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ROW OVER HALF-BURNT CASH FOUND AT JUSTICE VARMA'S HOUSE

SC PANEL SAYS 'MISCONDUCT PROVED', PROPOSES REMOVAL

Report says judge and his family members had 'covert or active control' over the store room

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

High court judge Yashwant Varma, and his family members had "covert or active control" over the store room where a huge cache of half-burnt cash was found, proving his misconduct which is serious enough to seek his removal, a report of the inquiry panel probing the incident said.

The three-judge panel headed by Chief Justice Sheel Nagu of the Punjab and Haryana High Court conducted the inquiry for 10 days, examined 55 witnesses and visited the scene of the accidental fire that started at around 11.35 pm on March 14 at the official residence Justice Varma, then a sitting judge of the Delhi High Court and now in the Allahabad High Court.

Acting on the report, for-



Burnt currency notes seen near the residence of Delhi High Court judge Justice Yashwant Varma in New Delhi. File photo

mer Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna wrote to President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi recommending the judge's impeachment.

"This committee thus holds that the cash/money was found in the store room of 30 Tughlak Crescent, New Delhi officially occupied by Justice Varma. More so, the access to the store

room has been found to be within the covert or active control of Justice Varma and his family members and that by way of strong inferential evidence, it is established that the burnt cash/money was got removed from the store room during the wee hours of 15.3.2025 from 30 Tughlak Crescent, New Delhi," the panel said in its

Procedure as laid down has to be followed

JUSTICE (RED.) SAKHA RAM SINGH

The three-member committee, constituted by the then Chief Justice of India vide order dated 22.03.2025 for conducting enquiry into the allegations against Justice Yashwant Varma, the then sitting Justice of Delhi High Court has submitted its report dated 03.05.2025 to the effect that the alleged miss-conduct against Justice Yashwant Varma found proved 'is serious enough to call for initiation of proceedings for removal of Justice Yashwant Varma'.

The question that arises for consideration is as to whether the report can be made the basis for removal of Justice Yashwant Varma. A judge of a high court is not liable to be removed from office save in accordance with the provisions of Article 217(1)(b) r/w the Article 124(4) of the Constitution of India which provides the procedure for removal of a judge of a high court on the basis of 'proved misbehavior or incapacity'.

The procedure for removal of a judge of a high court or Supreme Court on proof of misbehavior or incapacity is laid down in the Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968 (in short the Act) Section 3 whereof lays down the procedure of investigation into misbehavior or incapacity of a Judge by a 3 Member Committee;



Justice Yashwant Varma

'Now or never moment for Israel'



"I can tell you that these types of decisions where you know you're putting not just soldiers' lives in harm's way, but civilians' lives at risk as well, is not an easy decision. It is a decision that only one person makes.

George Birnbaum, former advisor to Israel Prime Minister Ne-

tanyahu, in an in-depth conversation with the iTV Network says the tim-

ing of the conflict between Israel and Iran is clearly linked to the uranium enrichment programme of the Iranians.

"There is a point of no return at which you have enough critical mass to make a weapon. And Iran was getting very close to reaching that critical mass. And so there was no choice," he said.

The choice was to either let Iran develop enough uranium, enriched uranium, to have nuclear warheads that could not just reach Jerusalem or Tel Aviv, but put on ballistic missiles that could reach Europe and eventually the United States as well, or stop that from ever being able to happen, he said, adding that "I think it was a very clear choice. The time was either now or never."

Q&A ■ P9

Manish Tewari warns of global turmoil amid Iran-Israel conflict

In a wide-ranging conversation with Priya Sahgal on NewsX's Cover Story, Congress MP and former Union Minister Manish Tewari offered a detailed analysis of the Iran-Israel conflict and its broader implications on global geopolitics. Speaking not just as a politician but also in his capacity as a geopolitical commentator, Tewari began by calling the current state of global affairs "unprecedented turmoil" since the end of the Second World War.

"The global order constructed post-World War II is completely and absolutely in turmoil," Tewari said, adding that geopolitical tensions have reached boiling points across multiple regions — from North America to Europe, the Middle East to Asia.

