



Aryan Age

The Age of Truth

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PM Modi Lines Up 35,000-Crore Infra Push

Western Freight Corridor completion, new rail lines, highways and fintech summit headline Prime Minister's Gujarat-Maharashtra visit

New Delhi : Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Gujarat and Maharashtra on Tuesday to launch and inaugurate development projects worth more than ₹35,000 crore, including key sections completing the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor and major railway and highway works.

The Prime Minister will begin the programme in Vadodara around noon before travelling to Mumbai to inaugurate the Global Fintech Fest 2026 later in the day.

Among the most significant announcements is the dedication of three key sections of the Western Dedicated Freight

Corridor, marking completion of the project designed to separate heavy freight traffic from congested passenger railway routes and improve cargo movement between northern India and western ports.

Modi will also lay the foundation stone for three railway projects spanning around 329 kilometres at a cost exceeding ₹9,700 crore.

These include third and fourth lines on the Vadodara-Ratlam route, the Miyagam Karjan-Choranda-Malsar gauge-conversion project and doubling of the Vishwamitri-Dabhoi line.

Three national-highway projects worth about ₹1,780 crore



will also be launched, including six-laning work on NH-48 and additional bridges and grade-separated structures along important Gujarat corridors.

A new rail service between Vadodara and Tanda Road will be flagged off, while the Jobat-Tanda Road line will connect remote and tribal areas of

Alirajpur to the broader national rail network.

State-level projects worth around ₹2,600 crore include housing, water supply, the

Vadodara Urban Development Authority Ring Road Phase II and a proposed 110 MW floating solar project at Kadana Dam.

In Mumbai, Modi will inaugurate the seventh Global Fintech Fest, whose theme centres on agentic artificial intelligence, tokenisation and quantum technologies in financial systems.

The programme links physical infrastructure with India's wider digital-economy strategy.

Dedicated freight corridors can lower logistics costs for manufacturers, while fintech infrastructure aims to reduce the cost and friction of moving

money.

The announcements also carry political significance because the visit places the Prime Minister in two economically important western states on the same day.

For businesses and passengers, however, the meaningful test will come after the ceremonies.

The value of ₹35,000 crore in projects will ultimately depend on whether construction meets deadlines and whether completed rail, highway and freight infrastructure delivers the promised reduction in congestion, logistics time and transport costs.

India, China Open New LAC Dialogue

New Delhi : Indian and Chinese military commanders have held Corps Commander-level talks in Arunachal Pradesh for the first time, creating a new senior-level channel for managing tensions along the eastern sector of the Line of Actual Control after years in which such dialogue was



concentrated mainly on eastern Ladakh.

The talks were held at the Wacha-Damai border meeting point in Arunachal Pradesh's Kibithoo sector. Indian representatives discussed border-management issues with their Chinese counterparts, with maintaining peace and tranquillity along the LAC forming the central objective.

The development follows the 25th round of Special Representatives' boundary talks in Beijing involving National Security Adviser Ajit Doval and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi. The two governments have recently spoken of strengthening military communication, creating additional hotlines and improving mechanisms intended to prevent local patrol encounters from escalating.

The new eastern-sector dialogue is significant because India and China continue to hold sharply differing perceptions of the LAC. Arunachal Pradesh remains particularly sensitive: Beijing claims large parts of the state, while

New Delhi rejects those claims and maintains that Arunachal Pradesh is an integral and inalienable part of India.

Corps Commander meetings became an important crisis-management tool after the 2020 confrontation in eastern Ladakh, where the Galwan Valley clash caused the worst loss of life between the two militaries in decades. Multiple rounds of negotiations later produced disengagement at several friction points, but the wider boundary dispute remains unresolved.

The Arunachal meeting does not settle territorial claims. Instead, it seeks to establish procedures for handling local military activity, patrol encounters and infrastructure concerns before they become prolonged stand-offs.

The talks also arrive at a diplomatically sensitive moment as both countries attempt to stabilise their broader relationship following years of mistrust. Trade remains extensive, while political and military ties have been constrained by the unresolved border.

For India, the strategic principle remains unchanged: broader relations cannot fully normalise unless peace is maintained along the frontier.

The importance of the latest talks will therefore be measured not by a dramatic announcement but by whether military commanders can create predictable communication on the ground. If the eastern-sector mechanism works, it could reduce the possibility that a small local incident develops into another national-level India-China crisis.

Bihar Flood Crisis Hits 27 Lakh

Patna : Around 27 lakh people have been affected by floods across 13 districts of Bihar as swollen rivers inundate villages, agricultural land and transport links, forcing the state government to expand community kitchens, boat operations and embankment surveillance.

At Gandhi Ghat in Patna, the Ganga was flowing at 50.41 metres on Monday morning, around 1.57 metres above the danger level. Authorities have also sounded alerts downstream after the river touched exceptionally high levels at Gandhi Ghat and Hathidah.

The Gandak was above danger level at Dumariaghat and Hajipur, while the Kosi, Burhi Gandak, Purnpun, Bagmati and Ghaghra

were also running high at several monitoring points. The Ganga was above danger levels at locations including Bhagalpur, Kahalgaon, Buxar and Munger.

Officials said 190 community kitchens were operating for affected residents and 1,429 boats had been deployed for rescue and relief. Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary and Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Kumar Choudhary inspected relief arrangements in Vaishali and Bhagalpur and directed district authorities to maintain constant watch over vulnerable embankments.

Bihar has received 69.1 mm of rainfall so far in September, around 55 per cent above normal, contributing to the rapid rise in

river levels. Heavy rainfall in neighbouring catchments also influences the state because several major rivers flow into Bihar from Nepal and other regions.

Floodwater can create a second public-health emergency even after the immediate danger of drowning declines. Contaminated drinking-water sources, damaged sanitation facilities, mosquito breeding, livestock deaths and disruption of medical access can persist for weeks. Agricultural losses may also be significant because standing crops in low-lying areas are exposed to prolonged inundation.

Engineers have been instructed to keep machinery ready in case embankments weaken, while residents in flood-prone settlements



have been warned to stay away from swollen rivers.

The crisis is another example of this year's highly uneven monsoon: national rainfall can remain deficient while short periods of exceptionally intense rain cause devastating floods in particular states.

With 27 lakh people already affected, Bihar's immediate challenge is no longer merely monitoring water levels. It is sustaining food, shelter, healthcare and transport for a population larger than that of many Indian cities until the rivers finally begin a durable retreat.

Sports Drone Shuts Amritsar Airport

Amritsar : A drone being used to film a village sports tournament triggered a major security alert at Amritsar International Airport, forcing authorities to suspend operations for about 90 minutes and divert seven incoming flights before police established that the objects were not linked to hostile activity.

The alarm began late Sunday evening when drone-like objects were detected close to the operational and runway areas of Shri Guru Ram Das Ji International Airport. Airport authorities alerted Punjab Police and central security agencies, while incoming aircraft were told not to land.

Seven flights, including two international services, were diverted to Delhi and Chandigarh. Malaysia Airlines, IndiGo, Air India and Air India Express were among carriers affected. Operations remained suspended from approximately 9.50 pm until around 11.15 pm.

The initial concern was

particularly serious because Amritsar lies close to the international border and Punjab has repeatedly faced cross-border drone activity associated with weapons and narcotics smuggling.

However, investigation by Raja Sansi police established a much more ordinary—but still potentially dangerous—explanation. A sports tournament was being held in a village close to the airport, and a person had used a drone without permission to film the event.

Police said flying drones within an eight-kilometre radius of the airport is prohibited and announced legal action over the violation.

The episode highlights why even recreational drone activity near airports is treated as a serious aviation hazard. A small unmanned aircraft can strike an aircraft engine, cockpit or wing during take-off or landing, when passenger planes are operating at relatively low altitude and pilots have limited time to react.



RBI Drains 6 Lakh Crore in One Day

Mumbai : The Reserve Bank of India absorbed more than ₹6 lakh crore from the banking system on Monday after excess liquidity surged to an unprecedented ₹11.6 lakh crore, marking one of the most dramatic cash-management operations undertaken by the central bank.

Banks placed ₹2.59 lakh crore through a 30-day reverse-repo operation and offered another ₹3.53 lakh crore in an overnight auction, taking the day's liquidity withdrawal beyond ₹6 lakh crore. The RBI had originally targeted absorption of ₹7 lakh crore through the longer-duration auction, but participation was lower than expected.

Banking-system surplus liquidity reached ₹11.6 lakh crore on September 6, equivalent to nearly four per cent of total banking deposits. The extraordinary rise follows inflows of around \$136 billion through special one-off schemes designed earlier to

strengthen India's external position and attract foreign currency. When those dollars are exchanged with the RBI for rupees, domestic banking liquidity expands sharply.

The very success of the foreign-currency measures has therefore produced a new monetary-policy problem. Large and persistent cash surpluses can push overnight interest rates below the RBI's intended policy corridor. Excess money can also feed into asset markets, weaken the transmission of monetary policy and eventually create inflation risks if credit expansion accelerates too rapidly.

The RBI has already withdrawn more than ₹8.5 lakh crore through various operations, although much of the money will return to banks as those transactions mature. Economists expect the central bank may also consider Market Stabilisation Scheme bonds, foreign-exchange sell-buy

swaps and additional longer-tenor reverse repos.

Banks are generally less willing to lock money away for longer periods because they may need liquidity for lending or other obligations, complicating the RBI's task.

The episode shows how quickly India's macroeconomic challenge has reversed. Earlier concerns centred on attracting dollars and defending the rupee. The RBI now has to manage the large rupee liquidity created by those same inflows.

For consumers, the operation may appear highly technical, but liquidity conditions influence deposit returns, bond yields, lending rates and inflation.

The RBI is therefore attempting a delicate balance: keep enough money in the financial system to support growth while ensuring a record cash surplus does not undermine its control over interest rates and prices.



प्रथम पुण्य स्मरण

स्व. श्री सुनील जी गोयल

ईश्वर ने यही पूजनीय मोती आपके रूप में हमें प्रदान किया था
ब्रह्मलीन होने के पश्चात आपकी स्मृति छाया ही हमारी पूजा की धुरी है।

श्रद्धावनत

प्रातःकाल परिवार

Delhi Hostel Horror Claims Seven Lives

New Delhi : The death toll in the Satya Niketan building collapse rose to seven on Monday as the Delhi High Court ordered a high-level inquiry, police arrested members of the property owner's family and the Municipal Corpora-tion of Delhi suspended five senior and field-level officials in one of the Capital's most serious student-housing disasters.

The decades-old multi-storey structure, which was functioning as a boys' pay-ing-guest accommodation near Delhi University's South Campus, collapsed on Sunday afternoon while repair work was reportedly underway. Rescue person-nel from the NDRF, Delhi Fire Service, police and dis-aster-management agen-cies worked through the night, pulling survivors and bodies from the rubble.

Police traced building owner Hariram Gupta to



Bhiwadi in Rajasthan and detained him. His wife and son were subsequently ar-rested in connection with the case. Investigators are examining allegations that work was being carried out in the basement despite the ageing condition of the building. Chief Minister

Rekha Gupta said water ac-cumulation in the basement combined with repair activ-ity appeared to have con-tributed to the collapse, al-though the final cause will depend on the formal tech-nical inquiry.

The MCD suspended

missioner Rakesh Kumar along with four engineering officials. Mayor Pravesh Wahi said buildings with unauthorised construction beyond permissible floors would face sealing and promised action against of-ficials found responsible for overlooking violations. The

government has also pro-posed wider structural au-dits of buildings being used for public purposes such as hostels and PG accommo-dation.

The Delhi High Court separately criticised civic authorities and Delhi Uni-versity over what it de-scribed as poor conditions in student accommodation and ordered a higher-level examination of the tragedy. The court's intervention raises the issue beyond one property to the broader reg-ulatory system governing thousands of private hostels around colleges.

The immediate rescue phase is nearing com-pletion, but the accountability phase has only begun. In-vestigators must now deter-mine whether illegal struc-tural alteration, administrative negligence or both converted an ageing residential building into a death trap for students.

Air India Express Shuts Engine Mid-Air

Kochi : An Air India Ex-press Boeing 737 operating from Kochi to Abu Dhabi was forced to abandon its journey and return to Cochin International Airport after pilots detected a rapid de-cline in engine-oil quantity and eventually shut down one engine when pressure entered the danger zone.

The aircraft was approx-imately 50 minutes into the journey and cruising at around 36,000 feet when the crew noticed oil quantity falling rapidly in Engine 1. Pilots monitored the situa-tion, carried out an opera-tional assessment and decid-ed not to continue towards Abu Dhabi.

As the oil problem wors-ened and pressure reached a critical level, the crew shut down the affected engine and returned to Kochi. The air-craft landed safely and no passenger injuries were re-ported.

Modern twin-engine passenger aircraft are de-signed and certified to con-tinue flying safely on one

engine, but an in-flight en-gine shutdown remains a se-rious operational event re-quiring prompt diversion to an appropriate airport.

