

Rahul Gandhi meets family of Navy officer killed in Pahalgam attack

Sanjay Kumar

New Delhi, May 06: Vinay Narwal was among 26 people who was killed in the dastardly attack by terrorists on tourists in Pahalgam in Jammu and



Kashmir on April 22. Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday met with the family of Navy officer Lt. Vinay Narwal, who was killed in the recent terror attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir. Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Saini's wife, Suman Saini had on Sunday paid respects to the late Navy officer at a 'Shradhhanjali Sabha' organised by his family members at their residence in Karnal. Addressing reporters after

the ceremony, she said, "Today is a deeply sorrowful day. The family lost their beloved son, and I pray to God to give them strength. The terror attack of April 22 is beyond condemnation. The entire nation mourns this loss!"

Earlier, Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini announced a compensation of ₹50 lakh and a government job to the family member of Vinay Narwal. Narwal, a native of Karnal, Haryana, was given an emotional farewell by family members last month. His father, Rajesh Narwal, and maternal uncle performed the last rites in the presence of hundreds. Narwal's father expressed faith in the government and said that the Union government would do justice, adding that the loss was "unbearable and irreplaceable. Vinay Narwal had recently tied the knot, with his wedding reception held just days earlier on April 16. Lt. Narwal, who was posted in Kochi, had travelled to Jammu and Kashmir on leave and was in Pahalgam with his wife when terrorists opened fire.

War no solution to any problem

Jammu, May 06: Jammu and Kashmir minister Javed Rana on Tuesday said war was not a solution to any problem, even as the Union Territory had been dealing with a proxy war sponsored by Pakistan for more than three decades. The senior National Conference leader, who represents the Mendhar constituency, located along the border, was talking to reporters at Government Medical College, Rajouri. He had come to the hospital to enquire about the condition of 10 people who suffered serious injuries in an accident that killed four persons, including a soldier, in the Mankote area of Mendhar in Poonch district early on Tuesday. Officials said 44 others were injured when the passenger bus skidded off the road and plunged into a deep gorge. Responding to a question on the nationwide civil defence mock drills scheduled for Wednesday, Rana said there was no doubt the people in Jammu and Kashmir were going through a proxy war while also pointing to frequent ceasefire violations by Pakistan. "The drills are taking place to prepare ourselves and that is a good thing. Our world-renowned army is very powerful and fully capable to deal with any situation," he said. However, he said the entire country was very concerned about the situation in the aftermath of the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack in which, 26 people, mostly tourists, were killed.

Kharge's big claim on Pahalgam attack

Navdeep Singh Sahni

Ranchi, May 06: Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge on Tuesday claimed Prime Minister Narendra Modi cancelled his Jammu and Kashmir trip last month because he received an intelligence report three days before the Pahalgam terror attack. Addressing a rally in Jharkhand, Kharge further said the BJP-led Central government had admitted that the attack was the result of an intelligence failure. Twenty-six people, mostly tourists, died when terrorists opened fire at a meadow near Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam on April 22. India has announced several punitive measures against Pakistan, including suspending the Indus Waters Treaty, which governed the flow of the Indus River and its tributaries. "There is an intelligence failure; the government has accepted it, and they will resolve it. If they knew this, why didn't they do anything? I got information that three days before the attack, an intelligence report was sent to

PM Modi, and therefore, he cancelled his programme to visit Kashmir. I also read this in a newspaper," he was quoted as saying.

ing by the news agency ANI. He reiterated that the Congress stands with the government for any action against Pakistan. "Congress stands with the government for any action against Pakistan after the Pahalgam attack. The country is supreme," he said. He asked the Centre why it didn't deploy more security to

Pahalgam if it had the intelligence report, reported PTI. Also read: Mock drills: Full list of districts where exercise will be conducted "Shouldn't the Centre be accountable for loss of lives in the Pahalgam attack when it accepted intelligence failure," he asked. HT reported on May 4 that the intelligence bureau (IB) and other agencies alerted local security officers in Jammu and Kashmir about the possibility of an attack targeting tourists, but around the time of the Prime Minister's scheduled visit to the union territory (UT) on April 19, and in Srinagar. But PM Modi's visit was cancelled on account of bad weather, and when the terrorists struck, it was in Pahalgam, 90 km away from Srinagar, and on April 22. Amid India's crippling diplomatic and economic measures against Pakistan, Islamabad has claimed that New Delhi's military strike is imminent. On Sunday, Rajnath Singh said that as the defence minister, it is his duty to give a befitting reply to those who dared to attack India.

Supreme Court makes judges' assets public: What CJI Sanjiv Khanna and others own?

Tejinder Kaur Babbar

New Delhi, May 06: The Supreme Court has made public the asset declarations of its judges by uploading them to its official website, following a full-court resolution passed on April 1, 2025, to enhance transparency in the judiciary. The process of appointments to the high courts and the Supreme Court has also been made public by the apex court through its official website. Here are details of senior-most judges who have made their declarations public: CJI Sanjiv Khanna; Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna has publicly disclosed his assets and liabilities on the Supreme Court's official website, reaffirming the judiciary's commitment to transparency. Among his immovable property holdings is a three-bedroom DDA flat in South Delhi, which he jointly acquired with his brother and later converted to freehold in 2000. In 2013, his brother relinquished his half-share for consideration. Justice Khanna also owns a four-bed-

room apartment with two parking spaces in the Commonwealth Games Village, Delhi, measuring 2,446 square feet of super area. This property was purchased in 2019 using the proceeds from the sale of a house he had inherited from his late father in 2004. Additionally, he holds a 56 per cent share in a four-bedroom apartment located in Sisupal Vihar, Sector 49, Gurugram, with a super area of 2,016 square feet. The remaining 44 per cent share is owned by his daughter. Justice Khanna also has a share in the Dev Raj Khanna Hindu Undivided Family (HUF), which partly owns a house and an undivided share in land situated in Dalhousie, Himachal Pradesh. This ancestral property was originally acquired and constructed by his grandfather well before Partition, and is referred to as HUF property in his father's will. As of March 31, 2025, Chief Justice Khanna's financial investments include approxi-

mately ₹55.75 lakh in fixed deposits and bank accounts. He holds a Public Provident Fund (PPF) account, opened in 1989, with a balance of around ₹1.06 crore, and a General Provident Fund (GPF) valued at approximately ₹1.77 crore. He also maintains a Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) money-back policy with an annual premium of ₹29,625, and shares worth roughly ₹14,000. Justice Khanna has been an income tax assessee since the financial

year 1978-79. His spouse's financial details reflect fixed deposits and bank accounts amounting to ₹23.87 lakh, along with a PPF account holding approximately ₹64.51 lakh. This disclosure is in line with the Supreme Court's resolution requiring judges to declare their assets upon assuming office and report any significant acquisitions thereafter — a move aimed at strengthening transparency and fostering public trust in the judiciary. Justice BR Gavai: Justice Bhushan Ramakrishna Gavai has disclosed his immovable property holdings, which include a residential house in Amravati, Maharashtra, inherited from his late father, as well as self-acquired residential apartments in Bandra, Mumbai, and Defence Colony, New Delhi. Additionally, Justice Gavai owns agricultural land in Amravati and Kedapur, Katol, Nagpur, Maharashtra, with further agricultural land in Amravati inherited from his father.

IAF's high-intensity border drill, including Rafales and Sukhois

Naresh Malhotra

New Delhi, May 06: The Indian Air Force (IAF) will launch a high-intensity aerial exercise over the desert sector and adjoining areas along the Western border starting Wednesday, ANI reported, citing IAF officials. It will be a two-day mega military exercise. The timing of the aerial drill coincides with the nationwide civil defence mock exercises to be carried out on May 7. As per IAF officials, the exercise will feature the full spectrum of India's airpower, with frontline fighter jets including Rafales, Mirage 2000s, and Sukhoi-30 MKIs along the International Border in Rajasthan. For this purpose, the government has issued a Notice to Airmen (NOTAM) for a large-scale air exercise along the southern section of the Indo-Pakistan border. According to defence sources, the operation aims to assess the IAF's combat preparedness, response time, and coordination under simulated hostile conditions and will involve both day and night flying operations. Meanwhile, villagers living along the India-

Pakistan border in Rajasthan's Barmer district voiced their unwavering support for the Indian



armed forces and are ready to help the Indian Army in every possible way in case of war. The Union Home Ministry on Monday asked several states to conduct mock drills on May 7 to enhance civil defence effectiveness. The meas-

ures to be undertaken include the operationalisation of Air Raid Warning Sirens and the training of civilians, students, and others on Civil Defence aspects to protect themselves in the event of a hostile attack. The security exercises come at a time when the country is on heightened alert following the April 22 terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam, which killed 26 civilians and deepened tensions with Pakistan. Following the Pahalgam attack, India has taken strong countermeasures against Pakistan for its support of cross-border terrorism. India decided to hold the Indus Waters Treaty of 1960 in abeyance until Pakistan credibly and irrevocably abjures its support for cross-border terrorism and closes the integrated Attari Check Post. India also imposed an immediate ban on the direct or indirect import and transit of all goods originating in or exported from Pakistan, regardless of their import status, effectively halting bilateral trade flows, according to a notification by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

CM Mamata Banerjee gives job to martyr's widow, assures full support to family

Nasir Uddin

Kolkata, May 06: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday provided the widow of slain Indian Army



Havildar Jhantu Ali Sheikh with the job of a police home guard and assured his family of all help in future. Banerjee said that the state government has taken the responsibility of educating Sheikh's children. Sheikh died in a gun battle between security forces and terrorists during a search operation in Jammu & Kashmir's

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India's water used to go outside; will now be utilised for country: PM Modi

Simmi Kaur Babbar

New Delhi, May 06: Waters from India's rivers will now be used for the country's interests, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Tuesday evening, speaking on the government's intention to curb the flow of water to Pakistan amid escalating tensions between New Delhi and Islamabad. "India's water earlier used to go outside; it will now be used for India's interests and will be utilised for the country," PM Modi said without naming Pakistan in the course of his address at a conclave organised by ABP network. "Bharat ka paani, Bharat ke haq mein baha ga (India's water will now flow for India)," he said. PM Modi's statement comes against the backdrop of the government taking steps to cut off water flow to Pakistan from the Baglihar dam on the Chenab river and preparations to taper down runoffs from the Kishanganga project on the Jhelum. India has paused the six-decade-old Indus Waters Treaty with Pakistan, already strained by long-running disputes, after terrorists killed dozens of tourists in Kashmir's

Pahalgam on April 22. Ever since, government officials have said earlier, the government had been exploring ways to use the river waters for

solutions that were in the national interest but were not implemented by previous governments due to a lack of political will. "To take big decisions to achieve our goals, it is important that we put the country's interests at the top... Unfortunately, for decades, the thought process was otherwise, and the country suffered a lot. There was a time when, before taking any big decision, before taking any big step, it used to be said what will the world think. For various reasons, such as votebank politics, etcetera, big reforms and big decisions were put on hold. No country can progress this way," he said. The prime minister said a country moves forward when decisions are only based on one parameter - the nation first. "In the last one decade, India has followed this policy of nation first and today we are seeing the results. In the last 10-11 years, the government has taken big decisions one after the other that had been put on hold," he said. Asserting that "democracy can deliver", he reiterated in the last one decade, 25 crore people have been pulled out of poverty and the whole world got the message that democracy can deliver.

CM Nayab Singh Saini reviews progress of Namo Bharat corridors

Sourabh Sharma

Chandigarh, May 06: Haryana Chief Minister Sh. Nayab Singh Saini reviewed the progress of eight Namo Bharat corridor projects in the NCR region under which three corridors are currently under implementation in Phase-I. These include Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut (82 km), Delhi-Gurugram-SNB (105 km) and Delhi-Panipat-Karnal (136 km) routes. Haryana Environment and Forest Minister Rao Narbir Singh also attended the meeting. During the meeting, the Chief Minister emphasized the transformative potential of the Namo Bharat corridors (RRTS) in easing traffic congestion, boosting regional connectivity, and enhancing economic development across urban



and semi-urban areas of Haryana. He instructed officials to expedite approvals for the Delhi-SNB and Delhi-Karnal projects to ensure their timely completion. During the meeting, a detailed presentation was made by MD, National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC), Sh. Shalabh Goel on Detailed Project Reports highlighting the various features of the two Namo Bharat corridors. The meeting was informed that the Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut RRTS corridor has achieved significant milestones, with successful operations on 55 km section and highly positive public response. The Chief Minister suggested that the design of the Namo Bharat corridors should be future-ready and efficient integration with Metro systems should be ensured for enhancing the utility of the system. The Chief Minister reviewed the alignment, stations and land requirements related to the Delhi-Gurugram-SNB and Delhi-Panipat-Karnal corridors. He instructed departments to provide necessary support to NCRTC to ensure early start of projects. The Chief Minister also reviewed the alignment of the proposed Gurugram-Faridabad-Noida Namo Bharat corridor and directed officials to provide necessary approval and support to NCRTC for preparation of the Detailed Project Report.

Udhampur area last month. "Jhantu Ali Sheikh of Tehatta in Krishnanagar has given his life for the nation. We are proud of him, we salute him. Today, his wife Shahnaz Sheikh is getting a job as a home guard in Krishnanagar Police District. We have taken the responsibility for the education of the children," Banerjee said. The state government has also given the family ₹10 lakh, she said. The Bengal CM said she would always be there as a member of their family. Former Haryana chief minister Bansi Lal's younger brother Hari Singh, 80, passed away due to cardiac arrest at his native village Golagarh, in Bhiwani on Sunday. Singh remained away from politics. Bansi Lal's grandson Anirudh Choudhary attended the last rites. Village sarpanch Sandeep Kumar said that Hari Singh was unwell from the last few days and he suffered a cardiac arrest on Sunday. "He was an honest person and will be remembered for his dedication," he said. "When Bansi Lal was chief minister, Hari Singh criticised his

NEWS BOX

Blast flattens explosives unit near Sulur, triggers panic across villages

COIMBATORE. A powerful explosion tore through an explosives manufacturing unit in Mallekoundampalayam, a village located near Sulur on the Coimbatore-Tiruppur district border, on Monday afternoon, flattening a storage godown and triggering panic in nearby areas. The blast occurred around 1:00 pm inside a godown where explosive materials were stored. The facility, owned by a man identified as Raj from Uttarakhand, manufactures explosives reportedly used in the production of ammunition for defence purposes. Residents said the deafening sound of the explosion could be heard up to five kilometres away.

The force of the blast completely destroyed the godown, leaving behind a scene of scattered debris and mangled metal. However, in a fortunate turn of events, all workers present in the unit at the time escaped unhurt.

Given the factory's location straddling two districts, police teams from both Kamanayakkanpalayam and Sultanpet rushed to the site. Fire and rescue services were also deployed immediately, and the area was quickly secured. Entry into the premises has been strictly restricted to officials from the police and fire departments.

Simhachalam wall collapse: Seven officials suspended

VIJAYAWADA. The Andhra Pradesh government has suspended seven officials, including Simhachalam Temple Executive Officer K Subba Rao, in connection with the tragic wall collapse at the temple that claimed seven lives during the 'Chandanotsavam' festival on April 30. In addition to Simhachalam EO, temple EE DG Srinivas Raju, AP Tourism Development Corporation (APTDC) EE K Ramana, Simhachalam temple Deputy EE KSN Murthy, APTDC Deputy EE AVBLR Swamy, APTDC AC P Madan Mohan and Simhachalam temple JE K Babji were suspended. A three-member inquiry committee appointed to investigate the incident submitted its report to the State government on Monday. Based on the committee's report, the government not only suspended the officials but also decided to blacklist the contractor and initiate criminal proceedings against the contractor and two of the officials.

Panel submits report to CM

The government had earlier appointed the three-member committee consisting of Principal Secretary (MA&UD) S Suresh Kumar, IG Ake Ravi Krishna and Irrigation Engineer-in-Chief (FAC) Venkateswar Rao to probe into the incident.

The committee, which inspected the wall collapse at Simhachalam on Friday, submitted its report to Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu at the State Secretariat on Monday.

Orissa HC directs govt to track whereabouts of 27 'untraceable children' of Jajpur Ashram

CUTTACK. The Orissa High Court has directed the state government to trace the whereabouts of 27 children reported to be missing from the Sri Baladev Seva Ashram, a private child care institution (CCI) at Alakunda under Binjharpur police station limits of Jajpur district.

