

DKS' 100-day milestone: Karnataka CM to meet guarantee beneficiaries on September 10

KOPPAL. (Agency)

Chief Minister DK Shivakumar's government is set to complete 100 days in office on Thursday. To mark the milestone, the CM will hold a town hall meeting with beneficiaries of the Congress government's flagship guarantee schemes at Vidhana Soudha on Thursday morning.

Sources in the government said the CM is likely to talk about various initiatives taken by his government and also outline his vision for the next 500 days. After taking over as CM, Shivakumar hit the ground running from day one and took several new initiatives, despite the government facing several shortcomings.

While implementation of five guarantee schemes rolled out during Siddaramaiah's tenure as CM remained the key focus, the new government under Shivakumar's leadership is also emphasising infrastructure projects, sources said. To ensure that the administration is responsive and bureaucratic delays are eliminated, the Shivakumar government launched the Praja Seva Department.

BJP chief Nabin says India's youth are with Modi, turning from job-seekers to job- creators

New Delhi. (Agency)

BJP national president Nitin Nabin on Wednesday asserted that the country's youth are with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He said young Indians are participating and contributing across various fields, moving beyond being merely job-seekers to becoming job-creators through start-ups and unicorns. Speaking to the media at the BJP's central office, Nitin also highlighted the transformation and development work being carried out in villages located along the country's borders. "There was a time when border villages were referred to as the last villages of India. PM Modi changed that narrative and called them the first villages of India. This has not only transformed the lives of people residing in those villages along the borders but also changed the way people think about these villages and the communities residing there," Nabin claimed.

Taking a dig at the Opposition, he said the country's youth, once immersed in an atmosphere of despair, are now breaking records under the leadership and support of PM Modi.

"It is happening since PM Modi, who, since 2014, took up the task of placing the youth in an environment of hope and optimism", he said. Highlighting the work done towards the eradication of Naxalism, Nabin further said that every Indian is now progressing with dignity and that Naxalism has been almost eradicated.

BJP Launches Month-Long Outreach To Mark PM Modi's 25 Years In Office

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)

The Bharatiya Janata Party has announced a month-long nationwide outreach programme, the Sewa Sankalp Abhiyan, timed to mark Prime Minister Narendra Modi completing 25 years in continuous executive office on October 7.

The milestone spans his years as Chief Minister of Gujarat, a post he took charge of on October 7, 2001, and his subsequent tenure as Prime Minister of India.

The campaign, titled "Sewa Sankalp Abhiyan," was formally announced at the party headquarters by BJP National President Nitin Nabin, in the presence of senior leaders Vinod Tawde and Anil Baluni. It will run from September 17 to October 17. Nitin Nabin while addressing media told that the initiative is meant to reflect the Prime Minister's own commitment to public service, and said

crores of BJP workers would take part in service-driven activities through the month. He credited PM Modi's leadership with strengthening India's internal and external security, with pushing back Naxalism, with the construction of the Ram Temple, and with India emerging as the world's third largest startup ecosystem. A national coordination committee has been formed for the campaign, chaired by BJP national president Nitin Nabin, with national general secretary Vinod Tawde as coordinator. Its members include Union minister Mansukh Mandaviya, Smriti Irani, Gujarat Deputy Chief Minister Harsh Sanghvi, V.D. Sharma, MP Tejasvi Surya, Kerala unit president Rajeev Chandrasekhar, Hemang Joshi, MP Rekha Sharma, Chhattisgarh Finance Minister O.P. Choudhary, Mrigank

Dev Varman, and former Haryana minister Aseem Goyal.

How The Month Will Unfold



September 17: The campaign opens with blood donation camps organised across the country through the day. In the evening, at 7 pm, the "Aashirwad Ka Diya" programme will see lamps lit at homes nationwide, with particular focus on households that have

benefited from government schemes, as a gesture of collective gratitude. The same day marks the start of "Namo Sewa Gatha," under which state governments will run week-long camps at the assembly and block level so citizens can access central and state welfare schemes at a single point, without having to make repeated trips to government offices. September 17 to October 7: Schools, both government and private, will hold drawing, painting and speech competitions for children under " Sapno Ka Bharat," organised jointly by the party's organisational wing and the education department, aimed at introducing children to the idea of 25 years of public service and a developed India. September 25 to October 7: Anganwadi centres across the country will host "Angan Ka Utsav," run by the BJP Mahila Morcha, felicitating.

Property Dispute: Public Thoroughfare or Century-Old Private Trust Land?

The Catalyst An Incident Captured on Camera

MAHANAGAR METRO

Kosamba: Police Controversy: Cloth Merchant Accuses PI Thumar of Severe Abuse of PowerKosamba | September 10, 2026A massive wave of outrage has swept through police and administrative circles in Kosamba as a local trading community takes a defiant, uncompromising stand against alleged police high-handedness. Mohammadtaha Sabbirbhai Kapadiya, a prominent cloth merchant operating in the historic 'Limdawala Bazaar', has formally lodged grave accusations against Kosamba Police Station In-Charge, PI Thumar. The complaints cite blatant verbal abuse, deeply humiliating behavior, and direct threats to vandalize and destroy shop inventory. Rather than accepting local containment, the grievance has been escalated directly to the Chief Minister's Public Relations Office in Gandhinagar, triggering intense scrutiny across state departments. The Catalyst: An Incident Captured on CameraAccording to the official sequence of events, a heavy contingent of the Kosamba police force swooped into the bustling Limdawala Bazaar during the evening hours of August 8.

Officers reportedly targeted the merchant's establishment, aggressively demanding the immediate removal of display garment stands positioned outside the shop premises. In doing so, the police detail allegedly subjected on-duty staff members to a barrage of crude, highly inappropriate, and abrasive language. Unbeknownst to the responding officers, the entire encounter—including their conduct and authoritative posture—was captured in high definition by closed-circuit surveillance cameras installed within the shop. Armed with these immutable digital records, the merchant has officially submitted the video evidence to senior departmental overseers as undeniable proof of misconduct. Property Dispute: Public Thoroughfare or Century-Old Private Trust Land?At the heart of the operational conflict lies a fundamental dispute regarding territorial jurisdiction and property rights. Mohammadtaha Kapadiya has asserted that while the local business community remains entirely cooperative regarding lawful government edicts and regulatory compliance, illegal and arbitrary police intimidation will face stiff resis-

tance. The merchant has put forward a critical land-use claim: the approximately 10-foot passageway directly fronting the commercial establishment does not constitute a public government-maintained main road. Instead, records indicate it is a private pedestrian pathway owned by a charitable trust dating back over a century, universally recognized as 'Limdawala Bazaar'. Legal observers and community leaders are now openly questioning the jurisdictional basis and legal authority under which local law enforcement intervened on private trust property. The Inquiry Farce: Investigating the OverseerPerhaps the most controversial and widely criticized aspect of the unfolding crisis is the administrative handling of the grievance itself. In a development that has baffled legal experts, the preliminary internal inquiry into the grave allegations leveled against a senior gazetted-rank officer (PI Thumar) has reportedly been assigned to a junior-ranking Head Constable. This bureaucratic decision has sparked widespread cynicism and disbelief across the region. Questions are being raised in legal circles regarding how



an officer of subordinate rank can maintain impartiality or summon the institutional courage required to conduct a thorough, objective investigation against their own station commander. Critics are openly questioning whether this procedural assignment is merely a paper-shuffling exercise designed to shield the Inspector from accountability and quietly bury the complaint. Unanswered Questions and the Demand for Independent OversightThe core of the trader's protest does not challenge legitimate law enforcement duties or public safety measures. Rather, it draws a hard line against the weaponization of uniform and authority, demanding accountability for uncultured language, verbal harassment, and intimidation tactics allegedly deployed by those sworn to protect the citizenry.

Dalit man's suicide rocks Punjab

Rahul Gandhi seeks minister's exit, CM hits back

New Delhi.(Agency)

The suicide of a Dalit daily wage earner in Punjab's Sangrur has triggered a massive political storm, with the Congress and BJP coming down heavily on the AAP government with leaders, including Rahul Gandhi, alleging he was humiliated and subjected to caste abuse for questioning Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema about the drug menace. Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann mounted a defensive response, accusing the opposition of playing politics over the death. Gulzar, 47, died on Monday night after allegedly consuming poison. His family has alleged that he was pressured to apologise and abused with casteist slurs after he questioned Cheema at an event on September 6 over the "unabated" supply of drug in his area. Rahul Gandhi, in a social media post, launched a pointed attack on the

With just months to go before the Punjab Assembly elections, the suicide of a Dalit man who questioned a minister over the drug menace has rocked state politics.



Mann government, calling the incident part of a "dangerous pattern" and seeking the

dismissal of Minister Cheema. Gandhi alleged that the Dalit community member was "tortured and humiliated" for simply asking the Finance Minister, "why has the government failed so miserably in stopping the drug trade".

"The government's job is to answer to the people, not to crush those who ask questions. May Gulzar Singh ji's family get justice as soon as possible. The Chief Minister should immediately demand the Finance Minister's resignation and ensure an independent and impartial investigation, with his name registered in the FIR," Gandhi wrote on X. The Congress MP also posted a video of Gulzar's final moments, in which he is heard questioning Cheema about the availability of 'chitta', a term commonly used to refer to heroin, in the area and saying that his son was also consuming the drug. He also allegedly held the village sarpanch responsible for his death.

Punjab MP Raghav Chadha's Name Added To Delhi Voter List

New Delhi (Agency)

BJP Rajya Sabha MP from Punjab Raghav Chadha's name has been added to the voters list of Delhi currently being revised under the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the national capital's electoral rolls, poll officials said on Tuesday.

AAP leaders, in a press conference, raised the issue and alleged that Chadha's name was included in the electoral rolls of the Rajinder Nagar Assembly constituency without following the due procedure. Poll officials said that Chadha's name was added to the electoral rolls of Delhi through the updation process. His name was removed from the rolls of Punjab, from where he was sent to the Rajya Sabha by his previous party AAP.

"A total of 700 forms for inclusion of names in the electoral rolls were approval by the electoral registration officers (EROs) in 70 Assembly constituencies in Delhi till Tuesday. Chadha's name was among them," said an official at the office of Delhi Chief Electoral Officer. The electoral roll of Delhi was frozen on June 16 for the preparation of SIR and remained in the frozen state till August 31, when the draft electoral rolls were published, said a Delhi CEO statement. During this period, approximately 2.14 lakh Forms-6 for new voters (besides Form-7 and 8) were submitted by the electors.



PhD scholar’s death: FIR against girlfriend, friend for abetment

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

An FIR for abetment to suicide was registered against a PhD scholar’s girlfriend and a mutual friend, days after the 24-year-old Delhi University student allegedly died by suicide in Siddharth Vihar. Police said the family told them he used to speak to the two women for hours on the phone.

The Jodhpur resident, pursuing a PhD at DU’s Deshbandhu College, allegedly fell from the 27th floor of a high-rise on Aug 25. He was staying with relatives at a third-floor flat in Prateek Grand since Aug 18.ACP (Kotwali) Upasana Pandey said the scholar’s uncle, Pramendra Kumar, approached police and submitted a suicide note written by the student. An FIR was then registered at Vijay Nagar police station against his girlfriend and a mutual friend under BNS section relating to abetment of suicide.

“A few days ago, the uncle came with a note and submitted it at Vijay Nagar police station. The note stated, ‘main mar raha hu apni marzi se, kisi ka name nahi lunga’ (I am ending my life by my own choice; I will not take anyone’s name),” Pandey said. She added that the family told police the scholar would speak to both women for hours. “We have applied for call details of the victim and are investigating the matter,” she said.A senior police officer said the scholar’s phone had been recovered and sent for forensic examination. The family also told police that on the day of his death, he spoke on the phone for several hours and stepped outside the flat while talking to someone. Vijay Nagar SHO Dharam Pal Singh said police were examining CCTV footage provided by the society. Footage showed the scholar walking towards the stairs on the third floor around 7pm before taking a lift to the 27th floor.

Six in police net for bike theft, mobile snatching

Noida.(Agency)

Six persons were arrested on Tuesday during a crackdown on gangs involved in bike thefts and mobile phone snatching, police said, adding that 16 stolen two-wheelers, 16 mobile phones, a lock-breaking tool, a country-made pistol, several knives and Rs 5,000 in cash were recovered after their arrests. A juvenile was also detained in the operation.

Police conducted three operations in different parts of the city to trace the accused. In Sector 28, three men — Mannu Kumar (19), a motorcycle mechanic, Naved Khan (32), who works in a mobile repair shop, and Ashu Kumar (20) — were arrested. According to police, Mannu and Ashu would steal bikes, then use the stolen two-wheelers to target pedestrians and snatch their mobile phones. They would sell the stolen phones to Naved, who would strip them of their parts and sell them separately.Two motorcycles, one without a number plate, and 14 phones were recovered from them. All three have had cases registered against them previously in Noida, Delhi and Bulandshahr.In a separate operation, police arrested a 19-year-old and detained a juvenile from near Heart Beat City. Two mobile phones and a pistol were recovered from them. Police in Badalpur said they busted an interstate two-wheeler theft gang with the arrest of two men, Saif Ali and Shadab.An officer said the two chse the place from where they were going to steal the bikes after several reconnaissance missions. Afterwards, they kept the stolen vehicles in vacant plots and sold them off to passers-by at low prices.A total of 14 two-wheelers — 13 motorcycles and one scooter — were recovered after their arrest.

Leopard Trail in Gurgaon to get 1-acre revived waterbody, butterfly park

Gurgaon.(Agency)

The forest department is giving the city’s Leopard Trail a nature-focused makeover, with plans to revive a one-acre waterbody and develop a half-acre butterfly park while keeping the visitor trail largely in its natural form. The project is being executed on forest land and is targeted for completion by the end of Sept.A 100-metre walkway will be created around the waterbody, but it will remain a kaccha path instead of being paved. “The walkway will be similar to the trail at Sultanpur National Park. The approach is aimed at ensuring that the natural terrain and vegetation are not disturbed while making the area accessible to visitors,” a forest official said.

The trail will have a bamboo boundary, while a misting system will also be installed along the stretch. The forest department plans to revive the waterbody by clearing excessive algae and water hyacinth that has spread across parts of its surface. Officials will also ensure that it receives water through the natural drainage channels of the Aravalis, while avoiding major changes to the surrounding terrain.

he half-acre butterfly park will be another attraction at the site, with suitable plantations planned to provide food and habitat for butterflies and support their presence in the area.The one-acre waterbody is currently part of the Aravali landscape at Leopard Trail. Its revival will restore a water feature within the forested terrain.The development comes as Leopard Trail has become a popular destination for residents of nearby areas seeking access to the city’s Aravali landscape. Unlike formal parks and recreational spaces, the trail offers visitors an opportunity to experience the rocky.

Satya Niketan aftermath: MCG seeks details of unsafe buildings

Gurgaon.(Agency)

Following the building collapse in Satya Niketan, MCG commissioner Pradeep Dahiya has directed the joint commissioners of all zones to submit details of unsafe buildings in their respective areas, along with information on demolition orders already issued against such structures.The directions come amid concerns over the civic body’s enforcement of safety measures for buildings identified as structurally unsafe. However, MCG has not done any fresh survey of unsafe buildings in the last one year.“We are in the process of preparing this report,” said an MCG official familiar with the matter.The civic body had, in Feb this year, identified 45 unsafe buildings across the city. Of these, six buildings have since

been demolished, while 21 have been repaired, according to a report submitted by MCG to Haryana Human Rights Commission (HRC).The report was submitted after HRC in Aug last year had criticised the civic body over an alleged lack of enforcement and inaction against unsafe buildings. The latest directions are aimed at obtaining an updated zone-wise status of such structures and determining the action already taken against unsafe buildings.At the time of the Feb assessment, Gurgaon was divided into four zones. Zone 1 had 18 buildings on the list; two were demolished, seven could not be located at the reported sites and nine were found to be safe. In zone 2, one of six identified buildings was demolished, three were repaired by their owners and two could not be located.Zone 3 had the highest

number of identified unsafe structures, with 20 buildings. Of these, two were demolished, nine were repaired by their



owners and nine could not be located at the reported sites. The lone building identified in zone 4 was demolished. MCG chief engineer Vijay Dhaka confirmed the numbers to TOI: “We have also demolished six of the 45 buildings identified as unsafe or dangerous.”

Asked about the buildings not found at their reported locations, Dhaka said: “It implied that either these buildings were demolished or repaired, so unsafe buildings were not found at the site.”

Buildings identified in the Feb report are located in areas including Badshahpur, Kherki Daula and Hari Nagar.MCG had prepared the Feb report after HHRC, in Aug last year, criticised the civic body over alleged inaction and inadequate enforcement against unsafe structures. The latest directive is meant to establish a current zone-wise status of such buildings and assess action taken on those with pending demolition orders. It is expected to give MCG an updated picture of buildings that remain potentially hazardous and require further enforcement.

