

China gained most from BRICS summit, India had to navigate differences: Kapil Sibal

New Delhi (Agency)

Rajya Sabha MP and former Union minister Kapil Sibal on Monday said China had benefited the most from the recently concluded BRICS summit in New Delhi, while describing the grouping as a "motley" collection of countries from which definitive resolutions were difficult to emerge.

Speaking at a press conference, Sibal said India, as the chair, had to navigate differences among member countries to secure a joint declaration.

"For us, it was like navigating through Hormuz. China and Russia want to make it an alternative anti-western bloc and RIC (Russia, India, China), is now actually Russia, Iran and China.... We will not want it (to be an anti-Western bloc)," he said. Sibal said the New Delhi declaration did not call for an alternative currency or de-dollarisation, describing this as an achievement for India. He also said the grouping's position on the Israel-Palestine conflict reflected the changing global geopolitical situation. "But we have got to know, as well as other countries of the world, that the US will not win the war against Iran. That reflected in our resolution as there was talk of Palestine and two-nation theory," he said.

Calling BRICS a "motley" collection of nations, Sibal said it was a notable achievement that the members adopted a joint statement without controversy.

"That is precisely why I noted at the outset that its a notable achievement for our government that a joint resolution was passed without sparking any controversy.

Congress, BJP trade barbs over MP CM Mohan Yadav's "Pappu" jibe ahead of Rahul Gandhi's 'Chhatron Ki Goonj' in Indore

Bhopal. (Agency)

A war of words has broken out between the Congress and the BJP after Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav's "Pappu" jibe at the Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi.

During an event to transfer the 40th instalment under the Ladli Behna Scheme in Agar Malwa on Sunday, Yadav accused Gandhi of questioning the judiciary and the armed forces, ending with "Pappu hai toh Pappu jaise kaam karega"

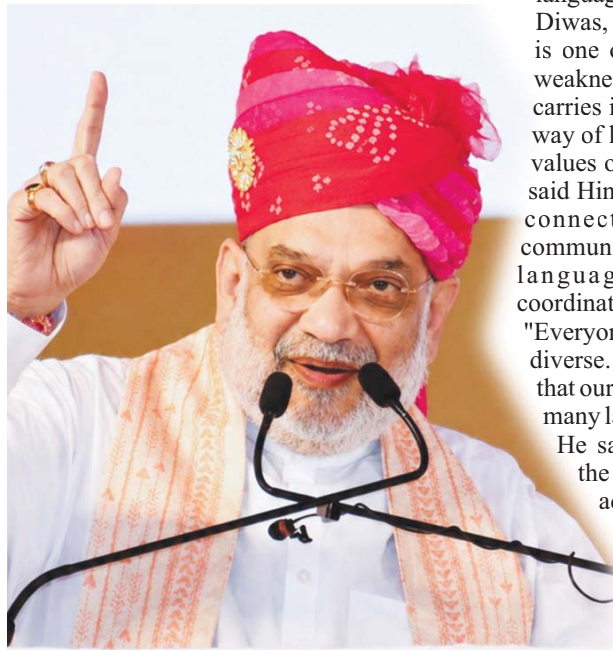
Reacting to Yadav's remark, senior Congress leader PC Sharma turned the jibe around, saying, "They kept calling him 'Pappu', but now he has become everyone's 'Papa'." "They even demanded a deposit of Rs 10 lakh for the Leader of the Opposition's event, something unprecedented in the history of India... Ever since Rahul Gandhi visited Jantar Mantar to speak up for the youth, the BJP has been anxious across the country," he told ANI.

He further claimed the BJP's unease stemmed from Gandhi's outreach to the youth. "Ever since Rahul Gandhi visited Jantar Mantar to speak up for the youth, the BJP has been anxious across the country. Just as people at home fear 'Papa' the most, the entire BJP has now started fearing him," said Sharma.

Hindi's progress meaningful only with respect for all Indian languages: Amit Shah

New Delhi (Agency)

Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday said the



progress of Hindi is meaningful only when it moves forward while ensuring the dignity, promotion and protection of other Indian languages. Greeting people on Hindi Diwas, he said India's linguistic diversity is one of its biggest strengths and not a weakness. Shah said every Indian language carries its own history, folk traditions and way of looking at life, and helps shape the values of the younger generation. He also said Hindi has played an important role in connecting different sections and communities across the country as a language of dialogue, bond and coordination. In his message, Shah said, "Everyone says that our languages are diverse. That is our weakness. But I believe that our greatest strength is that we have so many languages."

He said every language contributes to the country's cultural richness. He added, "Our linguistic diversity strengthens the sense of unity in diversity in India." Shah also said a language is not merely a medium of communication but

the "memory" and "self-awareness" of a society.

He said Hindi should not be seen as representing any one language, but as an important link among India's languages and national unity. "The progress of Hindi is only purposeful when it moves forward while ensuring the dignity, promotion and protection of other Indian languages," Shah said.

He added that while his own mother tongue is Gujarati, Hindi allows him to connect directly with people in different parts of the country.

Hindi Diwas is observed every year on September 14 to mark the adoption of Hindi as an official language by the Constituent Assembly on September 14, 1949.

Shah also urged the youth to learn as much as possible from the world without giving up their language, and appealed to parents to speak to their children in their mother tongue.

"Language is what connects us to our mother, our soil, our history and our culture," he said, underlining his message that the growth of Hindi must go hand in hand with respect for all Indian languages.

₹18,500 Crore Budget Washed Away

Ahmedabad Turns Into a Swimming Pool After Heavy Rains, Billions Siphoned Off in the Name of AMC's Pre-Monsoon Work!

Mahanagar Metro Desk

Ahmedabad: Megacity Ahmedabad is completely waterlogged following normal to heavy rainfall. Right at the onset of the monsoon, all the fragile "Smart City" claims and on-paper pre-monsoon preparations of the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) have been washed down the drain. With knee-deep water flooding most areas from East to West Ahmedabad, normal life has been completely paralyzed. Thousands of vehicles have broken down on submerged roads, leaving citizens stranded in agonizing traffic jams for hours. ₹18,500 Crore Annual Budget Only Rains Money on Officials and Corporators! The AMC, considered Gujarat's largest and wealthiest municipal corporation, boasts an annual budget exceeding ₹18,500 crore. But the question remains: where are these billions, collected from the blood and sweat of taxpayers, actually going? Despite a multi-billion budget, why is there a lack of a proper drainage system and stormwater disposal lines? The citizens of Ahmedabad are openly alleging today that this ₹18,500 crore budget is not meant for public development, but has merely become a "money shower" for AMC's corrupt



officials, engineers, and commission-hungry corporators. The Mayor is Only Interested in Photo Sessions and Making Reels! While the entire city is sinking and citizens are crying out for help, AMC authorities and office-bearers are busy posing for the cameras. Local residents strongly accuse

the Mayor of only being interested in visiting waterlogged areas to get photographed by the media and flaunting official cars. The harsh reality is that, at the ground level, no concrete work has been done to find a permanent solution. An Empire of Massive Potholes Across the City: Authorities Partying

on Public Tax Money! Every year before the monsoon, tenders worth crores are issued, and grand claims regarding pre-monsoon preparations are made. However, the very first round of rain has exposed the corporation's corruption, revealing deadly, massive potholes and waist-deep water across the city. The ruling authorities and administration are enjoying themselves on public tax money, while the common man is forced to suffer on the streets. Sharp and Direct Questions from 'Pakko Gujarat': * Despite utilizing an ₹18,500 crore budget, why is the rainwater drainage system practically zero? * When will there be a strict investigation against the contractors and officials who siphoned off crores of funds by merely showing pre-monsoon work on paper? * Will the politicians and officials busy with photo sessions ever answer to the public for this hellish situation? The people of Ahmedabad are now tired of fragile, empty promises. If the AMC administration does not immediately execute a concrete plan for water drainage and the repair of dilapidated roads, the enraged public will be left with no choice but to lay siege to the corporation offices in the coming days.

Copypat Trump? DK Shivakumar claims \$5,000 promise follows Congress model

DK Shivakumar said Donald Trump's proposed \$5,000 dividend mirrors Karnataka's guarantee schemes. He said the comparison showed the Congress government's welfare ideas were gaining attention beyond India.

Bengaluru(Agency)

Karnataka Chief Minister DK Shivakumar has claimed that the Congress government's guarantee schemes in the state are being replicated not only by other Indian states but even by US President Donald Trump.

Shivakumar said Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Bihar had copied Karnataka's welfare schemes and claimed Trump's proposal to give Americans a \$5,000 (Rs 4.79 lakh) dividend was also similar to the Congress government's guarantee model.

"They copied us in Maharashtra, they copied us in Madhya Pradesh, they copied us in

Rajasthan, and they copied us in Bihar. Now Trump is copying us," Shivakumar said.



His remarks came in reference to Trump's promise of a \$5,000 dividend for every adult American if Republicans retain control of

both the US House of Representatives and Senate in the November elections.

TRUMP'S ANNOUNCEMENT AHEAD OF MIDTERM POLLS

Trump announced the proposal at a Republican convention in Dallas, saying the dividend would reflect what he described as economic success under Republican leadership.

He also said the money would have to be spent within the United States. No further details about the proposal were provided at the time.

Referring to Trump's announcement, Shivakumar said, "Look at Trump. He is talking about \$5,000, \$50,000 or \$5,000. Now, they are saying, 'Vote for Trump and I will give you so many dollars.'"

Crucial CPM meeting seeks to correct lapses after Kerala election setback

CPI(M) leader EP Jayarajan said the party's extended state committee meeting is examining the Kerala Assembly election setback and corrective steps. He said the review will strengthen the party and reflects the Communist tradition of criticism and self-criticism.

Kozhikode(Agency).

Senior CPI(M) leader EP Jayarajan on Monday said the party's three-day extended state committee meeting would help correct the lapses that led to its setback in the recent Assembly election and give "strength and vigour" to the Communist movement in Kerala.

In the Assembly polls, the CPI(M) won only 26 of 140 seats. The Congress got 63 seats and formed the government with its allies.

Jayarajan said the meeting, which began on Sunday, was examining the reasons for the defeat and that the party's documents and discussions were "moving in the right direction". Jayarajan said the exercise was aimed at taking the party forward and shaping its future activities. Speaking to reporters in Kozhikode, Jayarajan said, "Certainly, this broad State Committee meeting will give more strength and vigour to the Communist movement in Kerala and to the CPI(M). This broad meeting will be able to make the party a bit more shining." Asked about demands from Kannur for major corrections, he said the setback was not limited to one district. "Right now, we are not here to examine the rights and wrongs of this election. The issue faced by the party in Kerala includes all districts. It is not just Kannur; we faced a setback in all districts. That setback is a general outcome," he said.



Family away for heart patient's treatment, burglars strike at home in Gurgaon

Gurgaon.(Agency)

A family returning to its house in Pataudi's Jatauli early Friday with the body of one of its members, who had died during treatment in Jaipur, was confronted with another shock when they found the house burgled. Gold and silver jewellery and nearly Rs 1.1 lakh in cash were missing. According to a complaint filed by Jogender Singh, his wife Jyotsna suffered a heart attack on Sept 9 and was admitted to Mars Hospital in Rewari. Jogender and their son Saurav later took her to SMS Hospital in Jaipur, where she died during treatment. The family returned home around 5am on Sept 11 with Jyotsna's body. They found the lock on the main gate broken. The locks of rooms inside the house had also been damaged and household articles were scattered, according to the complaint. After cremation, the family checked the belongings and found gold jewellery missing from drawers of a wooden almirah. The stolen jewellery included a mangalsutra, maang tikka, chain, necklace, four bangles, two rings and a pair of earrings. The complainant estimated the total weight of the 22-carat jewellery at 147.25 grams. Two pairs of silver anklets were also missing. The thieves also took cash kept in two almirahs. The complaint lists Rs 50,000 in Rs 500 notes; Rs 40,000 in Rs 100 notes; Rs 20,000 in Rs 200 notes; Rs 2,000 in Rs 20 notes; and Rs 1,400 in Rs 10 notes. Two Nepalese Rs 10 notes were also missing. The total Indian currency stolen was Rs 1.13 lakh.

A case has been registered at Pataudi police station under sections 305 (theft) and 331(4) (house-trespass or house-breaking) of BNS. "A team from Heli Mandi police post has undertaken an investigation. We are also arranging a fingerprint team and dog squad at the crime scene," police said.

Kargil War veteran attacked with iron rod in Gurgaon over parking row, suffers serious head injuries

Gurgaon.(Agency)

A retired Indian Air Force Group Captain and Kargil War veteran has accused a parking attendant at Magnum Global Park of assaulting him with an iron rod, leaving him with serious head injuries and a fractured hand. In a complaint to police, Group Captain Amit Kumar Gupta (retired) alleged that the attendant also threatened to kill him following an altercation over parking on September 10. The complaint has been lodged in Sector 65 police station. Gupta, who was part of the IAF's 'Op Sagar' team during the 1999 Kargil War, had gone to Magnum Global Park for a family dinner at Gonzo restaurant that night. According to his complaint, Gupta dropped his family at the restaurant around 8pm and went to park his car. He alleged that the parking staff directed him between the valet area, basement and multilevel parking before eventually refusing to park the vehicle.

The situation escalated when Gupta tried to reverse his car. He alleged that one of the attendants struck the windshield, apparently attempting to damage it, before returning with an iron rod. Gupta alleged that the attendant then struck him twice with the rod—first on his hand and then on his head. He said the blow to his head caused heavy bleeding. He was taken to Medanta Hospital by his family, where he remains admitted. The victim has sought registration of an attempt-to-murder case against the accused.

Overflowing sewers, overgrown grass, broken roads: What ails Indirapuram, Vaishali

Noida.(Agency)

Residents of Vaishali F Block have raised the alarm after overflowing sewers turned roads in the area into overgrown shrubberies. The dirty water is getting collected around the plants and leading to a foul smell pervading the neighbourhood, which could eventually pose a sanitation risk, they said. Similarly, residents of Vaibhav Khand in Indirapuram are contending with layers of dust and loose earth, while overflowing drains further exacerbate the situation.

F Block residents' welfare association president Dharendra Kumar Singh Bhadauriya said the situation has persisted without any redressal so far. "A range of problems, including overflowing sewers and general sanitation issues, plague the area. An estimated 10,000 residents are suffering because of inadequate infrastructure and sanitation issues, particularly near the park at Ramlila ground," he said. Several carts and stalls have also sprung up recently, encroaching on the roads in the area and making it more congested, he said. Bhadauriya said the RWA has written to the municipal corporation several times but the local authorities have not responded to their pleas. Meanwhile, residents of Vaibhav Khand in Indirapuram, who are also facing the same issue, said their situation was made even worse by loose earth around the drains, which would mix with the overflowing sewer water. Residents called for immediate attention from the local authorities to restore the area, especially for those who walk through it. A resident said, "Even if restoration work on these issues starts, contractors take their own time and delay the process. Elected officials do not take any responsibility in trying to finish the projects."

Residents demanded accountability and emphasised the importance of community engagement in advocating for necessary improvements, hoping to achieve better living conditions in their neighbourhoods. When asked if redressal for these issues had begun, officials in the municipal corporation said works are in progress and results will be visible soon.

Devotees Throng Ganesh Teembi Temple in Bhachau on the Occasion of Ganesh Chaturthi

Mahanagar Metro Desk
Bhachau, Rupesh Solanki:

A large number of devotees thronged the famous Ganesh Teembi Temple located in the Kargariya Road area of Bhachau city on the auspicious occasion of Ganesh Chaturthi. From the early morning, devotees offered prayers and had the sacred darshan of Lord Ganapati, experiencing a deep sense of spiritual fulfilment. On this occasion, a Yagna ritual was also organised in the religious atmosphere of the temple premises, in which devotees participated and received the benefit of the sacred ceremony. The temple premises were beautifully decorated to

mark the auspicious festival of Ganesh Chaturthi. Special arrangements were made for Mahaprasad and Faral for the devotees. A traditional fair was also organised in the temple premises, creating a festive atmosphere throughout the area. A large number of devotees attended the event with their families and enjoyed not only the religious darshan but also the fair. On this occasion, Shri Bharatbhai Kavatara Saheb, Managing Trustee of three institutions—Vani Vinayak Arts and Commerce College, Bhachau, managed by Shri Leva Patidar Boarding; Government Higher Secondary School, Bhachau,

managed by Shri Leva Patidar Boarding; and Shri Saraswati Vidyalaya, Bhachau—along with being a respected personality of Bhachau city and a dedicated worker of the Bharatiya Janata Party, extended his cooperation for the arrangement of Faral and Mahaprasad as a donor. The entire event reflected a beautiful blend of religious devotion and the spirit of service. Devotees partook of the Mahaprasad and expressed their gratitude to the organisers and supporting donors. In this regard, Shri Rupeshbhai Solanki, Senior Teacher at Government Higher Secondary School, Bhachau, managed by Shri Leva Patidar Boarding, and



Senior Vice-President of the All India National Educational Federation, Granted Secondary Department, stated the details in an official press release.

