

All India Sikh Conference Babbar Sent a Special letter to the Prime Minister



India poised to remain fastest growing major economy in FY26: RBI

Mumbai, May 29: The country is poised to remain the fastest growing major economy in the world even in FY26, the Reserve Bank said on Thursday. The benign inflation outlook and a "moderation" in GDP expansion warrant the monetary policy to be supportive of growth going forward, the RBI said in its annual report. "...The Indian economy is poised to remain the fastest-growing major economy in 2025-26 by leveraging its sound macroeconomic fundamentals, robust financial sector and commitment towards sustainable growth," the RBI said in the latest report. It flagged global financial market volatility, geopolitical tensions, trade fragmentation, supply-chain disruptions and climate-induced uncertainties as factors posing downside risks



to the growth outlook and also upside risks to the inflation outlook. However, factors like easing of supply-chain pressures, softening global commodity prices and higher agricultural production on above-normal south west monsoon augur well for inflation outlook, the central bank said. Shifts in tariff policies may result in sporadic episodes of volatility in financial markets, it said, adding that exports may encounter headwinds on "inward-looking policies and tariff-wars". The trade pacts being signed and negotiated by India will help ensure that the impact is limited, the RBI said, adding that services exports and inward remittances will help ensure that the current account deficit is "eminently manageable" in the new fiscal.

PM Modi slams TMC over Murshidabad violence, teacher scam

The Sikh Times
Simmi Kaur Babbar

Alipurduar (WB), May 29: Launching a blistering attack on the TMC government in West Bengal, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday accused it of fostering violence, corruption and lawlessness, and asserted that the people in the state are yearning for change to get rid of the 'nirmam sarkar' (cruel government). Addressing a public rally in north Bengal's Alipurduar, Modi cited the recent incidents of communal violence in Murshidabad and Malda as grim reminders of the TMC regime's "cruelty and indifference" towards the ordinary citizens. "Today, West Bengal is grappling with a series of crises. People don't want 'Nirmam Sarkar'. They want change and good governance. That is why the whole of Bengal is saying that they don't want cruelty and corruption anymore," the prime minister said, exactly

a year ahead of the assembly elections in the state. Criticising the Mamata Banerjee-led



TMC government for the recent communal violence in Murshidabad and Malda, Modi said the allegation was that lawbreakers were allowed to operate unchecked under the guise of "appeasement", while the police stood by

helplessly, failing to act. "Look at what happened in Murshidabad and Malda — clear examples of the government's cruelty. In the name of appeasement, lawlessness was allowed to flourish. Just imagine the horror: members of the ruling party mark out homes and set them on fire, while the police stand by and do nothing," he said. "I want to ask the poor people of Bengal — is this how a government is supposed to function? Here, the courts, in almost every matter, have to step in because nothing gets resolved otherwise. The people have lost faith in the TMC government. There's an outcry across Bengal — 'Bengal mein machi cheekh pukaar, nahi chahiye nirmam sarkar' (Outcry in Bengal is to oust cruel government)," the PM claimed. This is Modi's first visit to the state

since violent clashes broke out in parts of Murshidabad—including Samsarganj, Suti, and Dhulian—in April following protests over the contentious Waqf Amendment Act. At least three people were killed and several others injured in the communal riots. Modi listed five major crises that are allegedly "plaguing" Bengal under the TMC rule. "First is the widespread violence and lawlessness that are tearing apart the fabric of society. Second is the growing sense of insecurity among mothers and sisters, compounded by horrific crimes committed against them," the PM alleged. He also claimed that the third crisis is the despair among youth due to unemployment and lack of opportunities, while the fourth is the "corruption that destroyed the system and eroded pub-

44 MLAs seek to form new Government in Manipur

The Sikh Times
Naresh Malhotra

Imphal, May 29: Forty-four MLAs are ready to form a new Government in Manipur, BJP legislator Thokchom Radhesyam Singh claimed on Wednesday after meeting Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla. Singh, along with nine other MLAs, met the Governor at the Raj Bhawan. "Forty-four MLAs are ready to form a Government as per the wishes of the people. We have conveyed this to the Governor. We also discussed what solutions can be there for the issue," he said. "The Governor noted what we had to say and will initiate actions in the best interests of the people," he added. Asked if they would stake a claim to form the Government, he

said the central leadership of the BJP will take the decision. "However, to inform that we are ready is similar to staking a claim to form a Government. Speaker Thokchom Satyab Singh has individually and jointly met the 44 MLAs. There is no one who opposes the formation of a new Government," Singh said. "People are facing too much hardship. In the previous term, two years were lost due to COVID-19 and in this term, another two years have been lost due to the conflict," he said. Manipur has been under President's Rule since February after BJP leader N Biren Singh resigned as the Chief Minister, amid criticisms about his Government's handling of the ethnic clashes between Meiteis and Kukis, which broke out in May 2023. The 60-member Assembly at pres-

ent has 59 MLAs, with one seat vacant due to the death of a legislator. In the BJP-led coalition, there are 32 Meitei MLAs, three Manipuri Muslim MLAs and nine Naga legislators, totalling 44. The Congress has five MLAs — all Meiteis. The remaining 10 MLAs are Kukis — seven of them won the last election on a BJP ticket, two belong to the Kuki Peoples' Alliance and one is an Independent. The development comes amid massive protests in the Meitei-inhabited Imphal Valley over the hiding of the State's name written on the windshield of a Government bus by security forces. Meitei groups have been demanding an apology from the Governor over the incident that happened in Gwaltabi on May 20 and the resignation of the chief secretary, DGP and security advisor.



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NEWS BOX

CM Stalin inaugurates India's first exclusive Tuna fishing harbour in Chennai

CHENNAI. Chief Minister M K Stalin on Wednesday reiterated his party's demand on retrieving Katchatheevu from Sri Lanka to put an end to the ordeals faced by Tamil Nadu fishermen. He said this after inaugurating an exclusive fishing harbour for Tuna fishing constructed at a cost of Rs 272.70 crore at Tiruvottiyur here.

A release said this is the first such exclusive harbour for Tuna fishing in the country. The facilities available will help fishermen returning with tuna from deep sea to swiftly sell the catch to exporters without impacting the quality. It said around 6,250 people involved in fishing and related jobs in 12 fishing villages will benefit from the fishing harbour, which has the capacity to handle 70,000 tonnes of fish every year.

He also laid the foundation stone for new fish landing centres at Thangachimadam and Rosma Nagar in Ramanathapuram district, worth Rs 170 crore.

Additionally, he launched the 'Alaigal' (waves) microcredit scheme for women's self-help groups through the Tamil Nadu State Apex Fisheries Co-operative Federation Limited and commenced the distribution of welfare assistance worth Rs 10.67 crore to 2,290 beneficiaries.

Stalin underscored the role of fishing hamlets stretching from Palaverkadu to Kovalam in Chennai's development.

Protecting the welfare and livelihood of fisherfolk is akin to preserving Tamil cultural identity. Our Dravidian model government has been fulfilling this duty," he said.

Miss World contestants share stories, smiles with Hyderabad schoolchildren in heartfelt outreach event

HYDERABAD. In a departure from the usual glamour and spotlight, Wednesday afternoon brought a heartwarming scene to the Trident Hotel in Hyderabad, where over 200 students from Victoria Memorial School mingled freely with Miss World contestants from around the globe.

The event, held in the hotel's grand ballroom, was part of a social initiative hosted by Fortune Hospitality and Sudeeksha Estates. There was no stage, no pageantry. Instead, small circles of children and contestants sat together on the ballroom floor, exchanging stories, laughter and curiosity. Some shared their dreams, others simply enjoyed the rare experience of speaking with visitors from distant countries. The reigning Miss World, Krystyna Pyszkova, and Miss World CEO, Julia Morley, found themselves fielding an array of thoughtful questions from the young audience.

"How did you decide to enter the Miss World pageant?" one child asked. Another wanted to know what challenges came with organising such a global competition. Morley and Pyszkova responded candidly, offering reflections on perseverance and the importance of believing in one's own voice. At the children's request, both shared messages of encouragement, tailored not for a press release, but for a school assembly.

Heavy rains cause severe waterlogging in Odisha's Kendrapara due to poor drainage, illegal construction

KENDRAPARA. Incessant rains for the last three days have led to severe waterlogging in several parts of the coastal district, causing major inconvenience to residents.

Waterlogging has been reported from Pattamundai town, Aul, Rajnagar, Rajkanika and Mahakalapada with both vehicles and pedestrians struggling to navigate the submerged roads. Sources said several low-lying villages continue to remain submerged due to the heavy downpour.

The worst-hit are residents of Pattamundai town. Local resident Satyapriya Samal said poorly maintained roads and a dysfunctional drainage system have worsened the crisis. "The roads are in shambles. Small potholes have turned into large craters, leading to traffic jams," he said.

Adding to the woes, illegal construction on wetlands and canal-side lands has aggravated the problem. "Land sharks are converting water bodies into homestead lands, leading to poor water drainage. Revenue officials are also involved in illegally converting wetlands and water bodies for residential use," alleged Prafulla Das, another resident of Pattamundai.

Many roads which were recently repaired have been damaged again due to the continuous rain. Accumulation of rainwater is a major convenience, claimed Das.

Executive officer of Pattamundai municipality Prafulla Biswal said, "We are already clearing drains to prevent waterlogging. Some potholes have formed on roads due to the rains but the number is relatively less. Pumping of rainwater from residential areas is currently underway."

Kendrapara ADM Nilu Mohapatra said a few months back, drains were cleaned in many areas to prevent the waterlogging problem. But he admitted that some low-lying villages and urban areas have been waterlogged due to the recent rains. "We are using pumps to drain out the rainwater," he added.

Tamil Nadu universities to send question papers through email to avoid leaks

CHENNAI. To avoid any incident of question paper leak, the higher education department has instructed the registrars of state universities to computerise the process of distributing the question papers to examination centres through email just before the start of the exam. The initiative has been successfully pilot-tested by the Tamil Nadu Teachers Education University (TNTEU), which was marred by a question paper leak incident last year. After its successful implementation in TNTEU, secretary of higher education



department C Samayamoorthy, in a recent meeting with the registrars, directed them to pilot the process in one subject first before implementing it completely for the entire exam. In another move to streamline education, especially in PhD, the secretary recommended the universities to start a common online portal for PhD, where all registrations and updates related to research work can be done. He also asked registrars to conduct a centralised entrance exam for PhD courses. After implementation of the process, the students will not have to write exam separately for various state universities' PhD course, said

higher education department officials. To enhance the quality of PhD and ensure its timely completion, registrars have been directed to acquire the software being used by Anna University for providing affiliation to colleges and PhD registration and to implement the same in their universities. The secretary highlighted that the department has received many complaints from students that their PhD guides are delaying the submission of their project/thesis. So, he instructed registrars that the list of external examiners/foreign faculties for evaluation of PhD thesis should not be obtained from the guides of the projects; instead it has been

suggested to obtain it from the registrar, University of Madras, currently. He also instructed to take steps to improve the standard of internal exams and to provide internal marks to students based on their participation in seminars, viva voce, group projects and building interpersonal relationships with staff and students, instead of giving marks based on just theory and attendance. "Students take the internal exams very lightly. We need to make this exam relevant," said an official of the department.

The secretary also directed registrars to focus on revenue generation by insisting the faculty and students to file patent on suitable projects, so that those patents can turn into products and university can take steps to obtain regular royalty from those products. He asked registrars to fix the target for revenue generation to each department. The registrars were directed to identify heads of departments (HoDs) in universities who have been HoDs in the same department for more than three years and to furnish the list to the government. They were also instructed to appoint faculty to the post of HoD on a rotation basis for every three years.

Sajjala family files petition in Andhra Pradesh HC over seizure of land

VIJAYAWADA. Family members of YSRCP leader Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy have filed a petition in the Andhra Pradesh High Court to contest the seizure of 63.72 acres of their land in CK Dinné mandal of YSR Kadapa district. District Collector Sridhar Cherukuri ordered the seizure of land on May 21, 2025.

Petitioners, including Sajjala Sandeep Reddy, Bhagirathi, Janardhan Reddy, Vijayakumari, and Y Satya Sandeep Reddy, seek to halt the Collector's order, alleging unlawful interference in their 201.17 acres of agricultural land. The High Court will hear their petition on Thursday.

The family claims the land, inherited and partly purchased, is documented as agricultural in government records, supported by pattadar passbooks and registered deeds. They contend that the authorities wrongly classified it as forest land, despite a joint survey of revenue and forest departments confirming that it lies outside the forest boundaries. The petitioners accused the State government of acting with mala fide intent, ignoring the records and tax payments. They noted that the houses and servant quarters on the land have approved permits.

Sand mining to resume in Kerala rivers after long gap of nine years

State prepared survey reports for 11 dists with CSIR-NIIST support, of which four approved.

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM. River sand mining is set to resume in Kerala after a gap of nine years. The revenue department recently issued an order on the standard operating procedure (SOP) for mining activities. The SOP is the first step in a series of procedures involving different government departments. The SOP is based on the directives issued by the Union Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF), Supreme Court and the National Green Tribunal. Under this, District Survey Reports are to be prepared for districts where mining is planned. It should be prepared by an agency approved by the National Accreditation Board for Education and Training.

The state has so far prepared DSRs for 11 districts with the support of NABET-approved CSIR-NIIST. Of them, four were approved by the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) and the remaining are under different stages of review.

The report has information on the mining potential



of rivers in the districts and their environmental impact. The primary data would be the sand auditing report for each district prepared earlier under government supervision. So far, audits have been conducted for 32 of the 44 rivers. Of them, 17

'Failed' SSC student scores 96 marks in re-evaluation in Andhra

However, having scored over 90 marks in five other subjects, her family suspected an error and applied for re-evaluation.

GUNTUR. A Class 10 student from Bapatla district saw a dramatic turnaround in her SSC results after re-evaluation, prompting appeals for a special admission opportunity and raising concerns at the highest levels about lapses in paper correction.

Tejaswini, a student at Zilla Parishad High School in Kolluru, was initially declared failed in the recently released SSC results, with just 23 marks in Social Studies. However, having scored over 90 marks in five other subjects, her family suspected an error and applied for re-evaluation.

Following review, her Social Studies marks were revised to 96, bringing her total marks to 575, well within the eligibility range for admission to IIT institutions. Unfortunately, the application deadline had already passed on May 20, even before the updated marks were issued. Her teachers and family appealed to authorities

to ensure she is not denied an opportunity due to the delay. Speaking to Bapatla district education officer (DEO) Purushottam Sriram said the matter was brought to their attention on Wednesday.

Ensure no lapses occur in future:
CM

"Though the re-verification results

were out on May 23, we came to know about this on May 28. I personally spoke with the IIT admission convenor, who assured us that if the student qualifies under the norms, she will be considered for admission despite the missed deadline," he said.

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu also took serious note of discrepancies in evaluation. Naidu expressed severe dissatisfaction, and directed officials to ensure that affected students are not denied further opportunities.

Tejaswini's father, a daily-wage labourer, has supported her education against all odds. The family remains hopeful that she will now be able to continue her studies without interruption.

Education Director KV Srinivasulu Reddy said 64,251 applications for re-verification and 2,112 for recounting have been received so far, and the process will be completed by June 1.

New scheme to curb anaemia in adolescent girls

HYDERABAD. With an objective to prevent anaemia among adolescent girls, the state government has decided to launch a new scheme, Indiramma Amrutam, under which milled and peanut chikkis (energy bars made with nuts and jaggery) will be distributed among girls aged between 14 to 18. Women & Child Welfare Minister Danasari Anasuya alias Seethakka will be launching this scheme in Bhadrak Kotagudem district on Thursday.

Initially, the government will implement this scheme in Bhadrak Kotagudem, Kumurambheem-Asifabad and Jayashankar-Bhupalpally districts on a pilot basis through Anganwadi centres.

Under this scheme, the government will distribute 30 chikkis, in two instalments, per girl per month. Each chikki will contain 600 calories, 18 to 20 grams of protein and micronutrients.

According to officials, the government decided to launch this scheme as 64.7 per cent of adolescent girls in Telangana are

suffering from anaemia as per the National Family Health Survey-5. "The government is already providing iron and folic acid tablets for girls after conducting Hb tests. Now, it has come out with a new scheme that will help in curbing



anaemia among adolescent girls," the officials added. Seethakka, meanwhile, asserted that Indiramma Amrutam scheme will become a game-changer for girls' health.

