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MAKE IN INDIA BEHIND OP SINDOOR'S SUCCESS: PM

On a visit to Bengaluru to launch Metro Yellow Line, the Prime Minister calls Op Sindoor symbol of emergence of a bold, resolute New India

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday credited the Make in India initiative for the success of Operation Sindoor, saying it reflected the strength of India's indigenous defence capabilities. Speaking at the 'Next-Gen Mobility for a Next-Gen City' programme, PM Modi praised the youth of Bengaluru and Karnataka for their role in building India's defence strength. "I am visiting Bengaluru for the first time since the historic Operation Sindoor. This operation showcased the emergence of a bold and resolute New India. In a decisive move, our armed forces crossed boundaries, executing a deep strike that compelled Pakistan



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses the gathering during the foundation stone laying of the Bangalore Metro Phase-3 project worth over Rs 15,610 crore, in Bengaluru on Sunday. ANI

ECONOMIC GROWTH & GOVERNANCE

- India is the fastest-growing major economy in the world, says PM
- "India now among top five global economies"
- PM credits growth to the "Reform, Perform, Transform" model
- Emphasises good intentions and honest efforts behind policy implementation

PM FLAGS OFF THREE VANDE BHARAT EXPRESS TRAINS

- Bengaluru to Belagavi
- Nagpur (Ajni) to Pune
- Amritsar to Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra



to capitulate. The success of Operation Sindoor was rooted in advanced technology and the strength of the Make in India initiative.

The youth of Bengaluru and Karnataka played a significant role in this achievement," PM Modi said.

He also

Rajnath: 'India world's most dashing economy'

AGENCIES
RAISEN

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday described India's economy as the world's most "dashing and dynamic" and said some people who have the attitude of "we are everyone's boss" are not liking it.

Singh's comments come amid high tariffs announced by US President Donald Trump on goods imported from India.

The speed with which India is moving ahead, no power in the world can stop it from becoming a big power globally, Singh said in his address after performing bhoomi puja of a rail coach manufacturing unit of the Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEM) in Madhya Pradesh's Raisen district.

"Today, if any country has a dashing and dynamic economy, it is India's economy," he asserted.

The defence minister, without naming anyone, said some people are not liking the rapid develop-



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh addresses the gathering during groundbreaking ceremony of Brahma Project (BEM Rail Hub for Manufacturing), in Raisen on Sunday. ANI

"The speed with which India is moving ahead, no power in the world can stop it from becoming a big power globally"

P3

'Furnish documentary evidence of vote theft': K'taka poll body to Rahul

ANAND SINGH
NEW DELHI

The Karnataka Chief Electoral Officer on Sunday once again issued a formal notice to Congress leader and Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, asking him to furnish documentary evidence for his allegations of voter fraud in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

The fresh notice issued on Sunday directly addressed Rahul's claim that a 70-year-old voter, Shakun Rani, had voted twice in the polls based on Election Commission of India (ECI) data.

The notice read: "On inquiry by the CEO's office found that Rani had cast her vote only once.

"Preliminary enquiry conducted by this office also re-



Lok Sabha LoP and Congress MP Rahul Gandhi addresses the gathering during the 'Vote Adhikaar Rally', at Freedom Park in Bengaluru on August 8. ANI

veals that the tick marked document shown by you in the presentation (copy enclosed) is not a document issued by the polling officer," the notice stated. "You are kindly requested to provide the relevant documents on the basis of

The fresh notice issued on Sunday directly addressed Rahul's claim that a 70-year-old voter, Shakun Rani, had voted twice in the polls based on ECI data

which you have concluded that Shakun Rani or anyone else has voted twice, so that a detailed inquiry can be undertaken by this office," it said.

The latest development follows an earlier notice on August 7 in which the

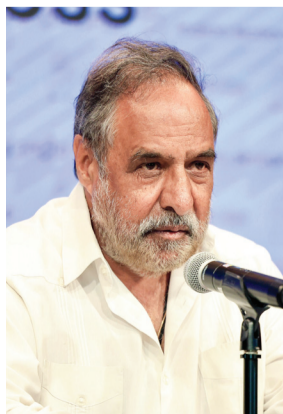
P3

Anand Sharma quits AICC's foreign affairs chairman post

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Former Union Minister and senior Congress leader Anand Sharma has resigned from his post as Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Department of the All India Congress Committee (AICC), although he continues to serve as a member of the Congress Working Committee (CWC).

Sharma was part of an all-party delegation that visited multiple countries as part of India's major diplomatic outreach effort, Operation Sindoor. The delegation was led



by NCP-SCP leader Supriya Sule and included Rajiv Pratap Rudy (BJP), Vikramjit Singh Sahney (AAP), Manish Tewari (Congress), Anurag Singh Thakur (BJP), Lavu Sri

Sharma was part of an all-party delegation that visited multiple countries as part of India's major diplomatic outreach effort after Operation Sindoor

Krishna Devarayalu (TDP), V. Muraleedharan (BJP), and former diplomat Syed Akbaruddin. Congress MP Manish Tewari expressed deep re-

P3

ASHIQ MIR
NEW DELHI

In a moving tribute to one of Kashmir's silent war heroes, the Indian Army on Sunday honoured Noor Mohammad Thaker, a porter from LoC Uri, for his extraordinary courage and sacrifice during the 1965 Indo-Pak war.

The recognition came nearly six decades after Noor was abducted

- Abducted and tortured by Pakistani forces during Operation Gibraltar
- Remained silent despite months of brutal interrogation by Pakistan
- Released from captivity under a UN-brokered prisoner exchange
- Felicitated at "Hajipir: Valour Beyond the Pass" event



and tortured by Pakistani forces during Operation Gibraltar, yet never broke under pressure.

During the "Hajipir Valour Beyond the Pass" symposium held at Thimayya Hall, Baramulla, the Chinara Corps Commander felicitated the now-frail Noor Mohammad with a shawl and citation, acknowledging his invaluable contribution during one of the most daring military operations in

P3

ECI assures SC of safeguards against wrongful deletions

SAMBHAV SHARMA
NEW DELHI

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has filed an additional affidavit about the progress of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar.

The EC informed the top court that the first stage of the exercise has been completed, with the Draft Electoral Roll published on August 1, 2025.

The Commission assured that safeguards were in place to prevent wrongful deletions from the draft rolls. No voter's name could be removed without prior notice and an opportunity for a hearing.

The affidavit reads: 'As part of the SIR, Booth Level Officers (BLOs) conducted house-to-house visits to collect enumeration forms from electors. Lists of voters who had not submitted forms were shared with recognised political parties, enabling them to assist in filling the gaps.'

The affidavit stated that over 7.24 crore of Bihar's 7.89 crore registered electors have submitted their forms with the help of officials, volunteers, and party agents.

The ECI noted that extensive awareness campaigns along with repeated visits by Booth Level Officers, were carried out to ensure that no eligible voter was left out.

As per the affidavit, special mea-



334 unrecognised political parties out of ECI list

NEW DELHI: The Election Commission of India on Saturday said that it has delisted 334 registered unrecognised political parties, which according to it have failed to fulfil the essential condition of contesting even a single election for six years since 2019.

The Commission also said that it was unable to locate its offices of these parties could also not be physically located anywhere.

It said: "The Commission, after considering all the facts and recommendations of the CEOs, has delisted 334 RUPPS."

"Now, out of the total of 2854 RUPPs, 2520 are remaining. This delisting exercise is part of a comprehensive and continuous strategy of the Election Commission to clean up the electoral system," it said.

The poll panel said that guidelines for registration of political parties mention that "if the party does not contest elections continuously for 6 years, the party shall be taken off the list of registered par-

P3

ECI AFFIDAVIT: KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- No voter's name could be removed without prior notice and an opportunity for a hearing
- Lists of voters who had not submitted forms were shared with recognised political parties
- Awareness campaign carried out to ensure that no eligible voter was left out.

Amid vote theft charges, Cong plans all-India stir

AJIT MAINDOLA
NEW DELHI

The Congress party is preparing to launch a nationwide movement on the issue of vote theft, escalating its attack on the Election Commission over alleged electoral irregularities. In several states, Congress state units and senior leaders have continued to attack the Election Commission in their own way regarding vote theft.

On Monday, party president Mallikarjun Kharge will formulate a strategy for a nationwide movement



with the officials.

Party's organization general secretary KC Venugopal said in his post that just like Mahatma Gandhi had launched a do or die move-

ment for independence, in

the same way Congress will also have to launch a do or die movement to save democracy.

It is clear from this tough stand of Congress that it is preparing for a big movement along with the allies of India Alliance.

Later today, Congress will take out a march from Parliament to the Election Commission along with its allies of India Alliance. Due to the stubborn stand of the opposition, this week of the monsoon session is also going to be a victim of uproar.

Till now the Opposition was

P3

RAHUL SAYS 'VOTE CHORI' AN ATTACK ON 'ONE MAN, ONE VOTE' IDEA

NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Sunday once again took a swipe at the Election Commission saying vote theft is an attack on then foundational idea of 'one man, one vote' and demanded to re-release the digital voter rolls so that people and political parties can audit it.

Rahul Gandhi, who has been engaged in a bitter war of words with the poll panel in last few weeks on Sunday took to X and wrote, "Vote Chori is an attack on the foundational idea of 'one man, one vote'." Asserting that 'a clean voter roll is imperative for free and fair elections', he said, "Our demand from the EC is clear - be transparent and re-release digital voter rolls so that people and parties can audit them." He also released the



mobile number and website details for people to join the fight to support his demand, and said: "Join us and support our demand - visit vote-chori.in/ecdemand or give a missed call on 9650003420. This fight is to protect our democracy." Rahul Gandhi on August 7, alleged a massive level vote theft during 2024 Lok Sabha polls and shared

a presentation giving proof of his claims.

Rahul Gandhi had explained that there were 1,00,250 votes stolen in the Mahadevapura assembly in Karnataka.

He mentioned that there were five types of voter theft, which included 11,965 duplicate voters, 40,009 fake and invalid addresses, 10,452 bulk

voters in single address, 4,133 invalid photos, and 33,692 misuse of form 6.c

The "one man, one vote" concept in India refers to the principle that every eligible citizen has an equal right to cast one vote in an election, and that each vote carries the same weight in determining the outcome. This idea is fundamental to a democratic system and is enshrined in the Indian Constitution.

In India, the concept is rooted in universal adult suffrage, introduced when the Constitution came into effect on January 26, 1950. Article 326 of the Constitution provides that elections to the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies shall be based on adult suffrage, meaning that every citizen of India who is 18 years or older (the age was reduced from 21 to 18 in 1989) and

not otherwise disqualified by law (such as due to mental incapacity, criminal conviction, or corruption) is entitled to vote.

The phrase "one man, one vote" means that no matter the person's gender, caste, religion, wealth, education, or social status, their vote counts equally. This ensures political equality and prevents discrimination in the electoral process. It also implies that constituencies are designed to have roughly equal populations so that each elected representative speaks for a similar number of people. In practice, however, challenges remain. Population disparities between constituencies sometimes lead to malapportionment, where one vote in a smaller constituency effectively has more influence than one in a larger constituency.

‘We questioned EC, but BJP gets irritated’: Shiv Sena's (UBT) Anand Dubey

TDG NETWORK
MUMBAI

Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Anand Dubey on Sunday said NCP-SCP chief Sharad Pawar's remarks about being offered help to secure Assembly seats point to possible irregularities in the Election Commission.

Dubey said that while his party questioned the EC, the BJP became irritated. He stressed that they were questioning the institution that protects democracy, not the BJP, and demanded the resignation of the chief election commissioner.

"...Yes, two people came forward, claiming they could help him secure 160 seats. It means that there are certain irregularities in the Election Commission..."



We questioned EC, but the BJP gets irritated by this. We are not questioning the BJP; we are only questioning the institution that upholds democracy... We demand that the chief election commissioner should resign," Dubey told ANI.

A day earlier, Sharad Pawar said two people had approached him before the

Maharashtra Assembly elections 2024, claiming they could guarantee 160 out of 288 seats.

"I remember that before the Maharashtra Assembly elections were announced, two people came to meet me in Delhi... They told me that out of 288 seats in Maharashtra, we guarantee you 160 seats. I was surprised, to be honest, I had no doubts about the Election Commission," Pawar said.

"After that, I arranged a meeting with those people and Rahul Gandhi. Whatever they wanted to say, they said in front of Rahul Gandhi. But Rahul Gandhi and I were of the opinion that we should not pay attention to this; this is not our path," he added.

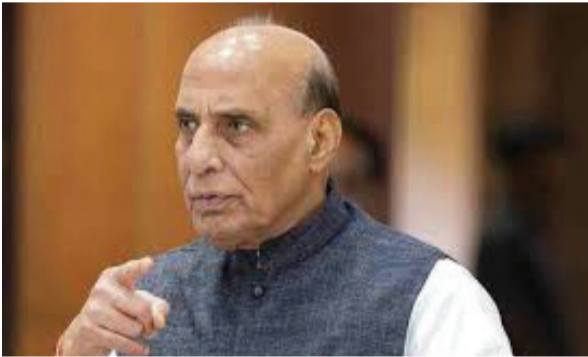
Rajnath Singh invokes reference from Ramayana to defend Op Sindoor

NETWORK
RAISEN

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday emphasized that while terrorists target victims based on their religion, India's response is guided by justice focused on actions rather than faith.

He affirmed that the government deals firmly with those responsible, judging them by their deeds rather than their religion.

Addressing a gathering in Raisen, Defence Minister Singh said, "Terrorists came here and killed people by asking their religion. We also decided that we will not kill anyone take revenge by asking their religion, we will kill them after seeing their deeds (Karam), and we killed them." To explain his point, Singh referenced a story from the Ramayana of Lord Hanuman when Goddess Sita was held captive



in Lanka. "When Sita ji was in Lanka, Ravana had kidnapped her. When Hanuman ji reached there, he created havoc, and when he reached Sita ji, she asked very politely, 'Hey Hanuman! What have you done? Why did you create so much havoc in Lanka? Why did you kill so many people?'" Hanuman ji sat very politely and with folded hands told Sita ji, "Hey Mata, Jin Mohi Mara, Tin Mai Maare". Those who killed our people, we have killed them," he said. Singh

talked about Pahalgam attack and operation Sindoor. The operation Sindoor is a "proof that India possesses the capability to defeat its enemies with home-grown strength," the Defence Minister said. Referring to the operation as a "befitting reply" to the terror attack in Pahalgam, he said, "We do not provoke anyone, but those who provoke us will not be spared." Singh said that indigenous equipment had played a "pivotal role" in the success of the mission.

Sand art on 'Har Ghar Tiranga' theme

TDG NETWORK
PURI

Renowned sand artist Sudarshan Pattnaik has created a sand art at Puri beach based on the theme of 'Har Ghar Tiranga'.

Speaking to reporters, Pattnaik said, "As per PM Modi's clarion call of 'Har Ghar Tiranga', the entire India is hoisting Tiranga on their houses. This year too, there should be 'Har Ghar Tiranga'. So, as an artist, I have created this sand sculpture here..."

The 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign is part of the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' initiative, launched in 2021 to encourage people to hoist the national flag at their homes and celebrate India's 75th year of independence.

The initiative aims to ignite a sense of patriotism and raise awareness about the Indian national flag. On Saturday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed happiness over the "phenomenal" participation in the Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign, noting that it reflects the deep patriotic spirit that unites the people of India and their unwavering pride in the Tricolour.

He also urged citizens to continue sharing their photos and selfies on harghartiranga.com. Responding to the Ministry of Culture's posts about phenomenal participation in the Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign, the Prime Minister posted on X, "Glad to see #HarGharTiranga receiving phenomenal participation across India.

In 3.5 years, UP assembly has run very smoothly: Speaker Mahana

TDG NETWORK
LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly Speaker Satish Mahana on Sunday said that the state assembly in the last 3.5 years has run "very smoothly" under his tenure, ahead of the Monsoon Session of the state that will commence tomorrow.

"In the last 3.5 years, the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly has run very smoothly. Earlier, most of

the Legislative Assembly sessions were adjourned... I am sure that there will be participation of members in this session as well... On August 13th and 14th, there will be a discussion on the vision 2047 of UP... It is a positive discussion for the development of the UP," Satish Mahana told ANI. Earlier today, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath inaugurated Vidhan Sabha's renovated dome. He also inaugurated the newly renovated Assembly Man-

dap, Assembly Hall No. 15, and the VIP lounge.

Following the inauguration, the CM participated in an all-party meeting to discuss the upcoming Monsoon Session.

Assembly Speaker Satish Mahana convened the all-party meeting before the monsoon session, in which, along with CM Yogi, leaders from both the ruling side and the opposition were present.

Key issues were discussed during the session.

Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs Manohar Lal Khattar on Sunday lauded Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership and claimed that Bengaluru will have the second-best metro network after Delhi.

Addressing the 'Next-Gen Mobility for a Next-Gen City' programme after PM Modi inaugurated the Yellow Line of the Bengaluru metro, Khattar said that there are more plans in the pipeline.

"People jokingly say that if someone from Bengaluru drops someone off at the airport, then in the time



it takes for that person to reach Delhi or Mumbai, this person from Bengaluru will not be able to reach home. We accepted this challenge under the leadership of the Prime Minister. There are more plans in the pipeline... In the coming years, Bengaluru will have the second-best metro network after

Delhi," he said.

Meanwhile, Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy CM DK Shivakumar felicitated PM Narendra Modi during the programme.

Earlier today, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Yellow Line from RV Road (Ragigudda) to

Bommasandra of the Bengaluru Metro.

PM Modi was accompanied by CM Siddaramaiah and Dy CM DK Shivkumar.

The Prime Minister was seen buying a ticket through QR code-enabled ticket vending machines at the Ragigudda metro station before flagging off the Yellow Line of the Namma Metro.

PM Modi, along with CM Siddaramaiah, Dy CM DK Shivkumar, Union Minister Khattar and BJP MP Tejasvi Surya, took the inaugural ride in the Yellow Line metro. The Yellow Line is part of the Metro Phase-2 project and has a route length of over

19 km with 16 stations. The project is worth around Rs 7,160 crore. With the opening of this yellow line, the operational metro network in Bengaluru will increase to over 96 km, serving a large population in the region. The Prime Minister is also scheduled to lay the foundation stone of the Bengaluru Metro Phase-3 project worth over Rs 15,610 crore. The total route length of the project will be more than 44 km with 31 elevated stations. This infrastructure project will address the growing transportation needs of the city, catering to residential, industrial, commercial and educational areas.

Uttarkashi cloudburst: Govt says committed to speed up rehabilitation

NIBIR DEKA
GUWAHATI

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami on Sunday expressed condolences to the people who lost their loved ones following a devastating cloudburst that struck Uttarakhand's Uttarkashi district on Tuesday afternoon

"I express my condolences to the people who have recently lost their loved ones in various villages of Uttarkashi and Pauri districts and pray for the peace of the departed souls..." Dhami said soon after flagging off vehicles carrying rehabilitation and relief material to the disaster-affected areas of Uttarkashi from the CM's residence in Dehradun earlier on Sunday. "I assure the disaster-affected people that our gov-

ernment is fully committed to accelerating rehabilitation efforts," CM said, as quoted by CMO.

A search and rescue operation is underway in the Dharali-Harsil area following a cloudburst.

Meanwhile, the Uttarkashi district administration is extending continuous support to families affected by the recent disaster in Dharali and Harshil, with District Magistrate Prashant Arya personally camping in the affected region to coordinate relief efforts and motivate residents in this time of crisis.

Uttarkashi DM has been regularly inspecting arrangements for essential services, including electricity, water supply, road access, and network connectivity.

The administration has



assured that every possible effort is being made to provide immediate assistance to those affected and restore normalcy at the earliest.

Relief and rescue operations have been underway on a war footing for the past six days, enabling the safe evacuation of residents

from disaster-hit areas to secure relief camps. These camps are equipped with food, drinking water, and primary healthcare services to meet the needs of evacuees. The District Magistrate is personally supervising evacuation and rescue operations in Dharali and ensur-

ing that affected people are transported to safe locations without delay. "The government and administration are with the affected people in this difficult time and no stone will be left unturned to help them. He said that the priority of the administration is to protect the victims

and provide them with every necessary facility. He has appealed to the affected people to be patient and contact the administration directly for any need," Arya said, appealing to people to remain patient and reach out to the administration directly for any assistance. The District Information Officer stated that adequate healthcare services have been arranged in the affected areas, along with a streamlined water supply. Electricity supply has also been restored in parts of Harshil, Mukhwa, and Dharali. The District Information Officer said, "Adequate availability of health services has been ensured in the affected areas and along with this, water supply has been streamlined to the affected areas.

'BJD first party to raise electoral discrepancies in Odisha'

TDG NETWORK
BHUBANESWAR

Former Rajya Sabha MP Amar Patnaik on Sunday said the Biju Janata Dal was the first party in Odisha to raise the issue of "discrepancies between votes polled and votes counted" in the state to the Election Commission of India (ECI).

He noted that the BJD also raised the "possible errors" in the Electronic Voting Machine during the electoral process.

"BJD is the first party in the state to raise the issue of discrepancies between votes polled and votes counted, as well as the

alarming increase in votes polled after 5 pm... BJD had taken it to the ECI. We had raised serious misgivings not only about possible errors in the machine but also in the process itself, which could be manual," Amar Patnaik told ANI.

He further alleged that the ECI had not taken BJD's concerns seriously, stating that the response of the electoral body has been more "opaque" than transparent.

"EC's response was more opaque rather than transparent... We felt that EC is trying to avoid providing information to the political parties," Amar Patnaik said.

TOP COMMANDER AMONG TWO HIZBUL MILITANTS TRAPPED IN JK'S KISHTWAR

AJAY JANDYAL
JAMMU

An intense gunfight broke out in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district on Sunday after security forces launched a search operation in the hilly Dool area based on specific intelligence inputs about the presence of terrorists.

Officials said that as the search parties closed in, the hiding militants — believed to be two in number — opened fire, triggering the encounter.

According to sources, the trapped militants are suspected to be Riyaz and Mudasir of the proscribed Hizbul Mujahideen outfit. Both are believed to be holed up inside a cave deep in the forest, which they have been using as a hideout.

The cave is said to be well-stocked and strategically located to avoid aerial detection.

