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PUBLISHED FROM
Delhi, Haryana, Uttar
Pradesh, Punjab,
Chandigarh, Himachal
and Jammu

The Sikh Times

National Daily

VISIT:
www.thesikhtimes.in
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Volume-17, Issue-27, Friday, June 13, 2025

Price 3.00 Pages 12 New Delhi RNI NO. DELENG/2008/25465

Air India crash: Ministers, leaders express shock, London Mayor deeply distressed

Reactions from political leaders poured in after an Air India flight to London crashed shortly after take-off from Ahmedabad, leaving the nation stunned and rescue operations underway.

➤ **Air India flight crashes near Ahmedabad minutes after take-off**
➤ **242 people were onboard the London-bound Boeing 787 aircraft**
➤ **Civil Aviation Minister monitoring situation, rescue teams rushed immediately**



New Delhi. Political leaders across the spectrum reacted with shock and sorrow on Thursday after an Air India flight to London crashed shortly after take-off from Ahmedabad. The Boeing 787 Dreamliner, operating as flight AI-171, had 242 people on board, including 230 passengers and 12 crew members. Union Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu said he was "shocked and devastated" by the incident. "I'm personally monitoring the situation. All agencies have been directed to respond swiftly," he posted on social media. Rescue teams and fire engines were sent to the site immediately after the crash.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah said that he was "pained beyond words" by the incident. "Disaster response forces have been quickly rushed to the crash site. Spoke with the Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel, Home Minister Harsh Sanghavi, and Commissioner of Police Ahmedabad to assess the situation," he wrote on X. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar wrote on X, "Deeply

shocked to learn about the flight crash in Ahmedabad. Our prayers are with the passengers and their families." BJP National President J P Nadda said that he spoke to party's Gujarat President C R Patil and state health minister Rushikesh Patel and took updates on health facilities and relief work. He appealed all BJP workers to engage in relief work.

"The news of many people being killed in the plane crash in Ahmedabad, Gujarat is extremely sad. Regarding this tragic incident, I spoke to Gujarat BJP State President and Union Minister C R Patil ji and the State Health Minister Rushikesh Patel and took information about health facilities and relief work. I appeal to all BJP workers to engage in relief and rescue operations and provide all possible help to the affected families. I pray to God to give strength to the bereaved families to bear the unbearable pain and to provide speedy recovery to the injured," Nadda wrote on X.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee

called the crash "tragic" and said she was praying for survivors. "We anxiously wait for details," she said in a statement.

Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel said he was deeply saddened by the accident and confirmed that rescue operations were underway. "I have directed officials to immediately begin rescue and relief operations, and to ensure that injured passengers receive urgent medical treatment on a war footing," he said. Patel also mentioned that arrangements were being made for a green corridor to transport the injured and that Union Home Minister Amit Shah had assured full support from the Centre, including NDRF deployment.

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister also shared his thoughts on the incident, writing, "Deeply shocked and pained by the devastating flight crash in Ahmedabad. Our thoughts and prayers are with the passengers, crew members, their families, and the residents affected." Other leaders also joined in expressing concern and solidarity.

Haryana Progresses under CM Nayab Singh Saini

The Sikh Times
Simmi Kaur Babbar

Haryana is entering a new era of rapid development and clean governance under the leadership of Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini. Known for his simplicity, integrity, and action-driven style, CM Saini has quickly won the confidence of the people by focusing on real issues and impactful solutions.

With the strong support and vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini has ensured that Haryana becomes a leading example of growth, transparency, and inclusive governance in India.

Major Achievements under CM Nayab Singh Saini's Leadership:
1. Farmer Welfare and Agriculture Reform:



CM Nayab Singh Saini has prioritized farmer dignity by ensuring timely payments under MSP, promoting crop diversification, and expanding the 'Meri Fasal Mera Byora' scheme to secure farmers' earnings through direct benefit transfer.

2. Employment and Industrial Growth:

With investor-friendly policies and ease of doing business reforms, Haryana under CM Nayab Singh Saini has seen a surge in industries, generating thousands of job opportunities for the youth. Skill development programs have also been intensified.

3. Women Empowerment:

Continuing the success of 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao', CM Saini has introduced focused programs for girl child education, women's safety, and health awareness. Financial assistance schemes like 'Ladli Yojana' have been widely expanded.

4. Education Reform and Smart Learning:

CM Nayab Singh Saini's government

has modernized public education with smart classrooms, digital labs, and merit-based coaching schemes such as 'Super 100' to prepare government school students for competitive exams.

5. Healthcare Access for All:

Under the extended 'Chirayu Haryana' scheme, lakhs of families are receiving free health services. New medical colleges and upgraded health centers are making rural healthcare more accessible.

6. Next-Level Infrastructure Development:

CM Nayab Singh Saini has accelerated projects like KMP Expressway, Dwarka Expressway, and the Global City in Gurugram, placing Haryana among India's fastest-growing states in infrastructure development.

Continue news page 02..

Vijay Rupani, former Gujarat Chief Minister, dies in Air India plane crash

Former Gujarat CM Vijay Rupani, who served between 2016 and 2021, was among the passengers on the ill-fated London-bound Dreamliner that went down minutes after take-off from Ahmedabad. Rupani's demise marks the second time a former Gujarat CM has died in a plane crash, six decades after Balwantrai Mehta's fatal air accident in 1965.

New Delhi. Former Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani, who was on the Air India flight that crashed in Ahmedabad, has died, BJP's state president CR Patil said. The Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner aircraft bound for London crashed five minutes after taking-off near Ahmedabad airport.

Patil called the plane crash a "tragic incident" and expressed deep sorrow over the loss of lives. "Former Chief Minister Vijay Rupani has passed away. The BJP family is deeply saddened," Patil told reporters in Mehsana, mourning the death of the BJP leader. "May God grant peace to all the departed souls, and give strength and peace to the families of the deceased."



"May the souls of those who died in the crash

rest in peace," he added.

Rupani served as the Chief Minister of Gujarat from August 2016 to September 2021, before resigning ahead of the 2022 state elections.

Vijay Rupani is the second politician who served as the Gujarat CM who died in an air accident, sixty years after Balwantrai Mehta's death in a 1965 plane crash. BJP MP Sambit Patra called the demise Rupani "extremely painful and deeply shocking".

"His passing is an irreparable loss not just for Gujarat, but for Indian politics as a whole. May Lord Jagannath grant the departed soul a place at His divine feet and give strength and courage to the bereaved family members and supporters in this difficult time. Om Shanti," Patra wrote on X.

Governor didn't attend RCB event on his own, I invited him: Siddaramaiah's U-turn

Karnataka. Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Wednesday backtracked his statement regarding Governor Thaaawarchand Gehlot's presence at the RCB felicitation ceremony on June 4, which resulted in the loss of 11 lives. He asserted that he personally invited the Governor to the event, pushing back against media reports suggesting otherwise. He said his political secretary, Govindaraju, who has since been sacked, called the Governor and handed him the phone, during which he personally extended the invitation.

"On the 4th of this month, the Karnataka Cricket Association and RCB organised a felicitation ceremony for the RCB players. I received a call at 11.29 AM requesting my presence, and I agreed to attend. The Chief Secretary also requested me, and I asked him to make the necessary arrangements.

Akali Dal: Divides May Soon End



The Sikh Times
Gurcharan Singh Babbar

In a significant and much-needed development for Sikh politics, early signs of unity are beginning to

emerge among the fragmented factions of the Shiromani Akali Dal. Several influential leaders across various groups have quietly initiated efforts to reconcile differences and revive the once-

unified party image that historically played a key role in Punjab's political and religious affairs. According to credible sources, the Jathedar of Shri Akal Takht Sahib, the supreme temporal authority of the Sikhs, has begun to use his moral and spiritual influence to encourage unity among the Akali leaders. His involvement, though discreet, is seen as a sincere effort to bridge long-standing gaps among senior figures within the party.

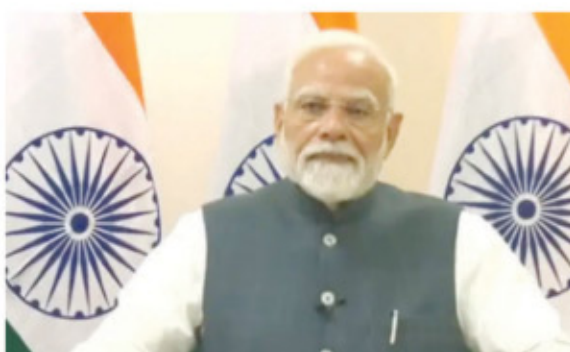
In parallel, veteran Akali leaders are reportedly reaching out to one another behind the scenes in an attempt to remove personal grievances and past misunderstandings. Meetings, both formal and informal, are taking place in Punjab and Delhi, where leaders are exploring possibilities of realignment—setting aside ego for the larger interest of the Panth and Punjab.

Continue news page 02..

"India's Youth Powering A Digital Revolution", PM Modi Applauds

➤ **Prime Minister Narendra Modi praised India's young innovators for their pivotal role in advancing technology and driving the nation's self-reliance.**

New Delhi. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has lauded India's young innovators for their pivotal role in advancing technology and driving the nation's self-reliance. He said over the past 11 years, Digital India has empowered the youth to harness innovation, reinforcing India's position as a global technology powerhouse. PM Modi also remarked that over the past 11 years, leveraging the power of technology has brought innumerable benefits for the people of India. In a post on X on Thursday, he wrote, "Powered by the youth of India, we are making remarkable progress in innovation and application of technology. It is also strengthening our efforts to become self-reliant and a global tech powerhouse." He said this while responding to posts on X by MyGovIndia. "Leveraging the power of technology has brought innumerable benefits for people. Service delivery and transparency have been greatly boosted. Furthermore, technology has become a means of empowering the lives of the poorest of poor," he further said. The government is marking eleven years of governance by highlighting its various achievements. In a post on the X, the government explained how Digital India



has rebooted governance for every citizen. It said that 11 years ago, a silent digital revolution began reshaping how India connects, governs, and grows. "Under PM Modi's visionary leadership, the Digital India initiative has turned technology into a tool for empowerment - bridging gaps, unlocking opportunities, and making governance more accessible and transparent for every citizen," the government press release said. It said that from Internet access in remote villages to real-time digital payments leading the world, this transformation has been there, adding that it is not

just about numbers but about people, progress, and possibility.

The government has said that the 11 years of Digital India is a story of inclusive growth, innovation, and India's emergence as a digital powerhouse. "How India Is Powering the Next Global Digital Wave From digital deserts to a data-driven democracy- India's tech journey over the last 11 years is nothing short of revolutionary," the MyGovIndia said in a post on X on Thursday.

It further said that under the leadership of PM Modi, India has transformed into a hub of digital innovation, tech-led governance, and global trust. From manufacturing to space tech, from digital payments to rural connectivity -- the change is visible, impactful, and lasting. "But this isn't just about devices and platforms. It's about seamless governance, citizen empowerment, and building a tech-first Viksit Bharat," the post mentioned. Explaining further the digital growth story, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said that there has been a more than 90 times rise in direct benefit transfer (DBT) in just a decade under the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government.

➤ **Prime Minister Modi praised India's youth for advancing technology and self-reliance.**
➤ **Digital India has empowered young innovators, reinforcing India's status as a tech powerhouse.**
➤ **The initiative has improved service delivery and transparency, benefiting the poorest citizens.**

Frant Continue news

Haryana Progresses under CM
Nayab Singh Saini

7. Zero Tolerance Against Corruption:

With a transparent administrative system and digitized services, CM Saini has taken bold steps against corruption. Online portals for public grievances and real-time service delivery ensure government accountability.

8. Green and Sustainable Haryana:

Nayab Singh Saini's leadership has driven large-scale tree plantations, increased solar power adoption, and promotion of electric vehicles under the Green Haryana Mission.

Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini is rapidly becoming a respected national figure known for his honest image, strong administrative focus, and public connect. His coordination with PM Modi's vision of a 'Viksit Bharat' (Developed India) is turning Haryana into a role model state.

Through discipline, innovation, and people-first policies, CM Nayab Singh Saini has shown that leadership rooted in values can deliver real and lasting change.

Haryana, under the dynamic leadership of Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, is moving forward with confidence, vision, and unity. The people of Haryana are experiencing good governance, improved services, and a brighter future — all made possible by a government that listens, acts,

Akali Dal: Divides May Soon End

Notably, a section of Sikh intellectuals and community thinkers are also playing a constructive role by facilitating dialogue, reminding all stakeholders of the historical responsibility the Akali Dal holds within the Sikh narrative.

While some smaller factions may still resist or hold differing agendas, political observers suggest that a majority of influential Akali figures now recognize that division has only weakened their collective strength—politically, socially, and spiritually. With renewed introspection and ongoing backchannel discussions, a unified Akali Dal no longer seems like an impossibility.

Though no formal announcement has yet been made, the signals are clear: a new chapter of unity may soon begin—if efforts continue with honesty, humility, and shared vision.

Woman Constable Among 3
Cops Injured After Hit By
Speeding Car In Patna

Patna. Three security personnel, including a woman constable, were injured in an accident involving a speeding car near Patna, police said on Thursday.

A Sub-Inspector, an Assistant Sub-Inspector and a woman constable were injured in the incident, which took place on Atal Path near the Srikrishna Puri locality in Patna in the intervening night of Wednesday and Thursday. Patna Senior Superintendent of Police Awakash Kumar said, "Three security personnel posted with Srikrishna Puri police station were checking vehicles on the Atal Path, when the incident happened. While they were checking a car, another speeding car hit it from the rear end, resulting in injuries to the three personnel. The driver of the speeding car managed to flee immediately after the accident." The injured police personnel were taken to the nearest hospital, where their condition is said to be stable, Kumar said. He said the police have arrested two passengers seated in the car responsible for the accident.

Mumbai Police Takes BIG Action
Against Auto Driver Who Went
Viral For Earning Rs 5-8 Lakh

Mumbai. Police stopped an autorickshaw driver's innovative locker service within the vicinity of the US Consulate in the Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC) of Mumbai, which gained notoriety for purportedly making him Rs 5-8 lakh a month, on account of security and licensing breaches, officials said on Wednesday.

Viral Claim Causes Fuss

The driver became famous after Venue Monk co-founder Rahul Rupani put his tale on LinkedIn last week. Rupani recounted leaving his bag with the driver for Rs 1,000 during a visa appointment, as bags are prohibited inside the consulate. "Sir, bag de do. Safe rakhunga, mera roz ka hai," the driver reportedly said. Rupani's post, praising the driver's "brilliant business" model, claimed he earned Rs 5-8 lakh monthly by safeguarding belongings for consulate visitors. The tale, which was hailed as "pure Indian jugad" by billionaire Harsh Goenka, drew thousands of views on X and LinkedIn before being debunked.

Police Crackdown

Mumbai Police called in the driver and 12 others who were providing similar unauthorized locker services around the consulate. A senior police officer at BKC police station informed the Hindustan Times that parking is not allowed in the high-security area and auto drivers are only allowed to drop passengers. "The driver has a permit to carry passengers, not operate a locker facility," the officer said, pointing out keeping things in surrounding stores raised security concerns, such as lost items activating alarms. The police inquiry established the drivers did not have any legal sanction to conduct such services. "We spoke to him about it, and he has stopped offering lockers now," the authorities informed the Free Press Journal.

Uttarakhand weather update: Heavy rain brings relief;
alert issued for landslides and flood risks in 11 districts

Dehradun. After days of scorching heat, Uttarakhand has finally received much-needed relief on Wednesday, as heavy rainfall drenched several districts, leading to a drop in temperature. The monsoon is gradually advancing, with the Meteorological Department predicting continuous rain across the state for the next six days.

Heavy rainfall recorded across multiple districts

On Thursday morning, heavy showers were reported in Dehradun, Bageshwar, Pithoragarh, Rudrapur, Chamoli, and Champawat, significantly cooling the region. The Meteorological Center Dehradun has forecast light to moderate rain in many parts of Kumaon and Garhwal until June 17, with heavy rainfall expected in Pithoragarh, Bageshwar, Nainital, Champawat, Chamoli, and Rudrapur.

Rain expected in 11 districts today

According to the Meteorological Department, six districts in Garhwal and five in Kumaon will experience consistent rainfall over the next few days. Strong winds blowing at speeds of 30-40 km/h have also been predicted, particularly in



Dehradun, Tehri Garhwal, Rudrapur, and Pauri Garhwal.

Monsoon to cover entire state from June 13

Starting June 13, rainfall is expected to engulf all 13 districts, marking the full onset of monsoon in Uttarakhand. The weather department has issued warnings for landslides and rising water levels, urging residents to exercise caution in vulnerable areas.

Snowfall in high Himalayan regions

While the plains are experiencing heavy rain, the high-altitude areas of Uttarakhand, including Kedarnath and Hemkund Sahib, have witnessed fresh snowfall, further lowering temperatures in the region.

Landslide and flood warnings issued

The Meteorological Department has warned of potential landslides in hilly areas, particularly in Pithoragarh and Bageshwar, where heavy rainfall is expected to continue. Rising water levels in rivers and streams could pose flood risks, prompting authorities to monitor the situation closely. Following the rainfall, temperatures have significantly dropped, bringing respite from the intense summer heat. The maximum temperature in Dehradun has fallen below 38°C, while Mukteshwar recorded the lowest temperature at 16.8°C.

Weather forecast for the next six days

The IMD predicts continuous rainfall from June 12 to June 17, with heavy showers expected on June 12. From June 13 onward, the entire state will experience monsoon rains, affecting all 13 districts.