"Initially, this scheme will be implemented in three districts where the prevalence of anaemia is relatively high. It will be extended to other districts in the future," she added.

Technical failure in ballast management system led to failure of sunk ship: Shipping regulator

KOCHI. Dismissing the sabotage theory behind the capsizing of container vessel MSC Elsa 3, the Director General (DG) of Shipping Shyam Jagannathan on Wednesday said the ship sank due to the failure of its ballast management system, which ensures the vessel's stability. The containers that fell off the ship when it sank off Kochi coast on Sunday and were floating in the Arabian Sea would be retrieved in 48 hours, Jagannathan said, adding that environmental damage was minimal.

"The oil spill is limited and the Coast Guard is cleaning it. The oil in the ship bunker will be removed by July 3," he said. "Our primary inference is that the vessel sank due to mechanical failure of the ballast management system. Safety and environmental requirements of the ships are governed by norms set by International Maritime Organisation (IMO) and this vessel complied with international norms. We have no evidence of other reasons. Failure of the ballast system may be due to lack of operational understanding. When the vessel listed to 26 degrees, there was a complete blackout due to failure of internal power generation. This virtually incapacitated all operations of the ship," said chief surveyor of Union government Ajith Sukumaran. About the cargo, Jagannathan said there were 13 containers carrying hazardous cargo of which 12 had calcium carbide, while one had rubber chemical antioxidants.

Five containers carrying calcium carbide were on the deck and might have landed on the sea floor. The other seven containers are in the cargo hold and are safe. The calcium carbide is stored in 200-litre drums inside



the containers and chances of it mixing with sea water are sparse. There are some containers having iron and ethylene polymers which are plastic nodules," he said, adding that all sunken containers as well as the ship will be recovered. Jagannathan said around 100 containers floated in the sea of which 50 beached in coastal areas of three southern districts.

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Education is not just a degree but an axis of overall development: CM Yogi

Lucknow, May 29: In a landmark move to elevate Uttar Pradesh's education system to international standards, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on Thursday between the Government of Uttar Pradesh and Australia's prestigious Monash University. The signing took place in the presence of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, marking a significant step towards global academic integration. The agreement aims to provide students and faculty members from basic, secondary, and higher education institutions across the state with a global platform for research, innovation, training, and technical collaboration. Through this partnership, the quality of education in Uttar Pradesh is expected to reach new heights. Speaking at the MoU signing ceremony with Australia's Monash University, CM Yogi said that the Uttar Pradesh government sees education not just as a way to earn

degrees, but as a key driver of the state's overall development. This partnership will incorporate quality,

development, and international cooperation. Referring to the state's earlier collaboration with

to ensure successful discharge of this responsibility. CM Yogi also highlighted India's ancient tradition



innovation and global perspective in the education system of the state and will prove helpful in preparing the youth for global competition," he added. Calling the MoU in line with the spirit of the National Education Policy 2020, he said it would promote multi-dimensional learning, skill

Western Sydney University, the Chief Minister said the new tie-up with Monash University is another major step toward meeting global education standards. He added that Gautam Buddha University will serve as the central hub for implementing this partnership and directed its Vice Chancellor

of knowledge, recalling the Vedic saying, "aa no bhadra kratavo yantu vishvawatah" (let noble thoughts come to us from all directions of the world.) He described the MoU as a modern expression of this timeless vision and reaffirmed the government's commitment to making Uttar Pradesh a "capital of knowledge" on the global education map. "Such partnerships will give the state a leading position on the global education map," he added. During the ceremony, the university's

Vice-Chancellor—fluent in Hindi and deeply familiar with socio-cultural understanding from his previous stay in Bijnor, Uttar Pradesh—expressed his optimism that this agreement would usher in a new era of educational and cultural exchange between India and Australia. He described the MoU not merely as a formal agreement, but as the beginning of a meaningful intellectual dialogue between two democratic and culturally rich nations. The MoU signing ceremony between the UP Government and Monash University saw the presence of several distinguished dignitaries from both India and Australia. From Monash University, Professor Craig Jeffrey, Deputy Vice Chancellor (International) and Senior Vice President, Dr. Greg Cusack, Chief of Coursework and Deputy Dean, and Distinguished Professor Manisha Priyam were in attendance. Representing the Australian High Commission were Deputy High Commissioner Nick McCaffrey, George

Thiveos, Minister-Counselor (Education and Research), Nathaniel Webb, First Secretary (Education and Research), and Tom Overton, Economic Adviser. Professor Rana P. Singh, Vice Chancellor of Gautam Buddha University, along with ministers and senior officials from Uttar Pradesh's Basic, Secondary, and Higher Education Departments, also participated in the event. CM Yogi warmly welcomed the Australian delegation and presented them with unique products crafted under 'One District One Product' (ODOP) scheme. These gifts symbolized Uttar Pradesh's rich cultural heritage and entrepreneurial spirit.

NAME CHANGE

I SUNEETA DEVI W/O RAJAL R/O 6A/519, NEHRU EKTA COLONY, R. K PURAM SECTOR 7 R.K PURAM SECTOR 5, NEW DELHI 110022 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SUNITA DEVI FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSE

NAME CHANGE

I, KAUSHAL MAHENDRU S/o SAT- PAL MAHENDRU R/o HOUSE NO. C-52, GT KARNAL ROAD, LANE NUMBER 4, NEAR HANS CINEMA, MAHENDRU ENCLAVE, ADPUR, NORTH WEST, DELHI, DELHI-110033 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO KAUSHALENDER MAHENDRU FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSE

NAME CHANGE

I, PAWAN KUMAR S/o LAKSHMAN YADAV R/o 56, KHWATIANS, JHAJJAR, HARYANA-124103, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO PAWAN KUMAR YADAV FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSE

NAME CHANGE

I, RAJESH KUMAR S/o RAJESH KUMAR R/o 1820E, laxmi Nagar, Shantakrupa, Delhi-110092 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as ARTI SAINI.

NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as SAMSER S/o SUKUR R/o PLAT NO-22 KH NO-376, E BLOCK STREET NO-6, BEHIND RAM MANSINGH PUBLIC SCHOOL, ROSHAN VIHAR, PART-A, NAJAFGARH, SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110043 do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that I have embraced HINDU Religion and renounced ISLAM Religion w. e. f. 26/05/2025.

NAME CHANGE

I, WAQAR AHMAD S/o NISAR AHMAD R/o R-217 Top Floor Ramesh Park Gali No-9 Laxmi Nagar East Delhi 110092 HAVE CHANGED MY TO WAQAR AHMED

NAME CHANGE

I, MUNTAHA SIDDIQUI D/o FAZIULADDIN address B-356, Road No.18 Santan Kunj enclav, New Delhi-110070 Have changed my name to muntaha fazil for all future purposes

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NEWS BOX

US Woman Arrested For Allegedly Hitting Boy Who Called Her "Fat" On Flight From Disney World

world. A woman from Maryland, United States, has been arrested for allegedly assaulting a boy on a flight from Florida after he reportedly insulted her appearance, according to police officials.

The incident took place aboard a flight at Orlando Sanford International Airport on Memorial Day. The accused, 46-year-old Kristy Crampton from Hagerstown, allegedly hit the boy after he called her "fat" and "Miss Piggy", the police report said.

Witnesses on the flight told Sanford Airport Police that Crampton struck the child and slammed his head against the plane window following a heated verbal exchange. One passenger described the incident as "abuse", claiming the woman "was not correcting the child, she was abusing him". Crampton, however, told authorities that the child had been disrespectful throughout their trip. When she took away his phone as a disciplinary measure, the boy allegedly pushed her arm off the armrest, prompting her to strike him, the report added. Police have not clarified the nature of the relationship between the two, according to Fox News. Crampton was arrested and booked into Seminole County Jail on child abuse charges. She was later released on a \$10,000 bond.

Won't Differentiate Between State, Non-State Terrorism: DMK's Kanimozhi In Greece

Athens. DMK MP Kanimozhi Karunanidhi, leading an all-party delegation to Greece, said India has made it clear that it will no longer distinguish between individual acts of terror and state-sponsored terrorism. While interacting with the Indian diaspora on Wednesday (local time), she added that the government's outreach, which includes opposition MPs, reflects a united stance against cross-border terrorism and a firm resolve to say "no more" after years of suffering.

"Our Prime Minister and the Government of India have made a decision to reach out to countries. In our delegation, except Capt Brijesh Chawla, all of us are from the opposition parties. Our Prime Minister and the country have clearly stated that we will no longer differentiate between state-sponsored terrorism and terrorist activities of individuals and groups. India has suffered enough, and the time has come to say no more," Mr Kanimozhi said. Earlier, an all-party delegation led by Ms Kanimozhi interacted with the Athens-based newspaper Kathimerini in Athens on Wednesday (local time) as part of the government's diplomatic outreach to highlight India's stance on terrorism. "The members of the delegation led by Ms Kanimozhi held a constructive interaction with the editorial board of Kathimerini during which they conveyed India's 'new normal' policy on terrorism. They emphasised India's firm stance against terrorism in all its forms," posted India in Greece on X.

The delegation, led by DMK MP Kanimozhi Karunanidhi, also includes Rajeev Rai (Samajwadi Party), Mian Altaf Ahmad (Jammu and Kashmir National Conference), Brijesh Chawla (BJP), Prem Chand Gupta (Rashtriya Janata Dal), Ashok Kumar Mittal (Aam Aadmi Party), and Former envoys Manjeet S Puri and Jawed Ashraf.

How Indians Stand As Donald Trump's Team Orders Pause On US Student Visas US Student Visa Pause: This means that the US's decision to pause student visa

Washington DC. India has for years been among the top two countries from where students go to the United States of America to pursue their higher education. In the last few years, Indians have outranked China to emerge as the largest contingent of international students in the US. This means that the US's decision to pause student visa interviews globally will impact aspiring Indian students the most. The Donald Trump administration, had on Tuesday, ordered its embassies and consulates worldwide to not schedule any new interviews for student-visa applicants. The reason behind the move is that the Trump administration is in the process of ramping up vetting of social media profiles of all applicants.

WHY THE PAUSE IN US STUDENT VISAS? This new move is likely to result in significantly longer wait times for applications to be scrutinized, thereby delaying the interview schedules and making the visa approval process much lengthier. To tackle the existing backlog of applications, the US government has decided to defer the interview process till existing forms aren't reused and the applicant's background checks, including online activity, is not complete.

There is no deadline set for this, so it is uncertain as to how long the "pause" is likely to remain in effect. This latest development comes amid President Trump's ongoing battle with US universities and colleges, including those which are part of the Ivy league.

Donald Trump also wants to reform the higher education system in the US, while simultaneously initiating a crackdown on student activism and "Left liberal" legislation that promote diversity policies, which the Trump Administration has labeled as "divisive". Students visas are also being revoked and students deported if they are found to indulge in on-campus protests, especially on political issues, such as the war in Gaza. The US government has called such protests "anti-Semitic" and students who participate in it, "terror sympathizers". This is what has led to the enhanced scrutiny and background checks of applicants and their social media activity.

Israel And UN Clash Over Aid To Gaza

United Nations. Israel accused the United Nations Wednesday of seeking to "block" Gaza aid distribution, as the global body said it was doing its utmost to gather the limited assistance greenlighted by Israel's authorities. The humanitarian situation in Gaza, where Israel has imposed a two-month aid blockade, is dire, with food security experts saying starvation is looming for one in five people.

"While the UN spreads panic and makes declarations detached from reality, the state of Israel is steadily facilitating the entry of aid into Gaza," Israel's United Nations Ambassador Danny Danon told the Security Council. He said the assistance was entering by trucks -- under limited authorization by Israel at the Keren Shalom crossing since last week following the blockade -- and via a "new distribution mechanism developed in coordination with the US and key international partners."

Danon was referring to the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF), a private, US-backed aid group that has established its own distribution system, one the United Nations considers contrary to its

humanitarian principles. A chaotic distribution of aid at a GHF center Tuesday left 47 people wounded. Israel's ambassador blamed Hamas for the tumult, saying the Palestinian group set up roadblocks and checkpoints to block access to the distribution center. He accused the UN of "trying to block" the aid. The United Nations "is using threats, intimidation and retaliation against NGOs that choose to participate in the new humanitarian mechanism," Danon added.

"Will not participate" Danon specifically accused the United Nations of having removed these nongovernmental organizations from a database listing groups working in Gaza, an accusation rejected by the UN. "There are no differences between the current list and the one from before the launch of the GHF," Stephane Dujarric, spokesman for UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, told AFP. But the UN reiterated its opposition to coordinating with GHF. We will not



those goods, I can tell you one thing, it is not for lack of trying," Danon had said. "more than 400 trucks" full of aid were already on the Gaza side of the crossing and that Israel had provided "safe routes" for the distribution.

"But the UN did not show up," the Israeli envoy said. "Put your ego aside, pick up the aid and do your job." Israeli military operations in Gaza have killed at least 54,804 people, mostly civilians, according to the health ministry there. The UN considers the figures reliable. The punishing offensive has reduced much of the Palestinian territory to rubble -- including hospitals, schools and other basic infrastructure -- and resulted in the displacement of almost all of its roughly two million people. Israel launched its operations in response to the October 7, 2023, attack by Hamas, which killed 1,218 people, according to an AFP tally based on official figures.

China Urges US To Protect "Academic Exchanges" Amid Trump's Visa Freeze

world. China has called on the United States to avoid "disrupting" education and academic exchanges after the Trump administration froze all student visa interviews and appointments at US embassies and consulates worldwide. "We urge the US to effectively safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of all international students, including Chinese students overseas," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said on Wednesday, as per Newsweek. She added that China "upholds that normal education cooperation and academic exchanges should not be disrupted."

The appeal comes as US Secretary of State Marco Rubio announced plans to "aggressively" revoke visas for Chinese students with alleged links to the Chinese Communist Party or those studying in sensitive fields.

The US will also increase scrutiny of all future visa applications from China and Hong Kong, Rubio said. By



halting the student visa category, which issued over 4 lakh visas in fiscal year 2024, the administration aims to slow international student admissions and reduce immigration. This pause could also slash a key revenue stream for many US universities that rely on foreign students' tuition.

Donald Trump has ramped up efforts to restrict foreign student admissions, citing national security concerns. On Wednesday, he proposed a cap on international enrollment at Harvard University, limiting it to 15 per cent of the student body. Tensions between Washington and Beijing have already led to a 4 per cent decline in Chinese

student enrollment in 2024. The FBI has repeatedly warned that Chinese actors may exploit "America's deeply held and vital culture of collaboration and openness on university campuses." According to US State Department data, 277,398 Chinese students enrolled in American institutions in 2024, making China the second-largest source of foreign students after India. In the 2023-24 academic year, over 1.1 million international students studied in the US, accounting for nearly 6 per cent of total higher education enrollment. Almost half came from India and China, according to the Institute of International Education. Separately, Rubio also announced new visa restrictions on foreign officials and individuals who "censor Americans," particularly those targeting US tech companies. Rubio told lawmakers last week that the government had already revoked thousands of visas. "A visa is not a right."

on Earth. "We're still floating in the capsule in the ocean, and my neck starts hurting, while we still hadn't even been extracted yet," he said, laughing. The human body, evolved over millions of years in the gravity of Earth's surface, was not meant for spaceflight. The absence of gravity triggers an array of physical effects over time, such as muscle atrophy or cardiovascular shifts that can cause a chain reaction of other health changes. Confinement in a small space and higher solar radiation in space, without the protection of Earth's atmosphere, have other effects. Starliner problems: Propulsion system issues on Boeing's Starliner forced NASA to bring the capsule back without its crew last year and to fold the two astronauts into its normal, long-duration rotation schedule on the ISS. Boeing, which has taken \$2 billion in charges on its Starliner development, faces a looming decision by NASA to refl y the spacecraft uncrewed before it carries humans again.

Meta AI Bot, Gen AI, Used A Billion Times Monthly': Mark Zuckerberg

world. Meta chief Mark Zuckerberg touted the tech firm's generative artificial intelligence (Gen AI) assistant on Wednesday, telling shareholders it is used by a billion people each month across its platforms. Zuckerberg noted the milestone anew at Meta's annual gathering of shareholders and as the social media behemoth vies with Google, Microsoft, OpenAI and others to be a leader in Gen AI. It was not clear how much Meta AI use involved people seeking out the chatbot versus passive users of Meta AI, as it is built into features in its family of apps. Since Google debuted AI Overviews in search results a year ago, it has grown to more than 1.5 billion users, according to Google chief executive Sundar Pichai. "That means Google Search is bringing Gen AI to more people than any other product in the world," Pichai said.

