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9, Including 3 Children, Killed In Truck-Pickup Van Collision In Maharashtra

Mumbai. (Agency)

Nine people, including six women and three children, were killed in a road accident on the Nagpur-Raipur National Highway in Maharashtra's Bhandara district early this morning. The accident took place near Pimpalgaon when a speeding Bolero allegedly rammed into the rear of a truck that was merging onto the highway from a roadside petrol pump.



Eight people died at the spot, while another person succumbed to injuries during treatment, taking the death count to nine. Local residents and the administration rushed to the spot after being alerted about the accident. The injured were taken to the Sakoli Sub-District Hospital for treatment. CCTV cameras installed near the highway captured visuals of the Bolero moments before the accident. The footage shows the vehicle travelling at high speed shortly before the crash. Police are examining the CCTV footage as part of their investigation into the sequence of events leading up to the accident.

"Voters strengthen democracy": Om Birla casts vote in Rajasthan civic polls, urges high turnout

Kota (Rajasthan). (Agency)

Kota (Rajasthan) [India], September 11 (ANI): Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla cast his vote in the ongoing Rajasthan urban local body elections on Friday and urged people across the state to exercise their franchise, saying greater voter participation strengthens democracy.

Talking to reporters, Om Birla



emphasised the vital role of civic participation following his vote and underscored that public engagement strengthens democracy. He said, "Voters strengthen democracy by casting their votes. I believe that the greater the participation of the people in democracy, the stronger the democracy will be. I appeal to the people across the state to vote..." Meanwhile, on Friday, Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma cast his vote along with his wife at a polling station in Getor, Jagatpura, and urged people to participate in the second and final phase of the Rajasthan Urban Local Body Elections 2026, saying that every vote is important in the "festival of democracy".

Vijay's new Secretariat plan faces protests; fishermen, parties demand site shift

The Vijay government has identified 25.55 acres in Chennai's Pattinapakkam, near Chief Minister Vijay's residence, for a new Tamil Nadu Secretariat and Legislative Assembly complex.

Chennai (Agency)

The Joseph Vijay-led Tamil Nadu government's proposal to build a new Secretariat-Assembly complex at Pattinapakkam in Chennai has drawn strong opposition from fishing communities, environmentalists and political parties. Fisherfolk from 12 hamlets have warned of mass protests if the Rs 1,200-crore project goes ahead at the proposed site. The proposed complex, spread across 26 acres, has triggered criticism from across the political spectrum, with several parties urging the government to shift the project to another location. They have raised concerns over livelihoods, traffic congestion, public consultation and the project's potential impact on the coastal ecosystem. Residents of Pattinapakkam and the Marina Loop Road area say the project threatens their livelihoods and way of life. More than 1,500 fishing families use the



land to anchor boats, mend nets, dry fish and operate daily markets. "We have legal documents and ancestral rights to this land," a local community representative

said. Residents said, "Construction will block our access to the sea. When high-level administrative hubs are built, our presence gets labelled as unhygienic or a nuisance."

We fear displacement to distant suburbs like Kannagi Nagar, which will destroy our social and economic fabric." They also said parts of the land had originally been earmarked for fishermen relocated in 1958, but those commitments were never fulfilled. Local anger has also grown over what residents described as a lack of representation. They said elected representatives had ignored their grievances despite earlier hunger strikes and demonstrations.

CITU representatives from the affected villages are meanwhile holding joint strategy meetings to oppose the project, while fishing leaders have said they will organise large-scale protests unless the government withdraws the order selecting the site.

Xi Jinping Returns: India And China Build On Ties Momentum, BRICS By BRICS



New Delhi (Agency)

A lot of diplomatic water has flown down the Galwan Valley since 2020, when Indian and Chinese soldiers engaged in a fierce clash. India-China relations have seen a steady thaw in recent years, and Chinese President Xi Jinping's visit to India this weekend for the BRICS summit is expected to provide fresh momentum to efforts to normalise ties and trade. This will be Xi's first visit to India in seven years. He is also expected to hold talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the sidelines of the BRICS Summit, being held from September 12 to 13. There is hope that Xi's visit will build on the momentum generated by PM Modi's visit to China last year.

Great Expectations

"As two of the world's most populous emerging economies, a stable, predictable and amicable relationship between India and China is not only in the interest of our 2.8 billion people, but is also a significant factor for peace, stability and prosperity in Asia and the wider world," Indian Ambassador to China Vikram Doraiswami wrote in an article published in the state-run Global Times.

AMC Silent Despite Eka Club's ₹20.69 Crore Outstanding Tax, Public Outraged Over Double Standards!

'Exemption for VIPs, Seals for the Common Man?'

MAHANAGAR METRO

Ahmedabad: A massive wave of public anger has erupted once again across the city against the biased and controversial operations of the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC). The corporation, which makes tall claims of being a 'Smart City,' is quick to wield the baton of the law against ordinary citizens or small traders. If their property tax is pending for even a year or by a small amount, authorities immediately seal their properties or cut off their water and drainage connections. However, on the other hand, why are AMC officials sitting with their hands tied despite a staggering outstanding tax of over ₹20.69 crore from the high-profile 'Eka Club' (TransStadia) located in the city's Kankaria area? Is the law only meant for the poor and the common man? The citizens of Ahmedabad are now asking these burning questions. ₹20.69 Crore Tax Pending:

Why Does AMC's Law Fail Against VIPs? According to sources and available details, TransStadia (Eka Club) in Kankaria owes crores of rupees in unpaid taxes over a long period. The recovery of this massive amount has been stalled for years, yet the authorities have not taken any concrete action to seal the club. The Game of Double Standards: When an ordinary middle-class citizen or a small shopkeeper has pending taxes, AMC teams rush to seal their properties, often without even serving a proper notice. * **VIP Culture:** When it comes to big shots and elite clubs sitting on lakhs and crores of unpaid dues, tax department officials seem satisfied with merely sending out paper notices! Protection from Political Bosses or Corrupt Collusion? Sensational allegations are now surfacing among the public and the opposition, raising serious questions: * Is a prominent leader of the ruling party shielding the

Eka Club? * Are the AMC Commissioner and tax officials afraid to seal the club due to political pressure and under-the-table "settlements"? * Or is there a massive game of corruption and commissions operating behind the scenes to settle these multi-crore tax dues? 'Seal Eka Club Immediately': The Public's Challenge to the Authorities he common public is now openly demanding that everyone be treated equally in the eyes of the law. If heavy penalties and interest are strictly collected from ordinary citizens, why isn't immediate action being taken to seal the Eka Club and initiate auction proceedings to recover



the ₹20.69 crore? If the authorities fail to take strict action in the coming days, the dark stain of corruption on the AMC's administration will only deepen, and it is certain that the public will resort to protests and lay siege to the corporation headquarters!

Chidambaram questions BRICS results, colleague Tharoor praises its diplomatic value

Tharoor defended the diplomatic value of India hosting the BRICS Summit, highlighting its role in strengthening ties with the Global South and showcasing India's convening power.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Congress MP Shashi Tharoor on Friday joined the debate on India's presidency of the BRICS Summit, saying New Delhi hosting the summit offers significant diplomatic value and an opportunity for India to strengthen its engagement with the Global South. He said the summit also showcases India's diplomatic convening power and enhances its prestige on the global stage by bringing together global leaders. The Congress leader's comments came even as party colleague and former finance minister P

Chidambaram questioned whether recent BRICS summits had delivered any "tangible benefits" for the country.

BJP leaders meanwhile seized the moment to attack Congress, saying party MP Tharoor himself exposed what they called Congress propaganda. Chidambaram had questioned what India was gaining from its membership of BRICS, as well as other multilateral groupings such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, G20 and QUAD. "I don't think the last two or three BRICS summits have resulted in tangible benefits or tangible results," Chidambaram said. "What benefits are we getting out of that? I can't see. In the last two or three summits, I didn't see any benefits."

Responding to a question on the benefits India expects from hosting the summit, Tharoor, who has in recent times taken positions that differ from the Congress line, said BRICS provides an important platform for the Global South.

No formal end to Parliament Session yet; Congress claims plot to pass Delimitation Bill

Congress has attacked the prolonged delay in proroguing Parliament after the Monsoon Session ended. The party says the suspense masks a bid to build support for a delimitation-linked Constitution amendment bill.

New Delhi (Agency).

The Congress on Friday attacked the Modi government over the delay in proroguing Parliament after it was adjourned sine die, saying it had set a new record. The party also alleged that Union Home Minister Amit Shah was trying to secure a "super-tainted" two-thirds majority in the Lok Sabha to get the Constitution Amendment Bill involving delimitation passed. Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh also questioned why the government was refusing to convene an all-party meeting on its delimitation proposals to build what he called the broadest possible consensus. He asked why there was "secrecy and mystery" on an issue of such importance to the fundamentals of the Indian republic. While adjournment sine die terminates the sitting of a House without setting a specific date for reassembling, it leaves the session itself legally open. Until the session is formally prorogued by the President, the House remains technically in session. In a post on X, Ramesh said, "So today the Modi government has set a new record, bettering its own set in 2015. The gap between the adjournment of Parliament sine die and its prorogation has reached 29 days. The gap for the 2015 Monsoon Session was 28 days." He said the gap for the 2026 Monsoon Session was increasing by the day with no clear prospect of early prorogation, and added that the gap is normally just three to four days.



Boy stabs neighbour (12) after fight during kite flying competition

Gurgaon.(Agency)

A 15-year-old boy has been detained after he allegedly stabbed his 12-year-old neighbour in Karuna Colony of Mawai village, Faridabad. He was sent to a youth detention centre in Borstal Jail on Wednesday.

Police said the two boys got into an argument when one snapped the thread of the other's kite on Monday. Around 5pm, the same day, the 15-year-old boy went home and brought a vegetable knife and allegedly attacked his neighbour. The 12-year-old was stabbed four times in the stomach. He was rushed to BK Hospital, from where he was referred to a private hospital, where he is currently undergoing treatment. The hospital informed the police about the incident, and they started an investigation. They said doctors have declared the boy unfit to give a statement, but they are waiting to record it before registering a case. The 12-year-old's family has alleged that the accused's family had threatened them earlier.

Al-Falah docs sought to radicalise youths to expand network

Gurgaon.(Agency)

The three Al-Falah University doctors accused of plotting the suicide bombing near Red Fort did not stop at weapons and explosives. The NIA chargesheet alleged that they also tried to draw students and fellow medical professionals into their ideological fold, hoping to widen the module's network and create new recruits. Dr Umer Un Nabi, Dr Muzammil Shakeel Ganaie and Dr Shaheen Shahid allegedly sought out impressionable youths and people close to them. The investigating agency said Umer was "always exploring the possibility of radicalising and indoctrinating impressionable young boys and girls" into the ideology of Ansar Ghazwat-ul-Hind (AGuH), the al-Qaida-linked militant outfit the module allegedly sought to revive. Muzamil allegedly took the outreach online, bringing acquaintances, students and colleagues into a Signal group to disseminate AGuH's ideology. The chargesheet said he also discussed the group's plans and recruitment strategy with Mufti Irfan Ahmad Wagay, an imam in Shopian. Their conversations covered sleeper cells and clandestine meetings, NIA alleged. The network then reached beyond Faridabad. Muzammil and his wife Shaheen, accompanied by an acquaintance from the Signal group, allegedly surveyed Vidhan Sabha, Babu Bhavan and Lok Bhavan in Lucknow. NIA alleged in its chargesheet that the three govt buildings were being assessed as possible targets for attacks in the future. The reconnaissance suggested that the module was looking not only for recruits but also for new ground to operate in.

The effort to widen the network was allegedly rooted in the doctors' access to young people. The chargesheet said each doctor tried to influence students around them and mould them to the module's ideology. The agency alleged they intended to use students or sleeper cells in a war against Indian govt. The investigating agency also received information from other doctors at Al-Falah. A female doctor told NIA she had a bag belonging to Shaheen. A search of it by the agency yielded evidence linked to the module's logistical and financial trail, according to the chargesheet.

Weeks after minor's rape, 115 buses seized, 39.25 lakh recovered for violations by private buses in Noida, Ghaziabad

Noida.(Agency)

Weeks after a 17-year-old girl was raped inside a sleeper bus while travelling from Pari Chowk to Delhi's Kashmere Gate, transport officials have seized 115 private buses in Noida and Ghaziabad.

The action came during a three-day enforcement drive against sleeper and inter-city buses that are violating mandatory norms and putting passengers at risk. Apart from the seizures, around 156 private buses were issued challans. Around Rs 33.72 lakh in compounding fees and Rs 5.53 lakh in tax were recovered during the drive.

On Aug 4, the girl sought a lift from a sleeper bus at Pari Chowk. A probe by Delhi Police revealed that she was raped first by the conductor near Bakhtawarpur Village (Noida Sector 127-128). He then took the steering wheel as the driver forced himself on the girl. The distance travelled by the bus from the place of occurrence to the point where she was dropped at the bus stand in Kashmere Gate is around 26 km. Police found the bus had thick curtains installed, which made it impossible for people to see inside. The main focus of the drive was to remove these curtains from all private buses. They are a safety concern and will not be permitted, said officials. Sheer curtains can be used as a replacement.

In Noida, police carried out checks at Pari Chowk, Mahamaya, Sector 37 and Surajpur. Over the three days, 76 challans were issued, 56 buses seized, Rs 20.4 lakh recovered in compounding fees and Rs 5.5 lakh in tax arrears. Noida ARTO Udit Narayan Pandey said some of the most common violations found were buses running on routes they did not have permits for and passenger buses carrying heavy commercial cargo. In Ghaziabad, checks were conducted near Mohan Nagar, Lal Kuan and other routes on NH-9 which several inter-city buses ply on. Around 59 vehicles were seized and challans were issued to 80 buses in the district, a transport official said, adding that Rs 13 lakh was recovered from the offenders in compounding fees. Ghaziabad ARTO Amit Rajan Rai said, "We are also penalising those vehicles found operating without fitness certificates, insurance and road tax arrears. Drivers without licences will also face action."

Contractor sacked for poor upkeep of public toilets in Manesar

Gurgaon.(Agency)

Municipal Corporation of Manesar (MCM) has terminated the contract of the agency responsible for the operation and maintenance of 34 community and public toilets after civic officials found its performance below standards. Senior deputy mayor Praveen Chaudhary said on top of their non-performance, the agency was being paid more than what agencies with the same responsibilities were being paid. "We had made an assessment that the maintenance and operations of a single toilet costs around Rs 3,500 to Rs 4,000. However, the agency was being paid nearly Rs 10,000 for the same. Our monthly budget for the maintenance of public toilets is around Rs 6 lakh. But they were being paid Rs 8.5 lakh to Rs 9 lakh. So, I proposed the termination of the contract since it is the



taxpayers' money and it should not be wasted," he said. The difference, if these figures are borne out by the contract and payment records, is substantial, he added.

MCM joint commissioner Puneet

Kumar said officials had carried out an inspection of the public toilets under their maintenance before issuing the termination notice. "Our teams inspected the toilets and found the work of the firm unsatisfactory on the basis of

which a report was prepared. We then terminated the contract of the agency," he said. In the same termination notice, MCM directed its senior sanitary inspectors and assistant sanitary inspectors to take charge of these 34 toilets for their operation and maintenance. The concerned officials shall ensure proper physical verification of the toilets at the time of taking over and shall ensure that the condition of the premises, fixtures, water supply, electricity, sanitation facilities and other available assets is duly checked and recorded. It also directed the sanitation staff to keep the premises under their control till the finalisation of the next tender and secure videography at their own level. "There are around 110 public toilets in Manesar. We are soon going to prepare an estimate for the operation and maintenance of all these toilets.

