INDIAN INFO EXCHANGE

Experience Gold Standard of Journalism

weather report

Kolkata Weather

33 °C | °F

Precipitation 70%

Humidity 81%

Wind 6 km/h

Scattered Thunderstorms

Indian Indices

NIFTY 50		
25423.60	93.35	0.37
SENSEX		
83013.96	320.25	0.39
NIFTY BANK		
55727.45	234.15	0.42
NIFTY IT		
36750.25	303.10	0.83
BSE SMALLCAP		
54532.75	-4.28	-0.01

Gold Rates

Today gold price in Kolkata
1,11,170 1,01,900
»
Today gold price in Bangalore
1,11,170 1,01,900
»
Today gold price in India
1,11,170 (₹-540) 1,01,900 (₹-500)

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Brilliant Gaganjeet Bhullar's Charge Gives Him IGPL Delhi NCR Title –Pg : 8





Restoration work underway at an affected area following cloudburst and heavy rains, in Dehradun district, Friday.

PM Narendra Modi To Launch Development Projects Worth Rs 34,200 Crore From Gujarat

CHITTAJIT DUTTA



Kolkata, 19 September: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will participate in the "Samudra se Samriddhi" event in Gujarat on Saturday and launch multiple development projects worth more than Rs 34,200 crore from Bhavnagar.

An official statement said that PM Modi will take an aerial survey of Dholera Special Investment Region, envisioned as a greenfield industrial city, chair a review meeting and later visit the National Maritime Heritage Complex at Lothal.

In a major boost to the maritime sector, the statement said, PM Modi will inaugurate and lay the foundation stone for multiple development projects related to the maritime sector worth more than Rs 7,870 crore.

He will inaugurate the Mumbai International Cruise Terminal at Indira Dock and lay the foundation stone of a new container terminal and associated facilities at Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port, Kolkata, a new container berth, cargo handling facilities, and associated developments at Paradip Port among others.

In line with his commitment to holistic and sustainable development, PM Modi will inaugurate and lay the foundation stone of multiple projects of the central and state government, worth more than Rs 26,354 crore, catering to various sectors in Gujarat.

He will inaugurate HPLNG Regasification Terminal at Chhara Port, Acrylics & Oxo Alcohol Project at Gujarat IOCL Refinery, the 600 MW Green Shoe Initiative, PM-KUSUM 475 MW Component C solar feeder for farmers, the 45 MW Badeli Solar PV Project, complete solarisation of the Dhordo village among others.

He will lay the foundation stone of LNG infrastructure, additional renewable energy projects, coastal protection works, highways, and healthcare and urban transport projects, including expansions at Sir T General Hospital in Bhavnagar, Guru Govind Sinh Government Hospital at Jamnagar, and the four-laning of 70 km of national highways, the statement said.

He will also visit and review the progress of the National Maritime Heritage Complex (NHMC), at Lothal, being developed at a cost of around Rs 4,500 crore, to celebrate and preserve India's ancient maritime traditions and serve as a centre for tourism, research, education and skill development, the statement said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday planted a Kadamb sapling at his official residence, 7 Lok Kalyan Marg. Interestingly, this Kadamb sapling was given to him by King Charles III of the United Kingdom as a birthday gift on turning 75 on September 17.

The planation of the sapling at the Prime Minister's residence not only reaffirms his vision of building a greener and healthier planet but also symbolises friendship and shared commitment to environmental sustainability.

British Monarch King Charles, who has been strongly inspired by PM Modi's 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' initiative, sent the Kadamb tree sapling while extending birthday greetings to him.

The British High Commission in India also posted a picture of the Kadamb tree on X and wrote, "His Majesty The King has been graciously pleased to send a Kadamb tree to India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi on his birthday."

Ajit Pawar On Why He Split Up With Uncle Sharad Pawar

Staff Reporter, New Delhi, 19 September: Ajit Pawar, the Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra, who split his uncle Sharad Pawar's Nationalist Congress Party and joined hands with the state's ruling NDA after airing multiple complaints - said today that he parted ways with his uncle to "ensure stability and progress



in Maharashtra".

"We are in alliance with the BJP and Shiv Sena, and many people ask me why I took the step of separating from the (undivided) NCP and why I accepted the strain on family and personal relationships," Mr Pawar said at the ongoing NCP Chintan Shivir in Nagpur."I want to tell you that I did this not for power or position, but to ensure stability and progress in Maharashtra," he said.

"I want to thank Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, under whose leadership the country has achieved stability and who have always shown a large heart for Maharashtra. They have always accepted my demands for Maharashtra's development," he added.

Pawar Junior, who split his uncle Sharad Pawar's Nationalist Congress Party and joined hands with the BJP and Eknath Shinde's Shiv Sena in 2023, had rebelled after making his misgivings clear about his uncle's staying at the helm of the party despite his advancing age.

The NCP leader, who had taken oath as Deputy Chief Minister thrice in four years, had repeatedly slammed his uncle, a four-time Chief Minister of the state. In one shocking outburst, he had even questioned why his uncle should continue to lead the party at his age.

"In other parties, leaders retire after an age. In BJP, leaders retire at 75, when are you going to stop? You should also give new people a chance. If we make mistakes, tell us. Your age is 83, will you ever stop or not? You give us blessings," he had said.Pawar senior, who then was 83 years old, had hit back, saying he was "still effective", whether he was "82 or 92".

West Bengal Gears Up For Voter Roll Revision, 2026 Poll Preparation Begins

Staff Reporter, Kolkata, 19 September: The Office of the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) in West Bengal has begun preparations for the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral roll, scheduled to begin after Lakshmi Puja on October 6, according to sources.

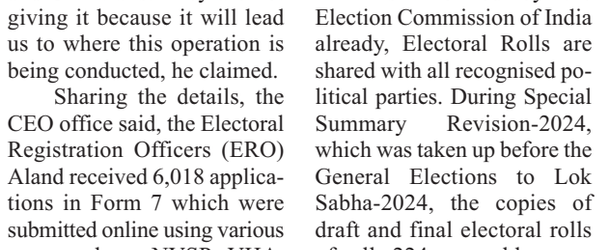
The exercise will be part of a nationwide drive by the Election Commission of India.As part of the groundwork, matching of data from the 2002 SIR with the January 2025 voters list in Bengal will be completed by tomorrow, sources in the CEO's office confirmed. Meanwhile, the CEO's office has already initiated early preparations for the 2026 West Bengal Assembly elections.

On Thursday, the office launched the Election Manpower Management System (EMMS) 2.0 portal, which will be used to streamline the recruitment and management of polling personnel. Beginning Friday, the EMMS 2.0 portal will be used to prepare a database of polling staff across nearly 32,000 offices in the state. With an expected increase of about 14,000 additional polling booths, officials anticipate a significant shortage of Booth Level Officers (BLOs). To address this challenge, several election workers have already been designated as BLOs. The CEO's office has directed all 32,000 government offices to upload their employee details into the EMMS 2.0 portal.



Members of the All Odisha Community Resource Persons (CRP-CM) Association of State Mission, Shakti Department stage a demonstration under the AITUC banner demanding salary hike and regularisation of jobs during the monsoon session of the Odisha Legislative Assembly (OLA), in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, Friday.

"Been To Pakistan, Felt At Home": Rahul Gandhi's Aide Sam Pitroda Bats For Talks



Staff Reporter, Bengaluru, 19 September: The office of the Karnataka Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) on Thursday said all available information with the Election Commission of India (ECI), regarding alleged attempts to delete 6,018 votes in the state's Aland constituency in the run up to 2023 assembly polls, has already been shared with Superintendent of Police, Kalaburagi.

Clarifying that the FIR in connection with the case was lodged by the Electoral Registration Officers (ERO), who function under the authority of ECI, it also said, CEO, Karnataka has been providing all assistance or information or documents to the investigating agency.

The CEO's statement is seen as a response to Congress and its leader Rahul Gandhi's attack against the Election Commission, urging it to stop protecting "vote chors" and provide within a week information sought by the Karnataka CID, in an investigation into voter deletions.

"Based on the instructions given by ECI, the CEO, Karnataka has handed over to Superintendent of Police, Kalaburagi district on 06.09.2023 all the available information with ECI for completing the investigation," a note from the CEO office said.

It said, "The shared information includes Objector's details, including Form Reference Number, name of the Objector, his EPIC number and mobile number used for log-in and mobile number provided by the Objector for processing, software application medium, IP address, applicant place, Form submission date and time, and user creation date."

The note further said, after providing the requested information, meetings were also conducted by the Chief Electoral Officer, Karnataka with the Investigating Officer and Cyber Security experts of the Police to review the progress of the investigation.

Addressing a press conference in New Delhi earlier in the day, Rahul Gandhi accused Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar of protecting "vote chors" and people who have destroyed democracy, and cited data from the Aland Assembly constituency to claim that votes of Congress supporters were being systematically deleted ahead of elections.

In Aland, someone tried to delete 6,018 votes and got caught by coincidence, he said, alleging that names of voters of the Congress were being deleted systematically.

Noting that there is an ongoing investigation in Karnataka, Gandhi said the CID has sent 18 letters in 18 months to the Election Commission and has asked for some very simple facts such as the destination IP from where these applications were filled and OTP trails. They are not giving it because it will lead us to where this operation is being conducted, he claimed.

Sharing the details, the CEO office said, the Electoral Registration Officers (ERO) Aland received 6,018 applications in Form 7 which were submitted online using various apps such as NVSP, VHA, GARUDA apps during December 2022.

It said, suspecting the genuineness of such a large number of applications submitted online for deletion of electors' names in Aland constituency, verification of each application was conducted by ERO, AERO (Assistant Electoral Registration Officer), and BLOS (Booth Level Officers).

Only 24 applications were found to be genuine and another 5,994 were found to be incorrect, and accordingly, 24 applications were accepted and 5,994 incorrect applications were rejected and not deleted. "Based on the inquiry findings by BLOS, ERO-Aland lodged an FIR with the Inspector of Police, Aland Police Station, Kalaburagi district (FIR No.26/2023 Alanda Police Station dated 21.02.2023)," it said.

Karnataka Chief Electoral Officer on Thursday refused the charges of Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, of election cheating, asserting that the electoral rolls are prepared transparently and copies were shared with the recognised parties.

"As informed by the Election Commission of India already, Electoral Rolls are shared with all recognised political parties. During Special Summary Revision-2024, which was taken up before the General Elections to Lok Sabha-2024, the copies of draft and final electoral rolls of all 224 assembly constituencies were provided to representatives of all registered and recognised political parties, including the Indian National Congress (INC)," said Chief Electoral Officer of Karnataka V. Anbukumar.

Singer Zubeen Garg Dies In Scuba Diving Accident In Singapore

CHITTAJIT DUTTA

Kolkata, 19 September: Celebrated Bollywood singer Zubeen Garg has died in a freak accident in Singapore while scuba diving. The 52-year-old Assamese singer was in Singapore for the North East India Festival, where he was scheduled to perform on September 20 and 21.Garg was rescued from sea and given CPR, but died at the Singapore General Hospital, where he was taken. Garg died around 2.30 pm India time.

Sources told , "He was rushed to Singapore General Hospital, but had already lost his life before reaching there. Crew members attempted CPR at the scene, but their efforts failed. At 5.14 pm Singapore time, doctors at the hospital declared him dead. His body will now be sent for an autopsy."Himanta Biswa Sarma, the Chief Minister of Assam, wrote on X that he was coordinating with the High Commission in Singapore to arrange for Zubeen Garg's body to be flown back to the country.

"I am in constant touch with the High Commissioner of India HE Dr Shilpak Ambule. We are coordinating to ensure beloved Zubeen's mortal remains return to Assam at the earliest. As soon as the process is firmed up, I will share an update," wrote Himanta Biswa Sarma.A representative of the North East India Festival in Singapore told that while scuba diving, Garg had breathing difficulties.



In a post on Instagram, the North East Festival organiser Shyamkanu Mahanta wrote, "With profound grief, we share the heartbreaking news that our beloved icon, Zubeen Garg, passed away today at Singapore General Hospital around 2:30 pm. Zubeen had arrived in Singapore just the day before yesterday. He was scheduled to be with us at the festival tomorrow, meeting and interacting with people. Earlier today, our entire team was engaged in a business meeting with senior Singaporean industrialists and policymakers at the Shangri-La Hotel to facilitate investments in Northeast India."

Mahanta wrote that Zubeen had gone scuba diving with "a few members of the local Assamese community" on a yacht visit, withou their knowledge."During the meeting, we received a call from Zubeen's manager informing us that he had met with an accident and had been rushed to Singapore General Hospital. We later learned that a few members of the local Assamese community had taken him on a yacht visit, of which we had no prior knowledge," wrote Mahanta.

"On receiving the news, our team rushed immediately to the hospital and has since been working closely with the High Commission to complete the necessary procedures. This is a monumental loss, and words cannot express the depth of our grief," he shared.Mahanta also wrote that they were cancelling the event.

US Would Help Secure Peace After Russia's War In Ukraine: Trump

Staff Reporter, Waswhington, 19 September: The United States would help to secure peace after Russia's war in Ukraine is settled, President Donald Trump said in an interview aired on Fox News on Thursday. "After the war is settled, we would help secure the peace. And I think ultimately that'll happen," Trump told Fox News' "The Story with Martha MacCallum" program.

Trump also acknowledged that helping to bring about an end to the war in Ukraine had been more challenging than he anticipated and that he was "very disappointed" in Russian President Vladimir Putin. "The one I thought was going to be easiest (to settle) was going to be Russia-Ukraine, because of my relationship with President Putin. So I'm disappointed," Trump said.

Trump has repeatedly set deadlines for Moscow to reach a ceasefire deal with Ukraine or face new sanctions, only to see the deadlines ignored. He warmly welcomed Putin at what was billed by the White House as a peace summit in Alaska in mid-August but failed to secure major concessions.Trump told Fox News that he still believed there would be a solution to the conflict, and that one of the ways to get there was for Europe to stop buying Russian oil."Ultimately, if oil prices go down, or if Russia is not selling oil, they have no choice but to settle and European Union nations or the NATO nations ... when they're buying oil from Russia, that's not the greatest thing," Trump said.



US President Donald Trump claimed that his Russian counterpart let him down during the process of solving the Ukraine war. UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer also criticised Putin and said that he showed his "true face" with his biggest attack since the invasion. Addressing a joint press conference with Starmer at Chequers, he confessed that even though he thought that the Russia-Ukraine war would be the "easiest" one to solve, it was not the case, however he said that he will ultimately resolve it.

Despite a summit between Putin and Trump at Alaska, during which the US leader urged the Russian president to hold talks with his Ukrainian counterpart Volodymyr Zelensky, a peace deal did not materialise."I thought the Russia-Ukraine war was the easiest to stop but Putin has let me down. I thought it may be easiest. As you know, we are working for a solution for Israel and Gaza, we are working to solve so many conflicts, we will get Israel-Gaza done, likewise, Russia and Ukraine will also be done, but you never know in war," Trump said.

He added, "I mean, frankly, Russian soldiers are being killed at a higher rate than the Ukrainian soldiers. But, yeah, he's let me down."Before taking office, Trump had claimed that he would halt the war between Moscow and Kyiv in a day. Trump also suggested that Putin started the war in 2022 because "he didn't respect the leadership of the United States" at the time."If I were president, it would have never happened, and it didn't happen for four years. People, most people, agree. It didn't happen, nor was it close to happening," he said.The conference comes on the final day of the US leader's state visit to Britain.

West Bengal Labels Logistics as Industry, Industry Experts Hail Move as 'Game Changer'

Staff reporter, Kolkata, 19 September: The West Bengal government has officially recognized logistics as a distinct industry, a move aimed at boosting employment and attracting investment into the state. Industry experts and business communities have lauded the decision, calling it a potential "game changer" for economic growth and infrastructure development in the region.

By categorizing logistics as an industry, the state aims to create a conducive environment for both large-scale companies and smaller enterprises involved in transportation, warehousing, supply chain management, and allied services. Officials believe this policy shift will not only streamline regulatory processes but also encourage private and foreign investment in a sector that has become a critical backbone of modern commerce.

The government's announcement comes against the backdrop of rapid growth in e-commerce, manufacturing, and trade, all of which rely heavily on efficient logistics networks. Recognizing logistics as an industry means companies operating in this sector can now avail themselves of various incentives, subsidies, and policy support typically extended to other formal industries. This includes benefits related to land acquisition, tax rebates, and infrastructure development, which are expected to reduce operational costs and improve competitiveness.

Industry representatives have welcomed the move, highlighting its potential to generate employment across multiple layers of the value chain. From warehouse operations and freight handling to technology-driven supply chain management, the sector offers opportunities for skilled, semi-skilled, and unskilled workers alike. Analysts predict that formalizing logistics as an industry will also encourage the adoption of modern practices such as automation, digital tracking, and eco-friendly transport solutions, further enhancing efficiency.

Business leaders also see this recognition as a boost to investor confidence. With clear policy guidelines and government backing, logistics companies are likely to explore expansion projects, set up regional hubs, and invest in new technologies. "This is a transformative step," said a senior industry official. "It sends a strong signal that West Bengal is serious about infrastructure development and creating a business-friendly ecosystem. The sector has enormous potential for employment and economic growth."