Paris: A Sculptural Dream of Indian Culture – BAPS Swaminarayan Hindu Mandir

Mahanagar Metro Desk

Paris: A Sculptural Dream of Indian Culture – BAPS Swaminarayan Hindu MandirAuthor: Rupesh SolankParis, the capital of France, is a remarkable centre of architecture, art, culture and beauty. On this very land, the BAPS Swaminarayan Hindu Mandir has emerged as a magnificent symbol of Indian spirituality, traditional craftsmanship and Sanatan culture. Located in the suburb of Bussy-Saint-Georges, this temple is the first traditionally constructed Hindu temple in France. It is not merely a place of worship; it is a living symbol of cultural friendship, spiritual dialogue and human values between India and France.[A Spiritual Dream Nurtured for More Than Five Decades]The story of this temple in Paris did not begin today. Its original inspiration is associated with Yogiji Maharaj’s visit to Paris in 1970. During his stay at Orly Airport in Paris, Yogiji Maharaj expressed the vision of spreading the message of spirituality and peace on French soil. Thereafter, Pramukh Swami Maharaj continued to carry this dream forward with unwavering dedication.On 4 May 1988, Pramukh Swami Maharaj showered flowers over the land of Paris from the sky. Later, on 2 August 1995, a few days before the inau-



guration of the first traditional Hindu temple in Europe at Neasden, London, he expressed the vision of establishing a traditional Hindu temple in Paris as well.Thus, behind this temple lies a journey of decades marked by determination, spiritual devotion and selfless service The Dream Found a Home in Bussy-Saint-Georges On 16 October 2017, the Mayor of Bussy-Saint-Georges, Yann Dubosc, met Mahant Swami Maharaj. Subsequently, the way was paved for allocating land for the temple within the multi-faith and multicultural complex known as the “Esplanade des Religions et des Cultures.” The uniqueness of this location lies in the fact that places of worship representing different faiths coexist within the same precinct, offering a beautiful example of harmony and mutual respect. On 19 October 2021, the temple land was ceremonially purified according to Vedic traditions. This was followed by the Shilanyas Mahotsav, or foundation-stone ceremony, held on 3

and 4 September 2022. The occasion was attended by senior BAPS sadhus, along with India’s then Ambassador to France, Shri Jawed Ashraf; India’s Ambassador to UNESCO, Shri Vishal Sharma; and the Mayor of Bussy-Saint-Georges, Yann Dubosc, among other distinguished guests. The stones used for its construction were hand-carved by skilled artisans in India and then transported to France, where they were integrated with modern French engineering. It is therefore appropriate to describe the temple as “Carved in India, built in France. Every pillar, dome, spire and window reflects the richness of India’s traditional craftsmanship. The architecture beautifully incorporates traditional elements such as chhatris, shikharas, domes, pillars and gavakshas. This is a remarkable effort to combine traditional Indian stone-carving techniques, preserved for more than a thousand years, with modern engineering. The stones of the temple were intricately carved by highly skilled Indian artisans. According to BAPS information, the construction involved close coop-

eration between Indian craftsmen and engineers and construction specialists from France. Thus, the temple has become not only a religious architectural masterpiece but also a symbol of the craftsmanship and technical expertise shared by India and France. 4 June 2024: The Historic Beginning of Construction On 4 June 2024, the formal construction of the temple began. The ceremony for laying the first foundation was conducted according to Vedic traditions. Senior BAPS sadhus, along with French National Assembly member Hadrien Ghomi and the Mayor of Bussy-Saint-Georges, Yann Dubosc, were among the distinguished guests present on the occasion. Mahant Swami Maharaj blessed the temple design from Sarangpur, India. He wrote the French word “Bénédiction,” meaning “Blessings,” on an illustration associated with the temple project, thereby blessing this spiritual journey. 6 September 2026: The Dream Becomes Reality The historic culmination of this entire journey came on Sunday, 6 September 2026. On this day, the consecration ceremony of the sacred murtis was performed in accordance with Vedic traditions, followed by the temple dedication ceremony in the evening.

Banker runs over 2-year-old, sister escapes by a whisker in Gurgaon

Gurgaon.(Agency)

A two-year-old girl playing outside her house died after a banker, allegedly speeding through a narrow internal colony road, ran over her while taking a sharp turn in Sector 5 on Monday night. Her four-year-old sister narrowly escaped being hit by the Volkswagen Taigun.

The incident took place around 9pm, shortly after Adrija and her elder sister Chhavija had finished dinner and were playing outside their house. CCTV footage showed the car turning into the lane as the sisters sat and played on the road. Driver Nitin Yadav (31), who works with National Australia Bank as an analyst, failed to spot them, police said, and ran both the front and rear wheels over Adrija.Her mother Pooja was talking to another woman a short distance away when the car screeched into the lane. Chhavija managed to move out of its path as it approached. But Adrija suffered injuries to her nose and mouth and was rushed to Manipal Hospital in Palam Vihar, where doctors declared her dead.



Nitin, who lives just four houses away in the same lane, stopped after the accident and took the family to hospital in the same car. He was later arrested from his house.The girl’s father, Virendra Tiwari, an IT engineer with Global Logic in Noida, alleged that Nitin was driving rashly and at high speed on the narrow internal road. He also alleged that the circumstances raised questions about whether the act was intentional and sought stringent action against him.

“Our lives have been ruined by rash driving. He cannot drive like this on internal roads. He took the turn at such high speed that he did not even see my children. He could have killed both of them. Adrija would have turned two next month. We are in deep shock. I want the stringent punishment for him,” he told TOI.Tiwari, a native of Mahendergarh, said the family had moved into the rented house about a year ago after living elsewhere in the locality.Based on his

complaint, a case was registered under sections 281 (rash driving) and 106 (causing death by negligence) of the BNS at Sector 5 police station. A police officer said Nitin was taken into custody around 3.30am from his house. “He earlier worked abroad and has recently shifted to the city,” the officer said.Police said they have initiated inquest proceedings. The child’s body was handed over to the family on Tuesday after an autopsy.

NEWS BOX

Upset over CCTVs at home, how Kanpur woman 'plotted' father-in-law's murder

Lucknow (Agency).

Shalu Minocha, 35, had been upset with her father-in-law for some time. Vineet Minocha, a 63-year-old pharmaceutical businessman, "controlled" the household finances. According to police, Shalu claimed she had to ask him for money even for small expenses. Then, about two weeks ago, Vineet allegedly installed four CCTV cameras in the drawing room of their home in Kanpur's Kalyanpur. He told the family the cameras were meant to ensure their safety. Shalu, police said, was distressed by the cameras, claiming it stripped her of her privacy. Then, on Saturday night, Vineet was killed. The crime was discovered around 4 am the next day when Shalu, her husband Subrat and their child came home and found the main door open. Inside, Vineet lay dead in a pool of blood on the bedroom floor — he had been stabbed repeatedly. Subrat immediately called the police, who rushed to the house.

When they looked for clues, police found no signs that the attackers had forced their way into the house. They began examining CCTV footage from inside the flat and its surroundings to piece together what had happened. The footage led investigators to two men — Vishal Gautam, 30, and Raj Kishore, 25 — who were arrested after an 'encounter' on Monday. When they questioned the duo, police said, the investigation took an unexpected turn. They told police that they had allegedly been hired to kill the victim — by Shalu. She was arrested the same day. The three were produced before a court, which remanded them to judicial custody, Deputy Commissioner of Police SM Qasim Abidi said.

A plan to make it look like a heart attack
Police claimed Shalu approached Vishal, a former employee at her father-in-law's shop, and offered him Rs 6 lakh to carry out the murder. Vishal, who police said was under a debt of Rs 2 lakh, allegedly agreed. He then recruited his unemployed friend Raj Kishore, offering him an advance of Rs 30,000. The plan, according to police, was chillingly simple: smother the victim with a pillow as he slept, making it look like a fatal heart attack. Around 20 days before the killing, police said Shalu allegedly handed Vishal the original key to the house so he could get a duplicate made.

'Won't forget': Posters of 2013 Muzaffarnagar riots appear at bus stands

LUCKNOW (Agency). In the early hours of Monday, posters invoking the 2013 Muzaffarnagar riots appeared near the city's bus stand with this message: 'Na bhoole the, na bhoole hai, na bhooleenge (We had not forgotten, we have not forgotten, we will not forget).'

Newspaper clippings were pasted alongside the posters, which appeared on the day that marked 13 years since the riots erupted. Muzaffarnagar police quickly removed the posters after being alerted, and are now trying to identify the people behind them and probing their motive. Police said the miscreants were caught on CCTV getting off a bus on Monday and pasting posters. "I have directed the Superintendent of Police, City, to probe the poster episode and submit a report," said Senior Superintendent of Police, Muzaffarnagar, Sanjai Kumar. He added that CCTV footage from cameras installed near the site had been collected, and efforts were underway to identify the persons seen getting off the bus. Police suspect two to three people were involved. When contacted, Superintendent of Police, City (Muzaffarnagar), Amrit Jain declined to comment, saying an inquiry into the matter is underway. Similar posters were reportedly seen in other districts as well, including Aligarh, with photographs circulating on social media. Superintendent of Police, Aligarh, Aditya Bansal said officers had come across photographs of the alleged site, but physical verification revealed nothing there. The development comes amid renewed political references to the 2013 riots, which occurred ahead of the 2014 Lok Sabha elections — and months before the 2027 state assembly polls. The violence in Muzaffarnagar and neighbouring districts left more than 60 people dead and displaced over 40,000 people, according to official figures.

The issue has also remained part of the political and legal discourse in the state. UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath frequently said in public rallies that riots no longer happen in UP, boasting of the law and order transformation under his regime in the state since 2017.

App-based rides hit in Chandigarh as Uber, Rapido licences suspended for 6 months

Officials said Uber and Rapido failed to satisfy the prescribed norms relating to driver insurance and training, fares, vehicle eligibility and other safety and operational norms despite being given multiple opportunities.

Chandigarh (Agency).

The Chandigarh Administration Tuesday suspended the licences of Uber and Rapido for six months, cutting off two of the city's most widely used app-based cab services with immediate effect. The State Transport Authority (STA) has said the companies failed to satisfy the prescribed regulations relating to driver insurance and training, fares, vehicle eligibility and other safety and operational norms despite being given multiple opportunities.

Earlier, the Union Territory had suspended the licences of Ola and inDrive, citing alleged violations of driver welfare and training. The regulatory crackdown on the sector is likely to affect thousands of commuters travelling between Chandigarh, Panchkula and Mohali, particularly daily office-goers and late-night travellers.

Issues flagged

In Uber's case, one of the key issues was its alleged failure to implement the fare

structure notified by the Chandigarh Administration in July 2025. The STA had also received complaints alleging that passengers were being charged fares higher



than the prescribed rates. The authority also raised objections to Uber's subscription or recharge-based model for drivers, which it found inconsistent with the UT's aggregator regulations. Officials further found that non-commercial vehicles were attached to the platform, as against the rules. Moreover, officials reportedly found Uber's local office

in Sector 47-C closed or locked during three inspections conducted in May. Rapido, meanwhile, was flagged for several similar compliance issues. According to STA, the insurance cover provided to its bike-taxi captains was limited to accidental death and injury. It did not fulfil the broader insurance requirements prescribed under the 2025 rules. The Rapido office in Sector 32-D was also reportedly found locked during three inspections. The company was additionally flagged over its subscription model, alleged overcharging and the attachment of non-commercial vehicles to its platform. The action follows growing friction between regulators, aggregators and drivers over the functioning of app-based transport services. Driver representatives have also raised concerns over fare structures and commissions, alleging that aggregators were charging commissions beyond the limit prescribed by the Chandigarh Administration.

Woman's death in 'hit-&-run' turns into murder probe: Ahmedabad Police point to 'honour killing'

Autopsy report, CCTV footage reveal 'accident' claim by kin false; murder weapon yet to be found

Ahmedabad (Agency).

THE INVESTIGATION of an fatal "accident" was on Tuesday handed over to Sarkhej police station by the traffic police in Ahmedabad after they found that the death of a 22-year-old woman was likely a murder, allegedly orchestrated by the brother and father of the woman, to "preserve the honour of the family."

The M Division Traffic Police were initially investigating an "accident" that took place on August 12, wherein a 38-year-old man said that he was driving a two-wheeler and his sister Sofia (22) was riding pillion, heading towards their residence in Sarkhej area of the city around 11 pm. In his complaint, he claimed that another vehicle hit their two-wheeler from behind and then sped away. Sofia suffered grievous head injuries and had been admitted to GMERS Sola Civil Hospital, where she died at 12:05 am on August 13. However, the

traffic police found that no such accident had taken place at the spot as claimed in the complaint.

A statement issued by the M Division Traffic



Police said, "We found that the deceased's brother (38) and father (56) earlier reprimanded Sofia over a video of her purportedly interacting with a youth a few

months ago." It added, "... they later conspired together, got a metal hammer from their godown, drove her to an area near Gheljiapura village. There, one of the suspects (brother) hit her on the head with the hammer, causing her death. He then gave a false complaint about an "accident" to mislead the police." Asked about the clues that led them to believe it was a case of honour killing, Inspector U B Dhakhada told The Indian Express, "They (the two suspects) chose the "accident" spot they mentioned in the initial complaint believing that there were no CCTVs in the vicinity. However, there was a roadside camera. The footage revealed that there was no

accident at 11 pm on August 12." Inspector Dhakhada added, "The postmortem report also says that the woman died due to brain haemorrhage caused by injury."

YouTuber held in Saharanpur for 'breach of peace'

Lucknow (Agency).

A 34-year-old YouTuber and journalist was arrested in Saharanpur on Monday for "breach of peace" after she created a ruckus at the Circuit House, police said on Tuesday. Police, meanwhile, lodged another FIR against Huda Zariwala for allegedly posting objectionable content on social media following the demolition of a mosque within the Saharanpur Collectorate premises. "We have arrested Huda Zariwala on charges of breach of peace for creating a nuisance at the Circuit House. She was produced before the court, which sent her to judicial custody," Superintendent of Police, Saharanpur, Vyom Bindal said. According to the police, Zariwala was stopped from entering the Circuit House by woman police personnel during the visit of Leader of Opposition Lal Bihari Yadav. "The woman (Zariwala) created disturbance and behaved aggressively, despite the female officers present at the spot trying to convince her that she was not permitted to go further," said a police officer. It is alleged that Zariwala wanted to accompany the Samajwadi Party delegation to the site of the demolished mosque. Police subsequently arrested Zariwala under Section 170 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (arrest to prevent the commission of a cognizable offence).

'We prefer cash': UPI everywhere, foreigners and NRIs 'face payment issues' in Gujarat

They cite a bunch of issues: credit cards don't work in ATMs, small-time vendors not accepting international credit cards and less money exchange facilities.

Ahmedabad (Agency).

Thibault Spitakhis was in Ahmedabad, as head of delegation of the Thailand basketball team playing the Under 18 Men's FIBA tournament held in Gujarat in August. He decided to visit popular tourist spots around the city, but payment issues affected his plans, he said.

With most places enabled with contactless payments, Spitakhis had to carry cash for small payments like entry tickets to tourist sites, since he was not prepared to pay by the Unified Payment Interface (UPI). The International Basketball Federation (FIBA) tournaments were held in Ahmedabad from August 13 to 23. "First of all, it is hard to find money exchanges in Ahmedabad. Credit

cards don't work in ATMs: we couldn't withdraw money because there is some issue with the bank coordination. So we went to a shopping mall, but no one was there at



the money exchange counter. We returned to the counter after an hour, but the situation remained the same. Finally, when the counter was open,

we found the exchange rate very bad," Spitakhis said. Several foreign tourists and NRIs spoke to shared similar experiences.

Anya Bajaj from Zurich, Switzerland, who was in Ahmedabad to visit her family, said, "The biggest limitation is with small purchases. UPI is extremely common in India, but I don't use it. Most of the small-time vendors don't accept cards and it was very difficult as I only had larger denomination currency notes, most of the time. They might not have enough change, which can make a very simple purchase surprisingly inconvenient. For example, if you want to buy street food or something inexpensive from a small vendor, you need small denomination currency notes."

In Paash's village, a fight over the space that keeps his memory alive

Tension erupted after the village panchayat allegedly tried to stop members of the Paash-Hans Raj Memorial Committee from erecting a pandal at an eponymous complex for the celebrations

Jalandhar (Agency). The words of Avtar Singh Sandhu, better known as Paash, have travelled far beyond Talwandi Salem, his birthplace in Jalandhar district. Nearly four decades after he was killed, his poetry continues to surface wherever people gather around democratic rights and resistance — at farmers' protests, workers' meetings, student gatherings and literary forums. For generations of readers, Paash was not merely a poet who wrote about struggle; he was a poet who participated in it. Ahead of his birth anniversary on September 9, however, his legacy has become the centre of a dispute in his native village. Tension erupted after the village panchayat allegedly tried to stop members of the Paash-Hans Raj Memorial Committee from erecting a pandal at an

eponymous complex for the celebrations. Allegations of manhandling prompted the local administration to deploy police to prevent a confrontation. The dispute centres around two kanals of land at the entrance of Talwandi Salem, where the Pash-Hans Raj Memorial has stood for 26 years. The committee says the land was allotted to it in 2000 through a written panchayat resolution. The panchayat, however, maintains that the land belongs to it.

How the dispute began

The confrontation dates back to early August, when the Paash Memorial International Trust, the Paash-Hans Raj Shaheedi Yaadgar Committee and several unions approached the Nakodar SDM and local MLA with allegations of

vandalism. According to their complaint, panchayat representatives broke the locks of the memorial gate. When the committee replaced them, one side of the gate was



allegedly removed and panchayat representatives entered the premises and installed swings, pipes and open-gym equipment.

Local administrative officials initially maintained that the land belonged to the panchayat, while indicating that the matter was close to resolution. The dispute flared again when committee members arrived to prepare for Paash's September 9 birth anniversary. A group led by sarpanch Pardeep Singh allegedly confronted them, including veteran activist Jhanda Singh Jethuke. Committee members alleged that some activists were pushed and that mobile phones were confiscated.

For villagers and Paash's admirers, the confrontation has taken on a larger meaning. "It is a great disrespect to a great poet, and that too by the people and the panchayat of his own village," said a local resident.

