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Rajkot gaming zone fire: Gujarat Congress demands FIR against senior officials

Sanjay Kumar

Ahmedabad, May 27: The Gujarat Congress on Monday demanded that senior civic and state officials, and office-bearers of the ruling BJP be named in the FIR registered in connection with the Rajkot game zone fire that claimed 27 lives.

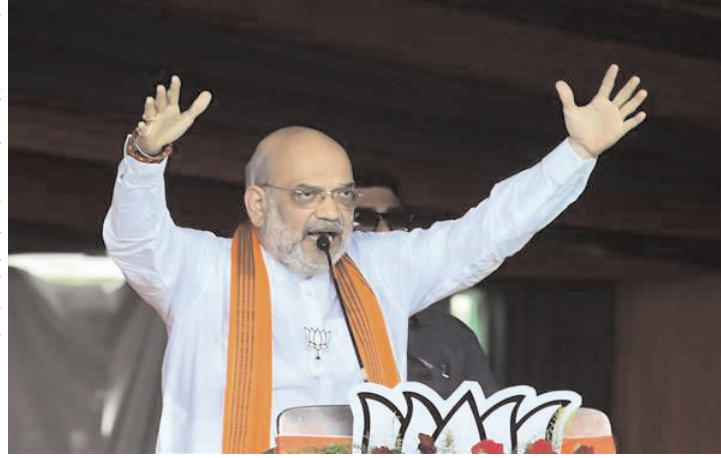
senior civic and state officials and BJP office-bearers be named as accused in the FIR. The senior Congress leader said there was a time when the Union railway minister and civil aviation minister used to resign after major accidents.

No family member of terrorists, stone-pelters will get govt job in J-K: Amit Shah

Simmi Kaur Babbar

New Delhi, May 27: Sending a tough message, Union Home Minister Amit Shah has said that no family member of any terrorist nor close relatives of stone-pelters will get government jobs in Jammu and Kashmir.

would make an exception in case someone from a family came forward and informed the authorities that his or her close relative had joined a terror outfit.



relief, he said. Earlier, funeral processions used to be taken out in Kashmir after a terrorist was killed, Shah said.

with all religious formalities but in an isolated place," he said. The home minister said when a terrorist is surrounded by the security forces, he is first given a chance to surrender.

Supreme Court refuses to entertain BJP's plea against Calcutta High Court order on advertisements

New Delhi, May 27: The Supreme Court on Monday refused to entertain the BJP's petition challenging the Calcutta High Court's order restraining the saffron party from publishing certain alleged derogatory advertisements against the TMC and its leaders during the ongoing Lok Sabha polls as they violated the Model Code of Conduct.



that the advertisements were based on facts. As the Bench was not inclined to entertain the petition, Patwalia chose to withdraw the petition and it was "dismissed as withdrawn".

PM Narendra Modi's 'mujra' remark condemnable

Jalandhar, May 27: Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'mujra' remark is unfortunate and condemnable. This was stated by Congress national spokesperson Charan Sapra while addressing mediapersons here today.

In Chamba, Priyanka Gandhi targets PM Modi for trying to 'topple' Congress govt

Navdeep Singh Sahni

Chamba, May 27: Launching a scathing attack on the BJP and the PM, Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi on Monday said PM Narendra Modi who tried to "topple" a democratically elected government could not be a well-wisher of Himachal Pradesh.



trasted this with the Congress's efforts, saying the Congress leaders were on the ground sharing the public's grief and providing relief.

flawed policies, which "favoured" only Modi's billionaires friends. "Under the BJP rule, farmers don't get fair price for their crops, number of jobless youth is highest in 70 years, prices of essential commodities are skyrocketing but you won't listen words like unemployment and inflation from the PM's mouth," she said.

Arvind Kejriwal has sought bail extension for medical tests: Atishi

Tejinder Kaur Babbar

New Delhi, May 27: Senior AAP leader Atishi on Monday said Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had sought one-week extension of his interim bail as he needs to undergo tests due to his recent weight loss and rise in ketone level which could be symptoms of a kidney problem or even cancer.

he is suffering from serious diseases. If so, why is he not having those tests done now instead of



being busy with campaigning in Punjab?" Sachdeva said. Atishi told PTI Videos that Kejriwal's weight dropped by 7 kg after his arrest on

March 21. He had not regained the lost weight and the doctors are unable to find why his weight decreased, the Delhi minister said. "He has undergone some tests and his ketone level is very high. Loss of weight and high ketone level could be symptoms of very serious diseases, as told by doctors. It could be symptoms of serious problems in the kidneys or also might be symptoms of cancer," said the minister.

Jammu and Kashmir records highest voter turnout in 35 years

New Delhi, May 27: The Election Commission (ECI) on Monday said Jammu and Kashmir recorded the highest voter turnout in a Lok Sabha election in last 35 years, with the Kashmir Valley witnessing a "massive" 30 points jump in poll participation compared to 2019.

Karnataka sex scandal: Hassan MP Prajwal Revanna apologises to parents

Naresh Malhotra

Bengaluru, May 27: Exactly a month after he left the country, Hassan MP Prajwal Revanna, who is facing charges of sexually abusing several women, has said he will appear before the Special Investigation Team (SIT), probing the cases against him, on May 31.

statement in Kannada. Apologising to his par-



ents, grandfather Deve Gowda, uncle and former CM H D Kumaraswamy, people of the state, and party workers, Prajwal said, "I

have come before you to share information, as I had not disclosed as to where I'm in foreign (country)." Noting that he had sought a week to respond to the SIT notice through his 'X' account and his lawyers, Prajwal said, "Despite seeking time, the very next day Congress senior leaders including Rahul Gandhi started discussing things (about me), at public meetings."

arch H D Deve Gowda and the NDA candidate from Hassan Lok Sabha segment, is facing charges of sexually abusing women. He reportedly left for Germany on April 27, a day after Hassan went to polls, and is still at large. A 'Blue Corner Notice' seeking information on his whereabouts has already been issued by Interpol, following a request by the SIT via the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

also not formed, he said. "My trip abroad on April 26 was also planned earlier. So, I left (abroad) after three or four days... when I was watching YouTube, a news channel, I learnt (about the development back home). After that SIT also issued a notice."



## Seven-year-old girl eats fried rice in Salem, dies with nosebleed

**SALEM:** A seven-year-old girl died after experiencing sudden nosebleeds following her dinner at Fairlands, Salem on Friday. The case has drawn attention to potential health risks in frequently consuming preservative-laden foods. Her mother, S Poojakumari, told TNIE that as the girl, S Lakshmikumari, loved fried rice, she ate it regularly and on Friday night her dinner comprised fried rice, chapati, and brinjal curry, and around 10 pm, her nose started bleeding. Though the child's parents rushed her to Salem Government Hospital, she was declared dead on arrival. A



case was registered at the Fairlands police station. Preliminary findings from the autopsy results indicated the presence of fluids in her body. These samples have been sent to a laboratory for detailed analysis to determine the exact cause of death. Police suspect that the regular consumption of fried rice may have impacted her digestive system, potentially leading to a nostril block and the fatal nosebleed. Fairlands police Inspector told TNIE, "We are conducting a thorough investigation and awaiting the results of the fluid samples."

# Uncertainty looms over 71 kids' education as management plans to close pvt school in Madurai

**The management is allegedly closing the matriculation school entirely, urging parents to enrol their children in the CBSE school and pay the fees.**

**CHENNAI:** The academic life of 71 students from LKG to class 7 of a matriculation school in Madurai is hanging by a thread as the management is allegedly planning to shut down the institution. They are also forcing the parents to enrol the students at the CBSE school run by the same management. However, officials stated that the school hasn't submitted an application for closure. All the 71 students, hailing from underprivileged families and residing within a one-kilometre radius of the school, were enrolled under the Right to Education (RTE) Act, which mandates 25% of seats in private schools reserved for children from economically weaker sections, with the government covering their fees. The students were originally enrolled in the matriculation school in Madurai, which runs adjacent to a SE school of the same management. However, in May 2023, the management allegedly enrolled around 200 students from the school to the CBSE school. Citing renovation works at the Madurai campus, they shifted the remaining 71 studying under the RTE Act to another matriculation school run by them in Sivaganga, which is 30 kilometres away. Though the management initially promised to relocate the students back to Madurai the next academic year, they are allegedly closing the matriculation school



entirely, urging parents to enrol their children in the CBSE school and pay the fees.

Following this, parents wrote to the chief minister's special cell and also the National Child Rights Protection Commission (NCPCR), which is responsible for overseeing the implementation of the Right to Education Act. NCPCR has instructed the district collector to take action against the school, highlighting the adverse health impacts on children due to long travel distances. The Chief Education Officer has also written to

the Director of Private Schools, calling for action against the school for violating the RTE Act.

The District Education Officer (Private Schools) has demanded an explanation from the school, noting that no application has been received from the school for its closure.

Officials from the department said further action will be taken soon. "The school assured that the children would receive free education until class 8, but they are now employing various tactics to extract fees from the parents."

## Illegal constructions at Varkala Cliff must go, says municipality

**THIRUVANANTHAPURAM:** Waking up from slumber, the Varkala municipality has served notices on owners of commercial establishments at Varkala Cliff, ordering them to immediately knock down all illegal structures located beyond the footpath facing the seafront. They have until Monday to comply with the fiat.

The municipality's move follows multiple reports published by TNIE, extensively covering the pathetic condition of the eroding Varkala Cliff in Thiruvananthapuram. One of the most popular tourist destinations in the state, the Cliff has been facing constant neglect by the tourism department as well as the municipality, and is becoming increasingly unsafe for the scores of visitors frequenting it daily, owing to rapidly worsening erosion. Earlier this month, huge holes appeared on the Cliff, triggering safety concerns. The municipality ordered the owners of commercial establishments to remove all illegal extensions and seating arrangements beyond the footpath by 2 pm. Should they fail, the municipality will remove the same and collect the expenses from the owners, the order issued by the local body said. Several temporary structures, sign boards, and other extensions of trade establishments dot the area beyond the footpath. The recent heavy rain further accelerated the erosion. Parts of the Cliff have collapsed in multiple locations along the footpath, making it dangerous for visitors, residents and tourism stakeholders alike. Every year, 50,000 foreign tourists visit Varkala on an average. The 6.1-km-long red laterite cliff is a major attraction, drawing scores of domestic tourists. The conservation project of the Cliff has been long pending. Other than a few studies, the state government has not done much to preserve or conserve the rare geological formation, which was declared a Geo Heritage Site by the Geological Survey of India in 2014.

### Widespread encroachment blamed for cliff destruction

Following reports by TNIE, the tourism department had directed the District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) to visit the Varkala Cliff and review the situation.

A DDMA team visited the spot and submitted a report to the collector. Subsequently, several safety measures, including hand railings and warning boards, were put up at many spots. The DDMA had also directed the municipality to act. Varkala Municipality authorities said rampant encroachment on the cliff is the primary reason for its destruction. Absence of infrastructure to manage waste water is another.

The Varkala Tourism Development Association is gearing up to put up fencing to prevent accidents and ensure visitors' safety. "We have also submitted a project for the cliff's conservation. The government is yet to approve it. Once it gives its nod, we are ready to demonstrate the surface strengthening work on the cliff," said Sanjay Sahadevan, advisor to VTDA.

# Survey by forest dept reveals Catfish posing threat to native species in Periyar Tiger Reserve

**KOCHI:** The first composite aquatic faunal and odonate survey conducted by the forest department in the Periyar Tiger Reserve (PTR) from May 16 to 19 reveals a decline in population of native species due to the increase in population of exotic species like catfish. The survey identified 56 fish species which makes it the highest count ever from any study conducted in the PTR since 1940. The study revealed the presence of seven new species of fish from the various tributaries inside the PTR. The PTR will have to conduct molecular studies to confirm whether these species are new or the subspecies of existing fish species. Various water bodies in the PTR harbours 30% of all fish species found in Kerala. Among them, nine fish species are restricted to the boundaries of the reserve — all of which but one, could be recorded during the current survey. Four exotic fish species, including *Clarias gariepinus* (African Catfish), *Cyprinus carpio* (Common

Carp), *Oreochromis mossambicus* (Mozambique Tilapia), and *Oreochromis niloticus* (Nile Tilapia) were recorded in the survey. "Over the years we have observed a decline in cormorants and darters in our lake. This can be attributed to the decrease in population of native fishes and increase in the population of catfish. In 1986, catfish from a nearby fish farm had entered the lake during floods. We had found more exotic species in the lake after the 2018 floods. The survey will help understand the population of native fish," said Periyar East Assistant Field Director P J Shuhaib.

The survey to study the abundance of odonates like damselflies and dragonflies revealed the presence of 120 species as against the previous record of 116 species. This is the highest number of odonates



ever recorded in any protected area in Kerala, and comprises 63% of the odonate diversity of Kerala and around 55% of Western Ghats. "The odonates are clear indicators of air and water quality. We have observed the presence of odonates in all camp sheds, especially the Meghamalai area where the tea estates are using pesticides. There are odonates that are found around freshwater lakes and

contaminated water bodies. The survey primarily aimed at identifying the species. We will conduct a post-monsoon assessment to study the variations," said Shuhaib. After identifying the threat posed by exotic species to native species, the forest department had initiated steps to eradicate exotic species. Around 2,780 catfishes were eradicated during the past two years.

The department is utilising the service of local fishermen to control the population of exotic fishes. Another exotic species is *Glossogobius* which was identified in 1974. "The presence of the micro-endemic fish species signifies the success of the PTR's management interventions in controlling invasive species. This demonstrates a healthy aquatic ecosystem where native species can thrive."

## Custodial death probe handed over to CID in Karnataka's Channagiri

**DAVANAGERE:** The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) will take over the investigation into the alleged death of a man in police custody in Channagiri on Friday, said Superintendent of Police Uma Prashanth here on Sunday. She said the district police have arrested 25 persons for vandalising the police station, attacking police personnel and damaging police vehicles, based on video evidence available with the police. The accused have been charged under Sections 353 and 307 of IPC and were produced before court, which has handed them over to judicial custody. The accused are from Nalluru, Honnebaagi and Channagiri. They were part of a mob that attacked the police station after an arrested person, Adil, died in police custody.

Adil's body was conducted in the presence of a judge on Saturday and the report is expected in three days. The report will reveal the real cause of Adil's death, she said. Channagiri DySP Prashanth Munnoli has obtained all information on those who attacked the police station, in which 11 police personnel suffered injuries. Six complaints have been registered over vandalising the police station, injuring police personnel and damaging police vehicles, she said. Channagiri, which was tense over the custodial death, returned to normal on Sunday. Additional police personnel from neighbouring Chitradurga, Davanagere and Shivamogga have been



deployed in town, the SP said. Five police teams, formed to investigate the incident, are going through CCTV footage and public videos to identify the culprits. As many as 40

attackers have been identified till now, she said. The police on Friday arrested Adil (33) from Tippunagar of Channagiri taluk for allegedly organising a matka racket and died in police custody. The police claimed that he died of seizure. But his relatives alleged that he was tortured to death in police custody. Soon after the news of his death spread, a large group of people vandalised the police station and attacked policemen.

The SP had on Saturday said Adil was at the police station only for six to seven minutes and he developed a health complication. He was rushed to hospital where he died. But the police do not have any video footage to substantiate their claims.

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**Whether it is a river, pond or sea, venturing into water has its risks, and it is only trained swimmers who have a chance of staying alive. It's selfie-obsessed tourists and revellers who are at risk**

# Death in treacherous waters of Karnataka

**BENGALURU:** A spate of drowning cases across Karnataka has cast a shadow over the past few weeks. While many lost their lives after venturing into water bodies at tourist spots, several drowned in lakes and agricultural ponds in rural areas, with most of the deaths being accidental. Experts say the primary cause of accidental drowning incidents is often the 'lack of adequate swimming skills' among people, and highlighted the importance of adhering to safety measures, especially around open water bodies like seas. Experts stressed that even if individuals are proficient swimmers in pools, the challenges posed by the currents, waves and other unpredictable factors in natural water settings require additional training and awareness. Experts also pointed out that a significant number of drowning incidents occur around tourist spots, and recommended that schools should prioritise teaching swimming skills, particularly in rural areas where children frequently play near lakes and ponds. While awareness can be raised through signs and other methods, it is crucial to understand the

formidable force of water. "Often, people slip and then experience breathing difficulties, which can be fatal. In such scenarios, knowing how to swim could be life-saving," experts say.

Several incidents were recently reported from Bengaluru Rural and Ramanagara districts where youths lost their lives while enjoying themselves near water bodies with friends. Police officials said that most of these incidents happened because of the carelessness of those who entered the water without being aware of the factors that ultimately claimed their lives. Contrary to common belief that most drowning cases are suicidal, data from Bengaluru Rural suggest that the majority are accidental. Till May this year, there were a total of 36 drowning cases, of which 30 were accidental and six were suicidal. Bengaluru Rural SP Mallikarjun Baladandi mentioned that people often go in groups to tourist spots and engage in restricted activities to seek thrills, which tragically leads to loss of life. Moreover, the growing trend of



recording vlogs or videos, and taking selfies at every location they visit sometimes proves fatal, as people fail to pay attention to their surroundings and can be swept away by waves or fall into water bodies.

### High risk at tourist spots

Approximately 20 people have drowned in the river Cauvery in Mysuru region from January to mid-May, with most incidents occurring at tourist spots. Police authorities say that a majority of drowning incidents occur at picnic

and religious sites such as Balmuri, Muthathi, KRS backwaters, Chunchanakatte falls, Sangama, Gaganachukki and Barachukki falls, and areas near the Cauvery river. "Most of the fatalities involve young individuals who attempt to enter deep waters despite lacking swimming skills. Despite repeated warnings, people enter rivers and lakes and meet their end in watery accidents," an officer stated. M Sukumar, a national-level swimmer and coach who represented Karnataka 29 times and is one of the country's top divers, emphasised that swimming lessons be mandated in schools and colleges. "The government made education compulsory, followed by compulsory physical education in schools. Now, there is a call for swimming to be included as part of education. This initiative will help reduce the number of drowning incidents in future," he said, and stressed the need for stringent measures around water bodies. Sukumar insisted that everyone, including expert swimmers, should be prohibited from entering deep waters at tourist locations.



NEWS BOX

### 22-year-old woman stabbed to death by friend in PG facility

Gurgaon: Enraged over a rape case registered against him two years ago in Maharashtra and alleged "harassment for money" by the survivor, a youth stabbed a woman to death in a paying guest hostel facility in Sector 48 on Saturday.

