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## Omar Abdullah chairs cabinet meeting in Pahalgam

The Sikh Times  
Sanjay Kumar

Jammu, May 27: Tourism in Jammu and Kashmir, which is a key economic means for the union terri-



tory, took a severe hit after the attack as tourists fled the region. A month after a terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam killed 26 people, chief minister Omar Abdullah chaired a meeting in the region as part of an attempt to revive tourism. This meeting in Pahalgam also marks the first time a cabinet meeting has been held outside the capital of Srinagar or Jammu. Following the terror attack in Pahalgam, tourism in Jammu and Kashmir, which is a key

economic means for the union territory, took a severe hit as tourists fled the region. Speaking at a press conference, the J&K chief minister called for an increase in tourism. "We want the world to look at Jammu & Kashmir's tourism as an economic activity. We have to take steps with caution, but we will try to ensure that tourism begins in Kashmir and the valley soon. The last 5-6 weeks have been tough for the nation, but J&K has paid the highest price. The government of J&K will decide what steps we need to take to overcome this situation," the JKNC leader was quoted as saying by ANI. Adding that tourism should be a "conflict-neutral" activity, Abdullah shared that the state government conducted security audits in the region after the attack in the Baisaran meadows. Based on this audit, certain places are ready to be reopened. On April 22, four-six terrorists opened fire at a group of tourists in Baisaran meadows in Pahalgam.

## TDP played key role in several decisions taken by governments at Centre

Kadapa, May 27: TDP has played a key role in several decisions taken by various governments at the Centre and the party is a trendsetter for welfare, reforms and development, said party supremo N Chandrababu Naidu on Tuesday. Addressing his party conclave- TDP Mahanadu, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister said over the past 43 years, the TDP has faced numerous challenges. Many people said that the party was finished, but its flag has always flown high. "TDP played a key role in many decisions taken by the central governments (at different times). What AP thinks today India thinks tomorrow. It has been proven several times," the CM said. He said the party cadre suffered a lot during the previous YSRCP regime and many TDP workers lost their lives. There are several political parties in the country. But TDP is the only party which influenced people's lives, he further said. "TDP is one of the strongest parties in the country when it comes to organisational strength," he said. Naidu said the party has completed a membership drive in just 45 days enrolling one crore members. The three-day TDP Mahanadu, an annual conclave of the ruling party in Andhra Pradesh, kicked off on Tuesday here.

## PM Modi says time to back 'Make-in-India', limit foreign goods

The Sikh Times  
Navdeep Singh Sahni

New Delhi, May 27: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday took a swipe at imported goods by referring to "small-eyed" Ganesh idols, urging traders to stop selling foreign products and instead contribute to the country's growth through the "Make-in-India" initiative to further boost India's economy. Addressing a public rally in Gujarat's Gandhinagar PM Modi said, "We must encourage village traders to pledge that no matter, however, much profit they make, they will not sell foreign goods. But unfortunately, even Ganesh idols come from overseas, small-eyed Ganesh idols whose eyes don't even open properly. For Operation Sindoor, as a citizen, I have a task for you: go home and make a list of how many foreign products you use in 24 hours." He stressed that India's climb up the global economic ladder should not just bring cele-



bration, but also a sense of responsibility to aim higher. He stated that becoming the third-largest economy should now be the nation's focus. Reflecting on the country's economic journey since he first assumed office, Modi said, "On 26th May 2014, I took the oath as the Prime Minister for the first time. At that time, India's economy was at the 11th position...Today, India has become the world's fourth-largest econ-

omy. It is a matter of pride for all of us that we have now surpassed Japan...I still remember the excitement across the country when we moved from sixth to fifth place, especially among the youth. The reason was that India had overtaken the United Kingdom, the very nation that ruled over us for 250 years." He added, "The pressure of becoming the third (largest economy) is more than the happiness of becoming the fourth (largest economy). The country is not ready to wait. If someone asks to wait, the slogan is raised 'Modi hai toh mumkin hai'...Our goal is clear, by 2047, India must be a Viksit nation. No compromise. We will not mark 100 years of independence casually. We will celebrate it in such a manner that the flag of a Viksit Bharat will fly high across the world." PM Modi said that Operation Sindoor would now be driven by the collective strength of Indians, as he reiterated the importance of producing and purchasing goods made in India.

## CM Yogi attends Samuhik Vivah Samaroh

The Sikh Times  
SpL Correspondent

Gorakhpur, May 27: Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath stated on Tuesday that a good government lays the foundation for prosperity by rapidly advancing development and welfare programs aimed at benefiting the poor. "It brings about positive, developmental, and welfare-driven changes in the lives of every individual, ensuring a safer environment." The CM was addressing the 1,200 couples united in matrimony during Samuhik Vivah Samaroh organized under Mukhyamantri Samuhik Vivah Yojana at Hindustan Fertilizers and Chemicals Limited (Fertilizer Plant) premises on Tuesday. This was the first event held after the state government increased the financial assistance under the scheme from Rs 51,000 to Rs 1 lakh per couple. The Mukhyamantri Samuhik Vivah Yojana is a continuation of PM Narendra Modi's welfare initiatives and aligns with the objectives of the Beti

Bachao-Beti Padhao Yojana. To achieve this, the government has launched various welfare schemes including Matru Vandana Yojana, Kanya Sumangala Yojana, and Ayushman Bharat. He added that the Mukhyamantri Samuhik Vivah Yojana is also a symbol of this progressive vision. Speaking about the importance of educating and empowering girls, CM Yogi stated, "If we want to save our daughters, we must educate and empower them." He shared how, in 2017, the government launched the Kanya Sumangala Yojana to support girls from birth up to their graduation. So far, around 24 lakh girls from poor and underprivileged families in Uttar Pradesh have benefited under this scheme. The CM also explained that the government has taken care of marriage-related concerns through the Mukhyamantri Samuhik Vivah Yojana. This scheme supports the wedding of daughters from poor families,

removing the burden from their parents. Public representatives, including MLAs and ministers, attend these mass weddings. Calling it a proud moment, the



Chief Minister said, "I have also got the privilege of participating in this program. It is our privilege to be a part of such an event that fights against social evils like child marriage, dowry, and polygamy." He highlighted that the scheme welcomes people of all castes, religions, and regions

to register and participate in the wedding ceremony as per their customs. The CM said that before 2017, the Social Welfare Department provided only Rs 20,000 for the marriage of girls from Scheduled Castes and Tribes, and even that amount was given with discrimination and delays. He stated that this amount was neither sufficient nor accessible to everyone. "To address these issues, the Mukhyamantri Samuhik Vivah Yojana was launched in 2017, initially with an assistance of Rs 35,000 per couple. The amount was later increased to Rs 51,000, and from April 1, 2025, it has been raised to Rs 1 lakh. Out of this, Rs 60,000 will be directly deposited in the bride's account, while the remaining amount will be used for household items, jewellery, food, and other arrangements," he informed. The CM further said, "It is often difficult for me to attend individual weddings due to time constraints, but this program is special.

## Haryana CM Nayab Singh Saini directs DCs to prioritize drain cleaning ahead of monsoon

The Sikh Times  
Naresh Malhotra

Chandigarh, May 27: Haryana Chief Minister Sh. Nayab Singh Saini today directed Deputy Commissioners overseeing flood protection efforts in the districts to give utmost priority to cleaning of drains ahead of the monsoon season in their respective districts. He instructed them to immediately prepare a schedule and assign officers to monitor the work, ensuring its completion under all circumstances before June 15, 2025. In addition, all Superintending Engineers in the field must ensure that drain cleaning is carried out thoroughly in their respective areas. The Chief Minister was presiding over a meeting with officers from the Irrigation and Water Resources Department and the Public Health Engineering Department to review the progress of short-term flood protection works and the internal clearance of drains here today. Expressing concern with the current pace of internal clearance of drains, the Chief Minister said that there is limited time

before the onset of the monsoon, and the work is lagging behind. He directed officers to set clear timelines and complete all pending tasks without delay. He also said that the Chief



Secretary, Sh. Anurag Rastogi, along with other Administrative Secretaries, will review the progress again on June 10. If found any negligence at the part of any officer, strict

action would be taken accordingly. Reviewing the broader flood protection measures, Chief Minister Sh. Nayab Singh Saini said that officers should focus on short-term measures and ensure the completion of ongoing schemes related to flood control. He also instructed them to assess the condition and availability of pumps required for dewatering purposes. In addition, he directed the officers to identify the causes of waterlogging in specific areas and formulate targeted schemes to provide permanent solutions. The Chief Minister further said that flood protection works recommended by public representatives and panchayats should be given priority and completed at the earliest. The Chief Minister also reviewed the desilting work in the Tangri and Markanda rivers and issued necessary instructions to the concerned officers. During the meeting, it was informed that the Irrigation and Water Resources Department is working on an ambitious project to utilize the existing channels of the SYL and Hansi-Butana Link Canals for water storage during the monsoon.

## 'Not found suitable' is new Manuvaad, will fight anti-reservation moves of BJP-RSS: Rahul

The Sikh Times  
Simmi Kaur Babbar

New Delhi, May 27: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday alleged that eligible candidates from SC, ST, and OBC communities were being deliberately declared 'not found suitable' to keep them away from education and leadership. Gandhi made the remark in a post on X, sharing a video of his recent interaction with students of the Delhi University Students Union (DUSU). "Not Found Suitable" is the new Manuvaad now. Eligible candidates from SC/ST/OBC are being deliberately declared 'unsuitable' so that they are kept away from education and leadership," the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha said in his post in Hindi. 'Manuvaad' is the ethos of a society governed by Manusmriti. Gandhi quoted B R Ambedkar to hail education as the biggest weapon for equality, and accused the Narendra Modi-led Union government and the RSS of subverting this power. "...The Modi government is busy blunting that weapon," he said. Gandhi said



that more than 60 per cent of the reserved posts of Professor and more than 30 per cent of the reserved posts of Associate Professor have been

said. The former Congress president said getting reservation was a matter of fighting for rights, respect, and participation. "I spoke to the students of DUSU, now we all together will answer every anti-reservation move of BJP/RSS with the power of the Constitution," he said. In the video, Gandhi is heard telling the students that the Hindutva project's foundation is to erase the history of the SCs, STs, and OBCs. "Why is 90 per cent's history not in our books? Why is only 10 per cent's history in our books? Why is it not written, for example, in our history books that for 3,000 years, Dalits have been treated like dirt, have not been respected, have not been given any space in our society?" he says during the interaction. On May 22, the DU objected to Gandhi's unannounced visit to its North Campus, calling it a breach of institutional protocol and a disruption of student governance operations. "Shri Rahul Gandhi has done this for the second time... Coming to the university without any intimation and information to University of Delhi," the proctor's office had said in an official release.

## Asaduddin Owaisi roasts Pakistan Army chief Asim Munir

The Sikh Times  
Tejinder Kaur Babbar

New Delhi, May 27: Asaduddin Owaisi of the All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen has mocked Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Army chief Asim Munir over a fake image being circulated as part of "Operation Bunyan", saying that "copying requires brains", something Pakistan lacks. Addressing the Indian diaspora in Kuwait, Asaduddin Owaisi, who is part of Bharatiya Janata Party MP Bajjayant Panda led-all-party delegation for global outreach against terrorism, on Monday slammed Pakistan for sharing an old 2019 photo from a Chinese Army drill and presenting it as a recent military success against India. The AIMIM MP said the image was wrongly gift-



ed to the Pakistani prime minister as a symbol of victory. Urging people not to take Pakistan's claims seriously, he said they don't even deserve a "pinch of salt." "Yesterday, the Pakistani Army chief gifted a photo to the Pakistani PM Shehbaz Sharif...these stupid jokers want to compete with India, they had given a photograph of a 2019 Chinese Army drill claiming it is a victory over India. This is what Pakistan indulges in. Nakal karne ke liye akal chahiye!...inke pass akal bhi nahi hai (it takes brains to copy... and they don't even have that). Whatever Pakistan is saying, do not take even with a pinch of salt," Asaduddin Owaisi said. Asim Munir, who was recently promoted as Pakistan's Field Marshal, has been trolled by netizens for gifting a purported photo of Pakistan's Operation Bunyanun Marsoos against India to Shehbaz Sharif. The framed painting, which was shared as a depiction of the military operation against India, is in reality a 2019 image of Chinese military strikes. The painting was presented to Sharif during a dinner hosted by Asim Munir. The event was held in order to honour the Pakistani armed forces "steadfast commitment," and the "indomitable spirit." The dinner was attended by top political and military leadership of Pakistan, such as President Asif Ali Zardari, foreign minister Ishaq Dar and Senate Chairman Yusuf Raza Gilani.

## CM Mamata says teacher recruitment notification by May 31

The Sikh Times  
Nasirudding

Kolkata/May 27: Notification for fresh recruitment of teachers will be issued by May



31, West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee said on Tuesday, assuring that those who lost jobs over the West Bengal School Service Commission (WBSSC) will get age relaxation. The Supreme Court in April ordered invalidating the appointments of 25,753 teaching and non-teaching staff of state-aided schools, deeming the recruitment

process "vitiated and tainted." The development comes amidst ongoing agitations by jobless teachers, many of whom are demanding permanent reinstatement and expressing their unwillingness to appear for a fresh round of recruitment. West Bengal education minister Bratya Basu on Sunday urged the agitating teachers to have faith in the state government "which is taking every step to end the impasse" following the invalidation of their jobs by the Supreme Court. He also urged the agitating teachers not to be used by the opposition political parties. Basu, who was talking to reporters on the sidelines of a programme, said a senior official will meet the teachers - who have been agitating before the Education department headquarters Bikash Bhavan for the past several days - to ascertain their demands as the government is exploring all possible legal steps to solve the issue, according to PTI news agency. Bratya Basu said the state government ensured the "untainted teachers", rendered jobless by SC order, can continue to attend their workplace and get salary till the process of fresh recruitment is completed by December 31.



## NEWS BOX

## Crowd at unfinished floating jetty sparks safety fears in Tamil Nadu

**MADURAI.** A floating jetty, under construction at the Vandiyur kanmoi (tank), has lately been attracting a huge crowd with several people using the unfinished platform, which has been raising safety concerns among several residents. The trend has caught on after videos of a few vloggers, who had mentioned the jetty as a walkway, recently went viral. The floating jetty is being built as part of the city corporation's Rs 50-crore developmental works to transform the 550-acre Vandiyur kanmoi -- a major waterbody under the city limits -- into a tourist attraction. The works, to be completed in three months, include the construction of a bicycle track, a library, and a meditation centre.

Besides, the civic body also has plans to operate boating services in the tank, for which the floating jetty, made of a fibre-reinforced platform filled with air, is being constructed.

Meanwhile, as a result of the viral videos, the number of people visiting the spot has gone up, with residents raising red flags over the issue. K Pandiyarajan, a city-based enthusiast, said, "Many people, sometimes with their children, are seen walking over and sitting near the edge of the unfinished platform, which has no safety guardrail. Also, no lifeguard was present at the venue."

Acknowledging the development works, he urged the corporation to keep proper safety measures in place. When contacted, corporation commissioner Chitra Vijayan told, "The development works being carried out at the Vandiyur tank are in their final stages. By three months, the works will be completed and the facilities will be opened for public use. Though we have cordoned off the entry to the floating jetty, some people have violated the restrictions before the works are completed."

## Four Bengaluru birders spot rare red phalarope in Dharwad

**DHARWAD.** In a remarkable discovery, four birders from Bengaluru have sighted and photographed the extremely rare red phalarope near Dharwad—likely marking the first recorded sighting of this vagrant species in Karnataka. The birders—Manjunath P, Chidananda Urs, Nitin Srinivasa Murthy, and Nisarg Bharadwaj—identified the Red Phalarope, during their birdwatching expedition. The bird has been sighted at Mavinkoppa Lake near Dharwad. While their breeding grounds are in the High Arctic regions of Alaska and Canada, these birds undertake long-distance migrations. In India, they were earlier sighted along the coastal areas.

There have been very few records of sightings of red phalaropes in Kerala, Maharashtra, Gujarat and in some time it recorded in the Andaman and Nicobar. "This bird is not a migrant. It's a vagrant, which means it has appeared outside its normal range. Normally migratory birds find themselves in a migratory pattern."

This bird does not have one," Murthy told. India is not part of their regular migratory route or wintering grounds, there have been several documented sightings of the red phalarope in various parts of the country over the years. These sightings typically involve individual birds.

"This bird should not be mistaken with red-necked phalarope," Murthy added.

## Age-old wooden boat craft faces death as trade drops by 70 per cent in Kendrapara

**VIJAYAWADA.** Senior municipal teachers across the State have raised strong objections to the School Education Department's transfer guidelines, calling the system discriminatory for failing to reward long years of service. At the heart of the issue is the station point system, which currently caps points at 8 for teachers with eight or more years to receive 2 points and corporation teachers 1 point. However, recent classifications grant 1 to 3 points inconsistently, depending on the municipality type.

"This is a blatant violation," he said, calling for a uniform 2-point allocation for all municipal teachers regardless of municipality category. The MTF also appealed for a 25% quota for municipal teachers in promotions to Primary School Headmaster (PSHM) posts. Ramakrishna alleged that some less-performing teachers had been promoted, while deserving ones had been overlooked. He thanked HRD Minister Nara Lokesh for recently sanctioning 1,800 municipal teacher posts but urged swift resolution of roster anomalies and protection of senior.

There are already lots of good carpenters in many villages and it frightens me to think that this age-old industry could disappear from the district altogether." He expressed his reluctance to see his two sons take up this profession highlighting its uncertain future.

Reflecting on the challenges of wooden boats, Pitambar Sardar of Talachua village said, "Large numbers of youths from the boat making community have left the profession as it requires labour with little income in return. It is only the elders of the community that are keeping this profession alive because they feel that no one from their community will be able to continue this. It is only the most needy among the youth that are adopting the profession and that too temporarily."

## Coast Guard confirms oil spill after container vessel sinks off Kerala coast, swings into action

**KOCHI.** The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) on Monday confirmed oil spill in the Arabian sea, around the area off Kerala's coast where MSC Elsa 3, a Liberia-flagged container vessel carrying hazardous cargo and calcium carbide, sunk the day before. It has deployed three vessels and an aircraft for counter-pollution operations. The Coast Guard's Offshore Patrol Vessels ICGS Saksham, ICGS Vikram and ICGS Samarth utilised infrared cameras to detect the oil spill area and sprayed OSD (Oil Spill Dispersant) to contain the spread. A Dornier aircraft is conducting aerial assessment and OSD dispersal in the 2x1 nautical miles area where the spill has been detected. The vessels are churning the waters using hoses and propeller to mix the dispersant.

Meanwhile, ICG Ship Samudra Prahari, a specialised pollution response vessel carrying significant quantities of OSD, has set sail from Mumbai and is expected to reach Kochi on Tuesday.

The Coast Guard said in a release: "At approximately 0750 hrs on May 25, MSC Elsa 3 sank around 15 nautical miles off the coast of Kerala, southwest of Alappuzha. The maritime incident has raised environmental concerns, including the potential for oil spill impact and drifting of debris and cargo ashore along



Kerala's coastline.

