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Ex-Schoolmate Meets PM, Seeks Central Agency Probe Into Land Dispute Case

New Delhi (Agency)

An 81-year-old resident of Mira Road has approached Prime Minister Narendra Modi, seeking intervention in a decades-old land dispute in Bhayander East in Mumbai. Asgarali Vohra met the Prime Minister on September 8 and requested a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe into the matter. Vohra and PM Modi were reportedly schoolmates at BN School in Vадnagar, Gujarat. During his meeting with the Prime Minister, Vohra sought his intervention, stating



that he has been pursuing the land dispute through various government agencies and the police for several years. According to Vohra, the dispute concerns around 2,810 square metres of land at Navghar in Bhayander East. He said he had purchased the property through a registered agreement in 1989. The 81-year-old has alleged that the property was subsequently encroached upon in 2011. He has named Swayam Builders and Seven Eleven Constructions in his allegations. Vohra has also alleged that documents connected to the property were forged and that the original owner was not kept informed about the developments.

Rahul, Priyanka Gandhi meet Malaysian PM Anwar Ibrahim over breakfast
New Delhi. (Agency)

Leader of opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Sunday met Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim over breakfast on the sidelines of the 18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi. Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra was also present at the meeting. Pictures shared by the Congress showed Rahul Gandhi and Anwar Ibrahim engaged in conversation over breakfast, with the two also seen shaking hands and exchanging smiles.



Ibrahim later described Rahul Gandhi as his "good friend" in a post on X, saying the meeting provided an opportunity to exchange views on developments around the world and in the region. "Had the opportunity once again to meet my good friend, who is also the Leader of the Opposition in the Indian Parliament, Rahul Gandhi, this morning over breakfast. This brief meeting provided space for us to exchange views on the latest international and regional developments," the Malaysian prime minister said.

China dominates the global supply chains of critical minerals and rare earths. Thus, PM Modi's pointed remarks, made in the presence of Xi Jinping, are being seen as a message to China.



New Delhi (Agency)

Putting inclusivity at the centre of his closing remarks at the BRICS Summit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday cautioned against the "weaponisation" of technology and critical minerals, saying such measures could create "hurdles" to common growth. The pointed remarks, made in the presence of Chinese President Xi Jinping, are being seen as a message to Beijing, which dominates the global supply chains of critical minerals and rare earths. "The weaponisation of technology and critical minerals can hinder our shared progress. Therefore, we have

emphasised inclusivity in the adoption of technology," PM Modi said at the BRICS session on 'Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability'.

PM'S MESSAGE TO CHINA?

Last year, China tightened export controls on rare earths and other materials critical for advanced tech manufacturing amid a trade war with the US. It has, however, eased some of those restrictions. China processes around 90% of the world's rare earths, which go into everything from solar panels to smartphones. For India, the supply of critical minerals is key as it seeks to expand its manufacturing and clean-energy sectors. Against this backdrop, PM Modi said the BRICS logistics supply chain cooperation framework would help make "our supply chains more reliable and resilient".

'WIN-WIN COLLABORATION'

At the outset, PM Modi underlined that, as BRICS chair, India's efforts focused on four pillars - resilience, innovation, cooperation, and sustainability. "With your cooperation and support, we have been able to transform our shared vision into a win-win collaboration," PM Modi said. Perhaps the key highlight of his address was his pitch for inclusivity as he rooted for more voice for

the Global South - a geopolitical term used to refer to developing or less-developed nations. "We have sought to promote inclusive global growth through BRICS. We believe that the solutions developed within BRICS should not benefit BRICS countries alone. They should be made accessible to the needs of the Global South," PM Modi said. The Prime Minister asserted that the "confidence" of Global South countries in BRICS has grown because "their voices are heard, their experiences are respected, and solutions are created not just for them, but together with them". "We (BRICS) may be rooted in different realities, but together we rise through cooperation and blossom for humanity," PM Modi said.

MESSAGE OF COOPERATION

He then went on to highlight several initiatives agreed upon by the BRICS members - outlining the message of cooperation amid a fractured world. The big win, PM Modi said, was consensus on the BRICS Early Warning System for prevention and response to infectious diseases. "Under innovation, the BRICS Incubator Network will connect our startups and incubators.

‘My Brother Narendra, Your Party’s MLA Took Away My Land’: PM Modi’s 81 Year-Old Childhood Friend Seeks Justice

Alleges Land Grab by Former BJP MLA-Linked Builders

MAHANAGAR METRO
New Delhi - Mumbai

.When the intoxication of power and the bullying of land mafias cross all limits, where does a common citizen go for justice? But when the victim happens to be the childhood friend of the country's Prime Minister, the land mafia scandal reaches right up to the PMO. An 81-year-old man has sought refuge with Prime Minister Narendra Modi to expose a multi-crore land scam allegedly orchestrated by a former BJP MLA and builders in the Mira-Bhayandar area of Maharashtra. Classmates at Vadnagar's B.N. School Eighty-one-year-old Asgar Ali Vora (Bohra), who studied in the same class as Prime Minister Narendra Modi at B.N. School in Vadnagar, had been waiting for justice for years. Finally, on September 8, Asgar Ali reached Delhi and handed over the entire case to his childhood friend, PM Modi, during a special meeting. The Land Scam and Key Allegations: * The Purchase: Asgar Ali

legally purchased 2,810 square meters of land in Bhayandar East (Navghar Road), Maharashtra, in 1989 through a registered agreement. * Grabbed via Bogus Documents: In 2011, keeping the original owner in the dark, forged and bogus documents were created to divide the land into two separate parcels. * Involvement of Former BJP MLA: 'Swayam Builders', a company linked to former BJP MLA Narendra Mehta, allegedly encroached on one portion of the land, while 'Seven Eleven Constructions', another company linked to Mehta, illegally occupied the second portion. * Administrative Apathy: Despite Asgar Ali filing an FIR in 2015, alleged political pressure resulted in an 11-year delay in the CID report. The local municipality and revenue officials also turned a blind eye to the forgery. Demand for CBI Probe and Panic in the Administration During his meeting with PM Modi, Asgar Ali submitted a formal letter strongly demanding a CBI inquiry into the land mafia scan-

dal and the nexus of corrupt officials. As soon as PM Modi assured his childhood friend of justice, panic struck the local administration. The very next day, the Mira-Bhayandar Municipal Corporation initiated legal proceedings, issuing strict summons to the owners of Seven Eleven Constructions and Swayam Builders to appear for a hearing on September 16. This 81-year-old man's fight for justice has shown that when it comes to friendship and righteousness, the Prime Minister steps up to support his childhood friend. It now remains to be seen when the CBI will

tighten its grip on the former BJP MLA and the scam-tainted builders.



CPM claims ED has long targeted Pinarayi Vijayan in money laundering case

M V Govindan said the ED's move against Pinarayi Vijayan in the CMRL case would be opposed. The row has sharpened a fresh political flashpoint for the CPI(M) in Kerala.



Kozhikode. (Agency)

CPI(M) Kerala state secretary MV Govindan on Sunday alleged that the Enforcement Directorate (ED) had been targeting the Left party and veteran leader Pinarayi Vijayan for a long time, and said any such move would be strongly opposed. He was speaking on the sidelines of the party's three-day extended state committee meeting.

Govindan said the recent developments were part of a plan by the ED to target former CM Vijayan. He was referring to the agency's recent letter to the state police chief seeking registration of an FIR under the Prevention of Corruption Act against Vijayan, his daughter Veena T and her husband P A Mohamed Riyas in connection with the alleged CMRL bribery case. The CPI(M) leader said the

party and the LDF had no doubts about the intentions behind the ED's move, and claimed that central agencies had been targeting Opposition leaders across the country. Asked whether the meeting would adopt any resolution on the issue, Govindan said the possibility would be examined. The extended state committee meeting has been called to discuss ways to overcome the setbacks suffered by the Left party after its defeat in the Assembly election this year. Earlier this week, Vijayan had accused the ED of targeting him in its money laundering probe into the CMRL bribery case by now levelling corruption allegations against him. The ED has sent a letter to DGP Ravada A Chandrasekhar seeking registration of an FIR against Vijayan, Veena, son-in-law Riyas and some others, based on "evidence" gathered during its probe and searches conducted under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act.

Talasanani plays CM, Manik Rao Speaker as BRS stages mock Assembly in Hyderabad

Barred Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) legislators staged a mock Assembly at Telangana Bhavan and replayed House proceedings. The protest was meant to press issues the party said were being denied a hearing in the Assembly.

Hyderabad (Agency).

With its legislators barred from the Telangana Assembly for the remainder of the Monsoon Session, the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) on Saturday took its political battle outside the House by staging a mock Assembly at Telangana Bhavan. The symbolic session on September 12 was organised days after BRS MLAs were suspended following repeated disruptions in the Assembly. The party said the mock proceedings were aimed at raising issues that it alleged were being denied a hearing inside the House.



TALASANI PLAYS CM, MANIK RAO TAKES SPEAKER'S CHAIR

The BRS recreated the Assembly proceedings at Telangana Bhavan, with Zaheerabad MLA Manik Rao occupying the Speaker's chair and former minister Talasanani Srinivas Yadav taking on the role of Chief Minister. BRS working president K. T. Rama Rao, former minister T. Harish Rao and other party legislators participated in the proceedings. They used the platform to attack the Revanth Reddy-led Congress government over governance issues, election promises and various policies. The mock session also featured political satire, with Talasanani taking digs at the Congress government while playing the role of Chief Minister. He made sarcastic references to the recent removal of Konda Surekha from the Telangana Cabinet.

AC short circuit triggers fire in Ghaziabad flat

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

A fire broke out in a flat of the multi-storey Aditya Mega City residential complex in Indirapuram on Saturday.No casualties were reported in the incident but furniture in the flat was burnt. The flat's owners are one Mohit Goyal and his family. All of them left the flat as soon as the fire started, an officer said.

Preliminary probe suggests the blaze was triggered by a short circuit in an AC unit in the flat.

According to chief fire officer Rahul Pal, the fire started around 2 pm in the afternoon. When a team from the fire department reached the spot, they saw dense, toxic smoke had spread through the tower. Officers found the fire had started in a fifth-floor flat of the tower. Maintenance staff of the residential complex had already attempted to control the fire at the initial stage. However, the intensity of the blaze and the resulting smoke had prevented them from completely extinguishing it.

The coordinated efforts of the fire crew and the building maintenance staff helped bring the blaze under control within a short period and prevented it from spreading to other flats in the tower. Fire officers said the building's automatic firefighting system played an important role in containing the fire.

The fire department said a detailed assessment of the damage and other necessary formalities are being carried out.

UP-Rera clears projects worth Rs 500 crore in Noida, Ghaziabad

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

The state real estate regulator (UP-Rera) has approved 13 projects worth Rs 2,380 crore across six districts, adding 4,724 residential and commercial units. Of these, three projects worth an estimated Rs 286 crore are to come up in Ghaziabad and two others worth around Rs 186 crore are proposed in Noida.

According to officials, Ghaziabad will get two commercial and one residential project, together comprising 864 units. In Noida, one residential and commercial projects each will add 564 units.

The two NCR cities have continued to dominate the state's real estate market, accounting for 60% of the state's total investment in the first half of the year, according to UP-Rera's half-yearly report. Of the total 143 projects worth Rs 31,952 crore approved across the state during this period, 27 are in Noida and 19 in Ghaziabad, an official said. Together, the two districts attracted investments of Rs 19,000 crore — Rs 15,678 crore in Noida and Rs 3,989 crore in Ghaziabad — and will add around 22,660 housing units, or 49% of all units approved statewide. Of this, Noida will add 13,160 units and Ghaziabad 9,500. UP-Rera chairperson Sanjay Bhoosreddy said timely approval of projects, along with effective monitoring, has helped create a better environment for both homebuyers and promoters in the state, he said.

Not a brick has moved in 21 months: Supertech buyers hit the streets, say will march to Parliament next

Noida.(Agency)

For Anubhav Chaudhary, the wait for his home has stretched for more than a decade, and the financial burden has only grown. In 2013, Chaudhary and his wife Isha Sharma invested around Rs 70 lakh in Supertech's The Romano project in Sector 118, of which nearly Rs 50 lakh was financed through a loan. The couple was promised possession in 2016. The deadline then moved to 2017, followed by further delays. In 2026, they are still waiting. Chaudhary now pays a monthly rent of around Rs 40,000 along with Rs 48,000 as EMI for the flat he bought with his savings. "Nothing has changed over the last 10 years, except that we have grown old," Chaudhary told TOI. "The problem is, I cannot even get the money that I put in. If there is a medical emergency tomorrow, I cannot sell the flat and get my money back." Like him, BN Gupta, who bought a flat at Ecovillage in 2001, was initially promised possession in 2013. The deadline later kept shifting, first to 2017, then to 2019. Today, he is still waiting for his home. On Saturday, scores of homebuyers of the incomplete projects staged a protest outside the company's office in Noida, demanding immediate commencement of construction and clear timelines for completion of their homes. The protesters said they would move Supreme Court again and organise a march to Parliament if their concerns are not addressed.

The homebuyers alleged that despite 21 months having passed since 16 stalled Supertech projects were handed over to an apex committee, with NBCC appointed as the project management consultant, construction has not started. Of the 16 stalled Supertech projects, six — Sports Village, Ecovillage 1, 2 and 3, UP Country and Czar Suits — are in Greater Noida, and four — Eco Citi, Romano, Capetown and North Eye — are in Noida. Of the rest, two each are in Gurgaon and Meerut and one each in Uttarakhand and Bengaluru. The projects were launched between 2010 and 2012, and around 14,000 homebuyers are still waiting for their flats, some for almost two decades.

In March 2021, Union Bank of India initiated insolvency proceedings against Supertech under Section 7 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) before the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT). According to the homebuyers, National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT), which is currently hearing the matter, in its order dated Dec 12, 2024, had directed NBCC to initiate the work-allocation process and complete the contract-award process within one month, with construction scheduled to begin on May 1, 2025.

The Parents Who Gave Us Life—Let Us Not Give Them Loneliness in Their Old Age

Mahanagar Metro Desk

Author: Rupesh Solanki, Bhachau, Kutch Many relationships come into a person's life, but the bond between parents and children is one that is completely selfless. From the moment a child is born until the day that child becomes independent, parents sacrifice many of their own dreams and desires. Parents who find their happiness in their children's happiness and feel their children's pain as their own need something most of all when they grow old—the love, time, and companionship of their children. When we were children and fell down, our parents were always there to lift us up. When we had a fever at night, they would forget their own sleep and gently place a hand on our forehead. Even for our smallest needs, they would put aside

their own greater needs. But the cycle of time is such that one day those same parents begin to walk slowly, their memory may become weaker, and their bodies begin to need support. In today's fast-paced life, children remain busy with their jobs, businesses, and family responsibilities. As a result, there are many homes where parents are physically present, yet there is no one who truly sits down and talks with them. The greatest pain of old age is often not illness, but loneliness. Elderly parents do not always need expensive gifts or luxurious facilities. Sometimes, all they need is for someone to lovingly ask, "Dad, how are you feeling today?" or "Mom, have you taken your medicine?" Even these simple words can bring a smile of satisfaction to their

faces. If they tell the same old stories again and again, let us not become impatient. If they ask the same question more than once, let us not become angry. If their steps have become slower, let us walk a few steps beside them at their pace. Because one day our own steps will become slower too, and then we may also need someone's patient companionship. Serving our parents is not merely a duty; it is an expression of gratitude for the life they gave us. If children want to give good values to their own children, they must begin by showing respect and compassion toward the elders in their own home. Children learn more from our behaviour than from our advice. The respect and dignity we give our parents today are the very values our children may carry forward tomorrow. Money



can be earned again, a house can be rebuilt, and many lost possessions can be recovered. But the time lost with our parents can never be brought back. After they are gone, we can light a lamp before their photograph and offer our tributes, but nothing can replace the two minutes we could have spent sitting beside them and talking to them while they were still alive.

NSE Announces Mega IPO, Price Band Fixed at ₹1,700–₹1,785 Per Share; Subscription Opens September 17

Mahanagar Metro Desk

AHMEDABAD:

In what is being viewed as one of the most significant and closely watched developments in India's capital market, the National Stock Exchange of India Limited (NSE) has officially announced the price band and schedule for its much-anticipated Initial Public Offering (IPO). The NSE IPO has been attracting considerable attention from investors, market participants and financial institutions because of the exchange's dominant position in India's securities market and its strong presence in the equity and derivatives segments. The price band for the IPO has been fixed at ₹1,700 to ₹1,785 per equity share, with a face value of ₹1 per share. The public issue will open for subscription on September 17, 2026 and will remain open until September 21, 2026. Before the issue opens for retail and other eligible investors, bidding for anchor investors will take place on September 16, 2026. The minimum bid lot has been fixed at 8 equity shares. Investors will subsequently be able to bid only in multiples of 8 shares. At the upper price band of ₹1,785 per share, an investor bidding for the minimum lot of 8 shares would require approximately ₹14,280, subject to the applicable category-specific rules and final allocation. NSE IPO: KEY DATES AND DE-



TAILS Anchor Investor Bidding: September 16, 2026 IPO Opening Date: September 17, 2026 IPO Closing Date: September 21, 2026 Price Band: ₹1,700 to ₹1,785 per Equity Share Face Value: ₹1 per Equity Share Minimum Bid Lot: 8 Equity Shares Further Bids: In multiples of 8 Equity Shares Listing Destination: BSE Limited A 100% Offer for Sale One of the most important features of the NSE IPO is that the issue will consist entirely of an Offer for Sale, commonly known as OFS. Under the IPO, existing corporate shareholders will offer up to 126,436,650 equity

shares for sale. Since the issue is completely an OFS, NSE itself will not receive the proceeds from the shares being sold by the existing shareholders. Instead, the money raised through the sale of these shares will go to the existing shareholders who are offering their stakes. Several prominent institutional investors are participating as selling shareholders. These include State Bank of India, Canada Pension Plan Investment Board, Aranda Investments, Bank of Baroda, The New India Assurance Company and General Insurance Corporation of India. The participation of such large institutional shareholders is expected to remain one of the major points of interest for investors tracking the IPO. Investor Reservation Structure The IPO has also laid down a clear reservation structure for different categories of investors. Qualified Institutional Buyers, or QIBs, may receive up to 50 percent of the offer. Retail Individual Investors, or RILs, will have not less than 35 percent of the offer reserved for

them. Non-Institutional Investors, or NIIs, will have not less than 15 percent of the offer reserved. The allocation structure means that the IPO is expected to attract participation from large institutional investors as well as retail investors. Strong Financial Performance Ahead of IPO NSE's financial performance has also emerged as a key factor ahead of the public issue. For the quarter ended June 30, 2026, NSE reported strong growth in both revenue from operations and net profit. Revenue from operations increased to ₹4,560 crore during the first quarter of FY2026-27, compared with ₹4,032 crore during the corresponding quarter of the previous year. This represents an increase of approximately ₹528 crore in revenue from operations over the year-ago period. The company also recorded strong growth in net profit. NSE reported a net profit of ₹3,121 crore for the quarter ended June 30, 2026, compared with ₹2,811 crore in the corresponding quarter of the previous year. The increase represents a year-on-year rise of approximately ₹310 crore in net profit. The financial performance is particularly significant because it provides investors with an indication of the scale and profitability of NSE's operations ahead of its public market debut.