After killing her, the accused called police and informed them about it, following which he was taken into custody. Police registered a suo motu case under IPC Section 302.

The 22-year old woman was from Maharashtra's Akola and her friend Suraj Verma is a native of the same district. Suraj (26) works as an HR manager at a private company operating from JMD Megapolis building in Sector 48. For the past eight months, he has been staying at Rohit PG guest house in Sector 48. On Saturday evening, the woman visited Suraj at the PG and he took her to his room.

"Around two hours later, a police team reached the guest house asking for details of Suraj's room. We came to know about the murder only after the police team arrived. Suraj has been staying with us for about eight months in the first-floor room. He is an HR manager in an IT company and we never had any complaints. The woman came to meet him around 4 pm on Saturday and she went to Suraj's room. Suraj shared the room with another man but he was not there at that time. Police found the woman murdered in the room lying on the floor next to the bed," Rohit PG operator Balwan said.

Police opened the door and found the woman lying on the floor in a pool of blood. "Cops collected CCTV footage and details of Suraj from us," Balwan said.

The body has been sent for autopsy. During the preliminary probe, police came to know that the woman knew Suraj well and on her complaint, a rape case under IPC Section 376 had been registered. "Preliminary information is that the woman and the accused knew each other and there was a case against him in Maharashtra. Suraj stabbed the victim to death with a knife," Gurgaon Sadar inspector Arjun Dev said.

ACP (Gurgaon Sadar) Kapil Ahlawat said the accused has been taken into custody and during the preliminary probe it came to light that the accused was "angry with the victim" about the police case registered against him in Maharashtra.

### 3 handed life in jail for murder in 2019

Gurgaon: A local court has sentenced three people to life imprisonment for murder of a 32-year-old carpenter in 2019. One of the accused was related to the victim.

Police said Dev and Kanhaiya from Faridabad and Sheetal from Jakhpur in Sohna were found guilty of killing Sheetal's uncle, Rakesh, in Jakhpur on March 27, 2019. Sheetal was in a relationship with Kanhaiya and Rakesh had opposed their involvement. So, Dev and Kanhaiya shot Rakesh dead at his house.

Kanhaiya is a grocery store operator in Faridabad and Dev alias Monu is his nephew.

A few years prior to the murder, Rakesh's wife had eloped with Sheetal's husband and since then, Sheetal has been staying at her uncle, Rakesh's place. According to police, Sheetal was involved with Kanhaiya from before she got married. "On the day of the murder, Sheetal went out of the house along with her grandmother, leaving Rakesh alone at home. Meanwhile, Kanhaiya and Dev went to Rakesh's house and while Kanhaiya held Rakesh, Dev shot him in the head," Sandeep Kumar, spokesperson for Gurgaon police, said. After the murder, Sheetal and her grandmother returned home and she pretended that unknown assailants had shot her uncle in their absence. However, cops said, call records suggested that Sheetal was in contact with Kanhaiya both before and after the crime. It was also established that Kanhaiya and Dev were in Jakhpur on that day. Kanhaiya and Dev were arrested from Faridabad on March 31 that year and based on their confession, Sheetal was arrested on April 3. After the trial, on Thursday, Mona Singh, additional sessions judge, sentenced the trio to life imprisonment under IPC sections 302 (murder) and 120B (criminal conspiracy). The accused have also been penalised Rs 50,000 each.

### Work at plant sparks water crisis, tempers rise in hsg societies

Gurgaon: Several parts of the city have been reeling from severe water shortage as the temperature is soaring. On Sunday, they faced shortfall in supply due to maintenance work at the treatment plant (WTP) in Basai. GMDA said a three-hour shutdown was carried out at the plant, partially affecting the supply. The affected areas include sectors 14, 12, 21, 22, 23, 1, 2, 3, 18, and Udyog Vihar, Palam Vihar, Dundahera and Maruti Udyog. "The shutdown was necessary to carry out maintenance work at the Basai WTP plant. As a result, supply was partially affected in some areas. We resumed the supply around 7pm, it is expected to be fully streamlined by Monday morning," a GMDA official said.

The recent disruption has worsened the existing water supply problems in certain areas. For instance, residents of Sector 21 have been dealing with severe water shortages, as the water pressure has dropped to around 70 psi, which is significantly lower than the normal range of 130 psi. This decrease in pressure has left residents without water for days, leading them to depend on water tankers. "Apart from technical issues, we are also dealing with an inconsistent presence of pump operators. The pump operator is available only sometimes and does not switch on the tubewells, reducing the pressure of water supply to the sector," Prakash Lamba, RWA president of Sector 21 complained. "Water meant for Sector 21 continues to be diverted to Mullahera village due to a temporary connection pending the completion of a direct supply line. The upkeep of the motor and other equipment at the Sector 21 pump house has been poor, with a tubewell remaining non-operational due to delayed electrical repairs," a resident said.

# YEIDA plans to acquire 6,000 hectares in 2 yrs, spend 60k cr to develop them

Noida. Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA) has planned to acquire more than 6,000 hectares worth Rs 14,000 crore over the next two years. Officials said the Authority would spend Rs 63,500 crore in developing infrastructure such as roads, drains, parks and set up electricity connections in these areas before they are handed out for both industrial and residential projects.

The land will be acquired from 40 villages through various means, including mutual agreements, acquisition and reclamation.

Of the total 6,065 hectares, 1,609 hectares will be bought directly from farmers through mutual agreements while 4,076 hectares will be acquired. Some 380 hectares of govt land will be reclaimed. Some of the key villages where land is set to be acquired are Rabupura (994

hectares), Tirthali (479), Karauli Bangar (250), Muradgarhi (336), Tappal-Bajna (771), Mudrah (290), Kallupura (218) and Mayana (252). Officials said this acquired land would be utilised for establishing new sectors and industrial cities. Some of the sectors that will be developed on this land are 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11. Additionally, 712 hectares will be acquired for the Tappal-Bajna urban centre and 528 hectares for a logistics park proposed in Dorpuri and Syarol villages. The process of acquiring land is underway in four of six villages in Sector 10, while the proposal for getting land in Tappal-Bajna and in sectors 5, 6, 7 and 8 have been sent to the govt for approval.

In March this year, UP govt had issued a notification for acquiring land to develop Sector 10, which will include five industrial parks, one of which will

be used for manufacturing electronics equipment. A Fintech City is proposed in Sector 11, while Japanese and Korean cities will be developed in sectors 5A and 4A, respectively. YEIDA will need 395 hectares for the Japanese City and 365 hectares for the Korean project.

The Authority has received interest-free loans of around Rs 3,300 crore so far to meet the financial requirements of these projects. YEIDA plans to contribute its share from profits earned over the next few years, revenue generated from various plot schemes and loans from banks to complete the land acquisition process. We also published the following articles recently

Crop loss on 6,900 hectares in Mysuru district: Dist min Mysuru district minister HC Mahadevappa reported crop loss in 6,900 hectares and horticulture crops in 4,000 hectares due

to pre-monsoon showers, with houses damaged receiving government compensation. 110409111

Pre-monsoon rain, wind damage fruits & veggies on 5k hectare in Pune Pre-monsoon showers in Maharashtra have caused extensive damage to horticultural crops, affecting farmers who were already recovering from a water crisis. Officials are assessing the widespread crop damage, particularly in fruit plantations. 110263852

New pool plan: Crop aid and 25% developed land The state govt plans to amend the land-pooling policy to encourage more farmers to sell land for development projects. Around 350 projects in the state face hurdles due to land disputes, prompting the proposed changes. Ghaziabad Development Authority highlights the challenges in land acquisition processes

## 1-mth-old with rare heart defect treated at city hosp

Gurgaon: A one-month-old infant suffering from a rare congenital heart defect — LV apical aneurysm — was successfully treated at a city hospital. The condition, which replaces the apical part of the heart's left ventricle with fibrous tissue, is exceptionally rare — with only 809 cases reported worldwide since 1816. This case marks the youngest of its kind, doctors said. In a case like this, fibrous tissue makes the heart thin and weak, making it prone to spontaneous rupture and posing significant structural and functional challenges. The condition can remain undiagnosed for years after birth and poses a serious risk of sudden cardiac events, such as sudden infantile death syndrome (SIDS), especially during periods of stress such as crying or physical activity.

Its exact cause is often unknown and it can occur without any genetic predisposition or identifiable contributing factors. Dr Deepak Thakur, senior consultant, paediatric and fetal cardiology, Paras Hospitals, Gurgaon, noted, "Congenital heart defects affect the structure of the heart and are typically detected either at birth or before. In this extraordinary case, the condition was diagnosed during fetal echocardiography at 26 weeks of pregnancy. The fetal echocardiography played an important

role in helping diagnose such a rare anomaly and further helped in planning the course of treatment. After diagnosis, the child was closely monitored with bi-weekly follow-ups until delivery to ensure that the size of the aneurysm did not increase. Following birth, an MRI was performed to confirm the diagnosis, which corroborated with echocardiography findings. The parents were advised for close follow-up on medical management; however, after a month, when the size of the aneurysm increased and the child started experiencing breathing difficulties, it was decided to perform the surgery."

The surgery was performed when the baby was 1 month old, weighing 3.4 kg. Doctors chose to strictly monitor the infant's condition from birth and waited as long as possible before operating to allow the heart muscles to grow. Eventually, a team of doctors comprising pediatric cardiologists, cardiac surgeons, perfusionists, and cardiac anesthesiologists.

Dr Shyamveer Singh Khangarot, consultant, congenital (neonatal and pediatric) cardiac surgeon, emphasized the unique challenges posed while treating this rare condition in an infant, stating, "Neonatal and

infant cardiac surgeries are inherently complex; however, the rarity and complexity of this disease made the task even more challenging. The involvement of the left side of the heart added another layer of complexity. The surgical procedure performed, known as left ventricular endoaneurysmorrhaphy, required meticulous planning due to the infant's small heart size. Every millimetre of tissue in the infant's heart was critical, and we had to carefully consider not only the immediate outcome but also the long-term growth potential. After 6 hours of surgery, the aneurysm was repaired with a composite patch of polyester and pericardium with another layer of epicardium. Even before the surgery, contingency preparation was done to support the baby on ECMO, if required, in the form of an integrated ECMO/CPB circuit, given the uncharted nature of the post-operative course due to the rarity and complexity of the procedure." Highlighting the importance of post-treatment care, Dr Alok Sahoo, cardiac anesthesiologist, Paras, said, "During the post-operative period, we maintained constant vigilance over the baby, ensuring optimal care of hemodynamics."

## Bus accident: School director surrenders in court after 43 days

Gurgaon: The director of GL Public School in Mahendragarh district, who is the primary suspect in the tragic school bus accident on April 11 that resulted in the deaths of six students, surrendered in Kanina court on Friday, 43 days after the incident. The police have taken Subhash Lodha into custody on a four-day remand.

On April 11, a bus carrying 34 students rammed into a tree and overturned near Unhani village around 8.30am, killing six students and injuring 12.

The driver was allegedly drunk and speeding at 120 kmph, causing the accident. It was also found that the bus lacked a fitness certificate.

With Subhash's surrender, police have arrested 10 suspects in the case so far. Bus driver Dharmendra, school principal Deepti Yadav, and school secretary Hoshiyar Singh were arrested the same evening. Deepti is Subhash's wife, and Hoshiyar is his younger brother. On April 15, four more individuals — Harish, Sandeep, Bhudev, and Nareesh alias Kaliya — were arrested for consuming alcohol with Dharmendra inside the bus. Around a week later, on April 17, the school chairman and BJP functionary, Rajendra Lodha, was also taken into custody from a brick kiln in a Rewari village.

"Subhash had been evading arrest for 43 days, with police continuously raiding potential hideouts. During this period, he filed an anticipatory bail

## 'It's your turn now': CM lists airport and Film City projects, seeks votes

Noida. Chief minister Yogi Adityanath exhorted a gathering at a private college in the city to vote for BJP candidate Mahesh Sharma and "help in nation-building". From the Noida International Airport to Film City and freight corridor, the CM listed a slew of projects to highlight how UP was driving the country's development towards a \$ 1 trillion economy. "You have got everything — an airport, film city, dedicated freight corridor, medical device park and so on. Noida also has the highest per capita income in the state. Now, it's your turn. Vote for (BJP candidate) Mahesh Sharma and contribute to nation-building," Adityanath told the gathering, comprising doctors, lawyers and industrialists, among others. According to the CM, the airport alone will attract an investment of Rs 1 lakh crore in the near future. "It will be South Asia's largest airport. Before 2017, the mention of Jewar would scare people because of rampant protests by farmers and other reasons. I vowed to build the airport there. It will boost UP's economy by Rs 1 lakh crore," he said at the Prabuddh Sammelan. He also attacked previous govts, saying chief ministers would skip Noida fearing it would jinx their career. "I didn't understand why CMs would consider Noida like that. Then, I saw the list of bureaucrats and understood why. The bureaucrats sent by them would make people poor and themselves rich. There were efforts to cover this up through 'Gandhari's eye band'. When I visited the city, I was surprised to see how they had ruined a fertile area like Gautam Budh Nagar," he added. Adityanath said UP had come a long way from being a 'bimaru (sick)' state before 2017. "Today, it is leading the country's economy in terms of revenue. It is the second largest economy in the country," he added. According to the CM, Noida had a huge role to play in India becoming the third-largest economy of the world. "In Modi's third term, India will indeed emerge as the third largest economy in the world. Both UP and Gautam Budh Nagar will play a big role in this. India will be developed only when UP is developed," Adityanath said. The CM also raked up the issue of delayed registries. "I have been to several countries and have heard people saying they have invested in flats in Noida for their parents. Some were waiting 10 years for registry, some 12. When (retired bureaucrat) Amitabh Kant's committee report (to revive stalled projects) came to us, I told officials to implement it at any cost. There should not be any dispute in this — every buyer should get their rights. I felt good when I came to know that some people got ownership of their houses after 20-25 years," the CM said.

<p><b>NAME CHANGE</b> I, N C Mundhra S/o Asha Ram Mundhra R/O Flat No. 902, T-12, Maxcity Ramprastha Greens Near Vaishali Metro Station, IE Sahibabad, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh - 201010 have changed my name to Nem Chand Mundhra for all future purposes.</p>	<p><b>NAME CHANGE</b> I, VICKY KUMAR son of BACHHU LAL resident of B-150, MADHU VIHAR, uttam nagar, DIST: West Delhi, Delhi-110059 have changed my name from VIKKY to VICKY KUMAR for all future purpose.</p>
<p><b>PUBLIC NOTICE</b> It is for general information that I, ANWAR ZABIN D/o WIRASAT HUSAIN, residing at 48-A, Noor Nagar, MCD School, Jamia Nagar, Okhla, New Delhi-110025, declare that name of my father has been wrongly written as Wirasat Husain in my all educational certificates. The actual name of my father is Wirasat Husain respectively which may be amended accordingly.</p>	<p><b>NAME CHANGE</b> I, JAYRAM SINGH S/o JANARDAN PRASAD SINGH R/O VILLAGE-GAINI, PO-GAINI, DISTT-AURANGABAD, BIHAR-824113 have changed my son's name from AADARSH to ADARSH SINGH for all future purposes vide affidavit dated 27/05/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.</p>
<p><b>NAME CHANGE</b> I, J.C-340672N Rank-SUB Name-SURYA PRAKASH presently residing at VILL-SISAI RANI PUR, POST-CHUWAR, TEH-MANKAPUR, DIST-GONDA, U.P-271313 have changed my wife's name from VIMLISH to VIMLISH KISHRA for all future purposes vide Affidavit Dated 27/05/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.</p>	<p><b>PUBLIC NOTICE</b> My client Shashi Bala W/o Late Mahesh Chand Sharma R/o 1193/13, Ind Floor, Govind Puri, Delhi-19 has severed her all relations from her son Adarsh Sharma and his wife Pnyanka Sharma and disowned them from her all moveable and immovable properties due to their disobedience. My client shall not be responsible for their any civil and criminal acts and liabilities. <b>Kamlesh (Advocate)</b> Chamber No. 449, Lawyer's Block, Saket Courts Complex, New Delhi-110017.</p>
<p><b>NAME CHANGE</b> I, SIVAKUMAR ARUMUGAM S/O KUPPUSWAMY ARUMUGAM residing at H NO-158A, FIRST FLOOR, IDDA JANATA FLAT, OLD MAYUR VIHAR PHASE-I, DELHI-110091 have changed my name to SIVAKUMAR for all future purposes.</p>	<p><b>PUBLIC NOTICE</b> My client Shashi Bala W/o Late Mahesh Chand Sharma R/o 1193/13, Ind Floor, Govind Puri, Delhi-19 has severed her all relations from her son Shiv Narayan Sharma and disowned him from her all moveable and immovable properties due to his disobedience. My client shall not be responsible for his any civil and criminal acts and liabilities. <b>Kamlesh (Advocate)</b> Chamber No. 449, Lawyer's Block, Saket Courts Complex, New Delhi-110017.</p>
<p><b>NAME CHANGE</b> I, Rubi Mittale W/o Anil Kumar R/o H No-152 F/F, KH NO-482 Asola Fateh Pur Beri, DELHI-110074, have changed my name Rubi for all future purposes.</p>	<p><b>NAME CHANGE</b> I, Himanshu S/o Surender R/o House No-65, 3rd Floor, Sector, Part-3, Gurgaon, Haryana-122001, Have Changed My Name To Himanshu Sharma S/o Surender Kumar For All Future Purpose</p>
<p><b>NAME CHANGE</b> I, AYUB S/O JAFROODEEN Residing at H NO-C-722/3 F/F MANDIR WALI GALI NO-3 CHAUHAN BANGER SEELAMPUR DELHI 110053 have changed my name to AYUB KHAN for all future purpose.</p>	<p><b>NAME CHANGE</b> I, hitherto known as POORVA alias PURVA GAUTAM alias KM, PURVA W/O PRADEEP KUMAR GAUTAM D/O RAJPAL SINGH R/O PLOT NO692, FLAT NO. E-5, BLOCK A, MAHAVIR APARTMENT NEAR SUNDERLAL HOSPITAL, DEVLII, SOUTH DELHI, DELHI-110080 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as PURVA GAUTAM.</p>
<p><b>NAME CHANGE</b> I, PUJA DEVI wife of J-C12817A Rank-NB SUB Name-SOHNAN LAL R/O VPO-MUANA, TEH-SAFIDON, DISTT-JIND, HARYANA-126162 have changed my name from PUJA DEVI to Pooja for all future purposes vide affidavit dated 27/05/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.</p>	<p><b>NAME CHANGE</b> I, hitherto known as JAIMALA alias JAIMALA GOLYAN D/o BARU SINGH W/o SAHANSAR PAL residing at House No. -C -36, C-Block, Street No. -3, Indra Niketan, North Chajlupur, Shahadra, PO Dayalpur, District North East Delhi 110094 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as JAIMALA GOLYAN.</p>
<p><b>NAME CHANGE</b> I hitherto known as P V A TANMAY KUMAR S/o SUDHIR KUMAR PARAKALA, R/o 278, DDA LIG, Pocket-4, Sunview RWA, Dac Sector-6, Dwarika Sector-11, Dwarika, South West Delhi, Delhi-110075, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as PARAKALA VENU AKHIL TANMAY KUMAR.</p>	<p><b>NAME CHANGE</b> I, hitherto known as JAIMALA alias JAIMALA GOLYAN D/o BARU SINGH W/o SAHANSAR PAL residing at House No. -C -36, C-Block, Street No. -3, Indra Niketan, North Chajlupur, Shahadra, PO Dayalpur, District North East Delhi 110094 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as JAIMALA GOLYAN. <b>[NAVEEN KUMAR VERMA]</b> Advocate F-211, sector-3 Vaishali Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh-201010, Contact at 09658871432</p>

