

Outrage in Rohini: Sikh Youth Abducted, Tortured, and Humiliated by Delhi Police Without Warrant

Gurcharan Singh Babbar

In a shocking incident that has sent ripples across Delhi's Sikh community, a young Sikh man was allegedly abducted without warrant, brutally tortured in police custody, and subjected to inhuman humiliation by police officers of KN Katju Marg Police Station, Rohini Sector-16. The incident occurred on the evening of June 1, 2025, raising serious concerns about abuse of power, custodial violence, and targeted harassment.

The victim, Sardar Amrit Singh, a resident of Sardar Colony, Sector-16, Rohini, was reportedly forcefully taken from his home by six police officers without any warrant or prior intimation. Eyewitnesses confirm that he was dragged out of his house in front of his wife, Mrs. Neha Kaur, who immediately alerted the Delhi Police PCR unit. After some delay, PCR officials informed the family that Amrit Singh was taken to KN Katju Marg Police Station.

What unfolded next is a chilling tale of custodial brutality. According to Amrit Singh's testimony post-release, he was ruthlessly beaten through the night, allegedly by Manmeet Singh Gill and other officers. He stated that during the custodial assault, the officers demanded ₹20,000 as a bribe, threatening him with false implication in a heinous

crime if he failed to pay.

What has deeply disturbed the Sikh community is Amrit Singh's horrifying claim that two police officers urinated on his face during the night while laughing, a barbaric act he says was done deliberately to insult his identity and faith. He also stated the officers appeared to be under the influence of alcohol during the ordeal.

The next morning, Amrit Singh was released on bail without any formal charges being publicly disclosed. His aging mother has since written a detailed complaint and appeal for justice to:

- The Hon'ble Prime Minister of India
- The Union Home Minister
- The Lieutenant Governor of Delhi
- The Chief Minister



of Delhi

→ The President of the Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee

→ Sikh Minister and community leader Sardar Manjinder Singh Sirsa

We demand immediate suspension and arrest of the accused officers, a high-level judicial inquiry, and protection for Amrit Singh and his family.

This case involves several serious offences, including illegal detention, custodial assault, extortion, religious insult, and criminal intimidation, all punishable under Indian law.

The Sikh Times strongly urges the Delhi Police Commissioner to take swift and transparent action. Custodial torture is a stain on any democracy, and when committed by uniformed officers, it becomes a direct challenge to the rule of law.

Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh- A Journey of National Service and Discipline

Special Correspondent

The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), founded on 27 September 1925 by Dr. Keshav Baliram Hedgewar in Nagpur, has grown to become the largest voluntary socio-cultural organization in India. With its commitment to discipline, patriotism, and selfless service, the RSS has played a significant role in shaping India's nationalist narrative.

RSS is rooted in the philosophy of "Hindutva", a term often misunderstood but defined by the Sangh as cultural nationalism rather than religious extremism. Its objective has always been to unite the people of India by emphasizing Bharatiya Sanskriti (Indian culture) and character-building, especially among youth.

With shakhas (daily gatherings) operating across thousands of towns and villages, the RSS inculcates moral discipline, physical training, and national pride. These gatherings



often involve prayers, games, discussions on nation-building, and self-improvement exercises. During times of natural calamities such as earthquakes, floods, and pandemics, the RSS has been at the forefront of relief and rescue operations. Be it the 1999 Odisha Super Cyclone, the 2001 Gujarat Earthquake, or the COVID-19 pandemic, RSS volunteers, also known as swayamsevaks, have mobilized quickly to serve affected communities regardless of caste, religion, or political affiliation. The organization also supports

educational and social upliftment projects through its affiliated organizations like Vidyabharti, Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram, Seva Bharati, and Bharatiya Vikas Parishad, among others. These institutions provide education, healthcare, and vocational training in remote and underserved areas.

At present, the RSS is led by its Sarsanghchalak, Shri Mohan Bhagwat, who took charge in 2009 after the retirement of K.S. Sudarshan. Born in 1950 in Chandrapur, Maharashtra, Bhagwat is one of the youngest to have held the top position. He has a science background, having studied veterinary sciences, and joined RSS as a full-time pracharak (campaigner) in 1975.

Under his leadership, the RSS has seen efforts toward social integration, including outreach to marginalized communities and engagement with

diverse religious and cultural groups. Bhagwat has also spoken out on modern challenges like environmental protection, education reform, and national unity, calling for self-reliant India (Atmanirbhar Bharat) and harmony beyond religious lines.

Despite criticism and ideological opposition, the RSS remains a significant socio-political force. It is the ideological backbone of several prominent Indian leaders and institutions, and its swayamsevaks are present across the fields of politics, business, education, and rural development.

While debate continues over the RSS's political and cultural influence, few can deny the organization's contribution to fostering a culture of discipline, nationalism, and volunteerism. As India moves forward, the RSS continues to evolve—balancing tradition with contemporary challenges under the guidance of Mohan Bhagwat.

ISI wants someone to win: Assam probing Pak-linked social media profiles

Guwahati. Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Wednesday said that around 1,000 Facebook accounts, suspected to be operated from Pakistan and Bangladesh, are under investigation by the state police. He added that these accounts are allegedly targeting Assam politics and stated that even Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence "wants someone to win". He added that these Facebook profiles are allegedly involved in coordinated online activity aimed at influencing Assam's political environment ahead of the 2026 Assembly elections. Addressing the media after a cabinet meeting, Sarma said that he had directed the Special Branch of Assam Police to scrutinise over 2,000 Facebook accounts that have been regularly commenting on political developments in the state. According to him, nearly half of these accounts were traced to users based in Pakistan and Bangladesh. These accounts were created on the same day by members of a



particular community, keeping the upcoming elections in mind," Sarma said, suggesting a planned effort to manipulate public perception. He added, "If you go through the comments, you will realise that these are not names familiar to our state. The intention is clear. Somebody wants a particular outcome in the elections. Even the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) wants someone

to win." The chief minister also indicated that the number of such accounts could increase in the coming months. Sarma further said that more information will be made public on September 10, when the Special Investigation Team (SIT) of Assam Police is expected to submit its report regarding Congress MP and Assam Congress president Gaurav Gogoi and his wife Elizabeth Colebourn. The ongoing investigation reportedly looks into Elizabeth's earlier stay in Pakistan during her work with a climate change NGO and Gogoi's visit to the country in 2013 before he became an MP. Gogoi has denied any wrongdoing and accused the Assam government of targeting his family to divert public attention. He has demanded that the chief minister release the findings of the investigation immediately rather than wait until September. He also clarified that his wife's stay in Pakistan was purely professional and unconnected.

Even after knowing about deaths, Siddaramaiah went to eat halwa, dosa: BJP

The BJP alleges that the Bengaluru stampede began even before Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah reached the venue. They claimed he knew of the deaths but still went ahead with the event and went to a hotel to eat badam halwa.



New Delhi. The Karnataka BJP alleged that the stampede outside Bengaluru's Chinnaswamy Stadium that resulted in 11 deaths, had already begun to unfold even before Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah arrived at the Vidhana Soudha for the RCB felicitation event. Chaluvadi Narayanaswamy, Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council, alleged that the Chief Minister chose to dine at a hotel, to eat badam halwa, even after being informed of multiple deaths caused by the stampede.

"Instead of rushing to the hospital to meet the injured and take stock of the situation, the Chief Minister went to a hotel to eat badam halwa," Narayanaswamy said. "Yesterday evening at 5.30pm, while 11 people lay dead after a tragic incident, Siddaramaiah was enjoying masala dosa and badam halwa at Hotel Janardhana. He was already aware that people had died. What a public concern our Chief Minister has. This is the complete

downfall of a so-called socialist Chief Minister," Prakash Sesharaghavachar, BJP Karnataka spokesperson, wrote on X.

The BJP also released a timeline of events claiming that the stampede began even before players reached the venue, and that some victims died before the Chief Minister even arrived at the Vidhana Soudha. They alleged Siddaramaiah

went ahead with the event despite knowing about the unfolding tragedy. According to the BJP, the first fatality, 32-year-old Poornachandra, was recorded at Vydehi Hospital as early as 3.45 pm. Another unknown male was declared dead at the same hospital by 4.00 pm.

Karnataka BJP President Vijayendra questioned why the government went ahead with celebrations at the Vidhana Soudha even after news of deaths and injuries had started emerging. "Even before the players had left the Taj West End Hotel, the stampede had already occurred near the Chinnaswamy Stadium," Vijayendra said.

"At the time of the incident, ambulances were not arranged. The state government must take full responsibility for the incident that occurred yesterday. The government has ordered an investigation by a magistrate, but not a judicial enquiry. The Chief Minister and the ministers have become overly obsessed with publicity," he said.

BJP says stampede began before Siddaramaiah reached venue
Chief Minister went to hotel to eat badam halwa, claims BJP
Timeline of stampede deaths released by BJP

NEWS BOX

AAI joins hands with PFA to control stray dog menace at Chennai airport

CHENNAI. The Airports Authority of India (AAI) has partnered with animal rights organisation People for Animals (PFA) to address the growing menace of stray dogs at Chennai International Airport.

The initiative, launched on Tuesday, is focused on sterilising and vaccinating dogs living in and around the airport premises, while promoting a humane and sustainable model for animal management. Two trained dog handlers have been deployed on-site to monitor canine activity, discourage passengers from feeding the animals, and support the sterilisation programme.

"There are around 50 dogs in the vicinity, and nearly half of them have already been sterilised. We are ensuring the rest of the community dogs are also covered," said K Ramesh, president of PFA's Tambaram chapter. Ramesh prefers to refer to these dogs as "community dogs" rather than strays.

Upset over usage of Bharat Mata's photo at Raj Bhavan, Kerala minister skips environmental day event

Thiruvananthapuram. There is a controversy that broke out on the World Environment Day celebrations at the Raj Bhavan when state Agriculture minister P Prasad raised objections to the use of a photo of Bharat Mata, which he claimed is associated with the RSS. When the minister asked the Raj Bhavan to rethink on the use of the photo, governor Rajendra Arlekar has rejected the request and have decided to conduct the event in the central hall of the Raj Bhavan. The Agriculture minister said that Governor Rajendra Arlekar refused to remove the photo. The event was shifted to the Durbar Hall where the Chief minister had directed the chief secretary to join the meeting.

Speaking to reporters, the minister said that it is "unconstitutional" to use the symbols of political and religious groups in government programmes. "How can it be used in a government programme? It is against the Constitution, which mandates that everyone should be treated the same," he added.

Prasad said that the Kerala government respects Mother India and the country. "But we cannot justify the use of a picture which is not officially recognized," he said.

Regarding the participation of RSS ideologue S Gurumoorthy at a recent event in Raj Bhavan, Prasad said that Raj Bhavan should not be a venue to host individuals associated with political groups.

"Individuals who do not hold official or constitutional posts, controlling the Raj Bhavan, is dangerous for Indian democracy," he added. Meanwhile, the state BJP hit out at the LDF government and the minister's decision to refrain from participating in the event by raising the objection on the photo of Bharat Mata.

Kochi corporation collects Rs 1.33-crore fine in waste dumping crackdown

KOCHI. In a bid to tackle rampant waste dumping, the Kochi corporation has collected a total of Rs 1.33 crore in fines over the past two years and four months. In 2024, the corporation collected Rs 83.72 lakh — a sharp rise from the 2023 figure of Rs 27.55 lakh. And till April this year, fines worth Rs 22.42 lakh have already been imposed on violators.

Despite these efforts, several parts of Ernakulam district continue to grapple with garbage heaps, creating an eyesore and posing health hazards. Civic officials stress that public awareness and collective responsibility are key to restoring Kochi's beauty. One incident that drew public attention in recent times involved playback singer M G Sreekumar whose residence near the Bolgatty Palace was filmed — by a tourist — with a garbage bag being thrown into the backwaters. The Mulavukad panchayat fined the singer Rs 25,000, which he promptly paid but clarified that he was penalised unfairly as the housekeeper had only thrown discarded mangoes into the water body.

Mayor M Anilkumar said the city is leading the efforts in waste management with a centralised system that integrates the corporation with municipalities nearby. "The Brahmapuram biomining initiative has processed 90% of legacy waste.

Other facilities include two compressed biogas (CBG) plants, two black soldier fly (BSF) plants, and an upcoming refuse derived fuel (RDF) plant for plastic waste. The windrow compost plant remains a core facility ensuring operational continuity," he said. In addition, Kochi corporation operates six decentralised plants and several resource recovery facilities (RRFs).

Innovations such as bottle booths and container wheels have been introduced to improve waste segregation and public participation.

Yogi Adityanath turns 53: PM Narendra Modi & BJP leaders hail UP's growth under his leadership

LUCKNOW. Wishes poured in from across all quarters for UP chief minister Yogi Adityanath, who celebrated his 53rd birthday on Thursday. The occasion was marked by hundreds of greetings for the CM on social media as well, with supporters using hashtags like #PopularChiefMinister and #HinduHridaySamrat to wish him on his birthday.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi praised the CM for his work towards UP's development, stating: "Birthday greetings to UP CM Yogi Adityanath Ji. He worked tirelessly for the development of UP across various sectors, significantly improving the quality of life for its people. Wishing him a long and healthy life." Thanking him for his wishes, Yogi Adityanath said: "Heartfelt thanks to the Honourable Prime Minister for your gracious and inspiring wishes that fill the heart with warmth, energy, and encouragement. Your blessings are a boundless source of strength in our mission to bring positive change to the lives of 25 crore people of UP. Under your visionary leadership,



illuminated by the spirit of 'Nation First', UP is steadfastly progressing toward the goal of a 'Viksit Bharat – Viksit UP'." Several state and union ministers took to social media to wish Yogi Adityanath. In his message, home minister Amit Shah said: "The double-engine govt is successfully delivering the benefits of development and welfare schemes to every citizen. I pray to God for your good health and long life." Defence minister and MP from Lucknow Rajnath Singh wrote: "In recent years, CM Yogi Adityanath took UP to new heights of development. He continues to work

tirelessly for progress and public welfare. May God bless him with good health and a long life!"

Union minister for road transport and highways Nitin Gadkari prayed for the CM's good health, longevity, and a prosperous life, while Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla also prayed for his joyful life and long years ahead. CMs of various BJP-ruled states also wished Yogi Adityanath. Bhupendra Patel, Gujarat CM, said: "Under the guidance of the PM and your leadership, UP is progressing rapidly. I pray to Lord Shri Ram for your good health."

Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma commended the UP CM for his contribution to the state's development and the empowerment of the poor and underprivileged, while Prem Singh Tamang, CM of Sikkim, said that his unwavering dedication and leadership played a key role in the state's progress. Devendra Fadnavis, Deputy CM of Maharashtra, wrote on social media: "Wishing you a long and healthy life," and Pushkar Singh Dhami, CM of Uttarakhand, added: "Your leadership gave a new direction to UP."

Six die within hours in Koraput medical college, government orders probe



JEYPORE/BHUBANESWAR. At least six patients of Saheed Laxman Nayak Medical College and Hospital (SLN MCH) in Koraput perished in a span of hours late on Tuesday, prompting the state government to order an inquiry after kin of the deceased brought up allegations of medical negligence. Sources said five patients, aged 27 to 45, suffering from cancer, stab and head injuries, died during treatment on Tuesday night while another died on Wednesday morning. Four of the five were admitted to the ICU of surgery department and the remaining two were in the wards. Family members of the patients admitted to the ICU alleged that they developed serious complications minutes after a nursing staff administered an injection and died in a quick succession. The deceased were identified as Sukra Majhi (Semiliguda), Rukmi Pentha (Ambaguda), Phulamati Majhi (Kalabandi), Bhagaban Paraja and Jagannath Puari (Borigumma) besides Bati Khara (Koraput).

The deceased included a road accident victim, a cancer patient and two liver patients, besides two others, who were admitted following a stabbing incident. Sources said the ICU patients were administered Norepinephrine injection, which usually helps stabilise blood pressure. "My brother died nearly 15 minutes after he was administered the injection," alleged Jagannath's brother.

As soon as the news spread, irate relatives rushed to the hospital and demanded a probe into the sudden deaths of patients.

Director of medical education and training Prof Santosh Mishra said a team has been formed with specialists drawn from SCB MCH at Cuttack and MKCG MCH at Berhampur to probe into the allegations.

Shipwreck spill hits 'Malinya Muktham' campaign in Kerala

LSG Minister M B Rajesh said that the government has begun efforts to remove the nurdles.

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM. As the world prepares to celebrate World Environment Day on Thursday under the theme #BeatPlasticPollution, Kerala faces a significant environmental crisis. A shipwreck off the state's coast has released tons of plastic nurdles—tiny pellets used in manufacturing—polluting the shorelines of Thiruvananthapuram and Kollam. These nurdles pose a serious threat to marine life, public health, and the state's ambitious 'Malinya Muktham Nava Keralam' campaign, which aims to achieve a garbage-free Kerala by March 2026.

Highlighting the severity of the situation, social activist Magline Peter said that the entire shoreline of the capital is now covered in nurdles. She expressed concern that the local communities remain unaware of the hazardous situation, lacking information about necessary precautions and the actions being taken to address the crisis. "There is no transparent



communication to resolve this issue. A week has passed, but little action has been taken to clean the nurdles up," she said. Since its launch, the Malinya Muktham Nava Keralam campaign has focused on reducing plastic use, implementing door-to-door collection of non-biodegradable waste, and

ensuring proper waste management. The nurdle spill represents a significant setback to these efforts.

LSG Minister M B Rajesh said that the government has begun efforts to remove the nurdles. "While the Local Self-Government Department is not directly involved, the Environment Department is coordinating cleanup activities," Rajesh said.

K V Thomas, a former head of the National Centre for Earth Science Studies (NCESS), has urged prompt action from the authorities concerned. "While we can see the visible impact, the full extent of this disaster needs a thorough assessment. This incident occurred during the heavy monsoon, which underscores the urgent need for rapid recovery efforts," he said.

Shibi K N, a campaigner with the Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (GAIA - Asia Pacific), described the nurdle spill as an environmental disaster requiring immediate intervention.

Telangana HC allows HYDRAA to carry out pre-monsoon works on disputed land

HYDERABAD. The Telangana High Court has granted permission to the HYDRAA to carry out essential pre-monsoon work on a disputed piece of land. The aim is to prevent dangerous flooding in nearby neighbourhoods during the upcoming rainy season.

A bench, comprising justices Nagesh Bheemappa and Laxmi Narayana Aishetty, made this decision after HYDRAA asked the court to change an earlier order issued on May 7. That order had mandated all parties to maintain the status quo on land until June 10.

