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## INDI bloc constituents should have boycotted all-party delegation: Raut

**The Sikh Times**  
**Sanjay Kumar**

Mumbai, May 18: Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut on Sunday said INDI bloc constituents should



have boycotted the Union government's move to send all-party delegations to different countries to put across India's resolve to tackle terrorism against the backdrop of Operation Sindoor. Talking to reporters, Raut claimed the delegation will defend the "sins and crime" committed by the government. "There was no need to send a delegation like this which is funded by the government. What will they do? We have our ambassadors abroad. They

are doing their job. INDI bloc (parties) should have boycotted it. They are getting into the trap laid by the government. You are going to defend the sins and crime committed by the government and not the country," he said. His remarks also indicate the parties in the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) were not on the same page on the issue. Raut also lashed out at the government for nominating Shiv Sena MP Shrikant Shinde to lead the delegation and said his party too should have got the chance to lead one of the delegations due to its numerical strength in Lok Sabha. "Did anyone ask Sena (UBT), TMC, RJD? On what basis are you saying that an all-party delegation is going," Raut questioned. Fifty-one political leaders, parliamentarians and former ministers cutting across party lines will be part of the seven delegations travelling to world capitals to put across India's resolve to tackle terrorism against the backdrop of Operation Sindoor.

## Himanta urges Rahul to drop 'Assam MP' from Congress team

Guwahati, May 18: Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Saturday urged Congress leader Rahul Gandhi to drop the state's MP from the list of four parliamentarians nominated by the grand old party for the delegations to be sent abroad to explain India's stance on terrorism from Pakistan. Without naming Gaurav Gogoi, the Congress deputy leader in the Lok Sabha who is among the four MPs nominated by the party, the CM maintained that he should not be included in the all-party delegations "in the interest of national security". Sarma has been making allegations against Gogoi over his alleged Pakistan links through his British wife Elizabeth Colburn, and has claimed that the Jorhat MP had stayed for 15 days in the neighbouring country without informing authorities. The Congress leader had dismissed the allegations. "One of the MPs named in the list (from Assam) has not denied his prolonged stay in Pakistan—reportedly for two weeks—and credible documents show that his wife was drawing salary from a Pakistan-based NGO while working in India," Sarma alleged on X. He also said,

## Owaisi terms new Waqf law unconstitutional, seeks SC intervention

**The Sikh Times**  
**Navdeep Singh Sahni**

New Delhi, May 18: Describing the new Waqf law as "unconstitutional", AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi has alleged that it is aimed at "destroying" Waqf properties and expressed hope of getting justice from the Supreme Court in the matter. In an interview with PTI Videos on Saturday, he also wondered how a uniform civil code (UCC) can be 'uniform' when there are several separate laws for different issues. The Hyderabad MP challenged the BJP and those hailing the Waqf (Amendment) Act to point out which sections are good in the new law. "Tell me in what way is it a progressive law? Tell me one provision by which Waqf property is saved. Tell me one provision by which there is an increase in Waqf's income and one provision by which encroachers are removed," Owaisi asked. Owaisi,



who was a member of Parliament's Joint Committee on the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, alleged that the new law was made to "destroy" Waqf. "You removed the

good provisions (from the previous law). Tell me which sections (are good in the new law)... neither the government nor those sitting in their support would be able to say," the All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) chief

said. He further said the Dawoodi Bohras had wanted to be kept out of the purview of the Waqf law. Owaisi, who has challenged the Waqf (Amendment) Act in the Supreme Court claiming that it violates the constitutional provisions, said, "We hope to get justice from the Supreme Court because this is an unconstitutional law." His remarks come after the Supreme Court said last week that it would hear on May 20 the point of interim relief in the challenge to the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025. A bench comprising Chief Justice of India B R Gavai and Justice Augustine George Masih would hear arguments for passing interim directions on three issues, including

the power to identify properties declared as Waqf by courts, Waqf by user or Waqf by deed. The second issue raised by the petitioners relates to the composition of state Waqf boards and the Central Waqf Council.

## Akhilesh promises objectionable comments on deputy CM will not happen again

**The Sikh Times**  
**Tejinder Kaur Babbar**

Lucknow, May 18: After an alleged objectionable post targeting Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak was posted on Samajwadi Party's official X handle, party chief Akhilesh Yadav on Sunday said he has taken assurance from his people that this will not happen again, and hoped that Pathak would as well stop making the kind of statements that triggered it. Meanwhile, the deputy chief minister has asked Akhilesh to make his party workers read leaders like Ram Manohar Lohia and Jayaprakash Narayan and make them listen to Janeshwar Mishra's speeches, so that socialism is reflected in their behaviour. In an X post in Hindi late on Saturday night, Akhilesh said, "Taking cognizance of the comment on UP deputy chief minister, we at the party level have asked explanation from those who lost their temper after being hurt by his extremely indecent comment on the 'DNA of socialists'. We

have taken assurance from them that this will not happen again, but we hope that the kind of statements he makes continuously will also stop." Akhilesh said those statements may seem appropriate at Pathak's personal level, but they cannot be justified in any way "on the scale of dignity and decency." "As a health minister, it is expected that you understand that talking dirty about someone's DNA is actually accusing not a person, but his lineage and origin going back to ages. As we are Yaduvanshis related to Lord Krishna, your attack on our DNA hurts us religiously," Akhilesh's post read. "We know that your religious personality is not such that you would make malicious comments against Lord Krishna, but a normal innocent person can take your comment otherwise. Hence, you are requested not to forget your morality while doing politics and hurt sensitive religious sentiments knowingly or unknowingly," Yadav said. "I

hope you apologise to the good person inside you. If you sit alone and objectively observe your behaviour, thoughts and personality of the past years, you will find that



neither were there a deviation in your thoughts before, nor were your political aspirations such that you forget your ideals and lose your verbal balance," the post read. Akhilesh further asked Pathak to "protect and maintain the purity of politics" and turn his "conscience towards the

right direction by maintaining appropriate distance from negative politics." Meanwhile, responding in an X post in Hindi, Pathak said, "Going by the words used by Samajwadi Party's media cell, it does not seem that this is still the party of Ram Manohar Lohia and Janeshwar Mishra. The so-called 'socialists' have forgotten George Saheb's words that camps should be organised and people should be educated." He asked Akhilesh to make the Samajwadi Party members read Ram Manohar Lohia and Jayaprakash Narayan and make them listen to Pandit Janeshwar ji's speeches, "so that socialism is reflected in their behaviour and speech. Pathak's post further said, "They do not know what socialism is. They have turned socialism into a laboratory of abuse, arrogance and low-grade comments. If this is their form while in Opposition, one can easily guess what they would have done while in power.

## Earth observation mission could not be accomplished due to 3rd stage pressure issue: ISRO chief

**The Sikh Times**  
**Naresh Malhotra**

New Delhi, May 18: ISRO's 101st mission from here, an earth observation satellite onboard the agency's trusted PSLV rocket, could not be accomplished on Sunday following a pressure issue in the third stage of the launch vehicle, the space agency said. Although the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) made a textbook lift-off at the prefixed time of 5.59 am, the mission objectives, however, could not be achieved. "Today we targeted the 101st launch from Sriharikota, the PSLV-C61 EOS-09 mission. The PSLV is a four-stage vehicle and up to the second stage, the performance was normal. The third stage motor started perfectly but during the functioning of the third stage we are seeing an observation and the mission could not be accomplished," Narayanan said. "...and the motor pressure—there was a fall in the chamber pressure of the motor case and the mission could not be accomplished. We are studying the entire performance, we shall come back at the earliest," Narayanan said post the unsuccessful

launch. The outcome of Sunday's launch would have come as a surprise to many, since PSLV has emerged to be the most reliable launch vehicle of ISRO. Post lift-off, even till the second



stage separation from the four-stage rocket, it was announced at the Mission Control Centre that they were being tracked by other centres of ISRO located in various parts of the country. According

to the data shared by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), the PS1 (first stage) separation was scheduled for 111.64 seconds after lift-off, but it was achieved at 110 seconds. Further, the second stage ignition of the rocket was targeted to be achieved at 111.84 seconds, but the process occurred at 110.2 seconds leaving a marginal difference. Similarly, the PS2 (second stage) separation was targeted at 264.34 seconds but it took place at 261.8 seconds. Although things were proceeding on expected lines, as understood by the regular announcements by the scientists over the progress of the mission, it was after reaching the third stage that a glitch surfaced. Meanwhile, a retired ISRO official, when asked about the fate of the rocket after facing such an issue, said that it would have fallen into the sea as the issue cropped up at an altitude of about 450 km. EOS-09 is a repeat satellite similar to EOS-04 launched in 2022 that has been designed with the mission objective to ensure remote sensing data for the user community engaged in operational applications and to improve the frequency of observation.

## Cong leader over govt rejecting party names for Op Sindoor delegations

**The Sikh Times**  
**Correspondent**

New Delhi, May 18: Congress leader Sandeep Dikshit on Sunday hit out at the



Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Prime Minister Narendra Modi over Centre not accepting the names given by his party for multi-party delegation, saying that their problem is that they engage in "dividing others" in every sphere. He added that it was the prerogative of the concerned political party to choose its representative for such commit-

tees. "The problem with the BJP and PM Modi is that they try to divide others everywhere. I have been a member of parliament for 10 years, and I can tell you that it is the party that chooses its representatives when such committees are formed," Dikshit said. He suggested that the Centre should have spoken to Congress if it had a preference already. "If you (central government) have a preference on who to send, you should speak about it to the respective party. Otherwise, you say that only you will decide. It is not like this country has only two or three faces," Dikshit added. This comes after the central government tasked Shashi Tharoor to lead one of the seven delegations of a project for India's continued fight against cross-border terrorism. Tharoor stated that he will diligently fulfil his assigned responsibilities, emphasising that while the party leadership is entitled to its opinions, his commitment remains steadfast. Congress leader Jairam Ramesh criticised the government for not accepting all the names nominated by his party, and said that this was "dishonest on the government's part."

## I will leave no stone unturned for Mahendragarh's progress: Chief Minister

**The Sikh Times**  
**Sanjay Arora**

Chandigarh, May 18: Haryana Chief Minister Sh Nayab Singh Saini, while making a series of announcements for the Mahendragarh Assembly constituency, declared that 1,450 tubewell connections will be issued within the next three months to farmers who have already deposited payments. He further urged farmers who applied for connections up to 2023 to deposit the requisite amount at the earliest, so that their connections will also be issued soon. The Chief Minister made these announcements while addressing a public meeting in Mahendragarh today. Sh Nayab Singh Saini announced



the establishment of a new grain market in Mahendragarh Assembly. He also stated that a cow sanctuary will be established in any village where suitable land is available. In addition, upon availability of land in the villages of Usmapur, Barda, Khatod or Jadwa, a veterinary dispensary and hospital will be constructed. For this purpose, he announced Rs 1.51 crore. Moreover, the existing animal dispensary in Degrota village will be upgraded to a veterinary hospital at a cost of Rs 40 lakh. To establish a government VLDL college, he said that feasibility of the same in the region will also be examined. The Chief Minister announced that a new electricity sub-division will be established in Akoda village. Furthermore, the high-tension power lines running over residential areas will be removed, for which Rs 3 crore has been announced. He also announced to set up two 33 KV substations, one in Dalanwas village and another in Mahendragarh city. Power supply will be provided to 56 colonies in the Mahendragarh Assembly segment. In Mahendragarh town, LT cables will replace existing LT lines, and the non-functional 33 KV line between Mahendragarh and Narnaul will be removed. In terms of healthcare infrastructure, the Chief Minister announced the construction of a Primary Health Centre in the Khatod village panchayat area, subject to land availability. For irrigation, he announced Rs 6.60 crore for the reconstruction of four minors



## NEWS BOX

## Ajith Kumar stays with Armed Police as state tweaks transfers

**THIRUVANANTHAPURAM.** The state government has rolled back parts of an earlier transfer order, keeping several senior police officers in their current roles and announcing a few fresh postings. It's learnt that the decision comes after opposition from certain corners.

ADGP M R Ajith Kumar will continue to head the Armed Police Battalions as the government rolled back earlier decision to shift him to the Excise Department. Mahipal Yadav will continue to be Excise Commissioner. Balram Kumar Upadhyaya will remain as Director General of Prisons and Correctional Services, as the proposed move to the Kerala Police Academy has been abandoned. K. Sethu Raman stays on as Inspector General of Police and Director of the police academy.

Among the new postings, P Prakash takes over the State Crime Records Bureau as Inspector General of Police, while A Akbar moves to lead the Coastal Police. The government has also assigned extra responsibilities. S Sreejith will oversee Cyber Operations, H Venkatesh will handle the Crime Branch, and G Sparjan Kumar will supervise all three regional crime divisions in Thiruvananthapuram, Ernakulam and Kozhikode.

## Konkan will merge with Indian Railways, says Union Minister Somanna

**CHITRADURGA.** Union Minister of state for Railways V Somanna on Saturday assured that he would work towards getting the Konkan Railway merged with Indian Railways.

The minister said, "It was me who took-up the issue soon after becoming MOS railways and held a meeting at Mangalore. I have requested the Union Minister of Railways Ashwini Vaishnav to get the Konkan Railways merged with Indian Railways and it is in pipeline."

When asked about the Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnis requesting the Centre to merge the Konkan Railway Corporation with the Indian Railways, including the demands made by Goa and Karnataka state governments, Somanna said both the Maharashtra and Karnataka governments have to issue an NOC after which we can take-up the merger process. The merger will usher in development in the state in general and on the coast in particular. He also said the Konkan Railway Corporation started functioning because of the hard work of former defence minister George Fernandes.

## Fun learning: Over 11 lakh students join Odisha government's summer program on WhatsApp

**BHUBANESWAR.** The state government has started an 'Odisha Summer Learning Programme' this year to ensure students are connected to studies during the ongoing summer vacation, but in a fun and engaging way. At present, over 11 lakh students are actively taking part in the programme. Launched by the School and Mass Education department, the initiative aims to keep students from Classes I to VIII in government schools connected to learning through digital platforms during the summer break. From learning alphabet and solving mathematical problems to exploring subjects through creative activities, the programme covers it all but with a creative touch.

As part of the programme, SME officials said around 1,70,932 WhatsApp groups have been created under the guidance of teachers, enrolling more than 11.08 lakh parents whose children are studying in the primary and upper-primary level. Through these groups, teachers are sharing class-wise educational videos and learning materials at regular intervals, while the students, with support from their parents, are studying from home in a fun and engaging way.

Parents are helping their children learn through these videos and materials. They also take photos of their wards' completed assignments and share them back in the WhatsApp groups allowing teachers to review and monitor their progress," said a senior official from the department. He said even the regular holiday homework given by schools is being completed under the guidance of teachers through this programme.

The initiative ensures that students stay connected to their studies even during the vacation and enjoy learning in creative ways, the department officials said.

"The creative programme has turned out to be an excellent medium to keep children engaged in learning during summer. They are also enjoying songs, stories, and drawing activities and are eagerly writing answers to the questions," said Rashmita Patra, parent of a student from Tulasi Chaurasahi Government Primary School in Balipada.

## Denial of power subsidy to registered farmer societies unlawful, says Karnataka HC

**The HC also directed the HESCOM to review, reconsider, and amend the existing policy governing agricultural power subsidies.**

**BENGALURU.** The Karnataka High Court has directed the State Government and power distribution companies to treat farmer societies at par with individual farmers and not deny them tariff subsidies. The HC declared the September 4, 2008 government order unconstitutional for denying power tariff subsidies to farmers based on collective consumption exceeding the horsepower limit. The HC also directed the HESCOM to review, reconsider, and amend the existing policy governing agricultural power subsidies. The HC directed that the authorities must frame and notify appropriate guidelines within a reasonable period (preferably within six months) to extend power tariff subsidies to registered farmers, which aligns with the principles of equality, promotes cooperative farming, and advances the broader goals of sustainable agricultural development. Justice Sachin Shankar Magadam passed the order while partly allowing the petition filed by Neeru Balakadara Sanghas' from Parthanahalli and



Madabhavi in Athani of Belagavi, who have constructed a lift irrigation project on the Krishna river for the benefit of 200 acres of land and 103 acres of land in both the villages of the taluk. "The denial of power subsidy to registered farmers, solely on the ground that their collective consumption exceeds a prescribed limit, is hereby declared unconstitutional and arbitrary. This practice is discriminatory and fails to align with the core objectives of agricultural subsidies, which are intended to support small and marginal farmers,

promote equitable access to resources, and encourage sustainable farming practices.

The practice of differentiating between individual farmers and societies, based purely on collective consumption, is found to be inconsistent with the constitutional mandate of equality before the law under Article 14 of the Constitution of India. It is based on an irrational classification that arbitrarily penalises farmers for forming societies aimed at improving efficiency," the court said. The court further said that the authorities concerned should review and amend the current policy to extend power subsidies to registered farmer societies, with criteria based on per capita consumption, landholding, or aggregate power consumption per member, rather than penalising the society as a whole for exceeding a prescribed power consumption limit. The authorities should also ensure that the objectives of agricultural subsidies, including supporting marginal farmers, promoting cooperative farming, and ensuring equitable access to resources, are upheld.

## 12 years on university's roll, faculty suspended for 'lack of experience' in Salem's Periyar University

**SALEM.** Nearly 12 years after her appointment, Periyar University has suspended a female associate professor in the Department of Education on Friday, citing a 'lack of experience'. The suspended employee, K Dhanalakshmi, alleged casteist motives for the action. She was appointed as Associate Professor and had joined duty on August 5, 2013. In the suspension order, VC R Jagannathan stated, "The preliminary inquiry made to ascertain the genuineness of the experience certificate for the job of Associate Professor in the service of the Periyar University, revealed that you (K Dhanalakshmi) employed as Associate Professor has submitted the experience certificate which is not adequate for the post applied," he said in the order.

"The lack of experience is also evident from the self-declaration submitted by you (K Dhanalakshmi) at the time of interview on August 1, 2013. It is felt necessary in the larger



public interest and it the interest of the university to place you (K Dhanalakshmi) under suspension from service," the order reads. Dhanalakshmi, who denied the VC's charges, told TNIE that she has all the proper experience certificates for the job of Associate Professor and they were approved by the

former registrar and dean of the university during appointment.

She suspects a move to prevent her from becoming the Head of the Department and attributed a casteist angle as she belongs to a Scheduled Caste. "Even now, the university administration is trying to appoint a junior in my department as the head of the department due to casteist intentions. Even though I have the qualifications, the opportunity to become the HoD has been denied to me. Regarding this, I had appealed to the VC last week. After listening to a few casteist teaching staff, the VC suspended me," she alleged and said that she would face the issue legally. V-C was not available for comment.

## Professor denies charges

Alleging casteist motives behind her suspension, K Dhanalakshmi says she has all the proper experience certificates for the post of associate professor approved by the former registrar and dean of the university during appointment.

## Telugu travel writer Dr Challa Satyavani chronicles a lifetime of journeys and memories

**RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM.** Major Dr Challa Satyavani, a prominent Telugu travelogue writer, believes that documenting memories of a trip is getting increasingly popular. People love to travel and write about their experiences, she says. Dr Satyavani, along with her elder sister Dr Saraswati, has extensively toured India over 20 years and documented their memories in lucid Telugu.

Born in a traditional family in 1942 in the erstwhile Godavari district, Dr Satyavani did her Masin Hindi and political science, and M.Phil and doctorate from Andhra University. She worked as a political science lecturer in Kandukuri Rajyalakshmi Women's College for over 30 years.

Dr Satyavani has penned 40 spiritual books, including "Dwadasa Jyotirlinga Kshetra Darsini," "Godavari Pushkaralu," and "Varanasi." She shared her experiences with TNIE, saying, "I, along with my sister, took a holy dip in all Pushkara rivers in the country. I took a holy dip in the Sindhu river to Brahmaputra with a little pride. I get emotional whenever I see the river." She credited her father, Challa Veeravahanulu, for her adventurous spirit. "My father's impact is enormous on my life. My father was a friend of Muturi Krishnarao and great freedom fighter Bhogaraju Pattabhi Sitaramaiah," she said.

