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## MP CM slams Rahul Gandhi for not taking off shoes during tribute to Indira Gandhi

The Sikh Times  
Sanjay Kumar

New Delhi, Jun 03: Madhya Pradesh chief minister Mohan Yadav on Tuesday criticised Rahul Gandhi



for his tribute to former prime minister Indira Gandhi, while "wearing shoes". The BJP leader slammed Rahul Gandhi for not taking his shoes off while paying tribute to the former PM and his grandmother. During his visit to Bhopal, the Congress leader and the Lok Sabha leader of opposition, visited the life-size statue of Indira Gandhi located in front of the state party headquarters. In images and videos of the programme shared online, Rahul Gandhi was reportedly

seen offering a floral tribute to the statue of his grandmother, while wearing shoes. "The Leader of Opposition has come to our state. He should come. It is a democracy. Everyone has the right to come. He offered floral tribute to his Dadi ji (grandmother) and did not remove his shoes. This did not suit me. This is against our sanskar (culture). He should take care of this," said CM Yadav in response to the Rahul Gandhi's video. "We are all a bit sensitive towards our culture and everyone feels emotion. But there is no issue, he came to our state and people of all parties should come here in a democratic system to do their job," the MP CM added. Rahul Gandhi is on a two-day visit to Bhopal. During this time in the state, Gandhi will participate in several meetings. The Congress leader was also slated to inaugurate the Congress "Sangathan Sravan Abhiyan" (Organisation Rejuvenation Campaign), aimed at strengthening the party at the grassroots level.

# The Sikh Times

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## Virat Kohli and RCB win maiden IPL title, break 18-year jinx

The Sikh Times  
Navdeep Singh Sahni

Ahmedabad, June 03: Virat Kohli and Royal Challengers Bengaluru won their maiden title with a six-run victory over Punjab Kings in the final here on Tuesday, ending an 18-year wait for the coveted trophy. Punjab Kings bowlers did more than a decent job to restrict Royal Challengers Bengaluru to 190 for nine. However, their batters could not deliver under pressure as the Shreyas Iyer-led side could only manage 184/7 in 20 overs. Krunal Pandya was the standout RCB bowler ending with two wickets for 17 runs in four overs. RCB finally got to lift the trophy after finishing runners-up on three occasions previously. It was a heart-breaking loss for Punjab Kings who were playing only their second final and first since 2014. RCB managed to get over the line despite not having the best time with the bat. Virat Kohli top-scored with 43 off 35 balls while skipper Rajat Patidar couldn't build on a good start managing 26 off 16 balls. For Punjab Kings, Yuzvendra Chahal was brilliant with figures of 1/37 in 4 overs while Kyle Jamieson had the figures of 3 for 48.

The prize wicket of Kohli was taken by Afghanistan all-rounder Azmatullah Omarzai (1/35). However, the best figures were of India's premier T20 bowler

Shashank Singh 61 not out; Krunal Pandya 2/17. Phil Salt is a perfect foil for the Indian superstar who goes all-out in his attack, while Mayank Agarwal, skipper

Rajat Patidar and Jitesh Sharma are the trusted lieutenants of that batting line-up. Since he has missed RCB's last two games, it remains to be seen if Tim David is fit for this contest as he forms a vital death overs batting pair with another burly hitter in Romario Shepherd. Like Kohli in their batting, the calm and composed Josh Hazlewood (21 wickets) has been at the helm of RCB's rise and the fourth highest wicket-taker and the Australian would want to add more to move up the ladder in one last game. On their part, stung by that crushing defeat in their home-ground at Mullanpur, Iyer's Kings showed no scars from that defeat as they knocked out five-time winners Mumbai Indians in Qualifier 2 to reach their first final after 11 years. It's

only fitting that PBKS and RCB, who finished at the top two positions respectively after a gruelling 70-match league round, have a crack at the trophy which has eluded them from the time the competition began.



## Modi to inaugurate Kashmir rail link on June 6

The Sikh Times  
Nasir Uddin

New Delhi, June 03: In his first visit to Jammu and Kashmir post Operation Sindoos, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the much-anticipated Kashmir rail project later this week, marking a milestone in the region's connectivity. Modi will start his visit on June 6 by dedicating to public the Chenab rail bridge, which is a key part of the 272-km Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla railway link (USBRL) that will provide direct train connectivity to the valley. "History in the making... Just 3 days to go! The mighty Chenab Bridge, the world's highest railway bridge, stands tall in Jammu and Kashmir..PM to inaugurate the Chenab



Bridge on June 6. A proud symbol of New India's strength and vision!" Union minister Jitendra Singh said in a post on X. After inaugurating the bridge, Modi is likely to travel by train to Katra and en route, will inspect India's first cable-stayed bridge over Anji Khad, officials said, adding the prime minister will interact with railway engineers including retired employees involved in the project. At Katra, which is known as the base camp for the pilgrims visiting Mata Vaishno Devi, Modi will flag off Vande Bharat train from Katra to north Kashmir's Baramulla and another from Baramulla to Katra, signalling the completion of the project to link Kashmir by railway network. However, the officials clarified that all the passengers to and from Kashmir will have to de-board at Katra and change trains. After the inauguration, Modi will address a public rally. The work on the project to link Kashmir by train was started in 1997 and has missed several deadlines given geological, topographical and meteorological challenges, leading to cost escalation and its completion at a cost of over Rs 41,000 crore. Out of the total 272 km USBRL project, 209 km was commissioned in phases with the first phase of the 118 km Qazigund-Baramulla section commissioned in October 2009 followed by 18 km Banihal-Qazigund in June 2013, 25 km Udhampur-Katra in July 2014 and 48.1 km long Banihal-Sangidan stretch in February, last year.

## 100 Days of Honest Governance: Rekha Gupta's Vision

The Sikh Times  
Simmi Kaur Babbar

New Delhi, June 3: In a remarkably short span of 100 days, Chief Minister Shrimati Rekha Gupta Ji has brought a renewed wave of hope and faith among the people of Delhi. With unwavering dedication and an unshakeable commitment to public welfare, her government has proven that honest politics and effective governance can indeed go hand in hand. From her very first day in office, Rekha Gupta declared that her administration would work day and night in the interest of the common man and she has kept her promise. Her hands-on leadership, zero-tolerance approach towards corruption, and sincere efforts to address public grievances have already begun to yield visible results across the national capital. One of the most remarkable aspects of the Rekha Gupta government is its clear stand on non-discrimination and fairness. Whether it's distribution of welfare

schemes, allocation of resources, or implementation of new policies, her

administration has ensured every citizen

is treated equally without bias, without favouritism. CM Rekha Gupta, in a bold

and transparent address to the people of

Delhi, reaffirmed her government's commitment to fulfilling each and every promise made during the election campaign. "We are not here to give excuses. We are here to deliver. And we will," she asserted, adding that all commitments would be met positively and within the defined time frame. Over the past 100 days, her government has launched and fast-tracked several initiatives focused on education, healthcare, women's safety, senior citizens, clean drinking water, pollution control, and traffic decongestion. Departments have been made more responsive, and direct public interaction through "Jan Sunwai" programmes has helped bridge the gap between the government and the people. Public opinion surveys and ground-level feedback reveal that a large segment of Delhi's population particularly in marginalized and underserved communities has shown increasing trust in the Rekha Gupta government. Citizens appreciate the humility and accessibility of the Chief Minister, a quality that sets her apart in modern-day politics.

## Cop, teacher among 3 govt staffers sacked over terror links with LeT, Hizb-ul-Mujahideen

The Sikh Times  
Tejinder Kaur Babbar

Jammu, June 03: Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday dismissed three government employees for their alleged involvement with proscribed terror outfits Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Hizb-ul-Mujahideen, officials said. A police constable, a school teacher and a junior assistant in a government medical college were terminated under Article 311(2)(c) of the Constitution, which allows dismissal without an inquiry "in the interest of national security". All three are currently lodged in jail, they said. Over 75 government employees with terror links have been dismissed so far by the LG administration. Officials said the action is part of the administration's continued crackdown on terror infrastructure, including overground workers (OGWs) and sympathisers embedded within government institutions. The dismissed employees were identified as Malik Ishfaq

Naseer, a police constable, Ajaz Ahmed, a teacher in the school education department and Waseem Ahmad Khan, a junior assistant in Government Medical College, Srinagar. The sacked employees were "active terror collaborators," involved in logistics, arms smuggling, and aiding terror operations against security forces and civilians, a senior security official said. Constable Malik Ishfaq Naseer, recruited in 2007, came under suspicion during an investigation into arms smuggling in 2021. His brother Malik Asif was a Pakistan-trained LeT militant and was killed in 2018, but he allegedly continued to support the outfit while serving in the police, he said. "He used his position to identify safe drop locations for arms, explosives, and narcotics, and shared GPS coordinates with Pakistani handlers," the official said. Malik also allegedly distributed these consignments to active terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir. His LeT link

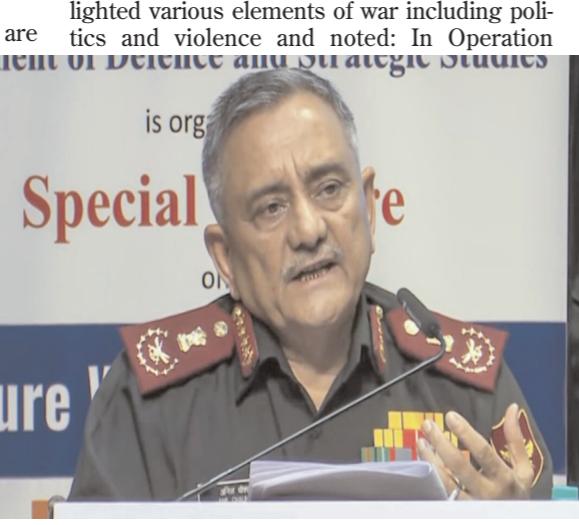
was exposed in September, 2021 when J&K police was investigating a case related to smuggling of arms and explosives in Jammu region. "He was not only identified

as a security official. He said that instead of helping the police department in fighting the terror which he was mandated for, he chose to be a mole and a collaborator and betrayed his oath and uniform. "His betrayal of the oath and uniform has caused grave damage to the department, society and the nation," the official added. Ajaz Ahmed, who joined the Education Department in 2011, was found smuggling arms, ammunition, and Hizb-ul-Mujahideen propaganda material. He was arrested during a routine police check in November 2023. According to the probe, the arms were meant for militants operating in Kashmir, sent by his handler Abid Ramzan Sheikh, a Hizb-ul-Mujahideen operative based in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. Ajaz Ahmed was allegedly involved in such activities for several years and he became a trusted terror associate of Hizb-ul-Mujahideen in the Poonch region.

## Pakistan wants to bleed India by thousand cuts, we drew new redlines to combat terror: Gen Chauhan

The Sikh Times  
Naresh Malhotra

Pune, June 03: Professional militaries are not affected by temporary losses as the overall outcomes are much more important than such setbacks, Chief of Defence Staff Gen Anil Chauhan said on Tuesday. The top military commander said that Pakistan has been following an approach of bleeding India by thousand cuts but New Delhi drew a completely new redline against cross-border terrorism by conducting the Operation Sindoos. In an address at the Savitribai Phule Pune University, Gen Chauhan appeared to reject criticism against him for acknowledging that India lost an unspecified number of combat jets during the initial phase of the operation. "When I was asked about losses on our side, I said these are not important as results and how you act are important," he said. It would be not very correct to talk about losses and numbers, he said, responding to a question. In war, even if there are setbacks, you need to maintain your morale,



Sindoos too, war and politics were happening as a parallel kind of phenomenon. Gen Chauhan also made a mention about Pakistan Army chief Gen Asim Munir "spewing venom" against

India and Hindus just weeks before the Pahalgam attack to emphasise that Islamabad's approach has been to "bleed India by thousand cuts". What happened in Pahalgam was profound cruelty towards victims, he said. The thinking behind Operation Sindoos was that state-sponsored terrorism from Pakistan has to stop and that country should not be able to hold India hostage to terrorism. India is not going to live under the shadow of terror and nuclear blackmail, Gen Chauhan said. On India's military offensives, he said Indian armed forces carried out very deliberate precision strikes on Pakistani targets and some of them were as narrow as two metres. Explaining the process of the understanding on cessation of hostilities, he said Pakistan planned to carry out its counter operations against India for 48 hours but it folded up in about eight hours. And they wanted to talk, he said, highlighting the impact of Indian strikes. Pakistan's decision to talk to India on May 10 stemmed from realisation that it will suffer more if its operation continues, Gen Chauhan said.

## After IWT abeyance, Pak weaving threat narrative of 'what if China stops Brahmaputra flow': Himanta

The Sikh Times  
Spl. Correspondent

Guwahati, June 03: Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Tuesday

said that after India put the Indus Water Treaty (IWT) in abeyance, Pakistan is weaving a new "manufactured threat" narrative of what will happen if China stops Brahmaputra's flow into the country. He clarified that though China has not announced any such move, even if it happens, it would in fact help mitigate the

annual Assam floods. He said that most of Brahmaputra's flow is generated due to downpour in northeast India while glacial melt and limited Tibetan rainfall contribute to only 30-35 per cent of the river's water flow. In an X post titled 'What If China Stops Brahmaputra Water to India? A Response to Pakistan's New Scare Narrative', he said, 'After India decisively moved away from the outdated Indus Waters Treaty, Pakistan is now spinning another manufactured threat: What if China stops the Brahmaputra's water to India?' "Let's dismantle this myth - not with fear, but with facts and national clarity," he added. Sarma pointed out that even if China were to 'reduce water flow (unlikely as China has never threatened or indicated in any official forum)', it may actually help India mitigate the annual floods in Assam, which displace lakhs and destroy livelihoods every year'. 'Meanwhile, Pakistan, which has exploited 74 years of preferential water access under the Indus Water Treaty, now panics as India rightfully reclaims its sovereign rights,' he said.

## NEWS BOX

Odisha farmers protest demanding government intervention after crop damage by untimely rain

**BARGARH.** Facing crop damage due to unseasonal and excessive rains, farmers of Bargarh on Monday staged a protest at the district collector's office demanding immediate intervention by the government. Holding bunches of sprouted paddy, the farmers under the banner of Sanjukta Krushak Sangathan alleged that the administration and elected representatives have turned a blind eye to their suffering.

"Due to the untimely rain, our fields are submerged. While harvested paddy is rotting, no official damage assessment is in sight," they claimed. The farmers further said as per the government's disaster management guidelines, a preliminary assessment report of damage must be submitted within 48 hours of a natural calamity. However, no such assessment has been carried out in the district. Besides, not a single district-level review meeting has been convened so far, they claimed. Advisor of the outfit Ramesh Mahapatra said Bargarh usually records an average rainfall of 27 mm in the month of May. But due to low pressure, the district has recorded 122 mm rainfall last month. The rains have left farmers of several blocks in distress.

### Telangana marks 11 years of statehood with pride

**HYDERABAD.** Asserting that other parties are doomed and have no future in Telangana, IT Minister D Sridhar Babu stated that the Congress is gaining strength in the state, with dedicated workers present in every village. He was speaking at the Telangana Formation Day event in Karimnagar on Monday.

Sridhar criticised the BRS and BJP for politicising the notices issued by the PC Ghose commission set up to detect financial irregularities in the Kaleshwaram project and conspiring against the Congress. He described Congress as a party that represents all castes, calling it the "people's party".

### Grandeur at Parade Grounds

Nizamabad celebrated Formation Day on a grand scale at the Police Parade Ground. Government departments in the district showcased their services through specially decorated vehicles. Police officers and staff who rendered meritorious service were presented with certificates of appreciation.

In Kamareddy, the celebrations were held at the IDOC. Tourism Development Corporation Chairman Patel Ramesh Reddy attended the event. He stated that the government is committed to developing world-class infrastructure and delivering high-quality services to citizens.

### NIMZ in focus

Addressing a gathering in Sangareddy after hoisting the national flag, Health Minister C Damodar Rajanarayana said that employment for around 35 lakh people would be generated once the National Investment and Manufacturing Zone (NIMZ) is completed. He said several industries would be established in the NIMZ, offering direct employment to 15 lakh people and indirect employment to 20 lakh.

### Three more calves die in Vemulawada temple shed

**RAJANNA/SIRCILLA.** The number of cattle deaths at the Vemulawada temple appears to be rising steadily. On Monday, District Animal Husbandry Officer Dr V Raveender Reddy reported that three more calves had died at the Thippapur cattle shed, bringing the total number of deaths to 20 so far.

Additionally, six calves are in critical condition, and 16 others are undergoing treatment for various ailments. The deaths are primarily attributed to unseasonal rainfall and poor health conditions of the animals. Earlier, eight calves had died, prompting district authorities to form a 12-member medical team, including five veterinary doctors, to assess the situation and provide emergency care.

"Despite our best efforts, we lost five more calves on the second day," said Dr Raveender. "We were able to save 16 of the 20 severely affected calves initially, but unfortunately, four more died the following day."

He further reported that three additional calves died between Sunday evening and Monday.

Out of the 1,300 cattle at the shed, four more have fallen ill, increasing the number of sick calves to 16. Among them, six remain in critical condition.

Veterinary doctors are administering fluids and medication, but some of the calves are not responding to treatment. To improve the animals' health and well-being, arrangements have been made to increase the supply of green fodder — now more than one tractor load per day.

## KSRTC buses to get real-time stop alerts, metro-like voice announcements

The successful bidder can generate revenue through advertising via the PIS systems.

