the intent of helping you execute and accomplish your tasks better. Be respectful, approachable and focused while at work. Bear in mind your organisation's expectations from you and conduct yourself accordingly.

What to do when you have more than one boss

Sometimes, circumstances conspire to turn you into a 'shared resource' where you have to dance to the tunes of not one, but two or more bosses!

So how do you walk the tight rope and emerge victorious? Dealing with one boss can be a challenge. But imagine dealing with two bosses, neither of whom is willing to cut you some slack in view of your multiple duties. You confront conflicting deadlines, confused priorities and dual expectations. In all the chaos, it seems impossible for you to ever take a break or get a breather. But it is possible to navigate this quagmire and many have done it before with success. Anil Salvi, group head, HR, JM Financial Institutional Securities Ltd was placed in such a dilemma early on in his career. "At my first job itself, I was a shared resource between two bosses and had faced a lot of challenges as both bosses used to wonder for whom I was working more. Since I was a beginner, one of the ways that I used to adopt was to be brutally honest about my challenges with both of them and most of the times, they understood. And



there was the first lesson of the career that honesty works and it works well. Till date after 25 years of my career, that stint remains the most cherished one," he says. If your strategy is to let both your bosses remain in blissful ignorance about the other, you may be charting dangerous territory. It may not be pleasant to turn down a plum opportunity, but if it clashes with a commitment you've already made to your other boss, honesty really would be the best policy.

Being extremely organised is your bet as a shared resource. "It is the toughest position to be in since every manager wants full attention and contribution from the individual. The best thing for the individual to do is to set the objectives and role expectations with every manager they report to. Maintain a list of things to do and follow up whenever required. Let the other managers know if there are any priorities that you are working on, which could potentially delay theirs. It is key that a constant review and discussion is done with all managers to course correct if there are any gaps in their expectations," advises Mukund Menon, director HR and communications, HR and communications, International Paper India.

Salvi warns against showing one boss in bad light to the other in order to gain sympathy. "Being very honest is the most critical part as that would give you credibility. Being solution-oriented would be the next thing as at the end of the day, you are responsible for yourself, so you would need to take that initiative. Third, never ever play one boss against another as remember that they are

your bosses and you never know when they would share notes and also simply, it is not a right thing to do. Fourth, when you can't find a solution pertaining to the bosses, don't be ashamed to approach them and seek their help in finding one."

Of course, the above tips assume that all managers concerned are willing to make allowances for the employee. In some cases, bosses behave as though the other boss doesn't exist at all and all 8.5 hours of the employee are theirs to command. Menon agrees, "Most of the bosses are not empathetic. Everyone has their own priorities and there is competition for attention as people suffer from the 'first service syndrome'. The best thing is to let the other bosses know on a constant basis how you are managing the issues and deliverables and build rapport and trust. It is mutual respect and honesty that brings it together. The key is to manage each person's ego. Additionally, having an informal chat will also help." A Thiru, president corporate HR, JK Organisation lays the onus of empathy at the bosses' doors. "Bosses are expected to be empathetic in such a situation. If they are not, it is their problem and not that of the shared resource as long as the shared resource does his/her best under the prevailing situation and stays tuned to the purpose (serving the external customer better/faster) than responding (wasting time) based on organisational hierarchy."

As Salvi says, continue to work hard and smart for the bosses as you are learning twice as much, compared to others who have a single boss.



Everyone commits mistakes, but to learn from them and move on is something professionals should work towards.

Messed up at work? Bounce back!



To err is human...Nonetheless, when it comes to committing an error at work, perspectives often change. At work, if you make a big mistake, you instantaneously come under the scanner of everyone around you. When you mess up at the workplace, it is fatal for your reputation and relationship, not only with your managers, but also with the co-workers. Most of the times, it seems that if you have committed such a huge mistake, you are unlikely to recover from it. However, it is only partially true. You will not be able to recover, if and only if you do not make an effort towards the same. Remember, the organisation is not looking to fire you for committing the

mistake. Had it been the case, you wouldn't be sitting in your cubicle now. Therefore, if you are still able to retain your job after having messed up at work, it is a strong signal that the organisation has given you another chance, and you can make the most of it by working really hard and making up for that error! Lynette Dsilva, HR director, Amdocs India, gives an insight into how one can start working towards the goal of making up for that error. "The two key elements to keep in mind here are ownership and communication. Employees need to take ownership for what they are working on and this involves careful planning to get the desired output. Occasional misstep is where being transparent in your communication is

helpful," says Dsilva.

Talking about that mistake to your managers might seem to be the most difficult task, but that is something that one should not refrain from. Monica Malhotra Kandhari, senior director, MBD Group, stresses on the importance of talking it out with the managers to get their feedback. "Be sincere in redressal. Bad situations, in many cases, can be reversed or the effect minimised. However, an arrogant or insincere approach will only alienate you further. Also, be willing to take feedback from your seniors. They will help you analyse where you went wrong. This will help you immensely in staying away from such a mistake in future and will also send

out a positive signal to the management that you have accepted your mistake and are willing to improve the situation," asserts Kandhari.

Equally important are apologising and amending once you have acknowledged the mistake before your seniors. Shanthi Sundar, sr director and head HR India, Pegasystems Inc, talks about the importance of the two at the workplace when you are looking to rebuild your credibility. "If there are colleagues who have been affected by the mistake, talk to them and apologise. This can be very difficult at times, but if you have the right intent and genuinely believe in making up, this would seem like any other work-related conversation.

It goes without saying that you need to rectify the situation. It is equally important to talk to your colleagues and managers about how you intend to avoid making this mistake in the future, and make them understand how you are committed to help them. "Next comes building your lost trust. The best way to ensure this is to work really hard at the workplace and show it to your managers that you intend well and are willing to learn from your mistakes. Be ready to work extra and display a sincere approach towards work. Remember, an employee who learns from his mistakes is always a boss's delight. A mistake once is a learning, but to repeat it again would be foolish. So learn from it and move on towards a better and more credible future, professionally.

How to manage the millennial Workforce

The millennial workforce looks for flexibility and wishes to connect to a larger purpose. The key is to manage them well.



The millennials in India who are accounting for over half the work force, are more educated than the previous generation with high expectations. We are living in a country which is proud to have diversity, and coming from different culture and states, most of us have family backgrounds wherein the grandparents are not well educated, but have great family values, while parents are better educated.

Now, we have come to the mammoth task of managing millennials in our country with diversity. Therefore, we have to be thoughtful about how we manage the millennials, as it is expected that when the economy turns around, the voluntary turnover is likely to increase, hence, the employer has to take care about the millennials. Only 18% of millennials think they have a future in the field they are presently working in, hence, employers will be forced to go to the market to recruit new talent. The three key expectations of the millennial workforce are good work-life balance, training and development and 20% of them seek to move up the corporate ladder faster. Millennials have a "cando" attitude about tasks at work and look for

feedback about how they are doing, frequently. They want a variety of tasks and expect that they will accomplish every one of them. For them, boring is bad. They seek ever-changing tasks within their work. What's happening next is their mantra. Don't bore them, ignore them, or trivialise their contribution.

It is a thinking generation which believes in self-analysis, planning and prepping. They believe in respect more than monetary rewards, and wish for their work to be seen and spoken about by their seniors and peers.

Being born in the Internet age helps them dream big. It's a misconception that they are not rebellious and want to fight with the system. Millennials want flexibility. They work well with clear instructions and concrete targets. Give them the freedom to have a flexible work schedule. Does it matter if they work from home or a coffee shop or wherever, if that's where they are most productive at? Set deadlines and if they meet them, don't worry so much about their tactics and the time they clock in and out. Get the 'deal' right: It's important for

employers to explain not only what they are offering a potential employee, but also what they expect in return. Think creatively about reward strategies and what motivates the millennials.

Millennial employees stand out for being skilled with technology. Not only are they adept at using technology, but they prefer it. No other generation has grown up steeped in technology like the millennials, and so what is seen as optional or gadgetry for older generations is natural and required for millennials.

Technology isn't novel. It's always been there. And just as older generations leapt for new technology because it was something they were not used to, millennials may crave a sans-technology approach in communication. Remember, people and connections are important to them.

Millennials have grown up in a "maker-centric" age in which creating something is of utmost importance. They are used to having answers and information at their fingertips as well, and a simple online search can provide them with complex answers to just about any question. The speed at which they can find answers, feeds into their need to be creative. Remember, they grew up in a fast-paced information age, and their attention span might be shorter.

Millennials are concerned about giving back to the community. Millennials want to feel that they are doing something to help others. They want to work for a company that has a reputation for caring about people and important causes, or, at the very least, allows them to be active in supporting those causes themselves.

Millennials view work as a key aspect of life, not a separate activity that needs to be "balanced". For that reason, they place a strong emphasis on finding work that's personally fulfilling. They want work to be able to afford the opportunity to make new friends, learn new skills, and connect to a larger purpose. That sense of purpose is a key factor in their job satisfaction.

Ultimately, millennials want to feel that their work and their place in your business has some meaning.

The concept of 'flex' involves having core benefits, which may be statutory or defined.

Every CEO wants to build a highly agile organisation, which can adapt to different circumstances. And, every employee aspires to be a part of an organisation that can understand their life stage needs and provide the 'flex', which enables them to integrate work-life. Hence, the days of onsize-fits-all is over. Flex in schedules and pay structure elements is not adequate. The concept of 'flex' involves having core benefits, which may be statutory or defined as those that are applicable to all and flex benefits, which would be selected as per each employee's choice. Flex needs to be a part of the organisational total reward philosophy and should be aligned to the employee value proposition—a statement of why the total work experience at its organisation is superior to that at other companies. As per WorldatWork a global association, total rewards leverages five elements to attract, retain and motivate talent - compensation, benefits, worklife, performance and recognition and development and career opportunities.

Issuing a policy is only the beginning but if it is not imbibed in the organisational culture, it has minimal impact. Organisations may have dialled down policies for those who need a temporary phase of reduced work responsibilities due to personal needs or part-time employment policies but these may not get widely utilised if they aren't communicated or encouraged by the organisational culture.

Regardless of how well-designed a company's approach to 'flex' is, if managers aren't on board and don't have the skills and attitudes to manage effectively, it will flounder. It's as simple as that.

Multi-generational organisations are a reality. Each generation has its own distinct set of values, view of authority, orientation to the world, a sense of loyalty, and expectations from the work environment. Though we may



Understanding the needs of Employees



say that the differences between these generations are hyped, there are clear perceived differences between the employee benefit needs of a 28-year-old employee and one who is approaching retirement. In urban cities, the youth may want to get on the housing ladder and any support the organisation can provide is highly appreciated.