HYDRAA argued this order was no longer necessary because the specific court request it was based on (filed by the land's claimant) had been dismissed. The agency urgently needs to restore a critical water body, Bathukamma Kunta, on the site. They presented photos showing that the water body exists, is under their control and has suffered damage from illegal dumping and encroachments. Officials said experts have warned that without immediate restoration work, severe flooding in surrounding residential areas is likely during the monsoon. However, the plaintiff claiming ownership of 7 acres of land in Survey No. 563/1, Bagh Amberpet village, opposed HYDRAA's request. He alleged that the agency's excavation work was illegal and caused damage, including breaking an underground drainage pipe. He also submitted photos showing drain water collecting in dug-out pits. Considering the urgency of the monsoon threat and the fact that the specific court request which triggered the "maintain status quo" order had now been dismissed, the high court decided to modify its May 7 order. The judges stressed their previous rulings did not decide who ultimately owns the land. Given the clear public danger of flooding, they ruled HYDRAA could proceed immediately with the vital flood prevention work on the disputed site.

Katra to Srinagar: How many bridges and tunnels do you need to cross along the rail route

Srinagar. The Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project, an unprecedented engineering marvel in India, boasts a staggering 943 bridges and 36 tunnels on a 119-kilometre stretch across its entire 272-kilometre length. This historic achievement of the Indian railways is set to start ferrying passengers on Friday, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's inauguration of the final finished 111-kilometre Katra-Banihal section. This stretch will give the final shape of rail connectivity between Jammu and the Kashmir Valley. Starting Saturday, two Vande Bharat Express trains will embark on this challenging journey, traversing major geological thrust zones and crossing iconic rivers like Chenab and Anji. Dubbed perhaps the most difficult new railway line project undertaken in independent India, the USBRL, sanctioned in 1994-95, has overcome immense natural hurdles. The 111-km Katra-Banihal stretch

alone demanded carving through diverse geological zones. The Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd (KRCL) spearheaded this difficult construction, with 161 km of the project already operational from both ends. Within this critical 111-kilometre section, 37 bridges span a combined length of seven kilometres, including 26 major and 11 minor structures. A remarkable 87 per cent (97.42 km) of this section runs through tunnels, notably featuring the 12.77-km-long Tunnel No. 50, India's longest transportation railway tunnel. This tunnel, connecting Khari and Sumer, navigated complex geology,

high water ingress, and landslides, necessitating multiple access tunnels for accelerated construction. Among the engineering marvels on this route are four particularly unique bridges. Bridge Number 35, the Anji Bridge, stands as India's first cable-stayed railway bridge, connecting Katra and Reasi with 96 cables, designed to withstand the region's seismic challenges. Spanning 725 meters and rising 331 meters above the Anji River, it utilised an astonishing 653 kilometres of cable strand. Further along, Bridge Numbers 39 and 43, built by Afcons for KRCL, host the Reasi and Salal station yards respectively, with Bridge 39 featuring towering piers up to 103 meters, taller than the Qutub Minar. The crowning glory is Bridge 44 across the Chenab River, standing at a breathtaking 359 meters above the riverbed, earning it the world record for the highest rail bridge from its base.

Sweets caused food poisoning in IMH Erragadda

Hospital superintendent Dr Anitha Rayirala clarified that no outside food had been served; all meals were prepared in the hospital kitchen.

HYDERABAD. Sweets distributed on Monday on the occasion of Telangana Formation Day to inmates at the Institute of Mental Health (IMH), Erragadda, are believed to be the cause of the death of one patient and 92 cases of acute gastroenteritis. Symptoms included vomiting and diarrhoea, and 30-year-old Karan, identified as a destitute, died the following day.

Health Minister Damodar Rajanarayana, who visited the hospital on Wednesday, confirmed that 92 of the 318 patients admitted to the 600-bed facility were affected. He stated that sweets served as part of the celebrations may have been contaminated. Of the 92 patients, 18 were shifted to Osmania General Hospital, while the remaining 74 are being treated on-site by six teams of doctors. Karan had been stable during the night medical rounds but was found dead on Tuesday morning. A postmortem examination was conducted at Gandhi Hospital, and the cause of death will be determined upon receipt of the report, Rajanarayana stated.

Hospital superintendent Dr Anitha Rayirala clarified that no outside food had been served; all meals were prepared in the hospital kitchen. A detailed investigation has been ordered, and a



committee is being formed to determine the cause of the illness, she said. Meanwhile, Dr D Padmaja, Deputy Civil Surgeon and Resident Medical Officer (RMO), was relieved of her duties following a preliminary inquiry by the Director of Medical Education. **OGH surgeon appointed IMH RMO** Health Secretary Christina Z Chongthu issued the relieving order. Dr B Shankar, Deputy Civil Surgeon from OGH, was appointed the new in-charge RMO at IMH with immediate effect. The hospital's catering contract, managed by G Jaipal Reddy, was also terminated. The termination order was issued by the hospital superintendent. OGH superintendent Dr Rakesh Sahay confirmed that all admitted patients are stable and being

monitored for dehydration and low vital signs. He expressed confidence in their recovery within two to three days.

Parents discharge son

In a related development, an elderly couple from Chikkadpally rushed to IMH on Wednesday to discharge their 42-year-old son, fearing for his safety after hearing news of the incident. Rudra

a var a m Suresh, 74, told, "My wife and I came here this morning after learning about the incident through the media. The hospital staff confirmed that our son was not among the affected patients, but we decided to take him home." The patient had been admitted four months earlier.

THE SIKH TIMES
Edited, Printed, Published
Owned by Simmi Babbar
N-31, Dr. Mukherjee Nagar
Delhi-110009
Printed at Qaumi Patrika Printing
Press, A4/A144, Tronica City
(Loni), Ghaziabad (Uttar Pradesh)
Corporate Office:
5, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg,
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RNI No. DELENG/2008/25465

Ayodhya once saw bullets for devotees, now it showers them with flowers: CM Adityanath

Ayodhya, June 5: Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, on Thursday, said that Ayodhya has transitioned into a global symbol of 'Atithi Deva Bhava' in the recent years from the one where once "Ram devotees faced bullets and lathi-charges." Speaking at a public event in Ram Katha Park—marking two years of the current Municipal Corporation, Yogi Adityanath added: "Today, they are welcomed with flower showers and served pure RO water." During his one-day visit to Ayodhya, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath planted a sapling at Chaudhary Charan Singh Pushp Vatika, symbolizing his commitment to environmental conservation. He also extended his greetings to the people on the auspicious occasions of Ganga Dussehra, Saryu Mahotsav, and World Environment Day. CM Yogi emphasized that Ayodhya's global identity is undergoing a historic transformation. He said the Pran Pratishtha of Maryada Purushottam Lord Shri Ram Lalla on January 22, 2024, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, marked the end of a 500-year-long wait and symbolized the restoration of India's ancient glory. Praising the celebration of the Saryu Mahotsav on Ganga Dussehra, the Chief Minister said, "The spiritual and cultural identity of Ayodhya is incomplete without the sacred Saryu River, which has blessed generations with its divine presence." Speaking about the sancti-

ty of Maa Ganga, CM Yogi said, "Ganga descended to earth through the penance of King Bhagirath. She not only nourishes the

of the Namami Gange campaign. "Before 2014, the Ganga was severely polluted due to the unplanned and unscientific activities of



fertile lands of Uttar Pradesh, but also supports agriculture across India and the world. The Ganga basin is among the most fertile regions on the planet." He described Prime Minister Narendra Modi as the 'Bhagirath of modern India', crediting him for the success

previous governments. But through Namami Gange, the river has regained its purity and uninterrupted flow. Over 66 crore devotees witnessed this during the Mahakumbh in Prayagraj," he noted. Marking World Environment Day, the Chief

Minister highlighted the significance of the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign launched by Prime Minister Modi. CM Yogi Adityanath shared details of several upcoming initiatives by the Uttar Pradesh Forest Department during his address. He announced that on June 23, the martyrdom day of Dr. Syama Prasad Mukherjee, the Bharatiya Janata Party will launch a large-scale tree plantation drive. He also revealed that the state has resolved to rejuvenate at least one river in every district. As part of this mission, an extensive plantation campaign will be conducted along riverbanks from July 1 to 7. In addition, large-scale plantation efforts will be undertaken along highways and expressways. He urged the public to actively participate in the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign to contribute to environmental protection. The Chief Minister congratulated Ayodhya Municipal Corporation Mayor Girish Pati Tripathi, along with all councilors and officials, on completing two years in office. He praised the corporation's performance under the Mayor's leadership, particularly in urban development and civic management. On this occasion, he inaugurated development projects worth Rs 30 crore and laid the foundation stone for projects valued at Rs 33 crore. Speaking on Ayodhya's transformation, CM Yogi noted that the city, once plagued by irregular power supply, water shortages, and cleanli-

ness issues, has now emerged as a clean and beautiful spiritual destination. He commanded the Municipal Corporation for honoring three women sanitation workers for their exemplary service, saying such recognition boosts morale across departments. The Chief Minister also highlighted key development works in Ayodhya, including the establishment of an international airport, beautification of temples and monasteries, and the expansion of Ram Ki Paudi—now graced by the clean, free-flowing waters of the Saryu. He remarked that Maharishi Valmiki's divine vision of Ayodhya is taking shape. CM Yogi proposed the creation of theme-based gardens in Ayodhya named after revered figures such as Maa Janaki, Lakshman, Bharat, Shatrughan, Hanuman ji, Sugriva, Jambavan, Mata Shabari, and Nishad Raj. He called on the citizens of Ayodhya to take a collective pledge, in collaboration with the district administration, to revive at least one river in the region. The occasion was graced by Cabinet Ministers Surya Pratap Shahi and Arun Kumar Saxena, Mayor Girish Pati Tripathi, District Panchayat President Roli Singh, MLAs Ved Prakash Gupta, Ramchandra Yadav, Amit Singh Chauhan, Abhay Singh, and Chandrabhanu Paswan, along with BJP District President Sanjeev Singh, Mahanagar President Kamlesh Srivastava, various saints, councilors, and other dignitaries.

As state finalises its terms, will Aravalis be defined by height

Gurgaon: Tasked by Supreme Court to define what constitutes Aravalis, Haryana govt is close to finalising its criteria and one of the proposals under discussion as a central component of this is to have a relative height benchmark of 100 metres from the surrounding geographical base, according to sources involved in the process. The exercise, whose purpose is to give Aravalis a uniform definition across the four states that the ancient ranges run across, began last year. On May 9, 2024, Supreme directed the Union environment ministry (MoEF) and the govt of Delhi, Rajasthan, Haryana and Gujarat to come up with a uniform definition during proceedings in an illegal mining case. The court ordered this when amicus curiae K Parmeshwar, in response to SC's instructions to the states to not renew leases or issue new ones for stone or sand quarrying in the hills without its permission, said the issue was complicated due to lack of consensus over what constituted Aravalis. Recently, chief secretary Anurag Rastgi convened a high-level meeting with officials from various departments, including forests, to finalise the state's approach to Aravali identification. According to sources present at the meeting, the state could submit its guidelines as early as this month. The sources said discussions, though in the closing stages, are ongoing and a decision on the final criteria is yet to be taken. States will submit their final criteria to a technical sub-committee formed by MoEF that is chaired by the director-general of Forest Survey of India (FSI) and includes representatives of Geological Survey of India (GSI) and Survey of India (SoI). According to the minutes of a meeting held on April 28 this year by state officials, Haryana agreed to follow "the definition and area of Aravali hills and ranges by taking the benchmark fixed by FSI for Rajasthan". FSI recommended a comprehensive methodology based on multiple parameters — terrain slope (greater

Five land in police net after three encounters in Noida, Ghaziabad

Noida: Five criminals were arrested following three separate gunfights in the city and Ghaziabad. The accused were involved in theft, snatching, etc. In the first case, during a routine patrol near Dadri, police signalled three men on a motorcycle to stop, but they attempted to flee and opened fire at the officials. Sudhir Kumar, additional deputy commissioner of police, Greater Noida, said that in retaliatory fire, Karan (21) from Bisrak was injured, while his associates, Harsh (21) from Dadri and Piyush Bansal (19) from Jarcha, were arrested in a subsequent combing operation. Police recovered a pistol, live cartridges, two illegal knives, a stolen mobile phone, and an unregistered Splendor motorcycle from the accused. The injured accused was sent to the hospital and police are probing their possible criminal history. In the second incident, police arrested a man following an encounter on Saturday, during routine checks on the road near DAV. Police spotted two men on a motorcycle approaching from Wazirabad Road. When signaled to stop, they attempted to flee but lost control of the bike. They then opened fire at the officials, prompting them to return fire, which left one suspect injured. Atul Kumar Singh, assistant commissioner of police, Shalimar Garden, said the accused, Talib alias Tikki (25) was found in possession of an illegal pistol, ammunition, a stolen gold chain, and a motorcycle.

NAME CHANGE

I, Rupam Beri D/o Ram Jag Beri R/o W-2, Dashghara Village, Inderpur, Delhi-110012, have changed my name to Rupam Beri permanently

NAME CHANGE

I, NEELA GARG S/o late shri SHAILENDER GARG R/o J-99-B GALI NO-10 KARTAN NAGAR, SHASTRI PARK, DELHI-110063 have changed my minor son name from CHIRAG GARG to CHIRAG GARG for all future purposes

NAME CHANGE

I, SHIVALEELA Mother of No-26192629 Rank-LNK Name-SOMALINGAPPA SHAMBULINGAPPA KATAKOL Permanent residing at VPO-UJJINAKOPPA, TEHSIL-BELGAUM, DISTT-BELGAUM, KARNATAKA-591114, have changed my name from SHAMBULINGAPPA to SHAMBULINGAPPA KATAKOL for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 05/06/2025 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE

I, SATPAL SINGH S/o DAJEEET SINGH R/o ??-10328, MOTIKAHLA, GALI NO-15, PANJABI ACADEMY, 15 SWAMI RAM TIRTH NAGAR S/o CENTRAL DELHI, DELHI-110055 do hereby declare that my son GURDIT SINGH aged 3 years has been adopted by BALWANT SINGH S/o JARNAL SINGH resident of GURUDWARA MAJNU KA TILA, QTR NO-B-8, ARUNA NAGAR, CIVIL LINES DELHI-110054. Vide Registration No. LHM000614/2021, dated 4-09-2021.

NAME CHANGE

I, BALWANT SINGH S/o JARNAL SINGH resident of GURUDWARA MAJNU KA TILA, QTR NO-B-8, ARUNA NAGAR, CIVIL LINES DELHI-110054 do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that I have adopted GURDIT SINGH as stated above with effect from 20-03-2025.

THE SIKH TIMES

Edited, Printed, Published
Owned by Simmi Babbar
N - 31, Dr. Mukherjee Nagar
Delhi-110009

Printed at Qasmi Patrika Printing
Press, A/4/A-144, Tronica City
(Loni), Ghaziabad (Uttar Pradesh)
Corporate Office:

5, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg,
Press Area, ITI, New Delhi
Editor-in-Chief

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RNI No. DELENG/2008/25465

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Advocate Dr. A.P.Singh

Advocate Manish Sharma
Advocate Pooja Bhaskar Sharma

NAME CHANGE

I, SHIVALEELA Mother of No-26192629 Rank-LNK Name-SOMALINGAPPA SHAMBULINGAPPA KATAKOL Permanent residing at VPO-UJJINAKOPPA, TEHSIL-BELGAUM, DISTT-BELGAUM, KARNATAKA-591114, have changed my name from SHAMBULINGAPPA to SHAMBULINGAPPA KATAKOL for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 05/06/2025 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE

I, Mundri Kumari alias Madhu Prasad D/o Damodar Prasad W/o Dwarika Prasad R/o Flat No-14, Sector-7, North West Delhi -110085 do hereby declare that my son GURDIT SINGH aged 3 years has been adopted by BALWANT SINGH S/o JARNAL SINGH resident of GURUDWARA MAJNU KA TILA, QTR NO-B-8, ARUNA NAGAR, CIVIL LINES DELHI-110054. Vide Registration No. LHM000614/2021, dated 4-09-2021.

NAME CHANGE

I, Hari Kishan s/o Dhan Pati R/o Flat N- C/1235, sector 55, Noida, U.P. Inform all concerned that my name has been wrongly mentioned as Hari Kishan in the educational documents of CBSC Board, 10th class of my son name Ritesh, whereas correct name is "HARI KISHAN" which may be amended accordingly.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I, Ajay Kumar S/o Rishi Pal residing at B-1/85, Ramesh Enclave, Sector-21, Shany Bazaar Road, Gali No.-5, Sutlaji C Block, North West Delhi, Delhi-110064, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as POONAM RAKHEJA.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I, KAPIL S/O DHARMAL PAL R/o KHO NO. 27/7, GALI NO-6, SUNDER COLONY, JHARODA MAJRA, NORTH DELHI-110084, declare that name of mine and my father have been wrongly written as KAPIL GURJAR and DHARMAL SINGH in my Aadhaar Card No. 8381308184. The actual name of mine and my father are KAPIL and DHARMAL PAI respectively which may be amended accordingly.

PUBLIC NOTICE

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PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I, RAMESH KUMAR S/o RAMESH, R/o 10/1, Sector-10, Noida, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as RAMESH KUMAR.

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NEWS BOX

New Zealand MP Laura McClure displays deepfake AI nude image of herself in Parliament to urge legal reform

world. In a bold move to highlight the threat of deepfake technology, New Zealand Member of Parliament Laura McClure displayed an AI-generated nude image of herself during a parliamentary session. The image, the MP said was created in under five minutes using readily available online tools.

"This image is a naked image of me, but it's not real," McClure said, adding that the ease with which such convincing fake images can be produced. She described the experience as "absolutely terrifying," noting the psychological impact even when knowing the image was fabricated. McClure shared the image on her Instagram account, and said, "Today in Parliament, I showed an AI-generated nude deepfake of myself to show how real and easy these are to create. The problem isn't the tech itself, but how it's being misused to abuse people. Our laws need to catch up." The MP is advocating for legislative amendments to include deepfakes under existing laws that prohibit the non-consensual sharing of intimate images. She said in Parliament that deepfakes can be as harmful, if not more so, than real images, as they can depict individuals in fabricated, often degrading scenarios. McClure's actions have sparked a national debate on the ethical and legal challenges of deepfakes, highlighting the urgent need for updated laws to protect against digital

2,000 KM To Gaza: How Greta Thunberg's Aid Ship Became Israel's Headache

world. A ship transporting humanitarian supplies to Gaza has captured international attention and escalating controversy. The Madleen is the name of the ship belonging to the Freedom Flotilla Coalition (FFC) — an international human rights movement seeking to challenge the Israeli sea blockade of Gaza. This mission becomes even more high-profile with 22-year-old Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg aboard. Setting sail from Sicily's port of departure on June 1, the Madleen is attempting a 2,000-kilometer journey to the Gaza Strip. The vessel carried symbolic but essential humanitarian aid, such as flour, milk, water, medicines, baby diapers, and sanitary pads, aimed at the blockaded people in Gaza, where hunger and medical shortages have become critical. Named after Gaza's first and sole female fisherwoman, The Madleen is due to arrive by June 7 — provided it's not blocked by the Israeli navy, which has taken grave concerns about the mission. The coalition sought to challenge peacefully what it calls Israel's illegal blockade and raise international awareness of the Gaza humanitarian crisis.