Dhani Media Family Installs Lord Ganesha at Residence with Full Rituals; Pledges to Promote the Welfare of the Nation, Uphold Ethical Journalism and Raise the Voice of Farmers

Mahanagar Metro Desk

New Delhi: With the arrival of Lord Ganesha, the remover of obstacles and the divine symbol of wisdom, prosperity and success, an atmosphere of devotion and joy has filled the surroundings. On this auspicious occasion, Dhani Media Group's Group Editor Mr. Pawan Makan and Mrs. Sarabjit Makan, Editor of Mahanagar Metro News, along with their family, installed the idol of Lord Ganesha at their residence with complete rituals, sacred chants and deep devotion. Prayers for Family Prosperity and the Welfare of the Nation. On the auspicious occasion of Ganesh Chaturthi, the Makan family welcomed Lord Ganesha, the first deity to be worshipped, with devotion and reverence. During the ceremony, the family's daughters Dhani Makan, Saachi Makan and Aanshi Makan, along with their younger son Kunwarjeet Makan, bowed before Lord Ganesha and sought His blessings and divine grace for the fulfillment of their wishes. Group Editor Pawan Makan and Editor Sarabjit Makan prayed to Lord Ganesha to bless the people of the country and society at large with good health, happiness, prosperity and peace. A Pledge to Uphold the Ethical Values of Journalism. The occasion

was not merely a religious ceremony; it also became an opportunity for the Dhani Media family to reaffirm its social and ethical responsibilities. In the presence of Lord Ganesha, the entire Dhani Media family pledged to uphold the highest values of journalism and remain committed to truth, justice and public interest. The Commitment of Dhani Media and Mahanagar Metro News. 1. Fair and Authentic Journalism — The Path of Truth. The organization will remain committed to delivering truthful, accurate and impartial news to its readers. Free from pressure, influence or personal gain, Mahanagar Metro News will continue to regard exposing the truth as one of its foremost journalistic responsibilities. 2. A Strong Voice for the Annadata — The Farmers. Farmers are the backbone of the nation. Their concerns, demands, struggles and aspirations will continue to receive prominent space. Mahanagar Metro News will strive to serve as a strong and steadfast platform for taking the voice of farmers to the corridors of governance and administration. 3. Public Interest and Fearless Journalism. The organization will continue to uphold the highest standards of journalism and strive to become the voice of the last person in society. On is-



sues concerning public welfare, its journalism will remain fearless, independent and committed to speaking truth to power. An Atmosphere of Joy Across the Dhani Media Family. The arrival of Lord Ganesha has brought immense happiness and a spiritually uplifting atmosphere to the entire Dhani Media family. Colleagues, well-wishers and supporters also extended their warm wishes to the Makan family on the auspicious

occasion. They prayed that Lord Ganesha, the remover of obstacles, would eliminate every challenge on the institution's path and guide it towards new heights of success. "Journalism is not merely a profession; it is a commitment to society and a sacred responsibility to uphold the truth. I pray to Vighnaharta Bappa that He always gives us the courage to walk on the path of truth and justice

Rs 7 crore revamp plans for key master road linking Golf Course Road

Gurgaon.(Agency)

GMDA has planned a comprehensive revamp of nearly 2 km of the busy St Thomas Marg along the master road in Sectors 52A, 53 and 43.

The stretch is a crucial link between Ardee Mall and Golf Course Road and provides key connectivity to residential complexes in DLF-5, including Westend Heights, Princeton Estate and Carlton Estate, and several commercial establishments in the surrounding area. With a few schools and a hospital located along the road, it sees heavy traffic movement during the day.

The Rs 7.4 crore repair project will include resurfacing of the master road and portions of the service road. The repair will not be limited to resurfacing. According to officials, the plan is to also develop footpaths along the road and install guardrails to keep these spaces free from encroachments. Road safety items and thermoplastic markings will also be installed as part of the revamp. Lowering of green areas to improve the



retention of water and reduce waterlogging will also be taken up, a GMDA official said.

"We have invited bids for the project and are hoping to allot the work within the next two months. While the contractual timeline is one year, efforts would be made to complete the work before the next monsoon season," the official said. For commuters, the revamp comes as a

relief as the road had only undergone patch repairs over the years. The last repair work was carried out six years ago during which the stretch was recarpeted. Since then, locals said, the damaged patches and heavy traffic have made the short stretch difficult to negotiate during peak hours.

Nihal Mandhotra, general secretary of Ardee City, who uses the road daily, said,

"It has several broken sections which is very inconvenient for motorists. It was in need of resurfacing for a long time. Crossing this 2-km stretch is a daily nightmare, especially with bumper-to-bumper traffic. It also needs better planning and augmentation to accommodate the traffic it sees every day." Ashok Dalwani, general secretary of the RWA in Sushant Lok-1, said, "The resurfacing of this road is a welcome move because there is a strong need for improvement, particularly around Paras Hospital where the traffic volume is high. A large number of people use this road every day, and pedestrians also have to walk along the carriageway because of the poor condition of the footpaths."

Dalwani said the service road also needed attention, particularly the drainage system. "Before repairing the service road, the drains need to be cleared properly. In several places, they are covered with garbage and other material. If the drains are not cleaned first, simply repairing or recarpeting the road will not provide a lasting solution."

Govt failure to utilise Srisaillam water deepens Kadapa drought, allege ryots

KADAPA(Agency).

Farmers and leaders of farmers' organisations have alleged that the government's failure to utilise water from the Srisaillam reservoir to fill irrigation projects has worsened drought conditions in Kadapa district. They said that despite substantial

Niño and poor rainfall left only 38 per cent of land sown this Kharif season, largely dependent on borewells.

The district receives an average of 700 mm of rainfall annually, far lower than the 900–1,200 mm in coastal regions. A 50 per cent deficit leaves Kadapa with just 350 mm, severely affecting groundwater and reservoirs, while coastal districts still receive 450–600 mm with stronger irrigation infrastructure. Farmers said water from Srisaillam is vital for Rayalaseema projects, but despite heavy inflows this year, the government failed to channel adequate supplies to Gandikota, Mylavaram, and Brahmasagar. Only limited quantities were stored in Velugodu and Gorakallu.

Former KC Canal Distributary Committee chief Chandramouleeswar said drought could have been avoided had the government filled Kadapa's irrigation projects. Farmers appealed to immediately fill reservoirs and secure water for Rabi.



storage in the reservoir, not even one TMC was diverted to local projects. They urged the government to prioritise drought-prone areas and ensure supply for short-duration Rabi crops.

Kadapa has a geographical area of 38 lakh acres, with 15 lakh acres under cultivation. Irrigation schemes cover 2.59 lakh acres. Farmers noted that El

How are Mumbai societies preparing Ganpati prasad? Tukaram Mundhe wants to know

Messages say even community meals limited to 100-200 society members fall under collective food distribution; FDA says advisories follow September 3 festival SOPs

Mumbai(Agency).

As Maharashtrians welcome Lord Ganesha into their homes, the state's food safety body, led by Tukaram Mundhe, plans to keep an eye on what they get served for Ganpati prasad — in society bhandaras as well as other community food-distribution programmes.

Ahead of Ganesh Chaturthi, housing societies in Vasai-Virar and Mumbai started circulating messages, asking residents to inform the Maharashtra Food and Drug Administration (FDA) before organising Ganpati mahaprasad, bhandara, and other such programmes involving food — including those held within society premises — and ensure the caterer holds an FSSAI licence. An FDA official confirmed that the food safety body's directions on Ganpati prasad and bhandara are based on the department's festival SOPs issued on September 3.

As directed, residential societies in Vasai-Virar and Andheri must inform the FDA at least seven days before an event.

The advisory has drawn attention because it

applies not only to large public gatherings but also to community meals organised within housing societies. The messages state that distributing prasad to 100–200 residents would still qualify as “collective food



distribution”.

The FDA directive requires the organisers to submit a letter to the designated officer or food safety officer in their area at least seven days before the event. The letter should have the programme date, the anticipated number of people, and the caterer's name and FSSAI number.

Use of caps, masks now mandatory

Where residents prepare the food themselves, the FDA advises them to obtain temporary FSSAI registration through the Food Safety Compliance System (FoSCoS) portal. They also ask organisers to retain bills for ingredients such as oil, ghee, paneer and groceries.

For food-safety precautions, the FDA makes it mandatory for those preparing food to use caps, masks, gloves and aprons; RO water for drinking and cooking; and food storage in steel or food-grade containers. They also ask organisers to display a Food Safety Connect QR code. The directives also ask residents to approach the Palghar FDA office, while the Andheri version refers them to the Food Safety Officer of the relevant BMC ward. Both suggest submitting a simple letter on the society's letterhead and obtaining an acknowledgement. Any violation of the directives to ensure food safety could invite a case and a fine ranging from Rs 10,000 to Rs 1 lakh. However, it is not confirmed whether the precise statutory provision and the penalty apply to every instance.

Vadodara ransom probe: How Rs 10 lakh hawala drop in Delhi led cops to Rs 4 crore heroin stash

Vadodara(Agency).

What began with threats to a Vadodara businessman and a demand for Rs 10 crore in ransom took the Vadodara city police to Delhi, where an alleged associate of the Rohit Godara gang was arrested in a joint operation with the Delhi Police Special Cell while he was coming to collect Rs 10 lakh through hawala. A search of a car linked to the accused then allegedly uncovered heroin worth Rs 4 crore.

Kuldeep Ganeshdas Swami, a resident of Kalyanpura village in Rajasthan's Churu district, was arrested in Delhi's Chandni Chowk on Saturday when he had allegedly arrived there to collect the money on behalf of the gang, according to a statement by the Vadodara Detection of Crime Branch (DCB).

The DCB arrested Swami based on a complaint lodged against Mahendra Delana, an alleged member of the Rohit Godara gang, after the Vadodara businessman was issued a

death threat and allegedly asked to pay an extortion amount of Rs 10 crore. The Crime Branch subsequently formed teams to trace those suspected to be involved, relying on technical surveillance and human intelligence. Teams were also



sent to New Delhi to coordinate with officers of the Delhi Police Special Cell. As per the police, the businessman had agreed to pay Rs 10 lakh to the accused, who decided to receive the money through a hawala channel in Delhi. Based on information gathered during the investigation, the Vadodara DCB team, along with the Delhi Special Cell, laid a watch in the Chandni

Chowk area on Saturday. At around 5.30 pm, Swami allegedly reached the location to collect the extortion money and was intercepted by the two teams. During a preliminary interrogation, Swami allegedly told the police that he had come at the behest of the Rohit Godara gang to collect the ransom. Swami was in possession of a key to a Maruti Swift vehicle. The police said Swami then disclosed that the car had been parked at Jai Vihar in Najafgarh and was carrying narcotics. A team subsequently took Swami to the location where the car was parked. On searching its boot, the officers allegedly found four packets containing 2,075 kg of heroin, valued at approximately Rs 4 crore. The vehicle was also seized for investigation. The seizure also led the Delhi Police Special Cell to register a separate case under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, invoking Sections 21 and 25. The police are now investigating the source of the heroin and its intended recipient.

As Bengal govt orders closure of 252 madrasas, BJP doubles down: 'anti-national hub'

Kolkata(Agency).

Three months after the new BJP government in West Bengal began a detailed survey of all the madrasas operating in the state, it has ordered the closure of 252 of them and has issued showcause notices to 100 others.

Sources in the state Minority Affairs and Madrasa Education Department said that Malda district, bordering Bangladesh, has most madrasas in the government's closure list (45), followed by those in Uttar Dinajpur (37), and South 24 Parganas, Murshidabad and Nadia districts (25 each).

Speaking to the media persons on Saturday, Minority Affairs and Madrasa Education Minister Kshudiram Tudu said, “We have shut 252 madrasas and issued showcause notices to 100 others. These madrasas will have to respond, and if their replies are found to be unsatisfactory, then we will take action against them too.” As per the survey report, 2,132 madrasas are operating with proper approval, while 2,396 are functioning without permission from any government board or the required authority, an

official said. According to Tudu, the survey covered 22 districts and different parts of Kolkata, collecting information on their management, teachers, students, infrastructure, sources of funding and other details.

A special team was also sent by the state government to verify the information collected during the inquiry.



In its June order, the BJP government had said that the purpose of the survey was to “obtain authentic district-wise data” as well as identify “any irregularities or unlawful activities”. “The present exercise is intended for administrative

purposes, with a view to enabling the Department to obtain authentic district-wise data regarding the nature, status, academic activities, infrastructural facilities, student composition and related particulars of such institutions for educational planning, child welfare measures and maintenance of educational records,” it had stated. “The exercise may also assist the Government in identifying any irregularities or unlawful.

Meerut man cleared cop exam, married 4 months ago. Then stray bullet killed him

Lucknow(Agency).

Hastinapur in Meerut district is tense following the murder of a young man on Friday evening while he was returning home on a bike with his friend. Police have deployed a large contingent of force in the area, while the houses of three accused have been partly demolished over alleged illegal construction.

The fateful ride

For 27-year-old Nitin Nagar, a bike ride with a friend turned fateful as the bullet

shot by assailants to kill his friend, Prince, killed him instead. Nitin was returning home after his daily workout routine. He had cleared the written examination for the post of constable in the Delhi Police and was awaiting his physical test. He had got married four months ago. Police said that one of the accused, identified as 29-year-old Mitthu, wanted to kill Prince, with whom he had a long-time rivalry over local domination.

According to police, Nitin was riding pillion while his friend, Prince, was driving the motorcycle when they were attacked. A bullet struck Nitin, and he was rushed to hospital, where he died during treatment.

“There was no dispute between the accused and my son, Nitin. Yet he lost his life. Nitin, who had married just four months ago, was our only son, and this loss is irreplaceable for his wife and me. I gave my child the best education so that he could live a peaceful life — I never imagined a tragedy like this could befall him,” said Nitin's father, Satish

Kumar, a resident of Makhan Nagar village in Meerut. Satish, who saw the video clip of his son's murder that was recorded by a CCTV camera installed near the crime spot, has named five persons — Mitthu, Rishabh, Goldy, Shakti, Utsav — and one unknown person — for the murder of his son.

Protest and police action

Police have so far arrested two men, including Mitthu, the prime accused, in connection with Nitin's murder. Nitin's family claimed the murder was



motivated by a dispute between Prince and Mitthu over local supremacy.

Following the murder, Nitin's family members and villagers protested by placing his body on the Bijnor-Meerut Highway. They refused to conduct the final rites until the accused were arrested. Police said that after prolonged persuasion by senior officials and local UP Minister Dinesh Kumar, who arrived at the spot, the protesters lifted the blockade. Meanwhile, the district administration razed alleged illegal constructions at the houses of the three accused — Utsav Yadav, Mitthu and Goldie. Nitin's father, however, called the partial demolition of the accused's houses “merely an eyewash”. “Barring a few bricks, nothing was actually broken in any of the three houses,” he said.

Kamathipura is changing. So is its red light trade

Mumbai(Agency).

For decades, Mumbai knew its red light district. The narrow lanes of Kamathipura, its cramped rooms and brothels made sex work visible, concentrated and, for better or worse, impossible to ignore. Now that geography is disappearing.

With the 34-acre redevelopment plan unveiled last week, Kamathipura is set to be remade with high rises, 500 sq ft homes and open spaces. But as the buildings that housed the city's oldest red light district prepare to give way to a new neighbourhood, the women associated with it are already being pushed beyond its boundaries into hotels, lodges and scattered locations across the city's fringes.

For them, redevelopment is not simply about a new home. It is about where they will live, how they will earn, and whether anyone will still be able to find them when they need help.

A 50-year-old sex worker who came from Kolkata two decades ago has spent most of her adult life in Kamathipura. Her two children were born and raised here. Yet as the neighbourhood prepares for its biggest transformation in decades, she says she has nowhere to go.

“Now that there is a redevelopment plan, the government has not approached us and we have nowhere to go. There are no talks of shifts in occupation,” she said. Kamathipura was not always synonymous with sex work.

The neighbourhood takes its name from the kamathis or Telugu speaking labourers from Hyderabad region who came to Bombay for construction work. Its association with sex work developed during the colonial period, when the British administration sought to regulate prostitution, partly to control venereal diseases among soldiers. The Contagious Diseases Act of 1868 brought women engaged in sex work under official surveillance. After Independence, the legal approach changed, with the Suppression of Immoral Traffic in Women and Girls Act of 1956, later amended as the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, focusing on trafficking, brothel keeping and exploitation.

Business ‘at standstill’: Gujarat High Court gives accused extra time for bail deposit

Vadodara(Agency). A Surat man accused of orchestrating a Rs 4.80-crore international diamond fraud has obtained a one-month extension from the Gujarat High Court to pay the remaining half of his bail surety. The accused pleaded that his prolonged incarceration had brought his diamond business to a “complete standstill”, leaving him unable to raise the full amount on time. Harekrishna alias Hari Kamleshbhai Raval was arrested on March 25 in connection with a case involving fake online profiles of US-based buyers created using virtual phone numbers to cheat local diamond traders.

In July, the High Court granted regular bail to Raval after he offered to deposit Rs 10 lakh before the trial court within two months of his release. His brother had submitted an undertaking to this effect, making the deposit a key condition of the bail.

However, as the deadline approached, Raval moved the High Court seeking more time. His counsel informed the court that despite “relentless efforts”, Raval could only arrange Rs 5 lakh because his business had collapsed while he was in jail, leaving him with no source of income.