When the benefit is understood and utilised well, employees naturally become its advocates, which in turn becomes a positive feedback that spreads across the organisation. On the other hand, older employees may

be more concerned about the cost of medical care, given the growing healthcare costs. Choice makes the employee experience fulfilling. By giving employees choice and implementing a self-service benefits portal with a user-friendly website supported by rigorous communication strategy, an organisation is able to increase the perceived value of its offerings. When organisations take time to explain their offerings to employees, it is a strong gesture of care.

No right to dictate our food: Bengal BJP chief rejects Dhirendra Shastri's veg call during Durga Puja

West Bengal BJP chief Samik Bhattacharya rejected Dhirendra Krishna Shastri's appeal to avoid non-vegetarian food during Durga Puja, saying Bengalis are free to eat what they choose. He said Shastri could advocate vegetarianism but not impose his views on Bengalis.

Delhi. (Agency)

West Bengal BJP chief Samik Bhattacharya on Monday pushed back against Bageshwar Dham chief Dhirendra Krishna Shastri's appeal to Bengalis to avoid non-vegetarian food during Durga Puja, saying no religious figure or political party could dictate what people in the state should eat or wear. Making his stand clear, Bhattacharya assured Bengalis that food choices were a matter of personal freedom and that West Bengal's traditional food habits could not be changed at the behest of a visiting religious figure. "We eat what we eat," he said. "What one eats or wears is a personal choice. Bengal's food culture is diverse, and everyone has the freedom to follow their own preferences. Won't Bengalis have fish or mutton? Even Swami Vivekananda approved of it. No saint, leader, or anyone else has the right to decide what you should eat. Personal choice must remain personal," Bhattacharya said.

During his recent visit to Howrah, Shastri, popularly known as Bageshwar Baba, had appealed to people to avoid non-vegetarian food during Durga Puja and described those who consume it during the festive season as pakhandis (hypocrites). Responding to the remarks, Bhattacharya said Shastri had the right to advocate vegetarianism, but his views could not be imposed on Bengali society. "We cannot say much about a saintly figure. His kathas are famous across the country and hundreds of thousands of people went to Howrah to listen to him. Anyone can advocate for vegetarianism and that doesn't make it a crime or a sin. However, if someone uses a word like hypocrite, we do not endorse that," he said. Bhattacharya said traditional Bengali food practices included non-vegetarian offerings and meals during religious festivals. "I am a political worker. What a sadhu says here or a maulvi

says there – what does that have to do with us?" he said, adding that Durga Puja was approaching and Bengalis traditionally eat luchi (poori) on Ashtami and kochi patha



(goat meat) on Navami. "Here, goat meat is offered as an offering to Maa Kali," Bhattacharya said, arguing that West Bengal's religious traditions themselves do not conform to a blanket vegetarian

prescription.

The remarks came days after Shastri's visit to West Bengal, where he held religious programmes across the state. His visit had also acquired political overtones, with the Bageshwar Dham chief able to hold programmes under the BJP government despite allegations that he had faced difficulties in obtaining permission during the previous Trinamool Congress regime.

Before Shastri's avoid 'non-veg during Durga Puja' call, the Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) urged Durga Puja organisers in West Bengal to preserve traditional practices and keep non-vegetarian food away from pandals. But, the outfit clarified that it was not seeking a ban on non-vegetarian food.

Bhattacharya's intervention makes clear that the BJP government in West Bengal does not endorse any blanket prescription on vegetarianism during Durga Puja.

Manipuri musician beaten to death for objecting to noise outside South Delhi home

Delhi. (Agency)

Manipuri musician Chongtham Vikram Singh was beaten to death late Sunday night, allegedly by a group of men outside his South Delhi home following an argument over the accused making a ruckus. Singh, 55, is survived by his wife and a son. According to family sources, the incident occurred around 11.30 pm on Sunday when Singh stepped out of his home in Kilokari village and asked the men – according to the police, most are delivery executives – not to make noise. The family said the confrontation quickly turned violent and Singh sustained serious injuries in the assault. His son, Yaiphaba, took him to Holy Family Hospital in Okhla for treatment, but he succumbed early Monday morning. The hospital report cited haemorrhagic shock caused by blunt force trauma as the cause of death. Vineet Kumar, the Southeast Delhi Deputy Commissioner of Police, said, "I, along with other senior officers, have met the family and other community members and assured prompt and lawful action. All seven accused have been arrested, and a minor has been apprehended. Further investigation is underway." Singh, lead guitarist of Manipur's legendary rock band Phoenix in the early 1980s, was regarded as a pioneer of the state's rock music scene. He started his music career as a lead guitarist of a band called Ultra Vires. After his stint with Phoenix, he joined a famous local band called Eastern Dark. Later, he left Manipur and continued his career as a music teacher in New Delhi. Vivek Sharma, the lead vocalist of Phoenix, called Singh a "truly irreplaceable person, a dear friend and an elder brother". "Whenever there was a need for accuracy, perfection, and to make things happen behind the scenes, he was the only one.

Delhi govt to outsource upkeep of 500 national flags

A PWD official said a tender had been issued to hire an agency that would replace torn flags, submit daily status reports and provide comprehensive maintenance.



Delhi. (Agency)

NEW DELHI: The Delhi government will outsource maintenance of the 500 national flags installed across the city and establish a helpline for complaints regarding damaged flags, officials said. The government had earlier commissioned a study to identify more durable fabric after flags were repeatedly damaged by strong winds and adverse weather. A PWD official said a tender had been issued to hire an agency that would replace torn flags, submit daily status reports and provide comprehensive maintenance.

The 115-foot-high flagpoles have been installed at around 500 locations. The flags are made of polyester, while new fabric will have threads with tensile strength exceeding 8 kg, official said. The agency will deploy at least 10 covered mobile vans, each with two electricians, two helpers and a driver. The four-year maintenance contract is estimated to cost ₹33 crore. The government will also ensure proper lighting around flagpoles and impose penalties for delayed replacement.

No relief for influencer Swantantra Bhardwaj as court rejects plea against arrest

The Delhi High Court refused to entertain a plea against Hindutva influencer Swatantra Bharadwaj's arrest in the CJP assault case. The bench said he is in judicial custody under court orders and can move a trial court.

Delhi. (Agency)

The Delhi High Court has rejected a plea challenging the arrest of Hindutva influencer Swatantra Bharadwaj, who is accused of assaulting the father of a student activist during a Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) protest at Jantar Mantar. A bench of Justices Navin Chawla and Ravinder Dubeja held that Bharadwaj was currently in custody pursuant to judicial orders and said he could challenge his arrest before the appropriate trial court. Bharadwaj's counsel argued that his arrest was

illegal, contending that the FIR under which he was arrested had been dismissed by the Supreme Court in its recent order concerning cases linked to the CJP protests. The Delhi Police, however, disputed the claim and told



the High Court that the FIR in the present case had not been dismissed. Bharadwaj was arrested in Bulandshahr on September 4, hours after the CJP staged a protest outside the Parliament Street police station

demanding action against him over the assault. He was subsequently produced before a sessions judge the next day, who allowed Delhi Police one day of custodial interrogation. He was then produced virtually before a duty magistrate and sent to judicial custody. On Monday, the Patiala House Court remanded him to 14 days in Tihar Jail, till September 21.

His father, Randhir Kumar Jha, subsequently approached the Delhi High Court challenging the arrest, with the plea being urgently mentioned. The case stems from assaulting Sanjay Kumar, the father of a teenage student activist, during a CJP-led protest at Jantar Mantar on June 23. The police action followed outrage over an interview in which Bharadwaj claimed that he had "cracked the skull" of the student's father during the protest and escaped arrest because of his political connections.

ED raids Trinamool MP in money laundering case, party calls it vendetta politics

Delhi. (Agency)

The Trinamool Congress on Monday termed the Enforcement Directorate searches at premises linked to its Rajya Sabha MP Nadimul Haque a 'vicious political vendetta', while the central agency said the action was part of a money laundering probe against an Urdu daily promoted by him. ED officials said seven premises in Kolkata, Delhi and Ranchi were searched in connection with the case. TMC Rajya Sabha leader Derek O'Brien alleged that the searches were meant to divert attention from the PG building collapse in Delhi's Satya Niketan, in which seven people were killed. He said the TMC's Delhi office, which is

also Haque's official residence, was searched and linked the action to what he called a wider political move by the BJP-led government. According to ED



officials, Haque, 56, is a director of Akhbar-E-Mashriq Private Limited, which publishes the Urdu daily 'Akhbar-E-Mashriq'. They said the

case under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act stems from an FIR lodged by the Bidhannagar Police Commissionerate.

The probe, agency officials said, relates to allegations over the publication and dissemination of material promoting communal disharmony, 'unaccounted' cash transactions and some funding from suspicious sources for the daily. Agency officials also claimed that the news outlet 'overstated' its circulation to obtain government advertisements and received 'majority' funds from the erstwhile TMC-led West Bengal government through an advertising agency that has connections with a Dubai-based entity.

'Don't want to live here anymore': Students in Delhi's Satya Niketan pack bags

Delhi. (Agency)

Unnayan Bhati moved out of his home in Uttar Pradesh's Bulandshahr last month as he enrolled in Delhi University's Aryabhata College. The 18-year-old found temporary accommodation in Satya Niketan, a hub for DU students with South Campus in proximity. But he wanted to shift. "The rent was too high. The electricity rates were also steep at Rs 15 per unit," he said. He spent an entire month looking for a new home.

He received a call on Sunday from a broker. Around 1:30 pm, he was on his way with the broker to visit a hostel when the duo heard tremors. A five-storey building, known as 'Hostel Daze', collapsed in front of them. The collapse has claimed at least seven lives. Both jumped off the scooter promptly. "If we were a bit closer, the building would have crashed on us," said Bhati. Grateful for the close shave, he on Monday joined an All India Students' Association protest, demanding Rs 1 crore compensation for the building collapse victims. With his parents concerned for his safety following the incident, Bhati plans to go back home for a few days. "I'm, for sure, not going to live in Satya Niketan anymore," he said. But he has already paid Rs 28,000 for one month's rent and security deposit for his current accommodation. Most students living in and around the area are packing up their bags — some are heading home while others are staying temporarily at a friend's or relative's place. The buildings right next to Hostel Daze have been vacated while the DU has reached out and offered the students temporary housing. An 18-year-old, hailing from Arunachal Pradesh, who lived in Hostel Daze for a year, told The Indian Express that she paid Rs 17,000 a month for a double-sharing room on the fourth floor of the five-storey building. "Rain water used to seep into our room. They promised us a rooftop room, but never shifted us. Even the food was not good... so I left," she said. She said she has been trying to get her security deposit from the owners since she moved out in June. Staying in a building opposite to the collapse site now, she says she does not have the resources to even go back home.