The court was hearing a petition filed by one Sudipta Kumar Sahoo alleging the CCI was functioning illegally without renewing the registration and also seeking rescue of her two daughters who were kept in confinement there. According to the high court order, the state government informed that of the 31 children living there, four including the two daughters of the petitioner had been rescued as on April 21. Additional government advocate Suman Pattanayak submitted that the elder daughter of the petitioner is living in the registered home on the order of the child welfare committee (CWC). The younger daughter is put into the custody of an aunt under kinship, also by the order of the CWC. However, advocate Ramakanta Sarangi appearing for Sri Baladev Seva Ashram submitted that the children have been restored to their respective parents. Sarangi also alleged that because of the lackadaisical attitude of the authorities in relation to renewal and/or extension of the registration certificate, the Ashram is suffering. Taking note of it, the two-judge bench of Chief Justice Harish Tandon and Justice MS Raman directed the state government to depute a responsible officer to visit the person who instructed advocate Ramakanta Sarangi to make such submission and collect the address of the respective parental residence of the untraceable children.

Rs 188 crore plan to rejuvenate Kerala's Vembanad lake rolled out

ALAPPUZHA. The Alappuzha district administration has rolled out a Rs 188.25-crore project to breathe new life into Vembanad lake.

The comprehensive project is aimed at cleaning, deepening and restoring the fragile ecosystem of the lake. Designed as a five-year action plan, the initiative is spearheaded by District Collector Alex Varghese and being executed in partnership with local self-government bodies.

The blueprint of the project — christened the 'Vembanad Lake Rejuvenation Project' — was recently presented to Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan. It outlines both immediate interventions and long-term ecological goals.

Alex said the cost estimates may undergo revisions following a detailed assessment by the Centre for Water Resources Development and Management, which is currently examining the region's water resources and irrigation potential.

Short-term measures include removal of plastic debris, eradication of invasive weeds, construction of bio-shields to protect agricultural lands and the development of 31, one-km-long bio-bunds across as many as grama panchayats. Additional efforts such as



fish ranching and waste collection drives are also on," Alex said.

The long-term strategies envision a more sustainable future for Vembanad and surrounding areas. These include dredging the lake to increase water retention, encouraging organic farming to curb chemical run-off, restoring local biodiversity and establishing sewage and faecal sludge treatment facilities, particularly in flood-prone Kuttanad.

There are also plans to explore the economic potential of the water hyacinths by converting those into value-added products, alongside promoting tourism and boosting inland fish

production. Already, significant progress has been made, said officials. In a recent largescale clean-up backed by the district administration, 28.72 tonnes of plastic waste and an even higher quantity of water hyacinths were removed from the lake. However, the officials admitted that rejuvenating the waterbody will be an uphill task requiring extensive financial resources, advanced machinery, skilled manpower and inter-agency coordination.

Among the key obstacles identified in an expert committee report are illegal houseboats, which remain a major source of pollution. While the proposal advocates strict regulation of unauthorised vessels, past enforcement efforts have yielded limited success. Land encroachment poses another challenge, with the report stressing the need for robust political will and decisive action to reclaim illegally occupied areas. As Vembanad is central to the Kuttanad wetland ecosystem, its revival is expected to positively impact agriculture, fisheries and the broader environment. With climate change exacerbating issues like sea-level rise, erratic monsoons and frequent flooding, restoring the lake is seen as crucial to enhancing the region's resilience.

Telangana RTC Tarnaka hospital gets nod to offer DNB medical courses

TSRTC Managing Director VC Sajjanar remarked that the addition of DNB courses will lead to better availability of skilled doctors, ultimately benefiting the healthcare of TSRTC employees.



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begin from the upcoming academic year.

TSRTC Managing Director VC Sajjanar remarked that the addition of DNB courses will lead to better availability of skilled doctors, ultimately benefiting the healthcare of TSRTC employees. The corporation also acknowledged the key role played by medical administrator Dr Srinivas, former OSD Dr Saidi Reddy and doctors Sushmitha, Pramod Kumar, Pradeep Kumar, and Raj Kumar in securing the approval. A felicitation ceremony was held on Monday at Bus Bhavan, Hyderabad, where MD VC Sajjanar, along with other senior officials, honoured the team. Executive Director Munishekar, CPM Usha Devi, Hospital Superintendent Dr Shailaja Murthy, and others attended the event.

CM Revanth orders arrangements befitting grandeur of Miss World

HYDERABAD. Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Monday directed officials to invite public representatives and celebrities from various fields to the inauguration ceremony of Miss World 2025. He said that students from government Gurukuls, BC, SC, ST welfare residential schools, model schools and Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas should be given the opportunity to witness the pageant for a day. He also instructed officials to install decorative arches and hoardings across Hyderabad to reflect the grandeur of the event.

The chief minister held a review meeting with officials regarding the arrangements for the pageant to be held in Hyderabad from May 10 to 31. The Police department was asked to enhance surveillance and implement strict security measures.

Revanth stated that the pageant should be conducted in a manner that attracts global attention to Telangana. Officials were instructed to ensure proper hospitality for international guests, with no lapses, and to appoint a nodal officer for each individual programme. The chief minister said that necessary transport and other facilities should be arranged for Miss World contestants visiting key tourist attractions such as Charminar, Laad Bazaar, the Telangana Talli statue at the Secretariat and other prominent locations in the state. He added that along with security arrangements, contingency plans should be in place to handle any unforeseen or adverse situations. In addition to the visit to the DWCR Bazaar, organised by ICP women to promote women's empowerment, arrangements are to be made to enable contestants to view the IPL semi-finals at Uppal Stadium. The chief minister noted that measures must be taken to avoid traffic congestion and power outages in areas hosting Miss World-related events. He advised officials to make appropriate preparations based on weather forecasts and said that the GHMC and HYDRAA departments should remain alert to ensure uninterrupted functioning in the event of strong winds or rainfall.

Detailed investigations underway into fire mishaps near PM's convoy, Amaravati venue

VIJAYAWADA / GUNTUR.

Investigations are underway into two fire incidents that occurred during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Amaravati on May 2 to relaunch the capital city construction works.

The incidents, which raised concerns due to their timing, were reported near Vijayawada International Airport (Gannavaram) in Krishna district and Venkatapalem village in the Amaravati capital region. The first fire broke out near Buddavaram, close to the Gannavaram Airport, just as the Prime Minister's aircraft was preparing to land. Later that evening, another blaze erupted near the meeting venue in Amaravati around the time when PM's helicopter took off, triggering plumes of thick smoke in both cases. At Gannavaram, preliminary findings suggest the fire was likely accidental. Gannavaram

Circle Inspector Siva Prasad said it may have originated from dry gum arabic (Tumma) bushes covering over five acres.

"Around 100 construction workers were in the area. A discarded cigarette or matchstick could have ignited the fire,"



he said, confirming that all possible causes are being examined.

Fire Officer Sk John Ahmed added that glass shards reflecting sunlight might also have triggered the blaze. Five fire tenders were deployed, and no evidence of foul play has been found so

far.

The fire near Venkatapalem destroyed high-value infrastructure, including silicon High-Density Polyethylene (HDPE) pipes stored at four locations for 133 KV underground power lines. Two storage points were completely gutted. Guntur Superintendent of Police (SP) P Satish Kumar and Thullur D S P T Muralikrishna visited the site the next day. Forensic samples were collected, with lab reports expected within ten days. Initial damage estimates stand at ₹9 crore. In a related development, two foundation plaques laid in the year 2018 for the Secretariat and High Court were found

damaged a day after capital works resumed. Thullur police registered a case and launched an inquiry. SP Satish Kumar has directed Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) Ramanamurthy to oversee the investigation.

Smoke sparks fresh panic at Kozhikode Medical College Hospital

KOZHIKODE. Just as the Kozhikode Government Medical College Hospital was starting to recover from the shock of the May 2 fire, smoke that emerged from the sixth floor of the same block on Monday, during a safety inspection, triggered fresh panic.

What should have been a step towards reassurance generated renewed fear, with patients hurriedly evacuated and bystanders reliving the chaos of Friday. Monday's incident occurred during a scheduled inspection by the Electrical Inspectorate. The smoke was detected in Room 14 of the theatre complex, part of the sixth floor that houses super-specialty operating theatres. Officials clarified that there were no patients on the floor at the time. Nevertheless, as a precautionary measure, patients from the third and fourth floors were relocated, causing widespread panic among bystanders and families. "I had to rush out with my father who was admitted for urology



arrived promptly, along with police personnel, to contain the situation. According to the hospital PRO, smoke was contained before it could spread, although poor ventilation on the sixth floor remains a concern. Health Minister Veena George admitted to lapses. "Patients were admitted to all three floors of the new block. That should not have happened," she said.

THE SIKH TIMES

Edited, Printed, Published
Owned by Simmi Babbar
N - 31, Dr Mukherjee Nagar
Delhi-110009

Printed at Qaumi Patrika Printing
Press, A-4/A-144, Tronica City
(Loni), Ghaziabad (Uttar Pradesh)

Corporate Office:
5, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg,
Press Area, ITO, New Delhi

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Thoothukudi farmers say crops on 1.5K acres wilting, seek water



THOOTHUKUDI. Claiming that over 1,500 acres of banana plantation and 100 acres of betel creepers are withering due to soaring heat and inadequate water supply, farmers submitted a petition to Collector K Elambahavath seeking the release of water into the north channel.

K Subudurai, Tamil Nadu Vivasaya Sangam Eral Taluk secretary, stated in the petition that the north channel branching off from Sri Vaikuntam anicut on the river Thamirabarani has been closed for maintenance works, citing construction of bridges at Kalangudi, Mangalapuram, and Melamangalakurichi.

Moreover, the Public Works Department (PWD) is laying stone blocks on the riversides between the head sluice of Arumugamangalamkulum tank and Kottaikadu village. However, the banana plantation and betel plants grown in 1,500 acres in Eral, Kottaikadu, Lakshmiapuram, Valavallan, Korkai, Manalur, Ganapathy Samuthram, Arasankulam, and Selvavinayagapuram villages, directly fed by the north channel, are left dry.

After the onset of Agni Natchathiram, the crops have also begun withering due to the scorching heat. Subudurai further said that officials are carrying out project works, ignoring the condition of crops directly fed by the channel. Despite there being plenty of water stored in Papanasam dam at 83 feet and Manimutharu dam at 85 feet, crops are withering off without water.

These works can be stopped for two weeks, and the water can be released to save the crops. Also, it is time to release water for Advance kar from April 1 to July 10, which is the sole right of the north and south channel farmers in Thoothukudi. A few other farmers said that they are yet to recover from the financial losses caused by the December 2023 floods that devastated the Thamirabarani basin.

News box

2013-batch IAS officer
Pradeep Dahiya is new MCG
chief

Gurgaon. Haryana govt on Monday appointed Pradeep Dahiya as the new MCG commissioner, while relieving Ashok Kumar Garg of his duties. Dhirendra Khadgat has been appointed the MCF commissioner. A total of six IAS officers were transferred in the late night reshuffle order. Dahiya, a 2013-batch IAS officer, previously served as Jhajjar deputy commissioner and worked as additional deputy commissioner of the city, CEO of the district rural development agency and secretary of the regional transport authority in 2018. Haryana govt has also elevated the post of the MCG commissioner to senior scale of IAS under Rule-12 (1) of IAS (Pay) Rules, 2016. Garg's transfer came at a time when the MCG was under severe criticism for various civic problems faced by the city. On Friday, industries and commerce minister Rao Narbir Singh conducted inspections of flood-prone areas, following severe waterlogging incidents, and directed MCG and GMDA officials to designate specific officers for each location to facilitate prompt govt action when required. The corporation drew criticism for appointing Tilak Raj Malhotra, the city mayor's spouse, adviser to mayor Raj Rani Malhotra. Subsequently, Garg revoked these appointment orders.

ED attaches assets worth Rs
2,348cr in PMLA case

Gurgaon. Enforcement Directorate (ED) has provisionally attached immovable assets worth Rs 2,348 crore in connection with a real estate case under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002. The assets — attached over a period of time since Feb 2024 — have been identified as "direct proceeds of crime". The case involves WTC Faridabad Infrastructure Pvt Ltd and other entities of the WTC group, led by Ashish Bhalla. Bhalla had been arrested on March 6 to prevent "obstruction of justice and tampering with evidence". According to ED, Bhalla and his group companies collected more than Rs 2,700 crore from over 12,000 investors. ED said investors were "lured" with promises of assured returns on plots and commercial spaces under the WTC brand. However, a large chunk of the money was siphoned off and diverted for other purposes, including overseas transfers to entities based in Singapore. ED launched its probe based on over 30 FIRs registered by the Faridabad police, Delhi Economic Offences Wing and other law enforcement agencies.

Man (72) out on morning walk
run over by car in Gurgaon,
driver yet to be traced

Gurgaon. A 72-year-old man was killed after being hit by a car while he was on his morning walk in Sector 23, Palam Vihar, on Saturday. The driver of the vehicle fled the scene after the collision, leaving the man critically injured. Vinod Kumar Bali was a businessman who used to run a transport business. According to police and family members, Bali left his home around 10am for his walk. When he didn't return home after an hour, his son, Rajat Bali, went to look for him. "The police called me and said a speeding Hyundai i10 had hit my father, and the driver had fled. When I reached the hospital the police took him to, I was told he had been brought in dead," said Rajat. Rajat's father-in-law, Ramesh Bhatia, received an anonymous call around 11am, informing him about the accident. Initially dismissing it as a prank, Bhatia hung up. "We thought it was a fake call. It was only when the police contacted us that we realised it was true," he said. According to family members, Bali regularly went for morning walks and usually returned home within an hour. "He was fit and very disciplined about his daily routine," said Bhatia.

Police have registered a case under sections 106 (causing death by negligence) and 281 (rash driving) of BNS. Officials said efforts are underway to trace the vehicle and the driver using CCTV footage from the area. "We are scanning CCTV cameras from nearby lanes and intersections to identify the suspect vehicle," said a police officer.

Consumer forum fines
Mumbai firm Rs 5,000 for
denying service

Ghaziabad. The district consumer disputes redressal commission (DCDRC) fined a Mumbai-based beauty and healthcare firm Rs 5,000 for denying services to a customer. It also asked the firm to return the entire amount taken from the customer, along with 6% interest, within 45 days. The commission, comprising chair Praveen Kumar Jain and member Shailja Sachan, was hearing a petition by Ghaziabad resident Birendra Kumar Singh, who sought action against Richfeel Health and Beauty Private Limited, Mumbai, and its franchisee, Blue Tera Spa, Ghaziabad, represented by Vishal Tyagi and Ankita Rastogi, for denying him treatment for which he had made an advance payment of Rs 21,475 in July 2020. He had filed a complaint on Jan 17, 2024.

The commission passed an ex parte order dated May 2, 2025, in the absence of a response from the respondent. It observed that since the payment was received by the Mumbai-based firm, against which it issued a receipt, the onus of providing service rested on them. Accordingly, the franchisee, Blue Tera Spa, had no role to play. tmn

Ghaziabad: The district consumer disputes redressal commission (DCDRC) fined a Mumbai-based beauty and healthcare firm Rs 5,000 for denying services to a customer. It also asked the firm to return the entire amount taken from the customer, along with 6% interest, within 45 days. The commission, comprising chair Praveen Kumar Jain and member Shailja Sachan, was hearing a petition by Ghaziabad resident Birendra Kumar Singh, who sought action against Richfeel Health and Beauty Private Limited, Mumbai, and its franchisee, Blue Tera Spa, Ghaziabad, represented by Vishal Tyagi and Ankita Rastogi, for denying him treatment for which he had made an advance payment of Rs 21,475 in July 2020. He had filed a complaint on Jan 17, 2024.

Sewer damage causes cave-in on Sohna
Road, traffic diverted in Gurgaon

Gurgaon. A portion of Sohna Road near Shishpal Vihar Society caved in on Monday. The collapse, following damage in an underground sewer pipeline and its manhole structure wall, created a circular pit about 40 square feet in area and 12 feet deep. The cave-in, which appeared to be caused by soil erosion around the damaged sewer infrastructure, caused traffic disruption and safety concerns for commuters. The section of the road was barricaded, closing one lane of the affected road segment to prevent any accidents. The main sewer line of GMDA runs along the Gurgaon-Sohna road.

