



Deraism and Political Patronage: A Growing Threat to Sikh Principles



The Sikh Times
Gurcharan Singh Babbar

In recent years, the ever-expanding influence of Deraism has posed a severe challenge to the spiritual integrity and traditions of the Sikh community not just in Punjab, but across the Indian subcontinent. What was once a marginal

phenomenon has now taken deep root, largely due to political patronage, internal weaknesses, and the silence of key leaders in established Sikh political institutions such as the Shiromani Akali Dal. These self-proclaimed godmen, dressed in the robes of fake spirituality, not only contradict the core tenets of Sikhism but also mimic the sacred legacy of Dhan Dhan Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji Maharaj. By appropriating Sikh symbols, quoting Gurbani, and exploiting the innocence of vulnerable

devotees, these followings and closed doors, many of them live lives riddled with moral corruption and deception. Yet they continue to present themselves as "Mahapuraks" or divine men. One of the most troubling aspects of this

phenomenon is the tacit support these Deras receive from political leaders including top figures in the Shiromani Akali Dal. These leaders, driven by vote bank politics, choose not to speak out against Deras even when their actions directly undermine the Sikh maryada (code of conduct) and historical traditions. Sources within the community suggest that large financial transactions occur in secrecy, enabling these Babas to buy silence and loyalty.



It is deeply unfortunate that some Akali leaders go as far as attending Dera events, thereby legitimizing these anti-Sikh establishments and insulting the Guru Ghar. The desperation for votes has blinded many of them to the grave insult they inflict upon the Sikh heritage and spiritual authority of Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji. [continue news page 02](#)

"Rekha Gupta: A Visionary Leader Transforming Delhi with Grounded Passion"



The Sikh Times
Simmi Kaur Babbar
Since taking the oath as the Chief Minister of Delhi, Shrimati Rekha Gupta has emerged as a dynamic and deeply committed public servant one who has infused the Delhi administration with new energy, vision, and action. From the very first day in office, Rekha Gupta has made it clear that for her, governance is not just a responsibility, it is a mission. Every morning, she starts her day

early, directly engaging with public grievances through FIR reviews, departmental meetings, and surprise visits across the capital. Her leadership is not confined to her office walls—she is seen regularly on the ground, inspecting civic issues, meeting residents, and directing officials to act promptly. One of her strongest assets is her deep grassroots connection with Delhi's people. Born and brought up in Delhi, Shrimati Rekha Gupta knows the pulse of

the city, its neighborhoods, its struggles, and its potential. She is well aware of the real problems, from sanitation to safety, and she has taken bold steps to begin addressing them systematically. Her government has taken rapid strides in various sectors:
*Cleanliness and Beautification: Intensive drives for garbage clearance, beautification of public parks, and street lighting are now being implemented under her direct monitoring. [continue news page 02](#)

7 killed in helicopter crash in Uttarakhand, 5th such incident in last 6 weeks

New Delhi. A helicopter belonging to Aryan Aviation, flying from Kedarnath Dham to Guptkashi, has crashed in the jungles of Gaurikund, leading to the deaths of 7 people, including the pilot. This is the fifth helicopter crash in the state in the last six weeks.

A high-level emergency meeting is currently underway in Dehradun to review the circumstances surrounding the tragic helicopter crash that occurred early Sunday morning in the Kedar Valley, Uttarakhand. Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami is chairing the meeting, which includes top officials such as the Chief Secretary, Secretary of Tourism and Civil Aviation, Secretary of Disaster Management, and representatives from the Uttarakhand Civil Aviation Development Authority (UCADA), Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), and the Directorate of Information. Several field officials also attended the meeting via video conferencing.

The meeting aims to assess preliminary details of the crash, review safety protocols, and ensure a swift, coordinated response. Following the accident, heli services across the Char Dham

in the Char Dham region have been suspended until further notice. The decision was jointly taken by UCADA (Uttarakhand Civil Aviation Development Authority) and DGCA (Directorate General of Civil Aviation).

Passengers on board the helicopter included: Rajveer – Pilot, Vikram Rawat, Vinod, Trishtri Singh, Rajkumar, Shraddha, Rashi – a 10-year-old girl. Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami expressed grief over the incident, saying on X, "This morning, a helicopter crashed due to bad weather. I pray to God for those who lost their lives. An emergency meeting has been called immediately, in which instructions have been given that the rules of our DGCA (Directorate General of Civil Aviation) should not be violated.

Dhami further said that pilots flying in the upper Himalayan areas should have experience of the region. Aviation companies should also ensure this. A control and command centre should be set up. Strict action will be taken against the culprits in this accident.

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The aircraft came down within seconds of going airborne, crashing into a building inside the BJ Medical College campus in the Meghanagar locality, just over a kilometre from the airport runway. A fireball followed the impact, severely damaging the hostel building and killing multiple persons on the ground, including several MBBS students.

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"Rekha Gupta: A Visionary Leader Transforming Delhi with Grounded Passion"

***Women's Safety and Empowerment:** New women's helplines, increased patrolling near schools and colleges, and plans for women-only buses during late hours are under progress.

***Health and Education:** The cabinet is working round the clock to restore trust in government schools and health centers with fresh infrastructure and better staff management.

Most notably, her leadership has begun to inspire confidence among Delhi's citizens. People are openly discussing how "Rekha Gupta is here to change Delhi for the better." Her Cabinet is also praised for being proactive and responsive. Ministers under her guidance are often seen working at grassroots levels, aligning with the Chief Minister's hands-on governance model.

A key trait that sets Rekha Gupta apart is her fearlessness. She does not shy away from criticism or opposition. Instead of reacting politically, she continues to focus on delivering results. She believes that real work speaks louder than words.

In just a few months, her honest efforts, hard work, and dedication have rekindled hope in Delhi's governance. The people now believe that with Rekha Gupta at the helm, Delhi can truly become a world-class

***Anti-Corruption Push:** Shrimati Gupta has declared a zero-tolerance policy against corruption in any government department. Crackdowns on bribery and irregularities have already begun, with public complaints being taken seriously. city—beautiful, efficient, and just.

Deraism and Political Patronage: A Growing Threat to Sikh Principles

The strategy behind these Deras is not random. Most operate like well-oiled organizations or syndicates, equipped with public relations teams, financial advisors, and a structured internal "gang" that formulates outreach and manipulation strategies. Their ultimate goal is not spiritual salvation, but influence, wealth, and political protection. This is not just a cultural concern. Deraism is a systematic, well-thought-out conspiracy to erode the foundations of Sikhism. It weakens the Sikh Panth's unity, dilutes its spiritual clarity, and challenges the sovereignty of Sri Akal Takht Sahib, the highest temporal seat of Sikh authority.

The Sikh community must now stand united and reject all leaders especially those from the Akali ranks who attend Dera congregations or endorse these fraudulent spiritual institutions in any form. True Sikh leadership cannot be silent while charlatans mislead the Sangat and insult the Guru's teachings.

In light of this dangerous trend, it is imperative that Singh Sahib, the Jathedar of Sri Akal Takht Sahib, as well as members of the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) and Akali leadership, issue strict directions to all Sikh representatives: no engagement with Deras that undermine Sikh values must be tolerated.

The time has come for the Sikh Panth to awaken. Expose the frauds. Boycott the opportunists. Defend the Guru's legacy.

Intermittent rain in Bengaluru, red alert for coastal region



BENGALURU. Bengaluru received light to moderate showers on Saturday. According to India Meteorological Department (IMD), Bengaluru Urban and Rural districts are likely to receive intermittent rain, accompanied by gusty winds reaching speeds of up to 50 km/hour till June 16.

With southwest monsoon active over Karnataka, the city is experiencing increased moisture and atmospheric instability. Although no warning has been issued for Bengaluru, IMD has issued a red alert for Coastal Karnataka for June 15.

Bengaluru Urban and Rural districts are likely to see cloudy skies. The intensity of rainfall is expected to ease slightly from June 17, with light to moderate showers continuing through June 18. According to IMD's five-day forecast, Bengaluru will have overcast skies and scattered rain.

For other places in Karnataka, particularly coastal districts such as Dakshina Kannada, Udupi, and Uttara Kannada, IMD has issued a red alert with widespread heavy to very heavy rainfall. Agumbe in Shivamogga district received the highest rainfall of 11cm on Saturday. IMD has also forecast heavy rain for Kodagu, Shivamogga and Chikkamagaluru districts. For the coming week, IMD has forecast widespread rain over coastal Karnataka, with intense showers and strong winds persisting until June 17. North-interior districts such as Belagavi, Dharwad and Gadag are expected to receive heavy rain over the next three days. It is likely to recede by June 19 and 20. South-interior districts such as Shivamogga, Kodagu and Chikkamagaluru are expected to receive very heavy rainfall through midweek, and moderate rain may continue till the weekend. Rainfall is expected to decline gradually across the state from June 21.

Homemakers hit the right note with summer music course

Course coordinators Sandhyarani and Nayeem Pasha ensured the smooth conduct of the 42-day programme and monitored student progress.

HANAMKONDA. Amid the summer heat, a different kind of intensity gripped the classrooms of Hanamkonda. Homemakers, balancing the weight of deferred dreams and the demands of childcare, stepped into a 42-day crucible: the special Teacher Training Certificate Course (TTCC) in music. From May 1 to June 12, they compressed a year's worth of learning into a relentless sprint, trading familiar routines for the disciplined rigour of Carnatic vocal training. Driven by the hope of securing government teaching posts, these women, many accompanied by their children, poured themselves into each rag and rhythm, determined to reshape their futures, one note at a time. The certificate they pursued wasn't just paper; it was a promise of economic security, professional recognition and long-overdue empowerment.

Twelve women and three men attended the course. Speaking to TNIE, G Vani, a participant

from Hyderabad district, shares: "It's not easy to master a year's worth of curriculum in just 42 days. But our mentor, Vaddiraju Nivedita, made

opportunity. Instead of spending holidays on routine chores, we invested our time learning Hindustani music. We've gained as much as regular students. I'm proud of our mentor, who taught everything from the basics to raga alapana using practical examples." Soujanya adds that although many of the women have already studied at music colleges, the TTCC certificate gives them an edge in qualifying for teaching posts at government gurukul schools. Meanwhile, a male student, K Bharath, says he was grateful for the "marvellous teaching" by Guru Nivedita. Speaking to Nivedita shares, "This course has been a gamechanger for many. Earlier TTCC batches saw students secure placements in Gurukul schools, while others found their calling in music as a profession."

Course coordinators Sandhyarani and Nayeem Pasha ensured the smooth conduct of the 42-day programme and monitored student progress.



From daily wagers to entrepreneurs: tribal women of Bhadrachalam lead millet and sanitary revolution

Eight tribal women received training at Rajendranagar, Hyderabad, and began producing a range of biscuits made of millets, including foxtail, little millet, kodo millet, finger millet and jowar.

KHAMMAM. What started with eight women and a bag of millets in Bhadrachalam is rippling through the tribal community. Trained by the Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA), these former daily wagers now run a dual enterprise: crafting nutrient-packed biscuits sold near the temple and manufacturing vital sanitary napkins supplied to schools. Their success isn't just income; it's a beacon inspiring countless others.

Eight tribal women received training at Rajendranagar, Hyderabad, and began producing a range of biscuits made of millets, including foxtail, little millet, kodo millet, finger millet and jowar. They have also ventured into sanitary napkin production, manufacturing around 40,000 napkins in three months. These are being supplied to Gurukul



schools in the region, with each pack priced affordably at Rs 28. To market their millet products, the women set up stalls near the Bhadrachalam temple and other public spaces, selling millet biscuits priced between Rs 60 and

Rs 120 per kg. Recognising their efforts, ITDA Project Officer R Rahul sanctioned Rs 1 lakh for a biscuit-making machine to help scale their operations.

"We were once daily wage labourers. With ITDA's training and support, we now make millet biscuits and napkins," says Uke Venkata Lakshmi, one of the women. Alongside Tati Lalitha, J Samakka and Soya Mangya, she highlighted the health benefits of millets, especially for children and the elderly. "The community response has been very encouraging. We hope to expand and create more employment for tribal women."

Rahul tells, "We are identifying unique skills among tribal women who were earlier confined to fieldwork and are encouraging them towards entrepreneurship."

Woman held for stealing Rs 67 lakh in cash, gold and silver jewels in Bengaluru

BENGALURU. A 43-year-old woman was arrested for allegedly stealing Rs 67 lakh in cash, 1.4 kg of gold and 2.4 kg of silver ornaments from a house on 3rd Main Road in Chamrajpet, where she was employed.

The accused has been identified as Uma of Ilyas Nagar. According to police, Radha RK hired Uma three months ago to take care of her sister Sujatha, who is ill, for a monthly salary of Rs 23,000.

Sujatha recently sold her property near Electronics City and kept Rs 67 lakh in the wardrobe of their house. The wardrobe also had the sisters' gold and silver ornaments.

On June 9, Radha found the cash, and gold and silver ornaments missing. While examining the CCTV footage, she saw Uma leaving the house with a bag on June 4. When Radha questioned Uma about the missing cash and ornaments, she denied any wrongdoing.

Radha then filed a police complaint, suspecting that Uma had taken them. On June 10, Uma was taken into police custody. During interrogation, Uma confessed to the crime.

The police have recovered Rs 57 lakh in cash and 211 grams of ornaments worth Rs 12 lakh from Uma's daughter's house.

Greater Chennai Corporation to conduct polls for town vending committees on June 26

According to an official release, only persons registered in electoral vendors are eligible to contest and each candidate can file nomination from only one zone and division.

CHENNAI. The Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) will conduct elections on June 26 to form zone-wise town vending committees to regulate street vending activities in accordance with civic guidelines. The nomination process will commence on Monday and the counting of votes will be held on June 27.

In a review meeting on Friday, GCC commissioner J Kumaragurubaran instructed officials to ensure smooth and transparent conduct of the elections. According to an official release, only persons registered in electoral vendors are eligible to contest and each candidate can file nomination from only one zone and division. To contest from a different zone, the candidate will require a proposer and seconder who

are registered vendors in that zone. To cast their votes, vendors must present of these, valid government-issued ID documents such as Aadhaar, driving licence, bank passbook, family card, or voter ID can be used.

Polling and counting centres will be equipped with essential amenities like drinking water and restrooms. Differently-abled voters will be supported with ramps and wheelchairs. Help desks will be in place to guide voters in identifying their designated polling booths, and CCTV surveillance will be in place. Police have been asked to deploy personnel for security.

The corporation has approved the notification of 150 vending zones and 188 non-vending zones, totalling 338, spread across the 15 administrative zones of the city.



Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority seeks report on Madambakkam lake encroachment

CHENNAI. The Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority (TNSWA) has requested an immediate action taken report from district authorities regarding the protection and management of Madambakkam Lake in Chengalpattu district.

The direction, issued by Srinivas R Reddy, principal chief conservator of forests and member secretary of TNSWA, comes in the wake of multiple petitions filed by local residents and environmental activists raising concerns over sewage pollution, encroachments, and developmental threats to the waterbody.

The lake, recorded as 'Periya Eri' in the A-register, is spread on 247 acres, but discrepancies were flagged as the Field Measurement Book (FMB) sketch shows only 237 acres. The authority said there was a



need to verify the actual extent of the lake and noted that the district forest officer, Chennai Division, was asked to submit a field inspection report, which is still pending. The TNSWA letter said petitions were received alleging unregulated development in survey numbers closer to the lake, which could

increase flood risks during heavy rains. The lake is listed in ISRO's National Wetland Inventory and Assessment (NWIA) reports of 2011 and 2021.

In line with the Supreme Court's order dated December 11, 2024, the authority instructed district officials to conduct ground truthing and shapefile demarcation to legally protect the lake under the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017.

Under these rules, activities such as encroachments, setting up industries, dumping of solid or hazardous waste, and discharge of untreated sewage are strictly prohibited in wetlands. The rules mandate that any such activity must be regulated to maintain the ecological character of the

UK fighter jet makes emergency landing at Thiruvananthapuram Airport after running low on fuel

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: A United Kingdom fighter aircraft made an emergency landing at Trivandrum International Airport (TRV) on Saturday night after running low on fuel, airport officials confirmed.

The jet, reportedly an F-35, had taken off from an aircraft carrier stationed approximately 100 nautical miles off the coast. Adverse weather conditions prevented its return to the carrier, prompting the pilot to request an emergency landing.

The single-seat aircraft was safely guided to the airport by authorities, who made the necessary arrangements for its landing. However, refuelling will take place only after receiving clearance from defence officials.

Personnel from the Indian Army and Air Force are expected to inspect the aircraft on Sunday afternoon. The jet is currently stationed at the airport's domestic terminal.

Yoga event at Kondapalli Fort to promote wellness



VIJAYAWADA. A special yoga programme was held at the historic Kondapalli Fort on Sunday under the aegis of the NTR District Administration as part of the month-long Yogandhra initiative.

NTR District Collector G Lakshmis, Joint Collector Ilakkia, and APNGOs State President A. Vidya Sagar participated alongside hundreds of employees and locals.

Addressing the gathering, the Collector highlighted yoga's role in promoting a healthy society and preventing lifestyle disease like BP, diabetes, and hormonal imbalances. He noted that yoga sessions are being conducted at tourist spots across the district, including Berm Par, Gandhi Hill, and Pavitra Sangamam.