Accepting the request in view of the “peculiar facts” of the case, Justice Hasmukh D Suthar granted a final one-month extension to deposit the remaining Rs 5 lakh. “No further extension will be given to the applicant,” the court cautioned while directing him to complete the deposit within the new timeline.

The fraud case

The case stems from an FIR registered at the Surat Detection of Crime Branch

(DCB) police station following a complaint by Sanjaybhai Jadavbhai Goti, proprietor of Nilkanth Solitaire.

According to the complaint, the accused used RapNet, now Rapaport Trade, a popular online diamond trading platform, to create fake buyer profiles that mimicked legitimate US-based companies. Using WhatsApp and virtual phone numbers, the syndicate built trust with local traders and induced them to



ship high-value diamonds to Dubai and Bangkok without making payments.

Goti alleged that seven diamonds worth Rs 4.80 crore were delivered to the syndicate, but no payment was ever received. During the initial bail hearing in July, the prosecution opposed Raval's plea, arguing that his role differed from that of co-accused who had already secured bail. The prosecution further argued that the money trail led to Raval and that he had allegedly received Rs 20 lakh from selling one of the unrecovered diamonds. The High Court, however, noted that six of the seven diamonds had already been recovered from co-accused. Factoring in the completion of the investigation, the filing of the chargesheet, Raval's clean criminal record, and his offer to deposit Rs 10 lakh, half of his alleged proceeds, the court granted him bail.

Trust is the key in the AI age

TWENTY-FIVE years ago in the wake of 9/11 — even as then PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee grappled with the aftermath of the failed July 2001 Agra summit with Pervez Musharraf — the US dealt with its gravest security risk by threatening Musharraf that it would bomb Pakistan “back into the Stone Age” if his military intelligence didn’t find Osama bin Laden or help the Americans gain access into neighbouring Afghanistan to clean out the Al-Qaida. Today, 25 years later, the world’s most powerful nation has put its focus on terrorism on the backburner in favour of the far more exciting race to superhuman intelligence via powerful, albeit private, AI companies like Anthropic and OpenAI — except, this week, an AI researcher who quit one of those companies poured cold water over the effort, warning that “unrestrained development of self-improving AI models will end up killing us all.” Luckily in India, such doomsday prophecies have a short shelf life — the daily task of living is onerous enough. If a terrorist act doesn’t kill you on a Pahalgam holiday, the rampant use of heroin or ‘chitta’ widely available across northern India — across J&K, in Punjab and Haryana as well as in Himachal Pradesh — is destined to lay you low for a long time. And if all of this fails, there’s always the John Maynard Keynes line to fall back upon, “In the long run, we are all dead.”

he problem, especially if you’re a Tribune reader, is not the risk you take with either death or facetiousness, but with memory and the options that it offers as long as you’re alive — after all, we’ve been around since 1881, even before the Indian National Congress was founded in 1885 at the Gokuldas Tejpal Sanskrit College in Bombay. The Tribune’s first editorial promised to be a mouthpiece of the people and to speak up for the “public weal,” an implied commitment to the objectivity of news. Justice Deepak Gupta (retd), in an article in this newspaper on the need for independence in the judiciary (“The true meaning of freedom”, September 7), reiterated The Tribune’s fidelity to fairness in an interview with the noted journalist Karan Thapar. “It is run by a Trust, not by a private player,” Justice Gupta said, adding that was why The Tribune refused to inculcate the perils of “tabloidisation.” All this lavish praise on ourselves, Dear Reader, is not the point of this column. Instead, it is to reiterate the fact that trust in the handling of news has to be earned over years and years, sometimes decades, even a century. And that our most sacred duty these days, in this Age of AI Peril, whose ability to turn and twist the world around us in ways that are no longer intelligible is now apparent to see, is to confront this mutating danger head on.

How to do it, you may ask at this juncture. Is the mauling restricted to AI, you may add. The answer to the first is trust — trust and verify. As for the second, the fact is that the opening up of the media — which was a consequence of the economic reform at home and the end of the Cold War abroad — and was supposed to liberate us in the act of speaking up, has hardly strengthened itself to meet the AI challenge. If you’re old enough to remember how Doordarshan hogged the airwaves, you are also old enough to remember the yearning that came with it. Being “anti-establishment” was synonymous with being critical of the Congress — except in the critiquing of foreign policy, always a holy cow, because it spanned the ideological divide. That’s why when you hear reporters talk about “an Indian view of foreign policy,” you know immediately they belong to a certain dinosaur age, because it was always the Government, never the media house in question, which indirectly sponsored their interviews of foreign leaders, thereby stamping its character on the interview.

Dalai Lama’s enduring politics of hope

Delhi fears China. China fears the Dalai Lama. Neither fear will be mentioned this week

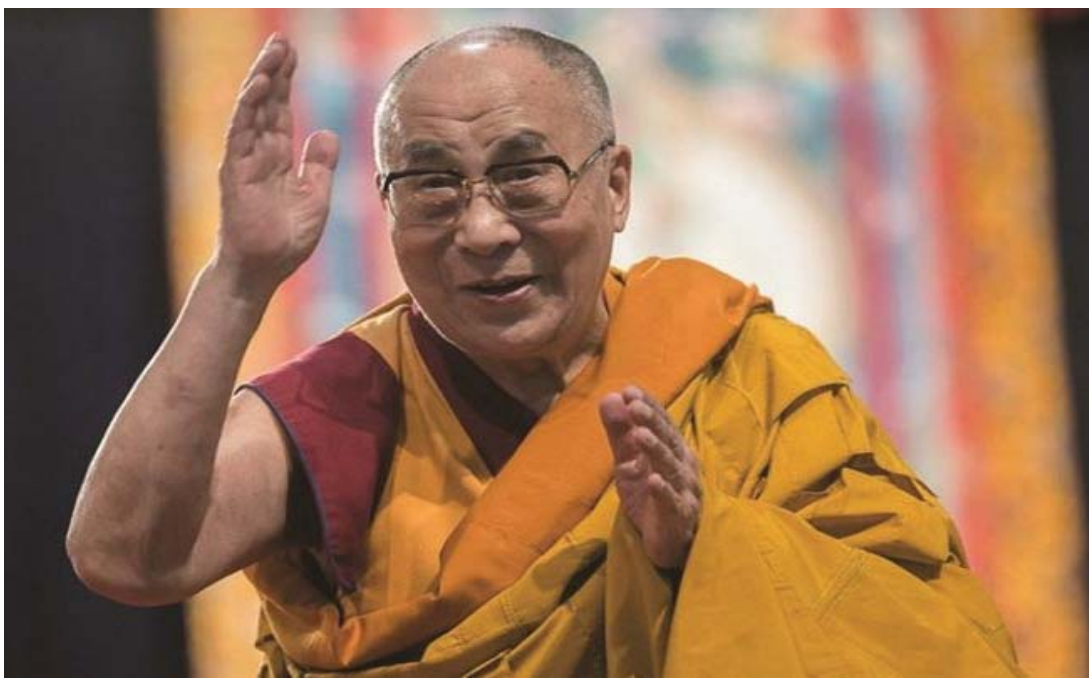
THIS week, the President of China lands in Delhi with 400 officials. Ninety-one years old, in a house in Dharamshala, sits a monk with no army, no territory and no wish for either. Between them lies Tibet, an issue India has rarely chosen to raise with China, even while giving the Dalai Lama and the Tibetan exile community sanctuary and the space to rebuild their lives.

In 1960, the International Commission of Jurists found that acts of genocide had been committed in an attempt to destroy Tibetans as a religious group. China, it concluded, had “systematically set out to eradicate” Buddhist religious belief. In 1986, I first went up to Dharamshala, to sit at the feet of the Dalai Lama. What I remember most sharply is not a teaching but a piece of embroidery, worked into the monks’ prayer mats in Tibetan: “Pray for the Chinese.” The morning prayer concluded: “May the veils of illusion and ignorance lift from the Chinese.”

It is easy to mistake this for meekness. These were men who had walked out over the passes, buried their teachers and seen their monasteries reduced to rubble. They knew exactly what had been done to them.

They decided that the perpetrator would not determine what the victim became. It was a decision, renewed each day, not a temperament. Their teacher has held the same line. “I have no desire to seek Tibet’s separation,” he wrote to the Chinese people in 2008. In 2011, he relinquished all political authority, and his Middle Way continues to ask not for independence, but for genuine autonomy within China. Beijing, meanwhile, has steadily extended its authority into the religious institutions through which Tibetans have traditionally recognised their spiritual leaders. In 2007, it ruled that senior-lama reincarnations require government approval. Gedhun Choekyi Nyima, recognised as the Panchen Lama in 1995 when he was six, has not been seen since. When the Dalai Lama confirmed in July 2025 that only his Gaden Phodrang Trust may recognise his successor, Beijing replied that the choice must be theirs. That instinct is not new to the family making the claim. Reportedly, in 1954, when the Dalai Lama travelled to Beijing as a young man, Xi Jinping’s father, Xi Zhongxun, grew close to him. The Dalai Lama remembered him as “very friendly, comparatively open-minded, very nice” and gave him an Omega watch at their parting. Xi Zhongxun was still wearing it three decades later, after his own purge and rehabilitation, when the Dalai Lama’s brother visited Beijing in the early 1980s. The warmth stayed within the party’s authority, not outside it, and it raised a hope in Dharamshala that the son might inherit some of it. He has not. His government keeps no such channel open. It rules.

Delhi has been told where the line runs. The Chinese embassy here calls Tibet “a thorn in China-India relations” and wants no platform offered to Tibetan independence, no interference in the reincarnation.



Imports from China touched \$131.63 billion last financial year. During Operation Sindoor, Lt Gen Rahul Singh, Deputy Chief of Army Staff, said 61% of Pakistan’s hardware was Chinese and that Islamabad had received “live inputs” from Beijing while the guns fired.

General Anil Chauhan, then Chief of Defence Staff, was more cautious, calling the extent of that support “very difficult to define.” Even the other Generals do not agree on how much Beijing did. In 2014, Xi’s visit to Gujarat that year coincided with a major PLA standoff at Chumar, even as he took off his shoes and turned the charkha in white khadi at the ashram of Mahatma Gandhi, the man to whom the Dalai Lama dedicated his Nobel Peace Prize. There will, doubtless, be choreography again this week. Tibet is unlikely to figure in it.

Yet India’s caution is only one part of the story. For more than six decades, the people and the government have given the Dalai Lama and the Tibetan exile community a home in which they have preserved their culture, identity and cause. Tibetans remain deeply grateful for it. From that refuge, the Dalai Lama’s soft power has travelled far beyond Dharamshala.

He has been careful, affirming, “We must not do anything to embarrass our friends.” He often invokes another side of this relationship. “India is the Guru, Tibet is the Chela,” he

has said. “When the Chela is in trouble, the Guru must help him.” The Dalai Lama calls Chinese Buddhists his senior spiritual brothers and sisters and believes there are hundreds of millions of them now, many studying under Tibetan teachers. Prayer for the Chinese was never a selective prayer. If asked what he hopes from the Modi-Xi meeting, the Dalai Lama’s answer would hardly be surprising. For decades, he has argued that better relations between India and China are necessary for both countries, for Asia and the world, and, ultimately, for Tibet. His hope has been that greater trust between Delhi and Beijing creates the circumstances in which the Tibet question can, at last, be resolved. The logic is not sentimental. I believe Beijing’s rigidity on reincarnation stems from suspicion that a future Dalai Lama could become a geopolitical instrument for India or the West.

A steadier relationship might ease that suspicion, making it easier for Beijing to treat succession as religious rather than strategic, and easier for Delhi to acknowledge the Gaden Phodrang process without the gesture reading as provocation. It could also give the quiet growth of Tibetan Buddhism among Chinese practitioners more room to breathe, free of the assumption that it serves an external agenda. None of this is assured. Greater trust would at least make the harder conversation possible.

Following robust tax growth, GST Council needs to plug leakages

Comparing current revenue against past data with discontinued levies and calling the difference a statistical trickery is a classic accounting mistake

Even as the controversy surrounding India’s GDP data remains unsettled, accusations are being raised against the authenticity of GST collections. The monthly indirect tax haul is growing in healthy double-digits, outpacing nominal GDP growth. However, former Finance Secretary Subash Chandra Garg has levelled fresh allegation that the net GST collection—stripping out tax credits and refunds—was registering lower growth than the nominal GDP. Moreover, by his calculations, if we exclude GST compensation cess, which was discontinued in September 2025, the overall growth in tax collection would remain sub-par. The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs was quick to dismiss Garg’s allegations as misleading and mischievous for cherry-picking figures from two different tax bases and raising suspicion when there’s none. Further, it argued that it has been transparently publishing data pertaining to compensation cess in separate tables, with detailed disclosures. Garg countered that the increasing tendency to manage data to suit narratives is



unfortunate. Comparing current revenue against past data with discontinued levies and calling the difference a statistical trickery is a classic accounting mistake. Even if Garg rejects the government’s claim about double-digit expansion in monthly GST revenue as a sign of robust economic activity, it’s undeniable that the money is

flowing to the exchequer. There is simply no merit for the government to inflate tax revenue data and complicate its income and expenditure budget. Moreover, the annual growth in both gross and net GST collections is below nominal GDP growth. For instance, in 2025-26, gross collections at ₹22.27 lakh crore saw 8.3 percent growth, while net proceeds at ₹19.34 lakh crore registered a 7.1 percent increase. These are actual monies collected and refunded, and tax officials have no benefit in reporting otherwise. The allegations have come close to next month’s GST Council meeting. At this, the council’s first huddle since the major rate rationalisation exercise last year, it must speed up work on simplifying refunds and speeding up registrations. One focus should be preventing fake input tax credit claims, which are alarmingly rising. In 2025-26 alone, authorities detected 30,000-odd such cases worth ₹74,782 crore. Fake invoicing and fraudulent claims lead to significant revenue leakage. Hence, it’s essential for the government to strengthen fraud detection and prevent such claims.

Back to the future with memes

New research suggests humans started losing languages earlier than previously assumed, in the imperial age of globalisation. India today has over 40 critically endangered languages. Now that memes are becoming universal ideograms, we may be going back to an earlier mode of communication

The world is becoming flatter. So says a paper published in Science by researchers in Barcelona, New Haven and Leipzig—“The rise and fall of language diversity through the Holocene”. Using ethnolinguistic data and population estimates in a Bayesian model, they find that languages have dwindled through the Holocene—the planet’s current era, sometimes called the Anthropocene to help the human race feel important—except for a surprising surge about 2,000 years long.

The human race now speaks about 7,500 languages, not many more than the 4,500-6,200 which are presumed to have been in circulation shortly after humans amazed each other by speaking up for the first time. But the study also finds that the period 3,000-1,000 years ago was linguistically splendid, when perhaps tens of thousands of languages flourished.

This linguistic boom, hitherto unsuspected, could be contemporary with the growth of settled living following the development of agriculture and animal husbandry. But the connection between the agricultural revolution and settlements is no longer canonical dogma, and other factors could have fed the growth of languages. The paper also contests the popular idea that the European age of exploration began the destruction of languages through commercial dominance, warfare and by handing out infected blankets to the people they ‘discovered’. It seems that language loss accelerated much earlier, under the early empires that took their cultures, commercial systems, bacteria, viruses and mother tongues across geographies. Over time, Latin and Greek were in use across Europe. There’s runic graffiti in Istanbul, made by Vikings. Iran influenced a wide swath of cultures, from its Mongolian invaders to modern South Asians. Macedonian influence stretched from Persepolis to present-day Madhya Pradesh. The Cholas’ maritime reach took Indian culture as far as Vietnam. Such expansions typically overshadow local languages. For instance, India, despite its vast array of languages, still has an English hangover because the world’s fastest-growing language offers access to overseas job markets and the upper echelons of society.

Now, in the post-imperial age of globalisation, languages are dying at the rate of about four every year. Often, they literally die with their speakers. India has over 40 critically endangered languages and dialects, like Bangani in

Uttarakhand and Na and Mra in Arunachal Pradesh. Many tribal languages are threatened, especially in the Northeast and the Andaman and Nicobar islands. The status of Sentinelese is unknown because the tribe remains in seclusion—the only visitor in years was a peculiar YouTuber who wished to introduce them to Diet Coke but fled the island before making contact.

AdvertisementThe Badeshi language of Pakistan’s Swat has gained international fame because it is spoken by only three elderly men. That’s what



a critically endangered language looks like—a few elders speak it and young stop learning it. When the number of speakers dwindles to one and conversations give way to internal monologues, students of language scramble to record it for posterity. Because the evolution of language parallels the history of the human race, and every language that’s lost is a missing segment of DNA in the cultural double-helix of the species. And ethnically particular ways of expressing a thought are permanently lost.

Globalisation has flattened the world, its nations and cultures by raising the general above the particular. Everyone wears the same mass-produced clothing. Homes which once used many varieties of rice now eat generic long-staple basmati. Children know of Slenderman but not the local demon. The language of words has itself been flattened by the visual language of memes, which is universally understood by younger people across the world, and which can express all manner of thoughts and ideas directly and powerfully, like at Jantar Mantar. For decades, linguistic determinism—loosely known as the Sapir-Whorf hypothesis, named for a teacher and his acolyte—held that language determines the scope of thought. If you don’t have the words to speak it, you can’t think it. In reality, languages borrow words from each other, or create alternatives. The Bangla word for ‘fire engine’ actually means ‘steam engine’, because fire engines in Victorian Calcutta were steam-powered and must have arrived as dramatically as locomotives. In Romani, Queen Victoria was ‘Bori Rani’—Big Queen. Whatever works!

