

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.

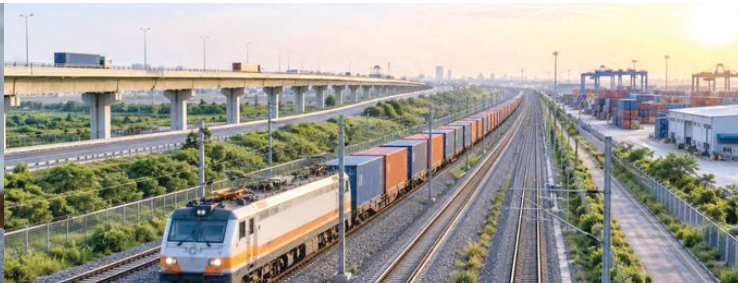
The Prime Minister will begin the programme in Vadodara around noon before travelling to Mumbai to inaugurate the Global Fintech Fest 2026 later in the day.

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.

RBI Drains 6 Lakh Crore in One Day

■Aryan Age Correspondent

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.

Maharashtra Announces Four Measures Amid Jarange Hunger Strike

Relief for Maratha, Kunbi and SEBC Students in Education and Employment

■Aryan Age Correspondent

Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar:

As Maratha quota activist Manoj Jarange Patil's hunger strike at Antarwali Sarati in Jalna district entered its 10th day, the Maharashtra Government has taken four important decisions aimed at providing educational and employment-related benefits to Maratha, Kunbi and SEBC communities.

Jarange has been fasting in support of the demand for Maratha reservation. With his health reportedly deteriorating, concern among supporters has increased and

activity at the government level has intensified.

Against this background, four government resolutions or official communications have been issued through different departments.

The Directorate of Technical Education has directed all divisional offices and universities in the state to extend educational concessions and facilities available to Other Backward Class students to eligible Maratha students from the academic year 2026-27. The directions call for immediate implementation of these benefits.

In another decision, the

Higher and Technical Education Department has approved the release of Rs 200 crore towards pending hostel maintenance allowances for students belonging to EBC, EWS and SEBC categories. The funds have been made available through supplementary demands approved during the monsoon session. The Planning Department has also revised the policy governing overseas education scholarships offered through SARTHI. Under the revised system, tuition fees charged by foreign universities will be paid directly to the concerned institutions in accordance with the Social Justice

Department's policy. The maximum ceiling on the scholarship benefit has consequently been removed.

Students will also receive an additional annual maintenance and contingency allowance of US \$1,500, while those studying in the United Kingdom will receive GBP 1,100. A new merit-list system based on QS Rankings has also been introduced.

The fourth decision concerns employment-oriented training for Maratha and Kunbi youths. SARTHI has signed an agreement with IDTRS, Pimpri-Chinchwad, to provide free LMV and HMV



driving and conductor training to 1,440 beneficiaries. The training programme will begin on October 1, 2026. Under the arrangement, at least 1,000 beneficiaries must be provided opportunities for employment or self-employment.

Attention will now be focused on the implementation of these four measures and whether they have any impact on the ongoing Maratha reservation agitation and the wider demands raised by the community.

Rain Alert Issued for 22 States, Heavy Showers Likely in Maharashtra

New Delhi : The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a rain alert for 22 states, including Maharashtra, as the southwest monsoon remains active across large parts of the country.

According to the weather department, rain accompanied by thunderstorms, lightning and strong winds is likely over Delhi-NCR, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Odisha and several northeastern states over the next few days.

Wind speeds could reach up to 70 kmph at some places. Heavy rainfall in hilly states such as Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh could also increase the risk of landslides and soil erosion. In Maharashtra, rain is expected over Konkan and Goa between September 7 and 12, with some areas likely to receive heavy showers.

Mumbai, Thane, Palghar, Raigad, Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg could witness an increase in rainfall



intensity at some places. Heavy showers may cause waterlogging in low-lying areas, disrupt traffic and affect normal life locally.

Vidarbha is also likely to experience heavy rainfall between September 10 and 12. Weather conditions will need to be closely monitored in Nagpur, Amravati, Akola, Buldhana, Washim, Yavatmal, Wardha, Bhandara, Gondia, Chandrapur and Gadchiroli.

Heavy rainfall could lead to a rise

Heavy Rain Forecast for Konkan and Vidarbha

in water levels in rivers and streams, and residents of low-lying areas have been advised to remain cautious.

Some rainfall is also expected over parts of Madhya Maharashtra and Marathwada. While the showers could benefit crops in some areas, intense rainfall over a short period may lead to waterlogging in agricultural fields and cause crop damage. Monsoon-related weather systems have remained active since the beginning of September, keeping rainfall conditions favourable across several parts of Maharashtra.

Thunderstorms, lightning and strong winds are also possible at isolated places. Citizens have been advised to avoid open areas during lightning and exercise additional caution near rivers, streams and hilly regions. People have been urged to follow weather advisories and alerts issued by the authorities as rain activity is expected to continue over the next few days.



Election of 79 Mumbai Corporators Challenged

■Aryan Age Correspondent

Mumbai : The election of 79 corporators in the Mumbai Municipal Corporation has been challenged through election petitions filed by defeated candidates on various grounds, according to information provided by the civic body to RTI activist Anil Galgali.

The issue has again come into focus after the election of former Mumbai Mayor Vishakha Raut as a corporator was recently set aside. The developments underline that an electoral victory can still face legal scrutiny over nomination documents, affidavits, caste certificates and declarations made by candidates.

According to the information obtained through RTI, election petitions have been filed against corporators belonging to almost all major political parties in Mumbai.

The petitions reportedly raise several issues, including the validity of caste certificates, allegations of false or incorrect information submitted by candidates, disclosures relating to criminal cases and

declarations concerning assets and financial matters.

Candidates contesting elections are required to disclose various personal, financial and legal details in their affidavits. Allegations of discrepancies, incorrect declarations or suppression of relevant information can become grounds for legal challenges to their election. Among political parties, Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) corporators face the highest number of challenges, with 24 petitions filed against them.

The BJP follows with 16 petitions, while 10 petitions have been filed against Congress corporators. Seven petitions involve Shiv Sena (Shinde) corporators, five concern AIMIM corporators, two have been filed against MNS corporators and one involves an NCP corporator.

Of the 79 election petitions, five have so far resulted in corporators losing their elected positions. These include two corporators from Shiv Sena (UBT), two from AIMIM and one from the NCP, according to the information provided.

The figures have brought renewed attention to transparency in the election process and the accuracy of information submitted by candidates while filing nominations. RTI activist Anil Galgali obtained the details from the Mumbai civic administration. The information highlights the importance of candidates providing accurate and complete details to voters and election authorities.

The large number of petitions also means that legal challenges continue even after voters have delivered their verdict and candidates have been declared elected.

Political attention will now remain focused on the outcome of the remaining election petitions. If more elections are set aside following judicial scrutiny, the results could potentially affect the numerical strength of political parties in the civic body.

With 79 corporators facing election challenges and five elections already set aside, the legal battle over the Mumbai civic polls has emerged as a significant post-election issue for political parties across the city.



