



## Venezuela Hit by Two Earthquakes in 60 Seconds, Several Cities Devastated

### Fears of 10,000 Deaths as 7.2 and 7.5 Magnitude Quakes Topple Buildings

**Caracas, Venezuela, Agency:** Two powerful earthquakes struck Venezuela within 60 seconds on Wednesday evening, causing widespread devastation across several cities in the South American nation. The first quake, measuring 7.2 on the Richter scale, struck at 6:34 p.m., followed by a stronger 7.5 magnitude tremor at 6:35 p.m.

According to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), there is a 44% probability that the death toll could exceed 10,000, while there is also a 30% chance that fatalities could surpass 100,000. So far, authorities have confirmed 32 deaths and more

than 700 injuries. At least 20 aftershocks have also been recorded.

Both earthquakes struck about 290 kilometers west of the capital, Caracas. Numerous buildings collapsed or tilted dangerously in several cities. Part of the roof of Caracas Airport also collapsed, sending clouds of dust into the air.

**Strongest Earthquake in 126 Years; National Emergency Declared:** The earthquakes are being described as Venezuela's strongest in the last 126 years. The previous most powerful quake in the country was a magnitude 7.7 earthquake recorded in 1900. Acting President

Delcy Rodríguez has declared a national emergency in response to the disaster.

President Delcy Rodríguez appealed to citizens to report missing persons and damaged homes through the government's VenApp platform.

VenApp has been a controversial application in Venezuela. Originally launched in 2022 as a citizen complaint platform, it has faced criticism for allegedly being used for social and political monitoring. According to Amnesty International, former President Nicolás Maduro used the platform in 2024 to gather information about anti-government movements. The app was subsequently removed from Google Play Store and Apple's App Store.



### Eight South American Countries Offer Assistance

**Government Yet to Release Official Death Toll:** In a national address, President Rodríguez expressed condolences to the families of those who lost their lives but did not disclose an official death toll. She said the government is fully engaged in relief and rescue efforts. According to the President, the airport suffered damage and has been temporarily closed for

humanitarian aid, relief supplies, and rescue teams if required. **Government Yet to Release Official Death Toll:** In a national address, President Rodríguez expressed condolences to the families of those who lost their lives but did not disclose an official death toll. She said the government is fully engaged in relief and rescue efforts. According to the President, the airport suffered damage and has been temporarily closed for

### Trump Pledges Full U.S. Support

Following the devastating earthquakes, U.S. President Donald Trump announced emergency assistance for Venezuela. In a social media post, Trump said, "The United States is fully prepared, willing, and able to help. I have directed all government agencies to be ready immediately. We will stand with our new and good friends. Initial reports are not encouraging."



### India Ready to Extend All Possible Assistance: PM Modi

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed deep sorrow over the tragedy and said India stands with the people of Venezuela during this difficult time. In a message posted on social media, Modi stated that India is prepared to provide all possible assistance if needed and remains committed to supporting Venezuela in its recovery efforts.



safety reasons. Rodríguez States, had contacted also stated that several coun- Venezuela to offer con- lences and assistance.

### Trump Seeks 8.3 Lakh Crore Additional Funding from Congress



**Washington D.C./Tel Aviv/Tehran, Agency:** The administration of U.S. President Donald Trump has requested Congress to approve an additional \$87.6 billion (approximately ₹8.3 lakh crore) in funding, with a major portion allocated to expenses arising from the conflict with Iran. According to the White House, this amount is separate from the nearly \$1 trillion defense budget approved last year and the \$1.5 trillion defense budget proposed for the upcoming fiscal year. The administration said the additional funds would be used for war-related operations, military preparedness, replenishment of weapons stockpiles, and classified defense programs.

**Congress Pushes Back:** The funding request is facing growing resistance in Congress. On Tuesday, the Senate passed a resolution calling on President Trump to halt military action against Iran. A similar resolution had previously been approved by the House of Representatives.

Four Republican lawmakers joined Democrats in supporting the measure, reflecting bipartisan concern over the continued military campaign and its financial implications. The White House argues that the funding is necessary to maintain military readiness, support ongoing operations, and strengthen U.S. defense capabilities amid heightened tensions in the Middle East.

## NCERT Includes 1975-77 Emergency in School Curriculum

» Election

### Commission Praised in Elections Chapter

**New Delhi, Agency:** The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has, for the first time, included a dedicated section on the 1975-77 Emergency in its Class 9 Social Science curriculum.

The new textbook, *Understanding Society: India and Beyond*, describes the Emergency as one of the most significant challenges faced by Indian democracy. According to reports, NCERT

### Class 9 Students to Study New Section



officials have confirmed that a separate section on the Emergency has been introduced for the first time in a Class 9 textbook.

In addition, the chapter titled "Elections" in *Understanding Society: India and Beyond - Part 1* praises the role of the Election Commission of India in con-

ducting free and fair elections. **Growing Public Discontent Against Indira Gandhi Government Highlighted:** The textbook states that public dissatisfaction with the government of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi had been increasing in the early 1970s. Rising unemployment, inflation, and allegations of mismanagement led to widespread protests across the country.

It notes that in June 1975, a National Emergency was declared on the grounds of internal disturbance.

### Fundamental Rights Suspended, Press Censored

According to the textbook, most fundamental rights were suspended during the Emergency period. Press censorship was imposed, and numerous political leaders and activists were arrested.

The book further states that democratic institutions came under considerable pressure during the period and that citizens' freedoms were significantly curtailed.

## Two Aircraft Face Each Other at Ahmedabad Airport, Collision Averted

**Ahmedabad, Agency:** A major aviation accident was narrowly avoided at Ahmedabad Airport on Wednesday evening when aircraft belonging to Air India and IndiGo came face-to-face on the same taxiway. Both planes were stopped in time, preventing a possible collision. According to sources, an IndiGo flight bound for Mumbai was preparing for takeoff when an Air India aircraft that had arrived from Mumbai mistakenly took a wrong turn while taxiing toward its parking bay and entered the same taxiway where the IndiGo aircraft was positioned. The two aircraft came within approximately 200 metres of each other before corrective action was taken. The Air India plane was later towed to its designated parking bay, after which the IndiGo aircraft proceeded to the runway.



## Heavy Rain Hits Rajasthan, Vehicles Stranded in Waterlogging

### Storm Uproots Poles in UP, Damages Cars; Monsoon Reaches MP and Gujarat

#### Bhopal/Jaipur/Lucknow /Patna, Agency:

Pre-monsoon rainfall continued across six Indian states—Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, and Delhi—on Wednesday, causing disruption in several areas. In Agra, Uttar Pradesh, strong winds brought down an electric pole onto cars parked along a roadside. The rear portions of two vehicles were damaged in the incident. In Rajasthan, heavy rainfall in several parts of Sikar and Churu led to waterlogging on roads, leaving motorcycles and cars stranded. Delhi also witnessed rain accompanied by strong winds, while a cloudburst



in the Kinnaur district of Himachal Pradesh triggered flooding in the Kacharung stream. Mumbai's Andheri subway was temporarily closed after being inundated with rainwater. In Vikhroli West, a wall near a residential building collapsed. Several trees were uprooted

across the city, damaging vehicles and disrupting traffic.

**Flooding in Arunachal Pradesh:** Amid continuous heavy rainfall over the past week, flooding occurred on Wednesday in the NEEPCO Project Colony of Keyi Panyor district in Arunachal Pradesh. One person was killed,

four others went missing, and more than 18 houses were damaged.

**July-August May See Humidity, Uneven Rainfall:**

#### Monsoon Reaches Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat

The southwest monsoon entered Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat on Wednesday, nine days later than usual. With this advancement, the monsoon has now covered 22 states across the country. Weather officials estimate that the monsoon could reach the remaining states by July 5.

According to Dr. Pankaj Kumar, a member of the World Meteorological Organization, a Super El Niño event causes Pacific Ocean waters to become significantly warmer than normal, affecting the speed, direction, and continuity of the monsoon. As a result, rainfall patterns may become uneven. Experts estimate that Madhya Pradesh could receive 90 to 92 percent of its normal seasonal rainfall, meaning some regions may experience excessive rain while others could witness prolonged dry spells.

Meteorologists also believe that despite being the peak monsoon months, July and August may still bring periods of heat and humidity.

# CM Bhagwant Singh Mann's Video Was Fake; Entire Conspiracy Exposed

## Mask Was Used to Make Someone Resemble CM Bhagwant Singh Mann

**SAS NAGAR :** Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann on Thursday presented evidence exposing a conspiracy behind a fake video circulated on social media to malign his image on religious grounds. Displaying videos and other material before the media, the Chief Minister said a mask resembling him was procured and used to create the fabricated video. He also identified Canada-based Jagman Samra as the person who, he said, used the mask to shoot the video.

CM Bhagwant Singh Mann said the fake video was filmed in a hotel in Canada, whereas he has not visited the country since 2016. He further said the mask was delivered to Jagman Samra in a car and that Samra was subsequently seen holding it. Pointing out that the mask was clearly visible in the video and that his

neck surgery scar was missing, the Chief Minister said the makers of the fake video had been identified and would be exposed after verification. He also announced that the matter would be placed before Sri Akal Takht Sahib along with the evidence.

Sharing the video on X, CM Bhagwant Singh Mann stated: "The elders have always said that there may be delay in God's justice, but never injustice. My dear Punjabis, over the past few days, my political opponents have played politics over a fake video of me. Today, a single mask has exposed the real faces of those opponents. From the very beginning, I have maintained that the person in that video is not me.

My head has always bowed before Sri Akal Takht Sahib, and it always will. My faith, my conscience, and the wise



people of Punjab stand with me. Who masterminded this entire conspiracy? In the coming days, we will make more major revelations about it as well. Waheguru Ji Ka Khalsa, Waheguru Ji Ki Fateh," the post concluded.

Addressing the media, CM Bhagwant Singh Mann said, "For the last several days, a fake and fabricated video of mine has been circulated repeatedly. Religious directives were also got issued only to derive political benefit

from it. Political masters are using people occupying religious positions to make announcements according to their convenience in an attempt to defame me religiously because they cannot compete with me politically. They have become completely irrelevant on the ground and have now stooped to issuing one order after another every day only to malign me religiously."