Authorities have advised residents to stay alert, especially in landslide-prone areas, and to avoid unnecessary travel during heavy downpours. With the monsoon strengthening, Uttarakhand is set to transition into a cooler, wetter phase, offering relief from the heatwave while posing new challenges in terms of flooding and landslides.

Engineering 'wonder' or blunder? 90-degree Railway
overbridge in Bhopal stirs debate on commuters' safety

The turning in the railway overbridge may become an accident zone. After the vehicles reach the bridge, they are supposed to take an almost 90 degree turn. If the vehicles turn at this angle, they may hit the wall of the bridge or may hit vehicles coming from the front.

Bhopal. The Ashbagh Railway Overbridge is set to be inaugurated in Madhya Pradesh's Bhopal after a wait of 10 years. The bridge has been given an 88 degree turn. The credit for this bizarre design goes to the engineers of the Public Works Department (PWD) of Madhya Pradesh. After the picture of this bridge went viral, the Kerala Congress tweeted it. Following backlash, the PWD Minister of the state, Rakesh Singh said that an National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) team will investigate the matter.

The turning in the railway over bridge may become an accident zone. After the vehicles reach the bridge, they are supposed to take an



almost 90 degree turn. If the vehicles turn at this angle, they may hit the wall of the bridge or may hit vehicles coming from the front. The Railway overbridge has been built at a cost of Rs 18 crore

and is 648 metres long and has a width of 8 metres. Sources say that when the bridge was under construction, the Railways had objected to this 90 degrees turn.

But the PWD engineers reasoned that due to lack of space, there was no option and went ahead with the unusual turn on the road. The PWD officials also argued that this bridge just connects 2 colonies and thus heavy vehicles will not ply on the route.

Minister Rakesh Singh took to 'X' to address the matter. He said that the NHAI had already inspected the bridge and will be submitting the report on Friday.

He said that the government will act on the matter, based on the report submitted by the agency which is responsible for management of the road network in India.

Congress — Jamaat E Islami pact in
Nilambur: Christian groups terms the
alliance communal and opportunistic

Kottayam. Terming the alliance between Congress and the Welfare party as a 'threat to secular fabric and opportunism', the Catholic Congress has strongly criticised the Indian National Congress over its electoral alliance with the political wing of Jamat E Islami in the Nilambur Assembly by-election. It was on June 9 that a meeting of the Jamat E Islami and various outfits decided to support the UDF led by the Congress. On June 11 the Congress state leadership announced that the Welfare Party, the political wing of the Jamat will be part of the alliance. Congress leader VD Satheshan. VD Satheshan further added that Jamat E Islami has shed its communal notions and have 'transformed to a mainstream, liberal and secular' organization.

The Catholic Congress which is a part of the Syro-Malabar Catholics, called the political move an "open challenge to Kerala's secular democratic traditions" and an example of "opportunistic politics." CPM state secretary MV Govindan Master slammed the Congress and the alliance for accepting the support of the Jamat E Islami. "The Congress party will go to any extent to secure votes as they have no issues aligning with communal elements in the state. All secular minded sections will unite against such unholy alliance", said MV Govindan Master to the media.

Various Christian groups including the Catholic Congress
slammed the UDF alliance.

In a press release issued on Wednesday, the Catholic Congress, a lay organisation of Syro-Malabar Catholics, alleged that the Congress has compromised on core secular values by aligning with a party they claim is ideologically linked to religious fundamentalism.

Schools, colleges shut for the day in
Dharwad, Karnataka amid rain red alert

Karnataka. In view of a red alert issued today by the India Meteorological Department (IMD) in Karnataka's Dharwad, all educational institutions in the district will remain shut for the day. The alert comes amid forecasts of extremely heavy rainfall and strong winds across the region. Deputy Commissioner Divya Prabhu announced that all Anganwadis, primary and high schools, PU and degree colleges in the district will have a one-day holiday on June 12. However, the third annual exams for second-year PUC students will continue as scheduled.

The red alert, signalling the likelihood of extremely heavy rainfall exceeding 204.4 mm in 24 hours, was issued after torrential downpours lashed the district, particularly areas like Hanashi village in the eastern part of the district, causing significant waterlogging. Officials raised concerns about possible flooding in low-lying regions, especially near the Tupparihalla and Bennihalla catchment areas. Authorities have urged residents to stay indoors and



avoid unnecessary travel. A helpline (0836-2445505, 1077) has been set up for emergencies, and officials have been instructed not to leave their headquarters. The IMD had earlier issued an orange alert for the district on June 11, which was upgraded to red for June 12 due to worsening conditions. Forecasts indicate sustained winds of

50-60 kmph and the possibility of extremely heavy rain at isolated locations. The southwest monsoon has revived across Karnataka, and widespread rainfall is expected in the state until at least June 17. Dharwad, along with other parts of North Interior Karnataka, remains among the worst affected areas.

Villa, 19 plots, 3 buildings, cars: Telangana
engineer held in anti-corruption raids

An engineer with Telangana's irrigation department was arrested by the Anti-Corruption Bureau for amassing assets disproportionate to his known income, including multiple apartments and land, across the state. According to sources, he was previously associated with the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project.

→ Telangana engineer held for amassing assets beyond known income sources
→ ACB seizes villa, 19 plots, 3 buildings and valuables from engineer
→ Sources said engineer associated with controversial Kaleshwaram project

Telangana. A villa, multiple flats, commercial space, independent buildings, 16 acres of agricultural land, 19 prime open plots, two four-wheelers, gold ornaments and substantial bank deposits — this is the wealth unearthed by the Anti-Corruption Bureau during raids on Nune Sridhar, an Executive Engineer with the Telangana Irrigation and Command Area Development Department. Sridhar was arrested for allegedly amassing assets disproportionate to his known sources of income. A case



of Disproportionate Assets was registered against him for acquiring properties through unlawful means

and by misusing his official position. According to the Anti-Corruption Bureau, he is accused of "indulging in unlawful practices and dubious means" during his service. Searches were carried out at his residence and 13 other premises associated with him and his relatives. The Anti-Corruption Bureau stated that the high-value properties include a villa in Tellapur, a flat in Shaikpet, three flats in Karimnagar, commercial space in Ameerpet, and independent buildings in Hyderabad, Warangal and Karimnagar.

THE SIKH TIMES

Edited, Printed, Published
Owned by Simmi Babbbar
N-31, Dr. Mukherjee Nagar
Delhi-110009
Printed at Quami Patrika Printing
Press, A-4/A-144, Tonika City
(Loni), Ghaziabad (Uttar Pradesh)
Corporate Office:
5, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg,
Press Area, TPO, New Delhi
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RNI No. DELENG/2008/25465

Maharashtra woman, 27, kills husband, 54, with axe weeks after wedding



Mumbai. Amid the sensational twists and turns in the Meghalaya honeymoon murder case, another incident has come to light from Maharashtra's Sangli, where a woman, 27, killed her husband, 54, with an axe on Vat Purnima -- a sacred occasion for housewives in the state, akin to Karva Chauth.

Bearing eerie similarities to the Meghalaya honeymoon case, the murder took place barely three weeks after their marriage. An occasion meant for wives to pray for their husbands' long lives turned into a night of horror as the woman struck her husband on the head, killing him on the spot.

The victim, identified as Anil Tanaji Lokhande, was murdered on the intervening night of Tuesday and Wednesday, between 11:30 pm and 12:30 am, by his wife, Radhika Balkrishna Ingle, according to police officials. She allegedly struck his head and hands with an axe, police officials further revealed.

Anil lost his first wife to cancer. He is survived by two daughters, who are both married and settled outside. As he was lonely and suffering from ailments, his relative got him re-married to Radhika, who hailed from Wadi village in Satara district. The wedding took place on May 17.

The woman has been taken into custody.

The exact motive for the murder remains unknown at this point. In a similar incident, Sonam Raghuvanshi on Wednesday confessed to plotting the murder of her husband along with her reported lover Raj Kushwaha's help, exactly a month after their wedding on May 11.

According to sources, she broke down in front of the Special Investigation Team (SIT) when she was presented with the evidence gathered against her.

2001, it lacked its own building for 24 years. The new complex will cost Rs 42.42 crore and will include a grand Sanskrit library, facilities for training, conversation, and other programs. A new building for the Government Girls Intermediate College on Jagat Narayan Road in Lucknow will be constructed under 'Project Alankar' at a cost of Rs 48.92 crore. Similarly, Rs 10.36 crore is allocated for the new building of Government Girls Inter College, Malihabad. Around 20 crore is being spent for two new Sanskrit schools with hostels in Chandauli and Bhadohi. These efforts reflect the government's gratitude toward India's sage culture and its commitment to the promotion of Sanskrit, which is the soul and foundation of Indian culture. He also announced an MoU between the Secondary Education Department, Tata Nelco, and Japan's Yaskawa, aligned with PM Modi's vision of integrating modern education with skill development. Students will now have opportunities to learn skills along with academic knowledge. This initiative will establish design, robotics, and electronics labs in government secondary schools, with a total investment of Rs 162.72 crore. Based on the 'Hub and Spoke' model, one institution will house the lab and be connected with three other institutions. Through this, youth will be trained and equipped to become skilled manpower.

Secretary, Citizen Resources
Information Department,
Sh. Vikas Gupta,
Commissioner and
Secretary, Civil Aviation
Department, Smt. Amneet
P. Kumar, Director General,
Information, Public
Relations, Languages and
Culture Department, Sh.
K.M. Pandurang, Lieutenant
General (retd.) Girish
Kumar, and members of
DRIISHYA attended the
meeting.

NOTICE is hereby given to public at large that my client **Mr. Nasibuddin Siddiqui** is the owner of BUILT-UP RESIDENTIAL FLAT ON FIRST FLOOR, in Block B of Block B, New Ashoka Nagar, Allahabad, Measuring 100 Sq. Yds. (i.e. 83.61 Sq. Mtrs., Part of Khassra No.309/263/12, of Property Bearing No.B-298, SITUATED in the area of VILLAGE, Chilla Saronda Banger in Block B of Block B, New Ashoka Nagar, Allahabad, District, Delhi 110096. Vide GPA, Agreement, Sale & WILL dated 12.05.1999 and intend to get the financial assistance from **SMFG India Home Finance Company Limited**. Any person(s) from any part of the world who has or claim(s) with respect to the right, title or interest in the said property may please contact us within 07 days from the date of this notice on the address mentioned herein below, who shall be held responsible in any matter whatsoever.

I, hitherto known as ANIL KUMAR alias ANIL TRIVEDI S/O A B TRIVEDI R/O H/1/1, 2nd FLOOR, SECTOR-11, ROHINI, ROHINI SECTOR-7, NORTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110085 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as ANIL TRIVEDI

It is for general information that I, ANIL TRIVEDI S/O AVADH BIHAI R/O H/1/1, 2nd FLOOR, SECTOR-11, ROHINI, ROHINI SECTOR-7, NORTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110085 declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as ANIL KUMAR in my Pan Card-CVWPK8705K. And name of my father has been wrongly written as A B TRIVEDI in my Aadhar Card-269066759496. The actual name of mine and my father are ANIL TRIVEDI and AVADH BIHAI, which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE
It is for general information that I, LOKESH S/O VED PRAKASH, R/o 1528, Nawada Bazar, Najafgarh, South West Delhi, Delhi - 110043, declare that name of mine, my wife and my minor son has been wrongly written as LOKESH ROHILLA, ANJALI ROHILLA and MEET ROHILLA in my minor son MEET aged 15 years in his School Record. The actual name of mine, my wife and my minor Son are LOKESH, ANJALI and MEET, which may be amended accordingly

It is for the general information that I AWADHESH MISHRA S/O ANIL KUMAR MISHRA permanent resident of S-24/110 G 4 TAKTAKPUR MAHAVEER MANDIR VARANASI Uttar Pradesh - 221002, and presently residing at 3rd floor 8/18 OLD RAJENDER NAGAR NEW DELHI - 110060, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as AWADHESH KUMAR MISHRA in my 10th class marksheet. The actual name of mine is AWADHESH MISHRA which may be amended accordingly.

I hitherto known as KM. SHALINI alias SHALINI SINGH RAJPUT D/o RAM AVTAR, and W/o PARITOSH SINGH RAJPUT, R/o H.No. 31A, Bajaj Enclave, Kakraula, N.S.I.T. Dwarka, South West Delhi, Delhi-110078, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SHALINI SINGH RAJPUT.

I hitherto known as PARITOSH alias PARITOSH SINGH RAJPUT S/o ISHWAR SINGH R/o H.No. 31-A, Bajaj Enclave, Kakruala, N.S.I.T. Dwarka, South West Delhi, Delhi-110078, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as PARITOSH SINGH RAJPUT.

I, JC-332568L, Rank-SUB MAJ Name-RAM BABU SHUKLA Residing at VILL-BAIRGAON, PO-BASUJAR, TEHSIL-CHAIL, DISTT-KAUSHAMBI, UTTAR PRADESH-212216, have changed my wife's name from VINITA SHUKLA to VINEETA SHUKLA for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 12/06/2025 before Notary Public, Delhi.

I, hitherto known as HEMA KAUR GUPTA alias HEMA KAUR D/O JOGINDER SINGH R/O HOUSE NO - 484, E-2 BLOCK, SULTAN PURI, NORTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110086 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as HEMA KAUR.

I, Bhavna Saini / Bhawana / Bhawana Verma W/o Satish Chandra Verma R/o E-59, Phase-1, New Palam Vihar, Choma(62), Gurgaon, Haryana-12201 Have Changed My Name To Bhawna Verma For All Future Purposes

I Sonam Phogaat W/o Rohit Phogaat R/o H.No-1713, B-1, Vasant Kunj, South West Delhi, Delhi-110070 have changed the name of my minor son Rudransh Phogaat aged 9 years and he shall hereafter be known as Rudransh Rohit Phogaat

I Sonam Phogaat W/o Rohit Phogaat R/o H.No-1713, B-1 Vasant Kunj, South West Delhi, Delhi-110070 have changed the name of my minor daughter Ryana Phogaat aged 13 years and she shall hereafter be known as Rryanna Phogaat.

It is for general information that I Mohd Asif Khan S/O Ibrahim Ali Khan R/O Flat No-S1 2nd Floor, Plot No-89/90, B Block, Hayat Enclave, Loni PO Loni, Dist Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201102 declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as MD Asif Khan in my 10th class educational documents. The actual name of mine is Mohd Asif Khan which may be amended accordingly.

I hitherto known as VACHHALABAI W/O MADHUKAR MORE R/O C-1, 108, BLOCK C-1, SECTOR-20, ROHINI EXTN. PASCHIM VIHAR, BUDHAN PUR, DIST NORTH WEST DELHI-110081 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as NANDA

It is for general information that I, Saroj Kumar Dubey S/o Ram Swaroop Dubey R/o H.No-D-69/4, Gali No.4, Ankur Enclave, Karawal Nagar, North East Delhi, Delhi-110094 declare that name of my wife has been wrongly written as Supriya Dubey in my minor daughter Nancy Dubey aged 17 years in her 10th Class Educational Documents. The actual name of my wife is Kumari Chinta.

It is for general information that I, Rakesh Kumar Gaur S/o Ramesh Chand Gaur R/o Flat No-1018, Tower-Vasto 2, Mahagun Mansion Phase -2, Vaibhav Khand, Indrapuram, Shipra Sun City, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201014 declare that name of mine and my father has been wrongly written as Rakesh Kumar and Ramesh Chandra in my Service Book. The actual name of mine and my father are Rakesh Kumar Gaur and Ramesh Chand Gaur.

I PRIYAVANSH ANAND S/O VIRENDER KUMAR ANAND R/O 3905 FOURTH FLOOR, DLF PHASE-IV PARK, GURGAON-122002 HAVE CHANGE MY MINOR SON NAME RHYTHM TO RHYTHM ANAND FOR ALL PURPOSE

I, KOMAL DEVI, D/O DINESH KUMAR, R/O H. No. B-44-5, Pratap Garden, Bindapur, Uttam Nagar, West Delhi, Delhi 110059. have change the name of my minor daughter SNEHA KUMARI aged 15 years and she shall hereafter be known SNEHA as GUPTA

OPEN-E- TENDER NOTICE

No. 128-W/280/e Tender Notice/ NIT-30-25-26-W-II **Dated :- 11.06.2025**

The Sr. Divisional Engineer-II, Northern Railway, Delhi Division invites E-Tender for the following work.

