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EFFORT TO LIMIT RIGHTS OF POLITICAL PARTIES: INDIA BLOC



11
ISRAEL CONSIDERS FULL GAZA TAKEOVER AS MORE DIE OF HUNGER



16
7 INDIAN BOXERS ASSURED OF MEDALS AT U19 ASIAN BOXING CHAMPIONSHIPS

SPICEJET CLEARS DGCA AUDIT WITH CLEAN SLATE

Outcome reaffirms our robust safety culture, strict adherence to regulatory requirements, says SpiceJet

ABHINANDAN MISHRA
NEW DELHI

SpiceJet has emerged as one of the few Indian carriers to receive a clean slate in the Directorate General of Civil Aviation's (DGCA) latest annual safety audit, recording zero Level 1 findings—the most serious category of safety lapses.

In a press release issued on Tuesday, the airline said the outcome reaffirmed its “robust safety culture, strict adherence to regulatory requirements, and alignment with global best practices.” SpiceJet also noted that it had successfully renewed its IATA Operational Safety Audit (IOSA) certification earlier this year, valid through March 2027. The IOSA certification is glob-



A SpiceJet flight (Representative image). ANI

ally recognised and reflects a high benchmark for operational safety.

The DGCA's audit covered eight major scheduled carriers over the past year and flagged a total of 263 safety and compliance lapses, including 19 Level 1 violations and 244 Level 2 lapses.

While the aviation regulator clarified that these findings are part of routine annual surveillance aligned

with ICAO norms and do not necessarily indicate ongoing risk, the audit has nonetheless drawn attention to lapses at some of India's largest airlines.

In contrast to SpiceJet's clean record, Air India recorded 51 findings—seven of them Level 1—ranging from inadequate pilot training and use of unapproved simulators to violations of crew duty time regulations.

Vistara, now merged with Air India, accounted for ten Level 1 breaches—the highest among all airlines.

Air India Express was flagged for 25 audit observations, including two critical lapses, while IndiGo, India's largest carrier by market share, had 23 findings, all categorised as Level 2.

Alliance Air, a smaller state-run operator, logged 57 observations but no Level 1 violations.

The release of the audit results comes at a time of heightened sensitivity around aviation safety in India, following the fatal crash of Air India Flight 171 near Ahmedabad on 12 June, which claimed over 260 lives. The incident has prompted deeper scrutiny into operational procedures and regulatory oversight.

NDA hails Modi's leadership, Op Sindoor in Parliamentary meet

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The NDA Parliamentary Party on Tuesday paid homage to the victims of the Pahalgam terror attack and commended the Indian Armed forces for their decisive response through Operation Sindoor and Operation Mahadev in which the three perpetrators of the Pahalgam massacre were killed by security forces in Kashmir last week.

In a strongly-worded resolution passed on Tuesday, they also lauded the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, calling his actions a “powerful reflection of the nation's resolve.”

The resolution comes in the wake of the April 22 attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, where Pakistan-based terror group The Resistance Front (TRF), a proxy of Lashkar-e-Taiba, killed 26 tourists in what was described as a “gruesome and barbaric” attack. The resolution noted that the terrorists segregated



PM Modi being felicitated by the NDA MPs on the success of 'Operation Sindoor' during the NDA Parliamentary Party meeting, at Parliament Library Building in New Delhi on Tuesday. ANI

'REFLECTS NATION'S RESOLVE'

- Lauding leadership of PM Narendra Modi, NDA calls his action “powerful reflection of the nation's resolve.”
- The resolution states that Modi's vow in Bihar's Madhubani on April 24 was transformed into action during the night of May 6–7, when India launched Operation

- Sindoor.
- According to the NDA, Operation Sindoor involved a “non-escalatory, precise and targeted” strike on terror camps in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir. The operation, it said, demonstrated India's doctrine of zero tolerance to terrorism and signalled that the country will respond firmly and independently to any terror provocation.
- The resolution lays out three key doctrinal points highlighted by PM Modi.

the victims based on religion before executing them.

Pertinent to mention that Prime Minister Modi, addressing a rally in Bihar's Madhubani on April 24, had vowed to identify and punish the perpetrators and their backers. “India's spirit will never be broken by terrorism,” he had said. The resolution states that this vow was transformed into action during the night of May 6–7, when India launched Operation Sindoor.

According to the NDA, Operation Sindoor involved a “non-escalatory, precise and targeted” strike on terror camps in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir. The operation, it said, demonstrated India's doctrine of zero tolerance to terrorism and signalled that the country will respond firmly and independently to any terror provocation.

The resolution lays out three key doctrinal points highlighted by Prime Minister Modi-India will give

■ P3

Four killed, dozens rescued after cloudburst in Uttarkashi

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

At least four people were killed and several others feared missing after a devastating cloudburst struck Uttarakhand's Dharali region in Uttarkashi district on Tuesday, triggering flash floods and widespread destruction. The devastating cloudburst caused torrential rains leading the Kheer Ganga river to overflow, sweeping away hotels and residential buildings in the town situated over 8,600 feet above sea level. Rescue operations are being carried out on a war footing by teams of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), and the Indian Army.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah spoke to Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami and directed swift deployment of three ITBP and four NDRF teams to the affected area. The Home Ministry is closely monitoring the situation, with additional NDRF teams kept on standby at Shastradhara



A view of the massive mudslide that struck Dharali village in the Kheer Gad area near Harail following a cloudburst, in Uttarkashi on Tuesday. ANI



Army personnel perform rescue operation following cloudburst. ANI

airstrip for possible airlift.

Meanwhile, as of Tuesday night, the Indian Army evacuated 37 people following a landslide near Dharali village, close to the Harail army camp. The injured are being treated at

“Under the supervision of the state government, relief and rescue teams are engaged in every possible effort.”

Prime Minister Narendra Modi

the Army's medical facility in Harail.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed grief over the tragedy, saying he had spoken to the Chief Minister and assured all possible

■ P3

Haley, Zakharova slam Trump's India tariff policy

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

US President Donald Trump has sparked controversy by threatening a steep tariff hike on Indian imports in response to New Delhi's purchase of Russian oil. The move has triggered strong reactions from Indian officials, former US Ambassador Nikki Haley, and Russia, all questioning the motives and implications of Washington's stance.

Nikki Haley, a former US ambassador to the UN and



Nikki Haley, former US ambassador to the UN. (Photo: x.com)

a Republican presidential hopeful, criticised Trump's approach, warning against jeopardising ties with India while being lenient toward

China. In a post on X, she stated, “India should not be buying oil from Russia. But China, an adversary and the number one buyer of

Russian and Iranian oil, got a 90-day tariff pause. Don't give China a pass and burn a relationship with a strong ally like India.”

On Tuesday, Trump announced plans to “very substantially” raise tariffs on Indian goods from the current 25% within 24 hours, citing India's energy ties with Moscow. Speaking to CNBC, he said, “They're fueling the war machine, and if they're going to do that, then I'm not going to be happy.” He further claimed on Truth Social that India was buying

“massive amounts of Russian oil” and profiting by reselling it in global markets, while allegedly disregarding the humanitarian cost of the Ukraine war.

The tariff threat follows a similar announcement in late July, when Trump imposed a 25% reciprocal tariff and warned of additional penalties. However, he did not specify the new rates in his latest remarks.

In a pointed response, India's Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) called the

■ P3

EC suspends four Bengal officials over fake voters

SUPROTIM MUKHERJEE
KOLKATA

The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Tuesday suspended four West Bengal Government officers – two Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) and two Assistant Electoral Registration Officers (AEROs) – for allegedly adding names of fictitious voters into the electoral roll and compromising data security, officials said, quoting from an instruction

received from the poll panel.

The four officials had allegedly shared login credentials of their electoral roll database with “unauthorised persons”. Taking note of the grave lapses committed by the officers, the poll body said that action came after Bengal's Chief Electoral Officer informed the ECI “about the wrongful addition of names in the electoral rolls by the four officers” in Baruiapur Purba and Moyna

■ P3

Six aircraft engine shutdowns, 3 May Day calls so far this year: Govt

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

A total of six aircraft engine shutdown incidents and three incidents of May Day calls have been reported so far this year, according to the civil aviation ministry.

As per data shared by Minister of State for Civil Aviation Murlidhar Mohol Jet, while Air India and Alliance Air had one such incident each.



Minister of State for Civil Aviation Murlidhar Mohol Jet, while Air India and Alliance Air had one such incident each.

There have been three incidents of May Day Call, including for the Air India

aircraft operating the London Gatwick-bound flight AI 171 that crashed into a building soon after take off from Ahmedabad on June 12.

IndiGo and Air India Express also had one incident each of May Day Call.

A pilot repeats May Day three to clearly communicate with the air traffic controller on the ground that the aircraft is in a life-threatening situation and

■ P3

DAC clears projects worth Rs 67,000 crore

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

The defence ministry on Tuesday cleared key military projects including procurement of long endurance drones and missile systems at a cost of around Rs 67,000 crore.

The projects were approved by the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

For the Indian Navy, approval was accorded for the

procurement of compact autonomous surface craft, BrahMos fire control system and launchers and upgradation of BARAK-1 point defence missile system, the defence ministry said.

The procurement of compact autonomous surface craft will provide the capability to the Indian Navy for detection, classification and neutralisation of threats in anti-submarine warfare missions, it said.

For the Indian Air Force,

■ P3

Why Kharge, Nadda clashed in RS over CISF

RAKESH SINGH
NEW DELHI

The Rajya Sabha witnessed a major uproar on Tuesday as a heated exchange broke out between Leader of the Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge and Leader of the House JP Nadda over the alleged entry of Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) personnel into the House.

Kharge accused the CISF of entering the well of the House and stopping opposition MPs from protesting. In a letter to Deputy Chairman Harivansh, he termed the in-



Mallikarjun Kharge (L) JP Nadda (R)

cident “highly objectionable” and “against democratic norms.”

“We were protesting in a democratic manner—it's our right. But CISF personnel rushed into the well and stopped us. Are we terrorists?” Kharge asked.

The opposition raised loud

slogans, demanding accountability. The incident reportedly took place last week during a protest in which the opposition was targeting the government over multiple issues. Kharge later showed his letter to the media, stating that the CISF's presence had hurt the dignity of the House. He cited leaders like Arun Jaitley and Sushma Swaraj to argue that protest is part of parliamentary tradition.

Responding sharply, JP Nadda said,

“The opposition doesn't

■ P3

J&K statehood: SC hearing set for Aug 8

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear on August 8 a plea seeking directions to the Centre for the restoration of statehood to the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

Senior advocate Gopal Sanakaranarayanan mentioned the matter before a bench headed by Chief Justice of India (CJI) BR Gavai, noting that the case is listed for August 8 and requested that it not be removed from the cause list. The CJI accepted the request and confirmed



that the matter would remain listed as scheduled.

The application, filed by college teacher Zahoor Ahmed Bhat and activist Khurshaid Ahmad Malik through advocate Soyaib Qureshi, argues that the restoration of statehood is es-

sential and should be carried out in a time-bound manner, as previously assured by the Union government.

It was filed in the disposed case concerning the abrogation of Article 370, in which the Supreme Court had upheld the Centre's 2019 decision to revoke Jammu and Kashmir's special status under the Constitution.

“The applicants, being conscious citizens of Jammu and Kashmir, are aggrieved that even after the passing of 10 months since the Supreme Court's order dated August

■ P3

WHO SAID WHAT
IN PARLIAMENTLS: DASTIDAR NEW
TMC CHIEF WHIP

New Delhi: The Trinamool Congress (TMC) has nominated Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar as the party's Chief Whip in the Lok Sabha after accepting the resignation of MP Kalyan Banerjee from the post. The party also named Satabdi Roy as the party's Deputy Leader in the Lower House. "Shri Kalyan Banerjee submitted his resignation yesterday to the Chairperson from the post of Chief Whip of the @AITCofficial Parliamentary Party in the Lok Sabha. The Chairperson has accepted his resignation and thanked him for his contributions in that role," the party said in a statement posted on X on Tuesday.

GOVT TO
STRENGTHEN LPG
SUBSIDY

New Delhi: The Indian government has ramped up systemic reforms aimed at weeding out irregularities and improving consumer experience, to bolster transparency and efficiency in the delivery of domestic liquefied petroleum gas (LPG). According to the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, notable advancements have been made in the way LPG is distributed and subsidies are transferred, especially under the flagship Direct Benefit Transfer of LPG (DBTL) - PAHAL scheme.

'TAKE TUITION FROM
ME': NADDA

New Delhi Leader of the Rajya Sabha JP Nadda and Leader of Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge were involved in a verbal spat on Tuesday over the alleged deployment of CISF personnel inside the House. Mallikarjun Kharge, on behalf of the opposition parties, alleged that the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) deployed CISF personnel near the well of the House. Kharge said, "We are astonished and shocked at how CISF personnel are made to run into the well of the house, when the members were exercising their democratic right of protest. We saw this yesterday and again today."

SURJWALA MOVES
RULE 267 NOTICE

New Delhi Congress MP Randeep Singh Surjewala on Tuesday morning moved a notice under Rule 267, demanding suspension of business in Rajya Sabha to discuss the "concerns" regarding the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise being carried out by the Election Commission (EC) in Bihar ahead of the upcoming assembly elections. In the notice, the Rajya Sabha MP intends to raise concerns about the voter list revision being carried out in Bihar by the EC and its plans for a similar exercise in other states, including West Bengal.

EFFORT TO LIMIT RIGHTS OF
POLITICAL PARTIES: INDIA BLOC

In INDIA bloc meeting discussions took place on SIR, along with observation made by SC on Rahul Gandhi.

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

INDIA bloc on Tuesday stated that Supreme Court's remarks on Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on his allegations about the Chinese incursion can be considered as an effort to limit the rights of political parties.

Congress MP Gaurav Gogoi said that the decision to condemn the apex court's remarks was taken at a meeting of Parliament floor leaders of the INDIA alliance.

"A meeting of the INDIA alliance took place in the office of Mallikarjun Kharge where discussions took place on SIR, along with the observation made by the Supreme Court on our leader Rahul Gandhi... Opposition's duty



INDIA bloc MPs protest against SIR of electoral rolls in Bihar at Parliament premises in New Delhi on Tuesday. ANI

is to raise the issues of the country inside and outside the Parliament," Gogoi told reporters.

He said that INDIA bloc leaders felt the Supreme Court's observation was "very shocking".

"We have come to a decision that a joint press state-

ment must be issued today from the floor leaders of the INDIA alliance and we have given it saying that the Supreme Court judge made a remark that can be considered as an effort to limit the rights of political parties," he said. "The remarks are extraordinary and un-

warranted. The duty of the leader of the opposition is to raise the issues of the country and when the ruling party hesitates from answering on the issues related to the border security, people have the right to question," he said. On Monday, the Supreme Court pulled up Rahul Gandhi over his alleged remarks on the Indian Army after a clash between the Indian and Chinese armies in the Yangsi region of Arunachal Pradesh in 2022. A bench of Justices Dipankar Datta and Augustine George Masih expressed disapproval of Gandhi's remarks, saying, "How does he know the Chinese occupied 2000 square kilometres of land?" and added that a true Indian wouldn't say such a thing.

'Some members using in an apparently
casual manner': RS Dy ChairmanTDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh on Tuesday raised serious concerns over the rampant and "casual" use of Rule 267, revealing that 34 such notices were received just today.

From the Chair, Harivansh noted a growing trend of members submitting daily notices without adhering to procedural requirements, including the failure to mention the specific rule to be suspended or to draft motions in the correct format.

"34 (thirty-four) notices have been received today under Rule 267. It is observed that several notices under Rule



267 are being given on a daily basis. Most of these notices do not mention the Rule they seek to suspend, a mandatory requirement under Rule 267. Other notices do not contain any Motion drawn in the proper format. The detailed directives imparted by the Chair on 8th December and

19th December, 2022, are also not complied with," Deputy Chairman Harivansh announced from the Chair.

He noted that some Members have been consistently raising varied issues, including those that are sub-judice or pertain to matters within the jurisdiction of State Governments that cannot be raised in the House. "Some other Members are giving notices on different subjects daily, which are in the nature of issues to be raised during Zero Hour or Special Mention. It, prima facie, appears that Members are themselves not sure on which subject they want to seek suspension of the listed business of the day," the Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman said.

Govt 'systematically blocking' working
of Parliament: Congress MP TagoreTDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Congress MP Manickam Tagore on Tuesday accused the Centre of "systematically blocking" the working of the Parliament since the commencement of the monsoon session.

He said that the government doesn't want the Parliament to function. The opposition wants to hold discussions on the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise in



Congress MP Manickam Tagore

Bihar, but the government remains afraid, Tagore added. "We want a discussion in Parliament on the deletion of the voter list, or the electoral reforms, or the electoral pro-

cess, or the voter inclusion part. We know that the government is afraid of the word SIR being discussed in Parliament, but we are ready to discuss any kind of thing related to voting. The government doesn't want the Parliament to function because it has been systematically blocking the working of the Parliament for the past 12 days. Because of its arrogance, the government is not allowing, and the Parliament is not functioning," Tagore told the media.

Opposition attempted to lower decorum
of House, mislead nation: Kiren RijijuTDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Amid a ruckus in the Upper House over deployment of CISF personnel in Rajya Sabha, Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju slammed the opposition on Tuesday, saying that they have attempted to lower the decorum of the House and mislead the nation by spreading false information about the deployment of security personnel inside Parliament.

Speaking to reporters outside Parliament, Rijiju mentioned that the ruckus erupted in the House when they raised objections to Rajya Sabha Leader of Opposition (LoP) Mallikarjun Kharge's letter to the Deputy Chairman during discussions.

"The opposition has alleged that the government deployed personnel from the Army, police, and CISF. However, the Chair clarified that no external military or police forces were deployed; only the House marshals were present. As per the rules, only marshals are al-

lowed inside the Parliament. Apart from marshals, only members and staff are permitted entry. The opposition spread falsehoods through the media... They attempted to lower the decorum of the House and mislead the nation," the Union Minister said. "Today marks the start of the third week of the session. In these days, we haven't been able to pass a single bill. We passed a Shipping Bill in the Rajya Sabha, and in the Lok Sabha, we passed the statutory resolution on President's Rule in Manipur, which we will pass in the Rajya Sabha today," he said.

The Union Minister appealed to the Opposition to allow the smooth functioning of the House.

"We will be bringing more bills forward, but before that, I appeal to the main opposition parties not to obstruct bills and other parliamentary work. The people of the country have sent us to Parliament so we can work for them," Rijiju said.

Earlier in the day, Leader of

the Rajya Sabha JP Nadda and Leader of Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge were involved in a verbal spat on Tuesday over the alleged deployment of CISF personnel inside the House.

Mallikarjun Kharge, on behalf of the opposition parties, alleged that the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) deployed CISF personnel near the well of the House.

Kharge said, "We are astonished and shocked at how CISF personnel are made to run into the well of the house, when the members were exercising their democratic right of protest. We saw this yesterday and again today."

Has our parliament been reduced to such a level? This is most objectionable, and we condemn it.

We expect that in the future, CISF personnel will not come trooping into the well of the house when members are raising important issues of public concern." Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh refuted the claims made by Kharge.

Rajya Sabha adopts resolution to
extend President Rule in ManipurTDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Rajya Sabha on Tuesday adopted the Statutory Resolution to extend President's Rule in Manipur for six more months.

Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai moved the resolution in the Upper House today amid heavy sloganeering by the opposition.

The house adopted the Statutory resolution "continuance in force of the Proclamation dated the 13th Feb'25 in respect of Manipur, issued under article 356 of the Constitution by the President, for a further period of six months with effect from 13th August, 2025."

Earlier on July 30, the Lok



Sabha passed the resolution to extend President's rule in Manipur. The President's rule was imposed in Manipur on February 13, days after N Biren Singh resigned from the Chief Minister's position. Singh resigned amid violence and political instability that had plagued the state for nearly two years. The decision, exercised under Article 356 of

the Constitution, means that the president will now directly control the state's administrative functions through the Governor.

The proclamation, published in the Gazette of India issued by the Union Home Ministry, states that the powers of the Manipur Legislative Assembly will be transferred to Parliament, effectively suspending the state government's authority. Under this order, the Governor's powers will now be exercised by the President; the state legislature's authority will be assumed by Parliament; and specific articles of the Constitution, including those concerning legislative procedures and governance, have been suspended to ensure smooth central administration.

Kharge slams
security
deployment
in Upper
HouseTDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Leader of Opposition (LoP) in the Rajya Sabha, Mallikarjun Kharge, on Tuesday, condemned the use of security personnel inside the House with the Opposition loudly protesting the move they said was "most objectionable and undemocratic"

In a letter addressed to Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh, Kharge had expressed shock over the manner in which the CISF personnel entered the Parliament during opposition protests.

"I want to thank you, sir, for the references you gave us, the ones we didn't read, but you told us," Kharge's letter said.

"I'm writing to you on behalf of the opposition parties in the Rajya Sabha. We are astonished and shocked at the manner in which CISF personnel were made to run into the well of the House while members were exercising their democratic right to protest. We saw this yesterday, and we saw it again today. Has our Parliament been reduced to such a level?" the LoP said.



INDIA bloc MPs protest against Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar, during the ongoing monsoon session of Parliament in New Delhi on Tuesday. ANI

Held meetings on B'desh; Foreign Secy
Misri addressed all queries: TharoorTDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Following the Parliamentary Standing Committee meeting on External Affairs held on August 4, Committee Chairperson and Congress MP Shashi Tharoor stated that multiple meetings were held on Bangladesh, during which Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri addressed all queries raised by the members.

"We have held 3-4 meetings on Bangladesh, and this was the last meeting where the Foreign Secretary has given us a briefing, and in this briefing, all the questions that the Members had to ask were discussed. The Foreign Secretary has answered all of them," Tharoor told the media.

He added that the Committee will now prepare its report, which will be

placed before Parliament. "After this, it is our job to write a report, adopt it and present it to the Parliament. Before doing that, I cannot tell what we will decide, what advice we will give..." he said.

The Parliamentary Standing Committee met on August 4 to review the future of India-Bangladesh relations. The meeting saw officials from the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) presenting evidence on the future of India-Bangladesh relations. The agenda also included a review of the draft report on action taken by the government on recommendations made in an earlier report concerning the MEA's demands for grants for 2024-25. According to Tharoor, the August 4 meeting marked the final round of deliberations on the issue. He reiterated that

the Foreign Secretary had briefed the panel and addressed all queries raised by the members. The committee will now prepare, adopt, and present a report to Parliament.

The panel had earlier met on June 27, during which it heard the views of experts on the topic 'Future of India-Bangladesh Relationship'. Following the meeting, Tharoor stated that the Committee benefited from the insights of "four first-class experts." He also noted that the number of Bangladeshis entering India had declined in recent times. "You will see our report in the next few weeks... We didn't discuss the issue of Bangladeshis living in India. But we were told about a figure that the number of Bangladeshis coming to our country has lessened now," he said.