The Chief Minister said, "Our government has done unprecedented work for the social, economic and religious welfare of the people of Punjab. Whether it is the strict anti-beadbi law, waiving the tax on vehicles carrying Palki Sahib, holding the Punjab Vidhan Sabha session at Anandpur Sahib at the feet of Guru Sahib during the 350th Shaheedi Diwas celebrations, or granting 'holy city' status to three sacred

cities, they cannot compete with these decisions."

CM Bhagwant Singh Mann said, "All the opposition parties have now united with only one objective: target Bhagwant Mann through false videos so that people begin to hate me. That will never happen."

Questioning the role of the Shiromani Gurudwara Prabandhak Committee (SGPC), he said, "Boards have been put up outside Gurdwaras asking people to boycott Bhagwant Mann in the name of the orders of Sri Akal Takht Sahib, whose supreme authority I fully respect along with the entire Sikh Sangat across the world. Why were such boards not put up against Sukhbir Badal when he was declared 'Tankhaiya'? Why were people not asked to boycott those held responsible for beadbi incidents and police firing?

When the SGPC President himself says he is a soldier of Sukhbir Badal rather than Guru Gobind Singh Ji, it becomes clear where his loyalties lie."

Reaffirming his respect for Sri Akal Takht Sahib, CM Bhagwant Singh Mann said, "When I was called to Sri Akal Takht Sahib, I went there as a humble Sikh. Even today, if I am called, I will appear without hesitation. I can never challenge the supremacy of Sri Akal Takht Sahib, nor do I have the stature to do so."

Referring to the video released from those proceedings, he said, "I had requested that the proceedings be telecast live, but I was told only a recording would be kept for the Panj Singh Sahiban. Now even that recording is being selectively released after editing. Even in that recording, I maintain that the person shown is not me.

## 30.9 lakh MT silt removed, 1,900km drains cleaned: Verma checks monsoon preparedness

**New Delhi, Agency :** As Delhi ramps up preparations for the monsoon, PWD minister Parvesh Verma inspected desilting works in the Moti Nagar assembly constituency and reviewed the progress of drainage and flood-prevention measures across the city.

The inspection is part of a wider campaign under which senior officers, chief engineers and field teams are carrying out physical verification of roads, drains and other critical infrastructure to minimise waterlogging and disruption during the rainy season. The review highlighted significant progress made by both Public Works Department and the irrigation & flood control department in strengthening Delhi's drainage network ahead of the monsoon, said officials.

According to the latest PWD report, desilting has been com-



pleted on 1,900.2 km of drains out of a total network of 2,125.9km, achieving 89.4% of the target, in the past three months for smooth flow of stormwater, prevention of drain blockages and reduction of water accumulation on major roads during heavy rain. The flood department has removed 30.9 lakh metric tonne silt against last year's 19 lakh.

Officials said the removal was expected to improve drainage capacity, enable faster discharge of rainwater and strengthen flood-prevention measures across the city.

## NHAI Rolls Out Multi-Lane Free Flow (MLFF) Tolling at Gharaunda Toll Plaza on NH-44

**Chandigarh :** In a significant step towards realizing the Government of India's vision of seamless, barrier-less and technology-driven highway travel, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has commenced the roll-out of the Multi-Lane Free Flow (MLFF) Tolling System at Gharaunda Toll Plaza on the Panipat-Jalandhar section of National Highway-44.

The MLFF Tolling System was formally inaugurated by NHAI and Indian Highways Management Company Limited (IHMCL), the technical arm of NHAI, in the presence of Shri Rakesh Kumar, Regional Officer, NHAI Chandigarh, and Shri A. R. Chitranshi, Chief Operating Officer, IHMCL.

The MLFF system marks a transformative shift from conventional toll plazas by enabling toll collection without requiring vehicles to stop or slow

down. Leveraging advanced Electronic Toll Collection (ETC) technology, high-performance sensors and cameras mounted on overhead gantries automatically identify vehicles and deduct user fees through FASTag, allowing uninterrupted travel at highway speeds.

Transforming the Highway User Experience

The introduction of MLFF tolling is expected to significantly improve travel efficiency and commuter convenience through:

### • Zero Waiting Time

The elimination of physical toll barriers ensures smooth and uninterrupted movement of vehicles, reducing travel delays and congestion at tolling points.

### • Savings in Fuel and Travel Time

By removing the need for repeated

braking, idling and acceleration at toll plazas, the system helps reduce fuel consumption and enables faster journey times.

Key Features of the MLFF Tolling System

### • Gantry-Based Toll Collection

User fees are automatically collected through overhead gantries installed across the highway corridor. The structures provide a minimum vertical clearance of approximately 5.5 to 6.0 metres, ensuring unhindered movement of all permitted vehicles.

### • Decongested Tolling Zones

To maintain smooth traffic flow and operational efficiency, strict enforcement measures have been implemented to prevent parking, encroachments and unauthorized stoppages within 200 metres on either side of the MLFF tolling zone.

## 24-year-old Delhi woman dies by suicide, alleges harassment by in-laws

**New Delhi, Agency :** Hours before she was found hanging at her matrimonial home in outer Delhi's Nangloi area, a 24-year-old woman allegedly recorded a video on her mobile phone accusing her in-laws of harassment and speaking about the distress she had been facing, police said on Wednesday.

The woman was found hanging from a ceiling fan at her in-laws' house on Tuesday afternoon. While no suicide note was recovered, investigators found a video clip, over three minutes long, in which she addressed her



parents, husband and other family members.

In the video, Tina can be heard telling her father that she was "leaving". She asked her parents not to fight over her death and urged them to take care of her one-and-a-half-year-old daughter. She

also said she did not want her child to be handed over to anyone else, including her husband.

Married for around two-and-a-half years, Tina lived in Nangloi with her husband, a private sector employee. The couple has a one-and-a-half-year-old daughter.

"I only wanted a small family. I never practised any black magic," she said in the video, while also alleging ill-treatment by her husband's family. She further described her husband as unstable and said she could no longer live with him, according to police sources.

## Speeding bus collides with taxi & bikes, kills one biker in NE Delhi

**New Delhi, Agency :** New Delhi A bus, which was allegedly speeding, hit a taxi and three motorbikes, dragging some of the vehicles and a biker under it, in northeast Delhi's Nand Nagri Wednesday.

One of the motorcyclists was killed. The driver of the bus fled the scene.

The bus was coming from the Uttar Pradesh side and travelling from the Bhopura border towards Khajuri via the Nand Nagri flyover. It lost control while descending the flyover. The vehicles that it hit were all waiting at a red light. After ramming into them, the bus kept moving forward.

A senior police officer said



information about the accident came to them around 9.30 pm at Nand Nagri. On reaching the spot near the Main Road of Nand Nagri bus depot, police found out that the bus had collided first with a taxi and then the bikes.

All the injured were shifted to Guru Teg Bahadur Hospital. One motorcyclist,

Vinit (27), was declared brought dead. The other two, Rohit and Suraj, are under treatment.

Another officer said two motorcycles got trapped under the bus. The motorcyclist who died was found beneath the bus, the official said.

The accident led to a traffic jam that stretched nearly 3 km, disrupting movement from Nand Nagri to Harsh Vihar.

findings suggest the bus was speeding, police said. A video recorded after the incident showed the bus with a shattered front windshield, a motorcycle lodged in its tyres, and blood stains at the scene.

## Construction of new Central Secretariat metro station starts

**New Delhi, Agency :** Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) commenced construction work at Central Secretariat Metro Station for Central Vista corridor Wednesday. The station is being developed under Phase V(A) as an extension of existing Magenta Line from Janakpuri West to RK Ashram Marg.

Central Secretariat station will become a triple interchange station, where new Magenta Line station will seamlessly connect with existing Yellow Line and Violet Line. This facility will significantly benefit govt employees and commuters surrounding Lutyens' Zone and the surrounding administrative districts.

The construction work of the

new station began in the presence of union minister of housing and urban affairs and power Manohar Lal and other senior officials.

The corridor spans 9.9 km and includes nine underground stations, including Shivaji Stadium, Yuge Yugeen Bharat, Central Secretariat, Kartavya Bhawan, India Gate, War Memorial-High Court, Baroda House, Bharat Mandapam, and Indraprastha.

"This project marks a significant step in strengthening connectivity to the heart of New Delhi, providing efficient access to major govt offices, judicial institutions, national memorials and convention facilities.

## Citywide Safety Crackdown on Coaching Centres

**New Delhi, Agency :**

Launching a citywide crackdown on coaching institutes, Delhi govt has ordered extensive safety inspections across major coaching hubs and warned of strict action against centres found violating norms.

As part of an immediate enforcement drive, Delhi's minister for education, higher education and technical education, Ashish Sood, directed Delhi Development Authority, MCD, Delhi Fire Service and Delhi Disaster Management Authority to launch a special inspection campaign across major coaching hubs, including



Mukherjee Nagar, Rajender Nagar and Katwaria Sarai. Inspection teams will verify compliance with fire safety norms, building regulations and other mandatory safety requirements.

Sood chaired a high-level review meeting Wednesday to assess safety standards, infrastructure and the regulatory framework governing coaching institutes across the capital. The meeting was attended by senior officials

from the home department, Municipal Corporation of Delhi, Urban Development Department, Delhi Fire Service, Delhi Disaster Management Authority and directorate of higher education. To facilitate coordinated action, MCD will provide inspection teams with the list of 923 coaching centres surveyed across Delhi.

Expressing concern over infrastructural deficiencies and safety lapses at coaching centres, Sood said, "Any negligence affecting student safety will not be tolerated. All coaching institutes must strictly comply with safety norms and guidelines issued by the govt and

courts from time to time."

The meeting focused extensively on fire safety measures, regulatory gaps, student welfare and unfair commercial practices adopted by certain coaching institutes.

Sood also directed all concerned departments, including Delhi Fire Service and Delhi Police, to initiate strict action against institutions found violating prescribed safety standards or operating in contravention of applicable regulations. MCD has been instructed to submit a Daily Action Taken Report (ATR) to the minister's office on enforcement and compliance measures.

# People Will Decide; Fake Videos & False Propaganda in Name of Religion Cannot Stop Me From Working for Punjab: CM Bhagwant Singh Mann

**Congress, BJP and Akali Dal Are United Against Punjab's Progress Because They Cannot Tolerate People's Love: CM Bhagwant Singh Mann**

**BARNALA :** Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann on Thursday launched a blistering attack on the Congress, BJP and Akali Dal, saying the three parties have united against Punjab's unprecedented progress because they cannot tolerate the overwhelming support being received by the AAP-led government. During a Lok Milni in Barnala, the Chief Minister said the traditional parties have lost their mental balance as they are unable to digest the state's rapid development and have resorted to fake videos and false propaganda in the name of religion to defame him and mislead the people.