And thus, just like in nature, some languages evolve while others fade out. Now, a new form of linguistic evolution is suspected to be in progress—a downshift of the gears. The spoken word and the written word are not the same. They are different registers, demotic and hieratic, with diverging vocabularies.

It’s been this way from the Gutenberg revolution. But now, the internet, which values video and audio over the written word, may be reversing the hierarchy. Children born after broadband internet have less patience for the written word. They say they learn visually. Now that search is also visual and memes—to coin a word—is cooler than mimesis, there is some anxiety that the hieratic, textual register of language could fade away.

Does the triumph of memes flatten the world? The stricken bull in Picasso’s Guernica, the bull on the wall of the Lascaux cave, which seems to breathe when you look at it long enough, speak in images. Hieroglyphics and pictograms—the oldest alphabets—are so much like modern memes. Picture this: perhaps the history of language is turning a full circle, and returning to the first words ever uttered.



Things to Consider before quitting Your job

According to a recent study by LinkedIn, Indians are more proactive at job search and job switch on a regular basis. For Gen Z, a higher salary is the biggest draw. Getting a job and holding on to it is no longer a matter of pride; job hopping is no longer considered frivolous but as an opportunity to learn and climb the corporate ladder faster. Often, employees do not seem to think that an opportunity similar to the one they are seeking outside can exist in the company they are currently employed with. To avoid this, firms should encourage employees to be more open about their professional aspirations. Even in the digital age, there needs to be more focus on increased face time, which

would make everything else fall in place as the employees will be well-informed. Here are a few perks you can miss out on when you plan to quit your current job for another opportunity:

TRAINING SESSIONS AND DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Before you make a switch, you need to think if the new company offers you training that is more like spoon feeding aimed at only skilling you enough to go by a checklist or does it have a learning centric environment that allows you to grow as a professional and add life

skills that can transfer in any type of setting.

COMPANY CULTURE

Take a moment to think whether you feel disconnected to the company's culture. If you feel engaged in the work that you do and the space you are in and think highly of your peer group, do you really want to move? Given how much time you spend with your peers, good relationships at the workplace can boost your morale. Once you are in a comfortable zone with your peers, you are definitely more productive.

Changing to adapt to a culture and engage with a new workforce that you don't feel at ease with could lead to a difficult transition. Shift gears only if you are ready.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND OFFICE SPACE

This may seem trivial but note how it makes a difference to your day-to-day work and productivity. A healthy workspace layout and well ness initiatives offered on the job will keep you fit and productive for the long-term.

DOES YOUR COMPANY TRUST YOU?

Think about the level of empowerment you have at your level. Do you feel confident in your independence to get things done and do you feel trusted by your seniors and team mates? An organisation that enables you to step up and interact with the leaders is an indication of the trust it places in you: How valuable are you to the company and does it appreciate and recognise that? Think over it before you take a leap.

MEASURING PERFORMANCE

Pay attention to the performance management system of the organisation. Most follow a model that is based on the

A higher salary should not be your only consideration while moving jobs. you need to carefully evaluate the perks your current job offers before deciding to finally make the switch.

principle of forced rankings.

This means your success will depend on how good or bad your peers on the project are. Firms that have performance review processes that are anchored in ongoing feedback and truly measure your impact and potential through a competency model are a better way of gauging your growth.

The competency model of your firm must allow for your growth through learning opportunities.

How to get Acquired

Bala Parthasarathy, managing partner at seed-stage fund AngelPrime, an early investor in ZipDial, writes about the 7 things they learned from Twitter's acquisition of the Bengaluru-based venture



Fortune favours the survivors -- The first rule in business is to survive. The longer you are around, the higher are your chances of being acquired or good things happening to you. Valerie Wagoner and Amiya Pathak (ZipDial founders) stuck it out through thick and thin. If they had folded their cards at the first hiccup, they would not have made history. Set your horizons for at least seven years. In the case of ZipDial, it happened to them in Year 5. If you want to start something and flip it in two years, you better be extremely lucky!

Traction, not just technology -- Amiya (Pathak) built an amazingly scalable architecture that wowed Twitter. But unlike most technology companies I see, they had 60 million users, a strong sales team, growing revenues and ubiquitous presence. These must have been compelling factors when someone inside Twitter did a build-versus-buy decision.

Armchair matchmaking never works -- At AngelPrime, I hear entrepreneurs telling me why Facebook or Google or some other company would acquire them because of this-that-or-the-other. It never works that way. Based on my own experience in selling Snapfish and being the acquirer of startups, most large companies operate like independent fiefdoms ruled by fiercely protective leaders whose idea of what is best for them and what is

best for the overall company are typically at odds. It is these leaders, not the M&A team, that makes buying decisions, especially in technology.

Sow the seeds and be patient -- You should cultivate a business relationship with the potential acquirer that makes business sense for you and the company. Specifically, you should engage with one or more teams for which your technology or product would be interesting. Think business first, not acquisition first. And focus on why partnering with you helps them. In the process, get to understand the company's internal goals, the people and culture. ZipDial had a two-year business relationship with Twitter where they had worked together on various campaigns, including Bollywood and Indian elections.

People, not companies -- People, not companies, do deals. Valley companies are generally very insular and rarely do deals outside Bay Area, let alone India (Israel is an exception to the rule). They first need to build a relationship with you as a person before they see the value in your technology and business. The ZipDial team had solid relationships at multiple levels with different teams at Twitter, long before the deal was conceived. Luckily, there are plenty of people who can help you connect, if you're not the networking

type. iSpirt M&A Connect is a very well designed programme which can formally help you forge relationships with many Valley companies.

Date many, marry one -- Though there might be one perfect company for you in the end, you should engage with multiple companies. And when I say engage, I mean build a business relationship.

There are so many rational and irrational factors that go into an acquisition decision from the acquirer's end that you'll never know about and thinking that THE ONE will eventually scoop you up, is foolish. Plus, your chances of being acquired are much higher when multiple companies court you. ZipDial had plenty of other business relationships, each of which could have been THE ONE.

Don't sell, be bought -- This cliché is certainly obvious to anyone who has ever bargained in a bazaar. If you're desperately looking to be sold, your chances of being acquired are very, very low. And even if you do get acquired, the price will be pathetic.

Indeed, the best way to be acquired is to go around building a solid business with traction, being patient and cultivating the relationships. And then, let the Gods of Luck play their role!

IT startups to gain from IIT placements

In its bid to promote entrepreneurship in the National Capital Region, the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi's Entrepreneurship Development Cell will be conducting a placement programme for students across disciplines, a move touted as the first such in India.

EDC-IIT Delhi has brought on board some of the country's top startups, a list that includes, News Corp-backed real estate portal PropTiger, TouchTalent, an online marketplace for creative talent, and video-based platform Frankly.me, which could potentially hire close to 300 students during course of the job fair, scheduled to be held later this month at IIT campus.

"Startups are always on the lookout for talent, and this event also helps in fostering the entrepreneurial environment in the Delhi-NCR region," said Navratn

Singh, director of the IIT Delhi cell.

The placement programme could see engineering students from Delhi College of Engineering, often preferred pick of startups looking to build further on technology platforms, duking it out with the best Delhi University has to offer, including students from high-profile colleges, such as Sri Ram College of Commerce, Lady Shri Ram College and Hansraj College.

"This isn't just for engineering students, or those with a tech background. It's for who's looking to join everybody startups in India," pointed out Ravish Ratnam, president, EDC-IIT Delhi. Additionally, SAIF Partners, Accel Partners and Matrix Partners -have signed up to participate in the programme.



10 types of People who get better Jobs

Research says the following 10 types are most likely to be gainfully employed. Do you see yourself here?

The cheerleader:

What's a good sport without a happy bunch of cheerleaders? All work and no promotion, makes the company disappear in the market.

So your small law firm maybe known in the circles, but a little push from a marketing guru will make the world aware of your facilities, capabilities, which will result in acquiring more clients. The marketer works in tandem with the founder to position the company that suits his or her vision and build the brand. This personality type is highly assertive, understands urgency and is willing to gamble (even when the founder develops cold feet).

he multi-tasker:

So your company is tiny and everyone is a bit stretched. There are some who just can't handle the pressure, but there are few who can grin and bear it all, and can put their hands in several puddings all at once -be admin one day, and a creative executor the next.

These multi-taskers serve as real assets to smaller firms whose budgets are meagre and manpower a handful. Young entrepreneurs are constantly on the look out of talent that not only can juggle many roles, but also switch parts as and when required.

The obligator:

What's the difference between an accommodator and multi-tasker? The former is a 'willing personality', while the latter is just blessed to focus on too many things at the same time. But as an owner of a small business, you need an accommodator in your squad, too. Read: These personalities are not spineless 'yes minister' kinds, but understand when they need to up their game, and do whatever it takes to work with impossible demands and deadlines.

Reverse role player:

Small firms have a strong tendency and leaning to employ people who are like-minded, but HR officials reckon that a personality whose views and beliefs are opposite of that of the company would do the latter good and result in growth. He/she would bring in the perspective and insight that owners would fail to notice. Sometimes, they'll also serve as mock rivals, thus further enhancing the chances of success and productivity.

the business, he/she is always a bit averse to taking big risks and making concrete decisions. They are constantly turning to people who can use their own judgment and give them sound advice. Remember, they need someone who is not afraid to pull the trigger in times of distress. If you're a firm decision maker, then you are just the person your boss needs by his/ her side.

he cautious player:

Likewise, if you're the kind of entrepreneur who has a tendency to run with his /her dreams, an employer who likes to play it carefully is always a good hand in the team. You need this type of personality as a counterbalance to risk takers.

They are risk-averse, but sometimes you need such people to bring in stability and caution you from getting too excited and taking on more than your resources can manage.

The planner:

A person skilled in drafting policies and planning the next action the company must take is a key member to have in the team. Many serve as efficient executors, but few as effective planners (who essentially run the ship). These are the guys who can identify long-term goals, have a vision for the future and can work on a calculated measure to get there.

The organiser:

It's one thing to be a good strategist, and another to pull it all together. The best ideas go for a toss if you do not have someone who is task-oriented to put them into action. So if you are a master at organising, then it's imperative to add that in your CV.

The analyser:

While the strategist and organiser have their own skill sets to execute the idea into action, it takes an observant kind -who has one eye firmly on the rivals -to help you weigh the pros and cons and work accordingly.

The helper:

If you have wetted your hands in the hospitality business, and are looking to make a switch, be sure you retain the 'service-oriented' trait in your next job, too. A person who has a willingness to help others always makes for a great team player.

They balance administrative qualities, understand urgency and have the patience to deal with finicky clients.

The decision maker:

When an entrepreneur has just started off in

Seven myths about Work

Near-constant distractions have become the norm in workplaces around the world. Workers are struggling to get more done and focus harder with little understanding of what attention is or how to attain or manage it.



Here are seven myths about managing your attention at work.

I can pay attention from the back of the room

Attention depends on how close we are to sensory stimuli. To create new ideas, we have to work in spaces where people can hear well, have eye contact with one another and can view shared documents and materials.

Sitting down all day will help me focus more

Static sitting sabotages our ability to concentrate, but movement stimulates production of the protein brain-derived neurotrophic factor, which helps brain areas vital to learning, memory and concept thinking. Take a walk or encourage your workplace to add a treadmill desk.

Drawing is only for creative types

People think in shapes, pictures and patterns, not in numbers and letters. Using digital and analogue tools to visualise information can support better thinking and increase focus. Help your brain organise information by sketching out your ideas.

I will be more productive if I respond to e-mail during this phone call

We cannot consciously keep more than two things in our brain at one time. When we think we are multi-tasking, we are really switching our

attention rapidly between things the more we do it, the worse we become at prioritising.

Create workspaces away from distractions to encourage focusing on one task at a time.

My brain is easily distracted and cannot change

Keeping your mind tuned in to the current moment can train the brain. The practice has proven to increase gamma activity in the brain, indicating intensely focused thought. Consider identifying a place for moments of mindfulness and peace.

If I work more hours, I will get more done

The brain's capacity is limited and complete focus isn't usually possible for longer than 45 minutes. Take breaks throughout the day.

I can sleep when I'm dead

Sleep plays an important role in our ability to focus and hold attention. When we are sleep-deprived, our ability to learn and focus decreases. Consider adding nap rooms or short breaks to rejuvenate and refresh the brain.

Letting your employees review you can lead to personal and professional growth of the team, and you.

The dictionary meaning of the word review stands for a "formal assessment of something with the intention of instituting change if necessary". A review is typically on performance related parameters, on goals and objectives that an individual is committed to. And since the reporting manager's performance is most often a derivative cumulative impact of the performance of the team, the lack of timely and quality reviews of the team can lead to under-performance or nonperformance with its own consequence management.

Organisationally, we are far away from team members 'reviewing' their managers. Before we even reach an organisational development stage of an employee 'reviewing' a reporting manager's performance, there are a few hurdles to be crossed: a) Willingness of the 'boss' to receive feedback and do something constructive about it; b) 'Dare' in the employee to give feedback without fear of any consequence whatsoever; c) Acceptance on the part of the reporting manager that he may be and ideally should be having people in his team.

Structured interventions:

FORMAL APPRAISAL PROCESSES

In the mid-year and annual appraisal process, the management generally has two questions that the reviewee is expected to first fill online and then discuss in the face-to-face meeting with the reporting manager. First, two things that you should continue doing to enable my performance; and second, two things that you could do differently to help me perform better. While the first one was always filled up, we found the second one to be blank in almost 30-40% of the forms, a couple of years back. HR teams had to intervene and take some steps to

Identifying core strengths through reviews

bring in the change.

UPWARD FEEDBACK

While annual and mid-year appraisals evaluate the accomplishment of the goals and objectives, in most cases, the manager does not really receive comprehensive feedback on his/her style of team management, since the manager's own supervisor has little view to the leadership style that is employed with the direct team. Therefore, in a way, a very critical developmental feedback related to organisational performance is missing in most cases! While a 360 degree feedback is a pretty much tested way of giving feedback to each

can lead to personal and professional growth of the manager.

Un-structured interventions

These would be more in the realm of building a culture of giving and taking feedback. Every team has a cadence of regular group meetings to do stock taking. Encouraging peer-review during these meetings is a great way of collectively uplifting each other's performance levels; the results will be for all to see in the team performance, typically reflected in the goal sheet of the reporting manager! Identifying core strengths of each team member like e-mail communication skills,



individual, the specific feedback by the team gets 'hidden' in the grossing-over exercise that is inherent in this process.

Those individuals working for a manager are the ones who are the absolute best witnesses of the behaviours of the manager. So, here comes the practice of upward feedback a tool to collate a collective team feedback based on individual responses. This would enable a manager to get objective feedback on aspects of his team leadership; aspects that play a big role in the motivation, retention and performance of his team. Actively encouraging the direct team to give feedback

project planning skills, data analysis skills, presentations skills, etc., and then building a work culture wherein these 'in-house experts' review the rest of the team as and when necessary, since everyone else would typically need to use these at some point of time or the other.

Needless to say, the reporting manager is the catalyst in bringing in a change for the better in the work culture, encouraging the team to give constructive feedback to him/her, at first specifically sought and then as and when required! These are tried and tested ways for personal and professional growth.

Rape convict Tarun Tejpal surrenders in Goa, vows to take fight to Supreme Court

Former Tehelka editor-in-chief Tarun Tejpal surrendered before Goa Police, weeks after the Bombay High Court convicted him in a 2013 rape case and sentenced him to 10 years. The Supreme Court had directed the 62-year-old journalist to surrender within two weeks.

Delhi. (Agency)

Former Tehelka editor-in-chief Tarun Tejpal surrendered before Goa Police on Monday and was taken to Colvale jail, weeks after the Bombay High Court convicted him in a 2013 rape case and sentenced him to 10 years in prison. The development came after the Supreme Court on August 25 directed the 62-year-old journalist to surrender within two weeks before his appeal against the conviction could be heard. The court rejected his plea for urgent relief and said his appeal would be considered after he filed a surrender certificate. Tejpal surrendered before the Additional Sessions Court at Mapusa, after which he was sent to Central Jail at Colvale in North Goa to begin serving his 10-year sentence. As he was leaving the court

premises, Tejpal said he would continue his legal battle in the Supreme Court. "We will once again approach the Supreme Court against the court's decision. We are confident that we will get justice from the Supreme Court," he said.

The Supreme Court listed his appeal challenging his conviction and sentence for hearing on September 22, subject to the filing of the surrender certificate.

On August 6, the Goa bench of the Bombay High Court overturned Tejpal's 2021 acquittal by a sessions court and convicted him of raping a junior colleague in a hotel elevator at a resort in November 2013. The court sentenced him to 10 years' rigorous imprisonment, with the sentences for the various offences to run concurrently. The High Court had initially given Tejpal four weeks to



surrender, allowing him time to pursue his legal remedy in the Supreme Court. On August 20, Tejpal moved the Supreme Court challenging the August 6 order of the High Court against his conviction in the case.

The Goa government has also approached the Supreme Court, seeking enhancement of Tejpal's sentence to life imprisonment, though it has not challenged the High Court's finding of guilt.