GLIMPSES FROM PARLIAMENT



Lok Sabha LoP Rahul Gandhi at Parliament premises in New Delhi on Tuesday. ANI



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and others. ANI



Congress MP Imran Masood and TMC MP Mahua Moitra at Parliament premises. ANI



AAP Rajya Sabha MP Raghav Chadha, Congress MP Kishori Lal Sharma and other MPs at Parliament premises. ANI



Congress MPs Amar Singh, K.T.S Tulsi and other MPs at Parliament premises on Tuesday. ANI

THE DAILY GUARDIAN SURVEY ON ANIRUDDHACHARYA CONTROVERSY

79% of people believe that preachers shouldn't have right to issue character certificates to others

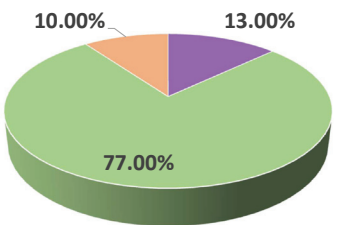
Aniruddhacharya's sexist remarks have sparked backlash, with Khushboo Patani condemning his statements as patriarchal and offensive. She clarified her criticism

was misdirected in a viral video and reaffirmed it targeted him, not Premanandji. Echoing strong public sentiment, she warned of legal

action against those spreading fake news and trolling her.

Q1.▶

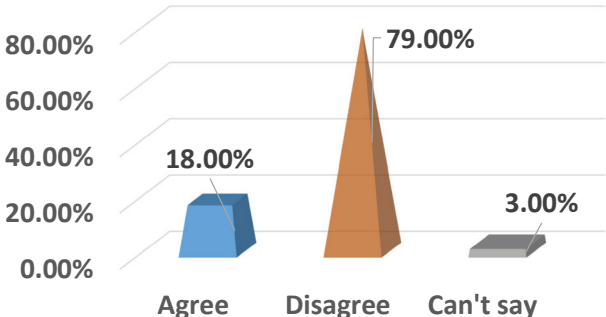
How do you view preacher Aniruddhacharya's 'Pakistan' remark?



■ Agree ■ Disagree ■ Can't say

Q2.◀

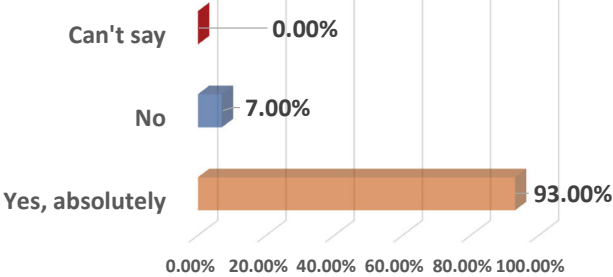
How do you view saint Prabodhanand's comment calling youth 'Modi's lap dogs'?



Agree Disagree Can't say

Q3.▶

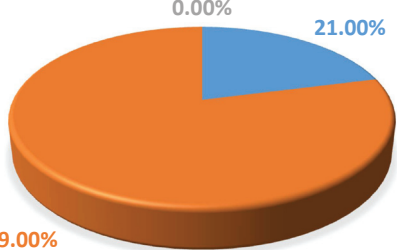
Should restrictions be placed on the immoral views of preachers and saints?



0.00% 20.00% 40.00% 60.00% 80.00% 100.00%

Q4.◀

Should preachers have the right to issue character certificates to others?



■ Yes, absolutely ■ Absolutely not ■ Can't say

THE DAILY GUARDIAN SURVEY ON JAMMU KASHMIR STATEHOOD

71% of respondents support the demand for granting full statehood to Jammu and Kashmir

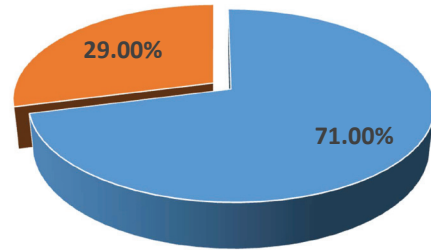
71% respondents support full statehood for Jammu and Kashmir. While 55% feel development has accelerated post Article 370,

77% believe terror attacks have reduced. 80% think statehood will enhance security. 71% are satisfied with government policies, re-

flecting broad public support for administrative and security measures in the region.

Q1.▶

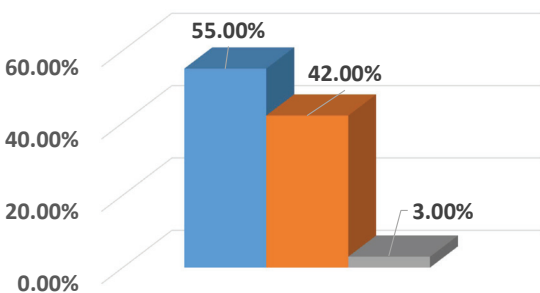
How do you view the demand for granting full statehood to Jammu and Kashmir?



■ Support ■ Oppose

Q2.◀

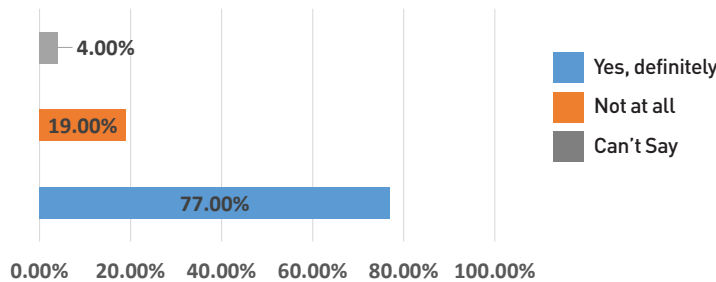
Do you think the pace of development has increased in Jammu and Kashmir after the abrogation of Article 370?



■ Yes, definitely ■ Not at all ■ Can't Say

Q3.▶

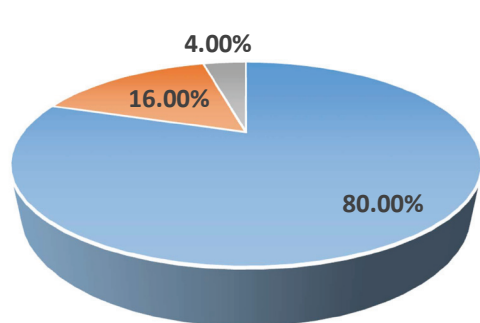
Has there been a decrease in terrorist attacks in Jammu and Kashmir after the abrogation of Article 370?



■ Yes, definitely ■ Not at all ■ Can't Say

Q4.◀

Will granting full statehood to Jammu and Kashmir be a correct step towards ensuring security and stability?



■ Yes, definitely ■ Not at all ■ Can't Say

Haley, Zakharova slam Trump

CONTINUED FROM P1

targeting of India "unjustified and unreasonable." A statement from the MEA emphasised that India's energy imports are driven by national needs and global market dynamics. "India began importing from Russia because traditional suppliers were diverted to Europe after the outbreak of the conflict," the ministry noted. It also accused Western nations of double standards, highlighting that the EU's trade with Russia far exceeds India's, including a record 16.5 million tonnes of LNG imported by Europe in 2024.

The MEA also pointed out ongoing US imports from Russia, such as uranium hexafluoride for nuclear energy and palladium for the EV industry. "Like any major economy, India will take all necessary measures to safeguard its national in-

terests and economic security," the spokesperson said.

According to reports, the United States and China agreed to a temporary 90-day tariff reprieve in May, slashing US tariffs from 145% to 30%, and Chinese duties from 125% to 10%.

India has maintained that its foreign and energy policies are rooted in strategic autonomy. MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal reiterated last week that "our ties with any country stand on their merit and should not be seen from the prism of a third country."

Meanwhile, Russia also issued a sharp rebuke to Washington's tightening tariff policies. Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova described US actions as part of a "neo-colonial agenda," accusing the Biden administration of using "politically motivated economic pressure" to punish countries following an

independent foreign policy.

"Sanctions and restrictions have unfortunately become a defining feature of the current historical period," Zakharova said, arguing that the US is attempting to impose its will through protectionism, undermining global trade norms and sovereignty. She emphasised that Russia remains committed to building a multipolar world order alongside partners such as BRICS nations.

The mounting tensions come amid fears that global oil prices could surge to \$200 a barrel if India halts Russian imports, severely impacting consumers and economic stability.

With no clear resolution in sight, the spat underscores growing divisions in global trade alliances and highlights the geopolitical complexities surrounding the Russia-Ukraine conflict, energy security, and multipolar diplomacy.

NDA hails Modi's leadership in Parliamentary meet

CONTINUED FROM P1

a fitting reply to terrorist attacks on its own terms, nuclear blackmail will not be tolerated and India will act precisely against terror sanctuaries sheltered under nuclear threats.

Thirdly, the resolution said that no distinction will be made between terrorist masterminds and governments that sponsor them.

The operation was also

described as symbolically significant. The resolution emphasized the cultural and emotional weight of the name Operation Sindoor, referencing the vermilion worn by married women, and noted that the attack had "removed the Sindoor from our women," which was then avenged by India's armed forces.

The NDA also credited the Modi government's ongoing military and strategic

reforms for the success of the operation. These included indigenisation, jointness in defence commands, and technological upgrades such as drone capabilities. The resolution praised the Prime Minister for giving the armed forces a "free hand" and for supporting the concept of operational freedom at a time and place of India's choosing.

In a post-operation diplomatic push, the govern-

ment sent 59 Members of Parliament, including those from the Opposition, to 32 countries to present India's perspective on the Pahalgam attack and the broader issue of state-sponsored terrorism. The NDA described this as "one of the most comprehensive global outreach efforts ever launched by India," underlining Modi's commitment to bipartisan diplomacy in matters of national interest.

It mentions that post Operation Sindoor, international support for India's position has since grown.

The United States designated TRF as a Foreign Terrorist Organisation (FTO) and Specially Designated Global Terrorist (SDGT). A joint declaration by BRICS also condemned the Pahalgam killings and reiterated its stand for "zero tolerance for terrorism" while rejecting "double standards."

Uttarkashi tragedy

CONTINUED FROM P1

assistance. "Under the supervision of the state government, relief and rescue teams are engaged in every possible effort," he posted on X.

Adding to the chaos, a second cloudburst was reported in the Sukhi Top area of Uttarakhand later in the day. Details are awaited.

Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge and party leader Rahul Gandhi also

expressed condolences and urged both state and central governments to intensify relief efforts. Gandhi appealed to Congress workers to assist local authorities in extending support to affected families. CM Dharam Singh said the reports of "heavy damage" were extremely distressing and that all concerned agencies were on the ground. "I am in constant contact with senior officials, and the situation is being closely monitored," he said.

J&K statehood: SC hearing set

CONTINUED FROM P1

11, 2023, no steps have been taken to restore statehood," the plea states. It argues that the delay is causing serious harm to the rights of the region's residents and undermines the federal structure of the Constitution.

The petition further warns that failure to restore statehood promptly would cause "grave harm" to the federal fabric of the country.

Referring to the recent peaceful conduct of assembly elections in the region, the plea contends that the formation of a Legislative Assembly without first restoring statehood would violate the principles of federalism,

which form part of the Constitution's basic structure. It adds that, with no evident security concerns, there is no impediment to issuing a time-bound direction for the restoration of statehood. "The delay in restoration of statehood would result in a serious erosion of democratic governance in Jammu and Kashmir and would constitute a grave violation of federal principles," the application argues.

The petition also states that converting Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories has left the region with a diminished form of democratic governance. With assembly election results due soon, the ap-

Why Kharge, Nadda clashed in RS

CONTINUED FROM P1

know how to run the House. I've been in opposition for more than 40 years—I have more experience than them. They should take tuition from me on how to protest. This is not protest; it's chaos. In a democracy, if you swing a stick and it hits my nose, your democracy ends right there." He accused the opposition of repeatedly lowering the dignity of Parliament despite having spent 10 years in opposition.

Deputy Chairman Har-

ivansh intervened and clarified that only Parliament Security Service (PSS) personnel had entered the House, not CISF.

"No CISF personnel entered the House. They are deployed only for the security of the Parliament complex," he said.

Union Minister Kiren Rijiju also hit out at Kharge, accusing him of spreading falsehoods and demanding action for "misleading the Chair." The opposition, however, remained unconvinced, and the ruckus led to the ad-

journment of proceedings.

This controversy followed changes in Parliament's security setup. After a major security breach in December 2023, the CISF took over responsibility for the Parliament complex from May 2024, replacing the CRPF and Delhi Police.

Tuesday's clash underscored the deepening rift between the treasury and opposition benches. With tensions running high, the smooth conduct of the Monsoon Session remains uncertain.

Six aircraft engine shutdowns

CONTINUED FROM P1

needs urgent help. "During 2025, from January to July (till date), a total of 06 incidents of engine shutdown and a total of 03 incidents of May Day calls have been reported," Mohol said in a written reply on Monday. In a separate

written reply, the minister said the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau's preliminary report, published on the basis of available factual information on July 12, does not contain any conclusion about the Air India plane crash and that the probe is still in progress.

Rs 67,000-cr worth projects

CONTINUED FROM P1

approval was given for procurement of mountain radars and upgradation of Saksham/Spyder weapon system.

The procurement of mountain radars will enhance the air surveillance

capability along and across the borders in the mountainous region.

The upgradation of Saksham/Spyder system for integration with Integrated air command and control system will enhance the air defence capability, the ministry said.

NO STONE IS BEING LEFT UNTURNED IN PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO PEOPLE: PM

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday expressed his deep condolences to the people affected by the cloudburst in Dharali, Uttarkashi, Uttarakhand. He prayed for the well-being of the victims and their families.

PM Modi spoke with Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami to obtain detailed information about the situation and the ongoing relief efforts.

"I express my condolences to the people affected by this tragedy in Dharali, Uttarkashi. Along with this, I pray for the well-being of all the victims. I have spoken to Chief Minister Pushkar Dhami and obtained information about the situation," PM Modi posted on X.

"Under the supervision of the state government, relief and rescue teams are engaged in every possible effort. No stone is being left

UTTARAKHAND CLOUDBURST TRAGEDY

- PM Modi expressed condolences for those affected by the Dharali, Uttarkashi cloudburst.
- He spoke with CM Pushkar Dhami and assured all possible central assistance.
- Modi praised the ongoing relief efforts under the state government's supervision.
- Uttarakhand's Sukhi Top area also reported a second cloudburst on Tuesday.
- CM Dhami is returning from Tirupati to oversee the relief operations.
- Home Minister Amit Shah ordered ITBP and NDRF deployment for rescue work.
- 16 ITBP teams have reached the affected site; Saldhar road has been washed out.



unturned in providing assistance to the people," he added.

Meanwhile, Uttarakhand's Sukhi Top area experienced another cloudburst on Tuesday, hours after the Dharali area also experienced huge losses due to a previous cloudburst. Further infor-

mation on the fatalities, damage to property, and injuries are awaited.

CM Dhami, posting about the call with the Prime Minister, said that he apprised him about the situation.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi obtained information

over the phone regarding the unfortunate cloudburst incident in Dharali (Uttarkashi).

During this, he was informed about the relief and rescue operations being conducted by the state government, SDRF, army, and other rescue teams. Prime Minister assured all possible

assistance from the central government," CM Dhami posted on X in Hindi.

Currently, CM Dhami is returning from his trip to Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh, due to the cloudburst.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah also spoke with Uttarakhand CM on the issue, and directed Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) and the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) to the affected area.

A total of 16 ITBP teams have reached the area to assist in rescue operations.

Taking swift action, Shah directed the deployment of rescue teams from both the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) and the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) to the affected area.

Meanwhile, in Saldhar, the Jyotirmath-Malari motor road has been washed out, Chamoli police said, while advising people to avoid unnecessary travel and follow issued guidelines.

Shibu Soren's funeral held with full state honours

TDG NETWORK
NEMRA

A galaxy of people from all walks of life, from top politicians to common villagers, thronged Nemra in Ramgarh district of Jharkhand as the mortal remains of former Jharkhand chief minister Shibu Soren were consigned to flames on Tuesday.

People bid adieu to 'Dishom Guru', as he was fondly called by the masses, with moist eyes as a sombre atmosphere prevailed in the native village of the JMM co-founder, whose last rites were held with full state honours amid tight security arrangements.

As his elder son and Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren lit the pyre, people raised the slogan of 'Guruji amar rahe' (long live guruji).

The JMM co-founder died on Monday at a hospital in Delhi while undergoing treatment for kidney-related ailments. He was 81. President Droupadi



Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, among other leaders, paid homage to the departed soul in the national capital.

Earlier, Shibu Soren's mortal remains were laid on a flower-decked charpoy at his ancestral home in the village in adherence to full tribal customs, as near and dear ones made a beeline to offer shrouds, chadar, shawls and bouquets.

The coffin was wrapped in the Tricolour and the JMM flag.

An emotional wheelchair-bound Roopi Soren, Shibu Soren's wife, was unable to control her tears, while his sons Hemant and Bas-

ant, and daughter-in-law Kalpana were seen standing silent as grief writ large on their faces.

Kalpana Soren was seen consoling her two sons.

The house was packed with people paying their last respects, with many breaking down.

Congress leaders Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi reached Ranchi and left for Nemra by road to attend the funeral as their helicopter could not take off from the state capital in view of heavy rainfall.

Both the Congress leaders were earlier scheduled to reach Nemra aboard a helicopter.

PM Modi mourns demise of former Governor Satyapal Malik

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday expressed grief over the passing of former Governor Satyapal Malik and prayed for the peace of the departed soul.

In a post on X, PM Modi said, "Sad-denied by the passing away of Shri Satyapal Malik Ji. My thoughts are with his family and supporters in this hour of grief. Om Shanti."

Expressing profound grief, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla mourned the demise of the former Governor Malik. He also prayed for the peace of the departed soul.

"The passing of Shri Satya Pal Malik Ji, former Governor and member of the 9th Lok Sabha, is extremely sorrowful. I pray to God to grant peace to the de-



parted soul and strength to the grieving family and supporters," Om Birla posted on X. Former Jammu and Kashmir Governor Satyapal Malik passed away in the national capital on Tuesday after a prolonged illness. The 79-year-old leader breathed his last at 1.10 pm today at Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, according to Malik's Personal Secretary,

KS Rana. Satyapal Malik served as the last Governor of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir from August 2018 to October 2019. It was during his tenure that Article 370 was abrogated by the Central government, converting the former state into two Union Territories. Inspired by the socialist ideology of Dr Ram Manohar Lohia, Satyapal Malik entered politics in 1965-66. His leadership qualities were evident early on, as he served as the President of the Meerut College Students' Union in 1966-67 and later as the President of the Students' Union of the then Meerut University (now Chaudhary Charan Singh University) in 1968-69. He made his legislative debut in 1974, winning the Baghpat Assembly seat on the ticket of the Bharatiya Kranti Dal and was appointed the party's Chief Whip in the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly.

'PDP protests against abrogation of Article 370 on its 6th anniversary'

AGENCIES
SRINAGAR

While BJP leaders and party workers across the country are celebrating the successful completion of six years since the abrogation of Article 370, members of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and Congress are protesting against it. PDP President Mehbooba Mufti termed August 5 as a black day not just for Kashmir but for the whole nation.

Led by PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti and Party leader Iltija Mufti, dozens of party workers gathered to protest against the abrogation of



Article 370.

"We are protesting here, and thousands of police are deployed. This tells everything about the situation in Kashmir," Mehbooba Mufti said.

She further added, "Today is a black day not just for Jammu & Kashmir but also the entire country. On this

day (5th August 2019), the ruling party used its brute majority to end Article 370 (in J&K) unconstitutionally...Even today, I would like to tell the people of the nation that they should wake up...Today, you are seeing SIR exercise being carried out in Bihar, the Election Commission has weaponised voters' list so that lakhs of people can be deprived of voting...There are attempts being made to change our demography... The same has started in Tamil Nadu with the addition of lakhs of new voters from outside the state."

Making some serious al-

legations against the Centre, Mufti added, "Jammu & Kashmir has been made a laboratory...I am saying this today to people of the country that their condition will be worse than ours, and then no one will come to help them because no one is coming to help us."

She stated that democracy is in danger and said, "Today, our party workers wanted to hold a demonstration, but we were not allowed; 'Dum ghuta hai'.... What happened with us in 2019 is happening in the entire country today. There is danger to our democracy today..."

BJP protests across Bengal after attack on LoP Suvendu Adhikari

SUPROTIM MUKHERJEE
KOLKATA

The West Bengal unit of the BJP today held protests across the State to protest attacks on the convoy of Suvendu Adhikari, the Leader of the Opposition in the West Bengal Assembly, while he was leading a protest rally in Cooch Behar in north Bengal earlier in the day. Much of central Kolkata was paralysed after BJP leaders gathered to chant slogans against the Mamata Banerjee Government and the Trinamool Congress. They also burned tyres.

The convoy of BJP leader Suvendu Adhikari was attacked in Cooch Behar on Tuesday morning, with some men throwing stones at the vehicles. The BJP alleged that Adhikari's convoy was attacked by the Trinamool Congress workers and supporters

The BJP said the "miscreants from Trinamool" were behind the "deadly attack" that took place in "front of the police".

Adhikari and other party legislators were on their way to the office of the Cooch Behar district police superintendent to submit a deputation on the reports of attacks on party leaders in the recent past.

As soon as Adhikari's convoy reached Khagrabari Chowpati, Trinamool Congress workers and supporters started shouting "Go back" slogans. The BJP alleged that shoes were also thrown at Adhikari's car from that gathering. The car's window was broken with a stick. However, it is yet to be known if anyone was injured in the attack.

Adhikari was also shown black flags. A video also showed a protester throwing

a stone at a car in the convoy, shattering its window panes.

It was not immediately known if anyone was injured in the incident. Some members of the ruling Trinamool Congress had also planned counter-protests in the area. The BJP said the "miscreants from Trinamool" were behind the "deadly attack" that took place in "front of the police".

"The moment we entered Cooch Behar, there were a lot of anti-social elements. We had information that such a thing could happen. And so, I had forewarned them. Our car was stopped at many places, the police never helped us," claimed BJP leader and former Central Minister Nisith Pramanik.

Speaking to reporters after the incident, Adhikari called it a "murder attempt" and alleged that the "bulletproof glass" of his vehicle was broken.

Adhikari said: "The attack was made to kill me. SP Dyutiman Bhattacharya and Udayan Guha (North Bengal Development Minister) followed the instruction of Bhaipo Abhishek Banerjee and planned the conspiracy."

Guha hit back against Adhikari and the BJP leadership. He said: "The BJP is against the Bengali language. Wherever they go, there will be protests." However, he did not say anything about the vandalism of Adhikari's car in the convoy.

The Trinamool Congress spokesman Kunal Ghosh, however, claimed that no party workers were involved in the attack. He also said the attack was a "result of the internal feud within the BJP".

Dera Sacha Sauda Chief granted 40-day parole

TDG NETWORK
SIRSA

Dera Sacha Sauda chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh has been granted a 40-day parole, his counsel, Advocate Jatinder Khurana, confirmed on Tuesday.

Speaking to ANI, Khurana stated, "Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh has been given a 40-day parole under the law. Every convict has the right to avail a 70-day parole and a 21-day furlough in a year. During this parole period, he will stay at his ashram in Sirsa."