Listing a series of pro-people initiatives undertaken by the Punjab Government, the

Chief Minister said his government remains focused on delivering development and public welfare despite repeated attempts to derail it. He announced that women across Punjab will begin receiving financial assistance under the Maavan Dheeyan Satkar Yojna from July 1, highlighted the launch of the country's first project to shift high-tension power lines underground in villages, and asserted that no conspiracy or smear campaign would deter him from working for the people and safeguarding Punjab's interests.

Addressing the Lok Milni, CM Bhagwant Singh Mann said that his government has taken several historic decisions for the welfare of the common people and the



progress of the state. "The traditional political parties, which never cared for the common people, are unable to digest these achievements.

They are continuously spitting venom against the Punjab Government and me. They have no agenda for the people and their sole objective is to malign the government by making baseless statements."

Making a major announcement, CM Bhagwant Singh Mann said that after five days, from July 1, women across Punjab will begin receiving financial assistance under the Maavan Dheeyan Satkar Yojna. "Women beneficiaries above the age of 18 years will receive notifications on their mobile phones regarding the financial assistance. Every woman in Punjab will receive ₹1,000, while SC women will receive ₹1,500. The amount will be transferred directly into their bank accounts.

Women who are already receiving social security pensions will also be eligible for the scheme."

He said that nearly 97% of women in Punjab are expected to benefit from the scheme and the Punjab Government has allocated ₹9,300 crore in the Budget for its implementation.

Emphasising the broader social significance of the scheme, the Chief Minister said, "This financial assistance may not make women rich, but it will certainly give them dignity and self-respect. Women deserve the highest respect because they are the source of life itself. The blessings of mothers and sisters help overcome every challenge. Strengthening women's financial autonomy is essen-

tial for improving household welfare, promoting gender equality, and increasing women's participation in social and economic decision-making."

Highlighting another major initiative, CM Bhagwant Singh Mann said that the AAP Government has launched the country's first ambitious project to place high-tension electricity lines underground, beginning with a pilot project in his native village. "This historic project will free villages from the web of overhead electricity wires and unnecessary poles. Electricity poles and overhead wires pose a constant threat of electrocution to people, animals, and especially children.

## How a fake Delhi call centre tricked exporters with bogus foreign orders

**New Delhi, Agency :** The Cyber Police Station of New Delhi District has busted a fake export consultancy racket operating under the guise of a company called India2Exports.com, apprehending 18 individuals allegedly involved in cheating exporters across the country, officials said on Thursday.

According to police, the syndicate lured aspiring exporters by promising assistance in securing overseas buyers and facilitating export-related certifications. The operation was uncovered during an analysis of cyber fraud complaints received through the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal (NCRP).

According to Deputy Commissioner of Police (New Delhi) Sachin Sharma, the victims were initially persuaded to pay a registration or token fee of Rs 5,000. They were later induced to make additional payments of Rs



19,780 for export service packages and Rs 41,300 towards purported Global GAP/Trust Certification and other export formalities.

To gain the confidence of victims, the accused allegedly used international WhatsApp numbers and impersonated foreign buyers from different countries. Exporters were shown fabricated communications and assured that export orders were being processed. However, after receiving payments, the accused either stopped responding or avoided further communication, causing financial losses to the complainants, the DCP mentioned.

## Ahead of SIR, Delhi Chief Electoral Officer holds meeting with parties

**New Delhi, Agency :** Ahead of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls scheduled to begin on June 30, the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) of Delhi held a meeting with representatives of major political parties to brief them on the upcoming exercise and seek their cooperation in ensuring an accurate voters' list.

Representatives of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), and the Indian National Congress attended the meeting, where election officials outlined the objectives and procedures of the revision process.

According to the CEO's office, the primary aim of



the exercise is to ensure that no eligible voter is left out while no ineligible person is included in the electoral roll.

During the meeting, political parties were briefed on the key activities to be undertaken during the enumeration phase, including the process for filling enumeration forms in various sit-

uations. Officials explained procedures related to self-mapping, progeny mapping, and cases where no mapping is possible with reference to the 2002 electoral roll.

Election officials also clarified the process for married women who have moved to Delhi after the previous intensive revision and whose names do

not appear in the electoral rolls of their native places.

Several queries raised by party representatives regarding the revision exercise were addressed during the meeting. The CEO urged political parties to actively cooperate with election officials at all levels, and the parties assured full support and participation in the exercise.

As part of the SIR, Booth Level Officers (BLOs) will conduct a door-to-door verification drive from June 30 to July 29. The draft electoral roll will be published on August 5, after which voters and political parties can submit claims and objections until September 4.

## Illegal property of drug peddler razed in Gurugram:

**New Delhi, Agency :** The Gurugram police on Wednesday demolished an illegally built house belonging to an alleged drug peddler in the Pataudi area. The demolition drive was carried out jointly by the police and district administration in the presence of a heavy police deployment.

Under its zero-tolerance policy, the Gurugram police have been taking strict action against land mafias, drug traffickers and habitual offenders. As part of the ongoing campaign, an illegally constructed property in Vyapari Mohalla, Pataudi, was identified on the basis of intelligence inputs and demolished with the assistance of the district administration. The land was later restored to its original condition.

The accused, identified as Shoaib, alias Sikku, a resident of Vyapari Mohalla, Pataudi, has been involved in several serious criminal cases.

## Delivery person's morning ride exposes water leak near Punjabi Bagh

**New Delhi, Agency :** For Shambhu Kumar (29), a delivery person who spends most of his day navigating Delhi's roads delivering online shopping parcels, a routine Monday morning ride turned into an unexpected discovery of a major water wastage issue.

Kumar, a resident of Bhalswa village, was riding from Moti Nagar towards Punjabi Bagh around 7 am. As he reached the red light near the Punjabi Bagh cremation ground, he noticed a large quantity of water gushing out from a pipeline running along the roadside near



the drain.

Surprised by the continuous flow of water, Kumar stopped and recorded the scene on his phone. The video showed water leaking from a large Delhi Jal Board (DJB) pipeline, with a significant quantity flowing into the Sahibi river, which is locally referred to as a drain by residents because of its

condition.

He later uploaded the video on his Facebook account, bringing the issue to public attention.

When a Media reporter came across the video, contacted Kumar, and visited the location, the spot revealed a large pipeline running parallel to the road near the bridge, surrounded by overgrown vegetation. During the visit, water was seen slowly seeping out from a damaged portion of the pipeline.

Kumar said he noticed the leakage while waiting at the traffic signal.

## 270 km of roads to get facelift under 658cr strengthening plan:

**New Delhi, Agency :** Delhi govt Wednesday approved road strengthening projects worth Rs 657.9 crore, covering more than 270 km across east, north and south Delhi.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the expenditure finance committee (EFC) in which chief minister Rekha Gupta, minister Parvesh Verma and other senior officials were present.

According to the CMO, the works will be completed by Oct and will include strengthening of several key arterial roads used daily by lakhs of commuters.

Among the major roads identified in east Delhi are road number 66 from the Seelampuri red light on GT Road to the Gokalpuri red light; Outer Ring Road from Chandgi Ram Akhara to Wazirabad; BBM Road, GT Road and Avtar Singh Marg.

In north Delhi, work will be undertaken on Pankha Road (Bhagwan Mandir Marg), Satguru Ram Singh Marg, Lala Ganesh Das Khatri Marg, Major Sudesh Marg and Old Pankha Road.

In south Delhi, the project will cover stretches of SSN Marg, Mandi Road, Barapullah Elevated Road (Phase-I), Nelson Mandela Marg and Pankha Road.

Officials said Rs 147.08 crore has been earmarked for strengthening 58.29 km of roads in the East Maintenance Zone, Rs 247.31 crore for 104.42 km in the North Maintenance Zone and Rs 263.61 crore for 107.92 km in the South Maintenance Zone.

The project will involve cold milling of damaged road surfaces, laying of dense bituminous macadam (DBM) and bituminous concrete (BC) layers, along with road markings, signages, reflectors, safety barriers and kerb channel works for drainage management. The measures are expected to enhance the structural strength of roads and improve driving conditions.

## Women hangs self in Delhi's Nangloi; family alleges husband used to beat her up

**New Delhi, Agency :** A 26-year-old woman from Nangloi Extension allegedly died by suicide after enduring repeated physical abuse by her husband, who used to assault her under the influence of alcohol, according to allegations made by her family, the police said on Thursday.

Police said information regarding the woman's death was received at Nangloi Police Station on Wednesday after she was brought dead to Sanjay Gandhi Memorial (SGM) Hospital.

During the inquiry, it was found that the woman had allegedly died by hanging within seven years of

her marriage, prompting the police to inform the concerned SDM for inquest proceedings as per legal provisions.

According to police, the deceased's mother, in her statement recorded by the Tehsildar of Mundka, alleged that the woman's husband, Rohit, frequently beat her up after consuming alcohol.

Investigators further revealed that Rohit is currently undergoing treatment for a life-threatening head injury sustained in an accident a few months ago. Doctors treating him have reportedly stated that he is unlikely to survive beyond the next two to three years.

## DU admissions 2026: Over 8,100 PG admissions confirmed; BTech Round-I allocations released

**New Delhi, Agency :** Delhi University (DU) has released the first round of seat allocations for its BTech programmes under the 2026 admission cycle, while admissions to postgraduate courses continue to witness strong participation from candidates across the country.

According to the latest admissions data released by the university, a total of 3,620 applications were received for DU's BTech programmes.

Applicants submitted 10,328 course preferences, reflecting significant interest in the university's engineering courses. Following the completion of



Round I, DU has allocated 388 seats, including those under supernumerary categories.

Meanwhile, admissions to DU's two-year postgraduate programmes have also progressed steadily. As of the closure of the seat acceptance window, the university has recorded 8,163 confirmed admissions across various PG courses.