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

Action Against Colleges Giving Unauthorised Class 11 Admissions

Aryan Age Correspondent

Mumbai: Junior colleges in Maharashtra that admit Class 11 students offline or beyond their approved intake capacity will face action, the Directorate of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education has warned.

The directorate has made it clear that all Class 11 admissions in junior colleges across the state must be conducted only through the Centralised Online Admission Process.

Under a government decision of the School Education and Sports Department, Class 11 admissions in higher secondary schools and junior colleges have been conducted through the centralised online system since



the 2025-26 academic year. Deputy Directors of Education have now been instructed to ensure strict implementation of the process.

The department said it

had come to its notice that some junior colleges were admitting students offline and beyond their sanctioned capacity. Such unauthorised admissions could create se-

rious difficulties for students when they apply for the Class 12 State Board examination. Students could also suffer academically if their admissions are not subse-

quently regularised.

The directorate has therefore instructed all junior colleges not to grant any Class 11 admission through the offline mode or in violation of the approved intake.

If any institution is found violating the directions, action will be proposed against the concerned junior college as well as its principal under the provisions of the Maharashtra Employees of Private Schools (Conditions of Service) Regulation Act, 1977, and the Rules of 1981. The Director of Education (Secondary and Higher Secondary) has asked authorities to strictly monitor the admission process to protect students from difficulties arising from unauthorised admissions.

Nitesh Rane Meets Sharad Pawar, Discusses Fisheries and Port Development

Aryan Age Correspondent

Mumbai: Maharashtra Fisheries and Ports Minister Nitesh Rane met senior leader and MP Sharad Pawar at the latter's Silver Oak residence and held discussions on a range of issues concerning the state's fisheries sector, the challenges faced by fishing communities and the development of ports across Maharashtra.

During the meeting, Rane briefed Pawar on the initiatives being undertaken by the Fisheries Department to strengthen and modernise infrastructure in the state. Particular emphasis was placed on the ongoing measures planned for the modernisation of Sassoon Dock in Mumbai, one of the important fishing centres in the city.

Rane provided details of the steps being taken to

improve facilities at Sassoon Dock and explained the various aspects of the modernisation programme. The discussions focused on how improved infrastructure could contribute to the development of the fisheries sector and benefit people dependent on fishing for their livelihood.

The minister also presented Pawar with an information booklet related to the "Mukhyamantri Matsya Sampada Yojana". He shared information about the scheme and outlined various decisions taken by the Fisheries and Ports Department as part of the state government's efforts to strengthen the sector.

The meeting also covered the broader challenges faced by fishermen across Maharashtra. Issues relating to fishing communities, infrastructure requirements

and the need to improve facilities available to those working in the sector were discussed during the interaction.

Rane highlighted the government's focus on developing modern infrastructure for fisheries and ensuring that policy decisions take into account the interests of fishermen.

He said improving facilities and supporting fishing communities were important components of the state's approach towards the long-term growth of the sector. The modernisation of Sassoon Dock emerged as one of the key subjects during the meeting.

Rane informed Pawar about the initiatives being considered and implemented to upgrade the facility and improve the infrastructure associated with fishing activities.

Deadline Extended for Feedback on Maharashtra Private Coaching Centres Bill

Over 11,400 Suggestions and Objections Received; New Deadline September 15

Aryan Age Correspondent

Mumbai: The Maharashtra School Education Department has extended the deadline for submitting suggestions and objections on the draft Maharashtra Private Coaching Centres (Registration and Regulation) Act, 2026, until September 15.

The extension has been granted following a large response from citizens, parents, students, teachers and other stakeholders across the state, the Director of Education (Secondary) said.

The School Education Department has prepared the draft legislation to regulate private coaching centres in Maharashtra.

The draft has been published in

Marathi and English on the department's official website for public consultation.

As of September 7, 2026, the department had received 11,410 suggestions and objections on the proposed legislation.

Considering the large public response and the need to give more people an opportunity to express their views, the department decided to extend the deadline to September 15.

The government intends to study the feedback before finalising the proposed law so that the legislation can be made more comprehensive and effective.

Citizens can submit their suggestions and objections in writing to the

Education Commissioner, Maharashtra State, or to the Director of Education (Secondary and Higher Secondary), Maharashtra State, Pune. Feedback can also be submitted through email.

The proposed legislation is aimed at bringing greater regulation to the rapidly growing private coaching sector in the state.

According to the School Education Department, public participation is important in framing a law that can ensure proper registration, transparency, quality and accountability among private coaching centres.

All suggestions and objections received during the consultation period will be considered before the final form of the proposed Act is decided.

High-Level Task Force to Visit Six Divisions for Recruitment Exam Reforms

Aryan Age Correspondent

Mumbai: A high-level task force constituted by the Maharashtra Government to make recruitment examinations safer, more transparent, reliable and candidate-friendly will visit all six revenue divisions of the state during September.

The task force was constituted through a government resolution issued on September 4, 2026. It will conduct a comprehensive study of the existing recruitment examination system and recommend necessary reforms.

During the divisional visits, task force members

will directly interact with students, competitive examination candidates, parents, teachers, educational institutions and other stakeholders. Their difficulties, suggestions and feedback will be considered while preparing recommendations for the government.

The first interaction will be held in Pune division on September 12 at Savitribai Phule Pune University.

The task force will then visit Nagpur division on September 16, where the interaction will be held at the DPDC Hall, Planning Building, behind Sadar Police Station in Civil Lines.

The Amravati division

visit is scheduled for September 17, followed by Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar division on September 21 at the Smart City Office near Aamkhas Maidan.

For Konkan division, the task force will visit Mumbai on September 29, with the programme scheduled at Chetana College and the Mumbai Suburban District Collector's Office.

The final divisional visit will be held at the Nashik District Collector's Office on September 30.

Citizens and stakeholders can also send their suggestions and feedback to the dedicated email address created for their respective

divisions.

The task force will study the feedback collected during these interactions and recommend measures to prevent malpractices in recruitment examinations, strengthen examination security and improve transparency and reliability.

It will also examine ways to make the examination system more responsive to the needs and difficulties of candidates.

Details regarding the timing of each visit, the process for participation and other arrangements will be separately announced by the respective Divisional Commissioner's offices.

MPSC Introduces Major Reforms in Examination System

Chairman Vivek Bhimanwar Says 84 Exams Conducted Successfully, Results Now Declared Faster

Aryan Age Correspondent

Mumbai: Maharashtra Public Service Commission Chairman Vivek Bhimanwar has said that several qualitative and structural reforms have been introduced in the MPSC examination system to improve transparency, efficiency and fairness for candidates.

In a statement, Bhimanwar responded to allegations being made against him in connection with an alleged MPSC paper leak. He said a detailed clarification had already been issued on September 2, 2026, making it clear that the alleged question paper leak related to the Drug Inspector examination occurred before he assumed office.

According to Bhimanwar, the commission approached the police immediately after receiving a complaint in the matter and

an investigation is currently underway.

He said MPSC has also constituted a high-level committee to prevent such incidents from recurring. The Maharashtra Government has separately formed a high-powered committee, which has begun consultations at the divisional level with students, parents, teachers and other stakeholders to suggest improvements in recruitment examinations.

