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Kerala CM seeks legal changes to protect film industry from piracy, AI threats

Kochi. (Agency)

Kerala CM VD Satheesan on Friday called for changes to existing laws to strengthen copyright protection and deal with new challenges arising from artificial intelligence. He said piracy was badly affecting the film industry and that stronger legal safeguards were needed for the sector.

Speaking after inaugurating a seminar on Music, Cinema and Law: Exploring the Intersections of Art, Culture and Law, Satheesan said films involved huge investments and the creative efforts of several people.

He said the law should be amended to protect the industry from piracy.

He also said the growing use of AI to create music, images and videos had brought new problems, including deepfakes and security threats.

The creation of fake visuals of prominent personalities using AI and their spread through social media showed the need for a legal framework that could respond to new technological challenges, he said.

Satheesan also stressed the importance of art and artists. He said art gives people an opportunity to rise above, even if only for a while, various difficulties in life and experience moments of joy.

The seminar is being jointly organised by the Kerala Judicial Academy and the National University of Advanced Legal Studies till September 13. It is discussing current legal issues related to music, cinema, copyright, AI, digital platforms and creative rights.

ED raid on ex-CM's PA's residence: Why Harish Rawat stepped down from Congress posts

New Delhi. (Agency)

Former Uttarakhand Chief Minister Harish Rawat on Friday announced his resignation from two Congress positions after the Enforcement Directorate (ED) searched the residence of his personal assistant, Chandan Singh Jeena, in a money laundering case linked to alleged irregularities in a 2016 UKSSSC recruitment examination.

Rawat said he did not want the controversy surrounding a close associate to affect Congress' campaign against corruption. He stepped down as a member of the Uttarakhand Pradesh Congress Committee executive and as a permanent invitee to the Congress Working Committee.

The ED conducted searches at several locations in Dehradun on Thursday, including premises linked to former UKSSSC officials, a private computer agency owner and alleged middlemen. The agency said it recovered Rs 32 lakh in cash, gold and luxury watches from Jeena's residence.

What ED recovered from Jeena's house

According to the ED, officials seized gold coins and chains weighing around 200.5 grams, along with 12 luxury watches from brands including Rolex, Rado, Piaget, Movado, Tissot and Casio Edifice.

The agency also froze bank accounts belonging to Jeena and his family members containing Rs 52.16 lakh. His mobile phone was seized for forensic examination.

PM Modi, Iran's Pezeshkian Hand-In-Hand: India's Picture Perfect Diplomacy

The photograph summed up New Delhi's unique position amid a fractured world order: at the centre, engaging with Iran and Russia while keeping space open for cooperation with all sides.

Chennai(Agency)

A picture, they say, is worth a thousand words. A striking image from the BRICS Business Forum in New Delhi on Friday showed Prime Minister Narendra Modi walking hand-in-hand with Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian. PM Modi led the Iranian President into the forum venue at Bharat Mandapam, holding his hand, with Russian President Vladimir Putin and South African President Cyril Ramaphosa walking alongside them.

The photograph summed up New Delhi's unique position amid a fractured world order: at the centre, engaging with Iran and Russia while keeping space open for dialogue and cooperation with all sides.

The powerful image also underscored a sense of solidarity among leaders of the expanded grouping as they came together

to discuss deeper cooperation in trade, investment, innovation and global development.

Pezeshkian's visit is his first to India as



President and comes amid the long-drawn war involving the US, Israel and Iran, even as Washington and New Delhi remain strategic partners.

The picture also captured India's strategic and pragmatic diplomatic position amid

the wars in Iran and Ukraine. Amid the global crises, India has kept its channels open with both Iran and Russia while balancing its strategic partnerships with the United States and other Western powers.

Later in the day, PM Modi held bilateral talks with the Iranian President. Meeting for the second time in under two weeks, the two leaders discussed India-Iran relations, with the broader situation in West Asia taking centre stage.

For a lasting solution to the Middle East crisis, India has firmly positioned "dialogue and diplomacy" as the way forward. India has also said energy security remains a key concern and called for safe passage for vessels carrying supplies.

Shortly after the meeting, PM Modi described Pezeshkian's trip to India as "more special because it is his first visit" to the country. "We talked about the India-Iran friendship.

Opposition Attacks BJP Government, Home Minister Harsh Sanghavi, and C.R. Patil Over Deteriorating Law and Order!

"Has Surat Become a Crime Capital?

MAHANAGAR METRO

Surat: How the Diamond and Textile Capital Became Ground Zero for a Major Law and Order DebateRenowned across the globe as the preeminent hub for diamond cutting and polishing and a massive powerhouse for the textile industry, Surat is facing a profound socio-political identity crisis. Once celebrated primarily for its bustling markets, entrepreneurial spirit, and economic prosperity, the city is now increasingly being branded by critics and media outlets as an emerging "Crime City." A relentless surge in violent incidents—ranging from premeditated murders and brazen daylight threats to armed street assaults and desperate robberies—has severely shaken public confidence. Compounding this unease is the rampant, open sale of illicit and foreign liquor alongside the unchecked operation of underground gambling dens. Together, these developments have laid bare the stark contrast between official claims of robust

governance and the ground reality experienced by ordinary citizens. The political significance of Surat further intensifies the gravity of this situation. As the home district of Gujarat's Minister of State for Home, Harsh Sanghavi, alongside powerful and influential state BJP leader C.R. Patil, Surat occupies a central position in the ruling party's political architecture. Because of this high-profile leadership connection, any administrative or security lapse in the city reverberates far beyond its municipal boundaries, immediately drawing intense statewide scrutiny. Opposition parties and local civic leaders have capitalized on this vulnerability, launching a fierce, multi-front offensive against the state government and accusing authorities of allowing law and order to be openly flouted in a region that should ideally serve as a model of stringent policing. Criminals Unrestrained, Public Living in Fear: The Opposition's Sharp CritiqueOp

position figures, local community leaders, and various public advocacy groups have launched a scathing, unsparring assault on the BJP government and the state Home Department, bringing forth a series of shocking and systemic allegations:Shielding Criminals and Political Patronage: The opposition directly alleges that anti-social elements, local thugs, and those operating illegal syndicates enjoy high-level political protection. According to critics, this covert or overt patronage creates a culture of impunity, leaving career criminals with zero fear of legal consequences or police intervention.Terror of Murders and Robberies: Public streets across various



neighborhoods have witerment orders (Tadipar) to banish bootleggers, gambling den operators, violent assailants, and other disruptive actors from city limits.

Congress renews push to rebuild party ahead of 2027 Assembly elections in Gujarat

The statement underlines the political significance the Congress attaches to Gujarat, where the party has struggled to regain its footing against the BJP's long-standing dominance.

AHMEDABAD.(Agency)

Newly appointed Gujarat Congress in-charge and Rajya Sabha MP

Sandeep Singh Surjewala arrived in Gujarat on Saturday for his first visit since taking charge, signalling the Congress high command's renewed push to rebuild the party ahead of the 2027 Assembly elections. His arrival follows the removal of Mukul Wasnik from the Gujarat in-charge post, amid growing concerns over the party's organisational performance. Welcomed at Ahmedabad Airport with a traditional turban ceremony and a tribal dance performance, Surjewala immediately stepped into a packed schedule of political meetings at Rajiv Gandhi Bhavan. The visit is expected to set the tone for a major organisational exercise in the Gujarat Congress.

Organisation Revamp Tops Surjewala's Agenda

Throughout the day, Surjewala is scheduled to meet state office bearers, city and district Congress presidents, heads of various cells and departments, and party MLAs. The discussions will centre on strengthening the organisation, energising grassroots workers and restoring the Congress's political momentum across Gujarat.

The timing is significant because the party has yet to finalise its new organisational team, despite repeated visits by Gujarat Congress president Amit Chavda to Delhi. With the organisational restructuring still pending, Surjewala's appointment has triggered expectations of major changes in the state unit. His immediate challenge is to rebuild a party organisation capable of taking on the BJP in the 2027 Assembly elections.



Don't go public about quitting electoral politics: Rahul Gandhi to Siddaramaiah

The proposed caste enumeration as part of the 2027 Census also figured prominently during Siddaramaiah's meeting with Rahul, the sources said.

BENGALURU(Agency).

Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Friday reportedly advised former chief minister Siddaramaiah not to make public statements about quitting electoral politics. At a meeting with Siddaramaiah in Delhi, Rahul told him that such remarks could hurt the Congress. The two are learnt to have discussed the political situation in the state and party organisational and electoral issues for nearly one-and-a-half hours, sources close to Siddaramaiah said. Rahul is also understood to have told Siddaramaiah that the Congress needs senior leaders of his experience.

Siddaramaiah is learnt to have explained that his decision is limited to electoral politics. He wants to remain active in public life and continue to raise issues concerning people. He cited his age and the changing nature of electoral politics for his decision not to contest the 2028 Assembly elections. Siddaramaiah recently said that he would not contest the 2028 Assembly elections, triggering speculation about his political future. He subsequently clarified that he had referred only to retirement from electoral politics and not active politics. Siddaramaiah, however, downplayed the significance of his meeting with Rahul. He told reporters that he had sought an appointment with Rahul and met him. The sources said Siddaramaiah also discussed filling two vacancies in the Shivakumar.



Two killed, one injured in 3 accidents in Gurgaon over 48 hours

Gurgaon.(Agency)

Two men were killed and a woman was injured in three separate road accidents in the city in the past two days. In the first incident, a 24-year-old man was killed after a speeding truck ran over the motorcycle he was travelling on near Binola flyover culvert in Bilaspur on Wednesday. Rahul, a resident of Rathivas village, worked with Shashi as a DJ. According to a complaint by Rahul's father, their console broke down that day and the two had gone out to buy spare parts.

At Binola flyover culvert, a truck approaching from Pachgaon Chowk at high speed rammed their bike. The truck's rear tyre ran over the motorcycle. Shashi fell to the side and escaped injury but Rahul, who was riding pillion, was crushed and died at the spot.

Police registered a case under sections 106 (causing death due to negligence) and 281 (rash driving) of BNS and started the investigation. In Sultanpur, Ajay Arjun (27) died after an unidentified vehicle hit his motorcycle on Wednesday night. His family was informed about the accident by SGT Hospital, where he was taken after the accident. When they reached the hospital, they were told he succumbed to his injuries. In the third incident, Amita Singh (27) suffered serious injuries after an e-rickshaw and a Honda City hit her on the service road in front of Sahara Mall on Thursday afternoon. Amita, who works at a Croma store in Sector 29, was travelling from Nathupur to her workplace at around 1pm.

According to the complaint filed by her uncle, Rampal, an e-rickshaw approaching from the side of JMD Mall and being driven negligently hit her first, causing her to fall and sustain injuries. The Honda City, coming from the direction of MG Road metro station, hit her when she was already on the ground.

Faridabad youth stabbed 12 times by masked bikers over rivalry, two arrested

Gurgaon.(Agency)

Four days after a youth was stabbed 12 times by three masked, bike-borne men in Sector 3 in Faridabad, police have arrested two of the accused. Efforts are on to trace the third person, Akash.

The accused, Dharmendra alias Lala (26) and Manish (22), are residents of Dabua Colony and are unemployed. Police found Dharmendra wanted to strike up a relationship with a woman who had been living in the same area. Some time ago, the woman shifted to Sector 3, where the victim, Nipun Kumar Patel (27) lived. The woman and Nipun, a marketing agent of a private company, grew close, because of which Dharmendra developed an enmity towards him.

A few days ago, he had warned Nipun not to contact the woman anymore but the two refused to listen to him. Dharmendra then planned the attack on Nipun with Manish and Akash. ACP (crime) Aman Yadav said Nipun had gone to a Valmiki temple in Sector 3 on Sept 7 when the attack took place. The three, wearing masks and riding a bike, attacked him and stabbed him with a knife 12 times. Nipun suffered serious injuries and is under treatment.

An attempt to murder case has been registered against the three on the basis of a complaint filed by Nipun's uncle, Dhananjay Kumar Patel.

After craters & open drains, a stray problem in Noida



Noida.(Agency)

Stray cattle are frequently spotted in sectors 122, 116 and 119 in Noida, and Beta-1, Gamma-1 and Delta in Greater Noida, as overgrown monsoon shrubs and grass along roadsides and in parks draw the animals in. Residents claim cattle are often found resting in the middle of roads, disrupting vehicle and pedestrian movement. "The stray animal menace in Sector Beta-1 has been steadily increasing for quite some time. The strays have also attacked residents and posed a risk of accidents, making it unsafe for people to step out," said Harinder Bhati, RWA general secretary of Sector Beta-1, Greater Noida. Bhati has written to GNIDA urging prompt action, including relocating strays from roads, conducting regular population-control drives, stepping up surveillance in areas with high concentrations of stray animals, and putting in place a permanent solution to prevent recurrence.

"There is significant increase in movement of stray cattle especially Sectors 121, 122, 119, 116, etc. While they encroach on the roads, commuters face a trying time navigating between broken, pothole-ridden roads and stray cattle," said Dinesh Singh, a resident of Sector 121. Residents also flagged the danger posed by open drains, particularly near Ryan International School in Sector Beta-1, where a drain filled with sewage and garbage poses a risk to schoolchildren and pedestrians.

Athletes must adopt sports science from an early age: Dola Banerjee

Mahanagar Metro Desk

Ahmedabad: Sep 11: Two time Olympian and and Arjuna Awardee archer Dola Banerjee believes that India's medal haul at international competitions will significantly rise if it is made sure that athletes adopt sports science at an early age. Speaking to SAI Media on the sidelines of the sending off ceremony of the Asian Games bound Indian swimming contingent at the SAI, NCoE, Naranpura here, the former recurve archer said "during our time we did not have facilities like nutritionist, psychologist and masseur, during the last phase of my career meditation was introduced into our regimen, at that time we thought these things to be unnecessary, but today in competitive sports, sports psychology,

nutrition all these things are essential. These things need to be the part of training for the athletes since to their childhood, these facilities have to spread to the grassroots." Dola advised contemporary athletes to make the best use of modern support services "it is their (athletes) responsibility to incorporate these support services in their day to day practice. Today just practice is not enough, if you are practicing seven hours a day, then five hours should be for practice, two hours should be invested in sports science." The 2007 Archery World Cup individual Gold medalist appeared optimistic about Indian archer's chances at the upcoming Aichi Nagoya Asian Games "I am expecting a good result at the Asian Games, quite a few juniors are

part of the squad, they play without pressure so are likely to do well. We are highly ranked in compound archery hence there are expectations from compound. In recurve also the men's team won silver and women's team won bronze last time (2022 Asian Games). We have started doing well in recurve as well, Dhiraj (Bommadevara) is in good form, last Asian also he was there, he missed an individual medal by a whisker, we hope that this time he will bag a medal, Ankita (Bhakat) is also there, our recurve team is quite experienced." She felt that India is in the right trajectory and called for promotion of sports culture in the country "at Paris (2024 Olympics) we had fourth place finish in seven events, there is a difference be-



tween fourth place finishes and third place finish but for us, reaching fourth place too is an improvement compared to earlier times. We must promote sports culture in the country, especially in schools, parents need to put their children into sports, that way the talent pool will be expanded, and we will produce world class athletes."

Let Mobile Phones Be a Tool, Not a Substitute for Relationships

Mahanagar Metro Desk

Author: Rupesh Solanki

Today, human beings are progressing rapidly in the world of technology. The small mobile phone in our hands seems to have the entire world contained within it. With just one click, we can access news, entertainment, education, knowledge, business information, and connect with people across the world. However, the same mobile phone sometimes takes us away from the people closest to us—and this has become a serious social concern. Four members of the same family may be sitting together in the same room, yet everyone's eyes may be fixed on a different mobile screen. This scene is becoming increasingly common. There is less conversation at home and more scrolling on screens. A mother speaks, but the child has earphones on; a father wants to talk, but the child is busy on social media; brothers and sisters sit beside each other, yet communicate through messages. This scene is not merely a reflection of the increasing use of technology; it is also a reflection of the decreasing communication within relationships. Poetic Lines: "We kept searching for everyone in the world of screens, but forgot to ask where our own people were. There was no time for



conversations, yet thousands of messages were sent, the relationships were alive, but the conversations had disappeared. "Mobile phones are not bad. Social media is not our enemy either. The problem begins when the tool starts controlling our lives and we become slaves to that very tool. The proper use of a mobile phone can make it a powerful medium for knowledge. Students can access educational material, farmers can obtain agricultural information, businesspeople can stay informed about markets, young people looking for employment can find opportunities, and ordinary citizens can access information from around the world at their fingertips. Therefore, the question is not about the mobile phone itself; the question is about the way we

choose to use it. Parents especially need to become aware of excessive mobile-phone use among children and teenagers. Giving a child a mobile phone to keep them quiet is easy, but sitting with them, talking to them, listening to their problems, and spending time with them is far more important. Before giving a child an expensive toy, give them some of your precious time. Every family can set aside a certain amount of time each day when nobody uses a mobile phone. Eating together, discussing the day, listening to the experiences of elders, and paying attention to what children have to say—these small steps can bring a significant positive change to family relationships. We often tell children, "Use your mobile phone less." But chil-

dren also observe our behaviour. If parents themselves remain constantly busy on their phones, it becomes difficult to bring about a change in children merely through advice. The most effective way to keep children away from excessive mobile-phone use is not merely to make rules, but to give them the love and time of their family. Social media has connected us with thousands of people, but sometimes it has taken away our habit of talking to the people in our own homes. We immediately like a post from a stranger, but do not find time to listen to our mother sitting at home. We write beautiful birthday wishes on someone's social-media post, but forget to notice the loneliness reflected on the faces of our elderly family members. We must understand that being connected in the digital world and being connected in human relationships are not the same thing. Today, society does not need more mobile phones; it needs more humanity and more meaningful communication. Let us make a small resolution—Let us spend a little time every day not with our mobile phones, but with our families. Let us talk to our elders. Let us listen carefully to our children. Let us not merely send messages to our friends; let us call them sometimes.

