



NIFTY 50	BSE SENSEX	Bitcoin INR	NIFTY FINANCIAL SERVICES	NIFTY BANK
24,967.75 ▲	81,635.91 ▲	9,836,040.15 ▼	26,306.90 ▼	55,139.30 ▼
+97.65 (+0.39%)	+329.05 (+0.40%)	-72,192.64 (-0.73%)	-10.15 (-0.04%)	-10.10 (-0.02%)

\$1 (USD)	€1 (EURO)	Gold (24k) 10gm	Silver (1 Kg)	Petrol/L	Diesel/L	LPG/14.2Kg
₹87.56 ▼	₹102.16 ▼	₹109,074.00 ▲	₹116,520.00 ▲	₹94.77	₹87.67	₹853.00
+0.23 (+0.27%)	+0.75 (+0.74%)	+332.20 (0.31%)	+197.00 (+0.09%)			

IREDA signs performance-based MoU with MNRE

New Delhi, Aug 25 (Representative)

Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA) today signed a performance-based Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) outlining certain targets for FY 2025-26. The MoU was signed by Santosh Kumar Sarangi, secretary, MNRE, and Pradip Kumar Das, CMD, IREDA. Senior officials of both MNRE and IREDA were present. The MoU includes certain key performance parameters for measuring performance such as Return on Net Worth, Return on Capital Employed, NPA to Total Loans, Asset Turnover Ratio, EBITDA, and others. “With the hope for continuing excellent performance for this year also, we are committed to sustaining our track record of excellence. IREDA has earned an ‘Excellent’ rating in MoU performance for the four consecutive years since” **Cont. to Page-2**

Govt. e-Marketplace crosses mark of Rs 15 Lakh cr since its inception in 2016

New Delhi, Aug 25 (FN Representative)

The Government e-Marketplace (GeM) has crossed a milestone of Rs 15 lakh crore in cumulative Gross Merchandise Value (GMV) since its inception in 2016. A ‘Gross Merchandise Value (GMV)’ refers to the total value of all goods and services sold by an e-commerce platform or a marketplace over a specific period, such as a quarter or year, before any deductions for fees, costs, or returns. The remarkable performance of GeM highlights the efficient and inclusive public procurement ecosystem. Mihir Kumar, CEO, GeM, said, “ Crossing the Rs 15 lakh crore GMV milestone is a testimony to the trust our stakeholders have placed in GeM. This success belongs to the lakhs of sellers and buyers who have transformed the way public procurement is carried out in India. Our focus will continue to be on deepening inclusivity, simplifying processes, and fostering innovation so that opportunities reach every corner” **Cont. to Page-2**

Revised Model Concession Agreement to be issued soon by Ministry of Ports, Shipping

Chennai / New Delhi, Aug 25 (FN Reporter)

The Indian Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways will soon issue a Model Concession Agreement (MCA) after incorporating the changes suggested by the stakeholders for the Projects, Schemes & Public-Private-Partnerships (PSPPP), a top official said today. Speaking to the media here T.K.Ramachandran, the departmental Secretary said: “We will shortly issue a

Model Concession Agreement (MCA) after incorporating the suggestions.” He also said, the tariff will be fixed, taking into account the stakeholders’ views and the adjudication will be done faster. The government has set up a special cell called PSPPP project cell to understand the practical problems faced in implementing the PPP projects, said Sunil Paliwal, Chairman, Chennai Port Authority. Ramachandran said several such cells formed last year have been working well in looking into the

various issues and suggesting measures. They were speaking at the road show event held here



for the upcoming India Maritime Week 2025 to be held in Mumbai between October 27-31. Queried about the outcome of the ASEAN-India Cruise Dialogue held

at Mahabalipuram near here, Ramachandran said the focus of that meeting was on promoting cruise tourism between nearby countries and the aim was to start a Bay of Bengal cruise to link ASEAN countries and several countries have agreed upon a common framework. Paliwal said there is good demand for cruise tourism and cited the Cordelia Cruise, which initially began operating cruises in India on the Western and Eastern coasts, and has now gone international. According to Paliwal, Cordelia

Cruise is planning to add one more cruise ship to its fleet and have it berthed at Chennai while the other one will be berthed on the western coast. He also said plans are being worked out to have cruise tourism between Rameswaram and Kanniyakumari in Tamil Nadu. Queried about the expansion plans of Chennai Port, Paliwal said the port’s investments are towards refurbishing its existing facilities while new infrastructure facilities will be done at the Kamarajar Port, also in Chennai. Paliwal said the port is **Cont. to Page-2**

‘Ongoing deglobalisation has made Atmanirbhar Bharat mission more important ever,’: IT Min

New Delhi, Aug 25 (Mayank Nigam)

Minister of Communications and Rural Development Chandra Sekhar Pemmasani today said that the current ‘deglobalisation’ has made the initiative of Atmanirbhar Bharat (Self-reliant India) more important than ever. ‘Deglobalisation’ refers to the process of a nation or a group of nations in which they reduce their economic interdependence and integration with other countries. He was speaking at the 42nd foundation day celebration of the state run Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT), which became the world’s fifth enterprise to have 4G and

5G services simultaneously. Stressing the importance of becoming Atmanirbhar or self-reliant in 4G and 5G, he highlighted the deployment of



nearly one lakh BSNL towers which are performing exceptionally well. The minister highlighted the C-DOT’s contribution in tech transformation and stated the journey from 2G, 4G, 5G to quantum secure communications. “Funding, passion, and culture are the basics of any organizational success,” the Minister added, pointing towards the continued commitment of C-DOT towards telecom. Multiple dignitaries exchanged their insights on emerging fields, including 6G, artificial intelligence, cyber security, and quantum technologies. Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan was launched with an aim to promote Indian goods in the global supply chain markets.

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Rojgar Mahakumbh 2025: UP set to host hundreds of firms, unlocking job

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Overthinking Leaves India Mentally Drained

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Education Min. charts 25-year roadmap for inclusive, research-driven IITs

World Pg-6

SpaceX postpones Starship test flight over ground system issue

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India U17 women slam eight past Bhutan

Travel Pg-8

India's Healing Traditions Draw Global Travellers

India, Japan strengthen energy cooperation through Ministerial Dialogue

New Delhi, Aug 25 (Agency)

India and Japan today reaffirmed commitment to Energy Security and Inclusive growth and agreed to expand cooperation on Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Storage green chemicals, biofuels and advanced technologies in Energy Sector. A Ministerial-level India-Japan Energy Dialogue was held today through Video Conferencing, co-chaired by Minister of Power and Housing and Urban Affairs Manohar Lal and Mr. Muto Yoji, Japan’s Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry. The two sides welcomed progress in areas like Energy

efficiency clean hydrogen, ammonia, renewable energy. The Ministers also emphasized that India-Japan partnership would continue to play a pivotal role in advancing secure, resilient, and sustainable energy systems in the Indo-Pacific region. Both countries have been deepening their partnership in the energy sector under the Japan-India Clean Energy Partnership, with a focus on energy security, clean energy transition and addressing climate change. The two sides have institutionalized this cooperation through the India-Japan Energy Dialogue and sectoral Joint Working Groups (JWGs).

Shah slams Opposition for misleading public on Constitution Bill

New Delhi, Aug 25 (Reporter)

Home Minister Amit Shah today hit out at the opposition, accusing it of deliberately spreading misconceptions among the public regarding the Constitution (130th Amendment) Bill 2025. He asserted that such attempts would not succeed, as the government’s connect and communication with the people is far stronger and more effective than that of the Opposition. “The Opposition only wants to spread misconceptions about this bill, but they will not succeed, because our communication with the people is many times stronger than theirs,” Shah told a news outlet. The interview was later released by the Home Ministry. Reiterating that

any minister, Chief Minister or Prime Minister in the country cannot run government from jail, Shah said,



“There is a provision in the Constitution (130th Amendment) Bill 2025 that if the Prime Minister, Chief Minister, Minister of the Government of India or Minister of the State Government is arrested under any serious charge and is not granted bail within 30 days, then they will be relieved from their post”. If this does not happen then they will be automatically **Cont. to Page-2**

No second thoughts on insurance law amendment proposals: Industry officials

Chennai / New Delhi, August 25 (Bureau)

Does the Indian insurance industry have second thoughts about some of the amendments proposed to the insurance laws? Or whether the government itself is planning to have a relook at the proposed amendments? These questions arise as the industry is silent on the delay in the introduction of the amendment bill in the Parliament said an industry expert. And the first Chairman of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) N.Rangachary who had paved the

way for the private players came out strongly against some of the amendment proposals – saying ‘God save the industry’.



Some of the major changes proposed are – composite licence, reduction in minimum capital to allow regional players, changes in the investment norms and others. “The industry is remaining silent. Perhaps the big players are having

second thoughts. For instance, the world over the composite insurance concept is going out of favour. But the amendment bill is now proposing allowing composite insurance,” the expert not wanting to be quoted told this writer. “Composite registration allows insurers to do life/general/health in a single registration/insurance company -- this promotes operational efficiency for insurers having common brands across different lines of business,” remarked Conjeevaram Baradhvaj, a company secretary specialising in insurance and corporate laws. However head honchos of insurance companies refuted the notion that industry is having second thoughts on the amendments proposed.

“I have not heard of any such reservation from the industry. Matters such as 100% FDI help those who want to sell out, bring new partners. The government itself may look for a white knight for one or two of its non-life insurance companies,” a CEO of a private insurer told this writer, preferring anonymity. “On composite licence, LIC will be eagerly in favour of it. Also it could well solve a headache for the government in terms of recapitalising its non-life insurance companies. Merging an ailing public sector general insurer with LIC is an easier option,” the CEO added. “Composite registration will not be mandatory as there can be different **Cont. to Page-2**

■ FoIR organizes online session on Frameworks for Rating of Properties on Digital Connectivity

New Delhi, Aug 25 (Reporter) The Forum of Indian Regulators (FoIR) today organized an interactive session on ‘Framework for Rating of Properties on Digital Connectivity, where it was observed that over 70-80 per cent of mobile data traffic in India is consumed indoors, yet coverage gaps still persist in many premises. This insightful session was attended by more than 80 senior officers from FoIR and other prominent institutions. In his inaugural address, Ravi Mital, Honorary Chairperson FoIR & Chairman of IBBI, stressed on robust digital connectivity across multiple sectors including finance, education, transport, health, housing and beyond. Mittal applauded TRAI for some cutting-edge innovation in the Telecom sector and highlighted the importance of cross-sectoral collaboration among **Cont. to Page-2**

■ Fiji PM calls on President Murmu

New Delhi, Aug 25 (Representative) Fiji Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka, who is on a three-day official visit to India, called on President Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan today. The President recalled her meeting with him during her State Visit to Fiji in August 2024, as well as the beautiful traditional welcome extended to her by the indigenous tribal elders. She also recalled her interactions with members of the vibrant Indian origin community and appreciated the vital role they play in deepening understanding and friendship between the two countries. Underlining the long-standing relationship between India and Fiji, characterized by strong people-to-people ties, the President said the contributions of the Girmitiya community have been significant in not only upholding our strong bonds but also shaping Fiji’s multicultural identity, diverse **Cont. to Page-2**

■ SC Stays FIR against Psephologist Sanjay Kumar over Maharashtra Poll Tweet

New Delhi, Aug 25 (FN Representative) The Supreme Court today stayed proceedings in two FIRs registered by Maharashtra police against Professor Sanjay Kumar, psephologist and Co-Director of the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS), over a tweet carrying a mistaken analysis of the 2024 Maharashtra Assembly elections. A Bench comprising Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai and Justice N.V. Anjaria passed the interim order while issuing notice on Kumar’s writ petition seeking quashing of the FIRs. On August 17, Kumar had posted on X (formerly Twitter) about changes in the number of voters in specific constituencies. Realising the analysis was erroneous, he issued a clarification and apology on August 19. Despite this, police officers reporting to the Election Commission registered **Cont. to Page-2**

■ Mirabai secures gold medal in Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships

Ahmedabad, Aug 25 (FN Representative) Tokyo Olympics silver medallist Mirabai Chanu today secured the gold medal in Women’s 48kg category at the Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships being played here. Mirabai finished at the top of the podium with a total lift of 193kg, 84kgs in snatch and 109 kgs in clean and jerk. This was the first time she was competing since her fourth place finish at the Paris Olympics. Speaking to the press after her victory the Manipur girl said: “I am truly delighted to win the gold medal here in Ahmedabad. Competing on home soil after a year since the Paris Olympics made this moment even more special, and the support from the crowd gave me immense motivation. This victory is the result of relentless hard work, my coaches’ guidance, **Cont. to Page-2**

■ ED raids five star hotel in Mumbai, arrests accused in 117.06 cr PMLA case

New Delhi, Aug 25 (Agency) The Enforcement Directorate (ED) today said that they have arrested one Amit Ashok Thepade in connection with an ongoing investigation related to a bank fraud of Rs.117.06 Crore involving Canara Bank. The arrest was made from a five star hotel where the accused was reportedly hiding. The arrest was made by its Mumbai Zonal Office. “He had been evading authorities for a considerable period. Based on actionable intelligence gathered, ED officials located him at a prominent five-star hotel in South Mumbai, where he had been staying for the past two months,” said the official. The official said that search conducted at the hotel premises led to the freezing of more than 50 bank accounts, seizure of cash amounting to Rs. 9.5 Lakh, bullion, gold and diamond **Cont. to Page-2**

Telangana govt will not allow dominance in film industry: CM

Pune should become a global market hub: Industrialist Arun Firodia

Hyderabad, Aug 25 (FN Bureau)