Within 2-3 hours of the vessel's submergence, the ICG surveillance aircraft detected the presence of an oil slick at the site at 11 am, the oil slick was observed drifting in east-southeast direction at an estimated speed of 1.5-2 knots (around 3.7 kmph). By 2pm, the spill was assessed to have spread over an area of approximately 2x1 nautical miles. The ship had 84.44 tonnes of diesel and 367.1 tonnes of furnace oil when it sank, and this caused the oil spill.

**Statement of ship's crew to be recorded today** Confirming that the oil slick has not reached the shores, ICG has advised the state administration to prepare for shoreline cleanup operations. The Mercantile Marine Department

(MMD), Kochi, has issued a warning to the vessel's owners regarding pollution liability and launched an investigation into the incident.

MMD principal officer and Joint Director J Senthil Kumar met the 24 crew members of the sunken vessel on Monday. As the crew were yet to recover from the trauma, the MMD decided to record their statements on Tuesday.

It has directed the shipping agency to present the cargo manifest, a document that lists the contents and details of the shipment. As per information provided by the agency, there were 643 containers in the vessel of which 13 contained hazardous cargo and 12 had calcium carbide in it.

"Oil is normally shipped in tankers and the diesel and furnace oil in the vessel was not part of the cargo. It was the fuel stored to power the engine and for internal power generation," said an MMD official. The MMD will investigate whether there were flaws in loading the containers or bad weather that caused listing of the vessel. It has directed the shipping agency to deploy technical staff to salvage the floating containers and to explore the possibility of retrieving the oil from the ship's tank. However, the presence of large quantity of calcium carbide and hazardous cargo is posing a challenge.

## Eight youths go missing in Godavari River

**A group of 11 youths from Kakinada, Ramachandrapuram, and Mandapeta had come to attend a family function at Sherilanka village in K Gangavaram mandal.**

**KAKINADA.** Eight youngsters are feared to have drowned in the River Godavari at Kaminilanka in Mummidivaram mandal on Monday while taking a bath. A group of 11 youths from Kakinada, Ramachandrapuram, and Mandapeta had come to attend a family function at Sherilanka village in K Gangavaram mandal.

They later ventured into the Godavari River at Kaminilanka for a bath. Due to the river's depth, eight of them reportedly drowned.

Of the 11, three managed to swim back to the riverbank, while the remaining eight went missing. The trio tried to rescue their friends but were unsuccessful.

Rescue operations are currently underway. Expressing shock over the incident, Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu directed the Konaseema District Collector to intensify search and rescue efforts.

**All out efforts to trace missing youths**

According to police, the sudden depth was caused due to recent rains in upstream of the river. The group of friends believing the waters were shallow



due to the summer conditions, ventured into deeper areas to swim. All of a sudden, eight of them failed to resurface.

The victims have been identified as Sabbati Kranti (19), Sabbati Paul (18), Ellamarti Sai (18), Tathipudi Nitish (18) from Kakinada, Yelipe Mahesh (14), Vaddi Rajesh (13), Vaddi Mahesh (14) from Sherilanka, Rohith (18) from Mandapeta. Following the incident, police from

Mummidivaram and Ramachandrapuram, along with local fishermen, launched a search and rescue operation. As night fell, the operation was suspended and is set to resume on Tuesday morning.

District Collector Mahesh Kumar Ravirala and SP B Krishna Rao visited the site and are personally overseeing the search efforts. Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu expressed concern over the disappearance of eight youths in the Godavari River near Kaminilanka. He talked to the district collector over the phone to review ongoing search operations. He directed officials to take all necessary measures to rescue the missing individuals and ensure regular updates to their families. In response to recurring water-related accidents, Naidu issued strict instructions to officials to install warning boards at all water bodies across the state. He ordered the identification of hazardous locations, such as ponds and lakes, through the village and ward secretariat staff, and the immediate installation of cautionary signage.

## Decline in demand forces TN Dindigul sapota farmers to switch crop

*As per official records, the gross area of sapota cultivation in the district has been on a constant decline, shrinking from 1,715 hectares in 2011 to 800 hectares in 2024.*

**DINDIGUL.** The bulk of the sapota (chikku) farmers in Dindigul district have slowly moved away from cultivating the fruit owing to a steady decline in demand over the last few years and the low price -- as low as Rs 20 per kg -- offered by the traders. As per official records, the gross area of sapota cultivation in the district has been on a constant decline, shrinking from 1,715 hectares in 2011 to 800 hectares in 2024.



farmers have opted for the cultivation for other crops.

K Thangapandi, a farmer from Jamnadadurai Kottai Panchayat who cultivated sapota in five acres, told TNIE, "One acre of sapota, with small and medium-sized trees, could yield more than one tonne. As traders demand a low price for the fruit and a lack of commercial units processing the fruit to make food products, many

I converted my land to cultivate gooseberries." He said that though the tree's lifespan is around 20 to 25 years, the yield drops after a period of time. After removing the trees, farmers generally choose a different crop for crop rotation.

"Besides, farmers faced a severe loss during the Cyclone Gaja in 2018, which forced several of them who had cultivated sapota in hundreds of acres to opt for a

different crop," he added.

Pointing out that sapota farmers are now choosing to cultivate gooseberry and lemon, Tamil Nadu Farmers Protection Association (Dindigul) president K Vadivel said, "Several hundred acres of farmland used to cultivate sapota in Nilakottai are now being used for gooseberry and other crops. Many farmers in Ammayanayakanur, Mettur, Kamalapuram, Oothupatti, Amalinagar have opted for gooseberries. Many a time, traders demand just Rs 20 per kg for sapota, forcing the farmers to choose a different crop." Speaking to, an official from the Horticulture Department said one hectare of the highly nutritious sapota and its many varieties -- PKM1, PKM2, PKM3, PKM4, PKM5, Kallipatti, and cricket ball -- could yield up to 20 tonnes.

## 'We never planned a bandh': Andhra Pradesh exhibitors

**VIJAYAWADA.** A statement from Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan's office opposing the proposed theatre bandh from June 1, has triggered intense debate in Tollywood, especially with his film 'Hari Hara Veera Mallu' set for release on June 12. The statement has hinted at an alleged plot to block the film's release, prompting sharp reactions from the Telugu film industry leaders and exhibitors. Senior film producer Allu Aravind held a meeting in Hyderabad on Sunday, extending support to Pawan Kalyan.

Earlier, Tourism and Cinematography Minister Kandula Durgesh alleged that the bandh aimed to obstruct 'Hari Hara Veera Mallu' movie release, and ordered an inquiry to identify those behind it. However, confusion prevails among theatre owners. They claim to have received no official notice from their association, and that a few Telugu Film Chamber members acted independently, giving the bandh call. The Theatre Owners Association has denied issuing any directive, leaving many in a state of confusion.

"The announcement has shocked us. Films of stars like Pawan Kalyan and others are due. This isn't the right time," said exhibitors, blaming some individuals linked to the previous YSRCP regime for it.

While the public remains unaware of the four people Pawan Kalyan referred to, exhibitors claim they know who they are. Speaking to, veteran exhibitor Palepu Rama Rao said, "No bandh was announced by exhibitors. We read about it in newspapers. No official communication came. Those responsible should fix this."

Krishna District Exhibitors Association president and Telugu Film Chamber Executive Committee member M Srinivasa Babu told, "This crisis affects everyone, from theatre owners to canteen workers who rely on big releases.

We don't oppose the government, we want a fair revenue share from either producers or distributors or buyers. When films flop, exhibitors lose with the existing method of collecting advance from us. We never planned a shutdown for that reason."

## 'Operation K-Force' &amp; a call for the four 'A's': Kerala's silent growth in strategic sector

**KOCHI.** Kerala may not be the first name that springs to mind when you think of defence and aerospace. But make no mistake - the state is quietly scripting a revolution in India's quest for 'Atmanirbharta' in the strategic sector. From shipyards to space parks, MSMEs to military-grade startups, Kerala is stepping up post-Operation Sindoor, tapping into a rapidly expanding defence opportunity with a mix of gritty innovation and strategic ambition.

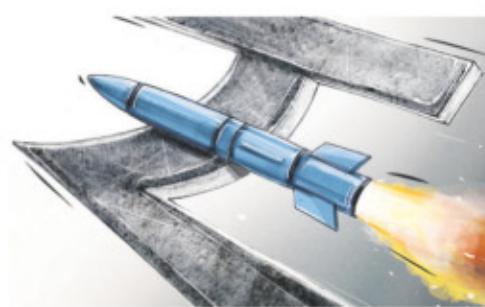
At the heart of this story is Keltron. "Following the Pahalagam terror attack, Keltron played a key role in strengthening India's defence response," Industries Minister P Rajeev revealed.

The state-run electronics giant supplied critical systems for INS Amala - the first indigenously built anti-submarine warfare vessel - including its sonar sensor, underwater communication system, power amplifier, and echo sounder.

That's not all. Keltron had earlier delivered the 'Maareech Towled Array' system -- designed to detect and neutralise torpedoes -- to the Indian Navy. "With decades of technical expertise, Keltron is now a trusted name in defence. Orders are steadily flowing in," Rajeev added.

**WhatsApp to warfare** Ironically, Kerala's most promising defence cluster -- K-Space -- is still just a concept.

"We don't have anything officially called K-Space. What we have is a WhatsApp group," chuckled a startup founder, who wished not to be named. But the vision is real. The state government has earmarked land at TechnoCity for a futuristic Kerala Space Park. The initiative is being revived after facing setbacks caused by the alleged involvement of M Sivasankar, IAS—who had been leading several projects, including the Space Park initiative—in a scandal. Meanwhile, Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM)



has launched the Kerala Defence Innovation Zone (K-DIZ) in collaboration with DRDO, Technopark and others.

"It's part of the larger Emerging Technology Hub—a 2 lakh sq. ft. facility to drive aerospace and defence innovation," said G Levin, CEO of K-Space, adding that several initiatives are being readied behind the scenes.

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Advocate Manish Sharma  
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## News box

## Taps run dry, tankers take over, tempers rise in Gurgaon's BPTP Astaire Gardens

Gurgaon: Hundreds of families living in BPTP Astaire Gardens have been reeling under an acute water crisis for weeks, with no let-up in sight yet. The supply from GMDA has been erratic and inadequate, forcing 700 families of the residential society in Sector 70A to depend heavily on private tankers. Residents estimate they have spent nearly Rs 3 lakh on private water tankers this month alone. Despite multiple complaints to GMDA on May 3, 10 and 22, no tangible action has followed. Earlier, GMDA cited "pipeline damage", but residents say there has been no clear explanation or accountability since. "We're spending from our own pockets for a basic necessity that the govt is supposed to provide us," Astaire Gardens RWA president Jaswant Rao said. On Monday, a delegation met deputy commissioner Ajay Kumar and submitted a formal complaint, demanding immediate restoration of supply and a long-term plan to prevent recurrence. "This is mentally and financially exhausting," RWA general secretary Aruni Shukla said. "We pay taxes and water charges, yet we're left scrambling for tankers every day just to maintain basic hygiene." With summer pushing daily demand to nearly 8 lakh litres, the shortfall has been severe. Residents say GMDA's supply has declined steadily since mid-May — hitting zero on May 22. "Not a single drop came that day. We had to survive on stored water and extreme rationing," said Rao. GMDA officials admitted a shortfall. A senior GMDA official said Sector 70A currently receives water via the Sector 51 boosting station. A new boosting station in Sector 72 is under construction and is expected to be operational by year-end. Officials also said water output at the Chandu Budhara plant has been augmented by 50 MLD to ease the pressure, but residents argue these long-term measures offer only little relief for their ongoing distress.

## Just one-fourth of environmental penalties recovered in 6 years, Haryana pollution board to NGT

Gurgaon: Just a quarter of environmental compensation (EC) imposed on those found violating norms in six years was recovered, Haryana's pollution control board told NGT, urging it to consider ways for taking legal action against defaulters. HSPCB told the National Green Tribunal (NGT) earlier this month that it imposed EC amounting to Rs 499 crore on 462 industrial units operating without mandatory clearances between April 2019 and Mar 2025. Of this, Rs 132 crore was recovered as EC, but the remaining — Rs 367 crore — was pending. HSPCB said that it runs into several obstructions in recovering EC. A key problem is that small-scale industrial units evade paying compensation by abandoning rented or illegally occupied premises after they are issued closure orders. These units operate in compact or open spaces, making enforcement and tracking difficult. Once vacated, the EC notices remain undelivered, it said. HSPCB also pointed out that the lack of any statutory mechanism or policy to write off EC dues means that they keep mounting.

"There is no policy/scheme to settle or write off the environmental compensation of such units, and thus the amount remains outstanding," the May 20-submission by Krishna Kumar, regional officer, HSPCB (Gurgaon-south), read. "It is also necessary to bring into kind notice of this honourable tribunal that due to the absence of any statutory backup for imposition and recovery of environmental compensation, it is humbly prayed to this tribunal to implead the defaulter units and to initiate the action against them for recovery of the environmental compensation," the submission added.

HSPCB's response came on a petition by activist Varun Gulati, who sought a manner to address delays in recovering EC imposed by the board on polluters.

Gulati argues that such delays may benefit polluters as the slow pace of enforcement allows them to continue operations without facing timely financial consequences. "It is clear that HSPCB has failed to do its job. Even though it has imposed EC, it hasn't collected EC. Then what's the use of imposing EC? Instead of paying up the fines, many of the 'sealed' or 'closed' units just begin operations somewhere else. Owners get away by saying the units have been dismantled or closed."

## No service, but forced to pay: Societies protest against MCM's sanitation charge

Gurgaon: Thousands of residents of group housing societies living in new sectors are up in arms against imposition of sanitation charges by MCM despite no door-to-door waste collection services by the corporation. In what residents call an "arbitrary and coercive" collection under the guise of municipal taxation, MCM has appended sanitation tax to their property tax bills even though no civic worker has ever entered their compounds for waste pickup. The charges, enforced without service, are not just causing inconvenience — they block transactions like property sales and lease agreements, since a No Dues Certificate (NDC) cannot be obtained unless the tax is paid. They pointed out that the directorate of Urban Local Bodies (ULB) earlier instructed MCM to levy such charges only where door-to-door garbage collection is provided.

On Monday, representatives from several housing societies met with additional commissioner Jitender Kumar and submitted a memorandum demanding an immediate waiver of the sanitation charges. "Why are we paying for something we never received? Our society spends around Rs 7 lakh every month on sanitation managed by us, yet MCM forces us to pay again just to get a No Dues Certificate. This is nothing short of coercion," said Dharmvir Singh, president of Mapsko Casabella RWA. In a letter to the MCM commissioner, RWAs have demanded an independent forensic audit of sanitation deployment records and expenditure, alongside the immediate rollback of the charges and legal action against any officials involved in violating the ULB order.

## Northeast Frontier Railway Continues Its Commitment to Cleanliness with Intensified Drives

Maligaon, May 27: Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) continues to demonstrate its unwavering commitment to environmental stewardship through a series of impactful cleanliness campaigns and sustainability initiatives across its divisions. A special Cleanliness Drive was carried out at New Tinsukia Railway Station, with the active participation of railway staff, local volunteers, and environmental advocates. The initiative emphasized the importance of maintaining clean public spaces and reducing plastic waste. The campaign delivered a clear message — Say No to Single-Use Plastic. Participants focused on cleaning the station premises, removing litter and plastic waste, and advocating for eco-friendly alternatives. At the Wagon Care Centre, New Tinsukia, another focused drive was organized, underlining environmental responsibility within railway operations. Staff and volunteers joined hands to clean the area and educate others on sustainable practices. In support of the 'Go Green' initiative, staff and patients at Divisional Railway Hospital, New Bongaigaon were encouraged to

plant trees within hospital premises. This activity aimed to enhance green spaces



and spread awareness about the importance of trees in promoting a healthy

environment. A special waste segregation drive was launched at Dibrugarh

waste. This initiative aimed to streamline management and reinforce the principles of recycling and reuse. Cleanliness drives were also conducted at the railway colony in Dibrugarh and Hojai health unit, ensuring residential and health facility areas remain hygienic and environmentally sound. Additional cleaning efforts were undertaken at Old Sick Line and New Sick Line, Katihar where comprehensive cleaning of premises and railway tracks was conducted. These activities focused on maintaining the cleanliness of operational zones and enhancing the overall working environment. These widespread initiatives reaffirm Northeast Frontier Railway's continuous dedication to sustainable operations and community participation. By integrating cleanliness into daily activities and promoting environmental awareness, NFR is setting a strong example of responsible and eco-conscious governance.

## Noida's second expressway along Yamuna to be six-lane elevated road

Noida. The second expressway between Noida and Greater Noida is to be a six-lane elevated road between Okhla barrage near Kalindi Kunj and Yamuna Expressway via the Hindon-Yamuna doab. UP govt has now directed Uttar Pradesh Expressways Industrial Development Authority (UPEIDA) to execute the riverside bypass. Noida

Authority was earlier considering two proposed alignments—an eight-lane ground-level road or a six-lane elevated corridor—for the road that will offer direct connectivity to commuters travelling from Delhi and Faridabad to the Noida International Airport, which will start operation this year. Officials said extensive illegal constructions and farmhouses on the

Yamuna floodplains made an elevated road more feasible. A ground-level road, they claimed, would not only face regulatory hurdles but also encourage further encroachments in a flood-prone area. "A ground-level road would not have met the capacity or regulatory requirements. So, an elevated six-lane is the only viable solution," Noida Authority CEO Lokesh M told TOI.