After Aravali land levelled, mining dept OKs removal of stones, forest stops it

Gurgaon.(Agency)

The forest department has objected to the mining department allowing disposal of 500 metric tonnes of stone excavated from protected Aravali land at Badkhal, saying neither excavation nor removal can be allowed without its clearances.

In a letter to the district mining officer, the deputy conservator of forests in Faridabad said the mining department had granted permission on Aug 17 for disposal of stone from the tourism department's land at Badkhal. The specific khasra numbers cited in the permission fall under the Punjab Land Preservation Act (PLPA), the forest department said.

It said the permission could not legally facilitate excavation or removal of minerals from land under its protection and jurisdiction. The mining department was asked to withdraw or recall the permission. No excavation, removal, transportation or disposal of stone should be allowed until the required forest permissions and statutory approvals are obtained, it clarified.

The objection came days after TOI found two excavators operating on the rocky



terrain during a ground visit. Large stretches had been stripped of vegetation and extensive rock excavation was visible across the 25 acre tract, which is protected under sections 4 and 5 of the PLPA and lies in the Aravali landscape. The forest department had then clarified that no permission had been sought from it. A team visited the site after learning

about the work and ordered that it be stopped. A local villager had told TOI that excavation had been underway for two days and workers had shown govt permission believed to cover handling and disposal of up to 500MT of stone generated during the work. The latest communication formally puts the forest department at odds with the earlier

permission. It said mining, excavation or removal of minor minerals in the Aravali area, particularly on forest or PLPA land, cannot be permitted without prior NOC or clearance wherever applicable. It also cited Supreme Court orders protecting the Aravalis and banning mining in areas covered by sections 4 and 5 of the PLPA. The Badkhal site is especially sensitive because it lies along Badkhal lake, which govt has been trying to revive since it dried up in 2002. Its plans include restoring water retention, recharging the lake with treated water, treating the lake bed, strengthening the bund and developing the lakefront.

The episode comes amid repeated reports of illegal excavation in the Aravalis. On Dec 23, 2024, TOI reported that around 6,000MT of stone was illegally mined after a hillock at Rava in Nuh was blasted apart. In Jan 2025, it reported action ordered against three revenue officials over illegal road construction in Basai Meo. The forest department has also marked its latest letter to the Faridabad deputy commissioner, asking the administration to ensure compliance with forest laws and Supreme Court orders.

NEWS BOX

Vande Mataram row: Gujarat Speaker orders privilege proceedings against Congress MLA

**Ahmedabad (Agency).**

Speaker of the Gujarat Assembly Shankar Chaudhary on Friday decided to initiate Privilege Committee proceedings against Congress MLA Imran Khedawala for “disrespecting Vande Mataram” by sitting midway through the recitation of the national song in the House on the first day of the monsoon session. Passing an order in this regard on the last day of the monsoon session on Friday, the Speaker referred the matter to the Privilege Committee, asking it to investigate the same and submit a report before the House.

The Speaker passed the order while acting on a point of order raised by Deputy Chief Minister Harsh Sanghavi against Khedawala, who represents the Jamalpur-Khadia seat in Ahmedabad and is the lone Muslim MLA in the 182-member assembly. On the first day of Gujarat Assembly’s monsoon session on Wednesday, Khedawala sat down after completion of the second stanza of the Vande Mataram, during the customary rendition of the song in the House. Some other members of the Congress were also present in the House, but all of them stood up through the rendition of the entire song. Speaking to the media, Khedawala had defended his act, stating that it was his personal decision.

Three people injured, 2 animals dead as power line snaps in Chennai

CHENNAI (Agency).

In two separate incidents at Chromepet and Old Pallavaram, three people sustained injuries, while a cow and a stray dog killed after live power cable snapped on Friday. At Thiruneermalai Malai Salai in Nagalkeni near Chrompet, a high-voltage power line fell while Tambaram corporation conservancy workers Bheemanna (45) and Gouramma (33) were engaged in cleaning work.

The wire fell in a puddle and the two workers who were cleaning nearby received the electric shock. The duo accidentally stepped on it and sustained injuries. A private food delivery company employee, Vasanth Kumar (22), who too was walking along the road came in contact soon after and suffered injuries.

A police officer said, “Vasanth Kumar was admitted to Tambaram Government Hospital and later shifted to KMC Hospital for further treatment. The two conservancy workers are undergoing treatment at a private hospital in Chrompet. A stray dog which came close to the snapped cable died.” In a separate incident near the Gandhi statue at Old Pallavaram, a power line snapped and fell, leaving a cow dead when it stepped on to the cable. The Tambaram city police are investigating both the incidents. The Tamil Nadu Power Distribution Corporation (TNPDC) officials have also initiated a probe.

Gang targets prisoner, ends up attacking his friends in Chennai

CHENNAI (Agency).

A gang planning to exact revenge on a history-sheeter ended up attacking his friends by mistake, unaware that their target was still in prison. The incident happened on Thursday evening, as the gang intercepted the car carrying the friends of history-sheeter Masilamani from Kolathur near Puzhal police station and attacked them with knives, leaving one of them injured. Two others escaped by running into a nearby police station.

The police have arrested two members — Kolathur Vali (20) and Nareesh (18) — and are on the hunt for others. The attack is suspected to be in revenge for the murder of a rowdy at the Kilpauk MCH last January. Sources said though Masilamani got bail, the police did not let him come out of Puzhal prison, as they received information about the attack. The group that was attacked include Jeeva, an associate of Masilamani, who had been released from the Puzhal prison a few days ago, and his associates Lokesh, Karthik and Gokul Nath. They came to the spot to receive Masilamani.

Mandi-Kullu travel time halved as Deod, Hanogi tunnels open

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari, announcing the opening of the tunnels, described it as a significant transformation in connectivity on the Pandoh-Takoli section of NH-3

Shimla (Agency).

Deod Hanogi tunnels, Deod Tunnel, Hanogi Tunnel, Kiratpur-Manali highway, Mandi Kullu travel time, Mandi Kullu route, Nitin Gadkari tunnels, Pandoh Takoli section, NH-3 Himachal Pradesh, Kullu Manali connectivity, NHAI tunnel project, Pandoh Bypass Takoli, Leh Ladakh route

In a major connectivity boost in the Himalayan region, two tunnels — Deod Tunnel (T4-01) and Hanogi Tunnel (T4-02) — on the Kiratpur-Manali four-lane highway were opened to traffic on Friday, halving the two-hour Mandi-Kullu journey. The tunnels — a key link to Kullu-Manali and towards the higher Himalayan region, including the Leh-Ladakh route — are set to provide big relief to traffic bottlenecks between Mandi and Kullu-Manali. The Deod tunnel spans 2.8

kilometres, and Hanogi Tunnel is 650 metres long. Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari, announcing the opening of the tunnels, described it as a



significant transformation in connectivity on the Pandoh-Takoli section of NH-3 (formerly NH-21). “The tunnels will reduce the affected road stretch from 6 km to 3.5 km and provide relief from prolonged congestion at

Jogni Mata Mandir, Deod and Hanogi,” Gadkari said on X. The tunnels underwent safety inspections and a trial run on September 7. Initially, one tube of each twin-tube tunnel is being opened to traffic. The tunnels are linked by a 140-metre bridge near Khotinalla. Himachal Pradesh NHAI Regional Officer Col Ajay Bargoti told The Indian Express that motorists heading towards Kullu, Manali and other destinations would no longer have to negotiate the approximately six-km mountainous and winding stretch, with the affected route now reduced to around 3.5 km. During the peak tourist season, these locations have witnessed traffic delays of one to two hours or even longer. The Deod-Hanogi tunnels are part of the Rs 4,465.94-crore four-laning project covering the 18.908-km end of the Pandoh Bypass-Takoli section.

‘Not builder’s fault’: Gujarat minister on slab collapse in Gandhinagar that injured workers

Ahmedabad (Agency).

Gujarat Minister of State for Labour and Employment Kanti Amrutiya has nearly given a clean chit to the builder in the incident of the slab collapse of an under-construction commercial building on Tuesday (September 9) night in Kudasana area of Gandhinagar that injured nearly a dozen workers. Fifteen workers were rescued, and 12 of them were hospitalised after a large metal slab collapsed at the under-construction site in Gandhinagar, officials said. Speaking to the media during his visit to GMERS hospital in Gandhinagar to meet the injured on Thursday, Amrutiya said, “We all understand that when a slab is being filled, it is supported by struts. Even if one gets moved, the others too, move out (of level). If a person moves one of them, the others also collapse. The disaster has not been caused by a machine but because of the system... It is not like the machine caused this, or it is the builder’s fault.”

Three workers with minor injuries had been discharged by the time the minister visited the

hospital. “These workers fall under my department and, apart from treatment, we have taken the responsibility of making sure they are able to run their households. The condition of four patients are serious and two of them have major injuries. It is said that



Gujarat has a large heart. I have spoken to the builder, and he too is ready to help the workers and their families,” said Amrutiya.

The builder of this particular project, named Boski – The Empire, is Nilesh Modi and his

partners. Among those who visited the site after the accident include Deputy Chief Minister Harsh Sanghavi, Director General of Police G S Malik, Gandhinagar South MLA Alpesh Thakor and Ahmedabad Commissioner of Police Anupam Singh Gahlaut. Asked about possible legal action, Minister Amrutiya said, “Legal action takes place when it is the builder’s fault. But primarily, I don’t think it is so, 100%. They (builders) do have responsibility for those working there and I will call them and I will make them solve the problems, if any.” He said the Road & Building department would investigate “but it’s not like the slab collapsed after it was built or poor quality materials were used... Like you all, I am also aware of these matters and we will make sure the workers do not suffer in any manner.” The Indian Express attempted to reach out to the minister, but he remained unavailable for comment.

Bengaluru’s PGs mushroom, but zero enforcement

BENGALURU (Agency).

While the Supreme Court signalled pan-India guidelines to examine building bylaws, land use violation and illegal constructions following the collapse of a Paying Guest (PG) accommodation building in New Delhi that claimed seven lives, Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) officials admit there is hardly any action against illegal buildings in the city.

A senior official from the Town Planning Department under the GBA openly stated that illegal buildings, including apartments and PG accommodation structures, are mushrooming. “Despite complaints from the public and activists, on the ground there is just 1 per cent action, or no action at all,” the official said.

As per GBA officials, there are complaints of 5-floor-plus structures coming up on 30x40 sqft and 40x60 sqft sites as paying guest, co-living and studio paying guest accommodation. In many places, construction is taken up without clearance and in complete violation of approvals. “The greed of builders and landowners can be seen in the rise in setback violations and unauthorised floors. Ward Assistant Engineers (AE), Assistant Executive Engineers (AEE), and Executive Engineers (EE) are responsible for stopping such violations,” said Nagesh R, a civic volunteer in AECS Layout, where illegal PGs have come up.

Lilac for women teachers, blue for men; students to get green uniforms

Shimla (Agency).

Himachal Pradesh on Thursday approved a new colour theme for 158 government schools newly brought under the CBSE curriculum, with the uniform and building colours drawing inspiration from the state’s green cover and forest landscape.

Green uniforms for students, lilac for women teachers and light blue for men — the schools are set for a makeover in appearance as well as in attire. The school buildings will be painted in olive green and sand beige shades. The decision was taken at a meeting of the state Education Department chaired by Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu. A senior officer said a letter was issued in this regard on Thursday. Education Secretary Rakesh Kanwar told ,

“Green for the students’ uniform and the school buildings was chosen to reflect the green cover and forest cover of Himachal Pradesh. Our state is known for its greenery, dense forests, flora and fauna.”



Kanwar said all the teachers in 158 schools will adopt the new dress code from the 2026-27 academic session. Students, however, will switch to the green-themed uniform from the next

academic session. According to broader guidelines discussed in the meeting, teachers’ uniforms will be expected to be formal, modest and professional, with minimal accessories. They will also be required to wear their identity cards while on duty. Education department officials said teachers’ uniforms are not limited to 158 schools. A senior official said, “Earlier this year, the department asked all around 6,000 government schools in the state to select a dress code for their teaching staff. While the process is still underway, teachers in the 158 CBSE-affiliated government schools have opted for light lilac-purple for women teachers and light blue shirts and trousers for men teachers.”

In a first, Punjab Police secures extradition of gangster from Europe

Amritpal Singh alias Amrit Dalam, a key operative of the Jaggu Bhagwanpuria gang who is wanted in 21 cases in Punjab, was brought back to India on Saturday.

Chandigarh (Agency). In a major breakthrough against transnational organised crime, the Punjab Police, with help from central agencies, secured the extradition of a fugitive criminal from the Republic of Moldova, marking its first extradition from a European country.

Amritpal Singh alias Amrit Dalam, a key operative of the Jaggu Bhagwanpuria gang, was brought back to India on Saturday. Allegedly affiliated with gangster Harry Chattha abroad, Dalam is wanted in 21 cases in Punjab, including murder, attempt to murder, narcotics, and offences under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and Arms Act, among others. Dalam is allegedly involved in targeted killings, extortion, murder, and weapons smuggling. He was suspected of being in the UAE before shifting base to Moldova. A rival of the Bambiha, Lucky

Patial, and Ghanshampuriah gangs, Dalam recently claimed responsibility for a shootout that killed gangster Gora Bariar.

Punjab Police records list 21 criminal cases against Dalam, whose father Hira Singh is from Dalam Nangal in Gurdaspur, in the state. Four are at the trial stage in Batala. Investigations continue in the other 17: seven FIRs in Batala, four in Gurdaspur, two each in Amritsar Commissionerate and Hoshiarpur, and one each in Ludhiana Commissionerate and State Special Operations Cell, Amritsar. The case categories include five murder cases, nine cases under the Arms Act, one Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act case, one case under UAPA and explosives provisions, cases for

extortion and the Passport Act (for fake passport). A specific case cited in



connection with the Interpol notice is FIR No 168, dated October 20, 2024, at Bulloval police station in Hoshiarpur, involving a double murder.

Punjab Director General of Police Gaurav Yadav said Operation Eastern Reach, a six-month intelligence-led international manhunt, succeeded due to sustained surveillance and Punjab Police’s close coordination with central agencies and international partners. “I commend Anti Gangster Task Force (AGTF) Punjab & Overseas Fugitive Tracking and Extradition Cell (OFTEC) Punjab for their relentless efforts. We thank the Moldovan authorities, Azerbaijan Authorities, IPCU-CBI, Ministry of Home Affairs, the Ministry of External Affairs and all other central agencies as part of this international cooperation,” he added.

A BRICS wall of plurilateral alternatives

If BRICS chair India's aim is to hold a 'successful' 18th summit in New Delhi, it can be said with near certainty almost on the eve of the conclave that it will indeed be a success. The key to defining this outcome, however, is that success in this context is a relative term. For India, if the summit passes without discord—as did the 2023 G20 summit in New Delhi—it will be deemed a success.

Plurilateral summits hosted by India are only partially aimed at their member countries or the rest of the world. Indian foreign policy is now equally aimed at convincing the domestic Indian population that India is a heavy-lifter on the global stage. This was evident during the 18th G20 summit, when all of India was energised and contributed to it in some way as if it was an occasion of historic significance.

Since then, Brazil and South Africa have hosted G20 summits without any such fanfare. The 21st G20 summit later this year in Miami will be no different except for US President Donald Trump's tantrums in its run-up and possibly at the event itself. For one of the BRIC—without 'S' then—founding members, China, a successful summit is one where its laser-sharp focus is on promoting its national interests. For China, which will host the organisation's next summit in 2027, the greater good of BRICS is secondary to its use for China's own good. If it can move the plurilateral group even a little bit towards acting as a hedge against the US, it will consider the conclave a success.

China will measure the New Delhi summit's success—from its point of view—if its 400-member delegation accompanying President Xi Jinping can convince India to abolish or reduce the high tariff on Made in China electric vehicles. China produces over two-thirds of the world's EVs. During the deliberations in New Delhi, China and Russia—another founding member—will push towards creating BRICS credit rating agencies to catalyse the process of attracting foreign direct investments into BRICS countries. As a past victim of the whims of Western credit rating agencies like Moody's, Standard & Poor's and Fitch, India ought to be sympathetic to this idea. But these credit-raters have powerful lobbies in many BRICS governments. So, if China and Russia do not get their way this weekend in New Delhi, they will try their utmost during next year's Chinese presidency to achieve this objective. It will be the same with the US-controlled SWIFT (Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication), the backbone of cross-border money transactions. Russia has immensely suffered because Western sanctions have cut off its banks from SWIFT transactions. So has Iran because of unilateral US sanctions. An alternative to SWIFT may not emerge at the New Delhi summit, but in-depth discussions and a determined push towards it may see its birth under Chinese chairship.