Earlier on April 9, Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh was granted a 21-day furlough, marking the 13th time he has been temporarily released from prison since his conviction.

His lawyer, Jitendra Khurana, confirmed the development, stating that the furlough was approved through proper legal chan-

nels. "There is nothing extraordinary in this. It is the legal right of a prisoner to receive up to 70 days of parole and 21 days of furlough in a year. This is not a favour but part of the due legal process," Khurana said.

The timing of Ram Rahim's releases has often stirred controversy, particularly when they coincide with elections or religious events. However, Khurana dismissed such speculation this time, asserting, "People repeatedly ask why Ram Rahim is given parole during elections, but what will they say now? There is no election, no political movement. Clearly, it has nothing to do with politics."

Since his incarceration, Ram Rahim has received multiple paroles and furloughs. He was first granted a one-day parole in 2020, followed by a 12-hour parole in 2021.

Mamata slams DVC and Centre for floods in south Bengal

SUPROTIM MUKHERJEE
KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee today visited Ghatal, a low-lying area in Paschim Medinipur district about 100 km from Kolkata which is suffering from extensive floods, and blamed the Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC), a Centre Government undertaking, for releasing water "indiscriminately" from its dams.

The Chief Minister directly blamed the DVC. She said: "The water that the DVC has released this time has broken all records. Why don't they dredge their dams?"

Mamata Banerjee claimed that if the DVC authorities had done dredging, the water storage capacity could have increased by another 10,000 cusecs.

The Chief Minister said: "DVC has not dredged for 20 years. DVC releases water indiscriminately. It doesn't think even once."

Mamata Banerjee warned: "I will not tolerate this tyranny anymore. Arrangements will be made after the 2026 Assembly elections. If DVC releases water, I will plan how to stop it. If necessary, I will build some dams, and the water will be stopped."

The Chief Minister alleged that whenever there is a flood, BJP-ruled States like Bihar and Assam get



help from the Center. "But Bengal is always deprived".

Criticising the DVC for allegedly discharging 11 times the volume of water it had released last year, CM called Bengal's floods "man-made catastrophe".

She claimed that the volume of water released was 30 times more than that of 2023 and that this was an attempt to trigger more flood-like situations in the State.

Banerjee alleged: "There is a systematic attempt to trigger more and more flood-like situations across South Bengal. This is not a natural disaster. It's a man-made catastrophe. I detect a deep conspiracy in this! This must stop at once!"

Accusing DVC of being "anti-Bengal", the CM said: "DVC's flood mismanagement record this year has surpassed its own dismal accounts of previous years. DVC has failed Bengal this year to an unprecedented degree."

Clearly, the Centrally administered agency is becoming more and more anti-Bengal, in keeping with the ecosystem that the Central establishment is trying to generate all over India today."

'Bring special legislation to prevent honour killings'

TDG NETWORK
TIRUCHIRAPPALLI

Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi (VCK) leader and Member of Parliament Thol. Thirumavalavan strongly reiterated the need for special legislation to prevent the increasing number of "honour killings" in Tamil Nadu and other states across India.

"We have been continuously demanding a special law to curb honour killings.

We've raised the issue in Parliament as well. Democratic forces are consistently voicing against caste- and religion-based murders happening across the country, but the Union government is indifferent. Even the Supreme Court has instructed that a special law be enacted, and in the meantime, has issued guidelines to the police for preventive measures. Unfortunately, no state police force is following those guidelines,"



Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi Thirumavalavan said, addressing media personnel at the airport.

He further announced

that the VCK will organise protests on August 9 and 11, demanding the enactment of a special law and added, "I will personally participate in the August 9 protest in Chennai. Tamil Nadu should set an example for other states by implementing such a law first."

When asked about Union Minister Kiren Rijiju's recent statement that bills would be passed without debate if opposition parties continue to disrupt pro-

ceedings, Thirumavalavan responded, "The Election Commission is now carrying out a special voter roll revision process. However, there are many irregularities, and it seems these changes are being made in favour of the BJP. We've demanded a detailed discussion in Parliament, but the Union government is hesitant."

The Election Commission is acting in a biased manner, supporting the BJP, which is

anti-democratic.

Even in the recent Lok Sabha elections, the EC appeared to favour the BJP. It is now functioning under the BJP's control, which is dangerous for our democracy." He urged the Tamil Nadu government to convene an all-party meeting to discuss the issue. He also addressed the chain-snatching incident involving Congress MP R Sudha in a high-security diplomatic zone in the national capital.

PARENTS PROTEST OUTSIDE ASSEMBLY, SEEK ROLLBACK OF SCHOOL FEE REGULATION BILL

This bill undermines transparency and accountability in the education system.

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Parents staged a protest outside the Delhi Assembly on Tuesday, urging the government to withdraw the school fee regulation bill that was introduced in the House a day earlier.

The protesters, gathered under the banner of United Voice of Parents Association, said the bill “weakens existing safeguards and reduces transparency in the fee regulation process.”

According to the association, the draft law permits previously unapproved fees and introduces a requirement of 15 per cent parental support to lodge complaints, making it harder for parents to raise concerns.

They also claimed that the bill removes the mandatory audit of school financial accounts, which had been an important aspect of ensuring accountability under the Delhi School Education Act and Rules (DSEAR).

“This bill undermines



transparency and accountability in the education system. It will affect the financial interests of many middle-class families,” a representative of the group said.

Leaders from both the Congress and the Aam Aadmi Party joined the protest. Delhi Congress president Devender Yadav said the government did not consult stakeholders before bringing the bill.

AAP leader Saurabh Bharadwaj flagged the absence of provision for school audits and the condition requiring a nod from 15 per

cent of the parents to initiate complaints.

“We have requested the government to reconsider this provision,” Bharadwaj said.

Protesters were seen holding placards that read ‘Education not for sale’, ‘Roll back fee hike’, and ‘Shiksha hai, Vyapaar nahi (Education is not a business)’.

The Delhi government on Monday tabled the Delhi School Education Transparency in Fixation and Regulation of Fees Bill, 2025, aimed at introducing a structured fee regulation framework.

It proposes three-tier committees and penalties up to Rs 10 lakh, as well as cancellation of school recognition, in case of violations.

According to the bill, each private school will need to form a School-Level Fee Regulation Committee annually. Constituted by 15 July of every academic year, the committee will include five parents from the Parent-Teacher Association (PTA), as selected in a draw of lots.

It must also include at least two women and at least one other member from the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, or socially and

educationally backwards classes. Additionally, a representative from the Directorate of Education (DoE) will be part of the committee. The chairperson will be a representative of the school management.

Once the committee is in place, the school management should submit the proposed fee structure and all other relevant records, considering 31 July as the deadline to do so. For the next three academic years, the fee structure will stay fixed. The committee will have the authority to review and approve the fees, but cannot approve an amount higher than the one proposed by management. It may revise the amount downward.

The committee must decide on the fee within 30 days of receiving the proposal. Once approved, the fee structure will be on the school notice board in Hindi, English, and the medium of instruction. If the school has a website, the approved fee must also be published there.

CM Gupta joins ‘Kude Se Azadi’ campaign



TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Tuesday took part in the ongoing cleanliness campaign, ‘Kude Se Azadi’, in Delhi’s Timarpur area and urged residents to take collective responsibility for keeping their surroundings clean.

The programme was held in Sanjay Basti.

Gupta, who was accompanied by the local MLA Surya Prakash Khatri, said public representatives across Delhi are working closely with resident welfare associations, NGOs and religious organisations to ensure cleanliness

She said directions have been issued to the departments concerned regarding the necessary development work to be carried out in a timely manner.

in their respective areas.

“Today morning, I came across a video of a young boy cleaning a bus stand in Delhi. It was heartening to see such awareness. If every citizen begins to consider Delhi’s cleanliness as their own responsibility, no



one can stop the city from becoming truly clean,” the chief minister said.

She also inspected JJ Colony, reviewed the condition of DDA flats in the area and interacted with residents.

She said directions have been issued to the departments concerned regarding the necessary development work to be carried out in a timely manner.

The month-long ‘Kude Se Azadi’ campaign was launched on August 1 and is being run across the national capital to promote community participation for improving sanitation and waste management in the city.

Delhi man decamps with Rs 55 lakh given by employer

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

A man was arrested in Delhi’s Keshav Puram for decamping with Rs 55 lakh cash given by his employer to deliver it to a client in connection with a property transaction, police said on Tuesday. Nand Kishore, a property dealer based in Lawrence Road, had employed Narendra Sharma as a delivery person, they said.

Sharma had worked for Kishore in 2020 but left due to personal issues. He rejoined in March 2025, allegedly with a premeditated plan to steal a large sum once the opportunity arose, they

said. On July 24, Kishore handed Sharma Rs 55 lakh cash and asked him to deliver it to a client in connection with a property transaction. However, Sharma decamped with the money, prompting the complainant to file a police report, Deputy Commissioner of Police (North-West) Bhisham Singh said.

A case was registered at the Keshav Puram Police Station, he added. Despite Sharma’s efforts to stay off the grid by frequently changing locations and avoiding any digital footprint, the police ultimately managed to apprehend him in Delhi and recovered the entire stolen amount.

CM Rekha Gupta announces youth special bus for Delhi University

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Tuesday announced the relaunch of the youth special bus service around the Delhi University campus to provide a student-friendly transport option.

Addressing students at the inauguration of a new academic block at Delhi University’s Social Centre School in Maurice Nagar, Gupta said that during her student days, there used to be a U-Special bus service exclusively for university students.

“The Delhi government is once again starting the Youth Special, which will operate on DU routes, with



a little bit of music playing in the bus. This is my gift to students today,” Gupta said.

The revived U-Special service — once a lifeline for college students — will return with modern upgrades, including air-conditioning, LED lighting, and music systems, to ensure a more comfortable and accessible commute, she added.

The school, originally built in 1947, has now been

transformed into a four-storey modern facility with 21 classrooms and laboratories. The new academic block was constructed in a record 21 months at a cost of over Rs 27 crore, according to Delhi University Vice-Chancellor Prof Yogesh Singh.

The chief minister also announced that the school will now be recognised to offer education up to Class 12.

DU student, entire class failed in exam; HC seeks response from college

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday sought responses from the Delhi University and a college after a plea claimed a student and her entire class was marked fail in an exam due to the negligence on the part of the teacher and her institution.

Justice Vikas Mahajan issued notice to the Delhi University and Bhagini Nivedita College for a stand on the student’s plea.

The plea has been filed by a final-year BA student from the college.

She claimed of “arbitrarily and unjustly” being awarded an “F” grade in the practical exam of the subject titled “Children with Disability in India” in her sixth semester result for the academic session 2024–2025.



cal exam of the subject titled “Children with Disability in India” in her sixth semester result for the academic session 2024–2025.

The petitioner claimed of appearing in theory, internal assessment and the external practical examination, which comprises practical file evaluation, viva voce and a written ex-

amination.

She further claimed securing good marks in both the theory and internal practical components, but alleged due to the “negligence and mismanagement” on the part of the teacher concerned and the college administration, the marks for the external practical examination were not uploaded

on the university portal.

“Consequently, the entire class, including the petitioner, has been unjustly marked as ‘fail’ in the practical component of the said subject. Despite raising repeated complaints through emails and other modes to the college and university authorities, no corrective action has been taken till date,” the plea, filed through advocate Ashu Bidhuri, said. The teacher concerned and the college administration, the plea said, have been involved in mutual blame-shifting instead of resolving the error, leaving the petitioner and other similarly-affected students without redressal.

Two nabbed for killing eunuch by slitting throat

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Delhi Police Crime Branch arrested two accused in the murder case of a eunuch at Madhu Vihar area on Monday. According to Delhi Police, on Monday, a PCR call regarding the stabbing of a transgender person was received at PS Madhu Vihar.

The team reached the spot under the bridge at Telco T-point towards Hasanpur and found a person lying dead with a slit throat.

The deceased has been identified as Karan alias Annu, resident of Khichripur, Delhi, aged about 25 years. The deceased, a eunuch by gender identity, was presently residing in Village Chilla. One child in conflict with the law (CCL) was also apprehended at the scene.

The involvement and exact role of the CCL is currently under investigation. In the initial investigation, it was found that the eunuch and the accused are known to each other, owing to some personal issue,



which seems to be a relationship; they killed her. A case under Section 103 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) is being registered.

Further investigation is in progress. Meanwhile, on Sunday, the Delhi Crime Branch

has solved a year-old blind murder case with the arrest of a woman and her boyfriend for conspiring to kill her husband and disposing of his body in Haryana’s Sonapat, officials informed on Sunday. The accused have been

identified as Soniya (34), a resident of Delhi’s Alipur, and her partner Rohit, a resident of Jagi village in Sonapat.

According to Crime Branch officials, the case dates back to July 2024, when the decomposed body of an unidentified man was found in a drain near Agwanpur village under the Gannaur police station in Sonapat. A case of murder was registered but remained unsolved as the deceased could not be identified.

G Noida man gets trillion-rupee windfall credit due to app glitch

TDG NETWORK
NOIDA

Dankaur native Dileep got the shock of his life when his account was credited with a 14-figure sum. His reverie, though, did not last long.

On August 1, the 20-year-old got a message that a sum of Rs 11.13 lakh crore had been credited to his bank account.

An unemployed Dileep rushed to his bank, only to be told that the windfall was the result of a glitch in the NAVI UPI app — and he still had zero money in his account.

Though initial reports suggested that the account belonged to Kotak Mahindra Bank,



the lender has denied any such incident.

Kotak Mahindra Bank issued a clarification, “Media reports suggesting an unusually large balance in a customer’s account are incorrect. In light of these reports, we encourage customers to check their account details using Kotak’s mobile banking app or net banking platforms.



Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) Manohar Lal Khattar at Kartavya Bhawan on the eve of its inauguration by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in New Delhi on Tuesday. (ANI Photo)

BIHAR CABINET NOD FOR DOMICILE POLICY IN RECRUITMENT OF SCHOOL TEACHERS

TDG NETWORK
PATNA

The Bihar Cabinet on Tuesday gave its nod for the implementation of domicile policy in the recruitment of teachers, reserving around 85 per cent of posts for “native residents” of the state.

Chief Minister Nitish Kumar had on Monday announced that the policy will be implemented for the recruitment of school teachers.

The decision assumes significance ahead of the assembly polls, due to be held later this year.

“The proposal for giving preference to native residents of the state in teachers’ recruitment exams was cleared,” Additional Chief Secretary (Cabinet Secretariat) S Siddharth said after the cabinet meeting.

“Already more than 50 per cent of seats are reserved for the state’s residents. This is because quotas for SCs, STs, OBCs and Extremely Backwards Classes account for nearly 50 per cent, while another 10 per cent is reserved for the economically weaker sections,” he said.



Siddharth said another 35 per cent is reserved for women, and the government has already taken a decision that only residents of the state will be accommodated in that quota.

“Of the remaining seats, 40 per cent shall now be reserved for native residents of Bihar, who completed their class 10 and class 12 in the state. So the quota for native residents effectively will be more than 85 per cent,” he added.

The state has witnessed massive protests over the issue in the recent past.

Leader of Opposition Tejashwi Yadav promised

“100 per cent domicile” if his RJD comes to power in the state.

Union minister Chirag Paswan also came out in support of the demand for the implementation of the domicile policy.

A large number of youth staged a demonstration in Patna on August 1 over the issue. The cabinet also increased the honorarium of 2,350 physical education teachers of government schools from Rs 8,000 to Rs 16,000 per month. They will also get an annual increment of Rs 400.

Approval was also given to increase the honorarium of

6,000 night guards working in secondary and higher secondary schools in the capital, from Rs 6,000 per month to Rs 10,000.

“Decision was also taken to double the honorarium of 2.18 lakh cooks working under the mid-day meal programme in the Education Department. It will increase from Rs 1,650 to Rs 3,300 per month,” Siddharth said.

The cabinet also approved an increase in the incentives for Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA) and Mamata Health workers.

“ASHA workers will now be provided with an incen-

tive of Rs 3,000 instead of Rs 1,000. Similarly, Mamta workers will be provided with an incentive amount of Rs 600 per delivery, instead of Rs 300,” the officer said.

Approval was given to increase the monthly incentive for sanitation workers and supervisors engaged under the Bihar Lohiya Swachh Abhiyan in rural areas, to Rs 5,000 and Rs 9,000, respectively, he said.

The cabinet also gave its approval for setting up digital libraries in all panchayats in the state, he said, adding that each one will have at least 10 computers for visitors.

In another important decision, the cabinet approved the energy department’s proposal for setting up a 2,400 MW (800 MWX3) thermal power plant in place of a solar power plant at Pirpainti in Bhagalpur, he said. The cabinet also gave its nod to run inter-state bus service on a public-private partnership (PPP) mode in order to deal with the rush of passengers between Durgapuja and Chhatth and during Holi, said the official.

Tej Pratap announces formation of coalition of 5 minor parties

TDG NETWORK
PATNA

Former Bihar minister Tej Pratap Yadav on Tuesday announced the formation of a coalition of five minor parties to contest the assembly elections in the eastern state.

Yadav, who was recently expelled from RJD by his father and party supremo Lalu Prasad, made the announcement at a press conference, which was also attended by national presidents of the five parties.

The five parties are Vikas Vanchit Insaan Party (VVIP), Bhojpuriya Jan Morcha (BJM), Pragatish-eel Janta Party (PJP), Wajib Adhikar Party (WAP) and Sanyukt Kisan Vikas Party (SKVP).

Yadav said he will contest the assembly polls, due later this year, from the Mahua seat which he had represented till 2020 when RJD had shifted him to Hasanpur.

“People are free to make fun of me, but I will tread my own path. Our coalition will move forward together



to ensure social justice, social rights, and the complete transformation of Bihar.

“If people give us the mandate, we will work towards the development of the state. We will work to fulfill the dreams of Ram Manohar Lohia, Karpoori Thakur and Jayaprakash Narayan,” he said.

Yadav said he will contest the polls from Mahua assembly seat as an Independent candidate.

“People are supporting me, and a large number of people are now connected with my ‘Team Tej Pratap Yadav’, a social media platform to reach out to people,” he added.

The former Bihar minister was expelled from the party on May 25 by his father Lalu Prasad for six years, a day after he reportedly confessed to being “in a relationship” with a woman named Anushka.

He, however, later deleted the social media post, claiming that his page was “hacked”.

Lalu Prasad also disowned Tej Pratap due to his “irresponsible behaviour”.

A few days later, after his expulsion from the party, Tej Pratap had alleged that there was a “conspiracy” to drive a wedge between him and his younger brother Tejashwi Yadav.

Delhi HC seeks ECI reply on ABJS plea for Bihar poll symbol

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday sought a response from the Election Commission of India (ECI) in response to a petition filed by the Akhil Bharatiya Jan Sangh (ABJS), a registered but unrecognised political party, seeking the allotment of a common election symbol for the upcoming Bihar Assembly elections.

Justice Mini Pushkarna heard the matter and directed the ECI to file its response, scheduling the next hearing for August 19.

ABJS states that its origins are to the Bharatiya Jan Sangh, founded in 1951 by the late Dr Shyama Prasad



Mukherjee. The party adopted its present name in 1979 and was officially registered under that title by the ECI through a letter dated October 20, 1989, effective from September 20, 1989.

As an unrecognised political party governed by its own bylaws, ABJS has been conducting internal elections for

its office bearers every two years in accordance with those rules.

Throughout its history, the party has consistently contested elections across various states and has periodically applied to the ECI for the allotment of a common symbol. In the most recent example, during the 2024 Andhra Pradesh Assembly elections, ABJS was allotted the ‘sitar’ symbol for its candidate, who contested under the party’s banner, the plea stated. Ahead of the Bihar elections slated for late 2025, ABJS wrote to the ECI on June 2, 2025, requesting the allotment of a common symbol to support its candidates in the state.

‘EC should answer for several voters left out in Bihar draft rolls’

TDG NETWORK
PATNA

RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav on Tuesday said that the Election Commission of India (EC) should answer for “several voters who have been left out” in the draft electoral rolls in Bihar.

He also said that he will respond to EC’s notice which was sent to him over a voter ID he showed in a press conference. The EC had said that the voter ID was not officially issued.

“A response will be given. What is the big deal? Election Commission should tell us about several voters who have been left out,” Tejashwi Yadav told reporters in Patna.

“Names of 50 people from the same household have been added. There are sev-



“A response will be given. What is the big deal? Election Commission should tell us about several voters who have been left out,” Tejashwi Yadav told reporters in Patna.

eral such discrepancies by the Election Commission. We will send the same to the Election Commission and present our side before the Court,” he said.

A complaint has been filed against Tejashwi Ya-

dav at Digha Police Station in Patna, alleging that he holds two Electoral Photo Identity Cards (EPICs). The complaint was submitted by an advocate, Rajiv Ranjan, who has requested that appropriate legal action be

initiated. On Monday, Union Textile Minister Giriraj Singh lashed out at Tejashwi Yadav and Leader of Opposition (LoP) Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi for questioning the Election Commission of India amid the ongoing Special Intensive Revision exercise in Bihar ahead of the upcoming assembly elections, accusing them of spreading “lies and confusion”. He stated that ECI, a constitutional body, will pursue legal action against comments made by Tejashwi Yadav.

“Rahul Gandhi and Tejashwi Yadav only lie and spread confusion. While lying about SIR (Special Intensive Revision), he lied about his own voter ID. This (ECI) is a Constitutional institution, but they did not

spare this either; they criticised it. Someone who considers himself a future CM - if Tejashwi Yadav speaks such petty lies and spreads confusion, then that institution will definitely take the legal route,” Singh told reporters in Patna.

His remarks come days after Tejashwi Yadav alleged that his EPIC (Electors Photo Identity Card) number has been “changed.”

Yadav had further raised concerns over his name missing from the electoral roll, questioning how he would contest the upcoming elections. Despite possessing a valid EPIC number, Yadav claimed that his name could not be traced in the voters’ list, sparking allegations of irregularities in the electoral process.

Uttarkashi tragedy again raises many questions

AJIT MAINDOLA
NEW DELHI

The tragedy in Dharali of Uttarkashi has once again brought the reckless construction work being done in the mountains under question. Not only this, the plans made to prevent disasters not being implemented seriously also raises many questions. Whether the cloud burst in Dharali or there was an explosion in a lake built at a high altitude. This will be known only after investigation. But the tragedy of Dharali matches with the Kedarnath tragedy of 2013.



In Kedarnath also, there was an explosion in a lake built at a high altitude. The water coming out of that lake became a flood and swallowed thousands of people, causing loss of crores. The place where

this incident occurred near Harshil is also close to the Himalayas. Gangotri is at a little distance from there from where the Bhagirath river originates which meets the Alaknanda at Devprayag to become the Ganga. The Dharali disaster

occurred during the day and everything was visible.

But in the entire Himalayan region from Himachal to Uttarakhand, incidents of cloudburst and villages and small towns getting washed away have suddenly increased. Last week, the Supreme Court strongly reprimanded the Himachal Pradesh government for these increasing incidents. Whatever the Supreme Court said for Himachal Pradesh is completely applicable to Uttarakhand as well. The situation in Uttarakhand is more worrisome than Himachal.