## man left behind in line

**Suresh Seth**

The people we meet here are adept at self-praise. "Being a self-praises man" has become such an old saying that even children don't repeat it anymore. We feel that self-praise has become an art, so much so that these people don't hesitate to sing their own praises, and then live their entire lives believing that they always possessed these qualities, but you simply didn't notice

them. This applies not just to one person, but to the entire country. We don't hesitate to call our country the greatest republic. The world's largest republic, but is it also the best? No advocate offers an answer to this. Seventy-eight years ago, when the Constitution was declared to establish democratic values ??in this country, everyone believed that this country was so ancient and sacred that Vedic hymns still resonate in it. Moral val-

ues ??prevail. The country has become independent. Now even the most ordinary man can wear the crown. The rule of the people has arrived. Now, even the son of a farmer or laborer can rule and work for the welfare of all. In particular, he will surely resolve his problems, which have lingered here for centuries, and for which we have all now developed the patience to endure. Look, sir, three-quarters of a century has passed. We believe

in fairs and stalls, so we celebrated this freedom, calling it nectar.

We have achieved freedom of speech. Overjoyed by their outspoken expression, people tease each other and tell everyone. A nation enamored of its own praise remains confident, and the 142 crore people of this great nation also believe that "Saare Jahan Se Achha Hindustan Hamara" (Our India is the best in the world), even though its cre-

ator, Iqbal Sahib, later became ashamed of this very poem and divided his own part of the country, naming it Pakistan, and began singing its praises. This means that people's praises change according to occasion, situation, and place. What is supreme today is quickly reduced to dust when times change. The rule of the people has arrived. We have been changing governments by pressing our ballot papers and now the

button of our choice. For seats, there has been a scramble for power, "Ram has come, Ram has gone." The philosophy of politics has become "If you go to the Ganga, you become Ganga Ram, and if you go to the Jamuna, you become Jamuna Das." The people's representatives no longer wear crowns, but their credentials still hold the power to become millionaires, and their reputations are tainted with criminal charges.

## Editorial

### Attacks on Hindus in Bangladesh Under the New Government Are Deeply Concerning

The persecution of and attacks on Hindus in Bangladesh, even under the government led by Prime Minister Tariq Rahman, are a matter of grave concern. During the election, Prime Minister Rahman had promised to safeguard the interests and security of minorities. However, since the general election held in February of this year, 645 incidents of violence against minorities—of whom Hindus constitute the largest group—have been reported in the country. A hostile atmosphere against Hindus is being cultivated on social media, and it is surprising that the government is unable to curb this trend. There are serious allegations that the government is siding with the majority community and heeding only their concerns. A case in point is the proposed 81-foot-tall statue of Lord Shri Ram; when hardline groups threatened to demolish it, the government—instead of taking action against the extremists—halted the construction of the statue itself. This implies that Bangladesh is not a country for minorities; it is a place meant only for the hardline majority. The election of the Rahman government itself took place in disregard of democratic values, as the political party of self-exiled former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was barred from participating. According to various media reports, 132 cases of land grabbing targeting Hindus have surfaced since the election, while 95 temples have been vandalized or desecrated. Furthermore, three members of minority communities have lost their lives in incidents of violence so far.

Conditions in Bangladesh have deteriorated significantly over the past two to three years.

# Narendra Modi: Longest serving 'directly elected' PM



By Ms. Sharmishtha Mukherjee

Amid the raging debates about the longest serving Prime Minister in India, I remember an interesting insight shared by my father late Pranab Mukherjee about Prime Minister Narendra Modi's landslide victory in 2014. Baba was then the 13th President of India. Despite belonging to different political ideologies, they shared an excellent rapport that perhaps is the hallmark of a true democracy.

After the election results were out, Modi ji came to meet Baba at Rashtrapati Bhavan. During the course of conversation, Baba asked Modi ji about his analysis of the election. He replied that after three decades, a political party had achieved an absolute majority. Baba then, in his typical professorial style, asked "what else?" When Modi ji kept quiet, Baba pointed out that 2014 was unique in the

history of the Lok Sabha elections, as it featured a declared new face as the prime ministerial candidate. The massive mandate of the people given to BJP was not merely for his party, but it was a direct mandate by the people for Narendra Modi as the Prime Minister of India. Unlike other elections where the PM face is either assumed but not officially declared; or it is chosen by the newly elected MPs as per convention; or decided by coalition arithmetic, the process is done after the election. Modi ji's predecessor Dr. Manmohan Singh, who was never a mass leader, was chosen by the then Congress President Sonia Gandhi. Two of India's Prime Ministers- PV Narasimha Rao and Deve Gowda were not even members of Parliament when they became PM. Simply put, it was senior politicians choosing the Prime Minister. 2014 was a tectonic shift in the election dynamics of Indian politics where people of the country expressedly and unequivocally chose Narendra Modi as their Prime Minister, almost in a 'presidential election' fashion.

It is also noteworthy that prior to 2014, Narendra Modi ji was new to 'national' politics. He had built his aura and made his mark during his long tenure as the Chief Minister of Gujarat, but 2014 was his first Lok Sabha election. It is unprecedented that a first-time MP entered the Parliament House

for the first time in his life as the Prime Minister of India. His emotional act of doing 'Pranam' on the steps of the (old) Parliament building was an understandably emotional gesture that touched the hearts of millions of Indians.

Winning an election is never mono-causal and is a complicated process involving multiple factors. BJP's robust grassroots organisation, strategy of continuous outreach to different caste and community groups, it's quick recognition of mistakes and willingness to do immediate course corrections are some of the key indicators that made the current BJP an election-winning juggernaut that currently seems unstoppable. However, there is no denying of the fact that the face of Narendra Modi ji is perhaps the strongest trump card BJP has. In him, people see a strong leader who rose from the ranks through sheer merit and hard-work without any trappings of dynastic entitlements of both Congress and the iron grip of family-ruled regional parties.

In a way, Narendra Modi has become synonymous with BJP. Let me share some interactions with friends from Bengal regarding the recently-concluded assembly election. While my own relatives are still die-hard Congress supporters and had contributed to the meager 2.9 percent vote share of Congress in Bengal, most of my friends and

acquaintances had voted for BJP. Before the election, I would ask them which party they would vote for. Mostly the answer would be that they would vote for 'Modi'. I reminded them that it's an assembly election and Modi ji is not a contestant. The reply would always be 'oi ek-ibypar' - 'it's the same thing'.

Narendra Modi ji is not only the longest serving elected Prime Minister the country, he is perhaps one of the strongest one the country has seen since independence. He has been able to provide a strong and stable government without falling prey to the vagaries (often blackmailing tactics) of a coalition government dependent on alliances for its survival. One may disagree with many of his policies or style of functioning, and which is perfectly fine in democracy; but one can not simply deny his charisma, his connect to Indian electorate as an inspiration to aspirational India. It was reflected in 2019 and again in 2024. You may love or hate Narendra Modi, but you simply cannot ignore the 'Brand Modi'. With great power, comes greater responsibility. As an ordinary citizen, I pray that he does full justice to the massive mandate given to him directly by the people and take our nation to even greater heights.

# The reverse bamboo goes to Bareilly

**If we didn't cut down trees, clear forests, and turn grasslands for livestock into concrete mountains by illegally occupying them, these birds and animals wouldn't need any more of our help. The funny thing is that we then turn the process of "saving" and preserving them into a "virtue," a religion, and then climb on stage to decry sin and virtue. Only we humans engage in this trickery and drama. What an irony: the tree where the sparrows used to live was cut down to make flats for us, and then we start serving the sparrows by placing a bowl of water and a little grain in the flats.**

**Siddha Guru Pramod Nirvana**

In the fields where cows used to graze, schools were built to teach our children to memorize books made from the wood and paper, and now we are earning virtue by feeding cows bread. The animals and birds of this earth don't need our service. We have given up living a natural life...

When COVID arrived in 2020, people were confined to their homes, roads were empty, cars were parked in garages, and human traffic was halted. Videos began to emerge showing an increased movement of deer, peacocks, and other beautiful animals and birds on the streets. Peacocks and other birds were seen on the fences of houses. An unknown wave of joy spread among the people. When COVID ended, instead of learning any lessons from it, we resumed our same corrupt routine and began destroying nature and building concrete jungles. We must remember that natural disasters are not the wrath of a god; they are man-made problems. In June 2013, devastating floods in Uttarakhand wreaked havoc in five districts of the state. More than 6,000 people were

trapped in these floods, only to be rescued ten days later. Cloudbursts have previously wreaked havoc in many hill states. Himachal Pradesh has witnessed numerous tragic incidents of cloudbursts and massive floods sweeping away entire villages or burying them completely under debris. One of these devastating incidents occurred in July 2024. A flash flood caused by a cloudburst wreaked havoc in Samej village, located in the Rampur subdivision of Shimla district.

In this deluge, entire villages were swept away by debris and a torrent of water, leaving dozens of people missing, leaving only a few houses untouched. Similar incidents have occurred in Himachal Pradesh's Kullu, Mandi, and Dharamshala. Just last year, a cloudburst in the Manori ravine of Khaniyara in Kullu and Dharamshala swept away entire villages, along with trees, plants, and roads. Furthermore, in many areas, such as Pandav Shila in Mandi, flash floods and overflowing rivers sent large boulders and debris into residential areas, causing massive devastation. These natural disasters destroyed entire infrastructure, homes, and farmlands, leaving these

areas virtually wiped off the map. This is because we have recklessly eroded and hollowed out the mountains. It's a sad situation that, in this age of marketing propaganda, we continue to destroy nature while simultaneously harboring the illusion of philanthropy and spirituality. This needs to be understood deeply. No cow needs our bread. No bird needs our grains. Nature has made ample provision for their food within nature itself. Cows need grassy fields where they can graze. Birds need fruit-bearing trees to satisfy their hunger and build their nests during the breeding season. We are cutting down trees indiscriminately, converting grasslands into tall buildings.

We are robbing animals and birds of their natural habitat and food supply. In return, when we offer bread to a cow, we consider ourselves philanthropists. After putting out grains or filling water pots for birds, we think we've done a great deed. In the name of protecting animals and birds, we're destroying them. We don't need to save animals. We don't need to feed them. Have we ever considered what we're trying to protect

animals from? Have we ever wondered why it's come to the point of feeding cows bread? Neither cows came to Earth for our bread, nor are birds dependent on our grains. When we loudly chant "Save Animals" and "Save Earth," who are we actually talking about saving this Earth and animals from? Who is destroying animals? Who is the one causing birds to be deprived of food and water, while cows are eating bread? Who is the one causing all this to happen? All this effort to save the Earth and animals is because we humans are destroying them, and as a result, our own lives are becoming increasingly difficult. If we didn't cut down trees, clear forests, and illegally occupy grasslands for animals and turn them into concrete mountains, these animals and birds wouldn't need any more help from us. The funny thing is, we then turn the process of "saving" and preserving them into a "virtue," a religion, and then climb on stage to preach about sin and virtue.