The move aligns with broader national trends, as India continues to invest in transport corridors, smart logistics parks, and digital infrastructure to reduce supply chain bottlenecks. West Bengal, with its strategic location connecting northeastern states, international trade routes via Kolkata Port, and proximity to industrial hubs, is particularly well-positioned to benefit from a logistics-driven growth model.

Former SSC Chairman Alleges Partha Pressured for Illegal Appointments in Court Testimony

Staff reporter, Kolkata, 19 September: The former chairman of the Staff Selection Commission (SSC) testified in court that Trinamool Congress leader Partha Chatterjee personally pressured him to facilitate illegal appointments. The statement has intensified the ongoing investigation into recruitment irregularities, raising serious questions about political interference in government hiring processes.



During the court proceedings, the former SSC chief detailed instances where he claimed undue influence was exerted to bypass standard procedures. According to his testimony, Partha Chatterjee allegedly sought appointments for specific candidates, urging the commission to overlook established eligibility criteria and protocols. The revelation has added a new layer of complexity to the broader corruption probe that has already ensnared several senior officials and politicians.

The case stems from a series of allegations regarding irregularities in recruitment for state government positions. Reports of favoritism, manipulation of merit lists, and bypassing of official norms had triggered extensive investigations, leading to the arrest of multiple officials. The former chairman's testimony now directly implicates a high-profile political figure, which is expected to intensify public scrutiny and media attention.

Legal experts note that such a statement from a former SSC head carries significant weight, as it comes from someone who held a position of authority responsible for maintaining the integrity of recruitment processes. The court is expected to examine documentary evidence, call witnesses, and cross-verify the claims to establish the veracity of the allegations.

Political observers have highlighted that this testimony could have far-reaching implications for the ruling party in West Bengal. Opposition leaders have already seized upon the development, accusing the government of systemic corruption and demanding immediate accountability. Meanwhile, the Trinamool Congress has dismissed the claims as politically motivated, stating that the allegations are being amplified to tarnish reputations during a sensitive political period.

For the former SSC chairman, the testimony represents a critical step in cooperating with ongoing investigations. He emphasized that his statements were based on direct interactions and documented communications, asserting that transparency and justice necessitated sharing the truth before the court. Investigators are reportedly cross-referencing his claims with internal records and emails to build a comprehensive picture of alleged malpractices.

The unfolding situation has reignited public debate over political interference in administrative functions. Citizens and advocacy groups have called for stricter safeguards to prevent elected representatives from unduly influencing recruitment processes, stressing that merit and fairness must be protected to uphold trust in public institutions.

Meanwhile, the judiciary has reiterated its commitment to conducting a thorough investigation, warning that any attempt to intimidate witnesses or obstruct the inquiry will be treated seriously. The court has scheduled further hearings to examine evidence, summon additional witnesses, and ensure that the investigation proceeds without political interference.

The allegations against Partha Chatterjee are expected to dominate headlines and could shape public perception ahead of upcoming political contests. The testimony underscores the vulnerability of recruitment processes to manipulation and the urgent need for institutional checks to prevent similar controversies in the future.

Uma Celebrates Barowari Puja in Rhode Island, Bringing Bengali Traditions to the Diaspora

Staff reporter, Kolkata, 19 September: Uma, a prominent member of the Bengali community, has brought the joy and devotion of Barowari Durga Puja to Rhode Island, allowing expatriates to partake in the traditional celebrations far from home. Observing the customary rituals with devotion, Uma's initiative has provided local Bengalis with an authentic experience of their cultural heritage, replicating the spiritual and communal fervor of the festival in India.

Barowari Puja, celebrated communally rather than at an individual household level, has long been a central part of Bengali culture. Traditionally, these public celebrations in West Bengal involve elaborate rituals, community gatherings, and cultural programs that honor the goddess Durga. In Rhode Island, Uma's effort has recreated this atmosphere, enabling the diaspora to reconnect with familiar customs while reinforcing a sense of community.

The celebrations in Rhode Island followed all traditional protocols, from ritualistic worship to cultural performances and offerings. Devotees, many of whom have not been able to return to India for the festival, expressed profound joy at being able to observe the Puja in its traditional form. The event not only provided spiritual fulfillment but also became a space for cultural education, as younger generations of Bengalis could witness and participate in age-old rituals.

Organizers highlighted that maintaining authenticity was central to the celebration. From sourcing traditional materials to preparing the rituals according to canonical texts, every effort was made to preserve the sanctity of the festival. Priests were invited to perform the ceremonies, and devotees actively participated in prayers, aartis, and community meals, ensuring that the festival retained its familiar rhythm and vibrancy.

Community members praised Uma's initiative for strengthening cultural bonds among Bengalis living abroad. The Barowari Puja in Rhode Island became not only a religious event but also a social gathering, fostering connections among families, friends, and new residents seeking to integrate into the expatriate Bengali community. Local artists and performers contributed by staging dances, songs, and dramatizations, echoing the cultural richness of celebrations back home.



The event also highlighted the evolving nature of cultural preservation among the diaspora. While digital media allows families to follow celebrations remotely, experiencing rituals in person, even thousands of miles from Bengal, provides an irreplaceable sense of belonging and continuity. Organizers emphasized that such initiatives help younger generations develop a deeper understanding of their roots, ensuring that traditions like Barowari Puja continue to thrive globally.

Uma's celebration in Rhode Island stands as an example of how Bengali communities worldwide are finding innovative ways to uphold their cultural identity. By adhering to rituals, fostering participation, and creating a communal atmosphere, the event brought the spiritual and festive essence of Durga Puja to those who might otherwise have felt disconnected from their heritage.

This Barowari Puja offered more than ritualistic observance—it was a celebration of culture, devotion, and community. Uma's efforts have demonstrated that distance cannot diminish the spiritual and cultural resonance of traditions, allowing expatriates to honor the goddess with the same reverence and joy as families back in India.

Haridevpur Rape Case: Debangshu Arrested After Being Traced to Kolkata Amid Financial Pressures

Staff reporter, Kolkata, 19 September: The arrest of Debangshu, the prime accused in the Haridevpur rape case, has brought renewed attention to the harrowing incident and the investigative efforts that led to his capture. Authorities confirmed that the accused was traced to Kolkata after being compelled to return to the city due to financial constraints, a factor that ultimately facilitated his apprehension.

The Haridevpur case, which has shocked the city, involved the brutal assault of a young woman, sparking widespread outrage and calls for swift justice. Debangshu, allegedly responsible for the crime, had been evading arrest for weeks, moving across various locations to avoid detection. Law enforcement agencies intensified their search, using intelligence inputs, surveillance, and coordination across districts to locate him.Investigators revealed that Debangshu had returned to Kolkata as financial pressures mounted, including difficulties in sustaining himself while on the run. This move, they said, presented a critical opportunity for the police to track him down. Authorities acted on precise information regarding his movements, eventually arresting him without incident. The arrest underscores the effectiveness of persistent monitoring and intelligence-led policing in high-profile cases.

During questioning, preliminary reports indicate that Debangshu's financial situation played a significant role in his decision to return, rather than any voluntary surrender. Investigators are examining his communications, transactions, and movements to map out his activities during the period he remained at large. The goal is to uncover any accomplices or additional locations connected to the crime.The arrest has provided some relief to the victim and her family, though the trauma of the incident continues to resonate. Legal experts note that the apprehension of the accused is a crucial step toward ensuring accountability, but the judicial process will be central to delivering justice. Courts will examine the evidence, including forensic reports and eyewitness testimonies, to build a comprehensive case.

Public reactions to Debangshu's arrest have been mixed, with widespread relief over the capture tempered by concern over the lengths to which perpetrators can go to evade law enforcement. Community leaders and activists have called for strengthened mechanisms to prevent similar crimes, emphasizing the importance of timely reporting, rapid response, and support systems for victims.

Arson in Tangra Apartment: Six Accused Arrested After Outsiders Set Fire

Staff reporter, Kolkata, 19 September: A multi-storey apartment in Tangra became the scene of a terrifying arson attack, as outsiders reportedly entered the premises and set fire to parts of the building. Police have confirmed the arrest of six individuals in connection with the incident, which has left residents shaken and raised concerns about security in residential complexes across the city.

The attack occurred late last night when eyewitnesses reported seeing unidentified men entering the apartment complex. According to police sources, the perpetrators allegedly used accelerants to ignite fires in multiple locations, creating chaos and forcing residents to evacuate quickly. Several families reported narrowly escaping harm, with minor injuries sustained in the rush to exit the building safely.

Firefighters were called to the scene within minutes, containing the blaze before it could spread to adjoining flats. Preliminary assessments suggest that while property damage was significant, timely intervention prevented fatalities. Fire officials continue to inspect the premises for structural safety and to ensure no hidden fires remain.

Investigations have revealed that the six arrested individuals are outsiders with no permanent connection to the apartment complex. While the motive for the arson is still under investigation, police are exploring possibilities ranging from personal vendettas to attempts at intimidation. Residents expressed fear and shock, emphasizing that the apartment was considered a secure location until the attack.



The Tangra police have increased patrols in the area and are working closely with building management to strengthen security measures. Entry and exit points are being reviewed, and CCTV footage is being analyzed to track the movements of the accused and identify any accomplices. Authorities have urged residents to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity immediately.

Local community leaders condemned the attack, calling for stricter enforcement of safety protocols in multi-storey residential buildings. Many residents voiced concerns about lax security systems and demanded more proactive policing to prevent similar incidents in the future.

For the arrested individuals, police have registered cases of arson, criminal intimidation, and trespassing. They are expected to be produced in court shortly, where further proceedings will determine charges and potential bail conditions. Law enforcement agencies have also indicated that more arrests could follow as the investigation unfolds and connections to other criminal activities are explored.

The incident has sent ripples through Tangra and neighboring areas, reminding citizens of the vulnerability of urban residential complexes to targeted criminal activity. Authorities are stressing the importance of community vigilance and cooperation with law enforcement to safeguard residents' lives and property.

While the immediate threat has been neutralized, the psychological impact on residents remains significant. Many have reported anxiety and trauma, particularly children and elderly residents, highlighting the human cost of such deliberate acts of violence. Counseling and support measures are being considered for affected families. Police officials are focused on uncovering the full extent of the conspiracy behind the arson. For now, the arrest of six accused has provided some relief to the residents, but authorities emphasize that security vigilance and preventive measures remain critical to avoid similar incidents in the future.



Today's Horoscope



ARIES : Today you will have an eye for beautiful and outlandish things. There is a possibility that you may even contemplate starting a business related to these things.



TAURUS : This day is meant for taking some time out from your busy schedule, and seeking some fun and relaxation. So says Ganesha. It is possible that you will be getting together.



GEMINI : You face a hectic and demanding day today. You will spend your entire day wondering how best to channelise your energy and enthusiasm.



CANCER: Lack of support from family members will disable your efforts. Children also disappoint you. Discord or difference of opinion in family is indicated. Beware of neighbours.



LEO : You will be filled with extra-ordinary self-confidence and will be able to take on huge risks. Sportspersons will be able to make a lot of progress in their fields.



VIRGO : There will be dirt on your shoulder today, so dust it off, says Ganesha, because every time you fall you will get up stronger than before.



LIBRA : Ganesha says the inner artist in you will come to the surface today and you will showcase your imagination powers too. You will be able to focus on topics of interest today.



SCORPIO : You may be in a mood to build castles in the air today, says Ganesha. You may be caught up in a whirlpool of thoughts and nostalgia.



SAGITTARIUS : Suddenly, you discover that you are fully dedicated to your family. Kith and kins form the crux of your life, says Ganesha. Showing your love and affection to your kids.



CAPRICORN : You can't bear the weight of the heavy work load any more. Very cleverly, you will complete your tasks and slowly but steadily you take the load off your shoulders.



AQUARIUS : You are talented, hard working, confident and down to earth. These four characteristics are the pillars of success. Now, it is time build the building.



PIECES : The day will be exceptional for working people as the planets seemed to be aligned perfectly, portends Ganesha. You will achieve all the expected results in the office and/or at work today.

Trump Calls on Taliban to Return Bagram as US Signals Return to Afghan Base

Staff reporter, Washington, 19 September: US President Donald Trump has reignited discussions about American military presence in Afghanistan by urging the Taliban to return control of Bagram Airfield to the United States. The development marks a significant moment in the ongoing discourse about US involvement in the region following the chaotic withdrawal in 2021, which left the strategic airbase under Taliban control.

Bagram Airfield, located in Parwan province near Kabul, has long been a critical hub for US and NATO operations in Afghanistan. It served as a logistical and operational center during America's two-decade engagement in the country, facilitating troop deployments, humanitarian aid, and counterterrorism missions. Since the Taliban's takeover in August 2021, the base has remained under their authority, symbolizing the rapid shift in power dynamics and raising questions about regional security and American influence.

In statements issued over the past week, Trump emphasized the strategic importance of Bagram, calling it "essential for protecting American interests" and urging the Taliban to allow US forces access. He highlighted concerns over the resurgence of extremist groups, arguing that regaining control—or at least operational access—to the airbase is crucial to preventing Afghanistan from becoming a safe haven for terrorist organizations targeting the United States and its allies.

While Trump's comments are politically charged, they have also triggered debate among analysts about the feasibility and implications of reestablishing a US presence. Some experts argue that the Taliban, emboldened by international recognition and control over key territories, are unlikely to cede Bagram voluntarily. Others suggest that renewed negotiations and security assurances could form part of a diplomatic pathway to ensure US access while avoiding direct conflict.



The move has also sparked responses from regional actors. Pakistan, India, and Central Asian nations have been closely monitoring developments, given the potential impact on cross-border security and trade. Afghanistan's neighbors have expressed cautious optimism that a structured dialogue could stabilize the region, but they remain wary of renewed military activity that could exacerbate tensions.

Domestically, the call for access to Bagram has become a point of discussion in American political circles. Supporters argue that maintaining a foothold in Afghanistan is necessary to counter terrorism and safeguard strategic interests, while critics caution against repeating mistakes of the past, emphasizing that prolonged engagement could drag the US into another protracted conflict with high costs.

The Taliban, for its part, has not issued a definitive response to Trump's statements but continues to assert Afghanistan's sovereignty and control over its military infrastructure. Past negotiations regarding foreign access to Afghan bases have been delicate, often hinging on security guarantees, international recognition, and economic incentives. Any attempt to regain operational control of Bagram will likely require a complex mix of diplomacy, conditional agreements, and assurances of mutual benefit.

Experts suggest that Trump's call, while largely symbolic at this stage, underscores enduring American strategic interests in Afghanistan. Analysts believe it could set the stage for renewed discussions on counterterrorism cooperation, intelligence sharing, and potential logistical arrangements with the Taliban or other regional partners.

The debate over Bagram reflects broader questions about Afghanistan's post-2021 security landscape, the role of foreign powers, and the delicate balance between diplomacy and military strategy. While the prospect of US access to Bagram remains uncertain, the issue is likely to remain central in discussions about Afghanistan's stability and the international community's approach to engagement in the region.



: Fans gather outside singer Zubeen Garg's residence following the news of his death in Singapore, in Guwahati, Assam, Friday.

Oscars 2026: Karan Johar And Neeraj Ghaywan React To Homebound Becoming India's Official Entry

Staff Reporter, Mumbai, 19 September: Director Neeraj Ghaywan's Homebound has been selected as India's official entry for the Oscars 2026 in the Best International Feature category. Produced by Dharma Productions, the film features Ishaan Khatter, Vishal Jethwa, and Janhvi Kapoor. Karan Johar and Neeraj Ghaywan have shared their ecstatic reactions to this latest development.

Neeraj Ghaywan's Homebound had its world premiere at the 2025 Cannes Film Festival in the Un Certain Regard section on May 21, 2025 and then secured the second runner-up position for the coveted International People's Choice Award at the 2025 Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF).Now, the Homebound team have added yet another feather to their cap as they are India's official entry for the Oscars 2026.

Karan Johar shares, "We are deeply honoured and humbled that HOMEBOUND has been selected as India's official entry to the Academy Awards... Neeraj Ghaywan's labour of love is sure to find a home in a million hearts across the world."

Neeraj Ghaywan adds, "I'm deeply honoured that Homebound has been chosen as India's official entry to the Oscars. Rooted in the love for our land and our people, it carries the essence of the home we all share. To take our stories to the world and represent India on one of the biggest global stages for cinema is both humbling and a matter of pride, and for this, I'm extremely grateful."

Homebound's Recent Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) Success

Indian cinema made a strong mark at the 50th edition of the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) this year. Neeraj Ghaywan's Homebound not only earned a standing ovation but also secured the second runner-up position for the coveted International People's Choice Award.

Beyond Homebound, several Indian titles featured at TIFF 2025, including Anurag Kashyap's Bandar, Jitank Singh Gurjar's Vimukt/In Search of The Sky, and Bayaan, starring Huma



Qureshi.

Produced by Karan Johar, Adar Poonawalla, Apoorva Mehta, and Somen Mishra, with Martin Scorsese serving as executive producer, the film has attracted international acclaim ahead of its Indian release on September 26, 2025.After achieving great milestones with their film Homebound at Cannes and the Toronto International Film Festival earlier this year, Neeraj Ghaywan's film has been selected as India's official entry for the Oscars 2026. Director Neeraj Ghaywan and producer Karan Johar shared their heartfelt gratitude to see their film Homebound "find a home in a million hearts across the world."