Investigators and airline engineers will now have to establish why the oil level fell, whether there was a leak, sensor malfunction or another mechanical failure, and what maintenance action is required before the aircraft returns to commercial ser-vice.

The incident has attract-ed additional attention be-cause India's aviation sector is already under heightened scrutiny following recent safety events involving Air India group aircraft. The pre-liminary investigation into a separate Phuket-Delhi Air India flight recently dis-closed hydraulic problems and a drug-test finding in-volving the pilot-in-com-mand, prompting Air India to begin voluntary drug testing across its pilot workforce.

The Kochi incident is technically separate and there is no evidence linking

the two cases.

What the latest event demonstrates is the im-portance of cockpit monitoring and conservative decision-making. Continuing towards Abu Dhabi after an engine-oil warning could have re-duced the crew's available options if the condition de-teriorated farther from a suit-able airport.

Instead, the pilots re-turned to their departure point and landed without in-jury.

For regulators, repeated high-profile aviation in-cidents inevitably raise ques-tions about maintenance oversight, technical reliabil-ity and whether rapid indus-try expansion is being matched by equally rapid growth in safety systems.

For passengers aboard IX 415, however, the most important fact is simpler: a potentially serious mechani-cal problem developed at cruising altitude, the crew shut down the affected en-gine and the aircraft returned safely.

IITs Rethink the JEE Route for Cyber Degrees

New Delhi : Three to four additional Indian Insti-tutes of Technology are like-ly to introduce specialised undergraduate cybersecurity programmes next year, while the admission model may move away from JEE Main towards a combination of ap-titude testing and hackathon-based assessment.IIT Kan-pur and IIT Madras launched their four-year B Cyber pro-grammes in 2026, offering a combined 90 seats. Howev-er, only 52 students were ad-mitted across the two institu-tions — 32 at IIT Kanpur and 20 at IIT Madras.Programme officials are now examining a different selection process

from 2027.IIT Kanpur's B Cyber programme director Soumitra Sanadhya said the objective was to move away from JEE Main and use a dedicated aptitude test fol-lowed by a practical hack-athon-style stage.The pro-posal is not yet a nationwide IIT admissions change and applies specifically to the B Cyber programme under dis-cussion. Students seeking traditional BTech admission should therefore not inter-pret the development as abo-lition of JEE for IIT engi-neering courses.The distinction matters be-cause the new programme is at-tempting to identify a some-

what different type of stu-dent.Cybersecurity demands mathematics and computer-science knowledge, but it also depends heavily on problem-solving, adversari-al thinking, experimentation and the ability to understand how systems fail in practice.A hackathon or skills-based assessment could reveal abilities that a conventional multiple-choice entrance examination may not capture.The pro-posed expansion comes amid rising demand for cy-bersecurity professionals as governments, banks, de-fence organisations, hospi-tals.

Pilgrimage Journey Ends in 12 Deaths

Canter carrying devotees overturns on Eastern Peripheral Expressway, leaving more than 16 injured in another deadly highway tragedy

Baghpat : At least 12 pilgrims were killed and more than 16 others injured after a vehicle carrying de-votees struck a divider and overturned on the Eastern Peripheral Expressway in Uttar Pradesh's Baghpat dis-trict, turning a return journey from a religious pilgrimage into a major road tragedy.

The crash occurred at around 1 am between Basi and Bada villages in the Khakra Kotwali area, ap-proximately 15 kilometres from Baghpat district head-quarters. Police said the can-ter was carrying 32 devotees returning to Budaun after

visiting Bagad Dham in Raj-asthan.

The impact caused the vehicle to overturn, trapping or throwing passengers and triggering an emergency re-sponse involving police, lo-cal residents and medical teams.

Injured passengers were taken to nearby hospitals, with some reported to have suffered serious injuries.

Investigators are exam-ining why the vehicle hit the divider. Speed, driver fa-tigue, visibility, vehicle con-dition and road circumstanc-es are likely to form part of the inquiry, but police had

not announced a final cause at the time of reporting.

The accident highlights a recurring road-safety con-cern involving goods vehi-cles or lightly modified com-mercial carriers transporting large groups of passengers. Such vehicles may not pro-vide occupants with the crash protection, seating sys-tems or restraint equipment expected in passenger buses.

India has one of the world's highest road-fatality burdens, with speeding, un-safe driving, inadequate lane discipline, fatigued drivers and poorly protected passen-gers frequently contributing

to serious crashes.

Expressways are de-signed for higher-speed trav-el, which can improve jour-ney times but greatly in-creases the energy in-volved in a collision or roll-over. A minor loss of control at expressway speeds can therefore become cata-strophic when dozens of pas-sengers are travelling togeth-er.Police will also examine whether the vehicle was au-thorised to carry the number and type of passengers on board.For the families in-volved, the deaths are par-ticularly devastating be-cause the victims had

completed their pilgrimage and were travelling home when the accident occurred.

Authorities will now have to determine whether the crash resulted from an individual driving error or reflects wider failures in-volving vehicle use, com-mercial passenger transport or highway safety.

The tragedy is another reminder that road safety de-pends not merely on con-structing faster highways, but on ensuring the vehicles, drivers and enforcement sys-tems using those highways are capable of operating safely at higher speeds.

Supreme Court Puts Elder Care on National Audit

New Delhi : The Supreme Court on Monday directed all states and Union Territories to file fresh status reports on old-age homes and facilities available to senior citizens, reviving scrutiny of whether governments are fulfilling legal and constitutional obligations to-wards India's rapidly growing elderly population.

A Bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bag-chi and V Mohana was hearing a pub-lic-interest petition filed in 2016 by former Union minister Dr Ashwani Ku-mar.

The petition seeks effective im-plementation of measures including old-age homes in every district, adequate

pension support and accessible geri-atric healthcare.

The court asked for updated infor-mation rather than relying on older compliance reports, reflecting concern that conditions and government pro-grammes have changed substantially during the decade-long litigation.

The Chief Justice indicated that the Supreme Court could lay down broad principles while High Courts may ul-timately be better placed to monitor im-plementation within individual states.

India's ageing challenge is growing rapidly. Longer life expectancy and mi-gration of younger workers mean an increasing number of elderly people live alone or depend on limited family

support.

The Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act pro-vides a statutory framework for support, but implementation differs greatly between states and districts.

Access to geriatric medicine also remains uneven. Urban centres may have specialised hospitals, while elder-ly residents in rural areas often depend on general public-health facilities with-out dedicated age-related services.

Pension adequacy is another major concern. Small monthly benefits may formally satisfy the existence of a wel-fare scheme while remaining insuffi-cient to cover food, medicine and hous-ing costs.

Prime Minister Modi to Unveil ₹35,000 Crore Rail Infra Projects in Gujarat Dedicated Freight Corridor Complete

Aryan Agr Correspondent

Ahmedabad: Union Minister for Railways, Information & Broadcasting, and Electronics & IT, Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, announced during a media interaction at Ahmedabad Airport that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lay the foundation stone, inaugurate, and dedicate rail projects worth over ₹35,000 crore to the nation in Gujarat on September 8, 2026. Highlighting major milestones, Shri Vaishnaw declared that both Eastern and Western Dedicated Freight Corridors—now fully opera-tional from JNPT to Dadri and Ludhiana to Sonagar—will be officially dedi-cated to the nation by the Prime Minister. Expanding on long-term capacity build-ing, the Prime Minister will lay the foundation stone for the four-laning of



the crucial Vadodra—Ratlam rail line, a key segment under the nation's seven high-density railway corridor expan-sion plan. Foundation stones will also be laid for the Vishwamitri—Dabhoi

doubling and the Miyagam Karjan–Choranda–Malsar gauge conversion projects, while the new Jobat–Tanda Road line will be formally inaugurated. Additionally, the Prime Minister will flag off a new passenger train between Tanda Road and Vadodra, alongside four new freight services on the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor. Sharing up-dates on the Mumbai–Ahmedabad Bul-let Train project, the Minister confirmed that civil construction between Vapi and Surat will be completed by December 2026, with the first test coach already fabricated.

Trial runs on the Surat–Bilimora section remain on track for next year, marking a monumental step toward modernizing Indian Railways and ac-celerating the vision of a Developed In-dia.

Black-Shirts Trigger Telangana Assembly Showdown

Hyderabad : The open-ing day of the Telangana As-sembly's monsoon session descended into confronta-tion on Monday after Bharat Rashtra Samithi legislators wearing black T-shirts were stopped at the Assembly gates, leading to scuffles with police and the detention of senior leaders K T Rama Rao and T Harish Rao.The BRS had organised the pro-test to mark what it called the “failure” of the Congress government after 1,000 days in office. Legislators wore black shirts carrying slogans accusing the ruling party of failing to implement its elec-tion promises.Police pre-vented the group from en-tering the premises in protest attire. A confrontation fol-lowed, during which Rama Rao, Harish Rao and several other leaders were detained and taken away.The BRS subsequently accused police of using excessive force against elected representa-tives. Party leaders alleged that former minister Sabitha Indra Reddy was dragged by her hair and that MLA V Sunitha Laxma Reddy's sa-



ree was pulled during the commotion. Police and the government have not accept-ed the BRS's characterisa-tion of all events, making in-dependent examination of available video material im-portant.

The party called for statewide protests against the police action.The political confrontation then car-ried into the Assembly, where Congress and BRS legislators exchanged accu-sations over remarks con-cerning the Speaker and the government's performance. Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy also demanded action over alleged objectionable comments by an Opposition legislator.The BRS is seek-ing to frame the Congress government's 1,000-day

mark around alleged non-implementation of guaran-tees, irrigation concerns and administrative failures. Con-gress, meanwhile, argues that the Opposition is using disruption to avoid substan-tive legislative debate.Mon-day's events are significant because Telangana's princi-pal political rivals are in-ccreasingly shifting from po-licy disagreement towards confrontation over the func-tioning of democratic insti-tutions themselves.Whether legislators should have been prevented from entering be-cause of slogan-bearing clothing, whether police used disproportionate force and whether Assembly privi-lege was affected are now likely to dominate the politi-cal argument.

Naga MLAs Boycott Manipur House

Imphal : Naga legisla-tors in Manipur stayed away from the final sitting of the ongoing Assembly session on Monday, demanding jus-tice in the alleged abduction and killing of Leilon Vai-phei. The legislators also called for a thorough investi-gation into allegations in-volving the family of Deputy Chief Minister Nemcha Kip-gen.

The decision to boycott the proceedings was an-nounced by Naga MLA Awangbow Newmai, who said the legislators had de-cided not to participate be-cause they were dissatisfied with the action taken so far in connection with the Vaiphei case.

Newmai said the legisla-tors believed that the circum-stances surrounding Vai-phei's alleged abduction and killing required a more seri-ous and comprehensive in-vestigation. According to him, questions raised by eye-witness accounts had not been adequately addressed and demanded accountabil-ity from the authorities.

The Naga MLAs have also sought an investigation into allegations concerning a

leader associated with the Kuki National Front-P (KNF-P), whom they identi-fied as Kipgen's husband. The allegations relate to the circumstances surrounding the incident involving Vai-phei.



However, the claims re-main allegations and have not been established in court. The identities and roles of individuals named in con-nection with the case would need to be determined through an independent in-vestigation and due legal process.

The boycott assumes significance against the backdrop of Manipur's pro-longed ethnic crisis. The state has been attempting to restore political and institu-tional dialogue after more

than three years of violence and deep divisions involving the Meitei, Kuki-Zo and Naga communities.

The latest development comes only days after the physical participation of Kuki-Zo legislators in the

indicates that significant grievances continue to influ-ence legislative participa-tion.

Manipur's political situ-ation cannot be understood solely through the traditional divide between the ruling es-

fore face the difficult task of establishing the facts inde-pendently while ensuring that witnesses and other in-dividuals connected to the pro-ceedings are adequately pro-protected. Authorities will also have to ensure that unveri-fied allegations do not fur-ther intensify existing ten-sions between communities.

The episode also places the Manipur government un-der a broader test of credibil-ity. The Assembly remains one of the few formal insti-tutional platforms where elect-ed representatives from dif-ferent communities can raise grievances, debate conten-tious issues and seek politi-cal solutions.

When legislators feel compelled to abstain from proceedings to draw atten-tion to a serious alleged crime, it suggests that at least some representatives believe existing political channels have not delivered an ade-quate response.

For Chief Minister Yum-nam Khemchand Singh's government, addressing the situation will require more than simply encouraging legislators to return to the Assembly.