<p><b>NAME CHANGE</b> I, MUKESH DANG / MUKESH S/O MAADAN LAL RESIDING AT 228 GAGAN VIHAR KRISHNA NAGAR DELHI-110051 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO MUKESH KUMAR FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES</p>	<p><b>NAME CHANGE</b> I, hitherto Known as SATNAM KAUR alias PARAMJEET KAUR SODHI W/o KULDEEP SINGH SODHI residing at WZ-65/1, Gali No. 25, Sant Garh, Tilak Nagar, West Delhi, Delhi -110018 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as PARAMJEET KAUR SODHI.</p>
<p><b>NAME CHANGE</b> I, SAIMA KHATOON W/O IMRAN AHMAD RESIDING AT H NO-5420 UNCHI GALI KUCHA REHAN CHANDNI CHOWK DELHI-110006 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SAIMA BEGUM FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES</p>	<p><b>NAME CHANGE</b> I Ali Ahmed S/O Chunnu Khan R/O L-36G,Sheikh Sarai-II, South Delhi, Delhi-110017 have changed my name to Ali Ahmed Khan for all future purposes .</p>
<p><b>NAME CHANGE</b> I, Rajesh Mundra S/o Nem Chand Mundhra R/o Flat No. 902, T-12, Maxcity Ramprastha Greens Near Vaishali Metro Station, IE Sahibabad, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh - 201010 have changed my name to Rajesh Mundhra for all future purposes.</p>	<p><b>NAME CHANGE</b> I, hitherto known as MANISH KUMAR WADDAN alias MANISH OBEROI S/O VIPIN KUMAR R/O D-38A, 3RD FLOOR, SHYAM NAGAR, TILAK NAGAR, WEST DELHI, DELHI-110018 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as MANISH OBEROI.</p>
<p><b>NAME CHANGE</b> It is for general information that I, TEJ PRAKASH S/o RAMESH CHANDRA, residing at A-117, Laxmi Park, Nangloi, West Delhi, Delhi - 110041, declare that name of my minor son has been wrongly written as HARSHIKA in my minor son's name namely UDIT MATHUR aged 16 year in his SC Caste Certificate No. SC/03/31/58829/31/1/2013/893109372. The actual name of my minor son is UDIT MATHUR, which may be amended accordingly.</p>	<p><b>NAME CHANGE</b> It is for general information that I, ZAKIR SHAIKH S/O MOHD SAIED, residing at H. No.-T 413, Street No.-20, Near Water Tank, Gautam Puri, New Seelampur, North East Delhi, Delhi-110053, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as ZAKIR in my Driving License No. DL-0520090042752 (P). The actual name of mine is ZAKIR SHAIKH, which may be amended accordingly.</p>
<p><b>NAME CHANGE</b> I, hitherto known as MANISH KUMAR WADDAN alias MANISH OBEROI S/O VIPIN KUMAR R/O D-38A, 3RD FLOOR, SHYAM NAGAR, TILAK NAGAR, WEST DELHI, DELHI-110018 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as MANISH OBEROI.</p>	<p><b>NAME CHANGE</b> It is for general information that I, AJIT KUMAR S/o MANU PRASAD, R/O G - 66, Harjan Basti, Palam Extn., Palam Village, South West Delhi, Delhi -110045, declare that name of mine and my wife have been wrongly written as AJIT GUPTA and PREETI GUPTA in my minor son ANSH GUPTA, aged 14 years in his School Record. The actual name of mine and my wife are AJIT KUMAR and PRITY KUMARI respectively, which may be amended accordingly.</p>



NEWS BOX

Israeli airstrike kills 30 in Rafah as tents for displaced people hit

**World** At least 30 Palestinians were killed and dozens of others were wounded after the Israeli air strikes hit the southern Gaza Strip city of Rafah housing the displaced, local authorities said on Sunday. Palestinian health and civil emergency service officials said that the strikes hit a neighbourhood in western Rafah, sheltering thousands of people who had fled the eastern areas of the city after Israeli forces launched a ground offensive there over 15 days ago. A field hospital in Rafah, run by The International Committee of the Red Cross, saw an influx of casualties while other medical facilities were also receiving patients in large numbers. Medics refrained from confirming the final death toll in the Israeli strikes as several of the injured were in critical condition.

Holding the United States responsible for providing weapons and financial aid to Israel, a senior Hamas official called the attack a "massacre." "The air strikes burnt the tents, the tents are melting and the people's bodies are also melting", a resident at a hospital was quoted as saying by news agency Reuters.

As per a statement by the Hamas al-Qassam Brigades, the rockets were launched in response to 'Zionist massacres against civilians' Israel had earlier said it wanted to eradicate Hamas fighters in Rafah and rescue hostages it claimed were being held in the area. Rockets fired from Rafah prove that the (Israel Defense Forces) must operate in every place Hamas still operates from", Israeli war cabinet minister Benny Gantz said.

Meanwhile, Defence Minister Yoav Gallant conducted an operational evaluation in Rafah. "He was briefed on troops' operations above and below the ground, as well as the deepening of operations in additional areas with the aim of dismantling Hamas battalions", Gallant's office said. Gaza's health ministry said that nearly 36,000 Palestinians have been killed in Israeli strikes so far.

Israel launched an offensive in Gaza after Hamas militants attacked Israel on October 7, 2023, killing around 1,200 people and holding over 250 people as hostages.

Over the past few months, the international community has condemned Israel's offensive on Gaza and has called for restraint.

Knife attack on metro in France's Lyon, three injured, attacker arrested



**Paris.** A 27-year-old Moroccan man attacked people with a knife in the metro in the French city of Lyon on Sunday, injuring at least three, authorities said.

The attacker, who lives in France illegally, suffers from serious mental health issues and had been hospitalised in psychiatric wards on several occasions, local prefect Fabienne Buccio told reporters. He made no religious or political claim during the attack, the prefect said. None of the victims' lives were in danger, Buccio said, adding that one of those injured was 17-years-old.

At least 18 dead after tornadoes rip through Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas

**VALLEY VIEW.** Powerful storms killed at least 18 people, injured hundreds and left a wide trail of destruction Sunday across Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas after obliterating homes and destroying a truck stop where dozens sought shelter in a restroom



during the latest deadly weather to strike the central U.S. The storms inflicted their worst damage in a region spanning from north of Dallas to the northwest corner of Arkansas, and the system threatened to bring more violent weather to other parts of the Midwest later in the day. By Monday, forecasters said, the greatest risk would shift to the east, covering a broad swath of the country from Alabama to near New York City. Seven deaths were reported in Cooke County, Texas, near the Oklahoma border, where a tornado Saturday night ploughed through a rural area near a mobile home park, Texas Gov. Greg Abbott said at a news conference Sunday. The dead included two children, ages 2 and 5. Three family members were found dead in one home, according to the county sheriff. Storms also killed two people and destroyed houses in Oklahoma, where the injured included guests at an outdoor wedding, five people in Arkansas and one person in Kentucky. Tens of thousands of residents were without power across the region.

In Texas, about 100 people were injured and more than 200 homes and structures destroyed, said Abbott, sitting in front of a ravaged truck stop near the small agricultural community of Valley View. The area was among the hardest-hit, with winds reaching an estimated 135 mph (217 kph), officials said.

"The hopes and dreams of Texas families and small businesses have literally been crushed by storm after storm," said Abbott, whose state has seen successive bouts of severe weather, including storms that killed eight people in Houston. Hugo Parra, who lives in Farmers Branch, north of Dallas, said he rode out the storm with 40 to 50 people in the bathroom of the truck stop. The storm sheared the roof and walls off the building, mangling metal beams and leaving battered cars in the parking lot. "A firefighter came to check on us and he said, 'You're very lucky,'" Parra said. "The best way to describe this is the wind tried to rip us out of the bathrooms."

North Korea informs Japan of satellite launch plan by early next week

**Seoul** North Korea has revealed plans to launch a satellite by early next week, Japan said on Monday, an apparent effort to put the North's second military spy satellite into orbit in yet another violation of UN bans. The launch notification came as leaders of South Korea, Japan and China gathered in Seoul for their first trilateral meeting on Monday. Japan's Coast Guard said it was notified by North Korea about its planned launch of a "satellite rocket", with safety caution in the waters between the Korean Peninsula and China and east of the Philippine island of Luzon beginning on Monday and running through midnight June 3. North Korea gives Japan its launch information because Japan's coast guard coordinates and distributes maritime safety information in East Asia. Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida instructed officials to cooperate with the US, South Korea and other countries to strongly request North Korea not to go ahead with the launch and to take the utmost measures in case of any contingency, his office said. The launch plan likely refers to the North's push to launch its second

military spy satellite into space. South Korea's military said on Friday that it detected signs that North Korea was engaging in activities believed to be preparations to launch a spy satellite at its main Tongchangri launch facility in the northwest. The UN bans North Korea from conducting any satellite launches, viewing them as cover for testing its long-range missile technology. North Korea has steadfastly maintained it has the right to launch satellites and test missiles. It says spy satellites would allow it to better monitor the US and South Korea's moves and enhance the precision-strike capability of its nuclear-capable missiles. In phone talks, senior diplomats from Japan, South Korea and the US agreed to urge North Korea to cancel the launch, noting that any North Korean launch using ballistic technology would violate multiple UN Security Council resolutions. South Korea's Unification Ministry separately called a satellite launch by North Korea "a provocation that seriously threatens our and regional security." Last November, North Korea sent its first military reconnaissance



satellite into orbit as part of its efforts to build a space-based surveillance network to cope with what it calls increasing US-led military threats. North Korean leader Kim Jong Un later told a year-end governing party meeting that the country would launch three additional military spy satellites in 2024. There is widespread doubt about how much militarily meaningful imagery the North Korean satellite can produce. But some civilian experts say the operation of several such satellites could still help North Korea monitor big targets among its rivals at all times, according to North Korea's latest launch notification to Japan, the danger zones where rocket debris would fall are

the same places the country identified prior to its November launch. That suggests North Korea would use the same first and second stages of the rocket as those in the previous launch, said Chang Young-keun, a missile expert at the Seoul-based Korea Research Institute for National Strategy. Chang said the launch of three more spy satellites this year would allow North Korea to obtain imagery on sites in South Korea, Japan and the US Pacific territory of Guam more frequently. Since 2022, North Korea has been engaged in a provocative run of missile tests to modernise and expand its weapons arsenals, prompting the US, South Korea and Japan to strengthen their security partnership in response. Experts say North Korea likely believes an enlarged weapons arsenal would increase its leverage in future diplomacy with the US. North Korea wasn't among matters listed on the official agenda for Monday's trilateral meeting between Kishida, South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol and Chinese Premier Li Qiang.

Powerful storms in US kill 15 people, flatten over 200 homes

**Valley View (Texas)** Powerful storms killed at least 15 people, injured hundreds and left a wide trail of destruction on Sunday across Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas after obliterating homes and destroying a truck stop where dozens sought shelter in a restroom during the latest deadly weather to strike the central US.

The storms inflicted their worst damage in a region spanning from north of Dallas to the northwest corner of Arkansas, and the system threatened to bring more violent weather to other parts of the Midwest later in the day. By Monday, forecasters said, the greatest risk would shift to the east, covering a broad swath of the country from Alabama to near New York City. Seven deaths were reported in Cooke County, Texas, near the Oklahoma border, where a tornado on Saturday night ploughed through a rural area near a mobile home park, Texas Governor Greg Abbott said at a news conference on Sunday. The dead included two children, ages two and five. Three

family members were found dead in one home, according to the county sheriff. Storms also killed two people and destroyed houses in Oklahoma, where the injured included guests at an outdoor wedding, five people in Arkansas and one person in Kentucky. Tens of thousands of residents were without power across the region. In Texas, about 100 people were injured and more than 200 homes and structures destroyed, said Abbott, sitting in front of a ravaged truck stop near the small agricultural community of Valley View. The area was among the hardest-hit, with winds reaching an estimated 135 mph (217 kph), officials said. "The hopes and dreams of Texas families and small businesses have literally been crushed by storm after storm," said Abbott, whose state has seen successive bouts of severe weather, including storms that killed eight people in Houston. Hugo Parra, who lives in Farmers Branch, north of Dallas, said he rode out the storm with 40 to 50 people in the bathroom of the

truck stop. The storm sheared the roof and walls off the building, mangling metal beams and leaving battered cars in the parking lot.

"A firefighter came to check on us, and he said, 'You're very lucky,'" Parra said. "The best way to describe this is the wind tried to rip us out of the bathrooms."

Multiple people were transported to hospitals by ambulance and helicopter in Denton County, also north of Dallas.

No more deaths are expected and nobody was reported missing in Texas, said Abbott, though responders were doing one more round of searches just in case.

At least five people were killed in Arkansas. One was a 26-year-old woman who was found dead outside a destroyed home in Olvey, a small community in Boone County, according to Daniel Bolen of the county's emergency management office. One person died in Benton County, and two more bodies were found in Marion County, officials said.

Palestinian medics say Israeli airstrikes kill 35 in Gaza's Rafah as displaced people are hit

**DEIR AL-BALAH.** Palestinian health workers said Israeli airstrikes killed at least 35 people Sunday and hit tents for displaced people in the southern Gaza city of Rafah, and "numerous" others were trapped in flaming debris. Gaza's Health Ministry said women and children made up most of the dead and dozens of wounded. The attacks came two days after the International Court of Justice ordered Israel to end its military offensive in Rafah, where more than half of Gaza's 2.3 million population had sought shelter before Israel's incursion earlier this month. Tens of thousands of people remain in the area while many others have fled.

Footage from the scene of the largest airstrike showed heavy destruction. Israel's army confirmed the strike and said it hit a Hamas installation and killed two senior Hamas militants. It said it was investigating reports that

civilians were harmed. Defense Minister Yoav Gallant was in Rafah on Sunday and was briefed on the "deepening of operations" there, his office said. A spokesperson with the Palestinian Red Crescent Society said the death toll was likely to rise as search and rescue efforts continued in Rafah's Tal al-Sultan neighborhood about two kilometers (1.2 miles) northwest of the city center.

The society asserted that the location had been designated by Israel as a "humanitarian area." The neighborhood is not included in areas that Israel's military ordered evacuated earlier this month.

The airstrike was reported hours after Hamas fired a barrage of rockets from Gaza that set off air raid sirens as far away as Tel Aviv for the first time in months in a show of resilience more than seven months into Israel's

massive air, sea and ground offensive. There were no reports of casualties in what appeared to be the first long-range rocket attack from Gaza since January. Hamas' military wing claimed responsibility. Israel's military said eight projectiles crossed into Israel after being launched from Rafah and "a number" were intercepted, and the launcher was destroyed.

**Advertisements** Earlier Sunday, dozens of aid trucks entered Gaza from southern Israel under a new agreement to bypass the Rafah crossing with Egypt after Israeli forces seized the Palestinian side of it earlier this month. Israel's military said 126 aid trucks entered via the nearby Kerem Shalom crossing.

But it was not immediately clear if humanitarian groups could access the aid — including medical supplies — because of fighting.

Israeli strikes kill 35 in Rafah, its army claims Hamas commanders eliminated

**World** At least 35 Palestinians were killed, and dozens of others injured in Gaza's southern city of Rafah, after Israeli strikes hit the southern Gaza Strip city on Sunday, according to Palestinian health and civil emergency service officials. Rafah houses hundreds of displaced Palestinians who fled the northern part of Gaza since Israel's counterattack against Hamas's October 7 assault began last year. In a post on X, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) said that it struck a compound in Rafah that was housing "significant Hamas terrorists" and was carried out with "precise munitions and on the basis of precise intelligence". It further claimed that the strikes killed Hamas's chief of staff for the West Bank and another senior official of the Palestinian Islamist group. The strikes happened after Hamas claimed to have launched a barrage of rockets at Israel's Tel Aviv for the first time in months as rocket sirens blared across the central part of the Jewish nation, news agency Reuters reported. Following the Israeli strikes in Rafah, Hamas reportedly asked Palestinians to "rise up and march" against the Israeli Army's "massacre".

"In light of the horrific Zionist massacre this evening committed by the criminal occupation army against the tents of the displaced, we call on the masses of our people in the West Bank, Jerusalem, the occupied territories and abroad to rise up and march angrily against the ongoing Zionist massacre against our people in the sector," the group said, according to Times of Israel. A spokesperson for the White House National Security Council told the Times of Israel that the US President Joe Biden-led administration is following the situation regarding Israeli strikes on a displaced people's camp in Rafah. "We're aware of the reports about the incident in Rafah and are gathering more information," the spokesperson added. The Israeli Army said that the strikes took out Yassin Rabia, Hamas's chief of staff for the West Bank and Khaled Najjar, a senior member of the Palestinian group. According to the IDF, Rabia was "involved in the transfer of funds for terror purposes and directed attacks by Hamas operatives" in the West Bank. He was also involved in committing multiple deadly attacks himself in 2001 and 2002, killing Israeli soldiers.

Najjar also carried out attacks between 2001 and 2003, according to the IDF, killing civilians and killing and injuring soldiers. The Israeli strikes in Rafah came two days after the United Nations' top court, the International Court of Justice (ICJ), ordered Israel to "immediately halt its military offensive" in the Gaza city. The ruling came in support of South Africa's application last week that sought several measures against Israel. The court said that it considered the humanitarian situation in Rafah "disastrous", adding that UN officials have indicated it was set to "intensify even further" if the military operation in Rafah continues.