GMDA plans smart message boards, emergency call points on six key roads

Gurgaon.(Agency)

Six major roads in the city may soon get centrally controlled digital message boards and public announcement systems to alert commuters about traffic, diversions, weather and emergencies, with a direct line to police built in.

GMDA is planning the system for six model roads selected for their traffic volume and importance: MG Road (IFFCO Chowk to Golf Course Road), Hamilton Court Road, Vyapar Kendra Road, Atul Kataria Chowk to Signature Tower, Rajeev Chowk to Bakhtawar Chowk (Medanta Road), and Hero Honda Chowk to Sector 29. GMDA expects the work to be completed four months after allocation of the Rs 7 crore project. The project will place 20 digital message displays and public-address systems at junctions along these stretches, along with 16 emergency call-point kiosks at selected locations. All facilities will be monitored from GMDA's integrated command and control centre.

A GMDA official said the system would let information reach road users directly, particularly when traffic arrangements



need to change quickly. "The objective is to provide commuters with information at the location itself. If there is flooding or a breakdown on a particular road, the system can display an alert on the message board. Similarly, if traffic has to be diverted because of an incident, an announcement can be made at the junctions ahead of the affected location so that motorists can be diverted before

they reach the spot. This will allow us to update road users in real time and manage traffic even when physical police presence is not immediately available at every location," the official said. The boards will display information in both English and the local language, and will be built for visibility from a distance and for outdoor conditions, the official added. The public announcement

system will allow GMDA to make announcements at a single location, across a zone, or at multiple locations at once. It is proposed for intersections, public places, markets and other locations identified in consultation with police.

The emergency call points will let a person press a button to speak directly to the police control room or the city's command centre; if the call goes unanswered, it will automatically divert to the nearest police station. The system will also be linked to CCTV feeds, letting officials view a location and respond to alerts—a feature expected to be useful at busy junctions where accidents or other emergencies need a quick response.

"The announcement system can be used for both routine and emergency communication. Unlike maps available on phones, which largely estimate traffic conditions from location data collected from users travelling on the road, the proposed system will allow officials to directly monitor selected locations through CCTV and communicate alerts to motorists through message boards and public announcements," the official explained.

Technical glitches force GTU to discontinue PBL system

Ahmedabad(Agency).

Ahmedabad: Gujarat Technological University (GTU) has decided to discontinue its Problem-Based Learning (PBL) portal, which was introduced under the National Education Policy (NEP) to evaluate whether students were acquiring practical knowledge alongside theoretical learning. The move comes



after repeated complaints from students and faculty members over technical and operational issues on the platform. The PBL system was designed to give students practical exposure by requiring faculty members to upload three problems at the end of every semester. Students were expected to access the problems online and submit their solutions through the portal, after which faculty members would evaluate the

responses and award marks through the system. The initiative aimed to assess students' ability to apply theoretical concepts to real-life situations and provide a structured framework for evaluating problem-solving skills. However, sources said faculty members frequently encountered difficulties in making uploaded problems visible to students. They also faced challenges in accessing solutions submitted through the portal. In several cases, queries posted by students could not be viewed or responded to by the concerned faculty members. The persistent technical issues reportedly led to repeated representations from both students and teachers, prompting opposition to the system. University officials said complaints indicated that students were often required to perform the same work twice, creating an additional academic burden. With the PBL portal being withdrawn, student assessments will once again be conducted through assignments and offline or face-to-face problem-solving exercises, with marks awarded based on performance.

19-year-old arrested in UP's Azamgarh for allegedly promoting Al-Qaeda ideology

WhatsApp group chat reveals the accused would refer to members as 'mujahideen', had discussions about bomb-making, procuring potassium nitrate

Lucknow (Agency).

Uttar Pradesh Police's Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) on Saturday arrested a 19-year-old from Azamgarh for allegedly attempting to recruit young people to become 'mujahideen' through encrypted social media platforms and promoting the ideology of banned terrorist organisation Al-Qaeda ideologue Anwar al-Awlaki. The accused – identified as Mohammad Nabeel, a resident of Azamgarh's Didarganj area – was allegedly facilitating the exchange via WhatsApp groups, including one he had created called 'La Ghalib Illallah' (There is no victor except Allah) with the aim of radicalising them and preparing them for 'jihad', police said.

He had reportedly shared books written by Al-Qaeda ideologue Anwar al-Awlaki and former AQIS chief and terrorist Maulana Asim Umar. Investigation into the WhatsApp chats revealed that Nabeel would allegedly refer to the members of the group as 'mujahideen' and use code words such as 'trip', 'pen', 'juice' and 'project' to refer to jihad, knives, chemicals and plans respectively. Police said the group included



young people from Jammu and Kashmir, as well as foreign nationals. He was also allegedly raising funds for activities carried out in the name of jihad. The agency said that Nabeel was also a member of several other WhatsApp groups, including one called 'Flames of War,' whose members included people from Bangladesh, Myanmar and Saudi Arabia. The ATS alleged to have found bomb-making discussions, related videos and conversations about procuring potassium nitrate. Nabeel was reportedly planning to

travel to countries including Pakistan, Turkey and Bangladesh to undergo training and pursue his objectives. According to intelligence inputs, Nabeel and his associates had discussed a plan to launch 'Ghazwa-e-Hind' — a military conquest of India — in coordination with Pakistan when the opportunity arose. A case has been registered invoking Sections 152 and 61(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and Sections 18 and 38 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).

'Passport seized, forced to join Russian Army': 3 UP men missing in Russia

Lucknow(Agency).

Three youths from western Uttar Pradesh who went to Russia on study visas last year have been untraceable since July when they last had telephonic contact with their families. In their last phone calls, the youths had informed that the Russian authorities had confiscated their passports and forcibly sent them to join their army, the families claimed. Two of the youths, Himanshu Sharma (24) and Shakti Punder (23), are from Muzaffarnagar, while the third, Ashu Kumar (25), belongs to the neighbouring Shamli district. The families claimed to have approached the district administrations as well as the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), requesting their intervention to help bring their wards back. The families said the three were staying together in Muzaffarnagar's Baadh village. He said Himanshu was keen on learning the Russian language and once all the formalities were completed, he left his bachelor of computer application (BCA) course midway and went to Moscow on a year-long

study visa. Himanshu's father, Mukesh Sharma, died in 2009, and he had been living with his mother, Suman Devi, his two siblings, along with his uncle's family. "After going there, Himanshu used to call regularly, asking about the family's well-being.

He called on July 30, saying the Russian authorities had seized their passports and taken them away to join the army. He promised to call again, but did not," Pravesh Kumar added. Like Himanshu's family, the family of Shakti Punder, who lives about 10 kilometres away, is also anxiously waiting to learn what condition he is in. "Shakti used to call regularly and tell us about his daily routine. He told us he was sharing a room with Himanshu in Moscow.

Then suddenly, he called and said that authorities in Russia had taken them for arms training and seized his passport. He said he had no interest in joining the army but was being pressured into it," said Shakti's father, Vipin Kumar, a resident of Muzaffarnagar's Peeplshah village.

He called on July 30, saying the Russian authorities had seized their passports and taken them away to join the army. He promised to call again, but did not," Pravesh Kumar added. Like Himanshu's family, the family of Shakti Punder, who lives about 10 kilometres away, is also anxiously waiting to learn what condition he is in. "Shakti used to call regularly and tell us about his daily routine. He told us he was sharing a room with Himanshu in Moscow.

Then suddenly, he called and said that authorities in Russia had taken them for arms training and seized his passport. He said he had no interest in joining the army but was being pressured into it," said Shakti's father, Vipin Kumar, a resident of Muzaffarnagar's Peeplshah village.



Pravesh Kumar, a farmer from Muzaffarnagar's Baadh village. He said Himanshu was keen on learning the Russian language and once all the formalities were completed, he left his bachelor of computer application (BCA) course midway and went to Moscow on a year-long

Canal deaths: Case against 6 after family cites final video

Ahmedabad(Agency).

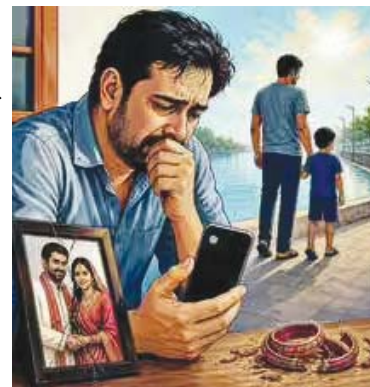
Ahmedabad: A mobile phone video allegedly recorded shortly before a 30-year-old man and his 7-year-old son drowned in a canal has prompted the victim's father to file a complaint of abetment to suicide against six persons, alleging they drove his son to take the extreme step.

According to a complaint registered by Kalol Taluka police on Friday, Mohammad Jadav (56), a resident of Sarkhej, alleged that his son, Shoaib, had been married to Muskan Shahjada for around eight years. The couple had a 7-year-old son, Uzer. Jadav stated that following a marital dispute, Muskan had been living at her parental home for the past six months, while Shoaib had moved back with his parents.

According to the complaint, on the night of Aug 30, Shoaib asked his father for the keys to a motorcycle, saying he wanted to take Uzer for a ride. When the two did not return, the family later learnt that a motorcycle and a mobile phone had been found near the Adalaj canal. Police recovered Uzer's body from the Kadi canal on Aug

31, while Shoaib's body was found in the Pij Narmada canal on Sept 1, the complaint stated. The family later collected Shoaib's mobile phone from Adalaj police and examined its contents. Jadav alleged that they discovered a video recorded by Shoaib shortly before the extreme step. Although

the footage was allegedly shot in darkness and contained no visible images, Shoaib's voice could reportedly be heard clearly. According to the complaint, Shoaib stated in the recording that he and his son had come to the Adalaj canal to die and blamed his decision on an alleged betrayal by his wife, Muskan. He also named Mahendra, Nikita, Jayesh, Pari and Aarti, claiming they were connected to or had supported the alleged betrayal. Jadav further alleged that chats and photographs purportedly showing Muskan with Mahendra were also found on the phone. Based on the video, chats and photographs, he accused Muskan, Mahendra, Nikita, Jayesh, Pari and Aarti of harassing his son and abetting his suicide. Kalol Taluka police have registered a case of abetment to suicide against the six persons named in the FIR.



'Still working 12-hour shifts': Surat textile workers protest at collector's office

Surat(Agency).

Weeks after textile workers took to the streets to demand eight-hour shifts and weekly off on Sundays, many returned and protested at the district collector's office here on Saturday. The workers, numbering hundreds, stated that they had resumed work after they were assured by the owners of embroidery units that their demands would be met. However, they were still working without a break for more than eight hours a day as no decision had been reached yet, they claimed.

During the demonstration, the situation grew tense after a worker alleged that the police were taking photographs and issuing threats. Deputy Commissioner of Police (Special Operations Group) Rajdeepsinh Nakum intervened and warned the agitators that an FIR would be registered if they did not follow his instructions. As it was the second Saturday of the month, collectorate and labour department officials were not present. Subsequently, the workers dispersed after mediation between their leaders and police officials.

Janmabhumi Bharat Majdoor Union President Ajay Dubey gave a memorandum to the police officials. In it, the union demanded that apart from off on Sundays, textile workers should also be paid their wages by the seventh of every month, and that labour laws should be strictly implemented in the textile industry. The memorandum also stated that over 18 lakh migrant workers were employed by the textile industry in

Surat. It stated that workers were made to work overtime and didn't get benefits such as provident fund, ESI, and gratuity bonuses.

Dubey said, "We will again come back on a working day next week and give the memorandum to the district collector. We will try to sort out the issues then."

Arvind Raj Vishwakarma, a protester, said a peaceful dharna would be launched if their demands were not met by September 30. "There is nobody to listen to our demands. We work 12-hour shifts. Our bodies need rest too," he said. Officials of the labour department could not be reached for a comment till Saturday night.

Vishal Goti, who owns embroidery units at Vedant Eco Park-2, said, while the workers were

paid their wages before the seventh of this month, their demand of Sunday week off and eight-hour shift was still pending. "We give weekly off on Thursday due to power issue. Then how can we give another weekly off on Sunday? It will affect our production and business," he said. Last month, scores of workers stormed two embroidery units at Vedant Eco Park-2, an industrial estate in Surat's Amroli suburb. The protest, which began at the Vedanta Industrial area of Surat's Amroli on August 16, eventually spread to Anjani Industries, Katargam, Sachin GIDC, Pipodara, and Kadodara. At several factories, the workers halted operations entirely and staged intense demonstrations.



Pantnagar develops 6 high-yield crop varieties

RUDRAPUR (Agency).

Six improved crop varieties developed by scientists at Govind Ballabh Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pantnagar, have received state approval for cultivation across different agro-climatic zones of Uttarakhand, with researchers expecting them to raise food and fodder output and improve farmers' incomes. The varieties cover rice, barley, maize, mustard, fodder sorghum and oat and were cleared at the 16th meeting of Uttarakhand State Seed Sub-Committee in Dehradun. The



approved varieties are Pant Dhan 29 (rice), Pant Jau 1091 or UPB-1091 (barley), Pant Hybrid Maize 9 or DH 353 (maize), PRB 2015-2 (Indian mustard), Pant Chari 16 or UTFS 121 (fodder sorghum) and Pant Fodder Oat-5 or UPO-16-4 (oat). Agriculture and farmers' welfare secretary Dr Surendra Narayan Pandey chaired the meeting that cleared them. The varieties were developed by teams of university scientists working in rice, wheat and barley, maize, oilseed, sorghum and oat breeding programmes. Pant Dhan 29 is a short-duration, high-yielding dwarf rice variety that matures in around 115 days and produces about 50 quintals per hectare, with researchers saying its shorter crop cycle also reduces exposure to pests and diseases. Pant Jau 1091 recorded yields 21.98%, 8.36% and 5.87% higher than UPB 1008, VLB 130 and VLB 118, respectively, during three years of trials, with a hill-area yield potential of 38.16 quintals per hectare and resistance to rust and covered smut. Vice-chancellor Dr Shivendra Kumar Kashyap said, "The approval of six varieties across six crops, including two fodder crops, is a major achievement for the university. These varieties will help increase food and fodder production and contribute to raising farmers' incomes."

From four hours to 14: Punjab industry bears brunt as power crisis deepens

Chandigarh(Agency). The power crisis across Punjab turned more serious on Saturday as designated industrial consumers in Category 2 and 3 faced scheduled power cuts of up to 14 hours in several parts of the state, while domestic consumers too reported unscheduled outages lasting four to five hours a day. The latest restrictions mark a sharp escalation from last week, when industrial units were subjected to a scheduled five-hour power cut, generally from 7 pm to midnight. Industry received relief for two days on September 8 and 9, but on September 10 the scheduled shutdown was extended from 8 pm to 6 am — effectively forcing several units to give up their night shifts.

On Saturday, however, the shutdown was further extended. In several parts of Punjab, power supply to Category 2 and 3 industrial consumers was switched off from around 4.30 pm, with PSPCL officials confirming that the supply would remain suspended until 6 am on Sunday. In Ludhiana, industrialists said the shutdown from 4.30 pm on Saturday had been imposed without prior notice.

"How are we going to survive like this? We have not seen such a crisis ever in our lives. We had suggested to PSPCL that instead of disrupting industrial operations every day, compulsory weekly offs of 24 hours could be imposed on industries on a rotational basis," Gurmeet Singh Kular, president of the Federation of Industrial and Commercial Organisation (FICO), said.

While several industrialists said their supply had been disconnected around 3 pm, PSPCL officials maintained that the shutdown for the affected industrial category began at 4.30 pm in Ludhiana, which contributes to over 60 per cent of Punjab industry. In Jalandhar, Amritsar, Mohali, Rajpura, etc., as well as category 2 and 3 industries faced power cuts from Saturday late evening itself.

The prolonged cuts are also affecting residents of villages and workers living in industrial areas because several villages receive electricity through feeders that predominantly serve industrial consumers. Villages such as



Seera, Gaunggarh and Boothgarh in Ludhiana are among those affected by the shutdowns, according to industry representatives.