From Manjula to 'Maan Ba': A Fragrant Journey of Married Life Enriched with Love

Mahanagar Metro Desk

Author: Rupesh Solanki

Some relationships are not merely relationships; they are like indelible ink written on the pages of life—ink that even time cannot fade. The relationship between a husband and wife is one such sacred bond. Where there is love, respect is born; where there is respect, trust grows deeper; and where there is trust, the lives of two individuals gradually become intertwined with each other's emotions. On the soil of Babra village in Babra Taluka of Amreli district, a married life was lived that became a beautiful example of love, mutual respect, understanding and responsibility towards the family, alongside a life dedicated to the service of education. The husband served as a teacher at a primary school in Babra village, while his life partner, Manjulaba, also worked as a teacher at another primary school in the same village. Since both were associated with the field of education, their relationship was not limited to being husband and wife. They were also colleagues, companions, friends and life partners, sharing a beautiful understanding of one another. After lighting the lamp of knowledge in the lives of students throughout the day, they would return home in the evening and become each



other's companions in the joys and sorrows of family life. Whatever circumstances life brought their way, they had a way of moving forward together while holding each other's hands. The most beautiful aspect of their married life was that although his wife's name was Manjula, her husband did not simply call her 'Manjula'. With immense affection and warmth, he lovingly called her 'Maan Ba'. 'Maan Ba'—this was not merely a form of address. It reflected his love for his wife, his respect for her, his deep affection and the unique emotion that had blossomed through years of companionship. What matters is not merely the name by which we call someone, but the depth of feeling in our hearts when we say that name. The words 'Maan Ba' car-



ried precisely such profound emotion. Gradually, this affectionate form of address became an identity of their entire married life. The couple was blessed with two sons and two daughters. Amidst the many responsibilities of life, they dreamed of building a bright future for their children. As a teacher couple, they understood the importance of education very well. Therefore, they did not merely raise their children; they educated them, instilled good values in them and made them capable of standing on their own feet in life. As a result of their parents' hard work, values and blessings, all four children progressed in their respective lives and secured government jobs. Behind their children's success stood the immense contribution of their par-

ents' years of hard work, sacrifice and selfless love. The responsibilities of family life gradually began to be fulfilled. Their children became settled in their own lives. Yet, the love between the husband and wife never retired. Their age continued to advance, but their care, affection and mutual respect never diminished. Perhaps this is what true married life is all about—the companionship of youth gradually transforms into the warmth of old age, but the warmth of love never fades. Many people stand beside us during the happy days of life, but living together for years through happiness and sorrow, success and failure, illness and good health, and every season of life—that is the true identity of a life partner. But time never stops for anyone. After a long journey through life, when the husband passed away at the age of 81, it was as though an entire chapter of the family's life had suddenly come to an end. For Manjula, 'Maan Ba' was not merely a form of address; it was a living symbol of her husband's love. Even today, perhaps whenever someone calls her 'Manjula', for a moment that familiar voice echoes in her heart—"Maan Ba..." And with those two words, an entire lifetime of memories may come alive before her eyes.

Transport department to push ahead with seizing & scrapping of end of life vehicles

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

The transport department has decided to continue its drive to confiscate end-of-life vehicles (ELV) across Ghaziabad, GB Nagar, Hapur and Bulandshahr and reach out to RWAs and housing societies to collect such vehicles parked on their premises for scrapping ahead of winter pollution. The seizure and scrapping stem from a National Green Tribunal order passed over a decade ago. It prohibited diesel vehicles older than 10 years and petrol vehicles older than 15 years from plying on Delhi-NCR roads to curb severe air pollution. But in a public notice issued on Aug 5 this year, the tribunal clarified that it has not issued any order to seize or impound such vehicles.

Ghaziabad's regional transport officer (RTO) Dr Siya Ram Verma said they are targeting end-of-life vehicles plying on the roads. They are also consulting with residents' welfare associations, municipal corporations and Noida Authority in their respective jurisdictions to pick up the ones that are parked inside high-rise societies. "We want to take pre-emptive steps to reduce



air pollution ahead of winter because the air quality index in NCR deteriorates because of the emissions from such vehicles," he said.

He said 375 vehicles have been seized this month, while action has been taken against 1,000 old vehicles so far. "The target is to scrap approximately 5,000 vehicles in Sept for which 15 teams have been deployed in the jurisdiction of Ghaziabad RTO," he said. It has identified roughly 2.7 lakh ELVs in its

jurisdiction, of which a few continue to ply on roads. He said there is a lack of clarity in terms of incentives for scrapping private vehicles. Earlier, car owners used to get certain exemptions in road taxes and a discount on the price of a new vehicle when they produced vehicle scrapping certificates. "Under the 'parivartan' scheme, the benefits are still available for commercial vehicles," he said. "We are trying to rework the scheme so that more car owners are

interested in parting with vehicles that have completed their retention period."

To streamline the scrapping process of ELVs, he chaired a meeting with the owners of registered vehicle scrapping facilities on Wednesday and discussed the standard operating procedures as advised by the transport commissioner's office.

During the meeting, instructions were given regarding detention, custody, transportation and disposal or scrapping through the RVSF. The RVSF operators have been directed to ensure that every vehicle received by them is identified, documented and scrapped in accordance with the prescribed procedures, ensuring no irregularities at any level. They were asked to issue scrapping certificates and make necessary portal entries in a timely manner after the scrapping process is completed. On Sept 2, an ARTO enforcement team seized 12 vehicles during a drive in Sahibabad and handed them over to authorised scrapping centres. It had drawn sharp criticism from the vehicle owners when the teams raided the high-rise societies and lifted the vehicles, allegedly without issuing any prior notice.

NEWS BOX

Woman cop accuses KTR, ex-minister of indecent conduct during Assembly clash



Hyderabad (Agency).

A sexual harassment case has been registered against BRS working president KT Rama Rao (KTR), former Telangana minister T Harish Rao and two other party leaders following a complaint by a woman police constable alleging indecent conduct during a confrontation at the Legislative Assembly earlier this week. Besides KTR and Harish Rao, the two other BRS leaders are Sudheer Reddy and Naveen Reddy. According to the complaint, the incident took place during a scuffle between BRS legislators and police at Gate No. 3 of the Assembly on Monday, the opening day of the Monsoon Session.

The constable claimed that the BRS leaders removed their T-shirts and stood seminaked in front of women police personnel, adding that their conduct amounted to harassment and insult. The confrontation broke out after BRS MLAs and MLCs were stopped by police from entering the Assembly premises while wearing black T-shirts and carrying placards with slogans targeting the ruling Congress government. The BRS legislators were protesting what they alleged was the Congress government's failure to fulfil its electoral promises after nearly 1,000 days in office. Their black T-shirts carried the slogan, "Congress has failed to implement its promises." The incident subsequently saw allegations from both sides. The BRS accused police personnel of high-handedness and misbehaviour with its women legislators during the confrontation and demanded action against those involved.

Bengaluru apartments, houses and industries to face action for polluting water bodies

BENGALURU (Agency).

Forest, Environment and Ecology Minister Ramalinga Reddy on Thursday said notices will be issued to apartments, individual houses, industries and commercial establishments for letting waste into drains and failing to treat it. The minister came down heavily on Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) and Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) officials for not adhering to rules and taking action.

Speaking to the media on the sidelines of a meeting with officials of the two departments, he said, "One week's time has been given to officials to submit a detailed report of all units not connected to the drainage system, and not following norms. One month has been given to BWSSB and KSPCB to install the required Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) and reduce waste inflow into rivers, particularly the Cauvery and Arkavathy rivers."

Reddy said it is shocking that only 25 per cent of STPs are working in accordance with NGT guidelines and parameters. He said BWSSB has been given a month's time to set things right, failing which action will be taken. This comes at a time when the Tamil Nadu government has filed a case before the National Green Tribunal, pertaining to rising pollution levels in the Cauvery river. Reddy said the next hearing date is scheduled for November 14, before which things need to be set right. The case pertains to rising sewage levels, silt and sediments in the river, making it unfit for drinking purposes. Reddy admitted that barring 4-5 rivers in the state, most of the rivers and water bodies are polluted because of poor functioning of STPs and untreated waste water released from various establishments. He said the total sewage generated in Bengaluru is 2580MLD. The present capacity of 37 functioning STPs under BWSSB is 1364.5MLD, leaving a gap in the treatment of 1215.5MLD.

Reddy said directions have been issued to BWSSB to speed up ongoing work on 42 STPs to treat 1147MLD and upgrade the capacity of existing STPs by 60MLD. He set a December deadline for seven STPs with a total capacity of 51MLD and December 2027 as the deadline for 17 more STPs with 413MLD capacity. At the meeting, Reddy also directed BWSSB to complete work on nine STPs having a total capacity of 148MLD and a December 2029 deadline for nine more STPs of 535MLD total capacity.

Mumbai-bound flight leaves Varanasi 3.5 hours late after pilot falls sick

An IndiGo flight from Varanasi to Mumbai was delayed by three and a half hours after the scheduled pilot reported sick. The airline arranged a replacement pilot from Ahmedabad, while the airport cited technical reasons and denied any passenger ruckus.

Varanasi (Agency).

A Mumbai-bound IndiGo flight from Varanasi was delayed by three hours and a half on Thursday after the pilot scheduled to operate it suddenly "reported sick", following which the airline made alternative arrangements, sources said. Flight 6E-6544 was scheduled to fly from the Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport to Mumbai. Airport Director Puneet Gupta said the flight was delayed by three hours and a half due to technical reasons and was later operated to Mumbai. He denied reports of passengers creating a ruckus at the airport. The airline, however, said the delay occurred after the pilot assigned to the flight suddenly called in sick. "This led us to make alternative arrangements and rush in another pilot who later flew the plane," a source in the airline told PTI over the phone. Another source said, "The pilot who replaced the sick pilot came from Ahmedabad as Varanasi is not our base



station. The flight was delayed by three hours and a half." "Since alternative arrangements had to be made, this caused some delay, but then the passengers were informed of the

reasons and served refreshments," the source added. The plane eventually departed for Mumbai after the alternative arrangements were made.

Chhattisgarh man gets death penalty for raping, killing 6-year-old niece

A fast-track Posco court in Chhattisgarh sentenced a 24-year-old man to death for raping and murdering his six-year-old niece. Calling it a rarest of rare case, the court called for the gravest punishment for brutal crimes against children.

Chhattisgarh (Agency).

A special fast-track court for Posco cases in Chhattisgarh's Durg district has awarded the death penalty to a 24-year-old man for the rape and murder of his six-year-old niece, with the court holding the matter to be among the "rarest of rare" cases, police said on Thursday. District and Additional Sessions Judge Anish Dubey convicted the accused under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012, and Section 103(1) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita for murder, along with other relevant provisions, a police official said. The court awarded the death penalty under Section 6(1) of the Posco Act, which deals with aggravated sexual assault against a child, and also for murder. It also imposed a fine of Rs 5,000 under each of the two sections, the

official said. The accused, whose name was not disclosed to protect the victim's identity, was also sentenced to five years' rigorous

Mohan Nagar police station area. She was later found inside a vehicle and taken to hospital, where doctors declared her dead.

The post-mortem examination found that the child had been sexually assaulted, the official said. Chhattisgarh Police then formed a Special Investigation Team to investigate the case. Police said the child had gone to her grandmother's house in the neighbourhood for a function when her 24-year-old uncle sexually assaulted and killed her, and later placed the body in a neighbour's car. The case ended with the fast-track court convicting the man under the Posco Act and the BNS, awarding the death penalty for the sexual assault and murder of the child, along with prison time and fines under other provisions.



imprisonment and fined Rs 1,000 under Section 238(a) of the BNS for disappearance of evidence. According to police, the girl went missing on April 6, 2025, from the

award the death penalty for the sexual assault and murder of the child, along with prison time and fines under other provisions.

Drunk man stops bus after fight with driver, punches wife for intervening

An intoxicated man stopped a bus on a highway in Telangana, fought with the driver and struck his wife when she intervened. The viral video shows traffic piling up before locals stepped in and pulled him away.

Hyderabad (Agency).

An intoxicated man created a commotion on a highway in Telangana after stopping a bus following an argument with the driver and then punching his wife when she tried to intervene. A video of the incident which occurred on Thursday in Jagtial district has gone viral.



In the footage, the man is seen throwing punches as his wife tries to stop him from moving towards the bus, which is stopped in the middle of the busy highway, with traffic building up behind it. After cornering his wife, he climbs onto the windshield of the bus and attempts to open the driver's door. A group of locals then pulls him back, allowing the bus to move.

The man also attempts to pick a fight with them for intervening, creating a tense situation at the spot for some time. No other details about an arrest or police action were immediately available.

West Bengal STF arrests 13 drug traffickers, seizes narcotics worth Rs 8.53 crore

The West Bengal STF's Anti-Narcotics Task Force arrested 13 alleged traffickers in a 12-day statewide crackdown. The seizures and questioning could expose wider supply links and lead to more arrests.

Kolkata (Agency).

The Anti-Narcotics Task Force (ANTF) of the West Bengal Special Task Force (STF) has arrested 13 alleged drug traffickers and seized narcotics worth Rs 8.53 crore in a 12-day crackdown across the state. The operation was carried out as part of the broader Nasha Mukti West Bengal Abhiyan, targeting drug trafficking networks involved in the distribution of high-value narcotics in West Bengal and beyond. The arrested syndicate comprises 11 men and two women, who investigators believe were key links in the drug distribution network.

HEROIN AND BROWN SUGAR WORTH Rs 7.43 CRORE SEIZED

The biggest recovery was 3.719 kg of high-grade heroin and brown sugar, with an estimated value of Rs 7.43



crore. The drugs were allegedly meant for local as well as inter-state distribution. The ANTF also seized

18,620 Yaba tablets, containing methamphetamine, valued at approximately Rs 1.08 crore.

TOTAL SEIZURE VALUED AT Rs 8.52 CRORE

The combined illicit market value of the seized narcotics has been pegged at Rs 8,52,76,000.

STF officials said questioning of the arrested traffickers is underway and could help investigators uncover further links in the supply chain. The probe may also lead to more arrests as the anti-drug campaign continues across the state. The operation marks a significant action against regional narcotics networks under the state's ongoing campaign against drug trafficking.

UP trader dies after being beaten, attacked with spear over social media posts

The murder has sparked political protests, with Nishad Party chief Sanjay Nishad demanding action against the accused and police personnel, while SP chief Akhilesh Yadav sought a high-level impartial probe into the case.

Gonda (Agency). A 45-year-old trader died after he was attacked by a group of men in Uttar Pradesh's Gonda over a dispute linked to social media posts, officials said. Police have arrested two accused in connection with the case, while teams have been deployed to trace the others.

The killing has triggered a political row, with leaders of the BJP's ally Nishad Party and the opposition Samajwadi Party joining a protest over the trader's death. While both parties sought action against the accused, the Samajwadi Party also demanded a high-level impartial probe. According to police, Vinod Kumar Sahani, was running a utensils shop at the local market. On Wednesday evening, after closing his shop, Sahani was returning home on his bike when 10 men travelling on four motorcycles allegedly intercepted him and attacked him. Additional Superintendent

of Police (West) Radheshyam Rai said the attackers assaulted Sahani with various weapons, including a spear and left him seriously injured on the road. The assailants fled believing that he was dead, police said. Sahani was initially taken to a community health centre before being referred to the medical college in Gonda. As his condition deteriorated, he was shifted to Lucknow, where he died during treatment on Thursday. Police said Sahani had identified three of his attackers. A case was registered on the basis of his complaint against 10 named accused, including Shubham Singh alias Golu, Subhash Singh and Akash Singh, under provisions related to attempt to murder. Following his death, a murder charge was added to the FIR, Rai said. "A preliminary investigation has revealed a dispute

between the victim and the accused over posts made on social media," the officer said. Police have arrested Shubham Singh



alias Golu and Subhash Singh, while teams have been deployed to arrest the remaining accused. The killing led to a protest at the mortuary of King George's

Medical University in Lucknow, where Uttar Pradesh minister and Nishad Party president Sanjay Nishad staged a sit-in along with SP backward classes cell state president Rajpal Kashyap. Nishad, who reached the mortuary after learning about Sahani's death, met his family and assured them of all possible help. He demanded the dismissal of the Paraspur Station House Officer, the Shahpur outpost in-charge and other police personnel concerned. "If action is not taken, we will stage a protest outside the superintendent of police's residence and office in Gonda on September 11," Nishad told reporters. He also demanded the immediate arrest of all the accused and strict action against them. SP president Akhilesh Yadav also demanded a high-level impartial probe into Sahani's killing.