Briefs :

Delhi drenched for second consecutive day

New Delhi: Heavy rain lashed Delhi-NCR for the second consecutive day on Saturday, causing widespread waterlogging and severe traffic disruptions across major roads and highways. According to data released by the India Meteorological Department, western and central parts of the Capital recorded significant rainfall over the 24-hour period. Palam emerged as the wettest station, logging 84 mm of cumulative rainfall, followed by Narayana with 58.5 mm and Janakpuri 55 mm. The primary weather station at Safdarjung registered 37.3 mm rainfall, while Lodi Road, Pragati Maidan, Pusa, and Jharoda Kalan recorded 38.6 mm, 33.7 mm, 31.5 mm, and 31 mm rain, respectively. Traffic woes were further aggravated by a motorcade rehearsal for the upcoming BRICS Summit. In view of VIP movement and flooded streets, the Delhi Traffic Police issued advisories and diverted traffic along several key routes. Severe waterlogging near Shiv Murti led to massive congestion on the Gurugram-Delhi stretch. Passengers heading to the airport were also urged to take alternative routes to avoid missing their flights. Continuous rainfall caused water accumulation in the lower underpasses of the Dwarka Expressway. Waterlogging was also reported on Road No. 210 from Rotary Chowk towards DJB Chowk and Omaxe.

Scolded for returning home late, girl dies by suicide in Delhi

New Delhi: A 13-year-old girl allegedly died by suicide at her residence in Delhi's Shahdara after she was scolded by family members for returning home late, the police said on Saturday. The girl's sister found her hanging at their house in Krishna Nagar and raised an alarm, the police said. After getting information about the incident, the police reached the spot. The girl was rushed to Dr Hedgewar Hospital where doctors declared her dead on arrival, they said. During preliminary inquiry, the police learnt that the girl had returned home late and was scolded by her family members. Later, her sister found her hanging and raised an alarm, following which she was brought down and taken to the hospital. "While at work, her sister called her around 9.30 pm. Despite calling multiple times, she didn't pick up and hence she rushed home," he said.

Spurned suitor kidnaps woman's brother, threatens to kill him

New Delhi: A marriage proposal allegedly turned into a chilling threat after a 26-year-old man, spurned by a young woman, allegedly kidnapped her 11-year-old brother and threatened to kill him unless the family conceded his demand. The four-day ordeal ended on Friday when the police rescued the boy at Azadpur Flyover following a prolonged chase that began in Loni, Ghaziabad, and culminated in Delhi. The alleged kidnapper, Dharam Pal, was apprehended. According to the police, the boy had gone to school on August 31, but didn't return home. Soon after, his mother received a call from an unknown number. The caller identified himself as Dharam Pal, whom the family already knew, and claimed to have the child with him. According to the police, Dharam Pal wanted to marry the boy's sister. However, she did not wish to maintain any relationship with him. The police alleged that he then abducted her younger brother and allegedly threatened to kill him if the demand was not met.

MCD orders demolition of Satya Niketan building after fatal collapse

New Delhi : The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has ordered the demolition of a building at Satya Niketan within three days, after declaring the structure "ruinous/dangerous" following a fatal building collapse in the area that claimed six lives.

In an order dated September 6, the Executive Engineer (Building)-I, South Zone, directed the owner/occupier of Property No. 13, Satya Niketan, to demolish the premises under Section 348 of the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act, 1957.

The order read that the premises "has been occupied at site" and was found to be in a "ruinous/dangerous condition" and dangerous to people occupying, resorting to or passing by the building, as well as those in its neighborhood.

The civic body directed that the property be demolished within three days of receipt of the order so as to



prevent all causes of danger therefrom.

It further stated that if the owner failed to comply within the stipulated period, the MCD would carry out the demolition and recover the demolition charges from the owner as arrears of tax under the Act. The action comes after a five-storey building being used as paying guest accommoda-

tion for boys collapsed in Satya Niketan, killing six people and triggering a rescue operation.

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta had earlier ordered a magisterial inquiry into the collapse. Following an inspection of the accident site, she directed officials to conduct a detailed inquiry into the circumstances leading to the col-

lapse.

Gupta also ordered the registration of an FIR against the building owner and said those found responsible would face strict legal action. "Those found responsible for this grave incident will be held fully accountable and dealt with under the strictest provisions of law," the Chief Minister had said.

CJI Sets Deadline in Aravalli Battle
Supreme Court rejects six-month delay and orders expert panel to settle crucial definition dispute by November 30

New Delhi : The Supreme Court on Monday refused to give a high-powered committee another six months to complete its work on the definition and protection of the Aravalli hill ranges, with Chief Justice of India Surya Kant sharply questioning the repeated delay.

The court directed the five-member committee to submit its report by November 30, warning that failure could lead to its reconstitution.

The committee was constituted in May to re-examine questions surrounding the definition of the Aravallis, an issue with significant consequences for environmental protection, mining, construction and land-use regulation across parts of Rajasthan, Haryana, Delhi and Gujarat.

The CJI reacted sharply when the committee sought an additional six months, asking whether it was effectively waiting for his retire-

ment before completing the exercise.

The underlying dispute is technically complex but environmentally important.

Whether a particular parcel of land legally qualifies as part of the Aravalli system can determine whether mining, construction or other development activities are permitted or restricted.

The ancient hill range provides ecological services far beyond the boundaries of protected forests. It acts as a barrier against desertification, supports wildlife habitats and contributes to groundwater recharge while influencing air and environmental conditions around the National Capital Region.

At the same time, rapidly urbanising regions around Gurugram, Faridabad and parts of Rajasthan have generated intense pressure for real-estate development and infrastructure.

This makes the legal definition of the Aravallis

economically valuable and politically sensitive.

Environmental groups have warned that narrow definitions can allow ecologically connected terrain to escape protection, while landowners and development agencies argue that restrictions require precise legal boundaries rather than broad geographical assumptions.

The Supreme Court's committee is expected to examine scientific, administrative and legal material before recommending an approach.

Monday's order does not decide what the final definition should be.

Instead, it sends a procedural message: a dispute affecting one of northern India's most important ecological systems cannot remain indefinitely unresolved because an expert body repeatedly seeks more time.

The November 30 deadline creates a clear timetable for the next major stage.

65% Delhi students cross major roads alone on way to school: Study

New Delhi : Two-third school-going adolescents in Delhi cross major roads alone on their way to school while walking remains the dominant mode of travel, a new study has found highlighting the need for safer school routes.

The study, which included 4,789 students aged 10-19 years, was conducted across four public schools located near high-crash road segments, or "black spots", in Delhi by the George Institute of Global Health and was supported by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR). Published in the peer-reviewed journal Injury Prevention, the study examined how adolescents in the age group travel to and from their schools, their understanding of road safety signs, safety practices and the risks they perceive during their daily commutes.

According to Pratishtha Singh, public health researcher in the Injury Division at The George Institute for Global Health, walking emerged as the most common mode of school travel, particularly among boys. Many students also reported concerns about road crashes,

speeding vehicles, robbery and harassment during their daily journeys. "Of those surveyed, 80 per cent of boys and 49 per cent of girls walk from school to home, often on busy roads and highways without adult supervision. Crossing major roads alone was also common, while many students who cycled also travelled independently on high-traffic roads," Singh said. "Two-thirds of students cross major roads alone on their way to school, while walking remains the dominant mode of travel," Singh added. The study found that adolescents faced a range of safety concerns during their daily journeys. Road crashes and speeding vehicles were among the most prominent concerns, while fears also extended to robbery and personal safety. Boys were more likely to report concerns about robbery, whereas girls more frequently reported fears of gendered harassment or eve teasing. The findings highlight the need to make school journeys safer through a combination of people-centered infrastructure, enforcement and more effective road safety education. "The school com-

mute is an everyday part of adolescent life, but for many young people it also means navigating busy roads and making decisions about safety on their own." Our findings show that rather than focusing only on individual behaviour, we need to create environments that make safe travel possible. Safer school journeys will require infrastructure, enforcement and education that responds to the realities young people face every day," Singh said. The findings suggest that regular exposure to traffic risks may make some hazards feel like a normal part of everyday life, while also highlighting important differences in how boys and girls experience safety during their journeys. Almost 60 per cent of those surveyed were found to have poor knowledge of road safety signs. Another key finding was the limited understanding of common road safety signs. Nearly 60 per cent of students had poor knowledge of commonly encountered road safety signs, with particularly low recognition of signs relevant to school and pedestrian environments.

Marital Rape Battle Returns to Supreme Court

New Delhi : The Supreme Court on Monday said it would first ascertain the Union government's position before fixing a final hearing on petitions challenging the legal exception that protects husbands from prosecution for rape within certain marriages.

Senior advocates requested that the long-pending group of cases be listed for substantive hearing, arguing that several connected petitions involving both the old Indian Penal Code and the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita remain unresolved. A Bench headed by Chief Justice Surya Kant said the court would ask the Centre about its stand when the matter comes up on September 9 and would then determine an appropriate schedule for final arguments.

The litigation raises a fundamental constitutional question: whether marriage can legally create an exception to otherwise applicable rape law when sexual intercourse occurs without the wife's consent.

Petitioners challenging

the exception argue that it violates equality, bodily autonomy and dignity by treating married women differ-

constitutional validity of the statutory exception, while others arise from criminal proceedings in which courts



ently from unmarried women.

Opponents of criminalisation have argued that marriage has distinctive legal and social characteristics and that changing the law could create difficulties involving evidence, matrimonial disputes and misuse. Those arguments remain contested.

The Supreme Court is dealing with more than one procedural route. Some cases directly challenge the

have had to decide whether a husband can be prosecuted in particular factual circumstances.

The Bench indicated that challenges concerning provisions under the IPC and the newer BNS may ultimately need to be considered together because the constitutional question is substantially similar.

No decision on criminalisation was made on Monday.

That distinction is im-

portant because public debate around marital rape often treats every procedural hearing as though the court has already taken a position on the merits.

The eventual judgment could require the Supreme Court to balance constitutional rights, legislative policy and the practical administration of criminal justice.

The issue has remained controversial for years and successive governments have approached it cautiously.

For survivors' groups, the central principle is that consent should not disappear at marriage.

For those urging legislative restraint, the concern is how criminal law interacts with intimate relationships and existing matrimonial remedies.

The Supreme Court's September 9 interaction with the Centre will therefore be important not because it settles the issue, but because it may finally clear the procedural path towards a definitive constitutional hearing.

Air India's New Chief Puts Safety First

New Delhi : Incoming Air India chief executive Tewolde Gebremariam has identified safety and operational excellence as his first priorities, telling employees that the airline must rebuild trust by improving reliability, punctuality and everyday execution.

Gebremariam addressed an employee town hall alongside Tata Sons and Air India Chairman N Chandrasekaran and outgoing CEO Campbell Wilson, who is expected to leave the airline shortly.

Borrowing a phrase from US political rhetoric, Gebremariam told staff he wanted to "make Air India great again," but his substantive message focused on basic airline performance: safe operations, on-time departures and arrivals, baggage

delivery and clean aircraft.

Chandrasekaran similarly emphasised that Air India's safety performance must not merely meet international standards but aim to be better than the world's best carriers.

The leadership transition comes at an unusually sensitive moment.

Air India has undergone major transformation since returning to Tata ownership, including fleet orders, aircraft refurbishment, network expansion and integration with Vistara. At the same time, high-profile operational and safety incidents have generated scrutiny.

A recent preliminary investigation into a Phuket-Delhi flight identified hydraulic-system failures and disclosed a confirmatory drug-test issue involving the

pilot-in-command. Air India subsequently terminated the pilot and initiated voluntary testing across its pilot workforce.

Separately, an Air India Express aircraft has now returned to Kochi after an engine-oil problem forced an in-flight engine shutdown.

These incidents involve different aircraft, crews and circumstances and should not be treated as evidence of a single systemic cause.

However, collectively they increase pressure on management to demonstrate a strong safety culture.

Gebremariam is an experienced aviation executive best known for leading Ethiopian Airlines through substantial international expansion.

His challenge at Air India will be different: trans-

forming an iconic but operationally complex airline while integrating staff, fleets, systems and work cultures inherited from multiple organisations.

Safety culture cannot be created solely by issuing rules. Employees must be able to report technical or procedural concerns without fear that commercial or scheduling pressure will override them.

The incoming CEO's first public message therefore matters.

Air India's transformation has often been judged by new aircraft, lounges and passenger experience. Gebremariam is signalling that the next phase will be judged first by something more fundamental — whether every flight operates safely, predictably and professionally.

DMRC warns content creators against sticking phones to train windows

New Delhi : The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) has issued a warning to social media content creators after videos emerged online showing people sticking mobile phones to the windows of moving Metro trains while recording reels. The trend has attracted attention on social media, with some users attempting to recreate the videos during their Metro journeys. While the clips have gained traction online, several commuters have also raised concerns about the safety risks associated with the activity. Taking note of the videos, the DMRC said it had observed social media creators placing or pasting their mobile phones on Metro

train windows while travelling and recording content. The corporation has cautioned passengers against participating in such activi-

ties. In a statement shared on Instagram, the DMRC said the practice could create problems for other passengers.

AAP inducting gangster to use muscle power in Punjab: BJP

New Delhi : Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Pradeep Bhandari on Monday launched a sharp attack on Punjab's ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), accusing the party of inducting individuals with criminal backgrounds to strengthen its political machinery ahead of the 2027 Assembly elections.