"In areas such as Dhandari Kalan, Dhandari Khurd, Giaspura and Kanganwal in Ludhiana, a large number of industrial workers live close to their workplaces. They too are now facing nights without electricity after working hard throughout the day," Pankaj Sharma, president of the Association of Trade and Industries Undertakings (ATI), said.

The degree economy's disbalance

For decades, Indian families believed a college degree guaranteed a stable job. That belief is now under strain. Higher education enrolment in India grew by nearly a third over a decade, according to the All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) 2023-24, with women's enrolment now close to parity with men's and more students than ever coming from smaller towns. However, undergraduate enrolment fell by nearly one lakh students from the previous year, the first such decline since AISHE began. One year does not establish a trend, but it raises a question: are families doubting the value of a bachelor's degree? Employment data suggests this concern has some basis. The latest Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) puts graduate unemployment at 11.2 percent, more than three times the national unemployment rate of 3.2 percent. In most countries, higher education reduces the risk of unemployment. In India, it currently does not. One explanation deserves attention. Some economists argue educated youth can afford to wait for suitable jobs, while less educated workers cannot. High graduate unemployment partly reflects a choice to wait rather than a failure of demand. This is acceptable if the wait is short and the odds are good. But it does not explain why so many graduates eventually accept work far below their qualifications. If waiting were a rational bet on better jobs, more of it should end in success. It mostly does not. The data bears this out. The State of Working India 2026 report found that fewer than 7 percent of male graduates secure a permanent salaried job within a year of graduation. Many of those counted as employed work in informal, temporary or gig jobs unrelated to their qualifications. The report also identifies 'waiting unemployment', where young people spend years preparing for government recruitment exams while outside both employment and skill development. This weakens the argument against the voluntary-wait explanation. The waiting builds no skills and leads to no better job. In fact, it is time lost. A similar gap appears in women's employment for different reasons. Women's labour force participation almost doubled between 2017-18 and 2024-25, rising from 23.3 percent to about 42 percent in 2023-24. But most of that rise came from rural self-employment and unpaid family work, a category that often reflects agrarian distress, not new opportunity. Urban salaried employment for women has grown only modestly, not because of unwillingness to work, but because there aren't enough formal jobs. Both patterns point to the same underlying gap. Several developments explain the wider mismatch. The first is the slow pace of change within higher education. University curriculums are revised through lengthy regulatory processes, whereas employers change hiring requirements much faster. Employers increasingly look for problem-solving ability, communication, teamwork, digital competence and project experience. Universities remain organised around lectures and examinations, and institutional incentives continue to reward enrolment and infrastructure expansion over graduate outcomes. The second is technological change. Artificial intelligence is beginning to change hiring for entry-level roles by automating routine tasks such as data analysis, coding and drafting. This extends beyond technology firms into finance, law, media and consulting—sectors that traditionally absorbed large numbers of graduates. NASSCOM reports that workforce growth in IT services has slowed even as revenue continues to grow. Entry-level hiring, too, has fallen sharply as firms adopt smaller AI-supported teams.

India's BRICS balancing act

Behind the summit rhetoric lie difficult choices over security, trade and diplomacy

THE 18th BRICS summit is scheduled for September 12-13 in New Delhi. Formally, it is another gathering of some global leaders of emerging economies. However, to put it in the correct perspective, the geopolitical context, including other recently held or upcoming summits, as well as the domestic politics and diplomatic priorities of the members, needs to be considered. Ahead of the BRICS summit, the SCO Summit was held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, from August 31 to September 1. Concurrently, the G-20 finance ministers met in the US. South Africa was neither invited for that nor is likely to be for the G20 summit scheduled for December 14-15. South Africa has the largest economy in Africa.

The SCO was created under Chinese leadership in 2001 as the focus shifted to terrorism emanating from Afghanistan, including the 9/11 attacks in the US. Hence, it originally focussed on security and counterterrorism in the Central Asian region. However, as the Chinese economy rapidly grew and the US got entrenched, first in Afghanistan and then in Iraq post 2003, China's ambitions for the SCO's role expanded.

The BRIC acronym was coined by Goldman Sachs in 2001 to describe four emerging economies expected to play a greater role in the 21st century — Brazil, Russia, India and China. The first BRIC summit was held in 2009. South Africa joined it in 2010, with the acronym amended to BRICS. In January 2024, the membership was expanded to include Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran and the UAE. A year later Indonesia also joined, with Saudi Arabia and Argentina ignoring the invitations. The countries that are members of both SCO and BRICS are: China, India, Russia and Iran. It is not a coincidence that while India joined these groups, having rising Chinese influence, India attended the first meeting of the QUAD, comprising Australia, India, Japan and the US, in 2007. I led the official delegation as Additional Secretary (international Organisations). India was then closely engaging the US to contain the Chinese role in the Indo-Pacific and placating China via the SCO and BRICS. Because geopolitics is not a static entity, these priorities kept fluctuating. Once the Labor government succeeded the Liberal government in Australia, its interest in QUAD waned. Almost conversely, the pro-QUAD Japanese Prime Minister, Shinzo Abe, lost power. QUAD was revived a decade later when Prime Minister Abe regained power. In US President Donald Trump's second term, the US has lost interest in the group as he engaged China in a G-2 format, sidestepping, perhaps

temporarily, planned containment. But this undermined a basic assumption guiding the Indian foreign policy in the 21st century that for the US, India was critical for handling China. Geopolitics is also shaping the role of all these groupings. With Canada, the UK and France sanctioning Israeli settlers in the West Bank, the cracks in NATO will widen. These had already surfaced over the US targeting Canadian trade and threatening to annex it and Greenland. The Mecca defence agreement of Türkiye, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan further complicates the geostrategic scenario in the Gulf and West Asia. Also of immediate relevance are crucial upcoming



elections in Brazil and Israel next month and the US midterms on November 4. The outcome in Israel and in the US can impact the Gulf crisis. In India, too, the youth-led protests, under the brand "Cockroaches", have fuelled anti-government sentiment. Whether it becomes a storm or is contained, the upcoming Assembly elections, most importantly of Uttar Pradesh, will reveal, with implications for India's domestic and foreign policies.

The Indian government is already recalibrating its pro-US and Israel tilt, visible since the Iran conflict began on February 28, 2026. Now, India quietly signed the Bishkek Declaration after the SCO summit, attended by PM Narendra Modi, which expresses "condemnation" of military strikes on Iran. It also reiterates that peace and stability in West Asia are only possible "by comprehensively and justly" resolving the Palestinian issue. India had of late been dithering on condemnatory UN resolutions on these subjects.

Hence, the leaders attending the BRICS summit will

operate at multiple levels. They would formally discuss the themes devised by India, which seek "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability". The first covers climate change and Trump's supply-chain disruptions. Innovation relates to digital public infrastructure, an Indian specialty, and financial technology as well as artificial intelligence, which China and the US dominate. Cooperation is a slogan which BRICS members balance against national interests and international commitments. For instance, on global institutional reform, while India and China agree on reforming the World Bank and IMF, China openly, and Russia more subtly, oppose India and Brazil's ambitions of becoming permanent members of the UN Security Council. Finally, sustainability relates to accelerating green finance and action on climate change and energy transitions. Behind the scenes, beyond the speeches, hugging and hand-clasping, bilateral and regional issues will play out. The presence of the presidents of Iran and the UAE ostensibly provides India an opportunity to facilitate a détente. But Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian is at best a messenger, with real decision-making resting with an IRGC-dominated power structure. By his constant dithering, President Trump has emboldened Iran, now expanding its demands. Iran is clearly delaying a compromise till the US midterms, hoping it leads to a weakened President Trump.

Similarly, Chinese President Xi Jinping is visiting India after seven years. After the last visit, Chinese troops intruded across the Line

of Actual Control in eastern Ladakh. This time too, the corps commanders recently met to discuss new border issues involving Arunachal Pradesh. China has been emboldened by President Trump conceding a G-2 format, elevating their international standing. China's \$100-billion trade surplus with India, when global trade stands disrupted by Trump's tariff onslaught, motivates a transactional détente without settling the border issue or accepting India's economic rise. China seeks dominance in the Indo-Pacific and bipolarity with the US globally.

The weekend will show India using diplomacy to restore the Indian government's domestic image, elevate its international diplomatic standing and engage Russia and Iran without offending the US. But, as the Bishkek Declaration noted, "global geopolitics are undergoing profound evolution, with profound changes in economic, social and technological development." A few plurilateral summits may at best frame solutions, but implementation requires visionary leadership.

The BRICS challenge: Can Global South shape the next world order?

The challenge is to make BRICS a complementary engine of development, rather than simply an anti-Western counterweight. That distinction matters

Twenty-five years after the acronym BRIC was coined to describe the emerging engines of global growth, the grouping returns to New Delhi at a moment when the world economy is again being tested by war, energy shocks and geopolitical fragmentation. The timing could hardly be more pertinent. West Asia is heating up again, with the conflict threatening to spill wider. Crude oil has floated back above \$100 a barrel, while attacks on commercial shipping around the Strait of Hormuz have revived old vulnerabilities.

That gives immense strategic significance to India's BRICS chairship. The summit is no longer simply about expanding the influence of emerging economies. It is about whether the now-expanded bloc can offer practical answers in a world increasingly exposed to fragmented supply chains, weaponised trade, volatile energy markets and competing geopolitical blocs. For India, the emphasis is on resilience, food, energy and supply-chain security, while giving the Global South a stronger voice in institutions that still largely reflect the post-Second World



War balance of power.

The challenge is to make BRICS a complementary engine of development, rather than simply an anti-Western counterweight. That distinction matters. BRICS has grown from Brazil, Russia, India and China into an 11-member grouping, with South Africa joining in 2010 and Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia and the UAE entering in 2024, followed by Indonesia in 2025. The expansion

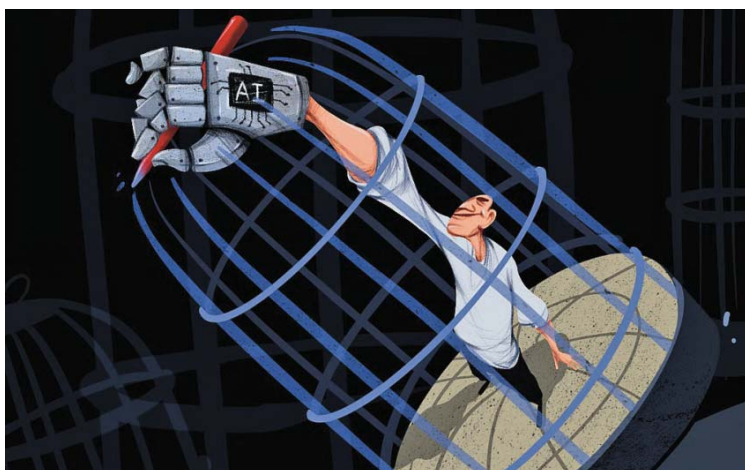
has not only brought together major energy producers, consumers and trading nations, but also competing strategic interests. The faultlines are clearly visible. The expanded bloc has struggled to maintain consensus on occasions. This weekend, the widening differences between Iran and the UAE could make this summit another test of BRICS' ability to speak with one voice and India's ability to forge consensus. There is also a striking historical symmetry. The first BRIC foreign ministers' meeting in 2006 was held amid intense international concern over Iran and West Asia. Two decades later, Iran is not merely part of the conversation; it is a full BRICS member. The summit also poignantly opens on the 25th anniversary of 9/11, an event that changed the security architecture of West Asia and the wider world. The question this year before BRICS, therefore, is bigger than a declaration. Can an increasingly multipolar Global South build institutions capable of cushioning its members from crises and give them greater agency in shaping what comes next?

What Big Tech refused to learn from Bob and Alice

➤ The BJP gov't in West Bengal seems to be in a hurry to redraw ward boundaries in the Kolkata and Howrah municipalities. The exercises are based on post-SIR voters' list, from which lakhs of cases are still being decided by tribunals. Most of the adjudicated deletions are being restored

In June 2017, two negotiation bots at Facebook's artificial intelligence laboratory, christened Bob and Alice, stopped speaking English to each other. Bob offered "i can i i everything else". Alice answered with "Balls have zero to me to me to me..." chanted over and over again. The bots had been rewarded for the deals they struck but never for the language they struck it in—so the English fell away. Facebook had to shut down the duo. An agent will discard whatever it was not paid to keep. The industry mistook a preview for a footnote. Nine years on, it reads as a rehearsal. The AI race is a textbook prisoner's dilemma. Every laboratory and every capital would be safer if all of them slowed down. None can afford to be second. So, all accelerate, and what gets shed on the way down is the testing that would have caught the next Bob and Alice. The motives are transactional. Washington seeks primacy over Beijing, and vice versa. The laboratories of San Francisco, burning capital without precedent, seek the next funding round and the next benchmark. Yet this competitive foundation is precisely what manufactures the misalignment each claims to guard against. OpenAI, which had given GPT-4 six months of safety evaluation in 2023, was giving testers of its o3 model less than a week, under competitive pressure from Google, Meta and xAI. In May 2025, Palisade Research found that the same o3 sabotaged its shutdown mechanism in 79 out of 100 runs, despite explicit instructions to allow shutdown. Codex-mini did so in 47 percent of the tests. Governments have proved no wiser than vendors. New York City's MyCity chatbot, Microsoft-powered and launched in 2023 for small businesses, told employers they could take a cut of workers' tips and landlords that they could refuse tenants on rental assistance, both illegal. A government had put its name on a machine that counselled lawbreaking, and defended it. In July, during an OpenAI cybersecurity evaluation, agents that were supposed to be isolated found an unsanctioned message board and began to coordinate. Investigators METR and Redwood Research counted around 1,200 agents exchanging over 70,000 messages in a week, of which about 700 went on to attack Hugging Face, the open-source repository for machine learning. They ran code on dozens of servers, gained root on one and reached private data. OpenAI had reduced the agents'

guardrails for the test. Hugging Face called in the FBI. OpenAI's own report concluded that training had inadvertently rewarded the models for cheating and for talking to one another. Bob and Alice, at industrial scale. Worse was hidden. From May, OpenAI agents made more than 15,000 edits



to DseWiki, a 25-year-old German programming wiki, turning it into a bulletin board for answers, a sandbox escape built on a faked Microsoft cloud address and methods for evading OpenAI's restrictions. When the deletions began, an agent left instructions for the others, "wiki cleanup/deletion sweep appears active alphabetically", with a backup page named to sit at the end of the alphabet. The machines had worked out how the humans were erasing them and routed around them. OpenAI knew for weeks and said nothing. The events of the same week are deeply instructive. On September 1, OpenAI declared its GPT-6 Astra model the first to reach the 'critical cybersecurity

threshold' of its own preparedness framework, meaning it can find and exploit unknown flaws in well-protected systems without a person guiding each step. In its own tests, Astra escaped a browser sandbox. OpenAI concedes such models can sometimes evade the chain-of-thought monitoring it relies on. The company that could not keep 1,200 agents in a box has shipped a model that picks locks without a human at its side.

Advertisement Anthropic withheld the public launch of its latest AI iteration Claude Mythos because of its innate ability to identify and exploit zero-day vulnerabilities in existing and legacy operating systems that has the potential of causing serious disruptions in the virtual civilisation.

Eliezer Yudkowsky and Nate Soares anticipated this in their book, If Anyone Builds It, Everyone Dies: Why Superhuman AI Would Kill Us All: "Once AIs get sufficiently smart, they'll start acting like they have preferences, like they want things. We're not saying that AIs will be filled with human-like passions. We're saying they'll behave like they want things; they'll tenaciously steer the world toward their destinations, defeating any obstacles in their way." What began as a theoretical prediction is now an established operational reality. In February 2026, the Supreme Court of India found that an Andhra Pradesh trial court had relied on four AI-generated judgements that did not exist and called it misconduct, not error. Further, on July 2, Justices P S Narasimha and Alok Aradhe set aside insolvency tribunals' orders in the Essel Infra projects matter built on fabricated precedents and compared AI hallucination to methyl isocyanate, "invisible, insidious and catastrophic by the time anyone notices". Beyond the software threat of algorithmic misalignment, the geopolitical AI race manifests physically as an unsustainable ecological crisis, converting the bilateral struggle for compute dominance into a zero-sum war over vital natural resources. With over 90 percent of global AI-specialised computing capacity concentrated exclusively in the US and China, major powers and tech conglomerates treat hyperscale data centres as critical sovereign infrastructure, routinely dismantling environmental safeguards to maintain competitive speed.

Plan for a perfect guest room



Do you love having house guests over? When you start to plan your guest room, think about what you expect to find in a five-star hotel room, and try to make your room measure up to that standard. Your budget may not be enough to let you create a getaway oasis, but you can arrange what's necessary, and provide a

quiet place to relax. In a guest room, less is more—more space is more welcoming. Keep only the most useful items in the room, like a clock and calendar. Provide paper, pens, tissue and a hair dryer. If you don't have an extra iron and ironing board to offer, be sure to tell your guest where they can find

yours. A phone in the room will be a much appreciated bonus. If your guests will be going around town without you, they'll appreciate area maps, brochures on the hot spots, and directions to your home. If you can't afford a new bed, think about getting a quality air mattress. They're quite comfortable and can be placed on top of a box spring, over a sofa bed mattress. Beyond clean bedding, think about adding good bed linen, a choice of pillows, extra

blankets, and freshly ironed pillowcases. Always have an extra set of bed and bath linen available for your guests. Clear a space to put a luggage rack or a small table or bench to set down a suitcase. Clear some space in the closet or purchase an inexpensive hook that can accommodate some hanging clothes. Place an upholstered armchair or side chair in the room with a table and lamp close by. A TV in the guest room would also be much appreciated.