A nuanced cultural outreach from the East to the West

'Hindus respect all, Hindus accept all.' That was the central theme of RSS Sarsanghchalak Mohan Bhagwat's recent speeches in the US and Canada. The RSS chief's blunt and forceful elucidation of the Hindu mission and India's global vision and destiny in the organisation's centenary-year itinerary generated acclaim. The absence of controversies disappointed the critics who were waiting for Bhagwat to explode an ideological atom bomb. They were disappointed because Bhagwat spoke more like an Indian Hindu statesman than as the chief of a great organisation. Some expected Bhagwat to be assertive and belligerent on the occasion of the RSS's outreach as part of the organisation's centenary year. Rather, he chose to speak less about the RSS and more about the Vedic Hindu tradition and how people of Indian origin should become global in their role as citizens of different countries. The RSS chief, explaining the beauty of the oneness of humankind, India's natural unity in diversity and pluralism in the West, spoke about the mission of India developed through centuries of living in harmony with nature. Clearly, Bhagwat has mastered the art of communicating Hindu ideology while admiring the feel-good sensitivities of Western audiences. At every place, his speech had a different theme—fresh and with the underlining message of caring and sharing. He obliquely referred to the ideas of domination, protection and exploitation that have fashioned Western thought. He made a remarkable departure and emphasised the Indian cultural ethos of unity and oneness of all animate and inanimate beings. This was obviously not the occasion for the RSS chief to expound his organisational priorities and ideological goals. In a way, it was an exercise to reach out to the global community. And Bhagwat avoided all trigger points. He said that even in times when modern communication and transport were not available, Indians travelled across the globe carrying the message of universal brotherhood—vasudhaiva kutumbakam. He said nowhere did these travellers try to invade or convert India, for centuries, gave protection and asylum to every human being who was persecuted or had fallen victim to bigotry. The modern-day mission for every person of Indian origin is to spread this message of oneness, living in harmony with nature and world communities as India's mission. Bhagwat's philosophical approach disappointed those who were looking for a conspiracy before the RSS chief's US visit. There were groups demanding that the RSS leader not be allowed to visit America. Some groups, particularly evangelical ones, cited stray incidents in parts of India against missions to prevent Bhagwat's visit. New York Mayor Zohran Mamdani, a known critic of the Sangh parivar, finding no issue to criticise the RSS leader after the event, only said Bhagwat had enjoyed the freedom of speech that the US had extended. Bhagwat's North American visit has to be seen from a number of perspectives. One, that it was a part of his organisation's centenary celebrations. All the top leaders of the RSS have been visiting various parts of the world for the past year, as is its customary practice. After all, Bhagwat is heading the world's largest cultural organisation, whose political wing has been ruling India and most Indian states for over a decade. In that sense, the RSS leader is a spokesman for India's modern worldview. Secondly, Bhagwat explained how even people who came as invaders like some Muslims, others like Parsis and Jews who came as asylum seekers, and Christians—all live in harmony in new India. While the RSS leader was at his eloquent best explaining Hindu tradition, he was very tactical in speaking about the RSS. Critics in the media tried to chronicle the recent announcements of the RSS chief that are conciliatory and accommodative, like 'one need not search for idols under every mosque', and the more recent one that 'those who want Muslims to go out are not Hindus'.

9/11 and the unfinished war on terror

25 years after the attacks, geopolitics continues to shape counter-terrorism measures

I was just settling down in my assignment as ambassador to Indonesia in Jakarta in September 2001 when news broke that commercial aircraft had ploughed into New York's iconic Twin Towers. One was glued to the TV screen for hours, watching replays of the planes flying straight into the buildings, creating huge fireballs followed by the towers collapsing into a tangled heap. There were distressing images of people leaping to their death, trying desperately to escape the incandescent flames engulfing the buildings. I can still recall the pictures of New Yorkers running away from the disaster site, covered in ash and soot, their faces taut with terror and bewilderment. And then came even more disturbing news of a hijacked aircraft heading into Washington and crashing into the Pentagon. What further horrors awaited America?

And yet it was remarkable how resilient the US proved to be, taking the tragedy in its stride, and then doubling down to create the most formidable security shield to protect itself. And the US mobilised the world to fight by its side in the 'War on Terror' it launched. This was the first occasion (and the only one so far) when Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), incorporating the commitment to collective defence (an attack against one treaty partner would be regarded as an attack against all and trigger a collective response), was invoked since NATO's establishment in 1949.

Even American adversaries such as Russia and China offered solidarity, though they also sought international endorsement and support for their own wars on terror—Russia against Chechen rebels and China against the East Turkistan Islamic Movement in Xinjiang. These had earlier been billed as legitimate struggles of oppressed minorities for self-determination. Thus, there was an important narrative change. The war on terror led to a significant abridgement of individual rights, with the State claiming the power to undertake pervasive surveillance of its own citizens in the name of ensuring security. It made democracy less liberal, the State more intrusive and opaque and the citizen more fearful. People became complicit in the mounting limitations on their cherished rights. The downsizing of democracy in the world's most powerful democracy loosened the restraints on State power across the world. The State is inherently predatory but restrained by democratic accountability. The security argument weakened the restraints and technology furnished nations with ever more refined instruments for holding citizens

under greater scrutiny and the State less so. Twenty-five years later, we live in a world of diminishing democracy, thanks to the forces unleashed by 9/11. Was 9/11 in any way responsible for the strengthening of India-US ties and the conclusion of the historic nuclear deal? Not really. It is mainly the China factor which provided the glue for the India-US strategic partnership. American interlocutors tried to use the bait of the nuclear deal to



seek greater accommodation from India vis-à-vis Pakistan, including on the Kashmir issue. This was always resisted firmly. There may have been a shared sentiment of being united in the war on terrorism. This did not translate into operational cooperation.

Did the war on terror lead to a decline in terrorism? Not from the Indian perspective. The attack on Parliament by Pakistan-based terrorists on December 13, 2001, came just weeks after 9/11. The Indian response of massing troops along the India-Pakistan border under Operation Parakram did not elicit American or international support. Paradoxically, the war on terror brought Pakistan back from the doghouse in which it had found itself after General Musharraf's military coup against the Nawaz Sharif government.

When the US launched a punitive war against the Taliban government in Afghanistan for providing a base for Al-Qaida and a shelter to its leader, Osama bin Laden, Pakistan assumed pole position by providing access to US

troops and military supplies and sharing, selectively, useful intelligence. The US war on terror required Pakistan to remain focused on its western flank with Afghanistan, while freeing it from concerns over its eastern flank with India. The US did not attach priority to India-oriented terror groups like the Lashkar-e-Taiba and the Jaish-e-Mohammed. Its targets were Al-Qaida and later ISIS. The US reaction to Pakistan providing a safe haven to Osama since his escape from Afghanistan is instructive. While the US carried out a raid deep into Pakistani territory to assassinate him, there was no legal determination of Pakistan's role in sponsoring terrorism.

When I visited Washington soon after Osama's killing in Abbottabad (Pakistan) in 2011, senior American officials conveyed to me that documents and other incriminating material seized from the site proved Pakistan's complicity, that its claim about being unaware of his presence on Pakistani soil was beyond belief. And yet the US never formally determined Pakistani complicity. This would have required the US, under its legal statute, to declare Pakistan a State sponsor of terrorism, impose onerous sanctions on it and cut off all aid. The US chose ambiguity instead because it was still engaged in a war against the Taliban and depended upon Pakistani logistical support. Now it is Pakistan's proximity to Iran which explains its current transactional utility to the US. If India expected the post-9/11 war on terror to restrain Pakistan's indulgence in cross-border terrorism, then it has been disappointed and will continue to be so in the future. The post-9/11 international situation has also highlighted that sympathy for India on the terror front does not override US and international concern over the risk of a nuclear war between India and Pakistan. Pakistan knows this and has never hesitated from playing up the nuclear risk factor when facing pressure on the terror front. Pakistan-sponsored terrorism against India has never been a US problem except when American or Israeli citizens have been killed, as happened during the Mumbai terror attacks in November 2008. It resulted in limited counter-terrorism cooperation involving Pakistan-based groups, but this has receded over time. The US is now back to parallel counter-terrorism talks with the two countries.

The pervasive security overlay that enveloped politics throughout the world has also taken hold in India to the detriment of democratic practice. This is one baneful aftermath of 9/11 which persists and festers to the disadvantage of the individual citizen.

Court order underlines duty of restraint in applying Executive power

Laws such as the NSA confer extraordinary powers on the Executive precisely because circumstances may sometimes demand exceptional action. But the greater the power, the greater the obligation to establish that its use is necessary and proportionate

Power must answer to the law. That is the larger significance of the Allahabad High Court's criticism of the Gautam Buddha Nagar administration over the preventive detention of student-activist Akriti Chaudhary. The immediate issue is the invocation of the National Security Act without, in the court's assessment, sufficient material to justify so grave a curtailment of liberty. The court's observations on the administration were unusually strong, describing its conduct as an "Orwellian dystopia". The remark is a reminder of the responsibility that accompanies the considerable powers vested in a district magistrate. Chaudhary's case is part of the larger story of protests over paper leaks, amid growing disquiet among students including over the offhand "cockroach" remark. The July protests were followed by allegations of excessive police force. The Supreme Court subsequently intervened and directed the withdrawal of FIRs against the students. The episode raises a larger question about the manner in which State power is exercised when citizens challenge authority. Laws such as the NSA confer



extraordinary powers on the Executive precisely because circumstances may sometimes demand exceptional action. But the greater the power, the greater the obligation to establish that its use is necessary and proportionate. It therefore demands the highest degree of scrutiny and restraint. This is also why institutional checks matter. The Executive, Legislature and Judiciary have

distinct constitutional roles, but none exists in isolation from the larger constitutional framework. When one institution has to step in to correct the lapses of another, the objective should not be to establish institutional superiority. It should be to restore the balance that protects the citizen. The Judiciary has given important directions in the cases arising from the student protests, and its strong observations should not be dismissed merely as rhetoric. The capacity for reflection must extend to every institution. As Chief Justice Surya Kant has said, "Judges, like the institutions they lead, remain capable of growth, correction and improvement." That principle applies to all institutions entrusted with public power. Their authority derives ultimately from the Constitution and is sustained by the manner in which the authority is exercised. The citizen, particularly when challenging authority, must not become more vulnerable because the State possesses greater power. Constitutional power carries with it a corresponding duty of restraint, accountability and fairness.

Will Germany's AfD rise break Europe's political centre?

For Central and Eastern Europe, Germany is simultaneously an economic powerhouse, a security partner and, historically, a source of profound unease.

The AfD's victory in Saxony-Anhalt is more than another electoral breakthrough for Europe's populist right. It is a psychological shock to Germany and, by extension, to the European political order that Berlin has helped sustain for decades. The immediate consequences for German foreign policy may be limited. Germany's established parties still maintain a Brandmauer - the political firewall designed to prevent cooperation with the Alternative für Deutschland. But that firewall cannot prevent something more consequential: the steady erosion of the political consensus on which Germany's European role has rested. The danger for Europe is not that the AfD suddenly takes control of German foreign policy. It is that the centre of German politics is moving sufficiently to the right that the assumptions underpinning European cooperation can no longer be taken for granted. And nowhere is this more visible than in the four relationships that matter most.

The Franco-German engine may be losing trust

For decades, the Franco-German relationship has been the political engine of European integration. It has rarely been harmonious, but it has been indispensable. The AfD's rise introduces a fundamentally different anxiety in Paris. French policymakers do not merely see the party as another populist movement. They see its hostility to deeper European integration, its nationalism and its positions on Russia and European institutions as potentially incompatible with the political project France has sought to advance with Germany. The consequences could be profound.

If France begins to doubt Germany's long-term commitment to European integration, Paris will inevitably look for alternative coalitions. The very discussion of a smaller European "core" is revealing. It suggests that Europe may be approaching a point where the question is no longer how to integrate further, but how to preserve integration among those still willing to do so. That would be a historic reversal. The European project was built on the assumption that Germany and France would pull the rest of Europe towards greater integration. A Europe in which France increasingly looks beyond Germany for its political centre would be an entirely different European Union. Poland and Central Europe will be watching. The reaction from Poland is perhaps even more strategically significant.

For Central and Eastern Europe, Germany is simultaneously an economic powerhouse, a security partner and, historically, a source of profound unease. The AfD's positions on Russia, NATO, European integration and migration inevitably revive some of those anxieties. Warsaw's concern is not ideological. It is geopolitical.

For countries on Europe's eastern flank, Russia is not an abstract foreign-policy question. It is an immediate security threat. Any possibility that



Germany - the continent's largest economy and one of its most important military and financial supporters of Ukraine - could eventually move towards a less confrontational posture towards Moscow is deeply unsettling. Europe's east therefore faces a strategic dilemma: it needs German economic and military weight, but it cannot afford a Germany whose political trajectory becomes unpredictable on Russia and European security.

Ukraine has already exposed Europe's strategic fault line. The war in Ukraine has already demonstrated how dependent European security remains on political cohesion. Germany's importance is difficult to exaggerate. Its financial, military and logistical support has been central to Europe's ability to sustain Ukraine. Any fundamental change in Berlin's

strategic orientation would therefore have consequences far beyond Germany's borders. The AfD's position on Russia and NATO will make its electoral advance particularly unsettling in European capitals.

But the deeper problem is not the AfD alone. It is that the war has exposed a widening divide within Europe over the fundamental question of what kind of power Europe wants to be. One camp sees Russia as an existential threat requiring greater European defence integration, increased military spending and a long-term strategic confrontation with Moscow. Another increasingly questions the costs of sanctions, military support for Ukraine and the expansion of European institutions. The AfD is one expression of this second tendency. It is not the cause of the divide. That distinction matters. Europe cannot simply defeat the far right electorally and assume the underlying problem disappears. The grievances that are producing these political movements - economic insecurity, migration, distrust of institutions, cultural anxiety and a perception that political elites are disconnected from voters—are not going away. Europe's far right will also be taking notes of AfD's victory.

Political movements learn from each other's successes. The significance of Saxony-Anhalt therefore may extend well beyond Germany. Spain's Vox and other nationalist and populist movements across Europe will interpret the result not merely as an isolated German event, but as evidence that the political ceiling above Europe's radical right is continuing to rise. That could become self-reinforcing. Every electoral breakthrough makes the next one less exceptional. Every party that enters government normalises ideas that were previously considered politically unacceptable. And every mainstream party that adopts parts of the populist agenda in an attempt to contain it risks shifting the political centre further to the right. The result could be a Europe in which the old centre-right/centre-left contest gives way to a much more fundamental struggle over national sovereignty versus European integration. That would change the EU from within. The bigger danger is not an AfD government. It is a Europe without a centre. This is ultimately why the Saxony-Anhalt result matters.



If you are a nature lover and want to spend time in the lap of nature, Kerala is the best place for you. If you are planning to vacation in Kerala has much to tourists such as the beach (the beach) and colorful scenic views of the forest. Kerala has many attractions such as mountains - mountains, meadows, tea gardens and wildlife. In Kerala you can visit these places will be filled with passion and enthusiasm. Seeing the natural beauty because you get great satisfaction and enjoyment. Kerala to enjoy trekking in these places can be visited.

Munnar

Is a beautiful hill station of Munnar, Kerala. Anamudi is the highest peak in Munnar South India has a height of about 2695 m. This top is the perfect location for trekking because of its natural beauty. The trekking

route is Iravikulm National Park. The sanctuary was established to protect species of Eucalyptus. Munnar is the highest in the cultivation of tea. Nilgiri in forests and green meadows, a flower is found. It flowers only once in twelve years on the hill turns blue. Anamudi is climbing with permission from the forest department.

Agstykudm

Agstykudm magnificent peak of the Western Ghats as a sharp cone 1890 m. Located at an altitude of 1890 m. Located at an altitude of 1890 m. Surrounded by dense forest around it. According to one theory, it was the abode of sage Agastya top. The summit of the climb to the top women are not allowed. On top of this rare herbs - herbs and plants are found. Nilgiri on its slopes colors - colorful flowers bloom. Nilgiri is a flower which blooms once in twelve years.

Chembra

Chembra Meppdy peak in Wayanad district is located near the city, and it is the highest peak in the district. This peak is situated at an altitude of 2100 m above sea level. The peak is a part of the western valley. The peak can be seen from any part of Wayanad. This tracking is a favorite of tourists. Some wild animals are on the summit. Trekkers can get a chance to see them.

Cimmini

Chemmini Wildlife Sanctuary in Thrissur district of Kerala, bird watchers is the perfect

Tracking these places in Kerala

hideout. Trekkers can travel from the outskirts of the sanctuary. Travel through dense jungle forests is a good choice for lovers. Punda peak is the highest point. Cimmini tracking program is organized by the Forest Department. The October to March is the best time to visit.

Pythil Garland

Garland Pythil a hill station located in Kannur district of Kerala which is surrounded by thick forests and the like. It is part of the Western Ghats. Even animals and trees - many diverse species of plants. Tourists in the area 6 km. The distance can track on top of the hill. Tourists looking at the wonderful views of the valleys are natural to experience peace. It is an ancient palace of the old-fashioned tribal rulers (Vathlcon) is named. Hill station is located on the same name. Wattle Pythil Rosary beads are also known.