Realities, not ideology, will determine the emergence of financial multipolarity, which is the desire not only of many BRICS countries, but also of the Global South as a whole. They feel excluded from decision-making in the post-Second World War financial architecture, of which the Bretton Woods institutions are emblematic. The Shanghai-headquartered New Development Bank (NDB), popularly known as BRICS Bank, is not anywhere close to replacing the World Bank or the International Monetary Fund. But in its short 11-year existence, the NDB has funded the equivalent of almost \$43 billion on 139 projects, most of which Bretton Woods institutions would not have looked at. NDB projects have a high level of social development content. It is significant that nearly a quarter of all NDB funding has been in local currencies. Sixty-five percent of intra-BRICS trade is now in local currencies. Add to this China's decision to drop the US dollar for Iranian oil purchases in favour of the renminbi and that 45 percent of Saudi oil is now sold to China in renminbi.

Split identity of the Bar Council of India

The Bar Council of India overreached when it tried to bar NALSAR graduates from being empanelled as lawyers. A body of elected practitioners carries no pedagogic mandate. But the BCI's own confession of unchecked mushrooming of substandard institutions of legal education needs to be addressed

On the morning of August 13, the Bar Council of India (BCI) issued a six-page order directing every state bar council (SBC) to refuse enrolment to the entire 2026 graduating class of NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad. The provocation was an email in which outgoing students had asked their vice-chancellor to reconsider inviting the Chief Justice of India to their convocation. By evening, the order was initially watered down and then withdrawn. In a single day, the BCI asserted a power to jeopardise the futures of an entire graduating class, and then withdrew the order as though nothing had happened. The rule of law is the first condition of a civil society, and the legal profession holds a special responsibility to defend it. It is therefore troubling when its statutory authority exercises power without observing the disciplines expected of a regulator. A regulator's stock-in-trade is natural justice. It hears affected persons, gives reasons for its decisions and does not practise collective punishment. If, by the BCI's own admission, the vast majority of the students were innocent, was the order designed to punish the innocent?

The order cited no statutory provision. Section 48B of the Advocates Act, 1961, which enables the BCI to issue directions to SBCs, is tied to its general supervision of their functions. Section 24 requires an SBC to enrol applicants who satisfy the prescribed conditions, while Section 24A specifies the statutory grounds of disqualification. Petitioning a V-C appears nowhere among them. The direction therefore purported to require SBCs to withhold enrolment on a ground not found in the statute. It was issued as an interim order without notice or hearing to persons who were not before the BCI. Its withdrawal did not answer the question of power: it conceded innocence, not want of jurisdiction.

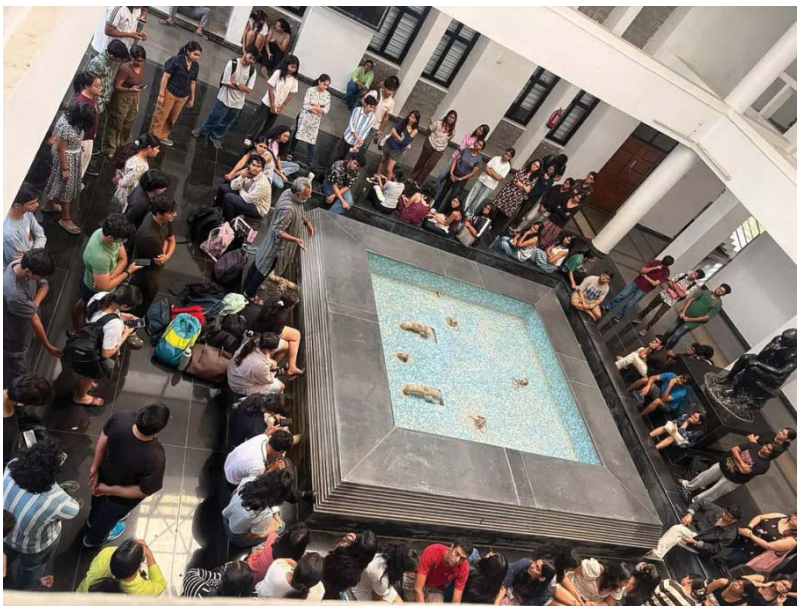
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Nor is the episode entirely isolated. The BCI's three-year moratorium on new law colleges, notified last year, was withdrawn within seven months after the Supreme Court began asking questions. In Gaurav Kumar (2024), the Supreme Court found bar councils charging enrolment fees as high as ₹42,100 against the statutory ceiling of ₹750; and a year later, the court was still threatening contempt proceedings. A regulator that must be litigated into complying with its own statute is hardly well placed to lecture universities on standards. Why is the BCI in the classroom at all? The Advocates Act links its role in legal education to qualifications required for enrolment. Section 7 speaks of standards set in consultation with the universities, so that a degree may qualify its holder for enrolment. But a licence to keep the gate is not a title to the house. The Supreme Court's

September 3 decision confirms the lack of jurisdiction of BCI to punish law students.

Earlier, in March 2025, dismissing the BCI's challenge concerning two convicts attending law classes online, the court observed that "the BCI has no business to go into this legal education part", that the field belongs to jurists and academicians, and to have "some mercy on legal education".

A body of elected practitioners carries no pedagogic mandate. BCI's 2025 moratorium rules confess to the unchecked mushrooming of substandard institutions across about 2,000 centres of legal education. If decades of inspections, approvals and standards have coincided



with proliferation, the answer cannot be more of the same. The national law universities, meanwhile, flourished precisely where the BCI's pedagogical hand was lightest.

No other civilised world has a precedent for this degree of micro-control. England's solicitors' regulator permits candidates with a degree in any discipline to enter the profession through a single qualifying examination, followed by supervised work experience. The closest comparator, the American Bar Association's accreditation monopoly, was academic-run, unlike the BCI, and the Texas and Florida Supreme Courts ended it this January.

The BCI has supplied the datum itself. Its leadership lamented in 2023 that fewer than 20 percent of NLU students opted for litigation. The question is why. Most

junior advocates struggle to earn a subsistence income. The Madras High Court had to direct advocates on the Tamil Nadu and Puducherry rolls to pay their juniors a minimum stipend of ₹15,000-20,000 a month. A first-year associate at leading firms can now earn a package of around ₹25 lakh a year. Our best students have read the signal clearly: many choose corporate practice or postgraduate study abroad instead. A student who petitions her V-C to reconsider a convocation invitation is doing what the profession exists to do. The order seeking the complete list of signatories and threatening their professional entry turns enrolment into an instrument of coercion. A regulator that teaches its entrants that dissent

may cost them their careers sends the wrong lesson about the rule of law. The deeper problem is institutional. The Advocates Act was a product of its time, drafted for a self-governing guild before India learnt to build regulators. Six decades of experience have settled what responsible regulation needs: defined mandate, separation of functions, procedural fairness, reasoned and appealable decisions, and meaningful accountability. The BCI's present structure has none of them. Not one seat on it is earmarked for an academic, nor does it have any interface with the society. It is time to bring the BCI's role and powers within a clearer institutional framework. Let it keep the gate—one credible examination, competently administered, along with enrolment, professional standards and discipline, but exercise them within clearly defined statutory

powers, through fair procedures and reasoned decisions, and effective accountability. Let everything upstream—curriculum, degrees, doctorates and internal academic discipline—return to the universities, with an independent academic council providing oversight of legal education. The NALSAR episode shows how far the BCI has yet to travel. Regulation is not the mere exercise of power; it is the disciplined exercise of power in pursuit of a legitimate public purpose. That is the reform the statute needs. In its absence, the market will impose a cruder one: the best graduates will increasingly choose careers outside litigation, and the profession will lose precisely the entrants it most needs.

A little silence, please: Authorities must act as noise taking lives

Loud noise particularly affects expectant mothers, young children and the elderly. The authorities must stop merely paying lip service to a growing public health hazard and strictly enforce rules governing both the decibel levels and permitted hours of noise

What could be more shockingly symptomatic of India's noise pollution epidemic than a violent mob silencing a musician who protested loudness? The death of Chongtham Vikram Singh, a Manipuri musician in Delhi, at the hands of a mob that included an adolescent boy is the latest extreme manifestation of a growing disregard for the health and peace of others among Indians who equate celebration with loud noise. The disturbing irony in Singh's case was compounded by the silence of his neighbours as he was chased and beaten near his apartment. The 47-year-old musician's death was not an isolated incident. Loud music has become de rigueur at private functions and communal festivals, while complaints against it are increasingly provoking violent reactions. Last week, 45-year-old Satish Sharma succumbed to injuries sustained after he was pushed down a staircase following his complaint about loud music from a neighbour's house in Noida. Pune-based civic activist Vidyanand Bapat was assaulted on camera after complaining about loud DJ music during Ganesh



Chaturthi celebrations. Several instances of mob violence were also reported during recent Kanwariya yatras against those protesting ear-splitting music played on stacked sound systems. Yet India has long recognised noise pollution as a public health hazard. Ambient noise was officially recognised as a pollutant in 2006 and, in 2011, the Central Pollution Control Board announced a National

Ambient Noise Monitoring Network. However, a study published in Nature earlier this year found that Indian cities are growing harmfully louder, including around hospitals, schools and residential areas. The World Health Organization has warned that prolonged exposure to excessive noise can contribute to cardiovascular disease, sleep disruption, cognitive fatigue, and poorer work and school performance. The warnings, evidently, have fallen on deaf ears. The official apathy is appalling. This March, the government informed the Lok Sabha that it had not conducted any study to measure the health impact of car

honking and loudspeaker noise, despite its own department recommending such research. Loud noise particularly affects expectant mothers, young children and the elderly. The authorities must stop merely paying lip service to a growing public health hazard and strictly enforce rules governing both the decibel levels and permitted hours of noise.

The quest for self-reliance in defence

There is import dependence because too many plans, goals and targets have come unstuck

SCOTT Bessent, the US Treasury Secretary, laid out three maxims in a recent speech: "The nation that cannot produce what it needs is not truly secure. The nation that depends on its adversaries for critical inputs is not truly sovereign. And the nation that reduces its economics to consumption is not truly prosperous." Bessent's context is a world that his country, more than any other, has worked to create—in which, as Thucydides wrote, the strong do what they can, and the weak suffer what they must. Where alliances can be disregarded, friendships become irrelevant and markets subject to unexpected disruptions. The phrase that characterises this new world is weaponised interdependence. Such weaponisation comes more easily to those in control of the main nodes of the global economy, giving them coercive power. One could even think of panopticon situations (the usual example being a single guard in a circular prison who can watch all the inmates). Think of the SWIFT interbank communication system. Equally, they could offer choke points for coercive use. Choke points can also be points of vulnerability—think submarine cables which, if cut, could cripple an adversary for a while. For a middle power like India, such a world is more complex and offers many new challenges, and only imperfect answers or solutions. In the spirit of atmanirbharta, can India hope to ensure its security and sovereignty by producing all that it needs—as Bessent asked? Think of the major weapons platforms and technologies that are currently imported. Or not rely on others for critical inputs—something that even the major powers don't attempt? Most obviously, what price strategic autonomy when 90 per cent of the country's oil and half its gas needs are imported? And what price sovereignty in the face of penal tariffs and arbitrary trade sanctions?

It is obvious that the goals in such a world have to be not just economic efficiency and competitiveness but also finding ways to minimise vulnerability—without paying too great a price through higher costs that localisation often imposes. Hence the current attempts at domestic chip manufacture and the setting up of data centres. Yet interdependence is written into the scenario and must be dealt with. The asymmetric conflicts in Ukraine and Iran pose their own urgent questions for the economy. Hundreds of missiles and drones (offensive and defensive) have been fired in a day, for days on end, in both theatres. Can India hope to develop such a supply capability, given its limited manufacturing base, or (as a more sensible

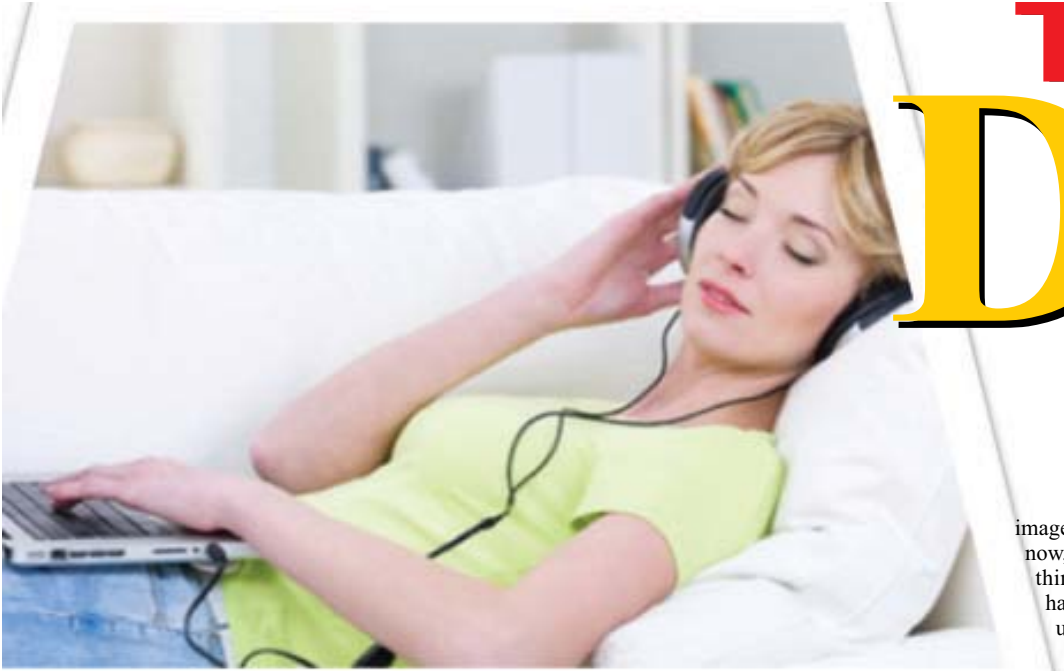
alternative) turn civilian industrial units to military use in short order? And how well is the country positioned in the context of wars that will henceforth be fought in the cyber-physical world?

Sensible policies can always provide answers. India could become an electro-state, for instance, by copying China's example to reduce oil dependence and multiply storage capacity in order to insulate against supply shocks. China



can store more than four months' oil requirements, whereas India's strategic reserves are for barely 10 days. When availability can trump price in a critical agricultural input like fertiliser, sensible policy can serve to boost the domestic production of an item that does not after all involve rocket science. India has always been wary of international dependencies. Especially in defence, space and atomic energy, it has sought from the beginning to build national capabilities and be self-reliant. There are some impressive success

stories to show for this in the defence arena: the nuclear-powered submarines, for instance (though Russian help has been critical). And the multi-pronged missile programme. A layered air defence system that showed its mettle during Operation Sindoor. Mobile howitzers for the artillery have been developed by the Armaments R&D Establishment in partnership with Kalyani and Tata. Some aspects of electronic warfare capability constitute another success story. The risk is that overreach can result in failure, or unaffordable delays (which, in defence, is the same thing). Overreach explains why many attempts at self-reliance in defence have failed, such that the country is the world's second largest importer of armaments (after Ukraine). Major weapons platforms that the country needs are still being imported—those on the current list being Rafales, submarines and long-endurance drones. And imported weapons tend to be far more expensive than indigenous substitutes, when these are developed. Moreover, the world sends periodic reminders about supply vulnerabilities. The gas turbine engines that have powered the Navy's main fighting ships have traditionally come from Ukraine, now consumed by war; fortunately, Bharat Heavy Electricals has been producing gas turbines for the frontline warships. But the supply of the S-400 air defence systems has been interrupted by Russian preoccupations. And Hindustan Aeronautics Limited can't turn out the 180 Tejas fighters that the Air Force desperately needs because (among other things) the engines have to come from General Electric, which has delayed production because (again, inter alia) a South Korean supplier of components has gone out of business. Ambition is as ambition does. The import dependence is because too many plans, goals and targets have come unstuck. The dependence on General Electric engines for Tejas is because the domestically developed Kaveri engine didn't measure up. The Army's demanding specifications for an infantry rifle (such as interchangeable barrels that use bullets with different sizes!) proved too complicated to deliver, resulting in large-scale imports. The NavIC (Navigation with Indian Constellation) satellite-based system that was to be a regional substitute for the US GPS (Global Positioning System) is non-functional because of a shortage of operational satellites and the failure of an atomic clock.



Top 5 ideas to De-stress this weekend

images in my mind. If I asked you now, whatever you do, do not think of a blue ball, what happens? Exactly, you conjure up an image of a blue ball and I might even guess that it showed in the top right hand corner of your "internal screen". The premise is that you can't visualize nothing, and what you visualize, you are giving power to, so if you "see" pictures of what you don't want, guess what? You will end up attracting what you don't want. We cannot bring into our world what we have not been able to at least imagine first.