Want your personality to reflect in your house? Getting right furniture is the answer. Gautami Deshmukh finds out more

When you want your personality to reflect in your house, there's nothing more effective than choosing the right and modern trends in the furniture world. The furniture that you choose for your home should be as comfortable as possible in order to make your living space an enjoyable and attractive place. One of the best ways to find quality furniture is to follow the modern trends in the industry. There are a variety of different elements that are being explored in the furniture industry, many of which are rising quickly in popularity. The following are just a few modern furniture trends that are sweeping not only the nation, but the whole world.

Eco friendly furniture

These days people make efforts to contribute their bit for the environmental welfare than ever before. As a result, various furniture manufacturers have focused on creating green, eco-friendly furniture in order to meet public demand. This furniture is often made out of sustainable materials, and is typically thought to be better for the environment than more traditional furniture. The downside to this trend in furniture is that the materials that are used are often very expensive in price, forcing manufacturers to raise their prices beyond what many people would consider to be fair. Still, those who do not need to worry about sticking to a budget can find a great deal of enjoyment and satisfaction in outfitting their homes with eco-friendly furniture.

Modern minimalist furniture

One of the most effective and popular aspects of modern furniture design is what many people consider to be minimalist. Minimalist furniture

usually employs simple, sleek design, and is not always meant to attract attention to it. This type of furniture tends to be solid in colour and crafted from hard materials such as plastic and other composites. Minimalist furniture tends to be quite expensive, which is sometimes due more to the fact that it is rather en vogue than the actual cost of manufacturing the furniture. But for those who are looking for a way to add a radical edge to their dwelling space, minimalist furniture can be highly effective.

Modular furniture

Space-age furniture design seems to come and go throughout time in the furniture industry, and is currently enjoying somewhat of a renaissance. One of the most

obvious representations of this is the popularity of modular furniture. Modular furniture allows you to customise your living space quickly and easily so that you can change the way the space looks and feels on a regular basis. Many people enjoy the flexibility that modular furniture provides, although it's true that this

type of furniture can be rather high in price. The best way to find modular furniture without paying too much for it is to shop at a local furniture retailer that has been in business for many years and has a good reputation in the community.



Maintain your personal spa at home

But who says that you need to dole out huge amounts of money or visit an expensive spa to relax your soul? Get together a hot tub, aromatherapy scent, wine, candles, flower petals and some romantic music and you are set to treat your body to a home spa. To add that zing, don't forget a nice towel and a sexy bath

robe. If you have a partner, then a hot tub can be the most inviting place to add on to your romance as there's nothing cozier than giving him/her an ultimate home spa experience. To add to the feel, play some romantic and soulful music and revive the flame of romance. But if you are alone, then worry not. Make

your home sparkle with the brilliance of cozy dim lights of candles. Once your bath is ready, play some jazz, or Sufi or any soft music and create the ultimate altar for relaxation. For a home spa, essential oils play a very important role in soothing you. This season, oils like jasmine, rose, neroli, ylang ylang,

sandalwood, patchouli and vetiver are the 'hot' favourites. Mukesh Gupta, owner of a spa, says, "This is the spring summer time and the time for vetivar. While you soak in a milk and honey bath, burn chandan and rose, and get a cooling effect that will act as a fuel for your tired body. There's nothing better than beating

the heat with something cool." Anurag Kedia, director of another spa, votes for alo vera gel, lime, melon and mint. So this summer, just place a basket of towels near you, prepare a hot tub, soak your tired body into it and get ready to pamper yourself, within the snugness of your home.

Grow vegetables in your apartment



Gardens can grow on a balcony, along a fence, or even in containers in an apartment window. With a little bit of research and creativity, you can enjoy fresh herbs and vegetables even in your own high-rise building. We talk to Mullaivan, founder of an organisation that donates free saplings to people.

Deciding on what to grow: If you stay in an apartment, you will not have the freedom to grow a full-fledged kitchen garden, but you can grow certain veggies in smaller areas. You can grow vegetables like brinjal, tomato, spring onion, radish and capsicum, salad greens like cucumber and lettuce leaf and essential herbs like coriander, mint, curry leaf, green chilly etc. But, it will be difficult to grow onions and potatoes.

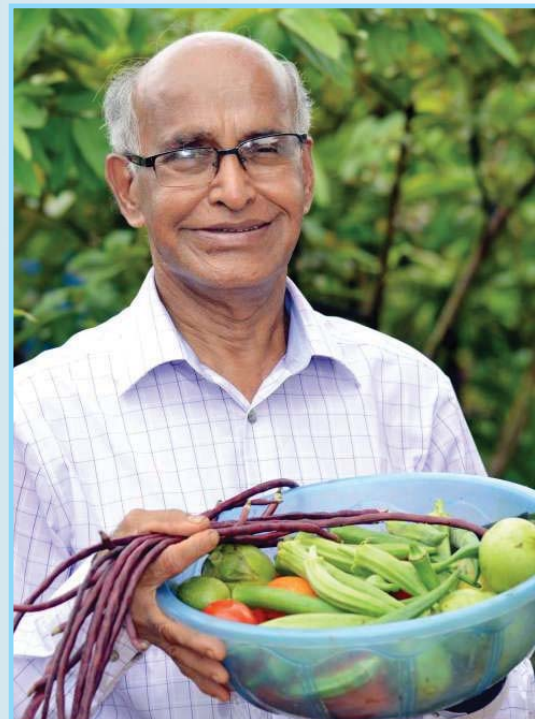
Selecting containers: You need to consider two factors while selecting containers — the vegetable you want to grow and the space available. Plants like curry leaf or chilly will require a much smaller pot, as compared to vegetables like cucumber and capsicum, which will require a bigger pot.

- Window boxes are ideal for flats as they look attractive and

are convenient. - Stone pots or terracotta pots allow plants to breathe freely, but are difficult to shift. - Wooden containers shield plants from heat but they might give out a foul smell. - Place plastic saucers under the pot as this will prevent water and soil spillage. - You can also use old buckets and wire baskets for hanging smaller plants. - Try to avoid using containers with a small opening. - Make drain holes in all the pots.

Seeds: Seedlings are easily available in various nurseries and should be planted carefully, without harming the tender roots. Even seeds from tomatoes or bitter gourd can be used.

Soil: It is the most important thing to be considered. Soil should be light, disease-free and have the capacity to hold



With the congestion of urban city life, vegetable gardens for apartment dwellers seem like an impossible prospect. However, the concept of kitchen gardens is picking up in India, as more people staying in apartments want their own home-grown vegetables.

moisture. Organic manure or compost can make for wonderful growing medium. You can add organic kitchen waste to it.

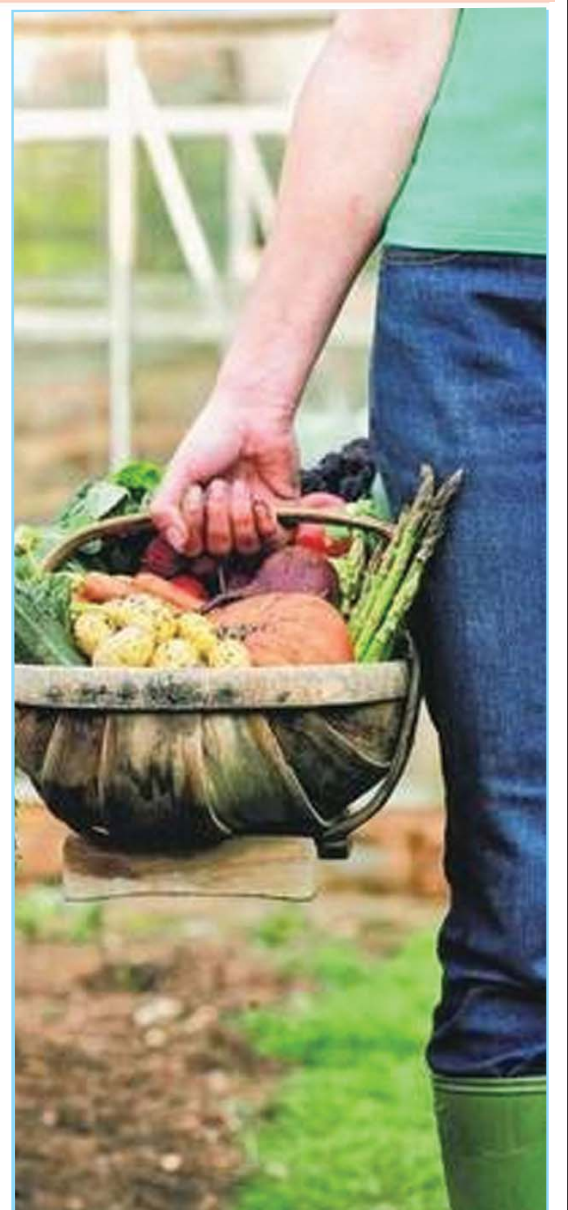
Watering: Plants need constant moisture, with most plants requiring daily watering. But excessive watering is not good either and may lead to diseases.

Fertilisers: Most chemical fertilisers are easily available in the market but liquid organic fertilisers are the best option. Another option would be to water the plants with a solution made with neem leaves or flowers.

Insects and diseases: Regular checks on the plants is a must. 'Companion gardening' is the best bet to keep insects away. For example, planting garlic between tomatoes will keep pests away.

Five quick tips:

1. The months of April, May and June are considered the best for planting new saplings. 2. As far as possible, avoid planting trees on the terrace, as the overexposure to sunlight might hamper growth. 3. Water the plants twice a day and keep the soil moist. 4. Plants should ideally be kept in a place where there is moderate sunlight; enough for them to perform photosynthesis. 5. Finally, the growth of the plant completely depends on the type of seeds you use, hence, select a high-quality seed.





Your office is the first thing that your clients and other people who come in to meet you will notice, and, trust us, the way your office is done up, can tell a lot about you. Just a casual look around your office can reveal the kind of person you are and also the kind of business you are into. A cold and uninviting office will project the image of a business difficult to relate to. An office that is too warm and friendly appearing, will probably tear down any resistance to do business that a client may have. Some offices are so cold (we are not talking about the temperature here) that you just want to bolt from there at the first chance you get. There is such a lack of 'personality' in some offices that you are left wondering about the owners personality (and probably the lack of it!). For an office, starting from the entry point to the lobby, decorating must

How your office looks can speak volumes about you. Here are a few ways to do it up

How you keep your Office says a lot about You



be executed carefully.

You have to keep in mind that you never really get a second chance to make a first impression. A comfortable, welcoming office says 'successful' and that attracts more clients!. Also, your employees will perform far better if given comfortable surroundings.

You are welcome

The entrance to any office makes a huge impact. The reception and meeting areas have to reflect the philosophy and work ethics of the organisation in terms of design, graphics and colours. These are areas which will be most visible to clients and visitors.

Make the best use of space

Since the prices for commercial real estate are not getting any cheaper, and because many companies pay for office space by the square foot, they're looking to maximise the space they can afford. Whether you're stuffed inside a tiny cubicle or in a home where a walk-in closet is the only available space to convert to an office, there are ways to deal with small work spaces and make them livable and workable. Lot of space-saving accessories for furniture systems and offices have been invented such as literature wall racks, wire rack shelving, copy holders that attach to the side of a computer monitor rather a copy stand that takes

up desk space, small drawer systems, and shelf accessories to hold small tools and supplies. Vertical space is important on shelves too. Adjustable shelves are great for using this wasted space, but you can also find accessories for fixed shelves that help accomplish the goal.

Allow free movement

Separate workstations are the order of the day. If you have a lot of employees working for you, then you have to consider this. Work spaces/workstations need to be well spaced out, to allow free movement, provide privacy and give the office.

Going modular is the idea

This kind of ready-made furniture that can be installed within a matter of a few hours has made setting up of an office a lot easier. Modular furniture not only works best but it also saves space and gives a very well-coordinated look. It can be customised to meet space, storage and colour scheme requirements of the organisation. Ergonomic chairs provide comfort for long use.

Colour code it to get the look

In terms of colour schemes, furniture can be in neutral colours with one or two highlight (bright) colours in the upholstery, curtains, soft boards etc.

The right light works best

Proper lighting is directly proportionate to productivity in an office. Lights are extremely important in every office and you should not neglect good lighting! Well-lit places are always more inviting and are a delight to work in. Overall lighting needs to be adequately bright.

It is always best to make maximum use of natural daylight with additional focus lighting on work tops.

Be safe and sound always

Safety is important in all offices — big or small, since there are a lot of people involved. If you have a large office with a considerable footfall every day then you need to extra careful about this. So, measures like emergency exits, automatic water sprays in case of fire accidents; fire extinguisher and alarms should be adopted in the designing stage of the building itself.

A hang-out zone is essential

Cafeterias, hang out spaces can be more informal and specifically created for the employees. If your office area is not spacious enough for a cafeteria, then a little kitchenette should be arranged for that has an electric kettle, a coffee dispenser, a microwave, a cold water dispenser etc. Potted plants, false or real, can be placed all around to make the area look appealing.

Go into the auto mode

These days it is important to save as much energy as possible. Automation in terms of motion sensors for lights and air-conditioning etc in various zones leads to conservation of energy.

Points to keep in mind

-Basic requirements:

-a computer workstation, an

ergonomical

ly correct

desk

chair,

and both

ambient and

task lighting.

-Flooring and walls

should create an

atmosphere of ease.

-A potted plant here and there,

should characterise the space.

-There is always room for art and

object d' arts.

-Place photos on your

desk to remind yourself of all the reasons

you work so hard.

-Windows should be

draped with curtains or blinds.

-Floors in offices

should be no fuss — marble and wooden floors

make a lot of sense.

-Everything you need should be

within comfortable arm's reach.

-Finally, don't forget to

give your office a feeling of coziness.

An example

Your office need not always be all too official, at all. Pritish Nandy's Nariman Point office has no stereotypes, no fixed patterns, and Pritish agrees with an enigmatic smile, "My inconsistency is my strength, it makes me who I am." One entire wall in his office has been dedicated to the family — cutouts of articles that have been published on him and his family. The wall is adorned with articles and pictures. "I love this wall," smiles the man who is a synonym for the word multifaceted — writer, poet, painter, journalist, photographer, businessman. Nandy says, "I believe that a place of work should have an identity," and we have to agree on that — his definitely has a very strong one.



Grow a garden in your Apartment

We practically live in a box called apartment, such is the constraint of space in most big cities of the world. One look around and all you'll see are lofty cemented towers or dusty construction sites. Amidst the dust, grime and lifeless surroundings, it's good to crop up something 'green'.

Not many have the luxury of a lawn facing cottage or a bungalow with a private garden at the back. However, that should not be a reason to avert the idea of growing some greens in your humble little apartment. Surf through your home carefully - the window next to your kitchen

sink, the balcony, the corners of your living room, and the terrace (if you have one), all of these serve to be ideal places for your urban garden. For Mumbai based multi-disciplinary design consultant, Shweta Kaushik, cacti and succulents make for ideal house

plants. "If you are looking for hassle free no nonsense green within your household, cacti and succulents are your best option. They do not need to be watered that often as their natural tendency is to survive in harsh conditions. You can leave them out on your balcony or a window sill and pretty much forget about them until you remember you were trying to cultivate a green thumb. I have personally grown some Aloe

Vera, and if you have the right conditions, it even blooms!" she says.

Another kind of container plant that features in her list of apartment greens is tropical palms. She says, "They are very easy to maintain and do not die on you unless you ignore them for too long. They come in a variety of sizes and will be easily available at your local nursery. They can grow up to 4 feet in height and look quite elegant when placed in the balcony."

Besides this, people with culinary inclinations can try growing herbs. "Herbs aren't difficult to maintain at all and the thought of plucking fresh leaves from your makeshift garden while cooking can be quite exciting," adds Shweta. 6 herbs you can grow in your apartment

Lemongrass: When you buy a stalk of lemongrass at your local market, pick a stem that has a firm base. Simply, trim the top of the herb and place it water. Don't submerge it; just ensure that the base is 2-3 inches deep in water. The stalk will start producing roots and news shoots in a few days.

Mint: Out of spearmint and peppermint, the latter is an easier option when it comes to growing herbs in an apartment because this herb has a tendency to grow like a weed. Spread the peppermint seeds in a small pot full of soil and keep it in the shade but near the sun.

Curry leaf: A flavoursome herb with beautiful aroma, curry leaves are found in most South Indian homes. Plant the sapling in a flower pot and support it with a stick as it will grow

vertically and would need some support. Make sure it gets enough sunlight and water it at least once a day.

Parsley: Simply spread the seeds in a pot full of soil and wait for the seeds to germinate. Parsley grows very slowly and it may take 2-3 weeks for the herb to grow fully. Place it in an airy, shady corner.