Israel On Alert

The Israeli army has publicly said it is keeping an eye on the development closely. Spokeswoman Efi Defrin threatened that Israel will act "according to the circumstances," which indicates that interception is very likely. This comes on the heels of a precedent established last month, when another FFC ship — the Conscience — was allegedly blown up by an Israeli drone attack on May 2.

New Law In US State Could Lead To Prosecution Of Women After Miscarriage

world. In West Virginia, the enactment of the Unborn Child Protection Act in 2022 has introduced stringent abortion restrictions, allowing exceptions only in cases of rape, incest, fatal foetal anomalies, or when the mother's life is at risk. While the law explicitly exempts women from prosecution for undergoing abortions, legal experts express concern that actions taken by women following a miscarriage — such as improper disposal of foetal remains — could lead to legal investigations.

The law's broad language and lack of clear guidelines have created uncertainty, potentially deterring individuals from seeking necessary medical care during pregnancy complications. This development underscores the complex implications of restrictive abortion legislation on women's health and legal



standing. Raleigh County Prosecuting Attorney Tom Truman told WVNS 59News that a number of criminal charges under state code, including felonies, could be levied against a woman who flushes fetal remains, buries them, or otherwise disposes of remains following an involuntary abortion, also called a miscarriage. Truman added that he would be unwilling to prosecute such cases.

It was unclear if prosecutors could levy similar criminal charges against husbands or others who helped a woman during a miscarriage. The kind of criminal jeopardy you face is going to depend on a lot of factors. What was your intent? What did you do? How late were you in your pregnancy?" Truman said. Which US states can prosecute for miscarriages? According to the Metro, several states have prosecuted women for miscarriages or stillbirths.

632nd child lost: Zelenskyy slams Russia for overnight drones, missile attacks

Five people, including a one-year-old, were killed in Russian drone strikes in Ukraine's Pryluky. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy condemned the strikes, saying the 632nd child had been killed in the country since the war began in 2022.

world. A toddler, his mother and grandmother were among the five people killed as Russian drone strikes hit the Pryluky city in northern Ukraine on Thursday, officials said. Ukraine's President condemned the attack, calling it "terrorism by Russia".

The one-year-old, the 632nd child that has been killed in Ukraine since the war began in 2022, was the son of a rescuer who found that his own house had been hit by the strikes carried out with Shahed drones, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy tweeted.

"Last night, Russia struck Pryluky in the Chernihiv region with six attack drones. A rescue operation continued throughout the night. Unfortunately, there have been injuries and fatalities," Zelenskyy wrote on X. One of the rescuers arrived to deal with



the aftermath right at his own home - it turned out that a 'Shahed' drone had struck exactly his house. Tragically, his wife, daughter and one-year-old grandson were killed. This is already the 632nd child lost since the full-scale war began. My condolences to all the relatives and loved ones," he added. Ukraine's National Police said the mother of the one-year-old killed in

Pryluky was a police officer identified as Daryna Shyhyda. "Today our hearts are scorched by pain," the Ukrainian police force wrote on Telegram. "This is not just a loss, it is three generations of life uprooted". Officials also said that apart from the five killed, six others were injured in the attack, and were receiving treatment at a hospital. Pryluk, which is a city about 100 kilometres east of Kyiv and had a population of 50,000 before the war began, does not have any known military assets.

The strikes by Moscow came hours after Russian President Vladimir Putin and US President Donald Trump spoke over the phone and discussed the Ukraine war along with a range of global issues. After their hour-and-a-half-long discussion, Trump

said Putin told him that Moscow would have to respond to the recent Ukrainian drone attacks.

Trump said he and Putin "discussed the attack on Russia's docked airplanes by Ukraine and also various other attacks that have been taking place by both sides".

Zelenskyy further claimed that Russia constantly tries to buy time to continue its "killings" and that when it didn't feel strong enough condemnation and pressure from the world, it kills again. "Overnight, Ukraine was attacked by 103 drones and one ballistic missile, targeting the Donetsk, Kharkiv, Odesa, Sumy, Chernihiv, Dnipro and Kherson regions," the Ukrainian President said.

"This was another massive strike by terrorists. Russian terrorists who kill our people every night," Zelenskyy said while demanding "maximum sanctions" and pressure on Russia.

Islamabad may terminate Simla Agreement: Pak minister amid tensions with India

world. India's actions against Pakistan have resulted in the Simla Agreement losing its sanctity, Defence Minister Khawaja Asif said on Thursday. Asif, known for shooting his mouth, made the remarks to Geo News. The Pakistani Defence Minister has made several inconsistent statements in the last few weeks following the Pahalgam terror attack.

"The agreement was bilateral as no third party or the World Bank was involved," Asif told the channel.

The Pakistani Defence Minister also indicated that Islamabad could consider terminating the Simla Agreement and that in such a situation



the Line of Control (LoC) between India and Pakistan will become a "ceasefire line". Following India's punitive measures against Pakistan after the Pahalgam terror attack, Pakistan had only threatened to terminate the Simla Agreement. But there was no subsequent move to cancel the historic pact. The Simla Agreement was signed after

the 1971 war between the two countries and lays down principles meant to govern bilateral relations.

Tensions between India and Pakistan escalated after the Pahalgam terror attack, with India carrying out precision strikes on terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir on May 7. Pakistan attempted to attack Indian military bases on May 8, 9 and 10. The Indian side responded strongly to the Pakistani actions. The hostilities between the two sides ended with an understanding of stopping military actions following talks between the directors general of military operations

Ukraine's drone attack hit fewer Russian warplanes than claimed, US says



UPDATED. Ukraine's weekend drone attack on Russian air bases hit up to 20 warplanes and destroyed around 10, according to US officials. While this is lower than Ukrainian President Zelenskyy's estimate, Washington still called the strike "highly significant."

Zelenskyy had told reporters earlier on Wednesday that 41 Russian aircraft had been hit and that more than half were likely beyond repair. The US assessment cuts that number roughly in half but doesn't downplay the operation's impact, according to officials who spoke to Reuters.

"It was a major strike," one official said, adding that the attack could harden Moscow's stance in US-brokered negotiations to end the war, now entering its fourth year. Ukraine said it launched 117 drones from containers

positioned near four Russian air bases in a complex operation dubbed "Spider's Web." The Ukrainian military released dramatic footage showing drones striking Russian strategic bombers and even landing on the dome antennas of two A-50 military surveillance aircraft — rare and high-value assets in Russia's arsenal. President Vladimir Putin, in a call with US President Donald Trump on Wednesday, warned that Russia "would have to respond" to the attack, according to a Trump post on social media. "It was a good conversation," Trump said, "but not a conversation that will lead to immediate peace." The incident has triggered new tensions between nuclear powers. Russia urged the US and UK to rein in Kyiv following the assault, highlighting the

precious balance between military support and strategic escalation. Together, the US and Russia hold about 88 per cent of the world's nuclear arsenal. The United States says it was not given any notice by Kyiv ahead of the attack. The war in Ukraine is intensifying despite nearly four months of efforts by Trump, who says he wants peace after the deadliest conflict in Europe since World War Two. Ukraine's domestic security agency, the SBU, said the damage to Russia caused by the operation amounted to USD 7 billion, and 34 per cent of the strategic cruise missile carriers at Russia's main airfields were hit. Russia's Defence Ministry has acknowledged that Ukraine targeted airfields in the Murmansk, Irkutsk, Ivanovo, Ryazan and Amur regions and were repelled in the last three locations. It has also said several aircraft caught fire in the Murmansk and Irkutsk regions.

US officials say Ukraine's weekend drone attack hit up to 20 Russian warplanes, destroying about 10, fewer than Zelenskyy claimed, but still a significant escalation amid peace talks.

American history," Trump wrote in a memo. "The American public was purposefully shielded from discovering who wielded the executive power, all while

Earthquake of magnitude 5 strikes China's Yunnan province in wee hours

world. A 5.0-magnitude earthquake struck Dali in China's Yunnan province early Thursday, the China Earthquake Networks Centre (CENC) reported. There are no immediate reports of damage or casualties. Authorities are monitoring the situation.

The earthquake struck at 4:13 AM local time (2013 GMT) and had a depth of 10 kilometres (about 6.2 miles).

ACTIVE PLATE COLLISIONS MAKE YUNNAN EARTHQUAKE-PRONE

Yunnan province often faces jolts due to its geographical location. It lies where the Indian and Eurasian tectonic plates meet. These plates have been pushing against each other for millions of years, with the Indian plate moving about 5 centimetres north every year. This slow but powerful movement is also what created the Himalayas and causes frequent earthquakes in southwestern China, including Yunnan. Due to this pressure, cracks form in the Earth's crust, particularly along fault lines like Longmenshan and Xiaohuangbaogou. These areas have triggered strong earthquakes in the past.

According to the China Earthquake Networks Centre (CENC), there have been 118 earthquakes measuring 3.0 magnitude or more within 200 kilometres of Dali in the last five years. The strongest was a 6.4 magnitude quake in May 2021. Yunnan's high mountains, which



are part of the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, also make the area more likely to feel strong shaking. Yunnan also has a history of strong earthquakes, especially near Tengchong in the Gaoligong Mountains. That area has seen over 70 earthquakes stronger than magnitude 5, and it also has signs of underground activity like hot springs and old volcanic zones. These are further signs that the ground beneath Yunnan is very active and likely to produce more earthquakes in the future.

Trump orders investigation into Biden's actions as president

WASHINGTON. President Donald Trump on Wednesday directed his administration to investigate Joe Biden's actions as president, alleging aides masked his predecessor's "cognitive decline" and cast doubt on the legitimacy of his use of the autopen to sign legislation and issue pardons. The order marked a significant escalation in Trump's targeting of political adversaries and could lay the groundwork for arguments by the Republican that a range of Biden's actions as president were invalid. The Justice Department under Democratic and Republican administrations has recognized the use of an autopen to sign legislation and issue pardons for decades. Trump presented no evidence that Biden was unaware of the actions taken in his name, and the president's absolute pardon power is enshrined in the U.S. Constitution. "This conspiracy marks one of the most dangerous and concerning scandals in

American history," Trump wrote in a memo. "The American public was purposefully shielded from discovering who wielded the executive power, all while



Biden's signature was deployed across thousands of documents to effect radical policy shifts. "Trump directed Attorney General Pam Bondi and White House counsel David Warrington to handle the investigation. Representatives for Biden did not immediately respond to a request for comment. It's unclear how far Trump

will push this effort, which would face certain legal challenges. But it reflects his fixation on Biden, who defeated him in 2020, an election that Trump never conceded and continues to falsely claim was rigged against him.

Trump frequently suggests that Biden was wrong to use an autopen, a mechanical device that replicates a person's authentic signature. Although they've been used in the White House for decades, Trump claims that Biden's aides were usurping presidential authority. Biden issued pardons for his two brothers and his sister shortly before leaving office, hoping to shield them from potential prosecution under Trump, who had promised retribution during last year's campaign. Other pardon recipients included members of a congressional committee that investigated the Jan. 6, 2021, riot at the U.S. Capitol. Trump often suggests that his political

opponents should be investigated, and he has directed the Justice Department to look into people who have angered him over the years. They include Chris Krebs, a former cybersecurity official who disputed Trump's claims of a stolen election in 2020, and Miles Taylor, a former Department of Homeland Security official who wrote an anonymous op-ed sharply critical of the president in 2018. Meanwhile, House Oversight Chairman James Comer of Kentucky, a Republican, requested transcribed interviews with five Biden aides, alleging they had participated in a "cover-up" that amounted to "one of the greatest scandals in our nation's history." "These five former senior advisors were eyewitnesses to President Biden's condition and operations within the Biden White House," Comer said in a statement. "They must appear before the House Oversight Committee and provide truthful answers about President Biden's cognitive

NEWS BOX

76-year-old man who tested positive for Covid dies; death toll in Tamil Nadu rises to four

CHENNAI. With a 76-year-old man dying on Wednesday, the number of deaths of persons, who had tested positive for Covid-19 in the state, has increased to four. The death reportedly happened in Cuddalore district. According to the data furnished by the Union Ministry of Health, Tamil Nadu reported one more death in the 24 hours preceding Wednesday. The 76-year-old had acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS), Covid-19 pneumonia, and sepsis with multi-organ dysfunction syndrome (MODS).

Officials from the state health department, however, did not release further information regarding the person's health, hospitalisation or when he tested positive. Speaking to the press on Wednesday, Health Minister Ma Subramanian remarked if persons with comorbidities test positive for Covid-19 and subsequently die, those deaths will not be counted as Covid-19 deaths. TS Selvavinayagam, director of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, said Covid-19 is only an incidental finding and therefore the death is not exclusively due to Covid-19.

Subramanian said it is advised that people with comorbidities, those who have their immunity compromised, elderly, and pregnant women wear masks when going to crowded places. He stressed there is no need to panic.

Meanwhile, an exclusive Covid-19 ward with eight beds was opened at the Government Royapettah Hospital this week as a preparatory measure.

9-year-old boy dies in Rayagada DHH due to 'delay' in blood transfusion

BERHAMPUR. Tension flared up at Rayagada district headquarters hospital (DHH) after a nine-year-old boy allegedly died due to delay in receiving blood transfusion on Wednesday.

The deceased was identified as Rajiv Takiri of New Colony in Rayagada town. Suffering from fever, Rajiv was admitted to the DHH on Tuesday.

Rajiv's father Madhusudan Takiri, an auto-rickshaw driver by profession, said the doctors recommended an urgent transfusion after his son's blood test revealed low haemoglobin levels. He approached the hospital's blood bank but the staff there told him that no blood units of Rajiv's group were available. Despite repeated plead and the boy's deteriorating condition, he received no immediate help, alleged Madhusudan.

On Wednesday morning, blood bank staff asked Madhusudan to arrange a donor. A volunteer was brought in, and blood was transfused to the child. However, Rajiv's condition worsened during the transfusion, and he died after sometime.

As the news of the boy's death spread, locals staged protest in front of the blood bank demanding compensation for the bereaved family. On being informed, police reached the spot to take stock of the situation. Rayagada IIC Suresh Chandra Dev along with blood bank in-charge Goutam Patanaik held discussion with the agitators. The protest was called off after the officials assured a thorough investigation into the incident.

Church trustees question actions of dissidents, raise graft charges in Kerala



KOCHI. Raising serious allegations, the trustees of Ernakulam St Mary's Cathedral Basilica said they have evidence to prove that the dissident priests of Ernakulam-Angamaly archdiocese have influenced the police to ensure that their nefarious agenda is carried out.

According to Joy George, one of the trustees who is also a lawyer with Kerala High Court, 99.9% of parishioners of the basilica want to go along with the Syro-Malabar Church's directive on Uniform Holy Mass. "We are being held hostage by a handful of people, who are backed by dissident priests. It should be noted that many of these people are not even members of the parish. They are misleading the general public and the media," he told reporters on Wednesday.

He said the activities of dissident priests and those with vested interests have pained the parishioners who want to attend the mass in peace.

"The strife-like situation at the parish has forced members to attend prayers in other churches. It is not that we support the acts of these priests. The laity is a refined group of people who don't want to indulge in street fights and dubious acts," said Joy Menacheri, another trustee of the basilica. They also alleged that Fr Varghese Manavalan had illegally occupied the clergy office and confiscated the registers associated with church activities.

Endgame In Battle Against Maoists? 15 Key Figures Still Lurk In Shadows

Bastar, Chhattisgarh. The death of Basavaraju, the elusive supremo of the CPI (Maoist), in a high-stakes anti-Naxal operation deep in the jungles of Abujhmad on May 21, marked what authorities describe as a decisive turning point in India's war against Left-Wing Extremism. The operation, led by the District Reserve Guard (DRG), has not only struck at the heart of Maoist leadership but also triggered a sweeping reassessment of the movement's remaining strength. But this was not just the end of a most-wanted rebel's journey - it was the beginning of what security agencies now term "the final chapter" in the country's decades-long Maoist insurgency.

This was not just another encounter. This was the culmination of years of intelligence gathering, ground operations, and coordination between multiple agencies," said Sundarraj P, Inspector General of Police, Bastar Range. "The fall of Basavaraju is symbolic. It reflects how the topmost leadership of the Maoist movement is collapsing." Yet, even as the government targets March 31 as the deadline to eradicate Naxalism from Indian soil, senior officers and ground



personnel acknowledge the forest is not silent yet. "The jungle still hides ghosts with guns," said a senior officer involved in the Bastar operations. In Bastar, there still exists a list - one that security forces grimly refer to as the "Dead and Danger Zone." This is a list of India's Most Wanted Maoists - some of the most dangerous and secretive figures ever to have led an armed insurgency. Some from this list have been killed. Some are behind bars. But some are still breathing, still hiding, still holding their guns. Here, in a first, is the complete list - names that were never made public together before. Names of those whose shadows still haunt Bastar and beyond.

Mopalla Lakshman Rao alias Ganapati

Age: 75 | Politburo Member, Advisor to Central Committee

Reward: Rs 1 crore

An ideological pillar of the Maoist movement, Ganapati remains one of the most senior and secretive figures in hiding.

Mallojula Venugopal alias Bhupati

Age: 70 | Politburo Member, Advisor to Central Committee, Secretary CRB

Reward: Rs 1 crore

Strategic and powerful, Bhupati is believed to be among the few still capable of reorganising scattered cadres.

Thippuri Tirupati alias Devji/Sanjeev/Ramesh

Age: 62 | Politburo Member, Head of Military Commission

Reward: Rs 1 crore

The man allegedly behind some of the most lethal attacks. A ghost in the jungle, and a top priority for security forces.

Mishir Besra alias Bhaskar

Age: 63 | Politburo Member, ERB In-Charge, Spokesperson

Reward: Rs 1 crore

Handles communications and propaganda. His ideological influence continues despite setbacks.

Rajasthan teen held for impersonating officers



HYDERABAD. A 19-year-old youth from Rajasthan was arrested for allegedly impersonating senior IAS and IPS officers to fraudulently collect money from their friends and associates. The accused, Arbab Khan, created multiple fake Facebook and WhatsApp accounts, using the names and photos of high-ranking officials to deceive people. Two cases have been registered against him in the state.

On May 12, a senior bureaucrat lodged a complaint after discovering a fake Facebook profile created in his name. The impersonator had sent requests and solicited money from his friends. Khan also created fake profiles using the official's photos, falsely claiming to be a CRPF officer, and sent inappropriate and misleading messages.