The sewer line was installed 30 years ago by Haryana Urban Development Authority (now HSVP). While the sewer line will be repaired using the CIPP (Cured-in-Place Pipe) method within eight months, a GMDA official said "starting Tuesday, the repair work on the manhole will commence". The water in this sewer line will be diverted to another line, allowing the repair work to start. "Within four to



five days of starting the work, the manhole and the damaged section of the road will be repaired," the GMDA official said. This sewer line, with a capacity of about 1800mm, carries sewage from sectors 47 to 51. The sewage travels approximately five kilometres along this

line to the treatment plant in Bahadarpur village. Two days ago, the manhole wall was damaged, leading to soil erosion beneath the road and causing the road near Shishpal Vihar to collapse. Traffic police arrived at the scene upon receiving the information and closed the damaged

section of the road with barriers to prevent accidents. Thirty years ago, when the sewer line was installed, brick walls were used in manholes instead of cemented walls and the brick wall in this manhole is now damaged. A plan has been prepared to repair it using the CIPP method. Last year, this sewer line sank twice in front of Raheja Mall on Gurgaon-Sohna Expressway. The line is about 18 feet deep at this location. Investigations revealed that the old sewer line is deteriorating at several points. It was decided to repair the line using the CIPP method, which involves applying a chemical layer about two inches thick inside the sewer line, extending its lifespan by approximately 50 years. GMDA issued a tender in March under the CIPP method and two companies applied. The tender, worth about Rs 20 crore, will be presented for approval at a high-level procurement committee meeting chaired by chief minister Nayan Singh Saini.

Kashmiri students in NCR fear economic
collapse after Pahalgam terror attack

Noida. Kashmiri students in NCR are worried about the economic fallout of the Pahalgam terror attack and the exodus of tourists from the Valley, which could have a long-term effect on their families' livelihoods back home and consequently, their studies. Stability in the Kashmir valley over the past few years has been bringing in waves of tourists, helping drive up incomes of locals and boosting the economy, which is largely around the travel industry. Mehreen, a fourth year BTech student at Sharda University in Noida, said on Thursday that 90% of her family's income depends on tourism in Kashmir. "In the past two days, almost 70% of car bookings were cancelled. My father and brother-in-law have been running a transportation business in Kashmir for the past 15 years. No matter how adverse the situation was earlier, be it the 2019 Pulwama attack or the 2016 unrest, the situa-

tion has not been this critical that tourists have cancelled trips," Mehreen said. The 22-year-old said her family could fund her studies in NCR because of stable income from the business over the past few years. "My brother is in school, and he also aspires to pursue higher education outside Kashmir. My sister's wedding was fixed and was to happen in a few months. With such financial loss, it will be difficult for my family to sustain all these expenses," she said. Shoqeen, a second-year BTech student at the university, said his family, too, is reeling from the loss of customers. "We have a hotel in Pahalgam, and in one day, all 120 rooms got vacant. Some even can-

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is for general information that I, PANKAJ D/O: Deepak Kumar, R/O: A-1/24 Sharmaji Colony, Bhopal, Phase-2, Sultanganj Block, North West Delhi, Delhi-110008, declare that name of my mother has been wrongly written as AMBIKESH SHARMA in my 10th and 12th class educational documents. Pan Card No. CLPZ7726M, Passport No. Y4367607 and as AMBIKESH SHARMA in my birth certificate No. 3620. The actual name of my father is AMBIKESH KUMAR which may be amended accordingly.

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NEWS BOX

Defiant Harvard slams 'illegal overreach' as Trump freezes research grants

world. As the Donald Trump administration froze billions of dollars in future federal grants to Harvard University, the Ivy League institution hunkered down, saying it would continue to oppose "illegal government overreach" aimed at stifling research. In a sharp clap back at Trump's latest action, Harvard blasted the administration for withholding funding for "life-saving research and innovation", adding that stopping federal grants would impose "unprecedented and improper control". Harvard, the wealthiest university in the US, said it would have "chilling implications" for higher education. Today's letter makes new threats to illegally withhold funding for lifesaving research and innovation in retaliation against Harvard for filing its lawsuit on April 21, the university said. One of the top-ranked universities in the world, filed a lawsuit after the Trump administration froze more than \$2.2 billion in grants. The latest development intensifies the clash between Trump and Harvard over academic freedom, and combating campus antisemitism. "Harvard will continue to comply with the law, promote and encourage respect for viewpoint diversity, and combat antisemitism in our community," it said. "Harvard will also continue to defend against illegal government overreach aimed at stifling research and innovation that make Americans safer and more secure," the statement further said. On Monday, a letter sent to Harvard president Alan Garber by the Education Secretary accused the university of consistent "violations of its legal duties" and stated that it would no longer be eligible for future research grants.

Who Is Balvinder Singh Sahni, Indian-Origin Billionaire Jailed In Dubai For Money Laundering

Dubai. Dubai-based Indian businessman Balvinder Singh Sahni will be jailed and deported from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) for financial crimes, including money laundering. Also known as Abu Sabah, the billionaire received a five-year prison sentence and a Dh500,000 (Rs 1,14,89,750) fine. A Dubai court also ordered the confiscation of Dh150 million (Rs 3,446 million) from the businessman before he is deported from the country. A well-known name in Dubai's elite circles, Sahni has been convicted of laundering Dh150 million through a network of shell companies and forged invoices, according to a report by Gulf News. The businessman was convicted along with 33 others, including his son, reported Khaleej Times. Who Is Balvinder Singh Sahni. The 53-year-old businessman is the founder and chairman of the Raj Sahni Group (RSG) property development firm, which operates in the UAE, the US, India, and other countries. Per media reports, his company's Dubai property portfolio includes the Qasr Sabah's residential buildings in Dubai Sports City, a 24-storey Burj Sabah apartment complex in Jumeirah Village Circle, commercial property in Bay Square, Business Bay and a five-star hotel called Sabah Dubai, among others. A well-connected name in Dubai's elite circle. Sahni is known to be a luxury car collector and often posts his expensive vehicles on social media. He made headlines in 2016 after he purchased car number plate D5 for Dh33 million (about \$9 million at the time) for one of his Rolls-Royce cars.

US Offers \$1,000 And Pay For Travel To Migrants Who Self-Deport

Washington. The Trump administration said Monday it will pay for the travel and give \$1,000 to undocumented migrants who "self-deport" back to their home country. "If you are here illegally, self-deportation is the best, safest and most cost-effective way to leave the United States to avoid arrest," Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem said. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) "is now offering illegal aliens financial travel assistance and a stipend to return to their home country through the CBP Home App," Noem said in a statement.

DHS said the stipend of \$1,000 will be paid after a person's return to their home country has been confirmed through the app.

"Self-deportation is a dignified way to leave the US and will allow illegal aliens to avoid being encountered by



US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), the department said in the statement.

DHS said that even with the payment of travel assistance and the stipend "it is projected that the use of CBP Home will decrease the costs of a deportation by around 70 percent." It said that the average cost currently to arrest, detain, and remove an undocumented migrant is \$17,121.

DHS said an undocumented migrant from Honduras had already taken advantage of the program to return home. US President Donald Trump pledged during his White House campaign to deport millions of undocumented migrants.

Filipino 'Asian Francis' emerges as top contender for next Pope

Vatican City. Filipino Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle is sometimes called the "Asian Francis" because of his infectious smile, easy laugh, and spontaneity with words. Like the late Argentine pope, he hails from a country far from the Catholic Church's traditional power base of Europe and came to Rome with an outsider's view. Some who have put Tagle on unofficial short lists for the next pope say he would be a shoo-in to succeed Francis if cardinal electors who enter the secret conclave on Wednesday are looking for as close a similarity as possible in order to assertively continue Francis' progressive streak. If Tagle were elected, it would also likely signal to the world's 1.4 billion Catholics that the cardinals want to go forward with Francis' vision of generally opening up the Church to the modern world by not choosing a man who might roll back some of the late pope's reforms. It would also mean his fellow cardinals had shrugged off question marks over his management abilities. "He would represent a continuity of what Pope Francis has been doing," said Rev. Emmanuel Alfonso, a former student of Tagle's who has known

him for decades. "He's really like Pope Francis in terms of his love for the poor, his approachability and so on." Tagle, the former archbishop of Manila, would be the first pope from what is now considered Asia, although in the early Church some popes hailed from what is now called the Middle East, technically part of Asia. Tagle, who looks younger than his 67 years and likes to be called by his diminutive nickname "Chito", has headed the Vatican's Dicastery for Evangelization, effectively the Church's missionary arm, for the past five years. That position gave him enormous influence over national churches in developing countries. As archbishop of Manila, and before as bishop of the Philippine city of Imus, Tagle gained pastoral experience in running dioceses in Asia's largest Catholic country. By bringing him to the Vatican in 2020, Francis gave him one more notch in experiences seen as helpful to papal candidates. Tagle's move to Rome brought criticism from then-Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte, who oversaw a bloody "war on drugs" that killed thousands of Filipinos during his 2016-2022 administration. Duterte said Tagle had

been removed from Manila for meddling in national politics.

The Philippine Catholic bishops' conference denied those accusations forcefully. Bishop Pablo Virgilio David of Kalookan, a conference official made a cardinal in 2024,



called Duterte's claim "unbelievably ludicrous". Many cardinals already know Tagle personally, and many may see an attraction in having a pope from Asia, viewed by Church leaders as an important region of growth for the faith. Young people feel comfortable with him. When Tagle hosted Francis for a visit to the Philippines in 2014, the visit drew the largest crowds in the history of papal travel, including a Mass that attracted up to 7 million people.

DOCTRINAL BACKGROUND

Tagle, who speaks Italian, English, and Spanish as well as his native Tagalog, now has five years of experience with the Vatican's arcane bureaucracy, although some cardinals may think even that is not enough to run the global Church. One possible weakness in Tagle's candidacy is that he was involved in a management scandal three years ago. In 2022, Francis removed him from a second job as titular head of a Vatican-based confederation of 162 Catholic relief, development and social services organisations working in more than 200 countries. Francis fired the entire leadership of the group, called Caritas Internationalis, following allegations of bullying by top management. Tagle's role, akin to a chancellor of the organisation, was mostly symbolic and ceremonial. He was not directly involved in day-to-day running and was generally admired by staffers. Unlike Francis, Tagle enjoys a global reputation as a theologian, which could help him gain votes from moderate cardinals concerned by some of Francis' off-the-cuff utterances, which led to what some called confusion about Church teachings.

Debt-ridden Pak tests missile, ignoring Moody's warning: Can its economy withstand

world. On April 22, 26 tourists were killed in one of the worst attacks on civilians in India in nearly 20 years. India blamed Pakistan for the violence, but Pakistan denied involvement. However, Islamabad claimed it had intelligence suggesting that India was planning a military strike. In response to the growing tensions, Pakistan launched a surface-to-surface missile named "Fatih" with a range of 120 kilometres. On Saturday, Pakistan tested Abdali missile, which has a longer range of 450 kilometres. The Pakistani army said the missile test was successful. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif praised the launch and said, "This successful test makes it clear that Pakistan's defence is in strong hands." Diplomatic relations between the nuclear-armed neighbours are at a boil following an attack targeting Hindu tourists in Kashmir, killing 26 on April 22.

MOODY WARNS OF ECONOMIC SETBACK



The military-level strain is increasing between the two neighbouring countries. Concerns regarding Pakistan's economy are also on the rise. The international credit rating agency Moody's cautioned that ongoing conflict would damage the country's economic recovery. Pakistan only recently began to stabilise its economy after the International Monetary Fund (IMF) provided it with a \$7 billion loan package last year.

In its report, Moody's said, "Sustained escalation in tensions with India would likely weigh on Pakistan's growth and hamper the government's ongoing fiscal consolidation, setting back Pakistan's progress in achieving macroeconomic stability." The agency further stated that if the standoff persists, it would harm Pakistan's access to foreign funds and strain its foreign currency reserves. This would potentially make it more difficult for Pakistan to meet its international debt obligations. Meanwhile, India's economy is expected to remain unaffected since it has limited financial ties with Pakistan. However, Moody's added that a rise in defence expenditure could slow down India's efforts to manage its own budget. Iran's foreign minister, who offered to help both countries ease tensions, arrived in Pakistan for meetings with top leaders. He is expected to visit India later this week. India has accused its neighbour of supporting Islamist separatists battling security forces in its part of the region.

Crocodile attacks zoo visitor who entered enclosure for selfie in the Philippines

world. A 29-year-old male was severely injured after being attacked by a crocodile at a zoo in the Philippines. The attack happened on April 28 at the Kabug Island Mangrove and Wetlands Park in Zamboanga Sibugay province when the man entered the reptile's enclosure to take pictures, allegedly believing that the animal was a prop. According to police, the visitor climbed over a chain-link fence carrying his phone and walked toward the crocodile, unaware of danger. "He thought the crocodile was merely a plastic replica," said Police Staff Sergeant Joel Sajolga. Moments later, the crocodile attacked and bit his arm.

Video of the attack taken by bystanders showed the female crocodile, named Lalay, grabbing the man's arm and

dragging him into shallow water. Screams can be heard as the crocodile



started performing a "death roll", a deadly spinning action employed by crocodiles to tear apart prey. Despite the chaos, the man remained conscious and sat in the water until help arrived. The zookeeper, who had earlier warned him not to enter the enclosure, rushed in and used a concrete object to

strike the animal, forcing it to release the victim. As reported by People, emergency responders arrived quickly following the rescue. The man was bitten deeply by the arm and leg and was rushed to Dr. George T. Hofer Memorial Hospital, where he received more than 50 stitches, according to reports. He is said to be mentally challenged, according to reports. Public Asked to Avoid Animal Enclosures

"This kind of behavior is extremely dangerous," Sgt. Sajolga told local media. "He risked not only his own life but potentially others as well. He's very fortunate to be alive." Police confirmed an investigation is underway. Zoo officials are also reassessing safety protocols to prevent similar incidents.

Why Hamas Is Executing Palestinians Amid Food Crisis Under Israeli Blockade

Cairo. At least six Palestinians were executed by Hamas in Gaza, and 13 others were shot in the legs for allegedly looting food stores and community kitchens, the Palestinian group said in a statement, as desperation grows in the enclave under a complete Israeli blockade that has now entered its third month. "A warning has been issued - those who ignore it bear full responsibility," Hamas said in the statement. Over the last week, there have been reports of armed gangs looting some of the remaining food supplies in Gaza City, challenging Hamas' control of the territory. The Palestinian group has accused some of these "criminal gangs" of working in collaboration with Israel.

"A warning has been issued - those who ignore it bear full responsibility," Hamas said in the statement. Ismail Al-Thawabta, director of Gaza's Hamas-run government media office, said some of the looters acted under a clan umbrella and others acted as organised groups, some of which he said received direct support from Israel. He said a number of "revolutionary execution rulings" had been carried out against "several top criminals" proven to have been involved in looting. In one

incident, the Hamas-run interior ministry said a police officer was killed and others were wounded when an Israeli drone fired a missile at a police unit chasing criminals in Gaza City.

"We will strike with an iron fist all these renegades, and we will take the



necessary measures to deter them, no matter the cost, and we will not allow them to continue terrorizing citizens, threatening their lives, and stealing their property," the ministry said in a statement on Saturday, referring to the alleged looters. Israel has, meanwhile, not commented on the allegation.

Hamas Imposes Curfew In Gaza

According to a Reuters report, Hamas' armed wing has started imposing curfews starting at 9 pm (local time) to restrict the movement of civilians and to chase criminals. Some of the Gazans supported Hamas' actions, saying the

looting gangs have terrorised locals and are aiding the Israeli government in "starving" them. "Those gangs, some of them armed, have terrorised people, not only stealing food, but stopping some people on the roads and taking away their money and phones,"

Ahmed, a resident of Gaza City, told Reuters. "They aid the occupation in starving us; they must be dealt with as collaborators," he added. SAFA news agency, close to Hamas, said the interior ministry has formed a new 5,000-member force tasked with confronting looters and armed gangs. However, local police forces have been hampered by attacks from Israeli drones against any armed Palestinians they identify. Hamas deployed thousands of police and security forces across Gaza after a ceasefire took effect in January, but its armed presence shrank sharply since Israel resumed large-scale attacks in March.

Humanitarian Crisis In Gaza

United Nations officials have warned of the increasingly dire humanitarian situation facing Gaza, which has been devastated by the Israeli campaign launched following the Hamas-led attack on Israel on October 7, 2023.