Despotic officers will turn UP Orwellian, HC raps Noida DM over student's detention

The court has ordered Rs 5 lakh compensation for the student, with the amount to be recovered from the Noida DM and other officials responsible, right down to the SHO.

Delhi. (Agency)

The Allahabad High Court has struck down the NSA detention of a Delhi University student arrested during April's Noida workers' protest. The court came down heavily on Gautam Buddha Nagar DM Medha Roopam, warning that errant officials could reduce Uttar Pradesh to an "Orwellian Dystopia". A bench of Justices Atul Sreedharan and Achal Sachdev held that the continued incarceration of about 24-year-old Akriti Chaudhary violated her fundamental rights, finding that the DM's NSA detention order and its grounds were devoid of material and showed "non-application of mind". The court said the detention violated her right to life and

personal liberty under Article 21 of the Constitution. The court also awarded Chaudhary Rs 5 lakh compensation and directed that the amount be recovered from the salary of the Gautam Buddha Nagar DM and other officers who may have been responsible, right down to the SHO who prepared the initial report.

The court's reference to Orwellian Dystopia draws on George Orwell's Nineteen Eighty-Four, which depicts a society marked by unchecked state power, pervasive surveillance and suppression of dissent. The High Court used the phrase to warn against arbitrary exercise of governmental power and erosion of civil liberties.

'NO EVIDENCE OF VIOLENCE' Chaudhary, a Delhi University history graduate and student activist, was



arrested in cases arising from a workers' protest in Noida in April this year. The protest sought higher wages and humane working hours. The Uttar Pradesh Police later invoked the NSA against her, alleging that she and her associates had

conspired to foment violence during the agitation. The High Court, however, found no material showing that Chaudhary had incited violence.

While examining WhatsApp conversations and videos cited by the state government, the bench repeatedly asked it to identify evidence showing that Chaudhary had called for rioting, arson or destruction of public and private property. The state could not point to "a single message" or video clip showing such incitement, the order said.

The court noted that the videos showed people gathering to demand higher wages and humane working hours, without showing the crowd to be armed or engaged in violence.

FD vs SIP: Need your money soon? Here's what you should choose

New Delhi. (Agency)

You have some extra money sitting in your bank account. You want it to grow, but then comes the familiar dilemma: Should you put it in a fixed deposit and enjoy the comfort of predictable returns, or start a SIP and give your money a chance to grow through the market?

This is where many investors get stuck.

The FD feels safe. The SIP promises better long-term wealth creation. One gives you more certainty, while the other comes with the possibility of higher returns but also market ups and downs. So, where should you actually put your money? The answer, financial experts say, depends less on which product is offering better returns and more on when you need the money and what you need it for. To understand how investors should approach the FD-versus-SIP debate, I spoke to financial experts Paramdeep Singh, Founder of Long Tail Ventures, and Amit Suri, CFP, Founder and CEO of AUM Wealth Pvt Ltd. And their message is clear: don't start with the investment product. Start with the financial goal.

DON'T ASK FD OR SIP FIRST. ASK WHEN YOU NEED THE MONEY

Investors often begin their search by comparing interest rates or looking at mutual funds that have delivered the highest returns. But that may be the wrong starting point.

"If the money has a defined use in the next few years and certainty matters, an FD can make more sense. If the goal is 10 or 20 years away and the investor has the capacity to absorb market volatility, investing systematically into equity mutual funds can make more sense," Singh said. This approach changes the entire conversation. Someone saving for a house down payment two years from now has a very different requirement from someone investing for retirement 20 years away. The first investor needs to protect the money and ensure that it is available when required. The second has more time to ride out market volatility and seek long-term growth.

Rupee falls 10 paise to 94.66 against US dollar in early trade

MUMBAI. (Agency)

The rupee depreciated 10 paise to 94.66 against the US dollar in early trade on Tuesday, as surging Brent crude prices near USD 97/bbl and Middle Eastern geopolitical friction dampened investor confidence. Forex traders noted that ongoing RBI dollar sales and strong foreign-currency inflows under special schemes helped keep the rupee range-bound despite heavy external pressures.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 94.49 against the US dollar, then touched 94.66, registering a fall of 10 paise from its previous close. On Monday, the rupee fell 13 paise to close at 94.56 against the American currency.

"The RBI's intervention has been particularly important in preventing higher oil prices from translating into a weaker rupee," Anil Kumar Bhansali, Head of Treasury and Executive Director, Finrex Treasury Advisors LLP, said.

According to Bhansali, the rupee is expected to stay in a range of 94.00 to 94.75 as crude oil is near to USD 97 level while dollar index fell to 98.74 and RBI continues to sell USD keeping rupee within the range. Market is awaiting for US and India CPI data as well as the FOMC on September 16 for further cues, he said. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading at 98.80, lower by 0.37 per cent. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, was trading higher by 0.63 per cent at USD 97.61 per barrel in futures trade, amid escalating US-Iran tensions and fears of disruption to oil flows through the Strait of Hormuz.

RBI drains out Rs 6 lakh crore excess liquidity

New Delhi. (Agency)

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) sucked out Rs 6 lakh crore in excess liquidity from the banking system through two overnight variable rate reverse repo (VRRR) auctions on Monday, as the banking system remained awash with liquidity following larger-than-expected dollar inflows of \$136 billion through the special forex mobilisation scheme launched on June 8. While the scheme helped the RBI shore up forex reserves and support the balance of payments, which has been in deficit since FY25, it has also resulted in an unprecedented build-up of excess liquidity in the banking system. System liquidity stood at Rs 11.16 lakh crore as of September 6, prompting the central bank to announce liquidity-draining measures through VRRR auctions totalling Rs 12 lakh crore over two days. VRRR is a tool used by the RBI to temporarily absorb excess liquidity by allowing banks to park their surplus funds with the central bank. The RBI pays interest on these funds, with the rate determined through an auction. Between August 3 and September 7, the RBI has absorbed a whopping Rs 59.6 lakh crore through 32 VRRR auctions, with tenures ranging from overnight to 14 days. The largest single-day liquidity absorption came on September 7, when the central bank sucked out Rs 6 lakh crore through two overnight auctions. Monday's two overnight VRRR auctions came after the RBI failed to get the desired response to a 30-day VRRR auction for Rs 7 lakh crore announced on Friday.

Wrong EPFO exit date? Here's how to correct it online step by step

The date of exit is not just another entry in your EPFO service history.

It forms part of your employment record and can affect several PF-related processes.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Leaving a job comes with enough paperwork already. But there is one small detail that many employees may overlook, i.e., the date on which their employer marks them as having left the organisation on the EPFO portal. If this date is missing or wrong, it can create problems later, particularly when you move to a new job and want to transfer your provident fund (PF). An incorrect exit date can also leave a mismatch in

your employment records. That could lead to questions during the background verification process carried out by a new employer.

The good news is that eligible EPFO members do not always have to wait for their former employer to fix the mistake. The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) allows members to update their date of exit online through their UAN-linked account, subject to certain conditions.

WHEN CAN YOU CHANGE YOUR EPFO EXIT DATE?

Before trying to make the change, employees need to check whether they meet the eligibility conditions. According to a Moneycontrol report, EPFO members can update their date of exit only after two months have passed since they left the job. The date being entered must also fall within the month in which the previous employer made the last PF contribution. There are a couple of other

requirements as well. The member must have an activated Universal Account Number (UAN) linked to Aadhaar and access to the mobile number registered



with Aadhaar, as an OTP-based verification is required to complete the process.

HOW TO UPDATE THE DATE OF EXIT ON THE EPFO PORTAL

If you are eligible to make the change yourself, you can do it online through your EPFO member account.

First, log in to the official EPFO member portal using your UAN and password.

Sensex, Nifty fall as crude nears \$98; IT stocks, West Asia tensions drag markets

New Delhi. (Agency)

The sell-off on Dalal Street showed little sign of letting up on Tuesday. After ending the previous session at a six-week low, Indian benchmark indices opened lower again as investors remained cautious about rising crude oil prices, the risk of a wider Middle East conflict and expectations of a US rate hike.

IT stocks remained a major drag, while the market's broader picture showed a sharp divide between large-caps and select pockets of mid- and small-cap stocks. At 9:29 am, the BSE Sensex was down 401.85 points, or 0.53%, at 75,730.96. The index opened at 75,970.28 against Monday's close of 76,132.81, touched an early high of 76,012.11 and fell to a low of 75,721.82.

The Nifty 50 was down 108.15 points, or 0.45%, at 23,671. It opened at 23,743.10, touched a high

of 23,758.95 and slipped to a low of 23,669.20. The broader market was also in the red, although losses were more contained. Nifty 100 fell 0.38%, Nifty 200 declined 0.34% and Nifty 500 slipped 0.32%. Nifty Midcap 50 fell 0.23%, while Nifty Midcap 100 declined 0.18%. Nifty Smallcap 100 was down 0.24%. India VIX, the market's volatility gauge, rose 1.52% to 11.33, indicating some increase in investor nervousness.

CRUDE OIL NEARS \$98 AS MIDDLE EAST TENSIONS ESCALATE

The biggest external concern for Indian equities remains crude oil.

Brent crude futures were trading at \$97.50 a barrel, up 0.52%, while WTI crude was at \$92.90, up 1.55%.

Crude prices have remained elevated as the conflict in the Middle East threatens to widen. Iran has warned that any fresh attacks on Tehran

would be met with retaliation against US assets, while energy infrastructure across the Gulf, including US oil and gas interests, could be vulnerable. The concern for India is straightforward: higher crude prices increase the country's import bill and can put pressure on inflation and growth if the rise is sustained. The Nifty Oil & Gas index was down 0.32% in early trade. The weakness was also visible across several large-cap stocks, with Reliance Industries down 0.76%.

IT STOCKS REMAIN A MAJOR DRAG

IT stocks continued to weigh on the market after stronger-than-expected US jobs data increased expectations of a September rate hike by the US Federal Reserve.

The Nifty IT index fell 0.76% in early trade. Infosys declined 0.46%, HCL Technologies fell 0.67% and Tech Mahindra slipped 0.73%.