Bhandari specifically targeted AAP over the induction of Gurpreet Singh Sekhon, who has been identified as one of the accused in the 2016 Nabha jailbreak case. In a post on X, the BJP leader alleged that AAP was seeking to use "muscle power" to strengthen its position in

Punjab before the next Assembly elections. "AAP leaders Arvind Kejriwal and Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann have officially inducted the 2016 Nabha jailbreak accused Gurpreet Singh Sekhon in the party!" Bhandari said in his post.

He further alleged that Sekhon had continued to threaten local residents and claimed that his entry into AAP was aimed at providing the party with additional influence on the ground. These claims are political allegations and have not been independently established.

Bhandari also used the phrase "Gangster Admi Par-

ty" to attack AAP, accusing the ruling party of damaging Punjab's future. Calling for a change in government, he said, "To save Punjab: AAP Must go!"

The BJP leader's remarks came a day after Sekhon formally joined the AAP during a public gathering in Zira in Ferozepur district. Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann was present at the event and welcomed Sekhon into the party.

Mann also presented Sekhon with a siropa during the gathering, a gesture traditionally

used to honour or welcome individuals at public

and religious events in Punjab.



Editorial

When Will Development Reach the Footpath?

If, while the country's economy is racing ahead at a growth rate of 7.8 percent, over a hundred people in the national capital are forced to sleep on footpaths at night, then in which figures should one look for the true measure of development? This paradox plays out every night on Delhi's Deen Dayal Marg. The national headquarters of both the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Congress are located on this very road. Leaders and officials who shape the nation's policies commute through this area all day long; yet, once darkness falls, numerous homeless people spread out their bedding along the roadside. On one side stand the grand offices of power, and on the other, people with no roof over their heads! To truly understand the meaning of the country's development, one must look at this scene alongside the GDP figures. After all, the question of who has benefited from development is far more significant than the speed at which it is occurring.

For India, an economic growth rate of 7.8 percent in the first quarter of 2026-27 is certainly satisfactory. In the same quarter of the previous year, the growth rate stood at 6.9 percent. These figures undoubtedly indicate healthy momentum in the Indian economy. However, a rise in GDP does not imply that every Indian's income has increased by 7.8 percent. GDP measures the increase in the total production of goods and services within the country; it does not directly reveal how much a family's income has risen, how much extra wages a worker has earned, or whether an unemployed youth has secured a job. Therefore, while welcoming the growth rate, it is essential to examine the extent to which its benefits have actually reached the lives of ordinary people.

At the same time, one must also consider the central government's mounting debt. By March 31, 2026, the central government's total debt and other financial liabilities had reached approximately ₹201.17 lakh crore. A year ago, this figure stood at approximately ₹185.95 lakh crore, whereas in 2014-15, it was around ₹64.11 lakh crore. This indicates a significant rise in the Centre's financial liabilities over the past decade. However, the figure of ₹201.17 lakh crore does not represent the country's total government debt, as it excludes the debt of state governments. Therefore, while it would be incorrect to conclude that India is in a debt crisis based solely on this figure, ignoring it would also be unwise.

Government borrowing is not inherently wrong. Just as an entrepreneur borrows to set up a new factory thereby boosting production and employment the government borrows to fund highways, railways, ports, power plants, irrigation, healthcare, and other infrastructure. If such investments lead to increased future production, job creation, and higher government revenue, the debt proves beneficial for the economy. Thus, the question should not merely be "how much has the government borrowed?" but rather "what has the country gained from that debt?"

The true burden of debt becomes apparent through interest payments. In 2025-26, the Central Government spent approximately ₹12.43 lakh crore solely on interest. The 2026-27 budget includes a provision of around ₹14.04 lakh crore for interest payments. When such a massive amount is spent on servicing interest for past loans, a significant portion of the government budget becomes committed beforehand. Consequently, the government's fiscal flexibility to spend more on education, healthcare, employment, rural development, and social security may be curtailed.

This does not mean that the burden of every rupee borrowed by the government immediately falls on the common citizen's pocket. The government generates revenue through various channels, including taxation. However, the repayment of debt incurred today along with the associated interest must ultimately be funded through future budgets. That is why it is crucial to distinguish between debt-funded expenditure that generates future income and spending that merely covers a current deficit.

A similar note of caution is warranted regarding India's foreign debt. By the end of March 2026, India's total external debt stood at \$762.8 billion. However, this entire amount does not represent debt incurred abroad by the central government; it also includes foreign debt held by companies, banks, and other institutions. Therefore, when interpreting this figure, one must also consider factors such as foreign exchange reserves, debt repayment schedules, and the debt's magnitude relative to the size of the economy.

Yet, after all these economic calculations, one must return to that footpath on Deendayal Marg. What does a 7.8% growth rate mean for the life of the person sleeping there? Are the youth finding adequate and quality jobs while the national economy grows? Are workers' wages rising faster than inflation? Is the farmer's actual income increasing? Is the small trader's business expanding? Can a middle-class family save more after covering expenses for education, healthcare, housing loan installments, and daily needs? The ultimate assessment of development will depend on the answers to these very questions.

Therefore, government expenditure should no longer be evaluated solely on the basis of "how many lakh crore rupees were spent."

It must be demonstrated what was achieved through that spending. If thousands of crores were spent on highways, by how much was travel time reduced? If incentives were provided to industries, how many permanent jobs were created? If money was spent on skill development, how many youths actually secured employment? How many farmers saw their incomes rise due to irrigation projects? By how much did government healthcare spending reduce the out-of-pocket medical expenses for an average family? The outcome achieved not the expenditure figure should be the true measure of how public money is utilized.

One cannot claim, based on these figures alone, that India is currently in a major economic crisis. Equally, one cannot say there is no need to worry about rising debt simply because the growth rate stands at 7.8%. The country requires both rapid economic growth and fiscal discipline. If debt is incurred, it must enhance future productive capacity; if development is to be achieved, it must generate more jobs, higher incomes, and greater economic security.

Ultimately, an economy is not merely about GDP, budgets, and figures running into lakhs of crores of rupees. The economy encompasses the family balancing household expenses at the end of the month, the young person searching for a job, the farmer repaying a loan, the small trader struggling to keep their shop afloat, and even the homeless citizen sleeping on the pavement outside the seat of power in the national capital. A true celebration of the 7.8% GDP growth can only take place when the light of development steps out of statistical charts and reaches the homes of ordinary people. For the ultimate test of a nation's wealth lies not in the rise of its GDP, but in the reduction of the number of people sleeping on the streets at night.

Scheme for Promotion of Surface Coal/Lignite Gasification Projects

Reference is drawn to reports appearing in a section of the press suggesting that the ₹37,500 crore Scheme for Promotion of Surface Coal/Lignite Gasification Projects has not attracted any applications. The Ministry of Coal wishes to place the correct facts on record and clarify that such reports are premature and do not reflect the status of the Scheme or the application process.

The Scheme for Promotion of Surface Coal/Lignite Gasification Projects was approved by the Union Cabinet on 13 May 2026 with a total financial outlay of ₹37,500 crore. The Scheme is aimed at accelerating the development of coal and lignite gasification in the country and promoting the conversion of domestic coal and lignite into higher-value products, including syngas, methanol, ammonia and urea. By facilitating greater utilisation of domestic resources for production of such value-added products, the Scheme seeks to reduce dependence on imported feedstock and strengthen India's energy and economic security.

Following approval of the Scheme, the Ministry of Coal undertook sustained outreach and stakeholder engagement to encourage participation from potential project developers. Roadshows were organised in New Delhi on 28 May 2026, Hyderabad on 11 June 2026 and Mumbai on 18 June 2026. These events brought together representatives from State Governments, public and private sector companies, technology providers, investors, financial institutions and other stakeholders. The events were attended by the Union Minister of Coal and Mines and senior officials of the Ministry, reflecting the Government's emphasis on building awareness and facilitating industry participation in the Scheme.

The Request for Proposal under the Scheme was issued on 7 July 2026, following which the online portal for submission of applications was launched. To facilitate greater clarity and ensure that prospective applicants had an opportunity to seek clarifications, a pre-application conference was held on 20 July 2026. During the conference, prospective applicants raised queries and sought clarifications relating to various provisions of the Scheme, eligibility requirements and the application process. The Ministry has also continued to engage with interested stakeholders to facilitate their participation.



The first-round deadline for submission of applications is 7 September 2026. Accordingly, the number of applications received in the first round cannot be assessed or stated conclusively until the application window closes. Any conclusion that the Scheme has received no applications, while the first application window is still open, is therefore premature and does not represent the actual position.

Further, based on discussions with stakeholders, the Ministry has been informed that Talcher Fertilisers Limited (TFL) and NTPC Limited have already submitted their respective applications through the online portal. This itself demonstrates that the assertion that the Scheme has received "no takers" is factually incorrect. The Ministry is also in communication with other prospective applicants who are at various stages of project preparation and application finalisation. Given the significant scale and complexity of the projects envisaged under the Scheme, prospective applicants are required to undertake substantial preparatory work, including preparation of Pre-Feasibility Reports, assessment of technology options, identification of coal/lignite and other feedstock arrangements, evaluation of project economics and preparation of detailed project proposals. It is therefore expected that additional applicants may finalise and submit their proposals as the deadline approaches. Importantly, the Scheme has been structured to provide industry with multiple opportunities to participate. Application rounds will operate on a rolling basis. Upon closure of the application window for one round, the subsequent round will open from the very next day and remain open for a period of two months. This ensures

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that companies that may require additional time to complete project preparation are not excluded merely because they are unable to participate in an earlier round. The rolling-round mechanism has been deliberately incorporated in view of the substantial preparation and investment requirements associated with large-scale coal/lignite gasification projects.

The Ministry remains confident of strong industry participation in the Scheme. The initiative is expected to catalyse investments of approximately ₹2.5 lakh crore to ₹3 lakh crore across nearly 25 projects and generate around 50,000 direct and indirect employment opportunities. The Scheme will also contribute significantly towards the Government's broader objective of achieving 100 million tonnes of coal gasification capacity by 2030.

The Ministry reiterates that the Scheme is at an early stage of implementation and that the first application window remains open until 7 September 2026 and therefore, it is not appropriate to characterise the Scheme as having received "no takers" at an interim stage. Its success and level of participation should be assessed after completion of the prescribed application process and subsequent rounds, rather than on the basis of premature assessments. The Ministry remains confident that the Scheme will receive sustained industry participation and will provide a significant impetus to the development of coal and lignite gasification in India.

National Biodiversity Authority Crosses ₹200-Crore Milestone in ABS Disbursement

The National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) has crossed a significant milestone in the implementation of India's Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS) framework, with cumulative ABS disbursements exceeding ₹200 crore. As part of this continuing effort, the NBA has sanctioned ₹8.23 crore in ABS proceeds to 27 State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs) and 5 Union Territory Biodiversity Councils (UTBCs), arising from the access and utilisation of biological resources associated with Bitter Gourd (*Momordica charantia*), Okra (*Abelmoschus esculentus*), Chilli (*Capsicum annuum*) and Onion (*Allium cepa*).

The ABS proceeds were realised from seed companies M/s Nunhems India Pvt. Ltd., M/s East West Seeds India Pvt. Ltd. and M/s Bayer Science and Innovation Pvt. Ltd. in connection with access to these biological resources for research and commercial utilisation.

The biological resources had been accessed through the open market or through traders and hence could not be traced to specific individual farmers, communities or a single identifiable geographic source. Accordingly, in accordance with the modality recommended by the Expert Committee and approved by the Authority, the beneficiary share is being distributed among the SBBs/UTBCs of the States and Union Territories where the respective crops are cultivated.



The distribution is based on the area under cultivation, as published by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare. This approach enables the ABS proceeds to be channelled towards States and Union Territories associated with the cultivation of the respective biological resources, where direct identification of the individual providers or source communities is not possible.

Among the States and UTs receiving the

ABS proceeds, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra emerge as the largest cumulative recipients across the four crops. Madhya Pradesh's share is supported by its cultivation of Bitter Gourd, Chilli and Onion, while Maharashtra's position is primarily attributed to its significant share of India's Onion cultivation area, accounting for more than 49 percent.

The SBBs/UTBCs are required to utilise

the funds for activities enumerated under Section 32(2) of the Biological Diversity Act 2002, including documentation and updation of People's Biodiversity Registers (PBRs), in-situ and ex-situ conservation of biological resources, restoration of degraded ecosystems, strengthening of Biodiversity Heritage Sites, capacity building of Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) and enhancement of community livelihoods.

The latest disbursement marks another important step in India's efforts to ensure that benefits arising from the utilisation of biological resources are channelled towards biodiversity conservation and associated community-oriented activities.

The cumulative ABS disbursement of more than ₹200 crore underscores the continued efforts of the NBA to strengthen implementation of the Biological Diversity Act and operationalise the principle of fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilisation of biological resources. The initiative also contributes to India's commitments under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing, as well as the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF), particularly Target 13, which calls for effective measures to ensure fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilisation of genetic resources, as applicable.

