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TRUMP SAYS CLOSE TO TRADE DEAL WITH INDIA

■ New Delhi has maintained India will accept the deal when it is properly concluded and in the national interest

AGENCIES
NEW YORK/WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump has said that the US is close to making a trade deal with India, as his administration started sending letters detailing the levies that Washington will impose on products from those countries entering America.

"Now, we've made a deal with the United Kingdom, we've made a deal with China...We're close to making a deal with India," Trump has said.

"Others we met with and we don't think we're going to be able to make a deal, so we just send them a letter. If you want to play ball, this is what you have to pay."

His remarks came as the US extended the suspen-

FREE TRADE

- US extended the suspension of its April 2 reciprocal tariffs until August 1, providing a three-week time for India and the US to resolve their pending issues
- It gives a three-week time for India and the US to resolve pending issues
- Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said India does not enter into any trade agreement based on deadlines
- Agriculture and dairy sectors are difficult and challenging areas for India to give duty concessions to the US.



"Now, we've made a deal with the United Kingdom, we've made a deal with China...We're close to making a deal with India"

- India has not opened up dairy in any of its free trade pacts signed so far

sion of its April 2 reciprocal tariffs until August 1, providing a three-week time for India and the US to resolve their pending issues.

Last week, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said India does not enter into any trade agreement based on deadlines and will accept the proposed trade deal with the US only when it is fully finalised, properly concluded and in the national interest.

The high tariffs announced by the US on April 2 were suspended by the Trump administration till July 9.

The agriculture and dairy sectors are difficult and challenging areas for India to give duty concessions to the US. India has not opened up dairy in any of

'Kerala nurse on death row to be executed on July 16'

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Sources have noted that they are closely following the matter on the Nimisha Priya case of Yemen where she was convicted for the crime of murder in Yemen in June 2018. According to sources, the matter continues to be closely followed.

As per the sources, "Ms. Nimisha Priya was convicted for the crime of murder in Yemen in June 2018 and the local court handed out death sentence to her. We have been closely following the matter since then. We have been in regular touch with local authorities and her family members and rendered all possible assistance. We continue to closely



'Arbitrary' surge in air ticket prices will be curbed soon: DGCA

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Aviation regulator DGCA said on Tuesday it will put in place a mechanism to curb whopping surge in air ticket prices, recently witnessed during the Maha Kumbh and post-Pahalgam terror attack. The issue, coupled with concerns over air safety after the Ahmedabad plane crash, dominated proceedings at a parliamentary panel meeting.

Air India CEO and MD Campbell Wilson told the committee his airline will complete retrofitting of its fleet in two years to address frequent complaints about its seats and other facilities, and underscored its commitment to flight safety, sources said.

Some members of the Public Accounts Committee, led by Congress MP K C Venugopal, demanded



The Directorate General of Civil Aviation is likely to put a cap on prices for certain routes.

Air India crash: Initial report submitted to ministry

ANAND SINGH
NEW DELHI

Almost 26 days after the tragic air crash involving Air India London-bound AI171, which left over 270 dead on June 12, the Aircraft Accidents Investigation Bureau (AAIB) has shared its preliminary report with the Ministry of Civil Aviation, sources said on Tuesday.

According to sources, the AAIB submitted its preliminary report of crash after

studying and analysing the reports it gathered from the two black boxes that were recovered and whose data were successfully downloaded.

The source said that the report outlined the key observations by the investigators related to flight data, weather conditions, electrical, mechanical or technical performance by the aircraft after taking off from the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

Language row spills over to streets

THANE: High drama unfolded in Mira Bhayandar area near Mumbai on Tuesday as hundreds took part in a protest march led by the MNS and other groups to defend the Marathi 'asmita' (pride) amid rising political heat following the attack on a shopkeeper for refusal to speak Marathi.



MNS supporters hold a protest in Mumbai on Tuesday

The march witnessed detention of several activists by the police with leaders and workers of opposition Shiv Sena (UBT) and NCP (SP) also joining the protest. Shiv Sena minister Pratap Sarnaik was heckled and driven away by angry demonstrators.

'Hooliganism' by Raj Thackeray: Dubey

NEW DELHI: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP Nishikant Dubey on Tuesday lashed out at Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) chief Raj Thackeray after incidents of violence and vandalism by MNS workers were reported in the state amid Hindi-Marathi language row.



"Limits of tolerance have been exhausted"

'Remarks not aimed at Marathi community'

MUMBAI: Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Tuesday responded to BJP MP Nishikant Dubey's controversial comments that sparked a row across the state, clarifying that the remarks were not aimed at the Marathi community but at certain organisations that, according to Dubey, triggered the controversy. "Whatever Dubey has said, he has not said it for the common Marathi people..." said Fadnavis.



"Whatever Nishikant Dubey has said, he has said it for organisations that fuelled this row"

Amarnath pilgrim dies at Ganderbal

ASHIQ MIR
SRINAGAR

A 69-year-old Amarnath Yatra pilgrim from Bengaluru passed away on Tuesday after collapsing near the Baltal base camp in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district. He reportedly fell unconscious during the course of the pilgrimage and could not be revived despite immediate medical attention.

Necessary medico-legal formalities have been initiated.

Bihar limits women quota in jobs to residents

AGENCIES
PATNA

The Bihar cabinet on Tuesday decided that the 35 per cent quota for women in government jobs will now be restricted to permanent residents of the state.

The decision was taken with barely a few months left before the state goes to the polls, amid growing demands for the implementation of a domicile policy in government jobs.

"The cabinet approved an important proposal of the General Administration Department, allowing the



Bihar CM Nitish Kumar

35 per cent quota for women in government jobs to be restricted only for permanent residents of Bihar. The new policy will enhance financial independence and job security for permanent resident women of the state," Additional Chief Secretary

(Cabinet Secretariat) S Siddhartha said.

The government had introduced 35 per cent reservation for women in government jobs at all levels in 2016. Earlier, women from any state could have taken advantage of it. Ahead of the assembly elections, the demand for the implementation of a domicile policy has been growing.

Leader of the Opposition Tejashwi Yadav has promised '100 per cent domicile' if his RJD comes to power following the polls.

Union minister Chirag Paswan, a BJP ally, also

raised his voice for a domicile policy, but questioned the RJD's commitment to the issue.

Last week, a large number of job aspirants demonstrated in the state capital, demanding the implementation of the domicile policy in government jobs.

Dilip Kumar, one of the leaders of the demonstration, welcomed the government's decision.

"Now, the government must introduce a domicile policy to ensure 90 per cent representation of the state's youth in government jobs," he said.

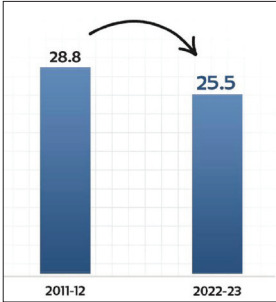
Big fall in inequality under Modi govt, asserts BJP

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

The BJP asserted on Tuesday that inequality in the country has declined significantly under the Modi government compared to the rule of Congress-led UPA, as it cited the World Bank report which stated that the country has reached fourth position globally in equality with a Gini Index score of 25.2.

BJP national spokesperson Syed Zafar Islam noted the index, a measure of income or wealth inequality,

GREATER INCOME EQUALITY



was at 28.5 when the UPA was in power, indicating significant inequalities in society.

Taking a swipe at the

Congress over its frequent attacks on the government over its economic policies, he said over 20 crore people have gained employment during its 11-year-old term which, Islam added, is almost four times the membership of the opposition party.

He told reporters, "With continuous reforms over the past 11 years under the Modi government, the country has moved towards greater equality. This improvement in the Gini Index reflects Prime Minister Narendra

Fuel ban on overage vehicles in Delhi put on hold till Nov 1

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

The Centre's panel on air quality in Delhi-NCR on Tuesday decided to put on hold the implementation of the fuel ban on end-of-life (EOL) or overage vehicles in the national capital until November 1, sources said.

EOL vehicles are diesel vehicles older than 10 years and petrol vehicles older than 15 years.

According to directions issued earlier, such vehicles

are not to be given fuel in Delhi from July 1 irrespective of the states they are registered in.

Delhi Environment Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa last week requested the Commission For Air Quality Management (CAQM) to withhold action against such vehicles, calling the move "premature and potentially counterproductive", citing "operational and infrastructural challenges".



User trials of Extended Range Anti-Submarine Rocket (ERASR) successfully carried out from INS Kavaratti, on Tuesday. ANI

Gang violence on the rise in Punjab

VIPIN PARMAR
CHANDIGARH

Incidents of gangster shootings and murders have surged in Punjab. In the last ten days, four major incidents across different districts have left the police and the administration on the edge. Four separate gangs have claimed responsibility for the attacks, with motives

of extortion and territorial dominance.

Targeted killings and public shootouts have created a fear and panic in residents. Prominent businessmen and singer-actors were among the targets. According to sources, hefty ransoms were demanded from them.

The alarming rise in gang-related violence has drawn

Police on the edge as four major incidents in the past 10 days have created fear and panic in the public

sharp criticisms from the opposition. Congress MLA and Leader of the Opposi-

tion Pratap Singh Bajwa accused the Aam Aadmi Party-led state government of surrendering Punjab to "bullets and bloodshed".

Harjeet Kaur, mother of notorious gangster Jaggu Bhagwanpuria, and his accomplice Karanvir were killed in Gurdaspur on June 28. The two were in a car outside the house in Batala when two attackers came on

a bike and opened fire. The Bambiha gang claimed responsibility for the murder by posting posts on social media.

"Donny Bal, Billa Manga, Prabhu Dasuwal and Kaushal Chaudhary committed this murder," the post read. Karanvir handled Jaggu's affairs. He was killed and avenged for Gora's murder.

'OBJECTIONABLE': BJP SEEKS KHARGE'S APOLOGIES OVER REMARKS ON PRESIDENT

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The BJP on Tuesday accused Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge of insulting President Droupadi Murmu and her predecessor Ram Nath Kovind by using certain “objectionable” words against them, and demanded a public apology from him and his party.

This came a day after Kharge, while speaking at an event in Chhattisgarh, reportedly mispronounced the names of President Murmu and her predecessor Kovind but quickly corrected himself.

Addressing a public rally in Raipur on Monday, the Congress president also said that “The BJP always speaks about making (Droupadi) Murmu ji and (Ram Nath) Kovind ji



presidents of the country but did the party do all this to snatch our assets, forests, water and land”.

At a press conference here, BJP national spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia charged that Kharge used “objectionable words for President Droupadi Murmu ji and former President Ram Nath Kovind ji”.

This shows the “anti-Dalit, anti-Adivasi and anti-Constitution” mindset of the Congress in its DNA, he charged.

“You (Kharge) talk big - you called Ram Nath Kovind ji ‘covid’....You call ‘Murma ji’ and then called her (President Droupadi Murmu) a land mafia, alleging that she has become President to snatch

away assets, forests,” he charged.

There was no immediate reaction from the Congress to the BJP charge.

Bhatia demanded that Kharge apologise for making “distasteful and derogatory” remarks against Murmu and Kovind, alleging the Congress president did not only insult them but also hurt

the sentiments of Adivasi and Dalit community members with his comments. He also demanded a public apology from the Congress for Kharge’s remarks and asked the Congress workers to make him resign from the post of party president.

“If the Congress and Mallikarjun Kharge do not apologise, you will see every citizen (of the country) expressing their anger. This mistake will cost Congress dearly,” Bhatia said. Calling Kharge a “remote-controlled” national president of the Congress, the BJP spokesperson alleged that he made “objectionable comments” at the behest of party leader Rahul Gandhi.

“Entire India, Adivasi society, Dalit society and women are condemning Mallikarjun Kharge and the Congress,” he added.

Jairam slams PM Modi for silence on US claims of stopping hostilities

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Congress leader and member of Rajya Sabha, Jairam Ramesh, on Tuesday slammed Prime Minister Narendra Modi for not countering United States President Donald Trump’s claim of stopping hostilities between India and Pakistan.

In a post on X, Ramesh highlighted a few points made by Donald Trump. The X post further read, “President Trump has trumpeted all this just as he was also announcing that a US trade deal with India and Pakistan was about to be declared very soon. When will Narendra Modi, once described by his senior colleague Ghanshyam Tiwari as the BJP’s ‘trump card’, break his silence on this issue?”



face the real prospects of losing American markets (and presumably investment).”

The X post further read, “President Trump has trumpeted all this just as he was also announcing that a US trade deal with India and Pakistan was about to be declared very soon. When will Narendra Modi, once described by his senior colleague Ghanshyam Tiwari as the BJP’s ‘trump card’, break his silence on this issue?”

This social media post by Jairam Ramesh follows US President Trump’s recent

repetition of this claim during an interaction with reporters.

US President Donald Trump said, “We stopped a lot of fights, very, very big ones, like India and Pakistan. We stopped that overtrade. We are dealing with India and Pakistan. We stated that we will not deal with you if you intend to fight. They were maybe at a nuclear stage. Stopping that was important.”

In the latest update regarding the trade deal, Trump said, “We’ve spoken to everybody, and it is all done. I told you we’ll make some deals, but for the most part, we’re going to send a letter. We’d like to welcome you to the United States, if you’d like to participate in the greatest and most successful country ever. We are doing better than ever. We’ve never had numbers like this.

Key suspect in Patna bizman murder killed in encounter

TDG NETWORK
PATNA

A key suspect in the murder of industrialist Gopal Khemka was killed in a gunfight with the police in Patna’s Damarua Ghat area in the early hours of Tuesday, officials said.

Vikas alias Raja (29), the suspect, was wanted in several other criminal cases as well, they said.

Acting on a tip-off, the team of officers probing the murder case reached Damarua Ghat around 2.25 am in search of Vikas, an official said.

“On spotting the police personnel, he tried to escape and also opened fire. The officers retaliated, and he was killed,” the police official said.

No police personnel sustained any injury, he added.

A pistol, a spent and a live cartridge were recovered from the spot, the official said.

“It is suspected that Vikas, a resident of Malsami locality of the city, provided the weapon that was used in the murder of Khemka,” he said.

Police have already arrested the gunman, identified as Umesh Rai, and detained another person who is suspected of hiring the contract killer.

“The contract killer was arrested in Patna. The investigation is in progress. We will share more details in due course,” said the official.

How election commission of India fumbled a democratic necessity

ABHINANDAN MISHRA
NEW DELHI



A novel, desirable exercise that, ideally, would have strengthened the democratic process, increased trust in the Election Commission of India, and made it appear more robust in the eyes of both voters and those who seek their votes, has become controversial—due to what appears to be a lack of foresight and uncalled-for urgency by the body administered by retired bureaucrats.

These same bureaucrats are selected to lead this body because they are expected to understand the ground realities, the problems faced by the people, and the difficulties that arise in implementing policies on the ground.

The ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar is the latest example of how most of the babudom in India continues to moves—with force, without caring for the impact on the ground, mostly erratic, and without nuance—like a wild elephant drunk on mahua, the local drink popular in the Eastern states of India.

Why did the ECI not carry out this door-to-door exercise to verify its rolls against voter documents in the intervening years? The ECI has no response.

Why was it ordered now—less than four months before the elections, after a gap of 22 years, and that too without prior public notice? The ECI has no response. Why has Aadhaar, the supposed one-stop, mother of all documents, not been permitted as valid proof of domicile and stay? The ECI has no response. The ECI claims

with the rest of India, witnessed was in April–May 2024; before that, it was the October 2020 assembly polls. At that time, the total number of electors in Bihar stood at 7.06 crore. Now, it is 7.90 crore.

Why did the ECI not carry out this door-to-door exercise to verify its rolls against voter documents in the intervening years? The ECI has no response.

Why was it ordered now—less than four months before the elections, after a gap of 22 years, and that too without prior public notice? The ECI has no response. Why has Aadhaar, the supposed one-stop, mother of all documents, not been permitted as valid proof of domicile and stay? The ECI has no response. The ECI claims

it needs to update its list, as many voters have either permanently or temporarily moved out of Bihar. Removing the names of those who have permanently relocated is indeed a justified step. But what about the crores of migrant workers, blue- and white-collar employees, who are working across India—from the far North to the deep South?

It is not a misstatement to say that people from Bihar can be found in the remotest parts of India, including the Northeast. This was clearly evident during the reverse migration that took place during the COVID lockdown. In many households, these workers are the only able-bodied and literate individuals capable of preparing official documents.

Manipur HC asks NIA for progress report in minor victim’s case

NIBIR DEKA
MANIPUR

The Manipur High Court has directed the National Investigation Agency (NIA) to submit a detailed progress report in connection with a serious incident that took place in November last year. This was in hearing a Public Interest Litigation filed by Soram Tekendrajit against the Union of India and five others. The matter was heard by Chief Justice K Somashekar and Justice Ahnath Hem Bikol Singh. The case involves six individuals, including three minor children, and seeks action against the accused involved in an incident that occurred on November 11, 2024. An FIR had been filed the same day, but no charge sheet or progress report has been submitted by the NIA in over seven months.

Senior counsel Kh. Tarunkumar appeared on behalf of the petitioner, while W. Darakeshwar represented the NIA.

The court expressed concern over the delay, noting that despite the time elapsed, the investigating agency has failed to submit a report as required under Section 167 of the Criminal Procedure Code. The bench emphasized the seriousness of the matter and stated that failure to file a charge sheet would be viewed gravely.

Plea in SC on roll revision before every poll in country

New Delhi: A plea in the Supreme Court has sought Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, particularly before parliamentary, state assembly and local body elections in the country.

On Monday, the top court agreed to hear on July 10 a batch of petitions challenging the decision of the Election Commission of India (ECI) to undertake special intensive revision of electoral rolls in poll-bound Bihar. A bench of Justices Sudhanshu Dhulia and Joyimala Bagchi

the apex court against the poll panel’s decision to conduct the special intensive revision before Bihar go to polls later this year.

As the top court is set to become the new battle ground between the opposition and the poll authority, EC officials said the revision exercise is all-inclusive as it is reaching the existing 7,89,69,844 electors of Bihar.

They said pre-filled enumeration forms with details such as elector’s name, address, old photo are made available to every existing

Chouhan’s aims to resolve farmer issues before they again reach streets

AJIT MAINDOLA
NEW DELHI

Former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan is the first Union Agriculture Minister of the country who, instead of sitting in Delhi, visits states and directly interacts with farmers, listens to their problems, and tries to find solutions. He also provides information to farmers about modern technology, balanced fertilizers and medicines, and guides them on which crops to choose to increase production.

Chouhan also holds discussions with farmers as well as agricultural scientists and takes suggestions from them. As soon as he took charge of the Agriculture Ministry in Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s team, Chouhan spent the first two to four months in Delhi studying the ministry and then set out on a tour of the states. He has visited most



of the states from north to south and east to west, and the tour is still ongoing.

In May, Agriculture Minister Chouhan launched a nationwide “Developed Agriculture Resolution Campaign” to bring Prime Minister Modi’s vision of “Lab to Land” to the ground. The campaign was started on May 28, and in about one and a half months, he has visited 20 states. He set an ambitious target, which he is close to achieving.

The timing of the campaign was notable, as it coincided with the summer months when many senior leaders travel abroad for vacation. In contrast, Chouhan

chose to be among farmers in the scorching heat. Nearly 700 districts of the country were to be covered in this period, with the aim of directly engaging with 1.5 crore farmers. Chouhan is now close to meeting that target. His tours are continuing in July as well—he was in Chhattisgarh on Tuesday and will visit Andhra Pradesh on Thursday. The hallmark of Agriculture Minister Chouhan’s tours so far has been his on-ground approach. He visits fields, ponds, and remote villages to speak directly with farmers. He even meets fish producers at their ponds.

Mass eviction in Assam's Dhubri clears 3,500 Bighas for Adani-linked power project

NIBIR DEKA
GUWAHATI

In a major land clearance operation, the Dhubri district administration on Tuesday conducted a large-scale eviction drive across Charuwa-Bakhra, Santoshpur, and Chirakuta—approximately 55 kilometers from Dhubri town—clearing around 3,500 bighas of government khas land.

The operation aims to pave the way for a proposed thermal power project under the Assam Power Development Corporation Limited (APDCL), in collaboration with the Adani Group. Heavy machinery, including bulldozers, was deployed to demolish longstanding residential structures—some of which had stood for decades.

According to officials, the eviction drive faced resistance from sections of local residents. Protesters reportedly hurled stones at police and damaged government property, prompting a strong security response. Official estimates suggest that over 2,000 families had been residing on the land for several years. While many residents voluntarily vacated and dismantled their homes ahead of the operation, tensions escalated as the eviction progressed. Locals blocked roads and staged protests, demanding fair rehabilitation and compensation.



Law enforcement was swiftly mobilized to maintain order. Dhubri Superintendent of Police Leena Doley personally oversaw the situation on the ground amid growing unrest. The district administration has announced a one-time compensation of 50,000 for each evicted family. Landless families are also being considered for relocation to Boyjer-Alga under the Athani Revenue Circle.

The situation grew more volatile with the arrival of independent MLA Akhil Gogoi, who attempted to visit the

eviction site but was detained at Chapar Police Station. Authorities claimed his presence

‘Encroachers’ damage excavators, try to attack police during eviction drive

Dhubri: Alleged encroachers damaged excavators and tried to attack police personnel during an eviction drive in Assam’s Dhubri district on Tuesday, prompting security forces to resort to a baton charge to disperse the mob, officials said.

Altogether 1,069 families were living in three revenue villages where the anti-encroachment drive was being carried out, a district

official said.

Police had to resort to baton charge as the situation threatened to turn volatile around noon, though the rest of the operation was carried out in a peaceful manner with heavy security deployment and in the presence of top civil and police officers.

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma affirmed that the government will continue to clear encroached

land so that it can be used for public purposes.

“About 90 per cent of the encroachers had already left the place. The eviction had to be carried out for only 10 per cent people... our objective is that all encroached land in the state will be cleared so that it can be used for public good,” Sarma told reporters on the sidelines of a programme in Tamulpur.

He added that another

eviction drive to clear reserve forest land in Goalpara district will be carried out on Thursday.

Dhubri District Commissioner (DC) Dibakar Nath said about 3,500 bighas of land under Chapar circle office of Bilasipara sub-district is being cleared during the drive.

“An ex gratia of Rs 50,000 to each family who were living here without land rights has been sanctioned.

incited unrest among a section of the population, despite initial cooperation from most affected

families. Sporadic protests continued throughout the day, with sev-

eral displaced families voicing dissatisfaction over the government’s response.

THE DAILY GUARDIAN SURVEY ON CORONA VACCINE SIDE EFFECTS

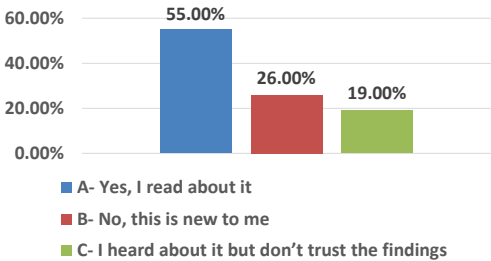
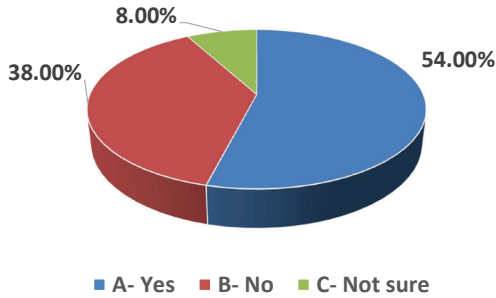
64 % trust medical institutions like AIIMS and ICMR to give unbiased health information.

The TDG survey reflects a blend of concern and trust among the public regarding Covid-19 vaccines. Many have encountered reports of adverse

effects, yet faith in medical institutions remains largely intact. Despite lingering doubts, a significant number are willing to follow official

health recommendations, indicating cautious confidence in scientific guidance.