Dr Satyavani faced challenges as a woman traveller, especially in North India. "Being a woman, I face so many challenges in my trips. Compared to North India, South India temple tourism is safe and secure," she said. As an National Cadet Corp (NCC) member, she got the opportunity to meet India's President Zakir Hussain and Dr Neelam Sanjeeva Reddy. She recalled, "Unfortunately, I have no photographs. In those days, taking photographs was a gigantic task." Dr Satyavani's sister, Dr Saraswati, passed away in 2018. She lives alone in a 17-room, 80-year-old building and continues to write. "A travelogue writer's life combines adventure with the craft of storytelling, requiring strong writing and research skills and a passion for exploration," she said.

## Youth collective hosts biryani challenge to fund road project in Malappuram

**Though the Army went on to construct a temporary bridge, that was also washed away in the heavy rain.**

**MALAPPURAM.** A youth collective in the tiny hamlet of Orulummada, near Kalikavu, Malappuram, has come up with a "flavourful" proposal -- a biryani challenge, on May 20 -- to fund the construction of boundary walls for homes along a key artery. Part of Chokkadi panchayat, Orulummada suffers from poor road connectivity. During the 2018 floods, residents lost the lone three-foot-wide bridge which connected them to Kalikavu town.

Though the Army went on to construct a temporary bridge, that was also washed away in the heavy rain. The residents' long wait for a bridge became a reality when the Malappuram district panchayat constructed a six-foot-wide bridge. But with no public stretch available to build the approach road on the Orulummada side, local residents were asked to arrange the land.

"Travelling to Kalikavu town was proving very difficult. We were helpless even when having to deal with emergencies. This formed the basis of our demand for a wider bridge and



approach road. That's why the club decided to take up the matter," Basheer, president of the Kairali Arts and Sports Club, said. A local resident named Kalarikkal Kunhappu donated 32 cents of land. But the approach through the plot would have created another bottleneck, and more land was sought for widening the road. However, most of the families with adjacent plots are small landholders. And they were

initially reluctant to give up their plots. "The club took it upon itself to resolve the issue. We assured families of building boundary walls to protect their homes, and finally, they agreed. Despite the best efforts the road will be limited to a width of five feet for a 1km stretch. We are conducting the biryani challenge to raise money for the boundary walls," Basheer added. Construction work is expected to cost nearly Rs 2 lakh.

## Andhra government to implement free RTC bus travel for women from August 15

**KURNOOL.** The TDP-led NDA government has decided to implement the free travel scheme for women in RTC buses, one of its Super Six promises, from August 15.

Addressing a public meeting in Panyam Assembly constituency of Kurnool district on Saturday, Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu announced that the free RTC bus travel scheme for women will be implemented from August 15, marking the Independence Day. "Ours is a people's government. We are ensuring the welfare of poor and downtrodden, while attracting major investments to the State. We have already brought 76 projects worth Rs 4.96 lakh crore, which will generate employment for 4.51 lakh people," he said. On NDA welfare schemes, Naidu said, "We are providing social security pensions ranging

from Rs 4,000 to Rs 15,000 to the eligible people, something unparalleled in the country. With Anna Canteens, we are feeding the poor. Under Deepam 2.0, we are giving three LPG cylinders free per annum. Teacher posts will be filled through Mega DSC. A sum of Rs 15,000 will be credited into the bank accounts of women with schoolgoing children before the commencement of new academic year under Thalliki Vandanam scheme."

During his visit to C-Camp Rythu Bazaar, Naidu interacted with farmers and sanitation workers. Highlighting the Swachh Andhra and Swarna Andhra initiative on third Saturday of every month, he said, "Cleanliness is essential for everyone. We



must keep our houses and surroundings clean. Clean space fosters clean thoughts. Many people suffer from health issues in the modern world. Everyone must practise yoga daily. On the occasion of International Yoga Day on June 21,

## ED raid continues, Tasmac MD questioned for 10 hours

**CHENNAI.** The Enforcement Directorate's search operation at 10 locations in Chennai in the alleged Rs 1,000 crore Tasmac bribery scam that began on Friday morning continued for the second day on Saturday. Tasmac Managing Director S Visakan was once again taken to the Enforcement Directorate's office in Nungambakkam for questioning, where he was interrogated for at least 10 hours. Sources said that Deva, a prominent hotel owner, was also summoned to the agency's office for questioning. ED is conducting the searches to collect evidence on alleged money laundering in the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) case registered by it.

The agency has booked the case based on 41 FIRs registered by the Directorate of Vigilance and Anti-Corruption (DVAC) regarding corruption in the state-owned liquor marketing company.

## ED yet to issue official note on ongoing raids

The first set of searches was conducted in the first week of March at Tasmac's office in Egmore and at the offices of various distilleries and bottling units that supply liquor to the government firm.

Apart from Visakan's home in Manapakkam, the central agency searched the properties linked to film producer Akash Bhaskaran of Dawn Pictures; AP Keshav Selvi of KS Smart Solutions, a tech firm which had won contracts of various state government departments; Ratheesh Velu, a Chennai resident close to top government officials; an executive of a bottling firm linked to Tasmac, and a few contractors. The searches are being carried out against entities alleged to be 'conduits' for laundering the bribe money, sources said.

The ED had alleged that illegally generated excess cash of Rs 1,000 crore was used for paying kickbacks in Tasmac. No official statement has been issued by the agency regarding the searches yet.

## DVAC raids houses of former minister, MLA

Chennai: DVAC on Saturday searched the properties of former AIADMK minister and party's Arani MLA Sevoor S Ramachandran and former AIADMK MLA Neethipathi.

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## 50kg single-use plastic seized from Noida market

**Noida.** Noida Authority conducted a drive in D-Block market in Sector 56 and seized around 50 kg of single-use plastic. Officials said shopkeepers who are found using single-use plastic again will face penalties. SP Singh, general manager (public health), Noida Authority, said, "We have been taking all possible steps to enforce the ban on single-use plastic and to regulate the use of plastic. We are conducting campaigns in Noida to control single-use plastic," he said. He urged residents to carry cloth bags to the markets.



Over the years, Noida climbed steadily in the Swachh Survekshan rankings - moving from 324th position in 2018 to 150th in 2019 and 25th in 2020 among cities or urban local bodies (ULBs) with a population of 3 lakh to 10 lakh. In 2021, it was ranked fourth; in 2022, it bagged the fifth spot. In 2023, Noida was also adjudged the best self-sustainable medium city (3 lakh to 10 lakh category). In the 2023 survey, Noida was declared the cleanest city in Uttar Pradesh. At the national level, it obtained the 14th rank out of 446 cities or ULBs in the 1-10 lakh population category.

## Gurgaon's pass rate falls, Rewari is best performer among districts

**Gurgaon.** With a pass percentage of 96.9, Rewari emerged as the top performer in the Haryana Board Class X examinations, the results of which were announced on Saturday afternoon. Girls outperformed boys once again. The pass percentage for girls was 94, around 3% higher than that of boys.

At 92.5%, the state's overall performance saw a drop of 2.7% from last year's 95.2%. The city recorded a pass rate of 92.9%, reflecting a drop of 3% from last year's 95.9%. No student from Gurgaon featured on the list of the top 20 released by the board. Nuh, consistent with last year, had the lowest score at 73.9%, a drop from last year's 81.9%.

Rohit from Oxford Public Senior Secondary School in Hisar district topped the examination by scoring 497 marks out of 500, followed by Mahi from New Saraswati Senior Secondary School in Ambala, who also scored 497. Akshit Sehrawat from Ashadeep Adarsh High School in Panipat scored 496.

While Gurgaon's overall pass percentage dipped by 3%, there has been a notable improvement in its state-level ranking. Gurgaon climbed two places to secure the 14th position in the state this year, up from 16th last year. Despite the drop, education officials have considered the results satisfactory, especially highlighting the strong performance of government schools.

According to board data, 14,625 students from government schools in the city registered for the exam, out of which 13,585 passed. Additionally, 854 students are eligible for reappear exams, and 186 failed. In contrast, private schools performed significantly lower, with only 29 of the 84 registered students passing, resulting in a pass percentage of just 34.52%.

"The performance of government schools in Gurgaon has been commendable. The consistent efforts by teachers and district-level educational initiatives are showing positive results. We are optimistic about even better outcomes in the future," Captain Indu Boken, education officer of the district said.

## Household waste pickup erratic in Gurgaon, agency fined Rs 10 crore

**Gurgaon.** MCG has levied a Rs 10 crore fine against a private company responsible for collecting household waste, following numerous complaints from residents about inconsistent service.

The agency's contract will end in June this year. In the meantime, the civic body has also initiated proceedings to engage a new contractor for the city's waste collection services. The contract with the new firm will span seven years and require approval from the Haryana govt.

Akhilesh Yadav, MCG joint commissioner of Swachh Bharat Mission, said legal proceedings through a civil suit are being considered to ensure the recovery of the imposed penalty amount.

On Saturday, MCG Commissioner Pradeep Dahiya reviewed sanitation with officials, emphasizing better cleanliness and waste management of the area. Workers will be assigned specific duties to improve the monitoring and accountability.

Moreover, instructions have been given to publicly provide information about all the routes of the road sweeping machines. This will allow citizens to participate in the monitoring process and promote transparency. During the review meeting, sanitation officials presented a detailed breakdown of available resources to the commissioner, covering manpower, vehicles, and machinery to aid in future planning. They reported that MCG currently has 5,008 sanitation workers—2,934 directly employed by the corporation and 2,074 hired through cleaning agencies. For waste collection and transportation, 238 tractor-trolleys are deployed for general cleaning, while 155 trolleys are dedicated to garbage vulnerable points.

Additionally, six agencies are engaged in sanitation operations across the corporation's jurisdiction. This data will help streamline sanitation efforts and optimize resource allocation. Gurgaon has been going through a prolonged garbage-management crisis. In the middle of last year, the state govt had announced a solid waste exigency as waste collection from homes became erratic and garbage continued to pile up along roads.

# Dust storm takes Gurgaon by surprise, but drizzle comes to the rescue...

**Gurgaon.** A sudden spell of dust-laden winds swept through the city on Saturday afternoon, catching residents and commuters by surprise. The day began with clear skies and rising temperatures. However, visibility dipped as strong winds gusting over 40 kmph from variable directions prevailed around 3pm. Light rainfall was also witnessed in isolated areas, providing brief respite from the heat. The city recorded 0.5 mm of rainfall till 5.30 pm. This led to a marginal dip in temperatures. The maximum temperature settled at 40.6 degrees Celsius, slightly down from 41.3 degrees a day earlier, the season's highest so far. The minimum

middle tropospheric westerlies, along with cyclonic circulations over Punjab and Uttar Pradesh. These systems are likely to bring dust storms, thunderstorms, and gusty winds across the region. As a result, daytime temperatures may see a slight drop. However, the increase in humidity levels after the storms could lead to discomfort despite the temporary cooling effect. For Sunday, IMD suggests a partly cloudy sky with surface winds blowing at speeds of 15-25 kmph, occasionally gusting to 35 kmph. The minimum and maximum temperatures are



infrastructure damage. The Met department expects more such extreme impact infrastructure weather episodes in Delhi until May 22. Delhi Traffic Police control room

## No registry for 6 years, homebuyers of Noida condo move HC

**Noida.** Homebuyers of Mahagun Mirabella, a Sector 79 condominium, have approached the Allahabad High Court for registration of their flats, pending for nearly six years. The housing society, a part of the Sports City project in Sectors 78 and 79, was launched in 2011 with promises of premium sports facilities. Over 500 families that have moved into the society paid anywhere between Rs 60 lakh and Rs 1.25 crore for their flats, but say they can't call it home yet without the papers.

### NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as AVANTIKA KUMARI, D/O KRISHAN, DEV PRASAD W/O RAJESH KUMAR R/O K-49 40 Fula Road, Budh Vihar, Near Axis Bank ATM, Behrampur, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh - 201009 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as ANUSHKA KUMARI.

### NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as Vinita Devi alias Brijesh Kumari D/O Bala Ram W/O Jagannath R/O G-82, SAURABH VIHAR, HARI NAGAR, BADARPUR, Jaipur, South Delhi, Delhi-110044, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as BRIJESH KUMARI.

### NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as RENU DEVI alias RENU BANSAL W/O MANISH BANSAL R/O A-2/11, First Floor, Satyawati Colony, Phase-3, Ashok Vihar, North West Delhi, Delhi-110032, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as RENU BANSAL.

### NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as SANTOSH KUMAR KHETAN alias SANTOSH KUMAR alias SANTOSH KHETAN S/O RAM NIVAS R/O 16 Block, PU Pitam Pura Delhi-110034, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SANTOSH KHETAN.

### NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as ASMIKA W/O CHIRAG JINDAL R/O AG-507 Upper Ground Floor, Shalimar Bagh North West Delhi, Delhi-110088, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as ASMIKA JINDAL.

### NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as Sanjay Kumar Sharma S/O Chandra Bhan Sharma R/O Jewar, G B Nagar, Malpada, Jewar, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh-201335 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Sunil Kumar Sharma.

### NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as Margrat Mary W/O Anthony Dass R/O 85 Sangli Mess Mahatma Jyotirao phule Marg, Bhagwan Dass Road, New Delhi G.P.O., New Delhi, Delhi-110011 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Meenu. I have changed only my name not my religion.

### NAME CHANGE

I, Gagan Sharma S/O Bhupender Sharma R/O Upper Ground Floor, Plot No-10, Kh No-831, Shyam Vihar Ph-2, Deepnagar, Najafgarh, South West Delhi, Delhi-110043 have changed the name of my minor son Aayan aged 6 years and he shall hereafter be known as Parth Sharma.

### NAME CHANGE

I, Dineshwar Bhatti S/O Tilok Chand R/O 7 Summat Bazar Jangpura, Bhogal, Jangpura, South Delhi, Delhi-110014 have changed the name of my minor son Kartik aged 13 years and he shall hereafter be known as Kartik Dineshwar.

### NAME CHANGE

It is for general information that I, Suraj S/o Jit Singh R/O C-55, J C Colony, Madipur, Madipur, West Delhi, Delhi-110063 declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as Suraj Prakash in my minor son Lakshya S/o aged 14 years in his School Records. The actual name of mine is Suraj.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I, Indra Devi, D/O Suresh Singh W/O: Charan Singh, R/O W-11, Bhopura, Main Road Wazirabad, PO: Sahibabad, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh - 201005, declare that name of mine and my husband has been wrongly written as Indar wad and Prem Singh in my Aadhar card no 3437 9918 4615. The actual name of mine and my husband are INDRA DEVI and Charan Singh, which may be amended accordingly.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I, KAUSTUBH KUMAR S/O VIJAY MAHARAJ R/O 71, Chetan Vihar, Near Rail Factory Road, NAJAFGARH, SOUTH WEST DELHI - 110043, declare that name of my father has been wrongly written as VIJAY in my 10th class educational certificate. The actual name of my father is VIJAY MAHARAJ.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I, Sachin Dev Kadyan S/O Harpal Singh Kadyan R/O 3/23, Kamrudin Nagar, Nanglohi, Niothi, West Delhi, Delhi - 110041, declare that name of mine and my wife has been wrongly written as Sachin and Banita in my minor daughter aged 16 years in her 10th class educational documents. The actual name of mine and my wife are Sachin Dev Kadyan and Banita Devi

### NAME CHANGE

It is for general information that I, MANOJ KUMAR S/O PUJARI LAL, R/O RZ - 88, Sukhram Park, Near Matiala Road, Uttam Nagar, West Delhi, Delhi - 110059 declare that name of mine and my wife has been wrongly written as MANOJ and POONAM in my minor son namely SAMBHAV RAOI, aged 16 year in his School Record. The actual name of mine and my wife are MANOJ KUMAR and POONAM SAINI respectively, which may be amended accordingly.

### NAME CHANGE

I, PALLAVI D/O JOGESH KUMAR W/O ASHISH SHARMA Residing at 3/160, Trilok Puri, Near Subhash Market, Mayur Vihar Phase I, East Delhi, Delhi - 110091 have changed the name of my minor Daughter AARISHA alias AARSHARMA aged 9 years and she shall hereafter be known as AARIRA.

### NAME CHANGE

I, SUNIL S/O RAKESH KUMAR resident of H NO-C-314, DDA FLATS, BLOCK-C-3, SECTOR-4, ROHINI, DELHI-110085 have changed my name to SUNIL KUMAR for all future purpose.

### NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as Nirmla alias Nirmla Rani D/O Ram Maher W/O Satish Rana R/O HOUSE NO-138, POCKET-8, SECTOR-24, ROHINI, PO: Rohini Sector-7, DIST: North West Delhi, Delhi-110085, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as NIRMLA.

### NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as Rakesh Kumar Gaur S/O Ram Pal Singh, R/O G-36, 2nd Floor, Dilshad Colony, Jhilmil, East Delhi, Delhi - 110095, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as RAKESH GAUR.

### NAME CHANGE

I, JAKJEET SINGH S/O KERIT SINGH R/O-40-A/6 2ND FLOOR ASHOK NAGAR TILAK NAGAR DELHI-110018 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO JAGJEET SINGH.

### NAME CHANGE

I, DARSHIN KOR W/O-JAGJEET SINGH R/O-40-A/6 2ND FLOOR ASHOK NAGAR TILAK NAGAR DELHI-110018 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO DARSHAN KAUR.

### NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as JAHAIKA KHATOON W/O MOHD ANSAR R/O H. NO-202, LAXMAN PURI NABI KARIM PAHAR GANJ, SWAMI RAM TIRTH NAGAR, NEW DELHI, DELHI-110055, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as YASMEEN PARVEEN.

### NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as ABDULLAH HAMMAD alias ABDULLAH HAMMAD S/O GULZAR AHMAD LODHI R/O A-35, S/F 2ND FLOOR, GHAFOOR NAGAR, JAMIA NAGAR, OKHLA, NEW DELHI-110025 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as ABDULLAH HAMMAD.

### NAME CHANGE

It is for general information that I, DEVESH KUMAR S/O RAM SAHAY MAURYA R/O 293, POCKET-3, TYPE-2, CENTRAL ROAD, PLEX CENTRAL DELHI, DELHI-110003 declare that name of mine and my father has been wrongly written as DEVESH and R S MAURYA in my Driving Licence-DL03 2010254421. I have changed my name and my father is DEVESH KUMAR and RAM SAHAY MAURYA, which may be amended accordingly.

### NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as SALMA BEGAM alias MAANYA MALIK D/O ASHIF ALI R/O 1594 3rd FLOOR, HATHI KHANA, AZAD MARKET, DELHI SADAR BAZAR, DELHI G.P.O., NORTH DELHI, DELHI-110008 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as MAANYA MALIK. I have changed my name not my religion.

### NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as NIDHI alias NIDHI KHOWAL D/O ASHOK KUMAR W/O PRAVEEN KHOWAL R/O D-564/1, GALI NO-22, NEAR RADHA KRISHNA MANDIR, SADH NAGAR-II PALAM COLONY, PALAM VILLAGE, SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110045, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as NIDHI KHOWAL.

### NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as Vinita Devi alias Brijesh Kumari D/O Bala Ram W/O Jagannath R/O G-82, SAURABH VIHAR, HARI NAGAR, BADARPUR, Jaipur, South Delhi, Delhi-110044, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as BRIJESH KUMARI.

### NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as JAHAIKA KHATOON W/O MOHD ANSAR R/O H. NO-202, LAXMAN PURI NABI KARIM PAHAR GANJ, SWAMI RAM TIRTH NAGAR, NEW DELHI, CENTRAL DELHI, DELHI-110055, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as YASMEEN PARVEEN.

### NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as D KARTIK RAO S/O DIMLU NARAYAN RAO, Residing at Flat No. , 1, 4th Floor, B-101, Panchsheel Vihar Khirki Malviya Nagar, South Delhi, Delhi - 110017 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as DIMLU KARTIK RAO.

### NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as PARKASH NARAIN GUPTA alias SHIV NARAIN GUPTA S/O B. L. GUPTA residing at D-4/7, Model Town-3, North West Delhi, Delhi - 110009 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SHIV NARAIN GUPTA.

### NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as PRATHAM S/O NAVEEN KUMAR R/O EXT-2 58 C, Mohan Garden, Uttam Nagar, West Delhi, Delhi-110059, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as PRATHAM KUMAR.

### NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as Sakesh, S/O Jameel, R/O Ward No-15, Mustafa Masjid, 4 DIST: Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh - 201001, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SAKIB.

### NAME CHANGE

I, Dinesh Singh Rathaur S/O Chhotay Singh R/O H NO-74, Second Floor, Under Enclave, Paschim Vihar-110087 have changed my name to Dinesh Kumar Singh for all future purposes.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Anil Son of Sh. Ramesh R/O House No.19, Ashoka Bindusar Camp, Near Ram Mandir, East of Kailash, Srinivaspuri, South Delhi, New Delhi-110065, has disowned his son namely RITIK and his wife Sweety, Both R/O House No. 19 Ashoka Bindusar Camp, Near Ram Mandir, East of Kailash, Srinivaspuri, New Delhi-110065, from all his Properties (Moveable & Immoveable) from today onwards and severed relation with them. Henceforth my client is not liable for any acts and deeds of his son RITIK and his daughter in law Sweety.

**NABIN KUMAR SETHI** CHAMBER NO.357, 3RD FLOOR, LAWYERS BLOCK, SAKET DISTT. COURTS COMPLEX, SAKET, NEW DELHI-11

### NAME CHANGE

I, Aniket Kumar Gautam alias Aniket Rajput S/O Umesh Prasad Singh R/O Flat No. - 204, first floor, Tara Nagar Duggal, Farm, Shree Ganesh Apartment, Kakrola, PO: N.S.I.T. Dwarka, Dist: South West Delhi, Delhi -110078, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Aniket Rajput

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given on behalf of Mr. Devendra Singh to inform to the public at large that he is purchasing the Residential Vacant Plot of land area measuring 50 Sq. Yds., i.e., 41.80 Sq. Mtrs. out of Kharsa No.98 Min., situated at Sarawati Vihar Colony, Village Roopwas, Pargana & Tehsil Dadri, District Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P. from Mr. Pramod Kumar who became owner vide Sale Deed Dated 28.07.2022 (Doc. No.26602) and same to be finance & mortgage by Hinduja Housing Finance Ltd., Branch-Loni, U.P. That, Original Sale Deed Dated 10.09.2018 executed by Mr. Surendra Singh in favour of Mr. Vijay Pal in respect of said property, Doc. No.17528, Book No.1, Volume No.12374, Pages No.69-88, Dated 10.09.2018, SRO-Dadri has lost/misplaced and FIR for the same also lodged. So, to comply the requirements of BANK/NFC, we give this public notice that if any Person having any type of claim/right/title/interest/creating mortgage over the said property, may inform in writing, at the address mentioned below, about his objections, within a week from today, failing which it shall be presumed that said property is free from all type of Encumbrances, lien etc.

**Advocate Abhishek Singh** A-2/367, Nand Nagri, Near GTB Enclave, SDM Court Nand Nagri, Delhi-110093 Mobile: 7760607068 Email: advabhishtsingh1993@gmail.com

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General Public on behalf of our client (SMFG India Credit Co. Ltd.) that one Mrs. Neetu Kumar is claiming to be the owner of Residential Plot bearing No. 39, area measuring 256 sq. yds., out of Kharsa No. 44/6 (8-0), situated at waka mauja Gauchhi (Sanjay Colony), Sub-Tehsil Gauchhi, District Faridabad, Haryana vide Sale Deed dated 02.09.2022, duly registered as SRO Gauchhi, Faridabad, Document No. 1191, Book No. 1, Volume No. 134, on Pages 75/94-96, on 02.09.2022 executed by Mrs. Laxmi as attorney of Mrs. Krishna Devi. All persons are hereby informed that above owner (through NP Enterprises) wants to mortgage the said property and intends to obtain a loan from our client (SMFG India Credit Co. Ltd.) against the said property, if anybody has any objection/s upon the ownership of above owner over the said property, its mortgage/eligibility, and any other objections, kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present.

**For Kumar & Associates** (Advocates & Consultants) 200, Second Floor, 23, Shivaji Marg, Moti Nagar, New Delhi - 110015 legal@knalegal.com Ph: 011-41112527-28

### NAME CHANGE

It is for general information that I, BASANTI DEVI W/O Late BAJU NATH, R/O D-7/222, Block - D, Rohini, Sector-6, Rohini, PO: Rohini Sector 7, DIST: North West Delhi, Delhi - 110085, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as BASMATI DEVI in my Husband's PPO No. 27836. The actual name of mine is BASANTI DEVI, which may be amended accordingly.

### NAME CHANGE

I, Dharmesh Kumar S/O: Shri Shivpatti, S/O A/9, First Floor Krishna Enclave, Model Town, Ghaziabad, PO: Ghaziabad City, DIST: Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh - 201009 have changed the name of my minor son namely Kartik 13 years and he shall hereafter be known as KARTIK SHUKLA.

### NAME CHANGE

I, DILE RAM Father of No. 15158577M Rank-HAV(GNR) Name-SANJU RAM Residing at VILL-PANYALI, PO-KALKHARI, TEHSIL-SADAR, DISTT-MANDI, HIMACHAL PRADESH-175023, have changed my name from DILE RAM to DILA RAM for all future purposes and in my sons service record my date of birth wrongly mentioned as 01/07/1957 instead of my correct date of birth as 17/06/1961 vide Affidavit dated 17/05/2025 before Notary Public, Delhi.

### NAME CHANGE

I, BHARGAVI Mother of No.15321304W Rank-HAV Name-SREEJITH T residing at NEROTH, VILL-ONCHIAM, PO-KANNOOKKARA, TEHSIL-VADAKARA, DIST-KOZHIKODE, KERALA-673102, have changed my name from BHARGAVI T for all future purposes and in my son's service record my date of birth wrongly mentioned as 01/07/1958 instead of my correct date of birth as 15/01/1958 vide Affidavit dated 17/05/2025 before Notary Public, Delhi.

### NAME CHANGE

I, SREEKUMAR Father of No.15321304W Rank-HAV Name-SREEJITH T residing at NEROTH, VILL-ONCHIAM, PO-KANNOOKKARA, TEHSIL-VADAKARA, DIST-KOZHIKODE, KERALA-673102, have changed my name from SREEKUMAR K for all future purposes and in my son's service record my date of birth wrongly mentioned as 01/07/1954 instead of my correct date of birth as 27/11/1954 vide Affidavit dated 17/05/2025 before Notary Public, Delhi.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

I, VENKATESWARARAO SIDDEPARAPU S/O BHASKARARAO SIDDEPARAPU R/O QTR No. 79, Type 2, SF, Sec-8, RK Puram, New Delhi-22, name of mine, my wife and my minor Son have been wrongly written as SIDDEPARAPU VENKATESWARARAO, SIDDEPARAPU VENKATAPU, VENKATA SANDHYA, SIDDEPARAPU and SUSHANT HARSHIK SIDDEPARAPU

### PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for the information of the general public at large that my clients Smt. K. Sundarama W/O Late Sh. Kumbaya Son, A-45C, and (Floor left Side), Panchsheel Vihar, Mahila Nagar, Delhi-110017, have severed her relations and have disowned & debarred her son, Namely Jamine Ganesh S/O Late Sh. Kumbaya and her daughter in law, namely Simpi Dhamal W/O Sh. Jaganlal, both from all her movable & immovable properties and assets and of their absolute irresponsible misbehavior, disobedience and hostile attitude, cruel acts and activities towards harmony and dignity of my client. My client shall not be held responsible for the interests of our client. Legal acts and activities of their son/Jamine Ganesh and daughter in law/ Simpi Dhamal in past, present and future or deeds from the date of publication of this Bonafide notice. Anybody dealing with them shall do so at his/her own risks and consequences.

**Sh. Rahul Senapathi Advocate** Ch.772, Lawyer's Block, Saket Court Complex, New Delhi-17

### PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that **Mrs. Kannu Priya** is the owner of Plot no. 19-A, area measuring 41, 806 Sq. Mtrs., i.e. 50 Sq. Yds out of Kharsa no. 206, situated in the Revenue Estate of Village New Roshan Pura, Delhi State, Abadi Known as 'New Roshan Pura', Najafgarh, New Delhi - 45 through Sale Deed dated 07.05.2025 as doc. No. 2025/17/1773 executed by Mrs. Jyoti Verma in favour of Mrs. Kannu Priya in respect of said Plot. Mrs. Kannu Priya is in the process of mortgaging the said Plot with **SMFG India Home Finance Co. Ltd.** Any objections or concerns regarding this transaction should be raised within a period of 07 days from the date of this public notice. Any objections submitted after the completion of this 07-day period will not be considered binding with respect to the said property or the interests of our client. If anyone wishes to raise an objection, please do so within the stipulated 07-days period by contacting

**Law Veritas: North (Advocates & Legal Consultants) at Office No. 11, 1st Floor, Building No. A-44/A, Sector-16, Noida, Uttar Pradesh-201301;** Landline(s): +910120-3101683, E-mail: accounts@lvnorth.in

### NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as PREETI GARG alias PREETI GUPTA D/O DAVINDER KUMAR GARG W/O VIVEK GUPTA, R/O K-5/8, Model Town 3, Model Town III, PO: GT B Nagar, DIST: North West Delhi, Delhi - 110009 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as PREETI GUPTA.

### NAME CHANGE

I, Puttu Lal Gautam S/O Ramsanehi R/O Ayana, Dist. Auraiya Uttar Pradesh-206122 have change my name to Puttu Lal.

### NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as Siddharth S/O Jai Singh R/O D-398, Street No-9, Bhajan Pura, Yamuna Vihar, P.O. Seelampur, District-Shahdara, Delhi-110053 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Siddharth Singh.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

I, hitherto known as Dhawan Agarwal D/O: Narendara Kumar Agarwal, W/O Monu, Permanent Address-209.210, shanti kunj, alwar, Rajasthan 301001 Present address WZ-167, Gali no 3, Tihar Village, Tiliak Nagar, West Delhi Delhi-110018 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Akansha.

### NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as KUSUM DEVI W/O Shri Ram residing at House No. F-114, Street No.-5, West Karawal Nagar, Karawal Nagar, District North East Delhi-110094 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as KUSHMA DEVI.



## NEWS BOX

## Estonian businessmen among 5 dead as two helicopters collide midair in Finland

**world.** Two helicopters collided in mid-air over the western Eura province of Finland on Saturday, killing all five on board, Finnish news outlet Helsinki Times reported. The helicopters crashed to the ground after the collision. Finnish police said that five people were on board the two helicopters, and there were "several fatalities." The authorities are yet to determine the victims and the complete details of the event.

Estonian tycoons Oleg Snajalg, a wind energy pioneer, and Priit Jaagant, construction firm chairman, died in the accident. The accident occurred close to Eura airport, within the area that British helicopter squadrons had been deployed recently for military manoeuvres in late April. Finnish General Staff verified that no Finnish Air Force or foreign military aircraft were involved. The helicopters were civilian and were said to be carrying businessmen who flew from Estonia.

## HELICOPTERS' FLIGHT PATH AND WITNESS ACCOUNTS

Local media reported that one helicopter had three passengers, and the other had two. Both the helicopters departed from Tallinn, the capital of Estonia, and were on their way to Piikajärvi Airport in Kokemäki, some 15 kilometers from Eura airport.

## As India expels illegal Bangladeshi immigrants, Dhaka claims 'push-ins' at border

**Dhaka.** Bangladesh Home Affairs Adviser Lieutenant General (Retd) Md Jahangir Alam Chowdhury on Saturday said that Indian nationals found staying illegally in the country will be repatriated through proper diplomatic channels. The adviser made these remarks after inaugurating the third floating Border Outpost in Sathkira, news agency Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) reported. Bangladesh does not engage in "push-ins like India but believes in resolving issues through diplomacy", Chowdhury said, according to The Dhaka Tribune newspaper.

Bangladesh has always abided by international laws and protocols," he said. "The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has already written to India regarding the matter. Foreign Affairs Adviser Touhid Hossain and National Security Adviser and Chief Adviser's High Representative on Rohingya Affairs Khalilur Rahman are maintaining diplomatic communication on the issue," he added.

He said that India has been informed that if any Bangladeshi citizen is residing in India illegally, they should be returned through proper channels.

Similarly, if any Indian nationals are found to be staying in Bangladesh without authorisation, they will be repatriated following legal procedures, he said. He added: "We have requested the Indian side not to conduct push-ins but to follow formal repatriation procedures." The adviser claimed that on Friday, an attempt was made by India "to push in individuals along the Brahmanbaria border, which was foiled with the help of the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB), Ansar members, and local residents". "If the local community remains united and vigilant, such push-ins can be resisted," the adviser said.

## Handshake power play? Turkey's Erdogan grabs Macron's finger mid-talk



**world.** Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan not letting go of his French counterpart Emmanuel Macron's fingers during the European Political Community (EPC) summit in Albania has left social media commentators amused. Many wondered whether the finger-grabbing gesture was Erdogan's subtle display of power play, even catching Macron off guard. In the video, which has now gone viral, Erdogan is seen grabbing Macron's hand and patting it. Things take a curious turn when an unsuspecting Macron extends his other hand to Erdogan. As Macron tries to free his hand, Erdogan -- while exchanging a few words -- holds on to the French President's index finger.

The next 13 seconds appear uncomfortable for Macron as he stands there talking and trying to free his hand, with Erdogan silently holding his finger while seated, before eventually letting it go.

Since the video has gone viral, many have started speculating about Erdogan's body language during the brief interaction captured in the footage.

According to a Turkish media outlet, Erdogan reacted in that manner as "Macron tried to establish psychological superiority by putting his hand" on the Turkish President's shoulder. "But Erdogan did not allow it, he held his finger tightly and did not let go," the Turkish media outlet added. The EPC summit saw the representation of leaders from 47 countries on Friday. The summit aimed to boost regional security ties and strengthen political stability across Europe. However, it will be remembered for several unique moments. In another standout instance, Albania's Prime Minister, Edi Rama, bent on one knee and greeted Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni with a 'namaste' -- winning the hearts of many online with his respectful gesture.

## Donald Trump tells Walmart to 'eat the tariffs,' not raise prices

**President Trump told Walmart to "eat the tariffs" instead of raising prices. He criticised the retailer for blaming import taxes and said it should use its profits to avoid passing costs to shoppers. Walmart says it's trying to keep prices low.**

**world.** US President Donald Trump blasted Walmart and saying "eat the tariffs" instead of passing the cost on to American consumers. Trump took to social media on Saturday, accusing Walmart of blaming his administration's import

duties for price hikes. He asked the company to absorb costs itself. "Walmart should STOP trying to blame Tariffs as the reason for raising prices throughout the chain," Trump wrote on Truth Social. "Walmart made BILLIONS OF DOLLARS last year, far more than expected. Between Walmart and China they should, as is said, 'EAT THE TARIFFS,' and not charge valued customers ANYTHING. I'll be watching, and so will your customers!!!" Trump spoke after Walmart announced on Thursday that prices on many items like groceries and children's car seats might increase soon.

Walmart's warning came in defiance of the government's move to lower tariffs temporarily for Chinese imports. Walmart CEO Doug McMillon said during the company's earnings call, "We can control what we can control. Even at the reduced



levels, the higher tariffs will result in higher prices."

The company expects these price increases to take effect later this month.

**WALMART SAYS IT'S DOING ITS BEST TO KEEP PRICES LOW**

A Walmart spokesperson responded to Trump's criticism, telling CBS News that the company is committed to keeping costs down for shoppers. "We'll keep prices as low as we can for as long as we can given the reality of small retail margins," the spokesperson said. "We won't stop."

## Who are Oleg Sõnajalg and Priit Jaagant, business tycoons died in helicopter crash?

**world.** A midair collision between two helicopters near Eura airfield in Finland has resulted in the deaths of five individuals, including two of Estonia's prominent business figures -- Oleg Snajalg, 58, a wind energy pioneer, and Priit Jaagant, 52, an Estonian business executive. The aircraft, both lightweight four-seater helicopters, were en route from Tallinn to a private aviation gathering in Finland when the fatal collision occurred. Estonian businessman Vaino Kaldoja, founder of Silberauto, confirmed the involvement of the two men to the local media. "Priit Jaagant had his own helicopter and Oleg Snajalg had his. They collided with each other," Kaldoja said.

According to authorities, five people were aboard the two aircraft—three in one and two in the other. Estonian public broadcaster ERR, citing initial information from the country's foreign ministry, reported that no one survived the crash.

**OLEG SNAJALG: WIND ENERGY PIONEER AND ENTREPRENEUR**  
Oleg Snajalg, along with his brother Andres, played a key role in propelling



Estonia towards renewable energy. Their company, Eleon, was behind the development of the Aidu wind farm, which marked a big step for the nation's wind power sector.

Oleg Snajalg was often seen in the Estonian media, not just for his business ventures but also for speaking openly about personal matters. He used to piloting the aircraft often. He was operating a Robinson R44 registered as ES-ETR at the time of the crash.

**PRIIT JAAGANT: CHAIRMAN OF MAPRIEHITUS**

Priit Jaagant was the head of Mapri Ehitus, the largest construction group in Estonia. His firm also confirmed his and his wife, Lilit Jaagant, who was also on board.

"We regret to inform you that today, at noon on May 17, two Estonian helicopters crashed in Finland, killing Priit Jaagant, the chairman of the board of one of Estonia's largest construction company groups, Mapri, and his wife Lilit Jaagant. According to unconfirmed reports, there are no survivors," the company announced.

The second helicopter involved in the crash was an Austrian-registered Robinson helicopter with the registration OE-XOS. Jaagant, who had no official aviation background, was said to be flying his aircraft.

Emergency crews responded quickly. One of the helicopters was said to have burst into flames upon impact, aiding rescuers in finding the location. The area was secured by the Finnish Defence Forces, and a full investigation is currently being led by the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) into why the helicopter crashed. Organisers of the Piikajärvi Airfield, the site of the crash, said that the two helicopters belonged to a fleet of about 20 aircraft and 50 participants flying from Estonia for a weekend aviation festival.

## Lufthansa flight flew unattended for 10 minutes after co-pilot fainted: Report

**world.** A Lufthansa flight from Frankfurt, Germany, to Seville, Spain, was left without a pilot in control for nearly 10 minutes after the co-pilot fainted while alone in the cockpit. According to a report by the Spanish air accident investigation authority CIAIAC, the co-pilot of the Airbus A321 lost consciousness on February 17, 2024, when the captain stepped away to use the restroom. The aircraft, which was carrying 199 passengers and six crew members, flew for around 10 minutes without a pilot in command of the plane, according to the report.

Lufthansa told dpa that it was aware of the investigation report and that its own flight safety department had also



conducted an investigation. The company didn't disclose its results, dpa said.

**HOW DID UNCONSCIOUS CO-PILOT APPARENTLY OPERATE**

Although the unconscious co-pilot apparently operated controls unintentionally, the aircraft was able to continue flying in a stable manner

thanks to the active autopilot. During this time period, the voice recorder recorded strange noises in the cockpit that were consistent with an acute health emergency, dpa reported.

The captain initially tried entering the regular door opening code, which triggers a buzzer in the cockpit so that the co-pilot can open the door. He did so five times without being able to enter the cockpit. A stewardess tried to contact the co-pilot using the onboard telephone. Finally, the captain typed in an emergency code that would have allowed him to open the door on his own. However, shortly before the door opened automatically, the co-pilot opened it from the inside despite being ill, dpa reported.

## Bomb blast near California clinic kills one; FBI calls it act of terrorism

**A bomb exploded near a fertility clinic in Palm Springs, killing one and injuring at least five. The FBI has called it an intentional act of terrorism. The FBI and ATF are investigating the cause.**

**world.** An explosion near a health clinic in Palm Springs, California, resulted in the death of one person and left at least five others injured on Saturday. The FBI called the incident an "intentional act of terrorism". The assistant director of the FBI's Los Angeles field office, Akil Davis, said that authorities have a person of

interest in the investigation.

