

Parking dispute turns violent in Kashmirira; youth, mother injured

MUMBAI, CORRESPONDENT: A dispute over a parking space turned violent in the neighbouring Kashmirira area of Palghar district, where a 21-year-old youth and his mother were allegedly assaulted by four people, police said on Tuesday.

The incident took place at Patel Complex under the limits of Kashmirira Police Station around 1530 hrs on July 13.

According to police, Mohammed Shafat Shahbaz Usmani, 21, was returning home on a scooter with a friend when he tried to park the vehicle in his residential society. Sultan Nasir Khan, who lives in a building opposite the complex, allegedly objected and claimed that the parking space belonged to him.

An argument followed, during which Sultan allegedly



slapped Usmani. Another person reportedly pushed him to the ground, after which he was allegedly kicked and punched.

Hearing her son's cries, his mother, Shabnam Usmani, rushed to the spot. Sultan's father, Nasir Khan, and brother, Altamash Khan, also allegedly joined the confrontation and assaulted the mother and son, according to the complaint.

Shabnam was allegedly pushed to the ground and suffered an ear injury,

causing bleeding and hearing difficulty. The injured mother and son were first taken to a government hospital and later admitted to a private hospital in Kashmirira, where they are undergoing treatment.

Based on Usmani's complaint, Kashmirira Police registered a case against Sultan Nasir Khan, Nasir Khan, Altamash Khan and an unidentified person under Sections 74, 115(2), 351(2), 352 and 3(5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023. Further investigation is underway.

Bodies of 15 Indians killed in Vietnam boat tragedy despatched from Mumbai



MUMBAI, CORRESPONDENT:

The bodies of 15 Indian tourists who died in a tragic boat capsized off Vietnam's Phu Quoc Island were despatched from Mumbai on Tuesday to their respective hometowns, officials said.

The mortal remains had arrived at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport aboard Vietnam Airlines flight VN979. After completing the necessary formalities, the bodies were sent to destinations including Chennai, Hyderabad, Thiruvananthapuram and Coimbatore in coordination with the concerned state

governments. Family members of the victims are awaiting the arrival of the mortal remains to perform the last rites. The Indian Embassy in Vietnam had earlier said that the bodies were flown from Ho Chi Minh City to Mumbai after all required formalities were completed. The boat was carrying 32 Indian tourists and four Vietnamese crew members when it capsized near Phu Quoc Island. Fifteen Indian tourists lost their lives, while 21 others survived.

Among the 15 victims, 10 were from Tamil Nadu, three from Andhra Pradesh and two from Kerala.

MahaRERA Says It Cannot Bar Tenants Or Guests From Using Society Clubhouses

MUMBAI, CORRESPONDENT: The Maharashtra Real Estate Regulatory Authority (MahaRERA) has ruled that it does not have the legal authority to direct developers to prevent tenants or guests from using common amenities such as clubhouses, stating that the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016 (RERA) does not empower it to issue such directions.

The observation came while hearing a complaint filed by a housing society near Mumbai against its developer. The society alleged that the agreement for sale signed between the developer and flat purchasers clearly stated that clubhouse usage rights were non-transferable. Despite this, the developer allegedly permitted tenants and non-residents to access the clubhouse.

The housing society argued that allowing tenants and outsiders to use the clubhouse violated the agreement and sought compensation from the



developer.

In its response, the developer denied any wrongdoing, stating that tenants are considered legitimate residents under their lease agreements and are therefore entitled to use the clubhouse. It further clarified that guests of residents are also allowed access upon payment of applicable guest charges and in accordance with community rules. The developer said the policy is consistent with standard practices followed in gated communities and integrated townships, balancing residents' privacy with reasonable access for guests. After examining the

matter, MahaRERA held that the dispute falls outside its jurisdiction under the RERA Act. The Authority observed that while the complainant sought directions to restrain the developer from allowing tenants and external individuals to use the clubhouse, the Act does not provide MahaRERA with the power to pass such an order or award compensation on that basis. As a result, MahaRERA declined to grant the relief sought by the housing society, reiterating that issues relating to restrictions on the use of common amenities by tenants or guests are beyond the scope of its powers under the RERA Act.

One killed, several injured as luxury bus overturns in Nashik

NASHIK, CORRESPONDENT: One passenger was killed and five to six others sustained minor injuries after a private luxury bus overturned in the Somthane-Josh Ghat section on the Yeola-Nandgaon State Highway early Tuesday morning.

According to preliminary information, the bus, which was from Madhya Pradesh, was carrying around 20 to 25 passengers when the driver allegedly lost control of the vehicle while negotiating the ghat section, causing it

to overturn. The accident triggered panic among the passengers. Local residents and police personnel rushed to the spot after receiving information about the incident and immediately launched rescue operations. One passenger died on the spot, while five to six others suffered minor injuries. The injured were shifted to the Rural Hospital in Nandgaon, where they are undergoing treatment. Police have registered the incident and are investigating the exact cause of the accident.

Newborn baby's body found in drain near Mumbai's Cooper Hospital, probe underway

MUMBAI, CORRESPONDENT:

The body of a newborn baby was found in a drainage line near Mumbai's Cooper Hospital in the Juhu area of the city suburb, prompting police to launch an investigation to identify the infant and trace the person responsible for abandoning the body.

According to police, the body was noticed by hospital staff on Monday evening, who immediately alerted the authorities.

A police team rushed to the spot, recovered the body and sent it for post-mortem examination to determine the exact cause and time of death.



Police have begun scanning CCTV footage from areas around Cooper Hospital, Juhu, Vile Parle and adjoining localities to identify any suspicious movement that could provide clues in the case.

Police are also checking records of Cooper Hospital and other nearby

hospitals and maternity centres to find out whether the baby was born at any medical facility in the area.

Details of recent deliveries and admissions are being examined as part of the probe.

Police are trying to establish whether the baby was alive at the time of birth and the circumstances under which the body was dumped in the drainage line.

Statements of hospital staff and other persons who may have information about the incident are also likely to be recorded. Further investigation is underway, police said.

Man arrested for obscene act in lift in front of minor girl in Mumbai building

MUMBAI, CORRESPONDENT:

A 27-year-old man has been arrested in Mumbai's Dahisar area for allegedly performing an obscene act inside a lift in front of a 13-year-old girl, police said on Tuesday. According to Dahisar Police, the incident occurred inside the lift of a residential building in the Jan Kalyan Nagar, Shanti Nagar area.

The accused has been identified as Nasir Amin Pathan. Police said that on the day of the incident, the accused allegedly exposed himself and made obscene gestures while staring at the minor girl.

A woman who was also present in the lift noticed the act and raised an alarm. She confronted the accused and threatened to record a video of him and make it public. Following this, the accused allegedly fled from the 8th floor. The woman then safely escorted the frightened girl to her home. The girl later informed her parents about the incident. Based on a complaint filed by the girl's father, Dahisar Police registered a case and arrested Nasir Amin Pathan under relevant sections of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. Further investigation is underway.

Shravan 2026: Holy Month Dedicated To Lord Shiva Begins On July 30; Know Dates, Sawan Somwar And Significance

The holy month of Shravan (Sawan), one of the most auspicious periods in the Hindu calendar dedicated to Lord Shiva, will begin on July 30, 2026, according to the North Indian Purnimanta calendar, and conclude on August 28, 2026.

Observed with great devotion across India, Shravan is considered a sacred time for prayers, fasting, and worship of Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati. The month falls during the monsoon season and attracts millions of devotees to Shiva temples.

Shravan 2026 Dates
The beginning and end of



Shravan vary across different parts of the country because various regions follow different Hindu calendar systems.

As per the Purnimanta calendar followed in North India:

Shravan begins: July 30,

2026 (Thursday)
Shravan ends: August 28, 2026 (Friday)
During this month, many devotees observe fasts, follow a vegetarian diet, and abstain from alcohol, tobacco, and other intoxicants as part of their spiritual practices.

Importance of Sawan Somwar

Every Monday (Somwar) during Shravan is considered especially sacred for the worship of Lord Shiva. Known as Sawan Somwar, these days are marked by special prayers and fasting by devotees.

On Sawan Mondays, devotees visit Shiva temples, perform Abhishekam of the Shiva Linga using milk, water, honey, bel leaves (Bilva Patra), and dhatura flowers, and chant prayers such as "Om Namah Shivaya" while seeking the deity's blessings.

The Sawan Somwar Vrat

is believed to bring peace, prosperity, good health, and the fulfilment of sincere wishes.

According to Hindu beliefs, unmarried women observe the fast while praying for an ideal life partner, inspired by Goddess Parvati's devotion to Lord Shiva. Married couples also undertake the vrat for marital harmony, family well-being, and a prosperous life.

Devotees believe that worshipping Lord Shiva with faith during Shravan helps remove obstacles, dispel negative energies, and invite divine blessings into one's life.

Drunk tourist rescued 150 metres inside sea at Alibag beach

MUMBAI, CORRESPONDENT:

A tourist was rescued from drowning by a team of lifeguards after he ventured deep into the sea in an inebriated condition and was caught in strong waves at Alibag beach in Maharashtra's Raigad district, officials said on Tuesday.

The tourist, identified as Shahrulkh Sheikh, around 30 years old and a resident of Kelvali Phata in Pune, had reportedly entered the sea after consuming alcohol.

According to officials, Sheikh went nearly 100 to 150 metres into the sea before he was caught in

strong currents and high waves. Unable to return to the shore, he began struggling in the water and was in danger of drowning.

Lifeguards stationed at the beach noticed the tourist in distress and immediately launched a rescue operation. The rescuers — Kunal Sarang, Prathamesh Sarang, Nilesh Kamtekar and Mahesh Patil — entered the rough sea and swam towards him.

Despite strong waves and difficult sea conditions, the lifeguards managed to reach Sheikh and safely bring him back to the shore. He was given immediate assistance, and his condition was later

reported to be stable.

The timely action of the lifeguards prevented a possible tragedy.

Officials have repeatedly advised tourists to avoid entering deep waters, particularly during rough sea conditions, and not to venture into the sea after consuming alcohol.

Visitors have also been urged to follow safety instructions issued by lifeguards and local authorities.

The same team of lifeguards had also rescued seven tourists from the Thane district in a daring operation at the beach a few days ago.

International Standard Agricultural Market to be Built on 558 Hectares in Dapchari – Marketing Minister Jayakumar Rawal

MUMBAI, Correspondent: An international standard agricultural market will be established on 558.43 hectares (1,395 acres) of land in Dapchari, Dahanu Taluka of Palghar district. This project will serve as an ambitious initiative directly connecting Maharashtra's farmers to the global market, expressed Marketing Minister Jayakumar Rawal.

While interacting with journalists at the Mantralaya, Marketing Minister Rawal shared detailed information regarding the international-grade agricultural market to be set up in Dapchari. Praveen Darade, Principal Secretary of the Marketing Department, was also present on the occasion. Minister Rawal stated that the project, situated just 40 kilometers from Vadhavan Port, will be



developed on the lines of the Rungis Market in France, Royal Flora Holland in the Netherlands, and the modern agricultural logistics systems around the Port of Rotterdam. It will be built as a world-class agricultural trade hub catering to both domestic and export market needs.

Creation of a Three-Tier Marketing System

The state plans to develop a three-tier marketing system comprising an International

Market, a Market of National Importance, and Agricultural Produce Market Committees (APMCs). This structure will strengthen the agricultural value chain. Minister Rawal mentioned that special emphasis will be laid on integrating export market facilities, post-harvest value addition, computerized and transparent transactions, and modern market infrastructure.

Six Key Facilities under One Roof

The Dapchari center will integrate six crucial facilities at a single location: wholesale trade, import-export facilities, cold chain management, grading & packaging, multimodal logistics, and agritech & exchange facilities. Additionally, there are plans to set up warehousing, cold storage, ripening chambers, quality testing facilities, container terminals, railway sidings, e-auction systems, and an export facilitation center.

Boosting Maharashtra's Export Capabilities

Maharashtra ranks first in the country in the production of grapes, pomegranates, cotton, and pulses, and second in fruit and vegetable production. The state accounts for approximately 15% of India's total agricultural exports and 43% of the country's total fruit exports.

The Marketing Minister expressed confidence that the Dapchari project would further enhance this export capacity.

Driving Export and Employment Growth

The project is expected to help reduce post-harvest losses by 15% to 20% and save 15% to 20% in transportation and handling costs for agricultural produce. Minister Rawal stated that the project will create more than 10,000 direct and indirect jobs, which will significantly boost farmers' income, the agro-processing industry, and the local economy.

Direct Connection to the Global Market

Its seamless connectivity to major infrastructure projects—such as the Vadhavan Deepwater Port, Navi Mumbai International Airport, Jawaharlal Nehru Port (JNPT),

Samruddhi Mahamarg, Western Dedicated Freight Corridor, and the Vadodara Expressway—will ease exports and save logistics costs. The project will provide a major impetus to the export of fruits, vegetables, flowers, grains, pulses, spices, and processed agricultural products.

Developed under the initiative of the Maharashtra State Agricultural Marketing Board (MSAMB) and the guidance of the State Government, this project will be a milestone in making Maharashtra the leading agricultural export hub of the country.

Minister Jayakumar Rawal concluded by noting that the Dapchari International Agricultural Market is not just a marketplace, but a new highway of progress connecting Maharashtra's farmers directly to the global stage.