SC bars HC judge from hearing criminal matters

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

In an unprecedented order, the Supreme Court has stripped criminal matters of the roster of a Allahabad High Court judge “till he demits office” after he “erroneously” upheld summons of criminal nature in a civil dispute.

Taking stern view on the order passed by the judge, a bench of Justices J B Pardiwala and R Mahadevan directed removal of criminal matters from his roster till his retirement while tasking him to sit with a senior judge in a division bench.

The high court judge had



refused to quash a magistrate’s summoning order against a company which was accused of not paying the balance monetary sum in a business transaction of civil nature.

He said asking the complainant to pursue civil remedy for recovering the amount was unreasonable being time intensive.

Calling the order passed by the high court judge “erroneous”, the top court said the judge went ahead to the extent of saying that the complainant should be permitted to institute criminal proceedings for the purpose of recovery of the balance amount.

The top court said the high court order was one of the “worst and most erroneous” orders that it came across in their respective tenures as judges of the top court.

“The judge concerned has not only cut a sorry figure for himself but has made a mockery of justice. We are at

our wits’ end to understand what is wrong with the Indian Judiciary at the level of High Court. At times we are left wondering whether such orders are passed on some extraneous considerations or it is sheer ignorance of law. Whatever it be, passing of such absurd and erroneous orders is something unpardonable,” the bench said.

The top court was hearing a challenge to high court’s order which dismissed an application filed by one M/S Shikhar Chemicals seeking to quash summoning order in a case of commercial transaction.

Animal cruelty penalty as low as Rs 10 for first offence: Govt

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The penalty for acts of cruelty to animals, including killing or maiming, under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 is currently as low as Rs 10-50 for the first offence, Parliament was informed on Tuesday.

Minister of State for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying S P Singh Baghel, in his written reply to the Lok Sabha, said as per Section 11(1) of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, any person who treats an animal cruelly shall, for the first offence, be punishable with a fine not



less than Rs 10 but which may extend to Rs 50.

For the second or subsequent offence committed within three years of the previous offence, the person is punishable with a fine of not less than Rs 20 but which may extend to Rs 100, or with imprisonment for a term that may extend

to three months, or with both, he said.

The minister said the subject of Prevention of Cruelty to Animals falls under the Concurrent List (List III) of the 7th Schedule of the Constitution of India.

The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita 2023, also contains enabling provisions for pe-

nalising acts of cruelty to animals, he said.

While enforcement primarily rests with the respective state governments, the Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) actively pursues complaints received from across the country by forwarding them to the state governments, district collectors, magistrates, and superintendents of police.

Over the last five years, AWBI has addressed 4,589 complaints, forwarding them to the appropriate authorities for necessary legal action, he added.

Complaints of animal cruelty are primarily dealt

with by local authorities, as enforcement of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 is under the jurisdiction of state governments and Union Territory Administrations.

“AWBI does not maintain any data on penalties imposed or nature of punishments awarded,” he said.

Of the 4,589 complaints forwarded to state governments, action taken reports have been received for 306 cases, he said. The government and AWBI continues to promote animal welfare through education, training, awareness programmes, and financial assistance.

Climate change alters marine fisheries dynamics warn scientists

TDG NETWORK
KOCHI

Pointing out shifts in species biology, distribution and environmental changes, marine scientists have warned that climate change is significantly transforming marine ecosystems and fisheries in India.

The scientists highlighted the need for a proper action plan for climate mitigation and ecosystem restoration at a two-day national seminar on ‘Mitigating Climate Change Impact on Marine Ecosystems’ jointly organised by ICAR-Central

Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) and Institute of Social Sciences (ISS), a CMFRI release here said on Tuesday.

“A key concern is the change in fish phenology—or life cycle patterns—where commercially important species are maturing at smaller sizes,” CMFRI director Grinson George said in his keynote address.

Silver pomfret now matures at 280 g, down from 410 g. Similar reductions in size and fertility are being seen in coastal prawns, sardines, and mackerels, affecting reproductive success

and recruitment into fisheries, he said.

On shifts in geography of fish stocks, he cited the northward migration of species liked the Indian oil sardine, predicted under future climate scenarios, driven by changes in food availability, rainfall, oceanic upwelling, and oxygen levels.

He also said fishermen lose a considerable number of fishing days each year owing to cyclone warnings and other extreme weather events.

Fishery Survey of India director K R Sreenath inaugurated the seminar.

MARKETS SLIP OVER TRUMP’S TARIFF THREATS FOR RUSSIAN OIL IMPORTS

During the trading session, about 1,708 stocks advanced, 2,184 stocks declined, and 143 stocks remained unchanged.

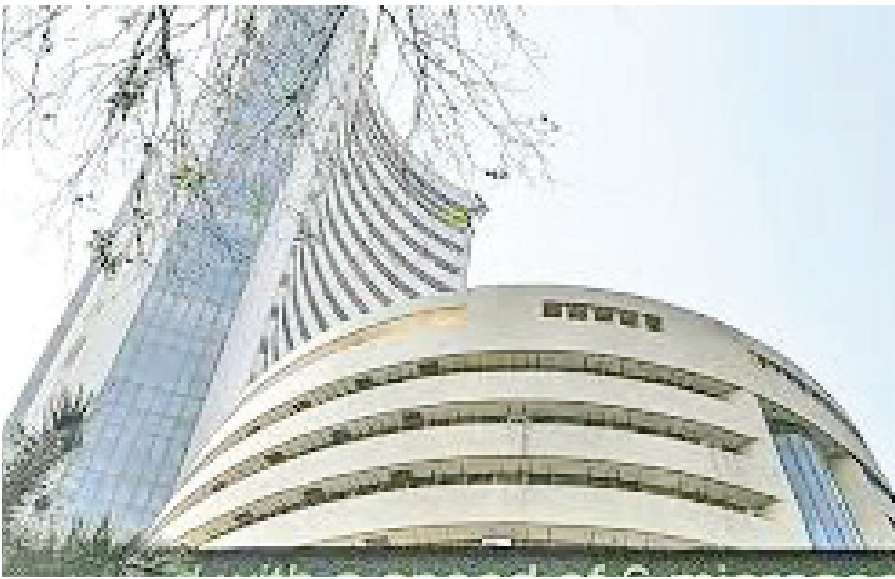
AGENCIES
MUMBAI

Indian stock markets on Tuesday ended lower as the sentiment withered amid fresh tariff warnings from US President Donald Trump over India’s imports of Russian oil.

At the closing of the trading in the stock markets today, the BSE Sensex was at 80,710.25, slipping over 308 points or 0.38 per cent, while the Nifty 50 at National Stock Exchange (NSE) was down 73.20 points or 0.30 per cent at 24,649.55.

During the trading, about 1708 stocks advanced, 2184 stocks declined, and 143 stocks remained unchanged.

“Following fresh tariff threats from President Donald Trump, both the benchmark indices Nifty and Sensex came under intense selling pressure in the first hour of the trade before consolidating in a range for the remaining part of the day,” said Sudeep Shah, Head - Technical and Derivatives



Research at SBI Securities.

Ajay Bagga, banking and market expert, said, “Trump tantrums are overlaying an otherwise sea of green across global markets. Indian markets bounced back from oversold levels on Monday in line with a global markets recovery from Asia to Europe to USA.”

A new social media post by Trump threatening levy of secondary tariffs on India

for buying Russian crude oil became a source of worry.

Observing the markets, Ashika Institutional Equities in a note said caution prevailed ahead of monetary policy announcement.

“Ahead of tomorrow’s monetary policy announcement, caution prevailed, and banking stocks came under renewed selling pressure during the second half of the session.”

Among the Nifty constituents, the top four stocks by weightage namely HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, Reliance Industries and Infosys witnessed strong selling which weighed on the index. Nifty Oil & Gas and Nifty Pharma emerged as top losers while Nifty Auto & Nifty Metal closed with gains.

The weak sentiment extended to the broader markets as well. Nifty Midcap

100 and Nifty SmallCap 100 also ended in the red, falling 0.39 per cent and 0.16 per cent respectively.

“Market breadth was decisively negative, with 310 stocks out of the Nifty 500 ending in the red,” said Sudeep Shah.

Nifty has been moving in a narrow range forming NR3 pattern on the daily chart.

According to the SBI Securities note, the index has been holding on to its 100 EMA support, which is placed at 24596, since the last three sessions.

The daily RSI has been hovering around the 40 mark while the ADX, a key trend strength indicator, has been moving up quietly, settling marginally above the 25 mark, indicating early signs of momentum shifting in the favor of bears.

Post the narrow range pattern formation, the price likely experiences a significant move in either direction, as these patterns indicate period of low volatility and consolidation.

Rupee weakens amid high USD demand, US tariff and FII outflows: Experts

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

The Indian Rupee continued to weaken on Tuesday as it came under pressure due to continuous dollar demand from importers and persistent foreign institutional investor (FII) outflows.

Currency experts highlighted that the situation has been further aggravated by the uncertainty around US tariffs and possible penalties related to India’s continued crude oil imports from Russia.

In an exclusive conversation with ANI, experts noted that there is still no clarity on the nature or extent of the penalties that might be imposed by US President Donald Trump. The lack of details has added to the uncertain environment in the currency market.

KN Dey, a currency expert told ANI “The Rupee is still in the middle of a storm, trading now at 87.80/81. Interventions from RBI continue, otherwise the Rupee might have breached the 88 level today.”

He added, “There is continuous demand for dollars from importers as well as due to FII outflows. Inflows have slowed down on anticipation of a weaker Rupee



*... see some clarity coming in.”
The Rupee opened weak today
amid the threat of higher tariffs by
President Donald Trump.*

ahead. I think this uncertainty will continue for some more time till we see some clarity coming in.”

The Rupee opened weak today amid the threat of higher tariffs by President Donald Trump. The Rupee opened at 87.85 against the US Dollar, touched a high of 88.1, and slipped to a low of 87.75 during the trading session.

At the time of filing this report, the currency was trading at 87.82 per dollar.

Adding to the commentary, Jateen Trivedi, Vice President and Research Analyst for Commodity and Currency at LKP Securities, said, “Despite minor

strength in the dollar index, the key drag remains the 25 per cent tariff imposed by the US, which has kept pressure on the rupee. The early gains were quickly sold into, reflecting persistent bearish sentiment.”

He further noted that the markets are now waiting for the Reserve Bank of India’s monetary policy announcement on Wednesday, which is expected to bring heightened volatility.

Experts outlined that unless there is some clarity on the US penalties and an improvement in capital inflows, the Rupee may remain under stress in the near future.

India-US actively discussing farm sector for bilateral trade pact: MoS Thakur

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

India is actively involved in the discussions on the India-USA Bilateral Trade Agreement, which aims at expanding trade and investment and deepening the US-India trade relationship to promote growth that ensures fairness, national security and job creation, especially in the labour-intensive sector, including agricultural products. According to Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, the Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Ramnath Thakur in a written reply in Lok Sabha today said that the ongoing discussions are focussed on how to take an integrated approach to strengthen and deepen bilateral trade by mutually increasing market access, reducing tariff and non-tariff barriers, and deepening supply chain integration.

Further, the livelihood interests of our farmers and requirements of food security have always been paramount for the Government while negotiating trade agreements

with our international partners, including the US.

The remarks have significance as the two sides could not conclude due to the American demand to get comprehensive access in the Indian agriculture and dairy sector.

In March 2025, India and the US started talks for a balanced and mutually beneficial Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA). The goal of this was to finish the first stage of the Agreement by October-November 2025.

Speaking on the BTA in Lok



Sabha, Piyush Goyal on July 31 informed that there have been many virtual meetings between the two sides.

“The government is examining the implications of recent developments. The Ministry of Commerce and Industry is engaged with all stakeholders to gather their feedback and assess the situation,” Goyal added.

IRDAI slaps Rs 5 crore penalty on Policybazaar for multiple regulatory violations

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has imposed a penalty of Rs 5 crore on Policybazaar Insurance Brokers for multiple violations of the Insurance Act, 1938 and related rules and regulations.

In an official statement, the IRDAI said that the action was taken under Section 102 of the Insurance Act, 1938.

It stated, “IRDAI in exercise of the powers under Section 102 of the Insurance Act, 1938, has imposed a penalty of Rs. Five Crore on M/s Policybazaar Web Aggregator Pvt. Ltd. (Now known as “M/s Policybazaar Insurance Brokers Pvt. Ltd.”)

The penalty was imposed after the regulator examined 12 charges related to Policybazaar’s operations. One of the key violations pertained to Key Managerial Personnel (KMPs) holding directorships in other companies, which goes against

exclusivity norms.

Policybazaar had argued that disclosure was not required unless the other roles were in the insurance sector. However, IRDAI disagreed, citing potential conflict-of-interest risks and imposed a penalty of Rs 1 crore for this violation.

Another violation involved the promotion of certain insurance products

ing to influence consumer choices.

Policybazaar was also found to have received hundreds of crores from insurers for outsourced services without maintaining clear agreements that defined service-level details or provided a transparent pricing structure. IRDAI considered this non-transparent and imposed another Rs 1



on the Policybazaar website as “TOP” or “BEST,” which is against the guidelines that mandate neutral and unbiased listings.

Though the company later corrected the issue, the IRDAI imposed another Rs 1 crore penalty for attempt-

ing to influence consumer choices.

In the area of telemarketing, the company lacked proper tagging of Authorized Verifiers (AVs). Though improvements were made later, the violation led to a additional penalty of Rs 1 crore.

Another major issue was the use of Policybazaar’s own payment gateway and nodal accounts to collect premiums from customers. In several cases, the remittance to insurers was delayed by more than 30 days, breaching the 24-hour rule. This violation also attracted a Rs 1 crore penalty.

Policybazaar was also unable to provide call recordings when requested, citing challenges in retrieval. While no fine was imposed for this, IRDAI directed the company to undergo an external audit by Chartered Accountant.

The regulator also found instances of commission payouts exceeding the prescribed limits, which it attributed to delays in reconciliation. A formal caution was issued on this matter.

Moreover, several Authorized Verifiers were also found to be acting as insurance agents, a clear compliance failure. IRDAI issued a caution and directed the company to implement stronger verification and compliance measures.

‘India’s appeal among emerging markets fading due to high valuation premium’

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

India’s equity markets are showing signs of fatigue as stretched valuations collide with slowing profit growth, undermining the country’s appeal among emerging markets (EMs), according to a report by Nuvama.

The report noted that de-

BSE500’s median price-to-earnings (PE) ratio stands at an elevated 40x, while median trailing earnings growth has slipped to just 9 per cent.

The growing gap between company’s profits and high stock prices is making the market more attractive for sellers than buyers.

The report mentions that

“We argue this is unsustainable and skews the buyer-seller incentive structure decisively in the latter’s favour,” the report added.

spite a strong rebound, Nifty and SMIDs (Small and Mid-cap Stocks) rising 12 per cent and 20 per cent respectively since April lows—underlying earnings momentum has weakened, calling the rally’s sustainability into question.

“We argue this is unsustainable and skews the buyer-seller incentive structure decisively in the latter’s favour,” the report added.

The report added that the

the three key investor segments of insiders, domestic households, and foreign institutional investors (FIIs) are reflecting a cautious sentiment in the Indian markets.

The report claims that in Q1FY26, insiders (including promoters, private equity, and corporates) offloaded or issued a record USD18 billion in equity, showing their desire to cash out at current valuations.

India is on track to gain bigger share in global output: Report

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

India is set to play a bigger role in the global economy over the coming decades, noted a recent report by Morgan Stanley. The report says with the expectation of India’s credit to GDP rising and manufacturing gaining a bigger share in GDP, country’s role in global economy will significantly go up.

The report said that India is on track to gain more share in global output in the coming years due to a mix of strong foundational factors.

These include robust population growth, a functioning democracy, stable macroeconomic policies, improved infrastructure, a rising entrepreneurial class, and better social outcomes.

It stated “India will become the world’s most



The report said this combination of high growth, low volatility, and falling interest rates supports higher price-to-earnings (P/E) ratios in the equity market.

sought-after consumer market, it will undergo a major energy transition, credit to GDP will rise and manufacturing could gain share in GDP”.

The report also noted that these strengths will help India become the world’s

most sought-after consumer market. In addition, the country is expected to undergo a major energy transition and experience stronger growth in credit and manufacturing sectors.

The report added that the falling intensity of oil

in India’s GDP and a rising share of exports, especially services, will support fiscal consolidation.

The government is likely to achieve a primary surplus within three years. This, along with reduced saving imbalance, could lead to structurally lower real interest rates.

The report said this combination of high growth, low volatility, and falling interest rates supports higher price-to-earnings (P/E) ratios in the equity market.

It highlighted that Indian households are shifting their investments towards equities, and this trend is expected to continue. The improved macroeconomic stability and changes in household balance sheets are supporting the sustained demand in the stock market.

It also noted that even though stocks have de-rated compared to long bonds

and gold, India is steadily gaining a bigger share in global GDP.

The report stated that the soft earnings growth phase, which began in the second quarter of FY2025, seems to be ending. However, the market is still cautious.

Despite foreign portfolio investor (FPI) positioning being at its weakest level since data began in 2000, Morgan Stanley said it remains confident in India’s long-term prospects.

It added that India’s low beta implies it could perform well during a global bear market but may underperform during a global bull run.

However, the report also warned about downside risks such as slowing global growth, worsening geopolitics, rising oil prices, and continued supply chain disruptions, especially in areas like rare earth materials and fertilizers.

Adani Ports’ Q1 revenue jumps 21% YoY marine businesses lead growth

AGENCIES
AHMEDABAD

Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd (APSEZ) on Tuesday reported a 21 per cent year-on-year (YoY) growth in consolidated revenue for the April-June quarter, led by a two-fold rise in logistics revenue and nearly three-fold jump in its marine business.

The company posted Rs 9,126 crore in revenue for the first quarter of FY26, compared to Rs 7,560 crore a year ago. Net profit rose 7 per cent to Rs 3,311 crore, while EBITDA grew 13 per cent to Rs 5,495 crore.

“This quarter’s 21 per cent revenue growth is anchored by extraordinary momentum in our Logistics and Marine businesses, which grew 2x and 2.9x respectively,” said Ashwani Gupta, Whole-time Director &



CEO, APSEZ. “These are reshaping the contours of our future-ready ports ecosystem,” he added.

Logistics revenue doubled to Rs 1,169 crore driven by strong ramp-up in trucking and international freight network. Marine services revenue surged to Rs 541 crore from Rs 188 crore with the deployment of 118

vessels. The company handled 121 million metric tonnes (MMT) of cargo during the quarter, up 11 per cent YoY, with all-India market share rising to 27.8 per cent. Container volumes rose 19 per cent YoY, and Krishnapatnam port recorded its highest ever monthly cargo handling at 5.85 MMT in June.

DECARBONISING THE SHIPPING INDUSTRY IN INDIA

OPINION

TUHIN A SINHA AND
DR KAVIRAJ SINGH



As the world grapples with the twin imperatives of economic development and environmental sustainability, the shipping industry finds itself at a critical juncture. Globally, maritime transport accounts for nearly 3% of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, according to the Review of Maritime Transport 2023 by UNCTAD. Without significant intervention, these emissions are projected to increase by up to 130% by 2050 compared to 2008 levels, fuelled by rising trade volumes and energy-intensive shipping practices. India, with its 7,517 km-long coastline and dependence on maritime trade for nearly 95% of its

trading volume and 70% by value, therefore, must take decisive steps to ensure the sector aligns with its climate commitments and developmental goals.

GLOBAL IMPERATIVES AND INDIA'S STANDPOINT

The International Maritime Organisation (IMO) has undertaken the formidable task of steering the global shipping industry towards decarbonisation. In July 2023, the IMO revised its greenhouse gas strategy, setting a net-zero target for international shipping by or around 2050. One of the most consequential proposals emerging from this effort is a global carbon tax - pro-

posed at \$100 per tonne of CO₂ equivalent, to be levied from 2027. It is expected to generate over \$10-13 billion annually, with the funds earmarked for climate technology transfer and support for developing nations transitioning to green shipping practices.

India's stance within these negotiations has been pragmatic and cautious. At the 80th session of the IMO's Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC 80) held in July 2023, the Indian delegation called for more realistic, science-based targets that consider the unique challenges of developing countries. India proposed a more measured target of having net-zero carbon fuels constitute 5% of the global marine fuel mix by 2030. Indian representative warned against overly ambitious mandates, suggesting that they could result in "unsustainable investment decisions" and deployment of "immature technologies".

India has also opposed blanket taxation measures that could disproportionately impact developing economies. The Indian delegation to MEPC 81 in March 2024 reiterated the call for a 'Common But Differentiated Responsibility and Respective Capabilities' (CBDR-RC) approach in global shipping taxation. Such a framework, it argued, would ensure fairness while also maintaining the



Green hydrogen, ammonia, and electrification of port operations are emerging as viable solutions. Pilot projects are underway to introduce electric catamaran water taxis in cities such as Varanasi and Guwahati.

competitiveness of countries like India in global trade.

DOMESTIC ACTION: GREEN PORTS AND CLEAN SHIPPING

On the domestic front, India has launched a suite of ambitious initiatives aimed at greening its maritime sector. The Sagarmala Programme, launched in 2015, seeks to enhance port infrastructure, improve logistics efficiency, and promote coastal shipping. By increas-

ing reliance on inland and coastal waterways - which are three to four times more fuel-efficient than road transport - the programme aims to reduce logistics costs and carbon emissions.

Complementing this is the Maritime India Vision 2030, which lays out a ten-year blueprint for the holistic development of Indian ports and shipping infrastructure. One of its standout features is the 'Harit Sagar' or Green Port

Guidelines, which encourage Indian ports to adopt renewable energy, electrify cargo handling operations, reduce water consumption, and shift to cleaner fuels. According to the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Deendayal (Kandla), Visakhapatnam, New Mangalore, and VOC Port (Tuticorin) have already begun generating renewable energy that exceeds their internal consumption.

Moreover, the Indian government has identified ten highway corridors for exclusive movement of zero-emission trucks, further integrating green mobility with port logistics.

TECHNOLOGY AND FUELS OF THE FUTURE

India is also investing in innovation and clean energy

alternatives. Green hydrogen, ammonia, and electrification of port operations are emerging as viable solutions. Pilot projects are underway to introduce electric catamaran water taxis in cities such as Varanasi and Guwahati. The Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) has also announced plans for hybrid electric Roll-on/Roll-off (Ro-Ro) vessels powered by both liquefied natural gas (LNG) and batteries.

Private sector innovation is also gathering pace. Startups like Blue Energy Motors are producing LNG-powered long-haul trucks that emit 30% less CO₂ compared to diesel counterparts. The company plans to introduce electric trucks and expand its LNG refuelling infrastructure nationwide.

These technologies, while promising, must be scaled efficiently and supported by investment and policy clarity. As highlighted by the UNCTAD Review of Maritime Transport 2023, a global transition to green fuels and infrastructure will require around \$28 billion annually through 2050. In the Indian context, such investments must be prioritised through public-private partnerships, targeted subsidies, and R&D support.