The new order faces a familiar test of power

On September 21, 2024, Sri Lankans were determined to pursue a complete political overhaul. They had survived Covid 19, a year in which the island's economy nosedived, and the 2022 financial collapse along with massive public protests demanding an end to elite political rule. In the ninth presidential election, the winning candidate was a foregone conclusion. The public voted for the man dubbed the most trustworthy politician to rewrite the island's political trajectory and decisively end 76 years of elite political rule. The stage was set for a different political class and ideology: Anura Kumara Disnayake, leader of the once-revolutionary Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) and the National People's Power (NPP), who promised the people "a thriving nation, a beautiful life". He campaigned heavily to fight graft, systemic governance reform, economic relief, social protection and rode the crest of a popular wave to become President. Two years later, popularity is gradually declining with many likely to conclude that Disnayake has delivered a 'mixed bag', with many promises still to be fulfilled. Manifesto-tracking assessments recognise Disnayake's political pragmatism over idealism, progress in social protection and institutional transparency, but fault the delay in constitutional overhauls, reconciliation efforts and even keeping his own house in check.

A careful examination shows that public perception of Disnayake is also beginning to change, following recent attempts to bulldoze through a constitutional amendment to increase the retirement age of judges, seen as an effort to keep the current chief justice in office for another two years. The matter has cast a pall of gloom and if there was already muttering about inefficiency and corruption, this move is drawing significant flak. Disnayake swept into office on several key pledges: curb corruption, act against previous corruption and political wrongdoing, expand social security, practice political austerity, and abolish the executive presidency—the latter a 30-year-long electoral pledge. For his part, he has cut parliamentarians' privileges, taken measures to reduce the cost of governance, scrapped luxury vehicle permit allocations for legislators, reduced Cabinet expenditure and eliminated several State-funded perks that earned him credit, actions the public holds in contrast to the opulence of the Rajapaksas, often compared to the Philippines' Marcos family for lavish public spending. Among the most appreciated decisions is the structural relief offered through the expansion of the Aswesuma welfare scheme, raising monthly grant allocations for low-income and vulnerable families. The government has pushed through public-sector pay hikes and adjusted private-sector minimum wage targets. It also rode the popular wave, held local authorities' elections, and took control of 265 of 339 local councils.

Making good on his pledge to revisit several controversial matters, investigations continue into the 2019 Easter Sunday attacks and some past financial irregularities. However, in contrast to his campaign rhetoric, he has chosen to tread a pragmatic middle ground rather than attempt to shake the fragile economic foundations through a massive economic experiment. This decision does not sit well with his party's hardcore, which calls for a swift and complete exit from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) engagement and for a complete system overhaul. Still, he has chosen to pursue the IMF formula, adhere to macroeconomic targets, complete IMF reviews and finalise debt restructuring agreements without rocking the boat. However, while campaigning, NPP leaders criticised the harsh conditions of the IMF bailout arranged under the previous administration.

The true meaning of freedom

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

After the marching has come to a halt, the drumrolls have fallen silent and the euphoria of India's 80th Independence Day celebrations has lessened, I ponder, how free are we, the citizens of India? Independence from foreign colonial powers was attained after a long, hard and peaceful struggle. Our leaders led the way with self-sacrifice and devotion to the country. Some of these leaders were also part of the Constituent Assembly which framed the Constitution. They had a vision not only for the country but also for its people. That is why it is "We, the People" who gave ourselves the Constitution of India. Freedom from foreign powers is extremely important. No sovereign nation can be truly independent if it is under colonial rule. However, independence is not mere removal of the foreign yoke. Independence is not only the country being independent, but also the citizens being free and independent. We are an independent nation when the citizens have the freedom to think and speak without fear. We are independent when citizens can raise the voice of dissent and openly express their views. We can be called truly independent only when hunger and poverty do not decide the future of a child, whether it be in the fields of education, healthcare or basic human rights. We are a country truly independent when there is no caste or religious bias and equal opportunity is not denied to citizens on account of their belonging to the depressed classes or minority religions. We can be truly independent only when we get rid of corruption, bias, bigotry and intolerance. Looking back, one is proud that we have progressed a lot. Citizens are living a better life than before. India's economy is in better shape than that of many other countries. Life expectancy has improved considerably. Infrastructure has improved vastly. India is one of the leaders in the digital space. We are a global power heading towards a trillion-dollar economy. But what use is a trillion-dollar economy if a large proportion of the citizenry still lives below the poverty line? According to the government, it provides free foodgrains to around 57% of India's population. These people, who cannot even afford food or housing, are denied equal opportunity in education, healthcare and employment.

The condition of government-run schools is abysmal. Healthcare in most states is virtually absent. Employment opportunities are dwindling and unemployment hovers around 6%. To those who claim that the education and healthcare facilities provided by the government are very good, my simple questions are: where do your children study? Which hospitals do you go to for treatment?

Our founding fathers envisaged a society where there was justice - social, economic and political. How can we claim to have moved towards these goals when the top 1% of the

country owns about 40% of its wealth? The next 10% holds another 15% of the wealth. Sadly, the bottom 50% owns only 6.4% of the wealth of the nation. Is this the independence which our founding fathers fought for?

In a short article, I cannot go into all aspects. Having spent almost half a century in the legal profession, I am concentrating on the legal fraternity.

We have a Chairman of the Bar Council of India who threatens students who raise the voice of dissent. The main role of the Bar Councils is to take disciplinary action



against erring lawyers and ensure that the quality of legal education is maintained at a high level. It has failed miserably on both counts. Barring a few, the level of education provided in law colleges is much below par. Virtually no action is taken against lawyers who flout legal ethics and demean the profession. The Bar itself is no longer independent. There can be an independent judiciary only when there is an independent Bar. Lawyers who can rise above their political affiliations, who can rise above their ethnicity, and who can fight for the citizens and stand up to power. Fees have skyrocketed but pro bono work has nosedived. I leave it to members of the Bar to introspect as to whether they are truly independent or not. No country can claim to be independent unless it has an independent and fearless judiciary. That can be achieved only when we have judges with integrity, intellect and, above all, a spine. The strength to stand up for justice, the courage to fight against injustice. Judges who can be true to their oath to act "...without fear or favour..." The constitutional courts, i.e. the Supreme Court and High Courts are not only arbiters of disputes but are also supposed to protect and uphold the fundamental rights of citizens. Our founding fathers gave so much importance to fundamental rights that the right to approach the highest court of the land to complain of breach of such rights is itself a fundamental right under

Article 32. Sadly, in the last few years, the constitutional courts have not shown the requisite sensitivity or strength. One of the most important of all human rights is the right to liberty, which is guaranteed to every citizen of India under Article 21 of the Constitution. This liberty is violated with impunity, and the courts in many cases have become mute spectators. Justice HR Khanna, in his courageous dissent in the ADM Jabalpur case, had said that even during an Emergency, a citizen could not be deprived of fundamental rights except in accordance with the procedure prescribed by law. "Bail, not jail, is the rule" is the oft-quoted legal principle. In actual practice, however, it is jail, not bail, which has become the rule.

About 75% of the people behind bars are undertrials. Only about 24% are convicts and the remainder are detenus. It is shocking that in a country where we swear by the rule of law and a person is presumed innocent until proven guilty, there are three undertrials for every convict. Umar Khalid has been behind bars for more than six years and the trial has not even started. What about his right to liberty? What about his right to speedy trial? The Supreme Court, in a later decision, has itself questioned the validity of the judgment in Umar Khalid's case. The accused in the Elgar Parishad case were kept behind bars for years; one died in jail. The allegations against them are said to be very serious. If so, why has the prosecution not shown the same seriousness to start the trial? Eight years have passed since the incident took place. The trial is yet to begin. The process has become the punishment. People are condemned and their lives ruined by labelling them as anti-nationals. Unfortunately, the courts do not protect the fundamental rights of these citizens.

Sonam Wangchuk was detained for about six months. Any student of law knows that a petition of habeas corpus must be decided at the earliest. In this case, the Supreme Court kept adjourning it, with a request to the government to have a relook into the matter. That is not the way matters concerning liberty have to be decided. Finally, when the powers that be realised that the Court was unlikely to decide the matter in their favour, the order of detention was withdrawn. Surprisingly, the Court then said that the matter had become infructuous. In a civilised society, every citizen has a right to know why they have been deprived of their liberty, even if only for a day. The Supreme Court should not have abdicated its function and should have decided whether Wangchuk's detention was legal. Democracy is the rule of the majority, but majoritarianism, where the voice of the other side is not heard, is anathema to democracy. Unfortunately, courts at all levels are moving towards majoritarianism.

Big announcements must promptly be followed by House debate and scrutiny

If the government is asking the state to accept austerity, the Assembly is entitled to examine how new commitments will be financed, prioritised and accommodated within stretched finances

The return of Rule 110 to the centre of Tamil Nadu's political conversation raises a question about how it is being used. Successive governments have taken its help to place policy announcements before the Assembly without immediate debate. Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay has now made major expenditure announcements under that rule, including an integrated Assembly and Secretariat complex at ₹1,200 crore, an ₹1,000-crore urban infrastructure programme, including a ₹4,800-crore desalination plant, a crop-loan waiver involving ₹6,220 crore, a semiconductor park, logistics and finance hubs, and many more. Rule 110 permits a minister to make a statement on a matter of public importance, but provides for no debate on the statement when it is made. The government can therefore set out its decisions and plans in the House without having to immediately answer questions from the Opposition on their cost, priorities or implementation. The responsibility of the legislature assumes greater significance when announcements involve substantial expenditure. The government has



drawn attention to Tamil Nadu's difficult financial position. Its first budget has emphasised fiscal repair, while the debt and liabilities have been put at ₹13.18 lakh crore. The government has sought to present austerity and financial discipline as necessary to restore the state's finances. At the same time, it is announcing projects and welfare measures involving thousands of crores.

There is no contradiction between fiscal repair and spending

on development or welfare. Nor does a Rule 110 statement itself sanction expenditure. But the juxtaposition raises a question about whether fiscal commitments are insulated from opposition's oversight. If the government is asking the state to accept austerity, the Assembly is entitled to examine how new commitments will be financed, prioritised and accommodated within stretched finances. That is where debate matters. Opposition scrutiny is not an obstacle to executive action; it allows assumptions to be tested and the government to explain choices involving public money. Rule 110 necessarily limits that scrutiny at the time of announcement. A functioning democracy relies on checks and balances and significant policy decisions should not bypass floor debates. Vijay's government would strengthen its case for fiscal prudence by ensuring that commitments announced under Rule 110 receive examination through the budgetary and legislative processes. Transparency is better served when announcements are followed by scrutiny.

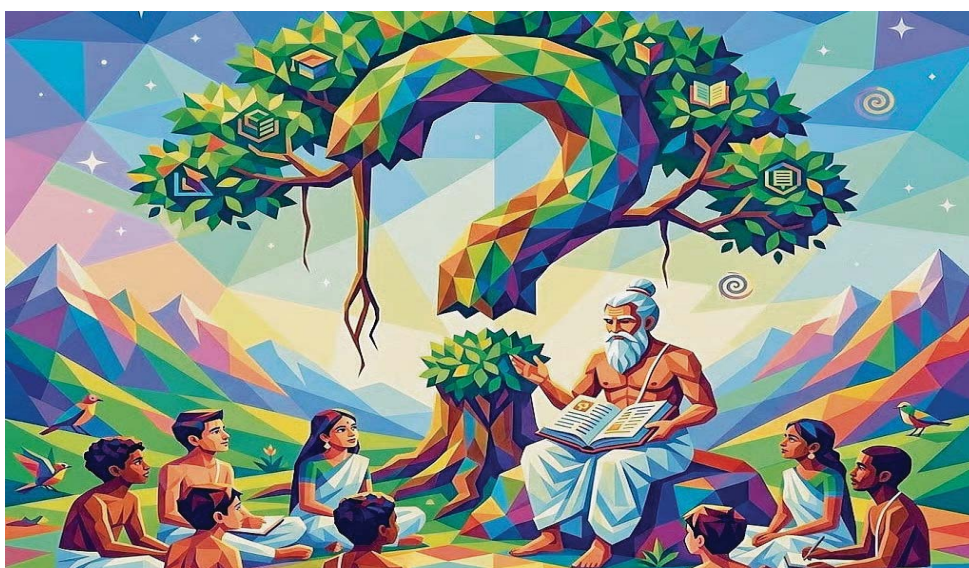
Vishwaguru And the Trouble With Pluralism

—A Hindu India in which Bhagwat can publicly declare that the desire to expel Muslims negates a citizen's claim to Hinduism merits serious debate, not reflexive denunciation

History is humanity's perpetual memoir, whose plot carries a subtext of irony. The indignation of New York's anti-Semitic mayor Zohran Mamdani towards Mohan Madhukar Bhagwat, the sixth and current Sarsangchalak of the RSS addressing Indian-Americans is imbued with deep irony. This resentment of Mamdani, a practising Muslim, duplicates a profound dislike of the RSS, which the global liberal-Left apparatus casts as the embodiment of exclusion. Bhagwat's New York script that any Hindu who believes Muslims are not Indians, are not Hindus, is not bound to be accepted by every BJP politician, Hindutva activist, or voices invoking Hindu nationalism. Nor will it convince career wackadoodles that Bhagwat was serious.

But India persists in its indefinite complexity, as most civilisations tend to. Its tradition carries within itself ideas, practices, and philosophical positions that modern sensibilities find both magnificent and troubling. The correct response to history is not to venerate it uncritically, but also not to expunge it from textbooks—it is to understand its contradictions with mature discernment. When myths meets politics, the result is debate on truth. Or better, fact. To understand why the RSS describes its annual collections as guru dakshina in the face of intense interrogation by its current tormentor Priyank Kharge, the explanation lies in an ancient concept in Indian civilisation. Long before universities charged fees, political parties raised unaudited funds and companies offered government-monitored CSRs, Indian society had evolved an unique educational mechanism of financial transaction. Students acknowledged their debt to their teachers through guru dakshina. In the epics and Puranas, the value of what disciples offer their teachers lay not in its amount, but in the spirit of gratitude behind it. There is a clear distinction between a fee and a dakshina. A fee is a transaction upon completion of a job or purchase. A dakshina is the distinguished finale of a sacred relationship—a voluntary offering in gratitude, respect and recognition that knowledge is not a commodity purchased in a marketplace. Hence the guru dakshina becomes a

sacred covenant between guru and disciple, enacted through trust, discipline, and personal example. Consequently, the relationship between them was moral, spiritual, and civilisational, not transactional. In the Upanishadic tradition, the guru is the force at the centre of intellectual and spiritual life. The Taaittiriya Upanishad instructs students to honour their gurus for the



knowledge gained through education. However, there is nothing amiss in demanding that an organisation account for its finances. When RSS adopted this metaphor in its guru dakshina tradition, the symbolic guruship it offered to the bhagwa dhvaj rather than to an individual was its cultural motif. Records state that at the first Guru Dakshina Utsav in 1928, RSS collected the princely amount of ₹84. Since the RSS is widely regarded as the ideological

fountainhead of the broader Sangh Parivar, questions are raised on the scale, accounting, and transparency of the collections. But reducing the debate to a chartered accountant's domain is to miss an important cultural dimension. The contrary liberal critique is: the RSS is dangerous because it is exclusionary. Bhagwat says exclusion of Muslims contradicts Hindu principle; therefore, Bhagwat harbours exclusionary intent. This is not reasoning but a pre-decided conclusion looking for supporting evidence. Bhagwat's compelling message from New York did not imitate BJP's stance of India as the "vishwaguru" in the usual bombastic sense. His proposition suggests India itself can be the guru to the world because it is a civilisation that has spent millennia in conversation with itself by arguing about gods and faiths, truth and identity, caste and philosophy, invasion and coexistence, and the contradictions these generate. If India truly aspires to be a vishwaguru, it must teach through example. A Hindu India in which Bhagwat can publicly declare that the desire to expel Muslims negates a citizen's claim to Hinduism merits serious debate, not reflexive denunciation. Consider its global implication. If Mamdani's idea of diversity genuinely aspires to universality, should it not be welcomed rather than be suspect? Hamas is not just another grievance within the political catalogue. The fanatics who chant support for massacres by its idols are not merely dissenters of Israeli policies. Bhagwat's formulation that human dignity is universal, and requires protection, and that no group possesses the right to declare entire communities beyond the national identity extends far beyond Hindu-Muslim relations.

This column is a neither a tribute to the RSS nor is it a condemnation of the liberal Left. It is a nuanced attempt to reconcile antithetical ideologies of India and Bharat. The significant question is, can India truthfully embody the vishwaguru role it claims for itself? A guru who speaks only to disciples is merely a preacher. A guru who perpetually teaches himself is an altogether different philosopher, acutely moral, and infinitely powerful than the idea itself.

Adult acne: Causes and Treatments

For most of us, acne woes begin during our teenage years and usually subside when we approach adulthood. During our teens, we experience a lot of hormonal changes and sometimes, these changes can cause acne.

However, many people suffer from acne even as adults and the reasons for this outbreak may not be the same as teenage acne. As an adult, dealing with acne can be very stressful, so understanding its causes and treating it appropriately, is important in order to get a clear complexion.

Causes of Adult Acne:

Sebum: Sebum is one of the main causes of adult acne. It is an oily substance that is produced by the sebaceous glands in the skin. This sebum clogs up pores and becomes inflamed as it attracts bacteria.

Hormones: Hormonal changes affect the sebum level which causes acne. That's the reason why women face breakouts during their menstruation cycle and menopause.

Cosmetics: Cosmetics can also cause adult acne. If you are already prone to acne, it is best to avoid cosmetics, which further aggravate it.