Promote Electric Vehicles by Finalizing Routes for Pink E-Rickshaws in MMR – Transport Minister Pratap Sarnaik

MUMBAI, Correspondent: To ensure the effective implementation of the Women's E-Rickshaw Scheme in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR), specific routes must be designated where they will not obstruct vehicular traffic, thereby promoting the use of electric vehicles. Transport Minister Pratap Sarnaik also directed that immediate discussions be held with relevant manufacturing companies regarding advancements and options in battery technology to enhance the speed and efficiency of these e-rickshaws.

He made these remarks during a meeting organized at the Mantralaya to review the implementation of the Women's E-Rickshaw Scheme, held in the presence of Women and Child Development Minister Aditi Tatkare. The meeting was attended by Transport Commissioner Rajesh Narvekar, along with officials from the Women and Child

Development Department and the Regional Transport Office (RTO).

Coordinating Smooth Traffic Flow and Route Planning

Minister Sarnaik noted that operating low-speed e-rickshaws on internal roads instead of main roads or highways will prevent any adverse impact on traffic flow. He instructed the Traffic Police and the Transport Department to jointly identify and finalize suitable routes for this purpose. He also highlighted that the built-in GPS system in the e-rickshaws could be utilized for effective tracking and monitoring. To address challenges related to the speed and capacity of e-rickshaws, the Minister directed that a joint meeting of the Transport Department, Traffic Police, and manufacturing companies be convened to discuss battery technology upgrades and necessary technical modifications.

DO NOT LET THE ENGINEER OF HOPE BECOME A MARTYR

The man who made ice stand upright is now placing his own body between India's young people and a system that has failed them. As Sonam Wangchuk's hunger strike enters its sixteenth day, the Republic must choose dialogue before obituary.

UPDATED 13 JULY 2026

THIS IS NO LONGER A CONTEST OF ENDURANCE. IT IS A TEST OF DEMOCRATIC RESPONSIVENESS.



By Prof Ujjwal K Chowdhury

An article and an appeal by Prof Ujjwal K Chowdhury

A BODY BECOMES THE LAST PETITION

At Jantar Mantar, in the hard heat and noise of New Delhi, Sonam Wangchuk's shrinking body has become an expanding question for India: how much must a citizen suffer before power considers listening a democratic duty?

On 13 July 2026, his indefinite hunger strike entered its sixteenth day. Wangchuk began the water-only fast on 28 June in solidarity with the youth-led Cockroach Janta Party protest over the NEET-UG paper leak, wider examination irregularities and the demand for accountability at the highest levels of the Union education establishment. He has also carried into the protest Ladakh's unresolved demand for constitutional, ecological and democratic safeguards.

The latest publicly reported medical figures, from the fifteenth day, were grave enough without exaggeration: a loss of about 7.8 kilograms and blood pressure recorded at 104/66 mm Hg. He was visibly weak. Yet he continued to speak with an almost disarming absence of self-dramatisation. A day earlier, rejecting comparisons with Mahatma Gandhi, he asked citizens not to wait for saviours but to "be your own hero."

That sentence changes the meaning of the fast. Wangchuk is not asking India merely to watch a heroic man suffer. He is asking citizens to recover their own agency. Still, no society can hide behind the striker's courage. Prolonged fasting can lead to arrhythmia, organ injury, cognitive impairment and death. This is no longer a contest of endurance. It is a race between democratic responsiveness and physical collapse.

"A sensitive government in a democracy listens to the pains of the people."

- Sonam Wangchuk, speaking to Reuters, 30 June 2026

THE CRISIS IN NUMBERS

INDICATOR	FACT / CONTEXT
Day of fast	16th day on 13 July 2026; the water-only fast began on 28 June.
Latest reported health data	About 7.8 kg weight loss and blood pressure of 104/66 mm Hg on Day 15. These are reported figures, not an independent clinical diagnosis.
Scale of NEET impact	Approximately 2.3 million candidates were affected by cancellation and retesting after the 2026 paper-leak scandal
Human toll	The Indian Express documented at least 12 deaths by suicide in 37 days before the retest; the Financial Times later reported at least 20 around the crisis. Individual causation requires careful verification.
Core public question	Who accepts responsibility when an examination system affecting millions is compromised?

Suicide figures are reported counts around the examination crisis; each case requires individual, sensitive verification.

WHEN MERIT IS MADE MEANINGLESS

The immediate cause of this fast is not a technical dispute about how an examination was administered. It is the collapse of trust in one of the few institutions through which young Indians are told that effort can overcome birth, geography and poverty.

More than 2.3 million candidates were affected when the original NEET-UG 2026 examination was cancelled after the paper-leak scandal and a retest was ordered. Behind that number were families that had spent years paying for coaching, travel, rent, books and application fees; students who had organised adolescence around a single date; and parents who had converted savings, jewellery or debt into hope. A leaked paper does not merely compromise an answer key. It steals time from the honest and sells advantage to the connected.

The human cost has been reported in devastating terms. The Indian Express documented at least 12 deaths by suicide in the 37 days between cancellation and the retest; the Financial Times later reported at least 20 student suicides around the examination crisis. Every case has its own circumstances, and no death should be reduced to a slogan or assigned a single cause without careful investigation. But the scale of distress is undeniable. It demands a response rooted in compassion, evidence and institutional responsibility—not statistical evasion.

This is the principle at the heart of Wangchuk's intervention: when a public examination affecting millions fails, accountability cannot end with a press release, a retest and promises of tighter security. It must establish how the breach occurred, who benefited, who failed in oversight, what compensation and counselling are owed to candidates, and what changes will prevent repetition. Otherwise, the state asks young people to trust a system that has offered them no reason to do so.

AN EXAMINATION LEAK IS NOT A CLERICAL ERROR. IT IS THEFT FROM MILLIONS OF YOUNG LIVES.

HE NEVER CALLED A CHILD A FAILURE

Wangchuk's presence gives this protest unusual moral force because education is not a theme he discovered for political convenience. It is the work of his life.

A mechanical engineer by training, he co-founded the Students' Educational and Cultural Movement of Ladakh—SECMOL—in 1988. Its founding insight was revolutionary because it was humane: perhaps Ladakhii children were not failing education; perhaps an alienating education system was failing them. Students were often taught through languages, examples and methods disconnected from the mountains, livelihoods and culture around them. Wangchuk helped replace this estrangement with learning rooted in local reality.

At SECMOL, a young person could learn solar energy by running a solar-powered campus, management by helping administer it, agriculture by cultivating difficult land, and citizenship by accepting responsibility for a community. The purpose was not to romanticise poor academic performance, but to rebuild confidence and demonstrate that intelligence is wider than memory under examination pressure.

His work also contributed to Operation New Hope, a collaboration among communities, civil society and public institutions to reform government schooling in Ladakh. The Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation honoured him in 2018 for a systematic, collaborative and community-driven transformation of learning systems. The recognition mattered because Wangchuk had not created an elite island for exceptional children. He had helped redesign the relationship between school, society and the child.

That history explains why he cannot treat the examination scandal as an administrative inconvenience. To Wangchuk, education is not a sorting machine that discards the many to reward the few. It is a public trust. When that trust is corrupted, the injury is moral before it is procedural.



A LIFE OF PRACTICAL IDEALISM

INDICATOR	FACT / CONTEXT
Education reform	Co-founded SECMOL in 1988 and helped build culturally rooted, experiential learning for Ladakhii youth.
School-system change	Contributed to Operation New Hope, linking communities, civil society and government institutions in Ladakh's education reform.
Climate adaptation	Developed and promoted Ice Stupas to store winter water for spring irrigation.
Sustainable architecture	Demonstrated passive-solar, earth-based construction suited to extreme Himalayan conditions.
Institution building	Co-founded the Himalayan Institute of Alternatives, Ladakh, centred on learning through real-world problem-solving.
Recognition	Rolax Award for Enterprise (2016) and Ramon Magsaysay Award (2018), among other honours.

HE MADE ICE STAND UPRIGHT

Wangchuk's best-known invention began with a paradox. Ladakh has abundant frozen water in winter, but farmers need irrigation in spring, before natural glaciers begin to melt sufficiently. His answer was the Ice Stupa: winter stream water channelled through pipes and sprayed into sub-zero air, where it freezes into a tall conical mass.

The geometry is the genius. A cone stores a large volume while exposing relatively little surface area to the sun, allowing the ice to melt slowly into the planting season. No grand dam is required, and gravity can do much of the work. The innovation earned Wangchuk the Rolex Award for Enterprise in 2016 and became an internationally recognised model of locally rooted climate adaptation.

He has applied the same ethic to passive-solar buildings, earth construction and high-altitude education: begin with the lived problem, respect the ecology, use science intelligently and ensure that the community can operate the solution. His inventions do not arrive from outside demanding that the mountains adjust. They grow from the mountains' own conditions.

There is a painful symmetry in the present moment. The man who taught India how to preserve winter water for the season of need is now consuming his own physical reserves because the institutions meant to preserve public trust appear unwilling to act in time.

NOT A FILM CHARACTER—A WORKING METHOD

Popular culture introduced millions to Wangchuk through the widespread description of Phunsukh Wangdu, Aamir Khan's unconventional inventor in 3 Idiots, as partly inspired by him. The comparison made his ideas accessible: curiosity over rote learning, invention over credentialism, usefulness over status.

But cinema can also shrink a life into a charming eccentricity. The real Wangchuk has spent decades doing what a film resolves in three hours—building institutions, negotiating with governments, raising resources, making mistakes, testing prototypes, confronting entrenched systems and returning to work the next morning.

His importance lies not in being a 'real-life Wangdu'. It lies in offering a repeatable civic method: understand deeply, simplify intelligently, build collectively and accept responsibility for consequences. That method now indicts the state. A government that celebrates innovation in speeches cannot remain indifferent when one of the country's most credible innovators says that the architecture of accountability is broken.

"Do not wait for a hero. Be your own hero."

- Sonam Wangchuk's appeal from the protest, 11 July 2026

THE MOUNTAIN IS NOT A POSTCARD

The fast is also inseparable from Ladakh. Since the reorganisation of Jammu and Kashmir in 2019, Ladakhii organisations have demanded statehood, constitutional protection under the Sixth Schedule, safeguards for land and employment, and meaningful local authority over development.

For Wangchuk, these are not abstract constitutional clauses. They determine who decides the future of a fragile cold desert: its residents, or distant institutions and commercial interests. Ladakh faces glacier retreat, water insecurity, unregulated tourism, infrastructure pressure and the possibility of large projects being imposed without sufficient ecological limits or local consent. A region celebrated as a strategic frontier and tourist paradise can still be denied an adequate democratic voice.

Wangchuk undertook a 21-day climate fast in 2024 and helped lead a march towards Delhi. In September 2025, after protests in Leh turned violent and four civilians were killed, the authorities accused him of contributing to unrest through provocative statements. He denied inciting violence and appealed for peace. He was detained under the National Security Act on 26 September and remained imprisoned for roughly 170 days before the Union government revoked the detention in March 2026.

Accuracy matters here. Wangchuk was detained under a preventive-detention law; he was not convicted of treason. One may debate his politics, the government's allegations or the tactics of the movement. But disagreement does not erase the central democratic question: can a border region seek constitutional and environmental safeguards without its most recognisable voice being treated principally as a security problem?

SILENCE IS ALSO A DECISION

As the fast moves into its third week, the most disturbing fact is not simply Wangchuk's medical decline. It is the absence, so far, of a publicly reported formal negotiation capable of producing an honourable resolution.

Dialogue is sometimes misrepresented as capitulation. In a democracy it is often the opposite: an assertion that institutions are strong enough to hear criticism, test allegations and correct failure. A minister need not accept every accusation in order to meet protesters. A government need not concede every demand in order to establish an independent inquiry, publish a timeline, offer student relief and open structured talks.

The state has greater power, greater information and greater capacity than a citizen on a mattress. That asymmetry creates a greater duty of care. To wait for the body to fail is not neutrality. Delay itself becomes policy.

ANNA HAZARE: THE LESSON IS NEGOTIATION, NOT NOSTALGIA

The memory of Anna Hazare's 2011 anti-corruption fast inevitably hangs over Jantar Mantar, but the comparison must be made accurately. Hazare began an indefinite fast on 5 April 2011; the Union government constituted a joint drafting committee on 8 April, and he ended the fast on 9 April. His larger August agitation lasted 12 days and ended after Parliament expressed agreement in principle on key demands. The Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act was eventually passed in 2013—not instantly at the protest site.

The relevant lesson is not that every hunger strike should dictate legislation. It is that government engagement can begin before a citizen's health reaches an irreversible threshold. Negotiation does not make elected authority weak; it demonstrates that authority understands its constitutional purpose.

Wangchuk's sixteenth day therefore carries a stark question. If the state could open talks with a fasting anti-corruption campaigner in 2011, why can it not establish a credible channel with an educator and environmentalist in 2026—especially when millions of students have already borne the cost of an acknowledged examination breakdown?

DIALOGUE DOES NOT DIMINISH ELECTED AUTHORITY. IT REVEALS WHETHER AUTHORITY REMEMBERS ITS PURPOSE.

IF HE DIES, INDIA DOES NOT WIN

No responsible article should romanticise Wangchuk's death. Martyrdom is not a policy outcome, and a funeral is not institutional reform. Yet refusing to consider the consequences would be equally irresponsible.

First, an examination controversy would become a moral crisis of the Republic. The defining question would no longer be only who leaked a paper, but why meaningful engagement did not begin while a nationally respected citizen's health deteriorated in public view.