The person killed was found close to a vehicle that had been completely destroyed outside the clinic run by American Reproductive Centers, Davis stated. The blast occurred around 11 AM local time near the intersection of North Indian Canyon Drive and East Tachevah Drive. "Make no mistake, this is an intentional act of terrorism," Davis said, adding the FBI would determine if it was an act of "international terrorism or a domestic terrorism." The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) and the FBI have assisted in investigating the incident and were sent to the scene to help local law enforcement agencies.

The aftermath video shows thick black smoke rising from the clinic as firefighters work to put out the fire.

**CLINIC SUSTAINS DAMAGE**

Dr. Maher Abdallah, who runs the American Reproductive Centres fertility clinic,



confirmed that his clinic was damaged. He told The Associated Press in a phone interview that all of his staff were safe and accounted for. The explosion damaged the practice's office space, where it conducts consultations with patients, but left the IVF lab and all of the stored embryos there unharmed. "I really have no clue what happened," Abdallah said. "Thank God today happened to be a day that we have no patients."

Walmart's Chief Financial Officer, John David Rainey, described how despite price control efforts, certain products are becoming more costly to manufacture. He indicated that a \$350 car seat produced in China could soon be an additional \$100 higher because of tariffs. "We're wired to keep prices low, but there's a limit to what we can bear, or any retailer for that matter," Rainey told The Associated Press. Walmart is not alone in dealing with tariff headwinds. Other large companies, like Amazon and Apple, have also been hit by supply chain issues and rising costs. Numerous companies have lowered their annual estimates due to consumers reducing spending in reaction to higher prices. Trump had promised that tariffs would mostly be paid by foreign countries, not US businesses or consumers.

## Russian spies targeted Elon Musk using sex, drugs: Ex-FBI agent drops bombshell



**world.** A former FBI agent has claimed that Russian intelligence targeted billionaire and Donald Trump's close aide Elon Musk for blackmail, using his interests in sex and drugs to possibly influence him. The former Counterintelligence agent, Jonathan Buma, made the claim during a documentary aired by German broadcaster ZDF.

Buma said that Musk and PayPal co-founder Peter Thiel were under scrutiny by Russian spies after the war in Ukraine began. He added that secret information was collected to potentially use against them, if needed. "Musk's susceptibility to promiscuous women and drug use, particularly ketamine were seen by Russian intelligence as an opportunity for an agent to exploit," Buma stated in the documentary. He also noted that Musk's love for events like Burning Man, adult entertainment, and gambling made him even more vulnerable to such spy attempts.

Buma spent 16 years in the FBI before he was arrested in March for leaking confidential information to a publishing house. He was indicted on one count of "Disclosure of Confidential Information" and freed on \$100,000 bail.

**DID PUTIN KNOW ABOUT THE OPERATION?**

According to Buma, Russian President Vladimir Putin was aware of the plans. "The agents would not have gotten involved in the blackmail plot had the Russian president not known about the action and approved it," he said. However, Buma did not share the source of his information.

"Musk's susceptibility to promiscuous women and drug use, particularly ketamine were seen by Russian intelligence as an opportunity for an agent to exploit," said ex-FBI agent Jonathan Buma. The Wall Street Journal had earlier reported that Musk and Putin have been in contact since 2022, the year Russia invaded Ukraine. This link raised questions regarding the control Russia would seek to have over influential American businessman.

**MUSK'S TIES WITH UKRAINE**

Musk's stature dipped in the US, and his businesses, including Tesla, have struggled financially. He announced he would take a step back from his position as chair of DOGE (Department of Government Efficiency) to concentrate more on Tesla.

Aerial footage showed a burned-out car in a parking lot behind the building that housed the fertility clinic's office space. The blast caved in the building's roof and blew a wide debris field across a sidewalk and four lanes of the street on the other side of the structure. Rhino Williams, 47, was chatting with customers at a restaurant he helps manage inside the Skylark Hotel just over a block away from the scene when he heard a huge boom. Everything rattled, he said, and Williams -- who has a background in aviation -- immediately sprinted to the scene to see if anyone was in need of help, thinking a helicopter might have crashed.

Williams saw a large dark grey plume of smoke and covered his nose with his shirt as he smelled burning plastic and rubber. He said he saw a building had "blown out" into the street, with bricks and debris scattered everywhere, and spotted a car's front axle on fire in the building's parking lot.



NEWS BOX

Odisha urges Centre to expedite rice evacuation amid record paddy stockpile

**BHUBANESWAR.** The record procurement of 73.5 lakh tonne paddy during the kharif season has posed a problem of plenty for the state forcing the government to send an SOS to the Centre to evacuate more custom-milled rice from Odisha to the central pool. While the storage capacity of rice millers, registered with the Odisha State Civil Supplies Corporation (OSCC) for milling and delivery of custom-milled rice (CMR) to the state government and Food Corporation of India (FCI), is full to the brim, procurement of rabi paddy from May 15 has added to the woes. Sitting over a stockpile of over 48.5 lakh tonne of paddy (equivalent of 33 lakh tonne rice) after delivery of 16.25 lakh tonne of CMR rice to the state and FCI, the All Odisha Rice Millers Association (AORMA) has taken up the matter with the Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare (FS&CW) department to put pressure on FCI to speed up evacuation of rice. Even as FCI has fixed a target to lift 1.7 lakh tonne of CMR rice from the state every month, the central public sector undertaking is evacuating far less due to shortage of storage space in its godowns. The central agency has received 7.76 lakh tonne of CMR rice for kharif 2024-25 season from the state as on May 7, 2025, against the target of 10.20 lakh tonne, sources said.

From failure to flourishing: NTR district woman farmer finds success through natural farming

**VIJAYAWADA.** Amidst the harsh realities of erratic vagaries of nature, soil degradation, and dwindling farm incomes, a woman farmer from Chevuturu village in G Konduru mandal of NTR district has emerged as a symbol of resilience and achieved success through Natural Farming. K Ramadevi, once disillusioned by repeated crop failures, has built a sustainable livelihood using methods that require minimal water and chemical inputs. For years, Ramadevi and her husband Srinivas Rao struggled with mono-cropping cotton on their 2.30-acre land. "The soil had turned hard as stone due to excessive use of fertilizers. We had no borewell and depended on neighbours for irrigation water just to keep our 42 mango trees alive," she recalled. After facing repeated crop failures, the family abandoned farming for nearly five years. A turning point came in 2018 when Ramadevi attended a natural farming awareness session by the Andhra Pradesh Community Managed Natural Farming (APCNF), implemented by Rythu Sadhikara Samstha (RySS).

CM Chandrababu Naidu sets deadline for infrastructure projects in Andhra's Kurnool

**KURNOOL.** Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu conducted a whirlwind tour of Kurnool district on Saturday, announcing several developmental projects and interacting with the public. Arriving at Orvakal Airport, he proceeded by road to C Camp Rythu Bazaar, where he engaged with farmers and reviewed local infrastructure. During the visit, he sanctioned Rs 6 crore for the expansion of the Rythu Bazaar and directed officials to complete the project within a year, ensuring the addition of parking facilities and an Anna Canteen. Industries Minister TG Bharath, who accompanied the CM, expressed gratitude for the timely fund allocation. The Chief Minister then visited Dhanalakshmi Nagar near Kendriya Vidyalaya to lay the foundation stone for the 'Swarna Andhra - Swachha Andhra' park, to be developed over 67 cents of land with Rs 50 lakh Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds from Jai Raj Ispat Limited. He directed officials to complete the project in two months, integrating solar lighting, fitness zones, multipurpose lawns, senior citizen areas, children's play areas, walking tracks, and stone gravel beds. Addressing the gathering, Naidu emphasised creating a model recreational spot and instructed the installation of gates to prevent nighttime misuse. As part of the agricultural mechanisation initiative, the CM distributed Kisan Drones to two farmers. At a public exhibition near Kendriya Vidyalaya, he inspected stalls showcasing sustainable agriculture and waste recycling technologies. During a discussion with Raghavendra Goud, a farmer from Kodumur mandal, Naidu highlighted the efficiency of drone spraying and directed the District Collector to prepare a 'proof of concept' for expanding the drone initiative. Naidu also visited eco-friendly stalls, including those of Hindustan Recycling Hub, Eco Sign, and the Nano Bubble Technology project. He suggested that Hindustan Recycling Hub participate in dry waste collection tenders across 16,000 villages in the State. He also instructed authorities to demonstrate the efficacy of Nano Bubble cleaning machines in select lakes and ponds.

Journey to revive the lost glory of palm tree

Fondly called "Panai Mara Tharahai" (Palm Star), Jeen is a familiar face at social gatherings, weddings, and political events — often gifting palm-leaf hats she personally makes.

**KANNIYAKUMARI.** Swoosh... stirred by the passing breeze, long palm fronds gently grazed the rooftops of E L Prathee Jeen's childhood home in the Ethavilai village of Kannyakumari. The village sat nestled among these panai marams, woven into the fabric of their daily life. Jeen recalls playing with nungu vandi, sipping nungu sarbath, and sleeping on palm-fibre mats. In her early 40s, she quit her teaching profession and took up a new life mission — to revive the lost glory of the palm tree, a symbol which, she says, is deeply rooted in Tamil community and landscape. The 43-year-old now travels across Tamil Nadu to plant palm saplings, conduct awareness campaigns, and train communities to craft value-added palm products, through her organisation the TAN Palm Foundation. Fondly called "Panai Mara Tharahai" (Palm Star), Jeen is a familiar face at social gatherings, weddings, and political events — often gifting palm-leaf hats she personally makes. These handmade gifts, which she distributes even to policymakers, serve as reminders of the importance of palm conservation. "Palm trees are not just symbols of tropical beauty," she says, "They are lifelines — offering food, shelter, and income to generations of people.



Preserving them is preserving our heritage." Jeen trains others, especially women, in making palm-based products — baskets, hats, fans, and decorative items — helping them build livelihoods while promoting eco-conscious practices. Though she doesn't come from a family of traditional palm climbers, Jeen was raised with a deep appreciation for the tree's value. Her father, P Eliyas, a businessman, and her mother, K Leela Bai, a homeopathy practitioner, instilled in her a respect for sustainable living. Palm wasn't just a tree in our village — it was part of our daily life," Jeen recalls. "From what we drank to what we slept on, palm was everywhere." A postgraduate in History with a BLit in Tamil and Montessori training, Jeen taught at several schools across Tamil Nadu,

and eventually worked for over a decade at Fathima Public School in Kottamam, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. Her hands-on, activity-based teaching style allowed her to weave environmental education into her lessons, including the significance of palm trees. But the pull of the panai maram was too strong. Through her foundation, Jeen conducts workshops for school and college students, farmers and public. She distributes palm seeds, organises planting drives, and advocates for more plantations along water bodies and coastal belts, where palms can help reduce soil erosion and support biodiversity. She says the mission is not just about trees, but about reviving a way of life that respects sustainability. "Educating the next generation on the ecological, economic, and cultural value of palms is essential. Only then will conservation become a collective responsibility." The foundation also showcases palm-based products at community and religious events, and offers free palm-leaf caps to kids and public as part of its outreach. S Jansi, district convener of NGOs Coach-Tamil Nadu, notes, "Prathee Jeen has been instrumental in raising awareness on palm conservation and promoting the use of palm-based products."

Kerala beer sales losing fizz, decline 8.6 per cent in two years

**KOCHI.** Kerala, it seems, is no longer looking to beat the heat with a chilled bottle of beer! Over the 2023-25 period, consumption of the beverage in the state declined by a sharp 8.6%, or nearly 10 lakh cases. This downturn underscores Kerala's enduring preference for hard liquor, a characteristic of its traditionally brown spirits market that holds firm even during record-breaking heat, as data from the Kerala State Beverages Corporation (Bevco) confirms. Bevco managing director Harshita Attaluri told TNIE that beer consumption has been on the decline over the past two years, and she attributed the slump to public preference. As per the Beverages corporation's data, beer sales slumped from 112 lakh cases — both wholesale (to bars) and retail (Bevco outlets) — in 2022-23 fiscal to 102.39 lakh cases in 2024-25. Meanwhile, consumption of Indian Made Foreign Liquor (IMFL) through the



wholesale and retail routes surged by 9.74 lakh cases in the two-year period to 229.12 lakh cases. In contrast, beer sales increased year-on-year by 9% nationally during 2024-25, according to Brewers Association of India (BAI), the apex body of the Indian beer industry, representing India's leading beer

manufacturers. "Beer sales in Kerala has been affected primarily due to low number of retail shops and acute shortage of chilling equipment in those all government owned shops. Further, absence of permitting even basic innovations such as draught beer has limited on-trade demand and a beer culture as seen in other parts of country," Vinod Giri, director-general of Brewers Association of India told. According to Giri, Bevco acknowledges the need for change and is implementing measures to revitalise the beer sector. These initiatives include opening model shops, allowing companies to install chillers in shops, and permitting draught beer sales. "We are optimistic that once these reforms are effectively executed, the beer industry in the state will undergo a significant transformation," he said.

We are proud, hardworking Kannadigas, bike taxi drivers tell state government

**BENGALURU.** Over 100 bike taxi drivers from across Karnataka, under the banner — Bike Taxi Association (BTA) — peacefully gathered at Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy's office here on Saturday to submit a formal representation, seeking a regulatory framework for bike taxi operations in the state. The drivers stressed severe livelihood impact of the current policy vacuum, highlighting that over 6 lakh local riders depend on bike taxi services for income, with over 75 per cent relying on it as their primary source of livelihood. The memorandum called for a fair, inclusive, and sustainable policy that reflects the essential role bike taxis play in Karnataka's transport ecosystem. "Over 6 lakh riders, both men and women — depend on this profession as their primary

source of income. Many of us are proud Kannadigas, working hard every day to earn a dignified living. Bike taxi services provide us with the flexibility we need to support our families and contribute to a more sustainable transport system. We urge the government to recognise our right to work and include us in Karnataka's growth story by framing an inclusive policy," said BTA president Adi Narayanan, after handing over the memorandum to the transport minister. They argued that bike taxis and delivery two-wheelers fall under the same legal provisions of Section 66 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988. They urged the government to issue clear operational guidelines, noting that more than 50 lakh rides are facilitated each month in Bengaluru alone, serving over 20 lakh commuters.



Major security lapse at Sree Padmanabhaswamy Temple, 10 cameras down

**THIRUVANANTHAPURAM.** In a major security lapse at the Sree Padmanabhaswamy Temple, 10 surveillance cameras were found to be non-functional. The defunct cameras include those located in high-security zones. Police responsible for the temple's security were reportedly aware of the malfunction. The issue came to light after a 13-sovereign gold rod went missing during renovation work on the sreekovil's door. The missing rod was being transported from the strong room to the work site in a cloth pouch when it reportedly disappeared. It was later was found covered in soil near the temple's northern entrance. Police have not yet confirmed whether it was stolen or dropped by accident. An internal check revealed that several cameras covering major locations, including the eastern entrance and the area around the sanctum, had not been working for months.

Cameras installed near the strong room, where valuables are stored, were also found to be out of service. The police are responsible for 24-hour monitoring of the premises, and the malfunctioning of cameras is being treated as a serious failure in the protocol. Officers said they had notified the private contractor responsible for camera maintenance but no repairs were carried out. Meanwhile, police sources have dismissed security lapse at the temple, saying some cameras are undergoing periodic maintenance. "Our cameras haven't suffered any prolonged breakdown. Like any equipment, they occasionally develop faults, which we repair as soon as they are detected. Footage from the area near the strong-room is available, and we use several camera types, including Skywatch units.



Let there be water: Restoration of Koliyanur lake in Tamil Nadu

A crucial lifeline decades ago, the 100-acre Koliyanur lake had shrunk by half. Through the efforts of the Kalaam group, 37 acres of land were restored in 2025

**VILLUPURAM.** The dust of decades had settled thick upon the promise of Koliyanur lake, a vital artery choked by neglect and the relentless creep of encroachment. For a generation, its lifeblood had dwindled, a silent tragedy unfolding in the Villupuram district. But from the parched earth, a spark ignited — the Kalaam Volunteer Group. This unassuming collective of residents dared to dream of reviving it, a vision that would not only reshape their environment but also bind their community in the face of nature's fury. Their story, unfolding over the past year, is a testament to the extraordinary power of ordinary people, a beacon of hope that pierced through the devastation of Cyclone Fengal and resurrected a lost lifeline. Koliyanur lake, stretching across hundreds of acres, had been encroached upon by 57 farming families in the Koliyanur village area for more than three decades. Once a crucial source of irrigation and drinking water, the lake had slowly shrunk by half due to unregulated

occupation and sediment build-up. Recognising the ecological and communal importance of the loch, the Kalaam Volunteer Group, in collaboration with Exnora International Foundation, NDSO, and M N Gayathri Charities, initiated a restoration project in 2024. "As a resident of Koliyanur, I've never seen the river with water since I was a child, and it has been a dream to see it flow with water in its natural allure. And that is why I chose to revive it," said N Manikandan (32), the group's full-time organiser. Through persistent dialogue and peaceful engagement, the volunteers worked closely with local authorities and the encroaching farmers to find a resolution. Many of these farmers, though initially resistant, were later persuaded to vacate the land, understanding the long-term benefits of a restored waterbody for the wider community.



"The restoration involved clearing vegetation, removing debris, and extensive desilting operations. Volunteers toiled for months under the sun, raising funds locally and receiving support in the form of machinery and manpower from well-wishers. By early 2025, the loch had been rejuvenated across 37 acres — its basin deepened, banks fortified, and native flora

reintroduced around its perimeter. The revived loch has now begun recharging groundwater, benefiting nearby villages, and is expected to support agriculture in the region for decades to come," said Manikandan. The organisation further extended its service to address the devastating effects of Cyclone Fengal in November 2024. Amidst the chaos, the Kalaam Volunteer Group emerged as one of the first responders. Within hours, volunteers spread out across the district, setting up makeshift relief camps, organising food drives, and distributing essentials. Several lakhs of people were aided, thanks to the group's network and local knowledge. The group's approach ensured that relief reached not just urban neighbourhoods but also isolated villages and marginalised communities, including tribal, disabled, and transgender populations.



## Kashmir’s normalcy, Pakistan’s turmoil

Everyone must watch the talk delivered by Pakistan’s army chief, Gen Asim Munir on April 14-16 at the Annual Convention of Overseas Pakistanis. It was certainly the most extreme speech I have seen by any leader, anywhere. Many have linked, or believe, that this “hate” speech was the green signal the Pahalgam terrorists were waiting for before they carried out their massacre.

The speech certainly outlined the battle between secular India and theocratic Pakistan. In Munir’s narrow world-view, there is a lack of connection, or commonality, between the citizens of India and Pakistan. In fact the reality is quite the opposite, especially in Punjab.Gen Munir’s first gross miscalculation is that he addressed his remarks to overseas Pakistani residents. But in the audience pictures, you will be hard-pressed to find a smile of approval to what Munir was saying, let alone cheer. Many of these overseas Pakistanis have worked, lived and roomed with the very same people that Munir was saying were Pakistan’s born enemy, i.e. Indians — some even have inter-married. Hence, the lack of applause, if not downright embarrassment, perhaps even contempt.Gen Munir’s second miscalculation was the expectation of support his Muslim terrorists would get from India’s Muslims. Instead, there was overwhelming condemnation of their unsparing brutality as well as of Pakistan, the country they came from. The response by Indian Muslims, both leaders and ordinary people, across the country as well as in Kashmir, has been most pronounced in the outright condemnation of Munir’s hate speech.It is likely that this response was not anticipated by the terrorists and their political handlers. Perhaps their warped world-view also does not allow them to comprehend fundamental and structural divergences between the economies of India and Pakistan.This process of change has been long in the making. In 1985, Pakistan’s per capita income (Penn World Tables, 2017 PPP), relative to India reached a peak of 2.2, i.e. Pakistan’s per capita (pc) income was more than twice that of India. In 2024, at the time of its 13th IMF loan since 1991 (the last time India got an economic loan from the IMF), Pakistan’s pc income was reduced to 60 per cent of India’s level. This continuous fall in Pakistan’s living standards, especially relative to India, partially explains Munir’s desperation in appealing to the only factor he thinks reflects the welfare of both domestic and foreign Pakistanis — religious fanaticism and Kashmir. Along with these Grand Canyon gaps in performance, it is the fullest integration of Kashmir with the rest of India that seems to have affected Munir the most. Today India is in the midst of major trade deals with the US, UK and the EU, while Pakistan begs for Chinese financial help, debt and armaments alongside the 25th loan from the IMF — the highest for any country ever.

