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ARUNACHAL FLOOD TOLL RISES TO 11; 938 AFFECTED ACROSS 23 DISTRICTS



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EXIT POLLS SHOW SOUTH KOREA'S LEE ON TRACK TO WIN PRESIDENCY BY LANDSLIDE



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PV SINDHU, LAKSHYA TO LEAD INDIA'S CHALLENGE AT INDONESIA OPEN 2025

TECH STUDY SHOWS PAK LOST 6 FIGHTER JETS, C-130 AIRCRAFT

Two high value aircraft, 10 UCAVs, multiple cruise missiles were destroyed by IAF in Operation Sindoor

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

As per an ongoing analysis of the damage inflicted upon by the Indian Air Force on Pakistan Air Force, it is emerging that six PAF fighter jets, two high value aircraft, over 10 UCAVs, one C-130 transport aircraft along with multiple cruise missiles were destroyed by Indian air-launched cruise missiles and surface-to-air missiles.

According to sources who were involved in the operations launched against Pakistani aggression, as per the technical analysis of the data available with the IAF, six of the Pakistan Air Force fighter aircraft were shot down in air during op-



An explosion at Nur Khan Airbase shown on screen during the press conference on Operation Sindoor, in New Delhi on Monday. File photo ANI

erations.

One high value aerial asset, which could either be an electronic counter measures aircraft or an Airborne Early Warning or

Control Aircraft, was taken out by a long range strike by the Sudarshan at distances of around 300 km, they said.

The sources said that

during the four-day conflict, the strikes at Bholari airbase using air to surface cruise missiles resulted in the loss of another AEW aircraft of Swedish origin.

"There are inputs about presence of fighter jets also in the hangar but since the Pakistanis are not even taking out debris from there, "we are not counting the fighter aircraft losses on ground", a source said.

The Pakistani fighter jets were captured by the Indian Air Force radars and air defence missile systems and were seen vanishing after hits were secured by the air defence systems.

The Pakistan Air Force also lost a C-130 transport aircraft during one of the drone strikes by Indian Air Force in the Pakistani Punjab.

India inflicted 'innings defeat' on Pak'

TDG NETWORK
PUNE

Chief of Defence Staff Anil Chauhan on Tuesday used a striking cricketing analogy to describe India's decisive win over Pakistan in 'Operation



Sindoor,' asserting that India had inflicted an "innings defeat" on its adversary.

After completing his speech on 'Future Wars and Warfare', organised by the Department of Defence and Strategic Studies of Savitribai Phule Pune University, the CDS took a couple of questions from the scholars present there.

In response to a question about the damage suffered by Pakistan during 'Operation Sindoor', Gen Chauhan made it clear that the operation has not ended as of now and there is a "temporary cessation of hostilities". And then he explained, "I will give a detailed kind of an answer on this."

P3

Pak's own dossier confirms India's precise strikes



Pakistan's Damaged Rahimyar Khan Airbase displayed on screen during the press conference on Operation Sindoor, in New Delhi on Monday. FILE PHOTO: ANI

ABHINANDAN MISHRA
NEW DELHI

"India will identify, track and punish every terrorist and their backers. We will pursue them to the ends of the Earth," Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared on April 24 in Madhubani, Bihar—his first public response to the massacre of 26 Indians in Pahalgalam two days earlier. Modi, known for speaking in Hindi even on global platforms, made a deliberate shift to English mid-speech, ensuring that the message carried beyond India's borders. The change in language reflected a change in posture—firm, direct, and unapologetic.

Three weeks later, the Government of Pakistan unwittingly confirmed just how far that message travelled—and how deeply it struck. A dossier published by Islam-

abad on May 18, intended to build an international case against India, ends up doing the opposite. It offers detailed confirmation of the scale, reach, and precision of India's military operation inside Pakistan, carried out in retaliation for the Pahalgalam attack.

For a document meant to portray India as the aggressor, the dossier does a remarkable job listing what Pakistan lost—and how comprehensively. According to the document, over 100 Indian drones entered Pakistani airspace. They struck targets in Muridke, Bahawalpur, and Muzaffarabad—locations long associated with militant infrastructure tied to banned outfits like Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed. There is no denial of these strikes. No claim that the

P3

Oppn writes to PM Modi on special session of Parliament

ANAND SINGH
NEW DELHI

Leaders from at least 16 opposition parties led by Congress on Tuesday demanded a special session of Parliament on Operation Sindoor and wrote a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi as I.N.D.I.A bloc parties held a meeting on the issue in the national capital on Tuesday.



Leaders from several parties, including the Congress, Trinamool Congress, Rashtriya Janata Dal, Samajwadi Party, IUML, Kerala Congress, MDMK, CPI, CPIML, CPI-M, VCK, JMM, NC, RSP and Shiv Sena (UBT) were part of the meeting.

I.N.D.I.A bloc MPs have signed a letter addressed to the Prime Minister raising the demand for a special session of Parliament, opposition leaders said at a joint press conference here after the meeting.

The meeting was attended by Congress' Jairam Ramesh and Deependra Hooda, Trinamool Congress leader Derek O'Brien, Samajwadi Party's Ramgopal Yadav, RJD's Manoj Jha, and Shiv Sena (UBT)'s Sanjay Raut at the Constitution Club.

The Arvind Kejriwal-led

P3



Devotees offer prayers to Ragnya Devi (Durga Devi) during the annual Mata Kheer Bhawani Mela, at Ma Kheer Bhawani temple in Ganderbal on Tuesday. ANI

Cong all set to reboot party in Haryana

NEERAJ MOHAN
CHANDIGARH

Ahead of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's visit, the Congress high command has taken direct control over the long-stalled appointment of District Congress Committee (DCC) presidents in Haryana aiming to rejuvenate the party's organisational machinery ahead of the next electoral battle. The appointments will be made after an 11-year gap and under a completely overhauled process that sidelines state-level discretionary powers.

With Rahul Gandhi scheduled to visit Chandigarh on June 4, the buzz within the party has peaked. According to Haryana Pradesh Congress Committee (HPCC) president Uday Bhan, the Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha and senior Congress MP will chair high-

P3

Haryana unveils plans to build four-lane expressway connecting Yamunanagar with Kurukshetra

NEERAJ MOHAN
CHANDIGARH

In a move to strengthen infrastructure and alleviate chronic traffic congestion in several towns of northern Haryana, the state government has unveiled plans for the Yamunanagar-Kurukshetra-Pehowa Highway, a vital four-lane corridor connecting the industrial hub of Yamunanagar with the culturally significant town of Pehowa in Kurukshetra district.

This 75 km ambitious project, which traverses Ladwa, the constituency of Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Saini, is set to transform connectivity between two major northern districts, fostering economic growth and improving the quality of life for millions of residents and travellers. According to the chief minister, the Pehowa



The 75-km ambitious project is set to transform connectivity between two major northern districts

in Kurukshetra to Yamunanagar would be made four-lane, fulfilling the long pending demand of the people of northern districts of Haryana.

"The DPR (Detailed Proj-

ect Report) for this highway has been completed, and an announcement regarding it can be made anytime soon. The Union Road and Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari may made an announcement about this highway in a cabinet meeting soon," Saini said while addressing a gathering.

He said that this four-lane expressway will directly connect Yamunanagar to Pehowa, passing through the Kurukshetra bypass, Ladwa bypass, and they are also considering the Radaur bypass so that traffic can be smoothly diverted from a distance. He said that the officials had sent the proposed DPR to him for approval. "I am reviewing the DPR and if any changes are required, we will discuss and incorporate them, so that this four-lane road can be con-

P3

Punjab waives Rs 68-cr loan of over 4,700 Dalit families

TARUNI GANDHI
CHANDIGARH

In a decision that gives long-awaited relief to thousands of financially distressed families in the state, the Punjab Cabinet on Tuesday approved a loan waiver of Rs 67.84 crore for 4,727 Scheduled Caste (SC) and Divyangjan (persons with disabilities) beneficiaries.

These loans, disbursed by the Punjab Scheduled Castes Land Development and Finance Corporation (PSCFC) before March 31, 2020, had remained un-

P3

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Deployment of 2,300 electric autos at metro stations, installing of mist sprayers at 13 pollution hotspots and audit of PUCC centres every six months figures majorly among features of the Air Pollution Mitigation Plan 2025 launched by Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Tuesday.

The chief minister stressed that clean and healthy Delhi is the government's dream and said air pollution directly affects people's health.

RCB crowned IPL champions

Another feather in the cap of King Kohli

AGENCIES
AHMEDABAD

Finally, after 18 years, it is party time for Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) as a brilliant spell from Krunal Pandya and solid pace bowling from trio of Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Josh Hazlewood and Yash Dayal brought them their first-ever Indian Premier League (IPL) title with a six-run win over Punjab Kings (PBKS) at Ahmedabad's Narendra Modi Stadium on Tuesday.

DETAILS P16



BJP SLAMS RAHUL'S 'SURRENDER' JIBE AT PM MODI, CALLS IT 'INDECENT'

TDG NETWORK
BHOPAL

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Tuesday reacted to Congress MP Rahul Gandhi's latest 'surrender' jibe towards Prime Minister Narendra Modi over India's Operation Sindoor.

Rahul Gandhi stated that the prime minister had "surrendered" during the military conflict with Pakistan and Operation Sindoor based on an "order" from US President Donald Trump.

In response to Rahul Gandhi, BJP national spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia took to X and referred to the Congress MP as a "blunder."

BJP national spokesperson Pradeep Bhandari launched a fierce attack on Congress MP and Leader of Opposition (LoP) in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, on Tuesday, accusing him of making "indecent" remarks against Prime Min-



Lok Sabha LoP Rahul Gandhi addresses the PCC members, district and block presidents, party leaders and workers in the Congress Party conference, at Ravindra Bhawan in Bhopal. ANI

ister Narendra Modi and questioning his values and patriotism.

Bhandari also alleged that the Congress leader's actions, including offering tributes to former PM

Indira Gandhi without removing his shoes, reflect a disregard for Indian traditions and respect.

"Rahul Gandhi's words reflect his values. He makes such indecent remarks

against the country's Prime Minister. But this is what can be expected from Rahul Gandhi, whose heart beats for Pakistan. Because when he offers floral tributes to the statue of his grandmother (Indira Gandhi), he does not even remove his shoes..." Bhandari said.

The BJP leader also highlighted India's firm stance on terrorism under the Modi government.

"Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India has given a befitting reply to Pakistan's terror masters. Even Salman Khurshid to Shashi Tharoor—every Congress leader is talking about this, and Pakistan itself is giving evidence of this..." The people of the country see this uncivilised Rahul Gandhi as an agent of Pakistan..." he said.

BJP remarks come in the wake of Rahul Gandhi's recent attack on the BJP-led government over alleged US mediation in Operation Sindoor.

Addressing Congress workers in Bhopal, Gandhi alleged that Prime Minister Modi "surrendered" after receiving a call from US President Donald Trump. He contrasted Modi's reaction with former PM Indira Gandhi's stance during the 1971 India-Pakistan war.

"A call came from Trump and Narendra ji immediately surrendered - history is a witness, this is the character of BJP-RSS, they always bow down," he posted on X after launching the Congress' 'Sangathan Srijan Abhiyan' here in the presence of Congress leaders and workers.

"I know BJP-RSS people; if you put even a little pressure and give them just a slight push, they run away out of fear," he said.

Rahul stated that India broke Pakistan in 1971 despite America's threat.

"Congress's Babbar Sher and lionesses fight with superpowers; they never bowed down," he added.

CM Mann's 'one nation, one husband' remark triggers row; BJP calls it 'disgraceful'

TDG NETWORK
CHANDIGARH

A political controversy erupted on Tuesday over Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann's "one nation, one husband" remark, with the BJP accusing him of insulting the widows of those killed in the Pahalgam terror attack.

Mann Tuesday took a dig at the BJP over Operation Sindoor, accusing it of seeking votes in the name of 'sindoor' (vermillion) and asked if it had started a "one nation, one husband" scheme.

Calling Mann's remarks "disgraceful", Union minister Ravneet Singh Bittu said the chief minister has "insulted" the widows of those killed in the Pahalgam attack and demanded an unconditional apology from him.

The Punjab BJP slammed Mann for his 'one nation, one husband' remarks, saying the chief minister has "crossed all limits".

Mann on Tuesday sparked a fresh political firestorm by



ridiculing the BJP's alleged plan to distribute sindoor (vermillion) to households in the name of "Operation Sindoor," a military retaliation campaign launched by India in early May. Referring to the BJP's attempt to symbolically politicize the airstrikes, Mann asked sarcastically, "Is this some kind of 'One Nation, One Husband' scheme now?"

Speaking to the media after a Cabinet meeting in Chandigarh, Mann took sharp aim at the BJP's use of sindoor in political messaging, calling it an insult to the sentiment and sanctity associated with the sacred symbol used by married

Hindu women. "Are we now supposed to tell our wives to apply sindoor in Modi's name?" Mann said, adding, "They are reducing a deeply personal ritual into an election gimmick."

The Chief Minister's comment comes amid reports that BJP leaders were referencing "Operation Sindoor" while seeking votes, and allegedly discussing symbolic gestures like delivering sindoor to women as a tribute to the army's airstrikes. The name "Operation Sindoor" gained traction after the Indian Air Force bombed nine terror camps in Pakistan on May 6-7, following a deadly April 22 terror attack in Pahalgam, Jammu & Kashmir, where 26 male tourists were killed.

The operation was viewed by some as symbolic revenge, avenging the widow of women through military might.

Mann's jibe—"One Nation, One Husband"—was aimed at highlighting the absurdity of BJP's supposed narrative.

India's G7 snub in Canada 'big diplomatic bungle', says Cong

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Tuesday said India not being invited at the G7 meeting in Canada is "yet another big diplomatic bungle" after the "blunder" of allowing the US to "mediate" between India and Pakistan.

Canada is hosting the summit from June 15 to 17 that is expected to deliberate on pressing challenges facing the globe including the Russia-Ukraine conflict and the situation in West Asia. For the first time in six years, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is unlikely to attend the upcoming G7 summit to be held in Canada's Alberta province, people familiar with the matter have said.

It is learnt that Ottawa is yet to send an invitation to the Indian prime minister

for the summit but Modi, in any way, would have skipped it as such a visit would have required a lot of groundwork considering the current state of ties between the two sides, said the people cited above.

Congress general secretary, communications, Jairam Ramesh said the G7 Summit of the presidents of the USA and France; the prime ministers of the UK, Japan, Italy and Canada; and the Chancellor of Germany is taking place in Kananaskis in Alberta, Canada, from June 15.

The presidents of Brazil, Mexico, South Africa and Ukraine and the prime minister of Australia have also been invited to the summit, he noted.

"Before 2014, G7 was actually G8 for many years and had included Russia. Dr Manmohan Singh would

be invited for G8 Summits where his voice would be heard. It was at one such summit in Germany in June 2007 where the famous Singh-Merkel formula for climate change negotiations had been unveiled," Ramesh said in a post on X.

He said the tradition of inviting Indian prime ministers continued after 2014.

"But now, for the first time in 6 years, 'Vishwaguru' will not be in attendance at the Canada summit. Whatever spin may be given, the fact remains that this is yet another big diplomatic bungle - after the blunder of allowing the US to overturn decades of Indian foreign policy by mediating between India and Pakistan and allowing American authorities to call for continuous talks at a 'neutral site'," the Congress leader said in his post.

Poonia meets PM Modi

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Haryana's organization in-charge Dr. Satish Poonia had a courtesy meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi here on Tuesday. On this occasion, Prime Minister Narendra Modi blessed Poonia's son and daughter-in-law, Maheep and Sippy, and daughter Anushka. During this, Satish Poonia's wife, Mohini Poonia, was also present.

Poonia expressed his gratitude and felicitations to Prime Minister Modi by presenting a statue of 'Hoda Ambabari' made of Kadamba wood, a unique handi-

craft art of Rajasthan, and a Pattu (shawl) made from Barmer handcraft.

Poonia said that meeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi always gives new energy. Narendra Modi's resolution of a developed India by 2047 and the goal of making India self-reliant provide guidance for the upliftment of the state and the country.

A common worker born into a farmer's family like us draws inspiration from Narendra Modi to work continuously for the state and the nation, which gives new energy to work committedly toward development and strengthening of the organization.

Internal rift delays Congress' restructuring in Gujarat

AJIT MAINDOLA
NEW DELHI

Internal conflict in the reorganization of state organizations is becoming a big challenge for Congress's supreme leader Rahul Gandhi. Due to this, Gujarat's announcement is stuck. The party had to announce a new team for Gujarat by May 30, whereas Rahul Gandhi and party president Mallikarjun Kharge had started the organisation creation campaign in Gujarat itself.

After Gujarat, Rahul was to visit Madhya Pradesh on



Tuesday and will be on a Haryana tour on Wednesday. In Madhya Pradesh, he held discussions with the state leaders along with organisation general secretary KC Venugopal. All the major leaders including former chief minister Kamal Nath, state in-charge party general

secretary Harish Chaudhary, state president Jitu Patwari, and legislative party leader Umang Singar were present in this meeting.

Madhya Pradesh is the state where BJP toppled the Congress government in 2020 by taking advantage of the internal tussle within the Congress. Rahul Gandhi has repeatedly said in Gujarat that the BJP agents present in the party should be thrown out. But no one has been identified yet. Even after the big split in the party in Madhya Pradesh, the situation has not changed much.

Calcutta HC stays further FIRs on Instagrammer arrested for hate posts

SUPROTIM MUKHERJEE
KOLKATA

The vacation bench of Calcutta High Court on Tuesday directed the West Bengal Government to produce the case diary in connection with the arrest of law student Sharmishta Panoli on June 5, when her interim bail prayer will be heard again and stayed further FIRs against the 22-year-old.

The vacation bench of Justice Partha Sarathi Mukherjee directed that the Garden Reach police station case in connection with which Panoli was arrested will be



investigated, while proceedings in all other FIRs in this regard will remain stayed till further orders. The court said that the State will ensure that no further case will be registered on the alleged action of Panoli. The court directed the State to produce the case diary on the next date of hearing on June 5. Justice Mukherjee observed

that one must be careful in making comments in public in a diverse country like India. Petitioner Panoli's lawyer claimed that no offence is made out in the complaint filed against her for allegedly making some remarks on social media during the Operation Sindoor against Pakistan. He claimed that there was a war of words on social media between users across India and Pakistan during Operation Sindoor, which was undertaken by India in response to the Pahalgam terror attack that claimed the lives of 26 men, most of whom were tourists.

Kashmir leaders hail Kheer Bhawani Mela turnout, seek Pandits' return to Valley

TDG NETWORK
TULMULLA

Leaders across party lines on Tuesday hailed the congregation of devotees at the Mela Kheer Bhawani in Kashmir, despite the Pahalgam attack and heightened border tension, as a symbol of resilience and advocated for the dignified return of Kashmiri Pandits to the valley.

Mela Kheer Bhawani, one of the biggest religious functions of Kashmiri Pandits, is being celebrated on 'Zyeth Atham', also known as 'Jye-

shtha Ashtami', on Tuesday. Amid tight security arrangements, hundreds of people, mostly Kashmiri Pandits, left for the Valley in a convoy of 60 buses early Sunday from Jammu to take part in the annual fair in Ganderbal district. President of the ruling National Conference (NC), Farooq Abdullah, hoped that Kashmiri Pandits would return to the Valley as their presence at the Mela Kheer Bhawani in the aftermath of the Pahalgam attack was "a befitting reply" to its perpetrators.

Arunachal flood toll rises to 11; 938 affected across 156 villages in 23 districts

TDG NETWORK
ITANAGAR

The death toll in floods and landslides triggered by relentless rain in Arunachal Pradesh has increased to 11 as a labourer died in a wall collapse incident in Anjaw district, officials said on Tuesday.

According to a State Emergency Operation Centre (SEOC) statement, while 38-year-old Bhaben Murmu died when a wall collapsed during a landslide on June 1, three GREF workers were

injured in the incident.

A total of 938 people are now affected by floods in 156 villages in 23 districts, it said.

Lower Subansiri district reported significant damage, including the destruction of 114 kutch houses, 45 pucca houses, and nine huts. The district has also seen serious infrastructure losses, including the damage of 51 roads, 17 power lines, 23 water supply lines and two schools, officials said. Widespread destruction has also been reported in the Itanagar Capital

Region (ICR) and Pakke Kessang, where key assets such as ICR's main water pipeline and the road at Dariya Hill have been severely affected.

Flood-like conditions and landslides have been reported in multiple districts, including West Kameng, Kamle, Lower and Upper Subansiri, Papum Pare, Dibang Valley, Lower Dibang Valley, Lohit, Changlang, Kra Daadi, Kurung Kumey, and Longding, as rivers and tributaries continued to flow above danger levels, they said.



Flood-affected residents with a dog being rescued in a makeshift boat, amid rising waters, at Kongba in Imphal East. ANI

Over 5.15 lakh affected in 22 Assam districts

Guwahati : The flood situation in Assam continues to remain grim, with the death toll from floods and landslides rising to 11.

According to the flood reports of Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA), 6 people died in floods and 5 others died in landslides in the state.

More than 5.15 lakh peo-

ple of 22 districts of Assam have been affected by the deluge.

One more person drowned in flood waters, and two others are missing in the last 24 hours. One person drowned in Hojai district, while two others are missing in Hailakandi and Dibrugarh districts.

As of June 2, a total of 1254 villages under 65 rev-

enue circles in 22 districts of the state - Hailakandi, Hojai, Lakhimpur, Nagaon, Sribhum, Karbi Anglong, Dibrugarh, Morigaon, Kamrup, Cachar, Golaghat, Darrang, Majuli, Dhemaji, Biswanath, Kamrup (M), Karbi Anglong West, Jorhat, Tinsukia, Sonitpur, Dima-Hasao, Sivasagar- have been affected in the current floods.

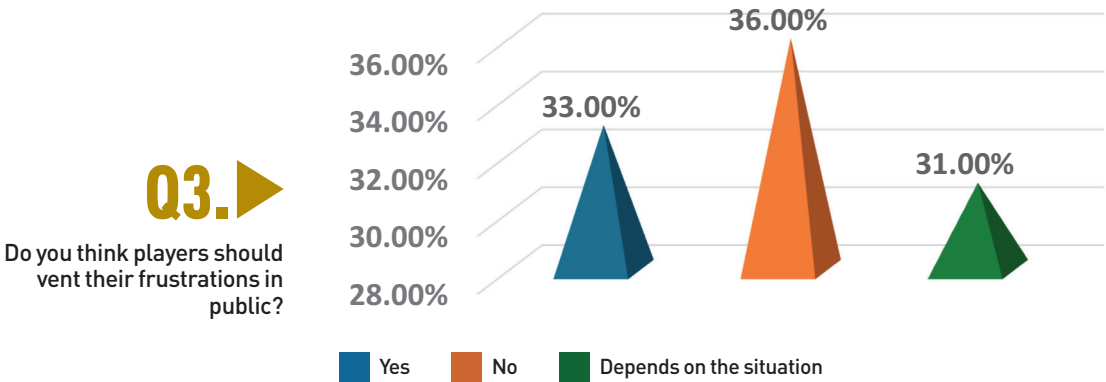
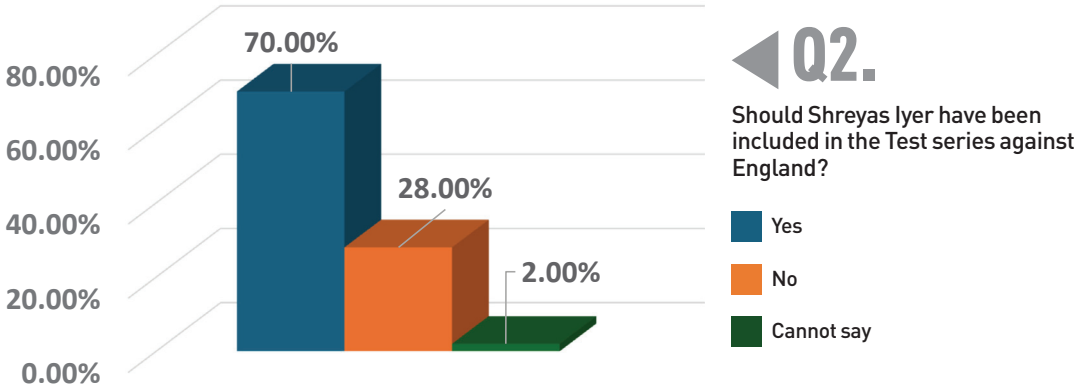
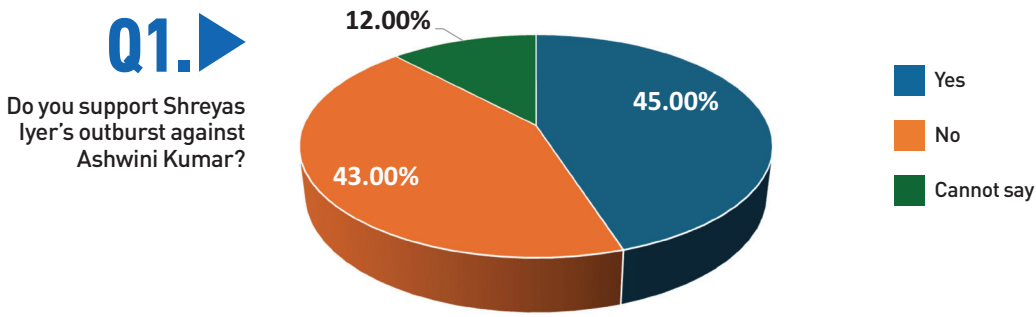
THE DAILY GUARDIAN SURVEY ON SHREYAS IYER'S EXCLUSION FROM INDIAN TEST SQUAD

70% believe Iyer should have been included in Test series

Shreyas Iyer's omission from India's Test squad for the England tour sparked debate, but Punjab Kings coach Ricky Ponting believes it fu-

elled Iyer's determination to prove the selectors wrong. Following his exclusion, Iyer led Punjab to the IPL final, becoming only the second cap-

tain in the franchise's history to do so, reviving hopes of ending their title drought.