Vice-President to visit Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh from September 6 to 9

Vice-President of India Shri C. P. Radhakrishnan will undertake a four-day visit to four northeastern states—Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh—from September 6 to 9, 2026. The visit will cover a series of academic, cultural and public engagements, with the Vice-President scheduled to interact with students, educators, citizens and representatives of various institutions.

The four-day tour is expected to highlight the importance of education, culture, national heritage and public participation in the development of the Northeast. During his stay, the Vice-President will visit several institutions and landmarks that hold historical, social and national significance.

Radhakrishnan will begin his visit on September 6 by arriving in Guwahati, Assam. His programme in the state will include participation in important academic events and celebrations involving educational institutions.

The visit is expected to provide an opportunity to engage with students and members of the academic community.

In Guwahati, the Vice-President will attend the Golden Jubilee celebrations of Geetanagar College. The institution was formerly known as Kanya Mahavidyalaya and has completed 50 years of its journey in the field of education. The celebrations will mark the institution's contribution to higher education and its role in serving students over the decades.

Following the Golden Jubilee programme, Radhakrishnan will attend the Convocation Ceremony of Srimanta Sankaradeva University of Health Sciences (SSUHS), Guwahati. The convocation will bring together graduating students, faculty members and university authorities, providing an occasion to recognise academic achievements and the efforts of students completing their courses.

The Vice-President's engagements on September 7 will continue in Guwahati, beginning with a foundation stone laying programme at Gauhati University. The programme will mark the beginning of a new institutional development and underline the importance of strengthening educational infrastructure in the region.

After the foundation stone laying ceremony, Radhakrishnan will interact with students, faculty members and leading citizens at the Convention Centre of Gauhati University. The interaction is expected to provide a platform for discussions on education, social development and issues concerning young people and the wider community.

The Vice-President will subsequently travel to Shillong in Meghalaya. During his visit to the state capital, he will attend a public reception organised in his honour. The programme will also feature a cultural event at the Soso Tham Auditorium, showcasing the region's rich cultural traditions and artistic heritage.

On September 8, the Vice-President will travel to Imphal in Manipur as part of the next leg of his northeastern tour. His programme in the state will include visits to places associated with India's history and national heritage, as well as an educational institution dedicated to nurturing young students. Radhakrishnan will visit the INA Museum and War Memorial at Moirang. The site is closely associated with the history of the Indian National Army and the freedom struggle. The visit will provide an opportunity to pay tribute to the sacrifices and contributions associated with India's struggle for independence. He will also visit Sainik School Imphal during his stay in Manipur. The institution plays an important role in providing education and training to students while encouraging discipline, leadership and a sense of national service

among young people. After completing his engagements in Manipur, the Vice-President will proceed to Itanagar in Arunachal Pradesh. His arrival in the state will mark the final phase of the four-day visit, during which he will participate in legislative, cultural, educational and social programmes. On September 9, Radhakrishnan will attend a special session of the Arunachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly. The programme will bring the Vice-President into interaction with members of the state legislature and provide an opportunity to address matters relating to democratic institutions and public service. During his visit to the Assembly complex, the Vice-President will also visit the Assembly Gallery-cum-Museum. The facility showcases aspects of the state's legislative journey and institutional history, offering visitors an insight into the evolution of democratic governance in Arunachal Pradesh.



Briefs :
CBSE Schools
Set for New
Dress Rules

Shimla : Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu has directed the Education Department to finalise a dress code for teachers and uniforms for students in government-run CBSE schools at the earliest.

He has also called for a separate colour scheme for school buildings, with the teachers' dress code scheduled to come into effect from October 1.

While chairing a meeting of the Education Department, Sukhu asked officials to complete the process of finalising the dress code for teachers in CBSE schools.

He also reviewed the process for deciding the logo to be used by CBSE schools operated by the state government.

The Chief Minister said attendance in these schools would be recorded three times a day as part of efforts to strengthen discipline and ensure punctuality among students and staff.

Heavy Rain
Leaves 85
Roads
Blocked

Shimla : Torrential rain has continued to disrupt normal life in Himachal Pradesh, with 85 roads still blocked across the state. As many as 59 transformers and six drinking water schemes have also been affected by rain-related damage.

According to the State Emergency Operation Centre, Mandi has the highest number of blocked roads at 36, followed by Kullu with 22 and Sirmaur with 13.

Kangra has seven blocked roads, Una three, Shimla two, while Solan and Lahaul and Spiti have one each.

Power infrastructure has also been affected, with 40 transformers disrupted in Mandi, 10 in Kullu, seven in Kinnaur and two in Shimla.

Six drinking water supply schemes have been hit, including five in Shimla and one in Chamba.

The State Meteorological Centre has forecast light to moderate rainfall at isolated locations and issued a yellow alert for Shimla, Kinnaur and Lahaul and Spiti for today.

Dagshai
School
Ragging Case
Sparks FIR

Solan : A viral video showing junior students allegedly being assaulted by senior students at a residential school in Dagshai has resulted in an FIR against five students. Police have begun investigating allegations of ragging, intimidation and physical assault at Dags-hai Public School.

Solan SP Sai Dattatreya Varma said an FIR had been registered against five students on the basis of a joint complaint submitted by Talwinder Manes and other parents. The complaint alleges that on September 5, five senior students forcibly took a Class IX student out of his hostel room and assaulted him.

According to the SP, the complaint also alleges that the accused students had been troubling junior students for around four months through ragging, intimidation, physical assault and abusive language. The complaint further claimed that the students were carrying weapons.

The incident has reportedly left students frightened and under considerable mental stress after videos showing the assault circulated widely.

IIT-Mandi Study Warns of GLOF Risk

Mandi : A study by researchers at IIT Mandi has highlighted a growing threat from glacial lake outburst floods in Himachal Pradesh, with rapid glacier retreat, expanding glacial lakes, thawing permafrost and rising tourism emerging as interconnected risks to the fragile Himalayan environment.

Researchers mapped 2,076 glacial lakes situated above 3,500 metres in Himachal Pradesh in 2025. This was 710 more lakes than were recorded in 2015. Over the same decade, the combined area of the mapped lakes increased by 28.45 per cent, pointing to a rising threat of Glacial Lake Outburst Floods, or GLOFs.

The researchers evaluated GLOF susceptibility through three approaches: the Analytic Hierarchy Process, the Technique for Order Preference by Similarity to Ideal Solution and the Integrated Entropy-AHP method. All three assessments used the same 10 parameters. The findings showed that the algorithm used could significantly change which lakes were identified as the most important priorities for monitoring.

The AHP method placed nine lakes in the "very high" susceptibility category and another 435 in the "high" category. TOPSIS identified



five lakes as having "very high" susceptibility, while the EHP assessment placed more than 72 per cent of the mapped lakes in the high or very high categories.

The researchers said the size and volume of a glacial lake were significant indicators of GLOF risk, but several other factors were also important. These included the condition of permafrost, the characteristics of moraine dams and the connectivity between glaciers and lakes.

Five lakes were placed in the "very high" susceptibility category in the 2025 assessment. They were Samudra Tapu, Gepang Gath and Chandratul in Lahaul and Spiti, Kashang in Kinnaur and Kalikund in Kangra.

Samudra Tapu, one of the largest lakes identified, covers 164.46 hectares and has an estimated volume of 69.79 million cubic metres. Gepang Gath extends over 110.84 hectares and contains an estimated 39.86 million cubic metres of water.

The study also examined the

level of downstream exposure to determine which lakes combine high GLOF susceptibility with vulnerable populations and infrastructure. Yoche and Gepang Gath in Lahaul and Spiti, Kalikund in Kangra and Surai in Chamba were identified as particularly important because settlements, bridges, health facilities, schools and hydropower infrastructure are located downstream.

Researchers also highlighted thawing permafrost as an additional concern. The melting of permanently frozen ground can make the terrain unstable and increase the possibility of landslides and other natural hazards.

The researchers said increasing tourism and improved year-round connectivity in high-altitude areas, especially Lahaul and Spiti, could further intensify the problem. Dust and carbon-rich material accumulating on snow and glaciers can darken their surfaces, causing them to absorb more solar energy and potentially accelerating the melting process. The research was conducted by Dericks P Shukla, Founding Chairperson and Professor at the School of Civil and Environmental Engineering, IIT-Mandi, along with researchers Bhawna Pathak, Gunika Gupta, Sheikh Nawaz Ali, Pratima Pandey and Reet Kamal Tiwari.

HPU Cancels Exams
of 36 Students

Shimla : Himachal Pradesh University has cancelled the examinations of 36 students who were caught using unfair means during examinations held in April 2026.

The university has also imposed a fine of Rs 500 on each student.

Among the 36 students, 21 belong to Government Degree College, Paonta Sahib, in Sirmaur district. Five are from Wazir Ram Singh Government Post Graduate College, Delhi, in Kangra, while four are from Government College, Una. Two students each are from Government College, Bangana, and Government College, Amb, both in Una. One student each belongs to Government Degree College, Renukaji, Sirmaur, and MCM DAV College, Kangra.

Around 20 of the students had appeared for the Bachelor of Arts examination. Five were taking the Bachelor of Computer Applications examination, four were appearing for Bachelor of Science and three for

Bachelor of Commerce. One student each had appeared for Bachelor of Business Administration, BA LLB, Master of Science and Master of Arts.

The university issued an official notification on Monday through Prof Shyam Lal Kaushal, Controller of Examinations.

The action followed approval from the Examination Discipline Committee after it considered cases involving the use of unfair means during its meetings on September 3 and 4.

The Controller of Examinations said the students had been caught cheating during undergraduate examinations and were subsequently asked to explain their conduct.

He said the students appeared before the committee and were given an opportunity to provide clarification. Since their responses were not considered satisfactory, the committee decided to cancel the particular examinations in which they had been caught using unfair means.

School Sports
Meet Ends in Una

Una : Deputy Chief Minister Mukesh Agnihotri presided over the closing ceremony of the 41st Zonal School Sports Tournament at Government Senior Secondary School, Kangar, in Haroli subdivision, where nearly 350 students from 35 schools competed in several sporting disciplines.

The three-day tournament featured competitions in volleyball, kho-kho, kabaddi, chess, wrestling and badminton. Students from schools across the subdivision participated in the event.

Before the closing ceremony, Agnihotri inaugurated a digital library at the school. The facility was developed at a cost of Rs 13.75 lakh. He announced that music classes would be introduced at the school from the next academic session. He also announced plans for another building on the school campus. The proposed structure will contain four rooms

and will include a solar power plant and a water drainage system.

Agnihotri said an additional building would also be inaugurated at Prof Simmi Agnihotri Government College, Haroli, to improve educational infrastructure for students in the Assembly segment. He added that work was also being pursued to introduce MSc, Law and Music degree courses at the college from the next academic session.

The Deputy Chief Minister announced that a 'Holi Fest' would be organised at the Kangar village ground during the upcoming Holi celebrations with the aim of encouraging cultural activities in the region. He asked Panchayat Pradhan Vinod Kumar 'Bittoo' to prepare plans for the event. He also sanctioned Rs 5 lakh each for strengthening and constructing link roads in wards 2 and 5 of Kangar panchayat.

At the sports event, Ag-

nihotri distributed trophies and prizes to the winning teams. Government High School, Gurplah, secured the volleyball championship, while Government Senior Secondary School, Dulehar, won the kabaddi title.

Government Senior Secondary School, Haroli, emerged winner in badminton, while Government Middle School, Lalari (Lower), claimed the kho-kho championship. Government Senior Secondary School, Batt Kalan, won the chess title.

The wrestling competitions also produced several gold medallists. Mithun Kumar, Naman Singh, Sahil Kumar and Abhishek of Government Senior Secondary School, Gurplah, won gold in the 35kg, 38kg, 41kg and 57kg categories respectively. Neeraj, Satyam and Ram of Government Senior Secondary School, Beetan, secured gold medals in the 44kg, 52kg and 75kg categories.

NIT Hamirpur to Host Shiksha Mahakumbh

Hamirpur : The National Institute of Technology, Hamirpur, will organise the three-day 'Shiksha Mahakumbh Edition 6' beginning October 9, bringing together academic experts, researchers, scientists and educationists for discussions on education, innovation and several other areas.

NIT Hamirpur Director Prof HM Suryavanshi announced the programme while speaking to the media at the institute. The event is being organised jointly with the DHE unit of VBTR, IIT-Mandi, Central University of Himachal Pradesh and the Association of Indian Universities.

This year's theme is 'Education for Development and Harmony with Nature'. The first five editions of Shiksha Mahakumbh were held at different National Institutes of Technology across the country and focused on promoting innovation, research, Indian knowledge traditions and a broader national perspective on education.