Home, savings, investments: India's wallet moves from spending to wealth

New Delhi. (Agency)

Think of a young family getting a salary at the end of the month. A few years ago, the conversation may have been about upgrading the phone, buying a new car or planning the next holiday. Today, the same family may be asking a different question: How much can we put aside for a home, investments or an emergency fund? That change in priorities is beginning to show up in the way Indians think about money. Spending has not disappeared, but saving, investing and building assets are becoming bigger parts of the financial conversation. Homeownership has emerged as the biggest financial aspiration, while savings and investments are also gaining ground. At the same time, a growing number of consumers are thinking about starting or expanding businesses, hence, suggesting that the Indian wallet is slowly moving from simply buying things to building something for the future.

These are among the key findings of Home Credit India's fourth edition of The Great Indian Wallet 2026, which surveyed borrowers aged 18-55 across 17 major Indian cities.

BUYING A HOME IS THE BIGGEST FINANCIAL DREAM

The biggest sign of this changing wallet is the importance being given to homeownership. Around 31% of respondents said they aspire to buy a house in the next five years. Among women, the proportion rises to 40%, making homeownership an even stronger financial goal for female respondents. A home is a significantly larger financial commitment than most discretionary purchases. It usually means years of saving, a substantial down payment and, in many cases, a long-term home loan. The survey's findings therefore suggest that consumers are increasingly thinking about where their money can take them over the longer term rather than focusing only on what they can buy today.

SAVINGS ARE GAINING GROUND

The shift is also visible in how consumers are putting money aside. Nearly half of respondents, or 46%, said their savings had increased in 2026. Another 44% reported an increase in their investments. Gen Z, in particular, stood out as the strongest saver among the generations surveyed. About 58% of Gen Z respondents said they were saving, compare this is an interesting trend because younger consumers are also known for spending on experiences. The study found that local travel and sightseeing remained the most common discretionary indulgence.

Memory chip costs force Samsung India to cut jobs, 100 execs asked to leave

Kolkata. (Agency)

Samsung India has started trimming its workforce in its television and home appliance businesses as a combination of rising costs, weaker consumer demand and a broader restructuring puts pressure on the electronics giant's India operations, reported The Economic Times (ET). The company has so far asked 80-100 executives to leave, according to the report, which cited multiple industry executives.

The layoffs are being carried out in batches and affect employees across different levels, including director-level officials and team leads at the headquarters, as well as branch and area managers. The move comes at a challenging time for Samsung's India business. Memory chip prices have more than doubled, while the Indian rupee's decline, weaker smartphone volumes and higher raw material costs have added to pressure on sales and margins. UP TO 25% OF SALES, MARKETING STAFF COULD BE HIT

The job cuts are currently focused on Samsung's television and home appliance businesses. However, the scale could be larger. One industry executive cited by ET



said up to 25% of Samsung's sales and marketing workforce in its electronics business could be affected. This includes employees working directly for the company as well as off-roll workers hired through manpower agencies. Samsung's domestic electronics sales team has around 550-600 executives, apart from its much larger smartphone sales organisation.

An affected employee told ET that termination letters had been issued daily over the past few days in small batches.

Forget Mumbai, Bengaluru. Surat is becoming India's new spending hub

With a population nearly the size of a Big Six city (Mumbai, Bengaluru, Delhi, Chennai, Hyderabad and Kolkata) and a large concentration of young people, Surat has emerged as India's largest consumption market outside the six megacities.

HONG KONG. (Agency)

India's consumption story has been told through the lens of its biggest metros; Mumbai, Bengaluru, Delhi, Chennai, Hyderabad and Kolkata, for years. But a new consumption map is emerging, and Surat is at the centre of it. Surat may rank seventh among India's top consumption markets, but it is the biggest market outside the country's six megacities. That makes the Gujarat city an important

marker of how India's spending is spreading beyond its traditional metropolitan centres. With a population nearly the size of a Big Six city and a large concentration of young people, Surat has a \$34 billion consumption market, ahead of Ahmedabad and Pune. Its average household consumption is also higher than Bengaluru's, according to 'The Many Urban Indias' report. The top 15 cities, each with consumption markets of at least \$10 billion, together account for roughly two-thirds of consumption across the 100 cities studied. This does not mean Mumbai or Bengaluru are being overtaken in absolute consumption. The Big Six still account for 46% of the \$844 billion annual consumption across the 100 cities. But Surat shows that India's biggest consumption opportunities are no longer confined to the traditional metros. Surat is not alone in standing out

on consumption. Chandigarh and Thiruvananthapuram have the highest average household consumption in India, backed by high savings and low debt.



Surat's rise is part of a wider shift in India's urban economy. The top 100 cities house less than one-fifth of the country's population but account for nearly one-third of national consumption, worth Rs 74.5 lakh crore or \$844 billion. Household expenditure in

these cities has been growing at 10.4% annually, compared with 8.5% for India as a whole. Within this universe, Surat stands out because it combines a large population with unusually strong household spending. The city is classified as a "Boomtown" — one of 19 fast-growing cities that also includes Pune, Ahmedabad, Lucknow, Coimbatore, Jaipur, Indore and Vadodara. These cities are becoming the next major pool of consumer markets because they combine sizeable populations with high spending per household. In fact, the report says Surat, along with Chandigarh, Thiruvananthapuram and Vadodara, has higher per-household spending than the Big Six.

SURAT HAS THE INCOME TO SPEND BIG

A large consumer market needs more than people. It needs households with rising incomes and enough financial headroom to spend.

NEWS BOX

Strong domestic market with digital economy and young population foundation for growth: Rama Devi Kanneganti at EDII

Ahmedabad (Agency).

Rama Devi Kanneganti, president of the Association of Lady Entrepreneurs of India, on Sunday said that the next phase of growth for India will be based on strong domestic market along with progress of digital economy and the nation's young population. She was speaking at the Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII) as she delivered the 8th VG Patel Memorial Lecture.

"India's economy is already around \$3.9 trillion, and the country is moving towards becoming the world's third-largest economy. If we sustain strong growth and combine our domestic strength with manufacturing, digitalisation, innovation and exports, the opportunity ahead is enormous," she said. On the occasion, the Dr VG Patel National Memorial Awards were also announced for the entrepreneurship trainer, educator and mentor for 2025. Some of the awardees included Dr Pradeep Srivastava from Indian Institute of Technology (BHU) Varanasi, Balram Sankaran from Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences & Technology (SCTIMST), and Rama Devi Kanneganti from Association of Lady Entrepreneurs of India (ALEAP).

3 Nigerians jailed for running romance, gift fraud racket in Rae Bareilly

Lucknow (Agency).

A court in Rae Bareilly has sentenced three Nigerians to four years and three months of rigorous imprisonment and imposed a fine of Rs 7,000 each in a nearly five-year-old case registered under the Gangsters Act. The three were accused of running a fraud racket in which they created fake social media identities, established contact with men and women, lured them into romantic relationships and cheated them on the pretext of sending expensive gifts. The convicts were identified as Oroma Etishianam, Justin and Nanalu Hyacinth. They were arrested on Dec 22, 2021, by a joint team of Mill Area police and the Uttar Pradesh STF from Delhi. During the operation, police seized five laptops, 10 mobile phones, three internet modems, a router, two passports, two SIM cards and gold ornaments.

During interrogation, police learnt that the accused had come to India around two years before their arrest. They had allegedly set up an office at the residence of a person named Jitendra in Delhi's Paschim Vihar and were operating the fraud network from there. According to the investigation, the accused created fake profiles on social networking platforms and used photographs to establish contact with prospective victims. They initially engaged them in conversations and gradually gained their confidence. After developing relationships with the victims, they allegedly claimed that expensive gifts were being sent to them.

Waste segregation, mechanised sweeping, green initiatives, electric push helps city score 198/200

Lucknow (Agency).

The state capital recorded a 47% fall in annual average PM10 concentration over the past eight years, helping it secure the top rank among Indian cities with populations above 10 lakh in Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan 2026. The city scored 198 out of 200 points under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP). Survey data showed annual average PM10 levels dropped from 253 micrograms per cubic metre in 2017-18 to 135 micrograms per cubic metre in 2025-26, a reduction of 46.64%.

The trendline reflected both fluctuations and sustained improvement. PM10 fell to 210 in 2018-19, rose to 216 in 2019-20, and eased to 209 in 2020-21. A sharper decline followed in 2021-22, when levels dropped to 148, staying nearly flat at 149 in 2022-23. Concentrations then reduced further to 137 in 2023-24. A minor uptick to 142 was recorded in 2024-25 before the level fell again to 135 in 2025-26. Officials credited the gains to targeted interventions under Lucknow's NCAP city action plan, approved by the Central Pollution Control Board in 2019. Measures focused on curbing vehicular emissions, road dust, waste burning, industrial pollution and construction-related dust. The Lucknow Municipal Corporation (LMC) expanded urban greening, planting 95,000 trees in 2019, developing four Miyawaki forests, revamping three major traffic junctions and creating green corridors along key stretches, including the Gomti riverfront corridor. A parallel push on solid-waste management was highlighted as a key driver.

Contractors made children work on govt infrastructure sites: Police

Mumbai (Agency).

Ahmedabad: Flyovers and railway lines meant to connect cities have emerged as the alleged workplaces of children trapped in a labour racket. The minors were forced to perform dangerous construction work at several govt infrastructure projects across Ahmedabad, Anand and Vadodara districts, said police.

Police said at least eight multi-crore public projects across the three districts had engaged the children. While the minors were made to perform strenuous work at dangerous construction sites, their parents allegedly received only Rs 500 to Rs 1,000 a year for their labour. The findings have raised questions about contractor compliance and oversight on state-funded infrastructure projects.

"One of the rescued boys worked on the Sola flyover and two other flyover projects in Ahmedabad," a senior crime branch officer said. "Two other minors were deployed at four flyover sites in Ahmedabad and Vadodara, besides a road construction project executed by one of the key accused, Dinesh Kabildar."

Another investigating officer confirmed that the children were also pushed into high-risk railway project work between Anand and Vadodara. The investigation began after a 14-year-old boy went missing from Sola on July



13, 2022. His mother lodged a complaint, following which the case was taken up by the Anti-Human Trafficking Unit. Acting on intelligence, police traced the boy, who had remained missing for more than four years, to Nava Nadisar village in Godhra taluka of Panchmahal district.

On Sunday, police arrested labour contractor Dinesh Kabildar, 47, and cattle herder Bharat Bharwad, 35. Police suspect Kabildar abducted the boy while he was working near the Sola flyover in 2022 and allegedly sold him to Bharwad for Rs 10,000.