Stress: Studies suggests that the stress hormone affects the sebum production in the skin, which causes adult acne.

Hereditary: If you notice that there are several members of your family who suffer from adult acne, there a good chance that the problem is hereditary.

Adopt a skincare routine: Since the major cause of acne is the sebum production in the skin, one should take skincare very seriously. Wash your face with a face wash, specially created for oily skin. Also, try and splash your face with water, several times a day.

Oil-free cosmetics: If you have acne, you must invest in cosmetics that are non-acnegenic (won't cause acne) and non-comedogenic (won't clog pores). Since oil is the main reason for breakouts, always buy oil-free products.

Anti-acne creams: Anti acne creams can be used for immediate results as they get rid of the acne causing bacteria.

Home remedies: There are a number of home remedies, which treat acne and these involves herbal ingredients like turmeric, neem leaves, milk et al. For more on acne home remedies, read - Skin Care: Home Remedies for Acne

High-tech treatments: Many dermatologists offer various high-tech treatments, such as laser treatments, which promise to treat acne as well as acne marks. These treatments are usually effective but they are can burn a hole in your pocket.

Tips to beautify nails

Keep your nails healthy by focussing on cleanliness. Try olive oil, milk cream and acetone-free nail polish removers for clean and healthy nails.

Preethi.S, training head, Naturals Salon Training Academy, doles out tips for perfect nails:

- Take a bowl of olive oil and soak your nails in it. Leave them in it for 10 minutes then wipe off

excess oil with cotton wool.

- After washing hands, apply a hand cream to prevent them from drying up. Dry nails have more chances of breaking.

- To further avoid dryness, use nail polish removers that are acetone-free.

- Gently massage your nails after applying milk cream.

- Use the finishing side of a nail buffer to help in blood circulation in the nail bed



Skincare generally involves making an effort to get one's skin to look healthy and beautiful and then trying to maintain that healthy skin.

Even though we try hard to achieve soft and smooth skin we neglect several factors in our daily lives that end up damaging our skin. Here are a few things that we need to avoid if we want beautiful skin.

Sleeping with make up on

This is not a myth, sleeping without washing off your make up will damage your skin. Make up clogs pores and prevents the sebum glands from breathing. This causes pimples and acne. Sleeping with make up also leaves smudges on your pillow that will lead to accumulation of bacteria on it. When you sleep on that pillow again, it will lead to bacterial infection on your skin.

Excess coffee intake

Coffee can give you an energy boost, but it can cause your skin to age faster and wrinkle. Having two cups of

6 things that damage your

Skin



Quick tips to prep up for the evening



To make sure that your skin compliments the outfit you will wear today, here's an easy skin care routine.

Head in for a cleanup

A face cleanup will de-clog your pores. Light products can work wonders for your skin. Opt for a light massage to only rejuvenate your skin.

Yoghurt to your rescue

Mix some curd with lemon and apply it to your face. Keep it for 20 minutes and wash it off with cold water. Yoghurt will remove the tan and lemon will lighten your skin. Further the cold water will aid in tightening your pores.

Choose light makeup

The trick to look your best on this day is to ensure that you apply less makeup. Opt for a natural look to sport—a nude lip gloss and eye shadow.



Get ample rest

Though we would suggest you to start dressing up a bit

early to avoid last minute confusion, make sure that you get ample rest before you begin with the celebrations. This will ensure that you do not feel lethargic but look your best.

coffee in a day is fine but when you increase your intake, you accelerate the ageing process.

Chlorine

Swimming may be an ideal fitness exercise but it is not good for your skin. Chlorine is a cleaning ingredient and can dry your skin by robbing it of its moisture. Chlorine tends to stay on your skin even after a shower. So remember to use a good body wash and loofah to scrub the chlorine away.

Too much Spa time

Frequent spa treatments can make the skin sag as its elasticity and collagen is weakened. If you love a good sauna every other day, you should reconsider your choices.

Popping pimples

You may be tempted to break a pimple and get rid of it but this will only damage your skin. When you break a pimple it pushes the bacteria and dirt deep into the pores of your skin which could leave a mark. What's worse is that, this could also cause an outbreak of pimples. So remember not to pick on your pimples and use home remedies instead.

Mobile phones

We all spend long hours on our mobile phones without knowing that this could be a cause for acne. If you notice that you have more breakouts on that side of your face, it is probably due to excessive use of your mobile phone. This happens because bacteria builds up on the mobile screen and causes pimples when we place the mobile across our face. To avoid this, make sure you clean your mobile phone often or use a hands free device.

Rejuvenating cosmetic Therapies

Whether it's getting rid of wrinkles, dark circles or simply to get silky-smooth skin, we suggest some popular cosmetic procedures that you can opt for.



Phototherapy: Phototherapy or light therapy is a form of treatment for skin conditions using artificial light. Phototherapy is an excellent way to improve your look by softening wrinkles, pigment stains and other signs of ageing.

Mesotherapy: Mesotherapy is the painless injection of vitamins, minerals, medications, and amino acids placed in the dermis (just below the surface of the skin) unlike other medical treatments. Mesotherapy has a variety of applications including cellulite reduction, face and body contouring, hair re-growth, face and neck rejuvenation and face lift.

Botox: Botox is a natural, purified protein that relaxes wrinkle-causing

muscles creating a rejuvenated appearance.

Laser skin rejuvenation: Lasers are now available that can quickly remove the outer layer of the skin. The laser causes tightening of the skin, which leads to smoothening and clearing of brown spots and large pores. Lasers also can improve wrinkles, fine lines, forehead creasing and crow's feet.

Dermal fillers: Dermal fillers are materials that are frequently used to correct scarring, wrinkles, and other depressions in the skin. The new generation injectables include Restylane, Perlane, Juvederm ultra, Juvederm ultra plus and Juvederm XC. These fillers can be injected into lines

and wrinkles, as well as depressions for acne scars. They are useful to enhance the contour and size of the lips. They are well tolerated and the results are immediate.

Chemical peel: A chemical peel is a treatment in which an organic/fruit acid solution is used to remove the damaged outer layers of the skin. Typically administered as a facial peel, a chemical peel enhances and smoothes the texture of the skin. It is an effective treatment for facial blemishes, wrinkles and uneven skin pigmentation.

Body contouring: The procedure dramatically reduce cellulite and fat from individual parts of the body an actual 'spot fat reduction'.

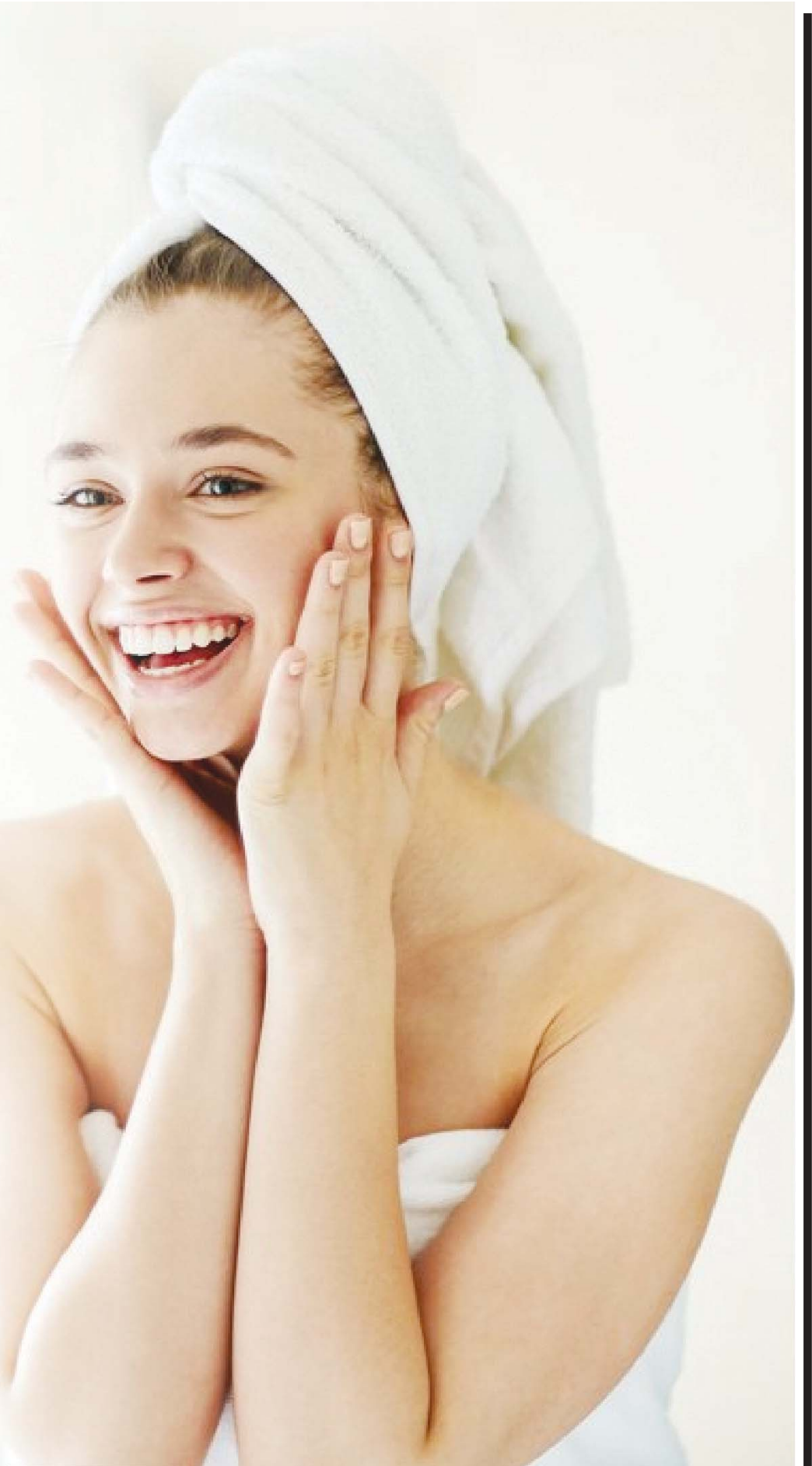
Stretch marks: Radiofrequency therapy for stretch marks is a non-invasive, safe, and less expensive option to improve skin's appearance. RF treatments induce collagen production to eliminate wrinkles and stretch marks.

Lip rejuvenation (Volume and Hydration): Lip enhancement basically consists of injections. Using small needle, the lip is filled with a soft spongy substance that lends a plumper and fuller look.

Under eye dark circles: If your dark circles are due hyper pigmentation on a superficial level in the top most layers of the skin, then a mild chemical peel or creams that contain lightening agents can help.

Eye lash growth: If you are interested in getting longer, fuller, thicker and simply beautiful eyelashes opt for Latisse. The first only FDA approved prescription treatment for inadequate or not enough lashes, growing them longer, fuller, thicker and simply beautiful eyelashes.

Radiant oxy glow: Oxygen therapy replenishes lost oxygen and the active ingredients in the serum restructure the skin, visibly plumping out the lines and wrinkles. It is also an excellent choice for acne conditions due to the anti-bacterial effect of the serum used.



Find out your makeup's expiry date

This habit of storing cosmetics causes allergies, skin infections and unnecessary breakouts. Makeup expert Kamini Kishore says, "Usually, cosmetic companies do not have expiry dates on beauty products but there are certain brands that mention



information like manufacturing and best before. It is important to pay heed to that information." **EYELINER, MASCARA AND KAJAL:**

Makeup products like eyeliner, mascara, kajal, etc have the shortest shelf life and expire within six months. Kamini advises

Old, expired makeup products become the breeding ground for bacteria and toxins that not only spoil your makeup but skin too.

to avoid pumping the mascara and eyeliner wand to make them last longer. "Pumping makes the air enter the container which dries up the product." **BLUSH AND EYE SHADOW:** According to Kamini, "Eye shadow and blush are powder-based cosmetics that have good shelf life. They stay good for more than a year. You can use them without any doubt until they smell foul." However, it is important to go for a good brand as you apply them directly onto your skin. **LIP GLOSS AND LIPSTICK:** You don't need to hurry up to finish these two makeup products. Any lipstick and lip gloss lasts at least one and a half years. "You just need to store them at cool and dry place as heat allows bacteria to infest." **FOUNDATION AND CONCEALER:**

These basic makeup products have an expiry date mentioned in the pack. Since they are usually cream-based, you can easily use them for minimum 12 to 18 months. **EXPERT'S TIP:**

Kamini Kishore recommends that you update your cosmetic kit often. "Go through your makeup kit twice a year and replace the products that have expired. This also helps you to maintain a trendy makeup kit which is in vogue."

Beauty benefits of green tea

Green tea can be regarded as a storehouse of benefits for the skin. It contains a great deal of antioxidants which are effective against free radicals. These free radicals, which are formed when the skin is exposed to the UV rays of the sun, are accountable for premature aging. Green tea has also been found extremely effective in safeguarding the skin against sunburn and tanning when applied locally.

The antioxidants found in green tea are also responsible in combating skin cancer by blocking the cancer causing harmful enzyme, junk.

This wondrous natural component is also responsible for the cell renewal process. The aged keratinocytes cells are biologically energized by the polyphenol



by inflammation.

In cases of acne and pimples, green tea comes in great aid as the antibacterial content in it, known as catechins, reduces over stimulation of the skin hormones. Further, the overall appearance of the skin is also improved along with complexion

when green tea is used as a drink or as a mask.

Experts suggest that applying green tea mask directly on the face is the most effective sun guard. Acne and pimples subside considerably with green tea treatment when a mask of the same is applied on to the face.

compounds in green team, which in turn, synthesize the DNA and prevent premature aging of the cells.

On occasions of skin inflammation, green tea acts as a great soothe. It has also been found out that green tea shows notable improvements among cases of psoriasis and rosacea, accompanied

Skincare tips for winter



Moisturise more often: Oil reduction mission during winters would not prove to be beneficial as it will eventually dry up your skin to a larger extent; the reason being during winter's skin tends to lose 25 percent of its ability to retain moisture. As weather conditions change, so, too, should your skin care routine. Hence, switch to a moisturiser that's oil-based, rather than water-based, as the oil will create a protective layer on the skin

that retains more moisture than a cream or lotion. Look out for 'no clogging' oils, like avocado oil, mineral oil, primrose oil, or almond oil as they would not clog up the pores and will let your skin breathe.

Avoid petroleum for lips: Don't neglect your lips, which have a tendency to dry out in the winter. Keep a lip balm with you and apply often, as the temperature drops. Avoid products that contain petroleum as it can clog the pores in your lips, making it

With winter approaching, here's how to start a winter-specific beauty regime to have gorgeous skin

hard for the moisture to get where it needs to be. You can't properly moisturise skin that is congested.

Don't put away the sunscreen: Sunscreen is not just for summers. Winter sun can also damage your skin. Try applying a broad-spectrum sunscreen to your face and your hands about 30 minutes before going outside. Reapply frequently if you stay outside a long time. **Drink plenty of water:** To stay hydrated in winters should always be a top priority. We all get more dehydrated in the winter, so it's important to drink more water.

Tricks to apply makeup quickly



Hard pressed for time before you head out for a party, meeting or date? Here are makeup essentials to get a quick glow on your face.

- Use some amount of pressed powder to set in your foundation.
- Apply blush on your cheeks and blend it well.- Line your upper lash line with eyeliner pencil and sweep one stroke of mascara.- Apply lipstick to add colour to your lips.

Charoo Chawla Anand, director, Bllis by Ravissant Salon and Spa, shares ways to apply makeup quickly:- Apply foundation evenly

on your face and neck. Blend it well. Do it in upward and outward motion.- If you have any skin imperfections, apply concealer on blemishes and spots.

Upgraded Nehru Planetarium with new 3D AR-VR shows set to enthral visitors in Delhi

The key additions introduced are a dedicated reading room cum library to support self-directed learning and reference use by students, researchers, and visitors.

Delhi. (Agency)

The Nehru Planetarium, a premier public outreach facility under Prime Ministers Museum and Library (PMML), is ready to enthral visitors with newly introduced 3D (three-dimensional graphics), Augmented Reality (AR), and Virtual Reality (VR) shows and modernised amenities. As part of the much-awaited facelift project of the facility at Teen Murti Bhawan complex opened in 1984, several new facilities and infrastructure upgrades have been introduced to strengthen the Planetarium's role as a centre for science communication and public engagement, said officials. The comprehensively upgraded Planetarium was unveiled at a ceremony in the presence of the chairman of the Execution Council, Prime Ministers Museum and Library (PMML) Nripendra Misra, member and former chairperson of Prasar Bharati A Surya Prakash, director (PMML) Ashwani Lohani,

and its Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Priyanka Mishra.

The key additions introduced are a dedicated reading room cum library to support self-directed learning and reference use by students, researchers, and visitors, and a lounge to facilitate high-profile visits, protocol events, and institutional interactions. Comprehensive modernisation of exhibition, projection, and visitor amenities to improve accessibility, comfort, and educational impact has also been undertaken, added the official. The Nehru Planetarium is a premier centre for astronomy education and public engagement, dedicated to nurturing scientific temper and curiosity about the universe. It was inaugurated on 6 February

1984 by the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. The Planetarium has played a significant role in popularising astronomy

and 3D shows. The capacity of the auditorium is 250. The daily average footfall is 2,000; however, it increases on weekends and during holidays. "New 3D AR VR shows have been introduced, and the process is underway to add more features. Trials are being conducted. New carpet and paintings have improved aesthetics," said officials. Following the inauguration, Lohani notes that the Nehru Planetarium has now emerged as one of the leading planetariums in the country, equipped with state-of-the-art facilities designed to promote scientific temper, enhance astronomy awareness, and inspire curiosity among students, youth, and the public at large.