In a meeting held with film producers and directors at Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's residence, the minister warned that controlling of system by a few in the film industry will not be tolerated. The Chief Minister emphasised that everyone must function in accordance with the law. He said he is ready to hold talks with cinema workers to improve working conditions in the industry. The meeting discussed the demands and challenges of workers, as well as measures the government could take to promote the Telugu film industry at an international level. He stressed that the working environment must be improved and assured government support for the growth of the industry. The CM recalled that it was he took the

initiative to call off the strike by cinema workers during a crisis in the industry. Reddy suggested the creation of a Corpus Fund for skill development across various fields in the film sector. He also expressed readiness to provide training opportunities through the Young India Skill University. Highlighting that the Telugu film industry has already attained international recognition, the Chief Minister said reforms in film production and working conditions are the need of the hour. Appealing to producers to treat workers with compassion, he asserted that a new policy should be framed in partnership with producers, workers, and the government. "The government is ready to safeguard the interests of both film workers and producers," he assured, adding that more Telugu films should be produced



Gemini Kiran, Sravanthi Ravikishore, Naveen, Vamsi, Bapineedu, DVV Danayya, Vamsi, Gopi, Cherukuri Sudhakar, Sahu, Abhishek Agarwal, Vishwa Prasad, Anil Sunkara, Sarath Marar, NV Prasad, Escan, Radhamohan, and Damu. Directors Trivikram Srinivas, Boyapati Srinivas, Sandeep Reddy Vanga, Vamsi Paidipally, Anil Ravipudi and Venky Kudumula were also present.

in Telangana, as Hyderabad has already emerged as a hub for international film production. "Our aim is to promote the Telugu film industry on a global scale," the CM said. The meeting was attended by CM Advisor Vem Narendra Reddy and Telangana Film Development Corporation Chairman Dil Raju. Prominent producers present included Allu Aravind, D. Suresh Babu,

Pune, Aug 25 (FN Reporter)

Veteran industrialist and Padma Shri awardee Arun Firodia said that any product that satisfies Indian consumers succeeds worldwide. He stated that India has immense knowledge power, and many foreigners come here to learn and serve the world. Firodia urged Indians to recognise their own strength in knowledge and find ways to progress. He was speaking at the launch of the English edition of the book 'Videshmukhi,' authored by international advisor and Institute of Management Accountants (IMA) Global Board Chair CMA Sunil Deshmukh, at the Navlmal Firodia Auditorium, Maratha Chamber of Commerce Industries

and Agriculture, in Pune. Firodia also emphasised that Pune has great potential and should aim to become a global market hub. Speaking on the occasion, Firodia said, "New ideas developed in my mind as I kept learning from people and customers. We must have confidence that whatever we do, we can succeed. Expand your knowledge horizons, travel, understand markets, and learn continuously. Study in India but work for the world." He praised the author, stating that Deshmukh's determination and struggle have made his journey an inspiring success story for youth. "Such stories should reach management and other students



to motivate them to face challenges with courage," he added. Savitribai Phule Pune University Pro-Vice Chancellor Dr. Parag Kalkar also praised Deshmukh, noting that he reached the global stage through hard work and determination despite starting from a small village in Nanded. "Successful people inspire others... youngsters should follow this example and keep moving towards success without losing hope after failures," he said. The event was also attended by IT expert and author Dr. Deepak Shikarpur, publisher Sushrut Kulkarni of Amaltash Books, and Deshmukh's wife, Madhuri Deshmukh, among others.

■ Pintarnya raises USD 16.7 mn to drive financial services and job creation in Indonesia

New Delhi, Aug 25 (FN Representative) Pintarnya, a leading employment platform with an integrated financial services ecosystem, raised USD 16.7 million in the series A funding round, as per the reports. This investment round was led by Square Peg, as well as from the existing participants Vertex Ventures Southeast Asia & India and East Ventures. Henry Hendrawan, Co-Founder, Pintarnya, said in an official statement, “ We use technology to make the job search simpler, including AI-assisted CV creation, job recommendations, and auto-apply to matched opportunities.” “ Our users can also upskill themselves through bite-sized career education classes,” the official statement added. Pintarnya, founded in 2022, empowered more than 9 million users with access to job opportunities, side gigs, and asset-backed financial services. The organisation leverages AI-driven tools to match job seekers with relevant roles and assist in CV creation.

■ Punjab teacher honored with National Award

Chandigarh, Aug 25 (Reporter) Narinder Singh, a dedicated teacher at Government Primary School, Jandiali, Ludhiana, has been selected for the 'National Teacher Award 2025', a proud moment for Punjab. This recognition highlights his commitment to quality education. Punjab School Education Minister Harjot Singh Bains congratulated Narinder Singh, praising his innovative teaching, dedication, and ability to inspire students. He noted that this achievement motivates other educators to make a positive impact. The award ceremony will take place on September 5, 2025, at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, where Narinder Singh will receive a merit certificate, Rs.50,000 cash prize, and a silver medal. Expressing gratitude, Narinder Singh, who joined the education department in January 2002, credited his students, colleagues, and the department for this honor. He vowed to continue striving for excellence. With community and government support, Jandiali School now boasts 15 smart classrooms, three libraries (including a mobile library), and three specialized parks for handwriting, mathematics, and IT.

■ IIMT-Bhubaneswar showcases research, innovation and concurrent engineering

Bhubaneswar, Aug 25 (FN Representative) The Interscience Institute of Management & Technology (IIMT)-Bhubaneswar, marked National Space Day with the hosting of the International Conference on AI and Concurrent Engineering (AICE-2025). The event yesterday was presided over by Prof. (Dr.) Jayadev Kar, Director, IIMT, who delivered the welcome address. The series is designed to equip students with practical insights, professional skills, and corporate exposure, enabling them to better explore and adapt to the corporate world. Global and national experts in Artificial Intelligence took part in the conference.

■ Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit to attend Chiefs of Defence Conference 2025 in Thailand

New Delhi, Aug 25 (Agency) Chief of Integrated Defence Staff Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit will participate in the annual Chiefs of Defence Conference during his visit to Thailand from August 26 to 28. The event is being jointly hosted by the United States Indo-Pacific Command and Royal Thai Armed Forces, a Defence Ministry statement said. The conference is a premier multilateral forum that brings together the Chiefs of Defence from nations across the Indo-Pacific region to deliberate on the evolving regional and global security challenges, cooperative frameworks and avenues for strengthening military-to-military engagements. The 2025 edition is expected to focus on maritime security, counter-terrorism, cyber resilience, humanitarian assistance, disaster relief and fostering stability in the Indo-Pacific. During the conference, Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit will engage with participating counterparts to exchange perspectives on enhancing joint preparedness, interoperability and strategic partnerships aimed at addressing common security concerns. The visit underscores India's commitment to strengthening regional security frameworks, enhancing multilateral cooperation and fostering a stable, rules-based and inclusive Indo-Pacific.

■ Lok Samvardhan Parv showcasing minority artisans, culinary heritage begins

New Delhi, Aug 25 (FN Representative) Over 100 artisans and 15 culinary experts from minority communities across India will come together in Kochi, Kerala, starting tomorrow, to showcase their vibrant cultural heritage at the ten-day Lok Samvardhan Parv. The event, to be inaugurated by George Kurian, union Minister of State for Minority Affairs, aims to showcase the rich cultural and artistic heritage of these communities, according to a statement here from the Ministry. A wide array of traditional crafts will be on display. These include Uttar Pradesh's renowned Zari and Chikankari embroidery, Punjab's Phulkari, Bihar's Madhubani paintings, Rajasthan's Blue Pottery, Ladakh's exquisite Pashmina weaving, Bastar's Iron Craft from Chhattisgarh, Karnataka's Channapatna wooden toys, and Kerala's unique Nettipattam (ornamental caparison) making. The Lok Samvardhan Parv, an initiative of the union Ministry of Minority Affairs, is designed to provide artisans, weavers, culinary experts, and entrepreneurs from minority communities with market linkages and national visibility.

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IREDA signs performance...

FY2020-21. For FY 2023-24 MoU Rating, IREDA emerged as the top performer in NBFC and Power Sector and among the top four CPSEs across sectors, as per a list of 84 CPSEs issued by the Department of Public Enterprises,” says Pradip Kumar Das, CMD of IREDA. As per the official statement on the MoU, “The Government of India has set a Revenue from Operations target of Rs 8,200 cr for FY 2025-26. IREDA has exceeded its Revenue from Operations target in FY2024-25, achieving Rs 6,743.32 cr against the target of Rs 5,957 cr. ”

Govt. e-Marketplace crosses...

of the country.” GeM refers to the Government e-Marketplace launched in 2016, for the public procurement of Goods and Services. It serves as a national e-commerce portal for Central and State government ministries, departments, public sector units (PSUs), and other government entities. Over the past nine years, GeM has evolved as a robust platform bringing together government buyers and a diverse community of sellers, including Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs), startups, women-led businesses, SC/ST enterprises, and Self-Help Groups (SHGs).

Revised Model Concession...

improving the cruise terminal so that the entire space is put to use; improvement works on Jawahar and Bharathi Docks are being improved. Meanwhile, the road show for the India Maritime Week 2025 saw the participation of over 150 delegates, including officials from the central and state governments, industry bodies, EXIM trade and other stakeholders. At the road show, Paliwal explained the various policy-level decisions taken by the Ministry with respect to the model Concession Agreements for PPP projects, Streamlining Environment Clearance Procedure, Training and Capacity Building initiatives, standardisation of rules and regulations, recent employment drive through common direct recruitment. Ramachandran said the India Maritime Week is the first of its kind event to be held in India and is modelled on such events held in other leading seafaring nations. The event is expected to attract about one lakh people from about 100 countries.

FoIR organizes online session...

regulators to integrate digital connectivity readiness. Representing the telecom perspective, Anil Kumar Lahoti highlighted that over 70-80 per cent of mobile data traffic in India is consumed indoors, yet coverage gaps still persist in many premises. Stressing on the modern tech adoption, Lahoti stated, “With the adoption of advanced technologies like 5G, indoor connectivity requires planning of Digital Connectivity Infrastructure (DCI) including fibre entry, ducting, cable trays, rooftop access, Wi-Fi readiness and resilience, as part of core infrastructure planning, similar to electricity and water supply.” Technicalities involved in the digital connectivity rating framework were presented by Tejpal Singh, Advisor (QoS-I), TRAI. The Forum of Indian Regulators (FoIR) is a registered society serving as a common platform for various Indian regulatory authorities.

Shah slams Opposition for...

relieved from their post, legally. Responding to Opposition criticism, Shah said he himself had made it clear that this constitutional amendment will be referred to the Joint Parliamentary Committee of the two Houses. "A two-third majority is required for the passage of this bill and when voting takes place, all parties can give their views on it," Shah said. He criticised the Opposition's disruptive tactics in Parliament, stating, "Not allowing any bill or Constitution amendment bill of the government from being presented in the House is not an appropriate behavior exhibited by the Opposition in a democracy". He said both Houses of Parliament are for debate and discussion and not for noise and uproar. This mentality of not allowing the bill to be presented is not democratic, and the Opposition will have to explain their actions to the people of this country. Shah also clarified that the provision of imprisonment was not made by the Modi Government, but has been going on for years. In the 130th Constitutional Amendment, serious crime has been defined as where there is a provision of punishment of more than five years, then the person will have to resign. The Home Minister said that since Independence, it has been a common practice for leaders, ministers, and chief ministers to resign upon being sent to jail. However, a new trend has started where some individuals refuse to step down even after being imprisoned. "Some ministers of Tamil Nadu, and Chief Minister and ministers of Delhi did not resign. Will the Secretary of the Government, DGP, Chief Secretary go to them in jail to get orders? Shah asked. There should be concern and discussion on this issue, he said. The Home Minister said that since Independence, it has been a common practice for leaders, ministers, and chief ministers to resign upon being sent to jail. However, a new trend has started where some individuals refuse to step down even after being imprisoned. "Some ministers of Tamil Nadu, and Chief Minister and ministers of Delhi did not resign. Will the Secretary of the Government, DGP, Chief Secretary go to them in jail to get orders? Shah said adding that there should be concern and discussion on this issue. He also slammed the Opposition's 'vendetta' comments saying, "It does not suit the main opposition party to talk about vendetta. They used the CBI too, and many people were trapped after court-directed

investigations". He also hit back at the Opposition's moral remark, stating that he does not need lessons in ethics from those who refuse to step down even after being jailed. Citing his own experience, Shah said that when he was accused in a case and received a CBI summons, he resigned from his post the very next day. "The Opposition should not teach me lessons on morality," Shah said, recalling that despite the political pressure he faced, he chose to step aside until his name was cleared. He highlighted that the court not only acquitted him but also observed in its judgment that the case was one of "pure political vendetta" and that he had absolutely no involvement. He also made it clear that all the parties of NDA were completely in agreement with this law.

Fiji PM calls on President...

society and economy. She said that as part of the modern and multifaceted partnership between the two countries, India is privileged to partner in the socio-economic development of Fiji with a particular focus on Fijian priorities such as health, capacity building and training, and climate resilience. The President said India remains committed to strengthening its relations and development partnership with the Pacific Island Countries (PICs), among which Fiji remains a special partner. The President said that capacity building has always been an important pillar of India-Fiji relations, including through the ITEC training programmes for Fijian officials in Indian institutions. She noted that digital technologies have brought about a revolution in financial inclusion in India. "We would be happy to share with Fiji our experiences in initiatives such as UPI payment systems, 'Jan Dhan', and Aadhar," she said. The President expressed happiness that the government of Fiji had prioritized strengthening relations with India, which is evident in the strong momentum in bilateral engagements in recent times. Both leaders expressed confidence that this visit will open new avenues for cooperation, which will benefit the people of both countries.

SC Stays FIR against...

two FIRs, one in Nashik and another in Nagpur under sections 175, 353(1)(b), 212, 340(1)(2), and 356 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023. Challenging the FIRs, Kumar argued before the apex court that the allegations were baseless and amounted to "an abuse of State power." His petition stated, "A tweet giving wrong information cannot form the basis of an FIR for offences such as forgery. The allegations are demonstrably inapplicable as there was no criminal intent. The post was a bona fide and inadvertent error, for which a public apology was issued." The plea further contended that the FIRs lodged by officials attached to the Election Commission amounted to harassment of a respected academic and created a "chilling effect" on free speech. The petition was filed through Advocate-on-Record Sumeer Sodhi. The matter will now be taken up after notices are served.