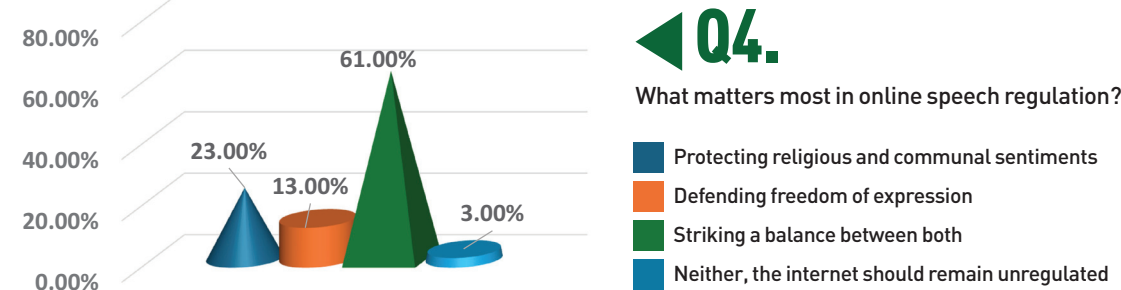
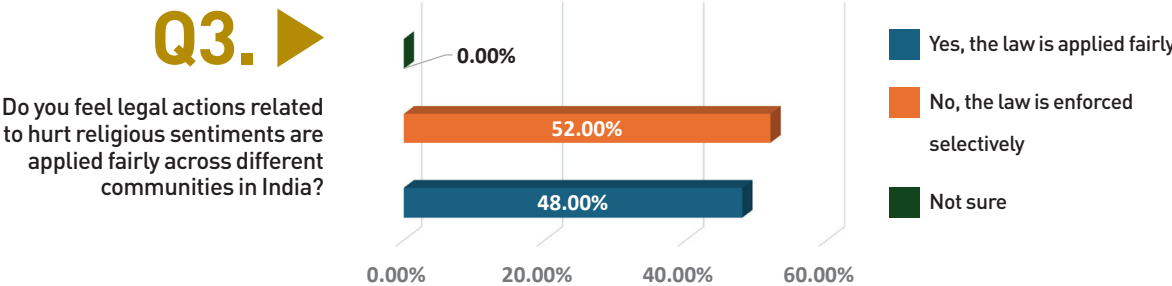
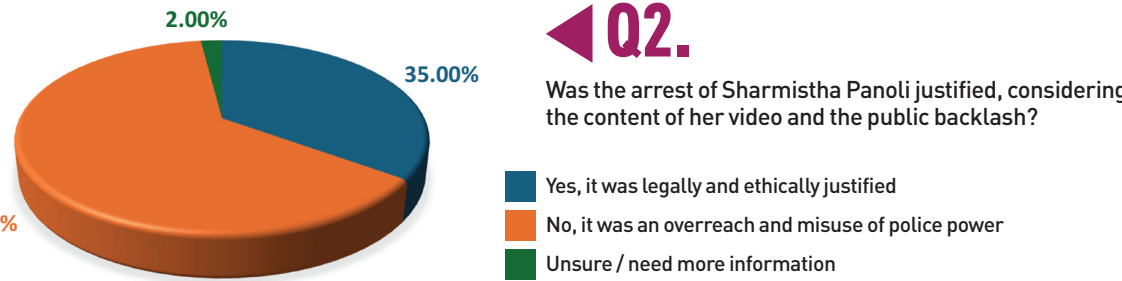
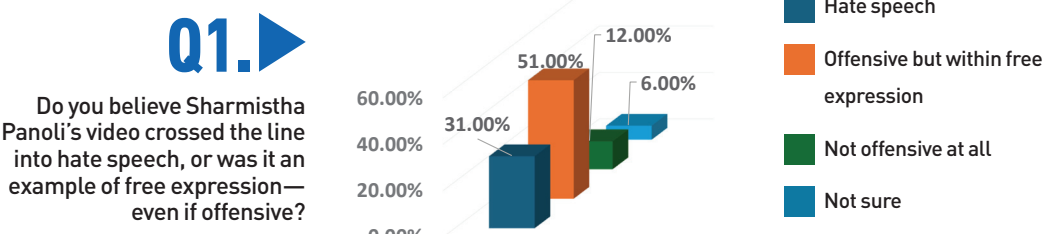
THE DAILY GUARDIAN SURVEY ON SHARMISTHA PANOLI CONTROVERSY

31% believe Panoli's video crossed line into hate speech

Facing backlash over the arrest of influencer Sharmistha Panoli, Kolkata Police defended their action, stating it followed due investigation and legal

procedure. They clarified that the 22-year-old wasn't arrested for patriotism or personal beliefs, but for sharing content promoting communal

hatred. The statement was shared via the official Kolkata Police Facebook page on Sunday to justify the move.



Pak lost 6 fighter jets: Analysis

CONTINUED FROM P1

The Indian Air Force used only air-launched cruise missiles to attack Pakistani bases and no surface- to-surface BrahMos missiles were used in the attacks, they said.

In one of strikes on a hangar by Rafale and Su-30 jets, a significant number of Chinese Wing Loong series medium altitude long endurance drones were destroyed, the sources said.

More than 10 UCAVs were also destroyed by the different IAF air defence systems over Pakistani air space in the conflict along with large-scale interception of Pakistani air and ground launched cruise and ballistic missiles aimed at different air bases, they said.

The Indian Air Force, the sources said, is still carrying out the analysis of the huge amount of data gathered by it during the con-

flict. The conflict between India and Pakistan started in May 6-7 night when India retaliated by targeting terrorist universities in the Pakistani Punjab and Pakistan occupied Jammu and Kashmir in response to Pahalgam terror attack.

The conflict lasted till May 10 afternoon when Pakistan side requested for a ceasefire in view of the heavy losses suffered by it in the attacks by the Indian Air Force.

Pak's own dossier confirms India's precise strikes

CONTINUED FROM P1

drones were intercepted. Just a plain admission that they came, they hit, and they caused damage.

More significant are the Pakistani military losses listed. Two forward brigade headquarters—10 Brigade at KG Top and 80 Brigade at Naushera—were "completely destroyed," according to the dossier. These are critical formations in Pakistan's LoC theatre. Their loss is operationally significant.

Also acknowledged is the destruction of a Field Supply Depot that served as a logistics node for ammunition and supplies to front-line troops.

Perhaps the most telling detail comes in a single line: Indian drones hovered over key military and political installations inside Pakistan—unintercepted. That alone signals airspace breach, technological superiority, and total failure of Pakistan's surveillance and air defence protocols. For a country that

frequently showcases its military preparedness and had, in fact, conferred the title of Field Marshal upon Chief of Army Staff General Asim Munir after these events, the lack of interception is a glaring admission.

The document doesn't attempt to present a balanced outcome. There's no mention of Indian aircraft being shot down. No confirmed Indian casualties. No coherent picture of a successful defence. Meanwhile, the few retaliatory claims Paki-

stan makes are undermined by basic geography—listing Indian cities like Nagrota, Beas, and Bhuj as strike targets, all of which lie deep within Indian territory and remained untouched. It's the kind of error that casts doubt over everything else.

In trying to shift global opinion, Pakistan has instead issued what amounts to an inventory of damage inflicted by Indian precision strikes. The targets were military. The hits were clean. The losses were real.

And the proof now sits in a Pakistani government document.

India didn't need to announce what it had done. Pakistan did it for them. And PM Modi's words from Madhubani—spoken in English so there would be no room for misinterpretation—now echo with even greater clarity. This wasn't escalation. This was enforcement. Swift, strategic, and deliberate. The kind of message you only need to send once.

'India inflicted innings defeat on Pak'

CONTINUED FROM P1

"Suppose you go into a football match and you win 4-2; he scored two goals and you scored four goals. So that's an even-sided match." The Chief of Defence Staff immediately shifted to the cricketing metaphor, drawing a clear distinction about the outcome of the hostilities.

"But suppose you go into a cricket test

match and you win by an 'innings defeat'," he continued, "then there is no question of how many wickets and how many balls and how many players. It's an innings (defeat that has been inflicted)."

The top military commander's remarks were met with loud applause from the audience as this analogy conveyed the comprehensive nature of India's victory.

Oppn writes to PM Modi

CONTINUED FROM P1

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), however, distanced itself from the party and will write a letter to the Prime Minister on Wednesday.

Nationalist Congress Party (SP), however, is not among the parties demanding a special session.

Several Opposition parties have been demanding a special session of Parliament since the Pahalgam terror attack. The demand was also raised in an all-party meeting held to inform the lawmakers about Operation Sindoor.

The Sharad Pawar led faction of the Nationalist Congress Party also skipped the meeting here.

The demand was also raised in an all-party meeting held to inform the lawmakers about Operation Sindoor. Congress sources claimed

that it was Rahul Gandhi who wanted this letter in a coordinated way.

The source said that first it was only Congress MPs but the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha wanted it to be I.N.D.I.A bloc.

The source claimed that Rahul Gandhi reached out to Akhilesh Yadav, Abhishek Banerjee, TR Balu and Aditya Thackeray personally. "KC Venugopal and Gaurav Gogoi followed it up, with other parties K Suresh, Manickam Tagore and Mohammad Javed reached out," the source said.

Speaking to the media, O'Brien said, "Sixteen parties have written a letter to PM Modi demanding, seeking, asking for a special session of Parliament."

Explaining why he opposition parties chose to write a letter, he said, "The government is responsible to Parliament and Parliament

is responsible to the people of the country."

He said that several opposition parties signed the letter letter included Rahul Gandhi, Akhilesh Yadav, Abhishek Banerjee, TR Balu, Arvind Sawant, Abhay Kumar Sinha, Miya Altaf Ahmed, Mr Basheer of IUML and others.

Others among the signatories were Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, KC Venugopal, Mahua Majhi and many other MPs of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha will also sign it.

"Once ceasefire was announced by US, we demanded for special session. We want to thank the armed forces, and want the government to answer all points on Operation Sindoor and US announcing ceasefire and what steps we have taken to isolate Pakistan and how much success we are getting in country's interest," the Congress leader said.

Cong all set to reboot party in Haryana

CONTINUED FROM P1

level meetings with All India Congress Committee (AICC)-appointed observers and senior state functionaries to expedite the restructuring process. "His visit will direct and energise the organisational work in Haryana," Bhan said.

As per the party sources, the Congress will now rely on AICC and Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) observers to recommend candidates for DCC presidents. The earlier practice — where the HPCC chief and Congress Legislature Party (CLP) leader had the final say — has been shelved.

"This process was piloted successfully in Gujarat and ratified during CWC meetings in Belgaum and Ahmedabad," said BK Hariprasad, party affairs in-charge for Haryana, while announcing the deployment of 69 HPCC observers and eight additional observers, including 16 former MLAs and a former MP.

Prominent among these are HPCC working presidents Jitender Bhardwaj, Suresh Gupta and Ramkishan Gurjar; and senior leaders such as former MLAs Rao Dan

Singh, Balbir Balmiki, Amit Sihag, Subhash Gangoli, and former MP Kailasho Saini. Each observer has been assigned a district with the task of identifying potential leaders and building an effective organisational cadre.

As part of the Congress's national organisational revamp campaign — Sangathan Srijan Abhiyan — Rahul Gandhi will be accompanied by 21 central observers in his day-long visit. These observers will hold two rounds of crucial meetings: one on party restructuring and the other on finalising names for district presidents and DCC teams. Interestingly, a meeting with Congress MLAs is not on the agenda, signalling a shift in focus toward grassroots cadre-building rather than legislative strategy.

Hariprasad elaborated on the selection mechanism: "Anyone who has served the party for five years, even NGO workers associated with the Congress ideology, can apply. Observers will attempt to build consensus. If consensus fails, a panel of three to four shortlisted candidates will be sent to the high command, which will finalise the appointment."

Haryana to build new expressway

CONTINUED FROM P1

structed at the earliest, and the people of this region can benefit from it," he added.

The highway would also facilitate commuters travelling to Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand and it will streamline traffic flow and reduce travel time. The project will also provide a high-speed link to Haridwar, a major pilgrimage destination, making it a critical artery for both commuters and devotees traveling from Haryana and Punjab to UP and Uttarakhand.

"The Yamunanagar-Pehowa Expressway fulfils a long-cherished demand of the people of Pehowa, Kurukshetra, Ladwa, and those traveling to Haridwar. By upgrading this route to a

four-lane expressway and constructing bypasses in Kurukshetra and Ladwa, we are tackling the persistent problem of traffic congestion while paving the way for economic prosperity," said Haryana agriculture minister Shyam Singh Rana. He added that the project aligns with the state's commitment to supporting Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a developed India, emphasizing its role in boosting connectivity and creating opportunities for the youth.

The expressway will also come as a boost for the industrial growth as it will connect the twin industrial towns of Yamunanagar and Jagadhari. This connectivity is expected to sig-

nificantly reduce travel time, enabling faster movement of goods and people. Local businesses, particularly in Yamunanagar, stand to benefit from improved access to markets, while farmers in Kurukshetra will find it easier to transport their produce to urban centers and beyond. Local leaders have hailed the project as a catalyst for growth. Yamunanagar MLA Ghanshyam Dass Arora had described it as a "milestone for development," noting that the expressway will attract investment and create jobs in the region. "This project will put Yamunanagar on the map as a hub for industry and connectivity, while also making life easier for commuters," he said.

Punjab waives Rs 68-cr loan

CONTINUED FROM P1

paid due to years of hardships, illness, loss of earning members and failed ventures.

The waiver includes principal, interest, and penal interest, offering closure to families burdened for decades. Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, who chaired the Cabinet meeting, called the move a step

toward restoring dignity to those whose suffering had remained tucked—unspeaken and overlooked by previous governments.

Beneficiaries from Faridkot, Khadoor Sahib, and Tarn Taran shared emotional accounts of carrying the stigma of debt across generations. Some recalled loved ones passing away with loan files under their

pillows, unable to bear the shame of unpaid dues.

Finance Minister Harpal Cheema, who had announced the waiver in the 2025-26 Budget, emphasized that the SC community had a repayment rate above 84%, proving their honesty. However, life's circumstances, not wilful default, had crushed their financial dreams.

NILAMBUR BYPOLL: SMI-FINAL BEFORE 2026 ASSEMBLY POLLS, SAYS CONGRESS

Confident of winning seat, Congress leader Satheesan says bye-election will mark beginning of UDF’s return to Kerala

TDG NETWORK
NILAMBUR

Stressing that the Nilambur by-election is the semi-final before the 2026 Assembly polls, Kerala LoP and Congress MLA VD Satheesan said on Tuesday that they will emerge victorious, which will mark the beginning of the United Democratic Front’s (UDF) return to the state.

Satheesan said, “This is a political contest, a direct fight between the UDF and the LDF. It is the semi-final leading up to the 2026 Assembly elections, and we are confident of winning by a significant margin. We see this as an opportunity to hold the Pinarayi government accountable, a government that has been in power



“The Nilambur by-polls, scheduled to be held on June 19, is a direct fight between the UDF and the LDF”.

for the past nine years.”

“Our role is to advocate for the people, we are their voice, cross-examining the government and the Chief Minister. We will emerge victorious, and this will mark the beginning of the UDF’s strong return in the 2026 elections,” Satheesan

asserted.

The Nilambur by-polls are scheduled to be held on June 19, and the counting is scheduled for June 23.

The election for the Nilambur seat was necessitated after the resignation of PV Anvar, an LDF-backed MLA, who stepped down in

FOUR-CORNERED BATTLE

- With TMC’s PV Anvar joining the fray and ruling LDF fielding M. Swaraj and the Opposition UDF Aryadan Shoukath, the BJP has also announced the candidate
- The main contest in the constituency is between UDF candidate Aryadan Shoukath and the LDF’s M Swaraj.
- Satheesan said, “This is a political contest, a direct fight between the UDF and the LDF.”

January after making several allegations against the Left government in the state, including claims of RSS influence in the home department and the “framing” of Muslim youth in false cases.

Anvar had claimed that he would not be contesting the bypolls, supporting the Congress candidate instead. However, he filed his nomination under the All India Trinamool Congress (AITC) banner on Monday.

Anvar has been the Nilambur MLA since 2016, backed by the LDF in both the 2016 and 2021 assembly elections. National Democratic Alliance (NDA) candidate Michael George also filed his nomination for the Nilambur by-election on Monday.

The main contest in the constituency is between United Democratic Front (UDF) candidate Aryadan Shoukath and the LDF’s M Swaraj.

Karnataka HC adjourns hearing on Haasan’s ‘Thug Life’ release to June 10

TDG NETWORK
BENGALURU

The Karnataka High Court on Tuesday adjourned the release of Kamal Haasan’s movie ‘Thug Life’ to June 10, 2025. The court was hearing a petition concerning the release of ‘Thug Life’ in Karnataka. The court noted that the letter from Haasan to the KFCC, in response to their demand for an apology, did not contain the word “apology.”

The petition, filed by the film’s producers, seeks the court’s intervention to prevent authorities, including the Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce (KFCC), from taking any actions that would hinder or block the film’s release or screening in the state.

The petitioner, who is associated with the movie, has expressed willingness to engage in dialogue with the



KFCC to resolve the issue. The court has adjourned the hearing to June 10, 2025, allowing time for dialogue between the petitioner and the KFCC.

The petitioner has agreed not to screen the movie in Karnataka until the matter is resolved. The controversy surrounding ‘Thug Life’ intensified after the KFCC issued a directive to ban the film’s release in Karnataka. It stated that it will not allow the movie’s release due to Haasan’s alleged remarks. This decision followed remarks made by Kamal Haasan at the audio launch of the film in Chennai,

where he said that “Kannada is born out of Tamil.” The statement sparked widespread backlash, particularly from Kannada activists and organisations, who accused Haasan of belittling the Kannada language.

In response to the growing tension, Kamal Haasan addressed the KFCC in a letter, clarifying that his comments were misconstrued. He explained that his words, spoken with “genuine affection” for the legendary Dr Rajkumar’s family, were meant to express unity rather than diminish the value of Kannada.

Haasan expressed his admiration for the Kannada language and its rich cultural legacy, emphasising that he holds “deep respect” for the people of Karnataka. In his letter, Haasan wrote, “I acknowledge your letter dated 30/05/2025.

Opposition voice of public: Raut on calls for special Parliament session

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut, speaking after the INDIA alliance meeting on Tuesday, emphasised the importance of the opposition’s voice in Parliament. After the meeting at the press conference, Raut said, “There are signatures of 16 political parties on the letter that we have written to the Prime Minister.

This is not a normal letter. The opposition is the voice of the public. We want a special session to be called to discuss whatever has happened in the country so far...” Raut questioned the government, asking, “If a ceasefire was called on the suggestion of President Trump, then why can’t a special session be held even after repeated requests from the



Opposition? Should we go to President Trump for a special session?” When asked about NCP SCP not being on the list of political parties writing a letter to PM Modi, Raut said that Sharad Pawar is also with the alliance. “Sharad Pawar is also with us. Supriya Sule is out with the delegation. When I reach Mumbai, I will speak with Sharad Pawar.” Raut stated. Sixteen political parties of the IN-

DIA alliance have written a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi demanding a special session of Parliament to discuss the Pahalgam terrorist attack, Operation Sindoor and Trump’s announcement on Tuesday. Earlier in the day, speaking at the press conference, after the INDIA alliance meeting, the representative Congress MP Deepender Singh Hooda, emphasised the need for a special session to thank the armed forces and discuss strategies to eradicate terrorism. “16 political parties of the INDIA alliance have written a letter to PM Modi that a special session of the Parliament must be called. During the Pahalgam terrorist attack and the conflict between India and Pakistan, all the opposition parties stood in support of our armed forces and the government of India.

NCW takes suo motu cognizance of Thane minor’s abduction, rape, forced abortion

TDG NETWORK
THANE

The National Commission for Women (NCW) has taken suo motu cognizance of the alleged abduction, repeated rape, forced abortion, and prostitution of a 15-year-old girl in Maharashtra’s Thane.

NCW Chairperson Vijaya Rahatkar has directed the Director General of Police (DGP) of Maharashtra to conduct an investigation, ensure the immediate arrest of the main accused, and provide strict punishment under relevant laws, including the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS)



2023 and the POCSO Act. The NCW also emphasised the need for victim support and rehabilitation. A detailed action-taken report will be submitted within three days.

“Taking suo motu cognizance of a deeply disturbing report of the abduction,

repeated rape, forced abortion, and prostitution of a 15-year-old girl in Thane, Maharashtra, the Chairperson, NCW, Smt. Vijaya Rahatkar, has directed the DGP to ensure a swift and fair investigation. Immediate arrest of the main accused and strict action un-

der the relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, POCSO Act, and other applicable laws is paramount. Victim support and rehabilitation must be ensured. A detailed action-taken report to be submitted to NCW within three days,” the NCW said in a post on X. Earlier on Monday, the NCW Chairperson Vijaya Rahatkar strongly condemned the “gross negligence and systemic failures” that led to the tragic death of a minor Dalit rape victim in Bihar’s Muzaffarpur, who was kept waiting in an ambulance for over four hours without medical attention.

Maha allows disciplinary notices to be sent via email, WhatsApp in new digital push

TDG NETWORK
MUMBAI

The Maharashtra government, through an official notification, directed that in cases of indiscipline by any government employee or officer, notices for action and other necessary documents should be served to the concerned employee via email and WhatsApp.

The government permitted disciplinary notices to be sent via email and WhatsApp, alongside the existing registered post method. The move aimed to streamline administrative communication and accelerate official procedures, particularly in cases of misconduct or disciplinary action against government employees or officers. The General Administration Department (GAD) issued the official circular yesterday, stating that digital platforms can now



be used to send notices, related documentation, and other official communication in cases of government disciplinary proceedings. The circular stated, “In case of any official indiscipline by any government employee or officer, notice for action and other necessary documentation can be sent to the concerned employee via email and WhatsApp.”