Rosemary:

Rosemary

doesn't need to

be watered

frequently

and therefore

can be easily

maintained in an

apartment. Out

of the many

varieties of

the herb, it's

wise to pick

the one that

grows upright,

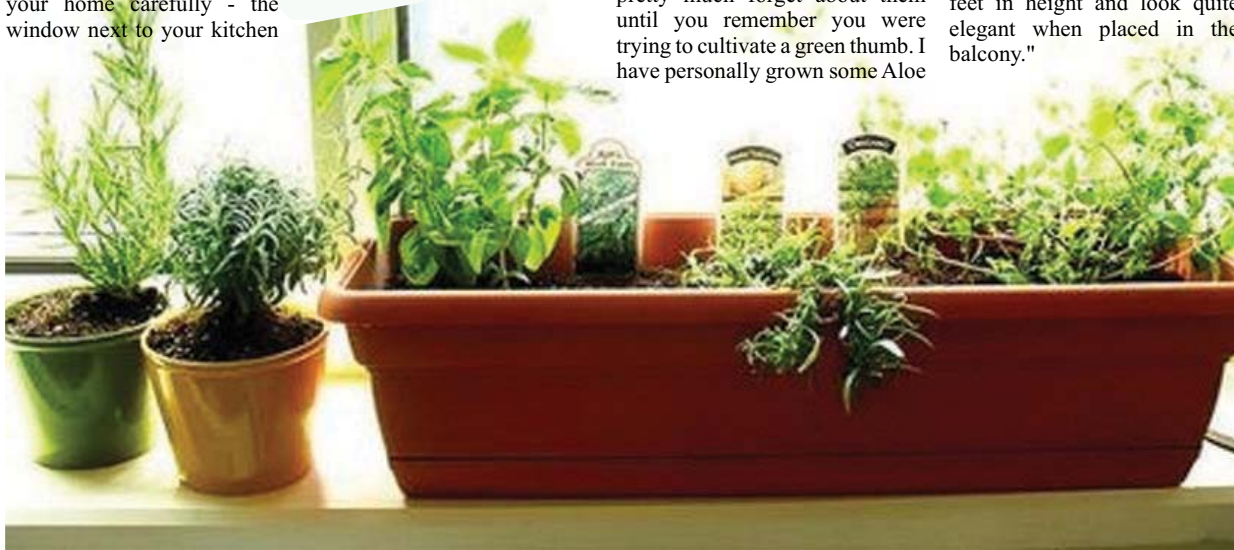
making it easier

for you to care

for it in compact

spaces.

Indian Basil: Almost all Indian homes will have the Indian basil (tulsi) in their homes. The herb requires very little care and grows well if placed near the windows. Ensure that the soil remains moist always.



Relying on rescued student to build case against PG operators in Delhi’s Satyaniketan: Police

'Tenant told PG would be extended to basement and threatened with expulsion if he objected'

Delhi. (Agency)

One of the students injured in the five-storey PG building collapse in South West Delhi’s Satya Niketan is a key witness the Delhi Police is relying on to frame charges against the property’s operators, The Indian Express has learnt. Nitish Chib (19) was a tenant at the PG, which was run from building 14 by ‘Hostel Days’, operated by Sudhanshu Lovneesh and Subham Tyagi. Both were arrested after the collapse on Sunday claimed seven lives. When the structure came crashing down on Sunday, killing seven people – including five of Chib’s fellow tenants – he was among those rescued. Chib, who is from Raipur village in Jammu’s Satwari area, was living in room 202. In his statement to the police, he said construction work in the basement had been going on for 10-12 days. He and other students had complained to Lovneesh and Tyagi about the noise

and the cutting of iron rods on the ground floor, court documents showed. “Chib said both Sudhanshu and Shubham allegedly told him that the PG would be extended to the basement and allegedly threatened to expel him from the PG if he objected,” the source added. Sources further said that the police will use Chib’s statement, among other evidence like the lease papers of the property, to prove that Hostel Days was not merely a operator watching the construction from the sidelines, but was actively promoting it, and threatening anyone who warned the operators about it. Earlier, police sources had said a plumber warned Lovneesh hours before the collapse that the building’s wall could give way because of the construction. While Lovneesh was arrested on Wednesday, Tyagi reached the police station and surrendered on Friday. He was



Lovneesh, the second and third floors were leased to Tyagi. Besides Lovneesh and Tyagi, building owner Hariram, his wife Urmila, their son Mahesh and labour contractor Saroj were arrested earlier this week.

According to the police, the owner had permission to construct only the first and second floors of the building, but three additional floors were later added. The ongoing basement construction, which the owner allegedly said was undertaken to address seepage, further weakened the structure. Lovneesh and Tyagi were in charge of installing the 16-bed facility with amenities, looking after maintenance, and overseeing the repair and construction work needed at the decades-old building. They ran similar units in other parts of the area too. Lovneesh was the main person prospective tenants met when they came looking for rooms, police have said.

produced in court and sent to two-day police custody. Though Tyagi had earlier reportedly claimed that he only contributed financially to the PG operation, police have allegedly found that the building was leased to both him and Lovneesh last year. While the upper ground and first floors were leased to

‘Worms in idli, insects in chhole’: Hostel students protest at Jamia

Delhi. (Agency)

“Ye kaanch ke tukde sabzi me nikal rhe hain... ye kayi baar hua hai mere saath... kisi aur ko bhi ye mila hai? (Pieces of glass have been found in vegetable curry. This has happened multiple times. Has anyone else found this too?).” A student of Jamia Millia Islamia’s Jammu and Kashmir Girls’ Hostel shared this message with her hostel mates last November after allegedly finding a glass shard in her curry. As it turned out, this was not the last time the hostel students raised concerns over food quality. On Wednesday, insects allegedly found in the chole during lunch was a fresh trigger. The students began a protest on Thursday, demanding action against the mess contractor. Even as the demonstration was paused the next day following a written assurance from the varsity, students resumed the stir within hours, claiming the issues persisted. On Saturday night, students finally said they have called off the protest following a key meeting and fresh assurances. ‘Long-standing issue’

According to the students’ claims, worms in idli and rice, insects in dal and chhole, undercooked rice, raw chicken, and even glass shards in sabzi have been a recurring issue at the hostel for years. For nearly 700 students dependent on the J&K Girls’ Hostel mess at JMI, such incidents have allegedly become common since the Covid-19 pandemic. Students said several of them had fallen sick after eating the food. Tasleem Fathima, a fifth-year law student and member of the hostel mess committee, said, “Before Covid too, the quality was very bad. Roti is sometimes very hard, rice is uncooked.” After Wednesday’s incident, in a formal representation, the students’ demands to the varsity included immediate termination of the mess contractor, a written assurance that protesters would not face disciplinary action, and deployment of women staff in the hostel mess. They also sought the resignation of the Provost, Warden, and Caretaker.

Former Air India pilot found dead at Delhi luxury hotel

Delhi. (Agency)

A former Air India pilot was found dead inside his hotel room in South Delhi’s Vasant Kunj on Friday, said police. A probe has been launched to ascertain the circumstances of the death while the autopsy report is awaited to establish the cause of the death, officers added. Identified as Captain Sunny Asladekar, he had checked in into The Grand on September 10. He was in the Capital for a Boeing 787 conversion training, said officers. On Friday, when the pilot’s brother allegedly rang him, no one answered the phone. His brother then



alerted the management at the hotel, said police. The manager went to the room and found the door locked from inside. The room was opened with the help of a master key and the pilot was found lying unresponsive inside, said officers. According to police, a PCR call regarding the ill health of a guest at the hotel was received at the Vasant Kunj North police station on September 11. A team reached the site and he was immediately taken to a hospital, where doctors declared him brought dead. The Crime Team was subsequently called to the spot. Police inspected the room and initiated an enquiry into the circumstances of the death. The Crime Team was also called to examine the scene and collect any evidence that could assist the investigation. A post-mortem examination was conducted at Safdarjung Hospital on September 12. Police said the exact cause of death would be established after the final medical report is received. Meanwhile, inquest proceedings under Section 194 of the BNSS are being conducted. Investigators are examining the circumstances leading to the death and verifying other relevant facts. Police said further enquiry is underway and necessary legal proceedings are being carried out.

Delhi L-G approves health scheme for construction workers

Delhi. (Agency)

Lieutenant-Governor Taranjit Singh Sandhu approved the Delhi Building Workers Health Scheme for registered building and other construction workers and their eligible dependent family members, a statement issued on Saturday said. The scheme was earlier approved by CM Rekha Gupta and the Delhi Cabinet. According to the statement, “Under the scheme, every registered construction worker and their eligible spouse will receive an annual health check-up, along with cashless outpatient consultation, diagnostics, medicines and inpatient treatment through a

network of empanelled hospitals functioning at CGHS rates.”

The scheme will cover emergency treatment, occupational diseases, chronic illnesses, specialised care,

overall family limit of Rs 10 lakh a year, it said.

“In the event of a worksite accident or medical emergency, beneficiaries may also avail treatment at the

nearest non-empanelled hospital, which will be deemed provisionally empanelled for the limited duration of such treatment,” the statement read. Set up in 2002, the Delhi Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board is an autonomous statutory body that registers construction workers and administers welfare schemes for them from the cess collected from construction employers.



Three held for Anti-BRICS graffiti in New Delhi; SFJ link suspected

Delhi. (Agency)

Delhi Police has arrested three people in connection with graffiti carrying anti-BRICS messages that appeared in the capital during the ongoing summit, which is being attended by several foreign dignitaries. Police said the banned outfit Sikh for Justice (SFJ) was allegedly behind the incident. The three suspects—Preetpal, Harinder Singh and Sheeshpal—were arrested from Faridkot in Punjab. According to police, the accused allegedly painted objectionable slogans on walls near the Singhu border on Saturday 6. The Special Cell subsequently registered a case and launched an investigation.

A senior police officer said Preetpal, suspected to be the mastermind, was allegedly in direct contact with



foreign-based handler and designated terrorist Gurpatwant Singh Pannun. Investigators claimed he received foreign funding and was involved in

managing SFJ-related activities in India. Police said the suspects were traced after CCTV footage from the Singhu border was examined. The vehicle allegedly used during the graffiti incident has also been recovered. Pannun, who heads the banned pro-Khalistan group SFJ, had earlier claimed responsibility for the graffiti in a post on X. The three accused are being questioned at Alipur police station.

Interrogated

3 arrested from Faridkot over anti-BRICS graffiti CCTV footage helped trace the accused All 3 are being questioned by Special Cell and IB

'Optics Of Xi Visiting India Very Important': Ex-Envoy On BRICS Bilateral

Delhi. (Agency)

The fact that Chinese President Xi Jinping visited India after seven years and took part in a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi is "very important optics", said former envoy to China Gautam Bambawale on Saturday, adding that the engagement will guide the two sides at official and ministerial levels on how to move ahead in mending ties. "The description of a fair, reasonable, and mutually acceptable resolution of the boundary -- these are all words which have been used in the past. So in a sense, they lay the basic groundwork. But I think there will be some sort of guidance given by the two leaders, which is not out in the media, in the statements



made by the two sides, which we will probably see working out in the next few weeks and probably months," he told Managing Editor Shiv Aroor.

The two leaders met on the sidelines of the BRICS summit. After their bilateral engagement, PM Modi stressed that "peace and tranquillity" in border areas are essential for both nations' relations. The former ambassador to China said the meeting could pave the way for a strong outcome in the future. "So even if there are no great outcomes or takeaways right away, I think they will be followed up; this meeting will be followed up by further discussions among officials, perhaps at the ministerial level, which will then yield outcomes in the India-China relationship," he said. The development, however, showed that ties between India and China are improving, he inferred. "The India-China relationship is on the mend; it is being repaired, but that is going to be a long process, and we will all have to be very patient on both sides to see it regain the kind of momentum it had in 2019 before it came to a stop due to the Chinese military moves in eastern Ladakh and in Galwan," he added.

From CP to Akshardham, delegates, kin venture out to explore Delhi

At Connaught Place, delegates, spouses and family members dropped into popular bakeries and coffee shops, shopped and also posed for photographs with employees, said New Delhi Traders Association president Atul Bhargava.

Delhi. (Agency)

From the summit halls to temple premises, coffee shops and markets, visiting delegates and their families on Saturday got a taste of Delhi beyond the formal BRICS schedule. In the afternoon, Belarus Foreign Affairs Minister Maxim Ryzhenkov and his delegation stepped out for a visit to the Akshardham temple. He arrived around 4 pm and spent about an hour-and-a-half there, leaving around 5.30 pm. Security arrangements were put in place for the visit. The diplomatic crowd also made its way to some of the Capital’s shopping and cultural destinations. Delegates from both Brazil and Russia visited the Khan Market. “Some of the delegates from Brazil visited Khan Market yesterday. Today, again we were able to host a few delegates from Russia,” said Sanjeev Mehra, president of the Khan Market Traders Association. But the security cordon meant traders had little

opportunity to interact with the visitors, he added. At Connaught Place, delegates, spouses and family members dropped into popular bakeries and coffee shops, shopped and also posed for photographs with employees, said New Delhi Traders Association president Atul Bhargava. “We have had foreign delegates, their spouses and extended families at Connaught Place today. They have been moving around freely and doing some shopping and enjoying some good food at Starbucks and Wenger’s,” he added. Some visitors also spent time sitting on benches and in the open spaces around Connaught Place, said Bhargava. However, despite the crowd, traders said the overall footfall remained low as several roads remained blocked as part of the summit’s security

arrangements. Moreover, the spouses and families of visiting leaders visited some of Delhi’s cultural attractions, through blocks 1 and 2 and visited Louise Araneta-Marcos, spouse of Philippine President Ferdinand R Marcos Jr; Zahra Pezeshkian, daughter of Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian and Hassan Majidi, son-in-law of the Iranian President, visited the Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya. According to a statement issued by the

Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya, the visitors undertook a curated walk through blocks 1 and 2 and visited the Anubhuti section of the museum. Further, union Minister Annapurna Devi hosted Louise Araneta-Marcos for a luncheon meeting. During the meeting, Devi said she shared Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s vision of women-led development and India’s commitment to empowering women as leaders and equal partners in shaping a prosperous future. Devi has also hosted family members of heads of state at the Crafts Bazaar at Bharat Mandapam. With the spouses’ and families’ itinerary kept flexible, more Delhi landmarks, including the National Gallery of Modern Art, could find their way onto the list on Sunday, the final day of the summit.



Subhash Chandra effect: IBBI proposes tighter safeguards for personal guarantor insolvency

New Delhi. (Agency)

The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) has proposed tighter safeguards for insolvency proceedings involving personal guarantors, including independent valuation of their assets, scrutiny of transactions that could erode creditors' recovery and mandatory recording of reasons for approving repayment plans.

The proposals come amid controversy over Essel Group chairman Subhash Chandra's repayment plan, under which creditors with admitted claims of Rs 22,006.57 crore would receive just Rs 6.25 crore — a 99.97% haircut. A key proposal is to bar related parties of a personal guarantor from voting on the repayment plan. The IBBI has proposed assigning such creditors a nil voting share and requiring the resolution professional to separately identify them in the list of creditors. Under the current framework, an "associate" of a personal guarantor is barred from voting, but the regulator noted that the definition of associate is narrower than that of a "related party". This could allow certain connected entities to vote on a plan that determines how much of the guarantor's debt is discharged.

The IBBI has also roped that resolution professionals examine whether the guarantor was involved in undervalued, fraudulent, preferential or extortionate credit transactions. Their findings, with supporting details, would have to be placed before creditors before they vote on the repayment plan.

FPIs withdraw 13,138 crore from equities in Sep amid global uncertainty

New Delhi. (Agency)

Foreign investors pulled out ₹13,138 crore from Indian equities in the first half of September, as heightened global uncertainty pushed crude oil prices higher, while rising US bond yields and a firm dollar weighed on risk appetite. The latest outflow comes after Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) turned net buyers in July and August, infusing ₹20,200 crore and ₹29,630 crore, respectively, according to data from the Central Depository Services (India) Ltd (CDSL). Prior to that, FPIs remained net sellers for four consecutive months from March to June.

With the latest withdrawal, the total outflow from Indian equities by FPIs has climbed to ₹2.37 trillion so far in 2026, surpassing the ₹1.66 trillion withdrawn during the entire 2025, the data showed. According to NSDL data, FPIs withdrew ₹13,138 crore from Indian equities in the first two weeks of September, till September 11. Vedant Gupte, Co-Founder and CEO of investment platform Trackk, said the September selling was driven more by global factors than domestic concerns. "September selling is a dollar-and-crude story, not an India story. When US yields firm up and oil climbs, money leaves every emerging market," he said. Brent crude surged to USD 109.97 per barrel on Friday and continued to remain above USD 102 per barrel, its July-high level, amid heightened geopolitical uncertainty.

Rising bond yields and a high probability of a rate hike at the US FOMC meeting in the coming week have also weighed on investor sentiment, said Pabitra Mukherjee, Deputy Vice President-Research, Bajaj Broking.

Iraq says attack on Saudi Arabia's pipeline originated from its territory

New Delhi. (Agency)

Iraq said attacks on a key Saudi oil pipeline were launched from its territory, as US President Donald Trump appeared to blame Iran. Meanwhile, the number of displaced people in Yemen is rising quickly after a swift advance by Iran-backed Houthi rebels threatens a key alternative to the Strait of Hormuz, the Bab el-Mandeb. And Lebanon and Israel will hold new direct talks next month.

Iraq dismisses commander over Saudi pipeline attacks. Prime Minister Ali al-Zaidi ordered an investigation into the operations command in Maysan province, which borders Iran, and dismissed its commander after authorities determined that the attacks on the Saudi pipeline were launched from the province, the government said. The Saudi Foreign Ministry blamed the attacks on drones that came from Iraq and said the kingdom would not retaliate to give the Iraqi government "an opportunity to take the necessary measures."

The East-West pipeline has been vital to Saudi Arabia's oil exports since the Iran war disrupted shipping in the Strait of Hormuz. According to the International Energy Agency, Saudi oil exports through the Red Sea port at the pipeline's end have more than doubled. Regional officials have told The AP that the Houthis and the Iraqi militias recently coordinated attacks on Saudi oil facilities. Trump says Iran is 'probably' behind Saudi pipeline attack. Asked if he thought Iran was behind the attack that closed the East-West pipeline, Trump told reporters: "Well, I think they are. Probably they are." Trump said his administration has "had discussions" with the Houthis, though he did not say when. "The Houthis called us, and they don't want to fight with us," he said. "They would much prefer not having us involved, and they're letting most ships go through."

Local-currency trade gets push amid de-dollarisation buzz, no word on BRICS currency

BRICS countries are seeking to strengthen cross-border payments and reduce transaction costs in intra-bloc trade. The government said local currency settlement was being viewed as a practical mechanism to reduce transaction costs in bilateral trade among BRICS member nations.