According to the organisers, the event has also con-



tributed to efforts aimed at strengthening India's educational development. The sixth edition will continue this focus through a range of academic and multidisciplinary programmes. The three-day gathering will feature 16 international multidisciplinary conferences and eight national conclaves. These will include a Startup Conclave, Vice-Chancellors' Conclave and Scientists' Conclave. Discussions are expected to cover science and technology, education, healthcare, the environment,

Indian knowledge traditions, entrepreneurship, defence and other significant areas.

National coordinator Arti Sharma said the event would also encourage research and innovative thinking among students of Classes 9 to 12 through 'Shodhankur', a student research journal. A total of 223 research papers have been received for the programme.

Punjab Governor Gulab Chand Kataria is scheduled to inaugurate the event on its opening day. Former Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur will

be the chief guest on the second day, while Himachal Pradesh Governor Kavindra Gupta will attend as chief guest on the concluding day.

Other invited dignitaries include Dr Rajiv Bhardwaj, MP; former Union Minister Anurag Thakur; and Rajya Sabha MP Dr Sikander Kumar. NIT Registrar Dr Archana Santosh Nanoti, Shiksha Mahakumbh Convener Dr Shamsher Singh and Central University of Himachal Pradesh Controller Dr Jitendra Garg were also present during the media briefing.

Himachal Set to Receive
Full Literacy Honour

Shimla : Himachal Pradesh will be honoured for achieving full literacy at an International Literacy Day programme in New Delhi on Tuesday. The state currently has a literacy rate of 99.5 per cent, making it the second-most literate state in the country after Goa.

Education Minister Rohit Thakur will attend the event organised by the Union Ministry of Education as the guest of honour. He said the achievement was especially important because Himachal Pradesh had one of the country's lowest literacy levels after Independence.

Thakur said that when India's literacy rate was around 13 per cent after Independence, Himachal Pradesh's literacy rate was only about 5 per cent. He described the state's transformation from having one of the lowest literacy levels to



achieving full literacy as a remarkable journey. The minister credited successive state governments with making large investments in education, which he said was considerably higher than the allocations made by Punjab and Haryana despite those states

being economically stronger at the time. Thakur said that with literacy no longer being the major challenge, the government should now concentrate on improving the quality of education and the functioning of government schools and colleges.

mar. Despite limited resources, governments during the 1960s and 1970s allocated around 18 to 20 per cent of the state budget to education, which he said was considerably higher than the allocations made by Punjab and Haryana despite those states

IIT Mandi Faces
Fresh Controversy

Mandi : IIT Mandi has again come under scrutiny after a poster displayed on the campus during Shri Krishna Janmashtami celebrations raised questions about caste hierarchy and representation. The latest controversy has revived attention on several other disputes that have surrounded the institute over the years.

The institute had faced controversy as far back as 2012 when students allegedly made fun of religious figures during a short play based on the "Draupadi Cheerharan" episode from the Mahabharata at a freshers' party. The incident triggered public anger, following which the students reportedly submitted a written apology.

More than a decade later, IIT Mandi Director Professor Laxmidhar Behera became the centre of another

debate. In 2023, he appealed to students to take a pledge against eating non-vegetarian food.

His comments also attracted attention when he linked events such as landslides and cloudbursts in Himachal Pradesh to what he described as cruelty towards animals.

Around the same period, an old video of Behera came into focus after his appointment as director.

In the video, he claimed that chanting religious mantras could help a family get rid of the alleged influence of evil spirits.

His remarks led to a wider discussion about the role of spiritual beliefs in an institution devoted to science and technology.

Another controversy surfaced in June 2026 when IIT Mandi's Centre for Indian Knowledge System and

Mental Health Applications organised a conference with sessions dealing with the Shrimad Bhagavad Gita, Ayurveda, reincarnation and other subjects. A group of scientists, researchers and teachers later issued an open letter questioning the decision to host the event and expressing concerns about the place of such themes within a scientific institution.

The latest dispute over the caste-hierarchy poster has added a new dimension to the continuing debate.

Although the individual controversies have involved different issues, ranging from cultural performances and food-related appeals to religious claims and academic programmes, together they have raised wider questions about the line between personal beliefs, cultural practices, institutional activities and scientific education.

Chamba Labour Row Reaches Police

Dharamsala : A dispute between the National Highways Authority of India and the Himachal Pradesh Labour Department has intensified, with a Chamba labour officer filing a police complaint against NHAI officials following allegations related to an inspection at the agency's office.

The dispute began on August 19 when Chamba District Labour Officer Anurag Sharma visited the NHAI office and, after conducting an inspection, issued a show-cause notice to

the Central agency over alleged violations of labour laws. The notice subsequently became a major point of disagreement between the two sides.

The following day, NHAI wrote to the Labour Commissioner, Himachal Pradesh, accusing the Labour Officer of misconduct during his visit and requesting an impartial investigation.

According to NHAI employees, the officer allegedly entered the office without following the required secu-

rity procedure or making an entry in the visitor register. At the time, senior officials were reportedly away inspecting sites affected by monsoon damage.

The employees further alleged that the officer misbehaved with the security guard, threatened him with dismissal and forcibly took files and documents from an office assistant.

NHAI has sought an independent inquiry into these allegations and has also informed the local administration about the matter.

The Labour Officer has rejected the allegations and maintained that he was performing his statutory responsibilities. He has now filed a complaint at Chamba Police Station, alleging that the accusations against him were false, fabricated and aimed at damaging his reputation and obstructing him from performing his official duties.

The officer has requested legal action, including under Section 356 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, against those alleged-

ly responsible for making defamatory and false accusations.

The Labour Department's show-cause notice against NHAI is still pending, while the complaint filed by the Labour Officer has prompted a police investigation.

Chamba Additional Superintendent of Police Dinesh Sharma said police were examining the matter comprehensively and impartially, including statements and available evidence.

Congress Questions
Caste Census Format

Shimla : Congress leader Gurdeep Singh Sappal has criticised the Centre's proposed caste census questionnaire, claiming that its present format could result in unreliable data, particularly concerning Other Backward Classes.

Addressing a press conference in Shimla, Sappal, a permanent member of the Congress Working Committee, said the Census should produce accurate information about the population and representation of

different castes and communities.

He described the existing questionnaire as flawed and said it would not generate dependable information, especially about OBC communities.

Sappal objected to the proposed open-ended method of recording caste details. He said enumerators would write down the caste or sub-caste name supplied by respondents rather than selecting it from an officially approved list.

Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini had said on Saturday that sanitation workers on Palika Rolls currently receive Rs 20,590 a month. He offered to bring them under the Haryana Contractual Employees (Security of Service) Act, 2024.



Indian Athletes May Travel to Pakistan for 2027 South Asian Games

New Delhi : India has agreed in principle to participate in the 2027 South Asian Games, which are scheduled to be hosted by Pakistan next year, according to the Pakistan Olympic Association. The development could potentially open the door for a large Indian sporting contingent to travel to Pakistan for the regional multi-sport event.

Pakistan Olympic Association Secretary General Khalid Mehmood said India had accepted the invitation at the regional Olympic association level. He indicated that the Indian side is expected to provide further details regarding the size and composition of its contingent in January 2027.

The 2027 South Asian Games are scheduled to take place in April and will be hosted across three Pakistani cities — Islamabad, Lahore and Peshawar.

The event is expected to bring together athletes from countries across South Asia for competition in multiple sporting disciplines.

India's potential participation is particularly significant because sporting ties between India and Pakistan



have remained strained for several years. Bilateral sporting engagements have become increasingly limited, while travel between the two countries has also become relatively uncommon.

The prospect of Indian athletes travelling to Pakistan would therefore represent a notable development in the regional sporting landscape.

A sizeable Indian contingent participating in the Games could also increase the profile of the event and provide an opportunity for athletes from both countries

to compete at the same multi-sport competition.

However, the reported acceptance at the Olympic association level does not automatically mean that Indian athletes have received final permission to travel to Pakistan.

The Indian Olympic Association and the Government of India have not, so far, issued a separate public confirmation stating that formal travel clearance has been granted.

This distinction remains important because India's participation in sporting

events hosted by Pakistan has previously been linked to government policy. The Indian Olympic Association has indicated in earlier discussions that it would follow the government's position on participation in sporting events held in the neighbouring country.

As a result, while the Pakistan Olympic Association's announcement represents a positive indication, the final decision on the Indian contingent's participation will depend on the relevant approvals from the Indian side. The process is

therefore not necessarily complete despite the reported agreement in principle.

Khalid Mehmood's comments suggest that the organisers are proceeding with preparations on the expectation that India could be part of the Games. Details regarding the Indian contingent, including the number of athletes and the disciplines in which they may participate, are expected to become clearer closer to January 2027.

The South Asian Games are an important regional sporting event, providing athletes from neighbouring countries with an opportunity to compete across a wide range of disciplines. India's participation is traditionally a major component of the competition because of the country's large sporting contingent and strong presence across several sports.

Hosting the Games across Islamabad, Lahore and Peshawar would make the 2027 edition a significant undertaking for Pakistan. The three cities are expected to serve as major venues as the country prepares to welcome athletes and officials from across the region.

Sinayoko stars as unbeaten Paris FC down Marseille

New Delhi :Lassine Sinayoko scored a hat-trick as Paris FC continued their unbeaten start to the Ligue 1 season with a 3-2 victory at Marseille on Sunday.

Liam Rosenior's Paris FC moved to second in the early table behind Monaco with seven points from their opening three games.

Marseille, also under a new coach in Bruno Genesio, have suffered consecutive defeats after kicking off the campaign by thumping Strasbourg 4-0.

The visitors took the lead after just 25 seconds to silence the Velodrome crowd, as left-back Luca Koleosho got in behind and squared for Sinayoko to score.

Marseille levelled in the eighth minute when Amine Gouri pounced on Adama Camara's mishit back pass to score his third league goal in as many games this season.

Sinayoko restored Paris FC's advantage 11 minutes later, heading in unmarked from a Pablo Pagis cross.

OM equalised again nine minutes into the second half, as Gouri lashed in a close-range volley from a tight angle.

Marseille pushed forward in search of a winner, only to be caught out when



Moses Simon's shot struck the arm of CJ Egan-Riley and PFC were awarded an 85th-minute penalty following a VAR review.

Sinayoko stepped up to complete his treble and ensure Rosenior's men extended their excellent start to the season going into next weekend's home game against Lyon.

Earlier, Strasbourg thumped Troyes 6-2 away from home as English winger Sam Amo-Ameyaw scored twice as a late substitute.

The 20-year-old Amo-Ameyaw, in his second season since joining from Southampton, scored in the 85th and 88th minutes.

Promoted Troyes had started their Ligue 1 campaign well with a win and a

draw and took the lead on nine minutes through Antoine Mille.

One of Strasbourg's summer signings, Jacobo Ortega, tapped home a simple equaliser before the break for his first league goal since joining from Real Madrid.

The floodgates then opened, as the visitors produced a display of excellent finishing.

Two more summer recruits, Diogo Sousa and American starlet Giovanni Reyna, and loan signing Conrad Harder, also scored.

Strasbourg face league leaders Monaco next weekend.

Rennes continued their unbeaten start to the campaign with a 2-1 victory at Angers.

All India Tennis Association Announces Team For Davis Cup Junior Finals

New Delhi :The All India Tennis Association (AITA) has announced the Indian squad for the 2026 Davis Cup Junior Finals, with three promising young players set to represent the country at the prestigious international competition in Cairo, Egypt.Hruthik Katakam, Ribhav Saroha and Tavish Pahlwa have been selected for the Indian team that will compete at the tournament, scheduled to take place from November 2 to 8 at the Smash Sporting Club in Cairo.The Davis Cup Junior Finals is the leading international team competition for boys aged 16 and under. The 2026 edition will mark an important milestone for the event as it will be staged in Africa for the first time since the tournament was established.The Smash Sporting Club will provide the setting for the week-long competition, bringing together some of the most highly rated junior players from around the world. The tournament will be played on clay, adding another dimension to the challenge facing the participating teams.

The Cairo venue is a ma-

jor sporting facility spread across approximately 20 acres on the western side of the Egyptian capital. It has also developed a reputation as an important destination for junior tennis and has hosted the World Tennis Tour Juniors J500 Cairo tournament since 2023.The choice of Cairo represents another step in the geographical expansion of the Davis Cup Junior Finals. Over the past decade, several countries have hosted the prestigious event, including Hungary, the United States, Turkey, Spain and Chile.Chile hosted the most recent edition, with matches being played on clay at Santiago's Estadio Nacional. The move to Egypt this year will give the next generation of tennis players an opportunity to compete in a new environment while also helping promote junior tennis on the African continent.The road to the Finals involves regional qualifying competitions held throughout the season. National teams compete in these events in both the boys' and girls' categories, with the strongest sides eventually earning their places in the final tournament.

'Super-Human' Carlos Alcaraz Books US Open Quarter-Final Clash With Ben Shelton

New Delhi :Defending champion Carlos Alcaraz posted his most convincing win in his injury return at the US Open, downing Tommy Paul in straight sets on Sunday to line up a quarter-final clash with Ben Shelton. Two-time women's defending champion Aryna Sabalenka also advanced, booking a last-eight date with Wimbledon winner Linda Noskova. Second-seeded Alcaraz, playing his first tournament since he was sidelined by a right wrist injury in April, looked closer to his brilliant best in a 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 victory over Paul, the 20th-seeded American who posed the Spaniard's sternest test yet.