**KOCHI.** Worried about missing your stop while taking a nap or travelling at night on KSRTC buses? Relax, buses will soon have 'alert' facilities similar to those on Kochi Metro trains. As many as 500 state transport buses are set to feature Passenger Information Display and Automated Voice Announcement System to deliver real-time updates on stops, arrival time, service disruptions, emergency announcements, etc.

"While the audio announcement system will automatically announce upcoming bus stops through speakers installed on the buses in Malayalam and English, the visual display system shall provide real-time visual updates through digital displays inside the bus, indicating current stop and next stop. Initially, the passenger information systems will be installed on an experimental basis in 400 ordinary buses and 100 super fast buses," a senior KSRTC official told.

The corporation has floated tenders to award a licence to install and run the integrated/automated passenger information system (PIS) with audio-visual information for a period of



two years, extendable for three more years on an yearly basis.

The audio system basically consists of speakers which will be installed within the buses to provide clear audio announcements. Digital displays will be installed at single or multiple locations inside the buses. They show real-time information, including current stop and next stop. "The PIS will provide real-time information to passengers about bus arrival/departure times, routes and stops.

This will enhance passenger experience through accurate and timely information. We will also air the various public information released by government authorities through the system," the official said. The licensee can play movie songs, movie scenes, and awareness messages in addition to advertisements, provided they have the acquired rights for the same. At the same time, no political videos are allowed.

The successful bidder can generate revenue through advertising via the PIS systems. However, the same should be displayed through the PIS screens at a low volume without affecting the comfort of the passengers and the attention of the driver. The operator is also required to provide technical and on-call support round the clock.

Under the system, GPS devices will be fitted on the KSRTC fleet and connected to a central server. A separate tender will be rolled out to install PIS displays at all the main bus stations as well. The data from the central server will be sent to the PIS displays and a dedicated mobile app, 'Where is my KSRTC'.

## Tamil Nadu government schools reopen, nearly two lakh students enrolled in classes 1 to 5

As per a 2013 government order, the Tamil Nadu Textbook and Educational Services Corporation handles the printing and procurement of kit items; all items were distributed on the first day itself.

**CHENNAI.** Government and government-aided schools across Tamil Nadu reopened on Monday after the summer vacation, with the first day of the academic year marked by the distribution of textbooks, notebooks, and other educational kit items to students. Chief Minister MK Stalin launched the distribution drive at the Lady Willingdon Government Model School in Chennai.

Speaking to reporters, School Education Minister Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozi said that the government ensured timely delivery of learning materials this year by initiating the tender process early.

"In previous years, though kits were distributed completely, there were delays of several months. On the chief minister's insistence, we made sure that all items, procured at a cost of Rs 1,141 crore, were handed out on the very first day. This practice will continue in the years to come," he said.



As per a 2013 government order, the Tamil Nadu Textbook and Educational Services Corporation handles the printing and procurement of kit items. These include bags, textbooks, laptops, sanitary napkins, bicycles, uniforms, footwear among others.

Among five headmasters spoke to, three confirmed that textbooks had already been distributed, while two cited delays due to logistical issues.

### Smart CCTV system in Gokarna prevents potential tragedy as police warn couple taking risky selfies with baby

**GOKARNA (UTTARA KANNADA).** A CCTV video showing a couple with a baby taking selfies dangerously on the newly constructed Gangavalli bridge connecting Gokarna and Ankola has gone viral, drawing attention to the first-ever use of an intelligent camera system in Karnataka to prevent a potential mishap. The Uttara Kannada police, using a Wi-Fi-connected intelligent camera, issued a live warning to the couple, asking them to leave the spot immediately due to the strong river current below. The police announcement, followed by a siren, startled the couple, who were unaware that they were being monitored remotely from the Gokarna police station.

"This is the first time we've used a real-time audio alert through CCTV to warn tourists of danger," said Sreedhar, Police Inspector of Gokarna. "If there had been even a slight mistake, the baby could have fallen into the river. We are relieved that the timely alert possibly saved a life."

The incident occurred about 5 km from Gokarna, where the couple, travelling from Manjunguni village to Ankola, stopped at the scenic new bridge to take photographs. With their child in hand, they took selfies while standing precariously on the bridge's retaining grill a location that has become popular among selfie-seekers. Thanks to the smart surveillance setup, the activity was immediately detected and monitored by the police, who issued a warning directly through the CCTV system. The startled couple quickly left the area, avoiding a potential accident. Superintendent of Police, Uttara Kannada, M Narayan, confirmed that 35 intelligent CCTV cameras have been installed at beaches and vulnerable tourist spots in Gokarna, including the temple beach, Kudle Beach, Om Beach, and Paradise Beach.

## Karnataka to take Almatti Dam dispute with Maharashtra to PM Modi: DK Shivakumar

**BENGALURU.** Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, who also holds the Water Resources portfolio, stated on Monday that the Maharashtra government has raised objections to Karnataka's proposal to increase the height of the Almatti Dam in Vijayapura district from 519.6 to 524 metres. The Karnataka government, he said, plans to take up the issue with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, urging Union ministers and MPs from the state to stand united in safeguarding Karnataka's interests.

Describing Maharashtra's objection as "shocking," Shivakumar pointed out that the neighbouring state, which had never opposed Karnataka's decision in the past, has now raised concerns that the proposed increase could lead to flooding in Sangli and Kolhapur districts.

"Flooding in Maharashtra is its internal

matter and that state should fix it. We will meet the Prime Minister and the Union Jal Shakti Minister and press for approval of our project," he said. Shivakumar further noted that Karnataka has been awaiting a gazette notification permitting the increase in the dam's

height of the Almatti Dam to 524 metres. "Maharashtra, which remained silent when the tribunal delivered its judgement in 2010 and even submitted an affidavit supporting the implementation, is now opposing the project," Shivakumar said at a press briefing in Bengaluru. Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis had written to Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on 9 May, urging him to reconsider the plan. Shivakumar said Siddaramaiah would respond to the letter soon and reiterated that the project is Karnataka's "right accorded by the Krishna Tribunal."

Shivakumar added that Karnataka is not seeking confrontation with its neighbours but warned that further delays would lead to increased project costs. He estimated that the state may require up to Rs 1 lakh crore for land acquisition if the implementation is delayed further.



height since 2013. He emphasised that there is no scientific basis for the recent letter from the Maharashtra Chief Minister opposing the move.

According to the Krishna Tribunal's order, Karnataka is entitled to raise the

## Punnathur Kotta's population drop carves out a 'jumbo'-sized concern in Kerala

**Last week,**  
**Gopikannan, a**  
**popular tusker and**  
**nine-time winner**  
**of the Guruvayur**  
**aanayottam, died,**  
**taking the**  
**elephant**  
**population at**  
**Punnathur Kotta to**  
**an all-time low of**  
**36.**

**THRISSUR.** With large trees of different varieties providing essential shade, sufficient availability of water and vast open spaces, Punnathur Kotta is an ideal spot for Guruvayorappan's gentle giants. Yet, despite the conducive environment, the number of elephants being managed here has been declining with each passing year. In the late 1990s and early 2000s, it housed 63 pachyderms. Now, Asia's once largest elephant sanctuary has 36.

This shrinking number has both elephant fans and devotees concerned. From the earlier practice of new elephants bought by devotees being offered at the Guruvayur temple, the ritual, known as 'nadayiruthal', is now limited to the residents of Punnathur Kotta. The temple 'ooralan' leads the ceremony. The custom itself is unique in that the jumbo being offered is made to sit on a wooden carpet, adorned with 'kalabham' on its forehead and flower garlands. Due to restrictions on the capture and ownership of wild elephants, nadayiruthal has taken on a symbolic significance. Now, devotees can offer elephants owned by the devaswom for a set fee. A nadayiruthal now costs Rs 10 lakh. Every year,



the temple plays host to at least three symbolic offerings of elephants. According to records, the first symbolic nadayiruthal was held at Guruvayur in May 1984. Guruvayur Devaswom chairman V K Vijayan said, "So far, the devaswom has not faced issues with non-availability of elephants for rituals. However, with no new elephants being offered for nadayiruthal, it could be a concern in the future. There has been no initiative to address the problem."

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Typewriting institute owners in Vellore oppose GO to conduct exams on computers from 2027



**VELLORE.** Opposing a government circular that mandates typewriting exams be conducted only on computers from 2027, as many as 25 owners of typewriting institutes in Vellore submitted a petition to district collector VR Subbulaxmi on Monday.

Stating that typewriting exams have been held on typewriters since decades, the petitioners said the move will affect the livelihood of around 10,000 typewriter mechanics and their families. There are around 4,500 typewriting centres in Tamil Nadu, employing nearly 4.5 lakh teachers. These centres would lose business if the rule is implemented, they added.

As per GO 187 dated October 28, 2024, the typewriting exam and the certificate course in Computer on Office Automation (COA) will be merged into a single course, which will become a prerequisite for recruitment into Tamil Nadu State and Subordinate Services.

If the order is implemented, typewriting centres will become redundant, as students will shift to computer training centres instead, said Mohan A, one of the petitioners.

"This will also affect typing speed, as students develop the ability to type with all eight fingers only when they learn on typewriters. Those learning on computers often type slowly using just two fingers," he added. Further, raising concerns about affordability, Mohan said, "We charge Rs 400 at typewriting centres, whereas computer centres charge around Rs 3,000 per month. Many students cannot afford that."

## News box

## Yogi cabinet approves 20% horizontal reservation for former Agniveers in UP Police recruitment

Lucknow, June 3: In a landmark decision on Tuesday, the Yogi Cabinet approved a proposal to provide 20% horizontal reservation to former Agniveers in the recruitment process for various posts in the Uttar Pradesh Police. This reservation will apply to direct recruitment for the positions of Police Constable, PAC, Mounted Constable, and Fireman. This significant move by the Yogi government aims to not only provide career opportunities to former Agniveers but also to bolster the state's security forces with well-trained, disciplined, and motivated personnel. Finance Minister Suresh Kumar Khanna stated that the primary objective of this decision is to ensure meaningful post-service employment opportunities for Agniveers who complete their four-year tenure under the Agnepath scheme. He emphasized that this reservation will be applicable across all categories—General, SC, ST, and OBC—within their respective

groups. For example, an SC Agniveer will get the benefit within the SC category.

this policy is expected to be initiated in 2026, coinciding with the return of the



ry, and similarly for OBC and other groups. He also announced that former Agniveers applying for these posts will be eligible for a three-year age relaxation. The first recruitment batch under

first batch of Agniveers. While several states and central forces have introduced reservation policies for Agniveers—such as Haryana and Odisha offering 10%—Uttar Pradesh has

taken the lead by implementing 20% horizontal reservation, setting a new benchmark at the national level. This decision not only honors the service of Agniveers but also ensures their continued contribution to national security in a new capacity. The Agnepath scheme, introduced by the Government of India in 2022, allows youth to serve in the Indian Army, Air Force, and Navy as Agniveers for a period of four years. The scheme includes six months of training, and upon completion, 25% of Agniveers are inducted into regular service based on performance, while the remaining 75% are encouraged to pursue other career opportunities. At the time of the scheme's launch, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had assured that former Agniveers would be given preference in the Uttar Pradesh Police and PAC. With the implementation of this 20% reservation policy, that commitment has now been fulfilled. This initiative not only provides a stable career path for former Agniveers but also strengthens the state's security infrastructure with skilled and experienced young talent.

## Tea stall owner crossing road to buy supplies dies in hit & run on Sohna-Palwal road in Haryana

Gurgaon. A 36-year-old man was killed in a hit-and-run accident near the Ballabgarh turn on Sohna-Palwal road on Saturday evening. The victim, Inamudin, a resident of Nunera village in Sohna, ran a tea stall near the spot and was crossing the road to buy supplies when he was hit by a speeding vehicle. According to the statement given to police by his younger brother Jahid, the incident took place around 8.15 pm. "He was crossing the road to buy some items for the stall when a vehicle came at high speed and hit him head-on. He fell on the road and sustained multiple injuries, including a serious head injury. The driver did not stop and fled from the spot. Our younger brother Wasim rushed him to Sohna government hospital," Jahid told police.

Inamudin was later referred to the civil hospital in Gurgaon and subsequently shifted to Safdarjung Hospital in Delhi due to the severity of his injuries. He died during treatment around 7 pm on Sunday. He is survived by his wife and three sons. City Sohna police said they are scanning CCTV footage from the area to identify the vehicle and driver. A case has been registered against an unidentified person under Sections 106 (causing death by negligence) and 281 (rash driving) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) at the City Sohna police station.

## IMD sounds alert for heavy rain, strong winds in Gurgaon

Gurgaon. Overflowing drains and clogged sewer lines have become an everyday issue in Sector 40, with a persistent stench making life miserable for residents for the past few weeks. Despite repeated complaints to the MCG, little has been done on-ground beyond superficial cleaning to fix the persistent sewer issues, residents claimed. The sewer water regularly overflows onto the sector's streets, turning them into slippery, accident-prone mosquito-breeding ground. It's been more than two months, and there is continuous overflow near house no. 982, and the situation hasn't improved at all. Every time we raise a complaint, MCG sends a team that pokes a bamboo stick into the line. That clears the flow for barely an hour. After that, it starts overflowing again. We cannot even step out of our homes as it stinks.

It is hitherto known as KM SAVITRI GAUTAM alias SONIYA GAUTAM D/O RAM SINGH W/O DHARMENDER GAUTAM R/O A-397, GALI NO-1, AMBEDKAR BASTI GARHI MENDU, PO: BHAJAN PURA DISTRICT NORTH EAST DELHI, DELHI-110053, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SONIYA GAUTAM.

It is for general information that I, CHANDER SHEKHAR S/O SURESH SINGH R/O 171, GANJ NO-9, NEW MCD SCHOOL WAZIRABAD VILLAGE, NORTH DELHI, DELHI-110084, declare that name of mine and my father have been wrongly written as CHANDER SHEKHAR and SUBEY SINGH in my OBC Certificate No. 01/18437224, 520009 90100315118761. The actual name of mine and my father are CHANDER SHEKHAR and SUBEY SINGH respectively which may be amended accordingly.

It is for general information that I, MOHINDER PAL S/O MANWAR SINGH R/O Q-13, POLICE STATION MODEL TOWN I, NORTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110009 declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as MAHENDER SINGH RAWAT in my Pan Card No. AF-GP7R7508R. The actual name of mine is MOHINDER PAL which may be amended accordingly.

It is for general information that I, LAL CHAND S/o KARUA R/O K-1-18/369, GALI NO.18, SANGAM VIHAR, HAMDARD NAGAR, PO PUSHPA, DIST: SOUTH DELHI, DELHI-110062, declare that name of mine and my father has been wrongly written as Lal Chand Sharma and SHREE KALICHARAN SHARMA in my Pan Card No. AFZPFS-1633M AND LAL CHAND SHARMA AND KALICHARAN SHARMA in my Voter Card No.SBC1373398. The actual name of mine and my father is LAL CHAND AND KARUA which may be amended accordingly. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection.

It is for general information that I, Reetika Singhal D/o Nand Lal R/o 11/10 Amit Kaur Puri, Tank Road, Karol Bagh, Karol Bagh S.O, PO, DIST: Central Delhi, Delhi - 110007 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Reetika Jain.

It is for general information that I, Reetika Singhal D/o Nand Lal R/o 11/10 Amit Kaur Puri, Tank Road, Karol Bagh, Karol Bagh S.O, PO, DIST: Central Delhi, Delhi - 110007 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Reetika Jain.

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## NEWS BOX

## Trump's new portrait unveiled in White House: Darker, bolder, straight to camera

WARSAW. Conservative Karol Nawrocki has won Poland's weekend presidential runoff election, according to the final vote count. Nawrocki won 50.89% of votes in a tight race against liberal Warsaw Mayor Rafal Trzaskowski, who won 49.11%. The close race had the country on edge since a first round two weeks earlier and through the night into Monday, revealing deep divisions in the country along the eastern flank of NATO and the European Union. An early exit poll released Sunday evening suggested Trzaskowski was headed to victory before updated polling began to reverse the picture hours later. The outcome indicates that Poland can be expected to take a more nationalist path under its new leader, who was backed by U.S. President Donald Trump. The 42-year-old Nawrocki has been endorsed by the right-wing Law and Justice (PiS) party, which governed Poland from 2015 to 2023.

The party is closely allied with outgoing President Andrzej Duda -- who has publicly backed Nawrocki -- and is a long-standing rival of the ruling Civic Coalition. Nawrocki campaigned under the slogan "Poland first. Poles first". While he has pledged to continue Poland's support for neighbouring Ukraine against Russia's invasion, he has denounced the benefits given to war refugees. He said in a campaign video in April that "social benefits will be above all for Poles" and that "in queues for doctors and clinics, Polish citizens must have priority". In May, he claimed Ukraine "has not shown gratitude for what Poles have done" and accused President Volodymyr Zelensky of "insolence". He opposes Ukraine's bid to join NATO.

## Businessman Mauled By Lion While Using Toilet At Luxury Lodge In Namibia

A lion mauled a businessman to death in the remote northwest region of Namibia while he was camping at a luxury lodge. The man, identified as Bernd Kebbel, was holidaying with his wife and friends near Hoanib Skeleton Coast Camp in the Sesfontein area when the deadly attack took place last Friday (May 30).

The lion ambushed Mr Kebbel when he stepped out of his tent to use the toilet, as per the environment ministry spokesperson Ndeshipanda Hamunyela, according to a report in CBS News.