Mirabai secures gold medal...

and the constant encouragement of the nation." The 31-year-old expressed her resolve to come up with a stellar performance at the upcoming World Championships "It's a great confidence boost as I prepare for the World Championships in October, and I'll continue to give my best to make India proud on the international stage." The 2025 World Weightlifting Championships will be held in Forde, Norway from October 1 to 10, 2025. The gold medal also ensured Chanu's direct qualification for the Glasgow 2026 Commonwealth Games as the Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships serve as a qualification event for the Commonwealth Games.

ED raids five star hotel...

jewellery worth Rs. 2.33 Crore, two vehicles, and digital devices suspected to contain crucial evidence of financial transactions. The accused was later produced before a special PMLA court which remanded him to five days of police custody. The ED initiated investigation on the basis of two FIRs registered by the CBI, ACB, Pune, against Galaxy Constructions & Contractors Pvt. Ltd. (GCCPL) and Mitsom Enterprises Pvt. Ltd. (MEPL). Both companies, owned and controlled by Amit Thapade, had availed credit facilities from Canara Bank by mortgaging various immovable properties. Investigation revealed that the accused conspired to defraud the bank by mortgaging properties that had already been sold or by double-mortgaging the same properties, thereby securing loans and subsequently siphoning off the funds for personal use. Further investigation by the ED has established that Amit Thapade played a pivotal role in creating a complex financial network for layering and integrating illicit funds derived from criminal activities. His arrest follows extensive surveillance and forensic financial analysis, which uncovered multiple transactions aimed at concealing the true origin of the Proceeds of Crime and projecting them as legitimate assets. Further investigation into the matter is ongoing.

No second thoughts on insurance...

foreign joint venture partners for life, general and health business in different companies. However if the foreign partners are the same for both the joint ventures or only Indian or Foreign partner as promoter (100% FDI scenario) there is a case for having only composite and not separate companies," an industry official said. Industry officials also cite Indian Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman going on record that the amendment bill will be tabled in the next session of the Parliament. "Employee unions will have their reservations but are not insurmountable," the official added. Similar views

Odisha's aviation sector set for rapid growth: CM Majhi

Bhubaneswar, Aug 25 (FN Representative)

Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi today said the state's aviation sector is poised for rapid growth with the Centre's support through a flexible national policy, financial assistance for regional routes, and technical collaboration for MROs and training centres. Addressing the Eastern Region Civil Aviation Ministers' Conference here today, Majhi said Odisha has made significant progress in aviation in recent years. The Chief Minister highlighted that the state now has three operational airports, nine UDAN routes, and a dedicated Civil Aviation Policy, which have collectively strengthened connectivity.

He noted that Jharsuguda has five additional flights, while Bhubaneswar is connected to eight domestic and one international destination, with 15 new destinations added in the last four months. Majhi further said the extension of UDAN and the development of airports at Puri, Rourkela, and Paradip will give a major

boost to regional connectivity. "For us, aviation is about connecting aspirations with opportunities and creating high-ways of prosperity in the sky," the Chief Minister said. He described the conference as a pathway to transforming Eastern India into a dynamic civil aviation hub. On the occasion, Majhi announced the signing of an MoU with Air Works Pvt Ltd to establish state-of-the-art MRO facilities in Odisha and another MoU for skill development initiatives. Additionally, Letters of Intent were handed over for HR development programmes, including pilot training for tribal girls, reaffirming the state's commitment to inclusive growth. Welcoming union Civil Aviation Minister Rammoan Naidu Kinjarapu, Minister of State Muralidhar Mohol, and other dignitaries to Bhubaneswar, Majhi said hosting the conference was a proud moment for Odisha. "With the divine blessings of Mahaprabhu Shri Jagannath, our state—where rich traditions harmoniously meet modern aspirations—remains committed to enhancing regional connectivity," he said.

were voiced by another senior official of a private insurer. However the views of former IRDAI Chairman Rangachary on the proposed amendments are strong and cannot be taken lightly. According to him, the proposed amendments changes the basic structure of the insurance regulation. The government has proposed amendments to three key legislations — the Insurance Act, 1938, the IRDAI Act, 1999, and the Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956. Major proposals include: -Halving the minimum capital requirement for general and life insurers to Rs 50 crore for entities serving underserved or rural segments. -Permitting composite licences to operate life, health, and general insurance under a single registration. -Increasing the foreign direct investment (FDI) cap from 74% to 100%. -Allowing non-insurance companies to acquire or amalgamate with insurance firms. -Expanding the range of permissible business activities for insurers. -Raising penalties for non-compliance and misstatements significantly. While some of these changes aim to increase market penetration and flexibility, critics warn they may undermine the sector's long-term stability. Speaking to this writer earlier Rangachary cautioned that the proposed changes could unravel two decades of regulatory progress since the sector was opened to private players in 2000. "God save the industry and the government. Slashing the minimum start-up capital to permit regional insurers, under the guise of enhancing insurance penetration, could trigger a proliferation of small, unstable insurers. We risk returning to the fragmented, unregulated pre-1956 era, when hundreds of insurers operated without accountability and often failed to honour claims," Rangachary said. Supreme court lawyer specialising in corporate and insurance laws D Varadarajan and former member of multiple insurance law reform committees, raised grave concerns about the proposed structural changes. According to him, some of the proposals if enacted is suicidal for the industry. "Doing away with uniform minimum capital requirements, introducing differential solvency norms, and allowing composite business licenses without adequate safeguards could destabilise the industry, he said. He likened the potential influx of undercapitalized insurers to the unchecked proliferation of "paan kiosks," with severe implications for policyholder protection. Both Rangachary and Varadarajan emphasized the fundamental differences between insurers and banks. Unlike banks that deal in short-to medium-term asset management, insurance companies manage risk. Failure in the insurance sector could result in irrevocable harm to policyholders, as there are no equivalent safeguards like deposit insurance. The relationship between a banker and his customer is short or medium term whereas the relationship between an insurer and the life insurance policyholder is long term. Despite their concerns, industry experts acknowledge that some proposals are beneficial like: -Elimination of out dated provisions. -Relaxing restrictions on insurance agents representing multiple insurers — provided safeguards are in place to prevent mis-selling and customer poaching. -Increasing operational autonomy by scrapping the three-year licence renewal requirement for intermediaries and raising the IRDAI approval threshold from 1% to 5% for transfer of shares. While not dismissing all proposed changes, Varadarajan urged a dispassionate re-evaluation of the more radical amendments. "The current regulatory framework has helped the sector withstand global financial crises, economic volatility, and corporate fraud. Undermining its core principles without due caution could jeopardize both the industry's growth and the protection of policyholders."

Flood situation remains grim in Rajasthan ; 4 killed in rain related mishaps

WinZO enters US gaming market with launch of short video format

Jaipur, Aug 25 (FN Representative)

The flood situation continued to be grim in more than half a dozen districts of Rajasthan even as the relief and rescue works were in full swing in the affected areas of Karauli, Tonk, Bundi, Sawai Madhopur and Kota. Four persons were killed in two rain related mishaps in Nagaur and Bhilwara on Sunday. Three persons remained untraced in Tonk. The Army and the Air Force were also on alert mode for helping the NDRF and SDRF rescuers in relief and rescue operations. The army rescuers were already at work in tandem with the NDRF, SDRF, Civil Defence sleuths in Kota, Bundi and Sawai Madhopur. Army teams have been provided to the Tonk district administration for engaging in relief - rescue operations as per the need. Official sources said in Kota that an Air Force MI-17 helicopter has been deployed there for use in providing relief or rescue to trapped people in flooded areas of Kota and Bundi. The Air Force was also on ready mode for flying more helicopters for relief to people in distress. The Banas river was in spate in Tonk, Sawai Madhopur and Karauli districts

intensifying the flood woes of the denizens. Kanthada village of Karauli district is cut off from all sides with flood waters of the Banas and the Morel, another river of the Arawali terrain, reduced the village into an



island. District Collector Neelabh Saxena deployed rescuers of SDRF and Civil Defence to the village-, situated along the inter district border with Sawai Madhopur and Harauti-, for evacuating more than 160 stranded villagers to safer areas. Besides, the two river huge discharge from the Kali Sindh Dam (Sapotara) and Panchana Dam has worsened the situation for rescuers. Flood inflow in Kali Sindh has given rise the water level 8-foot above the maximum permissible level. Huge discharge was released into the Gambhiri river through the 4 flood gates of Panchana Dam. Meanwhile, Sawai Madhopur remains most affected,

with most of the localities of the old city, railway station, it's yard being inundated. More than 15 surrounding villages have been submerged and half a dozen vital roads routes closed. In Jadawata village of the district, the Army has joined in the the rescue operations to deal with situation in the wake of major soil erosion through the village that damaged some houses and threatened demolition of the village temple and many houses. In Lakheri region of Bundi 25 denizens were rescued from Dadwada - Gangapuriya villages which were flooded by the Mej river. The Banas is following above the danger mark, two youths and a woman were trapped in the surging waters in Tonk, efforts to rescue them were ongoing. The incessant rains in Shahbad area of Baran district worsened the situation damaging several houses. In Nagaur a rain soaked house collapsed near old City bus stand killing two persons and injuring as many others. Many houses were partially damaged. In another incident of wall collapse two persons were killed in Bhilwara. Agriculture and Disaster Relief Minister Dr Kirodi Lal Meena was visiting the affected areas in Sawai Madhopur, including the Jadawata village. The Kota Open University has deferred the examinations.

Google silently starts rolling out its 'Material 3 Expressive Redesign' update to improve design interface

New Delhi, Aug 25 (Agency)

Google has started rolling out its 'Material 3 Expressive Redesign' update on Android dialler, phone app from the past few weeks. It led to the surprising changes in the mobile interface for both daily phone users and tech buffs. Users are experiencing some unique functionalities on the screen, like the bottom bar goes from four tabs to three, with the Favorites and Recents becoming 'Home.' This change is in line with a Google blog post of Mindy Brooks, VP of product management and user experiences, Android Platform, stating about the 'Material 3 Expressive Redesign' feature. The blog stated, "Material 3 Expressive feels even more fluid and introduces a system of more natural, springy animations meant to bring a moment of delight to everyday routines. For example, when you dismiss a notification, the others next to it subtly respond

to your drag. And when you snap it off the stack, you feel a satisfying haptic rumble." Pointing towards the upcoming experiences, the blog added, "You get similar moments like this across your device, like when you're dismissing an app in your recent apps screen, fidgeting with the volume slider, or flinging down the slide. We even subtly blur the shade background to provide a sense of depth, so the motion feels lightweight and you're able to stay aware of the apps you're using in the background." Users are experiencing big changes, including the disappearance of the contact list, as previously it was accessible through the Phone app. But now users can access their contacts with a search bar. Moreover, other new changes include the button layout redesign, keypad appearance change, and a new feature added in the categorization of calls. Now, there will be four types of categorizations included:- All calls, missed calls, calls from contacts, spam calls, and non-spam calls.

Rojgar Mahakumbh 2025: UP set to host hundreds of firms, unlocking job opportunities

Lucknow, Aug 25 (Agency)

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's resolve—"Work for every hand, respect for every youth"—is set to take a new leap with the three-day Rojgar Mahakumbh 2025, scheduled from August 26 to 28 here. The mega event will provide lakhs of youth in Uttar Pradesh with direct access to industries, opening vast avenues of jobs and employment while marking a milestone in the state's employment and skill revolution, officials said here today. A major highlight of the event is the large-scale participation of renowned companies from India and abroad. More than 100 reputed companies will take part, collectively offering employment to over 50,000 youth across diverse sectors. The Rojgar Mahakumbh 2025 will host international leaders in technology and innovation, such as Wadhvani AI, Microsoft, and Intel, creating a direct gateway for youth into the startup and research ecosystem. These companies will open career paths in software development, cloud computing, artificial intelligence, and hardware design—particularly benefiting engineering and technical graduates

of Uttar Pradesh. Alongside, e-commerce giants like Flipkart and Amazon Web Services (AWS) will provide opportunities in supply chain management, logistics, data analytics, and online retail operations. The financial and banking sector, too, will be well-represented. At the same time, major players like Mahindra from the manufacturing and automobile industry will create vast openings for mechanical engineers and youth with industrial training. Thus, while thousands of youth will secure meaningful employment through this initiative, companies will also gain renewed energy and skilled talent. Guided by the visionary leadership of CM Yogi Adityanath, the event is poised to give a new thrust to the state's economy, industrial growth, and investment landscape. The three-day Rojgar Mahakumbh will function through three dynamic platforms, Employment Conclave – enabling youth to interact directly with policymakers, industry leaders, and education experts, On-spot Interviews & Placement Drives – where companies will hire talent directly, offering jobs to over 50,000 candidates, and Exhibition Pavilion – showcasing Uttar Pradesh's progress, new industrial policies, and its skill development model.