Police have already announced a reward of Rs 30



According to sources, the trapped militants are suspected to be Riyaz and Mudasir of the proscribed Hizbul Mujahideen outfit. Both are believed to be holed up inside a cave deep in the forest, which they have been using as a hideout. The cave is said to be well-stocked and strategically located to avoid aerial detection.

lakh for information leading to the capture or elimination of Riyaz, Mudasir, and Jah-

angir Saroori — Hizbul Mujahideen's longest-surviving terrorist and a key figure in

sustaining militancy in the Chenab Valley. Army's White Knight

Corps confirmed the encounter in an X post, stating that alert troops conducting an intelligence-based operation established contact with the terrorists in the early hours and exchanged fire. Kishtwar has remained an active militancy zone for several years, serving as a strategic transit and hideout area for terrorists operating between the Kashmir Valley, Doda, and parts of Jammu. Dense forests, rugged terrain, and remote villages have allowed small groups of militants to evade capture and operate in the region despite repeated counter-insurgency operations. Security officials say that neutralising the Kishtwar-based Hizbul module would be a significant blow to militant networks in the Chenab Valley, which have relied on the area for recruitment, logistics, and shelter.

The operation was ongoing till last reports came in, with additional forces deployed to prevent any escape from the cordoned-off zone.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacts with people during a metro ride from RV Road (Ragigudda) to Electronic City metro station onboard the newly inaugurated Yellow line, in Bengaluru on Sunday. ANI

Anand Sharma quits Cong's foreign affairs chairman post

CONTINUED FROM P1

spect and admiration for Anand Sharma, praising his deep understanding of foreign affairs.

Tewari, who was part of the same delegation, noted that the group benefited significantly from Sharma's insights. In a post on social media platform X, he wrote:

“Had the pleasure and honour of working with @AnandSharmaINC for over four decades. His understanding of Foreign Affairs is astute.

Especially on Africa, the depth of his knowledge is incisive. As we were

together on the same politico-strategic delegation in end-May to early June 2025, we greatly benefited from his insights.

He has spent close to five and a half decades of his life in the service of @INCIndia. Wishing him a very healthy and fulfilling life.”

It is noteworthy that Congress leaders Anand Sharma, Shashi Tharoor, and Manish Tewari, all of whom were part of the Operation Sindoor outreach delegations sent abroad to present India's position on cross-border terrorism, were not among the Congress speakers during the

post-operation debate in Parliament.

According to sources, Manish Tewari had requested to speak during the debate, while Shashi Tharoor reportedly conveyed his unwillingness, as his stance during the delegation's foreign visit might have diverged from the party's sharper criticism of the government, particularly on aspects of the military strikes targeting infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK).

Tharoor had led one of the all-party delegations during Operation Sindoor.

Unsung hero of 1965 Indo-Pak ar recognised after decades

CONTINUED FROM P1

Kashmir's history.

In August 1965, as Pakistan launched Operation Gibraltar by infiltrating the Haji Pir sector with regular troops and irregulars, the Indian Army responded with Operation Bakshi, led by 1 Para under Major Ranjit Singh Dyal. The strategic pass was captured in a fierce assault.

Noor Mohammad, then a civilian porter from Mohura village near the LoC Uri, was called to assist the 7 Maratha Light Infantry in building Tilpatra Post, close to the LoC. Braving heavy

rain and enemy shelling, he hauled supplies and ammunition to forward troops through treacherous terrain.

One foggy morning, Noor and three other porters went to fetch water and were ambushed by Pakistani infiltrators. Taken blindfolded across the Ceasefire Line to Muzaffarabad, he was accused of being an Indian spy. For months, he endured brutal torture, starvation, and isolation by Pakistani army and ISI. But Noor remained silent.

After over a year in captivity, Noor was released

in October 1966 under a UN brokered prisoner exchange. He returned quietly to his village, uncelebrated but not broken, and continued porter duties for another decade to support his family.

Speaking at the ceremony, a senior officer said, “He endured what soldiers dread. Noor's service was no less than that of any uniformed man.”

Today, Tilpatra Post still stands in Uri as a testament to that forgotten chapter. And with this long-overdue recognition, Noor Mohammad's silent heroism finally finds its place in the history books

Make in India behind Operation Sindoor's success: PM Modi

CONTINUED FROM P1

drew a parallel between the rise of India and the growth of Bengaluru, highlighting the city's role in the global IT sector.

“We are witnessing Bengaluru emerge as a true symbol of New India's rise, a city that has proudly placed India on the global IT map. The driving force behind Bengaluru's remarkable success story is the exceptional talent and ingenuity of its people,” said PM Modi.

During his visit, PM Modi inaugurated the Yellow Line of the Bengaluru Metro and laid the foundation stone for the Metro Phase-3 project. He said India's rapid economic growth was driven by the government's “Reform, Perform and Transform” approach.

“Today, India is the fastest-growing major economy in the world. In the last 11 years, our economy has risen from 10th place to the

top five. We are now moving rapidly towards becoming one of the top three economies. How did we achieve this speed? We got it from the spirit of Reform, Perform and Transform. We achieved this speed from good intentions and honest efforts,” PM Modi said.

Speaking about the inauguration of multiple projects, he added:

“In the past, the Government of India has launched schemes worth thousands of crores of rupees for Bengaluru. Today, this campaign is gaining new momentum. The Bengaluru Metro Yellow Line has been inaugurated, and the foundation stone for Metro Phase-3 has also been laid. Along with this, three new Vande Bharat trains have been flagged off for different parts of the country. Vande Bharat service has started between Bengaluru and Belagavi. This will boost business and tourism in Belagavi. Apart from this,

Vande Bharat Express has also started between Nagpur to Pune and Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra to Amritsar.”

The Yellow Line runs from RV Road (Ragigudda) to Bommasandra, covering over 19 km with 16 stations, and is part of the Metro Phase-2 project worth around Rs 7,160 crore. With its opening, Bengaluru's operational metro network now extends over 96 km.

PM Modi also laid the foundation stone for the Rs 15,610-crore Metro Phase-3 project, which will cover over 44 km with 31 elevated stations, connecting residential, commercial, industrial and educational hubs.

At KSR Railway Station, he flagged off three Vande Bharat Express trains, from Bengaluru to Belagavi, Amritsar to Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra, and Nagpur (Ajni) to Pune, as part of the government's push to modernise Indian Railways and improve travel standards.

ECI assures SC of safeguards against wrongful deletions

CONTINUED FROM P1

sures were taken for vulnerable and hard-to-reach groups.

This includes migrant workers, urban residents, first-time voters, senior citizens, and persons with disabilities.

To maintain transparency, daily press bul-

letins have been issued to inform the public about claims and objections received, the affidavit reads.

The ECI said these steps underline its commitment to conducting a fair and inclusive revision of the electoral rolls ahead of upcoming elections in Bihar.

334 unrecognised political parties delisted

CONTINUED FROM P1

ties”.

“In addition, as per Section 29A of the RP Act 1951, parties at the time of their registration have to give details like name, address, office bearers etc. and any change has to be communicated to the Commission without delay,” it said.

It mentioned that in June 2025, EC had directed the CEOs of States and UTs to conduct verification enquiries of 345 RUPPs regarding compliance with the above conditions.

“CEOs conducted enquiries, issued show-cause notices to these RUPPs and provided each party an opportunity to respond and present their case through personal hearings,” the poll panel said.

“Thereafter, based on reports of the CEOs, 334 RUPPs out of the total of 345 RUPPs have been found not complying with the above conditions. The remaining cases have been referred back to the CEOs for reverification,” it added.

It further said that these RUPPs will now not be

eligible to avail any benefit under the provisions of Section 29B and Section 29C of the RP Act, 1951 read with the relevant provisions of the Income Tax Act, 1961 and the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968. Any party aggrieved by this order can appeal to the Commission within 30 days of the order.

At present, there are 6 National Parties, 67 State Parties and 2854 Registered Unrecognized Political Parties (RUPPs) registered with EC, it added.

Rajnath: India world's most dashing economy

CONTINUED FROM P1

ment of India and are unable to digest it.

“They think that we are everyone's boss and how is India moving forward so fast? Many people are trying to do something, so that when things made by the hands of Indians in India go to countries of the world, they become more expensive than the things made in those countries, and they become so expensive that the people of the world do not buy them,” he said.

In 2014, India was at the 11th position in terms of the economy. Today, India is counted among the top four countries of the world (in terms of economy), Singh said.

“If any country has a rapidly growing economy, it is our India,” he added.

“It means that the country is moving forward and its people are also moving ahead, because if the countrymen do not move forward, India cannot move forward,” he said.

Singh said that earlier, things related to defence production were made in the world, by foreigners, and India used to buy from them.

“But today, many of these things are not only being made on the Indian soil, not only by the hands of Indians, and we are not only fulfilling our needs but we are also exporting to other countries of the world. Countries of the world are buying our goods,” he said.

Singh said when Narendra Modi became the prime minister in 2014, only Rs 600 crore worth of Indian defence products were exported to other countries.

“But now, we are exporting defence products of more than Rs 24,000 crore to

countries of the world. This is the power of India. This is the new defence sector of the new India,” he pointed out.

Singh also mentioned about the terrorist attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam, in which 26 persons were killed in April, and said India gave a befitting reply to Pakistan, referring to the Indian military's Operation Sindoor.

“People were killed (by terrorists) after being asked to identify their religion. We cannot kill people after asking their religion. We do not believe in murder. We do not even kill ants. We have resolved that we will kill people (terrorists) not by looking at their religion, but by looking at their deeds,” he said.

Singh said that India's clear stand is that “we will not spare anyone who instigates us.”

Referring to the rail coach unit, the minister said it is a big gift for the Raisen and Vidisha region in MP and will provide employment to 5,000 persons.

Madhya Pradesh is moving ahead rapidly in terms of industries as the state has recently received an investment proposal of more than Rs 30 lakh crore, he noted.

“If the leadership is excellent, development happens rapidly. I think that after a few years, people will start calling Madhya Pradesh a modern state,” Singh said.

When this unit is ready, the surrounding area will also develop rapidly, he added.

Earlier, Singh performed the bhoomi puja of the BEML's rail coach unit to be built at a cost of Rs 1,800 crore at Umaria village in Raisen district.

‘Furnish documentary evidence of vote theft’: poll body to Rahul

CONTINUED FROM P1

CEO asked Rahul to sign an affidavit detailing his allegations of large-scale additions and deletions in the voter list in Karnataka.

Rahul had made those claims during a press conference in New Delhi the same day, accusing the poll panel of “choreographing” the elections to benefit the BJP.

Rahul Gandhi had alleged that in Mahadevapura constituency alone, 1,00,250 votes had been “stolen” through duplicate entries, fake addresses and

bulk registrations at single locations.

“This is Election Commission data. Interestingly, they haven't denied the information. They haven't told the voter list that Rahul Gandhi is talking about is wrong. Why don't you say it's wrong? Because you know the truth. You know that we know that you have done this across the country,” he said.

On Sunday, Rahul Gandhi has also taken his campaign to the public, launching the website votechori.in and asking citizens to join the demand for transparency.

Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister and state Congress president DK Shivakumar, who joined Rahul at the ‘Vote Adhikar Rally’ in Bengaluru on August 8, has also filed a complaint with the CEO alleging voter fraud in Mahadevapura and Gandhinagar.

“Vote theft not only happened in Mahadevapura, but across Karnataka,” he said.

“We have requested the Election Commission to investigate the fraud and punish officials concerned, be it a block level officer or returning officer.”

not allowing any work to be done in the House demanding a discussion on the SIR issue of Bihar; now the issue of vote theft has also been added to it.

Last Thursday, in the Lok Sabha, the Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi had accused the Election Commission of vote theft with evidence. The Opposition too was seen standing fully with Rahul on this issue. Rahul Gandhi himself has continued his attack on the Election Commission and the government by posting on his x.

In the first post, Rahul had given instructions. In the post released today, it has been said that vote theft is an attack on the basic democratic principle of one person, one vote. A clean voter list is essential for free and fair elections. Rahul has demanded from the Election Commission that the Commission should show

JUSTICE MUST REACH PEOPLE'S DOORSTEPS, NOT REMAIN IN HALLS OF POWER: CJI

Gavai lauds successive chief justices of the Gauhati High Court for working to make justice more accessible.

TDG NETWORK
ITANAGAR

Chief Justice of India B R Gavai on Sunday said the judiciary, legislature, and executive exist solely to serve the people and ensure justice is delivered swiftly and at minimal cost.

"I have always been a staunch supporter of decentralisation. Justice should reach people's doorsteps," he said after inaugurating the newly constructed Gauhati High Court, Itanagar Permanent Bench building here.

"Neither the courts, nor the judiciary, nor the legislature exist for the royals, judges, or members of the executive. We all exist to give justice to the people," he said.

Gavai lauded successive



chief justices of the Gauhati High Court for working to make justice more accessible.

Commending Arunachal Pradesh's unity in diversity, the CJI said, the state has 26 major tribes and over 100 sub-tribes. The government has made efforts to preserve and promote the traditions and culture of every tribe.

"The country must progress, but not at the cost of our

culture and traditions. It is one of our fundamental duties under the Constitution to preserve and conserve them," he said.

Recalling his visits to several northeastern states in the past two years, Gavai said he was 'mesmerised' by the vibrant tribal culture.

Referring to a recent visit to shelter homes in strife-torn Manipur, Gavai said, "A woman there told me, 'You

are welcome to your home'. It touched my heart because for all of us, India is one, and for all Indians, India is their home."

Quoting B R Ambedkar, he said: "Baba Saheb was a staunch supporter of India's unity. He always said, 'India first and India last'. He assured that our Constitution will keep India united and strong in times of peace and war, which we have witnessed even after 75 years."

"Every religion has its own 'dharma granth' (religious scripture), but for every Indian, the Constitution is the great 'granth'. Our first allegiance must be to it," he added, urging citizens to read the document.

Gavai also cited Ambedkar's reminder that 'political equality without economic and social equality has no

value', and stressed the importance of constitutional provisions under Schedules V and VI to protect the culture and traditions of the Northeast's tribal communities.

Earlier, Chief Justice of Gauhati High Court Ashutosh Kumar said the new building reaffirms the Constitutional promise of justice without geographical barriers.

"Let Arunachal be the place where justice comes first without delay, just as it witnesses the first sunrise," he said adding, court buildings are not just infrastructure, they are temples of Constitutional morality.

Supreme Court judges Ujjal Bhuyan, N Kotiswar Singh, Sandeep Mehta, and Vijay Bishnoi also spoke on the occasion.

Kavitha joins hands with HMS for Singareni coal workers' welfare

TDG NETWORK
HYDERABAD

Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) leader and Telangana Jagruthi founder K Kavitha on Sunday announced a significant development in the Singareni coal belt area, where Telangana Jagruthi, an organization she founded, has allied with the Hind Mazdoor Sabha (HMS) to advocate for the welfare of coal mine workers at Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL).

"Today, Telangana Jagruthi, which already works in the Singareni area very closely, has now decided to form an alliance with Hindu Mazdoor Sabha (HMS) to work towards the welfare of the coal mine workers of Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL)," Kavitha told ANI.

This partnership aims to bring about a positive change in working towards the rights of coal mine workers, whose welfare has been allegedly



undermined by the Congress government.

The Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) is a government-owned coal mining corporation operating in Telangana, with a significant presence in the state's coal belt area. The company has a complex history, dating back to 1871 when coal was first discovered in the region. Today, SCCL operates 40 mines across six districts in Telangana and contributes 9.2% to India's domestic coal production.

HMS is a national-level trade union organisation and has representation on the Central Wage Board,

which plays a role in setting wages for coal mine workers.

Kavitha noted that this collaboration aims to bring positive changes to the labour rights environment.

She said, "HMS is an all-India organisation that also has a membership in the Central Wage Board. This alliance will bring out a very positive change in working towards the rights of the coal mine workers. Especially the welfare of the coal mine workers has been severely undermined by the Congress government."

Meanwhile, on August 4, the BRS MLC had launched a 72-hour hunger strike at Dharna Chowk in Hyderabad, demanding urgent clearance of the Telangana OBC Reservation Bill that gives 42% quota for Backwards Classes (BC) in government jobs, educational institutions, and local body elections.

Owaisi urges AMU to roll back fee hike, backs student protests

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) President Asaduddin Owaisi has expressed support for the students of Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) demanding a rollback of the recent fee hike.

"In complete solidarity with the students of Aligarh Muslim University. The University must roll back its fee hike at the earliest. Many of AMU's students come from backwards regions & very poor families. A 35%-40% increase in fees is unbearable for them," Owaisi wrote on X.

Students at Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) have been protesting for the past seven days over various demands, including fee hikes, the revocation of suspensions, and the release of detained students.

The protest intensified after an incident



where female students were allegedly harassed by the proctorial team and police during a peaceful demonstration.

Students are demanding the resignation of the proctorial team for their failure to protect students' dignity and safety. In a symbolic gesture, female students are sending rakhis (sacred threads) to various authorities, including the Prime Minister, Chief Minister, Governor, and

university officials, urging them to take responsibility for their safety.

The students condemned the recent police action against protesters and vow to continue their protest until their demands are met.

One of the students said, "For the past seven days, there has been a dharna (sit-in protest) going on for the demands that were made. To support that, a large number of law faculty students came here and showed their support. We want all the demands, whether it is the fee hike demand, the student union's demand, the suspension revocation demand, or the demand related to the boys who were detained, to be met."

During the protest, female demonstrators sent rakhis to the Prime Minister, Chief Minister, Governor, DM, SSP, and the AMU Alumni Association, demanding protection on the occasion of Raksha Bandhan.

Madurai district has ranked first in TN for corruption, says former minister

TDG NETWORK
MADURAI

The Deputy Opposition leader and former AIADMK Minister R B Udhayakumar hit out at Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin, claiming that Madurai has "ranked first in corruption" in the state.

Speaking to the mediapersons, the former AIADMK minister said, "Madurai district has ranked first in Tamil Nadu for corruption. Because of corruption in the municipal corporation, a situation has arisen where zone leaders have to demand the Chief Minister's resignation...In 2026, the DMK will not be able to



win."

The Deputy Opposition leader also criticised the DMK government for "failing" to address water management issues in Madurai district.

"Even though there is adequate water in the Vaigai Dam, water has not been released for the 58th canal project. During the AIAD-

MK regime, water was released into the 58th canal three times, whereas in the DMK regime, it has been released twice," he said.

He further alleged that residents were now compelled to fight for their fundamental right to water under the DMK rule.

"During the AIADMK rule, schemes were introduced to prevent sewage from mixing into the Vaigai River. After the change in government, the DMK administration has scrapped those schemes. Due to the abandonment of the project, sewage is now mixing into the Vaigai River at 425 locations," he added.

Meanwhile, the "Thenkal

Kanmoi", a major irrigation tank situated in the Thirupparankundram area of Tamil Nadu's Madurai district, had completely dried up due to extreme heat, raising serious concerns among farmers and local residents who depend on it for irrigation and drinking water.

The drying up of the tank had significantly impacted both farming operations and daily life in the area. With no water available, agricultural activities have come to a halt, and residents are facing severe water shortages.

Local farmers and residents had appealed to the authorities to take immediate steps to desilt and deepen the tank.

'80% of Metro project grant is ours, BJP's only 20%': K'taka Dy CM

TDG NETWORK
BENGALURU

Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar claimed Sunday that the State government contributed 80 per cent and the Union government 20 per cent to the Metro Yellow Line inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his visit to Karnataka on Sunday.

"While the State government has spent 80 per cent on the Metro Yellow Line, the central BJP government has spent only 20 per cent. In some places, it has spent only 11 per cent," said Shivakumar.

Responding to media personnel near his Sadashivnagar residence on Sunday, he lashed out at BJP MPs and leaders.

"I request Prime Minister Modi to provide at least Rs 1 lakh crore as a grant to Bengaluru. The state government has provided all the money for the land acqui-



sition of the metro project. The BJP government at the Centre should have provided 50 per cent. It has not provided even that. However, we have completed this work for the benefit of the people of Bengaluru, a city in the state of Karnataka. Although Bengaluru is the second-highest tax-paying city in the country, the grant received is very little," he said.

"Ahmedabad has been given a 20 per cent tax share. We have been given only 10 per cent. For that, consider us like other big cities in the country. Also, think of Bengaluru as the capital of the

country. We are not doing politics, but are making a request," he said.

The senior Congress leader lashed out at the BJP leaders for neglecting Bengaluru.

"BJP says we did everything ourselves. They have no achievements. Not a single MP has brought even 10 rupees to Bengaluru city or the state. They have not even provided any cooperation. BJP MPs in Karnataka should be ashamed. Only the Union Minister for Jal Shakti has sometimes responded to our requests. Apart from that, not a single rupee has come. They have not even given money to the NREGA project," he said.

"These BJP MPs think it is an achievement only if they post an ex (tweet) and post two photos in the media. Your conscience should work here. MPs, leave politics and do the work of bringing funds to serve the people," he scolded.

Maha cyber fraud row: CBI busts illegal call centre racket, arrests 5

TDG NETWORK
NASHIK

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has busted an illegal call centre racket, being run by certain private persons in rented premises, in Igatpuri (Rainforest Resort), Nashik, Maharashtra, an official statement said.

According to the statement, CBI registered this Cyber Fraud Case on 08.08.2025 against 06 accused private persons, all residents of Mumbai, as well as unknown private persons and Bank officials. It was alleged in the FIR that the accused persons entered into criminal conspiracy with each other and other unknown persons, and have committed financial fraud by impersonation and making phishing calls/deceptive calls, from an illegal call centre, posing as Amazon Support Services Call Centre. The accused persons have

been allegedly cheating citizens of the US, Canada and other countries and fraudulently obtaining proceeds of crime via Gift Cards/cryptocurrency, the statement added.

The call centre is located at Igatpuri, Nashik, Maharashtra.

The accused persons reportedly recruited around 60 operators, comprising dialers, verifiers, and closers, to run the said illegal call centre.

Investigation by the CBI has resulted in the recovery of 44 laptops, 71 mobile phones, and other incriminating digital evidence, as well as unaccounted cash of Rs. 1.20 crores, 500 gms of Gold, and 7 Luxury Cars worth Rs. 1 Crore.

Transactions of approximately 5000 USDT cryptocurrency (Rs. 5 lakhs) and 2000 Canadian dollars worth gift vouchers (Rs. 1.26 lakhs) were also detected.