SUSTAINABILITY AS COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE

Beyond environmental con-

cerns, sustainable shipping is increasingly linked to economic competitiveness. India's early commitment to sustainable practices - such as the green hydrogen mission, shore-power mandates, and electric logistics, positions it as a low-risk, forward-looking partner in global trade networks.

Indeed, as global supply chains begin to impose sustainability-linked performance standards, India's proactive green strategies may offer exporters a critical edge. Carbon border adjustment mechanisms (CBAMs) proposed by the EU and similar trade rules elsewhere make it imperative for India to act now - not just to decarbonise, but also to remain competitive.

CONCLUSION

India's maritime transition will not be easy. But with the right mix of realism and ambition, it can serve as a global model for how developing economies can tackle shipping emissions without compromising on growth. Through targeted investments in green infrastructure, support for clean technologies, and a balanced global negotiating strategy, India is steering its shipping industry towards a greener horizon - one where sustainability and economic progress can sail together.

Tubin A Sinha, National Spokesperson, BJP and Dr Kaviraj Singh, CEO & Director, Earthood

Legal accountability of AI in corporate decision-making: Who bears the risk?

OPINION

PANKAJ CHHUTTANI



In a rapidly digitising corporate India, the rise of artificial intelligence (AI) is not merely a technological evolution - it is a legal and ethical reckoning. As companies increasingly integrate AI into boardrooms and business processes, a fundamental question arises: Who is accountable when AI fails?

AI JOINS THE BOARDROOM

From drafting contracts and conducting risk assessments to vetting loan applicants and flagging regulatory breaches, AI has assumed an influential role in corporate decision-making. Indian start-ups and conglomerates alike are adopting AI-powered tools to enhance compliance efficiency, reduce costs, and mitigate human error.

However, these intelligent systems are not infallible. They function based on algorithms trained on historical data, which may be biased, outdated, or incom-

plete. This creates a potential minefield of legal and regulatory challenges when decisions made - or heavily influenced - by AI lead to financial loss, reputational damage, or regulatory non-compliance.

THE LEGAL VACUUM

Indian corporate law, particularly the Companies Act, 2013, has not yet evolved to directly address AI's role in governance. The law continues to assign fiduciary duties - such as duties of care, diligence, and good faith - to human directors and officers. These obligations are non-delegable, meaning that a board cannot escape liability by blaming faulty AI tools.

In this context, AI remains a tool - not a legal person, and therefore cannot be held independently accountable under Indian law. This leaves companies and their decision-makers fully exposed when things go wrong.

For instance, if an AI-based financial tool fails to flag a key compliance requirement, leading to SEBI penalties, the directors cannot cite algorithmic oversight as a defence. The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) and regulators like SEBI have maintained that technological tools must be used prudently, not blindly.

THE BOARD'S

RESPONSIBILITY

This legal position places an enhanced burden on boards and compliance officers. They must now understand not only the business implications of AI tools but also the logic, limits, and biases inherent in such systems.

"Directors are increasingly expected to exercise oversight over the design and deployment of AI systems," says Saurabh Bhatnagar, a Delhi-based corporate lawyer. "They must be able to question the rationale behind AI-generated outputs, particularly when it informs a regulatory or financial ac-

tion."

This shift means that due diligence now includes algorithmic transparency - ensuring that the AI tools used are auditable, explainable, and aligned with existing compliance protocols.

As AI becomes more embedded in hiring, procurement, and investment decisions, the risk of algorithmic discrimination is also a legal minefield. Discriminatory outcomes in recruitment or customer profiling, even if unintentional, could invoke regulatory scrutiny and reputational backlash.



tion."

This shift means that due diligence now includes algorithmic transparency - ensuring that the AI tools used are auditable, explainable, and aligned with existing compliance protocols.

DATA PROTECTION AND EMERGING RISKS

The introduction of the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 has added another layer to this legal puzzle. Companies using AI systems that process personal data must ensure they

THE WAY FORWARD: REGULATORY REFORM AND AI GOVERNANCE

India needs a more robust legal framework to regulate the use of AI in corporate operations. Industry experts are calling for sector-specific guidelines from SEBI, RBI, and MCA that clarify the standards of care expected when using AI tools.

Suggestions include:

- Mandating AI risk audits;
- Requiring companies to

disclose AI usage in material decisions;

- Establishing a framework for algorithmic accountability and redressal.

Until such reforms take shape, companies must treat AI as a high-risk strategic asset - not a black-box oracle. Human accountability must remain central, even in a tech-driven corporate ecosystem.

CONCLUSION

AI may promise speed, efficiency, and objectivity, but it does not dilute legal responsibility. In the Indian corporate landscape, the

burden of oversight still lies squarely on the shoulders of directors and officers. The law, as it stands, views AI as an assistant - not an escape clause.

As Indian boardrooms become smarter, they must also become legally sharper. The future of AI in corporate governance depends not only on innovation but on a clear-eyed recognition of who bears the risk when machines decide.

Pankaj Chhuttani, Assistant Professor, School of Law, GD Goenka University, Gurugram

Mandates of independence; Mandates of international law

OPINION

DR. RADHIKA JAGTAP

The current US administration has been very prompt and in absolutely no second thoughts, whenever it has come to imposing sanctions on individual officials working under international legal mandates, who according to it may have expressed antisemitism in their work- be it the few months ago travel ban on the members of the Office of Prosecutor at the International Criminal Court for issuing arrest warrant against Benjamin Netanyahu or the very recent sanctions on the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Occupied Palestinian Territories Francesca Albanese for coming out with a report titled "From an Economy of Occupation to an Economy of Genocide." This report has drawn larger global attention as very unapologetically it builds a nexus between the ongoing warfare in Gaza and the benefiting multinational business corporations, listing around 48 of them. In the preceding report of March 2024, Albanese became the first few voices who unequivocally used the terminology of "genocide" for Israel's actions in Gaza, following the December 2023 initiation of proceedings at the International Court of Justice by South African Government against Israel under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime

of Genocide of 1948. There have been several attempts to discredit Albanese's work, and it has been called out as antisemitic. Meanwhile, Michael Fakhri, the U.N. special rapporteur on the right to food, has commented that Israel's 78-day-long extreme blockade of Gaza constitutes "the fastest starvation campaign we've seen in modern history." Fakhri also mentioned that the mass suffering has been both "preventable" and "predictable".

The special rapporteurs and prosecution members of the ICC Chambers- they may come from various nationalities, but they do not represent any of them while holding their respective offices. Their offices are supposed to uphold international law in specific areas, and in case of the ICC, based on the statutory objectives as laid out in the Rome statute. The Rome statute provides for prosecution of international crimes, which are fundamental violations of international human rights and customary international law, also known as *jus cogens*; while the special rapporteurs on various mandates work towards the advancement of international human rights, as for the "special procedure" mechanisms under the United Nations Human Rights Council. The independent expert holders

of these mandates are in many ways defenders of the rights framework in the otherwise very statist and formalist structure of international law. Their independence, freedom of expression and an uncoercive and non-hostile reception of their work is very crucial for aspects like fact-finding and investigations on international legal issues like the world is facing currently. Without fixating much on the strong and straightforward languages that they may use in their reports, statements and investigative findings, the world community must listen to what these mandate holders have to say. Some of these independent expertise works have contributed immensely to the cognitive and progressive development of international jurisprudence, for instance, in the case of former special rapporteur James Anaya's work towards the expanding the understanding of the present day UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, adopted in 2007. Many such other contributions have been of jurisprudential significance for historically struggling and marginalised voices in international law, as states as the ultimate lawmakers are seldom acknowledging of their human conditions. A state like the USA trying to sanction these individuals echoes of an intentional dilution of the international rule-based order and trivializes institutional protection of international rights' framework.

Dr. Radhika Jagtap is a professor of law at a private university and teach International Law, Humanitarian Law amongst other courses.

UNEARTHING THE TRUTH: INSIDE KARNATAKA'S MASS BURIAL PROBE

Once believed to be a place for truth, Dharmasthala now seems to have buried a hundred lies.

When a former sanitation worker walked into a Mangaluru police station in early July, holding photos of bones and secrets buried for decades, he cracked open one of Karnataka's most chilling mysteries.

The 48-year-old Dalit man, employed by the Dharmasthala Temple Trust between 1995 and 2014, alleged that over nearly two decades, he was coerced under threats of violence into burying more than a hundred dead bodies across the temple town. Many of the victims, he claimed, were women, minors, or unidentified civilians. The remains, he said, were often disposed of in secret grave sites around the Nethravathi River and adjacent forests.

"They told me if I refused, I would be cut to pieces and buried with them," the man later testified before a magistrate. His statement described scenes of violence, rape, and summary executions, involving everything from beggars to schoolgirls, all allegedly silenced and buried without records.

He recounted one especially haunting instance of being forced to bury a schoolgirl still in uniform, her underwear missing, along with her school bag. In another case, he claimed to have buried a woman who had been thrown into the river with acid burns. Beggars, he said, were suffocated in rooms and their bodies quietly dumped.

Following his formal complaint on July 4, the man was granted police protection. His lawyers claim the threats have continued subtly, even from within the Special Investigation Team (SIT) formed on July 19 to probe his allegations. On July 10, the whistleblower demonstrated his knowl-

TDG EXPLAINER

edge of burial sites by digging up bone fragments in front of police officers and a magistrate. Preliminary analysis confirmed the bones to be human.

The whistleblower identified 13 burial sites in and around Dharmasthala. On July 28, under tight security, he led SIT officials to riverbanks, forests, and even temple-linked lands. Excavations began soon after. While the first few sites yielded no evidence, signifi-

The fragments included a skull and fabric remnants, including a red saree—indicating possible female victims. This recovery has given fresh momentum to the investigation.

Forensic teams are now analysing the remains for DNA, gender, trauma signs, and approximate time of death. Investigators are comparing the data with decades-old missing persons records. But the process is slow. The hot, acidic

"Bones alone don't lie. But we must ensure they are heard in court." – Advocate Sachin Deshpande

cant remains were recovered from two.

At Spot 6, partial skeletal remains believed to be of a male were found on July 31. A skull and rib fragments, along with a torn saree and slippers, were unearthed from Spot 11 on August 4. Both sets of remains were sent to the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) for DNA, age, and trauma analysis. Experts say the bones could yield valuable clues despite the time elapsed.

In a recent development, over 100 bone fragments were recovered from a newly identified Spot 14, located about 100 feet above the riverbed, adjacent to the previously dug Spot 11. This site was pinpointed after the whistleblower revised his recollection, stating that the burial may have occurred slightly higher on the slope.

soil around the Nethravathi river accelerates decomposition. In many cases, police records have gone missing or were never filed, raising concerns about systemic failure.

Investigators have confirmed that Unnatural Death Reports (UDRs) and missing persons data between 1995 and 2014 have been collated and secured to avoid tampering. However, human rights advocates note inconsistencies in data and allege many records were either altered or discarded over the years.

A fresh complaint was filed recently by social activist Jayanth T., citing the suspicious death and illegal burial of a 13- to 15-year-old girl more than 15 years ago. This case, previously undocumented, has now been referred by the SIT to the Dharmasthala police for legal follow-up.

Whistleblower advocates have also urged the SIT to employ Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) technology, arguing that rain, soil erosion, and shifting terrain may have displaced skeletal remains. So far, the SIT has relied solely on manual excavation.

Dharmasthala, revered for centuries as a sacred hub of justice and charity, is now grappling with the



The grand facade of the Sri Rama Kshetra temple complex in Dharmasthala—an iconic symbol of faith and devotion in coastal Karnataka, now under intense scrutiny amid ongoing investigations into secret mass burials in the region. File photo

implications. The temple's hereditary administrator, Rajya Sabha MP Veerendra Heggade, has not commented publicly but a spokesperson stated that the temple welcomes a fair investigation. The temple trust runs free meal programs, arbitration courts, and hospitals—its image is deeply tied to the idea of upholding dharma (justice).

This sanctified aura, some say, has helped shield Dharmasthala from scrutiny. Earlier cases like the 1987 rape-murder of Padmalata and the unsolved 2012 murder of 17-year-old Sowjanya also stirred protests, but no convictions followed. Sowjanya's family has long alleged that powerful people intervened to cover up the crime.

As news of the July 4 FIR broke, reactions varied. Locals whispered of long-suspected secrets. Families of missing girls came forward. Sujatha Bhat, whose daughter vanished in 2003, said, "I believe my Ananya may be one of them. I just want her bones, so I can perform her last rites." A total of 367 women and girls have gone missing in the region over the last two decades. Many of those cases saw no FIRs or were dropped prematurely.

The SIT, led by DGP Pronab Mohanty, includes forensic and police special-

ists. Officials have promised impartial investigation, though whistleblower lawyers say some SIT members have tried to pressure their client into withdrawing statements. One SIT officer was accused of coercing the whistleblower into recording a forced retraction, which lawyers allege was part of an internal effort to dilute the case.

With SIT head Mohanty now listed in the UPSC shortlist for a central government post, there is uncertainty over leadership continuity. The recent resignation

of a woman officer from the SIT has also raised concerns about internal morale and long-term oversight.

Tensions peaked after a civil court in Bengaluru imposed a gag order on July 8, restricting media coverage. The order, passed on a plea by Harshendra Kumar, brother of Veerendra Heggade, demanded takedown of over 8,000 digital links. On August 2, the Karnataka High Court struck it down, calling it "lengthy but devoid of reason."

Still, rights activists worry that damage has already

Senior advocate S. Balan says, "India has never seen this gravity of offence since Independence." He, along with several legal professionals, believes many of the missing women may have been raped and killed, their deaths suppressed through a mix of caste hierarchy, influence, and fear.

The Karnataka State Women's Commission has requested a full audit of missing women cases over two decades in Dakshina Kannada. Chairperson Dr. Nagalakshmi Choudhary cited several past cases

Heggade as a Rajya Sabha member, has remained largely silent. Civil society groups, especially Dalit and Adivasi organisations, have been vocal in support of the whistleblower. Social media has kept the case alive with hashtags like #JusticeForDharmasthalaVictims.

With 10 of the 13 sites now excavated and two yielding remains, the spotlight is on the SIT and FSL. Will DNA analysis match any victims to the state's missing persons records? Will any suspects be named or arrested?



The investigation into the Dharmasthala case has gained momentum. The SIT has entered the field near the Nethravathi bathing ghat to locate the buried bodies. In connection with the Dharmasthala mass burial case, the complainant has so far identified 13 locations. X post @rspeciallu

TIMELINE
July 4: FIR filed by ex-worker in Mangaluru
July 8: Civil court issues gag order on media
July 10: Whistleblower granted police protection
July 19: SIT formed, led by DGP Pronab Mohanty
July 28: 13 sites identified; excavations begin
July 31: Skeletal remains found at Spot 6
August 2: High Court lifts gag order
August 4: Skull, bones found near Spot 11
August 5: Over 100 bone fragments recovered from Site 14



People waiting on the bridge across Nethravathi River in Dharmasthala to see the process of digging of sites 7 and 8 on August 1, 2025. The SIT did not find any skeletal remains in the two sites. File photo

been done. An AI-generated video surfaced, allegedly mimicking the whistleblower's voice and revealing contents of his confidential statement. Lawyers allege this leak came from within the police force. Retired SC Justice V. Gopal Gowda called for a new SIT under judicial oversight, citing sabotage and witness intimidation.

where police allegedly refused to file FIRs. Legal experts argue that remains alone, even decades old, can be admissible in court if corroborated by circumstantial evidence and DNA matches.

Political reactions have been muted. The Congress government has pledged action but avoided naming the temple trust. The BJP, with

The answers may take weeks. But one thing is clear: the case has shaken Karnataka's faith in its institutions, its police, and even its temples. As one local resident put it, "We all believed Dharmasthala stood for truth. Now we want to know if that belief has buried a hundred lies."

Compiled by Ruchira Talapatra



No skeleton found at the 11th identified location. X post

RAJASTHAN'S THALI: A SYMPHONY OF DESERT FLAVORS

TDG NETWORK
JAIPUR

While the core concept of the thali remains consistent across the state – a balanced meal featuring various categories of food – there are subtle but fascinating regional variations that add to its richness. These differences often stem from the local climate, agricultural produce, and historical influences of the specific princely states.

CORE COMPONENTS OF A RAJASTHANI THALI

Regardless of the region, certain elements are almost always present, making up the soul of a Rajasthani thali:

Breads (Roti/Baati):

Dal Baati Churma: The undisputed king. Baati are hard, unleavened baked or fried wheat or millet balls, often crushed and generously doused in ghee.

Missi Roti: A flavorful flatbread made from a blend of wheat and besan (gram flour), giving it a distinctive nutty taste.

Bajra Roti: A rustic and highly nutritious flatbread made from pearl millet, particularly popular in colder months.

Khoba Roti: A thick, dimpled roti cooked over direct heat, often served with more traditional, rustic thalis.

Dals (Lentils):

Panchmel Dal: A staple made from a mix of five different lentils (chana, moong, toor, masoor, urad), offering a rich, wholesome, and protein-packed experience.

Other dals like simple Moong Dal or Dal Dhokli (lentil stew with wheat dough pasta pieces) may also be present.

Sabzis (Vegetables/Curries):

Gatte ki Sabzi: Iconic gram flour dumplings cooked in a tangy yogurt-based gravy. There's also Shahi Gatte (Govind Gatte), which are stuffed with nuts and raisins for a richer, royal touch.

Ker Sangri: A unique and earthy preparation made from dried berries (ker) and beans (sangri) native to the desert. This dish highlights the ingenuity in using local, drought-resistant produce.

Panchkuta Sabzi: A distinctive dry vegetable dish typically made with five ingredients: ker, sangri, kumatiya, gunda, and amchur (dried mango powder).

Mangodi ro Saag: Curries made with sun-dried moong dal fritters (mangodi), often combined with other vegetables like potato or spinach.

Kadi: A tangy, yogurt-based curry, often spicier than its Punjabi counterpart, and sometimes featuring pakoras (fritters).

Rice

Simple steamed rice or Jeera Rice (cumin rice) often accompanies the richer dishes.

Kabuli (a layered vegetable pulao) can be found in more elaborate thalis.

Accompaniments:

Chutneys: Various spicy or tangy chutneys, such as garlic (lehsun) chutney, green chili chutney, or raw mango (kairi) chutney.

Achaar (Pickle): Home-made pickles, providing a sharp, tangy kick.

Papad: Crispy roasted or fried lentil wafers.

Raita: A cooling yogurt preparation, often with boondi (fried gram flour pearls) or cucumber.

Chaa (Buttermilk): A



Ker Sangri: A unique and earthy preparation made from dried berries (ker) and beans (sangri) native to the desert. This dish highlights the ingenuity in using local, drought-resistant produce.

refreshing, often spiced, drink to aid digestion.

Sweets (Desserts):

Churma: Sweet crumbled baati, mixed with ghee, jaggery or sugar, and often nuts and cardamom.

Moong Dal Halwa: A rich,

indulgent dessert made from yellow lentils, ghee, and sugar, especially popular in winter.

Malpua: Sweet pancakes soaked in sugar syrup, sometimes served with rabri (thickened sweetened



While the core elements persist, the proportions, specific spices, and inclusion of certain dishes can vary significantly by region:

Marwari Thali (Western Rajasthan - Jodhpur, Bikaner, Jaisalmer):

Often predominantly vegetarian due to the historically merchant communities and Jain influence.

Emphasizes water-saving techniques and the use of dried vegetables like Ker

Sangri.

Ghee is used generously. Dishes often lean towards a spicier and tangier profile.

Panchmel Dal is a hallmark.

Mewari Thali (Southern Rajasthan - Udaipur, Chittorgarh):

With more access to water, there might be a greater variety of fresh vegetables used compared to Marwari cuisine.

Known for its distinctive

The tale of Ghewar: Rajasthan's iconic festive sweet

TDG NETWORK
JAIPUR

Rajasthan, the land of royal heritage and vibrant culture, is equally rich when it comes to its culinary traditions. Among its many delicacies, Ghewar holds a special place—especially during the monsoon and festive months. This honeycomb-like dessert, soaked in sugar syrup and topped with saffron and dry fruits, is more than just a sweet dish; it is a celebration of tradition, taste, and togetherness.

WHAT IS GHEWAR?

Ghewar is a traditional Rajasthani sweet made primarily from refined flour (maida), ghee, milk, and sugar syrup. It is deep-fried in a circular mold, which gives it its iconic disc shape with a lace-like, porous texture. Once fried, it is soaked in sugar syrup and topped with rich garnishes like saffron, silver vark, almonds, pistachios, and sometimes rabri (thickened milk).

Its intricate design, crisp texture, and melt-in-the-mouth sweetness make it unique among Indian sweets. Ghewar comes in various types: plain ghewar, mawa ghewar, and malai ghewar, each richer than the last.

SEASONAL AND FESTIVE SIGNIFICANCE

Traditionally, Ghewar is closely linked to the Hindu month of Shravan (monsoon season) and is especially popular during Teej and Raksha Bandhan. These festivals, dedicated to the bond between siblings and the devotion of

women to marital bliss, are incomplete without the presence of Ghewar in Rajasthani households.

During Teej, married women receive Ghewar as part of the Sinjara (a gift hamper) sent by their parents. The sweet becomes a symbol of familial love, blessings, and festivity. On Raksha Bandhan, sisters offer Ghewar to their brothers after tying the rakhi, further deepening its role in nurturing relationships.

A ROYAL AND URBAN FAVORITE

Although Ghewar has its roots in the royal kitchens of Rajasthan, it has now become an urban favorite. Cities like Jaipur, Jodhpur, Udaipur, and Bikaner boast legendary sweet shops that start preparing for the monsoon rush well in advance. Shopfronts are lined with trays of golden-brown ghewar, often customized to customer preferences—whether it's extra rabri, no syrup, or silver foil toppings.

THE ART OF MAKING GHEWAR

Making Ghewar is an art form that requires precision, patience, and experience. The batter is poured in a thin stream into boiling ghee in a special mold, layer by layer. The batter splutters and rises to create the lacy, honeycomb-like structure. Once the desired thickness is achieved, the Ghewar is removed, cooled, dipped in sugar syrup, and decorated.

The process is sensitive to weather conditions—humidity and tempera-



ture play a critical role. Hence, Ghewar is usually made during the monsoon months when the weather supports its delicate preparation.

MODERN TWISTS AND INNOVATIONS

While traditional Ghewar remains irreplaceable, modern chefs and sweet makers have begun experimenting with the clas-

Ghewar is a traditional Rajasthani sweet made primarily from refined flour (maida), ghee, milk, and sugar syrup. It is deep-fried in a circular mold, which gives it its iconic disc shape with a lace-like, porous texture. Once fried, it is soaked in sugar syrup and topped with rich garnishes like saffron, silver vark, almonds, pistachios, and sometimes rabri (thickened milk).

sic. Today, one can find chocolate ghewar, mango



ghewar, and even fusion versions like cheesecakes

with ghewar crusts. Some dessert parlors serve

mini ghewar cups topped with flavored mousse or fruit compotes, attracting younger generations to this age-old sweet.