Meanwhile, PM Narendra Modi, with his visit to Saudi Arabia, is demonstrating India’s closest linkages with the Arab world than at any time before — traditionally Pakistan’s friends and allies.The tragically explicit copycat behaviour of the Pahalgam terrorists with Hamas terrorists attack in Israel on October 7, 2023 was not missed -- the same terrorist playbook. At the time of the Hamas terrorist attack, Israel was in the final stages of negotiating with Saudi Arabia, a complete normalisation of relations.However, the real Munir-Pakistan misjudgment was not about bilateral country aggregates, but what is happening in Kashmir itself. It is not just India that has economically leapt way past Pakistan. Government initiatives, particularly after the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019, have substantially improved the normalisation of Kashmir. It is this integration and development that Munir and his army have completely missed.

Why did Pakistan stir up the terrorist pot again? That’s a question every Indian — Hindu, Muslim, Sikh, Isai — is asking. Was it to provide an alternative to the distress caused by the relative decline of Pakistan? Note, that the standing of the Indian economy and polity was at its peak and that of Pakistan at its trough, when Munir made his speech. One week later, on April 22, the terrorists struck.

## Beyond Indo-Pak truce: Reimagining peace in a region on the edge

The historical trajectory of South Asia, marked by seminal events as Partition, the Kargil conflict and the Indo-Pak wars of 1965 and 1971, has bequeathed a complex legacy of societal fragmentation

WAR means an ugly mob madness, crucifying the truth tellers, choking the artists, sidetracking reforms, revolutions and the working of social forces — these words by John Reed, American socialist activist, written in 1917 amidst the carnage of World War I, ring disturbingly true in our time. The recent escalation between India and Pakistan, marked by military exchanges and public panic, brought the subcontinent close to the same disaster.But in a remarkable turn of events, a ceasefire was abruptly announced — facilitated by an unexpected diplomatic intervention. While it brought welcome relief, its sustainability remains uncertain. The fragile nature of the agreement was evident in the renewed military hostilities that followed shortly after, highlighting the deep-seated trust deficit and questionable intentions between the two nations.The terrorist attack in Pahalgam, which left 26 innocent people dead, rightly drew widespread condemnation. India’s military response — described as calibrated and proportional — unleashed a chain of retaliatory moves that risked spiraling out of control. Even measured actions, in a region so steeped in historical grievance and mistrust, can set off devastating consequences. In border regions like Punjab and Kashmir, the suffering was acute, with families displaced, agricultural livelihoods disrupted, and civilian lives lost. The cost of conflict is incalculable.The ceasefire has potentially averted a catastrophic conflict between two nuclear-capable nations. However, true peace demands more than a halt to hostilities. It requires reflection, moral clarity and a commitment to sustained diplomacy. The conflation of patriotism with militarism warrants critical reevaluation, as the pursuit of justice necessitates a more nuanced approach. Consequently, effective accountability for acts of terror requires a multilateral, rules-based framework that prioritises evidentiary rigour and international cooperation rather than unilateral actions that may compromise truth and exacerbate conflict.As Ernest Hemingway astutely reminded us, “Never think that war, no matter how necessary, nor how justified, is not a crime.” Regardless of its perceived necessity or justification, war constitutes a profound failure of political and diplomatic endeavours. The historical trajectory of South Asia, marked by such seminal events as Partition, the Kargil conflict and the Indo-Pak wars of 1965 and 1971, has bequeathed a complex legacy of

societal fragmentation, collective psychological trauma, and enduring animosities. These historical antecedents cannot be perpetuated indefinitely and the subcontinent’s future stability cannot be predicated on chance, rather they necessitate a concerted effort to transcend the pathologies of past conflicts.Pakistan, under General Asim Munir, remains a troubled state. Its economy is on the verge of collapse, its foreign reserves are dangerously low and its democratic institutions under siege. Its military continues to dominate its political discourse. For Pakistan’s establishment, escalating tensions with India offered a convenient distraction from domestic chaos and economic mismanagement. India, however, resisted falling into this trap and showed strategic restraint and



visionary leadership, displayed in its laudably measured and calibrated approach, that has not escaped global attention.A more enduring solution lies in investing in democratic values, regional cooperation and economic justice. As it is, militarisation of the Kashmir dispute has led only to entrenched hostility and alienation. A focus on democratic inclusion, dignity, and development can build trust where fear now festers. The wounds will heal through through education, dialogue and a reaffirmation of our shared humanity. The people of Kashmir, who have long been caught in the crossfire of competing nationalisms, must remain central to any solution that aspires toward justice and peace.

Furthermore, the prospect of nuclear escalation warrants utmost gravity, particularly given the unstable leadership dynamics in Pakistan, characterised by questionable decision-making capacity and a propensity for disinformation, thereby heightening the

## Talking to Taliban

It should not be seen as an endorsement of the regime, but a calibrated engagement focused on regional security

When the Taliban took over Afghanistan in August 2021, India responded with caution. A few days into the takeover, New Delhi withdrew its ambassador and diplomatic staff from Kabul and suspended direct engagement. Realising that a stringent no-talk policy was impractical, India started to gradually open channels of communication. The reopening of the Indian embassy in June 2024 was followed by a public meeting in January this year between Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri and Afghanistan’s acting Foreign Minister, Amir Khan Muttaqi, in Dubai. Amidst these developments, since August 2021, India has been regularly delivering wheat, pesticides, medical supplies and other forms of aid. Even in the Union Budget for 2024-25, there was an allocation of Rs 100 crore for assistance to Afghanistan. The first-ever ministerial-level conversation between External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Muttaqi on Thursday should be seen as the next logical step in the

incremental outreach by both countries. The phone call took place days after the India-Pakistan ceasefire following the Pahalgam terror attack, which was unequivocally condemned by the Taliban regime. Traditionally, Delhi and Kabul have had warm ties, barring the years of Taliban 1.0 (1996-2001), when India saw it as a proxy for Pakistan’s strategic interests. But relations between the Taliban and Pakistan have been deteriorating rapidly, primarily driven by issues over the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan, operating along the Afghan-Pakistan border. Realising that it does not have a hold on the Taliban any more, Rawalpindi has been trying to drive a wedge between India and Afghanistan. In a post on X, Jaishankar welcomed Muttaqi’s “firm rejection” of Pakistan’s “recent attempts to create distrust between India and Afghanistan through false and baseless reports” — a reference to reports in Pakistan that Indian missiles had hit Afghanistan during Operation Sindoor. Amid a widening rift

between Taliban 2.0 and Pakistan, India needs to keep communication lines open and prevent Afghanistan from becoming a sanctuary for anti-India terror groups. There is no denying that the Taliban continues to be an autocratic regime with little regard for human rights, especially the rights of women. That is why India is yet to recognise the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan. Indeed, increased engagement risks undermining India’s moral stand. But to not engage at all carries risks, too. China has signed significant investment and security agreements with the Taliban, including a \$540-million oil extraction deal. Within the power politics of South Asia, given the China-Pakistan-Bangladesh axis, a Kabul-Beijing entente would be a matter of concern. India does not have the power to alter Afghan politics and society, but it has to deal with whoever sits in Kabul. There is no denying that the Taliban continues to be an autocratic regime with little regard for human rights, especially the rights of women.

## Three morals and a Trump story

THE GREAT GAME: The story of how India won over the Taliban is perhaps the most fascinating of all

HOURS after India’s Ministry of External Affairs issued a six point-by-point rebuttal on how the US never mediated last week’s India-Pakistan conflict, Donald Trump has insisted, for the sixth time since the conflict began, that he did.“...And by the way, I don’t want to say I did, but I sure as hell helped settle the problem between Pakistan and India last week, which was getting more and more hostile,” Trump told troops at the US al-Udeid airbase in Qatar on Thursday, the last stop of his Gulf tour. It sounded like a parting shot. I’m telling you guys, he was saying, I am the one who averted a nuclear war.

Now you could roll your eyes or you could believe what the US President says, which is that it needed a powerful third party — him — with influence in both New Delhi and Islamabad to stop the natives from going at each other again and continuing their “1,000-year war.”

But there are three more morals to the story. The first penny dropped when External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar got on the phone with his counterpart in Afghanistan, Taliban Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi, on Thursday evening. Nobody knows who called whom, but the MEA did put out that Jaishankar expressed his appreciation of Muttaqi’s earlier condemnation of the Pahalgam massacre. The first (of the last three) morals is not that Jaishankar and Muttaqi actually spoke to each other — a leader of the world’s largest democracy speaking to a man who doesn’t even represent a country, merely a regime — or that he did so openly. The lesson here is that New Delhi didn’t seem unduly bothered whether it would be criticised or not for speaking to the Taliban, which has violated every rule in every book before and since it came to power for the second time on August 15, 2021.Fact is, Jaishankar was only taking a leaf out of Trump’s book. Which is that if you have the ability to exercise power, you will be forgiven the vanity of changing your mind as well as the direction of your country’s policy.Just check out Trump. He is making nice with Vladimir Putin, his country’s arch-enemy; in Riyadh earlier this week, he shook hands with the Al-Qaeda’s newest ally which now rules Syria; and in Qatar,



the home of the radical Islamist Muslim Brotherhood group, he ignored all the signs because the Al-Thani sheikhs flattered him with a welcome that included the gift of a \$400-million plane for the US President’s use.Even when Trump brought up his grouse about Apple CEO Tim Cook making iPhones in India with Qatari businessmen (“I said to him, ‘my friend, I am treating you very good... but now I hear you are building in India. I don’t want you building in India...’”), New Delhi simply refused to react. They turned to the Apple folks, instead, who assured them that Cook would, indeed, continue with his plans to set up factories in

India.In the bad, old days, New Delhi would have been shaken if someone as powerful as the US President said the things he did. But India is learning to hold her own, in the face of far more powerful economies like China and the US cutting a deal that brings down their own tariffs — a decision that is bound to affect India’s own exports.Fact is, this week, India learnt the oldest maxim in the book of politics — there are no permanent friends or enemies, only permanent interests. Like yesterday’s newspaper which is today’s raddi, last week’s fast friends could be distant cousins today.That’s why ‘Ab ki baar Trump sarkar’ is a slogan from another

century. Today’s protection will come from having Apple on your side, because that company is so powerful that Trump has no option but to have Tim Cook on his side.As for Trump taking credit for “mediating” between India and Pakistan, in any case, even the New York Times now admits that India inflicted the most damage on Pakistani facilities. As for Pakistan celebrating its “victory” in this conflict, perhaps neither Trump nor the Pakistanis have noticed that 11 Pakistani bases were spiked by Indian missiles. Which is when the Pakistanis sought the attention of the US President and requested him to shut it down.Or, maybe, Trump has noticed — just that he’s moved on to something else, this time to celebrating a newly arrived grandchild. The third moral is that in his three months in power, Trump has successfully antagonised half the world. The fact that he went back on his own promises to burn China to the ground — because his own enormous US conglomerates who make in China and large profits at that, must have told him that high tariffs would only hurt American customers — only indicates that when you’re this powerful, talk is cheap.As for the Jaishankar-Muttaqi conversation, the fact that it took place so close to the end of Operation Sindoor or that Pakistan and Afghanistan have been at daggers drawn for some time has escaped no one.Fact is, India has been wooing the Taliban for some time now, almost as soon as it took Kabul in 2021 on the anniversary of India’s independence. On a visit to Kabul a year later, it was plain to see that the Taliban were already losing patience with their one-time mentors and guardians, the Pakistani military establishment. The story of how the ISI won over the Taliban and nurtured it, until the West took back Afghanistan in the wake of 9/11; how the ISI bided its time for 20 years and then helped the Taliban wrest the country back from the Americans and its NATO allies — that’s a story for another time. In this great game this week, as Trump changes course as quickly as the Sutlej and the rest of the world rearranges itself — the story of how India won over the Taliban is perhaps the most fascinating of all.



She has just been placed in a small manufacturing firm, as an associate manager-production. On her first day at the office, the first thought that strikes her is: "Is manufacturing really my cup of tea?" With labourers operating their machines around her and a production manager sitting right across her to explain the plan of operation and the schedule of production, she feels ambivalent. Not that she lacks interest, but she knows somewhere that male-dominated industries pose serious challenges for a woman's career progression. She suddenly remembers those peppy words by Marilyn Monroe: "I don't mind living in a man's world as long as I can be a woman in it."

According to research by Catalyst, an NGO focusing on expanding business opportunities for women, talent management systems are often susceptible to pro-male

biases that expectedly result in smaller and less varied employee pools. The lesser the diversity (read the lesser the females), the more stereotypical it gets. This is the reason why women may find progressing and outpacing in these industries can be riddled with hurdles.

It is not very hard to enter a male-dominated profession, but it's tougher to survive in there. Among other obstacles, many women struggle with pre-set notions that certain jobs demand skillsets that are linked to masculinity. To inject some positivity here, let's take a look at 5 ways that women can come into their own in any profession.

Self-analysis

Career development is a continuous process that starts with self-assessment. This critical first step is the foundation step for personal and professional personality development. A routine self-assessment helps keeps an individual informed about her strengths and weaknesses at varied stages of life. A comprehensive self-analysis would include doing the SWIPE test, which helps you analyse four core elements of your personality— strengths, weakness, interests, potential development and emotional quotient. Examining these four areas will help you understand your personality in distinct spheres, so you know which parts of your life need further development and which attributes play to your strengths.

Networking

According to Adam Small, CEO of Strategic Business Network, "Networking is the single most powerful marketing tactic to accelerate and sustain success for any individual or organization." It is a powerful tool if you do it the right

# 5 ways to succeed in a male-dominated Workplace

Rina, 23, has just completed her MBA in production management, and dreams of a corporate career.

way and with the right people in your industry. However, according to a study published in the Harvard Business Review women are often unable to exploit the power of their connections despite their sociability. For women to benefit through networking, they need to engage in interactions that include exchanges about their skills, talents, and potential development. When looking for groups to network with, give preference to those whose members are well-connected over groups that are simply large or well-publicised. Collaboration is the key.

Promote your own self

Be your own "man"! Speak for yourself. Got a new idea or a cost-saving suggestion? Put it on the table. Women have a tendency to underestimate their own performance, especially when they find themselves in a minority, but confidence is a must. So, pave that track with blazing confidence and remember that it's perfectly alright to be wrong or fail sometimes. Just don't dwell on it. Also acknowledge the fact that people around you will, whether intentionally or unknowingly, underestimate you.

There will be times when you will be your only cheerleader. Manage what you can, work hard, follow your gut, stay true at heart and be rational, and things will fall in place.

Research bears out that women who are more aggressive and assertive when the situation calls for it are more likely to be promoted.

Beware of stereotypes

"It's not done that way", "You are new in this field so you probably you don't know"... No! Do not let these kind of statements give you an inferiority complex. Be prepared to assert yourself at all times. This does not mean being rude or uncooperative, but having the confidence to stand your ground and defend your convictions. Success has traditionally been considered acceptable for women only if it's in a field that is judged as appropriate for them and is viewed as off-limits in fields that are male-dominated. You need to fight those conventions.

Find a mentor

Many women must have walked the same path as you and have figured out how to overcome the obstacles along the way. Instead of simply winging it and risking more mistakes, approach them for their guidance. Connect with one or two women you admire and seek their advice when needed. If you do not know of someone directly, use social websites to connect with people in similar fields. Just remember that there are many successful women out there and most of them are proof that being hardworking, resolute, smart and thick-skinned in the face of critical reviews at their work; have enabled them to rise to the top, with or without familial support. Go on girl! You can be a shero too!



## Tips to crack your job Interview

**The most important task before preparing for a job interview is to start with a self assessment of whether you suit the position and organization in question.**

Here are a few tips on how you can sail through your first job interview.

The foremost issue all organizations face is that candidates do not match up to the needs of the job. Many job aspirants look at their careers from a myopic view of brands and fancy designations coupled with fat salaries. The first five years of one's professional life are formative, which is why this period should be utilized to gather profound professional experience. This is not the time to hunt for a cozy post.

The most important task before preparing for a job interview is to start with a self-assessment of whether you suit the position and organization in question. Visualise yourself as a part of the organization:

How confident do you feel about being there? Is the work in line with your interest and natural abilities?

The inner call, backed up by research, is crucial before you choose to go for the

interview. There is a job for everyone; they just need to home in on the right place.

- A lot of engineers may actually do well in creative positions than technical roles. If technical expertise is your area of interest and prowess, go for it. Evaluate which subject or activity you are best at. It shows your interest and natural inclination. If the inner call says, 'choose an alternative career,' please do so. Do not succumb to social pressure. It is better to succeed than to 'ape' and remain mediocre.

- The interviewer has been entrusted with the task of hiring the best in a competitive environment. It is thus your responsibility to convince him/her of your capabilities.

Data and facts always help, so converge on tangible information rather than abstract points. However, the statistics must be focused on

competencies.

- Provide information on your strengths with evidence of its practical application in real life.

- Talk about your extracurricular activities and the difficult choices you made in life; it shows leadership attributes and job-fit skill sets.

- Talk about facts that show you make your choices and are not led by others alone. Highlight team activities you have undertaken - it shows your ability to collaborate.

- Elaborate on situations that make you feel proud - it shows confidence and self-motivation.

- Discuss instances when you have helped others - it is a sign of empathy. Finally, in a positive way, share instances of personal challenges that brought you where you are today - it exhibits strength of character.

- Speak about your career vision. When you know how the job fits in the grand picture of your career, the interviewer is most likely to choose you because it creates certainty.

This is rare because many engineering graduates are disillusioned and openly talk about being explorers. Be clear where you wish to go. Employers would not like to waste time, money and effort on individuals who are continually exploring. If that is the case, go for career advice or seek other professional help before interviews.

In the case of engineers, interviewers' expectations are going to be specific. They look for thought leadership, precision in all you do, the ability to comprehend a problem and create solutions, an innovative mindset and critical thinking. As an engineer, your ability to lead a team will carry tremendous weight.

Above all, one must "look and feel" like an engineer and not a casual person from nowhere.

Lastly, understand that rejection has nothing to do with you personally. It is about an understanding that your abilities do not suit the job. So, gear up for the next opening.

## Here's why prioritizing Work is important

The typical work day of a professional is becoming more complex and demanding by the day.

The multitude and variety of tasks can become overwhelming; many employees are unable to handle the stress and face a dip in their productivity. Prioritization skills become a handy tool in such cases and allow professionals to plan their day in a manner that not only creates value, but creates the right value.

Why is prioritizing of workload necessary at all? Abhijit Ningaonkar, India capability & expertise centre head and office managing principal (Delhi), ZS, answers, "The classic situation faced by employees today is simultaneous urgent requests from multiple stakeholders. In the context of a global marketplace (different time zones), increasing compensation (higher expectations), many communication channels (request reach and immediacy), prioritising daily, weekly, monthly tasks is key to effective responsibility management. Working faster is not the solution; instead, working on the right tasks is essential."

A broad categorization of all tasks is essential to bring prioritization in motion. Srinivas Ghanagam, head HR, Freudenberg India, explains, "Being able to distinguish between 'urgent' and 'important' tasks is one of the best known ways of dealing with a flood of emails, projects and presentations, the former being less critical than the latter. The focus should, therefore, be placed on 'important' work, which is usually more strategic in nature; losing focus of the same can be the undoing of an up and coming executive."

Manuel D'Souza, director - HR, Serco Global Services, tells us how such measures also allow work-life balance, "Time spent on planning activities saves sufficient time in execution. On a regular basis, prioritizing not only makes a person more efficient at daily work-related activities, but also gives them the latitude to focus on their personal goals. It helps strike the right balance to handle both, their professional and personal life."