Only we humans engage in this trickery and drama. What an irony: the tree where birds used to live was cut down to build flats for us, and then we start serving spar-

rows by placing a bowl of water and a little grain in the flats. The fields where cows used to graze have been converted into schools for our children to memorize books made from the wood cut down and paper cut down. Now we are earning merit by feeding bread to cows. The animals and birds of this earth do not need our service. We have abandoned natural living, and in our pursuit of making a lot of money, we have become surrounded by problems, and yet to escape those problems, we pretend to be spiritual.

This extreme religious madness of ours has led to the transformation of spirituality into a business, and new religious institutions have mushroomed, increasing our excitement by distributing dopamine through rituals. We have written all these books, glorifying service. Cows did not write these books. Had she written, she would have asked for meadows for herself, not the bread we make. It's time to end this vicious cycle of false religious wisdom, "the bamboo goes upside down," and live a natural life, allowing animals and birds to enjoy nature's bounty. This is in our best interest.

# India calls for Brics shared space economy

**Bengaluru, Agency:** Calling space the next frontier of global economic growth, junior space minister Jitendra Singh Wednesday urged Brics nations to work together to build a "Brics Space Economy", arguing that no single country can shape the future of the sector alone.

Addressing the valedictory session of the Brics Heads of Space Agencies (Hosa) meeting in Bengaluru, Singh said the bloc possesses the scientific expertise, technological capabilities and industrial strength needed to emerge as a major force in the rapidly expanding global space economy.

"The future of the space economy will not be shaped by nations working in isolation. It will be shaped by partnerships, shared inno-



vation and collective ambition," Singh said. "Brics countries have the potential to become one of the strongest pillars of this emerging global space ecosystem."

Isro chairman V Narayanan said: "A total of 26 delegates from 10 countries participated. There were extensive discussions on the utilisation of the Brics Remote Sensing Satellite Constellation (RSSC) for the

socio-economic benefit of member countries, including applications in disaster management, climate change monitoring, and other areas." "We also discussed debris-free mission management systems to ensure the long-term sustainability of space activities. It was a very productive meeting. Along with the five Brics nations, five more countries were part of this initiative," he added. The two-day meeting, hosted by Isro under India's Brics Chairship 2026, brought together heads of space agencies and senior officials from Brazil, China, Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Iran, Russia, South Africa and the United Arab Emirates.

At a time when countries are increasingly looking to space-based technologies for

economic and developmental gains, Singh positioned cooperation among Brics members as a pathway to innovation, investment and sustainable growth. He said the grouping, which accounts for a significant share of the world's population and economic output, is uniquely placed to leverage space technology for addressing common challenges. "Challenges such as climate change, natural disasters, food and water security, environmental degradation and sustainable urbanisation increasingly require collective solutions supported by advanced space technologies," he said.

The discussions focused on strengthening existing cooperation mechanisms and identifying new areas of collaboration.

## Pack of stray dogs attack 10-year-old boy cycling in Faridabad society; hospitalised

**New Delhi, Agency:** A 10-year-old boy was hospitalised and underwent head surgery after being allegedly attacked by a pack of stray dogs inside a residential society in Faridabad's Ballabgarh area on Tuesday evening. The incident took place at Mulberry County Society in Sector 70, where the child was cycling with friends when the dogs reportedly mauled him, leaving him with multiple injuries to his body and head.

The boy, identified as Parth, remains under treatment at a private hospital in Faridabad's Sector 21A after his condition reportedly deteriorated while he was being transferred to Delhi. Residents said he was initially taken to Ballabgarh Government Hospital and later referred to Safdarjung Hospital because of the severity of his injuries. However, he was admitted to the private facility en route, where doctors performed surgery on Wednesday.

The incident has sparked anger among residents, who staged a protest on Wednesday and accused authorities of failing to address the growing stray dog menace in the housing society. According to residents, more than 50 dog attack incidents involving children and adults have been reported in the area over the past few months.

Dhirendra Tevatia, a resident of the society and the boy's father, said Parth had been cycling with friends in the basement when the attack occurred.



According to Tevatia, the bicycle's chain slipped off and the boy stopped to fix it. While he was doing so, a group of seven or eight stray dogs allegedly present in the basement descended on him.

"After Parth was attacked by dogs, all the friends fled the basement and rushed to the security guard stationed at the society's main gate. The guard arrived with a stick and drove the dogs away. Within minutes, the dogs had left Parth critically injured. He is being treated in the hospital", Tevatia said.

Residents said the boy's screams alerted his friends, who ran to seek help from the society's security staff. By the time the guard reached the spot and managed to chase the dogs away, the child had already suffered serious injuries.

The incident has renewed concerns over the presence of stray dogs inside residential complexes and prompted demands from residents for urgent measures to prevent similar attacks in the future.



## Speaker Birla to decide on TMC, Sena (UBT) defections before Monsoon Session

**New Delhi, Agency:** Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla is expected to decide on the fate of rebel MPs from the Trinamool Congress (TMC) and Shiv Sena (UBT) before the commencement of Parliament's Monsoon Session next month, sources familiar with the matter told news agency.

The Speaker has already heard representations from both the parent parties and the breakaway groups. In the TMC case, Birla met a delegation led by the party's Lok Sabha leader Abhishek Banerjee as well as members of the rebel camp. A similar exercise was conducted in relation to the Shiv Sena (UBT) split.

According to sources, legal and constitutional experts attached to Parliament are currently examining the matter and are expected to provide their recommendations before a final decision is taken. Previous rulings by presiding officers in comparable situations are also being studied to ensure any decision is legally and constitutionally sound. The Lok Sabha Secretariat is meanwhile understood to be working on possible seating arrangements ahead of the Monsoon Session, which is usually convened in the third week of July.

## 25 hurt as minibus plunges into gorge in J&K's Kathua

**Jammu, Agency:** At least 25 people were injured after a minibus ferrying pilgrims to Shri Sukrala Mata Temple in Billawer, in J&K's Kathua district, plunged into a gorge in Simbli area on Wednesday. Officials said four of the injured were in critical condition.

The minibus was ferrying devotees from Goran and Sumb villages in Samba district to the shrine. En route, the driver allegedly lost control of the vehicle near Dingi Simbli on Dhar Road, causing it to roll into the gorge, officials said. Locals, civic administration, and police personnel launched a joint rescue operation and rushed the injured occupants - including the driver - to a nearby health facility. Those in serious condition were later shifted to Kathua GMCH, officials said.



## NCERT introduces section on Emergency in Class IX textbook for first time, calls it a 'major challenge'

**New Delhi, Agency:** The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has, for the first time, introduced a section on the Emergency in a Class IX textbook, describing it as "one of the major challenges" to Indian democracy during a period when a majority of Fundamental Rights were suspended.

The reference has been included in NCERT's newly developed social science textbook, Understanding Society: India and Beyond, within a chapter that examines the strengths of Indian democracy alongside the challenges it has faced.

An NCERT official confirmed that this is the first time a dedicated section on the Emergency has been included in a Class IX text-



book, according to news agency ANI. The development comes exactly 51 years after the proclamation of the Emergency in India on June 25, 1975, and a year after the country marked its 50th anniversary. "One of the major challenges to democracy in India was recorded when an Emergency was imposed in 1975-77. In the early 1970s, public dissatisfaction with the government led by Indira Gandhi was growing. Rising

unemployment, inflation, and allegations of misgovernance led to widespread protests," the textbook section reads.

The chapter further notes, "In June 1975, a National Emergency was imposed by the government on the grounds of internal disturbance. During this period, a majority of Fundamental Rights were suspended, the press was censored, and numerous political leaders and activists were arrested.

## 30 India-bound ships crossed Strait of Hormuz, another 26 wait for their turn

**New Delhi, Agency:** So far 30 India-bound ships have crossed the Strait of Hormuz and 26 wait to cross the critical sea route, sources in the shipping ministry said. While half of the ships that have transited the strait carried LPG and LNG, eight had bulk cargo and seven were crude tankers.

Officials said while 19 transits happened between March 1 and June 17, following the signing of the Iran-US MoU 11 ships have crossed the strait safely. Among the 30 that have reached or are heading to Indian ports, 17 are foreign-flagged vessels, including a maximum of five Marshall Islands-flagged ships.

Media has learnt that of the 26 vessels of Indian



interest -- both Indian-flagged and India-bound foreign-flagged ships -- that remain in the Persian Gulf (west of Strait of Hormuz) three are carrying energy, 10 fertilisers and remaining 13 carrying other cargo.

The strait, which is an international waterway, accounts for a fifth of the supply of energy globally. For India, its key partners for procurement of LNG and LPG emanate from the Gulf countries.

## Private colleges will shut if asked to charge fee at government rates: SC



**New Delhi, Agency:** Supreme Court on Wednesday said that private medical colleges cannot be prevented from charging higher fees than govt ones and forcing them to do so would result in their closure and harm to medical education.

A bench of Justices B V Nagarathna and Joymalya Bagchi while hearing a plea by an EWS student who was allotted a general category seat in a private medical college where he would be required to pay nearly Rs 19 lakh as annual tuition fee, noted private medical colleges are barred from taking capitation fees and are self-financing. "Annual tuition fee can't be the same in a private college and a govt one," Justice Nagarathna said.

Justice Nagarathna said, "The annual tuition fee can't be the same in a private medical college

and a govt one. In self-financing private colleges, every expense is to be borne by the colleges whereas govt subsidies the expenses in the colleges under it."

"Private colleges are also contributing to the field of higher education, including in the medical stream. If they are asked to take fees at govt rate, then they will close down and the medical education would suffer. If other states have implemented the EWS quota and if Rajasthan has not done it, courts cannot direct private colleges to reduce fees," she further said. The petitioner, whose parents in Rajasthan have an annual income of less than Rs 8 lakh, cleared NEET-UG 2025, said he was "arbitrarily" allotted a general category seat in a private medical college and Rs 19 lakh being demanded of him was way beyond his means.