France to lift state of emergency in riot-hit New Caledonia to enable dialogue

**Paris, UPDATED:** French President Emmanuel Macron has decided to lift the state of emergency in the French Pacific territory of New Caledonia on Monday, in a move meant to allow political dialogue following the unrest that left seven people dead and a trail of destruction, his office said.

The president's office said in a statement the state of emergency won't be extended "for the moment" and will therefore end on Monday at 8 pm in Paris, which is 5 am Tuesday in New Caledonia. The decision aims at "enabling meetings of the various components" of the pro-independence movement FLNKS, the Kanak and Socialist National Liberation Front, and allow elected officials and other local leaders "in a position to call" for lifting the barricades to go there and meet with protesters, the statement said. Macron repeatedly pushed for the removal of protesters' barricades with leaders on both sides of New Caledonia's bitter divide -- Indigenous Kanaks, who want independence, and the pro-Paris leaders, who do not. In the statement, he insisted it is "the necessary condition for the opening of concrete and serious



negotiations". Macron's move comes after he travelled to New Caledonia on Thursday (May 23). The statement said 480 additional gendarmes are to arrive in the archipelago "in the next few hours", putting security reinforcements at more than 3,500. The seven people killed in the shootings include two gendarmes. The state of

emergency had been imposed by Paris on May 15 for at least 12 days to boost police powers. The emergency measures give authorities greater powers to tackle the violence, including the possibility of house detention for people deemed a threat to public order and expanded powers to conduct searches, seize weapons and restrict movements, with

possible jail time for violators. This month's unrest erupted as the French legislature in Paris debated amending the French constitution to make changes to voter lists in New Caledonia. The leader of a pro-independence party in New Caledonia on Saturday called on supporters to "remain mobilised" across the French Pacific archipelago and "maintain resistance" against the Paris government's efforts to impose electoral reforms that the Indigenous Kanak people fear would further marginalise them.

Christian Tein, the leader of the pro-independence party known as The Field Action Coordination Unit, addressed supporters and protesters in a video message posted on social media.

In a separate statement, the Kanak and Socialist National Liberation Front called on Macron to withdraw the electoral reform bill if France wants to "end the crisis." New Caledonia became French in 1853 under Emperor Napoleon III, Napoleon's nephew and heir.

It became an overseas territory after World War II, with French citizenship granted to all Kanaks in 1957.



## Hindu-Muslim harmony is the building block of this Tiruppur temple

**TIRUPPUR:** In a heartwarming gesture, a group of Muslims donated three cents of land to their Hindu neighbours for the construction of a temple in Padiyur village in Tiruppur district. They also brought gifts during the consecration ceremony of the temple on Sunday. The temple came up on a part of a vast private property, Rose Garden, promoted by two Muslims two decades ago. Sources said several Muslims reside in this private layout, though a few Hindu families too have built houses. Mohammed Raja (40), a resident and a garment company owner, told TNIE, "I bought a plot here 18 years ago. The entire layout has hundreds of plots and most of them are owned by Muslims. Since it is a private layout, 10 Hindu families also have built homes here. They did not have a temple and had requested land in this regard. The 'Rose Garden Muslim Jamaat' found their request genuine and donated three cents of land worth Rs 6 lakh to them three months ago." S Kanagaraj, another resident, told TNIE, "We live in complete harmony. Since the layout promotion was carried out by two Muslims, they allocated land for building a mosque 20 years ago. When we requested land for constructing a temple, they said that they had to get permission from the community elders. Three months ago, they gave us a piece of land. We collected Rs 10 lakh through donations from locals and panchayat presidents and constructed a temple. During the kumbhabhishekam, Muslim friends donated Rs 30,000 for the 'annadanam' and also brought 'Seer Varisai'."

# Tamil Nadu: Banned rat paste mistaken for toothpaste lands four kids in ICU

**As per a doctor treating them, the children are under observation as the effect of the poison may take up to 72 hours to become evident.**

**CUDDALORE:** Four children who brushed their teeth using rodenticide paste, mistaking it for toothpaste, in Aladi near Vriddhachalam of Cuddalore district, were hospitalised on Saturday night and are in the Intensive Care Unit in JIPMER, Puducherry. The incident happened when R Lavanya (5) and Rashmitha (2) from Kokkampalayam village, daughters of Raja who works abroad, visited the place of their cousins — M Janusha (3) and M Balamithiran (2), children of A Manikandan — in the nearby Kottarakuppam village to attend a temple festival. As per a doctor treating them, the children are under observation as the effect of the poison may take up to 72 hours to become evident. "While three of them



only started brushing their teeth using the paste, one child, Balamithiran, swallowed some of it," said the senior doctor from Government Cuddalore Medical College Hospital in Chidambaram. Police said the children were playing with the rat killer paste tube and later used the same to brush teeth. "On seeing the kids with the tube in hand and the paste in mouth, family members rushed them to the government hospital in Vriddhachalam and then shifted them to the medical college hospital," said police. Upon parents' request, the kids were transferred to JIPMER on Sunday night.

### TN banned rat paste in 2022

The Tamil Nadu government had imposed a permanent ban on the sale of rat paste in grocery shops, supermarkets, and medical

shops in 2022. However, sources alleged that some shops, especially those in the Tamil Nadu-Puducherry border villages, still sell it illegally. Police said that the rat paste used by the children was bought by Manikandan two years ago and kept in the house. Police have not filed a case yet as no complaint was received until Sunday evening.

However, an inquiry is under way. An official from the Health and Family Welfare department said though the item is banned, it is the police department's responsibility to enforce the ban as it is still available in small shops. A senior police official from Cuddalore told TNIE that they have already spread awareness about the dangers of the banned rodenticide paste.

## With diseases resurfacing Kerala, experts warn of outbreak

**KOCHI:** With numerous flooding and water-logging incidents reported across the state, experts forewarn the spread of various communicable diseases and urge everyone to be cautious, as delayed treatment can likely result in death. "Contact with water contaminated with animal urine must be avoided. The bacteria leptospira can enter the body through tiny wounds. The patient may experience fever, headache and muscle pain. Delayed treatment can even lead to death," said Dr Rajeev Jayadevan of the Indian Medical Association's Kerala unit. Over 41 deaths due to leptospirosis have been reported in the state already. "Consulting a doctor early is important. Also, preventative medicine is available at government health centres for those at high risk of contracting the disease," Dr Rajeev said.

With the advent of the monsoon, a spike in dengue cases is also to be expected. The state has reported 16 dengue deaths already. "The conditions will be very favourable for mosquitoes to breed. Wearing full-sleeve clothes while working outside, and using mosquito nets and repellents are advised," Dr Rajeev said. This year, the number of leptospirosis and dengue cases is already high even before the monsoon. "We can even expect an outbreak," warned Dr Anish T S of the Government Medical College in Manjeri, adding, "Leptospirosis can cause death in 10 per cent of the people infected. Therefore, people at risk should take medicines."

The spread of hepatitis, as reported in Malappuram and Ernakulam's Vengoor village, is also a matter of concern.

"This disease also spreads through water. Prevention is key, and ensuring hygiene is crucial. It's all preventable with basic, practical measures. Simple fever can lead to serious health issues. People suffering from fever should refrain from work, social functions and school. It can help prevent the spread of diseases," Dr Anish added.

### Spread of hepatitis a matter of concern

This year, the number of leptospirosis and dengue cases is already high even before the monsoon. With the advent of the monsoon, a spike in dengue cases is also to be expected. The spread of hepatitis, as reported in Malappuram and Ernakulam's Vengoor village, is also a matter of concern. Considering the situation, doctors have urged people to be cautious, highlighting that delayed treatment can likely result in death.

Thiruvananthapuram: The state will get a two-day respite from the heavy rainfall that has been lashing most of the districts for over a week. No rainfall alerts have been issued by the Met Department for Monday and Tuesday.

## 12 killed as rain wreaks havoc in Telangana

**HYDERABAD:** Twelve persons died as gusty winds and a heavy rain wreaked havoc in several districts in the state on Sunday. Four persons, including a 10-year-old girl, died on the spot when the compound wall of an under-construction dairy farm fell on them in Tandur in Nagarkurnool district. Four sustained injuries in the incident. The deceased were identified as owner of the farm Belle Mallsh (38) and his daughter Anusha (10) and two workers, S Ramulu (35) and his wife Chennamma (34). Malleesh's wife Parvathamma and workers Raju, Chinna Nagulu and Kumuraiah sustained injuries. As the condition of Chinna Nagulu was critical, he was shifted to a hospital in Hyderabad. The remaining three were admitted to the Nagarkurnool government hospital.

A three-year-old boy and a 45-year-old man died in Sai Nagar of Hafeezpet following a drizzle in Hyderabad on Sunday. The boy was killed when the roof of the balcony of the adjacent house fell on him while he was sleeping in his home. In another incident in the same area, a man, identified as Rashid, 45, suffered severe injuries after bricks fell on him while he was walking. He was rushed to a private hospital where he succumbed to injuries. Meanwhile, a 12-year-old boy, Dandu Lakshman, died in Telakapalli mandal and a man, Jaipal Naik, suffered injuries at Nukalachinta tinda in Nagarkurnool district when lightning struck.

Additionally, Venu (38), a driver from Vikarabad, died when an iron shed fell on him and lightning claimed the life of a person at Nandivaddeman Palle in Bijinapally mandal in the district. Meanwhile, two persons died and three were injured when the wall of a poultry farm collapsed at Kshirasagar in Mulugu mandal of Siddipet district. The deceased were identified as Gowri Shankar, 45, and Bhagyamma, 40. Three persons were injured in the incident. In another incident in Keesara in Medchal district, two persons died when a tree fell on their two-wheeler. According to sources, two persons belonging to Bommalaramaram in Yadadri district were travelling on a two-wheeler from Keesara to Shamirpet. When they reached Timmaipalli, a big tree fell on their two-wheeler. One person died on the spot and another succumbed to injuries while undergoing treatment in a hospital. Moderate to heavy rains accompanied by gales uprooted scores of trees and electricity poles in Nagarkurnool, Vikarabad, Kamareddy and Yadadri-Bhuvanagiri districts.

## Hyderabad: Trio wins innovation challenge with language platform

**HYDERABAD:** A group of city-based software engineers recently won the Bhashini Grand Innovation Challenge instituted by the ministry of electronics and information technology for the year 2024 for their innovation in the language translation platform for digitisation and translation. Pawan Kumar, Sanket Kumar Pathak and Rashi Ahmad, former colleagues, came together to launch the eBhasha Setu, a language processing technology services company for Indian languages at the Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (CIE) at IIT-H, around eight years back, out of the sheer will to make the information available in the Indian languages for ease of access and availability. At present, eBhasha Setu has four language services platforms for multiple functions such as - Transaar which is an end-to-end translation management system, Videozaar - a platform for video-to-video translation, Webzaar - a platform for website localisation and Avataar - a digitisation and translation platform that involves optical character recognition.

The startup won the Bhashini Grand Innovation Challenge bagging Rs 25 lakh and a contract with the government for translation and digitisation of records in 10 Indian languages for the Avataar platform, which provides OCR and translation solution. The team believes that knowledge must be made accessible and understandable for all and thus they employed the Natural Language Processing (NLP), a machine learning technology to build products for various roles of translation and digitization. Speaking to TNIE, Pawan Kumar, co-founder, eBhasha Setu, said: "We believe that in terms of translation, trust is a very important factor."

## MCC halts works to combat animal threat at Tirumala

**TIRUMALA:** Of the total Rs 3.75 crore allocated by the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) to take measures for protection of devotees from wildlife, only Rs 75 lakh has been utilised so far. It has been learnt that works were stalled after the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) was imposed in the State. Forest Department officials asserted that works will be resumed with the remaining Rs 3 crore, once the code is lifted on June 6. The Srivari temple Trust allocated the fund following the rise in man-animal conflicts on the trekking paths. It may be recalled that a six-year-old girl was mauled to death by a leopard along the Alipiri footpath last year. Subsequently, a team of experts visited Tirumala forest region and recommended certain measures to prevent such issues. The TTD and the forest department, took steps to implement the recommendations

and also allocated Rs 3.75 crore for the same. As part of the efforts to address the issue, designated wings of the TTD and the forest department extracted footage from the 500-odd closed circuit cameras which were installed at various vulnerable points in the forest area, particularly along both the footpaths leading to the hill shrine. The footage showed the movements of leopards, sloth bears, and other wildlife in the forest and vicinity of the pedestrian paths. As per the recommendation of the central committee, comprising officials from the Central Zoological Authority (CZA), certain proposals were approved and the required equipment was being procured. Necessary staff have already been deployed and veterinary experts, too, have been camping regularly at vulnerable points along the footpaths. Since

May 15, when the pilgrims' rush to the holy hill shrine started increasing, leopards were spotted five times and sloth bears twice. Recently, an incident of two leopards attacking deer near the G&C toll gate in Tirumala was reported, reinforcing the need for the early completion of the measures to avoid man-animal conflicts. When the issue was brought to the notice of N Nageswara Rao, the Chief Conservator, Wildlife Management, Tirupati circle, he maintained that the works were stopped due to the election code. "We have stopped the procurement of equipment needed for the project," he said. Forest department officials said once the equipment is procured, it will be handed over to the personnel deployed for the project, particularly to man the command control rooms either at Alipiri.

## Meeting routine, didn't discuss liquor policy: Tourism director

### THIRUVANANTHAPURAM:

Refuting allegations that the proposed liquor policy was discussed during a virtual meeting convened by the tourism department on May 21 intruding into the domain of the excise department, the tourism director said on Sunday that the department did not convey any suggestion on the policy to the state government. In a statement, Tourism Director Sikha Surendran said the meeting attended by various stakeholders of the tourism industry "was not a special meeting of bar owners or related to the government's liquor policy, as is now being made out to be".

Leader of Opposition V D Satheesan had alleged that the provisions in the proposed liquor policy, including the 'dry day' and

extension of bar working hours, were discussed during the meeting. He also alleged that after the meeting bar owners began collecting money to pay bribes to get their demands implemented. Satheesan also questioned the tourism department intervening in a matter that was under the ambit of the excise department, pointing fingers at Tourism Minister P A Mohamed Riyas. Responding to the allegation, Sikha said that the May 21 meeting was not convened at the behest of the tourism minister, but a routine meeting held regularly to discuss the demands made by various tourism stakeholders. "There is no basis for the allegation that the tourism department was encroaching on the

functions of other departments," she said. Representatives from the Kerala Travel Mart (KTM) Society, Event Management Association, Houseboat Association, Federation of



Kerala Hotels Association, South Kerala Hotels Federation, Association of Approved and Classified Hotels and the Kerala Tourism Development Association participated in the meeting, Sikha said. These collectives raised issues related to the obstacles they face in promoting Kerala as a wedding and MICE

(Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions) tourism destination. "Organisations in the industry have been raising these issues for a long time. However, neither was any decision taken in the meet nor have any report been sent to the government in this regard," Sikha added. meeting, the Youth Congress state leadership has decided to hold a protest against Excise Minister M B Rajesh who is embroiled in the bar bribery row.

The Youth Congress leadership has alleged that Rajesh is the kingpin behind the second bar bribery scandal. The outfit's Thiruvananthapuram district committee will be holding a protest march to his office on Monday at 11 am.

## 11 new fish species found along Andhra Pradesh coast

**VISAKHAPATNAM:** A recent study has documented 11 fish species for the first time along the Andhra Pradesh coastline, highlighting the rich biodiversity associated with artificial reefs and rocky shoreline habitats. The research, led by Dr JS Yogesh Kumar, Scientist-E from the Zoological Survey of India, was published in the Journal of Fisheries under the title "Notes on some newly recorded fish from the Andhra Pradesh coast, India." The newly-identified species include the Vermiculated Blenny, Singular Bannerfish, Sea Blenny, Similar Damsel, Blotcheye Soldierfish, Seychelles Soldier,

Threespot Squirrelfish, Moon Wrasse, Peacock Sole, Whitelipped Eel Catfish, and Papuan Toby. Notably, Entomacrodus Thalassinus has been recorded for the first time in India. The study, conducted between 2019 and 2023, involved scuba diving and collection from trawler trash and Visakhapatnam Fishing Harbour. Specimens were photographed and preserved, with identifications based on morphological characteristics. These specimens are now part of the National Zoological Collections at the ZSI Sunderban Regional Centre. Nine of the 10 species, recorded for the first time in

Andhra Pradesh, have been classified as least concern by the IUCN, while one has not been evaluated. Researchers emphasised the significance of reef habitats, which provide foraging grounds and shelter for marine organisms, including crustaceans and mollusks. Approximately 25% of marine fish are associated with reef ecosystems. Reef fish diversity is closely-linked to the health of reef ecosystems, which face threats from thermal fluctuations, coral bleaching, coastal development, and overfishing. "AP, ranked third in marine fish production in India, has a relatively low number of documented marine

fish species compared to its production. Previous studies have largely focused on economically profitable fish collected from markets, which do not accurately represent the diversity of reef-associated species. Fish trawlers often avoid reef areas to prevent net entanglement and reef destruction," it noted. The findings highlight the critical role of reef fish in maintaining the health of reef ecosystems. The newly-recorded species, including Entomacrodus Thalassinus, indicate that non-commercial benthic fish have been overlooked. The research calls for comprehensive future

studies on blennies (generally bottom-dwelling fishes) and other reef-associated species to better understand their biology and ecology, which is essential for conservation planning. Further, researchers mention that the discovery of new species not only enhances understanding of marine biodiversity in AP, but also aids in the development of more effective conservation strategies. Given that almost 25% of marine fish are associated with reef ecosystems, protecting these habitats is crucial for maintaining marine diversity and ecosystem health, the study observed.



## Need to amend legislation to ensure professional liability

While exempting lawyers from any professional liability for deficient services under the Consumer Protection (CP) Act, a two-judge Bench of the Supreme Court has opened a Pandora's box by recommending to the Chief Justice of India that a 1995 judgment of the apex court that held a contrary view vis-à-vis medical professionals be re-considered! Whatever may be the response of the Chief Justice, this will certainly spur not just medical professionals but many others to re-open the issue and this does not augur well for consumer protection and justice. And unless the Union Ministry of Consumer Affairs acts quickly and makes the necessary changes in the law, consumers may well lose their right under the CP Act to hold professionals, including doctors, radiographers, pharmacists, chartered accountants, engineers and architects, liable for their deficient services.