To further improve footfall, the Planetarium authority is working on an outreach programme and taking the initiative by extending invitations to educational institutions and other organisations.



through immersive and engaging learning experiences for visitors of all ages. At the core of the Planetarium is its full-dome sky theatre, equipped with a 15-metre 4K digital dome capable of presenting high-quality 2D

Delhi building collapse: PG operator arrested, business partner absconding

Delhi. (Agency)

The Delhi Police has arrested PG operator Sudhanshu in connection with the Satya Niketan building collapse that claimed seven lives, a day after apprehending labour contractor Sanoj from Kasganj in Uttar Pradesh, a senior police officer said.

On Monday, a Delhi court sent building owner Hariram, an 81-year-old retired Indian Air Force sergeant, and his 75-year-old wife Urmila to 14 days' judicial custody, while their 52-year-old son Mahesh was remanded to police custody for two days.

During the investigation, Mahesh stated that he managed the maintenance of the building on behalf of his parents, who had leased it to the PG operators, 'Hostel Daze', in August 2025.

Sudhanshu was one of the two business partners running the 'Hostel Daze' PG, along with Shubham Tyagi, who is currently absconding and is being traced, sources said.

The basement floor was being repaired as waste had accumulated during the rainy season over the past eight to 10 days and the ground floor was being repaired for extension for commercial purposes.

On the day of the incident, they came to know about the collapse from the locals and fled their home to his in-laws' house in Bhiwadi, Rajasthan. The labour contractor, Sanoj, has been apprehended from Kasganj and is being brought for examination, the officer said.

The collapsed building in Satya Niketan was decades old and housed a boys' PG. Spread over around 55 square metres, it comprised a basement and ground plus four floors. Each floor reportedly had two rooms with two beds each. Police sources said the structure did not have columns and beams.

MCD to demolish 'unsafe' girls' PG beside Satya Niketan building that collapsed

Delhi. (Agency)

The MCD is set to start the demolition of an 'unsafe' building beside the collapsed structure in Satya Niketan. Officials said that they will begin the demolition drive only after the belongings of the students living inside the premises are completely cleared. The adjacent building which is set for demolition functions as a PG accommodation for girls. After being declared as 'unsafe', the civic body has begun the process of shifting its occupants to another place. The representatives of the civic body are assisting the students in taking their belongings out so that they do not face difficulties during the evacuation drive. The clearance process is expected to continue till at least Wednesday, as there are still many belongings to be removed from the premises.

For the students living in the densely-populated neighbourhood, the incident has brought back long-standing concerns over cramped accommodations in unsafe buildings, where they spend much of their college lives, and shell out significant sums as rent.

Students in the area said that the government must ensure safe accommodation in the area, and address the issue of high rents that has made residing here increasingly difficult. "Rent is around 12,000-13,000 for a bed and even then the rooms are not always safe," said Annu Priya, a physics student at Motilal Nehru College.

Students also complained about poor water and insects in some PG facilities. Swati Ray, a Hindi student at Maitreyi College, said students should not be made to choose between education and safety. "Students from other states come here because of the colleges. If they are asked to leave their accommodation, they may not have anywhere else to go," she said.

Delhi to roll out PG, coaching institute policy and portal within 45 days after Satya Niketan incident

The portal will list rents, amenities and safety compliance, while the government is also exploring vacant buildings for hostels and higher floor area ratio for campus accommodation.

Delhi. (Agency)

The Delhi government is set to bring a comprehensive policy and a web portal to regulate PG accommodations and coaching institutes within 30-45 days. Education and urban development minister Ashish Sood said the announcement after meeting the students living in PGs to understand their concerns, days after the Satya Niketan incident.

"The urban development department was already working on a PG policy and on implementing the Justice

Gauba committee report for coaching institutes. The Satya Niketan incident has forced us to speed up the implementation of the Gauba committee report and frame a policy that addresses the concerns," Sood stated.



During the interaction, student delegates highlighted critical operational and infrastructure issues like the demand for a dedicated web portal where the PG owners must

declare rents, meal plans, provided facilities, and structural safety details beforehand.

The students said that it should also include unenforced agreement complaints that landlords frequently fail to honour; rent agreement deeds; arbitrary power charges levied by property owners; urgent need for pre-monsoon audits; structural safety certifications; and regular inspection mechanisms.

Sood said that since agreements exist between two private individuals, the government is looking into a legal way to make these tenancy deeds a binding. He emphasised upon a two-pronged strategy to deliver a long-term solution. He also announced a digital portal to create a mandatory registry displaying rents, amenities, and audit compliance for students and approval of higher floor area ratio to allow universities.

Student bodies in DU intensify protest, demand safer housing & accountability

Delhi. (Agency)

In the fallout of the Satya Niketan PG building collapse, student organisations across the political spectrum staged protests in Delhi University's South Campus on Tuesday, intensifying demands for accountability and urgent reforms in student housing.

Demonstrations were led by the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad, National Students' Union of India, along with AISA and ASAP, with protesters calling for the resignation of Chief Minister Rekha Gupta and stricter safety regulations for private accommodations.

The ABVP organised a large "Student Safety March" that began at the

university's Rugby Ground and culminated at the Arts Faculty, drawing participation from students across colleges. Raising the slogan "Aakhir



Kab Tak?", the group demanded immediate structural and fire-safety audits of PG accommodations in student-dominated areas and action against those responsible for the collapse. ABVP also launched a

dedicated platform, No More Satya Niketan, aimed at helping students assess the safety of their accommodations. The website includes features such as "Check Your PG" and "Spot the Signal", enabling students to evaluate risks and anonymously report unsafe structures. It also lists key demands, including a 30-day deadline for safety audits, construction of more hostels and the introduction of a regulatory framework for PG housing. ABVP Delhi State Secretary Sarthak Sharma said, "The purpose of this initiative is to give students a simple and accessible way to identify risks in their accommodation and bring unsafe conditions.

Satya Niketan building collapse: Two discharged, one still critical at AIIMS JPNA Trauma Centre

The AIIMS update further mentioned that the fourth patient, Asgar Ali, is stable.

Delhi. (Agency)

Two of the four patients admitted at the AIIMS JPNA Trauma Centre following the Satya Niketan building collapse have been discharged, while another 19-year-old student remains in critical condition in the ICU.

In an official update given on Tuesday, the hospital authorities said that the two patients discharged after treatment are Motilal Nehru College student Nitish Chib, 19, and Aditya Chib, who is a second-year student from Jammu, had been staying at the Hostel Daze PG accommodation in Satya Niketan when the building collapsed on Sunday afternoon. He sustained injuries to his head, leg and shoulder and required stitches on his head. One of his family friends and fellow student, Nitin

Jamwal, said Chib was eventually pulled his friend Neeraj Bawa remains rescued after the collapse.

out of the debris by rescue teams around 6 pm on Sunday. Chib had been in the room of fellow student Neeraj Bawa shortly before the collapse.

"He heard a few sounds, following which the floor suddenly gave way," Jamwal had said, recounting what Chib told his cousin while recovering in hospital.

Chib and Jamwal, both aged 19 and from Jammu, had come to Delhi around one and a half years ago and are second-year students at Motilal Nehru College. Jamwal had moved out of the same PG to Ber Sarai over two months ago.

While Chib has now been discharged,



condition, AIIMS said in its latest bulletin. Bawa, also a 19-year-old and a second-year student, was among those

learning about the collapse and remained by his side during his treatment.

that the fourth patient, Asgar Ali, is stable.

Earlier, the hospital had informed that 12 people were received at the trauma centre in connection with the collapse. Of these, seven were brought dead, while the remaining patients were treated for injuries.

For Chib's family, the latest update brings relief after two days of uncertainty. His mother had flown in from Jammu on Sunday after

Brent crude crosses \$100 as Middle East conflict raises supply fears

New Delhi. (Agency)

Brent crude prices crossed the \$100-a-barrel mark on Wednesday, returning to the psychologically important level for the first time since July 24 as the escalating Middle East conflict heightened concerns over disruptions to oil supplies. Brent futures rose as much as 2.2% to \$100.07 a barrel.As of 1:31 PM, Brent was at \$99.60 a barrel, up \$1.68 or 1.72%, while US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude was trading at \$94.15, up \$1.12 or 1.20%.The latest surge extends a sharp rally in crude prices. Brent has gained around 25% since early August, with markets increasingly worried that the prolonged US-Iran conflict could further disrupt oil flows from the Middle East.Fresh attacks by Iran-backed Houthis on Saudi energy facilities have added to those concerns, with oil installations reportedly set ablaze. The attacks have raised fears of disruption to crude shipments through the Red Sea, an important alternative route to the Strait of Hormuz. Oil flows through Hormuz have already been severely curtailed since the Iran war began on February 28. Before fighting resumed on August 30, around 8 million to 9 million barrels per day (bpd) of crude had been moving through the strait, according to Rystad Energy. More recently, flows have fallen below 2 million bpd.The prospect of prolonged supply disruptions has also prompted several major banks to raise their oil price forecasts. Goldman Sachs, Bank of America and HSBC are among those that have revised their crude outlooks higher in recent days.Despite increased production from non-OPEC producers such as the US, Canada and Guyana, the International Energy Agency expects global oil supply to decline by 4.3 million bpd, or around 4%, this year.

NSE IPO: Check GMP, price band, issue size, listing date and other details

MUMBAI. (Agency)

The much-awaited initial public offering (IPO) of the National Stock Exchange (NSE) could hit the market later this month, with the nearly Rs 30,000-crore issue likely to open for subscription on September 18, according to a PTI report citing sources. However, NSE has not officially announced the IPO dates, price band or issue details yet.According to the report, the NSE IPO is likely to open on September 18 and remain open for subscription on September 18, September 21 and September 22. The exchange could make its stock market debut on September 25.The price band is expected to be announced on September 15, followed by the anchor book on September 17, PTI reported.Separately, Reuters reported that NSE is likely to price its IPO at Rs 1,700 to Rs 1,785 per share, citing a source familiar with the matter. The source did not wish to be identified as they were not authorised to speak to the media.Here is everything that has been reported so far about the NSE IPO 2026, including the expected IPO date, price band, issue size and listing date. NSE IPO DATE: WHEN WILL THE IPO OPEN? According to the PTI report, the NSE IPO is likely to open for public subscription on September 18, 2026.The issue is expected to remain open on September 18, September 21 and September 22. The NSE IPO listing date is likely to be September 25, according to sources cited by.

RIL plans Rs 12,500 crore rupee bond sale, first since 2023

New Delhi. (Agency)

Reliance Industries, India's largest company by cash balances, is planning to tap the domestic debt market with a Rs 12,500-crore five-year bond issue as early as next week, according to a source. If completed, it would be the largest listed corporate bond issuance in the domestic market this year. RIL, which has a cash pile of Rs 2.46 lakh crore against net debt of Rs 1.23 lakh crore, is likely to offer a coupon of 7.47% on the five-year notes. The issue will have a base size of Rs 10,000 crore and a greenshoe option of Rs 2,500 crore. The proposed coupon is significantly lower than the average yield of around 7.87% on AAA-rated corporate bonds of similar tenor. The timing of the issue is significant as the market expects the Reserve Bank of India to consider tightening monetary policy at its next meeting early next month amid concerns over the liquidity impact of the huge dollar inflows through the special swap windows. Dollar inflows under the scheme have reached \$137.43 billion.The bond issue also comes ahead of another major fundraising exercise by the Reliance group. Its subsidiary Jio Platforms is preparing to launch what is expected to be India's largest IPO on record, seeking to raise close to Rs 38,000 crore after receiving Sebi approval last week. The issue is expected to hit the market before Diwali, which falls on November 8. Domestic companies have raised around Rs 8.9 lakh crore through bonds so far this year, down about 11% over the trailing 12-month period. While yields on AAA-rated three-year corporate bonds have risen 70 basis points over the past year, the weighted average lending rate on fresh bank loans has declined by 29 basis points during the period.Axis Bank, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank and Yes Bank are the lead arrangers to the proposed issue, the source said.

Singapore Airlines may seek more say before fresh Air India funding

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)

Singapore Airlines is expected to seek stronger safeguards and greater influence over Air India's management before agreeing to put more money into the Indian airline, according to people familiar with the matter, reported Reuters.The proposed conditions could include greater voting power on the board and targets for Air India to reduce its losses. These terms are expected to be discussed with Tata Sons, Air India's

majority owner.Singapore Airlines owns a 25.1% stake in Air India. Its majority shareholder, Singapore state investor Temasek, is not expected to provide the funds or take part in decisions related to the Indian airline, the people said.The discussions come after Air India sought around \$1.5 billion in fresh equity from its owners. Tata has approved a \$1.1 billion infusion, according to two people familiar with the matter. Singapore Airlines would be expected to contribute based on its shareholding.Singapore Airlines said its board would carefully assess any request for additional capital. It said the decision would take into account Air India's business strategy, the group's operating cash flow and its other capital needs.Temasek declined to comment on what it called speculation about the proposed conditions. Tata Sons and Air India did not respond to requests for comment.

SINGAPORE AIRLINES HAS

LIMITED SAY

The push for stronger terms comes as Singapore Airlines faces pressure to justify further investment in Air India.



The Indian carrier reported a \$2.33 billion loss for the financial year ended March, which directly affected Singapore Airlines' profits.Singapore Airlines has also incurred losses on some of its previous overseas investments. Tata said in July that turning around Air India could take up to 10 years.Air India has appointed former Ethiopian Airlines chief Tewolde Gebremariam as its new

CEO, replacing Campbell Wilson, a former Singapore Airlines executive. Singapore Airlines currently has limited formal influence over Air India. Under the 2022 merger agreement that brought its 49%-owned Indian airline Vistara into Air India, Singapore Airlines received one board seat. Its CEO, Goh Choon Phong, holds that position. However, its more than 25% stake gives Singapore Airlines the ability to block special resolutions on important matters under Indian company law. These include mergers, share buybacks and voluntary winding up. **TEMASEK BACKS LONG-TERM INDIAN BET** The funding request has also drawn attention in Singapore. An opposition lawmaker there had called for Temasek's funds not to be used to support Air India. Singapore Airlines said its investments in India have been and will continue to be funded through its internal resources.

Volkswagen, JSW explore partnership: Why German carmaker wants bigger India play

New Delhi. (Agency)

Volkswagen is exploring a strategic partnership with JSW Group in India to expand its product portfolio, increase local sourcing and strengthen manufacturing and research capabilities as the German automaker looks to improve its competitiveness in one of the world's fastest-growing car markets,m reported news agency Reuters.Skoda Auto Volkswagen India has signed an initial agreement with JSW Group to explore the key principles of a strategic partnership, a company spokesperson said, according to the report.The proposed arrangement would be based on a two-party structure with joint control and clearly defined operational roles.The companies are also expected to explore sharing vehicle

platforms, increasing local sourcing and expanding production capacity.The proposed partnership comes as Volkswagen has struggled to build a larger presence in India



despite being in the market for more than two decades. Its market share in the country remains at around 2%, according to the report. The company is now looking to use deeper localisation and greater scale to offer more competitive products and improve profitability.The

spokesperson said the partnership would focus on deep localisation and platform synergies, which are intended to support more competitive products, increase scale and improve profitability in India.For Volkswaen, this means potentially using JSW's local business presence and capabilities to address some of the challenges that have limited its growth in India. **WHAT THE PROPOSED PARTNERSHIP WILL DO** The two companies are looking at a structure with joint control, defined operational responsibilities and governance mechanisms aimed at enabling faster decision-making. The areas being explored include expanding Volkswagen's product portfolio in India, increasing local sourcing of components, sharing vehicle platforms, expanding production capacity, strengthening manufacturing capabilities.

IIT Madras to IIM Ahmedabad: The colleges behind India's rising startup founders

Kolkata. (Agency)

IIT Madras and IIM Ahmedabad have emerged as the two standout campuses in the academic journey of India's high-growth startup founders. While IIT Madras has the highest representation among undergraduate institutions, IIM Ahmedabad leads the postgraduate list, according to the 2026 ASK Private Wealth Hurun India Cheetah Index.The index uses the term 'Cheetah' for an unlisted startup founded in 2000 or later, with a valuation between \$200 million and \$500 million, and considered likely to reach Unicorn status within five years. The index offers a glimpse into where India's next generation of high-value startups is coming from — and where their founders studied before entering the entrepreneurial world. **IIT MADRAS LEADS THE UNDERGRADUATE LIST** IIT Madras has emerged as the most common undergraduate institution among founders in the 2026 cohort, with 13 founders having studied there. IIT Bombay followed with 10 founders, while the University of Delhi had nine. The University of Mumbai, BITS Pilani, IIT Delhi and Anna University



were next, with eight founders each.The IIT Madras alumni featured in the cohort include Aditya Kumbakonam and Anuj Krishna of MathCo, and Kiran Naik of Vegrow, among others. **IIM AHMEDABAD TAKES THE TOP SPOT FOR POSTGRADUATE STUDIES** When it comes to postgraduate education, however, the picture changes.IIM Ahmedabad tops the list, with seven founders in the cohort having studied there. The Indian School of Business follows with six, while IIM Lucknow has five.