The revised alignment now proposes to connect Sector 168 and a 75-metre-wide road between Sectors 149A and 150. Officials said some design tweaks are expected in the final draft plan. Earlier, Noida Authority was keen on bringing in the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI),

**NAME CHANGE**  
It is for general information that I, Manpreet Kaur D/O Late Mishri Lal R/O T-609/4 Gali No-6 Ballej Nagar, Patel Nagar Central Delhi 110009, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Mansi Kumari

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, SHETTY SIDDHESHWAR REVNASIDDHA resident of 297/4, SAMBAJI CHOWK, KESHAWANAGAR, MUNDAHAWA, PUNE, MAHARASHTRA-411036, have changed my name from SHETTY SIDDHESHWAR REVNASIDDHA to SIDDHESHWAR REVNASIDDHA SHETTY vide Affidavit dated 27/05/2025 at New Delhi.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, PHOOL CHAND S/O LAKSHMINARAYAN SHARMA R/O RZ-407, A1, RAJ NAGAR-2, PALAM COLONY, NEW DELHI 110077 have changed my name to PHOOL CHAND SHARMA for all future purposes.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, hitherto known as HARDWARI LAL S/O DHANNA RAM R/O M-417 Gali No-9 SOM BAZAR ROAD, RAJAPUR UTTAM NAGAR NEW DELHI 110059, have changed my name from HARDWARI LAL to HARDWARI LAL CHANFIA for all FUTURE PURPOSES.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, SANJAY SHARMA S/O JAGDISH CHAND SHARMA R/O 101, DEEPAJI COLONY, PRITAMPURA, PITAMPURA, NORTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110034 have changed the name of my minor son YAMIR SHARMA aged 16 years and he shall hereafter be known as YUUVRAJ SHARMA.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
General Public hereby informed that my client LALA RAM S/O SHRI ROSHAN LAL R/O G-212, SANGAM VIHAR NEW DELHI-110080 has disowned/debarred his son namely KANHYA LAL, DAUGHTER-IN-LAW NEELAM ANI GRAND DAUGHTER URVASHI from his all movable and immovable properties and severed his all relationship with them due to their disobedience, bad behaviour and quarrelsome nature and my client will not be responsible for their act and deeds whatsoever, anybody dealing with them will do so at his/her own risks, Costs and responsibilities.  
SUBHASH SINGH YADAV  
ADVOCATE  
Chamber No.125, Patila House Courts New Delhi-110001

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
GENERAL PUBLIC IS HEREBY INFORMED THAT ORIGINAL SALE DEED DATED 28.03.2005 EXECUTED BY MR. RATNA IN FAVOUR OF MR. RAVINDRA KUMAR CHAUHAN, VIDE DOC. NO. 2791, IN BOOK NO. 1, VOLUME NO. 2890, ON PAGES NO. 249-250 ON DATED 28.03.2005 IN SRO-II GHAZIABAD & ORIGINAL SALE DEED DATED 07.02.2007 EXECUTED BY MR. RAVINDRA KUMAR CHAUHAN IN FAVOUR OF MRS. SHOBA, VIDE DOC. NO. 1377, IN BOOK NO. 1, VOLUME NO. 4101, ON PAGES NO. 176-188 ON DATED 07.02.2007 IN SRO-II GHAZIABAD, BOTH SALE DEEDS EXECUTED FOR RESIDENTIAL HOUSE OF LAND AREA MEASURING 25 SQ. YARDS, i.e. 20.90 SQ. METERS, OUT OF KHASRA NO. 439 MIN, SITUATED AT MOHALLA SEWANGAR IN THE VILLAGE KUKNA PARAGANA AND TEHSIL LOINI DISTRICT GHAZIABAD U.P. (BOUNDARIES AS ROAD IN EAST SIDE) HAVE BEEN LOST BY THE OWNER MRS. RIYA BALMIKI WIFE OF MR. SUMIT RO H.NO. 780, SEVANAAGAR, GALI NO. 06, GHAZIABAD-201002 AND THE SAID OWNER IS GOING TO MORTGAGE THE SAID HOUSE WITH VASTU HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION LTD. AS SECURITY AGAINST LOAN. PLEASE SUBMIT THE SAID ORIGINAL DOCUMENT IF ANY PERSON, ALONG WITH OBJECTION LETTER WITH RELEVANT DOCUMENTS WITH UNDERSIGNED IF HAVING ANY OBJECTION IN RESPECT OF SAID PROPERTY/DOCUMENTS WITHIN 07 DAYS OF THIS PUBLICATION. ITS USE BY ANYONE IS ILLEGAL.  
ADITYA VERMA, ADVOCATE  
E-16, 1ST & 2ND FLOOR, E-BLOCK, MANSAROVAR PARK, SHAHDARA, DELHI-110032  
MOBILE NO. 9999042521 / 9958996685

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, SURESH KUMAR S/O MANGESHWAR RAM residing C-4, BHAGWAN DASS NAGAR, EAST PUNJABI BAGH, DELHI-110026 have changed my name to SURESH KUMAR SINGHAL for all future purpose.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, hitherto known as NAVEEN alias Vikas Kalyan S/O, Rajpal, R/O A-136 A-block, Ranjit Nagar, Patel Nagar, Central Delhi, Delhi 110008 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Vikas Kalyan.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I hitherto known as MUNNA KUMAR S/O NAGESHWAR MAHATO, R/O S-608-A, Nehru Endave, School Block, Shakarpur, East Delhi, Delhi-110092, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as MANISH KUMAR SINHA.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
It is for general information that I, Kamal S/O Ramchander R/O 3167/229, Chander Nagar, Tringar, Onkar Nagar, North West Delhi, Delhi-110035 declare that name of my minor daughter has been wrongly written as Nupoor in my minor daughter Nupur aged 12 years in her School Records. The actual name of my minor daughter is Nupur.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
My clients Smt. Sunita Devi W/o late Vijander Bhadana, R/O G-56 Harkesh Nagar okhla phase-2, New Delhi-110020, have disowned their son Rakesh from all of their movable/immovable property(ies) and has also severed all relations with them due to their misbehavior. If anybody deals with them, please do it at his/her/their own risk. We shall not be responsible for any acts done by aforesaid Persons.  
SACHIN ADVOCATE  
LAW OFFERS BLOCK  
SAKET COURT  
NEW DELHI-110017

**NAME CHANGE**  
I hitherto known as Mohammad Shahi S/O Sonu R/O 232/2B, Kot Gao, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201001 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Sahil.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, Surender Seshrawat S/O Joginder Singh R/O 92, Dada Rishi Wali Gali, Near Small Red Light, Mahipalpur, South West Delhi-110037, have changed the name of my minor son Abhidhyaa Seshrawat alias Abhidhyaa Seshrawat aged 14 years and he shall hereafter be known as Abhidhyaa Seshrawat.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I hitherto known as Khushi Dio Lal Chand R/O RZCD-17, Gali No-13, Raj Dairi, Mahavir Enclave, Palam Village, South West Delhi, Delhi-110045, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Khushi Khanna.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I Gopal Krishan Asri S/O R L Asri R/O House M-63, GS Apptt. Sector-13, Rohini, Rohini Sector-7, Narela, North West Delhi, Delhi-110086 have changed the name of my minor son Pranav Asri aged 16 years and he shall hereafter be known as Chanakya Asri.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I hitherto known as Anita Kumari alias Anita Chandela D/o Nagender Singh W/o Vikrant Chandela R/O H-762, Vill. Sili Sector-9, Teh. Balabgarh, Distt Faridabad Haryana-121006 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Anita Chandela.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I hitherto known as Ashna Mongia alias Ayesha Syed Bakhtawar alias Ashna Sayed D/O Suresh Kumar Mongia W/o Syed Bakhtawar R/O House No-5, Flat No-C-3-3rd floor, Kharsa no-260/1, Chhatrapur South Delhi 110074 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Ashna Monga

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, prem chand s/o sukhvir Singh Verma R/O 15 deep enclave vikas Nagar uttam nagar West Delhi.110059 have changed my name prem chand to prem chand verma for all future purpose.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, BHAWNA D/O BHARAT BHUSHAN R/O K-44E, POCKET-K, SHEIKH SARAI PHASE-II, SOUTH DELHI, DELHI-110017 have changed my name to BHAWNA BHUSHAN for all future purpose.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, NAIPAL S/O BUDH RAM R/O S-313/116-B, EAST MEHRAN NAGAR, SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110010, have changed my name from NAIPAL to NAIPAL MAURYA for all future purposes.

**NAME CHANGE**  
It is for general information that I ROHIT THAKUR S/O SUDARSHAN THAKUR R/O WZ-1, FLAT NO-11, SFURS, PALAM VILLAGE, PORTON COLONY, SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110045 declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as ROHIT KUTLEHRIA in my 10th class educational documents. The actual name of mine is ROHIT THAKUR which may be amended accordingly.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, Gauswami Pooja Spouse of Army No.4581666X Rank-SEP Name-Gauswami Prakashjati Amrutjati presently residing at Vill & Post-Dadar, Tehsil-Sami-Distt-Patan, Gujarat-384245 have changed my name from Gauswami Pooja to Gauswami Poojaben Prakashjati vide affidavit dated 25 May 2025 executed before Notary Public, Delhi.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, Gauswami Prakashjati Amrutjati presently residing at Vill & Post-Dadar, Tehsil-Sami-Distt-Patan, Gujarat-384245 declare that my son name has been wrongly written as Sanatanjati in my service records but his correct name is Goswami Sanatanjati Prakashjati vide affidavit dated 25 May 2025 executed before Notary Public, Delhi.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, Kamble Tukaram Kallappa is legally Father of No.4583915X, Rank-NK Name: Kamble Sachin Tukaram presently residing at VPO-Kalkurdi, Teh-Chandgad, District-Kolhapur, Maharashtra-416508 have changed my name from Kamble Tukaram Kallappa to Tukaram Kallappa Kamble vide affidavit dated 21.04.2025, executed before Notary Public, Delhi.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, RAMSHREE Mother of No. 4575659L Rank-CHM Name-JAGVEER R/O VILL-KUNDAURA, PO-KUNDAURA, TEHSIL-HAMIRPUR, DIST-HAMIRPUR, UTTAR PRADESH-210502, declare that my name and date of birth has been wrongly written as Ramshree & DOB: 01.01.1969 in my son's service records but my correct name and date of birth is Ramshree & DOB: 12.12.1965 vide affidavit dated 24.05.2025 executed before Notary Public, Delhi.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, Jagdish Father of No.4575659L Rank-CHM Name-JAGVEER R/O VILL-KUNDAURA, PO-KUNDAURA, TEHSIL-HAMIRPUR, DIST-HAMIRPUR, UTTAR PRADESH-210502, declare that my name and date of birth has been wrongly written as Jagdish & DOB: 01.01.1969 in my son's service records but my correct name and date of birth is Jagdeesh & DOB: 17.08.1962 vide affidavit dated 24.05.2025 executed before Notary Public, Delhi.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, Kusum Mother of 4581336Y Rank-HV Name- Shingne Kiran Zanakal residing at Vill-Chikhli, PO-Chikhli, Teh-Chikhli, Distt. -Buldhana, MH-443201 have changed my name from Kusum to Kusumbai Zanakal Shingne vide affidavit dated 21.05.2025 executed before Notary Public, Delhi

**NAME CHANGE**  
I dharmender KUMAR S/O Farai Yadav R/O B-14 gali no 5 gazipur dairy farm Delhi 110096 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO dharmender yadav

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, MEERA DEVI Wife of No.14646454A Rank-HAV Name-VIRENDRA SINGH YADAV R/O VILL-DABARYA, PO-MAHEN PUR, TEH-BANSUR, DISTT-ALWAR, RAJASTHAN-301402, have changed my name from MEERA DEVI to MEERA YADAV for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 27/05/2025 before Notary Public, Delhi.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
I, Rekha D/O Sunder Yadav R/O 324/5 T. A. Tuglakabad Extn, Kalkaji New Delhi, South Delhi, Delhi -110019, have changed my Religion Hindu to Muslim from dated 12/03/2025 and built out portion of Old Plot No. E-8, khasra no. 476/170min, Situated at Shastri Nagar, Delhi-110052 from S. Kuldeep Singh who is the owner of the abovementioned property vide Relinquishment Deed dated 06.06.2018, and I executed by MR. Gaurav Kumar, Director to go by financial assistance from SMFG India Home Finance Company Limited. If any person(s) Institution has/have any objection(s) or claim(s) with respect to the right, title or interest in the said property may please contact us within 07 days from the date of this notice on the address mentioned herein below, failing which my client(s) shall not be held responsible in any manner whatsoever.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
NOTICE is hereby given to public at large that my client Mrs. Jyoti & Mr. Sagar Rajput is/are purchasing First Floor without roof rights, Built up on Property bearing Municipal No. A-114/16-B, EAST MEHRAN NAGAR, SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110010, have changed my name to Shayna Parveen

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, Gauswami Prakashjati Amrutjati presently residing at Vill & Post-Dadar, Tehsil-Sami-Distt-Patan, Gujarat-384245 have changed my name from Gauswami Pooja to Gauswami Poojaben Prakashjati vide affidavit dated 25 May 2025 executed before Notary Public, Delhi.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, Gauswami Prakashjati Amrutjati presently residing at Vill & Post-Dadar, Tehsil-Sami-Distt-Patan, Gujarat-384245 declare that my son name has been wrongly written as Sanatanjati in my service records but his correct name is Goswami Sanatanjati Prakashjati vide affidavit dated 25 May 2025 executed before Notary Public, Delhi.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, Kamble Tukaram Kallappa is legally Father of No.4583915X, Rank-NK Name: Kamble Sachin Tukaram presently residing at VPO-Kalkurdi, Teh-Chandgad, District-Kolhapur, Maharashtra-416508 have changed my name from Kamble Tukaram Kallappa to Tukaram Kallappa Kamble vide affidavit dated 21.04.2025, executed before Notary Public, Delhi.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, RAMSHREE Mother of No. 4575659L Rank-CHM Name-JAGVEER R/O VILL-KUNDAURA, PO-KUNDAURA, TEHSIL-HAMIRPUR, DIST-HAMIRPUR, UTTAR PRADESH-210502, declare that my name and date of birth has been wrongly written as Ramshree & DOB: 01.01.1969 in my son's service records but my correct name and date of birth is Ramshree & DOB: 12.12.1965 vide affidavit dated 24.05.2025 executed before Notary Public, Delhi.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, Jagdish Father of No.4575659L Rank-CHM Name-JAGVEER R/O VILL-KUNDAURA, PO-KUNDAURA, TEHSIL-HAMIRPUR, DIST-HAMIRPUR, UTTAR PRADESH-210502, declare that my name and date of birth has been wrongly written as Jagdish & DOB: 01.01.1969 in my son's service records but my correct name and date of birth is Jagdeesh & DOB: 17.08.1962 vide affidavit dated 24.05.2025 executed before Notary Public, Delhi.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, Kusum Mother of 4581336Y Rank-HV Name- Shingne Kiran Zanakal residing at Vill-Chikhli, PO-Chikhli, Teh-Chikhli, Distt. -Buldhana, MH-443201 have changed my name from Kusum to Kusumbai Zanakal Shingne vide affidavit dated 21.05.2025 executed before Notary Public, Delhi

**NAME CHANGE**  
It is for general information that I, KASHISH D/O KARAMVEER, R/O House No. 50, Shyam Gali No.-1, Near Ghonda Chowk, Maujpur, North East Delhi, Delhi-110053, declare that name of my father and my mother have been wrongly written as KARNVEER and SANGEETA in my 10th and 12th class Educational Documents. The actual name of my father and my mother are KARAMVEER and SANGITA DEVI respectively.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, UDAY RAJ YADAV S/O MAHANGI R/O FLAT NO-2127, TOWER-2, ZARAAVAAS, SECTOR-104, GURGAON-122006, HARYANA, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO UDAY RAJ FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSE

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, VIKRANT S/O RANJEET SINGH resident of D-1/54-A, GALI NO-6, KUNWAR SINGH NAGAR, DELHI-110041 have changed my name to VIKRANT SINGH for all future purpose.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, SAPNA ARORA W/O VANEET MALHOTRA resident of I-195 SWAMI DAYANAND COLONY KISHAN GANJ PADAM NAGAR DELHI-110067 have changed my name to SAPNA MALHOTRA for all future purpose.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
My client Smt. Dayawati, wife of Late Sh. Puran Chand, resident of WZ-43-B, Possangpur, Janakpuri, West Delhi-110058, has disowned her son Vinod Kumar Sharma, daughter-in-law Sunita Sharma, and grandson Neeraj Sharma due to their abusive behavior, threats, and unlawful eviction on 19.04.2025. They shall have no rights over her movable/immovable property, and she will not be responsible for any of their actions from now onwards.  
Mukesh Sharma & Gaurav Nagpal  
Advocates  
9/12, Ground floor, Office No.1, Subhash Nagar New Delhi-110027

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
This is to inform you that Ms. Rishika Panru / Ms. Sushila Devi intends to purchase Property No. 264K, measuring 200 square meters, located in Block-B, Florence Marvel Villa, Sushant Lok-II, Gurgaon, Haryana, from M/s Savdya Developers Pvt. Ltd. M/s Savdya Developers Pvt. Ltd. had purchased the said property from M/s Marketing Times Automobile Pvt. Ltd. through a Sale Deed dated 02.12.2022. Please note that the chain of documents includes the following:  
(1) Original Conveyance Deed (Document No. 15224, Book No. 1, Volume No. 2404, Pages 431-33) dated 21.09.2012, (2) Original Builder Buyer Agreement (BBA) (Document No. 3520/14), SITUATED AT CHAKKARPUR (74), GURGAON, HARYANA-122002 AND NOW THE SAID OWNER IS GOING TO MORTGAGE THE SAID PROPERTY WITH TRUE HOME FINANCE LIMITED AS SECURITY AGAINST LOAN. PLEASE SUBMIT THE SAID ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS IF ANY PERSON, ALONG WITH OBJECTION LETTER WITH RELEVANT DOCUMENTS WITH UNDERSIGNED IF HAVING ANY OBJECTION IN RESPECT OF SAID PROPERTY/DOCUMENTS WITHIN 10 DAYS OF THIS PUBLICATION. ITS USE BY ANYONE IS ILLEGAL.  
ADITYA VERMA, ADVOCATE  
E-16, 1ST & 2ND FLOOR, E-BLOCK, MANSAROVAR PARK, SHAHDARA, DELHI-110032  
MOBILE NO. 9999042521 / 9958996685

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
GENERAL PUBLIC IS HEREBY INFORMED THAT ORIGINAL RELEASE DEED DT. 07.06.2021 (DOC. NO. 2196 IN SRO-WAZIRABAD) EXECUTED BY MR. GAURAV KUMAR IN FAVOUR OF HIS UNCLE / CHACHA MR. SHEETAJI IN RESPECT OF "PROPERTY ID NO. 1CAMEY99 BUILT ON PLOT OF LAND AREA MEASURING 317 SQ. YARDS, OUT OF KHEWATKHATA NO. 8696, KHASRA NO. 3520/14", SITUATED AT VILLAGE CHAKKARPUR, TEHSIL WAZIRABAD DISTRICT GURGAON, HARYANA" (SAID PROPERTY), HAS BEEN LOST BY THE OWNER MR. LOKESH YADAV SON OF MR. SHEETAJI YADAV R/O 542, NEAR YADAV CHOWK, CHAKKARPUR (74), GURGAON, HARYANA-122002 AND NOW THE SAID OWNER IS GOING TO MORTGAGE THE SAID PROPERTY WITH TRUE HOME FINANCE LIMITED AS SECURITY AGAINST LOAN. PLEASE SUBMIT THE SAID ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS IF ANY PERSON, ALONG WITH OBJECTION LETTER WITH RELEVANT DOCUMENTS WITH UNDERSIGNED IF HAVING ANY OBJECTION IN RESPECT OF SAID PROPERTY/DOCUMENTS WITHIN 10 DAYS OF THIS PUBLICATION. ITS USE BY ANYONE IS ILLEGAL.  
[ASHWANI KUMAR] Advocate  
Chamber No. 122, Tehsil Compound, Ghaziabad, U.P.