Google's AI Overviews are automatically provided summaries of search results that appear instead of the previous practice of simply showing pages of blue links to relevant websites. Pichai said last week that Google's dedicated Gemini AI app has more than 400 million monthly users. Tech rivals are rapidly releasing new AI



products despite ongoing challenges with preventing misinformation and establishing clear business models, and little sense of how the tech will affect society.

Meta unveiled its first standalone AI assistant app on April 29, giving users a direct path to its Gen AI models. "A billion people are using Meta AI across our apps now, so we made a new standalone Meta AI app for you to check out," Meta CEO and founder Mark Zuckerberg said in a video posted on Instagram at the time.

Zuckerberg said the app "is designed to be your personal AI" and would be primarily accessed through voice conversations with interactions personalized to the individual user. Use of Meta AI is growing fastest on WhatsApp, according to chief financial officer Susan Li. "Our focus for this year is deepening the experience and making Meta AI the leading personal AI," Zuckerberg said when Meta announced quarterly earnings at the end of April.

NASA's Starliner Crew Sunita Williams, Butch Wilmore Finish Recovery On Earth

Washington. Butch Wilmore and Sunita Williams, the US astronauts left on the International Space Station last year by Boeing's troubled Starliner capsule, are on the up after returning to Earth in March, emerging from weeks of physical therapy to ramp up work with Boeing and various NASA programs. "Right now, we're just coming off of the rehab portion of our return," Wilmore, 62, told Reuters in an interview on Wednesday. "Gravity stinks for a period, and that period varies for different people, but eventually you get over those neurovestibular balance type of issues." Wilmore and Williams, who last year set off for an eight-day Starliner test flight that swelled into a nine-month stay in space, have had to readapt their muscles, sense of balance and other basics of Earth living in a 45-day period standard for astronauts returning from long-term space missions. The astronaut have spent at least two hours a day with astronaut

strength and reconditioning officials within NASA's medical unit while juggling an increasing workload with Boeing's Starliner program, NASA's space station unit in Houston and agency researchers. "It's been a little bit of a whirlwind," Williams, 59, said in the interview. "Because we also have obligations to all of the folks that we worked with." Williams said some of her post-spaceflight side effects were slower to clear up and she felt tired in late stages of recovery, as dozens of various muscles re-engaged. That made it hard for her to wake up as early in the mornings as she likes, until a little more than a week ago. "Then I'm up at four in the morning, and I'm like, Aha! I'm back," she said. Wilmore had some issues with his back and neck before heading to space, being unable to turn his head all the way to the side, he said. That all went away in space where "you don't have any stress on your body." When he returned in March, gravity greeted him with the neck pain he left

Ngugi wa Thiong'o, Kenyan author and dissident who became a giant of modern literature, dies at 87

NEW YORK. Ngugi wa Thiong'o, the revered Kenyan man of letters and voice of dissent who in dozens of fiction and nonfiction books traced his country's history from British imperialism to home-grown tyranny and challenged not only the stories told but the language used to tell them, died Wednesday at 87. Derek Wark, publicist for Ngugi's US publisher The New Press, confirmed the death to The Associated Press. Ngugi's son Nduku wa Ngugi said he died in Bedford, Georgia. Further details were not immediately available, though Ngugi was receiving kidney dialysis treatments. Whether through novels such as "The Wizard of the Crow" and "Petals of Blood," memoirs such as "Birth of a Dream Weaver" or the landmark critique "Decolonizing the Mind," Ngugi embodied the very heights of the artist's calling — as a truth teller and explorer of myth, as a breaker of rules and steward of culture. He was a perennial candidate for the Nobel literature prize and

a long-term artist in exile, imprisoned for a year in the 1970s and harassed for decades after. "Resistance is the best way of keeping alive," he told the Guardian in 2018. "It can take even the smallest form of saying no to injustice. If you really think you're right, you stick to your beliefs, and they help you to survive." He was admired worldwide, by authors ranging from John Updike to Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, and by former President Barack Obama, who once praised Ngugi's ability to tell "a compelling story of how the transformative events of history weigh on individual lives and relationships." Ngugi was shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize in 2009, was a finalist for a National Book Critics Circle prize in 2012 and, four years later, was the winner of the Pak Kyong-ni Literature Award. Through Ngugi's life, you could dramatize the history of modern Kenya. He grew up on land stolen from his family by British colonists. He was a teenager when the Mau Mau uprising for independence

began, in his mid-20s when Britain ceded control in 1963 and in his late 30s when his disillusion with Kenyan authorities led to his arrest and eventual departure. Beyond his own troubles, his mother was held in solitary confinement by the British, one brother was killed and another brother, deaf and mute, was shot dead when he didn't respond to British soldiers' demands that he stop moving. In a given book, Ngugi might summon anything from ancient fables to contemporary popular culture. His widely translated picture story, "The Upright Revolution," updates Kenyan folklore in explaining why humans walk on two legs. The short story "The Ghost of Michael Jackson" features a priest possessed by the spirit of the late entertainer. Ngugi's tone was often satirical, and he mocked the buffoonery and corruption of government leaders in "The Wizard of the Crow," in which aides to the tyrant of fictional Aburria indulge his most tedious fantasies.

"Rumor has it that the Ruler talked nonstop for seven nights and days, seven hours, seven minutes, and seven seconds. By then the ministers had clapped so hard, they felt numb and drowsy," he wrote. "When they became too tired to stand, they started kneeling down before the ruler, until the whole scene looked like an assembly in prayer before the eyes of the Lord. But soon they found that even holding their bodies erect while on their knees was equally tiring, and some assumed the cross-legged posture of the Buddhist."

Ngugi sided with the oppressed, but his imagination extended to all sides of his country's divides — a British officer who justifies the suffering he inflicts on local activists, or a young Kenyan idealist willing to lose all for his country's liberation. He parsed the conflicts between oral and written culture, between the city and the village, the educated and the illiterate, the foreigner and the native.

NEWS BOX

Anna University sexual assault case: It took court just 31 hearings, two months to reach the verdict

CHENNAI. The criminal justice system lived up to the trust placed in it by the brave Anna University student who displayed admirable courage to file an official complaint against her rapist, A Gnanasekaran, within 24 hours of the incident. The survivor, who was assaulted on her college premises, which thousands of students consider a safe space, was delivered justice in a span of five months. She remained fearless in the face of a vile threat by Gnanasekaran, who threatened to 'leak' the video of the rape, and proceeded to inform the authorities. While the Special Investigation Team (SIT) formed by the Madras High Court completed the probe and filed a charge sheet within three months, the Mahila court judge, S Rajalakshmi, held 31 hearings from March 7 to May 22 and delivered the verdict. The state was represented by advocate MP Mary Jayanthi and they were able to prove the 11 charges against the accused using forensic and other evidence. Advocate Sudha Ramalingam told TNIE that this is a perfect example of justice being delivered quickly and would inspire rape victims to come out and file complaints against the perpetrators; at the same time, it will also instil fear among the perpetrators against committing such crimes, as justice will be given speedily. "This is what we have been talking about for ages. Justice delayed is justice denied. This shows that justice can be fast-tracked if the system wants," she said. However, sounding a word of caution, she said such quick investigation and trials are done only in high-profile cases where the victim is from a well-placed socio-economic background, crime occurs in an urban scenario and where there is a lot of pressure. "Such quick justice should be ensured in all cases, even in rural areas," she added.

Annual fish prasadam at Nampally on June 8 and 9 in Telangana

HYDERABAD. The annual 'fish prasadam' will be administered to people suffering from asthma and other respiratory ailments at the Exhibition Grounds, Nampally from 10 am on June 8 to 10 am on June 9. A large number of patients from across the country come to Hyderabad to receive the prasadam. The Bathini family, known for their long-standing tradition of administering fish prasadam, said that this year too, the prasadam will be administered on Marigasira Karti day. They, along with volunteers, will insert herbal paste into the mouth of a live fingerling, which is then slipped into the throat of patients.

For vegetarian patients, a separate medicine with jaggery is administered. However, vegetarians need to take the medicine for a longer period, the family stated. Patients are advised to take the medicine over four consecutive days and follow a strict diet prescribed by the Bathini family.

Meanwhile, authorities are supervising the arrangements. Various departments, including HMWSSB, TGRTC and the Electricity departments are working in tandem for the successful conduct of the event. The Fisheries department will provide the fingerlings. The Bathini family informed that the prasadam has been administered free of cost for the last 17 years.

Maoists suspected in explosives loot near Saranda; Odisha, Jharkhand police launch joint anti-maoist operations

OURKELA. A day after suspected Maoists hijacked and looted a truck laden with huge cache of blasting explosives, Rourkela police intensified combing operation along the Odisha-Jharkhand border with DGP YB Khurania visiting the steel city to take stock of the situation on Wednesday. Reliable sources said the DGP held a closed-door meeting with IG (Operation) Deepak Kumar, DIG (Western Range) Brijesh Kumar Rai and Sundargarh SP Pratyush Diwakar, also in charge of Rourkela. Khurania also reportedly visited K Balang police station amid tight security and reviewed the ongoing investigation. At around 9.30 am on Tuesday, eight armed persons hijacked the explosives-laden truck from near a forested stone quarry at Banko within K Balang police limits, more than 90 km from Rourkela and drove the vehicle to a nearby forest. Another 10-15 persons waiting inside the forest looted at least 150 packets of explosives each weighing 15 to 25 kg. The loot site is barely two km from the Maoist hotbed of Saranda forest in West Singhbhum district of Jharkhand. The empty vehicle was later found abandoned inside the forest and its driver was unhurt. Requesting anonymity, a police officer associated with the investigation said driver of the explosives-laden vehicle Debnath Toppo and owner of the stone quarry Niraj Pandey were interrogated.

Diamond fever grips Andhra's Kurnool as monsoon rains revive treasure hunt

Currently, only local villagers are involved, but hundreds more from Kurnool, Anantapur, Kadapa, Prakasam, and Karnataka's Bellary district are expected to arrive in the coming weeks.

KURNool. With the season's first rainfall in Kurnool district, diamond seekers from Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka have started arriving in Maddikera and Tuggali mandals in search of precious stones. Villagers and fortune-seekers have flocked to areas such as Jonnagiri, Peravalli, Pagidirayi, and Madanantapuram, driven by age-old legends linking the region to the buried treasures of Vijayanagara emperor Sri Krishnadevaraya and his minister Timmarus.

Local sources reported a few recent discoveries of valuable stones, further fuelling the rush. "A rumour is spreading that a man from Tuggali found stones worth Rs 10 lakh," said Jonnagiri resident G Rama Krishna. "We haven't seen proof, but it's enough to get people moving," he added.

Currently, only local villagers are involved, but hundreds more from



Visually-impaired woman appointed as Oodhuvar of Tamil Nadu's Thiruvanmiyur temple

SS Priyavathana (24) from Chennai received her appointment order from Chief Minister MK Stalin on Tuesday and was posted at the Pamban Swamigal temple in Thiruvanmiyur.

CHENNAI. In a first for the state, a visually impaired woman has been appointed as an Oodhuvar in a temple under the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (HR&CE) department. SS Priyavathana (24) from Chennai received her appointment order from Chief Minister MK Stalin on Tuesday and was posted at the Pamban Swamigal temple in Thiruvanmiyur.

With this, she becomes the 12th woman and the first visually impaired person to be appointed as Oodhuvar – devotional singers who recite Tamil hymns in temples. Since the DMK government assumed office, 35 Oodhuvars have been appointed, including 11 women. Born preterm, Priyavathana was diagnosed with visual impairment five months after birth. With her parents' support, she



pursued a BA in Vocal Music from the Tamil Nadu Government Music College, completed diplomas in music teaching and in Isai Kalaimani, and later trained at the Archaka Training Institute. She now performs daily

temple duties accompanied by one of her parents. Speaking to her mother Subashini Sureshkumar, who has been her constant companion and first teacher, said, "She would sit close to the TV speaker and hum along. We noticed her interest early and enrolled her in music classes." Since Priyavathana does not read Braille, Subashini first memorised the songs and then taught them to her daughter. Over time, Priyavathana mastered various Tamil devotional hymns and has performed in temples and venues such as Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan. "She also sings bhajans in Telugu, Hindi, and Marathi, and plays the violin. Her day is filled with music practice for three to four hours," said Subashini, adding that she continues to support her daughter.

Six cases reported in Guntur region as Covid spikes in Andhra

GUNTUR. Amid a nationwide rise in Covid-19 cases, six cases were reported in the erstwhile Guntur district on Wednesday. Among them, three fresh cases were recorded in Bapatla and Palnadu districts on Wednesday, while the other three were registered in Guntur over the last couple of days. District Medical and Health Officer (DM&HO) Dr Vijaya Lakshmi confirmed. A married couple from Eluru tested positive at Manipal Hospital in Tadepalli. An 83-year-old man from Tenali, reportedly in serious condition, is being treated at the same hospital.

In response to the surge in cases and an increase in respiratory illnesses, the Government General Hospital (GGH) in Guntur has launched a dedicated COVID-19 outpatient service near the Emergency Department. The facility utilises the newly established intensive care unit to treat patients showing the Covid-like symptoms. GGH currently has 300 oxygen cylinders in reserve and an operational oxygen plant capable of producing 30,000 kilolitres. The infrastructure supports oxygen supply to 1,500 beds, including those in emergency wards. Technical teams are on standby for maintenance. The hospital also operates four in-house oxygen generation units that extract oxygen directly from the air. While one unit is under repair, each of the other three produces 40 litres per minute, enough to collectively support about 1,000 patients in case of a spike in demand.



74,921 trees felled for NH66 development in Kerala; replacement slow

The committee will also study the history of the country after Independence and examine the steps taken to address language and other issues.

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM.

When the National Highways Authority of India envisioned an ambitious plan to reduce the travel time between Kasaragod and Thiruvananthapuram from 15 hours to just seven, the cost paid was green, quite literally. As many as 74,921 trees were felled for highway development across the state. Although replantation has been promised, progress has been snail-paced. The plan was to plant ten times the number of trees that were cut. However, the actual replantation so far stands at just 55,540. Therefore, a total of 6,93,670 saplings are yet to be planted. Currently, replantation efforts are only taking place in two areas: Kadampattukonam-Kazhakottam in Thiruvananthapuram and Thalappady-Kalikkadavu in Kasaragod. The goal is to complete the replantation in tandem with the highway project, but according to officials from the Social Forestry Department, the delay is largely due to



the difficulty in identifying suitable land. "As there are challenges in identifying land for the project, we are considering alternatives such as block planting, 'Nagaravananam' (urban forests), and 'Vidyanavanam' (school forests). For the 23 stretches across nine districts, proposals for compensatory afforestation are being prepared. These will be submitted to the NHA for fund release," said Ajay Ghosh, an official with the state social forestry department.

Of the 55,540 plants currently on the ground, 23,540 are in Kozhikode, 24,000 have been planted in Sainik School, Thiruvananthapuram, and 8,000 at the Greenfield Stadium in the same district. NHA, which is constrained by land availability, has signed an MoU with the social forestry department to identify planting locations and submit cost estimates.

"There is no delay from our side in fund disbursement. We have already allocated funds for stretches in Kasaragod, Kozhikode and Thiruvananthapuram. For the remaining areas, we are awaiting estimates from the social forestry department," said an NHA official who wished to remain anonymous. As the social forestry department has proposed a shift from the original 1:10 planting scheme to the Nagaravananam and Vidyanavanam models, NHA has stated that they have got the revised plan approved.

Telangana farmers protest, say fine rice not being procured

RAJANNA-SIRCILLA. Farmers in Rajanna-Sircilla district staged protests on Wednesday, alleging delays in paddy procurement and neglect of fine variety paddy. Unseasonal rains have worsened conditions with several farmers reporting germination of stored grain. In Venkatapet of Konaraopet mandal, a group of farmers protested with pesticide bottles at the local procurement centre, threatening suicide if their fine variety paddy was not purchased. They accused officials of procuring only coarse paddy while leaving fine grain heaps to spoil. "The delay is causing our paddy to germinate. Authorities must act immediately," a farmer said.

Procurement centre staff said millers were refusing to accept fine varieties, which they claimed was causing the backlog.