Bhimanwar said he was deeply disturbed by what he described as continued personal and politically motivated allegations aimed at damaging his reputation despite his earlier clarification.

Highlighting reforms undertaken after he assumed charge, Bhimanwar said

MPSC had successfully conducted 84 examinations, including eight competitive examinations and 76 screening examinations for direct

recruitment.

He said improvements in the examination and evaluation process had made it possible to declare results within 18 to 21 days in several cases. The commission has worked to reduce long delays in announcing results and has planned its system so that results can generally be declared within one month.

Several additional reforms are still at the planning stage, he said.

Bhimanwar maintained that the objective of the changes was to protect the reputation of the Maharashtra Public Service Commission and ensure justice to students who spend considerable time and effort preparing for competitive examinations. He said the commission would continue working towards building a transparent and impartial examination system.

Maharashtra Launches 'Chala Shalet Jauya' Campaign to Improve School Education

Senior Officials to Visit Schools Across State

Aryan Age Correspondent

Mumbai: Maharashtra School Education Minister Dadaji Bhuse has announced the "Chala Shalet Jauya" campaign to improve the quality of education, infrastructure, values and patriotism in schools across the state. Senior officials of the School Education Department will visit schools on September 8 and 9, September 22 and 23, and October 7 and 8 as part of the campaign. Officials have been assigned responsibility for specific districts to monitor progress.

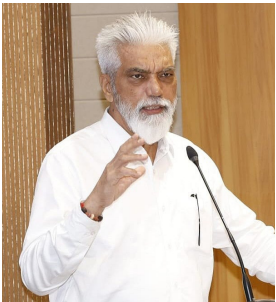
Bhuse announced the initiative after a meeting with representatives of various teachers' and non-teaching employees' organisations at the Maharashtra Primary Education Council office on Monday. MLAs Vikram Kale, Kiran Sarnaik, Jayant Asgaonkar, Dnyaneshwar

Mhatre and Mahendra Dalvi, Principal Secretary Ranjit Singh Deol, Commissioner Sachindra Pratap Singh and other officials attended the meeting. Representatives of various organisations raised issues, demands and suggestions related to the education sector. Bhuse said the department would take a positive approach towards these demands and resolve pending issues in phases. Some matters could be addressed immediately, while issues involving financial or policy decisions would be pursued at higher levels.

A wider meeting with all organisations will also be held in Pune in the coming weeks for detailed discussions.

The campaign has been launched during the birth centenary year of Balasaheb Thackeray and in the context of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision for Amrit

Kaal. Under the guidance of Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and Deputy Chief Ministers Eknath Shinde and Sunetra Ajit Pawar, the government has decided to



increase the use of District Planning Committee funds to complete pending infrastructure works in schools.

Funds and resources available through Central and State government schemes, public participation, Corporate Social Responsibility initiatives and special funds for aspirational

areas will also be coordinated for school development.

Bhuse said quality education would remain the department's main focus. Efforts will be made to improve students' reading, writing and comprehension skills, strengthen public confidence in Marathi-medium schools and raise educational standards in schools run by local bodies. He praised teachers, headmasters and school management committees that have improved schools through community participation. Some schools have been transformed with the support of villagers, former students and CSR funding, and such successful models should be replicated across Maharashtra, he said. The government has also assigned senior officials as nodal officers for 10 extended aspirational districts. The Principal Secretary will oversee Jalna, while the

School Education Commissioner will be responsible for Gadchiroli. The State Project Director of the Maharashtra Primary Education Council will oversee Palghar, and the Director of the State Council of Educational Research and Training will be responsible for Parbhani. The State Board chairman has been assigned Beed, the Maharashtra State Council of Examination chairman Nandurbar, the Director of Primary Education Washim, the Director of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education Dharashiv, the Director of Education (Planning) Dhule and the Director of Balbharati Hingoli. Separate nodal officers have also been appointed for all districts. Divisional heads will act as monitoring officers and review progress every 15 days before submitting reports to the Education Commissionerate.

MRVC Initiates Comprehensive Technical Assistance Study for Planning of MUTP-IV

Aryan Age Correspondent

Mumbai : The Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation Ltd. (MRVC) has initiated a comprehensive Technical Assistance Study for planning the fourth phase of the Mumbai Urban Transport Project (MUTP-IV), with the objective of identifying the next generation of infrastructure, capacity, safety and passenger-service improvements required across Mumbai's suburban railway network.

The study is being undertaken as a long-term planning exercise for the city's suburban rail system and will examine how the network needs to evolve in response to growing passenger demand and changing patterns of urban development across the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR).

As part of the exercise, MRVC will assess require-

ments for network expansion, additional railway corridors, capacity augmentation and greater segregation of suburban and mainline traffic. The study will also look at safety improvements, station upgrades and measures aimed at enhancing the overall experience of suburban railway passengers.

The planning exercise will take into consideration the Updated Comprehensive Transport Study (CTS) 2021, along with other ongoing, sanctioned and proposed transport projects in the MMR.

This broader assessment is intended to ensure that future suburban railway investments are coordinated with the region's wider transportation infrastructure.

A key focus will be the impact of emerging urban growth centres being planned by the Maharashtra

government. These include the Navi Mumbai Airport Influence Notified Area (NAINA) and Mumbai 3.0, also referred to as the Karna-Sai-Chirmer (KSC) New Town. The consultants will assess how development in these areas could influence future rail travel patterns and demand. The MUTP-IV exercise will consequently examine the need for new connectivity and expansion of the suburban railway network so that emerging residential, commercial and urban centres can be effectively integrated into the MMR's rail system.

Another major component of the study will be forecasting suburban rail travel demand for 2030, 2035, 2040 and 2047. Travel-demand modelling, along with consultations with various stakeholders, will be used to assess how passenger volumes could evolve and what infrastructure will

be needed to accommodate them. The exercise will consider several possible network interventions, including extensions of existing suburban corridors and construction of new railway corridors.

It will also examine additional lines that could help separate mainline and suburban traffic, as well as fast and slow suburban services, with the aim of improving operational efficiency.

The capacity of stations and terminals will also be assessed. Among the proposals to be examined are extensions of platforms to accommodate 15-car suburban trains and the development of new terminals at locations where passenger demand is expected to be particularly high.

Technological and system-level improvements will form another important part of the MUTP-IV study. The consultants will exam-

ine upgrades involving Kavach 5.0 and improved signalling systems, along with measures to optimise the operation of both 12-car and 15-car suburban services.

The study will also assess requirements for additional AC EMUs, augmentation of the railway power-supply system, stabilising lines and facilities for EMU maintenance. These interventions are expected to be considered in the context of the future scale and operational requirements of Mumbai's suburban railway network.

Passenger safety will remain one of the central priorities of the exercise. Under the objective of moving towards "Mission Zero Death", the study will examine passenger death and injury data, incidents involving trespassing at stations and mid-sections, access to railway tracks and other safety-related concerns.