His counsel Rishabh Sancheti informed the bench that students in EWS category, who scored less marks than him, were allotted EWS quota seats where candidates pay fee for MBBS courses at govt fixed rate which is less than the general category seats in private colleges.

## Passport just a travel document, not citizenship proof: MEA

**New Delhi, Agency:** A passport is primarily a travel document and should not be treated as proof of citizenship, a senior external affairs ministry official said Wednesday at an event to highlight the expansion of passport services across the country on 14th Passport Seva Divas.

The passport attests the nationality of Indians when they are abroad but it isn't a document of citizenship,



officials clarified in response to a query. This set off a raging discussion on X, with users asking what then

counted as a conclusive proof of citizenship in India if documents such as passports, Aadhaar cards and voter IDs don't make the cut?

While MEA's clarification reiterates a legal position underlined in the past by court judgments, it assumes importance in light of debates around citizenship during the Election Commission's special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

## An Ajmer legend whistles past 150

**New Delhi, Agency:** Some of the sounds of Ajmer are age-old. Like the cry of the azaan at the dargah of Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti. Or the bells of Mayo College, ringing through corridors trod by the sons of the well-known and well-heeled. A third, perhaps less perceptible now, is provided by the sirens at Ajmer Railway Workshop, which quietly chugs into its 150th year in Aug, mostly without remark but still bearing a precious part of the city's identity.

If the dargah brings seekers of the 13th century Sufi mystic's grace from



near and far - as it drew Mughal Emperor Akbar over four centuries back - and the school imparts an aristocratic gloss to the city, it is the railway workshop that gave Ajmer a remarkably cosmopolitan character, still very much evident even if not as palpable as it once was.

**Melting Pot:** Set up in 1876 - a year after the opening of Mayo College - under the Rajputana-Malwa Railway, what began as a modest repair facility grew into a key pillar of Indian Railways. It was also the third-oldest railway workshop in undivided India.

But its story runs beyond machines and tracks. British and Jewish engineers, Parsi technicians, and workers from present-day UP, Gujarat, Kerala and Maharashtra didn't just work here - they settled, built homes, and formed communities. Over time,

their presence gave Ajmer a distinctly cosmopolitan character, still visible in colonial bungalows, old railway institutes, churches, the Jewish cemetery near Ana Sagar, Parsi fire temples, and markets shaped by trading families like the Agarwals.

Some railway colonies still carry fading Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway (BB&CI) markings on their walls. In older neighbourhoods near the workshop, rusted iron gates, century-old rainwater pipes and sloping tiled roofs survive amid newer construction.

# Why do women carry purses?

## The surprising history behind this everyday accessory



We all know the struggle. You buy a gorgeous pair of trousers, try to slip your phone in the pocket, and—bam. It's a fake pocket. Or it's so ridiculously tiny it barely holds a lip balm. It makes you wonder why women are practically forced to lug around handbags everywhere we go. Well, it turns out, it wasn't always this way. Hundreds of years ago, the concept of a "woman's purse" didn't even exist. Both men and women just wore little pouches tied to their waists. The journey from those gender-neutral pouches to

the massive designer totes we carry today is actually a wild story. It's all about fashion disasters, lost pockets, and a hard-fought battle for freedom.

### The Great Pocket Robbery

Believe it or not, women in early modern Europe and colonial America actually hit the pocket jackpot. They didn't just have tiny sewn-in pockets; they wore massive, secret pouches tied right around their waists. These were hidden safely underneath giant, puffy

skirts and petticoats. You could hide everything in there. Coins, sewing kits, keys, maybe even a mid-day snack.

Nobody could see a thing. Then the 18th century wrapped up, and the French Revolution totally flipped fashion on its head. Enter the Regency era (think Bridgerton vibes). Dresses suddenly became super slim, form-fitting, and high-waisted. The sleek new look was gorgeous, but there was a massive catch. You couldn't hide a bulky pair of tie-on pockets under a slinky silk dress without

ruining the silhouette. The pockets had to go.

### Being Mocked Over "Reticules"

Stripped of their secret storage, women had to figure out what to do with their stuff.

The solution? Tiny little drawstring bags that dangled from the wrist. They were called "reticules," a fancy word that came from the Latin term for a small net. And oh boy, did society make fun of them. Men—who were ironically getting more sewn-in pockets in their coats and trousers—laughed relentlessly.

## Wimbledon 2026 outfit

### ideas: How to nail the quiet luxury aesthetic



Wimbledon isn't just a tennis tournament. It's the undisputed peak of the British summer social calendar.

When you think of SW19, a few things immediately come to mind. Crisp white uniforms, overpriced strawberries and cream, and, of course, impeccable court-side fashion. Sure, the action on the grass courts is thrilling. But let's be honest, half the fun is seeing exactly who is wearing what in the stands.

Unlike Ascot, general admission at Wimbledon doesn't hand you a strict, heavily enforced rulebook. Still, there's a very distinct, unspoken vibe floating through the grounds.

Think 'quiet luxury' and old-money elegance. We're talking breathable fabrics, soft neutral palettes, and incredibly sharp tailoring instead of loud, flashy logos.

Here is exactly how you can serve a style ace this season.

### Ladies: Breezy Midis and Sensible Soles

The ultimate goal? Looking polished while surviving a long day of walking on grass, navigating crowds, and battling the unpredictable British sunshine. A breezy cotton-poplin or linen midi dress is your absolute best friend

here. It's the perfect one-and-done outfit. Brands like Døen, Rixo, or Reformation usually dominate the stylish crowd, but you can pull off the look with any well-cut piece in "tennis brights"—think butter yellow, crisp white, or soft pink. Subtle prints like nautical stripes or delicate florals work beautifully too.

Plus, a midi length saves you from any unexpected wardrobe malfunctions if a sudden breeze picks up. Not a dress person?

A lightweight linen trouser suit in a pastel shade is effortlessly chic. Now, let's talk shoes. Whatever you do, leave the stilettos at home.

They will sink straight into the grass, and trust us, it's a messy look. Instead, go for espadrille wedges, clean minimal leather trainers, or a classic slingback kitten heel. Mary Janes are having a moment right now and offer a great, practical lift. Comfort really is key.

### Gentlemen: Summer Suiting Done Right

For the guys, dressing for Wimbledon means nailing the art of warm-weather tailoring. You want to look sharp, but not like you just escaped a stuffy corporate boardroom. Linen and seersucker suits are absolute gold.

## How Kutch mirrorwork went from desert villages to global fashion runways



Have you ever twirled in a heavy, mirror-studded chaniya choli during Navratri and wondered who actually made it? Or why the fabric carries so much weight? That dazzling reflection catching the festive lights isn't just a random fashion statement. It's a centuries-old survival story, a tribal passport, and honestly, a piece of wearable magic from the arid landscapes of Kutch. Locals call it Abhala Bharat, or Shisha embroidery. And its history is way more fascinating than you might think.

### History

A Journey Across Borders You'd probably assume this craft was born right in the heart of Gujarat. Surprisingly, no. The concept actually traces its roots all the way back to 13th-century Persia. It hitched a ride across borders with roaming travelers and traders, eventually catching the eye of Mughal emperors who loved integrating the rich technique into their royal textiles.

By the 17th century, nomadic pastoral groups—like the Jats—trekked from places like Balochistan and settled in the Kutch region. They brought their needles, threads, and heritage with them. Interestingly, early artisans didn't even use glass. They worked with whatever they could scavenge: shiny beetle wings, naturally occurring mica, old coins, and polished metal. Today, they rely heavily on machine-cut glass, but the gritty, handmade essence remains exactly the same.

The "Tribal Alphabet" Nobody Tells You About Here's the wildest part about Kutchi embroidery. It's not just decorative; it's literally a visual code. To the trained eye, a woman's embroidered skirt tells you who she is, her clan history, and her community's way of life. Take the Ahir community. Because they are historically settled farmers, their work is bold (a concept they call thassa) and bursting with agricultural life. Think huge curvilinear flowers, peacocks, and vibrant reds, greens, and yellows.

## Why high heels were originally made for men, and how they became a women's fashion staple

### The history of high heels in fashion



Picture this. You're walking into a party, trying to balance in a pair of towering stilettos, silently cursing whoever invented these torture devices. Well, prepare to direct your frustration at an unexpected group: 10th-century soldiers.

Yep, you read that right. The high heel wasn't born in a Parisian atelier, and it certainly wasn't designed to make women's legs look longer. Originally, heels were strictly menswear—and highly practical military gear at that. The journey from the muddy battlefield to the modern fashion runway is one of history's wildest style pivots.

From the saddle to the streets

To find the very first pair of high heels, you have to look back to the 10th century in Persia (modern-day Iran). Back then, the cavalry wore shoes with small, distinct heels. But this wasn't about making a fashion statement. It was purely functional.

When a soldier rode horseback, that little curved heel locked perfectly into the stirrups. This allowed the rider to stand up in the saddle, completely stabilized, so he could shoot

his bow and arrow at top speed. It was a genius piece of engineering. Since owning and keeping horses was an incredibly expensive affair, these heeled riding boots slowly became a massive status symbol. If you wore heels, it meant you had a horse. If you had a horse, you had money and power.

The ultimate male power move

Fast forward to the end of the 16th century. The Persian Shah, Abbas I, sent a group of diplomats to Europe to build military alliances. The European aristocrats took one look at the Persian envoys and became absolutely obsessed with their style.

Almost overnight, the high heel was adopted by European noblemen. To them, it wasn't a delicate accessory. It was the ultimate symbol of masculinity, military toughness, and virility. Now, 17th-century European streets were unpaved, muddy messes. Wearing heels made walking virtually impossible. But ironically, that was exactly the point. Hobbling around in highly impractical shoes was a very visible way of saying, "I am so wealthy that I don't have to work in the fields

or walk anywhere myself."

Nobody loved this flex more than King Louis XIV of France. The "Sun King" stood at just 5 feet 4 inches tall, but he regularly boosted his height with heels up to four inches high. He even passed a strict law in 1670: only members of his court who were in his absolute best graces were allowed to wear heels dyed red. That red dye was wildly expensive and screamed military power. Centuries before Christian Louboutin made the red sole a pop culture icon, King Louis was using it to decide who mattered.

The great gender shift

So, how exactly did heels cross over to the women's aisle? It started in the 18th century. Women began adopting elements of men's clothing as a way to project power and equality. They cut their hair shorter, added military-style epaulettes to their jackets, and yes—they started wearing high heels.