In Anathapally mandal, a woman farmer showed paddy that had germinated after being brought to the procurement centre nearly two weeks ago. "We have spent several sleepless nights here waiting.

The government must take responsibility for the damage," she said.

Farmers protest over 'sluggishness' of officials

Farmers in Kummarikunta village of Danthalapally mandal staged a protest on the Danthalapally-Suryapet main road, blocking traffic and accusing officials of inaction.

They demanded immediate intervention from the state government to ensure that the soaked paddy is procured without further delay.

Mahbubabad Collector Adwait

Kumar Singh was unavailable for comment. According to the district's civil supplies department, 1.65 lakh metric tonnes of paddy have been procured so far, with another 15,000 metric tonnes yet to be purchased. "We have already increased the pace of procurement," said District Civil Supplies Officer A Prem Kumar.

Paddy at 34 procurement centers in N'bad soaked

Nizamabad: In Nizamabad district, paddy stored at 34 procurement centres across



Balkonda, Armoor and Nizamabad Rural constituencies were soaked in heavy rain on Tuesday night. Srikanth Reddy, district manager of the Civil Supplies Corporation, said around 800 metric tonnes had been affected, but preliminary assessments suggested the grain was not fully damaged. Official teams are touring affected villages to assess the situation and send stock to mills. Discussions with rice millers are ongoing.

Ryots told to prep for early transplantation

Nageswara Rao has urged farmers to begin paddy transplantation early this monsoon, as rains arrived 15 days ahead of schedule. He advised farmers to grow crops that can withstand unseasonal rains and suggested oil palm and traditional varieties as better options.

On Wednesday, the minister inaugurated a shopping complex built at the Chitayal mandal Agricultural Market Yard at a cost of 1.5 crore. He spoke after the swearing-in of the new market committee. The minister said Rythu Bharosa funds would be deposited into farmers' accounts before transplantation begins.

He encouraged the cultivation of high-return, low-water crops like jai and oil palm, and urged farmers to experiment with new varieties.

Stressing the need to grow essential crops alongside paddy and cotton, he advised reducing the use of pesticides and urea and shifting to traditional practices.

Kerala farmers keep wild boars at bay with leadwort

KOTTAYAM. As wild boar attacks continue to escalate across the state's forest fringes, an organic solution for mitigating crop destruction is gaining traction among farmers. The Indian leadwort, scientifically known as *Plumbago Indica* and locally referred to as 'Chethikoduveli,' has emerged as an effective deterrent, said farmers.

First introduced by settler farmers in Kannur, the plant has now expanded its reach to the high ranges of Central Travancore with local bodies and the Agriculture Department taking initiatives to promote the planting of chethikoduveli at various locations. Local bodies in Idukki such as Vazhathope and Arakkulam as well as Kottickal in Kottayam have rallied to support the farmers to use this plant as a natural barrier against wild boars. "We have decided to use this plant in our panchayats as a pilot project. We will provide plants to farmers at 75 per cent subsidy rate. In the initial phase, plants will be given to 18 farmers in the panchayat," said Bijoy Jose, president of Kottickal panchayat.

According to experts, the plant's roots produce a pungent sap that repels wild boars, making it a natural alternative to traditional methods to prevent the vermin. Farmers residing in the forest fringes have increasingly adopted this plant, especially after previous attempts to fend off these animals proved unsuccessful.

After four years of experimentation, Maju, a native of Mayil in Kannur, introduced the Indian leadwort as an effective solution to wild boar invasions. Subsequently, the Agriculture Department validated its efficacy in preventing wild boars and have begun developing plants in their Karimbam and Aralam farms. The plants are also available at the Kerala Agricultural University's Aromatic and Medicinal Plants Research Station at Odakkal in Ernakulam. Meanwhile, chethikoduveli's success has spurred farmer interest and demand. However, despite the Agriculture Department's endorsement, its efficacy is yet to be scientifically substantiated by the experts. "While many local initiatives have been undertaken, the precise effectiveness of this method requires scientific validation," said Dr. P Balakrishnan, scientist at Kerala Forest Research Institute, Peechi.

CoBRA sting in Operation Black Forest

In a pre-mission briefing of his men from the special CoBRA force, Manoranjan, a newly-inducted young officer, had declared, "It's a do or die mission, and mine will be the first CoBRA blood to be shed if it came to that." During his pre-induction interview, I had observed his readiness to give his best for an operation. He and the brave men of CoBRA knew the challenge of fighting a well-armed, motivated and organised adversary—one who can't be identified easily even if seen gossiping with local villagers. So, imagine taking him on in his own adda. You cannot disrupt village life, though you are sure an extremist is hiding there. You don't have Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act in force and your adversary enjoys the rights of a vibrant democracy. Maoists demonstrate their position by sporadic violence, so that the local population toes their line and joins their militia in large numbers out of fear, most often not knowing the movement's ideology. Mobile warfare is a decisive stage in guerrilla warfare to liberate pockets of influence. They set up alternative administrative structures where the presence of government agencies is not seen or felt—like in Abujhmad, which literally translates as 'unknown area'. Detection and disposal of explosives, especially the improvised explosive devices, are a real challenge. In September 2009, in one of the CoBRA unit's early major operations, Manoranjan and his men succeeded in outmanoeuvring the IEDs. But he did not survive the ensuing close encounter to tell the tale. For the newly operationalised CoBRA, it was a shock and a warning. But they just could not fail.

The central government had recognised left-wing extremism as the worst internal security threat and had mandated CRPF to raise 10 units (about 10,000 personnel) of Commando Battalions for Resolute Action or CoBRA. The CRPF, seasoned with decades of experience in dealing with insurgency and terrorism, had to identify and develop 10 centres in affected states; and induct, train and equip the personnel recruited with stringent limits on age and physical efficiency.

But formulating a standard operating procedure comprising new operational doctrines and tactical strategies was a daunting task. Without going into the details, I would sum up that the most outstanding features of this new doctrine were massive operational mobilisation and officer-led area domination extending to weeks. That's the early background that eventually led to the recently-concluded Operation Black Forest—which lasted 21 days and was carried out in the inhospitable and treacherous terrains of Abujhmad. It can be hailed as heralding the countdown of the Maoist menace. Their supreme leader, himself an explosives expert, and 26 others were killed in fierce encounters. Weapon modifying and manufacturing units were dismantled along with nearly 250 cave formations, besides recovering two tonnes of explosives and several IEDs. The operations, led by senior commanders including the CRPF Director General G P Singh, have yielded unparalleled results. The loss inflicted is so terrible that regrouping and reviving the movement is almost impossible. The Maoist menace is both grievance- and ideology-driven. In a country like ours, the scope for spreading such violent ideology cannot be confined to a state or region, unlike terrorism and insurgency. What began as 'Spring Thunder' (as described by Radio Peking) in the 1960s in Naxalbari, nurtured by Charu Majumdar and Kanu Sanyal, was almost written off by the time of the Emergency. But by 2004, resurgence and regrouping had taken place. Splinters of the movement, like CPI(ML) and People's War Group, had merged and were spreading terror through the 'Red Corridor' that stretched from parts of Karnataka to the Nepal border. The leaders, mainly from Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and the area 'sanitised' by Operation Black Forest, stand neutralised. Projects—especially for infrastructure development, which was opposed and disrupted by extremists—should be resumed forthwith, so that the mainstreaming of the afflicted area is fast-tracked.

The demographic dividend might just end up as a demographic nightmare. I have long been speaking and writing about the demographic dividend. Politicians and their hucksters have latched on to this term without quite understanding what it implies. The challenges are on hand. India, with a population of 1.34 billion, is now the most populous country in the world. But India was not always as large as it is now, both in terms of population or economy. The year 1921, known as the "Year of Great Divide", is regarded as the most important in the demographic history of India. It marked a drastic fall in mortality and the swing from a pattern of a relatively stable population to one that was rapidly increasing. The population grew very slowly from 1801-1921, from about 200 million to 220 million. It is then that our population really took off to reach the stratospheric levels of today.

The population growth rate reached a high in 1981, touching 2.22 percent, a trend that has since been on a decline. Over the span of a century, India's population increased by six times. Estimates suggest that India has added approximately 200 million people in the last hundred years. We can look forward to another 200 million by the middle of this century. Medium variant projections propose that during 2005-50, India's population will increase by approximately 45 percent. The proportion of aged persons (over 65 years old) will increase from the 5 percent to 14.5 percent in 2050, which in absolute numbers would imply a growth from 57 million to 240 million.

From the experiences of advanced ageing nations we can infer that a growing old age population will require us to properly plan our policies on taxation, social security and healthcare. Old people cost more. Another major area of concern is the fast increasing population density. This is estimated to go up from 345 per sq. km in 2005 to 504 per sq km in 2050. Juxtaposing this with the increasing urbanisation trend indicates a plethora of problems in the years to come. In 2000, only 28.7 percent or approximately 300 million people lived in urban areas; this is projected to go up to 40.7 percent of the population, or approximately 600 million persons by 2030. This huge increase, particularly given the rising economic power of the middle and working classes, will require provisioning for substantially

enhanced housing and urban infrastructure such as water, sewage, mass and rapid transit, traffic management and parking, energy and a much increased consumption of food items such as milk, milk products, processed food and horticultural produce and their efficient distribution. The 15-64 years age group is projected to increase from 62 percent in 2005 to about 67.3 percent in 2050, which in numbers means 700 million to 1120 million. India is at present adding 12 million people to the work force every year. This accretion to this age group will be

the population replacement level TFR 2.1 by the year 2010. We missed that. Recent data on TFR however indicates a postponement of this target and the health ministry is now looking at 2060 as a plausible target for population stabilization. It would be pertinent to mention here that demographic stabilisation comes much after reaching the replacement level fertility.

An exercise carried out by the Technical Committee on Population constituted by the Planning Commission in 1996 reveals that India will reach replacement level fertility only by 2026. Amongst the Hindi-speaking states Bihar will reach replacement levels only by 2039, Rajasthan by 2048, Madhya Pradesh beyond 2060 and Uttar Pradesh beyond 2100. We should not expect national population stabilisation before 2060 or 2070. These regional disparities manifest themselves in the alarming growth of projected populations in these states. Out of the addition of 773 million to India's population during 1991-2050, Uttar Pradesh alone would account for a huge 198 million, which is about a fourth of the entire national population increase. Let us take a peek into how the per capita GDP will look in the years to come. In a 2005 paper "Will India Become An Economic Superpower, Does It Matter & What Might Prevent It?" Stephen Howes, Lead Economist (India) at the World Bank, makes per capita income projections to 2050 on the basis of historic growth rates. This

indicates that Bihar, Orissa, UP, MP and West Bengal will have incomes of less than US\$1000 in 2050, which is less than the current per capita GDP and definitely lower than what will be in 2050. Not surprisingly these are the states that will see surging populations. In 2020, India had more than 245 million people in the 15-24 age segments. If savings rates hold and with productive potential at its peak in 2020, we will have a great window of opportunity to make it as a developed and prosperous economy by 2050. That will be possible if we are able to educate and empower the masses. Such a demographic constellation will never appear again. If we have to break out of the poverty trap in the next half a century, the time to make major investments in human and economic development is now.



rapid till 2030, after which it begins to decline so much so that during 2045-50 there is hardly any increase, signalling a stabilisation of the 15-64-population cohort and subsequent aging. This is the natural cycle as the population stabilises. The immediate challenge of the next three decades is to create tens of millions of jobs and then to cope with a sharp decline in workers. As China is experiencing now, The demographic definition of population stabilisation means constant birth and death rates over a period of time. More specifically, a population will be termed to attain stability if it achieves replacement level of fertility of 2.1. The NPP 2000 envisages that India should achieve a stable population by the year 2045; a goal based on the assumption that the country would have reached

Owaisi tells Pak its Muslim card won't work in India

The Tribune Editorial: Asaduddin Owaisi, who heads a political outfit AIMIM, has hit Pakistan where it hurts.

IT's no secret that there are more Muslims in India than in Pakistan. But this fact assumes greater significance when it is emphasised by one of India's leading Muslim politicians. Asaduddin Owaisi, who heads the All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen — a political outfit that considers itself a custodian of Muslim rights in the country — has hit Pakistan where it hurts. Addressing the Indian diaspora in Kuwait as a member of a multi-party delegation, Owaisi said the neighbouring country could not bank on religion to win over Indian Muslims. "We are more sincere (to our country) than them," he added, delivering a strong message about his community's unswerving loyalty to India. Owaisi, a fierce critic of the BJP-led NDA government over Muslim issues, deserves praise for rising above political and communal lines in national interest. Launching a blistering attack on Pakistan, he ridiculed the army chief, Field Marshal Asim Munir, for



presenting a fake photo of a military operation to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. "They want to rival India, but

the image was from a 2019 Chinese military drill," he said, before coming up with the punchline — "Nakal karne ke liye bhi akal chahiye". His words, all the more painful because an Indian Muslim leader uttered them, added insult to Islamabad's injury.

However, it's not only Pakistan that should think long and hard about Owaisi's remarks. He has effectively hammered home the point that the patriotism of the Muslim community in India should not be doubted. Hopefully, this voice of sanity will deter leaders and supporters of the ruling party from demonising Muslims or treating them with suspicion. The Pahalgam terror attack was an attempt to aggravate communal tensions in the country, but people belonging to various communities have stood together resolutely. This spirit of unity should be sustained against all odds.

Japanese economy | How not to get lost in translation

It's not overtaking Japan's GDP that's instructive for India. We should learn from the Asian powerhouse's bitter and long experience of trying to cover up underlying economic weaknesses

Global policymakers looking to resuscitate economic activity and combat falling asset prices would do well to critically examine Japan's trajectory, which illustrates the problems of traditional approaches—especially their risks.

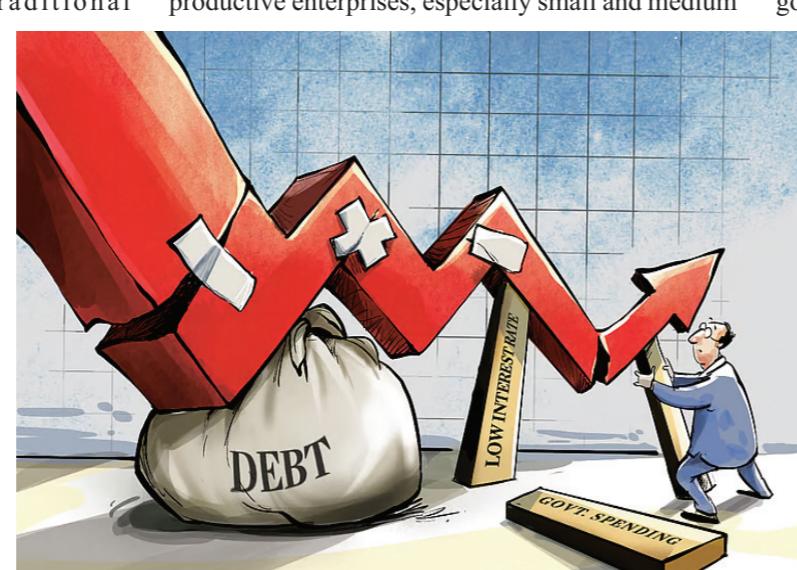
Japanese post-war success was based on low costs, manufacturing competence and an undervalued currency. When the 1985 Plaza Accord forced a revaluation of the yen and adversely affected exports and growth, the authorities cut interest rates, fuelling a debt-funded real estate and stock price boom. The bubble economy collapsed in 1990 and triggered a balance-sheet recession, as heavily indebted households and businesses cut back on consumption and investment to reduce debt. Over two decades, Japanese policymakers repeatedly lowered interest rates, injected liquidity and unleashed waves of government spending to resuscitate the economy. The policies alleviated the slowdown, but did not restore the growth levels or create the inflation needed to boost nominal asset prices and reduce real debt levels. Japan's potential growth rates fell, reflecting misallocation of capital that reduced returns on investment. Excessive manufacturing capacity and low domestic demand increased reliance on exports and balance of payments surpluses to align production and demand. Government-financed infrastructure investment only provided a short-term boost in economic activity.