Hyderabad residents shouldn't be fooled by the relatively dry weather in the morning hours of Sunday, as Telangana's capital city is almost certain to receive heavy showers in the afternoon. According to Telangana Weatherman, at least a few places in Hyderabad will receive heavy rains by Sunday evening. The IMD weather forecast had earlier said that thunderstorms accompanied by lightning and winds speeding between 30-40 kmph were very likely to occur at isolated places in all districts of Telangana.

"Hyderabad - Dry till noon, followed by Scattered INTENSE THUNDERSTORMS during afternoon - night. Heavy downpours ahead in a few places. Plan accordingly," the popular weather enthusiast said on X around eight in the morning on Sunday.



CM Reddy while visiting the flood-hit regions.

The afternoon rains may last until night with full force, as on Saturday, when at least two hours of torrential rainfall hammered the city late in the evening. According to information received until 11 p.m. on Saturday, 11.7 cm of rainfall was recorded in Nampally Begambazar, 10.6 cm in Charminar, 9.4 cm in Khairatabad, 9.1 cm in Asifnagar, 9.0 cm in Hayatnagar, 8.6 cm in Musheerabad, 8.5 cm in Himayatnagar, 8.4 cm in Amberpet,

7.2 cm in Bahadurpura, and 6 cm in Ameerpet, Telugu media reports said, citing sources. As a consequence, many low-lying areas were inundated.

According to the IMD, heavy rainfall is very likely to occur at isolated places in the Nirmal, Nizamabad, Jagtial, Rajanna Sircilla, Mulugu, Bhadradi Kothagudem, Khammam, Siddipet, Vikarabad, Sangareddy, Medak, Kamareddy, and Nagarkurnool districts of Telangana today.

Odisha gets first seawater desalination plant

TDG NETWORK
BERHAMPUR

For the first time in Odisha, sea water will be converted into fresh water for public use. The Indian Rare Earths Limited (IREL), using indigenous technology, has set up a Seawater Reverse Osmosis (SWRO) desalination plant at Matikhal in Chhatrapur, Ganjam dis-

trict. The plant will supply clean drinking water to nearby areas. Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurated the facility today during his twoday visit to Ganjam. He inspected the unit, tasted the purified water, and described the project as a significant step in addressing the district's chronic drinking water

problem. "Ganjam, despite being a coastal district, faces acute water scarcity due to high salinity in groundwater and limited fresh water resources," Pradhan said. "This initiative will provide a reliable source of drinking water and marks an important milestone in local water conservation." Pradhan lauded IREL,

"Ganjam, despite being a coastal district, faces acute water scarcity due to high salinity in groundwater and limited fresh water resources," Pradhan said.

which has been working in the strategic rare earth sector for over four decades, for extending its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) efforts

to ensure access to safe drinking water in nearby villages, contributing to a healthier and more sustainable society. Drawing a parallel with

Israel's large-scale desalination projects, he said the first phase will benefit residents of Matikhal and Aryapalli, with the cost of production at just 11 paise per litre.

Earlier, the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) had invested Rs.160 crore to develop technology for converting sea water into potable water.

FLOODS IN CITY: MINISTER BLAMES IT ON CHANGES IN CENTURY-OLD DRAINAGE

PWD Minister Parvesh Verma on Sunday inspects Connaught Place Outer Circle,

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Delhi PWD Minister Parvesh Verma on Sunday inspected the Connaught Place Outer Circle, which suffered waterlogging a day earlier after heavy rain, and blamed alterations to the 100-year-old drainage system for the problem.

Verma said he visited the site late at night on Saturday when a 100-metre stretch near Kake Da Hotel was inundated. He explained that Connaught Place's century-old barrel drainage system had been reduced in size over time due to building construction, restricting flow and causing recurrent waterlogging.

"To address this, we have installed two high-capacity

ROW OVER FLOODS

- PWD Minister Parvesh Verma blames drainage system changes for CP flooding
- Says century-old barrel drains reduced in size due to construction
- AAP slams "delayed, meaningless" inspection after rain havoc
- Seven migrant workers, one child killed in rain-related mishaps



pumps to ease the load on the drain and push water forward more efficiently," he said, adding that water had entered some shops. A de-

tailed PWD study will seek a permanent solution.

An official statement said 34 critical waterlogging points, including Zakhira, Minto

Bridge, Moolchand, and ITO — all prone to flooding for the past decade — remained dry this year due to continuous monitoring and rapid inter-

ventions.

Verma expressed grief over the death of a two-and-a-half-year-old boy who fell into an open sewer in Khera Khurd amid Saturday's rain, calling it "heartbreaking" and pledging safety measures to prevent such incidents.

The AAP accused Verma of a "belated and meaningless" inspection. Delhi unit chief Saurabh Bharadwaj said the minister "woke up 24 hours after the city drowned" and should have visited bereaved families of those killed in a wall collapse and sewer mishap instead of inspecting dry roads.

Seven migrant workers from West Bengal died when a wall near Mohan Baba Mandir in Jaitpur collapsed during the downpour, police said.

PM to inaugurate newly constructed flats for MPs

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate 184 newly constructed Type-VII multi-storey flats for Members of Parliament at Baba Kharak Singh Marg, New Delhi, on Monday.

PM is also scheduled to plant a Sindoor sapling, interact with 'sramajeevis' and deliver a keynote address on the occasion, according to a press release from PMO.

The complex is designed to be self-sufficient and is equipped with a full range of modern amenities to address the functional needs of the members of the Parliament. Incorporating green technology, the project adheres to the standards of the GRIHA 3-star rating and complies with the National Building Code (NBC) 2016. These environmen-



tally sustainable features are expected to contribute to energy conservation, renewable energy generation, and effective waste management. The use of advanced construction technology—specifically, monolithic concrete with aluminium shuttering—enabled timely completion of the project while ensuring structural durability. The complex is also Divyang-friendly, demonstrating a commitment to inclusive design.

According to the release,

the development of the project was necessitated due to a shortage of adequate housing for Members of Parliament. Owing to the limited availability of land, there has been a sustained emphasis on vertical housing developments aimed at optimising land use and minimising maintenance costs.

Each residential unit offers approximately 5,000 square feet of carpet area, providing ample space for both residential and official functions.

Yamuna River flows below danger mark

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Yamuna River in the national capital was flowing below the danger mark on Sunday morning. The information from Loha Pul showed that the river is flowing below the 204.20-metre mark.

Persistent downpours have pushed river levels close to or beyond danger marks.

Earlier, the water level of the Yamuna River in Delhi rose to 204.79 metres at 7 a.m. on Thursday, crossing the warning mark of 204.50 metres and reaching the highest level of the season so far amid the ongoing monsoon season and continuous rainfall, officials said.

As monsoon lashes several parts of the country, the water level of the rivers across the nation is on the rise.

On Saturday, the water level in the Ganga River reached closer to the danger mark in Varanasi, submerging the



Namo Ghat in knee-deep water.

The Saryu River water level is also rising due to continuous rainfall in Ayodhya city. Uttar Pradesh is facing continuous rainfall in several cities, causing waterlogging.

Earlier, in UP's Lucknow district, all government, government-aided and private schools from pre-primary to Classeight were closed on Friday due to heavy rainfall and waterlogging, according to a notice from the District Magistrate's office.

The District Magistrate's office said the decision was taken following continuous heavy rain in the past few hours and a forecast for more rain by the India Meteorological Department (IMD).

Rahul trying to ensure illegal infiltrators are made voters: BJP MP



TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

BJP MP Manoj Tiwari slammed Congress MP Rahul Gandhi for opposing the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral roll in poll-bound Bihar and alleged that he wants illegal infiltrators to get the voting

rights.

Speaking to ANI on Saturday, Manoj Tiwari said that Rahul Gandhi's language does not fit his position as the Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha.

"The language he (Rahul Gandhi) is using is not befitting the position of Leader of Opposition...He aims to hinder the country's progress, disrupt Parliament, and create unsubstantiated controversies. Now he is trying to ensure that illegal infiltrators are made voters," Tiwari said.

Further, he added that the INDIA bloc is opposing the SIR as they foresaw their defeat in the Bihar Assembly polls.

One killed, another hurt in accident; driver detained

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

One person was killed and another injured in an accident on Sunday.

New Delhi Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Devesh Kumar Mahla informed that the incident happened around 6:30 AM when a car driven by a 26-year-old Ashish collided with two pedestrians on a footpath. Ashish, who was driving a car belonging to his friend from Gurgaon to Sha-

karpur, was detained at the scene.

"Around 6.30 in the morning, our patrolling vehicle saw that an accident had happened. The driver's name is Ashish, who is 26 years old. He was going from Gurgaon to Shakarpur. The car belonged to his friend. He collided with two people on the footpath, in which one died and the other was injured," said DCP Devesh Kumar Mahla.



Government of Haryana

एक झंडा, एक पहचान – हर घर बने हिंदुस्तान
तिरंगा हमारा है अभिमान – यही तो भारत की है शान



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– नरेन्द्र मोदी



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BIHAR ELECTIONS

TEJASHWI ALLEGES LOOPHOLES IN VOTER LIST REVISION EXERCISE

RJD's Tejashwi accuses Bihar deputy CM of voter card fraud, demands FIR.

TDG NETWORK
PATNA

RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav alleged on Sunday that Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Kumar Sinha has two EPIC numbers, each with a different address and age.

Addressing a press conference here, Yadav presented two different EPIC numbers which he said belonged to Vijay Sinha.

"We conducted research... You can call it a revelation or a fraud, that is up to you and the people of Bihar. This voter list, which has been uploaded after the SIR (Special Intensive Revision of the electoral roll), in which it is clearly visible that Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Kumar Sinha has two EPIC numbers and his age is also different in both the places, so there is fraud in the voter card as well as in the age," he said.

TEJASHWI TARGETS SIR PROCESS:

- RJD's Tejashwi Yadav claims Bihar Deputy CM Vijay Kumar Sinha has two EPIC numbers with different ages and addresses
- Alleges fraud in Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral roll, demands FIR against Sinha
- Says Sinha's voter IDs are from Lakhisarai and Bankipur constituencies with ages listed as 57 and 60
- ERO presses Tejashwi to submit EPIC card details after his earlier claims of voter list irregularities



Yadav claimed that the two EPIC numbers belong to Lakhisarai and Bankipur, respectively.

"He has voter cards from two places, one is from Lakhisarai and the other is from Bankipur assembly constituency. This is of the Bankipur Assembly

seat, in which his age is 60 years, and you can see his age is 57 years in Lakhisarai in the draft voter list after the SIR. The public should know who is doing fraud. Lakhisarai Assembly EPIC No is IAF3939337 while Bankipur Assembly EPIC No is AFS0853341," the

RJD leader said. He added, "In January's list, Bankipur was mentioned in his affidavit. When the BLO went to Lakhisarai, he would have signed, and when the BLO went to Bankipur, he would have signed there too, that is why his name has appeared in separate

voter lists from both places."

Attacking the SIR exercise, Tejashwi demanded an FIR be registered against Sinha.

"Either Election Commission's SIR exercise in Bihar is fraud, otherwise the Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar Vijay Kumar Sinha is committing fraud... An FIR should be filed against him," the RJD leader said.

This development follows after the Patna Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) requested RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav to submit the details of the EPIC card he mentioned in the press conference on August 2.

Addressing the electoral officer's notice, Tejashwi said, "People talk about sending me to jail, and I also get to know about the notice through the media. When do I get the notice? It was handed over to me on August 7.

Chirag counters Tejashwi's charges against Bihar Dy CM

TDG NETWORK
PATNA

Union Minister Chirag Paswan on Sunday countered RJD MLA Tejashwi Yadav's allegation that Bihar Deputy CM Vijay Kumar Sinha has two EPIC numbers.

Paswan, criticising the Opposition for a lack of trust in constitutional bodies, said that they repeatedly raise issues but also raise questions when the issues are addressed.

Referring to allegations made by Tejashwi Yadav about Vijay Kumar Sinha, Paswan said when the NDA alliance had accused the RJD leader of the same, they tried to "brush" the issue under the carpet.

"When we were saying 4 days ago that you (Tejashwi Yadav) have 2 EPIC numbers, you were trying to brush it under the carpet. If any such issue has come up today, the Election Commission will look into it," Paswan said.



"The opposition repeatedly raises these kinds of issues. Rahul Gandhi held an entire program for Karnataka 2 days ago. You complain, and when the process to address it is used, you raise questions about that, too. The truth is that these people want to destroy the existence of constitutional institutions," he added.

Earlier, when Tejashwi Yadav alleged that his EPIC (Electors Photo Identity Card) number had been "changed", the NDA alliance accused him of holding two cards. Today, Yadav made the same allegations against

the Bihar Deputy CM. The RJD leader presented two different EPIC numbers, which he said belonged to Vijay Sinha. "We conducted research... You can call it a revelation or a fraud; that is up to you and the people of Bihar. This voter list, which has been uploaded after the SIR (Special Intensive Revision of the electoral roll), in which it is clearly visible that Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Kumar Sinha has two EPIC numbers and his age is also different in both the places, so there is fraud in the voter card as well as in the age," he said.

Nitish Kumar's son fuels political buzz

TDG NETWORK
PATNA

Speculation over Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's son Nishant Kumar entering politics has reignited with the announcement of a public meeting, Nishant Samvad, scheduled for Sunday evening. Posters near JD(U) headquarters invited people to hear him speak on his father's welfare schemes.

Nishant, the CM's only son, has avoided direct confirmation of his political ambitions but has openly backed his father's return to power. Both RJD's Tejashwi Yadav and Union Minister Chirag Paswan have welcomed his potential entry.

Old-timers doubt Nit-



ish, known for opposing dynasty politics, would permit it before stepping down. Speculation had peaked earlier this year when Nishant praised his father's record, prompting posters dubbing him "the new hope" of JD(U). Media reports suggested he

might contest from Harnaut, Nitish's former constituency. Tejashwi recently alleged that a pro-BJP faction within JD(U) was blocking Nishant's rise to prevent the party from securing a long-term future beyond its suprema's charisma.

I vote from only one place: Sinha

TDG NETWORK
PATNA

Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Kumar Sinha has responded to Tejashwi Yadav's allegation on Sunday that he holds two electors photo identity card (EPIC) numbers in different constituencies.

"Our whole family had voter IDs from Bankipur. In April 2024, I applied to add my name to the Lakhisarai constituency and remove it from Bankipur. It did not happen immediately, so I called the BLO, filled the form, and took the receiving. I have all the documents. I vote from only one place last time too, it was in Lakhisarai," he said.

Addressing a press conference here Vijay Sinha said that he had applied to add his name to Lakhirai in 2024 and remove it from Bankipur, Patna, but the deletion form

was rejected.

He said, "Earlier, my entire family's name was listed in Patna. In April 2024, I applied to add my name to the Lakhisarai Assembly. I also filled out a form to have my name removed from there. I have proof. For some reason, my name wasn't removed, so I called the BLO, submitted a written application, and took a receipt. I have both documents. My deletion form was rejected."

Sinha added that he flagged the issue with the Election Commission after the poll body released the draft voter list, following the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) in the state. He said that the ECI has given a month correction window, and the final voter list has not been released yet.

"One month is given for the correction. People questioning a Constitutional body do not have trust in the Constitu-



tion. They spread confusion and are a danger to democracy. Due to this correction window, I have given to the BLO in writing to remove my name. It would have been the Election Commission's mistake if it did not have a correction window. The final electoral roll has not been released. My name is under the process," he told reporters.

The Deputy CM clarified that he votes from Lakhisarai only.

"I vote from only one place.

Last time too, I voted only from Lakhisarai, and this time as well, the form was filled from there," he said. Slamming Tejashwi Yadav, he said, "This is their jungle raj, BJP does not play such games. If there is a lack of something, we come forward to help rather than insulting a Constitutional body. Vijay Sinha neither does age fraud nor insults a Constitutional body."

He further asked RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav to apologise. "It is sad that a person sitting on a constitutional post tarnishes politics with his language; this does not befit him. The complete facts should be known. The whole of Bihar and the country know that the way the prince of Jungle Raj plays the game of tarnishing others, he should apologise, and such false allegations should not be made at all... He should

apologise," Vijay Sinha said.

Earlier today, RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav alleged that Vijay Kumar Sinha has two EPIC numbers, each with a different address and age.

Addressing a press conference here, Yadav presented two different EPIC numbers, which he said belonged to Vijay Sinha. "We conducted research... You can call it a revelation or a fraud; that is up to you and the people of Bihar. This voter list, which has been uploaded after the SIR (Special Intensive Revision of the electoral roll), in which it is clearly visible that Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Kumar Sinha has two EPIC numbers and his age is also different in both the places, so there is fraud in the voter card as well as in the age," he said.

Yadav claimed that the two EPIC numbers belong to Lakhisarai and Bankipur, respectively.

49-year-old man arrested in Delhi wall collapse incident

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

A tenant who had accommodated families to dump scrap at the plot has been arrested in the Hari Nagar wall collapse incident, police said on Sunday.

The accused has been identified as Kurshid (49), a resident of Radhakantapur village of Kaliganj police station of West Bengal's Nadia district.

During preliminary investigation, it was found that the accused had accommodated families to dump scrap at the plot.

The bodies of the seven deceased were handed over to their family members after their post-mortem. The



police have registered a case under section 106/125/290 BNS (Bharatiya Nyay Samhita) at the Jaitpur police station.

Police said that another accused (Land Owner) Rajbir Bhati, resident of Hari Nagar Village, Jaitpur, is absconding.

Efforts are being made to apprehend him, they said.

Seven people, including three men, two women, and two children, have lost their lives in a tragic wall collapse in Hari Nagar, Jaitpur, South East Delhi, caused by heavy overnight rainfall, Delhi Police confirmed on Saturday.

A tragic incident claimed the lives of seven individuals, including two young girls, both approximately 7 years old, along with Ravi Bul, aged 27, Rubina, aged 25, Safiquil, a resident of Assam, aged 27, Muttus, a resident of West Bengal, aged 50, and Doli, a resident of Assam, aged 28. Additionally, Hasibul, aged 25, was injured.

A wall collapse in Hari Nagar, triggered by heavy overnight rain, trapped eight people living in adjacent jhuggies near an old temple.

The rescued individuals were rushed to a hospital. Authorities have evacuated the jhuggies to prevent further incidents.

Ex-Rajasthan CM pays courtesy call on UP CM Yogi

TDG NETWORK
LUCKNOW

Former Rajasthan Chief Minister and senior BJP leader Vasundhara Raje paid a courtesy call on Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath in Lucknow on Sunday.

Earlier in the day, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath inaugurated Vidhan Sabha's renovated dome ahead of the Monsoon Session of the Uttar Pradesh Assembly that will commence tomorrow.

He also inaugurated the newly renovated Assembly Mandap, Assembly Hall No. 15, and the VIP lounge.

Following the inaugura-



tion, the CM participated in an all-party meeting to discuss the upcoming Monsoon Session.

Assembly Speaker Satish Mahana convened the all-party meeting before the monsoon session, in which, along with CM Yogi, leaders from both the ruling side

and the opposition were present.

Key issues were discussed during the session. Present at the meeting were Assembly Speaker Satish Mahana, Finance and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Suresh Khanna, Leader of Opposition Mata Prasad Pandey,

Minister Sanjay Nishad, Om Prakash Rajbhar, Congress MLA Aradhana Mishra, BSP MLA Umashankar Singh, and MLA Kunwar Raghuraj Pratap Singh, among others.

The Monsoon Session of the Uttar Pradesh Vidhan Sabha is scheduled to begin on August 11, as per an order issued by the Assembly Secretariat on July 26. The order stated, "Sri Rajyapal, Uttar Pradesh, has summoned the Uttar Pradesh Eighteenth Vidhan Sabha to meet at 11.00 A.M. on Monday, the 11th of August, 2025, in the Vidhan Sabha Mandap, Vidhan Bhawan, Lucknow for its Second Session of the year 2025."

Madurai ranked first in TN for corruption: Former AIADMK Min

TDG NETWORK
MADURAI

The Deputy Opposition leader and former AIADMK Minister R B Udhayakumar hit out at Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin, claiming that Madurai has "ranked first in corruption" in the state.

Speaking to the media persons, the former AIADMK minister said, "Madurai district has ranked first in Tamil Nadu for corruption. Because of corruption in the municipal corpora-

tion, a situation has arisen where zone leaders have to demand the Chief Minister's resignation... In 2026, the DMK will not be able to win."

The Deputy Opposition leader also criticised the DMK government for "failing" to address water management issues in Madurai district.

"Even though there is adequate water in the Vaigai Dam, water has not been released for the 58th canal project. During the AIAD-



MK regime, water was released into the 58th canal three times, whereas in the DMK regime, it has been released twice," he said.

He further alleged that residents were now compelled

to fight for their fundamental right to water under the DMK rule. "During the AIADMK rule, schemes were introduced to prevent sewage from mixing into the Vaigai River. After the change in government, the DMK administration has scrapped those schemes. Due to the abandonment of the project, sewage is now mixing into the Vaigai River at 425 locations," he added.

Meanwhile, the "Thenkal Kanmoi", a major irrigation tank situated in the Thir-

upparankundram area of Tamil Nadu's Madurai district, had completely dried up due to extreme heat, raising serious concerns among farmers and local residents who depend on it for irrigation and drinking water.

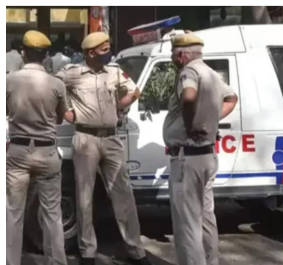
The drying up of the tank had significantly impacted both farming operations and daily life in the area. With no water available, agricultural activities have come to a halt, and residents are facing severe water shortages.

UP police constable arrested for vehicle theft in Delhi

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police has arrested a serving UP Police constable for allegedly stealing motorcycles in Delhi's Preet Vihar area and selling them in Uttar Pradesh, officials said on Sunday.

According to the police, the arrest took place during a late-night patrol on the intervening night of August 5-6 in the Rajdhani Enclave



Market in Preet Vihar area.

According to officials, a police team, acting on a tip-off from a secret source, detained Mohseen and recovered two master keys

used to unlock motorcycles. "When asked about his presence in the Preet Vihar area, he could not give any justified reason," a police officer said. Investigations revealed that Mohseen, a resident of Baraut in Uttar Pradesh's Baghpat district, had previous involvement in vehicle theft. "During sustained interrogation, he admitted to stealing a Hero Splendor motorcycle from Preet Vihar about two months earlier.