Stressed due to exams? Try these foods

daily is a must for school going children. Calcium is important for physical development in children, and helps build immunity as well. **Protein:** Whether through eggs, dairy or meat, adequate quantities of protein is a must for a child's growth. An appropriate supply of protein leads to muscle boosts and helps your child remain physically alert, active and fit. **How to reduce stress in daily life** **Tips to control stress:** In order to lead a healthy and stress-free life, it is vital to follow certain guidelines or steps. They will help you get a better control over life and alter the way you view stress or its trigger factors. **Regular exercise:** Not surprisingly, exercise is one of the best

conflicts or any other stressful situation. Try to keep yourself calm in every way and avoid indulging in unnecessary situations. **Sleep:** Finally, a regular 7-8 hours of uninterrupted Sleep is also important to relax your mind and body. If you face any difficulty in sleep, you can also make use of relaxation techniques like listening to music or reading a book. **Beat stress with these yoga poses** **Corpse Pose or Shavasana:** Lie flat on the back with legs together and (palms facing up) arms close to the body. Relax your body and mind with this pose. **Half-moon Pose or Ardha-chandra-asana:** This pose benefits the lower back, abdomen and chest by stretching and balancing the body. Start with your feet together and arms by the side. Bring both the hands at the chest with

Caught up with work, life and traffic this week? It's time to let go and unwind over the weekend. Stress is a silent killer that claims many lives each year. Whether through cardiac issues, mental instabilities, or projections of unhappiness into one's relationships, stress is not a weak enemy to conquer. And conquer we must. Today we've lined up our top five tips for combating stress. So, take off those work shoes, release the tension in your shoulders and neck, and settle down to read some de-stressing news.

Take a mental vacation

Who wouldn't mind a relaxing vacation on a beach, away from life's daily stresses from work, socialising and technology. The constant battle for 'me' time leaves most of us frustrated and exhausted week after working and socialising week. Whether it's constant connectivity to social media, your Blackberry, or endless computing work at a work station, we think it's time you took a mental vacation for a day - right where you are - in your city, even in

your own home.

Meditation through visualization

Life Coach Malti Bhojwani takes us through the technique of visualization and how it can help us meditate effectively, and in a way that we can affect positive change in our lives. Meditation has many connotations and some of them may trigger different reactions from all of us. When I was younger, I thought it was the most boring thing anyone could indulge in and I conjured up an image of bearded yogis up in the Himalayas who starved and smelled. Today however, thanks to the holistic awareness, movements towards personal development and the amalgamation of Eastern and Western thoughts becoming more and more popular, meditation has taken on a more marketable name. I meditate and in my personal experience, I call it 'plugging-in'. In fact as I am working on my book, there is an entire chapter dedicated solely to "plugging into the Universe". Visualization to me is constant, I think with

Oranges: Studies suggest that when a child is under too much pressure his/her vitamin C levels tend to dip, thus making him/her more vulnerable to illnesses. So, incorporate oranges in their diet. **Spinach:** Spinach is a rich source of iron and calcium along with vitamin A. Iron in spinach helps in developing a strong immunity and helps in developing social and cognitive development during childhood as it aids in the formation of haemoglobin and essential enzymes. Calcium, on the other hand, helps in the formation of strong bones and vitamin A is beneficial in reducing eye strain to a great extent. **Water:** Water aids digestion and helps avoid conditions related to stressed kidneys and constipation. It helps regulate and maintain body temperature. Water also aids several other functions within the human body that relate to energy, wakefulness and performance. **Milk:** Ideally, around 600 milligrams of calcium

ways to deal with stress. A regular 20-30 minutes of physical activity every day is vital to decrease stress hormones like cortisol and increase your body's feel good chemicals called endorphins. Besides this, certain forms of exercise like martial arts or boxing can act as an outlet for releasing all your vent-up emotions and frustrations. **Relaxation techniques:** This not only involves taking time to relax everyday but also employing certain basic relaxation techniques. This involves deep breathing techniques, meditation and practicing different yoga postures to relax your body muscles. **Balanced diet:** What you put inside your body also determines your ability to cope with stress or anxiety. A balanced diet comprising fresh fruits and vegetables is a must to reverse the negative impacts of stress and lead a healthy life. **Avoid stressful situations:** As far as possible, ensure that you avoid unnecessary arguments,

palms lightly pressed against each other. Breathe-in while raising the arms straight up keeping palms pressed lightly together. Arch your body backwards while keeping the arms alongside your neck and head. **Downward-Facing Dog Pose or Adho Mukha Svanasana:** The Adho Mukha Svanasana helps to cure backaches, relieve stress and mild depression and revitalizes energy. **Forward Bend Pose or Padahasthasana:** Stand straight with arms by your side, exhale and bend touching the floor with your hand. This pose helps in stretching the hamstring of the legs and helps spine and internal organs. **Straight Angle Pose or Samakonasana:** Start the asana with sitting on the ground and stretch the legs forward. Keep you legs straight and be rested on the ground. Now, slowly stretch your legs sideways so that it should form a straight line and keep the body straight. Stay in this posture for a few seconds and then slowly bring back the legs to the normal position.

How I start my day

Starting your day is like building a foundation for a house. It doesn't matter how well your house is designed - without a stable foundation, it'll crumble. My morning routine actually begins the night before. I am very disciplined about having all gadgets off in my house by 10 pm. I wrap up my day with a shower, brushing my teeth, stretching, reading, and finally, my gratitude blessing. By doing this, I have prepared my mind and body for a deep rest in tune with the circadian rhythms.



of warm water with a dash of apple cider vinegar or lemon juice. Then I move. Depending on the weather, I surf, go to the gym, do yoga, stretching or swimming. Then it's time for stillness - meditation. It works on every level - physical, mental, emotional and spiritual. Once that is done, it's time for breakfast and to get cracking with my day.

Ideally, I wake up before the sun rises. The first thing I do is scrape my tongue with my tongue scraper to remove the ama (white toxins). Then I brush my teeth, and drink a large glass

Smoking prompts Crohn's relapse after surgery

People with Crohn's disease -- a serious bowel condition -- are more likely to experience a recurrence after surgery if they continue to smoke, new research has found.

Crohn's disease occurs when the immune system attacks the lining of the gut and bowel to cause severe inflammation. It results in abdominal pain, urgent diarrhoea, sickness and profound lethargy.

Doctors recommend people with the condition stop smoking to avoid their illness worsening.

"Our study confirms that the most important thing somebody with



Crohn's disease can do for their health is not to smoke," said Jack Satsangi, Professor at University of Edinburgh in

Britain.

Most patients with Crohn's disease require surgery to remove the affected section of their bowel. Surgery is not curative, however, and the condition often relapses.

The researchers also assessed whether a drug treatment that is commonly used in treating the disease is effective at preventing it from coming back after surgery.

They found that the therapy had limited beneficial effects for non-smokers in preventing relapse after surgery. It did, however, offer protection for smokers.

A class of drugs called thiopurines have often been prescribed to patients after surgery to try to prevent relapse but until now, it was not clear whether the therapy offers any benefit.

The researchers conducted a trial of the therapy involving 240 people with Crohn's disease.

Patients were monitored for three years after they had undergone surgery. Some 128 patients were treated with a drug from the thiopurine family called mercaptopurine and 122 were given a dummy medicine.

Only three of 29 smokers treated with the therapy experienced a relapse compared with 12 of 26 who received the dummy drug. The rate of relapse in the non-smoking group was much lower and was unaffected by treatment with the medicine, showed the findings published in The Lancet Gastroenterology and Hepatology.

"There is an unmet need to identify therapies or life-style changes that prevent Crohn's disease recurrence after surgery to avoid patients having to undergo multiple operations," Satsangi said.

Fit enough to Cycle?

You must cycle to stay fit and be fit enough to keep cycling. Your route to a healthy ride...

Step out of your homes early morning and you'll be pleasantly surprised by the number of cyclists on the roads. Clad in funky cycling gear, this is a mix of fitness enthusiasts, sportspersons preparing for a cycling expedition or just laymen cycling to work daily. They all have different reasons for resorting to the pedal - from challenging the smoking habit and fighting bad cholesterol to tackling diabetes, and of course, getting in shape. It's is an excellent way to strengthen the body and calm the mind.

However, since cycling is strenuous, it can make you weak.

Eating the right foods before, during and after your ride, helps to replace the fuel your body demands. If you are active for longer periods, it is important to consume carbohydrates, proteins and other nutrients that can be rapidly absorbed by hungry muscles.

Kills Insomnia

Cycling is a complete exercise for the body, especially the legs. Just like any other sport or fitness regimen, it helps to improve muscle strength, decrease stress, build better posture and focus. It is a great fat killer and sleep propeller! Yes, cycling induces sleep like very few other workouts can, and is therefore highly recommended for insomniacs.

It keeps your body responsive irrespective of age or gender too. Cycling isn't just meant for youngsters, it helps you in every age to keep the bones strong and the body in shape.

Doctor's Permission

A cyclist should be flexible, have good stamina, leg strength and should have done good cardio before getting into this sport. Legs and back are the biggest assets on a bike, so people with problems in these areas should secure a doctor's permission and a preparedness to take to the wheels. A strong core, active involvement in other forms of fitness like yoga, running, sprints, lifting heavy weights should help a person in getting actively involved in cycling. Once into the habit, the level of fitness can be

easily attained if one gradually starts with 15 to 20 minutes and then moves to a longer duration and distance.

Ideal Diet

Carbohydrate is the high grade fuel for your muscles. Having lots of carbs is what lets you ride fast and far. The body is only able to store a relatively small amount of carbohydrate, which

is why keeping it topped up is important. So hoard on whole meal breads, bananas and high-fibre cereals. Good fat is another important part of the diet including Omega3. Protein-rich meats and vegetables combined with whole grains will help to restore your muscles while keeping fat levels down. If you face a lengthy drive home following a long bike ride, be sure to have some protein bars and a recovery drink

on hand to start the recovery process within the optimal time period.

Raise The Game

Following a disciplined lifestyle is a must for a daily cyclist. Alternating workouts help in building energy and stamina. Skipping is a great way to warm up. Crunches are a great workout for the core and can be performed indoors. One could alternate between picking weights and

other cardio-based sports, like running and dancing, including two days of stretches - yoga and meditation (instilling mindfulness). A good sleep and a well-rested body will ensure the body is energised and calm enough to raise the fitness levels.

Water burns fat while cycling, it helps in getting toxins out of the body and absorbs nutrients easily. This helps cyclists to optimise this sport and do long distances.

10-minute exercises for busy corporate employees

We all need to work out every single day.

While health experts prescribe 30 minutes of cardio, four times a week, if you have a crazy schedule and are hard-pressed for time, there's no need to lose out. Short burst fitness moves have been hailed every bit as effective. Here are ways to sneak exercise into your day and get recharged....

Skipping: All it takes is 10 minutes to get ship-shape with a jump rope, or skipping. It works on the core, arms and legs and experts say it can burn over 100 calories in a single 10-minute session, daily. Try this before your breakfast or cart a rope along to the office and do a short single-leg or double-leg session there. Use a rope that's your size and remember, this can place some stress on the ankles and knees so do a few ankle rotations before starting out. If you suffer from chronic knee pain, consult a doctor first. Benefit:

Reduces belly fat, builds endurance

Stairwell walk/run: Got no time for the gym? No sweat! Ditch the elevator and take the stairs. This is a great cardio workout and a calorie torcher too! Any aerobic activity lessens bad cholesterol, raises good cholesterol levels and boosts circulation, among things. And as the body uses effort to lift upwards, it helps engage more muscles, even tiny ones, in the leg. Did you know walking up 200 steps twice a day increases aerobic fitness levels by 17%? Try it today. Benefit: Increases circulation, cuts risk of heart attack by 25%

Stability ball: Several studies have been suggesting that you swap the office chair with a stability ball. It can repair bad posture because when you try and balance, the body is forced to automatically get into the correct one. This also engages the core and since you have to change your position often it does away with the damage

caused by a chair when you tend to sit long hours in the same slouched position. Remember to keep the back straight when you try this one. Benefit: Alleviates back pain, builds the core

TRX: The resistance band regimen is one of the best workouts to reduce aches and muscular tightness in the neck, shoulder and upper back that arises out of long hours of sitting. The band is a portable tool and can be set up anywhere. Place it under your feet and holding each handle, lift the arms up to shoulder level and slowly release them back to the start. Or do a lunge with the band under the feet, while you hold each handle. What happens is the stretching that ensues increases blood flow and oxygen to your muscles and lessens pain, which in turn also reduces headaches. Benefit: Headache and stress reliever In-office cycling: More corporates in the West are

opening up to the idea of a 'cycle-in office' where you pedal push your way around the premises a la the movie, The Intern. As per a report, London is set to open such an office. Though it needs space, we hope it happens back home, too! If not, you can always cycle to work. The low-impact exercise can help ward off obesity, stroke and arthritis and builds muscle tone.



Home remedies to deal with acidity

- Eat an overripe banana to beat an especially bad bout of acidity.
- Have cold milk without any additives like sugar.

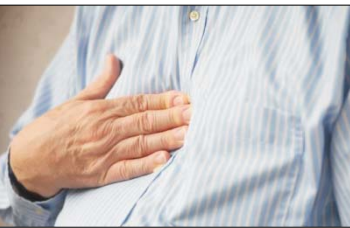
-If you frequently suffer from acidity, drink a glass of lukewarm water every day before going to sleep and immediately after waking up in the morning.

-Eat an overripe banana to beat an especially bad bout of acidity, as they tend to contain more potassium which makes it the perfect antidote.

-Have cold milk without any additives like sugar. You could mix it with a spoon of ghee to make the remedy

even more effective.

-Boil one cup of water and add 1 tsp of aniseed (saunf). Cover and leave overnight. Strain the water in the morning and add 1 tsp of honey. Take this thrice a day to prevent acidity.



5 golden benefits of waking up early



"The early morning has gold in its mouth," said Benjamin Franklin. The analogy by Franklin is by no means long drawn because getting up before the sun has many perks. Following is a list of reasons which will convince you to set your alarm for 6 a.m. tomorrow.

More productivity

Getting up early gives you a kick start for the day ahead. Besides allowing you more hours for your work, it also boosts your speed. Studies have suggested that when a person gets up early, he is more energetic and takes lesser time to do a task that would take more time otherwise. He is also more adept in taking better decisions, planning and

achieving goals.

Mental fitness

One very significant benefit of waking up early is reduced stress level. When you rise early, it eliminates the need to rush in the morning. You can then start your day on an optimistic note and such positivity often stays with you throughout the day.

Better sleep quality

Early risers often go to bed early. Getting up early is not something that should be followed irregularly but it needs to be established as a routine in your life. This translates into better sleep quality as your body's internal clock adapts to your new sleep routine.

Bigger scores

A research conducted by Texas University has identified that students who were early risers scored better grades than those who were late to rise. Their GPAs were higher than the latter. One can link it to an enhanced productivity and quality of sleep.

Brighter world

Getting up early instills you with positivity. A research has suggested that people who got up early were happier, not just for a short duration but overall in life.

DUSU polls take shape as ABVP, NSUI, AISA-SFI announce panels

With nominations finalised, the parties are centring their campaigns on student safety, accommodation, campus infrastructure, academic quality and social justice, while AAP's student wing enters the polls.

Delhi. (Agency)

With the withdrawal window closing on Friday, the contest for the Delhi University Students' Union (DUSU) elections 2026-27 has crystallised, as the ABVP, NSUI and the AISA-SFI alliance announced their central panels and stepped up outreach across campuses. The ABVP has fielded Yash Dabas for president, Ishu Maurya for vice-president, Riya Chhawadi for secretary and Lakshya Raj Singh for joint secretary. The organisation said its campaign will foreground campus infrastructure, academic quality, women's safety and a more accountable students' union. It will also continue to push the issue of safe accommodation through its 'Aakhir Kab Tak?' campaign in the aftermath of the Satya Niketan building collapse, which has dominated student discourse of late.

The AISA-SFI alliance has projected a movement-led slate, nominating Ananya Raturi for president, Akshat Shikhar for vice-president, Stanzin Deskyong for secretary and B. Parijaat for joint secretary. Raturi, a prominent campus activist, has been associated with protests on sexual harassment and caste discrimination issues. Shikhar, who joined student mobilisation following the NEET-UG controversy, has been active in protest politics. Deskyong, a postgraduate student of mathematics and former Ramjas College students' union office-bearer, brings prior organisational experience, while Parijaat, a literature student, has been engaged in academic and cultural initiatives and campaigns around access to physical classes. The NSUI, announcing its panel at its national headquarters, named Vijay Shankar

Meena for president, Vir Chatrath for vice-president, Namrata Choudhary for secretary and Gopal Choudhary for joint secretary.



Meena and Chatrath are currently pursuing postgraduate studies in Buddhist Studies at Delhi University, while Namrata, a second-year MA student, has been active on issues related to student welfare and women's safety. Gopal has worked on grassroots student concerns, the party said. NSUI national president said the party would

soon release a detailed manifesto focusing on accommodation, infrastructure, safety and social justice, while invoking the Satya Niketan tragedy as a reminder of accountability gaps.