Aditi Tatkare Directs Speedy Completion of Maharshi Karve College Project

College to Provide Affordable Higher Education to Girls in Shrivardhan Region

Aryan Age Correspondent

Mumbai: Maharashtra Women and Child Development Minister Aditi Tatkare has directed officials to accelerate the completion of the Maharshi Karve Adarsh College project being developed by SNDT Women's University at Shrivardhan in Raigad district. Tatkare issued the directions during a review meeting held at Mantralaya to assess the status of the ambitious higher education project and examine the work that remains to be completed. The minister emphasised the need for close coordination between the concerned departments so that construction and administrative work can progress without further delays. She specifically directed officials to coordinate with the Higher and Technical Education Department and resolve all pending administrative matters at the earliest. During

the meeting, officials from Shreemati Nathibai Damodar Thackersey (SNDT) Women's University briefed Tatkare about the current status of the college project. The discussion covered the progress of construction, funding requirements and various administrative issues that are still pending. Tatkare highlighted the importance of the institution for girls from Shrivardhan and surrounding areas. She said the proposed college would give female students an opportunity to pursue quality and affordable higher education closer to their homes. The establishment of the college is expected to benefit students from the region who may otherwise have to travel considerable distances to access higher education. By providing educational opportunities locally, the institution could help make higher education more accessible to girls from Shrivardhan and

nearby areas. Considering the importance of the project for women students, Tatkare instructed the authorities to treat all pending matters on priority. She called for faster execution of the remaining construction work and better coordination between the departments involved in the project. The minister also assured officials that a shortage of funds would not be permitted to become an obstacle to completing the college. She stressed the need to address financial requirements in a timely manner so that construction and related activities can continue without unnecessary interruption.

Funding distribution and the approvals required for taking the project forward were also discussed during the review meeting. Officials examined the financial position of the project and the requirements that need to be addressed during its next stages.

Belgian PM Gets Mumbai Metro Project Briefing

Aryan Age Correspondent

Mumbai : MMRDA Metropolitan Commissioner Sanjay Mukherjee briefed Belgian Prime Minister Bart De Wever about Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority’s major infrastructure projects and its plans to develop the Mumbai Metropolitan Region as a globally competitive economic hub during their meeting at Bharat Diamond Bourse in Bandra Kurla Complex.

De Wever, who arrived in Mumbai on September 4, met the MMRDA chief during his visit. Mukherjee presented the Belgian Prime Minister with the authority’s coffee-table book, which highlights its work in mobility, Metro connecti-



ty, urban infrastructure and metropolitan planning.

The meeting also offered an opportunity to highlight Mumbai’s development and discuss possibilities for increased co-operation and institutional exchanges between India

and Belgium. Mukherjee later shared details of the interaction on X, saying he had taken De Wever through MMRDA’s corridors, Metro network and other projects.

De Wever had arrived in India on September 2

for a three-day visit at the invitation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. During his visit, India and Belgium discussed ways to strengthen bilateral relations and expand cooperation in areas including trade, investment, defence, technology and connectivity.

India and Belgium have historical links going back more than three centuries. Belgium established diplomatic relations with independent India in September 1947. Apart from trade and investment, both countries are looking at wider co-operation in defence and security, technology and innovation, renewable energy, connectivity, ports and maritime activities, as well as people-to-people relations.

Thane Residents Step Up Ring Metro Protest

Aryan Age Correspondent

Mumbai : Residents of Thane intensified their opposition to the proposed Thane Integral Ring Metro project by forming a human chain on September 6, marking the second consecutive Sunday of protests against the planned infrastructure project. The demonstration was organised by the citizens’ forum Thane Against Integral Ring Metro (TAIRM) along Pokhran Road No. 2 between Swami Junction and Prashant Corner. Residents, business owners, prominent citizens and environmental activists participated in the protest and questioned the feasibility of the proposed Metro route.

The project, being pursued by the Thane Municipal Corporation and Maha Metro to address internal traffic congestion, has faced strong opposition from local residents. Protesters have raised concerns about large-scale tree cutting, possible

displacement of residents, disruption to traffic during construction and the project’s overall necessity.

Environmental and procedural issues were also raised during the protest. Environment activist Rohit Joshi alleged that the general body’s approval for cutting 3,900 trees was illegal, claiming that an official Tree Authority Committee had not been formed even six months after the municipal elections. He warned that any tree-cutting activity without proper public hearings would be challenged in court.

Activist Adv. Radhika Rane questioned the effectiveness of tree transplantation, stating that nearly 80 per cent of transplanted trees fail to survive. She also urged the government to first evaluate ridership on Metro Lines 4 and 5 after their completion before deciding whether an internal ring Metro route is required.

Protester Meghna Jadhav said the administration should give greater priority to keeping Thane clean and green instead of proceeding with what she described as unnecessary Metro infrastructure. With civic groups indicating that they may pursue legal action, opposition to the proposed project is continuing to grow. Residents also pointed to the possible impact of the construction work on daily life in several parts of Thane.

They said large-scale excavation, road work and tree removal could create prolonged traffic congestion and inconvenience for commuters, shopkeepers and residents living along the proposed alignment. They urged the authorities to make the project’s detailed plans and environmental assessments public before taking further steps.

Members of TAIRM said they were not

against improving public transport but wanted the government to consider whether the proposed route was the most suitable solution for Thane’s existing traffic problems. They called for wider consultations with citizens, environmental experts and affected communities before any final decision is implemented. Protesters said alternative solutions should also be examined to improve connectivity without causing extensive environmental damage.

Woman Killed Under BEST Bus Tyre In Worli

Aryan Age Correspondent

Mumbai : A 60-year-old woman died after she came in contact with the left rear tyre of a BEST wet-lease bus at the ST Office traffic signal in Worli on Monday morning. The incident took place when the bus started moving after the traffic signal turned green while the woman was getting down from a taxi parked beside the bus.

The deceased was identified as Vannmala R. Sabale. According to officials, the bus was travelling from By-culla Station towards Lotus when it stopped at the signal. Sabale was reportedly alighting from a taxi while the signal was red. When the light turned green, the bus moved forward and she came under its left rear tyre.

Sabale suffered serious injuries to her head, with

bleeding from her head and ear. The bus conductor immediately took her to Nair Hospital, where doctors declared her dead at around 12.15 pm before treatment could be started. The incident has again raised concerns about the safety of pedestrians and motorists around wet-lease buses operated by private contractors.

After the accident, officials from the Worli and Central depots, along with the accident officer, ACC officials and a representative of the wet-lease operator, reached the accident spot and the hospital. The incident has also brought renewed attention to BEST’s wet-lease operations, particularly over allegations of maintenance shortcomings, driver supervision and the need for stronger accountability among private operators.

Seven-Foot Python Rescued From Car Bonnet In Dahisar

Aryan Age Correspondent

Mumbai : A nearly seven-foot-long python was found hiding inside the bonnet of a parked car at a residential complex in Dahisar West on Monday, causing panic among residents before a wildlife rescuer safely removed the reptile. The car was reportedly parked inside the compound of Maheshwar Building near Babu Bagwe Road in Kandarpada when a local resident noticed the snake taking shelter inside the vehicle. Alarmed by the sight, residents contacted a professional wildlife rescuer for help. A video of the rescue has since circulated widely on social media.

Wildlife rescuer Sameer Gupta reached the



spot and carefully opened the bonnet. He found the large python hidden among the components of the vehicle and began removing it cautiously. Visuals from the operation show Gupta slowly pulling the reptile out before securing it and placing it inside a bag.