NIT -30	Name of work:- 1. Construction of community hall at Ghaziabad railway station and 2. Supply of portable water through tanks in the section of SSE/W/M/GZB and SSE/W/E/GZB including wayside stations and LC's under ADEN/GZB in jurisdiction of Sr. DEN-I/D.L. Approx cost of work:- As per NIT or IREPS Earnest Money to be deposited:- As per NIT or IREPS	
2	Date & Time of opening of tender	08.07.2025 15:00 hrs.
3	Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen	www.ireps.gov.in

E-AUCTION FOR AWARDING OF LICENSE OF LEASE SLR OF VARIOUS TRAINS OVER ALIBURDIAR DIVISION

E-Auction for leasing of SLR of various trains over Alipurduar Division.
Description: Parcel Space in SLR Coach (Single compartment),
Rate Unit: Per Trip Licensing Fee

Seq No.	Lot No./Category	Trips
AA/1	15753-SLR-F1-APDJ-GHY-25-1 (Parcel-SLR)	730
AA/2	15753-SLR-F1-APDJ-GHY-25-1 (Parcel-SLR)	730

AA/2	15679-SLR-R1-APDJ-MXN-24-1 (Parcel-SLR)	730
AA/3	15417-SLR-F1-APDJ-SHT-22-4 (Parcel-SLR)	313
AA/4	15483-SLR-F1-APDJ-DLI-25-1 (Parcel-SLR)	730
AA/5	15769-SLR-F2-APDJ-MXN-25-1 (Parcel-SLR)	730
AA/6	15468-SLR-R1-BXT-SGUJ-25-1 (Parcel-SLR)	730
AA/7	15468-SLR-R1-BXT-SGUJ-25-1 (Parcel-SLR)	730
AA/8	13142-SLR-F1-NOQ-SDAH-22-1 (Parcel-SLR)	730
AA/9	15768-SLR-R1-APDJ-SGUJ-25-2 (Parcel-SLR)	730
AA/10	15768-SLR-F2-APDJ-SGUJ-25-1 (Parcel-SLR)	730
AA/11	13142-SLR-F2-NOQ-SDAH-22-1 (Parcel-SLR)	730
AA/12	13150-SLR-F1-APDJ-SDAH-24-1 (Parcel-SLR)	730
AA/13	15753-SLR-F2-APDJ-GHY-25-1 (Parcel-SLR)	730
AA/14	15778-SLR-F1-APDJ-NUP-25-1 (Parcel-SLR)	730
AA/15	13148-SLR-F1-BXT-SDAH-24-1 (Parcel-SLR)	730
AA/16	15768-SLR-F1-APDJ-SGUJ-25-1 (Parcel-SLR)	730
AA/17	15769-SLR-F1-APDJ-MXN-24-1 (Parcel-SLR)	730
AA/18	15468-SLR-F2-BXT-SGUJ-25-1 (Parcel-SLR)	730
AA/19	13142-SLR-R1-NOQ-SDAH-22-1 (Parcel-SLR)	730
AA/20	15753-SLR-R1-APDJ-GHY-25-2 (Parcel-SLR)	730

Seq No.	Lot No./Category	Trips
AA/1	12378-SLR-F1-NOQ-SDAH-22-1 (Parcel-SLR)	730

Close Date & Time: 12.00 hrs. of 20-06-2025. Prospective bidders are requested to visit E-Auction Leasing Module on IREPS website **www.ireps.gov.in**

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Serving Customers With A Smile

I, No.-4592443A, Rank-NK Name-DIGAMBAR SAHU Residing at-VILL-NUANGAN, PO-BADAKAN-TAKUL, TEHSIL-ANGUL, DISTT-ANGUL, ODISHA-759129, have changed my father's name from SATRUGHN SAHU to SATRUGHNA SAHU for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 12/06/2025 before Notary Public, Delhi.

I, No.-4592443A, Rank-NK Name-DIGAMBAR SAHU Residing at-VILL-NUANGAN, PO-BADAKAN-TAKUL, TEHSIL-ANGUL, DISTT-ANGUL, ODISHA-759129, have changed my mother's name from SAROJINEE SAHU to SAROJINI SAHU for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 12/06/2025 before Notary Public, Delhi.

I, N-16123847W, Rank-NK Name-
THIRUNAVUKARASAR Residing at
64/2, ARASAMANA STREET, VILL-
CHENRAYANKOTTAI, PO-ONGA-
PADI, TEHSIL-ANAIKUT, DISTT-
VELLORE, TAMIL NADU-632101,
have changed my mother's name
from RAJESHWARI R to
RAJESWARI R for all future purpo-
ses and in my service records my
mother's date of birth wrongly men-
tioned as 22/03/1975 instead of her
correct date of birth as 10/09/1972
vide Affidavit dated 12/06/2025
before Notary Public, Delhi.

I, JC-313/750W Rank-SUB Name-A ANTO legal father A AJIN Residing at-1513, NELIYAPATTU VILLA, SILUVAIPURAM, KOLLEMCODE, VTC: VILANCODE, PO-KOLLANGODE, SUB DIST-VILAUANCODE, DISTT-KANNIYAKUMARI, TAMIL NADU-629160, have changed my minor son's name from A AJIN to AJIN A for all future purposes vide affidavit dated 12/06/2025 Before Notary Public, Delhi.

I, No. 2609095W Rank-HAV Name-SRIDHAR GAVARA legal father of PRASANTH KUMAR G residing at VPO-PEDDADIMILI, TEH-BHAMINI, DIST-SRIKAKULAM, ANDHRA PRADESH-532455, have changed my minor son's name from PRASANTH KUMAR G to PRASANTH KUMAR GAVARA for all future purposes vide affidavit dated 12/06/2025 Before Notary Public, Delhi.

I, JAYALAXMI mother of No. 2609095/W Rank-HAV Name-SRIDHAR GAVARA residing at VPO-PEDDADIMILI, TEH-BHAMINI, DIST-SRIKAKULAM, ANDHRA PRADESH-532455, have changed my name from JAYALAXMI to GAVARA JAYALAXMI for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 12/06/2025 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NEWS BOX

Indian-origin man sentenced 75 months in US for fraud scheme targeting elders

SAN FRANCISCO. An Indian-origin man has been sentenced to over six years in prison for his involvement in a fraud scheme in which he laundered over a million dollars targeting senior citizens, according to the justice department. Pranav Patel, 33, of New Jersey, served as a "money mule" in the fraud scheme between October and December 2023 and laundered USD 1.7 million as part of it. He pleaded guilty in December last year and was sentenced on Wednesday by US District Judge William Jung to six years and three months in federal prison for conspiracy to commit money laundering. The court also ordered the seizure of USD 1.7 million, the Justice Department said. Conspirators involved in the scheme called from call centres abroad and fraudulently identified themselves as government agents such as officers from the US Treasury Department. In some instances, they told victims that there were outstanding warrants for their arrest and they needed to pay to clear the warrants. On other occasions, the conspirators told victims that they needed to provide their money and gold to the officers for safekeeping. Patel drove from New Jersey to pick up money and gold from senior citizens in Florida and elsewhere along the US East Coast. During the sentencing hearing, one victim from whom Patel picked up fraud proceeds informed the court that because of the scam, he was unable to afford his mortgage payments, had to sell his house and depended on Social Security benefits for all his living expenses. In December 2023, Patel travelled to a residence to retrieve what he believed was a box of gold. However, he was unaware that he was doing so while under law enforcement surveillance, and was promptly arrested after picking up the box.

Amid Unrest, Trump Sends More US Troops To LA Than In Iraq, Syria Combined

Los Angeles. US President Donald Trump has reportedly sent more American troops to the city of Los Angeles (LA) in California-- to curb the protests against his harsh immigration policies -- than those deployed in Iraq and Syria by Washington. The Republican leader has deployed around 4,000 National Guard personnel and over 700 active duty Marines in LA to counter protests ignited over a sudden escalation in efforts to apprehend migrants who were in the country illegally.

"There are 4,800 activated Guard and Marine personnel in LA, compared to the 2,500 troops in Iraq and 1,500 in Syria," according to an ABC News report. According to the Pentagon, the deployment in LA will cost taxpayers \$134 million over 60 days.

LA Protests

The unrest in LA began on June 6 after United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) began mass detentions of undocumented migrants. By the evening of June 7, the authorities had reportedly arrested at least 44 people on suspicion of immigration violations.

In response, residents took to the streets, with protests later escalating into riots. President Trump ordered the deployment of troops to the city-- which is home to nearly 3.9 million people-- in response to the unrest without consulting California Governor Gavin Newsom, who later sued the Trump administration for the move. Governor Newsom, a Democrat, has charged that Trump is seeking to escalate the confrontation for political gain.

How Pregnant Women's Exposure To Climate Change May Affect Babies Brains

world. Climate disasters are known for damaging homes, disrupting power and displacing residents. But even after the lights come back on and people return to their homes, their effects can linger - including in the brains of children born afterwards, a new study suggests. Climate stressors, and the effect they have on pregnant people, appear to affect the brain development of their babies, according to the study published in PLOS One on Wednesday, which relied on brain imaging conducted years after 2012's Superstorm Sandy hit the New York City metro area.

The study evaluated a sample of 34 children, 11 whose parents were pregnant during Superstorm Sandy. By the time of assessment, the kids were roughly eight years old. Those who had been exposed to Sandy in utero had a significant enlargement in a part of the brain known as the basal ganglia. Parts of the basal ganglia were as much as 6% larger than in unexposed children, a change that could have negative implications for the children's behavior. The parents living through the disruptions from a storm that displaced more than 23,000 people and suspended electric services in the area for days to weeks may have affected their offspring's neurodevelopment, the researchers say. The findings signal how new generations of children may be marked by climate crises that occur before they were born, and speak to a need to better evaluate and educate pregnant people about climate risks, the researchers say. They contribute to a growing consensus about pregnant people's vulnerability to climate change, with extreme heat, air pollution and natural disasters posing risks like preterm births. This is something which people who are going to get pregnant should know and be prepared," says Yoko Nomura, an author of the PLOS One research and a professor at Queens College at the City University of New York. "Society as a whole has to have a strategy to protect those pregnant people." Climate stress and the brain Non-climate-related stress can affect pregnancies and influence fetal brain development. But studies typically haven't examined how natural disasters may work in the same way. Project Ice Storm, a project examining the aftermath of a devastating 1998 storm in Canada, found that stress had an effect on everything from kids' temperament to their IQ.

Dozens of LA-area mayors demand the Trump administration stop intensified immigration raids

Speaking alongside the other mayors at a news conference, Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass said the raids spread fear at the behest of the White House.

LOS ANGELES. Dozens of mayors from across the Los Angeles region banded together Wednesday to demand that the Trump administration stop the stepped-up immigration raids that have spread fear across their cities and sparked protests across the U.S. But there were no signs President Donald Trump would heed their pleas. About 500 of the National Guard troops deployed to the Los Angeles protests have been trained to accompany agents on immigration operations, the commander in charge said Wednesday. And while some troops have already gone on such missions,

he said it's too early to say if that will continue even after the protests die down.

"We are expecting a ramp-up," said Maj. Gen. Scott Sherman, noting that protests across the nation were being discussed. "I'm focused right here in LA, what's going on right here. But you know, I think we're, we're very concerned." Hours later, a demonstration in Los Angeles' civic center just before start of the second night of the city's downtown curfew briefly turned chaotic when police in riot gear -- many on horseback -- charged at a group, striking them with wooden rods and later fired crowd control projectiles, including one that struck a woman who writhed in pain on the ground. After the curfew went into effect, a handful of arrests were made before the area cleared out and the evening quieted down. The LA-area mayors and city council members urged Trump to stop using armed military troops alongside immigration agents. I'm asking



you, please listen to me, stop terrorizing our residents," said Brenda Olmos, vice mayor of Paramount, who said she was hit by rubber bullets over the weekend. "You need to stop these raids." Speaking alongside the other mayors at a news conference, Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass said the raids spread fear at the behest of the White House. The city's nightly curfew will remain in effect as long as necessary. It covers a 1-square-mile (2.5-square-kilometer) section of downtown where the protests have been

cited the protests in its decision to deploy the military.

Governor asks court to step in

California's Democratic governor, Gavin Newsom, has asked a federal court to put an emergency stop to the military helping immigration agents in the nation's second-largest city. This week, guardsmen began standing protectively around agents as they carry out arrests. A judge set a hearing for Thursday.

Russian court sentences Navalny ally to 18 years in absentia as dissident crackdown continues

Separately, Lev Shlosberg, a senior member of the Yabloko opposition party, was placed under house arrest Wednesday after being detained on charges of discrediting the Russian army.

MOSCOW. Courts in Russia have convicted one opposition figure in absentia and placed another under house arrest as Moscow continues its crackdown on dissent. Leonid Volkov, a close associate of the late Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny, was sentenced in absentia to 18 years in prison on Wednesday after being found guilty on criminal charges. Moscow's Second Western District Military convicted Volkov under 40 counts including justifying terrorism, organizing and financing an extremist group, rehabilitating Nazism, and creating a non-governmental organization that violated citizens' rights, Russian news agencies reported. As well as the prison sentence, Volkov

was also fined 2 million rubles (approx. \$25,000) and banned from using the internet for 10 years. "Oh no! They banned me from the internet for 10 years as prosecutors requested, but I've already been using it," Volkov wrote in a tongue-in-cheek social media post after the sentence was released. "Damn. Whatever am I going to do?"



Volkov, who was in charge of Navalny's regional offices and election campaigns, left Russia several years ago under pressure from the authorities. He led Navalny's Anti-Corruption Foundation between 2021 and 2023, during which time he was placed on the Russian government's list of terrorists and extremists. The case against him is widely seen in Russia as political motivated. Separately, Lev Shlosberg, a senior member of the Yabloko opposition party, was placed under

Trump says US personnel moved from 'dangerous' Middle East as Iran tensions mount

WASHINGTON. The United States is drawing down the presence of staffers who are not deemed essential to operations in the Middle East and their loved ones due to the potential for regional unrest, the State Department and military said on Wednesday. Speaking at the Kennedy Center in Washington on Wednesday evening, US President Donald Trump said, "They are being moved out, because it could be a dangerous place, and we'll see what happens. We've given notice to move out, and we'll see what happens." The State Department said it has ordered the departure of all nonessential personnel from the US Embassy in Baghdad based on its latest review and a commitment "to keeping Americans safe, both at home and abroad." The embassy already had been on limited staffing, and the order will not affect a large number of

personnel. The department, however, also is authorizing the departure of nonessential personnel and family members from Bahrain and Kuwait.

That gives them the option of leaving those countries at government expense and with government assistance. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth "has authorized the voluntary departure of military dependents from locations" across the region, US Central Command said in a statement. The command "is monitoring the developing tension in the Middle East." Tensions in the region have been rising in recent days as talks between the US and Iran over its rapidly advancing nuclear program appear to have hit an impasse. The talks seek to limit Iran's nuclear program in exchange for the lifting of some of the crushing economic sanctions that the US has imposed on the Islamic

Republic. Iran insists its nuclear program is peaceful. The next round of talks -- the sixth -- had been tentatively scheduled for this weekend in Oman, according to two US officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss diplomatic matters. However, those officials said Wednesday that it looked increasingly unlikely that the talks would happen.

Trump, who has previously said Israel or the US could carry out airstrikes targeting Iranian nuclear facilities if negotiations failed, gave a less-than-optimistic view about reaching a deal with Iran, telling the New York Post's "Pod Force One" podcast that he was "getting more and more less confident about" a deal. "They seem to be delaying, and I think that's a shame. I'm less confident now than I would have been a couple of months ago. Something happened to them."



least a peaceful life to go on with our life. To create the life we are dreaming of," he added. On an audience question about the "unclear role of India" regarding Hasina, Yunus responded: "All the anger (against Hasina) has now transferred to India because she went there." "When I had a chance to talk to Prime Minister Modi, I simply said: you want to host her, I cannot force you to abandon that policy. But please help us in making sure she doesn't speak to Bangladeshi people the way she is doing (online). She announces on such and such date, such and such hour, she will speak and whole (of) Bangladesh gets very angry," he said. Yunus claimed Prime Minister Modi told him that Hasina's social media activities cannot be controlled. "It's (an) explosive situation, you can't just walk away by saying it's the social media," he added. The close ties between India and Bangladesh came under strain after Hasina's ouster. She faces multiple cases in Bangladesh after being ousted on August 5 last year following a major student-led agitation in the country.

Protests over immigration raids pop up across the US with more planned

AUSTIN (Texas). Protests over federal immigration enforcement raids and President Donald Trump's move to mobilize the National Guard and Marines in Los Angeles are spreading nationwide and are expected to continue into the weekend. While many demonstrations against the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency have been peaceful, with marchers chanting slogans and carrying signs, others have led to clashes with police, hundreds of arrests and the use of chemical irritants to disperse crowds. In Texas, Republican Gov. Greg Abbott posted on social media that an unspecified number of National Guard troops "will be deployed to locations across the state to ensure peace & order." Activists say they will hold even larger demonstrations in the coming days, with "No Kings" events across the country on Saturday to coincide with Trump's planned military parade in Washington, D.C. The Trump administration said immigration raids and deportations will continue regardless.

A look at some protests across the country: **Seattle**

Hundreds of protesters marched through downtown Wednesday evening to a federal building where immigration cases are heard, with some dragging a dumpster nearby and setting it on fire.

The building was covered in graffiti, with "Abolish ICE Now" written in large letters across its front window. Some protesters moved electric bikes and cones to block its entrance. Dozens of officers squared off with protesters near the federal building, with some shooting pepper spray. Officers worked to move the crowd away from the federal building, with some protesters throwing fireworks and rocks at officers, according to the Seattle Police Department.

New York City

Police detained more than 80 people during protests in lower Manhattan's Foley Square on Tuesday evening and early Wednesday.

Protesters shouted and waved signs that included "ICE out of NYC" as they rallied near an ICE facility and federal courthouses. Police estimated some 2,500 people participated. Some protesters jumped over metal barricades and clashed



with officers who wrestled them to the ground. Video shows demonstrators throwing ites at law enforcement vehicles.

Police Commissioner Jessica Tisch said most of the demonstrators were peaceful and that just a few caused the disorder that required police intervention. "We want to maintain everyone's right to protest peacefully in this city and in this country, but we will not tolerate chaos and disorder or violence," Tisch said Wednesday morning during an appearance on Fox 5 New York. Police said they took 86 people into custody, including 52 who were released with criminal court summonses for minor crimes and 34 who were charged with assault, resisting arrest

and other crimes.

