

### If it helps party, will definitely contest Bihar polls, says Chirag Paswan

The Sikh Times  
Sanjay Kumar

Raipur, June 02: Union Minister and Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) president Chirag Paswan on



Monday said he will definitely contest the upcoming Bihar polls if his candidature consolidates his party's position and "strike rate". He also said there is no vacancy for the post of chief minister of the eastern state as incumbent Nitish Kumar will continue to lead post the polls, likely to be held in October-November this year. Paswan was talking to reporters at Swami Vivekananda Airport here on his arrival to attend an event of a regional news channel.

### Karnataka govt sets up 'anti-communal task force' for three coastal districts

New Delhi, Jun 02: In the wake of recent murders in Mangaluru and other parts of the state, Karnataka Home Minister G Parameshwara on Monday assured that the government has taken the matter seriously and initiated decisive steps to address the escalating situation. Addressing reporters here in Tumakuru, Parameshwara emphasised the government's swift action. Mangaluru witnessed the murder of Hindutva activist Suhas Shetty (42) on May 1, which was followed by the murder of Abdul Rahiman (32). "The government has acted swiftly in response to the incident in Mangaluru. District In-charge Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao has visited the spot. I personally visited a murder site earlier," the Minister said. He said orders have been issued for the formation of anti-communal task force as announced earlier and preparations are underway. "Within ten days, we will operationalise a dedicated unit of anti-communal task force for three coastal districts," the Minister said. The new force will comprise a full complement of SPs, DySPs, inspectors, and other officers drawn from various parts of the state, he explained. "They will be provided with special training, including sessions at the Anti-Naxal Force training facility in Karkala."

### SC refuses to entertain plea challenging 'push backs' from Assam to Bangladesh

The Sikh Times  
Navdeep Singh Sahni

New Delhi, Jun 02: The Supreme Court on Monday refused to entertain a petition challenging alleged deportations to Bangladesh of people other than 63 individuals identified as foreigners in Assam and directed the petitioner to approach the high court. "You take your recourse to approach the Gauhati high court. 63 persons are being deported. You go to the high court," said a bench of justices Sanjay Karol and SC Sharma, as it heard a student group's petition. The petition annexed press clippings showing people other than the 63 were being picked up and deported to Bangladesh. Senior advocate Sanjay Hegde, who represented the petitioner, All BTC Minority Students Union (ABMSU), said the 63 were declared foreigners after the external

affairs ministry and Bangladesh confirmed their nationality for deportations. "The action of deportation is based on a pending order," he said, referring to a



February 4 Supreme Court order asking the Union and the Assam governments to deport the foreigners at an Assam detention centre by expediting the process of verification of their nationality

with the external affairs ministry and Bangladesh. The court also scheduled for next week the hearing of a habeas corpus plea of a son seeking the whereabouts of his mother, claiming police picked her up for deportation to Bangladesh. Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, who appeared for the petitioner, said the alleged arrest was directly in violation of the DK Basu guidelines of the Supreme Court on arrests. "They simply come and pick her up, and she is thrown out. She was out on bail by the order of this court since December 28, 2019." Sibal cited the Supreme Court Legal Services Committee Versus Union of India case. He added that the court directed the release

of detainees in the foreigners camp in Assam, who had completed over three years in detention, subject to certain conditions. The petitioner's mother, Monowara Bera, was among those

### Indira Gandhi ordered the Indian Army to attack Harmandir Sahib while thousands of sikhs were inside the gurudwara

The Sikh Times  
Gurcharan Singh Babbar

New Delhi, June 2: As the nation approaches the solemn anniversary of Operation Blue Star, the Sikh community in India and around the world once again turns its thoughts to the darkest chapter in modern Indian history. In June 1984, the then Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi took an extreme and unprecedented step - ordering the Indian Army to storm the holiest Sikh shrine, Shri Harmandir Sahib (Golden Temple) in Amritsar. This military action, carried out with full force and without warning, led to the killing of hundreds, possibly thousands of innocent worshippers - men, women, elderly citizens, and even small children. They had gathered inside the Gurudwara complex not for conflict, but for Gurupurab celebrations. That summer was blisteringly hot, yet the temple pre-

ises were filled with pilgrims offering prayers in devotion and peace. Without consideration for the sanctity of the holy site, and without even attempting negotiation or peaceful resolution, tanks and artillery were brought in, and bullets replaced dialogue. The historical Akal Takht Sahib, the symbol of Sikh sovereignty and courage, was severely damaged. There is growing belief, supported by various testimonies and historical research, that the operation was not simply a security measure. It was a pre-planned, well-organized political strategy by Smt. Indira Gandhi, designed to reassert her political dominance and prepare the stage for her return as Prime Minister in the next elections. Rather than isolating and arresting

a few individuals, the decision to attack an entire religious complex filled with innovative and spiritual offerings became the center of destruction. The blood of the innocent Sikhs Sangat stained the holy floors, and many dead bodies were never recovered. Eyewitnesses and survivors still recount stories of bodies being disposed of in unknown locations, of mass arrests, and of people who disappeared forever. The Sikh nation has never truly healed from the trauma. The pain remains raw, the questions remain unanswered, and the injustice remains unresolved. In the interest of truth, justice, and national healing, The Sikh Times humbly urges the present Government of India, led by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, to take a bold and moral step.

Contd....page-3

cent devotees was not only unjustified - it was inhumane, disproportionate, and deeply communal. The Golden Temple, a

### CM Sukhu exhorts people's participation in forest conservation through 'Van Mitras'

The Sikh Times  
Sourabh Sharma

New Delhi: Chief Minister Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu launched the 'Rajiv Gandhi Van Samvardhan Yojana' from Hamirpur today. Terming it as a significant step towards environmental conservation and community participation in forest management, he said that the scheme not only aims to increase the green cover by planting fruit-bearing trees on barren and degraded forest areas but will also generate employment and income for local communities by ensuring participation of mahila and yuvak mandals besides self-help groups. The Chief Minister handed over certificates in this respect to two Mahila Mandals from Nadaun, viz. Amlehad and Bhawdan, which will carry out the plantation activities on two hectares of forest land and ensure its maintenance for a period of five years. The Chief Minister also launched the 'Green Adoption Scheme'. In the initial phase, Ambuja Company would undertake plantation work on 25 hectares, while the Adani Foundation and UltraTech would adopt 10 hectares each. He

handed over certificates to these organisations as a mark of official recognition. The scheme envisages encouraging private enterprises, corporate houses and non-governmental organisa-

tions as a part of their social responsibility to adopt barren forest land and undertake afforestation work. This initiative not only contributes to environmental protection but also provides companies with an opportunity to fulfil their corporate social responsibility, said the

Chief Minister. During the event, the Chief Minister inspected the passing-out parade of the newly appointed van mitras and interacted with them. He said that the Forest department had been facing a shortage of field staff, which posed challenges to forest protection. To address this, appointments of van mitras have been made based on merit, with many young women taking the lead in securing these roles. He assured them that the government was committed to framing future policies that safeguard their careers and recognise them as true guardians of the forests. He said that the state government was focusing on women empowerment and the reservation for women in police recruitment has been increased to 30 percent and in Lahaul-Spiti, all key administrative officers, including the Deputy Commissioner were women with decision-making authority. Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu said that Himachal Pradesh, known as Dev Bhoomi (Land of the Gods), was not only a centre of faith and culture but also abundantly blessed by nature. The state's forest wealth plays a vital role in environmental conservation and significantly contributes to the economy and tourism.



### What Priyanka Chaturvedi said about Pakistan in London

The Sikh Times  
Correspondent

Mumbai, Jun 02: Shiv Sena (UBT) Rajya Sabha MP Priyanka Chaturvedi on



Sunday said that while India is pursuing global free trade agreements, Pakistan is promoting what she called a "free terrorist arrangement" across the world. "We have just concluded a free trade agreement (FTA) with the UK. We signed with Australia some time ago. We are going to do that with the European Union, and with

the USA sometime soon," she said in London as part of an all-party delegation. "India is looking at trade, we are looking at economy, we are looking at commerce, while they (Pakistan) are looking at free terrorist arrangement across the world. That is what we need to expose," she added. Priyanka Chaturvedi said that while India hosts the G20, Pakistan hosts the T20, sheltering the world's top terrorists, a policy evident from Osama bin Laden, who was hidden and supported by the Pakistani government. "While we host the G20, they host the T20. The top 20 terrorists of the world will be found being hosted by the Pakistani state government. It is their stated policy right from Osama bin Laden," she said. Referring to the US raid that killed bin Laden in Abbottabad, she said, "You must go back home and see the documentary on how Osama bin Laden was taken out of Pakistan. He was hidden, actively financed, aided, trained, and supported, hidden from their so-called ally, the US. They shake hands with you, but they bite you on your back," the Shiv Sena (UBT) leader added.

## NEWS BOX

Retired court officer builds modern diagnostic lab in memory of wife in Kerala's Kayippuram

ALAPPUZHA. In a heartfelt tribute to his late wife Rejani, T Kunjunon of Karakkappillil, Kayippuram, Muhamma, has built a modern diagnostic laboratory to serve the people of his village, spending over 70 lakh from his savings, including his retirement benefits.

The state-of-the-art facility, located along the Kayippuram- Pathiramanal Jetty road, is dedicated to providing affordable healthcare access to the local community. Rejani, who passed away on August 9, 2024, after battling renal disease for years, was Kunjunon's inspiration. "The pain and agony my family endured after her illness moved me deeply. I decided to build this laboratory so that others don't have to suffer due to lack of diagnostic support," he said.

The laboratory offers diagnostic services at a reduced cost – 40 to 50% lower than usual rates. In a remarkable gesture of compassion, all tests for bedridden patients are completely free of charge. "This is not a business. The money collected is only used to pay the salary of the four staffers employed here," he added.

The lab is built under the banner of Sauhrudavay Vayanasala, a community library that has been a cornerstone of the village since its founding in 1997. Kunjunon, who has served as its president for the past 27 years, utilised 8 cents of land for the laboratory and spent over Rs 35 lakh on advanced equipment and construction. Sauhrudavay is more than just a library. It is a hub of charity and community-focused activities. A two-storey building that houses the library was inaugurated by singer K J Yesudas in 2000. The library has a wide range of newspapers and periodicals. It also operates nine self-help groups with a working capital of Rs 40 lakh, and a children's unit involving more than 150 students.

### No complaints of robbery on Bengaluru-Chennai Corridor: Police

KOLAR. With a viral video showing robbery attempts on the yet-to-be completed Bengaluru-Chennai Express Corridor, Inspector General of Police (Central Range) Labhuram has clarified that they have not received any such complaints. Only the stretch between Hoskote and Sundarapalya has been completed on the Express Corridor, sources said. In the last four months on the stretch, four fatal and two non-fatal accidents were reported under KGF police limits, three fatal and one non-fatal accident in the Kolar region and one fatal accident in Bengaluru Rural limits, sources said.

Some people uploaded a video showing stones in the middle of the road in an alleged dacoity attempt, and it went viral. An advocate from Bengaluru, too, has written to the director general and inspector general of police and to the authorities regarding safety on the corridor, sources said.

Labhuram told that vehicles have been moving on the stretch since February and KGF, Kolar and Bengaluru Rural police have jurisdiction over the road. All SPs concerned, KM Shantharaju of KGF, CK Bawa of Bengaluru Rural and B Nikhil of Kolar have deputed patrol teams on the highway 24x7, he said.

### Andhra's Edlanka island may vanish soon if river-induced trauma persists

VIJAYAWADA. Within a decade, Edlanka (also known as Yadlanka), an island village in the Avanigadda constituency, in Krishna district may disappear.

Caught between intensifying river erosion and years of governmental inaction, this Krishna river village is slowly vanishing, a casualty of climate change and human neglect.

Spread over 904 hectares and situated just six metres above sea level, Edlanka island has 270 houses and 250 residents, mostly farmers and fishermen. The village has suffered a decade of river-induced trauma.

The Krishna river has been shifting its course every year, especially during heavy monsoons and cyclones. Already, the village has lost over 10-12 acres of farmland and about a dozen homes. Locals and experts fear the worst is yet to come. "The river has encroached about 500 metres around the village and advanced 30 metres further inside. Over 50 houses are at risk. If this continues, Edlanka may soon lose its identity," warned ward member Pemmati Venkanna, whose own house was among those washed away.

The first major warning came five years ago, when the house of renowned atomic scientist and Padma Shri awardee Myneni Hariprasad Rao collapsed. Since then, erosion has worsened with each passing season. According to Krishna district Mala Mahanadu president Dova Govardhan, unchecked environmental degradation triggered the crisis.

"Between 2011 and 2016, scant rainfall led to dense bush growth in the riverbed. Increased sand mining further blocked the flow. When rains returned, the river diverted toward the village," he told. "At this pace, Edlanka might not exist in 10 years. Several families are already leaving the village" he added with anguish. Climate change has deepened the crisis. Rising temperatures and erratic rainfall have increased flooding. Though the sea lies 20 km away, rising sea levels have turned groundwater salty, evidence of salinity intrusion common to coastal areas. Allegedly illegal sand mining has only made things worse.

## Stored paddy worth Rs 840 crore spoiled in five years in TN

CHENNAI. Despite ongoing efforts to expand storage infrastructure, Tamil Nadu suffered wastage of 3.72 lakh metric tonnes (MT) of paddy/rice stored at direct procurement centres and warehouses from 2019-20 to 2023-24 at a minimum estimated financial loss of around Rs 840 crore. TNIE obtained this data through Right to Information (RTI) Act requests made to the Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation (TNCSC). The actual financial loss, which was not fully disclosed by TNCSC, could be higher. Acquired this information after multiple RTI requests and appeals, following delays and denials from TNCSC. The data revealed that between 65,000 MT and 1.25 lakh MT of paddy/rice was lost annually due to various factors. Losses were particularly higher in the districts of Tiruvarur, Thanjavur, Nagapattinam and Pudukkottai.

In 2021-22, an alarming 1.37 lakh MT of paddy/rice was wasted across the state. During that year, a total of 43.27 lakh MT of paddy was procured, which was subsequently converted into 28.5 lakh MT of rice. The annual expenditure for paddy procurement is Rs 5,000 to Rs 6,500 crore depending on the minimum support price (MSP) and paddy cultivation. Several factors contributed to these storage losses, including inadequate or poorly-maintained storage facilities — such as those



with leaky roofs, cracked walls and open storage areas — improper drying of paddy, leading to high moisture levels; infestations by rodents and insects and rough handling during loading.

**Storage losses have declined in recent years'** Moreover, delays in processing paddy into rice and exposure to adverse weather at open procurement centres in the delta districts, also contribute to such losses. TNCSC, the designated nodal agency for paddy procurement under the Public Distribution System (PDS) for both the state and central governments, procures paddy directly from farmers or through an authorised union government agency. TNCSC officials stated that storage losses have declined substantially in recent years, with new facilities being constructed to mitigate these issues. "Losses

caused by infestations, poor godown maintenance and administrative lapses are being recovered from the officials responsible. The permitted storage loss is 1%", said one official. They further noted that TN's storage losses are comparatively lower than those in other states. Issues such as open storage and spoilage due to rainfall and adverse weather conditions have been significantly reduced over the past four years. "We have implemented deadlines for transferring procured paddy from farmers to godowns and rice mills at regular intervals. However, a large quantity of paddy at direct procurement centres (DPCs) is still damaged each year due to rain and unfavourable weather conditions. The permissible moisture content for paddy is 17%, but during the September-October monsoon, moisture levels often rise to 19-21% in the delta region," explained an official. According to official data, Tamil Nadu currently has 259 operational godowns with a total storage capacity of 9,14 lakh MT, 123 buffer godowns with a capacity of 9,08 lakh MT, and 23 plinths with semi-covered sheds providing a capacity of 3,63 lakh MT. To further reduce losses, TNCSC has proposed constructing six modern rice mills with a combined capacity of 2,700 MT. These mills will help address issues related to high-moisture paddy and open storage.

### Drone footage of Srimandir's flag changing ritual sparks concern

PURI. The recent drone footage of the flag changing ritual in Shree Jagannath Temple has raised serious security concerns.

The video was first uploaded by a user named Surajit Biswas on Facebook. It captures the ritual of changing the flag on the temple's Nilachakra, performed by a Chunara sevayat. Notably, the sevayat is seen acknowledging the drone camera with folded hands instead of raising alarm over its presence.

Senior servitor Krushna Chandra Khuntia said the video suggests the Chunara sevayat may have been involved in its creation. "The matter should be thoroughly investigated, and if the sevayat is found guilty, he must face consequences," he said. He also urged authorities to install anti-drone technology at the temple without delay.

Other servitors echoed similar concerns, pointing out that the existing penalty for such violations is too lenient, often allowing offenders to walk away with mere warnings. "Stricter penalty should be imposed in such cases," they said. Notably, the 16th century shrine has been designated as a no-fly zone.

## TN Adi Dravidar Welfare dept launches 'social labs' and 'learn-a-lot' to empower hostel students

**According to the Heckman Curve, the highest rate of economic returns comes from the earliest investments in children, officials said.**

CHENNAI. In order to aid its students in reaching their full potential, the state's Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Department is set to implement two major initiatives, Social Labs and Learn-a-Lot, aimed at the over 60,000 students residing in school and college hostels run by it across Tamil Nadu. While Social Labs is aimed at students in college hostels, focusing on bridging academic, professional and interpersonal skill gaps, Learn-a-Lot has been designed for students in school hostels, to enhance academic performance along with extracurricular, co-scholastic and life skills.