Hindi film Homebound named India's official entry for the 2026 Academy Awards in the Best International Feature category.

Speaking at a press conference in Kolkata, N Chandra, chairperson of the selection committee, stated that a total of 24 films in various languages were considered for the opportunity to represent India at the Oscars.

"It was a very difficult choice. These were films that touched the lives of people," he said. "We were not judges but coaches. We were searching for players who have made their mark," he added.

The 12-member selection committee included producers, directors, writers, editors and journalists.

Directed by Neeraj Ghaywan and produced by Karan Johar and Adar Poonawalla, Homebound stars Ishaan Khatter, Vishal Jethwa, and Janhvi Kapoor in lead roles.The film tells the story of two childhood friends from a small north Indian village who aspire to secure a police job that promises them the dignity they have long been denied.

Earlier, Janhvi Kapoor reflected on her experience working on the film.

She said she never approached it as a career milestone or a way to gain recognition, as the project felt larger than individual achievements.She told Sucharita Tyagi, "I never really gave a thought to it as legitimacy or a career milestone while doing Homebound because I don't know if any of us made it about ourselves. When we were shooting the film, there was a collective sense that we were trying to make something bigger than us. I know it sounds phony but I truly mean it.

Soha Ali Khan On Her "Rebel" Brother Saif Ali Khan: "He Would Jump Out Of The Window, Come Back At Unusual Hours"

Staff Reporter, Mumbai, 19 September: Soha Ali Khan recently opened up about how Saif Ali Khan used to be a "rebel" child. With an age gap of nine years between her and her brother, the Rang De Basanti actress recalled childhood memories and their bond growing up.In a recent conversation with Mashable India, Soha Ali Khan revealed how her mother kept her away from Saif Ali Khan's wild childhood habits.



Soha Ali Khan said, "He was sort of a rebel as a child, and my parents used to take his example and tell us what not to do. The room that I had growing up actually was his room, but when he came over, I wasn't allowed to sleep there because he would often jump out of the window at night and come back at unusual hours. He did a lot of things, and my parents didn't let me sleep in that room because they thought I already looked like him, so I should at least not turn out like him."

She continued, "My sister and I used to be very excited for him to come home because he used to change the energy of the house. You never knew in what state he would turn up; sometimes he would have red hair, blonde hair, or long hair."

Soha Ali Khan On Not Being Close To Saif Ali Khan While Growing Up

Saif Ali Khan and Soha Ali Khan have a nine-year age difference. The actress reflected on this and revealed the possible reason behind their distant bond.

She said, "Bhai and I are nine years apart, which is a lot. There wasn't much of an overlap because when I was born, he went abroad for studies. When he came back, he started working in film, and I went to study at Oxford. After coming to Mumbai, it was when both of us actually started spending time together and became much closer."

"He was a mystery to me while growing up because he used to study in Winchester and would only come home for the holidays, and he did whatever he wanted to do," she concluded.

Soha Ali Khan opened up about how Saif Ali Khan was a "rebel" in childhood and how her parents kept her away from his habits. She also reflected on having a distant bond with him.

Soha Ali Khan, in a recent conversation, spoke about how her mother, the legendary actress Sharmila Tagore, has never interfered with her children's decisions. However, when Soha Ali Khan and Kunal Kemmu decided to live together before marriage, the Gulmohar actress shared some words of advice about how some men "might delay marriage" after a live-in relationship.

Soha revealed to Hauterrfly how Sharmila Tagore has never interfered with her children's decisions. But when Soha and Kunal chose to live-in together, Sharmila Tagore advised her to consider that the man might lose the "incentive to propose."

Soha said, "The only thing she told me was, for example, if you are going to live together before marriage, there are some men who might delay the marriage and need a push. If you are waiting for him to propose, after living together, he might not feel the incentive to propose. So maybe think about that if you are going to live together. That's what Amma (Sharmila Tagore) said before we entered into the live-in."

She added, "Of course, eventually, he (Kunal) did propose, and then we got married. But we did speak about where this relationship was going, and it was not pushy at all because marriage was quite irrelevant for us; we were very happy living together. But other people wanted us to get married for good reasons like stability, family, etc., so we took the step for them.

"Zubeen Garg Went Scuba Diving With Assam Locals, We Did Not Know": Singapore Festival Organisers

Staff Reporter, Mumbai, 19 September: Celebrated Bollywood and Assamese singer Zubeen Garg died in a freak accident in Singapore on Friday. The 52-year-old artiste was in the island nation for the North East India Festival, where he was scheduled to perform on September 20 and 21. The organisers of the North East India Festival issued a statement confirming the news of his death and underlined that they were unaware of the yacht visit before the tragic accident, adding that the festival stands cancelled in light of the singer's death.



The statement read, "With profound grief, we share the heartbreaking news that our beloved icon, Zubeen Garg, passed away today at Singapore General Hospital around 2:30 PM. Zubeen had arrived in Singapore just the day before yesterday. He was scheduled to be with us at the festival tomorrow, meeting and interacting with people."

"Earlier today, our entire team was engaged in a business meeting with senior Singaporean industrialists and policymakers at the Shangri-La Hotel to facilitate investments in Northeast India. During the meeting, we received a call from Zubeen's manager informing us that he had met with an accident and had been rushed to Singapore General Hospital. We later learned that a few members of the local Assamese community had taken him on a yacht visit, of which we had no prior knowledge," the statement further read.

The organisers concluded, "On receiving the news, our team rushed immediately to the hospital and has since been working closely with the High Commission to complete the necessary procedures. This is a monumental loss, and words cannot express the depth of our grief. In light of this tragedy, we are cancelling the event. We are devastated and pray for the departed soul of Zubeen Garg. Om Shanti. Shaymkanu Mahanta & Team."

Zubeen Garg was one of Assam's most popular cultural icons, known for his songs in Assamese, Bengali and Hindi. He rose to nationwide fame with the hit track Ya Ali from the film Gangster and went on to deliver several other popular numbers, including Dil Tu Hi Bataa from Krrish 3.

Garg had also worked extensively in Assamese films as a singer, actor and director. Some of his hits included Kanchanjunga, Mission China, Dinabandhu and Mon Jai.In 2022, he sustained a minor head injury after falling unconscious at a resort in Dibrugarh. He was later flown to Guwahati in an air ambulance and treated at a private superspeciality hospital. Celebrated Bollywood and Assamese singer Zubeen Garg died in a freak accident in Singapore. The 52-year-old artiste was in the island nation for the North East India Festival, where he was scheduled to perform on September 20 and 21.

Just a day before his death, Garg had posted a video on Instagram, inviting fans to the festival. "Friends in Singapore, I would like to invite you to the 4th North East India Festival in Suntec, Singapore, on the 20th and 21st of September. Come and explore the exotic part of India, we are carrying quality agri, craft products, tea experience, dance forms, fashion shows and evening musical show presenting Rock bands, rappers from India's North East. I will be there throughout the Festival as Cultural Brand Ambassador and will perform on the 20th evening with my popular Hindi, Bengali and Assamese Songs. I would like to invite you all, it will be Saturday and Sunday, and entry is free. All come and support us. Cheers!" he wrote.

He also paid tribute to Dr Bhupen Hazarika, writing: "Assam is set to celebrate Dr Bhupen Hazarika's 100th birth anniversary with year-long tributes. On 8 Sept 2025, Guwahati will witness a historic evening - a chorus of 1,000 artistes, the release of his biography, and a commemorative coin honouring the Voice of the Brahmaputra.

Salman Khan Wraps Battle of Galwan Shoot After 45 Days. Director Shares Pics From Shoot

Staff Reporter, Mumbai, 19 September: Superstar Salman Khan has concluded shooting for his latest film Battle of Galwan after an intensive 45-day schedule.The much-anticipated film is based on the 2020 Galwan Valley conflict between India and China and helmed by Apoorva Lakhia of Shootout at Lokhandwala fame.The filmmaker announced the wrap of the shoot on his Instagram Stories on Wednesday night, offering a glimpse into the high-intensity war drama filmed in Leh, Ladakh.

Mounted on a grand scale, the film promises to deliver raw action and patriotic fervour, showcasing 59-year-old Salman in a never-seen-before avatar, according to a



press release.

Lakhia posted a photo with Salman and captioned it, "It's a wrap-45 days."

In another post, he said, "Froze, baked, shivered, ate sand, walked in the Indus, sucked oxygen but still leaving with all those memories that make me smile." The movie will feature actor Chitrangda Singh as the female lead.In an interview with PTI in July, Salman said Battle of Galwan is one of the most physically demanding films of his career. “It is physically demanding. Every year, every month, every day it gets more and more difficult. I've to give more time now (for training). Earlier, I would do it (train) in one or two weeks, now I'm running, kicking, punching, and all that stuff. This film demands that.

“For instance, in Sikandar the action was different, the character was different. But this is physically difficult. Besides, shooting in Ladakh, in high altitude and in cold water (is another challenge),” Salman said. He also said that the movie will not have the traditional release on Eid, a date often associated with his films but instead arrive in theatres in January 2026.

Actor Salman Khan has completed the shoot of his much-anticipated film Battle of Galwan in a swift 45-day schedule in Leh, Ladakh. Taking to his Instagram Stories, director Apoorva Lakhia shared several behind-the-scenes moments.

Sharing a photo from Ladakh, Apoorva wrote, "It's a wrap." He re-shared a video posted by actor Ankur Bhatia. It read, "Schedule wrap in Ladakh. Thank you, @lakhiaapoorva, for an unforgettable shoot. #BattleofGalwan." Apoorva tagged him and said, "It was awesome."

Apoorva shared a photo with Salman as they had a chat. He wrote, "It's a wrap-45 days." He also shared several photos from the shoot location. Sharing a clip, he wrote, "Froze, baked, shivered, ate sand, walked in the Indus, sucked oxygen but still leaving with all those memories that make me smile."

After wrapping up the shoot, Salman returned to Mumbai. Several videos and pictures of the actor at the Mumbai airport emerged on social media platforms. Salman was dressed in a black ensemble--T-shirt, jacket, trousers and a cap. He shaved off his moustache after the shoot ended. The actor walked straight to his car after exiting the airport.

Earlier this month, Salman dropped a picture on his Instagram in which he was seen in a military uniform. He sported a moustache. The film, mounted on a grand scale, will see Salman as a army officer. The film revisits the 2020 Galwan Valley clash between Indian and Chinese troops, a rare border skirmish that turned deadly without any firearms being used. Instead, soldiers resorted to hand-to-hand combat with sticks and stones.

Recently, Salman paid a courtesy visit to the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta, at Raj Niwas in Leh. Dressed in a blue shirt and a denim jeans, Salman had a pleasant meeting with the Ladakh's LG as they were seen smiling during a conversation. Salman also received a Thangka Canvas painting from the Ladakh LG, which featured a view of Buddha's life in a traditional Buddhist art style. The duo posed with the painting.

When A Director Took A Dig At Deepika Padukone For "Taking Motherhood Very Seriously"

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

New Delhi, 19 September: Deepika Padukone once again hit the headlines after she was dropped from Nag Ashwin's Kalki 2898 AD sequel. The production house Vyjayanthi Movies shared an X post on September 18, announcing that they were not collaborating with Deepika Padukone for the sequel due to "commitment" issues. Soon after the announcement, NDTV learned that Deepika couldn't come to amicable terms with the producers over issues related to work hours, fee hike, and entourage costs. These were the exact same reasons for which she stepped out of Sandeep Reddy Vanga's Spirit in May.

As the Kalki 2 fiasco unfolded, an old interview of Deepika Padukone (dated May 7) resurfaced, in which she revealed that a director took a jab at her when she said she couldn't meet him because of her newborn. However, Deepika did not name the director.



Speaking to Marie Claire, Deepika said, “He turned around and said, ‘Oh, looks like she's taking motherhood very seriously.’” Confused by his words, Deepika added, “I don't know if that was a compliment or a jab. What does that mean, taking motherhood seriously? Yeah!”

As a new mother in 2024, Deepika Padukone was trying to strike a balance between her personal and professional lives. With many ifs and buts in her mind, Deepika told the publication, “I do have to tell myself that your life doesn't end the minute you have a child, and that you do need to get back to your life, or at least a part of your life before you had a baby... but every moment where I'm not able to be with her, there is guilt.”

On May 26, Sandeep Reddy Vanga shared an X post taking an indirect dig at Deepika Padukone—without naming her— over a disclosure of an ussaid NDA.

Vanga wrote, “When I narrate a story to an actor, I place 100% faith. There is an unsaid NDA (Non Disclosure Agreement) between us. But by doing this, You've ‘DISCLOSED' the person that you are.... Putting down a younger actor and ousting my story? Is this what your feminism stands for? As a filmmaker, I put years of hard work behind my craft & for me, filmmaking is everything. You didn't get it. You won't get it. You will never get it. Aisa karo.... Agli baar poori kahani bolna... kyunki mujhe jarra bhi farak nahi padhta. I like this kahawat very much. #DirtyPRgames.”

Deepika and Vanga didn't take each other's names, but the timeline of their words and X posts led the Internet to assume that Deepika was talking about Sandeep Reddy Vanga in her interview. After Deepika walked out of the film, Vanga's Animal actor Triptii Dimri was roped in opposite Prabhas in the film.

Hours after the production house Vyjayanthi Movies confirmed Deepika Padukone's exit from the Kalki 2898 AD sequel, director Nag Ashwin shared a cryptic note on his Instagram Stories. Sharing a fan edit of Krishna's entry from Kalki 2898 AD, Nag Ashwin wrote, "You can't change what happened, but you can choose what happens next." The note quickly went viral, raising eyebrows on the Internet over whether it was his veiled response to Deepika's exit.

A few months ago, an unconfirmed report claimed that Deepika Padukone would not be a part of the Kalki sequel. After months of speculation, the makers Vyjayanthi Movies confirmed the report in an X post on Thursday (September 18).

Editorial

Why the Delay? A Question that Shadows Governance and Public Patience

Delay has become an unshakable feature of governance in India. Whether it is the construction of infrastructure, the delivery of justice, or the implementation of welfare schemes, the word "delay" hangs heavy over every process. Citizens are often left asking the same question over and over again: why the delay? This recurring frustration does not stem merely from impatience; it reflects deep concerns about accountability, efficiency, and the very responsiveness of the system that is meant to serve the people. When we look at public projects, the reality of delay is almost predictable. Roads take years to finish, metro lines extend deadlines endlessly, and housing schemes for the poor remain incomplete despite grand announcements. Each extension is justified with explanations ranging from budgetary constraints to technical hurdles, but rarely is responsibility fixed. At the end of the day, the public pays the price—not only in terms of time and inconvenience but often in the form of escalated costs. The Tilottama Metro extension, for example, or the numerous flyovers across Kolkata that took twice the time initially promised, stand as reminders of how delays become normalized. The justice system is no different.

Courtrooms across the country are choked with cases that drag on for decades. For the ordinary citizen, justice delayed is justice denied, yet delay remains the norm. Behind every pending case is a family waiting for closure, a victim waiting for relief, or a business waiting for resolution. The system explains its backlog with a shortage of judges, procedural complexities, or resource limitations. But to those who wait, the explanation is not enough. The question still echoes: why the delay? In the realm of governance, delay often reflects deeper issues of inefficiency and lack of coordination. A project announced with political fanfare loses momentum after the initial headlines fade. Bureaucratic red tape ensures that files move from one desk to another at a snail's pace. Contractors and middlemen exploit the gaps, while accountability gets diluted across multiple agencies. By the time projects are completed, the world has moved on, technologies have changed, and needs have shifted. Delay thus erodes not only efficiency but also relevance. The emotional toll of delay is often overlooked. Citizens begin to lose faith in promises, developing a cynicism that eats into democratic participation. Voters, who are asked to trust leaders with their future, see their aspirations trapped in endless waiting.

A bridge that could connect two towns, a hospital that could save lives, or a scholarship that could transform a child's career—each delay translates into lost opportunities and diminished hope. Why then does delay persist so stubbornly? Part of the reason lies in the absence of strict accountability mechanisms. Rarely are officials penalized for missing deadlines. Political leaders may shift the blame onto previous administrations or onto uncontrollable circumstances, but seldom take ownership of failures. Another reason lies in the culture of acceptance: citizens have become so accustomed to delay that they anticipate it as inevitable. This resignation feeds the cycle, allowing inefficiency to survive without serious challenge. And yet, delay is not inevitable. When urgency is prioritized—such as during election campaigns or global events—the same systems suddenly work with remarkable speed. We saw this during the rapid construction of infrastructure for international summits or the expedited rollout of vaccination programs during the pandemic. These examples prove that efficiency is possible, but only when pressure is applied. The inconsistency raises uncomfortable questions about the value placed on everyday public needs compared to politically sensitive moments. The editorial challenge, therefore, is to transform delay from being an accepted norm into a public outrage that demands solutions. Citizens must ask more than why the delay; they must also demand who is responsible for the delay. Media must go beyond reporting extensions of deadlines to investigating the causes and naming those accountable. Civil society groups and citizen forums should push for transparent timelines, regular progress updates, and stricter consequences for negligence. At the policy level, reforms are necessary to reduce bureaucratic layers, streamline approvals, and bring technology-driven monitoring into every stage of public projects.