San Antonio

More than 400 people gathered outside of city hall Wednesday evening for an anti-ICE demonstration, according to local authorities. The protest was largely peaceful, with many blasting music and some handing out water. Nearby streets were closed off as law enforcement officers watched from hundreds of feet away. Dozens walked there from the historic Alamo mission after police closed off the area before the protest began. San Antonio Police Chief William McManus encouraged peaceful demonstration but said his officers would respond if "it turns violent." Officers wit the Texas Public Safety Department said the Texas National Guard was present at the protest. Members were not seen standing with law enforcement officers in front of a small crowd of demonstrators. Republican Gov. Greg Abbott declined to say how many soldiers would be sent or how, only that they would be deployed in "strategic locations where they can provide the most robust response" necessary.

NEWS BOX

Karnataka CM reviews Covid preparedness, says no cause for concern

BENGALURU. With over 860 Covid cases reported in Karnataka in the last 10 days, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Wednesday reviewed the state's health preparedness and assured the public that there is no cause for concern, though precautionary measures must continue. Chairing a high-level meeting, Siddaramaiah said that testing has been increased, with an average of 500 samples tested daily this month. In total, more than 5,000 samples were tested over the past 10 days, resulting in the detection of 862 positive cases.

He clarified that 11 deaths were reported among those who tested positive, but 10 of them were not due to Covid. "Patients with pre-existing health conditions have died. There should be no unnecessary confusion about Covid-related deaths," he said, adding that the audit report of one case is still pending.

The Chief Minister instructed all government hospitals to ensure they are fully equipped to manage Covid cases and emphasised the need for close coordination between the Health and Medical Education Departments. He also addressed complaints about private hospitals charging high fees for Covid tests and directed officials to investigate the matter. Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao also reiterated that the recent deaths were not directly caused by Covid. "Audit reports of 10 cases confirmed that the deaths were due to other causes, such as heart disease and organ failure," he said. "Only two Covid patients are currently in ICU care. The circulating variant is mild, and there is no panic situation."

Panel to finalise alignment of Thiruvananthapuram metro project

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM. The state government has formed a high-level committee headed by the chief secretary to examine and finalise the alignment for the proposed metro rail project in Thiruvananthapuram. The decision was taken at a meeting chaired by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Wednesday. The committee comprises secretaries from the revenue, finance, local self-government, and transport departments, and has been tasked with studying all aspects of the project and submitting its recommendations to the government.

Three main corridors are under consideration for the metro rail: from Kazhakkootam to Pappanamcode, Kazhakkootam to Killipalam, and Palayam to the Civil Station. The Kochi Metro Rail Ltd (KMRL), the Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) appointed to implement metro projects in the state, had submitted a proposal several months ago suggesting six different alignments for the conventional metro. The proposal includes both underground and elevated stretches, but officials have indicated that underground construction would be significantly costlier for the state.

The metro project in Thiruvananthapuram was conceptualised over a decade ago, but successive governments failed to push it forward.

EAC nod to Puri international airport; study on Olive Ridleys, birds suggested

BHUBANESWAR. After the Ministry of Civil Aviation accorded in-principle approval, the proposed international airport at Puri has taken a significant step forward with the Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) submitting its report after a recent site inspection.

Sources said the report included several recommendations, indicating that environmental clearance (EC) for the project may be granted soon. A four-member subcommittee headed by EAC chairman Ram Kumar had visited the site at Sipasrabali under Brahmagiri tehsil during April 4-6. Although as per the Ancient Indian History Culture and Archaeology (AIHCA) department of Utkal University report, there would be no adverse impact on Shree Jagannath Temple by the airport when operational, the subcommittee has advised project proponent, Commerce and Transport department, to take the opinion of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI). The project lies within 10 km of the shrine and other older structures.

The panel has also made separate recommendations with respect to Chilika lake and the movement of Olive Ridley turtles. Chilika lake is located at around 21 km from the airport site. The department has been asked to study the migratory bird routes in the surrounding areas of the airport, if any and the impact of the airport on bird movement. A comprehensive study on the turtle nesting near to the airport site has been suggested along with the management plan, stated the subcommittee report accessed by.

As per the report, an area of 471.348 hectare (ha) has been earmarked for the project development, out of which, 27.854 ha is district level committee (DLC) forest land. A total of 89.2 ha (221.48 acre) will be acquired from two villages (153.37 acre from Sipasrabali village and 68.11 acre from Sandhapur village).

The state government had sought the approval of the MoEF&CC for diversion of 27.854 ha of forest land for the construction of Shree Jagannath International Airport, to be built at a cost of Rs 5,631 crore.

West Bengal clashes: Cops injured, vehicles set on fire, security heightened- what triggered the outrage?

A land dispute over a temporary shop in Maheshtala, near Kolkata, escalated into a violent clash, injuring 11 people, including five police officers.

Kolkata. A minor dispute over the land of a temporary shop led to a significant clash between two groups. Approximately 11 people, including five police officers, sustained severe injuries during the mob violence, which escalated to stone-pelting on the outskirts of Kolkata. The West Bengal police arrested around 12 individuals last night.

As per the statements from police, the clash arose over a dispute on a temporary shop land in the Rabindranagar area of Maheshtala, South 24 Parganas district bordering Kolkata. The dispute took the shape of mob violence and quickly spread to Nadiyal, which falls under the jurisdiction of Kolkata Police.

According to a senior police officer, on Wednesday, a seller from Nadiyal found that the place in the Rabindranagar area where he could not install his temporary shop for a few days had a Tulsi plant. When he tried to reclaim his area, it turned into a scuffle between the two groups.

The dispute turned violent when a large group was called in from Nadiyal by the seller. Though the police tried to calm down the situation, it led to a violent clash, including stone-pelting and vandalism of some shops.



By afternoon, the situation tensed in Nadiyal. A senior police officer said that a mob burnt motorbikes and police vehicles. Some policemen were also injured, though there were no serious injuries.

The opposition BJP demanded deployment of Central Forces to contain the situation, accusing the TMC government of "Muslim

appeasement". Sukanta Majumdar, Union Minister and West Bengal BJP president, accused that despite knowing the culprits, the police took actions against the victims due to "Muslim appeasement".

He said that the government has, time and again, overlooked the attacks on Bengali Hindus in Muslim-majority areas of West Bengal.

Brave army jawan dies saving friend from drowning in Uttarakhand; community mourns his heroic sacrifice

Dehradun. In a heart-wrenching tragedy, Army jawan Sunil Rawat, a resident of Kumjuk village in Chamoli district, lost his life while saving his friend from drowning in the Punera Gadera (rivulet) near Sutol motor road.

The 25-year-old soldier, posted in Garhwal Rifles in Bhatinda, Punjab, had returned home on leave for Dev Puja when the incident occurred. On Wednesday, Sunil Rawat went to Punera rivulet with his three friends—Badal, Uttam, and Hrithik Rawat—for a refreshing bath. The group chose to bathe at the confluence of Punera and Nandakini, a scenic yet dangerous spot.

Heroic act turns tragic

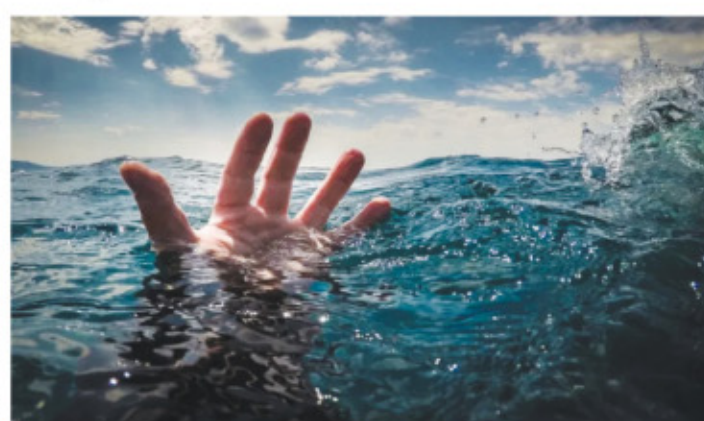
According to local witnesses, one of the young men slipped into deep water and began struggling to stay afloat. Without hesitation, Sunil jumped into the river, managing to pull

his friend to safety. However, in the process, he got trapped in a whirlpool between the rocks and was swept away by the strong currents.

Rescue efforts and tragic outcome

Passersby rushed to help, but despite desperate attempts, they could not reach Sunil in time. Upon receiving the emergency call, the Nanda Nagar police team arrived at the scene.

However, due to the depth of the river and Sunil being stuck between rocks, the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) was summoned. After intense efforts, the SDRF team recovered Sunil's body from the deep



waters. His remains were sent to the district hospital in Gopeshwar for postmortem.

Grief and mourning in his village

Sunil Rawat's untimely demise has left his

family devastated.

His parents, younger brother, and sister are inconsolable, struggling to come to terms with the loss of their beloved son and brother. The entire Kumjuk village is mourning the loss of a brave soldier, who selflessly sacrificed his life to save another.

Police investigation underway

Nanda Nagar police station in-charge Narendra Rawat confirmed that the body has been retrieved and sent for postmortem.

Authorities are investigating the circumstances surrounding the incident to ensure safety measures are in place for future visitors to the river. Sunil Rawat's courage and selflessness have left a lasting impact on his community.

BJP MLA accuses DMK of erasing 'Hindu' from caste certificates in Tamil Nadu

Tamil Nadu BJP MLA Vanathi Srinivasan alleged that the DMK government is removing the word 'Hindu' from online caste certificates. She called it anti-Hindu and questioned Chief Minister MK Stalin's silence on Hindu festivals.

Tamil Nadu. BJP MLA Vanathi Srinivasan has alleged that the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) government in Tamil Nadu is deliberately attempting to erase references to Hinduism from official documents. Citing examples of online caste certificates, she claimed that the word 'Hindu' is no longer being used before caste names in these documents. Calling it a deliberate and targeted move, Srinivasan described the change as "anti-Hindu behaviour" by the ruling DMK.

The BJP leader also questioned why Chief Minister MK Stalin never extends wishes during Hindu festivals, saying it reflects a larger pattern of "disregard for the sentiments of the majority." She



further alleged that a "Super Chief Minister", without naming anyone, was behind such decisions. "Because there are caste differences in Hindu religion, reservation for education and government employment opportunities is given to the caste. In the certificates given to school and college students, they will be able to get reservation only if the word Hindu with the name of caste is included. When it is like that, I

don't know why the DMK government is removing the name Hindu. DMK government definitely cannot have a good intention in this action," she added.

"The DMK government should abandon this act against the Constitution of India," she wrote in a statement. Her statement came around the time the Madras High Court directed the Tamil Nadu government to enable Revenue officials to grant 'no caste, no religion' certificates to individuals who do not wish to be identified by any particular caste or religion. The court's directive came while it was hearing a petition challenging a single judge's order that refused to direct the local Tahsildar to issue such certificates to the petitioner's family.

Women avail 474.82 crore free bus rides across Karnataka

BENGALURU. Shakti, one of the five guarantee schemes of the Congress government in the state, completed two years on Wednesday, clocking a whopping 474.82 crore free rides availed by women in state-run non-premium buses across Karnataka, in that period.

The total ticket price of the free rides stood at Rs 11,994 crore.

The popular scheme, which was launched on June 11, 2023, was one of the first guarantees implemented after the Congress came to power in Karnataka, and has been receiving an overwhelming response. Officials from the state-run bus corporations said Shakti has not only increased the number of women passengers, but also helped increase the intake of male passengers. Since the launch of the scheme, women across the state have been using the free travel benefit not only to travel to work, but also undertake pilgrimages and leisure tours.

Shakti also piqued the interest of other states, like Andhra Pradesh, whose representatives visited KSRTC earlier this year, to learn

about its operational framework and the challenges in implementing it, a KSRTC official said. The total number of passengers (including men) who travelled in ordinary buses under the four corporations -- Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC), Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMT), Kalyana Karnataka Road Transport Corporation (KKRTC), and North West Karnataka Road Transport Corporation (NWKRTC) -- since the launch of the Shakti scheme (June 11, 2023 up to June 10, 2025) stands at 801.54 crore, according to data shared by KSRTC.

Among the four bus corporations, BMT had the highest women passengers at 150 crore, followed by KSRTC at 144 crore. While 111 crore women travelled in NWKRTC buses, 68 crore women availed the free travel benefit with KKRTC.

In terms of total ticket value of women passengers, KSRTC topped the list at Rs 4,556 crore, followed by Rs 2,968 crore in NWRTC, Rs 2,408 crore in KKRTC, and BMT with Rs 2,061 crore.

Nainital tourism rebounds amid pleasant weather and Kainchi Dham rush; hoteliers expect strong earnings after Rs 60 crore loss

Nainital. After weeks of declining tourism, Nainital is once again buzzing with visitors, thanks to pleasant weather and the upcoming Kainchi Dham festival on 15 June. The tourism sector, which suffered a Rs 60 crore loss due to communal tensions and Indo-Pak border concerns, is now showing signs of recovery.

Tourism sector sees growth after heavy losses

The Nainital Hotel Association President, Digvijay Singh Bisht, stated that April and June witnessed losses exceeding Rs 50 crore, but the current surge in tourists is helping businesses bounce back. He expressed optimism that hoteliers will recover their losses in the coming weeks. He also told News9live over the phone that some of the hoteliers are offering discounts to attract more and more tourists in Nainital.

Pleasant weather draws tourists

With temperatures in the plains soaring above 30°C, Nainital's cool climate—where daytime temperatures hover around 18°C—has become a major attraction. Tourists from Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, and Rajasthan are flocking to the hill station, seeking respite from the heat.

Kainchi Dham festival boosts tourism

The Kainchi Dham festival, scheduled for June 15, is expected to draw lakhs of devotees to Neem Karoli Baba's ashram. Authorities have prepared a route plan to manage traffic congestion, as previous years saw severe jams on the Haldwani-Bhimtal-Bhowali route.

Challenges in tourism management

Despite the positive momentum, tourism faces logistical hurdles. Route diversions



and parking restrictions have confused visitors, with many vehicles stopped outside the city despite available parking

spaces. Bisht noted that rumors on social media have also impacted tourism, discouraging some travelers.

Tourists enjoy Nainital's attractions

Visitors are exploring iconic sites such as Naina Devi Temple, Naini Lake, Snow View, and Kainchi Dham. Priyanka, a tourist from Delhi, shared, "Nainital's weather is refreshing, and the boating experience along with local cuisine has been delightful." Radhika from Odisha said, "The cool breeze and scenic beauty have made this trip unforgettable." If the current trend continues, Nainital's tourism industry is expected to fully recover soon, bringing economic relief to hoteliers and local businesses.

Operation Spiderweb fails to 'Trump-proof' the Ukraine war

Operation Spiderweb, the June 1 attack on Russia's nuclear force in which Moscow detects NATO's footprint —M16, in particular—was an inflection point in the Ukraine conflict that could disrupt peace talks, compel President Donald Trump to disengage from President Vladimir Putin and derail US-Russia normalisation, but in the 11 days that followed, nothing of the sort happened.

Diplomacy will continue; Trump remains engaged with Putin, and he shows no enthusiasm for 'Biden's war.' A face-to-face meeting at the Oval Office on June 5 between Trump and visiting German Chancellor Friedrich Merz could only paper over their differences. Merz later said he told Trump privately that "he is the key person in the world who can really do that [bringing peace]—by putting pressure on Russia". However, Trump was unmoved. New facts on the ground will keep shaping diplomacy, a phenomenon endemic to major wars (e.g., Korea or Vietnam). Last weekend, a Russian tank division entered Dnipropetrovsk province in the direction of the Dnieper River for the first time in the war, while a northern thrust is rapidly advancing toward the strategic city of Sumy, which is now only 25 km from the frontline—and 200 km from Kiev.

Ukraine and its Western supporters, sensing the imbalance vis-à-vis Russian weaponry and firepower, vulnerability to large-scale Russian missile attacks, and acute shortage of trained fighters, face the spectre of a World War I implosion sooner or later. This grim scenario breeds desperate acts of asymmetrical war. In the estimation of The Washington Post columnist David Ignatius, who is wired into the US security establishment, "Ukraine will depend more than ever on its intelligence services... covert operations could expand into a 'dirty war' beyond the front, with more targeted killings, sabotage, and strikes ... Operation Spiderweb was a bold Ukrainian attempt to reset the table ... Other sophisticated operations are in the works, intelligence sources tell me."

What did Operation Spiderweb achieve? In military terms, nothing. Russians assert that no strategic bomber was destroyed and the damaged aircraft number only half a dozen. The global strategic balance has not tilted against Russia. Indeed, there is shock and awe in the strategic community, including in the US, that the START treaty, which was negotiated painstakingly by the US and Russia, has been violated with the attack on the nuclear triad and the mutual understanding that the nuclear bombers of the two great powers shall be parked at all times in open space visible to satellites has been upset. Beyond a doubt, without Western intelligence's real-time satellite data and expertise, Ukraine simply couldn't have undertaken such a sophisticated operation with mathematical precision across Russia's vast expanse spanning 11 time zones.

These are times fraught with peril. The US has withdrawn from Cold War-era arms control treaties, especially the pivotal Treaty on Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces in 1987, and fresh negotiations are impossible without a settlement in Ukraine. Meanwhile, Europe's rearmament is an emergent reality, and Russia's border with NATO has just doubled in size after the Biden administration cajoled Finland to join the alliance.

No end to uncertainty in Bangladesh

An election without the Awami League will end up repeating Sheikh Hasina's mistakes

MUHAMMAD Yunus, the head of Bangladesh's interim government, has announced that the country will hold elections in the first half of April 2026. By making this announcement, the Nobel laureate and Grameen Bank founder has sought to silence critics and opponents who questioned how interim his administration really was and if he would ever let go of power. The questions arose because the interim administration, set up in the days after the ouster of the Sheikh Hasina government, has not only been inept at restoring a measure of order in the country even after 10 months but has also appeared to be taking important policy decisions impacting the country's foreign policy and security. The Bangladesh Army, too, questioned the decisions, publicly airing discontent at not being consulted on the move to establish a "humanitarian corridor" from Bangladesh to the Rakhine state in Myanmar, apparently at the prodding of the United Nations. The army had also pressed for an "early and inclusive" election. Yunus tried an age-old gambit adopted by leaders who believe in their own indispensability. He threatened to resign, and, predictably, was persuaded to stay on.