"I played my game," said Alcaraz, who unleashed 33 winners as he moved fluidly around the court, thwarting Paul at every turn in the two-hour 20-minute match.He'll face red-hot Shelton -- a 6-2, 6-3, 6-4 winner over Stefanos Tsitsipas -- for a place in the semi-finals.

"I tried to play my style," Alcaraz said. "Tommy is such a talented player. His shots are pretty dangerous and sometimes it's really difficult to control the ball when it comes to you. "I just tried to be ready for a battle and tried to be aggressive all the time."Alcaraz grabbed the first break of the contest in the final game of a tight first set.From there he was in control. He broke Paul twice in the second set and again early in the third.He finished it off with a gutsy hold of serve in which he saved a pair of break points, the second with a swinging forehand volley that he followed with a forehand winner to set up the only



match point he needed."I'm really happy with the performance today," Alcaraz said.Shelton, who needed four sets in each of his first three matches, raised his game to dismantle former world number three Tsitsipas in just one hour and 52 minutes.The American, riding high after a strong August that included a title at the ATP Montreal Masters, blasted a dozen aces and never faced a break point."I played a complete match from start to finish," said Shelton, who was looking forward to taking on Alcaraz.

"I think the level that he's been playing at is really, really impressive. To not play for five months then do what he's done so far this tournament has been super-human.""I think it's going to be fireworks on Tuesday night," Shelton said.Sabalenka kept her bid for a rare US Open three-peat on track with a 6-4, 6-3 victory over American Taylor Townsend.The Belarusian, whose world number one ranking is on the line in New York, will face a tough quarter-final against sixth-ranked Czech Noskova, who edged dangerous Ukrainian Marta Kostyuk 7-5, 5-7, 6-4.Sabalenka needed all of her resolve against the

multi-faceted Townsend, whose blistering service returns and net prowess flummoxed the Belarusian star in a first set that opened with five breaks of serve. But her sustained power and precision proved too much and after falling behind 3-1 in the second set she won the last five games to seal the match.

"I was just trying to stay focused on myself and play not only point by point but ball by ball," Sabalenka said.

"I'm happy that I was able to turn around that second set."

Noskova needed six match points to seal her victory over Kostyuk, failing to convert two in the second set.

"I am more than relieved," Noskova said. "This match was so tough, emotionally more so than physically."

American Frances Tiafoe, the 11th seed who has twice reached the semi-finals in Flushing Meadows, booked his quarter-final berth with a 7-6 (7/1), 6-4, 7-6 (8/6) victory over former champion Daniil Medvedev."Hell of a match," Tiafoe said. "I played well when it counted."Tiafoe will face compatriot Alex Michelsen for a place in the semi-finals. Michelsen defeated Argentina's Tomas Martin Etcheverry 7-6 (8/6), 6-4, 6-4.Women's third seed Jessica Pegula also advanced the US cause. Pegula, one of the players with a chance to supplant Sabalenka atop the rankings in New York, reached the last eight with a 6-3, 6-4 victory over Romanian Sorana Cirstea.She will play fellow American Emma Navarro, who defeated Anna Kalinskaya 6-4, 6-2.

Alexander Zverev Seeks US Open Last Eight As Naomi Osaka Faces Elena Rybakina

New Delhi :Top seed Alexander Zverev will headline the action at the US Open on Monday as the German looks to secure his place in the quarter-finals when he faces 21st-seeded Italian Luciano Darderi. After being pushed through two gruelling five-set battles at the beginning of his campaign, Zverev finally enjoyed a more straightforward outing against Alejandro Tabilo in the previous round.

The French Open champion will now aim to maintain that momentum when he takes on Darderi in another important test on the hard courts of Flushing Meadows. Zverev has been a regular feature of the Arthur Ashe Stadium night sessions throughout the tournament, and he will once again close out the day under the lights as he bids to move closer to a maiden US Open title.

While Zverev's fourth-round contest is among the major attractions, Day 9 offers several intriguing matchups across both men's and women's draws. With the tournament entering its second week, every remaining player is within touching distance of the business end of the competition, raising the stakes considerably.

One of the most anticipated women's matches will see 13th seed Naomi Osaka take on second seed Elena Rybakina. The Kazakh leads their head-to-head record 1-0, but Osaka's extensive Grand Slam experience and impressive history at the US Open make the encounter particularly difficult to predict.

Rybakina arrives in the fourth round with her sights firmly set on the world No. 1 ranking. Although the two-time Grand Slam champion has played down the significance of reaching the top spot,

she knows that advancing to the semi-finals would be enough to dislodge Aryna Sabalenka from the summit of women's tennis.

The reigning Australian Open champion has also made an impressive start in New York, progressing without dropping a set. However, the level of opposition is expected to rise significantly against Osaka, a four-time Grand Slam champion whose two US Open victories remain a major part of her career legacy.

Osaka's resurgence has gathered momentum since she returned to competitive tennis following an extended maternity break. The Japanese star has steadily improved throughout the season, reaching the third round at the Australian Open, progressing to the last 16 at Roland Garros and producing the best Wimbledon run of her career by reaching the quarter-finals.

Her Wimbledon campaign also included a notable victory over Sabalenka, underlining Osaka's ability to trouble the very best players when her level is high. However, she will need to maintain her concentration against Rybakina, particularly after experiencing mid-match lapses during her victories over Katerina Siniakova and Elise Mertens.

Osaka knows the challenge that awaits her and expects the contest to demand her best tennis. "I know she's one of the best players in the world, so I have no choice but to come with a high level," she said, adding that playing at that intensity is what makes tennis most exciting for her.

Another fascinating fourth-round encounter pits 24th-seeded Argentine Francisco Cerundolo against 28th-seeded Belgian Alexander Blockx. Both

players arrived in the second week after producing major upsets in the third round, and neither has previously gone this far at the US Open.

Cerundolo, the highest-ranked player from Latin America on the ATP Tour, produced one of the comeback victories of the tournament when he recovered from two sets down to defeat ninth-seeded American Taylor Fritz. The result extended what is already his best-ever run at Flushing Meadows.

Blockx, meanwhile, is enjoying a breakthrough tournament of his own. The 21-year-old Belgian was seeded at a Grand Slam for the first time and responded by eliminating fifth-seeded French Open finalist Flavio Cobolli in four sets.

The victory sent him into the second week of a major for the first time.

Blockx has made significant progress over the past year. He was ranked as low as 116th in the world 12 months ago, and he entered the tournament with the goal of making further progress up the rankings. His unexpected run in New York means that original targets may now need to be revised.

Standing in his way is Cerundolo, who nevertheless has reason to be confident after his dramatic victory over Fritz. The Argentine and Blockx have already met once this year, with the Belgian winning their previous encounter at the Madrid Masters on clay.

Blockx believes that result will have limited relevance because Monday's match will be played under completely different conditions. "Now, conditions are completely different," he said. "We are both really confident, playing good tennis, so it will be an exciting match."

Frances Tiafoe Tops Daniil Medvedev In Straight Sets At US Open

New Delhi :American Frances Tiafoe produced a commanding performance on Sunday to defeat former US Open champion Daniil Medvedev in straight sets and book his place in the quarter-finals at Flushing Meadows. The 11th-seeded American prevailed 7-6 (7/1), 6-4, 7-6 (8/6) over the seventh-seeded Russian in a contest that featured several momentum shifts.

Tiafoe's victory marks his fourth appearance in the US Open quarter-finals in the last five years. A two-time semi-finalist at his home Grand Slam, the American once again demonstrated his ability to raise his level on the biggest stage and produced his best tennis when the crucial points arrived.

Although Medvedev held leads in two of the three sets, he repeatedly struggled to turn those advantages into decisive breakthroughs. Tiafoe remained composed during the important moments and eventually took control of the match, denying the Russian an opportunity to extend the contest beyond three sets.

"I played well when it counted," Tiafoe said after the match. "Yeah, I came up with some crazy stuff, but it



had to be that good against such a quality player in Daniil." His ability to produce spectacular shots at key moments proved crucial in overcoming a player who had dominated their rivalry in recent years.

The atmosphere inside Louis Armstrong Stadium also played a significant role in Tiafoe's performance. The American received enthusiastic backing from the New York crowd and maintained his unbeaten record at the venue, where the support appeared to energise him throughout the contest.

Tiafoe embraced the crowd's enthusiasm after securing the victory. Standing in front of the spectators, he pointed toward his ear and encouraged them to make

even more noise. He then mimicked a basketball shot while acknowledging basketball personalities Lisa Leslie, AJ Dybantsa and Victor Oladipo, who were among those supporting him from the stands.

"The energy has been amazing," Tiafoe told a courtside interviewer. "It's like the people's court. I'm loving the energy for sure." The connection between the American and the New York crowd has become one of the defining features of his US Open campaigns.

The result was particularly impressive considering Medvedev's record against Tiafoe. Before Sunday's match, the Russian had won six of their previous seven encounters, including a com-

prehensive straight-sets victory over the American at exactly the same stage of the 2020 US Open.

Medvedev, who captured his only Grand Slam title at the US Open in 2021, has endured an inconsistent 2026 season. The Russian has still managed to win two ATP titles and recorded an important victory over Carlos Alcaraz at the prestigious Indian Wells tournament, showing that he remains capable of producing his best tennis against the world's leading players.

However, his Grand Slam results this year have not matched those flashes of brilliance. Despite having reached six major finals during his career, Medvedev had failed to progress beyond the fourth round at any Grand Slam tournament in 2026 before arriving in New York.The first set demonstrated how costly missed opportunities could become. Medvedev served for the set at 5-6, but Tiafoe broke back to force a tiebreak. The American then dominated the breaker, winning it 7-1 and gaining the early advantage despite having been behind for much of the set. Medvedev again struggled to make his leads count as the match progressed.

BSE Sensex		Nifty 50		Nifty 500		Nifty Next 50		Nifty 100		Nifty Bank		Nifty Midcap 100	
Close	Percent change	Close	Percent change	Close	Percent change	Close	Percent change	Close	Percent change	Close	Percent change	Close	Percent change
76,132.81	-0.50%	23,779.15	-0.50%	23,156.20	-0.42%	72,575.75	-0.42%	24,902.60	-0.48%	57,088.30	-0.49%	62,786.15	-0.46%
Previous close	Open	Previous close	Open	Previous close	Open	Previous close	Open	Previous close	Open	Previous close	Open	Previous close	Open
76,515.43	76,446.05	23,897.70	23,883.15	23,254.15	23,248.05	72,880.90	72,884.40	25,023.15	25,010.95	57,369.65	57,343.30	63,079.05	63,084.50
High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low
76,477.19	75,970.52	23,890.00	23,737.90	23,260.40	23,124.10	72,962.55	72,512.20	25,018.70	24,865.90	57,426.85	57,002.95	63,166.60	62,667.15

Top Gainers

Company	Current	% Gain
Apollo Hospital	8,760.00	1.27
Larsen	3,999.00	0.88
Coal India	418.85	0.84
Bharti Airtel	1,854.00	0.76
Max Healthcare	992.00	0.73

Top Losers

Company	Current	%Loss
Infosys	1,087.50	-3.76
SBI Life Insura	1,732.00	-2.42
HDFC Life	533.20	-2.42
Jio Financial	234.40	-2.13
Tech Mahindra	1,564.00	-2.06

Commodities

Commodity	Price	Change (%)
Gold Oct 05	152,083.00	-684.00 -0.45
Silver Dec 04	236,500.00	-1,158.00 -0.49
Crudeoil Sep 21	8,713.00	135.00 1.57
Naturalgas Sep 25	283.10	2.60 0.93

Nifty below 23,800, Sensex slips 383 pts; IT, media worst hit

Aryan Age Correspondent

Mumbai : Indian equity markets gave up the gains recorded in the previous session and closed lower on Monday, September 7, as widespread selling pressure weighed on investor sentiment. The benchmark indices remained under pressure throughout the trading session, with the Nifty falling below the 23,800 level and the Sensex slipping below the 76,000 mark during the day.

The domestic market opened on a weak note as investors reacted to mixed signals from global markets. The cautious opening was followed by further declines as the session progressed, indicating that buyers remained reluctant to step in amid several uncertainties affecting market sentiment.