According to officials, most of the students in the Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare schools and hostels are from economically backward families earning less than Rs 2.5 lakh per annum and are first-generation learners.



Even though the schools and hostels address their academic needs, there is a gap in providing them with the necessary guidance required for them to develop additional skills to unlock their full

potential.

According to the Heckman Curve, the highest rate of economic returns comes from the earliest investments in children, officials said. We are intending to leverage this by introducing structured interventions through the Learn-a-Lot and Social Labs programmes that equip students with life skills, professional competencies and mentorship, they added.

The Social Labs programme will be implemented in 174 college hostels, hosting approximately 12,910 students across the state. Its core focus is to foster employability, build self-esteem and create a mentorship ecosystem. Training modules will include functional English, personality development, professional skills (such as MS Office and Tally), arts and sports. The goal is to make students not just college-ready, but job-ready, officials said.

## Private hospitals in Kerala step up Covid preparedness amid surge in cases

**Dedicated wards, intensive care units set up; state records one death, 64 new cases on Sunday.**

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM.

Responding to a rise in Covid cases, private hospitals across the state have reactivated precautionary protocols, setting up dedicated wards and intensive care sections exclusively for Covid patients to prevent cross-infection. A screening process has also been introduced for symptomatic individuals, especially those in high-risk categories. Since May 6, the state has reported around 1,400 Covid cases and seven related deaths. On Sunday, the state reported 64 new cases and a death, that of a 24-year-old woman with comorbidities (liver disease). During the period, the country has reported 3,758 cases and 28 deaths.

According to hospital sources, most of the recent cases are mild, with common symptoms being sore throat and, in some instances, diarrhoea. The current surge in



Covid cases is attributed to the fast-spreading Omicron JN.1 sublineages, particularly LF.7 and NB.1.8. The authorities have heightened surveillance after a spike in cases was reported in southeast Asian countries towards the end of April.

Sunny P Orathel, medical superintendent at the Rajagiri Hospital in Ernakulam, said the hospital has adopted a segregation policy. "We have designated rooms in each block and separate ICU cubicles for Covid patients.

While Covid testing isn't mandatory for fever cases, those who test positive but have no serious symptoms are sent home. Only patients with comorbidities who test positive are admitted to prevent complications," he explained.

Some hospitals are administering antiviral medication to inpatients who test positive.

These patients typically present with high fever, sore throat, diarrhoea lasting up to two days, and extended fatigue. "We screen all symptomatic patients, especially those with compromised immunity or other risk factors," said Dr A Rajalakshmi, senior consultant at the department of infectious diseases, KIMSHEALTH, Thiruvananthapuram. "Fortunately, most cases are mild. We have designated areas and fully equipped ICUs to manage those needing hospital care."

## Following landslides, Minister orders study on 'carrying capacity' of Western Ghats

BENGALURU. In response to recent landslides in Dakshina Kannada, Kodagu, and other parts of Karnataka during the pre-monsoon rains, Forest, Ecology and Environment Minister Eshwar B Khandre has directed officials to assess the carrying capacity of the Western Ghats and submit a detailed report within three months. In a written directive dated May 27, to the Additional Chief Secretaries of Forest, Ecology and Environment Department, the Minister highlighted experts' concerns that increasing road and infrastructure projects in the ecologically sensitive Western Ghats are endangering the region.

"The ongoing development is believed to be contributing to soil instability, resulting in damage to property, crops, wildlife, and human life," he said in the note. Experts, scientists and nature lovers have also warned that continued degradation of the Western Ghats could lead to severe water shortages in the future, Khandre said.

Acting on this, the Minister has instructed the Member Secretary of the Biodiversity Board, officials from the Evaluation, Planning, Research and Training wing in Karnataka, and the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests to conduct a joint study.

The Western Ghats, a biodiversity hot spot, accounts for 60% of Karnataka's forest cover and supports a rich variety of flora, fauna and insect species. Minister Khandre stressed the Ghats' critical role in influencing monsoon patterns and underscored the urgent need for their preservation.

In a recent incident, at least four persons, including three children, died and three others were feared drowned after heavy and continuous rainfall triggered landslides and flash floods across Mangaluru on Friday. Three of them died after a portion of land fell on their house when a huge mango tree got uprooted at Montepadav in Manjanady near Deralakatte. A family of six lived in the house.

## Uppalapadu Sanctuary to become conservation reserve

**Collector directs officials to finalise proposal following community consultations & inter-departmental approvals under Wildlife Protection Act**

GUNTUR. Uppalapadu Bird Sanctuary in Guntur district, a cherished haven for migratory birds from across continents, is set to receive a significant ecological boost as authorities move to notify it as a 'Conservation Reserve' under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

District In-Charge Collector A Bhargav Teja directed forest officials to finalise the proposal following community consultations and inter-departmental approvals. The declaration is expected to not only bring legal recognition but also ensure sustained ecological protection and funding support.

Spanning 9.5 acres, the freshwater lake in Uppalapadu hosts thousands of birds each year between October and March. Nearly 30,000 birds of over 25 species—including spot-billed pelicans, painted storks, openbill storks, white ibises, and glossy ibises—migrate from as far as Siberia,

Eastern Europe, Australia, and Myanmar to escape harsh winters and breed in the sanctuary.

Speaking to, District Forest Officer M Hima Shailaja said the lake is dotted with 14 vegetated mounds spread across two acres, which serve as nesting grounds. "The mounds are mostly covered with Prosopis juliflora, but the trees are deteriorating due to increased bird activity. We're planning replantation to improve the green cover," she explained.

To support nesting, 14 artificial perching stands have been installed. "Though we've been conserving the habitat with community support for over two decades, the site lacked legal recognition. The move to designate it as a Conservation Reserve will finally formalise the sanctuary's protection," she added.

She noted that maintenance work like manual



fresh is usually taken up after the birds leave in late May. "This year, early monsoons have delayed some of the clean-up," she said.

The forest department also planned to develop an Environmental Education Centre in the village to facilitate students who visit the sanctuary as part of their educational tours.

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## News box

## Yogi govt to build warehouses across 16 UP districts

Lucknow, June 2: In a significant move aimed at empowering farmers, the Yogi government has launched a large-scale initiative to strengthen agricultural storage across Uttar Pradesh. As part of the world's largest food storage scheme, ware-

houses with capacities of 500 to 1,000 metric tons are being built through 24 multipurpose primary agricultural cooperative societies (PACS) in 16 districts. These warehouses are being built in the districts of Lucknow, Barabanki, Sultanpur,

## Oppn will have opportunity to seek answers during

## Monsoon session, Govt ready to address all concerns

New DelhiWith opposition parties demanding a special Parliament session in light of Operation Sindo, Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat on Sunday asserted that the government has nothing to hide and they will have ample opportunity to ask questions during the Monsoon Session, which is a few weeks away. The BJP leader, however, expressed doubts about whether the opposition parties intended to seek answers and pointed out that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had spoken extensively in recent days on key national issues, including Operation Sindo, that they have been raising. The Congress on Sunday demanded the immediate convening of a special session of Parliament to discuss the military and foreign policy strategy in the wake of remarks by Chief of Defence Staff Gen Anil Chauhan. The Congress also asked that the government take all parties and the nation into confidence and discuss India's defence preparedness and strategy after Operation Sindo. Speaking to the media on Sunday, Union Culture and Tourism Shekhawat pointed out that India's parliamentary system already has well-established procedures for members to raise issues in both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha and seek answers.

## NAME CHANGE

I Priti W/O Om prakash 149, Gali no. 3 , C Block, Brijpur, gokal pur, North Delhi - 110094 have changed my name to preet.

## NAME CHANGE

I hitherto known as Md. Imran Ali Ansari alias Md Imran Ali Ansari: Md. Hadish Ansari, RZH-111, Near Pearl Public School, Nihal Vihar, Nangloi, PO:Nanglo, DIST:West Delhi, Delhi - 110041 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Md.Imran Ali Ansari

## NAME CHANGE

I ANKIT KUMAR AMBAWATA S/O SATISH RAM AMBAWATA R/O 89 DANIS MOHULLA NEAR KAPOOR FACTORY JONAPUR, MEHRAULI KUMAR DELHI-110030 HAVE CHANGE MY NAME TO ANKIT AMBAWATA FOR ALL PURPOSE.

## NAME CHANGE

I SURINDER PAL SINGH ROOPRAI S/O GURDIAL SINGH R/O 1202 TOWER-7 EMAAR PALM GARDEN, SECTOR-83, GURGAON-122004 HAVE CHANGE MY NAME TO SURINDER PAL SINGH FOR ALL PURPOSE.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

We, Shanti W/o Babu Lal Bairwa and Babu Lal Bairwa both R/O Motabatpura, Dausa, Rajasthan 30303, we have dissolved and dissolved our relation. Dr. Chandra, his wife Pooja and their children and Hira Lal, his wife Chitra and their children from all movable and immovable assets and properties and severed all relations with them as they are not under our control and whenever deals with them will do so at his/her own risk. We will be responsible for their any acts.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Arun Kumar Mehta son of late Hanishand and Sheela Devi wife of Arun Mehta both house no. 82, under Enclose-2, Mubarak Dabas, Kirad, Delhi-81 have evicted his son, Rupesh Mehta, Mukesh Mehta and Sudesh Mehta and daughters-in-law Priyanka wife of Rupesh Mehta, Gunjan wife of Mukesh Mehta and their children from all his movable and immovable properties (from Delhi to village) due to their misbehavior and have severed all relations with them. My client will not be responsible for any police/court case related to the transactions. Advocate Mahender Kumar.

## NAME CHANGE

I, Shakeel Ahmed s/o Ali Mohammad R/O H.No. J-178, Street No-13A, Vijay Mohalla, Mouj Pur, Delhi-110053, have change my name to Shakeel Ahmed permanently

## NAME CHANGE

I, Shakeel Ahmed s/o Ali Mohammad R/O H.No. J-178, Street No-13A, Vijay Mohalla, Mouj Pur, Delhi-110053, have change my name to Shakeel Ahmed permanently

## NAME CHANGE

I, Tabassum Parveen w/o Mohd Ishaq R/O H.NO.695, Gali No.27, Jafraab, Delhi-110053, have change my name to Tabassum permanently

## NAME CHANGE

I, GEETHU MANOJ Wife of No-15168485N Rank-NK Name-MANOJ G/Ro R-10 302, GOLDEN APARTMENT, Gali NO 5, RAJ NAGAR PART-1, PALAM COLONY, RAJ NAGAR-II, SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110077, have changed my name from GEETHU MANOJ to GEETHU S PILLAI for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 02/06/2025 before Notary Public, Delhi.

## NAME CHANGE

It is for general information that I, CHARANJEET SINGH S/o DEVINDER SINGH R/o No-176, Gali NO-6, NEW LAHORE, SHASTRI NAGAR, DELHI-110031, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as RANVIR SINGH in my minor son namely NAMIKRAT SINGH, aged 9 & 8 months. Adhar Card No. 5940 2977 1468. The actual name of mine is CHARANJEET SINGH, which may be amended accordingly.

## NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as SANJU DEVI W/O RANJEET KUMAR SINGH residing at HOUSE NO-B-31, GAZIPUR VILLAGE, DELHI-110096 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as POONAM.

## NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as MANMEET KAUR W/O SHARAD PAL SINGH residing at D-8, RANI GARDEN, SHASTI NAGAR, DELHI-110031 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SARJAN KAUR.

Amethi, Bahrach, Rae Bareli, Etah, Mathura, Farrukhabad, Lakhimpur Kheri, Kanpur Nagar, Maharajganj, Kushinagar, Jalaun, Pilibhit, and Jhansi. The initiative will offer farmers modern, reliable storage facilities, allowing them to pre-

serve their produce longer and avoid distress sales. This will enable them to sell at optimal times and secure better prices. Moreover, these warehouses will also serve as hubs for the efficient distribution and sale of agricultural and essential commodities. The establishment of such infrastructure is expected to bring greater transparency and efficiency to the agricultural supply chain while eliminating the influence of middlemen and ensuring fair returns for farmers.

## NAME CHANGE

I Om Parkash S/O Lekhraj 149, Gali no. 3 , C Block, Brijpur, gokal pur, North Delhi, Delhi - 110094 have changed my name to Om Parkash.

## NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as SUJAL S/O SATISH R/O R-128, G/F, TYPE-2, JAL VIHAR KILOKRI LAJPAT NAGAR, SOUTH DELHI, DELHI-110024 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as BACHHALA.

## NAME CHANGE

I, POOJA W/O JITTER DRALL R/O HOUSE NO-61, TIKRI KALAN PANNA, DOPLAN, TIKRI KALAN, WEST DELHI, DELHI-110041, have changed the name of my minor daughter ANIKA alias ANAYA aged 10 years and she shall hereafter be known as ANIKA DRALL.

## NAME CHANGE

I, DEEPANSHU S/O CHANDRA PAL YADAV residing at US-278B, Gali NO-2, NEAR HIMACHAL PURI, MANGOLPURI N BLOCK, NORTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110083 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as DEEPANSHU YADAV for all future purpose.

## NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as JASBIR KAUR W/O BIRAMIAH PATHAK, R/o J-253, J Colony, Old Seemapuri, Dist. East Delhi, Delhi - 110095 have been wrongly written as JANNATUN NISHA and WASIFA in my minor daughter WASIFA QURESHI aged 15 years in her school records. The actual name of my wife and my daughter are JANNATUN NISA and WASIFA QURESHI, which may be amended accordingly.

## (BEDAKHAL)

I, KRISHNA DEVI wife of Shri RAJESH declare as under that I disowned my two Son's Rakesh and his wife PINKI and 2nd Son ROHIT his wife SNEHA from all my movable/immovable/Pathick properties/assets for his wrong behaviour. I shall not be held responsible for any kind of acts done by both in money or transactions and police cases and criminal activity illegal and property purposes in the future. That both debarred from entering my premises situated at T-3798, Gali NO-21A, MALI RAM BALI, JALPUR NAGAR, PATEL NAGAR, DELHI-110008.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform you that Mr. Madan Mohan Mishra is the owner of a residential vacant plot of land measuring 78 square yards (i.e., 65.21 square meters), forming part of Khasra No. 1266, situated at Mahalaxmi Colony, Village Lon (Chakbandi Chettri), Tehri & District Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh. The said property was purchased by Mr. Madan Mohan Mishra on 20/01/2007 from a registered seller dated 02/02/2004, having Registration No. 1589. The said documents includes the original sale deed dated 08/08/2013, registered as Document No. 3576 in Book No. 1, Volume No. 2608, on Pages 245-262, dated 08/03/2013, at Sub-Registrar Office IV, Ghaziabad. However, please note that the aforementioned documents have been lost. An FIR has been lodged regarding the lost documents under LR. No. 2052000348154, dated 21/05/2025, at the Police Computer Center, Technical Services HQ, Lucknow. Please also note that the property is currently under financing by a bank. I hereby declare that my son's name is YASH S/O KRISHNA BIRAHU YADAV for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 02/06/2025 before Notary Public, Delhi.

## NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as VARUN alias VARUN KANOJIA S/O SOHAN LAL Residing at House No. 65, Plot No. O-4, Khasra No.316, Upper Ground Floor, Gali No. 3, Block - E, Harday Nagar Village, Bara, North Delhi, Delhi - 110084 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as VARUN KANOJIA.

## NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as Rakesh S/O Kavita Goyal R/o No-E-23A, Street No. 10, Bhupinder, Ghonda, Delhi, North East, Delhi-110053, have change my name to Rakesh Ahmed permanently

## NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as Ex Maj P K Gupta S/o Jai Ram Gupta R/o Villa N-28, Pristine Redbricks, Sunprana Sohanpur, Pungana, Sunprana Sohanpur, PO: Dhoomedo, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh-203027, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as PRASHANT KUMAAT.

## NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as Suman Dhar alias Suman Kaul D/O Girdhar Lal Dhar W/O Ashok Kumar Kaul residing at Kiran Garden, C-35, Utam Nagar, West Delhi, Delhi-110059 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Suman Kaul.

## NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as Neelam Kumar alias Ritu Bhatia D/o Parkash Chand W/o Krishan Kumar Bhatia R/o KG-3/122, Canna, Flat, Near Kerla School, Vikas Puri, New Delhi, West Delhi, Delhi-110018 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Ritu Bhatia.

## NAME CHANGE

I, APPA LAMMA Mother of No-14449855W Rank-HAV Name-MADHAVA RAO MATTA Presently residing at VILL-ABALABHARA, PO-KASIBUGGA, TEH-PALASALA, DIST-SRIKAKULAM, ANDHRA PRADESH-532222, have changed my name from APPA LAMMA to APPALAMMA MATTA for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 02/06/2025 before Notary Public, Delhi.

## DATE OF BIRTH CHANGE

I, No-15245609A Rank-NK (OPR) Name-YAVARNA BHAGYA RAJ residing at 32-60/19, RAJANNA COLONY, PO-BALHIGUATTAM, TEHKOTHALAVALA, DISTT-VIZIANAGARAM, ANDHRA PRADESH-531513, have changed my name from APPARAO TO YAVARNA APPARAO for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 02/06/2025 before Notary Public, Delhi.

## NAME CHANGE

I, No-15245609A Rank-NK (OPR) Name-YAVARNA BHAGYA RAJ residing at 32-60/19, RAJANNA COLONY, PO-BALHIGUATTAM, TEHKOTHALAVALA, DISTT-VIZIANAGARAM, ANDHRA PRADESH-531513, in my service records my mother's (YAVARNA APPARAO) date of birth wrongly mentioned as 28/05/1957 instead of my correct date of birth as 01/07/1957 vide Affidavit dated 02/06/2025 before Notary Public, Delhi.