The announcement of elections in April has hardly cleared the air of political uncertainty or suspicions about his intentions. For one, the Bangladesh National Party (BNP), the second largest political party in the country after the Awami League, has rejected the timeline, and reiterated its demand for elections before the end of this year. In this, it is on the same side as the army. In a volatile political atmosphere still charged with anger against the Hasina government, the BNP, harassed and suppressed for over a decade, is eyeing a big electoral comeback.

Yunus' justification for his reluctance to hold polls earlier than next year is that when he took office, he promised to do three things: carry out constitutional, electoral and other institutional reforms through a process of national consensus; provide justice for those who were killed in police firing during the student protests that eventually led to Hasina's exit; and conduct elections.

The argument is that making the much-needed corrections to a broken political, governance and judicial structure would ensure that the elections did not reproduce the kind of one-party rule and authoritarian slide witnessed during Hasina's three terms. The view in sections of Bangladesh is that had these reforms been carried out before the 2008 elections, the country would have been spared the political chaos and bloodshed. Yunus set up six commissions to study each aspect and suggest changes. These commissions have duly submitted their reports.

Now, a "national consensus commission" of political parties' representatives is trying to forge an all-round agreement on the reforms. It is no surprise that the consensus is proving to be elusive.

The BNP, whose political instincts remain sharp despite a decade in the wilderness and its leader Khaleda Zia's long years in jail or home imprisonment, has said the holding of elections cannot be held ransom to the lack of consensus on the reforms. Aside from the BNP's own electoral calculations, the concern is that putting off the elections may worsen the chaotic conditions in the country, eventually making the holding of elections



impossible. More pertinently, however, all the talk of reforms and consensus sounds hollow given that the Awami League has been banned, and thus cannot take part in the election. With Hasina and many leaders in her clique living in exile in Delhi, its cadres and supporters being targeted at home, and no effective second rung to speak of, the Awami League is in total disarray.

Yunus may carry out all the reforms he wants, and may even take his time doing that. But any claim of corrections to Bangladesh's many problems will remain hollow, and their purpose defeated if the Awami League, hollowed out though it is, cannot take part in the elections. Banning the party and keeping it out of the elections can only widen the political and social faultlines. It is a sure path to the repetition of the many blunders committed by Hasina.

Even the reforms themselves, ostensibly to be arrived at by a process of national consensus, would lack that very consensus as the Awami League is not a part of that process. Instead, what is apparent now is an attempt to airbrush the party of Bangladesh's liberation out of the

nation's past, present and future. On the other hand is the resurrection of the Jamaat-e-Islami, which collaborated with the Pakistan Army in the atrocities committed in the months before the country's liberation. The Jamaat was stripped of its registration as a political party and disallowed from participating in the 2013 elections after the Bangladesh Supreme Court under Hasina's watch ruled that the party's constitution went against the secular principles of the national constitution. Last month, Jamaat leader ATM Azharul Islam, who was tried and convicted as a collaborator by the "International Criminal Court" set up by the Hasina government, was acquitted. While the

trials of the Jamaat members were decried at the time as partisan and dubious, and the judicial proceedings as a kangaroo court, the irony is hard to miss: an administration that says it wants to set Bangladesh on the right path is using the same court to try Hasina on charges of corruption and "crimes against humanity". Her trial, whose outcome is pre-determined, will take place in absentia. India is unlikely to accede to Bangladesh's demand for her extradition. The issue will worsen relations between the two countries. The Awami League's only hope now is that the Bangladesh Army will press for and secure its inclusion. Meanwhile, the Jamaat, a former ally of the BNP, is now confident it can make greater electoral inroads than before, on its own. It is also keen on elections but wants time. Yunus' April timeline is close to the Jamaat's own demand that elections should be held in mid-2026, the time that it needs to strengthen its network on the ground. This is also why the party is pushing for local elections first. As such, the transition to an elected government, whether it happens in April or earlier, is not going to bring political stability in Bangladesh. Sreeradha Datta, who teaches international relations at Jindal Global University, and follows developments in Bangladesh closely, told Frontline in an interview that stability will be elusive until the political culture of that country changes.

The silver lining is that there are people in Bangladesh who remember the liberation story only too well. The home of Awami League founder and father of the nation Sheikh Mujibur Rahman can be vandalised and burnt, and his face erased from currency notes. But it is more difficult to erase the memories of killings and rapes following Bangladesh's March 1971 declaration of independence. This is why the apology proffered by Jamaat chief Shafiqur Rahman for "past actions" of "party members" is inadequate. This is also why Pakistan's aim to "normalise" relations with Bangladesh will remain a pipe dream.

Mumbaikars don't need the rush-hour nemesis

From 2005 to 2024, an estimated 51,802 lives were lost on Mumbai's local and suburban rail network, which is an average of seven deaths every single day.

Mumbai's local or suburban rail network is the teeming city's lifeline. The vital yet perilous tracks bared their dark side on Monday in a tragic accident between Mumbra and Diva. Thirteen people, hanging on the footboards, fell off two passing trains. Four of them died. The accident happened on a curve that narrowed the gap between the trains and the commuters collided. A mainly north-south, 450-kilometre rail network, one of the oldest and busiest in the world, it ferries 7.5 million commuters daily squeezed like sardines in unbearably hot and sweaty compartments. The more adventurous hang on for dear life riding to work on the footboards. That's why it is also among the deadliest networks. From 2005 to 2024, an estimated 51,802 lives were lost — an average of seven deaths every single day. These are not mere numbers but people, delivery workers, office clerks, electricians, and lakhs of others who keep the city running. They leave home every morning not knowing if they will return



safely. The Railway Board immediately announced that Mumbai's suburban rakes will now be fitted with automatic closing doors. It's the case of closing the stable doors after the horses have bolted. Automatic closing doors have been promised earlier, too. A few air-

conditioned locals already serve the network, but the overwhelming rakes are non-AC. Officials have always trotted out the excuse that converting non-AC rakes to ones with automatic doors runs the risk of suffocating commuters. If they are good enough for other cities and modern rail systems, why not for Mumbai? Now, pushed against the wall, the Railways are toying with louvres for the doors and high-pressure fans on the ceiling to pump in the air. The blame also lies with the city's growing spatial inequality. Mumbai's unaffordable real estate prices explain the high suburban commuter traffic. People live on the outskirts where home prices pinch less. The downside is they spend long hours commuting. It is the tragedy of these millions that turns the wheels of the city.

Commuter organisations have been demanding more rakes, a four-track system between Kurla and Kalyan where the commuter load is the heaviest and a special authority for Mumbai's suburban railway. It is time for officialdom to wake up and stop deaths on the tracks.

Brought to bay in Dandakaranya

While the strong political will of the Centre and the State has generated synergy among the forces, the continuous strengthening of the security infrastructure has given teeth to the anti-Maoist operations

The general secretary of the proscribed CPI (Maoist), Nambala Keshava Rao alias Basavaraju, was killed in an exchange of fire with the Chhattisgarh police on May 21 in the Indravati area of Abujhmad (the unknown hills). Not less than 26 members of his security posse/component, widely known as CC (central committee) protection company (Company No. 7 of People's Liberation Guerrilla Army— PLGA), also got killed in the firefight, which continued for over three days. One jawan of district Narayanpur was martyred in the first burst of bullets from the Maoists. This operation was conducted exclusively by the District Reserve Guards (DRG) of Narayanpur, Bijapur, and Dantewada. The operation was planned and executed under the supervision of Prabhat Kumar, Superintendent of Police, Narayanpur, of the 2019 IPS batch. In yet another tough operation, 31 Maoists were killed in a 21-day long joint operation conducted by the CRPF and DRG (and STF) on the steep Karregutta hills (spread over about 50 km x 10 km), which separate district Bijapur (of Chhattisgarh) from Telangana. As these hills were of great strategic importance for the Maoists, they planted a large number of IEDs (over 400 detected and diffused) to deter security forces from approaching them. The humidity was so intense that some jawans had to be evacuated by air due to exhaustion. The Superintendent of Police, Bijapur, Jitendra Yadav, from the 2018 IPS batch, demonstrated his capabilities in the successful execution of the operation and ensured proper coordination among the forces. One can gauge the importance of the Central Armed Police Forces

(CAPFs) by the fact that over 50 battalions of them are deployed in Chhattisgarh, and they occupy the most forward posts. Records show that Maoist violence has declined over the past many years. The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) reduced the number of districts under its security-related expenditure (SRE) scheme from 72 in 10 states in 2021 to 58 (with 38 designated as LWE-affected) in eight states during a review in March 2024. In another review in April 2025, this number further reduced from 38 in eight states to 18 in seven states. The number of LWE-affected districts in Chhattisgarh reduced from 15 to 7 in the same period. While it does not seem the Maoist organisations have disappeared from the unclassified districts, their mass base and violence have surely declined. Over 420 Maoists (including some central committee and state committee members) have been killed in Chhattisgarh since early 2024. Last August, Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced that the Maoists would be eliminated from this country by March 2026. Since then, the anti-Maoist operations have been scaled up. Cooperation among central and State police forces has been enhanced. While the number of security camps has been increasing for a long time, the recent redeployment and establishment of camps in Abujhmad and south Bastar have filled many security vacuums that existed for years. This has given the security forces an operational edge and restricted the Maoists' movement in the area.

Secondly, the DRGs have improved the overall capacity

of the forces to fight the guerrillas. The DRG jawans are locally recruited tribals familiar with the hilly and forested terrain, which is considered conducive for waging a guerrilla war. The DRG also has a sprinkling of surrendered cadres who have been inducted into the force (after completing regular training conducted by the police department) under the State's rehabilitation policy. It is a sanctioned regular force that has evolved.



The Bastar fighters force (2,100 strong), sanctioned during the previous Congress government for the entire Bastar range and Rajnandgaon, further enhanced the capacity to fight and launch independent operations. These sons of the soil have turned the tables in Bastar. Thirdly, the use of drones for surveillance and digital wireless sets for secure communication

has reduced casualties among forces. While there has been no improvement in the technology used for detecting IEDs, the installation of mobile towers in remote areas has improved actionable intelligence. Technology has improved operational efficiency. Thus, while the strong political will of the Centre and the State has generated synergy among the forces, the strengthening of the security infrastructure has given teeth to the anti-Maoist operations. The Maoists, who entered Dandakaranya in 1980 and continued to expand, gaining strength militarily until 2010, admitted in the central committee (CC) review of December 2020 that their mass base has been diluting, desertion has been increasing, and their area of influence has been shrinking since 2011. Still, they did not change their central agenda of converting Dandakaranya and Bihar-Jharkhand into a base area, the PLGA into PLA, and the guerrilla war into a mobile war, using their three magic weapons: the party, the army, and the united front. However, more recently, in August 2024, the Politburo of the CPI (Maoist) said they were in a state of temporary setback and had retreated across the entire country. They decided to avoid the security forces encircling them (their leadership and cadres) by breaking up their formations into smaller units. Still, they resolved to attack the security forces wherever they were weak.

The historic village of Masouleh

The village of Masouleh is located in Gilan Province in Iran, perched high on a densely forested mountainside about 60 km inland from the Caspian Sea. Forever covered in fog, which barely leaves the village, Masouleh is an incredible spectacle—a series of cottages built on a slope, such that each house's courtyard is another house's rooftop.

The village is located about 1,050 m above sea level, but the range of elevation varies by over a hundred metres in the village. Because of this, houses are constructed

in stepped terraces and are interconnected. The terrace of each house functions as the courtyard of the house above. In some cases, public streets are laid out along interconnected roofs. Due to its unique layout, Masouleh does not permit any motor vehicles to enter as the small streets and many stairs make it impossible for vehicles to operate in the village. Masouleh's peculiar architecture can be compared, to some extent, to the Libyan village of Ghadames, where interconnected rooftops create a network of passageways.

The village buildings are mostly two storeys and made of adobe, rods and bole. Between these houses are narrow, meandering steps that lead to the upper level of the city. Given that these old houses are mostly made

out of clay and wood, it is truly amazing that the roofs can also serve as sidewalks and walkways. Moreover, they are constantly exposed to wear and tear of the weather, such as deluges of rain and heaps of snow. Due to its high location, the climate of Masouleh is different from the rest of Iran, which is hot and dry. Here, warm, moist air blowing southwest from the Caspian is

blocked by the Alborz Mountains, creating heavy precipitation and fog on the seaward side of the mountains. The abundant rainfall has spawned dense forests and gushing rivers in the area.

The first village of Masouleh was established more than a thousand years ago, around 6 km northwest of the current village and is called Old

Masouleh. Masouleh had once been the 'Silk Road of the Gilan' region and people from far and near gathered here for business to sell and buy merchandise; however, as of

late, there are fewer signs of the young and old selling dream dolls and colourful socks in the alleys of Masouleh as people have migrated from this once trade centre due to unemployment and lack of income. As of recent, Masouleh is developing into a popular tourist destination.



There are many Tibetan monasteries in Arunachal Pradesh, which was once a part of Tibet. The people are Indian now, but they still have Tibetan roots in terms of how they worship, how they dress, what they eat etc. Since people are prohibited to practice Tibetan Buddhism in Tibet, places like Tawang and Bomdila are perfect to learn about the religion. Unlike some Buddhist areas in the world, here they don't have to send a boy from their family to be a monk at the monastery. It's all by choice of the boys themselves. The monasteries also serve as schools for children where they learn the local language, English and Tibetan. The best time to visit these monasteries is between October and April. There are three main monasteries—Tawang, Bomdila and Urgelling—and a couple of smaller ones that you can visit in Arunachal Pradesh.

Tawang Monastery

Established in 1860, this is the largest monastery in India and the second largest in Asia, after the Lhasa Potala 'palace' which is in Old Tibet, China. It's also

called Galden Namgye Lhatse and was founded as per the wish of the 5th Dalai Lama. It preserves two ancient scripts, Kangyur and Tengyur. The gumpa is situated at an altitude of 10000 feet and is 'the must see' place in all of Arunachal Pradesh.

Bomdila Monastery

Also known as Gentse Gaden Rabgyel Lling, the absolutely stunning gumpa is the largest in Bomdila. Mahayana Buddhism is practiced here by people, who are called Monpa. It was built in 1965 and blessed by HH Dalai Lama 14th. During festivals, one can see amazing mandalas made from sand. After the festivities, monks mess up

Urgelling Monastery

This is the birthplace of His Holiness Dalai Lama 6th. It's just 5 km south of Tawang, so you can visit it on the same day you see Tawang Monastery. This is as old as the 15th century. In the 1700s, it was ransacked and many things were stolen. It's now a very simple and small monastery, and not often visited. They believe that the leaves of the tree planted by the Dalai Lama 6th can cure illness when kept in hot water.

Tibetan monastery tour in Arunachal Pradesh

me, which is derived from Monpa word that means 'listening to the dogs bark'. The monastery was earlier covered in forest and people could hear the hunting dogs bark. Once they met a guru while hunting who taught them not to kill and they thereafter made a monastery there in 1480. You can visit the gumpa and the walk up to there is stunning. The gumpa is a part of Nyingma sect of Tibetan Buddhism, where monks can marry and have long hair.

These are the main monasteries that must be visited while in Arunachal Pradesh, but there is more you can do to get acquainted with the culture of the state. Other than trying food, you can meet locals and learn more about the culture. Besides, visit craft centres to see men at work making and painting sculptures of Buddha for monasteries. Some also make masks that are worn by monks during festivals, and you can even buy these as souvenirs. Also, see the women weaving clothes and painting Tibetan artwork.

Rather than just walking around the monastery, try to interact. The monks seem happy to talk with you, and the teachers and people in charge will even give you a tour if you ask. They'll probably offer you tea or hot water as well. Take time to listen to some of the students being taught in classes, and talk with the kids about what they are learning. There is a monk called Sange Lama in Bomdila that can read future. Furthermore, there is a new monastery being built where foreigners and Indian tourists will be able to learn about Tibetan Buddhism.



the detailed design as a symbol of their belief in the impermanence of life. It's located at 8500 feet above sea level, and is a replica of a monastery in South Tibet. You have to pass Bomdila to visit Tawang, so you can stop here on your way up or on your way back home.

Tsun Gon Thog Jee Choeling Tsun Gon Thog Jee Choeling is actually a nunnery. You can warm up with a cup of hot tea and chat with the nuns. It's very interesting to see how female 'monks' or nuns live. The woman who greeted us, Sonar, was the sweetest girl I have ever met. While we were there, the nuns sat outside and had a lively debate.

Jegtse Sang-ngag Choeckhorling Monastery of Mon-yul Kid-mo Jong

The gumpa is located near Tawang in Khin-



Centre planning 33% reservation for women ahead of 2029 Lok Sabha polls: Sources

The Narendra Modi-led central government is expecting to roll out a 33 per cent reservation for women ahead of the 2029 Lok Sabha elections, sources told

New Delhi. The Narendra Modi-led central government is planning to implement a 33 per cent reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and state assemblies, which is linked to the delimitation exercise, ahead of the 2029 general election, sources told on Thursday. Last week, the Centre announced that a nationwide population census will be conducted in 2027, and caste enumeration will be part of the exercise for the first time. The process will be done in two phases, with the snow-bound and non-synchronous areas, including Ladakh, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand, set for October 2026 and the rest of the country in 2027. Sources told that the census will be over in two years, and the delimitation will follow based on the fresh population data. The 33 per cent quota implementation will be in accordance with the 'Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam' or the Women's Reservation Bill, 2023, which was passed in September 2023. The bill, which aims to reserve one-third of seats both in Lok Sabha and state assemblies for women, can only be rolled out using the new figures from



the first census conducted soon after its enactment.