Low interest rates and abundant liquidity allowed excessively high debt levels. Weak businesses

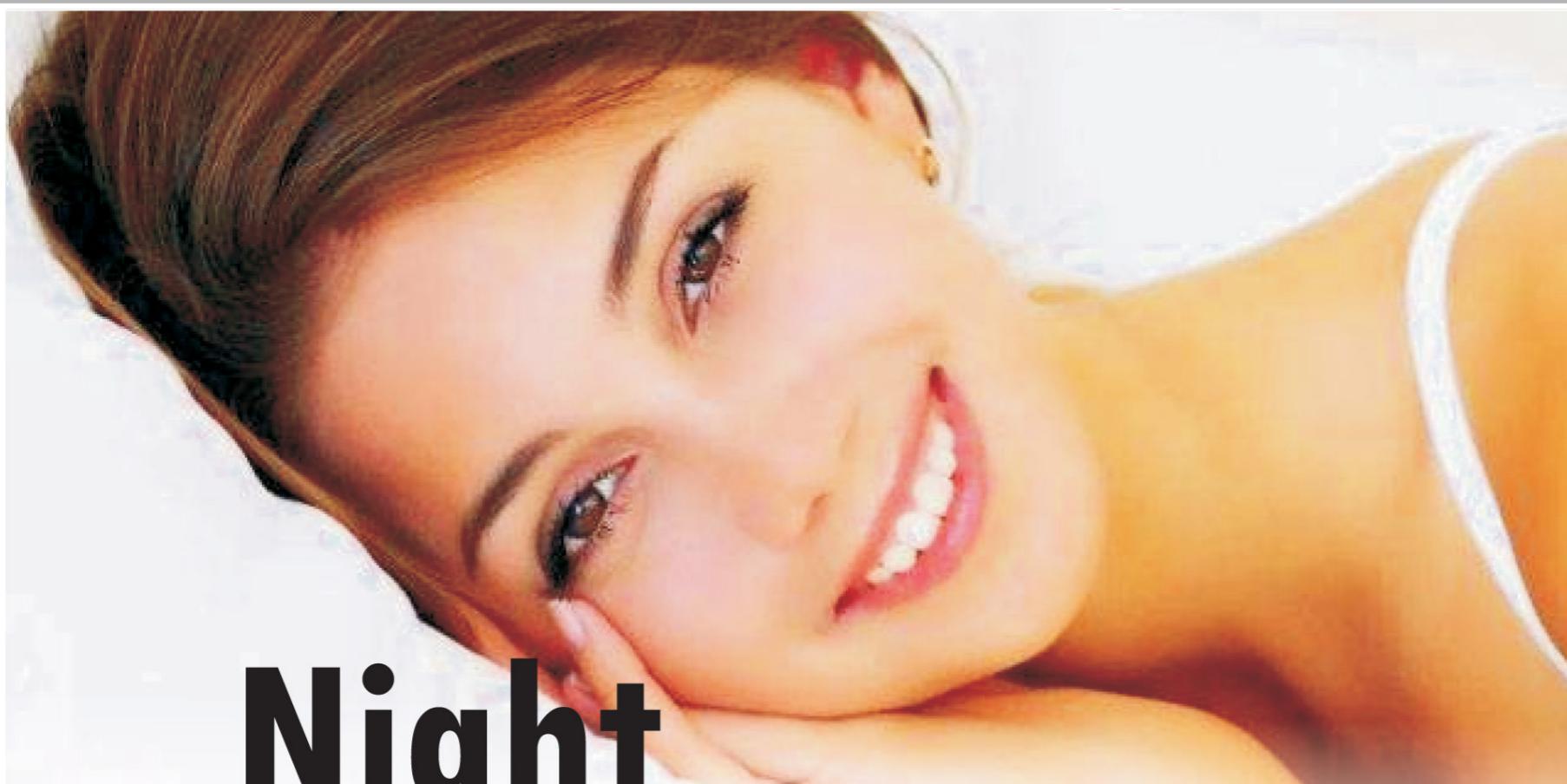
survived in a zombie-like state, operating only to pay loan interest. Banks avoided writing off loan assets, tying up capital and reducing credit availability for productive enterprises, especially small and medium

advanced. The country entered the crisis with modest government debt. It had high domestic savings and a high home investment bias, which allowed the government to finance its spending domestically, assisted by the central bank's quantitative easing programmes. In the 1990s, Japan benefitted from favourable external conditions. Strong global growth allowed exports to partially offset the lack of domestic demand. A weaker yen was helpful in creating economic activity. Contrary to commonly held views, Japan's demographics were helpful. Its aging population was an advantage, because it meant fewer new entrants into the workforce, keeping unemployment low. A falling population supported per capita income, and disinflation or deflation ameliorated the erosion of living standards. There were problems of a shrinking workforce and lower tax base, but Japan's welfare system is less generous than those in many countries. The social and political background were favourable. Shaped by the hardships of the Second World War and the immediate post-war period, Japanese culture is characterised by strong national consciousness, stoicism and selflessness, particularly among older citizens. There was acceptance of the need for economic sacrifices. Japan is also, de facto, a one-party state, where the ruling LDP is able to pursue its policies with little political opposition. This allowed the country to pursue consistent policies to manage its problems with limited opposition. Most of these conditions do not exist in other countries, should they seek to copy Japan's approach. The problems are now

global in scope. The world now faces unsustainable debt levels. There are trade and currency wars that are likely to escalate. There is a deteriorating geopolitical security environment, an expensive and slow energy transition, and a resource scarcity. In essence, one lesson from Japan's experience is that it is better to enter a crisis first as there are greater options. Despite its advantages, Japan has never fully recovered its economic and financial standing. The period since the collapse is known as the 'lost decades'. There are social costs—elderly poverty encouraging some to commit crimes for the security of jails and a cohort of dispirited young who have opted out of society. Now, Japan may be illustrating the terminal phase of this process where the side effects of the initially effective policies become toxic. The endgame begins with inflation. Beginning in 2020, the supply shocks from the pandemic and geopolitical events combined with the longstanding loose monetary policies has created price pressures. Japan's inflation rate, while comparatively lower, rose to around 3 percent. Despite tentative steps, Japanese authorities are reluctant to normalise policy settings. They fear the impact of higher interest rates especially for the government and highly indebted businesses. There is the risk of falls in asset values which support high debt levels. This creates currency weakness. The differential between Japan's low rates and those in most advanced economies caused the yen to fall from around 100 to the dollar to over 160 (with a modest recent recovery). The devaluation feeds inflationary pressures through higher import prices, especially for raw materials, food and energy. It feeds capital flight, limits policy options and flexibility to respond to new crises.



enterprises. Low returns reduced income for savers, decreasing consumption and encouraging additional savings for retirement. The increasing reliance on government spending led to a steady deterioration in public finances as the government ran large deficits. Government debt increased to 220 percent of GDP. The policies acted as a palliative, allowing essential reforms to be deferred. Policymakers borrowing from Japan's playbook misunderstand the country's circumstances. When its bubble economy collapsed, Japan was relatively rich and technologically



Night Cream can delay ageing!

all fall prey to lavish advertising of beauty products that claim to make you look younger. But, whether these products are actually useful or not is something we all need to know. One such product is a night cream.

After keeping a safe distance from all such beauty products for decades, I started my beauty regime with a day and a night cream, thanks to the sudden presence of pores on my face. But one thing that confused me always was, if we really need a special 'night cream' or is it just a result of growing market for extravagant beauty products? Contrary to what I thought, experts say, IT IS IMPORTANT!

"Night Care is about rejuvenating your skin and reversing the damage done to it during the day. In other words, if Day Care is about defence, Night Care is about the attack," says Dr. Jamuna Pai, the celebrity beauty expert.

Why is nighttime so important?

"Since our skin is not exposed to the environment at night, the focus should be on providing hydration and nourishment to the skin cells to help keep our skin rejuvenated and fresh. In addition, the skin also needs a serious boost to its metabolism and this can be

achieved with a night cream that contains effective performance ingredients. Retinol is one such ingredient because it penetrates deep into the dermis and evokes stimulation right where collagen fibers are created. It is considered to be one of the most miraculous ingredients for skin smoothing, reducing lines and wrinkles and reducing pore size," says Dr. Ramanjit Singh, Dermatologist, Medanta.

Aging, no matter how much you avoid paying attention, scares all of us. A simple skincare routine with few beauty products is a must to avoid these ageing signs. Night cream is one such important product.

To understand this further, we first need to understand how our skin behaves while we are asleep!

Ahh! Now we know that all the efforts we did before hitting the bed, did not go in vain. But another question that breaks out here is - do all skin types need a night cream regime?

Experts say that all skin types need a night

cream to replenish the damages done to the skin during the day time. "A Night cream hydrates and moisturises dry skin, it balances the oil and prevents acne in oily skin. And in balanced skin it maintains suppleness. Generally, for all skin types, the role of a night cream is to rejuvenate and repair," says Dr Kalpana Sarangi, Dermato-cosmetologist, Nanavati Super Speciality Hospital.

The right age to start your regime with night cream

25 is the new 35! If you think twenties are very early to realize that your skin needs care, you are wrong. With the worsening environmental conditions around us, the earlier you start, the longer you delay the onset of ageing.

"While the difference between the cell turnover rate in your teens to the time you are in your fifties is large, there are still ways you can speed up the turnover rate as you age. You can start either when or before you see the first signs of fine lines, dryness of the skin, mild pigmentation patches or Sun damage/photaging," recommends Dr. Jamuna Pai.

Moisturising is something that automatically becomes a part of a woman's routine, but most of us ignore the most important hours of the day. Even while we are asleep for 7-8 hours, our skin needs to be taken care of. Because of the evaporation process during the nighttime, our skin needs uninterrupted nourishment and thus, night creams come for rescue.



Easy remedies for Dark Circles

Tired of dark circles and want to get rid of them. Avoid chemically induced serums and gels, by using these interesting remedies, which can be prepared easily at home, to reduce dark circles naturally. Just be careful and avoid getting them into the eyes when applying it.

Rose water -

Soak two cotton balls in rose water and place them over the eyelids. Keep them for 10 minutes and then remove them.

Cucumber -

It is a known fact that cucumber has skin-lightening properties and

acts as a great astringent. Take a fresh green cucumber and cut it into thick slices. Chill them in the refrigerator. After half an hour, take them out and put them over closed eyes for 10-15 minutes. Wash off with normal water.

Tomato -

Tomato too acts as a great skin lightening agent. Take one teaspoon of fresh tomato juice mix it with one teaspoon of lemon juice. Gently apply the mixture around your eyes on the dark circles. After keeping it for around 10 minutes, wash it off with cold water.

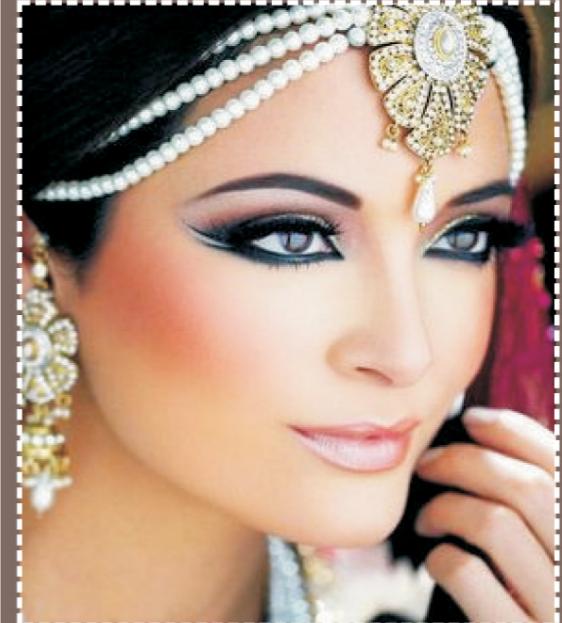
Potato slices -

Peel and cut potato into thin slices. Immediately put them over closed eyes for 15-20 minutes. Wash off with normal water. Almond oil - Before going to bed every night, gently massage almond oil into the skin around your eyes.

Mint -

Crush six to seven fresh mint leaves and apply them around the eye. Keep it for around 10-15 minutes and then wash it off with cold water.

Look your best with crystal Make-up



A Makeup trend that women can swear by this season is crystal. We tell you how you can sport this look with elan...

For women who are high on bling, do not restrict yourself to clothes and accessories alone. Crystal make-up, which has been seen at the international as well as domestic runways this year, is high among current fashion charts.

Nishi Chatwani, makeup professional says, "While last few years have seen the rise of smokey eyes and blue eye shadows, this year is all about wearing shiny and crystalised make-up. And the best way to do it is by wearing it on your eyelids."

Three creative ways to wear this look

- Go for the smokey eye look. Instead of blending in the usual black eye shadow, take a small quantity of grey and blue to create a different colour combination.

- After you have applied the blush, you can take a few quantity of crystals (similar to eye crystals) and apply it on your cheeks. Make sure that you do not go overboard with it, since it can kill the look altogether.

- The recent runways have also had women showcasing crystal lips. To get the look, apply a dark shade of lip colour — red or mauve and apply crystals on it. However, this is one look that you can sport only during the night, since wearing it in the morning will make it look OTT.

Crystal eyes

- Before applying make-up, wash your face with a cream-based cleanser and pat dry.

- Take a generous amount of lotion (preferably aloe vera) and apply it on your face. Let it dry.

- Take a small quantity of primer and blend it on your face well.

- Next, instead of applying foundation, it is recommended that you apply compact powder. **Dust off the excess from your eyes.**

- Line your outer eyelids with black gel eyeliner. You can also apply kajal if you want. Take a small amount of shimmer and dust it on your eyelids. You can then take a few pieces of crystallised balls and stick it on the shimmer.

- Make sure that you dust off the shimmer and excess crystals from your face.

- To complement the eyes, make sure that you apply a lighter lip shade. Nudes and pinks look the best.

Manipur MLAs urge Governor to restore elected government, end President's rule

The meeting signals growing momentum within the political class for an end to the President's Rule and the restoration of democratic governance in the conflict-hit state.

New Delhi. Ten MLAs from Manipur met Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla on Tuesday morning, urging him to initiate the process of installing a popular government in the state, which has been under President's Rule since February 13, 2025.

Following the meeting, MLA Nishikant Sapam addressed the media, stating that the primary objective of their visit was to reflect the will of the people, who, he said, overwhelmingly want a democratically elected government to return.

"It has been over three and a half months since President's Rule was imposed. From every section of society, there is a strong desire to restore a popular government. That was the main purpose of our meeting with the Governor," Sapam said.

He added that the delegation had submitted a signed letter formally requesting the reinstatement of an elected government.



MLAs met Governor seeking restoration of an elected government
Urge to end President's Rule imposed in February 2025
Appeal to reinstate a popular government in the conflict-affected state

According to him, the Governor responded positively and assured them that the matter would be considered seriously.

"We discussed how the administration under President's Rule is different and cannot effectively replace a popular government. All MLAs aligned with the NDA in Manipur are united in this effort and are very keen to see governance return to the people," Sapam noted.

He also stressed the importance of public support in the process, saying, "Without the people, nothing can move forward. Their backing is essential for stability and development."

Some MLAs who were not physically present had endorsed the same appeal, which has also been forwarded to the Prime Minister and central leadership. Sapam concluded, "Everyone wants the same thing — a popular government that works for the welfare of Manipur and its people." The meeting signals growing momentum within the political class for an end to the President's Rule and the restoration of democratic governance in the conflict-hit state.

Delhi teen kills two after hitting bicycle with car, then crashing into slum

Delhi. At least two people were killed and three injured after a Swift car, driven by a 19-year-old boy, first hit a cyclist and then crashed into a roadside slum after losing control. The incident was reported at 3:30 am from west

Delhi's Pankha R o a d. Upon receiving the PCR call, police rushed to the spot and took the injured to the hospital. The boy behind the wheel has been taken into police custody. In

March, another crash was reported in West Delhi's Naraina area, where a Maruti Ciaz collided with a tree around midnight. Of the four occupants in the car, two were pronounced dead.

Encroachers awaiting rehabilitation cannot stay on public land, says Delhi HC

NEW DELHI. The Delhi High Court has ruled that people living on public land without permission cannot continue staying there just because they are awaiting the resolution of their rehabilitation claims under the relevant government policies. Justice Dharmesh Sharma made the observation while dismissing a set of petitions by residents of Jhuggi Jhupri (JJ) clusters in Bhoomiheen Camp, in the city's Govind Puri area.

These residents had asked the court to stop the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) from continuing demolition work and evicting them. They also wanted the Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board to carry out a fresh and detailed survey and provide rehabilitation as per the 2015 policy on slum and JJ relocation. The court refused the request and stated that eviction and eligibility for rehabilitation are two separate processes.