How can one's prioritization skills be honed? Rajiv Naithani, associate VP HR and L&D, GlobalLogic, gives suggestions:

- **Make a work list:** Pen down every possible thing you can do in a day;
  - **Categorize urgent vs important:** See if you have any tasks that need immediate attention and if not completed soon, will have serious negative impact on business and people;
  - **Evaluate value importance:** Scan the list and identify highest value-adding tasks. Determine the amount of efforts expected to be invested on each activity and set the order accordingly;
  - **Be compliant and flexible:** Don't forget that change is certain and be prepared for work that will come above your set order of priorities;
  - **Cut the cord:** You probably can't get to everything on your list. Focus on the priorities that you know you must and can complete for the day.
- Mehul Shah, MD, Collabera, describes the Pareto principle in the context of prioritization of workload, "The Pareto principle states that of the things you do during your day, only 20 per cent produce 80 per cent of your results. It emphasizes on putting more energy in prioritizing your tasks in the first hour at work and focus on the 20 per cent that matters. When the fire drills of the day begin to sap your time and something in the schedule has to slip, make sure it's not part of that 20 per cent."
- Prioritization also enables employees to maintain clarity on the ultimate goals of the organization. Sailesh Shetty, VP human resources & services, Toyota Kirloskar Motor, explains, "Organisations should make every employee understand the role he or she is playing in solving the issues important for the organisation. Employees should have clarity on what is expected from them; this enables them to prioritise better. When the employer engages employees every day in analysing and solving problems, they feel highly motivated."
- Thus, prioritisation can make a lot of difference in employee efficiency and productivity.





# Free entry to all monuments on International Museum Day: Archaeological body

**ASI said that this initiative seeks to deepen public engagement with India's rich cultural legacy and to provide a meaningful platform for people to reconnect with history and heritage.**

**New Delhi.** The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has announced that the entry to all monuments under its purview and museums across the country will be free on the occasion of International Museum Day on Sunday, May 18. ASI said that this year, it is offering free access to its network of 52 museums and all the ticketed monuments across the country, which house some of India's most treasured archaeological artefacts — from prehistoric tools and sculptures to mediaeval inscriptions, to encourage wider public participation. This initiative seeks to deepen public engagement with India's rich cultural legacy and to provide a meaningful platform for people to reconnect with history and heritage, an ASI statement said.

The premier archaeological body also has a dedicated Museum Wing which deals with the maintenance and management of 52 museums, which include Sarnath (1910) being the earliest

excavated and movable artefacts near the site so that the displayed objects don't lose their context and may be studied by researchers and visitors alike.



in the series of Archaeological Site Museums in the country. The concept of Archaeological Site Museums came up to preserve and display the

Recently, India's first underground museum at the World Heritage Site of Humayun's Tomb was inaugurated, along with the Virtual Experiential Museum at Man Mahan Observatory in Varanasi and the Archaeological site of Lalitagiri in Odisha. The ASI also said that its Site-Museums are being upgraded to facilitate the needs of every section of society and modern interventions like AR-VR are also being incorporated to ensure a holistic experience for visitors. Having a nationwide reach with 3,698 protected monuments and sites and 52 museums, ASI's 26 sites are in UNESCO's World Heritage list.

**Goa is for yoga, cows, not pleasure: Chief Minister Pramod Sawant**



**New Delhi.** Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant said that Goa is more of a "yog bhoomi" (land of devotion and yoga) and "go-mata bhoomi" (land of cows) than a "bhog bhoomi" (land of pleasure), asserting that the coastal state is attracting more people for its temples and culture than for its "sun, sand, and sea." "Earlier, whenever people used to come to Goa, they used to think that this is bhog bhoomi (land of pleasure). But, this is not bhog bhoomi, it is yog bhoomi (land of devotion and yoga) instead. This is go-mata bhoomi... Over here, there is the ashram of Sanatan Sanstha as well," said Chief Minister Sawant, addressing the opening ceremony of 'Sanatan Rashtra Shankhnaad Mahotsav' on Saturday.

Referring to the legend of Lord Vishnu's avatar, Lord Parashuram, creating Goa by shooting an arrow into the Arabian Sea and causing it to recede, Chief Minister Sawant said: "This is Lord Parashuram's land." Chief Minister Sawant was speaking at the 83rd birth anniversary of Sanatan Sanstha's founder, Jayant Athavale. Sawant said that the state's clean and beautiful temples are drawing more people than its beaches. "In the past, people visited Goa to witness sun, sand, and sea. That has changed now. Tourists are arriving here to experience our rich culture and grand temples," he said, as reported by news agency PTI. He further mentioned that the temples in Goa are not managed by the government but by local communities who have upheld centuries-old rituals and customs.

**India blocks land route for several Bangladeshi goods, hits textile trade**

**NEW DELHI.** In a tit-for-tat move, India has banned imports of several items from Bangladesh via land routes, dealing a severe blow to Dhaka, which already has a massive trade deficit with Delhi amounting to USD 9.2 billion for the fiscal year ending March 2024.

As per a notification sent by the Commerce Ministry, dated May 17, imports from Bangladesh will only be allowed through Mumbai's Nhava Sheva and Kolkata's seaports. Several items like fruits, fruit-flavoured and carbonated drinks, processed food items, wooden furniture, plastic, dyes, cotton and cotton yarn waste, among others, have been included in the list.

Imports of these products through the land customs check posts in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, Mizoram and Chongrabandha and Fulbari in West Bengal have now been barred.

However, fish, edible oil, LPG and crushed stones have been exempted from the list. This latest move will make Bangladeshi goods even more expensive, acting as a disincentive for Indian importers. Bangladesh -- a major exporter of textiles and readymade garments -- will now be unable to send these goods via land routes, severely impairing Dhaka's export sector.

Last month, the Narendra Modi government pulled the plug on the transshipment facility that had allowed Bangladesh's export cargo to flow smoothly to other countries like Bhutan, Nepal and Myanmar. Days later, Bangladesh stopped its import of yarn -- which forms 30 per cent of Delhi's textile exports to Dhaka -- through Benapole, Bhomra, Sonamasjid, Banglabandha and Burimari land ports.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh's Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus called for "an integrated economic plan for Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, and the Seven Sisters" last week. This proposal came two months after Yunus urged China to extend its economic footprint not only to Bangladesh but also to India's seven northeastern states.

## Delhi Launches First Brain Health Clinic In Dwarka, Plans 10 More

**New Delhi.** Delhi's first dedicated brain health clinic has been set up at the Indira Gandhi Hospital in Dwarka, officials said. The clinic, inaugurated by Delhi Health Minister Pankaj Singh on Saturday, promises "district-level access" to neurological treatment and rehabilitation within the next year, they said. Set up under India's Brain Health Initiative with support from NITI Aayog and technical partner IHBAS, the clinic will offer screening and therapy for stroke, epilepsy, Parkinson's, dementia, migraine and other disorders, along with counselling and tele-neurology links for follow-up care, a statement said.

"This is not just a facility, it is a mission. Whenever you face a brain-related problem, come here. Don't hide or delay treatment. Similar centres will be opened in every district," Singh said.

Neurological conditions are already the world's second-biggest cause of death and the leading cause of disability-adjusted life years (DALYs), the statement said. Delhi plans to replicate the Dwarka model across all the 11 districts in the capital, combining clinics with lifestyle-modification counselling and caregiver support, while IHBAS will train the staff and monitor the outcomes, it said.

## Two brothers arrested for extortion bid in West Delhi

**NEW DELHI.** A 35-year-old man, who reportedly suffered a financial loss of Rs 80 lakh in his artificial jewellery business, has been arrested along with his brother for allegedly attempting to extort money from a friend in West Delhi. The duo sent a threatening letter containing empty cartridges and photographs of the victim's family, police said on Saturday.

The accused, Rohit Nagpal (35) and his brother Sagar (30), residents of Rajan Babu Road in Adarsh Nagar, are alleged to have hatched a plan to extort money from their victim, a businessman based in Punjabi Bagh.

On May 13, the victim received a courier at his home containing two photographs of his wife and son, along with two empty cartridges and a letter demanding a large sum of money in US dollars.

The letter also threatened harm to the family if the payment was not made. Upon receiving the letter, the victim registered a complaint. "During questioning, Rohit, who was a close friend of the complainant, confessed to being behind the extortion attempt. He explained that he and his brother were struggling to repay a loan of Rs 80 lakh," DCP (west) Vichitra Veer said.

## Delhi University to implement uniform seniority policy for teachers

**NEW DELHI.** Delhi University (DU) is set to introduce a uniform policy to determine the seniority of college teachers, aiming to promote transparency and eliminate confusion in faculty appointments and promotions. The proposal is slated for final approval at the Executive Council (EC) meeting on May 23, chaired by Vice-Chancellor Yogesh Singh. The lack of a clear framework, particularly for Assistant Professors (Level 10), has led to ambiguity in promotions and nominations for academic and statutory committees across DU colleges.

To address this issue, a high-level committee was formed in July 2024. Led by the Dean of Colleges, the committee included college principals, Executive and Academic Council members, as well as representatives from SC, ST, and OBC communities. After five meetings and a comprehensive review of Ordinance XI, the committee presented its recommendations.

The proposed policy stipulates that departments with earlier appointments will be deemed senior. In departments without a unified seniority list, age will be used to determine seniority, ensuring equal treatment of first-ranked candidates from different categories. This approach will be applied until all ranks are covered. Additionally, the policy introduces parallel seniority lists within categories, ensuring clarity without altering overall rankings. This system is designed to uphold constitutional reservation provisions and guarantee fair representation in university governance.

## Why ISRO's EOS-9 Satellite Launch Failed

**New Delhi.** Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) 63rd PSLV launch to put the EOS-9 surveillance satellite in orbit could not be accomplished as the launch failed during the third of four stages due to a fall in pressure. The space agency said the on Sunday morning that an anomaly during the solid fuel stage was observed after successful first and second stages, minutes after PSLV's lift-off from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota at 5.59 am. This was the agency's 101st mission launch from Sriharikota.

ISRO's workhorse rocket Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle's (PSLV) launch failed due to a fall in chamber pressure, the space agency's chairman V Narayanan, instrumental in determining the cause of Chandrayaan-2 lander failure in 2023, said. "Today we targeted the 101st launch from Sriharikota, the PSLV-C61 EOS-09 mission. The PSLV is a four-stage vehicle and up to the second stage, the performance was normal. The third stage motor started perfectly but during the functioning of the third



stage we are seeing an observation and the mission could not be accomplished," Mr Narayanan said.

"There was a fall in the chamber pressure of the motor case and the mission could not be accomplished. We are studying the entire performance, we shall come back at the earliest," Mr Narayanan said post the unsuccessful launch. During the third stage, a solid rocket motor provides the upper stage with a high thrust after the atmospheric phase the launch. As per standard procedure, ISRO's internal failure analysis committee and the government's external committee are now expected to probe the failure of the PSLV, considered a reliable rocket that

launched the Chandrayaan and Mangalyaan missions. The conclusions of these committees' findings are usually expected in a few weeks.

On board the rocket was the Earth Observation Satellite - 9 (EOS-9), designed to provide continuous and reliable remote sensing data for operational applications across various sectors. Had it been placed into orbit 500 kilometres above the Earth's surface, it would have enhanced India's surveillance capabilities shortly after a ceasefire brought cross-border tensions to a halt. Though EOS-9 was not put into orbit today, four radar satellites and eight cartosats continue to maintain vigil. EOS-9, however, had the capability to continue surveillance in all weather conditions and at night owing to its Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR). Apart from maintaining a hawk's eye along India's borders, it would have been vital for applications ranging from agriculture and forestry monitoring to disaster management, urban planning and national security.

## Ashoka University professor arrested over social media post on Operation Sindoor

**New Delhi.** An associate professor and head of the Political Science department at Ashoka University in Haryana has been arrested over a social media post related to Operation Sindoor, India's retaliatory action against Pakistan following the Pahalgam terrorist attacks.

The professor, Ali Khan Mahmudabad, was taken into custody in Delhi after a complaint was filed by a member of the BJP's youth wing. The Haryana State Commission for Women had also issued a notice to him regarding his remarks. The Commission's notice included excerpts from Mahmudabad's post, in which he questioned the "applause from right-wing supporters"

for Colonel Sofia Qureshi and suggested that the same people should also advocate for victims of mob lynchings and the "arbitrary" demolition of homes. Mahmudabad,

news agency PTI that the professor was arrested over his remarks related to Operation Sindoor.

The arrest has sparked an online debate, with several political leaders and academics voicing support for the professor. AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi condemned the move, stating that the professor's post was neither anti-national nor misogynistic, and accused the police of targeting individuals for expressing their opinion. Utterly condemnable. If true, Haryana police reportedly arrested him from Delhi, violating legal process. This targets an individual for his opinions; his post wasn't anti-national or misogynistic. A mere complaint by a BJP worker made Haryana police take action," Owaisi tweeted.



however, has said that his comments were misinterpreted.

Assistant Commissioner of Haryana Police (ACP) Ajeet Singh confirmed to

## "Justice, Not Revenge": Indian Army Shares New Operation Sindoor

**The Indian Army shared fresh visuals of military action carried out under Operation Sindoor, calling it justice for the Pahalgam attack.**

**New Delhi.** The Indian Army shared fresh visuals of military action carried out under Operation Sindoor, calling it justice and not revenge for the Pahalgam attack in which 26 civilians were killed. The video shared on the Army's Western Command X handle showed military

firing and shelling on Pakistani territory as part of the strikes on May 7 and later. A soldier can be heard saying, "This (Operation Sindoor) started with the Pahalgam attack. It is not anger but a resolve to teach a lesson that will be remembered in the future. It is justice, not revenge."

In the video captioned as "Planned, trained and executed", the soldier is heard saying that all Pakistani posts from where firing was initiated were decimated. As cross-border tensions continued after May 7 Operation Sindoor, in which nine terror targets in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir were struck, a ceasefire was reached between the two countries on May 10. New Delhi said trade with Pakistan and the Indus Water Treaty would continue to remain in abeyance. This comes on a day the Indian Army said



no meeting of the Directors General of Military Operations (DGMO) of India and Pakistan was scheduled for Sunday, adding that the ceasefire between the two countries continues.

A defence ministry statement said, "Some media houses are reporting that the Ceasefire between India and Pakistan is ending today. In addition, queries are also being received if a DGMO-level talk is scheduled today? The response is as

under:- No DGMO talks are scheduled today. As far as continuation of a break in hostilities, as decided in DGMOs interaction of 12 May is concerned, there is no expiry date to it."

The Centre also announced a list of fifty-one political leaders, parliamentarians and former ministers from various political parties who will be part of the seven delegations travelling to world capitals to put across India's resolve to tackle terrorism against the backdrop of Operation Sindoor. The delegations led by Bajiraj Pandey, Ravi Shankar Prasad (both BJP), Sanjay Kumar Jha (JDU), Shrikant Shinde (Shiv Sena), Shashi Tharoor (Congress), Kanimozhi (DMK) and Supriya Sule (NCP-SP) will visit a total of 32 countries and the EU headquarters in Brussels, Belgium.



# 5 most lucrative Careers



Read on to find out...

## Translators

With globalisation, the demand for translation and language-related services has witnessed a significant increase. Making a career in this field requires specialised training and a professional orientation. Today, translators are hired not only to promote literature and cross-cultural activities, but also to help companies keep pace with globalisation.

Professionals are in high demand in BPOs and localisation companies, embassies and multinational organisations. Graduates with a Bachelor's degree in a foreign or Indian language, with basic IT training, can earn anywhere between Rs 30,000 to 40,000 per month as freshers. The IT revolution and popular use of web 2.0 technologies worldwide have further increased the employment opportunities for translators. As more and more

multinational companies look to enter the Indian market, speakers of Hindi and other Indian languages are in high demand.

## Advertising professionals

Though a traditional favourite, the advertising industry has evolved to encompass mobile and digital advertising along with media like TV and print.

A passion for the field, coupled with the willingness to adapt to a dynamic

environment and ability to perform under pressure are crucial. One must also be creative and have strong people skills.

One can enter any of the varied sub-fields of advertising, media planning and buying, production, digital marketing, events and activation, channel marketing, radio, PR, outdoor and ambient media marketing, etc. Freshers can expect anything between Rs 3,00,000 to 5,00,000 a year.

## Actuaries

Actuaries are risk experts. They use their mathematical skills to help measure the probability and risk of future events, juggling complex data and making sense of it to inform business decisions. Useful to many industries where a single decision can have a major financial impact, this creates a great demand for actuaries' skills throughout the financial sector. While the traditional areas of life insurance and pensions are still at the heart of the actuarial profession, general insurance, investment and risk management are seeing very strong growth, indeed general insurance is now the second most popular area for the student base.

Apart from an understanding of how businesses operate, strong technical skills are crucial to succeed in this industry. Even more important is the ability to communicate the technicalities of topics of risk and insurance to non-specialists. Professionals can work in the insurance industry, actuarial consulting firms of multinational insurance companies in their outsourcing setups and risk management and information technology. In India, there is an increase in demand for skilled actuaries as multinationals grow and expand their businesses into the country.

## IT programmers developers

Application programmers create and modify computer applications. They write codes to create software applications. Familiarity with programming languages and general software is mandatory. Strong analytical and logical reasoning can be an added advantage. Freshers can earn upwards of Rs 4 lakh per annum.

## Veterinarian

Veterinary medicine focuses on the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of diseases and illnesses among animals. Apart from curing, it also focuses on the well-being and welfare of animals, qualifying veterinarians to fulfill a variety of roles. Apart from being compassionate towards animals, those who wish to make a career in this field must have keen interest in medicine and science, with basic English speaking skills. Knowledge of an additional local language always comes handy. Those who wish to make a career in this field must also be patient, must have an eye for detail, good observation skills and the will to work at odd hours. A number of private as well as public firms are now taking up veterinary and animal husbandry as



an entrepreneurship venture, particularly in areas of modern farming, biotechnology, genetic engineering, nanotechnology, vaccines, diagnostics, feed and value added animal products thereby opening up new avenues for veterinary graduates. Veterinarians can work as livestock development officers, posted in interiors of the country to reach out and assist the rural population. Besides this, veterinarians also have the opportunity to be placed in the defense and paramilitary services.

## Cover letter Essentials

**Most hiring managers these days prefer that candidates send them a cover letter while applying for a position in their organisation. Here are a few things an ideal cover letter must include.**

A cover letter is a two-minute elevator pitch for someone to get interested in the product i.e. the resume. Hence, it should be appropriately packaged and presented. If this pitch fails to impress, the chance of getting the opportunity is lost. In today's world, where there are other sources of references like LinkedIn, Twitter, web blogs and where resumes are mainly sent through emails, the cover letter assumes more importance and has to stand out from a vast pool of applications. Though one should not care too much about the "rules" and should try to be memorable and nail down their competencies well to stand out, there are certain points to consider while writing a cover letter.

### - Customise your letter:

Cover letters need to be made specific to the job opportunity one is



applying for; it cannot be the same for all jobs. This is the first impression a candidate can create and it has to be specific as to why she is the best candidate for the job. In a few lines, the cover letter should contain a summary of one's experience and an optimism of why the candidate thinks this opportunity is best suited for them.

### - Research:

A good amount of research has to be done about the organisation one is applying to. Research should be done about the company's vision, leadership team, company's success and challenges, products and the latest news on the organisation. This helps the candidate to refer to some of these aspects as part of the cover letter to create a connection. One needs to get a good sense of the company's tone, language and culture, which are crucial elements that one should mirror while writing.

### - Focus:

One should focus on what needs to be highlighted. The cover letter need not be a reposition of resume or a summary of the resume. It should focus on the skills and capabilities which have been acquired through the previous employment experiences and how it connects to the present opportunity. Focus more on quality parameters than quantity. If one is applying for a job in tech, they might talk about how the company's technology is changing people's lives and how thrilling it is to be a part of this transformation. If one is applying for a job in fashion, they can talk about how fashion has changed since the 90s and the factors influencing today's fashion trends. Everything has a hidden history. Use it to show expertise and interest.