At Nava Nadisar, Bharwad and his brother Ranchhod allegedly forced the boy to work as bonded labour alongside two other minors from economically vulnerable families. All three children have since been reunited with their families.

Police are now investigating whether other contractors, employers or organised groups were involved in the alleged child-selling and bonded labour network. They are also examining how the children were deployed at public project sites without the required checks.

Why has Mumbai's iconic Gaiety-Galaxy theatre suddenly shut?

Mumbai (Agency).

One of Mumbai's most recognisable cinema landmarks, Gaiety-Galaxy in Bandra, has been shut by the police after they found that its entertainment licence had allegedly not been renewed since 2021. The Bandra police have registered a case against the theatre owner, manager and the firm running the cinema under Section 223 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), which deals with disobedience of an order issued by a public servant. The police have also pasted a notice outside the cinema directing it to remain closed.

A senior IPS officer confirmed the action and said the cinema would be allowed to reopen once its licence is renewed. "During an inquiry through the Theatre Branch, we found that the



licence had not been renewed since 2021," the officer said. In Mumbai, cinema theatres are required to obtain a Premises Licence from the Commissioner of Police. The licence has to be renewed every year after payment of the prescribed fee and submission of an undertaking confirming compliance with safety requirements, including fire safety

norms, police said. "The FIR has been registered and the cinema has been closed. If the licence is renewed, it will be allowed to function," the officer said. The closure notice put up by the Bandra police says the cinema has been closed for the next few shows due to non-renewal of its licence. The theatre management, however, has given a different reason for the shutdown. The Indian Express contacted executive director Manoj Desai for his response, but he did not respond to calls or messages. A social media post attributed to Desai said the cinema had been shut because of a technical problem. According to the post, some cables inside the theatre had burnt out and replacement cables had been arranged from Lohar Chawl in south Mumbai.

Woman drug peddler held with smack

Lucknow (Agency).

In an anti-narcotics operation near the India-Nepal border, a joint team of Bahraich police and the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) arrested a woman drug peddler and seized 116 grams of smack valued at around ₹50 lakh in the international market. The accused, identified as Shakeela Bibi (40), wife of Mohammad Islam alias Lal Badshah and a resident of New Basti, Dashahara Bagh in Rupaiddiha, was arrested during a checking drive conducted on Saturday night in the Dashahara Bagh area under Rupaiddiha police station limits.

SP, Bahraich, Vishwajeet Srivastava said that as part of an ongoing campaign against narcotics smuggling and criminal activities, the police intercepted the woman and recovered the contraband during a search. Besides the smack, police seized Rs 21,029 in Indian currency, Rs

23,800 in Nepalese currency and a Vivo V60 mobile phone from her possession. Officials said the recovery of both Indian and Nepalese currencies is being examined, given the area's proximity to the international border. Following the seizure, police registered an FIR under



Sections 8/21 of the NDPS Act at Rupaiddiha police station. The accused was produced before a local court and sent for further legal proceedings. Police are investigating the source of the narcotics, its intended destination and possible links to a larger cross-border drug trafficking network.

Justice RV Ghuge leaves Bombay High Court; Maratha quota case to start over, FDA pleas shifted

Justice Ravindra Ghuge's elevation as Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court brings his 13-year tenure at the Bombay High Court to an end, with several high-profile matters now moving to new benches.

Mumbai (Agency).

Justice Ravindra Vithalrao Ghuge, who is set to become Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court, leaves the Bombay High Court after a 13-year tenure marked by sharp courtroom observations, suo motu interventions and several consequential orders. His elevation will also trigger a fresh start in some high-profile matters, including the challenge to Maharashtra's 10% Maratha quota law, which his bench had heard in 21 sittings.

Known for his forthright observations, Justice Ghuge once told lawyers whose courtroom language he found too casual: "The language needs to undergo a serious change... You should show some respect." On another occasion, warning government officers, he stressed the need to respect the "majesty of law". Justice Ghuge's departure means the Maratha quota challenge will be heard afresh by another bench, the second reset since 2024. The

matter concerns Maharashtra's 2024 legislation granting 10% reservation to the Maratha community. His FDA-related cases will also move to a new bench. While hearing petitions challenging action by the Maharashtra Food and Drug Administration, Justice Ghuge praised Commissioner Tukaram Mundhe's drive but criticised officials for "shooting first and asking questions later" and "killing mosquitoes with a sword". Appointed Acting Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court in June, Justice Ghuge was born on July 9, 1966. The son of former Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University vice-chancellor V B Ghuge, he studied law in Kolhapur and Aurangabad (now Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar) and practised for 23 years before being elevated to the High Court in June 2013.

At the principal seat in Mumbai, his recent orders included halting further steps to convert Bandra's Neville D'Souza football



ground into a convention centre and directing an SIT probe into recruitments across educational institutions, including those linked to politicians and VIPs.

His bench also permitted the clearing of 847 mangroves for a bullet-train project-linked transmission line as an "exceptional measure", while cautioning against future deviations from compensatory-afforestation norms. Earlier, he stayed the bail granted to Shiv Sena Corporator Ramesh Mhatre in a case involving alleged assault on civic doctors, later granting bail on the condition that Mhatre leave Maharashtra until commencement of the trial. Justice Ghuge denied terminating a minor's 28-week pregnancy, which the Supreme Court set aside, holding the "court cannot compel any woman to complete her pregnancy". His remark while dismissal of CPI(M) Gaza 'genocide' protest plea as "short-sighted," was later termed by Justice Ujjal Bhuyan of SC 'very amusing'.

Ektanagar to host National Film Awards ceremony, event makes a rare Delhi exit

Ahmedabad (Agency).

A film on the Statue of Unity will receive a National Award in the shadow of the monument itself when the country's top cinema honours make a rare journey out of Delhi this month.

The 72nd National Film Awards ceremony will be held at Ektanagar, formerly Kevadia, in Gujarat on Sep 22, with President Droupadi Murmu presenting the honours, officials said Monday.

The choice gives this year's ceremony a distinctly symbolic setting. Ektanagar is home to the 597-foot Statue of Unity dedicated to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2018. Among those being honoured is



filmmaker Aanand L Rai, who has won Best Direction in the non-feature category for Statue of Unity - Ekta ka Prateek.

Govt has not yet publicly spelt out the reason for shifting the ceremony from Delhi or indicated whether taking the awards to different parts of the country will become a regular practice.

The move nevertheless breaks with a long-established pattern. Instituted in 1954, the National Film Awards have overwhelmingly been presented in Delhi, with Vigyan Bhawan hosting most ceremonies. They have, however, travelled outside the capital before. The 17th National Film Awards were presented at the University Centenary Auditorium in Madras, now Chennai, on Nov 21, 1970.

Mumbai-Pune Expressway landslide exposed Missing Link's weakest spot; authorities race to secure it

Ahmedabad (Agency). Weeks after a landslide shut down the Mumbai-bound lane on the Mumbai-Pune Expressway 'Missing Link', the Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation (MSRDC) is undertaking a multi-layered rockfall protection exercise above the expressway tunnel mouths, with the work scheduled to be completed by the end of October.

The measures, recommended by IIT-Bombay after the landslide and carried out by tunnel contractor Navayuga Engineering Company Ltd, include diverting newly formed water channels, removing loose and weathered rock, anchoring vulnerable rock faces with steel bolts, covering sections with high-tensile steel mesh, and installing steel barriers to arrest falling boulders.

It covers about 1.38 hectares of hill surface above the tunnel mouths, and nearly 50-60 per cent of the work has been completed, according to the MSRDC. The exercise follows the July 6 landslide at the mouth of the

8.9-km tunnel when heavy rain triggered the fall of large boulders from the hillside. Some of the boulders were estimated to weigh 17-20 tonnes and damaged the false frame at the tunnel entrance. Water channels that emerged through the rock also created a waterfall over the Mumbai-bound carriageway.

Interventions after landslide

The first intervention has been to tackle the water itself. New streams that formed on the hillside during the extreme rainfall are being channelised and diverted away from the tunnel mouths. A hydrologist was consulted to determine the drainage intervention, aimed at preventing water from flowing through vulnerable portions of the slope and further loosening the rock. The next layer involves stabilising the rock face. Loose and weathered rocks are being chipped away and removed from identified vulnerable patches. Steel anchors are being drilled deep into the hillside where rock needs to be retained, to tie the outer rock layer to more stable rock underneath.



NEWS BOX

US Open: Stunned Iga Swiatek loses cool at press after tough loss to Qinwen Zheng

Iga Swiatek's US Open campaign ended in stunning fashion as Qinwen Zheng fought back from 0-5 down to knock out the six-time Grand Slam champion. The defeat left Swiatek frustrated, with that frustration spilling over into a tense exchange with a journalist at her post-match press conference.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Former US Open champion Iga Swiatek lost her cool in the press conference after her stunning fourth-round defeat to Qinwen Zheng on Monday. The Polish star had led 5-0 in the opening set at Arthur Ashe Stadium, only to suffer an extraordinary collapse and go down 5-7, 3-6 to the Chinese qualifier. The frustration followed Swiatek into the press room. Asked how she would process



surrendering such a commanding lead and use it as a learning experience, the Pole appeared visibly agitated before snapping at the journalist.

Here's the exchange:

Journalist: More specifically about the first set, having been up 5 love and bouncing back from that... how do you think you'll go about internalizing that and growing from it?" Iga Swiatek: "It's just one match, like... try to play the same way as usual. What do you mean? Do you think it's something crazy? You can lose a set from any score, nothing special about that. Just that's what happened and that's it."

"SWIATEK CRASHES IN US OPEN

Swiatek had looked firmly in control when she raced into a 5-0 lead, but Zheng slowly found her rhythm and began turning the match on its head. The Chinese qualifier saved three set points before winning seven games in a row to steal the opening set. It was the second consecutive match in which Zheng had recovered from 5-0 down at the US Open.

Indian player withdrawn from U19 tour of Australia due to age fraud

WINDHOEK. (Agency)

An Indian U19 player has been withdrawn from the upcoming fixtures against Australia U19 after discrepancies were found in his age-related documents, with the BCCI also imposing a two-year ban on him from domestic cricket.