## DATE OF BIRTH CHANGE

I, HEMOLATA SINGHA Wife of No-1567247F Rank-HAV Name-MANI CHANDRA SINGHA Presently serving at KAMRANGA BOND PT, CACHAR, ASSAM-783104, in his husband's service records my date of birth wrongly mentioned as 01/06/1984 instead of my correct date of birth as 01/06/1984 vide Affidavit dated 02/06/2025 before Notary Public, Delhi.

## NAME CHANGE

I, PERVERIN W/O MARAJUDDIN residing at T-563 FIRST FLOOR LEFT KH NO-208, Gali NO-15 GAUTAM PURI SEELAMPUR, DELHI-110053 have changed my name to PERVERIN for all future purpose.

## NAME CHANGE

I, KAMAL KISHORE S/O TIRKHA RAM residing at HNO-1126, SARAJUL-LENA, NEW FRIENDS COLONY, DELHI-110052 have changed my name to KAMAL KISHOR SHARMA for all future purpose.

## NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as MANMEET KAUR W/O SHARAD PAL SINGH residing at D-8, RANI GARDEN, SHASTI NAGAR, DELHI-110031 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SARJAN KAUR.

## NAME CHANGE

I, BALDEV RAJ S/O VED PRAKASH R/O H NO-34/18, LAXMI GARDEN, GURGAON, HARYANA-122001 HAVE CHANGED MY MINOR DAUGHTER NAME SANTUSHI TO SANTUSHI MANCHANDA FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSE.

## NAME CHANGE

I, SHAKUNTALA DEVI W/O TARACHAND RAO, R/O HOUSE NO-1744 SECTOR-4, GURGAON, HARYANA-122001 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SHAKUNTALADEVI FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSE

## NAME CHANGE

I, RAVINDER S/O RANDHIR R/O Q-33, TYPE-5, R T C, BHONDASI, GURUGRAM, HARYANA-122012, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO RAVINDER SINGH FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSE

## NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as VISHAL S/O SATISH R/O R-128, G/F, TYPE-2, JAL VIHAR KILOKRI LAJPAT NAGAR, SOUTH DELHI, DELHI-110024 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as VISHAL CHAUDHARY.

## NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as SUDESH SHARMA alias PINKI VASHISHT D/o RAMPAL SHARMA W/o DASHRUMA VASISHT R/O B-7/115, Sector-4, Rohini, Sector-7 North West, Delhi, Delhi-110085, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as PINKI VASHISHT.

## NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as MUNNIBI BEGUM W/O MOHD ARIF residing at W-152, J-13 COLOY SHAKUR PUR NORTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110034 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as AFROZI KHATOON

## NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as SHALINI RAJEA daughter of Shri NARENDR KUMAR and wife of Shri ASHISH GUJRAL residing at M-47, Ground Floor, Sector-1, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi, Delhi-110018, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SHALINI GUJRAL.

## NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as MONJU BISWOKARMA S/o KARAN KUMAR residing at 44G/9, Ground Floor, Kishanganj, Vasant Vihar, PO: Vasant Vihar, Dist. South West Delhi, Delhi - 110070, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as OSHAN BISWOKARMA.

## NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as LATA alias LATA DIAL MAHENDER W/O RAJESH RAO residing at D-48/2, Type-2, MCD Colony, Azadpur, North West Delhi, Delhi - 110033, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as LIZA. I have changed only my name not my religion.

## NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as YASH S/o KRISHNA BIRAHU YADAV residing at J-253, J Colony, Old Seemapuri, Dist. East Delhi, Delhi - 110095 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as YASH PATHAK.

## NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as LALITA alias LALITA DIAL MAHENDER W/O ADITYA KUMAR, D/o DAYA SWAROOP PAUL, R/o A-6/7, Near Domini Church, VTC, Vasant Vihar-1, PO: Vasant Vihar, Sub: District: South West Delhi, State: Delhi-110057, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as INDIRA.

## NEWS BOX

## Pakistan Is Not A "Democratic Country": Ravi Shankar Prasad In UK

London.Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP Ravi Shankar Prasad, who is leading the all-party delegation in the United Kingdom, said that Pakistan is not a "democratic country" and added that Pakistan's armed forces have made the country for themselves and are "unelectable and unaccountable."Highlighting the example of Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff, General Asim Munir, whom he said was "defeated in the field" but promoted to Field Marshal, Mr Prasad drew parallels with former military rulers like Ayub Khan.

While addressing the Indian community in London on Sunday, Ravi Shankar Prasad also spoke about Operation Sindo and mentioned how Indian forces targeted terrorist camps in Bahawalpur, Muriq, Muzaffarabad, and other places of Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoK). He stated that Indian forces only targeted terrorist camps. However, he said the Pakistani forces attacked Indian skies and mentioned how Indian forces responded to them.Mr Prasad said, "What is the problem of Pakistan? The problem with Pakistan is that it is not a democratic country. 'Muhammad Ali Jinnah ne banaya Pakistan, wo ban gaya Generals ki dukaan, that is the situation of Pakistan. The second thing, very important, is people, leaders make the country. There, Pakistan armed forces have made a country for themselves, unelectable, not accountable, not popular sanction, but they seized power. Ayub Khan field marshal for 10 years. Mr Yahya Khan for seven and a half years, Mr Zia ul Haq for eleven years, General Musharraf for nine years."

## Polish Nationalist Karol Nawrocki Ahead In Presidential Election Runoff

Warsaw.Nationalist historian Karol Nawrocki, who is predicted to have won Sunday's presidential election in Poland, is a former amateur boxer with a particular interest in the criminal underworld.

The 42-year-old Nawrocki has been endorsed by the right-wing Law and Justice (PiS) party, which governed Poland from 2015 to 2023.

The party is closely allied with outgoing President Andrzej Duda -- who has publicly backed Nawrocki -- and is a long-standing rival of the ruling Civic Coalition.Nawrocki campaigned under the slogan "Poland first, Poles first".While he has pledged to continue Poland's support for neighbouring Ukraine against Russia's invasion, he has denounced the benefits given to war refugees.He said in a campaign video in April that "social benefits will be above all for Poles" and that "in queues for doctors and clinics, Polish citizens must have priority".

In May, he claimed Ukraine "has not shown gratitude for what Poles have done" and accused President Volodymyr Zelensky of "insolence".

He opposes Ukraine's bid to join NATO.

Photos With TrumpNawrocki is an admirer of Donald Trump and has said Poland should focus on shaping and leading Europe's relations with the US president. Nawrocki met Trump at the White House in May and claimed Trump had told him: "You will win".

The two were shown giving a thumbs up in photos released by the White House.Some lawmakers from the governing coalition accused Trump of election interference.US Secretary of Homeland Security Kristi Noem also endorsed Nawrocki when she attended a conservative conference in Poland, saying: "He needs to be the next president."Nawrocki has called for controls on the border with Germany to keep out migrants, and would like Berlin to pay wartime reparations to Poland.While wooing voters during the campaign, Nawrocki signed an eight-point pledge prepared by far-right leader Slawomir Mentzen.

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

world. Hamas affirmed its readiness to begin indirect negotiations over the Gaza ceasefire immediately. In a press statement on Sunday, Hamas expressed its appreciation for the continued efforts by Qatar and Egypt to broker a ceasefire agreement.

The movement said that it is ready to "immediately begin a round of indirect negotiations" to address the outstanding issues with "the other party" Hamas said the objective of the talks would be to end the "humanitarian catastrophe" in Gaza, ensure the delivery of relief aid to the Palestinian people, and achieve a permanent ceasefire accompanied by the complete withdrawal of Israeli forces from the Gaza Strip, Xinhua news agency reported. There has been no immediate comment from the Israeli side regarding the Hamas announcement.

However, Israeli army chief Eyal Zamir has ordered the expansion of the ground operation into additional areas in both the southern and northern parts of the Gaza Strip, according to a statement issued by the Israel Defense Forces. He stated that the expansion of activity will continue until conditions are created for the return of the Israeli hostages and the decisive defeat of Hamas.Earlier on Monday, Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz warned Hamas to accept the Gaza ceasefire deal proposed by US Special Envoy to the Middle East Steve Witkoff, "or be destroyed." Witkoff's proposal includes the release of 10 living Israeli hostages and 18 bodies in two phases in exchange for a 60-day ceasefire in Gaza as well as the release by Israel of 1,236 Palestinian detainees and prisoners, along with the bodies of 180 Palestinians, Xinhua news agency reported, quoting the media reports.

# Russia, Ukraine head to Istanbul for fresh peace talks

## Urged on by Trump, Moscow and Kyiv have opened direct negotiations for the first time since the early weeks of Russia's invasion but have yet to make significant progress towards an elusive agreement.

ISTANBUL. Russian and Ukrainian officials will meet Monday in Istanbul to exchange their plans for how to end the three-year war, Europe's largest conflict since World War II, after Kyiv says it struck dozens of strategic bombers parked at airbases deep in Russia.Urged on by US President Donald Trump, Moscow and Kyiv have opened direct negotiations for the first time since the early weeks of Russia's invasion but have yet to make significant progress towards an elusive agreement.Monday's talks come a day after

Ukraine carried out one of its most brazen and successful attacks ever on Russian soil -- hitting dozens of strategic bombers parked at airbases thousands of kilometres behind the front line. At the first round of talks in Istanbul last month, they agreed a large-scale prisoner exchange and to swap notes on what their vision of a peace deal might look like. The second set of negotiations is scheduled to get underway at 1:00 pm (1000 GMT) at the Ciragan Palace in Istanbul, an Ottoman imperial house on the banks of the Bosphorus that is now a luxury five-star hotel.Russia says it will present a "memorandum" of its peace terms, having resisted pressure by Ukraine to send its demands in advance.

Despite the flurry of diplomacy, the two sides remain far apart over a possible deal -- either for a truce or longer-term settlement. Outlining Kyiv's position ahead of the talks, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky refreshed his call for an immediate halt to the fighting."First -- a full and unconditional ceasefire. Second -- the release of prisoners. Third -- the return of abducted children," he said Sunday in a post on social media.He also called for the sides to discuss a direct meeting with

Russian President Vladimir Putin."The key issues can only be resolved by the leaders," Zelensky said.The Kremlin has repeatedly pushed back on that prospect, saying a Putin-Zelensky meeting could only happen after the negotiating delegations reach wider "agreements".Russia has questioned

Kyiv and the West have rejected those calls and cast Russia's assault as nothing but an imperialist land grab.Tens of thousands have been killed since Russia invaded, with swathes of eastern and southern Ukraine destroyed and millions forced to flee their homes.

### War rages on

Russia's top negotiator in Istanbul will be Vladimir Medinsky, an ideological Putin aide who led failed talks in 2022, has written school textbooks justifying the invasion and questioned Ukraine's right to exist.Ukraine's team will be led by Defence Minister Rustem Umerov, seen as a skilled and pragmatic negotiator, but who has been mired in domestic scandal over alleged abuse of power and a lack of transparency.

"Diplomatic advisors" from Germany, France and Britain will be "on the ground... in close coordination with the Ukrainian negotiating team," a German government spokesperson said Sunday.Ukraine on Sunday said it had damaged some 40 strategic Russian bombers, worth \$7 billion, in a major special operation after months of setbacks for Kyiv's military.

Zelensky's legitimacy throughout the war and repeatedly called for him to be toppled. Moscow says it wants to address the "root causes" of the conflict -- language typically used to refer to a mix of sweeping demands including limiting Ukraine's military, banning the country from joining NATO and massive territorial concessions.

## Smuggled North Korean Phone Reveals Extreme Censorship, Surveillance: "Screenshot Every 5 Min"

A smartphone smuggled out of North Korea has revealed fresh insights into the extent of censorship and surveillance that the Kim Jong Un regime oversees in the hermit nation. The device, obtained by BBC in late 2024 via defector networks or underground routes, and analysed by tech experts, showed that nearly all smartphones run a modified version of Android.

These devices are embedded with tools that aim to enforce the state's ideology, perpetuate the hate campaign against neighbouring South Korea and monitor every movement made by its citizens in the online sphere.Akin to the way North Korea operates as a country in seclusion, internet access is completely blocked on the phone. Instead, the users are restricted to a closed intranet system known as Kwangmyong, which hosts only state-approved content and offers no connection to the outside world.One of the most disturbing aspects of the phone is its automatic rewriting of content. For instance, the word 'oppa' --



## Conservative Karol Nawrocki wins Poland's presidential election



WARSAW. Conservative Karol Nawrocki has won Poland's weekend presidential runoff election, according to the final vote count.Nawrocki won 50.89% of votes in a tight race against liberal Warsaw Mayor Rafal Trzaskowski, who won 49.11%.The close race had the country on edge since a first round two weeks earlier and through the night into Monday,

revealing deep divisions in the country along the eastern flank of NATO and the European Union.An early exit poll released Sunday evening suggested Trzaskowski was headed to victory before updated polling began to reverse the picture hours later.The outcome indicates that Poland can be expected to take a more nationalist path under its new leader, who was

backed by U.S. President Donald Trump.The 42-year-old Nawrocki has been endorsed by the right-wing Law and Justice (PiS) party, which governed Poland from 2015 to 2023.

The party is closely allied with outgoing President Andrzej Duda -- who has publicly backed Nawrocki -- and is a long-standing rival of the ruling Civic Coalition.Nawrocki campaigned under the slogan "Poland first, Poles first".While he has pledged to continue Poland's support for neighbouring Ukraine against Russia's invasion, he has denounced the benefits given to war refugees.He said in a campaign video in April that "social benefits will be above all for Poles" and that "in queues for doctors and clinics, Polish citizens must have priority".

## Kyiv strikes deep into Russia, Moscow confirms drone attacks on five airbases

world. A Ukrainian security official said on Sunday that a drone strike carried out by Ukraine had destroyed over 40 Russian aircraft - including nuclear-capable Tu-95 and Tu-22 strategic bombers - inside Russian territory, according to a report by Associated Press.The Russian Defence Ministry later confirmed that five air bases were targeted by Ukrainian drones, causing damage to an unspecified number of aircraft according to a report by . The Kyiv regime staged a terror attack with the use of FPV drones on airfields in the Murmansk, Irkutsk, Ivanovo, Ryazan, and Amur Regions. All terror attacks on military airfields in the Ivanovo, Ryazan, and Amur Regions were repelled,"No casualties were reported either among servicemen or civilians. Some of those involved in the terror attacks were detained," the Russian Defence Ministry said in a statement.

For the first time it was established that Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky wants to pressure Sredny (Irkutsk region in Siberia) were attacked from close proximity by using trailer trucks by the attackers."As a result of the launch of FPV drones from territories in the close proximity to military airfields in the Murmansk and Irkutsk Regions, several aircraft caught fire. The fires were extinguished," the Russian MoD said. Meanwhile, Ukraine reported on Sunday that it faced an unprecedented overnight assault, with 472 Russian drones launched across its territory - the highest number recorded since the invasion began in February 2022.The Ukrainian air force said it had neutralised 385 of those drones, along with seven missiles also fired by Russia. An air force spokesperson confirmed to AFP that the scale of the drone attack marked a new record.

The intensifying attacks on both sides took place just a day before Ukrainian and Russian delegations are set to hold direct talks in Istanbul.It is speculated that Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky wants to pressure

Moscow on the eve of tomorrow's second round of peace talks in Istanbul.The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to disclose operational details, said the attack took over 1 1/2-year to execute and was personally supervised by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, AP reported.The operation saw drones transported in containers carried by trucks deep into Russian territory, he said.The drones reportedly hit 41 bombers stationed at several airfields on Sunday afternoon, including the Belya air base in Russia's Irkutsk region, more than 4,000 kilometers (2,500 miles) from Ukraine.It is the first time that a Ukrainian drone has been seen in the region, local Gov. Igor Kobzev said. He also said in a statement that the drone had been launched from a truck.Russian officials in the Ryazan and Murmansk regions also reported drone activity on Sunday afternoon, but did not give further details.n a statement on Telegram, Zelensky said.

## Six people injured in petrol bomb attack at pro-Israel protest in Colorado

WASHINGTON. Six elderly people were injured Sunday when a man used a makeshift flamethrower to attack demonstrators in the US state of Colorado as they demanded the release of Israeli hostages held in Gaza.The FBI called the assault a "targeted terror attack," identifying the suspected perpetrator, who has been taken into custody, as 45-year-old Mohamed Sabry Soliman, but providing no further details about him.The White House deputy chief of staff, Stephen Miller, posted on X that the man was a foreign national who "illegally overstayed (his) visa."The Anti-Defamation League, a Jewish activist group, said on X that the attack occurred at Sunday's "Boulder Run for Their Lives" event, a weekly gathering of the Jewish community in support of the hostages seized during Hamas's attack on Israel on October 7, 2023."This attack happened at a regularly scheduled weekly event," FBI agent Mark Michalek confirmed to reporters.



Witnesses are reporting that the subject used a makeshift flamethrower and threw an incendiary into the crowd," he said, adding that "the suspect was heard to yell: "Free Palestine!"Molotov cocktails In one video apparently of the attack, a shirtless man holding clear bottles in his hands is seen pacing as the grass in front of him burns. He can be heard screaming "End Zionists!" and "They are killers!" towards several people in red t-shirts as they tend to a person lying on the ground. Other images showed billowing black smoke.

The six people injured were aged between 67

and 88, and had all been transported to local hospitals, Michalek said.Boulder Police Chief Steve Redfearn told reporters that "at least one victim was very seriously injured, probably safe to say critical condition."