VAISHNAW SAYS INDIA NOW TOP SMARTPHONE SUPPLIER TO U.S.

The Railway Minister further pointed out the exponential rise in electronic exports


AGENCIES
BENGALURU

Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Sunday said India has become the top supplier of smartphones to the United States, with electronics manufacturing now worth Rs 12 lakh crore. Highlighting the government's vision, Vaishnaw addressing the inauguration ceremony of Metro projects in Bengaluru today, said that India's electronic production has grown six times in the last 11 years.

The Railway Minister further pointed out the exponential rise in electronic exports, which have increased eightfold to reach 3 lakh crore rupees. Vaishnaw also noted India's position as the world's second-largest manufacturer of mobile phones, underscoring the country's expanding role in the global electronics market. This growth reflects India's focus on becoming a global hub for technology produc-

KEY POINTS

- The Railway Minister further pointed out the exponential rise in electronic exports, which have increased eightfold to reach 3 lakh crore rupees.
- The manufacturing value of mobile phones has surged from Rs 18,900 crore in FY14 to a staggering Rs 4,22,000 crore in FY24.



Vaishnaw also noted India's position as the world's second-largest manufacturer of mobile phones, underscoring the country's expanding role in the global electronics market.

tion, making advanced electronics more widely available and supporting the Prime Minister's goal of inclusive access to technology for all citizens, Vaishnaw said. "Our electronic production has grown 6 times in the last 11 years. Today, electronics manufacturing has touched 12 lakh crore rupees. Electronic exports have increased by 8 times... Today, it has grown to 3 lakh crore rupees.

India has become the second-largest manufacturer of mobile phones in the world" he said According to official government data, India has made significant progress in mo-

bile and electronics manufacturing, becoming the world's 2nd largest mobile manufacturing country. In 2014, India had only 2 mobile manufacturing units, but fast forward to today,

New investors at NSE rise 15% in June 2025

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

New investor registrations at the National Stock Exchange (NSE) increased by 15 per cent month-on-month in June 2025, reaching 12.7 lakh compared to 11.0 lakh in May. Despite this growth, the figures were significantly lower than June 2024, when 21.6 lakh new investors had joined the market, according to the latest NSE Market Pulse report for June 2025.

Region-wise, the rise in new registrations was led by West India, which saw a 20.5 per cent month-on-month jump. South India followed with a 15.2 per cent increase, while North India and East India recorded growths of 13.4 per cent and 10.4 per cent, respectively. State-wise, Uttar Pradesh topped the list in June 2025,



accounting for 14 per cent of all new registrations with 1.8 lakh additions, marking a 13.1 per cent increase from the previous month.

Maharashtra was next with 12 per cent, followed by Tamil Nadu and West Bengal at 7 per cent each, and Karnataka at 6 per cent. Together, these five states contributed 46 per cent of the total new investor registrations for the month, the NSE report noted. For the first quarter of the

fiscal year 2025-26, the average monthly investor registrations stood at 11.3 lakh, which is 35 per cent lower than the 17.4 lakh average monthly registrations recorded in previous fiscal year 2024-25. While Uttar Pradesh remained the largest contributor in the first half of calendar year 2025 (January-June), its share slightly increased from 13.9 per cent to 14.1 per cent compared to the second half of 2024.

Govt taking relook at licensing rules for petrol pumps

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has formed an expert committee to review the 2019 norms for issuing licenses for petrol pumps, keeping in mind market efficiency and India's push for alternative fuels, decarbonisation, and e-mobility.

The expert committee will "assess the effectiveness of the framework envisaged in Resolution dated November 8, 2019, in ensuring energy security and market efficiency; align the policy framework with national commitment towards decarbonisation, electrical mobility and promotion of alternative fuel; and address issues in implementation of existing guidelines", the order states. The government is taking a relook at the norms to see

whether they need to be further liberalised

The committee is headed by Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd's (BPCL) former Director, Marketing, Sukhmal Jain. Other members of the four-member committee are Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC) Director General P. Manoj Kumar, FIPI member P.S. Ravi and the Petroleum and Natural Gas Ministry's Director, Marketing, Arun Kumar. The government had liberalised the norms in 2019 to allow more companies to set up retail fuel outlets.

Firms with a net worth of Rs 250 crore could sell petrol and diesel, provided they agreed to set up infrastructure for at least one alternative fuel such as CNG, LNG, biofuels, or EV charging within three years.

India concludes trade deal negotiations with Oman

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Negotiations for a comprehensive trade deal between India and Oman, which commenced in 2023, have been concluded. "India-Oman CEPA negotiations have been concluded," Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Jitin Prasada informed Rajya Sabha in a written reply this week while responding to a question from Congress member Hebi Mather Hisham relating to India's trade deals.

India and Oman share a longstanding history of friendship and cooperation, built on the foundation of mutual trust and respect, and strong people-to-people ties going back centuries. The two countries are strategic partners, and the bilateral trade and investment relationship between them has flourished since diplomatic relations were established in 1955, which was upgraded to a strategic partnership in 2008. The minister, in his reply, however, didn't mention any date or timeline on the expected signing ceremony for the India-Oman



PM Modi And Oman Sultan Haitham bin Tarik (File Photo)

Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement. Further, the Minister apprised the Upper House that India has strengthened its trade ties over the past five years, signing five major Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) and progressing on several new deals.

Congress member Jebi Mather Hisham asked the Minister to apprise the House about the number of international trade agreements that have been signed by India in the last

five years, besides details of their implementation. The agreements inked over the past 5 years include the India-Mauritius Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CECPA) implemented in 2021, the India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) and the India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA) in 2022, the India-European Free Trade Association (EFTA)

Forex reserves decline to \$689 bn

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

India's foreign exchange reserves (forex) reported a sharp decline, slipping USD 9.32 billion to USD 688.871 billion in the week ending August 1, official data released by the Reserve Bank of India showed.

At the latest monetary policy meeting, RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra said the foreign exchange kitty was sufficient to meet 11 months of the country's imports. Despite this weekly dip, the forex kitty is close to its all-time high of USD 704.89 billion touched in September 2024. The latest RBI data showed that India's foreign currency assets (FCA), the largest component of foreign exchange reserves, stood at USD 581.607 billion. According to RBI data, the gold reserves currently amount to USD



83.998 billion, with a USD 1.706 billion decline. Central banks worldwide had been increasingly accumulating safe-haven gold in their foreign exchange reserves kitty, and India was no exception. The share of gold maintained by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in its foreign exchange reserves has almost doubled since 2021. In 2023, India added around USD 58 billion to its foreign exchange reserves, contrasting with a cumulative decline of USD 71 billion in 2022. In 2024, the reserves rose by a little over USD 20 bil-

lion. So far in 2025, the forex kitty has cumulatively jumped by about USD 49 billion, data showed. Foreign exchange reserves, or FX reserves, are assets held by a nation's central bank or monetary authority, primarily in reserve currencies such as the US Dollar, with smaller portions in the Euro, Japanese Yen, and Pound Sterling.

The RBI often intervenes by managing liquidity, including selling dollars, to prevent steep Rupee depreciation. The RBI strategically buys dollars when the Rupee is strong and sells when it weakens.

CII calls for land reforms to boost manufacturing

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Industry body, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), has recommended a robust land reform, stating that these reforms are imperative for India's competitiveness to boost the country's manufacturing and investor confidence.

The CII said that the global landscape is undergoing seminal transformations, and trade and investment patterns are being reshaped by factors beyond cost. India has long harboured the goal of becoming a leading glob-



al hub for manufacturing. While protectionism and trade wars are a challenge, India's stable policy framework, strong industrial capabilities, large domestic market and a young work-

force, coupled with it being seen as a trusted and a capable partner by many nations, set it up as an attractive investment destination, the industry body said. To successfully capitalise on

these emerging opportunities and march towards the goal of Vikrit Bharat by 2047, India must adopt a comprehensive and forward-looking competitiveness agenda, including factor market reforms such as land reforms, said CII in its press release.

Elaborating on the importance of land reforms, CII said, "India has made remarkable progress in several areas of reform, but land remains a domain where foundational changes are overdue in terms of access, cost, and regulatory ease for businesses.

'India can replace Russian oil, but at a cost'

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Indian refiners, the world's biggest user of Russian oil, can operate without supplies from Moscow from a technical standpoint, but the shift would involve major economic and strategic trade-offs, analysts said. Russian crude supports high distillate yields - the share of crude converted into fuels like petrol, diesel, and jet fuel through distillation. Replacing Russian crude, which accounts for up to 38 per cent of India's refinery intake, with al-



ternatives will shift yields, resulting in lower middle distillates (diesel and jet fuel) and higher residue outputs, according to global real-time data and analytics provider.

US President Donald Trump last week announced an additional 25

around stopping or curtailing oil imports from Russia. "Indian refiners can operate without Russian crude from a technical standpoint, but the shift would involve major economic and strategic trade-offs," Kpler said in a report, 'US Tariffs on Indian Imports: Implications for Energy Markets & Trade Flows'. India turned to purchasing Russian oil sold at a discount after Western countries imposed sanctions on Moscow and shunned its supplies over its invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.

Air-India Express announces 'Freedom Sale'

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

As India celebrates 79 years of independence, Air India Express, the country's fastest-growing airline, has unveiled its grand Freedom Sale, offering 5 million seats across its expansive domestic and international network.

With fares starting at just Rs 1279 for domestic and Rs 4279 for international flights, this sale is

a celebration of freedom, connectivity, and accessibility of a new India, the company said in a release. The sale opens exclusively on www.airindiaexpress.com and the Air India Express mobile app on August 10 and will be available across all major booking channels from August 11- August 15, 2025.

Travel under this offer is valid from August 19, 2025-March 31, 2026, covering India's most vibrant festive



season, including Onam, Durga Puja, Deepawali, Christmas, and more. Air India Express continues to redefine affordable air travel with

fare options tailored to individual preferences. The airline's unique zero check-in baggage fare, Xpress Lite, is available on its website and offers

exceptional value. Xpress Value fares that include standard check-in baggage allowances start at Rs 1379 for domestic and Rs 4479 for international flights. For those seeking a premium experience, Xpress Biz, the airline's business class equivalent, offers an industry leading seat pitch of up to 58 inches and is now available on over 40 brand-new aircraft recently inducted as part of the airline's rapid expansion.

Maruti Suzuki raises bar on safety

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

As part of its commitment to safer mobility, Maruti Suzuki has introduced a series of advanced safety features across its vehicle portfolio under the newly unveiled NEXA Safety Shield and ARENA Safety Shield initiatives.

The announcement coincides with the 10th anniversary celebrations of the NEXA retail channel, reaffirming the company's

pledge to enhance customer safety. NEXA was launched in 2015 to bring a premium automotive retail experience to its discerning customers in India. The Safety Shield packages across NEXA and ARENA include six airbags, ABS with EBD, ESP with Hill Hold Assist, reverse parking systems, three-point ELR seat belts and seat belt reminder, ISOFIX child anchorages, and pedestrian impact protection.

The company also emphasises road safety through

educational programmes, enforcement support, and emergency care initiatives.

Over the years, Maruti Suzuki democratised safety in India, offering features like ESC and six airbags across a broad range -- from entry-level hatchbacks to premium SUVs. Recent innovations include a 360-degree camera, heads-up display, electronic parking brake with auto-hold in New Invicto, front parking assist, and the unveiling of Level 2 ADAS in the eVITARA.

PROPAGATED MYTHS ABOUT GM TECHNOLOGY AND THE PLAIN TRUTH

OPINION

DR. KRISHAN BIR CHAUDHARY



We are going through an uneasy period wherein the world's largest economy (USA) is putting pressure on India, world's fastest growing economy, to open our food, feed and fuel market in favour of their GM crops and technologies. A few vested interest groups in India run campaigns supporting introduction of more genetically modified (GM) crops and import of GM maize to compete with domestically produced crops.

Is GM technology a magic bullet as is being made out to be to address the challenges confronting Indian agriculture?

India has been growing Bt cotton, a product of GM technology for over 20 years. Has the Bt cotton lived upto the lofty promises it came with?

It's time to have a critical analysis leading to clarity and demystification.

As a responsible leader for the farming community in India, I do not give opinion without evidence. This article, as usual, carries our considered opinion based on

strong evidence and objective data.

Does GM technology increase the inherent yield potential of the seeds?

GM crops do not enhance the inherent yield potential of the seeds/plants.

GM crops can only indirectly contribute to better yields by reducing crop losses due to pests, diseases or weeds - similar to application of pesticides and weedicides.

It is the traditional breeding including hybrid technology that increases the inherent yield potential of crops due to "heterosis" (hybrid vigour).

Traditional breeding techniques continue to be a major growth driver of crop yields and agricultural production.

The claim that GM technology consistently increases the crop yield is not supported by evidence.

Let me give example of Bt cotton in India.

Bt cotton yields in India.

Source: Cotton Corporation of India (Accessed on 8th August 2025)

The yield of Bt cotton in India peaked in 2016-17 and shows a steady decline since then. The present average yield of Bt cotton in India is 15% less than what it was a decade ago.

In 2010-11, India ranked 25th globally in cotton yield. Now the rank has slipped to 36th which is far below than countries such as Benin, Bangladesh, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Iran, Pakistan, Sudan, etc.

India has around 40% of cotton global acreage but only around 20% of the global production.

Introduction of Bt cotton has not helped India achieving "fibre security" for our textile mills. India's import dependency has increased in recent years.

Neither the GM lobbyists nor our scientific institutions have explained why the Bt cotton in India has miserably failed.

Indian farmers have paid millions by way of trait fees to US companies for this failed technology. This cannot go unquestioned. There requires to be accountability.

Thankfully, the present government scrapped all the trait fees five years ago. This prevented continuance of a major loot.

Are there any examples of non-GM crop varieties outperforming GM ones?

Bangladesh was the first country in Asia to commercially introduce Bt brinjal way back in 2014.

The table below shows even after 10 years of introduction, the yield of Bt brinjal in Bangladesh is way below India's traditional brinjal varieties.

Yield of Bt Brinjal in Bangladesh vs Brinjal in India (non-Bt)

Source: FAOSTAT (Accessed on 8th August 2025)

India's non-Bt brinjal yield is 64% higher than Bt brinjal yield in Bangladesh.

Yield of Bt Rapeseed in Canada and USA vs Rapeseed in EU (non-Bt)

Source: FAOSTAT (Accessed on 8th August 2025)

EU's non-Bt Rapeseed yields is over 50%-60% higher than Bt Rapeseed yields in Canada and the USA.

Should India import GM maize from the USA?

India's maize production (non-GM) has registered a

YEAR	INDIA'S COTTON YIELD (KGS/HA)
2014-15	513
2015-16	459
2016-17	542
2017-18	500
2018-19	449
2019-20	460
2020-21	451
2021-22	428
2022-23	443
2023-24	436
Growth	-15%

COUNTRY	FIVE-YEAR AVERAGE YIELD (2019-2023)
Bangladesh	11 tons/ha
India	18 tons/ha

PESTICIDE USE (TONS) IN MAJOR GM CROPS USING COUNTRIES				
Year	Argentina	Australia	Brazil	USA
2005	138,669	34,310	233,367	409,730
2010	235,739	42,169	360,735	374,818
2015	203,807	50,922	497,626	423,475
2020	241,520	120,949	685,746	439,593
2023	262,507	182,264	800,652	429,501
Growth	89%	431%	243%	5%

COUNTRY	FIVE-YEAR AVERAGE YIELD (2019-2023)
Canada	2.1 tons/ha
USA	1.9 tons/ha
EU	3.1 tons/ha (non-GM)



record increase of 83% from 23 mn tons in 2015-16 to 42 mn tons in 2024-25. In the same period, production of our sugarcane shot up 30% from 348 mn tons to 450 mn tons. As a result, India has already achieved 20% ethanol blend in our petroleum products 5 years ahead the target year of 2030.

Indian maize and sugarcane farmers can comfortably contribute to meeting India's ambitious plan of further increasing the ethanol blend to 50% without any import of foreign maize or foreign GM technology.

Has introduction of GM technology reduced pesticide use globally?

No.

Widespread adoption of GM crops, particularly cotton, soybeans, corn, and canola, began in 1996.

The size of global agrochemicals market was estimated to be \$35 bn in 2000. By 2024, it expanded exponentially to \$75 bn. (Source: S & P Global report)

Contrary to the popular perception, the consumption of weedicides, insecticides and fungicides significantly increased after introduction of GM crops.

The increase is over 100% led by volume growth.

Source: FAOSTAT (Accessed on 8th August 2025)

Land in the US farms has

decreased by approximately 74.7 million acres between 2000 and 2023. In spite of this reduction, the pesticides consumption in the US shot up.

It's important to know that major GM seed companies are also major producers of pesticides. Both businesses complement each other.

CONCLUSION

Out of 1,600 mn ha of agricultural land under cultivation globally only around 200 mn ha is under GM crops.

Just three countries (USA, Brazil and Argentina) account for about 80% of the global area under GM crops. This means a vast majority of our agriculture production comes from non-GM crops.

China that ranks number one in global agricultural production, has less than 2% of area under GM crop. (Source: Global GM Crop Area Review 2025)

Therefore, it is illusory and illogical to believe that GM technology is essential to drive agricultural production in India.

Indian farmers should not be exploited in the name of GM technology to increase the wealth of US multinationals.

The author is President, Bharthiya Krishak Samaj

Battling for God's Kingdom: Cambodian-Thailand questions of border

OPINION

DR. SHADAB AHMED



The international border that runs between the Kingdom of Cambodia and Kingdom of Thailand has traditionally switched back and forth between the ethnic Khmer people speaking the Khmer Austro-Asiatic language in Cambodia and the ethnic & sub-ethnic groups of Siamese, Phuan, Mon and Lao Wang people speaking the Tai language in Thailand. The same border has historically been the apple of discord between the French, British and Japanese prior to and after the World Wars. Cambodia and Thailand by divine prognostication

have been separated topographically by the Dangrek Mountain Ranges, which forms a natural barrier between both the kingdoms.

Under Jayavarman VII, adherent follower of Mahayana school of Buddhism, Emperor of the Varman Dynasty and the Khmer Empire of Cambodia, the Dangrek mountain ranges became a majestic part of the Khmer Empire. Little did the Hindu and Buddhist Varman dynasty and the preceding Zhenla dynasty of Funan knew retrospectively that the Preah Vihear Temple, nestled in the Poy Tadi cliffs at the Dangrek mountains, dedicated to the Hindu God Shiva in his manifestation as the mountain Gods Sikharesvara and Bhadresvara, would become the source of a sustained and contiguous frontier dispute all through the Victorian Era, Industrial Age to the Modern Era.

The 1950's in Indo-China

saw the converging and consolidation of Chinese, Soviet, American and French interests in the Indo-china geo-political region - with communist, anarchist and fascist socio-political ideologies solidifying the Cold War dynamics and geo-political fluctuations. The 1950's also brought to the fore the Cambodian-Thai border dispute, centred on the ownership and nationalization of the Preah Vihear Temple Complex. The United Nations got involved, and through the International Court of Justice from the Peace Palace, The Hague, Netherlands, decided in favour of Cambodia the ownership of the temple complex in 1962. The ownership issue though stood unresolved and dormant, simmering quietly as Cambodia fell into a protracted Civil War between the Sino-centrist Communist Party of Kampuchea (Khmer Rouge) and the American-centrist Kingdom of Cambodia.

The simmering dispute erupted in nationalist atmosphere again through 2008-2013, when the Cambodian ruling class defined by the Cambodian People's Party (CPP) led by Prime Minister Hun Sen nominated the Preah Vihear Tem-



ple for UNESCO World Heritage Site status. The Thai Defence Ministry protested Cambodia's attempt to register the temple as a UNESCO World Heritage Site without agreement from Thailand. The issue rapidly evoked nationalist sentiments and both countries militarily escalated and deployed troops to the border and frontier areas, leading to several deadly clashes resulting in both civilian and soldier deaths. The Registry of the Interna-

tional Court of Justice (ICJ) again resolved the dispute in a partial manner, clarifying its 1962 ruling in favour of Cambodia in 2013 and instructing Thailand to withdraw its forces from the surrounding areas.

All was good for a decade. Cambodia's political landscape from 2013 to 2024 has been marked by a shift from competitive authoritarianism towards a more closed, one-party system under the Cambodian People's Party (CPP). Cam-

bodia has been actively pursuing international recognition and a positive reputation, particularly in the areas of post-conflict peacebuilding and economic development in sectors of textiles, construction, garments and tourism. Conversely, Thailand's political landscape from 2013 to 2024 has been marked by instability, coups and shifts in power dynamics. The period saw the ousting of the Yingluck Shinawatra government through both ju-

dicial and military means, and a return to General Prayut Chan-o-cha led military-backed governance before a contested election in 2023. The 2023 election saw the Move Forward Party win the most seats, but they were blocked from forming a government due to the Senate's opposition, ultimately leading to The Pheu Thai Party, in coalition with several military-aligned parties forming the government, with Srettha Thavisin as Prime Minister. Srettha Thavisin's premiership was terminated by the Constitutional Court over an ethics violation, as his successor Paetongtarn Shinawatra's premiership was challenged following a leaked audio recording, leading to her suspension. Suriya Juangroongruangkit served as acting Prime Minister until Phumtham Wechayachai was sworn in as the new acting Prime Minister.

Clashes erupted again between Cambodia and Thailand in 2025, masquerading as tactical self-defence by both the neighbours, and it continues amid internationalized appeals to de-escalate, bilateral talks and regional mediation. The role of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) is once again in notoriety with Si-

no-Centrists, Ameri-Centrists and Euro-Centrists collectively poised to see the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) getting involved to quell the flare-up and chaos.

The dispute mostly stems from the Franco-Siamese treaties of 1904 and 1907 and the objective colonial-era mis-mapping by the French surveyors mapping the jurisdiction, placing the Preah Vihear Temple Complex under the French protectorate of Cambodia. The redundant flare-up is also the consequence of the diplomatic paralysis and sensitive animosity between former friends turned foes, the political patriarchs Hun Sen and Thaksin Shinawatra. The world-at-large and the United Nations must bear in mind whether the ongoing conflict has its momentum in religious fanaticism and regional politics, or is the result of the inter-personal dealings of two political heavyweights and their inconclusive deal spilling in the realm of ultra-nationalism.