The Nifty 50 came under

sustained pressure after opening lower and eventually moved below the 23,750 level during the trading session. Selling was visible across several major sectors, limiting the possibility of a meaningful recovery and keeping the broader market mood subdued. The Sensex also witnessed weakness and dropped below the psychologically important 76,000 mark during the session. Although the index attempted to stabilise at lower levels, persistent selling prevented the benchmark from staging a significant recovery before the closing bell. At the end of trading, the Sensex stood at 76,132.81, registering a decline of 382.62 points, or 0.50 percent. The Nifty closed at 23,779.15, down 118.55 points, equivalent to a 0.50 percent fall from its previous close. The decline came a day



after Indian equities had attempted to recover, with Friday's rebound providing some relief to investors. However, that positive momentum failed to carry into Monday's session as fresh selling emerged across various segments of the market. Sectoral performance remained largely negative during the session. Most sectors ended in the red as investors reduced exposure to equities, while healthcare was the nota-

ble exception. The relative strength in healthcare provided some support but was not enough to offset declines elsewhere. The broad-based nature of the selling indicated that the weakness was not restricted to a single segment of the market. Investors remained cautious across several sectors as concerns about the global economic and geopolitical environment continued to influence trading decisions. Geopolitical

uncertainty remained one of the key factors affecting investor confidence. Ongoing developments related to the conflict in the Middle East continued to keep markets on edge, with investors closely monitoring the potential economic consequences of prolonged tensions in the region. Crude oil prices also remained an important concern for the Indian market. Elevated oil prices can have a significant impact on India because the country relies heavily on imports to meet its energy requirements. Higher crude prices can increase import costs and potentially put pressure on inflation, corporate margins and the country's external balance. The combination of geopolitical concerns and expensive crude oil contributed to a cautious approach among investors. Market par-

ticipants remained alert to the possibility that prolonged disruptions or heightened tensions could further affect global energy markets and economic conditions. Global cues also offered limited support to domestic equities. With international markets providing mixed signals, Indian investors lacked a clear positive trigger that could encourage sustained buying. This contributed to the subdued opening and subsequent extension of losses during the day. The fall in the benchmark indices also highlighted the fragile nature of the recent market recovery. Although investors had seen some improvement in sentiment during the previous session, Monday's decline showed that uncertainty remains high and that the market could continue to experience volatility.

Waterfield Advisors rolls out two GIFT City funds for global diversification

New Delhi : Wealth advisory firm and multi-family office Waterfield Advisors has expanded its international platform with two new outbound Alternative Investment Funds based in GIFT City. The Waterfield Global Opportunity Fund will invest across international equities, commodities and global themes. The Waterfield Global Fixed Income Fund will focus on global fixed-income opportunities. Both are active, research-driven vehicles designed to give cli-

ents a diversified multi-asset allocation rather than concentrated single-country or single-theme exposure. The firm's fee-only, conflict-free model will apply to these offerings as well. Waterfield points to a structural imbalance in many Indian family portfolios. India represents roughly 3% of global equity market capitalisation, yet most domestic portfolios remain almost entirely invested at home. That creates a large overweight to one country and leaves families

without access to major global profit pools such as semiconductors, large-scale AI infrastructure, pharmaceutical innovation and aerospace, which have limited listed presence in India. At the same time, many families ... The firm advises family offices to maintain a permanent strategic allocation of at least 10% to global assets, rebalanced systematically, so the holding is large enough to provide meaningful diversification and help meet dollar obligations.

Auto retail sales achieve a record of 2.42 million units, up 18% in August: Fada

New Delhi : Automobile retail sales surged to a record high in August, with total registrations touching 2,423,201 units, marking an 18 per cent increase over the corresponding month last year, according to data released by the (FADA) on Monday. The sale was mainly driven by record August retail numbers in passenger vehicles, two-wheelers, three-wheelers and commercial vehicles. The seasonal

monsoon slump, a festival calendar that pushed Ganesh Chaturthi and the spillover of Onam-led shopping into September, and a 6.48% fall in retail volumes from a record July — all contributed to the new peak in overall sales, it stated. According to the data, the wheeled construction equipment led the growth at 31.45 per cent, followed by two-wheelers at 19.69 per cent, passenger cars at 16.14 per cent, and

commercial vehicles at 14.45 per cent. Tractors were nearly the same at 0.84 per cent, while three-wheelers increased by 8.64 per cent. Sai Giridhar, president of Fada, said the month's most significant change was structural: for the first time in India's history, alternative fuels — CNG, hybrid, and electric combined — took petrol in the passenger vehicle market, with a share of 41.95 per cent compared to

petrol's 40.85 per cent.

Petrol topped this contest by around 11 percentage points a little more than a year ago, but that margin has since been eliminated, he added. "The true test of the season is showroom conversion through September to November, not year-on-year (YoY) optics. However, we would read the headline with discipline: much of the YoY strength rests on a soft August 2025 base, when buyers

had postponed purchases in anticipation of the GST 2.0 rate cut, and dealers report that the festive curtain-raiser came in below their own expectations," said Giridhar. Although volumes were 3.40 per cent down month-on-month, passenger vehicle (PV) retail sales were 4,02,398 units, up 16.14 per cent YoY—the best-ever August and the first time PV sales above 4,00,000 in the month.

'Make Air India Great Again': New CEO Tewolde Gebremariam Prioritises Safety In Maiden Address

New Delhi : Incoming Air India Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director Tewolde Gebremariam has placed a stronger safety culture at the centre of his priorities as he prepares to take charge of the airline. Addressing employees during his first Townhall on Monday, Gebremariam said safety must remain the company's foremost responsibility and called on every employee to actively contribute to building a safety-first workplace. Gebremariam is set to succeed Campbell Wilson as Air India's CEO and MD. In his first interaction with employees in the new role, the incoming chief executive outlined several priorities for the airline, with safety emerging as the most important area of focus.

Speaking to employees, Gebremariam stressed that

safety cannot remain limited to policies, statements or corporate commitments. Instead, he said it must become an everyday practice embedded in the way every employee approaches their responsibilities. "A safety-first culture has to be our number one priority. It is not enough to say it. We must live it every day," Gebremariam said. His message reflected an emphasis on creating a workplace where employees are encouraged to identify and report potential risks before they develop into larger problems. The incoming CEO also urged employees to speak up whenever they believe something is not right. He said staff members should feel empowered to raise concerns without hesitation and assured them that he would support such a culture across

the organisation. "If something is not right, stop. Every employee should feel empowered to raise concerns, and I will support that culture," he said. The remarks underline the importance Gebremariam places on employee participation in maintaining operational safety rather than treating it as the responsibility of a limited group within the airline. Alongside safety, Gebremariam identified operational excellence as another major priority for Air India. He said consistent and reliable operations are essential for delivering a satisfactory experience to passengers, arguing that customer satisfaction is closely linked to how effectively an airline performs its basic operational duties. According to the incoming chief, operational excellence involves getting fundamen-

tal aspects of airline operations right every day. These include timely departures and arrivals, efficient baggage delivery and maintaining clean aircraft for passengers. "Operational excellence is about getting the basics right every day: on-time departures, on-time arrivals, baggage delivery and clean aircraft," Gebremariam said. His comments suggest that improving consistency in routine operations will be a key part of his agenda as he takes over the leadership of the airline. He also connected operational performance directly with customer experience. Gebremariam said Air India needs to minimise disruptions wherever possible and ensure that any problems that do occur are handled professionally, with passengers receiving appropriate support.

NBFC retail loans grow 21.4% in July, fastest among sectors: RBI

Aryan Age Correspondent

Mumbai : Retail loans given by non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) grew 21.4 per cent year-on-year in July 2026, the fastest growth among the major sectors, according to the latest data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

The data highlighted that retail credit growth was significantly higher than the 13.7 per cent recorded in July 2025, showing a strong rise in lending to retail borrowers.

RBI stated, "Data on sectoral deployment of credit by non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) for the month of July 2026, collected from major NBFCs and housing finance companies (HFCs).... Retail loans growth accelerated to 21.4 per cent (y-o-y) in July 2026 compared to 13.7 per cent a year ago".

Within retail loans, the housing and loans against gold jewellery segments recorded faster credit growth in



July. Vehicle loans, meanwhile, maintained steady growth.

Overall credit extended by NBFCs grew 14.9 per cent year-on-year in July 2026, compared with 10.6 per cent growth in July 2025.

The RBI data showed that credit growth was strong in agriculture and allied activities as well. Lending to the sector grew 18.0 per cent year-on-year in July 2026, sharply higher than the 5.4 per cent growth recorded a year ago. However, credit growth in the industry and services sectors moderated during the month. Credit to industry grew 7.4 per cent year-on-year in July 2026, compared with 9.3 per cent in

July 2025. The RBI said the moderation was primarily driven by subdued growth in infrastructure, which is a major component of the industry segment.

Credit growth in the services sector also slowed to 15.2 per cent in July 2026 from 24.5 per cent a year ago.

Within the services sector, credit to commercial real estate recorded buoyant expansion, while credit growth in trade and transport operators moderated.

The latest data shows that retail lending was a major driver of NBFC credit growth in July, with its 21.4 per cent expansion significantly exceeding the overall 14.9 per cent growth in NBFC credit.

Agriculture and allied activities also recorded a substantial improvement in credit growth compared with a year ago. However, the pace of lending to industry and services was lower than the corresponding period last year.

IPO Does Not Mean 'Instant Profit Opportunity': Navneet Munot Cautions Retail Investors Against Euphoria

New Delhi : Amid a strong wave of initial public offerings and heightened volatility in the Indian stock market, HDFC Asset Management Company Managing Director and CEO Navneet Munot has advised retail investors to approach the primary market with caution. Munot urged investors to maintain discipline, conduct detailed due diligence and avoid viewing IPOs as an easy or guaranteed route to quick wealth creation.

Speaking at the NDTV Profit Townhall on Monday, September 7, Munot said investors need to develop greater resilience in their portfolios, particularly at a time when geopolitical uncertainties are creating additional risks for global and domestic markets. He stressed that investors

should prepare their portfolios to withstand periods of volatility rather than chase short-term opportunities.

Munot cautioned investors against assuming that every IPO offers an opportunity to make quick returns. According to him, the growing popularity of public offerings should not encourage retail participants to invest blindly simply because a company is entering the stock market.

The HDFC AMC chief also pointed out that an IPO is not the only avenue available to investors seeking wealth creation through equities. He urged retail investors to avoid interpreting the term "initial public offering" as an "instant profit opportunity", stressing that investment decisions should be based on the quality and

prospects of the underlying business. He further highlighted the information advantage enjoyed by companies, their management



teams and investment bankers during an IPO. Since these stakeholders are closely involved in the transaction and understand the business in greater depth, retail investors need to conduct their own assessment before committing their money.

Munot's warning comes

at a time when the primary market has attracted significant investor interest. With several companies looking to raise funds through public offerings, retail participation has increased substantially. However, the fund manager emphasised that high demand for IPOs should not be mistaken for an assurance of future returns. According to Munot, investors need to carry out deep research before subscribing to an offering. Factors such as the company's business model, financial performance, management quality, competitive position, growth potential and valuation should be examined rather than relying solely on market buzz surrounding an IPO. He also noted that market cycles have become increasingly compressed. Equities are re-

sponding rapidly to fresh developments, with prices often reacting sharply to every major news event or headline. Such an environment can make short-term investment decisions particularly challenging for retail participants. Against this backdrop, Munot suggested that investors should adopt both a detailed and long-term perspective. He described this approach as using a "microscope and a telescopic view" — examining the fundamentals of individual businesses closely while simultaneously maintaining a broader perspective on long-term investment opportunities. The fund management veteran also discussed current market valuations and pointed to a significant divergence between different segments of the equity market.

Shark Tank Reject to ₹350-Crore Cosmetics Brand: Recode Studios' Rise

New Delhi : When Dheeraj Bansal and Rahul Sachdeva appeared on Shark Tank India in January 2023, they walked into the show seeking a Rs 1 crore investment for their cosmetics venture, Recode Studios. In return, the founders were willing to offer 1% equity in the company, effectively placing a valuation of Rs 100 crore on the business. The pitch, however, did not result in an investment. Despite presenting their business before the panel of Sharks, the founders failed to secure a deal. All the investors on the show eventually chose to stay away from the proposed investment, leaving Recode Studios without the funding it had hoped to raise through the programme. The rejection on Shark Tank India could have been a setback for the cosmetics company, but

Recode Studios continued to build its business after the appearance. Instead of allowing the failed pitch to derail its plans, the company pursued its own growth strategy and gradually expanded its presence in the Indian beauty and cosmetics market. Over the years that followed, Recode Studios focused on strengthening its retail network and increasing the availability of its products. The company expanded its footprint beyond its earlier markets, giving consumers greater access to its cosmetics portfolio through a growing network of retail outlets. The company's financial performance also improved during this period. Recode Studios recorded growth in revenue while simultaneously working towards better profitability. The combination of higher

sales, an expanding distribution network and improving financial performance helped the company establish a stronger position in the competitive cosmetics industry. The transformation became particularly significant when Recode Studios decided to enter the public markets. The company made its debut on the BSE SME platform in May 2026, marking an important milestone in its journey from a privately held cosmetics business to a publicly traded company. The stock market listing provided a new chapter for Recode Studios and gave investors an opportunity to participate directly in the company's growth story. It also offered a way for the market to assess the company's valuation based on its financial performance, growth prospects.