The suspected perpetrator had also been injured before being taken into custody, Redfearn said.He hailed the bravery of the responding officers, who "immediately ran into a chaotic situation where a man was throwing Molotov cocktails and using other devices to hurt people."Asked if it was a terror attack against the protesters, Redfearn insisted it was "way too early to speculate motive" behind the violence, which took place shortly before 1:30 pm (1930 GMT).There had initially been reports of a possible second perpetrator, but Redfearn stressed that "at this point, we do not believe that there is an additional suspect at large." "We're fairly confident we have the lone suspect in custody."FBI chief Kash

Patel immediately described Sunday's incident as "a targeted terror attack," while Colorado Attorney General Phil Weiser labeled it "a hate crime." "People may have differing views about world events and the Israeli-Hamas conflict, but violence is never the answer to settling differences. Hate has no place in Colorado," Weiser said.The White House said President Donald Trump has been briefed on the incident.Antisemitic attack: Israelsrael's ambassador to the United Nations, Danny Danon, voiced outrage at the incident."Terrorism against Jews does not stop at the Gaza border -- it is already burning the streets of America," he said in a statement."Make no mistake -- this is not a political protest, this is terrorism."US Secretary of State Marco Rubio like Patel described the incident as a "targeted terror attack," while lawmakers on both sides of the political aisle expressed revulsion at Sunday's tragedy and said they were praying for the victims' recovery.

## NEWS BOX

**Major shuffle of medical staff begins in Andhra Pradesh**

**VIJAYAWADA.** The Ministry of Health, Family Welfare and Medical Education on Saturday kickstarted the long-awaited exercise of general transfer, covering more than 15,000 doctors, administrative personnel, and supporting medical staff across the State. This marks the first major reshuffle since 2023, following the Finance Department's revocation of the general transfer ban in May.

Special guidelines specific to the Health Ministry were issued on May 31, laying the groundwork for the large-scale shuffle of staff from June 1. These transfers have stirred both anticipation and anxiety among employees, especially with the enforcement of new rules aimed at curbing irregularities and streamlining the medical administration.

According to the fresh guidelines, administrative staff who have served over three years at their current posting, will be relocated, a move prompted by concerns of prolonged stay leading to operational irregularities. Union office-bearers with three to nine years of service in one location will be shifted within the same station if vacancies permit, or to other districts if not.

**Mettur Dam records sharp rise in water level; 88% reservoir filled**

**CHENNAI.** The Stanley Reservoir in Mettur (commonly known as Mettur Dam), a major source of water in Tamil Nadu, has recorded a sharp increase in its water level this year, thanks to substantial rainfall from the southwest monsoon. As of Sunday, the dam is holding 81,983 million cubic feet (mcf) of water, which is 87.71% of its full capacity of 93,470 mcf. This is a big jump compared to the same period last year when the storage was only 15,632 mcf (just 16.72% of its total capacity).

According to the Water Resources Department (WRD) data accessed by TNIE, this is one of the highest water storage levels in the past six years, except in 2022 when the dam had 89,431 mcf of water (95.68%). In a major development, Tamil Nadu has received 305 thousand million cubic feet (mcft) of Cauvery water from Karnataka during the previous water year (June 1, 2024, to May 31, 2025). This is 128 mcft more than the 177 mcft fixed by the Supreme Court.

Speaking to, R Dhayalakumar, Chief Engineer of WRD (Tiruchy division), said, "The reservoirs in Karnataka Krishna Raja Sagar, Kabini, Harangi and Hemavathy are better filled compared to the same time last year. So, Tamil Nadu is getting more water now."

**Viral surge: Three new Covid cases take tally to 12 in state**

**BHUBANESWAR.** As Covid-19 cases continue to surge across the country, Odisha reported three new infections in last 24 hours taking the total number to 12 on Sunday. Confirming the new cases, director of public health Dr Nilakantha Mishra said the patients are in home isolation and their condition is stable.

He, however, attempted to allay fears over a reported Covid-related death in the city. The elderly person, who tested Covid positive a few days back, died on Saturday while undergoing treatment at his home. "Field units have been tasked to find out whether any Covid positive patient has died and if it is directly linked to the virus or has resulted from other underlying diseases," he said.

While officials maintained that the situation is under control, health experts raised concern over the state government's cautious communication strategy, which some alleged is aimed more at suppressing facts than ensuring transparency.

Even as reports emerged a day earlier about the death of an 85-year-old Covid patient with comorbidities, the department is yet to verify the fatality. This delay in confirmation is not an isolated case.

Five of the initial Covid cases detected in May from Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, and Khurda were reportedly uploaded on the national Covid dashboard after much delay, raising allegations of under-reporting.

Experts argued that such gaps dilute the public's ability to grasp the seriousness of the situation. The state, which had reported nine cases in May, has now got two Omicron sub-variants - LF.7.9 and XFG - confirmed through genome sequencing.

Amid the global spike, the number of active Covid cases in the country has reached 3,758 with 363 new infections and death toll rose to 28. Kerala remains the worst affected with 1,400 active cases, followed by Maharashtra (485), Delhi (436) and West Bengal (287).

**Kerala school curriculum opens up to umbrella brand's tale of tenacity**

**Aadhi is the first umbrella brand developed by an indigenous community in the country.**

**KANNUR.** This academic year, Class 10 students in the state will learn more than just grammar and literature as part of their English curriculum. They'll also discover a remarkable story of resilience and self-reliance from the tribal heartland of Aralam. The new syllabus includes the inspiring tale of Aadhi, the first umbrella brand developed by an indigenous community in the country, through the Kudumbashree Mission. It tells the saga of Kudumbashree in Aralam and how it became a lifeline for the local tribal population. Central to the narrative is the Aadhi umbrella manufacturing unit, a shining example of what grassroots empowerment can achieve.

Launched in 2021 by the Kudumbashree District Mission, the project was designed to support families in the Aralam Farm Scheduled Tribes Rehabilitation Area, many of whom relied solely on MGNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act) jobs for survival. The aim was to create an additional, sustainable source of income and, in doing so, uplift an entire community. The



venture began modestly, with intensive umbrella-making training provided to 28 tribal women under the leadership of the Kudumbashree Kannur team. Equipped with umbrella-making kits, they formed two micro-enterprise units named Nila and Lotus, registering them under the Kudumbashree CDS. From these humble beginnings, the initiative has grown into a thriving business with 40 women on board and an annual turnover of Rs 30 lakh. In the first phase, the units set out

to produce 5,000 umbrellas. But such was the demand for their products that year alone, they managed to sell 10,000 umbrellas. Available in a variety of shades - from classic black to vibrant colours and prints - the umbrellas are priced between ₹315 and ₹440. Currently, the enterprise offers four different models under the Aadhi brand, marketed through Kudumbashree's extensive grassroots network.

"The tribal families here in Aralam have long depended solely on MGNREGA work to survive," said Sanoop P, Kudumbashree's Aralam tribal special project coordinator. "This umbrella unit has made a real difference - helping them earn extra income and build better lives. Our mission is to empower them to live with dignity through meaningful work, and we've achieved that." The success of the Aadhi brand hasn't gone unnoticed. State mission officials recognised the transformative impact of the project and recommended its story be included in the school curriculum. For the women of Aralam, this is a proud moment.

**Hemavathy canal protest: FIR against 3 MLAs, 2 religious heads**

**FIRs were registered against 11 people, including Turuvekere MLA MT Krishnappa of JDS, Tumakuru Rural MLA B Suresh Gowda and city MLA B G Jyothigianesh, both from BJP.**

**TUMAKURU.** The Gubbi police have booked three legislators and two religious heads among others for Saturday's protest opposing the Hemavathy Express canal, a pet project of Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar.

FIRs were registered against 11 people, including Turuvekere MLA MT Krishnappa of JDS, Tumakuru Rural MLA B Suresh Gowda and city MLA B G Jyothigianesh, both from BJP. The FIRs mentioned two khavi-wearing persons (religious heads), but did not name them. Some non-bailable charges were also included in the FIRs as one of the police personnel was severely injured.

They were charged under Sections 191, 115(2), 121(1), 132, 189(2), 190, 223, 351(2) and 352 of BNS.

It's alleged that they gathered unlawfully at the



project site at Sunkapura, indulged in rioting, voluntarily caused hurt to the public servant by throwing stones and deterred them from discharging their duties, among others.

The protesters had alleged that Shivakumar was diverting the canal to take water to his home district Ramanagara.

On Friday, thousands of people protested and

blocked the Bengaluru-Shivamogga-Honnava NR-206 at the project site at Sunkapura in Gubbi taluk. They set tyres on fire besides deflating the tyres of KSRTC buses, creating inconvenience to passengers.

Shivakumar claimed that 40% of the work has been completed and the Rs 1,500 crore project cannot be stalled at this stage. It's being implemented after the technical committee submitted its report, Tumakuru district in-charge and Home Minister Dr G Parmeshwara claimed.

Union Minister of State for Jal Shakti V Somanna had written to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to stop the project, calling it "unscientific". Congress MLA from Gubbi ST Srinivas on Sunday said he too will oppose the project. "I will meet Shivakumar and raise the issue as the project will affect farmers of Tumakuru district," he told reporters.

**87.8% of Mega DSC aspirants get first choice exam centre in Andhra**

**VIJAYAWADA.** The Department of School Education has issued key clarifications regarding the Mega DSC-2025 teacher recruitment examination, meant to fill 16,347 vacant posts across the State. A total of 5,77,675 applications have been received for various categories of posts, including 6,614 SGTs, 177 PETs, 7,487 School Assistants, 1,731 TGTs, 286 PGTs, and 52 Principals.

According to officials, 87.8% of candidates have been allotted their first-choice district for examination, while the remaining have been placed in subsequent preferences based on seating availability.

In a release, Mega DSC-2025 Convener M Venkata Krishna Reddy said, "The examination centres have been allotted with utmost care to ensure maximum convenience. Candidates who applied for multiple posts have mostly been allotted centres within the same district. Only a small percentage have to be shifted to other preference districts due to logistics constraints."

The department has stressed that the only authentic source for exam dates and time is the individual hall ticket. Candidates have been cautioned not to rely on unofficial timetables circulating on social media. Regarding the English Proficiency Test (EPT), it has clarified that it applies only to candidates for non-language TGT and PGT posts, and for principal posts. The issue of missing EPT details in some hall tickets has been rectified, and revised hall tickets have been issued. The department has also clarified that the PET and PET-VH/HH (Visually and Hearing Handicapped) examinations are not separate, and a common exam will be held for both categories. On the EWS category confusion, it has stated that EWS status will be honoured during selection, although it is not separately displayed on hall tickets. Candidates are advised to refer only to the official Mega DSC website for updates and more information.

**90-year-old bridge in Kerala's Karivellur captivates residents**

formed by A V Kunhambu in 1934 by taking inspiration from an organisation called 'Naujan Bharat Sabha' by freedom fighter Bhagat Singh.

A V Kunhambu is one of the leaders of the Karivellur Revolt. This bridge has been in existence since British rule, helping people to cross the stream that flows through the border of the Kannur and Kasaragod districts.

The bridge, a remarkable piece of craftsmanship, was constructed by Thottom Chindan, a master builder renowned for his expertise in working

**Another tiger dies in Nilgiris; officials suspect death due to territorial fight**



**NILGIRIS.** Another adult tiger has perished in the Nilgiris district in a matter of a few days. A male tiger, aged about 10 years, was found dead at Segur forest range in Mudumalai Tiger Reserve (MTR) on Sunday morning. On Thursday, another male tiger was found dead at Pykara forest range in the Nilgiris forest division.

An autopsy carried out on the latest victim revealed it could have been killed following a fight with another tiger. Forest sources say the fight could have occurred when one tiger intruded into another's territory and the dead one lost in the conflict.

Anti-Poaching Watchers noticed the carcass at Gundatti forest beat and informed Segur forest range officer M Dhayanathan. He reached the spot and confirmed that the skin, claws, etc. were intact, ruling out poaching bid.

"We have confirmed that the deceased tiger was killed by another male tiger as there were marks on the entire body and a heavy injury was noted on its head and neck. Considering the blood sample, the infighting could have occurred within 36 hours," said an MTR staff. MTR was notified as a tiger reserve in 2007. It is estimated between 145 and 150 tigers are living here.

"We had been tracking this (deceased) male tiger by fixing a unique ID like other tigers as per the National Tiger Conservation Authority's guidelines," an official said.

Sources in the Nilgiris forest division said the animal which had died earlier had a stomach ulcer and its intestine was also empty. "We have sent samples of heart and kidney to find out exact cause of the death to SACON in Anaikatti and labs in Coimbatore," an official said.

**Minor gangraped in Belagavi; Two juveniles among five held**

It is suspected that the accused might have threatened her with leaking the video and raped her more number of times.

Her prolonged trauma came to light when her parents noticed changes in her behaviour and asked her about it. They managed to catch one of the accused, a 19-year-old, and handed him over to the police.

**Search on to arrest the sixth accused**

Acting on the parents' complaint, a police team

headed by Inspector US Avati arrested five accused. The sixth accused is absconding and the search is on to arrest him.

Belagavi Police Commissioner Bhushan Gulab Rao Borase confirmed the arrest of five individuals in the gangrape case. "The victim and all the accused are originally from Belagavi district. One of the accused, who had developed a friendship with the girl, allegedly lured her into a trap where he and five others committed the crime," he said.

An FIR was registered under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act at the APMC Police Station on Saturday. The commissioner said the accused number 1 and 2 played the central role in the crime. "The maximum punishment for these charges is 20 years. But we will collect more evidence to get them higher punishment," he said.

This is the second case of a rape of a minor that has come to light in the district in the last one month. It has also put immediate pressure on Police Commissioner Bhushan Borase.

## Universe: Naming the land beyond Indus

A popular new-age guru once proposed a fanciful explanation for the meaning of the word Bharat, tracing its etymology to raag (melody) and taal (rhythm). Another claimed that Bha means light and Rath means dark, interpreting Bharat as "the movement of light against darkness".

These kinds of creative etymologies are often used to argue that Bharat is an indigenous name, while India is a western imposition. However, such interpretations are politically motivated. The word India originates from Sindhu, meaning river. In Persian regions, Sindhu was pronounced as Hindu, while the Greeks referred to it as Indu. Thus, Sapta Sindhu, the land of the seven rivers, became Hapta Hindu in Persia and India among the Greeks.

Around 500 BC, the Persian king Darius referred to the Indus valley region as Hindush in his inscriptions. Nearly 1,500 years later, the Arabs still referred to the and watered by the Indus as Al Hind. It is as simple as that, yet some prefer to complicate matters. If one wishes to delve into etymology further, one could argue that India derives from Indu, meaning moon. Indumati was the name of Ram's grandmother, the wife of King Aja of Ayodhya. In contrast, Bharata is linked to Bha, associated with the sun. Thus, India represents the lunar dynasty, whose kings' stories are told in the 'Mahabharata', while Bharata represents the solar dynasty, whose kings' stories are recounted in the 'Ramayana'. The moon is linked to water, and therefore to Sindhu (the river), while the sun is linked to fire, and therefore to kingship. From flowing waters emerges the concept of the Apsara, the celestial maiden of delight. From the leaping flames of fire arises the Tapasvi, the ascetic who generates inner heat through austerities. The Apsaras and Tapasvis represent two extremes of Indian thought — the former embodying sensual pleasure and the latter symbolising spiritual discipline. In this sense, India could be seen as the feminine name of the country, while Bharata represents its masculine counterpart. Etymology can be a tool to unite people, but politicians also find ways to use it for division. It is worth noting that much of the lower part of the Sindhu river flows primarily in present-day Pakistan, which may contribute to some discomfort with the name India. The earliest epigraphic evidence of the name Bharatavarsha is from the 100 BC Khandagiri caves of Odisha. The king who commissioned this claims that Bharatavarsha was located to the north, in the Gangetic plains. If one were to nitpick, one could argue that both India and Bharat historically represented only parts of northern India and did not encompass the entire subcontinent. Ashoka, in his inscriptions, described India as Jambudweep, meaning "the land of the Indian blueberry". It is said both Ram and Krishna had the complexion of this fruit, known as Jambu or the Malabar plum.

The name Aryavarta, or the land of noble folk, is used in the 'Dharmashastra' texts. Poetically, it was the land where the black buck roamed. The early texts refer to the region between Yamuna-Ganga as Aryavarta. But the area expanded to include a wider area from Himalayas and Vindhya, and later from Himalayas to the sea. This happens from 300 BC to 300 AD as more and more Brahmins began migrating southwards as indicated by land grants in the river basins of the Sabarmati in Gujarat, Mahanadi in Odisha and Godavari of Maharashtra, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. In the late 'Bhavishya Purana', the northern Aryavarta is distinguished from Sindhu-desa of the west and Dravida-desa, the south, all three being part of Bharatavarsha. So these names show a remarkable flexibility as the people who wrote them did not carry burdens of the 21st century nation-state. Ultimately, it depends on how we choose to interpret words. If we seek to use them to unite a nation, we can. If we wish to use them to divide, we can do that too.

