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Congress calls SIR a 'Method of Disenfranchising Indians' amid 33.13 lakh Delhi notices

New Delhi(Agency)

The Congress has accused the Election Commission's Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise of disenfranchising voters, amid controversy over 33.13 lakh notices issued in Delhi over discrepancies in details submitted in enumeration forms.

Most of the notices reportedly relate to voter details that do not match information recorded during the previous SIR of electoral rolls in 2002. Congress general secretary in charge of communications Jairam Ramesh, responding to a post highlighting the inclusion of the late economist Bibek Debroy's name among those issued notices, said: "Actually at work here is a Method Of Disenfranchising Indians." He arranged the phrase vertically so that the initial letters spell "MODI".

The remarks came a day after the Congress alleged that the ongoing SIR exercise was resulting in large-scale deletions. The party described the process as a "Shah Instigated Removal" of voters and called it an "assault on the Constitution".

The Congress has also claimed that the deletions disproportionately affect voters from economically and socially disadvantaged sections of society.According to Ramesh, Phase 1 of the SIR began in Bihar in June 2025, while Phase 2 was launched in November 2025 across nine states and three Union territories.

Vande Mataram ends after 2 stanzas in Karnataka Assembly, Council; BJP legislators recite full version

BENGALURU .(Agency)

The BJP legislators recited the full version of Vande Mataram at the beginning of the Legislative Assembly and Council proceedings on Monday, when the recording that was officially played in the House ended after two stanzas.

The Karnataka government convened a three-day special legislative session to discuss severe drought prevailing in the state as well as the implications of Dr Kasturirangan report on Western Ghats.

The session at the Legislative Assembly started with Vande Mataram but it ended after rendering two paragraphs.Soon after that, Speaker G S Patil allowed condolences to the prominent people.Subsequently, Chief Minister D K Shivakumar started paying tribute to former MLA R B Shiriyannavar who died on August 27. Agitated over the issue, the BJP MLAs raised slogans and started reciting the full version of Vande Mataram.

Similarly, at the Legislative Council, the BJP members continued reciting the remaining stanzas of the national song, even as Council Chairman Saleem Ahmed started reading the preamble of the Constitution, as per the practice.

The BJP members then shouted slogans against the government for not playing the Vande Mataram in full.

The Congress government in Karnataka has ordered that only the first two stanzas of Vande Mataram be sung at its programmes, except those attended by the president, vice-president, prime minister or governor.

Mamata's plea against Trinamool symbol freeze to be listed urgently in SC

New Delhi(Agency)

The Supreme Court on Monday agreed to urgently list a plea filed by former West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee challenging the Election Commission's interim decision to freeze the All India Trinamool Congress (AITC) name and its 'Flowers and Grass' election symbol.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for Banerjee, mentioned the matter before a Bench headed by Chief Justice Surya Kant and comprising Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V. Mohana."They issue a notification and in the middle of notification, they freeze the symbol. What is going on? We want urgent listing," Mr. Sibal said.

The court indicated that the rival faction would also have an opportunity to make its submissions and agreed to list the matter urgently.The Election Commission had on September 18 barred both rival factions of the Trinamool Congress from using the party's original name and its reserved symbol, pending a substantive determination of

the dispute under the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968.



The Commission subsequently allotted the name 'Mamata All India Trinamool Congress' and the 'Football Player' symbol to the faction led by Banerjee. The rival

faction led by Arup Roy was allotted the name 'Democratic Trinamool Congress' and the 'Envelope' symbol for the October 6 Assembly bypolls in Nandigram and Rejinagar.

In her plea, Banerjee has challenged the Commission's interim order and sought restoration of the party's original name and symbol. The petition names the Election Commission and Ritabrata Banerjee, the Leader of the Opposition in the West Bengal Assembly, as respondents.

Banerjee had on September 18 criticised the Commission's decision, describing it as a "black day" in the country's democratic history. She said she would continue her legal and political fight to retain the party's original identity.

The dispute followed a rebellion within the Trinamool Congress after its defeat in the West Bengal Assembly election. The Election Commission has said that rival groups led by Banerjee and Roy were separately claiming to represent the party, necessitating a substantive determination under the Symbols Order.

The Commission's interim arrangement came ahead of the October 6 bypolls, for which both factions had sought to use the original party identity.

Questions Raised Over Post-Retirement Extension: Mahanagar Metro Exposes High-Level Autocracy and Multi-Crore Financial Irregularities at Ahmedabad Kidney Hospital

Mahanagar Metro Desk

AHMEDABAD. The controversy surrounding post-retirement extensions in Gujarat's autonomous health-care institutions has escalated into a major investigative dispute. Despite clear administrative directives previously highlighted by BJP State President C.R. Paatil—stipulating that post-retirement extensions in government and semi-government positions should be strictly curbed to provide opportunities to young, meritorious professionals—the regulations appear largely confined to paper at Ahmedabad's world-renowned Kidney Hospital (IKDRC). Serious questions have emerged over the exceptional service extension granted to the institute's director, Dr. Pranjal Modi.Unilateral Control and Alleged Financial IrregularitiesAccording to insider reports, the administrative conduct of Dr. Pranjal Modi has come under severe scrutiny, with staff and medical circles alleging an autocratic leadership model that bypasses standard operating procedures and established oversight mechanisms.The premier healthcare institute receives substantial central grants and allocations under the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund and related health initiatives to provide affordable, specialized



tertiary care. However, whistleblowers and internal sources allege widespread financial mismanagement and diversion of funds amounting to crores of rupees, claiming that actual infrastructural and patient care outcomes fall far short of the extensive budgetary support provided.Media Gag: Reporter Intimidated at Hospital GatesFollowing Mahanagar Metro's preliminary investigative report on the alleged irregularities, hospital authorities reportedly launched retaliatory measures rather than addressing the concerns transparently.When a correspondent from Mahanagar Metro arrived at the facility to conduct an

on-ground reality check and verify claims with hospital administrators, security personnel intercepted the journalist at the entrance, denied access to public areas of the campus, and issued explicit verbal threats.Efforts to seek formal clarification from Dr. Pranjal Modi directly proved futile. The Director has consistently declined phone calls and refused to respond to detailed queries submitted by the Editor, fueling suspicions of deliberate evasion.Questions of High-Level Patronage and AccountabilityThe growing standoff has ignited intense debate across administrative, political, and medical corridors regarding the exter-

nal influences sustaining Dr. Modi's tenure. Observers question whether high-level political patronage or influential organizational connections are insulating the hospital administration from statutory scrutiny and vigilance inquiries.Critics emphasize that unmonitored financial leakage of taxpayer money and public health funds directly contradicts the central government's stated vision of zero-tolerance against corruption and administrative opacity.Demands for a High-Level Central ProbeThe developments have triggered widespread calls for external intervention:Will the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) institute an independent, high-level inquiry into the utilization of central allocations and administrative extensions at the institute?Will the Gujarat Health Department initiate a comprehensive forensic audit of the hospital's financial books and procurement procedures?How long will transparency and patient welfare remain compromised by institutional impunity?Mahanagar Metro demands that institutional accountability be restored immediately and that the oversight mechanisms of the central and state governments intervene to safeguard public funds and healthcare integrity.

'Wait For October 2': AIMIM's Search For Bigger Role In UP Enters New Phase

UP assembly

elections:

Asaduddin Owaisi

warned parties

not to interpret

AIMIM's

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Kanpur(Agency).

All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) chief Asaduddin Owaisi has put a date on his Uttar Pradesh alliance strategy, saying the party will decide by October 2 whether it will enter the 2027 assembly election in alliance with other parties.

The announcement came at a public meeting in Kanpur's Cantonment constituency on Sunday, where Owaisi made an open pitch to parties seeking to prevent the BJP from returning to power in Uttar Pradesh for a third consecutive term.

"We will make a decision by October 2," Owaisi said to NDTV when asked about an alliance.

At his Kanpur rally on Sunday,

AIMIM chief and Hyderabad MP however made his intention very clear: "We do not want a BJP government to be formed in UP for a third term. We have told all



political parties that if you wish to stop the BJP from returning to power, then come and join hands with the AIMIM."Owaisi warned parties not to interpret AIMIM's relatively restrained alliance messaging as weakness. Referring

to the party's experience during the Bihar election, he said political parties had rejected its proposal when AIMIM had sought six seats, and alleged that rival parties had subsequently targeted him and the organisation.We will wait until October 2, and then, whoever we form an alliance with, we will announce it on that very day and contest the UP elections alongside them," he said.

AIMIM's UP Strategy

The October 2 deadline comes as AIMIM has substantially stepped up its organisational and electoral activity in Uttar Pradesh. The party formally launched its 2027 campaign from Matera in Bahraich in June and has indicated that it is preparing an organisational network.

Punjab govt to move SC against Kishau Dam project, seeks share in Yamuna waters

The state is expected to rely on the March 12, 1954, agreement between Punjab (before its reorganisation) and Uttar Pradesh, under which Punjab was entitled to two-thirds of the Yamuna waters.

CHANDIGARH(Agency).

The long-pending Rs 15,624-crore Kishau Multipurpose Dam Project on the Tons River, a tributary of the Yamuna, is set to face a legal challenge, with the AAP-led Punjab Government preparing to move the Supreme Court against the Centre's decision to proceed with the project without involving the state and reiterating its claim to a share of the Yamuna waters.

Sources in the Punjab Water Resources Department said that the plea to be submitted in the Supreme Court had already been vetted by a senior advocate, who previously served as the Advocate General of Punjab, as the office of the

the draft plaint.

The larger argument of the state government is that the Yamuna, like the Ravi and the Beas rivers, was part of the erstwhile Punjab's river system before the state's reorganisation in 1966.



As Haryana is getting the waters of both Ravi and Beas as a successor state despite the fact that it is not a riparian state, Punjab should also similarly be considered a successor state for the purpose of getting water from the Yamuna, said sources.

Sources said that the state government contends that the project cannot be finalised based on the existing Yamuna water-sharing arrangement as the state itself was excluded from the 1994 agreement governing allocation of the river's surface flow.

8 months on, unfinished stormwater drain near Sector 70A disrupts traffic, troubles residents

Gurgaon.(Agency)

An unfinished section of a master stormwater drain near Sector 70A has been disrupting traffic movement, narrowing the usable road and leaving water accumulated in pits. GMDA is constructing the drainage network from sectors 68 to 75 at a cost of Rs 51 crore. Although financial approval for the project was granted in July 2024, with a deadline of Aug this year, the work has been progressing slowly.

Residents said a nearly 200-metre section near the intersection of sectors 70 and 70A has remained incomplete for around eight months. Slab work was started after repeated complaints but was later left incomplete, they said. "The drain work has been pending for about eight months. If the authorities cannot complete it immediately, at least the stretch should be filled and levelled properly. Several complaints have been filed, but they have either been closed without resolving the issue or have not resulted in any visible action," said Rajat Srivastava, a resident of Astaire Gardens. A road that is already less than 12 metres wide is effectively reduced to around five metres during rush hours, residents said, leaving vehicles travelling in both directions to negotiate the narrow passage. Residents also flagged stagnant water around the unfinished drain as a potential mosquito-breeding site. "This is our main access to the master road and it has been closed for months now. The area has become a breeding ground for mosquitoes. Numerous school buses use this passage, while a play school is situated opposite the drain. The civic authority should ensure speedy completion of the drain work and restore the road," said Harshad Shah, another resident.

Man found dead in Noida drain after car plunges into it

Noida.(Agency)

A man in his 50s was found dead in a roadside drain near a mall in Noida's Sector 34 while rescuers were retrieving a car that hit a divider and fell into the same drain early Saturday, police said on Sunday. The man's body has not yet been identified.

Two occupants of the car, including the driver, were rescued. They were identified as Arman and Aniket, both residents of Noida. They were drunk at the time of the incident, police said. The two were unable to recollect if the car hit anyone, police added.

Police are now examining CCTV footage to determine whether he was hit or accidentally fell into the drain. Police suspect the car was travelling at high speed when it crashed into the divider.

A senior police officer said the police received information about the accident through dial 112. A team from the Sector 24 police station reached the spot immediately and retrieved the car, a Skoda Slavia. It has been seized but a case was yet to be registered for drunk driving. "When the police team was recovering the vehicle from the drain, a man was found inside the nullah a short distance away. He was taken to a hospital where doctors declared him dead," said a police officer involved in the investigation.

No external injuries were found on the body, which has been sent for autopsy. The report is awaited. No documents were recovered from the deceased, and his photographs have been circulated among police stations in the district and surrounding areas to establish his identity.

NCLAT seeks new IRP in a week to steer 16 stalled Supertech projects

Noida.(Agency)

National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) has asked NCLT (National Company Law Tribunal) and Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) to suggest a new interim resolution professional (IRP) within a week for 16 stalled Supertech projects.

The move became necessary after Supertech's earlier IRP, Hitesh Goel, was suspended by IBBI for two years in March this year, when its disciplinary committee found lapses, including failure to disclose material information in the information memorandum, delay in convening the first committee of creditors meeting and an inordinate delay in filing an avoidance application.

"We have been informed that an application for appointment of the IRP has been dealt with by the NCLT and IBBI is directed to suggest the names. Let the said process be complete within a week from today," NCLAT said in its order on Friday.

The new IRP will be crucial beyond the insolvency process. NCLAT has said the appointee will head the apex court committee overseeing the stalled projects and chair the project-wise court committee. In simple terms, the person will be central to coordinating the mechanism through which the projects are to be completed. The tribunal also flagged delays in the revival plan. NBCC had to complete key steps, including statutory permissions, awarding construction work, handover of projects and arranging funds, by July 31. It was then supposed to award contracts within a month and begin construction on Oct 1. A Sept 10 status report, however, flagged difficulties but gave no fresh completion dates. The committee told the tribunal that a Sept 20 meeting with NBCC would fix firm timelines. The matter will be heard again on Sept 25. Supertech entered insolvency proceedings in March 2022 after Union Bank of India moved NCLT over a Rs 432 crore loan default over Eco-Village 2 project. On Dec 12, 2024, NCLAT appointed NBCC to complete the 16 stalled projects. Supreme Court upheld that arrangement in Feb 2026.

A Huge Gathering of Devotees Expected at the Famous Ramdev Pir Fair in Vondh, Kutch

Mahanagar Metro Desk
Bhachau – Kutch
Rupesh Solanki

The famous Ramdev Pir Fair will be held on September 22, 2026, with traditional religious faith and devotion at the sacred premises of the Shri Ramdev Pir Temple, located near Vondh in Bhachau Taluka of Kutch district. As in previous years, a large number of devotees from nearby villages and various parts of Kutch are expected to attend the fair. The people of Kutch have deep faith and devotion towards Ramdev Pir. In many parts of Kutch, Ramdev Pir temples are closely associated with the religious faith and sentiments of the people. Devotees visit these temples on various re-

ligious occasions, offer prayers and seek the blessings of Ramdev Pir. The arrival of devotees at the fair near Vondh will begin early in the morning. Devotees will have darshan of Ramdev Pir, perform worship and offer sacred flags as a symbol of their devotion and prayers for the fulfilment of their wishes. The temple premises will resonate with devotional songs, religious chants and a deeply spiritual atmosphere. Various stalls selling household items, toys, religious articles and food items will also be set up at the fairground. The vibrant atmosphere of the fair will be a special attraction for children and families. Visitors will also get an opportunity to experience glimpses

of Kutch's rich folk culture and rural traditions. The significance of the Ramdev Pir Fair is not limited to religious faith alone. Such traditional fairs play an important role in strengthening social unity, mutual brotherhood and interpersonal relationships among people. Following a tradition that has continued for years, people from rural areas attend the fair with their family members and relatives, enjoying moments of togetherness along with their religious devotion. Considering the large number of devotees expected to attend the fair, the movement of people around the

temple premises and nearby areas is likely to increase. It is also expected that necessary arrangements will be made at the local level to ensure that devotees arriving from distant places do not face any inconvenience.

The Ramdev Pir Fair at Vondh, which beautifully represents the harmony of faith, culture and folk traditions on the land of Kutch, has become an important centre of devotion for people every year. On September 22, the entire atmosphere is expected to become deeply devotional with the resonating chants of "Jai Ramdev Pir Maharaj!"



Safai strike backlog in Gurgaon leaves roads and green belts littered with garbage

Gurgaon.(Agency)

Garbage continues to pile up along roads and green belts in sectors 3, 5 and 6, with residents complaining of recurring open dumping, slow waste lifting and inadequate sweeping even after sanitation workers resumed work following their strike. Residents said waste is being repeatedly dumped at the same spots, leading to a foul smell and unhygienic conditions. The garbage also attracts rodents and stray animals, they added. RWA president of sectors 3, 5 and 6 TR Adlakha said garbage was being cleared slowly. "Garbage is not being lifted at the required pace. The presence of sanitation workers on the ground is also very low and regular sweeping has not fully resumed," he said. Residents said waste left along



roadsides was occupying space meant for pedestrians and, in several stretches, spilling onto the road and narrowing the space available for both pedestrians and vehicles. Former RWA president Dinesh Vashisht said people from adjoining areas often dumped waste at these locations, particularly late at night when nobody is watching. "Once the garbage is cleared, the same spots are filled again,"

he said, adding that MCG should penalise those found dumping waste in the open. MCG officials attributed the slow clearance to the backlog accumulated during the sanitation workers' strike. "A month of accumulated garbage cannot be cleared in a day. Work resumed only from Sept 14, so the situation will gradually come under control. The required sanitation manpower was being deployed area-wise," an official said. The official added that one garbage collection site had been temporarily shut as work was underway there. Another site at Rajiv Chowk was being used for waste disposal. This was causing some difficulty for garbage collection vehicles in emptying their loads, he said.