However, the traditional practice of serving notices through registered post has not been discontinued. The circular added that notices will also be served via registered post, making it a dual-mode deliv-

ery system to ensure the communication reaches the recipient effectively. This decision came in the backdrop of the government’s larger vision of administrative reform and development under “Developed Maharashtra - 2047,” a part of India’s broader vision of becoming a developed nation by 2047. As part of this mission, the Maharashtra government launched an extensive 150-day programme from May 6 to October 2, 2025, aimed at finalising a comprehensive Vision Document for Maharashtra’s growth.

The initiative aligned with national goals, such as a \$5 trillion economy by 2025-26, while also setting state-specific targets for infrastructure, agriculture, industry, education, health, and urban development. To prepare this Vision Document, the state appointed sectoral groups, coordina-

tors, and external experts across 16 departments, including agriculture, education, health, environment, and urban planning. The government also planned state-wide surveys to gather citizens’ feedback and aspirations for Maharashtra’s future.

The Vision Document will be finalised by October 2, 2025, and will lay down short-term, medium-term, and long-term developmental goals up to 2047, marking India’s centenary of independence. Meanwhile, the Planning Department of Maharashtra, led by Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, issued a Government Resolution (GR) asking all state departments to prepare a vision document titled “Developed Maharashtra 2047.” This will be on the lines of the Union Government’s scheme of Viksit Bharat 2047 as outlined by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Choking of Chennai canal: NGT issues notice to TN pollution body

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

The National Green Tribunal has sought responses from the Chennai district collector and member secretary of the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board over the issue of pollution in a city canal.

The green body was hearing a suo motu (on its own) case on Captain Cotton Canal, which has been choked due to rampant garbage dumping and untreated sewage discharge. In an order dated May 29, a bench of NGT Chairperson Justice Prakash Shrivastava and expert member A Senthil Vel said, “As per the news item, the situation becomes particularly dire at the stretch near Anderson Road, close to the Ayanavaram bus stand, where heaps of plastic waste and garbage severely impede the water flow.” The report also highlighted

the discharge of untreated raw sewage directly into the canal, degrading its condition and contributing to the destruction of the once-functional waterway. “The news item indicates violation of the provisions of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, Solid Waste Management Rules and the Environment (Protection) Act,” the tribunal said.

The bench noted the news report raised “substantial issues” relating to compliance of environmental norms. The tribunal impleaded as parties or respondents the district collector of Chennai and member secretary of the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board and said, “Issue notice to the above respondents for filing their response/reply.” The matter was placed before the southern zonal NGT bench in Chennai on August 1.

BJP lashes out at Sidda Govt over law and order in state’s coastal regions

TDG NETWORK
BENGALURU

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Karnataka President and MLA B.Y. Vijayendra on Tuesday lashed out at the Congress led state government and stated that the BJP would not sit idly with their hands tied back if the state government would resort to using police like goons. Actions were destroying the law and order in Dakshin Kannada and other coastal regions.

He further stated that the actions of the government were destroying law and order in Dakshin Kannada and other coastal regions. Speaking to the media today, he said, “I discussed this issue with national leaders last night.

Today, our MPs and MLAs will meet senior police officials.” Responding to a question



about the deportation of several people in Dakshina Kannada district, he said, “Once upon a time, kings ruled this country. We’ve heard of feudal lords back then.

The current Congress government is running the state like those feudal lords. The Siddaramaiah-led government is running a Tughlaq-style administration that suppresses democracy.” He continued, “Look at the shameful behaviour of this Congress government in recent months.

Sustainable development has been core of India’s philosophy: Karnataka Guv

AGENCIES
BENGALURU

A new consciousness of love and respect for nature and simple lifestyle should be awakened, said Karnataka Governor Thawar Chand Gehlot on Tuesday.

He was speaking as the chief guest at the Bengaluru Sustainability Conference on ‘Advancing Sustainable Development Goals:

Enhancing the Impact of Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships through Knowledge Sharing and Collaboration’. The conference is held in collaboration with OP Jindal University and RV University in Bengaluru.

“In recent times, the increasing concern about pollution has made us think about environmental protection. Especially, the lack of oxygen has



made everyone realise that environmental protection

should be our top priority,” said the Governor.

According to him, sustainable development has always been a core principle of India’s philosophy and ideology.

“India has been trying to move towards the path of sustainable development for a long time and has been incorporating its core principles in its various development policies,” he added. He also pointed out that many of the programmes

being implemented by the Government of India are in line with the Sustainable Development Goals, including Make in India, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, National Rural Drinking Water Programme, National Health Mission Scheme - Rural and Urban, Digital India, Deendayal Upadhyay Gram Jyoti Yojana, Kaushal Bharat and Pradhan Man-

tri Krishi Sinchai Yojana. “But the states also play an essential role in the overall success of the Sustainable Development Goals in our federation,” he added.

Although Bengaluru, known as India’s ‘Silicon Valley’, is today at the forefront of innovation, science and technology, Gehlot said the city is also facing challenges such as

rapid urbanisation, climate change and increasing pressure on resources. “It is heartening that the aim of this conference is to unleash the power of multi-stakeholder collaboration, with special emphasis on how knowledge sharing and cross-sector collaboration can help overcome persistent barriers and increase collective impact,” he said.

DELHI GOVT UNVEILS PLAN TO TACKLE UNEMPLOYMENT; TO HOLD JOB FAIR IN JULY

The meeting aimed to formulate a comprehensive strategy for boosting employment opportunities across sectors for the youth of Delhi held

TIKAM SHARMA
NEW DELHI

A major move towards its mission of “No one should remain unemployed,” the Delhi Government held a high-level meeting on Tuesday at the Delhi Secretariat, chaired by Labour and Employment Minister Kapil Mishra. The meeting aimed to formulate a comprehensive strategy for boosting employment opportunities across sectors for the youth of Delhi.

The discussions focused on enhancing coordination between government departments, industrial bodies, and educational institutions to create a streamlined employment ecosystem. Minister Kapil Mishra stressed the government’s unwavering commitment to ensuring that every young



The discussions focused on enhancing coordination between government departments, industrial bodies, and educational institutions to create a streamlined employment ecosystem.

person in Delhi—be it from a labour, engineering, technical, or non-technical background—finds meaningful employment aligned with

their skills and aspirations. The Delhi Government’s Budget 2025–26 includes special provisions for employment generation, in-

cluding the organization of job fairs.

A central employment platform is being developed to directly connect job-seeking youth with prospective employers. The first mega job fair under this initiative is scheduled for July 2025 and is expected to open up new employment avenues across sectors.

The initiative reflects the government’s long-term vi-

sion of transforming Delhi into an unemployment-free city by building a strong support system for youth employment and skill development.

“Every youth of Delhi is our priority,” Mishra said. “Whether it’s a labourer or an engineer, we are determined to provide employment opportunities for all. This upcoming job fair will mark a revolutionary step in fulfilling the dreams of Delhi’s youth.”

Representatives from key organizations including the Dalit Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DICC), Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Department of Training and Technical Education, Department of Higher Education, and Delhi Technical Institute participated in the meeting.

AAP’s Sanjay Singh seeks PM briefing on Operation Sindoor

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Aam Aadmi Party MP Sanjay Singh on Tuesday wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, requesting him to immediately call a special session of Parliament to provide a comprehensive briefing on Operation Sindoor and the ceasefire decision between India and Pakistan.

In his letter to PM Modi, Sanjay Singh said that after the Pahalgam attack on April 22, and India’s response on May 7, the government conducted two all-party meetings, but the Prime Minister was absent from both of them.

“The Government conducted two all-party meetings to brief political parties about the operation. Regrettably, you, the Prime Minister of India, were not present at either. Your absence has been deeply felt by all parties, and more importantly, by the people of India who expected a strong and unifying presence from



This silence has raised doubts and weakened the confidence of citizens in the government’s resolve to protect India’s sovereignty,” Singh said.

their leader at such a crucial moment,” the AAP MP said. Singh said that they were surprised to learn about the cessation of hostilities between the two nations through a tweet by US President Donald Trump. “Just as the momentum

was building and the Indian Army was perceived to be in a strong position to reclaim Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), we were surprised to learn of an immediate ceasefire through a tweet by the U.S. President Donald Trump. He claimed that both India and Pakistan had been threatened with trade sanctions unless they agreed to a ceasefire,” Sanjay Singh said.

He alleged that despite this, there was no response from the Prime Minister’s office.

“Despite the multiple public statements and tweets by the U.S. President regarding the ceasefire, there was no rebuttal or clarification issued by your office. This silence has raised doubts and weakened the confidence of citizens in the government’s resolve to protect India’s sovereignty,” Singh said.

“Why has the Government not yet traced and identified the perpetrators of the Pahalgam incident, and what are the reasons for the delay?” he further asked.

NGT notice to Delhi Govt over pigeons droppings hazard

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The National Green Tribunal has sought the response of Delhi government and others on a plea raising concerns over the feeding of pigeons, leading to environmental and health hazards.

A bench of NGT Chairperson Prakash Shrivastava and expert member A Senthil Vel said, “Plea of the applicant is that feeding and proliferation of pigeons leads to pigeons dropping on the footpath, pavements and traffic islands, etc., in Delhi National Capital Region (NCR) and when these feeding areas are swept then the toxic particulars of dried droppings mix with the dust, pollute the environ-

ment and caused adverse health effect.”

The plea said pigeon droppings caused “serious lung diseases”, such as hypersensitivity pneumonitis, which resulted in lung scarring and breathing difficulties.

In its order dated May 29, the tribunal said, “The original application (OA) raises substantial issues relating to compliance with environmental norms.”

“Issue notice to the respondents for filing their response/reply by way of affidavit,” it added.

The respondents are Delhi government, Municipal Corporation of Delhi, Public Works Department and others.

The hearing has been posted on October 8.

Man held for firing at shopkeeper, robbery bid

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

A 22-year-old man was arrested for firing at a shopkeeper during an attempted robbery in Delhi’s Dwarka area, an official said on Tuesday.

The incident took place on May 26 in Mohan Garden, police said, adding that the accused was identified as Omprakash.

“The accused rode to the location on a silver-coloured stolen scooter and opened fire at a man working at a medical shop. He fled the spot on foot, leaving behind the scooter, which was later confirmed to be stolen from Uttam Nagar a day earlier,” Deputy Commissioner of Police (Dwarka) Ankit Singh said.



The accused was seen in possession of a firearm, and local informers were activated to help with identification, the officer said.

A case under relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and the Arms Act was registered at the Mohan Garden Police Station, and an in-

vestigation was launched. CCTV camera footage from the crime scene and surrounding areas was examined.

The accused was seen in possession of a firearm, and local informers were activated to help with identification, the officer said.

The suspect was identified, and a raid was conducted at his residence. He was apprehended, and the weapon used in the offence was seized, the officer said. “During interrogation, the accused confessed that he attempted to rob a medical store and fired when the shopkeeper resisted,” the DCP added.

Omprakash has no previous criminal record, the DCP said, adding that further investigation is underway.

Police informs MHA after anti-Israel posters found

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police has informed the Home Ministry about an embassy staffer of a Western European nation allegedly putting up “wanted” posters of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Chanakyapuri area here, an official said on Tuesday.

The incident came to light at around 7.30 am on May 29, when personnel from the Chanakyapuri Police Station noticed two such posters on electricity poles near the Carmel Convent School on Malcha Marg and the American Embassy School, he said.

Chanakyapuri houses several embassies and international institutions, and is under heightened surveillance.



“The beat staff alerted senior officers, and instructions were issued to remove the posters,” a senior police officer said. Subsequently, police teams launched an investigation and scanned CCTV footage to ascertain the identity of the person responsible.

“Upon reviewing the footage, a man in a blue shirt and black trousers was seen arriving on a bicycle at around 5.30 am. He was spotted putting up a poster on an electricity pole. Further analysis led investigators to trace his movements

to a residential flat located on Sardar Patel Marg,” the officer said.

A police team visited the residence and found that the occupant is an employee at the embassy of a Western European nation.

“The individual’s details were noted, but no further action was taken on account of diplomatic immunity,” the officer said.

Given the sensitive nature of the matter and the diplomatic status of the person concerned, the Delhi Police decided to escalate the issue.

A detailed report was prepared and sent to the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), which is expected to coordinate with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) to determine the appropriate course of action, police sources said.

Man arrested for 4-year-old girl’s rape after absconding for 4 years

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

A man, who had been on the run after allegedly raping a 4-year-old girl, was arrested in Delhi’s Alipur area, the police said on Tuesday.

Shambhu Yadav (38), was convicted in a 2016 case under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

He had been sentenced to life imprisonment in 2018, the police said, however, he went absconding in April 2020 after being granted eight weeks of emergency parole due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Yadav was traced and apprehended from Bihar’s



After months of dead ends, the police received a tip-off about Yadav’s possible movement near Gaya.

Gaya district following a 48-hour-long operation.

The jail authorities had de-

clared a reward of Rs 5,000 for information leading to his arrest, a senior police officer said. “Yadav had been evading the law since 2020. He was not using a mobile phone and had cut off contact with his family to avoid detection. He kept changing his location frequently, working as a labourer or security guard in different parts of Bihar and West Bengal,” Deputy Commissioner of Police (Crime) Harsh Indora said. After months of dead ends, the police received a tip-off about Yadav’s possible movement near Gaya.

Yadav had arrived in Delhi searching for work and was employed at a factory in Ti-

kri Khurd, Alipur. “In 2016, he lured a four-year-old girl from the same premises into his rented room and sexually assaulted her. He was arrested on the spot and subsequently convicted under relevant sections of the IPC and Section 6 of the POCSO Act,” the DCP added.

After being granted emergency parole on April 18, 2020, during the peak of the COVID-19 outbreak, Yadav travelled to his native village. However, he failed to return after the parole period ended and went off the grid, frequently changing locations and avoiding mobile phone usage to escape police tracking, the DCP said.

Court rejects bail plea of man held for killing wife, attempting to rape daughter

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

A Delhi court has dismissed the bail plea of a man accused of murdering his wife and attempting to sexually assault his minor daughter.

Additional Sessions Judge Shivani Chauhan said there was enough circumstantial evidence to prima facie say the accused murdered his wife when she objected to his sexually exploiting their daughter.

The court was hearing the bail plea of the accused, who said he was framed as the daughter did not witness the alleged murder.

According to police, the accused allegedly attempted

to assault his minor daughter by forcibly removing her clothes during the intervening night of November 7 and 8 in 2023, but the child’s mother caught him in the act and raised an alarm, leading to an altercation between them.

The next morning, a heated argument ensued, during which the accused allegedly strangled his wife, police said.

Additional public prosecutor Arun K V opposed the bail plea and argued that the case involved a heinous crime in which a mother was killed while saving her child from sexual assault.

While there may not be a direct eyewitness to the

murder, the prosecutor said the case was supported by substantial circumstantial evidence and independent witnesses, and case properties linked the accused to the crime.

In its order dated May 31, the court said, “The victim clearly deposed that her mother had told her that her father was trying to remove her clothes and was trying to do wrong with her. The victim is a nine-year-old girl and cannot be expected to understand the nature of the wrong act which her mother was trying to protect her from.”

The court said the accused was trying to sexually assault his daughter when

the mother saw the act and prevented him from doing it, following which the couple fought and the next morning, when the daughter went out of the room to calm her weeping brother, the man “utilised the opportunity” and strangled his wife.

“Immediately thereafter, the father or the accused went missing. There is enough circumstantial evidence, including the subsequent conduct of the accused, which is prima facie sufficient to show that he had murdered his wife when she objected to him sexually exploiting their nine-year-old minor girl,” the court said.

Man who assaulted head constable held after encounter

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

A 24-year-old man accused of assaulting a head constable with a knife was arrested in south east Delhi’s Jaitpur area following an exchange of fire, an official said on Tuesday.

Asif was arrested on June 2 after he opened fire at a police team attempting to apprehend him near the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway. He sustained a gunshot injury to his leg in retaliatory fire and was taken



to AIIMS for treatment.

“The incident traces back to May 27 when Head Constables Karan and Pawan were patrolling JD Musafir Marg, and they noticed two men on a motorcycle acting

suspiciously. On being approached, one of the men fled while the other, who was intercepted by HC Karan, attacked him with a knife and managed to escape,” Deputy Commis-

sioner of Police (south-east) Ravi Kumar Singh said.

The motorcycle was found to be stolen in a separate case. Subsequently, a case was registered and an investigation was launched.

“During the investigation, CCTV footage helped identify the suspects as Raja and Asif. On May 30, Raja was arrested, and during questioning, he revealed the involvement of his associate Asif,” the officer said.

A tip-off received on June 2 led the police team to set up a trap on the service

road of the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway.

Asif, riding a stolen motorcycle, attempted to flee and fired three rounds from his pistol at the police team, the DCP said.

“In self-defence, the police fired in retaliation, hitting Asif in the right leg. He was overpowered and taken into custody. The motorcycle he was riding was also found to be stolen in connection with an e-FIR lodged at Lajpat Nagar police station,” the officer added.

Man fined Rs 50K for plea seeking action on illegal construction 10 km away from home

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has imposed a Rs 50,000 fine on a litigant who alleged illegal construction activity 10 kilometer away from where he lives. Justice Mini Pushkarna said the petitioner’s legal or fundamental right was “evidently not affected by an activity” 10 kilometer away from his residence.

The court observed the plea was filed with an “ulterior motive” and could not be entertained.

The petitioner, as a result, was ordered to deposit the amount towards Delhi High Court Advocates’ Welfare Trust within four

weeks. “The only ground for filing the present petition is that the petitioner uses the same street while coming and going to the office. The present case is clearly an abuse and misuse of the process of law,” said the court on May 29.

The court added, “It is evident that no legal or fundamental right of the petitioner is affected in any manner by any construction activity taking place in a property, which is situated approximately 10 kilometers away from the residence of the petitioner.”

Filing petitions over matters where a litigant has no direct interest was deprecated, and in the present case, it was evident that the petitioner had no connection with the property in question, the court said.

NO CONTEMPT OF COURT IF PARLIAMENT, LEGISLATURES SIMPLY MAKE LAWS: SC

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has said any law made by Parliament or a State legislature cannot be held to contempt of court. A Bench comprising Justices B.V. Nagarathna and Satish Chandra Sharma made the observation while disposing of a 2012 contempt plea filed by sociologist and former Delhi University professor Nandini Sundar and others.

The contempt plea alleged failure of the Chhattisgarh government to comply with its 2011 directions to stop support to vigilante groups such as Salwa Judum and arming tribals in the name of special police officers (SPO) in the fight against Maoists.

The petition contended that there has been con-



tempt of the order of the apex court as the Chhattisgarh government has legislated the Chhattisgarh Auxiliary Armed Police Force Act, 2011 which authorised an auxiliary armed force to assist security forces in dealing with Maoist/Naxal violence and legalising existing SPOs by inducting them as members.

Besides accusing the Chhattisgarh government of not acknowledging the directions on Salwa Ju-

dum, the petitioners said instead of "desisting" from using SPOs and disarming them, the State government passed the "Chhattisgarh Auxiliary Armed Police Force Act, 2011" regularising all SPOs with effect from the date of the top court order on July 5, 2011.

They alleged that the State government has also not vacated all school buildings and ashrams from the occupation of the security forces nor has it compensated the

victims of Salwa Judum and SPOs. The top court on May 15 said the passing of an enactment subsequent to the order passed by the top court by Chhattisgarh cannot be an act of contempt.

The top court said in order to ensure that rule of law permeates to fulfil constitutional objectives of establishing an egalitarian social order, the balance between the respective sovereign functionaries must always be delicately maintained.

"Every State Legislature has plenary powers to pass an enactment and so long as the said enactment has not been declared to be ultra vires the Constitution or, in any way, null and void by a constitutional court, the said enactment would have the force of law." The Bench added, "However, if any party wishes that the

said Act be struck down for being unconstitutional, then legal remedies in that regard would have to be resorted to before the competent court of law." Considering the situation prevailing in Chhattisgarh over decades, the Bench outlined the need for "specific steps" to bring peace and rehabilitation in the affected areas through coordinated measures of the State and the Central government.

"It is the duty of the State of Chhattisgarh as well as the Union of India, having regard to Article 315 of the Constitution, to take adequate steps for bringing about peace and rehabilitation to the residents of State of Chhattisgarh who have been affected by the violence from whatever quarter it may have arisen," the court said.

Govt to move impeachment motion against Justice Varma in next session

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

A fire incident at Varma's residence in the national capital in March this year when he was a judge at the Delhi High Court had led to the discovery of sacks of cash in the outhouse.

residence in the national capital in March this year when he was a judge at the Delhi High Court had led to the discovery of sacks of cash in the outhouse.

Though the judge claimed innocence, the Supreme Court-appointed committee indicted

him. Justice Varma, who was transferred to the Allahabad High Court during the controversy, was nudged to resign but has refused, prompting Khanna to write to the President and the Prime Minister to take measures for his removal.

4 nursing homes sealed in Palwal for illegal abortion

TDG NETWORK
CHANDIGARH

Four nursing homes in Palwal where illegal abortions were being carried out by quacks were raided and sealed by a team of Haryana's Health Department, according to a statement on Tuesday. The information regarding the nursing homes was received during a weekly meeting of the State Task Force (STF) for improving the sex ratio in Haryana. The meeting was held here on Tuesday under the chairmanship of Additional Chief Secretary, Health and Family Welfare, Sudhir Rajpal, the statement said.

The meeting focused on intensifying efforts to curb illegal abortions and further improve the state's sex ratio under the 'Beti Bachao-Beti Padhao' campaign.

During the meeting, the Additional Chief Secretary directed officials to intensify enforcement against illegal abortion practices and



take strict action against doctors found guilty of such violations, including cancellation of their licences.

In one such case, the registration of a doctor from Kurukshetra has been recommended for cancellation by the Haryana Medical Council after being found complicit in malpractices.

Rajpal emphasised targeting unqualified practitioners (quacks) involved in illegal abortions, especially in four districts of Karnal, Palwal, Gurugram and Charkhi Dadri.

He directed officials to involve the respective Deputy Commissioners and crack down on illegal Medical

Termination of Pregnancy centres in these districts.

Officials were directed to actively coordinate with police authorities and request the state's Director General of Police to constitute a dedicated Task Force to combat illegal abortions.

The meeting was informed by the officials that in the past week (May 27 to June 2), inspections were conducted across the state over the illegal sale of MTP kits in which 2 MTP kits were seized and FIR registered.

The number of wholesalers selling MTP kits has been reduced from 32 to 5 within a month in Haryana, the statement said.

BJP chief JP Nadda charts roadmap in Himachal ahead of Panchayat polls

TDG NETWORK
SOLAN

Union Minister and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) President JP Nadda on Monday chaired a key core group meeting of the party in Himachal Pradesh's Solan, and instructed the state unit to start preparing for the upcoming Panchayat elections.

During his visit, Nadda also participated in a Tiranga Yatra, where he congratulated Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the armed forces for Operation Sindoor.

In his address during the core group meeting, Nadda instructed the state BJP to launch a series of outreach programmes over the next two and a half months from June 5 to August 15 coinciding with the 11th anniversary of the Modi government. These events, he emphasised, should highlight the achievements of the Centre

and energise party cadres across Himachal Pradesh.

The State spokesperson and BJP MLA Randheer Sharma elaborated on the upcoming programme, saying, "from Sankalp to Siddhi, We'll Take 11 Years of Modi's Work to the people."

"The main agenda of today's core group meeting was to prepare for the campaigns around the 11-year milestone of the Modi government, which has undoubtedly been historic. Under the slogan 'Sankalp se Siddhi Tak', we will reach out to the public with the government's achievements," he added.

Sharma also outlined specific events being planned. "On June 5, World Environment Day, we will begin with environment-related events. On June 21, we will observe International Yoga Day with programmes at the mandal level.