Saturday's event at Kondapalli Fort was aimed at raising awareness on physical and mental wellness through yoga.

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Reign brings transformative era in UP: Amit Shah

ST Correspondent

Lucknow, June 15: In a historic ceremony held on Sunday at the Defence Expo Ground in Sector 18, Vrindavan, appointment letters were distributed to 60,244 newly selected police personnel. The event was graced by Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah, who lauded Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath for ensuring a transparent and inclusive recruitment process. In his address, Amit Shah commended the Yogi government for transforming police recruitment in Uttar Pradesh into a model of fairness and merit. He noted that the recruitment drive had set a new benchmark by providing equal opportunities to candidates from every caste, district, and tehsil. Shah emphasised that the process was free from any monetary demands, recommendations, or caste-based discrimination—highlighting its complete transparency and merit-based selection criteria. Shah also expressed special appreciation for the participation of over 12,000 women among the recruits. He further highlighted that Uttar Pradesh had ensured complete fulfilment of women's reservation in police recruitment, an important achievement under the leadership of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah, while addressing a historic appointment ceremony at the Defence Expo Ground in Sector 18, Vrindavan Yojana, Lucknow, on Sunday, praised Chief

Minister Yogi Adityanath for ushering in a new era of transparency and inclusivity in the police recruitment process. At the grand event, Shah handed over appointment letters

"Since independence, the law and order situation in UP was on a downward spiral. But after the formation of the BJP government in 2017, the UP Police has touched new



to 60,244 newly selected police personnel and lauded the UP government's commitment to merit-based, corruption-free recruitment. Reflecting on the transformation of Uttar Pradesh since 2017, Shah said that the state, once plagued by deteriorating law and order, has witnessed a remarkable turnaround under Yogi Adityanath's leadership.

"The era of Goonda Raj is over. The law now prevails, not the diktats of criminals," he remarked. Shah encouraged the newly inducted police personnel to carry forward this legacy of discipline and the rule of law. Highlighting the integrity of the recruitment process, Shah said, "Not a single one of the 60,244 candidates had to pay even a rupee in bribe. There was no favoritism, no recommendations, and no discrimination—only transparency and merit." He credited the use of technology—including surveillance cameras, control rooms, command centers, PCR vans, and over 150 mobile forensic science labs—for ensuring fairness and efficiency. Shah also underscored the broader modernization efforts of India's police forces under Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He spoke about the upcoming implementation of the Indian Justice Code, the Indian Civil Defence Code, and the Indian Evidence Code, which will ensure the delivery of justice—from the FIR to the Supreme Court—within three years. Systems like CCTNS (Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems) and ICJS (Interoperable Criminal Justice System), as well as expanded forensic capabilities, are further bolstering India's law enforcement mechanisms. The Union Home Minister further highlighted the Modi government's strong stance against Naxalism and terrorism. He revealed that Naxalism, once spread across 11 states, is now confined to just three districts and predicted that India will be completely free of

Naxalism by March 31, 2026. He also referenced India's decisive responses to cross-border terrorism, including Operation Sindoora, where the Indian Air Force destroyed terrorist hideouts. Addressing the recruits, Shah said they were joining the UP Police during the nation's Amrit Kaal and would play a key role in realising the vision of a developed India by 2047. He urged them to adopt the mantra of "security, service, and sensitivity." The fear of the police should be for criminals and mafias, but for the poor, backward, and tribal communities, the police should be seen as their protector," he added. He also touched on the cultural renaissance under the current government, citing milestones such as the Pran Pratishtha of Ram Lalla in Ayodhya, the rejuvenation of Kashi Vishwanath Dham, the abolition of triple talaq, and the enactment of a new Waqf law. He also proudly mentioned India's historic achievement of reaching the south pole of the Moon, naming the site 'Shiv Shakti'. Concluding his speech, Shah expressed pride in the strength of the Uttar Pradesh Police force, which now comprises nearly four lakh personnel. He once again thanked Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath for his visionary and transparent governance that has set new benchmarks in public administration. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath attended the event. Also present were Deputy Chief Ministers Keshav Prasad Maurya and Brajesh Pathak, BJP State

Accused in minor's murder arrested

ST Correspondent

New Delhi, 15 June: Three days after the reported rape and murder of a nine-year-old girl in the Dayalpur area of northeast Delhi, a 28-year-old man was apprehended on Tuesday after a confrontation with the police, official said. The suspect, a resident of Nehru Vihar in Dayalpur, was caught near Hapur in Uttar Pradesh, according to the official, who noted that he attempted to flee, during which he attacked a police constable with a concealed blade before being shot in the leg by the officers. "He was being transported to Delhi when he requested the police team to allow him to use the restroom near Jheel Park in the Welcome area of Delhi," the officer mentioned. Once outside the van, the suspect suddenly drew a blade and slashed Constable Amit Mann twice in the chest before making an escape attempt. "Team members fired warning shots but the suspect continued to run away. They then fired another shot, which hit his leg, allowing them to subdue him," the official added. The suspect was identified and apprehended with the assistance of CCTV footage and technical surveillance, police reported. Both the injured constable and the suspect were taken to the hospital for medical attention. A new case has been filed at the Welcome police station regarding the assault on law enforcement. On Saturday, a nine-year-old girl, who lived in Nehru Vihar, was reportedly raped and murdered, with her body found stuffed in a suitcase at the home of a neighbor in the Dayalpur area, leading to protests from her family and locals. The discovery of the girl's body occurred on Saturday evening. The following day, family members and local residents gathered in protest against the accused. According to the girl's family, she had left to deliver ice to a relative nearby around 7 p.m. on Saturday but did not return. Later, her family found her body enclosed in a suitcase. They rushed her to a nearby clinic, but the doctor advised them to immediately take her to a hospital.

Delhi records highest peak power demand of this summer

New Delhi, Jun 15: Amid soaring temperatures, Delhi recorded its highest peak power demand of this summer. The real-time figures of the State Load Dispatch Centre (SLDC) showed the peak demand was 8,231 MW at 10.55 pm. This year, the peak power demand of Delhi is expected to cross 9,000 MW. In 2024, the national capital recorded an all-time high peak demand of 8,656 MW. Delhi's peak power demand crossed 8,000 MW for the first time in 2023. A red alert was issued for Delhi as it remained in the grip of an intense heatwave, with temperatures ranging from 40.9 to 45 degrees Celsius across various weather stations on Wednesday. The heat index, a measure of how hot it feels when humidity is factored in, touched an alarming 51.9 degrees Celsius. At 5.30 pm, Ayanagar was the hottest at 45 degrees Celsius, followed by Palam at 44.5 degrees Celsius, Ridge at 43.6 degrees Celsius, Pitampura at 43.5 degrees Celsius, Lodi Road at 43.4 degrees Celsius, Mayur Vihar at 40.9 degrees Celsius and Safdarjung — the city's base station — reported 43.3 degrees Celsius.

Police bust drug ring, seize 26 kg cannabis

New Delhi 15 June: The Delhi Police busted an inter-state syndicate smuggling cannabis from the Naxal-affected areas of Andhra Pradesh to the capital, and arrested three people, including a former assistant sales manager in Delhi's Azadpur. The police seized 26 kilograms of cannabis during the operation and also nabbed the key supplier, identified as Sandeep Pall (34), from Visakhapatnam after an extensive search that stretched across hundreds of kilometres, including Naxal-affected areas in Andhra Pradesh. According to a tip-off, a fresh consignment of cannabis was to be delivered in Delhi by operatives linked to sources in Visakhapatnam. Two suspects, including Sanjay Katara (62) and Meena Devi (42), were intercepted at Mukundpur Chowk while travelling on a two-wheeler. "Acting on surveillance and credible field intelligence, the team apprehended the duo and recovered 26 kilograms of ganja packed in multiple polythene-wrapped packets concealed within their scooter and personal belongings," a senior police officer said. The packaging of the contraband suggested it was ready for local distribution to dealers operating in Delhi-NCR. During interrogation, Katara revealed that he was a 1985 graduate and had worked earlier as an assistant sales manager in reputable shoe manufacturing firms. "However, in pursuit of quick money, he left his legitimate job and gradually got involved in the illegal drug trade," the officer added. Initially working as a middleman, Katara began

Chief Minister directs Complete Suspension of Helicopter Services to Char Dham Till Monday

ST Correspondent

Dehradun, June 15: Helicopter services to Char Dham will remain completely suspended until Monday. The experience of all helicopter operators and pilots in high-altitude Himalayan regions will be reviewed. Heli services will be resumed only after a comprehensive meeting with all operators. To ensure better coordination and safe operation of heli flights, a central "Command and Coordination Center" will be established in Dehradun. This center will include officials from DGCA, the Disaster Management Department, Civil Aviation, UCADA, and heli operator companies. These directions were issued by Chief Minister Shri Pushkar Singh Dhami during a meeting held at the CM residence

on Sunday. The Chief Minister directed the formation of a committee under the



chairmanship of the Home Secretary, Uttarakhand. This committee will include representatives from DGCA, UCADA, and the Ministry of Civil Aviation (Government of

India), and ATC. The committee will draft a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) giving top priority to public safety.

The report will be submitted before September. The Chief Minister also instructed that strict Administrative and Technical SOPs be prepared for the future operation of heli services in the state. He also ordered a high-level investigation into the Rudraprayag helicopter crash. The Chief Minister said that those found negligent at any level must be identified and appropriate punitive action should be taken. He emphasized that protecting the lives of common citizens is the top priority of the state government and no compromise with safety will be tolerated. The Chief

Minister stated that only those pilots with long-term experience of flying in high-altitude Himalayan regions will be allowed to operate. He also directed that

DGCA guidelines should be made stricter and must be followed with 100% compliance. He instructed for the installation of more advanced weather forecast equipment in Himalayan regions for more accurate and timely weather information. He also directed the Rudraprayag district administration to make proper arrangements for sending the bodies of those who lost their lives in the accident to their respective states and to stay in contact with their families. Present on the occasion through virtual mode were Chief Secretary Shri Anand Bardhan, Civil Aviation Secretary Shri Sameer Kumar Sinha, DGCA Director General Faiz Ahmed Kidwai, Secretaries Shri Shailesh Bagoli and Shri Sachin Kurve, Disaster Management Secretary Shri Vinod Kumar Suman, UCADA CEO Ms. Sonika, Information Director General Shri Banshidhar Tiwari, officials from the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB), and others.

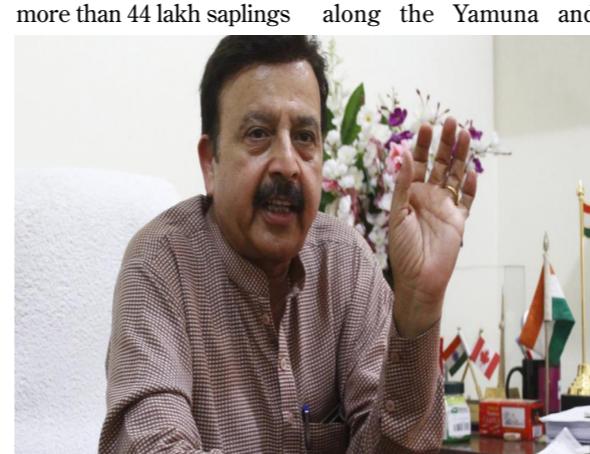
India

Government taking major initiatives for forest area expansion and promoting eco-tourism: Rao Narbir Singh

ST Correspondent

Chandigarh, June 15 - Haryana's Environment and Forest Minister Rao Narbir Singh said the state government has started multi-dimensional efforts to increase the forest area in the state and maintain environmental balance. The Forest Department is working in mission mode on schemes from village level to international jungle safari. Under urban forestry, 67,500 big plants have been planted in all the cities of the state. Under the Amrit Sarovar Yojana, the work of planting Peepal, Banyan and Neem trees on the banks of 2,200 ponds is in progress, while through agro-forestry, Safeda clones and fruit plants are being planted in farmers'

fields. He informed that during the year 2024-25, more than 44 lakh saplings



have been planted across the state so far, while more than 39 lakh saplings have been made available to the Rural Development Department under the Jal Shakti Abhiyan. Rao Narbir said more than 20

lakh saplings have been planted in the villages along the Yamuna and Ghaggar rivers keeping in mind land erosion and water conservation. 'Paudhagiri Abhiyan' has been launched to create

awareness among the students about the environment, under which more than 13.50 lakh saplings have been distributed in schools during the year 2024-25. He said under the Van Mitra Yojana, so far more than 780 Van Mitras have done plantation work and more than 70,000 pits have been dug. Also, under the 'Pran Vayu Devta Pension Scheme' started to ensure the safety of trees above 75 years of age, so far a pension of Rs 2,750 per annum has been transferred directly to the accounts of the pro-

tectors of 3,819 trees. The Forest Minister informed that water harvesting structures like check dams are being constructed in the Shivalik and Aravalli mountain ranges in Haryana to conserve water and prevent land erosion. A total of 22,425 hectares of area has been declared as protected forest land in Gurugram, Nuh, Rewari and Mahendragarh districts

during the year 2023-24. He said a Forest Research Institute would be set up in Yamunanagar district, which would become the centre of forest-based research, training and innovation in the state.

NAME CHANGE
I, hitherto known as CHINKI D/o RAMESH KUMAR and W/o SANJAY KUMAR R/o 468-A Gal No-5, Durga Pur Extn, Nand Nagri, North East Delhi, Delhi-110093, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as MADHU.

NAME CHANGE
I, KIRAN MALHOTRA W/o HARISH MALHOTRA, residing at S-219, SCHOOL BLOCK, SHAKARPUR, DELHI-110092, hereby inform that legal proceedings are going on regarding this house, please inform owner of this property KIRAN MALHOTRA before purchasing it. My mobile number is 9310586019.

NAME CHANGE
I, Sanjay Mehta S/o Ram Jeewan S/o Manzoor Ahmed, R/o 1307, Mehta R/o No I-2, Krishnaji Staff Quater, Indirapuram, Haryana, Delhi-110006, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as NASIR HUSSAIN.

NAME CHANGE
I, Rida Farrukh W/o Farrukh Ali R/o No-3757, Gali Akhade Wali, Churiwala, Mohan Garden, Delhi-110008, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as Rida Ali in my minor son Ayaan Ali aged 14 years in his School Records. The actual name of mine is Rida Farrukh.

NAME CHANGE
I, hitherto known as Nasser Hussain S/o Manzoor Ahmed, R/o 1307, Mehta R/o No I-2, Krishnaji Staff Quater, Indirapuram, Haryana, Delhi-110006 have changed the name of my minor son Kavya aged 10 years and he shall hereafter be known as Kavayash Mehta.

NAME CHANGE
I, hitherto known as Sujit Kumar S/o Sujit Kumar R/o No-1221 Near MCD School K-2 Block Sangam Vihar Deoli Deolali Hauz Khas South Delhi Delhi-110062 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Kavayash Mehta.

NAME CHANGE
I, hitherto known as Pradeep Kumar Kushwaha S/o Dhanu Mahato R/o F-4/2, Phase-3, Jyoti Cluster, Madanpur Khadar, Sarita Vihar, New Delhi, Delhi-110076 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Pradeep Prasad.

NAME CHANGE
I, hitherto known as Deepak Singh S/o Anil Singh Negi R/o B-25, Sector-23, Khatela Sarai (36) Khatela Sarai Palwal Haryana 121105 HAVE CHANGED NAME TO PARVEEN BANO

NAME CHANGE
I, hitherto known as Pradeep Kumar Kushwaha S/o Dhanu Mahato R/o F-4/2, Phase-3, Jyoti Cluster, Madanpur Khadar, Sarita Vihar, New Delhi, Delhi-110076 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Pradeep Prasad.

NAME CHANGE
It is for general information that I, Mahesh Singh R/o Vijay Singh R/o Jagat Singh Negi R/o No-6, Near Rama Public School, Jagat Pur, Jagatpur extn, North Delhi, Delhi-110084 declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as Mahesh Singh Negi my minor daughter Vandana aged 13 years in her Birth Certificate MCDOLIR-0111-00490495. The actual name of mine is Mahesh.

NAME CHANGE
I, hitherto known as Shivam S/o Pratap Singh R/o No-11/41 A-Block, Hemant Enclave, Mohan Garden, Uttam Nagar, West Delhi, Delhi-110059 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Shivam Pratap Singh.

NAME CHANGE
I, hitherto known as Deepak S/o Anil Singh Negi R/o B-25, Sector-23, Khatela Sarai Palwal Haryana 121105 HAVE CHANGED NAME TO PARVEEN BANO

NAME CHANGE
I, No-15706432K, Rank -HAV, Name-CHANDAN KUMAR MATI Residing at VILL & POST OFFICE-KANTAI, P.S-CONTAI, TEH -CONTAI, DIST -PURBA MEDINIPUR, WEST BENGAL-721401, have changed my name from for all future purposes vide Affidavit Dated 14/06/2025 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I, hitherto known as Akash S/o Raj Kumar R/o D-51, Jawahar Park, Near Ram Krishna Mandir, Khamper, Deoli, Deoli, Delhi-110062 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Akash Kumar.

