



Treesa-Gayatri duo stuns world No. 4, to enter semis

India's women's doubles duo of Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand have staged an upset at the BWF World Championships after handing a shock loss to the world no. 4 Chinese pair of Ji Yifan and Zhang Shuxian

P10

Gen Z needs mentors, not political manipulators

Political parties in India seem to believe that when you cannot convince the people, confuse them. That perhaps explains the contradictions in their positions on almost every issue.

P6

A crorepati, but still a middle-class homebuyer

A few years ago, being a crorepati was a big deal. It still is for many. But Hyderabad's real estate prices have changed the meaning of that milestone, at least when it comes to buying a home. Today, Rs 1 crore is no longer necessarily a luxury-home budget.

P11

Sowcar Janaki leaves behind rich south Indian legacy

Sowcar Janaki is a unique figure in Indian cinema history who managed to act in more than seven decades of cinema, performing in over 400 films.

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WINDOWS

Argument over damaged document turns violent

PUTTUR: An argument over a document that was damaged while being photocopied and laminated escalated into a physical altercation at a digital service centre in Puttur's Darbe area on Friday, prompting police intervention and the registration of complaints from both sides. The incident occurred at the "Dream Destination Digital Seva Kendra", where three residents of Mandekolu in Sullia — Mubashir, Fathima and Mubashir — had gone to have documents photocopied and laminated. One of the documents was damaged due to what police described as a technical fault. The incident led to an argument between the three customers and the centre's owner Anjana Pai and her son Sudarshan Pai. The dispute later turned physical, police said. As word spread, people gathered outside the establishment, following which personnel from the Puttur Town Police Station reached the spot. Police asked members of both sides to come to the station and submit their complaints. Tensions, however, continued after police decided to take Sudarshan Pai to the station for questioning. Some of the people gathered at the spot allegedly prevented the police from taking him away, leading to a separate complaint for obstruction of official duty. Police said complaints and counter-complaints relating to the altercation were being registered and that details would be disclosed after the cases were formally registered. The shop has CCTV cameras, and investigators will examine the recordings to establish what happened and determine further legal action. Police have also cautioned people against circulating unverified information or rumours about the incident, warning that appropriate legal action would be taken against those found deliberately spreading false information.

Python under Vande Bharat Exp triggers panic

HARIDWAR: Panic gripped Haridwar railway station when the cleaning staff of a Vande Bharat Express spotted a python trying to slither inside a coach. According to officials, the Dehradun-bound train arrived at the station's 'washing line' around 9 am on Thursday and was slated to depart around 6 pm following cleaning and maintenance. However, around noon, staff members spotted about a 10-foot-long python slithering beneath the train and near a coach.

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ED can't revive 'dead' PMLA case with old FIR: HC

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has ruled that the Enforcement Directorate (ED) cannot keep a money-laundering case alive by adding an old FIR to an existing Enforcement Case Information Report (ECIR) after the predicate offence underpinning the proceedings has been closed.

Justice Anish Dayal termed the ED's action "illegal and procedurally ir-

Court says agency cannot 'turn clock backwards' by adding six-year-old case; quashes proceedings

regular", observing that the agency could have registered a fresh ECIR based on the separate FIR if statutory requirements were satisfied.

The court said the ED's conduct raised "serious concerns" and appeared to be an attempt to preserve

the existing ECIR and retain its coercive powers under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), including search, seizure, freezing and attachment of properties.

The ECIR was registered in December 2021 on the basis of a February 2021



Economic Offences Wing FIR arising from a dispute between two factions of the family of late former

MP Mahendra Prasad. The allegations involved share transfers and bank transactions allegedly carried out

using forged signatures of Prasad's wife, Satula Devi.

However, the EOW filed a cancellation report in December 2022 after concluding that no offence was made out. The report was subsequently accepted by the trial court.

The ED later added a separate 2019 FIR to the ECIR through an addendum in August 2025. That FIR related to allegations including wrongful confinement, removal of jewellery and offences un-

der the Passports Act.