Paid but still no home: SC rejects Parsvnath proposal, warns of tougher action

New Delhi. (Agency)

The Supreme Court on Tuesday rejected a proposal by Parsvnath Developers to resolve the claims of homebuyers through possession of flats or repayment of money with interest, saying it appeared to be "another device" to delay the proceedings.The bench of Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana gave the developer another opportunity to submit a fresh proposal covering the claims of allottees and homebuyers across the company and its subsidiary firms.It warned that if a comprehensive proposal is not submitted, the court may appoint a High-Powered Committee to take over the responsibilities.The claims include refunds, compensation for delayed possession and non-execution of orders passed by Haryana RERA. **SC REJECTS ONE-YEAR POSSESSION PLAN** During the hearing, Parsvnath proposed to deliver possession of dwelling units to homebuyers within one year. The Supreme Court rejected the proposal. The company's counsel told the court that the Parsvnath Group has 24 housing projects involving 27,000 dwelling units. Of these, around 24,000 units have been sold, while about 3,000 are yet to be offered possession.The court said the homebuyers had already suffered considerably and asked the company to come up with a proposal that could address their claims.The Chief Justice also suggested that Parsvnath deposit Rs 500 crore with the Supreme Court registry, after which the court could consider appointing a High-Powered Committee. **HOMEBUYERS HAVE MONEY DECREES BUT ARE STILL WAITING** The bench said some homebuyers already have money decrees in their favour but continue to struggle to obtain relief.The Chief Justice observed that they were "running from pillar to post" and said that even ordering a CBI probe would not necessarily help them.The court has already asked Parsvnath Developers and its directors to submit a status report on cases filed by homebuyers against them and the stage at which those proceedings are pending. The Supreme Court is currently hearing more than 10 cases against the builder. **PAID RS 1.78 CRORE, BUT FLAT WAS NOT READY** During the hearing, the bench referred to the case of Rita Tikku, a cancer survivor, and Lokaish Tikku, who invested their life savings in the Parsvnath Exotica project in Sector 53, Gurugram.The court said the couple had paid the full sale consideration of Rs 1.78 crore for the flat.

Adani Airports to raise \$1 billion for 5.54% stake sale, shares jump 5%

Adani Enterprises shares rose nearly 5% after the company announced the \$1 billion fundraise by its airport subsidiary. The stock was trading at Rs 3,094.80, up Rs 135 or 4.56%, as of 11:43 am, compared with the previous close of Rs 2,959.80.

HONG KONG. (Agency)

Adani Airport Holdings Ltd (AAHL), the airports arm of Adani Enterprises, will raise Rs 9,825 crore (around \$1 billion) from a consortium of global and domestic investors, who will collectively hold about 5.54% in the company after the completion of the transaction.The investor consortium comprises Alpha Wave Global, Premji Invest, Temasek and funds managed by BlackRock. The

investment values AAHL at a pre-money equity valuation of around \$18 billion, according to an exchange filing by Adani Enterprises on Wednesday.Adani Enterprises shares rose 5% after the company announced the \$1 billion fundraise by its airport subsidiary. The stock was trading at Rs 3,094.80, up Rs 135 or 4.56%, as of 11:43 am, compared with the previous close of Rs 2,959.80. The stock opened at Rs 2,963.35 and touched an intraday high of Rs 3,141.40. The investors will subscribe to fresh equity shares of AAHL in three tranches under a Share Subscription Agreement and Shareholders' Agreement. The final tranche is expected to be completed by July 2027, subject to customary conditions and applicable approvals.An expansion spree in recent years has turned AAHL into India's largest airport operator by the number of airports it manages.The company operates eight airports, including Mumbai International Airport, and accounts for about 25% of

India's passenger traffic and 33% of its air cargo volumes. The GMR Group, another major player in India's aviation sector, remains the largest operator by the number of passengers handled.The



expansion has given Adani Airports a sizeable presence across India's aviation infrastructure, as passenger traffic and air connectivity continue to grow. **WHERE WILL THE \$1 BILLION GO** The fresh capital will be used to modernise and expand airport infrastructure, develop Adani Airport City projects and scale up ground

handling and other non-aeronautical businesses.AAHL plans around 22 million sq ft of mixed-use development in the first phase of its Airport City projects. The company aims to scale its airport capacity to around 200 million passengers annually.Jeet Adani, Non-Executive Director of Adani Airport Holdings, said the investment marked an important milestone for the airports platform and that the company would continue to invest ahead of growth. "India's aviation sector is one of the most powerful multipliers of the country's GDP growth," he said, adding that air connectivity catalyses trade, tourism, employment and regional development. The new partnership, he said, would help the company scale infrastructure, city-side developments and non-aeronautical businesses.Arun Bansal, CEO of Adani Airport Holdings, said the company would continue building capabilities to scale AAHL into "the world's largest airports platform."

NEWS BOX

Four killings, one capture bid — then the tigress died

Ahmedabad (Agency).

Twenty-four hours before she died, she was suspected of killing four people in Maharashtra's Amravati and Wardha. Tracked down, the objective was to capture her alive. But she died. How? What happened? First, this isn't the story of a woman who allegedly killed four people. This is the story of a tigress who allegedly killed four people.

That doesn't make her death any less significant. There are fewer than 4,000 tigers in India's jungles and forests, and that's based on a census conducted in 2022.

The death of a tigress

The tigress that died on Monday – and had reportedly been stalking the Amravati and Wardha districts since mid-August – was being transported to a wildlife rescue centre when it died. Questions have now emerged over the tranquilisation process, including the administration of multiple doses of sedatives and the non-availability of stimulants to awaken her.

Sources familiar with the operation to catch her said the tigress – tracked to Shirajgaon Kasba village in Amravati – was darted twice with a combination of Xylazine and Ketamine; the latter is a dissociative anaesthetic and the former is a non-opioid animal tranquiliser. However, she continued moving after the dose. A preliminary post-mortem cites "cardio-respiratory failure" as the prima facie cause. Organ samples have been sent for histopathological and toxicological examination to establish the exact cause.

AI to predict traffic snarls, guide police deployment

Pune (Agency).

As Pune prepares for Ganeshotsav, the traffic police have said they will use artificial intelligence (AI) tools to identify congestion-prone areas and decide where personnel need to be deployed during the festival. The Traffic Control Branch will use an AI-based platform, Trafficure, from the first day of the festival to track traffic patterns, predict congestion and help officers redeploy personnel based on the situation on the ground. Daily analysis generated by the platform will also be shared with citizens, Additional Commissioner of Police Manoj Patil told The Indian Express. "We will be observing Trafficure from day one. It is an AI-based platform which gives predictions. We will have daily analytical reports on jamming and congestion, including which areas face problems and at what time," Patil said.

The reports will be made available through the traffic police's communication platforms and the phone-based application. They will include information on the day's traffic conditions as well as predictions for the following day. The system is expected to be particularly useful during Ganeshotsav, when traffic patterns change frequently because of processions, road closures, diversions, parking restrictions and immersion-related movement.

Patil said the data would help the department move away from a fixed deployment model, where personnel are assigned to junctions in advance regardless of the traffic situation.

BMTC's live tracking for app-based taxi users soon

BENGALURU (Agency).

Commuters using Ola, Uber and other app-based taxis will soon be able to access BMTC's live bus-tracking facility through 'Namma BMTC Mobile App 2.0', Transport Minister Byrathi Suresh said on Tuesday.

Chairing a meeting of senior officials of the Transport Department, KSRTC and BMTC, Suresh directed them to extend the BMTC's live-tracking app to private app-based taxis. This will help people to check the availability of BMTC buses to their destinations after getting off app-based cabs. The minister directed the BMTC to deploy 200 mini air-conditioned electric buses at all Metro stations. These buses will be part of the 4,500 electric buses being



procured by BMTC under the Centre's PM E-DRIVE scheme. The mini AC buses will provide connectivity within a radius of 5km from the Metro stations, linking residential layouts and peripheral areas.

The BMTC will provide more air-conditioned buses to IT-BT companies in Bengaluru for the benefit of their employees. The officials have been instructed to hold discussions with such companies, the minister said.

Stagnant output, demand increase: What has triggered Punjab power crisis

Patiala (Agency).

Punjab's dependence on power purchased from private generators and outside the state has come under renewed scrutiny amid the ongoing crisis. The five-hour scheduled power cuts for industry were withdrawn on Monday after a week following protests, even as domestic and rural consumers continued to report unscheduled outages. Here's why the crisis unfolded.

From 6,580 MW to 5,680 MW

Punjab's total thermal generation capacity stood at around 6,580 MW in 2016, including state-owned plants and private independent power producers (IPPs). Today, it is down to about 5,680 MW. The state-owned Guru Nanak Dev Thermal Plant (GNDTP), Bathinda, had a capacity of 460 MW. Its four units, commissioned between 1974 and 1979, were shut on January 1, 2018. At the Guru Gobind Singh Super Thermal Plant, Ropar, two of the original six units were also retired in 2018, reducing its capacity from 1,260 MW to 840 MW. The Guru Hargobind Thermal Plant at Lehra Mohabbat has 920 MW of installed capacity. The 540-MW Guru Amardas Thermal Plant at Goindwal Sahib,

commissioned in 2016 as a private plant, was acquired by PSPCL in 2024. Together, Punjab's state-owned thermal plants now account for around 2,300 MW.

Private plants carry a major load

Punjab's two major private thermal plants — Rajpura and Talwandi Sabo — have a combined capacity of 3,380 MW. Rajpura has

retirement of two Ropar units in 2018.

Demand has jumped by over 6,000 MW

While generation capacity stagnated, demand surged. Punjab's peak demand in 2016 was around 11,000 MW. In July 2026, PSPCL met a record peak demand of 17,452 MW, an increase of more than 6,000 MW in a decade. The mismatch has left Punjab increasingly dependent on purchased power, particularly when its own plants cannot operate at full capacity.

Coal shortage exposes Punjab's vulnerability

Power Minister Tarunpreet Singh Sond said reduced coal availability had cut Punjab's generation by around 1,500 MW, affecting both Rajpura and Talwandi Sabo plants. He said the wider coal shortage had affected around 63 GW of generation capacity nationally and sought Centre's intervention to restore supplies. Punjab BJP president Kewal Singh Dhillon, however, questioned the government's explanation, citing earlier claims that the Pachhara coal mine would provide Punjab long-term coal security and that thermal plants had adequate stocks.



1,400 MW, while Talwandi Sabo has three 660-MW units with both units being commissioned between 2014 and 2016. The result is stark: no new thermal generation capacity has been added in Punjab since 2016. Instead, the state lost 880 MW through the Bathinda closure and

Rohan Parikh: From London to the centre of BKC's 'PMO ID' case

Mumbai (Agency).

At 24, Rohan Premal Parikh has studied in London, completed a BSc in Mathematics and Science and developed an interest in drone technology. On Monday, the young businessman found himself in police custody after allegedly using a suspect Prime Minister's Office (PMO) identity card to enter Jio World Plaza in BKC, a day before Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the area.

Parikh, who works as a share broker, had arrived at the premises with his friend Prathamesh Ganesh Bagul, 26, and his personal security guard, Dilip Rajaram Kunde, 49, a retired Army personnel from rural Nashik. Kunde, who retired from the Army around a decade ago, had been working as Parikh's bodyguard. Kunde was carrying a

licensed revolver and six live cartridges when the trio entered the premises, police said.

Parikh's background in drone technology is



now among the aspects being examined by investigators as they try to establish why he

was carrying an identity card identifying him as a PMO official. "He has studied in London and is into drone technology. We are investigating whether someone took advantage of this and duped him or whether there was some other reason for him carrying the fake card," a Crime Branch officer said. The identity card allegedly identified Parikh as a Grade C official of the PMO and mentioned his association with drone technology. Police said Parikh, Bagul and Kunde entered Jio World Plaza around 4.50 pm on Monday. During a security check, one of them allegedly produced the identity card and claimed an association with the PMO. Security personnel alerted the police, following which investigators traced Parikh through CCTV footage and the vehicle used by the three men.

'Not against rules but...': Pune's mandals react to noise-free Ganeshotsav call

Pune (Agency).

A citizens' campaign demanding that DJs and dhol-tasha pathaks violating noise limits be kept off Pune's streets during Ganeshotsav and other festivals or public events has drawn a mixed response from the city's Ganesh mandals.

While several mandal representatives say they support the police's sound system cap of four bass and four top speakers, most are firmly opposed to an outright ban on DJ music and traditional drum troupes.

The demand, spearheaded by activist Vidyanand Bapat, calls for a completely noise pollution-free festival. But mandal leaders across the city say the picture on the ground is more nuanced than a simple case of compliance versus defiance, with some mandals having gone without loudspeakers for decades and others insisting that a single day of celebration with a sound system is a reasonable ask.

'No choice but to opt for a sound system' Uday Mahale, president of the Shri Gurudatta Mitra Mandal, Shivajinagar, said the sheer scale of Pune's Ganeshotsav makes dhol-tasha troupes hard to come by

for every mandal. "Considering the main and smaller Ganapati mandals, thousands of processions take place every year in Pune, but we don't have that many dhol-tasha groups, so actually we don't have a choice but to opt for a sound system," Mahale said.

His mandal, now in its 57th year, has used



a DJ system during the visarjan procession for roughly the last 35 years, having earlier relied on dhol-tasha pathaks. Mahale said the mandal supports the Pune police commissioner's mandate capping sound systems and opposes the use of plasma, pressure-mid, and laser lights.

FDA suspends licences of 3 ISKCON eateries in Mumbai's Juhu over food safety violations

Ahmedabad (Agency). Maharashtra's food safety regulator's crackdown to ensure compliance has now reached Lord Krishna's doorstep, with the state regulator suspending licences of three food units run by ISKCON Juhu after inspections revealed glaring violations.

The Maharashtra Food and Drug Administration (FDA) raids at three ISKCON food units found serious food-safety and hygiene violations, including pest infestation, inadequate food storage and segregation, poor drainage and gaps in water and food testing, employee medical checks and food-safety training. The action was part of a wider crackdown in which the FDA suspended the licences of six food establishments in Mumbai, three in the Konkan division and 11 in the Pune division. In Pune, 12 establishments were hit, with one ordered to stop business for operating without a valid food licence. The three ISKCON establishments whose licences were suspended by the FDA are the main food establishment at Hare Krishna Land, ISKCON Juhu Food Services-Restaurant and Govindas Restaurant. Officials said they were

inspected on September 3.

At the main establishment at Hare Krishna Land, the FDA found inadequate checks of raw materials, improper storage conditions, pest infestation, inadequate cleaning and drainage, and missing records of water testing, employee medical checks, vaccination, training and audits.

At Govindas Restaurant, inspectors found standing water in cold storage, blocked drains, pest-control deficiencies and inadequate segregation of raw and cooked food. Meanwhile, the food safety body, led by Commissioner Tukaram Mundhe, also suspended the licence of Drogheria Sellers Pvt Ltd (Zepto), Malad West. Inspectors found live cockroaches in packed egg boxes and on a beverage table. Milk, paneer and curd were stored at 14-15°C as against the expected 2-6°C, while cold storage was at 20-21°C. Expired food was also found on shelves for sale.

Matheshwari Milk, Kharghar, also faced suspension after the FDA found discrepancies in milk labelling, including loose toned milk being sold as cow's milk and loose standardised milk as buffalo milk.

'Chitta available like salt..': In a Punjab village thrust into the limelight, grief and anger

In Toor Banzara, questions stretch beyond one man's suicide: they are about a drug that villagers say is easily available, about families burying young men, and about the humiliation Gulzar Singh's family says he carried home

Chandigarh (Agency).

Travelling along the Patiala-Sangrur highway, it is hard to miss the grand entrance to Toor Banzara village. Its ornate design and beautified bus-stop waiting area announce the village long before one enters it. Former sarpanch Harpreet Singh had the gate built during his tenure, and villagers often showcase it in social media videos. On Tuesday, however, few villagers used the gate.

An uneasy calm hung over the village as people moved through kutcha roads and narrow lanes towards its rear end. The village, in Dirba constituency represented by Punjab Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema, has around 1,800 voters, nearly 700 of them from the Scheduled Caste community. About 100 people sat on durries in a wide lane, raising slogans against Cheema and the AAP government. Speakers took turns addressing the gathering just metres from the house of

Gulzar Singh, a 53-year-old Dalit agricultural labourer who died after allegedly consuming a poisonous substance on Monday night. The house lies in a lane so narrow that barely two two-wheelers can pass each other. Open drains run along the side. Gulzar's house tells its own story. A kutcha verandah opens into two rooms with unplastered walls. A third remains unfinished. The family cooks in one of the rooms, where Gulzar lived with his wife Pal Kaur, their three sons and his mother. On Tuesday, his absence was impossible to miss. Gulzar had publicly questioned Cheema at a meeting at the village gurdwara on Sunday about the easy availability of chitta in the village. He told the minister that his own son was addicted and could obtain drugs easily. His widow, Pal Kaur, alleged that what followed was humiliation. "My husband asked Cheema

where the drugs were coming from because our son gets them easily. Later, two policemen from Dirba police station dropped him home. In the evening, the village sarpanch called and said she would



make him apologise for his mistake," she said. Pal Kaur alleged that on Monday, panchayat members came to their home

and asked Gulzar to apologise to Baljit Singh alias Raj, the husband of village sarpanch Baljinder Kaur, by touching his feet. "My husband felt deeply humiliated," she said. Gulzar's 23-year-old son, Sehbaz Singh, a BA second-year student at Government Ranbir College, Sangrur, said his father left home later that day.

"I don't know whether he met the sarpanch or not. When he returned, he went to my uncle's house in our lane and fell from his bicycle. He told my uncle that he had consumed poison because the sarpanch, panchayat members and others had humiliated him for questioning the finance minister," Sehbaz said. What followed was a desperate rush between hospitals.

"We reached Sangrur Civil Hospital around 1.30 pm. They referred him to Rajindra Hospital in Patiala.