**NORTHERN RAILWAY Corrigendum**  
Reference: Nit published on date: 14.05.2025  
Notice of e-Auction for leasing of parcel space of R1 S/LR compartments in LHB trains from various stations over Delhi Division which is scheduled to be held at (IREPS portal) during 29.05.2025 to 11.06.2025 which was published in various English & Hindi newspapers on 14.05.2025 is hereby withdrawn (due to administrative reasons). 1580/2025  
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

**NORTHERN RAILWAY OPEN-E-TENDER NOTICE**  
The Sr. Divisional Engineer-III, Northern Railway, Delhi Division invites E-Tender for the following work:  
1. Name of work: Annual zone work for the P.E. 30.06.2026 for repair to service buildings, station building New Delhi & other structure i.e. MSRR, TTRR, CPD sick line shed, Loco Shed etc. in the S/O SSE/WNDLS/Line under ADE/NNDLS  
2. Approx. cost of work: Rs. 98.98, 135.70 (Rupees Ninety Eight Lacs Ninety Eight Thousand One Hundred Thirty five and Seventy Paise Only)  
3. Earnest Money to be deposited: Rs. 1,98,000/- (Rupees One Lakh Ninety Eight Thousand Only)  
4. Cost of tender document Rs. 0.00/-  
5. Date & Time of submission of tender bid and opening of tender 18.06.2025 at 15:00 Hrs.  
6. Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen www.ireps.gov.in  
7. Allocation 04-410-32  
The tenderer/s must be registered on the Indian Railway E-Procurement System (IREPS) site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for participating in the e-tender system. For all terms and conditions please refer tender document. No manual offers are acceptable. • Cost of tender document and Earnest money will be acceptable through net banking or payment gateway only. No. No. 128-W/280/E-Tender Notice/NT/1/2025-26W-3 Dated :- 26.05.2025 1555/2025  
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## NEWS BOX

## Nepal's Sherpa Guide Kami Rita Climbs Mount Everest For A Record 31st Time

**Kathmandu.** Famed Nepalese Sherpa guide Kami Rita has scaled Mount Everest for the 31st time, breaking his own record for the most successful ascents of the world's highest peak. The 55-year-old climber leading stood atop the 8,849-meter summit at around 4 am on Tuesday under stable weather conditions, according to Mingma Sherpa, chairman of Seven Summit Treks, the expedition organiser.

He was guiding a team of the Indian Army Adventure Wing Everest Expedition, led by Lieutenant Colonel Manoj Joshi. "This new feat cements his status as the record holder for the highest number of ascents to the top of the world — a record that no one else has come close to," the Kathmandu Post newspaper quoted Mingma as saying. "Kami Rita is safe and stable after his summit. He has started his descent and is on his way back to base camp," he added. "As always, Kami has demonstrated his unmatched skills and professionalism on the mountain. We are immensely proud of his achievement and the legacy he continues to build." In the last two years, Kami Rita scaled Mt Everest twice each season taking his successful summits count to 30. Kami Rita developed a deep passion for climbing from a young age and has been scaling mountains for over two decades, Chhang Dawa Sherpa, Expedition Director at Seven Summit Treks, said. His mountaineering journey began in 1992 when he joined an expedition to Everest as a support staff member. According to Dawa, between 1994 to 2025 Kami Rita also scaled K2 and Mt Lhotse one time, Manaslu thrice, and Cho Oyu eight times. Hundreds of climbers attempt to climb Mount Everest from the Nepali side each year.

Everest was first climbed in 1953 by New Zealander Edmund Hillary and Nepali Sherpa Tenzing Norgay.

## Salman Rushdie Says He's "Pleased" Attacker Got Maximum 25-Year Sentence

**world.** Booker Prize-winning author Sir Salman Rushdie has said he is "pleased" that the man who brutally attacked him on stage in 2022 has been handed the maximum sentence of 25 years in prison. The 77-year-old Indian-born British author was stabbed multiple times during an event at the Chautauqua Institution in New York, leaving him blind in one eye. Rushdie testified at the 2025 trial of Hadi Matar, a US citizen who was convicted of attempted murder and assault earlier this year.

Matar was sentenced to 25 years for the attack on Rushdie and an additional seven years for injuring another man who was on stage at the time.

Speaking to BBC Radio 4 on Monday, Rushdie said, "I was pleased that he got the maximum available, and I hope he uses it to reflect upon his deeds."

"AI Could Imagine a Conversation Better Than Reality" Rushdie also spoke about working with the late BBC producer Alan Yentob on a unique 2024 documentary, which used artificial intelligence to simulate a fictional conversation between the author and his attacker — a concept inspired by Rushdie's memoir *Knife: Meditations After An Attempted Murder*. "I thought if I was to really meet him and ask questions, I wouldn't get very much out of him... So I thought, I could open that conversation myself — probably better than a real one would go," Rushdie said, referring to the AI-generated dialogue. He added that the animation was "very startling" and "certainly made a point".

Remembering Alan Yentob

Rushdie paid tribute to Alan Yentob, who passed away on Saturday, calling him an "unbelievable champion of the arts" and "a giant of British media".

## What Saudi Arabia Official Said On Reports Of Kingdom Lifting Alcohol Ban

**Dubai.** A Saudi official denied on Monday media reports saying the kingdom, the birthplace of Islam, would lift its 73-year-old ban on alcohol, which is prohibited for observant Muslims.

The report, which was picked up by some international media after it appeared on a wine blog last week, said Saudi authorities planned to allow the controlled sale of alcohol as the country prepares to host the 2034 soccer World Cup. It did not give a source for the information. The report sparked a vigorous online debate in the conservative kingdom, whose king also holds the title of Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques



— Islam's most revered places in Mecca and Medina. Saudi Arabia's de facto leader, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, known as MBS, is pushing a series of reforms to open up the country for tourism and business, as part of an effort to strengthen non-oil sectors of the economy. The government ended its prohibition on allowing women to drive in 2017, and has eased some rules on sex segregation in public spaces and reduced the power of the religious police.

A minor step towards allowing alcoholic drinks to be consumed in the kingdom was the opening of the first alcohol store in the capital, Riyadh, last year serving exclusively non-Muslim diplomats. Prior to that, alcohol was available only through diplomatic mail or on the black market. Saudi Arabia has strict laws against drinking alcohol, which can be punished by deportation, fines or imprisonment. Jail terms have largely replaced possible sentencing with hundreds of lashes.

## 27 In Hospital As Car Hits Liverpool Fans, Cops Rule Out Terrorism

**Liverpool.** A car ploughed into a crowd of Liverpool fans during a parade celebrating their side's Premier League soccer title on Monday, hospitalising 27 people, with two seriously injured, but police said they did not believe the incident was terrorism-related. Police said they had arrested a "53-year-old white British man from the Liverpool area," whom they believed to be the driver of the vehicle which struck a large group of supporters who were celebrating in the city in northwest England. Twenty people were treated at the scene. Ambulance officials said of the 27 taken to hospital, four were children. One child and one adult were in a serious condition. Four people trapped under the vehicle had to be released by firefighters.

Videos on social media showed people thrown into the air as the car rammed into spectators. When the car stopped, angry fans converged on it and began smashing the windows as police officers intervened to prevent them from reaching the

driver. "We believe this to be an isolated incident, and we are not currently looking for anyone else in relation to it. The incident is not being treated as terrorism," temporary Deputy Chief Constable Jenny Sims told reporters.

With most people off work for the Spring Bank Holiday, hundreds of thousands of fans gathered to watch the Liverpool team and its staff travel through the city centre on an open-top bus with the Premier League trophy. An eyewitness said the collision happened about 10 minutes after the bus carrying the Liverpool team had passed by, the British Broadcasting Corporation reported. The incident "cast a very dark shadow over what had been a joyous day," Liverpool city council leader Liam Robinson said on social media. In the aftermath, a Reuters photographer saw emergency services carrying victims on stretchers to ambulances and debris scattered on the road. Police were unusually quick to give a description of the



man they arrested. Dal Babu, a former chief superintendent in London's Metropolitan Police, told the BBC this was an effort to cool social media speculation that the episode was an Islamist attack. The same police force oversaw the response to the murder of three young girls in the nearby town of Southport last year, an incident which sparked days of rioting, fuelled by speculation online over the identity of the attacker. An eyewitness to Monday's incident who gave her name as Chelsea told BBC Radio that people packed onto

the street were only alerted to the danger by screams from the crowd. That enabled some to jump out of the way as the driver showed no sign of slowing. "With the commotion, that was the only reason we looked up, and thankfully, looked up and managed to jump out (of) the way in time," the woman said. Liverpool last won the trophy during the COVID pandemic when celebrations were not permitted due to lockdowns. A Reuters witness said that before the incident, there was disorder in the city centre where the parade was due to pass, with overcrowding and spectators confused by a lack of signage about street closures or where they should go. "My thoughts are with all those injured or affected," Prime Minister Keir Starmer said on X, calling the scenes "appalling" and saying he was being updated about the events. The team said on X it was in direct contact with police.

## 2 Dead, Several Injured In Mass Shooting At Philadelphia's Fairmount Park

**Philadelphia Mass Shooting.** A mass shooting was reported at Fairmount Park in the United States' Philadelphia on Monday night, where two people were killed and nine others were wounded. According to police, at least two of the shooting victims are believed to be juveniles. The incident happened around 10:30 pm on Lemon Hill Drive at Poplar Drive, local media reports said. All nine injured in the Monday night shooting are in stable condition, police said. A male and a female, both adults, died in the shooting, however, their age is not known yet. A large number of adults were present at the park, according to the police. "We have not recovered any weapons at this time," the officer said.



No arrests have been made. "This is significant. It's Memorial Day... we understand the significance of this event and we will make sure to provide an update on Tuesday." The park where the incident took place was busy during the day as people gathered for Memorial Day cookouts. Memorial

boat off the South Carolina coast, holding a holiday weekend party on Sunday night. No one died in the shooting in Little River, although some of the wounded were in critical condition, Horry County Police said in a statement.

## "Have No Fear": Trump Vows To 'Win' Against Harvard, Threatens Funding



**world.** US President Donald Trump vowed Monday to prevail in his clash with Harvard and again threatened to take away billions in funding from one of the world's top universities. "I am considering taking Three Billion Dollars of Grant Money away from a very antisemitic Harvard, and giving it to TRADE SCHOOLS all across our land," Trump said, without giving details, in one of a flurry of texts on Monday, the Memorial Day holiday in the US. He also brought up the issue of

removing foreign students from Harvard — a key source of enrollment and tuition money for the oldest university in the US — saying he is waiting for Harvard to provide a list of these students. Trump said he wants this list "so that we can determine, after a ridiculous expenditure of BILLIONS OF DOLLARS, how many radicalized lunatics, troublemakers all, should not be let back into our Country."

He added: "But have no fear, the Government will, in the end, WIN!"

## The Trump administration moved last week to block Harvard from enrolling foreign students, but on Friday a judge suspended the order pending a hearing this week.

The Trump administration moved last week to block Harvard from enrolling foreign students, but on Friday a judge suspended the order pending a hearing this week. Trump is furious at Harvard — which has produced 162 Nobel prize winners — for rejecting Washington's oversight on admissions and hiring, amid his claims the school is a hotbed of anti-Semitism and "woke" liberal ideology. Trump is attacking US universities and other sources of what he sees as left-leaning power in the country like the media as he tries to exert tight, unprecedented presidential control over life in America. In his fight with Harvard, Trump has threatened to put \$9 billion of government funding under review, then went on to freeze a first tranche of \$2.2 billion of grants and \$60 million of official contracts.

**world.** New Zealand Immigration Minister Erica Stanford is under fire for saying she "never responds" to emails from Indians, because she considers them "akin to spam." During a parliamentary session on May 6, defending her use of a personal Gmail account for official correspondence, Ms Stanford said, "I receive a lot of unsolicited emails like, for example, things from people in India asking for immigration advice, which I never respond to. I almost regard those as being akin to spam."

Indian-origin Labour MP Priyanka Radhakrishnan condemned the remarks as insensitive and discriminatory. Speaking to The Indian Weekender, Ms Radhakrishnan said, "Such comments reinforce negative stereotypes about an entire community," and called it unacceptable for a minister to single out a specific ethnic group. Ms Radhakrishnan described the comments as "careless at best and prejudiced at worst." She pointed out that ministers receive unsolicited emails regularly, so there was no reason to single out emails from Indians. "Particularly given New Zealand's important relationship with India," she said, "comments like these serve to reinforce negative stereotypes against an entire community of people." Erica Stanford later clarified, saying she had been misinterpreted. "I did not say that I consider them as spam," she explained. "I only said that I consider them almost akin to spam."

She defended her statement, saying it referred to the volume and nature of unsolicited emails she receives on her personal email, not Indians specifically. "In this instance, I recalled a recent email I'd received of this nature when answering," she said.

Erica Stanford has been serving as New Zealand's Minister of Immigration since November 27, 2023. She assumed the role following the formation of the National-led coalition government under Prime Minister Christopher Luxon. Christopher Luxon visited India in March and met Prime Minister Narendra Modi. They discussed ways to strengthen ties between the two countries in areas like trade, defence, and education. Both countries are working on a free trade agreement that they hope to finalise by the end of 2025. This deal aims to boost trade in important areas such as farming, minerals, medicines, and tourism. Education is also a key area of cooperation. More than 15,000 Indian students study in New Zealand, which helps build strong people-to-people connections. The two countries are also planning to increase cultural exchanges in tourism, sports, and education.



## Unacceptable": Israel, US Deny Making Deal With Hamas Over Gaza Ceasefire

— **Netanyahu said he "hoped very much" he would be able to deliver developments on the subject of Israel's fight against Hamas and releasing the hostages, "today and if not today then we will tomorrow".**

**world.** Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has pledged to bring home all hostages, "living and dead", as Israeli strikes in Gaza killed at least 52 people. Netanyahu's remarks came after a Palestinian official on Monday said that Hamas has agreed to a 70-day ceasefire proposal by America, only for US envoy Steve Witkoff to later reject the notion that Hamas had accepted his offer. An Israeli

official also dismissed the proposal, saying no responsible government could accept such an agreement, as they rejected the assertion that the deal matched one proposed by Witkoff. Later, in a recorded message on social media, Netanyahu said he "hoped very much" he would be able to deliver developments on the subject of Israel's fight against Hamas and releasing the hostages, "today and if not today then we will tomorrow." "We intend to bring them all back, the living and the dead," he added, but made no mention of a proposed deal. The Palestinian official, who is close to Hamas, had told news agency Reuters that the so-called Witkoff proposal, which the group reportedly agreed to, would see the release of 10 hostages and a 70-day ceasefire and was received by Hamas through mediators. "The proposal includes the release of 10 living Israeli hostages held by Hamas in two groups in return for a 70-day ceasefire and a partial withdrawal from the Gaza Strip," the source said.

It also included the release of a number of

Palestinian prisoners by Israel, including hundreds serving lengthy prison terms. Witkoff nonetheless disputed Hamas's claim that the group had agreed to his proposed deal, telling Reuters that what he had seen



was "completely unacceptable" and the proposal being discussed was not the same as his. Israel-Hamas War Fighting meanwhile raged in Gaza, where civil defence agency spokesman Mahmud Bassal said that an early-morning Israeli strike on the Fahmi Al-Jarjawi school, where displaced people were sheltering,

killed "at least 33, with dozens injured, mostly children". The Israeli military said it had "struck key terrorists who were operating within a Hamas and Islamic Jihad command and control centre embedded" in the area, adding that "numerous steps were taken to mitigate the risk of harming civilians". Another strike killed at least 19 people in Jabalia in the northern Gaza Strip, Bassal said. Israel has stepped up a renewed offensive to destroy Hamas, since it effectively ended a January ceasefire agreement and renewed its military campaign in Gaza in March. It has also imposed a blockade on the enclave since early March, which has sparked severe food and medical shortages, drawing international condemnation. Meanwhile, Hamas has said it is willing to free all remaining hostages seized by its gunmen in attacks on communities in southern Israel on October 7, 2023, and.



## NEWS BOX

**Bhovi Corporation scam case: ED attaches assets of former top officials**



**BENGALURU.** The Directorate of Enforcement (ED) has provisionally attached immovable properties worth Rs 26.27 crore (current market value of Rs 40 crore) of BK Nagarajappa, R Leelavathy and other accused under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002, in a case related to misappropriation of funds at the Karnataka Bhovi Development Corporation (KBDC).

In an official release on Monday, the ED said the investigation revealed that Nagarajappa, who was then general manager, and Leelavathy, then managing director, of KBDC, in connivance with middlemen and their associates, misappropriated funds by sanctioning loans/subsidies/financial assistance to the bank accounts of more than 750 fake beneficiaries, which were fraudulently opened by them.

"Later, the amounts so sanctioned from KBDC were diverted to the bank accounts of various entities controlled by Nagarajappa and others, which was used in purchase of properties, making payments to middlemen and diverted to bank accounts of individuals and various other entities," it added.

**Andhra Pradesh's Kuppam to get Shreeja, Mother Dairy units**

**VIJAYAWADA.** Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu announced a significant step towards economic development of Kuppam, revealing investment plans of Shreeja Milk Producer Organisation, and Mother Dairy during a meeting with their representatives on Monday. The initiatives, which are in tune with the State government's Swarna Andhra Vision, aim to eradicate poverty, and bolster the rural economy.

As part of the agreement, both the companies have been allotted land to establish industrial units in Kuppam under the Kuppam Area Development Authority (KADA).

Shreeja will set up a dairy and animal feed processing unit, while Mother Dairy will establish a fruit pulp processing unit. These projects are expected to create 8,000 jobs, providing a major boost to local employment. The new units will focus on directly procuring milk and horticultural produce from local farmers, a move aimed at enhancing ryot income, and strengthening the rural economy.

The Chief Minister emphasised the importance of inclusive development in the region, and directed both the companies to complete their projects within 15 to 18 months.

**Monsoon rush for Andhra Pradesh's scenic Srisailem temple**

**KURNOOL.** With the onset of monsoon, bringing down scorching temperatures, the serene hills of Srisailem nestled in the lush Nallamala forest have turned into a major attraction for pilgrims and tourists alike. The rains have transformed the landscape into a green expanse, drawing thousands to the temple town. Tourists arriving at Srisailem are being greeted by cool breezes and breathtaking views of misty hills, gushing waterfalls, and dense forest cover.

The changing climate has provided much-needed relief from the summer heat, making May to June first week, a perfect time for sightseeing and pilgrimage. As the schools are set to reopen on June 12, many families have taken the opportunity to visit Srisailem with their children, enjoying the natural beauty of the Nallamala forest, taking refreshing dips in the local waterfalls and exploring spiritual sites.

The influx of visitors has led to heavy footfall in the temple streets and surrounding areas, with the town witnessing a festive atmosphere. The Srisailem temple, often referred to as Dakshina Kasi (the Varanasi of the South), is one of the twelve sacred Jyotirlingas, which is a home to Lord Mallikarjuna Swamy and Goddess Bhramaramba Devi. The temple complex, rich in mythology and tradition, includes sacred sites like the Triphala Vruksham believed to bless childless couples alongside Sivalingas installed by the Pandavas, and the Vruddha Mallikarjuna and Sahasra Lingeshwarudu shrines linked to Lord Rama and Sita. Surrounding the temple are attractions such as the Patala Ganga river reservoir, a hydel project power station, ropeway rides, and natural viewpoints that offer a complete spiritual and recreational experience. In addition to Srisailem, other revered temples in the Nallamala forest region like Mahanandi and Ahobilam in Nandyal district are also witnessing increased tourist activity. These forest temples, located amidst the Eastern Ghats' rocky terrain and valleys, are proving to be ideal summer-end getaways for students, nature lovers, and spiritual seekers.