Q1. Have you heard reports linking Covid-19 vaccines to sudden cardiac deaths in young individuals?

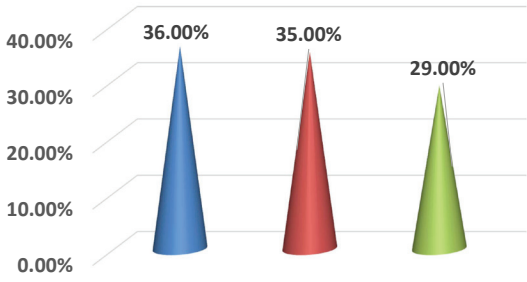
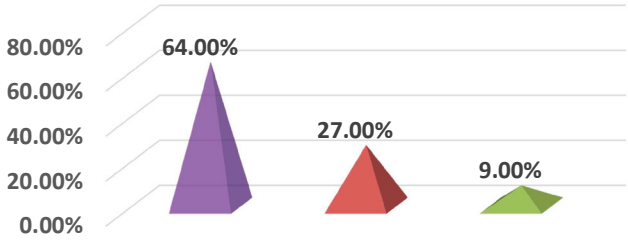


Q2.

Are you aware of the recent AIIMS-ICMR study that found no link between Covid vaccines and sudden cardiac deaths?

Q3. Do you trust medical institutions like AIIMS and ICMR to give unbiased health information?

Yes No Somewhat



Q4.

Would you still take a Covid-19 booster dose if recommended by health authorities?

Yes, without hesitation Maybe, if necessary No, I am concerned about side effects

Big fall in inequality under Modi govt, asserts BJP

CONTINUED FROM P1

Modi's vision of a New India."

Citing another survey, he said India is among the leading countries in terms of people's faith in democracy. People of India firmly

believe that along with development, the "dignity of democracy" is also being consistently upheld in the country, he added.

According to the World Bank, he said, during the UPA regime India's population under poverty was

27 per cent which has now come down to 5.35 per cent. The Modi government has lifted 25 crore people out of poverty, he added.

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh claims unemployment and inflation have risen under the govern-

ment, he said, adding that the Rajya Sabha MP should know that the CPI index is currently at its lowest level at 2.3 percent while food inflation has dropped from 5.6 percent during the UPA era to just 0.99 percent now.

Gang violence on the rise in Punjab

CONTINUED FROM P1

der.

No arrests have been made in this case so far.

On July 4, Anil Kamboj, father of Bollywood actress Tania, was shot dead by miscreants who came disguised as patients at Isay Khan in Moga. They later fled from the spot.

On July 6, a Punjab Police team encountered three gangsters in the case and arrested them. They were accomplices of Khalistani terrorist Lakhbir Singh. Lakhbir had demanded a ransom from Dr. Anil. He was targeted for not paying the money.

On July 5, Jugraj Singh alias Tota was shot dead in broad daylight at village Channan in Amritsar. He

was a member of the Jaggu Bhagwanpuria gang and brother of Jagroop Singh Roopa, who was involved in the Moosewala murder case.

The Gopi Ghanshyampuriah gang claimed responsibility for the murder. The Ghanshyampuriah gang works closely with the Bambiha gang in Punjab. At this time, this gang is targeting the henchmen of Jaggu Bhagwanpuria.

Sanjay Verma, a fashion designer and a big textile trader, was shot dead in Abohar on July 7. As soon as Sanjay Verma got out of the car outside the showroom, bike-borne miscreants opened fire on him. The Lawrence Gang claimed responsibility for the murder. The police are also in-

vestigating the case from a ransom angle.

Incidents of targeting businesses have increased exponentially in Punjab. The biggest reason behind this is ransom money. Businessmen are a soft targets. They would be asked on phone to pay up. No more threats if they pay up. Otherwise, they would scare them out of their wits. If still don't pay up, they are targeted.

The battle for territorial dominance is a factor for the recent spike in gangster activities. The murder Jaggu Bhagwanpuria's mother and his accomplice were in an instance. The only reason behind this murder is the battle for supremacy. Because Jaggu Bhagwanpuria Majha (Amritsar, Tarn-Taran, Gur-

daspur, Pathankot) dominates the area significantly. The murder was carried out by the Bambiha gang to reduce Jaggu's dominance and get his name discussed in the business lobby of the area.

Lawrence Bishnoi gang is divided into three parts. Jaggu Bhagwanpuria first parted ways with the Lawrence Gang after the murder of Punjabi singer Sidhu Moosewala. Gangsters Goldie Brar and Rohit Godara, who were sitting in Canada, then parted ways with Lawrence.

Now, all three gangs are doing different jobs. Taking advantage of this, gangsters who are currently running the Bambiha gang have become active again in Punjab.

Amarnath pilgrim dies at Ganderbal

CONTINUED FROM P1

ated by the authorities.

It has been less than a week into the 38-day Amarnath Yatra. At the Chandanwari base camp, pilgrims prepare for a gruelling three km uphill trek. The trail climbs steeply to an altitude of 11,000 feet above sea level and each step grows heavier, the air thinner

and the challenge more intense.

For years, the route had remained untouched. It is a narrow, muddy path carved by the nature into the mountainside, barely allowing two pilgrims to pass. Today, the path has been widened and improved. Locking tiles now secure the trail, solar-powered lights illuminate the dark alpine terrain, and safety rails line the edges,

offering guidance and protection to the faithful on this demanding spiritual journey.

But this has come at a cost. Where once white glacial streams cascaded in diamond-bright torrents, now mere trickles escape from mounds of rubble. Trees stand mutilated, their branches severed to accommodate the wider paths.

'Curbing surge in air ticket prices'

CONTINUED FROM P1

an audit of the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security, citing a spate of incidents concerning operational safety, and asked when the probe report into the crash will be ready.

With the probe still going on, there was no detailed discussion on the Ahmedabad crash, and members confined themselves to broader concerns about safety.

Venugopal told reporters after the meeting that the committee members were all worried about safety issues, with NCP MP Praful Patel noting that several incidents following the crash were reported and that every passenger wants to feel safe about their journey.

Members grilled official agencies over what some of them described as an "arbitrary" surge in air ticket prices and cited a host of examples, including the manifold hike in fares for planes flying from Srinagar after the Pahalgam terror attack and during the Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj, according to the sources.

When an official said the Directorate General of Civil

Aviation (DGCA) will be talking to airlines to have a consensus on developing a mechanism against it, a BJP member shot back wondering if the unfair practice will continue for want of consensus while some other MPs added that the aviation regular has the remit to take action.

The DGCA said it will be putting guidelines in place to curb any unreasonable surge in prices, the sources said, and added that the regulator is likely to put a cap on prices for certain routes.

Amid complaints of broken or uncomfortable seats in Air India planes and other issues of passenger convenience, an MP in the meeting recalled his recent visit abroad in the business class of the airline, highlighting his discomfort caused by the condition of the seat.

Air India CEO Wilson said his airline is working to address these concerns and will do an overhaul of its fleet in two years.

Some members demanded an overall safety audit of all flights in operation, with the DGCA asserting that it has kept passengers' well-

being paramount.

One of the MPs sought to know from the ministry of officials about the time frame for completing the analysis of the aircraft's black boxes, the sources said.

A member, sources said, claimed that while user charges have risen, the convenience for travellers has declined.

Patel, a former civil aviation minister and a member of the committee, said MPs had valid concerns about the price surge. It falls within the jurisdiction of the DGCA and the ministry, and they should invoke existing provisions to maintain ticket prices at a reasonable level, he added.

On safety, he said the DGCA needs more skilled experts at the senior level, suggesting that it should reemploy retired officials with requisite expertise to fill the gap.

It will help ensure that all safety standards are fully complied, he said. An audit of the entire sector and all aircraft may be done at the earliest to restore passenger confidence, he said, while insisting that Indian aviation is safe and there is no need to panic.

Trump says close to trade deal with India

CONTINUED FROM P1

its free trade pacts signed so far.

Trump's remarks came as his administration sent out the first tranche of "letters" to various countries on Monday detailing the tariffs that the US will impose on products from those countries entering America.

India was not included in the list of countries that received tariff letters from the Trump administration on Monday.

The countries that got these letters, signed by Trump, were Bangladesh, Bosnia and Herzegovina,

Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Kazakhstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Serbia, South Africa, South Korea, Thailand and Tunisia.

"We're sending out letters to various countries telling them how much tariffs they have to pay," Trump said.

He added that the countries were "ripping" the US and "were charging us tariffs at levels that nobody's ever seen before. We have some countries that were charging 200% tariffs and making it impossible to do business.

"And what the tariffs are doing is they're driving people in and companies

into the United States," he said while speaking to reporters ahead of a dinner with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in the White House on Monday.

Trump also repeated the claim that he stopped the war between India and Pakistan by telling the two neighbours that Washington would not do trade with them if they continued the fighting.

"We did a job with India and Pakistan, Serbia, Kosovo, Rwanda and the Congo, and this was all over the last three weeks or so... and others that were ready to fight," Trump said.

"And we stopped a lot of

fighters. I think the very big one, frankly, a very, very big one, was India and Pakistan. And we stopped that over trade," he said.

"We said we're not going to be dealing with you at all if you're going to fight. And they were maybe at a nuclear stage. They're both nuclear powers. And I think stopping that was very important," Trump added.

At the dinner, Netanyahu presented Trump with a letter that he had sent to the Nobel Prize Committee nominating Trump for the Nobel Peace Prize.

Previously, Trump has bemoaned that he won't get a Nobel Peace Prize for

stopping the war between India and Pakistan or for his efforts in the Russia-Ukraine, and Israel-Iran conflicts.

Since May 10, Trump has repeated more than a dozen times his claim that he "helped settle" the tensions between India and Pakistan and that he told the nuclear-armed South Asian neighbours that America would do a "lot of trade" with them if they stop the conflict.

India launched Operation Sindoor on May 7, targeting terrorist infrastructure in territories controlled by Pakistan in response to the Pahalgam terror attack.

Fuel ban on overage vehicles in Delhi put on hold till Nov 1

CONTINUED FROM P1

Sources said the CAQM, at a review meeting, decided to put on hold the implementation of the directions in Delhi. The drive in Delhi will be launched along with five high-vehicle-density districts adjoining the national capital, including Gurugram, Faridabad, Ghaziabad, Gautam Budh Nagar and Sonapat, from November 1 this year, the sources said.

Fuel stations in Delhi have installed Automated Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras to detect EOL vehicles.

The camera reads the number plate of vehicles entering fuel stations and instantly checks with the central VAHAN database, which shows details like the vehicle's age, fuel type and registration.

If the vehicle is found to be EOL, the system alerts the fuel station staff not to



refuel it. The violation is recorded and sent to enforcement agencies, who are then required to take action such as impounding and scrapping the vehicle.

However, public discontent and outcry over the move prompted the Delhi government to request the CAQM to halt the implementation of the move.

The installation of ANPR cameras in the five high-density districts is to be completed by October 31.

Initial report submitted to ministry

CONTINUED FROM P1

International Airport and the crew actions and their communication with the Air Traffic Control (ATC).

The source said that the preliminary report is also based on the technical observations and several people questioned especially from the ATC, airline and those who witnessed the crash from the ground.

The contents of the report is yet to be made public, the sources said, adding that the AAIB is still continuing

its in-depth investigation to determine the exact cause of the crash and recommend safety measures going forward.

The source also said that the AAIB has not concluded the reasons that led to such a massive air disaster in India's aviation history in decades.

The ill-fated AII71 Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner had crashed within 39 seconds moments after taking off from the airport on June 12 at 1.39 p.m.. Out of 242 passengers on board, 241 had

died, while over 30 people died on ground after it crashed on BJ Medical Hostel building and exploded.

The AAIB is also said to have carried out the simulation of the flight data of the ill fated flight in simulator with scenario of double engine failure, wheels not reacted and without flaps configured.

The Boeing, which manufactured the Dreamliner operated by the Air India is also said to be cooperating with the AAIB and the DGCA in its probe.

been sentenced to death in Yemen. "We are closely following the developments" said Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson, Randhir Jaiswal.

Nimisha Priya, who is sentenced to death in Yemen, is a trained nurse and has worked in private hospitals in Yemen for a few years.

Her husband and minor daughter returned to India in 2014 because of financial reasons and in that same year, Yemen was gripped by civil war, and they could not go back as the country stopped issuing new visas.

Later in 2015, Nimisha joined hands with a Yemeni citizen, Talal Abdo Mahdi to set up her clinic in Sana. She sought Mahdi's support because, under Yemen's law, only nationals are allowed to set up clinics and business firms. In 2015, Mahdi accompanied Nimisha Priya to Kerala when she came for a month-long holiday. During the visit, he stole a wedding photograph of Nimisha, which he later manipulated to claim that he was married to her.

A plea moved by mother of Nimisha Priya had stated, "After a while, Nimisha's clinic began, Mahdi manipulated the ownership documents of the clinic. He also began to take money out of her monthly earnings after telling everyone that Nimisha was his wife Nimisha had alleged that Mahdi had been harassing her and her family for years. Mahdi also seized her passport. This was done to ensure that she would not leave Yemen. He tortured her under the influence of drugs. He threatened her at gunpoint several times. He took all the money from the clinic and her ornaments."

The plea further alleged that unable to cope with the torture, Nimisha complained to the police in Sana but instead of taking action against Mahdi, the police arrested her and put her in jail for six days. It was further alleged that on her return from jail, the severity of the torture increased manifold. In July 2017, Nimisha took the help of a warden of a jail located near her clinic.

BJP'S NISHIKANT DUBEY ATTACKS RAJ THACKERAY AMID HINDI-MARATHI ROW

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP Nishikant Dubey on Tuesday lashed out at Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) chief Raj Thackeray after incidents of violence and vandalism by MNS workers were reported in the state amid Hindi-Marathi language row.

Sharing a 2207 incident of violence by MNS workers on a student from Bihar mentioned in Wikileaks, Nishikant Dubey stated that "hooliganism" is Raj Thackeray's sole purpose, which the MNS chief does "out of fear" of losing Municipal Corporation elections.

In a post on X, Nishikant Dubey said, "When Raj Thackeray does not get public support, he puts goons forward, meaning hooliganism is his sole purpose, which he does just before the Mumbai Municipal Cor-



poration elections out of fear of losing."

"My opposition is to Thackeray's hooliganism, and the limits of tolerance have been exhausted," he added.

Nishikant Dubey, who earlier triggered a row over his comments, expressed his respect to the Maratha community.

"The Maratha community is always respectable, and the country belongs to all of us. Where I am an MP, Maratha Madhulimaye ji has been an MP three times in a row. We made a Maratha win the Lok Sabha against Indira Gandhi. Thackeray, come to your senses, don't make your fight about the

Maratha community, we have contributed to Mumbai's development and will continue to do so," Dubey said.

Five workers of Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) have been arrested in connection with the vandalism at entrepreneur Sushil Kedia's office in Worli, police said on Saturday. A case has been registered against them under Sections 223, 189(2), 189(3), 190, 191(2), 191(3), and 125 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023. Meanwhile, Dubey sparked a political row with his sharp response to Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) chief Raj Thackeray's statement.

Addressing Raj Thackeray's controversial instruction to his party workers, "beat but don't make a video," Dubey lashed out, saying, "If you dare to beat Hindi speakers, then beat those who speak Urdu, Tamil, and Telugu too.

Dubey's remarks 'not targeted at common Marathi people: Fadnavis

TDG NETWORK
MUMBAI

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Tuesday responded to BJP MP Nishikant Dubey's controversial comments that sparked a row across the state, clarifying that the remarks were not aimed at the Marathi community but at certain organisations that, according to Dubey, triggered the controversy.

"Whatever Nishikant Dubey has said, he has not said it for the common Marathi people, but for those organisations which have fuelled this controversy," said Fadnavis.

However, the Chief Minister also distanced himself from the content of Dubey's remarks, saying, "I believe

that Nishikant Dubey's statement was not completely correct."

He emphasised Maharashtra's contribution to India's development and said, "No one can deny or forget the contribution of Maharashtra in the progress of the country, and if someone does so, it would be completely wrong."

The clarification came in the wake of a political storm following Dubey's strong reaction to MNS chief Raj Thackeray's recent remarks. Raj had reportedly instructed his party workers to "beat but don't make a video," referring to individuals unwilling to speak in Marathi.

In response, Dubey had said, "What are you doing, whose bread are you eating? You people are surviving on our money.

MNS workers detained, Sena Minister heckled at Marathi protest in Mumbai

TDG NETWORK
THANE

High drama unfolded in Mira Bhayandar area near Mumbai on Tuesday as hundreds took part in a protest march led by the MNS and other groups to defend the Marathi 'asmita' (pride) amid rising political heat following the attack on a shopkeeper for refusal to speak Marathi.

The march witnessed detention of several activists by the police with leaders and workers of opposition Shiv Sena (UBT) and NCP (SP) also joining the protest. Shiv Sena minister Pratap Sarnaik was heckled and driven away by angry demonstrators as he visited the site to express solidarity.

The march organised by the Raj Thackeray-led Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) and other pro-Marathi groups under the aegis of Marathi Ekikaran Samiti to counter a protest



staged by traders recently against the slapping of a food stall owner by MNS workers on July 1 for not speaking Marathi.

A video of the assault had gone viral on social media, following which traders in Bhayandar staged a protest, seeking action against the attackers. Seven MNS members were later detained.

Ahead of Tuesday's proposed rally, security had been stepped up in Mira Bhayandar in Thane district. The police had denied permission to the rally.

The day started with the

police detaining local MNS leader Avinash Jadhav from his house in Thane at around 3.30 am.

A prohibitory order was issued against Jadhav by the police on Monday, restraining him from entering Mira Bhayandar to participate in the rally.

He was released later in the day.

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis stepped in saying permission had been granted for the MNS rally, but the party insisted on a specific route which posed law and order challenges.

'Rail Roko' protest in Telangana on July 17 to demand reservation for OBCs: Kavitha

ANAND SINGH
NEW DELHI

Bharath Rashtra Samithi (BRS) leader K Kavitha on Tuesday dubbed the Congress caste census model in Telangana as a "corrupt model" alleging that the grand old party fears in sharing the data and urged Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha to direct his Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy to pass order under Section 243 (d) of the Constitution to provide 42 per cent OBC reservation to people in the southern statement.

She also urged President Droupadi Murmu to give consent to the Reservation Bill passed by the Telangana government in its assembly.

The BRS MLC also urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP to get it passed.



Addressing a press conference here, Kavitha, who is also the daughter of former Chief Minister K Chandrababhu Naidu, announced that the BRS will hold rail roko on July 17 in Telangana.

Targeting the Congress government in Telangana, Kavitha said, "We see that Rahul Gandhi talks about OBCs across the country. So today we have come to Delhi to talk about an impor-

tant issue. Rahul Gandhi promised during polls that Congress will provide 42 per cent reservation in local body polls."

She highlighted that all the parties in the state helped the Congress government to pass the Bill.

"And the Bill is now pending with the President," she said.

She said that the Caste census has been carried out in Telangana but no one knows where it is.

She said that When UPA was in power it didn't announce the caste census.

Similar is the case in Karnataka, Telangana and Himachal Pradesh, where Congress announced the caste census. She pointed out that in 2025, 10 year has passed in Karnataka and no one knows that where is the caste census and in Himachal Pradesh also caste census not conducted.

RAJ KIRAN BATHULA
HYDERABAD

In a strong rebuttal to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's public challenge, BRS Working President K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) arrived at the Somajiguda Press Club at 11:00 AM today, fully prepared for an open debate on issues concerning Telangana's farmers. The debate was originally called for by the Chief Minister, who had asked for an open discussion on what the Congress and BRS governments have done for the farming community. However, Chief Minister

Revanth Reddy not available in State he travelling to Delhi.

KTR, accompanied by senior BRS leaders and a large number of party workers, waited at the venue for nearly thirty minutes. Addressing the media after the wait, KTR accused Revanth Reddy of "running away from his own challenge." He said the CM's absence only proves that the Congress government has no meaningful answers for the crisis facing Telangana's farmers.

"Over 600 farmers have died by suicide since the

Congress came to power. Did the Chief Minister even observe a minute's silence for them?" KTR asked. He further slammed the Congress regime for failing to fulfill its promises made during the election campaign. "Revanth said six guarantees would be implemented within 100 days. It's been 18 months and not even one has been delivered," KTR said.

KTR stated that he had come to the press club with complete data including names and contact details of hundreds of farmers in Kodangal who haven't received Rythu Bharosa, a

list of farmers whose loans were not waived, and details of those who lost their lives due to crop losses and neglect. "I was ready to have a fact-based discussion in front of the media and the people.

But the Chief Minister, who makes tall claims, ran away when it came to accountability," KTR added.

Criticizing Revanth Reddy's governance, KTR said the Congress government has dragged the state back into the dark days of fertilizer shortages, transformer explosions, and long queues outside supply depots.

We don't know why BJP is anti-Maharashtra and anti-Marathi: Aaditya

TDG NETWORK
MUMBAI

Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Aaditya Thackeray on Tuesday slammed the BJP amidst the ongoing language row in Maharashtra, stating that he doesn't understand why the BJP is "anti-Maharashtra" and "anti-Marathi".

Aaditya Thackeray addressed the issue of Maharashtra Navnirman Sena workers being detained in Mumbai, stating that everyone has the right to protest in the country.

"Everyone has the right to protest. We don't know why the BJP is anti-Maharashtra and anti-Marathi and why people were arrested last night. There was a peaceful protest. They should have allowed it. Everyone has the right to protest", he said.

Aaditya Thackeray noted that the BJP is trying to spread "hatred" and create conflicts between "Marathi

and non-Marathi people". He stated that the BJP's tactic is to create division ahead of the BMC and Bihar elections, which won't succeed.

"The BJP is trying to spread hatred in Maharashtra and create conflicts between Marathi and non-Marathi people. Their agenda won't work. Their agenda for Bihar and BMC elections is to create division. This is the BJP's tactic, and it won't succeed", he said.

Mumbai Police on Tuesday detained several Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) workers who were protesting against traders for allegedly not speaking Marathi.

The protest was part of a larger controversy surrounding the use of language in the city. MNS workers had gathered in the Mira-Bhayandar area to protest against traders who they claimed were not speaking Marathi.

BJP seeks central probe into Kolkata law student gang-rape

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

A BJP fact-finding team has recommended a probe by a central agency into the gang rape of a law student in Kolkata, claiming the state police's way of handling the case raises suspicion of attempts being made to save the culprits.

Alleging a deteriorating law-and-order situation in the Trinamool Congress-ruled West Bengal, it has also recommended that a request be made to the Centre for some "effective measures" to control the situation in the state, said former Union minister and ex-Mumbai police chief Satya Pal Singh.

He made the remark at a press conference on Tuesday as part of the fact-finding team.

The four-member team comprising BJP MP and former Tripura chief minister



Bioplal Kumar Deb, Rajya Sabha MP Manan Kumar Mishra, and former Union minister Meenakshi Lekhi, besides Satya Pal Singh, submitted its report to party president J P Nadda here on Tuesday.

Sharing with the media the findings of the BJP panel, Singh said there were questions on the registration of the case and its investigation by the Kolkata Police. He alleged that the handwritten complaint submitted by the victim had been tampered with to remove the names of the accused she had men-

tioned.

"Police erased the names of the accused that the victim had given in her handwritten complaint and put in letters J, G, S, M in place of those names. When the police have tampered with the complaint itself, which is the basic document in the case, how can one hope that the victim and her family will get justice?"

He said the committee has recommended that either a probe by a central agency be initiated or a high-level independent inquiry by persons of repute be instituted

to ensure justice to the victim and her family.

Mishra claimed the Kolkata Police Commissioner (Manoj Jha) was evasive in his reply when the enquiry committee asked him to clarify why names were erased and some letters were put in their place.