"The lion pounced on the man the moment he exited the tent. By the time other campers managed to drive the animal away, he had already died," said the spokesperson. The Namibian Police spokesperson, Elifas Kuwinga, said officers had been attending the scene and had started compiling a full report regarding the incident. "A full report will be submitted in due course," said Mr Kuwinga. It was later confirmed that the animal responsible for the attack was put down on Sunday (June 1) after officials determined it to be a continued threat to the community and tourists.

## Hamas Expresses Readiness To Begin New Round Of Gaza Peace Talks

world. Microsoft Corp. cut hundreds more jobs just weeks after its largest layoff in years, underscoring the tech industry's efforts to trim costs even as it plows billions of dollars into artificial intelligence. More than 300 employees were told their positions had been eliminated on Monday, according to a Washington state notice reviewed by Bloomberg. A Microsoft spokesperson said the latest headcount reduction is in addition to the 6,000 job cuts announced last month. "We continue to implement



organizational changes necessary to best position the company for success in a dynamic marketplace," the spokesperson said. The artificial intelligence boom has roiled the tech labor market because companies are prioritizing AI-focused jobs and harnessing the technology to save money. Microsoft and peers including Meta Platforms Inc. have touted the effectiveness of AI-assisted coding tools in speeding up the software development process. Last week, Salesforce Inc. said the internal use of AI has allowed it to hire fewer workers. Microsoft's previous layoffs fell hardest on software engineers. It couldn't be determined what kind of jobs were affected Monday. As of June 2024, the company had about 228,000 full-time employees, 55% of whom were employed in the US.

# Poland's prime minister says he will seek a vote of confidence after ally's election loss

WARSAW. Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk said Monday that he would ask parliament to hold a vote of confidence in his coalition government after his ally lost a presidential runoff. The result of the weekend election leaves Tusk politically weakened, and there are questions about whether his multiparty coalition can survive to the end of its term in late 2027. It wasn't immediately clear when the confidence vote might take place. The race had ended on edge since a first round of voting two weeks earlier, revealing deep divisions in the country along the eastern flank of NATO and the European Union. The outcome suggests that Poland can be expected to take a more populist and nationalist path under its new president, who was backed by U.S. President Donald Trump. Trzaskowski conceded defeat and congratulated Nawrocki on Monday, thanking all those who voted for him. "I fought for us to build a strong, safe, honest, and empathetic Poland together," he wrote on X. "I'm sorry I wasn't able to convince the majority of citizens of my vision for Poland. I'm sorry we didn't win

presidency but the president holds power to veto laws, and Nawrocki's win will make it extremely difficult for Tusk to press his pro-European agenda. If Tusk survives the confidence vote, it would show he still has a mandate to govern. It wasn't immediately clear when the confidence vote might take place. The race had ended on edge since a first round of voting two weeks earlier, revealing deep divisions in the country along the eastern flank of NATO and the European Union. The outcome suggests that Poland can be expected to take a more populist and nationalist path under its new president, who was backed by U.S. President Donald Trump. Trzaskowski conceded defeat and congratulated Nawrocki on Monday, thanking all those who voted for him. "I fought for us to build a strong, safe, honest, and empathetic Poland together," he wrote on X. "I'm sorry I wasn't able to convince the majority of citizens of my vision for Poland. I'm sorry we didn't win



together." Congratulations from different corners. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky was among the leaders offering their congratulations to Nawrocki on Monday morning, an acknowledgment of Poland's key role as a neighbor, ally and hub for Western weapons sent to Kyiv. He called Poland "a pillar of regional and European security," and said, "by reinforcing one another on our continent, we give greater strength to Europe in global competition and bring the achievement of real and lasting peace closer. I look forward

to continued fruitful cooperation with Poland and with President Nawrocki personally." Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán, who shares Nawrocki's national conservative worldview, hailed Nawrocki's "fantastic victory."

Meanwhile, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen offered measured congratulations, emphasizing continued EU-Poland collaboration rooted in shared democratic values: "We are all stronger together in our community of peace, democracy, and values. So let us work to ensure the security and prosperity of our common home."

### The role of a president in Poland

Most day-to-day power in the Polish political system rests with a prime minister chosen by the parliament. However, the president's role is not merely ceremonial. The office holds the power to influence foreign policy and to veto legislation. Nawrocki will succeed Andrzej Duda, a conservative whose second and final term ends on Aug.

## Panama Removes Over 650 Ships From Registry Amid Sanctions, Stricter Rules

Panama City. Panama's Maritime Authority has removed from its registry more than 650 vessels since 2019 as part of an effort to fulfill U.S. sanctions and enforce stricter rules for the ships it flags, it said on Monday.

A total of 214 vessels have been withdrawn from Panama's registry, among the world's largest with more than 8,500 ships, since it began implementing measures last year allowing it to act faster to help enforce sanctions, the authority added. Ships cannot sail under Panama's flag once they are removed from its registry. Panama responded to criticism by non-governmental organization United Against Nuclear Iran (UANI), which last week said Panama had not taken sufficient action against sanction violators and asked it to "immediately cease facilitating Iran's illicit oil trade" and withdraw its flag from all tankers carrying Iranian oil. According to UANI, nearly one in



## Colorado Firebomb Suspect Posed As Gardener, Planned Attack For Over A Year

Colorado. A man posing as a gardener to get close to a group in Boulder holding their weekly demonstration for the release of Israeli hostages in Gaza planned to kill them all with Molotov cocktails, authorities said Monday. But he had second thoughts and only threw two out of the 18 incendiary devices he had into the group of about 20 people, yelling "Free Palestine" and accidentally burning himself, police said. Twelve people were injured in the Sunday attack. He had gas in a backpack sprayer but told investigators he didn't spray it on anyone but himself "because he had planned on dying." "He said he had to do it, he should do it, and he would not forgive himself if he did not do it," police wrote in an affidavit. He didn't carry out his full plan "because he got scared and had never hurt anyone before." Mohamed Sabry Soliman, 45, planned the attack for more than a year and specifically targeted what he described as a "Zionist group," authorities said in court papers charging him with a federal hate crime.

The suspect's first name also was spelled Mohammed in some court documents. "When he was interviewed about the attack, he said he wanted them all to die, he had no regrets and he would go back and do it again," Acting U.S. Attorney J. Bishop Grewell for the District of Colorado said during a press conference Monday. Federal and state prosecutors filed separate criminal cases against Soliman, charging him with a hate crime and attempted murder, respectively. He faces additional state charges related to the incendiary devices, and more charges are possible in federal court, where the Justice Department will seek a grand jury indictment. During a state court hearing Monday, Soliman appeared briefly via a video link from the Boulder County Jail wearing an orange jumpsuit. Another court hearing is set for Thursday. Soliman is being held on a \$10 million, cash-only bond, prosecutors said. An FBI affidavit says Soliman confessed to the attack after being taken into

custody Sunday and told the police he was driven by a desire "to kill all Zionist people," a reference to the movement to establish and protect a Jewish state in Israel. Soliman's attorney, public defender Kathryn Herold, declined to comment after the hearing. Soliman was living in the U.S. illegally after entering the country in August 2022 on a B2 visa that expired in February 2023. Department of Homeland Security Assistant Secretary Tricia McLaughlin said in a post on the social platform X. The burst of violence at the popular Pearl Street pedestrian mall in downtown Boulder unfolded against the backdrop of the Israel-Hamas war that continues to inflame global tensions and has contributed to a spike in antisemitic violence in the United States. The attack happened on the beginning of the Jewish holiday of Shavuot and barely a week after a man who also yelled "Free Palestine" was charged with fatally shooting two Israeli embassy staffers outside a Jewish museum in Washington.

## Indian-Origin Man On Life Support After Australian Cops "Kneed Him On Neck"

Canberra. An Indian origin man is fighting for his life in Australia after he was tackled to the ground by police and allegedly kneed in the neck. Forty-two-year-old Gaurav Kundi, a father of two, was put on life support with suspected brain damage after a violent police encounter with the police in Adelaide. Kundi and his Amritpal Kaur were allegedly arguing in public in Adelaide's eastern suburbs in the early hours of Thursday, according to a report by Australia Today. A passing patrol reportedly mistook the incident for domestic violence despite Kaur's insistence that Kundi was simply drunk and loud, not violent. Police told 9News that Kundi "violently resisted" arrest before he lost consciousness and became unresponsive while on the ground. His partner filmed the altercation-- footage of which was obtained by 9News. The clip reportedly showed Kundi screaming "I stopped filming because I panicked



as several officers tried to detain him against a police car. 'I've done nothing wrong,' he shouted, while Kaur filmed the act, crying out that the police to release her partner and telling them that they were acting unfairly. Kundi reportedly lost consciousness after he was tackled to the ground, with a police officer allegedly driving a knee into his neck - a move that echoes the 2020 George Floyd case in the United States. "When the officer knelt on him," Kaur told 9News, adding that Kundi's head was slammed against the police car and the road during the arrest. The Indian-origin man was then taken to the Royal Adelaide Hospital, where doctors said that he received severe injuries to his brain and neck nerves. His grieving partner is not sure if he will wake up from the coma again. Meanwhile, South Australia Police have reportedly launched an internal investigation into the matter and are reviewing body-cam footage. Per the 9News report, acting assistant commissioner John DeCandia believes his officers acted appropriately based on initial evidence, but the probe is underway. "I can say that from that evidence I've looked at, from that body-worn video, but it is only one portion, I'm comfortable, but that is only one police officer," he said.

five vessels suspected of transporting Iranian oil sails under Panama's flag. "This is not just a failure of Panama's registry. It's a direct threat to global sanctions compliance and regional and U.S. security," it said. Panama in 2019 signed an agreement with other flag countries including Liberia and Marshall Islands to exchange information about vessels whose registrations were canceled or rejected due to potential sanction violations. It also began implementing measures against ships that deliberately turn off their transponders to avoid tracking. In May, the authority said it would reinforce controls for ship-to-ship operations by Panama-flagged vessels, following an increase in the use of "dark-fleet" tankers to skirt sanctions or evade environmental requirements. The U.S. has increased pressure on countries with large vessel registries to help enforce sanctions. U.S. President Donald Trump has criticized the expansion of a dark fleet of tankers moving sanctioned oil and threatened to take over the Panama Canal. The Central American nation is collaborating with the United States on its registry, the authority said in its press release.

## Trump's new portrait unveiled in White House: Darker, bolder, straight to camera

KHAN YOUNIS. Israeli forces in the Gaza Strip opened fire early Monday as people headed toward an aid distribution site a kilometer away, killing at least three and wounding dozens, health officials and a witness said. The military said it fired warning shots at "suspects" who approached its forces. The shooting occurred at the same location where witnesses say Israeli forces fired a day earlier on crowds heading toward the aid hub in southern Gaza run by the Israeli and U.S.-backed Gaza Humanitarian Foundation. The Israeli military said it fired warning shots on Monday toward "several suspects who advanced toward the troops and posed a threat to them," around a kilometer (1,000 yards) away from the aid distribution site at a time when it was closed. The army denied it was preventing people from reaching the site. The United Nations and major aid groups have rejected the foundation's new system for aid distribution. They say it violates

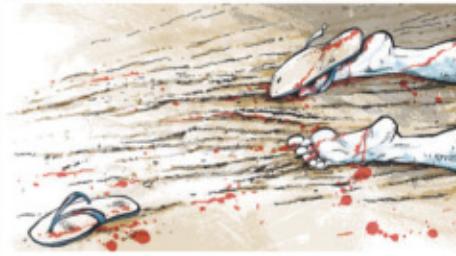
humanitarian principles and cannot meet mounting needs in the territory of roughly 2 million people, where experts have warned of famine because of an Israeli blockade that was only slightly eased last month. In a separate incident Monday, an Israeli strike on a residential building in northern Gaza killed 14 people, according to health officials. The Shifa and al-Ahli hospitals confirmed the toll from the strike in the built-up Jabaliya refugee camp, saying five women and seven children were among those killed. The military said it had struck "terror targets" across northern Gaza, without elaborating. Israel says it only targets militants and tries to avoid harming civilians. It blames civilian deaths on Hamas because the militant group is entrenched in populated areas. Also Monday, the Palestinian Authority said a 14-year-old boy was shot and killed by Israeli forces in the West Bank in the Palestinian village of Sinjil. In a statement, the Israeli military said troops in the Sinjil

area had opened fire and "neutralized" someone who threw two bottles containing a dangerous substance at them. Shooting in southern Gaza A Red Cross field hospital received 50 wounded people, including two declared dead on arrival, after the shooting in southern Gaza, according to Hisham Mhanna, a Red Cross spokesperson. He said most had gunfire and shrapnel wounds. Nasser Hospital in the city of Khan Younis said it received a third body. Moataz al-Feirani, 21, who was being treated at Nasser Hospital, said he was shot in his leg as he walked with a crowd of thousands toward the aid distribution site. He said Israeli forces opened fire as they neared the Flag Roundabout at around 5:30 a.m. "We had nothing, and they (military) were watching us," he said, adding that drones were filming them. On Sunday, at least 31 people were killed and over 170 wounded at the Flag Roundabout as large crowds headed toward the aid site, according to local

health officials, aid groups and several eyewitnesses. The witnesses said Israeli forces opened fire on the crowds at around 3 a.m. after ordering them to disperse and come back when the distribution site opens. Israel's military on Sunday denied its forces fired at civilians near the aid site in the now mostly uninhabited southern city of Rafah, a military zone off limits to independent media. An Israeli military official, speaking on condition of anonymity in line with procedure, said troops fired warning shots at several suspects advancing toward them overnight. The Gaza Humanitarian Foundation, which has denied previous accounts of chaos and gunfire around its sites, said it had delivered aid on both days without incident. On Sunday night, the foundation issued a statement, saying aid recipients must stay on the designated route to reach the hub Monday, and that Israeli troops are positioned along the way to ensure their security.

## NEWS BOX

Two thrashed to death by villagers for stealing cattle in Tamil Nadu



**SIVAGANGA.** Two persons were beaten to death by villagers at Alagamangiri village during the late night hours of Monday when the duo attempted to steal cattle from a farm. According to preliminary reports, the deceased persons were identified as S Manikandan (31) and his friend S Sivashankaran (24) alias Vigneshwaran from Kattanpatti village. The incident reportedly took place at a farm owned by P Subbu (52) in Alagamangiri village around 1 am of Tuesday.

Upon learning that the duo had entered the farm to steal goats and chicken, the villagers gathered at the spot and beat them. Meanwhile, the police were alerted and rushed to the spot. Noticing that the duo had already collapsed, the police immediately rushed them to Government Sivaganga Medical College Hospital for treatment, but doctors declared both dead. SP Ashish Rawat inspected the spot in the night hours. A senior police personnel stated that around 10 villagers have been taken in for inquiry in connection with the incident. Further probe is needed to comment more, he said. Mathagupatti police launched an investigation.

#### Karnataka expands Gruha Arogya across state

**BENGALURU.** In a boost to preventive healthcare, Karnataka Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao on Monday said that the state will now offer free screening for 14 non-communicable diseases (NCDs) under the expanded Gruha Arogya scheme. This announcement was made during a workshop held at Vikasa Soudha, where Rao emphasised the importance of early detection and prevention in tackling the growing threat of chronic diseases. Gruha Arogya scheme, which was initially launched in Kolar district, will now be implemented across Karnataka.

Rao said that the Health Department, from now on, will be undertaking door-to-door health checks for people aged above 30, aiming to identify NCDs at an early stage and ensure timely management.

He stressed that NCDs like diabetes, hypertension, and various forms of cancer have become serious health threats and cannot be left to the private sector alone, which tends to prioritise treatment over prevention. "It is the government's responsibility to prevent these diseases before they reach critical stages. No one else will do it," Rao said. The minister said that to support the state-wide implementation, a detailed manual has also been released for ASHA workers and health officers. "ASHA workers will go house-to-house to spread awareness about NCDs and refer residents to nearby Ayushman Arogya Mandirs, where community health officers will conduct the actual screening.

#### Hot, humid weather makes comeback as monsoon loses steam

**BHUBANESWAR.** Hot and humid weather has made a fierce comeback as the southwest monsoon lost its steam despite reaching Odisha on May 28, almost two weeks ahead of its usual date of June 12.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast sweltering weather conditions to intensify in the next four days. While Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapara, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Puri, Khurda, Nayagarh, Ganjam and Gajapati districts will likely experience hot and humid weather on Tuesday, similar conditions are expected to prevail in Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapara, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Puri, Khurda, Nayagarh, Ganjam and Gajapati districts on Wednesday.

The national weather forecaster has issued such warning for Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapara, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Puri, Khurda, Nayagarh, Ganjam and Gajapati districts on Thursday and Friday.

On Monday, Balasore was the hottest at 39.8 degree Celsius, followed by Bhubaneswar 39.6 deg C and Cuttack, Baripada, Talcher and Paralakhemundi 39.4 deg C each. The high humidity level made the prevailing weather even more unbearable for the citizens. In coastal areas like Gopalpur, humidity was 80 per cent on the day, followed by Puri and Paradip 77 pc each, Chandbali 62 pc, Bhubaneswar 61 pc, Cuttack 55 pc and Balasore 52 pc.

Director of Bhubaneswar Meteorological Centre Manorama Mohanty said, "As of now, conditions are not favourable for further progress of monsoon in the state for which the hot and humid weather has returned."

Some places in the coastal districts are witnessing above normal day temperatures. The mercury level is also expected to rise by 2 deg C to 3 deg C in parts of the state in the next three to four days, she added. Experts said the progress of monsoon may remain stalled until a fresh weather system forms in the coming days.