WHAT IS THE CASE AGAINST TEJPAL?

The case dates back to November 2013, when a former Tehelka employee accused Tejpal of sexually assaulting her inside an elevator at a five-star hotel-cum-resort in Goa's Bambolim during the magazine's annual ThinkFest event.

Tejpal was arrested on November 30, 2013, and was granted bail by the Supreme Court less than a year later. The trial began before a Goa sessions court in 2017.

In 2021, the sessions court acquitted Tejpal of all charges, prompting the Goa government to challenge the verdict before the Bombay High Court.

Women's health central to progress, says Delhi L-G Sandhu at gynaecologists' meet

Delhi. (Agency)

Lieutenant-Governor Taranjit Singh Sandhu inaugurated the 48th Annual Conference of the Association of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists of Delhi (AOGD) on Saturday. On the occasion, the L-G said Delhi, home to some of India's leading medical institutions, has a particular responsibility to serve not only as a centre of advanced medical treatment, but also as a centre of medical research, innovation, training, and public-health leadership.

The L-G said this year's conference theme, "With HER: Heal, Empower, Respect... Every Step of the Way," captures the need for a life-course approach to women's healthcare, with obstetricians and gynaecologists working across every stage of a woman's life, from adolescence and reproductive health to pregnancy, childbirth and ageing. He said women's healthcare must go beyond maternal care to bring together prevention, early diagnosis, clinical care, research, and awareness. Sandhu said that women's health is central to India's social and economic progress, as healthy women are better able to participate in education, employment, entrepreneurship, and nation-building. He said investment in women's health is therefore an investment in India's human capital and future. The L-G acknowledged India's progress in maternal and reproductive healthcare, while noting that challenges persist, including anaemia, high-risk pregnancies, and cancers affecting women, alongside disparities in access to quality care. He said it is equally important to encourage women to seek medical advice early, rather than waiting until symptoms become serious, with doctors serving not only as healthcare providers but as educators and trusted sources of information.

Six jump from building to escape fire in Delhi, injured

Delhi. (Agency)

Six people, including women and children, were injured after they jumped from a building in panic when a fire broke out in an adjacent godown-cum-factory in northwest Delhi's Swaroop Nagar on Sunday, a police official said.

Another fire broke out at a godown storing wooden items in east Delhi's Dallupura area on Sunday, following which 16 fire tenders were rushed to the spot. A Delhi Fire Service officer was hospitalised after inhaling smoke while dousing the flames, police said.

In the Swaroop Nagar fire, the fire broke out on the ground and first floors of a factory manufacturing judo dresses and boxing gloves. According to police, no one was inside the premises when the fire broke out. However, panic spread among people in the building adjacent to the factory, prompting six persons, including women and children, to jump from the building, resulting in injuries, police said. Police added that all the injured persons were shifted to hospitals and were out of danger.

According to the Delhi Fire Service, it received a call regarding the blaze at 11:05 am, following which 15 fire tenders were rushed to the spot. It added that the fire has now been completely extinguished by the fire tenders. Further details of the fire and extent of damage were being ascertained, Police said, adding that they were also verifying details of those injured.

In another incident, a fire broke out at a godown storing wooden items in east Delhi's Dallupura area on Sunday, the Delhi Fire Service said. Officials said a call was received regarding the fire at 3.29 pm, following which 16 fire tenders were rushed to the spot. Police said Station Officer Sunil Sagar was rushed to LBS Hospital in an ambulance after he inhaled smoke during the firefighting operation.

China scales down troop deployment along Line of Actual Control: Indian Army report

Delhi. (Agency)

China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) significantly reduced its deployment along the Northern Borders in 2025, with around 10 Combined Arms Brigade-sized forces now positioned opposite the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and in traditional training areas, according to the Indian Army's Annual Report 2025-26. The Army said its own deployment across all sectors of the LAC remains robust and well-poised to deal with any emerging contingency. It attributed the greater stability along the Northern Borders to positive political, diplomatic and military engagements between India and China.

P L A D E P L O Y M E N T

REDUCED ALONG LAC

According to the report, India-China military dialogue resumed during the year, including the 23rd Corps Commander-level/Senior Highest Military Commander-level meeting



held in Eastern Ladakh in October 2025.

Border Personnel Meetings with the PLA have also continued across all sectors in a cordial environment, with both sides using the mechanism

to address issues of concern.

The Army said the reduction in Chinese deployment, along with continued military and diplomatic engagement, had contributed to greater stability along the Northern Borders. However, it maintained that Indian forces remain prepared to respond to any emerging security challenge.

The report also highlighted the lessons from Operation Sindoor, saying the operation demonstrated India's multi-domain capability, intelligence dominance, technological edge and joint operational readiness.

Following the operation, the Army said it undertook a review of capability gaps, with focus areas including force restructuring, greater jointness and the induction of emerging technologies.

730 held in five months as Delhi govt steps up action on illegal liquor

Delhi. (Agency)

The Delhi government's Excise Department has stepped up enforcement efforts to curb the sale and smuggling of illegal liquor in the city. Between April and August 2026, the department registered 725 FIRs and arrested 730 people in cases involving the sale and transportation of illegal liquor. According to the Excise Department, during the corresponding period from April to August in the financial year 2025-26, it registered 315 FIRs and arrested 312 people. During this period, 112 vehicles were seized and around one lakh bottles of illegal liquor were recovered.

Enforcement activities have increased during the same period this year. Between April and August 2026, 725 FIRs were registered and 730 people



were arrested in cases involving the sale and transportation of illegal liquor. During this period, 197 vehicles carrying illegal liquor were seized and around 2.20 lakh bottles of illegal

liquor were recovered.

Chief Minister Rekha Gupta said the Delhi government was following a zero-tolerance policy towards the illegal liquor trade. The government is working on a new excise policy aimed at strengthening public safety, ensuring responsible regulation of the liquor trade, maintaining quality and increasing government revenue.

She said the government's priority was to ensure availability of legal liquor during festivals so that Delhi residents do not face any inconvenience, while also effectively curbing the sale and smuggling of illegal liquor. Strict action against those violating the law will continue. Action is also being taken against violations of rules at licensed premises.

Noise kills, Delhi must turn down the volume

Delhi. (Agency)

Noise is killing Delhi. That may sound like an exaggeration. However, recent events in the National Capital Region suggest that the relentless assault of sound on urban life is becoming more than an irritation. It is increasingly becoming a trigger for confrontation, rage and, in the most tragic cases, fatal violence.

The latest and most disturbing example is the death of Chongtham Vikram Singh, a 55-year-old veteran guitarist from Manipur. Singh was a respected musician who had been part of Manipur's early rock scene, including the band Phoenix, and had subsequently spent around 17 years teaching music in Delhi. He died after being brutally assaulted following an argument over noise outside his home in southeast Delhi.

The tragedy is particularly chilling because Singh was not looking for a fight. He was asking for something that ought to be entirely ordinary in a civilised city, some peace outside his home late at night.

And this was not an isolated incident. Just days earlier, in Noida's Gejha area, a 45-year-old PG operator was killed following an altercation after he asked people at a birthday party to turn down loud music. Two deaths following two arguments involving excessive noise.

Two reminders that the boundary between an irritating disturbance and a potentially explosive confrontation can be frighteningly thin. Delhi-NCR has become a city of perpetual sound. There are horns, generators, construction equipment, traffic, wedding bands, religious processions, loudspeakers, DJs, commercial establishments, roadside eateries, delivery workers, political events and private parties. The soundscape of the city is no longer governed by the rhythms of daylight and darkness. The night, too, has increasingly become an extension of the day.

India's own Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000 generally prohibit their use between 10 pm and 6 am, subject to limited exemptions for cultural or religious occasions. It recognises that excessive noise can have harmful effects on human health and psychological well-being. The rules establish ambient noise standards and require permission for loudspeakers and public-address systems. The failure lies in enforcement.

Don't file petition in air: HC raps lawyer over claim people trapped in PG debris

Delhi. (Agency)

The Delhi High Court on Monday refused to urgently list a plea over the Municipal Corporation of Delhi's decision to demolish the building next to the five-storey Satya Niketan PG that collapsed last week. A lawyer told the court that the demolition was being carried out without clearing debris from the host's basement and that some people might still be trapped.

A bench of Chief Justice DK Upadhyaya and Justice Tejas Karia questioned the basis of the claim and said the authorities would have carried out an assessment before ordering the demolition. The court said the plea would be listed in due course and declined to take it up urgently.

When the matter was mentioned for an urgent hearing, the lawyer said the

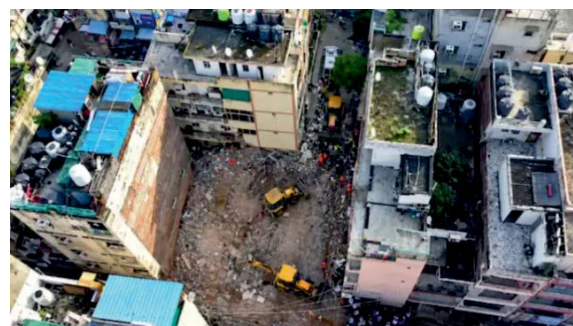
authorities had gone ahead with the demolition without removing debris from the basement of the collapsed hostel. The lawyer told the court that some people could still be trapped there.

The bench, however, asked what material was available to support that submission.

"What's the source of information that there are persons below the debris? How do you know? They must have conducted some type of technical audit before deciding to demolish the adjoining building. It's all your guesswork that there might be some people. You should have some basis for making such submissions," the court told the lawyer.

The bench added that the plea would

come up on its normal course. "What's so urgent? You should not file the petition just in air. What is the technical



information available to you?" it said. The Satya Niketan building, which housed a boys' paying-guest accommodation near Delhi University's South Campus, collapsed on September 6 while repair work was underway. On September 7, the High Court ordered a

high-level MCD inquiry into the collapse, which left seven people dead, and said the government could not evade responsibility.

The court had said the incident was not only unfortunate but also raised deep concern over inadequate housing facilities, including hostels run by Delhi University or the government, the safety and security of students, and the inadequate measures used by the MCD and other authorities to regulate such paying-guest facilities.

On September 8, the civic body began a controlled demolition of the adjoining building after declaring it dangerous. The building housed a girls' paying-guest accommodation and had been evacuated after the collapse of the neighbouring five-storey structure.

Gold price today 14 September 2026: Yellow metal slips lower as US inflation raises Fed rate hike odds

New Delhi. (Agency)

Global gold prices slipped on Monday after the US higher-than-expected inflation data raised the likelihood that the Federal Reserve will raise interest rates later this week. Gold and silver futures on MCX will only trade in the evening session from 5 pm till 11:30 pm on Monday, and will remain closed during the morning session on Ganesh Chaturthi. MCX gold futures expiring October stood at Rs 1,52,655, while MCX silver futures for September delivery stood at Rs 2,34,886 per kg. Spot gold was near \$4,340 an ounce, falling nearly 0.2 per cent on the day and off 1.8 per cent for the week. Silver fell nearly 0.8 per cent to \$64 an ounce, while platinum and palladium also declined. Underlying inflation edged up in August as the core consumer price index, which excludes food and energy costs, surged 0.3 per cent from a month earlier, data released on Friday showed. Gold ended that session higher but was still down 1.8 per cent for the week.

Further, fears of disruption of shipping in Red Sea lanes raised supply-risk concerns, fuelling WTI crude rally above \$107 a barrel.

The heightened inflation concerns due to crude oil price rally increased expectations of a Federal Reserve rate hike sharply higher and weighed on gold and silver. Traders are pricing in nearly 88 per cent chance of a Fed rate hike in September, marking the institution's first rate hike in three years. Houthis forces have seized key ports in Yemen, bordering the key coastline which underpin a large share of the world's seaborne oil trade.

Sunrise sectors struggle to hire skilled employees

CHENNAI. (Agency)

India's push to build manufacturing capabilities in sunrise sectors such as semiconductors, electronics, renewable energy and electric mobility is running into a shortage of skilled, industry-ready employees. The problem has become more pronounced as the country seeks to expand domestic manufacturing following the global chip shortage of 2020-21. While the workforce has expanded, employers say the availability of people with the right technical skills and hands-on experience remains limited.

According to TeamLease EdTech, India's semiconductor manufacturing sector could face a shortage of 2.5 lakh-3 lakh professionals by 2027, particularly in chip design, manufacturing, R&D and advanced packaging. "The issue is therefore less about the overall availability of workers and more about whether they have the technical depth, practical exposure and production readiness required by these industries," said Shantanu Roop, Founder and CEO, TeamLease EdTech. India's electronics manufacturing industry employs more than 1.4 million professionals and has added nearly 2.5 million jobs over the past decade. However, only around 3% of this talent pool has advanced AI and digital capabilities, according to Aditya Narayan Mishra, MD and CEO, CIEL HR.

"As manufacturing becomes increasingly software-defined and automated, the demand for engineers who can work across embedded systems, industrial AI, automation and digital manufacturing is growing much faster than the supply," Mishra said.

EXPLAINED: Why Tata Sons remains unlisted and what the RBI Diktat means

New Delhi. (Agency)

Tata Sons is the holding company at the heart of the Tata Group. About 66% of Tata Sons is owned by Tata Trusts. While the perception is that Tata Trusts is the philanthropic body associated with the Tata Group, company insiders have known Tata Sons to be the operating arm of Tata Trusts. That distinction is important to understand who controls whom. Noel Tata became the Chairman of Tata Trusts in 2024 after Tata Group patriarch and half-brother Ratan Tata's death. Tata Sons holds large stakes in several of India's best-known companies that make the Tata Group. Most if these companies are publicly listed on stock exchanges in India in the primary market and a few in the secondary market abroad via the Global Depositories Receipts or GDRs. But Tata Sons itself has been privately held. "Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekaran who took over the reins of the Board from Ratan Tata in 2017, decided last month to opt out of being considered for a third term as Chairman. Moreover, internal rift and power struggle at Tata Group have also come to light with a faction of trustees at odds with Noel Tata. The group is already reeling under financial pressure of its loss-making Air India that it acquired from the government in January 2022 for ₹18,000 crore (\$2.4 billion).

Now, in the latest twist of events, the Reserve Bank of India (TBI) has rejected Tata Sons' request to surrender its registration as a Core Investment Company (CIC), potentially demanding mandatory public listing of Tata Sons.

NSE IPO: Why SBI and others are selling fewer shares despite strong buzz around listing

The selling shareholders are now expected to offer around 126 million shares in the OFS, down from nearly 149 million shares mentioned in the original offer documents released in June.

New Delhi. (Agency)

The much-awaited National Stock Exchange (NSE) IPO is finally here, with the issue set to open on September 17. The price band has been fixed at Rs 1,700-1,785 per share. But while the IPO has created a buzz in the market, the shareholders selling their shares have decided to reduce the number of shares they will offload. The offer-for-sale (OFS) is now expected to raise around Rs 22,562 crore, compared with the nearly Rs 30,000 crore initially expected. So,

why are existing shareholders selling fewer shares when the IPO is expected to see strong demand and potentially a positive listing?

SBI, GIC AND BANK OF BARODACUTSTAKE SALES

The selling shareholders are now expected to offer around 126 million shares in the OFS, down from nearly 149 million shares mentioned in the original offer documents released in June. State Bank of India (SBI) has reduced its stake sale from 1% to around 0.7%. It is expected to receive up to Rs 2,851 crore from the IPO.

At the same time, SBI Capital Markets has been added as a selling shareholder in the updated offer documents. The SBI subsidiary will sell around 0.35% of its stake, which could fetch about Rs 1,567 crore. Both SBI and SBI Capital Markets had acquired their NSE shares at a weighted average cost of

less than Rs 1. This means they are selling the shares at around 17-18 times their acquisition price. The General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC) has also reduced its stake sale by 18 basis points. It



could now earn up to Rs 1,104 crore from the issue. Bank of Baroda has cut its stake sale by 13 basis points and could receive around Rs 1,373 crore.

WHY ARE SHAREHOLDERS HOLDING BACK?

The decision appears to be linked to the

IPO valuation. Market participants had earlier expected NSE to price its shares at around Rs 2,000-2,100 apiece, which would have valued the exchange at more than Rs 5 lakh crore. However, the price band of Rs 1,700-1,785 values NSE at around Rs 4.42 lakh crore. While this lower valuation is positive for new investors, it means existing shareholders would receive less money from selling their shares now. "With the price band that we eventually saw, it made sense for the shareholders to hold onto their shares for the future," an analyst tracking the IPO said. The analyst added that the IPO is expected to list positively and could deliver good returns over time. The lower valuation leaves some room for the stock to rise, making it attractive for existing shareholders to retain some of their shares rather than sell them all at the IPO price.

India plans faster cross-border payments with Thailand, Malaysia and Vietnam

Los Angeles. (Agency)

India is exploring links between its central bank digital currency (CBDC) and those of BRICS partner countries to make cross-border payments faster and more efficient. Talks with Thailand, Malaysia and Vietnam are at an advanced stage, according to government sources, reported Moneycontrol. The move is part of India's wider efforts to improve payment connectivity within the BRICS group and make international transactions easier.

INDIA LOOKS AT CBDC LINKS WITH BRICS PARTNERS

Central banks of the partner countries are discussing the possible use of CBDCs for cross-border transactions. India has previously proposed linking CBDCs across BRICS countries to make international payments faster, more efficient and cost-effective.