Protest over proposed ethanol plant turns violent in Telangana, 12 arrested

A protest against a proposed ethanol plant in Telangana turned violent after protesting villagers allegedly set fire to shelters and damaged vehicles. Police arrested 12 people following a complaint by the company and registered a case for rioting and arson.

Telangana. Twelve people were arrested in connection with a violent protest at the site of a proposed ethanol plant in the Jogulambha Gadwal district of Telangana. The incident occurred on Wednesday, June 4, when a large group of villagers gathered near Pedda Dhanwada village in Rajoli mandal (administrative subdivision) in the same district, demanding that the state government revoke its approval for the project. The protesters from seven to eight of the nearby villages allegedly set fire to temporary shelters built for construction workers as well as a container placed at the site by the company. Television footage showed some protesters overturning a four-wheeler, hitting it with sticks,



and pelting it with stones. A heavy-duty construction vehicle was also damaged during the protest. Police quickly intervened to bring the situation under control and dispersed the crowd.

Following a complaint by the company, a case was registered at the Rajoli police station under charges of arson and rioting. Twelve people were arrested and held in judicial custody. Police said the company also alleged that some of its workers were attacked during the unrest. An investigation is ongoing. The company had secured a licence a year ago to build a grain-based ethanol plant on 35-40 acres near Pedda Dhanwada. Despite holding discussions with the villagers, the project continued to face stiff opposition. The villagers are concerned that the plant could harm their farmland and release "foul gases", which they fear may force them to abandon their homes, which have been "spoiled with chemicals".

ACB seeks action on Vemulawada temple EO, six other employees

Although the ACB recommended action, the memo it submitted did not specify the exact nature of the irregularities.

RAJANNA-SIRCILLA. The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) has found irregularities in multiple departments of the Sri Raja Rajeshwara Swamy temple in Vemulawada, including the laddu prasadam section.

In a memo sent to the government, the ACB recommended departmental action against seven staff members, including the temple's Executive Officer and two superintendents.

The ACB had conducted surprise checks at the temple premises on August 22, 2024, and reportedly found procedural lapses in administration. A follow-up report was submitted to the government on May 2, 2025, urging action under provisions of Rule 3(1), 3(2), 3(3) and 3(5) of the Andhra Pradesh Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964.

The officials against whom departmental action has been recommended include Executive



Officer (Deputy Commissioner) K Vinod Reddy, record assistants N Sunil and T Ajay, Laddu counter in-charge B Laxma Reddy, superintendents Gundu Narsimha Murthy and Vari Narsaiah, and junior assistant Aleti Narendra.

Memo didn't specify irregularities

Although the ACB recommended action, the memo it submitted did not specify the exact nature of the

irregularities. Based on this communication, Principal Secretary to the Endowments department, Shailaja Rama Iyer, directed the Director of Endowments to frame charges, conduct a departmental inquiry, and submit a report with specific remarks for further government action. The development has caused unrest among the temple employees named in the ACB list.

Andhra government launches clean cooking drive at AWCs

VIJAYAWADA. In a major push for clean energy and women's welfare, the Andhra Pradesh government has initiated the distribution of energy-efficient induction cooktops and compatible utensils to 11,400 Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) across the state as part of the first phase of a statewide green initiative. The project, led by the Department of Women and Child Welfare, is aligned with the Union Government's 'Go Electric' campaign and the National Efficient Cooking Programme (NECP), spearheaded by the Ministry of Power, Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), and Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL).

The official launch will take place on Thursday, June 5, in Vijayawada to mark World Environment Day. Minister for Women, Child Welfare and Tribal Welfare, G Sandhya Rani and others will formally inaugurate the programme. Earlier, the initiative was introduced by Chief Minister N Chandrababu

Naidu in the presence of Union Minister for Housing, Power and Urban Development, Manohar Lal Khattar. Both leaders stressed the role of clean cooking solutions in improving health, reducing emissions, and empowering women at the grassroots level.

The Union Government has lauded Andhra Pradesh's leadership in executing NECP at scale. Ministry Secretary Anil Malik and BEE officials called the AP-EESL model a national benchmark following evaluations across 12 states. The programme will eventually cover all 55,607 AWCs. EESL CEO Vishal Kapoor and CGM Animesh Mishra are supervising the implementation to ensure its smooth rollout.

The BEE has pledged support to replicate the AP model across India, promoting sustainable cooking and reducing the carbon footprint. The initiative signifies AP's commitment to climate action, and the empowerment of rural women.

Jammu & Kashmir: Vande Bharat Express to slash travel time between Katra and Srinagar

Jammu. The people of Jammu and Kashmir are about to experience faster and more comfortable train travel with the introduction of the Vande Bharat Express between Katra and Srinagar. This new train will significantly cut down travel time and raise the standard of rail travel in the region. More than just a new service, it represents the remarkable progress made in Jammu and Kashmir's railway system over the past 11 years. On June 6, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Jammu and Kashmir to celebrate this achievement. He will inaugurate the new Vande Bharat trains and also open two extraordinary railway bridges, the Chenab Rail Bridge, which is the highest railway bridge in the world, and the Anji Khad Bridge, India's first cable-stayed railway bridge.

Chenab and Anji Khad bridges

The Chenab Rail Bridge stands tall at 355 meters above the Chenab riverbed — 35 meters taller than the Eiffel Tower. This



USBRL and modern trains

Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link is one of India's most challenging railway projects, costing Rs 43,780 crore and covering 272 kilometers through the Himalayas. The project includes 36 tunnels and 943 bridges, connecting remote areas to the national railway network. It has opened up new possibilities for mobility, trade, and tourism in Jammu and Kashmir.

The new Vande Bharat Express is specially designed for the cold Himalayan winters. It can run smoothly even in temperatures as low as minus 20 degrees Celsius. Features like heated windshields, advanced heating systems, and insulated toilets ensure passengers travel comfortably year-round. A snow removal train clears tracks ahead to keep the service running even during heavy snowfall. Seismic dampers reduce the impact of earthquakes, making journeys safer.

Steady progress over 11 years

Over the last decade, the government has taken many steps to improve rail connectivity in Jammu and Kashmir. In 2014, the Udhampur-Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra rail section was opened, allowing easier access to the famous shrine. The Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra railway station was modernized with new platforms and passenger facilities.

A question Albert Camus asked faces the judiciary even

lines in literature are as famous as the opening of Albert Camus's *L'Étranger*: "Mother died today. Or maybe yesterday; I don't know." The most famous work by Camus—an editor, playwright, novelist, journalist and, although he denied it, a philosopher—was rightly considered as a new start for European fiction. The stark tale of a pied noir, who kills an unnamed Arab and seems indifferent to his fate while facing execution, is a dense creation that deals with the themes of alienation, the crepuscular line between truth and lie, and capital punishment.

As the opening betrays, Meursault, the petit colon narrator, is distant even from the woman who bore him. He is engulfed with a weariness that a sociologist would categorise as anomie and the French call *l'appel du vide* (call of the void). He is inscrutable and intransigent even as he is imprisoned for murder. His is the strangeness of the forsaken, not the banality of someone excluded. He is condemned to death as he refuses to express any remorse for his crime. As Camus would later state, Meursault refuses to lie, which entails more than simply expressing something that is false. While we all do it every day to make life easier, Meursault refuses to disguise his emotions. He responds that he is annoyed rather than regretful, and that condemns him. He is left hoping for an indifferent crowd at his execution, only to be greeted with howls of execution.

For Camus, the death penalty exemplifies a profound violence that warrants our condemnation. It reflects the society's nihilism and "indifference to life", where justice is perceived as retribution—measurable and rooted in the talionic law, "An eye for an eye." It is, after all, true that we continue to define justice based on the principles of simplistic arithmetic. But as Camus questions, can it be asserted that the arithmetic is precise, especially when it involves the life of another man? The response must be in the negative. The death penalty hides behind a veneer of righteousness, suggesting that justice is somehow always clear and definitive in a society that is without blame or blemish. As to the necessity to establish a precedent, the secret manner in which the state conducts executions at night undermines its assertion that these acts may function to dissuade the populace from similar criminal behaviour. However, courts in most countries harbour scepticism about such philosophising, as they realise that if criminal law is the middle child of jurisprudence, then the law governing punishments is its illegitimate offspring. India's approach has, for long, been defined by the "rarest of rare" doctrine, which refers to the premise that the death penalty should be reserved for the most egregious and heinous crimes where no other punishment would suffice. While the famous Bachan Singh (1980) case introduced this doctrine, it has had antecedents. Justice V R Krishna Iyer aptly observed in the Rajendra Prasad (1979) case that the use of the punishment is on the belief that "social defence against murderers is best insured in the short run by caging them, but in the long run, the real run, by transformation through re-orientation of the inner man by many methods including neuro-techniques of which we have a rich legacy... It is cheaper to hang than to heal. But Indian life—any human life—is too dear to be swung dead save in extreme circumstances". Courts have used the doctrine in situations usually marked by extreme depravity and barbaric manner in which the crimes are perpetrated, coupled with the accused's absence of remorse. In Aloke Nath Dutta (2006), the Supreme Court acknowledged that "what would constitute a rarest of rare case" was to be determined on the basis of the facts of each case, even though "different criterions have been adopted by different benches of this court, although the offences are similar in nature".

Lack of policy coherence prevents Sri Lanka from moving forward and making strategic partnerships that can help the country overcome its economic woes

In early May, Sri Lankans voted for a third time in a series —this time to elect members to the local authorities. The ruling National People's Power (NPP) secured a majority of seats in 266 out of 341 local bodies in an election considered a popularity test for the incumbency. The NPP secured 43.26 percent of the vote, recording a dent in popularity, also reflective of the fragmented nature of votes at the local level. Into its seventh month in office, the NPP appears tight-lipped on matters of policy and plans, preferring to avoid discussion and instead offering combative television performances by junior ranks on public concerns that beg answers. The May 6 vote can be best considered a quiet reprimand from the people, impatient with the slow delivery. While the government has a five-year term, it still needs to manage public expectations and prevent public outrage. The brewing dissent is partly of the government's making. The NPP, while indulging in rhetorical condemnation of corruption as the only reason for economic collapse, did not adequately explain to the public the severity of Sri Lanka's economic situation. The NPP sometimes made it appear a management problem, which only the NPP could address. People still trust the government to have integrity but question its ability to fix the economy without passing further burden on to them.

The government is now saddled with the Herculean task of managing an economy that successive governments have mismanaged. It has also inherited a much-maligned reform agenda via the International Monetary Fund (IMF), from which there is no easy departure. The administration is naturally finding it challenging to explain that things are not as easy as they appeared to be when it was in opposition. Barring the occasional protest, it is unlikely that public outrage can be prevented from spilling onto the streets in some form soon if the administration does not take action to move the economy forward without compromising public trust.

Sri Lanka is currently attempting to negotiate the hefty 44 percent reciprocal tariff announced by US President Donald Trump. The surprise ruling by an American trade court blocking steep tariffs may offer the island some respite, but it calls for prudent handling. The island's bulk exports head to the US, and the proposed tariff poses a serious threat to the country's export earnings. How Sri Lanka negotiates and plans to use the small window of opportunity will depend on solid foreign policy and trade negotiating

capacity. This questions the current dispensation's foreign policy, which is often unclear and, at times, raises doubts about strategy. Take, for example, how India's neighbours have moved away despite its "Neighbourhood First" policy. Some have looked to the West, while others towards China. Colombo could use the opportunity to consolidate its trade partnerships with India in a manner that bolsters the economy and maximises its geostrategic benefits. During the economic crisis, India played a crucial role, although it was often viewed with misgivings due to its chequered past. As economists note, it may be a window of opportunity to collaborate with India to gain a better foothold in negotiating with the US, given the close economic ties between the two countries. In doing so, Colombo should not overlook long-term loyalties that have remained steadfast in their friendship or ignore China, Sri Lanka's largest bilateral creditor. His calls for a foreign policy that is

economy that has lost its shock absorbers. Now, it is a matter of carefully managing competing geopolitical interests to secure economic advancement. In this regard, there are lessons to learn from countries that maximised their geostrategic locations and others who repositioned themselves to meet new economic challenges. It is this lack of policy coherence that prevents the country from moving forward and making strategic partnerships that can help Sri Lanka overcome its economic woes. Beyond bold action, it is now that the island requires innovative policy approaches that do not make choices that harm.

The NPP has been prudent in not abandoning the IMF formula despite firm election pledges to the contrary.

This is essential for economic recovery and for

maintaining a semblance of normalcy. It is equally important to prioritise strategy over old affiliations or political ideology, as challenging as it may be.

The reform agenda is quite unpopular among many, but

it now appears to be the only available antidote to the island's problems. Having opposed it before the polls, the government now finds it difficult to convince the people of additional tax revisions and other controls that pass the burden to them.

In addition, the government should avoid walking back on previous plans to restructure loss-making and underperforming state-run enterprises. As challenging as it may be, the government must reduce the massive public sector workforce, which exceeds 1.3 million, a political dumping ground where successive governments created jobs for political gain. What the country has also not seen is a move toward increasing productivity. All the

strategies in the world and partnerships cannot deliver Sri Lanka's economy unless strategic attempts are made to improve productivity. Despite the stated policies, there remains significant confusion about how the administration intends to fix the island's flagging economy. This, too, becomes a matter of policy intricately linked to foreign policy. Meanwhile, time is running out, slowly but surely, for an administration brought to office with great expectations. Along with that, public patience too, is on the wane. For President Anura Dissanayake and his brigade, it is a wake-up call to review policies and adopt a pragmatic, geo-strategically prudent foreign policy and economic approach if Sri Lanka is to move

Speedy justice in rape case a hope for others

The quick probe and trial honour the survivor's courage and the faith she placed in the law. The Anna University assault shows what can be done when the state puts its will behind a case.

The recent verdict in the Anna University sexual assault case sentencing the convict to life for a minimum of 30 years without remission is welcome for the speed at which the police, prosecution and judiciary acted to deliver justice in five months. The brazen assault was committed on December 23 on the campus of the premier educational institution a stone's throw from the governor's residence in Chennai. The convict, food vendor A Gnanasekaran, raped the survivor, captured the assault on video and threatened to share it if she spoke up. The survivor, however, reported the crime to the police the very next day. Although the authorities initially failed her when the FIR briefly became publicly available, revealing her identity, she saw her case through to the end. The state faced the wrath of the Madras High Court for this, with the appointment of a three-member special investigation team to probe the case. The team filed the charges within two months of the crime, while the Mahila Court delivered its verdict in less than three months. The case saw protests from students and political parties, with



opposition parties insisting that the state allowed Gnanasekaran's "partners" go free. This is based on the survivor's account that he spoke to someone on his phone during the assault. However, the verdict held that

Gnanasekaran had faked the call, pointing to evidence from the mobile service provider. It appears the SIT pursued every avenue despite the speed of investigation.

The quick probe and trial honour the survivor's courage and the faith she placed in the law. There are scores of women and children across Tamil Nadu and the rest of the country who have placed their faith in the system—only to endure years of investigation, trials that never seem to end, and a mirage in the place of justice. The Anna University assault shows what can be done when the state puts its will behind a case. If this will, in provisioning resources, support and pressure, can be exercised in every such case, the courage of every woman and child coming forward despite the trauma and stigma of sexual violence will be truly honoured. And India will be safer for it. After all, it is not the severity of punishment that is the true deterrent, but the certainty of it.

The American dream was stolen long before Trump

The rise of neoliberalism in the 1970s put the US's share-the-wealth ethic under a cloud. Indians' view of what America promises has changed drastically since then

Ever since President Donald Trump began unsettling the United States, commentaries in formal and informal exchanges have often sighed that the very idea of America has come under attack. The desperate sigh, that could cover miles and stretch across continents, makes a distinction to communicate the decline of the 'free world' and our times.

The standard progression of the narrative indicates it is one thing to target immigrants, foreign students, trade, environmental agreements, the military and monetary pacts. But to maul and dismantle the long-held perception of the US, which is willy-nilly linked to a certain rational construct, liberal ethos and cosmopolitan embrace, is a tectonic shift. If a nation ever had a fantastic marketing line in history, the US had it in the sublime phrase—"The American dream". The suggestions emerging now are that the dream seems to be over; it has turned into a nightmare.

Although 'American dream' sounds almost like a truism, it has meant many things to many people both inside and outside the US. It's like a phrase with a universal semantic connotation, but the dream itself has been nuanced across generations. America allowed immigrants to chase diverse freedoms, liberty, the good life and democracy; while encompassing a Protestant ethic, an emphasis on individuality and individual success, and a certain meritocracy. It has also accommodated an unabashed worship of profit. People have picked what they wanted, depending on where they stood on the arc of their personal progress. The idea of the American dream was nearly always about the young and their flaming aspirations. It excluded the poor,

disabled, the sick and the elderly. The phrase perhaps also taught one to play down hardships, pain, loneliness and a variety of discriminations to be perennially on a junket of celebration. That is because to challenge the positivity of the phrase meant to negate the choices one had made to chase the dream. This is especially true for an immigrant. An immigrant in America constantly markets success, opportunity and purposefulness, which is argued as missing in the nations of their origin. It is this marketing pitch and mythology that has enticed millions to somehow reach the borders of the country, spending enormous sums of money on touts while surviving ghastly routes. One wonders if such people would ever get a return on their investment. Therefore, they choose to play for the future, for an un-guaranteed and distant comfort of their future generations. Ironically, for such people to merely survive also means living the American dream.