The judgment of the Supreme Court in the Bar of Indian Lawyers vs DK Gandhi case, delivered on May 14, holding that legal professionals are not accountable to consumers under the CP Act, certainly comes as a very big disappointment to consumers. Of course, the consumers' right to sue their lawyers under the CP Act was more or less extinguished way back in 2009, when the Supreme Court stayed the order of the apex consumer court in DK Gandhi vs M Mathias case delivered in 2007, in favour of the consumer. If in the last decade-and-a-half — when the appeals against this order were pending before the Supreme Court — consumers had harboured any hope of a favourable judgment, that hope has now been dashed. But even now, the Union Ministry of Consumer Affairs, along with DK Gandhi, the complainant in the case, should file a review petition before the Supreme Court.

But what is more alarming is the view expressed in the judgment that the Supreme Court should re-open a much hailed judgment of the apex court in the Indian Medical Association vs VP Shantha case delivered in 1995, holding that consumers can seek compensation from medical professionals for negligence under the Consumer Protection Act. Not many consumers today are aware of the situation that existed before the consumer protection law came into force in 1986. Be it a case of a doctor operating on the wrong leg, or leaving behind a pair of scissors in the abdomen post-surgery, or administering wrong medication to a patient or conducting needless hysterectomy or C-Section, the victims or their relatives in most cases suffered in silence because they could not afford to go to a civil court and fight a long legal battle to seek compensation. The Consumer Protection Act of 1986 for the first time gave them the right to seek damages for medical negligence and soon, cases began to be filed against doctors and hospitals.

The reaction from the medical professionals was quick, adverse and, sometimes, even violent. They rose as one in protest and exerted considerable pressure on the government to keep them out of the purview of the CP Act. The consumer activists had to fight hard to ensure that the government did not give in to the wishes of the doctors. What finally settled the matter in favour of consumers was the extremely clear and lucid judgment of the Supreme Court in 1995 in the VP Shantha case. After carefully examining the provisions of the CP Act, the three-judge Bench held that the services rendered to a patient by a medical practitioner by way of consultation, diagnosis and treatment, both medicinal and surgical, would fall within the ambit of 'service' as defined in the Act. The fact that medical practitioners belonged to the medical profession and were subject to the disciplinary control of the Medical Council of India/State Medical Council constituted under the Indian Medical Council Act would not exclude the services rendered by them from the ambit of the Act. The present judgment of the Supreme Court, pertaining to lawyers, on the other hand, says that the legislature never intended to include professionals within the purview of the CP Act. Even if it did, the legal profession is 'sui generis' or unique in nature and cannot be equated with other professions and brought under the ambit of the CP Act.

## Between despair & hope

We've come a long way since 1947 and yes, some terrible mistakes have been made. But if we were to blindly believe international reportage, everyone in India is a bigoted bully

If one were to believe our newspapers or the bilge that is sent out on WhatsApp groups, it is easy to be persuaded that doomsday is upon us. Perhaps, it is a sign of the times that makes us so negative and humourless, or perhaps, it is that we wish to join the herd. It seems almost sinful to be happy and satisfied in a world that has shrunk into small groups, provinces and regions that are eternally at daggers drawn. Yet, look around you and point me to a country (other than little Bhutan) where natural surroundings are preserved, people are polite, caring and gentle, communities live in harmony and simplicity of life is a quality that is actively promoted. Long ago, before Ravish Kumar became the self-appointed keeper of this nation's conscience, he used to bring to us moving human stories, many of which have stayed with me. His coverage of Varanasi as he did a programme on the constituency that Modi had chosen in 2014, focused not on the campaign but on the forgotten history of Banaras. So he took us to Lamahi, the village that Premchand grew up in and where his memory is preserved in a modest museum. This remarkable institution has a self-appointed caretaker (a Mishraji, if I remember correctly), who guided Ravish through it. The episode ended with Mishraji saying that he felt he had graduated from being a reader of Premchand's fiction to becoming a character from that world. Nothing, in essence, had changed herein for almost a century. The village and its people were still battling with the same social problems that Premchand describes so hauntingly.

There are two other episodes that I remember as vividly: one on the first Gandhi Ashram (now a crumbling ruin) set up somewhere in Meerut and the other on the condition of the poor patients who flock to Delhi's AIIMS for treatment. As they await their turn, several poor patients and their families lie on the pavement outside since they cannot afford to stay anywhere else. Here again, a Dr Dash took us with Ravish to the cancer section and explained how no one, no matter how poor, was ever turned away for lack of money. The purpose of this long recall is that there is still hope if only we are able to see it. However, since it is sexier to peddle stories of poverty, misery and social injustice, we have forgotten to register that India is multiple times the size of the small developed countries that have



enviable records of social welfare. Let me now take you to some of the stories that come to us from there. The National Health Service (NHS) in UK is now in a state of terminal decline. Its doctors and nurses have gone on strike and in any case, it is so overloaded that even an urgent X-ray requires a long wait. Private healthcare is out of the reach of most, so unlike in India, where the neighbourhood 'dactar' provides immediate care (say nothing of the steroids being pumped into uneducated veins). We seem no worse off. It is almost the same in the US, where unless you are covered by expensive insurance, you can wait eternally for a kidney transplant or heart surgery. It is no wonder that medical tourism is now a widespread way to access quality medical attention in Indian hospitals. Go to any well-regarded private hospital in India and you will meet people from all over the world, accompanied by touts and translators, who take them to our best doctors and at a fraction of the cost abroad.

Come now to the shameful international reportage of our communal tensions. If we were to blindly believe all we hear and read, everyone in India is a bigoted bully. Yet, honestly speaking, is the Islamophobia in the US any better? Add to that now anti-Semitism, with university campuses across the

US erupting in huge student protests, brutally handled by the police and university authorities. Let us not even speak of the rampant racism still practised all over the white world. I concede that comparisons are odious and that we have a shameful record on communal politics, yet how long shall we tolerate different rules applied to developing countries, simply because the big boys' clubs cannot make place for new entrants? My simple point is that we have all come a long way since 1947 and yes, some terrible mistakes and decisions were taken in those years but, by and large, when I look around the world and try to see one country that has a flawless record in upholding social justice, equality, brotherhood and love, I'm afraid I fail each time. As I said earlier, apart from Bhutan (that practises a form of benign monarchy), I can't think of another country that I would like to live in. Dynastic politics, feudal values, a deep commitment to one's faith, along with some religious intolerance towards those of another faith — these are the warp and weft of India. Trying to eradicate all evil forever will never happen, not at least in my lifetime. So the next time you open a toxic post or sign a public petition, don't think you've played your part as a responsible citizen. We still have a long journey ahead.

## Muted voices

Young women take a back seat in Haryana polls

WHEN the results of Haryana's 10 Lok Sabha seats that went to the polls on Saturday are out on June 4, they will, sadly, reflect the muted voices of women voters in the 18-19 age group, drowned out by the louder participation of their male counterparts. For, the data from the Election Commission of India reveals a glaring gender imbalance: only 34 per cent of these first-time voters are women. Of the nearly 4.2 lakh such voters, a staggering 2.8 lakh are men. This disparity highlights the state's patriarchal character and deep-rooted societal biases, where the registration of young women as voters is often postponed until after marriage. Efforts by officials to encourage voter registration among young women face resistance. Many families prioritise marriage over political engagement, reinforcing a cycle of



disenfranchisement. Making matters worse, women's political agency is further limited as men are often seen dictating their choices. Equally skewed is the

representation of women in the electoral fray. Of the 223 candidates in the contest in Haryana in the General Election, just 16 are women — including five from mainstream political parties — even though women constitute nearly 47 per cent of the voters. Major parties, despite their claims of supporting women's rights, have failed to field female nominees proportionately. However, there is a silver lining in certain pockets of the state. Women are beginning to voice their concerns on issues like water supply, electricity and employment; an increased female participation at public meetings has also been witnessed. But a lot remains to be done to bridge the gender divide and dismantle patriarchal structures. Amplifying women's voices is essential for making India a truly transparent and inclusive democracy.

## When Nehru visited Hisar, and NDA

During our trip to the United Kingdom to meet our son last year, we also visited the grandson's school at Harrow. While showing us around, he pointed to the room where Jawaharlal Nehru had stayed as a student. It stirred some memories.

In 1951, the Prime Minister visited Hisar. My brother, commanding the military police unit, piloted the VIP cavalcade to various meeting venues. At the end, after the departing convoy was on the main road, he halted on the side and saluted as the PM's car passed. Within yards, the car screeched to a halt and reversed. Pandit Nehru came out, shook hands with my brother and said, "Thank you, young man, for all your help." My brother remembered that humane gesture all his life. Prime Minister Nehru was instrumental in selecting Khadakvasla (Pune) as the new site for the National Defence Academy and reviewed the first passing-out parade there in June 1955. He visited NDA again on May 14, 1961. The visit concluded with lunch in the cadets' mess. As per protocol, a visiting dignitary was seated between the Commandant and the Academy Cadet Captain (ACC). I was the ACC.

During the period, our only access to the world was through newspapers. Given our tight schedule, we only read the sports page. As a result, our horizon was limited. Since the PM would have had a discussion with the Commandant during pre-lunch hours, it was expected that he would spend more time interacting with me. The prospect was intimidating. No one had tutored me on what I should say or discuss. Such freedom was part of our grooming.

After receiving him in the foyer, I guided the PM to his seat on the centre table on a raised platform. Frail and slightly stooped, he had a handsome peach red



complexion. He must have realised the nervous apprehension of a teenager sitting to his right. The hallmark of a great person lies in his descending to the level of the other in conversation. This the PM did, starting with asking where I hailed from. When I mentioned my village in Rohtak district, he

enquired whether we had electricity, roads, running water, etc. I told him of the stone-soled road with once-a-day bus service to the town and that we drew drinking water from the well. More than half the houses were mud structures. There was no electricity and I studied in the dim light of a kerosene lamp.

Maybe it was to put me at ease, he evinced keen interest in whatever I told him. On electricity, he said we would be getting it soon; and we did, the very next year. He asked me about our life in the Academy. Here I was on firm ground. Emboldened by his easy manner, I ventured into asking, "Sir, why is India a poor country?" He smiled, giving no indication of my naiveté. Then he gave a detailed explanation of how we started at near zero at Independence. I suddenly felt the person sitting beside me was not only the PM of the world's largest democracy with a strong global presence, but was also a patient teacher, a gentle elder. "Sir, won't the Bhakra Nangal Dam improve our irrigation?" I was in Class 8 when the dam was inaugurated in 1954.

"Yes, of course it will," he replied, predicting that Punjab would soon be India's food basket. He went on to elaborate the country's efforts at industrialisation and scientific progress. In fact, starting a world-class defence academy itself was a great achievement, he mentioned.

When lunch finished, I guided him to the table where the visitors' book was kept. While getting down the approximately 12-inch step, he placed his hand on my shoulder for support. I was suddenly emotional and saw a father figure in him. We were in North Kashmir when on May 27, 1964 — 60 years ago — news broadcaster Melville de Mellow announced the death of PM Nehru. 'What' and not 'who' after Nehru was the common concern of most Indians.





You can reverse the years if you start taking care of your skin early. We get beauty experts to tell you how



skin is massaged with a skin replenishing cream in a way that enhances absorption into the deeper layers of the skin. Specialised masks are used and a face lift is given which irons out the lines and wrinkles, making the skin firm and youthful. Later, a day cream and a serum are applied to restore firmness — making your skin tighter and compact.

**Duration - 60 minutes**

Homemade remedies to treat mature skin - Massage your face with almond or coconut oil once in a week before going to bed. These oils are known to be best for ageing skin as they help improve your complexion, reduce fine lines and wrinkles.

- Says skin expert, Punit Saraogi, "The application of aloe vera juice and honey is said to visibly reduce the signs of ageing." Apply a face pack of aloe vera juice and honey to treat wrinkles and fine lines.

- Basil and tulsi has effective anti-ageing and anti-oxidant properties. Boil fresh tulsi leaves and basil and drink the water after it cools down.

- Switch to drinking green tea. Green tea is said to have anti-inflammatory and anti-ageing properties which help in skin rejuvenation.

**How to apply anti-ageing cream**

- Wash your face well with an anti-ageing foaming cleanser. Rinse it off with cool water and pat dry. Make sure moisture does not remain on your skin.

- Start by applying the cream using long strokes towards your temple in soft, circular motions.

- For the delicate area around your eyes, pat the cream onto the skin till it is absorbed.

**Choosing an anti-ageing cream**

Says Dr Pai, "The first thing to do when choosing an anti-ageing cream is to determine its ingredients. The selection of the cream depends on your skin type. For example, as the skin ages, it tends to become drier — so a person with dry skin should opt for a cream-based solution, while those with oily or combination skin should go in for a lotion or gel-based anti-ageing beauty blend.

**Retinol:** Retinol is an anti-oxidant which increases skin cell production and collagen and thickens your dermis (skin layer). If you have dry skin or combination skin, it is advisable for you to choose a product with retinol.

**Ubiquinone:** If you have normal to dry skin, pick an anti-ageing cream with ubiquinone. It is an anti-oxidant which prevents free radicals produced due to pollution. It helps in building collagen and elastin, therefore reducing the appearance of fine lines and wrinkles on the skin.

**Vitamin C:** Those with sensitive or oily skin should opt for a lotion with vitamin C. Creams rich in vitamin C helps reduce the free radical damage caused to the skin.

**Isoflavones:** Great for those with dry and flaky skin, isoflavones are a class of phytoestrogens — plant-derived compounds with oestrogenic activity. Creams with isoflavones claim to firm and re-densify skin, increasing collagen production and skin's tensile strength.

# Look Beautiful at any age

By the time you've reached your late 20s, you've already settled down in life — professionally and personally — and the glow is visible on your face. But this is not enough. After the age of 25, the skin starts showing signs of ageing — dark circles, visible pores, fine lines, wrinkles, uneven skin tone and dullness. Says dermatologist Dr Farida Modi, "It is crucial to take care of your skin once you are in your mid 20s. So, follow a proper skincare routine with a well-balanced diet."

**Signs of skin-ageing**

Says Dr Kalpana Sarangi, a consulting dermatologist, "In their mid 20s, women start experiencing dryness of the skin, followed by freckles, fine lines, wrinkles and puffiness around the eyes. To treat these symptoms, you need a good anti-ageing moisturising cream. This cream is specially designed to treat all the signs of ageing." Some of the warning signs of skin-ageing are:

**Dark circles**

Dark circles result from stress, lack of sleep or prolonged exposure to sunlight. As you age, the skin around your eyes gets thinner, resulting in dark patches around your eyes. To avoid this, make it a point to use a good under-eye gel during bedtime.

**Fine lines and wrinkles**

Collagen and elastin fibres are present beneath the skin's surface around your mouth and eyes. They begin to gradually break down as you age — this leads to fine lines and wrinkles. Use a cream with vitamin A or retinol, which helps in their reduction.

**Sagging skin**

As you get older, the skin starts to lose its elasticity which in turn leads to sagging. To treat sagging skin, use an age-diffusing serum for firmness.

**Visible pores**

Those with oily or combination skin suffer from visible pores. Use a good anti-ageing foaming cleanser and a toner daily to reduce the enlarged pores.

**Uneven skin tone**

Age spots or uneven skin tone can happen due to hormonal disorder, exposure to sunlight etc. Use an anti-ageing cream that corrects the skin tone and a firming serum to treat uneven skin.

**Causes of skin-ageing**

Says dermatologist Dr Jamuna Pai, "The skin ages due to external and internal factors. Among internal factors, decrease in elastin production, less turnover of new skin cells and the inability of the skin to retain moisture are the main reasons. The external factors include lifestyle change and environmental



damage like constant exposure to sunlight, poor diet, too much stress and lack of exercise."

In your mid 20s, your skin is in its prime. Ageing does not happen overnight, it happens over a period of time. Though you can't evade it, you can delay it if you take good care of your skin well in advance.

**How to care for mature skin**

Says beauty expert, Aakriti Kochar, "Trying to hide mature skin with make-up is not the solution. The make-up will stay for only two hours or so and then your skin will come back to its normal state. To treat mature skin, you need to regularly cleanse, tone and moisturise your skin."

- Opt for creams rich in vitamins C and E,

which help counter the effect of sun exposure and reduce wrinkles.

- Wear a sunscreen with SPF 15 and above. - Says Dr Mohan Thomas, senior cosmetic surgeon, "Use an alpha-hydroxyl cleanser or lotion on the areas of the skin that have age spots. This will help to fade them."

**Anti-ageing facials**

**Gold Caviar Riche face therapy** This facial is done using real gold and the goodness of caviar extracts that keep your skin looking younger, brighter and healthier. The massage creams contain Omega 3, Omega 6 fatty acids, and vitamins A&E which repair the damage done to your skin. Duration - 90 minutes

**Pumpkin peel facial**

This treatment uses natural pumpkin extracts which help in the regeneration of cells. Suitable for all skin types, it prevents dryness, acne and removes dead cells. It also helps in cell renewal and treats hyper-pigmentation. Duration - 60 minutes

**Telomere facial**

This treatment uses creams and serums specially designed for mature skin. The





# Viral video shows powerful Cyclone Remal nearing Bengal-Bangladesh coast

**The video shows a towering column of dark clouds rolling across a gloomy sky, casting an ominous shadow over the heaving Bay of Bengal, as Cyclone Remal draws ever closer to the coast.**

**New Delhi:** As storm clouds gathered, people batted down the hatches and sheltered in place, a lone boat ventured out to sea to capture Cyclone Remal on camera as it churned towards the coast, creating a now-viral video showcasing

the storm's immense power. The video, shot by a daring videographer from Bangladeshi daily The Daily Star, depicts a towering column of dark clouds rolling across a gloomy sky, casting an ominous shadow over the heaving Bay of Bengal. As the storm surges, thunder rumbles and strong winds whip up tidal waves.

Cyclone Remal made landfall on Sunday night, slamming into the coasts of West Bengal and Bangladesh between Sagar Island and Khepupara. The storm caused widespread devastation in both India and neighbouring Bangladesh, leaving a trail of destruction in its wake.

Heavy rains accompanying the storm led to waterlogging in several areas, further compounding the woes of residents. Farmlands were also inundated by floodwaters. Power supply was snapped in many areas in advance to avoid accidents.

Homes, particularly those with thatched roofs, were severely damaged by the strong winds. Uprooted trees and downed power lines caused significant disruptions across the affected areas, and two people were killed in Kolkata. The Bangladeshi government evacuated 8 lakh people from vulnerable areas before the storm's arrival, moving them to shelters for safety.

The country's weather department had warned of potential high tidal surges and heavy rainfall in coastal districts like Satkhira and Cox's Bazar.