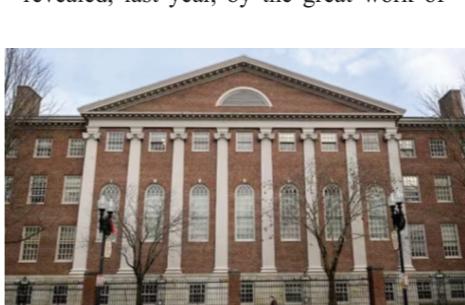
Dear Harvard...': Linda McMahon bars university research grants in scathing letter

The Trump administration barred Harvard from new federal research grants. In a scathing letter, Education Secretary Linda McMahon cited "disastrous mismanagement" and accused the university of betraying academic ideals and legal obligations.

world. The Trump administration on Monday barred Harvard University from receiving any new federal research grants. Education Secretary Linda McMahon conveyed in a sharply worded letter to the president of Harvard, Alan M. Garber. This is the Trump administration's most pointed action against one of the nation's most prestigious academic institutions. "This letter is to inform you that Harvard should no longer seek grants from the federal government, since none will be provided," McMahon wrote to Harvard President Alan M. Garber. She accused the university of

"disastrous mismanagement" and stated the institution had abandoned core academic values. This move comes as Harvard challenges the federal government in court over the suspension of billions in funding, after refusing to comply with demands McMahon called essential for accountability. Harvard University has made a mockery of this country's higher education system. It has invited foreign students, who engage in violent behaviour and slur contempt for the United States of America, to its campus. In every way, Harvard has failed to abide by its legal obligations, its ethical and fiduciary duties, its transparency responsibilities, and any semblance of academic rigour. It had scrapped standardised testing requirements and a normalised grading system, "she wrote. She alleged Harvard of embroiling in humiliating plagiarism scandals. "Harvard has even been embroiled in humiliating plagiarism scandals, exposed clearly and plainly in the media, with respect to your University President, who was an

embarrassment to our Nation. Much of Harvard's hateful discrimination was revealed, last year, by the great work of



Congresswoman Elise Stefanik, and her Committee. As if it were trying to embarrass itself even further, Harvard hired failed Mayors Bell De Blasio and Lori Lightfoot, perhaps the worst mayors ever to preside over major cities in our country's history, to supposedly teach "leadership" at their School of Public Health. This is like hiring the captain of the Titanic to teach navigation to future captains of the sea,"

she added. The move by the administration seems to mark a change in its tack in regulating elite institutions. Previous attempts at recalling research grants had been met with legal challenges, including Harvard, which relied on both the First Amendment and the Administrative Procedure Act in filing its lawsuit. Now, by aiming at upcoming grants, the administration might be trying a different strategy—one that could prove harder to challenge in court. In her three-page letter, McMahon wrote, "At its best, a university should fulfill the highest ideals of our nation, and enlighten the thousands of hopeful students who walk through its magnificent gates, but Harvard has betrayed its ideal."

HARD RAVE RESPONDS: UNPRECEDENTED AND IMPROPER CONTROL

Harvard was quick to respond. In a statement released Monday night, the university accused the Trump administration of doubling down on political interference.

NEWS BOX

Andhra police bust inter-district gang; car, gold, silver ornaments worth Rs 85 lakh seized

ONGOLE. Prakasam police, with support from YSR Kadapa police, arrested a three-member inter-district gang involved in house burglaries, red sanders smuggling, and ganja trafficking. Police recovered stolen property worth Rs 85 lakh, including 924.33 grams of gold, 3.8 kg of silver, 6.19 kg of ganja and a white Tata Manza car. Prakasam SP AR Damodar presented the accused and seized items to the media at Ongole on Monday.

The arrested were Chirapathy Fakruddin alias Giresab (35), Chirapathy Mahaboob Peera (25), both from Khaderpally in Chaapadu mandal, and Gandlu Lateef Basha (24) from Proddatur. Police arrested the trio on May 4 near SVKP College in Podili after their car rammed into a tree during an attempted escape. Fakruddin has 111 cases, including 74 for red sanders smuggling and 16 for theft. Peera and Basha are involved in 16 recent theft cases, with Basha having assisted in eight earlier smuggling offences. The gang committed thefts in five districts—three in Prakasam, eight in Nellore, three in YSR Kadapa, and one each in Anantapur and Annamayya.

PM Surya Ghar gains traction in Guntur

GUNTUR. In a major push toward clean energy, over 87,936 households across Guntur district have registered for the Centre's PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana, with 1,640 installations already completed.

The initiative, aimed at promoting self-sufficient, sustainable energy use, is being implemented by the New and Renewable Energy Development Corporation of Andhra Pradesh (NREDCAP) in collaboration with the Electricity Department.

Launched earlier this year, the scheme enables residents to generate their own electricity through rooftop solar panels, reducing power bills while supporting India's green energy mission.

As of April, the installed systems are collectively generating 5,870 kilowatts of solar power across the district. With installations typically completed within 15 days of approval, the scheme promises quick benefits and long-term savings. "Once installed, the panels function for over 25 years, offering a reliable and cost-effective energy source," an NREDCAP official said. Consumers feeding surplus power back into the grid receive Rs 2.09 per unit, credited directly to their bank accounts on a quarterly basis. Households requiring more power than they generate continue to receive regular bills for the additional usage. Among the constituencies, Mangalagiri leads with 25,704 registrations, followed by Prathipadu (15,843), Tadikonda (14,570), Tenali (12,031), and Ponnur (11,680). Guntur West (4,085) and Guntur East (4,023) have also recorded significant interest. Officials attribute the success to growing public awareness and smooth execution.

"The enthusiastic participation is a clear indication of the public's readiness to embrace renewable energy," the official said.

Telangana government plans Rs 4,000 aid for kids in foster care

HYDERABAD. The state government is going to the rescue of the children in foster care, particularly those who have lost their biological parents.

It is initiating measures to strengthen care, sponsorship and post-institutional rehabilitation for orphans. The cornerstone of the proposed policy is a new financial assistance scheme that would offer 4,000 per month to families or guardians who take in orphaned children under temporary custody or guardianship.

Speaking to , the officials from the Department of Women and Child Welfare, headed by Minister Dansari Anasuya alias Seethakka, said that the initiative is under active consideration and is expected to be launched during the current financial year.

The government estimates suggest that between 2,500 and 3,500 children could benefit from this targeted foster care initiative. Fostering emotional and social growth. The focus, according to departmental sources, is not only on providing shelter but also on fostering emotional and social growth through a family-like environment.

"Orphans often grow up without meaningful relationships. While orphans offer basic necessities, they sometimes fall short in teaching human values and emotional bonds integral to the Indian family system. This scheme aims to bridge that gap and ensure holistic development," said a senior official, requesting anonymity.

In addition to this proposed foster care support, the government is also looking to expand its existing 'sponsorship' programme, which currently provides financial assistance to over 7,000 vulnerable children living with extended family members. Under this programme, beneficiaries receive Rs 4,000 monthly to cover educational and health-related expenses. Authorities are now considering doubling the number of beneficiaries by the fiscal year 2025-26.

Recognizing the challenges faced by orphans as they transition into adulthood, the government is also planning a new post-care initiative designed to support young adults after they age out of institutional care.

Aspirants up ante as high command greenlights three Telangana Cabinet berths

HYDERABAD. Tension in the Telangana Congress is rising as a cold war brews among ruling party MLAs over Cabinet berths. With the high command deferring its long-anticipated decision on Cabinet expansion — initially expected following the conclusion of the Lok Sabha elections — aspirants are believed to be exerting intense pressure behind closed doors. Highly placed sources confirmed to that the All India Congress Committee (AICC) has greenlit a limited Cabinet expansion, comprising three berths, likely to take place between May 15 and 20.

According to sources with close ties to both the AICC and the TPCC leadership, the party high command has conveyed its decision to the chief minister, the AICC in-charge for Telangana, and the TPCC president.

A senior leader, currently serving as an AICC secretary, disclosed that the party intends to complete Cabinet expansions in both Karnataka and Telangana before the end of the month. The leader confided that Bodhan MLA P Sudarshan Reddy, Makthal MLA Vakiti Srihari, and MLC Amir Ali Khan are



leading the race for the three vacancies. The remaining three berths may remain vacant until after the local body elections, which are tentatively scheduled for July or August.

Full-fledged TPCC

Sources, meanwhile, revealed that the high command is also preparing to finalise the long-pending full-fledged TPCC, including naming working presidents, vice-presidents, general secretaries, a campaign committee chairman, and members of the AICC's programme implementation committee—all posts that have remained unfilled for over six months.

The move to expand the Cabinet is reportedly

based on an internal report submitted by AICC in-charge Meenakshi Natarajan. Her report, sources say, detailed growing factionalism in several districts — including Adilabad, Nalgonda, Rangareddy, and Hyderabad — fuelled by aspirations for Cabinet posts. The report is believed to have recommended appointments from the minority and BC communities and the Nizamabad region. In line with this, Amir Ali Khan, the lone minority legislator in the ruling party, is expected to find a place in the Cabinet. However, the decision to leave three berths unfilled appears to be strategic. Sources suggest that an outright allocation of all posts at this juncture could provoke backlash from other contenders, potentially damaging the party's prospects in the upcoming local polls.

One particularly contentious standoff is said to exist between Mancherial MLA N Premasagar Rao and Chennur MLA G Vivek Venkataswamy. A similar scenario is playing out in Rangareddy district, where multiple MLAs from the Reddy community are vying for representation. Assembly Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar — who had served as a minister in undivided Andhra Pradesh — is also reportedly seeking a Cabinet slot.

Madras HC stays proceedings on closure report filed by CBI in idol theft case



MADURAI. The Madurai Bench of Madras High Court has stayed further proceedings on the closure report filed by the CBI in an idol theft case, following a petition filed by former Idol Wing IGP Pon Manickavel that it was not filed before the competent court.

A case was registered against former DSP Kader Batcha and two police personnel for stealing idols and selling them to a dealer named Deenadayalan for Rs 15 lakh.

The case was re-registered and probed by the CBI based on an order passed by the high court in 2022. On June 10, 2024, the agency filed a closure report before the Chief Judicial Magistrate, Madurai.

Manickavel, who is also being investigated by the CBI in a separate case based on the HC's direction, submitted that the state government passed a notification on May 22, 2024, designating the Additional CJM Court, Madurai as the Special Court for trial of idol theft cases. Since the case against Batcha pertains to Virudhunagar, the closure report ought to have been filed before the Additional CJM, Madurai, Manickavel said. He requested the high court to direct the CJM, Madurai to return the closure report and direct CBI to file the same before the Additional CJM Court. Observing that the petitioner has made out a prima facie case, the judge ordered an interim stay.

For the first time in eight years, KSRTC staff get their salaries in the same month

KOCHI. The nearly 28,000 employees of the Kerala State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) were in for a pleasant surprise when the financially struggling state public-sector undertaking (PSU) disbursed their April salaries "on the last working day of the month" — for the first time in nearly eight years. This is a welcome change from the usual practice of the corporation delaying salary disbursement, at times even crediting the previous month's salary in instalments. In fact, for the past two months, Transport Minister K B Ganesh Kumar has been keeping his promise of crediting the full salary in the first day of the new month. While detractors point out that this is being done by availing a Rs 100-crore overdraft at 10.8 per cent interest from the State Bank of India, the KSRTC management claims they can now afford to do so — thanks to the monthly government grant

of Rs 50 crore and increased revenue collection. "There was a time when staff salaries were disbursed on the last working day of the month. But for the last many years, wages were delayed due to financial constraints. Employees were credited the April salary on the last day of the month. This has happened after a gap of nearly eight years. The minister had promised to disburse the

salary on the first day of the new month. Since May 1 was a holiday, the salary for the month of April was paid in advance, on April 30 itself," a top KSRTC official said.

"The situation has changed for the better since March. We received two salary credits in April. This is also the ninth consecutive month that the entire salary has been disbursed in a single instalment," the official said. While staff received the full February salary on March 4, the corporation disbursed the entire March salary on April 1, fulfilling the promise made by the minister. They received the April salary on April 30 itself. The corporation has also effected a change in the method of depositing its collection. "Earlier, the depots used to deposit daily collections in the SBI account at 11 am the next day. Now the same is done twice — at 3 pm (the collection till noon) and 11 am the next day.

GRH staff show scant regard for new parking rules

MADURAI. Several doctors and staff of Government Rajaji Hospital (GRH) did not paste identification stickers distributed by the hospital administration last week as part of the new entry norms that came into effect on Monday. House surgeons whose service period ends this week also did not use the stickers. Sources said, Over 3,000 stickers were distributed to doctors and hospital staff. Only vehicles with stickers will be allowed to park inside

GRH. Speaking to , Sathiyaseelan, a relative of a patient said, "Thanks to the new system, there is less congestion on the hospital campus. Though identification stickers were given to doctors and hospital staff to enter GRH, many did not paste it on their vehicles. But they managed to get inside the facility. Relatives and attenders parked on the road outside the GRH and behind American College. Hospital authorities claimed that battery operated e-vehicles will be operated for patients arriving without an ambulance but no such arrangements were made." Explaining the case, GRH Resident



Medical Officer (RMO) Dr S Saravanan said, "We have distributed 250 stickers to house surgeons and their period ends on the 2nd week of May. So, they didn't paste the stickers. A new batch of house surgeons will be taking charge on May 10. Moreover, new agency has got the contract for housekeeping, and sanitation work. So, the workers under the old contract agency aren't sure that they will be re-employed. So, they didn't paste the stickers. Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC) had promised to offer two e-vehicles for pickup of patients. But due to some delays the vehicles aren't available yet. As a temporary measure, we have allowed patients to be dropped off inside the facility." He added, "Several senior doctors are not following the norm. They said the stickers would invite publicity when they park cars in public places. But, we have issued clear instructions to keep stickers behind the windshield of the car, otherwise even doctors cars will not be allowed into the hospital."

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Four-year-old Dhanvi from Kozhikode helps discover subterranean eel loach

KOZHIKODE. In a remarkable blend of childhood curiosity and scientific curiosity, a four-year-old girl has become the unlikely face behind the discovery of a new subterranean fish species from Kerala. Dhanvi Dheera, fondly called Juhu, first noticed the unusual fish while playing with water collected from a well in their house during a visit to Naduvannur in Kozhikode district. Her observation prompted her mother Aswani Lalu to investigate further, which eventually led to a groundbreaking scientific revelation. Aswani, who used to draw water from a dugout perennial well owned by Malol Karthiayani Amma, noticed the tiny eel-like fish and informed local experts. The well, situated at an elevation of 150 m above sea level, receives continuous underground water flow from the hilly terrains of Vallora Mala and drains through a natural subterranean channel, making it an ideal habitat for rare aquatic life. Responding to the find, a scientific team led by Dr K R Sreenath, Director General of the Fisheries Survey of

India, and Dr B Pradeep of Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Kozhikode, collected specimens. Detailed morpho-meristic and genetic analysis confirmed that the fish represented an entirely new species. The eel loach was officially named Pangio Juhuae, in honour of little Juhu who first spotted it.

Their research was published in the Indian Journal of Fisheries, under the title 'Discovery of a new species of troglobitic eel loach from Southern India'. The study was co-authored by scientists Dr K R Aju, Dr Sandhya Sukumaran, Dr Wilson Sebastian, Dr Alvin Anto and Dr Grinson George. This marks the third discovery of a subterranean eel loach species in Kerala in recent years. Pangio Bhujia was first identified in 2019 from Cherinjal in Kozhikode, followed by Pangio Pathala from Tiruvalla in Pathanamthitta district in 2022. However, Pangio Juhuae stands apart with its distinct dorsal fin and more pronounced eyes, suggesting it has retained more surface-dwelling traits than its cousins.



Sital Sasthi to get a digital push with YouTubers and social media influencers in Odisha

SAMBALPUR. Blending centuries-old tradition with digital technology, the Nandapara Sital Sasthi Jatra Committee is taking a bold leap this year. In a first-of-its-kind initiative, the committee plans to collaborate with Sambalpur-based YouTubers and social media influencers to create high-quality, curated content around the iconic Sital Sasthi festival. The move aims to not only attract wider audience but also systematically start archiving the grandeur of the celebration for posterity. Sources said a meeting with selected influencers is scheduled for Tuesday to chalk out strategies for producing gripping, culturally-rooted content in the run-up to and during the festival. Unlike previous years when digital content surfaced sporadically and was limited to the three main days of the event, the committee aims to produce more immersive, well-timed content that captures the rituals, preparations and the vibrant cultural fabric of the city by involving digital creators well ahead of the festivities. Strategically-timed reels, vlogs, interviews and behind-the-scenes glimpses are expected to build anticipation and draw more

footfall to the festival. "This is not just about going viral; it's about preserving the soul of Sital Sasthi for future generations. Young content creators understand storytelling in today's language. They have the tools, reach and creativity to make the essence of our tradition resonate with the youths, while helping it reach the farthest corners of the globe," said vice-president of Nandapara committee Prabhudatta Panda. The digital push is not just for this year — it's aimed at building a long-term visual archive. By systematically capturing and storing content, the committee hopes to elevate Sital Sasthi's visibility at state, national, and global levels, eventually helping it earn the recognition it truly deserves, he added.