Second, scattered youth anger could acquire a unifying symbol. Paper leaks, unemployment, delayed recruitment, expensive coaching and arbitrary evaluation cross state, caste, class and language. Wangchuk's death could connect these grievances into a wider consciousness of generational injustice. Peaceful frustration may then harden into a belief that institutions respond only after catastrophe.

Third, Ladakh's constitutional movement would be transformed. A demand often treated as remote would be carried everywhere by the image of a Ladakhii educator dying in the national capital. The loss of a bridge-builder can empower voices less patient with dialogue. For a sensitive border region, alienation is not an abstract political cost.

Fourth, India's international standing would suffer. Wangchuk is globally recognised for climate adaptation and educational reform. His preventable death during a non-violent protest would be cited in debates about democratic dissent, environmental justice and the treatment of civil-society actors.

Finally, the country could commit its most familiar act of evasion: mourn the man while abandoning the work. Institutions might be named after him, quotations circulated and statues proposed, while examination governance remained opaque and Ladakh's safeguards unresolved. India has often found it easier to garland a photograph than to complete an unfinished agenda.

THE COUNTRY MUST CHOOSE NEGOTIATION BEFORE OBITUARY. SAVE THE MAN—AND REPAIR THE SYSTEM

The answer cannot be merely to plead with Wangchuk to eat while leaving untouched the conditions that led him to fast. Nor should supporters value the symbolic power of his suffering above his life. Both the humanitarian emergency and the institutional demands must be addressed together.

The government should immediately appoint a senior, empowered interlocutor; open a recorded and time-bound dialogue with Wangchuk, student representatives and Ladakhii leaders; commission an independent investigation into the examination breach and associated administrative failures; publish a transparent reform schedule; and create psychological, academic and financial support for affected candidates and bereaved families. It should also resume credible constitutional discussions on Ladakh with ecological safeguards and local consent at the centre.

At the protest site, independent medical monitoring must be protected, clinical information communicated responsibly, and every route explored for a negotiated withdrawal that preserves Wangchuk's dignity. Saving a life is not a political favour. It is the minimum duty of a state confronted with foreseeable harm.

Wangchuk has spent nearly four decades showing that apparently impossible problems can be redesigned. A student branded a failure can become a leader. Winter water can irrigate spring fields. Mud, sunlight and intelligence can keep a building warm at Himalayan temperatures. A marginal region can generate ideas for the world.

The problem before India is simpler than any of those: can power cross a few kilometres in Delhi and speak to a citizen before his body is broken?

The nation does not need another photograph draped in marigolds. It needs Sonam Wangchuk alive—in a classroom, on a mountain, beside an ice stupa, arguing, inventing, and reminding us that public life can still be useful. The highest tribute is not to prepare an obituary. It is to create the conditions in which he can eat again.

The mountains are watching. The young are waiting. The clock is not.

Pune

Petrol Dealers Association Felicitates Police For Outstanding Traffic Management During Ashadhi Palkhi 2026

PUNE, CORRESPONDENT: The Petrol Dealers Association Pune (PDAP) has expressed its sincere gratitude to the Pune City Police, particularly the Traffic Police Department, for their outstanding planning, coordination, and execution of traffic management during the Ashadhi Palkhi 2026.



PDAP President Dhruv Ruparel appreciated Dr. Sandip Bhajbhakare, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Traffic), Pune City, and the entire Traffic Police team for their meticulous date-wise planning of petroleum tanker movement, timely guidance, and seamless coordination throughout the Palkhi period. Their efforts ensured the uninterrupted supply of petrol

and diesel across Pune despite extensive traffic diversions and road closures, while also maintaining smooth traffic flow and ensuring the safe passage of lakhs of Warkaris.

The Association also conveyed its special thanks to Manoj Patil, Additional Commissioner of Police, Pune City, for taking the time to personally meet the representatives of PDAP,

understanding the challenges faced by petrol dealers during the Palkhi period, and extending valuable support in resolving operational issues. His prompt intervention and positive approach greatly contributed to ensuring the smooth movement of essential petroleum supplies.

PDAP also thanked Amitesh Kumar, Commissioner of Police, Pune City, for the excellent leadership and

guidance provided to the entire police force during the Ashadhi Wari.

Speaking on the occasion, Dhruv Ruparel, President, Petrol Dealers Association Pune, said, "The exemplary coordination between Pune City Police and the petroleum industry ensured that essential fuel supplies remained uninterrupted while respecting the sanctity of the Ashadhi Wari. We sincerely thank the Commissioner of Police, Additional Commissioner of Police Shri Manoj Patil, DCP Traffic Dr. Sandip Bhajbhakare, and every police officer and traffic personnel whose dedication and tireless efforts made this possible. Their commitment to public service deserves the highest appreciation."

Pune Resident Alleges ₹1 Lakh Electricity Bill After Smart Meter Installation, Seeks Probe

Pune, Correspondent: A resident of Donje village near Sinhagad Fort in Pune's Haveli taluka has alleged that his electricity bill surged to nearly ₹1 lakh after the installation of a smart meter, despite living in a small 10x10-foot room with limited electricity usage.



The consumer claimed that before the smart meter was installed, his monthly electricity bill was around ₹750. The unexpected increase has prompted him to approach the Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Company Limited (MSEDCL), also known as Mahavitaran, seeking a thorough investigation into the matter.

He has requested the power utility to verify whether the unusually high bill was caused by a technical fault in the smart meter, an error in meter readings, or any other issue in the billing process.

The incident has sparked concern among residents as the state continues its smart meter rollout across Maharashtra, with many consumers closely watching

the transition to the new system.

The complaint comes days after Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis assured citizens that smart meter installations would not impose any additional financial burden on electricity consumers. He had also stated that any billing discrepancies or technical issues arising from the new system would be promptly examined and resolved.

Mahavitaran has not yet disclosed the findings of its inquiry. The investigation is expected to determine whether the unusually high electricity bill was the result of a technical malfunction, a billing error, or another underlying cause.

Revenue Minister Chandrashekhar Bawankule Distributes Hygienic Kits to Warkaris in Jejuri



PUNE, CORRESPONDENT: On the occasion of the Ashadhi Wari, hygienic kits were distributed to the Warkaris (pilgrims) heading towards Pandharpur at Jejuri, on behalf of the Shri Mahalaxmi Jagdamba Sansthan, Koradi. This service initiative was organized keeping in mind the health, hygiene, and safety of the pilgrims. The Revenue

Supreme Court Halts Ongoing Cases, Orders Mediation In Kalyani Family Dispute

PUNE, CORRESPONDENT: The long standing dispute between Kalyani siblings has now been referred to mediation. A three member bench of Supreme Court of India presided over by Chief Justice of India, Justice Surya Kant directed the siblings to participate in mediation. The court appointed former judge of Supreme Court, Justice L Nageswara Rao as the mediator.

The order passed on Monday, July 13 by Chief Justice Surya Kant, Justice Joymalya Bagchi, and Justice V Mohana, comes in the backdrop of multiple litigations pending between the Kalyani siblings – Baba Kalyani (77), Sugandha Hiremath (74), and Gaurishankar Kalyani (72) – and their family members. The matter reached SC after Sugandha Hiremath nee Kalyani moved court against an order passed by Bombay High Court on May 4, 2026, rejecting mediation between Kalyani siblings. In the HC, Baba Kalyani had refused to participate in mediation citing multiple grounds, which led the court to pass a judgement stating that mediation cannot be forced upon.

The Kalyani family members have been involved in bitter legal disputes for over a

decade over ancestral wealth. Apart from the suit in HC, there are several litigations pending in several forums, including civil suits for partition of joint family assets, and probate proceedings. At stake, is ancestral wealth estimated to be over ₹1 lakh crores. In the pot is vast immovable properties and several listed companies under the Kalyani Group, which are largely under the control of Baba Kalyani and Gaurishankar Kalyani.

When the matter came up for hearing in SC on Monday, Hiremath was represented by Karanjawala & Co, RJD & Partners and Senior Counsel Shyam Divan. The other side had stalwarts and senior counsels AM Singhvi, Kapil Sibal and Aryama Sundaram.

The court began the hearing by stating that mediation in the case was taking to getting an unwilling horse to a pond. Counsels for Baba stated that previous mediation attempts had failed and that the mediation request was raised by Sugandha at a critical juncture of one of the cases.

The bench, however insisted that parties must consider mediation. The CJI remarked that mediation will succeed only when stalwarts from either side step in and help in the same, indicating that counsels

from both sides should prevail upon Kalyani siblings to resolve the disputes. The court also remarked that all sides being billionaires must focus on constructive things.

The bench also gave an example of mediation between two brothers from business families succeeding after the older brother said he did not want any of the wealth and wished that his younger one touches his feet and accord him the much deserved respect. The bench stated that after the younger one touched older brothers feet, both the brothers broke down and put an end to their long pending dispute. "Such is the miracle and magic of mediation," the bench remarked.

Baba Kalyani's side insisted that the mediation should be time bound that proceedings in High Court should continue during this time. The SC bench, however, ordered that all proceedings will be stayed during the course of mediation. The bench ordered that siblings must approach Justice L Nageswara Rao without any delay and the mediation attempt must begin from tomorrow, while citing that there is a possibility of settlement. The matter has been listed two weeks from now.

Ranbir Kapoor Buys 25.7 Acres in Pune's Mulshi for ₹16.42 Crore

Pune, Correspondent: Bollywood actor Ranbir Kapoor has purchased nearly 25.7 acres of land in Pune's Mulshi taluka for ₹16.42 crore, further expanding his real estate investments. According to property registration documents, the deal was registered on April 30, 2026, and involves four adjoining land parcels located in Pimpri village.



The combined land area measures around 1,04,000 square metres, or approximately 25.7 acres. The four plots were purchased at different values, with the largest parcel spanning about 43,800 square metres. The transaction attracted a stamp duty of approximately ₹82.13 lakh.

This marks Ranbir Kapoor's second major land

acquisition in 2026. In May, he invested over ₹3 crore in a land parcel in Ayodhya as part of The Sarayu, a 75-acre luxury plotted development by The House of Abhinandan Lodha, situated along the banks of the Sarayu River.

The Mulshi purchase reflects the growing interest among Bollywood celebrities in investing in premium real estate beyond Mumbai. Destinations such as Pune, Alibaug, Lonavala and Goa have become preferred investment hubs due to their scenic locations, expanding

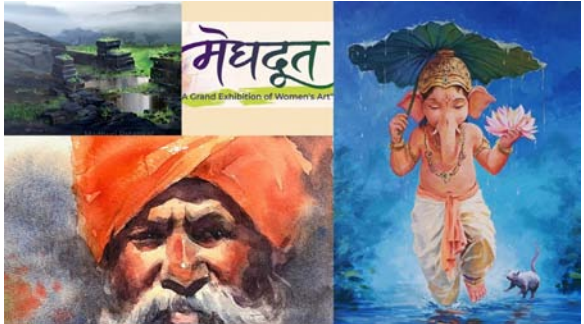
infrastructure, tourism potential and long-term value appreciation.

Real estate experts say land investments in emerging locations are increasingly being viewed as long-term assets with strong development and capital growth prospects. High-profile investors have been steadily diversifying their portfolios by acquiring large land parcels in these regions.

Ranbir Kapoor has not made any public statement regarding the Mulshi transaction. However, the purchase underscores the rising appeal of Pune's Mulshi region, which continues to attract investors looking at premium residential, holiday home and future development opportunities.

Meghdoot Art Exhibition To Celebrate Women Artists With 150+ Paintings And Sculptures

PUNE, CORRESPONDENT: Kalpavriksha Art Gallery, Gwalior, Rang Samarth Foundation (Pune), and Pune Artist Group are jointly organizing the 'Meghdoot' Women's Honour Mega Group Art Exhibition from 16 to 19 July 2026 at Balgandharva Art Gallery, Pune. The exhibition will be inaugurated by distinguished dignitaries on Thursday, 16 July 2026, at 4:00 PM. More than 150 women painters and sculptors from Maharashtra and various parts of India will participate in the exhibition. Visitors will have the opportunity to view outstanding artworks created in diverse mediums



of painting and sculpture.

The exhibition will showcase a rich collection of artworks featuring landscapes, portraits, abstract art, folk life, contemporary art, and a wide range of thematic subjects.

The exhibition will remain open to the public

free of charge from 16 to 19 July, daily between 10:00 AM and 8:00 PM. On the concluding day, Sunday, 19 July 2026, at 3:00 PM, a Women's Honour Ceremony will be held to recognize and felicitate the participating women artists for their

valuable contributions to the field of art. Art enthusiasts, collectors, architects, interior designers, entrepreneurs, students, journalists, and members of the public are cordially invited to visit the exhibition, appreciate the remarkable works of the participating women artists, and encourage their creative endeavors.

The appeal has been made by the organizers from Pune Artist Group: Surendra Kudapane-Patil, Swapna Pataskar, Vidula Kelkar, Vidya Repal, Pournima Walunj, Madhuri Patankar, Madhura Pawar, Dhanashree Kale, and Archana Kumbhar.

Deputy Chief Minister Sunetra Ajit Pawar Thanks PM and Railway Minister for the Transformation of Baramati Railway Station

MUMBAI, CORRESPONDENT: Deputy Chief Minister Sunetra Ajit Pawar has extended her special thanks to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw for the world-class redevelopment of the Baramati Railway Station under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme, executed at a cost of ₹11.40 crore. This state-of-the-art station will soon be dedicated to the nation.