The Kolkata Police's actions, like "tampering with the FIR and swift arrest of four accused", raise a big suspicion, he said.

Singh said the BJP committee noted growing atrocities and crimes against women in West Bengal and police inaction in many such cases.

"There is a total collapse of law and order in West Bengal," he said.

Slamming the ruling Trinamool Congress over the law student's gang-rape, Deb demanded that West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee take responsibility for the incident.

K'taka leadership change up to Cong high command: Surjewala

TDG NETWORK
BENGALURU

AICC General Secretary in-charge of Karnataka Ran-deep Singh Surjewala on Tuesday declined to comment on the ongoing discussions regarding leadership change in the state, suggesting that it is no longer pertinent and also indicated that such decisions rest with the party high command.

This even as the ruling Congress MLAs continue to openly discuss the prospect of a leadership change, despite warnings from the party leadership to refrain from making statements on the matter.

Addressing speculations surrounding Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar's visit to New Delhi, which some linked to the possibility of change in the CM, the Congress General Secretary clarified that the



trip was for official government work and to present the state's case and demands to the central government.

"My PCC President (Shivakumar) has already taken note of the same. As far as leadership issues are concerned, I spoke to you last week along with the PCC President, who is also the Deputy Chief Minister. Whatever we had to say on that issue, we have already spoken," Surjewala told reporters in response to a question about MLAs openly making statements on leadership change and internal issues.

Ambedkar wanted judiciary to be free from executive interference: CJI Gavai

TDG NETWORK
MUMBAI

Dr B R Ambedkar spoke about the supremacy of the Constitution and believed that judiciary should be free of interference from the executive, Chief Justice of India Bhushan Ramkrishna Gavai said here on Tuesday.

Speaking on 'Indian Constitution' after being felicitated by the Maharashtra

legislature upon his elevation to the top judicial post, he said the Constitution has been a weapon of bloodless revolution in the country.

Judiciary, executive and legislature have worked together to usher in socio-economic equality in India in the last 75 years, he said, adding that as the Constitution moves towards its centenary, he was happy that he has been part of the judicial



process.

Ambedkar had said we all

believe in the supremacy of the Constitution which will

keep the country united during peace and war, Gavai said in his address after both houses of the Maharashtra legislature unanimously passed resolutions congratulating him.

The Constitution gives rights to the three wings -- Executive, Legislature and Judiciary -- and according to Ambedkar, judiciary has to work as a watchdog and custodian of citizens' rights,

the chief justice said.

Ambedkar also said that judiciary should be free from executive interference, he added.

The CJI also quoted Ambedkar as stating that the Constitution cannot be static, it has to be organic and keep evolving. As the problems which the next generation might face cannot be anticipated by the current generation, amend-

ments were allowed, he said.

Women and backward communities were brought into the national mainstream because of the Constitution, the CJI said, adding, "We have had a woman prime minister, two female presidents, K R Narayanan and Ram Nath Kovind belonging to the backward communities as presidents, G M C Balayogi and Meira

Kumar as Lok Sabha Speakers, and several members of Backward Classes as chief secretaries and DGPs in different states.

"Ambedkar was of the view that fundamental rights are of no use without remedies. Federalism was flexible and not rigid. The Constitution separated powers of all the three wings -- legislature, executive and judiciary.

BJP SHOULD BRING LAW ON OVERAGE VEHICLES, WILL BACK GOVT ON THIS: AAP

AAP demands action to ease people's woes, offers full support to BJP-led Govt

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party on Tuesday demanded that the BJP-led Delhi government bring a law on overage vehicles within a week to ease people's woes and assured support to the dispensation on the matter.

A no fuel for end-of-life vehicles policy came into place in Delhi on July 1. However, within three days, the Delhi government urged the Centre's air quality panel to immediately suspend the directive and said it will make "all-out efforts" to resolve issues related to restrictions on the movement of such vehicles.

Addressing a press conference, Leader of Opposition in the Delhi Assembly Atishi accused the BJP of deceiving people.

"The BJP banned the vehicles without thinking about

KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF AAP'S STAND

- AAP urges BJP to pass law on end-of-life vehicle policy.
- Says BJP deceiving people after facing backlash over sudden fuel ban.
- Offers support via ordinance or special Assembly session.
- Claims move to Supreme Court is a delay tactic, not a solution.



what would happen to the women and the elderly. When Delhiites opposed this, they started deceiving people. Environment minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa said he has written to CAQM demanding that the fuel ban be suspended," she charged.

"They are playing (Bolly-

wood film) 'Karthik Calling Karthik'. If the BJP wanted to remove this ban, they could have removed it," she said and elucidated that the BJP-led Delhi government is writing to the BJP-led Centre government's CAQM asking them to remove the ban.

Atishi said the AAP de-

mands that the BJP bring a law on overage vehicles within a week.

"Be it through ordinance or by calling a special assembly session, the BJP should address this issue. We will support them. If they want to do it through an ordinance, we are ready. If the Delhi government

Addressing a press conference, Leader of Opposition in the Delhi Assembly Atishi accused the BJP of deceiving people.

does not have the power, the Centre can do so by calling a Parliament session."

The former chief minister said the Delhi government is saying it will go to the Supreme Court on the matter. "They brought an ordinance after the Supreme Court delivered its judgement on the control of Services.

The BJP wants to go to the Supreme Court, which will decline the matter. Then the chief minister will say that it is the court's order.

LG approves continuation for 410 part-time vocational teachers

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Delhi Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena has approved the continuation and enhanced remuneration of 410 part-time vocational teachers (PTVTs) in government and government-aided schools till March 2026, Raj Niwas officials said on Tuesday.

The Delhi government's education department had sought the extension of services for the 402 qualified and eight non-qualified PTVTs from April 1, 2025, to March 31, 2026. The proposal was cleared by the LG, they said.

The government has sanctioned Rs 36 crore for PTVT remuneration and continued vocational education, an official said.

Saxena has also approved the renewal of contracts for two contractual part-time vocational teachers appointed under the Hospitality and Tourism vocational stream, for the period from March 1, 2025, to February



The government has sanctioned Rs 36 crore for PTVT remuneration and continued vocational education, an official said.

28, 2026. The proposal also covers the continuation of nine PTVTs currently deployed in four government-aided senior secondary schools in Delhi for the academic year 2025-26.

Part-time vocational teachers have been serving in Delhi schools since the late 1970s and early 2000s on a contingent or contractual basis.

They were originally en-

gaged to teach vocational subjects and they continue to do so under the National Skills Qualifications Framework (NSQF), which was introduced by the CBSE to replace the earlier vocational stream.

These teachers are currently engaged in delivering skill-based education to students in Classes 9 to 12, in alignment with the NSQF, said an official.

Lovers found dead at girl's home in Najafgarh, probe on

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

A 20-year-old man and a teenage girl, who were in a relationship, allegedly hanged themselves at the girl's residence in Delhi's Najafgarh, an official said on Tuesday.

The incident took place on Sunday around 4 pm in the Nagli area of Dwarka's Najafgarh, he said.

According to a senior police officer, the man (20) and the girl (17) took the extreme step because their families disapproved of their relationship. Upon reaching the spot, the police found that the fire department personnel had already broken open an iron gate, which was the only access to enter the room, inside which the man and the girl were found lying unconscious on the

floor, said Deputy Commissioner of Police Ankit Singh, adding that the room was locked from inside.

The deceased, who lived in the same locality, were in a relationship which had previously led to tensions between their families, police sources said. The matter had reportedly reached legal proceedings but was later resolved by mutual consent, they added.

"There were no visible external injuries on either body. Initial findings by doctors suggest hanging as the cause of death, but we are awaiting the detailed post-mortem report," the officer said, adding that the bodies were handed over to the families after the examination. Police have recorded statements of relatives of both the deceased, who have denied foul play.

Delhi Police intensifies security in city ahead of Kanwar Yatra

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Ahead of the Kanwar Yatra 2025, the Delhi police have intensified security arrangements. According to DCP Rohini, Rajeev Ranjan, the police have made extensive arrangements in the Shahdara district, which is one of the routes for the Kanwar yatis to 'jal' from Haridwar or Garh Ganga.

"We have made extensive arrangements in the Shahdara district. It is one of the significant districts for Kanwar Yatis, as it is the route for those who bring 'jal' from Haridwar or Garh Ganga", the police official said.

Rajeev Ranjan said that the administration has divided the district into three zones, out of which



one starts from the Apsara border till the Shahdara flyover.

Besides this, two small zones fall within the Shahdara district - one, from Keshav Chowk to Farsh Bazar and the second, Vivek Vihar zone. 770 police personnel have been deployed in the eye of the Kanwar yatra, and external forces have been demanded as well.

"We have divided it into three zones. One of these

is a crucial zone, which starts from the Apsara Border till the Shahdara flyover. Besides this, two small zones fall within our district - one, from Keshav Chowk to Farsh Bazar and the second, Vivek Vihar zone. We have deployed 770 personnel, and we will also have our reserve. We have also demanded outside force, once they are allotted, we will deploy them too", the police official said.

Authorities clear encroachments from 1, 034-km stretch of roads

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Delhi authorities have cleared 1,034.37 kilometres of roads, service lanes and footpaths of encroachments in the first five months this year, significantly reclaiming public space across the city.

This action was carried out under the direction of the Special Task Force (STF), which was established in 2018 to address encroachments and unauthorised constructions on both public and private land.

According to the latest report of the STF accessed by the media, till the end of May 2025, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) cleared 584 kilometres of roads, followed by



the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC), which cleared 390.61 km of road length, and the Public Works Department (PWD), which has cleared 59.56 km of roads from encroachment this year.

In Delhi, the MCD has jurisdiction over 15,582 km of road length. These are 60 ft or less in width, and PWD manages 1400 km of road length, 60 ft or above in width. These are the two

major road owning agencies in the city.

Since its inception till May 31, it has received a total of 208,696 complaints from several urban local bodies, out of which action has been taken on 193,740, while 14,956 complaints are pending, government documents said. The STF recommends that land-owning agencies prioritise the protection and recovery of encroached public land.

Woman, toddler found murdered in Majnu Ka Tila, suspect at large

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

A woman and a six-month-old toddler were found with their throats slit allegedly by her live-in partner in north Delhi's Majnu Ka Tila area on Tuesday, police sources said.

The incident came to light when neighbours, sensing something was wrong, alerted the police.

According to police sources, the woman (22), who was originally from Uttarakhand, was at her friend's residence, two blocks away from her house where she lived with her partner.

The victim had gone to her friend's home after having a fight with her partner.



The incident came to light when neighbours, sensing something was wrong, alerted the police.

At the time of the incident, the mother was out picking up her elder child from school.

Later, the accused came to the house and allegedly

killed the woman and the toddler, the source said, adding that the child's father, who runs a mobile shop, was also out for work at the time of the murder.

A team from the Civil Lines Police Station reached the scene and found both victims lying in a pool of blood inside a room, the source stated.

Meanwhile, the accused remains at large, and police teams have been formed to nab him.

"Both bodies have been recovered and sent for postmortem examination. Forensic experts were also called to examine the crime scene," the source stated.

The families were informed once the victims' identities were ascertained.

Police are examining CCTV footage and trying to ascertain the motive of the crime.

Govt, Aurobindo Society join hands for inclusive education for disabled kids

ARZU SETH
NEW DELHI

The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), which is part of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Sri Aurobindo Society (SAS) on July 7, 2025, in New Delhi. This initiative aims to promote inclusive education for children with disabilities.

MoU between DEPwD and SAS targets to boost the skills of educators, school counsellors, general teachers, and additional stakeholders, rehabilitation experts, thus reinforcing the



inclusive education framework in the nation.

As per the MoU, Sri Aurobindo Society (SAS) will execute 'Project Inclusion' through a mobile application and web platform under its 'Rupantar Programme'. The initiative will offer training sessions, grant e-certificates once

completed, and raise awareness while fostering innovation inclusive teaching techniques and resources. SAS will also engage in research and development efforts to advance the quality of inclusive education in the nation. The project will extend its reach to remote and underserved areas, including the

SAS will also engage in research and development efforts to advance the quality of inclusive education in the nation.

challenging location such as Leh, through a specific initiative called the "Leh Inclusion Initiative." This Partnership and initiative provides a ray of hope for the millions of children with disabilities who have frequently felt ignored in the education system.

Delhi HC issues notice to police on Ansal's plea to quash FIR

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Monday issued a notice to police on a plea moved by real estate baron Gopal Ansal, convicted in the Uphaar fire tragedy case, for quashing an FIR lodged against him in a cheating case.

The FIR has been lodged on a complaint filed by a buyer of land in a project developed by Ansal Buildwell Limited. Justice Amit Mahajan issued notice to Delhi Police and sought a



status report. The matter has been listed for hearing on September 10.

The High Court has also directed the state not to take coercive steps against the petitioner till the next

date of hearing. The bench has also issued a notice to the complainant in the matter upon the filing of the amended memos of the parties.

Gopal Ansal has filed a

petition seeking quashing of the FIR registered on February 11, 2025, at Police Station Barakhamba Road for the offences under Sections 420, 406, 120B of the Indian Penal Code.

The said FIR was registered on a complaint given by Manoj Anand, alleging that he had paid a sum of Rs 3,56,000 regarding the purchase of certain land in a project being developed by the accused's company, Ansal Buildwell Limited.

Gopal Ansal is stated to be the director of the accused

company at the relevant time. It is alleged that no property was ever handed over to the complainant, Anand, the High Court noted.

Advocate Sushil Kumar Gupta, counsel for Gopal Ansal, submitted that the project could not see the light of day since the Jaipur Development Authority did not give permission to convert the status of the land.

He submitted that various letters were written to the complainant for a refund of money.

Delhi airport emerges as world's 9th busiest airport in 2024: ACI

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Delhi airport has been ranked the world's 9th busiest airport, handling more than 7.7 crore passengers in 2024, a report released on Tuesday said.

Airports Council International's list of the world's 20 busiest airports is topped by Atlanta airport in the US which processed 10,80,67,766 passengers, followed by Dubai airport (9,23,31,506 passengers) and Dallas/Fort Worth airport in the US (8,78,17,864 passengers) at the second and third spots, respectively.

"Global passenger traffic hit a new high



in 2024, surpassing 9.4 billion travellers -- up 8.4 per cent from 2023 and 2.7 per cent above pre-pandemic levels (2019)... The top-20 airports alone processed 1.54 billion passengers, capturing 16 per cent of global traffic," the release said.

INDIA WILL NOT BE DETERRED BY NUCLEAR BLACKMAIL, SAYS CDS GEN CHAUHAN

CDS Chauhan cites Operation Sindoor, asserts India's readiness across conflict spectrum.

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Noting that Operation Sindoor is the only example of a conflict between two nuclear-weapon states, Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan on Tuesday said that India has made it clear that it will not be deterred by any nuclear blackmail by its western neighbour.

In an address on 'India's Evolving National Security Landscape' at a programme organised by ORF and the launch of the 'ORF Foreign Policy Survey 2024', CDS Chauhan said the modern conflict has shown that threats can emanate from any level and escalate quickly and rapidly necessitating diligent preparation and capability to build up.

"In the spectrum of conflict, nuclear conflict lies at the extreme end of the threat spectrum. My understand-

KEY HIGHLIGHTS FROM CDS AND DEFENCE MINISTER SPEECHES

- Operation Sindoor cited as rare conflict between two nuclear-armed nations.
- CDS Chauhan stresses nuclear weapons are deterrents, not warfighting tools.
- India prepared for sub-conventional, conventional, and nuclear threats, says Chauhan.
- Rajnath Singh says Operation Sindoor boosted global demand for Indian defence products.



ing is that nuclear weapons are tools of deterrence and not war-fighting. Of late, India has also said that it will not be deterred by nuclear blackmail... Operation Sindoor is the only example of a conflict between two nuclear weapon states," he said.

India had launched Operation Sindoor and targeted terror infrastructure in Pakistan and PoJK in response to the Pahalgam terror attack.

India repelled subsequent

Pakistani aggression and pounded its airbases.

CDS Chauhan said that the evolving challenge in the military domain is to prepare for the entire spectrum of conflict, ranging from sub-conventional, conventional to nuclear.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh had said on Monday that the demands for Indian defence equipment have increased following Operation Sindoor and noted that the

world military expenditure has increased to over USD 2.7 trillion in 2024, and a big market is awaiting India.

He was speaking at the Controllers Conference organised by DRDO.

"The world is looking towards our Defence sector. The valour that our soldiers have shown during Operation Sindoor, as well as the way we showcased the capabilities of our domestic equipment, has led to an increase in

demand for our indigenous defence products. World military expenditure has increased to over \$2.7 trillion in 2024 - such a big market is awaiting us." Singh further mentioned that India's Defence budget is bigger than the GDP of various countries in the world, highlighting the need to utilise the resources in the right way," the Defence Minister said.

"If you look at our Defence budget, it's bigger than the GDP of some countries in the world. When a significant portion of people's hard-earned income is allocated to the Defence Ministry, our responsibility increases exponentially - we need effective growth. Our Defence expenditure should be such that not only does the budget increase, but also we should utilise it in the right way - by proper deployment at the right time for the right objective," he added.

National Herald case: No transparency in shares, says ASG Raju

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Rouse Avenue court on Tuesday heard the rebuttal arguments by Additional Solicitor General (ASG) SV Raju on the cognisance of a prosecution complaint filed by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) against Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and others.

ASG Raju submitted that there was no transparency and that other shareholders were dummies for Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi. "Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi may not be getting a dividend today, they may get their due share the moment they quit," he contended.

The Special Judge, after hearing part of the arguments, listed the matter for July 12 for hearing the remaining arguments by the ASG.

At the outset, ASG submitted that as per the Companies Act, a 'not-for-profit company' can undertake commercial activities.

"They got the shares at a cheaper price...", ASG said.

It was also submitted by the ASG that shares held by Congress leaders Motilal



Vohra and Oscar Fernandes, who have passed away, were transferred. He said that their shares were not sold in open market as it would have disclosed the actual price of share.

It was also argued that there was a criminal breach of trust, adding that any property acquired by a criminal breach of trust is stolen property.

The possession of stolen property attracts section 411 of IPC, which is a scheduled offence under PMLA.

ASG submitted that there was a criminal breach of trust by AICC and AJL in relation to Rs 90 crore.

Young Indian had also obtained a loan from a Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC), identified as Dotex. During the pre-lunch session, Senior Advocate

Pramod Kumar Dubey, appeared for Dotex Merchandise Pvt Ltd. He submitted that Dotex was registered as a Non-Banking Financial Company by the Reserve Bank of India in February 2010.

"There is no cancellation of my registration. When RBI has given a recognition. The ED can't overreach by calling Dotex a sham accommodation entry operator," Dubey said.

For the day-to-day functioning of the Young Indian company, a loan was required. A loan was obtained from Dotex, the Senior Advocate stated. "Is this written anywhere that the loan was given to acquire the property of AJL. My knowledge was that the loan was taken for the day-to-day function of the company," Dubey added.

Uttarakhand CM Dhami orders tight security, drone monitoring for upcoming Kanwar Yatra

TDG NETWORK
DEHRADUN

In view of the upcoming Kanwar Yatra starting July 10, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami held a high-level meeting with police officials on Tuesday to review law and order, disaster-preparedness, and public safety measures.

During the meeting, the Chief Minister directed the strict implementation of the verification campaign across all districts and emphasised tight surveillance at the state borders.

He also instructed officials to continue action against illegal encroachments and ensure a seamless and safe experience for Kanwar pilgrims. "Monitoring should be ensured through CCTV and drones on the Kanwar Yatra route, and the traffic control system should be made effective," Dhami said while addressing police of-



ficers and administrative heads. The Chief Minister directed officials to ensure the availability of heli-ambulance services to deal with emergency situations during the yatra. He also emphasised strengthening women's safety mechanisms, along with real-time monitoring of public grievance redressal systems.

The Chief Minister stressed the importance of continuous tracking of complaint resolutions to build public trust and accountability.

CM Dhami called for the effective implementation of

the zero-tolerance policy against drug addiction and illegal substances. "Work effectively on the policy of zero tolerance against drug addiction and drugs," he instructed, while also appealing to the officers to enhance coordination between departments during the yatra.

Earlier, under the leadership of CM Dhami and Health Minister Dhan Singh Rawat, the Health Department has prepared a strict and dedicated action plan to provide pure and safe food to lakhs of devotees during the upcoming Kanwar Yatra, a statement said.

Helpless women are coming to AAP MLAs' offices every day: Atishi

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Leader of Opposition (LoP) in the Delhi Assembly, Atishi, launched a scathing attack on the Delhi BJP government, claiming that plans are underway to cancel the pensions of 60,000 helpless women, after already cutting off 25,000.

Slamming the move as deliberate and heartless, Atishi said the BJP government is fabricating excuses to rob the most vulnerable of their basic dignity.

"Every day, distressed women are coming to AAP MLAs' offices, saying their pensions have been stopped. Now BJP wants to declare 60,000 more women 'ineligible'. This is a direct attack on the poor," she said.

"The BJP has already cut the pensions of 25,000 widows. Women are coming to our MLAs' offices in tears, saying they were receiving



pensions for years, but the BJP has suddenly stopped them. Now the BJP is spinning a new story to cancel the pensions of another 60,000 helpless women," Atishi stated.

Further, the AAP leader questioned the logic of targeting those barely surviving on Rs 1,000 to Rs 1,500 a month. "Only the truly destitute, those with not a rupee in hand, those wandering from pillar to post, come to claim this meagre pension.

Assam floods: Toll climbs to 29 with one more death, 32 000 affected in 6 districts

TDG NETWORK
GUWAHATI

Over 32,000 people in six districts of Assam were reeling under floods, with the deluge claiming one more life on Tuesday, pushing the toll in the state to 29, an official bulletin said

An Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) bulletin said the death was reported from Morongi revenue circle of Golaghat district.

With the latest casualty, the toll in this year's floods and landslides has climbed to 29, including six in mudslides, it said.

The bulletin said the Dhansiri river was flowing above the danger level at two places in Golaghat district. Altogether, 13 revenue



circles and 169 villages in the six districts of Golaghat, Hojai, Nagaon, Sivasagar, Jorhat and Karbi Anglong have been affected.

More than 32,300 people have been impacted, with Golaghat the worst-hit with close to 19,500 people reeling under flood waters, it said. A total of 4,265 displaced people were taking

shelter in 33 relief camps, while another 27 relief distribution centres are also functional.

Crop area of 2,470 hectares have also been inundated, the ASDMA bulletin said. Reports of damage to infrastructure like roads and bridges have been received from various affected districts, it added.

BJP alleges Cong plot to replace Siddaramaiah

TDG NETWORK
BENGALURU

Karnataka BJP President BY Vijayendra accused the Congress party of planning to remove Chief Minister Siddaramaiah due to internal dissatisfaction among party MLAs.

Speaking to ANI, Vijayendra said, "Surjewala, a Congress party leader and in charge of Karnataka, is repeatedly visiting Bengaluru to consult with MLAs. This indicates that Congress MLAs are totally upset with Siddaramaiah because they are not receiving funds for development in their respective constituencies."

Vijayendra further alleged that Siddaramaiah had be-



come unpopular, and the Congress government in the state had "failed on all fronts." He claimed that the Congress leadership was now attempting to portray Siddaramaiah as an OBC leader in order to shift him to a role in Delhi.

"Today, Siddaramaiah has become very unpopular, and the government has failed on all fronts. Hence,

they are attempting to remove Siddaramaiah from the CM post and portray him as an OBC leader, so that he can be shifted to Delhi," he later said.

Earlier in the day, BJP MP Tejasvi Surya took a swipe at the Karnataka government while responding to a journalist's post on 'X', which highlighted the state's financial condition.

Slamming the Congress-led Karnataka government, Tejasvi Surya said that the condition of contractors working in the state government is "deplorable" and that contractors are not only being harassed for "cut money" but have also been waiting for payment

for years.