The High Court noted that the 2019 FIR existed even before the ECIR was registered and remained outside it for nearly six years.

An ECIR depends on the existence of a predicate or scheduled offence, the court said, adding that once the underlying FIR is closed, PMLA proceedings based on it cannot continue unless the closure is overturned by a superior court.

Complaint of pellet victim

Rahul ends over-6-hour dharna after FIR filed

'This is the first step towards justice and a case has been registered'; there are pellets in his body and he cannot even see as he has suffered injuries in his eye

PURNA SINGH
NEW DELHI

CONGRESS leader Rahul Gandhi ended his over-six-hour dharna at the Parliament Street police station here on Friday, after an FIR was registered on a complaint from a young man who has suffered pellet injuries and said this is the first step towards justice. Gandhi sat on the dharna outside the police station after police refused to lodge an FIR on 19-year-old Sahil Lochab's complaint.

"This is the first step towards justice and a case has been registered," Gandhi



said, soon after the Delhi Police registered the FIR. "There are pellets in his body and he cannot even see as he has suffered injuries in his eye. This is injustice with this youngster.

For almost a month, he has been calling for the registration of an FIR and moving from one police station to another. "After hours of protest, an FIR has been registered. One can imagine what the people of the country suffer when they seek justice. There are several rape victims and victims of intimidation and they continue to fight while seeking justice," the leader of opposition in the Lok Sabha said.

Gandhi, who had earlier alleged that police are "under pressure from the top" for not registering a complaint, claimed that the FIR

was lodged only after clearance from top authorities in the home ministry.

"The final FIR has been registered after an okay from the home secretary and (Home Minister) Amit Shah, then you can imagine who was stopping the registration of an FIR as these cops wanted to do so but were not allowed to do so," he said. The Delhi Police registered the FIR in connection with the pellet injuries suffered by Lochab during the July 20 students' protest at Jantar Mantar.

"We have registered an FIR under sections 118 (voluntarily causing hurt or grievous hurt by dangerous weapons or means) and 25 (act endangering life or personal safety of others) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita," a police officer said.



PM assures support to space startups

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Friday assured full support of the government to young space entrepreneurs and urged them to explore how space technology can be used in agriculture, livestock management, dairy, environment and other areas that affect people's everyday lives.

Interacting with CEOs and founders of 20 space startups here, Modi also hailed them for showing remarkable courage by entering a new and demanding domain of space startups as they have taken risks, trusted the reform process and remained consistent in their efforts.

He assured them of the government's full support and called for greater collaboration between space companies and organisations in other sectors to expand the use of their technologies.

"I assured the space startups that the government of India will continue to stand with them as they build India's capabilities for the future. India can offer the world a strong, innovative and commercially viable model in the space sector," he said.

Modi also urged the startups to explore how space technology could contribute to "agriculture, livestock management, dairy, environment and many other areas that touch everyday lives".

RS 9 CRORE CASH SEIZED FROM CAR

BENGALURU: Income Tax officials, acting on specific information, seized unaccounted cash worth around Rs 9 crore from a Kerala-registered car near the Veeransandra signal in Bengaluru's Electronic City on Friday.

According to police, the Income Tax Department alerted the Electronic City police about the illegal transportation of a large amount of cash in the vehicle. Acting on the information, police intercepted and checked the car, following which the cash was found and seized.

Preliminary information suggests that the cash belonged to a gold jeweller, who owned a jewellery shop, and is reportedly a native of Thoothukudi in Tamil Nadu.



The Income Tax Department had also conducted a search at the gold jeweller's residence, where officials allegedly found an additional Rs 1.35 crore in cash.

The gold shop owner has been taken into custody for questioning in connection with the seizure. The Income Tax officials are investigating the source of the money and the purpose for which it was being transported. The seized cash was reportedly being transported in the Kerala-registered car when it was intercepted by the police.

SHABAASH SHILPA!