Illegal parking leads to snarls, eve teasing in Sector 50, residents seek police help

Noida.(Agency)

Residents of F Block in Sector 50 have written to police commissioner Laxmi Singh, requesting her immediate intervention in the issue of illegal parking, which is rampant in the area.

The letter, which was also sent to the Noida Authority CEO, read that unauthorised parking behind Central 50 Mall has slowed down traffic on the road and blocked easy access of those who live in nearby residential societies, like Mahagun Maestro, Megdutam Apartments, Metro Apartments, Omaxe Twin Towers and Mahagun Maple. Not only has the issue worsened traffic, it has also raised concerns of safety among the residents of the housing societies. They said drinking in the parked



cars is common in the area, which has now led to a rise in street crimes and crimes involving women. "The unrestricted parking behind Central 50 Mall has led to

the vicinity. Women, including those employed as domestic help, have expressed fear for their safety while between the residential societies and the mall due to occurrences of eve-teasing and harassment," said Rajiva Singh, a resident of Sector 50. Singh said given the area's proximity to educational institutions and it being densely populated, increased patrolling, particularly during the evening and on weekends, may help in tackling the congestion and reducing incidents of crime. He also urged strict enforcement measures against unauthorised parking — including towing of illegally parked cars — to ensure smooth traffic flow, improved street lighting to enhance safety of women, and monitoring of liquor outlets near the mall to address public safety concerns.

Haryana reshuffles IPS, HPS officers: new DCPs for South Gurgaon, Manesar

Gurgaon.(Agency)

Haryana govt has ordered a major reshuffle of IPS and HPS officers, with key changes in police postings in Gurgaon, Manesar and Faridabad. The transfers, effective immediately, include new deputy commissioners of police (DCP) for South Gurgaon and Manesar, besides changes in Faridabad police commissionerate. According to the order issued by Haryana home department on Sunday, Ayush Yadav, a 2022-batch IPS officer, who was DCP (East), Sonipat, with additional charge of superintendent of police (SP), Haryana State Narcotics Control Bureau, has been posted as DCP, South Gurgaon. He replaces Hitesh Yadav, who has been transferred as DCP, Bahadurgarh. Prateek Gahlot, a 2021-batch IPS officer, currently DCP (traffic), Gurgaon, and in charge of MERC, has been posted as DCP, Manesar, with additional charge of 4th Indian Reserve Battalion commandant in Manesar. He replaces Parbina P, a 2020-batch officer, who has been transferred as SP, govt railway police, Ambala Cantt. Rajesh Kumar, a 2014-batch IPS officer, presently SP, state crime branch, with additional charge of community policing and outreach and security, Gurgaon, has been posted as SP, law and order, Panchkula. He will also hold additional charge of SP, special task force and social outreach in Panchkula. In Faridabad, 2021-batch IPS officer Rajesh Mohan, presently DCP crime, has been transferred as DCP, central. He is replaced in the crime wing by Jaibir Singh, currently DCP (traffic), Faridabad. Usha Devi, presently DCP of central Faridabad, has been transferred as SP, state crime branch, with additional charge of SP, social outreach. Bhartender Kumar, presently DSP, state vigilance and anti-corruption bureau, has been shifted as DSP, Palwal, while Anil Kumar, currently DSP, Palwal, has been posted as ACP, Gurgaon. Narendar Kumar, currently ACP, Faridabad, has been posted as DSP, Hansi.

Peaceful wage protest constitutionally protected, says court; engineer gets bail

Gurgaon.(Agency)

A demand for higher wages is not an offence, and even persuading workers to raise their voice democratically for a wage hike cannot be treated as criminal, a city court has observed while granting bail to software engineer Aditya Anand. Anand, arrested on June 5, is accused of conspiring to incite workers during the April 9 labour violence at IMT Manesar. Additional sessions judge Dr Gagan Geet Kaur, while dealing with Anand's bail plea on Saturday, said Article 19(b) of the Constitution guarantees the right to assemble peacefully without arms and Article 19(c) protects the right to form associations or unions. She noted, however, that these freedoms are subject to reasonable restrictions in the interest of public order.

"Raising demand to increase their wages/salary by workers/employees due to rising prices of daily needs and human living condition is not an offence itself and pursuing them for the same is also not an offence," the court observed. The court distinguished the lawful wage demand from the alleged violence that



followed the workers' protest. It said that, prima facie, there was no incriminating evidence against Anand apart from mobile tower location data and disclosure statements. According to the prosecution, Anand's mobile location showed his presence near the incident site on April 7, 8 and 9. However, the court noted that the investigating officer had admitted there was no CCTV footage or photograph showing Anand at the spot. He was not a member of the WhatsApp group of protesters, no incriminating message had been traced to

his phone, and the phone had not been seized. The court said mere tower location, without corroborative evidence, could not be treated as incriminating evidence, and that whether the alleged conspiracy existed would have to be established at trial. It also noted that nothing was required to be recovered from him. The court allowed Anand's bail application and directed his release to the satisfaction of the area/duty magistrate. It made clear that its order would have no bearing on the merits of the case. The case arose from violence at

Richa Global Exports Pvt Ltd in Sector 7, IMT Manesar, where workers had been protesting for several days seeking a salary hike. The prosecution alleged that around 200-250 workers turned violent, pelted stones at management and police personnel, damaged vehicles and set govt and company vehicles on fire. Two women employees were also allegedly beaten.

Anand was accused of provoking workers to commit violence against police and company officials, and of participating in vandalism, arson and damage to govt property. Anand's counsel, advocate Gopi Chand, argued that his client was an NIT Jamshedpur-educated engineer who was neither a worker nor an employee of the company, was not named in the FIR and had no criminal antecedents. He also argued that Anand was arrested nearly two months after the FIR and had been implicated primarily on the basis of disclosure statements of co-accused. The defence further relied on the fact that 11 co-accused in the same case had already secured bail, and argued that Anand was entitled to parity.

Lucknow biryani stall owner brutally beaten, police seize meat for test

Police said an FIR has been filed against three men, they are yet to be arrested

Lucknow (Agency).

A 40-year-old biryani stall owner was assaulted allegedly by three youths who accused him of carrying prohibited meat, in the Itaunja area of Lucknow on Sunday morning. Police said the accused also threatened to kill Rizwan. According to police, Rizwan was carrying meat for his shop when the



accused — all in their 20s — assaulted him. The matter was resolved following the intervention of residents of the area. A video of the incident went viral on social media, purportedly showing the accused brutally beating Rizwan. Rizwan, a resident of Kasai Mohalla, operates a biryani stall near Badi Masjid

in Mahona on Sundays and Thursdays. He sustained injuries to his head and face, and was discharged from hospital on Sunday evening after receiving medical treatment. Based on the complaint filed by Rizwan, police have registered an FIR against three youths — identified as Rana Yadav, Shanu and Suraj. “They have been booked for allegedly assaulting Rizwan, accusing him of carrying prohibited meat, and for threatening to kill him. No one has been arrested so far,” said a police officer. The three have been booked for criminal intimidation, intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of peace, voluntarily causing hurt and attempt to commit culpable homicide.

Police said the meat has been seized, and a report has been sent to the veterinary officer. “Samples have been collected, and the situation at the spot remains peaceful, with law and order under control,” said Inspector Vinod Kumar, posted at Itaunja police station.

Gujarat Hardlook: CCTV blind spots turn a 100-km kidnapping chase into a 48-hour hunt

The institute has denied the allegation and said no such complaint was submitted by the student, either to its SC-ST cell or to the administration.

Mumbai (Agency).

Soon after dawn on September 8, a Gujarat Police vehicle ground to a halt directly in front of a Hero Splendor motorcycle in the pilgrimage town of Virpur in Rajkot district, cutting off the path of the vehicle. Riding the motorcycle was Lalit Roopsingh Jamre, a 25-year-old farm labourer from Barwani in Madhya Pradesh. On the petrol tank sat a boy of five, wearing a bright orange T-shirt. Jamre had allegedly kidnapped the child 48 hours earlier from Mota Ankadiya village in Amreli district, more than 100 km away.

When they began the investigation, police had the name of a suspect, and the make and number of his bike allegedly used in the kidnapping. They also knew the colour of the T-shirt the child was wearing. What they needed were pictures from traffic and security cameras that would give them an idea of which way the bike had gone. When they ultimately swooped on Jamre, police had gone through footage from 172 CCTV cameras and several police and private cameras to piece together his route across two

districts. They had stumbled at forks, crossings, and blind spots, gone back and forth on village roads, and struggled to access footage from private cameras.

The hunt for the alleged kidnapper put in focus the relevance of a hackathon that the Gujarat government announced last month –



inviting more than 1,000 entities to find a tech solution to integrate the operations of more than 1.8 lakh CCTV cameras into a single system across the state. The intention is precisely to address the problems that police faced in their chase through Rajkot and Amreli, and to more efficiently track vehicles moving across the length and breadth of the state. Outside the boundaries of major cities

and towns, the network of public-facing CCTV cameras under the VISWAS (Video Integration and State Wide Advanced Security) project and surveilled through the ‘Trinetra’ command and control centre at the state level and the 34 ‘Netram’ sites in the districts, remains non-existent or spotty. Technical outages, poor placement and quality of footage, and limited storage in the public and private cameras are significant drawbacks, especially in rural, mountainous and peripheral areas.

The kidnapping and the chase

On September 7 evening, a sharecropper couple, migrants from Alirajpur in MP, told the Amreli Taluka police that their five-year-old son had been kidnapped by a man who had been a guest at their home in Mota Ankadiya village 15 km to the west of the district headquarters. The couple said this man, Lalit Roopsingh Jamre, had first met them six months ago, and appeared unexpectedly at their door at the end of August, begging for shelter till he found a job. They had taken him in, the couple told police.

Suspect killed in ‘encounter’ amid cross-border claims of ASI killing plot

Punjab Police said 20-year-old Deepak Singh was killed in an Amritsar encounter after allegedly opening fire at a police team, while his family disputed the allegations and said he had no known links to Pakistan-based handlers.

Amritsar (Agency).

The Punjab Police claimed that an accused in the killing of Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) Harjeet Singh was neutralised during a late-night encounter in Amritsar on the intervening night of Saturday and Sunday.

Police Commissioner Harmanbir Singh Gill said police have identified the suspect as a 20-year-old Deepak Singh of Mule Chak village. Deepak was traveling on a scooter with an accomplice when officers signaled them to stop at a checkpoint on Thande Road, the officer said. Police alleged that the suspects fled, prompting a chase, and then allegedly opened fire by discharging four rounds at the police team. Two bullets reportedly hit the police vehicle, and one struck a Counter Intelligence officer’s bulletproof jacket, police alleged. Officers also said they fired six rounds in self-defense, hitting Deepak, who died en route to the hospital, while his associate escaped. Police said the handlers in Pakistan had directed the attack on the ASI on the night of September 18 in the Dana Mandi area.



Deepak’s family claimed that he worked as a labourer installing telecom towers, but he rarely stayed at home and spent most of his time outside. They also alleged that in September he was falsely accused of possessing 500 grams of contraband and was booked under an NDPS Act case. Addressing the police claims regarding his alleged cross-border ties, his parents maintained that Deepak never mentioned any contact with handlers in Pakistan or receiving

instructions to target police officers. They also said they did not know any associates he kept. Before the encounter, Deepak had been missing from home for three to four days. His parents had actively searched for him at the Makboolpura Gate police station and intended to present him to the authorities alongside the village Sarpanch, once located. They ultimately learned of his death in the police encounter through local television broadcasts.

UP cracks down on food products showing packing date as manufacture

Lucknow (Agency).

Packaged food products, which are packed in Uttar Pradesh, will now have to carry their actual date of manufacture, with the Food Safety and Drug Administration (FSDA) Department directing food businesses not to show the date of packing as the date of manufacture.

The directive follows special inspections of food manufacturing units, during which officials found instances of products being manufactured and stored for long periods before being packed into smaller packets. In some cases, the date of the packing was mentioned on the package instead of the original manufacturing date. Officials maintained that the shelf-life of a food product begins from the date of its manufacture or processing, and not from the date on which it is subsequently packed.

If a product is manufactured and stored for several months before being repacked into smaller packets, the date on which it is repacked cannot be shown as its manufacturing date, officials said. They added that doing so could give consumers the impression that the product is relatively fresh despite having been manufactured much earlier. “The issue becomes more significant when such products are subsequently used as ingredients in other food items. Without the original manufacturing date, it may be difficult to establish whether the product is still within its prescribed period of use,” said an official.

Recent inspections found food products being stored for months before being re-packed. Food safety officials say shelf-life must be counted from actual date of manufacture



The department said the practice had also been observed in cases involving re-labellers and re-packers, where only the packing date was being mentioned. Under the new directions, food businesses will have to clearly display the actual date of manufacture on the package. The subsequent packing date cannot be substituted for it. The Food Safety and Drug Administration Department will check the dates mentioned

on packaging and labels during inspections and enforcement action. “The decision has been taken referring to the provisions concerning food safety, consumer interest and public health under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006,” an official said. According to the department, the measure is intended to improve traceability and transparency in the food supply chain and ensure that consumers have accurate information about the age and shelf life of packaged food products.

Gujarat, Adani firm get notice on journalist’s plea over non-bailable warrant

In a petition before Gujarat High Court, he challenged non-bailable warrant issued against him by a Gandhinagar sessions court, following which he was taken into custody and sent to jail on September 17.

Ahmedabad (Agency).

The Gujarat High Court (HC) has issued a notice to the Gujarat government and Adani Enterprises on a petition moved by journalist Ravi Nair challenging a non-bailable warrant issued against him by a Gandhinagar sessions court, following which he was taken into custody and sent to jail on September 17. A single-judge bench of the High Court on Saturday passed an order to issue the notice to the respondents and kept the petition for further hearing on Monday.

In February this year, a magisterial court in Mansa of Gandhinagar district had convicted Nair of criminal defamation on the basis of a complaint filed by Adani Enterprises Limited. The court had sentenced him to one year’s simple imprisonment and imposed a fine of Rs 5,000 over a series of tweets he made between October 2020 and July 2021 and articles published on a website. Subsequently, Nair had challenged his conviction before a sessions court and the court granted him bail on the condition that he would remain present before the court during the hearing of the appeal. On September 3, Nair did not remain present personally before the sessions court and sought exemption from personal appearance through an application. However, the application was rejected and



the sessions court issued a non-bailable warrant against Nair.

On September 17, Nair appeared before the sessions court and moved an application for the cancellation of the NBW issued against him. However, the court rejected the application and ordered him to be taken into judicial custody. He was subsequently sent to jail. Through his lawyers Ronith Joy and Abhik Chimni, Nair has challenged the Gandhinagar sessions court’s order before the Gujarat

High Court, seeking cancellation of the NBW stating that it was issued without first issuing a summons or a bailable warrant, which, he said, is not in consonance with a decision of the Supreme Court. ‘Urgent matter’

Nair’s lawyers submitted that it was an “urgent matter” since it was related to the personal liberty of an individual.

After hearing the petition on Saturday, the court of Justice M K Thakker noted, “It is submitted that, without issuing any notice or summons, a Non-Bailable Warrant came to be issued directly against the petitioner. It is further submitted that, when the petitioner approached the learned Appellate Court seeking cancellation of the Non-Bailable Warrant by filing an application...the said application came to be rejected and the present petitioner was taken into custody.”

Tea seller as chairman, farm for campus: UP fake medical college busted

Among the 5 arrested, an illiterate tea seller who was named chairman of the medical college and a quack who posed as a faculty member

Lucknow (Agency).

Police in Uttar Pradesh’s Etah district stumbled upon a fake medical college that had been operating for the past four years while probing a case of kidnapping, which turned out to be fake. Last Wednesday (September 16), one Ram Sevak filed a complaint with the Marhara Police Station, alleging that his brother, Satendra Kumar, who runs BS Medical College and University, was kidnapped by three young men. He said that the kidnappers were demanding a ransom of Rs 2 lakh.

Police registered an FIR and started tracing Satendra’s mobile phone locations, leading them to Agra, from where he was “rescued” on Saturday. As police started questioning the three accused youths,

it came to light that it was not a case of kidnapping at all. Instead, the three youngsters said that they were enrolled in the



“college” run by Satendra Kumar and were seeking a refund of the fees after their admissions were cancelled. According to the

three youths, Satendra Kumar told them to accompany him to Agra, where he had deposited money in a bank.