## Three students ousted from institute for 'anti-nationalism' in Chennai

**However, they were served rustication letters on Sunday, suspending them from the institute and expelling them from hostel.**

**CHENNAI.** Three students of the Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development (RGNIYD) functioning under the Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports in Sriperumbudur have alleged that the institution has arbitrarily rusticated them on the charge of defacing hostel property with "content of an anti-national" nature. Aslam S, Sayeedh M A, and Nahal Ibnu Abullaise were pursuing second and final year of Master of Social Work (MSW) at the institute and were supposed to write their final exam on Monday. However, they were served rustication letters on Sunday, suspending them from the institute and expelling them from hostel. Institute authorities could not be reached for a comment until Monday night. Messages and calls to institute Director Subrata Hazra and Disciplinary Committee Chairperson S Suresh were not answered. Students claimed the institute had "planned" the episode.

**Targeted for stir against staff: Rusticated students**



The students added that this was done to disallow them from writing the exam. "We have been targeted by the administration for taking lead in a recent protest demanding the resignation of a senior administrative staff against whom sexual harassment charges have been leveled," Nahal told. According to Nahal, on May 22, a few hostel officials noticed slogans such as "Free Palestine" and "Jai Bhim" written on the hostel wall, following which they inspected the hostel.

However, Nahal contended that the inspection was limited to only a few rooms on a single floor. Acknowledging that they found some empty beer bottles and fabric colors in their room, Nahal alleged the authorities immediately jumped to conclusion and took action against the three and four more students in the room. While the three were rusticated forthwith, the other four were expelled from hostel but allowed to sit for the exam. The letters served to the three said that the competent authority of the institute took a serious view of their involvement in "gross misconduct within the hostel premises — specifically, the defacement of hostel property with content of an anti-national nature". Highlighting that the students were given an opportunity to present their case on Friday, the letters, however, said based on the material evidence and overall circumstances "the Disciplinary Committee is of the considered view that there is sufficient ground to conclude his involvement in the defacement of hostel."

## Food, relief materials arrive for Chinnarpathi tribals in Coimbatore

**COIMBATORE.** The revenue and forest departments have arranged food and relief materials for the tribal people living in temporary makeshift shelters amid the rain at the Chinnarpathi settlement in Pollachi. As the residents refuse to leave their shelters, expressing a desire to remain at their settlement, the officials plan to provide a safe, temporary shelter until their permanent housing project is completed. There are 27 families in the hamlet, with 16 of them approved for the construction of concrete-roofed houses. Construction began two months ago, following the demolition of their damaged homes. As no temporary shelters were provided, they built their own makeshift shelters for living. The activists raised concern over their situation as they are residing in it amid heavy rains.

After receiving alerts about the tribals at the



Chinnarpathi settlement living under makeshift roofs in the rain, officials from the revenue, police, and forest departments rushed to the area on Sunday evening and set up a relief centre at Aliyar. They encouraged the people to move to the relief camp for their safety. However, the people declined, stating they would consider moving only if the situation worsens.

"They told the officers that they can manage the current situation. Living under makeshift roofs is routine for them. They assured us that they would use the relief camps if conditions become more difficult. Therefore, we have decided to let them stay in their village while keeping the camp in a ready status," said Pollachi Sub-Collector (In Charge) Viswanathan. According to revenue officials, food and rations have been arranged for the people at Chinnarpathi. Additionally, repair work is underway on their makeshift shelters to help manage the rainfall. Meanwhile two houses collapsed due to heavy rain — one at Anna Nagar in the Vettaikaranpudur town panchayat on Sunday, and another near the Solayar dam area on Monday. The families affected are currently staying with neighbours and have also declined to use the relief camps. Officials have provided them with rations and food as well, the Sub-Collector said.

**LDF likely to announce its candidate for Nilambur bypoll in a day**

**THIRUVANANTHAPURAM.** The ruling LDF is likely to announce its candidate for the Nilambur byelection within a day. Though a number of names have been doing the rounds, former footballer U Sharafali and DYFI leader P Shabir are the current frontrunners. "The party has been looking at all possibilities. However, now with Shoukath as the UDF candidate, the Left too would most likely choose a Muslim candidate who would contest in the party symbol. The announcement would most likely happen on Tuesday itself," said a senior Left leader from Malappuram.

The CPM leadership was keenly watching the developments in the UDF camp in order to zero in on its own candidate. The party wanted to cash in on any resentment within the opposition camp. The party would take a decision after considering multiple aspects, including community equations and possible resentment within the Congress camp.

Former footballer and State Sports Council president U Sharafali, DYFI district president P Shabir, former Marthoma college principal Prof Thomas Mathew and district panchayat member from Vazhikadavu, Sherona Sara Roy are among the probable names that are doing the rounds.

Sources said CPM state secretariat member M Swaraj too is under consideration. A section of local party cadres and leaders are keen to see a senior leader like Swaraj contesting. The leadership has, however, tasked him with handling the election campaign.

## Three-year-old girl dies after falling off bike during traffic police check

**A large number of people protested at the spot, blaming the traffic police for the accident, following which three Assistant Sub-Inspectors were suspended.**

**MANDYA.** A three-year-old girl died after falling off a two-wheeler and being run over by a truck on the Mysuru-Bengaluru highway in Mandya on Monday after the traffic police allegedly stopped the bike as the riders were not wearing helmets. A large number of people protested at the spot, blaming the traffic police for the accident, following which three Assistant Sub-Inspectors were suspended.

The victim Hritiksha was the only daughter of Vanishree and Ashok and hailed from Goravanahalli village in Maddur taluk. Earlier in the day, the girl was bitten by a stray dog while playing near her home. Vanishree and her brother-in-law Baskar Gowda took the girl to the Maddur government hospital. The doctors there gave her first aid and then referred her to MIMS Hospital in Mandya owing to the unavailability of the required anti-rabies vaccine at Maddur.



At around 10:30 am, the bike carrying Hritiksha, her mother, and uncle was stopped by traffic police near Swarnasandra for riding without helmets. After Vanishree explained the medical urgency, the police allowed them to proceed. But just a few metres away, another traffic policeman attempted to stop them again. In the confusion, Gowda lost control of the bike. While he fell to the left, Vanishree and Hritiksha fell to the right, directly in the path of an oncoming truck. The truck ran over the child, resulting in fatal head injuries. The incident sparked

public outrage. Grieving family members, relatives, and members of the public gathered outside MIMS Hospital and staged a protest on the highway by placing the child's body on the road. They demanded immediate action against the police personnel involved, accusing them of negligence.

Mandya Superintendent of Police Mallikarjun Baladandi rushed to the scene and attempted to pacify the protesters. Following mounting pressure, he announced the suspension of three traffic ASIs — Jayaram, Nagaraju, and Gurudev — attached to the Mandya traffic police station. SP Baladandi said, "Preliminary investigation has revealed that the officers failed to follow proper procedure during the inspection. A departmental inquiry has been ordered. Meanwhile, I have instructed all police personnel to avoid vehicle inspections that could endanger public safety."

## Centre-state synergy should boost startup ecosystem

**THIRUVANANTHAPURAM.** It was quite an exciting and eye-opening experience to be part of a group of defence vloggers who were discussing a remotely piloted aerial vehicle (RPV) developed recently by a fledgling startup that won the Centre's iDEX (Innovations for Defence Excellence) challenge.

As operational pictures emerged, a Malayali vlogger remarked, "Imagine this launcher on a small patrol boat. With proper training and situational awareness, the Navy can wreak havoc with this. Good stuff from the startup — hope they succeed." Such innovation reflects the growing momentum among young minds aiming to break into defence technology, particularly following Operation Sindoor. Here, Kerala's strategic relevance is underscored by its status as home to the national space agency and as a rising hub for startups. "Most startups are now in the space sector, although defence has been getting attention in the last few years. The products are finishing only now after incubation," said Varun G, technical officer at Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM), which reportedly has tie-ups with about 60

defence-based startups.

Experts point out that proficiency in space technology translates effectively into defence capabilities. Prateesh V Nair, CEO of space startup Tachlog, explains: "Whatever you do in space, the same can be done in defence with not as much complexity. We are a space startup but are now aggressively pushing into defence as well." Prateesh sees this sector only growing. The key word is indigenisation. "What we witnessed recently was a direct result of the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative," he said. "For example, we used our own NavIC (Navigation with Indian Constellation) system instead of relying on the US-based GPS for surveillance. Kerala has potential — but it must be requirement-driven. Defence prefers end-to-end products, not just specific parts or projects, which makes funding more challenging. Now, with iDEX stepping in, opportunities will only grow."

Prateesh also highlights the risks of collaborative efforts like the Indo-Russian BrahMos missile. Such partnerships involve tech transfers, but with deterrents in place to



prevent use against the partner nation in future conflicts. "Every country does this. If we devise systems ourselves, we are in full control," he said.

Exact numbers and details of defence start-ups remain under wraps due to non-disclosure agreements, but the sector is certainly gaining attention. "Look at the number of UAV and surveillance projects from educational institutions. They can easily evolve into startups," the Malayali defence vlogger pointed out, requesting anonymity. "This is where the state government must step in with special focus on defence innovation zones and drone parks, and the Centre with

better funding. Synergy is vital."

Until recently, Kerala's startup ecosystem was largely in incubation, with a strong tilt towards space technologies. Even institutions like the Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology (IIST) were more focused on supplying manpower to ISRO than nurturing innovation.

"The entrepreneurship cell at IIST was set up less than three years ago, but it's picking up now," said a fourth-year student who once shelved his startup ambitions for job prospects. Notably, KSUM has been promoting entrepreneurial culture actively. "We have organised workshops in about 550 institutions across Kerala and set up entrepreneurship cells in many of them," Varun highlighted. "Space and defence require advanced skill sets, and it takes time. Currently, only 10% of our incubated startups are defence-focused. However, the horizons are expanding." It is a matter of pride for the state that startups such as Agnikul and Kawa Space have emerged with KSUM's support. However, Kerala still lacks essential infrastructure.

**Words central to Puri Jagannath temple to be legally protected: SJTA**

**PURI/BHUBANESWAR.** The Jagannath Temple administration has decided to seek legal protection of words central to the 12th century shrine to prevent their misuse by any other temple across the country and abroad. At a high-level meeting of the temple administration, presided by Puri king Gajapati Dibyasingha Deb on Monday, it was decided to seek legal and intellectual protection of words like Shree Jagannath Dham, Srimandir, Purushottam Kshetra, Purushottam Dham, Mahaprasad, Srikshetra, Neelachakra and the logo of the shrine.

The decision of Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) to seek legal protection comes in wake of the controversy surrounding the naming of Jagannath temple at West Bengal's Digha as Jagannath Dham. Chief administrator of the shrine Arabinda Padhee said certain words which are linked to the Srimandir and its various rituals should not be used by any other temple for any purpose.

"Hence, we have decided to legally protect these words. Trademarking or copywriting them will be an important move in this direction," said Padhee. The meeting also took a decision to regulate the height of new buildings coming up around the Srimandir and Gundicha temple to maintain the visual prominence of the two ancient shrines.

Not just the height, design of buildings coming up around Srimandir Parikrama and Gundicha temple will also be regulated. The National Monuments Authority (NMA) regulates the height of buildings around prohibited and regulated zones of centrally-protected temples and monuments under the Archaeological Sites and Remains Act to preserve the heritage and visual landscape of the sites.

However, an increasing number of tall buildings, both commercial and private, are coming up around the two shrines. "Beyond the Srimandir Parikrama and Gundicha temple, several buildings are coming up in many designs. We will discuss with the local civic bodies and state government to draw up guidelines on construction and height of new buildings near the shrines," he said.



## Lok raj without lok laj is a hollow democracy

THE popular but much-mocked Devi Lal, former Deputy Prime Minister of India, once said, "Lok raj lok laj se chalta hai." He was one of the tallest farmer leaders of the country, with an incomparable connect with the people, especially in rural areas. He both regaled and riled people with his rusticity. But this article is not about him; it is about what he famously said. For those in power in a democracy, it is an axiom summed up in the word 'laj', for which there is no exact equivalent in the English language.

Lok raj is simple to understand, for it is the power that the people exercise in an elected democracy. It is the power, the right to elect people, that the Constitution provides and protects. Lok laj, on the other hand, doesn't emanate from the Constitution; it emanates from the character of a society that is reflected in individual behaviour and its normative response to individual conduct.

I recently wrote about the growing incidence of crime and no punishment (The Tribune, March 12), a disturbing trend witnessed in our system, which doesn't bode well for an orderly society. A crime is established on the basis of evidence; the ingenuity of legal arguments help courts determine an illegality or dismiss it. Societies, however, have long existed before the legal system came into being, or was codified. Laws change faster than social mores. Order in a society has been the outcome of compliance with the law as well as the observance of common ethics.

Take, for instance, the dictum Satyamev Jayate (truth always triumphs), an exhortation to speak the truth. Whether it triumphs or not in these days and times is a different matter. It is a human value propagated in every society and in most families. However, except for perjury, not speaking the truth is not illegal. While perjury could be punished by law, how do we deal with falsehood? How do we deal with those who publicly speak untruth? We have seen many recent examples where the utterances of the BJP's elected representatives have offended common sensibility. A minister in Madhya Pradesh referred to a lady army officer briefing the media during Op Sindoor as a "sister" of those who killed innocent tourists. The government chose her as part of an impactful communication strategy, a woman army officer belonging to a minority community, the face of a system delivering justice to the victims of an inconceivably ghastly act. By inventing a fraternal bond between her and the terrorists based on a common religion, the minister displayed a perverse mind, the kind you need to carry forward a nefarious communal agenda. The Supreme Court has set up an SIT to probe his conduct, but that was necessitated because he wasn't chastised by his own organisation. Nor was he genuinely chastened by his own conscience, his clever expression of regret notwithstanding. No leader of his political party reprimanded him publicly; nor did his organisation take him to task for the reprehensible comment. Moreover, what can be a more heartbreaking and pathetic example of this crass insensitivity than the utterances of the Haryana BJP MP who accused the unfortunate women who suffered the loss of their husbands during the Pahalgam massacre, of lack of "courage" and "training" to fight the terrorists? Is he suggesting that the state is vanishing and law enforcement should be an individual responsibility? The law cannot punish him for what he said because there has been no violation of the law; also, his party leadership might exhibit "broad shoulders" and "tolerance". But should he not be publicly castigated and made to pay by his party?

In both cases, a brazen abandoning of Lok Laj is clear, by both politicians and their party leadership. That amounts to a social approval of their conduct, allowing them to live without guilt even if the law were to punish them.

## To render Pakistan irrelevant, analyse it meaningfully

In stark contrast, the China Study Group and multiple think tanks focus on the study of China. The MEA runs the Centre for Contemporary China Studies.

I met the first Pakistani in the UN Mission in Angola in 1992, when I was a Major with 15 years of service. I was a staff college graduate and had battled militancy in Punjab. The proxy war in the Kashmir valley was then in its nascent stage. In keeping with the requirements of military diplomacy, I drew on my reserve of Urdu, picked up from movies like Waqt, Taj Mahal and Kanoon, to strike a conversation with the Pakistani. He enquired whether I knew Punjabi and, if so, why I was being a mohajir. That broke in my mind the stereotype of an Urdu-spewing Pakistani. It was a rude reality check. Every time he visited my HQ, I accommodated him in my container, to understand his psyche. The March 11 hijacking of the Jaffer Express in Pakistan, allegedly by the Balochistan Liberation Army, evoked much interest and even celebrations on social media. But it didn't wake up our intelligence experts, who should have anticipated an immediate, violent reaction. After all, 380 passengers had been taken hostage and 18 soldiers and 13 civilians killed. It didn't take long. Within six weeks, the dastardly Pahalgam attack had taken place.

The obvious question is — do we suffer from some sort of complacency in our analysis of the intentions and capabilities of our western neighbour? We have been following the policy of no dialogue and minimum contact with Pakistan for about a decade. It has been recently reiterated that terror and talks/trade will not be permitted; and blood and water cannot be allowed to flow together. These are indeed complex and difficult goals to achieve. One such goal was the restoration of the 2003 ceasefire on the Line of Control in February 2021, aided by backroom parleys, possibly facilitated by the UAE. After Pahalgam, suddenly our experts decided that Pakistan's Army chief (now Field Marshal) Syed Asim Munir, was the main culprit. But the first shot had been fired by Lt Gen Ahmed Sharif Choudhary, DG-ISPR, immediately after the Jaffer Express fiasco. He vowed 'badla' (revenge) and blamed R&AW for the train hijack. Certainly, this was accentuated by the highly provocative statement on the 'two-nation' theory by Munir. It may be appropriate to recount that the diabolic drift in the Pakistan army was initiated by Gen Zia-ul-Haq, who was IMA-trained, St Stephen's

college-educated and hailed from Jalandhar. Zia gave the Pakistan army a theological twist, with the new motto — 'Iman, Taqwa, Jihad-fi-Sablillah' — and, most surprisingly, added the defence of ideological frontiers in its role.

Gen Aslam Beg, another mohajir from Azamgarh, triggered the proxy war in Kashmir. It was sustained by others like Gen Pervez Musharraf, a mohajir with roots in Neharwali Haveli in Delhi.

Now Gen Munir is a sort of outlier and 'dark horse', a rare OTS achiever, with an intelligence (DGMi and DGISI) background. His posting profile is peppered with India-focussed appointments. After nearly two and a half years at the helm, there is no point in being surprised at his 'mullah' orientation. Born to an 'imam'



father, hailing from Jalandhar, he had a madrasa education. Like Zia, his parents are both Punjabi and mohajir. Surprisingly, he earned the title of Hafiz by attending the Koran recitation course in Saudi Arabia, while on diplomatic assignment. His description of Kashmir as the "jugular vein" is not new; it has been a constant theme with Pakistani generals. Only a few years back, Gen Kayani described the same phrase in Urdu as India's 'shah rug' — Munir, in fact, has inappropriately termed it as Pakistan's "jugular vein."

The timing of Munir's uncalled-for diatribe was probably triggered by his yearning to recover his plummeting popularity. He was also unsettled by the growing dissent in junior ranks, coupled with recent statements by the former and more moderate Army

chief, Gen Jehangir Karamat and other senior veterans, calling for a review of the ongoing mismanaged operations in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Baluchistan.

To quote Sun Tzu on the enemy, "Know thy enemy and know yourself, and in a hundred battles, you will never be in peril." I would be audacious to add a few supplementaries to this seminal wisdom, reflecting on our approach to Pakistan. First, we know our enemy; unlike the Chinese, they are not complicated. Second, they are irrelevant; so you may well ask, where is the need to formally study them? In stark contrast, the China Study Group and multiple think tanks focus on the study of China. The MEA runs the Centre for Contemporary China Studies. While China is the primary and complicated adversary, Pakistan remains the persistent and prickly one. Pakistan considers India the *raison-d'être* for its existence, and seeks parity and attention. It certainly has the propensity to continue to surprise us — unveiling the 6th Armoured Division in 1965, invading India at Kargil in 1999 and more recently, using sophisticated Chinese missiles and weaponry in the recent conflict with India.

Tragically, we have no study groups and think-tanks to analyse our western adversary. We must make do with Twitter/TV channel warriors, who capture Karachi, Lahore and PoK periodically.