Bengal leg-spinner Rohit Yadav, who had been selected in India's U19 squads for the upcoming One-Day and Multi-Day fixtures against Australia, has been removed from both squads following scrutiny of his documents. The Junior Cricket Committee has named Saurashtra Cricket Association's Aryan Savsani as his replacement in the One-Day squad, while Haryana Cricket Association's Tanmay Baloda has been brought into the Multi-Day squad. Rohit had been part of India's



U19 side as recently as July, when he toured Sri Lanka. He took six wickets during the tour and was part of the team that won the final Test. He was subsequently picked for India's home fixtures against Australia U19 in Rajkot and Ahmedabad. However, discrepancies in his age documents came to light during scrutiny in Sri Lanka. According to the information available, Rohit has three birth certificates carrying different years of birth, with 2007, 2009 and 2010 listed across the documents. There were also inconsistencies in his Aadhaar records. When Rohit was registered with the Cricket Association of Bengal, his year of birth was recorded as 2007. His Aadhaar records were subsequently updated to show 2006 in 2017 and again in 2020, before being changed to 2009 in 2021.

IPL franchises set to enter Big Bash League? Australia approves privatisation

Cricket Australia's decision to open the Big Bash League to private ownership could create another opportunity for India's IPL franchise groups. With several already owning teams overseas, Australia could become their next T20 destination.

New York. (Agency)

The Big Bash League is entering a new era of private ownership, potentially opening another major T20 market to the world's biggest cricket franchise groups. Cricket Australia has approved the sale of the Melbourne Renegades, raising the question of whether Indian Premier League franchises could now look to invest in the Australian competition.

Cricket Australia will invite bids for a full 100 per cent stake in the Melbourne Renegades, with the new owners expected to take control from the 2027-28 Big Bash

League and Women's Big Bash League seasons. The process will not affect the upcoming Australian summer, while other BBL teams could also explore private investment under the newly approved "self-determination" model. The move represents a notable shift in the way the BBL is structured, with private investors now having a pathway into club ownership. CA, however, will continue to oversee several central aspects of the competition, meaning a change in ownership will not necessarily translate into complete control for investors.

WILL IPL FRANCHISES NOW ENTER BBL?

There has been no confirmation of an Indian Premier League-backed bid for the

Renegades. Still, the development is likely to attract attention from IPL franchise owners who have spent recent years building extensive networks across the



global T20 landscape. The Mumbai Indians ownership group already operates MI Cape Town in SA20, MI Emirates in ILT20, MI New York in Major League Cricket and MI London in The Hundred. The Kolkata Knight Riders group has Trinbago Knight Riders, Abu Dhabi Knight Riders and Los Angeles Knight Riders Chennai Super

Kings have Joburg Super Kings and Texas Super Kings, while Rajasthan Royals own Paarl Royals and Barbados Royals. Sunrisers Hyderabad have Sunrisers

Eastern Cape and Sunrisers Leeds, while Lucknow Super Giants operate Durban's Super Giants and Manchester Super Giants.

The Delhi Capitals ownership group has also expanded internationally through Pretoria Capitals, Dubai Capitals, Seattle Orcas and Southern Brave.

Australia therefore presents another sizeable T20 market that could fit naturally into the growing portfolios of these franchise groups..

WHAT WILL CRICKET AUSTRALIA RETAIN?

The arrival of private investors will not see Cricket Australia relinquish control of the BBL's core operations. CA chairman Mike Baird said the governing body will continue to oversee international scheduling, player availability, salary caps and media rights.

Ex-F1 boss Bernie Ecclestone detained at Portugal airport with shotgun

Bernie Ecclestone was detained at a Portuguese airport after officers found a shotgun without the required paperwork. He was released after surrendering the weapon, reviving attention on an earlier firearm incident in Brazil.

Lisbon . (Agency)

Former Formula 1 boss Bernie Ecclestone was detained at a Portuguese airport after authorities found a shotgun in his possession without the required documentation. The 95-year-old was questioned for around an hour before being released, later insisting he had brought the weapon for a clay pigeon shooting competition. Ecclestone arrived at Tires Aerodrome near Lisbon from Switzerland on Monday, where airport

police and customs officials stopped him after discovering the firearm. He said he was asked to produce a "blue book", the documentation required for transporting



the weapon, but did not have it with him. They asked if I had a blue book, which is apparently the documentation you need, and I told them I never travel with documents like that," Ecclestone told the Daily Mail. Ecclestone subsequently surrendered the shotgun and was released later in the day. Speaking to the Press

Association, he rejected reports that he had been arrested and said the Portuguese officers had been "very helpful" during the incident. "I was going to take part in a clay pigeon shooting competition in Portugal," he said. Ecclestone explained that he had previously taken the shotgun from England to Switzerland and expected no complications when bringing it into Portugal. He said airport officials knew him well, but the lack of the necessary paperwork meant he could not legally bring the firearm into the country.

NOT HIS FIRST AIRPORT INCIDENT

The episode is not Ecclestone's first run-in with airport authorities over a firearm. In May 2022, he was detained at Viracopos Airport in Brazil after police discovered a .32-calibre pistol in his possession while he was preparing to board a private flight to Switzerland.

Aryan Savsani, Tanmay Baloda to replace Rohit Yadav in India U19 squads

Yadav, who was named in the India U19 squads to take on Australia in one-dayers and multi-day matches, was handed a two-year ban by the BCCI for allegedly misrepresenting his age.

NEW DELHI. (Agency)

Saurashtra's Aryan Savsani and Haryana's Tanmay Baloda were on Tuesday (September 8, 2026) named replacements for Rohit Yadav in U19 squads to face Australia in a multi-format series later this month.



Yadav, who was named in the India U19 squads to take on Australia in one-dayers and multi-day matches, was handed a two-year ban by the BCCI for allegedly misrepresenting his age. The BCCI said Savsani and Baloda will replace Yadav in the one-day and multi-day Indian squads respectively. "The Junior Cricket Committee has named Saurashtra Cricket Association's Aryan Savsani as Rohit

Yadav's replacement in India U19's One-Day squad, while Haryana Cricket Association's Tanmay Baloda has been named as his replacement in the Multi-Day squad," the BCCI informed. "Rohit, who was named in India's U19 squads for the upcoming fixtures against Australia U19 at Rajkot and Ahmedabad, has been withdrawn from the squad due to age discrepancies."

India U19 will play three one-dayers and the first multi-day match against their Australian counterparts at Rajkot while the second multi-day game will be played at the B Ground in Ahmedabad.

The three one-dayers will be played on September 18, 21 and 23 respectively, while the two multi-day matches will be from September 27-30 and October 5-8.

Shubman Gill goes 6, 4, 6 against Abhishek Sharma, but India star gets his revenge



NEW DELHI. (Agency)

Shubman Gill and Abhishek Sharma have shared dressing rooms, opened together for India and grown up through the same Punjab cricket system. On Monday, though, the two long-time teammates found themselves on opposite sides as Fazilka Falcons faced Amritsar Soormas in the Sher-E-Punjab T20 League in Mohali.

Gill had the better of the early exchange, taking on Abhishek when the left-arm spinner returned for the 10th over. The Fazilka captain launched the first ball straight down the ground for six, followed it with a four through deep mid-wicket and then cleared the ropes again off the fifth delivery. It was a 6, 4, 6 sequence that took Gill closer to a commanding half-century, but Abhishek had the final ball of the over to respond. Gill went for another big hit and picked out Naman Dhir, departing for a 35-ball 67 that included eight fours and three sixes. Fazilka eventually posted 191/6, with Pranshu Pratap making 40 and Sanvir Singh adding 40 off 21 balls.

ABHISHEK'S BLISTERING RESPONSE

If Gill had dominated their individual exchange with the ball, Abhishek quickly made his mark with the bat. Opening the chase alongside Sahaj Dhawan, he helped Amritsar get off to a flying start as the pair put together 79 for the first wicket. Abhishek's 15-ball 49 was packed with six fours and four sixes, coming at a strike rate of more than 300. He fell just short of a half-century, but had already given the Soormas the momentum required in a chase of 192. Fazilka did manage to pull things back after Abhishek's dismissal, reducing Amritsar to 152/5. Rahul Kumar then held the chase together with an unbeaten 53 off 35 balls, taking the Soormas over the line by four wickets with four balls to spare.

Gill's 67 was the highest score of the match, while Abhishek's 49 proved crucial in setting up Amritsar's chase.

Trust, have fun: Satwik and Chirag head to Asian Games with confidence and clarity

Fresh from their China Masters triumph, Satwik and Chirag head to the Asian Games with confidence, but insist they will not burden themselves with expectations of defending their gold.

NEW DELHI. (Agency)

Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty had just won their maiden China Masters title on Sunday, coming from a game down to beat He Ji Ting and Ren Xiang Yu in Shenzhen, and the familiar celebration followed. Satwik danced. The pair soaked in the moment. "It just happens in the moment," Satwik said. "It's kind of a tradition for us. We just want to keep that

tradition going." Perhaps that is also how Satwik and Chirag would like to approach the Asian Games. Without overthinking it. Without carrying the weight of what is expected of them. Without turning every match into a referendum on whether the defending champions are good enough to defend their crown. Three years after winning gold in Hangzhou, the pair will arrive at the Asian Games in Nagoya with a title behind them and, more importantly, a little more clarity about themselves.

"We just want to go out there and have as much fun as we normally do on a badminton court," Chirag said. "If we are able to do that, I think we'll be able to go deep into the tournament. That's the only thing we want to do, not really think too much about the results." It sounds simple. For a pair that has spent much of the past few



years dealing with injuries, interruptions and the expectations that come with being India's leading men's doubles team, it has taken some work to arrive at that simplicity. Their coach Tan Kim Her has seen the other side of it. Earlier this year, when the pair were struggling to find their rhythm, he felt

there was a mental block. They were training well, but the results were not coming. Injuries kept interrupting their progress, making it difficult to build any continuity.

Sometimes, Tan felt, the pressure came from the pair themselves. The lesson was not to eliminate pressure altogether, but to learn how to handle it. That may be the biggest change in their approach to this Asian Games. They are not claiming to be immune to expectations. They are trying not to add to them themselves. They will be defending champions. They know opponents will prepare specifically for them. They know they will be among the pairs expected to challenge for gold. But Chirag does not want to accept the idea that they are somehow the inevitable pair to beat. "There are plenty of other good players as well," he said.



Tanushree Dutta

Shares Cryptic Post For Those Who 'Plotted' Against Her: 'I'll Watch The Fall And Demise'

Actress Tanushree Dutta has shared a cryptic post, seemingly directed at those she believes have caused her pain and hardship. In the post, the 'Aashiq Banaya Aapne' actress spoke about karma, her personal and professional life, and claimed that those who wronged her would eventually face the consequences of their actions. Taking to Instagram, Tanushree wrote about her hopes of rebuilding her life while issuing a stern warning to those she accused of plotting and working against her. She expressed confidence that her "karmic wheels" were turning and said she would witness the downfall of those who had allegedly caused her suffering.