The month of April always reminds me of the famous opening lines from TS Eliot's poem 'The Waste Land'. Ever since most of the young students in my class in Chandigarh's Panjab University grappled to understand the complexities of life, the poem for us became a window to decode a world burdened with its own traumatic history and hope for a better world to live in. We would recite these lines — "April is the cruellest month, breeding lilacs out of the dead land, mixing memory and desire, stirring dull roots with spring rain" — as if it were our national anthem. The poem wasn't easy to understand, like the life we were seeing unfold around us. Two and a half decades later, the month of April acquired an even more sinister meaning when in the year 2000, the world was made aware of the deep-rooted bookie-player nexus. The scandal rocked the cricket world when some of the top cricketers of the world were found to be fixing matches. Star players like the South African captain Hansie Cronje, India's beloved Mohammed Azharuddin and many more were found compromised, betraying the very trust the fans had in the game. Since, as a reporter for The Pioneer newspaper at that time, I had a small role to play in un-peeling some of its complex layers, a Mumbai newspaper wanted me to revisit the scandal that had broken 25 years ago. As I took a bird's-eye view of the very disquieting moments of that period, I was struck by the feeling of apprehension bordering almost on fear that is stalking a cricket fan whenever match-fixing is talked about. The uppermost question on their mind is: could it be happening even now? They themselves answer the doubt that has been raised: "Surely not, the players earn so much these days." It is an answer that begs the question: how much is so much and what are the limits of human greed, and let me add, even its need?

Cricket in India today is a commercial activity where, if a player makes it to the top or even qualifies to be a contender for a place in the Indian team, he ensures riches for himself. The Indian Premier League has multiplied a player's earnings to eight-digit figures even for those who may never play for the country. Money is pouring in, but wait a minute. The situation was the same in the year 2013, and yet the Delhi Police registered a case against former Indian cricketer Sreesanth and a few others for accepting money from bookmakers for spot-fixing. The others involved with him were getting just the base price fixed (around Rs 10-20 lakh) for playing the league. The officer involved in that probe was Delhi's Police

Commissioner Neeraj Kumar, who after retirement headed the Indian cricket board's anti-corruption unit. For anyone who wants to know whether cricket has got rid of corruption or not and if "fixing" could still be a possibility, they should read the extremely disturbing account he wrote of his stint in the board. His book, 'A Cop in Cricket', is a shocking narration of how the various mini T-20 leagues, that almost all states in India hold, are a den of "give and take" with rampant corruption, be it in manipulating the odds or in selecting the team. He does not spare even the IPL, where he found some of the franchise teams' talent-scouting unit compromised, with active connivance of a few former cricketers now masquerading as coaches. He makes it very clear in the book that he reported all these happenings to the top board officials but for reasons best known to them, no corrective measures were taken.

Let us look at the riches cricket has to offer in India, which we presume makes a player immune to

## Is match-fixing still alive?

corruption, from another perspective. We make IPL look like an "employment guarantee scheme" by flashing rags-to-riches stories of some of the players who have made it to the big stage despite their parents struggling with extreme poverty. Great as it is, we don't realise that the number of Indian players playing IPL is no more than 200.

Let us expand these numbers by including those who play first class cricket. It should be around 1,000 but let us make it 1,500 and let us put the total number of those partaking of the riches to 2,000 in totality, including those playing for India, though here also, the gap in earnings between the top and the bottom is huge. In this vast land that India is, with a population of 1.4 billion, there are around more than 3,000 academies for aspiring cricketers who are dreaming to play for the country. That would roughly place the number at more than a few lakhs. For want of any concrete data, let us put the number of those training hard to fulfil their dreams to around 10-15 lakh.

## Ashok Khemka's moving experiences



The redoubtable Ashok Khemka, an urban legend from the Jatland of Haryana, retired from the IAS on April 30. He had his brief hour of fame and glory (always a dangerous thing for an IAS officer, though Mr Amitabh Kant appears to have bucked this trend) about 12 years back when he refused to register a land deal of Mr Robert Vadra because he smelt a (Vad)rat: an act of bravery worthy of a medal, if not a mention in dispatches, considering that the said Vadra was the nation's acknowledged son-in-law. As it turned out, however, Mr Khemka got neither a medal nor a mention; he was transferred. Which brings me smoothly to the heart of my story.

Ashok Khemka served for 34 years and was transferred

57 times, something one hopes the Guinness Book of World Records will take note of. He had probably hoped that with the change of government in 2014, his fortunes too would change and that he would, like a good dog, be rewarded with a juicy bone in the matter of postings and that he would come in from the cold, as it were. Not so, because the new, non-Congress government transferred him yet again! For, politicians, though fond of dogs as status symbols, prefer the poodle or lap-dog breed and not the hound or German shepherd types. It doesn't matter which political party a Chief Minister graces — when it comes to dogs, a pit-bull like Mr Khemka is a strict no-no. And so, 12 years later, Mr Vadra continues to be the Opposition's official son-in-law and the cases against him have petered out like the mystical Saraswati river, while Mr Khemka has now passed into the realm of archives, like all of us, and may shortly become a case study in Mussoorie.

Be that as it may, however, I am here on a different, though related, issue, viz that with 57 transfers, Mr Khemka must have got 57 farewell parties — another record, by the way. And it is these farewell parties which I wish to dilate on, having had some experience of them myself, though I bow before the sheer numerical superiority of Mr Khemka.

## Keep state development above party politics

**Defence matters can be tricky material to use for polemics, especially right after a war. Questions do need to be asked, but in a non-partisan way.**

The pugnacious leader that he is, Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy manages to make it to the headlines often. He is also a shrewd politician who knows it takes two to tango when it comes to developing the state. As a Congressman, his instincts are in sync with that of his party on several issues. Operation Sindoor just happens to be one of those where sensitivity may serve better than sinew. His barbs against the Centre fly like missiles, and his repeated comparison between Indira Gandhi and Prime Minister Narendra Modi resonate with Congress supporters. The other day, he sought to know from the PM how many Rafale fighter aircraft were lost in Operation Sindoor. Politically speaking, he may have thought of bolstering party leader Rahul Gandhi's attacks on the Centre. What is unquestionable is that he went a step farther than even his leader. Defence matters can be tricky material to use for polemics, especially right after a war. Questions do need to be asked, but in a non-partisan way. Reddy may feel



himself politically justified in attending Jai Hind rallies, a

counter to the BJP's Tiranga rallies. It should be seen within the context of what should be an integrationist moment, though it is unfortunate that both the national parties appear to be politicising Operation Sindoor. It is time to support the armed forces in one voice at a time when the shadow of conflict has not entirely lifted. Reddy may have no compunction in calling a spade a spade, but he is also keenly aware of the imperatives of running a state. Within a fortnight, he had a meeting with the Prime Minister, where he submitted a wishlist, and during that same period he was going for the BJP's jugular. Presumably, he knows how to find his way around a paradox. Telangana has set itself a roadmap that's ambitious in relation to its finances, to put it mildly. Metro expansion, regional ring road, semiconductor projects — the Centre's role is key in all these. His predecessor K Chandrasekhar Rao's visits to New Delhi to advocate for the state were few and far between. Reddy has been proactive, and rightly so. Politics must never undermine Centre-state relations. That applies as much to the Centre as to the state.

## Soil as a marker of identity, memory, rootedness

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



with adamah, meaning earth. In India, where nature is often humanised and worshipped, soil carries a sacred dimension. Across languages and regions, we call her Mother Earth. A verse from the 'Atharvaveda' says: "Mata bhumi putra aham prithivya" — The Earth is my mother, I am her son. Soil, too, embodies suffering and endurance. As monk and pacifist Thich Nhat Hanh once wrote, "Without mud, there can be no lotus. Without suffering, there's no happiness."

In agrarian societies, soil is not just a resource — it is identity, memory, and rootedness. We speak of the

'sons of the soil' to describe farmers. In much of India's heartland, land is tied to belonging. This core idea resonates deeply in Odisha writer Gopinath Mohanty's novel 'Paraja', which tells the tragic story of Sukru Jani, a tribal man whose ancestral land is taken by exploitative landlords and a corrupt system. As his family is uprooted, their bond with the land is severed — fracturing both kinship and identity. When land is seen merely as a commodity to be mined, owned, or fought over, it becomes spiritless. This is the barrenness that TS Eliot speaks of in 'The Waste

Land': "Here is no water but only rock/Rock and no water and the sandy road." In 'Little Gidding', he extends the metaphor: "The parched eviscerate soil/Gapes at the vanity of toil, /Laughs without mirth. /This is the death of earth." Back in 1922, while addressing students at Calcutta University on 'The Robbery of the Soil', Rabindranath Tagore reflected on the intimate link between society and soil. "We are as much the children of the soil as of the human society," he said. "If we fail to make commensurate returns for what society contributes to nurture our mind and spirit, then we shall only exploit, and, in time, exhaust what society gives us."

Environmentalist Wendell Berry deepens this insight in 'The Unsettling of America': "A culture disintegrates when its sense of the land as something to be revered and cherished fades."

So, how well do we know our soil, "the central processing unit of the earth's environment", as a scientist referred to it? A single shovel of good garden soil is said to nurture more species than exist above ground in the entire Amazon rainforest. Yet, has soil today become the concern of a small group of specialists, or something we merely celebrate in songs and festivals? Has it become only the preserve of literature? Author Nirmal Verma once observed, "Poetry cannot prevent the axe from destroying the orchard, and yet, it is in some mysterious way connected with the trees, the garden, the birds."

The soil has indeed suffered for too long, from human ignorance, greed and neglect. It may be time to remind ourselves of Berry's profound, poetic words, that beneath grass lies soil dreaming of a young forest. And beneath pavements, lies soil dreaming of grass.

We all know how spices like haldi and dhania can rev up a dish, but the culinary benefits apart, did you know spices can also work wonders for the skin and hair?

What your grandmother said has come true, with more people realizing the benefits of Indian spices in fighting acne, clearing clogged pores and enhancing the complexion.

#### Benefits galore

Several spices can add value to the skin. Says Dr Rashmi Shetty, Mumbai based cosmetologist and anti-ageing expert, "Some of our spices like cardamom, cinnamon, garlic etc are great immune boosters. They have some or the other property which increase metabolic rate and enhance the immune system. When we prepare Indian detox drinks and diets, spices are always used in them, so consuming them orally is also very good for the skin and body. And when it comes to using spices in beauty treatments I find two ingredients to be very useful, coriander and turmeric."

#### Cinnamon

People are not very aware of it, but cinnamon has some great benefits. It has very good anti-bacterial properties, it improves blood



circulation. It can be used for pimples.

Just make a paste of it and apply it on the affected areas on the skin. When applied overall on the face, it will help in skin rejuvenation as it improves blood circulation.

#### Turmeric

"Turmeric has wonderful anti ageing, antibiotic and antiseptic properties. As a beauty product, it is often used in skin creams also. Every other product touts 'haldi' as an ingredient. It also has good skin lightening properties. It can be used as a facepack along with honey for wonderful results on skin," reveals Dr Shetty.

Dermatologist, Dr Madhuri Agarwal, shares a few more:

#### Coriander seeds

These are very cooling and soothing. If you soak them overnight and use the water as eye drops, it clears your eye, gives a wonderful cooling effect and makes the eyes look more bright, shiny and more white.

#### Black pepper

Black pepper is very good for exfoliation. If you make a powder of it and apply a paste on

## How Indian spices enhance your beauty Treatment

your acne marks and blemishes, it will help exfoliate the affected skin and give it a clearer appearance. It can also help in clearing pimples. A little curd can also be added to black pepper powder and applied for beauty benefits.

#### Ginger

Ginger can aid in skin rejuvenation and it improves the skin colour and texture. It can be applied as a paste on the skin and left for some time. It will improve skin tone. It is said to reduce blemishes.

#### Red masoor dal

Though it is not among the spices, this still a great beauty product. It can be used in

face packs and has anti-tanning properties. Use it as a body scrub, especially for dry skin. To gain its benefits, make a dry paste of it and add chandan (sandalwood) and haldi (turmeric) and apply this on the skin. Grind masoor dal and store it in an airtight jar for further use in your face packs and pastes.

#### Be careful

Things to be kept in mind when using these spices:

1. Apply the paste or other mixture correctly. It should not go into the eye. To be safer, avoid the eye and eyebrow area completely.
2. Also, ensure it does not touch the hair as certain spices can bleach the hair.
3. Do a patch test by applying the mixture on the inside of the elbow first, to avoid any redness.

## Secrets to make your Fragrance last long

Layer your smell and moisturize your skin to make your fragrance last all day, says an expert.



Ashokkumar, CEO and director of perfume house All Good Scents, shares how:

\* Start with a warm shower. Use a shower gel, body wash or a scented soap all over your body and then spray the fragrance once your body becomes dry. When you take a warm shower, it causes your pores to

open which when you apply the fragrance will soak up the scent better and the fragrance will stay longer as it gets layered on top of a line extension toiletry wash.

\* After you have a shower, moisturize your skin with a generous amount of fragrance-free lotion or a body lotion with the same fragrance you use. Moisturized skin blends well with the perfume ensuring long lasting fragrance. On dry skin, the fragrance will dissipate faster.

\* Perfumes tend to react with fluctuating body temperature throughout the day and emit scent accordingly. To maximize the smell of your perfume, apply it on your pulse points as they tend to react with warmth of your blood and emit the fragrance accordingly. Wear the perfume on wrist, inside of your elbows, the nape of your neck and on your cleavage. Also, never rub the area where perfume is applied as it breaks down and diminishes the fragrance.

\* Depending on the fragrance and the season, it is advisable to spray a little on your clothes too, particularly in winters on your sweaters or pullovers for a longer lasting smell. Thumb rule for spraying - always spray the perfume approximately 15 to 20 cms away from your body. Spraying an even amount of fragrance over a large area will have longer effect than concentrating it over smaller spot on skin.

Another way is to spray the fragrance in air and slowly walk into the mist. This will evenly distribute the fragrance across your body and will last longer too.

## Budget friendly beauty tips

We are all constantly looking for beauty tips which are easy on the pocket, after all what's better than looking good and not spending much while you are at it.

Here are a few budget-friendly beauty tips you can follow

Stay hydrated: Drinking the mandatory eight glasses a day can do wonders to your skin and body. Staying hydrated is a simple yet important step in ensuring a healthy, supple skin. You can consume other liquids as well.

Make up remover: Make sure you remove your make up before you sleep, and you don't need expensive products to do the same. Olive oil and baby oil can help as well.

Sleep well: Getting sufficient sleep will keep you healthy and active throughout the day. It is important for day-to-day functioning and can rejuvenate you to start the new day afresh. Not getting proper sleep can give you dark circles and puffy eyes and keep you irritable throughout the day.

Green vegetables and fruits: If you binge on fast foods and sugary delights often, it's time to stop. Fruits and vegetables are rich in antioxidants and can do wonders for the skin and overall nourishment of your body.



## Rainproof Your hair

With the heavy downpour and thick monsoon winds blowing our way, you can feel the moisture seeping into your luscious locks. Ever wondered, what excess moisture could do to your hair? For starters, the humid air during the monsoons can leave your hair feeling wet and sticky, notwithstanding the blow dry session you've just been through. If that's not bad enough, getting wet in the rains with inadequate hair care can leave you with an itchy, flaky scalp that is prone to dandruff, bacterial and fungal infections. "Exposure to extreme and contrasting climatic conditions--extreme heat in the summers to the damp monsoons--can take a toll on your hair, ultimately leaving it frizzy and unmanageable. The extreme variations in weather often strip off the outermost layer of your hair, making it brittle, rough and dry," informs celebrity hairstylist Adhuna Akhtar. Here are some expert tips to battles hair woes in the monsoons.

**Fight that frizz**  
For those used to light, airy tresses, a rough and unpredictable monsoon can surely strike havoc. However, it takes only a slight change in your regular hair care routine to ensure beautiful, stylish hair all-year-round. Oiling your hair regularly is one such trick. If you thought hair oiling was a grandmother's myth to healthy hair, here's what hairstylist-to-the-stars Savio John Pereira says, "Go in for deep oil massages to condition your hair and scalp during monsoon. Use a hair mask after your shampoo to moisturise hair. Identify your hair type and then use the right shampoo and conditioner for good results. Hair

tends to break easily when wet in the rains or even otherwise. So avoid brushing wet hair, instead use a wide-toothed comb. Make sure you towel dry your hair thoroughly or semi-dry it with a dryer to remove all the excess moisture in the hair."

Getting wet and soaked in the showers is a pleasure that few can resist, but think again. Pereira reiterates, "Air pollutants dissolved in rainwater may spell doom for your tresses and make hair bonds weak, thus making your hair dull and frizzy." So avoid wetting your hair this monsoon. And yes, never ever tie wet hair. You knew that, right?

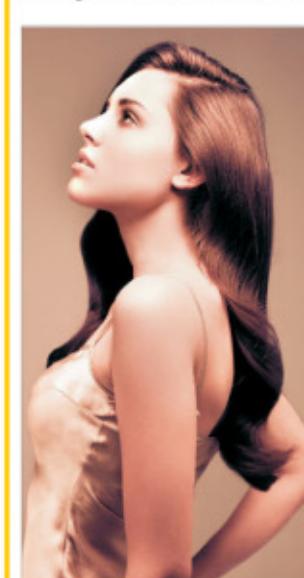
#### Monsoon styles

Don't let the monsoon dampen your spirit. While there are umpteen styles to try your hand at, read about the top two styles to sport during this season. Akhtar mentions, "We're lucky this

is the year of the bob. Many women are opting to chop their long locks for a short, flirty and fun haircut. Wear it classically straight or opt for a trendy, dishevelled wavy bob or 'wob' either way a bob never goes out of fashion and it is the perfect accessory for the wet and wild monsoons." Braids are another big hit that have made a come back even on the runways and red carpet. Pereira suggests, "Braided

hairstyles are the best option to keep your hair up and away from the nape. From fish tails, French braids, twisted braids, multiple braids, waterfall braids, etc, try any for a fun twist. It can be worn the classic way, which is at the back or to the side depending on the occasion."