Dr Shadab Ahmed is an Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeon, acclaimed Columnist and author, renowned for his insightful writings on Indian History, Geopolitics and Ethnic Culture

DRUG RESISTANCE IN E. COLI, KLEBSIELLA DOUBLES: ICMR

"Who speaks for sepsis deaths?" — a question that humanises AMR and demands urgent action.

Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) – the “silent pandemic” – is among the world’s biggest health threats. It happens when bacteria, viruses, fungi, or parasites evolve to resist the drugs that once killed them, making common infections hard or even impossible to treat.

At a national AMR media workshop in New Delhi this month, experts warned the crisis can’t be ignored. **Dr. S. S. Lal**, Director of ReAct Asia Pacific, opened the event stressing AMR’s urgency and the media’s role in “breaking the silence” and holding all stakeholders accountable.

The message was clear: **AMR is already here, already deadly, and needs action now. On 7 August 2025**, at the “AMR: The Silent Pandemic – Let Media Break the Silence” workshop, health experts and journalists discussed the rising danger of drug-resistant infections and the need for urgent, coordinated action across sectors.

GROWING THREAT MEASURED IN LIVES AND DATA

In 2021, **4.71 million deaths** worldwide were linked to bacterial AMR, with **1.14 million directly caused** by it – already more than HIV/AIDS or malaria. Forecasts are worse: between 2025 and 2050, drug-resistant infections could kill **39 million people** – three lives every minute. By 2050, direct AMR deaths could hit **1.9 million a year**, and total AMR-related deaths **8.2 million annually** – almost one death every few seconds. The economic toll could reach **\$3.4 trillion in GDP losses yearly by 2030**, pushing **24 million more people into extreme poverty**. UK AMR Envoy Dame Sally Davies warned: “The world is facing an antibiotic emergency.”

India, seen as an AMR hotspot, shows how fast resistance is rising. **ICMR data (2017-2022)** found carbapenem resistance in **E. coli doubled** from ~20%



(L-R) Pooja Mishra, AMR patient survivor, Dr. Narinder Saini and Bhakti Chauhan, AMR taskforce and AMR patient survivor. File photo

TDG EXPLAINER

to 40%, and in **Klebsiella pneumoniae** from 40% to 60%. This means far more infections are untreatable with top-tier drugs.

AIIMS Bhopal (2025) found only **39% of E. coli** (a major cause of UTIs) responded to ciprofloxacin – it fails **6 out of 10 cases**. **Klebsiella** showed nearly **48% resistance** to meropenem, leaving it effective just 52% of the time. These drops warn of a future where routine infections can be deadly.

There is some hope: the Bhopal study found older drugs like **nitrofurantoin** and **fosfomycin** still work well for UTIs, and hospital use of **amikacin** improved outcomes for Pseudomonas. This shows treatments can be saved if used wisely. Still, the overall trend is grim – drug-resistant **superbugs** are evolving faster than we can make new medicines.

PERSONAL STORIES: ‘IF IT HAPPENED TO ME, IT CAN HAPPEN TO ANYONE’

Statistics cannot show the real human cost of AMR. At the New Delhi workshop “AMR: The Silent Pandemic – Let Media Break the Silence,” survivors and

advocates shared their experiences.

Ms. Bhakti Chavan, a 23-year-old biotechnology student, spoke of how a neck swelling turned out to be extensively drug-resistant tuberculosis (XDR-TB) – TB that did not respond even to second-line antibiotics. “The medicines I studied in textbooks failed me,” she said. For two years, Bhakti endured toxic, painful treatments, including daily injections, unsure if she would survive. She recovered after 24 months and now works as an AMR advocate with the WHO’s Task Force of AMR Survivors. Her message: “**If it happened to me, it can happen to anyone.**”

Ms. Pooja Mishra, an HIV/AIDS advocate, told of her fight with a multi-drug-resistant bacterial infection while living with HIV. “Treatment becomes so difficult when drug resistance enters the picture,” she said. She went through seven antibiotic combinations before one worked. “The bacteria are evolving faster than the medicines we’re making,” she warned. Her story shows how AMR hits vulnerable people hardest – those with weak immunity,

other illnesses, or poor access to care.

Doctors stress that every AMR case brings ripple effects: longer illness, higher costs, lost income, and the risk of passing the resistant infection to others. **Dr. Narendra Saini**, former Secretary-General of the Indian Medical Association, summed it up: “**AMR is a pandemic in waiting.**”

ONE HEALTH: HUMAN, ANIMAL, AND ENVIRONMENTAL DIMENSIONS

The main reason is heavy pressure on microbes from human health, farming, and the environment. Experts now push for a **One Health** approach, linking the health of people, animals, and nature.

At the workshop, the One Health panel stressed these links. **Dr. Chanchal Bhattacharya**, a veterinary specialist, warned about unchecked antibiotic use in livestock and poultry. In India and elsewhere, even antibiotics critical for humans are routinely given to animals – not only to treat sickness but also in low doses for growth or to prevent disease in cramped conditions. “Without proper vet guidance, farmers may overuse or misapply antibiotics, essentially medicating entire herds or flocks,” he said. Over 70% of antibiotics in some countries go to



(L-R) Dr. S. S. Lal, Director ReAct Asia Pacific and Shobha Shukla, Global AMR Media Alliance. File photo

drinking, farming and so on.” Pharmaceutical runoff, hospital waste, and sewage from factory farms pollute soil and water, exposing bacteria to low antibiotic doses and helping them swap resistance genes.

Rajeshwari Sinha of the Centre for Science and Environment added that climate change worsens AMR. Warmer weather, shifting rain, and floods spread resistant bacteria and waste to new areas. UNEP warns that pollution-driven AMR could cause **8.22 million deaths by 2050**.

Fighting AMR means phasing out growth-promotion antibiotics, improving farm biosecurity, treating wastewater, and monitoring hotspots like hospital sewage. Doctors, vets, and environmental experts must work together.

India’s National Action Plan and the new **National One Health Mission** aim to link human, animal, and environmental labs for faster detection. The **G20 leaders’ declaration (2023)** also pledged to fight AMR with One Health. The challenge now is putting these plans into action.

WHY ARE WE LOSING ANTIBIOTICS? – DRIVERS OF AMR

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is often called a man-made disaster. While some resistance is natural, today’s crisis is largely of our own making. The biggest driver is the overuse and misuse of antimicrobials. In human health, antibiotics are often prescribed when not needed – such as for viral infections like colds or flu – or given in the wrong dose, or the full course is not com-

pleted.

over the counter. “Over the counter use and sale of antibiotics must stop. We need to educate the citizens and the doctors about AMR,” she urged.

In agriculture, antibiotics are widely used in healthy animals for growth promotion or disease prevention. This fuels resistant strains like E. coli and Salmonella that cause foodborne illness in humans.

Poor water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) systems also drive AMR. Contaminated water and inadequate hospital infection control spread disease, increasing antibiotic use and resistance. Hospital-acquired bugs like MRSA and carbapenem-resistant Klebsiella thrive in such settings.

The slow pace of new drug development is another critical factor. “No new antibiotic molecules have been developed in the past two decades. Existing ones are failing,” warned Dr. Narinder Saini. With pharmaceutical companies exiting antibiotic R&D, doctors are left with older, more toxic drugs – or sometimes no options at all.

Other contributors include substandard medicines, limited diagnostic capacity, and poor awareness. Dr. Pankaj Shukla recalled how chloramphenicol was lost for typhoid due to overuse: “We must stop using antibiotics carelessly... in such cases, antibiotics should be avoided.” The message is clear: careless use today means no cure tomorrow.

TURNING THE TIDE: WHAT MUST BE DONE

Curbing antimicrobial resistance (AMR) needs action from everyone – policy-makers, doctors, farmers, and citizens. Experts outline a multi-step plan.

Prudent Antibiotic Use: Misuse in medicine and farming is the biggest driver. Doctors should prescribe antibiotics only when needed, choose the narrowest drug, and ensure full courses are completed. Hospitals must run stewardship programmes. In farming, routine use for growth or mass prevention in healthy animals should be banned. The EU and US already do this; India’s 2017 AMR plan calls for the same. As the workshop said: “**Antibiotics are life-saving – but only when used correctly.**”

Public Awareness: Many think every illness needs antibiotics, but colds, flu, most sore throats, and viral fevers don’t. Using them wrongly fuels resistance. Patients should ask, “**Is this really necessary? Are there tests to confirm it?**” Campaigns

must also stop self-medicating with leftovers or sharing antibiotics.

Stricter Regulation: In India, antibiotics are still easy to buy without a prescription. Laws need stronger enforcement. Veterinary rules must bar critical human antibiotics in animals. Six states have AMR plans, and the Bureau of Indian Standards has feed guidelines, but national action is weak.

Infection Prevention & WASH: Clean water, sewage treatment, and waste management cut infection risk. Handwashing, safe food handling, masks during outbreaks, and strict hospital infection control are vital. Vaccination prevents diseases that might need antibiotics.

Surveillance & Research: India’s cross-sector monitoring links human, animal, and environmental data to spot hotspots. New antibiotics, alternative treatments like bacteriophages, and rapid diagnostics are needed. The **One Health AMR Challenge 2025** supports such innovations.

Global Cooperation: Bacteria cross borders. Countries must share data, build capacity, and coordinate responses. AMR is now on G20 agendas, with funds like GARIF and the Fleming Fund pooling resources.

Media & Communities: The Delhi workshop stressed media’s role in telling patient stories, exposing misuse, and pressuring leaders. The new India chapter of the Global AMR Media Alliance aims to keep coverage alive. As **Dr. Gangakhedkar** asked, “**Who speaks for sepsis deaths?**” The answer: all of us.

KEY MESSAGES FOR EVERYONE

Toward the end of the media workshop, experts distilled some **key take-home messages** for the public and stakeholders. These are worth highlighting here, as they apply to all of us:

- **Antibiotics are lifesaving – but only when used correctly.** Misuse and overuse of antibiotics lead to drug-resistant infections that are harder and costlier to treat. We must treasure these medicines and not take them for granted.
- **Not all infections need antibiotics.** Colds, flu, and many common fevers are caused by **viruses**, against which antibiotics don’t work. Taking antibiotics for a viral illness won’t make you better – it will only contribute to resistance and might cause side effects.
- **Always take antibiotics exactly as prescribed.** If you are prescribed an antibiotic, use it responsibly:

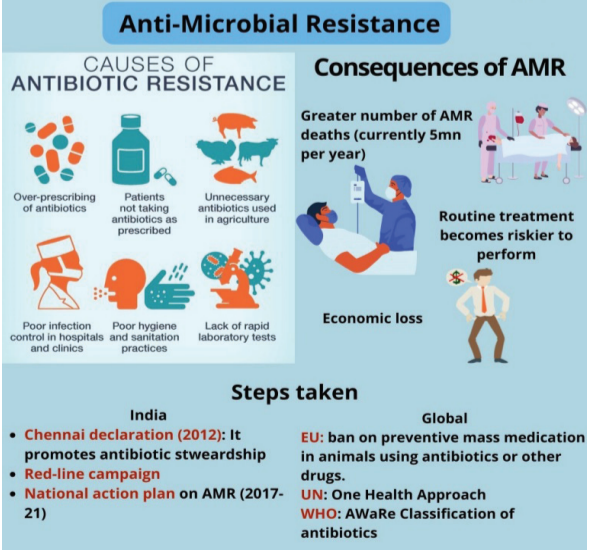
don’t skip doses, don’t stop the course as soon as you feel better, and **never save or reuse** antibiotics without medical advice. Stopping early can leave some bacteria alive to develop resistance.

- **Get tested when needed.** Whenever possible, doctors should base antibiotic choices on diagnostic tests (like cultures) to ensure the right drug is used. If your provider suggests a test or says an antibiotic isn’t necessary immediately, trust their guidance. Proper diagnostics help identify if antibiotics are necessary and which one will be effective.
- **Good hygiene prevents infections.** Simple measures such as regular handwashing, drinking clean water, using toilets/sanitation, safe food preparation, and keeping vaccinations up to date can drastically reduce infections. Fewer infections mean less need for antibiotics and less chance for resistance to develop. Infection prevention truly is the first line of defense.
- **AMR affects everyone – not just hospital patients.** Drug-resistant bugs can be in the community, in our food, and in the environment. You could pick up a resistant infection from a contaminated river, or through person-to-person spread, even if you’ve never been in a hospital. So everyone has a stake in this fight, not just doctors or patients.
- **You have the right to ask questions.** In a healthcare setting, patients (or their families) should feel empowered to ask the doctor, “Is this antibiotic really necessary? Are there alternatives?” Good doctors will appreciate these questions because it means you care about proper use. Taking an antibiotic when it’s not needed won’t help you – always understand why a medication is prescribed.
- **Antibiotics are a shared resource.** Unlike other medicines, the more we use antibiotics, the less effective they become for everyone. Think of the efficacy of antibiotics as a limited common resource – we must all help preserve it. As the experts said, using antibiotics responsibly today **ensures they remain effective for future generations**. We owe it to our children and grandchildren to hand down a world where a simple cut doesn’t lead to an untreatable infection.

These key points serve as a practical guide to action at the individual and community level. If each of us adheres to these principles, the collective impact will be significant in slowing down AMR.

Compiled by Ruchira Talapatra

Impact on health systems and society	
Area	Meaning
Modern medicine at risk	Antibiotics are essential for surgeries, childbirth, cancer treatment, chronic disease management, and organ transplants. If they stop working, even minor infections could be deadly. Medical procedures we take for granted may become too risky.
Heavier burden on hospitals	Drug-resistant infections mean longer hospital stays, higher costs, and worse patient outcomes. MDR-TB can take up to 2 years to treat and costs far more than regular TB. Drug-resistant sepsis is a leading cause of ICU deaths in India, but many are not recorded as AMR-related.
No unified voice for victims	Diseases like COVID-19 and HIV had strong advocacy movements. AMR victims, such as sepsis patients, have no organized group pushing for change, meaning less urgency from policymakers.
Economic and social damage	By 2050, AMR could shrink global GDP by 1.1%–3.8%. Low-income countries would be hit hardest, pushing millions into poverty. Agriculture and livestock could suffer if animal diseases become untreatable. In India, treatment costs could cripple families.
A threat to national security	If healthcare systems collapse under AMR’s weight, societies could face instability. AMR threatens global goals on poverty, economic growth, and health.
Positive developments	More hospitals are introducing infection control programmes and antimicrobial stewardship teams. Rapid diagnostic tests and vaccination help reduce infections and antibiotic use. India’s National AMR Surveillance Network is expanding.
The road ahead	Data gaps hinder urgent responses. Surveillance must extend beyond large hospitals to community clinics and environmental monitoring. Without it, action will remain slow and fragmented.



agriculture, breeding resistant bacteria like MRSA in pigs or drug-resistant *E. coli* in poultry that can infect workers and consumers.

The environmental side is also alarming. **Satish Sinha** of Toxics Link said, “We have conducted surveys of five rivers across the country and all of them were found to have antibiotics. This water is being used for

pleted.

Dr. Sangeeta Sharma, president of the Delhi Society for Promotion of Rational Use of Drugs, said, “Around 80% of antibiotic use in India is happening in the community, outside hospitals, often without prescriptions.” Many still believe any fever or cough needs antibiotics, and many pharmacies sell them

KAJARI TEEJ OF BUNDI: A MONSOON CELEBRATION OF CULTURE & TRADITION



CHANDAN SEN

Rajasthan, the land of royalty, colors, and traditions, offers much to explore beyond its majestic forts and palaces. The state is a treasure trove of vibrant fairs and festivals that reflect its rich cultural heritage. Among these, the Kajari Teej festival celebrated in Bundi, often called the queen of Hadoti, holds a unique place. Distinct from the other Teej festivals observed across Rajasthan, Kajari Teej transforms Bundi into a week-long celebration of joy, devotion, and artistic splendor.

Teej is celebrated throughout the rainy season across Rajasthan, with each region having its own customs and traditions. The festival is dedicated to the eternal love and union of Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati. Women wear traditional attire, adorn themselves with new bangles, apply mehendi, and pray for the well-being and longevity of their husbands. With the arrival of the monsoon, swings are hung from trees and decorated with flowers. The air is filled with traditional songs as young girls dress in colorful clothing to mark the season. Teej is essentially a women's festival, celebrating feminine devotion and the advent of rain.

Kajari Teej, however, carries both religious and cultural significance that sets it apart. While most Teej festivals are celebrated in the month of Shravana, Kajli Teej is observed in Bhadrapad, fifteen days later, on the third day of the month. It is one of Bundi's most anticipated events and draws visitors from across the country and abroad, especially foreign tourists curious to witness the charm of local traditions.

The celebration begins with the traditional shobha yatra — a grand procession of Goddess Teej in a beautifully adorned palanquin, which moves through Bundi's main streets and bazaars. This ritual is marked with great enthusiasm, as people from all walks of life join in the festivities. The palanquin is surrounded by a grand display of camels, elephants, horses, folk artists, and musicians. Traditional dancers and performers keep the crowd entertained throughout the journey. A special feature of the Kajari Teej procession is that the idol of Teej Mata is covered with a canopy, unlike the Gangaur idol, which is kept open to the sky.

The celebration continues at the Kumbha Stadium, which becomes a hub of activity with a large fair showcasing Bundi's rural crafts, traditional weapons like kataar, bangles, paintings, and various handicraft items. Artisans and vendors from different parts of Rajasthan gather here, and their stalls draw huge crowds. The fair also offers an array of local delicacies and snacks that further enhance the festive experience.

Cultural events are held every evening as part of the



Kajari Teej celebration. The first two days are dedicated to a folk musical instrument called algoza, with a competition that fills the air with melodious tunes. These festivities continue well beyond Janmashtami (the birthday of Lord Krishna), making Kajari Teej one of the longest and most engaging festivals in the region. Events such as qawwali nights, kavi sammelans, devotional songs, and musical performances by both local and renowned artists are organized by the district administration and municipality.

The grand procession eventually culminates at Azad Park, in the heart of Bundi, after a long, vibrant

march across the city. The entire town participates, and the festival is a blend of religious devotion and social celebration.

Bundi's famous miniature paintings also capture the festival in vivid detail, with scenes of women carrying the idol of Teej Mata depicted in rich colors and traditional styles. Poems and songs dedicated to Teej further highlight the emotional and spiritual importance of the event.

Historically, the original Teej idol was made of gold and precious stones and was once in Jaipur. It was seized by Thakur Balwant Singh of Gothra and brought to Bundi by Hada King Rao Raja Ram



The celebration continues at the Kumbha Stadium, which becomes a hub of activity with a large fair showcasing Bundi's rural crafts, traditional weapons.

Singh, who established the tradition of celebrating Teej in Bhadrapad. Today, a decorated replica of the idol is used in the procession, while



the original is preserved at the Garh Palace in Bundi. Kajari Teej is more than just

a festival — it is a celebration of Bundi's spirit, culture, and devotion, making it a must-

experience event for anyone looking to witness Rajasthan's true essence.

Giriraj Ji: The sacred hill of devotions and faith

TDG NETWORK

Giriraj Ji, also known as Govardhan Hill, holds a deeply revered place in Hinduism, especially among the devotees of Lord Krishna. Located in the Braj region of Uttar Pradesh, this sacred hill is a living symbol of divine love, faith, and protection. Its spiritual importance originates from the legendary episode in the Bhagavata Purana, where Lord Krishna lifted the entire hill on his little finger to shield the people of Braj from torrential rains sent by the rain god Indra. This act of divine strength and compassion earned Krishna the title "Giridhari," the lifter of Govardhan, and transformed the hill itself into an object of worship as Giriraj Maharaj.

Devotees regard the stones of Giriraj Ji as sacred, often carrying small pieces home as blessings. One of the most significant devotional practices associated with Giriraj Ji is the Parikrama, a sacred 21-kilometer circumambulation per-

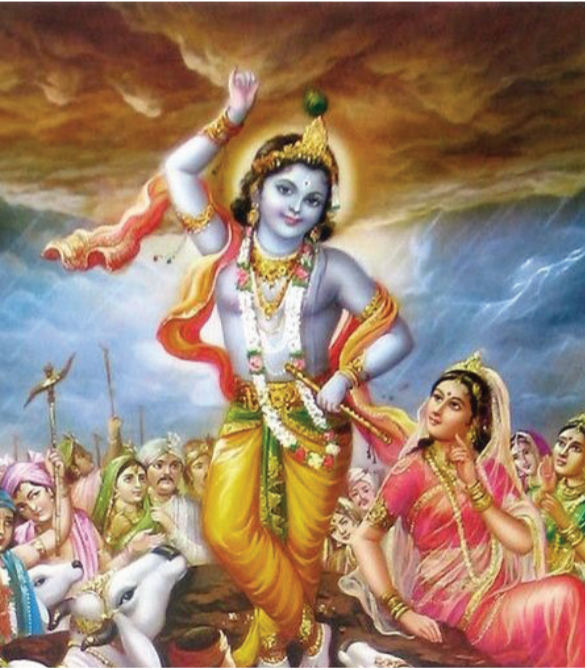


formed barefoot around the hill, passing through holy spots like Radha Kund, Kusum Sarovar, Govind Kund, Mansi Ganga, and Poonchari Ka Lotha. Some devotees perform the Parikrama by lying flat on the ground and measuring the entire path with their bodies, demonstrating complete surrender. The Parikrama is most prominent dur-

ing Govardhan Puja, celebrated a day after Diwali, when lakhs of pilgrims visit to offer food, light lamps, and participate in religious festivities. The celebration marks Krishna's divine intervention and the triumph of faith over pride. The hill has been glorified by saints like Vallabhacharya, Chaitanya Mahaprabhu, and others, who viewed Giri-

raj not as a symbol but as Krishna himself. Though the physical form of the hill has eroded over time, its spiritual power remains undiminished.

The town of Govardhan, surrounding the hill, is vibrant with temples, ashrams, gaushalas, and sadhus, all contributing to a community centered on devotion and service. Daily



life here reflects a deep commitment to Krishna bhakti, with pilgrims feeding cows, helping fellow travelers, and engaging in kirtans and prayers. Artistic and cultural expressions of devotion are also seen in the famous Bundi-style paintings and devotional songs written in praise of Teej Mata and Giriraj Ji. Historical accounts mention that

the original gold and gemstone-studded idol of Teej Mata was once taken from Jaipur and later brought to Bundi by Hada King Rao Raja Ram Singh. Today, a decorated replica is used during Kajli Teej, while the original is preserved in the royal palace.