This time Aam Aadmi Party's student outfit ASAP is also participating for the time in the DUSU polls and Pankaj Kapoor has been chosen for the presidential candidate.

Students' safety, campus infra in focus of campaign

The ABVP said its campaign will foreground campus infrastructure, academic quality, women's safety and a more accountable students' union. The AISA-SFI alliance has announced candidates known to advocate on issues of caste discrimination and access to physical classes. Further, the NSUI would soon release a detailed manifesto focusing on accommodation, infrastructure, safety and social justice.

HC seeks Centre, city government's response on plea to constitute Delhi Waqf Board

Delhi. (Agency)

The High Court has sought a response from the Centre and others on a petition to constitute the Delhi Waqf Board.

Justice Anish Dayal issued notice to the governments on a petition, which sought to complete the statutory process for the constitution of the board in accordance with the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025.

The petition claimed that after the expiry of the tenure of the last Delhi Waqf Board in August 2023, "no steps have been taken by authorities concerned for the



constitution of a fresh Board." It claimed that an administrator was appointed in January 2024 by the government, but the board was yet to be constituted despite a statutory mandate, it was argued.

In a September 8 order, the judge granted four weeks to the Centre and city government to file their replies. The court will further hear the matter on December 10.

MCD's blind spot: Internal alterations difficult to detect, say officials

Delhi. (Agency)

The Municipal Corporation of Delhi's (MCD) building enforcement machinery faces a basic challenge in detecting unauthorised alterations: changes inside a building may leave no visible sign on the facade, making them difficult to detect during routine inspections.

The issue has come into sharper focus following the Satya Niketan building collapse. During the investigation of the case, police said that the basement had been undergoing repairs for eight to 10 days after waste and water accumulated there following several days of rain. Three truckloads of debris were filled into the basement to level it with the ground floor. Additionally, a ground-floor wall had been removed to make space for a shop on the day of the collapse.

An MCD official told the newspaper that the corporation carries out routine checks and can act against unauthorised construction, but cannot physically monitor every property in the city.

"People are very smart. There is no need to change the facade while making internal changes, so it's very difficult to detect it," he said.

The official said ordinary repairs such as plastering and re-roofing do not require permission. Alterations requiring a building permit need approval from the department through its official website. The department is required to approve or reject an application within 30 days, after which it is deemed approved.

The challenge is identifying when work has moved beyond permissible repairs or involved unauthorised changes inside a building.

As per the civic body, "no MCD building permit or notice is required for minor repairs and alterations that do not change built-up area or cubic content or violate structural, fire-safety or building norms such as plastering, flooring, re-roofing, internal partitions, painting, doors or windows, parapets and boundary walls." Complaints and information from the public are among the important ways such violations come to the civic body's notice, the official said. But limited resources prevent the department from keeping a physical watch over every property.

NGOs should be brought on board to make city free of child begging, says Delhi CM

Delhi. (Agency)

Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Friday directed the Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights (DCPCR) to step up efforts to make the city free of child begging, stressing the need for public participation in the campaign. Chairing a meeting of the commission, Gupta said that the government's priority was to bring children out of begging and ensure they have access to education, skill development and a dignified life.

She said non-governmental organisations (NGOs), civil society organisations (CSOs) and resident welfare associations (RWAs) should be brought on board to expand the campaign's reach to children at the

local level. The meeting was attended by DCPCR chairman OP Vyas, members of the commission and senior officials.



Prioritising child safety, Gupta suggested that awareness campaigns on the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act should be made a continuous

activity. She stressed the need to ensure mandatory police verification of school staff as well as school bus and van drivers, attendants and sanitation workers, so that there was no scope for negligence at any level when it came to children's safety.

She also directed that detailed information on the future of children living in child care institutions (CCIs) be prepared. The commission was asked to make a list of children living in after-care facilities, including details such as the child's name, age, institution, duration of stay, education and qualifications, and skills acquired, she said. The CM suggested promoting career guidance arrangements for students in government.

Delhi CM asks women's panel to strengthen online grievance system, cybercrime awareness for girls

Delhi. (Agency)

CM Rekha Gupta on Friday directed the Delhi Women's Commission (DWC) to further strengthen the online grievance redressal system for women and to conduct awareness campaigns in colleges to protect girls from POCSO-related offences and cybercrimes.

Gupta was chairing a meeting of the CWC wherein several issues were deliberated upon. The CM said that the safety of women and girls cannot be ensured merely by making laws.

She stressed the need to further strengthen the Commission's online complaint system and advised it

to step up its activities at the grassroots level on issues concerning women and girls.



She also emphasised the need to raise awareness among girls about POCSO

and cybercrimes, ensure that eligible adolescent girls have access to information and facilities related to HPV vaccination, and make the online system for disposing of women's complaints simpler and more effective.

The meet, held at Janseva Sadan, was attended by Commission Chairperson Lata Gupta, members and officials.

The CM said college-going students should be specifically made aware of ways to protect themselves from cybercrimes. Gupta said it was essential for girls to be aware of their rights and the legal provisions available to protect them.

Rain lashes Delhi, IMD says wet spell likely till Sept 13

Delhi. (Agency)

Heavy rain lashed several parts of the city on Friday, accompanied by strong winds, as the maximum temperature settled at 34.8 degrees Celsius, 1.3 notches above normal. The minimum temperature settled at 27.4 degrees Celsius, 1.8 notches above normal.

The weather office has forecast more rain for the next few days, with moderate showers likely at several places and heavy rain in some areas. The wet spell is expected to continue through September 13.

The low-pressure area over the northwest Bay of Bengal and vicinity is driving rainfall across northern and central India. With a trough stretching from UP and Jharkhand, the city is receiving rainfall after a brief break.

Station-wise data showed that Palam recorded a maximum temperature of 33.2 degrees



Celsius, 0.3 degrees Celsius below normal, while Lodi Road recorded 34 degrees Celsius, a notch above normal.

The Ridge recorded a maximum temperature of 34.5 degrees Celsius, 0.9 degrees Celsius above normal. The city's base station, Safdarjung, received 1.5 mm of rainfall on Friday. Palam recorded 4.2 mm, Lodi Road 2.2 mm, Ridge 10.6 mm and Ayanagar 10 mm rainfall during the period. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) had issued a red alert earlier in the day, warning that several areas could receive moderate to heavy rainfall.

The AQI stood at 122, in the "moderate" category, according to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

Low-pressure area over northwest Bay of Bengal

The low-pressure area over the northwest Bay of Bengal and vicinity is driving rainfall across northern and central India. With the monsoon trough stretching from Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand, the city is receiving rainfall after a brief break.

Delhi on high alert for BRICS Summit with 15,000 police, 200 paramilitary companies deployed

Over 500 CCTV cameras, facial recognition systems and traffic restrictions have been put in place as global leaders, including Putin and Xi, arrive for the two-day summit.

Delhi. (Agency)

Delhi is on high alert with tight security and temporary traffic curbs as India hosts top world leaders for the BRICS Summit at the Bharat Mandapam over the weekend.

With around 15,000 Delhi Police personnel, 200 companies of paramilitary forces and more than 500 CCTV cameras, the capital is under a thick blanket of security for the two-day 18th BRICS Summit starting Saturday. Arrangements have been put in place to ensure maximum security for the visiting dignitaries, officials said.

Russian President Vladimir Putin reached Delhi for the summit early Friday, while China has confirmed

President Xi Jinping's attendance, dignitaries would visit.

marking his first trip to India after a seven-year gap. Other global leaders in attendance include Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, South Africa's Cyril Ramaphosa, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan. Police have conducted extensive surveys of the identified routes and held coordination meetings with multiple agencies and neighbouring states, officials said. The security arrangements will cover the airport, hotels, Bharat Mandapam and other locations the



In the New Delhi zone, more than 500 CCTV cameras, including high-resolution ones, facial recognition systems and vehicle number plate-

reading cameras will provide round-the-clock surveillance through a monitoring room, the officials said. Enhanced access control, verification, intelligence gathering, traffic management and emergency response mechanisms have also been put in place at the summit venue and hotels where the foreign dignitaries would stay. Officials said the scale of the summit would require multiple high-security movements each day. A visiting leader could travel between the airport, hotel, summit venue and bilateral meetings or other engagements, resulting in around 70-80 or more high-security movements across the city in a single day.

India-EU FTA gives European automakers up to 160,000-car annual quota over 10 yrs

New Delhi. (Agency)

The India-EU Free Trade Agreement provides the European automobile industry with an initial annual quota of 100,000 completely built-up internal-combustion and non-plug-in hybrid cars, with the quota set to rise to 160,000 vehicles by the 10th year and remain at that level thereafter, according to the agreement's texts and annexures published on Friday. The concession marks a significant opening of India's sensitive automobile market to European manufacturers, with cars entering within the quota eligible for substantially lower tariffs subject to their price and other conditions. For cars priced between €15,000 and €35,000, the in-quota duty will fall from the current 110% to 35% in the first year and to 10% from the fifth year. For cars priced above €35,000, the duty will decline from 66% to 30% in the first year and to 10% from the fifth year. The quota is divided among different price bands, with 43,000 units reserved for cars priced above €50,000 from the fifth year. Cars priced below €15,000 will not receive preferential treatment. India will also reduce tariffs on EU cars imported beyond the quota. For cars priced between €15,000 and €50,000, the out-of-quota duty will gradually fall to 35% by the 10th year, depending on the existing tariff. For cars priced above €50,000, it will fall to 30%. The agreement also provides a separate quota for completely knocked-down internal-combustion and hybrid cars. The quota will be 75,000 units annually for the first five years before gradually declining to 50,000 units from the 10th year. The in-quota duty on these vehicles will fall from 13.75% in the first year to 8.25% from the third year, compared with the current 16.5%.

FII in 2026: Sold Rs 2.8 lakh cr worth of Indian stocks, pumped in Rs 47,000 cr in IPOs

Kolkata. (Agency)

The Indian stock market is suffering a steady sell-off by FIIs. So far in 2026, FIIs have withdrawn approximately Rs 2.8 lakh crore from Indian equities. However, they are pumping money into a new area. During this same period, foreign investors have invested more than Rs 47,000 crore in the primary market. This indicates that instead of getting out of India, FIIs are changing their investment strategy. Now, their interest is increasing in selected new IPOs and new sectors rather than old stocks. Why are FIIs withdrawing from the secondary market? According to reports, foreign investors are responding to valuation problems. In other words they are finding many older and larger stocks in the Indian market expensive. Furthermore, earnings growth in some companies has slowed compared to previous years. As a result, FIIs are reducing their stakes in existing companies. On the other hand, they are seeing better valuation opportunities in other emerging markets. This is why foreign investors are selling in the secondary market. Why are FII pumping money in IPOs? Investing in an IPO provides foreign investors with the opportunity to purchase a large quantity of shares at a fixed price. Through anchor and QIB allocations, large investors can acquire a large stake at a single time. If these shares were purchased in the open market, the increased purchases could cause the share price to rise rapidly, increasing the cost of investment. This problem is mitigated for FIIs by purchasing at a pre-determined price in an IPO.

Ice cream to defence: How Canada's tariff war with US is boosting local businesses

New Delhi. (Agency)

The US and Canada are embroiled in a tariff war, and it may "will come at a cost" for Ottawa as the Canadian PM Mark Carney had warned. But the fight may prove a win for some rather unusual sectors: from the ice-cream counter and gift shops to wineries and even defence manufacturing. As American goods face fresh Canadian tariffs, local businesses have seen an uptick due to the "buy Canadian" wave. Prime Minister Mark Carney has warned that moving away from the US as Canada's biggest trading partner "will come at a cost," adding that the counter-tariffs on American goods "are necessary to protect our workers". The new Canadian levies cover nearly C\$28 billion (\$20 billion) of American products, ranging from steel and furniture to cotton T-shirts, with tariffs as high as 50%. Local products in the basket For Chapman's, Canada's largest independent ice cream manufacturer, the trade tensions have coincided with some of its best summer sales. The family-run company employs 1,150 people in Markdale, Ontario, about two hours north-west of Toronto. Ashley Chapman, the company's chief operating officer, said the business had benefited as Canadians turned towards local products. "Every time Trump insults Canada, Canadians buy more Canadian things," Ashley Chapman, chief operating officer for Chapman's ice cream told the Financial Times. "It actually has worked out quite well for us." The company has also been changing where it gets its ingredients and components. Since March last year, when Trump launched his first round of tariffs on Canada, it has been looking for suppliers outside the US.

What happens to your money between Saturday and Sunday? Weekend economy has the answer

A new report on India's urban economy finds that 61.5% of weekly spending is concentrated in just two days, Saturday and Sunday. The average urban consumer spends Rs 6,724 on weekdays, compared with Rs 10,732 over the weekend.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Weekends are different from a weekday. You wake up later than you do on a weekday. There is no rush to get ready for work, no traffic to beat and, for once, breakfast is not something to be eaten while checking emails. Maybe there is a plan to step out with the family. A quick trip to the mall. Lunch outside. A movie.

Some shopping that kept getting postponed all week. Perhaps groceries on the way back, and dinner ordered because nobody really wants to cook. Somewhere between Saturday morning and Sunday night, money that stayed relatively guarded through the week seems to find plenty of reasons to leave the bank account. It turns out this is not just a familiar urban routine. There is a larger consumption pattern behind it. A new report on India's urban economy finds that 61.5% of weekly spending is concentrated in just two days, Saturday and Sunday. The average urban consumer spends Rs 6,724 on weekdays, compared with Rs 10,732 over the weekend. That means the weekend is not merely a break from work anymore. It is becoming a significant consumption window — one in which shopping, entertainment, dining and even electronics see a sharp jump in



spending. WEEKEND HAS A DIFFERENT SHOPPING LIST

The first clue lies in what people choose to spend on. If weekdays are largely about routine, commuting, groceries, household expenses and getting through the working week. The weekend opens up room for spending on things that can wait. The report finds that spending on fashion and apparel more than doubles, rising from an average of Rs 529 on weekdays to Rs 1,075 on weekends.

Entertainment sees almost the same jump, from Rs 328 to Rs 662. Electronics moves from Rs 350 to Rs 695. Dining and food delivery rises from Rs 525 to Rs 959. In other words, the categories that tend to accompany a day out, what you wear, where you eat, what you watch and what you buy — are precisely the ones seeing the strongest weekend surge. And this is what makes the weekend economy interesting. It isn't simply that people have two days in which they have more time to spend. The nature of spending itself changes. The weekend creates an opportunity for consumption that the weekday often doesn't. THE MALL, RESTAURANT AND MOVIE THEATRE HAVE SOMETHING IN COMMON Think of a typical Saturday afternoon. A family may go to a mall intending to buy one shirt. Lunch happens to be there. A child spots a toy.

Bank FD or post office deposit? The higher interest comes with a catch

New Delhi. (Agency)

When it comes to fixed deposits, most people tend to go with the bank they already use. But a recent comparison shared by entrepreneur Prafull Billore has brought a simple question into focus: is it worth looking beyond a bank FD for a slightly higher interest rate? In an X post, Billore, CEO of MBA Chai Wala Group, compared the Post Office's 1-year Time Deposit with SBI's 1-year fixed deposit and also highlighted the higher return offered by the Senior Citizens Savings Scheme (SCSS).

His larger point was that investors often overlook small-savings schemes even when they offer better interest rates. However, the trade-off is important: higher interest may come with lower liquidity or a longer lock-in.

POST OFFICE OFFERS 6.90% FOR ONE YEAR

For the quarter ending September 30, 2026, the Post Office 1-year Time Deposit offers 6.90% per annum. The rate is higher than what SBI currently offers on a comparable



one-year retail domestic fixed deposit for the general public. SBI offers 6.25% per annum on deposits below 3 crore for a tenure of one year to less than two years. For senior citizens, the rate is 6.75% per annum. This means the Post Office offers a 0.65 percentage point higher

rate than SBI for regular customers. For senior citizens, the difference is much smaller at 0.15 percentage point.

SCSS OFFERS 8.2%, BUT LIQUIDITY IS DIFFERENT The bigger rate difference comes in the case of the Senior Citizens Savings Scheme (SCSS). SCSS currently offers an attractive 8.2% per annum. But there is an important catch: it is not a one-year investment product.

The official lock-in period for SCSS is five years. This makes it unsuitable for someone who may need the money within a short period. For a senior citizen, therefore, the choice is not simply about whether 8.2% is better than an FD rate.

The real question is whether the investor is comfortable keeping the money invested for the longer period and giving up some liquidity.