First introduced way back in 1996 when Deve Gowda was India's Prime Minister, the bill witnessed multiple changes of governments and debates before being passed 27 years later. According to the bill, the system of reserving seats for women would cease to exist 15 years after it comes into effect.

Both the census and the delimitation exercise have been points of contention between the NDA-led Centre and the Opposition. The 15th and last

census in India was conducted in 2011, and was rescheduled from 2021 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Meanwhile, delimitation has been held in India four times - 1952, 1963, 1973 and 2002.

In a layperson's term, delimitation is the process of updating the number and boundaries of parliamentary and assembly constituencies using the latest population figures. The process ensures that each MP or MLA represents roughly the same number of people, and that the population is fairly represented.

Southern states have not been happy about the delimitation exercise, with Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and DMK boss MK Stalin raising concerns on several occasions.

Experts said that if the Lok Sabha seats stay the same, northern and central states such as Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Bihar could benefit - possibly 31 seats more - while their southern counterparts such as Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala may lose around 26 seats. The northern states' faster population growth over the past few years is a vital reason behind this difference.

India reports 3 Covid deaths in 24 hours, most active cases in Kerala



New Delhi. India reported 33 new Covid cases in the last 24 hours, taking the tally to 7,154 cases. Three Covid-related deaths have been reported since yesterday, including two in Maharashtra and one in Madhya Pradesh. On a positive note, over 9,556 individuals have recovered from the virus, according to data from the Union Health Ministry. Although most states have reported a marginal rise in Covid-19 cases, Kerala remains the most affected, with 2165 total cases. Other states, including Karnataka, Gujarat, West Bengal, Delhi, and Maharashtra have also logged a marginal increase in numbers of active cases throughout the year.

On June 11, the country reported 306 fresh infections, taking the tally to 7,121, according to official data shared by the Union Health Ministry on Wednesday. 6 deaths, one in Maharashtra, 3 in Kerala and 2 in Karnataka, were also reported during the same period. Amid a spike in Covid cases, the Centre has launched nationwide mock drills to assess hospital preparedness and directed states to ensure adequate oxygen supply, isolation beds, ventilators, and essential drugs. Officials have claimed that most cases are mild and managed under home care.

Technical review meetings were held on June 2 and 3, led by Dr Sunita Sharma, Director General of Health Services, to assess the Covid-19 situation and review the country's preparedness measures.

World Day Against Child Labour 2025: Where the world stands and what India has done

New Delhi. Children look good with books in hand and not tools. As the world observes World Day Against Child Labour, there are still several children who are working now. Many children around the world are involved in work. While some of this work may not be harmful, not all of it is safe. Child labour occurs when children are too young, work long hours, or do dangerous activities. These situations can harm their health, safety, or morals. According to a report by UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund), in the last four years, the world has progressed toward ending child labour. But, despite all the efforts and progress, child labour still affects nearly 138 million children across the globe.

In India, child labour continues to pose a challenge to the nation. Over the years, governments have implemented several measures to address this issue.

According to the Ministry of Labour and Employment, there were 1.26 crore working children aged 5 to 14, according to the 2001 Census, out of a total child population of 25.2 crore. A survey by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) in 2004-05 estimated that about 90.75 lakh children were working. By the 2011 Census, the number of working children in the 5-14 age group dropped to 43.53 lakh. This shows that government efforts to address this issue have been successful.

India's efforts to control child labour

Gurupadswamy Committee
In 1979, the government established the Gurupadswamy Committee to investigate child labour and propose solutions. The Committee examined the issue closely and made important recommendations. It concluded that as long as poverty exists, eliminating child labour would be difficult. Therefore, trying to end it through laws alone would not be practical. The Committee proposed banning child labour in dangerous jobs and improving working conditions in other areas. It recommended a multi-faceted approach to address the challenges faced by working children.

Punjab influencer found dead in car in Bathinda, gangster link emerges

New Delhi. A young social media influencer from Punjab, Kanchan Kumari, a popular YouTuber known as Kamal Kaur or "Queen", was found dead under mysterious circumstances inside a parked car at the Adesh Medical University campus in Bathinda on Wednesday evening. Police suspect murder and are investigating possible links to a prior threat she had received from Canada-based designated terrorist Arsh Dalia. She had over 3.83 lakh followers on Instagram.

In October last year, Arsh Dalia had reportedly warned Kanchan to stop posting "inappropriate" videos online. Police sources say that while the threat is being taken seriously, they are examining all angles. "We are looking at every possible lead — nothing can be confirmed at this point," said SSP Amneet Kodal.

The body was discovered after locals complained of a foul smell emanating from a parked car. Upon arriving at the scene and inspecting the vehicle, police recovered the woman's body from the back seat. According to preliminary investigations, the crime may not have occurred at the university. It is suspected that Kanchan was killed elsewhere, possibly strangled, and her body was then placed in the car and abandoned in the parking lot of the hospital. The number plate on the vehicle was found to be fake.

According to the sources, Kanchan had told her parents that she was headed to Bathinda on June 9. But lost contact once she came to the city. The car - a Hyundai Eon in which the body was found - belonged to the influencer.

Most transparent: Poll body chief defends electoral rolls prep amid rigging claim



New Delhi. The preparation of voters' lists in India is one of the world's most rigorous and transparent processes, Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar told an international conference in Sweden amid allegations of poll rigging and fudging in voter data. In his keynote address at the Stockholm International Conference on Electoral Integrity on Tuesday, Kumar said that the voter list in India is revised every year and during the process, each addition and elimination is shared in detail with the recognised national and state parties in adherence to the law. The CEC said the electoral rolls have been shared with political parties since 1960 with provision for objections, appeals and claims. His remarks came soon after allegations by Opposition parties claiming fudging of voter data. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi recently alleged poll rigging in the 2024 Maharashtra assembly elections. The poll body has dismissed the charges and called them absurd.

Kumar asserted the role of the Election Commission in capacity-building schemes for election management bodies, and also stressed India's electoral integrity, diversity and scale. In his address to more than 50 global election management bodies, the CEC talked about the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, saying 743 political parties participated, including six national parties.

He also highlighted that with more than 200 million personnel, including police forces, polling staff, political party agents and observers involved in the conduct of elections, the Election Commission became the world's largest organisation. He said that with a cumulative workforce of many national governments and global corporations, India's electors are freely able to exercise their franchise.

2 girls sexually assaulted at Goa birthday party, 3 arrested

New Delhi. Three minor girls who were invited to celebrate a birthday were allegedly sexually assaulted in North Goa's Bambolim, leading to the arrest of two men. The accused, identified as Altaf Mahboob Mujawar (19) and Om Vinay Naik (21), were taken into custody by the Agashi police. The families of the victims filed a missing complaint on the night of June 8, saying that two girls, aged 13 and 15, had been missing since June 7. Around the same time, another complaint was lodged regarding the disappearance of a 11-year-old girl. Investigations revealed that all three girls had gone together.

Initially, North Goa Superintendent of Police Rahul Gupta allegedly tried to keep the matter under wraps. However, once the news began surfacing in the media, he formed a special police team to trace the



missing girls.

Following the formation of the special team, the victims were traced to a hotel in the Calangute area. Police rescued the girls and detained two men present with them. During the investigation, the girls informed the police that they had gone to Calangute to celebrate a birthday.

It was then discovered that the 15-year-old and the 11-year-old were sexually assaulted. Police registered two separate cases under IPC Sections

137(2), 64(1), 74, 75(1), Section 8(2) of the Goa Children's Act, and Sections 4, 8, and 12 of the POCSO Act. The two men detained earlier were formally arrested.

On Wednesday night, the police also arrested the owner of the hotel where the incident occurred. Rajat Chavan, owner of Krishna Mahadev Hotel in Baga, was arrested by Calangute police for allowing the girls to enter the hotel without parental consent. Indicating strict action, Rahul Gupta, Superintendent of Police, said, "The police are applying for the sealing of the hotel and the cancellation of its license." He added, "If any man is given a room without the presence of their family members or relatives, hotel management and owners will not be spared. It is a violation of the Goa Children's Act." Gupta warned, "If such violations are found in the future, strict action will be taken."

Real-life Crime Patrol: Wife poisons husband for younger lover, dumps unconscious body in river in UP

New Delhi. Amid the raging storm over the Meghalaya honeymoon murder, another shocking incident has come to the light in which a woman in Uttar Pradesh's Siddharthnagar district has been arrested for killing her husband with her lover's help. After that, they deposited his body in the Rapti river. Notably, the couple got married 18 years ago and has a son whose age is 12. According to the police, the accused Sangeeta Devi is 35 years old and her husband Kannan Kumar is 48 years old. She gave her husband poisoned prasad while the couple was returning from a temple visit. Her lover, Anil Shukla alias Vivek is eight years younger than Sangeeta. Together, they pushed an unconscious Kannan off a 25-ft-high bridge into the Rapti near Kodari in Balrampur on June 2.

What happened after that?

After perpetrating the crime, Sangeeta went to the Dhebarua police station on



June 5 to file a missing person complaint. For the next three days, she travelled with Anil and did not give any concrete answer when she was questioned later.

Surveillance on her mobile location found that Sangeeta was with Anil on June 2. When she was confronted with this information, Sangeeta confessed to the crime and also the involvement of her lover. The couple's 12-year-old son also told police, "Papa went out with mummy and Anil uncle, but only papa returned."

Babu Lal, the brother of Kannan, suspected that there was something

fishy due to the strained relationship between the couple, also filed a complaint in which he suspected the murder of Kannan and accused Sangeeta of the crime.

On June 10, the body was found as a skeleton and it was identified based on dress. Based on Babu Lal's complaint, police arrested both Sangeeta and Anil. As per Police circle officer of Shohratgarh, Sujee Rai, who is supervising the case, Sangeeta and Anil met five years ago while traveling on a train. He said, "Their affair deepened, and Anil began frequenting her house. Though Kannan grew suspicious and confronted his wife, she dismissed the allegations as mere friendship. However Sangeeta and Anil eventually planned the murder to remove Kannan from the equation. She tried to mislead the investigation but broke down under sustained questioning." Both the accused have been sent to jail.

Chief Justice's judicial terrorism caution amid government's overreach charge

The Chief Justice's remarks come at a time when the government has accused the judiciary of overreach. Gavai clarified that the judiciary would intervene if the legislature or executive failed in their duty to safeguard fundamental rights, but that judicial review should be used sparingly.

New Delhi. Chief Justice of India BR Gavai said that while judicial activism remains an enduring aspect of India's democracy, it must not cross the line into "judicial terrorism." Speaking during an informal interaction with Indian students at Trinity College, Oxford Union, Chief Justice Gavai addressed the ongoing debate surrounding the judiciary's "intrusion"

into the legislative domain. "Judicial activism is bound to stay. At the same time, judicial activism should not be turned into judicial terrorism. So, at times, you try to exceed the limits and try to enter into an area where, normally, the judiciary should not enter," he said in response to a question.

The Chief Justice's remarks come at a time when the government has accused the judiciary of overreach. Gavai clarified that the judiciary would intervene if the legislature or executive failed in their duty to safeguard fundamental rights, but that judicial review should be used sparingly. "This power has to be exercised in a very limited area in very exception cases, like, say, a statute, is violative of the basic structure of the Constitution, or it is in direct conflict with any of the fundamental rights of the Constitution, or if the statute is so patently arbitrary,



discriminatory," he stated. "The courts can exercise it, and the courts have done so." Gavai's comments echoed the note of caution sounded by Justice Surya Kant during his keynote address at the 'Envision India Conclave' in San Francisco earlier this week. Kant had stressed that courts must not supplant the role of the legislature or override the will of the people. "Instead, they must act as facilitators of democratic dialogue - strengthening participatory governance,

protecting the vulnerable, and ensuring rule of law prevails even in moments of political uncertainty," Kant had said. "Judicial overreach risks unsettling the delicate balance of power."

Chief Justice Gavai, who is the second Dalit and first Buddhist to hold India's highest judicial office, characterised the Constitution as a "quiet revolution etched in ink." He described it as a transformative force that not only guarantees rights but actively uplifts the historically oppressed.

The Chief Justice also urged Indian students studying at British universities to return and contribute to nation-building.

"The only appeal to you is that after you complete your studies, you do not remain here."

Come back to India. Give your services to make our Bharat strong and one of the most important powers in the entire globe," he said. "So, Bharat needs you, respond to that need."

5 reasons why you should visit

Kerala

during the Monsoon

During the rains, god's own country transforms into a veritable paradise with lush greenery gracing its backwaters and hills, cloudy sunsets, cool breeze and the cheerful fervour of an array of festivals. Intermittent showers heighten the romance of the season. It might not be the best time to hit the beaches, but here are five reasons why Kerala in the monsoon will leave you singin' in the rain.

Snake boat races

The months between July and September are water sports season, with the backwaters around Alappuzha playing host to a series of snake boat races. The most famous of the lot is the Nehru Trophy Boat Race, generally held on the second Saturday of August every year. The regatta takes place on the Punnamada Lake, and features ceremonial processions and magnificent floats. Its star attraction is the synchronised rowing of traditional 30-metre-long snake-boats or chudan valloms, which have a raised prow resembling a snake.

The Onam sadya feast

This ten-day harvest festival celebrates the homecoming of the mythical king Mahabali, but it's also a good excuse to feast on some of Kerala's most lip-smacking vegetarian fare. Traditionally served on palm leaves, the nine-course banquet is held on the last or tenth day. It's best savoured at a local home, but you don't manage to get an invite then most local restaurants also offer these meals. The preceding days are filled with costume parades, boat races and shopping discounts.

Great hotel deals

Sandwiched between Kerala's sweltering summers and its peak tourist season (November to March), the monsoon is a great time to snag deals at otherwise expensive hotels and resorts. If you've ever fantasised

about an indulgent houseboat crawl through the backwaters, then this is the time to get the best bargains. To avail the best discounts, make sure you plan your visit before the end of September, after which tariffs are being climbing up again.

Ayurvedic therapies

Kerala is home to several excellent spas and wellness resorts, and there's no better time to pamper yourself than the monsoon season. According to Ayurveda, the cool, pleasant weather is ideal for rejuvenation. Sign up for a week-long retreat at top-notch stays such as the Kairali Ayurvedic Healing Village Health Resort in Palakkad or Somatheeram Ayurvedic Health Resort in Kovalam with relaxing oil-based therapies, massages, yoga and a balanced diet that'll cleanse your mind, body and soul.

Wayanad's natural splendour

With virescent hills carpeted with plantations, rainforests and tumbling waterfalls, Wayanad is a photographer's delight. After you've had your fill of its misty coffee, tea and spice plantations, head to the Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary that hosts numerous migrating birds in this period. Wayanad's tourism department also holds an annual monsoon carnival in July with village excursions, rain treks as well as local sports such as mud football and archery.



5 hill stations in

Maharashtra

to get away to



Panchgani

Deriving its name from the surrounding five hills that envelop it, Panchgani offers a window to the past. Located just about 38 metres below Mahabaleshwar, at an altitude of 1334 metres, the approach to this beautiful hill station is replete with lovely views of the Krishna River to one side, and the plains on the other. A quintessentially residential area, it exudes a charm that harks to a time gone by. Whether in the old colonial architecture, the Parsi homes, and century-old boarding lodges. The best vantage point to take in the world below can be found at Table Land, a flat mountain peak overlooking the plains. To mix things up, head to the local bazaar where business moves along at an unhurried pace, setting a leisurely tone for your time spent here.

Keechakadara

As accounted in the Mahabharata, this is the place where Bheema killed Keechaka, the villain and threw him into the valley below. Taking its name from the incident, Keechakadara is also often referred to as Chikhaldara. Aside from its mythological roots, there's more to this beautiful hill station. Situated at an altitude of 1118 metres in the Vidarbha region, this is the only hill resort in the area, and has the added attraction of being the only coffee-growing area in Maharashtra. This is even a great place for wild life enthusiasts to do some spotting as panthers, bears, sambar, wild boar, and wild dogs thrive here and it is

neighbourled by the famous Melghat Tiger Project which has 82 tigers. Hurricane Point, Prospect Point, and Devi Point are all great vantage points to take in the views, and this is also a good starting point for excursions to Gavilgad and Narnala Fort.

Bhandardara

Also cradled within the Sahyadri Hills, Bhandardara, with its soaring mountain ranges, plunging waterfalls and carpet of green, attracts tourists all through the year. For a short hour-long journey, this hill station offers city dwellers a drastically contrasting landscape and stunning surroundings. Bright



green paddy fields and clear blue skies punctuated with a labyrinth of gurgling streams, provide all the essential ingredients for a weekend away from the madding crowds. There's enough to keep you busy through the days. Built in 1910, Wilson Dam stands 150-metres-high and has a beautiful garden at the base. of Wilson Dam there is a garden endowed with thick greenery, streams and gigantic trees, the silently serene Arthur lake which mirrors the beauty of its surroundings in its blue waters, Mount Kalsubai, which is Maharashtra's highest peak at 1646 metres and draws in serious trekkers to its summit, the Agasti Risha Ashram which has been mentioned in the Ramayan and the ancient Ratangad Fort which offers panoramic views from its ramparts.