In the context of Giriraj Ji, this history reinforces the strong cultural and spiritu-



al ties between regions and traditions, centered around shared devotion. For many, walking the path of Giriraj Parikrama is more than a pilgrimage—it is a personal journey of transformation, surrender, and divine connection.

The spiritual atmosphere, the sound of chants, the simplicity of faith, and the stories of Krishna's pas-

times infuse the experience with timeless depth. Whether one is a devout follower or a curious traveler, the presence of Giriraj Ji is both humbling and uplifting. It stands not only as a sacred site but as a living embodiment of devotion, reminding all who come in contact with it of the eternal bond between the divine and the devotee.



NETANYAHU DEFENDS PLANNED MILITARY OFFENSIVE ON GAZA

AGENCIES
JERUSALEM

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Sunday sought to defend a new military offensive in one of Gaza's most populated areas amid growing condemnation at home and abroad, declaring that Israel "has no choice but to finish the job and complete the defeat of Hamas."

He spoke to foreign media minutes before an emergency meeting of the United Nations Security Council on Gaza. Notably, Netanyahu said he has directed Israel's military in recent days to "bring in more foreign journalists" — which would be a striking development, as they haven't been allowed into Gaza beyond military embeds during 22 months of war.

"Our goal is not to occupy Gaza, our goal is to free Gaza," Netanyahu asserted.



He also pushed back against what he called a "global campaign of lies" — and said Chancellor Friedrich Merz of Germany, one of Israel's strongest backers, had "buckled under" by announcing that Germany won't authorize exports of military equipment to Israel that could be used in Gaza until further notice.

Netanyahu said there is a "fairly short timetable" in mind for next steps in Gaza, but didn't give specifics. The goals there, he said, include

demilitarizing the territory, the Israeli military having "overriding security control" there and a non-Israeli civilian administration in charge.

Netanyahu again blamed many of Gaza's problems on the Hamas militant group, including civilian deaths, destruction and shortages of aid. "Hamas still has thousands of armed terrorists in Gaza," he asserted, adding that Palestinians are "begging" the world to be freed from them.

ISRAELI SAYS TWO PROJECTILES 'LIKELY' LAUNCHED FROM GAZA

TDG NETWORK
MANDYA

Jerusalem : The Israeli military on Sunday said two projectiles were "likely" launched from Gaza and crossed into Israel, as the war between Israel and Hamas in Gaza, approaching its third year, has attracted global condemnation and outrage. The military said interception attempts were made, but the results of the interception are under review. Sirens were sounded in southern Israel close to the border with Gaza. No injuries or damages were reported.

This came amid mounting domestic and international outrage over Israel's

military offensive in Gaza, which has killed more than 60,000 Palestinians, reduced the enclave to rubble and brought millions of people to the brink of starvation. Several people have died of hunger amid Israel's tight blockade of humanitarian aid.

On Saturday night, thousands of protesters took to the streets of Tel Aviv in Israel to oppose Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's plan to escalate the nearly two-year Gaza war, demanding an immediate end to the campaign and for the release of the hostages. Israel's security cabinet recently approved a new military plan that includes taking control of Gaza City, sparking massive backlash.

Thousands take to streets in Tel Aviv to protest new Gaza plan

AGENCIES
TEL AVIV

Thousands of protesters took to the streets of Tel Aviv on Saturday night to oppose Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's plan to escalate the nearly two-year Gaza war, demanding an immediate end to the campaign and for the release of the hostages.

A day earlier, the prime minister's office said the security cabinet, a small group of senior ministers, had decided to seize Gaza City, expanding military operations in the devastated Palestinian territory despite widespread public opposition and warnings from the military the move could endanger the hostages.

"This isn't just a military decision. It could be a death sentence for the people we love most," Lishay Miran



Thousands took to the streets in Tel Aviv last night to protest the Israeli government's plan to expand the war. Agencies

Lavi, the wife of hostage Omri Miran told the rally, pleading to U.S. President Donald Trump to intervene to immediately end the war.

Public opinion polls show an overwhelming majority of Israelis favour an immediate end to the war to secure the release of the remaining 50 hostages held by militants in Gaza.

Israeli officials believe about 20 hostages are still

alive. The Israeli government has faced sharp criticism at home and abroad, including from some of its closest European allies, over the announcement that the military would expand the war. The full cabinet is expected to give its approval as soon as Sunday. Most of the hostages who have been freed so far emerged as a result of diplomatic negotiations.

China detains senior diplomat: Report

AGENCIES
BEIJING

Liu Jianchao, a senior Chinese diplomat heading the foreign relations department of the ruling Communist Party, has been detained for questioning, the Wall Street Journal reported on Sunday.

The 61-year-old senior diplomat was taken away for questioning in late July after returning to Beijing from an overseas work trip, the paper reported, quoting people familiar with the matter. There is, however, no official confirmation of his detention yet.

Liu, the Minister of the International Department of the Communist Party of China (CPC), is regarded as the potential future foreign minister and shares close ties with President Xi Jinping.

Liu led a CPC delegation that attended the Liberation Movements Summit in South Africa on July 28, according to the official media here.

The news of Liu's detention, coming



ahead of the upcoming Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) to be held in China's Tianjin city later this month, sent shock waves across the Chinese official and diplomatic circles.

The summit of the 10-member SCO is scheduled to take place from August 31 to September 1.

As a Minister of the International Department of the CPC, Liu wielded considerable influence over China's foreign policy, though Wang Yi is the Foreign Minister.

Liu was one of the top officials who

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar met during his visit here on July 14 and discussed the progress of the normalisation of the relations after last year's meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping in Russia ending the over four year's freeze in ties due the military standoff in eastern Ladakh.

The official website of the CPC International Department still has Liu's photos and the statements of his meetings with various international dignitaries.

In 2023, the then-foreign minister Qin Gang was ousted. Qin, too, was regarded as Xi's protégé. The reasons for Qin's removal were not made public.

After Qin's removal, Wang, who is currently a member of the powerful Political Bureau of the CPC and Director of the Office of the Central Commission for Foreign Affairs, was made the Foreign Minister, a post he relinquished to facilitate Qin's elevation.

AGENCIES
TEHRAN

Iran has said it will block a corridor planned in the Caucasus under a United States-brokered peace accord between Azerbaijan and Armenia, which has been hailed by other countries in the region as beneficial for achieving lasting peace.

Ali Akbar Velayati, a top adviser to Iran's supreme leader, said on Saturday that Tehran would block the initiative "with or without Russia", with which Iran has a strategic alliance alongside Armenia.

US President Donald Trump "thinks the Caucasus is a piece of real estate he can lease for 99 years", Velayati told state-affiliated Tasnim News, referring to the trans-



US President Donald Trump speaks during a trilateral signing with Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev, left, and Armenia's Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan in the State Dining Room of the White House. (File photo) Agencies

port corridor included in the peace deal.

"This passage will not become a gateway for Trump's mercenaries — it will become their graveyard," he added, describing the plan as "political treachery" aimed at undermining Armenia's territorial integrity.

The terms of the accord,

which was unveiled at a signing ceremony at the White House on Friday, include exclusive US development rights to a route through Armenia that would link Azerbaijan to Nakhchivan, an Azerbaijani enclave that borders Baku's ally Turkey.

The corridor, which would pass close to the border with

Iran, would be named the Trump Route for International Peace and Prosperity, or TRIPP, and operate under Armenian law.

Velayati argued that it would open the way for NATO to position itself "like a viper" between Iran and Russia.

Separately, Iran's foreign ministry issued a statement expressing concern about the negative consequences of any foreign intervention in the vicinity of its borders.

While it welcomed the peace deal between Armenia and Azerbaijan, the ministry said any project near Iran's borders should be developed "with respect for national sovereignty and territorial integrity, and without foreign interference".

LUNAR MAJESTY



The full moon rises behind the city's Galata tower, Istanbul, Turkey.

Yunus calls for 'complete security' during general elections next year

AGENCIES
DHAKA

Bangladesh Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus has called for "complete security" at polling centres for the country's general elections set to take place in February 2026, stressing the need to make the polls "free, fair and peaceful", a media report said on Sunday.

The interim government head made the remarks on Saturday at a high-level meeting at the state guest house Jamuna here, reported the state-run Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS).

"We must guarantee complete security at all polling centres, no matter the cost. Our goal is to make the February election the most free, fair, and peaceful in the country's history," Yunus was quoted as saying.

The polls next year would be the 13th Parli-



mentary elections.

At the meeting, Yunus' special assistant on Telecommunications and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Affairs Faiz Tayeb Ahmed said the process to procure 40,000 body cameras was in the final stages.

The use of bodycams by police will enhance security at voting booths during the upcoming elections, he said.

"We are aiming to procure the bodycams by October so police officers can receive adequate training

The interim government head made the remarks on Saturday at a high-level meeting at the state guest house Jamuna here, reported the state-run Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS).

on their key features, including AI capabilities," he added.

Yunus ordered officials to expedite the process and ensure proper training for the police personnel, according to the report.

Bangladesh's Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) AMM Nasir Uddin on Saturday said general elections would be held in the first week of February 2026.

Pak-US ties gain momentum; Army chief Munir visits Washington

AGENCIES
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan Army chief Asim Munir, who is visiting Washington for the second time since the four-day conflict with India, has met top U.S. political and military leaders, the Army said on Sunday (August 10, 2025).

The Chief of Army Staff (COAS) "is undertaking an

official visit to the United States", the Army said in a statement released in Islamabad.

The Army chief engaged in high-level interactions with senior political and military leadership as well as members of the Pakistani diaspora, according to the statement.

No details were shared about his stay in the U.S., and it was also not clear

when he arrived.

In Tampa, Mr. Munir attended the Retirement Ceremony of outgoing U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) Commander General Michael E. Kurilla and the Change of Command Ceremony, marking the assumption of command by Admiral Brad Cooper.

Field Marshal Munir lauded General Kurilla's exemplary leadership and



his invaluable contributions to strengthening

bilateral military cooperation and extended his best wishes to Admiral Cooper, expressing confidence in continued collaboration to address shared security challenges, the statement said.

He also met with Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Dan Caine, where matters of mutual professional interest were discussed. He extended an

invitation to General Caine to visit Pakistan, it added.

On the sidelines, Mr. Munir interacted with Chiefs of Defence from friendly nations.

During an interactive session with the Pakistani diaspora, Mr. Munir urged them to remain confident in Pakistan's bright future and to actively contribute to attracting investments. The diaspora reaffirmed

its commitment to support Pakistan's progress and development, according to the Army.

In June, Mr. Munir travelled to the U.S. on a rare five-day trip during which he attended a private luncheon with President Donald Trump, an unprecedented gesture typically reserved for visiting heads of state or government. That meeting culminated

in Mr. Trump's announcement of enhanced U.S.-Pakistan cooperation in various fields, including an oil deal.

Mr. Munir's visit came just over a month after the U.S. General described Pakistan as a "phenomenal partner" in counterterrorism efforts during a congressional hearing, where he also praised Pakistan's role "in promoting peace and stability" in the region.

EUROPEAN LEADERS RALLY BEHIND UKRAINE BEFORE FRIDAY SUMMIT

AGENCIES
KYIV, UKRAINE

European nations have rallied behind Ukraine, saying peace in the war-torn nation can't be resolved without Kyiv, ahead of a planned meeting between U.S. President Donald Trump and Russia's Vladimir Putin.

Trump had said Friday's meeting in Alaska with his Russian counterpart was to discuss ending the more than three-year war.

Zelenskyy responded by thanking European allies and wrote on X on Sunday: "The end of the war must be fair, and I am grateful to everyone who stands with Ukraine and our people."

Saturday's statement by top European leaders came after the White House confirmed the U.S president was willing to grant Putin the one-on-one meeting Russia has long pushed for, and suggestions from Trump that a peace deal could include "some swapping of territories." That raised fears that Kyiv may be



Relatives and soldiers of the Azov Regiment pay last respect near the coffin of their comrade, Georgian volunteer Mykhailo Kovaliv, during a farewell ceremony on Independence Square in Kyiv, Ukraine. Agencies

pressured into giving up land or accepting other curbs on its sovereignty.

A White House official, who spoke on condition of anonymity as they aren't allowed to speak publicly, told The Associated Press that Trump remained open to a trilateral summit with both the Russian and Ukrainian leaders, but for now, he will have a bilateral meeting re-

quested by Putin.

Meanwhile, U.S. Vice President JD Vance met Saturday with top European and Ukrainian officials at the British Foreign Secretary's weekend residence to discuss how to end the war.

Trump had earlier said he would meet with Putin even if the Russian leader would not meet with Zelenskyy.

The Trump-Putin meeting

may prove pivotal in a war that began when Russia invaded its western neighbor and has led to tens of thousands of deaths, although there's no guarantee it will stop the fighting since Moscow and Kyiv remain far apart on their conditions for peace.

Saturday's statement, signed by the president of the European Union and leaders

of France, Germany, Italy, Poland, Finland and the UK, stressed the need for a "just and lasting peace" for Kyiv, including "robust and credible" security guarantees.

"Ukraine has the freedom of choice over its own destiny. Meaningful negotiations can only take place in the context of a ceasefire or reduction of hostilities," the statement said.

"The path to peace in Ukraine cannot be decided without Ukraine. We remain committed to the principle that international borders must not be changed by force," the Europeans added.

A monthlong U.S.-led push to achieve a truce in Ukraine has so far proved fruitless, with Kyiv agreeing in principle while the Kremlin has held out for terms more to its liking.

Trump had also moved up an ultimatum to impose additional sanctions on Russia and introduce secondary tariffs targeting countries that buy Russian oil if the Kremlin did not move toward a settlement.

Moscow strikes kill 5; refinery hit in Russia

AGENCIES
KYIV

A new round of Moscow's shelling and drone attacks killed five persons in Ukraine on Sunday (August 10, 2025) authorities said, while Kyiv hit an oil refinery in Russia's Saratov region.

There was no reduction in hostilities on the front-line, even as the United States and Russia agreed to hold a summit in a bid to resolve the conflict, which, so far doesn't include Ukraine.

"Three people killed, one wounded in Zaporizhzhia region as a result of Russian shelling," Ukraine's national police said, adding that two more civilians died in the highly contested Donetsk region in the east.

Meantime, three beach-

goers were killed in the Black Sea coastal city of Odesa, after they tripped on a mine while swimming in a prohibited area, which was mined to fend off a potential Russian navy attack.

The Ukrainian Army claimed its drones had hit a large oil refinery in Russia's western Saratov region, almost 1,000 km away from the front line.

The Saratov Governor, Roman Busargin, only gave a vague comment saying that "one of the industrial enterprises was damaged," adding that one person died as a result of the drone attack.

Another woman died in Russia's region of Belgorod, often under Ukrainian fire due to its proximity to the frontline, the local Governor said.

Kyiv is trying to hamper Moscow's ability to fund the more than three-year war of attrition by attacking its oil and gas facilities, the key sources fuelling the state budget.

Ukraine's military claimed to have taken back the village of Bezsalivka in the Sumy region from the Russian Army, which has made significant recent gains. The focus of the Russian offensive is on eastern Ukraine, where it has stepped up gains in recent months against its less well-equipped opponents.

Presidents Vladimir Putin and Donald Trump will meet in the U.S. state of Alaska this Friday to try to resolve the grinding conflict, despite warnings from Ukraine and Europe that Kyiv must be part of negotiations.

Trump open to Alaska summit with Putin and Zelenskiy

AGENCIES
WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump is open to holding a trilateral summit in Alaska with Russian President Vladimir Putin and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, a White House official said on Saturday.

However, the White House is currently planning a bilateral meeting with Putin at his request, the official added.

The last time Alaska hosted a high-stakes diplomatic gathering was in March 2021, when senior officials from the administration of Democratic former President Joe Biden met with top Chinese officials in Anchorage.



The get-together involving Biden's top diplomat Antony Blinken and his Chinese counterpart Yang Jiechi quickly turned into a stunning public clash in front of the cameras, with both sides levelling sharp rebukes of the others' policies that reflected the high tension in bilateral ties.

Since his return to the White House in January, Trump has moved to mend relations with Russia and sought to end the war.

In his public comments he has veered between admiration and sharp criticism of Putin. Trump announced on Friday that he would meet with Putin in Alaska to push

for a ceasefire in Ukraine. The White House had initially insisted that Putin meet Zelenskyy before Trump agreed to a summit with the Russian leader, but this was later dropped.

If Zelenskyy does attend, sources say it is unclear whether he and Putin would meet directly.

The renewed diplomatic push follows a visit to Moscow by Trump's special envoy, Steve Witkoff, ahead of a deadline set by Trump for Putin to agree to a ceasefire or face sanctions. Putin did not agree to the terms but proposed an arrangement allowing Russia to retain large areas of occupied Ukrainian territory.

AGENCIES
LONDON

British police said they arrested 365 people in central London on Saturday as supporters of a recently banned pro-Palestinian group intentionally flouted the law as part of their effort to force the government to reconsider the ban.

Parliament in early July passed a law banning Palestine Action and making it a crime to publicly support the organization. That came after activists broke into a Royal Air Force base and vandalized two tanker planes to protest against Britain's support for Israel's offensive against



Demonstrators hold placards during a protest in support of the Palestinian People in Gaza, in Parliament Square, in London. Agencies

Hamas in the Gaza Strip. Backers of the group, who have held a series of protests around the U.K. over the past month, argue that the law illegally restricts

freedom of expression. More than 500 protesters filled the square outside the Houses of Parliament on Saturday, many daring police to arrest them

by displaying signs reading "I oppose genocide. I support Palestine Action." That was enough for police to step in.

But as the demonstration began to wind down, police and protest organizers sparred over the number of arrests as the organizers sought to show that the law was unworkable.

"The police have only been able to arrest a fraction of those supposedly committing 'terrorism' offenses, and most of those have been given street bail and allowed to go home," Defend Our Juries, which organized the protest, said in a statement.

FDA reinstates ousted top vaccine regulator Vinay Prasad

AGENCIES
WASHINGTON

Vinay Prasad, a top vaccine regulator ousted from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) late last month, is set to return to his post, according to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

"At the FDA's request, Dr. Vinay Prasad is resuming leadership of the Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research," HHS spokesperson Andrew Nixon told The Hill in a statement. "Neither the White House nor HHS will allow the fake news media to distract from the critical work the FDA is carrying out under the Trump administration."

Prasad's July 30 resignation as the FDA's chief science officer followed criticism from right-wing figures — including activist Laura Loomer and former Sen. Rick Santorum (R-Pa.) — that ran parallel to a regulatory showdown with



drug manufacturers over a gene therapy treatment for boys with Duchenne muscular dystrophy.

Loomer, a key ally of President Trump with noticeable influence, lavished attacks on the FDA official in recent weeks — calling him a "saboteur" and "trojan horse" for HHS's "Make America Healthy Again" initiative.

She called his return "another egregious personnel decision" in a Saturday post on social platform X, vowing to "ramp up" her pressure campaign.

"In the coming weeks, I will be ramping up my exposes of officials within HHS and FDA so the American people can see more of the pay for play rot themselves and how rabid Trump haters continue to be hired in the Trump administration," she wrote. "There are several Senate Confirmation hearings coming up and I have multiple oppo books ready for distribution! Should be a good time."

Prasad was named head of the FDA's Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research in early May as a replacement for Peter Marks, who resigned from the position in March after clashing with HHS Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr.

The doctor, just one of several health officials tapped by Trump who criticized COVID-19 vaccines, had been in the role for less than three months when the FDA announced he would step down.



People take part in the Mega Calenda parade to mark International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples, Mexico City, Mexico.

Great Barrier Reef records largest annual coral loss in 39 years

AGENCIES
MELBOURNE

The Great Barrier Reef has experienced its greatest annual loss of live coral across most of its expanse in four decades of record-keeping, Australian authorities say.

But due to increasing coral cover since 2017, the coral deaths — caused mainly by bleaching last year associated with climate change — have

left the area of living coral across the iconic reef system close to its long-term average, the Australian Institute of Marine Science said in its annual survey on Wednesday (August 6, 2025).

The change underscores a new level of volatility on the UNESCO World Heritage Site, the report said.

Mike Emslie, who heads the tropical marine research agency's long-term monitor-

ing program, said the live coral cover measured in 2024 was the largest recorded in 39 years of surveys.

The losses from such a high base of coral cover had partially cushioned the serious climate impacts on the world's largest reef ecosystem, which covers 344,000 square kilometers (133,000 square miles) off the northeast Australian coast, he said.

"These are substantial im-



pacts and evidence that the increasing frequency of coral

bleaching is really starting to have detrimental effects

on the Great Barrier Reef," Emslie said on Thursday.

"While there's still a lot of coral cover out there, these are record declines that we have seen in any one year of monitoring," he added.

Mr. Emslie's agency divides the Great Barrier Reef, which extends 1,500 kilometers (900 miles) along the Queensland state coast, into three similarly-sized regions: northern, central and south-

ern.

Living coral cover shrunk by almost a third in the south in a year, a quarter in the north and by 14% in the central region, the report said.

Because of record global heat in 2023 and 2024, the world is still going through its biggest — and fourth ever recorded — mass coral bleaching event on record, with heat stress hurting nearly 84% of the world's coral reef area,

including the Great Barrier Reef, according to the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's coral reef watch. So far at least 83 countries have been impacted.

This bleaching event started in January 2023 and was declared a global crisis in April 2024. It easily eclipsed the previous biggest global coral bleaching event, from 2014 to 2017, when 68.2% had bleaching from heat stress.