"There is no gainsaying that the petitioners have no vested right to seek rehabilitation, as it is not an absolute constitutional entitlement available to encroachers such as themselves. The right to rehabilitation arises solely from the prevailing policy, which binds the petitioners. The determination of eligibility for rehabilitation is a separate process from the removal of encroachers from public land," the court noted. The judge emphasised that allowing people to stay on government land while their rehabilitation status is decided could delay important public projects.

Fear in Okhla over demolition notice

NEW DELHI. In the tightly packed lanes of Taimoor Nagar, Batla House, and Muradi Road, anxiety hangs thick in the air, with just days left for demolition—scheduled a day before Eid (June 7).

On the night of May 22, without warning or explanation, eviction notices were slapped on the residents' doors. No police presence nor prior communication. Just red crosses painted on walls that have seen generations come and go. Families who have called the streets home for over 40 years now count down the final days before they are displaced.

The notice warns in Hindi: "This is to inform the general public that in Village Okhla, at Khasra Number 277 (Khizar Baba Colony, Muradi Road), Delhi, land belonging to the Irrigation Department of the Government of Uttar Pradesh has been illegally encroached upon, and permanent houses and shops, have been constructed. Remove these illegally constructed houses and shops within 15 days. Else, in the event of any damage/harm, you'll be solely responsible."

This comes weeks after the Supreme Court issued a directive to the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) on May 8 to carry out a demolition drive to raze unauthorised structures spread over more than 4 vigas of public land in Okhla villages as per the due process of law within three months. Accordingly, a 15-day notice was to be served before demolition. The Supreme Court's order emanated from a contempt plea related to non-compliance with a 2018 directive, in which an order was passed against illegal construction and encroachment on public land.

BJP Minority Morcha chief claims Muslims are descendants of Lord Ram

New Delhi. Jamal Siddiqui, National President of the BJP's Minority Morcha, drew strong theological and cultural parallels between Sanatan Dharma and Islam. In an interview with India Today, Siddiqui made striking claims about the origins of the religion, the status of Hindu deities within Islamic tradition, and the intertwined heritage of India's diverse communities.

Siddiqui said Sanatan Dharma came much before Islam, adding that it is the foundation of the civilisation. He further said that all Muslims are descendants of Lord Ram.

"Sanatan Dharma came much before Islam. It is the foundation of our civilisation," Siddiqui stated, emphasising the deep historical roots of Indian culture. Taking his viewpoint further, he said,



Jamal Siddiqui said Sanatan Dharma came much before Islam
Claimed all Muslims are descendants of Lord Ram
Siddiqui said Ram and Krishna recognised as prophets in Islam

Islamic spiritual lineage. Siddiqui

grounded his remarks in Islamic theology, explaining that Islam acknowledges not just one prophet but many.

"The Quran mentions 25 prophets, but according to Hadith and tradition, there were 1,24,000 prophets sent across the world. How can we say Lord Ram and Lord Krishna were not among them?" he asked. "They may well have been messengers of God."

He also claimed a common ancestry, saying, "All Muslims are descendants of Lord Ram," suggesting that the roots of the Muslim community in India are intertwined with ancient Hindu tradition.

He clarified that while methods of worship may have changed, the underlying culture has remained constant. "Our identity is still Sanatan," Siddiqui said.

Shashi Tharoor slams 'zealots' after Congress flak over surgical strike remark

Shashi Tharoor came under severe criticism from Congress over his remark that India crossed the LoC to carry out surgical strikes 'for the first time' under the Modi government.



explicitly speaking only about reprisals for terrorist attacks and not about previous wars. My remarks were preceded by a reference to the several attacks that have taken place in recent

years alone, during which previous Indian responses were both restrained and constrained by our responsible respect for the LoC and the IB," he further said.

Monuments of corruption: Projects worth Rs 900 crore lie abandoned in Chhattisgarh

The Rs 100 crore CBD Mall, locked since 2019, is a glaring example. A Rs 10 crore bus stand has been gathering dust for eight years. A Rs 8 crore hospital is still not operational.

New Delhi. In the heart of Naya Raipur, a gleaming skywalk built at a staggering cost of crores stands deserted. Below it, there are no commuters, no busy footfalls, only the echo of mismanagement and waste. This isn't an isolated story, but a recurring theme across Chhattisgarh.

Over the past decade, the Chhattisgarh government has spent more than Rs 1,000 crore on skywalks, luxury malls, bus stands, auditoriums and ministerial bungalows. Yet, most of these grand projects have become empty monuments to poor planning and alleged corruption.

The Rs 100 crore CBD Mall, locked since 2019, is a glaring example. A Rs 10 crore bus stand has been gathering dust for eight years. A Rs 8 crore hospital, meant to serve the poor, is still not operational.

Across the state, numerous such structures, intended to benefit the public, now lie abandoned, caught in a web of inefficiency and graft, reportedly enriching contractors and politicians, with



total estimated losses nearing Rs 900 crore. Locals are frustrated. "This skywalk is a waste. It's not useful at all," said one resident. "In fact, it's unsafe for women. It's become an adda for goons." Another echoed similar sentiments, stressing that the projects have failed to serve any real purpose.

Urban planners argue that these projects were never meant to meet real needs.

Ex-aide of Congress leader held in Rajasthan for 'spying', visited Pak 6-7 times

New Delhi. A government employee and former personal assistant to a senior Congress leader was detained on Wednesday for allegedly spying for Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI). The Rajasthan CID and other intelligence special teams from Jaipur detained the individual, Sakur Khan Mangaliya, from a government department office in Jaisalmer. Khan is a resident of Jaisalmer district, and is currently employed in the state's employment office. Shakoor Khan was on duty in the district administration control room of the during Operation Sindoor.

Officials suspect Khan of being involved in suspicious activities. Intelligence agencies had been monitoring him for some time after receiving input about his alleged connections with a Pakistani Embassy official and possible links with the ISI. "Based on inputs from higher headquarters about his involvement in suspicious activities, we have detained him for verification and questioning," said Sudhir Chaudhary, Superintendent of Police, confirming the detention.

Sakur Khan earlier worked as a personal assistant to Shale Mohammad, a former minister in the Congress government. Mohammad and Khan belong to the same village. Sources said the intelligence team has found multiple unknown Pakistani numbers on Khan's mobile phone. He has reportedly failed to explain the presence of these numbers. During questioning, Khan also admitted to visiting Pakistan 6-7 times in the past. According to officials, no military-related videos or sensitive content have been found on his mobile phone so far. However, many posts on the device were found deleted. His financial records, including two bank accounts, are also being examined by intelligence agencies.

"There was surveillance on his movements for some time. His links with an officer in the Pakistan Embassy and the possibility of connections with a Pakistani intelligence agency prompted the intelligence team from Jaipur to take action," sources added. Khan is expected to be taken to the Central Investigation Centre in Jaipur for further interrogation.

Crashes, Cattle & Chaos: recipe for disaster

NEW DELHI. The roads of Delhi—some newly paved, others worn by decades of overuse—tell a story of chaos, carelessness and chronic neglect. Behind the rising toll of road accidents in the national capital lies a mix of poor infrastructure, risky driving behaviours, enforcement gaps and civic apathy. From overspeeding on major arterial roads to stray cattle appearing out of nowhere, residents, traffic officials and experts point to multiple overlapping factors that make Delhi's streets a dangerous place for both drivers and pedestrians.

Crashes Rooted in Behaviour

A senior Delhi Police official said that one of the most pressing concerns is non-compliance with basic traffic rules. "Many people do not wear helmets, drive under the influence of alcohol and over-speed in areas where traffic is light. There are even bikers who ride on footpaths, creating safety hazards for pedestrians," the official said. These violations often go unchecked in many parts of the city, with commuters offering excuses rather than accepting accountability when confronted by traffic personnel. Data from Delhi Police reflects a sobering picture: in 2023, there were 5,834 reported road crashes, up from 5,652 in 2022. While the number of fatalities remained relatively consistent—1,457 deaths in 2023 compared to 1,461 the previous year—the figures underscore a persistent crisis. Injuries rose to 5,470 in 2023, from 5,201 in 2022.

Key Problem Areas

Several key roads in the city have been identified as high-risk zones including Ring Road, Outer Ring Road, GTR Road, Rohtak Road, NH-8, Bawana Road, and Mathura Road among them. One particularly dangerous stretch is the Ring Road near Lajpat Nagar, a busy segment flanked by residential areas and markets.

miles for water, children studying in dilapidated schools, and patients waiting outside crumbling health centres.

As these monuments of neglect stand in silent testimony, political blame games have begun. Congress spokesperson Amit Srivastava blamed the previous BJP government, stating, "These projects were started under BJP rule, which focused more on glitz structures than real development."

Countering this, PWD Minister and Deputy CM Arun Sao said, "The Congress has been in power for years now. Why haven't they put these buildings to use? Instead of fixing issues, they keep blaming others."

Today, these deserted structures are not just reminders of wasted public money but also symbols of flawed governance. As Chhattisgarh's citizens continue to struggle for basic needs, these vacant buildings stand as stark indictments of misplaced priorities and systemic corruption.

TIME TO Treat your Tootsies

Going sans pedicure during winter is no big deal as your feet are usually covered. But this is the season when you end up wearing strappy sandals, exposing your feet to the scorching



heat and elements that be. Not only are you exposing your tootsies to pollutants galore, it's also a time when sweat and grime can make a heady cocktail and lead to blisters — never a pretty sight. Here's what all you could do...

Happy feet, happy you

For well-kept feet, you don't need to spend a bomb on salon pedicures. It's easy to get happy feet at home...

Always keep your feet clean. This will avoid problems like smelly feet, fungal infection or eczema. Wash your feet thoroughly as soon as you get home, and pat them dry. Moisturize daily.

Scrub your feet once or twice a week to get rid of tanning and dead cells. To prepare natural scrub, mix together 2 tsp sugar, 1 tsp lemon juice and 1 tsp coconut oil. Apply the scrub all over your feet and gently massage for 3-4 minutes till the sugar granules get dissolved. Wash it off with water.

Use foot powder before putting on socks to avoid smelly feet. Wear cotton socks, as it absorbs sweat better.

Use sunscreen before going out, especially when wearing open footwear.

Keep toe nails clean and trimmed. Cut the

nails straight to avoid ingrown nails.

Weekend foot ritual
In a bucket, fill lukewarm water, some rose petals and raw milk. Soak your feet in it. Raw milk contains lactic acid which exfoliates the skin and milk proteins provide nourishment. After soaking for 10 minutes, massage feet with rose petals. Wash with water and pat dry. Finish by applying a heavy-duty moisturizer.

8 Benefits of Rose water



The delicate rose has so much more to it than just its beauty and fragrance. An essential component of various beauty products and regimes, its derivative, rose water, has as many benefits. A look at few of them...

1. It helps in softening the skin by hydrating, moisturising and revitalising it.
2. Its antioxidant properties helps strengthen skin cells and regenerate skin tissues. It also keeps wrinkles aside.
3. Its moisturising and nourishing properties help in enhancing one's quality of hair. In addition to this, it helps treat dandruff and slight scalp inflammations.
4. Before Indians used medicated eye drops, it has often been used to clean and soothe one's eyes. Also, it helps prevent and cure dark circles and puffiness around the eyes.
5. It helps in treating skin rashes caused due to the scorching heat. Spraying it helps relieve sunburns and itchy skin.
6. Adding few drops of rose water to your regular creams can be used for its moisturising properties
7. It can also be used as a cleanser to get rid of the dirt and dead skin off your face.
8. Finally, it can be used to treat acne. Mix lemon juice and rose water in equal quantities, apply it and keep it on for half an hour before finally cleaning it with water helps reduce acne. Following this regime for two to three weeks creates visible effects in reducing scars and blemishes.

The rain may fall gently on your window pane, but it's far from being kind to your hair. In fact, it is during the monsoon season that hair gets dry and brittle and more susceptible to breakage. But a spa need not always be a solution to regaining hair health back. With a few of these home-made masks, your tresses will regain their bounce and shine.

1) Banana-coconut milk mask:

For hair softness

Bananas are known to have immense value to your diet, but this time try them on your scalp, too. Mashed with a tablespoon of coconut milk, they add shine and softness to your hair. Apply the mask for about 20 minutes and rinse off.

2) Avocado-olive oil mask:

To hydrate the hair

Ripe avocados are just what you need to nourish the hair. Mix this with a little olive oil in a bowl and leave it on the hair to revitalise it. Apply this and leave it on for half an hour and wash off with warm water.

3) Papaya-hibiscus:

For split ends

Mash some ripe papaya (without the skin). Add some hibiscus juice to this. Apply the paste on your hair.

Try these Hair mask

**to beat hair
problems in the
monsoon**

Rinse off with warm water.

4) Curry leaves mask: To stop hair loss
Suffering from falling hair? Use curry leaves to help. The leaves are packed with beta-carotene and proteins and have vitamin B, which restores colour to the hair by strengthening the roots. Boil the leaves with your hair oil. Let it cool a little. Apply and wash off.

Which tax form should salaried individuals choose: ITR-1 or ITR-2

New Delhi. As the income-tax filing season for 2025-26 commences, salaried individuals face the decision of choosing the appropriate tax form between ITR-1 and ITR-2. Understanding the eligibility criteria and recent updates is crucial for ensuring accurate tax filing.

The Income Tax Department has notified all ITR forms earlier this month, prompting individuals to start preparing their documents, although Form 16s are typically released in the month of June. Notably, the changes introduced in the recent Budget have introduced modifications in tax slabs and capital gains tax regulations, affecting the selection of tax forms this year.

WHAT IS ITR-1 (SAHAJ)?

ITR-1, also known as Sahaj, is designed for resident individuals whose income does not exceed Rs 50 lakh. This simple form is appropriate for those whose income sources are limited to salary, pension, one house property, and income from savings or fixed deposits, dividends, and family pension. Additionally, taxpayers with long-term capital gains (LTCG) up to Rs 1.25 lakh from listed equity shares or equity mutual funds under Section 112A can utilise this form for the current financial year. The ease of use is further enhanced by pre-filled personal information and income details, allowing for online verification against documents like Form-16 and bank account statements.

New pension rules for PSU employees: Key things to know

New Delhi. The central government has amended pension regulations that could have major implications for employees who move from government departments to public sector undertakings (PSUs).

Under the newly notified Central Civil Services (Pension) Amendment Rules, 2025, any PSU employee dismissed or removed after absorption due to misconduct could forfeit their PSU-related benefits and pension entitlements earned during their earlier government service. The change, incorporated under Rule 37(29C) of the CCS (Pension) Rules, 2021, marks a toughening of the disciplinary framework. Previously, employees absorbed into PSUs retained pension benefits from their time in government service, even if they were later dismissed from the PSU. That protection is now gone.

The revised rule states that if an absorbed PSU employee is terminated for misconduct, their entire pension, both from PSU service and previous government service, can be forfeited.

However, such decisions will not be absolute. They must undergo review by the administrative ministry responsible for the concerned PSU, adding a layer of checks and balances to the process. The rules also align PSU dismissals with the standards applied to government employees under Rules 7, 8, 41, and 44 of the CCS Pension Rules, ensuring consistency in how disciplinary actions impact retirement benefits. This amendment applies to employees who were initially appointed to government service on or before December 31, 2003. It is being seen as an attempt to reinforce accountability among PSU staff, signalling that misconduct at any point in an employee's career can have long-lasting financial consequences.

Radico Khaitan withdraws brand name of new single-malt whisky after objections

New Delhi. Radico Khaitan, one of India's leading liquor manufacturers, has decided to withdraw the 'Trikal' brand name from its new range of single-malt whisky following concerns over religious sentiments. The company announced the move in a stock exchange filing on Wednesday, 28 May 2025. "We understand that concerns have been raised regarding the brand name. As a responsible and sensitive organisation, post internal review we have decided to withdraw the brand," the company said in its filing. Radico Khaitan emphasised that the decision was not merely commercial but a mark of respect for public sentiment. "This is not just a business decision, it is a gesture of respect,



reflection, and our unwavering commitment to honour the sentiments of our people and our country." The matter escalated after the excise department in Uttarakhand stated that the company had not received any approval to manufacture, register, or sell the whisky in the state. "The whisky has neither been allowed to be manufactured in the state, nor has any approval been granted for registration or sale," Excise Commissioner Harichandra Semwal told news agency ANI.