The Inevitable Question



In the course of public life, there are certain questions that can never be avoided. They rise unannounced, like shadows cast by the very system that those in power try to maintain. Today, in the midst of social uncertainty, political controversies, and administrative negligence, one such inevitable question has surfaced again. It is not merely about a single incident or an isolated act of failure, but about the larger responsibility of governance, accountability, and the values that hold a democracy together.

Every democracy is built on the foundation of trust. Citizens entrust their representatives with power, not as a gift but as a responsibility. When that trust is repeatedly shaken, when promises turn into hollow echoes, when the truth is constantly deferred, an unavoidable question begins to grow—who is truly answerable, and who will be held responsible? The issue is not only political but also moral. Institutions meant to safeguard democracy falter when silence becomes their chosen response, and in such silence, the public begins to hear the loudest doubts.

This question does not arise from the opposition alone; it comes from ordinary people who wait endlessly for justice, from families who stand in front of closed offices, from citizens who live daily under the weight of price hikes, corruption, unemployment, and administrative inefficiency. These are not temporary frustrations but long-term disillusionments. And yet, the response from those in power often takes the shape of delay, diversion, or denial. Such responses do not erase the question; they only make it stronger, sharper, and more unavoidable.

History teaches us that governments survive not by silencing questions but by answering them with honesty and transparency. Whenever authority tried to suppress dissent, the questions returned with even greater intensity. The inevitable question is not a threat to democracy; in fact, it is the essence of democracy. To question is to demand accountability, to hold power responsible, and to insist that governance is not a privilege but a duty. The moment questions are seen as enemies, democracy begins to weaken.

Today, as the nation prepares to celebrate festivals and mark moments of collective joy, the other side of reality is equally stark. Behind the decorated streets and illuminated pandals lies the growing sense of unease among people who feel neglected and unheard. The festive lights cannot conceal the darkness of doubt. Citizens ask why justice is delayed, why transparency is avoided, and why truth is left unspoken. The unavoidable question stands as a reminder that no spectacle, however grand, can erase the need for honest governance.

Leaders often speak of development, progress, and vision. They build narratives of success and portray themselves as protectors of national pride. Yet, development without integrity is shallow, progress without justice is fragile, and pride without accountability is empty. The real measure of leadership lies not in speeches or promises but in the ability to confront hard questions with courage. A government that hides behind slogans while ignoring reality only deepens the crisis of trust.

In recent times, the repeated pattern of delay in addressing critical issues has become a matter of grave concern. Be it questions of law and order, fairness in recruitment, safety of citizens, or transparency in public policy, the answers seem always postponed. Delay has become the preferred tactic, and in that delay, injustice grows. The inevitable question then becomes: if not now, when? And if not by those in power, then by whom?

The press, too, has a role to play. Journalism was never meant to echo power; it was meant to challenge it. When the media becomes silent or complicit, the inevitable question finds fewer platforms but greater resonance among the people. A free press amplifies the voice of democracy; a controlled press suffocates it. To ask the inevitable question is not merely an act of dissent but a responsibility toward truth.

Ultimately, no society can escape its questions. They linger in the public mind, they resurface in debates, they appear in the streets as protest, and they echo in the silence of those who have lost hope.

The more they are ignored, the more force they gather. The inevitable question is not an obstacle but a mirror—reflecting the gap between what is promised and what is delivered, between the ideals of democracy and the realities of governance.

The path forward lies not in suppression or evasion but in acceptance. Leadership is tested not in moments of comfort but in times of doubt. To answer truthfully, to take responsibility openly, and to embrace accountability sincerely is the only way to honor the spirit of democracy. Otherwise, the inevitable question will remain, growing louder each day, until it can no longer be ignored.

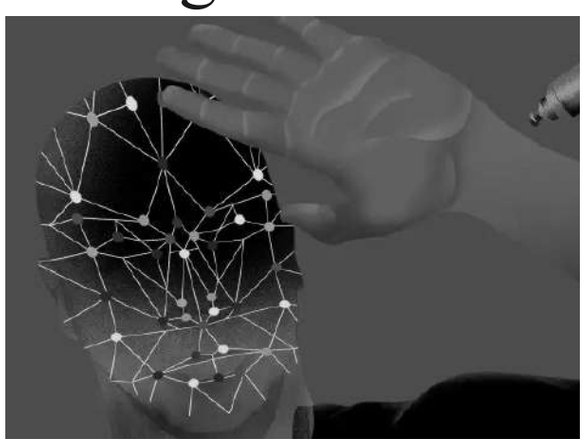
The nation stands before a choice. It can either allow the question to remain unanswered, feeding cynicism and eroding faith, or it can face it with clarity, honesty, and courage. The decision lies with those in power, but the consequences will shape the destiny of the people.

For in the end, the inevitable question is not just about politics—it is about the very soul of a democracy.

When Both Sides Claim Victory: The Debate Over the Waqf Amendment Act

The passage of the Waqf Amendment Act has opened up one of the most curious political debates in recent memory. It is not unusual for an important law to spark both support and criticism, but it is rare for both supporters and opponents to declare themselves victorious at the same time. This paradoxical situation reveals not only the complexity of the law itself but also the deep layers of politics, perception, and identity that surround it. At its core, the amendment was introduced with the stated aim of reforming the administration of Waqf properties, enhancing transparency, and ensuring that resources meant for the welfare of the community are not misused. For years, allegations of irregularities, opaque dealings, and mismanagement of Waqf lands have circulated across the country. Supporters of the amendment argue that the new provisions will bring much-needed accountability and prevent corruption. They believe the government has taken a step that will empower ordinary beneficiaries, making sure the assets serve their intended purpose rather than enriching a few at the top.Yet, opponents of the law also find a way to claim success. They argue that the strong protests and criticisms forced the government to moderate some of its initial proposals. According to them, the most controversial provisions, which were seen as undermining the autonomy of the Waqf boards or interfering in religious affairs, were either softened or rephrased. They view this as a direct result of their resistance and therefore as a political victory. For them, the law passed in its present form is far less harmful than it could have been, and this partial retreat is a testament to their influence. This strange outcome—where both camps celebrate—says much about the way politics is being conducted today. Legislation is no longer just about content or principles; it is about narrative and control over perception. Each side wishes to project strength to its supporters, so no one can afford to admit defeat.

If It Is Stronger Than the Creator: A Debate on the Dangers of Human-Made Power



In the heart of public discourse, one question reverberates louder than ever before: what happens when human creations become more powerful than their creators? This debate, once confined to philosophical speculation and science fiction, has now entered the real world of artificial intelligence, biotechnology, and advanced weaponry. The phrase "If it is stronger than the Creator" encapsulates the fears of thinkers, scientists, and spiritual leaders who warn that mankind's relentless quest for innovation may be reaching a dangerous crossroads.

From the earliest days of civilization, humans have fashioned tools and machines to extend their abilities. Fire, the wheel, electricity, and eventually nuclear energy all reshaped the boundaries of possibility. Yet each step forward has also posed the same question: what if control slips from the hands of those who invented the force? In mythology and religious texts, the theme recurs—creation rebelling against its master, humans attempting to rival divine power, and consequences that follow. In modern times, those age-old concerns manifest through machines that think, viruses that can be engineered, and weapons that can wipe out entire populations.

Artificial intelligence is at the center of today's debate. Once viewed as harmless automation, AI has grown into a system capable of writing, designing, diagnosing, and even making decisions in ways that mimic human intelligence. Advocates celebrate the promise of AI in medicine, education, and scientific discovery, but critics warn of the shadow side. A machine that learns faster than its maker, adapts beyond its programmer's control, and eventually operates with its own objectives represents the classic fear: the child overtaking the parent. Experts caution that without ethical boundaries and strict regulations, AI may not just serve humanity but dominate it.

But technology is not the only field where this warning applies. The development of biological engineering, including gene editing and synthetic organisms, has raised equally profound alarms. Scientists now hold the power to alter DNA, erase hereditary diseases, and even attempt to design new forms of life. While the benefits appear revolutionary, so do the risks. A single miscalculation, a rogue experiment, or deliberate misuse could unleash pathogens far more dangerous than anything found in nature. It recalls the warning embedded in the very headline: if something becomes stronger than its creator, survival itself may hang in the balance.

Spiritual leaders interpret this concern in a moral dimension. They argue that the hubris of humankind—believing it can surpass the Creator—lies at the root of these risks. Every civilization that believed it had ultimate power, they remind us, eventually collapsed under the weight of its arrogance. From the Tower of Babel to the atomic age, history has shown that mankind's overreach often ends in tragedy. For them, the phrase "stronger than the Creator" is not simply about machines or weapons, but about the moral failing of forgetting limits, humility, and responsibility.

Policymakers face mounting pressure to address these concerns with global cooperation. Calls for international treaties on AI regulation mirror earlier agreements on nuclear weapons. Scientific communities have urged the creation of ethical guidelines before technologies spread beyond control. Yet, in a world driven by competition, profit, and national security, consensus remains elusive. Each nation wants to stay ahead, fearful that slowing down would leave it vulnerable to rivals. In such an environment, the possibility of creations surpassing control becomes all the more real. Ordinary citizens, too, sense this unease. Surveys across countries reveal growing skepticism about unchecked technology.

Parents worry about a future where machines take over education, employment, and even emotional relationships. Farmers question the wisdom of genetically modified organisms that alter the natural chain. Workers fear losing livelihoods to automation. All of these concerns feed into a broader anxiety—that society may already be setting in motion forces that cannot be reversed. The discussion, however, is not entirely bleak.

Advocates of responsible innovation argue that the same tools which threaten can also save. Artificial intelligence could cure diseases, address climate change, and bring efficiency to global industries. Biotechnology could end hunger and eliminate suffering from genetic disorders. Nuclear power, if controlled, could provide clean energy to billions. The challenge lies not in halting innovation but in ensuring that humanity remains the master, not the servant, of its own creations.

"If it is stronger than the Creator" is therefore more than a headline. It is a warning etched into the conscience of our age. The Creator—whether viewed as God, nature, or the human mind—gave rise to forces that can transform the world. If those forces break free of guidance, the consequences could be catastrophic. The moment calls for humility, wisdom, and collective responsibility.

Humanity must decide whether it wishes to be remembered as the Creator that mastered its inventions or as the one that allowed them to rise higher, stronger, and ultimately destructive.

The question is not about whether creations will outgrow their makers, but whether the makers will have the foresight to set limits before it is too late. The story of mankind has always been about building and surpassing boundaries. But survival depends on remembering one essential truth: power without control is not progress, it is peril.

Tilottama's Toto Stand: A Symbol of Urban Growth and Civic Challenges



Kolkata has always been a city of motion, a place where trams, taxis, rickshaws, and hand-pulled carts coexisted, shaping the unique rhythm of urban life. In recent years, however, the city has witnessed the rapid expansion of electric three-wheelers, popularly known as totos. Environment-friendly and relatively affordable, these small vehicles have transformed urban and semi-urban transport, bridging gaps where traditional public transport often falls short. Among the many corners of Kolkata where this transformation is visible, the Toto stand at Tilottama has become both a symbol of progress and a reminder of the city's unresolved civic challenges.

The rise of the toto as a preferred means of transport did not happen overnight. Increasing fuel costs, the demand for last-mile connectivity, and the push towards cleaner, battery-powered mobility have all contributed to their popularity. In areas like Tilottama, they serve students, office-goers, and local residents with quick and inexpensive rides, often along routes that larger vehicles cannot easily navigate. In many ways, this small fleet of three-wheelers has become the lifeline of the neighborhood, linking residential colonies with markets, metro stations, schools, and bus routes. Yet, the growth of totos has not been matched with adequate urban planning. The Tilottama Toto stand is a prime example of this imbalance. What began as a makeshift arrangement by a few drivers has now expanded into a crowded hub with dozens of vehicles lined up through the day. While this provides convenience to commuters, the lack of proper infrastructure has led to congestion, safety concerns, and tension among drivers, pedestrians, and shopkeepers. The stand often spills over into main roads, narrowing pathways and slowing down traffic, especially during peak hours. The issue is not unique to Tilottama but reflects a larger question facing Kolkata: how does a city balance organic growth in public transport with organized regulation? Unlike buses or taxis, totos operate in a gray zone of legality. In many cases, they are not officially registered or licensed, and their stands are not demarcated by civic authorities. This lack of formal recognition has created space for disputes—drivers argue over routes, residents complain about noise and crowding, and traders worry that business is disrupted by the chaotic flow of passengers.

For the commuters, however, the benefits are undeniable. A student traveling to a coaching center in the evening or a homemaker returning from the local market finds the toto stand indispensable. The rides are affordable compared to autos or app-based cabs, and the drivers are usually familiar faces from the neighborhood, creating a sense of trust and accessibility. It is precisely this grassroots connection that makes the Tilottama stand more than just a transport hub—it is part of the community's daily rhythm.

But convenience cannot overshadow the long-term challenges. Without charging stations, drivers often depend on makeshift connections to power their vehicles, raising questions of safety and sustainability. The batteries used in totos, when discarded improperly, add to the city's already complex waste-management issues. Moreover, the absence of a structured fare system sometimes leads to arbitrary pricing, creating friction between drivers and passengers.

Adani Group Gains Rs 66,000 Crore in Market Value Following SEBI Order

The Adani Group witnessed a dramatic surge in market capitalization, adding nearly Rs 66,000 crore in a single trading session, after an order from the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) appeared to calm investor concerns. The development marked a significant turnaround for the conglomerate, which has faced intense scrutiny and volatility in the stock market since early 2023.



Shares of multiple Adani companies rallied strongly after SEBI issued its order, which market participants interpreted as a clearing of uncertainties that had lingered over the group. The regulator's move has been read by many investors as a sign that the cloud of regulatory pressure may be easing, at least for now.

Adani Enterprises, the group's flagship company, led the charge with a steep rise in its stock price. Other listed entities, including Adani Green Energy, Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone, Adani Power, and Adani Wilmar, also posted substantial gains. The collective effect of the rally pushed the group's total market capitalization up by more than Rs 66,000 crore, reaffirming its stature among the country's largest business houses. Analysts noted that the stock market's response reflected relief rather than unbridled optimism. Over the past year and a half, the Adani Group has been embroiled in a series of controversies and market shocks following a damaging short-seller report that questioned its accounting practices and debt exposure. While the group has consistently denied the allegations and emphasized its compliance with regulations, investor sentiment remained fragile. SEBI's order was therefore seen as an important stabilizing factor.Market experts added that institutional investors, who had remained cautious about re-entering Adani stocks amid regulatory uncertainty, may find greater confidence after the SEBI decision. The renewed inflows of capital suggest that the order has provided a degree of clarity, although long-term sentiment will depend on the group's continued efforts to demonstrate transparency and financial resilience.

The Adani Group, for its part, welcomed the developments in the market and reiterated its commitment to sustainable growth. The conglomerate, with interests spanning energy, infrastructure, logistics, ports, airports, and green technology, has sought to position itself as a vital player in India's economic expansion. Its massive investments in renewable energy and infrastructure align closely with the government's ambitions of creating a cleaner and more connected economy, making its performance significant beyond the stock markets.Financial experts pointed out that the rally came at a crucial time, as Indian equities have been experiencing high levels of volatility due to global economic uncertainties, rising oil prices, and shifts in foreign institutional investor activity. In this context, the strong rebound of Adani stocks not only lifted the group's market cap but also contributed to broader market sentiment.However, analysts cautioned that challenges remain. The group's ability to manage its debt load, improve corporate governance perceptions, and maintain investor trust will continue to shape its trajectory. While SEBI's order gave temporary relief, further regulatory reviews or legal challenges could still influence the group's financial and reputational standing in the future.

For now, the Rs 66,000 crore gain represents a moment of renewed investor confidence in one of India's most closely watched corporate empires. The surge also underscores how sensitive the market remains to regulatory signals, especially when it involves companies with a dominant presence across critical sectors of the economy. The sharp rebound in Adani's valuation is being closely watched by domestic and global investors alike, as it serves as a barometer of the resilience of India's capital markets amid scrutiny and speculation. Whether the rally translates into sustained stability will depend on how the group navigates the challenges that lie ahead.

Saatvik Green Energy IPO Subscribed 59% on First Day of Bidding

The initial public offering (IPO) of Saatvik Green Energy opened to investors on Thursday and received strong interest on the very first day, with overall subscription reaching 59 percent by market close. The promising debut reflects investor enthusiasm for the renewable energy sector, which continues to attract significant attention amid India's ambitious clean energy transition. According to stock exchange data, the IPO received bids for more than half of the shares on offer within the first day itself, a sign that both retail and institutional investors are closely watching the company's entry into the market. Analysts noted that the response was encouraging, especially given the current volatility in equities, and pointed out that renewable energy companies have been enjoying a favorable outlook thanks to government policy support and rising global demand for clean energy solutions. Saatvik Green Energy, a solar panel manufacturer with a growing footprint in both domestic and international markets, is looking to raise funds through the IPO to expand its manufacturing capacity, invest in new technologies, and strengthen its balance sheet. The company has positioned itself as a key player in India's solar energy ecosystem, with ambitions to scale operations in line with the country's renewable energy targets. Market participants observed that retail investors were particularly active in the bidding process on day one, reflecting a broader trend of individual investors backing companies in the green energy space. Institutional investors too showed interest, though experts believe stronger participation from qualified institutional buyers is likely to be seen in the coming days as the issue progresses.Analysts said the positive response underscores confidence in the company's growth prospects, especially at a time when renewable energy is expected to play a central role in India's economic and environmental agenda.