"Archiving the content will help glorify Sital Sasthi on the global stage. When we look to gain recognition or heritage status in the future, a strong digital presence will speak for the cultural depth we have. Influencers, too, are seeing this collaboration as a meaningful opportunity," said social media coordinator Sankalp Mahapatra.

Sambalpur in the 17th century, marks the marriage of Lord Shiva with Goddess Parvati. Every year, the festival witnesses

performance of thousands of folk artistes from across the region. The divine marriage is scheduled to be held on May 31 this year.



How Nehru viewed role of governors

GOVERNORS continue to trigger controversies over their apparent attempts to disturb the federal balance of power. The latest example is a detailed report sent by West Bengal Governor CV Ananda Bose to the Ministry of Home Affairs regarding the law and order situation in Murshidabad, which witnessed violence recently after the enactment of the Waqf (Amendment) Act. Bose toured the state before submitting the report, in which he stated that the "twin spectres of radicalisation and militancy" posed a serious challenge to the state. A flashback is instructive: In 1952, then Governor Sri Prakasa swore in a 152-member Congress government led by C Rajagopalachari in the 375-member Madras Legislative Assembly, ignoring United Democratic Front leader T Prakasam's claim of support of 166 legislators. Gian Singh Rarewala's coalition government in PEPSU (Patiala and East Punjab States Union) was dismissed in 1953 by invoking Article 356 (pertaining to President's rule) of the Constitution. In 1959, the Union Government dismissed the EMS Namboodiripad government in Kerala on the pretext of deteriorating public order.

Following the fourth General Election in 1967, the Governor's office was misused to dismiss coalition governments in seven states. Then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi had no qualms about removing a non-Congress government. Later, the brazenness of Governors Thakur Ram Lal (Andhra Pradesh, 1983-84) and Romesh Bhandari (Uttar Pradesh, 1996-98) led to their removal. The unabashed misuse of Article 356 prompted the Supreme Court to deliver a landmark judgment in the SR Bommai case (1994). In a recent significant judgment on withholding of Bills by the Tamil Nadu Governor, the apex court redefined gubernatorial powers. Since 2014, when Narendra Modi took charge as Prime Minister, several governors have tried to exceed their Raj Bhavan brief. As the Governor of West Bengal, Jagdeep Dhankhar (now Vice-President) — and now his successor Ananda Bose — made it a routine to tour the state without taking the state government into confidence. They have used their visits to comment against the government while addressing the media. Did the makers of the Constitution envision the Governor's role outside the Raj Bhavan, on the streets? If yes, how was his/her role defined vis-à-vis the elected state government? India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru reflected on this question in his fortnightly letters to provincial/state premiers/chief ministers. He used to write long letters to provincial/state governments, dealing with a wide range of issues, including those being discussed in the Constituent Assembly, the policy measures being carried out by the Union Government regarding agriculture, food, refugee resettlement, foreign policy and industrial production, the way the UN Security Council dealt with the Kashmir issue in a partisan manner, and so on. Obviously, the Governor's office did not escape his attention. First and foremost, he looked at governors as non-partisan constitutional functionaries. He did not endorse politicking by them, particularly parallel politics in states, as political activities of governors that could make the Raj Bhavan a centre of partisanship would destroy the constitutionally designed power balance, equilibrium and ecosystem of governance. After attending a Conference of Governors, he wrote on May 14, 1949: "As was natural, the question of the relationship between the governors and ministers was considered. There was no question, of course, of the governors interfering with the work of the ministry. He had to function as a constitutional Governor. At the same time, it was pointed out that it would be undesirable and wasteful of talent if we did not utilise the governors' experience." He stressed that the premiers/chief ministers must keep the Governor of their state informed. Governors should also keep themselves informed.

Measures taken by India, like halting water flow, blocking YouTube channels of famous Pakistani artistes and cricket stars, aim at crippling Pakistan

THE NCERT has ignited controversy by replacing the titles of English textbooks like 'Honeysuckle' with Hindi titles such as 'Poorvi', 'Mridang' and 'Santoor' for Classes VI, VII and VIII. Government officials defend these names, claiming they transcend language and draw from India's artistic traditions. 'Poorvi' (meaning eastern), they note, is not simply a Hindi word but a raga in Hindustani classical music, symbolising the harmony of an eastern dawn. Defenders of the NCERT's move invoke the Shakespearean adage, "What's in a name?" It suggests that these titular changes are inconsequential. This argument, however, contains a glaring logical fallacy. If, indeed, there is "nothing in a name", why insist on replacing perfectly functional English titles with Hindi ones? The selective application of this principle betrays its disingenuousness. Would the same defender embrace naming Sanskrit textbooks 'Twinkle' or Hindi textbooks 'Harmony'? The ensuing discomfort and resistance would reveal the fallacy of their position. Names carry significant cultural weight and symbolic meaning — a fact the NCERT recognises when imposing Hindi nomenclature but conveniently overlooks when justifying it. The content of these textbooks has been revised to feature more Indian contexts. Moving away from western-centric materials — think 'Rain, Rain, Go Away' as a nursery rhyme far removed from India's monsoonal realities — the books now incorporate multiple genres intended to reflect students' lived experiences within the Indian social, cultural and geographical landscapes. The textbooks ostensibly aim to develop core language competencies through intelligently designed activities. Units are structured with sections like 'Let us listen', 'Let us speak', 'Let us read', 'Let us write' and 'Let us learn' while supposedly weaving in elements of cultural heritage alongside values of ecological sensitivity, disability awareness, gender equality and digital skills. The primary goal of textbooks is to develop core language competencies while integrating vocabulary and grammar within meaningful contexts relevant to Indian students. By merging Indian ethos with a global language, the NCERT envisions a system aligned with the 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat' theme. This rosy picture quickly deteriorates under scrutiny, particularly from non-Hindi-speaking states, where the renaming is perceived as a sinister move to impose Hindi and undermine linguistic diversity. Kerala's Education Minister V Sivankutty has labelled it a "violation of common logic", arguing that English textbooks deserve English titles, not Hindi ones transliterated into Roman script. In the broader context of states' resistance to the NEP 2020, these criticisms are not unfounded. Using 'Poorvi' — a Hindi word — for an English textbook represents symbolic overreach and a subtle assertion of Hindi supremacy, even in a subject taught in a global language. For students in regions where Hindi is neither spoken nor understood, these titles create an alienating psychological barrier to learning. Practical concerns also emerge: how will a child in rural Tamil Nadu pronounce 'Poorvi' or understand its meaning without Hindi familiarity? The Roman script doesn't resolve this disconnect; it merely highlights it, risking mispronunciation and confusion. Rather than fostering unity, this approach deepens regional divides by particular religion, as it is the lingua franca of the gods only. Beneath this debate lies an uglier truth: the renaming of textbooks exemplifies a larger homogenising project, threatening India's pluralistic fabric. While 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat' sounds noble, it often manifests as a push for uniformity, privileging Hindi and northern culture. Naming an English textbook 'Poorvi' is particularly ironic — a western language cloaked in a Hindi title, forcing an awkward marriage that reeks of cultural imperialism, shifting from colonial legacies to national majoritarianism. The near-total absence of non-Hindi characters — Muslims, Sikhs, Christians, Jains, Parsis, Buddhists — and the erasure of their cultures, values, festivals and craftsmanship in the textbook further underscores this steadily narrowing cultural imagination. Using English to "instill" Indian ethos and values is not merely inconsistent but also casts aspersions on Hindi, Sanskrit and other Indian languages' ability to do the same effectively. In the neoliberal context, English language teaching (ELT) is expected to enhance international communication with financial motivations. Viewing ELT solely in economic terms perpetuates the "indoctrination" explicit in Macaulay's infamous minutes. The NEP had an opportunity to alter this discourse, but it, instead, replaced colonial indoctrination with Indian majoritarian indoctrination. The tokenism in the textbooks' content deepens concerns. A southern folktale here, a reference to western kite-flying there and an eastern nod in the title 'Poorvi' feel like hollow gestures while the northern culture claims dominance. This selective representation fails to address the systemic marginalisation of non-Hindi languages and cultures. In India, language is more than a medium — it's a vessel of identity, history and pride. By symbolically prioritising Hindi, the government sends a message that other languages are lesser, fuelling resentment among linguistic minorities. The NEP failed to recognise how critical pedagogy in ELT could have helped learners perceive social inequalities, injustice and imbalances. Instead of using indigenised language teaching for emancipation, it capitulated to a nationalist agenda that undermines India's true linguistic and cultural diversity, replacing colonial indoctrination with Indian majoritarian indoctrination. These nationalist ideals ring hollow, particularly when the National Flag in this textbook, despite the government's flag frenzy, is displayed with its colours upside down, a fitting metaphor for the fundamental inversion of the ideals being touted (see 'Poorvi', Class 7, page 200). The result is not educational liberation but merely a change in the source of ideological imposition.

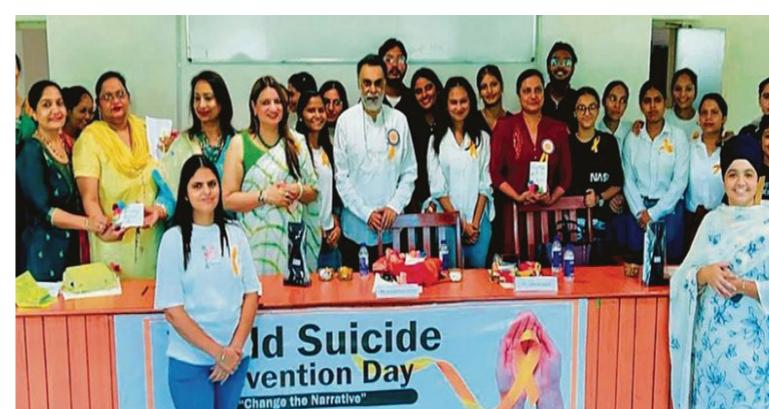


portraying Hindi as the default lens through which India's diversity must be viewed.

The NEP-2020, as manifested in the NCFSE-2023 and these controversial textbooks, has reached its "crescendo". These materials purportedly aim to "instill" pride for the Indian ethos and values in students. This 'pride' must be 'ingrained' in the students even while teaching a non-Indian language. Yet, this approach overlooks that language and its teaching are key conduits for transmitting culture across generations.

Sapir-Whorf hypothesised that the structure of language determines one's perception and categorisation of experience. The Indian student does not grasp the 'structure' of the English language before schooling begins because English is largely the second language for her, and none of the Indian languages have a structure similar to that of English. It is through language that we socialise, we create or conflict with authority, we argue, imagine, fantasise and dream. The English language and its teaching cannot be 'separated' from the English culture, just as Hindi cannot be separated from the culture of 'Hindi patti' or Sanskrit cannot be disassociated with a

THE tragic deaths of three young students — two NEET aspirants in Kota, Rajasthan, and a forensic science student of a private university in Mohali, Punjab — within days of each other lay bare a systemic failure that India continues to ignore at its own peril. That one of the students died just before the NEET-UG exam underscores how relentless academic pressure, mental health neglect and unrealistic expectations have created a lethal mix for many. Kota, the coaching hub, has seen 14 student suicides this year alone. Despite repeated warnings, the structural stressors — high-stakes exams, toxic competition, unregulated coaching practices and the burden of 'guaranteed success' — remain unaddressed. Recently, the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) issued notices to several coaching institutes for misleading advertisements and unfair trade practices. Many ads promised top ranks and assured selections without



substantiating their claims. These promises, coupled with immense pressure, are often a trap for vulnerable students and anxious parents. The country's toppers' culture needs a hard reset. The Rajasthan government's proposal for the Coaching Institutes (Control and

Regulation) Bill is a step forward. Mandatory counselling and aptitude tests before enrolment may help, but enforcement is the key. The 2018 guidelines that aimed to provide psychological support and regulate private institutes seem to have been ignored into irrelevance. Without strict oversight, the new law too risks becoming symbolic.

Parents must also introspect. Forcing children into ill-suited streams or tying self-worth to marks and rankings breeds despair. The country must stop treating its students as rank-seekers and start recognising them as individuals with unique strengths and limits. The government must cultivate an ecosystem that generates enough jobs for the youth with varied streams of interest. No exam is worth a life.

For now, continue with war by other means

To begin with, we must define what our aim is — do we want to deal a decisive, final blow to terrorism that comes from Pakistan or do we want to do the same to Pakistan?

Nearly two weeks after the horrific, targeted killing of defenceless tourists at Pahalgam, the dust has not yet settled to enable us to view the situation with clarity. The seething anger within our hearts is not abating. Though the single common emotion is revenge, its suggested method, modalities and manifestation vary. Public fora are full of views, opinions, recommendations, critiques, et al, depending upon the sources of their origin. But in the discussions, everyone seems to agree that the situation is more complex than what was perceived at first. When faced with complex problems, it is a good idea to revisit the first principles and lessons of history. While principles bring to fore axioms, history can be a good reminder of events and lessons that ought to have been learnt from them.

Some of our fellow citizens see war clouds gathering, but the more informed minds look at many other options short of, or more effective than, war. It is often said that if one wants peace, one must prepare for war. It would do no harm, therefore, to see how some of the time-tested and proven principles of war could help us to see through the haze.

To begin with, we must define what our aim is — do we want to deal a decisive, final blow to terrorism that comes from Pakistan or do we want to do the same to Pakistan? This is vital as the measures to be taken for both would be quite different. Offensive action could be physical or non-physical. Physical offensive must achieve surprise and it should be ensured that it is applied at the right time and at the

right place. To that end, patience and level-headed planning and not knee-jerk reactions are the key. Non-physical actions, on the other hand, could be sustained over a long period and would generally be multi-pronged. There is a need to apply sufficient force to ensure success, yet there is the principle of economy of effort to be kept in mind. To achieve the two seemingly contradictory requirements,



concentrating the force at the point of decision is essential. That calls for mobility of assets and flexibility of plans. This is possible in both physical and non-physical offensive actions. The suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) and the ban on mail and trade are two recent cases that exemplify the latter. Sustainability of an offensive depends on several factors; principle among them is robust economy. Our economy is on an upward curve; nothing we undertake should hurt that progress.

Keeping our economy secure could, therefore, be a term of reference for our planners.

Cooperation between all organs of the government is essential to achieve optimum results. Fortunately, given the state of high morale not only within all ranks of the armed forces but also among all our citizens, necessary cooperation would be readily forthcoming. This is not the first time we are facing post-trauma complex challenges for decision-making at various levels and it most certainly would not be the last. In 1971, we faced not only an unbearable burden on our economy but also a grave national security concern arising from the influx of millions of refugees from the erstwhile east Pakistan. Acting on multiple fronts, like international diplomacy, political consensus and decisive military actions, we achieved a historic military victory over Pakistan. It was no hasty decision. The offensive was launched after waiting for many months of biding our time to select the right time and method and after full preparation. We learn from our mistakes, too. Who can forget the episode when lapses in security, lack of coordination between departments and some questionable decision-making resulted in the hijack of an Indian Airlines flight to Kandahar and the release of jailed terrorists? We are now far better prepared against such threats. Then, there have been the attacks on pilgrims of Amarnath Yatra, on Raghunath Temple, Akshardham and the Army camp at Kalu Chak and Pulwama. We have learnt and improved from each of them. During the Kargil war, our leadership showed considerable

statesmanship in keeping the conflict confined to a specified geographical area. In fact, the need to remain within our means and in control of the situation at all times brought about the concept of 'limited war'. In an adverse situation such as the one we have experienced recently, it is common to hear of 'intelligence failure'. By holding someone or some agency accountable and placing the blame at its door, there is almost a sense of having nabbed the guilty. Before we indulge in any hasty blame game, we must remember two things. First, many such attacks are nipped in the bud by the security forces (SF) when 'actionable intelligence' is given to them by the intelligence apparatus. It is generally all in a day's work for the SF and rarely, if ever, publicised.