Only prosperous countries can create a dream like the one America has manufactured. This dream consumes every other dream. A top psychiatrist once told me there was nothing called an Indian dream because all such dreams were fragments of the American dream. America's biggest export has been its dream. No country in the world has put trade barriers and tariffs on it. It acquired a greater ring ever since the collapse of the Soviet Union. Although China has emerged in the last couple of decades, it has never been able to export a dream. When Covid struck, and people disparagingly called it the 'China virus', it mortally struck at the possibility of such an export. Even within the US, people have long felt that

the American dream has been 'stolen' because wealth distribution in the past half-century has become skewed. A minuscule percentage of Wall Street, Ivy League and Silicon Valley types are accused of having rigged the system. They argue that between the 1950s and the 1970s, the American dream had created "shared prosperity" and expanded the middle class. In 2012, Pulitzer-winning journalist Hedrick

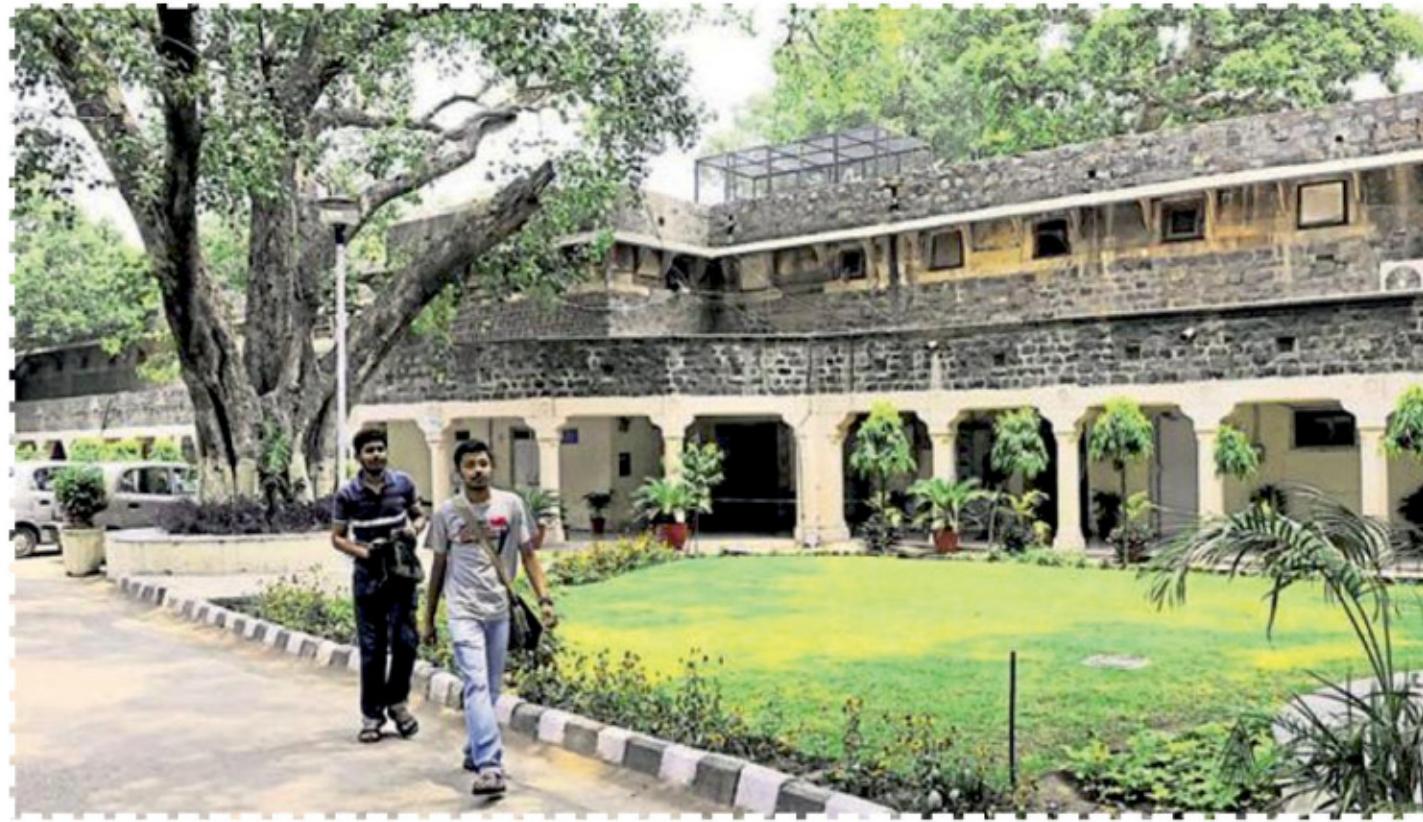


Smith even wrote a bestseller titled *Who stole the American dream?* Philosophers like Michael Sandel at Harvard have also questioned the meritocratic system—an inevitable component of the dream. Historians and commentators have seen the 1970s as a decade of transition in the US when parts of the powerful American establishment started rethinking its welfare idealism of the 1950s through the 1960s. They were plotting to impart a harder pro-business, laissez faire identity to the nation. This put the 'share-the-wealth ethic' under a cloud and aided the burglary of the American dream, eventually. From being an 'empire of production', it started moving towards

becoming an empress of consumption. The loss of jobs argument that began then haunts America to this day. In India, of course, the 1970s was the reverse. The Nehruvian-socialist dream had taken a crude turn. We were into nationalisation of nearly everything. The state was the final arbiter of nearly everything from industrial licences to prescribing the size of the family that one should raise. The Emergency was a part of this authoritarian micro-management of a nation's destiny. India's middle-class expansion came late, only in the 1990s. That is when we borrowed the American dream that was already in a crisis. Even during the 1950s and 1960s America, although one section imagined the full bloom of the American dream, racial inequalities and segregation ensured the dream was a truncated, one-dimensional affair that cleverly brushed everything that disturbed the formulation under the carpet.

Those who dream the American dream when the first waves of big immigration happened from India, notoriously labelled the 'brain drain', constructed the dream very differently. Economist J N Bhagwati even spoke of a 'brain drain tax'. They did not abandon their motherland, but had a constructive narrative that was about scouting for technology, enterprise and education to take back. Interestingly, rural development was a running theme among the conscientious who had migrated in the 1960s and 1970s. All this, of course, changed in the mid-1980s when a new generation of Indian-Americans, quite naturally, grew independent of their obligations back home. Assimilation in American society became a far greater pull. In the next few decades,

North Delhi for Heritage lovers



Ambedkar University Campus

This is not your usual university campus with a main building surrounded by graffiti-ridden walls and some academic blocks. The single-storeyed sprawling building that serves the Ambedkar University today is steeped in history and has been witness to all its turmoil. Its age-old trees have an impressive canopy of their own and can boast of many a historical figures taking sanctuary under their branches. Built in the 1900s, the building was initially the IG Block in British rules India. As the British were looking to develop more structures of governance, before the Parliament was built, Civil

ruled India and the reign of the last Mughal ruler, Bahadur Shah Zafar. His bungalow, today the site of the Railway office, was built next to the Yamuna in 1803 when he was the deputy resident of Delhi. Fraser was murdered outside this bungalow and has been buried in the grounds of the neighbouring St. James' Church. The rather well-maintained structure of William Fraser's bungalow is also the recipient of DDA's Adaptive Urban Heritage award in 1998. The building comprises of two separate structures that have been joined together. Architecture is in the Indo-Saracenic style, also known as Indo-Gothic or Hindu-Gothic. The building

Fort, decapitated in one part of the dungeon and their bodies thrown into the nearby Yamuna river without anyone getting to know. The Yamuna river's waters came right up to the dungeons at the time that the waters had not receded. This is probably why these dungeons reek of a dank odour even today. A part of the tunnel accessible from behind the bungalow has some lighting for people to be able to walk along a portion of this. Since most of the elaborate tunnel networks under Red Fort are either broken down or inaccessible, this tykhana is an interesting opportunity to explore if you'd fancy a peek into history and the scandalous crimes that could have taken place here.

An alert for single women tourists, go in large groups if you plan to explore the tunnels.

How to reach

If you are planning to take the metro, take the Kashmere Gate exit and ask a three wheeler or a cycle rickshaw (plenty available) to the St. James' Church. The building is right behind the church.

Dara Shikoh's Library

The more well known and revered son of emperor Shahjahan, Dara Shikoh was known to have keen intellectual pursuits. The library established by him in the year 1637, stands in the grounds of the Ambedkar University to this day, a testimony for this interest, although few of the prince's original works are accessible. Dara Shikoh was involved in the translation of the Upanishads and had already completed the translation of 50 Upanishads from Sanskrit to Persian in a bid to bring these ancient scriptures within the



Lines, beginning from Kashmere Gate right up till Majnu Ka Tila, was going to be the scene of action.

As a result, since the time of the British and after that, this campus has housed many educational institutions including the Kashmere Gate Polytechnic, the Woodcraft Institute and the Delhi College of Engineering, the latter has now moved to Bawana.

William Fraser's Bungalow

Referred to as a 'white mughal' by noted author William Dalrymple, William Fraser was a civil servant in the times of British

was greatly damaged during the revolt of 1857 and has since then been restored hence the alteration in architectural styles.

What is most interesting is that the building stands on a tykhana, or a dungeon, that has three tunnels, one leading up to Red Fort, the other to the Yamuna river and the third to a corner of the bungalow's huge campus. This network of tunnels was meant to facilitate clandestine passage of sepoys as well as prisoners, not to mention their execution. Often, prisoners were sent from the Red

Fort, decapitated in one part of the dungeon and their bodies thrown into the nearby Yamuna river without anyone getting to know. The Yamuna river's waters came right up to the dungeons at the time that the waters had not receded. This is probably why these dungeons reek of a dank odour even today. A part of the tunnel accessible from behind the bungalow has some lighting for people to be able to walk along a portion of this. Since most of the elaborate tunnel networks under Red Fort are either broken down or inaccessible, this tykhana is an interesting opportunity to explore if you'd fancy a peek into history and the scandalous crimes that could have taken place here.

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reach of Persian scholars. A lot of his own texts reflect a confluence of both Sufi and Vedantic schools of thought.

The library building is a short drive into the Ambedkar University campus, accessible on weekends as well. In the British period, the building served as the residence of the Mughal Viceroy of Punjab, Ali Mardan Singh. Thereafter, the Government College, the District School and the Municipal Board School operated from these premises.

The building has a huge lawn on the back side of the premises that probably served as a play area for the children at that time.

Today, the Department of Archaeology of Ambedkar University operates from here.

Old Post Office

The oldest post office of Delhi dating back to 1885; this is where the story of India Post began. Despite the age, the building is in good shape due to adequate maintenance and the fact that this is still an operational post office.

Its double-storeyed structure is located a quick walk down from the Ambedkar University entrance, on the way from Kashmere Gate to Red Fort. The Old Delhi Railway Station is a stone throw's away, a convenient location for all the post coming in at the time when snail mail was the only way of communication. The building has five bays with semi-circular arched doorways, typical of architecture of this time. There are semi-circular tapering pilasters between each bay.

Once you are in the area, you can also check out some other British era buildings in the vicinity; the St. James' Church, Ambedkar University building that was earlier used as the IG Block during the British governance and houses Dara Shikoh's library and William Fraser's Bungalow that is today the Railway office.

Baba Hindu Rao Hospital

Overlooking a quaint roundabout on the North Delhi Ridge, with the Ashokan Pillar on one side and the Delhi University North Campus to the other, stands the Hindu Rao Hospital. The sprawling campus of the biggest hospital of the North Delhi Municipal Corporation has quite a few shards of history tucked away in various corners.

As per the official version of the Hindu Rao Hospital, the main building of the hospital goes back to 1911. It was built by Sir Edward Cole Brook as a 16 bedded nursing home. However, other accounts of this structure, particularly those



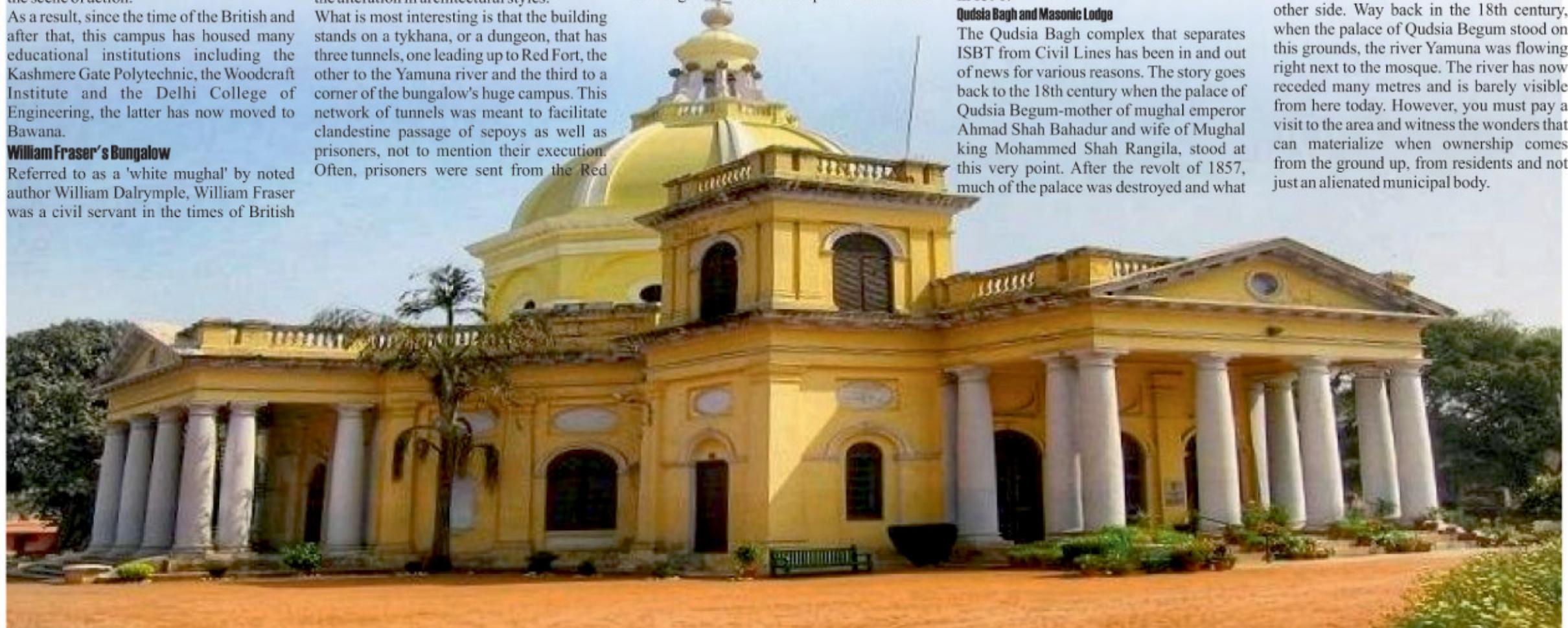
of noted author William

Dalrymple have referred to the Hindu Rao House as a structure built by William Fraser in the early 19th century who also resided here. After his death in 1835, the house was acquired by Hindu Rao, a Maratha nobleman and brother in law of Maharaja Daulat Rao Scindia of Gwalior and the name has since stuck.

The house premises was turned into the British head quarters during the time of the 1957 Revolt, probably because of the vantage point that it offers, thanks to its elevation and thick green cover. Incidentally, this was also the spot where Timur the Lame camped and looted Delhi in 1398.

Qudsia Bagh and Masonic Lodge

The Qudsia Bagh complex that separates ISBT from Civil Lines has been in and out of news for various reasons. The story goes back to the 18th century when the palace of Qudsia Begum-mother of mughal emperor Ahmad Shah Bahadur and wife of Mughal king Mohammed Shah Rangila, stood at this very point. After the revolt of 1857, much of the palace was destroyed and what



On the outskirts of the erstwhile walled city of Delhi was an area frequented by invaders, scheming wazirs and power hungry emperors. What is left today are structural landmarks, memories and many legends about what could have transpired two action-packed centuries ago. Beginning with the monuments that were built by the British for the purpose of governance including Town Hall and Vice-Regal lodge to those structures that were meant for surveillance- Flagstaff Tower, Barracks and finally the memorials- Tis Hazari, Mutiny Memorial, the area is peppered with many must visit landmarks.

remains today is a mosque, an archway and a hunting lodge and some remains of the corner facade of the erstwhile palace.

The mosque is an ASI protected monument. Built with lakhori bricks, the ASI is still working to restore this to its days of glory. Some of the initial work has been patchy and looks as if sepias paint has been slapped on the structure in a hurry. The mosque is already giving in to encroachment despite notices prohibiting the same.

In the same complex is the Masonic Club and the mason's lodge. While the club is now closed since it would attract mostly those who would come across to enjoy highly subsidised liquor, the mason's lodge has recently been painted and restored, freed of all the broken furniture that had been piled up here for decades.

The historical structures notwithstanding, the real story lies in the resurrection of the park complex itself. Built in the char-bagh style, the Qudsia Bagh sprawling over 50 acres were dishevelled and gradually deteriorating into a den for miscreants. Ever since the upkeep of these lawns was taken over by the Qudsia Bagh

Welfare society, a body comprising mainly of local residents, the area has been converted into a walker's and horticulturist's paradise. A neat 1-km walk-way has been carved out of the lawns' periphery so that even the remote corners are now accessible to all. Almost 550 trees, 42,500 shrubs and 450 bamboo plants were planted recently.

This has only added to the already existing green treasures of this area; a few 200 year old Pipal trees that were probably planted in the Mughal era, two of the largest specimens of Cycas Palms in the city going back almost 80 years and many other old trees that are now neatly labeled for those who care to observe as they go about their morning walk.

The complex is flanked by the ring road on one side and Palna-an orphanage-on the other side. Way back in the 18th century, when the palace of Qudsia Begum stood on this grounds, the river Yamuna was flowing right next to the mosque. The river has now receded many metres and is barely visible from here today. However, you must pay a visit to the area and witness the wonders that can materialize when ownership comes from the ground up, from residents and not just an alienated municipal body.

Sadhguru-led Cauvery Calling movement enables plantation of 1.36 crore saplings in 2024-25, total plantation soars to 12.2 cr

New Delhi. Envisioned by Sadhguru, the Cauvery Calling movement enabled the plantation of 1.36 crore saplings across 34,000 acres in the Cauvery basin during 2024-25. To date, a total of 12.2 crore saplings have been planted, supporting 2.38 lakh farmers in adopting tree-based agriculture. Remarkably, in the last year alone, 50,931 farmers and citizens actively participated in this large-scale ecological effort.

Cauvery Calling is the world's largest farmer-driven ecological initiative and a groundbreaking eco-restoration effort with the potential to transform tropical regions. Named Top Innovator by the Trillion Trees: India Challenge, the movement aims to rejuvenate the Cauvery River—lifeline to 8.4 crore people—while enhancing farmers' incomes by enabling the plantation of 242 crore trees on private farmland. It promotes tree-based agriculture that helps enrich soil health and improve water retention, in turn helping sustain the river's year-round flow. Sadhguru had earlier

shared, "Cauvery Calling will demonstrate to the world that it is possible to change the terrain of degraded land by taking planned & strategized action. Everyone who is nourished by Soil & Water must be a part of this Movement. Let Us Make It Happen."

Reflecting on the achievement, Anand Ethirajalu, Project Director of Cauvery Calling and representative of the Save Soil movement, emphasized the urgency of soil regeneration—one of the key objectives of the movement. He said, "One of the key topics that we were campaigning during this COP29 summit of UNFCCC and COP16 of UNCCD is that less than 4 percent of the global climate finance is actually reaching agriculture and food systems."

"We highlighted this because climate change cannot be fixed in the atmosphere. It can be fixed only in the soil. Putting more focus and investment in soil regeneration through

tree-based agriculture is the need of the hour, and that's what we've been doing!"

Providing a large quantity of quality saplings is crucial to achieving the goal of planting



over a crore saplings each year. The Cauvery Calling production centres play a vital role in this effort. The production centres include a nursery in Cuddalore, one of the world's largest single-site nurseries, entirely run by women, with a capacity to

produce 85 lakh saplings. Together with the nursery at Thiruvannamalai, which produces 15 lakh saplings, these centres form the backbone of the initiative.