The python was later reportedly taken for a medical examination to check



whether it had suffered any injuries after coming into contact with the hot components of the vehicle.

After officials confirmed that the reptile was healthy and unharmed, it was safely released into its natural habitat in Sanjay Gandhi National Park. No injuries to residents were reported during the incident.

Car Driver Allegedly Assaults BEST Driver Near Dadar

Aryan Age Correspondent

Mumbai : A BEST bus driver was allegedly assaulted by a car driver following an argument over giving way near Dadar’s Tilak Bridge on Sunday evening. The incident reportedly took place around 7.30 pm on September 6.

The wet-lease bus, numbered 8215 (MH-01-EM-9332), was travelling from Sewri Bus Station towards Dindoshi on Route C-40/33 when it became stuck in heavy traffic on the bridge.

According to a report submitted to BEST, the car driver allegedly overtook the bus, stopped his vehicle in front of it and

confronted the driver. The motorist was reportedly upset after the bus driver did not give way.

A video circulating online purportedly shows three men near the driver’s seat, with one allegedly slapping the driver while another appears to threaten him. The conductor later intervened and asked the men to leave the bus.

Following the incident, the BEST driver approached Shivaji Park Police Station and was asked to return on Monday for further action.

The bus was operated from Wadala Depot, while police are continuing to investigate the alleged assault.

Shiv Sena Leader Arrested In Palghar Hospital Assault Case

Aryan Age Correspondent

Palghar : Shiv Sena Palghar city chief Rahul Gharat was arrested on Monday after he surrendered before the police in connection with the alleged assault of hospital staff. The action came after a complaint was filed over an incident at Relief Hospital following the treatment of Govindas injured during Dahi Handi celebrations on September 5.

Several Govindas were injured while forming human pyramids during a Dahi Handi event organised near the Shiv Sena district chief’s office at Shivaji Chowk in the Palghar-Manor highway. The injured participants were taken to Relief Hospital for medical attention, where doctors examined them and advised further treatment based on the nature of their injuries.

Some of the injured

Govindas underwent CT scans and X-rays at the hospital.

Doctors had reportedly advised 24-hour observation for those who suffered head and spinal injuries during the celebrations. The medical examinations were conducted to assess the extent of injuries and determine whether further treatment was required.

The situation later turned tense over the expenses related to treatment and the diagnostic procedures conducted on the injured participants. According to reports, several Shiv Sena office bearers reached the hospital at around 1.15 am and questioned the medical staff about the CT scans performed on the Govindas.

The discussion reportedly turned into a heated argument between the Shiv Sena workers and hospital employees. During the confrontation,

Gharat allegedly slapped a hospital employee and threatened women members of the hospital staff. The allegations have become a key part of the complaint filed by the hospital.

Videos purportedly showing the alleged confrontation later surfaced on social media. The footage attracted attention as the dispute involved political workers and hospital employees. Following the hospital’s complaint, Palghar Police registered a case against 17 people, including Shiv Sena Palghar district chief Kundan Sankhe, under relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

After registering the case, police launched efforts to trace the other accused named in the complaint. Investigators are examining the events that took place inside the hospital and the circumstances that led to the alleged

assault. Police are also expected to record statements of hospital employees, witnesses and other persons who were present at the time.

Meanwhile, Palghar MLA Rajendra Gavit visited the Palghar police station on Monday and demanded that a case also be registered against doctors at the hospital. Gavit alleged that doctors and hospital staff had compelled the injured Govindas to remain at the facility and undergo MRI and CT scans.

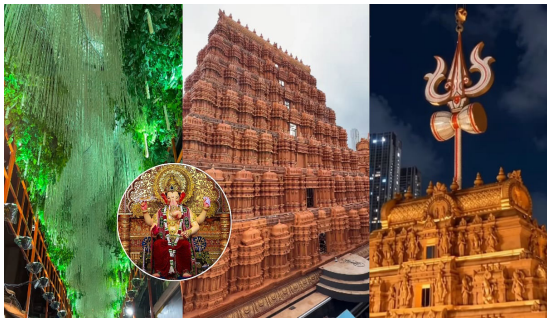
Gavit also questioned the treatment and procedures followed by the hospital while dealing with the injured participants. Police are investigating these allegations along with the complaint filed by the hospital and are examining the roles of all 17 people named in the case. Further action will be taken based on the findings of the investigation.

Lalbaugcha Raja Pandal Hints At Shiva Theme

Aryan Age Correspondent

Mumbai : With Ganesh Chaturthi 2026 approaching, preparations at the famous Lalbaugcha Raja pandal are attracting growing attention. While the organisers traditionally keep the theme and decorations secret until the festival begins, videos emerging online have offered devotees glimpses of the elaborate setup taking shape.

The pandal appears to be adopting a grand temple-inspired design this year. Visuals show large temple-style gates and imposing structures at the entrance, along



with detailed decorative work that gives the venue the appearance of a traditional shrine. A massive trishul placed above the temple-like structure has become one of the most noticeable features of the preparations. Its presence has led to specula-

tion among devotees that this year’s theme could be linked to Lord Shiva. However, the organisers have not officially announced or confirmed the final theme.

Inside the venue, the iconic Lalbaugcha Raja Galli is also undergoing a

major makeover. A large rooftop structure has reportedly been installed over the area, while extensive lighting arrangements are being put in place to illuminate the busy lane during the celebrations.

Lalbaugcha Raja is among Mumbai’s most revered Ganpati idols and draws lakhs of devotees every year. With September 14 nearing, curiosity around the final decoration and theme is growing, while the organisers continue to keep the complete presentation under wraps until the grand festival begins.

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.

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 Corporation 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' paying-guest accommodation near Delhi University's South Campus, collapsed on Sunday afternoon while repair work was reportedly underway. Rescue personnel from the NDRF, Delhi Fire Service, police and disaster-management agencies 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 arrested 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 accumulation in the basement combined with repair activity appeared to have contributed to the collapse, although the final cause will depend on the formal technical inquiry.

The MCD suspended South Zone Deputy Com-

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 officials found responsible for overlooking violations. The

government has also proposed wider structural audits of buildings being used for public purposes such as hostels and PG accommodation.

The Delhi High Court separately criticised civic authorities and Delhi University over what it described 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 regulatory system governing thousands of private hostels around colleges.

The immediate rescue phase is nearing completion, but the accountability phase has only begun. Investigators must now determine whether illegal structural 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 Express 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 decline in engine-oil quantity and eventually shut down one engine when pressure entered the danger zone.

The aircraft was approximately 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 situation, carried out an operational assessment and decided not to continue towards Abu Dhabi.

As the oil problem worsened and pressure reached a critical level, the crew shut down the affected engine and returned to Kochi. The aircraft landed safely and no passenger injuries were reported.

Modern twin-engine passenger aircraft are designed and certified to continue flying safely on one

engine, but an in-flight engine shutdown remains a serious operational event requiring 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 service.

The incident has attracted additional attention because India's aviation sector is already under heightened scrutiny following recent safety events involving Air India group aircraft. The preliminary investigation into a separate Phuket-Delhi Air India flight recently disclosed hydraulic problems and a drug-test finding involving the pilot-in-command, 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 importance of cockpit monitoring and conservative decision-making. Continuing towards Abu Dhabi after an engine-oil warning could have reduced the crew's available options if the condition deteriorated farther from a suitable airport.