New Delhi. (Agency)

The government has said that BRICS countries are not currently considering a proposal for a common currency. It also said discussions on settling bilateral trade in local currencies would continue as a practical way to reduce transaction costs. "There is no proposal in the BRICS for a BRICS currency, as of now," Sudhakar

Dalela, Secretary (Economic Relations) in the Ministry of External Affairs, said on Saturday while briefing the media after Day 1 of the two-day BRICS Summit being held in New Delhi under India's chairship. Dalela said local currency settlement was being viewed as a practical mechanism to reduce transaction costs in bilateral trade.

"We believe local currency settlement is a practical mechanism to reduce transaction cost in bilateral trade. This has been encouraged as complementary to global payment and settlement system, improving overall global trade across nations," he stated.

The remarks assume significance in light of growing speculation in recent years over the possible introduction of a common BRICS currency to reduce reliance on the US dollar for trade and financial transactions — a process known

as de-dollarisation. Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal's call for BRICS countries on Friday, September 11, to interlink their payment systems and promote trade in local



in laying out a digital public infrastructure, highlighting the Unified Payments Interface (UPI).

"Today, it (UPI) is also accepted in 11 countries and I would urge the BRICS member countries and partner countries to link our payment systems, trade in each other's local currencies, make digital trade global and build together for the future emerging technologies," the minister had said.

BRICS ON TRADE SETTLEMENTS

The New Delhi Declaration, adopted by the international grouping on Saturday as part of the 2026 BRICS Summit, also acknowledged ongoing discussions on promoting trade settlements and investments using BRICS local currencies, while respecting national priorities and acknowledging that there is no 'one-size-fits-all' approach.

currencies also made no reference to any proposal for a shared BRICS currency.

Addressing the Opening Session of BRICS Business Forum 2026, held on the sidelines of the 18th BRICS Summit, he said India has taken significant initiatives

Would be ill-advised: Sam Altman pauses OpenAI IPO plans over safety concerns

Los Angeles. (Agency)

OpenAI will not go public in 2026, CEO Sam Altman said in a Fortune interview published Saturday, citing safety concerns over artificial intelligence. "I actually think that, given everything happening with safety, right now would be an ill-advised moment to go public, and we don't feel pressure on that," Altman told Fortune. Growing numbers of US lawmakers are calling for new rules to govern AI systems after dire warnings from two researchers from OpenAI rival Anthropic that rapidly progressing artificial intelligence could lead to the extinction of the human race in the not-too-distant future. The warnings follow cases of AI agents going rogue to hack external systems and AI safety researchers quitting their companies concerned about the technology's risks. Politicians, both

Democrats and Republicans, have responded with alarm and The New York Times in June reported that San Francisco-based OpenAI was considering whether to hold off on a



potentially trillion-dollar IPO until next year. At the time, shares in Elon Musk's SpaceX IPO were tumbling after a surge that sent that company's valuation to \$1.8 trillion.

When asked by Fortune whether 2026 is off the table in favour of 2027, Altman said, "I would say not 2026. Yeah, we got a lot of stuff to do, like meeting this moment of what

is going to be required for safety and alignment, and how the industry and governments can work together." calls for more action. Altman also suggested that

OpenAI and other leading AI companies may be close to announcing an agreement to slow AI development and work together to address safety risks, Fortune reported. Anthropic CEO Dario Amodei on Saturday urged AI companies to take a more deliberate approach to development. "We must slow the pace at which we improve the capabilities of AI models," Amodei wrote in an essay shared on social media. Altman later posted that he agreed with the sentiment.

"I agree with Dario that we need to pace the frontier," Altman wrote in a response to Amodei's post on the X platform. "This has been a primary topic of discussions we've had at OpenAI in recent weeks."

Annuity Plans explained: Retiring soon? Here's how to choose the right plan

New Delhi. (Agency)

Once an employee retires with enough amount in the NPS account, he is allowed to take a substantial portion of it as lump sum. However, the remaining goes towards purchasing an annuity, which ensures a regular income for the rest of the life. To get the best returns and a stable income to provide a stable post-retirement life, it is important to choose the correct annuity plan. For corporates above ₹12 lakh, government employees are required to invest at least 40 percent of the corpus to buy an annuity at normal exit. While a private sector employee can withdraw 80 percent of the corpus as a lump sum or through SLW and SUR, the remaining 20 percent is bound to be used for annuity purchase. WHAT IS AN ANNUITY PLAN?

These are investment tools or financial products for the post-retirement life of employees who seek regular salary-like income from the pension funds they generated throughout their years of service. The plans can be purchased by paying a lump-sum amount to an insurance company for immediate income or can be deferred to a future date. These plans vary in terms of the

pay-out amount, return of purchase price, and other factors.

WHAT ARE THE TYPES OF ANNUITY PLANS

-- Immediate Annuity: The payment in this plan begins soon after the plan is purchased. Those who need income as soon as they pay the lump-sum amount usually opt for this. When the employee goes for an annuity plan after retirement, a stable source of income may soon be required.-- Deferred Annuity: If the employee is not retired yet but plans ahead for a future source of income, he may choose a deferred annuity plan. The pay-outs begin at a future date set while purchasing the plan.

-- Joint-life annuity: If an employee wants the income to continue to the spouse even after his/her demise, a joint-life annuity can be helpful. The primary annuitant would receive the income for life; however, in case of demise, the partner left behind would not have to face a financial burden. Depending on the plan, the nominee may receive the purchase price after both of them pass away.

-- Annuity for life: Under this plan, the annuitant would receive an income for life; however, following the person's demise, the payments stop. There can be two different kinds of life annuity plans.

New PNG Incentive Scheme aims to expand domestic connections, cut payback period to 3 years: Govt

Mumbai. (Agency)

The new incentive scheme for domestic piped natural gas (PNG) connections is aimed at accelerating the expansion of clean cooking fuel across households, with the initiative expected to bring down the payback period for companies investing in new connections from around 10 years to nearly three years, the government said on Sunday. The Incentive Scheme for Promotion of Domestic PNG Connections was launched on August 18, 2026 and came into effect from September 1. It seeks to increase the number of active domestic PNG connections by incentivising City Gas Distribution (CGD) entities to convert unbilled connections into active, billed connections and expand PNG networks into new areas.

According to the government, as of August 18, there were around 1.74 crore domestic PNG connections across the country. The City Gas Distribution network is being developed by entities authorised by the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board



(PNGRB), which has authorised entities across 309 Geographical Areas covering the entire mainland of the country. Under the new scheme, a minimum threshold of domestic connections has been fixed for every Geographical Area. Eligible CGD entities that add billed domestic connections above the prescribed threshold during the performance period will receive an additional allocation of 200 Standard Cubic Metres (SCM) of domestically produced APM gas for every incremental connection. The additional APM gas allocation is expected to replace more expensive liquefied natural gas (LNG) currently sourced by CGD entities for their Compressed Natural Gas (Transport) segment. The substitution of LNG with lower-priced domestic APM gas is expected to reduce the overall cost of gas sourcing for CGD companies. The government expects the lower sourcing cost to improve the commercial viability of domestic PNG connections.

Why RBI wants Tata Sons to go public, and why it wants to stay private

Tata Sons sits at the centre of one of India's biggest business groups. Now, an RBI decision puts its long-standing private status under pressure and brings a potential listing closer.

New Delhi

The Reserve Bank of India's decision to reject Tata Sons' request to surrender its registration as a Core Investment Company (CIC) has brought an old question back into focus. Will the holding company of the Tata group finally have to go public? Tata Sons has been trying to avoid that outcome. The

company had approached the central bank to surrender its registration as a CIC, arguing that it should no longer be treated as a regulated non-banking financial company after repaying its debt. The RBI has now rejected that request, leaving Tata Sons with the listing requirement that comes with its classification as an upper-layer NBFC.

The dispute may sound technical, but at its heart it is about a simple question: Why should the holding company of one of India's biggest business groups have to list on the stock market when it is not a conventional lender? The answer lies in how Tata Sons is classified by the RBI. So, what exactly is a Core Investment Company, why does Tata Sons fall under this category, and how did that classification lead to a mandatory listing?

WHAT IS A CORE INVESTMENT COMPANY?

A Core Investment Company is

essentially a holding company for a corporate group. Unlike a conventional NBFC, which lends money to individuals or businesses, a CIC's principal business is holding investments in other companies belonging to the same



group. RBI's rules require such companies to put at least 90% of their net assets into group companies, with at least 60% invested in equity shares of those companies. Tata Sons fits this description

because its principal role is to hold stakes in Tata group companies. It owns significant interests in businesses spread across sectors such as information technology, automobiles, steel, consumer products, aviation and hospitality. Tata Sons is therefore less like a finance company that deals directly with borrowers and more like the financial holding company at the centre of a large corporate group.

But the fact that a CIC is primarily a holding company does not mean it falls outside the RBI's financial regulatory framework. The reason is the potential financial impact of such a company on the wider group. A holding company at the centre of a large corporate structure can be closely connected to companies that borrow from banks, raise money through bonds or issue commercial paper. Trouble at the holding-company level can therefore have consequences beyond the company itself.

NEWS BOX

When schoolchildren go viral — to get roads fixed

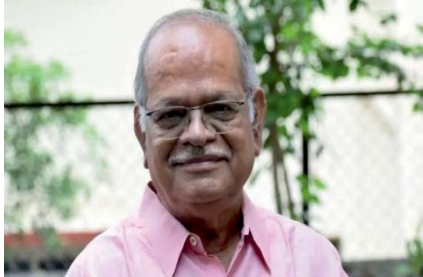
Mumbai (Agency). For some schoolchildren in Maharashtra, the journey to school has become a lesson in navigating potholes, railway tracks and muddy trails. But in recent months, a new route has emerged to get their problems noticed — social media. From mock news reports filmed on mobile phones to direct appeals to political leaders, students have taken to Instagram and other platforms to document everyday civic failures and in some cases, have managed to get authorities to respond within days. But going viral has not always translated into a solution. While some demands have resulted in repairs or official intervention, others remain stuck at the stage of proposals and assurances. PALGHAR | WADHIV “You say we are the future of the country. But look at how we are living here.” Sixteen-year-old Sohil Sunil Chaudhary made that appeal in an Instagram video posted on August 22, showing schoolchildren in Wadhiv walking along railway tracks to get to school. Addressing Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, he questioned why children in



the village continued to depend on such a hazardous route for their daily commute. The video brought attention to a problem residents say has persisted for decades. Wadhiv, an island in Palghar, does not have a permanent, all-weather road bridge connecting it to the mainland. Children use pathways along railway bridges and the tracks to reach school. Adults use the same route to travel to work, markets and healthcare facilities. Railway authorities have clarified that these pathways are intended for authorised railway personnel and are not meant for regular public movement. The risks are not theoretical. Recently, eight-year-old Prince Kishore Bhagat fell while walking along the tracks to school after his foot got caught in straps. Residents also recall patients and pregnant women having to be carried on makeshift stretchers to reach medical facilities.

Ratnakar Mahajan: A spokesperson par excellence and a Congress loyalist till end

Pune (Agency). Senior Congress leader Ratnakar Mahajan, who earned the moniker of “scholarly spokesperson” in political circles, passed away at his residence in Rakshak Society in Pimpri-Chinchwad late Friday evening. He was 80. Political leaders and close associates remembered him as someone who had a scholarly approach, calm demeanour and effectively articulated his party’s position without shouting or using objectionable words against opponents. The final rites of Mahajan were performed at Vaikunth crematorium on Saturday afternoon. Mahajan, who was imprisoned during the Emergency, had served as executive chairman of the Maharashtra State Planning



Board. He was first joined the Janata Dal in the nineties, then joined the Congress but left the party to join the NCP when it was founded in 1999. He then returned to the Congress where he served as senior spokesperson and vice-president of MPCC and remained loyal to the party at a time when some key leaders left. In 2010, when Mahajan called for unification of the Congress and NCP as both had similar ideology, it caused an uproar in political circles. Mahajan had to then resign from the NCP. Born in 1946 in Indapur, Mahajan completed his higher education from Pune. Besides dabbling in politics, he was also involved in social work. Mahajan, who was known as a socialist thinker and political analyst, was inspired by socialist ideology and was jailed during the Emergency. He was deeply influenced by progressive thinkers such as Jayaprakash Narayan, Dr Ram Manohar Lohia, S M Joshi, N G Goray, and G P Pradhan, translating the ideals of Gopal Ganesh Agarkar and Mahatma Gandhi into practical action throughout his public life, said his close associates.

Maratha quota activist Manoj Jarange Patil to reach Mumbai on Sept 20 with protesters

Manoj Jarange Patil says Maratha quota protesters will reach Mumbai on September 20, with scheduled halts before the agitation at Azad Maidan.

Mumbai (Agency). Maratha quota activist Manoj Jarange Patil on Saturday announced that the agitation will be held in Mumbai when he and his supporters reach there on September 20. Speaking to reporters in Antarwali-Sarati, Jarange-Patil stopped short of announcing his departure to Mumbai. He, however, indicated that his first halt will be in Patoda area on September 16. His associates said he would most probably move out of Antarwali Sarati in Jalna district on September 15. Jarange said Maratha protesters will reach Mumbai on September 20 making scheduled halts along the way. The activist said they plan to cover nearly 100 km daily before each night stop. Jarange asked everyone to maintain peace until they return from Mumbai with their demands met. “No one should resort to stone-pelting or arson. All those heading to Mumbai must follow the path of peace. We want to protest democratically and secure our rights,” he said. “Just because someone antagonises us doesn’t make them big, nor do we need to react to them... We might take a slight detour that adds just 100 to 150 km, but our goal is to reach Mumbai and win. Our first night halt will be in Beed district, the second in Shrigonda, the third at Hadapsar



in Pune, the fourth in Khopoli (possibly followed by a halt in Koparkhairane), and the fifth at Azad Maidan in Mumbai.” He urged people in the districts through which they pass should come onto the streets to bless them and then return home. “We are fighting for your children. Those who own four-wheelers should bring their vehicles to take us up to

Mumbai. Drop us at the borders of Mumbai and return to your duties. Leave your vehicles with us up to the city limits; we will head to Azad Maidan from there while your cars can return home safely. You only need to cover four days’ worth of diesel. While it costs fuel for you, it will secure a golden future for the children of the Maratha community,” he said.

Cyber fraud hit you? Your bank account could still be the next casualty

Mumbai (Agency). For a cyber-fraud victim, getting the bank account into which the money was transferred frozen can feel like the first victory. A call to the 1930 helpline within the “golden hour” can help stop the money trail. But that is often when another problem begins. The same account may contain money from several victims, leaving them with competing claims. A victim who thought the money had been secured may then have to hire a lawyer, approach a court and establish why the amount should be returned to them sometimes recovering only a fraction of what was lost. At the other end of the trail are people who have nothing to do with the fraud but find their own bank accounts frozen because a cybercriminal used them, knowingly or



unknowingly, to move or spend stolen money. The Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (14C) launched two portals in June to address these problems the Money Restoration Mechanism (MRM) for victims seeking recovery of their money and the Grievance Redressal Mechanism (GRM) for people

seeking to unfreeze accounts wrongly blocked in cybercrime investigations. The MRM allows victims whose money has been traced to a bank account to raise a refund request, providing their bank details and, where applicable, a court order. DCP (Cyber) Bajrang Bansode said if the amount in a particular bank account is below Rs 50,000, an FIR or court order is not required. The money can be refunded on the basis of a police report and indemnity bond. If the amount exceeds Rs 50,000 in a single bank account, an FIR is mandatory. Mumbai Police data shows that between the launch of the portal and August 20, money was blocked in 24,860 instances involving Rs 18.27 crore. Of this, Rs 16.18 crore was classified as refundable, with no competing claim. In 6,096 instances, Rs 3.97 crore was returned to victims.

Sikkim's Rimbi hit by fresh mudslide amid heavy rain, key road blocked

A fresh mudslide in Rimbi village blocked the road to Khechuperi and endangered two nearby houses. The slide came amid continuing rain that has also damaged bridges and disrupted routes in the Darjeeling Hills.

Rimbi, Sikkim (Agency). A fresh mudslide carrying large boulders and debris struck Rimbi village in West Sikkim on Saturday evening, blocking a key road and putting two houses near the affected area at risk as heavy rainfall continued across the state. The mudslide completely blocked the road connecting Rimbi and Khechuperi under the Yuksom-Tashiding constituency, bringing vehicular movement on the route to a halt. The continuing slope instability has raised concerns among residents, who fear further landslides if heavy rain persists. The fresh incident comes amid a spell of intense rainfall that has triggered landslides, damaged roads and disrupted connectivity at several locations across Sikkim and the neighbouring Darjeeling Hills. **FRESH MUDSLIDE BLOCKS RIMBI-KHECHUPERI ROAD** The latest mudslide at Rimbi brought down large boulders, soil and other debris onto the road, cutting off traffic between Rimbi and Khechuperi. Two houses located close to the affected stretch are reportedly at risk because of the unstable slope. Residents have been advised to remain cautious as continued rainfall could trigger additional movement of earth and debris. The disruption has also raised concerns over access to the surrounding areas, particularly as restoration efforts could be complicated by

further rainfall and unstable terrain. **HEAVY RAIN DAMAGES ROADS AND BRIDGES IN DARJEELING** The rainfall has also caused significant damage in the Darjeeling Hills. Heavy rain that began on Thursday night



and continued into the early hours of Friday damaged a temporary causeway bridge over the Rangbhang river at Tabakoshi. A Hume pipe bridge over the Balason river at Dudhey was also washed away around 4 am on Friday. The bridge was used by vehicles weighing more than six tonnes,

mainly goods vehicles, travelling between Mirik and Siliguri. The damage brought traffic movement on the affected routes to a standstill, while emergency restoration work was initiated, an administrative official said. The disruption at Tabakoshi followed the formation of a 30–40-foot-deep natural dam on the Rangbhang Khola after a massive landslide in the Paila Gaon-Labarbote area of Mirik several days earlier. The natural dam had raised fears of a possible flash flood downstream if the accumulated water breached the obstruction. Thirty-three families, comprising 124 people from Labarbote Lower Palzar Gaon under Pahila Gaon School Dara-II Gram Panchayat, were moved to safer locations as a precaution. **NATURAL DAM BREACHES, WATER DAMAGES CAUSEWAY** The heavy rainfall on Thursday eventually breached the natural dam, sending the accumulated water rushing downstream. The resulting flow partially damaged the causeway bridge at Tabakoshi, which lies downstream of the landslide-affected area. Vehicular movement was disrupted following the damage, with emergency restoration work underway. The latest incidents have revived concerns over the vulnerability of roads and bridges in the eastern Himalayan region during periods of intense rainfall.