Deputy Chief Minister Smt. Pawar, during her tenure as a Member of Parliament, along with the late Ajit Pawar during his tenure as



Deputy Chief Minister, had consistently followed up on this crucial project with the Central Government and the Ministry of Railways. Their joint efforts have now borne fruit, fulfilling the dream of the people of Baramati to have

a modern railway station.

Deputy Chief Minister Smt. Pawar stated that the station, which holds a rich history dating back to 1914, underwent a broad-gauge conversion in the past, and its current modernization

will give a new momentum to the progress of Baramati. Catering to approximately 1,800 passengers daily, the station now features divyangjan-friendly (specially-abled) facilities, modern waiting rooms, upgraded parking spaces, and a beautiful architectural blend reflecting regional styles.

She also expressed confidence that since Baramati is a prominent agricultural, educational, and industrial hub in the state, these world-class amenities will provide a significant boost to local trade, connectivity, and tourism.

Labor Education, Research, and Skill Development Will Get a New Direction – Labor Minister Adv. Phundkar

MUMBAI, CORRESPONDENT: A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj Nagpur University and the Narayan Meghaji Lokhande Maharashtra Institute of Labour Studies at the Mantralaya, in the prominent presence of Labor Minister Adv. Akash Phundkar. Speaking on the occasion, Labor Minister Adv. Phundkar expressed confidence that this agreement will give new momentum to labor education, research, skill development, and the creation of industry-oriented manpower in the state.

Through this agreement, short-term certificate and diploma courses will be launched, aimed at making labor education more practical and skill-based. Developing curricula aligned with the changing needs of the industrial sector will help provide quality training to students, employees, human resource management professionals, and stakeholders associated with the labor sector, the Labor Minister stated.

Labor Minister Adv. Phundkar added that faculty exchange programs, curriculum updates, joint research, workshops, seminars, awareness programs, and extension activities should be implemented on a priority basis through the joint collaboration of both institutions. He also expressed confidence that this agreement will successfully bridge the gap between industry and academia by promoting research in fields such as labor welfare, social security, industrial relations, human resource

development, and the creation of employable skills.

This MoU will remain in effect for three years, with a provision to extend its duration by mutual consent. The Labor Minister reiterated that this initiative will provide a new direction to research, skill development, employment-oriented education, and industry-aligned training in the state's labor sector.

According to the agreement, the University will provide academic accreditation, quality control, curriculum approval, and award certificates to successful students. The Maharashtra Institute of Labour Studies will handle course implementation, training, necessary infrastructure, and academic management. A joint monitoring committee will regularly review the quality of the courses. It was also shared during the event that both institutions will work jointly regarding intellectual property rights (IPR) generated through this collaborative research.

The event was attended by Dr. Manali Kshirsagar, Vice-Chancellor of Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj Nagpur University; Dr. Sumit Mahore, Director of the Department of Lifelong Learning and Extension; Roshni Kadam Patil, Director of the Narayan Meghaji Lokhande Maharashtra Institute of Labour Studies and Deputy Secretary of the Labor Department; Deputy Secretary Swapnil Kapadnis; Deputy Director Dr. Atul Naubade; along with other officials from both institutions.

State-Wide Tree Plantation Campaign Launched on the 78th Anniversary of MSRTC 'Plant Trees, Save Trees'

MUMBAI, CORRESPONDENT: On the occasion of the 78th anniversary of the Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation (MSRTC), a state-wide tree plantation campaign was launched from the Vidyavihar Divisional Office by Transport Minister and MSRTC Chairman Pratap Sarnaik.

The event was attended by MLA Dilip Lande, Vice Chairman and Managing Director Dr. Madhav Kusekar, along with key officials and staff of the corporation. Under this campaign, large-scale tree plantation drives were carried out across MSRTC bus stations, depots, offices, and various campuses throughout the state.

"Today's initiative is not limited to mere tree plantation, but represents a collective pledge to build a green, prosperous, and secure Maharashtra for future generations."

Pratap Sarnaik, Transport



Minister & MSRTC Chairman

Combating Climate Change: Minister Sarnaik emphasized that to tackle escalating environmental crises—such as rising global temperatures, erratic rainfall, heavy rains, droughts, floods, and severe heatwaves—every citizen must actively

shoulder the responsibility of environmental conservation.

Trees as Earth's Lungs: He highlighted that trees provide oxygen, absorb carbon dioxide, regulate temperatures, and play a crucial role in ecological balance. "Planting a tree today is building a solution for the crises of tomorrow,"

he said.

MSRTC's Social Commitment: He noted that the MSRTC is not just a transport service provider, but a social institution deeply connected with the community. Consequently, executing public-spirited and eco-friendly initiatives remains a core social

responsibility of the corporation.

The 'One Employee – One Tree' Pledge

Emphasizing that responsibility does not end with just planting a sapling, the Minister stressed that nurturing and protecting every plant is far more critical.

He called upon everyone to embrace the resolve of "One Employee – One Tree" and "One Citizen – One Tree". He urged officers, staff, and passengers to actively participate in bringing greenery to every MSRTC depot, bus station, and office campus.

Concluding his address on the 78th anniversary, Minister Pratap Sarnaik appealed to everyone to take the message of "Plant Trees, Save Trees" to every household. He underscored that protecting nature is synonymous with protecting humanity, and urged citizens to work unitedly toward building a green Maharashtra.

PMC Microchips Over 1,500 Stray Dogs In Latest Drive

PUNE, CORRESPONDENT:

As part of its goal to make Pune rabies-free by 2030, the Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) has implanted microchips in more than 1.36 lakh stray dogs over the past two-and-a-half years. The initiative aims to improve dog identification, vaccination tracking and population management using technology.

According to data shared by the PMC Veterinary Department, the civic body has microchipped:

66,537 dogs in 2024–25
61,454 dogs in 2025–26
12,320 dogs between January and June 2026

This brings the total number of microchipped stray dogs to 1,40,311. (The figures published by PMC add up to 1,40,311, although the reported total in the table appears inconsistent.)

The microchipping drive



is being carried out under the Animal Birth Control (ABC) Programme. Dogs captured for sterilisation are implanted with a microchip before being released back to the location where they were found.

Earlier, sterilised dogs were identified by clipping a portion of one ear. However, PMC officials said the use of microchips has eliminated the need for ear-notching while providing a more reliable method of identification.

The microchip, which

is implanted beneath the dog's skin, can be scanned from a distance of 15 to 20 centimetres using a handheld scanner. The chip contains information such as the dog's sterilisation and anti-rabies vaccination status, enabling veterinary teams to quickly verify its medical history.

PMC officials said the technology-driven initiative is expected to strengthen rabies control efforts while improving the management and welfare of the city's stray dog population.

Pune, Correspondent: Pune has once again emerged as India's top housing market, recording the highest number of home sales among major cities in the country. According to the latest Pune Housing Report – July 2026, released jointly by CREDAI Pune and CRE Matrix, the city registered 44,265 home sales worth ₹37,048 crore during the first six months of 2026.

The report, based on official property registration data from Maharashtra's Inspector General of Registration (IGR), highlights Pune's strong demand for homes, supported by a growing IT sector, Global Capability Centres (GCCs), the automobile industry, and steady job creation.

Between 2021 and 2025, Pune recorded 4.28 lakh home sales—the highest



among all Indian cities. During this period, the city sold 37% more homes than Hyderabad, the second-largest market, with an average of one home being sold every six minutes.

The average value of a home sold in Pune has now reached ₹84 lakh, marking a 38% increase since the first half of 2022. The total value of residential transactions has also risen by 42% over

the past four years, while average property prices per square foot have increased by 20%.

The report also shows that more buyers are choosing premium homes. Around 26% of homes sold during the first half of 2026 were priced above ₹1 crore. However, Pune continues to remain one of the country's most affordable metro housing markets, with

nearly 74% of homes sold costing below ₹1 crore. Homes priced between ₹50 lakh and ₹1 crore remain the most popular among buyers.

CREDAI Pune President Manish Jain said Pune's housing market continues to be driven by genuine homebuyers, with rising demand for both affordable and premium homes. He added that the city's strong employment opportunities

and infrastructure growth are expected to keep the market on a steady growth path.

CRE Matrix CEO Abhishek Kiran Gupta said that while overall housing sales have slightly slowed compared to the record highs of recent years, demand for premium and luxury homes remains strong, reflecting the city's growing economy and higher purchasing power.

Among Pune's residential areas, the North East corridor, including Kharadi and Wagholi, recorded the highest rise in average home values at 54% since 2022, while the South West region saw the fastest growth in prices per square foot. With strong employment, expanding infrastructure, affordable housing options and increasing demand for premium homes, Pune continues to strengthen its position as India's housing capital.

Fungus Found In Sealed Cake Pack From The Health Factory; Consumer Seeks ₹1 Lakh Compensation

PUNE, CORRESPONDENT:

A Pune resident has alleged that he found fungus-covered packaged cakes purchased through an online grocery platform and has accused the manufacturer of attempting to settle the matter privately instead of taking corrective action.

According to the consumer, he purchased The Health Factory Mini Cakes – Roasted Almonds on June 19, 2026 for his minor child through Swiggy Instamart. He claimed that upon opening the sealed pack, he discovered extensive fungal and mold growth on the cakes, despite the product being within its expiry date. The product reportedly belonged to Batch No.



1ZF149D2 with an expiry date of June 27, 2026.

Gupta alleged that after reporting the issue to the manufacturer, Nutri Being Pvt. Ltd., the company acknowledged that some products were experiencing fungal growth but attributed the issue to weather and storage conditions. He further claimed that

the company offered to replace the product with complimentary samples, which he declined.

The Pune resident has also alleged that he later received a phone call from the company's representatives offering ₹5,000 on the condition that he delete his social media posts and withdraw the

matter. He said he rejected the offer, stating that public safety should not be compromised.

Following the incident, Gupta said he escalated the matter to the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) and also lodged a complaint through the National Consumer Helpline, seeking ₹1 lakh in compensation for the alleged mental distress and potential risk to his child.

According to the complainant, the grievance remains pending and is currently marked as "Not Processed Yet", prompting concerns over delays in consumer redressal mechanisms.

Gupta said he has preserved photographs

and videos of the allegedly contaminated product, the purchase invoice, screenshots of the consumer complaint, and email communications with the company as supporting evidence.

The allegations made by the complainant have not been independently verified. Nutri Being Pvt. Ltd. has not publicly responded to the claims regarding the alleged ₹5,000 settlement offer or the specific batch mentioned by the complainant.

The incident has once again raised questions about food safety, quality control in packaged food products, and the speed of grievance redressal for consumers reporting potential public health concerns.

Spot Unsafe Food? Report It with FSSAI App

PUNE, CORRESPONDENT:

FSSAI urges citizens to report unhygienic food practices through the Food Safety Connect app to help improve food safety across India.

Many people come across unhygienic food practices while eating at restaurants or ordering food online. From dirty kitchens and unsafe food handling to food adulteration and the use of staple pins in food packaging, such issues are often ignored. Most consumers simply avoid buying from the same outlet again instead of reporting the problem.

To encourage people to take action, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of

India (FSSAI) has asked citizens to report unsafe food practices through its Food Safety Connect mobile app under the Eat Right India campaign.

The app allows consumers to quickly report food safety violations in just a few steps. Users can click a photo of the issue, submit a complaint through the app, and help food safety officials take action. Complaints can be filed even without creating an account.

The initiative aims to improve food hygiene standards by involving the public in identifying unsafe food practices. Whether it is contaminated food, poor hygiene in restaurants, or

careless handling of food by vendors, citizens can now report such violations directly to the authorities.

Apart from registering complaints, the app also helps food business operators by providing access to the Food Safety Compliance System (FoSCoS), where they can apply for food safety licences and registrations.

The Food Safety Connect app is available for both Android and iPhone users through the Google Play Store and Apple App Store. FSSAI believes that public participation is key to improving food safety standards and ensuring cleaner, safer food for everyone.

Customer Finds Dead Cockroach In Pasta At Baner Restaurant, Complaint Filed With FDA

PUNE, CORRESPONDENT: A customer has alleged finding a dead cockroach in a serving of pasta at a restaurant in Baner and has claimed to have fallen ill after consuming part of the dish.

According to the complainant, the incident occurred at The Legends Sports Bar on Pancard Club Road, Baner, at around 9:30 pm on July 12. The customer said they had ordered Spaghetti Aglio e Olio and discovered a dead cockroach in the dish after taking two to three bites.

The complainant alleged that they experienced vomiting and a headache after consuming the food.

The customer further claimed that after the matter was brought to the attention of the restaurant staff, the manager requested them not to file a formal complaint and instead offered a complimentary dessert.

The complainant has raised the issue with the concerned authorities, seeking appropriate



action over the alleged lapse in food hygiene and safety.

The allegations have not been independently verified, and The Legends Sports Bar has not yet issued a public response to the claims.

Pune FDA Seizes Unlicensed Ayurvedic Medicines Worth ₹50.36 Lakh

PUNE, CORRESPONDENT:

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Maharashtra, has intensified its crackdown on violations in the pharmaceutical sector, seizing suspected unlicensed Ayurvedic medicines worth ₹50.36 lakh during a raid on an Ayurvedic store in Pune's Shukrawar Peth.

The action was carried out after the FDA received information that Bhasma and Ras Ayurvedic medicines were being stored and sold without the required licence. Drug inspectors raided Kalpataru Ayurved, where they found a large quantity of the medicines stored in plastic bags, jars and bottles.

During the inspection,



officials found that the products did not carry mandatory details such as batch numbers, manufacturing and expiry dates, manufacturer's name and address, or licence number. The shop owner also failed to produce purchase invoices or documents establishing ownership of the stock.