The BJP MP stressed that Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) is in its "worst" state, and no contractor is willing to execute work with the body.

"The condition of contractors working on State Government projects in Karnataka is deplorable. Contractors are not only harassed for cut money but are also delayed payments for years, making their projects financially unviable. BBMP is the worst. No contractor is ready to work and execute any work. They aren't coming forward to even fill up potholes. Sad state of affairs", Tajasvi Surya posted on 'X'.

SIT set up to nab accused involved in killing of 5 of family over 'witchcraft'

TDG NETWORK
PURNEA

A special investigation team (SIT) has been set up by police to nab the absconding accused involved in the brutal killing of five members of a family, on suspicion of practising witchcraft in Bihar's Purnea district, an official statement said.

Five members of a family, including three women, were allegedly killed and their bodies burnt on suspicion of practising witchcraft in the Tetma locality under the jurisdiction of Mufasil police station of Purnea district on Sunday night.



"A SIT has been constituted to nab the absconding accused. A case has been registered against more than 25 people, including 23 named accused," according to a statement issued by the Purnea Police on Tuesday. Three persons—Chotu Uraon, Mohd Sanaul and Nakul

on suspicion of practising witchcraft. Investigations revealed that the accused then burnt their bodies in a bush. Investigations also suggest that a total of more than 100 villagers were present there during the murder of Babu Lal Uraon (65), Sita Devi (60), Manjeet Uraon (25), Rani Devi (22) and Kato Musmat (75). After killing them, they took their bodies in a tractor to a bush and burnt them.

Investigations also revealed that the killing took place due to the recent death of a child in the village. It is suspected that the boy recently died in the village due to their black magic.

Pilgrims participating in Amarnath Yatra receive free langar at Jammu camp

TDG NETWORK
JAMMU

Thousands of pilgrims participating in the ongoing Amarnath Yatra 2025 are receiving free langar services at the Jammu base camp and other locations, including the National Highway.

Virender Kumar Sharma, who has been organizing the langar facility for the past 17 years, said, "We have been running this langar for

almost 17 years, and it's a completely free service. People come from far-off places, and whoever comes here, they have devotion towards it and also make donations. There are many langars in the city, but we run this langar for free and don't expect anything in return."

The pilgrims have expressed gratitude for the security forces and the arrangements along the Pa-

halgam route.

Siddharth Agrawal, a first-time pilgrim, praised the security personnel, saying, "I am here for the first time. Despite recent incidents, the armed forces are working hard for us. We may not have had the courage to come here without their support. We are roaming around freely because they are standing here with guns. I salute the CRPF and the



J-K Police."

Nilesh Upadhyay, another pilgrim undertaking the yatra for the 13th time, echoed similar sentiments, saying, "The arrangements are very good. There is peace here."

Union Minister Jitendra Singh stated that around 26,000-27,000 pilgrims have visited the Amarnath Yatra since its commencement on July 2, dispelling

concerns that the recent terrorist attack in Pahalgam might deter pilgrims.

The 38-day annual Amarnath pilgrimage to the 3,880-metre-high holy cave shrine in South Kashmir began on July 3, 2025 and will conclude on August 9, 2025 (Raksha Bandhan).

The pilgrimage began simultaneously from both routes - Pahalgam track (Anantnag district) and

Baltal (Ganderbal district).

Amarnath Yatra is an annual pilgrimage to the Amarnath cave, where devotees pay homage to an ice stalagmite believed to be the lingam of Lord Shiva.

The ice stalagmite forms every year during the summer months and reaches its maximum size in July and August, when thousands of Hindu devotees make an annual pilgrimage to the cave.

SENSEX, NIFTY REBOUND ON HOPES OF INDIA-US MINI TRADE DEAL

Markets recover as optimism grows over possible trade breakthrough with United States.

TDG NETWORK
MUMBAI

The Indian stock markets on Tuesday ended higher, recovering from the flat opening due to the news of a possible mini trade deal between India and the United States late in the night.

Stock markets opened under pressure as concerns over US President Donald Trump's fresh tariff measures took center stage.

At the end of the trading session, the Sensex was up 270.01 points or 0.32 per cent, at 83,712.51, and the Nifty was up 61.20 points or 0.24 per cent, at 25,522.50.

The Financial heavyweights helped Nifty and Nifty Bank close in the green. Kotak Bank re-

MARKET MOVEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

- Sensex rose 270 points; Nifty closed 61 points higher.
- Gains led by financials; Kotak Bank up over 3%.
- Tital slumped 6% on weak jewellery growth.
- Experts cite optimism, cautious trading amid Trump's tariff uncertainty.

mained the top gainer and rose over 3 per cent on a strong first-quarter update.

Tital was the top Nifty loser, down 6 per cent after reporting below-estimate jewellery business growth.

"Today marked the third day the Nifty had opened and closed the market within a narrow range of 25,400 to 25,500. This shows the market is wait-

ing for a trigger before the next move at the index level," said VLA Ambala, Co-Founder of Stock Market Today.

"The market remained in an uptrend position, showing no signs of reversal, but volatility is expected as crude, gold, and dollar prices may fluctuate due to the outcome of Donald Trump's trade deal," she

said.

Observing the markets, Sundar Kewat, Technical and Derivatives Analyst, Ashika Institutional Equity - Ashika Stock Broking, said despite global uncer-

tainties stemming from U.S. President Donald Trump's announcement of 25-40 per cent tariffs on 14 nations, the Indian equity markets opened flat and

traded largely sideways throughout the session

"Trump Tariffs occupied centre stage, on expected lines, on Monday, as letters detailing tariffs were issued to 14 countries. Markets reacted slightly and were not in the panic mode of April 2nd to April 9th. Over the past 90 days, the markets have become more resilient, looking past the Trump policy ambiguity to Trump actions," Ajay Bagga, Banking and Market Expert, told ANI.

He added, "The big take-away on Monday was that the July 9th tariff imposition deadline has been moved to August 1st. This gives 23 more days for further negotiations, even to the 14 countries that were sent letters on Monday imposing tariffs."

UPI gains global ground as transactions surge and new partnerships emerge

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Unified Payments Interface (UPI), India's flagship digital payments system, continues to reshape the country's digital economy while also emerging as a tool of diplomatic outreach and international collaboration.

Beyond enabling instant P2P and P2M money transfers, the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has steadily introduced new features on UPI to enhance the user experience and move beyond the commoditized space of payments.

These include cross-border payments, integrations with loan and insurance services, and various other unique offerings. The growing international footprint of UPI was on display during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visit to Trinidad and Tobago on July 3-4.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said, "The two countries expressed strong interest in expanding cooperation in the digital domain. Prime Minister Modi congratulated Trinidad and Tobago on becoming the first Caribbean country to adopt



Unified Payments Interface (UPI), India's flagship digital payment platform."

The MEA added, "They agreed to explore further collaboration in the implementation of India Stack solutions, including DigiLocker, e-Sign, and the Government e-Marketplace (GeM). Trinidad and Tobago requested support from India in digitization and upgradation of the system for state land registration. The leaders also underlined that digital governance and public service delivery can act as enablers of inclusive development, innovation and national competitiveness."

This diplomatic milestone follows another notable development during PM Modi's official visit to Cyprus in June 2025, where NPCI and Eurobank Cyprus reached an understanding to introduce UPI for cross-border payments between the two countries, aimed at deepening their economic engagement.

RBI announces auction of two dated securities worth Rs 25, 000 crore

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Government of India has announced the auction of two dated securities worth a total of Rs 25,000 crore, as per an official notification issued by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

According to the notification, the auction includes a new Government Security (GS) maturing on July 14, 2032, worth Rs 11,000 crore, and a re-issue of the 7.09 per cent GS maturing on November 25, 2074, worth Rs 14,000 crore.

The government also has the option to retain an additional subscription of up to Rs 2,000 crore for each of the securities. The auction will be conducted by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) through its Mumbai office using the e-Kuber system on July 11, 2025 (Friday), and the settlement will be completed on July 14, 2025 (Monday).

RBI stated, "Government of India (GoI) has announced the sale (issue / re-issue) of two dated securities for a notified amount of Rs 25,000 crore".

A dated security is a type



The securities will be eligible for "When Issued" trading from July 8 to July 11, 2025. They will be issued in a minimum amount of Rs 10,000 and in multiples of Rs 10,000 thereafter.

of government bond issued with a fixed maturity date and interest rate, and it pays interest to the investor at regular intervals, usually every six months. These are long-term borrowings by the government to finance its fiscal needs.

On the other hand, a re-issue of securities refers to the sale of an existing secu-

rity that has already been issued in the past. Re-issued securities carry the same terms, such as interest rate and maturity date, as the original issue but are sold in a fresh auction to raise additional funds.

RBI noted that the auction will follow a multiple-price method where both competitive and non-competi-

Scindia meets Cisco global head, invites investments, innovations

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Union Minister for Communications and Development of the North Eastern Region Jyotiraditya M. Scindia on Tuesday met the CEO of Cisco, Chuck Robbins, along with his team.

The minister deliberated on the conversation to deepen their footprint in India's rapidly evolving digital technology landscape and growing market. During the meeting, he highlighted the importance of leveraging the country's vast potential and vibrant talent pool.

"It was a pleasure to meet @ChuckRobbins, CEO of Cisco and his team. Deliberated on deepening Cisco's tech footprint in India, expanding into Tier 2 & 3 markets, strengthening cybersecurity, and co-creating solutions that truly touch lives at the grassroots. With India rising as a global digital powerhouse, we look forward to building a secure, inclusive and future-ready Bharat," posted Jyotiraditya M. Scindia on the social media platform 'X'.



The Minister also invited Cisco to explore broader investment opportunities in India's digital technology sector, highlighting the country's emergence as a global hub for innovation and investment.

Underscoring the importance of building solutions that uplift the common man, he stressed Bharat's pivotal role in driving the 6G revolution and India's growing momentum in artificial intelligence (AI).

The Minister also invited Cisco to explore broader investment opportunities in India's digital technology sector, highlighting the country's emergence as a global hub for

innovation and investment. He also emphasised the importance of developing ecosystems beyond physical infrastructure that empower communities and prepare future generations.

The discussion builds on Cisco's expanding presence in India, including the inauguration of its first manufacturing facility in Chennai in 2024, graced by the Minister.

'No major sell-off in dollar assets expected despite global tariff tensions'

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

As global trade tensions rise with the return of high tariffs under US President Donald Trump's policy, questions are being raised on whether countries affected by these tariffs will sell off their dollar-denominated assets to manage the financial burden.

However, experts with whom ANI spoke believe such a move is unlikely and that the US dollar will continue to hold its ground.

Banking and market expert Ajay Bagga told ANI that there is no direct link between tariffs and a large-scale sell-off of dollar assets.

"No such direct correlation is there. The de-dollarisation move is still very tepid. So we don't anticipate that. However, one of Trump's objectives is to weaken the US dollar. The huge debt, the huge interest payout on this debt, the continued high fiscal deficit and the anticipated Fed rate cuts will all weaken the US dollar," Bagga said.

He added that while gold might replace the US dollar to a limited extent in global



reserves, it is unlikely to be a major reason for a weaker dollar.

Sonal Badhan, Economics Specialist at Bank of Baroda, also echoed similar views. Speaking to ANI, she said, "It is unlikely that there will be a major sell-off in dollar-denominated assets. Dollar is likely to hold ground instead as uncertainty around tariffs further increases the possibility of delayed Fed rate cuts."

She also pointed out that the higher tariffs on Japan and their impact on its exports could reduce demand for the Japanese yen, which is seen as an alternate safe haven currency.

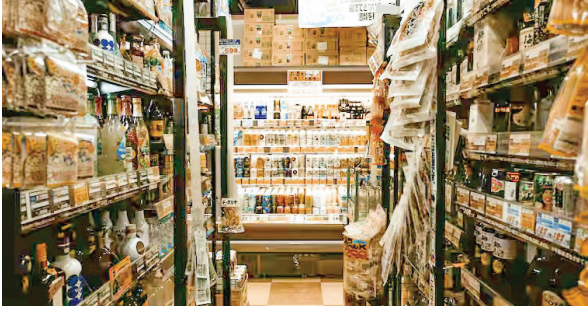
"Fluidity of the new deadline and the possibility of negotiation with major trading partners like the EU and India may help ease some trade-related concerns, which in turn will lead to improvement in risk sentiment and dollar may ease," Badhan added.

Raw material price dip to boost Q2 FMCG demand: Report

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Consumer staples demand in India continued to remain weak in the first quarter of FY26, primarily due to sluggish urban consumption however the situation is expected to improve in the second quarter, according to a report by Motilal Oswal.

The report highlighted that there was no material improvement in demand trends in the April-June quarter, as consumption patterns contin-



ued to mirror those seen in recent quarters.

It stated "No material uptick in demand trends is expected in 1QFY26 as they continue to mirror recent historical quarters. De-

mand remained impacted by weakness in urban consumption".

The report mentioned that urban demand remained under pressure, while rural markets showed signs

of gradual recovery. Additionally, the early onset of the monsoon season negatively affected the demand for summer-led products, home insecticides (HI), and out-of-home consumption categories.

Although the report also noted that the raw material (RM) prices have softened, the benefits of this decline are expected to be visible from the second quarter of FY26 onwards.

This is because many companies are still carrying high-cost RM inventory,

especially in key inputs like tea, wheat, palm oil, and edible oils. As a result, gross margins for consumer staples companies under coverage are expected to contract by 170 basis points year-on-year in Q1FY26.

Similarly, EBITDA margins are likely to shrink by 130 basis points due to high inventory costs and negative operating leverage.

Despite this challenging environment, some support for overall revenue growth in Q1FY26 came from price hikes taken by companies.

Gold climbs Rs 550 to Rs 99, 120 per 10 g, silver remains flat

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Gold prices climbed Rs 550 to Rs 99,120 per 10 grams in the national capital on Tuesday due to fresh buying by stockists, according to the All India Sarafa Association. The precious metal of 99.9 per cent purity had closed at Rs 98,570 per 10 grams on Monday.

Gold of 99.5 per cent purity increased by Rs 500 to Rs 98,600 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes).

Additionally, silver prices remain unchanged for the third straight session at Rs 1,04,800 per kilogram (inclusive of all taxes) on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, spot gold in the international markets depreciated by USD 11.42 or 0.34 per cent to USD 3,325.09 per ounce.

"Gold reversed yesterday's losses and traded higher on Tuesday as concerns about the potential resumption of a trade war grew. This shift in sentiment followed



President Donald Trump's announcement of plans to impose 25 per cent tariffs on goods imported from Japan and South Korea, effective August 1.

"This decision reflects President Trump's wider initiative to reform US trade policies, which have consistently created uncertainty in the markets. This uncertainty acts as a tailwind for the safe-haven asset gold," Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst - Commodities at HDFC Securities, said.

Investors will closely watch developments on US trade

negotiations, the Fed's commentary in meeting minutes, and fresh inflation data, all of which could determine gold's next move, Abans Financial Services' Chief Executive Officer Chintan Mehta said.

According to Tejas Shigrekar, Senior Technical Analyst - Commodities and Currencies, Angel One, gold continues to be a fundamental hedge asset. Market players are juggling weakening US economic data, increased geopolitical tensions, and ongoing inflation in developed economies as of July 2025.

India poised to lead global economy: PwC

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

India is on track to lead the global economy as it continues to emerge as a powerhouse of innovation, according to a new report by PwC.

The report highlighted that the country is witnessing strong economic and industrial momentum, supported by its expanding manufacturing base and rising innovation capabilities.



"Indian organisations are entering new domains of growth-transcending tradi-

tional sector boundaries to meet fundamental human and business needs," the

PwC report stated.

India's innovation performance has seen a significant improvement in 2023 with the country topping the innovation rankings among lower-middle income countries and in Central and Southern Asia. Additionally, industrial design applications by Indian companies grew by 36.4 per cent in 2023, indicating a rising interest in product design, creative industries, and

manufacturing.

The report also noted that learning from global success stories, Indian firms are increasingly breaking traditional industry boundaries. Some companies that started with manufacturing mobile phones have expanded into finance, healthcare, and entertainment.

Others have moved from making automobiles to entering sectors like space, energy, and communication.

BIHAR: DEVELOPMENT SHOULD BE NEW NORMAL

OPINION

PRATYUSH PRABHAKAR



Patna, is not merely a city, but a node in the continuum between the past and present. Patna is also the story of countless people who got nurtured by its soil, and are contributing towards the making of a better world around the globe. It is also the story of glory, neglect and revival. Once dubbed by Amitava Kumar, the author of “A Matter of Rats: A Short Biography of Patna”, as the city in which both the past and the present lie in ruins, is witnessing rapid growth with all the symbols of a modern-day city present, peace included, largely.

Patna, and Bihar, are about contradictions co-existing. The ancient and the modern, the poor and the rich, the personal and the political, belonging and non-belonging, all co-existing, sometimes at unease, but never at conflict. The abode of emperors and kingdoms has existed, persevered, and sometimes thrived. It never had it easy, yet it never failed to nourish, just like the ever-flowing Ganga which banks the city. The tumultuous ride through history, myriad hues of its society, has defined not just the place, but also millions of people who this place has ever touched.

Patna has always been a centre of education. The urban elites of Patna have traditionally not been people with wealth, but people with government jobs, attained by education. Patna University, dubbed once as the ‘Oxford of the East’, produced many luminaries. The Patna College served as literary and architectural inspiration for E M Forester’s fictional Chandrapore College in “A Passage to India”. The legendary Satyajit Ray shot his film “Seemabaddha” on its picturesque campus. While Patna College and University still yearn for their erstwhile glory, today Patna boasts of an IIT, a NIT, NIFT, NLU, and AIIMS.

Patna is now as “modern” as it can get. All the signs of modernity that urban elites consider are present in the city. Glitzy malls, the Starbucks and the McDonald’s of the world, chic cafés, and a vibrant city life. The last few years have seen a good infra push in the city with a marine drive, upgraded Patna Medical College and Hospital, convention centres, a world-class Bihar museum, a swanky new airport terminal, and flyovers abound, including a double-decker flyover in Ashok Rajpath, which recently captured the imagination of the nation.

Just like the double-decker flyover, there are two Patnas. One boasts of modern infrastructure, vibrant city life, the other is still obsessed with caste, perpetuating social inequity and pursuing practices and traditions, way past their due date. Caste still features prominently in conversations, even in educated and “elite” circles. Those raised in Bihar know that if a person has asked for your full name, it effectively translates to asking for your caste, albeit in a subtle way. This is perhaps the reason why many of us have been given no surnames, or unidentifiable surnames, the author of this piece included. It has also led to funny situations. Somehow, Rajeev Ranjan grew to be one of the popular names in Bihar. Anecdotal evidence also confirms its popu-

larity. For example, I had three Rajeev Ranjan’s in our school batch, and they were called by numbers 1-3. However, one must admit that just like having a surname is a privilege (or the lack of it), in Bihar, not having one, is also a form of privilege. Strangely, people of every community, including the privileged ones, think that their community is the most innocuous and disunited, while every other community is happily engaging in caste unity. There is a reason why caste plays such an important role in Bihar politics. This is not to say that caste discrimination does not exist elsewhere. Maybe in Bihar, it is just more pronounced, pervasive, and unabashed.

The urban elite which wants to convince themselves that caste doesn’t matter to them, is still carrying classist feelings which manifest in different ways. For example, I am told not to behave “too well” with the “labour class” every time we hire someone, for the fear of them not doing their work properly. Bizarre, isn’t it? Imagine we, in “more respected jobs” not being treated well, just because the people think treating us well would lead to inefficiency. And people refuse to accept that this has casteist undertones. I still remember, in childhood, so many practices which we later realised were so wrong. For example, staff members sit on floor out of

respect and have separate utensils for them. And believe me, I belong to a family which is much better off and have had very healthy relations with anyone who ever worked with us, which continues. Still, it is so deeply ingrained and comes spontaneously, that no one ever realises it to be wrong.

When it comes to educating the girl child, Bihar has made major strides in the last few years. For grades 6–8, the GER for female students reached 70% in 2024, surpassing the male GER of 67%. In higher education, the GER for females rose from 10.5% in 2017–18 to 16.3% in 2021–22. Anecdotal speaking, more and more families are sending their daughters outside Bihar for education, and speak with pride about their daughters’ successes. But when it comes to other forms of freedoms, society still suffers from old problems. Inter-caste and love marriages are still seen as acts of rebellion. There are some well-to-do families that still educate the girl child to get them married. The balance of power in arranged marriages is still skewed. The same government which provided bicycles to female students which had a positive impact on enrolment and retention of girl children in schools, has now announced the building of marriage halls for weddings of poor women. Last I checked, women do not

get married alone. Complete agency for women is still a pipe dream. I have heard statements like “Ajkal ladki log ka sir chadh gaya hai”, just because they are trying not to succumb to authority like before. Parent of a woman professional in a very prestigious job hitherto the sole preserve of men quipped “God knows, what job she has joined that we are unable to find a groom for her. Till the time, marriage is given precedence over profession, and freedom is seen as rebellion, true women’s empowerment will never happen.

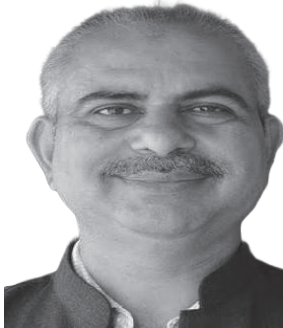
Patna and Bihar have come far. The days of absolute lawlessness and the ubiquitous pothole-filled highways are behind us. We are witnessing some interest and investments from the private sector too. For the new generation, this should appear normal. Development should be the new normal. Bihar votes in a few months from now. While we demand, and must demand accountability and efficiency from elected governments, we must also look within. We should come out of narrow factionalism, deep-seated casteism, and patriarchy to make Bihar great again. Ruminating about the past glory to justify today’s mediocrity. Only then, Biharis won’t necessarily have to go out of Bihar to excel.

The author is the Founder of Communeeti, a public policy venture.

‘An Undocumented Wonder’

BOOK REVIEW

RASHEED KIDWAI



One-nation-one elections face multiple challenges relating to constitutional and federal issues while there are alternative strategies for meeting the objective of cost reduction and shorter time period to conduct mammoth polls, opines Dr S Y Qureshi.

In “An Undocumented Wonder,” [Rupa 2025], Quraishi, former chief election commissioner, says while simultaneous elections promise efficiency and reduced costs, they present logistical and structural challenges that warrant careful deliberations.

According to Quraishi, federalism could be undermined as many states follow their own state assembly tenure timelines. He raises a query, “if a state government collapses due to defections or some other upheaval, how will simultaneous elections be sustained?” Similarly, if the Lok Sabha is dissolved prematurely, as it happened six times during 1970, 1979, 1991, 1998, 1999 and 2004, will this necessitate dissolving all state assemblies as well? Such a situation, Quraishi insists, seems impractical in a diverse democracy like India.

Quraishi’s book is laced with anecdotes, data, insights and firsthand experience of holding the mammoth exercise during 2009 Lok Sabha polls. Quraishi served as election commissioner between 2006-2012. It was during his tenure in 2011, when then US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton visited India, she referred to the Election Commission of India (ECI), as the “Gold Standard” in election management worldwide.

Quraishi, however, says there is a need to remember the country’s first chief election commissioner, Sukumar Sen who perhaps deserves a Bharat Ratna, if not a full-length biography.

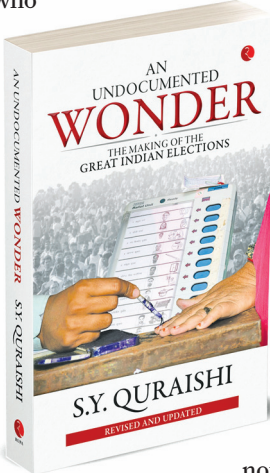
Quraishi writes, “The nation owes him gratitude for laying the foundation of a great institution and for his superhuman efforts in conducting the first general elections in 1951-52 in the most difficult circumstances with no infrastructure.” Quraishi laments that Sen’s contribution in laying the foundation of a robust election management system is historic but not adequately celebrated. “This is because he left memoirs.” Quraishi writes while insisting that India is valued worldwide for three things, above all others: Taj Mahal, Mahatma Gandhi and India’s electoral democracy.

