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

The Sikh Times

National Daily

VISIT:
www.thesikhtimes.in
Email: sikhtimesindia@gmail.com

Wednesday 25 June 2025

Editor-Simmi Kaur Babbar, Mo.no.9654077232/9971359517 Volume-17,Issue-39 Price 3.00 Pages 12 New Delhi RNI NO. DELENG/2008/25465

Rahul Gandhi skips Lucknow court hearing on insulting remark to Army

➤ **Rahul Gandhi misses Lucknow court for fifth time over Army insult**

case

➤ **Case relates to alleged defamatory remark against Army**
➤ **Allahabad High Court rejected Gandhi's plea to quash case**

The case stems from a controversial remark allegedly made by Gandhi, which the complainant claims amounted to defaming the armed forces. Following preliminary proceedings, the trial court issued a summons on February 11, 2025, directing him to appear.

The Sikh Times Lucknow.

Congress MP Rahul Gandhi failed to appear on Monday before a Lucknow court in connection with a criminal complaint alleging insult to the Indian Army. This marks the fifth consecutive absence by the senior Congress leader, escalating the seriousness and legal complexity of the matter.

The case stems from a controversial remark allegedly made by Gandhi, which the complainant claims amounted to defaming the armed forces. Following preliminary proceedings, the trial court issued a



summons on February 11, 2025, directing him to appear. In an attempt to quash the complaint and the

summons, Gandhi approached the Lucknow Bench of the Allahabad High Court, seeking dismissal of the case. However, on June 29, 2025, the High Court rejected his plea, stating that the trial court's proceedings and the summons were legally valid and justified.

Despite the High Court's order, Gandhi was absent from the hearings scheduled on June 4 and June 23. The court, taking note of the repeated non-appearance, has reserved its order in the matter.

Operation Sindoor Asserts India's Stance Against Terrorism: PM Modi

The Sikh Times New Delhi.

Asserting that Operation Sindoor has made clear to the world India's stringent policy against terrorism, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Tuesday that his government takes whatever steps are appropriate in national interest.

Weapons manufactured in India showed their impact during the conflict with Pakistan, he said, without naming the country, at an event to mark the centenary celebration of the conversation between spiritual figure and social reformer Sree Narayana Guru and Mahatma Gandhi. "We have shown that no hideout is safe for terrorists who spill the blood of Indians," he said, adding that

his government has worked on ideals of the revered spiritual figure who wanted a strong India which was free of any



discrimination. PM Modi said his government in the past 11 years has worked to make India strong in social, economic and defence sectors. He said

India's reliance on foreign countries to meet its defence needs is declining, and it is becoming "aatmanirbhar" in defence sector.

Indian military brought the enemy to its knees with made-in-India weapons in 22 minutes, he said of the precision attacks on terror sites in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir following the horrific killing of civilians by terrorists in Pahalgam. He said he was confident that made-in-India weapons will be fete across the world in future.

The prime minister cited his government's welfare schemes in housing, drinking water and health insurance among other fields to assert that these have empowered the deprived and backward sections of society.

DMK leader calls Amit Shah 'fool', BJP fires back with 'he's an idiot'

DMK MP A Raja sparked a political storm after calling Union Home Minister Amit Shah a "fool" during a speech, prompting the BJP to retort that anyone who says so is an "idiot".

The Sikh Times Tamil Nadu.

DMK MP A Raja has triggered a political controversy by indirectly calling Union Home Minister Amit Shah a "fool" during a recent speech. The comment, aimed at Shah's recent assertion that the BJP would make inroads into Tamil Nadu after its victories in other states, has drawn strong condemnation from party leaders. Addressing a public meeting, Raja said, "Amit Shah came to Madurai. He said, 'We have captured Delhi, Haryana, Maharashtra and the next is Tamil Nadu.' Fool, fool. Arvind Kejriwal in Delhi is a lone leader of a political party. He defeated a lone man in Haryana and Maharashtra. Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin is not a lone man as he has Periyar, Anna, Karunanidhi and the Dravidian philosophy behind him." Raja went on to accuse the BJP of being "jittery" in the face of the Dravidian



all this be one?" he said.

In a swift reaction, BJP spokesperson Narayanan Thirupathy condemned Raja's remarks and hit back strongly. "Former Minister and idiot A Raja has called Amit Shah 'fool' and spoken disrespectfully. Whoever criticises the Home Minister of India in such a way can only be an idiot," Thirupathy said.

Tripura emerges as fully literate state, after Mizoram, Goa; achieves literacy rate of 95.6%.

Union Ministry of Education, Preeti Meena asserted that Tripura's literacy rate has reached 95.6 per cent, making it a fully literate state.

The Sikh Times New Delhi.

Tripura has emerged as a fully literate state after Mizoram and Goa on Monday, as per the benchmark set by the Ministry of Education for a state. Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha on Monday made the declaration based on the data from 'Understanding Lifelong Learning for All in Society' (ULLAS) initiative at a programme held in Agartala. Under the Centre's ULLAS scheme, when a state's literacy rate exceeds 95 per cent, it is considered a fully literate state. Union Ministry of Education, Preeti Meena asserted that Tripura's literacy rate has reached 95.6 per cent, making it a fully literate state. According to the UNESCO guidelines, a state is considered to be fully literate, when its literacy rate exceeds the 95 per cent benchmark.

CM congratulates Tripura people

Elated over the achievement, Tripura CM said in a post on X, "This achievement has been made possible through the effective implementation of the New India Literacy Programme ULLAS in alignment with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. I congratulate my brothers and



sisters of Tripura on this historic occasion."

Saha added that the ULLAS programme was earlier limited to teaching people basic signature skills, but now the government will aim to focus on building functional literacy to improve real-life skills.

Reflecting a significant growth in the literacy rate of the state, the Chief

Minister said Tripura's literacy rate rose from 20.24 per cent in 1961 to 60.44 per cent in 1991 followed by 73.19 per cent in 2001, 87.22 per cent in 2011. According to the 2023-24 labour force survey, the literacy rate rose from 93.7 per cent to 95.6 per cent in 2024-25.

Rahul Gandhi Has Gone To London For Niece's Graduation, Says Congress

Agency New Delhi.

The Congress on Tuesday hit out at the BJP after it raised questions over Rahul Gandhi's foreign trip and clarified that he has gone to London to attend the graduation ceremony of his niece and will be back shortly.

BJP's IT department head Amit Malviya earlier attacked Mr Gandhi over what he said were "frequent disappearances". "Rahul Gandhi was on a secret foreign holiday just last week. Now, he has flown abroad again to yet another undisclosed location," Mr. Malviya said on X.

"Why these frequent disappearances? What is so compelling that keeps him away from the country so often? As the Leader of the Opposition, he owes the people of India answers," he said. There was also speculation on social media that Mr. Gandhi had gone to Bahrain. However, the Congress sources said that his flight schedule was New Delhi-Bahrain-London. "The PMO is, as usual, up to its dirty tricks. It knows nothing else. Shri Rahul Gandhi has gone to London to attend the graduation ceremony of his niece and will be back shortly," Congress' media and publicity department head Pawan Khara said in a post on X.

Sanskrit gets funds, crocodile tears for Tamil: MK Stalin slams Centre for bias



Agency Tamil Nadu.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin criticised the BJP-led Union government over its alleged bias in language funding, accusing it of favouring Sanskrit while neglecting Tamil and other South Indian languages.

In a post on social media platform X, Stalin wrote, "Sanskrit gets the crores; Tamil and other South Indian languages get nothing but crocodile tears. False affection for Tamil; All money for Sanskrit!" The Chief Minister's remarks follow a report by The Hindustan Times, based on data obtained through the Right to Information Act (RTI) and public records, which revealed that the Centre spent Rs 2,532.59 crore on promoting Sanskrit between 2014-15 and 2024-25 — over 17 times the combined allocation of Rs 147.56 crore for the other five classical Indian languages: Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, and Odia.

According to the report, Tamil received less than 5 per cent of Sanskrit's funds, while Kannada, Telugu, Malayalam, and Odia received even less. Stalin's statement reflects the long-standing concern among Dravidian parties that the cultural and linguistic priorities of southern states, particularly Tamil Nadu, are being sidelined in favour of promoting Sanskrit, which is primarily associated with North Indian heritage and the Hindu religious tradition.

The Sikh Times Gurcharan Singh Babbar

The Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee (DSGMC), whose primary function is to serve the Guru Ghars, protect the morals and welfare of the congregation, has today found itself embroiled in huge controversies and unethical behavior. This situation is not only alarming but a serious warning to the entire Sikh world.

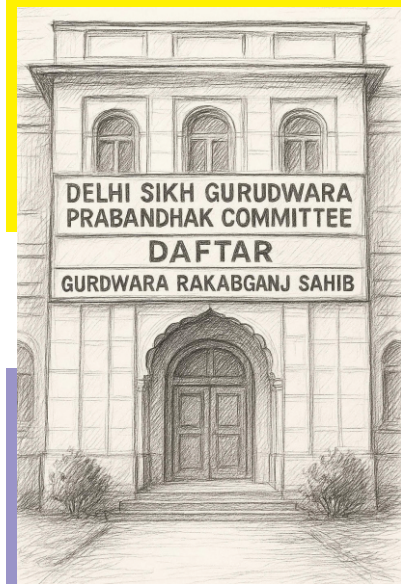
Many members of the committee are today turning the gurdwaras into political arenas. These people have made political gains their main goal instead of serving the Guru Ghar. Such members move around different political parties, and are using the holy place of the

gurdwaras for their personal political purposes.

There are also many people in this committee who have serious criminal cases pending against them. Many have cases of fraud, threats, violence and other serious crimes pending in the courts. Many of these members completely ignore the Guru Maryad.

There are also some among them who dye their beards black and do not even have oral knowledge of Gurbani. Such people are a direct threat to the sanctity of the Gurdwaras. They can never uphold the morals of Sikhism.

When DSGMC meetings are held, instead of official matters, there are political squabbles, verbal abuse and slandering of each other. All this



is happening within the walls of the Guru Ghar — a place where humility, peace and character reign supreme.

Many uneducated and inexperienced members have become chairmen of colleges and schools.

Those who fail in their moral conduct and social responsibility are running educational institutions — this is a danger to the education system and future generations as well.

The community needs to wake up.

The Sikh community should not ignore these things anymore. These DSGMC members who are insulting Guru Ghars are enemies of the Sikh community. Until they are made social debaters, their

emboldening will continue.

The Guru Ghar is not a political battleground for anyone, but rather a sacred spiritual place where every Sikh purifies his soul through Gurbani, devotion and service. If this place falls into the hands of irreverence, political greed and uncultured people, it will cause serious harm to the soul of our nation.

Through "The Sikh Times" we request the entire Sikh community of Delhi to immediately take action against such members of DSGMC who are damaging the dignity of the Guru Ghar.

It is time to wake up, protect the dignity of the Guru and raise a strong voice to save the sanctity of the Guru Ghar.

NEWS BOX

Man ready to blow the lid off a series of murders, rapes in Dharmasthala

MANGALURU. A sensational claim regarding a series of alleged murders and rapes at Dharmasthala in Dakshina Kannada district has emerged, with a man, reportedly, willing to surrender himself to the police and exhume buried bodies linked to the crimes.

On Sunday, advocates Ojaswi Gowda and Sachin Deshpande released a press statement saying a man had approached them, confessing to having buried bodies in Dharmasthala to cover up multiple incidents of murder and sexual violence, including the rape and killing of young girls. The man, reportedly wracked with guilt, has expressed his desire to surrender before the police and cooperate with the investigation, including offering to exhume a buried body in the presence of the police.

The claim, which was also circulated on social media in the form of a letter, led to immediate media attention and a formal response from Dakshina Kannada district police.

In a press note, Dakshina Kannada police acknowledged that such a letter had come to their notice via social media. “To verify the authenticity of the letter, we contacted the Bengaluru-based advocates mentioned in it. The advocates confirmed that an individual had approached them and expressed his willingness to provide information about the crimes allegedly committed in Dharmasthala village,” the police said.

The advocates told the police that the man is prepared to surrender and share all relevant details once he is assured of legal protection and safety, in line with provisions under the Witness Protection Scheme, 2018.

AP government aims for 20 lakh jobs in five years through MSME, youth training drive

VIJAYAWADA. The Andhra Pradesh coalition government is ramping up efforts to generate large-scale employment through integrated skill development initiatives targeting unemployed youngsters. In a press conference at the State Secretariat, 20-Point Program Chairman Lanka Dinakar, MSME Chairman Shiva Shankar, and CEDAP Chairman Deepak Reddy outlined a comprehensive plan to link training with job creation across key sectors.

Dinakar stated that the government had attracted ‘9.3 lakh crore in investments within its first year, aiming to create 20 lakh jobs over the next five years.

He stressed the promotion of MSMEs and small industries under the new mantra of “Speed of Business,” replacing the older “Ease of Doing Business.”

Improved inter-departmental coordination will address legacy communication issues.

With over 8 lakh MSMEs in the state contributing nearly 30% to India’s GDP, their revival is central to the Swarnandhra 2047 vision. Shiva Shankar proposed the establishment of MSME parks and called for appointing an Additional Commissioner to restructure the sector. Deepak Reddy announced plans to train 60,000 youth this year and expand training centres from 103 to up to 250 next year. Central schemes like PM Vishwakarma will also be aligned to support entrepreneurship, especially in backward districts.

Ancient Arabic manuscripts from Malabar being digitised to preserve cultural heritage

KOZHIKODE. Hidden in ancient mosques, dusty library shelves, and the private collections of old Malabar households lie centuries-old Arabic manuscripts — delicate testaments to a forgotten era of scholarship, trade, and cultural exchange between south India and the Arab world. Now, these fragile pieces of history are being brought back to life in digital form.

The Malaibar Foundation for Research and Development (MFRD), in partnership with the renowned Hill Museum and Manuscript Library (HMMML) in Minnesota, has launched an ambitious project to digitise rare and endangered Arabic manuscripts from across India. The initiative, which began in 2024, aims to preserve manuscripts, lithographs, and rare photographs — many tucked away in mosques, libraries, institutions, and private homes — by converting them into digital archives accessible to scholars and researchers worldwide. This preservation project focuses primarily on south Indian regions — including Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Lakshadweep, and the Andaman Islands — with rich historical ties to Arab cultures. By employing advanced imaging technology, the initiative seeks to protect fragile manuscripts from the threats of decay and loss. In its initial phase alone, the foundation successfully collected over 4,000 manuscripts from Kozhikode, Kannur, and Kasaragod. “The digitisation of centuries-old manuscripts requires immense patience and highly specialised skills,” said Malaibar Foundation executive director Noorudeen Musthafa Nurani. “Despite gathering more than 4,000 manuscripts, we have so far managed to digitise only around 20%. The process following strict scientific protocols is intricate and time-consuming.”

Vyttila Hub repair finally begins after 1.5 years; Nature Park, better amenities on the way

While the entire project cost amounts to Rs 9.56 crore, the open space development is being carried out at an estimated cost of Rs 5.43 crore.

KOCHI. At long last, commuters and bus operators at the Vyttila Mobility Hub can heave a sigh of relief. The Cochin Smart Mission Ltd (CSML) has started repairing the carriageway of the hub, which had been lying dilapidated for nearly 1.5 years.

According to a senior official, CSML has carried out a compaction test of the soil — called California Bearing Ratio (CBR) — before going ahead with the renovation.

“The tiling will be changed entirely. We will also improve the amenities for commuters, including seating arrangements, bathrooms, lighting, fan, waste bins, etc,” the CSML official said. The authorities aim to complete the work by September first week. “The ground already has a layer of appropriate material, and it will be adequate to prevent sinkage in the future,” the official said.

He also pointed out that the undulations on the carriageway due to ground sinking, as the hub was built on marshy land, will not happen in future. Once the maintenance is over, in three months, the CSML authorities will start setting up an open park behind the hub, along the

course of the Kaniyampuzha river. The project includes the development of a walkway with natural landscaping and stone benches for passengers to relax. It will also have play



equipment for children. While the entire project cost amounts to Rs 9.56 crore, the open space development is being carried out at an estimated cost of Rs 5.43 crore.

“A key aspect of the project is the development of a 5.5-acre space behind the 13 bus bays into a green landscape where passengers can unwind.

The planned ‘Nature Park’ will have two separate recreational areas, sculpture gallery, play area, activity area, food kiosk, wide walkway, granite seating along the riverbank, and uniform lighting,” the official said.

Over the past one-and-a-half years, the main carriageway at the Vyttila Hub degenerated into a mesh of craters and cracks. Many portions of the tiled runway have sunk, resulting in uneven surfaces throughout the facility. Both KSRTC and private bus owners had protested against the collection of toll despite the pathetic condition. The passengers too complained over the “undulating” journeys.

Besides, inter-state travellers find it rather difficult to use the washrooms and waiting area due to poor infrastructure and sanitation. “Some toilet seats are damaged. However, it’s safe to use the facility as there is proper lighting,” said a college student who travels every weekend to her hometown.

US travel advisory exposes BJP government’s failure: BJD

BHUBANESWAR . The BJD on Monday alleged that the US travel advisory cautioning its citizens over visiting Odisha reflects the growing crime against women and general deterioration in law and order in the state, and announced to launch agitation over the issue in the first week of July.

Addressing a media conference here, senior leaders Arun Sahoo, Sanjay Das Burma and Tukuni Sahu said the advisory has tarnished the image of Odisha in the entire world only because of the failure of the BJP government on all these fronts.

As the state government has remained insensitive to the growing crime against women, the Biju Mahila Janata Dal will hit the streets over the issue, they said. The Biju Yuva Janata Dal and



Biju Chhatra Janata Dal have also announced statewide agitation on June 25 to protest the alarming rise in rape, murder, harassment of women and other crimes in the state. Party MLAs Byomakesh Ray and Devi Ranjan Tripathy said demonstrations will be held all

over the state. Besides, students will boycott classes, wear black badges and organise picketing in all the colleges of the state.

The BJD leaders said the BJP government recently celebrated its first anniversary in power with great fanfare having Prime Minister Narendra Modi in attendance. As the US travel advisory has exposed the government’s failure, the PM should take the matter into consideration and issue a statement.

The BJD leaders also referred to the speech of Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati at the Raj Bhavan here where he stated that implementation of schemes have failed because of lack of awareness of people and government officials. The BJD leaders stated that the party will not remain silent over these issues.

95% people not aware of central schemes in state: Odisha Governor Hari Babu

He pointed out that during his visits to various districts for review meetings, he had observed that most government officials failed to respond or give any details regarding central welfare schemes.

BHUBANESWAR . Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati on Monday expressed concern over the lack of awareness among the people about the social security schemes launched by the Centre, and urged the state government to ensure proper dissemination of information at the grassroots level. Addressing a function at the Raj Bhavan on ‘Awareness among the people about social security schemes and cyber crime’, the Governor said, “Around 95 per cent people are unaware of the central schemes and their benefits. Not only general public but even government officials at the district level are unaware about the schemes.”

He pointed out that during his visits to various districts for review meetings, he had observed that most government officials failed to respond or give any details regarding central welfare schemes.

Stating that this reflects a serious gap



between the common people and the administration, the Governor said it indicates why a majority of people in the state are not availing benefits from central schemes.

Highlighting the importance of schemes

Beautician, two other women molested in Bengaluru

The woman had moved to SRY Layout just a week ago to undergo a beautician’s course. Around 4 pm Sunday, she was returning home when the accused solicited her.