As a result, the entire stock, valued at ₹50.36 lakh, was seized on suspicion of violating drug regulations. The FDA said the medicines will be examined further, and legal action will be initiated against those responsible based on the findings.

Solapur Medical Store Ordered to Suspend

Operations

In a separate action, the FDA directed a medical store attached to Noble Hospital in Solapur to suspend its operations after an inspection revealed multiple violations.

The inspection was conducted following complaints that patients were being compelled to purchase medicines only from the hospital-linked pharmacy, Fatima Medical.

FDA officials found that patients were not being provided with prescriptions, while Schedule H and Schedule H1 medicines were allegedly being sold without valid doctor's prescriptions. The inspection also revealed several other irregularities,

including the absence of sales records, improper storage of temperature-sensitive medicines, failure to segregate expired medicines, and discrepancies in purchase and sales registers.

Following these findings, the FDA issued a "Stop Activity" order, directing the pharmacy to cease operations until compliance with the applicable regulations is ensured.

The enforcement drive is part of the FDA's ongoing efforts to strengthen compliance with drug safety norms across Maharashtra after recent crackdowns on food adulteration and regulatory violations in the food and healthcare sectors.

FDA Seizes Suspected Adulterated Food Stock Worth ₹37.61 Lakh Across Seven Locations

Pune, Correspondent:

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Pune Division, has seized food stocks worth ₹37.61 lakh during a special enforcement drive conducted across seven locations under the state-wide 'Safe Food, Safe Drug, Safe Maharashtra' campaign launched by Food Safety Commissioner Tukaram Mundhe.

The inspections were carried out between July 8 and July 12, during which officials seized 92,541 kg/litres of various food products over suspected adulteration and labelling violations. Samples have been collected for laboratory analysis, and further action will depend on the test reports.

Among the major actions:

Sangli: FDA officials inspected Malti Agencies on Kupwad Road and collected samples of paneer and lassi.



A total of 121 kg of stock worth ₹28,300 was seized over suspected adulteration and labelling deficiencies.

Kolhapur: At Balaji Bakers in Hatkanangale, samples of pista, orange, pineapple and mango cookies were collected. Around 86 kg of products worth ₹29,960 was seized for suspected labelling violations.

Pune: A milk tanker (MH 12 VB 4700) transporting milk from Ajinkyarana Milk

Industries, Sangola (Solapur), was intercepted. Officials collected samples and seized 28,498 litres of milk worth ₹11.39 lakh on suspicion of adulteration. Since the milk was perishable, it was destroyed.

Pune: Another milk tanker (MH 16 CC 5001) transporting milk from Priyadarshini Milk Collection Centre, Ambilwadi, Ahilyanagar, was inspected. Authorities seized and destroyed 24,498 litres of milk worth

₹9.79 lakh after collecting samples.

Pune: FDA officials inspected Yashoda Milk and Milk Products, Junnar, collected samples of A2 Gir Cow Milk (DK Brand) and regular cow milk, and seized 1,806 litres worth ₹81,270 due to suspected adulteration and labelling violations. The unit has been ordered to suspend operations until further orders.

Solapur: A surprise inspection at Ajinkyarana Milk Industries, Sangola, found multiple violations, including the absence of purchase and sale records, operating without a valid licence, and breaches of food safety regulations. Officials collected samples, seized 37,532 litres of milk worth ₹15.01 lakh, destroyed the stock, and ordered the chilling centre to cease operations until further notice.

In a separate action in

Satara district, acting on confidential information, the FDA raided a cattle shed owned by Dilip Bhimrao Bhosale at Hol village in Phaltan taluka. Officials allegedly found whey permeate powder, spray-dried instant tea/coffee creamer, and other substances being used for milk adulteration. An FIR (No. 415/2026) has been registered at Phaltan Police Station against five persons, including the cattle owner and powder suppliers. Further investigation is underway.

The FDA stated that strict action against food businesses operating without licences, violating food safety regulations, or selling adulterated and substandard food products will continue.

Consumers can report complaints regarding food quality or hygiene on the FDA's toll-free helpline: 1800-222-365.

Two Months After CM's Inauguration, Mohammadwadi Residents Still Await Clean PMC Water

Pune, Correspondent:

Nearly two months after the Chief Minister inaugurated the Mohammed Wadi overhead water tank near Dorabjee Mall (The Royale Heritage Mall), NIBM Road Annexe, residents of Mohammadwadi continue to struggle for access to clean and reliable municipal water.

Despite the inauguration raising hopes of ending years of dependence on private water tankers, many housing societies say the promised benefits have yet to materialize. Residents continue to rely on expensive tanker water as the Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) has not been able to provide a consistent supply of clean drinking water.

For residents of Ganga Florentina, the municipal water supply reached the society for the first time on 27 May, almost a decade

after families first moved into the area. However, the relief was short-lived.

On 13 July, the society received municipal water that was heavily contaminated with mud and suspended particles. According to the Managing Committee, the quality of the water was so poor that the society rejected the supply to prevent its underground tanks, pipelines, and filtration systems from being clogged with sludge.

In a statement, the Managing Committee said, "Due to this heavy mud and contamination, the society rejected the supply to prevent our water tanks and filters from getting completely choked with sludge. The incoming water quality is currently highly inconsistent, which means we cannot accept the supply every other day either. We are closely monitoring the quality

on the ground and will only take water when it is completely safe."

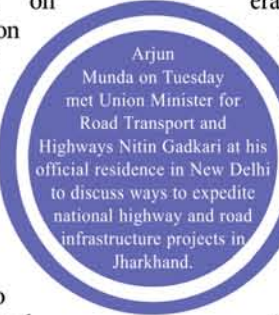
Residents have expressed disappointment that, despite significant investment in the new water infrastructure and the high-profile inauguration, they are still forced to depend on private water tankers for their daily needs.

Citizens are urging the Pune Municipal Corporation to immediately identify and rectify the cause of the contamination, ensure proper flushing and testing of the distribution network, and provide a regular supply of clean and safe drinking water to Mohammadwadi residents.

Until the water quality improves, societies in the area say they have no option but to continue relying on tanker water, adding to the financial burden on thousands of families.

Former Jharkhand Chief Minister Arjun Munda Meets Union Minister Nitin Gadkari, Discusses Road Projects in the State

New Delhi: Former Jharkhand Chief Minister Arjun Munda on Tuesday met Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari at his official residence in New Delhi to discuss ways to expedite national highway and road infrastructure projects in Jharkhand. During the meeting, the two leaders reviewed the progress of several key national high-



way and road infrastructure projects in the state and held detailed discussions on accelerating their implementation. Special emphasis was laid on the early construction of the Khunti Bypass. Arjun Munda said the Khunti Bypass would help reduce traffic congestion in the town, improve road safety, and make commuting

more convenient and secure for the public. He added that the project would also play a significant role in enhancing connectivity to Khunti and the surrounding tribal areas. The meeting also focused on the economic benefits of the proposed bypass, with discussions highlighting its potential to boost commercial activities and contribute to the region's social and economic development. In addition, both leaders held constructive discussions on expediting pending national highway projects and strengthening overall road infrastructure across Jharkhand.



Bihar Launches ABDM Model District Initiative in Begusarai to Accelerate Digital Healthcare Services

Patna: The Bihar government on Tuesday launched the 'ABDM Model District-Begusarai' initiative, marking a significant step towards strengthening the implementation of the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) and developing an integrated digital healthcare ecosystem in the state. Supported by the National Health Authority (NHA), the initiative aims to develop Begusarai as Bihar's first digital health model district, with the framework later being replicated across other districts in a phased manner. The initiative was formally launched during an inaugural workshop organized by the Bihar Health Security Committee in Begusarai. The event was inaugurated by Arvind Kumar Verma, Chief Executive Officer of the Bihar Health Security Committee and State Mission Director of the



Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission, along with Begusarai District Magistrate Shrikant Shastri and other dignitaries. Guests were welcomed with saplings and books as part of the inaugural ceremony. In his welcome address, Civil Surgeon Dr. Ashok Kumar emphasized the need for coordinated efforts among all stakeholders to expand digital

healthcare services across the district. Deputy Development Commissioner also assured full support from the district administration for the successful implementation of the model district initiative. District Magistrate Shrikant Shastri highlighted the administration's commitment to expanding digital health services and outlined

the district's roadmap for implementing the project. Delivering the keynote address, Arvind Kumar Verma said the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission is one of India's most significant initiatives aimed at making healthcare services citizen-centric, secure, transparent, and technology-enabled. He said Begusarai would be developed as a model district to create a robust digital healthcare framework that could serve as a blueprint for the rest of Bihar. National Health Authority Director Dr. Pankaj Kumar Arora addressed the workshop virtually from New Delhi and appreciated Bihar's efforts in implementing the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission. He described the ABDM Model District-Begusarai initiative as an important innovation in digital healthcare that could emerge as a model for other states and districts across the country.

Birsa Krishi Rath Creates Awareness Among Farmers in Taljhari, Promotes Modern Farming Practices

Taljhari: The Birsa Krishi Rath, operating under the Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA), Sahibganj, concluded its outreach programme in Taljhari block on Tuesday by visiting the panchayats of Karanpurato, Maskalaiya, Kalyani, and Moti Jharna. The initiative aimed to encourage farmers to adopt modern and scientific agricultural practices and improve productivity during the ongoing kharif season. During the programme, agricultural scientists and officials from the Agriculture Department educated farmers on advanced paddy cultivation techniques, timely transplantation, crop protection, balanced use of fertilizers, and effective pest and disease management. They also shared information on



modern farming technologies designed to enhance crop yields and sustainability. Officials informed farmers about various government agricultural schemes, subsidy programmes, and farmer welfare initiatives, urging them to take advantage of the benefits available under these programmes. The awareness campaign also provided an opportunity for farmers to raise queries and discuss challenges related to cultivation. Agricultural experts advised them to adopt weather-based farming

practices, maintain soil health, and follow scientific recommendations to improve agricultural productivity. The programme was attended by BTM Rajeev Sinha, ATM Adarsh Kumar Mahato, Om Prakash Pandit from the Plant Protection Centre, Taljhari, and other officials of the Agriculture Department. Farmers appreciated the awareness drive, describing it as informative and beneficial for improving farming practices and increasing agricultural productivity.

Samastipur Sadar Hospital's Four-Bed ICU Ready, To Be Inaugurated This Week

Samastipur: In a major boost to healthcare services in the district, the long-awaited four-bed Intensive Care Unit (ICU) at Samastipur Sadar Hospital has been completed and is ready for operation. Equipped with modern critical care facilities, the ICU is expected to be inaugurated later this week through a video conference by Bihar Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary and Health Minister Nishant Kumar from Patna. Ahead of the inauguration, the hospital administration has completed all necessary preparations and deployed specialist doctors, a nodal officer, General Nursing and Midwifery (GNM) personnel, and nursing staff for round-the-clock operation of the ICU. With the new ICU becoming operational, critically ill patients from the district will no longer have to depend on referrals to Patna, Darbhanga, or private hospitals for advanced treatment. Officials believe the facility will ensure timely medical intervention while significantly reducing the financial burden



on patients and their families. The hospital has appointed Dr. Satyendra Kumar as the nodal officer for the ICU, who will oversee its daily functioning. Five doctors—Dr. Rajesh Kumar, Dr. Rajeev Ranjan Jha, Dr. Ram Praveesh Mandal, Dr. Rakesh Roshan Choudhary, and Dr. Wasim Ahmad—have been assigned duty in three shifts to provide 24-hour critical care services. GNM personnel and nursing staff have also been deployed in round-the-clock

shifts to ensure uninterrupted treatment for critically ill patients. Until now, the absence of an ICU at Samastipur Sadar Hospital meant that patients suffering from heart attacks, brain strokes, severe road accidents, respiratory emergencies, poisoning, multi-organ failure, and other critical conditions had to be referred to Darbhanga Medical College and Hospital (DMCH), Patna Medical College and Hospital (PMCH), or private healthcare facili-

ties after receiving primary treatment. Officials said delays during referrals often worsened patients' conditions and, in several cases, proved fatal. The new ICU is expected to address this long-standing gap in emergency healthcare. Hospital authorities have stocked the ICU with essential medicines and life-saving drugs. If patients require specialised medications, they will be provided under the Ayushman Bharat scheme, reducing treatment costs for economically weaker sections. Deputy Superintendent of Sadar Hospital Dr. Girish Kumar said the ICU has been equipped with ventilators, multi-parameter monitors, a central oxygen pipeline, suction machines, an emergency response system, and all other essential critical care equipment. He added that duty rosters for doctors and nursing staff have already been finalized, and only the formal inauguration remains. However, he said treatment could begin immediately if a critically ill patient arrives before the official launch.