Born in 1899, Sukumar Sen was a gold medallist in Mathematics, Sen was a graduate from Calcutta’s Presidency College and the University of London. He joined Indian Civil Services (ICS) in 1921, served as a judge before becoming chief secretary of Bengal during 1947-1950. In March 1950, he was chosen as first Election Commissioner of independent India.

Sen’s biggest challenge in 1951 was to involve women in the mammoth poll exercise of the first general elections on the basis of universal adult franchise. When electoral rolls were getting prepared, Sen and his team discovered that a large number of women voters who were enrolled did not have their own names but by the description of the relationship they bore to their male relations (for example A’s mother, B’s wife or C’s daughter). This was due to local customs in many north and central Indian states of women not disclosing their names to any outsider. Sen, India’s first chief election commissioner, quickly sent instructions across the country to enumerators to insist upon inclusion of the proper name of an elector in the electoral rolls. Directions were also issued to the effect that any woman who refused to give her proper name should not be registered as a voter and if she had already been registered without the name, the entry should be deleted. The unfortunate part of this diktat was that out of a total of nearly 80 million women voters in the country, nearly 2.8 million eventually failed to disclose their proper names and missed the chance to cast their vote. Women from Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan were the biggest losers.

Very few believe that there was a time when politicians contesting elections did not have enough money to pay for their tea.

In Quraishi’s book, Gopal Krishna Gandhi has produced an interesting anecdote in the foreword of the book how Jawaharlal Nehru, Lal Bahadur shastri and others once did not have enough money to pay for tea at Mirzapur [now Prayagraj] railway station. This was during the 1937 general elections. Leaning on a quote from Lal Bahadur Shastri, Gopal Krishna Gandhi, IAS and grandson of both Mahatma Gandhi and C Rajagopalachari says Nehru while campaigning felt hungry but the local candidate did not bother to offer him meal or tea. Nehru then asked Shastri if they could go to a restaurant. They motored to the railway station and had tea. However, when it came to paying the bill, Nehru Shastri, Purnima Banerjee and others realised that none of them were carrying sufficient money. Somehow, they collected a few annas to complete the amount that was required to be paid.



‘NOT YOUR AUNTY CONUNDRUM’

Breaking free from societal labels

OPINION

DR. SHALINI YADAV



“I’m Not Aunty O, I’m me.”

-Toni Jones

Few days back while wandering through the rain-kissed evening, I was listening songs on Spotify, and there the dulcet utters of Toni Jones “I’m Not Aunty O, I’m Me” drifted through my earphones, hitting the arpeggio within. The pitter-patter of raindrops and lyrics of Jones carried me to a recent encounter, and that was already dawdling and trying to settle in my mind like a mild niggles.

What exactly had happened, I would love to tell here as it may have occurred with many women around the globe at one or another phase of their lives and they can co-relate themselves with my mental state. At the exam centre one day, I had surrendered my phone to the vigilant e-mitra, a temporary exile from the digital world for few hours for taking the exam.

Upon reclaiming my device after exam, I received the shopkeeper’s unexpected appellation- “*lo aunty apka*

phone.” It felt like an upsetting and offensive note in an otherwise harmonious air after writing a good exam, listening ‘aunty’ from a person of my age or may be he was elder than me. I wanted to shout out- “I’m not your aunty.” The dissension was dawdling inside, refusing to be silenced.

Then Toni’s emboldening song in accord with the cadenced rain triggered a sense of reclaiming self and asserting individuality, machinated me to unbridle a deluge of thoughts that I was trying to keep inside after this “aunty” episode. The incident, the word, though seemingly trivial for many of patriarchal minds, had tapped into a continuing echo within me.

As morning walks are plot-walks for many poets, writers, journalists and columnists, my writer’s instincts, also got stimulated while walking by experience, sensing the narrative’s power within it, urging me to explore and express the emotions that spun beneath the surface.

The shopkeeper’s words, though habitually spoken without prior consideration or thought due to conventional mindset, sparked a reflection on identity, age, and the labels that shape our interactions. As I pondered, the boundaries between writer and individual began to blur, and the story started to take shape, begging to be

told. And finally I scribbled it on my MacBook screen since columnists or journalists’ voices or viewpoints can’t remain silenced or unscripted for long.

What do you think about the phrase “Not your aunty”? How do you interpret it? One may have not given it so much importance till now. But in past few years, many audacious women have raised their voices, have discoursed on it, and shared their encounters where they felt they were not ready to accept it in those junctures of their lives.

The phrase “Not your aunty” can be interpreted as a powerful expression of claiming independence, individuality, self-assertion, and challenging traditional norms. It’s a way of saying, “I’m not bound by conventional expectations anymore” or “I won’t like to be defined by societal roles”. This phrase can be decoded in various ways, depending on the context and cultural background.

In most of the cases, “Not your aunty” might be used to challenge traditional family roles or expectations, assert individuality and autonomy, reject societal pressures or stereotypes and create a sense of identity and self-expression. Women have been labeled in various contexts and situations whole over the world, including social media, popular culture, and day-to-day life dialogues pushing boundaries aside of race, color, age, ethnicity and religion.

Emmy and Golden Globe winning American actress and television producer, Sarah Jessica Parker critiques the double standard surrounding aging in the

spotlight. She notes the hypocrisy in how society comments on women’s appearance, particularly grey hair and wrinkles, while men with similar features are praised.

Sarah rejects the scrutiny saying it- “It almost feels as if people don’t want us to be perfectly okay with where we are, as if they almost enjoy us being pained by who we are today, whether we choose to age naturally and not look perfect, or whether you do something if that makes you feel better. I know what I look like. I have no choice. What am I going to do about it? Stop aging? Disappear?”

If we observe, we can find that in the hustling-bustling markets, crowded trains, and buses, vegetable markets, malls, everywhere, a familiar chorus echoes through the air: ‘Aunty!’ For many women, this seemingly innocuous term has become a source of disturbance and dissonant, a symbol of societal expectations and ageism. Once a woman crosses the threshold of 40, the ‘Aunty’ tag is often bestowed upon her, whether she likes it or not.

But why should age dictate a woman’s identity? Why should she be reduced to a familial label that implies a relationship she may not have? In recent years, a growing chorus of writers, social media influencers, and actresses has spoken out against this phenomenon, asserting their individuality and rejecting the ‘Aunty’ moniker.

This movement is not just about semantics; it’s about challenging the stereotypes that come with it. It’s about recognizing that women, regardless of age, are complex individuals with their

own stories, experiences, and identities. By pushing back against the ‘Aunty’ label, these women reclaim their agency and demand to be seen as more than just a generational marker.

It’s essential to acknowledge the power of words and their impact on our perceptions. Consequently, I found the lyrics of “I’m Not Aunty O, I’m me” suggesting a shift in perspective, conveying a strong message, highlighting the importance of individual expression and the ability to choose one’s own identity, rather than being defined by societal labels. It’s a call to action, encouraging listeners to take control of their own identity and forge their own path.

In the debut episode of “Not Your Aunty,” aptly titled “Breaking The Aunty Norms: Embracing Life with Laughter and Defying Expectations,” dynamic duo, well-known Indian authors, Kiran Manral and Shunali Shroff shared their experiences of being called “aunty” at first time in their lives.

With their razor-sharp wit and infectious humor, Kiran and Shunali exuberantly defied labels that have long been associated with women of a certain age, 40 or beyond. Shunali expressed that it’s fine for her to be addressed ‘aunty’ from innocent lips of children or with the respectful tones of teenagers or from friends of her daughters with warmth and charm. However it is not acceptable to be called or labeled ‘aunty’ by people of same age, little younger or elder. Both of them found it quite offensive, disturbing, disputatious and inharmonious in nature.

About women health,

beauty, and identity at every stage of life, attorney, author and former First Lady of the United States, Michelle Obama inspires a more open and honest dialogue putting it this way- “Women, our bodies change drastically in comparison to men. We’re going through menopause. We’ve got a lot going on, and I don’t think we’ve done enough to understand what aging means for women’s bodies: What are we supposed to look like? How are we supposed to feel? We’re not talking about that enough. I’m 56 with a 56-year-old-body, and I love my body.”

Preeti Shenoy, a best-selling Indian writer shares on her Instagram handle, the empowering insights on what to embrace and what to let go of after 40; shattering the ‘Aunty’ stereotype. Her key takeaways are: embracing assertiveness, redefining worth, prioritizing self-care, embracing change, outgrowing people, focusing on personal growth, distancing oneself from those who no longer align with one’s values, and learning to say ‘no’ etc.

Thus ignore those all who try to dim your sparkle. Celebrate your age wearing your lines, grey hair, creaking knees, peri-menopausal mood swings and wisdom with pride. With unapologetic authenticity, cross the unexplored territories of life post 40, celebrate the beauty of self-discovery, growth, and un concealed individuality. Own your journey and be empowered by your experiences hence ageing is a privilege, not a flaw!

Dr. Shalini Yadav is a Professor, Writer and Columnist from Jaipur, Rajasthan.



India marks International Cooperatives Day 2025 with launch of Tribhuvan Sahkari University, digitalization of PACS, and White Revolution 2.0, reinforcing rural prosperity and cooperative empowerment under PM Modi's vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat.



TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

On the occasion of **International Cooperatives Day**, celebrated globally on the **first Saturday of July** each year and falling this year on **5th July 2025**, with the further distinction that **2025 has been designated by the United Nations as the International Year of Cooperatives**, the global cooperative movement stands at a pivotal crossroads—anchored in its century-old ethos of mutual assistance, democratic governance, and community-driven development—while embarking upon transformative reforms and digital modernization that promise to elevate its capacity to deliver inclusive growth, sustainable livelihoods, and social empowerment to rural India, whose nearly 8.42 lakh cooperative societies form the backbone of agricultural credit, dairy, fisheries, organic farming, housing, and financial inclusion initiatives across the country, embodying the guiding principle of “**Sahkar Se Samridhi**” or prosperity through cooperation.

As India commemorates this landmark year and day, it celebrates not only the enduring heritage of its cooperative system—which traces its formal origins back to the **Punjab cooperative societies in 1891**, predating the Cooperative Societies Act of 1904—but also the vast and deepening reforms led by the **Ministry of Cooperation**, under the stewardship of **Union Minister Shri Amit Shah**, aimed at ushering in a new era of digital transformation, institutional professionalism, sectoral diversification, and policy modernization that together catalyze the promise of rural resurgence, economic resilience, and equitable opportunity.

In this broader canvas, perhaps the most illustrious theme of 2025—“**Cooperatives Build a Better World**”—resounds across multiple dimensions: the strengthened digital infrastructure of Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS), the rapid proliferation of Multi-Purpose Cooperative Societies (including dairy and fisheries), the launch of **White Revolution 2.0** to accelerate milk procurement by 50% within five years, the formalization of thousands of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), transformational expansions in cooperative energy and ethanol sourcing, sweeping financial reforms that align cooperatives with corporate tax regimes, and

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATIVES DAY 2025: BUILDING A BETTER TOMORROW

the historic establishment of **Tribhuvan Sahkari University** in Anand, Gujarat—the nation’s first national cooperative university and a nod to cooperative visionary **Tribhuvandas Patel**—which collectively represent a multi-faceted progression from grassroots credit and community-driven procurement systems to mature institutions capable of governance, innovation, research, capacity building, and global competitiveness.

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION OF PACS

It is perhaps an understatement to suggest that the extensive computerization of nearly **67,930 PACS**, allotment of **₹752.77 crore to State governments** and **₹165.92 crore to NABARD**, installation of enterprise resource planning across over **54,150 PACS**, with **43,658 live**, along with the adoption of **Model Bye-Laws** (in **32 States/UTs**) is merely a technological upgrade; in reality, it represents a powerful democratization of transparency, governance, and financial inclusion, transforming what were once small, informally run credit societies into digitally empowered institutions capable of processing real-time transactions, delivering online credit, retrieving inputs for seeds and fertilizers, seamlessly interlinking with Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samridhi Kendras (PMKSK), Common Service Centers (CSCs), Jan Aushadhi Kendras, and Micro-ATMs—all under one unified, digitally auditable ecosystem that amplifies grassroots efficiency, extends service accessibility to even the remotest hamlets, and embodies the convergence of digital India with rural empowerment.

MULTIPURPOSE PACS FOR HOLISTIC VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT

With the registration of over **18,183 new Multi-Purpose Cooperative Societies**, including dairy and fisheries cooperatives, across thousands of panchayats by March 2025, India has commendably taken a leap toward ensuring that every village benefits from a village-level enterprise capable of delivering credit, agricultural inputs, procure-

ment of produce, dairy and fishery support services, and potentially retail services under one roof, enabling farmers and rural households to access essential services locally, prevent middlemen exploitation, generate local employment opportunities, and create village-level value chains that promote equitable economic activity and reduced migration pressures.

RE-IGNITING INDIA'S DAIRY MIGHT

Building on the monumental success of Operation Flood—India’s White Revolution that made the country the world’s largest milk producer—White Revolution 2.0, inaugurated on **25 December 2024**, seeks to elevate those gains further by aiming for a **50% increase in milk procurement over five years**, registering **9,695 dairy cooperative societies** across **27 States and Union Territories**, strengthening chilling infrastructure, cold-chain logistics, veterinary support, and farmer remunerative models, thereby ensuring that farmers, particularly women-led dairy farmers, receive fair prices for milk, while cooperatives like Amul inculcate efficiency, brand equity, scientific milking practices, and local value addition, reinforcing dairying as a sustainable rural livelihood.

EMPOWERMENT THROUGH PACS-ENABLED FINANCIAL SERVICES

In a strategic outreach to democratize financial access, the Ministry’s “**Cooperation among Cooperatives**” campaign has enabled **43,014 PACS** to render **Common Service Centre** facilities—encompassing government payments, form accessibil-

ity, digital certificates, and e-governance services—with transactions surpassing **₹67 Crore** in value, underscoring the role of cooperatives as digital infrastructure providers in rural India; meanwhile, through RuPay Kisan Credit Cards, **32.1 lakh cards issued**, **27 lakh deposit accounts opened**, distribution of **9,915 micro-ATMs**, introduction of door-step banking, and the rollout of **National Urban Cooperative Finance and Development Corporation (NUCFDC)** and Shared Services Entity under NABARD, cooperatives are asserting themselves as more than credit providers—they are inclusive banking institutions embedded in their communities.

EXPANDING DOMAIN FRONTIERS

The expansion of cooperatives into energy and ethanol initiatives—evidenced by **188 PACS** being converted into fuel retail outlets, with **59 commissioned** and further participation by Jharkhand PACS as LPG dealers—demonstrates strategic diversification, while the **₹10,000 crore NCDC loan scheme** for sugar cooperatives, encompassing **48 mills**, conversion of **63 mills** to multi-feed ethanol units producing **40–45 crore litres annually**, and procurement of **24,650 kl** by Oil Marketing Companies, exemplify forward-looking integration of agriculture, clean fuel, agronomy, and rural enterprises, reducing greenhouse emissions and increasing farmer incomes through crop-agro-industrial linkages.

COOPERATIVELY-LED VALUE CHAINS

The establishment of **1,867**

FPOs and 70 Fisheries Producer Organisations, along with **₹58.93 crore** disbursal to fishery cooperatives, and the formal launch of **National Cooperative Organics Limited (NCOL)** with **5,185 PACS** as members—introducing **21 “Bharat Organic” products**—signal a robust policy overlay that leverages cooperatives to spearhead organic farming, climate-resilient agriculture, nutritional security, export-promoting value chains, and equitable sharing of returns, thereby transforming rural agricultural systems to align with global sustainability demands.

LEVELING THE PLAYING FIELD

By bringing cooperatives closer to corporate taxation frameworks—with **Income Tax surcharge** reduced from **12% to 7%**, **MAT lowered from 18.5% to 15%**, **TDS thresholds elevated**, **cash withdrawal limits raised**, **loan limits per member increased**, **GST on molasses slashed to 5%**, and **₹46,524 crore** worth of sugar mill tax relief—government reformers have substantially untethered cooperatives from financial constraints, enabling them to compete on multiple fronts—whether in milk, sugar, fertilizer, or banking—while attracting investment by ensuring fiscal predictability, regulatory clarity, and operational incentives.

COOPERATIVE FINANCE RENAISSANCE

Urban and rural cooperative banks have gained newfound momentum through policies enabling UCBs to open new branches, diversify into mortgage lending, and offer door-step banking, the establishment of NUCFDC, Shared Services Entities under NABARD, and improved

capital frameworks—significant structural shifts that promise to widen credit access in urban and suburban areas, reduce dependence on informal moneylenders, and anchor cooperatives as pillars of regional economic resilience.

INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

The mapping of **8.42 lakh cooperative societies** through the **National Cooperative Database**, accompanied by the upcoming **National Cooperation Policy 2025** (to be released later this year in alignment with Vision 2047), and the formation of thematic committees at district, state, and national levels to steer cooperative action during the **International Year of Cooperatives**, illustrate India’s systematic intent to provide governance clarity, professional training, capacity enhancement, audit mechanisms, gender inclusion, digital compliance, and strategic cohesion—in essence, transforming a sprawling network into a unified, resilient, future-ready cooperative sector.

EDUCATING A COOPERATIVE GENERATION

In a transformative milestone that marries legacy with innovation, the foundation of **Tribhuvan Sahkari University (TSU)** in Anand by **Shri Amit Shah** on International Cooperatives Day pays tribute to cooperative luminary **Tribhuvandas Patel**, whose lifelong dedication seeded India’s cooperative dairy movement, and seeks to build a national centre for academic excellence in cooperative management, accounting, legal frameworks, social mobilization, digital governance, and sectoral specialization, thereby equipping future leaders to steer cooperatives toward

global competitiveness, societal impact, and sustainable growth.

GLOBAL CONVERGENCE

India’s homecoming to the global cooperative narrative—marked by the **International Cooperative Alliance’s (ICA) Global Cooperative Conference in New Delhi in November 2024**, which united more than **3,000 Indian cooperators** from over **100 countries**, as part of the momentum building for **IYC 2025**—has positioned the country not just as a beneficiary of cooperative development but as a thought leader in crafting local solutions for global challenges, such as climate change, inequality, pandemic resilience, and financial inclusion.

TRANSFORMATIONAL OUTCOMES: INCLUSIVE LIVELIHOODS, RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

Collectively, these initiatives have propelled concrete outcomes: rural households having new access to inputs, credit, healthcare, medicines, education, energy, and digital tools; women gaining ownership of dairy and fisheries enterprises; youth gaining employment and entrepreneurial opportunities; farmers becoming co-owners of procurement and processing infrastructure; villages becoming hubs of localized storage, value addition, and market access; cooperatives evolving from service providers into financial, educational, and enterprise nodes; and communities being empowered to take charge of their destinies, demonstrating that cooperatives are not mere institutional structures but vehicles for grassroots transformation.

LOOKING AHEAD

Yet, as the movement accelerates, several challenges persist: ensuring that **computerization** translates into effective service delivery, nurturing leadership and accountability among elected managers, mainstreaming digital literacy for rural staff, safeguarding the ecological integrity of cooperative-led agribusiness, maintaining governance standards against electoral or political

pressures, and measuring social and economic returns rigorously.

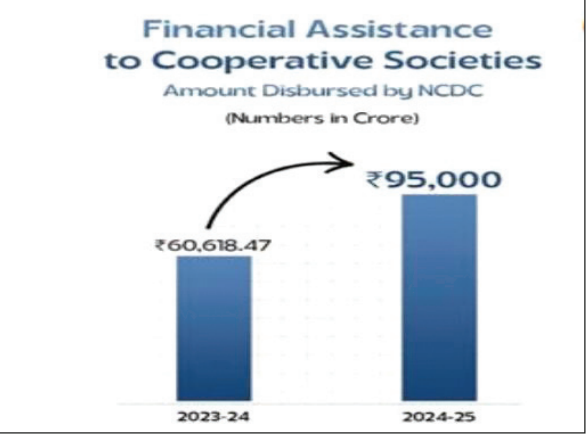
As a result, the coming years must see cooperatives adopting **continuous capacity-building, performance-driven leadership, third-party governance audits, community grievance redressal frameworks, gender and youth inclusion, and tie-ups with research institutions**, including TSU, NABARD, IIMs, and ICAR bodies, to ensure that cooperative resurgence remains rooted in performance, integrity, and innovation.

THE VISION

In essence, this International Cooperatives Day 2025 is more than an annual celebration—it is a harbinger of transformation wherein cooperatives are being reimagined as digital, democratic, resilient, and opportunity-centric institutions that bring public policy closer to the people and national ambition closer to rural reality. It is a bold affirmation of the government’s belief that modern cooperatives, grounded in time-tested ethics and furnished with contemporary systems, will be engines of economic empowerment, climate resilience, food security, financial inclusion, and social cohesion over the next two decades, catalyzing **India’s journey toward Viksit Bharat 2047**.

To quote—hypothetically—from the ethos of this movement: “When a village PACS springs to life with digital clarity, a dairy co-op begins to remunerate women producers equitably, a sugar mill starts producing ethanol to fuel a cleaner tomorrow, and a cooperative university nurtures a new generation of leaders, then cooperatives are not just institutions—they are democracy’s heartbeat, and India’s rural renaissance,” a sentence of aspiration befitting India’s cooperative vanguard.

Thus, in celebrating **International Cooperatives Day and Year**, India is not merely honoring its storied cooperative tradition—but committing, in action and institution, to a future where every farm, every village, every household is part of a shared journey toward self-reliance, shared prosperity, and rural renaissance through cooperative endeavour.



Smart Eating in Monsoon:

EASY FOOD COMBINATIONS FOR RAINY DAYS



DR SANGEETA VERMA

Eating right isn't just about picking healthy ingredients—it's also about how we combine foods and what we eat during different seasons. Ayurveda, India's ancient system of health and healing, teaches us that the right food combinations and seasonal diets can keep us healthy, improve digestion, and prevent diseases.

In Rajasthan, the monsoon season brings some relief from the summer heat, but it also brings challenges like humidity, slower digestion, and risk of infections. That's why it's important to follow a light, balanced, and ayurvedically-appropriate diet during this time.

EATING MINDFULLY

Whether it's the timing or the combination of foods, one often ignored but crucial element is how you eat. Eat in a calm environment – avoid screens, phones, and distractions. Chew your food thoroughly – digestion begins in the mouth. Eat only when hungry – true

hunger, not boredom or emotional craving.

THE AYURVEDIC PERSPECTIVE

In Ayurveda, food is not just fuel—it is medicine. The timing, temperature, and taste (rasa) of foods play a vital role in balancing the three doshas—Vata, Pitta, and Kapha.

Vata types should avoid raw foods and eat warm, moist meals at regular intervals.

Pitta types benefit from cooling foods and avoiding too many spices.

Kapha types do well with light, warm, and mildly spicy foods, avoiding heavy or oily items.

Eating according to your constitution and maintaining regular meal times can prevent many lifestyle disorders like acidity, bloating, fatigue, and even chronic issues like diabetes or obesity.

GOOD FOOD COMBINATIONS (DO EAT THESE TOGETHER)

Dal (lentils) + Rice / Roti

- A perfect protein combination that gives energy and is easy to digest.

GHEE + WARM FOOD

- Ghee helps absorb nutrients better and makes food more digestible. Add a teaspoon to dal, khichdi, or vegetables.

COOKED VEGETABLES + SPICES (LIKE CUMIN, AESFOTIDA, TURMERIC)

- These spices reduce gas



DANGEROUS



HEALTHY



and help digest heavy vegetables like cauliflower or potatoes.