**- Be realistic:** Downplay the use of adverbs like "absolutely thrilled for the opportunity" or "very excitedly applying!" Just showcase your competency and why you make the ideal fit for the position. Cut the fluff. Avoid, at all costs, describing yourself as a "team player" or a "people person"; instead, show off your skills with descriptive statements like: "I'm an expert communicator with X numbers of years' experience and with the ability to bring together diverse departments to develop a cohesive programme." It is longer, but stronger.

### - Testimonials:

Finally, while you are ending the cover letter, do provide a solid testimonial which may be from your professional social account as the final pitch of why this resume matters the most. This is the resume brand with customer testimonial; choose it properly as it should be the best one for this opportunity.

**Establishing a start-up of any kind isn't easy and managing it is an altogether daunting task. Here are a few tips to lead a new venture competitively.**

A vital quality for successful entrepreneurs, leadership skills are important while being at the helm of a start-up. It is niche since holding the reins of a new venture entails effectively managing employees who leave the allure of big organisations to work in a different environment and take up opportunities that wouldn't usually come their way.

Shubhra Bhardwaj, CEO, founder and director, Ferriswheel (an event management firm) says that styles of leadership change depending upon the size of the company and its employee base. Talking about the distinguishing features of a start-up, he says, "The driving force behind a successful start-up is thinking out-of-the-box. The environment in such a company is also homegrown and informal as opposed to a large company where employees are bound by well laid out codes of conduct."

According to Andrew Warren Smith, managing director, DDI India, the largest issue confronting start-ups is the risk of failure. "With a 90% failure rate amongst start-ups, leaders must be aware that the odds are stacked against them. Large corporates thrive by maintaining their status quo repeating successes of the past and leveraging scale to remain competitive. Hence, it is important for leaders to back their desire to succeed with innovations that can not only disrupt the status quo, but also carve a niche for the organisation."

He elaborates further saying that leadership in start-ups goes beyond merely possessing entrepreneurial and commercial skills and has to be coupled with a strong execution capability. "Entrepreneurs today must identify market opportunities and implement robust and sustainable plans that can quickly and efficiently capitalise on these factors."

### BOOST EMPLOYEE MORALE

An essential quality of a good business leader is to instill a sense of confidence among his/her employees. This is especially important in start-ups where individuals are constantly trying to prove their mettle in newer ways. A little pat on their backs can surely help them go a long way.

Says Swapnil Kamat, founder, CEO and

## How to run a successful Start-up



chief trainer at Work Better, an executive education and training firm, "Irrespective of the size of an organisation there are a few things that help improve employee morale. Acknowledging their contributions towards the growth of the company, appreciation of the efforts put in and updating them about the progress of the firm are some of the ways to keep them going."

"As a start-up leader, it's quite stimulating for me to be around my team whenever difficult situations arise. This brings a lot of positive energy and a sense of oneness to work. One thing that keeps me as well as my team motivated is ongoing communication - addressing work issues, discussing matters and giving honest feedback to each other," expresses Bhardwaj.

### PEOPLE MANAGERS VS SUBJECT-MATTER EXPERTS

As a start-up leader, it is important to be observant of your people, understand their aspirations and give them timely feedback all year round in order to get the most out of them. It is also important to let your employees know that subject matter experts are as important and vital to an organisation as senior ranking managers, in charge of handling teams of employees. Secondly, a start-up leader needs to play an active part in helping each team member understand their strengths, weaknesses and what the organisation expects from them.

**TO SUCCESSFULLY LEAD A**

### START-UP:

Be resilient and always on the lookout. Leaders of start-ups need to be passionate and ambitious, display high-levels of energy and initiative. Typically dissatisfied with the status quo, they must be competitive and reluctant to take no for an answer. They must also be good at identifying opportunities for new products, services and markets. Be confident and engaging. Such leaders convey a simple, vivid picture of the organisation's vision and goal and generate energy and enthusiasm that can invoke passion among employees to work towards a common goal. Be ready to take risks. Leaders of start-ups need to recognise risks and pursue actions that have acceptable levels of risk. They need to proactively build and align stakeholders, capabilities, and resources for getting things done quickly. They must also be flexible to adapt to change and mend the work environment accordingly. Be self-aware and receptive. Start-up leaders need to be aware of their impact on others, seek input, be receptive to feedback and take action to improve themselves based on such feedback. Have a solid vision. Your vision of the company is vital and must be backed with conviction. The ultimate test however, is instilling it among employees and encouraging them to put in their best effort towards the company.





## Stock Market Forecast this week: 'Q4 earnings, FII activity to guide Sensex, Nifty'

New Delhi. Stock markets will be mainly driven by quarterly earnings by corporates, foreign fund flows and global trends this week, analysts said. Updates on global trade deals and their impact on world markets will also be closely tracked, experts noted.

"As the India-Pakistan conflict now stabilized and all major geopolitical events behind, investors' focus is likely to shift towards assessing the ongoing Q4 corporate earnings season.

"Additionally, there is growing optimism around the possibility of an early India-US trade deal, which could provide further support to market sentiment," Puneet Singhania, Director at Master Trust Group, said. Domestic developments and key global economic data releases will also influence investor flows and overall market direction, he added.

India is willing to cut 100 per cent tariffs on American goods, US President Donald Trump claimed once again while saying that a trade deal between New Delhi and Washington is coming soon.

Power Grid Corporation of India, Hindalco Industries, ONGC, Sun Pharmaceutical Industries, ITC and JSW Steel will announce their earnings this week.

"With no major global or domestic events scheduled, markets focus is expected to shift towards domestic earnings and high-frequency economic data for directional cues. Updates on global trade deals and their impact on global markets will also be closely tracked," Ajit Mishra - SVP, Research, Religare Broking Ltd, said.

Participants will continue to monitor foreign capital flows, which have played a significant role in sustaining the current rally, he said. "On the corporate earnings front, several prominent companies, including ONGC, ITC, Hindalco, JSW Steel and Power Grid are set to announce their quarterly results, which could influence near-term market trends," Mishra added.

## EPF: Don't underestimate a low salary; trust it to build a nice corpus; check how

Kolkata. Legislated in 1952 a few years after Independence, the Employees Provident Fund (EPF) is not only the earliest social security scheme for employees in the country but also one of the most impactful. It provides assured and tax-free returns for all employees working in any organisation that employ 20 or more persons. The most important feature of the EPF is that it uses the force of compounding and regular contribution to build a sizeable corpus.

The EPF scheme draws on a 12% contribution from the basic + DA of the employee's salary. It is taken from the employee. A contribution is also taken from the employer. The entire amount taken from the employee's salary is deposited in the EPF account. But only 3.67% of the portion deducted from employer is put in the EPF account. The rest (12-3.67 = 8.33%) is put into a pension account.

Since EPF contributions are a percentage of the basic salary (and DA) of an employee, the amount of contribution is directly dependent on the quantum of salary of the employee. Significantly, while this statement is most definitely true, the reverse is not true. Which means if one has a small salary, the EPF kitty can turn out a significant corpus, thanks to the immense force of compounding. Let's check the calculations.

### EPF calculator: Basic salary less than Rs 5,000

Let's assume a person starts earning at the age of 23 and retires at the age of 58. Let's assume that he/she gets a basic salary of Rs 4,500. Let's also assume that this individual gets an average salary increment of 5% — a rate that can barely keep pace with retail inflation. The EPF calculator will tell you that the EPF kitty will stand at Rs 28,95,567 (Rs 28.95 lakh) when this person retires. By the way, this calculation assumes that the rate of interest paid by EPFO stands at 8.25% as paid in FY24.

Now if we assume that this person is able to earn a salary increment of 7.5%, the kitty will swell to Rs 45,00,093 (Rs 45 lakh) in the same period of time. If the rate of increment jumps to 10%, the money in EPF will rise to Rs 73,95,334, or Rs 73.95 lakh.

## Income Tax: Be careful of these transactions to avoid taxman's glare

Kolkata. It is well known that the government of India does not encourage cash transactions. However, it is not easy to dispense with cash and millions of millions of people continue to transact in cash. However, one of the obstacles that the government has erected on the path of cash transaction is to limit the use of cash in various transactions. It is significant that one keeps in mind the transactions where one should not try to use a lot of cash.

Experts point to a lot of transactions which are under constant watch by the income tax personnel and if these norms are breached, the taxman can come knocking at your door, which is not a pleasant experience for anyone. Let's have a look at what are these transactions and what are the limits that one needs to adhere to.

### Banks, AMCs etc asked to report high-value transactions

Income Tax department officials monitor high-value transactions through a statement of financial transaction (SFT).

The government has mandated bodies such as banks, post offices, cooperative societies, credit card issuers, mutual fund houses etc to furnish information about high-value transactions that were registered during a fiscal year by May 31 of the following fiscal year. With the help of this SFT the Income Tax Department can track an individual's financial activities. SFT full form is a Statement of Financial Transactions.

# Outlook For Nifty Remains Bullish, Adopt Buy-On-Dips Strategy: Analysts

## Among the sector, Nifty Realty, Media and FMCG were top gainers while Nifty IT, Healthcare and Metal sector ended in the red.

Mumbai. The Indian equity benchmarks paused their recent rally last week, with the Nifty ending just above the psychological 25,000 mark. However, the momentum indicators favour the bullish setup next week, according to analysts. While the headline indices showed signs of mild pressure, the broader markets outperformed

significantly. The BSE Midcap index gained 0.8 per cent, and the Smallcap index added 1 per cent, indicating continued buying interest beyond the large-cap space.

"This suggests that investors are becoming more confident in the market's breadth, often a bullish sign for the overall trend," according to Kailash Rajwadekar of Choice Broking. From a technical standpoint, the Nifty has recently broken out of a Rounding Bottom pattern on the weekly chart, supported by strong volumes—a bullish signal.

"The pattern projects an upside potential toward 28,000 in the short term. Immediate resistance is seen at 26,000-27,000 levels, where partial profit booking may be considered. On the downside, 24,300 and 24,000 are strong support zones; any correction toward these levels should be viewed as a buying opportunity, keeping the broader trend



intact," Rajwadekar mentioned in a note.

Momentum indicators also support the bullish setup. The Relative Strength Index (RSI) stands at 61.9 and is trending upwards, indicating growing strength. Furthermore, the Nifty is trading well above its key exponential moving averages — 20, 50, 100, and 200 — highlighting sustained positive momentum. This technical alignment continues to favour a buy-on-dips strategy.

In the derivatives space, market volatility cooled off slightly, with India VIX dropping 23.49 per cent to 16.55, reflecting a decline in fear and a more stable trading environment.

"However, heavy call writing at 25,500 and 26,000 levels signals resistance at higher zones, while strong put writing at 25,000 confirms it as a crucial support. Traders should keep a close eye on the 25,000 level—a sustained hold above it may trigger fresh buying interest, though a risk-managed approach is recommended in the near term," said Rajwadekar.

Bank Nifty closed the week on a steady note, consolidating just below the key 56,000 mark. Despite limited movement in Friday's session, the index held firm above previous breakout levels, reflecting underlying strength in the banking space. The weekly chart shows a breakout from a recent consolidation range, and the price action continues to hold above that breakout zone, signalling potential for further upside.

## RBI To Issue Rs 20 Notes With New Governor Sanjay Malhotra's Signature

New Delhi. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced that it will soon issue 20 denomination banknotes in the Mahatma Gandhi (New) Series, bearing the signature of the new RBI Governor, Sanjay Malhotra, according to an official statement.



The new notes will retain the existing design and features of the current 20 notes in circulation, except for the updated governor's signature. The RBI also clarified that all previously issued 20 banknotes will continue to be legal tender. Sanjay Malhotra was appointed as the RBI Governor effective December 11, 2024, for a tenure of three years. Legal tender refers to coins or banknotes that are legally accepted for the discharge of debts or obligations. According to the

central bank, every banknote issued by the Reserve Bank of India—unless withdrawn from circulation—is legal tender across India for the amount stated on it and is guaranteed by the Central Government, subject to the provisions of sub-section (2) of Section 26 of the RBI Act, 1934. 1 notes issued by the Government of India are also considered legal tender. Banknotes are printed at four currency

presses: two are owned by the Government of India through the Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Ltd. (SPMCIL), and two are owned by the Reserve Bank through its wholly owned subsidiary, Bharatiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Private Ltd. (BRBNMPL). The SPMCIL currency presses are located in Nasik (Western India) and Dewas (Central India), while the BRBNMPL presses are located in Mysuru (Southern India) and Salboni (Eastern India). Coins are minted at four mints owned by SPMCIL, located in Mumbai, Hyderabad, Kolkata, and Noida. Coins are issued for circulation only through the Reserve Bank, in accordance with Section 38 of the RBI Act.

## Want To Support Your Retired Mother? SCSS Lets You Gift Rs 30 Lakh Without Any Tax

New Delhi. Planning to secure your mother's retirement while looking for an option to save taxes as well. You can gift your senior citizen mother up to Rs. 30 lakhs for investment in the Senior Citizens' Savings Scheme (SCSS) FDR. This regular interest income helps her stay self-reliant in her old age. CA Kinjal Shah, Secretary BCAS has decoded SCSS scheme and its tax implications.

### Senior Citizens' Savings Scheme (SCSS) – Key Highlights

SCSS is a government-backed fixed deposit scheme offering assured returns for senior citizens.

#### Eligibility:

- Individuals aged 60 years and above.
- Individuals aged 55-60 years who have retired under Superannuation, VRS, or Special VRS.
- Retired Defence Services personnel aged 50 years and above (excluding civilian employees).

The account can be opened individually or jointly with a spouse. You can



deposit a minimum of Rs 1,000 and a maximum of Rs 30 lakhs, in multiples of Rs 1,000. The tenure is 5 years from the date of account opening.

The account can be extended for an additional 3 years after maturity. Interest is payable quarterly on the first working day of April, July, October, and January. Interest does not accrue further if it is not claimed.

The account can be closed prematurely after one year, subject to specific conditions.

### Tax Benefits for Senior Citizen

#### (Mother)

Investment Deduction (Section 80C): Deduction up to 1.50 lakhs is available in the year of investment.

Interest Income: The interest income is taxable. Interest Deduction (Section 80TTB): Deduction up to ₹50,000 can be claimed on the total interest earned from deposits in banks, post offices, etc., including SCSS.

#### Tax Implications Under SCSS

Any gift from a son or daughter to their senior citizen mother for investment in SCSS is tax-free under Section 56 of the Income Tax Act. SCSS accounts can be opened at public and private sector banks or post offices. To open an account, fill out the application form and submit your PAN card, address proof, and passport-size photographs. Deposits below ₹1 lakh can be made in cash, while amounts above ₹1 lakh must be made by cheque. Upon successful submission, an SCSS account will be opened, and a passbook will be provided.

## Aditya Birla Fashion Demerger: Record Date This Week, Check Ratio & Other Details

New Delhi. Aditya Birla Fashion And Retail has demerged into two listed entities, aimed at stronger growth trajectories in their niche markets. Aditya Birla Lifestyle Brands Limited (ABLBL) is spinning off from Aditya Birla Fashion and Retail (ABFRL) to cater to different customers.

Last week, shares of Aditya Birla Fashion and Retail Limited settled 0.54 per cent higher to Rs 278.90 apiece.

### Aditya Birla Fashion Demerger Record Date

Aditya Birla Fashion And Retail Limited's board has fixed Thursday, May 22, 2025, as the record date for the purpose of determining the equity shareholders of the company who will be entitled to be issued equity shares of ABLBL as per the scheme of arrangement.

### Aditya Birla Fashion Demerger Ratio

Shareholders of ABFRL will get shares of ABLBL in the ratio of 1:1. Accordingly, as per the sanctioned Scheme, 1 (one) fully paid-up equity share of ABLBL having face value of Rs. 10 (Rupees Ten) each for every 1 (one) fully paid-up equity share of Rs. 10 (Rupees Ten) each of the Company will be issued and allotted by ABLBL to the equity shareholders of the Company holding equity shares as on the Record Date. The said equity shares to be allotted by ABLBL are proposed to be listed with BSE Limited and the National Stock Exchange of India Limited.

### ABLBL's portfolio of brands

The new entity Aditya Birla Lifestyle Brands Ltd. now holds some of India's best-known brands in its kitty.

Lifestyle brands — Louis Philippe, Van Heusen, Peter England, Allen Solly, Simon Carter Sportswear — Reebok Van Heusen innerwear

Youth western wear — American Eagle

### ABFRL's portfolio of brands

The post-demerger entity ABFRL covers a wide selection of options, ranging all the way from mass appeal and digital-first brands to luxury offerings and designer couture.

Masstige & Value Retail

Masstige fashion — Pantaloon

Value fashion — StyleUp

Ethnic Brands

Designer led brands — Sabyasachi, Shantanu and Nikhil, House of Masaba, Tarun Tahiliani

Premium wear brands — TASVA, TCNS Brands, Jaypore

# The Real Cost Of No-Cost EMIs: What You Need To Know For Your Credit Score

## Splitting purchases into 'No-Cost EMIs' sounds like a win-win. But if misused, these schemes can lower your credit score and raise red flags for lenders.

New Delhi. No-Cost EMI schemes have become a popular fixture in Indian consumer finance. Whether you're buying a smartphone, a refrigerator, or even paying for a vacation, chances are you've been offered a "No-Cost EMI" option at checkout. Splitting a high-ticket purchase into monthly payments with no added interest can be a compelling option for managing expenses. This approach may also help in building a credit profile as these transactions are reported to credit

bureaus. However, it's important to be diligent with emi payments as missed payments or deferred interest, can negatively affect your credit score.

No-Cost EMI schemes can be misleadingly named, as they are not entirely free of cost. Rather than charging the customer interest directly, the interest is typically subsidized by the seller, OEMs, or financing partner, or embedded into the product's price. An example of this structure is, dealer subvention, a practice commonly used in the sale of two-wheelers and consumer durables, where the interest is borne by the dealer or OEM, or adjusted through an advance payment or factored into the cost price.

Many young professionals and first-time credit users are attracted to No-Cost EMIs due to easy access to credit, also as a way to establish or build their credit profile. On paper, this makes sense. Timely EMI payments improve your credit score, especially if you lack a credit



history. Used judiciously, No-Cost EMIs can help you demonstrate repayment behaviour and improve your creditworthiness over time. However, the benefits can backfire under certain scenarios. If you frequently use No-Cost EMI options across different platforms, you could end up with several open loan accounts in your credit report, this will reflect as multiple open credit facilities in your credit report and raise concerns for lenders about your borrowing habits especially if the income does not support the credit exposure. A missed EMI, even

by a few days, can significantly impact your credit score. Since these loans are often of small value, users tend to deprioritise them, assuming that it will have minor impact to their credit profile, this is a costly mistake (eg. Assume, a customer has 3 loans, two consumer loans taken for mobile phone and LED TV and one home loan, if this customer delays payment on their mobile phone EMI, in the credit report it will reflect as 1 out of 3 loans payment is missed and could have a significant impact on the score). Additionally, applying for a No-Cost EMI facility, results in hard inquiries on your credit report before approving the transaction. Frequent inquiries within a short time frame can impact your credit score adversely. Since EMIs seem painless, users may commit to multiple EMIs such No-Cost EMI facilities in a short duration. This increases your credit utilization and perceived financial burden, leading to increased leverage which can lower your creditworthiness in the eyes of lenders as one of the metric that is measures.



## NEWS BOX

## Ageless James Anderson stars with double wickets on County Cricket comeback



**New Delhi.** James Anderson marked his much-anticipated return to competitive cricket by claiming two wickets for 24 runs for Lancashire in their County Championship fixture against Derbyshire on May 17. The veteran seamer's performance played a key role in putting Lancashire in control on Day 2 of the match at Old Trafford. Making his first appearance of the season after recovering from a calf injury, Anderson wasted little time reminding fans of his class. Despite conceding three boundaries in his opening over, the 42-year-old struck with his 18th delivery, removing Caleb Jewell to break Derbyshire's opening partnership. He later dismissed David Lloyd, further denting the visitors' innings and reducing them to 112/4 — still trailing Lancashire's first-innings total of 458 by a considerable margin.

This outing marked Anderson's first competitive match since his international farewell against the West Indies last June. Earlier this year, he signed a one-year contract extension with Lancashire, committing to red-ball cricket following the end of his England career.