Maharani Temple

With its bright red sloping roof framed against the snowy peaks in the background, this small Shiva temple presents a striking picture in a corner of the main meadow in Gulmarg. Its claim to fame is derived from Bollywood: the site where the popular 'Jai Jai Shiv Shankar,' song in yesteryear's hit 'Aap Ki Kasam,' was shot, it's a popular spot with visitors for a photo-op. It's also a big destination during the festival of Shivratri.

Gulmarg Golf Club

The Gulmarg Golf Club, is amongst the most spectacular courses in the country, possibly the world, to tee it up at. With 18 holes stretching over 7505 yards, including the 665 yard par-5 fourth hole, coupled with the elevated tees, up and down fairways, and penalising rough, it presents a severe test of physical and golfing abilities. It is also the highest green course in the country and indisputably the most authentic Scottish links-style layout in the land.

Al Pather Lake

A gorgeous alpine lake, accessible after an arduous trek past a ridge of Mt. Apharwat (reached via the cable car) Al Pather remains frozen for most of the year. While serious trekkers can contemplate making the entire trek from Gulmarg—a one-day affair—most people will find the taking a pony ride up adventurous enough. Al Pather Lake's environs are freezing, even in the summer, and susceptible to sudden showers. It's essential to carry woollens and adequate protection against the elements.

Khilanmarg

You can trek up from the Gulmarg bus stand if you like but a more prudent way up involves perching yourself on the back of a pony. After a bone-crunching hour long ride, Khilanmarg emerges in view as a carpeted meadow of flowers in the summer, and a frozen expanse of snow in the winter. There's some ice in the upper reaches even in the summer months and there are sled-operators who'll take visitors on hair-raising ride from one end to the other. Scenic views abound from almost any corner—the southeast edge affords magnificent vistas of the twin peaks of Nun and Kun.

Gulmarg Gondola

A huge attraction: lines start forming at the gondola ticket office almost two hours

before it opens in the morning. The cable car takes visitors all the way up to Mt. Apharwat Mountain (3747 metres) from where you can get panoramic Himalayan views including major peaks like the Nanga Parbat. The ride has two phases: those who're not comfortable with heights can opt to come back from the Kondoori valley a mere 400 metres up the mountain. Tickets can also be booked at the tourist office in Srinagar or online.

5 sights to tick off in Gulmarg

The country's premier, and possibly only bonafide ski resort town, Gulmarg and its pine-fringed meadows encircled by Mount Apharwat and surrounding snow-capped mountains have been part of popular culture and Bollywood since aeons. Even today, the 'meadow of flowers,' attracts droves of visitors in the summer who come here to ride in the world's second highest cable car, play golf, and take back rides to the glaciers at Khilanmarg and further up to Al Pather Lake. In the winter, Gulmarg transforms into a faux Alpine ski resort with its famed powder attracting extreme skiers from across the world. Gulmarg is a four hour drive from Srinagar.





Places to see in

Goa for free

The original backpacker hub, Goa is synonymous with sand-kissed beaches, affordable seaside accommodation and inexpensive-yet-delicious food. With plenty of free places to see in Goa, you can be assured of a great holiday even if you're travelling on a tight budget. From discovering Goa's cosmopolitan past through its grand churches and forts to walking under the shade of soaring trees and discovering its rich wildlife, here are a few ways to experience Goa absolutely free of coast.

Dudhsagar Falls

Locals say that Goa is never prettier than when it rains. Far from the beaches and tourist hotspots, the forested hinterland of the State literally comes alive during the monsoon. And amongst the most popular attractions off the beaten path are the Dudhsagar Falls. Located 60 kilometres from Panaji on NH4A, the Falls are so named for the white frothy appearance of the water here. During the monsoon, the Falls become exponentially enraged with water plummeting 1017 feet and crashing with an ear-splitting roar on the surface. Part of Bhagwan Mahavir Wildlife Sanctuary, the Falls also attract trekkers who come here to climb through challenging terrain to the head of the falls.

Beaches in Goa

The coastline of this state in west India boasts of innumerable beautiful beaches that offer everything from parties and adventure to solitude and sunbathing. Most beaches in Goa are lined with luxury resorts, makeshift huts and beach shacks

which stay open until the wee hours. While the easily accessible Baga Beach and Calangute Beach are the tourist hotspots, the trio of Arambol, Ashvem and Morjim towards the northern end of Goa are relatively less-crowded and dotted with some exciting bars and restaurants. Trance lovers can head to Anjuna Beach—the hub of late night revelries in north Goa. Dotted with luxury resorts, the unspoilt beaches in Goa's south—Varca, Cavelossim and Morbor to name a few—are ideal for visitors who want to splurge on a swanky accommodation and relax during their beach holiday.

Old Goa

The former Portuguese capital of the region before Panjim, Old Goa is a UNESCO World Heritage Site that's home to several magnificent churches and cathedrals. Primarily constructed during the 16th and 17th centuries, these buildings have lofty exteriors and exquisitely decorated interiors. The most famous among them is the Basilica of Bom Jesus, which contains the remains of St Francis Xavier, who

arrived here in the 16th century as a Jesuit missionary. His three-tiered marble tomb is the highlight of the church, but it also has gilded altars and striking baroque architecture.

The imposing Se Cathedral, the largest church in Old Goa, is an excellent example of Renaissance architecture, and has 15 impressive altars. The convent and church of St Francis of Assisi is known for its intricate gilded woodwork and murals, and houses an archaeological museum within its premises.

Fort Aguada

There are numerous remains of rugged forts scattered along Goa's coast and rivers. The most famous of them is Fort Aguada, located next to the Candolim beach. It was built in the 17th century by the Portuguese, as defense against invasions by the Marathas and the Dutch. Hike up to the fort for great views of the sea, especially at sunset. There's also an old 19th-century lighthouse located on this hilltop, which offers even better views of the coastline.

Fontainhas

impenetrable against attacks, it has many a stories to tell. It also houses an impressive lighthouse that is open to visitors and a must-visit for photographers. Interesting frescoes adorn most of the walls here, quite a lure for the lovers of art and architecture. A perfect battle fort, it has centuries old cannons perched on its terrace. Other than an insight into the history and times of this region, a visit to Diu Fort will get you some very fascinating views of the stark blue Arabian Sea and the terrain around.

Cave-hopping

This maze of caves is strewn outside the territory walls of Diu Fort. Quite an offbeat attraction, it sees the more ardent of explorers. A labyrinth of underground caves, their walls eroded by wind, these are perfect to lose

It has been described as India's only Latin quarter. The quiet charm of this Panjim neighbourhood's narrow streets and tile-roofed houses is best discovered on foot. Walk around to admire its well-maintained Indo-Portuguese houses and the small but pretty Chapel of St Sebastian, built in the 1880s. Don't forget to pop into the Confeitaria 31 de Janeiro, one of the oldest bakeries in Goa, for traditional sweets and breads. You can also take a guided tour with resident expert Luis Dias, whose neighbourhood walks are laced with local trivia and anecdotes. Alternatively, book a guided walk at Panjim Inn, a 19th-century colonial mansion converted into one of the city's best heritage hotels.

Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception Church

One of the oldest chapels in Goa, Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception Church is one of the most prominent landmarks of the state's capital city Panaji. The distinctive architecture of the church includes a series of criss-crossing steps that lead you to the prayer hall

and massive bells on its rooftop. If you're visiting Goa in December, then head to the chapel on the 8th of December (celebrated as Feast of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception) for a special service and lively fair earmarked for this day of the year. The monument is best viewed at night, when it is ablaze with lights that add to its spiritual charm.

Goa State Museum

Housing an eclectic mix of artefacts from Goa's past, the Goa State Museum is located in the capital city of Panaji. Opened in 1996, it is regarded as one of the most well-known museums of the state. The museum displays a comprehensive collection of 8,000 curios that include beautiful Hindu and Jain sculptures, Portuguese-era furniture, a few ancient coins, paintings, manuscripts and two vintage lottery machines. Home to as many as 14 galleries—furniture, geology, cultural anthropology, religious and sculpture gallery among others—the museum is a must-stop for history buffs.

Cotigao Wildlife Sanctuary

Take an early morning walk on the criss-crossing pathways of the beautiful Cotigao Wildlife Sanctuary and you are likely to spot a variety of flora and fauna. Climb up to the treetop watchtower positioned above the watering hole used by the animals of the park and take in the views of the verdant landscape. Eight nature trails traverse the sanctuary, ranging from 500 m to 5 km, shadowed by soaring deciduous trees. Best visited between October and March, the sanctuary is home to the Indian pangolin, four-horned antelope, white-bellied woodpecker, mouse deer and the Malabar trogon among other birds and animals. Offering an interesting contrast to Goa's picturesque beaches, Cotigao is located in Canacona Taluka in south Goa.

The most interesting things to do in Diu

Go birdwatching

A well-kept secret, birdwatching in Diu is hours of solitary bliss. Fudam Bird Sanctuary is home to flamingoes, western reef egrets, spoonbills and a host of migratory birds. Diu also houses a bird watching tower and a lake near the Hare Krishna Mandir, both the places are frequented by ornithologists. A number of trails near the temple lead to dense groves, an area that sees as many as 200 bird species. You will find just a few people on these trails,

making it an all the more interesting experience.

History lessons at the Diu Fort

A brilliant example of Portuguese architecture, Diu Fort stands proud by the side of Arabian Sea. It was built in 1535 to protect the territory against Mughal invasion. This fort remained the centre of Portuguese rule until 1961 when Indian government merged Diu in India. A magnificent structure that was

yourself in your own company. Visit the caves when the Sun is high above as it lights up the rather dark insides and puts up a very fascinating natural light show. These caves are located near the Jallandhar Beach and are just a stroll away from the town centre. Explore these for some solitary time or set your kids playing a game of hide and seek in a setting that is more than just perfect.

Test yourself at water sports

Parasailing, surfing, banana boat rides, jet skiing, water zorbing and even hot air balloon rides over the Arabian Sea—Diu has all this for adrenalin junkies. Most of these activities are organised at one of the two main beaches here—Ghoghla and Nagoa. Kids too can have a gala time here with special activities including boat rides and beach biking. A carnival-like mood at the beaches is another lure. Early



evenings are the perfect time to go splashing in the blue waters.

Go wandering at the Seashell Museum

This tiny museum in Diu is perhaps one of its most offbeat attractions. Conceptualised by Captain Devjibhai Vira Fulbaria, this museum houses his personal collection of sea shells, collected by him from over 50 years of sailing. A rather rundown place for a museum, it will surprise you with more than 3000 seashells of different varieties. This museum is a short distance away from Nagoa Beach and the airport, and makes for a perfect pitstop option. There is no entry fee for the museum, with a jolly guard showing you around the establishment.



Bhu-Aadhaar for every plot: Government rolls out new land records scheme

Delhi. (Agency)

The Centre has launched a Rs 565.5-crore scheme to create an integrated digital land records system, including a 14-digit Bhu-Aadhaar for every land parcel.

The Centre on Thursday launched the operational guidelines for the third phase of the Digital India Land Records Modernisation Programme, or DILRMP 3.0, with an outlay of Rs 565.5 crore for 2026-31. The programme aims to bring land records, maps, registrations and related data onto a GIS-based digital framework.

Launching the guidelines, Union Rural Development Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said the programme would move beyond digitising individual records and towards an integrated land management system. He said the scheme would help farmers get institutional credit more easily and cut repeated visits to government offices. Chouhan said, "Land is not just a piece of soil; it is the pride of our farmers, the blessing of our ancestors and the identity of future generations." Under DILRMP 3.0, each state will be able to develop its own "land stack"

by integrating land-related datasets and systems through APIs. These state-level stacks will then form the base of a federated national land stack, allowing interoperability while keeping ownership and control of data with the authorities concerned. The programme will also assign a 14-digit Bhu-Aadhaar, or Unique Land Parcel Identification Number, to every land parcel and provide for full georeferencing of cadastral maps.

As part of the initiative, 75 high-footfall sub-registrar offices will be upgraded as registration seva kendras on the lines of passport seva kendras. The government will also focus on scanning legacy land records, creating a registration repository and computerising revenue courts. The NAKSHA initiative for urban land mapping will support the preparation of urban property cards. According to the government, the earlier phases of DILRMP have already digitised 99.9 per cent of



records of rights and 97 per cent of cadastral maps, while 99 per cent of sub-registrar offices have been computerised.

The scheme will be implemented across all states and Union territories with full central funding, and funds will be released in phases

based on performance through a real-time DILRMP-MIS dashboard. Overall, DILRMP 3.0 seeks to link key land-related systems through a digital framework, while states and Union territories roll it out with central funding and monitored progress.

ED raids hotel group in Bihar, Haryana, Delhi over Rs 131-crore loan fraud

Delhi. (Agency)

The Enforcement Directorate on Friday carried out searches at multiple locations in Bihar, Haryana and Delhi in connection with a money laundering investigation into an alleged bank loan fraud involving Gaya-based Ramnandi Hotels and Resorts, officials said. The action was taken against the company, its director Akhouri Gopal, and his sons Nishant and Nitesh. Officials said the case arose from a CBI FIR and chargesheet, which estimated the alleged proceeds of crime at Rs 131.79 crore. According to officials, nine premises in Gaya, Gurugram and Delhi were searched under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act. The agency alleged that the hotel group diverted Rs 58 crore out of the Rs 85 crore disbursed by a consortium of banks led by the Central Bank of India, using fake or forged project completion reports provided by its chartered accountant.

The ED said personal guarantees of Akhouri Gopal and his family members had also been given to the banks against the loans. Officials further said five properties had been mortgaged with a vehicle company against outstanding dues of a related group entity. However, the agency found that these properties were recently sold despite being mortgaged, and at what it described as a "grossly undervalued" price. "Few of the buyers are learnt to be persons of humble means and incapable of affording such sum of money, and are suspected to be benamis or proxies of Akhouri Gopal," an officer said. Officials said the sale of these assets was aimed at transferring the properties so that they could not be attached under the anti-money laundering law, as the ED continued its searches in the case.

Satya Niketan building crash : MCD conducts survey of PGs, marks 3 as dangerous

Delhi. (Agency)

After the Delhi High Court pulled up the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) over the Satya Niketan student hostel collapse that claimed seven lives, the civic body has surveyed around 1,355 PG buildings across the Capital in the last three days, marking three of them as visibly dangerous. The three buildings marked dangerous fall under the civic body's South Zone, housing 69 occupants, the same zone where the building, called Hostel Daze, collapsed on Sunday. The civic body also suspended three engineers on Thursday for dereliction of duty and negligence in the discharge of their responsibilities regarding action



against unauthorised construction. In an order issued on Monday by the MCD's Additional Commissioner, officials were asked to survey the buildings and submit comprehensive reports by Thursday. The directive cited the Delhi High Court order, which had pulled up the MCD, stating that responsibility for the Satya Niketan building collapse extends to civic authorities as well. The survey, which was conducted over three days, also identified 39 buildings that are in need of visible minor repairs, housing 664 occupants; and nine buildings in need of visible major repairs, housing 140 people. Of these nine buildings, five are located in Keshavpuram Zone, followed by two each in Najafgarh and South Zone, said officials. Under the survey, 1,304 buildings housing a total of 26,917 people were marked visibly safe.

Delhi PG operator warned building may collapse hours before tragedy

Delhi. (Agency)

Hours before a five-storey paying guest (PG) accommodation for boys crumbled in Southwest Delhi's Satya Niketan on Sunday afternoon, a labourer had allegedly called the PG operator to warn him that one of the walls of the building could collapse amid the ongoing construction work, The Indian Express has learnt. The construction work is said to have weakened the structure of the building. The labourer told police, according to sources, that he had called Sudhanshu, 31, who ran the 'Hostel Daze' chain in the area, to warn that the building won't be able to take the load of the construction work in the basement.



renovation work. The building didn't have the base to bear the weight of the extra floors, he claimed to have said. "We are also

trying to get details of the timeline of the construction work, and ask neighbours how the building came up and whether it was inspected during the construction," said a police officer.

On Thursday, multiple people from the neighbourhood in the area where the building crumbled were questioned by the police to re-create the sequence of the events. The building collapse killed seven people, including five students. In Satya Niketan, all seven PGs operated by Hostel Days have been inspected by the MCD with the officials preparing a report on the possible violations. Most of the company's PGs visibly violate certain norms, specially the single entry-exit point, according to sources.

No formal end to Parliament Session yet; Congress claims plot to pass Delimitation Bill

Delhi. (Agency)

The Congress on Friday attacked the Modi government over the delay in proroguing Parliament after it was adjourned sine die, saying it had set a new record. The party also alleged that Union Home Minister Amit Shah was trying to secure a "super-tainted" two-thirds majority in the Lok Sabha to get the Constitution Amendment Bill involving delimitation passed.

Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh also questioned why the government was refusing to convene an all-party meeting on its delimitation proposals to build what he called the broadest possible consensus. He asked why there was

"secrecy and mystery" on an issue of such importance to the fundamentals of the Indian republic. While adjournment sine die terminates the sitting of a House without setting a



specific date for reassembling, it leaves the session itself legally open. Until the session is formally prorogued by the President, the House remains

technically in session.

In a post on X, Ramesh said, "So today the Modi government has set a new record, bettering its own set in 2015. The gap between the adjournment of

Parliament sine die and its prorogation has reached 29 days. The gap for the 2015 Monsoon Session was 28 days." He said the gap for the 2026 Monsoon Session was increasing by the day with no clear prospect of early prorogation, and added that the gap is normally just three to four days. Ramesh said, "It is abundantly clear that the Union Home Minister was severely wounded by the stunning defeat he had inflicted on himself and his Govt with his staggering arrogance in the Lok Sabha on April 17, 2026."

BRICS Summit : Delhi Police issues cyber security dos and don'ts

Delhi. (Agency)

With the three-day BRICS Summit set to kick off in the capital Friday, the Delhi Police has issued guidelines to guard against potential cyber attacks and the spread of misinformation during the high-profile event. The advisory, issued for government officials and contractual staff handling technology and computer-related work, lays down precautions ranging from password and data security to warnings against phishing links, unauthorised software, external cloud services and remote-access tools.

Issued from the Delhi Police Headquarters and signed by Additional Commissioner of Police, IFSO, Sanjay Bhatia, the guidelines cite the widespread use of information and communication technology across government departments and the presence of foreign dignitaries during the summit as factors increasing the risk of cyber threats.

What the advisory says Do's

- Use passwords of at least eight characters containing a combination of upper- and lower-case letters, numbers and special characters. Change passwords at least once every 45 days, and enable multi-factor authentication wherever available.
- Officials have been advised to keep backups of important data on secondary or offline drives, regularly update operating systems and BIOS firmware, and install the enterprise antivirus client provided by the government on official desktops and laptops.
- Log out even when stepping away from computer systems for a short period.
- Keep GPS, Bluetooth, NFC and other sensors disabled on computers and mobile phones unless required, and download applications only from official app stores.
- The advisory also recommends encrypting important data and documents before sending them through electronic means. Officials may use licensed encryption software or OpenPGP-based applications, while files can also be compressed into password-protected ZIP folders.
- Officials have been warned to exercise caution while opening shortened URLs, with the advisory noting that malware and phishing sites can use URL-shortening services.

We're concerned about kids: SC raps FSSAI over delay in warnings on packaged food

During a brief hearing on September 10, a bench of Justices JB Pardiwala and K Vinod Chandran asked the FSSAI to explain what it meant by a 'reasonable period' within which such warnings could be made mandatory.

Delhi. (Agency)

The Supreme Court has questioned the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) over the delay in making front-of-pack warning labels (FOPL) mandatory for packaged products containing high salt, sugar and fat products. The court also sought the food regulator's response on why such warnings could not be made mandatory from the "get go."

During a brief hearing on Thursday, September 10, a bench of Justices JB Pardiwala and K Vinod Chandran asked the FSSAI to explain what it meant by a "reasonable period" within which such warnings could be made mandatory. The Supreme Court also questioned why

a two-phased implementation for the rollout of front-of-pack labelling had been suggested by the food regulator. The bench also cited UNICEF's Child Nutrition Report 2025 while highlighting the rising prevalence of overweight and obesity among school-age children and adolescents.

The court also noted that while around 80% of the kinds of food and beverages available within schools are freshly cooked meals, nearly 80% of what is available in the vicinity of schools consists of packaged snacks. "We are only concerned about the health of people, especially growing children. We want all

the concerned to consider the cause in part of school curriculums. It asked the Centre to respond on how schools plan



Supreme Court asked the Centre to file its response in the matter within 10 days. The court called on the government to introduce "nutritional education" as a

to incorporate nutritional literacy through curriculum, initiatives and workshops. The court has sought details on the manner in which information provided on packaged food items, including nutritional information and Front-of-Pack Labelling (FoPL), must be interpreted. The Supreme Court also remarked that the proposed "red hexagon" shape for package warnings may confuse consumers as it appears similar to the warning label used for non-vegetarian food. The matter has been posted for further hearing on September 28.

Best companies to work for in Asia 2026: Hilton leads. India has 34 firms in top 100

New Delhi. (Agency)

Great Place To Work has released its Best Workplaces in Asia 2026 list, based on employee feedback covering trust, leadership, innovation, company values and overall workplace experience. The study drew more than 3.8 million individual responses, representing the experiences of nearly 8.9 million employees across Asia and the Middle East. The top 10 large organisations on the 2026 list are Hilton, Marriott International, Cisco, AbbVie, DHL, Intercontinental Hotels Group, Micron Technology, TP, Accenture, and Capella. The ranking covers companies in the large category, which Great Place To Work defines as organisations with 500 or more employees. Companies in the small and medium category have between 50 and 499 employees.

WHAT MAKES THESE COMPANIES GREAT PLACES TO WORK?

The ranking is based on employees' experiences rather than simply company size, revenue or brand recognition. Employees were asked about areas including trust, innovation, company values and leadership. Great Place To Work said the highest-ranked organisations have a larger share of employees reporting consistently positive experiences, regardless of job title, work status or other demographic factors. Across the recognised workplaces, 93% of employees said they considered their organisation a great workplace, while the overall Trust Index Grand Mean stood at 91%. Employee sentiment was particularly strong on workplace safety, feeling welcomed, being treated fairly and feeling proud to belong. At least 95% of employees reported positive sentiment on these measures, according to the report.

Stock markets fall in early trade amid soaring crude oil prices, West Asia conflict

MUMBAI. (Agency)

Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty tumbled in early trade on Friday on soaring crude oil prices amid escalating tensions in West Asia.

Weak trends in global markets and foreign fund outflows also dented investors' sentiment.

The 30-share BSE Sensex fell 628.24 points to 74,257.69 in early trade. The 50-share NSE Nifty dropped 221.20 points to 23,255.10.

Among the 30 Sensex firms, Bajaj Finance, InterGlobe Aviation, Mahindra & Mahindra, Tata Steel, UltraTech Cement and Axis Bank were the major laggards. Tech Mahindra, HCL Tech, Infosys, Bharti Airtel and ITC were the gainers. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, traded 0.95 per cent higher at USD 108.7 per barrel. "Brent crude has climbed to its highest level since May as the ongoing US-Iran conflict continues to disrupt oil flows from the Middle East. For India, crude near USD 110 a barrel would further intensify pressure on inflation, the rupee, the current account and corporate margins, while reducing the scope for monetary easing," Hariselman Radhakrishnan, Founder & CEO of HST Wealth, a Research Analyst firm, said. Global markets are trading lower as elevated oil prices intensify concerns over inflation and the interest-rate outlook, he added.

Rupee falls 27 paise to 95.79 against US dollar in early trade

New Delhi. (Agency)

The rupee depreciated 27 paise to 95.79 against the US dollar in early trade on Friday driven by elevated crude oil prices and foreign portfolio outflows.

Forex traders said while record foreign exchange reserves, active Reserve Bank intervention, and robust domestic growth provide crucial support, rising global yields and crude trading above USD 108 continue to weigh heavily on the country's import bill. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 95.70 against the US dollar, then lost ground to touch 95.79, registering a loss of 27 paise from its previous close. On Thursday, the rupee depreciated 44 paise to close at 95.52 against the US dollar. "For the rupee, the pressure continues. It remains in an uptrend beyond 95 on the back of costly oil and foreign portfolio outflows, and we could see 96, with 95 now acting as support," said Anindya Banerjee, Head of Commodity and Currency Research, Kotak Securities. The offsetting strengths are real -- record foreign exchange reserves, the Reserve Bank's active presence in the market, and strong domestic growth at 7.8 per cent -- but with crude above USD 100 and global yields rising, the import bill is the dominant force in the near term, Banerjee said. Investors will track US and Indian inflation data for further cues. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading at 99.16, higher by 0.12 per cent. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, was trading marginally lower by 0.76 per cent at USD 108.45-per-barrel in futures trade, amid escalating US-Iran tensions and fears of disruption to oil flows through the Strait of Hormuz. On the domestic equities market front, Sensex slumped 628.24 points to 74,257.69 in early trade, while the Nifty dropped 221.20 points to 23,255.10. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 438.24 crore on a net basis on Thursday, according to exchange data.

Amid GDP credibility debate, IMF backs India's statistical reforms

Julie Kozack, Director of the Communications Department at the IMF, said the latest GDP release incorporated the two new statistical series and described their inclusion as an important step towards strengthening India's macroeconomic statistics.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Amid the ongoing debate over the credibility of India's latest GDP estimates, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has welcomed the country's efforts to modernise its statistical framework, saying the introduction of a new Index of Industrial Production (IIP) and Producer Price Index (PPI) series

should help improve the accuracy of GDP estimates. Julie Kozack, Director of the Communications Department at the IMF, said the latest GDP release incorporated the two new statistical series and described their inclusion as an important step towards strengthening India's macroeconomic statistics. The latest GDP release that we just talked about incorporated both a new index of industrial production, and a new producer price index series, and those two new series should help improve India's GDP estimates," Kozack said in response to a question

from PTI at the IMF's monthly briefing. "We welcome these important steps that India is taking to modernise its macroeconomic statistics," she said, while encouraging the Indian authorities to continue strengthening the statistical framework and data quality. Her comments come amid scrutiny of India's latest GDP numbers, with questions being raised in some quarters over the

methodology and data underlying the estimates. The IMF's endorsement of the statistical changes comes as the government has been working to update the country's national accounts and



related economic indicators. Kozack, however, pointed to the strength of the latest growth numbers, saying India's real GDP expanded 7.8 per cent in the second quarter, exceeding both the IMF staff's expectations and the consensus among other observers. "This upward surprise was driven by stronger-than-expected activity in the services sector, and also in

exports," she said. According to Kozack, the latest performance also highlights the resilience of the Indian economy at a time when higher energy prices have created additional pressure on major oil-importing economies. "The outcome also underscores the resilience of the Indian economy, despite the energy price shock," she said. India imports a substantial share of its crude oil requirements, making movements in global oil prices an important factor for its external balances, inflation and fiscal position. Kozack said an increase in energy or oil prices can put pressure on the balance of payments of energy-importing countries and can also affect their fiscal positions. "In India's case, the shock has occurred at a time when the country has been in a stronger economic position," she said. The IMF is continuing to assess the impact of higher oil prices on the Indian economy and will provide a fresh assessment in its upcoming forecasts.

NSE IPO to open on September 17: Check price band, GMP, crucial dates

New Delhi. (Agency)

The National Stock Exchange (NSE) is set to open its long-awaited initial public offering (IPO) on September 17, marking a major milestone for the exchange nearly a decade after it first planned to go public. The NSE IPO will be an offer for sale (OFS), meaning existing shareholders will sell their shares and the exchange itself will not raise fresh capital through the issue. The IPO is expected to value NSE at around \$46 billion. Here are the key facts and numbers to know about the NSE IPO and the exchange: NSE IPO: KEY DETAILS

NSE has set a price band of Rs 1,700 to Rs 1,785 per share for its IPO. The issue will open for subscription on September 17 and close on September 21. Anchor investor bidding is scheduled for September 16, while NSE is expected to list on or around September 24.

The exchange has reduced the size of the IPO by more than 15%, after some of its major shareholders trimmed the number of shares they planned to sell. The issue is entirely



an offer for sale, so NSE will not receive proceeds from the shares being sold by existing investors. NSE was established in 1992, following a period when several stock market scams exposed weaknesses in the country's fragmented exchange system. The exchange was conceived as an alternative to the network of regional stock exchanges that dominated the market at the time.

Initial investors included financial institutions such as the Life Insurance Corporation of India, IDBI and State Bank of India.

HOW BIG IS NSE TODAY?

NSE has grown into the largest stock exchange in the country. As of June 17, NSE had more than 2,000 registered members and over 2,200 listed companies. The companies listed on the exchange had a combined market capitalisation of around \$5 trillion, according to exchange data. NSE has about 95% market share in the cash equity segment and around 75% in equity derivatives, according to its disclosures. Its dominance is particularly strong in derivatives.

NSE was the world's largest derivatives exchange by contracts traded, accounting for roughly 89% of global stock index options volumes in 2025, according to data from the World Federation of Exchanges.

BRICS leaders call for factory investments, policy alignment, and certifications for tech expansion

New Delhi. (Agency)

Business leaders from Egypt, Ethiopia and Kazakhstan on Friday called for more concrete economic cooperation within BRICS, highlighting plans to set up factories in India, align policies and certifications to ease cross-border business, and expand technology and engineering partnerships.

The remarks came on the sidelines of the BRICS Business Forum in New Delhi, where business and government representatives are discussing ways to strengthen economic cooperation among member countries. India's 2026 BRICS chairship has focused on practical cooperation across trade, technology, supply chains and economic development. Egyptian smart meter technology company Iskraemeco plans to establish factories in India to serve the Indian and wider Asian markets, its Chairman and CEO Mohamed Elsayed said. "We are, as an Egyptian company, also going to be establishing a few factories here within India in order to cater for the Indian market and for the Asian markets as well," Elsayed said.

He said cooperation between Indian and Egyptian

businesses was growing and that the company also wanted to expand the movement of talent between the two countries. "We see that we want to grow that, especially because the Indian and Egyptian talents are more and more very competitive on a global scale," Elsayed said. Dereje Walegn Mera, Co-Chair of the BRICS Business Council's Ethiopian chapter, said aligning policies, certifications and other requirements would be critical to reducing barriers for businesses operating across BRICS countries.

"The main issue for the BRICS is to have an alignment of policies, certifications and what have you, so that we can remove hurdles and barriers," Mera said.

He stressed that recommendations emerging from the BRICS Business Council should move from discussion to implementation. "It's not only talk, it has to be implemented also," Mera said, adding that the objective was to make bilateral and multilateral business easier and support economic growth.

Meanwhile, Evgeniy Zakharov, Managing Director of Eurasia Special Machines, highlighted opportunities for India-Kazakhstan cooperation in pharmaceuticals, tourism, artificial intelligence and engineering.

Sensex, Nifty tank as Brent crude soars above \$108; broad-based sell-off

Mumbai. (Agency)

Benchmark indices fell sharply in early trade on Friday as Brent crude surged above \$108 a barrel, with escalating Middle East tensions raising concerns over inflation, economic growth and corporate earnings. A rise in US bond yields and continued caution among investors also added to the pressure.

At 9:38 am, the BSE Sensex was down 622.18 points, or 0.83%, at 74,280.41. The index had opened at 74,309.16. The Nifty 50 declined 217.60 points, or 0.93%, to 23,260.20 after opening at 23,270.30.

Brent crude was trading at \$108.62 a barrel, up 0.92%, while WTI crude rose 0.83% to \$103.33. Crude prices have surged as the widening Middle East conflict threatens key shipping routes, including the Strait of Hormuz and the Red Sea.

Iran-aligned Houthis seized control of Yemen's port city of Mocha on Thursday and advanced along the Red Sea coast to strategic islands, according to military sources cited by Reuters. The development has added to concerns over shipping disruptions, while tanker attacks have intensified around the Strait of Hormuz. Higher crude prices are a major concern for India, the world's third-largest oil importer, as sustained prices above \$100 can raise the import bill, increase inflationary pressures and weigh on economic growth and corporate profitability.

"Headwinds for the market are getting stronger with the escalation in the Middle East conflict. Brent crude has shot up to around \$108. If this high price sustains, or worse, spikes further, the impact on India's GDP growth and consequently on corporate earnings will not be insignificant," said Dr V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Investments Limited.

He added that the rise in US bond yields was another strong headwind, with the 10-year yield approaching the 5% mark, which could act as an inflection point for global equities.

IT STOCKS BUICK THE BROADER TREND

While most sectors traded in the red, IT stocks were among the few pockets of strength. The Nifty IT index rose 0.38%, with Tech Mahindra gaining 1.84%, HCLTech rising 1.23% and Infosys advancing 1.03%. Bharti Airtel gained 0.56% and ITC rose 0.39%. Adani Ports was marginally higher by 0.07%.

officer and the founder of the Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI), says: "For India, the priority should be to correct the growing imbalance. India should seek better market access in China, Russia and Indonesia, address non-tariff barriers, promote higher-value exports and reduce excessive dependence on a few BRICS suppliers."