Bairiyo Village Continues to Suffer as Main Road Remains Unrepaired Six Months After Issue Was Raised

Chatra: Residents of Bairiyo village under Dadha Panchayat have expressed growing frustration over the poor condition of the village's main road, alleging that no meaningful action has been taken despite the issue being highlighted nearly six months ago. With continuous rainfall worsening the condition of the road, villagers say daily life has become increasingly difficult. According to local residents, the main road has deteriorated into a series of large potholes. Even light rain leads to severe waterlogging and muddy conditions, making it difficult for pedestrians and vehicles to pass. They said schoolchildren, farm-



ers travelling to their fields, patients requiring medical attention, and other residents face significant hardships every day. Several people have reportedly slipped and sustained injuries because of the damaged road. Villagers said they had hoped the publication of the issue on

February 18, 2026, would prompt elected representatives and the administration to initiate repair work. However, they claim no visible progress has been made, and the onset of the monsoon has further aggravated the situation. The residents have appealed to MP

Kalicharan Singh, local MLA Janardan Paswan, Deputy Commissioner Ravi Anand, and the Jharkhand government to take immediate steps to resolve the issue. They stressed that the road is not merely a means of transportation but a crucial link for the village's develop-

ment, education, healthcare, and economic activities. Demanding urgent intervention, the villagers called on the concerned department to conduct a technical survey and begin road construction at the earliest so that safe and reliable connectivity can be ensured throughout the year. The residents also warned that if concrete action is not initiated soon, they would be compelled to launch a democratic public protest to press for the construction of the road. They said the people of the village are now looking to the district administration, public representatives, and the state government for a permanent solution to the long-pending problem.

Senior Journalist Bharat Singh Appointed Media In-Charge of Jharkhand Kshatriya Sangh

Seraikela/Adityapur: The Central President of the Jharkhand Kshatriya Sangh, Shambhu Nath Singh, on Tuesday appointed senior journalist Bharat Singh as the Media In-Charge of the organization. The announcement was made at the organization's office in the presence of several members. Bharat Singh was entrusted with the responsibility in recognition of his distinguished contribution to journalism. Speaking on the occasion, Shambhu Nath Singh said Bharat Singh's experience and professional approach would provide fresh momentum to the organization's activities. He added that Bharat Singh would play a key role in



disseminating information about the Sangh's initiatives to the public and highlighting public issues before the administration. He said the decision was taken during a meeting held on Sunday. Expressing his gratitude, Bharat Singh thanked the Central President and all office-bearers and members of the organization for reposing faith in him. He said he would fulfill the

responsibility with complete sincerity and dedication while ensuring that the Sangh's public welfare initiatives in the Adityapur region reach a wider audience. Several senior office-bearers and members of the Jharkhand Kshatriya Sangh were present during the appointment ceremony. Bharat Singh is currently serving as the President of the Press Club of Seraikela-Kharsawan.

How US commerce secretary's Epstein links were uncovered by British whistleblower



A British man has told the BBC how he unearthed evidence indicating that his former employer, Howard Lutnick - now US commerce secretary - failed to disclose a business relationship with the paedophile financier, Jeffrey Epstein. Simon Andriesz, previously a managing director at a Wall Street firm, discovered an email chain from 2018 in which Lutnick and Epstein had discussed the prospects of a start-up business they were both involved in. Andriesz shared his findings - from the millions of released Epstein files - with US politicians on the influential House Oversight Committee, ahead of an appearance there by Lutnick in May. Lutnick told the committee that, to the best of his knowledge, he had only learned this year that Epstein had been an investor in the firm. Speaking on his behalf, the US Commerce Department told us there was no evidence of wrongdoing. Andriesz also discovered

in the files that one of Lutnick's firms had made plans in 2013 to go into business with another figure linked to Epstein, the then-Prince Andrew, by commercially exploiting the contacts the former UK trade envoy had made. "What it involved was a loan to Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor of £1m... to basically buy a prince," he tells File on 4 Investigates. Searching 3.5 million documents "I was completely shocked," says Andriesz, describing the moment when he discovered his own name in the Epstein files - a massive collection of documents, photos, video and emails relating to the notorious sex offender, released by the US government in the past year. The specific files in which Andriesz appeared related to interviews he had given to the FBI while in dispute with his former employer, BGC Partners - a financial brokerage firm, part of Lutnick's Cantor Fitzgerald group.



■ Israeli strike on police post in north Gaza kills 17

Trump reverses threat of 20% fee on Strait of Hormuz cargo as US prepares to resume Iran ports blockade

US President Donald Trump is speaking with Iraqi Prime Minister Ali al-Zaidi at the White House. We'll bring you any remarks relating to the Iran conflict. You can also watch the stream at the top of this page. Kuwait's army says it is confronting "hostile aerial targets" in its airspace. "Any explosion sounds, if heard, are the result of air defence systems intercepting hostile attacks," the military says on X. The US ally has repeatedly come under attack from Iran during the ongoing conflict. The UN's maritime agency, the International Maritime Organization (IMO), says at least two people were killed and several others were injured as a result of the overnight attacks on



tankers in the Strait of Hormuz. Earlier, the UAE and Delhi reported that an Indian seafarer had died as a result of Tehran's strikes. Now, the IMO says a second seafarer on the same ship (Al Bahiyah) was also killed. The ship was 13 nautical miles (24 km or 14.9 miles) from the coast of Oman. Another vessel, Mombasa B, was also damaged by Iranian strikes.

Fourteen seafarers were injured during last night's attack. In a statement to the BBC, the maritime agency says it is working with authorities to "confirm the full circumstances" and demands an end to the "cycle of escalation". The IMO says that since the start of the US-Iran war 17 seafarers have died as a result of hostilities in the strait. Donald Trump's lat-

est Truth Social post suggests that his proposed 20% fee on traffic through the Strait of Hormuz was - at least in part - a bid to secure investment in the US. Foreign investment in the country has been a significant focus for his administration, and one that has cropped up periodically in dealings with foreign countries over the issue of tariffs. While Trump has promised that these deals will be "massive" and will see factories and equipment pour into the US, there are very few details, and we have yet to hear from the Gulf states that he says will be involved. The last line of his post - in which he says that Iran's days of killing protesters are "over" - is also something of a mystery.

TYRANNOSAURUS REX MOST EXPENSIVE DINOSAUR EVER SOLD



A 67 million-year-old Tyrannosaurus rex has been sold for £37.4m (\$50.1m) at a Sotheby's auction in New York - the most ever paid for a dinosaur. The fossil of this infamous predator stands more than 12 feet (4m) tall, and with over 60% of its bones recovered is one of "the most complete" specimens ever found, according to Sotheby's. The winning bidder at the sale on Tuesday has not yet been disclosed. Gus, as the T. rex has been affectionately named, was discovered in 2021 on a remote ranch in the US State of South Dakota. "It's really incredible to see and to have the level of public interest," said Cassandra Hatton, Sotheby's worldwide head of science and natural history. "I think anytime you've got this, it is good for science. In general, more people are going to go to the museums, it adds dinosaurs and natural history into the conversation." The sale exceeded the previous record set by a stegosaurus in 2024, and is the first to exceed the

\$50m benchmark. Some scientists have told the BBC that the auction may herald a new era in fossil collecting by the ultra-rich. Hatton says the price paid reflects the time and resources that went into uncovering the specimen. The bones were excavated over three summers, when it was warm enough for the ground to have thawed, from 2021 to 2023. But it took a further three years in the lab to piece the T. rex back together. This work revealed the skull had bite marks, and previously broken ribs that had healed in its lifetime. Both injuries were potentially sustained during scavenging or during a battle with other dinosaurs. It may be some time before the buyer is revealed, but Apex, the stegosaurus who held the last record, was loaned out to the American Natural History Museum for four years by its billionaire-owner Kenneth Griffin. So, even if Gus has attracted an ultra-wealthy buyer it still might be coming to a museum near you soon.

Yemen's Houthis launch missiles at Saudi Arabia after strikes on Sanaa airport

Yemen's Houthis said they launched missiles at Abha airport in south-western Saudi Arabia on Monday in response to air strikes on Sanaa's airport that they blamed on the kingdom. The Saudi-led coalition in Yemen, which backs the country's internationally-recognised government, said its air defences "dealt with" the missiles and no casualties were reported. The Houthis, who control north-western Yemen and are backed by Iran, earlier accused Saudi Arabia of "blatant aggression", saying it had struck the runway of Sanaa's airport. The strike was claimed by Yemen's government, which said it wanted to prevent an Iranian plane from landing. It was the most significant escalation in the largely dormant conflict between the Houthis and Saudi Arabia since an informal truce took effect four years ago. Yemen has been devastated by a civil war that began in 2014, when the Houthis ousted the government from Sanaa, the capi-



tal. The conflict escalated in 2015, after the Saudi-led coalition of Arab states intervened in an attempt to restore the government's rule. The fighting has reportedly left more than 150,000 people dead and triggered one of the world's worst humanitarian crises, with more than 22 million people in need of some form of aid, according to the UN. On Monday afternoon, footage on social media showed plumes of smoke rising above rooftops in Sanaa after the strikes at the city's international airport. The Houthis' al-Masirah TV said the "departure and landing runways" were targeted. The internationally-recognised Yemeni government, which is based in the southern port of Aden, said its forces had carried out the strikes amid a dispute over the plane used by a Houthi delegation returning from Iran after the funeral of the late supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. "The terrorist Houthi militias, backed by the Iranian regime, prevented Yemeni national aircraft from landing at the airport in the capital, Sanaa, while insisting on allowing an Iranian plane to violate Yemeni territory; consequently, the airport runway was targeted," the Yemeni

defence ministry said. The Iranian plane had to divert and later landed in the Red Sea city of Hudaydah, about 150km (93 miles) to the south-west, according to the Houthis. For more than a decade, aircraft entering Yemeni airspace have required clearance from the Saudi-led coalition, which says it is acting at the Yemeni government's request. Houthi military spokesperson Yahya Saree accused Saudi Arabia of being behind the Sanaa strikes, which he said had ended "the de-escalation phase" of their conflict and would not go "unanswered or unpunished". Saudi authorities did not comment on the strikes before Saree announced on Monday evening that the Houthis had launched a number of ballistic missiles and drones at Abha International Airport "in response to this criminal Saudi aggression". He also warned airlines against flying through Saudi airspace "until the blockade on Sanaa International Airport is lifted".

Police in Australia have released previously unseen photographs from their investigation into the murder of British backpacker Peter Falconio 25 years ago. Falconio, from Huddersfield, was shot on a remote stretch of highway near the Northern Territory town of Barrow Creek, about 186 miles (300km) north of Alice Springs on 14 July 2001. His body has never been found and police hope the images could jog memories that could lead to a tip-off. His killer, Bradley Murdoch, died of throat cancer aged 67 in jail last year, without disclosing where Falconio's remains might be. The images include a full length picture of Murdoch staring straight at a camera during the police investigation. Falconio's girlfriend Joanne Lees escaped from Murdoch, hiding in scrubland for several hours before she was able to wave down two men driving a truck. One of the photographs taken by police shows Lees looking traumatised in the hours after the attack. Others show injuries

Australian police reveal unseen photos 25 years after British backpacker murder

she sustained, including after her wrists were bound with cable ties. Northern Territory Police Force Commissioner Martin Dole said that 25 years was a "significant milestone" and that he hoped the release of new images could jog memories or lead to a tip-off. "This was a traumatic and horrific event for Ms Lees, and for Peter's family, who have now gone such a long time without the answers they deserve," Dole said. "While a murderer has been held accountable for his crimes, this investigation can never be considered closed until Peter's remains are found and his family can lay him to rest."



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Bangkok fire investigation finds locked doors and flammable decor as deaths climb to 30

HUNGARY PARLIAMENT VOTES TO REMOVE PRESIDENT FROM OFFICE

The Hungarian parliament has voted to remove President Tamás Sulyok from office, who was widely seen as a loyalist of former prime minister Viktor Orbán who lost power in April after 16 years. Prime Minister Péter Magyar's Tisza party used its two thirds majority to steamroll through the 17th amendment to the constitution, ending the term of Sulyok and the head of the Constitutional Court Péter Polt. It was the most dramatic day in parliament since the new government took office in early May, after its surprise landslide victory against Orbán's Fidesz party on 12 April. Sulyok now has five days to sign the amendment - his own political death warrant - or refer it to the Constitutional Court. If Sulyok refers it to the court,



government, enshrined the principle that "the winner takes all". In office from 2010 until 2026, Fidesz reshaped the Hungarian state to its own will, and filled supposedly independent state positions with party loyalists - using its own two-thirds majority. The 141 Tisza deputies in parliament gave a standing ovation as the results of the vote were announced. The amendment also removes Constitutional Court judges who are over the age of 70, and forbids deputies who have served three terms in parliament from standing again - which applies to more than half the current Fidesz deputies. "I quite agree with the removal of the president," András Baka, former head of the Supreme Court, told the Agency.

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CIC ORDERS OIL MINISTRY ARM TO DISCLOSE PETROL, ETHANOL DATA

New Delhi: The Central Information Commission (CIC) has directed the Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC), the oil ministry's planning arm, to reveal historical data on petrol production and imports, ethanol procurement and blending, and petroleum sector profits. The direction was given to share the information with an RTI applicant after the commission found that the cell provided only "partial information."