## One more death takes Covid toll to eight; active cases surge to 1,435 in Kerala

**TPURAM/PATHANAMTHITTA.** Kerala's latest Covid toll rose to eight as one more person died of the infection on Monday. Meanwhile, 35 new cases took the state's active case-load to 1,435, even as Health Minister Veena George attributed the surge to the state's commitment to accurate and widespread testing. With the latest deaths, Kerala's cumulative Covid death toll stands at 72,147 since the pandemic began. There have been 32 Covid-related deaths in the country this year, with the majority occurring after the surge in May. Before May 19, Kerala had reported just one death due to the virus. Health officials said most of the deceased had underlying health conditions.

The current surge in cases is being attributed to the rapidly spreading Omicron JN.1 sub-lineages, especially LF.7 and NB.1.8. Surveillance was ramped up in the state after a spike in cases was observed in Southeast Asian countries at the end of April.

The health department has made masks mandatory in hospitals and for healthcare workers.

A few private hospitals have set up dedicated wards and ICU wings exclusively for Covid

accuracy in Covid testing. "Testing is being done and the numbers are being recorded accurately. So, there is no need to worry. We are monitoring the situation very closely," she said. The minister said in view of the global surge in Covid cases, Kerala has ramped up testing. "As a result, we are witnessing a spike in the number of cases. Other places have not initiated testing yet," she said.

Though the variant appears to be less severe, its potential for spread remains high. Veena noted while urging people to take precaution, including wearing masks.

The health department has instructed district medical officers to monitor different areas for potential outbreaks and implement preventive measures. Veena

stressed that those with pre-existing illnesses should take extra precautions, including wearing of masks, as Covid poses a greater risk to them. The minister also urged the people to avoid unnecessary hospital visits and reminded healthcare workers to strictly adhere to infection control protocols.



## Engineering seat matrix in two weeks; over 100 colleges seek intake revisions

### The proposed changes were sent to AICTE whose approvals were received by May 20.

**BENGALURU.** The Karnataka Higher Education Department is expected to finalise the engineering seat matrix for the upcoming academic year within the next two weeks. A key decision is pending on whether to freeze the intake for Computer Science and Engineering (CSE) courses, along with resolving requests from colleges seeking changes in intake capacity.

A senior department official told that a draft seat matrix will be issued within two days. Colleges will then be invited to file objections before the final matrix is published. Over 100 institutions across the state have submitted proposals to the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), seeking to increase or reduce their intake or to start or discontinue certain courses. The AICTE conveyed its approvals by 20 May, although some colleges submitted late applications, causing



delays. "Some institutions want to boost intake in high-demand branches, while others aim to reduce or discontinue courses with poor enrolment," the official explained. "We cannot proceed without AICTE approval, which is why we are releasing a draft first. Once objections are received, we will assess whether proposed changes align with

AICTE approvals and state policies." A major point under review is whether to freeze the CSE seat intake. Despite the branch remaining highly popular among students, officials are concerned about a potential oversupply of graduates, particularly from private colleges. This oversaturation is believed to be affecting both employability and academic quality.

### CET counselling to follow NEET results and final seat matrix

Addressing concerns about delays in Common Entrance Test (CET) counselling, the official confirmed that the postponement is intentional. "Many students appear for both CET and NEET-UG. If CET counselling begins before NEET results are out, students will lack crucial information and this can lead to unnecessary seat blocking," the official said.

## KMRL speeds up Srinagar Water Metro feasibility study despite terror attack

**The targeted population was both local residents and tourists. It, however, suggested that only electric boats should be used, given the fragile environment there.**

**KOCHI.** The Pahalgam terror attack and the resultant conflagration between India and Pakistan might have shaken the entire Kashmir valley. But authorities have ensured that development activities, including the proposed Srinagar Water Metro, won't suffer a bit.

If anything, the Kochi Metro Rail Ltd (KMRL) — which the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) has entrusted with conducting water metro feasibility studies at 21 centres across the country — has speeded up the study for the Srinagar project. While the terror attack had initially spurred thoughts of "delay", the authorities grew determined to implement the project at the earliest to pass on the message that such "cowardly terror acts" cannot stop the nation from marching ahead.

A three-member team headed to

Srinagar in the third week of May and completed the preliminary study, which prima facie found the project "feasible" in the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir.

"We reversed our initial decision and undertook the challenge as we felt such cowardly acts shouldn't come in the way of a region's development activities. In fact, the authorities there are also pushing forward the Srinagar Smart City project," said Kochi Water Metro chief operating officer (COO) Sajan P John, who led the team. The preliminary study identified routes linking the famous Dal lake

and the Jhelum river which passes through the heart of the city.

The targeted population was both local residents and tourists. It, however, suggested that only electric boats should be used, given the fragile environment there.

### KMRL plans to prepare study report by mid-July

"IWAI chairman Vijay Kumar personally arrived there and said they are ready to invest in the project to develop a green urban transport system," Sajan said.

KMRL intends to prepare a detailed preliminary study report by the middle of July.

IWAI will then initiate steps to prepare a detailed project report (DPR). KMRL is optimistic it will be entrusted with that work as well, thanks to the successful operation of the Kochi Water Metro.

## Delay in Pudukkottai NH four-laning irks road users

**TIRUCHY.** With the long-pending proposal to upgrade the Tiruchy-Pudukkottai National Highway from two lanes to four still stuck in the Detailed Project Report (DPR) stage, road users and activists have urged the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) to expedite the process. Although the 90-kilometre stretch between Tiruchy and Karaikudi was widened with paved shoulders in 2021, the plan to fully convert it into a four-lane highway has seen little progress since.

According to sources, the DPR preparation has been ongoing for years, with no firm timeline for when work will commence. "The DPR is currently being prepared but has faced delays due to various factors. It is likely to be finalised by 2026, and once that happens, four-laning work will begin immediately," a senior NHAI official told.

In the meantime, the NHAI has taken up strengthening a 3-km segment between Karaikudi and Mathur

and the Thuvakudi semi-ring road intersection. This stretch has remained a basic two-lane road without paved shoulders or service lanes, causing safety concerns among commuters.

Currently, earthmovers are at work clearing vegetation and levelling the eastern side of the stretch to prepare for widening. Local residents have welcomed the move, though many say it's long overdue. "Most parts of the highway have service roads, but this stretch doesn't.

Motorists are forced to share space with fast-moving vehicles, making it highly unsafe," said S Prabhakar, a resident of Kainankarai. "Widening the road here will make travel much safer for everyone," he added.

"The delay in the DPR has already cost us enough. Authorities must speed up the process and begin four-lane construction without further hold-up," demanded several members of local road user associations.

## Irrigation chief engineer urges L&T to accept NDSA report, submit rehabilitation plan for Medigadda barrage

**HYDERABAD.** Irrigation officials are of the view that L&T, which led the joint venture (JV) with PES, will have to accept the National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA) report on the Kaleshwaram project and submit comprehensive proposals for the rehabilitation of the Medigadda barrage, as the JV is the contracting agency.

L&T had recently written to the state government, stating that there were "certain inconsistencies" in the NDSA report. It requested the state government to ask the NDSA to update the report. However, the government is of the view that L&T should accept the report, as the NDSA is a statutory body.

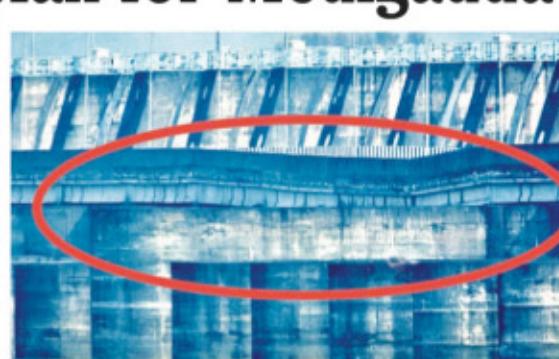
"It may be appropriate to accept the report and furnish the comprehensive proposals for rehabilitation immediately in respect of Block-7 specifically, and for other blocks in general, as per the clauses of the general conditions of contract and any other relevant agreement conditions, to

safeguard the structural integrity of the Medigadda barrage and protect the lives and livelihoods of dependent communities examined at this juncture, and to further mitigate the vulnerability of other blocks of the Medigadda barrage, as similar failures cannot be ruled out," the Chief Engineer (Irrigation), Ramagundam, Peddapalli district, wrote in a letter to L&T.

"The agency has not considered the entire report but only commented on issues favourable to it," the CE wrote.

**Irrigation CE asks KLIS contractor to address other issues**

The Chief Engineer (Irrigation) asked the contracting agency to address the other issues raised by the NDSA in its final report on the Kaleshwaram project. The contracting agency should address the following: "No document was made



available by the contracting agency to confirm that the method statements had the concurrence of the competent authority in the Irrigation department," the letter said. It added that there was no document to support the fact that the mix designs were verified at the site and had the concurrence of the Irrigation department prior to the commencement of work at the site or to

support that the concrete mixes were redesigned or reviewed in the project during the construction period. "This has therefore resulted in unconditional concrete mix for various grades of concrete on account of increased cement content, besides increased heat of hydration of concrete. The quality control and assurance for the construction of the secant pile cutoff wall in terms of its integrity, water tightness and other parameters were not covered in the method statement. The construction agency should have considered the above, as cutoffs are one of the vital sub-surface components in the barrage structure," the letter said.

### NDSA – a statutory body

"It is to state that the NDSA is a statutory body set up by the Union government in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 8(1) of the National Dam Safety Act, 2021.

## Patch economy, mend bilaterals, soothe citizens

In early May, Sri Lankans voted for a third time in a series —this time to elect members to the local authorities. The ruling National People's Power (NPP) secured a majority of seats in 266 out of 341 local bodies in an election considered a popularity test for the incumbency. The NPP secured 43.26 percent of the vote, recording a dent in popularity, also reflective of the fragmented nature of votes at the local level.

Into its seventh month in office, the NPP appears tight-lipped on matters of policy and plans, preferring to avoid discussion and instead offering combative television performances by junior ranks on public concerns that beg answers. The May 6 vote can be best considered a quiet reprimand from the people, impatient with the slow delivery. While the government has a five-year term, it still needs to manage public expectations and prevent public outrage.

The brewing dissent is partly of the government's making. The NPP, while indulging in rhetorical condemnation of corruption as the only reason for economic collapse, did not adequately explain to the public the severity of Sri Lanka's economic situation. The NPP sometimes made it appear a management problem, which only the NPP could address. People still trust the government to have integrity but question its ability to fix the economy without passing further burden on to them.

The government is now saddled with the Herculean task of managing an economy that successive governments have mismanaged. It has also inherited a much-maligned reform agenda via the International Monetary Fund (IMF), from which there is no easy departure. The administration is naturally finding it challenging to explain that things are not as easy as they appeared to be when it was in opposition. Barring the occasional protest, it is unlikely that public outrage can be prevented from spilling onto the streets in some form soon if the administration does not take action to move the economy forward without compromising public trust. Sri Lanka is currently attempting to negotiate the hefty 44 percent reciprocal tariff announced by US President Donald Trump. The surprise ruling by an American trade court blocking steep tariffs may offer the island some respite, but it calls for prudent handling. The island's bulk exports head to the US, and the proposed tariff poses a serious threat to the country's export earnings. How Sri Lanka negotiates and plans to use the small window of opportunity will depend on solid foreign policy and trade negotiating capacity.

This questions the current dispensation's foreign policy, which is often unclear and, at times, raises doubts about strategy. Take, for example, how India's neighbours have moved away despite its "Neighbourhood First" policy. Some have looked to the West, while others towards China. Colombo could use the opportunity to consolidate its trade partnerships with India in a manner that bolsters the economy and maximises its geostrategic benefits. During the economic crisis, India played a crucial role, although it was often viewed with misgivings due to its chequered past. As economists note, it may be a window of opportunity to collaborate with India to gain a better foothold in negotiating with the US, given the close economic ties between the two countries. In doing so, Colombo should overlook long-term loyalties that have remained steadfast in their friendship or ignore China, Sri Lanka's largest bilateral creditor. This calls for a foreign policy that is rooted in economic, trade and geostrategic interests. In short, Colombo should work with all these powers to deliver the best results at home. Sri Lanka needs a well-crafted balancing act. The Dissanayake administration should learn from the Rajapaksa regime that playing one against the other does not yield long-term beneficial results. The singularly pro-China approach led the island into deeper debt, which eventually brought the economy to a grinding halt and created powerful enemies.

IT was inevitable that the Pahalgam terror attack and Operation Sindoor would trigger a political slugfest between the Centre and the main Opposition party, the Congress. While the Modi government rightly took retaliatory measures, the Opposition got an opportunity to raise several pertinent questions, even as it initially showed solidarity with the government in national interest. The Congress did well to draw the nation's attention to possible security lapses that led to the loss of 26 innocent lives, besides the purported loss of jets during the May 7-10 operation. Following Chief of Defence Staff Gen Anil Chauhan's admission of aircraft losses, the Congress has become more vocal about its demand for holding a special session of Parliament. The party has also been asking questions regarding the "sudden" ceasefire and US President Donald Trump's claim that he facilitated the truce by issuing "no trade" threats to both India and Pakistan. The government has been on the defensive over this issue. Prime Minister Narendra Modi nonetheless took a smart step by deciding to send multi-party delegations to various countries to expose Pakistan and explain the Indian position. The government asked various parties to recommend names of leaders to be included in the delegations.

Each party has its own internal dynamics that would have influenced this exercise. The Congress sent a list of four leaders — Anand Sharma, Gaurav Gogoi, Syed Naseer Hussain and Amarinder Singh Raja Warring. Looking to embarrass the Congress, the BJP retained only Sharma's name. It also chose four other Congress leaders — Shashi Tharoor, Amar Singh, Manish Tewari and Salman Khurshid. And adding insult to the party's injury, Tharoor was made the leader of a delegation. Visibly irked, the Congress faltered in reacting to this development. First, it made its annoyance apparent, which sent a wrong message both to delegation members as well as the government. Second, soon after this episode, Rahul Gandhi unleashed a direct attack on External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, addressing him as "JJ" and accusing him of tipping off Pakistan about Operation Sindoor.

## Is match-fixing still alive?

**The Congress has a mountain to climb to re-establish itself as an alternative at the national level.**

One of the most articulate and erudite Congress leaders today, Tharoor did not miss the chance to further annoy Rahul and the party by concurring with the Prime Minister and expressing his gratitude on being included in the delegation. His post on X read: "I am honoured by the invitation of the government of India

Ramesh said, "Congress mein hona aur Congress ka hona mein zameen-aasmaan ka antar hai (There is a huge difference between being in the Congress and being loyal to the Congress). To compound the folly, party leader Udit Raj targeted Tharoor for his remarks in Panama that India had breached the Line of Control

for the first time during the 2016 surgical strike.

This begs the question: What should the Congress and Rahul have done? First, Rahul should have welcomed the inclusion of Tharoor and others by saying that the party is full of competent leaders, which makes selection difficult. He should have commended the selection and extended support to the government as he did during Operation Sindoor. All Congress leaders who were part of the delegations should have been invited by Kharge and Rahul, and felicitated. The opportunity should also have been used to discuss the non-partisan stance the delegation members should take during their foreign tour. Indeed, their stance could not have been drastically different from the official one. Tharoor, in fact, did well in making it clear at the outset that even though he was leading a delegation, he was not from the ruling party. Announcing his political affiliation, he stated that given the circumstances, all parties had a common stance on matters of national security. This could also have precluded statements from Congress leaders that are now being considered against the party's programmes and

polices.

Overall, the Congress has a mountain to climb to re-establish itself as an alternative at the national level. Along with party-building, it needs to finalise a roadmap so that it can convince the electorate to vote against the BJP, which is always battle-ready to win elections. The rift between the top two Congress leaders in Karnataka, for example, shows that the grand old party continues to be a loose assemblage of leaders and members. The Congress and its leaders must display farsightedness in strengthening party solidarity. For now, the Congress' focus must be on upping the ante against the government once the outreach delegations return home.

## India's fifth generation AMCA needs mission mode to meet deadlines

**The development is welcome, although it's a case of better late than never, considering that India's not-so-friendly neighbourhood already has 5th-generation fighter aircraft among its squadrons**

Over a year after the Cabinet Committee on Security gave its nod for India's first 5th-generation fighter aircraft, the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA), the Defence Ministry on May 27 cleared the way for the Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) under the Defence Research & Development Organisation as the nodal agency to commence work on the design and development of its execution model.

The development is welcome, although it's a case of better late than never, considering that India's not-so-friendly neighbourhood already has 5th-generation fighter aircraft among its squadrons. China reportedly has an operational fleet of 180 5th-generation fighter jets, and, according to unconfirmed reports, it unveiled its 6th-generation fighter, the Chengdu J-36, in January. Its all-weather ally Pakistan is said to be procuring 40 more of their 5th-gen fighters. AMCA's first of the five planned prototypes is expected to be unveiled in three years, and its maiden flight is likely to take off no earlier than 2028. Its operational roll-out can be expected only by 2035. The initial prototypes may cost approximately ₹1,720 crore

to lead an all-party delegation to five key capitals to present our nation's point of view on recent events. When national interest is involved, and my services are required, I will not be found wanting."

The Congress' confusion was clear as its communications incharge Jairam Ramesh said, "...the party recommended four names after Kiren Rijiju spoke with Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi." He did not elaborate why those four were recommended and why the name of a leader like Tharoor was omitted. Attacking the government for ignoring the official party list and Tharoor for accepting the invitation without the party's consent,

India's disadvantage. This must be viewed against the backdrop of the Indian Air Force already being stretched thin, with the squadron strength down to 31 against the authorised 42. The AMCA is an ambitious project planned to be indigenous, involving the private or public sector, either independently or in collaboration. As a 5th-generation fighter jet, it will require key features such as a stealth airframe, internal carriage of smart weapons, a low-probability-of-intercept radar, advanced sensors with data fusion, super-cruise performance, advanced avionics features, and highly integrated computer systems to enable its pilots to have a comprehensive understanding of the in-combat scenario.