The Old Trafford crowd greeted his return with a warm standing ovation, and Anderson responded in kind with a typically precise and effective spell. Though now part of England's coaching setup as a bowling consultant, Anderson has been vocal about his desire to continue contributing on the field. With 1,100+ first-class wickets to his name, the County Championship's most prolific bowler showed once again why he remains an invaluable asset for Lancashire.

## I am surprised: Sourav Ganguly shocked after Virat Kohli's Test retirement



**New Delhi.** The Indian cricket team is reeling from the sudden retirements of two of its most iconic players, Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli, from Test cricket. This unexpected move has created a massive void in the team, leaving many to wonder who will fill their shoes.

Back on May 7, the 38-year-old Rohit hung his boots from the purest format. On May 12, it was Kohli's turn to bid goodbye to Test cricket. Both players retired with India set to start their campaign in the 2025-27 World Test Championship with the five-match Test series in England.

Former Indian captain Sourav Ganguly shared his thoughts on the retirements, saying, "Playing or leaving is your own decision. Both Virat and Rohit have left the game of their own free will. Both of them have had incredible careers." While Rohit's retirement may not be surprising, Ganguly expressed his surprise at Kohli's decision, stating, "Yes, I am surprised." With Rohit Sharma's retirement, the big question on everyone's mind is: Who will lead India in Test cricket? Ganguly acknowledged the challenge, saying that it's a tough decision and believed the selectors will choose the next skipper based on their deep understanding of the team's needs and the demands of the longest format. "The selectors will take decisions as per their understanding. A lot must be thought about in terms of captaincy. Long-term thinking. Many are talking about Jasprit Bumrah. There are concerns about his injury. We will have to think about everything together," he said.

Meanwhile, the Indian Premier League is back in full swing. The match between Royal Challengers Bangalore and Kolkata Knight Riders in Bengaluru was abandoned due to rain, but the spotlight is already shifting to the IPL final, scheduled for June 3. Although Eden Gardens in Kolkata was initially set to host the final, rumours are swirling that the venue may be shifted to Ahmedabad. Ganguly, however, remains optimistic about Kolkata hosting the final. "The final cannot be removed so easily! Efforts are underway to conduct the finals here by CAB. Nothing will be achieved by protesting and marching. Talks are ongoing with the board. CAB is having a great relationship with BCCI. Everything will be fine. I am optimistic, the final will be here," Ganguly said.

## IPL 2025: How KKR collapsed right after their title-winning season

**Kolkata Knight Riders were eliminated from IPL 2025 after a rainout capped off a disappointing season marked by poor team decisions and underperformance. The franchise now faces pressure to overhaul its squad and leadership.**

**New Delhi.** Defending champions Kolkata Knight Riders' Indian Premier League campaign was ended by rain on Saturday, May 17, at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium. KKR, playing their 13th league stage match of the tournament, needed a win to stay alive in the competition, but it was not to be, as the rain refused to stop in Bengaluru. It felt fitting that even the gods didn't wish to see this KKR team in action—a side that made some odd decisions throughout the season. The Ajinkya Rahane-led team looked like a

shadow of the unit that dominated the competition in 2024.

KKR's record of 5 wins, 6 losses, and 1 no result from 13 matches stands in stark contrast to their fortunes last season, when they won 9 and lost only 3 games. And that hasn't come as a major surprise, given how the team was set up this year.

The franchise broke up their successful opening combination of Phil Salt and Sunil Narine, who were prolific in 2024. That opening pair consistently set the pace in games, giving the lower order the cushion to occasionally fail without hurting the team.

However, with Salt gone, KKR needed their other top-order batters to step up—something that unfortunately didn't happen. The team stayed rigid with its batting order, delaying the entry of hitters like Andre Russell, Rinku Singh, and Ramandeep Singh. That lack of flexibility showed in their middling scores this season.

What didn't help was the prolonged poor form of Venkatesh Iyer, who has scored just 142 runs in 11 matches so far. Iyer, the most expensive player (₹23.75 crore) in KKR's history, insisted that he didn't feel any



pressure from the price tag, but that seemed increasingly unlikely as his performances dwindled.

## The exit of Shreyas Iyer

"Shreyas Iyer was not given the credit he deserved after KKR won the IPL 2024," fumed Sunil Gavaskar after the team's exit from the Indian Premier League. Gavaskar criticised the narrative built around KKR's 2024 success, where most of the praise went to Gautam Gambhir. Since leaving the franchise, Iyer has led Punjab Kings to a sensational season in IPL 2025, thriving in an environment of trust and belief under Ricky Ponting. On the other hand, both

Gambhir and KKR have struggled in their respective roles. "He didn't get the credit for the IPL victory last season. All the plaudits were given to someone else. It's the captain who plays a major role in what's happening in the middle, not someone sitting in the dugout. See, this year he's getting fair credit. No one is giving all the credit to Ricky Ponting," Gavaskar said on Star Sports after KKR's exit.

The reality is that before winning the Champions Trophy 2025, Gambhir's position as India coach was under threat. While that pressure has eased for now, the same can't be said for KKR, whose decision to change leadership and appoint Ajinkya Rahane has completely backfired.

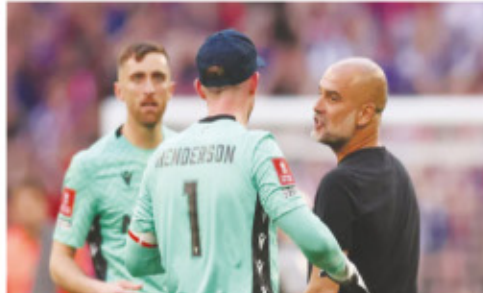
## Time for a rejig

After their brilliant run in IPL 2024, KKR were forced to part ways with mentor Gautam Gambhir and batting coach Abhishek Nayar, two long-serving members of the franchise. The abrupt change caught the team off guard, as new relationships had to be built between players and coaches. That disruption directly contributed to poor planning and execution, especially in the batting order.

## Pep Guardiola avoids Dean Henderson VAR question after Crystal Palace defeat

**Crystal Palace stunned Manchester City to clinch their first-ever major trophy, with a controversial VAR call and a heroic Dean Henderson performance playing pivotal roles in a dramatic FA Cup Final at Wembley.**

**New Delhi.** Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola refused to comment on the controversial VAR (Video Assistant Referee) decision that went against his side during their 1-0 defeat to Crystal Palace in the FA Cup Final. The incident in question involved Palace goalkeeper Dean Henderson, who appeared to handle the ball outside the penalty area in the 26th minute while attempting to intercept a pass



intended for City striker Erling Haaland. However, following a VAR review, the decision was given in favour of Henderson. When asked about the incident post-match, Guardiola declined to share his views, instead suggesting that such questions be directed towards the referees. Crystal Palace made history by lifting their first-ever major trophy in 120 years, courtesy of a 16th-minute goal from Eberechi Eze. Despite being dominated in terms of possession, Palace managed to hold firm against City's star-studded attack.

"Don't ask me, ask the VAR and the referee," Guardiola said post-match. Guardiola also shared his take on Dean Henderson wasting time whenever he received the ball, which

left a lot of City fans and players irritated, specifically after conceding the goal in the 16th minute. "Listen, he defended his position, we defended our position. I understand in the last minutes, but since the first or second minutes? He's British, you know, in the English football, you have to play," Guardiola said. "I'm sorry, everyone can do whatever they want. We have to score goals. We didn't lose because Henderson was time-wasting."

But it's a question of rhythm for the players," he added. Henderson emerged as one of the key figures in the match. Besides the contentious moment, he made several crucial saves — most notably denying Omar Marmoush from the penalty spot in the 36th minute. The former Manchester United goalkeeper went on to reveal the overview of the conversation he had with Guardiola at full-time, and even his sly added-time dig at the City manager. "I just went to shake his hand but obviously I think he was disappointed with the time wasting. I said, 'You got the 10 minutes [of added time] that you wanted.' No hard feelings," Henderson said.

## Jasmine Paolini beats Coco Gauff to end 40-year wait for home winner of Italian Open

**New Delhi.** Jasmine Paolini scripted history on Saturday, becoming the first Italian woman in 40 years to win the singles title at the Italian Open with a commanding 6-4, 6-2 win over world No. 3 Coco Gauff. Roared on by a passionate home crowd at the Foro Italico, the 29-year-old from Tuscany produced a composed and confident performance to secure the biggest claycourt title of her career and her second WTA 1000 crown, following her victory in Dubai last year. Paolini is the first Italian to lift the trophy in Rome during the Open Era. The last to win the women's title was Raffaella Reggi in 1985, when the tournament was held in Taranto. "It's pure joy to have this trophy in my hands here in Rome at home," Paolini said. "Really happy about it and grateful, as well." "I, ATP Finals,



Australian Open and Rome. "Congrats for the amazing week Coco. You reached finals so you're playing great. You are such a great player and a great person," Paolini said. Paolini, who will return to a career-high world No. 4 ranking on Monday, took early control of the final, edging a tight first set in 54 minutes before racing to a 3-0 lead in the second. She sealed the match in

just under 90 minutes. Gauff, the reigning U.S. Open champion, struggled with consistency, committing 55 unforced errors, while Paolini remained steady, winning 76% of her first-serve points. Gauff had been in strong form throughout the week, beating Zheng Qinwen, Mirra Andrejeva, and Emma Raducanu, but was unable to match Paolini's level in the final. [Paolini] forced me to play that way," Gauff said after the match. "Maybe I could have served better and put more balls in the court, could play better. I definitely could and can. But she played to win today and she deserved to win." "Congrats Jasmine on this incredible achievement. You're an incredible person and player. It's always tough playing you. Good luck in the doubles final."

## RR vs PBKS, IPL 2025 Preview: Predicted XI, team news and Jaipur pitch conditions

**IPL 2025: Rajasthan Royals have their task cut out when they face the Punjab Kings, who are on the cusp of making their way through to the playoffs in the ongoing edition of the T20 league.**

**New Delhi.** Punjab Kings (PBKS) have a golden opportunity as they take on Rajasthan Royals (RR) in the first match of Sunday's doubleheader in the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium in Jaipur. A win would bring PBKS closer to ending their 10-year wait for a spot in the IPL

final—their last top-four finish came in 2014, when they finished as runners-up after losing to Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR).

Currently, placed third on the points table with 15 points and a net run rate of +0.376, PBKS have won seven of their 11 matches so far. Their most recent outing was interrupted when IPL 2025 was halted during their game against Delhi Capitals (DC) at the HPCA Stadium in Dharamsala.

Rajasthan Royals, meanwhile, are already out of contention for the playoffs. However, they'll be eager to wrap up their home campaign in Jaipur on a high. They came into this game after a narrow one-run loss to KKR at Eden Gardens.

With regular captain Sanju Samson unavailable, stand-in skipper Riyan Parag has faced mounting pressure. Another loss could see RR slip to the bottom of the table,



currently occupied by Chennai Super Kings.

## RR vs PBKS: Head-to-Head

The Royals and Kings have faced each other in 29 matches since 2008. RR have a 17-11 lead over their opponents with one game ending in a tie. In Jaipur, RR have won five out of six matches. In their last five meetings, RR have a 3-2 lead.

## RR vs PBKS: Team News

Jofra Archer and Nandre Burger won't be available for the Royals. For PBKS, there are uncertainties over the availability of Josh Inglis, Marcus Stoinis and Aaron Hardie. Kyle Jamieson has been roped in as an injury replacement for Kyle Jamieson.

## RR vs PBKS: Predicted Xis

## RR

Yashasvi Jaiswal, Vaibhav Suryavanshi, Riyan Parag ©, Kunal Singh Rathore, Dhruv Jurel (wk), Shimron Hetmyer, Wanindu Hasaranga, Maheesh Theekshana, Yuvraj Singh Chahal, Akash Madhwal, Fazalhaq Farooqi

## Impact Player: Shubham Dubey

## PBKS

Priyansh Arya, Prabhsimran Singh (wk), Shreyas Iyer (c), Mitchell Owen, Shashank Singh, Nehal Wadhwa, Marcus Stoinis, Azmatullah Omarzai, Marco Jansen, Yuzvendra Chahal, Arshdeep Singh.

## Neeraj Chopra hits 90.23: 2016 Olympic champion welcomes India athlete to 90m club



**New Delhi.** Former Olympic champion Thomas Rohler welcomed Neeraj Chopra to the 90m club after the Indian athlete delivered a stellar performance at the Doha Diamond League. On Friday, Neeraj crossed the 90m mark for the first time in his career, surpassing his previous best of 89.94m set at the 2022 Stockholm Diamond League.

In Doha, the 27-year-old recorded a throw of 90.23 metres, although it wasn't enough to secure the top spot. Germany's Julian Weber clinched first place with a throw of 91.06 metres. Rohler, the gold medalist at the 2016 Rio Olympics, praised Neeraj for his outstanding achievement. Rohler wrote, "Welcome to the 90m+ club."

Rohler, who won the gold medal in Rio with a throw of 90.30 metres, had previously bested Kenya's Julius Yego (88.24m) and Trinidad and Tobago's Keshorn Walcott (85.38m) at the 2016 Olympics.

Notably, Rohler's personal best came at the 2017 Doha Diamond League, where he registered an impressive 93.90 metres. He currently ranks third on the all-time list of javelin throws, behind Jan Zelezny's world record of 98.48 metres and Johannes Vetter's 97.76 metres. After Neeraj crossed the 90-metre mark, Weber followed suit by breaching the milestone for the first time in his career as well, becoming the 26th athlete to do so. Reflecting on his performance in Doha, Neeraj said he will continue to push himself and aims to perform even better in upcoming events. "A lot of people had this question - whether I'd be able to throw 90m or not - since I hadn't done it despite competing since 2018. I had broken 88-89m before but not 90m. But finally, not just for me, but at least for Indians, the burden has reduced. I feel I can do even better," Neeraj told Revsportz in an interview.





# Prince Narula Was Not Absent During Yuvika Chaudhary's Delivery: 'He Cut The Umbilical Cord'



Yuvika Chaudhary has revealed that Prince Narula was not absent during her delivery last year. In a recent interview, the actress dismissed reports that Prince was not in the city when she delivered her baby girl. She urged everyone not to believe in rumours and shared that Prince stood by her in the hospital. Recently, Yuvika appeared on Paras Chhabra's podcast when she was asked if she missed Prince during her delivery. The actress mentioned that there was no chance of missing her husband since he was present with her. She also shared that it was Prince who had cut the umbilical cord.

"Why would I miss him? He was there. Yes, Prince was there during my delivery of course. Don't trust the rumours, he was there making the video of our child's birth. I always wanted him to be present in the delivery room when I'm giving birth to our baby. I wanted him to know what all women go through when they give birth to child. Main chahti thi ke woh dekhe ke ek zindagi bahar kaise aati hai aur woh cord apne haanth se kaate," Yuvika said.

The Main Hoon actress further shared that even though Prince was shivering while cutting the umbilical cord, she told him to do it. "He cut the umbilical cord and making the video, he was shivering. He was like baby mujhse nahi ho paayega. I told him you have to do it. He is very strong, he saw the entire C-section process. But he was nervous due to the happy emotions. He was becoming a father suddenly, from a boy to a father, so there is a change from inside. The change is very beautiful, because your body responds to the change and sometimes you cry, you shiver, you laugh. So that was his reaction," she added.

Yuvika and Prince fell in love with each other in Bigg Boss 9 and have been together ever since. The couple got married in 2018 and welcomed their first child, a baby girl, in October 2024.

# Taapsee Pannu

Buys Rs 4.33-Crore Premium Apartment In Mumbai's Goregaon



Taapsee Pannu is now the proud owner of a swanky new apartment in Mumbai. Along with her sister Shagun, the actress bought a stylish home in Goregaon West's posh Imperial Heights. She paid a whopping Rs 4.33 crore to buy the apartment. This gorgeous spot spreads out over about 1,390 sq. ft. of carpet area, with a total built-up space of around 1,669 sq. ft. Plus, they got two dedicated parking spots. The deal was wrapped up and officially stamped in May 2025. Taapsee and Shagun shelled out Rs 21.65 lakh in stamp duty and another Rs 30,000 in registration fees to make this dreamy address theirs.

On the work front, Taapsee was last seen lighting up the

screens in *Khel Khel Mein*. Up next, she's gearing up for some exciting releases including *Gandhari* and *Woh Ladki Hai Kahaan?*. Taapsee had earlier revealed her fitness regime for the upcoming movie *Gandhari*. She said, "Now *Gandhari* Prep is going on apart from Squash, aerial yoga and gym training I'm also doing some boxing so my stamina is ready for the long fight so there isn't a lot of time I waste on set for recovery."

"The film revolves around the story of a mother who takes on a fierce fight to save her child who is abducted. Billed as an action-thriller, the film promises yet another powerful performance from the actress."



## Natasa Stankovic's Facts Vs Opinions Game With Son Has Internet's Attention



Natasa Stankovic has been a doting parent to her and Hardik Pandya's son, Agastya, over the years. She recently uploaded an adorable video on Instagram that depicts how she is striving to teach vital life lessons early on in life. In the clip, Natasa teaches her little son, Agastya, the distinction between fact and opinion in a vital session wrapped in a dose of humour.

The clip begins with Natasa questioning Agastya if a statement about her longer hair is a fact or opinion. The youngster promptly responds with a fact. She then asks "My hair is better than yours, Is it a fact or opinion?" Agastya rightly responds, "Opinion." This back-and-forth continues as Natasa tests her son's comprehension with real-life situations, such as someone's view of his T-shirt etc. Agastya readily understands the situations and answers rightly.

In the caption, he wrote, "Yesterday we had a little chat about fact vs. opinion and how not to get caught up in what others say — especially if it's not so kind. At the end of the day, it's our own opinion of ourselves that really matters." Many users praised Natasa for dedicatedly teaching her son crucial life skills. One of them wrote, "Natasha is a great mom... It's a FACT."

Natasa Stankovic, recently shared about the cutest surprise from her son, Agastya, on Mother's Day. The video started with little Agastya entering the room where his mother was sleeping, carrying lights and a paper-rose bouquet in his tiny hands. He swiftly approached her, handed the gift, and wished her a "Happy Mother's Day". The video concluded with Agastya receiving numerous pecks on the cheeks and hugs in return. In the caption, she wrote, "My heart must have done something right to be blessed with you. Forever grateful for the gift of motherhood and for you, my sweetest boy."

## Preity Zinta Channels Her Inner Barbie For Punjab Kings' IPL Return



Preity Zinta is currently involved in supporting her team, Punjab Kings, during the ongoing IPL 2025. On Friday, the diva arrived in Jaipur to attend her team's next match with the Rajasthan Royals, scheduled on May 18.

She is a co-owner and is often seen at matches, celebrating every boundary and wicket, and enthusiastically cheering for her team players. Several pictures and videos of the *Veer-Zaara* actress are currently surfacing online. In one such video, dropped on Instagram, Preity is seen outside the airport arrival and heading towards her car. Before that, she engaged in a conversation with her team members but avoided posing for the camera.

The actress looked beautiful in a pink co-ord set paired with a white top. She accessorised her look with brown shades, a matching handbag and a golden wristwatch. As for the hair, she kept it open and let it cascade down her shoulders. Recently, the actress conducted an Ask Me Anything session on X where she answered several questions from her fans and admirers. During this, a user asked, "What's one thing fans don't know about you?", to which she responded, "I hate taking pictures at temples, early in the morning after a flight, in restrooms, and during security checks! Asking me for a photo is the best way to get one, unless you are in one of the situations listed above. Taking photos of my children would bring out my Kali avatar; otherwise, I am a joyful person. Do not start making videos without my consent; it is really very annoying. Just ask me gently, and please leave my kids alone."

Preity got married to Gene Goodenough in 2016 and welcomed their twins, a baby boy named Jai and a baby girl named Gia, via surrogacy in November 2021.

On the work front, Preity will be making her acting comeback with the upcoming period drama film, *Lahore 1947*, opposite Sunny Deol. Directed by Rajkumar Santoshi and produced by Aamir Khan, the official release date of the film is yet to be announced. Set against the backdrop of the partition of India in 1947, the film also stars Ali Fazal and Shabana Azmi.