Even luxury hotels in Rajasthan include Ghewar in their gourmet dessert menus, often pairing it with rabri shots or saffron ice cream, blending the old with the new.

A SWEET LEGACY

spicing traditions.

While vegetarian options are plentiful, Mewari cuisine is also famous for Laal Maas (fiery red mutton curry), which might be offered in non-vegetarian thalis or as a separate dish.

Rabri Malpua is a popular sweet from this region.

Dhundhari Thali (Eastern Rajasthan - Jaipur, Ajmer, Pushkar):

Often has influences from neighboring regions, leading to a slightly milder or sweeter flavour profile in some dishes compared to the fiery western regions.

You might find more use of paneer (cottage cheese) and a broader range of seasonal vegetables.

Mawa Kachori (a sweet pastry filled with condensed milk solids) is a specialty of Jaipur.

Shekhawati Thali (North-eastern Rajasthan - Sikar, Jhunjhunu, Churu):

Known for its rustic and wholesome approach.

Heavy reliance on millets like bajra and jowar for breads.

Simple yet flavorful preparations, often with a focus on seasonal and local ingredients.

Their thalis might feature simpler dals and more emphasis on dry preparations.

The Rajasthani thali is a testament to culinary adaptation and cultural richness. Each region adds its unique flavour to this grand platter, making a culinary journey through Rajasthan an experience for all the senses. When you sit down to a thali, you're not just eating; you're partaking in centuries of tradition, hospitality, and the incredible flavour palette of the desert land.

ISRAEL CONSIDERS FULL GAZA TAKEOVER AS MORE DIE OF HUNGER

AGENCIES
TEL AVIV/CAIRO

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu favors a complete military takeover of Gaza for the first time in two decades, media reported, and was to meet senior security officials on Tuesday to finalize a new strategy in the 22-month war.

Mediation between Israel and Palestinian militant group Hamas has collapsed despite intense international pressure for a ceasefire to ease hunger and appalling conditions in the besieged Palestinian enclave.

Eight more people died of starvation or malnutrition in the past 24 hours, Gaza's health ministry said, while another 79 died in the latest Israeli fire.

Netanyahu was to meet Defense Minister Israel Katz and military Chief of Staff Eyal Zamir to decide on a strategy to take to cabinet later this week, an Israeli official told Reuters. Strategic Affairs Minister Rob Dermer, a confidant of Netanyahu, would also be present.

Israel's Channel 12, citing an official from Netanyahu's office, said the prime minister was leaning toward taking control of the entire territory. That would reverse a 2005 decision to



Netanyahu hints at Gaza war expansion; ex-military, spy chiefs oppose

JERUSALEM : Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu hinted at wider military action in devastated Gaza on Tuesday, even as former Israeli army and intelligence chiefs called for an end to the nearly 22-month war.

The new pressure on Netanyahu came as Gaza's Health Ministry said the Palestinian death toll had surpassed 61,000. Health officials reported new deaths of hungry Palestinians seeking

food at distribution points. As desperation mounts, the Israeli defense body coordinating aid announced a deal with local merchants to improve aid deliveries.

Former security officials speaking out included previous leaders of Israel's Shin Bet internal security service, Mossad spy agency and the military — and ex-Prime Minister Ehud Barak. In a video posted to social media this week, they said

far-right members of the government are holding Israel "hostage" in prolonging the conflict.

Netanyahu's objectives in Gaza are "a fantasy," Yoram Cohen, former head of Shin Bet, said in the video.

"If anyone imagines that we can reach every terrorist and every pit and every weapon, and in parallel bring our hostages home — I think it is impossible," he said.

It was unclear, however, whether Netanyahu was foreseeing a prolonged oc-

cupation or a short-term operation aimed at dismantling Hamas and freeing Israeli hostages. The prime minister's office did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the Channel 12 report. A Palestinian official said it may be a tactic to pressure Hamas into concessions, while the Palestinian Foreign Ministry urged foreign nations to take heed of the reports.

"The ministry urges countries and the international community to treat these leaks with utmost seriousness and to intervene urgently to prevent their implementation, whether these leaks are meant to exert pressure, test international reactions, or are genuine and serious," it said.

Israel's coalition government, the most right-wing and religiously conservative in its history, includes far-right politicians who advocate for the annexation of both Gaza and the West Bank and encourage Palestinians to leave their homeland.

Nearly two years of fighting in Gaza has strained the military, which has a small standing army and has had to repeatedly mobilize reservists. It has throughout the war pushed back against the idea of Israel fully occupying Gaza and establishing military rule.

Lebanon's Cabinet meets to discuss Hezbollah's arms after US pressure

AGENCIES
BEIRUT

Lebanon's cabinet will meet on Tuesday to discuss Hezbollah's arsenal, after Washington ramped up pressure on ministers to publicly commit to dismantling the Iran-backed group and amid fears Israel could intensify strikes if they fail to do so.

The session scheduled for 3:00 p.m. (1200 GMT) at Lebanon's presidential palace is the first time that cabinet will discuss the fate of Hezbollah's weapons — unimaginable when the group was at the zenith of its power just two years ago.

Pressure from the US and Hezbollah's domestic rivals for the group to relinquish its arms has spiked following last year's war with Israel, which killed Hezbollah's top leaders and thousands of fighters and destroyed much of its rocket arsenal.

In June, US envoy Thomas Barrack proposed a roadmap to Lebanese officials to fully disarm Hezbollah, in exchange for Israel halting its strikes on Lebanon and withdrawing its troops from five points they still occupy in southern Lebanon. That



Lebanese Interior Minister Ahmad Al-Hajjar attends a cabinet meeting to discuss efforts to bring all weapons in the country under the control of the state, at the Presidential Palace in Baabda, Lebanon. Agencies

proposal included a condition that Lebanon's government pass a cabinet decision clearly pledging to disarm Hezbollah. After Barrack made several trips to Lebanon to urge progress on the plan, Washington's patience began wearing thin, Reuters reported last week. It pressured Lebanon's ministers to swiftly make the public pledge so that talks could continue. But Lebanese officials and diplomats say such an explicit vow could spark communal tensions in Lebanon, where Hezbollah and its arsenal retain significant support among the country's Shiite Muslim community. On Monday evening, a group of dozens of motorcycles set

out from a neighborhood in Beirut's suburbs where Hezbollah has strong support, carrying the party's flags. Hezbollah's main ally, Lebanese Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri, has been in talks with President Joseph Aoun and Prime Minister Nawaf Salam ahead of Tuesday's session to agree on a general phrase to include in a cabinet decision to appease the US and buy Lebanon more time, two Lebanese officials said. Berri's proposed wording would commit Lebanon to forming a national defense strategy and maintaining a ceasefire with Israel, but would avoid an explicit pledge to disarm Hezbollah across Lebanon, the officials said.

Israel to partially reopen Gaza private goods trade

AGENCIES
JERUSALEM

Israel will partially reopen private sector trade with Gaza to reduce its reliance on humanitarian aid, the defence ministry civil affairs agency for the Palestinian territories said on Tuesday.

"As part of formulating the mechanism, a limited number of local merchants were approved by the defence establishment, subject to several criteria and strict security screening," COGAT said.

Israel has been fighting Palestinian militant group Hamas in Gaza for 22 months and imposed a total blockade on March 2, partially lifted in May to allow a US-backed private agency to open food distribution centres.

Aid convoys and airdrops by Arab and European militaries resumed last month, as UN-mandated expert reports warned famine was unfolding in the war-torn territory.

The COGAT statement said private sector deliveries would be paid for by monitored bank transfers and be subject to inspections by the Israeli military before entering Gaza, "to prevent the

involvement of the Hamas terrorist organisation".

Permitted goods under the new mechanism will include food staples, fruit, vegetables, baby formula and hygiene products, COGAT said.

The agency said more than 300 aid trucks entered Gaza on Monday, a larger number than in previous days, and that hundreds more were "still queued up for UN pickup".

In addition, 120 pallets of aid were airdropped in cooperation with Belgium, Canada, Egypt, Germany, Jordan and the United Arab Emirates, it added.

Hamas contested the figures, saying that only 95 aid trucks entered Gaza on Monday and that the majority of them were looted amid a "deliberate state of security chaos instigated by (Israel)".

The United Nations estimates that between 500 and 600 truckloads of aid a day are needed to meet the needs of Gaza's more than two million inhabitants.

Meanwhile, The Israeli military said it intercepted a missile from Yemen early on Tuesday after air raid sirens sounded in several areas across the country.



People celebrate the first anniversary of the student-led protests that ousted the country's former prime minister Sheikh Hasina. Dhaka, Bangladesh. Agencies

Brazil SC orders house arrest for ex-Prez Bolsonaro over coup plot

AGENCIES
BRASILIA

Brazil's Supreme Court has issued a house arrest order for former President Jair Bolsonaro, who is standing trial for allegedly plotting a coup.

The decision, issued on Monday, comes a day after protests in support of the former far-right president were held across Brazil.

Bolsonaro is accused of seeking to overturn the 2022 election, won by his left-wing opponent and current President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva.

A media representative for Bolsonaro confirmed that police placed him under house arrest on Monday evening at his Brasilia residence. The police also seized his mobile phone. Supporters of the former president soon gathered outside the residential development where he lives to show their support. Bolsonaro's lawyers said in a statement that an



Former President Jair Bolsonaro has denied the coup-plotting allegations against him. Agencies

appeal against the decision would be lodged, arguing that the former president had not violated any court order.

The house arrest order was issued by Justice Alexandre de Moraes, who is facing sanctions by the administration of United States President Donald Trump for overseeing the case against Bolsonaro. Moraes said Bolsonaro had violated precautionary measures imposed by the court restricting the

former president's social media use and political messaging.

The prosecution accuses Bolsonaro of leading an armed criminal organisation, attempting to stage a coup and attempting a violent abolition of the democratic rule of law, aggravated damage and deterioration of listed heritage.

A coup conviction carries a sentence of up to 12 years.

The former president's supporters stormed and ransacked the National Congress and other state institutions in January 2023 to reject Lula's victory. After his defeat weeks earlier, Bolsonaro had declined to publicly concede his loss.

Bolsonaro forcefully rejects the allegations against him, describing his prosecution as a witch-hunt. Moraes said in his decision on Monday that the former president was posting content on the social media channels of his three lawmaker sons.

Yunus announces Bangladesh general elections in February next year

AGENCIES
DHAKA

Bangladesh Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus on Tuesday declared that the next general election will be held in February 2026.

He announced the election timeframe during his address to the nation via state television, BTV and radio to mark the first anniversary of the uprising that ousted former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

"On behalf of the interim government, I will write to the Chief Election Commissioner, requesting that the Election Commission organise a national election in February 2026, before the next Ramadan," Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus said.

"We will all begin mental preparation and institutional arrangements from tomorrow to complete all arrangements so that this year's election is memora-



ble in the country's history in terms of joy and celebration, peace and order, voter turnout, and cordiality," he added.

"My appeal to political parties is that in your election manifestos, in your promises, pledges, and plans, the youth should not be left out. Women should not be left out. Remember, the youth who have changed Bangladesh have the power to change the world as well," Yunus said.

Earlier today, the Bangladesh interim government unveiled formally the "July declaration", an official declaration of the July

Mass Uprising of 2024 in Bangladesh. Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus has announced the declaration, which outlines 26 points of political, constitutional and governance issues in line with the spirit of the student-led uprising that ousted former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

The interim government held discussions with political parties that participated in the movement against Sheikh Hasina before finalising the "July Declaration". Top leaders of the parties, including Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), Jamaat-e-Islami, and newly formed National Citizen Party (NCP) leaders, were present when this declaration, which was adopted with the consent of the political parties, was announced at the South Plaza of the Bangladesh Parliament Complex during the uprising anniversary ceremony.

India and Philippines stage joint naval drill in disputed South China Sea

AGENCIES
MANILA, PHILIPPINES

India and the Philippines have staged joint naval exercises in the disputed South China Sea for the first time, a high-profile military deployment that antagonized China. Beijing has separate territorial disputes with the two Asian democracies and a long-running regional rivalry with New Delhi.

Armed Forces of the Philippines chief of staff Gen. Romeo Brawner said Monday that the two-day joint naval sail and exercises which began Sunday went successfully, and expressed

hopes that Filipino forces could engage India's military in more joint maneuvers in the future.

Asked if Chinese forces carried out any action in response, Brawner said without elaborating that "we did not experience any untoward incident but we were still shadowed. We expected that already."

Two Chinese navy ships, including a guided-missile destroyer, were spotted about 25 nautical miles (46 kilometers) from one of two Philippine navy frigates that participated in the joint sail on Sunday, the Philippine military said. The Chinese

military's Southern Theater Command said it conducted routine patrols in the South China Sea on Sunday and Monday and added that it remains resolute in defending China's territory and maritime rights and interests. Without mentioning India by name, the Southern Theater Command accused the Philippines of drawing in outside countries to organize joint patrols that it said undermine regional peace and stability. China's Foreign Ministry said territorial disputes should be resolved by those directly involved without any third-party intervention. China



has a longstanding land border dispute with India in the Himalayas, which sparked a monthlong war in 1962 and a number of deadly wildfires since then.

Separately, Beijing's ex-

pansive claims to virtually the entire South China Sea, a key global trade route, have led to tense confrontations with other claimant states, particularly the Philippines and Vietnam. Malaysia,

Brunei and Taiwan also lay claims to parts of the contested waters.

The Philippines has staged naval patrols in the disputed waters with its treaty ally, the United States, and other strategic partners including Japan, Australia, New Zealand and France to promote freedom of navigation and overflight and strengthen deterrence against China.

It has allowed journalists to join territorial sea and aerial patrols to witness China's increasingly aggressive actions, provoking angry Chinese reactions.

In response to a question last week about Manila's

plans to build up military cooperation, China's Ministry of National Defense called the Philippines a "troublemaker" that has aligned itself with foreign forces to stir up trouble in what China deems its own territorial waters.

Brawner said the Philippines has to be strengthened through modernization, and secondly, we need to partner with like-minded nations and that's what we're doing with India," he said last week. During

a reception on board an Indian navy tanker, the INS Shakti, on Thursday, Brawner said the vessel's port call in Manila was more than ceremonial. It "sends a powerful signal of solidarity, strength in partnership and the energy of cooperation between two vibrant democracies in the Indo-Pacific," he said. Brawner welcomed the deepening of relations between the two Asian countries and "reaffirmed the shared commitment to maritime security, regional stability and a rules-based international order in one of the world's most geopolitically sensitive regions."

SOME FOREIGN VISITORS FACE UP TO \$15,000 BOND TO ENTER US UNDER NEW PROGRAMME

AGENCIES
NEW YORK

The Trump administration is implementing a pilot programme under which foreign visitors arriving in the US on tourist or business visas could be required to pay a “bond” of up to USD 15,000 to ensure they don’t overstay their visas.

The countries that would come under the purview of the programme have not been announced yet.

The US State Department has issued a ‘temporary final rule’ under which a 12-month long visa bond pilot programme will be started.

The State Department said that under this pilot programme, foreign individuals applying for the B-1/B-2 visas to come into the US for business or tourism could be required to post a bond of up to USD 15,000.

The Department said that the rule is described as a “key pillar of the Trump administration’s foreign policy to protect the United States from the clear national security threat posed by visa overstays and deficient screening and vetting”.

“Individuals applying for visas as temporary visitors for business or pleasure (B-1/B-2) and who are nationals of countries identified by the Department as having high visa overstay rates, where screening and vetting information is deemed deficient, or offering Citizenship by Investment, if the alien obtained citizenship with no residency requirement, may be subject to the pilot programme,” the department said in a public notice.

It said consular officers may require covered non-immigrant visa “applicants to post a bond of up to USD 15,000 as a condition of visa issuance, as determined by the consular officers”.

The pilot programme, expected to start this month, will be effective till August 5, 2026.

The pilot programme appears to be part of the Trump administration’s crackdown on illegal immigration, a key agenda of the US president’s electoral run and his second term in the White House.

The public notice states that over the years, it has been found that hundreds of thousands of nonimmigrant visitors do not depart the US timely and overstay their visas.

While the public notice does not mention which countries will come under the purview of the programme, it said that the State Department will announce the covered countries within at least 15 days before the pilot programme takes effect and this list will be amended as required.

“In announcing the covered countries, the Department will also provide a brief explanation of the basis for requiring bonds



Rwanda to take in 250 U.S. deportees under Trump’s third-country plan

KIGALI, RWANDA: Rwanda on Tuesday became the third African nation to agree to accept deportees from the United States under the Trump administration’s plans to send migrants to countries they have no ties with to get them off American soil.

Rwandan government spokesperson Yolande Makolo told The Associated Press in a statement that the East African country would accept up to 250 deportees from the U.S., with “the ability to approve each individual proposed for resettlement” under the agreement.

Makolo didn’t provide a timeline for any deportees to arrive in Rwanda or say if they would arrive at once or in several batches. She said details were still being worked out. The U.S. State Department and the Department of Homeland Security didn’t immediately respond to requests for comment on the agreement.

The U.S. sent 13 men it described as dangerous criminals who were in the U.S. illegally to South Sudan and Eswatini in Africa last month and has said it is seeking more agreements with African nations. It said those deportees’ home countries refused to take them back. The U.S. has also deported hundreds of Venezuelans and others to Costa Rica, El Salvador and Panama under President Donald Trump’s plans to expel people who he says entered the U.S. illegally and are “the worst of the worst.”

Rwanda attracted international attention and some outrage when it struck a deal in 2022 with the U.K. to accept migrants who had arrived in the U.K. to seek asylum.

Putin doubts potency of Trump’s ultimatum to end war in Ukraine

AGENCIES
MOSCOW

Russian President Vladimir Putin is unlikely to bow to a sanctions ultimatum expiring this Friday from U.S. President Donald Trump, and retains the goal of capturing four regions of Ukraine in their entirety, sources close to the Kremlin told Reuters.

Trump has threatened to hit Russia with new sanctions and impose 100% tariffs on countries that buy its oil - of which the biggest are China and India - unless Putin agrees to a ceasefire in Russia’s war in Ukraine.

Putin’s determination to keep going is prompted by his belief that Russia is winning and by scepticism that yet more U.S. sanctions will have much of an impact after successive waves of economic penalties during 3-1/2 years of war, according to three sources familiar with discussions in the Kremlin.

The Russian leader does not want to anger Trump,

2 children among wounded in Russian attack on Ukraine’s Kharkiv

KYIV: One person was killed and 10 people, including two children, were wounded early on Tuesday in Russia’s largest air attack on the Ukrainian town of Lozova since the war began, officials said. The “massive strike” damaged the train station and other infrastructure in the town, a transport hub in the Kharkiv region bordering Russia, state rail operator Ukrzaliznytsia said in a statement. Photos shared by emergency services appeared

to show a damaged train and rubble covering a train platform. “Critical infrastructure, apartment buildings and private homes have been damaged ... Lozova has endured the largest attack since the beginning of the war,” town council head Serhiy Zelenskiy wrote on the Telegram messaging app. Two children were wounded in the attack that left parts of the region without power and water, he added.

Ukrzaliznytsia said one of its employees died and four more were injured. Emergency services said 10 people in total were injured in the attack. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy said Russia struck civilian infrastructure in Lozova with more than 25 drones, damaging a depot and a station. Ukraine’s air force downed 29 of 46 drones launched by Russia across the country overnight, according to its statement on Telegram.

and he realises that he may be spurning a chance to improve relations with Washington and the West, but his war goals take precedence, two of the sources said.

Putin’s goal is to fully capture the Ukrainian regions of Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhzhia and Kherson,

which Russia has claimed as its own, and then to talk about a peace agreement, one of the sources said.

“If Putin were able to fully occupy those four regions which he has claimed for Russia he could claim that his war in Ukraine had reached his objectives,” said

James Rodgers, author of the forthcoming book “The Return of Russia”.

The current talks process, in which Russian and Ukrainian negotiators have met three times since May, was an attempt by Moscow to convince Trump that Putin was not rejecting peace, the

first source said, adding that the talks were devoid of real substance apart from discussions on humanitarian exchanges.

Russia says it is serious about agreeing a long-term peace in the negotiations but that the process is complicated because the two sides’ stances are so far apart. Putin last week described the talks as positive.

Moscow’s stated demands include a full Ukrainian withdrawal from the four regions and acceptance by Kyiv of neutral status and limits on the size of its military - demands rejected by Ukraine. In a sign that there may yet be an opportunity to strike a deal before the deadline, Trump’s special envoy Steve Witkoff is expected to visit Russia this week, following an escalation in rhetoric between Trump and Moscow over risks of nuclear war.

On Monday, Russia said it was no longer bound by a moratorium on short- and medium-range nuclear missiles.

Sweden, Norway, Denmark pledge \$486M to NATO for US arms to Ukraine

AGENCIES
STOCKHOLM

Sweden, Norway and Denmark will contribute around \$500 million to a NATO-led initiative to supply Ukraine with U.S. weapons, including Patriot missiles, to ensure it can continue to defend itself against Russia, the three countries said on Tuesday.

U.S. President Donald Trump said last month the United States would supply weapons to Ukraine, paid for by European allies, but did not indicate how this would be done.

“We want to ensure that Ukraine quickly receives the equipment it needs, while strengthening NATO cooperation on Ukraine’s defence and securing peace on Ukrainian terms,” Norwegian Defence Minister Tore O. Sandvik said in a statement.



Ukraine’s President Volodymyr Zelenskiy said the measure created a new foundation for long-term security across Europe.

“This will be felt. And it will serve as a strong example for other NATO countries to strengthen the security ties between America and Europe and to ensure protection from Russian strikes,” he wrote on X.

“Russia will never turn Europe into a continent of war, and it is precisely through our joint efforts that we are ensuring peace will prevail,” he added.

Danish Defence Minister Troels Lund Poulsen said the money would be available immediately and that Denmark would be willing to consider additional funding later.

Indian-origin taxi driver attacked in Dublin, police probe violent assault

AGENCIES
LONDON

An Indian-origin taxi driver based in Ireland for over 23 years has become the latest to be targeted in an unprovoked attack in the capital Dublin, with local police (Gardai) launching an investigation into the violent assault.

Lakhvir Singh, in his 40s, told local media that he picked up two young men in their 20s on Friday night and dropped them at Poppintree, Ballymun, Dublin.

Upon arriving at the destination, the men allegedly opened the vehicle door and struck him twice on the head with a bottle. As the suspects fled, they reportedly shouted: “Go back to your own



country”.

“In 10 years I’ve never seen anything like this happen,” Singh told ‘Dublin Live’.

“I’m really scared now and I’m off the road at the moment. It will be very hard to go back. My children are really scared,” he said.

A Dublin police spokesperson said Singh was taken to the city’s Beaumont Hospital with injuries determined as not life-threatening.

“Gardai are investigating an assault reported to have occurred in Poppintree, Ballymun, Dublin at approximately 11:45 pm on Friday, 1st August 2025. A man, aged in his 40s, was brought to Beaumont Hospital for treatment of non-life-threatening injury. Investigations are ongoing,” the spokesperson said.