With the Centre green-lighting the project, ADA is due to issue an Expression of Interest for the AMCA development phase. While the execution model is expected to lay the groundwork for how the project will unfold in stages to achieve its goals, it is essential to maintain tight deadlines so that the AMCA takes flight at the earliest.



each, but this could be reduced to 2,860 crore when production scales up. The overall project has been allocated ₹15,000 crore. This presents a time span with possible cost escalations, during which equations about air power balance with neighbours may likely turn to

## A syncretic vision to heal our divided world

### When land is seen merely as a commodity to be mined, owned or fought over, it becomes spiritless

This week, I felt the urge to revisit a Sufi bridge-builder between Hinduism and Islam just to see if I still felt hopeful about his syncretic ideas. Bulle Shah (1680-1735) was born into a noble family of Syeds at Qasur, now in Pakistan. As a child, Bulle Shah, colloquially known as 'Bulla' and 'Bulleya' in Punjabi, was reportedly lost in thought frequently, which worried his family. In the course of his restless youth, Bulla was tormented by inchoate spiritual longings while urged by his concerned family to live his life as a nobleman with all its attendant pleasures and privileges. One day, he went on a long ride to clear his head and get away from home for a bit. He happened to notice a line of ants diligently carrying grain to their anthill. He paused, his attention caught, and wondered, "All that industry just to feed oneself?" Why was every living creature, from insects to birds, animals and human beings, relentlessly driven by the same mission—to find food, to sustain life, to perpetuate its species? The mystery of Creation beckoned strongly to him, and he set out to find a spiritual guide. Bulla found his spiritual master by chance in a vegetable garden of all places. His name was Inayat Qadiri, from the Qadiri order of Sufis. It was a historically influential order, for it was a Qadiri Sufi who had taught Prince Dara Shikoh and led him to explore attempts to syncretise Hinduism and Islam — as in the work *Majma ul-Bahrain*, meaning The Mingling of Oceans. However, that well-meant book had not reached the ordinary people; it had stayed in high-class circles, where it had little or no influence. It was not for the hoi polloi, just as albums of miniature paintings were not for ordinary folk those days, but were expensive collectables for kings, nobles and wealthy merchants. Bulla's noble family was outraged that he should so

adore a lowly market gardener, but he was not to be dissuaded. His youth and early adulthood coincided with the last harsh years of Aurangzeb's reign. This unpleasant legacy may have further influenced his preference to follow Dara's syncretic path rather than Aurangzeb's divisive and intolerant route. Dara was the 'might-have-been', the lost prince who would forever symbolise an attempt at Hindu-Muslim amity. Somebody would have to articulate the Qadiri vision to the common folk, and Bulla took it upon himself to do so. Bulla wrote highly romantic poetry in Punjabi, allegorising God on the pattern of Krishna Bhakti. He drew on the popular Punjabi imagery of the folkloric heroine, Heer, pining for her lover, Ranjha, which also resonated with Advaita philosophy — specifically, the concept of the jivatma, or individual soul, seeking to merge into the Paramatma, the Universal Soul. Bulla's poems soon caught on in Punjabi circles, like the heartfelt "Masjid dhaade, mandir dhaade/ Dhaade jo kuch dhainda/ Ik kisi da dil na dhaanvin/ Rab dilaanvichrehndaa." This translates as, "Break the mosque and break the temple, break what can be broken; but do not break the human heart, within which God abides." This did not go down well with conservative clerics, and Bulla faced considerable resistance, but he was determined to express his thoughts and have his say. Typically, he answered in verse, with "Mullah, maanaboliyaan/Sannuapnayaar rijaavan de/Kanjri b a n i y a a n m e r i j i j a t n a g h a t di/Mujhenachkeyaarmaanava de." This means, "Mullah, call me not to prayer/Let me please my Beloved/Though I become a dancing girl, I lose no

honour/Let me win him over with my dance." According to Bulla, the objective of social unity was a worthwhile goal, and its secret lay in realising that 'God is One'. This short, illuminating verse struck a chord with several people: "Jit jitumargawaa/Hun tuhaarafakira/Jitte da muladhkasira/Haare da mulhira." The literal, if bumpy, translation of that is, "Life has slipped by



chasing victory/Now learn to lose, o seeker/Victory's worth but half a grain/While 'defeat' is a diamond." Its message to everyday folk was to let their inner moral and spiritual convictions triumph and not surrender to the forceful rules of orthodoxy. Bulla got more

noticed in the second half of the 20th century, thanks to Bollywood. His first airing outside Punjab was in the film *Bobby* in 1973. His verse, 'Masjid dhaade, mandir dhaade', was translated in Hindi as the song *Beshaq mandir-masjid todo*. His lyrics scored another hit through AR Rahman's *Tere ishq nachaya chhaiyyachhaiyya* (Your love set me dancing) in the movie *Dil Se* back in 1998. Bulla's verses were even

transposed to the classical realms of Kathak, wherein 'Sufi Kathak' was quite the vogue in Delhi in the noughties. But it is as a political message that his words carry significance today for communal relations. That's because they seem to urge a deeper sense of nationhood through uniting the God-seeking impulses of differing religions. Another verse that highlights his syncretic mission is addressed straight to 'God' as Bulla writes: "Bindrabanmeingaucharave, Lanka chakranaadbjave/ Makde da bann Haji aave/Wah-wah rang vataida/Hun kitti aap chhupaida?" Meaning, "You appeared as Krishna, Rama, and the Pilgrim of Mecca, showing so many colours; Where do You hide now?" Are Bulla's ideas remotely doable today? It's likely that many will not buy his fuzzy love. Deep differences exist in both theory and practice despite sporadic inter-faith initiatives. But maybe, just maybe, we can 'fake it till we make it' for the sake of national interest.

# 5 exotic Hairstyles for Young Brides



## Side-parted braid bun

This is a very popular hairstyle which shows off great facial features and is especially perfect for those with straight hair. It is a very easy style and barely takes five minutes — all you have to do is part your hair on the side and braid it tightly. If you want to make the braid look more intricate and elaborate, try the fishtail braid or the mermaid braid, which brings a great modern twist. Then wrap the braid around and pin it neatly into a bun with several bobby pins. If you want to add an additional oomph factor, use bedazzled bobby pins or fresh flowers which match your bouquet. This hairstyle works best for those that don't have bangs, so that the side partition will be more evident. If, however, you do have bangs, then pin them neatly to the side and make sure you use lots of hair spray to keep in place.

In order to look extra polished, make sure that you comb your hair and keep it tangle free. A hair accessory like a hair comb can also be pinned on the top of the bun for a nice sophisticated effect.

## Half updo

This is a lovely romantic hairstyle that's elegant but actually very low maintenance, hardly taking two minutes to create. Loosely gather the top half of your hair and pin it in place. Make sure there is a little volume at the top, otherwise it will end up looking flat and limp, so do some gentle backcombing if necessary. "For this style, I recommend using bobby pins that are similar to your hair colour, so that the effect is more subtle and don't forget to use hairspray to keep the hair in place and avoid humidity," says hairstylist Asgar Saboo. Add a flower chain or a string of pearls to add to that romantic bohemian vibe, which is something we are seeing more on celebrities who want to bring a fresh take to their wedding look.

## The head wrap chain

If you want to add an exotic vibe to your look, wear a head wrap chain. The style options are endless, ranging from the styles with big stones and crystal to the delicate ones with small chains and bells. "If you have smaller facial features, then I recommend opting for the more delicate and subtle head chain, whilst those with bigger features can get away with a more extravagant look," says Asgar. You can choose to wear the chain with your hair tied up in a bun, but this accessory looks best when the hair is left down and flowing. Also make sure that the hair is parted in the middle, since symmetry is important for this accessory to look glamorous and exotic.

## Messy twisted braid

This hairstyle is perfect for women with thick hair, which is very common with my clients from the Middle East and India. To get this look, gather all your hair and braid it loosely. Don't be worried if you have a lot of flyaways, it adds to the charm of the hair style, but make sure that you add bobby pins so the braid stays in place. "If you really want to take the hairstyle a step further, go into the garden and pluck some flowers," says hair dresser Agnes

Chen. You can find brightly coloured flowers all over the world that look gorgeous when you braid them into your hair. Make sure that when you pick the flowers that they have a small stem at the bottom for you to use. This is a very bold hairstyle, so pair it with some subtle earrings.

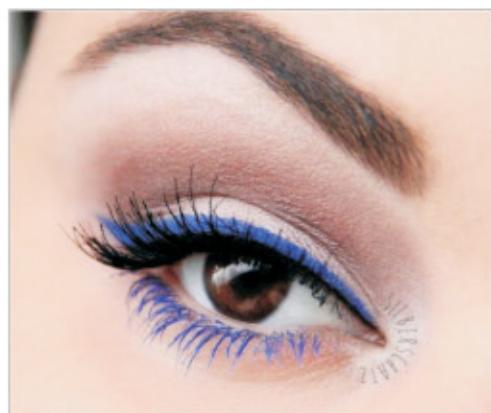
## French twist

This is a hairstyle that suits all hair textures and brings glamour to any bride's look. Grab all your hair into a low pony and twist it all around, twice. Tuck the ends inside the twist and secure it firmly with bobby pins — that's how simple this style is to do. You can customise this

hairstyle according to how much volume you want around your face, and you can accessorise by wearing a headband or a hair comb at the back. If you want, you can even tuck some flowers beneath the twist, which gives the style a little edge and modernity. However, it's really important to ensure that you use enough bobby pins to place your locks firmly in place, otherwise you will be fiddling with your hair throughout your big day. Adding some hairspray is all you need to fix the hair once this is done, leaving you to relax and enjoy your wedding day in style.



## How to wear coloured mascaras!



Coloured mascaras are not as bizarre a make-up trend as they sound.

There's one for everyone, and there is a right way to wear it, of course. Depending on the colour of your eyes, there's a coloured mascara for everyone. Available in hues of blues, greens, yellows, oranges, pinks and purple, let's have a look at what's meant for you...

Brown eyes: Plum and dark blue look perfect on brown eyes. Its deep look draws attention and you don't need to put on any more eye make-up. Black eyes: Black eyes can be accentuated well with deeper shades. Thus, plum, navy blue and olive green and great picks.

Blue eyes: For blue eyes, navy blue is a good choice since the layering works well. Due to the lighter tint of the eyes, brown stands out.

Green eyes: Flatter green eyes with purple mascaras. Again, layering works well here and so, green mascara is a good option.

Hazel eyes: Clear, hazel coloured eyes can take on blue, purple and green mascaras well.

With coloured mascaras, you don't have to do much eye make-up. While it can be completely avoided, you can at the most apply a double-liner, a subtle lipstick and subdued eye-shadows.

Go rock the look!

## Five-minute Beauty hacks for working women

Manisha Chopra, cosmetologist, beauty expert, co-founder, cosmetic brand SeaSoul Cosmeceuticals, shares five-minute beauty tips:

\* Whether your eyes look puffy due to lack of sleep or you've developed a hint of dark circles, applying concealer correctly can save the day. Instead of following the age-old practice of dotting your concealer under the eyes, apply it in a triangular shape. After rubbing it in gently, dab on some translucent yellow powder and watch your whole face come alive.

\* You must have noticed that after a few hours at work, your lipstick begins to fade and lose its initial vibrancy. And who has time to reapply colour in between the hectic daily schedule? Apply one coat of your chosen lip colour. Now lightly hold a tissue over your lips and dust off some translucent powder over the tissue. This seals your lip colour for a long time.

\* Always wanted that beautiful smokey eye look that the celebrities seem to do so effortlessly? Here's an ultra-cool way of getting perfect smokey eyes for a party or for work. Use your eyeliner and draw a slanted hashtag on the outer corner of your eyelid. Now blend this in with the rest of your makeup and voila, it's done!

\* Doing a winged eyeliner at home may seem tough but it really isn't. All you need is a few minutes and some scotch tape. Place a piece of tape at the corner of your eye, going towards your eyebrow. Now use your liner pencil to draw a thin line across your upper lash line extending all the way to the edge of the tape. Trace the edge of the tape with your liner and now

make the line thicker on the outside edge than the inside. It makes your whole face look more defined.



\* A white eyeliner or kohl pencil can work wonders. It is also a beautiful way to make smaller or droopy eyes pop. Use it on the inner corners of your eyes for a wide-eyed look. Draw a sideways V and then gently blend it in.

## Here's how to do minimal make-up

Avoid heavy make-up and dark eyes in monsoon to look chic and be comfortable, says an expert.

Aakriti Kochhar, beauty and make-up expert, Oriflame India, suggests how to get minimal make-up looks:

\* It is always good to wear a sun block as a good base to protect your skin from any damage during the day. Keep the look minimal, go for soft smudged eyeliner — maybe brown instead of black. If you are fond of using a mascara, use a waterproof one which stays on keeping in mind the hot and humid weather. A soft matte blush for the day is also a good addition to the look.

Lips with soft pink and coral can add to the fresh look.

\* Using a BB cream instead of a foundation is also a good idea since it is an all-in-one moisturizer, SPF, foundation, compact and primer. A good BB cream can compensate for multiple layers since in one layer it does it all. It is light and comfortable on the skin.

\* Avoid heavy make-up and dark eyes in monsoon. Smokey eyes is a big no! Lip and cheek tint is a good idea for summer or monsoon as well, since it's light weight and gives a natural hint of colour. \* Avoid glosses in monsoon since they have a sticky feel to it which makes it extremely uncomfortable in humid weather.



## Get your beauty fix from the benefits of Seaweed

Want some TLC for your skin? Forget that exotic Moroccan rose soak or a mint chocolate wrap.

Of late, the new skin pampering comes in the way of seaweed. More people are waking up to the benefits of the stringy, green algae that may look gross, but has powerful ingredients that help to tone and repair the skin. Here's what's the lure is about...

### Party quick-fix

Duchess of Cambridge Kate Middleton reportedly pampers herself with seaweed facials. Closer home, several people in Mumbai are going in for a 'seaweed wrap' before a night out, reveals skin expert, Dr Rashmi Shetty. "It's a no-harm quick-fix for the skin and people are trying this just before they have to get into their dress for a party or walk the red carpet. The wrap is applied to the body and as it's warming, it causes the person to sweat. During this process, the body eliminates excess toxins, urea, creatinine and water. This temporarily reduces puffiness and redness



(if any), as well as the appearance of cellulite. You feel lighter and drop half an inch all over. But to see extended benefits, one has to try this more often — once a week is quite safe to do so," she says.

### Post-holiday skin recovery

Seaweed is also increasingly being touted as the solution to ease skin stress after a holiday. "During this time, various factors like harsh climate, humidity levels, water, an erratic lifestyle, even dehydration on flights — all play havoc on the skin. Seaweed helps to re-mineralise the skin and combat the damages due to these conditions. It has a kind of restorative ability," affirms spa expert Nisha Jhaveri. "People use it on the face, but I recommend it more on the body. What's popular is the seaweed body scrub or polish, which removes dead cells and helps even out the skin tone. You can also try the body envelopment, which has seaweed extract."



# 24 years on, top court cuts sentence of men convicted of trading tiger skin, bones

**The Supreme Court halved the sentence of two convicts from six years to three years of simple imprisonment in a 24-year-old case involving the illegal trade of wildlife.**

**New Delhi.** The Supreme Court has upheld the conviction of two men in a 24-year-old case involving the illegal trade of wildlife, but reduced their sentence from six years to three years of simple imprisonment. The convicts, Makbool Ahmed and Rajesh, were arrested in Nagpur in 2001 for possessing tiger skin and other animal parts. A bench comprising Justices Sudhanshu Dhulia and Ahsanuddin Amanullah said the men were young at the time and that there was no evidence they had killed the animals themselves.

"It is evident that the appellants at the time of the offence were young in age. Moreover, it is also not the case of the prosecution that the appellants had themselves poached/killed the animals whose bones/claws/antlers/products were recovered. We are inclined to reduce the period of the sentences awarded by the courts below," the bench said.

The two men were arrested in March 2001,



teeth believed to be of a tiger. The accused were arrested on the spot, and the seized items were sent to the Director of the Wildlife Institute of India in Dehradun for expert analysis. The institute confirmed that the items belonged to a tiger, panther, leopard, hyena and chital. The two men were convicted in 2007 and sentenced to six years of rigorous imprisonment with a Rs 5,000 fine. They challenged the ruling in the sessions court and then in the High Court, but both appeals were dismissed.

The revised sentence by the Supreme Court, delivered 24 years after the arrest, imposes three years of simple imprisonment and a fine of Rs 25,000 each.

The fine must be deposited within eight weeks with the Secretary, Animal Welfare Board of India, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying (Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying).

**Active COVID-19 cases cross 4,000 in India, five deaths reported in 24 hours**



**New Delhi.** India's active COVID-19 caseload crossed the 4,000 mark on Monday, reaching 4,026, amid a gradual uptick in cases across several states. Kerala, Maharashtra, and Gujarat are among the worst-affected states, according to the latest data from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW). Kerala leads the tally with 1,416 active cases, followed by Maharashtra (494), Gujarat (397), and Delhi (393). Other states with notable numbers include West Bengal (372), Karnataka (311), Tamil Nadu (215) and Uttar Pradesh (138).