NABARD develops AI models for on-demand Kisan Credit loans

Digitalisation is gaining traction across agriculture and allied sectors, including fisheries and dairy, creating new opportunities to improve credit delivery and financial inclusion in rural India.

Mumbai.

The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) is developing artificial intelligence (AI) models around on-demand Kisan Credit loans as India's rural finance ecosystem increasingly embraces digital lending. Chairman Shaji Krishnan V said on Thursday. Speaking on the second day of the Global Fintech Fest 2026 here, Krishnan said digitalisation is gaining



traction across agriculture and allied sectors, including fisheries and dairy, creating new opportunities to improve credit delivery and financial inclusion in rural India. He said rural financial institutions are increasingly participating in digital lending processes to ensure farmers and rural households receive credit in a timely manner. According to Krishnan, the government's efforts in creating foundational digital

infrastructure have laid the groundwork for bridging the rural urban divide.

He noted that nearly 45 per cent of India's population lives in rural areas, making inclusive growth critical for the country's development. "When India has to grow very fast, every section of society needs to grow," he said and added that the next step is to better link identity frameworks such as Aadhaar with economic activity. Krishnan highlighted the role of the Agri

Stack, which comprises identification, land and crop layers in building a digital foundation for the sector. He said the creation of Agri Stack necessitated an additional financing layer to ensure financial products are available at the right time and place.

He also pointed to growing digitisation in sectors such as horticulture, fisheries and dairy. While climate resilience and traceability are becoming increasingly important in horticulture, traceability is also emerging as a key requirement in fisheries, he said. Meanwhile, he noted that challenges remain in rural finance, including gaps in credit enhancement, credit guarantees and insurance. India continues to face an agricultural credit gap of about Rs 1.3 lakh crore, he said. Krishnan added that agricultural loan portfolios inherently carry higher risks because of their dependence on factors beyond borrowers' control. However, he noted that farm-sector non-performing assets have declined over time and there remains scope for further improvement.

NEWS BOX

Gujarat Bill seeking to bring private aided schools under scope of Education Act passed

Ahmedabad (Agency).

The state Assembly on Thursday passed the Gujarat Secondary and Higher Secondary Education (Amendment) Bill, 2026 by a majority vote.

The Bill proposes to bring government-aided private secondary and higher secondary schools within the scope of the Gujarat Secondary and Higher Secondary Education Act, 1972, as per an official statement. It also proposes to enhance the amount of fine for imparting secondary and higher secondary education through a school without registration.

The release stated that with the new proposed provisions in the Act, special educators will be recruited for specially abled students. It added that the qualification of principals, teachers, special educators and non-teaching staff and rules for their selection at government aided secondary and higher secondary schools will be decided by the state government. In the case of non-granted schools, the government will only decide the qualification of principal, teachers, special educators and non-teaching staff.

Now the total implementation of the reservation policy of the state government in recruitment of staff will be ensured. For serious negligence and violation of rules, the Bill has proposed enhanced punishments for school administrators.

Vande Mataram row: BJP asks Speaker to initiate action against MLA, Congress says his action doesn't reflect party stand

Gandhinagar (Agency).

A day after Congress MLA Imran Khedawala courted controversy by not standing through the complete rendition of Vande Mataram in the Gujarat Assembly, the ruling BJP on Thursday raised a point of order seeking action against him for his alleged act of insulting the national song. The party also wanted the matter to be referred to the Privilege or Ethics committee. The Congress distanced itself from Khedawala's act saying that it did not reflect the party's stand, and that the MLA would be asked to explain his action.

Speaker Shankar Chaudhary accepted the Point of Order, calling it a "serious matter", and added that he will pass a detailed order on it. On Wednesday, the first day of the Assembly's monsoon session, Khedawala sat down after completion of the second stanza of Vande Mataram. The BJP took strong objection to it even as Khedawala defended his action saying that it was his personal decision. A delegation of BJP leaders then met the Speaker to discuss the issue. On Thursday, Deputy Chief Minister Harsh Sanghavi raised a point of order on the issue seeking action against Khedawala as per the Assembly rules. Calling the issue very serious, Sanghavi suggested referring the matter to the Assembly's Privilege Committee or Ethics Committee.

Rain likely to return after 3-week lull; Kutch, Saurashtra still 40% rain deficit

Vadodara (Agency).

Monsoon may be preparing for a late revival in Gujarat, but it may do little to fill up the state's most worrying rainfall gaps, especially in districts with high rain deficit. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Thursday forecast a heavy to very heavy spell of rain across South Gujarat and parts of Saurashtra from September 12 (Saturday).

The forecast comes after a prolonged lull in monsoon activity for over three weeks and against a sharply uneven rainfall pattern across the state recorded so far. Of the districts bracing for another spell of heavy showers, several have already received substantial rain this season, leaving large parts of Saurashtra and Kutch well short of their normal cumulative rainfall.

The IMD's latest data show that Gujarat received 516.9 mm of rain against a normal 643.7 mm between June 1 and September 10, a deficit of 20%. The shortfall is considerably greater in Saurashtra and Kutch, which have recorded 294.8 mm against a normal 481.8 mm – a deficit of 39%. The district-wise forecast points to the strongest phase beginning on September 12. The IMD has issued a yellow alert, warning of heavy rain at isolated places across South Gujarat, covering Vadodara, Chhota Udepur, Narmada, Bharuch, Surat, Tapi, Dang, Navsari and Valsad, besides Daman and Dadra and Nagar Haveli. Thunderstorms with lightning and surface winds of 30–40 kmph are also likely over parts of North Gujarat, South Gujarat and Saurashtra.

Your favourite namkeen, banana chips are under Maharashtra FDA scanner: Rs 20.48 lakh worth of snacks seized

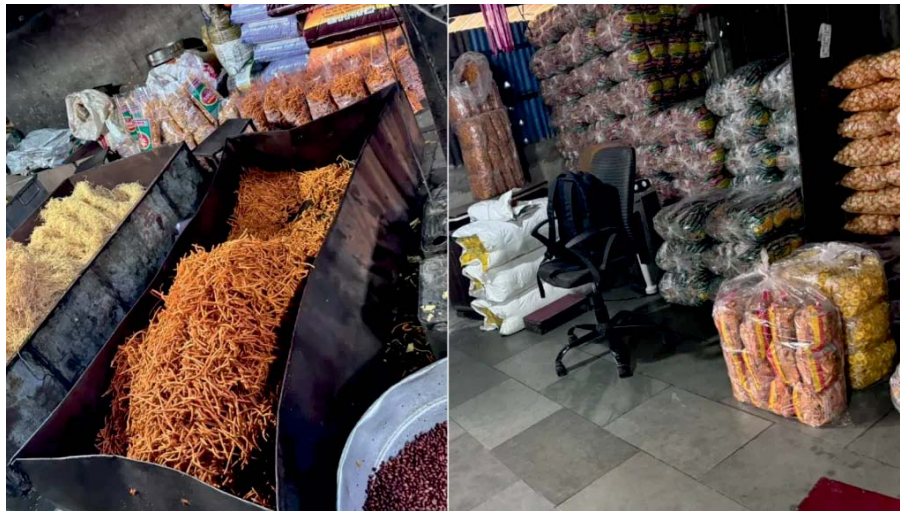
Maharashtra FDA raided multiple food units in Bhaskar Compound, Khadi Gaon and found poor-quality stocks of potato wafers, farali chiwda, spicy wafers, sev and other snacks

Surat (Agency).

The Maharashtra Food and Drug Administration (FDA), led by Tukaram Mundhe, has started the festival crackdown. As people in Maharashtra gear up to celebrate Ganesh Chaturthi and Navratri, the food safety regulator, acting on concerns over the quality of the namkeen, banana chips, sev, and other snacks people typically have during the festive season, has seized nearly 29 tonnes of food products, raw materials and edible oil worth Rs 20.48 lakh from 11 establishments in Thane's Shil-Diva area.

Following a tip-off on September 9, the FDA conducted a surprise inspection at establishments in Bhaskar Compound, Khadi Gaon and found poor-quality stocks of potato wafers, farali chiwda, spicy wafers, mixed farsan, sev, bhakarwadi, banana chips and other products, besides maida, besan, pea flour, palmolein and used cooking oil.

The food safety body said it seized 28,955 kg and 56 litres of food products and raw materials on suspicion of adulteration and poor quality. It also cited extremely unhygienic and unsafe conditions in which the food was being manufactured. Other violations include establishments running without valid food licences, dirty and greasy production floors,



partly open production areas and inadequate drainage. Officials reported stagnant wastewater and foul odours around some premises, along with cockroach and rodent infestation. Workers were also found preparing food without aprons, gloves or head covers. The FDA has ordered the suspension of licences/registrations of all 11 establishments and directed them to stop operations.

The action comes as Maharashtra enters the festive period, when demand for traditional snacks and sweets typically rises. The FDA has separately asked organisers of mahaprasad, bhandara, langar and other community food distribution programmes to submit advance notice at least seven days before the event so that risk-based inspections and sampling can be carried out.

Punjab ex-minister Bhagat Chunni Lal, the BJP face in Jalandhar, dies at 94

Jalandhar (Agency).

Bhagat Chunni Lal, a former Punjab Cabinet minister and a veteran BJP face with more than three decades of electoral politics behind him, died on Thursday after prolonged illness. He was 94. For a generation of voters in Jalandhar, Chunni Lal remained a familiar political presence: a leader whose electoral career survived changes in constituencies, governments and political equations. A three-time MLA and a former deputy Speaker of the Vidhan Sabha, even after he withdrew from electoral politics, his political relevance continued through his son, Mohinder Bhagat, an AAP leader and a Cabinet Minister.

Born on December 1, 1932, in Sialkot, now in Pakistan, Chunni Lal moved to Jalandhar with his family after partition. Chunni Lal's

political journey began in 1985, when he contested the Jalandhar South Assembly seat as an Independent and lost. He later joined the BJP, returned to the constituency in 1997 as the party's candidate and won. He retained Jalandhar South in 2007. After delimitation altered the constituency's boundaries and it became Jalandhar West, Chunni Lal won again in 2012. His electoral success reflected in his growth within the party too. In 2011, following the resignation of Satpal Gosain, he was elected Deputy Speaker of the Punjab Vidhan Sabha. A year later, after the 2012

election, he became part of the Parkash Singh Badal-led SAD-BJP government as a Cabinet minister.



Between 2012 and 2017, he handled portfolios including Local Bodies, Medical Education and Research, Labour, and Forest and Wildlife. He also served as leader of the BJP legislature party in the Assembly. The 2017 election marked a turning point. Chunni Lal chose not to contest, and subsequently retired from electoral politics. However, as he stepped aside, his son Mohinder Bhagat emerged as the next face of the family's politics. That transition was not without its political complications.

Singapore-style littering fines for Mumbai? HC pushes civic body to make tougher rules

Mumbai (Agency).

Citing Singapore's strict anti-littering laws, the Bombay High Court on Thursday directed the Maharashtra government to formulate a state-wide policy with stringent provisions to curb garbage dumping by "unruly citizens" across civic bodies, including Mumbai and Pune where "dumping is rampant."

"It is ultimately for the law makers and in the present times, when we see unruly citizens who have no regard for public sanitation and who indulge into such illegal activities causing a public nuisance, to come out with stringent provisions and to be implemented in a true manner," noted a bench of Justices Girish S Kulkarni and Neela K Gokhale.

Hearing a plea regarding the Kanjurmarg landfill site, which it noted was "intricately connected" with illegal garbage dumping on streets and beaches, the court issued a "last warning" of

contempt proceedings against Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) ward officers and for failing to clear trash, waste on public streets in Dadar, Andheri, and Goregaon and other parts of the city. "There is no alternative but to direct the Municipal Commissioner to keep house in order and fix the accountability," a bench noted in the order and sought the BMC's affidavit through senior advocate Anil Sakhare giving a list of ward officers and other officers responsible for maintaining health and hygiene in public places, along with SOPs for the implementation of cleanliness drives in an expeditious manner. Pulling up the BMC for "false and paper assurances" of actions against those causing public nuisance, Justice Kulkarni said "enough is enough, this is the limit" and warned of contempt proceedings against errant officers.



DA dues: HC tells Punjab to pursue SC challenge, gives 10 days to remove defects

The Punjab and Haryana High Court asked the state to pursue its Supreme Court challenge against the August 3 order and directed it to remove objections in its SLP within 10 days.

Chandigarh (Agency).

The Punjab and Haryana High Court on Thursday pulled up the Punjab government for failing to comply with its August 3 order on clearing the pending Dearness Allowance (DA) arrears of the government employees. The Division Bench of Chief Justice Ashwani Kumar Mishra and Justice Rohit Kapoor made it clear that it was not questioning the State's right to challenge the High Court order in the Supreme Court, but expressed annoyance over what it viewed as delaying tactics in pursuing the matter.

"Don't try to play. Don't try to hoodwink the Court. Do not try to play games with the Court. You have a right of appeal. Please pursue that right," the Bench observed orally. The bench was hearing an application seeking action against officials for alleged wilful disobedience and non-compliance with its August 3 order. During the hearing, the Bench questioned why its

order had not been complied with. The State counsel submitted that the government had availed the remedy of filing a Special Leave Petition (SLP) before the Supreme Court against the High Court's order. The counsel appearing for the petitioner submitted that the State had filed the SLP on September 1, but the objections in the matter had not been removed till date. The Bench questioned why the State had not exhausted its available remedies against the High Court order and expressed concern over the Court's authority being challenged on social media. "What you are doing, we don't want to say anything. But please get your appeal heard by next week, or otherwise, make a mention that you have already filed it. We would respect. You have all the right to challenge the order, but it cannot remain like this that

you will not pursue the matter there. All these kind of tactics we also understand," the Division Bench observed orally. The Court further referred to the State having



earlier informed it that the SLP was lying in defects and questioned why those defects had not been removed. "Get your appeal heard. We are adjourning it by a week. Otherwise, whatever arguments are

to come from their side or your objections, we will deal with it. But at the first instance, we do recognize that every person aggrieved by our judgment has a right of appeal. So please do it. Don't do it like this. Last time also we were informed that it's lying in defect. Why can't you get the defects removed?" the Chief Justice observed.

The Bench reiterated that the State was entitled to pursue whatever remedy was available to it. "Please do that. Whatever remedy is available to you, please exhaust it", the HC observed. The State counsel also raised the issue of possible multiplicity of litigation, pointing out that the original petitioners had already initiated contempt proceedings before the regular Bench concerning alleged non-compliance with the August 3 judgment.

You're on Maharashtra SIR draft list – so why could you still get a notice?

Even though 1.22 crore feature in the Maharashtra SIR draft electoral roll, they may still receive individual notices from election authorities or be asked to attend a hearing

Nagpur (Agency).

Maharashtra SIR draft electoral roll: As many as 1.22 crore Maharashtra voters included in the Maharashtra draft electoral roll under the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) have come under the scanner for inconsistencies in their records.

Even though they feature in the Maharashtra SIR draft electoral roll, these voters will still receive individual notices from election



authorities and be asked to provide additional documents, or appear for a hearing before a final decision is taken on their inclusion in the electoral roll.

The SIR notices will cover 62,48,281 voters whose relatives' details have discrepancies and 59,75,726 voters whose records could not be mapped to a relative in the previous electoral rolls. However, even though 1.22 crore voters have been flagged, it does not mean that they have been declared ineligible or that their name will automatically be deleted. Now that their names have been included in the SIR draft electoral roll, they will have an opportunity to respond to the discrepancies in their records.

NEWS BOX

All in God's hands, but I'm working hard: Shami keeps India comeback hopes alive



New Delhi. (Agency)

Mohammed Shami may be out of the India setup, but the veteran fast bowler has shown no signs of letting the uncertainty around his international future affect his motivation. Fresh from helping East Zone win the Duleep Trophy, Shami insists the desire to keep improving remains unchanged.

The 36-year-old has continued to turn out in domestic cricket since his last appearance for India in March 2025, with his latest outing coming in a memorable Duleep Trophy final. Speaking to reporters after East Zone's triumph in Chennai, Shami explained how he keeps himself driven despite the chatter surrounding his comeback. "There are plenty of reasons to stay motivated if you look for them. You can draw positivity from this ground or any ground you step onto. At this level, if you aren't self-motivated, your approach is wrong." Shami also made it clear that his approach does not change depending on the stage of his career or the importance of a particular match. "Whether it's your first match or your 100th, it doesn't matter — the effort and the approach remain exactly the same," he said. The Duleep Trophy triumph was particularly special for Shami as it came in his 100th first-class match, while East Zone ended a 13-year wait for the title. He played his part with the ball, claiming the important wickets of Ravichandran Smaran and Sheikh Rasheed as South Zone were bowled out for 336.