For a brief window, it was a unisex trend. But by the 1730s, the divide began. As heels became a staple in womenswear, men started abandoning them to distance themselves from anything deemed "feminine."



The actress said, "Anu's love was never a decision made in haste. The foundation of her relationship rested on trust, patience, and mutual understanding. In today's times, one rarely sees relationships where people strive to stand by each other through every circumstance. Anu always handled her relationship with maturity and faith, which is why she remained strong even during the most difficult phases"

## 'From you to you'

Anu taught the true meaning of love and relationships

### Niharika Chouksey

TV actress Niharika Chouksey is currently making headlines for the popular serial 'Tum Se Tum Tak'. She plays the character of Anu in the show, a role that is garnering immense

This character is very close to my heart. I have often felt as though I have become a part of Anu's life myself, living that very journey alongside her.

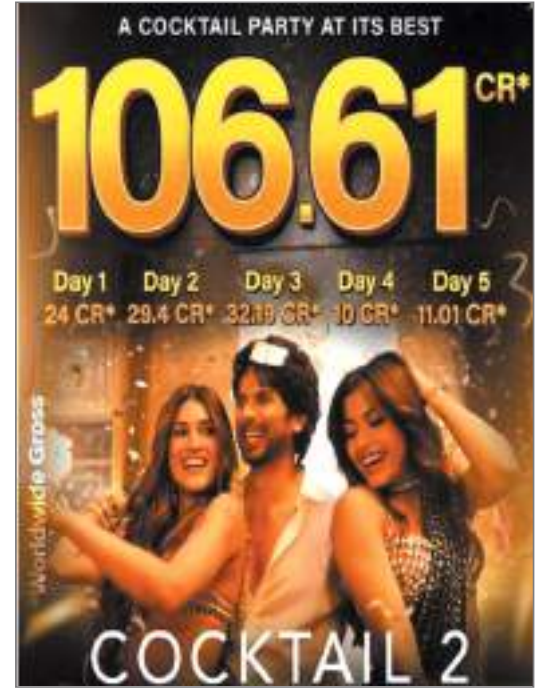
love from the audience. Recently, the show's storyline took a major turn when Anu and Arya finally tied the knot after overcoming numerous obstacles. Amidst this new phase, Niharika spoke to IANS about her character and the lessons she has learned from it. Speaking to IANS,



Niharika Chouksey said, "When I look back at Anu's entire journey, I realize that the character has taught me many important life lessons. There were several moments in the show where Anu's life seemed to be completely falling apart. Circumstances were against her, and she faced repeated hardships, yet she never stopped believing in love. That is what I found most special about Anu's character." The actress added, "Anu's love was never a decision made in haste. The foundation of her relationship rested on trust, patience, and mutual understanding. In today's times, one rarely sees relationships where people strive to stand by each other through every situation. Anu always handled her relationship with maturity and faith, which is why she remained strong even during the most difficult times." Niharika stated, "Anu stood by Arya because of her faith in their relationship and their love."

## Cocktail 2

The film became a box office hit, crossing the mark of Rs 106.61 crore worldwide. The recently released film "Cocktail 2" has officially achieved hit status, performing exceptionally well at the box office. The film has grossed over ₹106.61 crore worldwide, establishing itself among the most successful films of the year. Made at an estimated total



"Cocktail 2" now joins Maddock Films' growing list of successful films. Audiences are now eagerly awaiting the production house's upcoming releases. The recently released first look of "Eetha" and the highly anticipated "Prahaar" are also fueling audience curiosity.

cost of 100-110 crore, "Cocktail 2" had already recovered a significant portion of its budget through digital, satellite, and music rights prior to its release. The film's theatrical gross has now surpassed 100 crore, generating additional revenue in addition to pre-release recoveries.

With this, the film has reached profitability and is clearly considered a box office hit. What makes the film's success even more special is the overwhelming support it received from audiences, which has bolstered its theatrical performance. Thanks to positive word of mouth, repeat viewings, and a strong connect with the youth, "Cocktail 2" continues to hold strong at the box office and expand its reach across various markets. The film's successful run has once again proven that the romantic comedy genre continues to hold its appeal. It also strengthens Maddock Films' successful slate of projects, which consistently deliver commercially successful entertaining films to audiences. "Cocktail 2" now joins Maddock Films' growing list of successful films.

The actress further said: "The world sees his stardom, but it is his simplicity and humility that have inspired me the most. His presence is incredibly commanding, yet his humanity is even more beautiful. I am deeply grateful. I extend my heartfelt thanks to my family and fans for their support, love, and blessings in making this possible."

## Akshara Singh on Akshay Kumar: The world praises his stardom, but his humble nature inspires me



Bhojpuri actress Akshara Singh shared an emotional message for Akshay Kumar after sharing the stage with him at an event for her upcoming film "Welcome to the Jungle." She described the moment as a "dream come true" and said she admires the actor's humility and simplicity. During an event in Moradabad, Bhojpuri actress Akshara Singh shared several photos on social media of herself sharing the stage with Akshay Kumar. She wrote, "A memorable Moradabad with Khiladi Kumar. I used to applaud Akshay Kumar sir on screen, today I'm sharing the stage with him." The actress added: "The world sees his stardom, but his sim-



licity and humility inspire me the most. His presence is impressive, but his humanity is even more beautiful. I am deeply grateful. I sincerely thank my family and fans for their support, love, and blessings for making this possible." Akshara Singh and Akshay Kumar will be seen together in the song "Ghis Ghis Ghis" in the film "Welcome to the Jungle." The film also stars Sunil Shetty, Paresh Rawal, Johnny Lever, Rajpal Yadav, Arshad Warsi, Tusshar Kapoor, Shreyas Talpade, Aftab Shivdasani, Jackie Shroff, Daler Mehndi, Mika Singh, Raveena Tandon, Lara Dutta, Jacqueline of the popular Welcome franchise.



## Comedy master Satish Shah Who left his mark with the three Khans

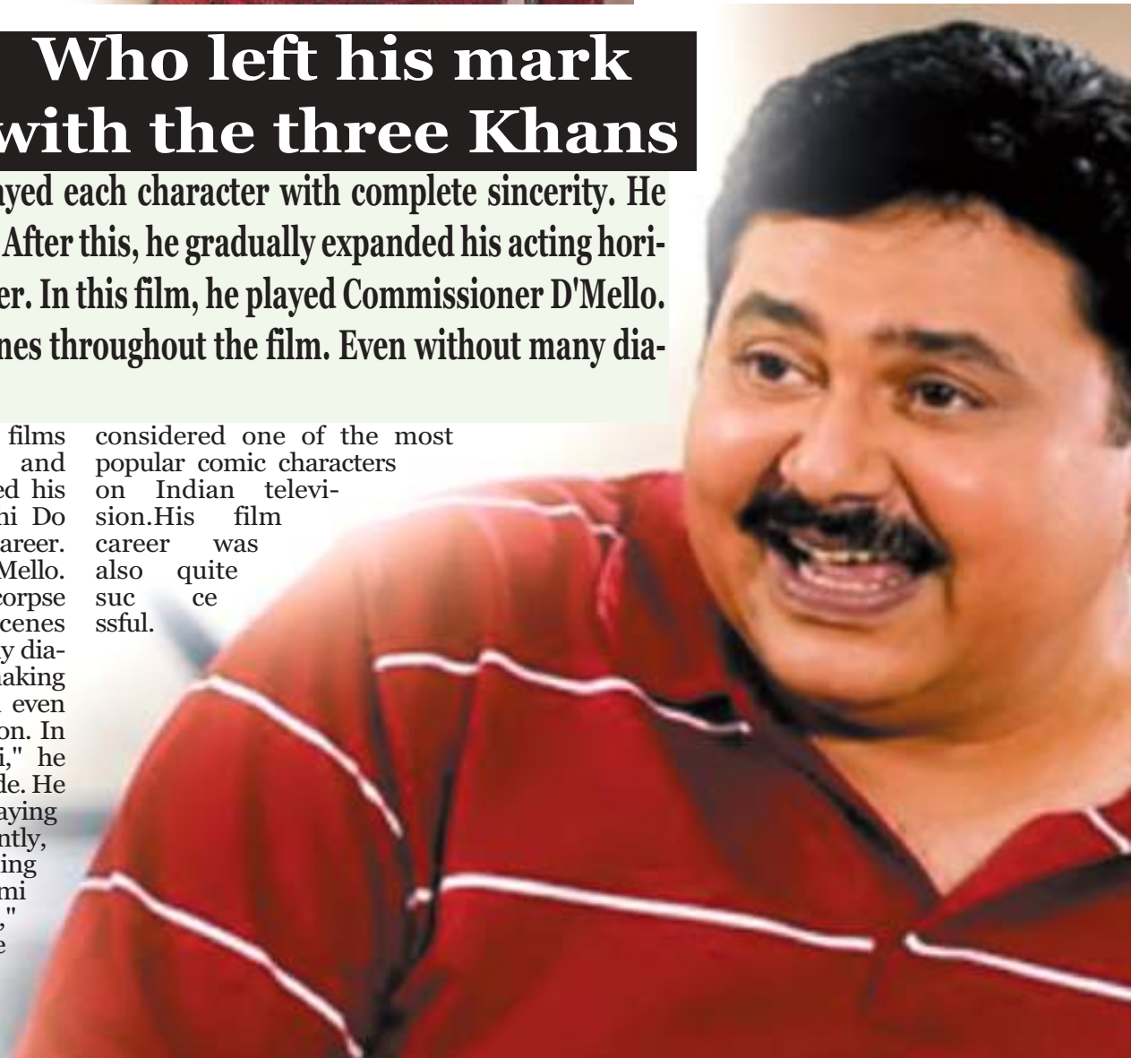
His film career began in the 1970s. He initially received small roles, but he played each character with complete sincerity. He gained recognition with films like "Arvind Desai Ki Ajeeb Dastaan" and "Gaman." After this, he gradually expanded his acting horizons. The 1983 film "Jaane Bhi Do Yaaro" proved to be a turning point in his career. In this film, he played Commissioner D'Mello. His character dies in the story, but his corpse becomes a part of many comic scenes throughout the film. Even without many dialogues, he distinguished himself by making audiences laugh.