Matheran

Discovered back in 1850 by Hugh Malet, collector for the Thane district, Matheran sits atop the Sahyadris Mountain range and is another hot weekend getaway for city slickers. This gorgeous and quaint hill station is best accessed via the slow-moving toy train which chugs along over a leisurely two-hour-long journey from the valley below. Sprawled across a lush green, undulating hilltop, Matheran sits at a height of about 800 metres with drastic, steep cliffs offering the most stunning views of the plains below. Make your way up to Hart Point at night, and take in the dreamy, twinkling lights of Mumbai far below, meander through the winding ways and feast your eyes on the British-Parsi architecture of the local homes, walk up to Charlotte Lake, and do a spot of shopping in the market where you'll find lots of leather goodies, hats and ofcourse the famous sweet-sticky chikki best eaten hot and fresh.

Mahabaleshwar

Translating to mean 'God of Great Power' in Sanskrit, Mahabaleshwar is a favourite hill destination with Maharashtrians. Once the summer capital of the Bombay Presidency during the British Raj, it offers visitors a perfect blend of modernity with old-world charm. Aside from being abound with natural beauty, there's lots you can do here to keep entertained. All parts of the hill station are

Through the length of its state, Maharashtra encompasses a landscape ranging from the steeply rising Western Ghats, all the way down to the seashore of the Arabian Sea. Cradled within is carpeted green mountain walls, are the most stunning hill stations, each with a charm that's all their own. Take a break from the frenzied pace of the city and get away to these oases of calm.

accessible by car, so getting around is no problem, and if you're feeling adventurous, just climb onto a horse and get going. Make your way to Malcolm Peth, the bazaar at the heart of Mahabaleshwar, which has a good mix of hotels, shops and restaurants. Visit Mount Malcolm which was built in 1829 and once served as the Governor's residence, Moraji Castle which was home to Mahatma Gandhi back in 1945, and wind down at the Mahabaleshwar Club in the evening over drinks. During the day you can take the short drive up to Venna Lake and go boating or fishing, and proceed a little further down to Panchgani, and walk through the strawberry fields.

Elon Musk's net worth rises over \$100 million after apology to Donald Trump

New Delhi. Tesla CEO Elon Musk's financial standing received a significant boost, with his net worth climbing by \$191 million to reach \$411.4 billion. This rise in net worth came shortly after Musk publicly expressed regret for his critical social media posts aimed at President Donald Trump. The apology was shared on the social media platform X (formerly Twitter) and marked a potential reconciliation following a brief but heated dispute between the two high-profile figures. Musk's decision to extend an olive branch seemed to resonate well with the market, reflecting positively on his financial status. "I regret some of my posts about President @realDonaldTrump last week. They went too far," Musk said on X.

The conflict between Musk and Trump began when Musk criticised a Trump-backed bill, referring to it as "The Big Ugly Bill." This criticism followed Musk's decision to step down from a government role, which escalated into a series of harsh comments directed at Trump on social media. Some of these remarks were later removed by Musk, including those connecting Trump to controversial figures and calling for his impeachment. The tension between the two was palpable, with Musk's comments drawing significant attention and sparking widespread discussions.

Prior to his public statement, Musk made contact with Trump via a phone call, which reportedly occurred on a Monday. Following Musk's public apology, White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt confirmed that President Trump appreciated the gesture. Trump himself commented on the situation, and said, "I thought it was very nice that he did that." This acknowledgment seemed to play a role in influencing market perceptions, resulting in the increase in Musk's net worth. The apology not only served to mend fences but also highlighted the potential for renewed collaboration or at least a more amicable relationship moving forward.

Got an income tax notice Don't panic, here's how to deal with it

New Delhi. Filing your income tax return might feel like ticking off the last task on your to-do list, but it's not always the end of your tax journey. For many honest taxpayers, the unexpected arrival of an income tax notice in their inbox can trigger anxiety. But before panic sets in, here's the good news! Most of these notices are routine and manageable, provided you respond appropriately and on time. India Today spoke to CA (Dr) Suresh Surana to decode what these notices really mean, why they're sent, and what you should do if one lands your way.

WHY DO TAX NOTICES ARRIVE?

In today's data-driven tax system, the chances of receiving a notice have increased, not because you're doing something wrong, but because the tax department now has greater access to your financial footprint. CA Surana explained, "With enhanced data analytics, information integration (via AIS, TIS, 26AS), and increased reporting obligations, the issuance of notices has become both structured and data-driven." The tax system tracks your financial transactions, like your salary, bank interest, stock trades, and mutual fund investments. If something doesn't match or seems off, a notice might be sent to you for clarification. But this isn't necessarily a sign of wrongdoing. Often, the notice is just a formal nudge asking for more information, missing documents, or explaining a mismatch.

THE MOST COMMON NOTICES – AND WHAT THEY MEAN Section 143(1): Intimation After Return Processing

This is one of the most frequently issued notices and is sent after your return has been processed. It compares your declared income and deductions with the department's own data. If everything matches, no action is needed. But if there's a mismatch, like incorrect TDS or deductions, you may be asked to pay more tax or may receive a refund.

India's AI market set to triple to \$17 billion by 2027: Report

New Delhi. India's artificial intelligence (AI) market is expected to grow more than triple in value to \$17 billion by 2027, according to a report by Boston Consulting Group (BCG). The report, titled "India's AI Leap: BCG Perspective on Emerging Challenges," indicates that the country is set to become one of the fastest-growing AI economies globally. This growth is attributed to burgeoning enterprise tech investments, a robust digital ecosystem, and a significant talent pool. "India is no exception—businesses across sectors are rapidly embracing AI to solve local challenges, scale innovation, and drive competitive advantage. AI is significantly expanding the total addressable market (TAM) by 1.2 to 1.5 times across key Indian sectors, while delivering unmatched efficiencies and speed," the report said. The talent landscape is also projected to see remarkable advancement. Currently, India boasts over 6,00,000 AI professionals, a number expected to rise to 1.25 million by 2027. This positions India as a global leader, second only to the United States, in terms of AI talent, aided by its demographic advantage and a strong pipeline of STEM education. Additionally, public platforms like Aadhaar, UPI, and DigiLocker provide a scalable foundation for AI adoption. With extensive internet usage and smartphone penetration, India generates vast amounts of data, crucial for AI model training. "We're no longer in the realm of hype; real traction is visible, real outcomes are emerging, and serious dollars are starting to flow. AI is not a side project—it's the next growth engine," the report highlighted. AI's impact is increasingly evident across sectors such as finance, healthcare, media, retail, and real estate. Mandee Kohli, Managing Director and Partner at BCG India, highlighted that AI has become a business necessity rather than an option.

Crude oil prices rise sharply on second day amid escalating US-Iran tensions

Crude oil prices experienced a surge of 57 to 5,788 per barrel in futures trading on Thursday

CHENNAI. Crude oil prices rose sharply in the second day amid escalating US-Iran tensions, increasing concerns for India's trade deficit and inflation outlook, which remains sensitive to energy imports. The crude prices experienced a surge of ₹57 to ₹5,788 per barrel in futures trading on Thursday, as traders increased their positions due to strong demand in the physical market. On the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), crude oil for July delivery was up ₹57, or 0.99%,

trading at ₹5,788 per barrel across 11,222 contracts. Key developments contributing to the price increase include US military movements, diplomatic tensions and market volatility. The US initiated a partial evacuation of its embassy in Iraq and authorized voluntary departures from Bahrain and Kuwait due to heightened security concerns. President Donald Trump expressed diminished confidence in reaching a nuclear deal with Iran, emphasizing that Iran must not acquire nuclear weapons. Intelligence reports suggest Israel may be preparing for a potential strike on Iran's nuclear facilities, further escalating unrest. These developments have caused significant volatility in energy markets, with analysts noting that the oil price rally might be an overreaction but still reflects the market's anxiety.

Impact on India

India, as the world's third-largest importer and consumer of crude oil, is particularly sensitive to fluctuations in global oil

prices. The recent rise in oil prices poses several challenges: India's merchandise trade deficit widened to \$21.54 billion in March 2025, up from \$15.6 billion in the



same period last year. Imports surged by 11.4% annually to \$63.51 billion, despite the relatively low price of fuel that makes up a large portion of India's foreign purchases.

The rise in oil prices has led to a significant increase in India's oil import bill. The Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell

(PPAC) data shows that India's crude oil imports rose 4.2% annually to 242.4 million tonnes (MT) in FY25, up from 232.7 MT in FY24, while import dependency edged up to 88.2% from 87.8% during the same period.

Higher oil prices contribute to inflationary pressures, impacting the Consumer Price Index (CPI). Analysts estimate that every \$10 rise in crude oil prices widens India's current account deficit by 0.55% and pushes up the CPI by 0.3%, as oil constitutes a major share of the country's import bill.

Market Outlook

According to sector analysts the current geopolitical tensions and rising oil prices have introduced significant volatility into the global oil market. While OPEC's spare production capacity and the fact that global crude supplies have yet to be disrupted by the Middle East unrest provide some cushion, the situation remains fluid. Analysts caution that the oil price rally might be an overreaction but still reflects the market's anxiety.

PM-Kisan 20th instalment: When will farmers get the next Rs 2,000

New Delhi. The Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-Kisan) scheme is a crucial financial support initiative for farmers in India, offering an annual sum of Rs 6,000 distributed in three equal instalments. The scheme's 20th instalment is highly awaited following the previous disbursement made in February 2025.

As per media reports, the next instalment is likely to be credited on 20 June 2025. However, there's no official confirmation from the government yet. Farmers are advised to keep checking the official PM-Kisan website for updates.

WHAT IS THE PM-KISAN YOJANA?

The PM-Kisan scheme is a central sector initiative fully funded by the government, ensuring that landholding farmer families receive steady financial assistance. It provides income support of Rs 6,000 a year to eligible farmers. The money is paid in three equal parts of Rs 2,000, directly into the farmers' bank accounts.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO GET THE PM-KISAN MONEY?



To qualify for this benefit, farmers must meet several criteria: they need to be Indian citizens, possess cultivable land with valid records, and not be income tax payers or employed in government or public sector roles. Additionally, linking their Aadhaar number to their bank account is essential. Completing the eKYC process is compulsory to receive the instalment; farmers can do this online at pmkisan.gov.in by using the "e-KYC" option.

HOW TO CHECK YOUR PM-KISAN BENEFICIARY STATUS

For farmers wishing to verify their status in the PM-Kisan scheme, the official website provides a straightforward process. By visiting the "Farmers Corner" section and clicking on "Beneficiary Status", farmers can check their payment history and current eligibility by entering their Aadhaar or registration numbers. This transparency allows beneficiaries to stay informed about their benefits and any updates regarding the scheme.

Google offers buyout plans amid AI-focused overhaul: Report

Google is now giving some employees the option to leave the company with a severance package. This is being called a "voluntary exit programme", as per reports.

New Delhi. Google has started offering voluntary buyouts to employees in several teams, including those working in its Knowledge and Information (K&I) unit, which includes its Search and Ads divisions, reported CNBC.

This move is part of ongoing efforts to downsize its workforce, a strategy the tech giant has been employing since its notable layoffs in 2023 that affected 12,000 employees. The exact number of employees impacted by this latest buyout offer remains unconfirmed by Google. However, the buyouts are part of a broader initiative to streamline operations as the company continues to allocate resources towards enhancing its artificial intelligence infrastructure.

WHAT IS THIS NEW BUYOUT OFFER? Instead of laying people off, Google is now giving some employees the option to leave the company with a

severance package. This is being called a "voluntary exit programme" (VEP). The company confirmed that the programme is meant for employees in



the US, while some teams are asking remote workers living within 50 miles of an office to return part-time under a hybrid model to encourage more in-person collaboration, mentioned the report.

WHAT DOES THE MANAGEMENT SAY?

Dollar dream vs reality: Why Rs 80 lakh in US salary not as big as it sounds

New Delhi. Have you ever felt tempted by the big paycheques your relatives or friends boast about after moving abroad? A recent LinkedIn post by a Shubham Chakraborty, an upcoming author, has sparked a fresh conversation about whether those impressive-sounding dollar salaries are really worth it when compared with life in India. He wrote, "Next time your cousin/friend who has settled in the US says he makes Rs 80 lakhs a year, tell them you only need Rs 23 Lakhs to match their lifestyle in India. This is how Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) works." He argued that one needs only Rs 23 Lakhs in India to match the lifestyle of someone earning Rs 80 Lakhs in the US, thanks to the concept of Purchasing Power Parity (PPP). This



perspective challenges the common notion that higher salaries abroad automatically translate to a better lifestyle.

UNDERSTANDING PPP

PPP is a method used by economists to compare what money can actually buy in different countries. Instead of just converting currencies using exchange rates, PPP looks at local costs, like rent, food, internet bills, and other everyday expenses. For instance, PPP compares

what you can buy for a certain amount of money in India versus what the same amount can get you elsewhere, like in the US. Chakraborty further wrote, "Many people don't think about PPP when considering job offers or moving to another country. But it can be helpful. For example, if you have two job offers - one for 30 Lakhs rupees in India and another for 80 Lakhs rupees in the US - PPP can help you compare them fairly." He shared everyday comparisons to explain the idea. For instance, a restaurant meal costing Rs 300 in India would cost Rs 1,700 in the US, while internet bills might increase from Rs 700 to Rs 6,000. Similarly, rent for comparable housing can jump from Rs 50,000 to Rs 1.6 lakh. These comparisons reveal how costs can significantly vary.

India to tighten remittance rules, bar offshore time deposits: Report

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will amend regulations to prevent overseas transfers from being used to park money in time deposits or other interest-bearing accounts abroad, one of the sources said.

New Delhi. India's central bank plans to tighten rules for overseas remittances by resident Indians, barring them from holding foreign currency deposits with lock-in periods, two government sources said. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will amend regulations to prevent overseas transfers from being used to park money in time deposits or other interest-bearing accounts abroad, one of the sources said. "This is akin to passive wealth shifting, which is a red flag for the RBI in a still-controlled capital regime," the first source familiar with the thinking of the central bank said. The proposed changes reflect India's cautious stance on a rise in outward

remittances and full convertibility of the rupee, as authorities strive to safeguard foreign exchange reserves and manage currency volatility, the sources said.

Overseas investments by individuals fall under the central bank's Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS) — which allows resident Indians to remit up to \$250,000 in a single year — for purposes ranging from foreign education, travel, equity and debt investments to medical treatments. While discussions with the government are ongoing, the RBI aims to ensure such deposits cannot be made even under alternate names, the second source said. Both sources declined to be identified due to the confidentiality of the talks. The finance ministry and the RBI did not respond to emailed requests for comment. The move is part of a comprehensive review of the legal framework governing the scheme to simplify the regulations, a priority highlighted by the central bank in its annual report. RBI data showed that deposits under outward remittances by



resident individuals rose sharply to \$173.2 million in March from \$51.62 million in February. Outward remittances typically spike in March as it allows residents to maximise their annual limits and optimise taxes, making it the busiest month under LRS but the RBI is concerned that a portion of this may be getting passively parked.

For financial year 2024/25, total annual outward remittances under the scheme dipped but remained high at nearly \$30

billion compared with \$31 billion a year ago. The sources did not disclose the amount currently held in foreign currency deposit accounts, but said the move is "preventative". India's outward remittances under the scheme have steadily increased, particularly as fintech platforms and private banks have made global investing easier for retail investors.

"The move addresses a growing misuse of the scheme as a vehicle for passive capital export," the second source said. "It also aligns the scheme more closely with India's calibrated approach to capital account convertibility." India has remained cautious on allowing unrestricted outflows, partly to preserve its foreign exchange reserves and manage currency volatility. The revised rules will not affect permissible foreign investments in equities, mutual funds or property under the LRS, the second source said.

Sonam Kapoor

Melts Hearts As Son Vayu Feeds Her Birthday Cake, See Adorable Pic

Sonam Kapoor celebrated her 40th birthday recently with an intimate celebration on June 8 in Mumbai. The star-studded guest list included Kareena Kapoor Khan, Saif Ali Khan, Karisma Kapoor, Swara Bhaskar, Arjun Kapoor, Khushi Kapoor, Bhumi Pednekar and filmmaker Karan Johar and others. And now she shared another adorable photo featuring her son Vayu. Taking to her Instagram stories, Sonam Kapoor shared photo in which Vayu is feeding her birthday cake. Sonam Kapoor and Anand Ahuja tied the knot in May 2018 after two years of dating. The couple welcomed their first child, Vayu Kapoor Ahuja, in August 2022. Her sister Rhea Kapoor also wrote a note for her.

Her husband Anand Ahuja also shared photo and also penned a sweet note, "Spend

each day trying to be a little wiser than you were when you woke up. Day by day, and at the end of the day. You will get out of life what you deserve.' Everyday Phenomenal, to my baby who is always, with every day, more giving, more thoughtful, more caring. You deserve all the blessings. It's impossible to express the volume of my love for you! Love you, Sonam Kapoor." On the work front, Sonam Kapoor was last seen in the thriller film Blind, which also marked her acting comeback after welcoming her baby boy, Vayu. Directed by Shome Makhija, the film also stars Purab Kohli, Vinay Pathak, Lilette Dubey and Shubham Saraf in key roles.

The story revolves around Gia, a blind former Scottish police officer who becomes the target of a psychotic serial killer. Relying on her instincts and detective skills, she must track him down with the help of a fellow detective. As of now, Sonam Kapoor has not officially announced her next project. However, reports suggest she may be seen in the upcoming drama film Battle of Bittora, an adaptation of Anuja Chauhan's novel of the same name.

If confirmed, this would mark her second collaboration with Chauhan after the 2019 adaptation of The Zoya Factor.