According to the company, the name 'Trikal' was inspired by a Sanskrit term meaning "three times"—the past, present, and future. Radico Khaitan said the brand was intended as a tribute to India's timeless spirit and craftsmanship. An official spokesperson elaborated: "The name 'Trikal' comes from Sanskrit and means 'three times' referring to the past, present, and future."

Crisil Pegs India's GDP Growth At 6.5% In Fiscal 2026

The India Meteorological Department expects an above-normal monsoon this fiscal (106 per cent of long-period average), which bodes well for agricultural production and inflation.

New Delhi. Crisil on Thursday forecast India's gross domestic product (GDP) growth at 6.5 per cent in fiscal 2026, adding that improving domestic consumption is likely to support industrial activity. "We expect domestic consumption demand to improve driven by healthy agricultural growth, easing inflation supporting discretionary spend,



rate cuts by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)'s Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) and income tax relief this fiscal," the global ratings agency said in a note. The India Meteorological Department expects an above-normal monsoon this fiscal (106 per cent of long-period average), which bodes well for agricultural production and inflation. Furthermore, according to Crisil Intelligence, crude oil prices are expected to remain subdued this fiscal, averaging \$65-\$70 per barrel compared

with an average of \$78.8 per barrel in the previous fiscal. "We expect the MPC to cut the repo rate by another 50 basis points (bps) this fiscal, after 50 bps cuts until April. Bank lending rates have begun easing, which should support domestic demand," according to the note. Overall, Crisil forecasts gross domestic product (GDP) growth at 6.5 per cent in fiscal 2026, with external headwinds posing downside risks. In the month of significant tariff announcements by the United States (US), IIP growth slowed in

April. Production slowed in certain export-oriented sectors (including pharmaceuticals and chemicals), while front-loading exports benefitted others (machinery and readymade garments). Among consumer goods, durables performed better than non-durables. Industrial goods recorded a mixed performance, with output growth in capital goods picked up sharply along with a mild acceleration in intermediate goods. Performance of export-oriented sectors was mixed in April, despite the sharp improvement in merchandise exports (9.0 per cent in April in nominal terms vs 0.7 per cent in the previous month). There was also a 6.4 per cent increase in the production of consumer durables such as electronic goods, refrigerators, and TVs during November, reflecting the higher consumer demand for these items amid rising incomes, according to data released by the Ministry of Statistics. The infrastructure sector clocked a growth of 4 per cent on the back of big-ticket government projects being implemented in the highways, railways and ports sectors.

Bank Of Baroda Cheque Will Not Get Cleared If Account Holders...



New Delhi. State-owned Bank of Baroda (BoB) has made a major announcement for its customers, that will impact clearance of cheques.

The public sector bank has asked customers to provide key details of cheques before handing over to the beneficiaries so that Bank at the time of presentation for payment in CTS clearing / Branch / InterSol (as well as on counter) can pass the High Value cheques without any re-confirmation phone call by their base Branch. Customers are requested to provide key details of cheques before handing over to the beneficiaries so that Bank at the time of presentation for payment in CTS clearing / Branch / InterSol (as well as on counter) can pass the High Value cheques without any re-confirmation phone call by their base Branch. Cheque of Rs 50,000 &

above can be confirmed through Positive Pay but it is mandatory for Clearing cheques of Rs 5 Lakhs & above. All such clearing cheques are being returned w.e.f. 23.01.2023, if Positive Pay Confirmation is not provided. Subsequently, all cheque transactions (including Branch/InterSol) of Rs 5 Lakhs & above without Positive pay confirmation are being returned w.e.f. 07.07.2023 to prevent frauds. Bank of Baroda Positive Pay

Threshold Reduced Bank of Baroda has said that to further curb high value cheque related frauds, it has been decided to bring down the mandatory threshold limit of Positive Pay Confirmation for all CTS clearing cheques to Rs 2 Lakhs & above from the existing limit of Rs 5 lakhs & above in a phased manner as mentioned below:

1. Rs 4 Lakhs & above: From 01 May 2025.
2. Rs 3 Lakhs & above: From 01 August 2025.
3. Rs 2 Lakhs & above: From 01 November 2025.

Available Modes/Channels for confirmation are bobworld (Mobile Banking), bobworld Internet (Net Banking), through Base Branch, SMS on 8422009988, WhatsApp Banking (8433 888 777) and Bank's website, BoB said.

Asian shares and US futures jump after court rules against Trump's sweeping tariffs

New Delhi. Asian shares have advanced and US futures jumped after a federal court blocked President Donald Trump from imposing sweeping tariffs on imports under an emergency-powers law.

The court found the 1977 International Emergency Economic Powers Act, which Trump has cited as his basis for ordering massive increases in import duties, does not authorise the use of tariffs. A three-judge panel ruled on several lawsuits arguing Trump exceeded his authority, casting doubt on trade policies that have jolted global financial markets, frustrated trade partners and raised uncertainty over the outlook for inflation and the global economy. The Trump administration filed an appeal, and it was unclear if the White House will respond to the ruling by pausing all of its emergency power

tariffs in the interim. Many of Trump's double-digit tariff hikes are paused for up to 90 days to allow time for trade negotiations, but the uncertainty over their eventual outcome has stymied businesses and left consumers wary about what lies ahead. "Just when traders thought they'd seen every twist in the tariff saga, the gavel dropped like a lightning bolt over the Pacific," Stephen Innes of SPI Asset Management said in a commentary. The ruling was, at the least, "a brief respite before the next thunderclap." The future for the S&P 500 was up 1.6% while that for the Dow Jones Industrial Average gained 1.2%. Japan's Nikkei 225 index jumped 1.5% to 38,263.36. American's largest ally in Asia has been appealing to Trump to cancel the tariffs he has ordered on imports from Japan and to

also stop 25% tariffs on steel, aluminum and autos. The ruling also pushed the dollar sharply higher against the Japanese yen. It was trading at 146.06 yen early Thursday, up from 144.87 yen late Wednesday. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 gained 0.3% to 8,418.90. In South Korea, which like Japan relies heavily on exports to the U.S., the Kospi surged 1.4% to 2,707.77. Shares also were helped by the Bank of Korea's decision to cut its key interest rate to 2.5% from 2.75%, to ease pressure on the economy. On Wednesday, U.S. stocks cooled, with the S&P 500 down 0.6% at 5,888.55. It's still within 4.2% of its record after charging higher amid hopes that the worst of the turmoil caused by Trump's trade war may have passed. It had been roughly 20% below the mark last month.

Indian markets open on a positive note amid positive global cues

CHENNAI. On Thursday, May 29, Indian stock markets opened on a positive note, buoyed by favorable global cues and a rebound in investor sentiment. At 9:18 AM, Nifty50 was trading at 24,868.00, up 116 points or 0.47%, and BSE Sensex was at 81,753.20, up 441 points.

500 points GIFT Nifty futures indicated a strong start, trading 82.50 points higher at 24,830, suggesting a positive opening for the Nifty 50 index. Asian markets also showed strength, with major indices trading higher, reflecting a global risk-on sentiment. Sectoral performance was strong, with banks and financial services stocks showing positive momentum. Pharmaceuticals also witnessed buying interest, continuing their recent outperformance. Real Estate stocks gained traction, supported by positive sector-specific developments. Key stocks to watch include IndusInd Bank, IRCTC, and SAIL, among others. Deepak Nitrite and Bajaj Auto are expected to be active based on recent news and analyst recommendations. The Nifty 50 index is approaching key resistance levels around



22,950-23,000. A breakout above these levels could signal further upside. Immediate support is seen around 22,800-22,700, with a fall below these levels potentially leading to increased selling pressure. Currency and Commodities

The Indian Rupee opened slightly weaker at 83.35 against the US Dollar. Crude oil prices remained stable, with Brent crude trading around \$84 per barrel, amid ongoing geopolitical concerns. Overall, the Indian markets are poised for a positive session, supported by favorable global cues and sectoral strength. Investors should monitor key technical levels and sector-specific developments for potential trading opportunities. Disclaimer: The stocks mentioned in this report are not a recommendation by TNIE. Investors are advised to use their own market intelligence for investment decisions.

IndusInd Bank's Stock In Turmoil As SEBI Bans CEO From Securities Market

Mumbai. The stock of IndusInd Bank has declined 11 per cent since March 10 following the bank's disclosure of suspected fraud and concerns over insider trading. On March 10, the bank's then Chief Executive Officer Suman Kathpalia said during an analyst call that these derivative trades took place over five to seven years ago and came to light when the bank took the review of the portfolio after the RBI's accounting framework, which was identified by September and October 2024. Soon after, the bank started an internal review in the matter and informed the regulator about it. The bank had also appointed an external agency to validate its internal findings. On Thursday, the bank's shares were trading at Rs 813.95 apiece, up Rs 8.80 or 1.09 per cent. In the latest development, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has barred former Kathpalia and four others from dealing in the share market. SEBI said they were aware of unpublished price sensitive information about the lender's derivative trades. IndusInd



Bank's former executive director and deputy CEO, Arun Khurana, along with head of treasury operations Sushant Sourav, head of GMG operations Rohan Jathanna, and chief administrative officer of consumer banking operations Anil Marco Rao are the other officials named in the order. The individuals have been restrained from buying, selling or dealing in securities, either directly or indirectly, in any manner until further

orders, the SEBI said in an interim order. Last week, Ashok P. Hinduja, Chairman, IndusInd International Holdings Limited (IIHL) which is the promoter of IndusInd Bank, went into damage-control mode following the announcement of the fraud in the bank that has plunged the lender into a Rs 2,236 crore loss for the January-March quarter. "Though the capital adequacy of the Bank is quite healthy, for business growth, should any further

equity be required, IIHL, as the promoter of IBL, remains committed to supporting the Bank, as it has done over the past 30 years," Hinduja said in a statement.

The RBI has launched investigations into the accounting discrepancies at IndusInd Bank. IndusInd Bank said that its Board suspects a fraud involving certain employees, who played a significant role in the lender's accounting and financial reporting, and has directed all necessary actions to be taken under applicable laws, including reporting the matter to regulatory authorities and investigative agencies. IndusInd Bank's internal audit department found on May 20 that Rs 172.58 crore had been incorrectly recorded as fee income in the Microfinance (MFI) business over three quarters ending the December quarter, which has since been reversed in the fourth quarter of FY25.

The disclosure follows the abrupt sacking of the IndusInd Bank CEO last month after widespread irregularities were discovered in its foreign exchange derivatives and microfinance portfolio.

NEWS BOX

IPL playoffs: Iyer's tact up against RCB's flair in battle of equals

CHANDIGARH: Shreyas Iyer's inspiring leadership will face its toughest test yet when Punjab Kings host an equally upbeat Royal Challengers Bengaluru in Qualifier 1 of the Indian Premier League here on Thursday. Having earned the cushion of a top-two finish, one can expect both teams to have a no holds barred approach knowing they will get another shot at reaching the final even if they come up short on the opening night of the play-offs. Punjab Kings find themselves in unfamiliar territory having made the playoffs for the first time since 2014 but they are not carrying the baggage of the past in the Iyer-Ricky Ponting (head coach) era. RCB, on the other hand, are way too familiar with heartbreaks of the knock-out stages and like every season, are hoping to end their title drought. In their own words, the job is only half done for both title contenders.

The Iyer-Ponting partnership has resulted in a stellar turnaround for Punjab Kings, who have finally cracked the consistency code after more than a decade of under-performance. The combination has managed to get the best out of the players making them



a well-oiled unit. The opening duo of Prabhhsimran Singh and rookie Priyansh Arya has laid the platform for the likes of Iyer and Josh Inglis to build. Finisher Shashank Singh continues to improve his game with each passing season and more recently, Australian import Marcus Stoinis finding his range with the bat makes the batting look more formidable. The concerns lie in the bowling department, especially after the departure of South African Marco Jansen, who has returned home for national duty. Jansen bowled the crucial overs both in the powerplay and death and the team will certainly miss him on Thursday night.

Kyle Jamieson showed promise in his debut for the franchise but will need to bowl better upfront to make an impact.

Main Selector Nahin Hoon': Gautam Gambhir Breaks Silence On Shreyas Iyer's Exclusion From Test Squad Against England

NEW DELHI. Just a year ago, Shreyas Iyer's cricketing career looked uncertain. He was dropped from the BCCI's central contract list and left out of the national team. Many thought his time at the top was over. But instead of giving up, Iyer went back to domestic cricket and made a strong statement. He led Mumbai to a Ranji Trophy win in the 2023-24 season, added an Irani Cup title, and lifted the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy as well. Iyer then had a dream season in the Indian Premier League (IPL). As captain of Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR), he guided the team to their first IPL title in 10 years. This was followed by another big achievement helping India win the ICC Champions Trophy, where he was the top scorer for India and second overall in the tournament. After all this, Iyer took over as captain of Punjab Kings and led them to the top of the IPL table.

**Left Out of England Tour**

Despite his incredible year, Iyer was not selected in India's Test squad for the upcoming tour of England. His omission came as a shock to many fans and experts, especially after the retirement of Virat Kohli, and the exit of Rohit Sharma and Ravichandran Ashwin from Test cricket. With India looking to build a new red-ball team under captain Shubman Gill, Iyer seemed like a perfect fit. But the selectors thought otherwise.

Gautam Gambhir Responds

At an event in Delhi, former cricketer Gautam Gambhir was asked why Iyer wasn't picked. He replied simply, "Main selector nahin hoon" (I am not the selector). This was seen by some as a subtle comment on Ajit Agarkar, the BCCI's Chief Selector.

Star India all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja recently recalled his first meeting with MS Dhoni from 2005 and revealed how he was hesitant to meet him. Jadeja has played under Dhoni both for India and Chennai Super Kings (CSK).

NEW DELHI. Star India all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja recently recalled his first meeting with MS Dhoni in 2005. Jadeja made his debut under Dhoni back in 2009 and went on to flourish as a true all-rounder across all three formats. The Saurashtra-born cricketer emerged as the 'trump card' of the legendary India captain, often providing him with crucial breakthroughs and playing match-winning knocks down the order. Recently, Jadeja recalled his first meeting with Dhoni in 2005 during the



Challengers Trophy 2005 in Chennai and mentioned how he was hesitant to go up and talk to him. Jadeja even revealed that he's still hesitant to talk to Dhoni when the latter isn't in the mood. "I first met MS Dhoni during the Challengers Trophy 2005 in Chennai. I was coming from Mumbai and I guess he was also coming from there in the same flight. I was sitting in the economy class and he was sitting in the business class.

Everybody was saying Dhoni is sitting in front there but I was hesitant to meet him. Even now, I still get hesitant to meet him when he is not in the mood. He doesn't say anything but it's clearly visible on his face that he is not in the mood," Jadeja said in the latest episode of *Kutti Stories* with Ash on R Ashwin's YouTube channel. Furthermore, Jadeja disclosed how he was supposed to go to the team hotel with Dhoni but after the

latter dropped his phone he managed to sneak out alone.

"At that time, I was a kid, so it was like he was MS Dhoni and when I saw him on the flight, he had long hair. Our manager said that we have to go with Dhoni from the airport to the team hotel. I was hesitant and thought, how can I go with him? Luckily, his phone got dropped on the floor and he had to wait. I thought this was the chance to get out of there, at that time I used to think about what I would talk to him, he is MS Dhoni," he concluded. Jadeja has also played for Chennai Super Kings (CSK) under Dhoni's captaincy and also played a pivotal role in their three triumphs in 2018, 2021 and 2023. He scored ten runs off the last two balls against Mohit Sharma in the 2023 final, helping his team clinch their fifth IPL title. However, Jadeja didn't have a memorable season in 2025 as he scored 301 runs and picked just 10 wickets from 18 matches.

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. Plus, keep track of the top contenders for the IPL Orange Cap and Purple Cap. Don't miss a moment!

French Open: Elena Rybakina thumps Iva Jovic, Frances Tiafoe, Holger Rune advance

NEW DELHI. Elena Rybakina eased into the third round of the French Open after beating Iva Jovic of the United States in straight sets. On Wednesday, May 28, Rybakina took an hour and 15 minutes to win the second-round match 6-3, 6-3 on Court Simonne-Mathieu. It was the second time Rybakina beat Jovic this year after her 6-0, 6-3 win at the Australian Open. The 12th seed stormed into her fifth straight third round at Roland Garros with her 25th win of 2025. Rybakina dropped her serve once, but broke Jovic's serve four times to have the last laugh. Rybakina has played in two quarterfinals of the French Open, but the Kazakhstani said that instead of looking too far ahead, she wanted to focus on match by match. Well for now I'm focusing match by match. I definitely want to improve the result. I want to go further in the draw, but we'll see how it goes this year. I'll try to do my best. Let's see how it's gonna go," Rybakina said.