DETAILS ■ P2



"The global order constructed post-World War II is completely and absolutely in turmoil... geopolitical tensions have reached boiling points across multiple regions - Manish Tewari

Truth is out: Trump says India, Pak ended conflict

AGENCIES
NEW YORK/ISLAMABAD

Two "very smart" leaders of India and Pakistan decided to end last month's conflict that could have turned into a nuclear war, US President Donald Trump said after holding a rare luncheon meeting with Pakistan army chief Field Marshal Asim Munir at the White House.

Trump's comments on Wednesday crediting the leaders of the two countries in ending the May 7-10 hostilities are seen at variance with his claims over a dozen times in the last few weeks that he brokered the India-



Pakistan ceasefire deal.

In his remarks to the media, Trump said he was "honoured" to meet Munir and that he discussed with the military chief the situation arising out of the Iran-Israel conflict, amid speculations that Washington is

■ P3

Stormy days: Tharoor admits to differences with party leadership

ANAND SINGH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Senior Congress leader Shashi Tharoor on Thursday said he has "differences of opinion" with some in the party leadership, a remark that could lead to another round of turbulence in the grand old party.

Breaking his silence over his absence from campaigning in the Nilambur bypolls in his home state Kerala, he further said he did not receive any invitation or missed call from the



state leaders.

Speaking to reporters here, Tharoor, who is also the Congress Working Committee (CWC) member said: "I wasn't invited by the party. But that's alright."

He made the remarks

when asked about his absence from the campaign trail in Nilambur where voting for the byelection is under way.

"First of all, I was gone for much of the time on this official diplomatic mission. When I came back there was no insistence, no missed call from the leadership saying I should come," he said.

Tharoor also admitted of having differences with some party leaders and said, "I do have differences

■ P3

Maize farmers left in lurch as govt vanishes from mkt

Farmers forced to sell at Rs 1,000-Rs 1,300 a quintal against MSP of Rs 2,400

TDG NETWORK
CHANDIGARH

Maize farmers across Punjab and Haryana are reeling under huge financial losses as they are being forced to sell their produce at prices nearly 50 per cent below the government-declared Minimum Support Price



(MSP). Even as the Centre had fixed the MSP for maize at Rs 2,400 per quintal no government agency is stepping forward to buy maize, leaving farmers at the mercy of private traders.

■ P3

QS ranking: India writes new chapter in higher education

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi is the best-ranked Indian institution in QS World University Rankings for 2026 as it climbed more than 70 places in two years to secure the 123rd spot in the coveted list.

With eight new institutions added to the ranking this year, India now has 54 institutions included, making it the fourth most represented country behind

only the US (192 institutions), the UK (90 institutions) and Mainland China (72 institutions).

No other country or territory has seen as many universities added to the ranking this year. Jordan and Azerbaijan are second most improved and have both seen six added in 2026 rankings.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi asserted that the QS World University Rankings 2026 have brought great news for India's edu-

TOP COUNTRIES	
US	192
UK	90
Mainland China	72
India	54
(Figure: Number of institutions featured in QS World University Rankings for 2026)	
IIT Delhi best ranked (123) Indian institution	

cation sector with a record 54 institutions figuring in the list.

"The QS World University 2026 Rankings bring great news for our education sector. Our Government is committed to furthering research and innovation ecosystems for the benefit of India's youth," Modi wrote on X.

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan also lauded India's performance in the rankings,

■ P3

DU ranked 30th in job outcome

NEW DELHI: The University of Delhi has consolidated its position in the QS World University Rankings 2026, bagging the 30th rank globally in employment outcomes category -- an improvement of 14 spots compared to last year. This marks the highest ranking in the category among Indian institutions.

Overall, the DU has re-

■ P3



A temple submerges under the Godavari river due to incessant rainfall, in Nashik on Thursday. ANI

KALIGANJ IN WEST BENGAL SEES 70% VOTING AS ASSEMBLY BYPOLLS IN 4 STATES LARGELY PEACEFUL

The bypoll in Kaliganj being fought by Alifa Ahamed, while the BJP has nominated Ashis Ghosh and Cong has fielded Shaikh

TDG NETWORK
LUDHIANA/AHMEDABAD

Bypolls were held in five Assembly segments across Punjab, West Bengal, Gujarat and Kerala on Thursday, with the Kaliganj seat in West Bengal registering a polling percentage of nearly 70 by 5 pm.