BENGALURU. A 26-year-old beautician was allegedly sexually harassed and attacked by a group of five men on Sunday evening at SRY Layout in Bannerghatta police station limits. The main accused also filed a counter-complaint against the woman’s associate, a gym trainer, for thrashing him. The gym trainer was arrested.

The woman had moved to SRY Layout just a week ago to undergo a beautician’s course. Around 4 pm Sunday, she was returning home when the accused solicited her. When she refused, one of the accused attacked her, and in self-defence, she kicked him. The entire incident was captured on a mobile and CCTV cameras in the vicinity.

The woman told the media that she did not know who the accused were, but later found out that they also reside in the same area.

“The men, who were under the influence of alcohol and some other substance, surrounded me and began making demands. They also started abusing me. One of them attacked and slapped me. After kicking the main accused, I ran to my house which was nearby. The accused followed me and started banging the gates and abusing me. When the neighbours came to my rescue, they were also targeted by the accused,” the woman added.

The woman is said to have called the gym trainer and informed him about the incident. The gym trainer thrashed 24-year-old Richard, a cab driver, who was hospitalised. As it was a medico-legal case, the hospital reported the matter to the police. Richard filed a counter-complaint against the gym trainer.

“Complaints and counter-complaints were registered. The woman filed a complaint around 11am Monday. A complaint was registered against the gym trainer as it is a medico-legal case. The gym trainer was identified, and will be secured. The other accused who harassed the woman will also be arrested shortly,” Bengaluru Rural SP CK Baba told the media. The gym trainer was arrested on Monday evening.

Oil extraction from sunken MSC Elsa 3 hits dead end as shipping firm drops salvage contractor

The agency has said that it is not practical to remove the oil from the sunken vessel due to adverse weather conditions.

KOCHI. The efforts to extract oil from the bunkers of MSC Elsa 3, which sunk into the depths of Arabian Sea around 14.6 nautical miles off Thottappally harbour in Alappuzha has hit rock bottom as the Mediterranean Shipping Company (MSC) has ended the contract with T and T Salvage, a global leader in marine salvage and wreck removal.

According to the Mercantile Marine Department, the ship owners have said that T and T Salvage was removed as they lacked expertise in removing the oil and wreck from the ship which is at a depth of 54 m from sea surface. The move of the shipping firm has raised doubts about their intention as T and T had brought expert divers from Singapore and South Africa for oil extraction and the team had successfully sealed the leaks in the oil bunker pipeline. The Director General of Shipping had issued a notice to the shipping firm on June 10 setting a 48-hour deadline for



oil extraction. The diving team had completed capping and plugging of the fuel oil tanks of the sunken vessel Elsa 3 aided by diving support vessel SEAMAC III on June 12. The diving support vessel had returned to

Kochi for installation of saturation diving system to aid the diving operations.

The T and T Salvage had said that the shipment had arrived and were under customs clearance. The ship owner had sought

extension of time to start oil extraction citing adverse weather conditions. They had informed the DG Shipping that it was difficult to extract oil from the vessel due to monsoon turbulence. They had said that the hot tapping of oil from the bunker was a complex operation and the limited weather windows made it a challenging task.

The agency has said that it is not practical to remove the oil from the sunken vessel due to adverse weather conditions.

THE SIKH TIMES

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

Mafia-free' Ghazipur now forging ahead in the right direction: Chief Minister

The Sikh Times

Ghazipur, June 24: Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, on Tuesday, announced a slew of development projects for Ghazipur. During his visit, he also interacted with media persons. Responding to the demands of public representatives, the Chief Minister approved the proposal for the Andhau-Chaukiya bypass, stating that it will boost development and help resolve traffic issues. He also mentioned that a Detailed Project Report (DPR) has been sought for corridor construction connecting Chitnath Ghat and Collector Ghat to Ghazipur, and action will soon follow. The development process in the district will continue uninterrupted, he affirmed. "Ghazipur is progressing in a positive direction," he said. The CM also remarked that revenue dispute resolutions have been expedited based on merit. The Chief Minister said that the recent police recruitment drive in Uttar Pradesh has concluded successfully, with 60,244 candidates appointed to the country's largest police force. Among them, 1,534 are from Ghazipur district. He extended congratulations to the selected candidates and their families. CM Yogi noted that Ghazipur holds great historical importance, dating back to the Ramayana era and even earlier. He said the district once struggled with an identity crisis, but today it is known for the Purvanchal Expressway and the Maharshi Vishwamitra Medical College, which have given it a new identity. The Chief Minister also inspected the under-construction nursing college at the medical college campus and reviewed various development projects. He shared that projects worth ₹1,100 crore have either been completed or are underway. Under the Jal Jeevan Mission, rapid work

is being carried out to ensure clean drinking water reaches every house-

Expressway to Mirzapur, Bhadohi, Varanasi, and Chandauli, ultimately



hold. Instructions have been issued to maintain quality while executing these works. CM Yogi emphasized that Ghazipur has now become a 'mafia-free' district. Along with this transformation, the district is reaping the benefits of modern infrastructure. Plans are underway to link the Purvanchal Expressway to Shaktinagar and connect the Ganga

integrating it with the Purvanchal Expressway in Ghazipur. "This modern infrastructure will give Ghazipur a new identity." The Chief Minister assured that the people of Ghazipur will soon witness the foundation laying and inauguration of multiple development projects.

The Sikh Times

New Delhi: Delhi Police has killed a dreaded criminal in an encounter. Wanted criminal Romil Vohra has been killed in an encounter on the Delhi-Haryana border. A reward of Rs 3 lakh was announced on Romil by the Haryana government. Two policemen of the Special Cell have also been injured in the fierce firing from both sides. According to Delhi Police, Vohra was a big shooter of

Delhi Police killed a big criminal from Haryana!

Kala Rana-Noni Rana gang. He had committed many big crimes for which the police was looking for him for a long time. Recently, he had killed liquor businessman Shantanu in Yamuna Nagar, Haryana. After this, the Haryana government had announced a reward of Rs 1 lakh on Romil. Romil was just 20 years old but he was becoming a big name in the world of crime. Vohra, a resident of Kasapur in Yamunanagar, was wanted

in a triple murder case. This incident was carried out in December 2024, after which a reward of Rs 1 lakh was announced on him. The police was keeping an eye on Vohra for the last several months. After the murder of a liquor businessman in Yamunanagar, efforts to nab him intensified. On the morning of Tuesday, June 24, Haryana STF and Delhi Police Special Cell surrounded Romil near the Haryana border in Kishangarh police station

Punjab and Haryana High Court celebrates International Yoga Day 2025 with great Zeal and unity

The Sikh Times

Chandigarh, June 24: The International Yoga Day 2025, was celebrated at the premises of Punjab and Haryana High Court, Chandigarh under the aegis of Chief Justice, Punjab and Haryana High Court, Chandigarh, Sh. Justice Sheel Nagu. The theme of this event was "Yoga for One Earth One Health" and this day was celebrated as per the guidelines received from the Ministry of Ayush, Government of India, New Delhi. Judges, Members of Punjab and Haryana High Court Bar Association, officers and officials of the High Court participated in the event and showed huge enthusiasm while performing different Yoga Asanas and meditation. On this occasion, the participants were apprised by Yoga Trainer about the benefits of Yoga being an invaluable gift of ancient Indian tradition and that Yoga helps in physical development and mental relaxation as well as development of strength, flexibility and immunity. This is especially important in the present scenario when the mental and physical health of the people has come under dire stress. Yoga is not about exercise but to discover the sense of oneness with ourselves, the world and nature. International Day of Yoga is celebrated on June 21 every year and this year also the day is being celebrated across India with an objective to make it a part of the daily routine of every individual and to highlight the importance of Yoga and how it is beneficial in keeping the body and mind in sound health for the cause of "Public Health".

NAME CHANGE

I hitherto known as Ruchika Mangla alias Ruchika Garg D/O R. P. Garg V/O MANGAL MANGA, R/O B-231A, SERVICE LANE, YAMUNA VIHAR, Seelampur, PO: Seelampur, DIST: North East Delhi, Delhi, 110053, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Ruchika Mangla.

NAME CHANGE

It is for general information that I, KASHI VERMA D/O RAKESH VERMA, R/O A-5/A/185, JANTA FLATS, JANAKPURI, WEST DELHI, DELHI-110058, declare that name of my mother has been wrongly written as RADHIKA VERMA in my 10th & 12th Class educational documents. The actual name of my mother is DIMPLE VERMA, which may be amended accordingly.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Halappa Patil S/o Bhimappa Uddappa Patil Present R/o K/N No-500, 2nd Floor Room No-12 Gali No-13 Mahipalpur Delhi-110037, Permanent R/o Kankanawadi, Belgaum, Karnataka-591222, declare that name of my father and mother has been wrongly written as Bhimappa and Sushila in my Educational Documents. The actual name of my father and mother are Bhimappa Uddappa Patil and Sushila Bhimappa Patil, which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE

I hitherto known as DIMPLE GUPTA S/O NARESH CHAND GUPTA, R/o 2909/217, Vishram Nagar, Tri Nagar, North West Delhi, Delhi-110035, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as DEEPAK GUPTA, for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, Pappu Gautam alias Rakesh Gautam S/o Ganga Singh R/o H. No. K-3, Gali No.7, Near Hans Raj Dairy, West Ghonda, Delhi-110054, Delhi-110053 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Rakesh Gautam

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I DEV KUMAR S/O ADHIK LAL SINGH R/o House no -494/25, 1st Floor, M C D Flats Sector -20, Rohini, Jangpuri, C Block, North West Delhi, Delhi -110086 declare that name of mine and my father has been wrongly written as DEVJI KUMAR and ADIK LAL in my Driving Licence No DL03 19960246703. The actual name of mine and my father are DEV KUMAR and ADHIK LAL SINGH, respectively, which may be amended accordingly

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I, KANHAYA PRASAD S/O SURAJ PRASAD R/O C-194, Block -C PKT-1, Rohini, Sector 16, Rohini Sector -15, North West Delhi, Delhi -110089 declare that name of my father has been wrongly written as SURYA PRASAD in my pen card no- SBAP22222. The actual name of my father is SURAJ PRASAD which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE

I hitherto known as Harsh S/O Jasbeer R/O 49, Jagiwanpura, Fatehabad Haryana 125050 Have changed my name to Harsh Bokan for all future purposes.

PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public is hereby informed that my client Sh. Surinder Singh S/o Sh. Kartar Singh R/o Plot No.24, Street No.1, Near Chak Saket, Ravi Nagar, Tilak Nagar, West Delhi-110018 has severed all his relations and social connections with his daughter-in-law name Smt. Muskan Gupta W/o Late Sh. Ananddeep Singh, as she has proven to be most disobedient, dishonest and harmful towards my client and my client has hereby disowned and debarred them from inhering any of his movable and immovable properties. Anybody dealing with them shall be doing so at his/her own cost and peril and for which my client and his other family members shall not be held liable or responsible.

DR. IMANJEET SINGH BAWA,

Advocate
Block No.3B, House No.119,
Vishnu Garden, New Delhi-110018

NAME CHANGE

I hitherto known as MEENU alias MEENA KUMARI D/o RAMAVATAR and W/o SUNIL, Flat No-17, Rohini Jail Residence Complex Type-3, Sector-19 Rohini, Rohini Sector 15, North West Delhi, Delhi-110089, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as MEENA KUMARI.

NAME CHANGE

It is for general information that I, RANJEET KUMAR PANIYAR S/O SHIV NARAYAN PANIYAR R/O RZ-7, JAIN COLONY PART-2, P.O: D.K. MOHAN GARDEN, SUB DISTRICT, DWARKA, DISTRICT WEST DELHI, DELHI-110059, declare that name of mine and my father has been wrongly written as RANJEET KUMAR and SH. SHIV NARAYAN in my Driving License No- DL04-20100091819 and name of mine and my father has been wrongly written as RANJEET KUMAR and SHIV NARAYAN in my TSF Permit No. TL1R0/552/NCR (HR). The actual name of mine and my are RANJEET KUMAR PANIYAR and SHIV NARAYAN PANIYAR respectively which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE

I, ANITA Wife of No-6498679H Rank-LUNK Name-SIMANCHALAA RAUTA Presently Residing at VPO- JAGAMPUR, TEH-ASKA, DISTT-GANJAM, ODISHA-761111, have changed my name from ANITA to ANITA RAUTA for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 24/06/2025 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE

I, Nikita Chotia, W/o Himanshu Sharma, R/O, F-30 Hauz Khas Enclave, New Delhi, 110016, Have changed my name to NIKITA SHARMA for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, No. 14652614L Rank-HAV Name-RAKESH KUMAR Residing at VPO-CHHARA, TEHSIL-BAHADURGARH, DISTT-JHAJJAR, HARYANA-124504, have changed my father's name from RANBIR SINGH to RANBIR for all future purposes and in my service records my mother's date of birth wrongly mentioned as 01/07/1962 instead of her correct date of birth as 01/01/1953 vide Affidavit dated 24/06/2025 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE

I, No. 14652614L Rank-HAV Name-RAKESH KUMAR Residing at VPO-CHHARA, TEHSIL-BAHADURGARH, DISTT-JHAJJAR, HARYANA-124504, have changed my father's name from RANBIR SINGH to RANBIR for all future purposes and in my service records my father's date of birth wrongly mentioned as 01/07/1962 instead of her correct date of birth as 01/01/1950 vide Affidavit dated 24/06/2025 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE

I hitherto known as Birmla Kumari alias Tina Sharma D/o Suresh Kumar W/o Sohan Lal R/o 1354 Vaidwara Malwara Chandni Chowk, Delhi G.P.O., North Delhi, Delhi-110006 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Tina Sharma.

NAME CHANGE

I hitherto known as Aayushi Saraf W/o Shashank Gupta R/o R-39, Ground and First Floor, Near Hotel Ivory 32, Greater Kailash, Part 1, Greater Kailash, South Delhi, Delhi-110048 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Aayushi Gupta.

NAME CHANGE

I Geeta W/o Vinod Chandra R/o Flat No.784, Third Floor, Pocket-2, Om Apartment, Dwarka Sector-14, N.S.I.T. Dwarka, South West Delhi, Delhi-110078 have changed the name of my minor Son Bhavik aged 12 years and he shall hereafter be known as Bhavik Chandra Budhroti.

NAME CHANGE

I hitherto known as Meena W/o Kamal Thapliyal R/o Flat No-40, Shri Badrinath Apartment, Plot No-18, Sector-4, Dwarka, South West Delhi, Delhi-110078 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Meena Thapliyal.

NAME CHANGE

I hitherto known as SUKHMANI KAUR D/o ASHOK KUMAR, and W/o GAGANDEEP SINGH, R/o WZ-5/1, Ram Nagar, Chaukhandi, West Delhi, Delhi-110018, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as DIVYA. I have changed my name only, not my religion.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I ASHOK RAINA S/O RUGH NATH ASHOK R/O PLOT NO D 204 SECOND FLOOR, NAWADA HOUSING COMPLEX, UTTAM NAGAR, WEST DELHI, DELHI-110059 declare that name of my wife has been wrongly written as TEJ RAINA in my J&K migrants registration no. 7217. The actual name of my wife is ARTI RAINA, which may be amended accordingly.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I KUSHBHU D/o MANOJ KUMAR YADAV R/O House no -533, Sector -B-4, Pocket-3, Block, Narela, P.O. Narela, DIST: North West Delhi, Delhi-110040 declare that name of my father has been wrongly written as MANOJ KUMAR in my 10th and 12th class education documents. The actual name of my father is MANOJ KUMAR YADAV, which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE

I, Nadeem Ahmad Khan S/O Nisar Khan R/O Kotliyah Mott Bagh Civil Line Buladshahr Uttar Pradesh 203001 Have changed my name to Nadeem Khan for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, Mohammad Dilshad s/o Mohammad Hanif, H-743,743, Shakurpur, JJ Colony, Sarawati, Vihar, Delhi 110054, have changed my name to MD Dilshad permanently.

NAME CHANGE

I hitherto known as Ibram Khan alias Ibram Mohd Yaseen S/O Mohd Yaseen, R/O House -42-B, 2nd Floor B-Block, Street no-2, Near-Gandhi Park, New Govind Pura, Krishna Nagar, PO: Krishna Nagar, DIST: East Delhi, Delhi, 110051, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as IBRAHIM KHAN.

NAME CHANGE

I, JAVED ANSARI son of SAGIR R/O H-10, Sector-2, 2ND FLOOR, KATRA NISAR AHMED, KUCHA, PANIDIT, LAL KUAN, DELHI-110006 have change my name MOHD JAVED ANSARI for all future purpose.

PUBLIC NOTICE

GENERAL PUBLIC IS HEREBY INFORMED THAT ORIGINAL SALE DEED DATED 11.07.2013 EXECUTED BY MRS SAHARAJASHYANA PVT. LTD. IN FAVOUR OF MR. KAILASH CHAPRANA IN RESPECT OF PROPERTY PRIVATE NO. Q-42, AREA MEASURING 123.09 SQ. MTR., OUT OF KHASRA NO. 316 SITUATED AT VILAGE RAIPUR PAVTI, PARGANA TEHSIL & DISTRICT MEERUT, DULY REGD. AS DOC NO. 14403, BOOK NO. 1, VOL. NO. 9221, PAGE NO. 21-40, REGD. ON 21.10.2013, (SR-III-MEERUT), HAS BEEN LOST BY THE CURRENT OWNER MR. SYAMVEER S/O MR. SAURAJ, R/O 4, LODIPUR CHAPKA, HAPUR, UP. AND SAID OWNER MR. SYAMVEER PURCHASED THE SAID PROPERTY VIDE SALE DEED DATED 29.07.2016 EXECUTED BY MR. KAILASH CHAPRA S/O SATYA PRAKASH R/O 259, VILLAGE RAM NAGAR, PARIKSHATGARHI, MAWANA IS GOING TO PURCHASE THE SAID PROPERTY, FROM OWNER / SELLER MR. SYAMVEER, WHICH WILL BE MORTGAGED WITH TRU HOME FINANCE LIMITED AS SECURITY AGAINST HOUSING LOAN FOR PURCHASING OF SAID PROPERTY. PLEASE SUBMIT THE SAID ORIGINAL SALE DEED DT. 31.07.2013 IF FIND BY ANY PERSON. ALSO PLEASE CONTACT WITH WRITTEN OBJECTION LETTER WITH RELEVANT DOCUMENTS WITH UNDERSIGNED IF HAVING ANY OBJECTION IN RESPECT OF SAID PROPERTY/SALE DEED WITHIN 10 DAYS OF THIS PUBLICATION. ITS USE BY ANYONE IS ILLEGAL.