- Warm Milk + Dry Fruits (like dates, almonds)
- Best taken at night. Soaked almonds or dates with warm milk support strength and sleep.
- Buttermilk + Cumin + Rock Salt
- A great drink after meals that helps with digestion

and removes bloating.

FRUITS + SAME-TYPE FRUITS

- Sweet fruits with sweet fruits (like banana + mango), or citrus fruits with citrus (like orange + grapefruit). Avoid mixing both.

WRONG FOOD COMBINATIONS (TRY TO AVOID THESE)

Milk + Salt or Sour Foods

- This can disturb digestion and form toxins. Avoid drinking milk with salty snacks or citrus fruits.

MILK + BANANA / CURD + FRUITS

- Can cause heaviness and increase mucus. Especially avoid in monsoon or when digestion is weak.

COLD DRINKS WITH MEALS

- Slows down your digestive fire (Agni) and leads to bloating or gas.

HEAVY PROTEINS + STARCH (LIKE PAN-NEER + POTATO)

- Digests at different speeds, which confuses the stomach and causes heaviness.

MIXING RAW AND COOKED FOODS TOGETHER

- For example, raw salad with hot dal-chawal. Raw takes longer to digest and can slow down the whole



HERBAL & HOME REMEDIES FOR MONSOON

Drink warm water or add a slice of ginger to your water bottle.

Tulsi, ginger, cinnamon tea helps fight infections and improves digestion.

Chew a small piece of ginger with rock salt before meals to boost appetite.

"If your digestive fire is low or you feel heaviness after meals than you should take sandhava lavan + adrak before starting the meals

TIPS FOR MONSOON EATING

Wash hands properly before eating.

Eat only when you are hungry—don't overload the system.

Avoid street food during the rainy season due to water contamination.

Don't eat late at night—finish dinner before 8 PM.

Monsoon is a time of beauty, but also a time to be cautious with your diet. By choosing the right food combinations and eating seasonal and regional foods, you can stay energetic, protect your digestion, and avoid common seasonal problems.

Ayurveda teaches us to respect the season, our body, and the food we eat. Follow nature's rhythm and choose food that supports your health—not just your taste buds.

The writer is Assistant Professor Preventive Medicine, National Institute of Ayurveda

Warm bowls, strong immunity: Best veg soups to enjoy this Monsoon

TDG NETWORK
JAIPUR

As the monsoon arrives, bringing much-needed relief from the heat, it also brings seasonal health concerns such as low immunity, poor digestion, and increased risk of infections. This makes it important to eat food that supports digestion, boosts immunity, and keeps the body warm and nourished.

One of the best choices during this season is a bowl of freshly made vegetable soup. Light, hydrating, and easy to digest, soups are a perfect monsoon comfort food that also offers several health benefits.

Here's a guide to why vegetable soups are ideal during the monsoon and which ones are best suited for health and immunity.

WHY VEGETABLE SOUPS ARE IDEAL IN MONSOON

Easy to Digest

During the monsoon, the digestive system tends to be sluggish. Soups are light on the stomach and easier to break down compared to oily or heavy foods.

Hydrating

Even in the rainy season, the body can get dehydrated. Soups not only hydrate but also provide nutrients in an easily absorbable form.

Boosts Immunity

When combined with herbs and spices like ginger, turmeric, and pepper, vegetable soups can help fight infections and support immune function.

Nutritious Yet Light

Vegetable soups are low in calories but high in essential vitamins, minerals, and antioxidants, making them

suitable for all age groups.

WARMING AND COMFORTING

A bowl of warm soup provides immediate comfort and is ideal to counter the damp and cool weather.

BEST VEGETABLE SOUPS TO BOOST IMMUNITY AND HEALTH IN MONSOON

1. Tulsi-Ginger Mixed Vegetable Soup

This soup supports respiratory health and helps build immunity.

Ingredients:

Chopped carrots, beans, and bottle gourd, tulsi (holy basil) leaves, grated ginger, cumin, black pepper, and rock salt.

Method:

Boil the vegetables with tulsi and ginger. Add seasoning. Blend the soup if preferred and serve hot.

2. MOONG DAL AND SPINACH SOUP

Rich in protein and iron, this soup is nourishing and gentle on the stomach.

Ingredients:

Yellow moong dal, chopped spinach, garlic, cumin, turmeric, and black pepper.

Method:

Cook dal and spinach together with spices until soft. Blend the mixture and simmer for a few minutes. Add a spoon of ghee if desired.

Note: Avoid spinach if experiencing very weak digestion.

3. PUMPKIN AND GINGER SOUP

This smooth, mildly sweet soup is good for gut health and rich in beta-carotene.

Ingredients:

Chopped yellow pumpkin,



ginger, garlic, black pepper, salt, and a small amount of ghee or olive oil.

Method:

Sauté pumpkin, ginger, and garlic. Add water and cook until soft. Blend into a puree and serve warm.

4. TOMATO AND CORIANDER SOUP

Tomatoes are high in vitamin C, and coriander supports detoxification and digestion.

Ingredients:

Ripe tomatoes, coriander leaves, ginger, rock salt, and

black pepper.

Method:

Boil tomatoes with coriander and ginger. Strain or blend the soup. Simmer and season before serving.

5. BOTTLE GOURD AND MINT SOUP

Light and cooling, this soup is helpful for those experiencing acidity, bloating, or heaviness.

Ingredients:

Chopped bottle gourd, fresh mint leaves, roasted cumin powder, black pep-

per, and rock salt.

Method:

Cook the bottle gourd and mint in water. Blend until smooth and season. Serve with a few drops of lemon juice.

SPICES THAT BOOST IMMUNITY IN SOUPS

Adding certain Ayurvedic spices enhances the health benefits of your soups:

Ginger – Helps digestion, reduces inflammation.

Turmeric – Natural anti-septic and immune booster.



Sprouted Moong or Chana – Adds protein and texture.

Toasted Seeds – Pumpkin or sunflower seeds offer crunch and minerals.

Lemon Juice – Add at the end to retain vitamin C and add a fresh flavor.

Herbs – Coriander, mint, and tulsi can improve aroma and benefits.

The monsoon is a time when our immune system needs extra care. Rather than indulging in fried snacks or outside food, turn to wholesome, homemade soups that provide warmth, nutrition, and protection against seasonal ailments.

Soups made with seasonal vegetables, digestive spices, and immune-boosting herbs can be your best companions during this time. Not only do they support health, but they also bring comfort on rainy days.

By making simple choices like these, you can enjoy the monsoon while staying light, active, and illness-free. Let each bowl of soup be a reminder that health begins in the kitchen—one sip at a time.

can collect bacteria and insects during the rainy season.

Always wash and cook vegetables well.

3. Soups and Stews

Light dals with spices like ginger, black pepper, and asafoetida (hing) can improve digestion.

Soups made with moong dal, tomato, or bottle gourd are great choices.

4. Spices that Support Digestion

Use spices like ginger, cumin, coriander, ajwain, black pepper, turmeric, and hing.

These keep your digestive fire strong and prevent infections and gas.

5. Healthy Fats

Add a little ghee to your meals—it lubricates joints and supports immunity.

6. Avoid Cold, Raw, and Oily Foods

Stay away from cold drinks, ice cream, raw salads, fried pakoras (though tempting), and curd at night.

These can increase Kapha dosha and lead to colds, cough, or indigestion.

process.

WHAT TO EAT IN RAJASTHAN DURING MONSOON?

Rajasthan's monsoon is short but humid, and with that come issues like low digestion, water-borne diseases, and skin problems. The digestive fire (Agni) is weak in this season, so it's best to eat light, warm, and easily digestible food.

1. Light Grains

Best choices: Moong dal, rice, millet (especially bajra and jowar in small quantities), and broken wheat (dalia)

Avoid heavy grains like corn or too much wheat.

Eat khichdi with ghee and cumin—perfect for rainy days!

2. Cooked Vegetables

Prefer boiled or lightly sautéed vegetables like bottle gourd (lauki), ridge gourd (tori), pointed gourd (parwal), and pumpkin (kaddu).

Avoid leafy vegetables like spinach and methi as they

WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT THE FLASH FLOODS IN TEXAS THAT KILLED OVER 100 PEOPLE

The devastation along the Guadalupe River, outside of San Antonio, has drawn a massive search effort as officials face questions over their preparedness and the speed of their initial actions.

TDG NETWORK
KERRVILLE, TEXAS

Flash floods in Texas killed more than 100 people over the Fourth of July holiday weekend and left others still missing, including girls attending a summer camp. The devastation along the Guadalupe River, outside of San Antonio, has drawn a massive search effort as officials face questions over their preparedness and the speed of their initial actions. Here's what to know about the deadly flooding, the colossal weather system that drove it in and around Kerr County and ongoing efforts to identify victims.

MASSIVE RAIN HIT AT JUST THE WRONG TIME, IN A FLOOD-PRONE PLACE

The floods grew to their worst at the midpoint of a long holiday weekend when many people were asleep. The Texas Hill Country in the central part of the state is naturally prone to flash flooding due to the dry dirt-packed areas where the soil lets rain skid along the surface of the landscape instead of soaking it up. Friday's flash floods started with a particularly bad storm that dropped most of its 12 inches (30 centimeters) of rain in the dark early morning hours. After a flood watch notice midday Thursday, the National Weather Service office issued an urgent warning around 4 a.m. that raised the potential of catastrophic damage and a



TDG EXPLAINER

severe threat to human life. By at least 5:20 a.m., some in the Kerrville City area say water levels were getting alarmingly high. The massive rain flowing down hills sent rushing water into the Guadalupe River, causing it to rise 26 feet (8 meters) in just 45 minutes.

DEATH TOLL IS EXPECTED TO RISE AND THE NUMBER OF MISSING IS UNCERTAIN

In Kerr County, home to youth camps in the Texas Hill Country, searchers have found the bodies of 84 people, including 28 children, Sheriff Larry Leitha said Monday afternoon. Fatalities in nearby counties brought the total num-

ber of deaths as of Monday afternoon to at least 104. Ten girls and a counselor were still unaccounted for at Camp Mystic, a Christian summer camp along the river. Beyond the Camp Mystic campers unaccounted for, the number of missing from other nearby campgrounds and across the region had not been released. Gov. Greg Abbott on Sunday had said that there were 41 people confirmed to be unaccounted for across the state and more could be missing. Kerrville City Manager Dalton Rice said Monday he couldn't give an estimate of the number of people still missing, saying only "it is a lot."



Search-and-rescue crews at one staging area Monday said over 1,000 volunteers had been directed to Kerr County. **OFFICIALS FACE SCRUTINY OVER FLASH FLOOD WARNINGS** Survivors have described the floods as a "pitch black



wall of death" and said they received no emergency warnings. Kerr County Judge Rob Kelly, who lives along the Guadalupe River, said Saturday that "nobody saw this coming." Officials have referred to it as a "100-year flood," meaning that the water levels were highly unlikely based on the his-



torical record. Local officials have known for decades, however, that flooding posed serious a risk in the region, and a county government report last year warned the threat was worsening. Officials also determined that another flood was likely in the next year and that "future worst-case flood

events" could be more severe than those of the past, according to the report. Additionally, officials have come under scrutiny about why residents and youth summer camps along the river were not alerted sooner than 4 a.m. or told to evacuate. Rice said Monday that he did not immediately know

if there had been any communication between law enforcement and the summer camps between 1 a.m. and 4 a.m. on Friday. But Rice said various factors, including spotty cell service in some of the more isolated areas of Kerr County and cell towers that might have gone out of service during the weather, could have hindered communication. Rice said officials want to finish the search and rescue and then review possible issues with cell towers, radios and emergency alerts. Officials noted that the public can grow weary from too many flooding alerts or forecasts that turn out to be minor. Kerr county officials said they had presented a proposal for a more robust flood warning system, similar to a tornado warning system, but that members of the public reeled at the cost.

MONUMENTAL CLEARING AND RE-BUILDING EFFORT

The flash floods have erased campgrounds and torn homes from their foundations. "It's going to be a long time before we're ever able to clean it up, much less rebuild it," Kelly said Saturday after surveying the destruction from a helicopter. Other massive flooding events have driven residents and business owners to give up, including in areas struck last year by Hurricane Helene. President Donald Trump said he plans to visit the flood zone Friday.

All about UAE's nomination-based golden visa for Indian, Bangladeshi residents

TDG NETWORK
DUBAI

The United Arab Emirates government has introduced a pilot nomination-based golden visa programme for residents of India and Bangladesh seeking lifetime residency there. It is reported. The proposed policy awards Indians the UAE's golden visa for life on paying a fee of AED 100,000 (around Rs 23.3 lakh), sources said. This policy would do away with the current requirement of investing in property or a business in the Emirates. What is the golden visa scheme? How is the new nomination process different? Here is what to know.

WHAT ARE GOLDEN VISAS?

Individuals seeking to immigrate to a country are typically required to fulfil criteria such as a minimum educational qualification and/or an offer letter from a company to work there. This process can be tedious and may take years. A golden visa bypasses this requirement, and hinges on an individual's ability to pay a significant sum of money to the host country, which may be in the form of investments in government bonds, real estate and more. A smaller number of countries offer the 'golden passport', another route to citizenship by investment.

AND WHAT IS THE UAE'S GOLDEN VISA

SCHEME?

According to the UAE's Federal Authority for Identity, Citizenship, Customs & Port Security, the golden visa is essentially a pathway to long-term residency in the country without the need for a sponsor in the country. Eligible candidates may apply for residency for a period of five to 10 years. The golden visa system allows residents, foreign expatriates and their families to move to the UAE to work, live and study, while enhancing the environment that supports business growth and success in the country. The UAE currently welcomes two larger categories of persons under the golden visa scheme:

PUBLIC INVESTORS, INVESTORS IN REAL ESTATE AND ENTREPRENEURS

People who commit an investment of at least AED two million (approx Rs 4.67 crore) in business or real estate in the country, or seek to start a project valued at not less than 500,000 AED (approx Rs 1.17 crore), fall in this category.

OUTSTANDING SPECIAL TALENTS

Outstanding special talents recognises six categories of eminent persons as described below:

- Talented people – doctors and scientists
- Creative people in the fields of culture, art, and inventors.
- Executive directors
- Athletes and specialists



recognised in one of the scientific

- fields of priority identified by the respective UAE authorities
- Doctorate holders in the fields of engineering and science
- Outstanding students in high school and university

HOW IS THE NOMINATION-BASED VISA POLICY DIFFERENT?

Sources cited in the report said that the nomination-based policy awards its holders with lifetime residency in the UAE, as opposed to the current policy of five to 10 years. For instance, golden visa-holders in the real estate investor category may only enjoy residency status for the duration of their project. Over 5,000 Indians are expected to apply for this nomination-based policy in three months, with the pi-

lot limited to persons from India and Bangladesh. According to the report, the Rayad Group consultancy has been entrusted with testing the pilot phase. Rayad Kamal Ayub, its Managing Director, explained that the consultancy will first check the applicant's background, including anti-money laundering and criminal record checks, as well as their social media. "The background check will also show if and how the applicant can benefit the UAE's market and business activities in any other way, such as culture, finance, trade, science, Start Up, professional services, etc." Rayad Kamal said. The final decision on the nomination will be made by the government after it receives the application. Applicants under the nomination-based policy need not visit Dubai and may

merely obtain pre-approval from their home country. Kamal said that applications could be submitted through the visa concierge service company, OneVASCO centres in India and Bangladesh. "After getting the Golden Visa, one gets the freedom to bring his or her family members to Dubai. "You can also keep servants and drivers based on this visa. You can do any business or professional work here," Rayad Kamal said.

HOW IS THE UAE'S GOLDEN VISA SCHEME SIGNIFICANT?

India's selection as the first country under the new nomination-based policy indicates the close business, cultural, and geopolitical relations between India and the UAE, especially after the signing of the Comprehensive Economic Partnership



Agreement (CEPA) between the two countries, effective May 2022. The nomination-based Golden Visa scheme is applicable to all countries that are signatories or partners under the CEPA. The project is slated to expand from India and Bangladesh to China and other CEPA countries. In theory, such systems generate economic benefits for both the individuals and the host nations, with the potential for revenue generation and beneficial investments. For instance, Saint Kitts and Nevis in the Caribbean, one of the first countries to create a citizenship-by-investment program in 1984, did so to "bolster its cash-strapped economy amid a drop in world prices for sugar, its main export." Similarly, Portugal did this in response to the 2008-09 global recession and the

2012 European debt crisis. However, the rising number of such programs has raised concern about their potential for misuse, with a 2019 European Commission report saying, "Such schemes have raised concerns about certain inherent risks, in particular as regards security, money laundering, tax evasion and corruption." The report flagged the threat of people investing in an EU nation towards "illegitimate ends, such as evading law enforcement investigation and prosecution in their home country and protecting their assets from the related freezing and confiscation measures." Indian businessman Mehul Choksi, who was WANTED IN INDIA for carrying out one of the country's most notorious banking scams worth Rs 13,000 crore, fled to An-

tigua and Barbuda in the Caribbean in 2018. He acquired citizenship through an investment programme. Similarly, businessman Nirav Modi, an ACCUSED IN THE PUNJAB NATIONAL BANK FRAUD case, is believed to be residing in the UK via an investor visa he applied for in 2015. The sustainability of such programmes has also been under scrutiny, with some countries such, like Ireland, Greece and Malta, curtailing them to accommodate the needs of their local residents, given the rise in housing prices in Europe. Other countries have become increasingly restrictive, with the UK scrapping the Investor visa (Tier 1) for wealthy investors in 2022, over concerns of illicit Russian money coming in at a time of heightened tensions with Russia over the Ukraine war.

TRUMP TIGHTENS EXECUTIVE HOLD WITH TIKTOK STANCE, BUDGET THEATRICS

Trump’s actions reflect growing presidential power, bypassing laws

AGENCIES
WASHINGTON

The ceremonial fly-over of a B-2 bomber during the signing of a budget bill might once have seemed excessive, but in today's climate of political theatrics and congressional gridlock, it appears fitting, reported The Hill.

After months of debate, Congress has passed a sprawling tax and spending package, widely unloved but perhaps effective by design. Described as a “pseudo-budget,” it reflects the evolving use of reconciliation—originally intended to empower Congress—as a tool that has increasingly served presidential agendas instead.

According to The Hill, the practice of reconciliation, first formalized in the 1974 Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act, was born out of efforts to restrain executive power following the Nixon presi-

dency. Initially, it served as a legislative mechanism to streamline budget-related decisions and maintain fiscal discipline.

“The first-ever reconciliation package came in 1980 as lawmakers teamed up to address the scandalously large budget deficit,” The Hill noted. That deficit, nearly 3 percent of the GDP at the time, prompted bipartisan concern—a notion now considered outdated as the US approaches a \$2 trillion deficit, more than 6 percent of GDP.

The Hill further observed that reconciliation evolved from a fiscal responsibility tool to a means of circumventing the Senate filibuster for major legislation. This shift began in earnest with the 1993 Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act under President Bill Clinton, followed by its use in President George W. Bush’s tax cuts and President Barack Obama’s Affordable Care Act.

KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM THE HILL REPORT

- TikTok law unenforced by Trump, citing presidential authority over national security.
- Budget bill passage marked by political spectacle and executive dominance.
- Reconciliation, once a fiscal tool, now often bypasses congressional intent.
- Trend shows shift from Obama’s legal maneuvering to Trump’s outright defiance of legislation.



Obama’s presidency also marked a turning point in executive action. “I am not king. I can’t do these things just by myself,” Obama had said in 2010, addressing pressure to act unilaterally on immigration. Yet in 2012, he announced Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), effectively choosing not to enforce parts of immigration law.

“What he discovered was that the power to grant immunity from the law is greater than the power to

enforce the law,” The Hill noted, explaining how prosecutorial discretion turned into policy-making via executive order.

This trend deepened under US President Trump. In April 2024, Congress passed legislation with overwhelming bipartisan support mandating that ByteDance divest TikTok by January 19, 2025. However, following his inauguration, Trump signaled he would not enforce the law.

According to The Hill, “the

administration told the companies that it was ‘irrevocably relinquishing’ its claim on enforcing the law for as long as President Trump held that following the law undermined his ‘core presidential national security and foreign affairs powers.’”

Trump’s stance effectively nullified the law, marking a shift from Obama’s work-around strategy to outright rejection of legislative authority. “Obama’s tricky tactics have been replaced by Trump’s blunt force,” The Hill stated.

This departure from constitutional balance reflects a broader erosion of congressional power. From imposing checks on Nixon to Trump celebrating a compliant legislature, the trajectory underscores how executive dominance has become normalized.

“It’s been a long way down for the Article 1 branch,” The Hill concluded, “and one suspects we’re just getting warmed up.”

Musk intensifies Trump feud with third party launch, Epstein jab over GOP tensions

AGENCIES
WASHINGTON

Tech billionaire Elon Musk has escalated his feud with US President Donald Trump, announcing the formation of a new political group called the “America Party” and intensifying criticism over Trump’s handling of the Jeffrey Epstein case, The Hill reported.

The fallout between the two deepened after Republicans passed a major policy bill supported by Trump, prompting Musk to declare his intention to back primary challengers against GOP members who voted for it. In response, Trump dismissed Musk’s new party as “ridiculous” and labeled him a “train wreck,” criticizing the effort as one doomed to fail in the US political system.

“He even wants to start a Third Political Party, despite the fact that they have never succeeded in the United States - The System seems not designed for them,” Trump posted on Truth Social. “The one thing Third



Parties are good for the creation of Complete and Total DISRUPTION & CHAOS, and we have enough of that with the Radical Left Democrats, who have lost their confidence and their minds!”

According to The Hill, Musk unveiled the America Party after polling users on his platform X about their desire for “independence from the two-party (some would say uniparty) system!”

He posted, “When it comes to bankrupting our country with waste & graft, we live in a one-party system, not a democracy. Today, the America Party is formed to give you back your freedom.”

Musk also reignited con-

troversy around the Epstein investigation, posting a sarcastic jab on X following a DOJ and FBI memo that concluded there was no Epstein “client list.” He wrote, “What’s the time? Oh look, it’s no-one-has-been-arrested-o’clock again ...” alongside an image titled “The Official Jeffrey Epstein Pedophile Arrest Counter” showing all zeroes.

Asked broadly about criticism regarding the Epstein case, White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt said, “The administration wants anyone who has ever committed a crime to be held accountable,” The Hill noted.

Turkish top defence industry executive arrives in Dhaka

AGENCIES
DHAKA

A top Turkish defence industry executive arrived in Dhaka on Tuesday on a one-day visit to discuss various aspects of military cooperation with Bangladesh an official said.

“Haluk Gorgun, Secretary of Turkey’s Defence Industries, arrived in Dhaka on a regular Turkish Air flight early in the morning,” a senior Bangladeshi official said.

Gorgun will pay a courtesy call on the interim government Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus. He will also meet with Army



Chief General Waqar-us-Zaman, Navy Chief Admiral M. Nazmul Hasan, and Air Force Chief Air Chief Marshal Hasan Mahmud Khan. Navy Chief hosted a lunch in honour of Turkey’s Secretary, the official said.

“Earlier, Top Bangladeshi military officials visited Turkey. This is the return visit. Various issues, including technology transfer, will be discussed during the

visit,” the official said.

Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA) Chairman Ashiq Chowdhury recently visited a military factory during his visit to Turkey, he said.

Defence cooperation between Bangladesh and Turkey is growing day by day. In 2022, Bangladesh became the leading buyer of Turkish defence equipment and weapons.

Gorgun may discuss Turkey’s assistance in building a defence equipment factory in Bangladesh. However, Bangladesh has a defence manufacturing factory called the Ordinance Factory.