CAN SHAMI MAKE AN INDIA COMEBACK?

With the West Indies series now ruled out as a comeback opportunity, the next realistic window for Shami is India's tour of New Zealand. India will play five ODIs from November 4 to 15, followed by.

Kuldeep Yadav takes 10-wicket haul in County, sends strong reminder to Gautam Gambhir



New Delhi. (Agency)

Kuldeep Yadav has sent a strong reminder to India head coach Gautam Gambhir with a sensational 10-wicket haul for Yorkshire against Essex in the County Championship at Headingley. The left-arm wrist-spinner produced his best match figures in first-class cricket as Yorkshire stormed to an innings-and-106-run victory. Kuldeep returned figures of 4/70 in Essex's first innings before following it up with a stunning 6/50 in the second. His match haul of 10/120 was his first 10-wicket performance in first-class cricket. He also contributed 36 with the bat as Yorkshire posted 390 before bowling Essex out for 284. The performance is particularly significant given Kuldeep's position in India's Test plans. Despite being one of the country's most accomplished white-ball spinners, he has spent much of his Test career in and out of the XI. He has played only 19 Tests since making his debut in 2017, underlining how rarely he has been given an extended run in the longest format.

KULDEEP'S TEST CASE BECOMING HARD TO IGNORE

For years, Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja were India's first-choice spinners in Test cricket. Their ability to contribute with the bat made them crucial to India's team balance, leaving Kuldeep Yadav competing for opportunities whenever conditions demanded an additional spinner. That equation has now changed. Ashwin has retired, while Jadeja, at 37, is entering the latter stages of his career. However, Kuldeep's path to a regular Test spot remains complicated by India's desire for batting depth and the emergence of other spin options.

Man United back with a bang as Como make stunning Champions League debut

Manchester United marked their long-awaited return to the Champions League with a 4-0 win over Sabah FC, while Como celebrated their European debut with a statement victory and Bayern Munich also opened their campaign in convincing fashion.

New York. (Agency)

Manchester United marked their return to the UEFA Champions League with a convincing 4-0 victory over Sabah FC at Old Trafford, while Como announced themselves on the European stage with a 4-1 win over RB Leipzig. Bayern Munich also began their campaign in style, cruising past Bodo/Glimt. United had waited more than

1,000 days to hear the Champions League anthem again, but there was little rust in Michael Carrick's side as they raced into a three-goal lead before half-time. Como, meanwhile, produced one of the night's biggest statements by overwhelming Leipzig in their first-ever European appearance. Bayern were made to work harder than the scoreline suggested during a stubborn first half, but Jamal Musiala's early second-half goal opened the floodgates. Harry Kane, Alphonso Davies and Michael Olise then completed a comfortable night for Vincent Kompany's side. For United, the victory was particularly welcome with a Manchester derby against City waiting on Sunday. Carrick's team still have plenty to prove after an uneven domestic start, but their first Champions League outing offered plenty of encouragement.

MANCHESTER UNITED FIND THEIR**RHYTHM**

Sabah started positively at Old Trafford, but United eventually found their stride when Matheus Cunha converted Patrick Dorgu's cross in the 27th minute. Bruno Fernandes



and Benjamin Sesko then struck late in the first half, putting the hosts firmly in control. Sesko's return to the starting XI was one of the night's biggest positives. The 23-year-old's physical presence gave United a focal point in attack, while Joshua Zirkzee impressed after coming off the bench before

Lisandro Martinez added a fourth following a lively move. With goal difference potentially proving important in the league phase, United could hardly have asked for a better start.

COMO MAKE HISTORY IN STYLE

Como's Champions League debut turned into a night of celebration as Martin Baturina, Anastasios Douvikas and Assane Diao put the Italian side three goals ahead before Maximo Perrone added a fourth late on. Leipzig's only response came during a one-sided evening at a reduced-capacity Stadio Giuseppe Sinigaglia.

The result underlined the progress made under Cesc Fabregas, who guided Como to fourth in Serie A last season. Playmaker Nico Paz remained central to their attacking threat, while Baturina was named player of the match as Como embraced their first taste of European football.

US Open: Rybakina downs Gauff, sets up No.1 vs No.2 final with Sabalenka

US Open: Elena Rybakina fought back from a set down to beat Coco Gauff in a thrilling US Open semi-final. The world No. 1 will now face defending champion Aryna Sabalenka in a blockbuster final between the top two players.

Chennai . (Agency)

Elena Rybakina fought back from a set down to beat Coco Gauff 3-6, 6-4, 6-4 in a gripping US Open semi-final. The Kazakh came through a high-octane battle at Arthur Ashe Stadium to reach her first final at Flushing Meadows. Rybakina, who secured the world No. 1 ranking by reaching the last four, looked in danger of falling short when Gauff took the opening set. But the 27-year-old responded strongly, raised the level of her tennis and kept her composure through two



increasingly tense sets to complete the comeback. "It was just one break and, of course, there are nerves," Rybakina said after the match, reflecting on the opening set. "Even if sometimes her (Gauff) first serve doesn't go, her second one is so heavy that it's difficult to dictate the rallies," she added. Gauff made the brighter start and put Rybakina under pressure early, taking the first set 6-3. The American had arrived in the semi-final after saving two match points against Mirra Andreeva in the quarter-finals, but

this time it was Rybakina who found a way back when the match began to turn.

RYBAKINA HOLDS HER NERVE

The second set remained closely fought, but Rybakina found the breakthrough she needed to take it 6-4 and force a decider. The momentum had shifted, yet the match remained finely balanced as both players looked to seize control. Rybakina moved closer to victory in the final set, but the finish was far from straightforward. Gauff broke back when Rybakina was serving for the match, only for the world No. 1 to respond immediately and close out the contest. "It was just a cool third set," Rybakina said. "I got a little bit lucky on her serve. A couple of deep returns, one mistake from her and it went quickly my way." The victory marks Rybakina's deepest run at the US Open. She had not gone beyond the fourth round in seven previous appearances, but she has now followed an Australian Open title earlier this year with a chance to add another major trophy in New York.

'He made us all believe': How Dhoni is quietly shaping Jharkhand's next generation

KOLKATA. (Agency)

Mahendra Singh Dhoni's influence on Jharkhand cricket has never needed an official designation. Even after stepping away from the domestic cricket long ago, the former India captain continues to leave his imprint quietly, helping shape a young generation that is now beginning to make its presence felt at the highest domestic level across formats.

East Zone's Duleep Trophy triumph on Thursday, their first since 2012, offered perhaps the clearest indication yet of the strength of Jharkhand's emerging batting core. Captain Ishan Kishan led from the front, aggregating 350 runs in the final, while Shikhar Mohan, Kumar Kushagra, Md Kounain Quraishi and Anukul Roy were among the Jharkhand players who

made significant contributions during the campaign. The title, naturally, was a collective East Zone achievement. Bengal



supplied considerable experience through Mohammed Shami, Mukesh Kumar, Abhimanyu Easwaran, Sudip Gharami and Shahbaz Ahmed, while Bihar's teenage sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi

also made his mark in the semifinal with the fastest half-century in the history of the tournament. But the performance of Jharkhand's young middle-order batters provided one of the strongest threads running through East Zone's campaign. And behind that progression, there is a familiar figure who continues to offer guidance without occupying any formal role. "Whenever he is free and in Ranchi, he visits the (JSCA) stadium. From juniors to seniors, when camps are going on, he comes himself, talks to people and gets involved. When we won Mushtaq Ali last year, the first congratulatory message I received was by Mahi bhai," JSCA secretary and former India and Jharkhand batter Saurabh Tiwary said of Dhoni. "He keeps telling us which players are good and should be watched."

Pakistan stare at embarrassing whitewash as England tighten grip on

Pakistan are staring at a 3-0 series whitewash after England extended their first-innings lead to 320 runs in the third Test at Edgbaston. The tourists slipped to 52 for 2 in their second innings and still need 268 runs to make England bat again, with rain cutting short play.

NEW DELHI. (Agency)

Pakistan are staring at another humiliating defeat after England tightened their grip on the third Test at Edgbaston, leaving the tourists facing the prospect of a 3-0 series whitewash.

England, already 2-0 up after convincing victories at Leeds and Lord's, extended their first-innings lead to a massive 320 runs before Ollie Robinson struck twice in his opening over to leave Pakistan reeling at 52 for 2 at stumps on Thursday. Rain brought an early end to play, offering Pakistan a temporary reprieve from what had threatened to become an even more embarrassing day.

England vs Pakistan, 2nd Test Day 2 Highlights

Pakistan, who were dismissed for just 133 in their first innings, now need another 268 runs simply to make England bat again. Shan Masood was unbeaten on 21 alongside Azan Awaiz, who was on 29, but the visitors remain overwhelmingly behind with three days still scheduled. Robinson has been the defining bowler of the series. After taking five wickets in the first Test at Leeds and four in Pakistan's second innings at Lord's,

the England seamer added three wickets in the first innings at Edgbaston before claiming Saim Ayub and Abdullah Shafique



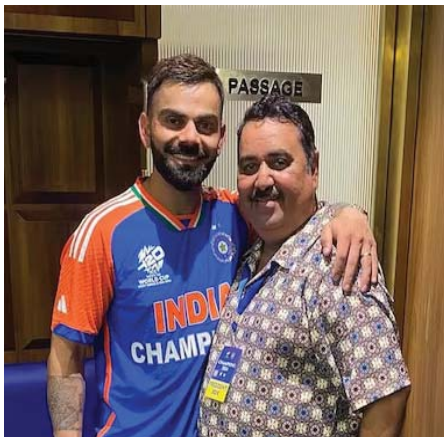
in the second. He has now taken 21 wickets in the series at an extraordinary average of 6.66.

ENGLAND PILE ON THE PRESSURE AFTER PAKISTAN'S LATEST COLLAPSE

England resumed the day at 156 for 4 and

eventually reached 453, turning a modest 23-run overnight advantage into a 320-run lead. Harry Brook made 75 from 97 balls before being run out attempting an impossible single, while Dan Lawrence continued his impressive return to Test cricket with 65. It was his third successive half-century of the series. Jamie Smith also produced a timely 69 from 84 balls despite suffering a finger injury, his highest Test score at Edgbaston since his 88 against India 14 months ago. He subsequently handed over wicketkeeping duties to Jordan Cox. Robinson then added a quickfire 50, including a huge six into the Hollies Stand, before Pakistan finally ended England's innings at 453. Pakistan's best moment came from debutant Razaullah. The 21-year-old fast bowler claimed four wickets, including Joe Root in England's first innings, offering a rare glimpse of encouragement in an otherwise bleak campaign.

Why even discuss it? Virat Kohli's coach certain he'll be at 2027 World Cup



New York. (Agency)

There is still a question being asked about Virat Kohli's place in India's 2027 ODI World Cup plans. His childhood coach Rajkumar Sharma, however, believes there should be no question at all. "I think you should see for yourself what he's doing, what he has done in the last few matches, and how he is doing it on the field. So I think it should not be a discussion even," Rajkumar told IndiaToday.in on the sidelines of Delhi District Cricket Association (DDCA) ceremony to honour and reward grassroots cricketers in Delhi. Since the 2025 Champions Trophy, Kohli has been India's leading ODI run-scorer, making 760 runs in 12 matches at an average of 76, including three hundreds and five fifties. For Rajkumar, the performances have already made the case. "I mean, as a player, I think he's a tremendous player. Undoubtedly, he's a match-winner. On his given day, he's a match-winner," he said. **ROHIT IS A MATCH-WINNER**

The same, Rajkumar believes, applies to Rohit. At 39, the former India captain continues to find himself at the centre of speculation over his ODI future, despite scoring 727 runs in 15 matches since the Champions Trophy at an average of 51.92, including two hundreds. "I mean, as a player, I think he's a tremendous player. Undoubtedly, he's a match-winner. On his given day, he's a match-winner." Rohit's century at Lord's in July briefly pushed the retirement chatter into the background, his hundred serving as the kind of on-field response that had been missing from the debate.

Triptii Dimri

AP Dhillon Check Out The Latest iPhone 18 Pro Max With Apple CEO John Ternus

Iphone 18 launch: Apple's latest iPhone 18 Pro Max launch gave Triptii Dimri and AP Dhillon an early look at the company's new flagship phones, with Apple CEO John Ternus personally showing them the models. The Bollywood actor and singer were among the popular guests at the launch event held at Apple Park in Cupertino, California.

Triptii Dimri, AP Dhillon Get Hands-On With iPhone 18 Pro

Several pictures and videos from the event show Triptii and AP Dhillon checking out the newly launched iPhone 18 Pro models alongside Ternus. The Apple CEO seemed to give the two stars a closer look at the devices and explain some of their features. The interaction gave Triptii and Dhillon an opportunity to explore the new phones shortly after Apple unveiled its latest iPhone range.

The launch took place at the Steve Jobs Theater at Apple Park, where Ternus led the event as Apple introduced the new iPhone lineup. The iPhone 18 Pro models and the iPhone 18 Duo were among the key devices unveiled during the event.

Triptii And AP Dhillon's Apple Event Looks

Triptii opted for a red blazer paired with a matching top and denim for the occasion.



AP Dhillon, known for songs including Excuses, attended the event in a grey jacket. The celebrities were later seen spending time with Ternus as they looked at the new iPhones. Their appearance added a Bollywood and music industry presence to the high-profile Apple launch.

Triptii Dimri was last seen in Maa Behen, which released in June 2026, and also starred in Vishal Bhardwaj's O' Romeo earlier this year. She is now set to appear alongside Prabhas in Spirit, which is currently in production. AP Dhillon, meanwhile, has continued releasing music, with his latest single Born Winner, featuring Boi-Ida, released in May 2026. He also released Thinking of You and Raatan Lambiyar earlier this year.

iPhone 18 Pro Max And Duo Price In India

Apple has launched the iPhone 18 Pro and iPhone 18 Pro Max, while the standard iPhone 18 is not part of this September launch. The Pro models are powered by the new A20 Pro chip, run on iOS 27, and feature a new 48MP Fusion main camera with variable aperture, improved low-light photography and a smaller Dynamic Island. The iPhone 18 Pro has a 6.3-inch display, while the Pro Max gets a 6.9-inch screen, with both supporting ProMotion up to 120Hz and storage options up to 2TB. Apple says the Pro Max offers up to 43 hours of video playback. In India, the iPhone 18 Pro starts at Rs 1,64,900, while the iPhone 18 Pro Max starts at Rs 1,79,900, with both prices applying to the 256GB variants.

Tara Sutaria

Gets Irritated With Paparazzi, Shoves Camera Away In 1st Appearance After Toxic Debacle

Tara Sutaria lost her cool recently when she was surrounded by the paparazzi outside a store in Mumbai. In a video that surfaced on social media, the Bollywood actress was seen entering a store when a paparazzi got too close to her in an attempt to record her video. This left Tara visibly irritated who then shoved the camera away.



Tara was seen dressed in an all-white outfit and sporting black sunglasses. She was also accompanied by her team, who tried to protect her from the crowd. However, when paparazzi were screaming her name and asked her to pose, a shutterbug got too close to her which left the actress irritated.

Soon after the video was surfaced on social media, netizens reacted to it and shared their views. "Tara Sutaria shoves a pap back after he gets way too close. Well done, it's high time the paparazzi understood the basic concept of personal space," one of the users wrote on X.

However, another user based the actress and added, "Tara Sutaria angrily shoves the paparazzi. First they invite the paps themselves, and then they throw attitude!!!"

Interestingly, this marks Tara Sutaria's first appearance since the release of Toxic: A Fairy Tale For Grown-Ups. Yash starrer, which hit theatres on August 26, was one of the most awaited films but when it finally released, it received negative reviews from all.

If a report by Bollywood Hungama is to be believed,

Toxic markers had an offer of Rs 150 crore from an OTT platform. However, after the box office debacle, digital players are now willing to offer more than Rs 30 crore for the Yash starrer. However, the makers have not issued any official statement regarding the film's OTT release as of now.



Hema Malini Is All Praise For Vishal Chaturvedi's Hanuman Ansh, Calls It 'Superhit'



Veteran actor and BJP MP Hema Malini has praised the success of 'Hanuman Ansh,' calling the film a superhit.