The discussions come soon after India hosted the 18th BRICS summit in New Delhi over the weekend, which was attended by global leaders including Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin. The September 12 New Delhi Declaration supported work towards payment-system interoperability and greater use of local currencies for trade and

investment. It also recognised that there is no single approach that can work for all countries.

DIGITAL RUPEE COULD BE USED FOR OVERSEAS PAYMENTS

A CBDC is a digital form of a country's official currency issued by its central bank. Unlike cryptocurrencies, it is backed by the issuing central bank and represents digital central-bank money. India's CBDC, the digital rupee or e-Rupee, is being developed by the Reserve Bank of India for both retail and wholesale use. Linking the digital rupee with CBDCs in other countries could reduce the need for intermediaries and help make cross-border payments faster and more efficient. The RBI is also exploring new uses for the digital rupee, including cross-border transactions with two to three countries, a second source said.

India's wholesale price index inflation stands at 9.92% for August: Govt



New Delhi. (Agency)

The wholesale price index (WPI) inflation for August stood at 9.92 per cent, compared to 9.78 per cent in July, the government data showed on Monday. Moreover, inflation rates for major groups, namely, Primary Articles, Fuel and Power, and Manufactured Products, were 7.76 per cent, 22.93 per cent, and 8.37 per cent, respectively in August, compared to 8.52 per cent, 20.05 per cent, and 8.29 per cent, respectively, in July.

"The indices for Primary Articles, Fuel and Power, and Manufactured Products are 118.1, 108.3 and 108.8, respectively, in August 2026, whereas they were 117.2, 105.4, and 108.4, respectively, in July 2026," the data showed. The WPI Food Index observed a YoY inflation

of 7.05 per cent in August, compared to 6.65 per cent in July. Mineral Oils (containing Petroleum Products), 'Food Articles', 'Manufacture of Food Products', 'Manufacture of Basic Metals', 'Non-Food Articles', and 'Manufacture of Chemicals and Chemical Products' were major drivers of WPI inflation last month.

Meanwhile, final index for June has been revised from 110.2 (provisional estimate) to 110.3, said the government. Accordingly, WPI inflation has been revised from 9.87 per cent, as per provisional estimate to 9.97 per cent as per the final estimate, said the ministry. The Final Estimate of WPI (Base Year 2022-23) for June 2026 has been compiled with a weighted response rate of 99.3 per cent. The Provisional Estimate of WPI (Base Year 2022-23) for the month of August 2026 has been compiled with a weighted response rate of 84.4 per cent.

Also, the final index of Output PPI for the month of June has been revised from 109.9 (provisional estimate) to 110.0. The trial Input PPI for Manufacturing Sector for August stood at 104.2 (provisional estimate). The trial Input PPI for Manufacturing Sector for June has been revised from 107.1 (provisional estimate) to 105.9 (final index), the data showed.

EPFO launches WhatsApp channel: How PF members can get latest updates

New Delhi. (Agency)

The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has launched an official WhatsApp channel to make it easier for its members and pensioners to access important updates and information related to its services. EPFO announced the move through a post on X, asking members to join its official WhatsApp channel to receive "important updates and useful information". The organisation has also shared a direct link through which users can follow the channel. The move gives EPFO members another digital channel to stay updated on developments related to provident fund services, apart from its existing online platforms.

EPFO NOW ON WHATSAPP

In its X post, EPFO said, "EPFO now on WhatsApp too!" and asked members to join its official WhatsApp channel for important updates and useful information. The announcement comes as the retirement fund body continues to expand digital access to information and services for employees, members and pensioners. Members can join the channel using the link shared by EPFO on its official social media post. The Hindi report also says that EPFO has shared a QR code that users can scan to join the WhatsApp channel. The channel is intended to provide updates and useful information from EPFO directly on WhatsApp, making it easier for members to keep track of developments without having to repeatedly check other platforms.

WHAT WILL EPFO MEMBERS GET ON WHATSAPP?

The official announcement specifically says the WhatsApp channel will provide important updates and useful information. This can include updates relating to EPFO services and other developments that members and pensioners need to know about. However, it is important to note that EPFO's announcement does not say that members can use the WhatsApp channel to directly access their individual PF account details, check their PF balance or initiate PF withdrawals. The service announced by EPFO is a WhatsApp information channel, rather than a replacement for its existing member-service platforms.

HOW TO JOIN EPFO'S WHATSAPP CHANNEL

EPFO has shared a direct WhatsApp channel link through its X post. Members can open the link and follow the official channel to receive updates.

India-EU FTA: BMW, Mercedes and other European cars may get cheaper

Under the draft India-EU FTA, released by Brussels, the European Union has secured preferential access for 100,000 completely built-up internal-combustion engine and non-plug-in hybrid cars in the first year.

New Delhi

India and the European Union's proposed free trade agreement could make European cars more affordable in India by sharply reducing import duties and allowing more vehicles to enter the country at preferential tariffs. The draft deal allows a tariff-rate quota of 100,000

completely built-up cars from the EU in the first year. That is nearly six times the 17,191 cars India imported from the EU in 2025, reported The quota will gradually increase to 160,000 cars by the 10th year of the agreement. However, the lower tariffs will apply only to vehicles that meet specific price and quota conditions.

EU GETS LOWER TARIFFS ON CARS

Under the draft India-EU FTA, released by Brussels, the European Union has secured preferential access for 100,000 completely built-up internal-combustion engine and non-plug-in hybrid cars in the first year. The concession is not available for all vehicles. Cars priced below 15,000 euros will not receive any tariff reduction, protecting Indian carmakers from competition from cheaper European models. For cars priced

between 15,000 euros and 35,000 euros, India's import duty will fall from 110% to 35% in the first year. It will then be reduced gradually to 10% by the fifth



year. For cars priced above 35,000 euros, the tariff will come down from 66% to 30% in the first year and eventually to 10% by the fifth year. From the fifth year, 43,000 cars priced above 50,000 euros will be covered by the quota. The

combination of lower tariffs and a larger quota could give European luxury carmakers more room to bring additional models to India and potentially lower prices on some imported vehicles.

However, the reduction in import duty does not automatically translate into an equivalent fall in showroom prices. How much of the tariff benefit is passed on to buyers will depend on individual automakers, their pricing strategies and other costs.

WHAT IT MEANS FOR CAR BUYERS

The biggest potential change for Indian buyers is that some European cars could become significantly cheaper to import. Brands such as BMW, Mercedes-Benz, Audi and other European automakers currently face high import duties on completely built-up vehicles. Lower tariffs could allow them to price some models more competitively.

NEWS BOX

From Lenin Sarani to Ho Chi Minh Sarani: Kolkata roads face possible name change

Kolkata (Agency).
A 10-member committee set up by the West Bengal government is examining proposals to rename several roads, bridges and public places in the state, including three prominent Kolkata roads named after communist leaders Vladimir Lenin, Karl Marx and Ho Chi Minh.
No decision has been taken yet, and any changes will depend on the panel's recommendations, a Kolkata Municipal Corporation official said on Monday.
The panel, headed by Swami Pradiptananda, better known as Kartik Maharaj of Bharat Sevashram, is expected to hold its first meeting after Durga Puja. Proposals to rename roads in Kolkata are likely to be taken up at that meeting. Among the roads under consideration are Lenin Sarani, Karl Marx Sarani and Ho Chi Minh Sarani.
Members of the committee include former Meghalaya governor Tathagata Roy, Chief Minister's adviser Subrata Gupta and Kolkata Municipal Corporation Commissioner Smita Pandey.
Kartik Maharaj told reporters the panel would examine the relevance of the personalities after whom roads have been named in the context of Indian and Bengali heritage and culture.
"Ho Chi Minh Sarani, Lenin Sarani and Karl Marx Sarani will be renamed. Proposals have also been received for changing the names of other roads," he said. Kartik Maharaj added that the committee's recommendations would later be sent to the state Assembly. Roy, a former BJP state chief, has suggested that Lenin Sarani be renamed after mathematician and former Bharatiya Jana Sangh president Debaprasad Ghosh, the official said.
He also proposed that Karl Marx Sarani in Kidderpore be named after Bengali poets Michael Madhusudan Dutt or Rangalal Bandyopadhyay, citing their links to the area. For Ho Chi Minh Sarani, Roy suggested the name of American civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr.
Roy also called for the removal of the Lenin statue at the crossing of Jawaharlal Nehru Road and Sidhho-Kanhu Dahar, and suggested that an important city road be named after Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the official said. Lenin Sarani was earlier known as Dharmatala Street and was renamed in 1970 during celebrations marking Lenin's birth centenary. Circular Garden Reach Road was renamed Karl Marx Sarani the following year.

Remains of BJP worker killed in Sandeshkali violence exhumed after court order
Kolkata (Agency).
The skeletal remains of a BJP worker, who was killed in post-poll violence in West Bengal's Sandeshkhali in 2021, were exhumed on Sunday following a court order, a senior police officer said on Monday. Police said the remains of Astik Chandra Das were exhumed in the presence of a magistrate and his family. The remains have now been sent for post-mortem and forensic examination to determine the cause of death. According to the police officer, Das, a resident of Jhanjhaniya village, was allegedly assaulted by Trinamool Congress supporters who were out on a victory procession on the day the 2021 Assembly election results were declared.
His son, Subrata Das, claimed that the assault left his father with grievous injuries and that the family was not allowed to take him to hospital for specialised treatment. He said Das later died at home. The family also alleged that police personnel were posted outside their house and that they were forced to bury the body without a post-mortem.
After a change of guard in the state, the family lodged a fresh complaint, following which a court ordered the exhumation, the officer said.
An official of Nazat police station said the entire exhumation process was videographed. The family has sought a thorough probe by the CBI, if needed, and stringent action against those responsible for the death. BJP state president Samik Bhattacharya said the incident showed the atrocities BJP workers faced after the 2021 Assembly elections, in which the TMC registered a resounding victory.
"The police remained a silent spectator during the TMC regime that had a reign of terror. We know justice will prevail and those behind will be severely punished," he said.
Sandeshkhali in North 24 Parganas district had drawn national attention in 2024 after protests over allegations of sexual abuse made by many women against local TMC strongman Shajahan Shiekh. The case involving Das's death has now returned to focus, with forensic tests expected to determine the cause of death and the family pressing for further action.

Rajasthan civic polls: BJP takes early lead as counting underway

BJP takes an early lead over Congress in Rajasthan civic polls, winning 1,937 wards against the opposition party's 1,646 as counting continues across 309 urban local bodies.

Mumbai (Agency).
The ruling BJP took an early lead as counting of votes for councillor posts in 309 urban local bodies began across Rajasthan on Monday, with the party winning 1,937 wards against the Congress' 1,646, according to figures available till 11.45 am.
Of the 10,245 wards up for election, results for 4,690 had been declared. Independents had won 1,040 wards, while the Rashtriya Loktantrik Party (RLP) secured 42, the Bharat Adivasi Party (BAP) eight, the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) and CPI(M) six each, and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) five. The figures include candidates elected unopposed.
A total of 77 candidates had been elected unopposed before polling. Counting began at 8 am at designated centres across the state amid tight security.
The elections, held in two phases on September 9 and 11, are being seen as a test of the BJP government and the opposition Congress ahead of the 2028 Assembly polls. More than 1.44 crore voters were eligible to cast their ballots.
Polling was held for 162 urban local bodies in

the first phase, recording a turnout of 76.42 per cent, while the remaining 147 bodies voted in the second phase, with a turnout of 70.68 per cent.
The BJP and Congress mounted an intense campaign, with Chief Minister Bhajanlal



Sharma, former chief minister Ashok Gehlot, Leader of Opposition Tikaram Jolly, BJP state president Madan Rathore and Congress state president Govind Singh Dotsara campaigning for their parties.
The results will decide control of civic bodies across Rajasthan and offer an indication of the

urban electoral mood nearly three years after the 2023 Assembly elections.
In Jaipur Municipal Corporation, the largest civic body in the current polls, counting is underway for 150 wards. The city has more than 24 lakh electors.

The election of civic body heads will follow the councillor results. Mayors and chairpersons will be elected on September 21, followed by elections for deputy mayors, deputy chairpersons and municipal vice-presidents on September 22.
The current elections cover 309 urban local bodies, 10 municipal corporations, 51 municipal councils and 248 municipalities, with 10,245 councillors to be elected.
The number of urban local bodies has risen from 196 in the previous elections, held between November 2019 and February 2021, after the creation of new municipalities and the expansion, reorganisation and delimitation of existing urban areas. In the previous polls, the Congress controlled 123 of the 196 urban local bodies after the election of their heads, while the BJP headed 64. Independents and other parties controlled the remaining nine bodies.

Bihar floods affect over 49 lakh people across 15 districts as rivers keep swelling

Mumbai (Agency).
More than 49 lakh people across 15 districts of Bihar were affected by floods on Monday as heavy rains over the past few days caused the state's rivers, already flowing above danger levels, to swell further.
The local weather office said the state has recorded 111.7 mm of rain so far in September, around 13 per cent above normal. An official said incessant rain in catchment areas of rivers flowing from Nepal into Bihar and heavy rainfall in the state itself have caused several rivers and streams to flow above their danger marks.
According to the Disaster Management Department, around 49.36 lakh people in 15 districts have been affected by floods. These districts are Patna, Bhojpur, Saran, Vaishali, Bhagalpur, Begusarai, Buxar,



Samastipur, Munger, Katihar, Lakhisarai, Khagaria, Purnea, Madhepura and Araria. The Ganga was flowing at 36.21 metres at 6 am on Monday at Sultanganj in Bhagalpur, which was 1.71 metres above the danger level. The Kosi river was flowing above the danger mark at Baltara and Kursela, the Budhi Gandak at Khagaria, the Ganga at Digha, Gandhi Ghat, Hathidah, Bhagalpur,

Kahalgau and Munger, the Purnun at Sripalpur, the Bagmati at Benibad, and the Ghaghara at Darauli.
The administration was operating 1,260 community kitchens and 13 relief camps in flood-affected areas. Accommodation, food, medical care and other essential arrangements have been made for around 11,060 people, it said. The Disaster Management Department said the barrage over the Gandak river in Valmiki Nagar recorded a discharge of 90,600 cusecs of water at 10 am Monday, with the trend rising. The Kosi Barrage at Birpur recorded 1,51,015 cusecs of water discharge, against this year's peak of 2,55,425 cusecs on July 20. Twenty-seven teams of the State Disaster Response Force and 10 of the National Disaster Response Force have been deployed in various districts to aid in relief and rescue operations.

For a roof of their own: Why Karnataka's Koraga families are still without homes

Despite government aid, Koragas in Dakshina Kannada and Udupi struggle to build homes, seeking more support and funding from the government.

MANGALURU (Agency).
More than 100 years ago, social reformer Kudmul Ranga Rao bought land in parts of present-day Dakshina Kannada and Udupi districts to build houses and schools for the Koraga community, aiming to bring social dignity and empowerment to one of Karnataka's most marginalised groups.
A century later, many Koraga families, classified as a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG), are still struggling for the most basic symbol of dignity -- a safe home. Government housing schemes have reached their doorsteps on paper, but many beneficiaries have been unable to convert sanctions into completed houses. Illiteracy, lack of awareness, absence of social support networks, rising construction costs and procedural hurdles have turned many housing schemes into unfinished dreams.

The latest intervention -- the Centre's PM Janman scheme, integrated with Karnataka's Rajiv Gandhi Housing Corporation Limited (RGHCL) scheme -- increased assistance from around Rs 2.10 lakh earlier to Rs 4.50 lakh per housing unit from November 2023. But on the ground, the story remains unchanged.
Houses still incomplete
At Gundapadavu in Malavooru village near Mangaluru International Airport, 50-year-old Sundari lives with her husband Krishna and son Satish in a makeshift house. More than a decade ago, a house was sanctioned for the family under RGHCL with a subsidy of about Rs 2.25 lakh. After completing the foundation and walls, Sundari received Rs 1.50 lakh in two instalments.



continue working. Today, the abandoned structure stands as a reminder of a scheme that could not deliver a home. The walls are

covered with algae, vegetation has grown inside the unfinished rooms, and construction stones purchased years ago remain scattered by the roadside. A few metres away, another incomplete house belonging to Sanjeeva has remained untouched for nearly a decade.
Nearby, daily wage worker Annu and his wife Geeta live in a single-room unplastered house built for around Rs 1 lakh. They could not benefit from government housing assistance because they do not have a title deed for their land. Sisters Nagini (33) and Sowmya (30) face another problem. A house was sanctioned in their late father Booda's name. Though they laid the foundation a year ago by spending their own money, they are unsure whether the subsidy amount will be enough to complete the construction

Saibaba event: Another former TISS student gets Mumbai Police notice

The notice in connection with an FIR filed nearly a year ago, was issued last week, directing the former student to remain present before the investigating agency for interrogation.