Information Commissioner Khushwant Singh Sethi also directed PPAC to provide the web link for ethanol blending notifications, transfer the query on ethanol suppliers to the concerned public authority, and invoke the appropriate exemption under the RTI Act, while responding to the request for company-wise petrol supplier information. The RTI application sought six sets of information relating to India's petrol and ethanol programme, including fuel production and



imports, ethanol blending norms, procurement and consumption of ethanol, supplier details and profits from petrol sales. The commission observed that "the respondent has provided partial information to the appellant" and directed it to furnish a revised response on different queries. The first query sought year-wise details from 2014-15 onwards of petrol purchased, imported, and produced in India, annual expenditure on petrol, and source-wise break-up. PPAC replied that import, export, production and state-wise data were available on its website, but company details were "of

commercial & confidential nature" and exempt under Sections 8(1)(d) and 8(1)(e) of the RTI Act. During the hearing, the appellant said he "could not find the sought information in (sic) the website." The commission directed PPAC to "send soft copy of the sought information, including historical data, as available on the website to the appellant's e-mail ID." On the second query, the applicant sought year-wise norms, guidelines and official notifications prescribing ethanol blending in petrol. PPAC replied that the National Policy on Biofuels, 2018, governed ethanol blending and

was available on the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas website. The respondent also submitted during the hearing that the notifications were maintained by the ministry and available in the public domain. The commission directed PPAC to "provide the specific website link" for the relevant notifications and orders. The third query sought year-wise details of ethanol procured and consumed for blending, along with reasons for any difference between procurement and consumption. PPAC said Table 14 of its monthly Snapshot of India's Oil & Gas report contained information regarding "ethanol received and blended by PSU OMC's along with the blending percentage." The commission directed the authority to email the available historical data to the appellant. The fourth query related to the ethanol supply chain, with the applicant seeking a year-wise list of ethanol suppliers to oil marketing companies, quantities supplier.

Vivek Venkatswamy backs job security at Hyderabad BRICS summit

Hyderabad: Telangana Labour and Employment Minister Vivek Venkatswamy on Tuesday, July 14, said that workers contribute their best only when they have confidence in the security of their jobs, and called on nations to strengthen social security systems, protect workers' rights and invest in skill development. He was speaking at the inauguration ceremony of the BRICS Trade Union Forum Summit 2026 at the Marriott Hotel in Hyderabad. The three-day international summit, hosted by the Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh (BMS), began on Tuesday and will end on Thursday, July 16. The ceremony was attended by 110 delegates from 14 countries - Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Belarus, Malaysia and Nigeria. Highlighting Telangana's initiatives, the minister said the state gov-



ernment has placed special emphasis on preparing its workforce for future industry requirements by establishing Advanced Technology Centres (ATCs) across Telangana. Additionally, to meet the growing global demand for skilled manpower, the Telangana Overseas Manpower Company (TOM-COM) is facilitating overseas employment opportunities for youth in countries such as Germany, Japan, several European nations and West Bengal. These initiatives, he

said, are enabling young people to secure high-paying international jobs while also strengthening the state's skilled workforce. BRICS can help shape human-centric workplaces. Meanwhile, Union Labour Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said there was immense potential for cooperation among BRICS countries in areas such as social security, skills, artificial intelligence (AI) and decent work. He said the forthcoming BRICS labour and employment ministers' meeting in Hyderabad on

July 15 provides an excellent opportunity to translate the recommendations emerging from the summit into concrete policy cooperation and practical outcomes. Together, BRICS can shape a future of work that is innovative, inclusive and human-centric, he said. 170 million employment opportunities created in India in the last decade. Observing that employment generation remains at the heart of India's growth strategy, he said over the last decade, nearly 170 million employment opportunities have been created.

BANDHAN LARGE CAP FUND: TWO DECADES OF STABILITY, DISCIPLINE, AND COMPOUNDING

Hyderabad 2026 - As Bandhan Large Cap Fund completes 20 years, it marks a significant milestone in delivering disciplined, long term wealth creation built on stability and quality. Over two decades, the fund has navigated multiple market cycles including periods of expansion, correction, and structural change, while remaining anchored to a clear philosophy: investing in fundamentally strong large cap businesses capable of compounding consistently over time. Large caps form the backbone of well-constructed portfolios. With their scale, pricing power, governance standards, and ability to generate steady cash flows, they tend to remain resilient across economic cycles. Instead of relying on short lived rallies, they offer relatively predictable earnings growth, making them essential for investors seeking both capital appreciation and portfolio stability.



makes large caps an attractive entry point for investors looking to balance risk and return. Large caps demonstrate markedly stronger downside resilience, with significantly lower average and worst drawdowns as compared to Mid and Small Caps. This consistent cushion during market stress makes large caps a more stable core for portfolios, especially in volatile cycles.

Bandhan Large Cap Fund: A Disciplined Approach
Bandhan Large Cap Fund follows a well-defined BMV framework, focusing on Business, Management, and Valuation as the pillars of portfolio construction. Business: The fund invests in sector leaders with established business models, durable competitive advantages, and strong balance sheets. These companies demonstrate the ability to generate sustainable cash flows and adapt to industry changes. Management: Equal importance is given to the integrity, quality, and execution capability of management teams. The fund prioritizes companies with credible, transparent, and shareholder

aligned leadership. Valuation: A disciplined valuation approach ensures that high quality businesses are acquired at reasonable prices, maintaining an appropriate risk reward balance across market cycles. This philosophy has enabled the fund to remain consistent in its investment style while adapting to evolving market conditions.

A Strong Investment Framework
To strengthen stock selection and portfolio quality, the fund uses a structured five parameter framework: Normalized RoE (Return on Equity): Focus on sustainable financial efficiency across cycles, adjusting for one off effects. Long term growth potential: Identify businesses with clear and durable growth drivers. Capital allocation and governance: Assess the ability to generate returns above the cost of capital while maintaining strong governance standards. Management execution: Evaluate leadership capability and operational consistency across different economic environments.

Earnings predictability: Prioritize businesses with stable and visible earnings based on industry structure and regulatory context.

This rigorous approach keeps the portfolio aligned with long term compounding opportunities rather than short term market movements.

Flexibility with Discipline
While maintaining a strong large cap orientation, the fund retains flexibility to allocate up to 20 percent to mid and small cap stocks. This allows participation in emerging growth opportunities when valuations are favourable, without compromising overall portfolio stability.

A 20-Year Journey of Consistent Investing
Over the past 20 years, Bandhan Large Cap Fund has demonstrated the value of discipline, quality focus, and a long-term perspective. In an environment increasingly driven by short term noise, such a structured and patient approach stands out. Looking ahead, large caps continue to play a crucial role especially when valuation differences are significant, and volatility remains elevated. With its proven philosophy, robust framework, and consistent execution, Bandhan Large Cap Fund offers a compelling option for investors seeking stability at the core of their portfolios while participating in India's long term growth story.

Retiring on Your Own Terms with ICICI Pru Gold Pension Savings: The Growing Shift Toward Lifelong Financial Freedom



India is undergoing a significant demographic shift. While we celebrate being a young nation, we are rapidly transitioning into a society with a rapidly aging population. By 2036, one in every seven Indians will be a senior citizen and the number is projected to surge to 230 million, according to the National Commission on Population. As life expectancy rises and the traditional social security of relying solely on next-generation support is changing, retirement planning has become a necessity rather than a choice. To address this, ICICI Prudential Life Insurance has designed ICICI Pru Gold Pension Savings, a bonus-linked pension plan built on the pillars of safety and flexibility. This pension product offers the best of both worlds, allowing customers to accumulate corpus for pension with safety of capital invested and, partial withdrawal to meet liquidity needs in case of major life events or illnesses, ensuring that a fam-

ily's financial future remains secure. Mr. Vikas Gupta, Chief Product Officer, ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Company Limited, said, "At ICICI Prudential Life, we believe retirement should be a milestone of celebration, not financial stress. ICICI Pru Gold Pension Savings has been designed to offer certainty, growth through bonuses and the flexibility to access funds to meet life's uncertainties in case of major life events or illnesses. By providing up to 25% emergency withdrawal feature and a corpus for retirement, this plan empowers our customers to transition from 'active earning' to 'retirement income' without compromising their dignity or aspirations. What makes the plan even more relevant to retirement planners is that it also provides health management and wellbeing services in the form of complimentary health check-ups." Let's understand how this product works, consider Prateek, a 40-year-old professional. By saving ₹1.5

lakh annually for 10 years, he was able to build a retirement corpus of ₹44 lakh by the age of 60, assuming an 8% per annum rate of return or ₹25 lakh assuming a 4% per annum rate of return. The plan allows him to take up to 60% of this corpus as a tax-free lump sum to settle immediate goals like travel or a home renovation. He can receive guaranteed regular life-long income with the balance amount by purchasing an annuity product, ensuring he remains financially independent in his golden years. In essence, ICICI Pru Gold Pension Savings redefines retirement by combining capital protection, bonus-driven growth, and emergency liquidity feature (up to 25% withdrawal). By including complimentary health check-ups and offering a tax-free withdrawal at maturity, the plan offers a holistic, disciplined and secure path that empowers customers to achieve financial independence and peace of mind during their golden years.

Indian students in Germany have doubled in five years: Shweta Guru, Auxilo

July 14, 2026: The United States, the United Kingdom, Canada and Australia still take the bulk of India's outbound students. But the old pecking order is loosening. With rising costs and tighter visa rules, Indian student interest is spilling toward emerging education destinations like Ireland, France, the Netherlands and Germany. In the last 5 years, the number of Indian students in Germany has more than doubled from 28,905 in 2020 to 59,419 in the 2024-25 academic year. India has now passed China to become the country's single largest group of international students, with Turkey a distant third. The Institute for Employment Research projects Germany will need around seven million skilled workers by 2035," informed Shweta Guru, CBO - GlobalEd, Auxilo Finserve. Low-cost education is the single biggest pull for Indian students. A 2025 Leap Scholar survey of more than three million student interactions found about 75% naming cost and affordability as their top concern, ahead of scholarships at 70% and career prospects at



58%; university rankings did not make the top five. Public universities in Germany charge no tuition, even to students from outside the country, leaving little more than a semester fee of ₹16,000 to ₹38,000 (150 to 350) that usually bundles in a local transport pass. The language barrier, long a deterrent, has largely fallen: close to 2,400 degrees are now taught entirely in English, including at master's level. The cost of living is where the money goes, and it is imperative for students to have a full year's living expenses in a dedicated account, as proof they can support themselves, before arriving in Germany. For 2026, that sum is roughly ₹12.9 lakh (11,904) and is

released to the student in 12 equal monthly instalments of about ₹1.08 lakh once they land. A two-year master's course with living expenses would cost an Indian student between ₹22 and ₹28 lakh. The same degree in Britain or the United States can cost ₹45 lakh to ₹70 lakh, sometimes more. Salaries for fresh engineering and IT graduates usually start on ₹49 lakh to ₹70 lakh a year (45,000 to 65,000). International professionals on a work visa who earn more than about ₹49 lakh (45,300) can qualify for the EU Blue Card, which speeds up their work permit and, in time, facilitates permanent residency. "For Indian families, Germany has changed the maths of studying abroad. Germany offers an 18-month window to find work in Europe's largest economy. For a student in engineering, IT or data science, that is a clear path from classroom to career," added Ms. Guru. Germany ranks among the safer, steadier places for students, with low crime rates, compulsory health cover and public services that work.

ONLY 45 PC BENGALURU PROPERTY OWNERS PAY TAX, SAYS MINISTER



Bengaluru: The Karnataka government has ruled out any immediate increase in property tax in Bengaluru, with Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda announcing a technology-driven drive to identify thousands of property owners who are allegedly evading taxes. Addressing reporters after reviewing civic administration with Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) officials on Tuesday, July 14, the minister said Bengaluru has approximately 36 lakh properties, but only about 16 lakh owners currently pay property tax. The remaining properties will

be surveyed using drones, GPS mapping and other digital tools to detect tax evasion. He emphasised that the government's priority is to widen the tax base rather than raise tax rates. According to the minister, if all eligible property owners pay taxes, civic bodies will have adequate resources for infrastructure development and public services without increasing the burden on honest taxpayers. Krishna Byre Gowda appealed to residents to pay their taxes voluntarily, saying compliance by every property owner would help improve Bengaluru's civic amenities and financial stability. The minister also announced strict action against owners of neglected vacant sites. Property owners have been directed to clean and maintain their vacant plots by August 15. If they fail to do so, the Greater Bengaluru Authority will clean the sites, recover the expenditure from the owners and initiate penalty proceedings as per the rules.

SINGAPORE COURT ORDERS BLOOMBERG TO PAY \$356,000 TO MINISTERS IN DEFAMATION CASE

A Singapore court has ordered Bloomberg and one of its reporters to pay \$460,000 (\$356,000; £266,000) to two ministers who had sued them for defamation over an article referencing their property transactions. Last year, the ministers, K Shanmugam and Tan See Leng, sued Bloomberg and reporter Low De Wei for a 2024 article which had mentioned their property deals. Bloomberg said it did not imply any wrongdoing and had used them as examples of a broader trend. The judge found that when read as a whole, the piece implied wrongdoing by the ministers as it also mentioned secrecy and money laundering. In a statement published by Bloomberg News, the outlet's editor-in-chief John Micklethwait said it was "very disappointed by this ruling but we will of course respect it". "We argued at trial that our reporting was accurate and served an important public interest, and we continue to believe that the ministers have imposed an extremely



strained meaning on what was a solid story," he said. What did the article say? The piece titled "Singapore Mansions Deals Are Increasingly Shrouded in Secrecy" looked at the ways in which some wealthy buyers in Singapore obscured their purchases of Good Class Bungalows - a category of multimillion-dollar mansions in Singapore - such as by using shell companies which hide their identities. It reported that Shanmugam, the Coordinating Minister for National Security and former law minister, had sold a bungalow for \$88m (\$68m; £51m) to an unnamed buyer using a

trust. The piece also noted that Tan, the Minister for Manpower, had bought a Good Class Bungalow for around \$827m - citing him as one example among a list of other public figures who had bought luxury estates through an arrangement known as a non-caveated deal, that makes it harder to track who is involved in the transaction. The article was taken down from Bloomberg's website after the verdict on Tuesday, as ordered by the court. Why did the ministers sue? Days after the article was published in December 2024, the ministers announced that they would take legal action.