According to The Daily Star, the Bangladesh Meteorological Department recorded the highest rainfall in Kutubdia at 125 millimeters between Sunday night and Monday morning. Meanwhile, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted that Remal will weaken into a depression by Monday morning before moving northeast and gradually dissipating.



**Your rival is not your enemy': Supreme Court declines to entertain BJP plea against order on 'disparaging' ads about Trinamool**

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court on Monday declined to entertain the West Bengal BJP's plea challenging a Calcutta High Court order that restrained it from publishing certain advertisements targeting the ruling Trinamool Congress in the state. Senior advocate S S Patwalia, appearing for the BJP, told a two-judge vacation bench of Justices J K Maheshwari and K V Viswanathan that the advertisements were based on facts. But Justice Viswanathan said, "We have seen the advertisements. Prima facie, the advertisements are disparaging. You can say you are the best... but... we don't want to lend our hands to promote further acrimony." "This is not in the interests of the voter," he said. "Your rival is not your enemy." Justice Maheshwari said, "Don't precipitate the issue. We are not inclined to interfere." Patwalia then chose to withdraw the petition saying he would file a reply before the single judge of the high court before whom it is pending. The apex court allowed this and dismissed the petition as withdrawn. On May 20, the single bench of Justice Sabyasachi Bhattacharyya restrained the BJP from publishing any kind of derogatory advertisements about the TMC that violate the model code of conduct till June 4 and until further orders. The high court noted that the advertisements published during the "silence period" (a day prior to the polling day) were violative of the model code of conduct and also impinged on TMC's rights and also the citizens' right to free and fair elections. The single-judge bench also criticised the Election Commission of India for "grossly failing" to address complaints filed by the TMC against the BJP advertisements that targeted the ruling party in West Bengal.

**Jihadis across border supporting SP, Congress: PM Modi**

**Deoria.** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday claimed that "jihadis" across the border are supporting the Samajwadi Party and the Congress who are appealing for "vote jihad" in the country. Addressing an election rally here in support of BJP candidates in Bansgaon and Deoria Lok Sabha seats, he alleged that the INDIA bloc does not want to take the country forward, but back by several decades. "Their agenda is not the development of India," Modi said. In Pakistan, "duas" (prayers) are being made for the INDI alliance of Samajwadi Party and Congress. Jihadis across the border are supporting them. The SP and the Congress are making an appeal for 'vote jihad' here," said the prime minister in an apparent reference to a remark by an INDIA bloc candidate.

He said, "This (INDIA bloc) group is saying that if they come to power, they will reimpose Article 370 in Kashmir. They will repeal the CAA (Citizenship (Amendment) Act) which gives citizenship again to the victims of Partition. Whose agenda is this... this is what these anti-India forces want? Modi went on to allege, "Their agenda is not the development of India. They want to take back the country by several decades." Hitting out at the bloc, Prime Minister Modi claimed the "INDI jamaat" has been abusing him for his opposition to reservation on the basis of religion. "I want to remind you that in 2012, the SP in its manifesto had stated that Muslim should get reservation equal to that of Dalits. The INDI jamaat wants to change the Constitution for this. When I ask them (about reservation) they abuse Modi," he said, adding he is opposing reservation on the basis of religion. He accused the SP of doing "dynastic politics". "In the (tenure of the) SP government, mafias had built palaces on public land. But since Yogi Adityanath has come (as chief minister of Uttar Pradesh) the environment has changed. Now, the good days of mafias are over. Houses of the poor are being built in place of their palaces. This is the difference between the BJP and the INDI alliance," he said. Modi also alleged that the Congress "created roadblocks for countries that wanted to purchase BrahMos missiles". Accusing the Congress of always playing with the country's security, the prime minister said, "Our country makes BrahMos missiles and the day is not far when BrahMos missiles will be made in Uttar Pradesh."

**"Rival Not Enemy": Supreme Court Junks BJP Plea Over Ads Against Trinamool**

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court today dismissed a petition - filed by the BJP - that challenged the Calcutta High Court order restraining the party to publish "derogatory" advertisements against Bengal's ruling Trinamool Congress.

"Why should we interfere, we have seen the advertisements and they are offensive," the Supreme Court said as it refused to interfere with the high court order. You can always say you are the best, but we don't want to lend our hands to promote further acrimony. Your rival is not your enemy," the bench of Justice JK Maheshwari and Justice KV Viswanathan said.

The petition was then dismissed as withdrawn giving liberty to the BJP to approach the high court. The BJP

'silence period' (a day prior to the polls and the polling day), the Calcutta High Court had ruled last week. "The allegations and publications made against TMC are outright derogatory and definitely intended to insult the rivals and level personal attacks," Justice Sabyasachi Bhattacharyya had said. The Election Commission, the judge said, has "grossly failed to address the complaints of the TMC in due time".

"This court is surprised that resolution of the complaints after the conclusion of elections is nothing to the court and as such, in due failure on part of the ECI in due time this court is constrained to pass an injunction order," Justice Bhattacharyya said in his order.



**In rare move, Govt extends Army chief General Manoj Pande's tenure by a month**

**New Delhi.** In an unusual move, the government Sunday extended by a month the tenure of Army chief General Manoj Pande who was to retire on May 31. An official statement said the Appointments Committee of Cabinet "approved the extension in service of Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) General Manoj C Pande, PVSM, AVSM, VSM, ADC for a period of one month, beyond his normal age of superannuation (May 31, 2024), i.e. up to June 30, 2024, under Rule 16A(4) of the Army Rules 1954". He was appointed as the COAS on April 30, 2022. He was commissioned in December 1982 in the Corps of Engineers (The Bombay Sappers). He held the appointment of Vice Chief of the Army Staff before taking over as



the COAS. The extension in tenure indicates that a decision on the selection of the next Army chief will be open for the next government. This rarely happens. In the 1970s, the term of Army chief General G G Bewoor was extended. Many believe this denied Lt General P S Bhagat to become the new Army chief. General Bewoor was succeeded by General TN Raina.

As per the norm, the most senior Army commander or the Army vice chief is made the Army chief when the serving COAS retires. But it remains the government's discretion to appoint a service chief. Currently, Vice Chief of Army Staff Lt General Upendra Dwivedi and Southern Army Commander Lt General AK Singh are the most senior officers in the Army. Both are course mates (1984 batch), but Lt Gen Dwivedi, the former Northern Army Commander, is senior of the two. The Army chief retires on completion of three years in the appointment or on attaining the age of 62, whichever is earlier. The current Army chief, General Pande, attained the age of 62 on May 6 and was due to retire on May 31. He has been the Army chief for over two years.

**Newly-Married Couple, Bride's Sister Killed In Rajkot Gaming Zone Fire**

**New Delhi/Ahmedabad:** A newly married couple was among the 28 people killed in a massive fire at a gaming zone in Gujarat's Rajkot on Saturday evening.

Akshay Dholaria, his wife Khyati and sister-in-law Harita went to the gaming zone, called TRP, to unwind after the wedding festivities when a huge fire swept through the facility. Akshay, 24, who lived with his parents in Canada, had come to Rajkot to marry 20-year-old Khyati. They had a court marriage last Saturday - a week before the tragedy occurred.

A grand wedding ceremony was scheduled later this year. Their bodies were burnt beyond recognition. While Akshay's body was identified with the help of the ring he was wearing, the bodies of Khyati and Harita have been sent for DNA testing. The



gaming zone, called TRP, was packed with visitors due to a weekend discount offer with tickets priced at just ₹99. It is suspected that the fire might have started due to a short circuit, but officials said that the exact cause will be known only after a probe. Officials said that the amusement centre was operating without a no-objection certificate (NOC) for fire clearance and also had just one exit. The owner and manager of the TRP game zone have been detained for questioning. According to fire officials, the reason behind the massive blaze has not been ascertained yet. Gujarat Home Minister Harsh Sanghvi said a Special Investigation Team (SIT) that is probing the fire tragedy has been asked to submit the report at the earliest. Mr Sanghvi said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has sought information about the incident from the Chief Minister and directed strong action against the culprits.

**Parents of seven babies who died in Delhi hospital fire recount ordeal**

**With the postmortem reports of some babies still pending, some parents have yet to receive bodies.**

**New Delhi:** Allah ko pyaari ho gayi meri beti," said Ansaar, whose 11-day-old daughter was among the seven newborns killed in a blaze at a childcare hospital in Delhi. The fire broke out at the Baby Care New Born Hospital in Vivek Vihar area around 11:30 pm on Saturday and spread to two adjacent buildings. The Delhi Fire Services (DFS) had to deploy 16 fire tenders to douse the flames in three buildings. With the postmortem pending, authorities are yet to hand over Ansaar, his baby's body. The other six families are

also waiting.

"I saw my baby yesterday. She had a fever and was admitted to the hospital two days ago. This morning I was told about the fire," said the mother of 17-day-old Ruhi, who was killed in the fire. The grieving mother recalled that when she admitted Ruhi to the hospital she was wearing a "Najar ki mala" to wade off evil spirits. "They (hospital staff) removed that and the necklace. Ruhi was in a diaper," she said. Ansaar's daughter was born at another hospital on May 15. "She developed some health issues and was admitted to the hospital (Baby Care New Born Hospital) 10 days ago", he said. "Allah ko pyaari ho gayi meri beti," he said and added that he learnt about the incident from his friends. "When I reached, I came to know that my daughter had died," Ansaar said. For Masialam, a labourer, tragedy struck him again after five years. "I lost my son five years ago. On Saturday, my newborn son died. What kind of facilities do they have?" he asked. Many parents sold their jewellery



or loaned money to pay for their children's treatment at the hospital, Masialam, the father of a three-year-old girl, said. He said his son was born at another hospital and was admitted to Baby Care New Born Hospital after he developed an infection. Parvinder Kumar, a relative of another victim, said, "We have not informed her mother yet." She was just six days old and "we have lost her," he said and added that this was the first child of his relative Pawan Kumar. "The girl was born around six days ago at a hospital in Ghaziabad and was admitted to the care centre for breathing issues. She was showing some

improvement. We got a call around 9 am and were informed about the incident", Parvinder Kumar said. The hospital is to be blamed and strict action should be taken against its owner, he said. The Kumars are farmers and belong to Uttar Pradesh's Baghpat district. Hritik Chaudhary, whose newborn son also died in the fire, said that every single official who is visiting the hospital is tight-lipped about the incident.

They did not answer questions about if the hospital was legal or whether it had an NOC from the fire department, he said. Chaudhary's cousin, Robin, said nobody informed them about the incident, and they came to the spot after watching the news. The confusion and lack of information left many families in despair when they reached the hospital. After the incident, District Magistrate (DM), Shahdara, Ritisha Gupta also reached the GTB Hospital. Many families stood outside and raised slogans, "Humein Insaaf Chahiye" (we want justice).



# It's time to go 'Marsala'!

The jewel hue Marsala is all the rage this year. Here's how to incorporate it in your everyday beauty regimen. **Oxblood red or marsala** — call it by whatever name you like, this subtle and sultry hue is a great go-to colour for beauty. You may have seen Bollywood divas like Deepika Padukone and Sonam Kapoor sporting the colour on the red carpet pretty often. So if you wish to wear it, but don't know how to do it the right way without your make-up looking OTT, here are a few easy tricks.

**GOMADABOUT MARSALA**

Marsala is a colour that suits almost all skin complexions. "It goes best with a warm skin tone and at the same time provides the right pop of colour to fair-complexioned women. The best part about this colour is that despite being an earthy shade, it adds just the right amount of glamour required for both a day or night look. It has the ability to impart oomph without taking away the naturalness," says beauty expert Divya Thukral.

**FOR YOUR HAIR**

If you're in for hair makeover, take some inspiration from Katy Perry whose latest dye job is a must-try. "To get Marsala as a hair color, you need to go for a red-brown with a cool blue undertone. It's a great colour for brunettes with fair and olive skin tones, as it's a great complement to their complexion. If you want to change your full head of hair, you can go for an all-over Marsala hue, while others can try subtle Marsala high or lowlights if a high-impact red isn't your thing. To satisfy your quirky soul, complement it with similar hued lashes," says Shailesh Moolya, national creative director - hair of a leading national salon.

Since auburn tones are more prone to fading, use shade-saving products for your routine and choose a

hue close to your own natural hair color, so that when it does fade, the shift isn't as obvious. "Keeping the color rich and vibrant requires a color-safe shampoo that has a low PH. Good quality shampoos can keep the color vibrant and glossy for nine weeks. Make sure you condition your hair everytime you wash them. And before heat styling, always work a protective oil onto your mid-lengths and ends," adds Moolya.

**FOR YOUR NAILS**

By far the simplest way to get in on any colour trend is to



paint your nails. The colour marsala oozes a lot of confidence and sex appeal. Start by sporting the colour on your nails. Stand out in the crowd by wearing marsala nails with any evening outfit. There are several ways you can get creative with the colour. Shape and file your nails well and go for marsala French manicure. Your nails will look stunning. Marsala nail polishes are available in different shades; cream and metallic finishes. So pick the one you love the most.

**FOR YOUR POUT**

Lipsticks in the 'marsala' range provide both intensity and a pop of color, but they lean a bit more toward neutral, due to marsala's earthy brown characteristic. Remember those popular 1990s, dark-neutral lips? "A beautiful way to update this look is with a more pigmented matte finish. Use a lip liner for a clean, stark outline. For a less bold look, wear this color in a sheer gloss, and keep the rest of the look plain. Skip the eyeliner and the eyeshadow and let your lips be the centre of attraction," says make-up and beauty expert Aakriti Kochchar. A huge plus point of marsala colour is that it pairs well with a range of cheek and eye colors. Try a pink pop of color on cheeks, gray tones on eyes, or olive and khaki eye shadows.

**WHY MARSALA?**

Surat-based make-up artist and Femina Miss Style Diva 2012, Malvika Mehta says, "I love experimenting with colours and make-up, but since its monsoons I am always worried about my mascara and eyeliner running down. Eye shadows are also likely to smudge during rainy season. Marsala works best for rains. Apply this colour on your lips and you're ready to go. You don't really need anything else on the face to enhance the look."



## Natural scrubs for your skin

Facial scrubs help get rid of the dead outer layer of skin in a gentle manner. This exfoliation, when done once a week, can help make the skin smoother, brighter and younger. The best time to use a scrub is generally after sundown, when you are ready to call it a day.

**Papaya and pineapple**

The enzymes from these fruits help get rid of dead and dull skin and can make your skin look brighter. Scrubs with these key ingredients are ideal for normal skin.

**Nourishing almond and olive oil**



When your skin is parched, scrubs with almond and olive oil can replenish lost nourishment. These ingredients help maintain the skin's natural oils, thereby making it soft and smooth. If you have dry skin, you must use these scrubs once or twice a week.

**Hydrating glycerine**

If you have an oily T-zone and dry cheeks, you need ingredients in your scrub that can help lock in the moisture and maintain a non-greasy effect on your oily zone. Scrubs with glycerine and hyaluronic acid help combination skin types, if used twice a week.

**Berry scrubs**

Scrubs made with fresh berries - strawberry and blueberry - are rich in antioxidants, vitamins and minerals. These have minute particles that are great exfoliants and can nourish the skin.

## How to keep your hair tools clean



If you style your hair regularly, you need to maintain your hair tools well. Here are a few tips.

Learn to store your tools properly. Instead of leaving them strewn around in your bedroom, store them atop your bathroom sink. This way they won't get exposed to dust, water etc. Keep them away when you are not using them.

Use a damp cloth to wipe your hair tools clean. Once a week is good enough. Don't do this when the tool is hot. Though this will take only a few minutes, it will really extend the life of your hair tools.

When styling your hair, if you are using a hair iron, use the lowest heat setting on the tool. This will not just prevent your hair from damage but also protect the tool. If a damp cloth doesn't help in cleaning the tool, you use a stronger cleaning agent, like alcohol, rub it on a cotton pad and scrub the hair tool. This will help removing any dirt or residue that has built up on the device.



## Gold, silver price\): Precious metals record hike on MCX

**NEW DELHI.** Both gold and silver prices recorded a hike on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX) on Monday, May 27, 2024.

Gold futures, maturing on June 5, 2024, stood at Rs 71,508 per 10 grams on the MCX, after recording a jump of Rs 252 or 0.35 per cent. The previous close was recorded at Rs 71,256. Meanwhile, silver futures, maturing on July 5, 2024, witnessed a hike of Rs 1,296 or 1.43 per cent and were retailing at Rs 91,844 per kg on the MCX against the previous close of Rs 90,548. The gold and silver prices in India depend on several factors, including the value of the rupee against the dollar. Global demand also plays a key role in determining the trends observed in the rate of precious metals.

## Sensex, Nifty trade flat after hitting record high; TCS, Adani Ports gain

**NEW DELHI** Benchmark stock market indices traded flat after hitting fresh record highs on Monday. The S&P BSE Sensex was up 51.82 points at 75,462.21 at 10:19 am, while the NSE Nifty50 fell 5.30 points to trade at 22,951.80.

ost of the broader market indices were also trading in negative territory as volatility rose in early trade. Market experts believe that volatility will remain elevated till the Lok Sabha election results are out on June 4. While most of the sectoral indices were trading in positive territory, major stocks were struggling for momentum. The top five gainers on Nifty50 were Divi's Laboratories, TCS, Adani Ports, Hindalco and IndusInd Bank. Adani Ports shares gained after reports emerged that it would replace Wipro in the Sensex lineup from June 2. On the other hand, the top losers were Adani Enterprises, ONGC, Eicher Motors, Coal India and Maruti. Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities Ltd, said, "Nifty traders should gear up for a week of potential volatility driven by six big catalysts: Exit Poll (June 1st), May F&O expiry (May 30th), US GDP (May 30th), India's GDP (May 31st), US PCE Inflation (May 31st), and May Auto Sales (June 1st)."

## What to expect from the new government

**NEW DELHI** In a few days, the biggest democratic exercise in the world will determine the fate of the incumbent Narendra Modi government. No matter the next ruling dispensation, your money deserves a government that manages finances well. Your money is affected by the inflation and interest rates in the economy. You want your government to generate sufficient tax revenue to pay for adequate expenditure on infrastructure. While generating sufficient tax revenue, you want the new government to be fair to you as a taxpayer.