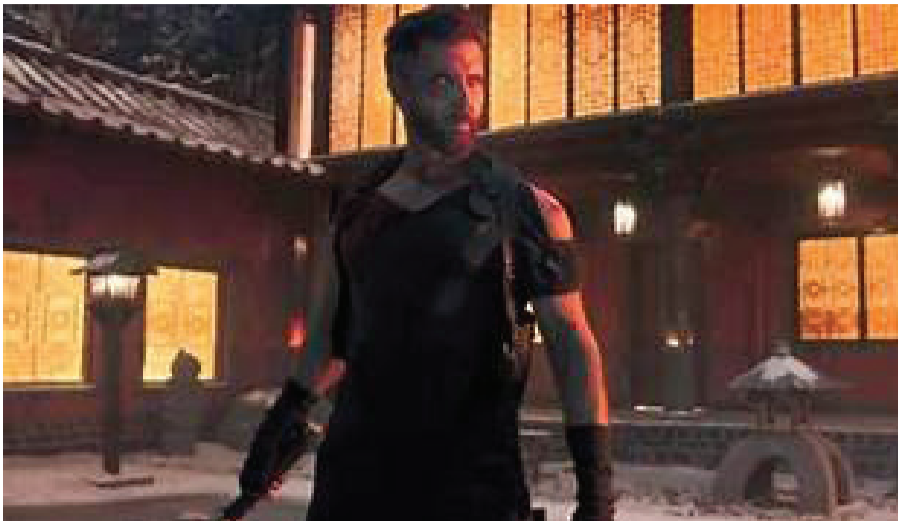
HRITHIK-STARRER 'WAR 2' PROMO OUT

AGENCIES
MUMBAI

The advance bookings for Hrithik Roshan and Jr NTR's highly-awaited film, 'War 2', have officially begun. On Sunday, the makers confirmed the update and also unveiled a brand new pre-release promo.

The thrilling footage shows the lead actors as Kabir and Vikram confronting each other in intense action scenes, teasing their rivalry that remains at the heart of the film.

"Are you ready to witness the CARNAGE in cinemas from August 14th? BOOK TICKETS NOW for #War2 and let us give you an experience to cherish for the rest of your lives. Releasing in Hindi, Telugu & Tamil in theatres worldwide! #YRF-



SpyUniverse," the makers wrote on Instagram.

The surprise gift, which arrived just days before 'War 2' hits theatres, has left fans excited for its release. Many took to the comment section and expressed their anticipation for the film.

Earlier, Yash Raj Films shared a glimpse of the actors' dance face-off in the song 'Janaab-e-Aali.'

A teaser of the song was posted across social media handles, giving a subtle reminder of Hrithik's dance battle with Tiger Shroff on the 'Jai Jai Shivshankar'

song from the first film.

"The dance WAR you've been waiting for is almost here. Here's the tease... #Janaab-e-Aali full song in theatres only! #War2 releasing in Hindi, Telugu and Tamil in cinemas worldwide on 14th August," the makers wrote.

'Mahavatar Narsimha' rakes in Rs 104 cr

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

"Mahavatar Narsimha", an animated film from Ashwin Kumar, has collected over Rs 100 crore at the domestic box office.

Produced by Shilpaa Dhawan, Kushal Desai, and Chaitanya Desai under the production banner Kleem Productions, the film is presented by Hombale Films.

The total domestic box office collection stands at Rs 104.14 crore gross. The worldwide box office collection of the film is over Rs 175 crore, according to the makers.



No wonder, with business jumping to more than triple when compared to Fri-

day collections of Rs. 4.70 crores, the film ended up netting Rs. 15 crores more

which is only justifying its blockbuster run all the more. The film is not slowing down at all and rest assured, there would be excellent numbers all over again today too as it builds on top of Rs. 104.14 crores that it has collected so far.

Last week, the film had moved up to Rs. 16.27 crores on Sunday and that too with Saiyaara going so strong and new releases Son Of Sardaar 2 and Dhadak 2 occupying a large number of screens. There is no such competition this week which means Mahavatar Narsimha would be aiming to go past Rs. 120 crores by the close of third weekend.

Bachchans return to Mumbai after family vacation

AGENCIES
MUMBAI

Bollywood couple Abhishek Bachchan and Aishwarya Rai Bachchan were spotted together with their daughter Aaradhya at Mumbai airport early Sunday morning after returning from vacation.

The trio looked cheerful as they exited the airport, smiling for the photographers before getting into their car. Aaradhya was seen holding her mother's hand while walking, and Abhishek walked slightly ahead of them.

The 'Dhoom' actor wore a casual blue hoodie with a



beige jacket and black pants. Aishwarya, on the other hand, opted for a black top with a matching coat and blue pants. Aaradhya was dressed in an all-black outfit.

Rumours about tension between the two reportedly began in July last year when Aishwarya and her

daughter attended Anant Ambani's wedding without the Bachchan family. The rest of the family, including Amitabh, Jaya, Abhishek, Shweta, Agastya Nanda, and Navya Naveli, attended the event together, leading to speculation about their separation.

BRAIN PICKING



I think every single imperfection adds to your beauty. I'd rather be imperfect than perfect.

— SONAM KAPOOR
(Indian Actress)

Ahaan Panday, Aneet Padma prank paps

AGENCIES
MUMBAI

There's no doubt that the runaway success of Mohit Suri's 'Saiyaara' has turned its debut stars, Ahaan Panday and Aneet Padma, into overnight sensations. Ever since the film's release, the duo has become a favourite of the paparazzi, often drawing attention wherever they go.

On Saturday, the two were spotted in Mumbai. But instead of simply posing for the cameras, the duo decided to flip the script. In a video now making the rounds on social media, Ahaan and Aneet can be seen sitting inside a car, watching something on a phone, while photographers tried to click

them through the windows. Then, in a playful twist, Aneet turned the phone toward the paparazzi, showing that they were recording the photographers instead.

Later that day, Ahaan also delighted a fan when he rolled down his car window at a traffic signal to take a selfie.

Directed by Mohit Suri and produced by Yash Raj Films

CEO Akshay Widhani, Saiyaara has become the highest-grossing romantic film in Indian cinema history, earning over Rs 500 crore worldwide, with Rs 317 crore in India alone. The movie marks Ahaan Panday's acting debut, while Aneet Padma, who has earlier appeared in 'Salaam Venky' and 'Big Girls Don't Cry,' plays her first lead role in a film.



Rakhi in B-Town



SARA ALI KHAN

Ibrahim Ali Khan took to Instagram on Raksha Bandhan to post pictures with his sister Sara Ali Khan



SHILPA SHETTY
Tunki Munki - Sister Act

AKSHYA KUMAR

Alka and Akshay are seen in the living room, performing the Raksha Bandhan puja.

URVASHI RAUTELA

Urvashi Rautela posted pictures with her brother on social media on Raksha Bandhan Day



Skincare 3.0: How technology-driven treatments are redefining skin health in urban India

DR KIRAN HEBBALKAR

In cities across India, the idea of skincare is going through a transformation. What once revolved around home remedies and salon visits has now expanded into a space where medical science meets aesthetics. More and more urban Indians are turning to advanced dermatological treatments that go deeper than just the surface. They are looking for solutions that are precise, long-lasting, and tailored to their skin's specific needs.

This shift marks a new chapter in skincare, one where the goal is not just to look good, but to improve overall skin health with the help of smart, science-backed technology.

The Rise of Skin Tech in Urban Life

City life is not easy on the skin. From pollution and stress to irregular sleep patterns and constant screen time, everyday factors can lead to early signs of ageing, dullness, pigmentation, and dryness. A basic glow is no longer enough; people now want skin that's strong, well-nourished, and able to recover from damage.

That's where new-age treatments come in. These are not the usual creams or facials, but minimally invasive procedures developed through years of dermatological research. Their focus is on healing, hydrat-



One of the most exciting changes in skincare has been the rise of bio-remodelling injectables. Unlike traditional fillers that add volume to the face, these work at a deeper level to improve the skin's overall quality.

ing, and reviving the skin from within.

From Hydration to Regeneration: The Injectable Shift

One of the most exciting changes in skincare has been the rise of bio-remodelling injectables. Unlike traditional fillers that add volume to the face, these work at a deeper level to improve the skin's overall quality.

Take Profilllo, for example. It's a new-generation

injectable with one of the highest concentrations of hyaluronic acid available. What sets it apart is its ability to deeply hydrate the skin while also stimulating the production of collagen and elastin, the building blocks of firm, youthful skin.

Instead of changing how someone looks, this treatment improves skin texture, elasticity, and tone in a natural, gradual way. For people dealing with tired,

thinning, or stressed skin, especially in fast-paced urban environments, it's proving to be a real breakthrough because it supports both prevention and correction. It's become a go-to choice for dermatologists treating early signs of ageing, particularly in people in their 30s and 40s.

Addressing Scars and Texture: The Power of Hybrid Lasers

While hydration is important, many people also struggle with issues like acne scars, uneven skin tone, or sun damage. For such concerns, advanced laser technologies are offering highly effective solutions.

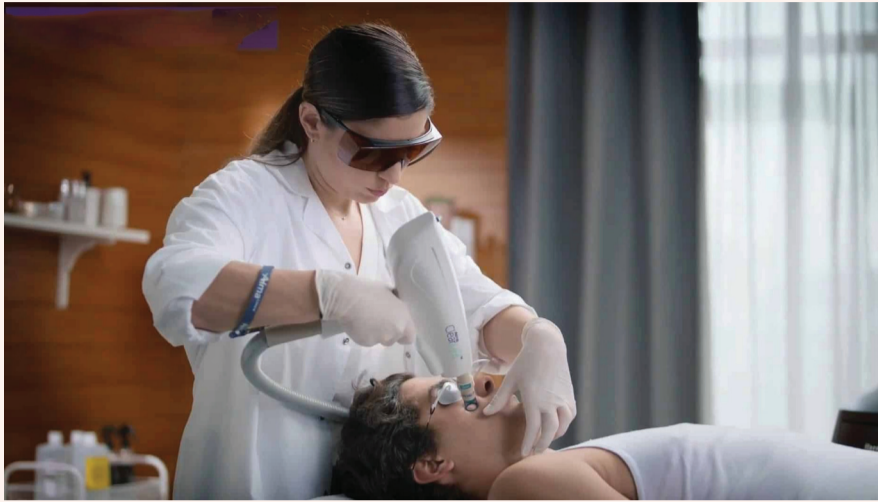
One such innovation is Alma Hybrid, a treatment platform that combines three different skin tech-

nologies: ablative laser, non-ablative laser, and ultrasound-based skin repair. This combination allows doctors to treat multiple layers of the skin at once, targeting the surface as well as the deeper layers where real repair begins.

What makes this hybrid approach so powerful is its ability to boost collagen and improve skin structure from multiple angles. Whether it's wrinkles, old scars, or post-surgical marks, this method helps restore smoothness and clarity to the skin, without long recovery times.

What Today's Urban Patient Wants

The modern skincare patient is not chasing dramatic results. They are looking for subtle, visible improvements—



skin that looks fresh, feels smooth, and stays healthy. Treatments need to fit into their fast-paced lifestyle, which means minimal downtime and results that last.

While these technologies are globally developed, they are being adapted for Indian skin types and conditions. Clinics across India are now equipped to

offer personalised plans, taking into account not just skin type and age, but lifestyle habits too.

Prevention Over Cure: A New Skincare Mindset

One of the biggest changes in recent years is how people think about skincare. Instead of waiting for signs of ageing to appear, many are now starting treatments earlier, as early

as their late 20s, to maintain skin health and delay visible ageing.

The Road Ahead

Urban India is moving in step with global skincare trends, with medical technology playing a leading role. As the market grows, we will likely see more innovations, from AI-based skin assessments to advanced injectables designed to work with the skin's biology, but at its core, this new wave of skincare is about more than just appearances. It's about understanding your skin, choosing better solutions, and making long-term skin health a part of everyday wellness. Skincare in 2025 is not about changing who you are; it's about taking care of what you already have, in the smartest way possible.

The author is Consultant Dermatologist and Aesthetic Physician

The lip filler debate? explains the right and wrong of lip enhancement



DR. KARUNA MALHOTRA

Social media influencer and fashion provocateur Urfi Javed has once again made headlines—this time, not for her bold fashion choices, but for her visibly overdone lip fillers. Her exaggerated pout, showcased in recent appearances, sparked both concern and criticism across the internet, with many wondering: what went wrong?

To demystify the situation, we spoke to New Delhi based Aesthetic physician, Cosmetologist and Skin Specialist Dr. Karuna Malhotra from Cosmetic Skin and Home Clinic in Rajouri Garden who shares her expert insights on what likely happened, what lip fillers should and shouldn't look like, and how to approach aesthetic treatments safely.

What Are Lip Fillers?

Lip fillers are non-surgical cosmetic injectables, typically made of hyaluronic acid—a substance naturally found in the skin—that adds volume, shape, and hydration to the lips.

“When done right, fillers can give you soft, plump, and natural-looking lips,” explains Dr. Karuna Malhotra. “But when overdone, or done by untrained hands,



it can result in duck lips, uneven shape, or even long-term damage.”

What possibly went wrong with Urfi Javed's lips?

While we cannot confirm the exact procedure or injector involved in Urfi Javed's case, but it happened because of the allergic reaction when she dissolved her previous done fillers.

According to Dr. Karuna Malhotra, “lip fillers should not look unnatural, and one has to be very clear about the look they need, how much plump or how much pout. So, basically it could be over filled or under filled according to your liking and most importantly please go to a certified doctor only to get these kind of procedures done otherwise it can cause blunders. It shouldn't lost proportion and harmony with the rest of the face.”

She further explains that lip anatomy and facial balance must be assessed before any injection. “One size doesn't fit all. A good aesthetician studies the patient's natural lip shape, skin elasticity, and bone structure before suggesting how much product to use,” she adds.

Pros of Lip Fillers – When Done Right

Lip fillers have become increasingly popular due to their subtle, enhancing results when performed properly. Here are some of the benefits:

- **Non-surgical and quick** (often done in 20–30 minutes)
- **Customizable results** based on patient preferences
- **Reversible with hyaluronidase** if one is unhappy with the results
- **Hydrates and smoothes lips**, improving texture
- **Natural-looking enhancement** when done gradually and correctly

Risks and Cons of Lip Fillers

As Urfi's case reminds us, fillers are not without risks:

- **Overfilling** can distort natural anatomy
- **Lump formation or migration of filler** into surrounding areas
- **Asymmetry**, if not properly injected
- **Infection or vascular occlusion**, though rare, can be serious
- **Social stigma** and regret if the results don't align with personal or

public expectations

“People often forget that fillers are still medical procedures,” warns **Dr. Karuna Malhotra.** *“Getting them from a salon or an uncertified injector can lead to disastrous results.”*

How to Get Lip Fillers Safely

1. **Always choose a certified aesthetic physician** – not a beautician or spa technician.
 2. **Start slow** – less is more. Build gradually if needed.
 3. **Understand the risks** – ask about side effects, longevity, and reversal options.
 4. **Check credentials and reviews** of your doctor.
 5. **Avoid chasing trends** – what looks good on one celebrity may not suit your face.
- “Cosmetic enhancements should bring harmony, not shock,” says Dr. Karuna. *“I always emphasize natural enhancement that complements one's features rather than transforming them beyond recognition.”*

While celebrities may have access to the best cosmetic treatments, they're also under pressure to experiment. But Urfi Javed's lip filler incident serves as a reminder that aesthetic procedures should never be rushed or overdone.

Dr. Karuna Malhotra concludes, *“If you're considering lip fillers, don't just look at trends or influencers. Consult a qualified professional who prioritizes facial aesthetics, safety, and ethical practice.”*

The deep conditioning benefits of henna cream for hair health

CLELIA CECILIA ANGELON

Hair damage is a growing concern in today's fast-paced, urban lifestyle. Constant exposure to pollution, hard water, chemical treatments, heat styling, and poor nutrition can leave hair dry, lifeless, and brittle. While salon treatments may offer temporary shine and softness, they often come with a chemical cost. In contrast, traditional solutions rooted in nature are regaining attention — and henna cream is emerging as a hero product for deep conditioning and overall hair health.

Unlike the traditional henna powder that requires hours of soaking, mixing, and application, henna cream is a ready-to-use blend of natural extracts combined with other potent herbs and moisturising agents like aloe vera, amla (Indian gooseberry), Brazil Nut, Açai and Babassu Oil. It provides the goodness of henna without the drying effect often associated with the powdered form. Designed for modern lifestyles, this creamy formula nourishes and conditions the hair while offering gentle, natural tinting.

What makes henna cream a superior deep conditioner is its ability to cover the hair shaft, restoring essential nutrients while coloring gray hairs.

The phyto botanical constituents present in henna have an affinity for hair and interact with hair keratin. Combined with organic Brazilian extracts, they work synergistically, restoring hydration, nourishment, and softness to the hair. As a result, henna cream helps seal the cuticle, preventing moisture loss and creating a smooth, glossy finish.

Another notable benefit is its ability to revitalize dry,



frizzy and damaged hair. The formula, rich in essential fatty acids, restores essential nutrients, leaving hair softer, more emollient, easier to comb, and less prone to breakage. Regular use of henna cream can help calm frizz and naturally detangle hair—making it an ideal option for those who frequently use styling tools or suffer from weather-related hair damage.

Henna cream doesn't damage the scalp. Which is the foundation of healthy hair growth. Ingredients like amla, acerola in the formulation, naturally rich in vitamin C. Promote antioxidant action, protecting hair from free radicals.

What sets henna cream

apart from synthetic conditioners is its holistic, long-term benefit. While synthetic masks may coat the hair for a day or two, henna cream nourishes from the inside out, improving texture over time without causing build-up or residue. It's also suitable for most hair types — including curly, wavy, and chemically treated hair — and doesn't interfere with the scalp's natural pH balance and can be applied whenever you want.

In today's clean beauty movement, where transparency and ingredient integrity are paramount, henna cream represents a perfect marriage of tradition and innovation. It's a gentle, natural alternative for those seeking rich

hydration, sustainable care, and a non-toxic way to enhance their hair's natural beauty. For those looking to repair damage, restore softness, and maintain long-term hair health without resorting to harsh chemicals, henna cream offers a deeply nourishing solution that delivers on every front — strength, shine, and scalp care.

Look for a henna cream truly clean that has banished Ammonia and your subproducts: ethanolamine, diethanolamine and triethanolamine. Without sulfates and anothess aggressives substances.

The author is Founder and CEO, Surya Brasil

WRITING COMEDY WAS A LIFE LESSON-JASPREET KAUR



PROF SHIV SETHI

Jaspreet Kaur is an eminent Indian author writing in English. Whereas she has brilliantly co-authored twenty anthologies, Comic Memoirs of Fauji Brats happens to be her maiden literary venture in the genre of short stories. A humble journey that started in the most prestigious schools of Chandigarh, Sacred Heart Convent with strict yet an exemplary set of teachers who laid a strong foundation which was further enhanced by the Hons degree at MCM DAV College for Women, Chandigarh. Awaiting was a flamboyant exposure of the best professors at the Department of English and Cultural Studies at Panjab University Chandigarh, which actually gave her the wings which have taken flight touching various aspects of English Literature in her own innovative ways. Jaspreet has extensively contributed to the eminent “AVNI” multiple times, a special magazine showcasing meticulously selected art work of the Army Wives, and also has been awarded

for her contributions for the same. Here are the excerpts of her literary conversation about her new book with Prof Shiv Sethi from the Daily Guardian.

What has been your inspiration to write this book?

Being married to a second-generation Army Officer and having an amazingly humorous mother-in-law, there has never been a shortage of hilarious stories. Additionally, my husband's elder brother and he have been extremely notorious as kids which made the stories more interesting. I think her exceptionally comic ways of narration not only made us roll off our chairs but those anecdotes were a true inspiration for me to put them in a book as short stories.

Why did you choose to write short stories, why not a novel instead?

My main target audience are children, who are these days engulfed in mobile phones completely. Most of them have probably never picked up any book except for their course books. I wanted to make a concerted effort to lure children into



reading. That's why I chose to write short comic stories, probably which would finish in one sitting. The idea of adding illustrations was for the same purpose. However,

it can very comfortably be read by adults as well.

Do you plan to write a sequel to the book?

Why not? We already have

a set of caricatures and stories lined up for many such parts to follow.

Who is the illustrator of the book?

That's an interesting question. My husband Digvijay is the illustrator and one of the protagonists as well of the book. I can proudly say, it's a joint venture. After all who can illustrate the crime better than the culprit !

Will you now stick to short stories only, or would still write poetry?

Short stories as a maiden project has been an intriguing experience however, poetry shall always remain my first love.

How tough it was writing comedy?

While writing poetry one has to precisely focus on the depth of emotions usually oscillating between harsh realities and sentiments. I used to feel that's actually a tough job to stir emotions in humans until I wrote comedy and realised it to be a much herculean task. Writing comedy hence also was a life lesson, make people happy, tragedies are in abundance any way.

MANTO: THE GREATEST STORIES

ARUNAVA SINHA

About the Book

SAADAT HASAN MANTO'S MOST CONTROVERSIAL STORIES APPEAR IN THIS COLLECTION EDITED BY ARUNAVA SINHA Saadat Hasan Manto is the most widely read and controversial essayist, satirist, playwright and short story writer in the Urdu language. He published twenty-two collections of short stories. He is best known for his stories about the partition of India, which he opposed vehemently.

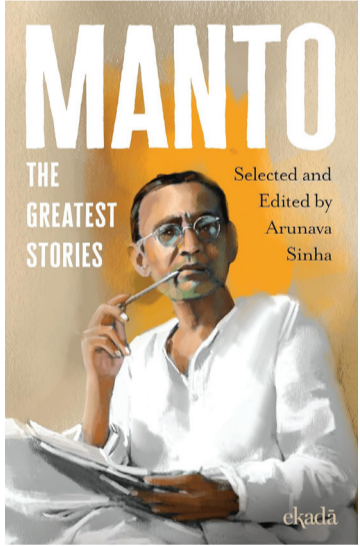
Manto was tried six times for alleged obscenity in his writings; thrice before 1947 in British India, and thrice after independence in 1947 in Pakistan, but was never convicted.

In this collection we present some of his most iconic short stories, including 'Khol Do', 'Shah Dule Ka Choocha', 'Bu', 'Dus Rupaye',

'Thanda Gosh' and 'Naya Qanoon', selected by award-winning translator Arunava Sinha and translated by various young and promising translators mentored by him.

About the Editor

Arunava Sinha translates clas-



sic, modern and contemporary Bengali fiction and non-fiction into English, and English fiction, non-fiction and poetry into Bengali. He also translates from Hindi into English and Bengali. A hundred and five of his translations have been published so far. Twice the winner of the Cross-word translation award, for Sankar's *Chowringhee* (2007) and Anita Agnihotri's *Seventeen* (2011), respectively, the winner of the Muse India translation award (2013) for Buddhadeva Bose's *When The Time Is Right*, and the winner of the Kalinga Literary Festival Book Award for translation (2025), he has also been shortlisted for The Independent Foreign Fiction Prize (2009) for his translation of *Chowringhee* and for the Global Literature in Libraries Initiative Translated YA Book Prize for his translation of Md Zafar Iqbal's *Rasha*, and longlisted for the Best Translated Book Award, USA,

2018 for his translation of Bhaskar Chakravarti's *Things That Happen and Other Poems*.