ADITYA VERMA, ADVOCATE

E-16, MANSAROVAR PARK, SHAHDARA, DELHI-110032
MOBILE NO. 9999042521

NAME CHANGE

It is for general information that I, HARISH KUMAR S/O RADHEY SHYAM R/o H.No. 07, Gali No. 09, A1-Block, Bangali Colony, Gurudwara, Sant Nagar Burari, P.O. Burari, Dist. North Delhi, Delhi-110084, declare that name of my minor son has been wrongly written as YASHASVI MAHAR in my minor son namely YASHASVI MAHAR aged 08 years in his School Record. The actual name of my minor son is YASHASVI MAHAR.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I SANGEETA KUMARI W/o SANJAY KUMAR R/o c-219, Jawalpur camp no-4, Jawalpur Sunder Vihar, West Delhi, Delhi-110087 declare that name of mine and my minor son has been wrongly written as SANGEETA DEVI and DHEERAJ KR. PANIDITA in my minor son DHEERAJ KUMAR PANIDIT 17 year in his 10th class market sheet. The actual name of mine and my minor son are SANGEETA KUMARI and DHEERAJ KUMAR PANIDIT respectively which may be amended accordingly

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I NEHA PANDEY W/O MUKESH CHANDRA KHAN (O A-197, GALI NO-3, SAKET BLOCK KHASRA NO-653, NEAR CHAZOTA CHOWK, MANDAWALI FAZALPUR, EAST DELHI-110092 declare that name of my husband has been wrongly written as AKHILESH PANDEY in my minor daughter namely ISHU PANDEY aged 13 year in her school record. The actual name of my husband is MUKESH CHANDRA KHAN which may be amended accordingly.

ENGINEERING WORKS UNDER KATHIAR DIVISION

E-TENDER NOTICE NO. KIR/Engg./41 of 2025; dated: 18-06-2025. E-tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following work: Tender No.1. Brief Description of Work: (A) Provision of RUB, cover shed with guard wall and approach road at KM 116/7 in Kathiar-Dalan section against Trace passing under the jurisdiction of Sr. DENI/VI Kathiar. (B) Provision of RUB, cover shed with guard wall and approach road at KM 114/5 in Kathiar-Manihari section against Trace passing under the jurisdiction of Sr. DENI/VI Kathiar. Tender Value: ₹5,47,900.00. Tender No.2. Brief Description of Work: Manufacturing & Supplying of AT Welding portion for 60kg/60EI R 260 Grade rails for using in single shot crucible method and compressed Air Preheating system of welding under the jurisdiction of Sr. DENI/VI Kathiar. Tender Value: ₹7,95,78,605.67. Bid Security: ₹5,47,900.00. Tender No.3. Brief Description of Work: Manufacturing & Supplying of AT Welding portion for 60kg/60EI R 260 Grade rails for using in single shot crucible method and compressed Air Preheating system of welding under the jurisdiction of Sr. DENI/VI Kathiar. Tender Value: ₹7,95,78,605.67. Bid Security: ₹5,47,900.00. Tender No.3. Brief Description of Work: Manufacturing & Supplying of AT Welding portion for 60kg/60EI R 260 Grade rails for using in single shot crucible method and compressed Air Preheating system of welding under the jurisdiction of Sr. DENI/VI Kathiar. Tender Value: ₹7,95,78,605.67. Bid Security: ₹5,47,900.00. Tender No.3. Brief Description of Work: Manufacturing & Supplying of AT Welding portion for 60kg/60EI R 260 Grade rails for using in single shot crucible method and compressed Air Preheating system of welding under the jurisdiction of Sr. DENI/VI Kathiar. Tender Value: ₹7,95,78,605.67. Bid Security: ₹5,47,900.00. Tender No.3. 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NEWS BOX

Iran says 'no agreement' as of now on ceasefire with Israel

TEHRAN (Iran). Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said on Tuesday that there was no ceasefire agreement with Israel as of now, but if it stopped its attacks then Tehran would also stop firing.

"As of now, there is NO 'agreement' on any ceasefire or cessation of military operations," Araghchi posted on social media, shortly after the US president announced a deal would begin around 0400 GMT.

Araghchi added that if "the Israeli regime stops its illegal aggression against the Iranian people no later than 4 am Tehran time, we have no intention to continue our response afterwards."

These Countries May Offer The Safest Refuge If World War III Erupts

world. The escalating conflict between Iran and Israel has triggered widespread concerns about the possibility of a global war, with many fearing the onset of World War III. Recent reports have confirmed that the United States has carried out military strikes on Iranian nuclear facilities, including deploying 30,000-pound bunker-buster bombs to target underground sites over the weekend. These actions, taken alongside Israel's ongoing air operations against Tehran, have significantly heightened tensions in the region and deepened global anxiety about the broader implications.

Amid the growing instability, US President Donald Trump has claimed that both Iran and Israel sought his mediation for "peace", leading to his announcement of a proposed ceasefire. Despite his efforts, however, the situation remains volatile, with the fear of an escalating global conflict hanging over international relations. In a sharply critical response the current situation, Russia's Ambassador to the United Nations, Vassily Nebenzia, condemned the US military strikes on Iran, accusing Washington of opening a "Pandora's box" with potentially disastrous consequences for global security. If the conflict escalates into a global war, it's likely to involve allies worldwide. However, some regions may remain less affected. The Metro has identified countries that could serve as safe havens due to their geopolitical positioning, military neutrality, and stable conditions, offering refuge in a World War III scenario.

Antarctica
Antarctica's extreme southern location makes it one of the safest places during a nuclear war, with vast distances from nuclear powers. Its 14 million square kilometers offer plenty of space for refuge, though the harsh, icy climate can be challenging for survival.

Iceland
Consistently ranked as one of the most peaceful countries, Iceland has never participated in a full-scale war. Its remote geographical location makes it less susceptible to conventional warfare in Europe, though nuclear fallout could reach it in small amounts.

New Zealand
With a neutral stance and ranking second in the Global Peace Index, New Zealand offers protection through its mountainous terrain. It is unlikely to be targeted in a Western conflict with Russia, though it has supported Ukraine financially.

US, Iran And A Night Of Missiles And Fragile Messages

world. In the Middle East's topsy-turvy night of June 23, missiles streaked toward American bases after dusk, and a sweeping ceasefire was proclaimed online before dawn. Just before 17:00 UTC, Iranian Fateh-110 rockets targeted Al-Udeid Air Base in Qatar and Al-Asad in western Iraq, both critical nodes in the US regional military network. Ninety minutes later, President Donald Trump announced on social media that Israel and Iran had agreed to a "complete and total ceasefire", to be phased in over twenty-four hours. It seemed like escalation and de-escalation had collapsed into a single real-time event. The juxtaposition was more than just disorienting - it was emblematic of a strategic landscape spinning faster than the frameworks meant to govern it. In under two weeks, five inflection points reshaped the regional equation: Israel's cross-border airstrikes inside Iran, Iran's retaliatory barrage against Israeli cities, America's dramatic bunker-buster strikes on Iranian nuclear and military targets, Iran's retaliatory targeting of U.S. forces, and finally, a ceasefire announcement that arrived amid trailing missile contrails. For all its vagueness, President Trump's "pause" has positives worth seizing:

By framing the stand-down as an American initiative rather than an Iranian concession, the proposal provides political cover for Tehran and permits the Iranian leadership to accept it as a confidence-building measure without appearing to capitulate under pressure.

The time-bound window with the 24-hour phase-in, if honoured, forces both Israel and Iran to stabilise positions quickly and provides back-channel opportunities to keep reinforcing messages of de-escalation. It has allowed Russia and China to agree to a US proposal to postpone a Security-Council resolution that they intended to put to a vote so as to "allow the cease-fire to take hold". The pause could be used to fold a formal cease-fire into the resolution or work on a new resolution that will include the new ground realities and provide a multilateral imprimatur to the arrangement.

On the other hand, the ceasefire script is fragile. A sequenced silence may provide opportunities for spoilers to disrupt the pause. Six hours of unilateral Iranian restraint before Israel stands down and twenty-four hours before the ceasefire comes into play is long enough for rogue elements and false flag temptations to come into play. US Forces Are Now Direct Targets. De-escalation with unprecedented swiftness means all actors are required to recalibrate their positions. The United States finds itself in a complex position.

"You Have 12 Hours": Israeli Agent Threatens Iranian General In Leaked Audio

The operative claimed to be calling from the country that had moments earlier assassinated top IRGC figures, including Hossein Salami, Mohammad Bagheri, and Ali Shamkhani.

world. Israeli intelligence agents warned top Iranian generals earlier this month that they had "12 hours" to flee with their families or get killed, according to an audio recording obtained by The Washington Post. The warnings were part of Operation Rising Lion, which began on June 13 when Israel struck Iranian nuclear and military targets.

"You have 12 hours to escape with your wife and child. Otherwise, you're on our list right now," an Israeli operative told a senior Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps

(IRGC) general in one of at least 20 phone calls made to Iranian officials.

"We're closer to you than your own neck vein. Put this in your head. May God protect you," the operative added. The operative claimed to be calling from the country that had moments earlier assassinated top IRGC figures, including Hossein Salami, Mohammad Bagheri, and Ali Shamkhani. Iran's state media later claimed that Shamkhani survived the attack.

"Listen carefully. I'm calling from a country that two hours ago sent Bagheri, Salami, Shamkhani, one by one, to hell," the operative said, as heard in the video.

"Do you want to be one of them? Do you want to be the next one on the list? Do you also want to destroy your wife and child? No, right?" the operative pressed. The general reportedly responded, "So, what should I do?" The agent instructed him to record a video denouncing Iran's regime and send it



via Telegram. It remains unclear if the video was made. Israel delivered the threats in Persian, targeting mid and high-level commanders with the aim of destabilising Iran's leadership and deterring potential successors from stepping up. The objective, Israeli sources said, was to instil fear in second and third-tier officials, making it more difficult for Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei to replace the

regime's fallen commanders. Israeli operatives used not only phone calls but also notes delivered to homes and messages sent through spouses to warn targeted individuals. The psychological pressure campaign ran side by side with Israel's ongoing military operations inside Iran. Western officials say sleeper teams, pre-positioned weapons caches, and covert assets inside Iran were activated as part of

Rising Lion. The US joined the war days later. A strike led by US President Donald Trump targeted three of Iran's uranium enrichment sites with B-2 bombers and Tomahawk missiles. Iran launched a wave of retaliatory attacks in Qatar. The Iranian drones struck Al Udeid Air Base, home to one of the largest US military presence in the Middle East.

With missiles overhead, Tel Aviv residents huddle underground

TEL AVIV. As night falls in Israel's coastal city of Tel Aviv, hundreds make the familiar descent into the depths of the metro to escape the latest salvo of Iranian missiles. For those with no safe shelters near their homes, the city's underground stations and car parks have become vital refuges since the war began on June 13. Despite nightly missile barrages, Israel's casualty toll has remained relatively low, with authorities repeatedly stressing the importance of taking cover in life-saving protected spaces. "The day after the Israeli intervention in Iran began, there was an explosion, a bomb not far from my home, and the entire shelter I was in shock," Muriel Azria, 58, who works in tourism, told AFP in a Tel Aviv metro station. She arrives prepared every evening with her suitcase and her dog, ready for a night on her council-provided mattress set up on the platform. "From the moment I enter the subway, which is magnificent, I calm down," she said. "It's not very comfortable, but at least I'm not afraid, we hear much less booming." "There are people, everyone

is generally very nice," she told AFP. Israeli residents receive blaring phone alerts via SMS to warn them of incoming Iranian missiles, often in the early hours of the morning. These are



often followed by the wail of overhead air raid sirens. Among the haphazardly placed mattresses on the platforms of the metro stations, some people clutch phones while others play cards, do crosswords or chat to pass the time underground. For 86-year-old retiree Yudit Kamara, who does not have a shelter at home, the daily journey to the underground station has become an ordeal. "It's too much, I don't have the strength anymore to go through this.

It's really difficult," she told AFP. "All these children here, all this mess, and it's really cold and not so comfortable. But what other choice do we have? Where will we go?" she asked, stifling a sob. More than 60 percent of Israelis do not have a safe shelter at home, according to the NGO Latet, which distributes emergency kits, food parcels and children's games to the most vulnerable families. Need to be strong "I'm very nervous but I need to be strong for my child," said 48-year-old Erlenn Solomon, who has slept every night in an underground station since the start of the conflict.

As a mom, you need to be strong. "Israel's economic hub Tel Aviv has been particularly targeted by Iran's missiles since the start of the conflict on June 13. The full extent of the damage from Iran's attacks on Israel is not known due to military censorship rules, but at least 50 impacts have been acknowledged nationwide and 24 people have died, according to official figures.

Tesla Robotaxi A Menace On Road? Caught Speeding, Driving In Wrong Lane

world. US auto safety regulators are looking into incidents where Tesla Inc.'s self-driving robotaxis appeared to violate traffic laws during the company's first day offering paid rides in Austin. The US National Highway Traffic Safety Administration is aware of the incidents that were captured in videos posted on social media and is gathering additional information from the company, the agency said in a statement to Bloomberg. NHTSA officials regularly interact with automakers on safety matters, and it's common for those discussions to stop short of a formal investigation. "Following an assessment of those reports and other relevant information, NHTSA will take any necessary actions to protect road safety," the agency said on Monday. Tesla's shares fell as much as 1.1% in postmarket trading after

Bloomberg reported NHTSA's discussions with the company. The stock was little changed at 5:33 p.m. in New York. In one video taken by investor Rob Maurer, who used to host



a Tesla podcast, a Model Y he's riding in enters an Austin intersection in a left-turn-only lane. The Tesla hesitates to make the turn, swerves right and proceeds into an unoccupied lane meant for traffic moving in the opposite direction. A honking horn can

be heard as the Tesla re-enters the correct lane over a double-yellow line, which drivers aren't supposed to cross. In two other posts on X, initial riders in driverless Model Ys shared footage of

Teslas speeding. A vehicle carrying Sawyer Merritt, a Tesla investor, reached 35 miles per hour shortly after passing a 30 miles per hour speed limit sign, a video he posted shows. In a separate live stream from Herbert Ong, a YouTuber with more than 123,000 subscribers, he commented that the vehicle was going faster than the posted limit of 35 miles per hour. "It's going at 39 right now, which is perfect, right, because I don't want to drive at 35, and it's driving at the same flow of traffic," Ong said. "If everyone else is driving at this speed, you want to be at the same speed."

Judge halts another Trump administration effort to block foreign students from attending Harvard

WASHINGTON. A federal judge on Monday blocked another effort by the Trump administration to keep international students from attending Harvard University, granting a second preliminary injunction in the case. The order from U.S. District Judge Allison Burroughs in Boston preserves the ability of foreign students to travel to the U.S. for study at Harvard while the case is decided. President Donald Trump has sought to cut off Harvard's enrollment of foreign students as part of a pressure campaign seeking changes to governance and policies at the Ivy League school. Administration officials also have cut more than \$2.6 billion in research grants, ended federal contracts and threatened to revoke the tax-exempt status for the school Trump has derided as a hotbed of liberalism.

Harvard sued the Department of Homeland Security in May after the agency withdrew the school's certification to host foreign students and issue paperwork for their visas. The action would have forced Harvard's roughly 7,000 foreign students to transfer or risk being in the U.S. illegally.

The university called it illegal retaliation for rejecting the White House's demands to overhaul Harvard policies around campus protests, admissions, hiring and other issues. Burroughs temporarily had halted the action



hours after Harvard sued and then granted the first injunction Friday. The second injunction came in response to another move from Trump, who cited a different legal justification when he issued a June 4 proclamation blocking foreign students from entering the U.S. to attend Harvard. Harvard challenged the move, and Burroughs again had issued a temporary restraining order. Trump has been warring with Harvard for months after it rejected a series of government demands meant to address conservative complaints that the school has become too liberal and tolerated anti-Jewish harassment. On Friday, he said in a post on Truth Social that the administration has been working with Harvard to address "their largescale improprieties" and that a deal with Harvard could be announced within the next week. "They have acted extremely appropriately during these negotiations, and appear to be committed to doing what is right," Trump's post said.

Trump holds out Israel-Iran ceasefire deal as validation for his gamble of US airstrikes

WASHINGTON. US President Donald Trump on Monday said the "12 day war" between Israel and Iran was set to end in a ceasefire, holding out the expected deal as validation for his strategic gamble of ordering airstrikes on Iranian nuclear sites.

"It has been fully agreed by and between Israel and Iran that there will be a Complete and Total CEASEFIRE," Trump posted on social media. Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said Iran would stop its attacks if Israel would. It's unclear what role Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Iran's leader, played in the talks. He had said on social media earlier Monday that Iran would not surrender. Israel has not publicly confirmed that it has agreed to end hostilities. "As of now, there is NO 'agreement' on any ceasefire or cessation of military operations," Araghchi posted on X. "However, provided that the Israeli regime stops its illegal aggression against the Iranian people no later than 4 am Tehran time, we have no intention to continue our

response afterwards." A ceasefire, if it culminates as Trump laid out, would be welcome news for the region and the world. But the situation in the Middle East remains far from stable and it's unclear how longer-term dynamics might be affected. The Israeli and US bombing of Iran certainly has slowed Iran's ability to enrich nuclear material but it might also have steeled Tehran's resolve to breakout toward a bomb. Trump's announcement comes as he prepared to depart on Tuesday for the NATO summit in the Netherlands, where he will likely make the case that his mix of aggression and diplomacy has succeeded. Never shy to suggest he deserves the Nobel Peace Prize, Trump went so far as to give the conflict between Israel and Iran the name of the "12 day war," a title that seemed to reference the 1967 "Six Day War" in which Israel fought a group of Arab countries including Egypt, Jordan and Syria. Later, Trump in another social media posting said that "Israel & Iran



came to me, almost simultaneously, and said, 'PEACE!' " "They have so much to gain, and yet, so much to lose if they stray from the road of RIGHTEOUSNESS & TRUTH," Trump added. "The future for Israel & Iran is UNLIMITED, & filled with great PROMISE. GOD BLESS YOU BOTH!" As Trump described it, the ceasefire would start with Iran and then be joined by Israel 12 hours later, with the president writing that the respective sides would "remain PEACEFUL and

RESPECTFUL." The phased-in ceasefire was set to begin Tuesday morning in Israel and Iran and culminate within 24 hours. But Iran launched another attack on Israel after 4 am local time in Tehran, the time Iran's foreign minister said Iran would cease its attacks if Israel ended their airstrikes. "This is a War that could have gone on for years, and destroyed the entire Middle East, but it didn't, and never will!" Trump said. The White House reposted Trump's announcement with a photo of the president holding a red hat that said "Trump was right about everything" in all capital letters. A senior White House official said Trump communicated directly with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to secure the ceasefire. The official, who insisted on anonymity to discuss the Monday talks, said Vice President JD Vance, Secretary of State Marco Rubio and special envoy Steve Witkoff, communicated with the Iranians through direct and indirect channels.

NEWS BOX

Telangana tops child labour rescues in 2024-25; leads in raids, arrests: Report

HYDERABAD. Telangana has emerged as the top state for child labour rescues in 2024-25, with 11,063 out of 53,651 rescues nationwide. The state also recorded the most rescue operations, with JRC partners conducting 7,632 out of 38,388 actions across 24 states and UTs, in coordination with law agencies.

National Convenor for Just Rights for Children (JRC) Ravi Kant told TNIE, “Nearly 90% of rescued children across India are aged between 10-14. They were found working in sectors classified as the worst forms of child labour, including spas, massage parlours, orchestras, automobiles, where they were asked to do hazardous work, and places where they were subjected to prostitution, pornography, and other forms of sexual exploitation.”

These findings were part of the report titled Building the Case for Zero: How Prosecution Acts as a Tipping Point to End Child Labour, published by the Centre for Legal Action and Behaviour Change (C-LAB), the research wing of India Child Protection.

Ravi Kant further stated: “We have a network of 200 NGOs spread across 426 districts. We partner with the local law enforcement agencies and run special drives and campaigns, through which we can get this breakthrough. Speaking of Telangana, children were rescued from a total of 26 districts with the help of 10 NGOs.”