IIT-Madras develops low cost chip-based device for Antibiotic Susceptibility Testing

Chennai, Aug 25 (FN Representative)

With Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) emerging as one of the major challenges and the World Health Organization (WHO) identifying it as one of the top ten threats to global health as 4.94 million deaths worldwide in 2019 were associated with bacterial AMR, researchers at the IIT-Madras have developed an innovative and affordable microfluidic device that could rapidly determine whether bacteria are resistant or susceptible to antibiotics. Unlike many modern techniques that rely on costly metals, complex fabrication processes, or require highly skilled technicians, this lab-on-chip device is based on screen-printed carbon electrodes embedded in a simple microfluidic chip. This approach makes the device not only economical, but also suitable for deployment in smaller clinics and rural healthcare centres. Designed for speed, sensitivity, and ease of use, it holds strong potential for early diagnosis and better treatment of bacterial infections, particularly in regions with limited access to advanced laboratory infrastructure. A release from IIT-M today said the device can deliver results within three hours and is based on 'Electrochemical Impedance Spectroscopy'. "The device offers a faster, simpler and more accessible alternative to conventional antimicrobial susceptibility testing, which typically takes 48–72 hours", it said. "AMR is one of the most pressing challenges facing global healthcare systems today, with the WHO identifying AMR as one of the top ten threats to global health", the release said. WHO estimates suggest that nearly 4.95 million deaths worldwide in 2019 were associated with bacterial AMR and the burden is especially high in low and middle income countries, where diagnostic



facilities are limited and infections often go untreated or are improperly managed. Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing (AST) is an important method used to identify which antibiotics will work against a specific infectio. It helps doctors choose the right treatment and avoid the misuse of antibiotics, which is a major cause of AMR. However, traditional AST methods, which involve growing bacterial cultures and observing their response to antibiotics, are labour-intensive and typically take 48 to 72 hours. This delay can lead to the use of broad-spectrum antibiotics as a stopgap, which in turn exacerbates the resistance problem. To address these limitations, the IIT Madras team developed this cost-effective phenotypic testing device that uses electrochemical signals to assess bacterial growth and antibiotic susceptibility. This device meets several key criteria outlined by the WHO, including affordability, speed, ease of use and reliability, it said, adding, by addressing these priorities, the device takes a significant step toward making antimicrobial susceptibility testing more accessible, especially in low-resource settings. This Research has been published in the prestigious Nature Scientific Reports, a peer-reviewed, open-access scientific mega journal published by Nature Portfolio (part of Springer Nature), covering all areas of the natural sciences. The paper was co-authored by Saranya Gopalakrishnan (Director Technology Innovation, Kaappon Analytics India Pvt Ltd, a startup incubated in the IITM Research Park, and Diksha Mall, Research Scholars from IIT Madras along side IIT Madras faculty Prof. Subramaniam Pushpavanam and Dr. Richa Karnakar Prof. Pushpavanam of IIT Madras said, "An important aspect of our device is the use of a specially prepared

nutrient solution that serves a dual purpose. It not only supports bacterial growth, which is essential for testing, but also enhances the sensitivity of the electrical signals we use for detection." "As the bacteria grow, they cause measurable changes in the electrical properties of the solution, which our system can accurately track", he said. Explaining how this technology can be taken to the real world and possible initiatives in this direction, Prof. Pushpavanam said this approach will make a real impact on patients in Intensive Care Units, who could be suffering from complications due to bacterial infections. This will help the doctors prescribe the right treatment and can be life-saving. "Currently, we are doing clinical validation in collaboration with the IITM Institute hospital", he said and added that "after rigorous clinical validation, we are planning to commercialise this through our startup, Kaappon Analytics India Private Limited." Dr. Richa Karnakar said the device monitors how the electrical signal changes over time to determine whether bacteria are continuing to grow in the presence of an antibiotic. If the bacteria are resistant, they multiply despite the drug, and this activity causes a distinct change in the electrical signal. In contrast, if the bacteria are killed by the antibiotic, their growth is inhibited and the signal remains relatively unchanged. A metric called 'Normalized Impedance Signal' (NIS) developed by the researchers allows clear differentiation between resistant and non-resistant bacterial strains in a matter of hours, Dr Richa said. The researchers tested the device on two types of bacteria - gram-negative E. coli and gram-positive B. subtilis. They used two antibiotics with different modes of action -- ampicillin, which kills bacteria and tetracycline, which prevents them from growing -- to confirm the device's ability to detect both kinds of responses.

Bank of India

Mahaveer Nagar Branch
Zonal Office: Jodhpur Zone

E-Auction Sale Notice to General Public
APPENDIX-IV-A [See proviso to rule 8(6)]

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

E Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the 'Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002, read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. (Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the Bank of India Secured Creditor, the Physical/Symbolic Possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Bank of India Secured Creditor, will be sold "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on 26.09.2025 for recovery of its dues to the Bank Secured Creditor from the respective borrower(s) and Guarantor(s). The Reserve price and the earnest money deposit will be as mentioned in the below table. Last Date of Earnest Money Deposit: 26.08.2025 @ 10.00 am to 26.09.2025 @ 5.00 p.m.

Sr. No.	Name of the Branch Name & Addresses of the Borrower/ Guarantors Account	Description of the immovable properties mortgaged/ Owner's Name (Mortgagors of property/ies)	(A) Date of Demand notice u/s 13(2) of SARFAESI Act, 2002 (B) Outstanding amount as on (C) Possession Date u/s 13(4) of SARFAESI Act 2002 (D) Nature of Possession Symbolic/Physical/Constructive	(A) Reserve Price (in Rupees) (B) EMD (C) Bid Increase Amount	Date/Time of E-Auction	Details of the encumbrance known to the secured creditors
1.	Mahaveer Nagar Branch Contact: 9687456908 Mr. Dinesh Kumar Sharma S/o Mr. Satyanaran Sharma & Mrs. Neerulata W/o Mr. Dinesh Kumar Sharma	EQM of residential house situated at House No. 3- L-31, Mahaveer Nagar Vistar Yojna, Kota, Raj- 324005.	01-05-2025 Rs. 22,70,237.20 + uncharged interest & Other Charges 11.07.2025 Symbolic Possession	Rs. 18,25,000/- Rs. 1,82,500/- Rs. 10,000/-	26.09.2025 From 11.00 AM to 05.00 PM	Not Known

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in E-auction platform (PSB Alliance) website i.e. (1)<https://banknet.com> & (2) <https://www.bankoffindia.co.in>
STATUTORY 30 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 8(6) OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES 2002
The borrower/guarantor/mortgagor are hereby notified to pay the sum as mentioned above along with up to date interest and other expenses /charges before the date of E-Auction, failing which the secured Asset(s) will be sold/auctioned to discharge the liability.
Date: 26/08/2025, Place: Kota

Authorized Officer,
Bank of India

Bank of Baroda

Recovery Department
Regional Office, Bhiwara

Sale Notice For Sale Of Immoveable Properties "APPENDIX- IV-A [See proviso to Rule 6 (2) & 8 (6)]

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. (Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s), Mortgagor(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Bank of Baroda, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis for recovery of dues in below mentioned account/s). The details of Borrower/s/Guarantor/s/Secured Asset/s/Dues/Reserve Price/Auction date & Time, EMD and Bid Increase Amount are mentioned below –

Sr/ Lot No.	Name & Address of Borrower/s/ Guarantor/s/ Mortgagor/s	Give short description of the immovable properties with known encumbrances, if any	Total Dues as per Demand Notice	Date of E-Auction Start Time to End Time	Reserve Price, Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) & Bid Increase Amount	Status of Possession (Symbolic/ Physical)	Property Inspection Date & Time
1.	1. Shri Mohan Lal Koli 2. Smt. Neema Devi Koli W/o Shri Mohan Lal Koli Both are Resi. at: Shiv Nagar Behind, Sofiya School, Bhilwara, Rajasthan-311001 Branch:- Nagori Garden Branch, District Bhilwara, Rajasthan 311001. Mobile No. 8094007189, E-Mail: bhiwla@bankofbaroda.com	All that part and parcel of Equitable Mortgage of Residential House Building on Plot No. 25/1 (Araj) No. 1014) situated at Shiv Nagar, Near Noble School, Bhilwara, Rajasthan 311001 Admeasuring area 800 Sq. Feet in the name of Smt. Neema Devi Koli W/o Shri Mohan Lal Koli Bounded by: East: Plot No. 24, West: Plot No. 25, North: Other Araj, South: Road Other; Encumbrances: Not Known	Rs. 27,21,941.32 as on 28.05.2025 (including interest up to 24.05.2025) plus further interest cost, charges & other recovery expenses etc	23.09.2025 02:00 PM to 06:00 PM (With unlimited extension of 10 min. each)	(A) Reserve Price- Rs. 29,16,000/- (B) Earnest Money Deposit- Rs. 2,91,600/- (C) Bid Increase Amount-10,000/-	Symbolic	20.09.2025 11:00 PM to 4:00 PM
2.	Shri Pankaj Singhal S/o Shri Tara Address: (Y-1) Plot No. E- 107, Arhant Vihar 107, Anahil, Vigan Rajwada Gram-Atun, Distt. Bhilwara (Raj)-311001 in the name of Shri Pankaj Singhal S/o Shri Tara; Branch:- Subhash Nagar, Bhilwara Branch, Tel. No. 01482-230557 E-mail: subbhi@bankofbaroda.com	Residential Property Situated at Plot No. E- 107, Arhant Vihar 107, Anahil, Vigan Rajwada Gram-Atun, Distt. Bhilwara (Raj)- 311001 in the name of Shri Pankaj Singhal S/o Shri Tara; Admeasuring (20'x45') 900 Sq. Feet; Bounded by: On the North by: Plot No. E-106, On the South by: No. E-108, On the East by: 30ft. Road, On the West by: Plot No. E-104, 103; Encumbrances: Not Known	Rs. 27,21,941.32 as on 28.05.2025 (including interest up to 24.05.2025) plus further interest cost, charges & other recovery expenses etc	23.09.2025 02:00 PM to 06:00 PM (With unlimited extension of 10 min. each)	(A) Reserve Price- Rs. 29,16,000/- (B) Earnest Money Deposit- Rs. 2,91,600/- (C) Bid Increase Amount-10,000/-	Symbolic	30.08.2025 11:00 PM to 3:00 PM

For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer/visit to the website link <https://www.bankofbaroda.in/e-auction.htm> and online auction portal <https://banknet.com>; Also, prospective bidders may contact the Authorised officer on Tel No. 01482-226745, Mobile No. 8094007189 (For Sr. No.1); and 9286521164 for Sr. No. 2)
Date: : 26.08.2025 Place: Bhiwara

Authorised officer, Bank of Baroda

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EDITORIAL

Overthinking Leaves India Mentally Drained

At first, there was thought. Thinking, evolutionary science says, evolved even before Homo sapiens did and, over time, it became the basis of human existence: cogito, ergo sum, as René Descartes put it - to think is to exist. Philosophers from Socrates to Martha Nussbaum have underlined the centrality of thinking, especially critical thinking, to a good life and a better world. But Socrates had also warned that too much of any-thing is a trap for unhappiness, and Indians seem to have been ensnared. A recent study by YouGov and Center fresh shows that 81% of Indians say that they spend more than three hours a day overthinking. Where reflective thinking is purposeful and clarifying - it involves weighing options, questioning assumptions, and arriving at insight or a decision - overthinking is repetitive and unproductive, circling the same doubts or fears without resolution. Thinking sharpens understanding; overthinking blunts it; the former moves thought forward; the latter stunts it. It might be worth asking what is it that has Indians brooding thus. The answers are as illuminating as they are concerning - 61% of Indians, especially members of Gen Z and women, spend at least five hours overthinking whether their Instagram story is worth sharing, while some 42% people spend all their time thinking about whether people - bosses, relatives, girlfriends - are offended with them. A whopping 63% also take longer to mull over what to order from a menu than which political leader to vote for. Their anxieties - the cause of overthinking - may seem trivial but they are instructive. This being the age of self-obsession, personal posts and images on social media are only to be expected. But this is also the Age of Censorship. Thus posting a political cartoon can lead to first information reports and even arrests; the cynic would also quip that keeping bosses happy matters in an economy blighted by soaring unemployment rates; moreover, friends and relatives have been driven to murder on account of heated WhatsApp chats. If this is how fraught and perilous everyday life is for Indians, spending hours exercising the mind on such issues can hardly be deemed as unproductive. There is perhaps another way of examining this trend of overthinking. Studies have found that channelling one's anxieties towards the seemingly mundane helps people live in denial about grave crises. Overthinking, then, becomes both a defence mechanism and a form of denial. Worryingly, the survey also shows that the final nail in the coffin of critical thought in India might be attributed to digital technology. People spend their time overthinking while outsourcing serious, contemplative queries to ChatGPT and Google, with 87% Indians turning to Artificial Intelligence for answers to the mundane and the profound. Be it whether to get married or what Article 370 entailed or what are the reasons to stay alive, the country seems to be entirely dependent on Google for questions that need ruminating, if Google's annual publications of most popular searches are anything to go by. When citizens outsource judgement on fundamental questions while hoarding their mental energy for menus and Instagram posts, collective intellectual life as well as the inner lives of individuals become shallow and vulnerable to manipulation. The burgeoning culture of overthinking is then a signpost of the death of cerebral engagement.

Decoding Trump's Tariff Tantrums

Rajeev Srinivasan

“Last month, I wrote here about India's splendid diplomatic isolation, but my prediction became fact sooner than I expected, with President Trump's withering attacks on India. Biden drove Russia into China's arms over Ukraine; Trump seems intent on driving India into China's arms; and Ukraine isn't even Asia's problem, but a likely Chinese invasion of Taiwan would be.