NAME CHANGE
I, Amit Bajaj S/o Kharat Lal Bajaj R/o 55, First Floor, Sainik Vihar, Pitampura, North West Delhi, Delhi-110034 have changed the name of my minor son Evanai Bajaj aged 8 years and he shall hereafter be known as Evanai Bajaj.

NAME CHANGE
I, ARATIKOTLA APPLANARASAMMA mother of No-1542901N, Rank-NK Name-ARATIKOTLA SUTTI BABU residing at 4-56-107 KUMMAREVEDI, VILL-TAGARAPULASALA, PO-CHITTIVALLASA, TEHSIL-BHEEMUNIPATNAM, DIST-Visakhapatnam, ANDHRA PRADESH-531162, have changed my name from ARATIKOTLA APPLANARASAMMA to ARATIKOTLA CHANDAN KUMAR MATI before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I, ARATIKOTLA APPLANARASAMMA mother of No-1542901N, Rank-NK Name-ARATIKOTLA SUTTI BABU residing at 4-56-107 KUMMAREVEDI, VILL-TAGARAPULASALA, PO-CHITTIVALLASA, TEHSIL-BHEEMUNIPATNAM, DIST-Visakhapatnam, ANDHRA PRADESH-531162, have changed my name from ARATIKOTLA APPLANARASAMMA to ARATIKOTLA CHANDAN KUMAR MATI before Notary Public, Delhi.

NEWS BOX

No Kings' demonstrations sweep US in protest against President Donald Trump

PHILADELPHIA: Demonstrators crowded into streets, parks and plazas across the U.S. on Saturday to protest President Donald Trump before a Washington military parade marking the Army's 250th anniversary that coincides with the president's birthday. Atlanta's 5,000-capacity "No Kings" rally quickly reached its limit, with thousands more demonstrators gathered outside barriers to hear speakers in front of the state Capitol. In Minnesota, organizers canceled demonstrations as police worked to track down a suspect in the shootings of two Democratic legislators and their spouses.

Intermittent light rain fell as sign-carrying marchers gathered for the flagship rally in Philadelphia's Love Park. They shouted "Whose streets? Our streets!" as they marched to the Philadelphia Museum of Art, where they listened to speakers on the steps made famous in the movie "Rocky."

"So what do you say, Philly?" Democratic U.S. Rep. Jamie Raskin of Maryland shouted to the crowd. "Are you ready to fight back? Do you want a gangster state or do you want free speech in America?" In some places, organizers handed out little American flags while other demonstrators brought larger versions to wave amid signs that ranged from pro-democracy and immigrant-rights messages to a variety of anti-Trump sentiments.

In Los Angeles, thousands gathered in front of City Hall, hundreds gathered on the lawn in front of Mississippi's state Capitol and marchers in downtown Little Rock walked across a bridge over the Arkansas River. Protests were planned in nearly 2,000 locations across the country, from city blocks and small towns to courthouse steps and community parks, organizers said, but no events are scheduled in Washington, D.C., where the military parade will take place in the evening.

Benjamin Netanyahu Postpones Son's Wedding As Iran Rains Missiles On Israel

world. The wedding of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's son has been reportedly postponed amid the escalating conflict with Iran. Netanyahu's son, Avner Netanyahu, was set to marry his partner Amit Yardeni on Monday, according to a report by The Times of Israel. The wedding was reportedly postponed after it caused controversy, with some anti-government protesters denouncing the Netanyahu family for celebrating while Israeli hostages are still held in Gaza. Moreover, while the Netanyahu family was preparing for mega celebrations, Israel on Friday launched a major offensive against Iran, targeting nuclear sites, military facilities, missile bases and senior leadership in the Islamic Republic. In retaliation, Iran has launched a barrage of ballistic missiles at Israel, triggering a nationwide emergency, with missile sirens blaring across the Jewish state, pushing much of its population into bomb shelters. Israeli police on Sunday said that at least 10 people have been killed by Iranian strikes, while 180 others are wounded. Police added that at least 7 more people were missing, likely under the rubble.

Following the Israeli attack, Tehran has called off nuclear talks that Washington had said were the only way to halt Israel's bombing, while Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the attacks by Israel so far were nothing compared with what Iran would see in the coming days.

Tandem Skydive Ends In Tragedy For Two In UK's Devon

world. Two people have died in the UK after a skydive went wrong. The incident transpired at the Dunkeswell Airfield near Honiton in Devon on Friday (Jun 13) afternoon, according to a report in the BBC. The two skydivers, yet to be publicly identified, were attempting a "tandem jump" when things took a turn for the worse. The Devon and Cornwall police informed that emergency services were called "to the area of Dunkeswell Aerodrome at around 1 pm on Friday following concerns for the welfare of two people". It was reported that they were skydivers. They were sadly both confirmed dead at the scene and



their families have been informed. "National governing body British Skydiving confirmed it had received the report about two jumpers dying. It added that an investigation was underway and that a report would be sent to the coroner, police, Civil Aviation Authority, British Skydiving Safety and Training Committee and any other relevant authorities." British Skydiving has been notified of a tragic accident in which two jumpers lost their lives," said Robert Gibson, chief executive of British Skydiving. "Our deepest condolences go to their families, friends and the entire skydiving community. A British Skydiving Board of Inquiry will investigate the accident." Also Read | Fish Endure Intense Pain Up To 20 Minutes When Killed, New Study Finds

A spokesperson for the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) said it was aware of the incident and its "thoughts are of course with the friends and family at this difficult time". "We will work closely with the relevant authorities to understand what happened and are awaiting the report into the incident."

Trump warns Iran with US military's 'full strength' if provoked, denies role in Israeli strikes

Trump's warning came as Iranians and Israelis woke to smoke and rubble after overnight attacks, with Israel striking Tehran's defence ministry and Iran launching a deadly missile barrage.

world. US President Donald Trump warned Iran on Sunday that it would experience "the full strength" of the American military if it attacks the United States, reiterating that Washington "had nothing to do" with Israel's strikes on Tehran's nuclear and intelligence facilities. Trump's latest remarks came after Iranians and Israelis woke to smoke and rubble on Sunday after the arch-rivals expanded their attacks overnight, with Israel striking Tehran's defence ministry, and Iran unleashing a deadly barrage of missiles.

While Trump had said he was aware of the Israeli operation before it started, he reiterated Sunday morning on his Truth Social platform that the United States "had nothing to do with the attack on Iran, tonight." "If we are attacked in any way, shape or form by Iran, the full strength and might of the US Armed Forces will come down on you at levels never seen before," he said in a post. He added that "we can easily get a deal done between Iran and Israel, and end this bloody conflict!!" On Friday, the US president urged Tehran to make a ready or face "even more brutal" attacks by Israel. The third day of tit-for-tat attacks comes despite global calls for de-escalation, with Iran scrapping its latest nuclear talks with the United States, saying it could not negotiate while under fire from Israel. Air raid sirens and explosions were heard by AFP journalists in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv early Sunday, as Israel's military said millions of Israelis were "running for shelter" around the country. Israel's emergency services said at least eight



people, including children, were killed in the overnight strikes, and around 200 were wounded. In Iran's capital, AFP journalists heard a series of blasts at around 2:30 am. Israel's military said it had struck Iran's defence ministry headquarters, "nuclear weapons project" infrastructure sites and other targets, including fuel tankers, just before 2:40 am on Sunday (2340 GMT Saturday). The targeted sites, including the headquarters of the SPND (Organization of Defense Innovation and Research) nuclear project, advanced Iran's efforts to obtain a nuclear weapon, according to

Israel. Notably, Israel's operation, which began early Friday, targeted Iranian nuclear and military sites, killing dozens of people including top army commanders and atomic scientists, according to Tehran. Iran responded with retaliatory strikes, firing a barrage of ballistic missiles at Israel.

On Saturday, Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu vowed to hit "every target of the ayatollah regime", as Israeli drone strikes targeted the South Pars refinery in Iran's southern port city of Kangan, a first such attack on the country's oil and natural gas industry. Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, meanwhile, warned the continued "aggression will be met with a more severe and powerful response." Iran launched a second round of missiles against Israel late on Saturday as Israel's military kept up attacks in Iran following earlier strikes that targeted nuclear and military sites. They also killed key leaders in the country's governing theocracy.

At least 8 dead in Israel after Iran's fresh missile attack in response to Tel Aviv's strikes on its defence facilities

world. Waves of overnight Iranian strikes on Israel killed at least eight people, including a child, according to emergency services, after air raid sirens sent millions across the country scrambling into shelters. In the central region, at least four people, including a 10-year-old boy, were killed and around 100 others wounded in a rocket strike, according to a spokesperson for Magen David Adom (MDA). In Shfela region, another 37 people were wounded, the spokesperson added.

Israel's airstrikes on Iran over the past two days have killed its nine senior scientists and experts involved in the nuclear program, in addition to several top military generals. At least 60 civilians, including 20 children, have also been killed in the attacks. Israel fired a fresh barrage of missiles at Israel, state television announced early Sunday, as the rivals exchanged fire for a third day.

"A new wave of Operation Honest Promise 3 began a few minutes ago," Iranian state TV reported at around 03:10 am (2340 GMT Saturday), while broadcasting live images of Israel. Iranian news agency Tasnim had earlier today reported that an Israeli strike had targeted the country's defence ministry headquarters in Tehran and damaged one of its buildings. In "an attack on Tehran this evening by the air force of the Zionist regime, the headquarters of the defence ministry was targeted. One of the headquarters' buildings was lightly damaged," the agency said. The defence ministry has not commented on the strikes yet. Israel's retaliatory strikes came shortly after Israel's military claimed early Sunday that it had struck Tehran's defence ministry headquarters, "nuclear weapons project" infrastructure sites and other targets.

The Israeli military said at around 2:40 am (2340 GMT Saturday) that its air force had just "completed an extensive series of intelligence-based strikes on a number of targets in Tehran related to the Iranian regime's nuclear weapons project", as well as on fuel tankers. The targets included the Iranian Ministry of Defense headquarters, the headquarters of the SPND (Organization of Defense Innovation and Research) nuclear project, and additional targets" which Israel said advanced Iran's efforts to obtain a nuclear weapon. The U.S. and Iran had been scheduled to hold their sixth round of indirect talks over Iran's nuclear program on Sunday in Oman, but Oman's foreign minister said that the meeting was cancelled after Israel's strikes on Iran.

Drones launched toward base housing US forces in Iraq shot down. Three drones were launched toward a base housing U.S. forces in Iraq following Israel's strikes on Iran, a U.S. military official and a second U.S. official said Saturday. Both spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly. The drones were shot down, the officials said. No group claimed responsibility for the attack on Ain al-Asad air base in western Iraq. A network of powerful Iran-backed militias in Iraq has remained mostly quiet amid the escalating Israel-Iran conflict. In the past, the militias had periodically attacked U.S. bases in Iraq and Syria in retaliation for Washington's support for Israel in its war against the Iran-allied Hamas militant group in Gaza.

Israeli military on Saturday said it also struck an underground facility in western Iran's Khorramabad that contained surface-to-surface and cruise missiles.

TEL AVIV. Iranian media reported a "massive explosion" on Saturday following an Israeli drone strike on the South Pars refinery in the south of Israel. The attack on Iran's oil and natural gas industry. An hour ago, an Israeli drone hit one of the South Pars Phase 14 refineries, causing a massive explosion and fire in the refinery, the Tasnim news agency said, while the Fars agency reported that firefighters were working to extinguish a blaze that had erupted as a result of the attack. Iran shares the gas field, which stretches across the Persian Gulf, with Qatar.

Israeli military late on Saturday said it struck an underground facility in western Iran's Khorramabad that contained surface-to-surface and

cruise missiles. "This is an important site that was even featured in a propaganda video by the Iranian regime in the past," military spokesman Brigadier General Effie Defrin told journalists. He was likely referring to footage aired by Iran's Revolutionary Guards earlier this year showing what it described as a new underground missile facility. "It was struck and the senior officials associated with it have also been eliminated," Defrin said, adding that "dozens of other such sites have also been destroyed". The military said the site contained "storage tunnels for surface-to-surface missiles and cruise missiles as well as multiple launch shafts". Meanwhile, Iranian media said that top adviser to supreme leader

underground missile facility.

Chief Mark Bruley said. Two people familiar with the matter identified the suspect being sought as 57-year-old Vance Boelter. The people could not publicly discuss details of the ongoing investigation and spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity. US President Donald Trump condemned the "terrible

Ayatollah Khamenei died in the hospital a day after Israel launched airstrikes across the country. Ali Shamkhani had previously served as Iran's top national security official for a decade and had represented Iran in the China-facilitated rapprochement talks with Saudi Arabia. Israel's military on Saturday launched fresh attacks on several sites across Iran as it kept up its campaign targeting the Islamic republic's military and nuclear sites.

"We are currently launching attacks on several sites in Iran," military spokesman Brigadier General Effie Defrin said in a televised press conference after Iran responded to Israeli strikes with waves of drones and missile barrages. Israel's defense minister warned that "Tehran will burn" if Iran continues firing missiles, as the two countries traded blows a day after Israel launched a blistering surprise attack on Iranian nuclear and military sites, killing a number of top generals. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu also threatened to strike "every target of the ayatollah regime" in Iran, adding that Israeli strikes had dealt a "real blow" to Tehran's nuclear programme.

Two Minnesota Democratic lawmakers shot at their homes; Trump condemns 'terrible shooting'

Writings found inside a fake police car recovered at one of the shooting scenes mentioned the names of multiple lawmakers and other officials, Brooklyn Park Police said.

WASHINGTON. A man posing as a police officer shot and killed a Minnesota lawmaker and her husband in a brazen attack at their home early Saturday, and a second lawmaker and his wife were wounded in a separate shooting in what Gov. Tim Walz described as "targeted political violence." Police were searching for the gunman responsible for the attacks on the Democratic legislators. Writings found inside a fake police car recovered at one of the shooting scenes mentioned the names of multiple lawmakers and other officials, Brooklyn Park Police

America. Melissa Hortman, a former Minnesota House Speaker, and her spouse were shot and killed early Saturday in their Brooklyn Park home. A second state lawmaker, Sen. John Hoffman and his wife, were shot multiple times in Champlin. Officials say both Hortman and Hoffman were mentioned in the suspect's writings. "When we did a search of the vehicle, there was a manifesto that identified many lawmakers and other officials. We immediately made alerts to the state. We took action on alerting them and providing security where necessary," said Bruley. State Patrol Col. Christina Bogojevic asked people "out of an abundance of caution" not to attend any of the "No Kings" protests that were scheduled for across the state on Saturday. Bogojevic said authorities didn't have any direct evidence that the protests would be targeted, but said the suspect had some "No Kings" flyers in their car. Organizers announced that all of the protests across the state were canceled.

shooting" of two Minnesota Democratic state lawmakers. "I have been briefed on the terrible shooting that took place in Minnesota, which appears to be a targeted attack against state lawmakers," Trump said in a statement. "Such horrific violence will not be tolerated in the United States of

police were investigating a shooting during a march downtown that left one person critically injured. Three people were taken into custody, including a man believed to be the shooter, who also suffered a gunshot wound, according to Police Chief Brian Redd. Redd said it was too early to tell if the shooting was politically motivated and whether those involved knew each other. The shooter appeared to be walking alongside the group of thousands who were marching, he added. Video feeds showed demonstrators running for safety as gunshots rang out. Huge, boisterous crowds marched, danced, drummed, and chanted shoulder-to-shoulder in New York, Denver, Chicago, Austin and Los Angeles, some behind "no kings" banners. Atlanta's 5,000-capacity event quickly reached its limit, with thousands more gathered outside barriers to hear speakers in front of

the state Capitol. Officials in Seattle estimated that more than 70,000 people attended the city's largest rally downtown, the Seattle Times reported. Trump was in Washington for a military parade marking the Army's 250th anniversary that coincides with the president's birthday. About 200 protesters assembled in northwest Washington's Logan Circle and chanted "Trump must go now" before erupting in cheers. A larger

than-life puppet of Trump — a caricature of the president wearing a crown and sitting on a golden toilet — was wheeled through the crowd. In some places, organizers handed out little American flags while others flew their flags upside down, a sign of distress. Mexican flags, which have become a fixture of the Los Angeles protests against immigration raids, also made an appearance at some demonstrations Saturday.

In Culpeper, Virginia, police said one person was struck by an SUV when a 21-year-old driver intentionally accelerated his SUV into the crowd as protesters were leaving a rally. The driver was charged with reckless driving. The demonstrations come on the heels of the protests over the federal immigration enforcement raids that began last week and Trump ordering the National Guard and Marines to Los Angeles, where protesters blocked a freeway and set cars on fire.