Netanyahu nominates US President Trump for Nobel Peace Prize, hands over letter at dinner

AGENCIES
WASHINGTON

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Monday (local time) that he had sent a letter to the Nobel Prize Committee nominating US President Donald Trump for the Nobel Peace Prize. He personally handed a copy of the nomination letter to Trump during their dinner at the White House.

Trump hosted Netanyahu for dinner at the White House on Monday (local time).

“The President has already realised great opportunities. He forged the Abraham Accords. He’s forging peace as we speak in one country, in one region after the other. So, I want to present to you, Mr. President, the letter I sent to the Nobel Prize Com-



mittee. It’s nominating you for the Peace Prize, which is well deserved, and you should get it,” Netanyahu said while presenting the nomination letter to Trump.

After receiving the letter, Trump thanked Netanyahu and said that he was not aware of it. “Thank you very much. This I did not know. Wow, thank you very much. Coming from you in particular, this is very meaningful,” Trump said.

In remarks to reporters while sitting across from Prime Minister Netanyahu for dinner at the White House, Netanyahu expressed appreciation for Trump’s leadership.

“I want to express the appreciation and admiration not only of all Israelis, but of the Jewish people and many, many admirers around the world, for your leadership, your leadership of the free world, your leadership of a just cause, and the pursuit of peace and security which you are leading in many lands, but now especially in the Middle East. We have great opportunities. President has an extraordinary team, and I think our teams together make an extraordinary combination to meet challenges and seize opportunities,” Netanyahu said.

Suriname elects first female President amid economic challenges

AGENCIES
PARAMARIBO

71-year-old physician and veteran lawmaker Jennifer Geerlings-Simons has been elected as Suriname’s first female president, receiving parliamentary approval to lead the economically troubled South American nation. Al Jazeera reported on Monday.

As per Al Jazeera, her election followed a coalition agreement in the National Assembly, which secured her the required two-thirds majority vote on Sunday, that came after an inconclusive general election in May and increasing calls for the departure of outgoing President Chandrikapersad Santokhi, whose administration faced criticism over corruption allegations and strict austerity measures.

Geerlings-Simons, the head of the National Demo-

cratic Party, ran unopposed and is set to be sworn in on July 16.

In her acceptance speech, she acknowledged the historic nature of her presidency and the difficult road ahead.

“I am aware that the heavy task I have taken on is further aggravated by the fact that I am the first woman to serve the country in this position,” she said, as quoted by Al Jazeera.

Her vice president will be Gregory Rusland, and together they inherit a nation grappling with economic strain, subsidy cuts, and growing public discontent.

Although Santokhi’s government secured debt restructuring and IMF support to restore macroeconomic stability, the resulting austerity sparked mass protests, as reported by Al Jazeera.



Jennifer Geerlings-Simons (in Centre). ANI

Houthi drone attack kills two crew members on Greek-owned ship



AGENCIES
RED SEA/YEMEN

Two crew members of the *Eternity C*, a Liberian-flagged, Greek-owned bulk carrier, were killed following a drone and speedboat attack by Yemen’s Houthi rebels. The assault, which occurred late Monday and extended into Tuesday, was confirmed by Liberia’s delegation at a United Nations International Maritime Organization (IMO) meeting. The attack raised new alarms about the safety of maritime traffic through the strategic Red Sea corridor.

According to reports from *The Times of Israel*, the attack involved bomb-laden sea drones and armed men in small boats. The *United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations Center* warned that the vessel remained surrounded and under continuous attack as of Tuesday. In addition to the two confirmed deaths, at least two other crew members were injured, and two more were reported missing.

Most of the *Eternity C*’s 22-member crew were Filipinos, according to Manila officials. These fatalities are the first maritime deaths since June 2024 and bring the total number of Red Sea vessel-related deaths to six.

The assault took place as the *Eternity C* was en route to the Suez Canal. EU anti-piracy force Operation Atalanta and private security firm Ambrey reported that onboard security fired back during the prolonged attack.

Although the Houthi rebels have not officially claimed responsibility for this particular incident, both Yemen’s internationally recognized government and the EU force have blamed them. The attack came just one day after the Houthis targeted another Liberian-flagged, Greek-owned ship, the *Magic Seas*. That vessel came under heavy fire, including drones, missiles, and rocket-propelled grenades, forcing the crew to abandon ship. The Houthis later claimed it had sunk.

PM Modi departs for Brasilia after BRICS meet

AGENCIES
RIO DE JANEIRO/BRASILIA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has departed for Brasilia after participating in the 17th BRICS Summit held in Rio de Janeiro. The visit to Brasilia marks the next leg of his five-nation tour and will include a State Visit to Brazil, where PM Modi is scheduled to hold high-level talks with Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva.



The bilateral meeting in Brasilia aims to deepen the India-Brazil Strategic Partnership across several key sectors, including trade, defence, energy, space, ag-

riculture, health, technology, and people-to-people exchanges. The two leaders are expected to discuss new avenues of collaboration and measures to enhance economic and diplomatic ties between their nations.

During his time in Rio de Janeiro, PM Modi actively engaged with world leaders at the BRICS Summit, reaffirming India’s commitment to global cooperation and sustainable development.

NETANYAHU, IDF CHIEF CLASH OVER GAZA EVACUATION AND SIEGE PLAN

AGENCIES
TEL AVIV

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu clashed with IDF Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Eyal Zamir during a cabinet meeting over a contentious plan to evacuate civilians in Gaza and lay siege to its northern region. The Times of Israel reported. According to quotes cited by The Times of Israel from the closed-door meeting, National Security Minister Itamar Ben Gvir and Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich accused Zamir of failing to carry out orders, claiming it had led to a stalemate in Gaza. Zamir reportedly pushed back, saying: “You always say there is a stalemate in the Strip.”

11 killed, over 500 arrested in nationwide anti-govt protests in Kenya

AGENCIES
NAIROBI

At least 11 people were killed and more than 500 detained during anti-government protests across Kenya, CNN reported, citing the country’s National Police Service on Monday (local time).

As per CNN, security forces used tear gas and water cannons to disperse demonstrators, primarily young Kenyans, who expressed their anger and frustration over the corruption allegations, police brutality, and reports of enforced disappearances targeting critics of the government on the 35th anniversary of the 1990 Saba Saba pro-democracy movement.

The word “Saba Saba”



in Kiswahili means “seven seven”, referencing the date when the protest took place on July 7, 1990.

Police reported that 11 civilians were injured during the demonstrations, though the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR) placed the number at 29,

while a total of 567 people were arrested, police confirmed, as reported by CNN.

The protests are part of a broader wave of unrest that began last year following the introduction of a controversial finance bill that raised taxes amid a worsening cost-of-living crisis.

JR NTR WRAPS SHOOTING FOR 'WAR 2'

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Telugu cinema star Jr NTR said he got to learn a lot from his "War 2" co-star Hrithik Roshan, as he completed shooting for the film.

Directed by Ayan Mukerji, the movie is a sequel to the 2019 film "War", which featured Roshan in the role of RAW agent Major Kabir Dhaliwal. The upcoming film also stars Kiara Advani and is slated to hit the big screen on August 14.

NTR shared the news on his Instagram story on Monday evening.

"And It's a wrap for #War2! So much to take back from this one... It's always a blast being on set with @hrithikroshan Sir. His energy is something I have always admired. There is so



much I have learned from him on this journey of 'War 2'. @ayan_mukerji has been amazing. He has truly set the stage for a big surprise package for the audience," the 42-year-old actor wrote.

"A big thanks to the entire @yrf team and all our crew for the love and effort. Can't wait for all of you to experience this high on August 14th," he added.

"War 2" promises to deliver

six major action sequences shot across five countries over 150 days. The movie is scheduled for release in Hindi, Tamil and Telugu languages and is a part of "YRF Spy Universe".

Madhur Bhandarkar begins shoot for 'The Wives'

TDG NETWORK
MUMBAI

National Award-winning filmmaker Madhur Bhandarkar, who is known for films like Chandni Bar, Page 3, Fashion, Heroine, Traffic Signal and others, has started the production on his upcoming film "The Wives" in Mumbai on Tuesday.

The film was announced earlier this year, and stars Sonali Kulkarni, Mouni Roy, Regina Cassandra, Rahul Bhatt, Saurabh Sachdeva, Arjan Bajwa and Freddy Daruvala.

Madhur Bhandarkar, who also boasts of a Padma Shri awardee known



for his bold, hard-hitting takes on society, is turning his lens towards the heart of Bollywood with his next feature, The Wives.

Talking about the film, Madhur Bhandarkar shared, "With 'The Wives', I want to peel back yet another glamorous layer of society and show what re-

ally lies beneath. This film will be a bold, unapologetic look at the secrets, struggles, and resilience of women who are often seen but seldom heard".

The filmmaker is known for touching upon the gritty realities hidden beneath dazzling facades through his films, and

was considered the poster boy of realistic cinema before Anurag Kashyap took the baton from him. With decades of storytelling that challenges the status quo, the filmmaker aims to unmask the shadows behind the limelight, exposing the struggles, secrets, and social dynamics of an industry he knows inside out.

'The Wives' also marks Bhandarkar's second collaboration with producer Pranav Jain of P J Motion Pictures, after their successful project India Lockdown which won hearts with its straight-to-OTT release.



Kareena Kapoor Khan poses for her social media. (Instagram)

Mira Kapoor shares throwback pics with Shahid Kapoor



TDG NETWORK
MUMBAI

Bollywood couple Shahid Kapoor and Mira Kapoor are celebrating 10 years of their marriage, and fans can't get enough of their love-filled journey.

On their special day, Mira shared an adorable Instagram post that gave fans a glimpse into their beautiful life together.

The post featured five adorable pictures, each telling a sweet story of their time together. From romantic getaways to precious parenting moments, Mira summed up a decade of love,

friendship, and family in just a few photos.

In one picture, Shahid is seen smiling warmly at Mira as he holds her close. Another captures him gently cradling their baby daughter, Misha, in his arms. A third photo shows their son Zain's tiny hand resting on Shahid's palm. One more picture shows Shahid swinging with one of their kids, and the last photo is a tender moment of Shahid kissing Mira on the forehead.

Alongside the post, Mira wrote: "Ten years later, and you're still the one-- my forever."

Shahid and Mira tied the

knot in a private ceremony in Delhi on July 7, 2015. Their marriage was arranged by their families, and since then, they've become one of Bollywood's most loved couples. They welcomed their daughter Misha in 2016 and son Zain in 2018.

On the work front, Shahid was last seen in Deva. In the film, Shahid plays ACP Dev Ambre, a police officer who loses his memory while investigating his best friend's murder. The film also starred Pooja Hegde, who played the female lead, a reporter and Dev's love interest. The film hit theatres on January 31.

BRAIN PICKING



You should never give up on your dreams, no matter how distant they may seem.

—KAJOL
(India Actress)

Virat, Anushka spotted at Wimbledon

AGENCIES
LONDON

Star cricketer Virat Kohli, along with his wife and actress Anushka Sharma, were spotted at the centre court of the ongoing tennis tournament, Wimbledon, on July 7. The couple was there to witness Novak Djokovic's thrilling round of 16 win against Australia's Alex de Minaur in the Wimbledon 2025 Championships.

Virat and Anushka arrived as spectators for the match between one of the greats of tennis, Novak Djokovic, and rising star Alex de Minaur.

In photos going viral on the internet, Virat and Anushka were seen sitting in the stands alongside other spectators. The Indian crick-

eter donned a brown blazer for the outing while Anushka looked elegant and classy in a white blazer.

The thrilling tennis match ended in another wing for Novak, a step forward for the Tennis legend to clinch another Wimbledon title to his name.

Kohli took to Instagram to share his excitement, posting a heartfelt story for Djokovic.

Last year, the Indian ODI cricket team captain Rohit Sharma also attended the Wimbledon tournament to watch the semifinal clash between Daniil Medvedev.



'Saiyaara' trailer out now

TDG NETWORK
MUMBAI

The trailer of the upcoming Mohit Suri's directorial film 'Saiyaara' is finally out now.

On Tuesday, the makers unveiled the trailer of the film, featuring Ahaan Panday and Aneet Padda.

The trailer shows Ahaan as Krish Kapoor, an aspiring singer, while Aneet



Panda is a writer who pens lyrics for Ahaan's character. They both gradually fall in love with each other; however, things take a bitter turn when Aneet's character threatens Krish with a knife and asks him to leave the event. Krish is heartbroken and expresses his pain and anger. He was advised by Varun Badola's character, "Apne pyaar ke

liye na khud ko khatam mat kar lena." Later, he was shown achieving stardom with his grand live performances.

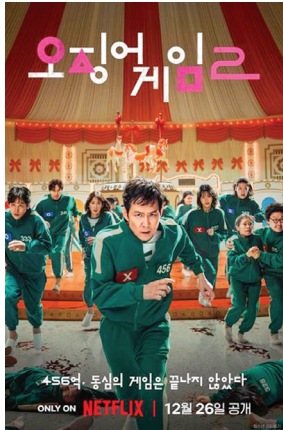
Check out the trailer. After the makers dropped the trailer of the film, netizens reacted to it and praised it for the chemistry.

"That's how people should debut," wrote one of the users.

'Squid Game' ends with blood, betrayal, and belief: A brutal allegory comes full circle

YASHIKA SAINI
NEW DELHI

One of Netflix's highest-rated shows, *Squid Game*, has released its much-anticipated final season. The six-hour-long episodes left viewers reeling, as each sequence brought unexpected twists and little room for prediction. Written and directed by Hwang Dong-Hyuk, the series debuted in 2021 with Lee Jung-Jae and Lee Byung-Hun in lead roles. It quickly rose to global fame by presenting a fresh kind of dystopia—one not rooted



in totalitarian regimes or environmental collapse, but in capitalism itself. At its core, *Squid Game* is an allegory that

probes the brutal logic of economic systems and the moral ambiguities that govern human survival.

"Player 456, do you still have faith in people?" That haunting question encapsulates the show's central inquiry: in a world dominated by money, can humanity endure?

The story begins with Seong Gi-Hun (Lee Jung-Jae), a down-on-his-luck chauffeur plagued by gambling addiction. His life is falling apart—estranged from his daughter, dependent on his aging mother, and hunted

by loan sharks. Everything changes when a mysterious recruiter (Gong Yoo) challenges him to a game of Ddakji, a children's pastime turned sinister. Soon after, Gi-Hun receives a card bearing three simple shapes—a square, triangle, and circle. One phone call later, he enters a nightmarish contest where childhood games determine who lives and who dies.

What distinguishes *Squid Game* is its departure from conventional dystopias like *The Hunger Games* or *Maze Runner*. Barring a few mo-

ments—chirping birds in "Red Light, Green Light" or rain in the Season 1 finale—the natural world is nearly absent. Instead, the series constructs an artificial realm where human psychology, not wilderness or war, is the battleground. Hwang Dong-Hyuk deliberately chose children's games for their cultural neutrality and simplicity, ensuring the spotlight remained on human choices. These decisions shape the show's striking visual language: vibrant, child-like colors—hot pinks, yellows, and sky blues—mask the

brutality beneath, drawing a chilling contrast between surface innocence and systemic cruelty. Sound design, set architecture, and camera work collaborate to disorient viewers, reframing innocent symbols into instruments of horror. Playgrounds become killing fields. The result is a dystopia that feels disturbingly familiar. Beyond its critique of economic despair, Season 1 touches on Christianity in Korea, North Korean defection, immigrant labor, and youth alienation. "Earn or die" emerges as a brutal truth. What begins as a last

resort for desperate participants morphs into grotesque entertainment for wealthy VIPs. The season ends with Gi-Hun's survival, but not triumph. He returns to find his mother dead, his daughter relocated to the U.S., and the prize money a burden rather than a blessing. The revelation that Player 001, Oh Il-Nam, orchestrated the games shatters him, but also awakens his resolve. Donning a new look and a renewed mission, he rescues Kang Cheol, younger brother of the late Sae-Byeok, and entrusts him to Sang-Woo's

mother—along with half the winnings.

"We are not horses. We are humans," Gi-Hun declares. His fight has only begun.

A second arc unfolds through Hwang Jun-Ho (Wi Ha-Joon), a police officer investigating the games. Though he and Gi-Hun never meet, Jun-Ho receives the same card and infiltrates the system. His discovery of black-market organ trafficking and the staff's rigid hierarchy leads to an even darker truth—the Front Man, who oversees the games, is his missing brother, In-Ho.

THE RISE OF BESAN KI ROTI AND CHUTNEY: A RUSTIC RAJASTHANI TREND MAKING WAVES

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

In an age where food trends are often dictated by global fusion and Instagram aesthetics, a humble, rustic meal from the heart of Rajasthan is finding its way onto urban menus and foodie feeds—*Besan ki Roti with Chutney*. Once considered a staple of rural households and nomadic communities, this traditional duo is now celebrated for its simplicity, nutrition, and bold, earthy flavours.

Besan ki Roti, made from gram flour (chickpea flour), is a hearty flatbread packed with protein and dietary fibre. With no gluten and minimal ingredients—typically just besan, salt, ajwain (carom seeds), red chilli powder, and ghee—it caters well to health-conscious eaters looking for alternatives to wheat. Its dense texture and nutty taste make it filling and flavorful, especially when cooked over a woodfire or iron griddle and slathered with ghee or butter.

What truly elevates this Rajasthani staple is the **spicy, smoky chutney** served alongside. Often made with garlic, dry red chillies, and sometimes tomatoes or curd, this chutney adds a fiery punch that balances the roti's richness. Variations across regions of Rajasthan include chutneys made from raw mango, coriander, or even onions pounded with green chillies—each adding a unique layer to the dish. Some households even pair the roti



In Rajasthan, this meal has long symbolised sustainability and resourcefulness. Gram flour stores well in arid climates, and the ingredients for chutney are locally sourced and seasonally adapted.

with *lasun ki chutney* (garlic chutney) or *lehsun-mirchi ka thecha*, showcasing the region's bold palate.

The rise in popularity of besan ki roti and chutney can be credited to a growing interest in regional Indian cuisine and the slow food movement. Restaurants and home chefs are

revisiting forgotten recipes, celebrating hyperlocal ingredients and traditional cooking techniques. The dish also aligns with current dietary trends—gluten-free, protein-rich, and plant-based—making it popular among both health-conscious millennials and nostalgic food

lovers.

In Rajasthan, this meal has long symbolised sustainability and resourcefulness. Gram flour stores well in arid climates, and the ingredients for chutney are locally sourced and seasonally adapted.

What was once born out of necessity has

now become a culinary statement.

From roadside dhabas to urban cafes and food influencers' reels, **besan ki roti and chutney** has emerged as more than just a meal—it's a celebration of Rajasthani heritage, flavour, and the beauty of eating simple, real food.

Rediscovering Real Chocolate: A Taste of Authenticity

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Home bakers and professionals alike were recently encouraged to reflect on the kind of chocolate they used in their kitchens. While compound chocolate had long been a popular choice due to its affordability and ease of use, it lacked the core ingredient that defines true chocolate—cocoa butter. Instead, it relied on vegetable fats, which compromised both flavour and texture.

In contrast, couverture chocolate, known for its smooth texture and deep, rich flavour, offered a superior alternative. Made with over 31% cocoa butter and high cocoa solids, it melted evenly and precisely, making it ideal for tempering and creating desserts with a professional finish. Whether used in ganache, mousse, or glossy coatings, couverture consistently elevated the quality of baked creations.

One premium couverture chocolate brand based in Gujarat played a key role in driving this shift toward authenticity. Its product portfolio, crafted with clean ingredients and a commitment to small-batch quality, showcased the potential of real chocolate in everyday baking. From bold dark couverture to origin-specific baking slabs, each product reflected a focus on transparency and taste.

The brand also championed Indian-grown cacao, working closely with local farmers to create chocolate that captured the character of India's diverse agricultural landscape. By supporting regional producers, it contributed to a more sustainable supply chain while celebrating the richness of homegrown flavour.

Beyond taste, couverture



One premium couverture chocolate brand based in Gujarat played a key role in driving this shift toward authenticity.



chocolate offered a nutritional edge. Free from artificial fats and excess sugar, it retained natural antioxidants and the healthy fats found in cocoa butter. Bakers who made the switch experienced not just better results, but a cleaner, more wholesome approach to chocolate.

With a state-of-the-art

60,000 sq. ft. facility, the brand steadily gained recognition as the 'Home of Couverture'—a reflection of its commitment to consistency, craft, and scale. It reminded bakers everywhere that while baking with compound might be convenient, baking with real chocolate was truly extraordinary.

Trippy Tequila to host Noida's first-ever Trippy Fake Wedding on July 12

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

On 12th July from 8 PM onwards, Trippy Tequila at Gardens Galleria Mall will light up with a one of a kind celebration the Trippy Fake Wedding.

A bold, immersive, and high-energy event, this concept throws out the rulebook of traditional weddings and replaces it with pure chaos, color, and creativity.

Imagine walking into a wedding with zero expectations and maximum madness where there's no bride, no groom, but everything else is on-point: ethnic attire, a band-baaja-dhol welcome, a baggi photo booth, live food stations, a decorated welcome gate, and staff in pagdi and kurtas all set inside the vibrant world of Trippy Tequila.

The event reimagines the Indian wedding not as a family affair, but as a celebration of friends, fashion, and freedom.

Every guest becomes a baraati in this staged wedding fever free to dance, eat, dress up, and capture their own shaadi story.

Luv Dhingra, Owner of Trippy Tequila, shares: "We wanted to create a universe where people

could experience the joy of a wedding without the rituals or stress.

Trippy Fake Wedding is fun, free, and fully filmy. It's our ode to the drama, color, and chaos we all secretly love."

Manoj Kanojia, Vice President at Trippy Tequila, adds: "We've gone all-in on details from the live dhols to staff uniforms to that grand baggi.

It's like walking into a shaadi that forgot the paperwork. The experience is meant to be wild, nostalgic, and 100% joyful."

This experience cements Trippy Tequila as one of the most experimental nightlife destinations in Noida, continuously pushing boundaries between entertainment, imagination, and cultural storytelling.

Event Snapshot:
Event Name: Trippy Fake Wedding

Hosted by: Trippy Tequila
Date & Time: 12th July, 2025 | 8 PM onwards

Venue: Gardens Galleria Mall, Noida

Dress Code: Ethnic Wear Only

Highlights: Grand Decor • Band Baaja • Food Counters • Shaadi-style Setup • Photo Moments • Pagdi-Clad Staff • Welcome Gate



FROM CLASSROOM TO BOARDROOM: HOW BUSINESS PSYCHOLOGY CREATES FUTURE-READY PROS



NIDHEESH SAXENA

We all hear it: “Know your numbers!” Sure, numbers matter. But honestly? Know your people first. That’s where the magic happens.

After years leading teams, building partnerships, and helping organizations grow in all kinds of markets, here’s the real truth I’ve seen: Technical skills get you in the door. People skills decide if you get a seat at the table – and then climb higher.

That’s why Business Psychology isn’t just some niche HR thing. It’s the secret sauce. It shapes how companies actually run, how teams truly click, and how businesses navigate change and grow.

So, what does a Business Psychology grad actually bring? This isn’t just about walking away with a diploma. It’s about walking out with a Swiss Army knife for the real world. These grads are ready to jump in and make a difference, right from day one, in all sorts of roles:

- Your go-to HR partner or workplace whisperer (fixing team vibes, making work actually work)
- The person who gets why people buy (or don’t buy) your stuff (Brand & Consumer Insight pro)

- The architect shaping how the company grows and evolves (Org Development exec)
- The detective figuring out what users really want (Product Researcher / UX Analyst)
- The coach who helps teams talk and work better together (Corporate Trainer / Comms Coach)
- The founder who builds a killer team and culture from the start (Smart Entrepreneur)

Think about the big players – Unilever, Deloitte, Google. Why do they have whole teams obsessed with human behavior? It’s not just crunching data. It’s cracking the code on what motivates people, how they decide, and the invisible force of culture. That’s the value. What’s next after graduation?