The polling that commenced at 7 am and concluded at 6 pm was largely peaceful, with the exception of a few isolated incidents, officials said.

While the deaths of the incumbent MLAs necessitated the bypolls in one seat each in Gujarat, West Bengal and Punjab, the resignation of two legislators led to the polling in Kerala and another seat in Gujarat.

At Kaliganj in West Bengal's Nadia district, a voter turnout of 69.85 per cent was recorded till 5 pm.

"Polling has been peaceful. There was no report of any incident from anywhere in and around the constituency. Till 5 pm, the polling was 69.85 per cent," an election official said.

Sources said the polling



A volunteer assists an elderly voter at a polling booth during the by-election to the Kaliganj assembly seat in West Bengal's Nadia district on June 19, 2025. Agencies

percentage may go further up as there were queues outside polling booths.

The bypoll was necessitated by the death of Trinamool Congress (TMC) MLA Nasiruddin Ahamed in February. His daughter, Alifa Ahamed, was fielded in the bypoll by the ruling TMC.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) nominated Ashis Ghosh for the contest, while Congress candidate Kabil Uddin Shaikh is in the fray with the support of the CPI(M).

Fourteen companies of central forces were deployed across the constituency to ensure free-and-fair polling. Minor tension was report-

ed from a few booths.

At Chandghar Adarsha Vidyapith's booth number 56, the Congress alleged that its polling agent was forcibly removed by TMC workers, an allegation denied by the ruling party.

Ghosh, after casting his vote, expressed confidence of victory.

However, he objected to the polling procedure, alleging that officials deliberately applied the indelible ink on his middle finger instead of the index finger under the "insistence" of TMC agents.

"First, they missed putting the ink on my finger when I went to vote. Then, after I noticed it and returned, they deliberately marked

my middle finger. This is a pre-planned political conspiracy by the TMC," the BJP candidate alleged.

Poll officials confirmed that no rules were violated but said they have sought a report from the district magistrate regarding the incident.

Election Commission (EC) officials removed party flags and festoons found within 100 metres of several polling booths. Voters were not allowed to carry mobile phones inside polling stations and were instructed to deposit the devices at designated spots under the supervision of EC-appointed volunteers.

The AAP fielded its former Gujarat president, Gopal Italia, from Visavadar. He is not registered as a voter in the constituency.

Despite its near-total dominance in the state, the BJP has not won the Visavadar seat since 2007. Party leaders are hopeful this time of overcoming the 18-year jinx.

In the 2022 Assembly polls, Bhayani defeated BJP's Harshad Ribadiya, a Congress turncoat and for-

mer MLA, by 7,063 votes.

The BJP has fielded Rajendra Chavda from Kadi, while the Congress has given ticket to former MLA Ramesh Chavda.

Chavda won the seat in 2012, but lost it to the BJP's Karsanbhai Solanki in 2017.

Like Visavadar, Kadi will also witness a three-way fight, with the Arvind Kejriwal-led AAP fielding Jagdish Chavda.

In the 182-member Gujarat Assembly, the BJP has 161 legislators, the Congress 12 and the AAP four. While one seat is with the Samajwadi Party, two are with independents.

Punjab saw a voter turnout of 49.07 per cent till 3 pm in the Ludhiana West seat.

The seat fell vacant following the death of AAP MLA Gurpreet Bassi Gogi in January.

AAP candidate Sanjeev Arora went to a polling station along with his family members to exercise his franchise. Before casting his vote, Arora paid obeisance at a gurdwara, a temple and the Dargah Pir in Phillaur.

PM Modi to visit Bihar, Odisha, Andhra during 2-day tour

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be on a three-state visit for two days from Friday, a tour that will include the launch of multiple development projects in Bihar and Odisha and his participating in a mass yoga programme on the International Day of Yoga.