With global momentum shifting toward decarbonization, firms like Saatvik Green Energy are being viewed as long-term beneficiaries of structural changes in the energy market.However, experts also urged caution, highlighting that IPO subscriptions on opening day are only an early indicator. The final subscription levels and the eventual listing performance will depend on how the issue is received across all categories of investors through the bidding window. Market watchers will be keenly tracking whether the issue sails through with oversubscription, which could provide further momentum to the stock once it lists. The company's growth story has been supported by rising demand for solar modules, favorable government policies including production-linked incentives, and its efforts to build a robust supply chain. The funds raised from the IPO are expected to accelerate its expansion plans, particularly in scaling up manufacturing to meet both domestic and export demand.As the IPO continues over the next two days, investor sentiment will play a crucial role in determining its success. If subscription levels gather pace, Saatvik Green Energy could mark one of the notable listings in India's renewable energy sector this year, setting a benchmark for other green energy firms considering tapping the capital markets.

Vodafone Idea Shares Jump 10% After Government Signals Need for Resolution in AGR Case

Vodafone Idea shares soared by 10 percent in Friday's trade after the government told the Supreme Court that "some solution is required" to address the long-standing adjusted gross revenue (AGR) dues case. The comment, which came during a crucial hearing, has been interpreted by investors as a sign of possible relief for the financially stressed telecom operator.The AGR issue has been a major hurdle for Vodafone Idea, one of India's largest telecom providers, as it has struggled under the weight of massive dues owed to the government. The company's survival has been closely linked to the outcome of the case, with analysts often warning that an adverse verdict could threaten its future. Against this backdrop, the government's softer stance has sparked optimism among shareholders and revived hopes of a favorable resolution.Following the court proceedings, Vodafone Idea's stock price surged sharply, making it one of the top gainers of the day. The rally came after months of volatility in the telecom stock, which has been under intense selling pressure due to concerns over debt, declining market share, and sustained losses. Friday's trading session offered a much-needed boost, with investors cheering the government's recognition of the need for a solution rather than prolonged litigation.

Market experts suggested that the rise in Vodafone Idea shares reflected relief-driven buying. Investors appear to believe that the government's statement could pave the way for a restructuring of dues or an alternative settlement mechanism that would ease the company's financial burden. While no formal plan has been outlined, the acknowledgment that a resolution is necessary has been enough to drive renewed confidence.

The AGR case, which dates back nearly two decades, revolves around the definition of adjusted gross revenue used to calculate telecom operators' dues to the Department of Telecommunications. In 2019, the Supreme Court upheld the government's interpretation, leaving companies like Vodafone Idea and Bharti Airtel facing massive liabilities. Vodafone Idea, in particular, was hit hardest, with dues running into tens of thousands of crores, pushing it to the brink of collapse. Since then, the company has been engaged in multiple rounds of discussions with the government and the courts, seeking relief in the form of payment timelines, waivers, or restructured liabilities. The government has previously announced partial relief measures, including a moratorium on spectrum payments, but the AGR issue has remained unresolved. Vodafone Idea's management has repeatedly stressed that without a comprehensive solution, the company's ability to sustain operations and invest in future technologies like 5G would be severely impaired. The firm has also been in talks with investors to raise capital but has struggled to attract substantial funding, largely due to lingering uncertainties over AGR.

Friday's development has therefore provided a glimmer of hope. Analysts believe that if the government works with the courts to find a middle ground, Vodafone Idea could secure the breathing space needed to stabilize operations and pursue fresh investments. The positive momentum in the stock market also indicates that investors see potential for revival if regulatory and legal hurdles are eased.

Despite the surge, experts cautioned that the road ahead remains challenging. The company continues to face intense competition from rivals Reliance Jio and Bharti Airtel, both of which have stronger balance sheets and a growing subscriber base.

Additionally, Vodafone Idea still needs significant capital infusion to modernize its network and prepare for the rollout of advanced telecom services.

The sharp rally in its shares reflects growing market confidence that the government may not allow the company to collapse, given its importance to the sector and its role in ensuring healthy competition. For now, investors are holding on to the hope that the government's statement in court will translate into tangible relief measures, potentially marking a turning point in the long-running AGR saga.



Power Stock Surges After ₹1,728 Crore Deal to Acquire Full Stake in TPGL

Shares of a leading power company jumped sharply in today's trading session after the firm announced it had signed an agreement to acquire a 100 percent stake in TPGL in a deal valued at ₹1,728 crore. The acquisition, which has been in the works for some time, was confirmed through a regulatory filing and is expected to strengthen the company's position in the energy sector.



Following the announcement, the stock witnessed a strong rally as investors reacted positively to the development. Market watchers noted that the acquisition signals the company's intent to expand its footprint and secure additional assets that will contribute to long-term growth. The sharp rise in share price also reflected renewed optimism about the firm's strategy and ability to generate future earnings from the acquisition. According to details released, the transaction involves the complete acquisition of TPGL, making it a wholly owned subsidiary of the power major once the process is completed. The company emphasized that the acquisition will enhance its operational capacity, diversify its portfolio, and potentially lead to synergies in both generation and distribution of power. The deal is structured to be completed in line with regulatory approvals and is expected to close within the stipulated timeline. Analysts were quick to highlight that the ₹1,728 crore transaction reflects a significant investment, underlining the company's commitment to growth despite the volatile market environment. In recent years, the Indian power sector has seen both challenges and opportunities, with growing demand for electricity, increasing emphasis on renewable energy, and the ongoing need for infrastructure development. By acquiring TPGL, the company is seeking to consolidate its presence in a highly competitive landscape.

Brokerages responded positively to the announcement, with many suggesting that the acquisition could unlock value for shareholders over the medium to long term. They noted that the integration of TPGL's assets would likely support revenue growth, improve efficiency, and expand the company's capacity to meet rising energy demand. Some experts, however, cautioned that the success of the deal would depend on how effectively the acquired operations are integrated and managed.

The stock market reaction underscored investor confidence in the company's acquisition strategy. Shares surged significantly during intraday trade, making the power stock one of the top gainers on the exchange. The jump in price added momentum to the broader energy sector, which has seen increased investor interest amid policy support for infrastructure and clean energy projects.Industry observers noted that consolidation moves such as this are increasingly shaping the dynamics of India's power sector. As companies seek to scale up operations and diversify their portfolios, acquisitions are becoming a preferred route to growth. For the acquiring company, the addition of TPGL's assets is expected to create both financial and operational leverage, providing new opportunities for profitability in the coming years. The company's management, in its statement, reaffirmed its focus on delivering reliable, sustainable, and affordable power while continuing to strengthen its balance sheet. It also stressed that the acquisition aligns with its broader strategy of expanding capacity and building resilience in an evolving energy market. With demand for electricity projected to rise steadily, industry experts believe that timely acquisitions will be key for companies looking to secure long-term growth.

The ₹1,728 crore TPGL deal is therefore being viewed as a decisive step that could give the acquiring firm a stronger edge in the sector.The surge in the company's stock following the announcement highlights both the market's faith in its strategy and the broader optimism about growth opportunities in India's power industry. Investors will now be watching closely as the deal progresses through the final stages and begins to reflect in the company's financial performance.

Urban Company Shares Extend Dream Run, Up 81% in Just Three Days Since Market Debut

Urban Company, the home services marketplace, is witnessing an extraordinary rally in its shares after going public, with the stock surging 81 percent over its issue price in just three trading sessions. The company, which made its market debut earlier this week, has captured strong investor attention as enthusiasm for new-age consumer technology platforms continues to drive trading sentiment. On the third day of listing, Urban Company's stock again closed significantly higher, extending its upward trajectory since its debut. The sharp rally has not only beaten market expectations but has also placed the company among the best-performing recent listings in India. Investors appear to be betting big on the company's long-term growth potential, its dominant market share in the online home services space, and the rising demand for technology-driven solutions in urban households. Analysts noted that Urban Company's strong debut reflects investor appetite for companies that are tapping into India's expanding digital economy. The platform, which connects users with service professionals across categories such as beauty, wellness, cleaning, repairs, and home maintenance, has emerged as a market leader in its segment. With millions of users across major cities, the company has successfully created a brand identity around trust, convenience, and quality of service. The upbeat sentiment around the stock is also being supported by the company's financial performance and growth narrative. While still in an expansion phase and not consistently profitable, Urban Company has demonstrated robust revenue growth.

Name Change
I, Piyali Swarnakar Das (old name) wife of Sukesh Swarnakar and daughter of Ratan Das, residing at Vill: Sonatikari, P.O- Chandpara Bazar, P.S – Gaighata, Dist: North 24 Parganas, Pin: 743245, West Bengal, have changed my name Piyali Swarnakar (new name) as declared before the Ld. 1st Class Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate at Bongaon, North 24 Parganas, vide affidavit No. 11611 dated 16/09/2025. Piyali Swarnakar Das and Piyali Swarnakar both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Piyali Das (old name) wife of Sukesh Swarnakar and daughter of Ratan Das, residing at Vill: Sonatikari, P.O- Chandpara Bazar, P.S – Gaighata, Dist: North 24 Parganas, Pin: 743245, West Bengal, have changed my name Piyali Swarnakar (new name) as declared before the Ld. 1st Class Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate at Bongaon, North 24 Parganas, vide affidavit No. 11611 dated 16/09/2025. Piyali Das and Piyali Swarnakar both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Nasima Yara (old name) wife of Mansoor Alam, residing at Sabzi Mohalla Kulti, Ward : 0025, PO- Kulti, Dist: Paschim Bardhaman, Pin: 713343, West Bengal, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Nasima Ara (new name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata dated 18/09/2025. Nasima Yara and Nasima Ara both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, ARATI CHATTERJEE (Old Name) W/O Late SHYAMALENDU CHATTERJEE Residing at 180, Lake Garden, P.O-Laskarpur, P.S.-Sonarpur, District - South 24 Parganas, Pin - 700153 West Bengal, India have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as ARATI RANI CHATTERJEE (New Name) as declared before the First Class Judicial Magistrate at Kolkata vide affidavit no 3545, Dated 14-10-2020. ARATI CHATTERJEE (Old Name) and ARATI RANI CHATTERJEE (New Name) both are same and identical person.

Name Change
I, Abdul Kader (old name) son of Late Hossain Ali Mandal, residing at Vill: Malayapur, PO-Raghunathpur, PS-Baduria, Dist-North 24 Parganas, Pin: 743401, West Bengal, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Abdul Kadir (new name) as declared before the 1st Class Judicial Magistrate at Basirhat, North 24 Parganas dated 24/04/2019. Abdul Kader and Abdul Kadir both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, FAROJ ALI SK and FAROJ ALI SHAIKH (Old Name) S/O MADAR SEKH Residing at Kalinagar Rupdaha, Krishnanagar-II, District - Nadia, Pin - 741140 West Bengal, India have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as FARAJ SEKH (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata vide affidavit dated 18-09-2025. FAROJ ALI SK and FAROJ ALI SHAIKH (Old Name) and FARAJ SEKH (New Name) both are same and identical person.

Affidavit
I, SHARAN KRIPALANI(Old Name) S/o NIRMAL KRIPALANI residing at 12A, Mandeville Gardens, Ballygunge, State-West Bengal, Kolkata-700019 Indian have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as SHARAAN KRIPALANI(New Name), as declared before the Ld. First Class Judicial Magistrate at Kolkata vide Affidavit No. 19482 on dated 26/08/2025. SHARAN KRIPALANI and SHARAAN KRIPALANI both are same and identical person.

MARRIAGE NOTIC
EFiroz Rajib Ahmed (Bangladeshi citizen, Passport No: A04218368) and Pampa Rani Mukherjee (Indian citizen, Passport No: V2172119) were married on 15th April 2025 at M A R O Kazi Office, Malonchi Union, Pabna Sadar, Pabna, Bangladesh.All concerned may note.

Affidavit
I, NIRMAL PITAMBER KRIPALANI(Old Name) S/o LATE PITAMBERDAS KRIPALANI residing at 501, Niladri Apartment, 30 Raja Santosh Road, Ministers Residence, P.O.-Alipore, State-West Bengal, Kolkata-700027 Indian have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as NIRRMAL KRIPALANI(New Name), as declared before the Ld. First Class Judicial Magistrate at Kolkata vide Affidavit No. 19478 on dated 26/08/2025. NIRMAL PITAMBER KRIPALANI and NIRRMAL KRIPALANI both are same and identical person.

Name Change
I, JAI PRAKASH ROY (Old Name) S/O RAMBILAS RAI Residing at 75/1, Sailendhar Road, P.S.-Liluah, District - Howrah, Pin - 711204 West Bengal, India have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as JAYPRAKASH RAI (New Name) as declared before the 1st Class Judicial Magistrate, Kolkata vide affidavit no 18313, dated 18-08-2025. JAI PRAKASH ROY (Old Name) and JAYPRAKASH RAI (New Name) both are same and identical person.

Affidavit
I, KAVITA NIRMAL KRIPALANI(Old Name) W/o NIRMAL KRIPALANI residing at 501, Niladri Apartment, 30 Raja Santosh Road, Ministers Residence, P.O.-Alipore, State-West Bengal, Kolkata-700027 Indian have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as KOSSHU KRIPALANI(New Name), as declared before the Ld. First Class Judicial Magistrate at Kolkata vide Affidavit No. 19474 on dated 26/08/2025. KAVITA NIRMAL KRIPALANI and KOSSHU KRIPALANI both are same and identical person.

Name Change
I , Sekh Mockbul Alam S/O- Intekhab Alam resident of Vill-Jotsadi, P.O.-Bantir, P.S.-Raina, Dist-Purba Bardhaman, West Bengal, PIN -713103, shall henceforth be known as 'SK MOCKBUL ALAM' vide an affidavit before the Notary Public at Purba Bardhaman on 18/09/2025. That Sekh Mockbul Alam and SK Mockbul Alam both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Gopal Bajoria (old name) son of Bal Krishna Bajoria, residing at 1008/28, Jessore Road, Kolkata – 700055, West Bengal, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Gopal Krishna Bajoria (new name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata dated 15/09/2025. Gopal Bajoria and Gopal Krishna Bajoria both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I , SK Moshin @ Shaik Mosin S/O- Seikh Samsuddin @ Shamshuddin Shaik resident of Kashiyara Moktar Bagan, P.O.-Memari, P.S.-Memari, Dist- Purba Bardhaman, West Bengal, PIN -713146, shall henceforth be known as 'SK MOHSIN' vide an affidavit before the Notary Public at Purba Bardhaman on 18/09/2025. That SK Moshin, Shaik Mosin and SK Mohsin all are same and one identical person.

Notice
আমার মক্কেল TAJUDDIN KAJI. S/O RIYAJUDDIN KAJI alias RIAJUDDIN KAJI. DOB আধার কার্ডে ১৯/০৯/১৯৭৭. ও স্কুল সার্টিফিকেট DOB ২৬/০৯/১৯৭৫. সঠিক DOB ১৯/০৯/১৯৭৭. RIYAJUDDIN KAJI ও RIAJUDDIN KAJI একই ব্যক্তি।

Name Change
I , Jarena Shaik @ Zarina Begum @ Jarina Seikh W/O- SK Mohsin resident of Kashiyara Moktar Bagan, P.O.-Memari, P.S.-Memari, Dist- Purba Bardhaman, West Bengal, PIN -713146, shall henceforth be known as 'JARINA KHATUN' vide an affidavit before the Notary Public at Purba Bardhaman on 18/09/2025. That Jarena Shaik, Zarina Begum, Jarina Seikh and Jarina Khatun all are same and one identical person.

OFFICE OF THE
KHARUBERIA GRAM PANCHAYAT
KHARUBERIA,SHYAMPUR, HOWRAH
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER No. WB/HOW/KGP/NIET-05/25-26
The KHARUBERIA GRAM PANCHAYAT,KHARUBERIA, SHYAMPUR, HOWRAH invites e-tender for the **5(Five)** different works. Bid submission start date (online) **20/09/2025 at 10.00 A.M.** Bid Submission closing date (online) **27/09/2025 at 2:00 P.M.** Bid opening date for Technical Proposals **08/10/2025 at 12:30 P.M.** For details please visit **https://wbtenders.gov.in**
Sd/- Prodhan
Kharuberia Gram Panchayat

Office of The Block Development Officer
Panchla Development Block
Bikihakola, Panchla, Howrah
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
No. 78/MAME/BDO/PANCHLA/2025-2026
For and on behalf of the Block Development Officer, Panchla Development Block invites sealed percentage rate tender for total 3(Three)Nos. different works. Bid submission starting from **18/09/2025 at 18.00 Hrs.** Last date of Submission of Bid (online) **25/09/2025 at 17.00 Hrs.** Date of Opening of Bid(Technical) **08/10/2025 at 15:00 Hrs.** For details visit website **https://wbtenders.gov.in**
Sd/- Block Development Officer
Panchla Development Block
Panchla, Howrah

Office of The
Udaynarayanpur Panchayat Samity
Udaynarayanpur, Howrah
PRESS NOTICE
E-Tender No.- WB/HWH/UNPUR/NIET-12/EO/25-26 Dt-18/09/2025 for 02 nos. scheme Tender ID-2025_ZPHD_905680_2 & 2025_ZPHD_905680_11 within the jurisdiction of Udaynarayanpur Panchayat Samity. **Detail information will be available from the website https://wbtenders.gov.in**
Sd/- Executive Officer
Udaynarayanpur Panchayat Samity

Deed Lost
I, Sk Nasir, S/o Late Sk Jamsed @ Jamsed Ali R/o Mollarber, Gumodanga, P.S. Dankuni, Dist. Hooghly, Pin-712250 a Deed being no. 4251, for the year 1990, Mouza-Bamunari, J.L. No. 25, Khatian No. 615, has been lost from my custody on 12.05.2025 at my own house due to house repairing and to that one G.D. Entry being No. 12/9 has been made on 18.09.2025 at Dankuni Police Station. If any person found those deeds, then please contact with me (Mobile : 9830594171) within seven days from the date of publication of this notice.