There are at least four different ways in which one could rationalise the Trump position: 1. A negotiating opening gambit to soften up India 2. Frustration from the lack of leverage against Presidents Putin and Xi 3. Part of a regime-change operation planned by the Deep State and 4. A desire to force manufacturing and investment to move back to the US. I hope it is a combination of 1 and 2, and that better sense will prevail before a mutually-beneficial Indo-US relationship is damaged beyond repair. However, there is a non-trivial chance that, with prompting by Britain's Whitehall (which created Pakistan in the first place to keep India in check), the US Deep State has decided to target India. I wrote a couple of years ago that the Deep State, intimidated by China's rise, might accept a condominium with it, giving each a sphere of influence. China gets Asia and the Indian Ocean; the US gets the Americas, Europe and the Atlantic; and they share the Pacific. India, Japan, Australia (i.e. the Quad), and ASEAN become Chinese vassals. So like the



Vatican-brokered Treaty of Tordesillas in 1494 that divided the world between Spain and Portugal! There is also the anti-Thucydides Trap, wherein the incumbent power (the US), instead of resisting the rise of the challenger (China), helped it grow, deluding themselves that China would be benign. However, both are now employing all possible means against new challenger India's rise, including trying to balkanise the latter. That is Scenario 3, the Deep State playbook of 'colour revolutions' against governments they don't like for whatever reason. There is context in the BJP's 2024 accusation that the US Deep State is trying to "destabilise" India and that efforts by the Opposition are aiding this

larger scheme. Scenario 4 makes a strange sort of sense. Trump realises the US erred badly in relinquishing manufacturing to China, and wants to pull it back; also he has no interest in India becoming a new manufacturing power. Similarly, the 'deals' forcing Japan, the EU, Korea et al to invest billions of dollars in the US (and Ukraine, which receives extensive international aid, has promised to spend \$100 billion in the US) are extortionary: a sort of neo-imperialism. The effort to browbeat India into buying more US weapons is part of this: Trump aide Peter Navarro grumbled that India buys 36% of its armaments from Russia. He omitted to mention that this is down from 70+% a

decade ago. Sadly, US armaments and aerospace products (e.g. the F-35 and Boeing 787) are now seen as not so reliable. The moral posturing about India's purchases of Russian oil leading to Ukrainians' deaths is bizarre. It's just business, Trump aide Scott Bessent, why repeat INDI's Ambani-Adani mantra? Remember your own 'robber barons' and "What's good for General Motors is good for America"? There are many examples of profit above morals. One is the 1973 oil price crisis, when OPEC suddenly quadrupled crude oil prices, forcing a massive transfer of wealth from developing countries, quite likely causing starvation deaths. The US could have persuaded (or bullied) OPEC into preventing the price rise. But it didn't. Why? Because those petrodollars were recycled into buying American weapons. The Military Industrial Complex prospered. No morality there. There is an earlier parallel. Tipu Sultan invaded Kerala in the 1780s with a reign of terror. The British did nothing, despite a treaty with Travancore.

US Sending Sergio Gor To India Smells Of Reset, With A Whiff Of Re-hyphenation

Abhijit Majumder

Gorokhovsky is a surname which would hang from one's neck like a large rock in America's topmost echelons of power. Especially if one is born in the former Soviet Union. Gor, however, renders the rock somewhat invisible and much less weighty. Which is why Sergio Gor, who was born in Tashkent of Soviet-ruled Uzbekistan in 1986 and grew up as a child in Malta, breathes in the rarefied air of US President Donald Trump's innermost circle. And which is why his appointment as the next ambassador to India - with the extra charge as special envoy for South and Central Asian Affairs - is so consequential. Trump himself and a host of his most senior colleagues, from Secretary of State Marco Rubio to Secretary of Health Robert F. Kennedy Jr., rushed to congratulate Gor. What was interesting to note was the tone of the messages, coming after Trump's tariff tantrums, a fiery hiatus in India-US ties. It suddenly seemed no water had flown under the bridge. "I am excited about the President's decision to nominate @SergioGor to be our next Ambassador to India. He will be an excellent representative of America in one of



the most important relationships our nation has in the world," Rubio posted on X. That "one of the most important relationships our nation has in the world" Rubio mentions has been lately hauled through childish claims of mediation in Operation Sindoor, serenading Pakistan, calling India's a "dead economy," and ratcheting up tariffs to a point where it ceases to be punitive and becomes laughable. Even Gor's Soviet backdrop - his father Yuri Gorokhovsky was reportedly an aviation engineer who worked on aircraft designs for the Soviet military, notably the IL-76 - and whispers that he is close to the Kremlin even today, could work as a bridge with

India. Gor has Trump's ear. He is powerful enough to drive a wedge between Trump and Elon Musk (who described him as a "snake") and to go unvetted for six months despite himself heading the White House Presidential Personnel Office. So, Gor's appointment as ambassador does smell of Washington's attempt to reset relations with New Delhi. Former Trump adviser and conservative ideologue Steve Bannon, in an interview, applauded Gor's appointment, hoping his closeness to Trump will serve both countries. "I believe Sergio is the only person outside of [chief of staff] Susie [Wiles] and a handful of others who actually has walk-in privileges to the president at any time, day or night," Bannon said. "If I'm [Prime Minister Narendra] Modi in India - and I say this as somebody that's so pro that relationship - I couldn't think of a better pick. Does he have a deep knowledge base of Indian policy issues? He doesn't, but this guy's a quick study. He not just has access to the president ... but he has a unique trust. The President trusts this guy, that he's dealing with him straight." In that sense, Gor is the shortest possible route to Trump's regrettably short attention span.

Precious Threads

Rudra Chatterjee

A kani shawl can take over a year to make. Its intricate design is not mapped on paper but guided by taalim, an oral tradition passed down through generations in the Kashmir Valley. Dozens of slender, eyeless bobbins called kanis build the motif, thread by thread. The result is an object steeped in time, skill, and cultural meaning. In the Mughal court, such shawls signified rank and were bestowed as part of a khilat, a robe of honour to favoured courtiers. They adorned Empress Josephine, the wife of Napoleon Bonaparte, who helped spread the fashion among European elites. An 1805 painting by François Pascal Gérard, now in the Belvedere Palace in Vienna, shows a noblewoman in a white muslin gown draped with an orange kani shawl - capturing how the artefact became a marker of European sophistication. In time, the design was imitated in Paisley, Scotland, where factories produced machine-woven versions on Jacquard looms, and the teardrop motif became known as 'Paisley'. And yet, despite their artistry and heritage, most kani weavers are struggling to eke out a living today. The paradox is sharp: exquisite making, invisible makers. This story plays out across India - among the block printers of Rajasthan, the jamdani weavers of Bengal, the zardozi embroiderers of Lucknow - where some of the world's most refined textile traditions survive on the economic margins. India is home to the largest population of craft artisans in the world; yet their labour is rarely transformed into storied brands that allow them to share in the cultural and the commercial value they create. Our nation's aesthetic intelligence remains disconnected from its economic structures. Craft traditions endure in technique, but they falter in innovation, visibility, and reward. Mahatma Gandhi placed artisans at the heart of India's moral economy, elevating khadi as the fabric of freedom. Yet, as with farmers, symbolic celebration rarely translated into commercial empowerment.

Why Joint Parliamentary Committees Are An Exercise In Futility

Derek O'Brien

“The All India Trinamool Congress (AITC) and the Samajwadi Party (SP), the second largest Opposition parties in Parliament, decided not to nominate any of its members to the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) being proposed to examine the Constitution (One Hundred and Thirtieth Amendment) Bill, calling the committee a 'farce'. Here are three reasons why JPCs are an exercise in futility:

One, the chairperson of the JPC is decided by the Speaker of Lok Sabha and the chairperson of Rajya Sabha, in consultation with each other as may be necessary, and its members are subsequently nominated by each party according to the party's strength. This makes these committees skewed towards the ruling majority because of their numbers in the Houses. The chairperson of the JPC would have been a BJP MP. Second, in almost every JPC there is no consensus on the final report. Whenever important amendments are proposed by an opposition MP, the amendments are defeated in the committee by a show of hands. The ruling party uses its brute majority to do this. This has become a trend. Instead of coming to these meet-



ings with an open mind, Members of Parliament representing the treasury benches come and rubber stamp the views of the ruling party. Those in the opposition, holding an alternate view, are outvoted. The only recourse left is to table a dissenting note - for the record.

Third, let me pluck out a few examples - from 1987, 1992 and 2001. In the Bofors case of 1987, it was alleged that a Congress member had taken bribes while settling the deal of purchasing the Bofors 'shoot and scoot' guns. The JPC report was boycotted by the opposition high-

lighting that the committee was packed with members of the ruling party.

When the Harshad Mehta scam (1992) surfaced, a JPC was set up to inquire into allegations that Mehta diverted funds to Maruti Udyog Limited and provoked a major fall in the Sensex. However, the recommendations were neither accepted nor implemented. During the Share Market Scam (2001), the Ahmedabad-based Madhavpura Mercantile Cooperative Bank had big exposure to the stock market, courtesy former stockbroker Ketan Parekh. The JPC suggested stock market regulations, which were subsequently diluted. There have been other cases where a JPC has been formed for investigations. For example, the Joint Committee

on pesticide residues in and safety standards for soft drinks, fruit juice and other beverages (2003) and the Joint Committee to examine matters relating to allocation and pricing of telecom licences and spectrum (2011). While only some recommendations were implemented from the former, the latter was mired in controversy.

(Extract from column which appeared on NDTV on 6 March, 2023) Joint Parliamentary Committees (JPCs) were originally conceived as democratic and well-intentioned mechanisms, established through motions passed by both Houses of Parliament and endowed with exceptional powers, such as summoning witnesses, demanding documents, and examining experts.

SC stays trial against Ashoka University professor booked for Op Sindoor posts

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday stayed trial court proceedings against Ashoka University political science professor Ali Khan Mahmudabad, who was booked by Haryana Police over his social media posts on Operation Sindoor. A Bench of Justices Surya Kant and Jyomalya Bagchi passed an interim order restraining the jurisdictional magistrate from taking cognisance of the Haryana Police's charge sheet involving an offence under Section 152 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, which relates to an offence against the sovereignty of the nation. The Justice Kant-led Bench also noted that a closure report had been filed in one of the FIRs against Mahmudabad and accordingly quashed those proceedings. In an earlier hearing, the top court had pulled up the Haryana Special Investigation Team (SIT) for unnecessarily widening the scope of its probe, after being informed



that the SIT had seized Mahmudabad's electronic devices and sought his decade-long travel history. It had also ordered that Mahmudabad should not be summoned again, noting that he had already joined the investigation and submitted his electronic devices. The Justice Kant-led Bench had directed the high-level probe panel to conclude its investigation within four weeks, reiterating that the SIT should restrict its probe to the language and content of the

social media posts on the Pahalgam terror attack and the country's cross-border military response. In an order passed on May 21, the apex court ordered the Haryana DGP to constitute an SIT comprising three directly recruited IPS officers, who do not belong to Haryana or Delhi, to holistically understand the complexity of the phraseology employed and for proper appreciation of some of the expressions used in the two online posts. "The SIT shall be headed by an Officer at least in the rank of Inspector General of Police; the remaining two members will be Officers in the rank of Superintendent of Police and above. One of the members of the SIT will be a woman IPS Officer. The Director General of Police is directed to constitute the SIT within 24 hours. The petitioner shall join and fully cooperate with the investigation," it had ordered. To facilitate the investigation, the Supreme

Court had directed that Mahmudabad be released on interim bail, subject to his furnishing bail bonds to the satisfaction of the Chief Judicial Magistrate, Sonapat. Mahmudabad, 42, was arrested on a complaint filed by Yogesh Jatheri, the General Secretary of the BJP Yuva Morcha in Haryana. An FIR was lodged against Mahmudabad under sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) pertaining to inciting armed rebellion or subversive activities and insulting religious beliefs. Also, sedition-like charges were filed against him. Haryana State Commission for Women Chairperson Renu Bhatia took suo motu cognisance of Mahmudabad's remarks, which were alleged to be disparaging toward women in the Indian Armed Forces and promoting communal disharmony. The women's rights body had summoned the professor, but he failed to appear.

Madras HC seeks proof of license cancellation in kidney racket case

Chennai: The Madras High Court on Monday directed the Tamil Nadu Health and Family Welfare Department to submit a copy of the formal order cancelling the renal transplantation licence of Dhanalakshmi Srinivasan Medical College and Hospital, Perambalur, after allegations surfaced about its involvement in an illegal kidney sale racket. Justice N. Anand Venkatesh issued the directive after the medical college challenged only a press release issued by the state government on August 10, which announced the cancellation of its licence. The judge noted that the communicate merely stated the government's decision based on an inquiry committee's report, and questioned whether a written cancellation order had been passed thereafter. Responding to the query, Additional Advocate General J. Ravindran informed the court that a cancellation order was indeed passed following the press release and assured that it would be produced before the court by Thursday (August 28). The inquiry committee, constituted by the state Health Department, had recommended the cancellation of licences for both Dhanalakshmi Srinivasan Medical College and Cethar Hospital in Tiruchi. It also sought criminal action



against brokers who facilitated the racket after uncovering fake documents submitted for kidney transplantation. The panel further highlighted lapses on the part of district- and state-level organ transplantation authorisation committees, whose officials had approved forged papers for submission to the Directorate of Medical Education and Research (DME&R). It stressed the need to reconstitute these committees and proposed the framing of a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for live donor transplants.

Please aspire. We have vision and mission to land on moon by 2040: Shubhanshu Shukla



Lucknow: At the felicitation ceremony at his alma mater, City Montessori School in Gomtinagar on Monday, Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla gave an inspiring speech to the students. He encouraged students to strive for the vision of landing on the moon by 2040. In his speech, the Group Captain said, "... I was very tired this morning. Then I saw you kids on the roads and I was told you were standing there since 7.30 am. I saw you sweating, smiling, and so excited that my tiredness vanished..." He further said that the only thing required to succeed is "perseverance". "In my overall experience, I think the future is extremely bright. We are at the right time, the right opportunities are existing... In each of the interactions I had with you on the International Space Station (ISS), I never got a question on what it was like on the ISS. I was always asked how to become an astronaut. That speaks volumes on where your mind is going," Shukla said. Shukla further urged the student to "aspire". He added, "We have a vision and a mission to land on the moon by 2040..." Shukla, the second Indian to reach space, received a grand welcome from students during a road show in Uttar Pradesh's Lucknow on Monday. Students welcomed Group Captain Shukla to his hometown in Lucknow by waving the tricolour. Children showed enthusiasm and cheered for Shukla during the road show. Earlier today, Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak received Shubhanshu Shukla at the Lucknow airport. Speaking to reporters, Brajesh Pathak said that the Uttar Pradesh government has organised an event to honour Group Captain Shukla. "The son of Lucknow and India, Shubhanshu Shukla's arrival is being awaited by the whole of Lucknow. We welcome our beloved as he comes home, and we feel proud of his achievements. Shubhanshu Shukla has shown a way to the world. The UP government has organised a big event to honour him today... He is an inspiration for the youth," he said. Dy CM Pathak called it a "big day" for Lucknow as Shubhanshu Shukla returned after NASA's Axiom-4 space mission. "Today is a big day for Lucknow. The son of Bharat, the son of Lucknow, set foot in Lucknow. Ever since he returned to earth from space, the people of Lucknow were eagerly waiting for his arrival. Today, that moment is finally here. We welcome Shubhanshu Shukla with warmth and love," the Deputy CM told the news agency. Speaking to the news agency, his mother stated that the entire family was visiting the airport to receive him, further stating that they were really excited to meet him after a long period of time. "My son is coming home after 1.5 years. I am very happy and excited to meet him after so long. We will welcome him warmly.