The report revealed that 38,388 FIRs were registered and 5,809 arrests were made, 85% of which were related to child labour. Telangana topped the list in terms of most raids, followed by Uttar Pradesh (2,469), Rajasthan (2,453), and Madhya Pradesh (2,335).

Odisha seeks trade-off: Revisit ESZ boundaries for tourism projects

BHUBANESWAR. In a move that could put significant pressure on critical protected areas (PAs) in Odisha, the state government has decided to revisit the boundaries of eco-sensitive zones (ESZs) to remove the ‘no commercial and no construction’ clause for enhancing their tourism prospects. A meeting, chaired by chief secretary Manoj Ahuja on May 30, discussed tourism master plan and land bank issues and discussed governance and execution model for tourism infrastructure relating to national parks, sanctuaries and Ramsar sites.

Minutes of the meeting, accessed by TNIE, revealed that the government plans to take a fresh relook at notifications of ESZs by the Forest, Environment and Climate Change department through Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC), to remove the ‘no commercial/no construction’ clause. The meeting felt the clause does not accurately reflect the ‘enabling spirit and provisions’ of the existing guidelines of the Union ministry, though such areas have tourism development potential.

Interestingly, the chief secretary’s meeting advised that the already notified and soon-to-be notified ESZ be discussed with Tourism department during tourism master plan preparation. It was also decided that the ESZs of Satkosia and Similipal - two tiger reserves of the state - be reviewed by the chief secretary with the PCCF (wildlife) and other officials of the Forest department.

BBMP zonal commissioners monitor SC survey in city

BENGALURU. As part of the comprehensive survey of Scheduled Castes (SC), the BBMP teams are visiting households across all eight zones in the city, affixing verification stickers. This survey aims to collect scientific data on the representation of 101 communities listed under the Scheduled Castes.

The deadline for completion of the survey has been extended to June 30. To confirm participation in the survey, BBMP teams are actively involved in affixing stickers at the entrances of households.

As teams visit each household, they ensure the survey has been completed and then place a sticker on the front door or wall of the residence to indicate participation.

Zonal Commissioners and Joint Commissioners are visiting homes to monitor and supervise the process. So far, the BBMP has surveyed approximately 1.84 lakh SC households and 32 lakh general households through a workforce of nearly 11,000 enumerators. As a result, 6.72 lakh individuals belonging to Scheduled Castes have been identified. BBMP has appealed to those who have not yet participated to do so promptly.

At Mahadevapura, the largest Zone, Joint Commissioner K Dakshayini visited houses and pasted the stickers. “We paste stickers if the respondents say they belong to the SC communities and have been enumerated. In cases if the houses belonging to SC communities have been left out, the officials include the details in the mobile application of the social welfare department,” said Dakshayini.

Odisha: 2 dalit men beaten up, tonsured, forced to eat grass, drink drain water on cattle smuggling suspicion

The shocking incident took place in broad daylight at Kharigumma village under Dharakote block on Sunday.

BERHAMPUR. Two dalit men were brutally tortured, half tonsured, forced to eat grass and drink drain water after being falsely accused of cattle smuggling in Ganjam district. The shocking incident took place in broad daylight at Kharigumma village under Dharakote block on Sunday.

Sources said the victims, Bulu Nayak (52) and Babul Nayak (43) of Singipur, purchased a cow and two calves from Haripur as part of dowry arrangement of a family’s marriage ceremony and were bringing the cattle to their village on a cargo auto-rickshaw.

A group of locals intercepted them at Kharigumma, accusing them of transporting cattle illegally. The group snatched their mobile phones and cash and demanded Rs 30,000 to release the animals. When the duo refused, the miscreants tied their limbs, thrashed them, partially shaved their heads at a local salon, forced them to crawl for nearly two km to Jahada village.

The victims were then allegedly forced to consume grass and drain water at Jahada village chowk. Subsequently, a villager informed a local leader who reached the spot to release them but demanded `30,000 for the

purpose. Despite suffering injuries on head and other parts of the body due to the assault, the two victims managed to escape from the spot and reached their village. After receiving preliminary treatment at the local hospital, they lodged a complaint with Dharakote

government of failing to curb the rising lawlessness in Ganjam. Demanding arrest of the culprits involved in the attack on the two dalit men, the Mahasabha leaders also sought immediate rescue of the cattle from the captivity of the attackers.

Ganjam SP Subhendu Patra said some villagers of Khariguma and Jahada assaulted the victims on suspicion of cattle smuggling. Their main purpose was money extortion. When the victims didn’t pay, the culprits assaulted them. So far, nine persons have been detained for questioning. All the culprits involved in the incident would be nabbed soon, he added.

Rahul demands strong action on torture

Bhubaneswar: Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha and senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Monday demanded strong action against those who forced two dalit youths to walk on knees, eat grass and drink dirty water in Kharigumma village of Ganjam district on Sunday. Stating that the incident is not only inhuman, the Congress leader said it is a mirror for those who say caste is no longer an issue.



Cop injured as driver flees vehicle check near Perumbavoor; second such incident in two weeks

Perumbavoor police booked Jishnu and detained another person. The vehicle was later traced, but no contraband was found.

KOCHI. A police officer was injured after a car driver stopped for a routine vehicle inspection near Perumbavoor on Sunday night escaped, the second such incident in less than two weeks.

The cops said Jaison, a civil police officer with the Perumbavoor station, was injured in the incident that took place at Valayanchirangara near Vengola. The driver, identified as Jishnu of Arakkapadi, was asked to stop his car and step out. However, he suddenly reversed the vehicle in an

alleged attempt to escape. Jaison was injured while trying to stop the car, which also rammmed a police vehicle, causing significant damage.

The Perumbavoor police registered a case against Jishnu and took another person into custody. The vehicle was later traced, but no contraband was found.

On June 14, a Grade SI with the Kalloorkad station was knocked down and injured by the occupants of a car during a vehicle inspection at Vazhiyamchira in Kalloorkad.



Telangana sets up monitoring panels to fix gaps in government medical colleges flagged by NMC

HYDERABAD. The state Health Department has set up Medical College Monitoring Committees (MCMCs) to address infrastructure and staffing shortcomings in government medical colleges, following a notice from the National Medical Commission (NMC).

The NMC, in its communication dated June 13, flagged deficiencies in 26 out of 34 government medical colleges across the state. In response, Health Secretary Christina Z Chongthu issued an order on June 19 announcing the formation of the MCMCs. These committees have been tasked with ensuring that all government medical colleges meet NMC benchmarks by June 2028.

A total of 10 MCMCs have been constituted. Their responsibilities include inspecting and assessing medical colleges and submitting review reports. District collectors will play a key role, overseeing aspects such as recruitment and monitoring of contractual and outsourced staff via the District

Level Selection Committee (DLSC), evaluation of service providers such as IHFMS and diet services, patient footfall, including Aarogyasri services, and the use of Facility Management Services (FMS) and electronic Health Management Information System (eHMIS).



review coordination for cadaver availability, shuttle bus services, and utilisation of Hospital Development Society (HDS) funds. Each of the 34 government medical colleges will be assessed based on six parameters: infrastructure, human resources, academic and curriculum readiness, student welfare and amenities, operational and financial aspects, and digital systems and IT infrastructure.

Infrastructure review will cover the adequacy and functionality of academic buildings, lecture halls, laboratories, libraries, and hostels. Hospital infrastructure will be assessed for bed strength, space requirements, medical equipment (such as C-Arm, CT, MRI), maintenance agreements (CAMC/AMC), emergency services, and utilities including power backup, fire safety, water supply, sanitation, and biomedical waste management. Department-specific clinical caseloads for inpatient departments, operation theatres, intensive care units, and diagnostic services will also be evaluated.

For human resources, the availability of teaching and non-teaching staff will be assessed against sanctioned posts. Recruitment needs through the Medical and Health Services Recruitment Board (MHSRB), Telangana Public Service Commission (TGPSC) and contract-based appointments via district-level committees will be documented.

AP awards Rs 62.4 crore legacy waste clearance project to Blue Planet; targets garbage-free state by 2025

Zigma Global Director Ilangovan Thangavelu Kugalur added that the initiative aligns with India’s broader vision of environmental restoration and community empowerment.

VIJAYAWADA. In a significant push toward a garbage-free Andhra, the Swachh Andhra Corporation, in coordination with the Municipal Administration and Urban Development Department, has awarded legacy waste remediation contracts worth Rs 62.4 crore to Blue Planet Environmental Solutions Pvt. Ltd.

The work will be executed by its subsidiary, Zigma Global Environ Solutions, under the Swachh Bharat Mission Urban (SBM-U) 2.0.

The initiative targets the removal of over 9.2 lakh metric tons of legacy waste across major urban areas including Chittoor, Tirupati, Anantapur, Gudur, and two large dumpsites under Nellore and Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporations. The six-month project involves bio-remediation, bio-mining, and land reclamation, adhering to Central Pollution



Krishna District Chief Justice urges youth to shun drugs; warns of life-threatening consequences

The CJ said addiction is often the root cause of crimes and advised that kids showing suspicious behaviour should be approached compassionately.

VIJAYAWADA. Krishna District Chief Justice Gopi on Monday urged youth to stay away from drugs such as ganja, warning that addiction could destroy their future. He was addressing a mega rally organised as part of the week-long International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking observance in Machilipatnam.

The rally, which began at the District Court complex and concluded at the bus stand, also featured a human chain and anti-drug slogans to raise public awareness. Senior Civil Judge KV Ramakrishnayya, Machilipatnam Bar Association President Pothuraju, advocates, and students took part.

He expressed concern over youth falling into the trap of anti-social elements and urged parents to be



vigilant. He stressed the role of parents in monitoring behavioural changes and guiding children with care. He said addiction is often a root cause of crimes and advised that kids showing suspicious behaviour should be approached compassionately and taken for counselling if needed. He said national, State, and district legal services authorities, along with voluntary organisations, are working to combat drug abuse. He encouraged citizens to report drug activity to the toll-free helpline 1972.

Three, including minor, held for brutal double murder of elderly women in Tenali



GUNTUR. In a significant breakthrough, police arrested three individuals—including a minor—in connection with the brutal double murder of two elderly women in Tenali. The accused have been identified as Peravali Kusuma Kumari (46), Illa Gopi Krishna (25), and a 17-year-old juvenile, Sheikh Abdul Kalam.

The victims, Dasari Rajeshwari (59) and Peta Anjamma (70), were widows living together in a two-storey house on Parimi Road, Mallapadu. On June 19, the accused allegedly entered their home posing as potential tenants and murdered them using a metal rod and a cotton towel. They then fled with cash and gold ornaments.

Crucial CCTV footage monitored remotely by Rajeshwari’s daughter in Chennai helped identify the suspects. Tenali Police formed special teams under DSP B Janardhan Rao’s supervision and tracked the culprits using both technical inputs and physical evidence, following instructions from Guntur District SP.

During interrogation, the accused confessed to the crime. Notably, Kusuma Kumari was also involved in a previous murder for gold. Police recovered Rs 34,500 in cash, a gold chain, imitation bangles, an auto-rickshaw used in the crime, gloves, shoes, and other evidence. All three were produced before court on June 23 and remanded to judicial custody. Guntur SP praised CI S Ramesh Babu, SI SK Kareemulla, and their teams for swift and effective investigation.

Re-shaping of energy and geopolitics in the Middle East

Financial markets and policymakers are complacent about developments in the Middle East and their effects on energy markets. The market price for oil for future delivery is trading around the mid-sixties per barrel, well below the spot price and below the average inflation-adjusted price for two decades.Despite the growth of renewables, especially solar and wind power, oil and gas, alongside coal, remain the staple source of energy underpinning modern economies and societies. Currently, the world consumes around 100 million barrels of oil daily (around 50 percent for transport and 20 percent for petrochemicals). No significant decline is forecast due to limited alternatives for heavy transportation and as a chemical feedstock. Natural gas is around 23 percent of the world’s total energy consumption and provides a quarter of global electricity.

The Gulf region is the world’s most important energy producer, accounting for around 50 percent of proven reserves. It produces around 33 percent of the world’s oil and approximately 17 percent of natural gas. Any severe disruption would affect availability and price flowing through to economies.The absence of concern comes from a perception of ample supplies. In the leadup to the current crisis, OPEC, driven by Saudi pressure, increased output, causing sharp declines in price exacerbated by slowing demand from decelerating economic activity, particularly in China. In a repeat of 2015, Saudi Arabia sought to punish producers who exceeded quotas agreed upon between member states. It may have been to placate President Donald Trump, who has consistently sought lower oil prices. Saudi Arabia’s objective is to maintain its market share as low prices make US shale oil and gas uncompetitive and accelerate the use of a potentially stranded resource.

The spreading conflict alters the equation. There is increased stockpiling and consumption—military aircraft are not designed for fuel efficiency. The most serious threat comes from collateral damage to energy facilities or the weaponisation of oil and gas supplies.Israel, whose declared objective is destroying Iran’s nuclear capabilities and unseating its leaders, may target oil and gas facilities to increase pressure on the regime. Iran exports up to 2 million barrels of oil and refined petroleum products daily (around 2 percent of total oil supply). This loss may not be covered by other producers whose capacities are already strained due to lack of infrastructure, in part because of under-investment in the shift away from fossil fuels. Only Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Russia, whose capacity is hobbled by sanctions, may have actual additional available capacity.

The US entry into the war has changed its dynamics. Iran may seek a total or selective blockade of the Strait of Hormuz—the chokepoint of global energy supplies—through which a fifth of the world’s oil supply passes. A long-standing rule in the Persian Gulf states is that if Iran is under threat, it will seek to prevent regional competitors from selling their oil. Even though free passage is still theoretically possible, many shipping companies are already reluctant to transit the narrow waterway due to insurance concerns. The charter costs of large crude carriers (capable of carrying 2 million barrels of oil) from the Gulf to China have more than doubled (from around \$20,000 to just under \$48,000 per day).Another option is to attack other Gulf nations’ oil facilities, which has happened previously. American and Israeli military bases in these countries increase this risk. Iranian-backed domestic militias, already in place, could undertake these attacks. Iraq, which supplies over 4 million barrels of oil per day, is vulnerable due to the location of its infrastructure in Basra, close to Iran, and the history between the two nations.

US pushes West Asia deeper into chaos

The management of the global nuclear domain is set to become even more challenging and volatile.

THE US military attacks on Iranian nuclear facilities at Fordow, Natanz and Isfahan mark a significant and definitive escalation in the Israel-Iran conflict, with potentially complex and destabilising implications.The US is now directly involved militarily in a regional war and the potential for further escalation will depend on four actors and their actions. The first is Iran, the target of US attacks. Tehran has decided to close the Strait of Hormuz. This will lead to convulsions in the global oil market and adversely impact hydrocarbon-importing nations like India.The second actor is some proxy group — Houthis, Hamas or Hezbollah — which may adopt a low-intensity asymmetric warfare strategy against US and Israeli assets, including merchant shipping.

The third actor is an external power — be it Russia or China — which in recent days have cautioned the US not to get involved in the Israel-Iran war directly. However, the probability that Moscow or Beijing will support Iran with direct military involvement is low, given their domestic priorities.The fourth actor is the US, specifically its domestic politics, where there are reservations within the Republican Party about the US strikes on Iran. American public opinion, which has supported President Donald Trump and his anti-war posture, is wary of the US being drawn into another long war in a distant part of the world.

The impetuous US action is being justified on the grounds that Iran must not obtain a nuclear weapon — come what may — and that its current enrichment programme points in that direction. Paradoxically, there is no credible evidence to suggest that Tehran is close to acquiring a nuclear weapon. Contradictions within the US raise questions about the rectitude of the American attack. Tulsi Gabbard, Director of National Intelligence (DNI), testified to the US Congress in March that “The (US) intelligence community continues to assess that Iran is not building a nuclear weapon.”But Gabbard was rebuked by Trump, who said on June 20 that the DNI was wrong in suggesting that there was no evidence of Iran building a nuclear weapon. This was a clear signal that Trump had decided to strike Iran. Tehran has repeatedly asserted that it is not seeking to acquire nuclear weapons and instead wants to defend its sovereign right to nuclear enrichment as a NNWS (non-nuclear weapon state) signatory to the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). Iran added that the actions of the aggressors (Israel and the US) are a grave contravention of international norms and conventions and that retribution would follow.

In a post on X, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres condemned the US strikes on Iran. He said: “I am gravely alarmed by the use of force by the United States against Iran. This is a dangerous escalation in a region already on the edge and a direct threat to international peace and



security. I call on Member States to de-escalate and to uphold their obligations under the UN Charter and other rules of international law.”Can the US act unilaterally to contain what it perceives to be a WMD (weapons of mass destruction) threat and is this action of President Trump a violation of Washington’s obligations to uphold international law and related conventions? The answer to this question will shape the contour of the emerging world order, or disorder — at a time when there are many global security challenges that need consensus among the major powers and collective action.It is instructive that in West Asia, Israel is perceived to have acquired its covert nuclear weapon capability with French support and tacit US endorsement in the late 1960s, though this is a capability that Israel neither denies nor confirms. Israel is also a non-signatory to the NPT along with India and Pakistan.The rationale for the June 13 attack on Iran by Israel and the current US action is indefensible or debatable. The trigger was provided by the International Atomic Energy Agency’s (IAEA) June 12 resolution that censured Tehran for transgressions over its uranium enrichment commitments and site inspections. But the IAEA had not concluded that Iran was very close to acquiring a nuclear weapon. Yet Israel attacked Iran with impunity, justifying its unilateral action as an act of pre-emptive self-defence. The convoluted logic was that Iran could have acquired a nuclear weapon in the near future and this was totally unacceptable to Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu and US President Trump.The Asian strategic

framework is very complex, with China being part of the five nuclear powers (led by the US) who have accorded the right to possess this capability unto themselves — while denying it to others. At the time the NPT was introduced in 1968, India had argued that this was a case of ‘disarming the unarmed’ and refused to sign such an unequal treaty. Neither did Pakistan and Israel.

Currently, along with the first five, there are four other nuclear weapon-capable powers : India and Pakistan, who declared their capability in 1998; Israel, an opaque nuclear-armed state; and North Korea, a self-declared, Pluto-like N-weapon state.If these nations exude the certitude that their current regimes and core national security will be jeopardised without nuclear weapons, how is Iran to be convinced that it must renounce the nuclear/enrichment rights which are due to it as a signatory to the NPT?Iranian leaders have warned that the US attacks would have “everlasting consequences”. Tehran has requested that an emergency meeting of the UN Security Council be held. Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said : “They crossed a very big red line by attacking nuclear facilities. We have to respond based on our legitimate right for self-defence.”President Trump has succumbed to the principle of power and short-term realpolitik, abjuring the abiding power of the equitable principle. Consequently, the management of the global nuclear domain will become even more challenging and volatile than it currently is. That would make the current war definitive in a dangerous manner.

Palanquin bearers: The aching burden of piety

The State must ban such labour practices and offer them dignified economic rehabilitation. Their dignity is their right, not a largesse bestowed by social privilege

Two palanquin-bearers from Jammu and Kashmir died last week in a landslide on the rain-hit Kedarnath Yatra trek route in Uttarakhand. The pilgrim they were carrying survived with minor injuries. The debris fell on two more bearers, who escaped with injuries. The 16- km route is treacherous. Hundreds of pilgrims with comorbidities have died on this route, though porters’ fatalities are rare. However, these are two deaths too many.