Addressing the media, she described its success as a blessing from Lord Hanuman. Hema also lauded producer Anupriya Nagar for backing the project despite having no prior experience in filmmaking. Despite being new to the world of film production, Nagar went ahead with the project, which has now received a positive response from viewers. Hema congratulated the producer and the entire team for the film's success.

The 'Sholay' actress shared, "Hanuman and Neem Karoli Baba temple is here. I always go there. And today, I am so happy that a film has been made on them. It has become a superhit. It is Hanuman Ji's grace, let me tell you. Whoever produced this film, she is a normal, simple girl. She doesn't even know what filmmaking is. But because of her contribution, it has become so good. Everyone is eager to watch it. I also want to watch it."

'Hanuman Ansh' has been receiving praise from several celebrities, including Preity Zinta filmmaker Aditya Dhar, and Varun Dhawan, among others. The Vishal Chaturvedi directorial has caught the attention of Bollywood personalities for its devotional theme and portrayal of Lord Hanuman and Neem Karoli Baba.

After watching 'Hanuman Ansh' in a theatre, Preity took to social media to share her reaction and urged her followers to experience the film on the big screen. The 51-year-old actor shared a glimpse of herself watching the film in a theatre on her Instagram Stories. Keeping her reaction brief, she posted a still from the movie along with the words "Sita Ram" and "Wow." In another post, she encouraged her followers to watch the film in theatres, writing, "Don't miss it, folks." Filmmaker Aditya Dhar has also praised the film, adding to the growing appreciation from members of the film fraternity. Directed and produced by Dr Vishal Chaturvedi, "Hanuman Ansh" marks Shobhinaw Satyaa's Bollywood debut. He plays the lead role of Neem Karoli Baba. The film also stars Chandan Anand, Nikhil Dubey, Udaysinh Rajput, Purnima Tiwari, and Mannish Chaudhary in key roles.

Samay Raina Denies Dating Sharon Verma Amid Medha Shankr Rumours: 'Just Internet Doing Its Thing'



Comedian Samay Raina has reacted to dating rumours surrounding him and Sharon Verma after their fun exchanges on India's Got Latent season 2 caught the attention of fans. When a fan asked him on Instagram, "Are you dating Sharon?", Samay shared the question on his Story and replied, "No brother, just internet doing its thing."

Sharon Verma And Samay Raina's Chemistry Gets Fans Talking

Sharon Verma first gained attention after gracing as a contestant on the first season of India's Got Latent in 2024. Her stand-up set, especially her jokes about being from Bihar and describing herself as a "weak independent woman", went viral and helped her build a large following online.

She returned to India's Got Latent 2 this year, this time as a guest panellist alongside Samay. Her quick comebacks and banter with the comedian became one of the talking points from the episode, with clips of their exchanges going viral on social media.

Their on-screen chemistry also led fans to speculate that the two could be dating. However, neither had confirmed the rumours until Samay directly addressed them on Instagram.

Samay Raina And Medha Shankr Dating?

Sharon is not the only woman Samay has been linked with by fans. The comedian has also been the subject of dating speculation involving Medha Shankr, best known for playing Shraddha Joshi in 12th Fail. Medha recently appeared on India's Got Latent 2 as part of the panel, alongside Varun Dhawan, Sharon Verma and Nishant Tanwar.

During a magician segment featuring Kabir Sharma, the conversation turned to Samay's friends. After mentioning Balraj Singh Ghai, who owns The Habitat and is a close friend and business partner of Samay Raina, the contestant asked the comedian who his "sabse achha dost" on the panel was.



NEWS BOX

Out Of Jail For 5 Hours,
Bangladesh Hindu Monk, In
Tears, Touches Idol's Feet

Dhaka.(Agency)

Chinmoy Krishna Das, the Bangladeshi Hindu monk who had been in jail for nearly two years, was granted five-hour parole this week to attend his mother's funeral. Das's 71-year-old mother died with her final wish of seeing her jailed son left unfulfilled, after Bangladeshi authorities denied his family's plea for parole to visit her during her final days, local media reported. It was only after her death that Chattogram District Deputy Commissioner (DC) Mohammad Zahidul Islam Mia ordered the Hindu leader's release for five hours to attend her last rites, The Daily Star newspaper reported. An emotional video of the Hindu monk's few hours outside captivity appeared on social media. In the clip, Das is seen crying as he touches the feet of a Radha-Krishna idol in the Pundarik Dham temple of Chattragram before returning to jail. His mother Sandhya Rani Dhar's last rites were performed at Pundarik Dham, according to his brother Ranjan Kumar Dhar.

Cases Against The Hindu Monk

Chinmoy Krishna Das, also the spokesperson for the Bangladesh Sammilito Sanatani Jagaran Jot, was arrested in November 2024 on sedition charges for allegedly disrespecting the national flag, which sparked protests and communal tensions. His group organised several rallies in Bangladesh, demanding minority rights, safety, and protection from civil unrest in 2024 after the ouster of former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina following a violent student-led street protest. Das, who was previously associated with ISKCON, is facing six criminal cases in total and has been granted bail by the High Court in four cases till now. He remains behind bars despite securing bail in two cases, with his release blocked by two other cases, local media reported. However, he will not be released soon because of the other cases against him. His bail in the sedition case remains stayed, while the trial in the murder case is underway at the Chattogram Speedy Trial Tribunal.

Israel Says It Cleared
Hezbollah's Underground
Terror Hub In Southern
Lebanon

Washington.(Agency)

The Israeli military said it destroyed Hezbollah's underground infrastructure at the Ali al-Taher ridge in southern Lebanon in a major blow to the Iran-backed Shiite militant group. Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defence Minister Israel Katz said the operation completed the consolidation of a security zone in the area, seizing control both above and below ground. Detailing the operation on its social media handle, the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) said the labyrinth, built over two decades with Tehran's funding and planning, was extended for more than 2 km (1.24 miles) and contained dozens of rockets, missiles, and drones, as well as anti-tank missiles, mines, and explosive devices. "Troops also uncovered a central command complex of Hezbollah's elite 'Badr' Unit, with command centres, weapons stores, and living quarters built to sustain terrorists underground for prolonged combat," mentioned the IDF post. Later, in a joint statement, PM Netanyahu and Defence Minister Katz also confirmed the demolition. "This was strategic terror infrastructure designed to serve as the staging base for the conquest of the Galilee, with observation and fire dominance over Metula and Kiryat Shmona," the joint statement said. With the ridge secured, IDF forces are now deployed defensively to prevent Hezbollah from returning. "The IDF will remain in the security zone and will continue destroying terror infrastructure and thwarting any attempt by Hezbollah to re-establish itself," Netanyahu warned, adding that any attack on Israeli citizens or forces will be met with force.

In Florida's 15th execution this year, man put to
death for killing linked to 'Hog Trail Murders'

STARKE, Fla.(Agency)

A Florida man convicted in one of a series of suspected killings that became known as the "Hog Trail Murders" in the 1990s was put to death Thursday, becoming the state's 15th person executed this year. Daniel Owen Conahan Jr., 72, was pronounced dead at 6:12 p.m. after receiving a three-drug lethal injection at Florida State Prison near Starke. He had been sentenced to die for the 1996 kidnapping and strangling of Richard Allen Montgomery, whose mutilated body was found in a wooded southwest Florida area where authorities found the remains of at least six people over a three-year span. Conahan was already strapped to a gurney with an IV in his arm when the curtain to the death chamber went up at 6 p.m. A spiritual adviser was at his feet and prayed throughout the process. The team warden asked Conahan if he had any final

statement, and Conahan replied, "No sir." The deadly drug cocktail began to flow at 6:01 p.m. Conahan began to pant and then twitch briefly before going still. Several minutes later, the warden shook Conahan and shouted his name but there was no response. A medic entered the death chamber at 6:11 p.m. to check for vitals, and Conahan was declared dead a minute later. Conahan died in the nation's busiest death chamber. Florida has carried out more than half the 25 total executions in the U.S. so far this year under Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis, who leaves office in January. Conahan was identified by authorities as a person of interest in the other deaths, but he was never charged. He argued the evidence against him in Montgomery's death was circumstantial. Multiple bodies found in popular hunting area Conahan was arrested in July 1996 after local and state law enforcement officials spent more than

two years investigating a series of homicides in which mutilated and decomposing bodies were discovered in a



wooded area of Charlotte County, north of Fort Myers. As the number of bodies increased, so did media coverage. The deaths eventually were dubbed the "Hog Trail Murders" because of the swampy, wooded locations where the bodies were found. The case has been featured many times over the past three decades on true-

crime television shows, YouTube channels and podcasts. Hunters found the first body in February 1994, and at least five more were discovered over the next three years. While most of the remains were severely decomposed, investigators believed Montgomery was found within 24 hours of his death. Investigators eventually determined the killer was targeting homeless men. Investigators found similarities in cases. Detectives started looking into Conahan in 1996 after a man in prison for stealing Conahan's car claimed Conahan had lured him to a remote area and offered to pay him to pose for nude photos. The man said he drove off in the car after seeing a knife. Later, detectives learned about a case with similarities in Fort Myers, in which a victim claimed a man who offered cash for nude photos had tied him to a tree and attempted to strangle him.

Vance assails Democratic 'hatred'
in fiery US midterm pitch

Dallas, United States.(Agency)

US Vice President JD Vance called Democrats the "party of hatred" Thursday and urged voters to send them packing in November's midterms, in a prime-time convention speech that showcased him as a possible heir to Donald Trump in 2028. The 42-year-old vice president was greeted by a huge roar and chants of "JD! JD!" as he took the stage at the American Airlines Center in Dallas. "This fall, the Democrats are running candidates who will tell your children what they're allowed to say, how they're allowed to live, and, importantly, who they ought to hate," Vance said. "The Democrats are the party of hatred. They're the party that despises America and the people who built it. They're the party that can find

sympathy for the terrorists who perpetrated 9/11," he added. Trump returned to the stage after Vance and



immediately praised his vice president. "I want to thank our great vice president. What a job he did tonight!" Trump said. "You know, the Democrats are getting nervous." The president promised to be brief before introducing a convention-closing music set, saying: "I'm

getting a little tired of politics now."

But he reprised familiar rally lines, attacking "radical left" Democrats and again making himself the centerpiece of the Republican midterm campaign. "I'm not on the ticket. You got to pretend I'm on the ticket," Trump told supporters.

"You got to do me the biggest favor you've ever done me. You've got to do this for me. You've got to pretend I'm on the ticket." Republicans head into

November under heavy electoral pressure. US election tracking site Decision Desk HQ projects Democrats will win the House 229-206 and has the Senate on a knife-edge at 50-50. Trump's approval rating has languished in the low-to-mid 30s amid stubborn inflation and an unpopular war with Iran.

Hong Kong court sentences 3 Tiananmen vigil
organizers to prison in national security case

Lee Cheuk-yan, Chow Hang-tung and Albert Ho were convicted of inciting subversion earlier this year under a Beijing-imposed national security law.

HONG KONG.(Agency)

A Hong Kong court sentenced three activists who for years organized vigils in remembrance of China's 1989 Tiananmen Square crackdown to prison for terms ranging from 5 to over 7 years on Friday in a case that is widely seen as a barometer of the city's freedoms as Beijing clamps down on dissent. Lee Cheuk-yan, Chow Hang-tung and Albert Ho were convicted of inciting subversion earlier this year under a Beijing-imposed national security law. Lee and Chow, who pleaded not guilty, received prison terms of 7

years, and 7 years and 3 months. Ho was given 5 years and 2 months, lower than his co-defendants partly because of his guilty plea.

The trio of defendants was charged in September 2021 and has been held in



custody for years. Hong Kong once had a vibrant civil society marked by massive protests and a freewheeling press scene. But after a 2019 protest movement rocked the city, authorities reduced public choice in elections

and prosecuted leaders of news outlets known for their critical reports of the government. Many leading activists were imprisoned under the security law, and dozens of civil society groups dissolved, including the alliance. Beijing says the law is necessary to maintain stability. Activists' supporters attend sentencing. Dozens of people lined up outside the court to enter to the courtroom. Roman Catholic Cardinal Joseph Zen, who was arrested under the national security law in 2022 but never faced charges under it, was among those sitting in the public gallery. Former vigil-goer Simon Ng said his heart was

heavy as the sentencing approached, adding that he felt accusations were not just against the defendants. "I took part in the alliance's vigils for decades; the ruling amounts to an accusation against me," he said.

Fire in eastern Congo
kills at least 24 students
at two schools

BUKAVU.(Agency)

A fire swept through two adjacent schools Thursday in Bukavu in eastern Congo, killing at least 24 students and injuring dozens, the rebel administration that controls the city and local officials said.

The spokesperson for the M23 rebel group, Lawrence Kanyuka, said 19 girls and five boys were killed, adding that 29 people were being treated at local medical facilities. The fire started at a house before spreading to the two adjoining schools, local neighborhood administrator Moïse Lubala told The Associated Press. He said several students were trapped inside Furaha secondary school and some suffocated. A mix of boys and girls of different ages, students at Furaha and at Ujamaa primary school, were brought to the Nyamulagira BDOM health center in their school uniforms, nurse Ciza Jean-



Baptiste told the AP. Medical staff were struggling to keep track of the exact number of injured because there were so many, he said. "The exit was too narrow, so some students began jumping through windows while others rushed toward the door. As everyone tried to force their way out, students were pushed over and trampled on," said Lubala. The cause of the fire is not known, but the neighborhood where the fire started is densely populated and most houses are made out of wood, according to Lubala.

Congo's government struggles to exert control over the east of the country. M23 rebels, backed by Rwanda, took control of Bukavu in February 2025. More than 100 armed groups are vying for control of eastern Congo's trillions of dollars in mineral wealth that's critical for much of the world's technology.

Health services are under severe strain as the region grapples with the deadliest Ebola outbreak in history that has killed more than 3,300 people, with more than 6,800 confirmed cases recorded.

What We Remember When We Remember 9/11

Easton (US).(Agency)

Do you remember where you were and what you were doing when you learned of the September 11 terrorist attacks that occurred 25 years ago? Do you remember what you saw on television or how you felt? Is your memory highly detailed, and are you confident that what you are remembering is an accurate recollection of those details?



For most people who lived through the event, their answers to those questions will be a resounding "yes!" As a memory researcher, I know long-lasting and vivid "flashbulb memories" typically are for mundane events like driving to work or cooking dinner. These memories are made remarkable only due to their association

with learning about remote and exceptional public events. Learning about a remarkable event Flashbulb memories are not memories of direct involvement in a newsworthy event. Instead, they are recollections of the exact moment and surrounding context. If you, for example, lived through an earthquake, your memory is likely to include traumatic and vivid details of what you were doing when the earthquake struck. You would have memories of where you were, who you were with, and your thoughts and feelings at the time. However, the phenomenon of someone having a similarly strong memory when they've merely learned about an earthquake that occurred many miles away is what makes the flashbulb memory phenomenon significant. When comparing flashbulb memories with ordinary memories of everyday experiences, my colleague and I found that in both types of memories, people tended to forget details they originally included in the written descriptions of their memories. Both groups also introduced details that contradicted information presented initially at similar rates. It's as if when someone learned of the event,

Vladimir Putin arrives in Delhi for BRICS summit,
to hold bilateral talks with PM Modi

Tehran.(Agency)

Russian President Vladimir Putin began a three-day visit to India on Friday to attend the BRICS summit and hold talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, with the two sides expected to focus on expanding bilateral trade, investment and energy cooperation.

Putin is accompanied by a high-level delegation. "Warmly welcome President Vladimir Putin of Russia for the 18th BRICS Summit. He was received by MoS K V Singh at the airport. India and Russia share multifaceted and longstanding ties anchored in Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership," Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said in a post on X. It will be Putin's first in-person participation at a BRICS summit outside Russia since the war in Ukraine began in February 2022. The two-day BRICS summit

hosted by India starting Saturday is expected to focus on boosting collective resilience in food, energy, health, disaster reduction and critical supply chains with New Delhi positioning the bloc as an effective anchor to



navigate a fragmented geopolitical environment. The summit in New Delhi is taking place against the backdrop of a global economy facing the adverse impacts of the Russia-Ukraine war, the West Asia crisis,

especially the blockade of the Strait of Hormuz, and the Trump administration's trade and tariff policies.

Chinese President Xi Jinping, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, Indonesian counterpart Prabowo Subianto, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed Ali and Vietnamese Prime Minister Le Minh Hung are among the top leaders attending the summit. Putin and Modi are scheduled to hold wide-ranging bilateral talks on Friday afternoon. The meeting is expected to focus on enhancing cooperation in a range of areas, including defence, energy, technology, pharmaceuticals and people-to-people exchanges.