Education Minister charts 25-year roadmap for inclusive, research-driven IITs

New Delhi: Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan chaired the 56th IIT Council Meeting, emphasising making Indian Institutes of Technology more inclusive, research-focused, and aligned with 21st-century needs. The roadmap aims to ensure IITs lead India's scientific and societal progress by 2047, supporting PM Modi's vision of 'Samridhh, Viksit and Atmanirbhar Bharat'. In a post on X, Pradhan wrote, "Pleased to chair the 56th IIT Council Meeting to take stock of the academic progress and chart the roadmap for the next 25 years, particularly for making our IITs more inclusive, research-



driven, aligned to the needs of the 21st century and how these prestigious institutions will lead India's scientific, technological and societal progress by 2047 in sync with the strategic goals outlined by Hon'ble PM Shri @narendramodi ji during his Independence Day address." He referred to IITs as "the crowning jewels of our higher education system" and envisioned their central role

in achieving the goal of a "Samridhh, Viksit and Atmanirbhar Bharat." Earlier, on August 20, Pradhan called the passage of the Indian Institutes of Management (Amendment) Bill, 2025, in the Parliament a "historic milestone." "This comes after the Lok Sabha on August 19 passed a bill to establish the Indian Institute of Management in Guwahati. In a post on X, Pradhan said, "A historic milestone in Assam's ascent as an eminent educational hub. With the passage of The Indian Institutes of Management (Amendment) Bill, 2025 in the Parliament, Assam gets its 1st #IIM in Guwahati.

Kejriwal slams lathi charge over SSC aspirants at Ramleela Maidan

New Delhi: Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convenor Arvind Kejriwal on Monday slammed the BJP government led by the Delhi Chief Minister, Rekha Gupta, over the lathi charge on the protesting Staff Selection Commission (SSC) aspirants at New Delhi's Ramleela Maidan. He accused the government of using force to silence the students and suppress their voices, who were protesting against irregularities in the SSC exam. The students, who have been fighting for justice for months, were met with force in the darkness of the Saturday night, leaving many with injuries. Media



personnel were also stopped from covering the news, sparking widespread outrage. In a post on social media X, Kejriwal alleged that BJP has made a mockery not just of democracy, but of the entire system. "See the BJP's dictatorship and thuggery...Open thuggery

is rampant in the country. Those who question the BJP are silenced by ordering lathi charges against them. Anyone can be picked up and thrown into jail, any law can be changed whenever they want. If someone doesn't vote for the BJP, their vote is cut," he posted. The students are demanding a re-examination, cancellation of the current exam results, and action against those responsible for the irregularities. "These students have been fighting for justice for months over the irregularities in the SSC exam. Instead of listening to their voices, they were beaten with batons in the darkness of the night.

Udhampur:

Dhar road blocked as massive boulders fall



Udhampur:The Dhar road in Udhampur's Dudar Nullah was blocked on Monday after massive boulders slid down mountains. Speaking to the news agency, a local stated that the fallen boulders had affected the moving vehicles. "The route is blocked in Dudhar Nallah at Dhar Road..There are big rocks here. People are very upset. It happened in the morning...This has been happening all monsoon...People are trying to cross this road to reach Udhampur. A bus is trying to help the stranded people reach there...People are trying to get to the bus," the local told the news agency. A day earlier, a massive landslide triggered by rainfall near

Balinallah on the Jammu-Srinagar national highway in Udhampur, crushing a petrol pump under its debris. A massive landslide triggered by rainfall occurred near Balinallah on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway in Udhampur on Sunday, crushing a petrol pump under its debris.The owner of the petrol pump, Jai Pal Singh Jamwal, claimed that this incident happened around 6:30-7 pm. "This incident happened around 7 pm... There was a crack in the mountain nearby, which caused the load on the petrol pump to be very high. Due to which this whole collapse happened," Jamwal said to the news agency. Jamwal further claimed that there were no casualties.

Haryana Assembly Session Day 2: Cong alleges vote rigging, protests outside house

Chandigarh, Aug 25 (Representative)

The second day of the Haryana Assembly's monsoon session kicked off with the question hour, transitioning to the zero hour, as political tensions flared. Congress legislators held a demonstration outside the Assembly, accusing the Election Commission of India (ECI) of orchestrating vote fraud to derail their electoral prospects in the state polls. Former Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda spearheaded the protest, leading MLAs to the Assembly's Gate No. 1, where they chanted "End Vote Theft, Surrender Power." Police halted their attempt to enter the premises. Hooda asserted that the ECI's alleged vote tampering cost Congress its chance to govern. Earlier, a Congress legislative meeting was convened by state president Chaudhary Udaybhan, while Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini led a parallel BJP meet-

ing. The session is braced for further disruptions over the death of Bhiwani teacher Manisha, which caused chaos on August 22, the session's opening day, with Congress raising law and order issues, leading to several adjournments. Manisha's father later appealed via video to keep the matter apolitical. Parliamentary Affairs Minister Mahipal Dhanda rebuked Congress for breaching legislative norms, defending the ECI's voter list cleanup as a legal step to eliminate "unauthorized voters." Cabinet Minister Rao Narbir Singh promised swift resolution, with Chief Minister Saini highlighting ongoing efforts, including clearing 16,000 tons of waste in Delhi and plans for additional Yamuna sewage treatment facilities. Congress's 37 MLAs attended the session without a Leader of the Opposition for the fourth time, with no decision from the party leadership. BJP's Anil Vij mocked their indecision. The session remains charged with intense debates and political confrontations.

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Iran nuclear talks with European powers to be held in Geneva

Tehran: Iran will resume talks on its nuclear program in Geneva on Tuesday with France, the United Kingdom and Germany, three countries that are part of a 2015 agreement with Tehran to regulate its nuclear activities and which have threatened to reimpose sanctions, the state broadcaster reported.

"This new round of negotiations," following a previous session held in July in Istanbul, Turkey, will take place "at the level of deputy foreign ministers in Geneva," the broadcaster said. Iran will be represented by Majid Takht-Ravanchi, according to Tasnim news agency. The location of the talks had not previously been specified.

France, the United Kingdom and Germany, along with China, Russia and the United States, reached a deal with Iran in 2015 imposing significant restrictions on its nuclear



program in exchange for a gradual lifting of UN sanctions. The agreement became void after Washington unilaterally withdrew from the treaty in 2018 under President Donald Trump. In response, Tehran has since rolled back some of its commitments, including on uranium enrichment. France, the United Kingdom and Germany have threatened to

reinstate UN sanctions against Iran if no negotiated solution is found by the end of August. Iran disputes the Europeans' legitimacy to invoke this clause of the 2015 agreement. When the United States withdrew, Paris, London and Berlin reaffirmed their commitment to the agreement, saying they wanted to continue trade with Iran. The three capitals

did not reimpose UN sanctions. However, the European measures to compensate for the return of U.S. sanctions have struggled to take effect, and many Western companies were forced to leave Iran, which is now facing high inflation and an economic crisis. According to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Iran is the only non-nuclear-weapon state enriching uranium to a high level (60 percent), well above the 3.67 percent limit set by the 2015 agreement.

To make a nuclear bomb, enrichment must reach 90 percent, according to the IAEA. Western countries, led by the United States, and Israel, Iran's sworn enemy, have long suspected Iran of seeking to develop nuclear weapons. Tehran vigorously denies any military ambitions but insists on its right to nuclear technology for civilian purposes.

New Zealand Post suspends deliveries to US over tariffs

Wellington: New Zealand's postal service said it had suspended most deliveries to the United States, citing uncertainty over the impact of President Donald Trump's looming tariffs. NZ Post said it had temporarily suspended services as of August 21 before the US 15 percent tariff takes effect on August 29. Only limited letters and important documents - such as passports or legal letters - would be delivered to the United States, said a statement on the carrier's website. The move follows similar steps taken by postal services and mail carriers in India, Germany, France, Belgium, Austria and Denmark after the Trump administration said that as of August 29 it would abolish a tax exemption on small packages entering the United States. The United States started imposing tariffs



on foreign nations in April, but most are only coming into force this month after months of negotiations and delays. NZ Post said it was "working quickly" to make changes to its service and that it hoped to resume deliveries as "soon as possible." Prime Minister Christopher Luxon told Radio New Zealand on Monday there

was confusion over the impact of the tariffs. "As these postal organizations have worked out, they can't guarantee what the tariff rate will be or cost, or how that will all work in practical terms," Luxon said. "I'm sure NZ Post, along with its counterparts in other countries, will work with the US to get clarity."

Japan PM Ishiba bounces back in polls after election debacle



Tokyo: Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba's poll ratings have rebounded a month after disastrous election results left his premiership hanging by a thread, a clutch of surveys showed Monday. Ishiba took the helm of the long-dominant Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) last year and has since lost his majority in both houses of parliament, most recently in upper chamber elections in July. But the self-confessed defense policy "geek" and maker of model ships has defied calls to resign from within the party, which has governed Japan almost non-stop since the 1950s. According to one poll by the Yomiuri Shimbun daily published Monday, the approval rating for Ishiba's cabinet was 39 percent, a record 17 points higher than after the July 20 vote. More respondents (50 percent) now think Ishiba should remain than resign (42 percent), the questionnaire showed, a reversal from July, when 54 percent said he should go and 35 percent stay. Another poll conducted by Kyodo News put support at 35.4 percent, up 12.5 points from last month after the upper house election, while the disapproval rating stood at 49.8 percent. A third survey by the Mainichi Shimbun put backing for the prime minister at 33 percent, a rise of four points, the first time it has been over 30 percent since February. The Yomiuri put the recovery down to the recent trade deal with the United States and efforts by Ishiba's government to curb the recent meteoric rise in rice prices. US President Donald Trump announced a "massive" trade deal with Japan only two days after the upper house election, cutting threatened US tariffs to 15 percent from 25 percent, while lowering those on cars to the same level. Voter backing of Ishiba's handling of US trade negotiations rose to 42 percent from 29 percent in June. An overwhelming 86 percent said they approved of the government's decision to shift policy toward increasing rice production. Rice prices have skyrocketed due to supply problems linked to a very hot summer in 2023 and panic-buying after a "megaquake" warning last year, among other factors. Ishiba has appointed a new farm minister - the popular Shinjiro Koizumi, 44, a potential challenger - and his government has released emergency stocks in an effort to bring down prices. According to media reports, the LDP plans to conduct a review of last month's election, to be followed by a decision on whether to hold a party leadership election. Ishiba, 68, said after a recent LDP plenary meeting, where some lawmakers reportedly urged him to step down, that he would "consider appropriately" the results of this investigation. "I'd like to deepen my thinking as various things are going on simultaneously," he said. "Even within the LDP, passion for holding a party leadership election... has been diminishing," said Mikitaka Masuyama, politics professor at the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies. "They may face criticism that instead of doing their jobs and addressing everyday life struggles like inflation, the LDP is holding a party leadership election," Masuyama said.

SpaceX postpones Starship test flight over ground system issue

New Delhi: Elon Musk's SpaceX on Sunday called off the launch of Starship's tenth mission from Texas over an issue at its launch site, delaying an attempt to achieve several long-sought development milestones missed due to past tests ending in early failures. The 70.7-meter-tall Super Heavy booster and its 52-meter-tall Starship upper half sat stacked on a launch mount at SpaceX's Starbase rocket facilities as it was being filled with propellant ahead of a liftoff time of 7:35 p.m. ET (2335 GMT). But roughly 30 minutes from liftoff, SpaceX said on X it was standing down to allow time to



troubleshoot an issue with ground systems. Musk had been poised to provide an update on Starship's development progress prior to the rocket's launch on Sunday, but a placeholder live stream indicated it had been canceled. Similar

postponements in the past have been resolved in a matter of days. SpaceX is now targeting as soon as Monday, August 25, for Starship's next launch attempt, according to its website. Development of SpaceX's next-generation rocket, the center of the company's powerful launch business future and Musk's Mars ambitions, has faced repeated hiccups this year. Two Starship testing failures early in flight, another failure in space on its ninth flight, and a massive test stand explosion in June that sent debris flying into nearby Mexican territory have tested SpaceX's test-to-failure development approach.

Indonesia, US and allies launch joint military drills



Jakarta: Indonesia and the United States launched joint military drills on Monday that will last more than a week, joining allies from 11 countries in exercises aimed at ensuring stability in the Asia-Pacific region. The annual "Super Garuda Shield" drills will take place in the capital Jakarta and several locations on the western island of Sumatra and the Riau archipelago until September 4. More than 4,100 Indonesian and 1,300 American troops will take

part, joined by participants from Australia, Japan, Singapore, France, New Zealand, Britain and other nations. The US and some allies such as Australia have expressed growing concern about China's increasing assertiveness in the Pacific, but Washington has previously said such drills are not aimed at Beijing. Samuel Paparo, commander of US Indo-Pacific Command, said this year's exercises were "the largest Super Garuda Shield ever," adding that they would help participating nations boost deterrence, without elaborating.