Taxing times

From the election campaign, you could pick up economic noises. The present government, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, promises more of the same for managing government finances and capital expenditure on infrastructure in the economy. They believe that investing in infrastructure could trigger economic activity and enhance productivity in the long term. On the other hand, the opposition parties want to give more money to the hands of people experiencing poverty to boost rural and urban consumption. All political parties are very clear about the fact that India is not a tax haven state. The opposition parties have spoken of redistribution of wealth from the rich to the poor. That means there would be little hope for lower taxes for those already paying them. However, the new government has much to consider in rationalising the existing tax system.

The goods and services tax (GST) monthly collection is at a record high for April 2024. The government is collecting the expenditure tax from everyone. It means no matter your income, you pay GST on everything you consume. That was the case before GST implementation, too. You paid a multitude of central, state and local body taxes. GST has combined everything and created a more straightforward administrative system. That has resulted in an efficient and high collection of indirect taxes. The government needs to bring down peak GST rates as revenue grows to give relief to the ordinary people.

On the income tax issue, it is a tricky situation. Significantly, few people in the country pay taxes. It is a truth that does not require any specific data. At the same time, the economic inequality in the country continues to remain elevated. Depending on the data you look at, there could be a possibility of a marginal decline in it. However, a paper by Thomas Piketty, a Nobel Laureate and three of his other colleagues argues that the inequality in India is rooted in the caste system.

## 'Shriram Finance looking for strategic partner'

**MUMBAI.** The Shriram Group, which earlier this month exited the housing finance arm selling its entire 85% stake to the American private equity major Warburg Pincus for R4,630 crore, is looking at a strategic partner for its flagship Shriram Finance, the largest auto-focused non-bank lender today. The Chennai-based group, founded by the industry veterans Ramamurthy Thyagarajan, AVS Raja and T Jayaraman way back in 1974, is also into general and life insurance businesses, apart from wealth management, and real estate besides the cash-cow commercial vehicles, two & four-wheelers, gold loans, and small business loans. "We are looking at a strategic/financial partner for Shriram Finance. Though I have the board mandate to rope in a strategic partner, I haven't started negotiations with anyone yet. But yes, we are seriously looking at strategic investment, we have a huge growth opportunity in our business," the vice chairman Umesh Govind Revankar told TNIE in an interaction at his Mumbai headquarters without offering a timeline for the same and how much stake they are ready to pare except saying the holding company's 25% stake won't be diluted. When asked if it could be a PE partner, he ruled out they being the preferred choice saying "we aren't keen on roping in a private equity player; we would be keen on a strong group with deep pockets to be our financial and strategic partner". Explaining the rationale for looking at a non-PE partner Revankar said, normally PEs invest in listed companies and our holding company Shriram Capital is privately held.

# Economic growth slowed in January-March quarter, shows poll

**The expected growth for Asia's third-largest economy is around 6.7% annually for January-March, aligning more closely with the long-term GDP growth rate.**

**NEW DELHI.** The economy appears to have seen its slowest growth in a year during the January-March quarter due to weakened demand, according to a Reuters poll of economists. The slow growth highlights that the possibility of growth surpassing earlier forecasts remains low, indicating a cautious outlook among experts. The gross domestic product (GDP) increased by 8.4% during the October-December period, compared to the previous year, due to a substantial drop in subsidies, which increased net indirect taxes. However, economic activity, as measured by gross value added (GVA), showed a modest increase of 6.5%. Economists participating in the poll



indicated that such a scenario was unlikely to repeat in the last quarter.

The anticipated growth for Asia's third-largest economy is around 6.7% annually for January-March, aligning more closely with the long-term GDP growth rate. Gross value added (GVA) growth is expected to slow to 6.2%. The majority of economists highlighted moderation in both the manufacturing and services sectors, along with a muted contribution from agriculture, as reasons for the expected slowdown in growth. Forecasts for GDP growth ranged from 5.6% to

8.0%. The upcoming data release, scheduled to release on May 31, just days before general election results are announced on June 4, will be crucial.

unal Kundu, an economist at Societe Generale, said that there are chances for a return to stability in economic conditions.

"We expect some sanity to return. Among the components, we do not expect any major improvement. Core inflation continuing to drop and recording the lowest growth since the onset of the pandemic is symptomatic of weak domestic demand," Kundu told Reuters.

Despite averaging 7.7% growth last fiscal year, the forecast suggests a slowdown to 6.8% this fiscal year and 6.6% in the next, indicating that consistent 8% growth remains a distant goal for the world's fastest-growing major economy.

While many economists advocate for 8% or higher growth to adequately address employment needs for the burgeoning young workforce, there are doubts about the sustainability of such growth.

Miguel Chanco, chief emerging Asia economist at Pantheon Macroeconomics, said that a reasonable potential growth rate for India's economy lies between 5-6%. The divergence between financial economists' GDP forecasts and government estimates has also raised questions regarding how India measures growth. The National Statistical Office (NSO) projected GDP growth to be 5.9% in the January-March quarter, indicating a potential overestimation of the informal sector GDP. Dhiraj Nim, an economist at ANZ told Reuters. The informal sector, which contributes nearly half of the country's GDP and employs about 90% of India's workforce, highlights the importance of accurately assessing economic growth for comprehensive policy planning and implementation.

## All you want to know about KYC rule relaxation for MF investors

**MUMBAI.** As part of its efforts to increase "ease of investing", the capital markets watchdog Sebi early this month did away with two cumbersome KYC requirements, both for the mutual funds sector. One is the withdrawal of the mandatory requirement of linking the PAN with the Aadhaar from May 14, and the other is the doing-away of the mandatory in-putting of a nominee in case if the MF investment account is a joint account from April 30. What's the KYC registration? The know-your-client (KYC) regulation is the process by which financial entities such as commercial banks, mutual fund houses and stock brokers are asked to verify an investor's identity before being allowed to invest in stocks or mutual funds or enter the equity markets through mutual fund schemes. In a revised circular issued on May 14, the regulator has done away with the requirement of the mandatory checking of PAN-Aadhaar link, offering a big relief to both existing investors as well as those looking to enter the market either directly into equities or passively through the mutual funds route—the

two investment avenues which have been rocking in recent months. Linking these two official identity documents enables an investor the all-important 'KYC-registered' status. In the second relief, it had done away with the mandatory nominee demand for joint MF investments from April 30. And all that the regulator wanted from an investor was to prove her/his identity based on the 'officially valid document (OVD) such as the Aadhaar, passport, the PAN number or the voter ID card.' What's the MF nomination?

Nomination is a process of appointing a person to take care of your assets in the event of your untimely death. In case if you do not wish to nominate, you have the option of opting out of the process while filling up the form but with attendant difficulties later. When you have a registered nominee or when you complete the nominee registration process, it facilitates easy transfer of funds to your nominee in the event of your death. In the absence of a nominee, your heirs/claimants will need to produce a host of documents like a will, legal heir certificate, NoCs from other

legal heirs etc, to get your MF units transferred in her/his name. Earlier, if your PAN and the Aadhaar were not linked your KYC would be on hold, which means your investment cannot be withdrawn. But now, if your Aadhaar and PAN are not linked and if you still do Aadhaar-based KYC, then you will get a KYC-registered status. This is what the regulator has done away with the May 14 circular. Another requirement pertained to optional nominations for joint mutual fund accounts, which it has done away with through the April 30 circular. The Sebi circular dated April 30 states that the requirement for nomination in Clause 17.16 of the master circular for mutual funds is now optional for jointly held mutual fund folios. However, all other rules regarding nomination in the master circular from May 19, 2023, and the Sebi circular from December 27, 2023, remain unchanged. Had it not been done away with after June 30, 2024, which was the fourth extension, fund houses would have frozen those folios which don't have a nominee in place.

## Simulating Market Impact of Election Results

**NEW DELHI** I do not claim to be a political soothsayer or expert by any yardstick, and my area of limited domain expertise remains the financial markets. As I have often said before, usually the only thing tougher than predicting the markets is predicting an electoral verdict. While investing, one needs to be clinical and set aside one's political views and prejudices. Hence, let us embark on an electoral verdict

simulation exercise and its probable impact on the stock indices which have understandably turned volatile ahead of the election finale. Given that the ruling party and the formation it leads started this election as favourites and still remains so, we shall base all our hypothesis around the number of seats they might win.

Scenario 1: The ruling BJP secures 340-350 seats and the NDA Alliance crosses 370 seats (2/3rd majority), while the immediate reaction to this verdict might be euphoric, it could lead to a cool-off thereafter as the return to business as usual commences. Thereafter, a growth-oriented Budget powered by a two-third majority, could then propel the race of the Sensex to new highs. The "continuity" factor that the equity market usually derives comfort from, will provide an additional booster. Scenario 2: The ruling BJP secures 290-315 seats and the NDA Alliance secures 315-345 seats (clear majority)

While the immediate reaction to this verdict might be muted given that expectations were running high at the outset, it could lead to a period of sideways movement as the market waits to gauge the direction provided in the Budget that follows. Scenario 3: The ruling BJP secures 240-265 seats and the NDA Alliance secures 272-290 seats (narrow majority)

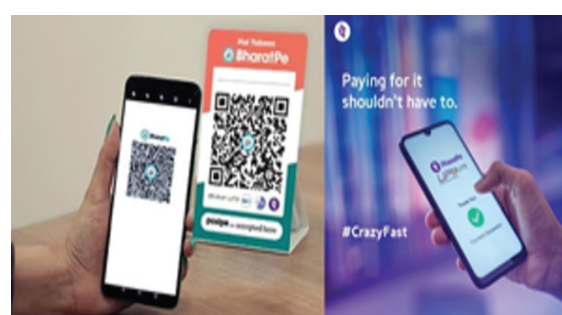
While the immediate reaction to this verdict might be alarming, it could lead to a minor sell-off as the market waits to gauge which parties will help to form the government and the ministries they might extract as a result.

Scenario 4: The ruling BJP secures lesser than 210-230 seats and the NDA Alliance secures 235-250 seats (short of majority) While the immediate reaction to this verdict might be panic, it could lead to a sell-off as the market waits to gauge which parties will form the government and the ministries they might gain as a result. The choice of the finance minister in this case, more than the earlier simulated three scenarios, could well determine the mood of the market thereafter. Do any of these four simulations suggest that long-term investors need to react immediately before or post the electoral result? Methinks not. Given that the Indian economy is well poised to continue reaping the benefits of the economic liberalisation program initiated three decades ago, chances are that the Indian equity market which withstood the outflow of FII funds pre-election could get a booster shot when they inevitably return.

## BharatPe, PhonePe settle long-standing trademark disputes over 'Pe' suffix

**BENGALURU.** Fintech unicorns BharatPe Group and PhonePe Group on Sunday announced that they have amicably settled all long-standing legal disputes pertaining to the use of the trademark with the suffix 'Pe'.

BharatPe and PhonePe had been involved in long-drawn legal disputes across multiple courts, over the course of the last five years. The settlement will put an end to all open judicial proceedings, the companies said in a joint statement. As a next step, parties have already taken steps to withdraw all opposition against each other in the trademark registry, which will help



them to proceed with the registration of their respective trademarks, the statement said. "This is a positive development for the industry. I appreciate the maturity and professionalism shown by the Management of both sides, working closely to resolve all outstanding legal

issues and moving ahead to focus their energy and resources in building robust digital payment ecosystems," BharatPe, Chairman of the Board, Rajnish Kumar said.

Both organisations will undertake to take other necessary steps to comply with the obligations under the settlement agreement in respect of all cases before Delhi High Court and Bombay High Court. "I am glad that we have reached an amicable resolution in this matter. This outcome will benefit both companies to move forward and focus our collective energy on growing the Indian fintech industry as a whole," PhonePe, Founder and CEO, Sameer Nigam said.

# How will stock markets react if BJP wins 272 seats or more UBS explains

**Lok Sabha elections: Brokerage firm UBS has shared four potential outcomes and their impact on the stock market.**

Brokerage firm UBS recently indicated that it considers a scenario where the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) retains an absolute majority in the Lok Sabha elections to be highly probable. The brokerage said in a note that this outcome is anticipated to propel the stock market indices, the S&P BSE Sensex and the NSE Nifty50, to new heights. However, if the opposition coalition INDIA (Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance) comes to power, it could negatively impact equities, with UBS warning of potential stock market valuation de-ratings and a return to pre-NDA valuation multiples. UBS noted in its analysis that

political alliances have historically played a crucial role in Indian elections. However, the BJP's dominance as a single party in the last two general elections has somewhat diminished the influence of coalitions in government formation. The 2019 general elections saw the BJP securing a voter share above 50% in 222 out of the 303 seats won, with a victory margin exceeding 5% in 259 seats, accounting for over 85% of the total seats won. The opinion polls show the newly formed coalition, INDIA, may struggle to gain voter share as BJP's dominance seems to be continuing in the 2024 elections as well," UBS said.

The brokerage firm highlighted that any market underperformance triggered by election results tends to reverse in the medium to long term as investors and businesses adapt to new government policies. "Despite the potential for near-term election-driven uncertainty, we reiterate our view that any sharp weakness in equities could offer buying opportunities," UBS said.

Prevailing uncertainty While opinion polls before the elections



suggested further seat gains for the BJP, the actual progress in the first five phases of the election has been less clear.

UBS observed that lower voter participation so far, coupled with a possible loss of voter share in key states such as Maharashtra, Karnataka, West Bengal, and Bihar due to regional political uncertainty, has raised questions about the NDA's ability to secure a third term. Despite these concerns, PM Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah have recently allayed investor fears, hinting at a strong win for the BJP in the ongoing general elections.

UBS on possible outcomes UBS outlined four potential election

outcomes and their implications for financial markets:

UBS retains single-party majority: Based on opinion polls, UBS assumes the BJP will retain its single-party majority. In this scenario, markets are likely to remain confident about policy continuity, with the potential for further reforms including disinvestment, the land bill, and the uniform civil code, depending on the number of seats won. "Overall, we believe the financial market sentiment will likely remain positive," UBS said. BJP forms government with NDA majority: If the BJP fails to retain its single majority but forms a government with the NDA holding a majority (> 272 seats), markets could be slightly less confident about policy stability as fiscal consolidation could be slower than envisaged. There could be pressure from other political alliances, but overall macro stability could still persist, leading to a mixed impact on financial markets.

Hung parliament: In this scenario, the NDA fails to secure a majority.



## NEWS BOX

## Shreyas Iyer recreates Lionel Messi's FIFA World Cup dance as KKR win IPL 2024

**New Delhi.** Shreyas Iyer recreated Lionel Messi's iconic FIFA World Cup celebration after being handed over the IPL trophy. The Shreyas Iyer-led side scripted history as the defeated SRH by 8 wickets in the IPL 2024 final at the M Chidambaram Stadium, Chepauk. After KKR's emphatic triumph, Iyer collected the IPL trophy from BCCI President Roger Binny and BCCI secretary Jay Shah. Iyer stole the limelight as he emulated Messi's iconic and viral celebration when Argentina won the World Cup in 2022. Messi had led the Argentina team to a title win in December 2022 after a thriller win against France in Qatar. Iyer and Co. recreated that epic moment as the captain handed over the trophy to Rinku Singh and the entire team basked in the glory. This was the 3rd time when KKR were crowned as the champions in the league's history. In fact, KKR's first-ever IPL triumph also came at Chepauk under Gautam Gambhir's captaincy in 2012.

## KKR PLAYED LIKE INVINCIBLES

Iyer took pride in the team's triumphant campaign in IPL 2024, saying that they felt 'invincibles' throughout the season. "We played like invincibles throughout the season. There's so much to cherish right now." Shreyas Iyer said in the post-match presentation. | IPL 2024 Full Coverage | IPL 2024 Purple Cap | IPL 2024 Orange Cap

"It was comprehensive. This is what we demanded from the players and they stood up. It's difficult to express the feelings."

"It was a high-pressure game and Mitchell Starc had been so good off-field. Phenomenal work ethic, something to learn for youngsters. Russell has got a magic wand and he is looking towards me to bowl. In the majority of the games, he gave us breakthroughs. Venkatesh Iyer made things easy for us." "As I said earlier, everyone stepped up. There was no one individual who took us here; it was a cumulative effort. It was a flawless season for us," Iyer added.

In a one-sided finale, SRH opted to bowl first and were bundled out for a paltry total of 113 runs. KKR hunted down the 114-run target within 11 overs and lifted the coveted IPL trophy.

## Rinku Singh hilariously fails at vlogging after IPL final win vs SRH: Dream is complete

**New Delhi.** KKR batter Rinku Singh celebrated his team's Indian Premier League victory in style. Playing at the MA Chidambaram Stadium on Sunday, 26 May, KKR outplayed SRH in the final of the tournament, beating them by 8 wickets. Rinku jumped around, celebrated and tried his hand at blogging with Nitish Rana at the end of the game.

Rinku took the camera and asked the fans to like, subscribe and press the bell icon to stay in touch with the activity on his account. However, it did not turn out as planned. Rinku fumbled while saying the words and that created a moment of sheer comedy for the watchers. Rinku Singh spoke to the broadcaster after the match and said that his dream had come true. Rinku has been at KKR for a long time but it has been only two years that he played full seasons with the franchise.

"Outstanding feeling right now. Dream has come true - I have been here for 7 years and we are so happy. Credit to GG sir. I will finally lift the IPL trophy," Rinku Singh said. Rinku was also seen hugging Shah Rukh Khan after the game and saying that God's plan had finally come off.

## RINKU SINGH'S IPL 2024

Rinku Singh had a mellow IPL 2024. Due to the dominance of the top order, Rinku did not get enough time in the crease and at the times that he came out to bat, was not able to deliver the desired result. The left hander was also snubbed from the first 15 of the T20 World Cup squad, but will be travelling to USA as a reserve.

## IPL 2024: BCCI announces lucrative prize money for groundsmen and curators

**New Delhi** BCCI secretary Jay Shah announced lucrative prize money for the groundsmen and curators for putting in the hard yards during the recently-concluded Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024. The curtains came on the tournament after KKR beat SRH by 8 wickets in the Final on Sunday, May 26 at the MA Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai.

Shah, in a statement, said that the groundsmen at the 10 regular venues will get Rs 25 lakhs each as a "token of appreciation". He also announced a reward of Rs 10 lakhs each for the groundstaff at the other 3 venues in Guwahati, Dharamsala and Vizag. "The unsung heroes of our successful T20 season are the incredible ground staff who worked tirelessly to provide brilliant pitches, even in difficult weather conditions. As a token of our appreciation, the groundsmen and curators at the 10 regular IPL venues will receive INR 25 lakhs each, and the same at the 3 additional venues will get INR 10 lakhs each. Thank you for your dedication and hard work!" Shah wrote. High-scoring IPL

IPL 2024 was full of runs as all 10 teams enjoyed batting. Records tumbled throughout the tournament as the pitches turned out to be absolute belters. SRH, who missed out on winning the title, set the record for the highest team score of 287 for 3 in the IPL when they faced Faf du Plessis' RCB last month at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru.