Thousands of poor people in their 20s to 40s shoulder palanquins (dandi) carrying pilgrims or strap pilgrim-laden wicker litters (kandi) to their backs. It demands remarkable strength and endurance. Strained lungs, weakened spines, and feet eventually force them into painful retirement. Traditionally, the porter service is linked to godliness because it fulfils infirm pilgrims’ wish to reach their lord. The travesty of progressive India is also that it’s the only means in the hills to transport patients or pregnant women to distant health centres. The concept dates back centuries, when the influential travelled in palanquins and brides left their parents’ homes in ‘dolis’. This oppressive system is no different



from the still-surviving ‘cultural tradition’ of hand-pulled rickshaw drivers of Kolkata. In our cosmopolitan society, they are a reflection of the excluded who populate the margins of modernity. They are living contradictions of social marginalisation in present-day society, proof of the uncoupling of the right to dignity and fair labour from the

economically vulnerable bottom of the pyramid at the intersection of rigid hierarchies and 21st-century reform.

By rostering and licensing the dandi-kandi porters of Uttarakhand, like Kolkata’s rickshaw pullers, their indignity is both routinised and institutionalised. This archaic form of painful labour has yet to prod the government to dismantle the system. In the absence of alternative work and hunger and survival snapping at their heels, these workers plod along. When the West Bengal government decided to ban the undignified work in 2006, the rickshaw pullers resisted because the decision threatened their only means of survival. The State must ban such labour practices and offer them dignified economic rehabilitation. Their dignity is their right, not a largesse bestowed by social privilege. It is time they are offered real choices, not vague promises of progress. In her poem “Palanquin Bearers”, Sarojini Naidu may have romanticised their task, but the reality is forbidding.

Finding the soul of India through a foreign language

Bibek Debroy’s Sacred Songs—the Mahabharata’s Many Gitas is one in a luminous list of translations, using English to re-possess ancient spiritual texts and thereby filling the God-sized hole left in many Indian hearts because of the educational disconnect with their heritage

This week, I came across a book that I read last year and its value struck me afresh. Particularly because I am far from ‘ashamed’ of knowing the English language, despite the odd political opinion in Delhi on the very many Indians who freely inhabit the unparalleled depth and range of the Anglophone world. The book I found was the late scholar-economist Bibek Debroy’s last published volume, Sacred Songs—the Mahabharata’s Many Gitas, devoted to the 24 gitas in the epic apart from the Bhagavad Gita. It joined a luminous list of translations from Indian scripture by other scholars. People like Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, who rendered the Bhagavad Gita and the sixteen principal Upanishads into English; C Rajagopalachari, whose abridged English translations of Valmiki’s Ramayana and Vyasa’s Mahabharata in the 1950s are still very much around in new editions; and Kamala Subramaniam, who produced monumental English translations of the Ramayana, Mahabharata and Srimad Bhagavatam. The value of such works is that they used the English language to repossess Indian scripture and make it accessible to the millions of Indians trapped in the English language. People who still longed to know their heritage better but had to get on with life, study, find jobs, sustain family responsibilities, all of which consumed their time.For these millions, people like Dr Radhakrishnan, C Rajagopalachari, Kamala Subramaniam, Bibek Debroy, Ramesh Menon and a score of others performed a valuable public service. Through their labours, they gave the soul of India back to those cut off by history. To look at just Debroy’s prodigious output, he translated the

unabridged version of Vyasa’s Mahabharata into English, in a series of 10 volumes. He also translated the Bhagavad Gita, the Harivamsa (an abridged Mahabharata also credited to Vyasa), the Vedas, no less, and Valmiki’s Srimad Ramayanam in three volumes.His services to the Puranas were no less monumental. He translated the Bhagavata Purana in three volumes, the Markandeya Purana in one volume, which contains the Devi Mahatmyaham recited every year during Durga Puja, the Brahma Purana in two volumes, the Vishnu Purana in one volume, the Shiva Purana in three volumes and the Brahmanda Purana in two volumes. Besides Manmatha Nath Dutt (1855–1912), he is the only other person to have translated both the Mahabharata and the Ramayana in unabridged form into English.For his translations, he was conferred with the Ramakrishna Gopal Bhandarkar Memorial Award in July 2023 by the venerable Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute, Pune, which put the entire Mahabharata together in a critical edition. This edition was prepared with the painstaking efforts of committed scholars over nearly five decades, consulting 1,259 manuscripts. The completed critical edition of the Mahabharata was finally released in 10 weighty volumes on September 22, 1966 by Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, the then President of India.

It is this milestone Sanskrit text that Debroy gamely translated into English in the service of modern Indians. Written simply and accessibly with footnotes, Debroy’s labours of love found favour with the Indian public for their reverse engineering, using the English language to re-possess these

ancient spiritual texts and thereby filling the God-sized hole left in many Indian hearts because of the educational disconnect with their heritage. Debroy’s last legacy to us was Sacred Songs—the Mahabharata’s Many Gitas, released late last year. A dense, layered book of 684 pages, it has 25 chapters, each devoted to a gita, 24 from the



Mahabharata, with the last being the Pandava Gita, which exists outside the Mahabharata. The Bhagavad Gita or Song of God, not included here, is of course THE gita of gitas. But these other gitas bejewel the unabridged Mahabharata, a gita being a philosophical or advisory passage that can be sung or chanted.The first gita in this volume is the Shounaka Gita. This is named for an ancient rishi in the forest of Naimisharanya (today’s Neemsar in modern Uttar Pradesh). Shounaka advises a depressed Yudhishtira in the Vana Parva or forest section of the Mahabharata. He tries to implant a

sense of detachment in Yudhishtira, saying that attachment is the cause of all misery, that Yudhishtira should ideally “Perform karma, but also renounce it.” This is popularly understood to mean, ‘Keep going anyway because that’s what life is about’. The Dharma Vyadha Gita is from a beloved Indian story, also from the Vana Parva. Rishi Markandeya tells the Pandavas how a butcher taught a Brahmin dharmic righteousness. That he was a butcher is of no consequence, for that, too, is a genuine profession in society, and a butcher is as capable of dharmic righteousness, in this case more so, than the Brahmin. It’s a treat to be able to access their actual conversation through Debroy’s lucid text.The Nahusha Gita is a dialogue between Yudhishtira and Nahusha, an ancestor of the Pandavas, who was expelled from heaven and cursed to take the form of a python by Rishi Agastya. He coils himself around Bhima, and Yudhishtira must set him free by conversing with Nahusha. When Nahusha asks who is a Brahmin, Yudhishtira responds that a Brahmin “is one in whom truthfulness, charity, forgiveness, good conduct, lack of cruelty and compassion can be seen”. Not otherwise. Which, like the grand old Upanishads, posits categorically that ‘caste’ is indicated by character, not birth.

This pattern of outright social subversion and valorising moral character high above the accident of birth comes across repeatedly in these ancient gitas, which amazes and gladdens the modern reader. But for such translations, we would never know what our scriptures actually said and how consistently.

Herd of 8 elephants crosses into Kalesar forests, third sighting in 6 months

Gurgaon. A herd of eight elephants was spotted near Kalesar National Park on Sunday, marking the third such sighting in six months. The elephants — spotted near the main motorable road close to the second fire line — included one adult male, three adult females, and four calves. Officials said the growing trend of elephant movement through the contiguous forest belt spanning Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and Himachal Pradesh showcased the success of conservation efforts in maintaining vital wildlife corridors. The most recent sighting follows a similar episode in May this year when a group of 10 elephants, including calves, made their way from the Uttarakhand foothills through UP's forests into Kalesar. Earlier this year, in Jan, a smaller group of five elephants was observed in the area, while 2022 saw three elephants traversing the same region. "These consistent sightings suggest that a regular migration pattern is emerging through this ecological

corridor," a forest official said. Kalesar National Park, stretching across 11,570 acres along the UP-Haryana border, forms part of a larger protected network, including the Kalesar Wildlife Sanctuary and Simbalbada National Park in Himachal Pradesh. The area's connection with Rajaji National Park through a dense corridor has facilitated seamless wildlife movement of animals. Officials said the success of these migrations could be attributed to improved water management in the region. "We've created five pucca and 10 kuchcha water bodies, along with two permanent ponds at Gugga and Chikner Firelines. Our focus on maintaining these water sources round the year has encouraged elephants to stay longer," said Lulu Ram, wildlife inspector at Kalesar. VB Mathur, a former director of Wildlife Institute of India,



suggested that the herd likely migrated from Uttarakhand and followed the Yamuna course during water scarcity in the peak of summer. He emphasised the need for proactive management and community engagement in fostering human-wildlife coexistence. "The forest department must be prepared to manage the situation proactively. At the same time, it is important for local communities

to respond with understanding and respect. The presence of elephants should be seen not just as a challenge, but as an opportunity to foster coexistence and conservation awareness," he added.

Wildlife expert Sunil Harsana highlighted the significance of uninterrupted forest corridors in facilitating the migration of natural wildlife across state boundaries. "The movement of this elephant herd through the Shivalik division of UP highlights the critical role of uninterrupted forest corridors. These dense green pathways are essential for allowing wildlife to migrate naturally across state boundaries, minimising human-wildlife conflict and ensuring ecological balance. Protecting these corridors is not just about conservation, it's about enabling coexistence," he added.

Approach roads too narrow, GMDA finds an alternative site for bus depot in Gurgaon

Gurgaon. GMDA has selected a 12-acre plot near Sector 81 for its proposed bus depot-cum-terminal, after shelving the previous Bhangrola site due to access and feasibility issues. The new location, categorised as open space, is currently under Haryana State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation (HSIIDC) control, and awaits NOC and state govt approval.

"We have sought in-principal approval from the HSIIDC first, after which we will place the case before the govt for approval. The proposed site is located on the main arterial road near Sector 81, making it ideal for the movement of buses," a senior official of GMDA said.

Initially planned under a 50:50 revenue-sharing PPP model between GMDA and MCM, the project aims to serve the transportation needs of developing sectors near Manesar. It hit roadblocks when the corporation offered 9.2 acres of land in Sector M12A for the facility, but it had to be shelved because of limited financial viability. The project's consultant, Delhi Integrated Multi-Modal Transit System (DIMTS), also highlighted the challenges and concluded that the depot would be operationally constrained and unattractive to investors. The narrow approach road, which would have restricted the movement of buses and heavy vehicles, was a key concern.

The proposed depot is expected to reduce operational inefficiencies by cutting down dead mileage, which is a growing concern for the Gurugram Metropolitan City Bus Limited (GMCBL), whose buses often travel empty between the city and Manesar.

"City buses often have to travel long distances without passengers, either while leaving for their first pick-up or returning after completing a route. For efficient city bus operations, depots are essential to reduce dead mileage while improving services," an official said.

At present, GMCBL operates a fleet of 200 buses, with 100 more electric buses expected to be added later this year.

'Do something for us too': Rohtak man kills self; claims pressure to kill his father, extortion by wife, her lover

ROHTAK. "Please do something for men too." This was the last message from Magan, a man from Dobh village in Rohtak, who died by suicide last week. He left behind a video message in which he alleged that his wife had been previously married, was having an affair with a police inspector in Maharashtra, and was pressuring him to kill his father. Magan, also known as Ajay, addressed this message to a Panipat-based women's rights activist he knew as a "rakhi sister."

In the video, Magan claimed that before taking the extreme step, he had received a video of his wife, Divya, dancing suggestively for her paramour, Deepak — allegedly a police inspector posted in Sambhajinagar, Maharashtra. He said the two had emotionally blackmailed him and extracted Rs 3.5 lakh: Rs 1.5 lakh from selling his wheat crop and Rs 2 lakh from mortgaging a gold bracelet. Magan's body was found hanging from a tree in his village on the night of June 18. His family located him after seeing the suicide video



he had posted on social media earlier that day. "They want to buy a flat in Mumbai using that money. But I can't kill my father, so I'm ending my life," Magan said in the video. Magan said he discovered a year and a half into the marriage that Divya had already been married and had a son. She had not obtained a divorce before marrying him. "When I consulted a lawyer, he advised me to file a case since Hindu law doesn't allow remarriage without divorce. But I never took action, and instead paid her to settle with her first husband," he explained. In his final video, Magan addressed his "rakhi sister," Savita

Arya. "Even if a woman is wrong, she gets sympathy. But even when he is right, a man ends up losing his life. Please do something for us too," he said. He also appealed to Rohtak MP Deepender Hooda and Meham MLA Balram Dangri to visit his parents and ensure that his son would not be taken away from them. ASI Sanjay from Bahu Akbarpur police station said efforts are being made to trace Divya. A team visited her parental home in Narnaund, Hisar, but her family said they had no contact with her for years, the ASI said. Police are examining Magan's call records and bank transactions. Once evidence is collected, a team will be dispatched to apprehend Divya, the ASI added. According to Magan's family, the couple had met on social media in 2019 and later registered their marriage. Initially, the family did not approve of the relationship, but accepted Divya when she gave birth to a son. They also said that Divya had a job but never disclosed the nature of it.

High-tension tower, hillock: Why Gurgaon's new sectors could be flooded this year too

Gurgaon. It's the same cycle every year. "We dread the rains." That is how Jaswant Rao, RWA president of Astaire Garden, sums up the situation revolving around the long-delayed leg-IV. Six years after it got the administrative approval, Leg-IV — planned to ease flooding in new sectors — has hit a wall, quite literally. A 100-metre hillock stands in the way of connecting the drain, while a high-tension power tower in Sector 70 is yet to be relocated. Both obstacles have brought the construction to a crawl, which is already running behind schedule. The drain, once completed, will stretch 5.2km from Vatika Chowk to NH8 and is expected to offload nearly 50% of the burden on the Badshapur drain — the city's main stormwater channel — while benefiting sectors 68 to 80.

But its progress was slow from the beginning, and now with these two obstructions, residents are concerned as the monsoon is just days away from

lashing the city. A senior GMDA official said, "A hillock near Sector 75 is coming in the drain alignment. We initiated the dismantling process in April this year for which tendering is underway. Similarly, we have written to HVPNL to shift the high-tension tower in Sector 70. The matter is being followed up." GMDA is aiming to complete the project by the end of this year, he said. The drain passes through new sectors, including sectors 69, 70, 75 and 75A, which have seen extensive residential and commercial development over the years but remain vulnerable to waterlogging due to inadequate drainage. Jaswant Rao says, "Now that the monsoon is around the corner, the work will get hampered again. We dread the rains because we are the worst sufferers — our society (Astaire Garden) is low-rise and not just the roads but even our basement gets flooded during heavy downpours. We have been waiting

for proper drainage connectivity for the past eight years." The Rs 105-crore project got administrative approval in May 2019, but it remained stuck in planning and coordination stages for nearly three years. Tendering finally began in 2022 and physical work started only in April 2023 with the original deadline of Oct 2024. Earlier, GMDA attributed the initial delays to external constraints such as the monsoon and the annual construction ban imposed from Nov to Jan due to air pollution norms.

Ajay Sharma, a resident of Tulip Ivory in Sector 70, said flooding during pre-monsoon showers this month was a wake-up call. "Waterlogging was seen not only on SPR but also on sector roads. Tulip Chowk was submerged last week," Sharma said. "This project has already taken too long — how much more time do they need? It's becoming increasingly problematic," Sharma asked.

Once push-up bars, now clothesline: Neglect hanging parks out to dry in Noida



Noida. Once envisioned as vibrant community fitness hubs, Noida's open gyms have become relics of neglect — metallic skeletons rusting beneath peeling paint and surrounded by cracked pavement. Installed by Noida Authority between 2016 and 2018 as part of a broader campaign to promote health and fitness, open-air gyms were also set up in sectors 14-A, 33, 34, 35, 36, 39, 50, 51, 52 and others. Designed to be free, durable, and accessible to residents of all ages, they now stand largely unusable. At Amitabh Park in Sector 14-A, once bustling with morning walkers and fitness enthusiasts, push-up bars now serve as clotheslines, while sit-

up benches and pull-up chairs lie rusted, and one plate of the twister has gone missing. "The air walker barely works, and many of us have stopped using the machines," said Uday Kumar, a local resident. "The people from nearby slums bathe in the park and hang wet clothes on the bars. That adds moisture and accelerates rusting. The structure is weakening." In Sector 51, Sanjeev Kumar, another resident, said half the equipment was either broken or missing protective grips. "The rubber handles that made workouts safer are gone. Some machines still function, but tiles around them are broken, making it dangerous to use," he said. "The original

contractor was responsible for five years, but they stopped maintaining it in just two or three." Officials acknowledge the problem. Noida Authority deputy director Anand Mohan Singh said the original five-year maintenance contract with the supplier expired, and although a new contractor was later hired, the ageing equipment poses a challenge. "Some machines are outdated, and sourcing spare parts has

become difficult. We are planning inspections across all parks and will take necessary steps to fix what we can," he said. As the city grows and promotes wellness, residents say regular maintenance and periodic upgrades are essential to preserve these community spaces. Without immediate intervention, these once-ambitious outdoor gyms may become nothing more than rusting reminders of a forgotten public promise.

Waste pickup erratic, residents hit the streets

Noida. Waste collection woes continue to plague several sectors in the city, with residents of Sector 122 on Monday alleging that sanitation workers did not turn up and garbage is now being picked up only once or twice a week.

The residents have demanded that the Noida Authority blacklist the private company responsible for the service, citing irregular visits, poor service quality, and frequent strikes.

"Garbage is collected only two days a week, and even then, around 20% of houses are left out," said Umesh Sharma, RWA president of Sector 122. He claimed the "careless working style" of the sanitation staff and the authority's

inaction have made the problem worse. "The policy being followed is — if they come, it's fine, if they don't, it's our problem. Due to irregular service, the sector is stinking and the risk of diseases like dengue and malaria is ever-present," he said. Residents have also pointed out that wet and dry waste is being collected together, defeating the purpose of segregation and hampering recycling efforts. Sharma further demanded a financial penalty against the contractor and regular monitoring of sanitation services by Noida Authority. "Despite repeated complaints, the company has not been blacklisted yet," he said.

MCG starts to snap illegal water lines in Gurgaon, slap penalties

Gurgaon: MCG has initiated a drive against unauthorised water connections, disconnecting illegal water supply lines in the city. Commissioner Pradeep Dahiya announced that a dedicated operation is underway to identify unlawful water connections citywide, and strict action will be taken against any individuals or organisations found violating the rules.

On Sunday, an MCG team snapped the illegal water supply of a supermarket located in South City 1. A fine of Rs 2,000 was imposed on the shop owner for water misuse. This action was carried out by the team of assistant engineer Kuldeep Yadav, who responded to complaints from the residents of the area. "The action by the MCG team is not only a necessary step towards enforcing the law but also a warning that negligence will no longer be tolerated. The public should cooperate in this campaign, report irregularities, and participate in the protection of precious resources like water," said Dahiya.

MCG has recently implemented measures to address water scarcity during the summer months by prohibiting residents from using drinking water in construction activities. RWAs have repeatedly voiced concerns about construction sites consuming potable water, leading to shortages. The primary cause of the water crisis stems from the disparity between the city's water demand and available supply. In May last year, the MCG implemented fines of Rs 5,000 for residents caught using drinking water to wash vehicles or courtyards between 5am and 9am. The corporation also extended identical penalties to people found watering their lawns during these hours.