These nurseries supply 40 distribution centres across Tamil Nadu and 10 centres in Karnataka. Together, these nurseries offer 29 high-value timber species, including Teak, Red Sandalwood, Rosewood, and Mahogany at a subsidized rate of Rs. 3 per sapling. The Nursery at Sadhguru Samridhi Bengaluru also reached a significant milestone of enabling plantation of 1,00,000 saplings since its inception in December 2023. At present, it has enabled the plantation of over 1.3 lakh saplings.

Cauvery Calling is enhancing farmer livelihoods by enabling them to run sapling production and distribution franchises. Farmers are trained and supported to manage nurseries and supply high-quality organic saplings to their communities.

Two more Ramsar wetland sites in India, taking total to 91



New Delhi. Two more sites from India have been added to the list of wetlands of international importance, taking the number of such sites in the country to 91. The latest to join the list of Ramsar sites in India are Khichan in Phalodi and Menar in Udaipur, both in Rajasthan. Sharing the news on X, Prime Minister Narendra Modi posted: "Great news! India's strides in environmental conservation are happening with great vigour and are powered by public participation."

Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav posted on X, "This addition takes our tally to 91. The achievement is yet another testament to the fact that PM Shri @narendramodi ji's focus on environmental conservation is successfully helping India build a greener tomorrow."

The aim of the Ramsar list is to develop and maintain an international network of wetlands, which are important for the conservation of global biological diversity and for sustaining human life, through the maintenance of their ecosystem components, processes and benefits. The Ramsar Convention is an international treaty for the conservation and wise use of wetlands. It is named after the Iranian city of Ramsar, on the Caspian Sea, where the treaty was signed on February 2, 1971. India ratified the convention on February 1, 1982.

India does not seek war but ready to do 100 Operation Sindoors': BJP MP Tejasvi Surya in US

New Delhi. BJP MP Tejasvi Surya on Tuesday emphasised that while India has never been an aggressor, it will not hesitate to act in the face of provocation, even if that means carrying out "100 Operation Sindoors" to defend its sovereignty. Speaking at an interaction with the Indian diaspora in Washington, Surya said, "India does not seek war. We have never sought war in our civilisation's history. But that doesn't mean that we will remain passive in the face of Adharma. If there is cessation of aggression, you will have peace. But if you attack us, not once, we are ready to do 100 Operation Sindoors."

India's precision strike on terror infra

India carried out precision strikes, codenamed Operation



Sindoors, on terror infrastructures in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir in response to a terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam. At least 26 people, mostly tourists, were killed in the attack.

Surya also rebutted former Pakistani foreign minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on his comments on Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He also criticised Pakistan's international outreach as hypocritical. "It is quite ironic that the Pakistani delegation is speaking the language of peace. It's like the Devil quoting scriptures," he said.

Pak dependent on cheap Chinese imports

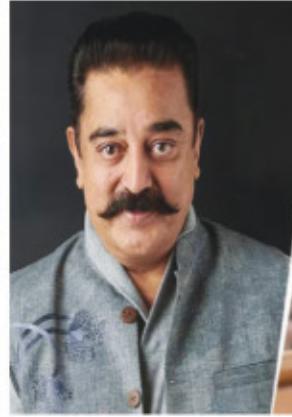
Surya further said that Pakistan, while attempting to emulate India's global diplomatic outreach, remains dependent on "cheap Chinese imports, including military hardware, which spectacularly failed on the battlefield". "Perhaps it is hard for them to digest high-quality, high-calibre military hardware as well as strong democratic leadership on the other side of the border," he said. He also drew a critical distinction between India and Pakistan.

What's wrong with what Kamal Haasan said: DMK MLA backs actor amid Kannada row

New Delhi. Tamil Nadu's PWD Minister and senior DMK leader KN Nehru has come out in support of actor-politician Kamal Haasan after he faced backlash over his remarks linking Kannada's roots to Tamil. "What is wrong with what he said? All languages, including Telugu and Malayalam, came from Tamil. There is nothing wrong with what he said. The Judge had deliberately said something," said Minister Nehru, extending support to the actor.

The controversy erupted following Kamal Haasan's statement that "Kannada branched from Tamil," sparking widespread outrage in Karnataka. Despite demands for an

apology, Kamal Haasan refused to apologise, saying that his remarks were misunderstood. "Love will never apologise," Haasan maintained, refusing to withdraw his comment even after the matter reached the



Karnataka High Court. As the controversy intensified, Kamal Haasan's legal team told the High

Court that "Art can wait, release can wait," as the actor decided not to release his upcoming film *Thug Life* in Karnataka.

Former BJP State President Tamilisai Sounderrajan criticised Kamal Haasan, accusing him of promoting divisive language politics for personal gain. "Kamal Haasan took Vishwaroopam and, when a controversy emerged over religion, said that if the controversy is true, he will leave the country in 2013. But today he is acting against the unity of India for his own interest. You want Telugu, Kannada and Malayalam when you want to make money out of Cinema. But you are taking language politics as a fake-faced politician. People like us who love Tamil urge you not to destroy the unity of the nation," Sounderrajan said.

"Impeachment Not One Party's Agenda": Kiren Rijiju On Judge In Cash Row

New Delhi. The planned impeachment motion against high court judge Justice Yashwant Varma in the cash-at-home matter is linked to corruption in the judiciary, and is not the agenda of one political party, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju said today, explaining why all political parties should jointly move the motion.

The Supreme Court had formed an inquiry committee following allegations of "burnt cash" found at a storeroom of Justice Varma's house when he was a judge of the Delhi High Court. "With regards to the impeachment motion against the high court judge [Justice] Yashwant Verma, I have initiated discussion with political parties. Most of the major political parties have already been told and we have sought a collaborative effort where all the political parties should come together and jointly move the motion," Mr Rijiju said today.

"The government feels that the matter is related to corruption, and this is a matter related to corruption of a high court sitting judge, so this is not one party's political agenda. It is the stand of every political party to fight against the menace of corruption, whether it is a judicial or any other space," the parliamentary affairs minister said.

"So the government would like to take all political parties on board and then initiate the impeachment motion. I will reach out to some remaining smaller

parties also so that everybody is on board on this important matter," he added.

The in-house inquiry committee submitted its report on the issue last month, which has since been forwarded to the Prime Minister and the President. On May 4, a panel of judges tasked with conducting an internal inquiry into allegations of cash being discovered at Justice Varma's house submitted its report to the then Chief Justice of India, Sanjiv Khanna. According to an official communication from the Supreme Court, the three-member committee comprising Justice Sheel Nagu, Chief Justice of the High Court of Punjab and Haryana; Justice GS Sandhawalia, Chief Justice of the High Court of Himachal Pradesh, and Justice Anu Sivaraman, judge of the High Court of Karnataka, concluded its investigation and presented its findings in a report dated May 3.

"This court is also constrained to express its dismay at the alleged conduct of the petitioner school in engaging "bouncers" to physically block entry of certain students into the school premises over fee row and said such a reprehensible practice has no place in an institute of learning. Justice Sachin Datta said this while disposing of an application filed by the parents of students of Delhi Public School, Dwarka over alleged removal of over 30 students by the school over the issue of fee.

What did the parents submit?

The parents alleged that the school has taken coercive and arbitrary action against the students in guise of arrears of fees in contravention of an earlier High Court order and that the school resorted to engage "bouncers" in order to prevent their children from entering the school premises. They submitted that despite the order of the High Court, the children were not only mistreated and threatened by the "bouncers" but were also forced to wait in a school bus for two hours before being dropped back home.

Use of 'bouncers' fosters a climate of fear, humiliation and exclusion: High Court

"Public shaming/intimidation of a student on account of financial default, especially through force or coercive action, not only constitutes mental harassment but also undermines the psychological well-being and self-worth of a child. The use of "bouncers" fosters a climate of fear, humiliation and exclusion that is incompatible with the fundamental ethos of a school," Justice Datta added. Primary objective of a school is to impart education and inculcate values, not to operate as a business enterprise.

High Court Justice Datta further said that a school though charges fees for the services rendered but it cannot be equated with a pure commercial establishment and the driving force and character of a school (particularly a school such as Delhi Public School, Dwarka, which is run by a prominent society) is rooted not in profit maximisation but in public welfare, nation building and the holistic development of children. The primary objective of a school is to impart education and inculcate values, not to operate as a business enterprise, he added.

DPS Dwarka Revokes Suspension Of 32 Students Over Fee Dispute



New Delhi. The Delhi Public School, Dwarka, has decided to revoke the suspension of 32 students over a fee dispute, the Delhi High Court was informed on Thursday.

The development came as Justice Sachin Datta was set to pronounce his verdict on a petition filed by the parents of the students, who were suspended over alleged non-payment of increased fees.

"We have withdrawn the suspension order striking off students and also filed an affidavit to that effect on Monday," the counsel for the school informed the court. The judge, however, said he will also take into consideration the decision of the coordinate bench of Justice Vikas Mahajan in the matter. "I will take note of the fact that you have withdrawn the suspension order and pass an appropriate order accordingly," he said.

In their plea, the parents alleged the school has used pressure and coercive tactics over the past few years to collect unapproved fees. They said the monthly fee was increased by Rs 7,000 earlier and was recently raised to Rs 9,000.

Last month, the Directorate of Education (DoE) had instructed the school to immediately reinstate 32 students removed from the school rolls. In an order to the school, the DoE said the school's actions violated court directions, which prohibit fee hikes without the department's approval and any form of discrimination against students over fee-related issues.

In April, Justice Datta pulled up the school for treating students over fee with "indignity" by confining them in a library and not allowing them to attend classes. He said the school, which was treating students like "chattel", deserved to be shut down.

The court said some safeguards were required to ensure students were not "tortured" by the school, which was running the institution merely as a "money making machine".

Indian jawan kidnapped by Bangladeshi villagers, freed after talks



NEW DELHI. A Border Security Force (BSF) jawan was allegedly kidnapped by Bangladeshi villagers on Tuesday morning and taken across the international boundary on West Bengal's Malda border. The jawan was later released unharmed following a flag meeting between Indian and Bangladeshi border forces.

As per sources, the jawan was attempting to thwart an infiltration attempt near Kathalia village when several Bangladeshi criminals dragged him across the border and tied him up. Senior BSF officials rushed to the Malda border post as soon as the incident was reported. A video that went viral on social media purportedly showed the jawan tied to a banana tree in a remote location across the border for nearly four hours. However, the authenticity of the video has not been independently verified. The BSF immediately raised the issue with the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB). The jawan was handed over to Indian authorities after a flag meeting between the two sides.

"He was held captive for a few hours, but we took up the matter with BGB.

He is now back with us and in good health," a senior BSF officer from the South Bengal Frontier told PTI. The BSF is currently investigating the circumstances surrounding the incident and has initiated a review of security protocols in the region. No official statement has been issued yet.

'Such a reprehensible practice has no place in an institute of learning': Delhi HC dismayed at DPS Dwarka using bouncers to block students' entry

New Delhi. The Delhi High Court on Thursday (June 5) expressed its dismay at the alleged conduct of DPS Dwarka in engaging "bouncers" to physically block entry of certain students into the school premises over fee row and said such a reprehensible practice has no place in an institute of learning. Justice Sachin Datta said this while disposing of an application filed by the parents of students of DPS Dwarka over alleged removal of over 30 students by the school over the issue of fee.

What did the parents submit?

The parents alleged that the school has taken coercive and arbitrary action against the students in guise of arrears of fees in contravention of an earlier High Court order and that the school resorted to engage "bouncers" in order to prevent their children from entering the school premises. They submitted that despite the order of the High Court, the children were not only mistreated and threatened by the "bouncers" but were also forced to wait in a school bus for two hours before being dropped back home.



School is different from a normal commercial establishment: High Court

"The school, no doubt, is entitled to charge appropriate fees, especially given the financial outlay required to sustain infrastructure, remunerate staff and provide a conducive learning environment. However, the school is different from a normal commercial establishment, inasmuch as it carries with it fiduciary and moral responsibilities towards its students," Justice Datta said.

Order debarring 31 students was withdrawn and they were reinstated, school informed High Court

The bench, which was informed that the order debarring 31 students was withdrawn by the school and those students were reinstated, said that since the impugned order by which the name of 31 children had been struck off the rolls of the school has been withdrawn and the concerned students have been reinstated, the controversy raised in the present application has become moot.



The wild side of Goa

Before you start getting ideas from the heading, let me clarify that we will be discussing a totally different form of wild. Goa is more than just pristine beaches, feni, floating casinos and a happening nightlife.

Being a place of immense natural beauty, the state is endowed with breathtaking wilderness and there are more places to visit in Goa, which are perfect for someone who wants to get out of a mundane week and get into something peaceful.



Mhadei Wildlife Sanctuary

Mhadei Wildlife Sanctuary is located in the eastern part of Goa. Spread in around 208 sq km, this sanctuary supports a wide variety of wildlife and is famous as a bird watcher's paradise. It is considered as an International Bird Area, and is home to 255 bird species, including Nilgiri wood-pigeon and crimson-backed sunbird. Visitors can also see over 257 recorded species of butterflies flutter around. Owing to the presence of resident Bengal tigers, the sanctuary has been proposed as a tiger reserve. Along with the diverse fauna, it

is also popular for its variety of flora that includes sacred grooves, creepers, evergreen species of Ashoka and colourful flowers, among others. Besides its unique biodiversity, Mhadei Wildlife Sanctuary is also popular for its cascades, especially Vazra Sakla waterfalls and Virdi Falls.

Salim Ali Bird Sanctuary

Salim Ali Bird Sanctuary, named after the famous ornithologist, is located on the island of Chorao along the Mandovi River. Spread in an area of 440 acres, the sanctuary is covered with a thick mangrove forest, which is usually a



natural nesting ground of birds. Different varieties of swallows, bulbuls, kingfishers, swans, woodpeckers, hornbills, etc. are found in plenty at this place.

The sanctuary has 1km-long pathway on which one can walk as close as possible to see the natural habitat of birds, without disturbing them. One can also choose to hire a boat and go around the place.

Cotigao Wildlife Sanctuary

Located 60 km south of Panaji, Cotigao Wildlife Sanctuary is the second largest in Goa. This sanctuary is notable for its dense forest cover with trees as high as 30m and is a haven for tree lovers. The Talpona River flows through the area and the major watering holes are located on its back. There are fewer big animals in this sanctuary than Mollem, however one can still expect to see bears, wild boars, deer and monkeys. Birds are plentiful in general and some species of eagles, which are not easily spotted elsewhere, can be seen here. Several tribal communities live inside these forests and one can get an insight into their fast fading lifestyle.

Dudhsagar Falls

One of the important destinations within Bhagwan Mahaveer Sanctuary is the Dudhsagar Falls. Of the numerous waterfalls in the Western Ghats, this is one of the most impressive and is the second highest in India after the Jog Falls. The trip involves a short hike on the road and requires a minimum of fitness. The best season to see the falls is in the monsoons, soon after the rains.

Bhagwan Mahaveer

Sanctuary

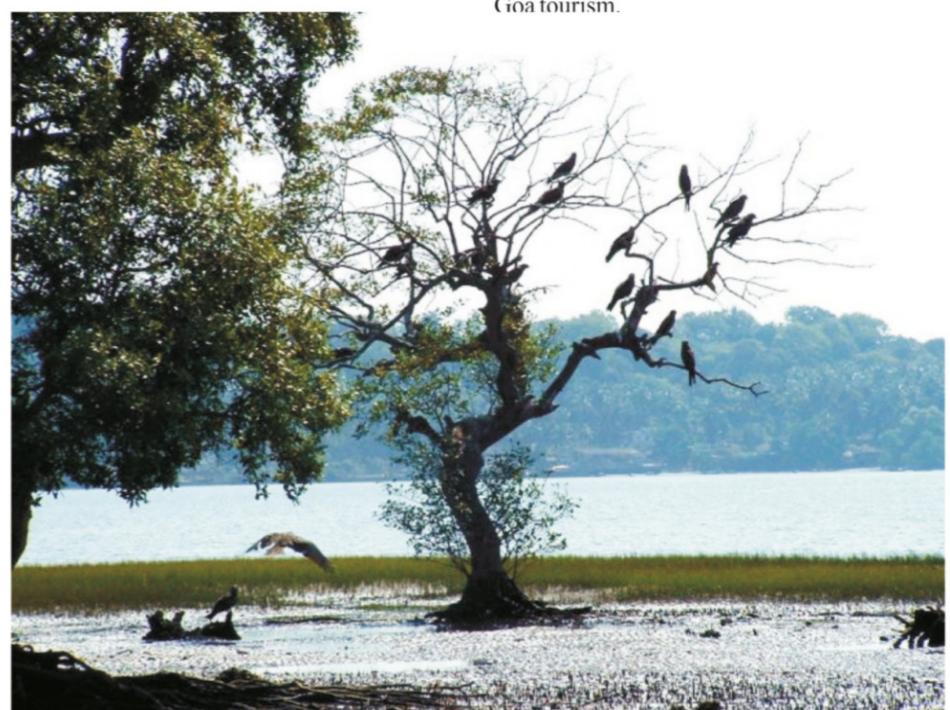
With an area of more than 240 sq km, this park happens to be the largest wildlife sanctuary in Goa. It was earlier called Mollem Game Sanctuary and was renamed to the current one in 1969. However, the core area is still called Mollem National Park. Nestled in the Western Ghats, the sanctuary is home to pristine evergreen, semi evergreen and deciduous forests at different altitudes. The fauna includes the rare black panther, varieties of



deer, bison, several members of the primate family, porcupines and a number of species of resident and migratory birds. It is also home to a great variety of butterflies.

The sanctuary contains several natural and historical attractions that make this the largest protected area. Some of them are Dudhsagar Falls, Tambdi Falls, Devil's Canyon and ancient Kadamba Temples.

Bhagwan Mahaveer Sanctuary is 63 km from Panaji and can be reached by road or train from the capital or Margao. To go around, vehicles are provided by the Forest Department at economical rates. One can get more idea from Goa tourism.



Asian shares trade mixed after Wall Street's rally stalls on US economic data

TOKYO. Asian shares were mixed on Thursday, as Wall Street's big recent rally lost some momentum following a pair of potentially discouraging reports on the American economy.

U.S. futures edged lower and oil prices declined. Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 shed 0.2% to 37,658.46, while Australia's S&P/ASX 200 declined nearly 0.1% to 8,535.10. In South Korea, the Kospi jumped 2.1% to 2,829.48 after the country's new president and leading liberal politician Lee Jae-myung began his term, vowing to restart talks with North Korea and beef up a trilateral partnership with the U.S. and Japan. Hong Kong's Hang Seng gained 0.9% to 23,856.54, while the Shanghai Composite was little changed, inching down less than 0.1% to 3,374.30.