Health authorities also reported five COVID-related deaths in the past 24 hours: An 80-year-old male in Kerala, suffering from severe pneumonia. Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS), diabetes, hypertension, and coronary artery disease. Two women in Maharashtra — a 70-year-old with diabetes and a 73-year-old with both diabetes and hypertension. A 69-year-old woman in Tamil Nadu with type 2 diabetes and Parkinson's disease. A 43-year-old woman in West Bengal with acute coronary syndrome, septic shock, and acute kidney injury.

**Northeast continues to reel under severe floods; death toll rises to 36**



**New Delhi.** The Northeast parts of the country continue to remain under the grip of severe floods and landslides due to heavy rains. While over 5.5 lakh people have been affected, the death toll has increased to 36. Assam has been the most affected state with 11 deaths. Apart from Assam, Arunachal Pradesh has recorded 10 deaths, Meghalaya six deaths, Sikkim three, and Tripura due to ongoing heavy rains in the region.

**Assam most affected**

In Assam alone, close to 5.35 lakh people have been affected, across 22 districts. As many as 15 rivers in the state are flowing above the danger mark. Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma visited Lakhimpur district, which is one of the worst-hit areas. During his visit, the chief minister assured residents of all support.

Earlier on Monday evening, he also met Meghalaya chief minister Conrad Sangma in Guwahati to discuss key inter-state concerns. Meanwhile, three army personnel lost their lives and nine others went missing after a landslide struck a military camp in Chhathbari in the state's Mangan district on Sunday evening. The landslide was triggered by heavy rainfall in the region.

The personnel who have lost their lives have been identified as Havaldar Lakhwinder Singh, Lance Naik Munish Thakur, and Porter Abhishek Lakhada. As per officials, rescue teams are working relentlessly to find the other six missing soldiers. As per Sikkim DGP Akshay Sachdeva, around 1,678 tourists, who were left stranded in Lachung and Chungthang towns, were successfully evacuated. More than 100 people remain stuck in Lachen.

**Over 19,000 were impacted in Manipur**

In Manipur, more than 19,000 people have been impacted due to floods. Torrential rains have damaged at least 3,365 houses and affected 103 localities, while 19,811 residents have been displaced. A total of 31 relief camps have been set up. Amid severe waterlogging, the Manipur Fire Service, Assam Rifles, SDRF, NDRF, and the Indian Army carried out joint evacuation operations to rescue stranded people in Imphal.

## Top revenue official, aide held in bribery case; gold, cash worth crores seized

**New Delhi.** The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has seized large amounts of unaccounted wealth, including gold, silver, and cash, during searches linked to the arrest of a senior Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer and his accomplice in a bribery case. The accused officer, a 2007-batch IRS officer posted as Additional Director General at the Directorate of Taxpayer Services in New Delhi was arrested on May 31 for allegedly demanding a Rs 45 lakh bribe from a complainant in exchange for favourable treatment from the Income

Tax Department. According to the CBI, the officer's accomplice was caught red-handed while accepting Rs 25 lakh at the



officer's Mohali residence. The officer was later arrested from his home in Vasant Kunj, Delhi.

Subsequent raids led to the recovery of approximately 3.5 kg of gold, 2 kg of silver (valued at Rs 3.5 crore) and Rs 1 crore in cash. Investigators also seized documents related to 25 bank accounts, a locker, and immovable properties across Delhi, Mumbai, and Punjab. The total value of movable and immovable assets is yet to be ascertained.

CBI sources said the bribe demand was accompanied by threats of legal action and harassment, should the complainant fail to comply. Both the accused were produced before a designated court on June 1 and remanded to 14 days of judicial custody. The CBI has stated that the investigation is ongoing in the case.

## Punjab: Man held for sharing sensitive information with Pakistan

**New Delhi.** A man hailing from Punjab's Tarn Taran district was arrested for allegedly sharing sensitive information related to the army's movements during Operation Sindoora with Pakistani intelligence operatives, a top police officer said on Tuesday. Police also recovered a mobile phone containing information, which he shared with the Pakistani Intelligence Operatives (PIOs).



Intelligence wing of police. "Arrested accused had been in contact with the #Pakistan #ISI and (Pakistan based Khalistani supporter) Gopal Singh Chawla, sharing sensitive information concerning army movements during #OperationSindoora," the DGP said in a post on X. Investigations said the accused was engaged in sharing classified details, including troop deployments and strategic locations, posing a threat to national security. Gagandeep had been in touch with Khalistani supporter Gopal Singh

Chawla for the past five years, through whom he was introduced to the PIOs, Yadav said. "He also received payments from #PIOs via #Indianschannels," he further said.

Recovered a mobile phone containing intelligence that he shared with the PIOs, as well as the details of over 20 ISI contacts, he said. Thorough financial and technical investigations are underway to trace other linkages and establish the full scope of this espionage network, the DGP added. An FIR has been registered under the Official Secrets Act at Police Station City, Tarn Taran, and further investigation is in progress, he added. Punjab Police remains committed to safeguarding the sovereignty and integrity of the nation and will take all necessary actions against those involved in anti-national activities, he said.

## Centre Rejects Opposition Demand For Special Session On Op Sindoora: Sources

**Since the Monsoon Session will be held in July, the sources said there is no justification to hold a special session right now**

**New Delhi.** The government is not considering the Opposition's demand for a special session of Parliament on Operation Sindoora that dealt a blow to terror infrastructure across the border after the Pahalgam attack, said government sources. Since the Monsoon Session will be held in July, the sources said there is no justification to hold a special session right

now. There is little possibility of considering the demand for discussion on Operation Sindoora in the Monsoon Session, they added. The government had earlier asserted that the opposition had already been informed of all the facts at the all-party meeting on Operation Sindoora.

Under Operation Sindoora, Indian forces had struck at least nine terror bases in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir (POK) on May 7 in a tactical action after the April 22 terror attack that left 26 civilians dead in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam. This led to a flare-up in India-Pakistan tensions, with Islamabad launching missile and drone attacks and cross-border firings. All threats were neutralised by the Indian military. The Congress and other opposition leaders had demanded that a special Parliament session be convened immediately to discuss the military and



foreign policy strategies adopted by the government in the wake of the sudden flare-up. After the May 10 ceasefire, Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi and Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge had written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, requesting him to call a special session to discuss Operation Sindoora and the ceasefire. The ruling BJP, however, had

**Khan Sir's wife makes first public appearance at grand wedding reception; Tejaswi Yadav among several dignitaries attend**

**New Delhi.** A long anticipated moment has finally unfolded with popular educator and youth icon, Khan Sir, hosting a grand wedding reception. His wife also made first public appearance at the grand event. The photos and videos from the event have surfaced. The reception was held at Panache Banquets in Danapur. It has taken social media by storm, especially with a light-hearted moment featuring RJD leader, Tejaswi Yadav has been doing rounds on social media.

**Khan Sir, a youth icon**

Khan Sir, who married in a quiet ceremony in May amid the rising tensions between India and Pakistan, had chosen not to celebrate in a grand way at that time. In one of his live classes, he later mentioned, that he had prioritised national sentiment over personal festivities. "For the sake of the nation, I thought it was better to keep the celebration small," he had said.

Now that the conditions are normalised, Khan Sir opened his special day to his friends supporters and dignitaries. The venue was decorated with vibrant lights and floral decorations.

His wife, donning a deep red, heavily embroidered lehenga and a veil, captivated hearts with her graceful and traditional appearance. Khan Sir himself appeared in a black suit, pink shirt and red tie. Both of them radiated joy and happiness.

A viral video from the event shows Khan Sir gently holding his wife's hand and escorting her to the stage. This moment struck a chord among many of his followers, admirers and students.

**Tejaswi Yadav's viral comment**

Adding a touch of humour to the occasion, Tejaswi Yadav, who was present at the occasion along with several other dignitaries jokingly asked Khan Sir, "Kya hua, byah kab tha?" (What happened to you? When did you get married?) To which Khan Sir responded, "Jab India-Pakistan ka conflict chal raha tha, usi beech mein.

Aur model aap hi ka tha, sir — bilkul chhupchaap se karna hai aur baad mein batana hai." (Right when the India-Pakistan conflict was going on. And sir, the model was yours, keep it absolutely quiet and inform people later.)

**NHRC issues notice to West Bengal DGP, to guarantee influencer Panoli's safety**



**New Delhi.** The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has reportedly issued a notice to the Director General of Police, West Bengal, Rajeev Kumar to ensure the safety of social media influencer and law student Sharmistha Panoli, who was allegedly arrested for sharing communal remarks related to Operation Sindoora, according to NHRC member Priyank Kanoongo.

Kanoongo stated that the action was taken primarily in response to the "multiple rape and death threats" Panoli had received in recent days. The Human Rights Commission also received a complaint alleging procedural lapses in Panoli's arrest by West Bengal Police in Haryana. Panoli was arrested in Gurugram, Haryana, on May 30 by West Bengal Police over a contentious social media post. She has since been placed in judicial custody until June 13.

**Legal Rights Observatory seeks clarification from Haryana government**

"We received a complaint from an organisation called Legal Rights Observatory regarding the arrest of a law student by West Bengal Police from Haryana in the middle of the night over an allegedly objectionable social media post. The complaint alleges that proper legal procedures were not followed during her arrest and transit. It also states that the girl has received threats from radical Islamists, including rape and death threats," Kanoongo was quoted as saying by ANI.

asserted that the military operation was on pause and asked their political rivals not to raise "unnecessary and unwanted" questions.

Sources said there had been no consensus in the opposition camp on the demand for a special session.

The Congress reiterated its demand for a special session after the Chief of Defence Staff, General Anil Chauhan, acknowledged the loss of Indian jets in the hostilities. "What is important is not the jet being downed but why they were being downed," Gen Chauhan had said. Flagging this remark, Mr Kharge had raised the need for asking some "very important questions" that he said would be possible if a special session is called immediately. The Congress had also claimed that the government can call a special session on the completion of 50 years of Emergency, but sources have ruled out any such plan in the making.

Who doesn't desire a well-painted kissable pout? It's the thought of applying the wrong shade that many of us dread. The thought of getting the right colour and the right pout is no ordinary task, unless you follow these easy but important steps for the perfect pout.

#### 1) EXFOLIATE WITH A LIPBALM

Treat your lips just like you would treat your face. Exfoliate lips, moisturise with a balm. Repeat the regimen daily.

#### 2) KEEP YOUR MAKEUP MINIMAL

It's always safe to highlight only one feature of your face. If you are going for bold lips then better keep the rest of your face makeup minimal for perfect balance.

#### 3) AVOID TOO MUCH SPARKLE

"Shimmer can look cheap," says make-up artist Troy. Look for lipsticks with a creamy finish. "Light reflection should come from moisture in the formula, not metallic pigments," he says.

#### 4) CHOOSE RIGHT COLOUR

Finding the right shade is important. Different colours work differently on various complexion types, so try on a bunch of shades before zeroing down on the most suitable one. Advice: go for a shade that complements your skin tone. Lighter shades of reds and burgundy look fabulous with warm skin tones, while pinks and true reds work brilliantly for fairer skin.

#### 5) USE PRIMER

Always use primer before you start applying the lipstick. Because

- it will give the lipstick shade a better colour contrast.

- it will help your lipstick last longer (throughout the day).

In case you run out of primer or you don't have one, you can use foundation instead.

#### 6) PICK A LIP LINER

They say liner can either be your best friend or your worst enemy. Either case liner has a significant role in achieving the perfect pout. Just find the right lip liner, probably a shade that's closest to your lip colour, and outline your lips before applying the lipstick. This will give the required shape to your lip, either making them fuller or thinner. It also keeps your lipstick from feathering. FYI: Opting a much darker shade than your lipstick is the worst make-up disaster.

#### 7) START IN THE MIDDLE

Always. Start your lipstick applying session from the centre of your lips and then spread outward with the help of lip brush. Experts

# 10 Lipstick rules every Woman must know

always use lip brush when applying lipstick because it leave less room for mistakes as compared to applying it directly from the tube.

#### 8) SOFTEN THE EDGES

Just smudge the border of your lips slightly

so as to get a natural, not-overly-done look.

#### 9) BLOT! BLOT! BLOT!

After you are done applying lipstick, blot it with a tissue, then apply another layer. Blotting removes excess oils and emollients from the first layer of lipstick while leaving

the pigments largely intact. "Blotting will create a base, and the second coat adds shine and coverage," says Troy. Adding a second layer of lipstick after blotting increases the pigment concentration in proportion to the creamy ingredients that are the enemies of lipstick longevity.

#### 10) WASH OFF LIPSTICK & EXFOLIATE

Always take it off before you go to sleep. You don't want lipstick stain all over your pillowcase, do you? And don't forget to exfoliate after you wash off your lipstick.

## Know the complete truth about your fairness Cream

India market is considered the biggest market for beauty products specially fairness solution. Among Indian society there is an absurd statement and phenomenon of beauty. Thanks to our high list of endorsement start, both men & women need variety of fairness creams. In spite of existing multimillion dollar market of fairness products in country, the question of how impactful these products are? Keep dwindling in consumer's mind. Our skin colour is determined by our race and genetic lineage which in turn decides the amount and structure of melanin. Fairness creams can only work to a certain extent. As per dermatology studies, achieving fairness up to 20% is possible, but not more than that. The fairness creams only block sun rays and prevent secretion of melanin. Thus help in reducing tan and restoring natural skin.

Side Effects of Fairness Creams

Extreme use of fairness creams can rather lead to severe skin damage. Fairness creams contain harmful bleaching agent such as hydroquinone, mercury, lead, nickel, chromium and high levels of steroids that cause following problems:

- Thinning of skin
- Discoloration of face
- Capillaries become prominently visible
- Severe acne
- Hypersensitivity to sun
- Rebound paradoxical pigmentation
- Unwanted facial hair growth
- Skin allergy
- Skin cancer

Thus these creams should always be used judiciously only under the supervision of a certified

## Benefits of using shikakai on your skin

The enriching benefits of using shikakai on hair has been proved long ago and has made it a trusted natural product in Indian households. But very few know about its benefits on the skin.

In fact, shikakai works magically for the skin, too. Here are a few ways to use this wonder herb on your skin:

- Effective in treating scabies You can use shikakai to treat skin ailments like scabies. To reap maximum benefits, you can make an antiseptic body wash using shikakai and turmeric. Soak raw turmeric in hot water and then grind it

- Exfoliation is one of the most important steps in maintaining your youthful glow.

We recommend weekly exfoliation to brighten the skin tone. Regular use of an exfoliation removes the oldest dead skin cells that cling to the skin's outermost surface, or epidermis. It is an important part of both facials and body treatments. What not to do

- DO NOT support the common trend of fair skin and the stigma of being dark

- Avoid excessive bleaching in alternate weeks. Comprising of Ammonia and hydrochloric acid primarily these ingredients can cause both minor and severe burn.

- Avoid Products that Encourage Acne Breakouts

The truth is we don't need white skin to show our beauty, if you have healthy,

- Use shikakai to treat spots

Take half a teaspoon of shikakai powder and mix it with a tablespoon each of cream, almond powder and turmeric. Add two tablespoons of honey and use it as a body scrub.

This mixture helps in eliminating dead cells and gives

your skin a natural glow.

- To treat minor cuts and boils on your scalp

Burn shikakai pods, grind them. Mix with a teaspoon of neem powder, make a paste using cold water. Apply on summer boils to help them heal.



beautiful, dark complexion, learn to love yourself. Your healthy and shiny skin is everything to impress whosoever will notice you. Do not trust every advertisement blindly, stay happy & smiley.

## 5 facials you must try out in your Lifetime



Facials you must try out in your lifetime.

Anti-aging Telomere Facial

**What it is:** Telomere is the real fountain of youth. The skin looks brighter, smoother and more translucent, as it's massaged with a replenishing cream in a way that enhances absorption. Specialised masks are used for the flower power thermoherb face lift that irons out lines and wrinkles, making the skin more firm and youthful.

**USP: Anti-aging, stops wrinkles**

Plant Stem Cells Facial **What it is:** Another breakthrough in anti-aging treatments is plant stem cell - it rejuvenates the skin powerfully. When plant stem cells are introduced into the skin during the facial, they repair dead and damaged skin cells. The skin looks tighter, firmer and younger. The products used contain active plant stem cells of the Edelweiss flower, collagen, elastin, ceramides and powerful anti-oxidants. Once the mask is washed off, the skin is toned and cold compress is given.

**USP: Gives a soft glow**

Platinum Facial **What it is:** This facial starts with a cleanser, scrub, cream, mask, serum and moisture mist. The face is first cleansed with the cleanser, followed by vegetable peel and platinum scrub. A lymphatic massage is also done to purify the skin and add radiance.

**USP: Cleanses all pollutants**

Diamond Facial **What is it:** This is for those who want to defy age. In Ayurvedic skin care, the oxidised diamond or 'bhasma' is used, while diamond powder is used for exfoliation. This facial uses extracts of lotus, basil, dates, orange oil, carrot seed and vetiver (khus).

**USP: Improves skin's vitality**

Pearl Facial **What is it:** This is for those who need hydration. It's based on a 4,000 year old Ayurvedic and Oriental tradition of using the powder of natural pearls. Pearls influence the transfer of melanin (natural pigment) to the skin surface, preventing tanning and pigmentation.