NEWS BOX

Bangladesh set up India clash in Women's Asia Cup semis, Pakistan face Sri Lanka



New Delhi. (Agency)

Bangladesh booked a semi-final clash with India in the Women's Asia Cup 2026 after beating the United Arab Emirates by 34 runs in Dubai on Tuesday. Pakistan will face Sri Lanka in the other last-four contest.

The win helped Bangladesh recover from their defeat to Sri Lanka and complete the semi-final line-up. India topped Group A, while Sri Lanka finished first in Group B. India will face Bangladesh in the first semi-final on Thursday, September 10, at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium, with the match scheduled for 8pm IST. Pakistan will take on Sri Lanka at the same venue on Friday, September 11, also at 8pm IST.

BANGLADESH OVERCOME UAE SCARE

Bangladesh were sent in to bat but struggled to build momentum, finishing on 103 for seven. Sharmin Akter top-scored with 38 off 31 balls, while captain Nigar Sultana made 23 off 28. Nahida Akter provided a crucial late boost, scoring 16 and sharing a 42-run seventh-wicket stand with Sharmin after Bangladesh slipped to 55 for six. She then returned with the ball to claim 4-0-18-2. Marufa Akter continued her good form from the Sri Lanka game, taking two wickets for nine runs, while Rabeya Khan picked up three wickets. UAE's Suraksha Kotte was the standout bowler, finishing with figures of 4-0-11-3. The UAE chase never got going as Bangladesh's bowlers kept striking at regular intervals. The hosts finished on 69 for nine in 20 overs, handing Bangladesh the comprehensive victory and the final semi-final spot. BANGLADESH IN FOR TOUGH CHALLENGE

Bangladesh now face a formidable India side that won all three of its group matches. India also produced a dominant seven-wicket victory over Pakistan after bowling them out for just 55. Smriti Mandhana has been among India's standout performers, smashing 124 off 64 balls against Hong Kong in a 137-run win. Her innings also made her the leading run-scorer in women's international cricket.

Cafu's message to India ahead of Brazil friendly: Treat it as a learning experience

New Delhi. (Agency)

India's upcoming clash against Brazil can be much more than a high-profile football spectacle, according to Brazil legend Cafu. The 2002 World Cup-winning captain believes the Blue Tigers can gain valuable lessons from facing the five-time world champions, provided they look beyond the occasion itself.

Brazil are set to face India at the Salt Lake Stadium in Kolkata on October 3, with Carlo Ancelotti's side arriving for one of the biggest friendlies in Indian football. Speaking during his visit to India, Cafu said the match should be viewed as a learning



experience and an opportunity to exchange knowledge with Brazil's players. "India is really going to play the biggest match in its national team's history, against the Brazilian national team, five-time world champions," Cafu said.

"This match will provide a lot of learning, a lot of lessons. India can gain a great deal from this in exchanging knowledge, exchanging ideas, exchanging experiences with Brazilian players." The fixture, however, has not been without controversy in India. While the arrival of Brazil has generated considerable excitement, former India captain Bhaichung Bhutia had urged fans to boycott the game amid his criticism of the administration of Indian football.

For Cafu, the bigger question is what India does with the experience after the final whistle. He believes a game against Brazil can have lasting value if it becomes part of a wider plan rather than being treated as an achievement in itself.

Frances Tiafoe wins US Open thriller, hug with inconsolable opponent goes viral

Frances Tiafoe produced a stunning comeback against Alex Michelsen after trailing by two sets at the US Open. But it was the American's touching gesture towards his tearful compatriot after the match that stole the spotlight.

New York. (Agency)

11th seed Frances Tiafoe mounted an incredible comeback against US compatriot Alex Michelsen. Battling back from two sets down, Tiafoe fought for four hours and 40 minutes to produce one of the matches of the US Open this year, winning 5-7, 3-6, 7-5, 6-3, 7-6(6). The incredible comeback produced one of the best moments of the US Open this year. With his nerves shot after

letting a two-set lead slip away, 22-year-old Michelsen broke down in tears as Tiafoe celebrated his win on the other side of the court. Seeing an inconsolable Michelsen weep in front of the crowd, Tiafoe dropped his racket, cut short his celebration, and rushed to hug his opponent. The long embrace, followed by a few words of comfort, perhaps brought some solace to the young American, who had produced a brutal five-set battle that saw Michelsen come within touching distance of the biggest win of his career before Tiafoe produced an extraordinary fightback.

Michelsen had flown somewhat under the radar during his deepest run at a major, but earned plenty of respect on the biggest stage of American tennis. The 22-year-old fired 21 aces and looked firmly in control for much of the contest, putting Tiafoe under pressure from the very beginning. Tiafoe, meanwhile, struggled to find his rhythm at Arthur Ashe Stadium despite thriving at his beloved Louis Armstrong Stadium earlier in

the tournament.

He hit just four winners compared to Michelsen's 15 in the opening set before handing over the critical break on set point. Michelsen then did some of his best work at



the net in the second set, earning another decisive break with a fine backhand strike, nning. his deepest run at a Grand Slam. The unseeded American had the momentum and was suddenly just one set away from the biggest victory of his career. It got even better for Michelsen at the start of the third set.

TIAFOE MAKES MEGA-

COMEBACK

He broke Tiafoe in the opening game and moved to within touching distance of the semi-finals. But just when the pressure of the occasion began to creep in, Tiafoe found a way back. Michelsen was serving for the match at 5-4 when his nerves took over. Two double faults handed Tiafoe the opening he had been waiting for, and the 11th seed converted the break point to level the set at 5-5. Suddenly, the match had changed.

Tiafoe slammed his foot on the gas and broke again on set point after surviving a cat-and-mouse exchange. He then carried that momentum into the fourth set, winning the first three games as he raised his level across the board. Michelsen, who had appeared to have the match under control, was now fighting simply to stay alive.

The two Americans saved their best tennis for the deciding set. The final set became a nerve-searing battle, with neither player willing to give the other an opening.

Duleep Trophy: Vaibhav Sooryavanshi gives Tilak Varma a taste of his own medicine

East Zone vice captain Vaibhav Sooryavanshi gave South Zone skipper Tilak Varma a taste of his own medicine. Vaibhav riled up Varma with a bout of sledging during South Zone's innings.

Chennai . (Agency)

As East Zone tightened their grip on the Duleep Trophy final on Day 4, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi decided to give South Zone captain Tilak Varma a taste of his own medicine. Vaibhav, who had been on the receiving end of some words from Tilak on Day 1 of the summit clash, walked up to the South Zone skipper and returned the favour with a few words of his own. The incident took place late in the morning session on Day 4, with South Zone already eight wickets down and staring at defeat. Chasing East Zone's mammoth first-innings total of 708, South had crumbled

to less than 330 for eight despite batting on a flat pitch. As Tilak tried to mount a fight from one end, Vaibhav walked up to the batter, exchanged a few words with him



and then calmly walked away. The moment was reminiscent of what had happened on Day 1. With East Zone's openers going berserk in the opening 10 overs of the final, Tilak had walked up to Vaibhav and appeared to exchange a few words with the young batter. Four days later, Vaibhav got his chance to return the favour. And there was perhaps a little more

satisfaction to it given how the match had unfolded since that first exchange.

EAST ZONE BULLDOZE SOUTH

East Zone, led by Ishan Kishan, went on to pile up a massive 708 in their first innings at the MA Chidambaram Stadium, putting South Zone under enormous pressure. South struggled to cope with East's pace attack, with Mohammed Shami and Mukesh Kumar striking at regular intervals. Wickets continued to tumble despite the pitch remaining conducive to batting, leaving South eight down and still well short of East's first-innings total.

Tilak was among the few South batters to offer resistance, but the captain found himself fighting a losing battle as East moved closer to sealing the Duleep Trophy final. On Day 1, Tilak had tried to put Vaibhav under pressure. By Day 4, with East firmly in control, the teenager had the perfect opportunity to give his India teammate counterpart a taste of his own medicine.

Pakistan cricketers go viral for wearing Virat Kohli-branded shoes in Women's Asia Cup

Pakistan Women cricketers have gone viral after several players, including left-arm spinner Nashra Sandhu, were spotted wearing Virat Kohli's one8 shoes during the Women's Asia Cup.

NEW DELHI. (Agency)

Pakistan Women cricketers have found themselves at the centre of a social-media buzz during the ongoing Women's Asia Cup, but this time their performances are not the reason. Several members of the Pakistan squad were spotted wearing footwear from one8, the sportswear brand

co-founded by Indian cricket star Virat Kohli. Left-arm spinner Nashra Sandhu and right-handed batter Eymaan Fatima were among the players seen wearing the



shoes during Pakistan's match against Hong Kong on Monday. Pictures and videos quickly went viral, with fans highlighting the unusual sight of Pakistan cricketers wearing a brand closely associated with one of India's biggest sporting icons. Sandhu, meanwhile, gave

Pakistan plenty to celebrate on the field. She produced a sensational career-best 4-0-7-6, helping Pakistan bowl Hong Kong out for 71 and complete a 72-run victory.

Her spell also helped Pakistan seal their place in the Asia Cup semi-finals.

One8 has grown into a high-performance sportswear brand spanning footwear, apparel and sporting products. Agilitas, which brought the brand into its portfolio, describes one8 as a sportswear label co-founded with Kohli. Kohli is also an investor in Agilitas, having invested Rs 40 crore in the platform.

PAKISTAN BOUNCE BACK IN ASIA CUP AFTER INDIA SETBACK

Pakistan had endured a difficult outing against India earlier in the tournament, being bowled out for just 55 before losing by seven wickets. However, they

IOA to probe sexual harassment allegations against Hockey India's Bholanath Singh



NEW DELHI. (Agency)

The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has constituted a four-member independent inquiry committee to investigate sexual harassment allegations levelled against Hockey India secretary Bholanath Singh by former India women's hockey captain Asunta Lakra. The committee, headed by retired High Court judge Deepa Sharma, was formed following a directive from the Sports Ministry. Former track-and-field athlete Vandana Rao, former India women's hockey captain Mamta Kharb and lawyer Sitwat Nabi are the other members of the panel. Lakra, who is also a member of Hockey India's Executive Board, had accused Singh of threatening and harassing her after she raised concerns over the alleged sexual harassment of girls in Jharkhand by local coach Sudhir Golla.

The Sports Ministry subsequently asked the IOA to constitute an independent panel to examine Lakra's allegations. In a letter to Hockey India, IOA president PT Usha said the national federation would be responsible for all requisite payments related to the committee, including its members' honorarium, travel, accommodation and incidental expenses.

Hockey India has also been asked to fully cooperate with the inquiry and provide the panel with all relevant documents and information. "Hockey India is also requested to extend its full cooperation to the committee and to ensure that all relevant documents, information and such other assistance as may be required is made available to the committee in a timely manner," Usha said in her letter.

LAKRA-HOCKEY INDIA DISPUTE

The allegations come amid an escalating dispute between Lakra and Hockey India. The federation's ethics committee had issued a show-cause notice to Lakra and launched an inquiry against her after young Jharkhand player Albela Rani Toppo accused the former

Kylian Mbappe scores in UCL opener, brother Ethan red carded in Lille vs Betis

The Mbappe brothers endured contrasting fortunes on an eventful Champions League night. Kylian scored for Real Madrid in their 2-1 win over Inter Milan, while younger brother Ethan assisted Lille's opener before being sent off in their 3-2 defeat to Real Betis.

NEW DELHI. (Agency)

It was a night of contrasting fortunes for the Mbappe brothers in the Champions League. While Kylian Mbappe opened his European campaign with a goal for Real Madrid in their 2-1 win over Inter Milan, his younger

brother Ethan Mbappe endured a bittersweet evening with Lille, assisting his side's opener before being sent off in their 3-2 defeat to Real Betis on Tuesday. Kylian was on target at the Santiago Bernabeu as Real Madrid overcame two costly Inter mistakes to begin their Champions League campaign with a win. The French forward gave the hosts the lead after 15 minutes, capitalising on a mistake from Yann Bisseck before firing the ball beneath the goalkeeper. Ethan, meanwhile, had a much more eventful night in France.

The 19-year-old assisted Aase Ueda for Lille's opening goal before being shown a straight red card in the 55th minute, shortly after Real Betis had taken a 3-2 lead. Replays showed Ethan elbowing Betis centre-back Natan in the face after an apparent exchange

of words between the two players. The referee reviewed the incident and decided it



was serious enough to warrant a red card. At 19 years and 253 days,

Ethan became the youngest player to be sent off in the Champions League for a French club. His dismissal came after Betis had completed a remarkable comeback.

Lille took the lead through Ueda in the 12th minute, but Marc Bartra equalised from Pablo Fornals' cross. Alessandro restored Lille's advantage three minutes later following a corner. Bartra struck again in the 49th minute, heading in Isco's free kick, before Ayoze Perez completed the turnaround five minutes later with a low strike after an individual run.

COURTOIS SAVES MADRID

Back in Madrid, Real had goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois to thank for holding off an Inter side that arguably controlled large periods of the contest. Inter enjoyed more than 64 per cent possession and repeatedly tested the Belgian, but Real punished two defensive mistakes. After Mbappe had orced Bisseck into losing possession, Brahim Diaz collected the loose ball and fed the Frenchman, who finished to put Real ahead.



Nora Fatehi

Faces 3 Crore Defamation Suit Over 'Toy Airplane' Remarks, Aviation Firm Claims Business Loss

Nora Fatehi's comments about a chartered aircraft has led her in trouble with an aviation company. They are seeking Rs 3 crore in damages from the actress. The dispute centres on social media videos that Nora allegedly posted after travelling on the aircraft last year. Dunes Aviation has filed a civil defamation suit against Nora at a Gandhinagar court, alleging that her remarks caused reputational harm and affected the company's business. The aviation firm has also asked the court to direct her to remove the posts and issue a public clarification.

As reported by PTI, the matter stems from a Mumbai-Jaipur flight in December last year. Nora had shared videos from inside the aircraft on Instagram, following which Dunes Aviation objected to the way the aircraft was allegedly described.

The company has claimed that Nora referred to the aircraft as a "miniature", a "toy" and a "Lego airplane" in the videos. Dunes Aviation has alleged that the comments were widely circulated because of the actor's social media reach, which the company has put at more than 4.6 crore followers.

According to the suit, the posts had a direct commercial impact on the company. Dunes Aviation has claimed that it saw a 15-20 per cent decline in bookings after the controversy, along with an increase in cancellations.

The company has strongly rejected the suggestion that the aircraft was unsuitable for the journey. Dunes Aviation said the aircraft used for the flight was a Cessna Citation CJ2 and described it as a standard aircraft that was appropriately sized for the Mumbai-Jaipur route.

It further stated that the aircraft was fully DGCA-certified and airworthy. The company also maintained that the aircraft was being operated legally under a valid Non-Scheduled Operator's Permit (NSOP).

Dunes Aviation has accused Nora of making "derogatory and reckless" comments about the aircraft. The company reportedly described her statements as "reckless, irresponsible, and made without any technical knowledge, verification or factual basis". It has further alleged that the remarks resulted in "serious reputational damage, loss of goodwill and adverse commercial impact".



Saanson Ki Mala In Mirzapur The Movie: The Fascinating History Behind Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan's Classic



Of all the musical choices in Mirzapur: The Movie, one of its most talked-about moments belongs to a composition that predates the franchise by decades. "Saanson Ki Mala Pe", immortalised in the voice of Ustad Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan, arrives during the film's mid-credit sequence and has sent listeners back to a song that has repeatedly found new lives across qawwali mehfils, Hindi cinema, streaming platforms and social media.

The version heard on the film's nine-track album combines Nusrat's vocals with a contemporary treatment by Madhur Sharma and Vaibhav Pani. Released on August 31, it accompanies a sequence involving Beena Tripathi and a man from her romantic past. The irony is deliciously dark. As Beena declares, "Love hi to hai, lifetime thodi hi rehta hai", a composition built around the remembrance of an eternal beloved plays underneath.

Viewers noticed. One called it an "amazing song selection", while another singled out the stretch from the pre-climax through the "Saanson Ki Mala" sequence among the film's strongest pay-offs. But how did a decades-old qawwali arrive here?

The Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan Connection

The story of "Saanson Ki Mala Pe" and Nusrat's association with India goes back to 1979. During his first visit to the country, Nusrat was invited by Raj Kapoor to perform at Rishi Kapoor's wedding. Accounts of the composition trace one of its earliest celebrated Indian performances to that occasion. It subsequently appeared on Nusrat's commercial releases, including Supreme Collection, Vol. 12 in 1982.

Nusrat's treatment gave the composition the ecstatic architecture of qawwali. A later live performance from Birmingham in 1983 is also among the recordings associated with its enduring popularity.

Who Actually Wrote Saanson Ki Mala?

The composition is frequently associated with Mirabai, largely because its language and imagery are steeped in Krishna devotion. However, Sufinama identifies "Saanson Ki Mala Par Simroon Nis-Din Pi Ka Naam" as the work of poet Tufail Hoshiarpuri, who lived from 1914 to 1993. The text itself contains unmistakable references to Shyam, Mohan, Vrindavan and Gokul.

'Akshay Showed Him, Saif Had No Idea': Saiyami Kher On Haiwaan Star's Viral Faiz-Ghalib Reel



Haiwaan marks Saiyami Kher's first collaboration with Akshay Kumar and Saif Ali Khan. For her, this film will always remain memorable as she got the opportunity to work with this 'secure' actor duo, who according to her, wears their stardom rather lightly. Speaking exclusively to News18, she says, "I don't know what magic potion Saif sir and Akshay sir take. They haven't aged at all."