Lionel Messi's 'Favourite' Referee To Officiate Argentina vs England FIFA World Cup Semi-final - Latest Buzz

The FIFA World Cup 2026 will see a major first - the top four teams in the world, as per FIFA rankings, will be fighting it out for the mega prize. In that way, there is no room for any 'upset' as France take on Spain in the first semi-final while defending champions Argentina take on England in the second last-four clash. FIFA has already announced the referee line-up for the two clashes.

Morocco-born American referee Ismail Elfath will officiate the Argentina vs England match. El Salvador's Ivan Barton will officiate the France vs Spain match. The referees have been under intense scrutiny, especially after several VAR-related controversies. Argentina's matches have been under extra focus, with rival teams and social media accusing several decisions of going their way. In such a backdrop, Ismail Elfath's appointment as



Argentina's match referee has added more spice to the contest. Elfath has officiated some big matches in which Messi was involved. Elfath was the fourth official in the 2022 FIFA World Cup final between Argentina and France, where Messi scored twice on the way to his team winning the title. He also

officiated when Messi's Inter Miami won the 2023 Leagues Cup. In this match too, Messi scored his team's only goal in a match where his team won in a penalty shootout over Nashville SC. In Major League Soccer, Elfath has officiated four matches in which Messi played - his team won all of them. In three matches

so far at the FIFA World Cup 2026, Elfath has given eight yellow cards and one red card - Netherlands 2-2 Japan, Spain 1-0 Uruguay and Norway 2-1 Brazil. After the Spain-Uruguay game, the 44-year-old was targeted by the Spanish media for not being firm enough with the Uruguayans. Argentina's journey has been any-

thing but straightforward in the ongoing tournament. The defending champions have had to work hard through every knockout match, surviving stern tests from Cape Verde and Egypt before defeating Switzerland in the quarter-finals. While Messi remains the focal point, this Argentine side appears more balanced than that of four years ago. Julian Alvarez, Lautaro Martinez and Enzo Fernandez have all shared the responsibility, giving Scaloni a team that is less dependent on individual brilliance and more capable of adapting to different opponents. Having already conquered the biggest stage in 2022, the players now carry themselves with the confidence of champions. They remain tactically disciplined under pressure and have repeatedly shown an ability to stage strong comebacks after trailing at half-time.

VIRAT KOHLI ACHIEVES BIG FEAT, JOINS SACHIN TENDULKAR AND RAHUL DRAVID IN ELITE ODI LIST

Indian cricket team star batter Virat Kohli added another stunning milestone to his already illustrious career during the first ODI encounter against England on Tuesday. He became the fifth Indian cricketer ever to play 300 innings in ODI cricket after Sachin Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid, Mohammad Azharuddin and Sourav Ganguly. Overall, Sachin tops the list with 452 innings followed by the Sri Lankan duo of Sanath Jayasuriya (433) and Mahela Jayawardene (418). This was the 312th ODI match for Kohli who has scored 14797 runs at an average of 58.71 and a brilliant strike rate of 93.82. Coming to the match, the seasoned Joe Root and plucky Liam Dawson scored half-centuries in a gutsy seventh wicket stand for 121 runs as England posted a respectable 258 in the opening ODI despite Indian pace attack wreaking havoc. From a solid 61 for no loss till the start of 13th over, England slumped



to 107 for 6 before the end of the 22nd over and there seemed no chance of a recovery from that position. However, Root with a run-a-ball 76, fought well alongside Dawson, whose career-best 68 off 83 balls took them to a position where bowlers had a decent total to defend. Root played the field, waited patiently for Bumrah to complete his first two spells and attacked Axar Patel (4/62), Prasidh Krishna once the pitch showed signs of easing out. The best shot was a ramp off a Jasprit Bumrah bounc-

er. He hit six fours and a six in all. While the peerless Bumrah (1/31 in 9 overs) was the best Indian bowler in terms of skills and quality on display, young Gurnoor Brar (2/61 in 9 overs) and the usually profligate Prasidh (2/50 in 10 overs) also chipped in with wickets despite going for runs. Axar ran through the tail after the Dawson-Root stand recording his best figures in ODI cricket. England opted to bat on a pitch that had bounce and carry with good value for shots.

Jasprit Bumrah Returns To ODIs After 968 Days, Shatters Stunning Record Against England

Jasprit Bumrah made a remarkable return to ODI cricket by becoming India's leading bowler in the format on English soil. He achieved this milestone by dismissing England captain Harry Brook during the first ODI at Edgbaston in Birmingham on Tuesday. After 968 days away from ODIs, Bumrah took his 150th wicket and surpassed Ravindra Jadeja's 30 wickets in England, moving into the lead with 31. He now tops the list of Indian ODI wicket-takers in England, ahead of Jadeja (30), Bhuvneshwar Kumar (28), Madan Lal (27), and Mohammed Shami (26). Brook's dismissal marked another achievement for the Indian pace bowler, who became the third Indian to reach 150 ODI wickets in the



fewest balls. Bumrah did this in 4,605 deliveries, only behind Mohammed Shami (4,070 balls) and Kuldeep Yadav (4,513). He finished ahead of Ajit Agarkar (5,027) and Irfan Pathan (5,131). This wicket also earned Bumrah a spot in an exclusive global group. He joined Shakib Al Hasan and Tim Southee as the only crick-

eters to have 200 Test wickets, 150 ODI wickets, and 100 T20I wickets. Currently, Bumrah has 234 Test wickets, 150 ODI wickets, and 121 T20I wickets. Bumrah's record in England highlights his strength in overseas conditions. In 17 ODIs in the country, he has taken 31 wickets with an impressive average of 21.41 and an econ-

omy rate of 4.44. His best ODI performance also came in England when he dominated the hosts with remarkable figures of 6/19 during the 2022 series. Earlier, in the 2019 ODI World Cup held in England, Bumrah secured 18 wickets as India reached the semi-finals. All-rounder Axar Patel brought out his career-best performance of 4-62 as Joe Root was left stranded on the other end at 76 to guide England to 258 all out in 47.5 overs in the first ODI against India at the Edgbaston Stadium. England bounced back from a dramatic middle-order collapse to post a competitive total after Joe Root and Liam Dawson put together a fantastic 121-run partnership for the seventh wicket in the opening ODI against India.

"Winning Medal In Commonwealth Games Harder Than Asian Games": India's Top 400m Runners

India's top 400m runners believe the upcoming Commonwealth Games in Glasgow will offer sterner competition than the Asian Games later this year, making it an ideal proving ground ahead of the continental showpiece. The scaled-down Commonwealth Games begins on July 23, nearly two months before the Asian Games, and India will field a 32-member athletics squad. Vishal Thennarasu Kayalvizhi, who will be competing in the men's 400m and mixed 4x400m relay at the CWG, said the quality of competition in Glasgow, particularly with athletes from Australia and England in the fray, would push Indian runners to raise their standards. "Commonwealth



Games is hard, it's tough if we don't work. I won't say it's impossible, I will say it is possible (to win a medal) if we work out well. Nothing is easy, whether it is Asian Games or Commonwealth Games since these are big competitions. "It is an ocean out there and I need a chance to prove myself so I will take it as an opportunity and then try to push hard there,"

Vishal told SAI Media before leaving for a government-sponsored international training camp in Spala, Poland. The 22-year-old is part of a 60-member contingent, including 41 athletes and 19 coaches plus support staff, travelling to Poland. Vishal said his immediate target in Glasgow would be to improve on his personal best timings in both events.

The Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS)-backed athlete created a national record of 44.98 seconds in 400m during the Federation Cup in Ranchi last month and clocked a personal best of 03:00.32s in 4x400m men's relay at the World Relays in Gaborone, Botswana in May. His personal best in 4x400m mixed relay is 03:14.81s clocked at the World Relays in China last year. Vishal said that he will target a personal best in both his races at the Commonwealth Games. Another national camper, Jay Kumar, agreed that Glasgow would be the tougher assignment, even though the Asian Games remain his primary target this season. "My target for this year is Asian Games.

Ex-Hockey Captain Alleges Intimidation, Sexual Harassment. Sports Ministry Reacts



The Sports Ministry directed Hockey India to investigate allegations of intimidation and harassment levelled by former India captain Asunta Lakra and to share the outcome of the findings with the ministry. Lakra had urged the sports ministry

through an email to intervene urgently against what she described as the institutional protection of sexual harassment, intimidation and victimisation of women athletes in hockey. Accusing HI general secretary Bhola Nath Singh of intimidating her, Lakra alleged that individuals accused of misconduct were being protected while those raising concerns were subjected to intimidation and retaliation. "I am directed to forward the email dated 10.07.2026 received from Ms Asunta Lakra, former captain of the Indian Women's Hockey Team and a member of the Executive Board of Hockey India. She has requested the constitution of an independent enquiry into allegations of sexual harassment, institutional intimidation, and related issues concerning women athletes," the letter from the ministry official said. "It is requested that the issues raised in Ms Asunta Lakra's email may be placed before the Internal Complaints Committee (CC) constituted by Hockey India under the provisions of the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013, for its consideration and appropriate action, and the outcome of the same may be shared with this Ministry," it further added.

Brydon Carse Returns To England Squad For India ODIs After Injury Layoff



England have strengthened their squad for the ongoing three-match One-Day International series against India by recalling pace-bowling all-rounder Brydon Carse following his recovery

from wrist and elbow injuries. The 30-year-old returns to the national setup after spending several months on the sidelines, with selectors satisfied by his progress after making three appearances for Durham in the Vitality Blast. His inclusion provides England with an additional pace option as the hosts continue the series against India. Carse's return marks his first involvement with the ODI squad since November 2025, when he featured against New Zealand in Wellington. Having successfully completed his rehabilitation, the seam-bowling all-rounder is now back in contention for international action. England announced the squad update on Tuesday, with Carse joining a group led by captain Harry Brook. Since making his ODI debut in 2021, Carse has established himself as a valuable all-round option. In 30 ODI appearances, he has claimed 34 wickets at an average of 40.44, with his best figures coming in a five-wicket haul. Lower down the order, he has also contributed 264 runs at an average of 17.60, adding depth to England's batting line-up.

Pimblett would have considered retiring if he lost to Saint-Denis



Paddy Pimblett says he would have considered retiring had he lost to Benoit Saint-Denis at UFC 329 last weekend. Pimblett, 31, submitted the Frenchman inside 52 seconds of the pair's lightweight contest at the T-Mobile Arena in Las Vegas. The victory reignited Pimblett's pursuit of the title following the Liverpoolian's defeat by Justin Gaethje for the interim belt in January. Speaking after the win, which was his 24th in 28 fights, Pimblett revealed he had told his coach Paul Rimmer he would consider leaving the sport if he couldn't beat Saint-Denis. "This fight camp wasn't easy. About four, five weeks ago I turned to Paul and said: 'If I don't win this fight, what's the point in fighting anymore? I might as well retire,'" said Pimblett. "If I can't beat

BSD I'm never going to be world champ and that's what I do this for. I do this to be the best in the world." Last month, American Gaethje beat Ilia Topuria for the undisputed title, setting up a potential rematch with Pimblett. "Justin Gaethje beat Ilia Topuria and it was one of the biggest kicks up the arse I've ever had. It lit a fire underneath me and the last couple weeks of this training camp have been unbelievable," added Pimblett. Saint-Denis, 30, was on a four-fight win streak and was expected to offer Pimblett a test but had no answer for the Briton's high-level jiu-jitsu. Pimblett has moved four places up the UFC's lightweight rankings to fifth following the win, with Saint-Denis slipping to eighth. Although a Pimblett rematch with Gaethje would be an exciting prospect for fans.

The Story Behind Erling Haaland Carrying 'Raccoon' All The Way Home From FIFA World Cup 2026



Norway's historic run at the FIFA World Cup 2026 may have ended in the quarter-finals, but striker Erling Haaland still managed to steal the headlines on his return home, thanks to an incredibly unusual travel companion he brought along from the United States. When the Norwegian team plane touched down at Oslo's Gardermoen Airport on Monday, fans were left stunned to see what Haaland was carrying. Stepping onto the red carpet, Haaland was seen cradling a USD 750 taxidermied raccoon clutching a

whisky bottle under his other arm. The Manchester City striker also shared photos of his airport arrival on social media with the simple, hilarious caption: "It followed me home." But how did Haaland end up flying across the Atlantic with a stuffed forest animal? The story began in early July during Norway's stay in Texas. During a break in the tournament, Haaland visited Wild Bill's Western Store in Dallas. Fully embracing American Southern culture, the striker bought a black cowboy hat, leather boots, and a T-shirt. While

exploring the store, Haaland also took a liking to their quirky taxidermy pieces. He ended up purchasing the stuffed raccoon, popularly nicknamed the "Whisky Raccoon", which features a mounted raccoon holding a glass liquor bottle. The store owners were thrilled by the high-profile visit, posting a picture of Haaland on their website homepage. Thanks to the "Haaland effect," the USD 750 taxidermy animal quickly sold out online, prompting the store to fast-track international shipping options to handle a sudden wave of orders from

across the world. Norway's Historic World Cup Run Haaland truly deserves a souvenir for the prolific World Cup run he and the Norway team achieved. The national team reached the quarter-finals of the tournament for the first time in their history, following stellar performances that included a major Round of 16 victory over Brazil. Though Norway were eventually knocked out by England in a controversial 2-1 quarter-final, Haaland was his country's standout performer, finishing as his country's top scorer with seven goals.