'No Kings': Anti-Trump protests crowd streets, parks, plazas across US cities

PHILADELPHIA. Masses of demonstrators packed into streets, parks and plazas across the US on Saturday to protest US President Donald Trump, marching through downtowns and small towns, blaring anti-authoritarian chants mixed with support for protecting democracy and immigrants' rights. Organizers of the "No Kings" demonstrations said millions had marched in hundreds of events. Governors across the US had urged calm and vowed no tolerance for violence, while some mobilized the National Guard ahead of marchers gathering. Confrontations were isolated. But police in Los Angeles, where protests over federal immigration enforcement raids erupted a week earlier and sparked demonstrations across the country, used tear gas and crowd-control munitions to clear out protesters after the formal event ended. Officers in Portland also fired tear gas and projectiles to disperse a crowd that protested in front of a US Immigration and Customs Enforcement building well into the evening. And in Salt Lake City, Utah,

police were investigating a shooting during a march downtown that left one person critically injured. Three people were taken into custody, including a man believed to be the shooter, who also suffered a gunshot wound, according to Police Chief Brian Redd. Redd said it was too early to tell if the shooting was politically motivated and whether those involved knew each other. The shooter appeared to be walking alongside the group of thousands who were marching, he added. Video feeds showed demonstrators running for safety as gunshots rang out. Huge, boisterous crowds marched, danced, drummed, and chanted shoulder-to-shoulder in New York, Denver, Chicago, Austin and Los Angeles, some behind "no kings" banners. Atlanta's 5,000-capacity event quickly reached its limit, with thousands more gathered outside barriers to hear speakers in front of

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NEWS BOX

Six students from Andhra Pradesh top in NEET UG-2025

VIJAYAWADA. Six students from Andhra Pradesh have figured in the top 100 list of the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) UG-2025. Among them, Darbha Karthik Ram Kireeti has emerged as the State topper with an All India Rank (AIR) of 19, and a percentile score of 99.9991400.

The National Testing Agency conducted NEET UG-2025 at 5,468 centres located in 552 Cities across the country, and 14 cities outside India on May 4. More than 22 lakh candidates appeared for the entrance test.

Mahesh Kumar from Rajasthan secured AIR 1, while Avika Aggarwal got AIR 5 and emerged as the female topper. According to official data of NTA, AP student Podavati Mohith Sriram secured AIR 56 with a percentile of 99.9974653, Desina Surya Charan from Visakhapatnam got AIR 59 with 99.9972390. Podilapu Avinash bagged AIR 64 scoring 99.9968316. Yerra Sameer Kumar of Visakhapatnam stood 70th with 99.9968316, while Tummuri Siva Manideep ranked 92nd with 99.9954737.

No student from Andhra Pradesh secured top rank in any category, except Karumanchi Vikrant, who got ninth rank in SC category with 99.9878243 percentile. Kireeti hails from Rajamahendravaram. He completed his schooling from LKG to Class 8 in Trips International School, and from Class 8 to Intermediate at Tirumala Junior College.

Promises aside, Hyderabad schools struggle to keep doors open

HYDERABAD. While the academic year kicked off with promises of quality education and world-class infrastructure for government schools, in Hyderabad, some schools are struggling with a more basic problem—keeping their doors open.

For over three years now, rent worth approximately Rs 6 crore has reportedly remained unpaid to owners of private buildings housing government primary and secondary schools.

A total of 105 such schools, 87 primary and 18 high schools, operate from rented premises across the city, mostly in areas like Bahadurpura, Charminar, Asifnagar, Tolichowki and Golkonda in the Old City. While the Education department did sanction Rs 50 lakh in March, this money remains stuck somewhere in the labyrinth of the Finance department's approval process. Repeated appeals from building owners have so far only generated fresh paperwork, not payments. Simmering tensions came to the fore recently when the owner of the Telangana Minority Residential School building at Bagh Lingampally locked the premises temporarily, a cautionary signal that unpaid dues can have very real consequences. While that school was reopened, teachers and parents are now wondering which school gate might be bolted next.

Owners fed up with 'apathy' of officials Jahangir, president of the Government Rented Building Owners Association, sounded weary but unsurprised. "We are tired of visiting the Education department and the collectorate, requesting the release of pending rent.

Seven, including two girls, in top 100 NEET-UG scorers from Karnataka

BENGALURU. Seven students from Karnataka, including two girls, have made it to the top 100 ranks in the NEET-UG 2025 exam, securing 99.99 percentile. The results were released by the National Testing Agency (NTA) on Saturday.

Among the top achievers are Nikhil Sonnad (AIR 17), Ruchir Gupta (AIR 22), Tejas Shailesh Ghogalkar (AIR 38), Pranusha Jahagirdar (AIR 42), Harini Sriram (AIR 72), Digant S (AIR 80), and Nidhi KG (AIR 84). Harini and Nidhi are among the top 20 female candidates in the country, while Nikhil and Ruchir are in the top 20 among male candidates.

Nikhil Sonnad from Expert PU College, Mangaluru, also emerged as the state topper. Coming from a family of doctors, Nikhil, son of neurosurgeon Dr Siddappa Sonnad and ophthalmologist Dr Meenakshi, credited his success to consistent effort, strong fundamentals, and the support of his teachers and parents.

"I focused on building a foundation and solving problems from the start. That helped me apply concepts better," said Nikhil, who hails from Vijayapura. "I was confident of doing well, but never expected AIR 17."

Also from Expert PU College, Nidhi KG from Somwarpet in Kodagu made it to the top 100 with AIR 84. The daughter of KH Ganapathi, an Assistant Sub-Inspector, and Gunavathi, a school teacher, Nidhi said her goal of becoming a doctor began in Class 9. "For the last two years, I was fully focused on NEET with target to rank below 100. The exam was tough, but I gave it my best," she said. Nidhi hopes to pursue her MBBS at AIIMS Delhi or Bangalore Medical College.

Ruchir Gupta, who secured an All India Rank (AIR) of 22 in his first attempt, prepared for NEET-UG at Allen Institute in Bengaluru. He said he didn't follow a strict routine but made it a point to set small daily goals and complete them.

Hoping to join AIIMS Delhi, Ruchir said his elder brother, currently studying at IIT Bombay, helped him stay focused. "He guided me on how to approach the preparation, understand concepts clearly, and identify areas where I needed improvement," he told.

Karnataka: Stickers to be affixed on homes to ensure 100 per cent survey completion

Zonal Commissioner Suralkar Vikas Kishor instructed that the survey progress be monitored using data from BESCOM and BWSSB, and that any pending surveys be completed promptly.



BENGALURU. To ensure 100% completion of the ongoing Scheduled Caste Survey in the West Zone limits, Zonal Commissioner Suralkar Vikas Kishor has instructed officials

to affix stickers on all households.

Addressing a review meeting here on Saturday, at the West Zone office, with regard to the Comprehensive Scheduled Castes Survey,

Kishor stated that affixing stickers on houses will help easily identify those households that are yet to be surveyed. He directed officials to immediately visit all houses and affix the stickers accordingly.

While affixing the stickers, officials must verify whether the survey has already been completed or not. In this regard, he emphasised the importance of collaborating with NSS, NCC, and registered organisations to support the survey work.

He also instructed that the survey progress be monitored using data from BESCOM and BWSSB, and that any pending surveys be completed promptly.

According to a BBMP release, the deadline has been extended until June 22 with the aim to achieve 100% progress in the survey. "Citizens can participate in the survey at the following designated locations — Civic service centres such as Karnataka One, Bengaluru One, and Grama One centres and Bapuji Seva Kendras. Dedicated survey camps are being organised at all BBMP ward offices," the release added.

18 hospitalised after community feast in Odisha's Bargarh, food poisoning suspected

SAMBALPUR. Suspected food poisoning at a community feast left at least 18 persons sick in Kuapali village under Paikmal block of Bargarh district.

The feast was organised as part of a post-cremation ritual on Friday and people from neighbouring villages such as Dungarpali, Bhagatpur and Banamal gathered to partake in the community meal. By evening, several participants began to experience symptoms such as vomiting and diarrhoea. As the numbers grew, 17 people were immediately referred to Padampur sub-divisional hospital for treatment. One more was shifted later, bringing the total number of impacted persons to 18. Meanwhile, a local medical team led by Dr Sudipta Sahu along with community health officer, ANM, ASHA and anganwadi workers rushed to the village and initiated a door-to-door health screening and treatment.

On Saturday morning, Bargarh chief district medical officer (CDMO) Dr Kubera Chandra Mahanta, along with senior health officials, visited the village. The team distributed medicines to 161 families and advised residents to drink boiled water, avoid stale food and use halazone tablets to disinfect water.

CRPF ASI's death revives memories of Maoist days

ROURKELA. Death of a CRPF personnel during an anti-Naxal operation on Saturday morning has brought back memories of the troubled phase of Sundargarh's tryst with Maoist violence.

Renewed Maoist activities have come back to haunt Rourkela police with the loot of the explosive-laden truck on May 27. Before the incident, Sundargarh side of the border was relatively quiet with no significant Maoist movement. Now, it appears that taking advantage of the security gaps following withdrawal of CRPF from Sundargarh, Maoist have reactivated their old bases.

Reliable sources said the Sanbalijodi, Mahupada, B Jharbera, Langalkata, Silkuta, Banko, Ralhatu, K Balang and Topadihi



under K Balang police once served as stronghold for the Jharkhand regional committee of the outlawed CPI (Maoist).

An encounter with police in 2005 near Renjda had left the then Bonai circle inspector MP Karua shot in his leg and the Maoists had

firmly made their foothold in the forested regions of K Balang and adjoining Koida police limits. With no challenge offered, the Maoists had spread their influence in the entire Bonai subdivision using the forest covers of K Balang, Koida, parts of Luhunipada and Bonai, Chandiposh, Tikayatpali and Gurundia police stations as safe corridors.

In 2009, the Maoist ultras had unleashed a reign of terror with brutal killings

of poor and innocent villagers to reaffirm their influence. In March the same year, CITU leader Rabi Oram was killed and the next month, the headman of Langalkata village Deonath Singh was beheaded. What

followed was a spate of bloody violence in the region. The Maoists had blown up four school buildings and one health centre under K Balang police in serial blasts in December 2009 and killed five villagers in 72 hours at Topadihi and Langalkata villages. About 3,000 villagers of affected pockets seeking police protection had twice moved to shelter camps during late 2009 and early 2010. However, death of two top-most local area commanders Sameer Xalxo and Md Muslim in February 2011 instilled fear among the Naxals. This was followed by a rush for surrenders and a gradual drop in Maoists activities in Sundargarh side of the border.

Police sources said the situation has changed with the Maoists no more enjoying the confidence of villagers and affected pockets too have seen visible development.

DIG (Western Range) Brijesh Kumar Rai said the Rourkela police are allowing no room to Maoists to regroup and carrying out joint operation with Jharkhand police.

Poor MMTS link to Charlapalli hurts Lingampalli passengers

HYDERABAD. Daily rail passengers are experiencing significant difficulties due to the severely limited MMTS (Multi-Modal Transport System) service connecting Lingampally and Charlapalli. With only one MMTS train on the route, many passengers are having to seek alternatives to reach the newly revamped Charlapalli terminal station.

The strain has further intensified following the South Central Railway's (SCR) diversion of several long-distance trains to Charlapalli terminal station due to ongoing works at Secunderabad Railway Station.

The critical lack of reliable transportation, particularly suburban MMTS trains, leaves passengers struggling to reach the new terminal, sources said.

Currently, only one MMTS train operates on the Lingampally-Charlapalli-Lingampally route, and its timings are highly irregular — typically running only once very early in the morning and again late in the evening. Passengers report severe hardship accessing the terminal, citing the absence of



adequate bus services compounding the problem. Ramesh Yadav, a Lingampally resident, said: "There's only a single suburban train plying, and its frequency is extremely low. Additionally, the connecting road to Charlapalli station is in an extremely poor condition. It would greatly benefit

Central team to take stock of gastro spread in Odisha

The state government confirmed that 1,516 people in Jajpur district alone have been affected in the outbreak with 88 new cases.

BHUBANESWAR. Amid a worsening diarrhoea outbreak in at least three districts in the state, a central team of health experts arrived here on Saturday to support the containment efforts.

The outbreak that was first reported in Jajpur district five days back has been traced to the Vibrio cholerae bacterium. So far at least 15 persons, including 11 from Jajpur, three from Keonjhar and one from Bhadrak, have died in separate outbreaks. Three more samples tested positive for Vibrio cholerae, taking the total number of cases to 11. The official death toll, however, has been pegged at five.

The state government confirmed that 1,516 people in Jajpur district alone have been affected in the outbreak with 88 new cases.

While 1,306 among them have recovered, 210 are undergoing treatment at different hospitals. The 14-member central team, including four special food quality



officials of Food Safety and Quality Authority of India (FSSAI), will visit the affected areas in separate groups on Sunday. One group led by regional director of Health and Family Welfare Dr Nilam Somalkar and accompanied by epidemiologist

of Kolkata-based National Institute for Research in Bacterial Infections (NIRBI) Dr Pramit Ghosh will take stock of the situation in the worst-hit Dharmasala in Jajpur district.

Another team comprising a paediatric specialist and a microbiologist from AIIMS Bhubaneswar and technical officer (microbiology) of Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) will tour other affected blocks. Director of public

health Dr Nilakantha Mishra said the team's intervention is crucial as the exact source of contamination is yet to be ascertained, though early evidence suggests that unsafe drinking water might be a key factor.

Strong winds fan fire on board Wan Hai; vessel at safe distance from Kochi

KOCHI. Wan Hai 503, the burning container vessel which was drifting towards Kochi coast, was pulled back to a safe distance by the Indian Coast Guard with support from the Indian Navy and the salvage team. The vessel which drifted to a distance of 27 nautical miles from Kochi coast on Friday night was pulled back to deeper sea. The vessel was located around 40 nautical miles from Kochi on Saturday evening. Though the fire on board the vessel was extinguished on Friday, it got reignited due to heavy monsoon winds on Saturday.

"The sea is very rough and the tugs currently deployed are not able to pull the vessel to deep sea. So a 200-tonne bollard tug will be brought on Sunday to pull the vessel to the deep sea. Currently, two tugs are holding the vessel using towlines to stop it from drifting to the Kerala coast. The vessel listed to the port side after some containers kept on the starboard side fell into the sea.



Now the vessel is stable and we have been able to arrest the drift towards the shore," said an officer.

helicopter of the Navy, tied a 600-metre tow rope which was connected to a tug on Friday evening. This crucial joint operation involving the Indian Coast Guard, Indian

Navy, and Indian Air Force enabled the salvors to take over the vessel and continue the firefighting and salvage work. The vessel is currently being towed westward at a speed of approximately 1.8 knots and is now nearly 40 nautical miles off the coast. Three Indian Coast Guard Offshore Patrol Vessels are escorting the vessel while also continuing essential firefighting efforts," the Coast Guard said in a release.

Though the fire was extinguished on Friday, it was reignited by strong westerly winds on Saturday, and thick smoke continued to rise from the deck of the container vessel. The authorities are planning to bring more firefighters who may attempt to board the vessel on Sunday. The Coast Guard is closely coordinating with the Directorate General of Shipping to ensure the vessel remains at least 50 nautical miles from the Indian coastline until a suitable fate is decided by the owners of the vessel.

Erasing the hyphen between India and Pakistan

The events of the year 2000 resonate vividly in my memory. Back then, I was serving as the deputy chief of mission at the Indian embassy in Brussels, a city known for its rich political history and culinary delights. It was in a charming, homely restaurant that our ambassador Chandrasekhar Dasgupta—one of the most astute diplomats India has ever produced—hosted a lunch for several members of the European Parliament. Needing to discuss the Kashmir issue with them, he was understandably nervous, pacing back and forth in the reserved room, carefully contemplating his words. When the guests arrived, we first enjoyed a delightful lunch. But the real treat came when the ambassador took the floor. With remarkable eloquence, he spent approximately 30 minutes elucidating the Kashmir issue and India's perspective on Pakistan. As a newly-minted diplomat, one particular element of his speech struck me profoundly: his impassioned plea to the audience not to think of India and Pakistan as two sides of the same coin.

For years, international dignitaries visiting India would also make a point of visiting Pakistan, seemingly to maintain diplomatic balance. "Do not hyphenate India and Pakistan," he declared. "If you want to come to India, you are most welcome. If you want to go to Pakistan, go to that country. But, for heaven's sake, don't consider that because you come to India, you are obligated to go to that country."

Fast forward to the present, and I find myself reflecting on whether there has been a significant shift in India's foreign policy—much like the 'changes' seen in other areas of governance. We criticised Nehru's protectionist policies, yet we now embrace the idea of 'atmanirbarta' (self-reliance) while navigating the complex South Asian landscape. While we once sought dominance in the region, we appear to have ceded some ground to China. Our previously-friendly ties with US President Donald Trump have revealed an unsettling unpredictability, while our relationship with Russia is emerging as more stable. Perhaps the era of 'Hindi Chini bhai bhai' (Indians and Chinese as brothers) may come back in some form, as we now find ourselves returning to a nonaligned stance, advocating for the priorities of the Global South.

Trump's assertion that the ceasefire between India and Pakistan was partially due to his tariff threats adds another layer to our understanding of international diplomacy. Although his track record for truthfulness remains suspect, we must study the implications of such statements. With all this in the backdrop, the government's decision to send parliamentary delegations to the world's capitals to advocate for India's position was perplexing. What was the underlying objective? Was it merely to showcase a united front? Historically, regardless of internal differences, during moments of crisis—be it in 1962, 1965, 1971, or the Kargil and Pulwama incidents—India has presented a unified voice.