Chief Minister DK Shivakumar felicitates para-athlete Kumari KS Shilpa, who won a bronze medal in the women's F57 shot put event at the Commonwealth Games Glasgow 2026, during a meeting at Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru. Deputy Chief Minister G Parameshwara, state Olympic Association President and MLC K Govindaraj and others are also seen

Govt rejects ethanol link to sugar price surge

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

THE government on Friday rejected claims that diversion of sugar for ethanol production was driving a sharp rise in sugar prices, saying instead that lower domestic output, festive-season demand and hoarding had prompted the government to impose stock limits and allow duty-free imports to contain prices. "It is incorrect to



attribute the recent increase in sugar prices to diversion of sugar for ethanol production," the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution said in a statement. The share of sugar diverted for making ethanol for doping in petrol, has, in fact, declined to around 9 per cent in the 2025-26 season from about 12 per cent in 2022-23, while nearly three-fourths of India's ethanol production now comes from grains, particularly maize, it said.

New Green Card rules from Sept 18

HANS NEWS SERVICE
TEXAS

The US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) will issue an updated application form for permanent residence next month, warning that previous versions submitted after the implementation date will be turned away. The revised edition of Form I-485, Application to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status, is scheduled for publication on September 18. USCIS stated in an official notification. Form I-485 is utilised by eligible individuals currently residing in the United States to apply for lawful permanent resident status, commonly known as a Green Card. The update is expected to draw significant attention from Indian nationals seeking employment- and family-based permanent residence, particularly applicants who have endured lengthy waits for an immigrant visa number to become available.

FDA suspends license of McDonald's outlet

MUMBAI: The Maharashtra Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has suspended the food business licences of the Bombay Presidency Radio Club and a McDonald's outlet in south Mumbai along with 11 other food establishments across the state for alleged violations of food safety and hygiene norms, officials said on Friday. The FDA is in news since IAS officer Tukaram Mundhe took charge as its commissioner in May and launched a crackdown on food establishments



found violating various laws and rules. In a recent special drive, it inspected 89 hotels, restaurants and dhabas across the state, and issued improvement notices to 71 establishments while suspending the licences of 13 food establishments, an official release said. During an inspection carried out on August 19, Radio Club recorded a non-compliance

rate of 47 per cent, and was asked to stop all purchase, sale and distribution of food during the suspension period, it said. Officials allegedly found a large number of live flies and dead cockroaches in the Club's kitchen. They also allegedly found peeling paint and plaster on the ceiling above food preparation areas, washing powder and other chemicals stored close to food items, food kept directly on the floor, and unclean refrigerators used for non-vegetarian food.

NTA clarifies on Rs 200 answer key challenge fee, refund rules

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

THE National Testing Agency (NTA) has said that its 'answer key challenge' system is designed to be fair to all students, and rejected concerns about it being expensive.

An NTA answer key challenge is an online process where candidates who take an exam (like JEE Main, NEET, or UGC NET) can object to errors in the provisional an-

'One challenge, everyone benefits. If even a single candidate challenges a question, and the subject experts accept the challenge, the revised answer key applies to every candidate who wrote the exam'

swer key.

The NTA has been under fire lately over issues ranging from NEET-UG paper leak to errors in the UGC-NET examinations.

"On the concern being raised that answer key challenges are 'too expensive': a quick clarification for candidates. The answer key challenge system is designed to be

fair to every student, not just the one who challenges," NTA said in a post on X on August 20, Thursday.

"One challenge, everyone benefits. If even a single candidate challenges a question, and the subject experts accept the challenge, the revised answer key applies to every candidate who wrote the exam," it said. The NTA said that fee is charged for challenging an answer to discourage frivolous challenges and it is re-

funded if the challenge turns out to be right. "The Rs 200/question is refunded to the candidate whose challenge is upheld. The fee exists to discourage frivolous challenges, not to profit from genuine ones," the agency said.

"So if you have identified a genuine error and raised it, if found correct will not only be refunded but one accurate challenge from any candidate can correct the record for lakhs of others," it added.