**USP: Removes pigmentation**

## Weeks After 6000 Layoffs, Microsoft Asks 305 Additional Employees To Leave

**New Delhi.** Tech giant Microsoft has cut hundreds of more jobs just weeks after reducing nearly 3 per cent of its global workforce in the AI era. As per a filing with WA company spokesperson said in a statement the latest headcount reduction is in addition to the 6,000 job cuts announced last month, which is roughly 3 per cent of its global workforce. Washington state's Employment Security Department, 305 additional employees in Redmond, Washington have been asked to leave. "We continue to implement organisational changes necessary to best position the company for success in a dynamic marketplace," the spokesperson was quoted as saying in reports.

Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella has said that the recent layoffs were not linked to employee performance but due to organisational restructuring. Addressing staff during a town-hall meeting, Nadella said the layoffs were necessary to realign teams in accordance with Microsoft's evolving priorities, particularly its growing focus on artificial intelligence.

He acknowledged the emotional toll of the decision but underscored that it was driven by strategic shifts, not shortcomings in productivity or talent. Last month, Frank X. Shaw, Chief Communications Officer, Microsoft, said that "We've entered the era of AI agents". "Thanks to groundbreaking advancements in reasoning and memory, AI models are now more capable and efficient, and we're seeing how AI systems can help us all solve problems in new ways. For example, 15 million developers are already using GitHub Copilot, and features like agent mode and code review are streamlining the way they code, check, deploy and troubleshoot," he said during the 'Microsoft Build 2025' event. Hundreds of thousands of customers are using Microsoft 365 Copilot to help research, brainstorm and develop solutions, and more than 230,000 organisations — including 90 per cent of the Fortune 500 — have already used Copilot Studio to build AI agents and automations.

## ITR filing made easy: Here's a simple step-by-step guide to file income tax return

**New Delhi.** Filing your income tax return (ITR) might seem overwhelming at first, but with the right steps, it's actually quite straightforward—especially when done online. And here's a bit of relief for crores of taxpayers as the Income Tax Department has extended the last date to file ITR for AY 2025-26 from July 31 to September 15, 2025, for those not requiring an audit. That means you now have 45 extra days to file your return without facing any late fee. To make the process smoother, the tax department has released updated ITR utilities for ITR-1 (Sahaj) and ITR-4 (Sugam). These are user-friendly tools designed to help you fill in and submit your return online with ease.

### GATHER THESE KEY DOCUMENTS FIRST

Before starting your income tax return, ensure you have key documents in hand. These include Form 16 from your employer, Form 26AS, the Annual Information Statement (AIS) and Tax Information Statement (TIS) from the income tax portal, and your bank statements. Interest certificates from banks or post offices are also essential. Together, these help confirm your total income and taxes already paid.

### CHOOSING THE RIGHT ITR FORM

The Income Tax Department has released seven ITR forms (ITR-1 to ITR-7) for FY 2024-25.

Most individuals fall under ITR-1 to ITR-4, depending on how they earn, whether through salary, business, or other sources. Now let's walk through the simple steps to file your ITR online. To file your ITR online, start by visiting the official income tax e-filing portal and logging in with your PAN and password. Once logged in, go to the 'e-File' tab and click on 'File Income Tax Return'. Choose the appropriate assessment year, AY 2025-26, for income earned in FY 2024-25, and select the 'Online' filing mode.

Next, choose your filing status. Most taxpayers will select 'Individual'. Then, pick the correct ITR form based on your income type. You'll also need to mention the reason for filing your return, such as having taxable income above the exemption limit or meeting certain other criteria.

## Yes Bank shares fall 8% after 3 sessions of gain. Here's why

**New Delhi.** Shares of Yes Bank dropped nearly 8% on Tuesday, June 3, breaking a three-day winning streak. The fall came after the private sector lender issued a clarification about a news report suggesting that Japan's Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation (SMBC) was planning to acquire a controlling stake in the bank. In early trade, Yes Bank shares fell 7.95% to touch a low of Rs 21.43. This was a huge change from the recent trend, as the stock had risen 8.4% in the previous session and was gaining for three days in a row.

### CLARIFICATION TRIGGERS STOCK FALL

The stock came under pressure after Yes Bank clarified that it was not involved in any talks related to the claims made in the news report. According to the report, SMBC was seeking permission from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to operate as a wholly-owned unit in India. It also suggested that this move could be a step towards acquiring a controlling stake in Yes Bank. Yes Bank, however, denied the claims. In its official statement, the bank said, "In this regard, the bank is not privy to discussions in relation to matters stated in the article. Further, references to the bank having 'road map' discussions with the RBI are factually incorrect. The bank will comply with the requirements of Regulation 30 of the Listing Regulations, as and when required." This clarification disappointed some investors, especially those who were expecting further developments on the deal.

### DETAILS OF SMBC DEAL AND STAKE SALE

Earlier this month, Yes Bank had announced that State Bank of India (SBI) and seven other private banks would be selling a 20% stake to SMBC.

## Salary Of THIS Indian CEO Is 752 Times More Than Median Salary Of The Company's Employees In FY25

**Parekh's salary was 752 times more than the median salary of an Infosys employee, which was Rs 10.72 lakh in FY25.**

**New Delhi.** Infosys CEO Salil Parekh's annual pay rose by 22 per cent to Rs 80.6 crore in the financial year 2025, the company revealed in its latest annual report on Monday. This increase was mainly because Parekh exercised more restricted stock units (RSUs) this year, which is a form of equity compensation given to top executives. Parekh earned Rs 49.5 crore through these stock options, compared to Rs 39 crore in the previous fiscal year. His base salary remained the



same as last year at Rs 7.5 crore, while his variable pay increased to Rs 23.2 crore from Rs 19.8 crore. He also received Rs 50 lakh as retiral benefits, as per the report. Infosys provides RSUs under two separate plans. Under the 2015 plan, the stocks are given based on the time spent at the

company, while the 2019 plan is performance-based, which includes targets like total shareholder returns and operational metrics. Parekh's total compensation in FY25 was higher than that of other top IT CEOs in India. TCS CEO K. Krishnavasan earned Rs 26.5 crore, and Wipro CEO Srinivas Palli earned about Rs 53.6 crore or \$6.2 million in the same period. Parekh's salary was 752 times more than the median salary of an Infosys employee, which was Rs 10.72 lakh in FY25. In a letter to shareholders, Parekh said Infosys continues to be a leader in areas like artificial intelligence (AI), cloud, data, and digital services. He mentioned that the company hired 15,000 college graduates during the year and ended FY25 with a workforce of over 3.2 lakh employees. In April 2025, Infosys also gave Parekh stock option grants worth Rs 50 crore. These include performance-based stock incentives linked to equity and ESG goals. However, this sharp rise in CEO pay comes at a time when Infosys has faced market uncertainty, cut variable pay, and let go of several trainees from its Mysuru campus. Despite these challenges, Parekh highlighted that FY25 was a year of strong execution and thanked all employees for their contributions in creating value for clients.

## Positive start likely for markets ahead of RBI interest rate decision

**CHENNAI.** The Indian stock market is set to open on a positive note today, Tuesday, June 3, 2025, with investors closely monitoring global developments and the upcoming interest rate decision by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

### Market Indicators

**GIFT Nifty Futures:** As of 8:15 AM IST, GIFT Nifty futures were trading at 24,845.5, indicating a higher start compared to Nifty 50's Monday close of 24,716.6. **Global Markets:** Asian indices were mixed, with Japan's Nikkei 225 falling 0.34%, while Hong Kong's Hang Seng futures suggested a positive opening.

### Key Factors Influencing Today's Market

**RBI Interest Rate Decision:** The RBI is anticipated to reduce its benchmark rate by 25 basis points for the third consecutive time, aiming to support economic growth amid global uncertainties.

**Global Economic Developments:** The European Central Bank cut interest rates by 25 basis points to 2.5%, citing slowing inflation and weak economic growth. **US Market Trends:** US markets



Shriram Finance, Eicher Motors, Tata Steel, ONGC, M&M, Hindalco showed resilience. Jindal Stainless gained about 1% after announcing its acquisition of an SPV to generate 282 MW of hybrid renewable energy for its operations.

### Broader Market Performance

Nifty MidCap 100 rises 0.31%, and Nifty SmallCap 100 moved up 0.64%. Broader indices outperformed headline benchmarks, driven by selective buying in industrial and metals stocks.

### Sectoral Snapshot

## Another RBI Rate Cut To Spark Affordable Real Estate Momentum: Experts



yields reflects bond market confidence in the RBI's inflation and liquidity management and strengthens the rationale for easing rates," said Shishir



Baijal, Chairman and Managing Director, Knight Frank India. With the anticipated rate cut, the cumulative reduction in the policy rate in this cycle would be 75 bps. However, the focus must now shift to the pace and breadth

of transmission. "While some commercial banks have begun to lower their MCLR and base rates, the adjustments have been modest. With liquidity conditions stabilising, there is now greater scope for commercial banks to accelerate the pass-through of policy easing to borrowers. This will be key to spurring consumer demand and private investment, ultimately supporting economic growth," Baijal noted. The Central Bank is projected to cut the repo rate by another 50 basis points (bps) this fiscal (FY26), after the 50 bps cut until April this year. Bank lending rates have begun easing, which should support domestic demand, according to a latest Crisil note.

ended mixed, with the S&P 500 and Nasdaq gaining, while the Dow Jones Industrial Average slipped. Notable stock movements included Nvidia (+3.1%) and Amazon (-4% in extended trade after underwhelming Q1 forecasts).

### Market Outlook

The Indian market is expected to open higher, supported by positive global cues and anticipation of the RBI's rate cut. However, investors remain cautious, awaiting further economic data and policy decisions. Key stocks to watch today include Britannia Industries, HCLTech, and Maruti Suzuki, which are expected to be in focus due to recent developments.

Traders should monitor the opening session closely for any significant movements and adjust their strategies accordingly.

## Indian dairy firms to see 11-13% revenue growth this fiscal: CRISIL

**Strong consumption patterns, increasing retail milk prices, and accelerated growth in the VAP segment to boost the sales.**

**CHENNAI.** India's dairy industry is poised for robust growth in FY 2025, driven by sustained demand, an increasing share of value-added products (VAP), and favourable input conditions. According to CRISIL Ratings, dairy companies are expected to witness revenue growth of 11-13% this fiscal, outpacing the ~10% growth recorded in the previous year. This expansion is supported by improved product mix, rising consumer demand for protein-rich and nutritious products, and higher retail prices.

### Key Drivers:

Strong consumption patterns, increasing retail milk prices, and accelerated growth in the VAP segment, including cheese, yogurt, paneer, and flavored milk are considered to be the key factors that will

drive the growth for the industry. Continued expansion in organised dairy retail and cold-chain infrastructure could also push the growth for the key players.

### Profitability Trends

Operating margin for the companies expected to improve by 20-30 basis points (bps), reaching approximately 5.3%. This is mainly supported by improved product realisations, limited increase in procurement prices (2-3%), thanks to healthy milk supply, and rising share of high-margin VAP in the product portfolio. Stable fodder prices and productivity gains from widespread adoption of artificial insemination will also boost the profitability.

### Value-Added Products (VAP) Outlook

CRISIL expect the growth in the value added product segment at 16-18% in FY 2025. The share in product mix is expected to rise to about 45%, up from 40% two years ago. The VAP segment is expected to clock a strong 16-18% growth this fiscal and an improved product mix, healthy volumes and rising retail prices will be the key growth drivers in this segment," says Shounak Chakravarty, Director, CRISIL Ratings. The other important growth

drivers for the Indian dairy sector include shifting consumer preferences, rising nutritional awareness, and increasing demand for protein-rich diets.

### Capital Expenditure (Capex)



According to Rucha Narkar, Associate Director, CRISIL Ratings, the sector's capex growth is projected to increase by about 10%, reaching approximately Rs 3,400 crore this fiscal. Over 60% of this will be allocated towards expanding VAP

capacity and the remainder for enhancing liquid milk processing and supply-chain infrastructure. Despite the capex increase, credit profiles remain stable due to strong cash flows and balance sheets.

"The VAP segment will account for more than 60% of the overall capex — a trend seen over the past three fiscals," says Narkar.

### Credit Profile & Financial Metrics

Interest coverage ratio in the dairy sector is expected to remain strong at more than 8 times, estimates CRISIL. While, the net cash accruals to repayment obligation is estimated at about 2.6 times (vs. 2.8 times last fiscal). These figures reflect a healthy balance sheet condition, with sufficient headroom to absorb higher capex without straining liquidity, expects CRISIL.

### Risks and Watch Factors

However, the industry is not free from risk. A normal and timely monsoon remains critical to maintain fodder availability and milk productivity, and timely commissioning of planned expansions is essential to meet rising demand and sustain profitability margins, warns CRISIL.

## NEWS BOX

**Punjab Kings at a disadvantage? Sunil Gavaskar weighs in before IPL 2025 final**

**New Delhi.** Former batter Sunil Gavaskar believes that the Punjab Kings (PBKS) face a slight disadvantage ahead of their Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 final against Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) on Tuesday, June 3, at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad. Gavaskar pointed out that PBKS may not have enough time to recover after their hard-fought win against Mumbai Indians (MI) in Qualifier 2 on Sunday. He noted that the short turnaround could affect the players' physical recovery, stating that a longer break would have been beneficial following such exertion. In contrast, RCB will enter the final well-rested, having enjoyed a four-day break after their dominant eight-wicket victory over PBKS in Qualifier 1. It certainly does help. And for the Punjab Kings, I think also the fact that they just get a day's break before the final and the match also finished so late against Mumbai



Indians - that doesn't give too much time for the body to recover. Yes, I know it's a late evening game, it's a 7:30 start, but the body does certainly need a lot of rest after the exertions of the previous day," Gavaskar told India Today in an interview.

"The Bengaluru team has had four days off, so they will certainly be mentally and physically far more refreshed than the Punjab team when they enter the frame." PBKS have played two matches at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad during IPL 2025, winning both - an 11-run victory over Gujarat Titans in the league stage and a five-wicket win against Mumbai Indians in Qualifier 2. RCB, meanwhile, are yet to play at the venue this season. However, Gavaskar downplayed the impact of this factor, stating that it's unlikely to matter given RCB's stupendous form. "Not so much of an advantage. Like I said, I think it's the fact that RCB are coming into the final with a string of absolutely brilliant performances with both bat and ball. So I don't think they'll be daunted by the fact that they haven't played here." Punjab have, like I said, just 24 hours or so to recover, which is not really enough after the efforts they put in to beat Mumbai Indians.

## Neeraj Chopra Classic 2025 in Bengaluru rescheduled to July 5

**New Delhi.** The Neeraj Chopra Classic 2025 is scheduled to take place on July 5, at the Sree Kanterava Stadium in Bengaluru. The JSW Sports, the organisers of the event, made the announcement on Tuesday, June 3. The event was earlier set to be held on May 24, but had to be postponed due to the cross-border tensions between India and Pakistan.

"Bringing the Neeraj Chopra Classic back this quickly has taken an enormous collective effort, and we're happy to confirm its return on July 5. Our teams have worked tirelessly, and the unwavering support from the Athletics Federation of India, the Karnataka Olympic Association, the Government of Karnataka, and our partners made this possible," Karan Yadav, the Chief Commercial Officer of JSW Sports, said.

"The energy around this event is bigger than ever, and we're set to deliver a celebration of javelin that's bolder, better, and even more



unforgettable," he added. The upcoming one-day event is expected to showcase an impressive lineup, including Grenada's two-time world champion Anderson Peters, Germany's 2016 Olympic gold medallist Thomas Rohler, and Kenya's Julius Yego. While Neeraj Chopra had extended an invitation to Pakistan's Olympic javelin champion Arshad Nadeem, he opted out to concentrate on preparations for the Asian Athletics Championships.

Neeraj Chopra setting the bar higher. On May 16, he breached the elusive 90-metre mark at the Doha Diamond League with a throw of 90.23 metres, becoming only the 25th man in history to cross this iconic barrier. This effort surpassed his previous personal best of 89.94 metres, set at the 2022 Stockholm Diamond League.

Chopra continued his remarkable consistency by finishing second at the Janusz Kusocinski Memorial in Chorzow, Poland, on May 23. His best throw of the day was 84.