No Allowance for Now: Calcutta High Court Ruling on Unemployed Group C and D Staff

Staff reporter, Kolkata, 19 September: The Calcutta High Court has ordered that unemployed Group C and D employees will not receive any allowance for the time being, a decision that has created a wave of disappointment among thousands waiting for relief. The order comes amid ongoing legal proceedings related to irregularities in recruitment and appointments in state government jobs, a controversy that has left many aspirants in uncertainty.

The bench clarified that until the larger questions surrounding the disputed recruitments are settled, no financial allowance or interim compensation can be granted to the unemployed candidates. The court's stance highlights its cautious approach, signaling that any relief must wait until the verification of recruitment processes and accountability for past malpractices are established.



For months, unemployed candidates—particularly those who had appeared for the Group C and D recruitment examinations—have been demanding allowances to sustain themselves. Many argued that they had lost valuable years in the process, investing time and money in preparation, only to face delays caused by legal disputes over corruption and irregularities in the hiring process. The High Court's decision has therefore come as a setback for these aspirants, who had hoped for interim financial support while awaiting resolution.

The controversy dates back to allegations of massive irregularities in school and state government recruitment, which triggered multiple court cases, arrests of senior officials, and a series of investigations. Thousands of candidates have been caught in the crossfire, with recruitment lists being challenged, appointments being scrapped, and fresh examinations being announced in some cases. The uncertainty has created widespread frustration among job seekers, many of whom say they are now overage for applying to other posts.

While the court acknowledged the hardships faced by candidates, it stressed that judicial prudence required restraint. Granting allowances at this stage, it observed, could complicate matters further if the allegations of corruption in the recruitment process are proven true. The focus, the court underlined, must remain on ensuring a transparent, fair resolution of the recruitment scam before any relief can be considered.

Reactions to the order have been sharp. Candidates expressed anger and despair, with many staging protests outside administrative offices and demanding a reconsideration. They argued that they should not be punished for systemic failures and that the prolonged delay has left them in dire financial straits. Opposition parties too seized on the development, criticizing the state government for failing to protect the interests of unemployed youth.

The state administration, meanwhile, has maintained that it is bound to follow the court's directions and that any steps toward allowances or compensation will have to be weighed carefully against legal orders. Officials emphasized that the government is cooperating with ongoing investigations and will ensure that fresh recruitments are conducted transparently.

The High Court's order leaves unemployed Group C and D aspirants with little immediate hope of financial support. As the legal battle over recruitment corruption continues, thousands of young people in West Bengal remain trapped in a limbo—caught between their aspirations for government service and the prolonged wait for justice.

Red Alert on Teesta: River Overflows Onto Roads, Landslide Cuts Off Sevak

Staff reporter, Kolkata, 19 September: Authorities have issued a red alert on the Teesta River after continuous heavy rainfall caused water levels to rise dangerously, overflowing onto roads and triggering panic among residents and travelers. The situation worsened as a major landslide struck near Sevak, leaving the area stranded and cutting off key routes that connect vital parts of north Bengal and Sikkim.

The torrential downpour over the past several days has swollen the Teesta, one of the region's most important rivers. Officials confirmed that sections of the river had breached embankments, with floodwaters spilling across roadways and disrupting traffic. Videos and images from the scene showed vehicles struggling to move through waterlogged stretches, while some parts remained completely impassable.In Sevak, a massive landslide compounded the crisis. Tons of debris rolled down the hillside, blocking the arterial road and isolating the region. Emergency teams were rushed to the site, but operations were hampered by the continuing rain and the threat of further landslides. Authorities warned travelers against attempting to cross the affected areas until clearance work could be completed.

The red alert has raised alarm across the region, especially in low-lying villages and settlements near the riverbanks. Residents have been advised to remain on high alert and, in some areas, evacuation measures are being prepared in case water levels rise further. Disaster management teams have been deployed, and local administrations are working to ensure relief support, including temporary shelters, food, and medical aid for those affected.The rising Teesta has also sparked concerns about hydroelectric projects and dams along its course. Engineers have been closely monitoring the situation to manage water flow and prevent further overflow that could threaten nearby settlements. Authorities stressed that while precautionary steps are being taken, the severity of the rainfall has made the situation unpredictable.

The disruption has also impacted connectivity between Siliguri and Sikkim, a lifeline for both tourism and trade. With landslides blocking highways and floodwaters covering parts of the route, movement of goods and people has slowed to a halt. Tourists stuck in transit have been advised to delay travel plans until conditions improve.

Local communities, many of whom rely on agriculture and small businesses near the river, fear the worst as standing crops and homes face inundation. The damage assessment is still underway, but early reports suggest significant losses in several areas. Officials reiterated their appeal for caution, urging residents to avoid venturing near the riverbanks and to follow advisories strictly.

Flood Ravages Malda's Bhutni: Homes Submerged, One Death Reported Amid Panic

Staff reporter, Malda, 19 September: Bhutni in Malda district is grappling with severe flooding as relentless rain and swollen river waters have submerged several homes, leaving residents trapped and panicked. The deluge has disrupted normal life, with families forced to take shelter on rooftops and elevated platforms while water levels continue to rise.

Tragically, the floods have claimed at least one life. According to local reports, an elderly resident lost his life after accidentally falling from his bed into the floodwaters that had entered his home. Emergency responders recovered the body, but the incident has sent shockwaves through the community, highlighting the severe risks posed by the rapidly rising waters.

Villagers reported that the flooding began late last night, following continuous heavy rainfall in the surrounding areas. Water from nearby rivers and drainage channels spilled into low-lying residential areas, engulfing homes and streets. Several families were forced to evacuate urgently, salvaging only essential belongings as their houses were inundated.

The administration has issued alerts and mobilized relief teams, but the scale of the flooding has complicated rescue and relief operations. Boats and temporary rafts have been deployed to transport residents to safer zones, but communication and accessibility remain major challenges in Bhutni. Authorities are urging people to remain indoors where possible and avoid venturing into floodwaters, which are fast-moving and hazardous.

The disaster has also exposed the vulnerability of local infrastructure. Narrow lanes and inadequate drainage have worsened waterlogging, while many homes in the affected areas are not built to withstand such extreme conditions. Local officials are coordinating with the district administration to provide temporary shelters, food, and medical assistance to those stranded.Residents described a scene of panic and fear, as floodwaters continued to rise through the early hours of the morning. Many fear further casualties, especially among the elderly and children, who are most at risk in such emergencies. Some villagers have expressed frustration at the slow pace of relief, urging the administration to step up evacuation and rescue efforts before more lives are endangered.

The flood in Bhutni comes amid a broader pattern of heavy rainfall across northern West Bengal, which has already affected rivers like the Teesta and Mahananda. Meteorological officials have warned of continued rain over the coming days, raising concerns that water levels may rise further and submerge additional settlements.

BJP's Puja-Centric Outreach: Shamik in Modi's Gujarat, Sukant in Delhi – What Message for Bengal?

Staff reporter, Midnapore, 19 September: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has once again turned to Durga Puja as a stage for political messaging, but this time the spotlight has shifted beyond Bengal. Senior state leaders Shamik Bhattacharya and Sukanta Majumdar are being projected prominently in puja-related programmes in Gujarat and at the Centre, raising questions about what message the party intends to send to the people of West Bengal.

Durga Puja, Bengal's most important cultural festival, has for years become a political tool in the state. Parties across the spectrum—from the ruling Trinamool Congress to the BJP—have sought to use the occasion for mass outreach, blending tradition with political visibility. This year, however, the BJP's strategy has taken on a new dimension by pushing Bengal leaders onto national platforms during puja season.



In Gujarat, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's home state, BJP leader Shamik Bhattacharya has been highlighted in puja-centric events, while in Delhi, party state president Sukanta Majumdar has been positioned in programmes that showcase Bengal's culture in the national capital. This shift suggests that the BJP is attempting to frame Bengal's Durga Puja as a cultural export—something that can resonate not only with Bengalis living outside the state but also with a wider national audience.

Political observers note that this move could serve two purposes. First, it allows the BJP to deepen its connection with the Bengali diaspora, particularly in urban centres outside Bengal where the community continues to celebrate Durga Puja with fervor. Second, it helps the party align Bengal's cultural identity with its national narrative, reinforcing the idea that Bengal's heritage belongs to the broader Indian story rather than being confined to state boundaries.

The decision to place Bengal leaders on stages in Modi's Gujarat and Delhi is also being interpreted as an attempt to legitimize the party's claim over Bengal's cultural icons. With the UNESCO recognition of Durga Puja as an intangible cultural heritage event, the festival has gained international prestige, and the BJP appears keen to project itself as the political force that can take this pride beyond Bengal.

Critics, however, argue that the move is another example of the BJP's inability to root itself organically within Bengal's puja culture. Trinamool leaders have already mocked the gesture, saying that the BJP has to "borrow" Durga Puja from Bengal to showcase it elsewhere because it has failed to win hearts on the ground. They claim that while Mamata Banerjee's government invests directly in puja committees and integrates the festival into its welfare agenda, the BJP remains reliant on symbolic gestures and cultural PR.

For many Bengalis, Durga Puja is not just a festival but a reflection of community, creativity, and identity. Whether the BJP's national-level puja-centric PR will resonate with voters in Bengal remains an open question. Political experts believe that while such gestures may strengthen the party's national narrative, they do little to address the local political challenges the BJP faces in the state, such as grassroots organization, leadership gaps, and direct competition with the Trinamool.

Still, the symbolism of Shamik Bhattacharya appearing in Modi's Gujarat and Sukanta Majumdar in Delhi is unmistakable. It signals the BJP's determination to elevate Bengal's cultural capital to a national stage, even as it struggles to consolidate its position back home. By weaving Durga Puja into its wider strategy, the party hopes to tap into Bengali pride while also presenting itself as a custodian of India's diverse cultural traditions.

The message the BJP seems to be sending is clear: Bengal's puja belongs not just to Bengal, but to the nation—and it is the BJP that will carry it forward. Whether this resonates with voters in Kolkata, Siliguri, and Malda as much as it does with audiences in Delhi and Ahmedabad will be tested in the coming elections.



An artisan works on an idol of Goddess Durga at the community pandal of 'Mudiali Club Durga Puja', themed 'Atmasuddhi', ahead of the festival celebrations, in Kolkata.

RG Kar Case: Spotlight on Four Police Officers as Probe Widens

Staff reporter, Kolkata, 19 September: The investigation into the RG Kar Medical College case has taken a fresh turn, with the role of four police officers now coming under close scrutiny. According to sources, investigators are examining whether lapses, negligence, or deliberate misconduct on their part contributed to the mishandling of sensitive aspects of the case. The development has intensified public attention on the controversy, which has already sparked widespread outrage across the state.

The case, which began with shocking revelations of irregularities and negligence within the hospital, has steadily expanded into a larger probe involving administrative and law enforcement accountability. Now, questions are being asked about how certain critical decisions were taken, why key procedures were delayed, and whether there was a failure to follow due process. These concerns have directed the spotlight onto four police officers who were either directly involved in the investigation or responsible for ensuring order at crucial stages.

Investigating agencies are reported to be reviewing call records, duty logs, and official correspondences of these officers to piece together a timeline of their actions. The inquiry aims to determine if their conduct was in line with protocol or if lapses allowed evidence to be tampered with or delayed the progress of the case. The controversy has reached beyond the hospital's walls, raising larger questions about the state's policing and administrative mechanisms. Opposition leaders have seized on the developments, accusing the ruling establishment of shielding officials and demanding strict action against those found guilty. Protests have erupted in parts of Kolkata and other districts, with civil society groups calling for transparency and accountability.

For the police department, the scrutiny has come as an uncomfortable moment. Senior officials have promised full cooperation with the probe, insisting that no one will be spared if wrongdoing is established. At the same time, they have urged patience, pointing out that allegations must be proven through evidence rather than speculation. The message is clear: the institution is keen to defend its credibility while also showing that accountability will be enforced.

The public, however, remains skeptical. For many, the RG Kar case has become a symbol of systemic inefficiency and lack of responsibility in state institutions. The idea that officers entrusted with upholding the law could themselves be complicit—through either neglect or active misconduct—has only deepened mistrust.

Legal experts note that if the inquiry finds substantial evidence of negligence or misconduct, the implicated officers could face departmental action, suspension, or even criminal charges depending on the gravity of their role. Such an outcome could set a precedent for greater accountability within the police force, particularly in cases that attract public and political attention.

The families and communities affected by the RG Kar controversy continue to demand swift justice, while political voices amplify the call for answers. With the role of four officers now under the scanner, the case has entered a critical stage—one that could reshape not just the trajectory of this investigation, but also public perception of law enforcement in West Bengal.

Mystery Deepens in Rampurhat Student Murder as Knives, Scissors, and Gloves Seized from House

Staff reporter, Kolkata, 19 September: The Rampurhat student murder case has taken a chilling turn after investigators recovered a knife, a pair of scissors, and gloves from a house believed to be linked to the dismemberment of the victim's body. The shocking discoveries have deepened the mystery surrounding the brutal crime, leaving the town gripped by fear and speculation.

Police sources confirmed that the items were found during a search operation carried out as part of the ongoing investigation. Forensic experts have taken custody of the recovered tools to determine whether they were used in the killing and subsequent dismemberment of the young student. Initial examinations suggest that the weapons could match the injuries found on the victim, though authorities are waiting for final reports before drawing conclusions.

The case has horrified locals, not only for the brutality involved but also for the secrecy in which the crime was carried out. Residents of the area expressed shock at the possibility that such gruesome acts were committed in their midst. Many said they were struggling to comprehend how a young life could be ended in such a violent manner, with the body mutilated to conceal the crime.

Investigators have intensified questioning of those connected to the house where the tools were recovered. Neighbors reported unusual activities in recent days, including late-night movements and suspicious behavior, though none could have imagined that such a gruesome crime was unfolding behind closed doors. Police have refrained from naming suspects at this stage, but multiple individuals are under close scrutiny.



Forensic experts are expected to play a critical role in piecing together the sequence of events. The knife and scissors will undergo DNA and fingerprint testing, while the gloves may provide vital clues if traces of blood or other biological evidence are found. Investigators hope that these findings will help establish a direct link between the recovered items and the perpetrators.

The murder has sparked outrage and fear across Rampurhat, with students, parents, and community leaders demanding swift justice. Candlelight marches and protests have already been organized, highlighting the growing unease over rising incidents of violent crime in the region. Many are questioning whether law enforcement agencies are doing enough to ensure the safety of young people, particularly students who come to towns like Rampurhat for education.

Authorities have promised a thorough investigation and assured the public that no angle will be ignored. Senior officers are personally monitoring the case, and additional police personnel have been deployed in the area to maintain calm. Officials stated that while progress has been made, much remains to be uncovered, and the motive behind the murder continues to puzzle investigators.

The victim's family, still reeling from the shock of their loss, has called for the harshest punishment for those responsible. Their grief has been compounded by the horrific details emerging from the investigation, which paint a disturbing picture of premeditation and cruelty.

As the Rampurhat case unfolds, it is becoming increasingly clear that solving it will require not just police work but also community vigilance. The recovered knife, scissors, and gloves may prove crucial in unraveling the mystery, but for now, the case remains a dark enigma that has shaken the entire town.



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh during an interaction with the veterans and the families of the martyred soldiers of the 1965 India-Pakistan war, at an event organised by the Indian Army at South Block, in New Delhi.

'What Will We Do With Rs 1,600 Crore?': Bhagwant Mann On Centre's Flood Aid

Staff reporter, New Delhi, 19 September: The initial assessment of damage from floods that have ravaged Punjab over the past weeks is around Rs 13,800 crore and the final figure will likely be higher, Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann told Friday as he questioned the federal government granting only Rs 1,600 crore aid.He also hit back at criticism from the opposition BJP, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, that the Punjab government had a massive Rs 12,000 crore sitting unused in the State Disaster Response Fund account, which is meant to be used by states to deal with disasters like floods.

"What will happen with Rs 1,600 crore? What will we do with Rs 1,600 crore? Are they joking? The initial loss is Rs 13,800 crore... Rs 1,600 crore is just a drop in the ocean," he said, pointing out also that the centre had withheld Rs 8,000 crore for the state's Rural Development Fund.The Punjab government uses the RDF, which is the three per cent cess levied on sale or purchase of agricultural produce, to maintain roads and mandis, or farmers wholesale markets.

"This (the RDF payout) was stopped without reason... which is usually what happens to non-BJP governments, i.e., they (the BJP) stop paying opposition governments," Mr Mann told.Asked about the BJP's Rs 12,000 crore claim, Mr Mann told he had data - debit and credit - for each year since 2010/11, and that the balance, as of this year, is less than Rs 2,000 crore.