On Wednesday, the S&P 500 finished the day virtually unchanged at 5,970.81 and remained 2.8% below its all-time high. The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 0.2% to 42,427.74, and the Nasdaq composite added 0.3% to 19,460.49. The action was stronger in the bond market, where Treasury yields tumbled following the weaker-than-expected economic updates. One said that activity contracted for U.S. retailers, finance companies and other businesses in the services industries last month, when economists were expecting to see growth. Businesses told the Institute for Supply Management in its survey that all the uncertainty created by tariffs is making it difficult for them to forecast and plan. A second report from ADP suggested U.S. employers outside of the government hired far fewer workers last month than economists expected. That could bode ill for Friday's more comprehensive jobs report coming from the U.S. Labor Department, which is one of Wall Street's most anticipated data releases each month.

So far, the U.S. job market has remained remarkably resilient despite years of high inflation and now the threat of President Donald Trump's high tariffs. But weakness there could undermine the rest of the economy. Following the reports, traders built up bets that the Federal Reserve will need to cut interest rates later this year in order to prop up the economy, which in turn caused the fall for Treasury yields. The weaker-than-expected ADP report also led Trump to urge Fed Chair Jerome Powell to deliver cuts to rates more quickly.

Aditya Birla group acquires Cargill's specialty chemical unit in US

New Delhi. The Aditya Birla Group has acquired Cargill Incorporated's 17-acre specialty chemicals manufacturing facility in Dalton, Georgia, marking its strategic foray into the US chemicals sector. The financial terms of the transaction were not disclosed.

The acquisition was made through Aditya Birla Chemicals (USA) Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Aditya Birla Chemicals (Thailand) Ltd., and will bolster the group's Advanced Materials business. With this purchase, Aditya Birla Group's cumulative investment in the U.S. manufacturing sector now exceeds \$15 billion.

"This acquisition represents Aditya Birla's strategic entry into the U.S. chemicals industry, extending the business model of our other successful manufacturing businesses in the United States, including Novelis and Birla Carbon," said Kumar Mangalam Birla, Chairman of Aditya Birla Group.

Our growth strategy in the United States is anchored in a commitment to leverage our deep manufacturing expertise to support the revitalization of the growing American manufacturing sector. We look forward to investing in and expanding this foundational facility and identifying other strategic assets to drive growth," he added. With this acquisition, the Advanced Materials business welcomes 50 employees. The business plans to expand the facility's current capacity of 16,000 tons per year to over 40,000 tons over the next two years, affirming the business's commitment to local operations and job creation. Aditya Birla Group will continue to manufacture the plant's current output of formulated resins, curing agents, reactive diluents and polyaspartic resins for the marine, industrial coatings, and flooring industries. Additionally, the Advanced Materials business will introduce products for the automotive, renewable energy and aerospace industries, including its patented chemistries to enable recycling of epoxy composites used in wind, sports goods, pressure vessels and other applications.

Adani Airports raises 750 million dollars to refinance debt, expand capacity

MUMBAI: Adani Airports Holdings has raised 750 million dollars through External Commercial Borrowings (ECB) from a consortium of international banks. The funds will be used to refinance existing debt, invest in infrastructure upgrades, and expand capacity at six airports—Ahmedabad, Lucknow, Mangaluru, Jaipur, Guwahati, and Thiruvananthapuram.

The borrowed amount will also support the growth of non-aeronautical businesses, such as retail, food and beverage, duty-free, and other services across the airport network. The transaction was led by First Abu Dhabi Bank, Barclays PLC, and Standard Chartered Bank. Adani Airports Holdings, a subsidiary of Adani Enterprises and the country's largest private airport operator, served 94 million passengers in the financial year 2024-25. The company's total handling capacity currently stands at 110 million passengers, and it plans to triple this figure to 300 million passengers per year by 2040 through phased expansion. As part of this growth plan, the Navi Mumbai International Airport is expected to become operational soon. It will initially handle 20 million passengers, with capacity set to increase to 90 million annually in later phases. "AAHL is well on its path to deliver exceptional customer experiences, leveraging technology for seamless operations, and prioritizing sustainability and community engagement across its airport network," said Arun Bansal, CEO of AAHL.

Stock market analysts view the deal as a long-term value driver for Dr Reddy's, although commercialisation is expected to be several years away

CHENNAI. Shares of Dr Reddy's Laboratories surged over 3% in early trade on Thursday after the Indian drug maker announced a global licensing agreement with Alvotech, an Iceland-based biopharmaceutical company. Under this agreement, the two firms will

co-develop, manufacture, and commercialise a biosimilar candidate to Keytruda (called as pembrolizumab by the biological name) — a blockbuster cancer immunotherapy drug originally developed by the US pharma major Merck & Co., also known as MSD Pharmaceuticals outside US. Keytruda, prescribed for the treatment of various cancers including melanoma, non-small cell lung cancer, and head and neck cancers, in adults and children, is one of the most sold drugs of Merck from its original research. According to Merck's 2024 sales data, this drug alone contributed over \$29.5 billion in revenue for the company, which also makes it one of the world's top-selling drugs. This drug is in demand as it is used in advanced, metastatic, or recurrent cancers that are not responding to other treatments or cannot be removed by surgery. Keytruda can also be used to prevent cancer recurrence after surgery. A biosimilar is a

generic equivalent of a biological drug. In this case, the biosimilar — pembrolizumab — can enter the market once Merck's patent is expired. There are several drug firms working on this biologic currently worldwide, and Alvotech is one of the frontrunners.

The licensing deal signed between Dr Reddy's and Alvotech marks a strategic expansion of the former's biosimilars pipeline, aligning with the company's ambition to build a strong presence in the global oncology space.

Under the licensing agreement, Alvotech will be responsible for the development and manufacturing of the biosimilar, and Dr Reddy's will hold exclusive commercialisation rights in select global markets, including India and key emerging markets, and potentially commercialise in developed markets.

The financial terms of the deal were not disclosed, but the collaboration is expected to involve milestone payments

and profit-sharing arrangements between the two. A biosimilar version of Keytruda could potentially unlock massive cost savings for healthcare systems globally once it faces patent expiry, expected in the early 2030s in most major markets. The current official price for each indicated dose of Keytruda when given every 6 weeks is \$23,590.88 or Rs 20.23 lakh (as per today's exchange value).

Strategic Significance

The partnership enhances Dr Reddy's capabilities in high-complexity biologics and strengthens its oncology-focused biosimilar pipeline, a key growth area for the company. For Alvotech, the deal is part of its strategy to expand market access via regional partnerships as it positions itself as a global biosimilar player. Stock market analysts view the deal as a long-term value driver for Dr Reddy's, although commercialisation is expected to be several years away, pending regulatory approvals and patent expiry timelines.

GST Council may remove 12% slab, shift items to 5% and 18%: Report

New Delhi. The Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council, which includes the Union Finance Minister and Finance Ministers from all states, may decide on the elimination of the 12% tax slab, reported Hindustan Times. This move is part of a broader strategy to simplify the GST rate structure, reducing the existing four slabs to three. The report indicated that the proposal has garnered backing from officials and experts involved with the Group of Ministers (GoM) on rate changes, achieving a "near consensus." A source quoted in the report said, "This could be the most plausible way to undertake a revenue neutral tax rate rationalisation exercise. However, the GST Council has to take a final call."

Impact on goods and services

Currently, the 12% tax slab encompasses a variety of goods, including condensed milk, caviar, 20-litre drinking water bottles, walkie-talkies, and contact lenses.

Other items such as sausages, frozen



vegetables, pasta, and various household goods also fall under this category. Services taxed at 12% comprise specific construction projects, hotel accommodations priced up to 7,500 per day, and non-economy air travel. The shift of these goods and services to either the 5% or 18% tax brackets is expected to streamline tax filings and classifications, enhancing compliance efficiency.

Upcoming GST Council meeting

The GST Council's forthcoming meeting, anticipated to occur in June or July, is likely to focus on rationalising rates and alleviating compliance burdens. The council's last meeting was held in December 2024. Karthik Mani, Partner at BDO India, highlighted the importance of this meeting, and said, "One of the key expectations from the 56th meeting of the GST Council is the decision on rate rationalisation on various goods and services." The Group of Ministers on rate changes was established on 24th September 2021, following a GST Council meeting in Lucknow. Initially led by Basavaraj S Bommai, the group is currently chaired by Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Chaudhary.

The proposal to remove the 12% slab has largely been accepted by Union and state officials, tax experts, and GoM members. This initiative is seen as a step towards achieving a more straightforward and effective GST system.

Sudarshan Venu to take over as Chairman of TVS Motor from August

NEW DELHI. The Board of Directors of TVS Motor Company has unanimously named Sudarshan Venu as the incoming Chairman of the Company. With this, he will take over as Chairman and Managing Director, effective from August 25 this year. Sudarshan Venu has been managing director of the company since May, 2022. The company's current chairman, Sir Ralf Speth, has informed the Board that he will not be seeking re-appointment as a company Director at the upcoming annual general meeting (AGM). Consequently, he will step down as Chairman at the close of the AGM on August 22, 2025. The Board will appoint Speth as Chief Mentor of the Company for a period of three years effective August 23, 2025, ensuring continued benefit from his extensive knowledge, experience and expertise. Venu Srinivasan, Chairman Emeritus, TVS Motor Company, said, "I express my sincere gratitude to Ralf for his exceptional leadership as Chairman over the last three years. His contributions have been invaluable in guiding our strategic expansion into global markets and fostering innovation that has significantly strengthened our industry standing. We are grateful for his continued support as Chief Mentor for TVS Motor and in welcoming Sudarshan into his new role."

He added, "I am confident that Sudarshan, who in his capacity as Managing Director has demonstrated tremendous growth for the business, will take the Company to even greater heights." Sir Ralf Speth, said, "As I hand over the Chairmanship to Sudarshan, I am confident that under his leadership, the Company will continue its growth journey while championing core TVS values. Sudarshan's dynamism and passion underscore his vision for the business, and I am confident that TVS is in safe, responsible hands. I wish Sudarshan and TVS Motor a bright future ahead."

"TVS has been built on our Chairman Emeritus's commitment to customer centricity, quality and technology. As we look to the future we have to build on these values while capitalising on new opportunities and reimagining for the future," said Sudarshan Venu. "I am most grateful to Sir Ralf, who has been instrumental in challenging and mentoring us to expand more globally, onboard international talent, embrace newer processes, and invest in future products and technology. I look forward to his continued mentorship as our Chief Mentor. Importantly, TVS has grown due to the passion and energy of the entire team. I look forward to the continued partnership in our shared future," he added.

What is DIGIPIN India's new digital address system explained

New Delhi. The Department of Posts has unveiled a novel digital addressing system called DIGIPIN. This new system, developed in collaboration with IIT Hyderabad and the National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC), ISRO, is set to revolutionise how locations are identified across the country.

What is DIGIPIN?

DIGIPIN stands for Digital Postal Index Number. It's a unique 10-digit code that precisely indicates the location of a property, contrasting with traditional PIN codes that cover larger areas. This initiative aims to enhance service delivery, particularly in remote and underserved areas, by providing accurate geographic coordinates essential for various services.

How DIGIPIN WORKS

India has been divided into small square grids and every grid is given a unique code based on latitude and longitude.

So your DIGIPIN is a digital address tied directly to your home's location on the map. According to a press release from the Ministry of Communications dated May 27, 2025, DIGIPIN is an



open-source, interoperable, geo-coded, grid-based digital address system. "It is a cornerstone of the Department of Posts' vision to offer Address-as-a-Service (AaaS) — an array of services associated with address data management to support secure and efficient interactions between users, government entities, and private sector

organisations," mentioned the press release.

WHY IS DIGIPIN USEFUL?

This service aims to support secure and efficient interactions between users, government entities, and private sector organisations. By incorporating GIS capabilities, DIGIPIN lays the groundwork for future GIS-based digitalisation of service delivery, ensuring that accurate location data can be utilised across multiple sectors in a cost-effective manner. Further, this method removes the confusion caused by similar-sounding addresses and improves accuracy for all kinds of services. Also, by offering precise geographic coordinates, DIGIPIN is likely to enhance logistics and emergency response services. This system ensures last-mile delivery and is particularly beneficial in rural and underserved areas.

Are you a freelancer 5 things to know while filing your ITR

Freelancers can claim deductions for expenses directly related to their work. These include internet bills, rent for a co-working space, cost of software tools, professional fees, marketing and advertising costs, and travel expenses related to business, etc.

New Delhi. If you're a freelancer in India, tax season can feel like walking a tightrope. Without the comfort of a Form 16 that salaried employees rely on, navigating income, expenses, and deductions might seem like a confusing puzzle. To simplify the process, India Today spoke with CA (Dr) Suresh Surana, who broke down what freelancers should keep in mind while filing their Income Tax Return (ITR), and how they can avoid common mistakes, even without Form 16. With a bit of preparation and the right documents in place, Surana says, filing your return can be smooth and stress-free. **WHAT SHOULD FREELANCERS KEEP HANDY BEFORE FILING ITR?** Unlike salaried individuals with a

single employer, freelancers juggle multiple clients and payment modes. That's why organising your financial paperwork is key.

Dr Surana recommends starting with your bank statements for the entire financial year. Highlight every freelance income credit, and make sure it matches your invoices. He said, "Freelancers should review their bank statements for the entire financial year to track all income credits, particularly those from professional services. Go through them carefully and mark income from freelance work."

Surana added that if your annual gross receipts exceed Rs 25 lakh, maintaining books of accounts is mandatory under the Income Tax Act. Even otherwise, keeping a detailed ledger is a smart move, especially if you haven't opted for presumptive taxation under Section 44ADA. Freelancers should also collect Form 16 if clients have deducted TDS. "Cross-check the TDS entries with your Form 26AS and AIS (Annual Information Statement) to ensure proper credit," he advised. Have a GST registration? Your GST returns will act as proof of earnings—ensure these numbers match with your ITR. If you work with overseas clients, keep clear records of foreign income, including bank advice slips and currency conversion details. "Retaining

bank advice slips and forex conversion details will help substantiate foreign receipts in case of queries," Surana advised.

Planning to claim deductions under Sections 80C or 80D for LIC premiums,



PPF deposits, or health insurance? Keep receipts and payment proofs handy.

Also, if your total tax liability exceeds Rs 10,000, advance tax kicks in. "Save all payment challans and check that they reflect in your 26AS," Surana noted. This can help you avoid unexpected interest under Sections 234B and 234C.

WHICH ITR FORM SHOULD YOU USE? As per Surana, most freelancers fall under the 'Profits and Gains from Business or Profession' income head. He said that ITR-3 is ideal for freelancers offering services like consultancy, content writing, tech support, design or writing, if not using presumptive taxation. On the other

hand, freelancers eligible for Section 44ADA can use ITR-4 (Sugam), where 50% of gross receipts are considered income, and reporting individual expenses isn't required.

CAN FREELANCERS CLAIM WORK-RELATED EXPENSES? Certainly, but Surana pointed out that this is allowed only when freelancers are not under the presumptive scheme.

He explained that freelancers can claim deductions for expenses directly related to their work. These include internet bills, rent for a co-working space, cost of software tools, professional fees, marketing and advertising costs, travel expenses related to business, depreciation on capital assets such as laptops or printers, and other direct costs associated with rendering freelance services.

"Just ensure you have proper invoices and payment proofs. Personal expenses mixed with professional ones will not be accepted," Surana cautioned.

"However, if a freelancer opts for the presumptive taxation scheme under Section 44ADA, 50% of gross receipts or, as the case may be, a higher sum as claimed by the assessee are treated as deemed income; separate deduction of expenses is not permitted, as all eligible expenses are deemed to be accounted for within the presumptive income," he added.



Shruti Haasan

On Singing For Dad Kamal Haasan's
Thug Life: 'How Many Daughters Can...'

Shruti Haasan's latest musical release is more than just another film song—it's a distinctive collaboration that brings together legends of Tamil cinema. Vinveli Nayaga, from Thug Life, unites the renowned trio of AR Rahman, Mani Ratnam, and Kamal Haasan, with Shruti lending her voice to a composition imbued with special significance. The track is a rare fusion of generational talent, cinematic heritage, and personal pride.

"I've been singing for a long time in my life, and people have liked my songs, but it's never really gotten a reaction like this. Even people who don't like me pinged me, I don't know how many daughters can sing for their dad like this. I never take this for granted," Shruti says.

"Usually, when I go for a song, I get it in the studio and work on it there only. But because sir (Rahman) was kind enough to send it to me a few days before so that I could work on it with my piano, it was really helpful," she adds.

Performed live by Shruti at Thug Life's grand audio launch recently, the song has resonated deeply with audiences and critics. It represents a heartfelt blend of artistry and family legacy, elevated by Rahman's music and Ratnam's direction. For Shruti, it's a moment of deep emotional importance, both as a performer and as Kamal Haasan's daughter.

About Thug Life

Kamal Haasan's Thug Life is an upcoming Tamil-language gangster action drama directed by Mani Ratnam. This film marks a significant collaboration between Haasan and Ratnam after 36 years since their iconic film Nayakan (1987). Scheduled to release on June 5, 2025, the film has already generated immense anticipation due to its star-studded ensemble cast and the creative prowess of its makers. Kamal Haasan leads the cast, portraying a complex character that showcases his versatility and depth as an actor. Silambarasan TR, Trisha Krishnan, Joju George, Ashok Selvan, Aishwarya Lekshmi, Nassar, Ali Fazal, and Rohit Saraf also feature in pivotal roles, contributing to the film's expansive narrative.

The film's music is composed by the legendary A.R. Rahman, marking his third collaboration with Haasan and nineteenth with Ratnam. Cinematography is handled by Ravi K. Chandran, and editing is managed by A. Sreekar Prasad, ensuring a high-quality visual and auditory experience.



Mrunal Thakur's 'Workout Kam Dance Jyaada' Mood Is All Of Us

Mrunal Thakur's goofy videos never fail to make our day. Fans, do you agree? The actress charms fans with clips of her fun time activities, and her latest Instagram reel is proof. The star shared a quirky dance video on social media that's winning hearts online. This time, it features her 'favourite partner-in-crime', hairstylist Deepali Deokar. In the now-viral video shared on Instagram, the duo is seen standing a bit far away from the camera having a discussion. Moments later, they break into a spontaneous dance to Kendrick Lamar's

"cutie," a fan wrote. Another wrote, "Wow, what a vibe!" "Cutest gym duo ever! You guys are adorable and so silly!" commented a user. An account remarked, "That Unique walk, a brand new invention by M & her bestie. Cutest thing we have ever seen!" "If M & her team are there, the whole place just fills up with vibe & energy. They add a touch of cuteness to every moment, creating memories that last forever. Scottish memories are just so heartwarming," another fan said.

Mrunal Thakur has a jam-packed movie slate. She is currently filming for David Dhawan's directorial Hai Jawani Toh Ishq Hona Hai in Scotland. The rom-com features a star-studded cast including Varun Dhawan, Pooja Hegde, Rajeev Khandelwal, Mouni Roy, Maniesh Paul, Chunky Pandey, Jimmy Shergill, Kubbra Sait, and Rohit Saraf. Produced under the banner of Tips Films Pvt. Ltd., the film is slated to release theatrically in October 2025.