## T20 World Cup will have smaller totals, hope bowlers play bigger part: Mitchell Starc

- ↳ **The Indian trio of Jyothi Surekha Vennam, Parneet Kaur and Aditi Swami grabbed their third successive Archery World Cup gold medal, beating Turkey on Saturday.**
- ↳ **Dipika said that Karthik kept re-inventing himself**

**Chennai.** Australia fast bowler Mitchell Starc formed a crucial part of KKR winning campaign in the Indian Premier League 2024. Starc upped the ante in the playoffs of the tournament and ripped through the SRH top order in both the matches they played in the playoffs stage. The fast bowler will now fly out to the United States of America to play in the T20 World Cup 2024. Asked about the trend of high scores in T20s, Starc said that it will not happen in the T20 World Cup 2024. Starc has argued that the lack of an



Impact Player rule in international cricket will force teams to field more balanced sides, something that will bring down the high scores. The fast bowler said that due to the absence of a specialist batting all-rounder at No. 8, the T20 World Cup might have more impactful performances from bowlers. "There is an Impact Player Rule here and not in the T20 World Cup. You are going to have to rely more on your all-rounders. You cannot put your batting all-

rounder at number 8, like you do in the IPL. I don't think that you will see these kinds of high scores in the T20 World Cup, purely because there will be one less batter," Mitchell Starc said at the post-match press conference after winning the IPL.

## SRH vs KKR, IPL Final Highlights | Scorecard

Starc also pointed out that the wickets were batting-friendly in the Indian Premier League, which might not be the case in the

Caribbean islands. West Indies wickets have kept low and slow in the recent past, which has aided spin in those wickets.

"Batters have been more brave in the powerplay. They are striking the ball better as we have seen in the IPL. Particularly the wickets have been good. They will not be the same in West Indies, it will turn and they will be more tired. In the back end of the tournament, it may spin more and stay low and slow. Hopefully the bowlers play a bit more role in the World Cup than they have played in the IPL," Starc said.

IPL 2024 Full Coverage | IPL 2024 Purple Cap | IPL 2024 Orange Cap

The fast bowler signed off by crediting Gautam Gambhir for KKR's win in the tournament. Starc said that Gambhir wanted KKR to do well and returned to the franchise to get them out of their recent slump. "Gautam Gambhir has been fantastic tactically. He obviously wants the franchise to do well, he has spent a lot of time here. He just loves the group to do well. Whether it has been his tactical eye or his observations in training, he has been great. He thoroughly deserves his success with KKR."

## T20 World Cup: Fans welcome Indian team in New York airport, BCCI shares video

**New York.** The first batch of the Indian team has arrived in the USA to play in the T20 World Cup. Led by India captain Rohit Sharma, top players like Suryakumar Yadav, Jasprit Bumrah and Rishabh Pant among others travelled to the Americas as the first batch of players. The Indian team was welcomed by fans in New York on Sunday, 26 May. The Board of Control of India (BCCI) shared the video of the Indian team after their touchdown in New York. Among the notable absentees were Virat Kohli and Hardik Pandya, who had ended their Indian Premier League campaign. Kohli has been unable to travel to the USA due to paperwork issues and is expected to join the team at the end of this month. Pandya on the other hand is reportedly in



England. Earlier, India captain Rohit Sharma shared the first selfie from the USA. Rohit was captured in a photo alongside Ravindra Jadeja and Axar Patel. India's only World Cup warm-up will be against Bangladesh at

the brand-new Nassau County International Cricket Stadium, where they will play three league games, including a blockbuster against Pakistan on June 9. India Schedule in T20 World Cup 2024

As they play most of their league games at the same location, India would like to make the most of the warm-up game to gain a sense of the circumstances. The modular stadium featuring a drop-in pitch was completed earlier this month, after construction began in January. India, who have not won an ICC crown since 2013, will face Ireland in their World Cup opener on June 5. The United States is co-hosting an ICC event for the first time, and its national team will make its debut in the global championship.

## Ravi Shastri turns 62: BCCI puts up post ft. 'energetic' Sunil Gavaskar and others

**The IPL commentators wished Ravi Shastri on his 61st birthday in his unique and energetic style. The BCCI put up a special post on their social media handle.**

**New Delhi.** Former India cricketer and ex-India coach Ravi Shastri turned 62 on May 27, Monday. The official social media handle of the BCCI put up a special post for Shastri. The video featured Shastri's fellow commentators, who opted for a unique yet energetic style to wish him a happy birthday. The video had Sunil Gavaskar, Harsha Bhogle, Kevin Pietersen and Matthew Hayden.

The broadcasters emulated Shastri's unique and eye-catching style of commentating. Shastri's toss announcements during IPL 2024 were the ones to watch out for, which could make anyone stop and listen to him and

the video had it all. Gavaskar and other broadcasters praised Shastri for the energy that he brings into the commentary box. Shastri was in awe of the unique birthday wishes and thanked the broadcasters for getting the best out of him. Shastri has a knack of keeping the audience hooked and adding a sense of excitement.



His distinctive voice and iconic catchphrases further add to his appeal as a commentator, making him one of the most loved broadcasters among the fans. Be it giving insightful analysis, providing entertaining anecdotes or simply expressing his excitement for the game, he keeps the audience engaged with his dynamic presence.

A look at Shastri's impressive career. Shastri's impact has extended beyond his iconic commentary style as he cemented his

legacy with a stellar cricketing career along with being team India's head coach.

Shastri represented India in 80 Tests and 150 ODIs and scored 6938 runs in international cricket, which included 15 hundreds. The veteran all-rounder also managed to take 280 wickets for India. He was part of India's World Cup triumph in 1983 and the 1985 World Championship of cricket.

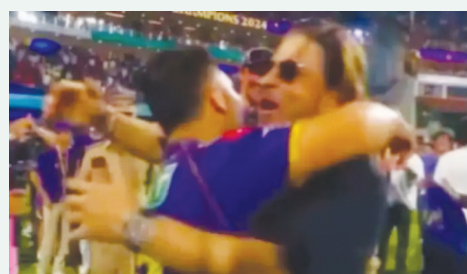
Post his retirement, Shastri took over the commentary duties and has been the voice behind India's historic triumphs in the ICC T20 World Cup in 2007 and the ODI World Cup in 2011.

Shastri also donned the coaching hat twice for India, first as a team director from 2014 to 2016. He was the head coach of the national side till the T20 World Cup 2021. India couldn't win an ICC trophy under Shastri's coaching tenure. However, the Indian team won back-to-back Test series in Australia. India also reached the final of the World Test Championship in 2019 against New Zealand when Shastri was at the helm, along with Virat Kohli. After quitting the coaching job in 2021, Shastri ventured into broadcasting duties yet again.

## Shah Rukh Khan and Rinku Singh's 'God's plan baby' moment viral after KKR win IPL 2024

**New Delhi.** KKR scripted history as they lifted the IPL 2024 title and were crowned the champions for the 3rd time in the league. KKR's co-owner Shah Rukh Khan, being ever-so-supportive, entered the stadium to meet and greet every player after KKR's triumph. He shared a warm hug with Rinku Singh and reiterated, "God's plan baby" and Rinku further said, "God's plan completed". Shah Rukh, who had come to M Chidambaram stadium alongside entire family was elated with his team's victory. He gave a kiss on mentor Gautam Gambhir's forehead to express his gratitude for all his guidance. Shah Rukh has always shared a soft corner with Rinku and KKR's star player was over the moon after lifting the trophy for KKR.

"Outstanding feeling right now. The dream has come true - I have been here for 7



years and we are so happy. Credit to Gautam Gambhir sir. I will finally lift the IPL trophy. It was God's plan," Rinku told the broadcasters after the win.

## GOD'S PLAN COMPLETED!!

In an interview with Star Sports, Shah Rukh talked about Rinku's future with the Indian team and how he wanted the star player to be picked for India's T20 World Cup squad. IPL 2024 Full Coverage | IPL 2024 Purple Cap | IPL 2024 Orange Cap

"Such amazing players are playing for the country. I am really looking forward to Rinku, Inshallah being in the World Cup Squad and some other youngsters from other teams also." "Some of them deserve it so much, but my personal wish is that Rinku makes it to the team. I will be so happy. That will be the high point for me," Shah Rukh said. Rinku has been associated with the KKR franchise for 7 years and even though he didn't get a lot of chances this season, he has emerged as a match-winner for the team on many occasions.

## Dare to Dream: Gautam Gambhir's strong message after KKR lift IPL 2024 trophy

- ↳ **Gautam Gambhir has delivered as the KKR mentor in IPL 2024**
- ↳ **Under Gambhir's mentorship, the Knight Riders won the IPL 2024**
- ↳ **In 2012 and 2014, Gambhir won the IPL as a player and captain**

**New Delhi** Gautam Gambhir was over the moon and pumped up after KKR won the IPL 2024. On Sunday, May 26, Shreyas Iyer's men beat the Sunrisers by 8 wickets in the final at the MA Chidambaram Stadium in

Chennai. Gambhir joined KKR as a mentor ahead of the 2024 IPL season and tasted success right away. Back in 2012 and 2014, he helped the Knight Riders make a name for themselves by winning the title as a player.

The 42-year-old Gambhir has continued his dream run with the franchise ever since he joined them back in 2011. After the team won their third title, the veteran dropped a strong message on his 'X' account. Gambhir wrote, "Dare to Dream!!"

After being asked to field first, KKR bowled SRH out for 113 in 18.3 overs. After the Sunrisers lost 3 wickets in the powerplay, the Knight Riders never allowed them to get a foothold back into the contest. KKR chased down the target with 9.3 overs left in their innings. Shreyas lauded Mitchell Starc, who



bowled Abhishek Sharma with an absolute peach and picked up 2 wickets. The skipper also heaped praise on Andre Russell and Venkatesh Iyer for their roles in the final. SRH vs KKR, IPL Final Highlights |

Scorecard "Congrats to SRH for the way they played throughout. It was a high-pressure game and Mitchell Starc had been so good off-field. Phenomenal work ethic, something to learn for youngsters," Shreyas said in the post-match presentation ceremony.

"Russell has got a magic wand, and he is looking towards me to bowl. In the majority of the games he gave us breakthroughs. Venkatesh Iyer made things easy for us," he added. Russell picked up 3 crucial wickets while Venkatesh stayed not out on 26 balls in their run-chase. Venkatesh was involved in a crucial partnership of 91 runs with Rahmanullah Gurbaz for the second wicket.





# Bipasha Basu

## Set To Release Book On Self-Discovery, Says 'Its Time To Share My Learnings'

**B**ipasha Basu, a beloved actress in the B-town scene, is savoring her current chapter of motherhood, relishing precious moments with her daughter Devi, spouse Karan Singh Grover, and loved ones. Amidst this joy, she has a thrilling surprise in store for her fans. Basu is embarking on a journey to document her self-discovery in the form of a book. In a recent interview, she expressed her eagerness to connect with her audience on a deeper level, sharing her innermost thoughts and emotions. Actress Bipasha Basu is poised to transition into the realm of literature, as she embarks on a journey to author a book that delves into the profound themes of self-discovery, resilience, and the quest for inner peace. In a candid interaction with PTI, Basu reflected on the intricate tapestry of her life, woven with both challenges and blessings in equal measure. Anticipating this new chapter with enthusiasm, she expressed, "But what has got me through and this far is a conscious decision to focus on the bright side of life and to choose sunshine – every day! I felt it's time to share my learnings with my fans and readers. I am delighted I have found an enterprising team in The Sunflower Seeds and L Ventures who will be working closely with me on making this dream come true," Bipasha enthused. Set for a 2025 release, Bipasha Basu's upcoming book promises to be a beacon of inspiration for those seeking to navigate the complexities of self-exploration and resilience.



Bipasha Basu recently melted hearts with a touching Instagram post showcasing a tender moment with her daughter, Devi. The video resonated deeply as it captured the endearing sight of Devi rushing into her mother's open arms for an embrace. However, the heartwarming scene took an adorable turn as Devi called out for "papa papa" and made her way to her father, Karan Singh Grover, who scooped her up with sheer affection. Bipasha affectionately labeled the post with "Doll," eliciting an outpouring of love from her adoring fans. While audiences anticipate her next on-screen appearance following the miniseries "Dangerous" in 2020, Basu hinted at a return to the screen in a recent interview with News 18. Expressing her eagerness to delve back into her craft, she playfully remarked, "I'll be making a comeback very soon. I believe my daughter will graciously allow me to resume my work." Acknowledging the delicate balancing act required between professional endeavors and family life, she is currently navigating this harmonious equilibrium with grace and intention.

# Farah Khan

## Joins Birthday Boy Karan Johar in Bed; Declares 'Nowhere Else I'd Rather Be'

**R**enowned film director Karan Johar marked his 52nd birthday in style on Saturday, May 25, surrounded by close friends from the film industry such as Farah Khan, Kajol, and Anil Kapoor. The celebration was full of laughter and fun, leaving lasting memories. On the following day, Farah Khan shared a hilarious moment from the party via a video, where she jokingly poked fun at Karan for his choice of attire – a 'baba suit' as opposed to the traditional 'birthday suit.' In this amusing video, Farah and Karan are clearly in high spirits. Farah kicks things off by humorously announcing, "It's Karan Johar's birthday, and I am here. I feel he is in his birthday suit." She then mischievously pulls away a bedsheet covering Karan, who is visibly surprised and exclaims, "I can't believe I am in bed with you at my birthday party." Continuing the light-hearted banter, Farah quips, "I thought it was his birthday suit, but he's actually wearing a 'baba suit'." Karan quickly interjects with his wit, "But I am in bed with you; I'm not sure if that's a problem for you or me." The heartwarming video concludes with Farah and Karan expressing their affection and mutual respect, encapsulating the spirit of their enduring friendship. She wrote the caption, "In bed with the birthday boy!! ðŸ™. @karanjohar... u know there's nowhere else I'd rather be! I love you! #karakh."



Farah Khan and Karan Johar never fail to entertain with their hilarious videos, and their fans love every moment of it. Back in March, Farah treated the internet to yet another delightful clip featuring the duo indulging in a playful roast of each other's outfits. In the video, Farah sports an oversized long dress, while Karan shines in a sequined ensemble. The lighthearted teasing kicks off with Karan poking fun at Farah's dress, cheekily asking if it's a maternity outfit. Farah, not missing a beat, fires back at Karan's flashy attire, dubbing it a "Maganlal dress" and humorously questioning its excessive shimmer. Karan defends his glittering look, proudly asserting that sequins and shine are all the rage, while Farah mockingly suggests he's delusional about his fashionable appearance.

Adding an extra touch of fun to this banter-filled exchange, the video was captured by their close friend and renowned fashion designer, Manish Malhotra. Farah's caption for the video perfectly encapsulated their playful dynamic: "The #Karakh reel the world was waiting for! Not really! Ka & Fa with videographer Manish Malhotra."



### Emraan Hashmi Was NOT The First Choice Opposite Mallika Sherawat In Murder, This Actor Was Offered First



**E**mraan Hashmi and Mallika Sherawat became overnight stars with the 2004 film "Murder." Directed by Anurag Basu and produced by Mukesh Bhatt, the film received mixed reviews but became a superhit. Few know that Rajnesh Duggal was originally chosen for the lead role, not Emraan. The film could have changed Duggal's life, but he had a heartfelt reason for declining. In a recent interview with Siddharth Kannan, the 1920 actor revealed he was offered the role just three days after winning Mr. India in March 2003. Filmmakers Mukesh Bhatt and Mahesh Bhatt, who were his mentors during the pageant, made the offer. He said, "One day Mahesh Bhatt was the guest speaker. He came, scanned everyone, and asked us about ourselves. When everybody was naming themselves and giving a reason why they were sitting there, the reason I gave about my presence was 'I am here to win'. I think that confidence stroked a chord."

Rajnesh shared that the day after winning Mr. India, Mukesh Bhatt asked about a guy from Delhi, with producer Anshuman Swami pointing him out. Three days later, Rajnesh was called to the Bhatt's fice with Swami and composer Abu Malik. He recalled Bhatt saying he was making a movie to re-launch his nephew, Emraan Hashmi, who had debuted in 2003's Footpath. Rajnesh said, "I am taking a new girl called Recma Gill (Mallika Sherawat's real name) who hails from Delhi NCR and he made me listen to Murder's album which was amazing."

Bhatt told Rajnesh there were two roles in the film—one of a husband and one of a boyfriend—and he saw Duggal fitting either role. Bhatt offered him the choice, with the other role going to Emraan. After hearing the bold story, which likely included intimate scenes, Rajnesh admitted he had a girlfriend (now his wife Pallavee) and couldn't kiss on-screen. Rajnesh said Bhatt was surprised but understood and respected his decision to turn down Murder for his girlfriend. Fortunately, Rajnesh made his debut later with the 2008 Vikram Bhatt movie 1920.

### Happy Birthday AbRam Khan: Times He Accompanied Dad Shah Rukh Khan!



**F**irst, let's take a moment to wish AbRam Khan on his birthday. Shah Rukh Khan and Gauri Khan's munchkin is not so little anymore. AbRam turned 11 today. Wishes for AbRam have been pouring in from all quarter. The Khan family welcomed AbRam in 2013. From cheering SRK's Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) in IPL matches to accompanying his parents to the voting booth, AbRam is often clicked by the paps. On the occasion of AbRam's 11th birthday, let's take a look at a few times SRK's mni-me made an appearance with the superstar. AbRam Khan and Shah Rukh Khan shared an adorable moment during a recent KKR vs Delhi Capitals (DC) match in the Eden Gardens. Needless to say, the video of their cute father-son moment went viral. Take a look at it here.

On the occasion of Eid, this year, AbRam Khan kept his father's traditions and accompanied him to greet fans. In a video, shared by a paparazzi account, AbRam and Shah Rukh Khan can be seen twinning in white kurta and pyjamas and can be seen waving at the fans waiting outside Mannat.

Even on the occasion of Shah Rukh Khan's birthday, AbRam accompanies his father to greet his fans at midnight. In one of the videos, shared by news agency ANI, AbRam and SRK can be seen waving at the fans gathered outside Mannat. AbRam Khan accompanied his father Shah Rukh Khan to celebrate KKR's star all-rounder Andre Russell's birthday. In a clip, shared by SRK's fan page, AbRam can be seen putting cake on Russell's face. In addition, Russell can be seen hugging the little one in the end.