Police then started questioning Satendra about his college. “He (Satendra) initially said that the college was affiliated with an institution in Hapur. It was found to be false. He then named another institution, which too turned out to be false, leading to growing suspicion about the credentials of the university,” said a police officer involved in the probe, adding that further enquiry about Satendra Kumar revealed that there were already four criminal cases pending against him. Satendra allegedly staged his own kidnapping after coming under pressure to return money collected from students, some of whom had sought refunds after their admissions were cancelled.

The ‘Rakhandars’ are walking from village to village — to protect Konkan

Mumbai (Agency). From a proposed river diversion on the Goa-Karnataka border to mining concerns in Sindhudurg, large development projects in Ratnagiri and the sale of coastal land to outsiders, a group of young people from Konkan believes the region is facing a common challenge: how to protect its land, water and way of life while development projects move ahead.

Since June, they have been walking from village to village as part of the Rakhandar Yatra, meeting residents, farmers and fishing communities and discussing local



environmental and social concerns. Rakhandar means a protector or guardian.

The idea comes from Vetoba, or Vetal, a guardian deity worshipped in parts of Konkan and Goa. For the group, the deity offers a way of connecting an old cultural idea with contemporary environmental concerns. The yatra began in June at the Mauli temple in Kankumbi village on the Goa-Karnataka border. The choice was deliberate. Kankumbi is associated with the Mandovi river, and the group began its journey amid opposition from local residents and environmentalists to a proposal to divert water from the river towards the Malprabha basin.

Arc from Kazan to Delhi via Tianjin

Chinese President Xi Jinping's meeting with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the sidelines of the BRICS Summit in New Delhi was the third between the two leaders in three years. Under the strategic guidance of the two leaders, China-India relations have gradually emerged from a low ebb, moving from a new start to further improvement. The Kazan meeting in October 2024 marked the restart. After years of friction, the two leaders reaffirmed a fundamental truth: China and India are not rivals by destiny, but neighbours by geography and partners by interest. President Xi framed the relationship as a question of how two countries of over 1.4 billion people each can live side by side in harmony and pursue common development.

Results followed. Border areas returned to tranquillity. High-level dialogues resumed. Indian pilgrims once again travelled to Mount Kailash and Manasarovar. The relationship was, as a Chinese official put it, "returning to the main channel of cooperation". The Tianjin meeting in August 2025 on the sidelines of the SCO Summit marked the second phase: elevation. This was not merely about managing differences but deepening partnership. President Xi told Prime Minister Modi that being "good neighbours and friends, partners who achieve mutual success, and realising the 'dragon-elephant dance'" should be the correct choice for both. The two sides identified development as their greatest common denominator. Foreign ministers reached a 10-point consensus, including mutual support for each other's diplomatic events—India for the 2026 BRICS Summit and China for 2027. Trade volumes hit new highs. People-to-people exchanges reawakened. Tianjin proved the relationship could move beyond crisis management toward positive agenda-setting. The New Delhi meeting this month represents the third phase: consolidation and normalisation. For the first time in seven years, a Chinese head of State visited India. The fact that the two leaders have now met three times in succession signals that summit diplomacy has become an institutionalised feature of the relationship, not an occasional exception. In New Delhi, President Xi offered four guiding principles: calibrating direction with objective and rational strategic cognition; achieving mutual success through win-win cooperation; removing disturbances with political wisdom of mutual respect and accommodation; and benefiting the world through open and inclusive multilateral collaboration. The message was clear: Beijing sees New Delhi as a partner and is prepared to invest in that partnership for the long haul. China has always viewed and developed its relations with India from a strategic height and with a long-term view. As two major ancient civilisations, China and India should demonstrate sufficient wisdom and capacity to maintain and develop their bilateral ties. The two countries offer each other development opportunities, not threats. This strategic judgement is based on the development stages of the two countries and the international environment, and serves the common interests of both countries and their peoples. It is expected that China and India will maintain the right direction in the development of their relationship, advance exchanges and cooperation in various fields, promote the steady and sustained development of ties, and make due contributions to the cause of human progress. How, then, does Beijing see BRICS evolving under China's chairmanship next year? The answer lies in the vision of a 'Golden BRICS'. As the grouping enters its third decade, China believes the mechanism must evolve from a talking shop into a platform of action that delivers tangible benefits for the Global South.

The politics of leverage

The Great Game: The problem is that in real life, it never quite works that way. Trump knows it and so does Modi

TWO pieces of news this week, from Washington DC and Punjab, have unerringly put their finger on the meaning of the word, leverage — not quite Shylock and Antonio in The Merchant of Venice, but close. The first bit of news from Trump's DC revolves around the Lindsey O. Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act, 2026, which threatens countries like India with up to 100 per cent tariffs, if they continue to do business with Russia.

If Trump had read his Shakespeare, he would know by now not to do this. Modi has just come off a big summit in which both Vladimir Putin and Xi Jinping, two out of three of the world's most powerful leaders, have participated. The newspapers are full of how Russia has supplied 51 per cent of India's oil imports since the US-Israel war against Iran over the last six months. The Army Chief has been in Russia most of this week, negotiating new arms deals. What kind of leverage does Trump think he can have with Modi if he signs the Russia and Iran Act? Does he think India will withdraw from fright — a bit like Antonio, whimpering and snivelling, before Portia marches up and turns the tables on Shylock — and call off its multi-faceted ties with Moscow?

And then there's the BJP here in Punjab, seeking to expand its influence, another word for leverage, hoping the people of this border state will reward it with their affection in the coming Assembly polls. With six months left to go, every political party is also aiming at the same thing. The ruling AAP has promised to increase dearness allowance for state employees. The Congress is trying to unify its fragmented state unit. Shiromani Akali Dal's Sukhbir Badal is travelling across the districts, trying to revive his party, so he can have better leverage in any future conversations with a potential ally, the BJP.

The larger question looms large. Is Punjab playing chess these days or is it gambling for its future. If it's the former, who are the pawns in this larger great game? If the latter, who holds the cards? So what's been significant this week is the manner in which the BJP is unveiling its Punjab campaign. Party president Nitin Nabin showed up in Pathankot wearing a turban and brandishing a sword, launching the party's anti-drugs yatra with a few words in Punjabi; incidentally, both Nabin and state party president Kewal Dhillion spoke from prepared texts.

The location of the launch — in Pathankot, at the Ekta Sthal, the site which memorialises Syama Prasad Mookerjee, the founder of the Jana Sangh, and his journey from this city to Jammu back in May 1953, to break J&K's permit system — was no less significant. Mookerjee remains a towering figure in the BJP pantheon.



The party is commemorating his 125th birth anniversary this year. His slogan, "ek desh mein do vidhan, do pradhan aur do nishan nahin chalega!" (the same nation can't have two Constitutions, two Prime Ministers and two flags), against Article 370, which gave special status to J&K, has resounded across the decades. When the Article was abolished in 2019, the BJP fulfilled one of the three ideological vows it has maintained since the party was launched in 1980. (The other two are the building of the Ram temple in Ayodhya and the implementation of a Uniform Civil Code — Uttarakhand has already done it, while Gujarat, Assam and Madhya Pradesh are on course; all are BJP-ruled states.) Nabin's message in Pathankot was crystal clear. The BJP will woo Punjab, but not at the cost of its own ideology. The question is, how this will unfold in the coming months. Will the BJP ally with the

Akali Dal to fight the election together, or not. Both sides are keenly aware that an alliance could work to their mutual benefit — BJP candidates may be able to gain entry into Punjab's villages, largely dominated by Sikhs, where they have been shown black flags until now; and the Akali Dal may have access to the BJP's Hindu voters in the urban

areas. At least, this is the theory, as the battle for Punjab is launched this week. And then there's Amritpal Singh, the radical MP from Khadoor Sahib who has been behind bars for the last three years in a Dibrugarh jail, and whose political outfit, Waris Punjab De, has been showing up on the graph of every political party these last few months.

The problem is that in real life, leverage never quite works that way. Trump knows it and PM Modi knows it — his experiences as a younger pracharak in the 1980s across Punjab and Haryana have given him an understanding of the people of this border state few others in the BJP have. Modi knows that for an alliance between the BJP and the Akali Dal to work requires more than just the slice-and-dice of caste (Jat Sikh, Dalit Sikh, Punjabi Khatri, for example) or religion (gurdwara, temple, dera); that this tiny state with only 13 MPs and a Muslim population verging on the insignificant is still capable of turning the national mood topsy-turvy; that it took someone like RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat to admit in Ludhiana in February that the "RSS considers

Sikhism a separate and distinct religion." Certainly, Trump knows there's something about Punjab — otherwise the tasteless US Department of Homeland Security advertisement targeting a bearded South Asian man ("get off our roads, Mr Singh") wouldn't have been withdrawn so quickly. The US President now has nine days to decide whether to sign off on the Russia Act that also targets India. Certainly, he should know that Indians love to disagree with each other till the cows in the paddy fields of Punjab eat their fill and come home — and argue about who to vote for and why in the coming Assembly elections — but when it comes to questions of foreign policy, from Nehru to Vajpayee, Manmohan Singh and Modi, Indians from across the country will rally around their government in Delhi.

Monetary tightening in the US, Europe and Japan makes RBI's job tougher

Currency weakness can complicate central banks' fight against inflation

It was a big week for monetary policy with advanced economies raising interest rates in quick succession. While the European Central Bank was the first in recent times to raise three key interest rates by 25 basis points earlier this month, the US Federal Reserve raised its benchmark rate by a similar margin on Wednesday — its first hike since 2023. They were followed by the Bank of Japan on Friday, which raised its policy rate to a 31-year-high. Bucking the trend, the Bank of England left its rate unchanged, but is likely follow suit in the coming weeks.

The coordinated hikes raise the question whether we are heading into a synchronised monetary tightening phase, abruptly ending the easing cycle. Given the global uncertainties, higher energy prices and rising bond yields, chances are that inflation would remain above central bank targets for some time. This poses another key question: are interest rates going to stay higher for longer?

Regardless of whether these moves mark the beginning of a prolonged rate-hike phase, what's unusual is that though the central banks are responding to rising prices, their



economies are facing different problems. The US Fed was responding to persistent retail inflation amid resilient demand, whereas the ECB was dealing with an energy-driven inflation shock complicating growth prospects, while Japan is finally breaking from decades of ultra-low

rates amid high inflation and a depreciating currency. A prolonged tightening by advanced economies — not completely ruled out yet — would make things difficult for emerging ones.

A higher rate in the US strengthens the dollar and puts pressure on other currencies because oil and gas, agricultural products and most other major imports are priced in the American greenback. Currency weakness can complicate central banks' fight against inflation. Besides, a higher US rate would firm up global bond yields, prompting capital outflows from emerging markets and putting further pressure on currencies.

In India, retail inflation is well within the RBI's tolerance band at present, but it may remain elevated enough to warrant rate hikes of 25-50 bps in 2026. While the RBI maintains that its policy decisions are based on domestic roadmaps and do not blindly follow the Fed footprint, a weakening rupee, persistent capital outflows and widening interest rate differential would complicate its job of balancing the inflation-growth dynamics.

The unseemly scramble for Gen Z votes

Today's first-time voters and women are not easily swayed by yesterday's divisive politics and electoral punchlines. As BJP tries to counter CJP's school reforms campaign, can others address the ills?

In the recent elections in northern and western India, women have indisputably evolved into an electoral constituency unto themselves, smashing the bounds of patriarchal diktat. The seemingly impossible development was achieved by an amalgam of schemes with nifty titles and handing financial doles in tranches under the rubric of 'gender empowerment'. It was an incremental step dictated by electoral considerations to create an independent vote bank.

Tamil Nadu pioneered gender outreach long before states north of the Vindhyas thought of the concept. M G Ramachandran promoted female entrepreneurship and introduced social security and women's pensions, while J Jayalalithaa followed up on her mentor's initiatives by enhancing disbursement to women's self-help groups, sanctioning nine months' maternity leave and legislating 50 percent representation to women in civic bodies.

Similarly, Bihar CM Nitish Kumar released a ₹10,000 grant to women via direct benefit transfer so that the money would not be pocketed by male relatives, subsidised bicycles and school uniforms for girls, and set aside 35 percent of government jobs for women. The cherry on top was a total ban on liquor sale to contain domestic violence and straighten household spending, though the policy is not a sure-fire success.

In Maharashtra, the National Democratic Alliance's pledge of the Majhi Ladki Bahin scheme swung women votes almost en bloc from the opposition. In Uttar Pradesh, which votes in early 2027, CM Yogi Adityanath has promised to hand over ₹50,000 to women in three instalments. Women — once regarded as appendages to their fathers, husbands, brothers and even sons — are now

etched as an autonomous category on the electoral map for time to come, overriding their castes.

This year also marks another pivotal shift in electoral landscaping caused by the emergence of a new vote bloc: Gen Z, or those born between 1997 and 2012. It originated serendipitously in a courtroom and on an X post before getting a life of its own in the shape of the Cockroach Janta Party, which is still non-committal about its political plans. The discovery of Gen Z's potential to reshape politics had nothing to do with the prosaic calculations of parties who mapped their projections on old metrics. The CJP's humongous protests at Jantar Mantar torpedoed the forecasts made by political parties for future elections. The BJP — which consistently gained a bulk of the young votes (Millennials plus Gen Z) since 2014 — took their allegiance to Narendra Modi for granted.

While the demand for former education minister Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation was the ostensible trigger for the protests, spearheaded and sustained by the youths primarily from the North and West, the lineup of targets expanded to include the government's top guns who were lampooned in memes, videos, poetry and songs. Indeed, having tasted blood, the CJP did not relent even after the Jantar Mantar demonstration ended.

The agenda segued into a crusade, undergirded on the demand for accountability and punishment for offenders from the government. The CJP narrowed its focus on public education, which aligned with its original raison d'être: the distress suffered by students following paper leakages in competitive national exams managed by the

Union government.

The BJP, which rules in 21 states and Union territories as well as the Centre, was the hardest hit. So far, it had comfortably cruised on an admixture of Hindutva, caste equations, smart alliances and Modi's charisma. It was thrown into a tizzy, realising that its winning quartet of attributes no longer guaranteed victory. It would have to



think beyond caste and religion. Generally nimble-footed, unlike the lumbering Congress, the BJP recast the blueprint, pivoting to Gen Z.

However, unlike its well-thought-out strategies of the past, the party seemed confused by the new challenge from a demography that is thinking distinctly and articulating concerns in barely-understood morphology. The BJP started by addressing superficialities. Modi used hip-hop lingo in place of the BJP's Sanskritised discourse

and sprinkled his addresses with Gen Z colloquialisms such as "OG" and "flex", mixing in a Bollywoodish punchline — "Dhurandhar na ho lekin dhoom machaye hai" (They may not be stalwarts but they have caused a splash) — at a recent event at Delhi's Shri Ram College of Commerce. His attempt didn't hit the spot. The contrast with his appearance at the same college in 2013, shortly after he had been declared his party's PM candidate, was striking to those who covered both the events. Thirteen years ago, Modi was an attractive novelty in the national capital. The students then — now corporate workers and independent professionals — were beneficiaries of Manmohan Singh's economic reforms. Yet they were apparently sold on Modi, then the Gujarat Chief Minister, and his governance model, and perceived him as the best thing that could happen to the economy. He struck a chord with his college-canteen one-liners, management evangelism gleaned from self-help books, national pride and a blackout of unpleasant home truths. It looked like Modi was a synonym for unbridled optimism.

Last week, as Modi walked a ramp at Vadodra's M S University Pavilion Grounds for a Gen Z engagement, CJP founders led by Abhijeet Dipke amplified a campaign they had launched on Independence Day — a School Thik Karo (Set Schools Right) initiative to expose the terrible conditions at government schools across the country and pressure local authorities to act. This week on the PM's birthday, it extended the campaign in Rajasthan on to Adivasi School Thik Karo.

These places offer more than just photo opportunities. Many of them have been significant for people throughout history as places of pilgrimage and worship. Even if the faith isn't your own many of them resonate with an atmosphere of reverence and solemnity that will touch the least religious soul. You will often leave feeling connected, if not to the whole of nature, at least to the chain of human history.

Machu Picchu, Petra, Angkor Wat, the Parthenon and the Pyramids appear in this list, proving that it's not just the meditative perspective of remote mountain tops that pilgrims seek out in order to connect with their spiritual side. These wondrous monuments are attractions from a purely historic and architectural viewpoint as well, and many people don't realise until they arrive how much of the atmosphere survives beyond the visitors and their cameras.

You may have already planned to visit one of these sacred places on your holiday - even to us modern folk many of them have a certain regenerative and restorative power. Could it be the perspective they give on human history, or is it just seeing such a revered spot in person and feeling the atmosphere that gives you something to think about and share with friends and family when you return?

Many of the places on this list are worth building a holiday around so trawl though and plan yourself a mini pilgrimage and recharge your spiritual batteries.