Instead, the pilots returned to their departure point and landed without injury.

For regulators, repeated high-profile aviation incidents inevitably raise questions about maintenance oversight, technical reliability and whether rapid industry 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 mechanical problem developed at cruising altitude, the crew shut down the affected engine and the aircraft returned safely.

IITs Rethink the JEE Route for Cyber Degrees

New Delhi : Three to four additional Indian Institutes of Technology are likely to introduce specialised undergraduate cybersecurity programmes next year, while the admission model may move away from JEE Main towards a combination of aptitude testing and hackathon-based assessment. IIT Kanpur and IIT Madras launched their four-year B Cyber programmes in 2026, offering a combined 90 seats. However, only 52 students were admitted across the two institutions — 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 followed by a practical hackathon-style stage. The proposal is not yet a nationwide IIT admissions change and applies specifically to the B Cyber programme under discussion. Students seeking traditional BTech admission should therefore not interpret the development as abolition of JEE for IIT engineering courses. The distinction matters because the new programme is attempting to identify a some-

what different type of student. Cybersecurity demands mathematics and computer-science knowledge, but it also depends heavily on problem-solving, adversarial 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 proposed expansion comes amid rising demand for cybersecurity professionals as governments, banks, defence organisations, hospi-

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 devotees struck a divider and overturned on the Eastern Peripheral Expressway in Uttar Pradesh's Baghpat district, 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, approximately 15 kilometres from Baghpat district headquarters. Police said the canter was carrying 32 devotees returning to Budaun after

visiting Bagad Dham in Rajasthan.

The impact caused the vehicle to overturn, trapping or throwing passengers and triggering an emergency response involving police, local residents and medical teams.

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

Investigators are examining why the vehicle hit the divider. Speed, driver fatigue, visibility, vehicle condition and road circumstances 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 concern involving goods vehicles or lightly modified commercial carriers transporting large groups of passengers. Such vehicles may not provide occupants with the crash protection, seating systems or restraint equipment expected in passenger buses.

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

to serious crashes.

Expressways are designed for higher-speed travel, which can improve journey times but greatly increases the energy involved in a collision or rollover. A minor loss of control at expressway speeds can therefore become catastrophic when dozens of passengers are travelling together. Police will also examine whether the vehicle was authorised to carry the number and type of passengers on board. For the families involved, the deaths are particularly devastating because 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 involving vehicle use, commercial passenger transport or highway safety.

The tragedy is another reminder that road safety depends not merely on constructing faster highways, but on ensuring the vehicles, drivers and enforcement systems 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 towards India's rapidly growing elderly population.

A Bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana was hearing a public-interest petition filed in 2016 by former Union minister Dr Ashwani Kumar.

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

pension support and accessible geriatric healthcare.

The court asked for updated information rather than relying on older compliance reports, reflecting concern that conditions and government programmes 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 ultimately be better placed to monitor implementation within individual states.

India's ageing challenge is growing rapidly. Longer life expectancy and migration 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 provides 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 elderly residents in rural areas often depend on general public-health facilities without dedicated age-related services.

Pension adequacy is another major concern. Small monthly benefits may formally satisfy the existence of a welfare scheme while remaining insufficient to cover food, medicine and housing 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 operational from JNPT to Dadri and Ludhiana to Sonmagar—will be officially dedicated to the nation by the Prime Minister. Expanding on long-term capacity building, the Prime Minister will lay the foundation stone for the four-laning of



the crucial Vadodara–Ratlam rail line, a key segment under the nation's seven high-density railway corridor expansion 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 Vadodara, alongside four new freight services on the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor. Sharing updates on the Mumbai–Ahmedabad Bullet 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 accelerating the vision of a Developed India.

Black-Shirts Trigger Telangana Assembly Showdown

Hyderabad : The opening day of the Telangana Assembly's monsoon session descended into confrontation 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 protest 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 election promises. Police prevented the group from entering the premises in protest attire. A confrontation followed, 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 representatives. 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 accepted the BRS's characterisation of all events, making independent examination of available video material important.

The party called for statewide protests against the police action. The political confrontation then carried into the Assembly, where Congress and BRS legislators exchanged accusations over remarks concerning 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 seeking to frame the Congress government's 1,000-day

mark around alleged non-implementation of guarantees, irrigation concerns and administrative failures. Congress, meanwhile, argues that the Opposition is using disruption to avoid substantive legislative debate. Monday's events are significant because Telangana's principal political rivals are increasingly shifting from policy disagreement towards confrontation over the functioning of democratic institutions themselves. Whether legislators should have been prevented from entering because of slogan-bearing clothing, whether police used disproportionate force and whether Assembly privilege was affected are now likely to dominate the political argument.

Naga MLAs Boycott Manipur House

Imphal : Naga legislators in Manipur stayed away from the final sitting of the ongoing Assembly session on Monday, demanding justice in the alleged abduction and killing of Leilon Vaiphei. The legislators also called for a thorough investigation into allegations involving the family of Deputy Chief Minister Nemcha Kipgen.

The decision to boycott the proceedings was announced by Naga MLA Awangbow Newmai, who said the legislators had decided not to participate because they were dissatisfied with the action taken so far in connection with the Vaiphei case.

Newmai said the legislators believed that the circumstances surrounding Vaiphei's alleged abduction and killing required a more serious and comprehensive investigation. According to him, questions raised by eyewitness accounts had not been adequately addressed and demanded accountability 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 identified as Kipgen's husband. The allegations relate to the circumstances surrounding the incident involving Vaiphei.



However, the claims remain allegations and have not been established in court. The identities and roles of individuals named in connection with the case would need to be determined through an independent investigation and due legal process.

The boycott assumes significance against the backdrop of Manipur's prolonged ethnic crisis. The state has been attempting to restore political and institutional 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 influence legislative participation.

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



Assembly was viewed as a potentially positive step towards rebuilding political engagement. Their prolonged absence had been one of the visible signs of the deep institutional divide created by the conflict.

The decision by Naga legislators to stay away from Monday's sitting, however, highlights how fragile that progress remains. While the return of representatives from one community had raised hopes of greater engagement, the latest boycott

tablishment and the opposition. Community concerns surrounding security, territory, ethnic identity and justice have increasingly shaped the positions taken by legislators and political groups. The Vaiphei case is particularly sensitive in this context. Allegations involving members or associates of politically influential groups can have wider repercussions in a state where mistrust between communities remains high. Any investigation into the case will there-

fore face the difficult task of establishing the facts independently while ensuring that witnesses and other individuals connected to the proceedings are adequately protected. Authorities will also have to ensure that unverified allegations do not further intensify existing tensions between communities.

The episode also places the Manipur government under a broader test of credibility. The Assembly remains one of the few formal institutional platforms where elected representatives from different communities can raise grievances, debate contentious issues and seek political solutions.