India has every right to respond to attacks like the one in Pahalgam. Aside from a few statements from Türkiye, India has not been labelled the aggressor by any significant nation, not excluding the Islamic bloc of countries. Pakistan's attempt to raise it in the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation failed

THE GREAT GAME: America realises that Pak military establishment's potential to harm is far larger than its potential for good

As many as seven delegations comprising over 40 Indian politicians and former diplomats fanned out across 33 countries over the past two weeks to explain India's actions against Pakistan during Op Sindoora, but it is Pakistan's army chief—and now Field Marshal—Gen Asim Munir who has been invited to participate in the US army's 250th anniversary parade in Washington DC on June 14, today. All the bells and whistles for the first parade since 1991 will be on display—6,600 soldiers, 28 Abrams tanks, 28 Bradley Fighting Vehicles, 28 Stryker vehicles, four Paladin self-propelled howitzers, eight marching bands, 24 horses, two mules and a dog—besides a few rocket launchers and precision-guided missiles. It also happens to be Donald Trump's 79th birthday. Meanwhile, all seven MP delegations have returned home and met the PM. The BJP's Ravi Shankar Prasad, who travelled to London, Paris, Rome, Copenhagen, Berlin and the European Union headquarters in Brussels, told reporters on his return that he and his colleagues had explained India's zero tolerance towards terrorism to their interlocutors in all these European cities. "We clarified that we are not against the people of Pakistan. The problem is Pakistan's generals, with whom Pakistan's people are also fed up," Prasad said. Perhaps Prasad hasn't been reading the press carefully lately. Only the day before in DC, Gen Michael E Kurilla, the powerful commander of the US Central Command, told the US Senate Armed Services Committee that Pakistan is a "phenomenal partner", especially on the anti-terror front.

"I do not believe it is a binary switch that we can't have (a relationship) with Pakistan if we have a relationship with India," Kurilla said. A few days prior, Kurilla's boss, Donald Trump, had announced, "Pakistan has very strong leadership. Some people don't like when I say this, but it is what it is. And they stopped that war. I'm very proud of them. Am I getting credit? No. They don't give me credit for anything." So what happened to the famed "strategic partnership" between India and the US? Moreover, is the much-detested "hyphenation" between India and Pakistan back? The larger question, of course, is why the most powerful country in the world would still fall for the charms of a nation whose economy is in deep trouble (it has taken 25 loans from the IMF), is a democracy only in name and continues to mastermind terror attacks inside India, the latest being the horror in Pahalgam. Certainly,

something is stirring again in the black lentils. At least since 2008, when India and the US signed their nuclear deal, the Americans have been eager to build a partnership with Delhi—and vice-versa. It was not just about how many Boeings India could buy, although that may have helped. The US recognised the value of a real relationship, beyond a transactional partnership, in which Delhi was seen as a counter-weight to Beijing. But as Trump up-ends the world with his penchant for transaction, Pakistan has seen a new opening. It doesn't matter how many snakes you keep in your backyard and

Kurilla's praise for Pakistan was quickly followed by it being named as the head of two key committees in the UN Security Council—chair of the Taliban sanctions committee and vice-chair of the Counter-Terrorism committee. The US realises the Pakistan military establishment's potential to harm is far larger than its potential for good. So why not feed the monster with a few goodies and thereby aim to control it?

Second, Trump's over-sized ego doesn't like it when you say No to him. So when he and his aides announced that he had "mediated" the ceasefire between India and Pakistan on May 10, India denied the suggestion. (Trump, in fact, went on to repeat the same thing another 11 times.)

The fact is the Indian Air Force sent a convincing message by striking 11 Pakistani airfields on May 10, which put the fear of god into both the Pakistanis and the Americans and quickly ended the conflict. Why bother denying what Trump wants to say? Third, Pakistan excels in playing the victim, an irony of no small proportion. By marshalling a campaign that paints India in hideous colour ("India is trying to parch 230 million people by halting the Indus waters"), it attempts at winning global sympathy. That's what the Bilawal Bhutto campaign in Washington & London, post Op Sindoora, was aimed at. All questions about the Pakistan military establishment's role in terror attacks are side-stepped with the question, 'Where's the proof?' Ajmal Kasab-type proof from the Mumbai attacks, in which nearly 170 people were killed, is sought to be compared with Pakistan's own experiences with terrorism. US sympathy is showing. In 2024, Gen Kurilla said Pakistan

suffered over 1,000 terrorist attacks in which 700 security personnel were killed and 2,500 wounded. Question is, what happens now. Certainly, Gen Munir has impressed the Americans and so his participation in the US Army parade will give him the opportunity to drive home a few asks. There will be the request for zero-tariff Pakistan-US trade; more importantly, there will be the suggestion that the US put pressure on India to unsuspend the Indus Waters Treaty and restart talks. Be sure that the long and hot summer ahead will be a difficult one. India may hold some of the cards, but it must learn not to hold them so close to its chest. Share your assessment of Pakistan's perfidy, but don't gloat about how you're the bigger and better South Asian nation. Better to put your head down and re-read your Chanakya or Sun Tzu. Good idea to always keep your friends close, but your enemies closer.



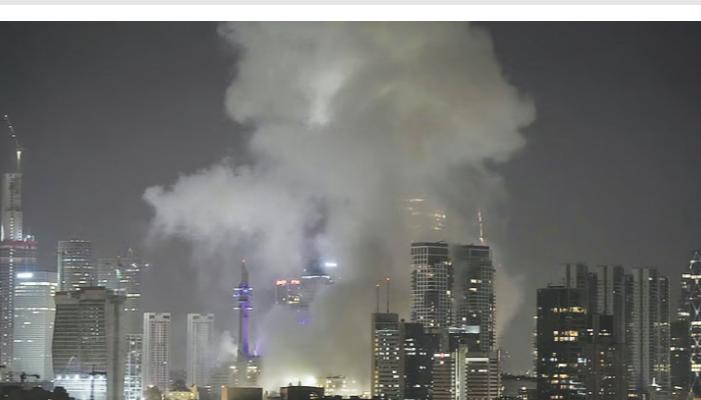
whether they can bite you too, as Hillary Clinton so feelingly summed up the Pakistan dilemma back in 2012. Once again, it's about how you can deliver a snake or two to the Americans so that they return to appreciating the qualities of the snake-charmer. Here are three reasons why the West seems to be reciprocating Pakistan's charm offensive: First, Pakistan's continuing influence with terrorists makes it a valuable friend. Recently, Pakistan handed over five Islamic State (IS) fighters, including Mohammad Sharifullah 'Jafar', who had been involved in the 2021 bomb attack near the Kabul airport in which 13 US soldiers were killed, to the Americans. Fact is, 'Jafar' is not even part of the top IS leadership, even if he may have masterminded this particular Kabul attack. By handing him over, Munir is buying both time and influence—an integral part of Pakistan's US playbook that has worked well over the decades.

War clouds darken rate cut horizon despite low inflation

Escalating Israel-Iran war has overturned market optimism, adding to other geopolitical tensions and trade policy uncertainties

Retail inflation fell to a 75-month low of 2.8 percent in May, from 3.2 percent in April. This is the fourth consecutive month where inflation stood below 4 percent. The decline was driven by food prices, which fell to a 43-month low. However, core inflation rose to a 19-month high. On balance, the headline number beat the market consensus of 3 percent. Analysts believe that a robust rabi harvest and expectations of a healthy kharif output due to above-normal monsoon should keep food prices in check this fiscal. But high-frequency indicators show a surge in prices of vegetables and fruits, while the prices of cereals and pulses continue to dip. For now, the core inflation remains benign amid easing international commodity prices. But the escalating Israel-Iran war has overturned market optimism, adding to other geopolitical tensions and trade policy uncertainties.

Following Israel's pre-dawn missile strike on Iran on Friday, Sensex plunged 1,300 points. Iran holds about 9 percent of the world's oil reserves, and as the strike intensified tensions in a key West Asian oil-producing



region, crude prices jumped over 13 percent, with the benchmark Brent contract hitting \$78.50 a barrel—its highest since January. If tensions persist for over the next 3-6 months, it's likely that crude prices would rise above \$82-85; J P Morgan analysts expect the new perch to be as

high as \$120 in a worst-case scenario. Besides price rise, any disruption in global oil supplies will slow down demand, drive up inflation and exacerbate the prevailing pressure on global markets, which are already reeling under an uncertain US trade policy overhaul. India relies on imports for over 80 percent of its crude oil needs, and a higher import bill will widen the current account deficit, which is expected at 1.2 percent of GDP this fiscal. India also is the largest consumer of gold, which on Friday shot past the psychologically significant mark of Rs 1 lakh per 10 gram for the first time ever on MCX. So the risks of imported inflation remain elevated, just as the RBI indicated last week about a protracted disinflationary process.

As it is, policymakers are grappling with global trade policy uncertainties that are threatening to spur inflation and lower global growth. If this happens, it will restrict the central bank's ability to lower policy rates any further.

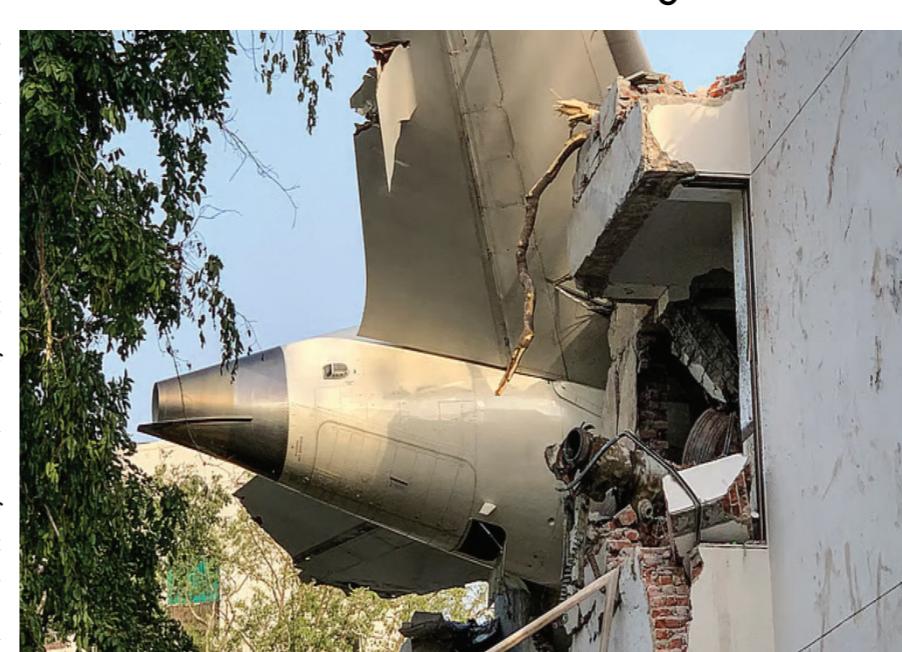
How not to fly on a wing and a prayer

India's aviation regulator has been in breach of a few norms laid down by the International Civil Aviation Organization. We need stricter implementation of rules and learn the hard lessons from accident investigations to make our skies safer

When will Indian aviation realise that safety is more important than commercial gains? The tragic loss of lives in the crash at Ahmedabad is a rude reminder of the aviation industry's procrastination on several fronts. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), along with National Transportation Safety Board of the US and Air Accident Investigation Board of the UK, will be involved in the investigation. The crucial digital flight data recorder and cockpit voice recorder will soon have been recovered intact from the crash site. The preliminary report should be out in less than a month if the DGCA follows international standards. But the standards have not always been followed. The technical annexes developed by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the specialised UN agency responsible for managing the Convention on International Civil Aviation, are applied universally and aimed at ensuring uniformity and safety. Annex 13, which pertains to accidents, clearly spells out the investigation standards. Even before the fire had subsided at the crash site in Ahmedabad, the DGCA issued a statement violating the protocol. One never discloses the names of the crew, but that was done.

The primary objective of an investigation is to identify the cause and take corrective measures to prevent recurrence. When you see the same kind of errors being the cause of a repeat accident, you know that our investigations have not achieved the objective. Take the number of tail strike accidents that have taken place in the past 3 years. This points to the poor training and safety standards of the airlines concerned, but the regulator, too, has failed

to take proactive actions. We live in a system where one feels reports are watered down and accidents reported only as incidents to keep the slate clean for insurance criterions. We have had aircraft going off the runway because of touching down at high speed and too late. The same airline has been involved in some accidents where lives were lost and some where the aircraft was written off. The failure of the media to highlight these is a cause of worry; negative publicity has more impact on the minds of travellers and pushes the system to be more proactive. Most airports in India are surrounded by structures in violation of ICAO standards. When an accident takes place, access to the crashed aircraft should be easily available. This has been pointed out and flagged earlier. In the report on the Mangalore crash of 2010, the court of inquiry report made false statements to say the rescue team arrived within 4 minutes. What they chose to hide was the fact that the fire tender never reached the aircraft, as it was bogged down outside the airport. Those aboard did not die during the crash; they burnt to death in their seats as the rescue reached too late. Fatigue and rest are two other important factors for aviation safety. The regulator often tailors them more to suit airlines' commercial requirements than for the safety of the crew and passengers. Fatigue and sleep deprivation have



caused several accidents worldwide and several countries have implemented strict fatigue risk management systems. In India, we have a system on paper, but there is no proper monitoring done to ensure the airlines follow them. Premature deaths of pilots seem not to have woken the conscience of the regulator or the aviation ministry. The accident in Ahmedabad should be a hard lesson for the civil aviation system in India. Do we sweep the lessons under the carpet or implement stricter safety norms? We need a transparent investigation in this

case and independent media coverage on aviation safety in the long run. Investigative journalism is one of the needs of the hour to make our skies safer. The rapid expansion of airlines with insufficient qualified professionals to man the cockpits, maintain aircraft and man air traffic control stations has to be addressed on a war footing. Over-dependence on automation has diluted manual flying skills. The training standards have to be raised to a much higher level. Safety monitoring has to be streamlined, and there should be no compromise on standards. As far back as 2006, the ICAO had flagged the lack of an independent regulator in India. And in 2025 we continue to have the ministry calling the shots. After every accident, one hears a defence of the

system in spite of blatant safety violations. We should have qualified professionals manning the regulator posts. Public memory tends to be short. The media frenzy will soon subside and start again after the next fatal accident. Hopefully, the judiciary will wake up to the danger and come down hard on the people manning the controls at the ministry and the DGCA. Lives are always precious and the latest tragedy cannot be wished away. Efforts to make the Indian skies safer have to be addressed as a priority.



Tips for Restarting your Career after a long sabbatical

How to deal with frenemies at work

A frenemy is one of the most dangerous workplace friends you can come across," says US-based executive coach and corporate author Ellen Lubin-Sherman.

This is the kind of colleague who pretends to be your well-meaning friend but doesn't miss a chance to back-stab you. According to Donna Flagg, the author of *Surviving Dreaded Conversations*, frenemies range from harmless ones to workplace bullies who revel in mind games. "However, once they are put in place, they are less likely to repeat their behaviour," she says. Dealing with an office frenemy is like walking on tigertooth. You can't sever ties with the colleague in question, especially if you work in the same team, neither can you afford to have heated arguments for the sake of professional appearance.

KNOW YOUR OFFICE FRENEMIES

THE SURFER

This frenemy uses charm to get her work done by transferring her own responsibilities onto colleagues. Tip: Chalk out your



THE IDEATHIEF

This is the person who seconds your original ideas at brainstorming sessions, and passes them off as his own. Tip: When you find someone taking credit for your idea, verbally discuss it with the colleague. If it doesn't work, talk to your boss after informing the person about it.

THE EAGER UPSTART

This ambitious young newbie

positive steps you can take to resolve problems.

Dos & don'ts

Treat your colleague cautiously if you continue to have major problems. When handed joint projects, draw clear lines of separation of labour. Write down the facts of your complaint before bringing the matter to your boss. Leave out any personal opinions in the note. If it reads like something your boss should be aware of, then state your case as objectively as possible.

Don't retaliate. If you find that a colleague has bad-mouthed you or taken credit for your ideas, don't respond immediately even though you might be tempted to. Don't shut down lines of communication, especially via email. Having a record of your correspondence will prevent your frenemy from faking facts. Don't overreact.

Let minor matters slide. If the issue is significant, ask your colleague about it directly to avoid any misunderstandings. Don't complain at the outset of your tiff. Give your colleague the benefit of the doubt until the matter escalates.

Sabbaticals are still viewed with scepticism and fear, though their purpose is to either take some time off to rest and relax or have a chance to step back from work and focus on personal enrichment and professional development. Whether the sabbatical is for a few weeks or a year, employees aim to return to work with more focus and energy.

Here are some effective tips to kick-start your second innings.

- Stay informed: Industry keeps evolving. Taking a sabbatical increases your chances of getting cut off from happenings in the industry. In case you aim to get started from where you left off in your professional journey, ensure your foundation is solid and can withstand unexpected changes. Come back with updated knowledge and skills.
- The value of networking: There is unanimous agreement among researchers that building and nurturing relationships with current and former people in the industry provides a strong medium to building a vibrant career and acts like a cushion for unplanned things.
- Speak up: After a break, some people do experience a natural reticence while speaking in

group sessions and team meetings. It's okay to keep quiet but withholding a helpful comment or pertinent questions won't do any good.