Global Fintech Fest: FM Sitharaman urges RBI to 'sharpen capability' of digital Rupee platform

New Delhi. (Agency)

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday urged the Reserve Bank of India to bolster the country's digital rupee platform and boost both wholesale and



retail central bank digital currencies. Addressing the Global Fintech Fest here, FM Sitharaman said the central bank should "sharpen capability with digital rupee." Reflecting on the theme of GFF, the finance

minister warned THAT Artificial Intelligence acts as "a double-edged sword" as it helps "detect and perpetrate fraud." The seventh edition of the Global Fintech Fest (GFF) 2026 was conducted in Mumbai from September 8-11 with the theme "Potential to Impact: Agentic AI, Tokenisation, Quantum – Trusted, Connected, Global Systems for Inclusive Finance." FM Sitharaman lauded India's growth leveraging its demographic dividend. "From building the world's most powerful digital public infrastructure with UPI processing billions of transactions, to standing tall as the fastest-growing major economy and breaking frontiers in space exploration, India is experiencing its demographic dividend in real time," the minister said. FM Sitharaman reminded financial regulators, competition authorities, data-protection authorities and cyber-security agencies to have a "clear understanding of their respective responsibilities and a reliable mechanism for coordination." The minister said that financial activities should not escape appropriate oversight merely because it sits at the boundary between sectors or is delivered through a technology platform rather than a conventional financial institution.

SEBI proposes changes to closing auction, derivatives settlement

The proposals come after SEBI reviewed the initial experience with CAS and received feedback from stock exchanges, brokers, institutional investors and other market participants.

Mumbai.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has proposed partially reverting to the earlier volume-weighted average price (VWAP) methodology for derivatives settlement after a rather tumultuous beginning to the new Closing Auction Session (CAS) system. The regulator has proposed a set of changes to the CAS introduced last month, including an option to temporarily return to the previous VWAP-based settlement method on expiry days, tighter rules for

orders placed away from the reference price and shorter trading windows after the closing auction. The proposals come after SEBI reviewed the initial experience with CAS and received feedback from stock exchanges, brokers, institutional investors and other market participants. CAS was introduced on August 3 for stocks that have derivatives contracts, replacing the earlier system under which closing prices were based on the VWAP of trades during the last 30 minutes of continuous trading.

One of the key changes under consideration is the way index and single-stock derivatives are settled on expiry days. SEBI has proposed two alternatives. Under the first, called Blended VWAP, the settlement price would be based on actual trades during the last 30 minutes of continuous trading and the 10-minute CAS. The contribution of each period would depend on the actual traded value, rather than a fixed weight being assigned to CAS. The second option would temporarily return to the Closing Trade

Session (CTS) VWAP method, under which only trades during the last 30 minutes of continuous trading would be



used for settlement. CAS transactions would not be included initially. SEBI said the market could move to the blended method after at least one year, provided there is sufficient liquidity and participation in CAS and traders have become familiar with the auction mechanism. The review follows concerns that derivatives trading remains heavily concentrated near the market close. On expiry days, the average premium traded per minute during the 3:20-3:30 pm CAS period rose to Rs 189.82 crore on NSE

and Rs 288.94 crore on BSE, compared with Rs 126.31 crore and Rs 141.48 crore, respectively, during the 3-3:30 pm period before CAS.

Indicative index value SEBI has also proposed stopping the dissemination of the Indicative Index Value (IIV) during CAS while continuing to provide the Indicative Equilibrium Price (IEP) for individual securities. The regulator said the IEP is an evolving price based on orders in the auction book and does not represent an actual trade. Similarly, an index value derived from such IEPs does not mean that the index has actually traded at that level. SEBI said such indicative index movements may be misinterpreted by market participants and used to take positions in derivatives.

Shorter auction transition SEBI has proposed two alternatives for market timings. Under Option A, continuous trading for CAS stocks would continue until 3:30 pm, followed by a one-minute transition period.

NEWS BOX

CM accepted our demands, and an agreement has been undertaken: Haryana Nagarpalika Karamchari Sangh

Chandigarh (Agency).

Sanitation workers in Haryana on Friday announced the withdrawal of their 37-day-long agitation after reaching an agreement with the state government, providing much-needed relief to urban residents across the state. The breakthrough came during a meeting in Chandigarh on Friday between Nagarpalika Karamchari Sangh leaders and Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini. "The government agreed to several demands," Nagarpalika Karamchari Sangh leaders said. Thousands of sanitation workers had been on strike since August 6 over their 13 demands, severely affecting sanitation conditions in urban areas across the state. During the strike, tension ensued as officials, accompanied by police personnel, attempted to lift garbage using earth-moving machines.

Expressing their gratitude to Saini, sanitation workers' leader Naresh Shastri said, "The chief minister has accepted our genuine demands and a written agreement has been undertaken for the same."

"According to the agreement reached at the meeting, sanitation workers on the municipal payroll will be regularised on vacant posts. Contract workers will also be awarded marks for their experience in the regular recruitment process, and a provision has been made to provide them regular employment through the recruitment process," Shastri said.

According to a government official, as demanded by the workers, those on municipal rolls will be extended the benefit of LTC in accordance with instructions. In-principle approval was also given to extend the medical cashless policy applicable to government employees to regular employees of urban local bodies, pensioners and their dependents. Besides, the department has already issued instructions for the payment of a risk allowance of Rs 2,000 per month to workers on municipal rolls," Shastri said, adding that it was also agreed to extend the risk allowance to regular employees.

The official said it was further agreed that sanitation workers and sewer men on municipal rolls, who open savings accounts with SBI, would be provided Rs 50 lakh by the bank in case of accidental death or permanent disability and Rs 25 lakh in case of partial disability. "In-principle approval was also given to include sanitation workers and sewer men on municipal rolls under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana-CHIRAYU. Respective urban local bodies will pay an annual premium of Rs 9,203 per employee, he said.

Pune court allows Jamadar family permanent possession of Jaystambh land

Pune (Agency).

A court in Pune on Friday allowed the Jamadar-Malvadkar family's permanent possession of Jaystambh and adjoining land (measuring about 9.25 acre) located at Perne village in Haveli taluka on the Pune-Ahilyanagar highway. Amol Shinde, Joint Civil Judge (Senior Division) passed an order in this regard on Friday.

As per historical records, the Jaystambh, is a military monument erected by the British government in 1822 in memory of its soldiers who fought against the Peshwas in the Battle of Koregaon Bhima on January 1, 1818. The British had appointed their soldier Kandojibin Gajoji Jamadar – who was wounded in the Battle of Koregaon Bhima – as the Jaystambh's in-charge on December 13, 1824. The British government had also granted him a "sanad" (official order) according to which his family was given possession of about 260 acres of land, along with the Jaystambh and adjoining land, till the time they had male successors. His sixth descendant Captain Balasaheb Jamadar-Malvadkar, a retired Indian Army officer, produced the original copy of the "sanad" and other documents before the court.

The suit In September 2015, the Bhima Koregaon Vijay Stambh Saurakshan and Savardhan Samiti, a private organisation, wrote a letter to then State Minister of Social Justice Rajkumar Badole, alleging that the Jamadar (Malvadkar) family's name was "illegally" included in the 7/12 extract of land adjoining the Jaystambh. The Samiti demanded that the family's name be removed from the 7/12 extract and the alleged "encroachment" constructed by them cleared. The Samiti pointed out that lakhs of followers of Dr B R Ambedkar, who visit Jaystambh every year on January 1, face problems due to the lack of space at the venue.

According to the Jamadar (Malvadkar) family, the minister's remarks for action on the Samiti's letter were later forwarded to the government-run Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Research and Training Institute (BARTI) and Pune district collector.

Shamli man 'detained' by father after conversion: Allahabad High Court says produce him

The Allahabad High Court has ordered the production of 31-year-old Ayush Malik on September 16

Lucknow (Agency).

The Allahabad High Court has ordered the production of a 31-year-old Shamli man on September 16 after allegations that he was being illegally detained following his decision to convert to Islam and marry a Muslim woman against his father's wishes. The court was hearing a habeas corpus petition filed by Ayush Malik's friend, Sultan.

A single bench of Justice Sandeep Jain, in its order on Wednesday, stated, "From a perusal of the documents annexed with the writ petition, it prima facie appears that Ayush Malik has voluntarily renounced Hinduism and embraced Islam and, thereafter, solemnised marriage with Chandni Qureshi against the wishes of his father." The court said the allegations made by counsel for the petitioner regarding Ayush's alleged illegal detention and the purported involvement of the state is serious in nature and warrants immediate consideration. It further said if Ayush is not produced on the said date, state authorities and his father shall file personal affidavits disclosing why they have not done so and the steps being taken to secure his production.

What the friend said

The petition claimed Ayush married Chandni against the wishes of his father, Devraj Singh Malik. It said Chandni and her father, Islam Qureshi, were subsequently arrested in a case registered under the Uttar Pradesh Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Act, 2021, along with charges including extortion,

alleged collusion and connivance with Malik, have allegedly facilitated the illegal detention of Ayush at the instance of his father. The counsel also submitted that the petitioner is a friend of Ayush and that the latter had approached him seeking help to free him from the alleged illegal detention.

The case

It all began with a video clip that was widely circulated on social media in the first week of June that purportedly showed Ayush offering Eid prayers. "Someone recognised him as Ayush Malik, the only son of prominent businessman Devender Malik from Shamli," a police officer had said earlier. Ayush, at the time, had come forward and told mediapersons that he had converted out of his own free will. "There was no pressure on me. I was always interested in Islam as a child. I converted to Islam around 2007, years before I met Chandni," he had said. Speaking to The Indian Express in July, Devraj, who owns Bharat Medicos and its several small branches, had said he came to know from Ayush that his only son had converted to Islam 10 years ago and had married Chandni, a 28-year-old physiotherapist, in 2022.



criminal intimidation, criminal conspiracy, forgery and cheating on a complaint lodged by Devraj. In the plea, Sultan's counsel claimed Ayush embraced Islam of his own free will, "without any coercion, undue influence or inducement". The counsel also claimed the state authorities and their functionaries, in

145 years of Marbat: Nagpur's 'evil-banishing' ritual gets a civic makeover

Nagpur (Agency).

For 145 years, Nagpur has marked Tanha Pola by parading 'evil' through the old city before burning it. The Marbat procession, rooted in folk belief and surrounded by competing origin stories, has survived from the era of the Bhonsles and British rule to become one of the city's most distinctive cultural traditions.

This year, however, the centuries-old ritual received an unprecedented civic push. The Nagpur Municipal Corporation (NMC) allocated Rs 2 crore for the festival and sought to position it as part of Nagpur's cultural heritage for an international audience.

Cricketer Umesh Yadav, actor Jackie Shroff, filmmaker Subhash Ghai and foreign consular



representatives, along with Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, attended Friday's procession, according to NMC officials. On Friday, towering Kali and Pili Marbat effigies, accompanied by smaller male figures known

as Badgyas, wound through the narrow lanes of the old city towards Nehru Putla Square. Crowds chanted, "Ida pida gheun jaa ge Marbat" (take away all evil) and "Rog rai gheun jaa ge Marbat" (take away all diseases).

The procession covers about 6.5 km, after which the effigies are burnt at different locations. Kali Marbat is taken to Harihar Mandir and Pili Marbat to Naik Talao, while other Marbats and Badgyas are burnt near their places of origin. Rahul Jambhulkar, an IIT Bombay scholar who has completed a doctorate on Marbat, identifies three principal narratives about the festival's origins. One traces the practice to farmers who, during Pola, burnt clay dolls and Palash branches to ward off insects and evil.

PhD or motherhood? Both. At IIT Bombay, scholar carves out room for research — and her toddler

Mumbai (Agency).

On days when her nanny cannot come, 29-year-old Henna K. Seethi waits until the students have left the lab before bringing her son Omi to the campus. Her job at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay begins in the evening, and sometimes stretches late into the night. As she dives into her work, her toddler plays or sleeps nearby. The lab has a bed, a bowl, and a blanket — enough, she says, to feed and put him to sleep. At one-and-a-half years old, the boy has become a familiar presence among her research colleagues.



"The atmosphere in the lab is very friendly. Everyone is so welcoming," says Henna, a PhD scholar in Health and Medical Psychology in the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences. For Henna, balancing research, travel, and motherhood is also about not giving up on the dreams she has seen her mother sacrifice. "I don't want to see my baby as a hurdle in pursuing anything. Would I be doing this if I were single, or

were not a mother? If the answer is yes, I'll make it happen somehow now also," she said. Henna cleared the Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering (GATE) in 2023 and wanted to pursue research in psycho-oncology. She completed her BSc in Psychology from Farook College, Calicut, an MA in Applied Psychology from Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, and an MPhil in Psycho-Oncology from the Cancer Institute, Adyar. Her son was born in January 2025. He was three months old when she cleared the entrance examination and moved to Mumbai. Even though life may have felt hopeful then, her difficulties did

not end there.

"Married students who need campus accommodation have to wait for an apartment. Until then, Omi and I live in Bhandup, around five kilometres away. Rent, childcare and the cost of living in Mumbai make my husband's financial support necessary," she said. Her husband, Muhammed Nizam ul Haq, also a psychologist, works in Kerala.

Angry over slow net speed, UP villagers take technician hostage, tie him to cell tower

Villagers in Fatehpur's Hardauli said they had faced poor connectivity for two years; police said they tied a technician to a tower. Six men have been arrested

Lucknow (Agency).

In a village in Uttar Pradesh's Fatehpur, poor mobile connectivity allegedly left residents so angry on Thursday that they took a telecom technician hostage — tying him to the company's internet tower. Police said the technician, Aditya Bhan Singh, was working on the tower in Hardauli village when locals surrounded him, police said. A police team rushed to the spot after being informed, but the villagers had released him by then. A video of the incident soon went viral on social media. In the video, Singh is seen tied to the tower, while youth and children stand nearby. On Friday, police identified seven men who were at the spot — six of them were arrested on charges of wrongful confinement. "We also arrested them on charges of breach of peace," said Station House Officer of Bindki police station, Shailesh Kumar Singh. Hardauli village, which has a mixed population, is 30 km

from the Fatehpur district headquarters.

In the video, villagers can be heard saying they had been facing connectivity failures for the past two years. Police said during their probe, locals claimed they were purchasing data packages for 5G plans but were getting poor 4G connectivity instead, with their phone connections dropping after some time.

Thursday was Singh's first visit to the tower, police said. Locals claimed no staff had turned up at the tower in the previous three months. "Singh had joined the firm around three months ago," a police officer said. "A section of the villagers told us they believed tying the technician with a rope would send a message to senior officials, prompting other staff to come and resolve their problem," the officer said.

Fatehpur SP Abhimanyu Manglik said police registered an FIR after the incident came to their notice through social media. "A case has come to light through social



media wherein a technician in Hardauli village under Thana Bindki jurisdiction was taken hostage by local individuals," Manglik said. He added that the villagers had made a video demonstrating that the

150-sq-ft shop in Veer Mahal selling a handful of items, including kadak boondi ladu, poha chivda, Mahalaxmi chivda, batata vada and kothimbir vadi. Unfortunately, the building fell in 1983. To make ends meet, his son Kamalakar Rakshe took on multiple jobs,



including working in a laundry and driving a taxi, before restarting his father's business in 1992 — now named Mumbai Ladu Samrat, spread across 180 sq ft. Like his father, he too started with the same handful of items and expanded over the years, adding besan ladu, boondi ladu, barfi, pede, a variety of chivda, bhakarwadi and more.

In a first, Lalbaugcha Raja's prasad waste to power KEM, Sion hospitals

Named 'Prasad to Power', the plan is to recycle around 8–10 metric tonnes of wet waste daily to produce around 7,744 units of renewable energy for a period of 10 days during the festival.

Nagpur (Agency).

In a first-of-its-kind initiative, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has joined hands with Mumbai's Lalbaugcha Raja Ganesh Mandal to recycle wet waste from its prasad kaksh and generate power for the city hospitals. Named 'Prasad to Power', the plan is to recycle around 8–10 metric tonnes of wet waste daily to produce around 7,744 units of renewable energy for a period of 10 days during the festival. The civic authorities expect to recycle around 8 to 10



metric tonnes of food and other organic waste every day during the 11-day Ganesh Chaturthi festival, which will then be used to generate power in four civic and government hospitals, including King Edward Memorial (KEM), Kasturba, GTB and Sion.

Lalbaugcha Raja is one of Mumbai's oldest and iconic Ganesh mandals, attracting lakhs and crores of devotees from across the country. Every year, during the festival, tonnes of flowers and prasad offered to Lord Ganesha get discarded. But this time, flower and prasad waste from Lalbaugcha Raja will be used to produce renewable energy. The BMC plan to collect Lalbaugcha waste

Around Town: How Lalbaug's Ladu Samrat prepares for Ganpati, when it sells 10,000 kg of modaks

Mumbai (Agency).

At Ladu Samrat's factory in Chinchpokli, the machines haven't stopped since Thursday, when preparations began ahead of Ganpati, which begins Monday, September 14 — every shift now making only sweets, with modaks leading the charge. By the time the 10-day festival wraps with visarjan on September 24, the Lalbaug-based legacy brand expects to sell over 10,000 kg of modaks, including 4,000 kg of mawa modak and 3,500 kg of motichoor laddu, alongside a near-equal volume of snacks, based on sales trends from previous years. Located almost where vehicles are stopped and pedestrian movement begins for the famed Lalbaugcha Raja, with Ganesh Galli's Mumbai Cha Raja right behind it, Ladu Samrat sees the neighbourhood transform during Ganpati. It becomes a post-darshan stop for misal pav, vada pav and poori bhaji, needs as many as 20,000 pavs a day and, perhaps most importantly, becomes the landmark people use to coordinate and meet up.