5 months after offence report, government fails to stop constructions in Aravalis

Gurgaon. Environmentalists are livid at forest department's "inaction" vis-a-vis Aravali forest area, which has led to "expansion of illegal constructions" near Sector 54. More than five months after the issuance of a forest offence report (FOR) as well as a show-cause notice over illegal encroachments in Aravali forest area, no meaningful action was taken by the forest department, environmentalists said on Monday. Members of Aravalli Bachao Citizen Movement say the "inaction" led to the expansion of illegal constructions and activities across more than 10 acres of protected forest land.

Environmentalists, in a letter to the forest department, on Monday alleged fresh borewells were dug without environmental clearance this month, violating groundwater extraction norms. They have demanded immediate demolition of all illegal structures, sealing of borewells, removal of loudspeakers and floodlights and restoration of the natural creek.

Forest officials told TOI, "We will get a survey done to analyse how much is forest land." Vaishali Rana, a member of the Aravalli Bachao Citizens Movement, said, "A large new structure was built over the past two months, including concretised areas, metal sheds and a cemented parking lot, now spanning over two acres. Loudspeakers installed on the premises play amplified music throughout the day, disturbing wildlife in the surrounding eco-sensitive zone." Activists said high-intensity floodlights were installed, disrupting nocturnal wildlife movement. An illegal road, previously removed during the Covid-19 lockdown, was rebuilt, fragmenting wildlife habitat," Rana said. Rana, who documented the violations since 2019, expressed frustration over the lack of enforcement. "Over 100 trees were illegally felled in 2019 and despite repeated complaints, no deterrent action was taken. This reflects gross negligence and possible collusion by forest officials," she said.

Daylong chaos: No one's watching, everyone is in each other's way at this NH-9 underpass

Ghaziabad: On the roads near the Shipra underpass in Ghaziabad, wrong-side driving has become an everyday hazard, especially during peak morning and evening hours. Auto-rickshaws, e-rickshaws, and even trucks regularly flout traffic norms, weaving through oncoming lanes in a bid to save time and avoid longer, congested U-turns. The consequences are felt most acutely in neighbourhoods like Indirapuram, Vaishali, Vasundhara, and Kala Pathar, where residents report growing congestion. The tailbacks intensify after rains,



as waterlogging brings the traffic to a crawl near NH-9 and Gaur Green Society.

Drivers say they have little choice. "To go around through the UP Gate underpass takes too long," a 34-year-old auto-rickshaw driver told TOI. "I can squeeze in one more trip if I save time on each round. Passengers want to get home fast too, and many insist that we take the shortcut." An e-rickshaw driver added, "After waiting for hours in the sun, I earn Rs 500 to Rs 600 a day. Half of that goes to rent. I can't afford longer detours."

Local residents, however, are bearing the brunt. "It's terrifying to walk down the road on this stretch," said Nitin Kumar from Indirapuram. "Vehicles come speeding at you from the wrong direction, from the underpass. It is free-for-all when there are no traffic cops around." Police have launched a crackdown earlier this week. "Since Monday, over 2,300 challans have been issued and more than 70 vehicles seized."

Asia heating up twice as fast: Climate change report cites recent events

Agency New Delhi.

With the world already struggling to find ways to effectively address climate change, a new report on the global crisis has sounded concerns, especially for Asian, with fresh water sources and coastal areas seriously threatened. The World Meteorological Organization’s (WMO) "State of the Climate in Asia 2024" report has highlighted alarming climate changes across Asia recently, saying the continent has heated up twice as fast as the rest of the world. The report reveals that the continent is facing unprecedented environmental challenges, saying in 2024, Asia experienced one of the warmest years on record. With average temperatures averaging 1.04 degrees Celsius above the 1991-2020 baseline, the continent is warming nearly twice as fast as the global average, the report said. The rapid temperature rise has accelerated glacier melting in key

mountain ranges, including the Himalayas and the Tian Shan mountain range in Central Asia, threatening vital freshwater sources and ecosystems. SEA SURFACE TEMPERATURE RISE RISKS COASTAL AREAS According to the State of the Climate in Asia 2024 report, sea-surface temperatures in the region have also soared to record highs. Due to the record-high temperatures, sea levels along Asia’s Pacific and Indian Ocean coastlines rose faster than the global average. These trends have heightened the vulnerability of millions living in coastal areas of the continent, including India. They are increasing risks from flooding and storm surges. The continent also saw a sharp increase in extreme weather events throughout 2024. CONTINENT BRACES FOR DEADLY HEATWAVE The report further claimed that prolonged



heat waves struck parts of Asia, causing hundreds of heat-related deaths, particularly in India and Japan. Marine heatwaves expanded dramatically, reaching a record 15 million square kilometers, severely impacting marine biodiversity. Tropical Cyclone Yagi emerged as the strongest storm of the year, inflicting widespread damage across Southeast Asia. Yagi left dozens dead in northern Vietnam last September. Also, Central Asia faced its worst floods in

over 70 years, while the United Arab Emirates (UAE) experienced unprecedented rainfall, severely disrupting infrastructure. Nepal endured devastating floods in September 2024, resulting in at least 246 fatalities. However, timely early warning systems and coordinated response efforts helped save thousands of lives. NEED FOR URGENT CLIMATE STRATEGIES The report underlines the urgent need for robust climate adaptation strategies. It emphasises the critical role of national meteorological services in improving disaster preparedness to protect lives and livelihoods in an era of escalating climate risks. As Asia’s climate continues to warm rapidly, proactive measures are essential to mitigate the human and economic toll of these extreme environmental changes, it added.

Vande Bharat Brawl: BJP MLA Rajeev Singh Parichha faces party heat after show-cause notice

Agency New Delhi.

A viral video depicting a violent altercation aboard a Vande Bharat Express train has landed BJP MLA Rajeev Singh Parichha in hot water, resulting in a show-cause notice from the party’s Uttar Pradesh unit. The incident, which occurred on June 19th, involved a group of men allegedly associated with Parichha, who was travelling from Delhi to Bhopal with his family. The video, widely circulated on social media, shows the men violently assaulting a fellow passenger, leaving him bleeding from multiple injuries. The incident quickly escalated into a political controversy after former Madhya Pradesh Congress MLA Mukesh Nayak shared the video, accusing Parichha of “hooliganism” and his supporters of brutally attacking the passenger.

Parichha’s response to the controversy has been met with criticism. He filed a complaint with the Government Railway Police (GRP), alleging that the passenger was disruptive, repeatedly encroaching on his personal space. Parichha claimed the passenger’s subsequent misbehaviour led to the altercation, and that the passenger later called accomplices to attack his supporters at Jhansi station. However, this version of events starkly contradicts the widely circulated video footage. Unverified reports suggest the conflict originated from a seat-trading request made by the MLA, which the passenger refused.

The BJP’s reaction has been swift and firm. State General Secretary Govind Narayan Shukla issued a show-cause notice to Parichha, demanding a response within seven days. The notice explicitly stated that Parichha’s actions have severely damaged the party’s image and constituted serious indiscipline, warning of strict action should he fail to provide a satisfactory explanation. “Your actions have tarnished the image of the party and indicate serious indiscipline. You are directed to respond within seven days, failing which strict action will be taken,” the letter reads.

‘Pakistan will wage war again if...’: Bilawal Bhutto’s threat to India on Indus Waters Treaty suspension

New Delhi. Former Pakistan foreign minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari warned India of war over the suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT). Bilawal, the chief of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), said that if India denies Pakistan its fair water share under the 1960 treaty, then Islamabad “will have to wage war again” against New Delhi. “If India refuses to abide by the Indus Waters Treaty, Pakistan will not shy away from waging war again. India has two options: share water fairly, or we will deliver water to us from all six rivers,” Bilawal said in Parliament, referring to the six rivers of the Indus basin. Bilawal’s statement comes at a time there is a simmering tension between India and Pakistan over the Indus Waters Treaty. India has indicated in recent years that it may reconsider the water pact.

India on April 23 suspended the 1960 agreement, a day after the terrorist attack in Jammu and Kashmir’s Pahalgam that killed 26 people. Union Home Minister Amit Shah last week asserted that India will never restore the water pact. “We will take the water that was flowing to Pakistan to Rajasthan by constructing a canal. Pakistan will be starved of water that it has been getting unjustifiably,” he said in an interview to Times of India. Pakistan’s Foreign Ministry described Shah’s stance on the water pact as a “brazen disregard” for international agreements.

Bilawal also advocated dialogue and said that if the two countries refuse to hold talk and there is no coordination on terrorism, “violence will intensify”. Besides putting the IWT in abeyance and suspending all trade with Pakistan, India launched Operation Sindoor on May 7, targeting terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan in response to the Pahalgam terror attack.

Sanskrit gets Rs 2,532.59 cr for language promotion, highest among six classical languages: RTI

Agency New Delhi.

A Right To Information (RTI) application has revealed that the central government spent a major chunk of funding to promote the Sanskrit language between 2014-2015 and 2024-25. As per the RTI data received by Hindustan Times, the government has spent a total of Rs 2532.59 cr for the promotion of Sanskrit, 17 more than the five other classical languages including Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, Malayalam and Odia. Every year on an average, Rs 230.24 were doled out for Sanskrit promotion, while the other five languages got a combined of Rs 13.41 cr. Tamil is the highest funded classical language, but received less than 5 per cent of the total funding given to Sanskrit language. While Odia and Malayalam got 0.5 per cent and 0.2 per cent of Sanskrit’s total funding.

Sanskrit gets 22 times more funds than Tamil Tamil got the status of classical language in 2004 and got Rs 113.48 crore as part of Promotion of Indian Languages (GPIL) scheme. The amount given to Sanskrit in this case was 22 times more than allocated to Tamil. Sanskrit was given the status of classical language in 2005.

The RTI data also revealed that Hindi, Urdu and Sindhi languages, though none of them is a classical language, got less funding than the Sanskrit. As per the data, Hindi, Urdu and Sindhi received a total funding of Rs 1,317.96 cr between 2014-15 and 2024-25, which is 52 percent of the total funding Sanskrit got through these years.

Funds for Hindi, Urdu and Sindhi The report said that Hindi, Urdu and Sindhi individually received Rs 426.99 cr, 837.94 and Rs 53.03 cr during the said period.

UAE doctor sends Rs 6 crore aid to Air India crash victims

Agency New Delhi.

UAE-based healthcare entrepreneur and philanthropist Dr Shamsheer Vayalil’s pledge of Rs 6 crore in financial aid has begun to reach those affected due to the devastating Air India Flight 171 crash in Ahmedabad. The first distribution of this aid took place at BJ Medical College in Ahmedabad. The atmosphere at BJ Medical College was heavy with grief as students returned to classes following the tragedy. However, the solemn mood was briefly lifted during a private ceremony in the Dean’s chamber where Vayalil’s generous donation was formally distributed.

“The dreams your loved ones had were shared dreams of all of us who consider medical service as our life. Please know that you are not alone. The entire medical community stands with you,” Shamsheer wrote in a personal letter.



This aid, announced shortly after the crash, was personally delivered by representatives of VPS Health from Abu Dhabi to the families of the deceased and injured. The families of the four deceased medical students, Aryan Rajput, Manav Bhadu, Jayprakash Choudhary, and Rakesh Gobarbhay Diyora, each received Rs 1 crore. The families of six additional deceased, including relatives of Dr. Pradip Solanki and Dr. Nilkanth Suthar, each received Rs 25 lakh. The gesture wasn’t limited to the families of the deceased. Recognising the significant medical expenses faced by the injured, Dr. Vayalil’s initiative also provided financial support to fourteen seriously injured individuals, each receiving 3.5 lakh. These individuals, including both medical students and residents, suffered injuries ranging from burns and fractures to internal trauma requiring extended hospitalisation.

Supreme Court grants interim relief to Rohingya woman facing deportation

The Rohingya woman was declared a foreigner by an Assam Foreigners' Tribunal. She approached the Supreme Court after the Gauhati High Court upheld the tribunal's decision.

Agency New Delhi.

The Supreme Court has granted interim relief to a Rohingya woman who was declared a foreigner by an Assam tribunal, staying her deportation and barring any coercive action until further orders. The top court also issued a notice to the Centre and the Assam government on the petition filed by Zainab Bibi.

In her petition, Bibi challenged the Gauhati High Court's order that upheld the tribunal's decision. She sought a stay on her deportation from India. "The petitioner shall not be deported, and no coercive action shall be taken against her in the meantime," the Supreme Court said, while directing that the matter be listed for hearing in the last week of August.



Bibi was earlier declared a foreigner by an Assam Foreigners' Tribunal, a judicial body tasked with identifying illegal immigrants in the state. She then approached the Gauhati High Court, which upheld the tribunal's decision. SUPREME COURT ON ROHINGYA REFUGEES The development comes weeks after another bench of the top court took a

tough stance on the deportation of Rohingya refugees. In May, the Supreme Court said if Rohingya refugees in the country were found to be 'foreigners' under the Foreigners Act, they would have to be deported as per the law. A three-judge bench had ruled that the right to reside anywhere within India was limited to its citizens.

The petitioners had argued that Rohingyas were at risk of genocide in Myanmar and contended that, as refugees, they had the right to remain in India. However, the top court remarked, "If they (refugees) have a right to stay here, it will be acknowledged. However, if they do not have a right, they will be deported as per the procedure prescribed in law".

Gangster, wanted for liquor baron's murder, killed in encounter at Delhi border

Agency New Delhi.

A notorious gangster wanted in several murder cases was killed in an encounter with police near the Delhi-Haryana border. Two personnel of the Delhi Police Special Cell sustained injuries during the encounter that broke out in the early hours of Tuesday.

Romil Vohra was a sharpshooter associated with the dreaded Kala Rana-Noni Rana gang. Vohra was wanted in connection with multiple criminal cases, including the June 14 murder of liquor baron Shantanu in Haryana's Yamunanagar district. The police had been tracking the gangster's movements since the sensational killing.

ENCOUNTER BREAKS OUT According to sources, Delhi Police's

counter-intelligence unit received a tip-off from the Haryana Police about the presence of Vohra near the interstate border. A joint team of Delhi and Haryana police were swiftly dispatched to the border region. Vohra

incident and were rushed to the hospital.

Vohra had several criminal cases registered against him, including charges of murder and extortion. He was named as the prime accused in the murder of liquor businessman Shantanu. Shantanu, who ran a liquor business spread across 12 districts, was shot dead by two bike-borne men on the national highway in Shahabad.

Vohra was also involved in a shooting incident in Yamunanagar last year, where he allegedly gunned down four individuals. A case under the Arms Act was registered against him. Police believe his death would deal a significant blow to the Kala Rana-Noni Rana network operating across northern India.



was spotted on Tuesday and as the police tried to nab him, he opened fire and attempted to flee. The police returned fire in self-defence, killing Vohra. Two sub-inspectors, Pravin and Rohan, sustained injuries in the

Chasing the catch, barefoot in the grind

Plastic sheets, fish guts and Styrofoam boxes clog open drain, kites and crows circle, stray dogs tear at scraps amid thin rules and regulations.

Agency New Delhi.

Start work at 3am while the city still sleeps, and the ice cuts my fingers till they bleed, but I have mouths to feed,” says Imran, hoisting a crate of mullet at Ghazipur Fish Market. For twelve years the wiry labourer from West Bengal has lived by the whistle of refrigerated lorries and the smell of offal. Each dawn he earns between Rs 500 and Rs 2,500 hauling fish from trucks to auction tables. After paying for a shared room and cheap food, he wires home about Rs 20,000 a month. “If I stop, the children stop eating,” he shrugs. Imran’s ordeal is echoed by hundreds across the market. Ghazipur, shifted from Jama Masjid in 2000, is now Delhi’s seafood artery, nearly 300 wholesalers and 1,500 labourers handle 200 tonnes daily from the coast. Restaurants would starve without them, yet these men stand ankle deep in melt water with no gloves, boots or medical cover. When COVID 19 shut the gates in 2020, Imran pawned his phone and hitch hiked home, surviving on boiled leaves. Debt soon dragged him back. It is a cycle that traps the poorest in the dirtiest jobs.

Traders see growth

“This market is 1000 times better than Jama Masjid,” says wholesaler Riaz, whose turnover tops Rs 40 lakh a day. “We businessmen must take responsibility for maintaining cleanliness. It’s not just the government’s duty; we should allocate resources for cleaning and train our workers accordingly,” he says. Hazards are everywhere. Doctors at a nearby hospital treat workers for foot fungus, infections and slipped discs. None of the men carry insurance. Long exposure to ice maims spines before forty. Cash only trade hides another cost. Rajesh, a customer from Kaushambi, waves notes and mutters about tax evasion. Vendors blame damp air for failing card machines, but suspicion lingers: an untaxed economy thrives while revenue leaks away.

Waste is impossible to ignore

Plastic sheets, fish guts and Styrofoam boxes clog the open drain beside the sheds. Kites and crows circle; stray dogs tear at



scraps. During lockdown, when waste vanished, vets recorded a spike in bird deaths, proof that even wildlife is chained to Ghazipur’s fortunes. A pair of waterproof boots costs Rs 900.

Last year Ghazipur’s turnover topped Rs 1,200 crore. Regulation is thin. The market committee employs four cleaners for the entire fish section; their hoses clog within hours. A single sign urging hygiene has peeled to blank tin. In 2018 the Delhi government announced a Rs 150 crore upgrade with cold stores, mechanised waste pits and a welfare centre. Seven

years on, the plan is still stuck in tenders, and the only new structure is a half built shed now sheltering strays. Mohammed Salim, who heads an informal workers’ committee, fumes: “We carry Delhi’s fish economy, yet on paper we don’t exist.” New labour codes require contractors to provide safety gear and insurance, but enforcement officers rarely cross the slimy threshold. Activists say fixes are cheap, protective gear, a sewage plant, digital payment points, a clinic open after hours. The cost, they insist, is a fraction of the cess collected every dawn. Imran’s shift begins with unloading, 40 kgs baskets of ribbon fish, seer and prawns hurled from the lorry to the slick concrete. By 5am the auction bell clangs and he darts between traders, negotiating puddles that hide shards of ice. Breakfast is a five rupee tea and a dry bun. By noon, when the sheds turn into ovens, the remaining fish is boxed for evening retail; hoses flush the floor, emptying straight into the open drain.

Oxblood lips

spider lashes: The perfect autumn look!

Surrounded by yellow and orange leaves, the breeze of autumn brings a new chapter of fashion every year. After the Paris, Milan, New York and London fashion weeks, people are completely enticed by the graphic eyeliners, glossy black lips, metallic shades, clumpy lashes and much more.

Accor

ding to the make-up artist and stylist Naunidh Singh, the three makeup trends which will get most celebrated this fall would be 'Oxblood Lips,' 'Spider lashes' and 'The Shimmery Golds.'

Firstly, the Oxblood is the color for the fall 2016. The year 2012 gave us a new name for a burgundy tilted red, oxblood. Deep and wild, this name does justice to the shade. With so much variety available in the market, its crucial to chose the oxblood shade which suits your skin-tone and the shape of your lips.

"The thumb rule is to choose purple based red for cooler undertones and for warmer undertones, like the indian skin, brick colour or brown loaded reds are recommended. Similarly, thin lips should go for lipsticks with a shiny or glossy look making them voluptuous and for fuller lips, matt should be the go to choice every time," Singh said.