In the world of Bollywood and TV, there are some actors who may not appear in lead roles, but whenever they appear on screen, they change the entire atmosphere. One such actor was Satish Shah, who made audiences laugh with his superb comic timing and powerful acting. He worked with three of Hindi cinema's biggest stars, Shah Rukh Khan, Aamir Khan, and Salman Khan, and almost always, even in his small roles, he captivated the audience. This quality has placed him at the top of the list of "show-stopper" actors. Satish Shah was born on June 25, 1951, in Mumbai. He came from a Gujarati family. His full name was Satish Ravilal Shah. He was interested in acting since childhood. He trained in acting at the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) in Pune, where he learned the nuances of theater and acting. His film career began in the 1970s. He initially received small roles, but he played each character with complete



sincerity. He first gained recognition with films like "Arvind Desai Ki Ajeeb Dastaan" and "Gaman." After this, he gradually expanded his acting horizons. The 1983 film "Jaane Bhi Do Yaaro" proved to be a turning point in his career. In this film, he played Commissioner D'Mello. While his character dies in the story, his corpse becomes a part of many comic scenes throughout the film. Even without many dialogues, he distinguished himself by making audiences laugh. Satish Shah achieved even greater success in the world of television. In the 1984 show "Yeh Jo Hai Zindagi," he played different characters in each episode. He proved himself a versatile actor by playing dozens of roles in a single season. Subsequently, he won audiences' hearts with his comic timing in several other TV shows, including "Filmi Chakkar," "Ghar Jamai," "Dekh Bhai Dekh," and "Yeh Jo Hai Zindagi." However, the 2004 show "Sarabhai vs. Sarabhai" became the most memorable part of his career. His character, Indravadan Sarabhai, is still

considered one of the most popular comic characters on Indian television. His film career was also quite successful.



# Women's T20 World Cup: England beat West Indies by 38 runs to reach the semi-finals

**London, Agency:** Riding on impressive performances in both batting and bowling, hosts England defeated West Indies by 38 runs on Wednesday to secure a place in the semi-finals of the Women's T20 World Cup 2026. England became the first team in the tournament to reach the final four.

Both teams were undefeated before this match, but England strengthened its claim with a one-sided victory.

Batting first, England scored 186 for 7 in their allotted 20 overs. Opener Danni Wyatt-Hodge played a brilliant innings of 65 runs, while captain Heather Knight contributed 43 runs.

Although Chinelle Henry struck early, dismissing Amy Jones, Danni Wyatt-Hodge and Heather Knight steadied the innings. Ashmini Munisar took two wickets for the West Indies.

Chasing a target of 187, the West Indies got off to a slow start, managing only 12 runs in the first three overs of the powerplay. Captain Hayley Matthews played some attractive shots but was dismissed for 14 by a controversial decision.

Deandra Dottin then tried to score quickly but couldn't muster a big innings. The middle order also crumbled under pressure, and the team lost



wickets at regular intervals.

Chinelle Henry struggled to score an unbeaten 51 in the final overs, but she couldn't lead the team to victory. The West Indies managed only 148 for 5 in 20 overs.

For England, Charlie Dean took two wickets, while the other bowlers also bowled tightly to keep the West Indies well short of the target.

With this win, England, continuing their impressive performance,

advanced to the semi-finals, while the West Indies will now need to perform better in their upcoming matches.

#### Brief Scores:

England – 186/7 (20 overs)  
Danni Wyatt-Hodge 65, Heather Knight 43  
Ashmini Munisar 2/42  
West Indies – 148/5 (20 overs)  
Chinelle Henry 51\*, Charlie Dean 2/31  
Result: England win by 38 runs.



## FIFA World Cup 2026: Switzerland beat Canada 2-1 to secure top spot in Group B

**Vancouver, Agency:** Switzerland defeated Canada 2-1 in Group B of the FIFA World Cup 2026 on Wednesday to take the top spot in the points table. All three goals came in the second half of this thrilling match played at BC Vancouver Stadium.

Both teams failed to score in the first half, but Switzerland took an aggressive stance as the second half began. Ruben Vargas scored in the 46th minute to give Switzerland the lead.

Then, in the 57th minute, Johan Mzambi scored the second goal to strengthen Switzerland's position and make the score 2-0.

After falling behind by two

goals, Canada attempted a comeback. Promise David scored in the 76th minute to narrow the gap and make the match a thrilling one.

Canada came agonizingly close to an equalizer in the final moments of the match. In the final minute of extra time, Alistair Johnston's header went straight into the hands of Swiss goalkeeper Gregor Kobel, dashing Canada's hopes.

With this win, Switzerland secured top spot in Group B, while Canada, despite a narrow defeat, will have to rely on other results to ensure their chances of advancing to the next stage.

## FIFA World Cup 2026: Brazil tops Group C after beating Scotland



**Miami, Agency:** Star winger Vinicius Junior scored two brilliant goals as Brazil secured top spot in the FIFA World Cup 2026 Group C match by defeating Scotland 3-0 on Wednesday.

Brazil played aggressively

from the start of the match. In the seventh minute, Vinicius Junior took advantage of a mistake by Scottish defender Scott McKenna to score a goal. Vinicius scored another goal in the 22nd minute, but it was disallowed after a Video

Assistant Referee (VAR) review, ruling him to have fouled Scotland defender Jack Hendry.

However, Vinicius doubled Brazil's lead with his second goal in extra time of the first half. He netted with a superb header from Bruno Guimaraes' precise cross.

Brazil continued their dominance in the second half and added a third goal. Matheus Cunha scored his third goal of the tournament, following a pass from Bruno Guimaraes.

With this win, Brazil secured the top spot in Group C and will now face the runner-up from Group K in the last 32 stage on June 29 in Houston.

## Consistent Performance Is the Only Way to Retain a Place in the Team: Avesh Khan



**New Delhi, Agency:** Indian cricket team's fast bowler Avesh Khan says that to maintain one's place in the team, it is more important to maintain consistency in performance than talent. Avesh Khan, who is currently out of the Indian team, said in an exclusive conversation with IANS on the question related to his return, "If you are performing well consistently, you will remain in the team. Consistency is the most important to make a place in the team and keep it." Avesh said, "I am not a part of the national team right now. I will try to perform well in the Ranji Trophy or other domestic cricket tournaments. My effort will be to help my team win matches so that I can get back to the place I deserve. After the Madhya Pradesh Premier League (MPL), I will work more on my fitness and bowling."

Asked if T20 cricket is considered a challenge for bowlers, Avesh said, "T20 is a difficult format for bowlers, but I think there's an opportunity to do well. If you develop the new ball as a fast bowler and a spinner, you'll be successful. I'm always looking for opportunities to excel. This includes learning new skills and working on myself. I always feel I can dominate batsmen as a bowler." There

's currently intense competition among fast bowlers for a place in the Indian team, with many bowlers receiving opportunities across formats. Regarding the ongoing competition among fast bowlers, Avesh said, "I don't see it as a challenge, but as an inspiration. I've played for the Indian team, so as a fast bowler, I'm always motivated. The desire to play for India is my biggest motivation."

According to Avesh, "The biggest advantage of playing domestic cricket, franchise cricket, and leagues like the MPL is the opportunity to learn from a variety of players. You play with young and experienced players simultaneously. The IPL offers a lot of new things to learn, so it's great."

Avesh is part of the Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) in the IPL

He praised the atmosphere at the LSG camp, calling it the team's biggest strength.

Speaking about his experience with LSG, Avesh said, "My experience has been great. Over the past two years, results haven't been in our favor, but we've always stuck together as a team. We always reflect on where we are and try to improve. We try to make the good things even better."

Therefore, our team atmosphere is very good."

Avesh told our coach, "Like our captains, they always maintain a positive atmosphere so that disappointing performances don't affect the players' mindset."

Avesh Khan is still dreaming of a comeback to the Indian team through domestic cricket and the IPL

## FIFA World Cup 2026: Mexico cruises into Round of 32 with 3-0 win over Czech Republic



**Mexico City, Agency:** Mexico completed a perfect FIFA World Cup 2026 group-stage campaign with a convincing 3-0 victory over the Czech Republic at the Mexico City Stadium, securing a third consecutive win and ending the Czech Republic's hopes of progressing to the knockout rounds.

Having already sealed top spot in Group A and qualification for the Round of 32, the co-hosts entered the match with little pressure. The Czech Republic, however, required a positive result to keep their chances of advancing alive and started the contest on the front foot.

Denis Visinsky was among the visitors' brightest performers in the opening stages and came close to breaking the deadlock in the

eighth minute when his low strike narrowly missed the target.

Mexico gradually took control of proceedings and found the breakthrough ten minutes into the second half. Mateo Chavez used his pace to get behind the Czech Republic defence before calmly finishing to give the hosts a 1-0 lead, sending the home crowd into celebration.

The momentum remained firmly with Mexico, and they doubled their advantage just six minutes later. Julian Quinones was in the right place at the right time to convert from close range, putting Javier Aguirre's side in a commanding position.

With the result all but secured, the Mexican supporters were given another reason to celebrate when veteran goalkeeper Guillermo Ochoa wa

s introduced with 12 minutes remaining. The 40-year-old became one of the few players to feature in six editions of the FIFA World Cup, adding another milestone to his illustrious international career.

Mexico capped off the victory in stoppage time as Alvaro Fidalgo found the back of the net to make it 3-0 and complete a dominant display.

The result saw Mexico finish the group stage with three wins from three matches, carrying strong momentum into the Round of 32.

## Argentina players wear special shirts for Messi's 39th birthday celebration

**Missouri, Agency:** Lionel Messi's Argentina teammates wore special personalised shirts featuring photos of themselves with Messi on the legend's birthday on Wednesday, June 24, as per ESPN FC's X handle. Messi turned 39 on Wednesday, entering a new chapter, a new year of his life. The gesture by Argentina players underlines the deep admiration and respect Messi commands in the team.

The Argentina Football Association (AFA) also extended birthday wishes to the captain. Additionally, team chefs Diego Lacovone and Antonia Farias, who share their birthdays with Messi, were also wished by the AFA in a post on X. Happy birthday to our Captain Leo Messi and our chefs Diego Iacovone and Antonia Farias! May they always be happy," the AFA wrote in the caption of the X post.

Born on June 24, 1987, at the Italian Hospital Garibaldi in Rosario, Santa Fe, Messi marks another year at the peak of his career while remaining a central figure for Argentina in the 2026 World Cup, where he has continued to set new records and further strengthen a legacy that spans generations.