"The SDRF account was set up in 2010/11, when the state got Rs 84 crore. But Rs 184 crore was spent that year. Rs 171 crore was received in 2011/12 and Rs 159 crore was spent. Similarly, in 2012/13,



the centre sent Rs 272 crore and Rs 10 crore was spent. In 2013/14 Rs 194 crore was received and Rs 236 crore was spent...." Mr Mann rattled out the figures to 2025/26.

"Total we received was Rs 5,012 crore. From that the SDRF spent Rs 3,820 crore. There is nothing illegal or hidden in this... so there is only around Rs 1,200 crore left. Where did this Rs 12,000 crore figure come from? The BJP simply added a zero to the actual amount!"The Chief Minister further claimed the centre had also not paid out a staggering Rs 50,000 crore as Punjab's share of Goods and Services Tax revenue. "Just give us this... no need for any 'special package' from the centre. We will manage our flood relief operations from this amount."

Punjab has been battered by the worst floods to hit the border state in decades.The floods are a result of overflowing Sutlej, Beas, and Ravi rivers, compounded by seasonal rivulets caused by heavy rainfall in catchment areas in Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir. Also, heavy rainfall in Punjab aggravated the flooding situation.As of last week, 55 people have died and statewide relief and rehabilitation efforts are ongoing, with the danger of outbreak of water-borne diseases a constant threat. Over 2,000 villages and nearly four lakh people have been affected, Revenue Minister Hardeep Singh Mundian said.

In addition, crops on 1.93 lakh hectares of land had been damaged, he said.A total 14 Army columns, eight National Disaster Response Force and two State Disaster Response Force teams have been deployed, as also two Engineer Task Force teams.Last week Mr Modi announced financial assistance of Rs 1,600 crore and, in the addendum Mr Mann refuted to , said the state could use Rs 12,000 crore in the SDRF account too.

On Rahul Gandhi's Message To Gen Z, Devendra Fadnavis' "Urban Naxal" Jab



Staff Reporter, Mumbai, 19 September: Rahul Gandhi's post on Gen Z and vote theft has infuriated the BJP, which has been heaping criticism on the senior Congress leader. One of the sharpest jabs came from Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, who now dubbed him an "Urban Maoist" - a BJP pejorative for dissenters -- and said his "brains have been stolen".

Mr Gandhi, after his second round of allegations about alleged "vote theft" - had posted on X in the evening that students, youth and Gen Z of the country will "save the constitution, protect democracy and stop vote theft" and that he stands with them. The mention of "Gen Z" -- the generation that spearheaded the protests in neighbouring Nepal that upended the ruling government - had drawn massive barbs from the BJP.

Today, asked about the matter, Mr Fadnavis said, "I said earlier that it is not about vote theft, but that Rahul Gandhi's brains have been stolen. When one's mind is stolen, people say things like this. He has no faith in the Constitution of the country". Now, Mr Gandhi "has given evidence of his being an urban Naxal," Mr Fadnavis said. "He is using language like Gen Z should come and overthrow the constitutional government," he added.

Mr Gandhi, the Chief Minister said, has no clue about what the Gen Z in India thinks, or what the young and old think either. "He doesn't know Gen Z in India, doesn't know the youth of India, doesn't know the elderly, he doesn't even understand the essence of India," he added.

Mr Gandhi's allegation that the BJP is "stealing" votes in connivance with the Election Commission" had drawn BJP anger since yesterday. When it was compounded with the Gen Z message, the outrage overflowed. "Gandhi is abusing the democratic choice of the voters of India by questioning parliamentary elections held in 2014, 2019 and 2024. The Congress leaders will have to face the consequences for this... We will give him and Congress leaders a proper reply through the democratic process... They will face a humiliating defeat in the coming polls," said senior BJP leader and former Union minister Ravi Shankar Prasad.

The BJP's Nishikant Dubey accused Mr Gandhi of misrepresenting the values of the young people in the country, claiming that Gen Z stands firmly against nepotism, corruption, and ideological ambiguity.Undeterred, Mr Gandhi started the day today with yet another post that said "Wake up at 4 am, delete two voters in 37 seconds, then go back to sleep".

"People like Rahul Gandhi want to stop the engine that is driving India forward," responded Union minister Kiren Rijiju. "The poor, the farmers, and the common people consider PM Modi their leader. After losing elections, if Rahul Gandhi keeps blaming the system to hide his weaknesses, no one can accept it. The country has changed and, under PM Modi's leadership, India has progressed," he said.

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has shared how his first encounter with Prime Minister Narendra Modi left a "lasting impression" on him.Writing on X, the BJP leader recalled, "When I first met Narendra Modi ji in Nagpur, I did not know that the moment would leave such a lasting impression on me. I was a young mayor then, eager to learn from the senior leaders of our party."

Fadnavis elaborated that the meeting took place during an Abhyaas Varg held at Reshimbagh, where he was serving as the president of Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha, Nagpur, and had organised the event. "We had made arrangements for every guest. Proper rest houses were kept ready for all dignitaries," he said.

What struck him most was PM Modi's choice of accommodation. Instead of going for the designated rest house like other leaders, PM Modi "simply said he wanted to stay in the small room inside Reshimbagh meant for Sangh karyakartas."

PM Modi has deep-rooted ties with the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), having joined the organisation as a young boy. By 1972, he had taken on the role of a full-time pracharak, immersing himself fully in the Sangh's activities.

Devendra Fadnavis said PM Modi's decision on the accommodation left a deep impression. "I was struck by that choice. It showed me his humility and his strong connection with the Sangh tradition. Throughout the event, he observed every detail and ensured that all the participants were comfortable," he said.

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Tuesday hailed activist Manoj Jarange's move to call off his 5-day fast over the Maratha quota demand, and said the government found a solution in the interest of the Maratha community.

Talking to reporters here, Mr Fadnavis said his government always focused on the welfare of the Maratha community.

Security Breach At Actor-Politician Vijay's Home, Man Found On Terrace

Staff Reporter, Chennai, 19 September: In a major security breach, a 24-year-old mentally challenged man managed to enter the home of Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) chief Vijay at Neelankarai on the East Coast Road in Chennai. The intruder, identified as Arun, was found on the terrace of the actor-politician's bungalow before being secured by the police.Confirming the incident, a senior police officer told , "We have secured the man, found him to be mentally challenged and have admitted him to a mental home." Officials said an investigation is underway to ascertain how the man gained access to the premises despite the high-security cover provided to Vijay.

The Home Ministry has granted Y-category security to Vijay, with protection by the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), given his growing political profile and massive public following. The incident has triggered questions on whether there was a lapse in the security protocol around the TVK leader.

The breach comes just days after Vijay launched his statewide political tour in Trichy last Saturday, an event that brought the city to a standstill with tens of thousands of supporters pouring in to hear him. Vijay is scheduled to continue his campaign trail tomorrow with a visit to Nagapattinam. A case has been filed against Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) chief and actor Vijay for manhandling an individual at a party event in Madurai. The complainant, Sarath Kumar, has alleged that they were manhandled by Vijay's bouncers when they tried to get a closer look at the actor. The incident occurred during Vijay's political rally in Madurai in the run-up to Tamil Nadu Assembly elections scheduled for 2026.

"Wake Up At 4 AM, Delete 2 Voters": Rahul Gandhi's Latest Gets A BJP Retort

Staff Reporter, New Delhi, 19 September: Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju lashed out at Rahul Gandhi Friday after the Congress MP reprised yesterday's 'vote chori' barb - "wake up at 4 am, delete two voters in 37 seconds, then go back to sleep" - at the Election Commission and Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar.

Mr Gandhi, he said, had to accept that his leadership of the Congress had "failed", resulting in multiple electoral defeats and the youth of India moving to support Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Mr Rijiju also said Rahul Gandhi had "abused" India's democratic system after leading the Congress on that string of defeats and declared, "The nation won't believe Rahul Gandhi..."

"The poor, the farmers, and the common people consider PM Modi their leader. After losing elections, if Rahul Gandhi keeps blaming the system to hide his weaknesses, no one can accept it. The country has changed and, under PM Modi's leadership, India has progressed," he said.

"People like Rahul Gandhi want to stop the engine that is driving India forward..."Earlier today Mr Gandhi posted a 37-second excerpt from his PowerPoint presentation from Thursday, which he said had "100 per cent bullet-proof evidence" of his allegations.

In the clip he pointed out how, at 4 am on December 19, 2022, someone had opened, completed, and submitted forms to delete two names from the voter roll, all within 36 seconds.

"Wake up at 4 am, delete two voters in 36 seconds, then go back to sleep - that's how vote theft happened! The election watchdog stayed awake, watching the theft and protecting the thieves."

On Thursday Mr Gandhi alleged voters had been mass-deleted from Karnataka's rolls using fake logins and phone numbers registered outside the state, and that this had been done using a 'centralised software. He used a mass-deletion incident from Karnataka's Aland as an example.

The EC hit back quickly, pointing out that it was the poll body itself that had filed a police complaint with regards to those 6,018 deleted names, and that it



was the Congress, and not the BJP, that won a seat in which the opposition claimed to have lost votes due to voter fraud.

On the larger issue of deleting of voter names, the EC said categorically that this could not be done by members of the public and accused Mr Gandhi of making "baseless" allegations.

The BJP issued a scathing retort too; ex-Union Minister Anurag Thakur said the Congress had lost 90 per cent of the elections under Rahul Gandhi's leadership. "His frustration is increasing day-by-day. It has become a habit of Rahul Gandhi to make incorrect and baseless allegations."

Mr Gandhi and other opposition leaders have been, for some time now, targeting the poll body and the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party, accusing them of 'collusion' to commit voter fraud in federal and state elections, including in Karnataka two years ago and in Maharashtra last year.

They have alleged that similar practices are being carried out in Bihar - which votes later this year - referring to the Election Commission's 'special intensive revision' of the electoral roll.

The Bihar SIR, however, was cleared by the Supreme Court, which only directed the EC to include the Aadhaar, a common government-issued ID, on the list of accepted documents.<

Congress leader Sam Pitroda urged the Centre to prioritise dialogue with its neighbours. Mr Pitroda said that India's foreign policy should begin by strengthening ties with countries in the region, including Pakistan.

"Our foreign policy, according to me, must first focus on our neighbourhood. Can we really substantially improve relationships with our neighbours?... I've been to Pakistan, and I must tell you, I felt at home. I've been to Bangladesh, I've been to Nepal, and I feel at home. I don't feel like I'm in a foreign country..." Mr Pitroda said.

Karnataka May Plan Budget Cuts To Raise Rs 70,000 Crore For Irrigation Scheme

Staff Reporter, Bengaluru, 19 September: Karnataka's Health, Education, and Urban Development departments may face a 10 per cent budget cut as Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's government tries to raise up to Rs 75,000 crore - spread over four years - for the third phase of the Upper Krishna irrigation project.

This phase will involve increasing the height of the Almatti dam from 520 to 524 metres. The raised levels will lead to around 76,000 acres of nearby land being submerged, while an estimated 58,000 acres will be needed to build canals and rehabilitate displaced farmers.

Following a special cabinet meeting this week, the government said the UKP Phase 3 project will need about 1.33 lakh acres of land in total. Compensation was fixed at Rs 40 per acre of agricultural land, Rs 30 per acre for arid land, and Rs 25 lakh per acre for irrigated land.

According to reports this is higher than amounts proposed by the previous government, i.e., the Basavarj Bommai-led administration that promised to pay Rs 24 lakh per acre for irrigated and Rs 20 lakh per acre for arid land. Farmers whose lands are needed did not accept those rates.

After the meeting Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, who is also the Irrigation Minister, said, "We have taken a historic decision on the Upper Krishna project... We will ensure land owners are protected (and) we have also decided to give more compensation to the farmers whose lands will be acquired..."

The farmers have accepted this latest offer, but on condition that all acquisition be completed and paid for within the three years it will take to complete work on the dam. That, then, puts the spotlight squarely on the state to find the money needed to complete land acquisition.

Labour Minister Santosh Lad admitted 'there have to be certain budget cuts'. Unconfirmed media reports said the cuts could be from the Rs 80,197 crore set aside for development work, but would exclude money reserved for 'guarantee' schemes and committed expenditure.

"It is a very important project... we have to fund it," Mr Lad argued.The other option, reports said, is to hike prices where possible or reduce funding to 'guarantee' schemes, i.e., welfare schemes being run as part of promises made before the 2023 election.

Reports have indicated the target revenue figure, at this time, is Rs 15,000 crore, and if department-wise cuts do not yield this amount, the state might cut from 'guarantee' schemes.

In Dabur vs Patanjali Fight Over Chyawanprash, A Court Warning For Ramdev

Staff Reporter, New Delhi, 19 September: The Delhi High Court has cautioned Patanjali Ayurved Ltd and Patanjali Foods Ltd against persisting with their appeal in a dispute with Dabur India over advertisements for chyawanprash, warning that the company could face costs if it does not withdraw its challenge.

A division bench comprising Justice C Hari Shankar and Justice Om Prakash Shukla, hearing the appeal this week, took exception to Patanjali's decision to contest an earlier order that required the removal of disparaging references from its promotional campaign. The bench noted that the original order, passed in July, did not mandate a complete withdrawal of the advertisement but only directed Patanjali to delete specific objectionable lines.

The conflict traces back to December 2024, when Dabur, one of India's oldest and largest consumer goods companies, moved the Delhi High Court against Patanjali's chyawanprash advertising campaign. Dabur alleged that Patanjali's claims were misleading, defamatory and damaging to its reputation.

Dabur, which has marketed chyawanprash for decades, argued that Patanjali's advertisements suggested that rival products, including its own, contained mercury and were therefore unsafe for children. The company also challenged Patanjali's claim that its chyawanprash was prepared with 51 herbs, while implying that Dabur's version contained only 40.

Dabur maintained that the advertisements harmed consumer trust built over generations.Patanjali, co-founded by yoga guru Ramdev and Acharya Balkrishna, defended its campaign as legitimate self-promotion. The company stated that its advertisements did not name Dabur or make direct comparisons.



The company argued that the statements in question were based on public information, including product labels, and therefore could not be deemed misleading.On July 3, 2025, Justice Mini Pushkarna, sitting as a single judge of the Delhi High Court, passed an interim order on Dabur's plea. She directed Patanjali to delete the phrase "Why settle for ordinary Chyawanprash made with 40 herbs?" from print advertisements.

In addition, Patanjali was ordered to modify its television commercial by removing storyboard segments that implied only those with Ayurvedic knowledge could produce the "original Chyawanprash." The judge clarified that Patanjali was free to continue its campaign, provided these changes were implemented.

Patanjali subsequently challenged the order before the Commercial Appellate Division of the Delhi High Court, contending that the ruling was inconsistent with established principles of commercial speech and puffery. The company argued that its right to highlight the distinctiveness of its product should not be curtailed.

When the matter came up before Justices Hari Shankar and Shukla, the bench expressed disapproval of the appeal. Observing that the single judge had issued only limited directions requiring removal of specific disparaging content, the bench suggested that Patanjali's challenge was unnecessary.

In a fresh setback to yoga guru Ramdev, the Delhi High Court on Thursday restrained his Patanjali Ayurved from running allegedly disparaging advertisements against Dabur Chyawanprash.

This comes months after the high court censured Ramdev over a video containing disparaging remarks against herbal drink Rooh Afza.A bench of Justice Mini Pushkarna on Thursday allowed two interim injunction applications filed by Dabur against the advertisements by Patanjali Ayurved. "Application is allowed," the judge said.

In December, Dabur had moved the High Court, alleging that Patanjali Ayurved was running advertisements disparaging its Chyawanprash product. Dabur urged the court to immediately restrain Patanjali from continuing with these advertisements, which they claim harm their reputation and mislead consumers.Ramdev is quoted as saying in the advertisement: "Jinko Ayurved aur Ved ka gyaan nahi, Charak, Sushrut, Dhanwantari aur Chyawanrishi ke parampara mein 'original' Chyawanprash kaise bana payenge'?"

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INDIAN INFO EXCHANGE



Napoli's Giovanni Di Lorenzo, right, fouls Manchester City's Erling Haaland to be shown a red card during the Champions League opening phase soccer match between Manchester City and Napoli at the Etihad Stadium in Manchester, England.

Brilliant Gaganjeet Bhullar's Charge Gives Him IGPL Delhi NCR Title

Staff Reporter, 19 September: Gaganjeet Bhullar lived up to his top billing with a steady 1-under 71 that carried him to the top and into a share of the first place with the overnight leader Shaurya Binu in the inaugural Rs. 1.5 crore IGPL Invitational Chandigarh. Bhullar (70-71) and Binu (69-72) were both tied at 3-under as opening event of the IGPL Tour hung in a delicate balance, with two others Kapil Kumar and Harendra Gupta, were 1-under and two shots behind in Tied third place.

Six others were at even par on a course that did not yield many low scores and resulted in a tightly bunched leaderboard ahead of the final day.No less than 10 players were within three shots of each other as the fight to become the first IGPL Champion became very intense. It promises an exciting final day, the likes of which have seldom been seen in Indian golf, as the young and not-so-young battle the youth and experienced alike.

Making it even more exciting was the presence of a woman pro, Jahanvi Bakshi, who was tied fifth with five others and just three behind the leaders. A win for her would be historic and do wonders for Jahanvi as she slowly makes her way back after injuries over the last few years.