Saiyami can't help but bring up Saif's old interview from the 2000s that resurfaced and went viral, where he quips that Faiz Ahmed Faiz and Mirza Ghalib are his favourite poets before immediately second-guessing himself and calling his own remark 'rubbish'. The clip featuring the actor at this most unbothered and chaotic got netizens to refer to him as 'Gen Z before Gen Z'. Saiyami agrees with the internet and says, "For me and a few of my school friends back in Nashik, our favourite pastime is watching his interviews. They're so much fun! There's a reel going crazily viral. It's from an interview when he was much younger. Akshay sir showed it to Saif sir and told him, 'Aey, Saif, did you see this?' He, of course, had no idea because he's not on social media."

Further lauding Saif's craft, Saiyami remarks, "We know how great he's as an actor but Haiwaan is going to be a landmark film for him. He's going to be remembered for it because it's an author-backed role and he has done a beautiful job. I find him and his energy so cute. He's Saif Ali Khan! He has been a star for so many years. Dil Chahta Hai released 25 years back." "So, we can imagine the number of films that he has done! If we complimented him after a take, he would say, 'Are you sure? Was it really alright?' He's still like a child," she adds. And what was her takeaway from Akshay? "He's a superstar, yet always on time. He doesn't go to his vanity van at all except for lunch. He's always on set, fully ready, all the time."

Shraddha Kapoor

Enjoys 'Chhoti Si Chutti' With Boyfriend Rahul Mody

Bollywood actress Shraddha Kapoor is currently enjoying a vacation with her rumoured beau Rahul Mody. Recently, the actress took to her Instagram handle and shared glimpses of her vacation. In the carousel, Shraddha can be seen making the most of her holiday, posing for pictures and soaking in the relaxed vibe of the trip. The actress appeared to

Relationship

Rumours of Shraddha Kapoor and Rahul Mody's relationship first surfaced in early 2024 after they were spotted leaving a dinner outing together in Mumbai. Since then, the duo has made several public appearances, keeping the dating buzz alive.

In June last year, Shraddha gave fans a glimpse of her personal life by sharing a selfie with Rahul on her Instagram Stories. Dressed in matching white outfits, the actress captioned the picture, "Dil rakh le, Neend toh vaapis de de yaar" (Take away my heart, but at least return my sleep), a post that many interpreted as a subtle confirmation of their relationship. Around the same time, she also grabbed attention for wearing a pendant featuring the letter "R," further fuelling speculation.

Shraddha Kapoor's Next Movie: Eetha

Shraddha Kapoor is set to headline Eetha, a biographical drama based on the life of legendary Lavani performer Vithabai Narayangaonkar, one of the most iconic names in India's Tamasha tradition. The film will hit the theatres on December 4, 2026.



be in a cheerful mood as she shared several candid moments from her vacation. One of the pictures also featured Rahul Mody, Shraddha's beau. In the photo, he was seen sitting inside a library while reading a book. While Shraddha did not share any details about the location of the trip, the picture has once again caught the attention of fans.

Shraddha Kapoor And Rahul Mody's



NEWS BOX

Ancient Rome's biggest fresco and mosaic open to public for first time since discovery three decades ago

ROME.(Agency)

Authorities on Tuesday unveiled what is believed to be the largest fresco and mosaic complex of ancient Rome, a first century A.D. depiction of a maritime city in what became the largest bath complex in the world. Mayor Roberto Gualtieri presented the recently restored "Painted City" fresco and "Great Mosaic" that were discovered in an underground gallery during excavations in the 1990s of the Baths of Trajan on the Oppio hill near the Colosseum. The works are opening to the public for the first time, initially in small groups of 15 and during a trial period of weekend access starting this month. The aim is to determine how the delicate works respond to increased humidity and climactic impacts before allowing more general access. Gualtieri said the fresco, which features images of a walled port city from a birds-eye view perspective, was the largest wall fresco of its kind from ancient Rome and as such needs to be open to the public. After being hidden underground for centuries, its blues and terra cotta colors are still clear but faded. "They are truly unique in the world, both from the point of view of artistic beauty and the historic and documental importance," he said at the unveiling. Rome's cultural superintendent, Claudio Parisi Presicce, said the grandeur of the port city as depicted in the fresco, with buildings, a theater and temple, public piazzas and towers, was particularly well conserved. The restoration work included techniques to preserve and improve visibility, remove surface deposits and consolidate the grouting to keep the decorated surfaces intact. "We don't know what city it refers to, but it must have been a particularly well-known one," he said. The mosaic, for its part, measures some 15 meters (yards) high and features intricately decorated columns and architectural elements and figures over four different levels. The top levels are up-close images with people that are almost like theatrical scenes, while at the bottom are views of the port city's layout from above.

Iran Captures US Submarine In Hormuz After Attack On 5 Oil Tankers

WASHINGTON.(Agency)

The Iranian navy has claimed to have captured one of the US military's "most modern, smart" unmanned submarines at the entrance of the Strait of Hormuz. In a statement published by Sepah News, the official news outlet of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), the navy said it captured the unmanned underwater vehicle -- identified as a Dive-LD -- in a complex intelligence operation. The submersible vehicle is equipped with the world's most modern subsurface vehicle technology, it said, and released a video of the captured vehicle. In a separate statemet, the IRGC also claimed that its air defence systems had shot down an MQ-9 Reaper drone over the Strait of Hormuz, Sepah News reported. US Response Following the IRGC's announcement, the US military also released a statement saying one of its underwater drones "malfunctioned" over a day earlier during a survey of regional waters, without mentioning whether the device was the one seized by Iran. "It was surveying regional waters in support of ongoing operations. The defective drone was an older model that neither collected sensitive data nor carried any classified sonar or radar equipment," a Pentagon spokesperson said. The US military is investing heavily in unmanned naval systems, including underwater and surface vessels, as it seeks cheaper ways to monitor vast areas of ocean, gather intelligence, and track adversary ships and submarines without putting sailors at risk.

Trump makes 9/11 about himself, again

Trump said it had been a "beautiful morning" and that he had then seen a news alert on television, before looking out of his window "and I saw things that I never want to see again."

Washington, United States.(Agency)

In President Donald Trump's telling at a White House event on Tuesday, two firefighters bodily lifted him to safety from a site near an unstable building after the September 11, 2001 attacks. "And I'll never forget," Trump said, "we thought it was coming down on top of us, and two firemen, big strong guys -- and I'm not the smallest guy in the world -- they grabbed me under the arm, said, 'Got to get out of here!'" Trump said.

His comments, at an event honoring

emergency personnel killed on 9/11, appeared to be a new installment in a constantly evolving narrative that Trump has told over the years about his actions after the attacks. It's a story that has long featured the New York property tycoon as the hero, with variations on him taking workers down to Ground Zero. But Trump's version of events is one that US media say is disputed by rescue officials present at the time. The remarks also come amid a stir about Trump not being present as president in New York for the 25th anniversary of the attacks in which 2,977 people were killed. Instead of being at the site where Al-Qaeda hijackers rammed planes into the World Trade Center towers, Trump will pay his respects on Friday at the Pentagon in Washington, another target in the attacks. Trump and the White House have hotly denied reports that he chose the Pentagon because he was not allowed to deliver a speech at the 9/11 memorial. "This is more Corrupt News, I've been to New York many times over the years, and no one

ever speaks, it's a 'solemn ceremony!'" Trump said on his Truth Social network last week. But it will still place the 80-year-old native New Yorker away from



the main focus of the day's commemorative events. Vice President JD Vance and Trump's four living predecessors -- Democrats Joe Biden, Barack Obama and Bill Clinton, as well as Republican George W. Bush, who was president at the time of the attacks -- are all expected at "Ground Zero." Later on Friday, Trump is due to fly to Ireland

where he will attend the Irish Open golf tournament at his family's golf course over the weekend. More famous than me' His absence from New York marks a contrast with Trump's usual approach, which has been to put himself at the heart of the 9/11 story. Two days after the attacks, Trump told reporters that he had been to Ground Zero and had sent 100 workers to the site to help recovery efforts. CNN and the New York Times said people present at the site disputed his account. In the event on the White House Ellipse on Tuesday, where a steel beam recovered from the World Trade Center's South Tower was on display, Trump gave a fresh account of his actions that day. Trump said it had been a "beautiful morning" and that he had then seen a news alert on television, before looking out of his window "and I saw things that I never want to see again." He added that he was overseeing a building project and that he "took the whole crew down there right after this happened."

IRGC attacks American base in Jordan, claims strikes on US vessels, 8 tankers as 5 Iranian tankers destroyed

world.(Agency)

Iran's Revolutionary Guards said Wednesday they pummeled a US military base in Jordan, vowing retaliation for American strikes on Iranian oil tankers that dragged the foes deeper into war. Tehran's bombs came after US forces destroyed five Iranian oil tankers on Tuesday in response to Iran targeting an American warship, the second such attack in less than a week. The Iranian Revolutionary Guards also said on Wednesday that they attacked two US vessels, eight oil tankers and 10 "non-compliant vessels" trying to pass through the Strait of Hormuz. "Two US vessels, eight oil tankers, and 10 non-compliant vessels attempting to pass through the prohibited and unsafe zone of the Strait of Hormuz were targeted," the Guards said in a statement published

by the official IRNA. The United States and Iran are locked in a stalemate six months into the war, with Iran maintaining a stranglehold on the Strait of Hormuz, a vital shipping route for the world's oil and gas, and Washington pushing a campaign to choke Iran's ports and economy.

The Islamic republic said on Wednesday it would target oil tankers off US-allied Kuwait and Bahrain in retaliation for the strikes on its tankers. Minutes later, Iran's Revolutionary Guards -- the most powerful arm of the Iranian military, said they had struck the US air base of Al-Azraq in Jordan with missiles, state media reported. The "punitive operation" damaged maintenance and repair facilities, deployment locations and shelters for fighter jets, according to IRNA. Jordan's army said it shot down 18 missiles from

Iran targeting the kingdom.

The strikes came after Tehran urged crews on oil tankers off Kuwait and Bahrain to leave their vessels, warning they "will be targeted", the Guards said in a statement posted on IRNA. The US military said it destroyed five Iranian oil tankers on Tuesday after Iran's Revolutionary Guards targeted a U.S. Navy warship with ballistic missiles twice over two days, according to U.S. Central Command. The vessels -- Kivik, Charminar, Horizon 1, Riesco and Derya -- were struck in the Gulf of Oman and near Kharg Island in the Strait of Hormuz. CENTCOM said the crews were warned to abandon the ships before the strikes.

The US had also destroyed three Iranian oil tankers on Saturday, after Iran attempted to attack a U.S. aircraft carrier and destroyer with ballistic missiles.

Holdout in Lindsay Clancy trial said he had reasonable doubt but still wouldn't acquit, juror says

world.(Agency)

A lone juror blocked Lindsay Clancy from being acquitted, insisting he wouldn't find her not guilty by reason of insanity despite saying during deliberations that he had reasonable doubt, the jury's foreperson said in a TV interview Tuesday.

The interview with Boston's NBC10 aired four days after a judge declared a mistrial when jurors failed to reach a unanimous verdict on the question of whether Clancy was criminally responsible for killing her three young children in 2023. Clancy, a 36-year-old former labor and delivery nurse, never disputed that she killed the children. Her attorney said she had lost control of her mind due to a rare condition called postpartum psychosis, a rare mental illness linked to the stress, sleep deprivation and hormonal changes that follow childbirth. Prosecutors said Clancy knew what she was doing and acted deliberately when she strangled 5-year-old Cora, 3-year-old Dawson and 8-month-old Callan Clancy with exercise bands. They said she contrived to get her husband out of the house by sending him to pick up medicine for one of their children and dinner for the family. In the interview with NBC10, three jurors described the seven days of deliberations that failed to produce a verdict.

Foreperson Ronni Carlson said she thought at one point that the group had finally persuaded the juror arguing for a conviction to vote for an acquittal.

"He admitted he had reasonable doubt. I started filling out the forms, I was so excited. There were three forms I had to fill out, and I started filling them out. I wrote my signature on each one. And then he said, 'But I'm still not going to say that she's not guilty by reason of insanity.'" The names of the jurors have been temporarily sealed by the judge, and the holdout juror has not yet come forward and given a public account of what happened inside the jury room. On three occasions, jurors sent the judge notes saying they were unable to reach a unanimous decision. Carlson also sent the judge a note complaining that a single juror wouldn't follow the court's instructions about reasonable doubt. Juror Paula Devlin described that holdout juror as "arrogant." "He really did not take anything that anybody said," she told NBC10. Judge William Sullivan questioned the jurors, re-read his instructions regarding reasonable doubt, then as Clancy's lawyer, Kevin Reddington, previously said he believed Clancy would have been acquitted if not for the stubbornness of a single juror. Jurors know "they were robbed by one man, for whatever his agenda was, who stole seven weeks of the life of these other jurors that were so attentive."

Taliban denies Pakistan's claim that India's most-wanted terrorist Masood Azhar is hiding in Afghanistan

Azhar, wanted in India over the Parliament, Mumbai, Pathankot and Pulwama attacks, has been claimed by Pakistan to have fled to Afghanistan since 2019.

JAKARTA.(Agency)

The Taliban regime has rejected Pakistan's repeated claims that Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) founder Masood Azhar is hiding in Afghanistan, with a senior Afghan Foreign Ministry official confirming that the UN-designated terrorist is not in the country, reported.

The development comes as Pakistan faces renewed scrutiny over its efforts to crack down on terror groups and their leadership. Islamabad has

long claimed that Azhar fled to Afghanistan after crossing the Durand Line in May 2019 and has remained at large there. Kabul, meanwhile, reiterated that Afghan



territory would not be used against any other country. Azhar remains one of India's most-wanted terrorists and is accused of masterminding several major attacks in the country, including the 2001 Parliament attack, the 2008 Mumbai attacks, the 2016 Pathankot airbase attack and the 2019

Pulwama bombing. The UN Security Council designated him a global terrorist in May 2019. Pakistan's claim about Azhar's whereabouts has also come amid international scrutiny of its counter-terror financing efforts. The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) had placed Pakistan on its grey list from 2018 to 2022 over deficiencies in combating money laundering and terror financing.

Among the concerns cited by the global watchdog were Pakistan's failure to effectively curb terror financing linked to groups such as JeM and Lashkar-e-Taiba and weak implementation of financial sanctions against UN-designated terrorists. To secure its removal from the grey list, Pakistan took several measures, including banning JeM, LeT and their affiliated organisations and prosecuting leaders of the groups. Azhar was convicted in absentia by a Pakistani court in 2021.

Pakistan issues warning as Houthi attacks target Saudi Arabia

world.(Agency)

Pakistan has warned that any attack on one of the three members of the newly established Makkah Defence Alliance would be regarded as an attack on all three,



with Defence Minister Khawaja Asif saying the pact's collective-defence mechanism could be activated following recent Houthi attacks on Saudi Arabia. Asif made the remarks on Tuesday, hours after Yemen's Iran-aligned Houthi forces launched a series of missile and drone strikes against Saudi Arabia. The attacks targeted several cities as

well as key economic and energy infrastructure, leaving at least 73 civilians injured. The defence minister said the agreement provides for a collective response to any unprovoked aggression against a member state. He also warned that if the conflict in Yemen spills over into Saudi territory, the provisions of the pact could be invoked. The agreement, signed by Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Turkiye in Makkah last month, commits the three countries to treating an attack against one member as an attack against all, strengthening their mutual defence arrangements. "There should be no doubt about this. We are bound by the terms and conditions of this pact and, God willing, we will honour them in case there is a need," Asif asserted. Asif, however, said he was not aware of any contact between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia following the Houthi attacks. He stressed that the agreement was defensive in nature and did not authorise the three countries to launch attacks against another state on their own initiative.

UK air traffic control failure disrupts 1,000-plus flights, leaves passengers stranded for hours

LONDON.(Agency)

An air traffic control problem disrupted travel across Britain on Tuesday, canceling more than 1,000 flights and leaving passengers stranded for hours on airport runways and in terminals, according to flight-tracking website Flightradar24.

ritain's National Air Traffic Services said it had resolved a problem in its flight processing system in the evening but delays rippled across 15 U.K. airports and beyond as airlines and airports worked to clear a huge backlog of delayed flights.

Josie Donoghue spent three hours stuck on a plane at Gatwick before her Ryanair flight to Ireland was canceled. "Getting through that airport was like trying to get out of Alcatraz," she said, referring to the notorious former island prison in San Francisco Bay. "It's just an absolute nightmare down there. It's the only word I can use to describe it."

Departures at London Heathrow resumed but

the busy airport suspended arrivals for the rest of the night because of the disruption and warned of further delays.

Passengers on a British Airways flight that



had been due to fly to Baltimore disembarked after four hours on the ground at Heathrow. During the long delay, flight attendants served pasta and chicken curry while patient passengers watched movies or strolled up and down the aisles. But passengers then learned their problems were far from over. There was mayhem at the baggage claim area

and they were told no one could help them and to file claims for their bags. British Airways said it was forced to cancel or divert more than 100 flights. Ryanair said more than 65,000 of its passengers had been disrupted and it had canceled more than 50 scheduled flights. "The severity of the issue means there will be a significant knock-on impact," a British Airways spokesperson said. "This incident was entirely out of our control and incredibly frustrating for our customers and colleagues, with aircraft and crews ending up out of place." Some passengers took to social media to complain about being stuck on planes for hours and expressed frustration about a lack of communication from airlines. Affected airports included Stansted and City in London, as well as those in Manchester, Birmingham, Gatwick and Scotland. They warned passengers to check the status of their flight with their airline. Budget airline EasyJet said some of its flights were "unable to operate" and that the system failure caused "delays to flights across Europe."