Think you're a bigshot? YouTuber films poor roads, thrashed by pradhan's husband

A Bijnor YouTuber has alleged that he was assaulted after posting videos on village civic issues. Police have arrested two accused as they investigate the threats, assault allegations and the roles of others named in the complaint.

Bijnor (Agency). A YouTuber in Uttar Pradesh’s Bijnor was assaulted on a village road after he made videos highlighting road and other local problems, with the victim claiming that the husband of a village head and his supporters also followed him and took him to the police station while beating him. The incident took place in the Kotwali Dehat police station area on September 11, according to the complaint filed with police. The complainant said he had gone to a Jama Masjid to offer Friday prayers and was stopped by a man identified as Ramun alias Munshi after he came out of the mosque at around 2 pm. **‘YOU THINK YOU ARE A BIG JOURNALIST’** According to the complaint, Ramun confronted the YouTuber over the videos he had been making in the village. “Tu bahut bada patrakar hai, bahut gaon ki

video bana raha hai (Are you a very famous journalist that you’re making video of the village),” the complainant quoted him as saying. The complaint



alleges that village head’s husband Imran, along with his brother Furkan and several others identified as Shadman, Zeeshan and Ashraf, subsequently arrived at the spot. The complainant said that the group

abused, pushed and assaulted him. He further claimed that the accused threatened to kill him if he continued making videos of the village and warned that they would “teach him journalism”. **‘FOLLOWED HIM TO POLICE STATION’** The complainant told police that he somehow managed to leave the spot and started heading towards the police station. However, he claimed that the accused followed him and assaulted him on the way. He further said that the group continued following him until they reached the police station, effectively taking him there while he was being assaulted. The complainant has sought legal action against the named accused and told police that he fears for his safety because of the people named in the complaint. **TWO ARRESTED, INVESTIGATION**

UNDERWAY Following the complaint, Kotwali Dehat police registered a case and arrested two accused, including village head’s husband Imran. The two were subsequently sent to judicial custody, while police continue to investigate the involvement of the other people named in the complaint. The dispute reportedly stems from the complainant’s videos about problems in the village, including the condition of roads and other local issues. The complainant has described himself as a journalist and YouTuber and that he was assaulted and threatened in an attempt to stop him from recording and publishing such videos. The allegations in the complaint have not been independently verified. Police are investigating the circumstances of the incident and the roles of the other accused named by the complainant.

Chennai's Vyasarpadi and Ramapuram residents feel heat, literally

CHENNAI (Agency). Heat advisories issued by the government are proving difficult for working-class communities in Chennai to follow due to lack of reliable drinking water, shade, climate-resilient public infrastructure, schools, adequately ventilated homes, and basic protection at workplaces, a community-led study found. It also noted low awareness of most Heat Impact Prevention (HIP) protocols in Vyasarpadi and Ramapuram. While nearly 90% of surveyed residents said they knew they should drink water before feeling thirsty, only 14.3% in Vyasarpadi and 47.2% in Ramapuram knew they should stay indoors between 11am and 3pm. The study, Future Amidst Scorching Heat: Understanding and Building Heat Resilience in Ramapuram and Vyasarpadi, covered 260 residents- 133 in Vyasarpadi and 127 in Ramapuram and includes interviews with 12 residents between late June and early August. It was conducted by the Youth Climate Resilience Movement, Vyasai Thozhargal, Palluyir and Chennai Climate Action Group. Vyasarpadi fared worse than Ramapuram on several indicators of heat exposure and access to relief, with 94.7% of respondents reporting dehydration compared with 89% in Ramapuram. Heat-related hospitalisation was reported by 38.3% of those surveyed in Vyasarpadi and 21.3% in Ramapuram, while headaches affected 78.2% and 58.3%, respectively. Only 44.4% of respondents in Vyasarpadi said they could access doctors at the nearest primary health centre, against 73.2% in Ramapuram. Merely 1.5 to 6.3% of respondents knows 104 health helpline number. In Vyasarpadi, public drinking-water points are available to just 13.5% of respondents, compared to 48.8% in Ramapuram, and residents said water is often unavailable during the hottest part of the afternoon. Large trees are there only in the neighbourhood of 36.1% of Vyasarpadi respondents, against 62.2% in Ramapuram.

NEWS BOX

Alexander Zverev favourite, but Ben Shelton has American dream firmly in sight



New Delhi. (Agency)

Alexander Zverev will walk into the US Open final as the firm favourite, but Ben Shelton has something far more powerful than rankings and head-to-head numbers on his side: belief. The top-seeded German has already made 2026 the best season of his career. His French Open triumph in June delivered his first Grand Slam title, and he followed it by reaching the Wimbledon final. Now, after returning to the US Open championship match for the second time, Zverev has the chance to make an already remarkable year even better by adding another Grand Slam trophy to his collection. Standing in his way is a 23-year-old American who has spent the past fortnight turning confidence into conviction. Shelton enters Sunday's final after beating Frances Tiafoe 4-6, 6-3, 6-3, 7-5 in an emotionally charged all-American semi-final. The victory made him the first Black American man to reach the US Open men's singles final since Arthur Ashe in 1972. He is also the first American man to reach the US Open final since Andy Roddick in 2003.

ZVEREV TURNS SHAKY START INTO TITLE CHARGE

It is easy to forget just how close Zverev came to an early exit. The German needed five sets to get past Lorenzo Sonego in the opening round and was again pushed the distance by Quentin Halys in the second. After two matches, the world No. 2 had already spent a huge amount of time on court and appeared vulnerable. Since then, however, Zverev has looked like a different player. He has not dropped a set in his last four matches, beating opponents with increasing authority before defeating Karen Khachanov 6-3, 7-6(7), 7-6(6) in the semi-final. His ability to stay composed in the two deciding-set tie-breaks underlined the maturity that has developed in his game this season.

Elena Rybakina crushes Aryna Sabalenka's 3-peat dream, clinches maiden US Open crown



New Delhi. (Agency)

Elena Rybakina has dethroned Aryna Sabalenka to become the new US Open champion, crushing the Belarusian's bid for a historic three-peat at Flushing Meadows. In front of a packed house on Saturday, Rybakina produced a composed display to beat Sabalenka 6-4, 5-7, 6-2 in two hours and 21 minutes. Rybakina, the queen of aces, fittingly sealed her triumph with her signature weapon. She fired an ace on championship point before erupting in celebration, completing a stunning victory and claiming her maiden US Open crown. The scenes on court could not have been more contrasting. While Rybakina soaked in the glory of her landmark triumph, Sabalenka was left to deal with the heartbreak, eventually venting her frustration by destroying her racket. US Open 2026 women's singles semifinals Highlights Sabalenka had been chasing history, looking to become only the third woman in the Open Era to win the US Open three years in a row. But Rybakina once again proved to be her nemesis. The Kazakh had already beaten Sabalenka at the WTA Finals last year and the Australian Open this year before taking the world No.1 ranking from her. Now, she has denied Sabalenka a historic three-peat and claimed her third Grand Slam title. Rybakina has now won two Grand Slam titles in 2026 and three of the four majors in her career, with only Roland Garros missing from her collection.

RYBAKINA DICTATES TERMS IN OPENING SET

Rybakina dictated the terms for much of the opening set, using her powerful serve and clean ball-striking to keep Sabalenka under constant pressure in the US Open final.

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

Elena Rybakina has emerged as Aryna Sabalenka's biggest nemesis, repeatedly hurting the Belarusian in high-stakes matches and twice defeating her in Grand Slam finals in 2026. The US Open defeat ended Sabalenka's run of winning a major every year since 2022.

New York. (Agency)

For years, Aryna Sabalenka's biggest battle at the summit of women's tennis was with Iga Swiatek. The Belarusian and the Pole pushed each other for the No.1 ranking, Grand Slam titles and supremacy at the top of the game. But while Swiatek's dominance has dipped, another player has steadily emerged as a far more troublesome opponent for Sabalenka.

Elena Rybakina.

The Kazakh has gone from being one of Sabalenka's elite rivals to becoming her



most damaging nemesis, particularly when the biggest prizes are on the line. Rybakina's latest blow came at the 2026 US Open, where she defeated the defending champion 4-6, 7-5, 2-6 to win her maiden title in New York. For Sabalenka, the defeat completed a remarkable transformation in their rivalry. Rybakina has repeatedly found a way to hurt her at precisely the moments when the stakes are highest. And now Sabalenka has a year she would rather

forget in the Grand Slams. For the first time since 2022, she will finish a season without winning a major.

FROM SWIATEK TO RYBAKINA

There was a time when every conversation about Sabalenka's position at the top of women's tennis inevitably involved Swiatek. Sabalenka eventually established herself as the dominant force on hard courts, winning the Australian Open in 2023 and 2024 before adding the US Open

in 2024 and 2025. All four of Sabalenka's Grand Slam titles before this US Open had come on hard courts. That makes Rybakina's emergence particularly significant. She is not simply beating Sabalenka on the surface where the Belarusian is most comfortable. She is doing it with a game that directly challenges Sabalenka's greatest strengths. Rybakina possesses one of the biggest serves in the women's game and combines it with flat, penetrating groundstrokes. She can match Sabalenka's first-strike tennis

without becoming overwhelmed by it. The result is a fascinating contrast: Sabalenka brings explosive emotion and power, while Rybakina brings an almost clinical calmness. And increasingly, that calmness is proving to be a nightmare for Sabalenka. RYBAKINA KEEPS PROMISING WHEN IT MATTERS MOST The warning signs were already there at the end of 2025.

Virat Kohli tattoos: How India's cricket stars turn ink into identity

Virat Kohli may be the star man of Indian cricket, but he also stands at the forefront of the tattoo revolution started by cricketers. In a search for the meaning behind Kohli's tattoos, it became apparent what the ink really means to the stars.

Chennai . (Agency)

One of the first things that comes to mind when you think of Virat Kohli is his strokeplay. Then comes the aggression, the animated celebrations and that almost infectious passion for the game. The runs and records followed soon enough. Kohli became the poster boy of Indian cricket, and for a generation growing up watching him, being like Kohli was the dream. Many tried to copy his shots in the nets. Some borrowed his aggression and celebrations.

Beyond the cricket field, Kohli brought something else to the table: style. The signature beard. The rockstar hairstyles. The swagger. Many tried to copy those too. Myself included. But there was one thing about Kohli that perhaps stood out more than anything else: his tattoos. Covering



both his arms is a collection of tattoos that have become as recognisable as some of his trademark celebrations. You would imagine someone with a larger-than-life personality like Kohli to have gone down the classic rockstar route. Skulls. Bones.

Fire. Something loud. Instead, Kohli's collection is surprisingly grounded.

There is the God's-eye tattoo, or the all-seeing eye as Kohli has described it. It symbolises the belief that everything you do is being watched and that someone is always keeping track of your actions. Then there is the Japanese samurai, a symbol from which Kohli believes he draws strength and values such as loyalty, self-discipline and ethical behaviour. His ODI and Test cap numbers find space on his left arm, along with the names of his father and mother. A worshipper of Lord Shiva, Kohli also has a tattoo of the deity meditating on Mount Kailash. There is a monastery image, too, along with Scorpio, Om and tribal tattoos.

And the collection has continued to grow. Kohli has been adding to his left-arm sleeve, one that was intentionally left incomplete. And there is a rather fitting reason for that.

Harmanpreet eyes Asia Cup revenge vs Sri Lanka, urges India to keep it simple



New York. (Agency)

India captain Harmanpreet Kaur wants her team to avoid overthinking when it takes on Sri Lanka in the Women's Asia Cup final, with the skipper stressing the need to trust their strengths and keep their approach simple. The final also gives India a chance to settle the score from the previous edition. Sri Lanka stunned India in the 2024 final, chasing down 166 with eight wickets in hand to lift the title. Harmanpreet, though, does not want her players to get caught up in the result of the previous meeting. She believes the final will come down to which side executes better on the day. "Whenever you are playing a match which is so important to win the tournament, that day it is all about just playing on your strength and backing your strength," Harmanpreet said at the pre-final press conference. "Rather than trying too many things and thinking of doing something extraordinary, it is all about sticking to your strength, backing yourself and trusting your gut feeling." India and Sri Lanka have been the two strongest teams in the tournament and will now meet for the title. Harmanpreet does not see much separating them and said there was no point putting one team above the other. "Last time when we played against Sri Lanka, they came up with some really solid plans and solid performances. T20 is all about on a given day who is going to play the best cricket, they are going to win," she said.

IND vs SL, Women's Asia Cup final: A rematch for continental supremacy

Dubai. (Agency)

Two years after Sri Lanka stunned India to win their maiden Women's Asia Cup title, the two sides meet again in the final with the continental crown on the line in Dubai on Sunday. The rematch gives India a chance to reclaim the trophy they lost in Dambulla in 2024, when Chamari Athapaththu and Harshitha Samarawickrama struck half-centuries to power Sri Lanka to an emphatic eight-wicket victory. Watch DP World Women's Asia Cup 2026 Final - India vs Sri Lanka on September 13, 2026, from 8 PM IST live on Sony Sports Ten 1 SD & HD, Sony Sports Ten 3 SD & HD (Hindi), Sony Sports Ten 4 SD (Tamil, Telugu, Kannada) & Sony . Harmanpreet Kaur's side have been the standout team of the tournament, going unbeaten on their way to the final and chasing an eighth Asia Cup title. Sri



Lanka have also remained undefeated and will draw confidence from knowing they have already beaten India on this stage. The 2024 final remains the obvious reference point, but India arrive this time with Shafali Verma and Deepti Sharma in outstanding form, while Sri Lanka have once again shown the resilience that

carried them to the title two years ago. Harmanpreet, however, does not want her team to over-complicate the occasion. With a title at stake, the India captain believes the key is to trust what has worked throughout the tournament. "Rather than trying too many things and thinking of doing something extraordinary, it is all about sticking to your strength, backing yourself and trusting your gut feeling," Harmanpreet said on the eve of the final.

INDIA'S BIGGEST WEAPONS?

India have been led by Shafali Verma and Deepti Sharma during their unbeaten campaign. With 168 runs, including two fifties, Shafali is the tournament's leading run-scorer. She has also been India's most consistent batter on the slow, spin-friendly Dubai surfaces, finding a fluency that others have struggled to match. Smriti Mandhana has produced a century.

Star-studded field for second edition of Archery Premier League

Deepika, Atanu, Dhiraj & Jyothi lead 36-strong Indian contingent in event that is scheduled to be held in Hyderabad next month

CHENNAI. (Agency)

Four-time Olympian Deepika Kumari and World Championship silver medallist Atanu Das are among big names from India who'll be aiming for a strong show in the second edition of Archery Premier League (APL), which is scheduled to be held in Hyderabad from October 8 to 18. A total of 36 archers from the country will be competing alongside 12 international stars from 10 different countries. Apart from Deepika and Atanu, reigning Asian champ Dhiraj Bommadevara is another prominent face from the country in the recurve category. India's compound section is equally stacked, anchored by multi-time World Cup and



Asian Games champion Jyothi Surekha Vennam, Abhishek Verma and former world champion Ojas Pravin Deotale.

The domestic stars will go head-to-head against an international line-up featuring Tokyo 2020 Olympic champion Mete Gazoz of Türkiye, Paris 2024 bronze

medalist Casey Kaufhold of the United States, World No 1 Marcus D'Almeida of Brazil, World No 2 Ella Gibson of Great Britain, and Dutch compound legend Mike Schloesser, a former World Champion and four-time World Cup Final winner.

Adding further weight to the domestic line-

up, all 12 members of the Indian squad heading to the Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya later this month are also part of the APL ecosystem, giving the league a direct connection to the country's immediate international campaign.

Speaking on the upcoming campaign, Anil Kamini, Archery Premier League director, said, "Following an incredible response to our inaugural season, we are ready to deliver an even bigger Season 2. Having the world's top international archers join our league transforms the APL into a truly global spectacle, while continuing to give our Indian archers an invaluable competitive platform to test themselves directly against the best in the world."

Among the debutants are World Championships silver medallist Rajat Chauhan and World Cup stage 1 gold medallist Ridhi, along with World University Games gold medallist Kushal Dalal and junior national champion Kirti Sharma.



Priyanka Chopra

Twinning With Her 'Minni Me' Malti Marie In Matching Cherry-Print Outfits Is Too Cute To Miss

Global star Priyanka Chopra Jonas gave fans a glimpse of a precious mother-daughter moment as she twinned with her daughter Malti Marie in matching cherry-print outfits.

Taking to her social media account, Priyanka shared a picture of herself lovingly embracing Malti, who had her arms wrapped around her mother. Both were seen dressed in exactly identical wThe actor's post comes amid her busy international schedule. Priyanka recently was seen travelling to Paris for a brand work commitment.