Mexican drug lord Ismael 'El Mayo' Zambada to plead guilty to federal charges

New York: Former Mexican cartel kingpin Ismael "El Mayo" Zambada is expected to plead guilty Monday to federal charges related to his role in the violent drug trade that for years flooded the US with cocaine, heroin and other illicit substances. The longtime leader of the Sinaloa cartel is scheduled to appear before a federal judge in Brooklyn for a change of plea hearing. The appearance comes after federal prosecutors said two weeks ago that they wouldn't seek the death penalty against Zambada, who was arrested in Texas last year. Prosecutors, in a court filing ahead of Monday's hearing, said they expect the 77-year-old to plead guilty to one count of racketeering conspiracy and one count of running a continuing criminal enterprise. Zambada pleaded not guilty last year to a range of drug trafficking and related charges, including gun and money laundering offenses. Lawyers for Zambada didn't immediately respond to an email seeking comment Friday. Prosecutors say the Sinaloa cartel evolved from a regional player into the largest drug trafficking organization in the world under the leadership of Zambada and co-founder Joaquín "El Chapo" Guzman.

Vietnam evacuates tens of thousands ahead of Typhoon Kajiki



Vinh: Tens of thousands of residents were being evacuated from coastal Vietnam on Monday, as Typhoon Kajiki barreled toward landfall expected to lash the country's central belt with gales of around 160 kmh.

The typhoon - the fifth to affect Vietnam this year - is currently at sea, roiling the Gulf of Tonkin with waves of up to 9.5 meters (31 feet). More than 325,500 residents in five coastal provinces have been slated for evacuation to schools and public buildings converted into temporary shelters, authorities said.

World bank approves USD 47.9 million grant for primary education in Pakistan

Islamabad: The World Bank has approved a USD 47.9 million grant, funded by the Global Partnership for Education Fund, to help improve girls' and boys' participation at pre-primary and primary levels in Punjab. The new support is expected to improve learning outcomes at the primary level and strengthen remedial learning support at the elementary level of schooling. According to a statement, the "Getting Results: Access and Delivery of Quality Education Services and System Transformation in Punjab Project" will expand early childhood education, re-enrol out-of-school children, strengthen teacher



support, and improve the education sector's responsiveness to climate change and emergencies. The project targets the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable populations, in line with the World Bank Group's twin

goals of eliminating extreme poverty and promoting shared prosperity and its Country Partnership Framework (CPF) with Pakistan. "This project represents a crucial step towards addressing learning poverty and ensuring

equitable access to quality education across Punjab," said Bolormaa Amgaabazar, World Bank Country Director for Pakistan. World Bank urges Pakistan to expedite USD 55mn power efficiency project "By strengthening foundational learning, enhancing system capacity, and promoting behavioural change, the project will support long-term human capital development and economic growth in the province," she added. The project aims to benefit over 4 million children, including 80,000 out-of-school children, more than 3 million children in School Education Department (SED) schools, about 850,000 children in the non-formal sector, and

140,000 differently-abled children in Special Education Department (SpED) schools. Additionally, over 100,000 teachers and school leaders, as well as parents and community members, will benefit through professional development and awareness campaigns. Indirect beneficiaries include all students in SED, SpED, and non-formal schools who will gain from broader system reforms. "The project is aligned with the Government of Punjab's broader education reform agenda, which seeks to create a more effective, accountable, and inclusive education system," said Izza Farrakh, World Bank Task Team Leader for the project.

India U17 women slam eight past Bhutan

Thimphu: Anushka Kumari fired a stunning hat-trick as India U17 Women maintained their perfect record in the SAFF U17 Women's Championship 2025, thrashing hosts Bhutan 8-0 at the Changlimithang Stadium in Thimphu on Sunday, August 24, 2025, as per the AIFF website.

It was the Young Tigresses' third consecutive win of the tournament. Besides Anushka's (53', 61', 73') stellar performance, Abhista Basnett (23', 89') scored a brace while Pearl Fernandes (71'), Divyani Linda (77'), and Valaina Fernandes (90+2') were on target. India led 1-0 at half-time.

With this dominant result, the Young Tigresses have now scored 17 goals in three matches without



conceding any, tightening their grip on top spot in the table and edging closer to the trophy.

India now have nine points from three matches, ahead of Bangladesh and Nepal, who have three points each. Bhutan, still without a point, were simply

overwhelmed by a side firing on all cylinders, especially in the second half.

From the moment the national anthems faded and the whistle blew, it was clear the script would favour India. Crisp passing, commanding possession, and blistering runs defined

their play. India wasted no time asserting themselves. In just the 5th minute, Shveta Rani's curling corner from the left nearly swung in directly, but Bhutan's alert goalkeeper Kelzang Wangmo collected it safely. Minutes later, Divyani Linda burst down the right wing and fired in a teasing low cross which found Nira Chanu Longjam at the near post, only for Wangmo to again deny the visitors.

Shots rained in as India pushed forward relentlessly. Anuska Kumari, Nira, and Julan Nongmaithem all tested Wangmo, who made a string of saves that drew loud cheers from the home fans.

But Bhutan's resistance cracked in the 23rd minute. Abhista Basnett, unmarked at the near post, met another well-flighted corner

from Shveta and calmly slotted home to give India a deserved lead.

To their credit, Bhutan carved out a promising moment in the 40th minute. Tshering Lhamo pounced on a loose ball and fired a powerful right-footed strike from the edge of the area, but Indian keeper Munni, rarely troubled, collected it safely.

After the break, India came out with greater purpose and raged a storm on the Bhutan citadel. India doubled their advantage in the 53rd minute. Anuska Kumari stepped up for a free-kick from 20 yards and unleashed a thunderbolt into the top corner, giving Wangmo no chance. It was the moment that broke Bhutan's spirit. In the 61st minute, Anushka added her second.

BCCI looking for new title sponsor after ending association with Dream11, says Saikia



New Delhi: Devajit Saikia, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) secretary, confirmed on Monday that the board's association with fantasy sports company Dream11 has ended, and deliberations over finding a new lead sponsor is on. Dream11 had signed a three-year deal worth Rs 358 crore in July 2023 to replace edtech company Byju's as the lead sponsor of the Indian cricket team. It also had a significant presence in the Indian Premier League (IPL) through multiple franchise tie-ups and being lead sponsor in 2020 after Vivo's pullout. But after the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Bill 2025 was passed in both Parliament houses last week, as well as got the assent of President Droupadi Murmu, Dream11 said it suspended all money-based online gaming contests on its platform. "Under the new legislation, it will be difficult for BCCI to continue with Dream11 or any other identical gaming companies. So, there is a roadblock and I don't think BCCI will be able to continue with Dream11 now. We are deliberating on an alternative course of action at this stage," said Saikia to IANS. It is understood that Dream11 will not incur any penalties, with the contract having a clause safeguarding the sponsor in case its core business is banned by the government and that they won't be liable to pay anything to the BCCI. Asked if the BCCI will float a new tender soon for the Indian team's sponsorship, especially with just a fortnight left for the Men's T20 Asia Cup to happen in the UAE from September 9-28, Saikia said, "We have not finalised anything, but we'll have to have an alternative now. Because with Dream11 going away, there will be some vacancy in the sponsorship slot. So, we have to have an alternative, not a replacement. What we'll have to do and how we are going to do it, on that, we are deliberating now." "Dream 11 will not be with us anymore, under the new law. So we still have some time, at least 20 days or in fact, just about 15 days. So, if something develops within these 15-20 days, there will be a replacement. Otherwise, we'll see how it will progress over a period of time." Apart from Dream11, another fantasy sports company My11Circle's deal with the BCCI is also under a big cloud of doubt.

Arshdeep Singh Grew "Impatient" Waiting for His Test Debut in England



New Delhi: Arshdeep Singh was on the brink of making his Test debut during India's five-match series in England, but circumstances didn't go in his favour. The Indian team management preferred Akash Deep and Prasidh Krishna over him, while a thumb injury ruled him out of the fourth Test at Manchester. Punjab's bowling coach Gagandeep Singh, who has worked closely with

Arshdeep, revealed that the 26-year-old grew increasingly impatient during the tour. "A few months ago, when he was in England, I spoke to him. He was getting impatient that he was not getting a chance," Gagandeep told TOI. "I just told him, 'You've got to wait for your time'. I think they should've played him in England because he's a swing bowler and he's tall, everything's good."

I don't know the team combinations, probably the coach (Gautam Gambhir) and captain (Shubman Gill) weren't confident about him," he added. On how Arshdeep could cement his place in India's Test side, Gagandeep said: "He can be a better bowler with more swing and more accuracy."

'If the franchise feels there's a role for me': De Villiers hints at possible IPL coaching role with RCB

New Delhi: Former South African batting icon AB de Villiers has dropped a major hint about a possible return to the Indian Premier League (IPL) in a different capacity, expressing his desire for a coaching or mentoring role with Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) in the future. De Villiers spent the majority of his IPL career at RCB. The wicketkeeper-batter started his IPL career with the Delhi Daredevils (now Delhi Capitals) in 2008 and played for them for three seasons before joining the RCB in 2011. The South African legend, who retired from all forms of cricket in 2021, said that while a full-time professional commitment to the league is unlikely. But,



his bond with RCB remains strong and if the Bengaluru-based franchise feels there is role for him to be associated with the team, he is ready. "I might be involved with the IPL again in the future in a different role, but committing to a full season in a professional capacity is

really tricky, and I believe those days are done. That said, you never say never. My heart is with RCB and always will be. So, if the franchise feels there's a role for me (as a coach or mentor), when my time is right and ready, it will definitely be RCB," de Villiers told IANS.

Defending champions Korea arrive in Bihar for Men's Hockey Asia Cup

Rajgir: The Korea men's hockey team touched down in Bihar ahead of the prestigious Men's Hockey Asia Cup in Rajgir, which is scheduled to be played from August 28 to September 7. Led by captain Jongsuk Bae, the defending champions will be aiming to retain their crown in this edition of the tournament. Notably, Korea remain the most successful nation in the history of the Men's Asia Cup, having clinched the title a record five times, with their most recent triumph coming in 2022. In the previous edition held in Jakarta, they lifted the trophy after edging past Malaysia 2-1 in a thrilling final. Currently ranked 13th in the FIH World Rankings, Korea have been drawn into Pool B alongside Malaysia, Bangladesh and Chinese Taipei.

They will open their campaign against Chinese Taipei on August



29, followed by a crucial clash with Malaysia on August 30, before rounding off their Pool stage with a match against Bangladesh on September 1. After the team's arrival, Korea captain Jongsuk Bae said, "This is our first tournament in Rajgir, and the welcome we have received here has been truly heartwarming. The hospitality and excitement of the people have already made this tournament feel very special for

us. I am really happy to be here and grateful for the warm welcome we got." Speaking on the team's chances of defending the title, Bae stated, "It is hard to say with certainty that we will defend the title, because every team here is strong and the competition will be tough. But what I can promise is that we will give our absolute best on the field, stay true to the way we have prepared, and play with full commitment and fighting spirit."

India U23s to test themselves in friendly clash against Iraq ahead of Asian qualifiers

New Delhi: The India U23 men's national team will take on Iraq in the first of two friendly matches on Monday, August 25, 2025, at the UM Arena Stadium, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, as part of their preparation for the AFC U23 Asian Cup Qualifiers next month, as per the AIFF website.

Speaking on the eve of the match, India U23S head coach Naushad Moosa said, "Iraq are strong opponents, both physically and technically. But for us, it's not just about the opponents, it's about our own performance as well. If we play with discipline, unity, and the fighting spirit that we have built over the last 20 days, I am confident the boys will rise to the challenge. These are the kind of matches that make players stronger."

While facing Iraq is the immediate concern, the Blue



Colts will have an eye on getting in the proper preparation for the AFC U23 Asian Cup Qualifiers, where they will take on Bahrain (September 3), hosts Qatar (September 6), and Brunei Darussalam (September 9), in Group H.

"Playing a team like Iraq will

present the right kind of challenges to our boys before the qualifiers. It's not only about the results, but also about building confidence, testing ourselves in pressure situations, and learning how to handle the intensity we will face in the AFC U23 Asian Cup Qualifiers," Moosa said.

The Blue Colts have been training at the Padukone Dravid Centre for Sports Excellence in Bengaluru for the better part of a month, and after the two friendlies, will proceed to Doha, Qatar, for the Qualifiers.

"We had a 20-day camp, where the boys worked really hard. The focus was on improving our fitness, understanding our shape, and developing the right combinations on the pitch. The energy and attitude have been excellent from the boys, and now it's all about carrying the hard work into the match," said the India U23 head coach.

Fatima Sana to lead Pakistan for first time in Women's ODI WC



Lahore: Fatima Sana will lead Pakistan's 15-member squad for the first time in an ODI World Cup, set to take place from September 30 to November 2. Sana, who represented Pakistan in the previous edition of ICC Women's Cricket World Cup, had

previously captained the side in the ICC Women's CWC Qualifier held in Lahore this year, where the team maintained a 100 per cent win record to secure qualification for this year's ICC Women's Cricket World Cup set to take place in India and Sri Lanka. Uncapped

right-handed batter Eyman Fatima, who recently made her T20I debut against Ireland, is part of the ODI squad. Moreover, six players - Natalia Parvaiz (8 ODIs, 24T20Is), Rameen Shamim (8 ODIs, 11 T20Is), Sadaf Shamas (15 ODIs, 12 T20Is), Sadia Iqbal (27 ODIs, 50 T20Is), Shawaal Zulfiqar (3 ODIs, 9 T20Is) and Syeda Aroob Shah (2 ODIs, 15 T20Is) are set to feature in their maiden ODI World Cup. Additionally, two changes have been made from the 15-member squad that featured in the ICC Women's CWC Qualifier.