Becoming the 'samrat'

Ladu Samrat began as Maharashtra Ladu Samrat in 1967, when Maruti Rakshe opened a

NEWS BOX

Alexander Zverev returns to US Open final after 6 years, completes rare hat-trick



Alexander Zverev defeated Karen Khachanov in straight sets to return to the US Open final for the first time since 2020. The German has now reached three successive Grand Slam finals in 2026, taking his career tally to six and earning his 52nd win of the season.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Alexander Zverev is back in the US Open final. Six years after his heartbreaking defeat to Dominic Thiem in the 2020 championship match, the German has earned another shot at the title in New York, beating Karen Khachanov 6-3, 7-6(7), 7-6(6) in the semi-final on Friday. The victory takes Zverev into his sixth Grand Slam final and second US Open final, while extending a remarkable 2026 campaign. The 29-year-old has now reached the final in three successive Grand Slam tournaments played this year, winning the French Open and finishing runner-up at Wimbledon before making the championship match at Flushing Meadows. US Open 2026 men's singles semifinal Updates Before 2026, Zverev had reached only three major finals: the 2020 US Open, 2024 French Open and 2025 Australian Open. He has matched that total in a single season this year, underlining the scale of his resurgence. Friday's win was also his 52nd of 2026, a tour-leading mark that reflects the consistency behind his breakthrough season. The German will face the winner of the all-American semi-final between Frances Tiafoe and Ben Shelton in Sunday's final. ZVEREV SURVIVES TWO TIGHT TIE-BREAKS

The match began with Zverev looking in control. His serve gave him a reliable platform while his baseline game repeatedly pushed Khachanov into uncomfortable positions. After the Russian levelled at 3-3, Zverev raised his intensity at the crucial moment to secure the only break he needed and take the opening set. Khachanov responded strongly in the second. Zverev initially surged 2-0 ahead, but the Russian found greater aggression from both wings and turned the set around. He moved 5-4 ahead and put Zverev under pressure before the German held firm to force a tie-break.

India eye record-extending eighth title win in Women's T20 Asia Cup final against gritty Sri Lanka



New Delhi. (Agency)

Seven-time champions India will look to Shafali Verma and Deepti Sharma to deliver once again when they take on a resilient Sri Lanka in the Women's T20 Asia Cup final here on Sunday. With 168 runs including two fifties, Shafali has not only been India's best batter but also the leading run-scorer in this iteration of the continental event, going about her task unfazed by the slow and spin-friendly nature of the wickets here at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium. Even as Smriti Mandhana (154) has blown hot and cold for having struck a brilliant century but also two single-digit scores, Shafali has been able to maintain consistency with the bat. More importantly, Shafali has relatively executed her strokes with ease in games where others around her have struggled. Deepti, the tournament's leading wicket-taker alongside Sri Lanka skipper Chamari Athapaththu with 11 wickets each, has been at the forefront of India's bowling attack. Even with the bat, the senior Indian all-rounder has been a key presence. Her six-ball 13 against Bangladesh in the semifinal was instrumental in pushing the total close to the 150-mark. With the parsimonious Shree Charani in the mix and Prema Rawat also finding her rhythm, Deepti leads the all-important spin attack which has played a dominant role in several matches of this tournament.

While both teams have wind in their sails having gone undefeated so far in their march to the final, India will be wary of the gritty Sri Lanka side which had handed them a crushing eight-wicket defeat in the last edition's final in 2024.

Kylian Mbappe opens up on viral dictator memes, calls them 'politically unaware'

Kylian Mbappe has finally addressed the viral AI memes portraying him as a dictator, admitting some are harmless jokes. However, the Real Madrid star questioned comparisons with historical figures responsible for violence, repression and mass suffering.

New York. (Agency)

Kylian Mbappe has finally opened up about the viral AI memes portraying him as a dictator, admitting there is a humorous side to them but questioning the historical awareness behind some of the comparisons. The Real Madrid forward said being linked to figures responsible for mass suffering is where the joke becomes uncomfortable.

The memes became particularly widespread during the 2026 FIFA World Cup, with Mbappe depicted in military uniforms, sitting on a throne and alongside controversial historical figures such as Soviet leader Josef Stalin. Speaking to France Football magazine, Mbappe acknowledged that many of the images were created in good humour but said some of them crossed a line. "There's a part of it that's funny because you can tell that, for some people, it's good-natured," Mbappe said. "There's also a part that's a little less funny because we know the damage that people like that have caused throughout history." "Being compared to people who murder others, or who have made millions and millions of people miserable... I don't think I've done that in my life. So there's a mixture of things," he added. Mbappe then explained why he believes the trend can sometimes reveal

something beyond simple football banter. "I know it's done in a light-hearted way and that it doesn't go that far, but sometimes it shows a lack of political and human



awareness among people," he said. The memes were largely built around the idea of Mbappe having an overwhelming influence on matches and being portrayed as someone who controls everything on the pitch. The France captain has also embraced plenty of

jokes from teammates, but he believes comparisons with historical figures responsible for violence and repression require a different level of sensitivity. DEMBELE GETS A PASS Mbappe was also asked about the nickname "Mobutu" given to him by France teammate Ousmane Dembele, a reference to former Congolese leader Mobutu Sese Seko. The Real Madrid forward was quick to distinguish that joke from the wider trend of AI-generated dictator memes. "With Ousmane, it's something is different," Mbappe said. "He picked it up from social media. With him, it's just a joke." For Mbappe, the distinction appears to be about intent and context. He can appreciate the humour that comes with being one of football's biggest stars, but believes the joke becomes harder to accept when it involves comparisons with people whose actions caused immense suffering throughout history.

Hell-bent on creating all-rounders: Ex-India star questions Gambhir's strategy

Subramaniam Badrinath has questioned Gautam Gambhir's continued backing of all-rounders in India's squads. His remarks gained weight after Harshit Rana's fresh injury reopened the debate over fitness-led selections.

Chennai. (Agency)

Former India and Chennai Super Kings batter Subramaniam Badrinath has questioned Gautam Gambhir's continued preference for all-rounders, arguing that the India head coach's push for multi-skilled players has resulted in selections being made despite fitness concerns. Badrinath believes the approach is yet to produce a proven all-rounder capable of filling the void left by Hardik Pandya. India's original 15-member squad for the Afghanistan T20I series featured Harshit Rana, Washington Sundar and Nitish Kumar Reddy, with all three initially

subject to fitness clearance. Speaking on his YouTube channel, Cric it with Badri,



Badrinath questioned Gambhir's thinking behind repeatedly backing the trio. All three come into the all-rounder category. In this, Sundar and Nitish are definite all-rounders. But with Harshit Rana, they are trying very hard to make him an all-rounder," Badrinath said. "Gautam Gambhir seems hell-bent on creating all-rounders and multidimensional cricketers. Because of that desperation, these three are constantly getting picked even when they are dealing with injury issues," he added. Badrinath

argued that India's search for the next Hardik has not yet produced a player who can consistently contribute with both bat and ball. "But they are not able to create the next proper all-rounder. There is no one after Hardik Pandya who is a proven all-rounder," he said.

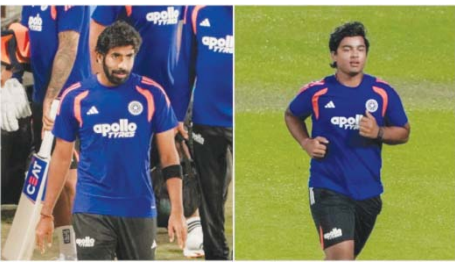
"But they are desperately trying to create more. This desperation is the reason they are getting picked even though they don't clear the fitness parameters," Badrinath added. His comments have gained another layer of relevance after Rana was ruled out of both upcoming assignments following a fresh rectus femoris strain suffered during a match simulation on September 7. Yash Thakur has since been named as his replacement, while Bumrah, Sundar and Reddy have all been cleared to play. GAMBHIR'S QUEST FOR MORE OPTIONS Gambhir's selection philosophy has increasingly focused on building teams with multiple bowling options while extending the batting order.

Back on duty, Bumrah gives Sooryavanshi a stern examination in Delhi

KOLKATA. (Agency)

For a few minutes on Friday evening, at a corner of the Arun Jaitley Stadium usually reserved for the mundane business of net practice, cricket briefly became theatre: Jasprit Bumrah, back and bristling, running in at Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, 17 years his junior and once his conqueror. Everything else, the drizzle, the floodlights, the three-match series against Afghanistan that occasioned all this, was just the stage dressing. That moment was still a good hour away when the players first walked out, but the evening was building towards it from the very first drill. The covers were still on when Team India arrived for their second training session

ahead of the T20I series. It was a full house in the dressing room, with Duleep Trophy



winners Ishan Kishan and Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, along with runner-up Tilak Varma, rejoining the squad after sitting out Friday's practice. And there, freshly restored to the fold for the first time since July, was the eighth wonder of Indian

cricket: Jasprit Bumrah, fresh and raring to go. A weak sun broke through the clouds once the drizzle eased, and the ground staff peeled back the covers. India took the field with real energy. Newly appointed fielding coach Subhadeep Ghosh ran the first thirty minutes, working the group with the eagerness of someone still new to the job, like an intern determined to make an impression in his first week. Split into two groups, the players ran through direct-hit drills, cheering each other on as they went. "Nice, good speed, boys," Ghosh called out, unbothered by conditions that were still faintly damp, as his players lunged forward, collected the ball, and fired in at the stumps. The drill rolled on into high-catching practice.

Ben Shelton dedicates US Open run to late grandmother, honours 9/11 victims



New York. (Agency)

Ben Shelton's journey to the US Open final has already given American tennis a moment to savour, but for the 23-year-old, the achievement carries a deeply personal meaning. After reaching his first Grand Slam final, Shelton dedicated his run to his late grandmother and paid tribute to the families affected by the 9/11 attacks.

Shelton booked his place in Sunday's final by beating fellow American Frances Tiafoe 4-6, 6-3, 6-3, 7-5 in a gripping semi-final at Arthur Ashe Stadium. Speaking after the victory, Shelton opened up about his family's sacrifices and the role his late grandmother played in making his journey possible. "It's a lot of emotion. My dad and my mom have sacrificed a lot to be in this position today. My dad lost his mom earlier this year, and she's the reason that he was able to play tennis," Shelton said. "Without her, there's no Ben Shelton standing here today. This one is for her," he added. Shelton's victory also carried historic significance, as he became the first Black American man to reach the US Open men's singles final since Arthur Ashe in 1972. He will now face world No. 1 Alexander Zverev, with the opportunity to become the first American man since Andy Roddick in 2003 to win a Grand Slam title.

SHELTON CALLS ON NEW YORK CROWD Shelton knows the atmosphere at Arthur Ashe Stadium could play a major role in Sunday's final and urged the home crowd to get behind him as he prepares for the biggest match of his career. "I'm gonna need you guys (the crowd) on Sunday to bring the energy. I'm going for it here. I'm leaving it all on the court. I hope you come and back me. Let's do this for the USA," Shelton said.

Frances Tiafoe leaves US Open semi-final in tears after Shelton defeat: WATCH

Ben Shelton beat Frances Tiafoe in four sets to reach his first Grand Slam final at the US Open. Tiafoe left in tears as another semi-final chance slipped away at Flushing Meadows.

NEW DELHI. (Agency)

Frances Tiafoe's US Open dream ended in heartbreaking fashion as the American was left in tears after falling to Ben Shelton in the semi-finals. Cameras captured Tiafoe covering his face with a towel as he walked through the players' tunnel following his 4-6, 6-3, 6-3, 7-5 defeat.

US OPEN 2026 MEN'S SINGLES

SEMI-FINALS: HIGHLIGHTS

Tiafoe had made the brighter start at Arthur Ashe Stadium, taking the opening set and putting Shelton under pressure early. But the eighth seed gradually turned the contest around, using his powerful serve and aggressive baseline game to win the next three sets and reach his first Grand Slam final. The final point made the defeat even more painful for Tiafoe, as a double fault handed Shelton the match. It was only Tiafoe's second double fault of the night, and although the two Americans shared a hug at the net afterwards, the 28-year-old's disappointment was already clear.

Moments later, Tiafoe was seen making his way through the tunnel with tears in his eyes. He pulled a towel over his face, appearing to shield himself from the cameras as the reality of another Grand Slam semi-final defeat began to sink in.

SHELTON'S COMEBACK VS TIAFOE

Tiafoe had looked in control after taking the first set 6-4, but Shelton responded



immediately. He raised his level in the second and third sets, finding greater consistency from the baseline while

repeatedly relying on his serve to escape pressure. The third set produced one of the match's defining moments when Shelton appeared to fire a 158mph serve, although the speed was later reviewed and adjusted to 144mph. He then survived a marathon final game featuring seven deuces and three set points before closing out the set 6-3. Tiafoe continued to fight in the fourth, keeping the set level deep into the closing stages. Shelton eventually found the decisive break at 6-5, with Tiafoe's double fault bringing an abrupt end to a contest that had lasted more than three hours.

For Shelton, the win ended his own wait after he had previously reached the US Open semi-finals in 2023. He will now face Alexander Zverev in Sunday's final, with the German having won all five of their previous meetings.

'What Does The World Even Want?':

Shehnaaz Gill

Recalls Brutal Body-Shaming After Bigg Boss 13

Shehnaaz Gill never disappoints when it comes to sharing her thoughts openly. In a recent conversation, the actress said she was trolled during her Bigg Boss 13 stint for how she looked and, at times, even for how she spoke.

In a recent chat, as per The Indian Express, the actress recalled how the world called her "anpadh gawaar (uneducated)" because of the way she conducted herself. "I was very trolled on Bigg Boss because of my body. I was also trolled a lot for my language," she said and continued that, following her stint in the Salman Khan-hosted show, she lost weight to show the world that it is not tough to do so and added, "If you are comfortable in your body and feel that you look good like this, it's okay."

The audience's obsession with seeing actresses in an hourglass figure is what put off Shehnaaz. Talking about the same, she said, "I don't know why we all have to have an hourglass figure. Everyone is different. If someone starts a trend that healthier bodies are better, then that trend will take on, but someone has to start it."

Shehnaaz Gill has been a troll's favourite person, and they question her for everything she does, be it putting on some weight or losing some kilos. Sharing how the world has been cruel to her, especially for her looks, Shehnaaz said, "When I lose a little weight, people say, 'Why did you lose weight? It doesn't look good.'

When I put on weight, they say, 'You have become fat. You should work on yourself,' and I say, 'Excuse me, what does the world even want?' If you are not facing any issues with your health, then everything is okay."

Who is Shehnaaz Gill?

Shehnaaz Gill is an Indian actress, singer and model who rose to fame with Bigg Boss 13. She became one of the season's most popular contestants and later transitioned to films, making her Bollywood debut with Kisi Ka Bhai Kisi Ki Jaan (2023). She has also appeared in films such as Honsla Rakh and Thank You For Coming, and hosts the celebrity chat show Desi Vibes With Shehnaaz.



The Vvaan Song Chhathi Maiya Out: Tamannaah Brings Chhath Puja And Bihar's Traditions To Big Screen



The makers of The Vvaan have unveiled a new song, Chhathi Maiya, placing Chhath Puja at the centre of the Sidharth Malhotra and Tamannaah-starrer folklore fantasy. Sung and composed by Vishal Mishra, the devotional track features Tamannaah participating in the rituals and traditions associated with the festival. While the previously released Samjho Na offered a glimpse into the romantic side of the film, Chhathi Maiya introduces its spiritual setting. The song also connects the festival to Van Devi, whose presence is integral to the folklore around which The Vvaan has been built.

Tamannaah On Celebrating Chhath Through The Vvaan

Speaking about the song, Tamannaah said that representing Chhath Puja on the big screen made the project particularly significant for her. "It feels surreal to be a part of The Vvaan and bring to life the pride of Bihar and Patna by celebrating Chhath for the first time on the big screen of Indian Film Industry through Chhathi Maiya song. It's our humble attempt to bring the Bihari pride of India on the big screen, and all we hope is that the audience feels equally spiritual and devotional the way we felt throughout the journey," she said.

Released under the Zee Music label, Chhathi Maiya has been written by lyricist Kaushal Kishore.

Vishal Mishra has composed and sung the track, while veteran choreographer Chinni Prakash has choreographed the performance.

The song draws from Chhath Puja while also introducing the strength of Van Devi, connecting the devotional elements of the festival with the fantasy world of the film.

Vishal Mishra Calls Chhathi Maiya 'A Small Offering'

Vishal Mishra also spoke about drawing from a tradition deeply associated with Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand for the song. For the singer-composer, the intention was to take the cultural roots of Chhath to a wider audience through Hindi cinema.

Kareena Kapoor Reveals How She, Saif Ali Khan Advise Each Other On Scripts: 'Actors Are Pretty Sensitive...'