Mumbai (Agency).
Days after a magistrate court granted bail to a former student of Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) in a case related to his alleged participation in a gathering to mark the death anniversary of former Delhi University professor G N Saibaba in 2025, the Mumbai Police has now sent a notice to another former student in the same case.
The notice in connection with an FIR filed nearly a year ago, was issued last week, directing the former student to remain present before the investigating agency for interrogation. The person was not named in the initial FIR. On September 10, the



magistrate court granted bail to a 30-year-old student, over a month after his arrest in

The court had held that there was no material to link him to Maoist or anti-national mindset, as alleged by the police. The court also cited the Bombay High Court granting interim relief from arrest to another student last month.
The notice issued to another former student was under section 35 (3) of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023. The Trombay police had filed an FIR in October 2025, naming nine persons -- all students at the institute then -- for the gathering, based on the complaint of an associate dean.
It was alleged that the students had gathered to pay homage to Saibaba, without

permission from the institute. Saibaba, a former Delhi University professor, was convicted in 2017 on allegations of being a Maoist but was acquitted by the Bombay High Court in 2024.
The nine had then filed anticipatory bail pleas before the sessions court. While they were granted interim protection pending hearing, orders on the pleas came only on August 7 this year, with anticipatory bail granted to seven, while denied to two. Of the two, one of the former students was arrested the same day. Police alleged that slogans were raised seeking Umar Khalid and Sharjeel Imam's release; and that they possessed downloaded books and other material that the prosecution said reflected Maoist ideology.

Ganapati's noise battle puts DJs on the mute

Mumbai (Agency).
He would experiment with them at home, fascinated by music and the way different sounds could change the mood of a room. By 18, that curiosity had become a profession. He became a disc jockey.
Now 24, Kalse is pursuing an audio engineering course in Ahmedabad, continuing to work as a DJ in Kalyan. But this Ganeshotsav, his attention is divided between learning new sounds and following a debate that could determine how much work comes his way.
What began with a Pune resident's demand for a ban on DJs during Ganeshotsav has grown into a wider debate over high decibel sound systems. The ruling Mahayuti is itself divided over how far restrictions should go, while the question of whether DJs should be banned or existing noise limits strictly enforced remains unresolved. For those who operate the systems, the uncertainty has already begun to affect bookings.
"Growing up, I observed that people loved to dance to remixes. These mixes had no limitations of religion, language or beats. I knew, early on, that I wanted to play music that entertains," Kalse said.
For an estimated two lakh-plus DJs in Maharashtra, according to the Professional Audio and Lighting Association (PALA), the current controversy is not merely about music or noise. It is about a profession that supports sound rental companies, technicians and loaders, and requires investments running into lakhs of rupees.
The business behind the sound
The person standing behind the DJ console is only one piece of the operation. A large set up involves speakers, amplifiers and consoles, with a sound technician and loaders working behind the scenes to install, operate and move the equipment. The equipment used in a professional set up can cost between Rs 25 lakh and Rs 30 lakh.
For DJ and sound operator Sandeep Bhoir, who runs Ashok Pro Sound and Lights, the business has changed dramatically since he began.

NEWS BOX

Pakistan in danger of slipping to 0 points in WTC table after latest sanction



New Delhi. (Agency)

The England tour has ended, but Pakistan are still paying for it. The ramifications of a miserable series continued to follow Pakistan as the International Cricket Council deducted 11 World Test Championship points from their tally on Monday for maintaining a slow over-rate in the third Test at Edgbaston, Birmingham.

Pakistan were ruled to have bowled 11 overs short of the required rate after time allowances were taken into consideration. They were also fined 50 per cent of their players' match fees, the maximum penalty allowed under the ICC Code of Conduct. Match referee Ranjan Madugalle of the ICC Elite Panel imposed the sanction. Pakistan captain Babar Azam pleaded guilty to the offence and accepted the proposed punishment, meaning there was no need for a formal hearing. The deduction leaves Pakistan with just five points from nine Tests in the current World Test Championship cycle. They have slipped to ninth place with a points percentage of 4.63.

It is another blow for a team whose England tour had already brought plenty of turmoil. Pakistan's third Test summed up a chaotic England tour. They were bowled out for 133 in the first innings at Edgbaston, but fought back to set England a target of 130 before losing by eight wickets to complete a 3-0 series defeat. The defeat came after wholesale changes following the first two Tests, with seven players sent home and head coach Sarfaraz Ahmed and bowling coach Umar Gul removed from their roles. The Pakistan Cricket Board also launched an internal disciplinary enquiry into reports concerning discipline and conduct during the tour. The damage has now extended to the WTC table. Pakistan have won only two of their nine Tests, with each victory worth 12 points. They have also suffered the cost of over-rate penalties.

AFG vs IND: Abhishek and Varun's comeback stories have one thing in common



New Delhi. (Agency)

Abhishek Sharma and Varun Chakravarthy returned to the India T20I side in Delhi with different questions hanging over them. By the end of Sunday night, both had answered them in the most convincing way possible, on the field. Abhishek had gone nine innings without a fifty in T20I cricket, a lean stretch that began on India's tour of the UK. Varun was returning from an injury layoff after an underwhelming IPL season and a difficult England tour. Both had reasons to feel good after India's seven-wicket win over Afghanistan in the first T20I of the three-match series.

Abhishek smashed 82 off 32 balls, hitting seven sixes and as many boundaries, as India chased down 157 in less than 14 overs. Varun bowled four disciplined overs for 19 runs and picked up the wicket of Darwish Rasooli. Then came the interesting part. Both spoke about setbacks without sounding particularly bothered by them. Abhishek was reflective. Varun was more assertive, almost challenging the premise that his recent numbers should be used to judge him. Abhishek went back to a decision made by India's batting group two years ago, when they committed to a certain style of cricket ahead of the World Cup. The Punjab batter has been guilty of throwing away starts, but the same high-risk approach has also taken him to the top of the T20 batting world. He has built his game around putting pressure on bowlers, accepting that there will be days when it does not come off. "One or two series won't define our team as a batting unit," he said, pointing to the larger philosophy rather than his own run of scores. RESULTS WON'T DEFINE ME: VARUN

Varun, on the other hand, was blunter. He has been criticised throughout his career and written off more than once, including during the T20 World Cup cycle and after a difficult IPL 2026 season.

Pakistan to play in Asian Champions Trophy hockey in India: Punjab CM Mann

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann said Pakistan will feature in next month's Men's Asian Champions Trophy in Punjab. The confirmation underlines that India and Pakistan can still meet at multinational events despite the bar on bilateral sports.

New York. (Agency)

Pakistan will be among the six countries that would compete in next month's Men's Asian Champions Trophy hockey tournament in Mohali, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann said on Monday, citing the union government's policy which allows the arch-foes to play on Indian soil during multilateral engagements. The Asian Champions Trophy, to be held from October 27 to November 5, will feature India, Pakistan, China, Japan, Malaysia, and Korea and will be played at Jalandhar

and Mohali's hockey stadiums. Two reserve teams, Oman and Bangladesh, have also been named for the tournament in case of pull-outs. The event, which is held under the aegis of the Asian Hockey Federation, is an annual competition but was not held last year. India enter the competition as defending champions, having won the title in 2023 (Chennai) and 2024 (Hulunbuir, China). There is no problem in multinational tournaments. Maybe individual series (India and Pakistan) cannot take place," Mann said when asked about Pakistan's participation and whether the requisite clearances have been taken for it. The central sports policy in regard to Pakistan bars any bilateral engagement with the country against which India launched a brief military offensive just last year after the Pahalgam terror attack killed 26 people. However, adhering to the Olympic

Charter, the Sports Ministry has stated that the two countries can compete against each



other in multilateral events and India would not stop athletes from across the border to play here for such engagements. Despite this, Pakistan had withdrawn from the Junior World Cup of hockey in Tamil Nadu last year, citing high tensions between the two countries in the aftermath of Operation Sindoor. Mann said league stage ACT matches will be played at Jalandhar, while

the semi-final and the final will be played in Mohali stadium. Assuring full support for hosting the event, Mann said Punjab is committed to ensuring the successful organisation of the first-ever tournament in the state's history. GOOD RELATIONS IN HOCKEY

Hockey India secretary general Bhola Nath Singh, who was also in attendance at Monday's event, said the relationship between the hockey federations of India and Pakistan is "excellent". "I want to say this on record that we share very good relations between the hockey federations of India and Pakistan. You must have noticed that whenever I go, if the Indian team defeats Pakistan, I meet the Pakistani team first. The boys (players) there also show immense respect," said Singh. The Asian Champions Trophy will commence on October 27 in Jalandhar and the final match will be held in Mohali on November 5.

Abhishek Sharma looks beyond recent dip as India's batting mojo holds firm

Abhishek Sharma's blazing 82 against Afghanistan offered a timely reminder of his best, but the opener insists India's recent struggles will not change their aggressive approach. For him, one or two underwhelming series do not define the team.

Chennai . (Agency)

There was a familiar swagger to Abhishek Sharma's batting on Sunday, the kind that had been missing during India's recent struggles. The left-hander tore into Afghanistan with an 82 off 32 balls, making a 157-run chase at the Ferozeshah Kotla look almost ridiculously simple as India raced to a seven-wicket win. For Abhishek, however, the significance of the knock went beyond his own return to form. India had arrived at the opening T20I looking to put a difficult

stretch of white-ball cricket behind them. Their T20I series in Ireland had ended in a 0-2 defeat, followed by losses in the T20I and ODI series in England. One explosive innings was not going to erase those results. But it did underline something



Abhishek was keen to stress after the game: India are not looking to abandon their approach simply because it has not always produced the desired results. "We always wanted to give that start as openers, especially wickets like this, if you're chasing 150, 160, and you give an early start as openers, it always makes you on

the winning side," Abhishek said, sired results.

TIMING AT ITS BEST

We got to see once again why Abhishek is one of the best in the business. He makes his shots look effortless and remains unfazed by what the bowler puts in front of him. Be it a faster delivery or one taken off the pace, Abhishek has the timing nailed to perfection. The ball seems to disappear from his bat almost before the bowler has had time to react, flying beyond the boundary ropes with remarkable regularity. His 82 came from just 32 deliveries, with seven fours and seven sixes. The fifty arrived in only 22 balls, giving India the kind of explosive start that has become central to their T20 identity.

NO NEED TO PANIC

Abhishek's message after the match was equally emphatic. He refused to let a couple of disappointing series dictate how India view themselves as a batting unit.

John McEnroe's bitter commentary spoils Alexander Zverev's US Open win for fans

Dubai. (Agency)

Alexander Zverev finally had his US Open moment, six years after letting a two-set lead slip away in the 2020 final. But for some of his fans, the German's long-awaited celebration was overshadowed by John McEnroe's closing remark on the broadcast. Zverev defeated American Ben Shelton 6-3, 7-6(2), 5-7, 6-2 on Sunday to win his maiden US Open title, adding the New York crown to the French Open title he won earlier this year. It was the culmination of years of near misses for the 29-year-old, who had lost the 2020 US Open final to Dominic Thiem after surrendering a two-set advantage. Yet instead of ending the night by dwelling on Zverev's breakthrough, McEnroe turned his attention towards the two players who

were missing from the final, Carlos Alcaraz and Jannik Sinner. "Get healthy, Carlos and Jannik,"



McEnroe said, a remark that quickly drew the ire of Zverev's supporters online. The comment went viral, with fans accusing McEnroe of making Zverev's biggest night about the players who were not

there. "McEnroe is so pathetic. Makes every moment about himself, shows bias when his guy isn't winning and is proven wrong predictions wise. Why ESPN includes him in every big match I don't know," one fan wrote.

"I was only half paying attention at that point but McEnroe's b****y comment stood out. Bitter little man," another posted. Several also pointed out that Carlos Alcaraz was fully fit in the tournament and lost to Ben Shelton in a gruelling semi-final contest.

WHY DID MCENROE REACT LIKE THAT?

McEnroe's comments came after an underwhelming final in which both Zverev and Shelton struggled with nerves for large periods. Zverev, however, was the more composed player when it mattered.

A doctor makes his Asiad debut: Kartik Karkera's unusual route to Asian Games



New York. (Agency)

What's the point in hitting your personal best if you do not finish on the podium?"

Kartik Karkera was musing in his room at the SAI Hostel in New Delhi, just a day before flying to Japan for his first Asian Games. The 29-year-old is not your typical athlete who grew up dedicating his life to sport. An orthopaedic surgeon by profession, Karkera only transitioned to full-time marathon running recently. In just two years of running the format professionally, he now holds the third-fastest time ever by an Indian, with his personal best of 2:13:10. "I can definitely improve my times. And if I am able to do that, I should be in contention for a podium in the Asian Games," Karkera said. The confidence is understandable. Karkera and his compatriot Sawan Barwal were so dominant this season that they took India's two men's marathon spots for the upcoming Games, leaving Olympian T Gopi and former Asian champion Man Singh out of the squad. The confidence is understandable. Karkera and his compatriot Sawan Barwal were so dominant this season that they took India's two men's marathon spots for the upcoming Games, leaving Olympian T Gopi and former Asian champion Man Singh out of the squad. WHO IS KARTIK KARKERA?

Born and brought up in a middle-class family in Mumbai, Kartik Karkera used to love athletics as a kid. He was fairly good as well. But when he turned 15, he was asked to make a simple choice, one that many kids from middle-income families get: higher studies or sports.

Controversial Manchester Derby has an even more dramatic ending: VAR got the call wrong

CHENNAI. (Agency)

The controversial Manchester derby has taken another turn, with refereeing body Pro Ref admitting that VAR got the decisive call wrong in Manchester City's 1-0 win over Manchester United at Old Trafford on Sunday. Erling Haaland's 60th-minute goal was initially ruled out for offside, but the decision was overturned after a lengthy VAR review. The goal ultimately proved to be the winner, but Pro Ref said VAR should have recommended an on-field review because of the involvement of City's Enzo Fernandez, who was in an offside position during the build-up. The admission came after Manchester United manager Michael Carrick and defender Lisandro Martinez both expressed their frustration with the decision, which came in a derby already

overshadowed by a controversial early red card for City's Phil Foden. WHAT HAPPENED WITH HAALAND'S GOAL?

Goalscorer Haaland was initially flagged offside when left-back Josko Gvardiol swept in a cross into the United penalty area. A VAR review, however, established that the City striker was in an onside position when the ball was played and the goal was eventually allowed to stand. The controversy centred on Fernandez, who was in an offside position and appeared to make an attempt to head the ball as Gvardiol's pass came across. The Premier League Match Centre explained that the midfielder had not actually played the ball, meaning he was not penalised for offside and the goal was allowed to stand. Pro Ref, however, said the VAR should have

considered whether Fernandez's position had an impact on the play. "The on-field decision was offside against Erling Haaland - that was checked by VAR and he was found



to be in an onside position," Pro Ref said in a statement.

"In the same attack, it was established that Enzo Fernandez did not play the ball and therefore that makes any offside offence

subjective, however, on this occasion, the VAR did not recognise the likely impact of his position and should have recommended an on-field review." Contact has been made

with Manchester United this evening to acknowledge what we deem is an error of judgement. A review of the incident will take place."

The admission means the goal that decided the Manchester derby should, at the very least, have been sent back to the referee for an on-field review.

CARRICK FUMES AFTER MAN UNITED LOSS

Carrick had already been left frustrated by the decision immediately after the match, questioning why the use of VAR and multiple layers of officiating had failed to produce what he felt was the correct call.



Kareena Kapoor

Says Daayra Director Meghna Gulzar Is A 'Taskmaster': 'I Would Rush To Set; Always Be In Check'

Kareena Kapoor is gearing up for the release of her upcoming film, Daayra. The film is directed by Meghna Gulzar and also stars Prithviraj Sukumaran. At the film's recently held music launch, Kareena opened up about working with Meghna and said that the director is quite the "taskmaster". Kareena felt like a newcomer working with Meghna.

Kareena Kapoor said, "She is a taskmaster who keeps everyone under control. She is very loving and kind, but on set, she has a command." She mentioned that even though she has been acting for 26 years now, she felt like a newcomer when working with Meghna. She took special care not to upset Meghna.

Kareena stated, "In 26 years of my career, I have never come across a director like Meghna. It makes me feel like a newcomer. I would rush to the set half an hour prior because I didn't want Meghna to get upset. I just have to always be in check. This has brought a different dimension to my personality."



Prithviraj Sukumaran also praised Meghna's preparedness as a director and said, "Daayra is the kind of film that requires the director to stay brutally objective. This is one film where I have had the maximum number of arguments with the director, and every single one was won by Meghna. She had answers to every why, not just from me but also from a very different perspective put forth by Kareena, or even the crew. I am just glad I could be a part of the film."

About Daayra

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

Dalip Tahil Sings Eric Clapton's Wonderful Tonight, Fans React: 'Madan Chopra Singing Clapton'



Dalip Tahil may still instantly remind audiences of the formidable Madan Chopra from Baazigar, but a recent viral video has shown a rather different side of the veteran actor. Tahil was recently seen taking the stage and singing Eric Clapton's Wonderful Tonight, leaving people surprised by his musical side.

In a conversation with, the actor opened up about his fondness for singing and described himself as a "bar-room singer." Tahil, who was recently seen in the reality show The Traitors, also shared how younger audiences continue to recognise him through Madan Chopra, the ruthless businessman he played opposite Shah Rukh Khan in the 1993 film.

Dalip Tahil Calls Himself A 'Bar-Room Singer'

Speaking about the viral performance, Tahil revealed that singing in an intimate bar setting is something he genuinely enjoys. "Somewhere in my heart, I'm a bar-room singer. I love to go to bars and places that have this smoky atmosphere and people enjoying themselves. And I love to sing the songs I love," he said.