It is time to make amends so that we begin to acquire a meaningful understanding of Pakistan. Critical to our study will be the ability to differentiate between three segments of the population — the military establishment, mullahs (clergy) and the awaam (public). Significantly, despite limited or no government contact in the last decade or so, the Internet remains porous. People on both sides of the Radcliffe Line in Punjab communicate in Shahmukhi (Punjabi written in the Persian-derived script). But for some mystical reason, the decision to set up the Shahmukhi Linguistic Centre at Panjab University was dropped after the VC changed in 2018; although Panjab University in Lahore did set up its Gurmukhi Department and Chair later. Former PM Vajpayee once said, "We can choose friends but we cannot choose neighbours." May I humbly add to the seminal wisdom — in order to truly render Pakistan irrelevant, we have to also learn to analyse it meaningfully.

## Gaza war is a case of free speech versus loyalty test for Trump

President Donald Trump has conflated criticism of Israel with anti-Semitism, stifling free speech instead of addressing the root causes of protests on university campuses

At a time when the Trump administration is fixed on purging academic campuses of pro-Palestinian activists, two staffers of an Israeli embassy were shot dead by a lone assailant in Washington. They were exiting a Jewish museum, barely two kilometres from the White House, when the gunman pulled the trigger. The killer later entered the museum and raised 'Free Palestine' slogans as security forces took him into custody. The Washington shooting is an awful instance of how geopolitical strife can ignite lone-wolf violence, putting diplomatic personnel and civilians at risk worldwide.

There can be no justification for taking any human life under whatever pretext. However, anti-semitic toxicity is at its highest across the world, most of which is self-inflicted. Whatever sympathy Israel had in the wake of the brutal Hamas incursion of 2023 that killed 1,700 people in Israel has evaporated after its blistering counterattack that has left at least 52,000 people in Gaza dead. Particularly heart-wrenching was the bodies of nine of a doctor's 10 children, killed in a recent



Israeli airstrike, arriving at a Gaza hospital where she was attending to patients. Despite Israel's scorched earth policy that has nearly razed Gaza, the Hamas militia continues to survive in its tunnels and hold hostages, though their support systems from Iran and Hezbollah have largely weakened. Instead of actively pursuing a

negotiated settlement for the release of hostages, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has expanded the war and choked humanitarian aid, leading to global outrage. Israel's closest allies are also no longer on the same page—the UK has paused trade talks, France and Canada have threatened sanctions, and the EU has begun reviewing a bilateral pact. The US, however, remains an outlier. President Donald Trump has conflated criticism of Israel with anti-Semitism, stifling free speech instead of addressing the root causes of protests on university campuses. He appeared implacable as he announced a crippling fund squeeze on Ivy League universities and barred Harvard from foreign student intake unless it shared information on participants of the anti-Zionism protests on its campus. That hung out to dry around 7,000 international students, about 800 of whom are Indians, before a court stayed the unsound Trumpian order. The clash of civilisations appears to be at its peak and needs no further escalation.

## Operation Sindoor has ticked the right boxes

### India has stuck to its guns despite international pressure, unlike Op Parakram of 2001-02

A defining feature of Operation Sindoor, which has been paused for the time being, is that India launched it without being perturbed by international opinion. This approach is a far cry from how things panned out during Operation Parakram, which began shortly after terrorists attacked Parliament on December 13, 2001. At that time, several Cabinet meetings were held to monitor the situation and work out an action plan. The military mobilisation underlined India's resolve to punish Pakistan. A strike by the Indian Air Force (IAF) on a terror camp was proposed with the aim of deterring Pakistan from sponsoring terror attacks. However, some Cabinet members were apprehensive that an airstrike could make the situation spin out of control. For that reason, proposals to strike the terrorists' headquarters in Bahawalpur and deploy the Navy in the Arabian Sea to carry out a blockade of Karachi, as and when required, were declined. International pressure started mounting on India to call off the offensive because some countries feared that Pakistan may use nuclear weapons. Presidents of the US and Russia voiced their concerns. The India-Pak skirmish upset the Americans, who were deeply involved in Afghanistan following the 9/11 attacks. They did not want any distraction caused by a war in Afghanistan's neighbourhood. Besides, the US needed Pakistan's support for their Afghan engagement. A series of events happened in the first two weeks of January 2002. LK Advani, then Home Minister, travelled to the US. The Americans told him that they would

persuade Pakistan President Gen Pervez Musharraf to avoid going to war. Prodded by the US, then UK PM Tony Blair visited India to dissuade the Vajpayee government from taking military action. In a public speech on January 12, Gen Musharraf promised to



reduce tensions; he condemned the Parliament attack but emphasised his stand to use nuclear weapons in accordance with Pakistan's right of 'first use'. His speech was reason enough for the Indian government to call off the planned airstrike. By then, around 500,000 Indian and 300,000 Pakistani troops had been deployed at the border. On May 14, 2002, Pakistani terrorists attacked an Indian Army camp at Kaluchak (J&K), killing 30 people, mostly wives and children of defence personnel. However, Pakistan

refused to extradite the terrorists' handlers, even as Lashkar-e-Taiba continued to operate under a new name. The Indian Cabinet felt that a limited airstrike would serve no purpose under these circumstances. By May-end, both India and Pakistan were fully mobilised. Pakistan's terror network was extremely well organised. It was practically used as an extension of the Pakistan army and was given huge technical and financial support. On June 5, 2002, then US Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage extracted a commitment from Gen Musharraf that he would stop cross-border terrorism and dismantle infrastructure supporting terrorism. On June 10, India called off Op Parakram and the entire strike plan against Pakistan with the hope that the promise secured by the Americans would be fulfilled.

However, the 'love story' between the Pakistan army and terror outfits continued unabated. India witnessed one major terror attack after another — Mumbai (2008), Pathankot and Uri (2016) and Pulwama (2019). The April 22 massacre in Pahalgam was promptly followed by the deployment of the Navy's Carrier Battle Group in the Arabian Sea and the suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty. On the intervening night of May 6-7, Operation Sindoor was launched. The IAF struck nine terror sites inside Pakistan and PoK. In retaliation, Pakistan sent some 300 drones across the border, the majority of which were lightweight quadcopters; in between them were embedded unmanned combat aerial vehicles (UCAVs) that carried munitions. These UCAVs were identified and

shot down by the Indian air defence system; they caused practically no damage to Indian assets. India's response this time has been kinetic as well as non-kinetic. What has stood out is the Prime Minister's resolve to teach Pakistan a lesson; he has declared that any future terror attack will be viewed as an act of war against India. This resolve was reflected in the directions to the armed forces. Decisions were taken spontaneously and fearlessly. Long-range precision-guided munitions proved lethal and accurate, especially the BrahMos and Akash missiles. Radars and sensors also performed exceptionally well. It is estimated that Pakistan suffered heavy losses that may take it years to recoup. Military planning was fully integrated, including all intelligence agencies and national space assets. The entire operation lasted just three nights, with no loss of aircrew — a remarkable achievement indeed.

The IAF's pilots flew in the dead of night and unleashed weapons with pinpoint accuracy. High-end technicians worked long and hard with confidence. The Integrated Air Command and Control System proved exceedingly good. The IAF, despite facing a serious shortage of combat equipment, has been consistently working to modernise its inventory, training and management, ably supported by the government. The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has done the nation proud. The policy of Atmanirbharta (self-reliance) is now well established in the defence sector. Apathukatha Sivathanu Pillai (BrahMos designer) and Prahlada Ramarao, the brain behind the Akash missile system, deserve a special mention.



# It's time to go 'Marsala'!

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

## GO MAD ABOUT MARSALA

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

## FOR YOUR HAIR

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

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

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

## FOR YOUR NAILS

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



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

## FOR YOUR POUT

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

## WHY MARSALA?

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



## Natural scrubs for your skin

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

## Papaya and pineapple

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

## Nourishing almond and olive oil



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

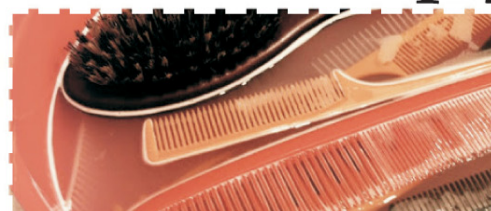
## Hydrating glycerine

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

## Berry scrubs

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

## How to keep your hair tools clean



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

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

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

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



# New Fighter Jet Programme's "Execution Model" Approved By Defence Minister

**The defence ministry said on Tuesday that Rajnath Singh has approved the "Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) Programme Execution Model."**

New Delhi. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has approved the "execution model" to implement a mega project to indigenously develop a fifth generation deep penetration advanced medium combat aircraft for the Indian Air force. India has been working on the ambitious AMCA project to develop the medium weight deep penetration fighter jet with advanced stealth features to bolster its air power capability.

The defence ministry said on Tuesday that Mr Singh has approved the "Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) Programme Execution Model." "In a significant push towards enhancing India's indigenous defence capabilities and fostering a robust domestic aerospace industrial ecosystem, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has approved the



Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) Programme Execution Model," it said. The Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) is set to execute the programme through Industry partnership.

The defence ministry said the "Execution Model" approach provides equal opportunities to both private and public sectors on competitive basis. "They can bid either independently or as joint

venture or as consortia. The entity/bidder should be an Indian company compliant with the laws and regulations of the country," it said in a statement. "This is an important step towards harnessing the indigenous expertise, capability and capacity to develop the AMCA prototype, which will be a major milestone towards Atmanirbharta (self-reliance) in the aerospace sector," it said. The cabinet committee on security led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi had given in-principle approval to the fighter jet programme last year.

The initial development cost of the project has been estimated at around Rs 15,000 crore. The IAF has been pushing for the AMCA project in view of its long-term requirement. India's confidence in the development of the AMCA saw a significant jump after the development of the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas.

**Delhi HC issues summons to Abhijit Iyer Mitra in defamation case by women journalists**



**NEW DELHI.** The Delhi High Court on Monday issued summons to political commentator Abhijit Iyer-Mitra in connection with a Rs 2 crore defamation suit filed by Newsland Executive Editor Manisha Pande and eight other women journalists. The suit pertains to a series of tweets where Iyer-Mitra allegedly labelled the journalists as "prostitutes".

Mitra's Advocate Percival Billimoria told that all the contentious tweets had been removed. But counsel for the journalists, Bani Dikshit, countered that deleting the posts did not reflect genuine regret. "There's no sign of remorse. In fact, he continues to post poetic remarks on the issue," she said. Despite these, Billimoria sought dismissal of the case.

However, the bench declined to be drawn into unrelated allegations. "This case is strictly about the posts. If there are other concerns, they must be pursued separately," the judge said. Dikshit informed that her clients intended to pursue damages, along with an injunction to prevent any future defamatory content. Justice ordered issuance of summons and maintained the interim relief in favour of the journalists.

**2020 Delhi riots case: Court orders chargesheet copy to respondents on pen drive**

**NEW DELHI.** A Delhi court has directed the police to supply a digital copy of the chargesheet in the 2020 riots conspiracy case to all respondents within three working days. The order came during hearings on revision petitions challenging a magistrate's directive for further investigation into the role of Delhi's Law Minister Kapil Mishra and others. Special Judge Dig Vinay Singh of the Rouse Avenue Courts on Monday asked Special Public Prosecutor (SPP) Amit Prasad to furnish the chargesheet on a pen drive to all respondents.

The court also instructed complainant Mohd Illiyas to submit the full name and address of one



respondent, Chawla. The matter has been listed for compliance on May 31. Till then, the interim stay on the trial court's order will remain in effect.

The directions were issued while the court was hearing two revision petitions, one filed by the Delhi Police and the other by Kapil Mishra, both contesting the Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate's order for further investigation. The original order stemmed from a complaint filed by Illiyas in the MP-MLA court seeking action against Mishra and others for allegedly inciting violence during the 2020 Delhi riots. Appearing for the police, SPP Amit Prasad raised questions about the magistrate's jurisdiction. He argued that the case FIR was already being dealt with by a designated special court. Prasad also noted that the complaint had not been filed with the Station House Officer (SHO) as required for FIR registration, but instead had been emailed to several public officials, including the Prime Minister and the Delhi Police Commissioner.

## Government's 100-day progress report on May 31 at Nehru stadium

**NEW DELHI.** Chief Minister Rekha Gupta announced on Monday that the Delhi government would release its 100-day progress report on May 31 at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium. Her statement came at an event focused on the 11 years of achievements of the Central government, three years of governance by the L-G, and 100 days of the newly formed Delhi government's accomplishments.



Gupta said the first 100 days had been dedicated to public welfare, with ministers and MLAs working with a sense of service. She said that Delhi's long-dysfunctional systems have been revived and are back on track. Today, Delhi is again progressing toward development and good governance.

She said that the 100 days have established a new work culture, commitment to public service, and a model of transparent governance. The government's decisions to bring about real change in people's lives are backed by a Rs 1 lakh crore budget focused on infrastructure development.

Sources said that the government implemented the Ayushman Bharat Yojana in the healthcare sector. The 'Vay Vandana Yojana' was launched for senior citizens aged 70 and above, offering cashless treatment up to Rs 10 lakh. The establishment of 1,139 Ayushman Arogya Mandirs, 11 Integrated Public Health Labs, and nine Critical Care Hospital Blocks is underway.

## Covid-19 situation fully under control, says government

**NEW DELHI.** The national capital has reported 99 new Covid-19 cases over the past week, bringing the total number of active cases to 104, according to data from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. As Delhi crossed the 100-mark in active infections, CM Rekha Gupta on Monday assured the public that the government is closely monitoring the situation and has issued necessary guidelines to all hospitals.

"There is no need to panic. We are keeping a close watch, and clear instructions have been issued to hospitals to stay prepared," said CM Gupta. She emphasised that all state-run hospitals are fully equipped to handle the situation and manage any rise in cases. Last week, the Delhi government issued a Covid-19 advisory directing hospitals to ensure the availability of beds, oxygen supplies, essential medicines, and vaccines.

"Hospitals must ensure complete preparedness, including availability of beds, oxygen, antibiotics, essential drugs, and vaccines. All equipment—such as ventilators, BiPAP machines, oxygen concentrators, and PSA plants—must be in working condition," the advisory stated.

It also instructed all healthcare institutions to send positive Covid-19 samples for genome sequencing to Lok Nayak Hospital. Health Minister Pankaj Singh stated that authorities are also verifying whether the reported patients are residents of Delhi or have a recent travel history.

"There's no cause for concern. The current variant is behaving like a common viral infection. Patients have shown only mild symptoms such as fever, cough, and cold," Singh said. According to the Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium (INSACOG), the recent spike in cases is driven by NB.1.8.1 and LF.7—sub-lineages of the JN.1 Covid variant.

Meanwhile, the Union Health Ministry reported 1,009 Covid-19 cases across the country, with Kerala (430) and Maharashtra (209) recording the highest numbers. Seven deaths were reported—four in Maharashtra, two in Kerala, and one in Karnataka.

Both NB.1.8.1 and LF.7 are currently classified as Variants Under Monitoring (VUM) by the World Health Organization (WHO), meaning they require focused surveillance and further assessment by public health authorities.

**Current variant is like a common viral: Minister**

Pankaj Singh stated that authorities are also verifying whether the reported patients are residents of Delhi or have a recent travel history. Here's no cause for concern. "The current variant is behaving like a common viral infection. Patients have shown only mild symptoms such as fever, cough, and cold," he added.

## Haryana mass suicide victims had Rs 20 crore debt, got death threats: Relative

**New Delhi.** The deceased, Praveen Mittal, and his family were receiving constant death threats due to their inability to repay a loan, his maternal uncle's son told, adding that the family was burdened with a total debt of Rs 20 crore. On Sunday, Praveen and six of his family members were found dead inside a car parked outside a house in Haryana's Panchkula. After local residents found all the family members unconscious inside the car, they managed to pull out one person who was still breathing. Before dying, the man revealed that his family was "drowning in debt."

"I will die in five minutes as I have also consumed poison," he told Puneet



Rana, a local resident.

Hailing from Barwala in Haryana, Praveen had shifted to Panchkula 12 years back. He owned a scrap factory in Himachal Pradesh, which was later seized by the bank due to unpaid loans, according to Praveen's cousin Sandeep Agarwal.

The mounting debt had forced the family to suddenly leave Haryana and

move to Dehradun. "For five years, he did not stay in touch with anyone," Sandeep told. Sandeep also pointed out that the death threats further prompted them to move out of Haryana. At present, they were living near a Saketri village in Panchkula where Praveen was driving a taxi to make ends meet. "The bank had already seized Praveen's two flats, his factory and his vehicles," Sandeep told.

Sandeep said that he had spoken to Praveen five days earlier, and added that his cousin had requested him to perform the last rites in the suicide note he left behind.

"Police have said that Praveen left behind a suicide note, in which he requested that I perform his last rites," he told.

## Maoist Commander Tulsi Bhuiyan Gunned Down In Encounter In Jharkhand's Palamu

**New Delhi.** In a significant breakthrough for security forces, top Maoist commander Tulsi Bhuiyan was killed in an encounter with security personnel in Jharkhand's Palamu district Tuesday. This marks the second consecutive day of success in ongoing anti-Maoist operations in the state.

According to officials, the encounter began on Monday night in the Hussainabad subdivision of Palamu district and continued into Tuesday morning. An SLR rifle was recovered from the encounter site. Unconfirmed reports suggest that several other Maoists may have been injured or killed in the gunfight.

A massive search operation has been launched across the area, with security personnel combing through the region to eliminate any remaining Maoist



cadres. Senior officials, including Palamu Superintendent of Police Rishma Rameshan and top CRPF officers, are present at the spot, overseeing the operation.

According to an official, the operation was launched based on intelligence inputs about the presence of Maoist commander Nitesh — who carries a reward of Rs 15 lakh — and his squad in Sitachuan, a forested area on the border

of Mohammadganj and Haidernagar police station limits.

Sanjay Godram, another Maoist with a bounty of Rs 10 lakh, is also believed to be part of this group. As police and security forces closed in on the location, Maoists opened fire, prompting the forces to retaliate. This encounter comes a day after a similar operation in Netarhat police station area of neighbouring Latehar district.

where Maoist commander Manish Yadav, who carried a Rs 5 lakh reward, was killed. Another Maoist, Kundan Kharwar, with a bounty of Rs 10 lakh, was arrested during the same operation. On May 24, in an encounter in Ichwar forest of Latehar, Maoists Pappu Lohara (Rs 10 lakh reward) and Prabhat Lohara (Rs 5 lakh reward) were killed, and another injured Maoist was arrested.

## Why Indian cities get submerged overnight. No, it's not just rain

**New Delhi.** In the early hours of Sunday, May 25, Delhi recorded 81.4 millimetres of rainfall in just a few hours. The rain marked the capital's wettest May since 1901. Similarly, Mumbai on Monday broke its 107-year record for the highest May rainfall. The result: Delhi's Minto Road underpass, a recurring emblem of its urban flood woes, went underwater yet again. In Mumbai, the flooding was so severe that not just roads and streets, but even a newly inaugurated underground metro station on the Aqua Line was inundated with rainwater. The main and immediate culprit is, of course, the relentless rainfall, the one natural factor. But what truly turns heavy rain into urban chaos and hazard in Indian cities, as seen in Delhi and Mumbai this weekend, is a mix of human-induced factors that compound the impact of multifold. And even the natural factor, rain, has become more erratic due to climate change, which is largely anthropogenic, driven by

unchecked emissions, poor urban planning, among other factors.