The incident followed an Indian Embassy advisory, also issued on Friday, expressing safety concerns following recent attacks against Indians in and around the Dublin area and urging Indian citizens to take safety precautions.

2.7-magnitude earthquake shakes New Jersey

AGENCIES
NEW JERSEY

A 2.7-magnitude earthquake struck near Hillsdale, New Jersey, on Tuesday at 12:11 p.m., according to a preliminary report from the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). The quake was centred approximately two kilometres southwest of Hillsdale at a depth of 12.4 kilometres (7.7 miles). Residents in parts of New Jersey and New York City reported feeling the tremor, though no injuries or damage have been reported.

This marks the second small earthquake to hit the New York metropolitan area in recent days.

On Saturday night, a 3.0-magnitude quake rattled the region,

with its epicenter near Hasbrouck Heights, New Jersey—about 13.5 miles from Hillsdale.

That tremor, recorded at a depth of 10 kilometres (6.2 miles), was felt across New York City and surrounding areas. Some described it as a brief swaying, and the Empire State Building’s official X account reassured the public with a playful message: “I AM FINE.”

Both quakes were attributed to shallow faulting in the Earth’s crust. While mild, such seismic activity is relatively uncommon in the northeastern U.S. and has sparked renewed interest in the region’s fault lines.

No major impacts or injuries have been reported from either quake.



Crows perch on a park bench as a dense fog all but obscures the city skyline behind them, Sydney, Australia.

Russia defends India’s right to select trade partners

AGENCIES
MOSCOW

Russia on Tuesday said sovereign countries have the right to select their partners in trade and economic cooperation based on their interests, a day after President Donald Trump threatened to “substantially” raise US tariffs on India for buying Russian oil.

“We believe that sovereign countries must have and do have the right to choose their trade partners, the partners in trade and economic cooperation, on their own and independently determine those modes of trade and economic cooperation that suit the interests of a country in question,” Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov told journalists, commenting on the US’ threats regarding India.

President Trump on Monday said he will “substantially” raise US tariffs on India, accusing it of buying massive amounts of



Russian oil and selling it for big profits.

Hours later, India mounted an unusually sharp counterattack on the US and the European Union for their “unjustified and unreasonable” targeting of New Delhi for its procurement of Russian crude oil.

Firmly rejecting the criticism, India pointed out the double standards in targeting it on the issue and said both the US and the EU are continuing their trade relations with Russia.

“Unlike our case, such trade is not even a vital national compulsion,” the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said in a statement.

The Europe-Russia trade includes not just energy, but also fertilizers, mining products, chemicals, iron and steel, and machinery and transport equipment, the MEA said.

“Where the US is concerned, it continues to import from Russia uranium hexafluoride for its nuclear industry, palladium for its EV industry, fertilizers as well as chemicals,” it added.

“In this background, the targeting of India is unjustified and unreasonable. Like any major economy, India will take all necessary measures to safeguard its national interests and economic security,” the MEA said.

I WILL ALWAYS STAND WITH THE CREATOR OF THE FILM: FARHAN AKHTAR

AGENCIES
MUMBAI

Filmmaker-actor Farhan Akhtar on Tuesday said though he does not know much about what went into the AI-altered re-release of "Raanjhanaa", his loyalty will always be with the creator of the film.

Both director Anand L Rai and Dhanush, who made his Hindi cinema debut with the 2013 movie, have spoken out against production banner Eros International's decision to create an alternate "happy ending" for the movie through the help of artificial intelligence.

Akhtar was asked about



the controversy during the teaser launch of his upcoming film "120 Bahadur".

Akhtar was asked about the controversy during the teaser launch of his upcoming film "120 Bahadur".

"I will always stand with

the creator of the film and the creator of the film was unhappy about his or her work being changed, I will always support the creator. So that's where my loyalty lies. The rest of the fine print of what happened there, I

have no , but that's all I can say," Akhtar told reporters here.

Excel entertainment's Ritesh Sidhwani echoed Akhtar's thoughts.

"I absolutely agree to the fact that you can't do it without the consent," Sidhwani said. He also added that AI should be used smartly to the film's advantage.

Akhtar will be essaying the role of Param Vir Chakra awardee Major Shaitan Singh Bhati in "120 Bahadur". The war drama is directed by Razneesh Ghai and produced by Sidhwani and Akhtar via their Excel Entertainment and Amit Chandrra of Trigger Happy Studios.

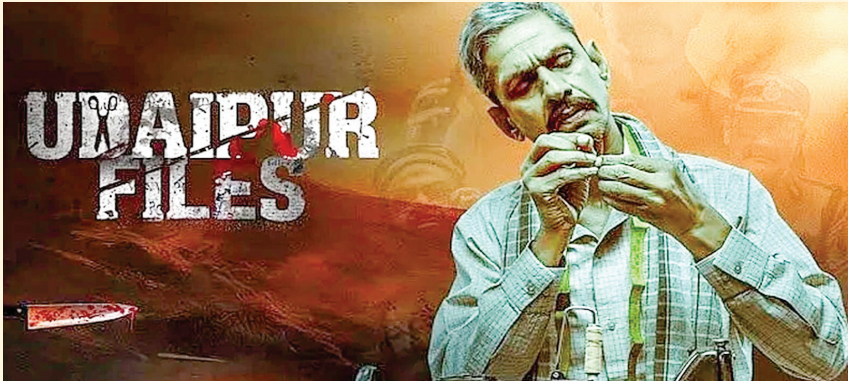
'Udaipur Files' producer discusses film's release with officials

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Amid the growing controversy surrounding the release of 'Udaipur Files', the film's producer, Amit Jani, said he had met with officials on August 4 and hoped for the release of the film soon.

Speaking to ANI, Jani said, "We came before when Mohd. Javed and Maulana Arshad Madani filed their petitions and presented their cases, and now we meet again. We hope that the government can make a positive decision and we can release the film."

The producer stated that his team is ready to agree with the government's decision, adding, "We even added the cuts as suggested earlier. We believe in the



government and had no problems."

On being asked if the release of 'Udaipur Files' will be delayed, Jani said that the original plans for the film's theatrical opening have been scheduled for August 8, 2025. "If the government permits us to go ahead, it will come out on August 8," he said.

The film producer shared that the discussions with the officials were held on Section 6 of the Cinematograph Act, 1952. "They shared the government's points on the matter, and we have given our response," the producer stated.

According to the Information and Broadcasting Ministry, Section 6 allows

the government to cancel the certification of a film by the Censor Board and suspend its exhibition.

The Additional Solicitor General (ASG) informed the Delhi High Court on Friday that the Central Government has decided to withdraw its directive recommending six cuts in the film 'Udaipur Files'.

Ajay has this hilarious birthday wish for his 'favourite' Kajol

AGENCIES
MUMBAI

Bollywood actress Kajol turned a year older on Tuesday, receiving an outpouring of wishes from her family and friends. The latest to join the bandwagon is her husband, actor Ajay Devgn. The 'Singham' star shared a short yet catchy birthday wish for Kajol, showcasing their playful banter in the post.

"Could say a lot, but you would still roll your eyes. So....happy birthday favourite," he wrote on Instagram.

Ajay also shared two black-and-white pictures of his wife, including one from her early days, as Kajol appears visibly youthful.

He followed it up with a recent snap, capturing the actress in an ethnic ensemble.

Earlier, the couple's eldest kid, daughter Nysa, also shared an adorable wish for her mother: Uploading a picture with Kajol, Nysa wrote, "My mama's birthday."

Meanwhile, many other Bollywood celebrities also extended greetings for Kajol. Kareena Kapoor Khan wrote, "Happy birthday



dearest Kajol...always a laugh riot with you...lots of love always."

Rakul Preet Singh also shared her wishes and added, "Happy Birthday, Kajol Ma'am! May the year ahead unfold gently and bring what you seek from it."

Genelia Deshmukh, who shares her birthday with the 'Maa' star, also wished her "love and happiness."

On the work front, Kajol has been quite busy with her back-to-back releases.

She began with Vishal Furia's fantasy drama, 'Maa', alongside Rohit Roy and Indraneil Sengupta.

The actress was last seen in the JioHotstar film 'Sarzaameen', which premiered on July 25. Directed by Kayoze Irani, the film also featured Prithviraj Sukumaran and Ibrahim Ali Khan.

On the other hand, Ajay Devgn's 'Son of Sardaar 2' recently opened in theatres, receiving a lukewarm response from the audience.

'Malegaon Files' film announced based on 2008 bomb blast

AGENCIES
MUMBAI

A film based on the 2008 Malegaon bomb blast case has been announced and has been titled 'Malegaon Files'.

'My Friend Ganesha' fame director Rajiv S Ruia will be directing the film, which is currently in the pre-production stage. The cast and crew of the movie have not been revealed yet by the makers.

The film will be produced by Sahil Seth under the banner of Cinedust 18 Films



Pvt. Ltd.

According to a press note shared by the makers, the film aims to present a gripping and sensitive portrayal of the 2008 Malegaon bomb

blasts, which shook the nation and led to a long, complicated legal battle.

"This is not just a story about a blast -- it's about what followed. The human stories, the political shadow, the search for truth, and the emotional and legal turmoil faced by the accused and the victims' families. 'Malegaon Files' is our attempt to bring that reality to the screen," director Rajiv S Ruia, said about the film in the press note.

Ruia told ANI that the film is currently in the pre-production stage and will be

shot on real locations.

"Our writer team is in talks. It is a very sensitive subject. Every detail behind it needs to be brought out. Research is going on...99 per cent we will shoot on real locations. We will do recte soon," he said.

According to the press note, the makers stated that the script is being developed with inputs from investigative reports, court documents, and real testimonies to ensure that the narrative remains grounded and respectful.

The film is slated to go on

floors by late 2025, with more details about the cast and shooting schedule expected to be revealed soon.

The Malegaon blast tragedy took place on September 29, 2008 in which six people were killed and 95 others injured when an explosive device strapped to a motorcycle detonated near a mosque in Malegaon City's Bhikku Chowk.

Originally, 11 people were accused in the case; however, the court ultimately framed charges against 7, including former MP Sadhvi Pragya.

Applause Entertainment signs deal to adapt Jeffrey Archer's novels for film, series

AGENCIES
LOS ANGELES

Indian production house, Applause Entertainment, has partnered with famed novelist Jeffrey Archer, signing a landmark deal to secure adaptation rights for the author's bestselling works.

According to Variety, the partnership involves the rights to Archer's "Clifton Chronicles" series of seven novellas, along with other of his standalone titles "The Fourth Estate", "First Among Equals", "The Eleventh Commandment", "Sons of Fortune" and "Heads You Win".

The company, which is the

content arm of Aditya Birla Group, will be involved in the adaptation of the novels into films and TV shows, stated Deadline.

The deal has taken place nearly a year after negotiations, representing a major step for Indian content creation, further marking the

company's first global book acquisition.

Speaking at a press conference, in which Archer also appeared through video link, Applause Entertainment CEO Sameer Nair confirmed that the work will immediately begin on the adaptations.



Lady Gaga to launch 'Dead Dance' song

AGENCIES
LOS ANGELES

Pop sensation Lady Gaga is set to launch a brand-new song in the upcoming Netflix series, 'Wednesday Season 2'. The Jenna Ortega show will premiere on the streaming giant this week.

According to Variety, Lady Gaga will release a song titled "Dead Dance"



in the second season of the show.

The song, along with its music video, is expected to be launched next month, coinciding with her debut appearance on the show as Rosaline Rotwood - "legendary Nevermore teacher who crosses paths with Wednesday."

An official confirmation is yet to be received from the

singer or her team.

The news arrives on the heels of multiple reports that claimed Gaga was spotted with 'Wednesday' director Tim Burton on the Island of the Dolls in Xochimilco, south of Mexico City.

The island is known for being "haunted" and has several decaying dolls hanging from trees and structures.

CIFF 2025 to premiere Bharatbala's 'Aham Bharatam'

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Marking India's 79th Independence Day, Delhi is set to host its biggest cinematic event to date — the Celebrating India Film Festival (CIFF 2025), from August 8 to 10 at NCUI Auditorium, Siri Fort Road. This landmark festival positions Delhi alongside Mumbai and Goa as a major hub for film and culture.

CIFF 2025 will showcase



over 35 curated films and offer a diverse program of screenings, masterclasses, and cultural performances,

centered on themes like environment, heritage, spirituality, patriotism, tourism, and Indian arts.

OXYMORONS LAUNCHES IN HYDERABAD AS THE CITY'S FIRST COCKTAIL LAB



TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Oxymorons is set to redefine Hyderabad's bar culture with its bold vision, inventive mixology, and immersive storytelling. Designed to be more than just a bar, Oxymorons positions itself as a cocktail lab, where every drink is an experiment, every detail a conversation starter, and every visit a

one-of-a-kind experience. Meticulously crafted signature cocktails, Oxymorons challenges the conventional idea of "going out for a drink" by turning each creation into an exploration of flavour, texture, and memory. Each cocktail is clarified, fermented, or fat-washed, appearing crystal-clear yet offering multi-layered, unexpected flavours. Founded by Rehan Guha, a hospitality veteran with



Housed within a historic building, the venue's design merges nostalgia with a modern cinematic aesthetic. Think old-world architectural details paired with surreal red lighting, curved ceilings reminiscent of circus whimsy, and a layout that feels equal parts science lab and Wes Anderson dreamscape.

over 25 years of global experience, Oxymorons is his most personal and experimental venture yet. His vision is to celebrate the art of cocktail-making with depth, originality, and authenticity. "Oxymorons is a study in meaningful dissonance, familiar yet new, polished yet raw, precise yet free-spirited. It's Hyderabad's answer to the global cock-

tail renaissance, blending hometown warmth with a world-class approach," says Rehan Guha, Founder of Oxymorons. Housed within a historic building, the venue's

design merges nostalgia with a modern cinematic aesthetic. Think old-world architectural details paired with surreal red lighting, curved ceilings reminiscent of circus whimsy, and a lay-

out that feels equal parts science lab and Wes Anderson dreamscape. At Oxymorons, bartenders are not merely mixologists but true storytellers, crafting unforgettable experiences with every pour. Here, bold flavours meet innovative techniques, elevated by a sense of artistry that transforms each drink into a narrative of taste and emotion. Every cocktail is a masterful fusion of Indian spices, Japanese precision, and global influences, offering a sensory journey designed to surprise, intrigue, and captivate with every sip. The launch of Oxymorons marks the arrival of a new standard for cocktail culture in Hyderabad. It's not just about drinking; it's about discovering, engaging, and leaving with a memory that lingers. Oxymorons: Where contradictions taste better.

Nourishing the body: Key nutrients to support TB recovery



AMAN PURI

Tuberculosis is an infectious disease caused by the bacterium *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, which spreads through the air when an infected person sneezes or coughs. It primarily impacts the lungs, causing symptoms such as prolonged fever, cough with excess mucus, low immunity, loss of appetite, muscle wasting, and fatigue. One of the biggest challenges during treatment is preventing malnutrition, which often results from a poor appetite and the body's increased energy requirements due to a higher basal metabolic rate during infection. Since TB involves treatment with antibiotics, it is important to take a high-calorie, high-protein diet with adequate amounts of vitamins and minerals. To help the body heal and regain strength, it's essential to focus on key nutrients that support recovery. Here's what patients should prioritise in their diet during TB treatment.

FOCUS ON HEALTHY CARBOHYDRATES

Complex carbohydrates play a key role in TB recovery by providing the body with healthy calories that serve as a source of energy. They're also rich in fibre, which helps regulate blood



glucose levels, thereby preventing sudden energy crashes that can lead to fatigue and weakness. Good sources include whole grains and cereals.

CONSUME A HIGH-PROTEIN DIET

TB tends to damage the tissues, leading to muscle loss due to increased metabolic demands, making protein a key nutrient for enhancing the recovery process. Protein also helps strengthen the immune system to fight the infection. To build and repair damaged tissues, a high-protein diet including dairy products, eggs, fish, chicken, pulses, and beans is necessary to fulfil the protein requirements and promote recovery. Protein supplementation may also be required if dietary intake is inadequate.

ADD HEALTHY FATS

Healthy fats rich in essential fatty acids play an important role in recovery by preventing a calorie deficit and improving energy levels. Good sources include cheese, ghee, olive oil, nuts, seeds, avocado, eggs, and fish — but these should be consumed in moderation only.

Include vitamins

TB tends to damage the tissues, leading to muscle loss due to increased metabolic demands, making protein a key nutrient for enhancing the recovery process. Protein also helps strengthen the immune system to fight the infection.

Micronutrients such as vitamins A, D, C, and the B-complex group play a vital role in the recovery process. These vitamins have antioxidant properties that prevent cell damage and support immune function. Vitamins A and C play an important role in enhancing immunity due to their antioxidant properties. Vitamin D helps regulate immune function and supports muscle and bone health during recovery. B-complex vitamins enhance the body's inflammatory response, prevent cell damage, and maintain a healthy immune system, thereby reducing the chances of infection. Vitamin-rich foods include citrus fruits, leafy green vegetables, and nuts.

DON'T OVERLOOK KEY MINERALS

Minerals like Zinc and sele-

nium, commonly found in nuts and seeds, play a key role in healing the body and strengthening immune function. To comprehensively manage TB, opt for nutrient-dense meals and incorporate fruits and vegetables in the form of shakes, smoothies and soups. Superfoods like turmeric, ginger, garlic, and berries may reduce inflammation. Antibiotics can adversely impact gut health; probiotics can play a supportive role in mitigating these side effects and rebalance gut microbiota. Staying well-hydrated also helps prevent dryness and throat irritation and makes it easier to clear the mucus from the lungs. The author is Founder, Steadfast Nutrition, a leading sports and wellness nutrition brand

METABOLIC HEALTH MYTHS: CAN SUPPLEMENTS REALLY HELP WITH WEIGHT & ENERGY?

SUNIL KUMAR JAIN
NEW DELHI

Each Monday you tell yourself that this week you will be healthier. However, most people struggle with back to back meetings, missing lunch, night-time snacking, and no time to exercise, and the cycle continues. By Friday you are tired, swollen and living off caffeine. The weekend guilt sets in, and the following week once again, same like before. Though we know that we can attribute it to stress or habit, the thing being silently overlooked in this is that of your intra body engine: metabolic health.

MORE THAN JUST A "CALORIE BRNER"

Whenever one hears the word metabolism, the concept of burning carbohydrates and calories comes to mind. The truth is that metabolic health is what is happening to your food and converting it into energy, keeping your blood sugar normal, balancing your hormones, and distributing fat. It affects the way you feel, think, sleep, and yes, the tendency to lose, or to gain, weight. Advent grows to nibble your metabolism with the help of today's unpredictable schedules, processed food, deficit of movement, and constant stress. You can be eating what you consider as your healthy food yet the body may not be working to its optimum capacity.

THE TRUTH ABOUT SUPPLEMENTS

When your body systems are strained and you have low energy, poor digestion, and clingy weight, supplements may come along as a mighty ally. B-complex, CoQ10, magnesium and chromium are



nutrients that aid energy, insulin activity and balance of cells. Adaptogens such as Ashwagandha and Ginseng or Garcinia and Green Tea Extract can solve fatigue that occurs as a result of daily stresses, whereas fat metabolism provides gentle support. They are not supplements to a healthy lifestyle, but in combination with good habits, the correct supplements have the power to reinforce your body to perform, heal, and remain well-balanced.

4 INDIAN BRANDS SUPPORTING METABOLIC WELLNESS

Indian wellness brands these days have well-researched supplements with metabolism and energy as their focus. The following four alternatives are presented and each has its own approach:

Imemyself MetaBoost Vegetarian based blend of Garcinia, Green Tea and L-Carnitine that assist in regulating the appetite, enhancing energy and boosting metabolism without using hard stimulants. **Cureveda Metabolix** Ayurvedic combination of Guggulu, and Gudmar, which is aimed at sugar processing and natural fats management. **Setu Gluco Balance** Blends chromium and cinnamon extract to regulate sugar levels in the blood and avoid the outage of energy levels in the middle of the day. **Free Juice Dia Kapiva** An ancient combination of Karela and Jamun which helps in glucose management and general digestive health.

All of them have specific advantages and none of them

is supposed to solve the problems of healthy nutrition and exercise, but only to enhance your activities. Don't Chase Quick Fixes Build Better Balance This does not happen overnight as far as metabolic health is concerned. It is the product of a steady lifestyle, good eating, rest, exercise, stress management and yes dietary assistance when necessary. Supplements are like covert soldiers: they will not do things in your place but will assist your body in doing what it has been doing. Your body does not require a beating. It requires comprehension, understanding and equilibrium. Because the actual energy is not provided by hacks, as it is provided by healing. The author is Founder, Imemyself



UNDERVALUED SKILLS: WHY DO WE NEED TO BUILD ROCK-SOLID STEM FOUNDATION?



DR. DHRUV GALGOTIA

DeepMind CEO and Nobel laureate Demis Hassabis recently emphasized the importance of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) skills. He has hit the bulls eye with his appeal. Building rock-solid STEM foundational skills is crucial in this AI era. The STEM practice in India has witnessed a peculiar paradox. Disappointing admissions to STEM academics across state-level colleges and universities has raised an uncomfortable question – is a decline a reflection of growing lack of confidence in STEM education?