The opportunity to perform Wonderful Tonight came unexpectedly. Tahil had visited a place where Eric Clapton songs were being played when the proprietor invited him to take the stage.

"Last Saturday, I went – they were playing Eric Clapton songs. Very kindly, the proprietor called me over and said, go on stage and sing if you know a song. So I went, and I really enjoyed myself. It was one of my favourites," he recalled.

'Madan Chopra Singing Eric Clapton!'

Tahil is amused that his musical side has caught younger audiences by surprise. The actor said the "bar-room singer" description keeps resurfacing with Gen-Z viewers who know him through his screen work. "Bar-room singer – that keeps popping up with my Gen-Z. So it's all sort of in there, these things, trapped in this body. As long as it keeps surprising people, as long as people keep saying, 'What?' I find that really amusing," he said.

'Is Culture Only In A Woman's Cleavage?': Aishwarya Lekshmi Reacts To Her Revealing Outfit Controversy



Kriti Sanon faced serious backlash over her Raksha Bandhan outfit; Cocktail star and actor Aishwarya Lekshmi, too, was criticised for her outfit at a diamond jewellery exhibition in May, and now, in a recent chat, she has finally reacted to people questioning actresses' outfit choices.

In a chat with Rajini Haridas, Aishwarya shared how the photographers at the event made her uncomfortable and said, "They were not focusing on my face. I did get uncomfortable, and when you get uncomfortable, your body language changes as well. I felt like my personal boundaries were violated."

She further said that people chose to question her for her outfit choice but didn't realise that she was majorly uncomfortable with the cameramen not focusing on her face but her body and said, "People were like, 'Why is she getting awkward? Why is she covering her neckline? Why choose a dress like that if it is so uncomfortable?'" she said.

"Is culture only in a woman's cleavage or the length of her dress? It is also in the way we behave, right?" she said and further continued, "There is little policing of people who make inappropriate remarks about women. But a woman should always be mindful about her cleavage and how she dresses."

Revealing how she first just laughed off the negative reactions, she said she was shook by how quickly it grew. The actress said, "For the first 24 hours since the trolling started, I laughed about it. But as time went by, I was shook by the amount of discussion it was shaping into."

"Why can't we discuss our GDP, or how many old parents are being abandoned? Why should my cleavage be subjected to such intense discussion?" she concluded.

Ananya Panday

Poses With Off Campus Star Belmont Cameli At US Open In New York, Pic Goes Viral

Bollywood actress Ananya Panday just gave fans an unexpected crossover moment, and the internet can't stop gushing over it. The 'Call Me Bae' star recently attended the US Open Women's Final in New York, where she crossed paths with Off Campus star Belmont Cameli. Their photo has gone viral on social media, and is an absolute treat for fans of both actors.

Ananya Panday And Belmont Cameli's Unexpected Crossover

Ananya Panday, who is currently in New York, was among the stars who attended the high-profile tennis event. Belmont Cameli, meanwhile, has become a familiar face to a whole new audience following the success of Off Campus, in which he plays the male lead Garrett Graham. The actor's appearance at the US Open alongside girlfriend Raina Morris added another celebrity moment to the star-studded event.

And then came the crossover fans did not see coming- Ananya and Belmont posing together! Sharing the photo on her Instagram stories, the actress wrote, "@belmontcameli (red heart emoji) Best." In another Instagram story, the actress wrote, "Time of my life @usopen."

Ananya looked effortlessly stylish in a black

crop top paired with white pants and a matching cap. Belmont, meanwhile, looked dapper in a blue formal suit.

Fans React

The picture quickly sparked reactions online, with fans gushing over the two popular actors



from completely different entertainment worlds. "Ananya living my dream," commented one fan, while another one wrote, "Awww lucky girl." "Wait what, I'm not crying," wrote another netizen. Belmont Cameli's US Open appearance comes at a time when his popularity has surged thanks to Off Campus, a romantic drama series which premiered on Prime Video in May 2026. The actor plays Garrett Graham in the series, which is based on Elle Kennedy's bestselling book series.



NEWS BOX

Iran nuclear chief blocked by US from Vienna meeting: State TV

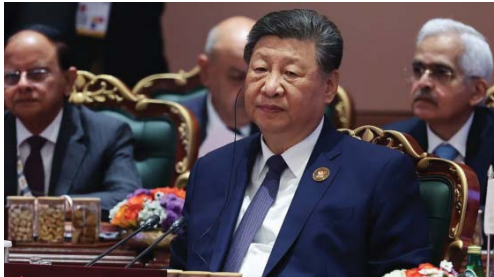
world.(Agency)

Iran's nuclear chief was blocked from attending an annual conference on Monday at the headquarters of the UN's nuclear agency in Vienna due to opposition from the United States, Iranian state television said. "Mohammad Eslami and his delegation took a regular flight to Vienna on Saturday, but were blocked on the way because of obstructions by the United States," the state broadcaster reported, saying he had returned to the capital Tehran. He was due to attend the annual general conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the UN's nuclear watchdog, which runs until Friday in Austria. He attended last year's conference and delivered a speech there on behalf of Iran, a member state of the IAEA. Tehran summoned Austria's charge d'affaires in response to the decision to bar Eslami. "The Austrian government's refusal to issue visas to the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran is a completely unjustified decision," foreign ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei said at a press conference in Tehran attended by AFP. "It is clear to us that this incident occurred under American pressure, but that does not absolve the Austrian government of responsibility." A diplomatic source in Vienna, speaking on condition of anonymity, confirmed that Eslami was refused entry to Austria due to US pressure. The United States and Israel launched a war against Iran on February 28, arguing that its nuclear programme posed a threat. For decades, Western powers have suspected the Islamic republic of seeking to acquire nuclear weapons, a claim that Tehran categorically denies.

China slams report it gave Iran intel before deadly strike on US base

world.(Agency)

Beijing rejected on Monday "groundless" reports that Chinese entities supplied Tehran with satellite images of a military base housing US troops in Jordan, before and after an Iranian strike killed three American. The reports by the Wall Street Journal over the weekend related to July 17 missile strikes launched by Iran on the Muwaffaq Salti Air Base in Jordan. Unnamed American officials cited in the Journal's reporting did not name the Chinese entities involved, and did not suggest that Beijing was directly to blame. "We firmly oppose groundless suspicion and accusations without evidence," Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun told a regular news conference on Monday. US President Donald Trump sought to downplay the



reports, which could deepen tensions ahead of a planned visit by Chinese leader Xi Jinping to the White House on September 24. "You know, when they say that China spies on us, I say you're right, and we spy on them too," Trump told reporters aboard Air Force One on Sunday. "That's what we do. They basically do what we do," he said. Chinese officials asked for proof of the transfer of satellite imagery when prodded by the US officials, and refused to acknowledge that Chinese companies were involved in providing Tehran with satellite images, the Journal reported late Friday. Trump has warned Beijing not to sell weapons to Iran, and in May, Washington sanctioned three China-based satellite companies for enabling Iran's military operations.

A Muslim region in the southern Philippines votes in first elections

MANILA.(Agency)

A predominantly Muslim region in the southern Philippines held its first parliamentary elections on Monday, seen as a crucial step in the long quest for self-rule after decades of insurgency and violence. A shooting in Cotabato killed three people and injured 15 late Sunday, prompting the Commission on Elections to temporarily take over the administration of the city. Police were investigating. Another person was killed Monday in a commotion that broke out in a Cotabato polling center. Still, officials said the elections were generally peaceful. The Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao was set up under a 2014 peace deal that saw the largest Muslim rebel group give up the goal of a separate Muslim state in the south of the largely Roman Catholic country in exchange for broader autonomy. The group's 40,000 fighters promised to demobilize and join civilian life. In other incidents, the town of Maluso on Basilan Island also was put under the commission's

control after pre-shaded ballots were found in 36 out of 68 precincts. Commission on Elections Chairman Erwin Garcia said he immediately ordered the reprinting of ballots while voting will be delayed there. He said those responsible will be held accountable. As of early Monday, 98.1% of the region's precincts were able to open, according to the commission. "Whoever wins, hopefully we will see change in our place," said Sittie Ashuya L. H. Omar, a 22-year-old voter from Marawi city. "Hopefully they can Mindanao used to be a battlefield between militants and troops. In May 2017, Islamic State group-linked militants laid siege on Marawi, triggering five months of ground assaults and airstrikes that left more than 1,100 people, mostly militants, dead and destroyed the mosque-studded city's commercial and residential districts. Since the 1970s, about 150,000 combatants and civilians have died in the southern Philippines, while development was stunted in the country's poorest region. Western and Asian governments feared.

Canada's Carney seeks closer Europe ties to counter hostile US

MONTREAL.(Agency)

Prime Minister Mark Carney calls Canada "the most European of non-European countries," and while formal EU membership may be tricky, he is pursuing unprecedented closeness with the bloc to reduce dependence on a hostile United States. Carney heads to Strasbourg, France, this week, where he will become the first head of government to attend the "State of the European Union" address on Wednesday, before delivering his own speech at the European Parliament the following day. He will also make a stop in Liverpool, where he will hold his first meeting with Britain's new prime minister, Andy Burham. His visit is a "tremendous symbol," said Tobias Cremer, a European lawmaker from Germany and the main sponsor of a March

resolution calling for stronger EU-Canada cooperation. "Canada has many of the resources that Europe is very much short of, whether it's in terms of energy, whether it's rare earths (and) raw minerals," Cremer told AFP. Canada has been hit hard by US President Donald Trump's trade war given its close economic integration with its southern neighbor, and is urgently seeking new economic partners. The EU has also been shaken by Trump's return to office and, like Canada, is seeking to "diversify and de-risk" its foreign relations, Cremer said. Future EU member Carney has already brought Canada closer to the bloc. Canada became the first non-EU country to join its defence procurement program, and the prime minister was involved in Canada joining the pop culture extravaganza Eurovision.

Next month, Carney is hosting an EU-Canada summit in Montreal, where he said discussions will begin on building "a much stronger and deeper economic and security partnership." Javier Moreno Sanchez, a Spanish EU lawmaker who heads a parliamentary delegation for relations with Canada, noted that Ottawa and Brussels see eye-to-eye on climate and AI, and a digital trade deal is already in the works. That pact would build on an existing free trade agreement called CETA, which Sanchez said has unrealized potential as small and medium-sized firms are not yet taking advantage of its benefits. Speculation about full EU membership for Canada has intensified during Trump's second term. Carney was asked Thursday about the prospect of Canada joining the EU and delivered what he termed a "non-answer," declining to

rule out the idea or endorse it. An April poll showed 57 percent of Canadians backed EU membership, but it's not clear whether Canada is even eligible. Article 49 of the EU treaty states that "a European state" committed to "human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality and the rule of law (and) respect for human rights" can join the bloc. The treaty does not specify the geographical criteria of a European state, but it's hard to imagine Canada qualifies. "The idea of Canada becoming a member of the European Union, either on economic or political terms -- I don't really see that this is a realistic prospect," said Ignacio Garcia Bercero, an analyst at the Brussels think tank Bruegel. In 1987, Morocco was denied membership on grounds that it was not a European state.

Houthi seize more key Red Sea islands, tighten grip on Bab el-Mandeb shipping route

CAIRO.(Agency)

Yemen's Iranian-backed Houthi rebels captured more strategic islands in the southern Red Sea, government and Houthi officials said Monday, strengthening their control of a major maritime shipping route. The capture of the islands of Greater and Lesser Hanish came as Saudi-backed government forces attempted to rally over the weekend and fight back after the rebels' swift advances around the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, a crucial shipping alternative to the Strait of Hormuz. The Houthis' new gains further enable them to threaten Saudi crude oil shipments, which have used the Red Sea as an alternative to the Strait of Hormuz, where Iran has

been attacking shipping. The escalation especially Houthi attacks on Saudi oil infrastructure and its shipping in the Red Sea — adds



pressure on global oil supplies and prices, and that could give Iran leverage in its war with the United States. The Houthi rebels deployed fighters on the Hanish islands, 160 kilometers (100 miles) north of Bab

el-Mandeb after hundreds of government-allied forces withdrew from the archipelago, according to two government officials and a Houthi official. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to journalists. The capture of the islands came after the rebels last week seized the port city of Mokha on the mainland nearby and the island of Mayun, located inside the Bab el-Mandeb Strait. The Houthis' advances also put them just 20 miles (32 kilometers) from the U.S. military base in Djibouti, on the other side of the Bab el-Mandeb Strait. The advances came with little resistance from forces of the internationally recognized government. But over the weekend, those forces sought to regroup.

Trump downplays report China gave Iran intel before deadly strike on US base

➔ **Trump has warned Beijing not to sell weapons to Iran, and in May, Washington sanctioned three China-based satellite companies for enabling Iran's military operations.**

WASHINGTON.(Agency)

US President Donald Trump on Sunday downplayed reports that Chinese entities supplied Tehran with satellite images of a military base in Jordan before and after an Iranian strike killed three US soldiers. "You know, when they say that China spies on us, I say you're right, and we spy on them too," Trump told reporters aboard Air Force One a day after The Wall Street Journal reported Beijing's intelligence sharing. "That's what we do. They basically do

what we do," Trump said. The incident could deepen tensions between Washington and Beijing ahead of a planned state visit by Chinese President Xi Jinping to the White House on September 24. On



July 17, Iran launched missile strikes on the Muwaffaq Salti Air Base in Jordan, which houses US forces. Three US Army soldiers were killed. Unnamed American officials cited in the Journal's reporting did not name the Chinese entities involved, and did not suggest that Beijing was directly to blame. Chinese officials asked for

proof of the transfer of satellite imagery when prodded by the US officials, and refused to acknowledge that Chinese companies were involved in providing Tehran with satellite images, the Journal reported late Friday. Trump has warned Beijing not to sell weapons to Iran, and in May, Washington sanctioned three China-based satellite companies for enabling Iran's military operations. China is a top economic partner of Iran, buying much of its oil output, and also an important diplomatic backer. Still, Trump said of Xi on Sunday that "he behaved reasonably well, and we behave reasonably well." Asked if he would ever allow Chinese cars to be sold in the United States, Trump said "I haven't. I'm the one that kept them out. The tariffs kept them out."

Amazon suspends use of 21 Air, cargo carrier whose plane careened off Miami runway

MIAMI.(Agency)

Amazon said Sunday that it has suspended its partnership with 21 Air after one of the cargo carrier's planes loaded with Amazon packages careened off a Miami runway last week and killed five people. The Boeing 767 came in fast on Sept. 6 and then barreled roughly 1,300 feet (396 meters) past the end of the runway and smashed into a van carrying workers at a plane cleaning company. All five people who died were in the van. Five others were hurt. "After the tragic incident last weekend, we've spent time supporting the investigation and reviewing some of the surrounding circumstances, and we've decided to pause our operations with 21 Air, the operator of Flight 7598," Amazon spokesperson Kelly Nantel said a statement. "We'll continue working to support the investigation and everyone affected."



North Carolina-based 21 had flown packages for Amazon since 2024. The company didn't immediately respond Sunday to a request for comment about Amazon's decision. The jet's ownership history, weather conditions at the airport, maintenance records and operations by 21 Air were expected to be reviewed by investigators with the National Transportation Safety Board. Flight information released by the NTSB on Sept. 9 revealed one of the pilots warned his counterpart they were going too fast as they approached for landing and after touchdown. The cockpit audio recordings also captured a series of automated warnings from the plane about the speed of descent and the approaching terrain. The full transcript of the cockpit conversation won't be released until later in the investigation.

US approves additional USD 1 million to boost Nepal's forensic capacity after deadly floods

KATHMANDU.(Agency)

The United States has approved an additional USD 1 million in assistance to strengthen Nepal Police's DNA and forensic identification capacity as authorities continue efforts to identify victims of last month's devastating floods, the US Embassy in Kathmandu said. The latest assistance, announced on Saturday, comes amid ongoing US humanitarian support to Nepal following devastating flash floods that struck the Himalayan nation on August 26, killing nearly 1,400 people and leaving more than 5,000 missing. The funding, provided through the State Department's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, will support forensic assistance, including DNA analysis kits, the embassy said in a post on X. FBI forensic specialists are also working alongside Nepal Police to support disaster victim identification and help provide answers to families awaiting

information about their loved ones, including American citizens, the US State Department said in a statement on Saturday. The United States has now provided more than USD 5 million in humanitarian, health and forensic assistance following the floods, according to



the department. The assistance includes USD 3 million in food and logistics support through the World Food Programme, which is expected to provide up to three months of

emergency food to 10,000 flood-affected households and help transport supplies to communities cut off from access. Another USD 685,000 is being provided through Catholic Relief Services for food, shelter, water, sanitation, hygiene, protection and financial assistance. Additionally, USD 365,000 is being provided through international health organizations Jhpiego and FHI 360, as well as UNICEF, for health, nutrition and water, sanitation and hygiene assistance to flood-affected communities. The US military has also delivered 5,000 specialised disaster victim recovery supplies, 500 first-aid kits, stretchers and front-end loaders to support Nepal-led search, rescue and recovery operations. A four-member US Military Civil Affairs Team is also on the ground to support humanitarian and post-disaster needs, the State Department said.