Two awesome paths: Got your undergrad in Business Psych? Sweet! Now you’ve got choices:

- Deeper Dive (Master’s in Psych): Become the expert in things like: Org Psych: Building amazing leaders and cultures (way beyond free coffee).
- Cognitive Psych: Fueling innovation and sharp strategic thinking.
- Behavioural Science: Applying human quirks everywhere (design, finance,

you name it!).

- Corporate Counselling: Essential for today’s mental-wellness focused workplaces.
- The Power Combo (MBA): Layer business smarts onto your people genius. You become the unicorn: Someone who understands both how people tick and how the whole business machine runs.
- HR & Org Strategy: Building people-powered performance.
- Marketing: Knowing consumers better than they know themselves.
- Business Analytics: Using human behavior models to make smarter calls.
- Leadership & Transformation: Guiding change that actually sticks.
- Imagine: A founder who feels the market’s pulse before the trends hit. A marketing manager who knows why something will go viral. That’s the kind of leader this combo builds.

Especially for Future Entrepreneurs (Hey, family biz folks!): You’ve probably soaked up years of lessons already – watching deals happen, seeing how staff get managed, the daily grind of business. This degree takes that raw experience and supercharges it. You gain:

- Real tools to manage people with insight, not just gut feeling.
- A pro mindset to level up what already exists.
- Skills to build systems that actually scale with you.
- A balanced way to handle the tough stuff – family conflicts, passing the torch.
- You’re not just waiting to

take over. You’re learning how to truly transform what you inherit.

Wrapping it up... Whether you’re leading a tiny team or a huge company, success boils down to understanding. Understanding people. That’s the heartbeat of every thriving business.

Yeah, everyone’s buzzing about AI and automation. But let’s not forget the irreplaceable core: human judgment, emotion, and collaboration. You can’t code that stuff.

Business Psychology teaches you how to work with it, nurture it, and lead through it. It’s time to stop treating it like an optional extra. Let’s make it core curriculum – starting right from undergrad.

The author is Senior Professional in the Education Industry.

How B-Schools Nurture the Entrepreneurial Mindset in Students?



PROF. (DR.) TAPAN KUMAR NAYAK

Entrepreneurship is no longer just a career choice, it has become a mind-set in today’s VUCA world. With economies relying increasingly on innovation, agility, and job creation, B-Schools play a vital role in nurturing the entrepreneurial spirit among students. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 has also emphasized the promotion of innovation and entrepreneurial skills in the B-School curriculum.

Top tier institutions such as IIMs, ISB, and several premier private B-schools are integrating entrepreneurship with technology integration, digitalization, AI, and data analytics to equip students for the new-age startup ecosystem. With India poised to become a global startup hub, the role of B-Schools as incubators of entrepreneurial talent is more crucial than before.

However, the bigger question lies with the implementation part: how to instill such mind-set in students? The answer can be a combination of curriculum innovation, experiential learning, industry mentorship, and startup ecosystem support.

INNOVATION AS PART OF B-SCHOOL CURRICULUM:

Most of the B-schools have moved beyond conventional classroom teaching-learning process to integrate entrepreneurship into their core curriculum. Courses in innovation management, Design Thinking, Startup Methodology, Venture Capital, and Entrepreneurial Finance expose students to the fundamental concepts of startups. Many B-Schools now offer dedicated entrepreneurship subjects that provide theoretical knowledge as well as practical frameworks to convert ideas into viable business models. Moreover, case-based learning and problem-based learning approaches ensure that students analyse real-world challenges faced by startups, thereby building critical thinking, decision-making, and risk assessment skills to build entrepreneurial mind-set among the students.

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Learning entrepreneurship cannot be confined to classroom teaching. Business schools have embraced experiential learning through startup labs, incubators, business plan competitions, hackathons, and short term training programs. These platforms allow students to experiment with their business ideas in a low-risk environment, receive feedback, iterate, and refine their solutions. B-Schools often invite angel investors, startup leaders and real time entrepreneurs to the campus and interact with the students to build entrepreneurial mind-set among students.

CORPORATE NETWORKING AND INDUSTRY MENTORSHIP

Industry mentorship is another critical factor in shaping entrepreneurial mindset. B-schools foster strong network with alumni, industry professionals, angel investors, and successful entrepreneurial leaders who serve as role models and guides for the students. Leadership sessions, guest lectures, startup sessions, and panel discussions connect students with real-world insights and emerging trends. These engagements not only inspire students but also provide them with strategic advice, potential partnerships, and access to angel investors.

FOSTERING AN ENTREPRENEURIAL ECOSYSTEM

Leading B-schools function as pathway to the startup world, where interdisciplinary collaboration, culture of innovation, and risk-taking capabilities are encouraged among the students. Cross-functional projects with business plans, design thinking, and liberal arts enable diverse perspectives and fuel innovation into the mindset. Apart from that, entrepreneurship cells (E-cells), and startup incubators cultivate an active ecosystem that continuously engages students with entrepreneurial leaders to foster creativity, initiative, and adaptability.

BUILDING SUSTAINABLE ENTREPRENEURS

B-schools are also reimagining entrepreneurship beyond the individual gains. Courses on social internship, sustainability, and social entrepreneurship are inspiring students to rethink on pressing global issues such as climate change, inequality, and equity in education. This type of social perspective ensures that the future leaders are not only economically driven but also socially conscious to bring equity, efficiency and sustainability to the entire ecosystem.

Therefore, B-schools are no longer just professional academic grounds for corporate careers; they are breeding grounds for future entrepreneurs.

By fostering innovation, resilience, and adaptability through academic and practical exposure, B-schools are driving students from the classroom to the boardroom and also to the startup ecosystem. In doing so, the B-Schools are instilling not just individual success but also economic growth and societal transformation.



The author is Director, Jaipuria School of Business, Ghaziabad

SV ZOOLOGICAL PARK AND MBU'S COLLABORATIVE MODEL FOR CONSERVATION

DR. P. PRAKASH

In the heart of Tirupati, Sri Venkateswara Zoological Park (SV Zoo) is emerging as a vibrant hub for environmental education and action, thanks to a growing partnership with Mohan Babu University (MBU). What began as a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the two institutions has transformed into a deeply rooted collaboration that is bringing students, researchers, and conservationists together to address real-world ecological challenges on the ground.

Under the guidance of SV Zoo Curator Mr. Selvam IFS and Zoo Education Officer Mr. Deepak, and with the committed involvement of MBU’s NSS unit, this alliance has led to a series of impactful sustainability and outreach programs inside the zoo premises. These initiatives go far beyond theory, they are reshaping how conservation is practised and understood by the community.

One of the core focus areas has been tackling plastic pollution within the zoo—a common issue that threatens both wildlife and visitor experience. Through routine clean-up drives led by NSS volunteers, large volumes of plastic waste have been collected, sorted, and sent for recycling as part of the Plastic-Free Tirupati initiative. But the effort doesn’t stop at collection. Volunteers have creatively repurposed discarded plastic into educational displays



and awareness installations placed around the zoo, turning waste into a teaching tool for thousands of daily visitors.

MBU’s student teams have also introduced outreach programs tailored for zoo-goers. These include live poster presentations, interactive sessions during Wildlife Week and World Environment Day, and hands-on activities that educate families and school children on biodiversity, wildlife protection, and sustainable living. These programs help bridge the gap between conservation science and public engagement, ensuring that learning continues beyond the classroom.

A major emphasis has been placed on habitat restoration within the zoo. Tree plantation drives featuring native and medicinal plant species have been carried out across key zones, with special attention to biodiversity support. What makes this effort unique is the commitment to maintenance, MBU’s volunteers don’t just plant trees; they care for them, monitor survival rates, and contribute to long-term ecosystem health within the park.

In addition, SV Zoo and

MBU have co-developed educational models on topics like carbon-conscious living, plastic alternatives, and sustainable resource use. These models are showcased at various spots around the zoo to stimulate visitor curiosity and action. Students have also helped with basic research support and documentation, contributing to data collection that aids in improving conservation planning for the zoo.

This dynamic collaboration reflects MBU’s core belief that education must extend into the real world, especially when it comes to environmental stewardship. While the university continues to push for a plastic-free, carbon-conscious campus and has begun exploring carbon footprint assessments and afforestation on its grounds, its work inside SV Zoo remains one of the most tangible and community-facing arms of its sustainability mission.

Together, SV Zoo and Mohan Babu University have created more than a partnership; they’ve built a working model of conservation where learning, action, and awareness meet. And as the region prepares for a future shaped by climate and ecological shifts, such collaborations offer a hopeful blueprint: one where academic institutions play a leading role in protecting the natural world.

The author is Associate Professor, Dept of Mechanical Engineering, Mohan Babu University, Tirupati, AP.

What aspiring international students and highly skilled workers need to know

MAMTA JANI

The British government has just announced a major transformation of its immigration system in the form of a new White Paper proposing a range of reforms designed to cut net migration, cap reliance on low-cost foreign workers, and sharpen the criteria for skilled migration. Home Secretary Yvette Cooper made the announcement, describing the moves as a “complete reset” of the policy for managing immigration in the UK.

This policy shift has attracted a great deal of interest, especially from businesses operating in sectors

that rely on global talent, skilled workers, and overseas students. It is expected that the new policy will affect the near and long-term opportunities for work and education available to individuals seeking employment and study opportunities in the UK.

Important Points of the New Immigration Reforms

111 jobs will be taken off the existing Skilled Worker visa list, making it harder for many professionals to work in the UK.

The decision to end recruiting care workers from overseas would be a big blow for the health and social care sectors, which have

long relied on foreign staff.

Sub-degree level jobs will stay on the Shortage Occupation List, but for only a short time and under strict rules.

The Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) will undertake a wide-ranging review of shortage list roles, including salary scales and employment conditions.

The minimum salary requirement for Skilled Worker visas will rise in two stages:

Up to 21 July 2025: £38,700

From 22 July 2025: £41,700

The new measures are intended to stimulate employers to invest in domes-



tic talent and training and to ensure that foreign workers must meet higher wage and skill requirements.

Implications for International Students and Qualified Professionals:

Although these reforms seem to limit easier access to work, they also consolidate the UK’s desire for highly educated, skilled professionals, particularly those who have studied in the UK or at internationally well-recognized institutions.

For foreign students, the message is clear: quality education that drives highly-skilled positions is now more crucial than ever. UK degrees, especially in areas

such as technology, finance, engineering, and healthcare, still carry great benefits in accessing post-study work opportunities. Sub-degree or low-income applicants may find themselves increasingly struggling to obtain long-term visas under the new system.

A SILVER LINING FOR STUDY ABROAD ASPIRANTS

In spite of the stricter policies, the UK is still a hub for education, research, and innovation worldwide. The UK degree’s worth, particularly in light of these reforms, is further emphasised. Those who are

well-endered with higher-order skills and knowledge are more likely to reach the new salary and skill levels, find employment, and play a valuable role in the UK economy.

In this changing world, investment in a good foreign education abroad—particularly in the UK—can be a solid stepping stone to international career prospects. The new policies will create a narrower playing field, but they also raise the stakes of skill, competence, and academic excellence in the immigration process.

The author is Founder of Ontrack Education

WIMBLEDON

DJOKOVIC, SHELTON, SINNER, SWIATEK AND MIRRA REACH QUARTERFINALS

AGENCIES
LONDON

Right before Wimbledon began, Novak Djokovic declared it was the tournament that gave him the best chance to claim an unprecedented 25th Grand Slam singles trophy. Made sense, really, given that he's won seven titles there already and reached the past six finals.

For one uncharacteristically unsteady set in the fourth round Monday, it sure didn't look as if that would happen this year. Djokovic, though, turned things around and avoided what would have been his earliest exit at the All England Club since 2016, coming through for a 1-6, 6-4, 6-4, 6-4 victory over 11th-seeded Alex de Minaur at Centre Court.

With eight-time Wimbledon winner Roger Federer sitting in the front row of the Royal Box, very little went right at the outset for the 38-year-old Djokovic on the grass below during a breezy afternoon with the temperature in the 60s Fahrenheit (teens Celsius), a week after matches were contested in



Sinner



Shelton

record-breaking heat. "Lifted his level," de Minaur said, "big-time." Djokovic's bid for an eighth Wimbledon title and 25th Grand Slam singles

trophy overall will continue against No. 22 Flavio Cobolli of Italy. Cobolli reached his first major quarterfinal with a 6-4, 6-4, 6-7 (4), 7-6 (3) victory over 2014 U.S. Open



Novak Djokovic



Mirra Andreeva

champion and two-time major runner-up Marin Cilic.

No. 10 Ben Shelton improved to 3-0 against Lorenzo Sonego at majors this

year by beating him 3-6, 6-1, 7-6 (1), 7-5. Shelton's first Wimbledon quarterfinal will come against No. 1 Jan-nik Sinner, who moved on despite a painful right elbow

and a two-set deficit when No. 19 Grigor Dimitrov quit because of an injured chest muscle.

Against de Minaur, Djokovic made mistake after mistake, double-faulting four times in the first set alone. Djokovic lost five of his first seven service games against de Minaur, a 26-year-old Australian who accumulated 19 break points in all.

Djokovic made 16 unforced errors in the first set alone.

All in all, Djokovic was discombobulated, chalking it up afterward to nerves and a swirling wind. He reacted to flubbed shots by rolling his eyes or shouting and glaring in the direction of his guest box or putting his arms wide as if seeking explanations from someone, anyone.

At changeovers, he placed an ice-filled towel — usually wrapped around necks by players in steamy conditions — on his stomach, which he complained about during his first-round victory last week. But afterward, Djokovic dismissed the significance of that.

Deepti Sharma pulls out of Women's Hundred to manage workload

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

India all-rounder Deepti Sharma, who helped London Spirit lift their maiden Hundred title by dispatching the ball for a maximum on the final ball, has pulled out of the 2025 season to manage her workload, according to ESPNcricinfo.

Deepti is currently touring England with the Indian

duties for the injured Heather Knight. Grace Harris has replaced Meg Lanning, while Chris Liddle has taken over the head coach role from Ashley Noffke. Deepti's withdrawal means there will be no Indian players in the Hundred this year.

Meanwhile, the Trent Rockets confirmed that Australian all-rounder Ash Gardner will captain the side this season. Last month, ESPNcricinfo re-



team. She has had a jam-packed schedule, balancing her international and franchise league commitments. With the ODI World Cup on home turf looming later this year, Deepti decided to withdraw from her £36,000 contract to give herself a short break, according to ESPNcricinfo.

Australia all-rounder Charlie Knott has replaced Deepti in the Spirit's squad, which looks significantly different from last year. Charlie Dean will take over the captaincy

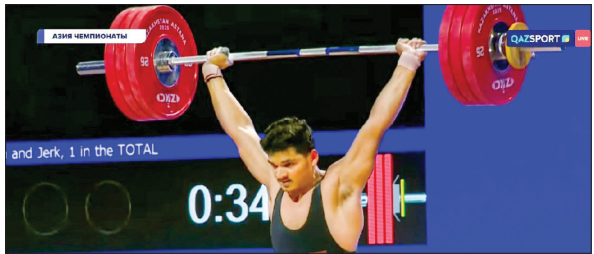
ported that Nat Sciver-Brunt had stepped down from captaincy to manage her workload after taking the England skipper role. In the Hundred, David Willey will take over the Rockets captaincy from Lewis Gregory, who was released and later signed by Manchester Originals. Willey spent the last two years playing for Welsh Fire.

Last week, the Southern Brave roped in former England opener Marcus Trescothick as their men's team batting coach.

Sairaj Pardeshi bags bronze medal in Asian Jr Weightlifting c'ships

AGENCIES
ASTANA

Sairaj Pardeshi on Tuesday won the bronze medal in the 86kg category during the Asian Junior (men and women) Weightlifting Champion-



ships here.

Pardeshi, who broke three youth national records during his gold medal-winning effort in the Khelo India Youth Games in the 81kg category, lifted a total of 338kgs. He lifted 1152kg in snatch and 186kg

in clean and jerk.

Pardeshi, who hails from Mannad in Maharashtra, had earlier won the gold medal at the 2024 Asian Youth and Junior Weightlifting Championships in Doha. Last year in May, he had finished fourth in

IWF World Youth Championships and had won the gold medal in the youth section and silver in the senior category of the 2024 Commonwealth Youth, Junior and Senior Weightlifting Championships in September.

'Diogo Jota was driving above speed limit when he crashed'

AGENCIES
BARCELONA

Spanish police believe Liverpool player Diogo Jota was driving over the speed limit when he and his brother died in a car crash last week.

Spain's Civil Guard said on Tuesday that while their investigation into the cause of the crash last Thursday continues, they believe Jota was driving too fast when the Lamborghini veered off course after a tire burst.

Previously, the police had not said if Jota or his brother André Silva were driving. On Tuesday they said that it appeared Jota was.

The siblings died in the car when it burst into flames on an isolated section of highway early in the morning. The speed limit on that portion of the dual carriageway is 120km/h. Portuguese media

reported Jota, 28, was heading to the northern Spanish city of Santander to take a ferry to England where he would rejoin Liverpool after being advised not to fly following a recent lung procedure.

The brothers were laid to rest on Saturday in the Por-



tuguese town of Gondomar, where the two had grown up. A wake and funeral had taken place earlier and was attended by dignitaries, family, friends and teammates, past and present, of the two

players. Silva played for Portuguese lower division side Penafiel.

Tributes to Jota and his brother have poured in, while thousands of fans have made their way to Anfield stadium to pay their respects to the Liverpool forward.

There were also floral tributes at the AXA Training Centre on Tuesday, as Liverpool returned for preseason training after Jota's passing delayed their initial planned start date.

NRAI reveals India squads for upcoming shooting competitions

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

The National Rifle Association of India (NRAI), has revealed the India squads for upcoming international competitions, including the senior squad for the 16th Asian Shooting Championship (ASC) Rifle/Pistol/Shotgun, scheduled in Shymkent, Kazakhstan, between Aug 16-30, 2025.

The other squads revealed include those for International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup Rifle/Pistol in Ningbo, China, in September (7th-15th) and the junior India squads for the 16th ASC as well as for the ISSF Junior World Cup Rifle/Pistol/Shotgun,

scheduled in New Delhi between Sep 24-Oct 02, 2025, as per a press release from NRAI.

The 16th ASC senior squad comprises 35 members for the 15 events including three mixed team competitions. Double Olympic bronze medalist Manu Bhaker, yet again being the only shooter to have made it to two individual events- the women's 10m air pistol and the women's 25m pistol.

Prominent names to have made it back to the senior squad include former men's air rifle world champion Rudranksh Patil and Olympians Anjum Moudgil (women's 50m rifle 3 positions), Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar (men's 50m rifle 3 posi-

tions), Saurabh Chaudhary (men's 10m air pistol) and Kynan Chenai (men's Trap).

The likes of Esha Singh, Mehuli Ghosh and Kiran Ankush Jadhav find themselves in both the senior squads, albeit shooting different events. Olympic bronze medalist Swapnil Kusale and former Asian Games champion and Olympian Rahi Sarnobat also make it to the Ningbo squad. Olympian Raiza Dhillon is the only difference in the two 36-member junior squads announced. She makes the Delhi World Cup junior women's skeet team in place of Mansi Raghuvanshi, who is in the junior ASC team, where Raiza competes in the seniors.

My target is still 90 kg snatch lift: Mirabai Chanu

AGENCIES
MODINAGAR

She has won nearly every accolade the sport has to offer, but Tokyo Olympics silver-medallist weightlifter Mirabai Chanu remains in relentless pursuit of one elusive milestone -- the 90kg snatch lift.

Injuries had disrupted her previous Olympic cycle, and the former world champion hasn't competed since finishing fourth at the Paris Games. However, a recent tweak in technique has reignited belief that the long-cherished mark may finally be within reach.

"My target is still 90kg. I will compete full strength at the (2026) Asian Games," Chanu replied to a query by the media on the sidelines of the opening of ASMITA Weightlifting League.

The diminutive Manipuri has been eyeing the 90kg mark since 2019. While she has managed to cross the barrier in training, replicating that success in competition has remained out of grasp even as several contemporaries have gone past the milestone.

"Before the 2026 Asian Games, I will try to give my



best at the World Championships this year where we will also assess what all I have to do to get better in the 48kg category. All that we'll know at the World Championships. But the plan is to cross 90kg in snatch. Even juniors have now crossed 90kg. Recently

a junior from China lifted it," she said.

At the Paris Olympics, Chanu's clean and jerk — her strong suit — let her down. She failed to lift 111kg on her first attempt and 114kg on her final, finishing just 1kg shy of a second podium spot at the

Games.

It was a rare off day in the clean and jerk, where she once held the world record with a 119kg lift. But Chanu draws heart from her snatch performance in Paris, where she equalled her personal best of 88kg.

"My snatch has improved. Earlier, I was not able to lift 88kg-89kg but I managed 88kg in the Olympics."

Chanu, along with India chief coach Vijay Sharma, has been working to improve her snatch, an area she admits has always been her Achilles' heel.

RIDERS



TOPSHOT - Alpecin - Deceuninck team's Dutch rider Mathieu van der Poel wearing the overall leader's yellow jersey cycles with the pack of riders (peloton) past the Collegiale Notre-Dame church in Les Andelys during the 4th stage of the 112th edition of the Tour de France cycling race, 174.2 km between Amiens Metropole and Rouen, Northern France, on July 8, 2025. (Photo by Anne-Christine POUJOLAT / AFP)

Indian chess stars Erigaisi, Gukesh seeded top two for FIDE Grand Swiss

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Indian stars Arjun Erigaisi and world champion D Gukesh have been seeded as top two for the fourth FIDE Grand Swiss chess to be held at Samarkand, Uzbekistan from September 3 to 16 where an enhanced prize purse and tickets to the prestigious Candidates

tournament will be at stake.

As per regulations, the top two in both the Open and the Women's competition will qualify for the 2026 Candidates tournament, where the challenger for the title of world champion will be determined.

The rule requiring players to have competed in 30 plus classical rated games between July 2024 and

June 2025 has excluded high-profile names such as former world champions Magnus Carlsen and Viswanathan Anand.

Former world champion Ding Liren will not be participating in the event either. Fabiano Caruana, who played in all three previous Grand Swiss tournaments, will also not be taking part, having already secured a

spot in the 2026 Candidates Tournament by winning the 2024 FIDE Circuit.

Erigaisi and Gukesh are number one and two seeds respectively, while R Praggnanandhaa is seeded fourth, just behind Nodirbek Abdusattorov. Another star youngster, 22-year-old world number eight Alireza Firouzja, is ranked fifth.

The remainder of the top 10 in the Open section is made up of more seasoned Grandmasters -- two-time World Championship challenger Ian Nepomniachtchi, Anish Giri, Shakhriyar Mamedyarov, Levon Aronian, and Vladimir Fedoseev.

The Grand Swiss is one of the most significant tournaments in the chess calendar as it is a pathway to the

Candidates tournament. The 2023 Grand Swiss was won by India's Vidit Gujrathi (Open) and R Vaishali (Women).

The 11-round Swiss format tournament will feature 172 players -- 116 in the Open and 56 in the Women's tournament.

Apart from serving as the qualifier for the Candidates, the Grand Swiss also fea-

tures a notable prize fund, which has been significantly increased from the last edition. The prize fund in the Open event is \$625,000 (increased from \$460,000 in 2023). In the Women's competition, the prize fund would be \$230,000 (up from \$140,000 in 2023).

Among 116 players in the Open, 101 have qualified by rating, with the remain-

ing spots allocated to continental representatives, six FIDE wildcards and five are nominated from the local organiser.

Bolstering the young presence at the event are Hans Niemann (22), Vincent Keymer (20), Javokhir Sindarov (19), Nihal Sarin (20) and Awonder Liang (22), who are all among the top 20.