"Remember, when doing such dark shades on your face, redness, blemishes and dark circles should be covered using correctors and concealers otherwise they will also stand out once you colour your lips with a deep red," added the artist.

Secondly, a teenager like attempt at lashes, clumpy and messy mascara look, is now desired by professionals in the name of spider lashes. Unlike before, perfectly defined lashes are not the only technique. This look is more fun than sexy. Spider lashes pop the eyes making it a hit among the younger women. Even though it sounds easy, a lot of mascara and efforts go into getting

the look.

"I suggest that the prominence of your lashes should be matched with the prominence of the brows. The bolder brows will bring out the effect of the spider lashes phenomenally and people won't be able to figure out whats so sexy about your eyes. Use a deep brown to fill them and shape them using a brow brush. See the difference and thank us later," Singh said.

Thirdly, shimmery golds are going to be every girl's rule book for parties this season. Just grab the sparkly gold from your palette and dress your eyes with it . To achieve this look just outline your lash line and water line with a black kohl . Add a little warm brown on your crease, outer corner and a little outside your water line, blend well to achive the ultimate smokey look. This will convert your look from an alien style to more edgy and chic. Now simply paste your shimmery gold on your lids and the inner corner.

Even though runways in Paris and Milan are setting trends in the world, our very own Desi style isn't far behind. Keep your mind open to the new techniques introduced by Indian artists as they are more probable to match your skin tone and type. Look around and if anything catches your eye, try it. Don't be afraid!



Why folks are obsessing over oil-based cleansers



This one is going to break age-old notions that you may have heard all along of how 'oil clogs the pores', how it's 'bad for sensitive skin' and more. But if the latest hype is anything to go by, oil-based face cleansers are becoming the new skin obsession. A case in point is how more celebs are turning to coconut oil to remove make-up as it is anti-inflammatory and a skin softener. Here's more...

HOW IT WORKS

Derived from natural plant oils, these cleansers use oil instead of the usual soap, grain, gel or milk-based cleansers, to remove dirt from the skin's surface. The oil attaches itself onto surface impurities, dissolving hardened dirt and when rinsed away, it takes the grime and dirt with it. Thus, the concept is based on using 'good oils' to remove the ill-effects of bad oils. We are often warned about how scrubbing the skin dry and depleting it of natural moisture can be harmful, and these cleaners fit right in as a solution. With their hydrating properties, they do away with that excess rubbing. You also have to find what suits you best. For instance, tea tree or even peppermint oil has astringent properties and works wonders for oily and troubled skin.

WHICH ONE SUITS YOU?

- Normal to dry skin: Rose, argan oil, orange
- Very dry skin: Olive oil, sweet almond
- Oily skin: Lemon oil, tea tree oil

HOW TO USE

- Massage the oil into the skin
- Allow it to stay on for about 20 seconds
- Wipe it off with a warm cloth
- Splash on a toner
- Usually no moisturiser is needed after oil cleaning



The beauty spot

Experts believe that fitness and beauty are two sides of the same coin.

The traditional understanding of beauty revolved around the external factors. Many a time, it was reduced to a few plastic elements, even if it came at the cost of health. But today, the understanding of what is essentially beautiful has undergone a sea change. While the previous focus delved solely on looks rather than personality, today the approach is a lot more holistic. The concept has taken a different turn for good. The idea of beauty has changed from good looks to a fit body. People are not only focused on looking good, they are also keen on maintaining the right weight, staying fit being at peace with oneself. "As much as external grooming is important to look beautiful, a good exercise regimen helps to keep the mind and body fit. I think it is essential to give importance to the aspect of fitness and it goes hand-in-hand with the concept of beauty. Eating the right kind of food, working out to stay within your Body Mass Index (BMI) and sleeping enough should be everyone's priority. Once these three important aspects are taken care of, your body will eventually show positive changes and your skin will look radiant and beautiful," says Vikram Mohan, CEO of Bounce Style Lounge, Chennai.

Incorporating fitness in your daily activities also improves your mental health. "Dedicating an hour's time in the morning to do yoga or your regular exercise makes a huge difference. You spend one hour meditating and prioritising your body's needs. During this period, you are cut off from all your stress. You can choose an exercise that suits you. For me, it is a combination of yoga and exercising at the gym. People can opt for aerobics, swimming, jogging, running or any other form," says Asha Jhabakh, a fitness freak.

Adopting a particular fitness style alone is not enough. Sticking to the regimen is equal important. "A regular work-out session helps in reducing aging process as exercising daily will help in keeping the skin healthy and young. Daily exercise will help strengthen muscles, correct one's posture, improve flexibility and increase metabolism," says Madhan of Acme Fitness, Chennai.

Apart from exercising, experts recommend that people need to take extra care of their skin and hair to enhance one's looks. "For a healthy skin, it is important to drink a lot of water and keep oneself hydrated. Before using a particular product, one needs to understand their skin

type and choose products accordingly. It is advisable to avoid a lot of exposure to direct sunlight to reduce tanning. Use the right kind of sunscreen," suggests Archana P, the head of strategic marketing at Naturals. For healthy hair, Archana suggests the use of a shampoo and conditioner regularly. "Conditioning nourishes your hair and gives it the right bounce. One should avoid warm water as it leads to drying and damages the hair. I would also recommend regular oiling," Archana says.



Stock market down 1%: Why did Sensex, Nifty fall after early gains

New Delhi. Sensex and Nifty erased early gains to tumble over 1% in the afternoon session. While the Sensex fell 900 points, the Nifty50 lost 200 points from the day's high to trade marginally higher.The S&P BSE Sensex was up 261.25 points to 82,158.04, while the NSE Nifty50 was up 96.85 points to 25,068.75 as of 2:33 pm.

Markets declined after Israel announced it had instructed its military to launch an attack on Tehran. This came in response to Iran firing missiles, which Israel said broke the ceasefire following 12 days of conflict.Earlier in the day, the indices had gained as much as 1.3%. Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz said that he had directed a strong military retaliation, accusing Iran of breaching the truce.

The rally in early trade came after US President Donald Trump declared a “total ceasefire” between Israel and Iran, easing concerns of prolonged geopolitical instability in the Middle East.

However, the ceasefire was short-lived as Iran fired missiles on Israel.Adani Ports led the gainers in the afternoon session with a 2.89% jump, followed by UltraTech Cement up 1.86%, Tata Steel gaining 1.61%, Kotak Mahindra Bank rising 1.60%, and Larsen & Toubro adding 0.98%.On the losing side, PowerGrid dropped 1.34%, NTPC fell 1.08%, Trent declined 0.94%, Reliance Industries was down 0.46%, and HCL Technologies slipped 0.43%.

India enters top 100 in global SDG rankings for first time; Nordic nations continue to top index

NEW DELHI. India has for the first time secured a place among the top 100 out of 167 countries ranked for their progress in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), according to a report published on Tuesday.According to the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network's 10th and latest Sustainable Development Report (SDR), India ranks 99th on the 2025 SDG Index with a score of 67, while China ranks 49th with 74.4 and the US 44th with 75.2 points.India ranked 109th in 2024, 112th in 2023, 121st in 2022, 120th in 2021, 117th in 2020, 115th in 2019, 112th in 2018 and 116th in 2017.

Among India's neighbours, Bhutan takes 74th place with 70.5 points, Nepal ranks 85th with 68.6, Bangladesh 114th with 63.9 and Pakistan 140th with 57 points. India's maritime neighbours, Maldives and Sri Lanka, stood at 53rd and 93rd places, respectively.SGDs were adopted in 2015 with the idea that to save the planet, no one should be left behind in the overall development matrix by 2030. The score measures progress on a scale of 0 to 100 where 100 indicates a country has achieved all 17 goals and 0 means no progress has been made.

The report's authors flagged that SDG progress has stalled at the global level, with only 17 percent of the 17 targets projected to be achieved by 2030. "Conflicts, structural vulnerabilities and limited fiscal space impede SDG progress in many parts of the world," said the report, with world-renowned economist Jeffrey Sachs as its lead author.

European countries, especially the Nordic nations, continue to top the SDG Index, with Finland ranking first, Sweden second and Denmark third. A total of 19 out of the top 20 countries are in Europe.Yet even these countries face significant challenges in achieving at least two goals, including those related to climate and biodiversity, largely due to unsustainable consumption, the authors said.

East and South Asia have outperformed all other global regions in terms of SDG progress since 2015 largely due to rapid socioeconomic development.The countries in East and South Asia that have demonstrated the fastest progress since 2015 (in points) include Nepal (+11.1), Cambodia (+10), the Philippines (+8.6), Bangladesh (+8.3) and Mongolia (+7.7).

Asian shares rally after Trump announces Israeli-Iran ceasefire

BANGKOK. Stocks rallied Tuesday after U.S. President Donald Trump announced a ceasefire in the Israel-Iran conflict, although the situation remained unclear as attacks continued.Trump said Israel and Iran had agreed to a "complete and total ceasefire" soon after Iran launched limited missile attacks Monday on a U.S. military base in Qatar, retaliating for the American bombing of its nuclear sites over the weekend.Uncertainty remained, with Israel not immediately confirming any ceasefire. It was unclear what the missile launches would do for the ceasefire's timeline.Trump's announcement on Truth Social said the ceasefire wouldn't begin until about midnight Tuesday, Eastern time. He said it would bring an "Official END" to the war.U.S. futures advanced, as contracts for the S&P 500 and the Dow Jones Industrial Average gained 0.5%.

In Asia, Tokyo's Nikkei 225 rose 1% to 38,756.00 and the Hang Seng in Hong Kong gained 1.7% to 24,078.94. The Shanghai Composite index climbed 0.9% to 3,411.92.In South Korea, the Kospi jumped 2.3% to 3,082.90, while Australia's S&P/ASX 200 gained 0.9% to 8,551.40.Oil prices fell further, after tumbling on Monday as fears subsided of an Iranian blockade of the Strait of Hormuz, a vital waterway for shipping crude.The price of oil initially jumped 6% after trading began Sunday night, a signal of rising worries as investors got their first chance to react to the U.S. bombings. But it quickly erased all those gains, with U.S. benchmark crude falling 7.2%. It dropped further early Tuesday, giving up 2.7% to \$66.67 per barrel. It had briefly topped \$78.Brent crude, the international standard, shed 2.5% early Tuesday to \$69.68.U.S. stocks rallied on Monday despite the United States' bunker-busting entry into its war with Israel.

Your CTC is lying to you: CA points out salary details most people overlook

CTC is total company expense, not your take-home salary
Components like gratuity, PF, bonuses often locked or uncertain
Many wrongly plan expenses based on gross CTC

New Delhi. Every year, thousands of professionals land what seem like impressive job offers. The Cost to Company (CTC) looks generous, the offer letter is celebrated, and expectations are high. But a few salary cycles in, disappointment kicks in. The in-hand salary feels much lower than expected,

and confusion sets in.The confusion often stems from a simple truth: CTC is what your company spends on you, not what you actually take home. This gap between expectations and reality is exactly what Chartered Accountant Abhishek Walia is warning against. In a recent LinkedIn post, Walia wrote, “Your CTC is lying to you!”Walia broke down what typically makes up a CTC and why it feels misleading. “Gratuity – Locked till 5 years. Not yours yet. Employer PF – Yours, but not liquid. Think long-term savings. Performance Bonus – Not guaranteed. Subjective, delayed. ESOPs – May sound glamorous, but only valuable if exercised plus liquid. Insurance



Premiums – Paid on your behalf, but no cash value in hand.”The real problem, according to him, isn’t just in the CTC structure; it’s in how employees interpret it. “Yet most people plan their lifestyle expenses based on CTC, which is a trap.”The post calls for a shift in how

professionals approach compensation. Walia encourages individuals to read beyond the headline number in their offer letters and ask more informed questions. What is fixed pay? What is variable? What is the vesting period for any ESOPs?His message is clear: understand your payslip in full, not just the top line. Focus on your net income because, in the end, “The real paycheck isn’t what’s written in your offer. It’s what you keep, grow, and protect.”The post is part caution and part financial literacy reminder. It challenges employees to take ownership of their earnings and not just celebrate the illusion of a big CTC.

Adani AGM 2025: Gautam Adani denies US bribery charges, asserts group's clean record

Ahead of its AGM, Adani Airports Holdings Limited (AAHL) on Tuesday confirmed securing \$1 billion in project finance for Mumbai International Airport Ltd (MIAL), which operates the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA).

New Delhi. The AGM for Adani Enterprises kicked off at 10:30 a.m., with Adani Ports set to follow at 12:30 p.m. Chairman Gautam Adani began the meeting by saluting the Indian armed forces for Operation Sindoor and also remembered the recent Air India plane crash.Adani Group Chairman Gautam Adani said the group’s capital investments are poised to break records, with plans to spend \$15–20 billion capex annually over the next five years, not just for business growth, but to contribute to India’s infrastructure development.During the AGM, Gautam Adani also addressed the bribery allegations brought by U.S. authorities, stating that no one from the group has been charged with violating the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act

(FCPA) or obstructing justice in connection with the bribery allegations



by U.S. authorities and the SEC.Referring to the scrutiny around Adani Green Energy, Adani said the group stood firm despite pressure. His remarks come after the US SEC summoned him and his nephew Sagar Adani over alleged bribery and misleading investors during a \$750 million bond issuance.Ahead of its

AGM, Adani Airports Holdings Limited (AAHL) on Tuesday confirmed securing \$1 billion in project finance for Mumbai International Airport Ltd (MIAL), which operates the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA).For the quarter ending March 2025, Adani Enterprises posted a 752% year-on-year (YoY) jump in profit to Rs 3,845 crore, up from Rs 451 crore last year. The rise was mainly due to an exceptional gain of Rs 3,286 crore. However, revenue from operations dipped 8% YoY to Rs 26,966 crore.Shares of all Adani Group companies traded in the green ahead of the AGM.Key announcements and the group’s future plans are likely to be shared during the AGMs.

Novo Nordisk rolls out its much-awaited obesity drug Wegovy in India

CHENNAI. Danish drugs and insulin maker Novo Nordisk launched Wegovy, its latest and the much-awaited weight-loss drug -- a once-a-week semaglutide injection, in India today (June 24). The drug is currently being distributed and will hit pharmacies by the end of June.

The Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) had in February 2025 approved Wegovy for chronic weight management and to reduce cardiovascular events after a select trial.According to the company, the five dose strengths of the obesity drug are available in 0.25?mg, 0.5?mg, 1?mg, 1.7?mg, and 2.4?mg, and the starter doses (0.25–1?mg) will cost Rs 4,366/week (\$50.7), or about ?17,345/month.While, the higher doses -- 1.7?mg and 2.4 mg are priced at Rs 24,280/month and Rs 26,015/month respectively.According to industry sources, the company advanced the



India launch, which was originally planned for 2026, to mid-2025 to stay ahead of rivals like Eli?Lilly’s Mounjaro.Novo aims to reach \$1?billion in Indian sales within 5–7 years, signaling high confidence in demand, the sources say.To meet global demand, Novo has invested over \$23?billion in production capacity and is running facilities 24/7 In India, it’s also building obesity clinics, training healthcare professionals, and partnering with state governments on obesity careWegovy competes with Eli Lilly’s Mounjaro (tirzepatide) as the

latter’s early presence in India made it crucial for Novo to fast-track Wegovy Patent and With semaglutide’s patent set to expire in India in 2026, local pharma giants (Sun Pharma, Cipla, Dr. Reddy’s, Biocon) are also developing generic versions. Novo had even filed a patent infringement suit to bar DRL and OneSource from selling semaglutide generics, although Delhi High Court restricted them pending an August hearing.India has over 250?million individuals with general obesity and 351?million with abdominal obesity. Around 24% of Indian adults are overweight or obese. However, despite strong demand, pricing remains a concern in India’s price-sensitive market. Novo aims to balance affordability with premium positioningThe company claims that Wegovy demonstrated about 15% body weight loss in global trials and reduces major cardiovascular events, setting it apart in the obesity care landscape.



Requirements) Regulations, 2015, along with recent Sebi circulars on contract awards “not in the normal course of business,” do not apply in this case. Since the projects are part of routine business activity, the firm was not obligated to disclose them in detail but chose to do so voluntarily.Market participants took this as a positive signal, interpreting the development as a sign of strong order inflow and business momentum.While the announcement lacked granular details, the headline figure of Rs 306 crore in new projects appears to have bolstered investor sentiment and sparked renewed interest in the stock.The jump adds to recent positive momentum for the company’s shares, which have seen steady gains in recent weeks amid growing interest in infrastructure and engineering firms with robust order books.Investors will now watch for future updates on project execution timelines and whether this order win translates into stronger financial performance in upcoming quarters.

In 2024, Ecuador's cocoa exports amounted to 3.6 billion dollars, 600 million dollars more than mining.

MILAGRO. In Ecuador, farmers who bet on cocoa beans rather than bananas, the country's top agricultural export, are cashing in as a global shortage of the main ingredient in chocolate feeds a price bonanza.Cocoa is now a billion-dollar business in the Andean country, rivalling gold, copper and silver as well as the ubiquitous banana.Near the Pacific port city of Guayaquil, in a region called Milagro (Miracle), 50-year-old farmer Cergio Lema can scarcely believe his luck.A few years ago, the price of cocoa "was so low you could only earn enough for the upkeep of the farm," he told AFP as he strolled through his plantation, examining the oblong cocoa pods ripening on his trees.But in the past two years, poor harvests linked to climate

change and disease in Ivory Coast and Ghana, which together account for over half of global cocoa output, have whipped global prices into a froth.Lema's income has more than tripled -- from 100 dollars for a 100-kilo (220 pound) sack of the beans packed inside each pod, to 350 dollars per sack.

Nowadays he dreams about expansion. "I have the vision of saving some money, taking out a loan, and buying another plot of land," he said.In 2024, Ecuador's cocoa exports amounted to 3.6 billion dollars, 600 million dollars more than mining.Between September 2024 and March 2025, the value of cocoa exports surpassed those of bananas, of which Ecuador is the world's top exporter, for the first time in six decades, according to the central bank.Marco Vasquez used his bonanza to modernize his farm in Los Rios province, in the southwest of the country."With the previous prices, it was impossible to invest, but now I've bought more seeds and constructed a small bridge to cross the stream that used to flood the plantations," the 42-year-old told AFP in a telephone

call.
Gangs sniff opportunities Ecuador, believed to be the original home of cocoa, is the world's third-largest producer of the so-called "food of the



gods," according to its agriculture ministry.It is also the biggest exporter of fine flavor cocoa, a premium variety prized by chocolate makers for its rich, fruity taste.But 90 percent of its production is of CCN-51, a genetically modified variety created in the 1980s to resist the bugs behind an outbreak of cocoa swollen shoot virus (CSSV), a disease ravaging crops in Ivory Coast and

Ghana."The current prosperity is no accident; we are reaping the benefits of years of private investment and research into a resilient variety," said Ivan Ontaneda, president of Ecuadoran cocoa exporters group Anecacao.African cocoa crops have also been wiped out by heavy rains and extreme drought, both of which experts have linked to climate change.In December 2024, international cocoa prices hit a record \$12,000 per metric ton on the back of the shortages, before falling back to about \$8,500 dollars currently.

Anecacao estimates that around 400,000 producers and exporters have benefitted from the price surge.

But the boom has left a bitter taste for some: cocoa growers are growing targets for the extortion gangs that hold businesses to ransom across Ecuador, Peru, Venezuela and other South American countries.