Stonehenge



More than nine hundred stone rings exist in the British Isles and twice that number may originally have been built. These megalithic structures are more accurately called rings rather than circles because they often display non-circular elliptical shapes; Stonehenge, however, is circular. It is difficult to precisely date the stone rings because of the scarcity of datable remains associated with them, but it is known that they were constructed during the Neolithic period, which in southern England lasted from approximately 4000 to 2000 BC.

Before the development of archaeological dating methods, 17th century antiquarians assumed that Stonehenge and other megalithic structures were constructed by the Druids. The Druids, however, had nothing to do with the construction or use of the stone rings. The Celtic society, in which the Druid priesthood functioned, came into existence in Britain only after 300 BC; more than 1500 years after the last stone rings were constructed. Historians in the 19th century often attributed the stone rings to Egyptian travelers who were thought to have infused Europe with Bronze Age culture. With the development of Carbon-14 dating techniques, the infusion-diffusion concepts of European Neolithic history were abandoned and the megalithic structures were shown to predate Egyptian culture.

Mid-20th century archaeology generally assumed stone rings were used for ritual activities and recent research has deepened our understandings. Beginning in the 1950's, Oxford University engineer Professor Alexander Thom and astronomer Gerald Hawkins pioneered the study of the astronomies of ancient civilizations, or archaeoastronomy. Conducting precise surveys at hundreds of stone rings, archaeoastronomers discovered significant celestial alignments indicating that the stone rings were used as astronomical observatories. These

studies also revealed the extraordinary mathematical sophistication and engineering abilities with which the stone rings were built.

Stonehenge, the most well known stone ring, is a composite structure built during three periods from 3100 to 1100 BC. Constructed with massive stones weighing as much as twenty-five tons and transported from quarry locations hundreds of miles away, Stonehenge was a structure with multiple purposes. It was a monument of nearly imperishable nature located at a specific site of terrestrial energetic power and celestial significance. It was an astronomical observation device used to predict, in advance of their occurrence, particular periods in the annual cycle when the earth energies were most highly influenced by the sun, moon and stars. It was a temple, built by and for the people, in which festivals of renewal were held at those energetic periods determined by astronomical observations. It was a structure built with certain types of stones, positioned according to sacred geometry, which functioned as a sort of battery for gathering, concentrating and emanating the earth energies of the site. It was also an eclipse predictor of astonishing accuracy.

Bagan Temples

There are two enormous ancient temple complexes in Southeast Asia: Bagan in Burma and Angkor in Cambodia. Both sites are remarkable for their expanse of sacred geography and the number and size of their individual temples. For many visitors Bagan is the more extraordinary because of its wonderful views.

Scattered across a vast dusty plain may be seen scores of exotic Buddhist temples. The kingdoms of Bagan date to the early 2nd century AD, yet the region entered its golden age during the reign of King Anawrahta in 1057 AD. From this time, until it was overrun by Kublai Khan's forces in 1287 AD, more than 13,000 temples, pagodas and other religious structures were built. Today, seven centuries later, approximately 2,200 temples remain standing. The river Irrawaddy has washed away nearly one-third of the original city area, thieves have torn apart many temples in search of treasures, while earthquakes and the ravages of time have reduced hundreds of other temples to piles of crumbling stones.

Two of the loveliest temples are the Mahabodhi and



Gawdawpalin. The Mahabodhi, a smaller replica of the famous Bodhi temple in Bodhi Gaya, India (where the Buddha attained enlightenment), was built during the 13th century reign of King Nantaungmya and is covered with niches containing seated Buddha figures. The 60 meter tall Gawdawpalin temple, built in the 12th century by King Narapatisithu, was badly damaged in a 1975 earthquake but has since been reconstructed. Many of the temples of Bagan are still functioning and large numbers of pilgrims visit the ancient holy place.

Baalbek

In the hills of Lebanon stands the temple complex of Baalbek, one of the most enigmatic holy places of ancient times. According to orthodox archaeological theory, the story of Baalbek goes back approximately 5000 years. Excavations around the Roman Temple of Jupiter have uncovered remains dating to the Early Bronze Age (2900-2300 BC). During the 1st millennium BC, the Phoenicians chose the site of Baalbek for a temple to their Sun-god Baal and legends tell that Baalbek was the birthplace of Baal. Next came the Seleucid and Roman Empires and it is to the Romans (64 BC - 312 AD) that archaeologists attribute the many and massive temple foundations of Baalbek.

The Roman city at Baalbek, called Heliopolis or the City of the Sun and dedicated to the sun god Jupiter, does contain the largest stone structures ever built in the Roman Empire. The Romans, however, did not have the engineering or construction skills necessary for the carving and placement of the enormous blocks of stone which underlie their own constructions. The courtyard of the Jupiter temple, completed around 60 AD, is situated upon a platform, called the Grand Terrace, which consists of a pre-Roman outer wall formed of immense, finely crafted and precisely positioned blocks. These blocks of stone, ranging in weight from 450 tons to 1200 tons, are the largest pieces

of stonework ever crafted in the world. Why these stones, as large as 69 feet long by 14 feet wide, are such an enigma to contemporary scientists is that their method of quarrying, transportation and placement is beyond the technological ability of any known ancient or modern builders. These great blocks of stone show extensive evidence of wind and sand erosion that is absent from the Roman temples, indicating their construction dates from a far earlier age. Finally, the stones of Baalbek show stylistic similarities to other cyclopean stone walls at verifiably pre-Roman sites such as the Acropolis foundation in Athens, the foundations of Mycenae, and the megalithic constructions of Ollyantayambo in Peru and Tiahuanaco in Bolivia.

Canterbury Cathedral

Mother church of the Anglican communion and the seat of the Archbishop of Canterbury, this wonderful cathedral has featured heavily in English history—most notoriously in 1170 when Archbishop Thomas Becket was murdered in the cathedral, since when the cathedral has attracted thousands of pilgrims. It also featured in Geoffrey Chaucer's Canterbury Tales. The Cathedral was founded in 597AD by St Augustine—sent to convert the heathens of Britain by Pope Gregory the Great. Augustine's original building under the nave was extensively rebuilt and enlarged by the Saxons, and the cathedral was

rebuilt completely by the Normans in 1070 following a major fire. A staircase and parts of the North Wall—in the area of the North West transept, also called the Martyrdom—remain from that building. The church was substantially rebuilt at the end of the 14th century in the high English gothic style.

The Parthenon

The supreme expression of ancient Greek architectural genius, the Parthenon has enchanted painters and poets for two thousand years. Neolithic remains indicate a continuous sacred use of the hill from at least 2800 BC. Built upon the foundations of an earlier Mycenaean temple, the first known Hellenistic structures, dating from the 6th century BC, were temples dedicated to the goddess Athena. In 480 BC Persians destroyed these temples and in 447 BC the Athenian leader Pericles erected the presently standing temple of Athena. Made of white marble, the temple had 46 columns, was roofed with tiles, and enshrined a 40 foot tall golden statue of Athena. The Parthenon has suffered considerable damage over the centuries. In 296 BC the gold from the statue was removed; in the 5th century AD the temple was converted into a Christian church; in 1460 it housed a Turkish mosque; in 1687 gunpowder stored by the Turks inside the temple exploded and destroyed the central area; and in 1803 much of the remaining sculpture was sold by the Turks, who controlled Greece at the time, to the Englishman Lord Elgin, who then removed the sculptures and sold them to the British Museum.

The name Parthenon refers to Athena Parthenos, the daughter of Zeus. Patroness of Athens, she represents spiritual development, intellect and understanding, and is the symbol of the human aspiration for wisdom. The character of Athena represented these qualities yet it was the sacred geographical location, the astronomical orientation and the sacred geometry of the temple which actually generated the qualities for which Athena was known. In the Greek religious tradition particular geographical locations were known to have and express specific energetic characteristics. Therefore, while Greek sacred architecture praises the qualities of certain deities, it was understood that the deities themselves were metaphors for unique natural powers which already existed before the temples were constructed. Certain holy places around Greece, being expressive of specific powers, were also understood to be in spatial relationship with one another, as shown by the study of sacred geography. The temples developed at these sites incorporated sophisticated mathematical and astronomical knowledge which further enhanced the powers inherent at these places.



The 5 signs that you are about to be Fired

losing your job is something that is at the very top of most people's worry lists. Whether you've been underperforming when it comes to sales, or the company

managers and HR staff to share some of the known warning signs indicating you may be about to be given your notice.

1. Receiving fewer emails from your boss.

User team-evil wrote that receiving "fewer emails about projects and corporate events is bad. More emails regarding performance issues is worse".

2. Being asked too many questions

Someone writing under the name 19southmainco suggested that being asked for a comprehensive list of "everything" you're working on was a warning sign.

He recalled that before he was laid off, he "had my editor come up to me and ask what I was working on".

When he explained that they had some

articles on the way, he was asked to provide a comprehensive list of "everything" he was working on.

User throwaway757575751 agreed with this suggestion that "the list" was a warning sign, writing: "This is exactly right. I got an email from my boss early one morning asking me what I'm currently working on ... 3 hours later, I was let go."

3. When there's less to do

Another group of users argued that being given fewer work projects could indicate bad things to come.

User 'Cowboy law' wrote: "Your workload will get lighter and lighter. You'll complete projects and no new projects will be given to you. He added: "Obviously, this is so that, when it comes time to drop the axe, there will be minimal transitioning needed for works in progress."

4. How's your schedule looking?

Reddit user WeYoung touched upon how to tell you're about to be fired if you do shift work. They wrote: "At an hourly

job, if they stop putting you on the schedule/make you only work one or two shifts a week, you're probably about to be fired."

5. Your emails stop working

One IT worker, going under the username lucky_ducker, posted an illuminating insight into what it's like to be involved in the firing process from an IT point of view.

They explained that "when someone is being fired I am notified a few minutes before the employee is told". He added: "We have a checklist: disable network and email credentials, then forcibly disconnect their connections / sessions. So if you suddenly are kicked out of your email and can't connect to network resources, you are very likely being terminated. VERY shortly."



you work for has been implementing cutbacks; feeling insecure in your employment can have a huge impact on your mental health.

In a thread on Reddit, users asked

managers and HR staff to share some of the known warning signs indicating you may be about to be given your notice.

When he explained that they had some



Introverts find modern offices uncomfortable

Modern office features such as hot-desking or desk-sharing and open-plan floors appeal mainly to extrovert workers but others find them uncomfortable, research has found. The findings highlighted that

The findings are based on an online survey of over 300 people about their current office environments. The participants had previously completed a personality test to ascertain their personality type. "These results support

previous research into the unpopularity of open-plan offices and hot-desking and the positive effects of personalisation. However, there are some simple changes that can be made to improve staff satisfaction and increase productivity," Hackston said.

"These include allowing staff more storage for personal items when hot-desking, creating smaller neighbourhoods within open-plan offices, not overdoing clear desk policies as clearing away all personal items can be demotivating to some people and providing quiet zones for people to work in when needed," Hackston noted.



extroverts are significantly happier at work and have higher levels of job satisfaction and also pointed out that personality differences are behind areas of conflict in the office. "Understanding how personality interacts with the office environment is key to improving job satisfaction and productivity," said researcher John Hackston.

Now, apps to help autistic kids learn

Social skills

A US-based start-up is developing Google Glass apps and hardware add-ons that can help autistic kids learn social and communication skills, while also providing feedback to caregivers. The Cambridge, Massachusetts-based startup called Brain Power was founded by neuroscientist Ned T Sahin, who did his graduate training at Harvard Medical School and Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Since the autism disorder spectrum is so wide, Brain Power is initially focusing on children with moderate to high-functioning autism, though it hopes to extend its apps' capabilities to other kids, Tech Crunch reported.

So far, 200 people have signed up for Brain Power's beta programme, which will be conducted in three stages next year.

Sahin believes Google Glass is ideal for helping kids with autism because it has an accelerometer chip that enables

head gestures, which Brain Power uses to track when kids look or don't look at their parents, as well as stereotypy, or the repetitive movements which many people with autism make. "In this way, we can provide numerical, objective, repeatable assessment of a child's current behaviours, as well as progress over time," Sahin said.

Brain Power's Google Glass apps - Empowered Brain Suite for Autism - encourages kids to interact with their parents and make eye contact by presenting exercises like a game. The apps have "social engagement module monitors" that assess how a child engaged with parents, Sahin said.

The software also helps kids interpret people's expressions through a series of games. "It has often surprised parents how quickly their children have adapted to Google Glass," Sahin said.

Other areas the suite will tackle include language. When a child looks at something through Google Glass, the object is identified and its name displayed and spoken through the Glass's earbud.

9 people at work who make work life

Interesting

We spend major part of our lives at the workplace. Hence the environment should be such that we should be able to look forward to work and not dread it.

Among several other things that make your workplace tolerable, the most important are the people or colleagues as we call them. We do have our loyal set of friends, both from childhood and college. However, we do meet some interesting people at our workplace too who go on to become our best buddies for life. There are all kinds of people at work and the list can be exhaustive. However, here are a few interesting ones that are part of every organisation.

Altruistic: This person would go out of his way to make others happy, sometimes at the cost of getting himself in trouble. People take undue advantage of him for their selfish gains.

Chamchi: She loves to be in the good books of the boss. She's willing to go the extra mile to make the boss happy. She will spy on colleagues, sweet talk you into giving out information only to pass it on to the boss. She always speaks in favour of her superior and also covers up for her absence. However, it's not difficult to spot one at work. People can easily identify her and know better than to confide in her. The life expectancy of a chamchi in the organisation will last only till the boss exists.

Reliable: This person is the best of the lot. Want someone to work on your weekly off? She's only too willing to lend her supporting hand. You can confide your secrets in her and be sure they won't be shared.

Couch potato: He's the hungry jack. Always munching something or the other. His desk is filled with food items of all sorts — chips, cup noodles, biscuits, chocolates. He loves to eat and keeps ordering food from outside. Be on good terms with him as he can be your saviour when you are hungry.

Noncommittal: Such people mind their business and choose to be blind to the happenings around. All they want is to be paid at the end of every month. They might offer lip sympathy, but never expect them to stand by you

during crisis.

Backstabber: He's very social and talks to everybody. But his intentions aren't genuine. You never know when he'll let you down. He might let you down when you least expect it. Should he land in crisis, he will use you to get out of it. For instance, if the boss is unhappy with your work, he'll conveniently place the blame on you to save his a**.

Rumour monger: She's always hungry for interesting gossips so she can pass it on to others during lunch or coffee break. She's interested about your personal life, problems and everything about you. Rumours floating around your love life? You know the culprit.

Flirt: No, you don't have to stay away from him as he's harmless. He thinks he's the reincarnation of Lord Krishna and loves to be seen around with women. He doesn't miss an

opportunity to complement you. He makes you feel like the most beautiful person on earth. Many feel such people boost your confidence.

Humorous: He has a great sense of humour and very witty. He makes boring work life so much better and tolerable. You literally chill out when he's around.



Money power drives elections, says CJP chief Dipke; flags ABVP's DUSU win

Dipke also alleged that ideological affiliations were influencing appointments and functioning in educational institutions, echoing Congress MP Rahul Gandhi's criticism of the BJP-led government.

Delhi. (Agency)

Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) convenor Abhijeet Dipke on Sunday alleged that money power drives elections, citing the recent Delhi University Students' Union (DUSU) polls and claiming campaigners arrive in luxury cars. The Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP), affiliated with the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), won three of the four central panel posts in the DUSU elections held after the recent CJP-led Gen Z protests. The Congress-backed National Students' Union of India (NSUI) failed to win any of the four posts. "Money works in elections and nothing else. Those who campaign in DU come in Rolls Royce, which is worth crores of

rupees. They come in Audi, BMW. So money works there," Dipke told reporters. He also alleged that ideological affiliations were influencing appointments and functioning in educational institutions, echoing Congress MP Rahul Gandhi's criticism of the BJP-led government. Dipke claimed that Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya Vice Chancellor Kumud Sharma was associated with RSS ideology and alleged that more than 50 FIRs had been registered against students since she took charge. "When students protest for something, an FIR is registered against them. But when ABVP opposes something or locks any gate, no FIR is registered against them.

Only Dalit, Adivasi (tribal) students who oppose the ideology are booked. It is a roadmap to make institutions



(universities) a shakha of RSS," he alleged. On protests by Maharashtra Public Service Commission (MPSC) aspirants seeking the resignation of MPSC

Chairman Vivek Bhimanwar over alleged corruption, Dipke said students had lost faith in the examination system.

"How can the students keep faith that exams will be conducted transparently until Bhimanwar resigns?" he asked. He said the CJP, along with MPSC aspirants, would soon launch an online campaign, "Bhimanwar Rajinama Dya" (Bhimanwar, resign), to explain the allegations against the commission chairman, his alleged links with Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and why, according to them, his resignation was necessary. On the recent death by suicide of an IIT Bombay student, Dipke said the incident highlighted the need for greater mental health support for students.