His translation of Manoranjan Byapari's novels *There's Gunpowder in the Air* and *Imaan* were shortlisted for the prestigious JCB Prize for Literature in 2019 and 2022 respectively. In 2021, his translation of Taslima Nasrin's *Shameless* was shortlisted for the National Translation Award in the USA. His translation of Sanya Rushdi's *Hospital* has been shortlisted for the Miles Franklin Literary Award, and The Stella Prize in Australia in 2024. Besides India, his translations have been published in the UK, the US and Australia in English, and in several European and Asian countries through further translation. He is a professor of the practice in the Creative Writing department at Ashoka University, and Co-Director, Ashoka Centre of Translation.

Selected and Edited by Arunava Sinha

Synopsis

SAMIRA GUPTA

Leadership Poise, Power & Performance: A Transformative Guide offers a comprehensive journey into mastering executive presence by blending self-awareness, emotional intelligence, decision-making, communication, and professional presentation. Through 62 thoughtfully structured chapters, this book equips leaders with practical tools and frameworks to cultivate gravitas, authentic influence, and enduring organizational impact.

At the heart of the book lies the theme of self-awareness and values alignment, encouraging readers to reflect on their core beliefs, emotional triggers, and blind spots. Self-discovery exercises and shadow work help leaders act with authenticity and moral clarity, laying the foundation for purposeful leadership.

The concept of poise is central—fostering inner confidence, empathetic charisma, and composed resilience. Leaders are guided to develop emotional trust, project stability under pressure, and radiate influence through calm conviction.

Authenticity and presence are further refined through visible elements such as attire, body language, grooming, and etiquette. The book underscores how professional appearance and nonverbal commu-



nication reinforce credibility and align one's outward persona with inner values. In an era demanding influence through connection, communication mastery is paramount. From assertive speech to active listening, negotiation techniques, and storytelling, readers learn to speak meaningfully, listen deeply, and lead conversations with intention and emotional intelligence.

Decision intelligence builds on frameworks like Edward de Bono's Six Thinking Hats, the 10-10-10 rule, and weighted decision trees, enabling adaptive, principled choices in ambiguity and complexity.

Performance is redefined beyond



outcomes. A resilience-driven mindset—rooted in positivity, stress management, growth orientation, and emotional stability—shifts leadership from transactional to transformational. The emphasis is on excellence over mediocrity as a catalyst for collective success.

Fostering adaptive influence, leaders are guided in leading change, cultivating psychological safety, navigating conflict, embracing inclusivity, and networking with sincerity. These chapters empower leaders to inspire trust, collaboration, and high-performance in diverse organizational settings.

Psychological safety—first conceptualized by Harvard's Amy Edmondson—is presented as foundational for innovation and team learning.

The synergy of appearance, fitness, presence, and etiquette is presented as strategic: grooming, posture, attire, manners, and wellness become active tools for reinforcing a polished, trustworthy leadership identity.

This holistic approach echoes Sylvia Ann Hewlett's research on executive presence. Hewlett defines it as a blend of gravitas, communication, and appearance—with gravitas driving 67% of perceived leadership effectiveness in surveyed executives. This book embraces and expands on that core by showing how each pillar is activated in today's inclusive, complex, and dynamic leadership environment.

WHY THIS BOOK MATTERS

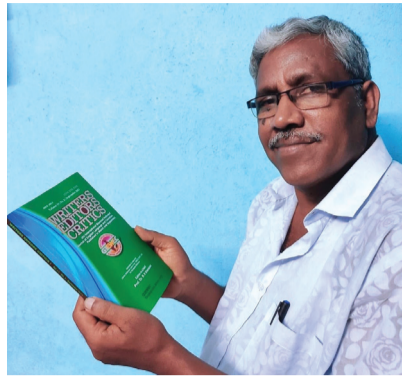
Leaders today must balance authenticity with presence, decision-making with empathy, and performance with integrity. This guide transforms vague ideals like “executive presence” into actionable practices rooted in psychological insight, intentional behavior, and strategic visibility. The result is leadership that resonates—not just seen, but deeply felt.

A Treasure Trove by Author Biswanath Kundu

DR.MANAS BAKSHI

The book under consideration at present is “Critical Sensibilities: Insightful Appraisals” by Biswanath Kundu. The book is divided into two sections. Part 1 contains analytical articles on several poets and authors. Part 2 deals with some six review articles on various aspects. The opening article in Part 1 is about The Emergent Quality of Modern Indo-English Poetry With Special Reference to K.V.Dominic. It casts mainly a look into two of his books of poems – ‘Cataracts of Compassion’ and ‘Multicultural Symphony’. If poetry is the song of mind, Kundu has delineated well on the vistas of Dominic as a poet as far as his thoughts on a waterfall of human compassion and multicultural aspects of life are concerned.

The second one is on South Asian Literature in English in the context of Baul Movement. Baul is a type of melodious song bearing a rich legacy of folk culture of Bengal. Its diction was advocated by Tagore himself while setting to tune some of his memorable songs like *Jadi Tor Dak Shune* *Keu Na Aase Tobe Ekla Cholo Re*. The religious and ascetic aspects of the Baul singers/groups apart, their life style to reach the goal of eternal human values as did Lalan Fakir are neatly woven here. The concept of Global Village and Decadent Human Values are the focal points of the third article. Kundu has dwelt on how, with the advancement of science



hopadhaya whose treatise on Modern Bengali Drama is the subject matter for discussion. Bengali plays, written and staged from time to time, bear the imprint of the then prevail-

ing socio-economic conditions. And the ascent of Bengali drama to its modern height owes as much to Tagore as to Madhusudan Dutta, Dinabandhu Mitra, Girish Ghosh, Utpal Dutta, Bijan Bhattacharya and others. It provides an insight into the extensive research work Dr.Ramesh Chandra Mukhopadhyaya carried on with his profound knowledge of the subject.

Review articles on four books of poems -- A Universe Within by Jagjit Singh Zandu, Faces Without Traces by Birbhadra Karkidholi, Dawn To Dusk Rain Dancing by Ramachandran Rajasekharan and Journey of Love to Salvation by Jagjit Singh Zandu offer an idea of their thoughtful poems exposing the poets' individual feelings and emotions. Finally, in this section, we come across a comprehensive view of K. V. Dominic's world of short stories. There are seventeen stories which Kundu has taken up to conceptualise Dominic's thought system. In fine, it is a laudable attempt by Kundu at culling together some scattered reading materials of worth for readers.

Part 2 of the book begins with a tribute to Dr. Ramesh Chandra Muk-

Janeita Singh and Niyogi Books win the prestigious Oxford Bookstore Art Book Prize 2025 for F.N. Souza: The Archetypal Artist

TDG NETWORK

The prestigious Oxford Bookstore Art Book Prize announced 'F.N. Souza: The Archetypal Artist' authored by academician and art critic Janeita Singh and published by Niyogi Books- as the winner of its third edition. The award ceremony was hosted by H.E. Ms. May-Elin Stener, Ambassador of Norway to India, Sri Lanka, Bhutan and the Maldives; Dr. Alka Pande, Museum curator, art historian, author and jury chair; and Oxford Bookstores, at the Embassy of Norway, underlining the significance of this literary honour.

Janeita Singh and Niyogi Books were presented with a trophy, certificate and cash prize of INR 1 Lakh by Museum curator, art historian, author and jury chair, Dr. Alka Pande; Ambassador of Norway to India, Sri Lanka, Bhutan and the Maldives, H.E. Ms. May-Elin Stener; Director, Institutional Affairs and Outreach, Kiran Nadar Museum of Art (KNMA), Ms. Apurva Kackar; and CEO, Apeejay Oxford Bookstores, Mr. Swagat Sengupta. The ceremony was graced by artists, gallerists, designers, publishers, authors, diplomats, literary and art enthusiasts from across the country.

"I am delighted that the Oxford Bookstore Art Book Prize is gradually gaining momentum and greater visibility with each passing year. As art increasingly becomes a collectible, the need to document it thoughtfully through high-quality production is more essential than ever. The Prize plays a vital role in encouraging artists, galleries, cultural institutions, and publishers to publish more art books.



These publications serve as important records that preserve and disseminate artistic and cultural ideas", said the jury chair, Dr. Alka Pande while announcing the winner.

Alongside the winning title, the jury also commended two more books: Raza, the other modern by Gayatri Sinha, Yashodhara Dalmia and Geeti Sen; published by Mapin Publishing, The Raza Foundation and Progressive Art Gallery and Thousand Shadows, authored and published by Navin Sakhuja.

Speaking at the ceremony, the winner Janeita Singh said, "To be loved is to be seen and known. The critical study on Souza's life and art was a dance with provocation, heresy, and beauty. Now that F.N. Souza: The Archetypal Artist lounges on hallowed shelves—how delicious, then, to be crowned by the Oxford Bookstore Art Book Prize in the homeland. That the book resonates with readers and institutions alike is a reward beyond the prize"

Sharing her thoughts on the award and the announcement, Ambassador of Norway to India, Sri Lanka, Bhutan and the Maldives, H.E. Ms. May-Elin Stener said, "Both Norway and India share a deep respect for the power of art to reflect our times, inspire progress and forge connections beyond borders. This prize exemplifies that beau-

tifully, and being part of it as a jury member has been a great learning experience for me. This dive into Indian art has been enlightening and deepened my understanding of this vast country. In Norway, we cherish artistic freedom and creativity as essential ingredients for a robust, inclusive society, and we remain committed to supporting the arts both at home and abroad, sparking dialogue and understanding through meaningful cultural exchange."

With its continued commitment to celebrating excellence in art publishing, the Oxford Bookstore Art Book Prize reaffirms the growing importance of innovative and thought-provoking art literature in India. The jury for the third edition of Oxford Bookstore Art Book Prize includes Ambassador of Norway to India, Sri Lanka, Bhutan and the Maldives, H.E. Ms. May-Elin Stener; Director, Apeejay Surrendra Group and the creative force behind Oxford Bookstores, Ms. Priti Paul; Museum curator, art historian, author and jury chair, Dr. Alka Pande; Director General, Bihar Museum, Mr. Anjani Kumar Singh; Founder and Director, Art Alive Gallery, Ms. Sunaina Anand and Director, Institutional Affairs and Outreach, Kiran Nadar Museum of Art (KNMA), Ms. Apurva Kackar.

NISHA, MUSKAN BAG GOLD AS INDIA WIN NINE MEDALS IN ASIAN U-19 BOXING

AGENCIES
BANGKOK

Young Indian women pugilists Nisha and Muskan showcased their skills by winning gold medals, while five others bagged silver in the U19 Asian Boxing Championships in Bangkok on Sunday. Of the 10 female boxers in the fray in the U19 category, nine will return with medals -- including two gold, 5 silver, and 2 bronze -- underlining the prowess of the Indians who competed against pugilists from Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and China among others.

Nisha raised her level in



the 54kg category to dominate the third and final round against Sirui Yang of China to record a 4:1 win, while Muskan (57kg) com-

ing out with an aggressive intent and staved off the challenge from Kazakhstan's Ayazhan Ermek for a 3:2 split verdict.

Aarti Kumari (75kg) lost to Tongtong Gu of China, while Kritika Wasan's (80kg) efforts were not enough to avoid a 2:3 loss

against Kuralay Yeginbaykazy of Kazakhstan. Parchi Tokas (80+kg) went down by an identical margin against Sobirakhon Shakobidinova of Uzbekistan. Vini went down against Sevara Mamatova of Uzbekistan in the 60kg final, while Arinda Akimoto of Japan got the better or Nisha 4:1 in the 65kg summit clash. Three more boxers will be in action in the men's finals later in the day. India are also assured of 13 medals in the U22 category with five boxers set to fight for gold on Monday. India has fielded a 40-member contingent in the U19 and U22 continental event.



Frederick Richard of the University of Michigan competes on the pommel horse during the senior men's finals of the U.S. Gymnastics Championships in New Orleans, Saturday, Aug. 9, 2025. (AGENCIES)

Neeraj's name not in entry list of Silesia DL on August 16

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Star Indian javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra's much-anticipated showdown with Pakistan's Olympic champion Arshad Nadeem at the Diamond League Meeting in Silesia, Poland, on August 16 will not take place as the names of the two rivals were missing from the entry list of the event.

The reason for Chopra's name not featuring in the entry list is not known.

On July 9, the Silesia DL organisers had announced participation of two-time Olympic medallist Chopra and Pakistan's Paris Games gold winner Arshad Nadeem, with the athletics fans anticipating a mouth-watering showdown between the two South Asian rivals.

Late last month, Nadeem underwent surgery on his calf muscle in England, raising doubts over his participation and the showdown.



The top-class field in Silesia has familiar names in Julian Weber of Germany, Anderson Peters of Grenada, Julius Yego of Kenya and Keshorn Walcott of Trinidad and Tobago as well as the likes of Dean Roderick Genki of Japan, Andrian Mardare of Moldova and Mrzygold Cyprian of Poland. Even without taking part in Silesia, as well as in the Brussels leg of the Diamond League on August 22, Chopra is likely to qualify for the winner-take-all DL Finals in Zurich on August 28. With 15 points from two DL meetings, from one title and one second place finish,

Chopra is at joint top spot with Weber while Anderson and Walcott are joint third with 10 points each. The top six after the Brussels leg will make it to the DL Finals in Zurich. Chopra's last competition was at the NC Classic on July 5 in Bengaluru where he threw 86.18m to win the title of the event he himself hosted.

The 27-year-old reigning world champion went past the coveted 90m mark in the Doha DL in May with a throw of 90.23m but finished second behind Weber. He then won the Paris DL title with a throw of 88.16m in June.

Irish Challenge: Saptak eye 1st top-10 of season

AGENCIES
MEATH (IRELAND)

Saptak Talwar fired a second straight round of 2-under 70 to move into tied-13th place and eye his first Top-10 of the season at the Irish Challenge at Killeen Castle.

Jeppe Kristian Andersen enters the final round with

Oihan Guillamoundeguy, who stands alone in second place at nine under par. Celebrating his 30th birthday on Saturday, Andersen expressed satisfaction with all aspects of his performance during the third day of competition, positioning himself for a potential first Tour victory.



a newly established course record and a three-stroke lead. The Danish golfer, who began the day two shots behind the leader, delivered an impressive seven-under-par round of 65, bringing his total to 12 under par for the tournament. He now leads Frenchman

Ronan Kleu from Switzerland occupies third place at eight under par, while Italian Stefano Mazzoli, England's Will Enefer, and Chilean Gabriel Morgan trail by two shots in a tie for fourth. Scotsman Craig Howie is in seventh place with a score of five under par.

Tribute to former Liverpool forward Diogo Jota disrupted at Wembley

AGENCIES
LONDON

A tribute to former Liverpool forward Diogo Jota and his brother Andre Silva was disrupted on Sunday when some fans at the Community Shield match failed to observe a moment's silence.

Before the game between Liverpool and Crystal Palace at Wembley both teams and their staff stood silently to commemorate the brothers -- who died in a car accident in Spain in July -- but loud voices could be heard in the crowd, which prompted some boos.

Referee Chris Kavanagh then blew his whistle to signal the end of the tribute.

This was Liverpool's first major game since the death of Jota, who was 28.

The brothers died when



the Lamborghini they were in veered off a road and burst into flames near the northwestern city of Zamora.

The Premier League champion has made a number of tributes to Jota following his death, including retiring his No. 20 jersey.

Liverpool supporters began to applaud Jota when Sunday's game reached the

20-minute mark and that applause quickly erupted into cheers as new signing Jeremie Frimpong scored to put the Merseyside club 2-1 ahead.

The Community Shield is seen at the traditional curtain-raiser for the top-flight season in England and is played between the defending league champion and the winner of the FA Cup.

Australia beat Proteas by 17 runs in T20 series opener

AGENCIES
DARWIN

Tim David and Ben Dwarshuis shone as Australia sealed the victory by 17 runs in the opening T20I against South Africa at Marrara Oval, Darwin on Sunday. With one win under its belt, Australia now leads the series 1-0.

After South Africa opted to field, Australia scored a respectable 178 in their 20 overs, with Tim David's impactful fifty and Cameron Green contributing a lightning-fast cameo.

Australia's top order faltered early, Travis Head fell cheaply, for 2 in the second over, followed by a golden duck from Josh Inglis, but Cameron Green counter-punched with a 35 off 13 balls, injecting momentum into the innings.

Tim David then took over, launching an explosive 83 off 52 balls that included eight massive sixes, lifting Australia from a precarious collapse to a defensible platform.

Despite his onslaught, South African captain Aid-



en Markram brought his pace attack into the game. Young sensation Kwen Maphaka led the way with four wickets for 20 runs, the best T20I stats for a South African against Australia.

While chasing, South Africa lost Markram early for 12 in the first over. Proteas lost three wickets inside the powerplay as Australia kept bowling on tight lines. Rickelton and Stubbs had put a partnership of 72 in 52 balls before Hazlewood bowled a cross-seam delivery to remove Stubbs, for 37 in the 15th over.

Ryan Rickelton's 71 off

43 balls offered resistance, but his scoring rate wasn't enough to overcome the mounting required run rate.

South Africa fell short at 158 for 7, handing Australia a memorable win. Hazlewood and Zampa's crucial contributions with the ball sealed the result.

David was named player of the match for his match-winning knock of 83 off 52 balls.

Brief score: Australia 178/10 (Tim David 83, Cameron Green 35; Kwen Maphaka 4/20). Vs South Africa 161/9 (Ryan Rickelton 71, Tristan Stubbs 37; Ben Dwarshuis 3/26).

No clarity on Rohit, Kohli future post Australia series

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

It's that time of the year when speculation is rife about the impending ODI future of Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma, but if one goes by the decision makers in the Indian cricket board, there is no tearing hurry to take an immediate call on the two maestros.

With the Bangladesh series scheduled in August being called off, India's next ODI assignment will be an away series from October 19-25 against Australia. However, whether Rohit and Kohli will be playing ODIs post Australia tour is a thing of conjecture.

Indian cricket runs on narratives and currently it is about whether Kohli and Rohit, with a cumulative 83 ODI hundreds and 25,000-plus



runs, can last till the October 2027 ODI World Cup when they would be 39 and 40-year old respectively.

"Obviously, if they (Rohit and Kohli) have something in mind, they would tell the BCCI brass like they did before the England Test tour. But from an Indian team's perspective, the next big assignment is the T20 World Cup in February and preparations before that. The imme-

diated focus will be on sending the best team for the Asia Cup T20 tournament, hoping all players are fit and available," a BCCI source privy to the developments told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

The BCCI never believes in taking decisions in haste and would always gauge the mood and public perceptions before taking a call, which is sensitive in nature considering the massive fan following of the

two players.

The last tournament that they played was the Champions Trophy in Dubai where Kohli scored a hundred in a successful chase against Pakistan at the group league stage while Rohit starred with a sublime half-century in the chase during the final.

However, both have not played competitive cricket since the conclusion of the Indian Premier League.

Kohli, who is now a resident of London, had recently posted an Instagram story after an indoor nets session, which is an indicator that he has started training.

Rohit, who was also in the UK on a break post IPL, is recently back in Mumbai and would certainly be expected to start training in a few days.

While there are some media

reports about BCCI offering the duo a farewell game at Sydney on October 25, the BCCI source in the know of things said that as of now, no such discussions have taken place. As far as playing the Vijay Hazare Trophy is concerned, the source said that the national One-Day Championship starts on December 24, 2025 and even before that, there is another three-match ODI series at home against South Africa starting November 30. "Even if they play Vijay Hazare, before that there would already be six ODIs that will be played. In between the Australia ODIs and the South Africa ODIs, there is an India A series against South Africa A where three List A games (50 overs) will be held at Rajkot on November 13, 16 and 19 respectively.

India qualify for AFC U20 Women's Asian Cup for first time in two decades

AGENCIES
YANGON

The India U20 women's national team secured qualification for the AFC U20 Women's Asian Cup for the first time in 20 years, after defeating hosts Myanmar 1-0 in their final Group D encounter at the Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon, on Sunday, according to the AIFF website.

The Young Tigresses finished top of their group with seven points, after winger Pooja's 27th-minute goal secured a victory for them in front of a partisan crowd at the Thuwunna Stadium.

It was a game of two halves, the first dominated by India, while Myanmar controlled the proceedings in the second. Neha and Sibani Devi Nongmeikapam combined as early as the third minute, when the former fizzed in a cross to the latter, who was merely inches away from tapping it in.

While the hosts absorbed all the pressure, they did launch a few counterattacks, and forward Su Su Khin came close in the ninth, after receiving a chest-down from Yin Loon Eain.

The hosts began to ease their way into the game as



the minutes wore on, but India took the lead through

Pooja minutes ahead of the 30-minute mark. It was

Pooja herself who had started the attack on the counter

before crossing it in from the right. Her ball evaded one and all, but Neha, at the opposite flank, managed to get onto the end of it and sent it looping back in. Pooja, who had made her way to the goalmouth by then, barely had enough time to react, and plonked it over the line with her torso.

That calmed the nerves in the Indian camp, at least till the end of the first half. The Young Tigresses kept the ball and took their slender lead into the break.

The second half was a completely different prospect, however. Buoyed by

the home support, Myanmar came all guns blazing, and India goalkeeper Monalisha Devi had to make a smart 48th-minute save to keep Su Su Khin out.

India had dug their trenches, and they dug deep, as they absorbed wave after wave of Myanmar attacks. Monalisha, who had not conceded a single goal in the previous two matches, was called into action with 10 minutes left on the clock when Myanmar substitute Moe Pwint Phyu struck a headed cross by Ei Thet Phyo into the upright. The ball kept rolling tantalising-

ly on the line before the India goalkeeper leapt across and swiped it away to safety.

Phyu hit the woodwork once again, this time in the 90th minute, when her shot took a deflection off Shubhangi, only to crash into the upright and bounce out of play. Seconds later, India broke on the counter as Sibani sent a cross to Sulanjana Raul, who also hit the woodwork, her header crashing into the cross-bar. Despite all the pressure from the hosts, India clung on to their lead and secured qualification for the first time in two decades.