While multiple factors contribute to urban flooding, such as a city's topography, poor drainage, urbanisation, impermeable surfaces, and inadequate stormwater management, the way these factors play out varies significantly from one city to another. These city-specific factors explain why a city like Delhi, where the Aravalli hills create a natural slope draining west to east toward the Yamuna River, experiences floods, and Mumbai, despite being surrounded by the vast Arabian Sea, four rivers, and numerous creeks, faces similar urban flooding challenges. Why does Bengaluru, sitting atop a ridge, see urban floods? A closer look at four Indian metros, Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, and Chennai, reveals how different factors play out to create these unique vulnerabilities, contributing



to urban flooding in each of these cities.

**WHAT ARE URBAN FLOODS? YES, IT'S DIFFERENT FROM REGULAR FLOODING**

Urban flooding occurs when heavy rainfall overwhelms the drainage capacity of cities and towns, often due to constraints put up by flawed urbanisation, concretisation of surfaces, and poor

planning defying the topography. Unlike rural floods, which typically result from river overflow or monsoon-swollen basins over a larger timeframe, urban floods are sudden and localised. These flood peaks can rise 1.8 to eight times faster than normal, and the amount of water can be up to 6 times more, says the website of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA). In contrast, rural floods, like the annual ones in northern Bihar, are caused by Himalayan rivers bringing in large amounts of water during the rainy season, which play out over days or weeks. Though massive in scale, they follow predictable patterns. Urban floods, however, strike unpredictably, often paralyzing cities within hours. This distinctness also reveals a different and more infrastructure-centric vulnerability in our urban spaces.





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



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

**Duration - 60 minutes**

Homemade remedies to treat mature skin  
- Massage your face with almond or coconut oil once in a week before going to bed. These oils are known to be best for ageing skin as they help improve your complexion, reduce fine lines and wrinkles.  
- Says skin expert, Punit Saraogi, "The application of aloe vera juice and honey is said to visibly reduce the signs of ageing." Apply a face pack of aloe vera juice and honey to treat wrinkles and fine lines.  
- Basil and tulsi has effective anti-ageing and anti-oxidant properties. Boil fresh tulsi leaves and basil and drink the water after it cools down.  
- Switch to drinking green tea. Green tea is said to have anti-inflammatory and anti-ageing properties which help in skin rejuvenation.

**How to apply anti-ageing cream**

- Wash your face well with an anti-ageing foaming cleanser. Rinse it off with cool water and pat dry. Make sure moisture does not remain on your skin.  
- Start by applying the cream using long strokes towards your temple in soft, circular motions.  
- For the delicate area around your eyes, pat the cream onto the skin till it is absorbed.

**Choosing an anti-ageing cream**

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

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

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

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

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

# Look Beautiful at any age

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

**Signs of skin-ageing**

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

**Dark circles**

Dark circles result from stress, lack of sleep or prolonged exposure to sunlight. As you age, the skin around your eyes gets thinner, resulting in dark patches around your eyes. To avoid this, make it a point to use a good under-eye gel during bedtime.  
Fine lines and wrinkles  
Collagen and elastin fibres are present beneath the skin's surface around your mouth and eyes. They begin to gradually break down as you age — this leads to fine lines and wrinkles. Use a cream with vitamin A or retinol, which helps in their reduction.

**Sagging skin**

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

**Visible pores**

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

**Uneven skin tone**

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

**Causes of skin-ageing**

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



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

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

**How to care for mature skin**

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

- Opt for creams rich in vitamins C and E,

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

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

**Anti-ageing facials**

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

**Pumpkin peel facial**

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

**Telomere facial**

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





## Rakesh Gangwal to sell 3.4 per cent stake in IndiGo for Rs 6,800 crore

**New Delhi.** InterGlobe Aviation promoter Rakesh Gangwal and his family trust will offload another 3.4% stake worth at least Rs 6,831 crore in the airline on Tuesday, according to sources. Currently, Gangwal and the family trust together hold about 13.5% in IndiGo. Under the proposed transaction, up to 1.32 crore equity shares will be sold at a floor price of Rs 5,175 per share. The floor price is at a 4.5% discount compared to the closing price of Rs 5,420 per share on Monday. Investment banking firms Goldman Sachs (India) Securities Pvt Ltd, Morgan Stanley India Company and J P Morgan India are the placement agents for the fresh stake sale. Gangwal, who co-founded India's largest airline IndiGo, has been offloading his stake in a phased manner following a bitter fallout with co-founder Rahul Bhatia over alleged corporate governance issues. The share sale is part of Gangwal's decision in February 2022 to trim his shareholding in the airline. He sold a 5.24% stake in InterGlobe Aviation in August last year for Rs 9,549 crore. The fresh offloading will be the sixth time in less than 3 years when Gangwal would be reducing his holding in the airline. The stake sale again comes when IndiGo shares continue to hit new highs. So far in 2025, IndiGo shares have risen by 18%. Last week, IndiGo reported a profit of Rs 3,067.5 crore for the quarter ended March on the back of strong domestic travel demand. The company had posted a net profit of Rs 1894.8 crore in the year-ageo period.

## Volvo to slash 3,000 white-collar jobs in restructuring move: Report

**NEW DELHI.** Volvo Cars has decided to cut around 3,000 office jobs as part of a major cost-saving plan. The Swedish carmaker is facing rising costs, weaker demand for electric vehicles (EVs), and trade uncertainties, reported Reuters. This decision comes just weeks after the company's former CEO, Hakan Samuelsson, returned to lead Volvo again. In April, he shared a plan to reduce expenses by 18 billion Swedish crowns (about \$1.9 billion).

A major portion of the cost-cutting will come from trimming white-collar roles, which account for around 40% of the company's total staff. Globally, the company has about 29,000 employees in Europe, 10,000 in Asia, and 3,000 in the Americas. Samuelsson said the job cuts will happen across different departments, like research, human resources, and communication. Volvo Car's new finance chief, Fredrik Hansson, added that while all parts of the business will be affected, most of the job losses will be in Gothenburg, Sweden. According to Volvo Cars, nearly 15% of its office employees will be laid off, with the move expected to cost 1.5 billion crowns in restructuring charges. However, the move will help make its structure more efficient, said the company. One of the key concerns for Volvo right now is trade tensions, especially with the US. Since most of its cars are made in Europe and China, new US tariffs could hit Volvo harder than other European brands. The company even warned it might not be able to sell some of its more affordable cars in the US if duties go up. Volvo plans to complete its new business structure by autumn this year. According to analyst Hampus Engellau from Handelsbanken, the job cuts were expected, and the move could help the company become leaner and more focused in the long run.

## Meet Vacharaesorn Vivacharawongse, Thailand King Rama X's disowned son, Who Became A Buddhist Monk --And Then...

**New Delhi.** Vacharaesorn Vivacharawongse, Thailand's King Rama X's disowned son, has become a Buddhist monk. The ordination ceremony of Vacharaesorn was posted on his official Instagram account which fuelled speculation over whether he could re-enter the



royal fold. The ceremony was conducted on Vesak Day which is a prominent Buddhist holiday. Some observers have raised the question whether these spiritual endeavours could signal a return to royal goodwill. Vacharaesorn, called Than Oun, is the second son of King Maha Vajiralongkorn and his former wife Sujarinee Vivacharawongse. Born in 1981, Vacharaesorn was raised in the United States. He was exiled from the Thai royal family in 1996 along with his mother and three brothers.

Vacharaesorn stayed abroad for a long time, yet kept in touch with the Thai community. He returned to Thailand in 2023 and was spotted at several public events. Many people believe that Vacharaesorn's return to Bangkok could be a sign that he is trying to rekindle his father's favour.

Who is King Rama X?

King Maha Vajiralongkorn, 72, took over the Thai throne in 2016 after the death of his father. Known formally as Rama X, he has been married four times and has a queen and a royal consort.

# Equity indices open Tuesday's trading session on a muted but optimistic note

**Nifty 50 opened 34 points lower at 24,967, down 0.13%, and Sensex began the session down 108 points or 13% lower at 82,068.**

**CHENNAI.** Indian equity markets opened Tuesday's trading session on a muted but cautiously optimistic note, with benchmark indices showing marginal losses in early trade. Despite a negative start, broader market sentiment remains constructive, particularly in the midcap space.

**Index Snapshot at Open**

NSE Nifty 50 opened 34 points lower at 24,967, down 0.13%, and BSE Sensex began the session down 108 points at 82,068, a 0.13% dip. Bank Nifty slipped 88 points to start at 55,484, down 0.16%.

Nifty Midcap 100, however, outperformed with a gain of 60 points, or 0.11%, opening at 57,127.60. Despite the initial red ticks on frontline indices, midcap and broader market strength suggests underlying buying interest, even as markets consolidate after recent highs.

Stock analysts say that Nifty managed to close above the psychological 25,000 level yesterday, but as long as the previous high of 25,116 holds, there's a small chance of a pullback that could test 24,462. Therefore any dip is likely to be short-lived, and the broader trend remains bullish unless key support levels are breached, they say.

**Sector & Stock Highlights**

Top gainers in Nifty 50 in the early session were Bharat Electronics, IndusInd Bank,



Dr Reddy's Laboratories, Hindalco, and Shriram Finance. These stocks led the charge on early buying interest, reflecting sector-specific momentum and strong investor confidence. While top losers in Nifty 50 included NTPC, Bajaj Finserv, Mahindra & Mahindra, Grasim Industries and Tata Motors. These names dragged down the index, showing profit booking or weakness amid lack of fresh triggers. However, heavyweights remained volatile in early trade and are

expected to guide the broader index movement throughout the day. Market participants are closely tracking Q4 earnings, with several key companies set to report results today. This includes Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), Bharat Dynamics, Bosch, Carraro India, DCX Systems, EPACK Durable, NMDC, Gujarat Fluorochemicals, among others. These results will be crucial in determining short-term direction, particularly in stock-specific moves and sectoral rotation.

**Outlook** The market appears to be in a consolidation phase near all-time highs, with rotational moves across sectors. The next few sessions will be guided by earnings announcements, macroeconomic cues, and global trends. Key support for Nifty remains at 24,462, and a hold above this level could provide the base for a fresh leg higher towards 25,500+ levels.

## Borana Weaves lists at 13% premium: Should you hold or book profit

**NEW DELHI.** Borana Weaves made its stock market debut on Tuesday with a strong start, listing at Rs 243 on both the BSE and NSE. This was 12.5% higher than its issue price of Rs 216 per share.

Soon after listing, the share price continued to rise. As of 10:55 am, the stock was trading at Rs 255.10, showing a gain of 18.10%. The company's initial public offering (IPO) had received strong interest from investors, and this was reflected in the stock's performance on listing day. SHOULD YOU HOLD OR BOOK PROFIT? After the strong listing, investors are now wondering whether to hold the stock or book profits. Gaurav Garg from Lemonn Markets Desk said, "While short-term investors may consider booking profits following the robust listing performance, long-term investors are advised to adopt a wait-and-watch approach. Close monitoring of the company's execution capabilities and

progress on expansion plans will be key before taking a long-term position." Even though the stock opened higher, the listing was slightly



below what many in the market had expected. The grey market premium (GMP) had been showing a possible listing gain of 20-22%, with the premium standing at Rs 43-45 before the listing. In fact, on the first day of bidding, the GMP had touched Rs 60, showing very strong demand. The IPO saw a very high level of subscription. It was subscribed 147.85 times overall. Retail investors subscribed 200.50 times. Non-Institutional

Investors (NIIs) subscribed 237.41 times, while Qualified Institutional Buyers (QIBs) subscribed 85.53 times. Borana Weaves planned to raise Rs 144.89 crore by issuing 67 lakh new shares. Even before the IPO was opened to the public, the company had collected Rs 65.20 crore from anchor investors. The price band for the IPO was fixed between Rs 205 and Rs 216 per share. During the subscription period, the IPO received bids for 54,54,99,303 shares, though only 36,89,457 shares were available. This means the total bids were worth nearly Rs 11,782.78 crore, which shows the high level of interest among investors. Borana Weaves was set up in 2020. The company makes unbleached synthetic grey fabric. This fabric is a base material used in several industries, especially in clothing, traditional textiles, and home decor. The fabric is later dyed or printed as per the needs of buyers.

## Could take 50 years': Gurugram startup founder on India matching Japan's life

**New Delh** India has recently become the world's fourth-largest economy by size, but when it comes to how much the average person earns, the story changes. Gurugram-based startup founder Aashish S pointed this out in a social media post, urging people not to get carried away by big numbers.

He wrote on LinkedIn, "Celebrating vanity metrics is a futile activity. India's current per capita GDP is equivalent to Japan's in the 1950s." He added, "A not so perfect analogy. UP is India's 5th largest state economy. But its per capita GDP is less than 3/5th African countries." Ashish explained that Uttar Pradesh is India's fifth-largest state economy. But its income per person is lower than that of nearly 60% of



African countries. He warned that even if Japan's growth stalls, it would still take India over two decades just to catch up in income. And to reach Japan's current quality of life? That could take 50 years.

**WHAT'S HOLDING INDIA BACK?** According to Aashish, there are a few major factors holding India back. One of the biggest is income inequality, the

gap between the rich and poor is far too wide. Another concern is the lack of proper investment in key areas like manufacturing and infrastructure, which slows down long-term growth. He also stresses that India is falling behind in STEM education, which limits our ability to compete in a modern, tech-driven world. On top of that, India is lagging behind in STEM education — science, technology, engineering, and maths — which are critical for building a skilled workforce.

Japan, on the other hand, has made great progress in city planning, healthcare, infrastructure and manufacturing, all areas where India still needs serious work, Aashish added.

# Global asset management giant Sanlam raises stake in Shriram AMC, becomes co-promoter

**Shriram AMC share price jumped 9.98% to 488 in the early session on Tuesday following the announcement.**

**CHENNAI.** Shriram Asset Management Company Limited or Shriram AMC, a part of the Shriram Group, said on Tuesday it has formed a strategic partnership with Sanlam, South Africa's largest asset manager with \$80 billion in assets under management (AUM), making it a stronger player in India's growing asset management industry. As part of the partnership, Shriram AMC has allotted 38.89 lakh equity shares to Sanlam Emerging Markets (Mauritius) Limited (SEMM), raising ₹105 crore in

growth capital, which attracts an open offer by Sanlam. Following this, SEMM will hold a 23% direct stake in Shriram AMC — India's first listed asset management company — and it joins Shriram Credit Company Limited (SCCL) as a co-promoter in Shriram AMC. Consequently, total promoter shareholding in the Mumbai-based company has risen from 62.55% to 71.17%, and Shriram AMC's Board will be reconstituted to include Sanlam's representatives.

Shriram AMC share price jumped 9.98% to 488 a unit on BSE at 12.48 pm in the early session on Tuesday following the announcement. An asset management company is a financial institution that pools funds from investors and invests those funds in various assets like stocks, bonds, and real estate, with the aim of generating returns for its clients. These companies are often referred to as money managers or money management firms. AMCs typically play an important role in the investment industry by offering professional fund management and access to diversified investment

portfolios. Kartik Jain, MD & CEO of Shriram AMC, said today in a statement that its partnership with Sanlam is more than just capital raising — it's a strong endorsement of the company's approach, which combines data science with fundamental insights.

"With Sanlam's deep expertise in both quantitative and fundamental analysis, we will further enhance the sophistication of our investment processes and deliver relevant, differentiated solutions to the right customer segments," Jain said.

Industry experts say that this strategic step builds upon Shriram Group's broader initiative to transform its financial services portfolio. In 2022, Mission1 Investments LLC acquired a 23% stake in Shriram AMC, marking the first phase of this transformation. Now, with Sanlam's entry as a co-promoter, the Group is deepening its AMC business, reaffirming its commitment to building a future-ready and inclusive asset management platform, they say. "India represents a key strategic growth market for Sanlam. Our partnership with Shriram AMC is a

testament to our commitment to co-create investment excellence, especially in emerging markets. With more than two decades of successful collaboration with the Shriram Group across financing, life, and general insurance, this alliance builds on a strong foundation of trust and shared values — aimed at delivering impactful, socially-beneficial investments," says. Roothman, CEO of Sanlam Investments, in the joint statement.

**Mission1 Investments' Managing Partner & CIO** Gaurav Patankar added that Sanlam is not just as an investor in Shriram AMC but a co-promoter too. "Having two seasoned promoters with shared history, deep expertise, and global pedigree sets the stage for long-term value creation. The opportunity landscape in asset management is as compelling — if not more — than when we first invested in 2022. We believe the long-term upside is exponential."

Sanlam has already collaborated with the Shriram Group for over 20 years in the areas of financing, life insurance, and general insurance.



NEWS BOX

Jannik Sinner thanks best goalkeeper Donnarumma for attending French Open match

World No. 1 Jannik Sinner expressed his appreciation for Italy and Paris Saint-Germain goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma, who was present to support him during his opening-round match at the French Open on 27 May. Sinner described Donnarumma as the “best goalkeeper” in a heartfelt mention following his straight-sets victory over France’s Arthur Rinderknech. The top-seeded Italian continued his impressive Grand Slam form, securing a 6-4, 6-3, 7-5 win under the lights at Court Philippe-Chatrier. With this result, Sinner has now won 15 consecutive Grand Slam matches and maintained his dominant record against lower-ranked opponents, with a 62-match winning streak against players outside the top 20. Speaking in his on-court interview after the win, Sinner thanked Donnarumma for his presence. The two share a strong personal bond, often referencing each other in the media. Sinner has previously revealed they frequently team up to play the popular



video game Call of Duty. “Very special guest up there. Gigio.. thank you for coming. He’s the best goal keeper you’ll have, guys.” Sinner said. Donnarumma wasn’t the only familiar face in the stands. A number of PSG players, including Achraf Hakimi and Nuno Mendes, were also spotted watching the match. Their appearance came just days before Paris Saint-Germain’s highly anticipated UEFA Champions League final against Serie A giants Inter Milan, set to take place on 1 June. The French Open marks Sinner’s second tournament appearance since returning from a three-month doping suspension. The ban, announced shortly after his Australian Open title win in January, stemmed from a case that emerged prior to last year’s US Open, which he also won. With a strong start to his Roland-Garros campaign, Sinner now looks ahead to his next challenge against another local hero, Richard Gasquet in the second round as he continues his pursuit of a second Grand Slam title this season.