The rush to cash in on high prices also risks reputational damage to Ecuadoran cocoa. Environmental groups have repeatedly warned of rampant deforestation related to cocoa production.

Sara Ali Khan

Looks Fierce In A Red Jumpsuit With Bold Lipstick



Sara Ali Khan is currently gearing up for the release of her upcoming movie, Metro In Dino. This multi-starrer is set to release next month. Ahead of the release of the movie, she attended a promotional event for the film with the rest of the cast. Sara Ali Khan’s look for the event caught everyone’s attention as she looked fierce in a red jumpsuit.

Sara Ali Khan looked radiant in a red, pinstripe jumpsuit paired with a matching red and white watch. She wore a striking, red lipstick and used dainty jewellery to accessorise her look. She wore strappy heels to complete her look. The actress opted for subtle makeup besides the lipstick, and rocked some power poses as she posed for the paps. The fitted silhouette added a flirty touch to the overall look. Have a look here:

Meanwhile, Metro In Dino carries forward the legacy of the interconnected stories in Life In A Metro, which was released in 2007. It is set to explore the complexities of modern-day relationships in the fast-paced world. The film is slated for release on July 4. The romantic drama draws its title from the popular song In Dino from the previous film. It is written and directed by Anurag Basu. In his signature storytelling style, the filmmaker has weaved together four different stories of love, heartbreak and human connection in the upcoming flick.

Metro In Dino is produced by T-Series Films and Anurag Basu Productions. The film’s dialogue is written by Samrat Chakraborty. The film, shot across Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Lucknow, has been generating enough buzz online for its emotionally rich, layered narratives. Set to release on July 4, Metro In Dino also stars Aditya Roy Kapur, Pankaj Tripathi, Konkona Sen Sharma, Anupam Kher, Neena Gupta, Fatima Sana Shaikh, and Ali Fazal. Metro In Dino is poised to be a heartfelt slice-of-life drama with multiple storylines interwoven through a city’s emotional chaos.



Rashmika Mandanna’s

Appreciation Post For Kuberaa Co-Star Dhanush: ‘Gem Of A Person’

Rashmika Mandanna is all praise for her Kuberaa co-star Dhanush. A day after the film’s success meet, the actress shared an unseen picture from the event, and penned a lovely ‘appreciation note’ for him. She mentioned that despite working on an entire film together, they have only one selfie to show for it. She then went on to heap praise on him, calling him a ‘gem of a person’ who works extremely hard. She hailed his kindness and also recalled him giving her ‘laddoos’ on set, and also thanked him for helping her with her Tamil lines every day on set. On Monday, Rashmika Mandanna took to her Instagram to share a picture with Dhanush from Kuberaa success meet. The selfie, clicked by the actress, shows them smiling happily for the picture. In her caption, she wrote, “@dhanushkraj sir, This is literally the only picture I have with you despite of doing an entire film with you.. This is a random appreciation post for you. You’ve been an absolute gem of a person.. Thankyou so much for working so incredibly hard each and every

day (only know this cz every time we talk we are in different cities, doing different things and talking about how important rest is but how we are never actually able to do anything about it) and for giving us this kind of performance not only in Kuberaa, but in everything that you do.. it’s nothing short of incredible.” She further added, “You’ve been so incredibly kind, not only to me but everyone who I’ve seen you interact with.. and that I’ll remember forever the number of laddoos you’ve given me on set.. the way you’d help me with my Tamil lines everyday.. when you liked the way I’d do a scene and you’d say.. ‘that was nice..’ These might all be small things but they really stay with you.. @dhanushkraj sir. I wish you the bestest for everything in the future and last but not the least.. Yaaaay! We did it!” Dhanush was deeply moved by Rashmika’s post for him, and he commented, “Such a beautiful post. Thank you for being your incredible self. Keep your amazing positive energy going. More power to you.”



Anushka Sharma Is The 'Primary Caregiver' For Kids As Virat Kohli 'Plays Round The Year'



Anushka Sharma married Virat Kohli and slowly started stepping away from the limelight when she became pregnant with her first child, Vamika Kohli. It has been a while since we have seen Anushka Sharma in a film, and ever since the birth of her son Akaay Kohli, the actress has also reduced her public appearances. In an interview with Vogue after Vamika’s birth, Anushka said that she is the primary caregiver for her child. She mentioned that Virat Kohli has to play cricket throughout the year, but she can choose how many films she wants to do and when she wants to do them. She emphasised that she will focus primarily on her kids, especially during the early years of their lives. Reflecting on how she and Virat split duties, Anushka said, “We don’t see it as mum and dad duties, but as a family unit. For us, it’s important that our child be raised with a very balanced outlook. It is all about shared duties. I will be the primary caregiver, especially in the first few years, and that’s the reality... I am self-employed, and I can decide when I am working, if I do one or two films a year. In Virat’s case, he plays round the year. What becomes important is the time we spend together as a family.”

The actress added, “Times have changed. It’s important for children to look at their parents—they learn from you. And there is a sense of normalcy that both of us work. Of course, one will have to manage things differently and more efficiently to work... Conditioning is the most important role in how we see the world. I come from a progressive background, so that will always be a part of our home. Love is the underlying factor in our home, and what’s important to us is that our child be respectful of people. You have to create that value structure. We don’t want to raise brats.”

Priyanka Chopra Channels Boss Lady Energy With John Cena, Idris Elba For Heads of State



Priyanka Chopra is serving serious boss lady energy as she kicks off promotions for her upcoming action-comedy Heads of State. The global icon recently took to Instagram to share a series of stylish photos from her day out in New York City with co-stars John Cena and Idris Elba. The trio is currently promoting the film ahead of its release on Prime Video on July 2.

In the photos, Priyanka Chopra looks striking in a sharp black shirt paired with matching boot-cut trousers. Her look exudes confidence, glamour and elegance, traits fans have long associated with the actor. Seated between Idris Elba, who sported a relaxed ivory T-shirt with brown jeans, and John Cena, who rocked a blue-striped formal suit, Priyanka effortlessly took center stage. She captioned the post, “The scene is sharp. The mood electric. And we’re not here by accident.”

"Fans flooded the comments section, praising her look and charisma. Comments like “Lovvvveeeee this look of yours,” “Bollywood and Hollywood royalty,” and “Looking very sharp indeed, Priyanka!” filled the post, with many fans calling her a “boss lady” and even “Ms James Bond with Bond boys.”

Heads of State is directed by Ilya Naishuller, known for his adrenaline-pumping direction in Nobody. The film brings together an action-packed trio: Priyanka as MI6 agent Sam Clarke, Idris Elba as UK Prime Minister Noel Bisset, and John Cena as US President Will Derringer. The unlikely trio must work together to stop a dangerous global conspiracy.

The trailer teases high-octane sequences and witty banter, with Priyanka in full action mode as she leads the charge. The cast also includes Paddy Considine, Stephen Root, Carla Gugino, Jack Quaid, and Sarah Niles.

Produced by Amazon MGM Studios, Heads of State promises a fast-paced blend of action and comedy, with international stakes and star-studded performances. The film will be available for streaming on Prime Video starting July 2.

NEWS BOX

We will go for win, that's the clear message in change room: Tongue

LEEDS. England fast bowler Josh Tongue said they will go all out for a victory against India on the fifth and final day of the first Test here on Tuesday.England ended day four at 21 without loss, needing 350 more runs to clinch the match and take a 1-0 lead in the five-match series.

If successful, it would mark England's second-highest successful run chase in Test cricket and the second-best at this venue.

"No. Just go for the win. That's the clear message in the changing room," said Tongue when asked about England's approach in the final innings."Hopefully we're not in that situation (draw) anyway. We'll try and be as positive as we can in that first session, then see where we are at lunch - then we'll take things from there."Tongue said the current England batting line up has the belief of chasing down any target against any side.

"With our batting line-up I feel we can chase down anything. Their bowlers are going to bowl well in periods, but it's about soaking up that pressure and putting it back on the bowlers. I don't see why we can't chase it," he said."Obviously we're really confident. If you look at our batting line-up it's very strong. We play a positive brand of cricket."

Playing only his fourth Test, Tongue (3/72) took three wickets in four deliveries to help England dismiss India for 364 in their second innings.Tongue, is nicknamed 'The



Mop' by his England and Nottinghamshire teammate Ben Duckett for running through the opposition's lower order.And on Monday he did the same dismissing India's numbers eight, nine and 10 in the same over. "I've done it twice now, so I might have to start calling myself that," Tongue said of his nickname."Obviously that's part of the game. I'm happy to contribute to the team by getting those wickets," he added.

Emma Raducanu praises Wimbledon after stalker blocked from buying tickets

New Delhi. Emma Raducanu has expressed her gratitude to Wimbledon organisers for blocking her stalker from purchasing tickets to this year's Championships, calling the move a reassurance of her safety as a professional athlete.The British tennis star had been subjected to a frightening ordeal earlier this year, after a man followed her across multiple tournaments and attempted to approach her in person. He was later handed a restraining order by Dubai police but continued to pose a threat, attempting to secure tickets to Wimbledon despite the legal restrictions.Thanks to enhanced security measures at the All England Club, his name was flagged during a routine check of public ballot applicants, and his attempt to buy tickets was blocked."Wimbledon and everyone did an amazing job," Raducanu told the BBC. "I got a notification, the police contacted me and told me everything was OK."The 22-year-old, who had encountered the man at events in Singapore, Abu Dhabi



and Doha, recalled breaking down in tears after spotting him during a match at the Dubai Championships in February. His persistent presence deeply unsettled her, leading to heightened concerns about her safety on and off the court."I know that I'm not the first athlete to go through this, and I probably won't be the last - not just as an athlete, but females in general," she said.Raducanu, who rose to global prominence with her stunning 2021 US Open triumph, said she now travels with significantly more protection, especially at major tournaments like Wimbledon.

"I have a lot more protection around me - especially the ones here in the UK, where it's busy and there's more spectators around. I feel a difference, and that reassures me and makes me feel more comfortable," she added.The British No.3 also praised compatriot Katie Boulter for opening up about her own experiences of online abuse, highlighting the emotional toll of toxic messages on athletes.

ENG vs IND: Sunil Gavaskar reveals he wanted to do backstand after Rishabh Pant's hundred

☛Pant scored centuries in both innings against England

☛He mimicked Dele Alli's celebration after second century

☛Gavaskar admitted he wanted to do a backstand

New Delhi. Former India captain Sunil Gavaskar has never shied away from expressing his admiration for Rishabh Pant, and on Day 4 of the first Test between India and England, the legendary opener was once again full of praise for the flamboyant wicketkeeper-batter. After Pant completed his second century of the match, Gavaskar made a light-hearted yet heartfelt revelation on air - that he had been tempted to mark the moment with a backstand of his own.Pant became the first Indian wicketkeeper to



score centuries in both innings of a Test match, celebrating his second hundred in unique fashion, mimicking a gesture made famous by English footballer Dele Alli - a change from his usual somersault celebration. Watching from the Sony Sports studio, Gavaskar was seen gesturing animatedly towards the stands, asking Pant to bring out his now-iconic front flip



celebration - the same one he had performed after his first-innings century. Gavaskar, however, was equally prepared to celebrate in his own way."You know what, I've got to confess that after that I came here and I, and I tried not to do the backflip, no chance of, at my age, but I used to do the backstand and I was looking to do the backstand," Gavaskar said during the post-match analysisSo if I

could do it successfully then, then I would have shown it here, but I wasn't able to," he added with a smile.

With his second hundred in the match, he etched his name into the record books, becoming just the second wicketkeeper in Test history to score centuries in both innings of a match, and the first Indian to achieve the feat.

ENG vs IND 1st Test Day 4 Highlights

Gavaskar, beaming with pride, said Pant's return to form and fitness was deeply emotional, especially considering his harrowing road back after a serious car accident in late 2022."Very, very happy. I mean, anytime an Indian does well, you feel very happy because you know the passion for cricket in India, how just about every, in every family, I'm sure

there is at least one person who—it might not be everybody - at least one person who follows the game," Gavaskar said.

"And therefore to make that family happy, if you can do well, if India does well, then naturally it is, it's a great feeling. And so to see this young kid, come back, I mean, look what had happened to him with all those, with that crash," he added.

ENG vs IND: Why are so many catches being dropped at Headingley

Leeds Test: India and England struggled with multiple dropped catches in the Leeds Test match. Former England captain Alastair Cook explained why both teams were dropping chances at slips.

Leeds. I did not want to create a scene," said Jasprit Bumrah at the end of Day 3's play in the 1st Test match between India and England. India had dropped three catches off Bumrah's bowling, which frustrated the bowler, but as per his own admission, he did not want to create a scene as no one wanted to drop catches purposefully.India's issues with catching did not stop there as they spilled three more chances in the field, taking the tally to 6 in total. The dropped chances gave Harry Brook valuable life, which he used to score 99 runs in England's first innings, helping the hosts to wipe off



India's first innings score.

The issue of butterfingers was not limited to just the visitors, as England dropped four chances in the field during India's second innings. KL Rahul and Rishabh Pant were dropped just before reaching their respective centuries, momentarily sinking their morale on Day 4 of the match.

WHY ARE SO MANY CATCHES BEING DROPPED IN LEEDS?The majority of the chances were dropped in the slip cordon, with Yashasvi Jaiswal being the biggest culprit of them all. On social media platforms, Jaiswal was berated left, right and centre, as people forgot his usual brilliance at short leg in the recent past.But why did the fielders drop so many catches from both sides? Former England captain Alastair

Cook had an excellent explanation for it at the end of Day 4. Speaking on BBC's Test Match Special, Cook said that there could be two factors contributing to the dropped catches at Leeds, and both issues were Leeds-specific problems.Cook broke down the two issues, starting with the slope at Leeds. The former opener said that while he was unsure about this one, for young cricketers who have not played in England a lot, the slope could be a big factor making it difficult to concentrate."So we've heard from a number of interviews at the end of the play, that this is a hard-catching ground. Ollie Pope mentioned it and five catches have gone down in the slip cordon.We're standing here, you can see the marks actually where the players make, so they're standing in the right place exactly where they are. And I think it's probably two possible reasons why," Alastair Cook said.

"The first I'm not so sure about is actually the slope, where the players aren't used to the slope. The square behind just there is quite a long way above where we are, so whether that makes an impact on where you're catching it," he added.

Neeraj Chopra enters Ostrava Golden Spike as favourite ahead of homecoming

New Delhi After securing his first win of the season with a fantastic performance at the Paris Diamond League, Neeraj Chopra now shifts his focus to the Ostrava Golden Spike 2025 - a World Athletics Continental Tour (Gold level) meeting - scheduled for Tuesday, June 24. With the 90m barrier finally breached and a title already in his bag, this will be Neeraj's final competition before he returns home to Bengaluru for the inaugural Neeraj Chopra Classic on July 5.This will be Neeraj's first appearance at the Golden Spike event, having missed out in recent years due to injury. But this time, the 27-year-old arrives with momentum on his side, enjoying a strong run of form under the guidance of Jan Zelezny. It will be his fifth outing of the season, following impressive performances at the Diamond League meets in Doha and Paris.By his own



admission, Neeraj's primary goal this season is the World Championships in Tokyo, where he will enter as the defending champion. However, a strong showing in Ostrava would serve as ideal preparation for the championship in Japan later this year, while also underlining the progress he has made under Zelezny's mentorship."I am

really happy to work with such a great athlete and coach. I've already thrown 90m this year after a little bit more improvement in technique. So, let's see when it comes next time, but I am ready," said Neeraj."Recently we've done a good training in Nymburk so I'll do my best here in Ostrava."

"Main goal for the season is obviously, the World Championships in Tokyo."

Neeraj was a guest at the event last year and now has the chance to impress everyone with his skills."When I was kid, I watched a lot of videos and photos of athletes like Usain Bolt competing here (at Ostrava Golden Spike). I came last year, but I didn't compete because of injury. Now I feel good, but I don't want to put any pressure on myself for 90m. But I'll try really hard," Neeraj said.



England, and only the second globally after Zimbabwe's Andy Flower.Pant had earlier attempted a reckless shot, prompting an audible moment of frustration picked up by the stump mic: "If you want to hit, do it with a straight bat next ball. Why are you trying to score forcefully?" His self-admonishment preceded a more disciplined, yet still attacking, knock as he switched gears post-lunch to take the game to the bowlers.He was eventually dismissed attempting a big shot off Shoaib Bashir, finding Zak Crawley at long-on. Until then, Pant had tormented England's bowlers with an array of aggressive strokes, mixing finesse with brute force.Rahul, meanwhile, delivered a masterclass in restraint and timing, anchoring India's innings with his calm presence. He reached his hundred with quiet authority, after earlier surviving a tough chance at gully when Harry Brook put down a quick offering off Josh Tongue.India began the day with a 96-run lead, but suffered an early blow as captain Shubman Gill chopped.

Expected stubbornness but Jay Shah is honest and proper: Ganguly on tenure as BCCI President

Asked about their power dynamics, Ganguly said he and Jay Shah, despite their backgrounds, shared a cordial relationship that continues to this day.

NEW DELHI. Reflecting on his eventful tenure as BCCI President, Sourav Ganguly has revealed that he expected a "certain kind of toughness and stubbornness" from the then Board secretary and current ICC chairman Jay Shah but was left impressed with his "honesty" and resolve to do things "properly".Ganguly and Shah were colleagues at the world's richest cricket board from October 2019 to September 2022, navigating a tumultuous phase caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, which brought sporting activity to a grinding halt for few months."He (Jay) had his own way of doing

things but the best thing about him was he wanted to do things properly for Indian cricket," Ganguly told PTI in an exclusive interview at his residence in Kolkata."See, he had the power, the support, so you expected certain kind of toughness, stubbornness from him but he would do things for Indian cricket," the iconic former captain explained, referring to Shah's status of being the son of Home Minister Amit Shah.It was the first time that both Ganguly and Shah held BCCI positions.

Before that, Ganguly had headed the Cricket Association of Bengal, while Shah was an office-bearer in the Gujarat Cricket Association.While Ganguly was replaced by another former Test player Roger Binny in 2022, Shah continued as BCCI secretary till November 2024 before taking over as the youngest ever ICC chairman at 36 years of age.Asked about how the power dynamics and relationship was between the scion of a political family and a celebrated cricket star, Ganguly said they shared a cordial equation



which has continued to this date.

"Relationship was very good. It's still very good. When he came in September 2019. He was a young boy, straight from Gujarat CA, very cooperative, approachable," he recalled."Obviously, he had opinions and rightfully so, he wanted to do things and still does, he is the ICC chairman and it is a bigger post."Ganguly believes that with time, Shah became better at his job.

"He is very supportive of players. He got better as he learnt. The good thing about him was he

wanted to do good for the game," the soon-to-be-53 superstar said.The Kolkata-based legend said Shah was acutely aware of his status and always wanted to carry out his work in a principled manner.

"He is very honest, he always had the thought (about) who he was at the back of his mind, what baggage he carried. So, he wanted to do things rightfully and properly all the time. All of us made mistakes, I did, he did. It was never intentional but the game never stopped," Ganguly added.

The former captain said they do bump into each other occasionally.

"He has progressed; he is the ICC Chairman now. You see him at times because you live in different cities. I am not involved in administration, I wish him the best. I saw him in England this time for a little bit. I meet him in ICC meetings because I am the chair of the (ICC cricket) committee and he wants the game to grow and go forward."