WE NEED MORE STEM

On one hand, we witness a trend of STEM graduates emerging in large numbers; on the other hand, there are concerns around underemployment and misemployment in core engineering and scientific domains. Recent data from the India Skills Report (2024) notes that only about 50% of Indian graduates are considered employable. A report from Aspiring Minds (now SHL) found that 80% of Indian engineering graduates are unemployable in the knowledge economy owing to several challenges - lack of practical exposure, poor communication skills, and outdated curricula. It is widely believed that automation has made many traditional STEM roles redundant, while others point to tech layoffs even at elite firms. Then, students are greeted with social messages where even engineering toppers are working in unrelated domains. Such visible

contradictions somehow tend to fuel the belief that, probably, STEM no longer guarantees upward mobility. This interpretation may seem emotionally valid, it is still intellectually incomplete. Now is the right time that a developing economy like ours focus and even double-up on STEM skills. **MOVE BEYOND A TEMPLATE** The recent experience of an IT company's hiring of 450 jobs for coders is a greater reflection that suggests why we need to focus on core skills. 12,000 candidates applied for 450 jobs. Unfortunately, not a single candidate could be hired because most of them relied on an AI tool for a code rather than to apply their mind to solve a business problem. Many students are tempted to quick fixes which a solid foundation in STEM can resolve. At its core, STEM is about understanding systems. These could be biological, physical, informational, or even mechanical. For example, an understanding of STEM could empower a student to investigate more about the algorithm that powers ChatGPT than to just rely on it for ready-made answers. Naturally, STEM is foundational to real core innovation. Take a look at Demis Hassabis. He holds a PhD in cognitive neuroscience but it is his scientific understanding that enables him to utilise data into the AlphaFold project. That project solved the complex problem of protein-folding. This was not only a feat for



ample, an understanding of STEM could empower a student to investigate more about the algorithm that powers ChatGPT than to just rely on it for ready-made answers. Naturally, STEM is foundational to real core innovation. Take a look at Demis Hassabis. He holds a PhD in cognitive neuroscience but it is his scientific understanding that enables him to utilise data into the AlphaFold project. That project solved the complex problem of protein-folding. This was not only a feat for

skills is the teachings can seem siloed - disconnected from application. A good solution would be in reimagining STEM education as systems education. One that focuses on strong industry interface, modern lab access, and inter-disciplinary projects. **A ONE OF ITS KIND INITIATIVES** Active Learning Space, at Galgotias helped shift our traditional classrooms into lively hub. The Singapore University has shown benefits from Active Learning, and so does Galgotias University. Such hubs are avenues where not only are ideas exchanged but the silos too can be bridged. Aligned with National Education Policy, the idea of Active Learning cuts across technology, human interaction, and even interdisciplinary approaches to redefine classroom learning. The rise of AI has stoked fear about large-scale job unemployment and redundancy. While such a fear is

not misplaced, it overlooks the full picture. A viable AI model may actually amplify value to those who understand the science and the art behind such systems. For instance, Generative AI could write code, but can we get it to validate complex simulations in aerospace engineering without human supervision? Probably not. Those are aspects that yet need human involvement. Just like Demis Hassabis, scientists such as Dr. Fei-Fei Li at Stanford or many Indian AI researchers across reputed institutions continue to argue that a STEM education is the basic epistemic framework necessary to question AI outputs and for further improvement. STEM education is crucial in domains like climate modeling, space research, biomedical sciences, and national security where errors have real-world consequences. AI is a multiplier, not a replacement. The demand will shift away from rote coding and toward al-

gorithm design, mathematical modeling, and systems integration. **BUILDING SCIENTIFIC TEMPER** STEM or education as a matter of fact has been perceived as a job conduit. But a good fundamental base is a country's defence against rising pseudoscience, misinformation, and even ideological extremism. If properly delivered, STEM can create a culture of inquiry, falsifiability, and evidence. These are non-negotiables in a society trying to modernize without fracturing itself. In India, initiatives like the Atal Innovation Mission or the National Research Foundation have great propensity to succeed, if the STEM pipeline remains robust. I am confident. That, armed with AI, our next generation will reinvent and even create champions to solve the bigger problems of the world. *The author is CEO, Galgotias University*

Ethical use of AI tools by students and teachers



DR. SARITA JAIN

The integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) into education is redefining how students learn and how teachers teach. From automated assessments and adaptive learning platforms to generative applications that can draft essays or lesson plans, AI is reshaping the academic landscape. These technologies hold remarkable potential for improving efficiency and personalizing learning, yet they also raise profound ethical concerns. Balancing innovation with responsibility has therefore become a pressing priority for educational institutions in India and across the world. Global Perspectives and Ethical Frameworks Internationally, efforts to govern the ethical use of AI in education are gaining momentum. UNESCO's Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial

Intelligence and the European Union's AI Act are early attempts to articulate principles of transparency, accountability, and fairness. Leading universities in the United States, the United Kingdom, and Australia have revised their academic conduct codes to include provisions for AI use. Some institutions now require students to disclose when they use AI for assignments, while others have incorporated AI literacy and ethics training into their curricula. These initiatives reflect a growing awareness that unregulated use of generative tools may undermine academic integrity, particularly when students rely on them for essays, coding tasks, or research summaries. The Indian Context: Opportunities and Challenges India presents a unique and complex scenario. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 encourages the integration of AI to enhance personalized learning, develop assistive technologies for differently abled students, and strengthen digital infrastructure. Government initiatives like PM eVIDYA, SWAYAM, and DIKSHA have already expanded ac-



cess to technology-enabled learning. Yet, the adoption of AI in Indian education is uneven. Students in urban and elite institutions often use tools such as ChatGPT or Grammarly, while rural and semi-urban institutions face significant barriers of access and awareness. This digital divide creates a dual challenge: unequal opportunities and the absence of uniform ethical guidelines. Moreover, most teacher training programs in India have yet to incorporate AI ethics modules, leaving educators underprepared to guide or regulate students' use of these technologies. Policy Imperatives and Institutional Responsibilities For AI to be integrated responsibly into Indian edu-

EQUITY AND ACCESS

Policies should account for India's digital divide by ensuring equitable access to AI tools and preventing ethical regulations from unintentionally deepening socio-economic disparities. **INSTITUTIONAL OVERSIGHT** Universities and colleges can constitute ethics committees or digital integrity boards to oversee AI use, handle cases of misuse, and update policies as technologies evolve. **CONCLUSION** AI has become an inescapable part of the modern educational ecosystem. Its ethical management is no longer optional but essential to preserving the credibility and values of academic institutions. India, in alignment with global practices, must adopt policies that are both forward-looking and grounded in educational integrity. By combining clear guidelines, inclusive access, and ongoing ethical training, institutions can harness the transformative potential of AI without compromising the timeless principles of learning. *The author is a Professor, Dept. of English Govt. College Chaksu, Jaipur.)*

INDIAN STUDENTS ARE CHOOSING TARGETED JOB PREP OVER BOARD ACADEMIC UPSKILLING

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Indian students are rethinking how they prepare for their careers. The long-standing focus on broad academic degrees is giving way to a more focused and deliberate push toward job-specific training. With the job market becoming less predictable and technology rapidly changing the nature of work, young professionals are beginning to see that general academic learning may no longer be enough. They are leaning instead toward practical, result-driven programs that offer a clearer path to employment. This shift is not just about reacting to economic pressures—it reflects a more grounded and clear-eyed understanding among students of the competitive reality they are stepping into. Confidence in Decline A growing number of students are unsure about the value of traditional education. The Unstop Talent Report 2024 shows that half of the students surveyed doubt they will find work in their preferred field. This signals a deeper lack of faith



in academic systems that often fail to connect with actual job roles. To bridge this gap, students are turning to bootcamps, online certifications, and specific training programs designed around industry needs. They want learning that is fast, focused, and directly relevant rather than broad and abstract. They are choosing what works in the real world over what looks good on paper. **EMPLOYERS DEMAND SKILLS** The bar for hiring has been raised. A PwC report notes that more than three-fourths of Indian CEOs see a lack of skilled talent as a key barrier to business growth. This mismatch between what employers want and what graduates offer has forced students to take the lead in closing that gap. Employers are look-

ing for people who can step in and perform from the start—not those who need months of training. That is why job prep platforms offering hands-on projects, role-based training, mock interviews, and industry certifications are gaining traction. These focused offerings help students build job-ready skills that match what companies are actively looking for. **AUTOMATION RAISES STAKES** The pressure is only growing. The World Economic Forum warns that automation could wipe out over 80 million jobs while creating 70 million new ones. Indian students are paying attention. They understand that tomorrow's careers will need new combinations of skills, many of them technical and cross-disciplinary. That is why learning areas like AI, data analysis, digital marketing, and coding are seeing high interest. In a world where adaptability will decide who succeeds, targeted job prep is no longer optional. Students are not rejecting academics—they are reshaping their education to stay future-ready.

Historical evolution of indigenous knowledge systems and practices



PROF. PUNEET KUMAR

Indigenous Knowledge Systems and Practices (IKSP) represent a network of knowledge, beliefs and traditions intended to communicate and contextualise the Indigenous relationships with culture and landscape over time. It is holistic, geographically and culturally context-specific, dynamic, unorganised and adaptive, transmitted through oral traditions and narratives woven

into the ordinary practices of daily existence. From the earliest human civilisations, communities across continents have developed sophisticated knowledge traditions. Long before the emergence of an organised scientific methodology, Indigenous communities innovated creatively in fields like agriculture, water conservation, medicine, architecture, etc. This came in response to the variety of daily problems they faced. They didn't rely on a one-size-fits-all approach. For Instance, in Africa, communities such as the Maasai and the San people employed rotational grazing, ensuring sustainable use of grasslands. In the Americas, the Maya and Incas engineered complex irrigation and terracing

systems that maintained soil health and supported high productivity. In Asia, communities like Apatani and Mao Naga, practising traditional rice cultivation in India, displayed a nuanced understanding of hydrology, ecological balance and soil fertility. These practices were not compartmentalised but deeply intertwined with local ecosystems. Unlike modern scientific knowledge, which often emphasises specialised learning, IKSP is rooted in the understanding that human beings are an integral part of nature, not separate from it. This principle of interdependence shapes the foundational philosophy of the Indigenous communities. The animals, plants, rivers and ecosystems are believed



to possess intrinsic value and a right to exist. Humans, while using nature's resources for sustenance, must also take responsibility for their regeneration and balance. Thus, the human-nature interactions are guided by reverence and coexistence,

not extraction and control. However, the process of colonisation led to the systematic marginalisation of these knowledge systems. Indigenous knowledge was labelled as primitive or superstitious and systematically erased from formal ed-

ucation and policy-making. The dominance of Western cultural practices and modern scientific paradigms contributed to the erosion of traditional knowledge transmission. Industrial farming, large-scale dam projects and Western medicinal practices displaced indigenous approaches in agriculture, water management and healing. In India, the post-independence focus on scientific and industrial development sidelined community knowledge in textiles, architecture and common property resource management. For example, focusing on indigenous water management, Anil Aggarwal and Sunita Narain documented in their landmark work, *Dying Wisdom: Rise, Fall and Potential of India's Traditional*

Water Harvesting Systems, the diversity of water practices across Indian geographies. From Kundis and Johads in Rajasthan to Kuhl in Himachal Pradesh, these systems demonstrated context-specific, ecologically sound and cost-effective community-led water conservation. They succeeded in delivering water even in the scariest rainfall zones, which is a living testament to their relevance and resilience. Today, in the face of environmental degradation and climate change, there is a renewed recognition of the value of IKSP. The researchers and policymakers acknowledge that Indigenous communities have long practised sustainability, often in ways that modern science is only beginning to under-

stand. These knowledge traditions offer not only practical solutions but also an alternative worldview prioritising sustainability over exploitation and coexistence over dominance. The collaborative efforts that integrate IKSP with modern scientific approaches can open new pathways. While scientific knowledge brings precision and scalability, indigenous wisdom offers long-term, eco-sensitive perspectives. The revitalisation of the IKSP is thus both an ethical obligation and a necessity for building resilient societies. *Assistant Professor at the School of Creative Practices and Entrepreneurship and Coordinator, Centre for Indigenous Knowledge Systems and Practices, Anant National University*

7 INDIAN BOXERS ASSURED OF MEDALS AT U19 ASIAN BOXING CHAMPIONSHIPS

AGENCIES
BANGKOK

Indian boxers continued their march towards a significant medal count at the U19 and U22 Asian Boxing Championships with seven women pugilists assuring themselves of a podium finish here on Tuesday.

Competing in the U-19 category, Yakshika (51kg), Nisha (54kg), Muskan (57kg), Vini (60kg), Nisha (65kg), Akansha Phalaswal (70kg) and Aarti Kumari (75kg) reached the semifinals of their respective weight classes.

India is already assured of over a dozen medals in the U22 category and the contingent will be looking to bag as many gold medals as possible in the business end of the competition.

Yakshika began India's march in the last four stage with a hard-fought 3:2 split decision victory in the 51kg bout over Mukhtasar Alieva of Uzbekistan before Nisha showed her attacking prowess to force the referee to stop the bout against Milana Shikhshabekova of Kyrgyzstan in the 54kg contest.

Muskan then came to the party and earned a unanimous decision against Robiya Ravshanova of Uzbekistan in the 57kg quarterfinals and Vini then forced the referee to stop the bout in



Suman Kumari was the only Indian boxer to miss out as she went down 2:3 in a very close contest against Maftuna Musurmonova of Uzbekistan in the 48kg category.

the very first round with a flurry of punches to knock out Adelia Aslybek Kyzy of Kyrgyzstan.

In the evening session, Nisha was the first to add another medal to India's growing tally as she dominated the three rounds against Yu-En Li of Chinese Taipei

for a unanimous verdict in the 65kg quarterfinals.

Akansha then packed off Enkhgerel Gerelmunkh of Mongolia in the very first round in the 70kg bout to force a RSC before Aarti wrapped up the day with a 4:1 win over Zarina Tolybai of Kazakhstan.

Suman Kumari was the only Indian boxer to miss out as she went down 2:3 in a very close contest against Maftuna Musurmonova of Uzbekistan in the 48kg category.

India has fielded a strong contingent of 40 boxers — 20 in each age group — with a perfect mix of proven champions and potential talents who have impressed in the domestic circuit.

India were already assured of two medals in the U22 category on Sunday with Bhawna Sharma (women's 48kg) and Yatri Patel (women's 57kg) reaching the semifinals.

In the evening session, Neeraj continued India's march as he battered Chinese Taipei's Jun-Zhang Lin 5:0 to advance to the semifinals.

Rockey Choudhary then made it five for the day as he played a smart tactical bout to beat Kazakhstan's Azatbek Zholdaskhan 4:1.

And Ishan Kataria underlined India's domination as referee stopped his fight against Seyedyousef Mousavi of Iran to reach the last four stage.

Among the seven Indians in action on Monday, only Sagar suffered a reversal in the men's 55kg quarterfinal.

Djokovic withdraws from Cincinnati Open, heads to US Open unprepared

AGENCIES
CINCINNATI

Novak Djokovic pulled out of the Cincinnati Open on Monday for what officially was listed as a "non-medical" reason, meaning he will head to the U.S. Open without having played a match in about 11/2 months.

The 24-time Grand Slam champion hasn't competed since losing in the Wimbledon semifinals to eventual champion Jannik Sinner on July 11.

That straight-set defeat against Sinner at the All England Club came two days after the 38-year-old Djokovic took what he described as a "nasty" and "awkward" fall in the last game of his quarterfinal victory. Djokovic clearly was compromised against Sinner and unable to move at his best; he received treatment on his upper left leg from a trainer.

Djokovic's withdrawal from Cincinnati follows his decision to sit out the Toron-

to Masters that concludes this week. He cited a groin injury for that absence.

His previous event before Wimbledon was the French Open, where he also lost to Sinner in the semifinals.

Djokovic will have no hard-court tournament preparation before the U.S. Open singles competition begins on Aug. 24.

He has won four championships at Flushing Meadows, most recently in 2023. That was also his most recent Grand Slam trophy.

Women's Speed Chess Championship 2025: Vaishali knocked out in opening round

AGENCIES
CHENNAI

Indian GM R. Vaishali was eliminated from the Women's Speed Chess Championship 2025 after losing to American IM Alice Lee in the opening round on Monday.

Lee came from behind to beat Vaishali 8-6 to progress to the quarterfinals. Divya Deshmukh, fresh off her historic FIDE World Cup triumph and consequently becoming a Grandmaster, is the other Indian in the field. The 19-year-old Divya faces Chinese GM Lei Tingjie in her first-round clash on August 11.

The online event is a single-elimination bracket featuring 16 players. While eight are qualifiers, eight have been directly invited. The total prize money is USD 75,000, with the winner set to take home USD 7,000.

All matches consist of three segments. In the opening round and the quarterfinals, the players play 5+1 games (time control of 5 minutes with an increment

of one second per move) for 45 minutes followed 3+1 games for 30 minutes and finally, 1+1 games for 15 minutes. In the semifinals and the finals, the remaining competitors play 5+1 games



for 75 minutes followed by 3+1 games for 50 minutes and finally, 1+1 games for 25 minutes.

Winning a game gives one point while a draw means both players get 0.5 point each. The player with the most points at the end of the final segment wins the match.

Vaishali dominated the 5+1 segment as she led 3.5-0.5 courtesy three wins and a draw. However, Lee bounced back in the 3+1 segment. After a draw, she won four games on the trot. She also triumphed in the last segment by a 3-2 scoreline to seal the victory.



Junior Women Nationals: MP, Haryana, Jharkhand, Odisha win pool matches

AGENCIES
KAKINADA

Hockey Madhya Pradesh, Hockey Haryana, Hockey Jharkhand and Hockey Association of Odisha won their respective pool matches of the Junior Women's National Championship here on Tuesday.

In the first Division 'A' match, Hockey Madhya Pradesh defeated Hockey Chandigarh 5-0. Krishna Sharma (36', 45') scored two goals whereas Kajal (29'), Aayushi Patel (50'), and Annu (58') netted one each.

In the next match, Hockey Haryana defeated Hockey Bengal 7-1.

While Hockey Jharkhand



defeated Hockey Karnataka 2-0 in a closely contested penultimate match of the day, the final match saw Hockey Association of Odisha defeat Hockey Andhra

Pradesh 3-1.

In the Division 'B' games, Uttarakhand thrashed Puducherry 11-0 while Tamil Nadu and Delhi played out a 3-3 draw.

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

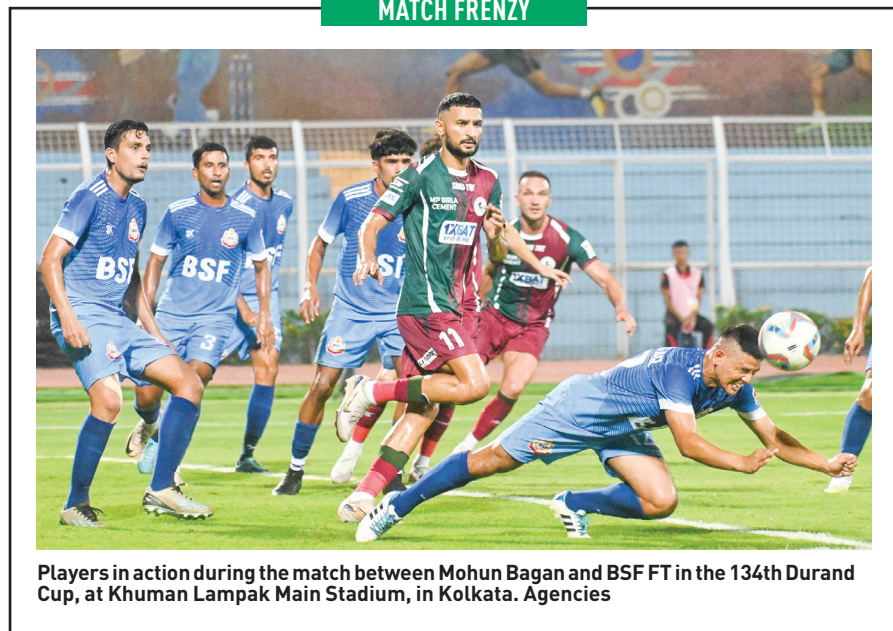
The National Esports Championships (NESC) 2025 concluded on July 27 with an electrifying Street Fighter 6 (Boys) finale, where India's top under-18 talent, Mandalapu Sreesanth, delivered a commanding performance.

Facing off against formidable opponent Ansil Nalakath Abbas, Mandalapu clinched a decisive 3-0 sweep in the best-of-five series, sealing his position as the main player to represent India at the 3rd Asian Youth Games (AYG) in Bahrain from October 22-31, 2025. Ansil will join the contingent as the official substitute for the event,



as per a press release from the ESports Federation of India (ESFI).

A seasoned competitor with over four years of professional esports experience, Mandalapu is widely regarded as India's number-one 1 ranked under-18 Street Fighter 6 player. His decorated track record includes winning the Versus Cup 2024 and emerging as the Khelo India Youth Games



Players in action during the match between Mohun Bagan and BSF FT in the 134th Durand Cup, at Khuman Lampak Main Stadium, in Kolkata. Agencies

People will come and go but team's culture should always be about improvement: Gambhir

AGENCIES
LONDON

India head coach Gautam Gambhir has emphasised on building a strong team culture comprising qualities of hard work and improvement, one that should attract players even as the personnel keeps changing over time.

Gambhir conveyed his thoughts in a short dressing room speech after India secured a memorable 2-2 draw against England for the Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy on Monday, fighting tooth and nail over the course of five Tests.

"The way this series has panned out, 2-2, is an outstanding result. Congratulations to everyone," Gambhir said in a video shared by BCCI.

"Remember, we will keep getting better. We will keep working hard. We will keep improving our areas because if we keep doing that, we can dominate cricket for a very long time."

"People will come and go but the culture of the dressing room should always be like that (that) people want to be a part of this culture.



The gathering also saw all-rounder Washington Sundar being given the 'Impact Player of the Series' award, handed to him by senior player Ravindra Jadeja.

That is what we want to create," added Gambhir, after India averted a possible third consecutive series loss.

Two consecutive series losses to New Zealand and Australia had forced India into a transition period as a young side under Shubman Gill took on England.

He continued, "Good luck, enjoy yourself. You can take a couple of days off and you deserve every bit of it. What you guys have achieved, you

deserve every bit of it."

The gathering also saw all-rounder Washington Sundar being given the 'Impact Player of the Series' award, handed to him by senior player Ravindra Jadeja.

Washington said, "It is a great blessing to be playing four games on the trot in a place like England. (I) always wanted to do well here and as a team, just the way we went about every single day, it was amazing."

Kanataka wins 41st sub-junior nationals; Athoiba Singh, Purvi Naik shine

AGENCIES
BENGALURU

Karnataka emerged overall champions in the 41st Sub-Junior National Swimming Championships, securing 104 points here on Tuesday. Manipur were the runners-up with 81 points, even as Koijam Athoiba Singh from the state was adjudged the best male swimmer with 28 points.

The corresponding award in the girls' section went to Goa's Purvi Ritesh Naik with 19 points.

Athoiba Singh shone on the final day of the swimming competition, winning

Hemanshu ended second at 59.75s and he was joined on the podium by A P Arya Sathar from Tamil Nadu (1:00.79s).

the 100m freestyle gold.

The event saw the lead change between Athoiba Singh and Hemanshu Nakhapam but Hemanshu was unable to keep up with the former, who touched the pads first at 58.59 seconds.

Hemanshu ended second at 59.75s and he was joined on the podium by A P Arya Sathar from Tamil Nadu (1:00.79s).

In the girls' 100m, freestyle, Karnataka's Stuti Singh, Maharashtra's Amatullah Dholkawala and Purvi went head to head.

But halfway through, Stuti and Purvi made it a two-horse race with Purvi clinching the top spot with a time of 1:04.40, followed by Stuti with 1:04.49 and Amatullah with 1:05.30.

Sreesanth dominates 'Street Fighter 6' finale

Excited to represent India, winner of the Street Fighter 6 tournament, Mandalapu Sreesanth, said: "I am truly honoured to have secured first place in Street Fighter 6 at the NESC 2025 and earned the chance to represent India at the upcoming Asian Youth Games. This win is not just a personal milestone but also a reflection of the discipline, dedication, and countless hours of practice over the past months."

"As I prepare for the AYG, my focus is on studying high-level international gameplay, refining my fundamentals, sharpening my reaction time, and deepening my matchup knowledge.

I've been training with top-ranked players to strengthen both my competitive mindset and in-game adaptability. My ultimate goal is to make the country proud and bring home a medal. The journey has only just begun, and I'm committed to giving it my absolute best," he added.

Looking ahead to the tournament, Ansil Nalakath Abbas said, "I'm grateful to the Esports Federation of India for giving me this opportunity. Representing my country is always a matter of immense pride. From the final match, I have identified key areas for improvement, and I'll be working tirelessly in the days ahead to strengthen my gameplay."