Delhi High Court gets seven new judges, total strength rises to 50

Delhi. (Agency)

Seven judicial officers took the oath of office as Delhi High Court judges on Monday, taking the strength of the court to 50. Chief Justice D K Upadhyaya administered the oath to Justices Nivedita Anil Sharma, Nisha Sahay Saxena, Sanjay Sharma, Bharat Parashar, Aditi Choudhary,



Dinesh Bhatt and Arun Bhardwaj, who were serving as judicial officers in the district judiciary here. The swearing-in ceremony was held in the high court premises and after administering the oath, the chief justice congratulated the new judges. While Justices Sharma and Saxena took oath in English, the other five took the oath in Hindi. They have been appointed as additional judges of the high court. The central government notified the seven new appointments on September 19 after the Supreme Court collegium made a recommendation in favour of these judicial officers. The sanctioned strength of the high court is 60 and with the seven new appointments, its current strength has risen to 50.

Zoo's citizen science walks document 50 bird species, 13 varieties of spider, insect

Delhi. (Agency)

The National Zoological Park on Sunday documented 50 bird species and 13 spider and insect species during its citizen science walks, with participants recording more than 1,800 birds, spiders and insects across the zoo premises.

The Sunday Spider and Insect Walk and the 14th Sunday Bird Walk were organised under the zoo's ongoing Citizen Science Initiative to encourage public participation in biodiversity documentation, scientific observation and conservation awareness, according to a statement.



Twenty participants, including nature enthusiasts, students, wildlife photographers, researchers, interns, volunteers and other citizens, took part in the walks. The spider and insect walk was led by wildlife photographer Ashir Kumar, while ornithology expert Asani Bhaduri guided the bird walk, it said.

A notable observation was the colonial nesting of more than 300 Painted Storks, with hatchlings recorded in some nests. Participants also observed spiders, insects and butterflies, including ant-mimicking spider, White-orange Tip Butterfly, and Wandering Glider. Experts also shared insights into the ecology and behaviour of birds, spiders and insects.

Koel, Shikra among birds recorded

Bird species recorded included Asian Green Bee-eater, Asian Koel, Black kite, Common Myna, Indian Peafowl, Painted Stork and Shikra. The programme also helped participants strengthen species identification and biodiversity documentation skills.

Gyms becoming new front for NCR's crime economy

The danger lies not in fitness itself but in allowing a rapidly expanding industry to grow faster than the institutions responsible for regulating it.

Delhi. (Agency)

Going to the gym has become an integral part of Delhi-NCR's urban culture. From five-star hotel fitness centres to 24x7 gyms catering to young professionals, from high-end establishments in colonies of Delhi, Noida and Gurugram to modest facilities in unauthorised colonies and urban villages, fitness centres have mushroomed across the National Capital Region.

Gymming, once largely associated with bodybuilding enthusiasts and professional athletes, has today become a mass-market service, and gyms a social space as much as a place for exercise. This rapid expansion has also raised uncomfortable question like what happens when a largely unregulated, cash-intensive and socially influential

business intersects with the criminal underbelly of the NCR?

There is no official database showing gyms as a distinct category of crime, yet a pattern emerging from individual



cases deserves attention. Earlier this month, 28-year-old gym owner and trainer Vijay Kumar was shot dead outside a gym in Aya Nagar in South Delhi. The incident is particularly significant because it shows how a

perfectly ordinary urban business can become a point of contact for much older networks of rivalry and violence. Last week we witnessed an audacious case in Gurgaon of a gym trainer chasing a woman biker and knocking her down. The accused claimed himself to be a state kabaddi player too.

Two years earlier, in September 2024, Nadir Shah, a gym owner in Greater Kailash-I, was shot outside his establishment. Police investigated a possible gang and extortion connection, while a gang-linked figure claimed responsibility on social media. There have also been instances of gyms becoming targets of extortion. In Burari in July 2024, Delhi Police arrested four people, including a juvenile, in connection with firing outside a gym during an alleged extortion attempt against its owner.

BJP seeks action against AAP councillor in 'suicide case' of sanitation worker

The BJP alleged that Deepak, a sanitation worker with MCD, was driven to take his own life after facing financial difficulties allegedly linked to the councillor.

Delhi. (Agency)

BJP workers staged a protest outside the AAP office, demanding action against the party's MCD councillor from Trilokpur over the alleged suicide of a sanitation worker.

The protesters, including Lok Sabha MP Yogender Chandoliya and Delhi BJP vice-president Sunil Yadav, demanded that AAP leaders expel councillor Vijay Kumar from the party. The BJP alleged that Deepak, a sanitation worker with the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), was driven to take his own life after facing financial difficulties allegedly linked to the councillor. Deepak's wife and minor daughter accompanied the BJP leaders during the protest. The

BJP accused Kumar of harassment and abetment of suicide and demanded his dismissal. No immediate reaction was



available from the AAP or the councillor. Police detained four protesters—Chandoliya, MLAs Ravi Kant Ujjainwal and Ravinder Negi,

and Councillor Priyanka Gautam—at Tilak Marg police station. They were later released. "Why are Arvind Kejriwal, Saurabh Bharadwaj and Kuldeep Kumar silent despite serious allegations against AAP Councillor Vijay Kumar of financially harassing an MCD sanitation worker and allegedly driving him to suicide?" Chandoliya asked. According to a Delhi BJP statement, workers from the Mayur Vihar district, along with thousands of Delhi BJP office-bearers and others, participated in the protest. "Any form of injustice, exploitation or financial harassment of sanitation workers will not be tolerated," Chandoliya said, adding that BJP workers would continue their protest, demanding

Town Hall to become hub for museums and tourism

Delhi. (Agency)

The historic Town Hall complex in Chandni Chowk is set to be redeveloped as a Global Heritage Centre, with the Delhi government and Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) signing an MoU to conserve the Grade-I heritage property. The project is significant as the Town Hall, Press Building and Park form part of the historic areas of Chandni Chowk and Shahjahanabad.

The Grade-I heritage complex was built between 1860 and 1866. The Municipal Corporation's headquarters remained in the complex for a long time before being shifted in 2010 to the new Dr SP Mukherjee Civic Centre on Minto Road. The MoU was signed in the presence of CM Rekha Gupta at the Delhi Secretariat on Sunday. The project covers the town hall, press building and a park spread over around 12,180 square metres in the historic Chandni Chowk and Shahjahanabad areas, according to a statement.



Under the MoU, its ownership will remain with the MCD, while the heritage structures will be conserved and developed for tourism and cultural activities, it said. The proposed Global Heritage Centre will include a museum and facilities for cultural and tourism activities, the statement said.

Located near Chandni Chowk and Old Delhi Railway Station, the complex will provide domestic and international visitors a place to experience Delhi's history, heritage and culture within a single complex. It further said that the tourism department has been tasked with conducting surveys, undertaking a structural assessment and preparing a detailed project report for the redevelopment. CM Gupta said the Town Hall is an important part of Delhi's history and heritage, and the government is committed to preserving its historical and architectural identity. Tourism Minister Kapil Mishra said, "Our effort is to make historical monuments more attractive and useful for domestic.

Road rage, harassment and unsafe roads: Why fear is driving Delhi commuters

Delhi. (Agency)

Disputes on the road can quickly escalate into harassment, intimidation and violence. Back-to-back road rage cases in the city have renewed concerns over the safety of commuters, especially women riders and drivers. The threat is compounded by aggressive driving, stalking and unsafe infra. The city road will not feel safe till authorities wake up to stronger enforcement and move beyond offering empty words of advice to ordinary drivers, writes City Team. Shivani Chauhan, aka Sia, was chased and hit by a car on September 13, 2026, in Gurugram. Three men at a construction site died after being hit by a car, and one was left critically injured in Gurugram. A 73-year-old motorist was arrested after his vehicle allegedly hit a biker on Africa Avenue Road in the R K

Puram area.

These are just some of the many incidents of road rage in the capital that highlighted the problem of aggressive driving escalating into harassment, intimidation and physical danger. Three back-to-back road rage incidents in less than a week have once again raised concerns about the safety of commuters, especially women, on Delhi-NCR roads.

In the first incident, Sia, who was chased and hit by a car driven by Kalyan Bainsla, was captured on camera and widely shared on social media. Sia has alleged that the car occupants had been following her and asking her to stop before the collision. Bainsla, however, has disputed the allegation and described the incident as an accident. Police later added serious charges, including

attempt to murder, stalking and an offence related to insulting a woman's modesty.

In another incident where three men were killed, the car was allegedly driven



by a 20-year-old student from Delhi University's St Stephen's College. He ploughed into the workers as they were installing a metal fence on Dwarka Motorway.

In the third incident, police said a blue-

coloured car, allegedly driven by Venu Gopal, a Vasant Kunj resident, hit the motorcycle around 10 pm on Thursday while travelling from Bhikaji Cama Place towards R K Puram Metro Station in south Delhi. At that time, the 21-year-old Tanish Tokas, a Munirka village resident, was sitting on his parked motorcycle on the roadside. Tokas fell from the motorcycle due to the impact.

The car dragged the vehicle for some distance, although no injuries were reported. The cases have become more than road accident incidents. It has questioned the lack of safety, unruly behaviour of riders and cost of lives in the capital's roads. Women bikers said that being followed closely, being forced to stop or being treated aggressively by other motorists can make even a routine journey frightening.

Starbucks plans up global tech centre in Chennai, 800 jobs expected

New Delhi. (Agency)

US coffee chain Starbucks is planning to set up a global capability centre (GCC) in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, according to a government source, reported Reuters. The centre is expected to create around 800 jobs in its first phase. The move comes as global companies increasingly use GCCs in India for technology and other specialised functions.

STARBUCKS PLANS GCC IN CHENNAI

Starbucks, which has around 500 cafes in India through its joint venture with Tata Consumer Products, is planning to establish the new centre in Chennai. The proposed GCC will add to Chennai's growing presence as a base for global companies looking to run technology and other business functions from India.

GCCs TAKING ON BIGGER ROLES

GCCs have changed significantly from their earlier role as low-cost back-office centres.

Global companies are now using these centres to support their headquarters through higher-value functions, including finance, software development and research and development.

This has made GCCs an increasingly important part of how multinational companies manage their global operations.

WALGREENS ALSO PLANS CHENNAI CENTRE

Starbucks' reported plan comes just days after US pharmacy chain Walgreens signed an agreement with the Tamil Nadu government to establish a GCC in Chennai. The Walgreens centre is expected to create around 250 jobs. Chennai is already home to technology centres of several global companies, including Citi, Barclays and American Express.

Rupee rises 24 paise to 95.72 against US dollar in early trade

MUMBAI. (Agency)

The rupee gained 24 paise to 95.72 against US dollar in early trade on Monday, supported by a slight moderation in crude oil prices and a positive trend in domestic equities. Forex traders said initial gains in domestic equities and improved foreign fund sentiment boosted investor sentiment, but sustained importer demand for greenbacks from oil companies and broader strength in the US dollar Index weighed on the local unit. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 95.86 against the US dollar, then gained some ground to touch 95.72 against the American currency, registering a gain of 24 paise from its previous close. On Friday, the rupee closed lower by 7 paise at 95.96 against the US dollar.

"The rupee closed at 95.89 on Friday after being defended near 96 last week. We expect a broad range of 95.60-96.50, with the 96.40-96.50 zone acting as stiff resistance," said Anindya Banerjee, Head of Commodity and Currency Research, Kotak Securities. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading at 100.31, higher by 0.09 per cent. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, was trading lower by 2.10 per cent at USD 101.69 per barrel in futures trade.

"Brent had a highly volatile last week: it closed at USD 105.68 on Monday, jumped to USD 108.75 on Tuesday after touching a weekly high of USD 109.45, before reversing sharply as concerns over Saudi supply disruptions began to ease," said Anil Kumar Bhansali, Head of Treasury and Executive Director Finrex Treasury Advisors LLP.

Dilip Buildcon wins ₹1,265 crore EPC work for Maharashtra power project

New Delhi. (Agency)

Dilip Buildcon Ltd has been selected as the successful bidder by REC Power Development and Consultancy Ltd (RECPDCL) for developing and operating an intra-state electricity transmission system in Maharashtra, the company said in a stock exchange filing on Monday. The project involves the establishment of a 400 kV GIS Solapur/Paranda switching station in Dharashiv district and will be implemented on a build-own-operate-transfer (BOOT) basis under the tariff-based competitive bidding (TBCB) route.

The engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) component for Dilip Buildcon is valued at ₹1,265 crore, excluding goods and services tax (GST), according to the filing. RECPDCL is acting as the bid process coordinator on behalf of the Maharashtra State Transmission Utility.

Under the terms of the project, Dilip Buildcon will acquire 100 per cent equity in the project special purpose vehicle (SPV) and act as the transmission service provider. Its responsibilities will include development, ownership, operation and maintenance of the intra-state transmission system under a transmission service agreement. The scope of work covers development, financing, design, engineering, procurement, construction, testing, commissioning, operation and maintenance of the transmission assets. Construction and commissioning are to be completed within 24 months from the effective date, as specified in the request for proposal. The transmission system will thereafter be operated for 35 years from the commercial operation date. The company said the project had been awarded by a domestic entity and would be implemented under the TBCB model.

RBI may hike repo rate by 50 bps by December amid inflation risks

The Monetary Policy

Committee could raise the repo rate by 25 basis points each in October and December, taking it to 6% by the end of 2026, a report mentioned.

New Delhi. (Agency)

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) may raise its benchmark repo rate twice by the end of December 2026, as rising inflation risks and excess liquidity in the banking system put pressure on monetary policy. According to analysts cited by The Hindu, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) could raise the repo rate by 25 basis points each in October and

December, taking it to 6% by the end of 2026. Here it must be mentioned that one basis point is one-hundredth of a percentage point.

INFLATION REMAINS A KEY CONCERN

The expected rate hikes come at a time when inflation is showing signs of picking up. India's retail inflation rose to 4.82% in August 2026 from 4.45% in July. Economists expect inflation in September to move closer to 5%. Higher crude oil prices could add to these pressures. Systematic Group said inflation could exceed the RBI's earlier projections if crude prices remain in the \$90-\$110 per barrel range, the report mentioned. The brokerage said higher crude prices could push up producer costs, which may then feed into prices paid by consumers. It also pointed out that the current 5.25% repo rate would mean a negative real policy rate if

inflation stays elevated, keeping borrowing conditions relatively easy.

BANKING SYSTEM HAS SURPLUS LIQUIDITY



Another factor that could influence the RBI's decision is the large amount of liquidity in the banking system. According to HSBC, foreign currency inflows, particularly through the special non-resident deposit scheme, have contributed significantly to the surplus. HSBC estimates that Foreign

Currency Non-Resident (Bank) account or FCNR(B) inflows have created a core liquidity surplus of around Rs 15 trillion, according to the report. The bank said excess liquidity could become inflationary and may also create financial stability risks if banks become too dependent on abundant funds.

RBI MAY STEP UP LIQUIDITY ABSORPTION

The RBI has already taken steps to reduce the surplus liquidity in the banking system. These include open market operations (OMOs) and

variable rate reverse repo (VRRR) auctions, which allow the central bank to absorb excess funds from banks. Analysts expect the RBI to step up these measures in the coming months. Through VRRR operations and other tools, the central bank could withdraw another Rs 4 lakh crore of liquidity.

Tata Sons vs Tata Trusts set for courtroom showdown: All you need to know

New Delhi. (Agency)

The power struggle at the Tata Group seems to be increasingly moving into the legal arena, with Tata Trusts and the Tata Sons-N Chandrasekaran camp assembling prominent lawyers and senior advocates as they prepare for a potential court battle, reported Bloomberg. The development comes after a September 17 Tata Sons board meeting at which N Chandrasekaran was reappointed as executive chairman for another five years, while Tata Trusts later challenged the validity of that decision. Both camps (Tata Trusts and the Tata Sons camp supporting N Chandrasekaran's reappointment) retained some of India's leading law firms and senior litigators. The report said the legal firepower being

assembled points to preparations for a prolonged dispute, even though the sides would prefer to avoid a lengthy legal fight. The dispute centres on how Tata Sons' Articles of



Association should be interpreted, particularly the special rights given to Tata Trusts' nominee directors.

WHY IS A LEGAL BATTLE POSSIBLE?

Tata Trusts, which owns about 66% of Tata Sons, has challenged the September 17 board resolution

reappointing Chandrasekaran.

In its September 20 statement, the Trusts said the resolution was not validly passed and had "no legal effect". It argued that the Articles of Association require affirmative support from a majority of the directors nominated by the Trusts. There are two such nominee directors. The Trusts' position is that "majority amongst two is two and not one". At the September 17 meeting, Noel Tata voted against Chandrasekaran's reappointment while the other Trust nominee, Venu Srinivasan, supported it. The Trusts therefore argues that the separate requirement relating to its nominee directors was not met. The dispute does not end there. The Trusts also challenges the use of the chairman's casting vote to break the board-level deadlock.

Finance Ministry calls meeting with banks ahead of 3-day nationwide strike

MUMBAI. (Agency)

The Finance Ministry has convened a meeting of chief executives of public sector banks (PSBs), regional rural banks (RRBs), the Indian Banks' Association (IBA) and NABARD on Monday to review preparedness and contingency plans ahead of a proposed three-day nationwide bank strike beginning September 28.