Next, the SF work round the clock, ready and hoping for action against terrorists. The terrorists, on the other hand, can select a time and place to strike — so they have to be lucky just once. The jury is still out on the whys and wherefores of the Pahalgam attack. We are also not certain what the Pakistan army's aim was in selecting an easy target in a cowardly, senseless attack. It could be to divert the attention of the Pakistan population from its recent failures in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Or, to hinder India's economic progress, or to provoke us and lure us to walk into a trap — a massive ambush waiting to be sprung. Till the truth is revealed, as it was in the case of the intrusions in Kargil in 1999, we need to keep our powder dry for action, keep a cool head, continue to apply economic squeeze and continue our 'war by other means', as Clausewitz would say!

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 smoky 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.

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.

Plot to revive sleeper cells foiled in Punjab, grenades, terror hardware seized

Punjab Police, acting on intelligence inputs and in coordination with central agencies, foiled a plot by Pakistan's ISI-backed terror networks to revive sleeper cells in the state by seizing a cache of arms and explosives in Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar.

NEW DELHI. In a major breakthrough in anti-terror operations, the Punjab Police's special cell has seized a cache of terrorist hardware and ammunition in Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar district, foiling an attempt by Pakistan's ISI-backed cross-border terror networks to revive sleeper cells in the region, officials said on Tuesday. Acting on intelligence inputs, the State Special Operation Cell (SSOC) of Punjab Police, in coordination with central agencies, seized two rocket-propelled grenades (RPGs), two improvised explosive devices (IEDs), five P-86 hand grenades, and a wireless communication set, the Punjab Police DGP tweeted. "Preliminary probe indicate a coordinated operation by Pakistan's ISI and allied terror outfits to revive sleeper cells in Punjab," he said.

The anti-terror operation comes just days after Pakistan-based terrorists opened fire on civilians in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam, killing 26 people, most of them tourists. Security agencies, particularly in border regions, have been placed on high alert following the April 22 attack. Terrorist sleeper

cells are covert groups of terrorists who remain inactive for long periods, blending into local communities until they receive orders to carry out attacks or provide support to active terrorist operations. Speaking exclusively to India Today, a former sleeper cell member said that the Pahalgam attack couldn't have been possible without the help of sleeper cells and around 5-6 of them were in touch with the Lashkar terrorists who carried out the attack.

In a similar anti-terror operation on Sunday, the Border Security Force (BSF) arrested a Pakistani national in Punjab's Gurdaspur district for allegedly attempting to infiltrate the India-Pakistan border. The individual, identified as Muhammad Hussain, has been handed over to the Punjab Police and remains in custody. Last week, a Pakistani Ranger, part of the country's paramilitary force, was also detained by Indian border forces. A preliminary investigation suggests the soldier may have been on an espionage or reconnaissance mission, amid heightened tensions between India and Pakistan following the Pahalgam attacks.



Blackouts, Evacuation, Hotlines: Details Of Today's Security Drill



New Delhi. Following directions from the Centre, states and Union Territories are preparing for a civil defence security drill tomorrow. While the Centre's instructions to the states' chief secretaries do not mention the tensions with Pakistan, the timing of the order, amid heightened tensions following the Pahalgam terror attack, leaves no room for interpretation. The last such drill was conducted in the run-up to the 1971 war between India and Pakistan, in which the latter was defeated and Bangladesh was created. Here is what you need to know about the security drill.

Who Will Be Part Of The Drill

According to the Ministry of Home Affairs notification to the states, this drill will be held across the country's 244 Civil Defence districts. "The conduct of the exercise is planned up to the village level. This exercise aims to assess and enhance the readiness of Civil Defence mechanisms across all States and Union Territories," it says.

According to the notification, the drill should see "active participation of the District Controller, various district authorities, civil defence wardens/volunteers, Home Guard (active /reservists volunteers), NCC, NSS, NYKS, college and school students". The notification also mentions that civilians must be trained to respond to a "hostile attack".

What Are The Objectives

The Home Ministry notification lays down nine objectives of this security drill. The first is to assess the effectiveness of air raid warning systems and aims to prepare people for a response to an aerial attack. Hotline and radio communication lines with the Air Force will also be operational during this drill. It will also test the functionality of control rooms and shadow control rooms. The notification says civilians and students must be trained in civil defence to protect themselves "in the event of hostile attack".

The training also includes crash blackout measures, which refer to training on planned blackouts to guard against aerial attacks. As part of the drill, authorities may ask residents to switch off lights for a certain duration to mimic a blackout. The training will also include camouflaging of vital plants and installations. This means steps to cover or shield key premises -- such as airfields, refineries and rail yards -- from enemy fire. The drill will also check the preparedness of rescue teams and firefighters and evacuation measures. The evacuation drills will be rehearsals for moving civilians from vulnerable areas to safe zones. Civilians will also be trained in first-aid, firefighting and shelter techniques.

India Prepares Pahalgam Response

The Pahalgam terror attack, in which 25 tourists and a Kashmiri pony ride operator were murdered in cold blood, has shocked and horrified the nation. The government has vowed a strong response, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi saying that the perpetrators and conspirators of the attack would get a punishment they cannot imagine. The investigation into the Pahalgam attack has pointed to a Pakistani hand, like several other terror attacks on Indian soil in the past.

Supreme Court makes its judges' assets public: FDs, PPF, houses, stocks and more

The move comes in the wake of growing concerns over opacity in the judiciary, especially after a controversy surrounding the alleged discovery of burnt wads of cash at the residence of Delhi High Court judge Yashwant Varma following a fire incident.

New Delhi. In a significant move to boost transparency, the Supreme Court has begun uploading the asset declarations of its sitting judges on the court's official website. The asset details of 21 out of its 33 sitting judges are already on its official website, including information on real estate, movable property, gold, shares, and investments held by the judges, their spouses, and joint family members.

The disclosure also includes the assets of all five judges currently in the Collegium. In a press statement, the top court said that the remaining judges' asset details will be uploaded soon. This follows a full-court resolution passed on April 1 to place



such information in the public domain. This will also apply to future judges. The move comes in the wake of growing concerns over opacity in the judiciary, especially after a controversy surrounding the alleged discovery of burnt wads of cash at the residence of Delhi High Court judge Yashwant

Varma following a fire incident. This marks a significant shift from previous practice, where asset declarations were mandatory only to the Chief Justice of India (CJI) but optional for public disclosure. Additionally, the top court has also placed the complete process of appointments to the High Courts and the Supreme Court, including the role assigned to the High Court Collegium, the role of and inputs received from the state governments, central governments, consideration by the Supreme Court Collegium, and data on appointments made between November 2022 and May 2025 on its website for the knowledge and awareness of the public.

Keep cash, torch, medical kits handy: What today's security drill will focus on

New Delhi. Amid rising tensions with Pakistan following the Pahalgam terror attack, the Home Ministry has directed all states to conduct mock security drills on Wednesday focusing on preparedness for various emergency scenarios. A review meeting held in the Ministry of Home Affairs assessed the condition of civil defence installations across 244 districts -- such as shelters, warning systems, and coordination facilities -- are in working condition or require repairs. Training for civilians will be a key component of the drills.

According to a Home Ministry statement, the drills will focus on how to respond to air raid sirens and blackout situations. Sources said citizens will be instructed to keep medical kits with extra supplies, torches, and candles at home.

As per sources, people will be advised to keep cash handy to navigate situations where mobile devices and digital transactions may fail. The home ministry cited "new and complex threats" as the reason for these comprehensive exercises. Over 100



locations out of the 244 reviewed have been flagged as especially sensitive. The mock drills will encompass several crucial measures, including the activating of air-raid warning sirens, training civilians on civil-defence strategies to ensure their safety during a "hostile attack," and the cleaning of existing bunkers and trenches. Other measures outlined in a letter to the chief secretaries of all states and

administrators of Union territories include provisions for crash-blackout procedures, the early camouflaging of critical plants and installations, and the updating and rehearsal of evacuation plans. The drills will also involve testing the functionality of hotline and radio-communication links with the Indian Air Force (IAF) and assessing the readiness of control rooms and shadow control rooms.

Single complaint number for all waterlogging grievances, says Parvesh Verma

The initiative is aimed at resolving common issues such as waterlogging, broken roads, choked drains, and overflowing sewers more efficiently during the rainy season.

NEW DELHI. In an effort to improve citizen services ahead of the monsoon, the Delhi government will soon launch a unified helpline number '311' to register civic complaints related to departments such as the NDMC, MCD, DDA, PWD, Jal Board, and Flood Control.

Announcing the initiative during a visit to the NDMC Control and Command Centre, Public Works Department Minister Parvesh Singh Verma said the helpline will ensure citizens don't have to approach multiple departments for redressal. "Our vision is 'One Delhi, One Number'.

Citizens only have to call 311, and their complaints will be forwarded to the right department," he said.

The initiative is aimed at resolving common issues such as waterlogging, broken roads, choked drains, and overflowing sewers more efficiently during the rainy season. A joint meeting of all concerned departments will be held within the next few days to finalise the operational structure of the Command Centre, as well as the deployment of officials and technical coordination. The



minister also announced that CCTV cameras would be installed in waterlogging-prone areas to enable real-time monitoring. "With live monitoring and CCTV surveillance, our teams will be able to respond swiftly," Verma said, underlining the role of technology in managing monsoon challenges.

The NDMC Control and Command Centre will serve as the central hub for civic grievance management, operating 24x7 during the monsoon.

Monitoring officers from each department will be stationed at the facility to ensure coordinated and timely responses.

Additionally, all pumping stations across the city will be upgraded with automated systems to enhance drainage efficiency and assist field teams with real-time support.

"This entire arrangement is meant to reduce public inconvenience. The idea is not just to take complaints but to resolve them quickly and," Verma said. Officials said every complaint received via 311 would be logged into a central system and linked to a responsible officer, promoting transparency and accountability.

Pakistan violates LoC ceasefire for 12th day, Army retaliates

New Delhi. The Indian Army responded to unprovoked small-arms firing by Pakistani troops across the Line of Control (LoC) during the night of May 5-6, Indian Army spokesperson said. This comes amid the rising tension between India and Pakistan after the Pahalgam terror attack. Pakistani troops continued ceasefire violations along the Line of Control for the 12th consecutive night with its unprovoked firing in Kupwara, Baramulla, Poonch, Rajauri, Mendhar, Naushera, Sunderbani, and Akhnoor in areas of Jammu and Kashmir, and the Indian Army responded in a calibrated and proportionate manner. Firing between the two sides comes amid heightened tensions following the April 22 terror attack in Pahalgam in which 26 people, mostly tourists, were killed.

Since the night of April 24, just hours after India suspended the Indus Waters Treaty following the killing of 26 people in the terror attack, Pakistani troops have been resorting to unprovoked firing at various places along the LoC in J&K, beginning from the Kashmir Valley. On April 24, Pakistan blocked its airspace for Indian airlines, closed the Wagah border crossing, suspended all trade with India, and stated that any attempt to divert water meant for Pakistan under the Indus Waters Treaty would be considered an "act of war."

India and Pakistan had agreed to a renewed ceasefire along the borders in Jammu and Kashmir in February 2021.

The situation has changed significantly since February 2021, when the DGMOs of India and Pakistan reiterated their commitment to the 2003 ceasefire agreement to ensure peace along the de facto border.

TCS Pays Full Quarterly Variable Allowance To Over 70% Of Employees

TCS (Tata Consultancy Services) reported a 1.7% decline in the March quarter net profit to Rs 12,224 crore, driven largely by a margin contraction.



New Delhi. Tata Consultancy Services has paid out 100 per cent of the Quarterly Variable Allowance (QVA) to more than 70 per cent of its workforce for the January-March quarter. The company clarified that for employees in other grades, the QVA payout is determined by the performance of their respective business units, which is consistent with TCS's established policy across quarters.

"We have paid out 100 per cent QVA to over 70 per cent of the company. For all other grades, the QVA depends on their unit's business performance. This is in line with our standard practice across quarters," TCS said in a statement. TCS (Tata Consultancy Services) reported a 1.7 per cent decline in the March quarter net profit to Rs 12,224 crore, driven largely by a margin contraction.

It logged a total revenue of Rs 64,479 crore in Q4 FY25, up 5.3 per cent over the year-ago period.

The company added 625 employees in the quarter, bringing its total workforce to over 6 lakh.

While announcing its Q4 and FY25 earnings last month, TCS had said that it would be deferring annual wage hikes to its 6.07 lakh employees due to the business uncertainties triggered by the tariff issues. The company's chief human resources officer Milind Lakkad cited business uncertainties for the delay in annual wage hikes, which generally set in from April. He, however, did not give a timeline for when the company will announce the hikes.

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.

Evera Cabs to acquire 500 BluSmart Electric Cabs

New Delhi. Electric taxi service provider Evera Cabs (Prakriti Mobility) has initiated the repossession of 500 electric cabs earlier operated by troubled BluSmart. Evera said that 220 vehicles have been acquired and the remaining 280 are set to be reclaimed in the coming days. The company added that it is looking to enhance its position as a leading electric cab service provider, with a strong focus on airport mobility. Evera has plans to acquire 1,000 BluSmart cars.

"What we're executing is not just a scale-up, it is a realignment of the electric mobility narrative in India. As key players recalibrate, Evera is stepping forward with clear intent, absorbing proven EV assets and trusted drivers to ensure uninterrupted service across key routes," Evera Co-Founder and CEO Nishish Trivedi said.

Evera said its repossession of BluSmart's cabs through its lenders is part of a multi-stage strategic plan to reinforce its footprint in NCR's high-demand airport cab sector. In the next phase, Evera has plans to double down on its airport network expansion, extending services across all terminals of Delhi's airport. Last month electric cab-hailing platform BluSmart suspended operations across Delhi-NCR, Bengaluru, and Mumbai after capital market regulator Sebi banned Gensol Engineering and promoters - Anmol Singh Jaggi and Puneet Singh Jaggi, who are also co-founders of BluSmart - from the securities markets in a fund diversion and governance lapses case.

Game of skills involving money is gambling: Govt to SC

New Delhi. The government has informed the country's apex court that the moment a financial stake is introduced—even in games requiring skill—the activity becomes a form of betting and gambling. This submission was made as a crucial hearing on the applicability of GST to online gaming, fantasy sports, and casinos began on Monday in the Supreme Court. The government contended that such activities fall squarely within the purview of taxable actionable claims under the Central Goods and Services Tax (CGST) Act, 2017.

A bench comprising Justices J.B. Pardiwala and R. Mahadevan is examining whether the Goods and Services Tax (GST) is lawfully applicable to online games, fantasy sports platforms, and casinos, particularly when they involve monetary stakes. The GST department's argument is based on the premise that once money is staked, the game—regardless of whether it involves skill or chance—enters the domain of gambling, a position previously upheld by Supreme Court judgments. Citing state laws, the revenue department has argued that state gambling statutes exempt games of skill from criminal prosecution only when played without stakes. "When stakes are involved, such games may be considered gambling," it stated in court. The revenue department has further submitted that the 101st Constitutional Amendment transferred taxing powers for betting and gambling to the Centre under Article 246A. It, therefore, argues that regulatory powers of the states cannot be construed as taxation powers. The government has also stated that the 2023 amendment was merely clarificatory in nature, asserting that the power to tax actionable claims existed even before the amendment. Abhishek A. Rastogi, founder of Rastogi Chambers and counsel for one of the petitioners before the Supreme Court, said: "If games of skill are treated as gambling solely because of monetary stakes, we risk blurring crucial legal boundaries. The decision will not just impact revenue collection, but the future of lawful, skill-based digital enterprises across India." The government contends that a 28% GST should apply to the total contest entry amount, effectively taxing the entire prize pool. However, gaming companies argue that GST should only be levied on their platform fees or commission, as many of these games involve skill rather than chance.