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

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

Bigg Boss to premiere across six languages on the SAME NIGHT as franchise marks 20 years

Aryan Age Correspondent

Mumbai :Endemol Shine India, part of Banijay Entertainment, has established itself as one of India’s leading entertainment production houses, consistently delivering blockbuster scripted and non-scripted content across television and digital platforms. Further strengthening its legacy in the reality entertainment space, the production house is all set to bring back one of India’s biggest and most iconic reality franchises, Bigg Boss, this time with a historic twist that promises to redefine the show yet again.

The show will be launched simultaneously in six different languages across India, making it the first-of-its-kind reality show to do so. As Bigg Boss completes 20 glorious years, Endemol Shine India has achieved something truly extraordinary and historic. The production house has made it possible to launch the audience’s favourite reality show across six different languages on the same night. Bigg Boss is already a renowned reality show with editions in multiple languages, each enjoying a massive and loyal fan base.

For the first time, India will watch Bigg Boss together in their own languages, with their favourite hosts ap-



pearing on screens simultaneously. Never before in the history of reality

television has a single format been launched across multiple languages on the same evening. Moreover, for the first time, all the hosts from the different language editions will appear on screen alongside the Bigg Boss of their respective languages at the same time, creating a truly unprecedented television moment.

While Bigg Boss Hindi is hosted by Salman Khan, Bigg Boss Bangla is hosted by Sourav Ganguly, Bigg Boss Kannada is hosted by Kichcha Sudeep, Bigg Boss Telugu is hosted by Nagarjuna Akkineni, Bigg Boss Tamil is hosted by Vijay Sethupathi and Bigg Boss Malayalam is hosted by Mohanlal.

As Bigg Boss enters its milestone 20th season, Salman Khan returns not only as the host but also as the mentor who will once again take charge during the much-awaited Weekend Ka Vaar episodes. The new season promises fresh contestants, intense rivalries, and entertainment on an even grander scale.

Produced by Endemol Shine India, Bigg Boss Season 20 premieres on September 6, 2026, airing every day at 9:00 PM on JioHotstar and at 10:30 PM on Colors TV, promising viewers a season packed with drama, strategy, emotion, and blockbuster entertainment.

Masaba Gupta Backs Bipasha Basu, Takes Dig at Mrunal Thakur

Aryan Age Correspondent

Mumbai :Actor Bipasha Basu has once again captured the attention of the fashion and entertainment world with her latest appearance on the cover of Elle India. The actor looked striking in the newly released pictures from the magazine shoot, showcasing her distinctive style and athletic physique. Her appearance has now received praise from fashion designer Masaba Gupta, who celebrated Basu’s beauty, confidence and muscular build.Masaba Gupta shared the Elle India cover featuring Bipasha Basu on her Instagram Stories and expressed her happiness at seeing the actor return to the spotlight in such a strong fashion moment. For Masaba, the cover represented more than just another celebrity magazine appearance. She described Bipasha as one of the last remaining stars from an earlier generation of Bollywood personalities who had a distinctive identity of their own.Praising the actor, Masaba said



that there could not be another Bipasha Basu because, in her view, the entertainment and fashion industries have increasingly moved towards a standardised idea of beauty. She argued that many contemporary celebrity appearances follow similar templates and suggested that Basu’s individuality makes her presence particularly refreshing.Masaba also specifically highlighted Bipasha’s athletic physique. She said she admired the actor’s muscular build and credited her with setting a high standard for fitness. Rather than viewing muscularity as something that takes away from femininity, Masaba presented it as one of the qualities that makes Bipasha’s appearance powerful and inspiring.

The fashion designer’s comments also brought an old controversy involving actor Mrunal Thakur back into public discussion. Masaba’s remarks appeared to reference a comment made by Mrunal several years ago, when she had spoken about Bipasha’s physique during an interview.

The old clip resurfaced online last year and subsequently became a subject of widespread discussion across social media platforms.In the interview, which was reportedly conducted around 2012, Mrunal had jokingly compared herself with Bipasha Basu and described the latter as “manly with muscles”, while claiming that she was better than the older actor.

Manoj Bajpayee looks unrecognisable as Mahatma Gandhi in Sudhir Mishra’s next

Aryan Age Correspondent

Mumbai :Actor Manoj Bajpayee is set to take on one of the most challenging and significant roles of his career as he portrays Mahatma Gandhi on screen for the first time. The veteran actor will play the iconic freedom fighter in filmmaker Sudhir Mishra’s upcoming historical drama, a project that is expected to explore a lesser-known chapter from India’s freedom struggle. The makers recently unveiled the first look from the yet-untitled film, giving audiences a glimpse of Bajpayee’s striking transformation into the Father of the Nation. The first look was released on Sunday and immediately drew attention because of Bajpayee’s physical transformation and the period setting of the film. In the images, the actor appears almost unrecognisable as he steps into the appearance associated with Mahatma Gandhi. He is seen with a bald head, dressed in a traditional loincloth and carrying Gandhi’s trademark lathi, creating a visual representation that closely resembles the historical figure.One of the photographs shows Bajpayee in character as Gandhi while looking upwards and slightly away from the camera. Behind him, several other freedom fighters can be seen walking together, adding to the atmosphere of the independence movement. A banner carrying the words ‘Long Live Mahatma Gandhi’ is visible in the back-



ground, further establishing the historical setting and the larger political and social environment in which the story unfolds.For Bajpayee, the role marks a new territory in a career that has already included a wide range of complex and memorable characters. Known for his ability to disappear into the personalities he portrays, the actor has frequently taken on demanding roles across different genres.

His portrayal of Gandhi will now see him embody one of the most recognisable figures in Indian history, making the project particularly significant for both the actor and his audience.The film is being directed by Sudhir Mishra, a filmmaker known for creating socially and politically layered stories. Mishra has previously helmed critically acclaimed films such as Hazaaron Khwaishein Aisi and Dhara-vi. His body of work has often focused on characters caught in complicated social and political circumstances, and his involvement in this historical project has generated interest around the way

Gandhi’s story will be presented.The upcoming film also features actor Saurabh Shukla in an important role. While details about his char-

acter have not been revealed, his presence adds another experienced performer to the cast. The makers have deliberately kept several aspects of the project confidential, including the title and the exact nature of the roles played by the supporting cast.According to an ANI report, the story is centred around a lesser-known 21-day period connected to India’s freedom struggle. Rather than presenting a broad biographical account of Mahatma Gandhi’s life, the film is expected to focus on a specific historical episode and examine the events and emotions surrounding that period. The decision to concentrate on a relatively brief chapter could allow the filmmakers to explore the personal and human dimensions of the historical events in greater detail.The makers have so far refrained from revealing extensive details about the plot. This limited information has added to the curiosi-

ty surrounding the project, particularly because the film brings together a celebrated actor and a filmmaker known for socially relevant cinema. Audiences will have to wait for further announcements to understand which events from the 21-day period will form the central narrative. According to the makers, the film aims to provide an immersive account of an important turning point in history. The narrative is expected to go beyond the political significance of the period and examine the emotional and human experiences of those who lived through it. This approach could offer audiences a different perspective on a familiar chapter of the freedom movement.The production is being handled by Anubhav Sinha and Narendra Hirawat under the banner of Benaras Mediaworks. The film is being presented by NH Studioz. With experienced names associated with both the creative and production teams, the project is positioned as an ambitious historical drama that seeks to combine a strong period setting with character-driven storytelling.The first-look images have also placed considerable focus on Bajpayee’s appearance as Gandhi. Historical characters often require actors to undergo significant physical and visual transformations, and the images suggest that considerable attention has been given to recreating Gandhi’s familiar appearance.