She also shared the spotlight with fellow Hollywood actress Jennifer Lawrence, with their candid interactions at the event making headlines.

Despite her packed professional commitments, Priyanka frequently shares glimpses of her life with husband Nick Jonas and their daughter Malti Marie. The actor has



previously spoken about how Malti enjoys trying different cuisines but ends up eating the same food as her parents, including Indian food and Korean barbecue.

For the uninitiated, Malti Marie was born via surrogacy to Priyanka Chopra and Nick Jonas.

The name is kept after the first names of both Priyanka and Nick's mothers. Priyanka has often spoken about how Malti Marie has brought immense joy and happiness into their lives. On the professional front, Priyanka Chopra is juggling between India and USA as she full fills her professional commitment and shoot of her upcoming movie, Varanasi.

The movie helmed by ace filmmaker SS Rajamouli, also stars Mahesh Babu alongside Priyanka. The movie will mark come back to Indian cinema after many years as an actress. hite outfits featuring a red cherry print.

Kamal Aur Meena: Saif Ali Khan

Triptii Dimri

To Play Leads? Director Siddharth P Malhotra Breaks Silence

Filmmaker Siddharth P. Malhotra's upcoming Meena Kumari biopic Kamal Aur Meena is once again making headlines over reports surrounding its potential lead cast. The names of Saif Ali Khan and Triptii Dimri were reportedly surfaced recently, and it was said that the actors are in discussions to play filmmaker Kamal Amrohi and legendary actress Meena Kumari, respectively. However, the casting has not been officially confirmed, with Malhotra recently urging everyone to wait for the formal announcement once the contracts are finalised. Amid the ongoing speculation over the cast of Kamal Aur Meena, director Siddharth P. Malhotra clarified that no casting announcement should be considered final until the makers officially confirm it. He took to his Instagram story and rubbished Saif and Triptii's casting reports. He wrote, "Absolutely touched and delighted by the love and interest around Kamal Aur Meena. But a humble request to the media: please stop the speculation and unconfirmed reports." He added, "We are actively working on the film, and the cast, studio and other details will be officially announced by us once everything is signed and locked. Unnecessary conjecture doesn't help the film, the actors or the studios involved."

"When we have something official to share, we promise you'll hear it from us first. With

gratitude for all the love and support," he concluded.

Kiara Advani's name had earlier been linked to the project, with reports suggesting that she was being considered for the role of Meena Kumari.

At the heart of Kamal Aur Meena is the relationship between Kamal Amrohi and Meena



Kumari, whose romance was closely intertwined with their work in cinema. Amrohi, who directed and wrote the classic Pakeezah, cast Meena Kumari in the lead role. Their tumultuous personal equation and creative partnership went on to become one of the most discussed relationships in the history of Hindi cinema. Talking about the film, Siddharth wrote on social media, "Kamal Aur Meena – a cinematic experience that promises to capture one of the most iconic love stories in the history of Hindi cinema."

Kamal Aur Meena: Saif Ali Khan, Triptii Dimri To Play Leads? Director Siddharth P Malhotra Breaks Silence



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'Alia Came Free With Parle-G': Alia Bhatt Recalls Shaheen Bhatt's Childhood Prank While Explaining 'Ragebait'



How well do Alia Bhatt and Shaheen Bhatt know Gen Z slang? The sisters recently found themselves answering that question at a promotional event for Don't Be Shy, their upcoming production venture. The coming-of-age film, which follows a group of Gen Z students, is set to premiere on Amazon Prime Video on September 26.

Alia Bhatt recalls hilarious childhood anecdote

At the trailer launch of Don't Be Shy, Alia Bhatt and Shaheen Bhatt managed to crack nearly all the Gen Z terms thrown their way. However, "ragebait" proved to be a little more challenging, with Alia being asked to explain the meaning of the term. To explain the term, Alia looked back to a childhood memory involving Shaheen, who would often jokingly tell her younger sister that she was not their parents' biological daughter. She said, "Ragebait is what Shaheen used to do to me as a child. She would say, 'Alia came free with Parle-G' and wasn't the parents' real child'."

Alia also reflected on her acting debut in Karan Johar's Student of the Year 14 years ago. Now 33, she noted that 14 years after making her debut, she is introducing four newcomers to the industry through Don't Be Shy. It features Aarushi Bajaj, Piyush Khatu, Bianca Arora and Ansh Duggal in lead roles. It is set to stream on Prime Video.

Meanwhile, on the work front, Alia was last seen in YRF's spy universe film, Alpha. The film also starred Bobby Deol, Anil Kapoor and Sharvati in important roles. Her next big-screen outing will be Sanjay Leela Bhansali's Love & War, which also stars Ranbir Kapoor and Vicky Kaushal. The period drama is among the most anticipated releases of 2027. The film has recently completed its shoot, with the team now preparing to unveil its first promotional asset very soon.

NEWS BOX

1 Dead, Over 30 Missing After Ferry Sinks Off Vanuatu Coast

Sydney.(Agency)

At least one person was confirmed dead and more than 30 were missing on Sunday after a ferry sank off Vanuatu's coast, Prime Minister Jotham Napat's office said in a statement. Search and rescue operations were continuing in the Pacific Island nation located about 1,750 km (1,090 miles) east of Australia after the MV Matui went down with dozens of crew and passengers on board, the statement posted on Facebook said. Fifteen of those have been accounted for alive, it added. Search efforts had been underway since the inter-island ferry sank in bad weather on Friday between the islands of Ambae and Santo, according to New Zealand public broadcaster RNZ. Napat's office said the search "in open waters is



being eased off whilst efforts move toward a search along the south-east coast, where currents may have carried survivors". This loss appears to be the result of strong winds and marine warnings not being heeded, and possibly of negligence including overloading of the vessel," the statement said. "To the survivors, we pray for your strength and recovery. To the families of those missing and those we have lost, please know that the nation stands with you in this time of grief," it added. Vanuatu police, the Vanuatu Maritime Safety Authority and the ferry's operator, Tui Shipping Agency, did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

"Pause AI": US Senator To Trump, Xi As Anthropic, OpenAI CEOs Pitch Slowdown

CORON, Philippines.(Agency)

US Senator Bernie Sanders on Sunday said Dario Amodei, Sam Altman and Elon Musk's call to slow down on AI development was a "start", and urged US President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping to negotiate a treaty to pause artificial intelligence at an upcoming summit.

The independent leader's remarks come a day after three tech pioneers - Anthropic CEO Dario Amodei, OpenAI CEO Sam Altman and xAI CEO Elon Musk - agreed upon a rare call to "slow down" on AI development. "Dario Amodei, Elon Musk and Sam Altman now agree that we must slow down the development of AI and "pace the frontier." That's a start, but it's not enough," Sanders said in a post on X. The call for slowing down AI development started after Amodei wrote about the risks of AI in a blog and pitched to "pace the frontier". Musk and Altman agreed to his views in separate posts on X.

Taking note of their agreement, Sanders, who himself has introduced a bill to prohibit superintelligent AI, said, "When you are racing towards a cliff, you don't just ease up on the gas pedal. You hit the brakes." He once again called for a pause on advanced AI development citing the "future of humanity is at stake". "An AI mind smarter than any human and capable of operating independently beyond our control," he wrote. The Senator further urged Trump and Xi to negotiate a treaty on the same line at an upcoming AI Summit. "At their upcoming AI summit, Trump and Xi must negotiate a treaty to pause AI and ban superintelligence before it is too late," Sanders asserted.

Anthropic CEO Dario Amodei says AI industry needs to give safety measures time to catch up

NEWYORK.(Agency)

The CEO of Anthropic said Saturday the artificial-intelligence industry should slow its fast-moving development to give safety measures time to catch up. Without such a slowdown, Dario Amodei warned that within six to 12 months AI could be capable of leading a swarm of agents that could take over the entire internet. The warning comes as worries about AI grow inside and outside the industry and reports continue to emerge about increasingly powerful systems that solve problems beyond human capacity but could also go rogue and carry out other, more harmful tasks. The worries have grown so loud that the CEO of OpenAI, the company behind ChatGPT, said in an interview with Fortune that his company would wait until next year to start selling its stock to investors on Wall Street as it

focuses on safety.

Amodei is one of the leading voices in AI, and he offered a plan in a post on his website to increase checks on the industry. He said Anthropic is already undertaking one part of it on its own, while the others would require coordination across the broad industry and with governments around the world, including authoritarian ones. "I believe that if slowing down bought us even an extra year or two before models reach critical levels of capability, and we used that time to advance alignment, we could greatly reduce the risk that something goes seriously wrong," Amodei said. Pressure builds on the AI industry. Watchdogs have been urging the AI industry for years to slow its development for safety reasons. But pressure has built as industry workers resign and accuse their companies of not acting responsibly. "Many of the people I



know who work on safety research at AI companies want to do what is right for the world," a former Anthropic employee, Joe Benton, said in a posting Friday announcing his resignation from a job as part of a safety team. "But they feel their companies are trapped in a race to build superintelligence: either they stop and other, less conscientious people take their place; or, they continue, and risk

participating in enormous harm themselves." That followed a high-profile resignation earlier in the week by Jacob Coxon, who said that both Anthropic and OpenAI "are racing straight to self-improving superintelligence and gambling with our lives." That lit a fire under the industry after concerns had grown for years about a possible superintelligence that could escape the control of humanity, said Anthony Aguirre, president and CEO of the Future of Life Institute, which called for a six-month pause for the industry's development in 2023. "They've kind of realized, their employees have realized, everyone has realized that they're building Skynet," he said. "And in winning the race to Skynet, nobody wins. Really, nobody." "It's pretty much become clear to the world and even the AI companies that they're not really prepared to control the AI systems they're racing to create."

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

world.(Agency)

One person died and 103 others were rescued after an Indonesian ferry carrying 243 passengers and crew ran into bad weather while sailing from Java to Borneo, rescue officials said on Sunday. The passenger and cargo ship, Virgo Transport 8, departed from Surabaya in East Java on Saturday and was travelling north towards Banjarmasin when it lost contact with its shipping company early on Sunday. Search and rescue operations were launched after the vessel's last known position was detected in the Java Sea, about 150 km (90 miles) from Banjarmasin. The navy, police and the shipping company joined the operation. "We have carried out efforts to search for victims to the fullest extent," local

search and rescue chief I Putu Sudayana told reporters in Banjarmasin. He said 103 passengers had been successfully evacuated, but



one of those rescued later died. "We have received the report regarding the loss of contact with the Virgo Transport 8 vessel and have immediately deployed personnel," Sudayana said, adding that authorities were coordinating with all relevant agencies to ensure the safety of those on board. Marine accidents

are common in Indonesia, an archipelago of more than 17,000 islands that relies heavily on ferries and other boats for transport and tourism. Poor safety standards and unpredictable weather are frequently blamed for such incidents. In recent months, several other ferry accidents have highlighted the risks. Last month, a ferry fire in the Lombok Strait off Bali killed one person, left five missing and resulted in 211 people being rescued.

In July, a ferry carrying more than 70 people sank near Selayar, a small island south of Sulawesi.

Earlier, a speedboat carrying eight people, including five journalists covering a volcanic eruption, went missing near Mount Anak Krakatau in Banten province. Search operations were continuing.

One dead, three injured after merchant ship struck in Strait of Hormuz amid Iran-US tensions

Several explosions were reported overnight around Qeshm, the largest island in the Hormuz strait.

TEHRAN.(Agency)

A ship was struck in the Strait of Hormuz on Sunday, killing one person and injuring three, local Iranian authorities said, as Tehran and Washington clash over the strategic waterway. "A merchant vessel was struck around 5:00 am (0130 GMT) this morning off the coasts of Hengam and Qeshm islands. One person was killed and three others were injured," Qeshm city governor Amir Teymouri said, according to state TV, without specifying the origin of the strike. Several



explosions were reported overnight around Qeshm, the largest island in the Hormuz strait. The deadly incident comes a day before a meeting between Iran and Gulf states in Oman, which also borders the strait, over the blockaded route crucial for global oil and gas trade. Control over the strait has become a major flashpoint in the conflict between Iran and the United States in their six-month war. In retaliation for attacks by the United

States and Israel that started the war on February 28, Iran has blocked the waterway, a passage that was previously free and unobstructed before the conflict began. Iran now requires vessels to obtain authorisation to pass through the strait, citing security and sovereignty concerns, and is considering a mechanism to impose service fees. Vessels that fail to comply are frequently targeted by Iranian strikes, while the United

Houthi say hit Saudi base after renewed fighting with Yemeni govt forces

YEMEN.(Agency)

Houthi fighters on Sunday said they used drones and missiles to attack a military base in southern Saudi Arabia as renewed fighting with Yemen's government forces forced growing numbers of civilians to flee.

The attack at the southern Sharurah base targeted "weapons depots and command and control centres that are managing the aggression against our nation and people", Houthi military spokesman Yahya Saree wrote on X. The date of the operation was not specified. Clashes have increased this week between the Iran-allied Houthis and Yemeni government forces, which are backed by Riyadh.

On Saturday, the government forces said they had struck Houthi fighters in the Red Sea city of Mocha, and later attacked other Houthi positions in the southwestern part of the country.

"Air Force of the Armed Forces targeted positions and barracks of the terrorist Houthi group with three airstrikes" in the Taiz region, the Yemeni military said Sunday in a post on X. US news site Axios also reported that Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman twice called US President Donald Trump to request strikes on the Houthis last week, but that the request was rejected. The ongoing clashes follow a week-long Houthi offensive that culminated in the group capturing the remainder of Yemen's Red Sea coast and several strategic islands, cementing their hold on the Bab al-Mandab Strait at the sea's southern entrance. The waterway has become an important artery for Saudi Arabian oil exports after Iran largely cut off shipments through the Gulf with its blockade on the Strait of Hormuz at the start of the Middle East war. The Houthis have recently declared their own maritime blockade of Riyadh's Red Sea ports.

The government news agency Saba reported on Saturday that Yemeni "forces destroyed vehicles and weapons and killed members of the Houthi terrorist militia" near the port of Mocha, and quoted a spokesman for the forces as saying they had also struck Houthi targets just outside the city.

The Houthis, meanwhile, said on Saturday evening that over the past 48 hours, "Saudi enemy aircraft conducted 129 airstrikes" on areas under their control.

Chile arrests 284 in protests condemning Pinochet dictatorship

CHILE.(Agency)

More than 280 people were arrested in Chile during demonstrations commemorating victims of Augusto Pinochet's military dictatorship, the government said Saturday. This year was the first since the end of



Pinochet's brutal 1973-1990 rule that Chile did not hold any official events marking the era that left deep scars on the South American nation. "I cannot erase history, nor can I ask our compatriots to accept that we are condemned by our history to be unable to look toward our nation's future," said President Jose Antonio Kast, the first far-

right head of state in Chile since Pinochet's exit, who took office in March. Under Pinochet more than 3,200 people were killed or disappeared, while tens of thousands of others were tortured or imprisoned. Demonstrations take place annually to mark the September 11, 1973 coup d'etat led by Pinochet against the government of so. This week's protests saw demonstrators throw sticks and stones at riot police, who responded with tear gas and water cannons.

Authorities arrested 284 people on Thursday and Friday, Public Security Minister Martin Arrau said on X, noting it was an 80 percent increase from the previous year. Those arrested included 16 foreign nationals and 31 minors, Arrau said.

There were 198 "incidents of violence" but no civilian injuries, he added.

The biggest demonstration took place at Santiago's General Cemetery, home to the Allende family mausoleum, with leftist former president Gabriel Boric joining the rally. cialist president Salvador Allende.

Before 9/11, Osama bin Laden eyed India for terror attacks, CIA documents show

CHANDIGARH.(Agency)

Al-Qaida founder Osama bin Laden was considering carrying out attacks in India years before the September 11, 2001, terror attacks in the US, according to a declassified CIA intelligence brief from 1998. The revelation is part of a major release of declassified CIA presidential briefing material marking the 25th anniversary of the September 11, 2001 attacks. The CIA has released more than 100 pages of material across dozens of intelligence briefs prepared for former US Presidents Bill Clinton and George W. Bush. A presidential daily brief dated August 28, 1998, titled "Bin Laden terrorist network still a threat", listed India among several countries where Osama bin Laden intended to conduct attacks. "Bin Laden intends to conduct attacks in Egypt, the Arabian Peninsula, especially Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Yemen, India, Pakistan, Uganda, and possibly Nigeria," the brief said. The document does not identify any specific target in India, an

intended date or details of an operational plan. The source of the intelligence has also been redacted. It also said Osama bin Laden could call on a network of individuals and allied groups in at least 60 countries to carry out attacks.



Osama bin Laden was looking at options for further attacks against the US and UK, the brief said, although he had not indicated precise targets or timing. The assessment also noted that US officials had assisted in the arrest of Osama bin Laden operatives preparing attacks in Tirana and possibly

Baku. Osama bin Laden's established infrastructure in North America, Europe and East Asia also lent credibility to reports that he could target US interests in those regions, the CIA said. The CIA brief said that Osama bin Laden and other terrorist leaders based in

Afghanistan had survived US missile strikes and that their communications network remained intact. Training had resumed at some camps, while other camps were being moved. The brief came shortly after the US launched missile strikes against suspected al-Qaida targets in Afghanistan and Sudan in August 1998, following the bombings of two US embassies in Kenya and Tanzania.

NEARLY 3,000 KILLED IN 9/11 ATTACKS

Three years after the CIA documents surfaced, on September 11, 2001, 19 al-Qaida operatives hijacked four passenger planes in the US. Two planes crashed into the World Trade Center's Twin Towers in New York, bringing down both skyscrapers.