Rishabh Pant is victim of bad timing in IPL 2025: Akash Deep defends LSG captain

**NEW DELHI.** Lucknow Super Giants pacer Akash Deep has backed his captain, Rishabh Pant, amid widespread criticism of his form in the ongoing IPL 2025 season, saying the wicketkeeper-batter is a victim of “bad timing” rather than pressure. Pant, the most expensive player in IPL history at Rs 27 crore, has endured a disappointing campaign. In 13 matches, the left-hander has managed just 151 runs at an average of 13.73 and a strike rate of under 100. His highest score—63 off 49 balls—came against Chennai Super Kings in a match that had little impact on LSG’s playoff chances. “Look, I feel that in cricket, timing is also something very important,” Akash Deep said ahead of Lucknow’s final league fixture. “I don’t think it’s about pressure because Rishabh has played a lot of cricket, and at a very high level too, and he has performed as well. An athlete who has achieved so much in



life knows how to handle pressure. So I don’t think pressure is the reason. It’s more about timing—sometimes you want to do something, but it just doesn’t happen. I feel that’s the phase Rishabh is going through right now.” Pant was expected to bounce back strongly after being left out of India’s ODI XI during their victorious Champions Trophy campaign earlier this year. Instead, his IPL form has only raised more questions. In a must-win game for LSG, he was dismissed for just 7, chipping a return catch to Eshan Malinga. Lucknow, who had invested heavily in building the team around Pant, failed to qualify for the playoffs. Alongside his struggles with the bat, his leadership has also come under scrutiny. Despite the team’s shortcomings, LSG did have their share of positives this season. Their overseas trio—Aiden Markram, Mitchell Marsh, and Nicholas Pooran, who has been the franchise’s standout performer—tore through GT’s bowling attack to post a massive 235/2. The bowling unit also impressed, offering glimpses of what the campaign might have looked like without the string of injuries that plagued them. The addition of Will O’Rourke, signed as a replacement for the injured Mayank Yadav, proved to be a smart move.

Shubman Gill gets Steve Waugh's backing as Test captain: Indian cricket in good hands

The Nerazzurri's last shot at a trophy this season is on Saturday in the Champions League final against PSG and coach Simone Inzaghi doesn't want talk of it being his last match in charge to become another distraction for his side.

**MILAN.** Inter Milan was gunning for the treble just over a month ago. Then Inter lost in the Italian Cup semifinals to AC Milan, and lost its Serie A title by one point to Napoli. The Nerazzurri's third and last shot at a trophy is on Saturday in the Champions League final against Paris Saint-Germain and coach Simone Inzaghi doesn't want talk of it being his last match in charge to become another distraction for his side. Saudi Arabia club Al-Hilal is reportedly trying to tempt



Inzaghi with a bumper offer of more than 20 million euros (\$23 million) a season. “Fortunately, my club knows me well,” Inzaghi said on Monday. “Every year, there are offers from Italy and abroad, from Saudi Arabia, but I think it would be crazy to think about that now.” Inzaghi was speaking at a media day ahead of the Champions League final, his and Inter’s second in three seasons after they lost to Manchester City in 2023. The Italian coach has been at Inter since 2021 and has one more year left on his contract. “After the final, we’ll sit down and

talk with a single goal in mind, and this always applies: The good of Inter,” Inzaghi said. “If all the components and conditions are there we will move forward as we have always done in harmony these past few years.” “It would be crazy to talk now about something that doesn’t exist. Look at what awaits us on Saturday.” Inter and Inzaghi have progressed in the coach’s four years at the club. At Inter, Inzaghi finally shrugged off his “King of Cups” nickname when he lifted his first league trophy last year. Before that, with Lazio and then Inter, Inzaghi won three Italian Cups and five Italian Super Cups, earning him the title of “Re di Coppe” (“King of Cups”) because he had never coached a league champion. But winning the Champions League would be a crowning achievement, especially after the disappointment of two years ago. It would also completely alter the perception of a season in which Inter missed out on trophies by small margins. “That (Champions League win) would clearly make all the difference in the world,” Inzaghi said. “The boys have been extraordinary this season because we played 59 games... We gave everything on the field, we didn’t think, we didn’t make choices, we tried to give everything we had ... that was always our strength and we had an exciting journey in the Italian Cup, in Serie A and above all in the Champions League.” Indeed, it has been in the Champions League that Inter has especially thrived. The Nerazzurri beat Bayern Munich in the quarterfinals and won an extraordinary semifinal against Barcelona that saw 13 goals scored across two legs. “We’ve reached a wonderful milestone and played some incredible games,” Inzaghi said, “but we know one final step remains to fulfill a dream and make history.”

BCCI to honour Indian Armed forces during IPL 2025 closing ceremony

The BCCI (Board of Control for Cricket in India) will be paying a special tribute to the Indian armed forces during the Indian Premier League 2025 (IPL 2025) closing ceremony, confirmed BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia.

**NEW DELHI.** The BCCI (Board of Control for Cricket in India) will be paying a special tribute to the Indian armed forces during the Indian Premier League 2025 (IPL 2025) closing ceremony, Secretary Saikia Devajit Saikia has confirmed to India Today. The decision has been taken to honour the valour of the armed forces during their successful conduct of Operation Sindoor. India launched Operation Sindoor on May 7, which was a precise attack on terrorist hideouts in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. The operation was conducted in the aftermath of the Pahalgam terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir that left 26 civilians dead. To honour the bravery, courage, and selfless service of the armed forces, BCCI



has decided to dedicate the closing ceremony to the nation’s heroes, revealed Devajit Saikia. “BCCI salutes the bravery, courage, and selfless service of our armed forces, whose heroic efforts under Operation Sindoor continue to protect and inspire the nation. As a tribute, we have decided to dedicate the closing ceremony to the armed forces and honor our heroes. While cricket remains a national passion, there is nothing greater than the nation and its sovereignty, integrity, and security of our country,” Saikia told India Today. The IPL 2025 closing ceremony will be held ahead of the

LSG vs RCB, IPL 2025 Preview: Predicted XI, team news and Lucknow pitch conditions

**NEW DELHI.** As the league stage of IPL 2025 draws to a close, Royal Challengers Bengaluru find themselves in a high-pressure clash against Lucknow Super Giants on May 27 at the Ekana Stadium. A top-two finish—and with it, a Qualifier 1 spot—is on the line for RCB. While Punjab Kings have already sealed their berth in Qualifiers 1, RCB have one final chance to join them and secure two potential opportunities to reach the final. Led by Rajat Patidar, RCB have shown blistering form this season, though a recent stumble against Sunrisers Hyderabad has complicated their path. Their fate now hinges on this final group-stage clash against Rishabh Pant’s LSG. Despite being favourites, RCB will remain cautious—Lucknow looked revitalised in their previous outing, a 33-run win over Gujarat Titans. This fixture is pivotal for RCB, who haven’t finished in the top two since 2016. Adding intrigue is the potential return of pacer Josh Hazlewood, who has just rejoined the squad after recovering from a shoulder niggle. His inclusion could prove decisive in the run-up to the playoffs. With Jacob Bethell having departed for England duty, the onus will now lie firmly on Virat Kohli and Phil Salt at the top of the order. LSG, already out of contention, are



playing for pride. Mitchell Marsh will look to extend his hot form after smashing his maiden IPL century against GT. Nicholas Pooran will aim to end his consistent campaign on a high. But all eyes will be on Rishabh Pant, as fans hope the league’s most expensive player can finally deliver in what’s been a tough debut season with Lucknow. **LSG vs RCB: Head to Head** In their brief IPL rivalry, RCB hold a narrow edge with three wins from five matches, while LSG have won two. However, LSG emerged victorious in their last meeting, winning by 28 runs in April 2024. **LSG vs RCB: Team News** It remains to be seen if RCB will field Josh Hazlewood just days after his return to India. With Jacob Bethell having already flown back to England, Kohli and Salt will shoulder the responsibility at the top.

Told Priyansh Arya would be the find of IPL 2025, hard to argue now: Ricky Ponting

**NEW DELHI.** Punjab Kings’ head coach Ricky Ponting was beaming with pride as he addressed the broadcasters after his team secured a top-two finish in the IPL 2025 league stage—their first in 11 years. The former Australian captain credited the team’s success to a collective effort from a “hugely talented” group of players but was quick to highlight the emergence of a special young star: Priyansh Arya. In a high-pressure clash against five-time champions Mumbai Indians, the 23-year-old Priyansh rose to the occasion with a brilliant knock of 62 off 35 balls, laced with nine boundaries and two sixes. On a tricky pitch at the Savai Mansingh Stadium in Jaipur, Arya anchored Punjab’s chase of 185, forging a 109-run stand with Josh Inglis. Arya showed remarkable maturity, happily



playing second fiddle when Inglis went after the Mumbai bowlers. The left-hander rotated the strike with ease and manipulated the field like a seasoned pro. PBKS vs MI: Highlights | Scorecard | I said maybe four or

five games in that Priyansh is one of the finds of the tournament. Hard to argue with that now. Fearless young talent, seeing and hitting the ball,” Ponting said after the victory on Monday, May 26. Priyansh had made a strong first impression in the opening game of the season, smashing 47 off just 23 balls in Punjab’s win over Gujarat Titans. Known for hitting six sixes in an over during a Delhi Premier League match, Arya entered IPL 2025 with a reputation for explosive batting. While he had a couple of quiet outings early on, he roared back to form with a sensational 103 off 42 balls against Chennai Super Kings, rescuing Punjab from 83 for 5 to a match-winning 219. That century came shortly after he had been rattled by Jofra Archer’s pace—a moment that revealed the youngster’s grit.

Robin Uthappa points out RCB's major flaw heading into the playoffs

Former India cricketer turned commentator Robin Uthappa has highlighted Royal Challengers Bengaluru's major flaw heading into the playoffs of the Indian Premier League 2025 (IPL 2025)

**NEW DELHI.** Former India cricketer turned commentator Robin Uthappa has highlighted Royal Challengers Bengaluru’s (RCB) flaw as they head into the playoffs. RCB have a golden chance to finish in the top two on the points table as they take on Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) in their last league fixture. The three-time runners-up last finished in the top two back in 2016 and will look to make the most of the opportunity at hand to emulate their feat. However, ahead of the playoffs, Uthappa has highlighted RCB’s flaws, mentioning their inability to close out the games. He also predicted the



Rajat Patidar-led side to make it to the final of the tournament alongside the Punjab Kings (PBKS). “I’ve said it from the beginning, I believe it’s going to be Punjab and RCB. They’ve got momentum on their side and have started bowling well. They

need to close out games effectively, and Virat Kohli has to be the chase master we know he is — batting through the 20 overs. When he does that, it builds pressure on the opposition, especially in the death overs,” Uthappa said on JioHotstar. Furthermore, he

also called the return of Josh Hazlewood a major boost for the side and said that their bowlers need to step up. “The bowlers also need to step up. I’m glad Josh Hazlewood is back, which will help Bhuvu (Bhuvneshwar Kumar) too. Yash Dayal has been decent at the death overs. Suyash faltered in the last game, but if he returns to being disciplined, like he was at the start of the IPL, he’ll be effective again. And Krunal Pandya has also been bowling well,” he added. RCB are placed third on the points table with eight wins from 13 matches, having 17 points to their name. They can finish in the top two by beating LSG in their last encounter in Lucknow. Hence, the Rajat Patidar-led side will be eager to bring their A game to the fore to get two chances to qualify for the final of the tournament. Stay updated on IPL 2025 with India Today! Get match schedules, team squads, live score, and the latest IPL points table for CSK, MI, RCB, KKR, SRH, LSG, DC, GT, PBKS, and RR.



# Wamiqa Gabbi

Hosts Special Screening Of Bhool Chuk Maaf In Her Hometown: 'My Heart...'



Wamiqa Gabbi has been basking in the success of her recently-released film, *Bhool Chuk Maaf*, alongside Rajkumar Rao. Her portrayal of Titli has resonated with her loyal fan base. Despite the widespread acclaim, the moment that meant the most to her was sharing the film with her roots, the people who had been her biggest supporters from the beginning. Hence, she organised a special screening of her film in Chandigarh for her close family, childhood friends, and celebs from the Punjabi film industry. Wamiqa took to social media to express her heartfelt gratitude. Sharing a video from the film's screening, she wrote, "A small town girl with her big family, with bigger dreams, and the biggest support of her family and her town. My heart is full—actually, it's overflowing. I'm beyond overwhelmed with the love of my family, friends, and my Punjabi fraternity friends. And Oh! The Love! The Love! The Love! The Love! Don't wake me up from this dream please. Thank you GOD." Watch the video here:

The evening was filled with hugs, laughter, joyful tears, and immense pride. Seeing the film through the eyes of those who've seen her grow made it even more special for Wamiqa. For the unversed, Wamiqa was one of the background dancers in Thoda Thoda Pyar song from Imtiaz's *Love Aaj Kal* in 2009, which starred Giselli Monteiro as Harleen Kaur. She now appears as the female lead in the Chor Bazari Phir Se track in *Bhool Chuk Maaf* and feels that life has finally come to full circle with the remix now. Talking exclusively to News18 Showsha, Wamiqa said, "Pata nahi kaisi feeling hai yeh (I don't know what kind of feeling is this). I didn't know I would feel like this. But this is something that I've been feeling, and it's overwhelming. Never thought this would happen. Sometimes people say manifest, but meine kabhi manifest sochke manifest nahi kiya. I was always thinking about things like these. And it's happening. It's coming true now. A film with Maddock, with Rajkumar Rao and Karan (Sharma) directing it with such a stellar cast, it's like a dream and now it's coming true."



## Colourful Elephant Designs To Buddha Fountain: Inside Charu Asopa's New Bikaner House



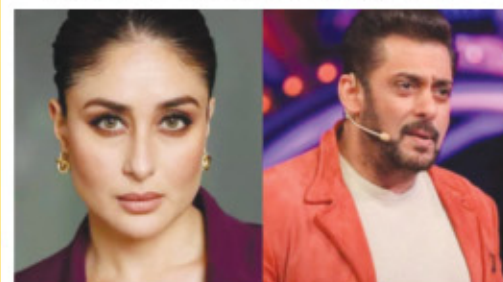
After her divorce from Sushmita Sen's brother Rajeev Sen, Charu Asopa has relocated from Mumbai and is now living with her daughter Ziana in her hometown, Bikaner. The actor has decided to stay away from acting for some time and focus on her business, alongside raising her child. Recently, she announced that she bought a new house and is paying for it in EMIs. Charu has now set up the place she now calls 'home'. She posted a sneak peek of her house on Instagram. Charu Asopa's new house is a blend of traditions with modern amenities. It's decorated with colourful elephant structures, in-house Buddha fountains, a photo wall dedicated to her and Ziana, fleet of stairs leading up to their bed, a prayer room, amid other amenities. She promised fans that a detailed house tour will be released on her YouTube vlog. Take a look:

In one of her latest vlogs, Charu directly addressed the backlash, clarifying that she never claimed to be financially struggling. "I keep giving you guys updates. People commented why I travelled by flight and not train. The brand invited me and insisted on booking a flight. Some even made videos of me shopping and said, 'Yeh toh gareeb hai'. Pehli baat, maine kabhi nahi bola ke main gareeb hu. By God's grace, I'm managing fine. I don't want sympathy—I've taken a conscious break from TV to explore other things. That was my decision," she said.

Charu explained that she's working with a limited budget, adding that she's carefully planning every purchase. "If one has unlimited money, that person can choose anything. However, she needs to be careful now due to budget issues," she admitted. Although Charu has consciously chosen to step away from daily soaps for now, she revealed that she still receives offers from television producers. However, she prefers staying in Bikaner to prioritise her daughter's well-being.

She also revealed that she bought her new home through a loan, adding, "The EMI I'm paying now is almost equal to the rent I was paying in Mumbai. Rent increases each year, but EMI remains constant—that's the advantage. I've bought an AC, and I'm creating a play area for Ziana. I found a good fridge, but it's expensive—so I'll cut down on other things to get what's needed. I still need geysers and a vacuum cleaner. I'm buying slowly, within my means."

## Kareena Kapoor Said Salman Khan Is 'A Very Bad Actor': 'I Don't Like Him'



Kareena Kapoor Khan, one of Bollywood's most versatile actresses, has shared the screen with the three Khans—Shah Rukh, Salman, and Aamir—delivering memorable performances and box office hits. However, while Shah Rukh Khan reigns as her favourite and Aamir Khan comes second, Kareena doesn't think Salman Khan is a good actor, based on an old interview.

In an earlier interview with Umesh Jivnani, Kareena didn't hold back while expressing her honest take on the three Khans. "I'm totally in love with him. Don't even ask me about him because if I start, I won't stop talking about him for hours. Amitabh Bachchan and Shah Rukh are the only two actors I admire," she said.

Kareena Kapoor appreciated Shah Rukh Khan's 'boy-next-door' charm and added that this appeal makes girls want to take him home to meet their parents. She mentioned that SRK's acting amuses her.

As for Aamir Khan, Kareena said, "Aamir's good. I really liked him in *Hum Hain Rahi Pyar Ke* and *QSQT*, but out of the Khans, I'm a total Shah Rukh fan." While Kareena appreciated SRK and Aamir's acting chops, she said Salman Khan was not a good actor. She opined, "I'm not at all a Salman fan. I don't like him; he's a very bad actor. I tell him that he hams all the time."

Kareena Kapoor has worked with the three Khans for films of different genres. With Shah Rukh Khan, Kareena starred in *Asoka* (2001), where she played the fierce Kaurwaki opposite SRK's warrior king. Later, in *Ra.One* (2011), she played a modern, playful role in this sci-fi adventure, showcasing their chemistry in a contemporary setting.

Kareena's collaboration with Aamir Khan has been particularly impactful. *3 Idiots* (2009), where she played Pia, became a cultural phenomenon and remains one of Indian cinema's most iconic films. In *Laal Singh Chaddha* (2022), their chemistry shone again in a heartfelt story spanning decades. Her pairing with Salman Khan has been more frequent.

# Alia Bhatt's

Gucci Saree Sparks Debate As Brand Calls It 'Gown'; ANGRY Fans



Alia Bhatt made a groundbreaking fashion statement at the 2025 Cannes Film Festival by wearing Gucci's first saree—a blend of traditional Indian elegance and Italian high fashion. Alia herself told the media that she was wearing Gucci's interpretation of a saree, and her look went viral across social media sites. However, when the fashion house posted Alia's photos on Instagram, they simply called her outfit a 'gown', attracting massive criticism and confusion.

Taking to their Instagram handle, Gucci wrote, "Global Brand Ambassador Alia Bhatt attended the closing ceremony of the 78th Cannes Film Festival in a custom Gucci gown with embroidered crystals in a GG Monogram pattern. The actress was also pictured in a custom three-piece set."

Styled by Rhea Kapoor, Alia Bhatt's ensemble featured a shimmering silver silhouette with Gucci's iconic GG monogram and a custom mini Jackie bag. Alia Bhatt's appearance was significant as she became Gucci's first Indian global brand ambassador, emphasising the growing collaboration between global fashion labels and traditional attire. She also mentioned in an interview that she was wearing an "interpretation" of the Indian saree, as they are considered the "epitome" of beauty and grace in the country.

Thus, since Gucci called the ensemble a gown, the brand has

attracted massive backlash on social media. One person wrote, "Umm, that gown is called a sari. At least give credit to the cultures that wear it proudly. Gucci's take is beautiful, but saying gown is insulting the Indian woman rocking it." Another added, "If you guys are taking inspiration from our traditional Indian dresses, then give the credits where it's due; this outfit looks like a



lehenga." One person wrote, "It's a sari/ lehenga, not a gown." Another added, "It's a SAREE @gucci if you design one, then how do you make an error in calling it what it is. One comment read, 'Iconic! But you misspelt 'Lehnga' as 'Gown'. (Gotta love European fashion houses who want Indian money without giving Indian credit) You still have time @gucci, so fix it." Another mentioned, "Your brand ambassador herself @aliaabhatt says on the red carpet it's a @gucci interpretation of a saree, and so please correct the reference." Someone else wrote, "Gown? She said saree tho."