Bhatia signs off with T-13 finish as Fleetwood wins Tour

Atlanta: Indian-American Akshay Bhatia closed his season on a high note at the Tour Championship, carding a composed 2-under 68 in the final round to secure a share of 13th place at East Lake Golf Club. The 22-year-old, who squeezed into the season finale as the last qualifier at No. 30 in the FedEx Cup standings, showcased once again that he belongs among the sport's elite. While Bhatia finished strongly, the spotlight belonged to Tommy Fleetwood. On a dramatic final day, the Englishman finally shed the label of "best player without a PGA Tour win" by capturing not only his long-awaited maiden PGA Tour victory but also the FedEx Cup crown. Fleetwood sealed the double with a steady 2-under 68, completing the week at 18-under-par for a three-stroke triumph over Patrick Cantlay and Russell Henley. Fleetwood, tied with



Cantlay entering the final round, showed remarkable composure under pressure. His round featured birdies on the second, sixth, seventh, 12th, and 13th, offset by bogeys at the fifth, 10th, and 15th. Crucially, he parred the closing stretch to clinch his

breakthrough win. The 34-year-old also lifted two trophies - the FedEx Cup and the iconic "Calamity Jane" replica putter - along with a USD 10 million prize. Cantlay, his nearest challenger, stumbled early with a bogey and double bogey, while World No. 1 Scottie Scheffler saw his hopes vanish after finding water on the 15th. Rory McIlroy finished tied for 23rd with a closing 70. Ryder Cup captain Keegan Bradley, in contention for much of the day, settled for a tie for seventh after a 70, leaving him with the decision of whether to use one of his six captain's picks on himself. World No. 1 Scottie Scheffler hit his opening tee shot out of bounds but stayed a big threat till his tee shot went into the water on the 15th. Rory McIlroy (70) ended Tied-23rd. For Bhatia, the week was a statement of consistency and resilience.

The Quiet Power of Grief Travel



Travel, essentially, is a way to break free from the mundane hustle (or burnout, as they say). It is not just limited to a holiday, but much more. And sometimes, travelling is not really about taking breaks from the Excel sheets, deadlines, or overworked weekends. Sometimes, it's to process loss, a bad breakup, maybe, but not exactly to escape from it. When you travel as a way to cope with loss, it's called grief travel. And it's less about ticking off monuments and more about untangling the knots in your chest. They say distance makes the heart grow fonder, but sometimes, it also makes the heart lighter. Travel has a way of shaking you out of emotional stillness. Remember when Rani from Queen decided to go alone on her honeymoon? It was her way of dealing with the grief after being rejected by the man she loved, almost on the day of the wedding. She didn't just move past her loss but embraced a new version of herself after that trip. Or Eat Pray Love, for that matter, where Julia Roberts' Elizabeth Gilbert travels to Italy, India, and Bali after a divorce to heal and rediscover herself. Experts believe that travel serves as a powerful therapeutic tool when approached with the right intent. Staying put in the same space replays old memories, like being stuck in a loop. That's where travel comes to the rescue. "Travel introduces change - new faces, unfamiliar streets, different smells, and in that shift, something inside starts to soften. You may not forget your grief, but you begin to carry it differently," Shivani Misri Sadhoo, a marriage counsellor and psychologist, tells India Today. The air and aura of a new town, city, or country become a safe space for your emotions because they come without judgment. The strangeness becomes key to leaving behind the familiar and slowly rediscovering who you are without what you lost. Enough of the philosophy bit, let's add a little bit of science. By creating psychological distance from familiar environments and painful memories, travel allows the mind to breathe. "Immersing oneself in nature can trigger the release of mood-enhancing neurotransmitters like serotonin, promoting emotional balance and reducing stress," Dr. Anil Kumar Yadav, psychiatrist, Apollo Hospitals Bilaspur, tells us. Movement and novelty activate the brain's reward systems, lifting mood and reducing emotional overwhelm, Dr. Yadav adds. A change in the environment can disrupt negative thought loops and bring fresh insight. But it's not as easy as it sounds. When you think you are being the happy-go-lucky traveller, be mindful of not escaping your thoughts. The line may blur. What you think is coping might in fact be escaping. So, how do you differentiate? Travel should not be used to suppress or replace difficult emotions. Instead, it should facilitate new experiences that support emotional reprocessing. Mindful travel can be like clicking the 'refresh' button just irl this time. According to Dr. Yadav, one should remember a key difference between the two: "Healthy coping allows for reflection, growth, and clarity. Escapism numbs emotions without resolution, often delaying healing." Experts further emphasise that not every kind of travel may help in the process of healing. Choose travel that promotes stillness, not distraction. Over-scheduling, excessive planning, or constant stimulation can become mechanisms of emotional escape rather than pathways to healing. Beach or mountains? Pubs or cycle tours? Solo vs group travel? Every choice has a role to play when it comes to grief travel. Experts believe that the destination should be soul-touching and not distracting. While nature, in particular, has a calming effect in lowering stress and promoting mental clarity, other historically or culturally vibrant places can be grounding as well. "Cultural travel, like visiting ancient places or sacred sites, also shifts your perspective. And sometimes, going somewhere connected to your roots or your dreams can realign your identity post-loss," says Sadhoo. Slow travel is ideal for grief travel because it is intentional and allows you to be personal. Here are a few expert-backed tips to do grief travel right: A grief travel checklist can serve as a gentle guide for those seeking healing through journeys. Simple practices such as talking to locals, sitting in silence, or writing postcards to yourself can create moments of connection and reflection. Supporting the mind and body with self-care tools like journaling, online therapy, or meditation may also help provide an anchor during emotional turbulence. Establishing routines while traveling brings stability, while creative outlets such as music or writing allow for emotional release. As grief travel expert Sadhoo notes, this practice can be meaningful, but it should be approached with gentleness. Importantly, travel is not a cure for grief-it is instead an aesthetic, science-backed way to process emotions and find space for healing.

5 Ultra-Luxe Retreats Just Hours Away From India

With multiple long weekends approaching, there's no better way to celebrate than by checking out, literally. For Indian couples and families seeking a break that's both indulgent and practical, micro-retreats are the perfect answer: short international getaways with long-lasting memories. The key is choosing visa-friendly destinations with direct flights, quick transfers, and ultra-luxurious properties that allow you to switch off the moment you arrive. Here's a curated list of luxury escapes just a few hours from home each offering immersive experiences, thoughtful hospitality, and unforgettable settings.

- 1. JW Marriott Kaafu Atoll Island Resort, Maldives**

Set on the turquoise waters of Kaafu Atoll, the JW Marriott Maldives Resort & Spa offers an indulgent island escape that's surprisingly convenient for a short break. The highlight? It's just a 15-minute luxury speedboat ride from Malé International Airport, no long seaplane transfers required, a rare find in the Maldives.

This family- and couple-friendly retreat features overwater and beach pool villas, some with slides that drop straight into the ocean. Couples can indulge in sunrise yoga, floating breakfasts, and overwater spa rituals, while families are pampered with the Family by JW program, including a vibrant kids' club, junior culinary sessions, and multi-generational activities.

Dining is equally elevated, with five distinct restaurants including a treetop Thai experience and beachfront Japanese-Peruvian fusion and wine pairings in an underwater-inspired wine room. For those craving both luxury and ease, JW Marriott Kaafu Atoll offers a seamlessly accessible island escape, perfect for a long weekend where every moment counts.

2. The Legian Seminyak, Bali

Visa for Indians: Visa-on-arrival (valid up to 30 days)

The Legian Seminyak is a refined beachfront sanctuary on Bali's golden Seminyak Beach-where
- contemporary design meets timeless Indonesian charm. Just 30-40 minutes from Ngurah Rai International Airport, it offers the rare balance of peaceful seclusion with access to Bali's most vibrant restaurants and beach clubs.

Designed by the late Jaya Ibrahim, the resort features 67 elegant ocean-facing suites and 14 private pool villas under the exclusive "The Club" wing. Guests can enjoy a three-tiered infinity pool, yoga by the sea, holistic treatments at the Legian Spa, and curated cultural experiences. Families benefit from spacious suites and interconnecting options, while couples can savor candlelit dinners and long walks along a private stretch of sand.

Its seamless blend of quiet sophistication and convenience makes it a perfect long-weekend escape with no visa hassles and everything from wellness to nightlife just steps away.

3. InterContinental Phu Quoc Long Beach Resort, Vietnam

Visa for Indians: Visa-free access to Phu Quoc (up to 30 days)

On the tranquil western shores of
- Vietnam's Phu Quoc Island, the InterContinental Phu Quoc Long Beach Resort offers a luxurious yet effortless getaway. Indian travelers can enter visa-free, provided they stay on the island-making it ideal for spontaneous escapes.

The property boasts ocean-view rooms and private villas, a world-class HARNN spa, multiple dining venues including the rooftop INK 360 bar, and a Planet Trekkers kids' club. Surrounded by jungle-fringed beaches and coral reefs, it also offers cultural excursions to pepper farms, fish sauce distilleries, and night markets. Here, nature, wellness, and understated luxury converge-delivered with InterContinental's signature polish. And with no paperwork required, it's a seamless choice for a long weekend done right.

4. The Slate, Phuket, Thailand

Visa for Indians: Visa-on-arrival (up to 15 days)

Bold, artistic, and unapologetically unconventional, The Slate is one of Phuket's most distinctive resorts-a creative vision by designer Bill Bensley. Just minutes from Phuket International



Airport, it blends industrial-chic aesthetics with lush tropical landscaping.

The resort features design-led suites and pool villas, a serene Coqoon Spa, three pools (including one adults-only), and exceptional dining. Families will love the Tin Box kids' club and family pool, while couples can enjoy Black Ginger, the award-winning restaurant accessible only by floating bridge and lit entirely by torchlight.

With Thailand's straightforward visa-on-arrival policy, this edgy-yet-elegant property makes for a stylish, spontaneous escape that merges Thai heritage with modern creativity.

5. Amangalla, Galle, Sri Lanka

Visa for Indians: Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA) on arrival

For travelers who value timeless charm and historical depth, Amangalla-set within the walls of the 17th-century Dutch Fort in Galle-is a rare gem. The resort exudes colonial elegance, from its antique-filled rooms and checkerboard verandas to its serene garden pool and Ayurvedic spa. Guests can explore the cobbled lanes of Galle Fort, browse boutiques, enjoy high tea in the library, or embark on curated experiences such as whale watching and tea plantation visits. Amangalla is as much a journey back in time as it is a luxury stay, offering serenity and cultural immersion in equal measure.

With an easy ETA process and a short flight from southern India, it's a micro-retreat that blends soul and sophistication.

Whether it's a beachfront design hotel in Bali, an ultra-accessible atoll retreat in the Maldives, or a heritage escape in Sri Lanka, these destinations prove that even a 3-4 day getaway can feel like a grand adventure. With visa-on-arrival ease, world-class resorts, and curated experiences, all that's left is to pack your bags and your wanderlust.

Ayurveda, Yoga, And Beyond:

India's Healing Traditions Draw Global Travellers



Around the world, wellness tourism is moving from a niche interest to a mainstream pursuit, as travellers increasingly seek experiences that nourish not just the body but also the mind and spirit. For India, this shift is more than an opportunity. It is an organic extension of its centuries-old traditions. With Ayurveda, yoga, meditation, and holistic healing deeply rooted in its culture,

India holds a unique advantage in this fast-growing sector.

India's Living Heritage

"Wellness and Ayurveda are no longer just a complementary travel experience, but a fast-growing sector in global tourism," said Karan Agarwal, Director, Cox & Kings. "The global wellness tourism market is projected to surpass \$1 trillion by 2030, and India has a natural advantage with its 5,000-year-old Ayurvedic tradition, rich yoga heritage, and deeply rooted holistic healing practices." Ravi Gosain, President of the Indian Association of Tour Operators (IATO). Unlike destinations that have adopted wellness as a trend, India offers authenticity. "India's strength lies in the fact that Ayurveda and yoga are not manufactured experiences here. They are a way of life.

Eat, Pray, Love Turns 15:

From Naples To Bali, The Legacy Of Soulful Travel Lives On

Fifteen years ago, Julia Roberts bit into a simple margherita pizza in Naples and somehow, it wasn't just a film scene. It was a moment that changed how we thought about travel, about joy, about saying yes to life. Eat. Pray. Love wasn't just a movie; it became a manifesto, indulgence, stillness, connection not as luxuries, but as life itself. Elizabeth Gilbert's journey across Italy, India, and Bali gave millions permission to believe



that the road could, in fact, lead us back to ourselves. And while the credits rolled long ago, the spirit of that journey is still alive this time, not on screen, but in some of the world's most beautiful corners.

Close your eyes for a second and picture this: you're at a tiny table in Naples, the winter sun soft on cobbled streets, and the scent of dough and woodsmoke curling up around you. A pizza lands in front of you blistered from the woodfire, with mozzarella stretching and tomatoes bursting bright against charred bread. You take a bite and realize indulgence isn't about extravagance at all. It's about being here. Present.

Things to Keep in Mind Before Planning a Trip With Pets



Traveling with your pet can turn a simple trip into a memorable adventure, filled with shared moments and new experiences. Whether you're hitting the road, boarding a flight, or exploring a new destination, bringing your furry friend along requires thoughtful preparation to keep them safe, comfortable, and happy. From choosing pet-friendly locations to navigating travel regulations, every detail matters. Here are six key things to consider before planning a trip with your pet, ensuring a smooth and enjoyable journey for both of you. Not all destinations or accommodations welcome pets, so make sure that your travel plans align with pet-friendly options. Check for hotels, vacation rentals, or campgrounds that explicitly allow pets, and review their policies. See if there are restrictions on size or breed, check pet fees, or see if they have designated pet areas. Some cities have pet-friendly beaches or parks, while others may have strict regulations. Be it car, airplane or train ride, there are specific requirements when it comes to pets. There are certain policies when it comes to cabin vs. cargo, crate specifications, or breed restrictions. Make sure that your pet meets health and vaccination requirements. Without that, air or train travel may not be possible. International or interstate travel may require a health certificate from a veterinarian, proof of rabies vaccination, or microchip documentation in some cases. Remember to schedule a vet visit to ensure your pet is healthy for travel. Update vaccinations, obtain flea/tick preventatives, and discuss any travel-related concerns, such as motion sickness or anxiety. In most cases, a health certificate is required. If your pet is on medication, secure enough for the trip plus extra in case of delays. Ensure your pet is comfortable and secure during travel. For car trips, a pet seatbelt, crate, or carrier are good ideas. For air travel, choose a well-ventilated, airline-approved carrier that allows your pet to stand, turn, and lie down comfortably. If your pet is crate-trained, it will be a lot easier for them, in terms of stress management.