Sharing her image, the 'Dhol' actress wrote, "To those who afflicted me and removed me from my organic path in life. My vocational and personal life will be resurrected again in the most wonderful way and I will watch the fall & demise of all those who afflicted me for no fault of mine." "The karmic wheels are turning and the next millenia belongs to me! And these a***oles who dared to plot, gaslight, hound, surveil, plan & attack me will be hounded for eternity by forces so scary that they will regret every moment that their wicked souls went against me. Their lives will crumble right before their own eyes," she added.

Tanushree Dutta has previously been vocal about her experiences in the film industry and has spoken publicly about issues she faced during her career.

Last month, the actress had also penned a note in which she claimed that her career was being sabotaged by what she described as "enemy camp handlers." She alleged that these individuals were deliberately preventing work opportunities from reaching her, claiming, "They don't let anything come to me." An excerpt from her post read, "So there are also people that want to work with me but the enemy camp handlers don't let anything come to me. They lie, manipulate and lead things astray at the enquiry level itself. Or misguide genuine brands, events and projects to sabotage me further."

In 2025, Tanushree Dutta came into the spotlight as one of the prominent voices of Bollywood's 2018 #MeToo movement. She had publicly accused veteran actor Nana Patekar of sexual misconduct during the filming of the 2008 film "Horn 'Ok' Pleassss."



Ameesha Patel Hits Back At Netizen Linking Her To Hardik Pandya: 'My God...'



Ameesha Patel and cricketer Hardik Pandya were recently spotted at the Taj Mahal Palace in Mumbai. A video of their interaction has gone viral on social media. It showed the 'Gadar' actress introducing him to her friends. An X user shared the clip and seemingly suggested that their interaction was more than just friendly, pointing to the moment Ameesha placed her hand on Hardik Pandya's shoulder. Ameesha has now hit back at the netizen with a sarcastic response, taking a dig at the user for linking the casual gesture to romance.

Ameesha Patel Slams Netizen Linking Her To Hardik Pandya

The X user shared the viral video featuring Ameesha Patel and Hardik Pandya and wrote, "The way Ameesha Patel put her hand on Hardik Pandya's shoulder during the party at a hotel in Bengaluru. All the Reddit rumours seem to be coming true."

Ameesha Patel took to her Instagram stories to share a screenshot of the X user's post, and slammed him for linking her to the cricketer. She responded with a sarcastic take on the netizen's interpretation of the moment.

"So true ya. My god ur correct...truly romantic way my hand was on him," she wrote. She then took a direct dig at the person behind the post. "I don't know u but surely u don't have a girl even as a friend. It's time u do have one before posting hence on such things...", wrote Ameesha.

Meanwhile, Hardik Pandya is dating model Mahieka Sharma. Two years after his separation from Natasa Stankovic, the star all-rounder introduced Mahieka as the new woman in his life. On October 10, 2025, Hardik shared an Instagram Story featuring a photo of himself with Mahieka at the beach, making their relationship Insta-official.

Ameesha Patel's Work Front

In 2023, Ameesha reunited with Sunny Deol for Gadar 2 and went on to create history at the box office. She reprised her iconic role as Sakina in the film.

Farah Khan's Triplets Head To College In Different Cities, Emotional Mom Says '3 Pieces Of My Heart'



Filmmaker and choreographer Farah Khan got emotional as her triplets, Diva, Anya and Czar, embarked on their college journeys in different cities.

Sharing a glimpse of the bittersweet milestone on Instagram, Farah reflected on the challenges of sending not one but three children off to college. Sharing photos, the director wrote, "If u thought moving ur kid to college was hard.. try doing it 3times! 3 cities, 3 campuses..3 goodbyes! 3pieces of my heart Jao jee lo apni zindagi.. but remember, all roads lead back to Dad & mom.. to @shirishkunder for doing everything except cming in the family pics.. p.s. - @divakunder u know why i chose this song."

The first image shows Farah sharing a warm hug with her son Czar, while the other photos capture her sweet and candid moments with her triplets. The doting mom also added the song 'Kabhi Alvida Naa Kehna' to the post, perfectly capturing the emotional moment.

Reacting to her post, Sunita Kapoor commented, "Faru making me cry." Shilpa Shirodkar wrote, "Love you Farah congratulations to the babies and trust me they will come back being the Best Version of Themselves."

Rhea Kapoor wrote, "i can't believe they are so big." Bhavana Pandey, Soha Ali Khan, Diana Penty among other actors dropped heart emojis. Back in May, Farah Khan and Shirish Kunder celebrated a major milestone as their triplets, Diva, Anya and Czar, officially graduated from school. Farah took to Instagram to share pictures from the graduation ceremony held at Dhirubhai Ambani International School in Mumbai. Alongside the images, she had written, "Don't know which is tougher.. raising your kids or letting them go!? They can fly as high as they dream .. there ll always be a nest waiting for them #graduation #bittersweet p.s- its impossible to find all 3 kids n a husband whn taking pics."



Hina Khan

Reacts To Kriti Sanon Raksha Bandhan Ad Controversy: 'As An Actor, You Can Opt Out'

Hina Khan has said that actors can choose to walk away from a brand project if they feel its creative approach could lead to a backlash.

The actor was reacting to the backlash faced by Kriti Sanon over her Raksha Bandhan advertisement for jewellery brand GIVA on her talk show The4POV.

The advertisement was pulled down from social media after Kriti faced criticism from some netizens over her outfit. Hina, while speaking to husband Rocky Jaiswal and actors Rubina Dilaik and Abhinav Shukla, said actors should consider the possible consequences before agreeing to a project.

Hina Khan says actors can opt out of projects

Hina explained that brands can sometimes be firm about how they want their advertisements to look, but actors still have the choice to refuse. She said, "Sometimes, some brands are very adamant on a certain sort of their creative. They want to do it their way. As an actor, you always have the option of opting out, considering that it may backfire. Maybe it was not well thought, or maybe they thought it may not become what it became." However, Hina made it clear that she did not think Kriti deserved the level of criticism that followed the advertisement. She also pointed out that online reactions can sometimes continue long after the original issue has passed.

"The level at which... what happened and what is

happening, no one deserves so much. Ek cheez hogayi, aapne itna socha nahi and it happened. But then people don't let it go. It becomes big and very big," she said.

Hina Khan says she does not blame Kriti or GIVA

Hina added that she was not blaming either Kriti or the



jewellery brand for the controversy, saying both were entitled to their opinions. At the same time, she returned to her point that actors have the option of turning down a project if they are uncomfortable with its creative direction. "We as actors always have the option of opting out. When you do any project, you are told that all is going to happen." Kriti had starred in the GIVA advertisement wearing an off-white outfit with a bralette-style blouse, cape and draped skirt. Some netizens felt that the look was inappropriate for a Raksha Bandhan.

NEWS BOX

Russia resumes strikes on Kyiv after three-day halt

KYIV.(Agency)

Russia resumed strikes on Kyiv after the expiration of a three-day halt in attacks for a visit to the Ukrainian capital by US envoys, Ukraine's emergency service said late Monday. Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered the three-day halt in Moscow's strikes on Kyiv as US President Donald Trump's envoys Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner visited the Russian and Ukrainian capitals at the weekend. "Russians attacked Boryspil and Fastiv districts with drones," the the State Emergency Service of Ukraine posted on Telegram. The Kyiv city military administration said an air raid alert had been declared in the capital due to the threat of "enemy" drone attack, and urged residents to take shelter. Russia's state news agency TASS confirmed earlier that the pause in strikes had expired. Witkoff touted progress in the discussions with Ukraine and Russia, raising the prospect of reviving three-way peace talks to end the conflict. A series of strong explosions rang out in Kyiv early Tuesday, according to AFP journalists, as Russia resumed strikes on the Ukrainian capital after the three-day halt. The latest explosions triggered car alarms in the city centre, the journalists said, after the Kyiv city military administration declared an air raid alert. The city's military administration reported a missile attack and urged residents to take shelter. According to the authorities, buildings were hit in Kyiv as well as in the Boryspil and Fastiv districts, while an AFP journalist saw plumes of smoke and the glow of a fire.

Iran says its improved ballistic missile capabilities show the country will take preemptive action against any threat

WASHINGTON.(Agency)

Iran state media on Monday said a ballistic missile with improved capabilities was demonstrating a new doctrine: Tehran "will take action against any threat, even before it is carried out." The report by Iran's state news agency repeatedly cited comments aired on state TV the day before by the head of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, Mohsen Rezaei, who boasted of new missile capability and claimed it had been "tested" against a U.S. warship. But it was not clear whether what was tested was the missile the new report described, the solid-fueled Qassem Basir. The U.S. on Saturday said ballistic missiles were launched at U.S. warships and it struck three Iranian oil tankers in response. Experts called the launch a dangerous escalation, noting that until then Iran's attacks at sea had targeted commercial shipping during six months of war. The U.S. said the warships evaded the attacks. Iran's messaging in recent days has become more assertive, and Monday's report said the Qassem Basir marks "a turning point in Iran's defense strategy." It described the missile as having greater range and accuracy and a half-ton warhead. The missile was unveiled last year, when it was described as having at least a 1,200-kilometer (745-mile) range. Concerns about Iran's ballistic missile program were one of the stated reasons the U.S. and Israel attacked Iran early this year, sparking the war. US dismisses talk of Iran-imposed 'exclusion zone' The White House responded to plans announced by Rezaei to create an "exclusion zone" near the Strait of Hormuz that's aimed at vessels trying to transit, saying the waterway is open and controlled by the U.S. It also said the U.S. Navy had cleared the strait of mines, and that tanker traffic to non-Iranian ports would increase. A U.S. blockade on Iranian ports continues in an effort to increase Tehran's economic pain by limiting its oil exports.