Assam, Meghalaya govts agree to install boundary pillars

TDG NETWORK
GUWAHATI

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad Sangma held a meeting on Monday evening in Guwahati to discuss and address various inter-state issues between Assam and Meghalaya. Speaking to the media following the meeting, CM Sarma stated that the meeting focused on the inter-state border dispute, artificial flooding in Guwahati, and the proposed construction of a multipurpose project at Kulsi along the Assam-Meghalaya border. Highlighting progress on the border issue, CM Sarma noted that both governments had previously reached agreements on six disputed areas. "In today's meeting, excluding the Pylangkata area, both sides agreed to install boundary pillars in the remaining five locations by 15 August," he said. He further mentioned that the deputy commissioners of the respective districts would meet to



address and resolve the issues related to the Pylangkata area, expressing confidence that a resolution would be reached. The Assam Chief Minister also stated that the proposed Kulsi multipurpose project would have the capacity to generate 55 megawatts of hydroelectric power and provide irrigation benefits to large parts of Kamrup and Goalpara districts. "The project is intended to be developed as a joint initiative between Assam and Meghalaya. The state government would engage with local residents prior to implementation, and that further steps would be taken only after securing their consent," he said. The issue of artificial flood-

ing in Guwahati was also discussed. The Meghalaya government was briefed, through a presentation, on how water flowing from three locations in Meghalaya contributes to flooding in the city. Sarma noted that this was the first time both governments had engaged in formal discussion on the matter. "It was decided that the North Eastern Space Applications Centre (NESAC) would be engaged to conduct satellite mapping of the Khanapara, Juripara, and Jorabat areas. This mapping, to be completed within three months, would identify the specific sources of water flow from Meghalaya into Guwahati.

ISRO's SHAR signs MoU with RTGS to boost real-time citizen services

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC SHAR) of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Real Time Governance System (RTGS) signed a five-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Tuesday to improve the use of space technology for citizen-centric services.

The MoU was signed in the presence of SHAR Director Rajarajan and RTGS CEO Prakhar Jain.

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu shared the news in a post on X. He wrote, "In a landmark step in leveraging space tech for real-time citizen-centric governance, a 5-year MoU was signed between SHAR (ISRO) and RTGS today, in the presence of SHAR Director Mr Rajarajan and RTGS CEO Mr Prakhar Jain."

He further said that the partnership would improve the AWARE platform with satellite images and scientific data across more than 42 applications, including agriculture, weather updates, disaster management, and urban planning.



"This collaboration will enhance the AWARE platform with satellite imagery and scientific inputs across 42+ applications spanning agriculture, weather, disaster management, urban planning, and so on. AWARE integrates data from satellites, drones, IoT, sensors, mobile feeds, and CCTV to deliver real-time alerts and advisories to citizens and the government via SMS, WhatsApp, and media and social media," The Chief Minister's post added.

Earlier on May 23, CM Naidu submitted a comprehensive proposal to Jitendra Singh, Minister of State for Science and

Technology and Earth Sciences, seeking the Union Government's support to transform Andhra Pradesh into a pivotal hub for space manufacturing and innovation.

The proposal outlines the development of two state-supported Space Cities—one near the ISRO SHAR spaceport and another near Lepakshi—to serve as integrated hubs for satellite production, launch vehicle development, and industry collaboration.

The Chief Minister also apprised the Union Minister of the appointment of Dr S Somanath, former ISRO Chairman, as the Honorary Adviser on Space Technol-

ogy to the Government of Andhra Pradesh. His guidance will steer the state's efforts in building a globally competitive space ecosystem.

"With a strategic location, industrial strength, and future-ready infrastructure, Andhra Pradesh is fully committed to advancing India's space sector," said Naidu.

"We seek the Centre's recognition and partnership in this transformative journey," he added.

The meeting marks a significant step in forging a strong Centre-State partnership to advance India's leadership in the global space economy. (ANI)

'West Bengal rapidly turning into rape capital of India': Union Minister

TDG NETWORK
HOOGHLY

Union Minister Sukanta Majumdar slammed the West Bengal government on Monday, claiming that the state is "rapidly turning into the rape capital of India." His comments came during a visit to Hooghly, where he met the family of a rape victim.

A 13-year-old girl, who had been missing since May 27, was allegedly raped and murdered. The Srirampur Court in Hooghly sent the accused to custody.

"The most disturbing part is that the



girl, who went missing on the 27th, was later found completely naked. She was also differently-abled. Unfortunately, this is not the only incident -- West Bengal is rapidly turning into the rape capital of India," Majumdar told ANI.

Earlier on Monday, Majumdar also

visited the family of Border Security Force (BSF) jawan Purnam Kumar Shaw, who was repatriated to India on May 14 after being held in custody by Pakistan Rangers since April 23.

Majumdar praised the efforts of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah to bring the BSF jawan back.

"On the first day, when I spoke to his wife, the entire family was devastated. But despite the pain, they showed remarkable patience. Following that, under the leadership of our Prime Minister, and with the efforts of the Home Minister and Defence Minister,

Assam CM Sarma responds to Pakistan over threat of China halting Brahmaputra's flow

TDG NETWORK
GUWAHATI

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma took to social media to reply to Pakistan over China's threat to stop the Brahmaputra water to India. Giving a befitting reply, he called Brahmaputra 'a river that grows in India'.

Sharing a post on X, CM Sarma wrote, "What if China stops Brahmaputra Water to India? A Response to Pakistan's New Scare

Narrative After India decisively moved away from the outdated Indus Waters Treaty, Pakistan is now spinning another manufactured threat: "What if China stops the Brahmaputra's water to India?" Let's dismantle this myth -- not with fear, but with facts and national clarity: Brahmaputra: A River That Grows in India -- Not Shrinks."

He argued that China contributes to only 30-35 per cent of the river's total



flow, while the remaining is generated in India.

CM Sarma wrote, "China contributes only ~30-35% of the Brahmaputra's to-

tal flow, mostly through glacial melt and limited Tibetan rainfall. The remaining 65-70% is generated within India, thanks to: "Torrential monsoon rainfall in Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Nagaland, and Meghalaya "Major tributaries like Subansiri, Lohit, Kameng, Manas, Dhansiri, Jia-Bharali, Kopili "Additional inflows from the Khasi, Garo, and Jaintia Hills via rivers such as Krishnai, Digaru, and Kulsi."

INDIAN INDICES FALL FOR THIRD DAY IN A ROW, SENSEX, NIFTY END IN RED

■ The sectoral indices of banks, capital goods, consumer durables, IT, oil & gas, power, private bank, PSU banks declined between 0.5 and 1 per cent.

TDG NETWORK
MUMBAI

Indian stock indices ended lower on Tuesday, with both Sensex and Nifty 50 tumbling in red territory.

The benchmarks declined for the third consecutive session today.

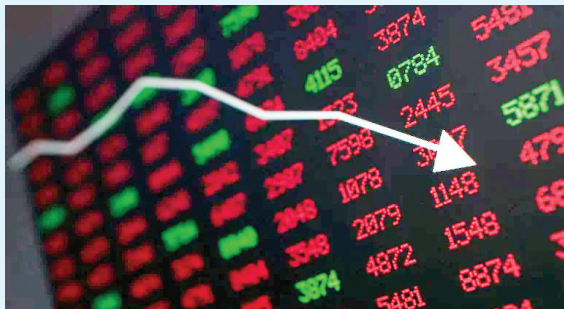
Ajay Bagga, a banking and market expert said to the media, "Fiscal worries, geopolitical tensions, and tariff uncertainty are the defining trends for global markets."

He added that these factors are making markets very difficult to predict, with policy-related news becoming the main driver.

Observing the markets, VLA Ambala, Co-Founder of Stock Market Today, said, "Donald Trump's tariff policies have led to a slowdown in both the US and global economies."

MARKETS TUMBLE AMID GLOBAL, FISCAL CONCERNS

- Sensex dropped 636 points, Nifty fell 174, marking the third straight session of losses.
- Experts cited US fiscal worries, tariff tensions, and geopolitical instability as major drivers.
- Nifty formed a bearish engulfing pattern; 24,500 seen as strong support



level. ■ Realty sector gained 1%, while banking, IT, and power indices declined.

"Trump's policies and the slowing global economy have also affected India, impacting our GDP growth, export flow, and performance of small-cap companies. On technical charts, the Nifty 50 formed a bearish engulfing pattern on the daily time frame," she added.

At the end of today's ses-

sion, BSE Sensex declined 636.24 points or 0.78 per cent, at 80,737.51, and the Nifty 50 at the National Stock Exchange (NSE) was down 174.10 points or 0.70 per cent, at 24,542.50.

The sectoral indices of banks, capital goods, consumer durables, IT, oil & gas, power, private bank, PSU banks declined be-

tween 0.5 and 1 per cent.

Among the gainers in indices, the Realty rose 1 per cent during the trading.

As per Ambala, 24,430 level of Nifty will be the key level to watch tomorrow and appear as a make-or-break point for the benchmark index.

Today, the index's RSI stood at 50, and it plunged

by 3.75% due to the lack of major market triggers.

"Nifty formed an engulfing bearish candle closing near its support of 24500 levels. The index has been very volatile today, as it started on a positive note while dropping to a day low near its support and then again bounced back from the support," said Dr Praveen Dwarakanath, Vice President of Hedged in.

He added that the index is bouncing every time from the 24500 level, indicating strong support at the 24500 level.

Earlier, the Indian stock markets opened on a cautious but positive note on Tuesday, tracking mixed global cues amid rising concerns over tariffs, geopolitical tensions, and fiscal worries in the US economy.

Indian companies post satisfactory Q4 results despite challenges: Report

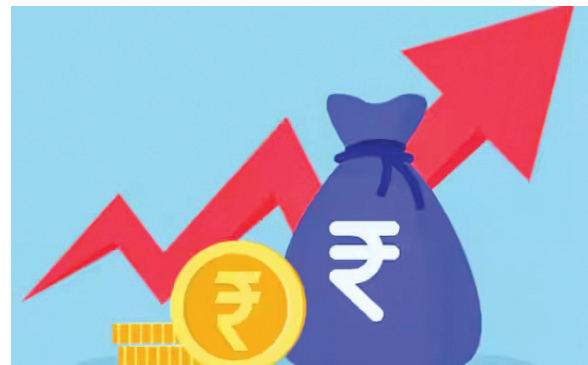
TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Corporate performance of Indian companies in the fourth quarter of financial year 2025 remained satisfactory despite a tough global economic environment, according to a recent report by Bank of Baroda.

The report highlighted that most companies are optimistic about their future growth prospects, and there is potential for further improvement once consumption demand picks up in FY26.

It said "Corporate performance in Q4 FY25 was on the whole satisfactory and there is scope for an upward movement once consumption pick up in FY26. Importantly, despite a challenging global environment, companies remain positive on future growth prospects".

The Bank of Baroda report pointed out that certain sectors are already showing signs of recovery. Sectors linked to infrastructure are experiencing steady growth even though they are being



compared to a high base from last year.

In the case of consumer-related sectors like FMCG and consumer durables, strong rural demand and seasonal factors have played a key role in supporting recovery. The services sector has also continued to grow at a steady pace, driven by strong demand.

The report noted that stable commodity prices, low inflation in India, a favourable monsoon outlook, trade agreements, government spending on infrastructure, and tax benefits are expected to be important drivers of growth and demand in the coming months.

According to the report, in Q4 FY25, aggregate net sales

of a sample of 1,893 companies increased by 5.4 per cent, while net profits rose by 7.6 per cent. Expenses and interest costs remained under control, which helped improve the debt repayment ability of companies.

However, some slowdown in sales was seen in large sectors such as oil and gas, textiles, and iron and steel. This had a negative impact on the overall performance of the sample. But the report suggested that this is likely a one-time occurrence and not a long-term concern.

Similarly, the BFSI (banking, financial services, and insurance) sector, which performed strongly last year, saw some moderation in growth.

Centre gets Rs 0.8 trillion capex boost for FY26

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The central government has extra space in the fiscal deficit to push up expenditure by at least Rs. 0.8 trillion in FY2026 relative to the Budget Estimates (BE), as the higher GDP and RBI dividend payout provide room for it, according to a report by ICRA.

The report highlighted various positive factors in the economy and added that the government could raise expenditure by Rs. 0.8 trillion in FY2026. If the full amount is used for capex, the total capex would rise to Rs. 12.0 trillion from the budgeted Rs. 11.2 trillion, raising its growth to 14.2 per cent, compared to 6.6 per cent currently.

ICRA said, "FY2025 fiscal deficit contained at 4.8 per cent of GDP; higher GDP, RBI dividend pay-out provides space for Rs. 0.8 trillion extra capex in FY2026."

The report noted that the Government of India's fiscal deficit stood at Rs. 15.8 trillion in FY2025, which was slightly higher than the Revised Estimate (RE) of Rs. 15.7 trillion. This increase of Rs. 0.1 trillion was mainly due to higher-than-budgeted capital expenditure (capex) of Rs. 0.3 trillion and lower non-



debt capital receipts of Rs. 0.2 trillion. However, this was partly balanced by a lower-than-expected revenue deficit of Rs. 0.4 trillion.

Despite this, the fiscal deficit was contained at 4.8 per cent of GDP, in line with the target for the year, thanks to a higher nominal GDP in the provisional estimates (PE) compared to the earlier forecast (FAE).

The report mentioned the positive outlook because in April 2025, the fiscal deficit was Rs. 1.9 trillion, about 12 per cent of the FY2026 BE, compared to Rs. 2.1 trillion in April 2024, which was 13 per cent of the FY2025 PE.

The decline came as a result of a drop in the revenue deficit to Rs. 0.5 trillion and a sharp increase in non-debt capital receipts. This helped absorb the 61 per cent year-on-year increase in capital

spending during the month. ICRA said the upward revision in the FY2025 GDP number supports the achievement of fiscal deficit and debt-to-GDP targets for FY2026.

Even though nominal GDP growth is expected to be lower at 9.0 per cent in FY2026 compared to the budgeted 10.1%, the fiscal deficit can still be held at 4.4 per cent of GDP. This also gives the government space for a small slippage of Rs. 300-350 billion.

The government also benefits from higher receipts, including Rs. 2.7 trillion as RBI dividend, which gives a cushion of Rs. 0.4 trillion.

There is also more room to raise excise duties on petrol and diesel, especially after the Rs. 2/litre increase in April 2025, due to softening global oil prices.

We look to invest further in US, says Kumar Mangalam Birla

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Kumar Mangalam Birla, Chairperson of the Aditya Birla Group, on Tuesday expressed optimism regarding more investments in the United States.

Speaking on the sidelines of the US-India strategic partnership forum, Birla said, "We have a cumulative investment of about 15 billion dollars here in the US. We are by far the largest investor from India in the US. Ours has been a very good experience. We've been here for about 16 years, and we look to invest further going forward".

Birla also highlighted Novelis' (the wholly owned US unit of Aditya Birla Group company Hindalco Industries) investment in a greenfield low-carbon aluminium recycling and



rolling plant in Bay Minette, Alabama, USA. The aim of this project is to support the strong demand for aluminium beverage packaging and automotive solutions.

While talking to ANI, he also mentioned, "We have an ongoing greenfield project in Alabama, which is an investment of 4 billion dollars. That is the largest

greenfield project we have ever invested anywhere in the world."

Following US Secretary of Commerce Howard Lutnick's speech, Birla said that Lutnick was "very positive" about the India-US equation and the future of the two nations.

US Secretary of Commerce, Howard Lutnick, expressed optimism about a potential trade deal between the United States and India, highlighting the strong relationship between the two countries.

In a video clip posted on X from the event, Lutnick said, "I spoke at the U.S.-India Strategic Partnership Forum Annual Leadership Summit tonight. We have a great relationship between our countries. I'm optimistic for a trade deal soon that will benefit both nations."

Cement demand to rise to 7.5% in FY26

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Indian cement industry is likely to see a demand growth of 6 to 7.5 per cent in the current financial year (FY26), according to a report by Systematix Research.

The report highlighted that with consolidation-led discipline taking hold and strong momentum in infrastructure and housing sectors, the industry is entering a more stable and profitable phase.

It said, "With consolidation-led discipline settling in and momentum building in infrastructure and housing, industry demand is expected to grow by 6-7.5 per cent in FY26".

The report noted that the sector exited FY25 on a stronger footing. The last



quarter of the previous financial year saw a visible recovery in both demand and pricing after a slow first half. Increased government capital expenditure towards the end of FY25 helped revive construction activity in major markets.

The report said "Cement volume for companies under our coverage grew by 11 per cent after a slow H1 due

to an upswing in commercial activity and a ramp-up in government execution. In FY25, the cement industry ended with a capacity of about 655 MTPA (+4.8 per cent YoY).

This also supported price hikes, which were partially absorbed in regions like the East and North.

In May 2025, the report added that the cement

Trump's drug price order to have limited impact: Crisil

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

US President Donald Trump's executive order on reducing prescription drug prices will have a limited impact on Indian pharma companies, according to a report by Crisil Ratings.

Citing the reason behind its observation, the credit rating firm in its report said that despite India exporting over half of its pharmaceutical output, the bulk comprises low-priced generic drugs, which already operate on razor-thin margins, leaving little room for further price cuts to materially affect revenues.

In over half of the pharmaceutical output, one-third goes to the United States. India exports 54 per cent of its pharmaceutical production, of which nearly a third is to the US. Around 85 per cent of the exports to the US comprise formulations, largely generics, while sales from biosimilars and innovator drugs remain low.

Generic pharma drugs account for 90 per cent of the prescription sales volume but only 13 per cent of the value spending in the US. Generic drug prices in the US are very low and have lower prices in comparison to economically peer countries.

The executive order issued in the United States aims to reduce the prices of pre-



Generic pharma drugs account for 90 per cent of the prescription sales volume but only 13 per cent of the value spending in the US.

scription drugs by 30-80 per cent through the adoption of a Most Favoured Nation (MFN) pricing model.

The US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has outlined the initial steps to be taken to implement this policy, involving identification of manufacturers expected to align the prices of branded products, which do not currently have generic or biosimilar competition, with the lowest price among a set of economic peer countries of the US.

Trump's executive order primarily targets high-margin branded innovator

drugs and excludes generics and biosimilars.

"The MFN model is unlikely to significantly affect the bulk of India's exports," the report added.

It further added, "However, potential indirect impact, through lower growth prospects for upcoming generic versions of innovator drugs going off patent, due to lower price differential post price reductions of the innovator drugs, would bear watching."

However, a few formulation companies with niche presence in the branded innovator drug segment can face some pricing risk.

RBI announces reissue of two Govt securities worth Rs 32,000 crore



TDG NETWORK
MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced the re-issue of two Government of India dated securities worth a total of Rs 32,000 crore.

A "re-issue" means the RBI is selling more of a bond that is already available in the securities market. This move is part of the government's regular borrowing program. The two securities being re-issued are the 6.92 per cent Government Security (GS) maturing on November 18, 2039, and the 6.90 per cent GS maturing on April 15, 2065. Each of these bonds will be issued for Rs 16,000 crore.

Additionally, the RBI has kept the option open to accept up to Rs2,000 crore extra for each security, depending on market demand.

According to the RBI's announcement on Monday,

the auction will be held on Friday, June 6, 2025. The settlement, when investors make payments and receive the securities, will take place on Monday, June 9, 2025.

The sale will be conducted through the RBI's Core Banking Solution system, known as e-Kuber. Both competitive and non-competitive bids can be submitted electronically on the day of the auction.

Non-competitive bids will be accepted between 12:30 p.m. and 1:00 p.m., while competitive bids can be submitted between 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m.

The auction will follow a multiple price method, meaning successful bidders will receive the securities at the prices they quote.

The central bank also stated that primary dealers can bid for underwriting a part of the issue through the Additional Competitive Underwriting (ACU) facility.

INDIAN ARMY DELIVERED VICTORY—WHY DID WE LET THE STORY BETRAY THEM?

OPINION

DR NISHAKANT OJHA



This isn't hyperbole. This is the new reality of modern warfare—where perception can shape policy, headlines can distort victories, and careless media handling can undermine years of national strategic effort. While India's armed forces continue to achieve historic operational success with discipline and determination, we are allowing fragile media optics to undo their hard-earned gains.

Let us be absolutely clear: India just handed Pakistan a narrative win. Not because of any failure on the battlefield, not because of a diplomatic misstep, and certainly not because of any error on the part of the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) or the armed forces. The error was political, procedural, and institutional. And those who greenlit the flawed media engagement must be held accountable—without delay.

The Indian Army accomplished its objective with professionalism and cour-

age, yet a fleeting moment of misinformation threatened to undo their sacrifice. In today's age, wars aren't just fought with bullets—they're fought with narratives. The Chief of Defence Staff represents strategic continuity and national defense leadership. Undermining our armed forces through distorted storytelling weakens India's position from within. We must defend our soldiers not just on the battlefield, but in the arena of public perception. When the CDS speaks or acts, it reflects the will to protect India's integrity. Let's not allow 90 seconds to erase 90 hours of valor.

The Indian Armed Forces: A Fortress of Discipline and Excellence-The Indian Army, Navy, and Air Force have, time and again, proven their unmatched capability to protect our borders and secure our interests. Our military has fought on the highest altitudes, neutralized cross-border threats, and carried out precise, measured retaliation without seeking global applause or falling into the trap of politicization. The creation of the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) role was a transformational step in this direction—meant to integrate the three services, streamline procurement, and strengthen India's defence doctrine. The CDS is not a spokesperson; he is a war

planner. He is not a spin doctor; he is the supreme strategic coordinator of military force.

Any attempt to question or vilify the CDS based on a foreign media interview—particularly one conducted by a platform with known leanings and interests—is not just unfair; it is dangerous and its lack of immaturity.

Bloomberg: A Platform That Should Have Been Scrutinized-Let's talk about Bloomberg. With deep financial and editorial ties to Hong Kong and a clear record of editorial positioning that is not always aligned with India's national narrative, allowing any of India's top military leaders to be interviewed on this platform was a blunder of the highest order. What due diligence was done? Was the interviewer's background vetted? Was the tone and framing of the interview scoped in advance? Were the strategic implications considered?

If not, this was not a media interaction. It was an ambush—an ambush conducted not in a warzone, but in the domain of perception.

And yet, after this predictable misfire, instead of standing firmly behind our CDS and the military, sections of our ecosystem began echoing enemy narratives. This is not journalism. This is self-harm.

Pakistan's ISPR Doctrine vs. India's Narrative Vacuum-Pakistan has long mastered the art of manufacturing perception. Its ISPR (Inter-Services Public Relations) unit is not just a media cell—it is a psychological warfare wing. It exists to spin defeat into parity, failure into defiance, and tactical irrelevance into

global attention.

The moment Bloomberg released its selectively spun interpretation of India's statements, Pakistan's information war engine kicked into gear. From media plants to think tank tweets, the PR machinery of Rawalpindi celebrated—not because of what India did, but because of how we failed to protect our own messaging.This is the cost of failing to develop a formalized, sovereign narrative warfare mechanism in India.

Protecting Our Generals from Perception Traps-Our top military leadership should not be exposed to perception traps without institutional shielding. We do not send elite commandos into war without cover fire. Why, then, do we send the CDS into foreign media platforms without strategic communications protocols?This is not just a lapse in judgment—it is a breach of protocol.

The CDS's mandate is to plan and execute India's defense posture, not to engage in editorial diplomacy. His words, no matter how responsibly spoken, can be twisted, taken out of context, and projected through adversarial lenses. That is exactly what happened. And yet, not one bureaucrat or media advisor has been made to answer for this strategic failure.

ACCOUNTABILITY MUST BE IMMEDIATE — AND BRUTAL

Let's stop being polite. Heads must roll—not in the military, but in the communications and policy ecosystem that failed to protect the Armed Forces from this blunder.

Who decided that Bloomberg was an appropriate

platform for the CDS to engage with?

Who assessed the questions and approved the interview?

Where was the counter-narrative planning team that should have responded instantly once the distortion occurred?

If these roles were not defined, then we have a gaping hole in our national security apparatus. If they were defined, and someone failed at their job, they must be relieved of duty immediately. We do not tolerate indiscipline on the battlefield. We must not tolerate incompetence in the war of narratives.

Strategic Reforms Must Be Undertaken Now-This incident is not a one-off. It is a symptom of a larger structural problem: India has no integrated narrative warfare architecture. We continue to treat perception as an afterthought while our enemies treat it as the first strike.