# For Shreyas Iyer, job only half done this season

## PBKS captain and coach

**Ponting eye first IPL trophy together after twin heartbreaks in same capacity with Delhi in 2019 and 2020**

**AHMEDABAD.** As Shreyas Iyer and Rajat Patidar walked into the ground floor press conference room of the Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad, after finishing the captaincy photoshoot, the former looked tired. It was understandable considering the fact that less than 15 hours ago, Shreyas was out on the field after winning the Qualifier 2 game for Punjab Kings against Mumbai Indians at the same venue. The Mumbai Indians smashed an unbeaten 87 off 41 balls — which he would go on to classify as the best T20 knock he has played — ripping apart the mighty Mumbai Indians bowling attack. He did so without breaking a sweat, uttering a word, showing a shred of emotion before spitting out the chewing gum and walking off the field. So, given a choice, he probably would not want to be back in the venue in about 15 hours again; the Punjab team did not train, but the captain had to come for the press conference. After the successful chase,

which went on till 2 AM on Monday, all he wanted to do was go to his room and crash. That is what he said when asked if there was any update on the fitness of Yuzvendra Chahal. "All I can say is that I went back to my room and slept," Shreyas said on the eve of the final. Sleep, however, did not come easily. Such was the intensity of the knock in what was the most important game Punjab had played till Monday, adding the fact that he knew he had to come back again and do it all over on Tuesday. Shreyas could not switch off. "I couldn't sleep. Seriously, I only got 4 hours of sleep last night. And here I am sitting," he explained. In his own words, Shreyas was "locked in" during the chase against Mumbai. It is a "zone" he goes into long before the match begins — right from the warm-ups, he says. When he came on to bat, Shreyas took his time before exploding, including against Jasprit Bumrah. The shot he played to send Bumrah's pinpoint yorker to the boundary has already been made into a GIF and played on repeat. "I had a certain plan of how I was going to play on this particular pitch. It was red soil, so I had to plan. Once my eyes are set, you just need to get your eyesight locked in and be in the zone. So, after that, it was just about the flow. And yeah, thankfully that I clicked," Shreyas said, before adding, "Winning the match for the team, obviously the best feeling in the

world. And on a pressure occasion, yes, I would rate this the topmost innings of mine." In many ways, the zone Shreyas was in on Sunday is where he has been in throughout the season. Right from their first game at this same venue — an unbeaten 97 against Gujarat Titans that kickstarted the dominating campaign — Shreyas has been "locked in" every time he walked onto the



field. The numbers tell the story in themselves — 603 runs at 54.81 average and 175.8 strike rate — Shreyas' impact this season goes beyond statistics. This year has been about Shreyas making one statement after another. It has helped that he has a good relationship with head coach Ricky Ponting. "He is an amazing coach who manages the player precisely. I personally feel that one thing that stands out with him is that he treats

everyone equally. I have never seen his emotions go up and down irrespective of the results, and that is the sign of a great coach. It is simply phenomenal to be around him," Shreyas said. The duo had taken Delhi Capitals to the playoffs twice, final once in 2020, but hadn't been able to cross the final hurdle. That, however, was five years ago. Since then, Shreyas has won an IPL as captain. As he walks onto the field on Tuesday for the final against Royal Challengers Bengaluru, he knows that he has been there and done that before; he knows that all he has to do is continue what he and his team have done through the season.

It was what he was thinking about even before the chase was done on Sunday. "I felt like my job is half done and it's not yet finished (on why he did not celebrate his fifty). We have a match tomorrow. My approach was that my job is half done, and I have to come back tomorrow. I have to play the match again. So, I was thinking that recovery is important. I was thinking about how to prepare myself," he said. It is the kind of mentality Shreyas and Ponting have instilled in the team. And it reflected in the campaign Punjab announced ahead of the season. Their theme, right from the start, has been just three words: "Bas, Jeetna hai (Just got to win it)". Expect Shreyas and his lad to walk in with the same mindset at the Narendra Modi Stadium on Tuesday.

## RCB vs PBKS: Virat Kohli is going to pick a battle with someone, predicts Varun Aaron

**New Delhi.** Virat Kohli might pick a battle with someone from the opposition team when Royal Challengers Bengaluru walk out to play their final against Punjab Kings, said former cricketer Varun Aaron on Monday, June 2.

Speaking ahead of the Indian Premier League final, Aaron said that things are lined up for RCB to lift their first-ever trophy in the history of the tournament. Aaron said that Australian fast bowler Josh Hazlewood, who has never lost a single final in his career, has been the lucky charm for the Bengaluru side.

"I mean there's a lot of symbolism this year for RCB. They won a game at the Chepauk after so long. They have done incredible things this year. And Hazlewood has been their lucky charm—not just a lucky charm, somebody who's really performed well and he knows what to bring to the finals," Aaron said on JioHotstar before the Tuesday final. Aaron added on Virat Kohli, stating that it is the batter's way to pick a fight in the middle of the pitch, which keeps him switched on throughout the game. Kohli has been very animated in the field this year, celebrating



**French Open 2025 Day 10 Order of Play: Defending champions Iga Swiatek and Carlos Alcaraz will be in action when they take part in their semi-final clash at Roland Garros on Tuesday.**

**New Delhi.** World No.1 Aryna Sabalenka, Iga Swiatek and Carlos Alcaraz are amongst the top seeds who will be looking to book their berths in the semi-finals of the French Open 2025. Last year, Sabalenka couldn't make her way through to the semis after losing to then-17-year-old Mirra Andreeva and would be looking to make amends this time around. The 27-year-old Sabalenka has a 6-1 head-to-head record against Qinwen Zheng, but it's the latter, who won in their last meeting - 6-4, 6-3 - in the quarterfinals

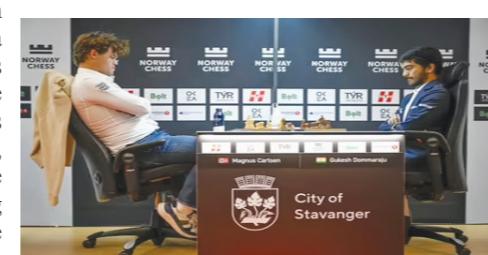
of the Rome Masters earlier this year. Swiatek, who is looking to win four titles on the trot, came back from a set down to beat Elena Rybakina in the quarters. She will be up against the feisty Elina Svitolina, who saved three match points to beat last year's runner-up Jasmine Paolini in the quarters. In the men's singles, Lorenzo Musetti will lock horns with Frances Tiafoe,

who will be playing in his maiden semi-final at Roland Garros. Tiafoe has been dominating thus far as he is yet to drop a set in the ongoing clay court major. Alcaraz and Tommy Paul will be playing against each other in the last match of the day on Centre Court. Alcaraz, who won the title last year after beating Alexander Zverev, has looked in good form.

## 'He was blindly pushing ... on normal day I win that game': Magnus Carlsen on painful loss to D Gukesh

**New Delhi.** Magnus Carlsen's shock defeat to 19-year-old Indian Grandmaster D Gukesh in Round 6 of the Norway Chess tournament triggered not only visible frustration from the five-time world champion but also a deep introspection on the direction of his chess career. Carlsen, 34, lost a game he appeared to be dominating, his emotions spilling over as he banged the table, scattering pieces in disbelief. The Norwegian later admitted Gukesh's fighting spirit and youthful energy had made the difference — even though, by Carlsen's own assessment, it wasn't a game the teenager should have won. Go Beyond The Boundary with our YouTube channel. SUBSCRIBE NOW! "For a long time, he was just more or less blindly pushing," Carlsen said on Monday. "And then, yeah, on a normal day, of course, I win that game, and things look quite differently."

Who's that IPL player?



"I remember being that age myself," said Carlsen. "Sometimes your energy, fighting qualities, and just optimism are bigger than the quality of your moves." Gukesh's victory was a testament to his grit, and Carlsen didn't hesitate to praise him. "He really fights very, very well, and he was there to take his chance, so he deserves credit for that," he

said. "But that's the kind of chance I really, really have to put away." The Norwegian star has increasingly expressed doubts about his interest in Classical chess, hinting at a shift toward faster formats like blitz, rapid, or freestyle chess. "It's not that I cannot play Classical... it's just situations like yesterday, I'm just wondering, like, why am I doing this?" Carlsen admitted. Following his emotional loss, Carlsen rebounded with a convincing Armageddon win over World No. 2 Hikaru Nakamura after a quick 21-move draw in their classical encounter. "Winning the Armageddon was kind of the best scenario for me," Carlsen said. "I discovered that move... it may have been played before, but I didn't know for sure." Carlsen also hinted at skipping Norway Chess next year and emphasized the value of enjoying his time off the board — particularly with golf and family.

## Ricky Ponting seeks redemption, Andy Flower validation in battle of contrasting styles

**The IPL 2025 final maybe all about the big names in RCB and PBKS camps but Ricky Ponting and Andy Flower have shined in their roles as the respective coaches of the franchises. Ponting and Flower have stood out with their unique coaching approaches in the 2025 season.**

**New Delhi.** The IPL 2025 final is upon us, and rightfully, the focus is on the players in both the PBKS and RCB camps. The likes of Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, Rajat Patidar, Yuzvendra Chahal, and Josh Hazlewood are expected to be the game-changers in the contest, but two men have been silently working behind the scenes to get their sides into the final in Ahmedabad. Ricky Ponting and Andy Flower are considered to be

legends of the game after their exploits with Australia and Zimbabwe on the international stage. Both men are trailblazers in the world of cricket, with Ponting having won World Cups and Flower being part of the golden generation of Zimbabwe cricket as they went toe-to-toe with some of the best teams in the world. It was really not a surprise when both men transitioned into coaching. However, their journeys were not similar at all.

The coaching journey Flower started his journey as a coach, working as the assistant for the England national team in 2007. The Zimbabwean legend was made the team director in 2009 and under his guidance, England beat Australia to win the Ashes and went on to claim the T20 World Cup as well. He also played a crucial role in making England the No.1 Test team and added another Ashes to his name. Coming into the world of franchise cricket, he has been part of some major leagues apart from the IPL. In the

IPL, he worked as an assistant coach for PBKS before becoming the head coach of LSG and guiding them to playoff finishes in 2022 and 2023. The 2024 move to RCB didn't have the greatest start, but they eventually made it to the playoffs with a dream run. Ponting has already won an IPL title as a coach with MI back in 2015, but since then it has been a rocky road for him. With Delhi Capitals, the former Aussie skipper created a great environment for the development of young talent like Shreyas

Iyer and Rishabh Pant. He guided them to a final appearance in 2020 and a first-place finish in the league stage in 2021. 2022 and 2023 were tough ones for Ponting as DC coach as he was sacked in 2024 after a poor outing. This led him to Punjab, where he was given a free hand in the auction and got the players he wanted to create a strong squad. How does Ponting and Flower function as coaches? Shreyas said that the Aussie coach is someone who is a great player manager and the standout feature of him is to treat all the players equally. The PBKS skipper feels that this makes the players positive and get them the freedom to go out and express themselves on the field.

"He is an amazing coach who manages the player precisely and I personally feel that one thing that stands out with him is that he treats everyone equally," Iyer said when asked about the former Australian captain.



# Jacqueline Fernandez

## Looks Street-Style Chic In Snakeskin Top And Baggy Pants

Jacqueline dressed up in a snakeskin top and blue denim. The diva teamed the outfit with a pair of black boots.

Jacqueline Fernandez turned heads as she made a public appearance at the airport on Monday. The actress greeted the paparazzi with warm smiles and posed for the cameras. She also blew a flying kiss at the shutterbugs. For the airport outing, Jacqueline dressed up in a snakeskin top and blue denim. The diva teamed the outfit with a pair of black boots. Black sunglasses, silver jewellery, a wristwatch and a cap completed her casual look. She left her straight hair loose in all its glory. After posing for the cameras, Jacqueline walked away from the paps.

Jacqueline Fernandez is currently gearing up for the release of her upcoming film, Housefull 5. Last week, the actress attended the movie's trailer launch event in Mumbai. She made a striking appearance in a bright pink Rebecca Vallance Maple Halter Midi Dress. The outfit came with a halter neckline, a cinched waist and a flowing A-line silhouette. Jacqueline complemented the look with glam makeup, minimal jewellery and wavy hair. The much-anticipated Housefull 5 trailer promised a rollercoaster of chaos and comedy set aboard a luxury cruise. The trailer opens with a billionaire throwing a lavish party on his 100th birthday on a yacht. Over the night, he ends up getting murdered, making Akshay, Abhishek and Riteish's characters the prime suspect. Soon after, Sanjay Dutt and Jackie Shroff make their entrance as a sharp-witted police duo determined to crack the case.

Housefull 5 ensemble cast includes Akshay Kumar, Riteish Deshmukh, Abhishek Bachchan, Sanjay Dutt, Fardeen Khan and Shreyas Talpade in key roles. Nana Patekar, Jackie Shroff, Dino Morea, Jacqueline Fernandez, Nargis Fakhri, Chitrangada Singh, Sonam Bajwa, Soundarya Sharma, Chunky Pandey and Johnny Lever also play important roles in the film.



Only Tamannaah Bhatia Can Make No-Makeup Look And Nerd Glasses So Stylish



Tamannaah Bhatia, who is basking in the glory of her recently released film Odela 2, never fails to dish out major fashion goals. The actress has been exuding fashion inspirations with each of her uber-cool public appearances. Speaking of which, the actress was recently spotted by the paparazzi at the airport in Mumbai. As she was walking out of the premises, her casual outfit did all the talking. For her airport look, Tamannaah wore a casual, comfy and effortlessly stunning attire. She was papped wearing a navy blue, body-hugging, full-sleeved pullover with matching track pants. Bringing together the monochromatic look was a black puffer jacket. She wrapped it around her waist, delivering a sporty vibe.

Her attire was completed with a crisp pair of white shoes, a trendy stack of gold bracelets, a watch and golden hoops. But what actually grabbed the overall attention was her nerdy glasses and no-makeup look.

Fans were quick to react to her casual yet stylish avatar. They chimed into the comments section of the post and filled it with the sweetest reactions. "Looking like an angel," a fan wrote. Another added, "Simple n Chic." "She looks so hot," a user commented. An individual called her beautiful.

On the professional front, Tamannaah Bhatia's recently released supernatural thriller premiered on Amazon Prime Video and is getting much love from the audience. Directed by Ashok Teja, the film features Tamannaah in the role of Bhairavi, a Shiva devotee. It also stars a bunch of talented stars, including Hebbah Patel, Vasishtha N Simha, Vamshi, Gagan Vihari, Iyengar, Dayanand Reddy, Yuva, Murali Sharma, Sharath Lohitashwa, Srikanth Naga Mahesh, Surender Reddy, Bhupal and Pooja Reddy, among others.

Set in the fictional Telangana village of Odela, the thriller revolves around the never-ending battle between good and evil. It shows how Bhairavi returns to defend her village from the evil spirit of Tirupati.

**Alia Bhatt, Ranbir Kapoor Pre-Decided Raha's Birth Date? Numerologist Makes BIG Claim**



Alia Bhatt and Ranbir Kapoor, two of Bollywood's most beloved stars, welcomed their first child, a daughter named Raha, on November 6, 2022. The couple, married in April 2022, embraced parenthood with joy and gratitude, sharing their happiness with fans. As Alia and Ranbir's fans cannot stop gushing over Raha after every public appearance, numerologist Swetta Jumaani has made a big claim about the child's birth.

Swetta claims that Alia Bhatt and Ranbir Kapoor deliberately chose Raha's birth date to be on the 6th. "Alia Bhatt ne jaan bujji kar 6 tareek ko ha apni beti iss dunia me laai. Humse puch k nahi kiya, kyunki it's all there on the net. (Alia Bhatt intentionally gave birth to her daughter on the 6th. She didn't ask us because it's all on the internet)," she told Hindi Rush.

Swetta said, "Power aesa hai ki 6 is Venus. Venus is love, peace, harmony, and beauty. Yeh planet abhi rule kar raha hai aur 6 bohot easily de deta hai sabko sab kuch. So, at least, 1 family member 6 hoga na, puri family apne aap theek ho jaati hai (Number 6 is Venus, which stands for love, peace, harmony, and beauty. This is the planet that's currently ruling, and it gives everything very easily. So, if even one family member is number 6, then the entire family benefits)."

However, it is important to note that there is no confirmation on this. Meanwhile, as of 2025, Raha is approaching her third birthday. Her parents have occasionally shared glimpses of her, such as during outings or family celebrations, but have generally kept her face private, respecting her autonomy and shielding her from public scrutiny.

Alia has expressed that motherhood has profoundly changed her, making her more empathetic and reflective. At the Cannes Film Festival in 2025, she remarked, "Who am I? Who is this new person?" Ranbir, too, has shared heartwarming moments of fatherhood. He revealed that Raha is learning to crawl and has started to say "Ma" and "Pa." In a recent outing, he was seen with Raha at Mount Mary Church in Mumbai, showcasing his doting fatherly side. The Kapoor-Bhatt family continues to cherish their time together, balancing their public careers with private joys.



# Ishaan Khatter

## Brings The House Down With His Dance At Miss World 2025 Finale

Ishaan Khatter is undeniably among the finest dancers in Bollywood. From his flawless moves in chart-topping songs to energetic dance videos with brother Shahid Kapoor, he always leaves fans mighty impressed with his performances. The actor has once again proved his dancing prowess after busting out some killer moves to a medley of songs at the Miss World 2025 finale. The actor's electrifying performance, featuring global hits and desi chartbusters, had the crowd cheering and social media buzzing. Among the standout moments was Ishaan's show-stopping performance on Bruno Mars' Uptown Funk. He not only nailed the rhythm but also wowed fans with a flawless moonwalk, a move that surely became the highlight of the evening. Videos of his performance are spreading rapidly across platforms, with fans praising his electrifying energy, style and stage charisma.

Much to his fans' delight, the Dhadak star further surprised his audience by grooving to BTS's global hit track Mic Drop. His energetic dance on the iconic track went viral on social media. Many Indian K-pop fans were thrilled to discover that Ishaan is part of the BTS ARMY. The actor also grooved to Zingaat from his film Dhadak.

The 72nd edition of the global pageant, held on May 31 at the HITEX Exhibition Centre in Hyderabad, saw 108 contestants from around the world

competing for the prestigious crown. Leaving behind other beautiful ladies, Opal Suchata Chuangsri from Thailand was crowned Miss World 2025. She was presented with the prestigious title by the outgoing Miss World 2024, Krystyna Pyszko of the Czech Republic.

Speaking about his cinematic front, Ishaan Khatter is gearing up for the release of Neeraj Ghaywan's



directorial Homebound. Co-starring Janhvi Kapoor and Vishal Jethwa in lead roles, the poignant drama had its world premiere at the prestigious Cannes Film Festival 2025 under the festival's Un Certain Regard section. Ishaan Khatter will reprise his role as Aviraj Singh in The Royals season 2. Directed by Priyanka Ghose and Nupur Asthana, the rom-com show will also feature Bhumi Pednekar, Zeenat Aman, Sakshi Tanwar, Nora Fatehi, Vihaan Samat, Dino Morea and Milind Soman reprising their characters.