Eiffel Tower Shuts After Women Staff "Sidelined" For Hindu Group's Visit

Paris.(Agency)

Staff at the Eiffel Tower in Paris went on strike over allegations that female employees were 'removed' from the premises during a visit by a Hindu religious group days earlier, workers and management said. The dispute stems from a private visit last week by a delegation of about 100 people linked to BAPS (Bochasanwasi Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha), a religious group whose representatives were in France for festivities related to the inauguration of a temple in the Paris suburbs. In a statement, Eiffel Tower staff condemned "professional instructions that led to female employees being sidelined, replaced, and rendered invisible based on their gender" during the visit by the delegation. "Instructions were given to female employees of the Eiffel Tower and to female employees of contractors to make themselves invisible in order to welcome this delegation," the staff said in their

statement, adding they were shocked to have been put in such a situation. "Some were asked to leave their posts and withdraw to other areas. In some posts they were replaced by men. And all female employees were instructed not to go through or cross certain areas while the delegation was present." SETE, the operating company that runs the Paris landmark, acknowledged that the Hindu delegation had requested the visit be organised to limit "interactions with women" and said that "these conditions should not have been accepted." The conditions "were not in line with SETE's values, nor with the principles of equality between men and women," the company said, promising to accept the "consequences." "It is clearly not an acceptable practice. I restate the Eiffel Tower's commitment to republican values and to the equality of men and women," SETE president Ariel Weil, who is also a socialist elected official in Paris, told news agency AFP.

At least 227 people have been killed in 68 U.S. government strikes that began against boats in the Caribbean and Pacific more than a year ago.

QUITO, Ecuador.(Agency)

The U.S. Southern Command on Monday sank another Ecuadorian vessel that the U.S. alleged was linked to the criminal group Los Choneros. It was the latest action by the U.S. against boats and vessels in Latin America that it said were involved in drug trafficking. The joint task force intercepted a floating refueling station that supported illicit drug trafficking operations at sea in the Eastern

Pacific, the Southern Command said in a statement. It added that the people on board the vessel were removed and will be transferred to Ecuadorian authorities. A video accompanying the announcement showed military personnel boarding a boat, followed by a helicopter flying overhead and finally a projectile striking and sinking it. The statement also indicated that U.S. forces continue to conduct "precise and professional operations to dismantle the logistical networks that fuel drug trafficking in the Western Hemisphere." Ecuadorian authorities did not immediately comment. The sunken vessel, whose name has not been released, was the fifth targeted by U.S. forces in less than two weeks. The fishing vessel Maria Candelaria was struck last week in the Pacific, according to information from U.S. Southern Command, in coordination

with Ecuadorian authorities.

The Ecuadorian navy located 26 crew members from that vessel, who arrived Sunday in the port city of Manta. Eight fishermen from the Conquista II were also



located, while their families on the mainland demanded information about their whereabouts. The other two vessels were the OM2 and Los Tres Hermanos, whose crew members say they were sunk. Southern Command recently identified

them as "floating refueling stations for multiple vessels engaged in illicit drug trafficking operations," in posts on the social media platform X.

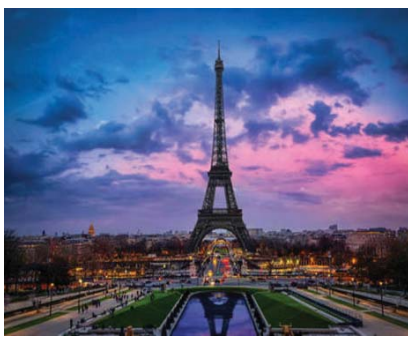
The United States has said all of the boats were linked to Los Choneros, which the U.S. considers a foreign terrorist organization. These cases add to those of three other vessels whose Ecuadorian crews say they were intercepted by U.S. forces this year. In the case of the Fiorella, eight fishermen remain missing since January. The crews of the other vessels returned to Ecuador after being sent to El Salvador. At least 227 people have been killed in 68 U.S. government strikes that began against boats in the Caribbean and Pacific more than a year ago. Critics have questioned the overall legality of the boat strikes as well as their effectiveness.

Eiffel Tower shuts after female staff sidelined during Hindu group's visit, reopens after management apologises

world.(Agency)

The Eiffel Tower shut down after staff went on strike following allegations that female employees were sidelined during a private visit by a Hindu religious delegation, reports said. The dispute reportedly involved around 100 people associated with BAPS (Bochasanwasi Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha), a prominent Hindu spiritual organisation. According to reports, the delegation requested that arrangements be made to limit interactions with women during its visit. Eiffel Tower employees alleged that female workers were instructed to leave their workstations, avoid certain areas and, in some cases, were replaced by male colleagues. Union representatives criticised the arrangements, saying they effectively pushed female employees

out of their normal duties. The tower's operating company, Société d'Exploitation de la Tour Eiffel



(SETE), acknowledged that the conditions requested for the visit had been accepted. However, management later said that the decision "should not have been accepted" because it conflicted with principles of gender equality. The

incident triggered a strong political response in France. The French capital's socialist mayor Emmanuel Gregoire said on X it was "unacceptable" that the Tower management agreed to the delegation's conditions, and said an investigation would be launched.

French Equality Minister Aurore Berge reacted angrily on X. "In France, we do not ask women to erase themselves. No dogma, no religion is above the laws of the Republic," she wrote. Far-right presidential candidate Marine Le Pen also criticised the incident, saying France would "never accept that women's presence be limited". Gabriel Attal, a centrist rival to become premier, said that "in France, no culture, no belief, no religion, nothing and no one can come and dictate to women what their place should be".

Indonesia reopens Jakarta airport after volcano ash disrupts 3,000 flights

Jakarta airport and four others in Java have reopened as Indonesia's volcanic ash crisis eases, after stranding hundreds of thousands of travelers.

JAKARTA.(Agency)

Indonesia's main airport and several other air travel hubs reopened early Tuesday after days of closure due to ash from a volcanic eruption, the Transport Ministry said. The ministry wrote on Instagram that the airport serving the capital Jakarta and four

others near the city or around the island of Java are now operating again, as the air safety crisis that left



hundreds of thousands of travelers stranded subsides. Mount Anak Krakatau, about 150 kilometres (93 miles) from Jakarta, erupted on Saturday, spewing a fountain of lava and a plume of volcanic ash. Eight airports halted operations over the weekend after ash was detected in their airspace, disrupting nearly

3,000 flights and leaving more than 340,000 passengers stranded, the Transport Ministry reported on Monday. Early Tuesday the ministry posted on Instagram that Jakarta's airport and four others are up and running again. Jakarta's main airport wrote on Instagram that "following the current volcanic eruption activity of Mount Anak Krakatau, Soekarno-Hatta International Airport has resumed flight operations."

Earlier, the airport closures had been repeatedly extended. Airlines now face the daunting task of getting all the stranded passengers onto planes and to their intended destinations after days of chaos at the airports. The other four listed as reopening include Halim Perdanakusuma, a smaller Jakarta-area airport that caters to both civil and military flights.

Germany's Merz shocked by far-right state election triumph but doubles down on unpopular reforms

BERLIN.(Agency)

German Chancellor Friedrich Merz doubled down Monday on pushing through unpopular reforms to Europe's largest economy after a far-right party surged to a landslide victory in a regional election, with a very good chance of forming the first far-right state government since the Nazi era.

Merz said his center-right Christian Democratic Union was "deeply shocked" by what he called "the most serious election defeat that the CDU has had for years, for decades." But he indicated that he's determined to stay at the helm and said that "giving up is not an option for me." The anti-migration and Russia-friendly Alternative for Germany, or AfD, fell just short of a majority in Sunday's vote in Saxony-Anhalt, a small eastern state that gained outsized prominence as AfD eyed power there. Its regional branch is one of several considered a proven right-wing extremist group by Germany's domestic intelligence agency. Merz says Germany will stick to its values and Russia stance. AfD's victory is a major distraction for Germany and Merz at a time when Europe faces several challenges, including Russia's continued aggression against Ukraine, a suspected sabotage campaign targeting NATO countries, and difficult dealings with U.S. President Donald Trump. Merz said he wanted to assure Germany's allies that "our institutions are resilient and stable" and the country will stick to its values and constitution after the AfD win. "We know that Germany carries special responsibility because of its history," he said. He vowed that he won't "budge one millimeter from my fundamental conviction that we must defend our freedom against Russia now." Germany is one of Ukraine's biggest supporters in its war against Russia. Because of Germany's Nazi past, far-right movements have always come under strong scrutiny. Other major parties have refused to cooperate with AfD in a so-called "firewall." Unlike many countries in Europe, modern Germany hasn't yet had a far-right or right-wing populist party leading a national, state or major-city government. Determination to continue reforms 'unbroken' Merz vowed to weaken AfD before he came to power last year, but instead has seen the party's support increase. The governing coalition of his Union bloc and the center-left Social Democrats has developed a reputation for squabbling and become deeply unpopular, as has Merz himself. The government has struggled to persuade voters that it can get the country's chronically sluggish economy moving, through potentially painful reforms, including to the pension system.

Federal investigators probe Amazon cargo jet crash in Miami

MIAMI.(Agency)

The five people killed when an Amazon cargo jet ran off a runway at Miami International Airport were all inside a van carrying seven people from a cleaning company, and an SUV hit outside of airport property, National Transportation Safety Board Chairwoman Jennifer Homendy said Monday. Homendy called the scene of Sunday's crash "utter devastation." She didn't detail how many people were in the SUV or where the dead were located. Homendy walked the route the Boeing 767 followed, noting tire marks from the pavement into the grass, the destroyed van carrying the cleaning crew, torn fencing, navigational equipment, and the crushed SUV outside airport property. The debris included vehicle air bags, equipment from the vehicles, the airplane and the airport, and "fencing everywhere," Homendy said. "It's pretty extensive. Hard to see and I'm sure it must have been very difficult for the responders as well," Homendy said. The airline, all told, traveled

about 1,300 feet (396 meters) past the paved surface. Debris was everywhere, she said. "I would describe it in one word as devastating, utter devastation," Homendy said. The van with seven people inside was "torn apart. It

cause of deadly overrun. Federal investigators examining the crash spent Monday determining whether the plane touched down too late to stop safely. Video of Sunday's landing appears to show the Boeing 767



certainly must have been devastating," she said. The van was owned by Professional Ocean Service Corp., an airline cleaning contractor. Homendy said the NTSB would issue more information on Tuesday, including possibly information on speed that is confirmed by the flight data recorder. Federal investigators examining

remaining airborne well down the runway before touching down. Aviation experts said investigators will seek to determine exactly where the plane landed, whether it was beyond the normal touchdown zone, and why the pilots did not abandon the landing. Investigators will also examine the plane's speed and braking, weather and wind conditions, the aircraft's mechanical condition and other factors that could have contributed to the deadly overrun. The aircraft on Sunday flew from Cincinnati to Miami and then to San Juan, Puerto Rico. It was returning to Miami when it overran the runway around 2 p.m. and plowed across a road used by warehouse workers and other businesses that surround the airport.