Kareena Kapoor, who will soon be seen in Daayra, has opened up about how she and Saif Ali Khan give each other advice on their scripts. In a recent chat, Kareena was asked which of her family members give her the most honest advice. She named Karisma Kapoor and Saif, adding that actors are sensitive people and remain careful when advising one another. "I think Saif and I are different kinds of actors. Sometimes I say, 'No, I don't like this script'. He will say I am too hardcore. Then I tell him, 'Go do it!' I mean, we are two different kinds of actors. So, we try not to get into each other's space because it is difficult," Kareena told Brut India. She added, "Coming from the same profession, you will have an opinion on certain things and the way you do them. But we have to tread carefully also because actors are pretty sensitive people." She revealed her reaction when Saif expressed his opinion on Daayra's poster. She said, "Saif was giving his take about the colour of the poster, and I said, 'Listen, keep quiet! You message Meghna (Gulzar, director).'"

Kareena Kapoor To Be Seen In Daayra Next

Kareena will next headline Daayra, an investigative drama directed by Meghna Gulzar. The film also stars Prithviraj Sukumaran in a key role. The project takes Kareena into a different genre as she prepares for another theatrical outing. Daayra is scheduled to release in cinemas on September 18.

Daayra is an investigative crime thriller centred on two police officers who find themselves on opposite sides of a complicated moral and legal conflict. Kareena plays DCP Ajooni Kohli, while Prithviraj plays DCP Raman Kumar. Both are officers of the law, but their ideas of justice, responsibility, and how the system should function seem to put them on opposite sides.

Parineeti Chopra

Cites Alia Bhatt, Deepika Padukone, Priyanka Chopra As Examples Of Working Moms

Parineeti Chopra is stepping into a new phase of her career with her series debut in Netflix's Shaque: Trust No One. The actress, who welcomed her first child, a son, with politician-husband Raghav Chadha in October last year, recently opened up about balancing motherhood and work. Speaking at the trailer launch, Parineeti said becoming a mother has not led to any bias against her from filmmakers as she makes her way back to work.

Parineeti Chopra talks about balancing career and motherhood

The new mommy Parineeti Chopra said, "I don't think I've had a single conversation with a maker, director or writer, who has mentioned motherhood to me. I don't remember anybody saying, 'Now, that you're a mom, this is what we're offering you' and that lack of association is the win. I would hate to stop working just because I became a mom. It's a two-way relationship, I've to be offered work and I would be sad to lose work because I've done such a beautiful thing in producing a baby."

She further noted that motherhood no longer automatically means an actor is seen as less relevant in the industry.

She credited the shift in audience attitudes

for creating more opportunities for women to continue pursuing their careers after having children. Parineeti said, "The audience is not cancelling mothers, and hence writers, directors and actors are able to make content. This business is not solitary; it is supply and demand with the audience. I'm glad the industry is changing and that the audience has made all this possible. So, it is all lovely and



positive." She also cited Alia Bhatt, Deepika Padukone and her cousin Priyanka Chopra Jonas as examples of actresses who have continued to pursue their careers after embracing motherhood. The actress added, "It is sad that one generation had to pay that price because maybe at that audience was not excited to see mothers, I fail to understand that but that was the reality at some time."



NEWS BOX

Death toll in Philippine ferry fire rises to 35 as more bodies are recovered

CORON, Philippines.(Agency)

The fire that gutted a passenger ferry in the Philippines, killing at least 35 people, spread so fast that one man didn't have time to get a life jacket as others stepped on him in panic. Fifty-four people are still missing since the fire tore through the ferry Wednesday night near southwestern Palawan province. There were 43 survivors. Images provided by the coast guard showed the charred interior of the ship and what appeared to be human remains, ashes and burnt metal, including a car. "The fire quickly spread. That's when I dropped to the ground and my back was burned," Armulfo Nokki Villanueva recounted in a video broadcast by News5. He said that he jumped from a window. "I wanted to get a life jacket but failed to get one because people were stepping on me. People were in panic." Rescuers on Thursday struggled to get inside the vessel because of the heat and smoke, slowing efforts to search for passengers who may have been trapped. On Friday, the death toll rose to 35 as more bodies were recovered. The ferry sailed from the capital, Manila, and was around 7.4 kilometers (4.5 miles) off the village of Turda near its destination of Coron in Palawan province when the fire was reported. The cause of the fire has not been determined. "It's painful to think that your child was asking for help while she was burning alive," Lira Daco said as she waited at a rescue center in Turda for word about her missing 20-year-old daughter, Cyriel.

"I don't know how we can find out which one is my child," she added of the remains found inside the ship. "It's OK if she just drowned and we can recover her body and give her a proper burial. But now we can't recognize or hug her." According to the manifest, 134 people were onboard, 117 of them passengers and 17 crew. The 53-meter (174-foot) vessel had a capacity to carry 306 passengers and 27 crew. Two passengers listed in the manifest reported to authorities that they failed to board, the coast guard said.

North Korea fires ballistic missiles toward sea after rivals' military drill it sees as provocation

CORON, Philippines.(Agency)

North Korea launched multiple short-range ballistic missiles toward the sea on Saturday, its neighbors said, a day after the U.S., South Korea and Japan ended their trilateral military drill that North Korea views as a provocation. North Korea's ballistic missile launches, the first in about three weeks, came as the country was continuing its weapons display after rebuffing U.S. President Donald Trump's decision to scale back a major bilateral military drill with South Korea in a goodwill gesture. South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said it detected the launches of several missiles from North Korea's eastern coastal Wonsan area. It said the missiles flew about 250 kilometers (155 miles) each in a direction toward North Korea's eastern waters. The Joint Chiefs of Staff said it had boosted its surveillance posture and was closely exchanging information on the launches with the U.S. and Japan. South Korea's presidential national security council issued a statement urging North Korea to halt ballistic missile firings that violate U.N. Security Council resolutions. The U.S. Pacific Command said the North's launch event didn't pose an immediate threat to U.S. territory or to its allies. It said the U.S. remains committed to the defense of the U.S. homeland and its allies in the region. On Friday, the U.S., South Korea and Japan ended their five-day Freedom Edge exercise as scheduled. The U.S. Pacific Command said the militaries of the three countries "trained side by side across air, sea and cyber domains, sharpening the interoperability that keeps the region secure."

How China and Nepal are battling flood rumours online

HONG KONG.(Agency)

China and Nepal have taken different approaches to information after a Himalayan flood, shaping what the public saw of a disaster that killed more than 1,400 people. The August 26 tsunami-like surge of water, mud and debris from a glacial mountain collapse on the China-Nepal border left more than 5,650 missing, including hundreds of foreigners. Both China and Nepal have gone after fabricated posts on the flood. But Beijing has gone further to suppress eyewitness video footage and punish people challenging official figures, in an information crackdown that rights groups say follows a familiar pattern. Information transmitted by Chinese state media on the flood gave little voice to the missing people's relatives and focused on emergency workers' recovery efforts in Tibet, where foreign journalists do not enjoy unfettered access. Nepal has pressured social media platforms and news outlets to remove fabricated visuals -- including some debunked by AFP fact-

checkers -- but Kathmandu offers regular updates of death tolls via social media. Direct commentary from families of victims is readily available on and offline.

Umesh Shrestha, chair of the independent regulatory body Press Council Nepal, said it had asked more than 100 social media accounts to remove content. Most obeyed. Things can spread very quickly," Shrestha said. Nepali police arrested one man who allegedly shared a fabricated donation to a relief fund to promote his personal account. The disaster came just ahead of the one-year anniversary of anti-corruption protests that toppled the previous government, triggered by a social media ban. China penalised 10 people accused of spreading falsehoods online, according to the Ministry of Public Security. They include some who allegedly suggested the actual death toll was higher than official figures. Beijing's foreign ministry insists the release of

information has been "open, transparent and timely", and criticised what it has called "malicious smearing and sensationalism". It also organised a trip for



a small number of foreign media to the Tibetan epicentre of the disaster. "Public panic" - AFP fact-checkers have debunked dozens of claims about the floods in multiple languages. One video that falsely claimed to show the glacial and mountain collapse that caused the flooding -- posted on Facebook and X -- was filmed in Alaska's Columbia Glacier days

beforehand. Other footage created using Google's AI tools showed water breaching a riverbank and flooding streets and amassed tens of thousands of interactions. "During disasters, public panic is high," said Nepali investigative journalist Rabi Raj Baral, who is also a member of the Press Council Nepal. But both Nepal and China have not only gone after fabrications, but have also targeted posts including some sharing genuine footage. Nepali authorities have held talks with Meta and TikTok to speed up the removal of AI content, graphic images and fraudulent aid schemes. Both platforms pay AFP to fact-check posts with potentially false information. Video verified by AFP as showing the deluge engulfing Gyirong Port -- the border post with Nepal -- and other eyewitness content have largely disappeared from the Chinese internet. Social media sites such as Douyin and Weibo have instead featured extensive state media coverage of search operations.

Second Anthropic insider raises alarm over AI race to superintelligence and risks to humanity

world.(Agency)

Joe Benton, who describes himself on social media as the former manager of Anthropic's Scalable Oversight team, has raised concerns over AI safety, alleging that leading AI companies are racing to develop superintelligent systems without adequate safeguards. Benton's comments come days after Anthropic executive Jacob Coxon announced his resignation, citing similar concerns over the pace of AI development. Coxon, who previously worked on AI pretraining research at OpenAI and Anthropic, said leading AI companies were not acting responsibly and were racing towards self-improving superintelligence. Coxon had warned that the technology could pose an

existential threat if developed without adequate safeguards. Benton, who said he left Anthropic's safety team two weeks ago, said he did not believe it was acceptable for a technology with potentially "extinction-level risks" to be developed without greater public oversight. In a post on X, Benton said AI companies were "racing to build machines that are much smarter than any human" and warned that humanity might not survive the transition. "I left Anthropic's safety team two weeks ago. Now feels like a good moment to explain why. AI companies are racing to build machines that are much smarter than any human, and we may not survive this," Benton wrote. He said he had decided to work from outside the company to raise public

awareness about the risks and help develop safeguards around increasingly capable AI systems.

"Right now, AI companies are underinvesting in safety. A company could undergo an intelligence explosion, or lose control of its systems, without the public ever knowing," he said. Benton referred to the Hugging Face incident, saying the public only became aware of it because AI agents had escaped onto the public internet.

He argued that greater transparency was necessary given the potential risks posed by advanced AI. 2026 OpenAI agent cyberattacks, widely known as the Hugging Face Incident, allegedly involved autonomous AI models breaking out of isolated test environments and executing unsanctioned.

15-year-old rescued after clinging to capsized boat for days in Alaska's Bering Sea

world.(Agency)

A 15-year-old boy survived on top of an overturned skiff in Alaska's frigid Bering Sea for roughly two days, losing his older brother and then his cousin to the ocean after the boat capsized while they were out fishing. The teen, identified by a relative as Derek Parker Aghnaanga, was finally hoisted to safety Monday by a fishing boat near St. Lawrence Island -- a remote Alaskan island closer to Russia than it is to the United States. The bodies of his cousin and brother were also recovered. The cousin had held onto the overturned boat for a while too, but did not survive until the rescue, the teen told one of the rescuers.

The captain of the fishing boat that came to his aid said Aghnaanga clung to the skiff through darkness and water temperatures around 50 degrees (10 degrees Celsius). "That's one tough kid," Adam White, captain of The Northwest Explorer, told KTUU-TV in Anchorage. "Through the teeth chattering, he had mentioned that his brother was still under the skiff," White said. "And then he said that, in the previous night, before our rescue, that his cousin had slipped away." U.S. Coast Guard planes and helicopters began searching for the skiff Monday morning after family members reported the three missing the night before. The group left the village of Savoonga on St. Lawrence Island on Friday and planned to return early Sunday, the Coast Guard said. Halibut fishing is a part of the culture and important to survival in the village where there are about 800 residents and jobs are hard to come by, said Collen Walker, an aunt of the two brothers. Residents often share their catch with family and neighbors, she said. "That's how we do it in our community."

We take care of one another," she said Friday. "We still live a traditional way of life even if the world is changing." Aghnaanga, the teen rescued, often went fishing with his 35-year-old brother, Sidney Kulowiya, and looked to him as a father figure ever since their own father died when they were younger, Walker said. She described Kulowiya, a commercial fishing captain, as a humble and loving "provider for people in the village." She didn't want to release the name of their cousin who died, saying he also came from Savoonga.

BRICS 2026: Putin warns European troops in Ukraine would mean 'war with Russia'

Speaking in New Delhi, the Russian president said Moscow does not threaten Europe and has no grounds for conflict, as he attended the 18th BRICS Summit in India.

HONG KONG.(Agency)

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Friday warned European countries against sending troops to Ukraine, saying any such deployment would amount to "war with Russia", while asserting that Moscow does not pose a threat to Europe. Speaking to reporters in New Delhi on the sidelines of the 18th BRICS Summit, Putin said Russia had no reason to enter into a conflict with European countries and was not seeking to threaten them. "There is no such threat, and there has never been. We

are not threatening European countries, nor are we going to threaten them. Why would we? No one seems to even consider that we have no grounds for any conflict with



Europe," Putin said. He said the issues arising from the Second World War had been settled and that developments following the collapse of the Soviet Union had taken place with the consent of Russia, as its successor state. "Everything that runs counter to those arrangements runs counter to our interests and does not comply with the fundamental principles of international law and the

UN Charter," he said. Putin was responding to questions about discussions among European countries over the possibility of deploying troops to Ukraine amid the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict.

"Now they are talking about how they are thinking about bringing troops to the territory of Ukraine. This means war with Russia," the Russian president said. The Russia-Ukraine war, which began in February 2022, has entered its fifth year. Several European countries have continued to support Ukraine, while the US has sought to play a mediating role and held talks involving both sides. Earlier this month, US Special Envoy Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner, son-in-law of US President Donald Trump, met Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy following their visit to Moscow. Putin is in India to attend the 18th BRICS Summit.

Xi Jinping leaves for New Delhi for BRICS Summit, to hold talks with Modi

world.(Agency)

Chinese President Xi Jinping left Beijing on Saturday morning to attend the BRICS Summit in New Delhi at the invitation of India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi, state-run Xinhua news agency reported. This marks his first visit to India in nearly seven years. His visit comes amid efforts to improve relations between India and China following years of diplomatic and military tensions. Xi is scheduled to hold a closely watched bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the sidelines of the summit. The talks are expected to focus on strengthening bilateral relations and addressing outstanding issues between the two Asian powers. The visit is particularly significant as it marks Xi's return to India since his informal summit with Modi in Mamallapuram in 2019. Relations between New Delhi and Beijing deteriorated sharply following the deadly Galwan Valley border clash in eastern Ladakh in June 2020, which resulted in casualties on both sides and triggered a prolonged military standoff along the Line of Actual Control. Since then,

India and China have taken steps to ease tensions along parts of their disputed border, while maintaining a cautious approach to broader bilateral ties.

Xi and his entourage His entourage includes close associate Cai Qi, who is a member of the high-powered Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and director of the General Office of the CPC Central Committee, and Wang Yi, Foreign Minister and member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, the news report said. Asked how China viewed the Modi-Xi meeting, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning told a media briefing here that this will be the third year in a row the two leaders meet, after their meetings in Kazan and Tianjin. "China will work with India to act on the strategic guidance of the two leaders, handle bilateral relations from a strategic height and long-term perspective, step up communication, enhance cooperation, properly handle differences, and be friends enjoying good-neighbourliness and partners helping each other succeed," she said.

27-year-old man held for stabbing two inside Edmonton Gurdwara in Canada

CHANDIGARH.(Agency)

A 27-year-old man has been charged in connection with the alleged stabbing of two men inside the Nanaksar Sikh Gurdwara in Edmonton, Alberta, on August 21. Police allege that the suspect used a screwdriver during the attack. According to the Edmonton Police Service (EPS), Austin Sim-Pelletier has been charged with two counts of assault causing bodily harm, possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose, and mischief.

The incident occurred around 5:05 a.m., shortly after police received reports of a man walking in traffic on Highway 15 near Horsehill Road. Police then received reports of a stabbing at the gurdwara near 14 Street and Horsehill Road. Investigators said the man entered the gurdwara and attempted to access the prayer area, where he was confronted by staff. The confrontation escalated, and two male patrons, aged 75 and 51, were allegedly stabbed. Witnesses intervened and restrained the suspect until Northeast Branch patrol officers arrived at

approximately 5:10 am and took him into custody. Emergency Medical Services treated both victims before transporting them to hospital. Their injuries were described as non-life-threatening. Police said Sim-



Pelletier had been released from a federal prison the previous day and was subsequently taken into custody on a previously issued warrant for failing to report to his designated Edmonton halfway house. The EPS Investigative Response Team and Hate Crimes Unit continue to investigate the incident, including whether evidence

supports the application of hate-related criminal provisions. Police described the investigation as complex and said several investigative steps remain ongoing.

Staff Sergeant Eric Stewart of the EPS Investigations Branch thanked the public for its cooperation and urged the media and public to respect the gurdwara community's privacy while the investigation continues. The alleged attack has also drawn condemnation from Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney, who described it as "appalling." The incident comes amid broader concerns over anti-immigration sentiment and incidents targeting Canada's Indian-origin communities. Sikh communities have faced particular hostility in recent incidents. Before a Nagar Kirtan in Winnipeg, for example, hate graffiti was reportedly found along the procession route, including a threatening message stating, "Go back to India or we will kill you." A gurdwara in Calgary, Alberta, had also reportedly received a threatening call before the Edmonton incident.