Next, she will be seen in the much-awaited action-drama Dacoit: Ek Prem Katha. Featuring Adivi Sesh and Anurag Kashyap, the film is set for a theatrical release on December 25, 2025, and marks the directorial debut of Shaneil Deo.

Touted as a gritty romantic action film, Dacoit revolves around the story of an enraged convict bent on taking revenge against his ex-girlfriend, who has betrayed him. As he creates a dangerous plan to ensnare her, the story unfolds into a gripping and emotionally charged journey of love, vengeance and betrayal. It will be released in Hindi and Telugu simultaneously. Adding to the excitement, she will also appear alongside Ajay Devgn and Sanjay Dutt in Son of Sardaar 2, the much-awaited sequel to the 2012 hit.

hit track Not Like Us. The clip shows Mrunal and Deepali pulling off hilarious and adorable dance moves and expressions, all while vibing to the beat in perfect sync.

Captioning the fun moment, Mrunal wrote, "You're my favourite partner in crime, @deepalid10." Deepali was quick to respond in the comments, saying, "Oyeeee Kudiye!!! What fun na... ready with the next content chaloooooo!"

In no time, fans flooded the comments section of the post with love and laughter. "Pookie Thakur, such a



Dipika Kakar In 'Some Pain' After Cancer Surgery, Shoaib Ibrahim Says 'Keep Praying'



Television actor Shoaib Ibrahim has shared the latest health update of his actress wife, Dipika Kakar. The latter, who was recently diagnosed with stage 2 liver cancer, underwent surgery on Tuesday, June 3. Shoaib took to his Instagram stories and revealed that, despite the 14-hour surgery, it had gone well. He mentioned that Dipika is currently in the ICU and is in some pain. However, her condition remains stable. "Hi everyone, sorry I couldn't update you last night, it was a long surgery. She was in OT for 14 hours. But Alhamdulillah, everything went well. Dipi is currently in the ICU. She's in some pain but she's stable and doing okay. Thank you all dil se for your love, prayers and support. It truly means a lot. I will update you all once she's out of the ICU. Thank you once again. Keep praying for her," he wrote.

Last month, Dipika revealed that she is battling stage 2 liver cancer. The television star, known for her role in Sasural Simar Ka, shared the heartbreaking update through an emotional Instagram note. After suffering intense stomach pain, doctors discovered a tumour "the size of a tennis ball" in her liver, which was later confirmed to be cancerous.

"As you all are aware last few weeks have been quite difficult for us... walking into the hospital for a pain in the upper area of my stomach... and then finding out its a tennis ball size tumour in the liver and then finding out that the tumour is Second stage Malignant (Cancerous) ... it has been one of the most difficult time we have seen, experienced!" Dipika wrote. "I am all positive and determined to face this and walk out stronger InshaAllah! With my entire family being by my side ... and All the LOVE and PRAYERS pouring in from all of you I will sail through this too!" the actress added.

Since then, Shoaib has been sharing her health updates on social media. A few days ago, the actor had also shared an emotional video on their YouTube channel, calling it "the toughest phase" of their lives while remaining hopeful about her recovery. "Alhamdulillah, by the grace of Allah, the scan report came out clear. The virus or its cells have not spread anywhere else in the body.

Aditya Roy Kapur, Sara Ali Khan Talk Love And Modern Relationships At Metro In Dino Trailer Launch



Metro In Dino, an upcoming romantic drama, has offered a new take on relationships. Telling the story of different couples, the film is all about love, heartbreak, and human connection. At the trailer launch event, lead actors Aditya Roy Kapur and Sara Ali Khan opened up about their views on modern relationships.

During the press meet of the trailer launch, Aditya Roy Kapur was asked red and green flags. He replied, "Red flag could be... someone who have prison record that might go existence. These are the red flags... no yaar... I think green flags are just someone is kind. Someone kindness I guess it is important thing. Because I think if you are with someone for a long period of time and end up being in all kind of situations inherently kind that definitely a green flag. And a red flag as sir says if it all landed in your suitcases then it might be a problem. And another question was asked regarding the term Situationship which came as surprise for Aditya and Sara. Aditya replied, "I didn't even understand term ki meaning kya hai. So, I guess am an old school in that" And Sara also said, "I also believe the same way. I don't really believe in situationship."

Today, Anurag Basu's directorial Metro... In Dino trailer was released. Starring Aditya Roy Kapur, Sara Ali Khan and others, the upcoming romantic drama will hit the theatres on July 4. The trailer opens with Aditya Roy Kapur and Sara Ali Khan traveling in a cab. They are just friends but slowly fall in love. The other couples are also introduced with their past and present. All are navigating through tough time and their relationships too. However, the song of the film is surely going to stay and fans are loving too.

Apart from Sara, the film also stars Aditya Roy Kapur, Anupam Kher, Neena Gupta, Pankaj Tripathi, Konkona Sensharma, Ali Fazal, and Fatima Sana Shaikh. Recently, Netflix has confirmed that the third season will be premiered from June 21.

The first song from Metro... In Dino was released. Titled Zamaana Lage, the track reunites music maestro Pritam with Arijit Singh and Shashwat Singh, delivering a heartwarming ballad that beautifully ties the film's interconnected stories together. Directed by Anurag Basu, Metro... In Dino is a spiritual successor to the 2007 film Life in a... Metro and explores multiple urban relationships. The song's music video gives a glimpse into the lives of its ensemble cast. Sara Ali Khan and Aditya Roy Kapur share a gentle romantic arc, where he sees her off at the metro.

NEWS BOX

Kapil Dev on stampede during RCB IPL bash: Lives more important than celebration



New Delhi. Legendary cricketer Kapil Dev expressed concern over the stampede that killed 11 and injured 47 in Bengaluru during Royal Challengers Bengaluru's IPL 2025 victory celebrations on Tuesday evening. The World Cup-winning former captain urged both organisers and the public to prioritise safety over celebration.

"I feel very bad about that. I think we have to learn from each other. Next time something like this (victory parade) happens, people should be more conscious. People do make a mistake," Kapil said on Thursday, as quoted by news agency.

Kapil Dev urged teams and organisations to exercise caution and avoid big celebratory events in the future, learning a lesson or two from the tragic loss of lives in Bengaluru.

"Mistake should not be to that scale where you are having fun and you lose lives," he said. "In the future, if any team wins, keep it calm. Lives are more important than celebration. Let's put it that way." The stampede broke out near the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium, where over two lakh fans had gathered to celebrate RCB's first-ever IPL title. The stadium itself has a capacity of only 35,000. According to officials, the immediate cause of the tragedy was the collapse of a temporary slab placed over a drain near the stadium, which gave way under the weight of the crowd, triggering panic and chaos.

The incident has sparked criticism of RCB's handling of the event, with sources confirming that the team went ahead with the announcement of a bus parade despite without nod from the police. The RCB management reportedly sought permission from the Bengaluru City Police on June 3 but proceeded to tweet details of the parade route and timing without formal clearance. The tweet, which went viral, included a link for "free passes (limited entry)", resulting in an overwhelming turnout. Police sources claim they had advised RCB to delay the event to Sunday, to allow for security arrangements and avoid weekday traffic congestion. However, the victory parade went ahead on June 4, a day after the final, with minimal coordination with civic authorities.

Shreyas Iyer's shot in IPL final was a criminal offence in my book:

Yograj Singh

NEW DELHI. Former India cricketer Yograj Singh has lashed out at the Punjab Kings (PBKS) captain Shreyas Iyer for his lazy shot in the final of the Indian Premier League 2025 (IPL 2025) final against Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB). Iyer got dismissed for 1 (2) in the summit clash as he edged Romario Shepherd behind the stumps to wicketkeeper Jitesh Sharma. The PBKS skipper lost his wicket at a crucial stage, allowing RCB to make a comeback in the match, which put his team under pressure. Yograj Singh was particularly disappointed at Iyer as he called his shot a criminal offence and said there shouldn't be any apology in



this regard. "The shot which Shreyas Iyer played in the final was a criminal offence, according to me. Ashok Mankad told me about this criminal offence, which comes under Section 302. He also told me that the repercussions of this is that you will be banned for two matches. What Shreyas did yesterday is not acceptable. There is no apology for that," Yograj told ANI. Iyer was fresh from a match-winning innings of 87* (41) in the Qualifier 2 against Mumbai Indians (MI) at the same venue. Hence, his wicket was extremely crucial to Punjab's chances of winning the match. Following his dismissal, only Shashank Singh (61* off 30) showed some resistance and fought till the end for his team. However, his heroic innings didn't take RCB over the line as they fell seven runs short of their target. Krunal Pandya (2/17) and Bhuvneshwar Kumar (2/38) were instrumental in scripting RCB's comeback. Pandya was even adjudged Player of the Match.

Viswanathan Anand feels that Magnus Carlsen wanted to draw a line in the sand by beating D Gukesh and that was the reason behind his outburst during the Norway Chess. Carlsen produced an angry reaction after he was beaten by Gukesh recently in the tournament.

New Delhi. Viswanathan Anand feels that Magnus Carlsen's fiery reaction to his loss to D Gukesh stems from the fact that the World No.1's authority in the game was challenged by someone younger to him. Anand said that Carlsen wanted to 'draw a line in the sand' by beating Gukesh and indicated that the FIDE could discuss about the incident soon.

Carlsen was left visibly frustrated when he lost to Gukesh recently in the Norway Chess and the World No.1 reacted by slamming the table, which caused the pieces to get

scattered before shouting 'oh my god' and exiting the arena in a hurry, as fans watched in shock. Speaking to PTI, Anand said that beating Gukesh mattered a lot to Carlsen as he wanted to establish that he was superior to the youngsters. "But it (beating Gukesh) mattered a lot to him. Even if all the other games he's kind of going through emotions (here) But in this game (against Gukesh), I think something he wanted to establish. He wanted to draw some line in the sand and tell all these kids 'hang on a few years', whatever. But this meant a lot. I think a 2-0 (win against Gukesh) here, he would have been very, very happy," said Anand. Anand said that losing the game from a dominant position further added fuel to Carlsen's anger. "Against any opponent on earth, he would have hated losing such a good position. I mean to miss that the knight comes back. I felt exactly the same way when I blew my game against Magnus three years ago in 2022 in Norway," said Anand. Anand also felt that factors like fatigue and the time control in Norway



Chess could have been the reasons behind Carlsen's outburst as well. "Certainly, the game meant a lot to him and he came close and he slipped, but it could also be fatigue. It could be this new time control (in Norway Chess). Here we have this thing where we have Classical chess and then we have a sudden-death Armageddon tie-break (after every game in the event of a draw)" he said. "A lot of stuff must have been going on in his head." Anand said he had seen enough outbursts during his career to call the Carlsen incident an aberration. The former World

Champion said that a lot of things may have gone on in Carlsen's head at that time and would have led to the outburst. "Yes, (I've seen) enough anger. All this has been around for a while, people screaming and cursing. I think it was in Delhi (2000 World Championship), where after his game with (Estonia's) Jaan Ehlvest, (Vassily) Ivanchuk threw a chair across. So, the only difference is the camera, not the incident." And, the other thing I would say is that this (game between Gukesh and Carlsen) was very intense. I mean, maybe Magnus isn't that excited about classical chess, but he's certainly taken on Gukesh (in the format)," Anand said. "Or if not Gukesh personally the person who is now the world champion showing that he (Carlsen) can fight youngsters. I mean, a lot of stuff (was) probably going on in his head, and it came out. So, those two games (against Gukesh), he took very, very intensely and seriously. And that's kind of partially what brought it (frustration) on."

Bengaluru stampede: Smriti Mandhana heartbroken as chaos unfolds after IPL final

Indian women's cricketer Smriti Mandhana reacted to the tragic stampede outside the M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru, which took place after Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) won their maiden Indian Premier League (IPL) title by defeating Punjab Kings in the final.

New Delhi. Indian women's cricketer Smriti Mandhana poured her heart out for the victims of the tragic stampede in Bengaluru during the celebrations of Royal Challengers Bengaluru's (RCB) victory in the 2025 Indian Premier League (IPL). Less than a day after RCB clinched their maiden IPL title with a six-wicket win over Punjab Kings (PBKS) at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad, the franchise organised a victory parade. However, the celebration turned into chaos outside the M



Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru. At least 11 people lost their lives and nearly 50 were injured in a stampede outside the venue in Bengaluru on Wednesday during a felicitation ceremony for the RCB team. Organised by the Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA), the event attracted an overwhelming crowd. Although entry was restricted to those with valid tickets and passes, thousands of fans gathered at the venue, hoping to catch a glimpse of their cricketing heroes. Mandhana, a key member of RCB's Women's Premier League (WPL) team, shared a heartfelt message offering condolences to the families affected by the

tragedy. Taking to her Instagram story, Mandhana wrote, "Heartbroken to hear about the lives lost in Bengaluru. My thoughts and prayers are with the families and loved ones. Please stay safe everyone." RCB mourns tragic loss of lives

After the stampede unfolded, the RCB decided to put out a statement, mourning the deaths that took place at the Chinnaswamy. "We are deeply anguished by the unfortunate incidents that have come to light through media reports regarding public gatherings across Bengaluru in anticipation of the team's arrival this afternoon. The safety and well-being of everyone is of the utmost importance to us," the RCB statement read. "RCB mourns the tragic loss of lives and extends our heartfelt condolences to the affected families." Immediately upon being made aware of the situation, we promptly amended our programme and followed the guidance and advice of the local administration," the statement added.

As far as Mandhana is concerned, she is currently playing for the Ratnagiri Jets in the Maharashtra Premier League 2025.

French Open Day 12 Order Of Play: Sabalenka vs Swiatek, Gauff faces in-form Boisson



The French Open 2025 has reached its business end as the women's singles semi-finals begins on Thursday, June 5. Iga Swiatek and Aryna Sabalenka will lock horns in a mega clash while Coco Gauff will be up against the wildcard Lois Boisson.

New Delhi. The French Open 2025 has reached its business end as the women's singles semifinals will feature two mouthwatering clashes. Three-time

defending champion Iga Swiatek will go up against World No.1 Aryna Sabalenka while Coco Gauff will face a tough test against the wildcard Lois Boisson, who has had a fairytale run thus far. Swiatek and Sabalenka will be squaring off for the 13th time in their careers, with the Polish star leading the World No.1 8-4 in head-to-head stats. The last time these two faced off was at the Cincinnati Masters in 2024, when Sabalenka beat Swiatek in straight sets. The Belarusian star aims to reach her first

French Open final and end Swiatek's dominance at Roland Garros in the process. In the other semi-final, Gauff will be up against the fan-favourite Lois Boisson, who has enjoyed a spirited run thus far. The 22-year-old has been on a giant-killing run as she dumped out Australian Open winner and third seed Jessica Pegula in the quarter-finals, before beating Mirra Andreeva in straight sets. This will be the first time Gauff will be up against the wildcard Boisson, who will have the crowd rallying behind her. We also see the mixed doubles final take place on Thursday, as Taylor Townsend and Evan King will face off against the Italian pair of Sara Errani and Andrea Vavassori in the summit clash at the Court Philippe-Chatrier. The men's doubles semi-final will see Hugo Nys and Edouard Roger-Vasselin take on Marcel Granollers and Horacio Zeballos as both teams look to book their place in the summit clash.

Simone Inzaghi appointed as Al-Hilal manager after leaving Inter Milan

New Delhi. Al-Hilal have announced the appointment of Simone Inzaghi as their new coach after his exit from Inter Milan. Inzaghi left his job at Inter following their loss to PSG in the final of the UEFA Champions League and missing out on the Serie A title to Napoli last season.

The Italian has joined on a two-year contract with the 19-time Saudi Pro League champions ahead of the start of the FIFA Club World Cup on June 15. It is reported that Inzaghi will earn up to 30 million euros per season. Inzaghi won six trophies during his time with Inter and helped them reach the final of the Champions League twice. Al-Hilal hailed Inzaghi as the 'Italian Genius' on social media in their announcement. Inzaghi left Inter after what seemed like a great season



ended with them going trophyless. The Nerazzurri were on course to win a treble before being knocked out of the Coppa Italia by arch-rivals AC Milan and being edged out of the title by Napoli. Inzaghi's first job in charge of Al-Hilal will be the clash against Real Madrid on June 18.

What Inzaghi said about his move to Al-Hilal. Inzaghi commented about his move to Al-Hilal and expressed his happiness in trying a new experience. The Italian said that his desire was always to go abroad and coach and Al-Hilal is a great opportunity for him.

"First of all, I am very happy to try this new experience. My desire had always been to go abroad and coach as well as in Italy and for me, Al-Hilal is a great opportunity in my career," said Inzaghi. The Italian said that his goals with Al-Hilal are to win titles, present entertaining football and implement his style based on speed, intensity and determination. "My goals with Al-Hilal are clear: to win titles.

Madan Lal blasts RCB over chaotic planning of IPL victory celebrations



Former India cricketer and 1983 World Cup winner Madan Lal has slammed Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) for their poor planning of the IPL victory celebrations in Bengaluru.

New Delhi. Former India cricketer Madan Lal has slammed Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) for poor planning of their Indian Premier League 2025 (IPL 2025) victory celebrations. RCB had invited their fans to the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium, Bengaluru to be a part of their celebrations.

A large crowd gathered at the venue to be a part of the felicitation ceremony for the RCB players as they beat Punjab Kings (PBKS) by six runs in the final to win their maiden title. However, complete mismanagement of the crowd led to the death of 11 people, and nearly 50 were injured as a deadly stampede

broke out outside the stadium. Following the incident, Madan Lal slammed the IPL franchise, asking what was the hurry behind organising the event as it claimed innocent lives? "You celebrated in Ahmedabad the previous night—what was the rush to

organize a grand event in Bengaluru the next day? Eleven lives were lost unnecessarily," Madan Lal was quoted as saying by Herald Goa. Several fans had turned up to watch their favourite stars getting felicitated as a special ceremony was organised inside the stadium. The celebratory event, which had drawn over two lakh supporters to a stadium with a capacity of 35,000, was cut short to just 20 minutes after organisers were informed of the incident unfolding outside. As the crowd swelled, the situation turned chaotic. A stampede broke out, leaving at least seven people dead and many others injured. One video showed a policeman carrying an injured spectator to an ambulance, while another person lay unconscious on the ground as bystanders rushed to help. Meanwhile, Karnataka chief minister Siddaramaiah has said the state government hadn't planned the felicitation event, and it was solely done by RCB and KSCA. "It is not us. We didn't make any request regarding the celebration to RCB and KSCA. They organised this. We felt that the government should felicitate. Just because it was a Bengaluru team, we felt that we should be a part of the celebration.