The meeting, which will be chaired by the Secretary of the Department of Financial Services (DFS), is expected to focus on measures to ensure continuity of banking operations and the availability of essential customer services during the strike period. Officials are likely to discuss contingency arrangements to minimise disruptions, particularly as the proposed industrial action coincides with the half-yearly closing period for banks. The strike has been called by the United Forum of Bank Unions (UFBU), an umbrella body representing seven bank employee and officer unions. The unions have raised several demands, with the implementation of a five-day banking week emerging as a key issue. UFBU

had earlier organised a nationwide strike on September 11 over the same demand. The previous strike affected over-the-counter banking services, cash transactions and cheque clearances in several parts of the country. While banking operations remained largely normal in Mumbai, disruptions were reported in states including Madhya Pradesh, Goa, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal, particularly in smaller cities and towns.

Apart from a five-day work week, the unions are seeking improvements in pension benefits, implementation of a uniform dearness allowance formula for pensioners and an option for employees covered under the National Pension System (NPS) to switch to the old pension scheme. UFBU has claimed that it represents nearly 90 per cent of the country's banking workforce. The proposed strike could have a wider impact on customers because September 26 and 27 fall on a weekend. As a result, normal branch operations could remain affected for up to five consecutive days, from September 26 to 30, increasing concerns about cheque processing, cash transactions and other branch-dependent services.

Stock market opening today: Will Sensex, Nifty rise or fall?

New Delhi. (Agency)

Stock markets are likely to open on a muted note on Monday as elevated crude oil prices continue to keep investors cautious about inflation and interest rates. GIFT Nifty futures were trading at 23,338 at 7:49 am, indicating a largely flat start for the Nifty 50, which closed at 23,346.40 on Friday.

The Sensex had ended Friday at 74,294.96, down 19.63 points or 0.03%. The Nifty, meanwhile, gained 75.80 points or 0.33%. Both indices, however, recorded their sixth consecutive weekly decline last week, their longest losing streak in six years. Crude oil prices will remain one of the biggest factors for Indian equities this week. Brent crude futures eased 2.2% to \$101.6 a barrel as investors looked for a recovery in shipments from Saudi Arabia despite continuing attacks by Yemeni Houthis.

The decline in oil prices offers some relief, but crude remains above \$100 a barrel, keeping concerns around inflation and interest rates alive. Brent crude's retreat offers some relief, but prices remain elevated as the unresolved Middle East conflict leaves the market vulnerable to renewed flare-ups and supply disruptions," said Hariselman Radhakrishnan, founder and CEO of HST Wealth. For India, sustained high crude prices remain important as they can affect inflation, the trade balance and the interest-rate outlook.

IRAN-US TENSIONS IN FOCUS

Geopolitical developments will also be closely watched after Iran and the US ex-US President Donald Trump warned Iran of further economic consequences and threatened its leadership if it did not reach a deal, while Iran's military said it would retaliate against any fresh attack.

The conflict has continued to add uncertainty to global energy markets, with concerns that any further escalation could disrupt oil supplies and push crude prices higher again. The primary market will also remain in focus as the Rs 23,000 crore NSE IPO is scheduled to close for subscription on Monday.

The IPO has already attracted strong demand, adding to the liquidity pressure on the secondary market. Investors have been closely watching the primary market after a series of IPOs in recent weeks. hanged fresh threats on Sunday. The NSE issue is therefore likely to remain a key market focus even as investors assess broader global and domestic cues.

FI SELLING SHOWS SOME RELIEF

Foreign institutional investors turned buyers on Friday, purchasing Indian shares worth Rs 599.54 crore, according to provisional data.

Significant ₹4.25 Crore Relief for CA's Family via MACT Settlement

Major settlement regarding a road accident fatality compensation claim at Mumbai's National Lok Adalat

Mumbai. (Agency)

Mumbai A significant settlement of ₹4.25 crore was reached in a 'Motor Accident Claims Tribunal' (MACT) case during the National Lok Adalat held in Mumbai. This provides substantial financial relief to the family of a 42-year-old Chartered Accountant (CA) who lost his life in a severe road accident in 2024. This settlement underscores the effectiveness of the 'Lok Adalat' as an alternative dispute resolution mechanism, particularly in motor accident compensation cases where families affected by such tragic incidents require timely financial assistance. The deceased Chartered Accountant, Rajat Bhagwat Rustogi, was employed by a multinational company. The accident occurred while he was traveling to Jaipur for a family event. His wife, Anubha Rajat Rustogi (also a Chartered Accountant), and their 8-year-old son, Atharva Rajat Rustogi, sustained serious injuries in the same accident. The matter was resolved through discussions involving the claimant family, the insurance company, and their respective legal representatives. Senior officials

from Shriram General Insurance Company Limited played an active role in facilitating this settlement. Ashwani Dhanwat, Executive Director and Chief Investment Officer (CIO), along with Vineet Solanki, General Manager (Legal), personally participated in the discussions with the claimants' lawyers. According to reports, this initiative helped the parties involved reach a mutually agreed settlement and complete the compensation process without the need for a protracted legal battle. Additionally, separate claims filed by the deceased's wife and injured son were also resolved through a settlement of ₹15 lakh each, facilitated by the company's Mumbai office. Assistant Manager Atish Goythale handled these cases, while Maharashtra State Head Priyadarshi Acharya also contributed to the settlement process. Advocate Uday Mehta represented the claimants, and Advocate Sharad Golande represented the insurance company. Coordination between legal representatives and company officials played a crucial role in resolving the matter. This settlement of ₹4.25 crore is significant not only for the amount involved but also for



The claimants' family, senior officials from 'Shriram General Insurance Company Limited' (including Executive Director & Chief Investment Officer Ashwani Dhanwat and General Manager-Legal Vineet Solanki), and respective legal representatives were present during the ₹4.25 crore MACT settlement proceedings at the National Lok Adalat. Advocate Uday Mehta represented the claimants, and Advocate Sharad Golande represented the insurance company.

demonstrating how negotiated settlements can provide greater certainty to parties involved in compensation disputes. Following the death of a 42-year-old businessman and severe injuries sustained by his wife and child, this settlement has provided substantial financial support to the affected family. These proceedings at the National Lok Adalat in Mumbai underscored the

importance of constructive dialogue among claimants, insurance companies, and legal experts. The settlement illustrates how 'alternative dispute-resolution mechanisms' can be effective in reaching mutually agreed-upon solutions in eligible cases, thereby reducing the time and uncertainty associated with protracted court litigation.

NEWS BOX

Cyber Command nabs three in Bengaluru, Busts fraud network with Hong Kong, US links

BENGALURU(Agency). The Cyber Command police have arrested three people for allegedly procuring and supplying bank accounts belonging to various individuals to route cyber-fraud proceeds. The accused allegedly supplied the accounts to multiple cyber fraudsters. The police have frozen 507 bank accounts linked to the network. The accused are Amit Mishra, a resident of Jharkhand, and Tausif Ahmed and Parashuram Sadanand Kannanavar, both residents of Bengaluru. An officer said the network was busted during an investigation into an investment fraud in which a Bengaluru resident, Harish Kumar KN, allegedly lost more than Rs 93.5 lakh. After analysing digital evidence and bank transactions, the police traced Mishra and the two others and arrested them. An examination of the accused's mobiles revealed that they had collected details of 507 bank accounts from various individuals to route cyber-fraud proceeds and had also supplied the account details to other fraudsters. Around Rs 13 lakh in cyber-fraud proceeds was transferred through a savings bank account, while more than Rs 38 lakh was transferred through a current account, the police said. Six mobile phones were seized from the accused.

Dengue cases spike in Chennai, GCC intensifies preventive measures

CHENNAI(Agency). In the first 18 days of September, Chennai recorded a total of 614 dengue cases, which is already 18% higher than the number of cases recorded in the entire month of September last year. Similarly, August registered an alarming 66% rise — 605 cases in total — compared with the 364 cases registered in August 2025. The steep rise in dengue cases over the last two months has pushed the total to 2,600 so far this year, which is relatively lower compared with the number of cases until September in 2025 (2,795) and 2024 (3,594). Greater Chennai Corporation Commissioner G S Sameeran, referring to the civic body's data, said that dengue cases, over the past decade, have followed an upward trend during the pre-monsoon period in August and remained in peak until at least November or December. "Though there is a surge, 95% of the cases are self-limiting, with only 5% requiring hospitalisation," he said. To intensify dengue prevention measures, the civic body has deployed 3,690 domestic breeding checkers (DBCs) in 15 zones, he said. The workers would cover 80 to 100 houses a day and carry out preventive measures, he said, noting that the intermittent rains over the past few days might have created breeding grounds for Aedes mosquito larvae, which cause dengue. Over the last 20 days, the civic body has levied a total penalty of Rs 5.56 lakh on commercial institutions for not following to dengue prevention measures. On Sunday, the GCC chief inspected the hostel in Chepauk, which houses nearly 750 students; several of them volunteered for the mosquito-control activities.

Three-year-old boy killed in hit-and-run case in Hyderabad

Hyderabad(Agency). A three-year-old boy died allegedly after being hit by a speeding car while crossing the road near Santhoshnagar on Saturday night. The victim was identified as Mohd Izhaan Moueed, aged three years and eight months. According to his father, MA Moueed, a private employee, he had gone to Fusion Food Hub, near Sweekar Hotel, around 11 pm with his wife Hafsa Moueed and their son on a scooter. After parking the vehicle opposite the food outlet, Moueed crossed the road and went inside to collect food, while his wife and son remained near the scooter. A few minutes later, Izhaan crossed the road to join his father. While returning towards his mother, the boy was allegedly hit by a Mahindra XUV500, allegedly being driven rashly, travelling from Bhoji Reddy College towards IS Sadan crossroads. The driver sped away from the spot while Moueed and locals rushed the boy to a nearby private hospital, where doctors declared him "brought dead". Driver nabbed Meanwhile, police identified and detained the driver and seized the vehicle. Based on a complaint, IS Sadan police registered a case under Section 106(1) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and launched an investigation.



At India's only university dedicated to Hindi, a 4-year-old dispute erupts into student protests, FIR

Four years ago, Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya in Wardha moved two departments from Wardha to Prayagraj and froze PhD admissions due to litigation.

Nagpur(Agency). Four years ago, Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya (MGAHV) in Maharashtra's Wardha shifted two of its departments to its regional centre in Prayagraj, saying it would boost enrolment and that the transfer was being done in "lokhit" (public good). Today, the move at the university — the only one in India dedicated to the promotion of Hindi, with the language the primary medium of instruction — is at the centre of a three-month-long protest, leading to an FIR against six students. Now, the students have reached out to the Cockroach Janta Party, with its convener Abhijeet Dipke telling the media that asking for essential amenities cannot be a criminal activity. "The students are fighting for their Constitutional Right to Education." The protests began on July 3, when over 250 students signed a petition and submitted it to the administration, seeking the reopening of the two departments — Women Studies and Film Studies — as well as the restart of PhD



admissions frozen since 2022, and the revival of language programmes. The protesters also want the university to reinstate its discontinued diploma and certificate courses, such as language programmes for English, French, Japanese, Chinese, Spanish and Urdu. On August 20, the protesting students converged near the university's administrative building. The same night, an FIR was filed against Rajesh Kumar Yadav, Ramchandra, Niranjana Kumar, Rakesh Ahirwar, Rahul Kumar and Shiv Pujan, on charges of wrongful restraint, obstructing a public servant and common

intention. As per the complaint, the students locked all entry and exit gates of the university, confining officials inside, and stopped Vice-Chancellor Kumud Sharma's vehicle as she was leaving. The university also alleged that the students did not seek permission for the protest. Incidentally, the university came out with its rules concerning protests on August 31. "The university's Discipline Committee has recommended an independent inquiry, pending which six students/research scholars have been barred from entering the campus. The students will be given an opportunity to present their case," the administration said in a statement to . Officers at Wardha's Ramnagar Police Station said the university has submitted photos and videos as proof. "We have given them a notice and let the students go. All of these are bailable offences, and we are not treating them as criminals," a senior police official said. The police officials also informed that the university employees had to call on 112 (an emergency helpline) after the students locked the building.

IIT-Bombay apologises, suspends professor named in student suicide as dean

BHUBANESWAR(Agency). Amid mounting student protests following the death by suicide of 20-year-old BTEch student Sahil Wakode, IIT Bombay on Monday suspended the deanship of Prof Suryanarayana Doolla with immediate effect. But the move failed to satisfy protesting students, who said they had sought his suspension as a professor and not merely his removal from an administrative position. The decision was communicated to students in an email by IIT-Bombay Director Prof Shireesh Kedare at noon on Monday. The institute has not issued a separate statement on the suspension. "The Deanship of Prof. Suryanarayana Doolla is suspended with immediate effect. Any further action will be taken after investigation," Prof Kedare said in the email. Doolla, who was earlier Dean of Students Affairs at IIT-Bombay, is currently Dean of Administrative Affairs. He was

invigilating the examination taken by Sahil and has been named in the FIR registered by Mumbai Police based on a complaint by Sahil's parents, who have alleged that their son was subjected to caste-based discrimination



handed over to Prof Kedare during a nearly three-hour meeting with protesting students at the institute's main gate late Sunday night. Prof Kedare signed the charter and assured students that the institute would work towards fulfilling their demands. The Board of Governors was scheduled to discuss the demands on Monday, with the administration expected to communicate its decisions to students at an open house later in the day. Meanwhile, IIT-Bombay on Monday also issued an apology for statements made in its earlier communication regarding Sahil's death, meeting another key demand of the protesting students. In a post on X, the institute said: "We apologise for the statements contained in our earlier communication concerning the circumstances surrounding the unfortunate demise of Sahil. The details and circumstances leading up to the incident remain subject to investigation by the appropriate authorities."

Another Punjab man attempts suicide over drug menace; Opposition jabs AAP

Chandigarh(Agency). A man in Punjab's Sangrur district allegedly consumed a poisonous substance outside the deputy commissioner's office Sunday afternoon, claiming that he was assaulted after he raised the issue of alleged availability of drugs in his village. This comes days after Gulzar Singh, a Dalit labourer, allegedly died by suicide after being threatened for questioning a Punjab Finance Minister, Harpal Singh Cheema, about rampant drug abuse. Jagseer Singh alias Jagga, a resident of Namol village, was initially taken to the Civil Hospital, Sangrur, and later shifted to Rajindra Medical College and Hospital, Patiala, where he is undergoing treatment. Namol falls under the Sunam Assembly constituency of Sangrur, the home district of Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann. 'Fed up with the system' Earlier, Jagseer posted a video alleging that

"chitta" or drugs were freely available near his house and sought action against those allegedly involved in supplying drugs. In the latest video showing him allegedly consuming a poisonous substance, Jagseer says he had deleted the earlier video, but Sarpanch Sukhwinder Singh "Sukhi" Punia came to his house and assaulted him and his family. Jagseer says he consumed poison as he was "fed up with the system". His family has claimed that the CCTV cameras installed at Jagseer's house were also damaged following the incident. The family also alleged that despite Jagseer raising the issue of drug availability, no action had been taken against the alleged drug supplier. His friend Manjinder Singh reportedly recorded the video. Manjinder took Jagseer

to the Civil Hospital, Sangrur, after which the police arrived and began collecting information about the incident. Yogesh Kumar, SHO, Cheema Police Station, said

We have recorded his wife""s statement and will record Jagseer's statement as well. We will take action accordingly," Kumar said. Past cases



doctors at the Civil Hospital said Jagseer was out of danger. "However, at the insistence of his family members, we referred him to Rajindra Medical Hospital.

According to sources in the village, Jagseer and the sarpanch were involved in an altercation after he posted the video about the availability of drugs. A villager told The Indian Express that Jagseer fought with Sukhi, who later went to his house. Sources in the village also claimed that Jagseer was involved in the smuggling of illegal liquor and selling drugs. Meanwhile, a group of villagers gathered in support of the sarpanch. They said that Jagseer has been named in at least seven to eight FIRs over his involvement in the sale of illegal liquor and drugs.

Mumbai: Metro cement slab falls from Line 9 in Kashimira; 3rd metro accident in 10 days

23-year-old Shadab suffered a head injury; locals say he lay unattended for nearly an hour before being taken to hospital.