Balika Badhu Star Avika Gor Gets Engaged To Former MTV Roadies Contestant Milind Chandwani



Avika Gor and Milind Chandwani are officially engaged! The actress took to Instagram to share heartwarming, intimate photos and their happiness shines through them. In one photo, Avika, graceful in a blush pink saree, gently kisses Milind on the cheek while he beams with joy. In another, the two are seen laughing together, hands clasped, amid a dreamy garden backdrop—perfectly capturing the magic of their special evening.

and screamed the easiest YES of my life! I'm full filmy — background score, slow-mo dreams, mascara running and all. He's logic, calm, and "let's carry a first-aid kit just in case." I manifest drama. He manages it. And somehow, we just... Fit. So when he asked, the heroine in me took over — arms in the air, tears in my eyes, and zero network in my brain. Because real love? It may not always be perfect. But, It Is. Magical. #Engaged #Rokafied."

Who is Avika Gor's fiancé, Milind Chandwani?

Milind Chandwani is a social activist and entrepreneur. He is the founder of the NGO Camp Diaries, which empowers underprivileged children by providing creative and skill-based exposure. Milind holds an MBA from IIM Ahmedabad and began his career as a software engineer at Infosys. He rose to public prominence as a contestant on MTV Roadies Real Heroes in 2019. Apart from his activism, he has served as an assistant school principal.

Who Is Avika Gor?

Avika Gor became a household name across India with her breakthrough role as young Anandi in Balika Vadhu, a socially impactful television series that earned her widespread acclaim at a very young age. Her portrayal of the child bride in the show sparked national conversations and showcased her exceptional talent early in life. She later appeared in shows like Sasural Simar Ka, where she played the lead role of Roli, further solidifying her position as one of Indian television's most well-known and beloved young actresses. In recent years, Avika has also ventured into regional cinema, including Telugu films.

Genelia D'Souza Opens Up On Her Career Break: 'It's What I Wanted To Do'



Genelia D'Souza is all set to make her big-screen comeback after a hiatus of three years with the upcoming sports drama, Sitaare Zameen Par. Directed by RS Prasanna, the film also features Aamir Khan in the lead and will be released on the big screens on June 20. Ahead of its release, the actress sat for an interview and talked about her decision to take a 10-year break from acting and the limelight after her marriage to Riteish Deshmukh. During a conversation with Zoom, Genelia said, "Most people ask me if it's easy to step away from the limelight for 10 years and I said, 'It's what I wanted to do, so I did it.' I saw a place after 10 years and I am happy in that place. I may not do 10 films, I may do three films, but my happiness is with that and that's what matters the most."

She added, "I think that both of us (she and Riteish) being from the industry, I honestly feel it's easier because I understand what matters. It can be very alarming for someone who's not from the industry because we sometimes have such erratic call sheets and call times like you have to shoot some things at night."

Not that I am saying it's impossible, but I think for someone from the industry, I get it faster than maybe someone not from here. It's been a fantastic ride, I wouldn't have it any other way."

Genelia took a break from acting in 2012 after tying the knot with Riteish. She made her acting comeback with the Marathi film Ved. Released in 2022, the film was directed by Riteish himself and turned out to be a hit. However, the actress made cameo appearances in films like Jai Ho and Force 2.

Coming back to Sitaare Zameen Par, the film is an official Hindi remake of a Spanish film, Campeones and follows the story of a basketball coach who is forced to train a team of differently abled children for a tournament. The film is a spiritual successor to Aamir's 2007 drama film Taare Zameen Par.

'Sath Main, Please'

Rasha Thadani

Abhay Verma Happily Pose For Paparazzi

Rasha Thadani and Abhay Verma are all set to collaborate for the first time in Saurabh Gupta's directorial debut in the features section, Layka, Layki, after his significant writing work for the Ranbir Kapoor-starrer Animal. The upcoming action film will feature the new-age actors in reportedly lead roles. Although not much has been confirmed by the makers, the duo's social media camaraderie has been hinting towards the movie's development. Recently, they were spotted coming out from one of their hangout spots.



In a video on Instagram, Rasha Thadani and Abhay Verma were spotted exiting an undisclosed place one by one alongside their team members.

As the diva came out initially, she was seen pointing towards Verma, her team and even called him to pose with her for the paps stationed over there. Afterwards, they flaunted their widest smiles and merrily looked into the lenses while waist-hugging each other. Then, showing off her down-to-earth nature, Rasha jumped inside her car after expressing her

gratitude towards the shutterbugs.

Additionally, the duo was seen twinning in shades of black, shedding pure fashion inspiration for comfortable yet stylish summer looks. While Rasha opted for a full-sleeved black top with a pair of flared pants, Verma looked handsome in a striped black and white T-shirt with matching denims. The diva completed her look for the day with open tresses, subtle makeup and black sunglasses.

Soon after the video surfaced online, their fans flooded the comment section by dropping heartfelt reactions. One user mentioned, "They look so cute together," while another person stated, "Woawwww." Someone added, "They look so good together." Ahead of this, when Verma dropped a carousel featuring glimpses from his visit to Jispa, a scenic village in Himachal Pradesh, Rasha dropped a blue heart in the comment section, radiating the warmth of their friendship.

Coming to their respective work front, Verma rose to fame with his appearance in the popular TV series, The Family Man, which features Manoj Bajpayee in the lead role as a secret intelligence officer. Since then, the actor has been showing off his versatile acting skills in multiple series — the horror-comedy Munjya opposite

Sharvari Wagh and thriller drama Ae Watan Mere Watan, and movies like Safed, Uljhe Hue, Mann Bairagi, Meri Pehli Bike and others. On the other hand, Rasha Thadani made her acting debut in the film Azaad alongside Ajay Devgn's nephew Aaman Devgan.

Although the movie didn't perform well at the box office, Raveen Tandon's daughter garnered immense praise for her dance in the item number Uyi Amma.



NEWS BOX

Shubman Gill gets called 'self-obsessed' by fans for having 'Prince' engraving on bat

Star India batter Shubman Gill is being slammed for using 'Prince' engraving on his new bat. Gill unveiled his new willow ahead of the upcoming England series as the BCCI (Board of Control for Cricket in India) shared photographs from a special captain's photoshoot, where Gill posed wearing the India captain's blazer and cap.

The star batter also flaunted his new bat, which he used during the recently concluded Indian Premier League 2025 (IPL 2025). The bat, having the 'Prince' engraving, caught the attention of fans as the new India Test captain is set to use it for the first time in international cricket. Gill is often called the Prince of Indian cricket, being touted as the next poster boy of the Indian cricket team after Virat Kohli. However, his self-proclamation of the title hasn't gone down well with fans as he's being widely slammed. Gill was appointed as India's 37th Test skipper, following the sudden retirement of Rohit Sharma, ahead of the England tour. The 24-year-old has led India



in five T20Is in 2024 on the tour of Zimbabwe, where the team emerged victorious by 4-1. Gill has played 32 Test matches in his career so far and scored 1893 runs at an average of 35.05 with five hundreds and seven fifties to his name. The 25-year-old has a tough challenge ahead of him to lead the Indian side on the challenging tour of England. The young batting star doesn't have a memorable record away from India as he's scored just 88 runs from three Tests played in England with a highest score of 28. He will be heading into the tour on the back of great form in the recently concluded IPL 2025. The Gujarat Titans (GT) captain finished as the fourth-highest run scorer of the tournament, having accumulated 650 runs from 15 innings at an average of 50 with six half-centuries to his name. Gill forged a formidable opening partnership with Sai Sudharsan, who finished as the leading run scorer of the season with 759 runs from 15 innings.

Start fighting every ball: Shubman Gill, Gautam Gambhir huddle talk before England Tests

New Delhi. India coach Gautam Gambhir and new Test captain Shubman Gill had an inspiration huddle talk with the squad ahead of the start of their England tour. India now have a full squad at their disposal as the India A vs England Lions matches came to an end.

Ahead of the practice session, Gambhir welcomed the newcomers Sai Sudharsan and Arshdeep Singh to the squad before paying a tribute to the comeback man Karun Nair. He also congratulated Gill for being appointed as captain. The India coach then told the squad that there were two ways to look at the upcoming series. Gambhir said the first one would be to view it as one without their three most-experienced campaigners in Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli and R Ashwin or to see at as a chance to do something special for the country. The India coach said that the squad can make it a special tour if they can make sacrifices and come out of their comfort zone. "All I want to say is there are two ways of looking at this tour. One is that we are without three of our most experienced



players, or we've got this phenomenal opportunity to do something special for the country. And when I look around this squad, I think there is hunger, passion, and commitment to do something special. I think if we make sacrifices, if we come out of our comfort zone, if we start fighting not every day, but every session, every hour and every ball, I think we can have a memorable tour. So make sure we start that from today only. I think start enjoying playing for the country because there's no bigger honour," said Gambhir.

'It's not going out there and survive'

Gill delivered his message on making sure each net session will be meaningful. The new India captain said that he wants the team to put a bit of pressure on themselves and play with purpose on each delivery. "Let's make each and every net session meaningful. Let's prepare like that, and let's put ourselves under a little bit of pressure when you're going out there. It's not about going out there and survive."

Mitchell Starc's big match temperament in WTC Final leaves Dale Steyn in awe

➔ **Mitchell Starc turned the tide in Australia's favour by dismissing both openers**

➔ **Starc registered figures of 2/10 and removed Aiden Markram and Ryan Rickelton**

➔ **Dale Steyn sees Starc making his big-game performances a habit**



WTC Final 2025 against South Africa. Speaking for JioStar as a panel expert, Steyn first explained how the 35-year-old was able to get those two early wickets, which turned the tide back in Australia's favour. The quick bowler ended up getting Markram out in the first over with a classic inswinger that ended up crashing onto the stumps. A couple of overs later, Rickelton was his next victim as he got the edge to the slips, from the delivery moving away from

the left-handed batter. "He's really quick through the air, and I certainly think he rushes a lot of batsmen. When you're a bit nervous and your feet aren't moving the way you want—just like Aiden Markram—he was caught in the crease, unsure whether to go forward or not. Starc had already gone past the bat a few times, maybe even beaten him on the inside edge once or twice," said Steyn. "Then Rickelton decided he could hit it through the covers, and the best Test

bowlers in the world have this ability to pull their length back just slightly. A batter thinks he's got it covered, but then it kicks up, moves just a little more, finds the edge. That's what Starc, Cummins, and Hazlewood have done so well over the years," he added. The fast-bowling legend also highlighted how he has been able to put in similar performances in the big matches. He pointed out how his continuous performances have also made it a habitual process, which he can recreate time and again. "But it's also about big-match temperament. He's done it before, he believes he can do it again—and when he does, it becomes a habit. He also builds a reputation. He gets the backing of his captain. We know how he's going to do it, and if you look at his wickets, they're all very similar," Steyn concluded.

By the end of the first day's play, Starc's twin blows alongside a wicket each for Pat Cummins and Josh Hazlewood have put South Africa under the pump. Whilst there are four more days to go, the Aussies will fancy their chances of retaining the title and adding another crown to their collection.

Beau Webster looked completely ready in WTC Final: Ricky Ponting praises all-rounder

New Delhi Ricky Ponting heaped praise on Beau Webster for his brilliant knock during Day 1 of the World Test Championship final between Australia and South Africa on Wednesday, June 11. Webster top scored for the Aussies with 72 runs as they posted 212 runs on the board in the first innings on Wednesday.

Webster came in during a tricky period as Australia had lost Travis Head just before lunch with the score at 67 for four. The all-rounder did have a lucky break when South Africa didn't go for a review against him and he paid them pay with his knock off 92 balls. Speaking to the ICC, Ponting said that the scoreboard would have looked a lot different without Webster's contributions. "You take those 70 odd runs out, that scorecard looks a



whole lot different," Ricky Ponting told ICC Digital after Australia's first innings.

'Webster is comfortable with his own game'

Ponting said that he feels Webster is a lot more comfortable with his own game right now. The former Aussie skipper said that the thing he liked about Webster's knock was that he maintained his own natural style of play and went about things by trying to be aggressive and put some pressure back on the South African bowlers. "I think that says a lot about how comfortable he is in his own game right now and even the comfort he has of being in the Australian middle order." "The thing I liked about that today was, although Australia were in a little bit of trouble, wickets were falling (Webster) was able to go out there and maintain his own natural style of play and play the way that he wanted to play and try and be aggressive and try and put some pressure back on the South African bowlers," said Ponting.

Gael Monfils hits back at angry bettors: We both know I'm s**t, yet you bet on me

Gael Monfils responded strongly to abusive social media comments following his Stuttgart Open defeat. He condemned racial abuse and urged trolls to keep his family out of their anger.



New Delhi Gael Monfils hit back at angry bettors who flooded his social media with abuse after his loss in the first round of the Stuttgart Open. The 38-year-old was the underdog in his match against Alex Michelsen, the No. 7 seed, but put up a good performance before losing 6-4 4-6 6-3.

The loss didn't sit well with some of the punters and they decided to abuse Monfils on social media, with some even saying that they wished that he suffered a leg break or a

career-ending injury. The Frenchman decided to go at the trolls in an Instagram story and launched a scathing rant on the bettors. Monfils said in hilarious fashion he knew he was 's**t' and yet people decided to bet on him and questioned their wisdom. "Hey guys, it's not financial advice, but really, you're still betting on me? First

tournament on grass, I play Alex Michelsen, 20 years old, and you wanna bet on me?" Monfils started. "You are writing that I'm s**t. I know I'm s**t. We both know I'm s**t and you still bet on me? Who is the dumbest between you and me, to be honest? No, come on." "By the way, my legs already cracked many times. I've played with a broken leg already. So don't pray for that, but the thing is, I'm not suffering, sorry!" Monfils also brought out the racial abuse bit and asked what does his skin colour have to do with his performance. The Frenchman claimed that he knows he is pretty as his mother and wife Elina Svitolina have told him the same. "Again, I'm going to mention it, we are in 2025 and you give me the skin colour. What does my skin colour have to do with my tennis performance?"

"I know I look pretty. I mean, I say that because my mom and my wife tell me I look pretty. Maybe I look really awful for you. Open some books, do something. This time, you know with skin colour, you know it's finished, vanish it from your mind."

Neither Shubman Gill nor Nair: Ex-coach suggests new No. 3 options for England Tests

Sanjay Bangar feels that neither Shubman Gill nor Karun Nair will be playing at No.3 for India during the Test series against England. Bangar feels that it could be a toss-up between two potential debutants for the spot.

New Delhi. Former India batting coach Sanjay Bangar feels that neither Shubman Gill nor Karun Nair will be in the No.3 position, and it could be a toss-up between Sai Sudharsan and Abhimanyu Easwaran. India had heavy-duty batting practice sessions on June 8 and 9, which gave away a few clues about how the batting order could be for the England series. On both occasions, new India Test captain Shubman Gill went up against Jasprit Bumrah and a lot of care

and attention from the management went to Sai Sudharsan. During the fourth day of practice when the entire squad was available, KL Rahul and Yashasvi Jaiswal went up in the nets followed by Karun Nair and Gill. The third net was occupied by Rishabh Pant and Dhruv Jurel. This may



have been a clear indication of what the top 6 might look like, at least in the first Test. However, Bangar feels that neither Gill nor Karun will be at No.3. He also felt that

Karun should be batting a bit lower down the order. The former India batting coach feels that Gill will be batting at No.4.

I think none of them in my book (Gill or Karun at No. 3?). If at all Karun is playing, he would bat slightly lower down the order. All indications are that Shubman Gill may bat at No. 4. So the toss up at No. 3 is going to be

between Sai Sudharsan and Abhimanyu Easwaran. Easwaran also got a good score in one of the practice matches they played. Bangar also said that Pant will bat at No.5 with Karun coming at No.6, while one of Sudharsan or Easwaran will come in at No.3. "I don't think there is going to be any difference there. One of those two will play at No. 3. No. 4 will be Shubman Gill and No 5 will be Rishabh Pant and No. 6 will be Karun Nair. That's my understanding of the situation," said Bangar.

Marnus Labuschagne makes Kevin Pietersen frustrated: Not there to leave ball all day

Kevin Pietersen was left frustrated by Marnus Labuschagne's batting intent on Day 1 of the World Test Championship final between Australia and South Africa on Wednesday, June 11. Labuschagne was timid with his approach and left a lot of deliveries.

New Delhi. Marnus Labuschagne's timid batting during the first innings of the World Test Championship final Day 1 on Wednesday, June 11 left Kevin Pietersen frustrated on commentary. Labuschagne, who was promoted as an opener for the WTC Final, showed a lack of intent during the first



session, which was a tricky period for Australia as they lost two wickets quickly. But once Steve Smith came in to bat, he was seen trying to get runs quickly and raced to a

score of 17 off just 28 deliveries. For context, it was the same score that Labuschagne was batting on after facing 49 deliveries. He was ultimately dismissed for the same score off

56 deliveries. During that time, Pietersen was on commentary and criticised the Australian opener. The former England skipper said that Marnus has the ability to hit the ball well but his mindset was holding him back. "You see a lot of leaving from Marnus... Steve Smith is not going to let you go, and that's why he is one of the great players," Pietersen said in commentary. "Just on Marnus here, it is actually quite frustrating to watch. He has the ability to hit the ball really well if his body goes towards the ball, if his head goes toward the ball." "I just think it's a mindset. He has the ability, he has the eyes, he has the technique, but I just think he needs to change the way he's thinking at the moment."

'Batters are out there to score runs' Pietersen said that batters are out there to score runs and you cannot afford to leave the ball all day. The former England captain feels that such an approach will leave you vulnerable and the bowlers can work you over.