- Reasons to decide if it is time to hang on or move on: In a study on women returners by PWC, three in five professional women returning to the workforce are likely to experience an immediate earnings reduction of up to a third or likely to move into lower skilled or lower paid roles. Though it might be tempting to quit an unsatisfying job, there are several reasons to pause before submitting a resignation. One of the crucial reasons would be having higher self-confidence or having a better bargaining position as a job seeker if you are presently employed elsewhere.
- Exploring Opportunities: A gap in the resume does not look good, but trying to cover it up makes it worse. Align your social and professional networks with your resume as recruiters often check your digital footprint. Ensure your resume is created as per the trending format and is updated. Face the interview with the right attitude. Have a legit reason explaining your decision to go on a sabbatical and rejoining the work now.

Tips to win office Politics

Let's face it office politics is everywhere and no one can escape for its vicious clutches. But that doesn't mean that you can't fight it or stand up against it. One has to deal with these things calmly and diplomatically. So here are few tips that will help you stand against these office politics and still be loved by all.

1. Acceptance: A war is half won when you accept and acknowledge it. If you are being involved or dragged in office politics, firstly accept and acknowledge it. Then start analyzing who are the root cause for them and how can they be dealt with. Be aware that after this point too, you have a chance to either face it and fight against it or simply leave it.
2. Don't take sides: We fall in major problems when we start taking sides. It's good to have opinions but never under any circumstances take sides as it will ruin everything. When you find yourself caught in a situation like this then focus on your business objectives and don't take side with either of them. Place them on a common communication platform and ensure open communications among all parties so that no one can claim that they didn't utter those words.



Be it the need for power, position, money or simply greed, office politics can crop in any form and can create havoc in your life if not dealt well.

3. Don't get personal: There will be times when a colleague messes up with your happiness and you just want to give them a piece of your mind. Do not do that. This will not only make you look bad in front of your boss's eyes but will also make space for more rivalry. People tend to remember about the insults and arguments meted against them even though for you it was just a matter that you chose not to give enough importance.

4. No angry mails: Before sending any correspondences via email think through it a hundred times. Though in anger you might feel you are doing the right thing but to never known when the same mail might be used against you to demean you or make you the bad person in front of all. Same goes for social media posts too. Be extremely careful.
5. Know the real culprit: Know who the trouble maker is and always maintain a safe distance from that person and if you can make peace with that person nothing better than that.

Turkey dismisses allegations its firm had role in maintenance of crashed Air India flight

The Directorate of Communications Center for Countering Disinformation labelled claims linking Turkish Technic to the accident as disinformation intended to damage Turkey-India relations. They emphasised that their agreements with Air India only covered B777 aircraft, not the 787-8 model involved in the crash. This denial comes amid heightened tensions between the two countries following security concerns about a Turkish ground handling firm.

New Delhi. Turkey has dismissed claims that a Turkish firm was involved in the maintenance of the Air India Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner that went down in Ahmedabad on Thursday. Turkey's Directorate of Communications Center for Countering Disinformation contended that the allegation the Turkish Technic conducted the maintenance of the Boeing 787-8 passenger aircraft was "false". Taking to X on Friday, it said: "The claim that the crashed aircraft was maintained by Turkish Technic constitutes disinformation aimed at manipulating public opinion regarding Turkey-India relations." The post came a day after an Air India flight from Ahmedabad to London crashed. The crash killed 241 people on board and many others on ground. The plane crashed into the BJ Medical College hostel campus soon after taking off from the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport on Thursday afternoon. It added: "Under the agreements made between Air

India and Turkish Technic in 2024 and 2025, maintenance services are provided exclusively for B777-type wide-body aircraft. The Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner involved in the accident does not fall within the scope of this agreement. To date, Turkish Technic has not conducted maintenance on any Air India aircraft of this type." The Turkish centre also said that it was "aware" of the firm that carried out the most

recent maintenance on the aircraft which crashed, but pointed out it was "beyond its scope to make a statement on this matter to avoid further speculation". It said: "The Center for Countering Disinformation will continue to monitor and take the necessary measures against efforts that target the reputation of our flagship brands, which represent Türkiye on the international stage. As the people of Türkiye, we sincerely share the grief of the Indian people over this tragic plane crash." It is almost a month since a Turkish firm, which managed services at nine major Indian airports, lost its security clearance due to Turkey's backing for Pakistan during Operation Sindo. A Civil Aviation Ministry order on May 15 said the security clearance for Celebi Ground Handling India Private Limited was "revoked with immediate effect in the interest of national security". The revocation came after it was found that most of the drones launched by Pakistan at India on May 8 were Turkish-made, including the Asisguard SONGAR and the Bayraktar TB2.



British jet makes emergency landing in Kerala over fuel shortage



NEW DELHI. A British F-35 fighter jet made an emergency landing at Trivandrum International Airport on Saturday night after reporting low fuel levels. The aircraft had sought immediate permission to land, citing a fuel emergency. The jet, which is believed to have taken off from an aircraft carrier, landed safely at around 9.30 pm, as reported by the news agency PTI. "The pilot reported low fuel and asked for permission to land. Everything was handled quickly and professionally," the source said to PTI. Authorities at the airport granted clearance, and the jet landed safely without any incident. The aircraft is currently parked at the airport. The British side has now requested permission from the Central government to refuel the fighter jet. The request is currently under review, and clearance is awaited from the Centre.

Ahmedabad Air India crash: First responder 108 ambulance driver sent alert and rushed to saved lives

New Delhi. Satinder Singh Sandhu, an 108 Ambulance driver, was having his lunch when a big explosion rattled him. He looked out towards one of the hostels on the BJ Medical College premises. Thick black smoke was rising. He could make out that something extremely bad had happened. Right then, his phone rang. Without waiting, he swung into action and rushed towards the site from where the smoke was billowing. And then, he saw the heart-wrenching sight — an aircraft had crashed after bursting into flames and chaos reigned the place. Air India's Ahmedabad to London flight had nosedived from an altitude of 625 feet, and crashed into the hostel campus in Meghanagar around 1:39 pm. Sandhu was at the site by 1.43pm. He also alerted the ambulance service manager Jitendra Shahi while on his way to the spot. An NDTV report said that in a call recording accessed by the news outlet he is heard alerting Shahi: "There has probably been a plane crash. Send the fire brigade."

The first individual Sandhu saw getting out of the crash site was a security guard, who was badly burnt and unable to stand properly. Sandhu also spotted the lone crash survivor — Vishwas Kumar Ramesh — walking away from the wreckage. He tried to go back and save a relative, who was still trapped on board. However, the relative was among the 241 crash victims. Sandhu then rushed Ramesh to the hospital. As many as five ambulances were at the site by 1.46 pm. Rescue operation started. Within the next 10 minutes, over 20 additional ambulances had reached the spot and were standing by, all prepared to respond. "We first shifted 15-20 people emerging from the hostel to the ambulance," Shahi pointed out.

Shahi couldn't believe that there was survivor in the horrifying plane crash. He said that they were prepared for such situations and had successfully carried out rescue operations in the past. "However, this time, there were so many casualties in one place. The recent security drills (held around the time Operation Sindo was launched) prepared us for dealing with such a high number of casualties," Shahi told. The ill-fated Air India flight crashed on Thursday afternoon. All 241 people on board were killed.

The plane burst into flames and crashed into the hostel building of the BJ Medical College. So far, the total toll is 274. The black box of the crashed flight has been recovered and the reason behind the crash is being ascertained.

Delhi: Batla House may be demolished on Monday, says AAP MLA Amanatullah Khan

New Delhi. Aam Aadmi Party MLA Amanatullah Khan, has alleged that the Batla House may be demolished on Monday by the Delhi Development Authority (DDA). He released an audio message regarding the matter.

DDA wants to act fast, not give time for court review: Khan

Amanatullah Khan accused the DDA of trying to demolish the houses in a hurry so that an appeal regarding stopping the demolition can't be filed in the Delhi High Court. He said that the court had already stayed the demolition of 21 of the houses, whose owners had received demolition notices. The demolition of

other houses will also be stayed in a day or two, claimed Khan. But he alleged that the DDA wants to carry out the demolition, before they approach the court. According to the AAP leader,

courts to open and is firm upon demolishing the homes.

Court stay on demolition

The Delhi High Court had on Friday

granted an interim stay on the proposed demolition of 11 properties in Batla House area of Okhla. The residents had challenged the notices issued by the DDA on May 24 and May 26.

A single judge bench of Justice Tejas Karia granted interim stay on the proposed demolition, till the next date of hearing, reported ANI. The court also issued a notice to DDA and sought a response at the earliest. The matter is listed for hearing next on July 10. The Delhi High Court agreed to stay the demolition, but instructed the petitioner to withdraw their application from the Supreme Court.

The IMD said that 50-104 kmph winds were reported within an hour. The highest wind speed was recorded at Safdarjung, which was 104 kmph. Palam recorded wind speed of 56 kmph, Pragati Maidan of 67 kmph, while the wind speed at the IGNOU observatory was 63 kmph.

The IMD gave an update of rains in different parts of Delhi. While Safdarjung recorded 33.5 mm of rains between 2:30 am to 4 am on Sunday night, Lodi Road recorded 32 mm of rains. The Pusa observatory in the city recorded 27.5 mm rains.

Giving further updates, the IMD said that 2 thunderstorms were reported over Safdarjung.

The hailstorm was recorded early in the morning, between 3:50 am to 4 am, said the weather department. While the wind speed during the first storm was recorded at 82 kmph, the second was more intense, with wind speeds going up to 104 kmph.

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5 things you should learn from your First job

So it's your first job and you have to make sure that you create the right impression and yet stick to your deadlines.

10 tips for email Etiquette

The digital age has made communication much easier and more hassle-free, what with several apps available for mobile phone chat.

However, people often forget that they have to use a different, more formal tone for official email correspondence, and end up peppering their emails with too many emojis and abbreviations. Here are a few tips to keep in mind when you're sending out a work email.

1. INTRODUCTIONS ARE IMPORTANT:

Always introduce yourself if you are writing to someone you don't know or haven't corresponded with previously. If you've got the sender's address from a mutual friend, mention that in your email. Introducing yourself is especially important if you're sending out a survey or questionnaire to people whose addresses you have got from a database.

2. ALWAYS RUN A SPELL-CHECK: It's important to run a spell-check for official correspondence, especially if you're sending an email from your phone. You don't want the auto-correct feature to backfire on an official email, after all. Ensure your grammar and punctuation are correct as well.

3. USE THE REPLY-ALL FEATURE SPARINGLY:

Only use the reply-all feature for an email that really needs it. If the reply is meant for only one person, just reply to him/her. And don't use it to reply to a sender's greetings for the festive

underlining in the middle of a lot of text. Don't use fancy fonts or multiple font colours either.

4. USE BCC FOR GENERIC MAILS: Use the Bcc field for when you are sending out mails to a very large number of people who may not all know each other. It's also a way to ensure that all your contacts' addresses are not out there for people unknown to them to access.

5. RESTRICT THE NUMBER OF ATTACHMENTS YOU SEND:

Send heavy files via file-hosting services so that you don't

season — you could find yourself being blamed for starting an unnecessary email thread.

6. FIX YOUR FORWARDS:

Make it a point to clean up forwards before you, in turn, forward them to other people. Not only does this make the email look cleaner, but it also ensures that you don't give away anyone else's email addresses.

10. CHECK WHO YOU'RE SENDING AN EMAIL TO:

Always check the To field of an unsent email before you send it. You don't want the wrong email being sent to the wrong person. What every official email should contain

Subject line: This is the first thing that recipients will see in their inboxes and it will determine whether they will

read it or not. It should be clear and direct.

Salutation: Always start an email by greeting the recipient by using the word 'dear' followed by his/her name. If you aren't on a first-name basis with the recipient, use a title and a surname.

Concise body: Get straight to the point. If you have more than one issue to address, start with the most important, and list the rest point-by-point.

Sign off: Always sign off on your emails. Phrases like 'Yours sincerely' and 'yours faithfully' are acceptable for formal emails. 'Best regards' or 'kind regards' work in most other situations.

within a deadline or cracking a deal within a deadline, this word matters the most in the work zone and should be given utmost priority.

Work-home balance isn't a myth

So while you may think that balancing your work responsibilities and home chores is a total myth, in reality it isn't. While, initially it may all seem very surreal to manage all, gradually you will get used to it and then managing both becomes quite easy.

Sticking to deadlines

So while you were in college or school deadlines were something that you were quite flexible with. But things change when you step out in the world and get into the work zone. From bringing out a story

within a deadline or cracking a deal within a deadline, this word matters the most in the work zone and should be given utmost priority.

So in a sense your first job teaches you where to be a spendthrift and where to be a true-blue stingy.

Being a smart worker

Well, it is good you are a hard worker, but amidst deadlines one has to be a smart worker and make sure that he/she finishes work in time and with less errors.

Socialize right and smart

Certainly, there are many who are glued to social media, but when you get into a work pace and add people from your work space one has to be doubly sure to see what kind of messages and pictures they are sharing on social media. The reason being that a lot of employers these days goes through our social pages and decides whether to hire or not.

reflects that you are sociable and can work harmoniously with others. Interviewers will most likely test your ability of being a team player through questions relating to real-life scenarios.

Some interviewers give a lot of importance to the extra-curricular abilities of the interviewee - excellence in sports, participation in student organization activities, community assistance roles with NGOs, etc - to judge the individual's ability to work in teams and inspire innovative ideas.

Problem solving and analytical skills: Impromptu thinking and problem solving skills are the qualities that prospective employers look for in candidates. So it is essential to build on these capabilities and flaunt them when you present yourself in the job market as this will help you gain bonus points.

Open to learning and being proactive:

It is vital for a candidate to come across as independent and not someone who needs to be pushed for a task to be completed. In addition to this, out-of-the-box thinking and innovative ideas can get you the competitive corporate advantage. Interviewers will also try to gauge if a candidate is open to maintaining a continuous learning curve to re-skill themselves in a dynamic workplace and stay ahead. Interviewers are impressed not with how much you know, but with how well you can convince the opposite person to think and accept your point of view. By demonstrating the right qualities and by marketing yourself efficiently, you can certainly land your first big career break!



clog the recipient's inbox. You could also zip files or resize pictures. If you know you're sending an email to someone who accesses his/her inbox on the phone, don't send several attachments with it.

6. DON'T OVER-ABBREVIATE: Don't use too many abbreviations or in your email, like FYI, PFA, PDF or FYR. It may confuse the recipient, who may also get the impression that you don't have the time to type out a proper email. If you must use them, restrict it only to the subject line.

7. FORMATTING FUNDAS: Do not use all caps and bold fonts as this will give the recipient the impression that you are shouting at him/her. The same goes for

the best way to stand out in the crowded candidate market and it also aids in building a strong professional network.

Aptitude for leadership: It is not just the academic record and domain expertise that matter these days, but also your proficiency to be a leader that companies look out for. Not everyone can master this skill; however, one can work on building their inherent leadership qualities by taking initiatives and responsibility.

Communication skills: The most significant step towards getting through the interview process is to polish your communication skills, both written and verbal.

Being a people's person and a team player: Good interpersonal skills are a key to securing your dream job. Having this skill



Cost of delay: Why you should invest early in mutual funds; see the numbers here

Kolkata. If inflation is a big wrecker of savings and investment, procrastination is an equally big nemesis. If you heard personal finance strategists reiterating the need to start investing as early as possible in life, it is not without reason. There are calculators that are available online and for free with which one can check the veracity of this advice.

SIP, or systematic investment plan, is the new instrument of choice for the Indian middle class. In April alone SIP inflow has surpassed Rs 26,000 crore, which means investment of well over Rs 1,000 crore a day. Let's take the example of a mutual fund SIP to find out how delay can cost the fortunes of an average investor. Every personal finance advisor is of the conclusion that the early one begins to invest, the higher the gains. The logic: mutual funds harness the force of compounding which becomes a mammoth force in the long-term. Cost of Delay calculator A "cost of delay" calculator will illustrate the wealth destroying capacity of delay effectively. We can take the example of two persons. Let them invest a modest sum of Rs 10,000 every month in mutual funds through the SIP mode. Let one begin at the age of 25, while the other begins to invest at the age of 35. Let both of them continue investing till the age of 60. Let's also assume that both enjoy the same returns. We also assume that both invest the same amount throughout the period. Basically, we are creating a situation where all other factors, except the tenure of investment, are identical for both.

The first person, who begins investing from 25, ends up amassing Rs 6.43 crore from this SIP only. He/she invests for 35 years. But the second person, who begins to invest the same amount 10 years later, ends up accumulating only Rs 1.88 crore. Therefore, the difference in final value of the SIP kitty is nothing less than Rs 4.55 crore. Which means the person who starts out 10 years earlier makes more than three times of what the other one makes.

Father's day 2025: Could you have a look at these financial gifts

Kolkata. Father's Day was first celebrated in June 1910 in Spokane, Washington. According to reports, Sonora Smart Dodd was the person to introduce this concept in the honour of her father, William Jackson Smart, who was a veteran of the Civil War veteran and a single parent who had the gumption to raise as many as six children. It is celebrated on the third Sunday in June.