BHOPAL(Agency). Barely days after two accidents along Mumbai's metro construction corridors, another person was injured after a cement slab from an under-construction stretch of Metro Line 9 fell on his head in Kashimira, Mira Bhayandar, on Sunday. The 23-year-old victim, Shadab, was walking below the elevated corridor when the slab struck him, leaving him with a serious head injury. Locals said Shadab lay on the roadside, largely hidden from motorists by parked vehicles, for nearly an hour before he was noticed and taken to Wockhardt Hospital in an autorickshaw. The incident took place along Metro Line 9, which connects Dahisar with Mira Bhayandar. The line is currently operational up to Kashigaon, while the remaining three stations are



expected to open by December. A police officer from Kashimira police station confirmed the incident. Shadab is

undergoing treatment and is currently not in a condition to record his statement, the officer said. An FIR is expected to be

registered on Monday. Sandeep Rane, MNS leader in Mira Bhayandar, said Shadab runs a mattress shop in Kashimira and was walking beneath the metro corridor and a parallel double-decker flyover when the cement block struck him. "He has sustained a fracture on his head. Shadab's father is out of Mumbai, and is returning now after he was informed of the incident. There was no barricading beneath the construction site to prevent people from walking below. This is clear negligence and a lack of consideration for safety by the contractor J Kumar. Just a few weeks ago, some stones had fallen onto the road below along this metro line, almost falling on a school van," Rane said. The latest incident is the third reported accident along Mumbai's metro lines in the past 10 days,

North Bengaluru to get Rs 75-cr 125-bed govt hospital

BENGALURU(Agency). North Bengaluru is set to get a 125-bed government hospital at Bellahalli in Yelahanka taluk, with Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda laying the foundation stone for the Rs 75-crore facility on Sunday. The three-floor building, including the ground floor, will provide multiple specialised medical services. The government is planning to add two more floors in the future, increasing the capacity from 125 to 250 beds. Two acres of land behind the hospital have also been earmarked



for a future super-speciality block. Byre Gowda said the objective was to gradually develop the facility into a major healthcare centre serving north Bengaluru. The hospital is one of two new 125-bed hospitals, each estimated to cost Rs 75 crore, for which foundation-laying ceremonies were held. The second facility is coming up at the Animal Husbandry and Agriculture Department premises in the Hebbal Assembly constituency. Byre Gowda said the project would address a longstanding gap in healthcare infrastructure in the Byatarayanapura constituency. The constituency stretches from the MS Ramaiah College and Ring Road area to the Narayanapura border and up to Kempegowda International Airport. It does not have a separate taluk headquarters, making it difficult to establish a major government hospital under the usual system of locating taluk hospitals at taluk headquarters. While one part falls under Yelahanka taluk and another under KR Puram taluk, residents lacked access to a large government hospital in their vicinity.

NEWS BOX

13-year-old Chinese schoolgirl sets Asian Games record in swimming, wins gold



New Delhi. (Agency)

At just 13 years of age, China's Yu Zidi has become the Asian Games champion. The swimmer, participating in the women's 200m butterfly final, broke the Games record, finishing in 2:05.08, more than three seconds ahead of second-placed Chang Mohan.

The teenager, who turns 14 next month, shaved nearly half a second off the previous Asian Games mark set by compatriot Zhang Yufei three years ago. Yet, for someone who had just won her first major individual title, Yu's assessment of the performance was hilarious.

THE SCHOOLGIRL MAKING HISTORY

Yu's Asian Games triumph comes less than two years before the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics, where she could find herself competing on the biggest stage in swimming. She is already knocking on the door of the sport's elite. Her 2:05.08 in the 200m butterfly leaves her less than four seconds behind Canada's Summer McIntosh's world record of 2:01.65. For a swimmer who has only just turned 13, the gap offers a glimpse of how much room there could still be for improvement. Yu has already made history on the world stage. At the 2025 World Championships, she became the youngest medallist in swimming history after winning a bronze as part of China's relay team at the age of 12. Her Asian Games gold, however, is different. This was her first major individual title, and she delivered it with a Games record.

CHINA'S TEENAGE SWIMMING SENSATION

Yu's rise also comes at a time when Chinese swimming is strengthening its position as a major force in the pool. China won six of the seven swimming gold medals on the first night of competition at the Asian Games, with Yu providing one of the standout performances. But the teenager is not satisfied with simply being part of that success. "I hope I can swim even faster," Yu said.

Calicut FC Footballer Rigeon Jose dies in Kozhikode road accident; teammate seriously injured



KOZHIKODE. (Agency)

Calicut FC footballer Rigeon Jose, 29, died in a road accident near Christian College on Gandhi Road in Kozhikode late Sunday night. His teammate and Santosh Trophy player Gani Ahmed Nigam sustained serious injuries in the accident and is undergoing treatment.

The accident occurred at around 10.30 pm on Sunday when the motorcycle carrying Rigeon and Gani collided with another motorcycle on the Gandhi Road flyover near Christian College.

All four people travelling on the two motorcycles were rushed to Kozhikode Government Medical College Hospital following the collision. However, Rigeon succumbed to his injuries at around 12.15 am, despite efforts to save him.

Rigeon, a native of Thrissur, was a member of the newly announced Calicut FC squad. The club had announced its team only recently as preparations were under way for the upcoming Super League Kerala season. Calicut FC had already begun training at JDT in Kozhikode ahead of the tournament, which is scheduled to begin this week. Rigeon had previously represented several clubs, including FC Deccan, Wayanad United and George Telegraph, before joining Calicut FC. He was regarded as a footballer with experience across different levels of the domestic game. Gani Ahmed Nigam, who has also represented the Santosh Trophy, remains under treatment at the Government Medical College Hospital following the accident. The incident comes barely a week before the start of the Super League Kerala, with Calicut FC having been conducting regular training sessions in Kozhikode.

Ajit Agarkar opposed Jasprit Bumrah as India captain in 2023, wanted Ruturaj Gaikwad to lead

Ajit Agarkar reportedly wanted Ruturaj Gaikwad to lead India in the two-match T20I series against Ireland. However, BCCI intervened to ensure Jasprit Bumrah captained the team in the series.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Ajit Agarkar is set to step down as the chairman of the senior Indian men's selection committee after refusing a contract extension from the BCCI. His impending departure continues to shed light on how Indian cricket functions and the differences between him and the board. Agarkar took over as the chairman of the selection panel in 2023 and has enjoyed a

successful stint. However, his tenure has also been marked by several controversies. On several occasions, Agarkar also had to fend off BCCI's interference in selection matters involving the Indian team. As per a report in The Telegraph, disagreements between chief selector Agarkar and BCCI officials began as early as his second meeting in July 2023. At the time, Agarkar opposed the appointment of Jasprit Bumrah as India's stand-in captain for the Ireland T20I series as he wanted Ruturaj Gaikwad to lead the team. Bumrah was coming back from an injury at the time, and the two-match T20I series against Ireland was seen as a warm-up assignment for the senior pacer ahead of the 2023 ODI World Cup. Gaikwad, on the other hand, had led India to a gold medal at the Asian Games prior to the Ireland series. Agarkar wanted Gaikwad to be named captain to reduce Bumrah's workload, however, the BCCI intervened and ensured the senior

pacer was appointed as the captain for the T20I series. BCCI's contention was that Bumrah wanted to lead and thus he should



be given the chance. Agarkar reportedly faced multiple such situations during his tenure as the chief selector, but he mostly backed his intuitions and refused to pay heed to outside noise. Rift with Laxman, disagreement over Rohit's future. There are reportedly multiple reasons behind Agarkar's decision to not seek an extension and step down from his post as

the chairman of the selection panel. The former India pacer reportedly had a rift with his ex-teammate VVS Laxman, who is currently the head of the BCCI CoE.

The duo had differences over the functioning of the BCCI CoE, with Agarkar reportedly angry over the handling of injured senior India players. BCCI reportedly expected a heated clash between the two during the board's review meeting earlier this month, however, Agarkar decided to skip it. Meanwhile, Agarkar also

had differences with the BCCI over Rohit Sharma's future. The selection panel reportedly informed Rohit that he was not in their plans for the 2027 ODI World Cup during India's tour of England in July this year. However, Rohit received BCCI's backing after smashing a ton in the Lord's ODI against England.

Asian Games 2026: India thrash Japan 49-24 to begin Men's Kabaddi title defence



VIJAYAWADA. (Agency)

Defending champions Indian men's kabaddi team kickstarted the title defence with a comfortable 49-24 win over the hosts, Japan, here at the Tokai Citizens Gymnasium in Aichi Prefecture on Monday. Asian Games debutants Ayan

Lohchab, Devank Dalal and Ashu Malik were India's leading attackers in the game. India will take on South Korea in their second group match on Tuesday. The top two teams from each group progress to the semi-finals. India were all guns blazing in the match, racing to an 18-2 lead after inflicting two all-out on the hosts. Raider

Ashu had been instrumental in a strong start, including a three-point Super Raid that helped open up the early advantage. India produced a dominant first-half to take a 31-9 lead at the break, inflicting three all-outs in the opening 20 minutes. Ashu Malik led the attack, while Rahul Sethpal was solid in defence.

Japan's primary source of points has been bonus points, with India keeping the hosts under pressure throughout the half. Shortly after the restart, India inflicted the third all-out of the match on Japan to take a 40-12 lead. However, Japan rallied and outscored India from that point on to reduce the margin of the loss, but India kept hold their lead and wrapped up the opening win. India are the most successful team in the history of Asian Games kabaddi by a long way, with 11 golds from the 13 titles that have been on offer.

Asian Games: Elavenil Valarivan stopped chasing the medal. Then she won two

New York. (Agency)

Elavenil Valarivan led the women's 10m air rifle final on Sunday for most of the way. After 20 shots, she was on 211.1, 0.3 clear of Japan's Hinata Taichi. Two shots later, she was 0.3 behind. Hinata took the 23rd shot 10.6 to 10.4 and the last 10.2 to 10.1, finishing on 253.0, an Asian Games record. Elavenil's 252.4 was silver by 0.6, with reigning Olympic champion Ban Hyo-jin a distant third on 230.4. It was close enough to hurt, and Elavenil did not dress it up as anything else. What she declined to do was blame the pressure.

Asked whether it had played a part, she said: "I would say no, not really. I mean, if pressure had to play a role, then it should have been from the match, from, from the beginning of the finals. Not really. It was, for me, it was more about following my technique and following my process for every single shot," she said. She had an even blunter assessment of what those final three shots had taught



her. India at Asian Games: Day 1 Highlights

"There could be a lot of things that I could have done differently, but again, learning is the part that I'm looking more into right now," she told reporters on Sunday. Of course, there could have been, I could have taken better calls, but, which I didn't, and, hence the learning, is what I'm taking from the last three shots. I could have been a little more patient in taking my shots and, possibly worked a little more on my breathing."

The composure has eight years behind it. Elavenil was a teenage world-record holder when she first went to the Asian Games, and she had been world No. 1 and a two-time Olympian without a Games medal to show for it. Sunday gave her two at the Asian Games. Earlier in the day she had won team silver with Sonam Uttam Maskar and Vidarsa K Vinod, India's first medal of these Games. India finished 0.9 ahead of the hosts on 1898.0, behind a Chinese world record.

Karan Yadav appointed Indian Super League CEO

MUMBAI. (Agency)

The Indian Super League (ISL) appointed Karan Yadav as its Chief Executive Officer (CEO) as it operates under a new club-led model. Yadav has most recently served as Chief Commercial Officer at JSW Sports, where he led a Rs 300-plus crore P&L across sports franchises, talent management and brand consulting.

As CEO, Yadav will lead the League Office and the strategic, commercial and organisational direction of the ISL, working closely with the League's clubs and the All India Football Federation (AIFF). His mandate will include shaping the League's overall strategy and commercial direction, strengthening relationships with clubs, broadcasters,

sponsors and other stakeholders, while building a high-performing League Office that supports the long-term growth and sustainability of the competition. The



model also creates greater opportunity for alignment between the League Office and clubs across commercial strategy, partnerships, broadcast, fan engagement

and the development of the competition. Yadav will lead this effort while working with the clubs to build a cohesive League strategy and strengthen the ISL's position within the wider Indian football ecosystem. "The ISL is entering an important new chapter, and I am excited by the opportunity to help shape what comes next. The club-led model gives us a strong foundation to work with the clubs and the Managing Committee of ISL, with a shared ambition for the League and for Indian football," Yadav was quoted as saying in a press release.

"Our focus will be on building a strong and effective League Office, strengthening the League's commercial and broadcast proposition, deepening its connection with fans and creating an environment where clubs can grow sustainably.

Asian Games: Handshake not an issue in table tennis as India women thrash Pakistan

There were no issues of handshake during the India vs Pakistan clash in women's table tennis as both set of players showed sportsmanship after each match. India beat Pakistan 3-0 to make it to the quarterfinals.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Shaking hands wasn't an issue during the India vs Pakistan clash in women's table tennis at the Asian Games 2026 as both sets of stars showed sportsmanship at the end of each match. It was India that produced a sensational performance to blank Pakistan



3-0 and make it to the Round of 16, where they're expected to get an easy opponent. Suthirtha Mukherjee, Syndrel Das and Sreeja Akula secured the wins for

the women's team, who started their campaign by stunning Singapore 3-2. Suthirtha opened with a convincing 3-0 (11-3, 11-3, 11-4) win over Aleena Khan to give

India a 1-0 lead. It was right after the match when cameras picked up the Indian and Pakistani paddlers shaking hands.

ASIAN GAMES, SEPT. 21 UPDATES

The trend then continued throughout the contest with Syndrela and Sreeja also doing the same with their opponents after beating them. Sreeja Akula then stepped up in the third match against Fatima Khan and wrapped up the tie in emphatic fashion. She dropped just 13 points across three games, winning 11-4, 11-4, 11-5 to complete another 3-0 victory for the Indian team, who will be hoping to continue their fine run.

The Indian men's team will also be facing Pakistan later on in the day. India have been maintaining a strict no-handshake policy with Pakistan in cricket ever since the Pahalgalam terror attack last year. Since then the Indian captains.



Shruti Haasan

Says She Wants To Be A Mother, Is Open To Adoption Amid PCOS Concerns: 'Since I Was 14...'

Shruti Haasan has spoken candidly about how living with PCOS shaped her understanding of motherhood long before she was old enough to seriously think about having children. The actor, now 40, revealed that she was only 14 when she was first told that conceiving might be difficult for her, a warning that stayed with her for years.

In a conversation on Soha Ali Khan's podcast, Shruti explained that she had grown up believing biological motherhood may not be an easy option. It was only later, after conversations with her gynaecologist, that she began looking at the possibility differently.

Shruti Haasan Was Told At 14 That Conception Could Be Difficult

Speaking about her early experience with PCOS, Shruti recalled how decisively the possibility of motherhood had once been presented to her.

"I've been told throughout that PCOS and childbirth, like conception, is like forget about it. Since I was fourteen, it's going to be difficult, amma," she said. For Shruti, that message appears to have settled into something close to an assumption over the years. Rather than thinking of pregnancy as a possibility that could be explored in the future, she had started seeing it as something that might simply not happen.

That changed after she began consulting gynaecologist Dr Dhrupti Dedhia, whom Shruti credited with changing the tone of the conversation entirely.

'If That's What You Want, We'll Figure It Out'

Shruti said her doctor did not dismiss the challenges associated with PCOS, but instead explained them in a way that left room for possibility rather than fear. "But she really broke it down to why it's not. She just opened my mind. It was about saying, in a really beautiful way, if that's what you want, when you're ready, we'll figure it out," Shruti said. The actor added that hearing her doctor speak without treating age or PCOS as an automatic full stop helped her reconsider assumptions she had carried since adolescence.

She also referred to women who have become mothers later in life, saying, "Now you see that Cameron Diaz had a baby at 53. I'm so glad that my doctor speaks to me that way." For Shruti, the significance of that conversation seems to have been less about making an immediate decision and more about understanding that motherhood did not have to be mentally ruled out before she had even decided whether she wanted it.

Shruti Says She Is Open To Adoption Too

The actor also revealed that her idea of motherhood has never been limited to having a biological child. "I even told her that I am even open to adopt."



Sunita Ahuja Reunites With Krushna Abhishek, Kashmera Shah And Their Sons For Ganpati; Govinda Gives It A Miss



Sunita Ahuja shared a heartwarming moment with her nephew Krushna Abhishek's family as she arrived at his residence for Ganpati darshan on Friday. The visit saw Krushna's twin sons, Rayaana and Krishaang, warmly welcoming their grandmother and touching her feet as a mark of respect for their elder. As soon as Sunita entered the house, the twins went up to her and sought her blessings by touching her feet. Sunita, in turn, showered affection on her grandchildren, making the festive gathering a special family moment. She later also greeted Kashmera and Krushna with the same love.

For the occasion, Sunita looked elegant in a yellow printed saree with a red border, paired with traditional jewellery and flowers adorning her hair. Kashmera Shah opted for a blue embellished lehenga with a matching choli, while Krushna was dressed in a pearl white kurta. The family posed together amid the Ganpati celebrations at the residence.

The family moment comes a few months after Sunita's emotional reunion with Krushna and Kashmera on the reality show 'Laughter Chefs Unlimited Entertainment' Season 3.

Sunita had made a surprise appearance on the show and met the couple's twin sons for the first time after years of estrangement.

Sunita had earlier spoken about the reunion, saying that she had decided to let go of the past and forgive Krushna and Kashmera.

She described meeting her grandchildren as an especially emotional moment as the family rift had lasted for around 14 years.

For the uninitiated, Sunita is Krushna Abhishek's Mami, the wife of his uncle and Bollywood superstar Govinda.