So go out there and get cracking on your monsoon coiffure now! RAINPROOF your hair Annabel Dsouza ?? From the scorching heat to the refreshing, cool showers of monsoon, are your tresses ready for the climate change? Celebrity hairstylists tell you how to look after those locks and keep them feeling healthy and beautiful. With the heavy downpour and thick monsoon winds blowing our way, you can feel the moisture seeping into your luscious locks. Ever wondered, what excess moisture could do to your hair? For starters, the humid air during the monsoons can leave your hair feeling wet and sticky, notwithstanding the blow dry session you've just been through. If that's not bad enough, getting wet in the rains with inadequate hair care can leave you with an itchy, flaky scalp that is prone to dandruff, bacterial and fungal infections. "Exposure to extreme and contrasting climatic conditions--extreme heat in the summers to the damp monsoons--can take a toll on your hair, ultimately leaving it frizzy and unmanageable. The extreme variations in weather often strip off the outermost layer of your hair, making it brittle, rough and dry," informs celebrity hairstylist Adhuna Akhtar. Here are some expert tips to battles hair woes in the monsoons.



From the scorching heat to the refreshing, cool showers of monsoon, are your tresses ready for the climate change? Celebrity hairstylists tell you how to look after those locks and keep them feeling healthy and beautiful.

# Priyanka Gandhi Expresses Grief Over Deaths Due To Floods In Northeast

**Ms Gandhi urged the central and state governments to expedite relief and rescue operations to minimise suffering.**

**New Delhi.** Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra expressed grief over the deaths caused by heavy rains and floods in northeastern states, including Assam and Arunachal Pradesh, affecting lakhs of people. She urged the central and state governments to expedite relief and rescue operations to minimise suffering and called on Congress workers to assist those affected. In her X post, she wrote, "The news of deaths due to heavy rains in the northeastern states, including Assam and Arunachal, is extremely sad. Lakhs of people are affected by the floods. May God protect everyone. There is an appeal to the central and state governments to speed up relief and rescue operations so that people have to suffer minimum trouble. I also urge Congress leaders and workers to help the affected people as much as possible." Earlier in Assam, five people died due to a landslide. To compensate for the loss, the ex gratia of Rs 4 lakh was given to the family of



the victims, according to Assam Minister Jayanta Mallabaruah.

According to the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) flood reports, one person drowned in flood waters in Sribhumi district. At the same time, a child lost his life after drowning in floodwaters in the Cachar district. The flood situation in the state became critical on Sunday, affecting 3.64 lakh people in 19 districts: Lakhimpur, Dibrugarh, Hailakandi, Hojai, Kamrup, Dhemaji, Nagaon,

Sribhumi, Darrang, Karbi Anglong, Sonitpur, Dima Hasao, Biswanath, Cachar, Sivasagar, Majuli, Golaghat, Tinsukia, Karbi Anglong West.

The ASDMA report says that more than 1 lakh people have been affected in Cachar district, more than 83 thousand in Sribhumi, 62 thousand in Nagaon, 46 thousand in Lakhimpur, 19 thousand in Tinsukia, and 10 thousand in Dibrugarh. Arunachal Pradesh's CM, Pema Khandu, offered condolences to the families of the people who died due to massive landslides triggered by incessant monsoon rains since the last few days across the state and announced ex gratia worth Rs 4 lakh each to the family of the dead.

At least 9 deaths have been reported in the state, seven in East Kameng district and two in Ziro valley. Union Home Minister Amit Shah also assured of every possible help to the flood-affected areas in the northeast region and spoke with the Chief Ministers of Assam, Sikkim, and Arunachal Pradesh and the Governor of Manipur.

## 4 New COVID-19 Deaths In India, Active Cases Near 4,000

**New Delhi.** India's active COVID-19 cases stand at 3,961 as of 8 AM on Monday, June 2, according to Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The cumulative COVID-19 deaths in the country since January this year have increased to 32, with four deaths reported since Sunday. According to official data, 203 new cases were added to the active case count since Sunday.

Delhi, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, and Kerala each reported one COVID-19 death since Sunday. Delhi reported 47 more COVID-19 cases, increasing the total active cases in the national capital to 483. In Kerala, active COVID-19 cases rose to 1,435, with 35 new cases reported since Sunday. In Maharashtra, 21 new COVID-19 cases were reported, taking the active case count to 506. In West Bengal, 44 new COVID-19 cases were reported, increasing the state's active cases to 331.

On Friday, Union Minister of State for Health and AYUSH (Independent Charge), Prataprao Jadhav, assured that the Centre is fully prepared to handle any situation that may arise. "Both our Central Health Department and the AYUSH Ministry are fully alert and closely monitoring the situation across all states. We have spoken with the respective Health and AYUSH Secretaries, as well as other concerned ministers," Jadhav had told ANI.

He added that the infrastructure developed during the earlier Covid-19 waves has been reviewed and that preparations are underway to deal with any eventuality. "We've reviewed the infrastructure built during the earlier Covid waves, such as oxygen plants and ICU beds, and have already begun preparations. Our health systems are well-equipped and ready to handle any situation that may arise in response to Covid," he had said.

Meanwhile, given the current COVID-19 situation in the state, the Karnataka Health Department had issued a circular asking government and private schools to take precautions in the interest of school children's health.

## Delhi cop steals cash, gold worth crores from Special Cell office; arrested



**New Delhi.** In a major embarrassment for the Delhi Police, gold and cash, worth crores of rupees, were stolen from the Special Cell's storehouse located at its Lodhi Colony office - a unit tasked with counter-terror and anti-gang operations across the country. The accused is Head Constable Khursheed, who was earlier posted with the Special Cell and was responsible for overseeing the storehouse, where seized items from criminal cases - known as "case property" - are kept until presented in court. The accused, who has been arrested, was recently transferred to East Delhi but allegedly returned to the Lodhi Colony premises with a plan in mind.

Sources say that Khursheed entered the Special Cell office without raising suspicion, as the staff assumed he was there for official work. However, during his visit, he carried out the theft and quietly left the premises.

The matter came to light after an audit and an FIR was registered. Investigations led police to Khursheed, who confessed during questioning. So far, Rs 50 lakh in cash and a large quantity of stolen gold have been recovered from him. Officials are now probing whether he had committed similar thefts earlier.

The incident has raised serious concerns about internal security and oversight, especially as it occurred within one of the most sensitive units of the Delhi Police.

## Cloudburst, heavy rains hit north Sikkim; BRO begins rescue of 1,500 stranded tourists



being carried out rapidly in the Gangtok-Chungthang and Chungthang-Lachen/Lachung sectors. Officers and staff are working round the clock to restore essential routes for local residents and tourists. The administration has urged people not to believe in rumours and to follow safety advisories. The situation is being closely monitored.

According to officials, around 1,500 tourists stranded in Lachung and Lachen will now be gradually

## Delhi: Siblings die by suicide in Dilshad Garden apartment, police launch investigation

anyone and rarely left their house. We also contacted distant family members, who confirmed that the siblings had no close relatives and largely kept to themselves," an official stated.

Neighbors revealed that the siblings were very reclusive. "I even invited them to my brother's wedding, but they didn't come. I knew about their parents and felt bad seeing them always indoors," said a neighbor.

The landlord told Hindustan Times, "I live nearby and was called in the morning. I didn't expect this. I was shocked. They were very nice and humble. They always paid the rent on time and never caused any trouble. It was only last month that they missed the rent, but I didn't push them because I was sure they would pay later."

### Landlord

"We didn't find any suicide note or signs of foul play. It looks like they ended their lives a few days ago. Neighbors said the duo hardly interacted with

each other."

According to officials, the siblings had

been living alone in the apartment since 2021, shortly after the death of their mother. Their father, an Indian Army official, passed away in 2011.

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# Must-have exfoliating tools for Your skin

Cleansing and exfoliation are integral steps to any basic skincare routine.

They create a healthy foundation for products like moisturisers and serums and help in efficient absorption, allowing them to work effectively, and giving you that radiant to-die-for skin. Here are some skincare tools that you can use during cleansing/ exfoliation to



complement your at-home skincare regime...

**Cleansing brush** There are two types of cleansing brushes available in the market — manual and mechanical (battery-operated). Both provide a deep cleanse and are great tools to add another level of exfoliation to your cleansing routine.

**Mechanical cleansing brush** Avni Amlani, international skincare professional says, "The most popular type of

cleansing brushes use sonic (sound) frequencies. The resulting flexing action works to loosen dirt and oil, removing deep-seated impurities from pores and priming skin to better absorb moisturisers, masques and serums. It is suitable for all skin types and cleanses the skin six times better than hands."

**Manual exfoliating brush** If you cannot go for a mechanical brush, use an ultra-gentle brush to gently exfoliate surface debris and impurities for effective cleansing. Aesthetician Ritu Singh Tanwar says, "Exfoliating brushes with a long handle are great for a back scrub." Adds consultant dermatologist and aesthetic physician, Dr Madhuri Agarwal, "Use a long-handled, natural bristled brush for dry brushing before bathing to reduce dead cells."

**Sponge cloth** Damp sponge cloth is a gentle tool that can thoroughly remove makeup and debris without irritating your skin. Avni says, "Select one that is made from biodegradable, bacteria-resistant fabric, can be easily rinsed clean and dries quickly. Sponge cloths can be used to remove cleansers, exfoliants and masques."

**Buffing cloth** This hygienic, microbial exfoliating cloth can be used to buff and polish the body. Use this with a body wash to clean and exfoliate rough and dull skin in hard-to-reach areas. Opt for one made from extradurable nylon fiber that can easily be rinsed clean and dries quickly. This is a great tool to experience an exfoliating power cleanse at home.



## Stretch marks selfies are the latest fad!



### marks selfies

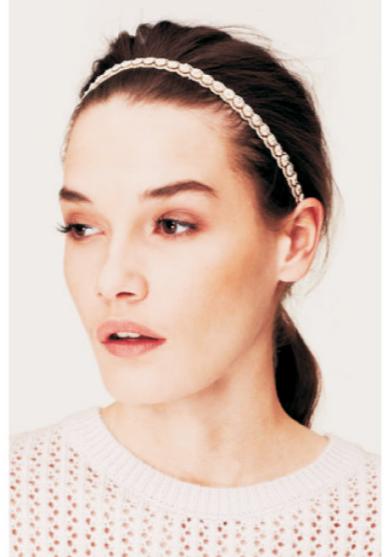
Gone are the days when post pregnancy stretch marks and bodies were kept secret. Now, besides tracing the progress of the baby in the womb, there are photo shoots that exclusively take place post the delivery. Stretch mark selfies are another 'proud mom' movement and speak of women empowerment.

### No makeup selfie

While the Ice Bucket Challenge brought awareness to ALS, the no makeup selfie was started by the Cancer Research Institute in UK. Gradually, it transformed into a phenomenon of flaunting the makeup-free look all over the world and women, including some B-town beauties, put up selfies sans cosmetics.

### ThighReading

This movement started last month when a microblogging site user posted a picture of her thighs, captioning it #ThighReading. Derived from the idea of palm reading, it



picked up. As a result, girls posted pictures of their thighs — with scars, cellulite, spider veins, stretch marks, freckles and hair.

### At ease with body hair

Be it the unthreaded hair on the upper lip or unwaxed arms, body hair has been a big no-no for ages, but that's changing now. The play Vagina Monologues has tapped the issue. 'Hairy feminists', as the term goes, are widely supporting it, some are even making documentaries on the same.

### JustATampon

Similar to Kiran's endeavour is the #JustATampon campaign in which people posed for pictures holding a tampon to immunise the shock

value that is still associated with menstruation. There are games like Tampon Run and Tampon Dodge based on it, where instead of bullets, tampons are fired and dodged. Then again, there are comics that tell readers everything about periods.

## 5 beauty tips every woman must know

There isn't a woman, who's not beautiful but sadly, the beauty standards fixed by the world have started determining the attractiveness of a woman these days. But then, who said you can't match those high standards and be the epitome of beauty?

- If your skin is prone to acne, you should use an oil-free product that is non-comedogenic. Try looking for the word on the label of the product you're planning to pick up. A non-comedogenic product is formulated in a way that it does not cause blocked pores.

- When using a hair colour for the first time, do conduct a 24 hour patch test. Apply some colour behind your ear or the inside fold of your elbow. Allow the colour to remain on the test area for 24 hours to check if your skin is not allergic to the product.

- Hassled by the idea of removing a long lasting lipstick? Try cleaning it with some sweet almond oil dabbed on a cotton ball.

- For enviable hair, massage your mane with some coconut oil. Shampoo the hair post ten minutes of the comforting massage and see how different your hair seem.

- Hate green tea? Well, your feet will love it! Try throwing in a few tea bags into a tub along with some cold water and believe us your feet with thank you for the exercise.



## For those enviable thick and long fingernails

People judge you by the way you carry yourself. As much as you take care of your face, your hands and nails too need equal attention.



Chipped and peeling fingernails are a problem faced by one and all. Nails can peel off due to several reasons. Climate changes, dietary issues, yeast infections, too much exposure to water and vitamin deficiency are some of them. Here are a few tips to take care of your nails.

- Cold, dry weather can cause layers to separate and flake off. So moisturise your hands and nails every morning and evening.

- Lack of biotin, sulfur or vitamin B can result in flaky nails. A good



supplement, as well as raw vegetables and fruits, will prevent the chipping.

- If you're suffering from a yeast infection, it can adversely affect your nails. If you've been given a prescription ointment or cream for what's on your skin, try rubbing it on your nails, too.

- Water has a drying effect on your nails, leading to flaking and peels. If your nails are exposed to water for too long, wear gloves wherever possible, and

moisturise at least twice a day.

- Biotin helps our body to process fatty acids and proteins. Two and a half milligrams of biotin supplement is recommended daily to strengthen nails. Or you can take vitamin B complex daily. Add enough protein in your diet. You should have at least several servings of meat, dairy or nuts every day.

- Do not use your nails in removing tags, pulling out staples etc. Get the right tool instead.

While applying nail polish: Before applying nail polish, file and buff your nails in one direction only and remove all ridges that can cause chipping. Always apply two coats of nail polish and a clear top coat at the end to seal the nail.

## Rupee rises 6 paise to 85.49 against US dollar in early trade

**CHENNAI.** The Indian rupee opened marginally stronger on Monday, rising 6 paise to 85.49 against the US dollar in early trade, buoyed by positive domestic macroeconomic data and improved investor sentiment. The local currency is drawing support from India's robust Q4 GDP growth of 7.4%, which surpassed market expectations and highlighted strength in the construction and manufacturing sectors. The upbeat data has reinforced optimism around India's economic outlook, aiding currency sentiment.

### Key Drivers:

**Positive GDP Surprise:** Better-than-expected growth has improved foreign investor confidence, potentially encouraging capital inflows. **Stable Crude Prices:** Global crude oil prices remained relatively steady, easing concerns over India's import bill and trade deficit pressures. **Export Demand and Corporate Flows:** Month-beginning exporter demand and routine corporate flows are likely supporting the rupee in early trade. However, gains may be capped by persistent strength in the US Dollar Index (DXY). The dollar remains firm amid cautious global sentiment ahead of key US macro data this week, including the non-farm payroll report.

**Geopolitical Uncertainty and Global Risk Aversion:** Investors continue to monitor geopolitical developments and global interest rate expectations, which could impact emerging market currencies.

### Outlook:

Markets will closely watch the RBI's monetary policy decision due later this week, which could offer further cues for the rupee. Analysts expect the central bank to maintain its current policy stance but focus on liquidity management and inflation control, both of which could influence currency movements.

## Why India faces growth headwinds

**New Delhi.** There is no doubt that the long-term story of India is attractive. Over the next few decades, there are things successive governments will do right, and there will be things that they may not get right. As an investor and saver, you must keep yourself updated. The annual report of the Reserve Bank of India is one such document you must read. It is not just about the nation's business. It matters because it gives a perspective about your money, deposits and investments. Last year, the annual report mentioned the word 'inflation' 300 times. This year, it has gone down to 251 times. Similarly, the word 'growth' was mentioned 198 times last year. This year, it is mentioned 273 times. It may be simplistic to explain that RBI is concerned about growth. That could mean that the central bank's monetary policy committee could focus on stimulating economic growth in the year ahead and not worry too much about inflation. It simply means that borrowing rates will likely trend down in the year ahead. India reported better-than-expected GDP growth for the quarter to March 2025. The RBI attributes the promising growth outlook for 2025-26 to a revival in the consumption demand. That is related to goods and services we buy at home or in offices. While there is no significant jump in capital expenditure for 2025-26, the government will likely maintain it at a similar level for 2025-26. That means infrastructure spending will continue to remain a focus. The government finances remain strong, with the fiscal deficit declining and marketing borrowing in check. These factors influence the future of interest rates. If the government borrows more to meet expenditures, it has an inflationary impact. However, interest rates will not be affected since the fiscal deficit and market borrowing are in check. There is a lot of optimism emanating out of the bond markets. Foreigners have been buying Indian government bonds due to low interest rates in the US and Europe and high interest rates in India. That buying will likely push yields down further as India's government bonds are now in major benchmark bond indices. The trend in the oil market also shows that international prices are going down. That is good news for India as it imports over 80% of the oil demand.

## Retirement mistakes one should avoid

**New Delhi.** Many people retire each day with dreams of the future. Unfortunately, many retirees may encounter hardships that could have been avoided.

No one can predict your future health conditions, financial markets, tax rates and so forth. But, with a plan, you can avoid some of the following problems:

### 1. Retiring much later than they could have

One of the common mistakes is the belief that one must work until a specific age or accumulate a certain amount of savings. Much of this is rooted in oversimplified financial planning. I recommend individuals to work with a retirement professional who can help them run their numbers and create a retirement plan while providing guidance on how to navigate the complexities of retirement and beyond.