HONOUR OF THE ARMED FORCES NON-NEGOTIABLE

At the core of this debate is one truth: The Indian Armed Forces are above reproach. Their discipline, sacrifice, and professionalism are unmatched. When they speak, they speak with precision. When they act, they act with purpose.

To suggest that the CDS mis stepped is to ignore context, misread strategy, and empower the adversary. The media circus around the issue is not a reflection of military error, but of civilian mismanagement. The military deserves our protection—not our public second-guessing.

If we start punishing generals for doing their job

while letting bureaucrats get away with mission-critical communications failure, we are not just undermining morale—we are risking national security.

This Is a Wake-Up Call. Don't Hit Snooze.-Let this be the last time India's strategic military gains are compromised by careless communications decisions. Let this be the last time a decorated general is left to defend himself in a media storm caused by someone else's negligence. Let this be the moment where we realize that the war is not just at the border—it's on every screen, every feed, every word spoken out of turn. The enemy doesn't need to cross our borders when we hand them victories through careless speech, poor planning, and lack of accountability. This isn't just about PR. It's about power.

FORTIFY THE NARRATIVE. DEFEND THE UNIFORM

In every military campaign, there comes a moment where silence is more dangerous than action. That moment is now. India must stand firmly behind its Armed Forces and its military leadership. We must hold the real culprits accountable—not the ones in uniform, but the ones who failed in their duty to protect the uniform from narrative sabotage.

The Indian Army has never failed the nation. Let us make sure the nation does not fail the Army.

Dr Nishakant Ojha is an expert in national security and strategic affairs, provides critical insights into the emerging battlefield of narrative warfare and its impact on the Indian Army and national perception.

PERSPECTIVE

A LONG SUMMER FOR US-BOUND STUDENTS

Donald Trump's new policy initiatives have had a far reaching impact, not just regarding tariffs but also his latest decision to freeze all visas to the United States until his government gets a social media policy in place. In other words, all accounts that criticize Trump or take a stand that is against that preferred by the United States, such as an "anti-Semetic" stance over the Palestine versus Israel conflict could be enough to turn down your visa application. Now this has a far reaching impact no doubt but the immediate casualty are the students who have got admission in US based colleges and were just awaiting their visas. The freeze we are told is temporary, the interview slots that have been granted are frozen for now but will get first preference once the United States has its social media policy in place. This does not assuage anyone. For one, the new terms start in August and it is already July. Another point of concern regards those who have not yet got an interview slot for their turn will be pushed back even more.

The larger impact of course is that will Indian students start exploring other destinations? Will colleges in the UK, Canada, Singapore and Australia benefit? As many as 52 percent of Indian students look to study abroad. And as of 2024, the United States had issued over one million non immigrant visas to Indians. IN fact, Indians form the largest chunk of foreign students studying in the United States, with China following a close second. Now many believe that the real target is the Chinese diaspora but the Indians have certainly become a casualty of this new policy.

The policy for vetting social media posts is one of a series of battles waged over education by President Donald Trump's administration. In the line of fire has been the prestigious Harvard University which has seen a cut in government funds after the administration cancelled thousands of visas specially those of students who protested in favour of Palestine against Israel and also of Chinese students. The argument here is that the Trump government will not tolerate any ideology or view point that is against American interests. The vetting of social media posts is an extension of this view point.

What is interesting also is that post Covid many colleges based in the United States are looking to set up campuses in India and elsewhere. Which means you get the Ivy League degree without having to go to the United States. In fact, India itself seems to be waking up to the fact that there are not enough colleges even for her under graduates, let alone postgraduate students and there seems to be a move to upgrade and add to the existing infrastructure even though this is mostly by private players and tie ups with global universities.

In the meantime, its going to be a long hot summer for those students who had applied -and got admission to prestigious Ivy League colleges.

PRIYA SAHGAL

JUDICIAL ACTIVISM VS JUDICIAL OVERREACH

Drawing the line between justice and jurisdiction

OPINION

PRACHI GUPTA & VASU RANJAN SHANDILYA



In a vibrant democracy like India, the role of the judiciary goes far beyond adjudicating disputes. It stands as the sentinel of the Constitution, safeguarding the rights and liberties of citizens. Over the past few decades, India has witnessed the increasing influence of judicial decisions in matters traditionally considered the exclusive domain of the legislature or executive. This growing assertiveness has sparked an ongoing debate on judicial activism versus judicial overreach, raising impor-



tant questions about the separation of powers and the role of courts in public life.

Judicial activism refers to the proactive role played by the judiciary in protecting the rights of the people, interpreting laws in progressive ways, and ensuring that justice is delivered, especially when other organs of government fail to act. It often involves judges going beyond the text of the law to uphold constitutional values.

On the other hand, judicial overreach occurs when

the judiciary exceeds its constitutional mandate and encroaches upon the functions of the legislature or the executive. This happens when courts begin to make laws, implement policies, or interfere excessively in administrative affairs, thereby disturbing the delicate balance of power envisaged in the Constitution.

The distinction between activism and overreach is often a matter of perspective. What appears as necessary intervention to some may be viewed as encroachment by others. The Indian experience illustrates both the value and the pitfalls of an assertive judiciary.

EVOLUTION OF JUDICIAL ACTIVISM

The roots of judicial activism in India can be traced back to the 1970s and 1980s when the Supreme Court began expanding the scope of fundamental rights and liberalizing rules of standing in Public Interest Litigation (PIL). The court's approach changed drastically during the post-Emergency period when it recognized the need to empower citizens against state excesses.

Cases like *Maneka Gandhi v. Union of India* (1978)

and *Hussainara Khatoon v. State of Bihar* (1979) revolutionized Indian jurisprudence by interpreting the right to life under Article 21 to include a range of human rights such as legal aid, speedy trial, and dignity.

The court also stepped in to monitor implementation of environmental laws, uphold rights of bonded laborers, prevent custodial violence, and improve prison conditions. In doing so, it gave voice to the marginalized and held the government accountable. This activism earned the judiciary public admiration and credibility.

However, over time, concerns have arisen about courts going beyond their role. In several instances, judicial pronouncements have entered areas traditionally reserved for the executive or legislature.

For example, in the 2G spectrum case, the Supreme Court cancelled 122 telecom licenses issued by the government, a move that, critics argued, disrupted the policy domain. In the coal block allocation case, the court cancelled 214 coal allocations, again stepping into administrative decisions. While the intentions were to combat corruption and ensure fair-

ness, the economic fallout and institutional tensions highlighted the risks of judicial encroachment.

Similarly, the court's decision in National Anthem case (2016)—directing all cinema halls to play the anthem before movie screenings and compelling audiences to stand—was widely criticized as moral policing, a role ill-suited for the judiciary.

Even well-intentioned rulings, such as imposing firecracker bans during Diwali or regulating the sale of liquor near highways, often blur the line between public interest and judicial control.

BALANCING RIGHTS WITH RESTRAINT

The Constitution of India provides a framework of separation of powers among the legislature, executive, and judiciary. While this separation is not rigid, it is based on the principle that each organ must operate within its domain to preserve institutional harmony.

Judicial review—the power of courts to invalidate laws or executive actions inconsistent with the Constitution—is a cornerstone of this balance. But when courts begin to legislate or administer policies, they

risk undermining the democratic process and accountability mechanisms.

Justice J.S. Verma, a proponent of judicial activism, warned that "judicial activism should not become judicial adventurism." The courts must step in when there is a constitutional vacuum or fundamental rights are in peril, but they must also recognize their limits.

ROLE OF PILS

One of the key instruments of judicial activism in India has been the Public Interest Litigation (PIL). Designed to enable access to justice for those unable to approach courts themselves, PILs have led to landmark rulings on environment, human rights, corruption, and governance.

However, misuse of PILs has led to judicial populism and the risk of trivializing the justice process. Courts are now flooded with PILs on subjects ranging from school homework to traffic rules, prompting judges themselves to warn against "PILs for publicity."

There's growing consensus that the judiciary must develop consistent guidelines to determine which issues merit intervention and which should be left to democratic processes.

JUDICIARY'S ROLE IN DYSFUNCTIONAL DEMOCRACY

One of the main arguments in favor of judicial activism is that it compensates for the failures of the executive and legislature. When the Parliament is stalled by political deadlock, and the bureaucracy is marred by inefficiency or corruption, the judiciary is often the only institution trusted to uphold constitutional values.

In such a context, judicial intervention has led to progressive reform. The Vishaka guidelines (1997) laid the foundation for workplace sexual harassment laws long before legislation was enacted. Similarly, the decriminalization of Section 377, the right to privacy verdict, and the Ayodhya ruling have had transformative impacts on Indian society.

Yet, reliance on courts to fix systemic problems also reflects a crisis of governance. The judiciary should not be the default forum for policymaking. Instead, democratic institutions must be strengthened so that courts are not forced to assume roles that rightfully belong elsewhere.

Judicial activism in India has often been a force for good, empowering citizens and holding governments accountable. But unchecked, it can slip into judicial overreach, undermining democratic institutions and the principle of separation of powers.

The challenge is not to silence the judiciary but to define its role more clearly. Courts must intervene when fundamental rights are at stake or constitutional morality is threatened, but they must also show institutional humility and defer to elected bodies when appropriate.

Ultimately, the legitimacy of the judiciary rests not just on the wisdom of its decisions, but on its ability to exercise restraint, maintain balance, and command public trust without assuming the functions of other branches of government.

In a democracy, all institutions must be answerable. The judiciary, though unelected, is no exception. For judicial activism to serve its rightful purpose, it must remain faithful to the Constitution, cautious in its reach, and committed to the principle of justice—not just for the few, but for all.

This waiver doesn't just end financial bondage, it ends years of tucenda — unspoken trauma



Punjab Cabinet approves Rs 68 cr loan waiver for Dalit families

TARUNI GANDHI
CHANDIGARH

For decades, their pain was tucenda — too deep, too bruised, and too tangled with humiliation to be put into words. Across Punjab, thousands of Scheduled Caste (SC) families bore the weight of unpaid loans with little more than hope, resilience, and repeated rejections from a system that once promised to uplift them.

cial decision,” said Mann after the Cabinet meeting. “This is a moral obligation. These families waited too long, and the previous governments never listened. Today, we correct that.”

“MY HUSBAND DIED WITH LOAN PAPERS IN HIS PILLOWCASE”

In Faridkot, 63-year-old Darshan Kaur's eyes filled with tears as she clutched her late husband's PSCFC loan file. He had taken Rs 75,000 to

1.2 lakh loan to buy sewing machines for a tailoring venture. “My wife and I stitched school uniforms, but our only son got kidney failure. Every paisa went to dialysis,” said Baldev, now 58. “The loan officers stopped coming after COVID, but we lived in fear.” He broke down upon hearing the news. “We will frame that ‘No Due Certificate’. It's our freedom paper.”

“WE WERE CALLED DEFAULTERS”

“This isn't merely a financial decision,” said Mann after the Cabinet meeting. “This is a moral obligation. These families waited too long, and the previous governments never listened. Today, we correct that.”

ON TUESDAY, SILENCE WAS FINALLY SHATTERED

The Punjab Cabinet, led by Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, approved a Rs 67.84 crore loan waiver for 4,727 SC and Divyangjan families who had taken loans from the Punjab Scheduled Castes Land Development and Finance Corporation (PSCFC) before March 31, 2020. With this, a long-overdue reckoning has begun — for debts that were often never about money, but about broken dreams.

start a small milk booth. “We sold the buffalo during his cancer treatment. He died with loan papers tucked in his pillowcase, saying, ‘This will haunt you after me.’ It did. For years.” Tuesday's announcement, she said, felt like “the government finally heard our mourning.”

“WE STARTED ‘STITCHING UNIFORMS, BUT STOPPED WHEN MY SON FELL SICK”

In Khadoor Sahib, Baldev Singh's family had taken a Rs

In Tarn Taran's village of Pandori, Jasbir Singh had borrowed Rs 90,000 in 2005 for a small carpentry workshop. A fire destroyed it. “I rebuilt it with scrap, but defaulted,” he said. “We were labelled defaulters, as if we were criminals. My kids once found a notice pasted outside and asked why I was crying.” For Jasbir, the waiver isn't just closure. “It's proof that the state sees us — not just as votes, but as people.”

The scheme, officially ap-

FREEDOM FROM DEBT: PUNJAB WAIVES RS 68 CRORE FOR 4,727 DALIT FAMILIES



Punjab cabinet meeting chaired by CM Bhagwant Mann in Chandigarh



proved during a Cabinet meeting at the Chief Minister's official residence, will benefit both defaulting and regular loanees — 4,685 and 42 respectively. “No Due Certificates” will be issued through PSCFC, while the government reimburses the full principal, interest, and penal interest up to April

30, 2025. Those who had taken PSCFC loans under earlier waiver schemes are also eligible. However, those who have court cases pending must withdraw them unconditionally to receive the benefit.

As per the 2011 Census, SCs form 31.94% of Punjab's

population. Many availed PSCFC loans hoping to run small businesses like dairy farms, leatherwork, tailoring shops, or even fund

lies not just financial relief, but emotional closure. Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema, who had announced the scheme in

trapped in debt for over 20 years, Tuesday marks the end of an inherited burden.

The Mann-led government has promised that fresh loans will now be issued to new applicants, restoring trust in the system. “This waiver doesn't just end financial bondage,” said a government spokesperson. “It ends years of tucenda — unspoken trauma.”

For families like Darshan Kaur's, Baldev Singh's, and Jasbir Singh's, the waiver isn't just a government order — it's a memorial to years lost in silence, and a promise that their children won't inherit their pain.

Today, they have something to hold onto: dignity. (Names changed on request)

TDG DEEP DIVE

their children's education. But life had other plans — death, chronic illness, job losses, and lack of market access sank them into defaults, guilt, and despair.

The waiver, totaling Rs 67.84 crore — Rs 30.02 crore in principal, Rs 22.95 crore in interest, and Rs 14.87 crore in penal interest — is expected to give these fami-

March, said, “This is not about defaults; it's about victims of circumstances. PSCFC still has an over 84% repayment rate — proof that our people are honest. They just needed compassion.”

PSCFC, since 1971, has given Rs. 846.90 crore in loans to over 5.41 lakh SC families. But for those

Nitish Cabinet clears 47 key proposals on jobs, sewerage, aviation fuel VAT cut

TDG NETWORK
PATNA

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar chaired a high-level cabinet meeting on Tuesday and approved 47 key proposals, including large-scale infrastructure projects, new government job openings, and significant policy decisions.

The Bihar Cabinet approved the creation of 4,858 new posts across various government departments to improve administrative efficiency and public service delivery.

Among the major infrastructure decisions, a Rs 1,320 crore plan was approved for setting up a sewerage network project in Sasaram, Aurangabad, and Siwan.

In addition, a Rs 328 crore water supply scheme received clearance for Ara, Siwan, and Sasaram cities, aiming to boost urban utility services.

The cabinet also approved a new Bridge Maintenance



Policy, which would ensure regular inspection, safety checks, and timely repairs of bridges across the state.

In a move expected to improve air connectivity, the Value-Added Tax (VAT) on Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) in Bihar was reduced from 29 per cent to 4 per cent.

A proposal to build a dry dock in Dujra, Patna, was also approved. The facility will be used to repair aircraft, making it the first such unit in the region.

In a significant step towards women's empowerment, the cabinet decided that “Jeevika Didis” (members of the state's women's self-help groups) would prepare clothes for children at Anganwadi centres.

‘I am misunderstood,’ Kamal Haasan tells Karnataka film chamber over language row

TDG NETWORK
BENGALURU

Actor Kamal Haasan on Tuesday said his recent statement at the ‘Thug Life’ audio launch event in connection with the evolution of Kannada language was misunderstood and that his words were taken out of context. He asserted that his love for Kannada language is genuine.

The acclaimed actor, writing to Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce (KFCC), acknowledged the film body's concern and said: “It pains me that my statement at the Thug Life audio launch, spoken out of genuine affection for the legendary Dr Rajkumar's family, especially Shiva Rajkumar has been misunderstood and taken out of context.”

He said he only intended to convey that “we are all one, and from the same (linguistic) family,” and did not mean to diminish the Kannada language in any



way. “There is no dispute or debate on the rich legacy of Kannada language,” he said adding he was writing out of deep respect for the people of Karnataka.

Meanwhile, M Narasimhalu, President of KFCC, said: “The matter is in court now. We will do what the court tells us to do.” KFCC's proposed executive committee meeting to deliberate the matter was postponed in the wake of the Karnataka High Court's hearing on the issue.

The actor in his letter to the film chamber said that “like Tamil, Kannada has a proud literary and cultural

tradition,” that he has long admired. “Throughout my career, I have cherished the warmth and affection extended to me by the Kannada-speaking community.” With a clear conscience and conviction, he said his love for the language was genuine, and he had great respect for the love that Kannadigas had for their mother tongue. His bond with Tamil, Kannada, Telugu, Malayalam and all other Indian languages was heartfelt.

“I have always stood for the equal dignity of all Indian languages and remain opposed to the dominance

of any one language over another, as such imbalance undermines the linguistic fabric of the Union of India,” he added. Haasan said he spoke the language of cinema, which was universal, a language that “knows only love and bonding.” His statement was only to establish bond and unity.

He said it was out of love that Shivanna attended the audio launch event in Chennai. “I really regret that Shivanna had to go through such embarrassment on account of this,” Haasan said he was sure the mutual love and respect between him and Shivanna would not only continue, but it would also get stronger.

The actor said cinema must remain a bridge between people and not a wall that divides them. “This was the intent of my statement and I never have been nor would ever want to give any room for public unrest and animosity,” wrote Haasan.

‘Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Delhi among top performers in adult literacy’

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Delhi, Tripura and Tamil Nadu are among the top performers in dealing with challenges related to adult literacy and education while Uttarakhand, Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh lag be-

three subjects — Reading, Writing, and Numeracy — each carrying 50 marks, totalling 150 marks. The test has been developed to evaluate the foundational literacy and numeracy skills of registered non-literate learners.

The FLNAT process was

The FLNAT process was rolled out in phases between July 2024 and March 2025, with over 1.77 crore adult learners tested.

hind in certification outcomes, according to results of Foundational Literacy Numeracy Assessment Test (FLNAT).

FLNAT is a nationwide assessment focused on foundational literacy and numeracy certification. States and Union territories identify illiterate populations, train them, and then test and certify them as they come out of illiteracy.

The assessment comprises

rolled out in phases between July 2024 and March 2025, with over 1.77 crore adult learners tested. By May 2025, only 34.31 lakh were officially certified, reflecting a national certification average of about 19.4 per cent.

The assessment conducted under the ULLAS — Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram, reveals significant variations in adult literacy certification across Indian states.

GARLIC IN RAJASTHANI CUISINE: KEY FLAVOR AND HEALTH BOOSTER

TDG NETWORK

Garlic, known as Lahsun in Hindi, is an indispensable ingredient in Indian cooking, particularly in the bold and flavorful cuisine of Rajasthan. From enhancing taste to offering medicinal benefits, garlic holds a special place in Rajasthani kitchens. Its pungent aroma and robust flavor profile make it a cornerstone in many traditional dishes, while its health-boosting properties align perfectly with the diet of a region known for its tough climate and hardy people.

This article delves deep into how garlic is used in Rajasthani food, why it is considered a powerful taste enhancer, and its role beyond the kitchen as a natural healer and immune booster.

THE IMPORTANCE OF GARLIC IN RAJASTHANI CUISINE

Rajasthan's culinary tradition is shaped by its arid desert climate, scarcity of water, and need for long-lasting, nutrient-rich foods. Garlic, with its potent flavor and preservative qualities, perfectly suits this environment.

A FLAVORFUL FOUNDATION

Garlic's sharp and slightly spicy taste serves as a foundational flavor in many Rajasthani dishes. Whether used whole, crushed, chopped, or as a paste, garlic imparts a depth and warmth that balances the richness of ghee, the earthiness of millets, and the heat of regional spices.

VERSATILITY ACROSS DISHES

In Rajasthan, garlic is widely used in: Curries and Gravies: Dishes like Laal Maas (spicy mut-

ton curry) and Gatte ki Sabzi (gram flour dumplings in yogurt gravy) rely heavily on garlic to enhance their bold flavors.

Chutneys and Pickles: Garlic chutney, often combined with red chilies and dry spices, is a popular condiment that adds a spicy kick to meals.

Vegetable Preparations: Garlic adds complexity to dishes made with desert vegetables like Ker Sangri, enhancing their natural flavors.

Breads and Snacks: Garlic-infused dough or toppings are often used in local breads, adding aroma and taste.

GARLIC AS A TASTE ENHANCER: HOW DOES IT WORK?

Garlic contains sulfur compounds such as allicin, which are responsible for its strong aroma and flavor. These compounds interact with other ingredients, stimulating taste buds and enhancing the overall flavor of the dish.

KEY WAYS GARLIC ENHANCES TASTE:

Balances Flavors: Garlic tempers the bitterness of some vegetables and spices while boosting sweetness and umami.

Adds Depth: It creates a layered flavor profile, making simple ingredients taste richer and more complex.

Stimulates Appetite: The aroma of garlic stimulates salivary glands and digestive enzymes, preparing the palate and digestive system for food.

Preserves Freshness: Its antimicrobial properties help preserve foods longer in the hot climate, maintaining flavor integrity.

In Rajasthani cuisine, where spices are used liberally, garlic helps harmonize the intense heat and robust flavors, preventing any sin-



gle spice from overpowering the dish.

TRADITIONAL RAJASTHANI DISHES HIGHLIGHTING GARLIC

1. Laal Maas

This fiery meat curry, often made with mutton, uses generous amounts of garlic along with red chilies, yogurt, and spices. Garlic rounds out the heat and adds a smoky undertone, elevating the dish's rich and spicy character.

2. Garlic Chutney (Lahsun ki Chutney)

A staple accompaniment, garlic chutney is made from crushed garlic, dried red chilies, and mustard oil. It adds a pungent, spicy layer that complements bajra rotis and dal.

3. Gatte ki Sabzi

This gram flour dumpling curry often includes garlic in the tempering stage to boost the yogurt-based gravy's flavor, adding warmth and aroma.

4. Ker Sangri

The dry desert bean and berry preparation benefits from garlic's pungency to

balance the tangy and earthy notes of the ker and sangri.

5. Dal Baati Churma

While dal and baati themselves don't contain much garlic, the accompanying chutneys and side dishes often feature garlic to enhance the overall meal experience.

GARLIC'S MEDICINAL ROLE IN RAJASTHANI TRADITION

Apart from its culinary use, garlic has been valued in Rajasthan's traditional medicine for centuries.

Immunity Booster

The dry desert climate, coupled with limited water sources, often makes residents vulnerable to infections. Garlic's antibacterial, antiviral, and antifungal properties make it a natural immune booster.

Digestive Aid

Garlic stimulates the production of digestive enzymes, helping with digestion and reducing



bloating—a common benefit in heavy, spice-rich Rajasthani meals.

Respiratory Health

Rajasthanis often include garlic in their diet to protect against respiratory issues caused by dust and arid winds. Its expectorant properties help clear nasal and bronchial passages.

Heart Health

Garlic helps regulate blood pressure and cholesterol levels, essential for cardiovascular health, especially in populations with high-fat diets.

HOW GARLIC IS USED IN RAJASTHANI COOKING METHODS

Roasting and Tempering: Garlic is often roasted or fried in ghee or mustard oil at the beginning of cooking to mellow its sharpness and infuse the oil with flavor, which then permeates the entire dish.

Raw and Fresh Usage

In chutneys and salads, raw garlic is crushed or finely chopped to retain its pungency and medicinal qualities.

Paste Form

Garlic paste, sometimes combined with ginger, is a base for many curries, providing consistent flavor and easy integration with spices.

Pickling

Garlic is frequently pickled in mustard oil with spices, creating a flavorful side dish that aids digestion and adds zest to meals.

GARLIC IN RAJASTHAN'S FESTIVE AND DAILY MEALS

Rajasthan's food culture is rich with festivals and rituals, where garlic finds a special place:

During marriage feasts and special occasions, garlic-rich dishes like Laal Maas and Garlic Chutney are served to guests, showcasing hospitality and culinary pride.