Amaal Mallik Says Daboo Malik Kept Quiet For 15 Years Over Credit Disputes: 'Things Went Too Far'



Amaal Mallik has explained why he chose to publicly raise the long-running credit dispute surrounding Main Hoon Hero Tera, the song he composed for Hero. The musician said his decision to speak out came only after years of approaching labels, production houses, actors and other people involved in an attempt to have the correct credits added across streaming platforms.

The issue returned to the spotlight after Salman Khan Films marked 11 years of Main Hoon Hero Tera with a social media post featuring Salman performing the track. Amaal objected to the post not mentioning him as the composer and questioned why the people who created the song were missing from the celebration.

Amaal Mallik Says He Tried To Resolve Matter Privately

Addressing the conversation on X, Amaal stressed that his public comments were not his first attempt to get the credit issue corrected.

"Before ever speaking publicly, I have tried my best, called and approached the labels, production houses, actors & others involved privately over the past decade, asking them to add the required credits and metadata to all the streaming networks," he wrote. According to Amaal, he decided to take the matter online only after those efforts failed to produce the changes he had repeatedly requested.

"It was only when they failed to comply with my basic need as an artist - getting due credit - that I went after them and made a post. If you look at my song credits, even today, many of them still do not include my name," he added.

Amaal has also pushed back against describing the episode merely as a "controversy". For him, the matter concerns authorship, accountability and an artist receiving acknowledgment for his work.

'My Father Remained Silent For 15 Years'

The composer also brought his father, musician Daboo Malik, into the conversation and said he had stayed quiet for years because of his relationships within the film industry. "My father, Mr Daboo Malik, remained silent for 15 years out of dignity, respect and consideration for his industry relationships."

Nora Fatehi

On Why She Agreed To Enter Bigg Boss 9: 'Told Them To Give Jhalak Dikhhla Jaa In Return'

Nora Fatehi did not initially want to enter Bigg Boss 9. The actor and dancer has revealed that she agreed to join the Salman Khan-hosted reality show only after being offered a deal she wanted, with a chance to participate in Jhalak Dikhhla Jaa in return.

Nora entered Bigg Boss 9 as a wildcard contestant in December 2015 and was evicted in January 2016. Looking back at her decision, she said she had once viewed reality shows differently but eventually understood how useful they could be for an aspiring artist.

Nora Fatehi wanted Jhalak Dikhhla Jaa

Speaking on the Untriggered podcast, Nora recalled that she was struggling to get payments for some of the songs she had worked on when she received the offer to appear on Bigg Boss. "I did a bunch of songs, and they weren't giving my money. The producers must have paid the agency but... I got to wait for them to pay me. They were not paying me, and I was fighting, and it was just crazy... and then they call me and ask, 'Do you want to do Bigg Boss?' I am like no I don't want to do and you all do not understand my vision, and bla bla... and then they said that I was getting paid this much money. Then I am like (pauses) okay!"

Nora said she then saw the reality show as an opportunity to reach a wider audience. She also knew that, as a wildcard contestant, her stay in the house might not be very long.

"It is not a bad thing; it is a platform, and it

immediately makes you a household name if you are smart. I was also a wildcard entry, so I was not going to stay there for long, and maybe I can exchange it for something else. I really wanted to do Jhalak Dikhhla Jaa, and it was the same channel. So I told them to give me Jhalak, and in return, I would do Bigg Boss. I got Jhalak in exchange," she added.



Nora Fatehi and Prince Narula's Bigg Boss 9 equation

During her time on Bigg Boss 9, Nora developed a close bond with Prince Narula, who eventually won the season. Prince proposed to Nora inside the house, and the two were frequently seen flirting and spending time together. At one point, Prince told Nora that he was grateful to Bigg Boss for bringing her into the house. He also gave her flowers and offered her a ring during their time together on the show.



NEWS BOX

Lindsay Clancy's Ex-Husband Opens Up On Children's Killings In 1st TV Interview

Washington.(Agency)

Lindsay Clancy's former husband said he forgave her for killing their three young children in his first televised interview Sunday on CBS News' "60 Minutes" since a jury deadlocked in her trial for the children's deaths. Patrick Clancy talked about his grief, saying he battled suicidal thoughts after the killings and experienced a panic attack while testifying at Lindsay Clancy's trial when attorneys played to jurors his 911 call to report the children's deaths. At trial, the anguished 911 call included Patrick howling and crying after he discovered the bodies of his children in the family's basement as a confused dispatcher repeatedly asked what happened. Earlier this month, 11 of 12 jurors were ready to clear Lindsay Clancy of criminal responsibility, with the majority feeling that the Massachusetts mom was in the grip of a rare condition called postpartum psychosis when she strangled her kids in 2023. But a lone juror sided with prosecutors, who had argued that Clancy knew what she was doing. The deadlock forced a judge to declare a mistrial on Sept. 4. Patrick Clancy also said his youngest son, Callan, didn't die immediately that fatal day on Jan. 24, 2023, but lived four more days before dying in his arms. While holding his 8-month-old son, he said he typed with one hand tributes to his other children, Cora, 5, and Dawson, 2, and also forgave his wife.

ICE Agent Shoots And Wounds Venezuelan Immigrant In Texas, US Officials Say

WASHINGTON.(Agency)

A US Immigration and Customs Enforcement officer shot and wounded a man Sunday afternoon in Austin, Texas, local authorities said, and anti-ICE protesters quickly gathered at the scene. The man was in serious but stable condition at a hospital after being shot once in the torso on the capital city's north side, Austin officials said at a news conference. The Department of Homeland Security, which oversees ICE, did not participate in the news conference and didn't respond to repeated requests for details. City police officers were not involved in the operation or the shooting, which occurred after a traffic stop, Austin Police Chief Lisa Davis said while briefing reporters along with the city's mayor and other officials. Mayor Kirk Watson, a Democrat, said he wants the city's police department to have a role in the investigation so it can provide "clear, third-party eyes" in the process. Watson said he does not think it would be appropriate for ICE to conduct an investigation on its own. Austin residents have "a right to feel safe in their city," Watson said. A proper investigation will only enhance credibility, he added. The chief said there were not many facts she could provide so soon after the incident but added that her department's special investigation unit was at the scene. An immigration attorney representing the man's family identified him as Wilber Rafael Garcés Perez, a 28-year-old Venezuelan man. Attorney Kate Lincoln Goldfinch said in a video posted to her Instagram account that she believed he had no criminal history and no final order of removal from the U.S., but she later told The Associated Press that she did not know his current immigration status. The man's family has struggled to get any information from the hospital about his status or location, Lincoln-Goldfinch said. Just before 7 p.m., the man's wife was informed by the hospital's attorney that the man had been released into ICE custody a few hours earlier, Lincoln-Goldfinch wrote in a text to AP.

Humanoid Robots Show Off Martial Arts Moves On America's Got Talent, Earn Golden Buzzer

world.(Agency)

Dance brings together movement, rhythm and performance, and a recent act on America's Got Talent combined these elements with martial arts and robotics. Humanoid robots took the stage alongside Chinese dancer Wu Yufei, with the



performance featuring Unitree's G1 humanoid robots. The robots performed a series of synchronised poses, kicks, flips and punches alongside the other performers. They showed their ability to dance while

maintaining balance and carrying out different movements. The routine also included backflips, adding energetic moves to the performance. The combination of dance and martial arts movements made the act stand out, with the robots smoothly performing different steps and actions as part of the routine. The performance also had a major impact on the competition. Judge Sofia Vergara used her Live Golden Buzzer for the Unitree act. America's Got Talent is a popular talent competition show where singers, dancers, magicians, comedians, and other performers of all ages compete for a grand prize of \$1 million. Social Media Reaction A video of the performance has gone viral online, drawing a wave of reactions. One user commented, "This is probably the smoothest and most flexible robot move ever." Another user noted, "Excited for the finale performance."

Trump shattered Canada's old US relationship. Carney is building a new one in Europe

Rather than return to trade talks or wait for the next US president to restore the old relationship, Carney is urgently building a future in which Canada is less dependent on America.

TORONTO.(Agency)

For nearly four decades, Canada built its economy around closer integration with the United States. President Donald Trump has turned that dependence into leverage, imposing tariffs, threatening Canada's sovereignty and openly seeking to pull Canadian industrial production south. Canadian Prime Minister Mark

Carney has moved on. Rather than return to trade talks or wait for the next U.S. president to restore the old relationship, he is urgently building a future in which Canada is less dependent on America. Last week, Carney embraced the prospect of Canada becoming the European Union's first associate member, not as a step toward full membership, but as a way to reduce Canada's dependence on any single country without ceding control over its own decisions. "There is now a price to be paid for access to the United States market," Carney said Sunday, pointing to tariffs, U.S. investment commitments and demands for domestic policy changes.

Carney told the European Parliament on Thursday that countries need enough economic strength to keep any one power from dictating their choices. Building

options beyond the US He carried that argument into a meeting Sunday with French President Emmanuel Macron in Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon, the French



territory just off Newfoundland's coast. "Canada and Europe will build an alliance for the future that will strengthen our collective resilience so we can live our

lives as we choose based on the values that we share," Carney said while standing alongside Macron. Carney's relentless schedule reflects the urgency of his push to build alternatives to the United States. He began last week in Toronto hosting some of the world's biggest investors, flew to Strasbourg, France, for European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen's State of the European Union address, raced to Liverpool, England, to meet Britain's new prime minister and returned to Strasbourg to address the European Parliament.

He met Macron in Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon before flying back to Ottawa to meet Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre. On Monday, he is set to open a new session of Parliament before heading to New York for the United Nations General Assembly.

'I live in fear': 1.5 million Pakistani children sexually exploited online

ISLAMABAD.(Agency)

Pakistani teenager Zara Shah was targeted by a stranger while playing a computer game, drawn into a conversation that would expose her to terrifying online sexual exploitation. Zara, whose name has been changed by AFP for safety reasons, is one of an estimated 1.5 million children in Pakistan who experienced online sexual abuse in one year, according to a report published by the UN children's agency this month. "We started chatting while playing an online game, and he began acting like a friend. Later, he wanted to meet and, after, started asking me for nudes," 17-year-old Shah said. "When I refused, he threatened to find my family online and tell them that we had been talking," she added. According to the UNICEF report, around 85 percent of perpetrators

were known to the victims, aged between 12 and 17. "The abuse may start with a friendly conversation, a



gaming interaction, a promise of gifts, money or romance," Daniel Kardefelt, lead author of the global UNICEF report, told AFP.

"Perpetrators may spend months building trust using information that they find on social media," Kardefelt said. In Muslim-majority Pakistan, 71 percent of victims did not tell anyone, according to the UNICEF report,

while no child surveyed reported the abuse through formal channels -- including police, helplines or social workers. Their silence was mostly because of stigma, shame and fears over how their families or society may react. "Around 44 percent of reported abuse was entirely online, with Snapchat and WhatsApp among the most common settings," said Mehek Naeem, director of PAHCHAAN, a children's rights organisation based in the eastern city of Lahore. Girls can face heightened risks of sexual extortion in the conservative society, which can lead to restrictions on their mobility or withdrawal from school. For Zara, the threat of being exposed to her family was enough to keep her silent. "I could have been stopped from going to school or leaving the house altogether," she said. "Staying quiet felt like the better option than speaking up."

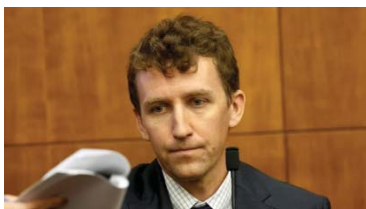
'I believed it was her mental illness': Patrick Clancy breaks silence after Lindsay's mistrial

At trial, Patrick Clancy's emotional 911 call was played after he found his children's bodies in the family basement.

world.(Agency)

Lindsay Clancy's former husband said he forgave her for killing their three young children in his first televised interview Sunday on CBS News' "60 Minutes" since a jury deadlocked in her trial for the children's deaths. Patrick Clancy talked about his grief, saying he battled suicidal thoughts after the killings and experienced a panic attack while testifying at Lindsay Clancy's trial when attorneys played to jurors his 911 call to report the children's deaths. At trial, the

anguished 911 call included Patrick howling and crying after he discovered the bodies of his children in the family's basement as a confused dispatcher repeatedly asked what happened. Earlier this month, 11 of 12 jurors were ready to clear



Lindsay Clancy of criminal responsibility, with the majority feeling that the Massachusetts mom was in the grip of a rare condition called postpartum psychosis when she strangled her kids in 2023. But a lone juror sided with prosecutors, who had argued that Clancy knew what she was doing. The deadlock forced a judge to declare a mistrial on

Sept. 4. Clancy says 8-month-old son died in his arms. Patrick Clancy also said his youngest son, Callan, didn't die immediately that fatal day on Jan. 24, 2023, but lived four more days before dying in his arms. While holding his 8-month-old son, he said he typed with one hand tributes to his other children, Cora, 5, and Dawson, 2, and also forgave his wife. "I saw headlines that say 'killer mom' and 'baby murderer monster' and none of them were accurate," he said. "I believed that it was her mental illness that caused that." Clancy says conspiracy theories distract from main concern of perinatal mental health. Clancy said stress from the murders and trial took a toll. "There was a time I didn't think I would live to see my 35th birthday, and I was completely fine with it," he said. He also addressed social media conspiracy theories surrounding the case, which have included unfounded claims he was connected to the death of his children.

Iran rules out Hormuz reopening until US meets conditions; US redirects 109 vessels near Strait to enforce blockade

world.(Agency)

Iran has ruled out reopening the Strait of Hormuz or returning to the previous framework of negotiations with the United States until Washington meets Tehran's conditions, Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf said, amid heightened tensions between the two countries. Iran has conveyed its demands to the US through intermediaries and would not reconsider its position until those conditions were met, Ghalibaf said. "Our messages and conditions have been conveyed explicitly to the other side through intermediaries. And until these conditions are met, the inalienable rights of the Iranian nation are recognised, and the Americans fulfil their commitments, there will be no possibility of a return to the previous negotiation framework or to reopen the Strait of Hormuz," he said.

The Strait of Hormuz, a key route for global energy shipments, has become a major flashpoint in the confrontation, with restrictions on maritime traffic raising concerns over disruptions to oil supplies and international trade. The remarks came after Iran's central military command warned that any renewed US military action would trigger attacks on American bases and interests across the region.

The Khatam al-Anbiya Central Headquarters said in a statement carried by Iran's state-run IRNA that any US military action would be met with "continuous, effective and painful" attacks. "Should the United States make any mistake against the Islamic Republic of Iran, all its bases and interests in the region will be targeted in continuous, effective and painful attacks without any limitation or consideration," the statement said. The Iranian military command also warned countries in the region against supporting any US military operation, saying those that assist Washington would be treated as participants in the action. Meanwhile, the US Central Command said its forces had redirected 109 commercial vessels as part of efforts to enforce Washington's naval blockade on Iran. "A U.S. Sailor stands watch aboard USS John Paul Jones (DDG 53). As of Sept. 20, CENTCOM forces have redirected 109 commercial vessels to ensure total compliance," CENTCOM said in a post on X. The U.S. military resumed enforcement of the blockade on maritime traffic entering and leaving Iranian ports on July 14.

U.S. President Donald Trump has warned Tehran of significant consequences if it refuses to alter its behaviour, while indicating that he could be open to talks with Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian during the UN General Assembly in New York.

Trump decries Democrats as 'communists,' even as he looks to impress China's communist leader

WASHINGTON.(Agency)

Communism, President Donald Trump says, is the greatest threat the U.S. has ever faced. This summer, citing similarly grave concerns, he took the rare step of delivering a primetime address to the nation, accusing China of "sinister election meddling" in 2020 and reviving his yearslong push to dispute his loss in that year's election. Even as Trump seeks to decry Democrats as communists ahead of November's midterm elections, he is rolling out the red carpet this week for Chinese President Xi Jinping, the leader of the world's most powerful communist country. The state visit comes as the president himself has increasingly directed his administration to take large stakes in private companies to try to stimulate the economy — something even some Republicans decry as corporate socialism. The contradictions between Trump's words and actions risk muddying Republican attack lines on Democrats. "I do think that we're not offering a clear contrast,"

said Marc Short, who was chief of staff to former Vice President Mike Pence and worked in Trump's White House in his first term. Trump and the GOP argue Democrats have moved too far left



During the recent Republican midterm convention in Dallas, the president repeatedly branded Democrats as communists, even proclaiming, "It's going to be a communist country if they win." In state after state, the Democrat establishment has been overthrown and replaced by crazed lunatics and radicals," he said, adding,

"America has beaten communism before, and we will beat it again." That's a reference to candidates aligned with democratic socialists who won Democratic primaries in Michigan, Colorado, New York, Florida and Pennsylvania. Trump and other Republicans argue it shows the party is too extreme, although they exaggerate many of the political realities. It is a way to shift the narrative in the face of a series of drags on the popularity of Trump and his party with Election Day looming. Those include an increasingly unpopular war in Iran, concerns about inflation remaining high and Trump's approval ratings retreating to near historic lows. Meanwhile, Trump has taken government stakes in private companies. The White House secured agreements giving the federal government stakes in more than 30 companies — including nuclear power producer Westinghouse, metals and element concerns and chipmaker Intel.