### 2. Boredom is a big killer

Husband and wife may not do together. So, one has to be prepared for a long, lonely life. Many individuals underestimate the void that retirement and bereavement can create in their lives. Build good relationships with fellow runners, cyclists, musicians, schoolmates, college friends, etc. Ensure you surround yourself with many different individuals with different backgrounds and age - who can help fulfil your emotional, physical, spiritual and intellectual needs.

### 3. Lack of purpose

Everyone needs purpose in life. Whether it is to pursue hobbies, start a new business or learn a new language, or devote your time to a meaningful cause, having a sense of purpose will keep you motivated, positive and eager to embrace each day's opportunities.

### 4. What if I run out of money?

The fear of finishing all your money makes people live in fear. This can create unnecessary budget constraints and concerns. Building a retirement plan that gives you the confidence to enjoy your early retirement years while you're still energetic and healthy should be the goal.

## Will Loans Below Rs 2 Lakh Be Exempt From Tighter Rules Under New Gold Loan Norms Finance Ministry Steps In

**DFS has also stated that such guidelines will need time to implement at the field level and hence may be suitable for implementation from January 1, 2026 only, the statement said.**

**New Delhi.** The Finance Ministry said on Friday it has suggested that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) should exclude small borrowers of up to Rs 2 lakh from the provisions of its draft directions on lending against gold collateral. The Finance Ministry has also suggested that the implementation of the guidelines be postponed to next year. "The draft directions on lending against gold



collateral issued by the RBI have been examined by the Department of Financial Services (DFS) under the guidance of Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. The DFS has given suggestions to the RBI to ensure that the requirements of the small gold loan borrowers are not adversely affected," the Finance Ministry said in a statement on X. DFS has also stated that such guidelines will need time to implement at the field level and hence

may be suitable for implementation from January 1, 2026 only, the statement said. Further, DFS has suggested that borrowers below Rs 2 lakh may be excluded from the requirements of these proposed directions to ensure timely and speedy disbursement of loans for such small ticket borrowers, the statement explained. "RBI is reviewing the feedback received on the Draft guidelines. It is expected that concerns raised by various

## Leela Hotels share price: Stock lists at 7% discount on Dalal Street

**New Delhi.** Shares of Leela Hotels began trading on the stock market on Monday, making a weak start on Dalal Street. The company's stock opened at Rs 406 on the NSE, which is Rs 29 below the issue price of Rs 435. On the BSE, it opened slightly higher at Rs 406.50, still lower by Rs 28.50, or about 6.55%. This means the stock listed at nearly a 7% discount to its issue price. The poor listing shows that investors are being cautious, even though the company has a strong brand name and has shown improvement in its financial performance. Leela Hotels launched its initial public offering (IPO) last week. The company aimed to raise Rs 3,500 crore in total. Of this, Rs 2,500 crore came from a fresh issue of shares and Rs 1,000 crore from an offer for sale by existing shareholders. The IPO was priced at Rs 435 per share.

The IPO was subscribed 4.72 times overall. While demand from large institutional investors was strong, with the Qualified Institutional Buyers (QIB) portion subscribed 7.82 times, the interest from retail investors and

high-net-worth individuals (HNIs) was much lower. Retail investors subscribed only 0.87 times their portion, and the Non-Institutional Investors (NII) segment was subscribed 1.08 times.

Leela Hotels is backed by funds managed by Brookfield and owns five



luxury hotels in cities such as Bengaluru, Chennai, New Delhi, Jaipur, and Udaipur. The company also manages several other hotels under the Leela brand through contracts. Altogether, it operates 12 hotels with a total of 3,382 rooms, making it one of the biggest luxury hotel operators in the country. In the financial year ending March 2025, Leela Hotels made a

profit of Rs 47.66 crore. This was a big improvement from the previous year, when it had posted a loss of Rs 2.13 crore. Revenue for the year rose by 15% to reach Rs 1,406.56 crore.

Despite this improvement, some experts feel that the IPO was priced too high.

After the issue, the company's price-to-earnings (P/E) ratio stands at over 213 times, which many consider to be expensive. This could be one reason why the listing was not strong. The money raised through the fresh issue will be used to pay back loans taken by the company for some of its hotels in Udaipur, Chennai, and Delhi. A part of the funds will also be used for general corporate needs. The IPO offered a minimum investment of Rs 14,042 for retail investors applying at the lower end. However, those who wanted to ensure allotment were advised to apply at the cut-off price, raising the investment amount to Rs 14,790. For small NIs, the minimum investment stood at Rs 2,07,060, and for big NIs, it was Rs 10,05,720.

## Sensex tumbles 700 points. Why is stock market falling despite strong GDP growth

**New Delhi.** Benchmark stock market indices fell sharply in early trade even as India's GDP growth in the fourth quarter of FY25 exceeded expectations, coming in at 7.4%. Around 9:25 am, the BSE Sensex was down 732.71 points at 80,718.30, while the NSE Nifty50 slipped 197.45 points to 24,553.25. Broader markets mirrored the weakness, with most indices in the red amid a spike in volatility. Despite strong domestic data, investor sentiment appears weighed down by mounting global concerns. "There are global headwinds like renewed tariff concerns that will restrain a break-out rally. At the same time there are domestic tailwinds that will support the market at lower levels," said Dr. VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services. He flagged fresh global trade tensions as a key worry for equity markets. "President Trump's 50% tariffs on steel and aluminium is a clear message that the tariff and trade scenario will continue to be uncertain and turbulent. This headwind will impact markets," Vijayakumar added.

Echoing similar concerns, Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities Ltd, warned of possible turbulences on Dalal Street. "Market turbulence looms amid escalating US-China trade tensions, with President Trump accusing China of violating their agreement," Tapse said. Still, India's better-than-expected GDP figures offer comfort on the domestic front.

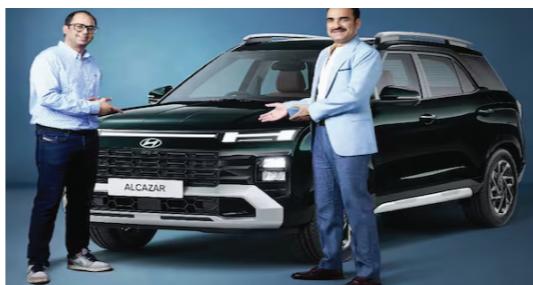
"On the domestic front the tailwinds are getting stronger with the latest Q4 GDP growth data coming at 7.4%, which is much better-than-expected. Trends in consumption expenditure and capital expenditure are promising," Vijayakumar said. "This along with low inflation and the expected continuation of the rate-cutting policy provide the perfect setting for sustained economic growth in FY26," he noted, though he cautioned that corporate earnings growth remains a concern. "If leading indicators suggest a recovery in earnings growth there is a high probability of the market breaking out of the present range and moving higher." Adding to the risk-off mood, Devarsh Vakil, Head of Prime Research at HDFC Securities, said Indian markets were likely to stay subdued despite the GDP print due to "heightened fears of escalating conflict between Ukraine and Russia." **NIFTY OUTLOOK**

Technical indicators suggest that Nifty may struggle to break out in the near term. "Persistent rejection trades seen last week on all upside attempts point towards the lack of momentum required for large upsides. We feel that a dip to 24,500 could improve such hopes. That said, slippage past the same could however expose 24,060, though a collapse is less expected," said Anand James, Chief Market Strategist, Geojit Financial Services.

## Pankaj Tripathi joins Hyundai Motor India as brand ambassador

**New Delhi.** Hyundai Motor India Limited (HMIL) has signed actor Pankaj Tripathi as its new brand ambassador. The company made the announcement on Friday, saying the actor's simple personality and strong connect with the Indian audience match well with Hyundai's image in the country. Pankaj Tripathi is known for his roles in films and web series where he often plays characters that are relatable and grounded. Hyundai said this quality made him the right choice to represent the brand.

In a statement, Hyundai said, "Pankaj Tripathi perfectly represents Hyundai's values of reliability, authenticity, and a deep connection with India's diverse audience." The company added that it



believes Tripathi's image will help build stronger emotional ties with customers. Tarun Garg, Whole-Time Director and Chief Operating Officer at Hyundai Motor India, said, "At Hyundai, we celebrate stories of progress and inspiration. We are delighted to welcome Pankaj Tripathi to the Hyundai family. His grounded

persona, exceptional talent and widespread appeal resonate with the values of Hyundai and our vision of 'Progress for Humanity'. Together, we aim to drive deeper emotional connections with our diverse customer base across India." By bringing in a popular actor like Pankaj Tripathi, Hyundai is likely hoping to reach a wider customer base, especially in

Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities where the actor has a strong fan following. He is known for his humble background and is often seen as a man of the people. Hyundai is one of the top car makers in India. Over the years, the company has introduced several popular models and built a large customer base.

## Stocks to watch on June 2: IndiGo, Nykaa, Leela Hotels, Tata Motors, BPCL

**New Delhi.** Stock markets will open on Monday, June 2, after closing lower in the previous session. The drop was led by IT stocks. Markets may remain under pressure after the recent GDP numbers showed slower growth. Investors will also keep an eye on two new listings and several company updates.

### LEELA HOTELS

Leela Hotels is set to debut on the stock exchanges on Monday. The company's initial public offering (IPO) was subscribed 4.72 times. Within this, the Qualified Institutional Buyers (QIB) category saw strong demand and was subscribed 7.82 times. The Non-Institutional Investors (NII) category was subscribed 1.08 times, while the Retail category lagged at 0.87 times.

### AEGIS VOPAK TERMINALS

Another IPO listing to watch is Aegis Vopak Terminals. The issue was subscribed 2.20 times overall. It saw the most interest from QIBs, where it was subscribed 3.47 times. Retail subscription stood at 0.81 times, while NIs subscribed only 0.59 times. Investors will be watching to see how the stock performs on its first day.

### GODREJ PROPERTIES

Godrej Properties announced that it will develop a 14-acre land parcel in the

Kharadi-Wagholi area of Pune. The project is for premium group housing. The company said the total developable area will be 3.7 million square feet. The estimated revenue from this project is expected to be around Rs 4,200 crore.

### INDIGO

IndiGo's CEO, Pieter Elbers, said the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has extended the lease for aircraft taken from Turkish Airlines. The 'damp-leased' aircraft can now be used until August 2025. This extension is expected to help IndiGo continue its current operations and manage customer needs during a busy travel season.

### NYKAA

Nykaa reported strong earnings for the fourth quarter. The beauty and fashion retailer said its profit almost tripled compared to the same period last year. Urban customers continued to buy premium beauty products, which helped boost earnings.

### TATA MOTORS

Tata Motors reported a fall in sales for May 2025. The company sold 70,187 units last month, down 8.6% from 76,766 units in May 2024. Domestic sales also dropped by 10%, falling to 67,429 units from last year's 74,973 units. This drop in sales

could impact the stock price when markets open.

### BPCL

The board of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) has approved a new investment. BPCL will enter a joint



venture with Tiktar and Shell India. The focus of the joint venture will be to manufacture and market bitumen products, which are used in road construction and other infrastructure projects.

### COAL INDIA

Coal India has taken a step forward in listing its subsidiary, Bharat Coking Coal Ltd (BCCL). The company has filed the Draft Red Herring Prospectus (DRHP) with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi). The proposed IPO will be an offer for sale (OFS) of up to 46.57 crore shares.

### ALEMIC PHARMA

Alembic Pharmaceuticals has received a Form 483 from the United States Food and Drug Administration (US FDA). The form includes four observations related to its API-I and API-II manufacturing plants in Panelav, Gujarat. The company will now need to respond to these points raised by the US regulator.

### DR REDDY'S

Dr Reddy's Laboratories issued a short statement regarding Semaglutide, a diabetes and weight loss drug. The company said the case involving patents by Novo Nordisk is currently sub-judice, meaning it is being handled by the courts.

### APOLLO HOSPITALS

Apollo Hospitals reported higher profits in the fourth quarter, beating market estimates. The company said strong demand for its healthcare services helped boost earnings. This may give the stock a lift when markets open.

## NEWS BOX

## Unselfish Glenn Maxwell explains reason behind ODI retirement

Australia all-rounder Glenn Maxwell announced his retirement from ODI cricket on Monday, June 2. Maxwell revealed that he would no longer play the 50-over format as Australia begins preparations for the 2027 World Cup. However, he has kept himself available for the T20 World Cup, which is set to be hosted in India and Sri Lanka in 2026. Explaining his decision, Maxwell said he didn't want to continue just for selfish reasons. Maxwell, 36, is widely regarded as one of the finest white-ball batters of the modern era. His performances in the 2023 ODI World Cup were instrumental in Australia's title win under Pat Cummins, especially with two standout innings — against Afghanistan and the Netherlands — that lit up the tournament. The all-rounder acknowledged the importance of long-term planning and said he didn't want to linger on for just a few more series. "I felt like I was letting the team down a little bit with how my body was reacting to the conditions," Maxwell said. "I had a good chat with (Australia chair of selectors) George Bailey and asked him what his thoughts were going forward. We talked about the 2027 World Cup, and I said to him, 'I don't think I'm going to make that — it's time to start planning for others in my position to have a crack and



make the spot their own.' Hopefully, they get enough of a lead-in to really own that role."

"I always said I wouldn't give up my place if I felt I was still good enough to play. But I didn't want to just hang around for a couple of series and play for selfish reasons. They're moving in a clear direction, and this gives them the best chance to build the right line-up for the next World Cup. I know how important that planning is," Maxwell added.

Maxwell's relationship with the Australian setup has been somewhat rocky since the T20 World Cup in 2022. He was pulled up multiple times by the coach and selectors for off-field behaviour. During that time, he also suffered a freak injury — breaking his leg while partying with friends — and in 2024, he collapsed during a concert and had to be hospitalised. Maxwell retires with 149 ODI appearances, scoring 3,990 runs at an average of 33.81.

## Rajeev Shukla Set To Become Interim BCCI President To Replace Roger Binny - Reports

**New Delhi.** Veteran cricket administrator Rajeev Shukla is all set to take over as the interim BCCI president after Roger Binny turns 70 next month. According to BCCI rules, no office-bearer can continue once they cross the age of 70, making Binny ineligible to remain in the role beyond July 19.

**Rajeev Shukla to Take Charge in Mid-July**  
Currently serving as the BCCI vice-president, Rajeev Shukla is expected to step into the president's role by mid-July. A formal announcement is likely to be made closer to the date. As per BCCI guidelines, the senior-most vice-president automatically takes charge until new elections are held.

**Binny's Time As BCCI President**  
Roger Binny, a former Indian all-rounder, became BCCI president in 2022, replacing Sourav Ganguly. During his time as president, Binny saw some major successes and important decisions.

**Major Achievements Under Binny**  
Under his leadership, the Indian men's cricket team won two ICC trophies: the 2024 T20 World Cup and the 2025 Champions Trophy.



These wins marked a high point for Indian cricket in recent years. Binny also played a big role in launching the Women's Premier League (WPL), a tournament that gave a new platform to Indian women cricketers and helped promote women's cricket in the country.

**Tough Decisions on Player Conduct**  
One of Binny's bold decisions was making it mandatory for centrally contracted players to play domestic cricket when not on national duty. This led to the removal of players like Ishan Kishan and Shreyas Iyer from the central contract list after they did not follow this rule.

**Roger Binny: A Look Back at His Career**  
As a cricketer, Roger Binny had a solid international career. He played 27 Test matches and 72 ODIs for India.

## IPL 2025 Qualifier 1: Shreyas Iyer smashed 87 off 41 balls in one of his greatest knocks as Punjab Kings chased 204 successfully against Mumbai Indians. PBKS will face Royal Challengers Bengaluru on Tuesday, June 3.

Mumbai Indians (MI) head coach Mahela Jayawardene was left rueing dropped chances following his team's loss against Punjab Kings (PBKS) in Qualifier 2 of the Indian Premier League 2025 (IPL 2025). PBKS beat MI by five wickets as they successfully chased down the target of 204, riding on a remarkable innings from captain Shreyas Iyer of 87\* (41). Iyer got involved in a game-changing partnership with Nehal Wadhera for the fifth wicket as the duo added 84 runs off 47 balls. MI had a great chance to end the

partnership on just 22. However, Trent Boult ended up dropping Wadhera on 13 at fine leg, which ended up costing his team dearly. Following Punjab's clinical performance, Mahela Jayawardene was full of praise for the opposition as he said that they were solid while chasing. He also mentioned how grabbing on to dropped chances would've changed things around for them. "Punjab Kings were solid, especially while chasing — and that's not easy. They executed really well. We made a few blunders, obviously, with those two dropped catches. But that's how the game goes. We had luck on our side in the previous match, so it balances out. Overall, it was a good game of cricket — and we came up short. It's as simple as that," said Jayawardene in the post-match press conference.

Furthermore, the MI head coach revealed the reason behind under bowling Hardik Pandya, who gave away 19 runs from two overs and picked one wicket.

Shreyas smashed eight sixes and five boundaries in his 41-ball 87, scoring at a strike rate of 212.80 in what was arguably the innings of the season. He, along with the uncapped Nehal Wadhera, stitched together

a game-changing 84-run partnership for the fourth wicket off just 47 deliveries.