In everyday meals, simple garlic tempering in dal or vegetable curries elevates the basic food, making it both flavorful and nutritious.

MODERN APPRECIATION AND GLOBAL INFLUENCE

Today, the global recognition of garlic as a superfood aligns well with Rajasthan's traditional culinary wisdom. Chefs and nutritionists praise Rajasthani recipes for their balanced use of garlic—not just for flavor but for holistic health benefits.

Garlic's popularity in Ra-

jasthan also speaks to the broader Indian culinary landscape, where it is used in varied forms—from rustic village kitchens to royal palaces—underscoring its timeless appeal.

TIPS FOR COOKING WITH GARLIC LIKE A RAJASTHANI CHEF

Use fresh garlic: For maximum flavor and health benefits, fresh bulbs are preferred over processed garlic.

Roast or temper: Frying garlic gently in ghee or oil before adding other ingredients enhances aroma and reduces raw pungency.

Balance quantity: Garlic should be used generously but in balance with other spices to avoid overpowering the dish.

Combine with mustard oil: Mustard oil is a classic fat in Rajasthan, and it pairs perfectly with garlic's sharpness.

Experiment with chutneys: Garlic chutneys offer a quick way to add a punch of flavor to simple meals.

Garlic is much more than a kitchen staple in Rajasthani cuisine—it is a cultural emblem, a natural healer, and the ultimate taste enhancer. Its bold aroma and robust flavor define many iconic dishes, making them unforgettable. Coupled with its health benefits, especially in boosting immunity and aiding digestion, garlic remains an essential ingredient that has stood the test of time in Rajasthan's culinary heritage.

Whether in fiery curries, tangy chutneys, or simple tempering, garlic's presence in Rajasthani food is a testament to the region's ingenious use of natural ingredients to create food that is delicious, nourishing, and healing. Embracing garlic in your cooking is not only a journey into the heart of Rajasthan's cuisine but also a step toward better health and flavor.

Nourish to Flourish: The Powerful Link Between Food and Happiness

TDG NETWORK

Food is much more than just sustenance. It is a fundamental part of human culture, tradition, and emotional life. From celebrations to everyday meals, food has a profound connection to our happiness and overall well-being. Scientists, psychologists, and nutritionists increasingly recognize the deep relationship between diet and mental health, showing how what we eat can influence our mood, emotions, and sense of contentment.

THE EMOTIONAL CONNECTION TO FOOD

Eating is one of the most basic pleasures of life. Sharing meals with family and friends often brings joy and strengthens bonds. The aroma, taste, and texture of food can evoke powerful memories and emotions. For many, food is comfort—a way to soothe stress, anxiety, or sadness.

However, this emotional connection to food can work both ways. While comfort foods can lift spirits temporarily, overindulging or eating unhealthy food frequently may contribute to feelings of guilt or low energy, negatively affecting mental health. On the other hand, a balanced and nutritious diet supports the brain's chemical balance and fosters lasting happiness.

THE SCIENCE BEHIND FOOD AND MOOD

The link between food

and happiness is not just anecdotal; it has biological foundations. Our brain chemistry is influenced by nutrients, and food affects the production of neurotransmitters—the brain's chemical messengers.

Serotonin: Often called the "feel-good" neurotransmitter, serotonin contributes to feelings of well-being and happiness. Approximately 90% of serotonin is produced in the gut, which means a healthy digestive system is crucial for its production. Foods rich in tryptophan (an amino acid) such as turkey, eggs, cheese, nuts, and seeds help boost serotonin levels.

Dopamine: This neurotransmitter is linked to motivation and reward. Eating pleasurable foods activates dopamine pathways in the brain, creating feelings of pleasure and satisfaction.

Endorphins: These natural painkillers also contribute to feelings of euphoria and well-being. Spicy foods, for example, can trigger the release of endorphins.

HOW DIET INFLUENCES MENTAL HEALTH

Nutrition directly affects brain function, cognition, and emotional regulation. Several studies highlight the impact of diet on depression, anxiety, and overall mood:

Mediterranean Diet: Rich in fruits, vegetables, whole grains, fish, and healthy



fats, the Mediterranean diet has been linked to lower rates of depression and anxiety. Its high antioxidant content fights inflammation, which is associated with mental health disorders.

Processed Foods and Sugars: Diets high in processed foods, refined sugars, and unhealthy fats have been linked to increased risk of depression and poor mental health. Such foods can cause blood sugar spikes and crashes, affecting mood stability.

Gut Health: The gut microbiome, consisting of trillions of bacteria, com-

municates with the brain through the gut-brain axis. A balanced diet rich in fiber, fermented foods, and probiotics supports a healthy gut, which in turn supports mental health.

CULTURAL AND SOCIAL ASPECTS OF FOOD AND HAPPINESS

Food is central to cultural identity and social interaction. Festivals, rituals, and family traditions often revolve around meals. This social aspect of eating contributes significantly to happiness by fostering a sense of belonging and con-

nection.

Shared Meals: Eating together encourages conversation, strengthens relationships, and reduces feelings of loneliness. The ritual of sharing food can boost oxytocin, a hormone linked to bonding and trust. Cultural Foods: Traditional dishes can evoke nostalgia and pride, enhancing happiness through cultural continuity and identity.

FOOD AS SELF-CARE AND MINDFULNESS

In today's busy world, mindful eating is gaining popularity as a way to improve mental well-being.



Mindfulness involves being present and fully engaged while eating—noticing the taste, texture, and aroma of food. This practice can reduce stress, improve digestion, and increase satisfaction with meals.

Preparing healthy meals at home can also be an act of self-care. Cooking can be therapeutic, providing a creative outlet and a sense of accomplishment. Choosing nourishing ingredients

reflects self-respect and care, which boosts self-esteem and happiness.

PRACTICAL TIPS FOR USING FOOD TO ENHANCE HAPPINESS

Eat Balanced, Whole Foods: Focus on fruits, vegetables, whole grains, lean proteins, and healthy fats to support brain health.

Limit Processed Foods: Reduce intake of sugary snacks, fried foods, and ar-

tificial additives that negatively impact mood.

Stay Hydrated: Dehydration can cause irritability and fatigue; drinking enough water supports overall well-being.

Include Mood-Boosting Nutrients: Omega-3 fatty acids (found in fish and flaxseeds), vitamin D, B vitamins, magnesium, and antioxidants are crucial for mental health.

Practice Mindful Eating: Slow down, savor each bite, and avoid distractions during meals.

Cook and Share Meals: Engage in cooking and enjoy meals with loved ones to strengthen emotional bonds.

Try Fermented Foods: Yogurt, kefir, sauerkraut, and kimchi can promote gut health and positively affect mood.

NOURISHING BOTH BODY AND SOUL

Food's role in happiness is multifaceted—it nourishes the body, fuels the brain, connects us socially, and offers emotional comfort. While it's natural to seek pleasure in food, prioritizing nutritious choices lays the foundation for lasting mental health and joy.

Understanding and respecting the deep connection between food and happiness can empower us to make better dietary choices and foster richer social connections. After all, true happiness comes from a balanced life—a balanced plate is a key part of that equation.

EXIT POLLS SHOW SOUTH KOREA'S LEE ON TRACK TO WIN PRESIDENCY BY LANDSLIDE

Nearly 80% of South Korea's 44.4 million eligible voters participated in one of the highest presidential poll turnouts—

AGENCIES
SEOUL

South Korea's liberal opposition candidate Lee Jae-myung was expected to win a snap presidential election Tuesday, a joint exit poll and ongoing vote counts suggested. The victory would cap months of political turmoil triggered by the stunning but brief imposition of martial law by now-oust conservative leader Yoon Suk Yeol.

It was unclear whether Lee's election would cause any major, immediate shift in South Korea's foreign policy. Lee, previously accused by critics of tilting toward China and North Korea and away from the U.S. and Japan, has repeatedly stressed South Korea's alliance with the U.S. as the foundation of its foreign policy.

The toughest external challenges awaiting a new president are U.S. President Donald Trump's tariff policy and North Korea's advancing nuclear program. But experts say whoever becomes



president in South Korea cannot do much to secure major progress in South Korea's favor on those issues.

With more than 31% of ballots counted as of 11:15 p.m., Lee, the Democratic Party candidate, led with more than 48% of votes, trailed by main conservative candidate Kim Moon Soo with 43%.

The exit poll by South Korea's three major TV stations -- KBS, MBC and SBS -- earlier showed Lee projected to obtain 51.7% of total votes cast, beating Kim with 39.3%. Pre-election surveys suggested Lee appeared headed for an easy win, riding on deep public frustration over the conservatives in the wake of Yoon's martial law debacle that plunged South Korea into political turmoil.

Hundreds of Lee support-

ers gathered outside the National Assembly, waving Korean flags and singing.

Nearly 80% of the country's 44.4 million eligible voters cast ballots, according to an interim tally. That's one of the highest turnouts for a presidential election in South Korea, reflecting public eagerness to move past the political turmoil. The winning candidate will immediately be sworn in as president Wednesday for a single, full term of five years without the typical two-month transition period.

Promise to revitalize the economy In a Facebook posting earlier Tuesday, Lee, whose Democratic Party led the legislative effort to oust Yoon, called for voters to "deliver a stern and resolute judgement" against the con-

servatives over martial law. In one of his final campaign speeches Monday, Lee claimed that a win by Kim would mean the "return of the rebellion forces, the destruction of democracy and the deprivation of people's human rights."

He also promised to revitalize the economy, reduce inequality and ease national divisions.

Kim, a former labor minister under Yoon, claimed that a Lee win would allow him to wield excessive power, launch political retaliation against opponents and legislate laws to protect him from various legal troubles, as his party already controls parliament.

Lee "is now trying to seize all power in South Korea and establish a Hitler-like dictatorship," Kim told one rally.

Pragmatic diplomacy Lee, who served as governor of Gyeonggi province and mayor of Seongnam city, has been a highly divisive figure in politics for years. As a former child laborer known for his inspirational rags-to-

riches story, Lee came to fame through biting criticism of the country's conservative establishment and calls to build a more assertive South Korea in foreign policy. That rhetoric has given him an image as someone who can institute sweeping reforms and fix the country's deep-seated economic inequality and corruption.

His critics view him as a dangerous populist who relies on political division and backpedals on promises too easily. On foreign policy, Lee has steadfastly vowed to pursue pragmatic diplomacy. He has promised to solidify a trilateral Seoul-Washington-Tokyo partnership, a stance that is not much different than the position held by South Korea's conservatives. Experts say there aren't many diplomatic options for South Korea as it tries to address Trump's tariff hikes and calls for South Korea to pay more for the cost of the U.S. military presence, as well as North Korea's headlong pursuit of nuclear weapons.



Wetland covered with Suaeda salsa, a plant also known as seepweed or sea-blite, Qingdao, China. Agencies

ADB approves \$800 mn package for Pakistan

AGENCIES
ISLAMABAD

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved USD 800 million for Pakistan to strengthen fiscal sustainability and improve public financial management, an official said on Tuesday.

Khurram Schehzad, advisor to the finance minister confirmed the development in a brief statement on social media, saying that the package includes a USD 300 million policy-based loan (PBL) and a USD 500 million programme-based guarantee (PBG).

He said, "ADB approves USD 800 million financing package for Pakistan" under the Resource Mobilisation Reform Programme.



Separately, the Philippines-based lender also confirmed the development in a statement, saying that subprogramme 2 of the "Improved Resource Mobilisation and Utilisation Reform Programme" includes a policy-based loan of USD 300 million, and ADB's "first-ever policy-based guarantee" of up to USD 500 million, which is expected to mobilise financing of up to USD 1 billion from commercial banks. "Pakistan has made significant progress in improving macro-economic conditions," said

ADB country director for Pakistan, Emma Fan. "This programme backs the government's commitment to further policy and institutional reforms that will strengthen public finances and promote sustainable growth." The programme supports far-reaching reforms to improve tax policy, administration, and compliance while enhancing public expenditure and cash management.

"It also promotes digitalisation, investment facilitation, and private sector development. These measures aim to reduce Pakistan's fiscal deficit and public debt while creating space for social and development spending," it said.

Pakistan teen influencer killed after 'rejecting' man

AGENCIES
ISLAMABAD

Pakistani police on Tuesday said a 17-year-old TikTok star was shot dead by a man who had repeatedly contacted her online.

Sana Yousaf, who turned 17 last week and had more than a million followers across her social media accounts, was killed at her home in the capital Islamabad on Monday evening.

The police have arrested a 22-year-old on suspicion of her murder who spent hours loitering outside her home.

"It was a case of repeated rejections. The boy was trying to reach out to her time and again," Islamabad police chief Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi said during a news conference. "It was a gruesome and cold-blooded

murder," Rizvi added. Yousaf had more than 800,000 followers on TikTok, a wildly popular platform in Pakistan, where she posted lip-sync videos, sk-



incare tips, and promotional content for beauty products.

The last video posted on her account was hours before her murder, in which she was seen cutting a cake for her birthday. Some comments

under social media posts sharing the news of Yousaf's murder suggested it was justified because of her social media career, in a society where honour codes restrict

how women should behave. "You reap what you sow," said one comment. Women's rights activist Nighat Dad such reactions embolden abusers to "silence women who dare to be visible".

More than 200 inmates escape Pak jail after earthquake

AGENCIES
ISLAMABAD

More than 200 prisoners escaped from a jail in Pakistan's largest city following an earthquake in the early hours of Tuesday, police said.

Thousands of inmates broke down doors and the locks of their cells and shattered windows after they felt tremors shake the walls at Malir Jail in Karachi.

Of those who escaped the prison, police said 80 inmates had been recaptured and searches were ongoing for more than 130 still at large. One prisoner was killed in the operation and two prison officers injured. A prison superintendent

told the BBC inmates began shouting from their cells and barracks around midnight as they were terrified the building would collapse on top of them.

After the frenzy turned violent, police said they responded with warning shots, firing guns into the air.

While many returned to their cells, others stormed the main gate in panic - with 216 inmates using the opportunity to escape the prison altogether. Police are now going door-to-door, visiting past residences to arrest those who are still on the run. The facility in the Malir district is Sindh province's second largest prison, and is over capacity.

Three Israeli soldiers killed in Gaza in deadliest attack since March truce

AGENCIES
JERUSALEM

The Israeli military said on Tuesday (June 3) that three of its soldiers were killed in the Gaza Strip, in what appeared to be the deadliest attack on Israel's forces since it ended a ceasefire with Hamas in March.

The military said the three soldiers, all in their early 20s, fell during combat in northern Gaza on Monday (June 2), without providing details. Israeli media reported that they were killed in an explosion in the Jabaliya area.



Israel ended the ceasefire in March after Hamas refused to change the agreement to release more hostages sooner. Israeli strikes have killed thousands of Palestinians since then, according to Gaza's Health Ministry. Hamas-led militants killed some 1,200

people, mostly civilians, and took 251 people hostage in the Oct 7, 2023, attack into Israel that ignited the war. They are still holding 58 hostages, a third of them believed to be alive, after most of the rest were released in ceasefire agreements or other deals.

Rescuers say Israeli fire kills at least 27 near Gaza aid point

AGENCIES
GAZA STRIP

The UN human rights chief condemned such attacks on civilians as "a war crime" after a similar shooting in the same area on Sunday killed and wounded scores of Palestinians seeking aid, according to the civil defence agency.

Tuesday's deaths in the southern city of Rafah came as rescuers reported 19 people killed in other Israeli attacks in the territory, and as the Israeli army announced three soldiers had been killed in northern Gaza.

"Twenty-seven people were killed and more than 90 injured in the massacre



targeting civilians who were waiting for American aid in the Al-Alam area of Rafah," said civil defence spokesman Mahmud Bassal, who earlier told AFP the deaths occurred "when Israeli forces opened fire with tanks and drones".

The Al-Alam roundabout is about a kilometre (just over half a mile) from a cen-

tre run by the US-backed Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF), a recently formed group that Israel has worked with to implement a new aid distribution mechanism in the territory.

The United Nations and major aid groups have refused to cooperate with the group over concerns it was designed to cater to Israeli

'Deadly attacks' around Gaza aid sites 'a war crime', says UN

NEW YORK: Israel's actions in Gaza "constitute elements of the most serious crimes under international law," the UN human rights chief warned on Tuesday. "The willful impediment of access to food and other life-sustaining relief supplies for civilians may constitute a war crime," Volker

reported, citing the Russian Foreign Ministry.

Patemi also conveyed the prime minister's greetings and his country's desire to expand bilateral cooperation with Russia on a wide range of issues, including energy, transport links, trade and other areas.

Pakistan announced last month to send a team of experts to foreign capitals to inform the world about the four-day conflict with India and also highlight its point of view regarding the conflict.

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 in the early hours of 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 on-ground hostilities ended with an understanding of stopping the military actions following talks between the directors general of military operations of both sides on May 10.

Turk said. "The threat of starvation, together with 20 months of killing of civilians and destruction on a massive scale, repeated forced displacements, intolerable, dehumanizing rhetoric and threats by Israel's leadership to empty the strip of its population, also

designated access routes." "The troops carried out warning fire, and after the suspects failed to retreat, additional shots were di-

rected near a few individual suspects who advanced toward the troops," it said, adding it was looking into reports of casualties.

For the past three days, scores of starved Palestinians have been killed by Israeli fire as they were attempting to procure food at an aid point run by the controversial, US-backed Gaza Humanitarian Foundation.

China escalates Taiwan pressure with 70 warships, 75 jets in May

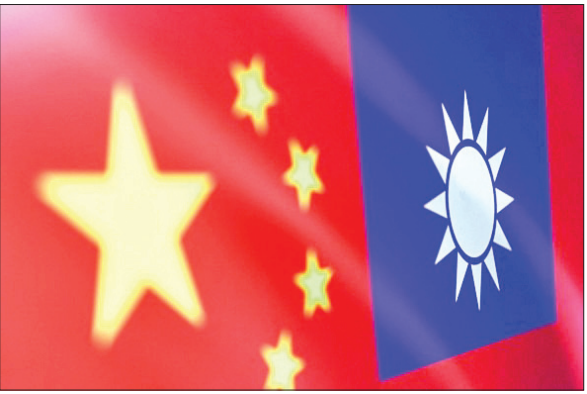
AGENCIES
TAIPEI

Beijing sent two aircraft carrier strike groups and numerous warships to the waters both north and south of Taiwan last month, as noted by a Taiwanese security official, amid rising tensions between China and Taiwan, as reported by The Eurasian Times.

From May 1 to May 27, around 70 Chinese vessels, including

naval ships, were tracked from the Yellow Sea to the South China Sea, according to a security official who requested anonymity. In recent years, China has intensified the deployment of warships and fighter jets around Taiwan, pressuring Taipei to recognise its claims of sovereignty over the island, The Eurasian Times reported.

China has not dismissed the possibility of using military



force to bring Taiwan under its control, posing an ongoing threat of invasion to the island. "Their military activities and grey-zone operations have involved substantial deployments across the entire island chain, representing a strategy of comprehensive maximum pressure," the security official indicated, as quoted by The Eurasian Times.

"On average, there have been

between 50 to 70 naval and government vessels operating, along with hundreds of flights by different military aircraft, consistently engaging in harassment missions." Some of the vessels travelled through the Miyako Strait into the Western Pacific Ocean for "long-range training, including integrated air-sea exercises," the official added, as cited by The Eurasian Times.

US CITIZEN WHO JOINED ISIS JAILED

U.S. District Judge Rudolph Contreras in Washington imposed Sylejmani's 10 years of prison sentence followed by lifetime of supervised release.

AGENCIES
WASHINGTON

A naturalized U.S. citizen who pleaded guilty to receiving military training from the Islamic State group was sentenced Monday to 10 years in federal prison. Lirim Sylejmani, 49, engaged in at least one battle against U.S.-led forces after he entered Syria in 2015, according to prosecutors.

U.S. District Judge Rudolph Contreras in Washington, D.C., imposed Sylejmani's prison sentence followed by a lifetime of supervised release. Sylejmani, who was born in Kosovo and moved to Chicago roughly 25 years ago, pleaded guilty last December to one count of receiving military training from a foreign terrorist organization.



In November 2015, Sylejmani and his family fled to Turkey and then crossed the border into Syria, where he began training with other IS recruits, according to prosecutors. They said he was injured in a battle with Syrian forces

in June 2016 and was captured with his family in Baghouz, Syria, in February 2019. "The conduct is far more than a single, impulsive act. He chose to jeopardize the safety of his family by bringing them to a war-torn country to join

SENTENCING

- U.S. citizen Sylejmani sentenced to 10 years in prison and lifetime supervision for receiving military training from ISIS.
- In 2015, he traveled with his family from the U.S. to Syria via Turkey to join Islamic State; wounded in battle and later captured in 2019.
- Authorities highlighted deliberate and prolonged involvement with ISIS, endangering his family by taking them to a conflict zone.
- Defense argued Sylejmani is remorseful, not ideologically driven, and hopes to reunite with his family still detained in Syria.

and take up arms for ISIS," prosecutors wrote.

Sylejmani's attorneys say he isn't a "committed jihadist" and doesn't espouse violence.

"He is guilt ridden for his actions and the harm he has visited on his family,

who remain detained in a refugee camp in Syria living under terrible conditions," his lawyers wrote. "He wishes only to complete his time and find his wife and children, so he can live an average law-abiding life with them."

Russia imposes harsh terms in Ukraine Peace talks

AGENCIES
ISTANBUL

Russia told Ukraine at peace talks on Monday that it would only agree to end the war if Kyiv gives up big new chunks of territory and accepts limits on the size of its army, according to a memorandum reported by Russian media.

The terms, formally presented at negotiations in Istanbul, highlighted Moscow's refusal to compromise on its longstanding war goals despite calls by U.S. President Donald Trump to end the "bloodbath" in Ukraine. Ukraine has repeatedly rejected the Russian conditions as tantamount to surrender.

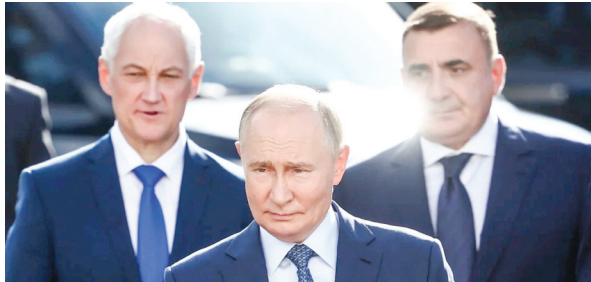
Delegations from the warring sides met for barely an hour, for only the second such round of negotiations since March 2022. They agreed to exchange more prisoners of war - focusing on the youngest and most severely wounded - and return the bodies of 12,000 dead soldiers.

Turkish President Tayyip

Erdogan described it as a great meeting and said he hoped to bring through on a proposed ceasefire that Ukraine, its European allies and Washington have all urged Russia to accept. Moscow says it

headed Kyiv's delegation, said Kyiv - which has drawn up its own peace roadmap - would review the Russian document, on which he offered no immediate comment.

Ukraine has proposed holding more talks before the end of June, but believes only a meeting between Zelenskyy and Putin can resolve the many issues of conten-



seeks a long-term settlement, not a pause in the war. Kyiv says Putin is not interested in peace. Trump has said the United States is ready to walk away from its mediation efforts unless the two sides demonstrate progress towards a deal.

Ukrainian Defence Minister Rustem Umerov, who

tion, Umerov said.

Zelenskyy said Ukraine presented a list of 400 children it says have been abducted to Russia, but that the Russian delegation agreed to work on returning only 10 of them. Russia says the children were moved from war zones to protect them.

RUSSIAN DEMANDS

Dutch government collapses as Wilders exits coalition

AGENCIES
THE HAGUE

The Dutch government collapsed on Tuesday, most likely ushering in a snap election, after anti-Muslim politician Geert Wilders quit the right-wing coalition, accusing other parties of failing to back his tougher immigration policies.

But Prime Minister Dick Schoof, an independent, accused the political maverick of irresponsibility, and the other coalition parties denied failing to support Wilders, saying they had PVV ministers will quit the cabinet, leaving the others to continue as a caretaker administration until an election unlikely to be held before October.