Bhullar and Binu may share the lead, but a whole bunch of players, young and experienced, were snapping at their heels to have a shot at the Rs. 22.50 lakh winner's cheque, one of the highest ever in a domestic event in India.

Attracting a lot of attention on a crowded leaderboard were two debutant professionals, Kartik Singh (73-71) and Veer Ganapathy (72-72).

Kartik, Veer and Jahanvi were tied fifth alongside Sanju Kumar, local man Ranjit Singh and Saarthak Chibber, who bounced back on the second day with the day's best of 69 after a 75 on the first day.

Bhullar opened with a bogey but rallied with birdies on the second and the fourth before turning in a series of pars. He birdied the 12th but gave back that gain on the 14th with a bogey for a 71 that



took him to 3-under.

"It will be nice to begin a new IGPL Tour win in Chandigarh, a city which has been like a home for me. So, a win tomorrow will mean a lot."

"Apart from my own game, I have also enjoyed playing and interacting with young golfers, who are still in their teens. They have the talent and a great future," said Bhullar, who has 11 Asian Tour wins, the most by any Indian golfer.

Binu, who began the day as the sole leader at 3-under, threatened to pull away from the field with early heroics. He was on a song with three birdies against one bogey in the first seven holes. After the turn, he added another one on the 12th to go three-under for the day six-under for the tournament and seemed in command.

Then he struck a disastrous patch with a bogey-double bogey-bogey from the 14th to the 16th and went 1-over par. A birdie on the 17th was like a balm ahead of the final day. After 69 on the first day, he finished par on the second day.

"I won't say putting was a problem. My game just did not click after the first few holes. Those three (14-15-16) holes do not suit my eye," said Binu.

Kartik's card suggests a roller-coaster of a round with five birdies and three bogeys. However, till the 16th, which he birdied, he was cruising and gunning for the lead at 2-under total. Then came the putting woes as he bogeyed the closing two holes to fall back to even par three behind the leaders.

"Putting let me down towards the end," said the youngster, who was confident of making amends on the final day.

Veer Ganapathy shot a second successive even par round under the watchful eye of his father, Rahul Ganapathy, a former All India Amateur champion, who once shot a 12-under round in a pro event.

Trailing Bhullar and Binu and lying Tied third were Kapil Kumar, who hails from a pedigreed golfing family, and Harendra Gupta, whose love for and success at the Chandigarh Golf Club is almost unrivalled.

Local Chandigarh man, Harendra, 41, who learnt his name at this very course and then honed it to the extent that four of his 11 wins in pro events have come here. Harendra said the IGPL has given him new motivation.

His amazing record at the Chandigarh Golf Club consists of four pro wins in a little over 20 years at this course and one of the wins came while he was still an amateur way back in ago in 2003-04.

Kapil, 33, who has time and again finished in Top-5 on the Indian pro Tour, is still looking for his maiden professional win this week.

Pakistan Break Silence Amid Reports Of 'Breaching ICC Protocols' At Asia Cup 2025

Staff Reporter, Kolkata, 19 September: The Pakistan Cricket Board on Friday defended its media manager filming a meeting between match referee Andy Pycroft and team officials ahead of their Asia Cup game against UAE, maintaining that the action was within ICC protocols. On Thursday, ICC CEO Sanjog Gupta had written to the PCB citing "multiple violations" of the Players and Match Officials Area (PMOA) code, including the recording of the interaction that involved coach Mike Hesson, captain Salman Ali Agha, and manager Naveed Akram Cheema. The ICC communication had also questioned a PCB press release which stated that Pycroft had apologised, clarifying that the referee had only expressed regret over a miscommunication caused by an Asian Cricket Council (ACC) venue manager.

"The team's media manager is part of the squad and has authorised access to the PMOA. His presence there is



not a violation," a tournament source said, outlining the board's response.According to the PCB, existing protocols allow media managers to use cameras in the PMOA.

"If the Standard Operating Procedure was not followed, the ICC should check with the (match) referee on whether the matter was reported to the ACU," the source added.

However, when PTI contacted a tournament source, he said that the matter was indeed flagged by the ICC match official to the Pakistan team's ACU official and he had acknowledged the same.Earlier the global body was categorical in its email to the PCB.

"The ICC, in order to preserve the interest of the sport, the tournament and the stakeholders involved accepted PCB's request although this demonstrated a complete disregard for the sanctity of the PMOA, where the meeting took place," the source said.

It all started when Suryakumar Yadav didn't shake hands with his opposite number Salman Ali Agha and the PCB complained to the ICC about match referee violating the protocols pertaining to 'Spirit of the Game' and wanted him to be removed from the tournament or from Pakistan's matches.

The ICC rejected PCB's claims and also backed its elite panel match referee making it clear that he was merely passing on the message of the ACC venue manager.

Kuldeep Yadav Breaks Silence On England Tests Snub, Reveals Gautam Gambhir's Message

Staff Reporter, New Delhi, 19 September: During the two months in England when he was warming the bench, the easy way would have been to blame anyone and everyone for his failure to fit into India's playing XI, but Kuldeep Yadav chose to traverse the tougher route. While spinners who can bat are in vogue these days, Kuldeep has his priorities clear and won't deviate from his philosophy.

"If I play in any team, I will play as a (specialist) bowler. My job is to take wickets. If I don't take wickets, there will be no place for me. It is very important to understand that when you play as a proper bowler, your job is to take wickets for the team," Kuldeep said on Thursday.Considered India's most versatile spinner of current times, the Kanpur man made it clear that he doesn't want to put all eggs in one basket by trying to transform himself into a bowling all-rounder.

He preferred to work on his skills, improve his fitness, and increase the volume of his bowling before he received his chances again. It paid dividends as the left-arm wrist spinner has got back-to-back Player of the Match award in the first two Asia Cup games including a three-wicket haul against his happy hunting team Pakistan.

"No, there was clear communication. Sometimes, in 3-4 matches, I felt that I could play, but unfortunately, I couldn't play.

"Gauti bhai (Gambhir) was very straightforward. Sometimes, I felt that I could play, but as you know, because of the batting combination, I couldn't," Kuldeep said ahead of India's final group league match against Oman.

"But there was nothing about skill or batting," he added.The two months in the UK were spent learning new skills and have a few new tricks up his sleeve.

"When you don't play, you learn a lot and you become a better player. Because you have a lot of ideas about how to react in a situation. It is very easy to blame someone. And it is very tough to accept things in your stride and strive to improve," he was being pragmatic.

The soul searching is very important, he added."What am I weak at? What should I work on? How should I become a better player? There are two ways. The player chooses which path he wants to travel.

"But it is very important that you keep working hard. Don't leave anything. When you don't play, you have time to work on yourself.

"And become a better player when you get a chance. But practice sessions are done to improve any skill." Kuldeep is also very critical of his own bowling, and doesn't feel he is still performing at his full potential, even though his T20I record is impressive.

"I don't think I am bowling that well. But I think I can improve and become better. Sometimes, you make a mistake in reading the batsman in this format. When you are at the top of a team and make small mistakes, you don't notice it.

"But you feel that you have made a mistake. I still have to work on that. I think I need to work more in bowling because there are more formats." Looking at how the team management thinks, is he working a bit more on his batting, and his answer is refreshingly surprising."I am not worried about batting. Whenever we get an opportunity to bat during the next session, I generally bat. It is very important to bat in the game. That is the most important thing for any batter who wants to improve his batting."

"But obviously, I have been working a lot on my batting."

One of the biggest football freaks in the Indian cricket team, Kuldeep's Barcelona fandom is well documented. Now he has a YouTube channel of his own where he analyses Champions League, EPL, and La Liga games when he gets time and also does commentary.

He believes that watching world famous players warming the bench in top tier football games help lessen his own disappointment that comes with exclusion.

4 Minutes Before India vs Pak Toss, Match Referee Received BCCI's 'Message'. What It Said

Staff Reporter, New Delhi, 19 September: The Pakistan Cricket Board vs International Cricket Council saga over match referee Andy Pycroft's conduct on the India vs Pakistan match last Sunday seems settled to a large extent. After multiple letters demanding Pycroft's removal from Pakistan's Asia Cup matches, followed by an apology over 'miscommunication', the controversy is nearing its conclusion.



But, as the ICC contemplates action against the PCB over breach of some protocols during a meeting involving Pycroft, a report has explained what happened right before Pycroft was to officiate the toss on the ground during the India vs Pakistan Group A clash in Dubai.

As per ESPNCricinfo, the information about the 'no handshake' protocol between Suryakumar Yadav and Salman Ali Agha was given to Pycroft just four minutes before the coin toss was to happen in the match. Right before Pycroft walked onto the field, the Asian Cricket Council venue manager informed him to relay the 'no handshake' message in the middle.

The ACC venue manager's instructions came after receiving a message from the BCCI, with due approval from the Indian government, that "there will be no handshake between captains Suryakumar and Salman".

PCB, who remained miffed with the entire episode since Sunday, said that Pycroft should've informed the ICC about the 'no-handshake' protocol, but the Zimbabwean simply didn't have enough time to do so. If the match referee had had enough time, he would've kept the top cricketing body in the loop, but that wasn't possible due to the time constraints.

Pycroft, hence, decided to inform Salman about the no handshake rule, hoping to prevent him from embarrassment had he approached Suryakumar with the customary gesture.

Pakistan threatened to pull out of the match against the UAE on Wednesday if its request of Pycroft's removal wasn't met. However, the ICC rejected the request twice. The match went ahead, though after a one-hour delay.

PCB then claimed that Pycroft "apologised to the manager and captain of the Pakistan cricket team", though it has also been confirmed that the apology was merely an "expression of regret over the misunderstanding and miscommunication" and not an acceptance of protocol breach, which PCB had accused him of. The PCB has also said in a statement that ICC had "expressed its willingness to conduct an inquiry into the code of conduct violation that occurred during the September 14 match". But, ICC maintains that there was no misconduct on Pycroft's part.

Enzo Maresca Defends Chelsea Exile For Raheem Sterling And Axel Disasi

Staff Reporter, Miami, 19 September: A determined Sri Lanka will take inspiration from their unbeaten group campaign and start favourites against an inconsistent Bangladesh in the first Super Four match of the Asia Cup here on Saturday. Ably led by Charith Asalanka, the Lankans finished on top of Group B with three wins from as many matches, ahead of Bangladesh and T20 World Cup semifinalists Afghanistan. Sri Lanka beat Bangladesh by six wickets before defeating Hong Kong and Afghanistan by four and six wickets respectively.

But the Lankans are very capable of collapsing as well. The Islanders almost lost against Hong Kong on Monday after opener Pathum Nissanka's fifty.A brittle middle-order is the major concern for Sri Lanka as they were on the verge of a familiar nosedive against Hong Kong, just three weeks after they were bowled out for 80 by Zimbabwe in Harare.

Nissanka has been the standout performer for Sri Lanka with the bat, leading the run-scorers' list with 124 runs from three games, including two fifties.

After two sedate knocks, wicketkeeper-batter Kusal Mendis finally came to the party with an attacking 74 off 52 balls against Afghanistan, much to the delight of the Lankans.Left-hander Kamil Mishara too has been in good touch but Sri Lanka would look for contributions from the likes of skipper Asalanka, senior batters Kusal Perera and Dasun Shanaka in the middle-order.

In all the three group matches, Sri Lanka thrived while chasing and one would expect the Islanders to continue the same trend if they win the toss on Saturday.Besides batting, the Sri Lankans



have also been mighty impressive with the ball and ground fielding.

Right-arm fast bowler Nuwan Thushara is the fourth highest wicket-taker in the tournament so far with five scalps. Dushmantha Chameera too has been among wickets with the new ball.

Wanindu Hasaranga, Asalanka and Dasun Shanaka have tightened the screws in the middle overs.

But Sri Lanka are will miss the services of all-rounder Dunith Wellalage as he has returned home from the tournament after his father, Suranga, passed away on Thursday night, the same day when he was playing their final Group B match against Afghanistan in Abu Dhabi.

Wellalage learned of his father's demise only after the match, and he left for Colombo on the earliest available flight.

It is also unclear whether the 22-year-old will return for the tournament or not.Bangladesh, on the other hand, progressed to the Super Four stage on Sri Lanka's mercy. Had the Islanders lost against Afghanistan on Thursday, Bangladesh would have been out of the tournament.

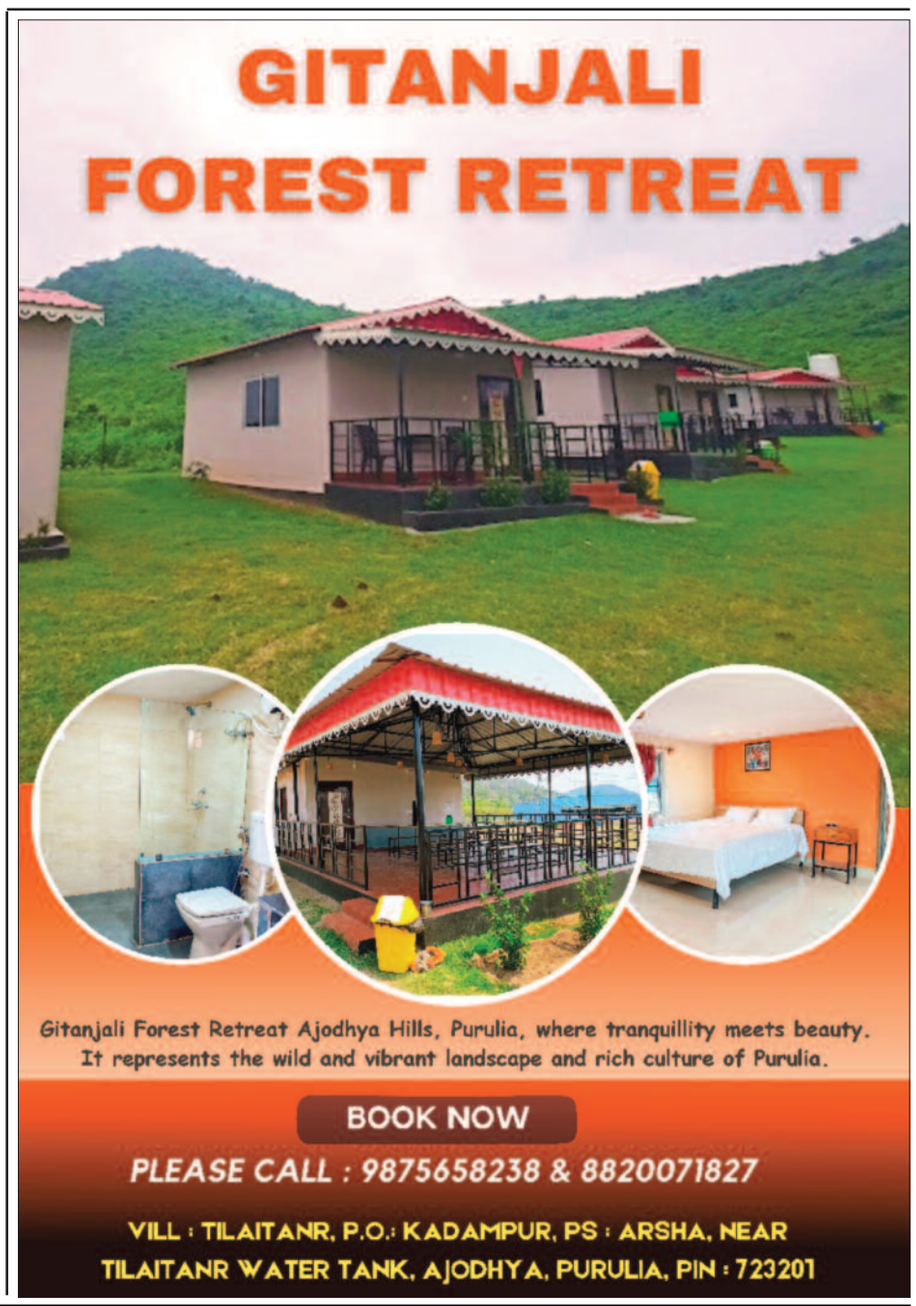
Bangladesh started the tournament with an easy seven-wicket win over Hong Kong before going down to Sri Lanka by six wickets. They brought their campaign back on track after a narrow eight-run win over Afghanistan.

Bangladesh's inconsistent batting remains a major concern. The likes of skipper Litton Das, tournament's fourth-highest scorer with 96 runs, Saif Hasan, Tanzid Hasan and Towhid Hridoy will need to come up with consistent performances.Bangladesh need overall improvement as their catching has also been below par and their bowlers have also often collapsed in the face of sensible and aggressive batting.

Bringing back Taskin Ahmed in place of Shoriful Islam against Afghanistan was a good move.

Bangladesh would also look towards Nasum Ahmed and Mustafizur Rahman to unsettle the Lankan batters.

Sri Lanka: Charith Asalanka (c), Pathum Nissanka, Kusal Mendis (wk), Kusal Perera, Nuwanidu Fernando, Kamindu Mendis, Kamil Mishara, Dasun Shanaka, Wanindu Hasaranga, Dunith Wellalage, Chamika Karunaratne, Maheesh Theekshana, Dushmantha Chameera, Binura Fernando, Nuwan Thushara, Matheesha Pathirana.



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