Today, Sunday June 15 is Father's Day. Every year you must be gifting your father flowers, books, pens, or chocolates. This year you could also think of a few financial instruments to make this Father's day rather memorable. The instruments that you could consider for gifting your dad can be a policy of health insurance, or Fixed Deposit (FD) and even lumpsums and SIP in mutual fund schemes. They can not only be a token of your affection but also be of significant use in day to day life. Let us have a close look at each of these Possible Father's Day gifts

Health Insurance policy: To a senior citizen, or someone approaching the life of an "elder", health concerns and the expenditure of healthcare can be quite unnerving. Healthcare inflation has been reported at an incredible 14%. Therefore, you can always gift your father a health insurance policy. If he is prone to certain critical illness, you can buy him a critical illness rider that will of special significance for him. Even if he has one health insurance policy, the second one can bolster the sense of security along with the first one.

Strict checks coming in! RBI to tighten rules for overseas remittances by resident Indians; here's what is being planned

New Delhi. The Reserve Bank of India intends to strengthen regulations concerning international money transfers, that is, overseas remittances by Indian residents, with new restrictions on foreign currency deposits that involve lock-in periods.

The RBI's Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS) governs foreign investments by individuals, permitting resident Indians to send up to \$250,000 annually for various purposes, including overseas education, travel, investment in equity and debt instruments, and healthcare services.

The RBI will modify its guidelines to stop international transfers from being utilised to deposit funds in overseas interest-bearing accounts or time deposits, an official told Reuters. "This is akin to passive wealth shifting, which is a red flag for the RBI in a still-controlled capital regime," noted the official.

India's conservative approach towards increasing outward remittances and complete rupee convertibility is evident in these proposed modifications, as officials work to protect forex reserves and control currency fluctuations, according to the sources. The central bank, whilst in talks with the government, intends to implement measures preventing such deposits from being made under different nomenclatures, as per the second source.

Also Read | Rs 4.58 crore siphoned off from customer accounts, FDs! How former ICICI Bank relationship manager pulled off a stunning fraud - explained in 10 points! The initiative aims to streamline regulations within the scheme's legal structure, aligning with the central bank's stated objectives in its yearly report.

According to RBI statistics, individual residents' outward remittance deposits increased significantly to \$173.2 million in March, up from \$51.62 million in February.

EU Struggles For Trade Deal With US By July 9 Amid Tariff Tensions

In a post on social media platform X, von der Leyen said on Saturday that she had a "good call with President Trump ahead of the G7 Summit".

New Delhi. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen has reiterated the European Union's (EU) commitment to reach a "good" trade deal with the US before July 9 during a phone call with US President Donald Trump. In a post on social media platform X, von der Leyen said on Saturday that she had a "good call with President Trump ahead of the G7 Summit". The US government's decision to raise tariffs on steel and aluminum imports to 50 per cent took

effect earlier this month, escalating a trade dispute that has drawn sharp concern from European producers, who warn the steep new duties could cause significant harm to the sector, Xinhua news agency reported. On May 26, European Commissioner for Trade and Economic Security Maros Sefcovic made similar comments after Trump said talks with the 27-member bloc were "going nowhere" and threatened to impose a 50 per cent tariff on all EU imports from June 1. Following a call from von der Leyen, Trump then agreed to delay the planned tariff hike until July 9. According to von der Leyen's post on Saturday, she and Trump also discussed the situations in the Middle East as well as in Ukraine during the phone call. US Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick said on June 11 that the European Union is likely to be among the last deals that the US completes, as the administration rushes to secure tariff agreements with other trading partners. Lutnick, who has long expressed frustration

with the bloc, indicated on Wednesday that discussions intensified following President Donald Trump's threat to raise levies to 50 per cent -- which he delayed



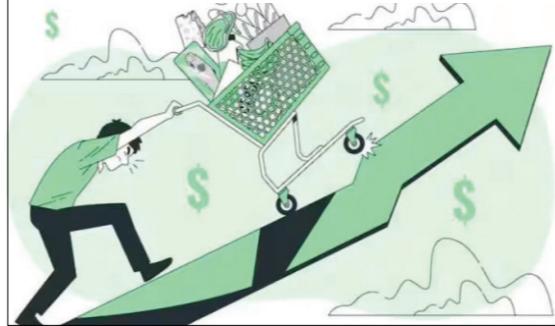
until July 9 to allow more time for negotiations -- but are still proceeding more slowly than others. The Commerce chief said "Europe was more than thorny" before Trump issued his ultimatum, then "all of the sudden they got a little religion and made a proper offer". The US and EU have been grappling over trade terms before the July cutoff. EU trade chief

Sefcovic has been in regular communication with Lutnick and US Trade Representative Jameson Greer since the partners agreed to fast-track negotiations two weeks ago. Still, the EU believes trade negotiations with the US could blow past the deadline and officials see an agreement on the principles of a deal by that date as a best-case scenario that would allow further time to work out details, according to people familiar with the matter. Trump administration officials have shown exasperation over talks with the EU, saying it is more challenging to negotiate an agreement with a group of 27-nations with differing priorities. US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent in a May interview with Bloomberg Television said most US trading partners have been negotiating "in very good faith" but singled out the EU as an "exception". He also accused the bloc of having a "collective action problem".

Geopolitical Tensions, Oil Prices, Inflation Data To Drive Market Sentiment Next Week

Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) remained net sellers last week, offloading shares worth Rs 1,246 crore.

Mumbai: The coming week is expected to be crucial for Indian stock markets, as global geopolitical developments, crude oil prices, the upcoming US Fed policy decision, and key domestic economic data are all set to influence investor sentiment. One of the biggest factors that could drive global market volatility next week is the ongoing Israel-Iran conflict. Tensions in the Middle East have already had a visible impact on Indian markets in recent sessions. The US Federal Reserve will hold its policy meeting on June 17-18. Investors worldwide, including in India, will be closely watching the Fed's stance on interest rates and inflation, which may influence foreign capital flows. On the domestic front, India will release its wholesale inflation (WPI) and trade balance data for May on June 16. These numbers are expected to guide near-



term market movement. Last week, Indian equities witnessed a broad-based sell-off, mainly due to global factors. The benchmark indices Nifty and Sensex closed over 1 per cent lower at 24,718 and 81,118, respectively. The decline was led by sectors like FMCG, realty, PSU banks, and consumption, which all fell by over 2 per cent. However, pharma, IT, and media stocks saw some gains, offering partial support to the market. Foreign

institutional investors (FIIs) remained net sellers last week, offloading shares worth Rs 1,246 crore. In contrast, domestic institutional investors (DIIs) were net buyers, investing Rs 18,637 crore in the cash segment. According to Bajaj Broking, the Nifty has been consolidating in the 24,400-25,200 range for the past month and is likely to continue in this zone next week as well.

However, if geopolitical tensions escalate further and the index breaks below the lower end of the range, it could test the 24,000 level. "On the upside, the 25,000 level continues to act as a key resistance. A breakout above this level could potentially signal a pause in the recent downturn," the brokerage firm stated.

THIS Indian City Saw Sharpest Rise in Property Prices in 5 Years; It's Not Mumbai, Delhi Or Kolkata, The City Is...

New Delhi. Bengaluru has emerged as the fastest-growing housing market among major Indian cities. Over the past five years, home prices in the Karnataka capital have jumped by an impressive 79 per cent, outpacing metros like Mumbai, Delhi-NCR, Chennai, and Kolkata, according to a report by 1 Finance.

Bengaluru Housing Market

Bengaluru and Delhi-NCR are the only two major Indian cities where unsold housing stock has come down over the past five years—showing strong demand and robust home sales despite rising prices, according to the report. Bengaluru, India's leading IT hub hosts the offices of major global tech companies and top Indian startups. With over 10 lakh well-paid tech professionals and some of the highest-



paying tech jobs in the country, the demand for homes in the city has shot up, driving prices even higher. How Much Do Homes Cost in Bengaluru Now? Bengaluru home prices have

paying tech jobs in the country, the demand for homes in the city has shot up, driving prices even higher. How Much Do Homes Cost in Bengaluru Now? Bengaluru home prices have

jumped by 79 per cent over the last five years, with the current average rate at around Rs 10,349 per square foot. The report also highlights that Kolkata saw the next highest rise after Mumbai, with

government data. Of the total, solar power capacity expanded 31.49 per cent to 110.83 GW from 84.28 GW in May 2024. According to Joshi, clean energy is shaping India's journey of progress and pride. India's solar energy capacity has taken a massive leap in the last 11 years, from a mere 2.82 GW in 2014. Solar energy has emerged as the new driving force of India's renewable energy thrust. The expansion in the installation of solar power generation capacity has been backed by a robust domestic production of solar cells and wafers, which was almost non-existent in 2014. India has now built a strong foundation with 25GW of solar cell production and 2GW of wafer production.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has fixed a target of 500 GW for renewable energy capacity by 2030 as part of the country's goal to reduce its carbon footprint in the fight against climate change.

FM Sitharaman Takes Stock Of Financial Inclusion Schemes In Ladakh



FM Sitharaman is scheduled to interact with councillors of the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) and the Ladakh administration. She will also inaugurate various developmental projects during her tour.

Leh. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Sunday visited an exhibition of local handicrafts and handloom products by Self Help Groups (SHG) and local entrepreneurs of the Ladakh region. She interacted with artisans, women-led SHGs and local entrepreneurs showcasing traditional crafts, handloom textiles and sustainable innovations at their stalls. The Finance Minister appreciated the entrepreneurial spirit and creativity of the artisans, highlighting

their role in preserving cultural heritage and boosting rural livelihoods in the Union Territory. The initiative is part of the Centre's policy of inclusive development to empower women and local entrepreneurs and create more jobs. The Finance Minister is on a four-day visit to Ladakh. She will chair a credit outreach programme emphasising the vital role of credit in promoting financial inclusion and economic development in the region. Sitharaman is scheduled to interact with councillors of the Ladakh

Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) and the Ladakh administration. She will also inaugurate various developmental projects during her tour. The Modi government has succeeded in mobilising more than 10.04 crore women into over 90.76 lakh self-help groups (SHGs) nationwide to promote financial inclusion under the flagship DAY-NRLM poverty alleviation scheme. Over 52 crore loans worth Rs 32.61 lakh crore have been sanctioned under the PM Mudra Yojana for the poor, with the scheme having

completed 10 years of its launch this year. The scheme has led to the empowerment of women in small towns and villages, as nearly 70 per cent of Mudra loans have been availed by women entrepreneurs, enhancing their financial independence and contributing to gender equality. In the last nine years, while per-woman PMMY disbursement amount increased by a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 13 per cent to Rs 62,679, the per-woman incremental deposits increased by a CAGR of 14 per cent to Rs 95,269, data compiled by the Finance Ministry shows. The IMF has also lauded the PM Mudra Yojana, with a report of the UN arm stating that the scheme, which extends collateral-free loans with a special focus on women's entrepreneurship, has helped boost the number of women-owned MSMEs, which now stands at more than 2.8 million. The report said that an enabling policy environment for entrepreneurship through various programs, such as the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana, is contributing to increased self-employment and formalisation through credit.



Nupur Sanon

Has Taken Up The Makeup-Free Challenge; Here's Why

Kriti Sanon's sister, Nupur Sanon, has made a bold choice for a good cause. She has decided to step out in public without applying makeup. Reason? The 29-year-old wants to feel "confident" in her natural skin and ultimately reach the final stage of self-acceptance. Through this thoughtful move, Nupur is making a quiet statement about embracing authenticity and redefining beauty standards. On Saturday, June 14, Nupur shared a video on her Instagram Stories showcasing her makeup-free skin. She also shared some key takeaways on what going zero-makeup taught her about her lifestyle habits.

The video shows Nupur Sanon recording herself on her cellphone. She seems to be travelling in a car. When Nupur zooms in her camera, we can spot her blemish-free radiance. It is clear that she does not have any makeup on her face. It was just a natural glow, minus any kajal, eyeliner, or lipstick.

Her side note read, "Takes a while, but I genuinely want to start feeling confident in my skin, just real natural skin. So, I have started stepping out without makeup more often and that is making me acknowledge that I need to start eating better, do skincare religiously, have those Vitamins etc. Baby steps. The goal is to be confident in my absolutely authentic self (red heart emoji)."

On the personal front, Nupur Sanon is rumoured to be dating singer Stebin Ben. Earlier this month, the duo was spotted in Mumbai. Of late, they have been making numerous such appearances together.

In the video, posted by a paparazzo account on Instagram, Nupur Sanon and Stebin Ben were seen getting out of their car, looking effortlessly stylish in casual fits. While Nupur looked chic in a knotted blue shirt and a colourful striped skirt, Stebin kept it simple in a basic beige shirt and a pair of black trousers. The duo was in high spirits, flashing smiles at the camera and waving at the shutterbugs. The caption said, "Stebin Ben and Nupur Sanon casually stepped out in Mumbai last night."

Despite the ongoing speculations, neither Stebin Ben nor Nupur Sanon has confirmed their relationship status.



Jonita Gandhi

Opens Up On Racist Bullying In Canada: 'They Called Me Godzilla'

Jonita Gandhi may be one of India's most beloved playback singers today, but behind her soaring vocals and bright stage presence is a story etched with pain, self-doubt, and hard-won confidence. In a deeply personal conversation with *Hauterfly*, the Canada-raised singer opened up about battling racism, body shaming, and internalized insecurities during her formative years. Born in Delhi and raised in Canada, Jonita recalled the trauma she endured in school, where she was relentlessly bullied for her facial hair. "They used to call me Godzilla," she revealed, adding that the cruel taunts often came from fellow Punjabi boys in her class. The bullying wasn't just limited to her peers—Jonita says that even those from her own community made her feel like she didn't belong.

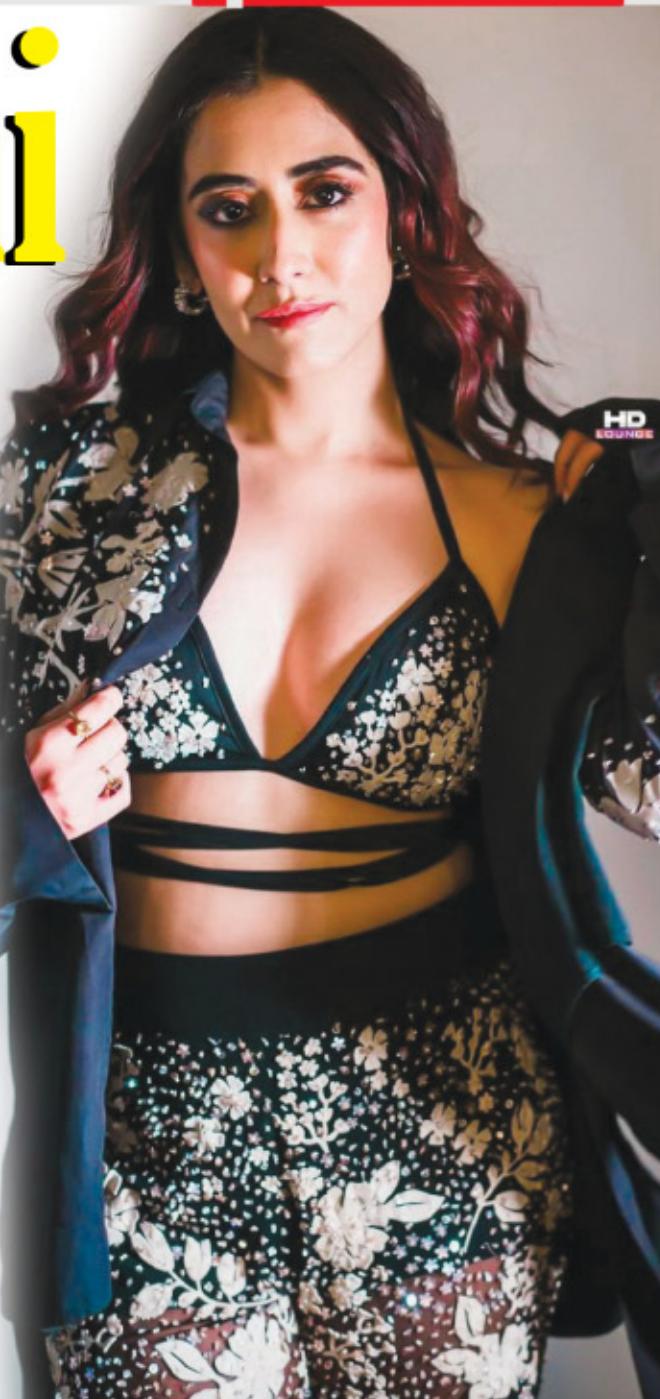
These early experiences left lasting scars. "Growing up, I was convinced I was never going to have sex because of the same issues," she admitted. "I couldn't accept my own body—how can someone else accept it?" Even now, she says, remnants of those insecurities remain. "I still avoid swimming sometimes, but music made it better. I feel like I'm the ugly duckling who became the swan."