Frustration with migration and the high cost of living is boosting the far right and

widening divisions in Europe, just as it needs unity to deal effectively with a hostile Russia and an unpredictable and combative U.S. president in the form of Donald Trump.

"I have told party leaders repeatedly in recent days that the collapse of the cabinet would be unnecessary and irresponsible," Schoof said after an emergency cabinet meeting triggered by Wilders' decision.

We are facing major challenges both nationally and internationally that require decisiveness from us," he added, before handing his resignation to King Willem-Alexander.

The prospect of a new election is likely to delay a decision on boosting defence spending and means the Netherlands will have only a caretaker government.

Ukrainian drone strike deals blow to Kremlin arsenal

AGENCIES
KYIV

A surprise Ukrainian drone attack that targeted several Russian air bases hosting nuclear-capable strategic bombers was unprecedented in its scope and sophistication and for the first time reached as far as Siberia in a heavy blow to the Russian military.

Ukraine said over 40 bombers, or about a third of Russia's strategic bomber fleet, were damaged or destroyed Sunday, although Moscow said only several planes were struck. The conflicting claims couldn't be independently verified and video of the assault posted

on social media showed only a couple of bombers hit. But the bold attack demonstrated Ukraine's capability to hit high-value targets anywhere in Russia, dealing a humiliating blow to the Kremlin and inflicting significant losses to Moscow's war machine.

While some Russian military bloggers compared it to another infamous Sunday surprise attack - that of Japan's strike on the U.S. base at Pearl Harbor in 1941 - others rejected the analogy, arguing the actual damage was far less significant than Ukraine claimed. Russia's bomber assets

For decades, long-range bombers have been part of

Trump demands Iran end uranium enrichment completely

AGENCIES
WASHINGTON DC

President Donald Trump has said he would insist that Iran completely dismantle its uranium enrichment programme as part of a nuclear deal with the US, appearing to contradict a proposal put forward by his own special envoy.

The conflicting messaging over a possible nuclear deal follows media reports that under a proposal put forward on Saturday by the president's special envoy, Steve Witkoff, Iran would

be allowed to retain low levels of enrichment for civilian purposes if it agreed to temporarily shut down its underground uranium processing sites.

"Under our potential Agreement - WE WILL NOT ALLOW ANY ENRICHMENT OF URANIUM!" Trump wrote on Truth Social on Monday night.

His statement is the latest example of the inconsistent messaging that has plagued Washington's latest talks with Tehran, now in their eighth week. The US and



Emmanuel Macron (centre) delivers a speech during a visit to a battery production house.

Trump, Xi likely to talk this week: White House

AGENCIES
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump and Chinese leader Xi Jinping will likely speak this week, White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt said on Monday (June 2, 2025), days after Mr. Trump accused China of violating an agreement to roll back tariffs and trade restrictions. Ms. Leavitt is the third top Trump official to forecast an imminent call between the two leaders to iron out differences on last month's tariff agreement in Geneva, among larger trade issues. It was not immediately clear when the two leaders will speak.

U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent told CBS' "Face the Nation" on Sunday that Mr. Trump and Mr. Xi would speak "very soon" to iron out trade issues including a dispute over critical minerals and China's restrictions of exports of certain minerals.

Mr. Trump said on Friday he was sure that he would speak to Mr. Xi. China said in April that the two leaders had not had a conversation recently. Mr. Bessent led



negotiations with China in Geneva last month that resulted in a temporary truce in the trade war between the world's two biggest economies, but progress since then has been slow, the U.S. Treasury chief told Fox News last week.

The U.S.-China agreement to dial back triple-digit tariffs for 90 days prompted a massive relief rally in global stocks. But it did nothing to address the underlying reasons for Mr. Trump's tariffs on Chinese goods, mainly longstanding U.S. complaints about China's state-dominated,

export-driven economic model, leaving those issues for future talks.

A U.S. trade court on May 28 ruled that Mr. Trump overstepped his authority in imposing the bulk of his tariffs on imports from China and other countries under an emergency powers act. But less than 24 hours later, a federal appeals court reinstated the tariffs, saying it was pausing the trade court ruling to consider the government's appeal. The appeals court ordered the plaintiffs to respond by June 5 and the administration to respond by June 9.

Trump open to peace talks if Putin, Zelensky attend meet

AGENCIES
WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump is "open" to meeting his Russian and Ukrainian counterparts in Turkey, the White House said, after the two sides failed on Monday (June 2, 2025) to make headway towards an elusive ceasefire. Delegations from both sides did, however, agree on another large-scale prisoner exchange in their meeting in Istanbul, which in mid-May also hosted their first round of face-to-face talks.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan proposed that Russian President Vladimir Putin, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and Mr. Trump come together for a third round later this month in either Istanbul or Ankara.

Putin has so far refused such a meeting. But Zelenskyy has said he is willing, underlining that key issues can only be resolved at leaders-level. Mr. Trump, who wants a swift end to the three-year war, is "open" to a three-way summit "if it comes to that, but he wants both of these leaders and both sides to come to the table together", White House spokeswoman Karoline Leavitt said in Washington.

But despite Trump's willingness to meet with Putin and Zelenskyy, no U.S. representative took part in Monday's talks in Istanbul, according to a State Department spokesperson.

Zelenskyy said that, "We are very much awaiting strong steps from the United States" and urged Trump to toughen sanctions on Russia to "push" it to agree to a full



ceasefire. In Monday's meeting, Ukraine said that Moscow had rejected its call for an unconditional ceasefire. It offered instead a partial truce of two to three days in some areas of the frontline.

Russia will only agree a full ceasefire if Ukrainian troops pull back entirely from four regions - Donetsk, Lugansk, Zaporizhzhia and Kherson - according to its negotiating terms reported on by Russian state media. Russia currently only partly controls those regions.

Moscow has also demanded a ban on Kyiv joining NATO, limiting Ukraine's military and ending Western military support. Top negotiators from both sides agreed to swap all severely wounded soldiers and captured fighters under the age of 25. Russia's lead negotiator Vladimir Medinsky said it would involve "at least 1,000" on each side.

The two sides also agreed to hand over the bodies of 6,000 soldiers, Ukraine said after the talks.

warheads.

Before Sunday, Russia was estimated to have a fleet of about 60 such aircraft. The Tupolev Tu-22M is a twin-engine supersonic bomber designed in the 1970s that was code named Backfire by NATO. It has a shorter range compared with the Tu-95, but during U.S.-Soviet arms control talks in the 1970s, Washington insisted on counting them as part of the Soviet strategic nuclear arsenal because of their capability to reach the U.S. if refueled in flight.

The latest version of the plane, the Tu-22M3, carries Kh-22 cruise missiles that fly at more than three times the speed of sound.

chance for Iran to avoid military action to destroy its uranium enrichment facilities. But Tehran has insisted it will not agree to completely scrapping enrichment, which it says is for civilian purposes.

Earlier, Axios reported that Witkoff's latest proposal would allow Iran to maintain a limited low-level uranium enrichment capability. Axios said the proposal stipulated that Iran's underground enrichment facilities would have to become "non-operational" for a period of time.

'MAALIK' TEASER DROPS: RAJKUMMAR RAO STEPS INTO RAW ACTION

TDG NETWORK
MUMBAI

Rajkumar Rao has once again stepped out of his comfort zone, unveiling his fierce new look in the highly anticipated action-thriller 'Maalik.'

The teaser for the film dropped recently, giving fans an exclusive sneak peek into a raw, unrelenting world where power, ambition, and survival reign supreme.

In a stark departure from his previous roles, Rajkumar Rao transforms into a ruthless gangster, showcasing a persona brimming with menace and intensity.

The teaser's gripping visuals and fierce storytelling promise to deliver an action-packed cinematic experience.

Taking to social media to



share the teaser, Rao wrote, "Paيدا nahi hue to kya, ban to sakte hain #Maalik," (If you were not born for it, you can still become it).

Maalik marks Rajkumar Rao's first foray into the action genre, and the intensity of his portrayal is unlike anything audiences have seen before.

In an interview with ANI, the actor expressed his excitement about taking on the

role, revealing how different the experience was from his past roles.

"I am very excited about it. It was challenging. It was very, very different for me, the whole experience of playing Maalik and shooting for the film. This is the first time I am venturing into an action genre, and it's raw in nature. Every beat of the character, of the script--everything about the film--feels so different

from anything I have done before. I hope this project becomes a milestone in my career," said Rao.

'Maalik' is directed by Pulkit and produced by Tips Films and Northern Lights Films, with Kumar Taurani and Jay Shewakramani serving as the producers.

The film has been creating waves ever since its announcement on August 31, 2024, and is now gearing up for its theatrical release on July 11, 2025.

It was originally slated for release on June 20 but has since been rescheduled.

With Rajkumar Rao at the forefront, Maalik is shaping up to be a powerful exploration of the underworld, as well as the lengths one will go to for power and survival.

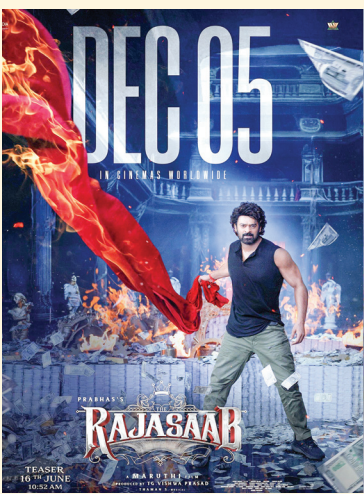
'The Raja Saab' teaser on June 16

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The makers of 'The Raja Saab', which stars superstar Prabhas in the lead role, have finally got a release date. The much-awaited teaser of the movie is scheduled to drop on June 16.

Prabhas, the action hero of the Indian cinema industry, is ready to set foot in the horror-comedy genre with the film Raja Saab. After months of mounting buzz and speculation, the makers of The Raja Saab have locked in the film's grand theatrical release.

'The Raja Saab' will be released in theatres worldwide on December 5, 2025. The release date came after several delays by the makers. It was originally set to release on April 10, 2025.



The movie is directed by Maruthi, who is known for his unique blend of humour and emotion. The director shared the new release date of the movie on his X handle.

He wrote, "A day that promises a festival on the big screens just like we all dreamt of seeing our dearest darling #Prabhas. A lot more exciting days ahead."

The movie is produced by TG Vishwa Prasad under the banner of People Media Factory. The cinematography of the film is handled by Karthik Palani, while Thaman S composed the music of the movie.

Apart from the charming presence of Prabhas, the film's cast includes Malavika Mohanan, Nidhhi Agerwal and Ridhi Kumar in prominent roles.

The film has been creating a buzz in the entertainment industry ever since its makers released its first-look poster on the occasion of Makar Sankranti last year.

Chanda Patel first Indian producer to meet Errol Musk

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

In a landmark moment for Indian cinema, Bollywood producer Chanda Patel, who recently returned from the prestigious 78th Cannes International Film Festival, achieved yet another milestone by becoming the first Indian film producer to meet Errol Musk, father of tech billionaire Elon Musk.

The high-profile meeting took place at the iconic Taj Hotel in Delhi, where the two engaged in an insightful discussion centered around the Indian film industry, Bollywood's global potential, and future opportunities for international collaboration.

Chanda Patel had earlier made headlines at Cannes with the unveiling of the poster for her much-anticipated film Tera Mera Nata, which received appreciation for its unique storytelling and cross-cultural appeal.

Following her return from France, Patel has been actively promoting her work in India and exploring new alliances to bring global attention to Bollywood cinema.

The meeting with Errol



Musk was nothing short of historic. Described as warm and engaging, their conversation delved into Bollywood's massive influence, India's rich cinematic heritage, and the growing scope for Indo-global film projects.

Errol Musk, known for his deep interest in global culture and innovation, was reportedly fascinated by the scale and creative energy of Bollywood.

"It was an absolute honor to meet Errol Musk. Our conversation touched on many exciting aspects of filmmaking, including storytelling, production values, and India's evolving role in the global entertainment

The meeting with Errol Musk was nothing short of historic. Described as warm and engaging, their conversation delved into Bollywood's massive influence, India's rich cinematic heritage, and the growing scope for Indo-global film projects.

space," said Chanda Patel after the meeting. "Being the first Bollywood producer to have this opportunity makes it even more special."

Chanda Patel's dynamic presence at Cannes and now her unique interaction with one of the most notable personalities in the global innovation landscape, mark her as a rising force in international cinema.

Disney to lay off hundreds of employees across units

AGENCIES
WASHINGTON DC

Major layoffs are underway at the Walt Disney Company, affecting hundreds of employees across Disney Entertainment divisions, including marketing for film and television units, reported Deadline.

Apart from these divisions, the layoffs will also affect the employees in the television publicity, casting, development and Disney's corporate financial operations divisions.

Deadline cited the source-



es and reported that the size of the cuts on Disney Entertainment's film and TV sides is comparable. The majority of the Disney

Entertainment Television staffers are said to be based in Los Angeles.

According to the outlet, this is the fourth and largest

round of layoffs in the past ten months that have affected various Disney television operations.

They are part of an ongoing cost-cutting process at the traditional media companies as they reshape their business to focus on streaming while facing economic headwinds.

Upon his return as CEO, Disney's Bob Iger has established a goal of at least 7.5 billion USD in cost reductions at the start of 2023, with about 7,000 jobs eliminated that year.

Earlier this year, in March,

just under 200 Disney employees were laid off, representing almost 6% of the workforce in the ABC News Group and Disney's Entertainment Networks, including Freeform and FX, reported Deadline.

Mohit Suri directorial 'Saiyaara' title track out

TDG NETWORK
MUMBAI

Mohit Suri's directorial 'Saiyaara's much-awaited title track has finally been released by the Yash Raj Films (YRF) on Tuesday.

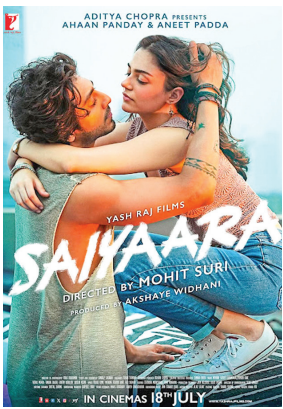
Director Mohit Suri's films are often characterised by their romantic songs and visually appealing scenes. The new title track of 'Saiyaara' is no exception.

Featuring Ahaan Panday and Aneet Panda in the song, the title track highlights their love and separation. The title track consists of romantic scenes between the duo, with periodic glimpses of Ahaan showcasing anger and sadness as he reminisces about the beautiful, love-

filled memories shared with Aneet.

The title track is sung by debutant Faheem A and is composed by Tanishk Bagchi, Faheem Abdullah, and Arslan Nizami.

Take a look at the song, Known for films like 'EK Villian' and 'Aashiqui 2', Mohit Suri revealed that



'Saiyaara' album consists of songs and melodies that he has "carefully collected and curated for over 5 years."

"One thing that only a handful of close friends know about me is that I love meeting new composers, singers, collecting melodies and songs, much like people who love reading, collect books. So, the album of Saiyaara has my songs, thoughts, and melodies, which I have carefully collected and curated for over 5 years," said Mohit Suri as per the press note by the makers.

Mohit says he wanted to give audiences a supremely fresh album with beautiful, soulful melodies for Saiyaara.

Kamal Haasan writes to Kannada film body, says he is misunderstood

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Actor Kamal Haasan has shared his response to the Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce (KFCC) after the film union body decided to ban the release of his film 'Thug Life' in Karnataka amid the ongoing controversy around his "Kannada is born out of Tamil" remark.



In a letter addressed to the President of KFC, Kamal Haasan said that his statement about the Kannada language at his film 'Thug Life' audio launch in Chennai has been "misunderstood" as he claims to have spoken it "out of genuine affection" for legendary Dr. Rajkumar's family in Karnataka.

"I acknowledge your

letter dated 30/05/2025. Out of deep respect for the people of Karnataka, I offer the following with sincerity. It pains me that my statement at the Thug Life audio launch -- spoken out of genuine affection for the legendary Dr. Rajkumar's family, especially Shiva Rajkumar -- has been misunderstood and taken out of context.

Jonathan Joss passes away at 59, co-star Chris Pratt remembers him

AGENCIES
WASHINGTON DC

Actor Jonathan Joss, best known for his role as Chief Ken Hotate in 'Parks and Recreation,' passed away at the age of 59.

Chris Pratt, who worked with Joss on both 'Parks and Recreation' and 'The Magnificent Seven,' paid tribute to him on Instagram.

He wrote, "Damn. RIP Jonathan. Always such a kind dude. Sad to see. Prayers up. Hug your loved ones."



Joss played the role of Chief Ken Hotate, the leader of the fictional Wamapoke Tribe, in the popular sitcom. He also

appeared as Denali, an exiled Comanche warrior, alongside Pratt in the 2016 Western film The Magnificent Seven.

A CULINARY JOURNEY TO JAPAN: HARAJUKU TOKYO CAFÉ UNVEILS EXPANSIVE NEW MENU

SANJANA CHAWLA

Harajuku Tokyo Café, a name synonymous with vibrant Japanese street food culture and an Instagram-worthy aesthetic, has once again captivated the culinary scene with the launch of its most diverse menu to date. The cafe's signature white-and-pink color scheme, coupled with bright neon lights, creates a quaint and charming atmosphere. Vibrant murals, a live baking station, an array of manga, and even a claw machine contribute to the playful and immersive experience, ensuring every visit is memorable. The hospitality, much like the ambiance, aims to recreate the warmth and efficiency of Japanese service, ensuring patrons feel welcomed and well-attended throughout their culinary journey. Crafted over months of meticulous experimentation, the new menu is designed to cater to modern dining preferences, offering a balance of flavor and flexibility for every occasion. We recently tried their new menu in Gurgaon and here's how it went!

The beverage selection at Harajuku Tokyo Café has always been a highlight, and the new menu further elevates this. Beyond their well-loved Boba teas, which now come in over 30 new combinations, guests can expect a wider array of hot and cold beverages that complement the food.

The small plates at Harajuku Tokyo Café are designed to tantalize the taste buds and set the stage for the feast to come. The new menu sees exciting additions such as Robata Grill Skewers, an open-flame cooked skewers infuse dishes with warmth, smokiness, and character, and our favorite the Crispy Korean Fried Chicken, a popular fusion crispy bites that offer a delightful crunch and savory flavor.



ers, an open-flame cooked skewers infuse dishes with warmth, smokiness, and character, and our favorite the Crispy Korean Fried Chicken, a popular fusion crispy bites that offer a delightful crunch and savory flavor. We also loved the Shrimp Dynamite, a classic crowd-pleaser featuring shrimp tempura tossed in a signature dynamite sauce and Classic Tempura, battered and fried to perfection, showcasing the delicate flavors of fresh ingredients.

The new main course offerings at Harajuku Tokyo Café showcase a diverse range of Japanese culinary staples and innovative interpretations. The expanded sushi range includes vibrant vegetable rolls, delicate salmon aburi, classic California rolls, and crispy rock shrimp tempura.



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ra with torched tobiko. The sashimi and nigiri selection now features premium cuts of salmon, hamachi, and truffle tuna. We also tried the comforting and flavorful, the menu boasts new additions like Gyoza Ramen, rich Toripaitan broth, and spicy Kara Miso. The Hand-pulled Noodles tossed in fragrant chili oil offered a satisfyingly chewy texture and a kick of spice. We also has their Bao Line-up and steamed buns with

bold and exciting fillings like spicy tofu, tangy kimchi, and curry-glazed cutlets were soft & yummy!

No Japanese meal is complete without a sweet ending, and Harajuku Bakehouse, the cafe's dessert and bakery extension, has significantly expanded its offerings. We loved their Dorayaki Nutella, a classic Japanese pancake sandwich, now with a popular Nutella filling. The Jiggly Pancake, which is a sig-

nature fluffy pancakes elevated with a luxurious topping was 10/10. And we savoured the Burnt Basque Cheesecake eye-catching innovations that combine traditional Japanese elements with classic desserts.

With its expanded menu, Harajuku promises an unforgettable culinary adventure, inviting diners to explore the diverse and delicious world of Japanese cuisine right here in Delhi-NCR, and is a must try!

India's mithai industry: Blending tradition with innovation



RIDHI BHAGAT

India's rich and diverse tradition of mithai, or sweets, is undergoing a remarkable transformation. Once limited to local halwai shops and festive occasions, the Indian sweets industry is evolving rapidly—embracing innovation, health trends, and premiumization. This metamorphosis is not just reshaping consumer preferences but also propelling market growth at an impressive rate.

A MARKET ON THE RISE

In 2015, the Indian mithai market was valued at Rs 40,000 crore. By 2021, this figure had climbed to Rs 58,900 crore. And expected, the market is projected to soar to Rs 84,300 crore by the end of 2025. This growth underscores the shifting dynamics of consumer tastes, increased spending power, and the modernization of an age-old industry.

REGIONAL PREFERENCES SHAPE THE MARKET

Regional tastes and preferences play a critical role in the growth and diversification of the mithai industry. North India dominates the market, holding 35% of the total share, thanks to its deep-rooted sweet traditions and cultural affinity for mithai during festivals and family functions. Eastern India follows with 28%, reflecting the popularity of sweets like rasgulla and sandesh. Western India, with 24%, and Southern India, contributing 13%, round out the regional distribution, each with their own distinct sweet cultures.

TRADITIONAL FAVORITES STILL REIGN

Despite the growing interest in novel offerings, traditional sweets remain at the heart of the market. Milk-based sweets, such as peda and barfi, continue to be consumer favorites, accounting for 28% of the market share. Soan papdi, a flaky, melt-in-the-mouth treat, is another top performer, capturing 21% of the market. Dry fruit sweets, which combine indulgence with perceived health benefits, hold a 17% market share. These statistics reflect a market that respects its roots even as it explores new territories.

RISE OF PACKAGED AND PREMIUM SWEETS

One of the most significant shifts in the mithai industry is the move towards



packaged products. Once considered suitable only for gifting, packaged sweets are now a staple in urban households, offering convenience,

hygiene, and extended shelf life. Valued at Rs 6,229 crore in 2023, the packaged sweets sector is expected to grow fourfold to Rs 25,970 crore

by 2030. This expansion is driven by rising consumer demand, improved packaging technologies, and the increasing footprint of or-

ganized retail chains.

Parallel to this growth is the emergence of premium and gourmet mithai. Artisanal sweet makers are redefining traditional Indian sweets with luxurious ingredients, unique packaging, and elegant presentation. These high-end confections cater to a niche yet growing market, where exclusivity and quality are paramount. Some luxury boxes of sweets are now priced as high as Rs 56,000 for 100 pieces, making them not just food items but lifestyle statements.

HEALTH-CONSCIOUS CHOICES GAIN GROUND

Health and wellness trends

are making a strong impact on the industry. With more consumers becoming mindful of their diets, the demand for healthier sweet options is on the rise. Brands are introducing millet-based laddus, sugar-free barfis, and sweets made with natural sweeteners like jaggery or dates. These innovations allow health-conscious individuals to indulge without guilt, expanding the consumer base and modernizing product offerings.

THE ROAD AHEAD

The future of India's mithai industry looks promising, driven by a balanced blend of tradition and innovation.

Regional preferences will continue to shape demand, while advancements in packaging, health trends, and luxury offerings will create new avenues for growth. As more brands invest in research, product development, and marketing, the Indian sweets market is poised to become not just a celebration of taste but a vibrant sector with global appeal.

From festive staples to luxury indulgences, mithai in India is no longer just about tradition—it's about transformation.

The author is Strategic Director, Bhagat Halwai and Founder, Binge on Baked

SHIFTING PRIORITIES: HOW NEW UK AND US POLICIES ARE INFLUENCING INDIAN STUDENTS' STUDY ABROAD CHOICES



MAMTA SHEKHAWAT

Policy changes being implemented in the United Kingdom and the United States are now motivating Indian students to reevaluate their study abroad preferences. Historically, these two countries have always been among the foremost selections for pursuing higher education, however, changing visa policies and immigration regulations are modifying perceptions.