Global oil prices fall to multi-year lows; Brent nears \$58 amid global trade war

NEW DELHI. Global oil prices tumbled sharply on Monday after OPEC+ announced increased production for June. The alliance of oil-producing countries, led by Saudi Arabia, agreed to raise output by an additional 411,000 barrels per day (bpd) in June, following a similar increase in May. As a result, Brent crude dropped as much as 4.6% to near \$58 per barrel, while West Texas Intermediate (WTI) hovered around \$56 in early trading. Brent is now approaching



the four-year low it previously touched in April 2025. The aggressive ramp-up in production comes amid growing concerns that US President Donald Trump's tariffs could trigger a global recession, potentially weakening oil demand just as supply expands. Consequently, April recorded oil's largest monthly loss since 2021. The continued slide in oil prices spells potential economic relief for India, which relies heavily on imported crude. A lower oil import bill could ease inflationary pressures and help buffer the economy against external shocks. India's average crude basket price stood at \$67.73 per barrel in April but fell to \$61.89 on May 1, reflecting the global downturn. "While there are concerns about the first, second, and third round effects of US tariffs, especially on external demand and capital formation—one important factor is the ongoing, albeit unstated, pursuit of lower oil prices, possibly as low as \$50 per barrel," said

New Delhi. The Supreme Court order rejecting JSW Steel's Rs 19,800 crore resolution plan and liquidating Bhushan Power & Steel Ltd (BPSL) has put at risk around Rs 34,000 crore of banks' exposure to the latter. The banks will have to pay back the entire Rs 19,350 crore they had received from the JSW group, and will have to fully provide for that in the June quarter. BPSL had owed Rs 48,523 crore to the lenders, most public sector banks led by the State Bank. The court order also puts a big question mark on the fate of the Rs 10,800 crore JSW had borrowed to fund the acquisition along with a Rs 4,000 crore term loan that JPSL had raised to run the company after the ownership changed hands. The development comes as banks are already facing squeezed margins—as lending rates are falling and will likely fall more in the coming months but deposit prices remain highly elevated and will remain so for some more quarters. Under the IBC scheme, lenders are legally bound to return the money received from the

winning bidder if the resolution plan gets rejected later, a public sector banker told TNIE. Another banker said that banks will also have to set aside more funds if the liquidation value is lower than the now failed IBC resolution value. During the insolvency process, valuers had arrived at a liquidation value of Rs 9,700 crore. None of the nearly a dozen lenders, who are mostly public sector banks, have officially commented on the development except saying they are studying the detailed order. The bankers with exposure to the crippled company are mostly state-run lenders with State Bank of India having had an exposure of Rs 9,800 crore and had received Rs 3,930 crore in likely payback from JSW Steel under the resolution plan, followed by Punjab National Bank with Rs 6,100 crore of exposure and a likely recovery of Rs 2,440 crore, according to analysis by brokerages. Among leading



lenders, Axis Bank and Karur Vysya Bank are the only private sector lenders with exposures of Rs 900 crore and recovery of Rs 350 crore and Rs 400 crore and Rs 140 crore. The other major lenders include Canara Bank (Rs 3,700 crore & Rs 1,490 crore), Union Bank of India (Rs 3,200 crore & Rs 1,280 crore); Bank of Baroda (Rs 2,600 crore & Rs 1,050 crore); Indian

Bank (Rs 2,600 crore & Rs 1,060 crore); Indian Overseas Bank (Rs 1,000 crore & Rs 420 crore); Jammu & Kashmir Bank (Rs 400 crore & Rs 170 crore), and IDBI Bank with Rs 600 crore and Rs 230 crore in payback. In a surprise order that has serious ramifications for the insolvency resolution process and questions the collective commercial wisdom of lenders, a Supreme Court bench of justices Bela Trivedi and Satish Chandra Sharma had last Friday set aside the IBC resolution of Bhushan Power & Steel and also ordered its liquidation saying JSW Steel, the lenders, the resolution professional Mahender Kumar Khandelwal as well the NCLT and NCLAT did not follow the IBC provisions and thus the entire deal was illegal.

Atherives up listing gains, slides 4% after wr Energy geek debut. Hold or sell

New Delhi. Electric two-wheeler maker Ather Energy ended nearly 4% lower on its market debut Tuesday, giving up early gains despite a modest listing premium. The stock opened at Rs 328 on the NSE, up 2.2% over its issue price of Rs 321, but slipped over 4% to an intraday low of Rs 308.95 amid weak market sentiment.

The Rs 2,981-crore IPO was subscribed 1.43 times and had seen subdued demand across categories. Analysts attributed the weak performance to aggressive pricing and sector headwinds.

"As expected, we see a flat listing, which was justified given the aggressive valuation—especially when benchmarked against peer OLA Electric," said Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities Ltd.

"The electric two-wheeler segment remains highly competitive and

capital-intensive, with most players, including market leaders, still struggling to turn profitable. We recommend a 'HOLD' only for risk-



taking investors comfortable with short- to medium-term volatility. Conservative investors should wait for the stock to settle at more reasonable valuations," he added.

Tapse added that the EV 2W space remains in a high-growth but high-

burn phase, with potential for sharp swings in both business performance and stock price. Founded in 2013, Ather designs its scooters in-house and operates over 2,600 charging stations across 300 cities. Its product line includes the Ather 450 and the new family-focused Ather Rizta. The company plans to use IPO proceeds to fund a new factory in Maharashtra, repay debt, and invest in R&D. For FY24, Ather posted a net loss of Rs 1,059 crore on Rs 1,754 crore revenue, with EBITDA margins at -36%. While Ather enjoys strong brand equity and long-term growth potential, analysts caution that continued cash burn, pricing pressure, and market competition could keep the stock volatile in the near term.

UPI QR Codes Record 91.5 Per Cent Surge To 657.9 Million, Credit Card Growth Slows

Mumbai. UPI QR codes have recorded the fastest growth in digital payments infrastructure in the financial year 2024-25, with a 91.5 per cent jump over the previous financial year to 657.9 million, according to the latest RBI data.

The surge in UPI QR codes was accompanied by a slowdown in the growth rate of credit card transactions to 7.94 per cent year-on-year, while debit card additions registered a mere 2.7 per cent growth to 991 million. The growth in the number of UPI QR codes has been accelerating with the increasing deployment by platforms like Google Pay, Paytm, and PhonePe. The number of banks going live on UPI continues to increase, and the total touched 668 in April, which is expected to increase the value of such transactions, according to bank officials. March saw a record Rs 24.77 lakh crore in UPI transactions, marking a 25 per



cent increase in value and a 36 per cent increase in volume compared to the previous year. UPI has become the dominant method for digital transactions in India. Nearly four out of five digital payments in the country were conducted on the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) in the financial year 2024 (FY24), according to the Reserve Bank of India's annual report.

UPI's share, compared to the cumulative volume of digital payments in the country, has grown steadily from 73.4 per cent in FY23 to 79.7 per cent in FY24. In FY20, UPI's share as compared to the volume of total digital payments in India was pegged at 36.8 per cent.

The RBI is actively promoting digital payments through various initiatives, including the "Har Payment Digital" campaign, which aims to make every person in India aware of digital payments. RBI also allows flexibility in revising transaction limits for UPI in-person merchant payments, allowing NPCI to adjust limits based on user needs, with safeguards in place which has made the mode of payment more convenient.

Sensex down over 80 points, Nifty above 24,400; pharma stocks tumble

NEW DELHI. Benchmark stock market indices fell after opening flat on Tuesday as pharmaceutical stocks tumbled. The BSE Sensex was down 28.27 points to trade at 80,768.57 around 9:24 am, while the NSE Nifty50 was down 10.85 points to 24,450.30. Broader market indices also slipped into negative territory, with early trade marked by a slight uptick in volatility.

Among the Nifty50 pack, M&M, Hero MotoCorp, Bharti Airtel, ONGC, and Bajaj Auto emerged as the top gainers, while Cipla, Jio Financial Services, Dr Reddy's, Titan, and Eternal led the losses. "Sustained FII buying for the 13th day in a row, supported by weak dollar, has imparted resilience and support to the market despite the India-Pak tensions," said Dr. VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services.

"This resilience is further reinforced by tailwinds in the form of soft crude, declining inflation and the RBI's cheap money policy of rate cuts and abundant liquidity injection. These

tailwinds have the potential to facilitate high GDP growth and improving corporate earnings in FY26, and the market is likely to discount this by moving to new highs," Vijayakumar added.



However, he pointed out that the "uncertainty regarding the India-Pakistan tensions will keep the market range bound" in the near-term. "Large cap IT has bottomed out. Large cap private sector banking stocks will remain resilient despite the recent run up," he added. From a technical perspective, the Nifty 50 continues to trade in a narrow consolidation range, forming a neutral candlestick pattern

on the daily chart. A decisive move above 24,500 could pave the way for an up move towards 24,700 and 24,800. On the downside, support is seen at 24,200 and 24,000, where traders may find buying opportunities on dips, said Mandar Bhojane, Equity Research Analyst at Choice Broking.

On the institutional front, FIIs continued their buying streak on May 5 with net equity purchases of 497 crore, while DIIs remained strong buyers, investing 2,788 crore. This sustained inflow from both domestic and foreign investors reflects underlying market confidence, despite global uncertainties. "Given the mixed cues and key resistance levels ahead, traders are advised to adopt a 'wait and watch' approach, especially in high-leverage positions. Booking partial profits on rallies and maintaining tight stop-losses is recommended. If Nifty sustains above 24,500, fresh long positions can be added gradually," Bhojane said.

Wall Street slips, snapping 9-day rally as oil prices hit 4-year low

Wall Street's nine-day winning streak ended Monday as oil prices fell to a four-year low following an OPEC+ output boost. Tech stocks and Buffett's exit also weighed on markets.

NEW DELHI. Stocks closed lower on Wall Street Monday, breaking a nine-day winning streak, as oil prices hit a four-year low after the OPEC+ group announced plans to increase output. The losses came amid a relatively calm day of mostly mixed trading. They follow several weeks of gains that helped the market wipe away its losses since the ongoing trade war began. The S&P 500 fell 36.29 points, or 0.6%, to 5,650.38. The decline broke the benchmark index's longest winning streak since 2004.

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The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 98.60 points, or 0.2%, to 41,218.83. The Nasdaq composite fell 133.49 points, or 0.7%, to 17,844.24. Technology companies and other big stocks were among the heaviest weights on the market. Apple slumped 3.1%, while Amazon fell 1.9% and Tesla slipped 2.4%. Berkshire Hathaway fell 5.1%. Legendary investor Warren Buffett announced over the weekend that he would step down as CEO by the end of the year after six decades at the helm. Buffett will still be chairman of the board of directors. The OPEC+ group of eight oil producing nations announced over the weekend that it will raise its output by 411,000 barrels per day as of June 1.

US crude oil prices fell 2% to \$57.13 per barrel. Many producers can no longer turn profit once oil falls below \$60. Prices are down sharply for the year over worries about an economic slowdown. The energy sector led the losses within the S&P 500. Exxon Mobil shed 2.8%. Markets have been absorbing the

shock of tariffs and the growing trade war. President Donald Trump has imposed import taxes on a wide range of



imports, prompting retaliation from global trading partners. Many of the more severe tariffs that were supposed to go into effect in April were delayed by three months, with the notable exception of tariffs against China. The delays have provided some relief to Wall Street, though uncertainty about the impact from current and future tariffs continues to hang over markets and the economy. "Uncertainty remains elevated and economic data will likely weaken in the coming months, meaning further bouts of volatility are likely," said Ulrike

Hoffmann-Burchardi, chief investment officer of global equities at UBS Global Wealth Management. That uncertainty will overshadow the Federal Reserve's meeting this week.

The Fed is expected to hold its benchmark interest rate steady on Wednesday. It cut the rate three times in 2024 before taking a more cautious stance. The central bank was concerned that inflation, while easing, was still stubbornly hovering just above its target rate of 2%. Concerns about inflation rearing its head have only grown amid the global trade war sparked by Trump's tariff policy.

The economy has shown some signs that it is feeling the impact from tariffs and the uncertainty over Trump's policy. The U.S. economy shrank 0.3% in the first quarter, marking the first drop in three years. The economy is still showing signs of resilience, however. Consumers have grown more cautious, but still continue to spend. Economic activity in the services sector continued expanding in April, according to a survey from the Institute for Supply Management.

NEWS BOX

Shubman Gill not affected by weight of captaincy: Gujarat Titans director Solanki

New Delhi. Shubman Gill has been one of those cricketers who have thrived under the burden of responsibility that comes with leading a side," Gujarat Titans' Director of Cricket, Vikram Solanki, said. In his second year as captain of the 2022 champions, Gill has appeared comfortable in IPL 2025, both with the bat and in his tactical decisions on the field. The Gujarat Titans currently occupy fourth spot with 14 points from just 10 games and are well-placed to reach the playoffs for the first time since 2023. Gill appeared somewhat flustered during his maiden stint as captain of the Titans, but with a more well-rounded attack this season, the young star has looked at ease, navigating the pressures of a high-profile tournament such as the IPL. "As far as leadership is concerned, he has really grown into the role of captaincy," Solanki said while addressing a press conference on the eve of their IPL 2025 match against the Mumbai Indians in Mumbai. "When you have somebody as gifted, as talented, as exceptional as Shubman is as a batsman, sometimes you might have concerns about whether the weight of leadership would bear heavily. I don't think that's been the case. You sometimes see that people thrive in such responsibility roles, and Shubman has



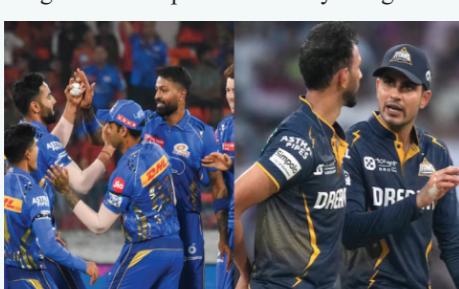
certainly been that," he added.

Gill, who clinched the Orange Cap in 2023 with 890 runs, managed just 426 runs in 12 matches last season. However, in IPL 2025, Gill has already amassed 465 runs in 10 matches at a strike rate of 162 - his best in the IPL so far.

WHAT MAKES GILL-SAI JODI A HIT
Gill and Sai Sudharsan have forged a sensational opening combination, setting the stage alight at the top of the order. The pair has added 628 runs - the most for any partnership this season, a remarkable 173 runs more than their nearest rivals, Virat Kohli and Devdutt Padikkal. When asked about the secret behind Gill and Sudharsan's success at the top, Solanki said: "You can only credit them and their success, credit their partnership, to their hard work." There is the nuance that they are similar in terms of how they approach the game. They are fairly traditional in how they set themselves up. At their core, they have a solid technique and an understanding and appreciation for facing the new ball, where there can be some movement.

MI vs GT, IPL 2025 Preview: Predicted XI, team news and Mumbai pitch conditions

New Delhi. Mumbai Indians (MI) will aim to continue their winning juggernaut as they take on Gujarat Titans (GT) in Match 56 of the Indian Premier League 2025 (IPL 2025) on Tuesday, May 6 at Wankhede Stadium, Mumbai. The Hardik Pandya-led side is coming into the fixture on the back of a dominant 100-run victory over the Rajasthan Royals (RR). MI have made a remarkable turnaround after winning just one out of their first five fixtures and are on a six-match winning streak. The five-time champions have only achieved the feat twice in their golden history and are once again looking like the team to beat in the ongoing season after having got most of their things together. The top order is finally firing for MI



with Rohit Sharma and Ryan Rickelton getting the team off to fiery starts while the bowling attack led by the formidable new-ball pair of Jasprit Bumrah and Trent Boult. Hence, MI have found their groove and are going to be hard to stop going ahead in the season. On the other hand, Gujarat are coming into the fixture after beating Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) by 38 runs. The Shubman Gill-led side has been at the top of their game as they currently sit on the fourth spot on the points table with seven victories from ten matches.

Gujarat's top order, consisting of Shubman Gill, Sai Sudharsan and Jos Buttler, has been firing all cylinders and has proved to be a major headache for the opposition. Apart from that, the bowling attack led by Prasidh Krishna and Mohammed Siraj has been the reason behind the downfalls of several batting lineups. R Sai Kishore has also done a fabulous job of stemming the run flow in the middle overs. Hence, the upcoming fixture is expected to be a mouth-watering clash with both teams at the top of their game. The winner of the match will climb to the top of the points table, and both teams will look to bring their A game to the fore to further strengthen their playoffs chances.