Ameesha Patel slams X user for linking her to Hardik Pandya: ‘Surely you don’t have a girl as a friend’

Aryan Age Correspondent

Mumbai :Bollywood actor Ameesha Patel is one of the few Bollywood celebrities who has chosen to remain unmarried. Recently, the actor was spotted with Indian cricketer Hardik Pandya at the Taj Mahal Palace in Mumbai. A video of their interaction surfaced on social media, showing Ameesha introducing Hardik to her friends. An X user suggested that their interaction was more than just friendly.Ameesha has now responded with a sarcastic reply, taking a dig at the user for linking a casual gesture to romance.

The X user shared the viral video featuring Ameesha Patel and Hardik Pandya. In the video, Ameesha can be seen with her hand on Hardik’s shoulder as the two smile while she introduces him to her friends. Sharing the video, the X user wrote, “The way Ameesha Patel put her hand on Hardik Pandya’s shoulder during the party at a hotel in Bengaluru. All the Reddit rumours seem to be coming true.”

Ameesha did not hold back. She took to her Instagram Stories, shared a screenshot of the X user’s post and slammed him for linking her to the cricketer. She wrote, “So true ya. My god ur

correct...truly romantic way my hand was on him. I don’t know u but surely u don’t have a girl even as a friend. It’s time u do have one before posting hence on such things.”

Ameesha has previously spoken about her views on marriage and relationships. In a podcast with Ranveer Allahbadia last year, the actor revealed that she had been in a serious relationship, but her partner did not support her when she decided to enter the film industry. She said that while she has not completely ruled out marriage, she is looking for a partner who would allow her career to flourish.

Taapsee Pannu questions Bollywood’s ‘same actors’ formula: ‘All the rom-coms, glam stuff looks the same’

Aryan Age Correspondent

Mumbai :Taapsee Pannu has often spoken about how an actor can get boxed into a certain image once audiences and filmmakers associate them with a particular kind of role. After years of playing strong, intense characters, she feels that perception can sometimes be a limitation. In a recent chat with Hindustan Times, the actor spoke about Gandhari, the creative bankruptcy in Bollywood and why the industry only offers her certain kinds of roles.

For Taapsee, the conversation around casting is not limited to the kind of stories actors are offered. She feels that an actor’s appearance can also shape how filmmakers picture them in a role. “When it comes to certain visuals of a character, it’s a lot to do with vanity more than



how that actor is born and looks,” she says.

Gandhari gave Taapsee a chance to break away from that image. She plays Bani, a mother desperately search-

ing for her kidnapped daughter, and her journey takes her into the unsettling world of Joypurra, where she uncovers a series of disturbing truths.

A big part of her transformation stemmed from how Bani was visually created. Taapsee credits her hair, makeup and costume teams for helping her look completely different from her usual self.

“I would like to take the credit, not just myself, but with my look-creating people — the hair, makeup, costume — to be able to make me look like Bani in this film, because I’m nowhere close to her in real life, how I look,” she adds. “Even on my worst stress days, I will not look like that.”

That, she feels, is how an actor should approach a character. You do not necessarily have to look like the person you are playing in real life. Sometimes it is the story and world of the film that determine what the character should look like.

Rebel Kid Apoorva Reveals Why She Left India for New York

Aryan Age Correspondent

Mumbai :Content creator Apoorva, widely recognised online by her popular moniker Rebel Kid, has opened up about a major personal and professional decision that has taken her from India to New York. In a recent Reel, the digital creator explained why she chose to leave behind a life that, on the surface, appeared successful and comfortable, and begin again in an unfamiliar city.

Apoorva said that from an outside perspective, there was little reason to believe that anything was wrong with her life. She had built a successful career as a content creator, achieved financial independence, travelled extensively and developed a strong circle of friends. Despite these accomplishments, however, she said

she was not feeling fulfilled personally.The creator described her state of mind at the time as “empty, demotivated,”

According to Apoorva, she had reached a stage where each day began to feel almost identical to the previous one. While her professional life continued to move forward, she felt that she was

personally struggling to find a sense of direction and purpose. Apoorva also spoke about feeling that she had lost control over important aspects of her own life. Reflecting on that period, she said, “I had absolutely no control over my own life.” The realisation eventually prompted her to consider making a dramatic change rather than continuing with a routine that no longer felt right to her.

Her solution was to leave India and start over in New York. Apoorva said the decision was not an easy one because it meant saying goodbye to people who were close to her and leaving behind the environment she had known for years. Nevertheless, she eventually decided to take the leap and pursue a completely

different chapter.

The move itself was particularly significant because Apoorva arrived in New York without an established social circle. She packed her belongings into just three suitcases before boarding a one-way flight to the city. She admitted that she knew no one there, making the decision a major personal as well as professional transition.

Her relocation is closely connected to her plans for further education. Apoorva is now pursuing an MBA, a step that reflects her desire to expand her understanding of business beyond the world of social media and digital content. After spending years developing her personal brand, she now wants to learn more about entrepreneurship and how businesses are built. The creator hopes that the MBA experience will eventually help her explore the possibility of launching a venture of her own. While content creation has been an important part of her professional journey, she appears interested in using the knowledge and exposure gained through business education to explore opportunities outside her existing career.At the same time, Apoorva acknowledged that walking away from an established career involved considerable uncertainty.

Jasmin Bhasin slams Aly Goni breakup rumours after deleting Instagram post: ‘Not everything is about my relationship’

Aryan Age Correspondent

Mumbai :Television actors Jasmin Bhasin and Aly Goni fell in love during their stint on Bigg Boss 14 and have been in a relationship ever since.

The couple live together in Mumbai, and fans are eager to know when they plan to get married. The actor has now hit back at speculation that she and Aly have ended their relationship after her now-deleted Instagram post went viral.On Saturday, Jasmin shared a post on Instagram flaunting her first tattoo that read ‘I Am Enough’. In a lengthy note that accompanied the post, she wrote about the story behind the tattoo, saying that she will ‘never abandon’ who she is again just to be loved. Several comments on the post speculated whether it was a cryptic message which hinted that all is not well with her relationship with Aly.

Jasmin then deleted the post and dismissed the breakup rumours. She also said not every post is a ‘cryptic message’ about her relationship.



Taking to her Instagram Stories, Jasmin wrote, “Not everything in my life is a cryptic message about my relationship. Sometimes, a woman is simply talking about herself. Surprising how for views and attention media pages twist and turn the posts and start using couple images to show it in a manner that will get them eyeballs. Chill guys!”

In the now-deleted Instagram post, Jasmin wrote, “Story of my first tattoo and the moment I chose myself after spending so much time trying to become someone I thought would be easier to love. For the longest time, I kept trying to fit myself into little boxes, changing, shrinking, adjusting, becoming whoever I thought I needed to be to feel loved, accepted and to belong.

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 week-end'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 major 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 court-side 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 notable

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 manager 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.