Her journey toward self-love and success wasn't linear. After carving a name for herself through viral YouTube covers, Jonita moved to India to take her passion for music to the next level. But she found herself confronting a new set of stereotypes. "By the time I came to India, I had the glow-up and transformation, and suddenly I was the 'cute' girl," she shared. "People used

to think just because I'm a 'firang', I must be easy." Despite the initial assumptions, Jonita credits her growth to the people who saw her for more than just appearances. "I ended up meeting a lot of people who made me feel credible and gave me the feeling that no one could mess with me," she said with pride. Since



making her Bollywood debut in *Chennai Express* (2013), Jonita has lent her voice to some of Indian cinema's biggest hits, including *The Breakup Song* (*Ae Dil Hai Mushkil*), *Gilehriyan* (*Dangal*), and *What Jhuka* (*Rocky Aur Rani Ki Prem Kahaani*). Her success is not just a testament to her talent, but also to her resilience. From being called names in high school hallways to owning the spotlight on global stages, Jonita Gandhi's story is a reminder that the ugliest beginnings can sometimes shape the most powerful voices.



Bigg Boss 18's Avinash Mishra Takes A Jibe At Rajat Dalal? 'Mere Obsessed Lover Ne...'



Avinash Mishra and Eisha Singh have been hitting the headlines for their ongoing feud with fellow Bigg Boss 18 contestants Rajat Dalal and Kashish Kapoor. It all started when Kashish joined Rajat on his YouTube channel, *The Little Adda Company*. During the conversation, both made some remarks about Avinash and Eisha that didn't go down well with them. Recently, Rajat addressed the controversy about his and Kashish's remarks on the podcast. Soon after, Avinash seemingly took a dig at Rajat, calling him his 'obsessed lover', and implying that he is using his name to stay relevant.

On his Instagram stories, Avinash Mishra shared a video where he playfully looks at the camera while making a mocking gesture. In the caption, he suggested that his name is once again being used for views. "Suna kal phir mere naam pe log views le gaye (Heard that once again people used my name for views yesterday)," he wrote. He also shared a post on X (formerly Twitter), in which he stated that he will no longer give importance to this matter.

"Suna hai mere obsessed lover ne bohot baatein ki hai meri. Well thank you for the hyper reaction which proved my every single word i said in my last IV's Definitely not gonna give any importance from now on as this is the only thing which can keep you in limelight DONE & OVER. #AvinashMishra," he wrote.

Rajat Dalal And Kashish Kapoor's Remarks On Avinash Mishra And Eisha Singh

This response comes in the wake of Rajat Dalal's recent interview. However, the controversy erupted after the recent release of a podcast featuring Rajat and Kashish, which was recorded months ago. During this interview, Rajat told Kashish that Bhavika Sharma, who was rumoured to be Avinash's girlfriend while they were on the show, had blocked Avinash after he went with Eisha on a vacation together to Bangkok. Kashish was surprised and asked, "Bhavika kaun? (Who Bhavika?)" Rajat explained that Bhavika was Avinash's girlfriend. Then Kashish asked Rajat if Avinash already had a girlfriend before entering the Bigg Boss house. Rajat confirmed, "Haa pehle se hi hai (Yes, he had a girlfriend)."

Malaika Arora Slays In Skater Dress, Twins With Son Arhaan Khan In Yellow



Malaika Arora is known for her stylish fashion outings. On Saturday afternoon, the actor-model was spotted wearing a lemon yellow-coloured skater dress after what looked like a lunch outing with her son, Arhaan Khan. The mother-son duo was accompanied by their pet dog. Malaika Arora was a vision in a skater dress, which reeked of summer! Her dress had a bold cut on the back, tied by a ribbon. She amplified her look with complementing block heels, a black bag and a statement watch. Her son, Arhaan Khan, looked dapper in a lemon yellow shirt and blue denim, twinning with his mother. Watch their video here:

Malaika, 51, makes it a point to spend considerable amount of time with her son on the weekends and on important occasions. Last year, she opened up about her bond with Arhaan and said they are close friends. She told *GlobalSpa Magazine*, "As a mom, I am a bit strict, but also my son's close friend. It is important to me that he feels comfortable coming to me with anything, never thinking, 'I cannot tell my mom this.' Instead, I want him to feel, 'I need to tell my mom.'"

Malaika and her son Arhaan's close bond was clearly visible in her reality show, *Moving In With Malaika*.

The two often share lighthearted banter and enjoy family trips together, strengthening their connection. Arhaan shares a warm relationship not just with Malaika but also with her sister, Amrita Arora. He also maintains a healthy and balanced rapport with his father, Arbaaz Khan, and the extended Khan family.

Meanwhile, fans often wonder if Arbaaz is going to follow his family's footsteps and venture into acting. "I am sure he is going to be coming as an actor before he takes on anything else," Arbaaz once said at an interview. His mother also vouches for him, stating that he is a very good dancer.

Malaika Arora and Arbaaz Khan got married in 1998 and welcomed their son Arhaan in 2002. The two parted ways in 2017 and have been co-parenting Arhaan since then.

Monday, 16 June, 2025

NEWS BOX

Pochettino on rejecting Pulisic for friendlies: 'I'm the head coach, not a mannequin'

SAN FRANCISCO. United States coach Mauricio Pochettino defended his decision to omit Christian Pulisic from recent friendlies against Turkey and Switzerland on Saturday, saying he alone was responsible for choosing his squad. AC Milan star Pulisic has been at the center of a simmering controversy over his request to be excused from US duty in the CONCACAF Gold Cup, which kicked off on Saturday.

Former US international players including Landon Donovan have criticised Pulisic's decision, questioning his commitment to representing the United States. Pulisic hit back at his critics on Thursday, revealing that while he had asked to skip the Gold Cup he had been willing to play in the warm-up games -- only to be denied by Pochettino. The winger said that he had accepted Pochettino's decision but did not "understand" it. Asked about his decision to leave out Pulisic on Saturday, Pochettino said it was not for players to pick and choose which games they wanted to play in. "He explained why he only wanted to be involved in two games," Pochettino said of Pulisic. "And I respect and I understand him. I understand him. But I don't need for him to



understand our decision. Because my position is, I am 53 with a lot of experience in football." "If he performs well and he is the best, it's normal he's going to have a place in the national team. It's not because a player [is saying]: 'I want to play.' I want this, 'I want that.' I signed my contract with the federation and I am the head coach -- I am not a mannequin," Pochettino added.

The USA open their Gold Cup campaign against Trinidad and Tobago on Sunday.

Delhi Daredevils had poisonous characters in team: AB de Villiers's shocking claim

Former South African captain AB de Villiers has made a candid and surprising revelation about his time with the Delhi Daredevils (now known as the Delhi Capitals). In a recent interview with Cricket.com, the Indian Premier League (IPL) legend reflected on his early years in the tournament and how the franchise struggled internally despite boasting a star-studded line-up. De Villiers, who played for Delhi from 2008 to 2010, stopped short of naming individuals but



offered a rare glimpse into the dysfunction behind the scenes. "I'd hate to give you names-burning people, you know-but the Delhi Daredevils were in shambles. There were a lot of poisonous characters in that team," he said.

STORIES YOU MAY LIKE

Indian-origin man dies in Australia after cop 'kneed him on neck' during arrest Air India pilot Sumit Sabharwal's family in mourning, father inconsolable 'Too much chutney?': Air India crash tragedy met with racist outrage online The squad, which featured cricketing heavyweights like Virender Sehwag, Gautam Gambhir, Shikhar Dhawan, Glenn McGrath, and Daniel Vettori, failed to meet expectations. Despite making the playoffs in the first two seasons, the team never quite clicked. "There were lots of legends, which makes it a bittersweet memory for me. I still remember those times fondly. Some of the highlights of my life and career came during that stint--especially spending time with guys like Glenn McGrath and Daniel Vettori. These were my heroes growing up, and I was honestly a bit scared of them," De Villiers added. While his 2009 season in South Africa saw consistent performances, the following year brought frustration. A lack of playing time and clarity over his role led to disillusionment, ultimately prompting his departure from the franchise.

SPORTS

WTC Final: Temba Bavuma reveals Australians used 'choke' word to sledge South Africa

- **Bavuma heard Australian players use 'choke' during final day of WTC final**
- **South Africa defeated Australia by five wickets to claim WTC title**
- **Markram is hoping that the tag will be never used again**

New Delhi. South Africa captain Temba Bavuma said that he heard some of the Australian players use the word 'choke' to sledge the team on Saturday, June 14, on Day 4 of the World Test Championship final. The Proteas defeated the Aussies by five wickets to end their wait for an ICC title. Fans have long trolled South Africa with the name 'chokers' due to their inability to win big games. Many felt that Australia still had a chance heading into what turned



out to be the final day of the Test. Speaking after the win, Bavuma said that one of the Australian players said that they could still get bowled out despite needing 69 runs to win

on Day 4 with 8 wickets remaining. "Whilst we were batting, we could hear the Aussies using that dreaded word, choke," South Africa skipper Temba Bavuma told

BBC Test Match Special. "The tag of us being chokers, that came about this morning," Bavuma said after the win. "One of their players threw out the fact we could still get bowled out ... I definitely heard that."

Bavuma was happy that South Africa were able to get over the line in a big final and etch their names in the record books.

"It's been years since we've overcome a final, we've been etched in history. Now we're part of something that has never been done."

"Would be great to never hear that word" Aiden Markram, who was the Player Of The Match for his fantastic hundred, said that he hopes the word choke never gets used again when it comes to South Africa. Markram said that to get the win and remove the tag 'chokers' was a big accomplishment for the team. "It would be great to never hear that word [choke] again, that's for sure," said Markram. "To have got the job done and to get rid of that, it's a big thing for this team."

With the win, South Africa became the third team to win the WTC title, after New Zealand and Australia.

Gary Kirsten on quitting as Pakistan coach: Realised wasn't going to have much influence

New Delhi. Gary Kirsten opened up on the reason behind his stepping down as the Pakistan coach and hinted that he is open to a return if there is no external interference. The former India coach took over the role with Pakistan in April 2024, along with Jason Gillespie taking on a similar spot with the Test team. However, six months into his job, Kirsten put in his resignation amidst a power rift between him and the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB). Kirsten and Gillespie were also removed from the new selection panel setup by the board and he left the job before the teams for the Australia and Zimbabwe tours were announced. Speaking to Wisden, Kirsten recalled the tumultuous few months and



realised he wasn't going to have a lot of influence after being taken off the selection panel. "It was a tumultuous few months. I realised quite quickly I wasn't going to have much of an influence. Once I was taken off selection and asked to take a team and not be able to shape the team, it became very difficult as a coach then to have any sort of positive influence on the group," Kirsten said.

Kirsten on a potential return

Kirsten went on to say that he is open to a return to Pakistan and coaching the team but under the right circumstances. The former South African batsman said that the external influential noise shouldn't be present. "If I got invited back to Pakistan tomorrow, I would go, but I would want to go for the players, and I would want to go under the right circumstances," Kirsten said. "Cricket teams need to be run by cricket people. When that's not happening and when there's a lot of noise from the outside that's very influential noise, it's very difficult for leaders within the team to walk a journey that you feel like you need to walk in order to take this team to where it needs to go."

"I'm too old now to be dealing with other agendas, I just want to coach a cricket team, work with the players -- I love the Pakistan players, they're great guys. I had a very short period of time with them and I feel for them. More than any other team in the world, they feel the pressure of performance massively, when they lose it's hectic for them and they feel that."

Thomas Frank signs three-year contract as head coach of Tottenham

- **The 51-year-old Frank will replace Ange Postecoglou, who was fired last week despite leading Tottenham to its first trophy in 17 years in the Europa League final.**

LONDON. Tottenham hired Thomas Frank as head coach on Thursday after the Danish coach ended his nearly decade-long stay at Brentford. The 51-year-old Frank will replace Ange Postecoglou, who was fired last week despite leading Tottenham to its first trophy in 17 years with a win over Manchester United in the Europa League final. Tottenham said Frank's contract runs until 2028. "In Thomas, we are appointing one of the most progressive and innovative

head coaches within the game," the club said in a statement. "He has a proven track record in player and squad development and we look forward to him leading the team as we prepare for the season ahead."



Frank joined Brentford in December 2016 and has been manager since 2018. He has established a reputation as a tactically flexible and shrewd coach who has improved players, especially those of a lower profile or who have not performed at

other clubs. At Tottenham, he will have a squad of higher quality -- albeit one that finished below Brentford in the Premier League last season -- and will be managing in the Champions League for the first time.

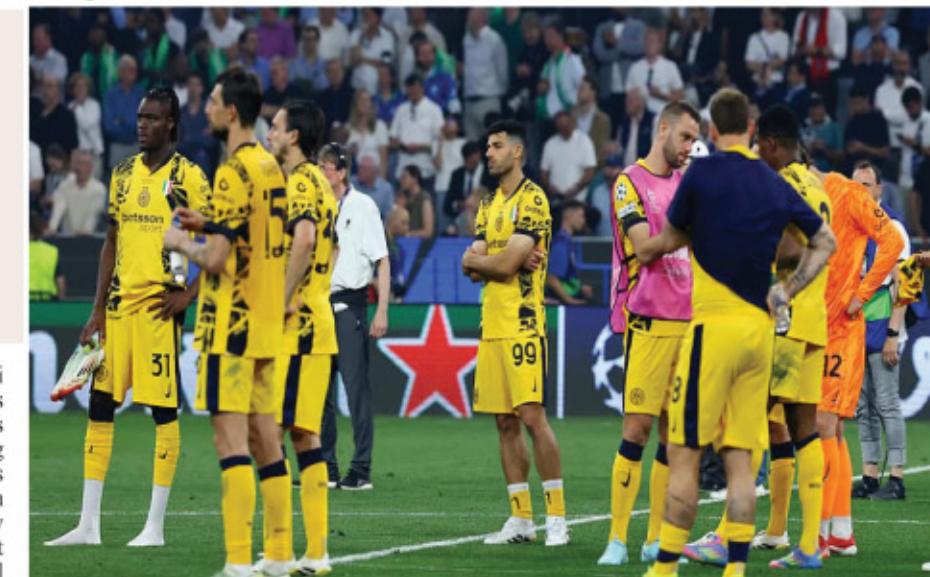
In that sense, it's a slight gamble from Spurs. Indeed, Frank has never won a trophy in his managerial career. However, having had Antonio Conte and Jose Mourinho at the helm for spells since 2019, even those managers with elite-level pedigrees have found it tough to lead Tottenham to success and Frank at least has plenty of Premier League experience.

Brentford has played in the top flight since 2021 and consistently punched above its weight. Tottenham said Frank will bring several of his back-room staff with him from Brentford, including assistant coach Justin Cochrane, with set-piece specialist Andreas Georgson also joining from Manchester United.

Inter Milan forward Taremi forced to miss FIFA Club World Cup 2025 opener due to Iran-Israel conflict

- **Flights from all Iranian airports have been grounded following an exchange of military strikes between Iran and Israel over the last two days.**

New Delhi. Inter Milan forward Mehdi Taremi will not be able to join his teammates at the Club World Cup in the United States as he is stuck in Tehran amid the escalating conflict between Iran and Israel. Flights from all Iranian airports have been grounded following an exchange of military strikes between Iran and Israel over the last two days. That meant the Iran international was unable to take his scheduled flight on Saturday to join his Inter teammates in Los Angeles. Taremi will miss Inter's opening match against Monterrey on Wednesday and Italian media reports the 32-year-old will



not feature in the other matches either regardless of whether Iranian airspace reopens. Taremi joined Inter from Porto last

year. He made 43 appearances in all competitions for Inter in the 2024-25 season, scoring three goals.

FIFA Club World Cup 2025: Lionel Messi and co settle for goalless draw against Al Ahly

- **A draw leaves both teams with a battle to advance from Group A with tougher tests likely to come against Brazilian giant Palmeiras and Porto from Portugal.**

MIAMI GARDENS. Lionel Messi and Inter Miami were held to a 0-0 draw by Egyptian side Al Ahly on Saturday as the 2025 FIFA Club World Cup got off to a smooth start in front of 60,927 fans in Florida. Messi was denied a storybook stoppage-time winner when he saw his curling shot from 20 yards out tipped on to the bar by Mohamed El Shenawy as Miami piled on the pressure in the final minutes of the game.

Miami had its own good fortune, surviving a



first half onslaught by 12-time African champion Al Ahly, with goalkeeper Oscar Ustari saving a penalty from Trezeguet just before the break. Penalty drama Miami had to rely on veteran Argentine goalkeeper Ustari to keep the game level in the first half, with

the 38-year-old pulling off several saves as Al Ahly dominated the chances. He produced a crucial double save just before halftime blocking Trezeguet's 43rd-minute penalty and then getting up quickly to deny the forward again on the rebound. A draw leaves

both teams with a battle to advance from Group A with tougher tests likely to come against Brazilian giant Palmeiras and Porto from Portugal. The top two advance to the round of 16. Miami can be encouraged by its performance in the second half after being dominated in the first half. "We didn't take our chances to win this match! Inter Miami had the better chances after the break, with Messi's free kick and curling long shot both hitting the woodwork." It was a good party for football. It's a new competition and the chance to play teams we don't play normally in our league, so it can be very good for us. You can prove what we can do," Javier Mascherano, Inter Miami coach. "I'm disappointed with the result. We could have taken all three points. We respect Inter Miami and their big-name players, but we could've finished the game in the first half by scoring three or four goals." Wessam Abou Ali, Al Ahly forward.