"It was a long day. Waited a long time to play the match. Overall I'm happy with the win. It wasn't easy. A bit cold, a bit of wind. She



the other hand, will be up against Tereza Valentova of Czechia. Gael Monfils recently became the oldest to win a match at the French Open, and he will face Jack Draper in the second round. Draper recently made his debut in the ATP Top 5 and also won his maiden match in the

French Open after beating Mattia Bellucci in four sets. 18-year-old Mirra Andreeva, who has won two WTA 1000 titles this year, will face Ashlyn Krueger in the second round. Paula Badosa rallied back from a set down to beat Naomi Osaka and will next cross swords with Elena-Gabriela Ruse.

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**Many Punjabis don't support PBKS and prefer other teams: Arshdeep Singh**

India and Punjab Kings' (PBKS) seamer Arshdeep Singh has said that PBKS don't get support from Punjab while replying to a fan's comment on Snapchat.

NEW DELHI. India and Punjab Kings' (PBKS) seamer Arshdeep Singh recently said that several fans don't support PBKS despite being from Punjab. Punjab Kings are in the middle of a brilliant season in the Indian Premier League 2025 (IPL 2025) as they've qualified for the playoffs for the first time since 2014. Captain Shreyas Iyer has helped script a remarkable turnaround for Punjab as the team has performed collectively as a unit and finished at the top



of the points table. Despite Punjab's brilliant show this season, Arshdeep said that there has been a lack of support for their team from Punjab while replying to a fan's comment on Snapchat. He urged people to show support for their team as they head into the playoffs. "Thank you for supporting us. You're not Punjabi but you're still supporting Punjab, whereas there are a lot of people who don't

support Punjab and have different favourite teams. I would like to urge them to support Punjab, their state, their team, and come in big numbers to see us win," said Arshdeep while replying to a fan's comment on Snapchat.

Arshdeep has been the most successful bowler for Punjab in the ongoing season, with 18 wickets from 13 wickets at an average of 23 and an economy of 8.56. The left-arm seamer has been successful in providing crucial breakthroughs for his team and will be eager to continue his form going ahead into the season. Punjab have won nine out of the 14 matches played in the league stage this season and topped the table with 19 points. They will next take on Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) in the Qualifier 1 at Maharaja Yadvindra Singh International Cricket Stadium, Mullanpur, Chandigarh. The winner of the fixture will straightaway qualify for the final set to be played on June 3 at Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad.

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IPL 2025: Can RCB leave the past behind and show consistency in the playoffs

IPL 2025: Royal Challengers Bengaluru have stormed into the playoffs and secured a top-two finish. However, the real test now lies ahead - as the playoffs have always been the stage where their temperament comes under scrutiny.

NEW DELHI. Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) have been a dominant force in the Indian Premier League (IPL) this season. Remarkably, they've won seven away matches, no other team with seven or more away games has maintained a 100 per cent win record. This stellar away form has been key to their playoff qualification. Despite losing their first three home games, RCB bounced back by excelling on the road, giving themselves crucial breathing space. Their dramatic chase of 228 against the Lucknow Super Giants - now the third-highest successful run chase in IPL history -



added to their momentum and confidence. Jitesh Sharma was the star of that night, smashing 85 off just 33 balls at the Ekana Stadium. With the stakes high - potentially having to go through the Eliminator - his explosive knock helped RCB secure a top-two finish. RCB have a modest record in the IPL playoffs, winning just 4 of their 10 matches since the format was introduced in 2011. Since reaching the final in 2016 against Sunrisers Hyderabad, their playoff campaigns have largely been disappointing. In their last five playoff appearances, RCB have suffered four

defeats. Their sole win came in the Eliminator of the 2022 edition, where they beat the Lucknow Super Giants by 14 runs at Eden Gardens, Kolkata. Notably, in all four losses, RCB batted first, only to see their opponents chase down the targets with relative ease. Last season, RCB staged an impressive comeback by winning six matches on the trot. Once staring at early elimination, they defied the odds to secure a playoff spot. However, their resurgence ended in disappointment as they lost the Eliminator to Rajasthan Royals by four wickets. In 2025, RCB enter the Qualifier 1 for only the third time in their history. Their previous appearances came in 2011 and 2016. In 2011, they were beaten by Mumbai Indians by 43 runs at Chepauk. In contrast, they emerged victorious in 2016, defeating the now-defunct UJAT Lions by four wickets. RCB have seen several standout performers this season. With Phil Salt, Jitesh Sharma, skipper Rajat Patidar, and Virat Kohli in fine form, their batting lineup has looked formidable.



Nargis Fakhri's

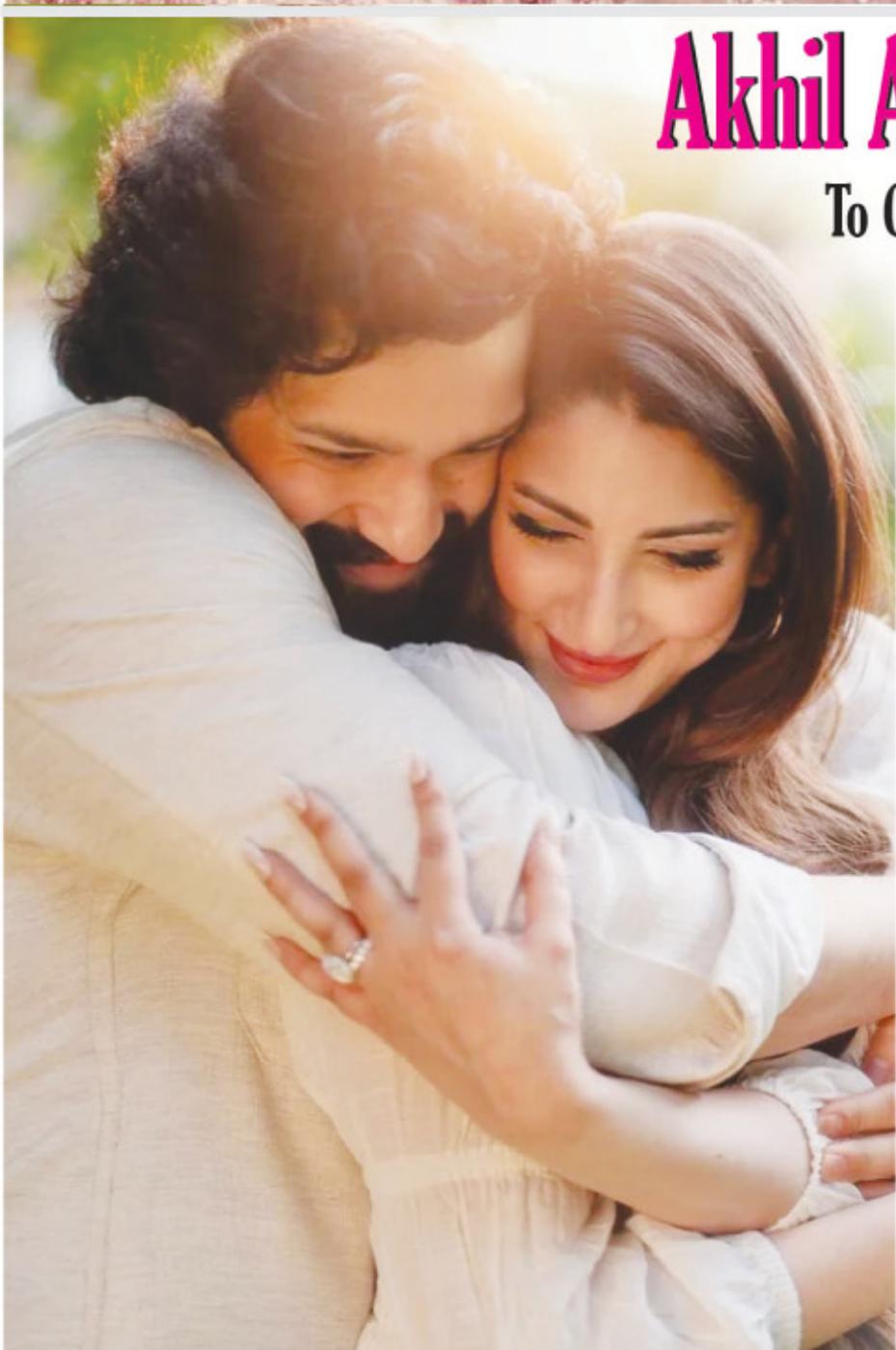
Inspirational Posts Are Back To Pump Up Housefull 5 Fans

Nargis Fakhri often uses her social media handle to share inspiring and positive thoughts with her fans. As she gears up for the release of Housefull 5, some of her older posts continue to catch attention again as they seem meaningful to fans. A message she shared in 2021 offers hope and strength to many people. In it, she talked about growing stronger through challenges, becoming smarter from mistakes and finding happiness after sadness. She also reminded everyone not to give up in any situation. In another post, Nargis shared that some might "love the idea of you" but may not be ready to accept the "reality of you."

In November 2021, the Rockstar actress had shared a picture of herself from Dubai on Instagram and wrote, "I am stronger because I had to be, I am smarter because of my mistakes, happier because of the sadness I have known and now wiser because I learned. No one is perfect and we all go through experiences that shape us in different ways. But one thing you must never do, you must never give up."

In another touching post from October 2021, Nargis Fakhri shared a personal video of herself and wrote, "Soon you will realise that many people will love the idea of you but will lack the maturity of handling the reality of you. Too many people are focused on the outside of a human and create a fantasy of who they are, then become disappointed with the person when they don't live up to that fantasy that was created. To love the surface will only last so long as we all will grow old and wrinkly. Love deeper for that will last a lifetime."

Housefull 5 will be Nargis Fakhri's comeback to the big screen after a gap of two years. She was last seen in Shiv Shastri Balboa, featuring Anupam Kher, and it was released in 2023. In the upcoming Tarun Mansukhani directorial, the actress will be sharing screen with Akshay Kumar, Riteish Deshmukh, Abhishek Bachchan, Sanjay Dutt, Fardeen Khan, Shreyas Talpade, Nana Patekar, Jackie Shroff, Dino Morea, Jacqueline Fernandez, Chitrangada Singh, Sonam Bajwa, Soundarya Sharma, Chunky Pandey, Nikitin Dheer and Johnny Lever. Phew! The film also marks Punjabi actress Sonam Bajwa's Bollywood debut.



Akhil Akkineni, Zainab Ravidjee

To Get Married This June | Deets Inside

Akhil Akkineni, Nagarjuna's younger son, is all set to marry Zainab Ravidjee. The two got engaged last November, just before Naga Chaitanya and Sobhita Dhulipala's wedding. Since then, they've been in the spotlight, and now fans are even more excited as their wedding date has finally been confirmed. The actor will marry Zainab Ravidjee on June 6, 2025. Reports say that wedding preparations are in full swing. The couple plans to exchange vows in the presence of close family members, friends, and prominent personalities from the film and political worlds.

According to reports, Akhil might get married at his family-owned Annapurna Studios in Hyderabad. There's also talk that it could be a destination wedding in Rajasthan. However, neither Akhil nor the Akkineni family has officially confirmed anything yet.

The wedding is expected to be a private event, similar to Akhil's brother Naga Chaitanya's ceremony. But there are rumours it might be a destination wedding, with a big reception later in Hyderabad if they choose another place. Although nothing is officially confirmed yet, fans are excited to find out what the couple has planned.

Akhil Akkineni's future wife, Zainab Ravidjee, is a talented artist famous for her beautiful and abstract paintings. She is the daughter of well-known industrialist Zulfi Ravidjee.

Born in Hyderabad and now living in Mumbai, the 39-year-old artist has balanced her creative work with a short acting career. She acted in MF Hussain's film Meenaxi: A Tale of Three Cities alongside Tabu and Kunal Kapoor, playing the role of Naghma's friend.

Nagarjuna first shared the news of Akhil and Zainab's engagement on social media last year. Posting heartfelt photos of the couple dressed in white, he expressed his joy, saying, "We are thrilled



to announce the engagement of our son, @AkhilAkkineni8, to our daughter-in-law-to-be Zainab Ravidjee! We couldn't be happier to welcome Zainab into our family. Please join us in congratulating the young couple and wishing them a lifetime filled with love, joy, and countless blessings."

Akhil will next appear in the movie Lenin, directed by Murali Kishore Abburu. The film features Sreeleela as the female lead. This action drama is set to release in November 2025.

Fans Mob Chitrangada Singh As She Promotes Housefull 5



Housefull 5 trailer is making all the right noises. Be it the storyline or the ensemble cast, it has ticked all the boxes. Let's not forget what the makers said, it's time to "get ready for chaos, comedy and a killer twist" on the "most unpredictable cruise ever." The Tarun Mansukhani directorial will release on June 6. And, the cast and crew of Housefull 5 are super busy with the promotion campaigns. Now, a video of Chitrangada Singh, who is part of the starcast, thanking fans and well-wishers for all the support and love has surfaced online. The clip was recorded after a press event. Here, Chitrangada, surrounded by a sea of fans, is seen making her way to the car. At one point, there was barely any space left for her to stand properly. But she didn't lose her cool and spoke about Housefull 5's storyline. She even urged fans to watch the movie in theatres.

She said, "It's going to be bigger, better, crazier and now I'm in it. I'm very excited. Please go watch it on June 6, Housefull 5."

In an earlier interview with Firstpost, Chitrangada Singh said, "This is the first time I'm doing comedy. It's my first attempt at being part of something so huge. Housefull is one of the biggest franchises, and Sajid [Nadiadwala] is one of the biggest producers with an incredible star cast," she shared. I can't tell you how nervous I was! But I just want to thank Tarun [Mansukhani], my director, who cast me in this. He thought of me for the part, and I'm really grateful. I haven't seen the film yet, but I'm really looking forward to it."

Housefull 5 stars Akshay Kumar, Riteish Deshmukh, Abhishek Bachchan, Sanjay Dutt, Fardeen Khan, Shreyas Talpade, Nana Patekar, Jackie Shroff, Dino Morea, Jacqueline Fernandez, Nargis Fakhri, Soundarya Sharma, Chunky Pandey, Nikitin Dheer and Johnny Lever. Phew! The film also marks Punjabi actress Sonam Bajwa's Bollywood debut.

Priyanka Chopra Held Her Own On Set As Her Dad Fought Cancer, Says Co-Star: 'Very Strong Girl'



Priyanka Chopra has carved out an impressive space for herself globally—balancing Bollywood success, international film roles, and chart-topping music collaborations. But long before becoming a global icon, Priyanka was a pillar of quiet strength on the sets of Fashion. Actor Arjan Bajwa, who played a key role alongside Chopra in the 2008 film, recently revisited those days in a candid chat with Siddharth Kanan. He recalled being at a low point in his life after the sudden death of his father, politician SS Bajwa. His father had tragically fallen from the terrace of their home following an attack by monkeys.

The emotional toll made it difficult for Arjan to return to acting—until filmmaker Madhur Bhandarkar stepped in. "He gave me an opportunity when all doors were closed to me, and that's why I will always hold him in the highest regard. I tell him to this day that when I was out of everything, he said to me, 'Come on board,'" Bajwa said.

Despite the big break, he admitted that his heart wasn't fully in the shoot. He was going through the movie half-heartedly, he confessed, adding that the team on set was aware of what he was dealing with. However, it was Priyanka Chopra who offered him unexpected comfort, as she too was facing a personal crisis.

"Priyanka and I were sitting and talking while the shot was getting ready, and her father had just been diagnosed with cancer. We were sitting together and discussing our fathers, and she was also going through something very difficult, but she is a very strong girl, and I never saw her vulnerable or breaking down on the set." Despite the emotional weight both actors were carrying, Priyanka Chopra never let her personal struggles affect her professionalism. Arjan Bajwa recalled being inspired by how composed and focused she remained, even in such a difficult time.

About Fashion

Fashion is a 2008 Bollywood drama directed by Madhur Bhandarkar. The film tells the story of Meghna, a small-town girl who becomes a top model in the fashion industry. Played by Priyanka Chopra, Meghna's journey shows both the glamorous and harsh sides of the modeling world. The film also stars Kangana Ranaut and Arjan Bajwa.