IPL 2025: Coach Vettori blames lack of consistency for SRH's early elimination

- **Sunrisers Hyderabad were eliminated from the play-offs race**
- **Daniel Vettori blamed lack of consistency from his side in IPL 2025**
- **SRH will now look to salvage pride and test their bench strength**

New Delhi. Sunrisers Hyderabad head coach Daniel Vettori lamented his team's lack of consistency, which he believes was the key factor behind their disappointing campaign in IPL 2025. After finishing as runners-up last season, SRH failed to replicate their form and cohesion, ultimately crashing out of playoff contention on Monday following a rain-abandoned match against Delhi Capitals. SRH had a must-win game on their hands and appeared to be in control after a



strong bowling performance restricted DC to 133/7. Led by Pat Cummins, the Sunrisers' pace attack dismantled the Delhi top order and looked poised to chase down the target. However, relentless rain after the first

innings meant the match could not resume, and both teams were forced to share a point. "Obviously, it's disappointing," Vettori said at the post-match press conference. "We came in with high hopes, but we haven't been

consistent enough with our performances. We've spoken about not being able to put together a complete game, and today was shaping up to be one. It's frustrating we couldn't finish it, but that's the nature of cricket." With the abandonment, SRH remained on just seven points from eleven matches, effectively ending their playoff hopes. In contrast, Delhi Capitals moved to 13 points and stayed in the race for a top-four finish. It has been a season to forget for SRH, who were expected to be strong contenders following their explosive batting displays in 2024. But this year, the team struggled to replicate that form, suffering from frequent batting collapses and inconsistent execution with both bat and ball. Vettori acknowledged that the team must learn from the experience. "We've got to accept where we are. We've had moments where we've shown our potential, but we haven't backed it up game after game," he said.

With three matches still to play, SRH will now look to salvage pride and test their bench strength. The focus will likely shift to preparing for next season, with an eye on building a more balanced and dependable squad.

Virat Kohli always said I will be next Sachin Tendulkar, reveals school teacher

New Delhi. Star India batter Virat Kohli's school teacher, Vibha Sachdev, has revealed that he had aspirations to be India's next Sachin Tendulkar since his childhood. Virat Kohli is today touted as the best batter across formats and the true successor to Tendulkar. The 36-year-old is currently in the middle of another prolific IPL season, being the highest run scorer of the tournament so far with 505 runs from 11 matches. Recently, Kohli's school teacher opened up about his early days and revealed that he loved participating in all school activities. She also stated that Kohli had made up his mind to be India's next Sachin Tendulkar right from a young age as people took notice of his sheer grit and confidence. "His eyes were very expressive. Virat was an active participant in all the school activities, he was an enthusiastic and eager participant of all the interhouse activities. 'Ma'am, I will be the next Sachin Tendulkar of Indian Team' was the oft repeated



quote, yes at that time sometimes it made us smile at the sheer grit and confidence of the wide-eyed boy," Vibha Sachdev told Cricadium. Further more, Vibha Sachdev also revealed that Kohli

worked really hard to excel in both sports and academics. However, his studies took a backseat while he had to practice.

"Virat always scored well in his exams. He was an above-average performer, and the only time he would lose a few marks was when his practices took his time away. 'I prepared for my exam late after I came back from my practices', was something that we used to hear very frequently from him. He worked very hard to excel in both sports and academics, and the teachers at Vishal Bharti Public School, Paschim Vihar fully understood his struggle and cooperated with him by giving him added guidance," he added. Meanwhile, Kohli is playing for Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) in the ongoing IPL, and the Rajat Patidar-led side is having a golden run, being at the top of the points table so far. RCB are comfortably sitting at the top with eight wins from 11 matches, having 16 points to their name. They will be eager to continue their winning run against Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) on Friday, May 9 in Lucknow.

Liverpool fans burn Alexander-Arnold's jersey after defender announces departure

- **Harry Kane finally breaks his title drought as Bayern Munich secure the Bundesliga championship. Freiburg's draw with Leverkusen ensured Bayern's triumph, highlighting the competitive nature of the league.**

Liverpool Liverpool fans expressed anger after right-back Trent Alexander-Arnold officially announced his decision to leave the club at the end of the 2024-25 season. The England international, who joined the Reds at the age of six, revealed his departure via a heartfelt message on social media, calling it the "hardest decision" of his life. The 26-year-old England defender has opted not to renew his contract and is expected to join Spanish giants Real Madrid on a free transfer, with reports suggesting a six-year deal is already in place. Alexander-Arnold, who has made 352 appearances and won eight major trophies with Liverpool,



including two Premier League titles and a Champions League crown, cited the desire for a new challenge and personal growth as his reasons for leaving. "This club has been my whole life - my whole world - for 20 years," Alexander-Arnold said in his statement. "From the Academy right through until now, the support and love I have felt from everyone inside and outside of the club will stay with me forever. I will forever be in debt to you all." But, I have never known anything else and this decision is about

experiencing a new challenge, taking myself out of my comfort zone and pushing myself both professionally and personally." However, the announcement has sparked mixed reactions among the Anfield faithful. While many have expressed gratitude and well-wishes, a section of the fan base responded with anger. In a video shared by betting platform Midnite on social media platform X, one supporter was seen burning an Alexander-Arnold jersey in protest. The number 66 shirt, emblazoned with the defender's name, was engulfed in flames, reflecting the emotional weight of the news. Liverpool responded with an official statement, acknowledging his contribution and wishing him the best: "Alexander-Arnold will depart with our gratitude and appreciation for his contribution during a sustained period of success," the club said in a statement.

The news comes with Liverpool still having three matches left in their campaign, and Alexander-Arnold hopes his decision won't overshadow the team's achievements. "I just hope the noise doesn't take away from what we've achieved this season," he said. As he prepares to don the white of Real Madrid, Alexander-Arnold leaves behind a legacy at Anfield that few can match - both as a generational talent and a local lad who lived the Liverpool dream.

Shai Hope to lead West Indies squad for ODI series against Ireland and England

New Delhi. West Indies have named a strong 15-member squad for their upcoming six-match ODI tour of Europe, with seasoned wicket-keeper-batter Shai Hope continuing as captain. The Caribbean side will take on Ireland and England in three ODIs each later this month, with the series forming a crucial step in their preparations for the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2027.

The squad includes a solid core of experienced batters in Brandon King, Evin Lewis, and Keacy Cartey, while 19-year-old Jewel Andrew - a standout performer at the 2024 ICC U-19 Men's Cricket World Cup - has earned a call-up. However, Shimron Hetmyer misses out as he remains engaged in the IPL with Rajasthan Royals. The squad largely resembles the group that registered a



3-0 series sweep over Bangladesh late last year, followed by an impressive home series win against England. Head coach Darren Sammy is optimistic about maintaining momentum as the team works toward

building consistency ahead of the next World Cup, which will be hosted jointly by South Africa, Zimbabwe, and Namibia. "These matches form a critical component towards the 2027 World Cup and there are signs of the team building consistency following the series sweep against Bangladesh and the win over England late last year," Sammy said.

"We expect the conditions to be challenging but we are creating a culture and mindset which emphasize playing the brand of cricket that is taking us closer to some of our overall objectives." In addition to the squad announcement, Cricket West Indies confirmed changes in the coaching setup. Former fast bowler and 2012 T20 World Cup winner Ravi Rampaul replaces James Franklin as bowling coach.

Put Jasprit Bumrah off his mark: Shane Watson's ultimate challenge for GT

- **Shane Watson revealed that the ultimate challenge for the GT batters will be to put Jasprit Bumrah off his mark during their match at the Wankhede stadium on May 6. Bumrah has been in top form with the ball after his return from injury.**

New Delhi. Shane Watson feels that putting Jasprit Bumrah off his mark will be the ultimate challenge for the GT batters during their clash against MI. Bumrah, who missed

the first few games for Mumbai this season, made a slow start to life in IPL 2025 but has found his groove in the past few games. The India pacer has been more aggressive in his approach this season and has 11 wickets from 7 matches.

GT batters, especially the top three of Shubman Gill, Sai Sudharsan and Jos Buttler, have been the main reason behind their side's success in IPL 2025 and will have the task of going up against Bumrah. Speaking to Star Sports, Watson said that GT's first major challenge will be to score runs off Bumrah as it will be tough to put off the star pacer. "It's tough facing Jasprit Bumrah in any format anywhere. He's just that good. And the thing about Jasprit Bumrah, even if he has a bad day, he might not get a wicket, and he goes for around 7 runs an over. That's his really bad day." It is just mind-blowing how incredibly good Jasprit Bumrah is. So, look, the Gujarat

batters, they're gonna have their work cut out because as a starting point, been able to handle Jasprit Bumrah, find a way to be



able to score some runs off him, try to put him off. How you put him off, I've got no idea, to be honest," said Watson.

Bumrah won't give too many loose balls
Watson feels that the likes of Gill and Sudharsan will trust their batting and shot

making ability and wait for a loose delivery. However, with Bumrah, the former Aussie all-rounder feels that not a loose ball will be available for the GT batters. "But the one thing that you know with Shubman Gill and also with Sai Sudharsan is they just trust their batting, but they trust their shot-making ability where they know that there's gonna be a loose ball available to them in some way, shape, or form. But when you're up against Bumrah, very rarely does he actually bowl a loose ball, so that's where the challenge is going to be for those two guys in particular. How we're going to find a way to be able to put Jasprit

Bumrah off knowing that I have to stand still and react, I'm not really going to get too many loose balls coming my way, so that's going to be the ultimate battle it is for any batter, but especially those world-class batters of GT," he added.



Sidharth Malhotra Joins Pregnant Kiara Advani In NYC Ahead Of Her Met Gala Debut



Kiara Advani is all set to make her debut at Met Gala 2025, and fans can't keep calm! The actress, who is expecting her first child, was recently joined by her hubby Sidharth Malhotra in New York City, ahead of her Met Gala debut. Looks like Sidharth has arrived to support his wife during this major moment, and he shared a few glimpses to give his fans a sneak-peek into his day in NYC. Sidharth Malhotra showcased his dedication to fitness by heading to the gym shortly after arriving in NYC. He took to his Instagram stories to share a glimpse through the window, capturing the stunning skyline of New York City. He was seen with a bottle of water in one hand, and he captioned the picture as, "Gym time #hydrate." He also added, "Hello NYC!" Meanwhile, in another picture, he showcased what his 'leg day' looks like.

Met Gala 2025 is scheduled to take place at May 5 at New York City's renowned Metropolitan Museum of Art. Kiara Advani landed in NYC a few days ahead of the fashion event. On May 3, she shared the first picture from New York, giving fans a behind-the-scenes glimpse. The picture showed a table adorned with several colourful items including a vase of pink roses, as well as a cake in the form of a tiny mannequin wearing a gorgeous black gown and a pearl set. The picture also featured a booklet with the Met steps on the cover, and the label reads, "The MET Gala." The actress will opt for a custom couture by ace fashion designer Gaurav Gupta for Met Gala 2025.

Meanwhile, before heading to NYC, looks like Kiara Advani enjoyed a fun-filled vacation with Sidharth Malhotra in Europe. She shared some lovely pictures from their European vacation. Radiating warmth and a healthy pregnancy glow, the actress gave fans a peek into her peaceful moments – from food to florals and quiet street strolls. In March, Kiara Advani and Sidharth Malhotra announced that they are expecting their first child. They shared a joint post on Instagram that read, "The greatest gift of our lives Coming soon."

Nushrratt Bharuccha Says Being Replaced In Dream Girl 2 Was 'Unfair': 'Even Male Actors...'

Nushrratt Bharuccha, who starred opposite Ayushmann Khurrana in the 2019 film 'Dream Girl', was not cast in the second instalment. She was replaced by Ananya Panday in the 2023 film Dream Girl 2. Last month, after Nushrratt shared that the decision to not cast her in the sequel was 'not cool', director Raaj Shaandilyaa responded by clarifying that the film was a franchise installment, not a direct sequel. Now, the actress has reacted to the director's remark, saying that she didn't think it was fair to be left out of Dream Girl 2, regardless of whether it was labelled a sequel or a franchise. She explained that similarly, if Luv Ranjan wouldn't have cast her in Pyaar Ka Punchnama 2, she would have felt equally hurt and questioned the decision.



tha, jo bhi tha. Jis bhi context mein aap film ko daal do."

Nushrratt also addressed the gender bias, calling it 'unfair' that the female actors are often replaced in sequels while male actors are typically retained. She added that even her male co-stars think it is unfair. "I would at least like to say this about the actors I have worked with, even the male actors will think it's unfair. It's not like the heroes are the ones thinking 'Sahi ho raha hai'. They are all actors. We are from the same industry. But for whatever reason, the need of that film is different," she said. She then added that it finally boils down to the decision and choice of the 'makers', and there's no point challenging it.

What Did Raaj Shaandilyaa Say About Replacing Nushrratt Bharuccha In Dream Girl 2?

Last month, director Raaj Shaandilyaa responded to Nushrratt being replaced by Ananya in Dream Girl 2. In an interview with Times of India, he explained that Dream Girl 2 was never designed as a direct sequel but as part of a growing franchise. "If it were a proper sequel, I would've cast Nushrratt," he said. "But since this was more of a franchise film, we decided to bring in a new female lead." Raaj added that the original story arc between Ayushmann and Nushrratt's characters had already reached a natural conclusion.



Sarabhai Vs Sarabhai Film On The Cards? JD Majethia Says 'Could've Been Made Earlier...'



Producer JD Majethia is known for his successful comedy shows such as Khichdi, Sarabhai Vs Sarabhai, among others. He recently made a surprising announcement of the movie Khichdi 3, leaving fans excited. In a recent interview, he was asked whether he also plans to turn Sarabhai Vs Sarabhai into a film series, similar to what he did with Khichdi. JD Majethia replied that there might have been a chance to make a film on Sarabhai Vs Sarabhai earlier, but the opportunity seems to have passed. He said that while there 'should be more' to the series, it's too late to make a film on it now.

While speaking with Hindustan Times, JD Majethia shut down hopes for a Sarabhai Vs Sarabhai film. "Sarabhai Vs Sarabhai ki film nahi banni chahiye. (A film on Sarabhai Vs Sarabhai should not be made). It could have been made earlier but not now. There should be more to that series too, but it's too late to make a film on that. I am not too sure, but we will wait and see," he said.

Meanwhile, in the same interview, he also talked about the level of comedy going downhill. "The overall level of comedy has gone down in our industry. You will find small gags and videos on social media, but the hunger to spend money to go watch something has reduced. You won't find any comedy that can become legendary today, as you used to until a few years earlier, and the reason is we don't have such talented crop of writers and actors for that," he said. Sarabhai Vs Sarabhai, starring an ensemble cast of Satish Shah, Ratna Pathak Shah, Sumeet Raghavan, Rupali Ganguly, and Rajesh Kumar, remains one of the most beloved sitcoms in Indian television history. The first season aired from 2004 to 2006 on television, and has attained cult status thanks to its sharp wit, timeless humour and unforgettable characters. The show returned with a new season, 'Sarabhai Vs Sarabhai: Take 2' in 2017, and it was streamed on Hotstar. The story of the second season was set 11 years after the first season's conclusion.

Babil Khan Returns To Instagram, Ananya Panday Says 'Always In Your Corner'



Babil Khan hit the headlines this morning after video of his emotional breakdown went viral on Reddit. He was seen criticizing Bollywood, and also named Ananya Panday, Siddhant Chaturvedi, Raghav Juyal, Adarsh Gourav, Arjun Kapoor among others. After the video went viral, Babil deactivated his Instagram account. Now, hours later, Babil has made a comeback on Instagram. He clarified that the video was extremely misinterpreted, and that he was only trying to show his support to the actors he named in the video. Ananya Panday reacted to Babil's Instagram story, and expressed her support. Showing solidarity, she mentioned that she is always in his corner.

Ananya Panday Expresses Her Support To Babil
A few hours ago, Kubbra Sait shared Babil's team's official statement on her Instagram, and penned a note urging people to 'be kind'. Upon returning to Instagram, Babil first shared Kubbra's post on his Instagram story, and wrote, "Thank you so much (red heart emoji) The video was extremely misinterpreted. I was trying to show support to Ananya Panday, Shanaya Kapoor, Gourav Ardarsh, Arjun Kapoor, Raghav Juyal, Arijit Singh." He further added, "I genuinely don't have the energy to indulge more but I do this as responsibility for my peers that I truly admire." Ananya Panday reshared Babil's story, and expressed her solidarity by writing, "Only love and good energy for you Babil, always in ur corner."

Babil Showers Love On Siddhant Chaturvedi And Raghav Juyal

Meanwhile, Babil shared another story, in which he shared Raghav Juyal's post and wrote, "Raghav Juyal, bhai you are my icon, my idol, and my elder brother that I never had." In the next story, he showered love on Siddhant Chaturvedi, and wrote, "I love you brother."

Babil's Team's Official Statement

Earlier, Babil's team issued a statement that read, "Over the past few years, Babil Khan has earned immense love and appreciation for his work, as well as for his openness about his mental health journey."

Like anyone else, Babil is allowed to have difficult days — and this was one of them. We want to reassure all his well-wishers that he is safe and will be feeling better soon. That said, a video of Babil has been widely misinterpreted and taken out of context."