Fittingly, it was Shreyas who ended one of the IPL's most long-standing and seemingly unbreakable records — successfully chasing



200 against Mumbai Indians. It had never been done before in the tournament's history, and the Punjab Kings skipper sent a clear warning to RCB ahead of the grand final. Shreyas Iyer will lead Punjab Kings once again against RCB, this time in the big final where sparks will fly. Punjab ended their 11-year wait for a place in the final, and they've done it in style, playing fearless cricket and showcasing their remarkable resilience to bounce back from setbacks.

## Hardik Pandya Breaks Down As Mumbai Indians Crash Out Of IPL 2025: "I Take The Blame"

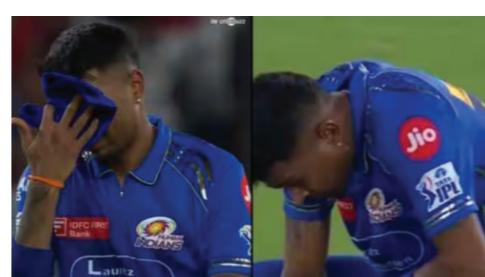
**Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) manager Luice Enrique has tipped Ousmane Dembele to win the coveted Ballon d'Or for playing a key role in their Champions League 2025 triumph. PSG beat Inter Milan 5-0 to claim their maiden Champions League title.**

**New Delhi.** The image of Hardik Pandya sinking to the ground, hands on knees, will remain etched in the minds of Mumbai Indians fans for years. As Shreyas Iyer punched the winning runs to script a famous victory for Punjab Kings in Qualifier 2 of IPL 2025, the MI skipper dropped to his haunches — not from exhaustion, but heartbreak. This wasn't just a loss. It was a brutal reminder of the weight leadership carries, especially for a franchise as storied and demanding as Mumbai Indians. For Pandya, who returned to lead MI amidst

immense scrutiny this season, the semifinal defeat was personal. "I take the blame," Pandya admitted at the post-match presentation, his voice subdued. "Shreyas batted beautifully. It was a par score. But

our execution fell short when it mattered most. That's on me." Pandya's Pain Highlights Mumbai's Season of Contrasts Mumbai Indians' IPL 2025 campaign was anything but ordinary. With a roster stacked with star power — Jasprit Bumrah, Suryakumar Yadav, Tilak Varma, and rising talents like Naman Dhir — expectations were sky-high. Yet, the transition under Hardik Pandya's captaincy was rocky. Pandya, battling both form and

perception, carried the burden of replacing Rohit Sharma as MI skipper — a decision that split fans and pundits alike. While he remained composed publicly, his collapse after the loss revealed a man emotionally spent, perhaps carrying more than the scoreboard could show. Despite leading from the front with bat and ball throughout the season, the night in Ahmedabad showed that leadership goes beyond stats. While Pandya's breakdown became the image of the night, Shreyas Iyer was its protagonist. The Punjab Kings batter played one of the most composed innings of the season — an unbeaten 87 off 41 balls, anchoring a high-pressure 204-run chase with calm, class, and conviction. Nehal Wadhera's gritty 48 off 29 and Josh Inglis' powerplay assault (38 off 21) set the tone, but it was Iyer's calculated assault that deflated MI's bowling attack — including Bumrah, who leaked 40 runs in his four overs. Pandya's own bowling failed to make a breakthrough at a crucial stage. His dropped catch of Wadhera in the 10th over — a tough but pivotal chance — added salt to wounds. As Punjab closed out the match with an over to spare, Pandya stood still, devastated.



## PBKS vs MI: Mahela Jayawardene rues dropped chances after losing Qualifier 2



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Indian Premier League 2025 (IPL 2025). PBKS beat MI by five wickets as they successfully chased down the target of 204, riding on a remarkable innings from captain

Shreyas Iyer of 87\* (41). Iyer got involved in a game-changing partnership with Nehal Wadhera for the fifth wicket as the duo added 84 runs off 47 balls. MI had a great chance to end the partnership on just 22. However, Trent Boult ended up dropping Wadhera on 13 at fine leg, which ended up costing his team dearly. Following Punjab's clinical performance, Mahela Jayawardene was full of praise for the opposition as he said that they were solid while chasing. He also mentioned how grabbing on to dropped chances would've changed things around for them. "Punjab Kings were solid, especially while chasing — and that's not easy. They executed really well. We made a few blunders, obviously, with those two dropped catches. But that's how the game goes. We had luck on our side in the previous match, so it balances out.

## Virat Kohli Retirement U-Turn BCCI Urges Comeback Amid RCB IPL Final Push

**The BCCI has urged Virat Kohli to reconsider his Test retirement, highlighting his unmatched fitness and ongoing impact ahead of RCB's maiden IPL final.**

**New Delhi.** Virat Kohli's decision to retire from Test cricket last month stunned fans and experts alike. The former India captain, known for redefining fitness standards and setting batting benchmarks, announced his retirement following a disappointing series in Australia. While many assumed the decision was final, a fresh twist has reigned hope: Indian Premier League (IPL) Chairman Arun Dhumal has publicly urged Kohli to reconsider. Kohli's departure from the longest format has left a void difficult to

fill. With India set to take on England in the five-Test series starting June 20 at Headingley, fans are already grappling with the idea of someone else walking out at No. 4. The absence of Kohli from the whites will not just be felt in the dressing room but also in every fan's living room. Virat is to Cricket What Federer is to Tennis": Arun Dhumal's Powerful Plea In a stirring statement to PTI, Arun Dhumal compared Kohli to global sporting icons, saying, "Virat is to cricket what Novak Djokovic or Roger Federer is to tennis." He praised Kohli's unmatched commitment and fitness, noting that even after 18 grueling IPL seasons, the 36-year-old remains in peak physical condition. "Given the fitness that Virat has, he is probably fitter now than he was in the first season," Dhumal asserted. "Even if RCB wins the IPL this season, I hope and believe Virat will not retire from the game entirely." The sentiment echoes across the cricketing community. Dhumal, a former



BCCI treasurer and current IPL boss, technically still operates under the board's umbrella — making his plea carry considerable weight. The timing of Dhumal's appeal is no coincidence. Kohli's IPL franchise, Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB), has reached the IPL 2025 final after

"I don't know to be honest, I love such big occasions. I always say to myself and to my colleagues in the team that the bigger the occasion, the calmer you are, you get the big results. Today was a right example where I was focusing more on my breathing rather than sweating out there," Shreyas said after the sensational knock. HEARTBREAK FOR MUMBAI INDIANS

For Hardik Pandya and his men, it was a heartbreak exit. Mumbai Indians crashed out after mounting a valiant comeback in the second half of the season. Having lost five of their first six games, they stormed into the playoffs by winning seven of their last eight. They were clinical in the Eliminator against Gujarat Titans but ultimately ran out of steam against a Punjab side that handled the pressure superbly. Chasing a steep target of 204, Punjab Kings got off to a cautious start as Prabhsimran Singh and Priyansh Arya took their time against the new-ball attack of Trent Boult and Reece Topley. It was an uncharacteristically measured approach from two of the most explosive openers of the season. Perhaps it was the after-effect of their batting collapse in Qualifier 1 against Royal Challengers.

**Gukesh remains humble after epic win against Magnus Carlsen: 99 out of 100 times, I would lose**

**New Delhi.** India's D Gukesh personified the spirit of winning with grace after defeating Magnus Carlsen, one of the greatest players in the history of chess. Gukesh remained humble after what may have been the biggest win of his career on Sunday, May 1, delivering a major upset against the home favourite at Norway Chess. Reacting to the surprise victory, Gukesh said he would have lost 99 out of 100 times against Carlsen, calling it a "lucky day" for him. His calm and composed demeanour stood in sharp contrast to Carlsen's reaction — he smashed the table and stormed off the playing area after losing to the reigning world champion in classical chess. "I was just trying to play moves that were tricky for him and luckily he got into time trouble. One thing I learnt from this tournament is that time scrambles can get too much out of control," Gukesh said after beating Carlsen. Legendary chess player Susan Polgar responded to Gukesh's interview on X, praising the Indian player for having the heart of a warrior — even if he didn't show it in words or emotions.

"The World Champion showed the true meaning of 'Win with Grace'! He has the



heart of a warrior! Knowing that he was in big trouble both on the board and on the clock, he fought as hard as he could to survive, and was rewarded with a big victory!" Polgar took to X to react to Gukesh's interview. MAGNUS CARLSEN SLAMS TABLE

Gukesh secured a massive win in the sixth round on Carlsen's home turf, defeating him in classical time control for the first time in his career. Playing with the white pieces, the Indian teenager held firm under pressure and capitalised on a rare blunder by the 34-year-old Norwegian in the endgame. Carlsen had the upper hand for most of the match, but Gukesh defended with discipline and composure, turning the tables with a precise counterattack as Carlsen faltered in time trouble. Carlsen's reaction to the loss was shocking — he slammed the table so hard it started the entire room, including Gukesh. Though he quickly apologised.

thrashing Punjab Kings by 8 wickets in the Qualifier 1 clash at Mullanpur. With the franchise still chasing its elusive maiden title, the storyline feels almost cinematic: Could lifting the trophy rekindle Kohli's Test ambitions? RCB's journey to the final — their fourth after previous heartbreaks in 2009, 2011, and 2016 — has reignited hopes among fans who see this as a turning point not just for the franchise, but for Kohli himself. While Kohli has already stepped away from T20Is and now Tests, only ODIs and IPL remain in his professional portfolio. This has sparked genuine concern: if RCB wins the IPL, will Kohli use the moment to walk away from franchise cricket as well? Dhumal doesn't think so. "Neither do I think that, nor do I hope that," he said emphatically. The country, he believes, still needs Kohli — not just for his runs but for his aura, passion, and leadership.



# Nargis Fakhri

Flaunts BOLD Neckline At Airport, Oozes Boss Lady Energy



**N**argis Fakhri surely turned some heads at Mumbai's private airport on Sunday, June 1. She is keeping busy with the promotions of her upcoming film, *Housefull 5*, which marks her return to the big screen after a two-year hiatus. For her airport OOTD, the star wore a pastel-hued pantsuit. She is heading to Pune with her *Housefull 5* team for the film's promotion. Nargis wore a pink top with a bold neckline, which she paired with a complementing blazer and pants. She tied her hair into a top ponytail and accentuated her look with sleek golden earrings. Take a look:

Nargis Fakhri is making her return to the big screen after a two-year hiatus with *Housefull 5*. Directed by Tarun Mansukhani, the film features a star-studded cast including Akshay Kumar, Riteish Deshmukh, Abhishek Bachchan, Jacqueline Fernandez, Sonam Bajwa, Nargis Fakhri, Chitrangada Singh, Shreyas Talpade, Johnny Lever, Sanjay Dutt, Jackie Shroff, Nana Patekar, Fardeen Khan, Chunky Panday, and more. The fifth installment in the blockbuster franchise is set to hit theaters on June 6.

Before the film's release, producer Sajid Nadiadwala made an unusual announcement. He revealed that *Housefull 5* will feature a twist in cinematic storytelling by presenting two entirely different climaxes, with each theater showcasing its unique ending. This bold experiment was unveiled on the 75th anniversary of Nadiadwala Grandson.

On the personal front, Nargis Fakhri started this year on a joyful note. She reportedly married her long-time partner, Tony Beig, in a private wedding ceremony in Los Angeles. The intimate event was attended by close family and friends. Several photos from the wedding surfaced online, featuring a multi-tiered cake decorated with the words "Happy Marriage" and the couple's initials.

A source cited by ETimes mentioned, "It was an extremely private function with only family members and close friends." For your information, Nargis and Tony had been dating for three years before tying the knot earlier this year.

**Natasa Stankovic's BOLD Note After Divorce From Hardik Pandya: 'This Version Of Me...'**



**M**odel-actor Natasa Stankovic, who rebuilt her life after her divorce from cricketer Hardik Pandya last year, shared a self-directed note expressing pride in herself. She reflected on how far she has come in life after a challenging 2024. For the unversed, Natasa stays in Mumbai with her five-year-old son, Agastya. On Sunday, Natasa penned a note for herself. She flaunted her toned body in a mirror selfie and wrote, "This version of me didn't come from luck. She came from showing up, again and again – even when it was hard, even when no one noticed. And if you're doing the same? I see you."

Taking to the comment box, Natasa's well-wishers expressed their love and admiration for her. They wrote, "You know you are inspiring", "You are doing amazing please keep going", "Slaying forever Myhh Sunshine", "I can totally relate and feel you", "Keep shining Queen". In an interview earlier this year, the DJ Wale Babu star acknowledged that last year was difficult for her. However, she believes that every experience has something to teach us. Natasa mentioned she has decided to move forward and is open to finding love again.

"Last year was quite challenging and I am grateful for it. As we grow wiser while going through challenges, and I just love it. Had many experiences (good and bad) so I believe that we mature with experiences and not with age," Natasa told ETimes.

"As I look to the year ahead I am definitely open to new experiences, opportunities and maybe love. I am not averse to it (falling in love). I want to embrace whatever life brings my way. I believe that the right connection happens naturally when the time is right. I value meaningful relationships, the one that are built on trust and understanding. I think love should compliment my journey and not define it," she continued. Talking about the ups and downs in her life, Naasa added, "Life doesn't always go as planned, but how you respond to challenges defines your growth. You can't look at setbacks as failures, but an experience that redirects you towards something better. Don't try to prove anyone wrong, because it is only going to cost you your peace."

**Neha Dhupia Drops BTS Video Ahead Of Roadies XX Finale, Is Excited For Last Task**



**T**he highly-anticipated finale of MTV *Roadies XX* is all set to air tonight, and fans can't keep calm! Hours before the finale episode drops, gang leader Neha Dhupia shared a fun behind-the-scenes video which captures the energy on set before the finale. The video shows her getting ready for the last episode of this season, and expressing her excitement about the final task that will determine who the winner of *Roadies XX* is! The video shows Neha Dhupia getting ready inside her vanity van. She talks to her team about her look for the finale, telling them that she wants something 'less professional'. She then expresses her excitement about filming the last episode of this season. "Guys it's finally here. *Roadies XX* finale. It's a big day today, last day of shoot. Very exciting. Ab dekhte hain kya hone wala hai." She said that the gang leaders, contestants and ex-contestants are all meeting after long time, which is why everyone is being so nice to each other. "Abhi set pe dekhte hain kya dhamaake hone wale hain. Abhi to hum tayaar ho rahe hain. (Let's see what fireworks are about to happen on set. Right now, we're getting ready.)"

The video shows a glimpse of the host Rannvijay Singh enjoying a conversation with Neha. Meanwhile, Neha is also seen hugging former contestants Jimi and Rashmita. She also warmly greets fellow gang leaders Gautam Gulati and Elvish Yadav. Neha Dhupia then adds, "Abhi abhi information mili hai that it's a biggish task. Like all other tasks are, but this is super biggish. Why do I have this information? I mean, they never told me. But I am excited. *Roadies XX*. Last time for my camera." Sharing the video, Neha wrote, "It's here ... the roadies finale ... @mtvroadies."

**Roadies XX Finalists**

For the unversed, *Roadies XX* revealed its top five finalists in last night's episode. Each gang has one representative in the finale: Rohit Singh from Rhea Chakraborty's gang, Haraaj Singh Gill from Prince Narula's team, RD Dedha from Gautam Gulati's gang, Kushal Tanwar (aka Gullu) representing Elvish Yadav's team, and Rishabh Sachdev from Neha's gang.

# Dia Mirza

Shares Stepdaughter Once Saved Her Number As 'Not Yet Evil Stepmother'

**A**ctor Dia Mirza, known for her graceful screen presence and thoughtful takes on social issues, recently offered a deeply personal look into her blended family, her childhood experiences, and the emotional memories of her late stepfather, Ahmed Mirza. In an interview with *The Official People of India*, Dia shared honest reflections on the roles of step-parents in her life—and now, the role she plays as one herself.

Dia spoke candidly about growing up without the influence of classic fairy tales, which she believes saved her from developing unfair biases—especially the kind that pain step-parents as villains. "Thank god I didn't read fairy tales growing up. Because those would've created a whole different set of biases. Stepfathers, stepmothers are always evil," she said.



She tied this realization to her own current experience of being a stepmother to Samaira, daughter of her husband Vaibhav Rekhi from a previous marriage. With a touch of humor and affection, Dia shared, "Which brings me to Samaira, who has saved my number on her phone as—Dia, not yet the evil stepmother. That's what fairy tales do, right? I wonder if she's changed the description under my name." The remark was light-hearted, but revealed the complexities and gentle negotiations that often define modern, blended families. She also shared warm memories of her late stepfather, Ahmed Mirza,

who married her mother Deepa when Dia was just six years old. Recalling her bond with him, she said, "When Abba married Mom, I started calling him Abba. In my child's heart and little mind, I was extremely accepting of him." Though not outwardly expressive, Dia said over time, her family slowly helped him open up. "He was not a hugger, not like a cuddler, not like someone who expresses his emotions. We managed to turn him into quite the hugger."

The most poignant memory she recalled was their final meeting before she left for an overseas shoot in 2003. "I'll never forget the hug he gave me and the tears he had in his eyes as he said goodbye," she said. Ahmed passed away during that trip, making the farewell even more meaningful in retrospect.

Dia's journey through family has been marked by openness, resilience, and transformation. Her biological parents, Deepa and Frank Handrich, divorced when she was just four-and-a-half.

Her mother remarried two years later. Dia herself went on to marry Sahil Sangha in 2014, but they parted ways in 2019.

In February 2021, she married businessman Vaibhav Rekhi, and they welcomed their son, Avyaan Azaad Rekhi, just months later. Born prematurely, Avyaan spent two months in the NICU, a difficult chapter that Dia and Vaibhav have openly spoken about since.