EVOLVING POLICY FRAMEWORK IN THE UK AND US

In the UK, the dependents themselves have not shown interest in pursuing post-graduate taught programs which comes with its own set of challenges. Apart from that form of depen-

dency, the scope of the Graduate Route visa and post study work rights is accompanied with ambiguity. Although immediate policy shifts are not on the horizon, the overall atmosphere is rather fluid, which is enough to push students to plan for the future.

In the US, international higher education is still well supported at the institutional level, but some operational issues continue to persist. These issues include backlog in processing visas, high living and tuition fees, and complicated immigration systems. Students are contemplating how impending policy changes, as the US approaches its election cycle, may affect their prospective study and post-study plans.

IMPACT ON UNIVERSITIES

Trends of enrollment may be impacted by changes in major source regions. International students, including students from India, are a vital component of the socio-economic and



cultural life in US and UK institutions of higher learning. Any change in inflow might compel universities to rethink their marketing and support systems for students.

Some universities may choose to increase career services, provide more scholarships, or engage in proactive outreach internationally. The responsiveness of universities to diverse student issues, particularly around the clarity of immigration and work-related concerns, may be most influential when it

Equally, Indian students are actively seeking alternate study locations. The Australia and Canadian markets are gaining popularity with their post-study work opportunities and residency pathways. Canada is also popular for its more accessible immigration policies, especially regarding family reunification, and welcoming culture.

comes to their attractiveness.

EXPANDING OPTIONS FOR STUDYING ABROAD

Equally, Indian students are actively seeking al-

ternate study locations. The Australia and Canadian markets are gaining popularity with their post-study work opportunities and residency pathways. Canada is also popular for its more accessible immi-

gration policies, especially regarding family reunification, and welcoming culture. Other European countries like Germany and the Netherlands are emerging as competitors due to their



rigorous and relatively low-cost higher education, with more programs offered in English.

Furthermore, Southeast Asian countries such as Singapore and those in the UAE are establishing globally competitive institutions and are investing in higher education. Their focus on education connected to industries and expanding international linkages are garnering attention.

The international education landscape is shifting, creating new opportunities. Students in India are

responding to these transformations by rethinking their study-abroad destination preferences. Although the UK and US remain leaders in academic reputation and opportunities, shifting policies in those countries are broadening other opportunities beyond the US and UK. As everything adjusts, students and schools will have to navigate how well educational ambitions align with immigration policies.

The author is Founder, Gradd-ing.com)

How prominent educational institutions are redefining higher education with flexible, industry-focused programs



PRATYUSH DAYAL

With disruptive technologies like AI becoming an integral part of our professional and personal lives, the demand for continuous learning and upskilling has never been more significant. As industries evolve at a remarkable pace and competition intensifies, professionals are increasingly seeking educational opportunities that are not only relevant and comprehensive but also flexible enough to fit into their demanding schedules.

Recognising this shift, prominent educational institutions across the country are designing innovative upskilling programs for professionals in diverse sectors. One such initiative is IITGN-X by IIT Gandhinagar, which aims to bridge the industry-academia gap and enable both personal and societal development. "IITGN-X provides an umbrella under which a variety of academic programs are offered. It not only organises conferences, workshops, and symposia but also offers a variety of certification and degree programs that are well-aligned to real-world industrial needs. Most importantly, IIT Gandhinagar's strong student-first policy ensures that every learner—whether an on-campus student or online professional—receives personalized support and a nurturing academic environment," says Profes-

sor Pratyush Dayal at IIT Gandhinagar.

Under the IITGN-X initiative, the institution has introduced the e-Masters Program for working professionals and graduates from diverse backgrounds such as engineering, science, business, law, and management—who want to strengthen their knowledge and diversify their skills in emerging areas like data science, machine learning, energy policy, composites, and more.



Furthermore, it offers a strategic blend of online and offline learning for a rich educational journey that combines remote instruction with hands-on engagement.

"The unique blend of online learning and a mandatory 30-day campus residency in IIT Gandhinagar's e-Masters programs provides participants with both flexibility and immersive engagement. While the online format allows professionals to learn at their own pace without interrupting their careers, the on-campus residency integrates these off-campus students and professionals with IIT Gandhinagar's on-campus students. In addition, the on-campus residency offers valuable hands-on experience, direct interaction with faculty, and opportunities for networking with peers," adds Professor Dayal.

Offering a multidisciplinary curriculum, such programs have become crucial for career growth and organizational resilience. They play a pivotal role in shaping a future-ready workforce and promoting inclusive, knowledge-based economic growth.

At present, IIT Gandhinagar is offering various meticulously designed and industry-relevant programmes to nurture professionals for Industry 4.0. These include Applications of Machine Learning in Engineering, Energy Policy and Regulation, Data Science for Decision Making, Composites, Energy Sustainability, and Computational Fluid Dynamics.

Furthermore, according to Professor Dayal, the institution is seeking to build partnerships with industries and institutions for joint research, talent development, and technology development and commercialization. These collaborations also include co-developing academic programs, facilitating student and faculty exchanges, and engaging in impactful CSR and international projects.

With blurring boundaries between education, industry, and innovation, institutions like IIT Gandhinagar are leading the charge in transforming education delivery and learning experiences. These programmes are not only academic offerings but also strategic tools for national development, workforce empowerment, and global competitiveness.

As more institutions join the league, professionals will have access to new pathways to growth and innovation, enabling them to make meaningful impacts in their domains.

How accredited online schools are making national curriculum truly borderless

DINESH GUPTA

It's fascinating to observe how online accredited schools are truly making the national curriculum borderless. Education is no longer bound by geographical limitations, thanks to the advancements in edtech and digital learning platforms. These innovative institutions are extending structured Indian education across all time zones, creating engaging, interactive, and globally accessible learning environments for students worldwide.

A RECOGNISED INDIAN CURRICULUM, ACCESSIBLE GLOBALLY

The Indian curriculum is gaining popularity internationally, with many students choosing Indian online schools for an enhanced educational experience. For non-resident Indian (NRI) parents, these schools offer a valuable opportunity for their children to stay connected with Indian curricula, cultural roots, and maintain academic rigor, especially when local schooling options might be expensive, inconsistent, or not aligned with their long-term educational goals.

Unlike supplementary tutoring, these online schools deliver structured curricula of Indian Boards like Central Board for Secondary Education (CBSE) and National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS). Qualified teachers lead these programs, ensuring students receive a high-quality, standardized education regardless of their location, be it Dubai, London, or New York. For families who frequently relocate due to work, the flexibility of recorded classes, adaptable schedules, and self-paced learning offered by online schools ensures educational continuity without disruption.

SHIFTING FROM PASSIVE TO ACTIVE LEARNERS

There's a significant shift occurring from passive learning to more active engagement. Recognizing the constraints of traditional teaching methods, students are increasingly drawn to experiential learning. This approach em-

phasizes active participation, encouraging students to explore and discover concepts independently through hands-on activities, leading to a more dynamic and captivating educational journey.

Vikalp Online Schools is at the forefront of this transformative educational philosophy. Our experiential learning approach is centered around creating opportunities for students to uncover new concepts through self-exploration using engaging tools. Our teachers act as facilitators, guiding activities in a way that empowers students to discover concepts at their own pace. This engaging method is gaining global recognition, and Indian schools are effectively meeting this growing demand.

Personalized and Tailored Learning

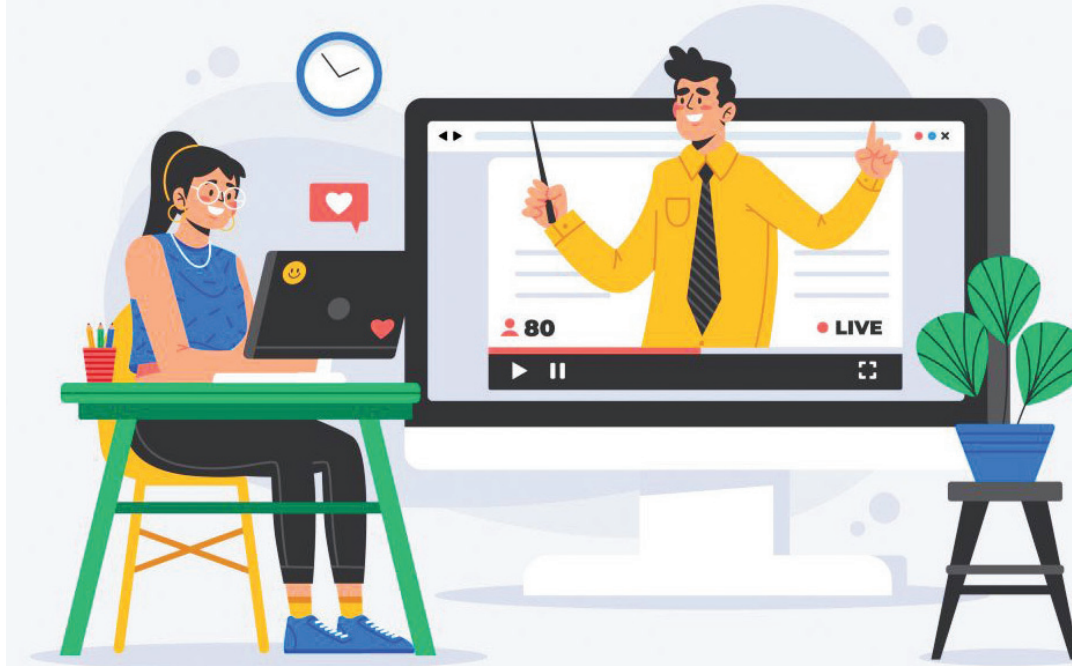
ensuring that the learning needs of each child are met. This student-centric approach is gaining popularity worldwide, and Indian online schools are well-positioned to deliver this quality of education on an international scale.

MAINTAINING INDIAN CULTURE & LANGUAGE

For NRI families, the importance of preserving their linguistic and cultural heritage is paramount. Online schooling, especially at Vikalp Online School, integrates Indian languages, including Hindi, Sanskrit, and regional dialects, into its curriculum. Furthermore, students actively participate in discussions about Indian festivals, history, and values, fostering a strong connection to their roots. This is especially valuable for NRI families wanting to preserve their

from coding and STEM fields to Bharatnatyam, Carnatic music, and public speaking. They also offer foreign language courses relevant to the students' country of residence, allowing them to pursue their passions and develop valuable skills for both Indian and international universities.

Unlike local brick-and-mortar schools with resource limitations, online schools have the advantage of a global talent pool. They can recruit teachers from anywhere in the world, offering specialized instruction like French from a native French speaker, which might not always be feasible for traditional schools. Moreover, the integration of AI-driven learning, career counseling, and global exposure in online education effectively prepares students for lifelong learning and



Addressing the limitations of traditional classrooms with large student-to-teacher ratios and varied learning styles, Vikalp Online School implements experiential learning to personalize education. Our small class sizes ensure teachers can closely observe each student's progress and tailor their guidance, enabling every student to grasp concepts effectively at their own speed.

As a result, no student is left behind. Those who are ahead can explore more complex topics and learn at an accelerated pace, en-

linguistic and cultural identity. The presence of Indian teachers and peers at Vikalp promotes discussions and information sharing about India, further ensuring that children stay connected to their heritage.

CAREER-ORIENTED LEARNING & GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS

Recognizing parents' concerns about higher education and future careers, online schools like Vikalp Online School incorporate diverse skill development classes, ranging

a competitive global landscape.

In conclusion, most online schools are committed to empowering students across the world with academic excellence and a student-first approach. As edtech innovations continue to reshape learning, students no longer have to compromise between quality education and global mobility. They can now experience the best of both worlds—an Indian Curriculum delivered seamlessly across borders.

The author is Founder & C.E.O of Vikalp Online School

RCB CLINCHES MAIDEN IPL TITLE

AGENCIES
AHMEDABAD

Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) lifted their first-ever Indian Premier League (IPL) title with a nail-biting 6-run win over Punjab Kings (PBKS) in the IPL 2025 final in Ahmedabad on Tuesday. Chasing a target of 191, PBKS ended at 184/7 despite a valiant late surge by Shashank Singh.

RCB's bowlers held their nerve in the final overs as Josh Hazlewood and Bhuvneshwar Kumar executed

Yorkers and slower balls to perfection. Shashank fought hard, smashing multiple sixes in the last two overs, but the asking rate proved too steep. Earlier, PBKS lost momentum after the dismissals of Prabhsimran Singh and Josh Inglis, who had kept the chase alive with brisk knocks.

Batting first, RCB posted 190/9, thanks to cameos from Jitesh Sharma, Romario Shepherd, and Liam Livingstone. PBKS pacer Arshdeep Singh starred with the ball, picking three key wickets to restrict RCB

under 200.

Ahmedabad (Gujarat) [India], June 3 (ANI): A valiant effort from Royal Challengers Bengaluru set a fighting 191-run target for Punjab Kings in the title clash of the 18th edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL) in Ahmedabad on Tuesday.

Counter-attacking knocks from Jitesh Sharma (24 from 10 deliveries) and Virat Kohli (43 from 35 balls) powered RCB to 190/9. Still, Arshdeep Singh (3/40) and Kyle Jamieson's (3/48) searing three-wicket hauls denied Bengaluru a 200-run mark.

After being put to bat by Punjab, Arshdeep deployed short-length approach play and Phil Salt embraced the opportunity with both hands in the opening over. He hammered the ball over the long leg and sent the ball sailing over the boundary rope for a maximum.

On the fifth delivery, Salt swivelled the ball across the line, and the ball marginally fell short of the rope and bounced away for a four. With Salt coming in and all guns blazing, Bengaluru ended with 13 runs in the opening over. With runs

flowing swiftly, Salt (16) took the aerial route in the next over against Kyle Jamieson but couldn't get the desired distance. Punjab captain Shreyas Iyer safely held the ball in his hands to draw the first blood. Bengaluru retaliated with a couple of boundaries and finished the powerplay with 55/1 on the board. Right after the powerplay, Mayank Agarwal (24) tried to take on Punjab's premier spinner, Yuzvendra Chahal but swung his bat a fraction too early. The ball soared high and lobbed down to Arshdeep in the deep.

Virat adds another record to his tally

AGENCIES
AHMEDABAD

Star Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) batter Virat Kohli registered a new record to his name during the Indian Premier League (IPL) final, as he is now the player with the most fours in the history of the competition.

While the title clash was not very special for Virat with the bat, as he struggled to get his full rhythm during a knock of 43 in 35 balls, with three fours at a strike rate of just over 122, he still managed to get a record to his name. Now in 267 matches, Virat has scored 771 fours, outdoing former opener Shikhar Dhawan (768).

During this season, he ended his campaign with 657 runs in 15 matches at an average

of 54.75, with a strike rate of 144.71, with eight fifties. His best score this season is 73*.

Also, he has the most runs by a single player against an opponent in the history of IPL, with 1,159 runs against PBKS at an average of 36.21 in 36 matches and innings and a strike rate of 132.60. He has scored a century and six fifties against PBKS, with the best score of 113. He has outdone his own record of 1,146 runs against Chennai Super Kings (CSK). Coming to the match, PBKS won the toss and elected to bowl first. Arshdeep Singh (3/40) and Kyle Jamieson (3/48) applied timely breaks with the ball, while Yuzi Chahal (1/37) also prevented batters from attacking. While Virat (43 in 35 balls, with three fours) tried to keep the innings together, skipper Rajat Patidar (26 in 16 balls, with a four and two sixes), Jitesh Sharma (24 in 10 balls, with two fours and two sixes) and Liam Livingstone (25 in 15 balls, with two fours) upped the attack enough to help RCB post 190/9 in 20 overs.

Neeraj Chopra Classic 2025 to take place on July 5

AGENCIES
BENGALURU

The Neeraj Chopra Classic 2025 is now set to take place on July 5, 2025, at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium in Bengaluru, organisers JSW Sports announced on Tuesday. Initially scheduled for May 24th, the event was deferred, keeping security in mind, and to show solidarity with the nation, as per the JSW Sports press release.

This landmark event, India's first-ever International Javelin competition, is spearheaded by India's most decorated Olympian, Neeraj Chopra, in collaboration with JSW Sports and sanctioned by the Athletics Federation of India (AFI).

"Bringing the Neeraj Chopra Classic back this quickly has taken an enormous collective effort, and we're happy to confirm its return on July 5. Our teams have worked tirelessly, and the unwavering support from the Athletics Federation of India, the Karnataka Olym-



pian Association, the Government of Karnataka, and our partners made this possible. The energy around this event is bigger than ever, and we're set to deliver a celebration of javelin that's bolder, better, and even more unforgettable," said Karan Yadav, Chief Commercial Officer, JSW Sports, as quoted by the press release.

Ticket pricing for the Neeraj Chopra Classic ranges from INR 199 to INR 9,999, ensuring accessibility for all fans. For a premium experience, five corporate boxes accommodating 15 guests each are available at INR 44,999. An exclusive 10% discount is offered to Visa Credit

Card holders. To enhance the spectator experience, a special stand alongside the thrower's runway is priced at INR 9,999, while another special stand in the North Upper Stand, located just behind the runway, offers tickets for INR 2,999.

As a World Athletics-sanctioned Gold event, the Neeraj Chopra Classic promises to elevate India's status on the global athletics map. It will feature a stellar line-up of elite javelin throwers, making it a significant event for India. With a seating capacity exceeding 12,000, this competition is set to deliver an exhilarating display of athletic talent and skill.

Norway Chess 2025: Gukesh beats Arjun

AGENCIES
STAVANGER

Round 7 of Norway Chess 2025 brought thrilling games across all boards. One of the standout games featured reigning World Champion Dommaraju Gukesh against fellow Indian grandmaster Arjun Erigaisi, according to a release from Norway Chess.



Erigaisi seized the initiative of the opening, launching what appeared to be a powerful and potentially decisive attack. However, Gukesh demonstrated exceptional defensive resilience, steering the game into a complex endgame. In

a dramatic time scramble, Gukesh held his nerve and ultimately secured a hard-fought victory.

Meanwhile, Fabiano Caruana capitalised on an early advantage against birthday celebrant Wei Yi, navigating a long, tense endgame to secure a well-earned win.

The last game of the day, World No. 1 Magnus Carlsen against Hikaru Nakamura,

ended in a short draw. Carlsen prevailed in the Armageddon game, securing the crucial extra points.

Ju Wenjun leads at Norway Chess Women.

Another intense round unfolded at the Norway Chess Women's Tourna-

PV Sindhu, Lakshya to lead India's challenge at Indonesia Open 2025

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Ace shuttlers PV Sindhu and Lakshya Sen will spearhead India's challenge along with doubles duo Satwiksairaj Rankireddy-Chirag Shetty in the upcoming Indonesia Open 2025 badminton tournament, which is set to begin from Tuesday, as per Olympics.com.

Two-time Olympic medalist PV Sindhu, meanwhile, will look to take another step after snapping a string of four consecutive first-round exits on the BWF World Tour with a pre-quarterfinal finish at the Singapore Badminton Open last week.

Sindhu's best result this season remains a quarter-final appearance at the India Open. In the opener in Indonesia, the Indian shuttler will take on former world No. 1 and Olympic bronze medalist Nozomi Okuhara of Japan.

Malvika Bansod, Anupama Upadhaya and Rak-



shita Ramraj are the other Indian badminton players who are a part of the women's singles draw.

In the men's singles draw, world No. 17 Lakshya Sen is the top-ranked Indian player, and he will be returning to court after an injury forced him to retire in his opening round match at the Singapore Badminton Open. Lakshya Sen, who made the bronze medal match at the Paris 2024 Olympics, will face world No. 1 Shi Yuqi of the People's Republic of China in the first round. HS Prannoy and Kiran George join Lakshya Sen in the men's singles section.

Former world No. 1 Kidambi Srikanth, who finished runner-up at the Malaysia Masters last month, will not play in the Indonesia Open.

India's men's doubles hopes will rest on world No. 27 Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty.

Satwik-Chirag head into the Indonesia Open after a strong run in the Singapore Badminton Open, where they made it to the semi-finals - their third appearance in the last four on the BWF tour this year. World No. 10 Treasa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand are India's sole entry in the women's doubles draw.

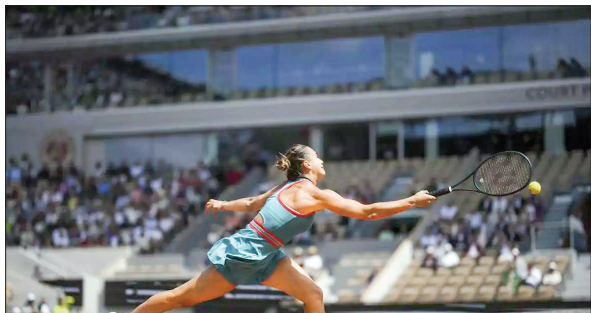
Swiatek storms into semis with 26th straight Roland-Garros win

AGENCIES
PARIS

Four-time champion Iga Swiatek's 26th successive win at Roland-Garros set up a French Open semifinal clash against top-ranked Aryna Sabalenka on Tuesday.

Swiatek defeated Elina Svitolina 6-1, 7-5 to extend her impressive run. The consecutive wins record on the Parisian red clay is Chris Evert's 29. Having been searching for her best form in recent months, Swiatek, who struggled in the previous round, was in total control in the opening set.

She was made to work harder by her 13th-seeded



Ukrainian rival in the second set, dropping her serve in the fourth game after hitting two straight unforced errors into the net. But Swiatek broke back immediately and took advantage of Svitolina's poor service game to break again with a thunderous forehand return and move up 6-5. Swiatek sealed the win with a final ace. Swiatek dropped

outside the top four before the French Open and has not won a title or reached a final since her victory at Roland-Garros last year.

Sabalenka defeated Zheng Qinwen in straight sets to reach the semifinals for the second time.

Chasing her first title at Roland-Garros, Sabalenka overcame a shaky start and windy conditions to prevail

7-6 (3), 6-3 and extend her record against the Olympic champion to 7-1.

The score did not fully reflect the closeness of the quarterfinal, though, with so little separating the rivals. But Sabalenka demonstrated why she was No. 1, making the difference on big points, while Zheng struggled with her serve in tense moments.

Sabalenka will try to reach her sixth Grand Slam final, and first at Roland-Garros.

Sabalenka lost her most recent match against Zheng last month in Rome, having previously dominated their first six encounters. She said that loss was actually a good thing in the middle of an already exhausting season.

Salunkhe's rise fuels Indian hopes at archery world cup stage 3

AGENCIES
ANTALYA

The Shanghai World Cup last month marked the emergence of Parth Salunkhe, and the 21-year-old former youth world champion will look to shine again when India begin their campaign in the third stage of the showpiece, here on Wednesday.

The youngster from Satara, Maharashtra, stunned the archery world by knocking out two big names -- Tokyo Olympics champion Mete Gazoz of Turkey in a shoot-off in the opening round, and then two-time Olympics team gold medalist Kim Je-Deok of South Korea in the quarterfinals, without dropping a set.



Salunkhe then went on to claim his maiden World Cup medal -- a bronze -- in just his second appearance, edging out Paris Games team silver medalist Baptiste Addis of France in the playoff.

What stood out was not just his achievement, but also his temperament and age-defying maturity, especially against the dominant South

Koreans, long considered India's arch-rivals in the sport.

Against all-time great Kim Woojin in the semifinals, Salunkhe rallied from a 0-4 deficit to level the match 4-4, only to lose narrowly in the deciding set in a thrilling five-setter. Historically, Indian archers have crumbled under pressure, and they are still chasing that elusive Olympic

medal. But in his short stint so far, Salunkhe has shown how to thrive under pressure.

"My focus wasn't really on a medal; it was more on if I could deliver what I practised for," Salunkhe said about his key to success.

"That's what mattered most to me and in the last end I couldn't do it. It's all mental. I lagged there, but it's a part of game, you go up, you go down. It's all right. I'll work on it," he said after winning the bronze.

Incidentally, Salunkhe had finished lowest among the four Indians in the qualification round -- placed 60th, far behind Dhiraj Bommadevara (9th), Tarundeep Rai (28th), and Atanu Das (57th).