Modi will be in Siwan in Bihar and Bhubaneswar in Odisha on Friday and will also address public meetings, an official statement said.

With the maiden Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government in Odisha completing one year, the prime minister will chair a state-level function to mark the anniversary.

In Siwan, he will inaugurate the new Vaishali-Deoria railway line project worth more than Rs 400 crore and flag off a new train service on the route, the statement said. In a major boost to connectivity in north Bihar, Modi will flag off the Vande Bharat Express between Patliputra and Gorakhpur



(STPs) under the Namami Gange project worth more than Rs 1,800 crore.

The statement said he will launch several other projects related to water supply and power infrastructure, and release the first instalment of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) to more than 53,600 beneficiaries.

Modi will also hand over keys to a few beneficiaries to mark the "Grih Pravesh" ceremony of more than 6,600 completed houses. Assembly polls are due in Bihar later in the year, with the ruling BJP-JD(U) alliance looking to hold fort against the opposition INDIA bloc led by the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD). In Odisha, Modi will launch multiple development projects worth over Rs 18,600 crore. The projects will cover critical sectors, including drinking water, irrigation, agricultural infrastructure, health infrastructure, rural roads and bridges, sections of national highways and a new railway line.

'Big blow to Indian diplomacy': Cong on Trump hosting Pak Army chief

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

After Pakistani Army Chief Asim Munir attended a lunch event with US President Donald Trump at the White House, Congress MP Jairam Ramesh, on Thursday, raised concerns and said that it is a huge blow to Indian diplomacy.

In a post on X, Jairam said that Munir is the same man whose inflammatory remarks formed the backdrop to the brutal Pahalgalam attack on April 22.

"Field Marshall Asim Munir is NOT the Head of State or Head of Government of Pakistan. He is the Chief of Army Staff. Yet he gets invited by President Trump for lunch and receives much praise. This is the same man whose atrocious and inflammatory remarks formed the immediate backdrop to the brutal Pahalgalam terror attacks orchestrated by the establishment over which he presides," he said. "It is a huge blow to Indian



diplomacy (and huglomacy too)," Jairam added.

US President Donald Trump on Wednesday (local time) hosted Pakistan Army Chief Asim Munir at the White House for a lunch meeting, praising Munir for his role in preventing the escalation of the conflict between India and Pakistan.

Trump said, "The reason I had him here was I wanted to thank him for not going into the war and ending it..."

Earlier, Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Priyanka Chaturvedi targeted US President Donald Trump over having a dinner with Pakistani Army Chief Asim Munir at the White House.

"Instead of meeting PM Shahbaz Sharif, POTUS says he was 'honoured' to meet their self-promoted Field Marshal, clearly acknowledging that Pakistan is governed by its army. His thanking him to end the war from the Pakistan side emphasises the illegitimate order of leadership. What an irony.

The President, who is aiming for the Nobel Peace Prize, is lunching with a tainted man who is endorsing his Nobel dream, a man who has actively abetted and aided terrorism to threaten peace across regions and the world!" Chaturvedi said on X.

Air India to cut international widebody flights by 15% till mid-July, says will rebound

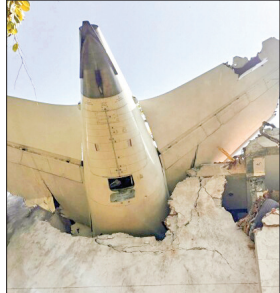
TDG NETWORK
MUMBAI

Air India on Wednesday announced a 15 per cent reduction in international flights operated with wide-body planes till mid-July as the Tata Group-owned airline grapples with operational disruptions due to enhanced safety inspections and Iranian airspace closure.

In the wake of the fatal crash of the London Gatwick-bound Boeing 787-8 plane soon after takeoff from Ahmedabad on June 12, the carrier has witnessed international flight disruptions, especially with the ongoing safety checks of B787-8/9 aircraft.

Air India AI171 crash: Damaged black box sent to US for probe into disaster

India has sent the severely damaged black box of the ill-fated Air India Boeing 787 Dreamliner to the United States for detailed analysis, as the investigation into one of India's deadliest aviation disasters in decades continues to unfold. The aircraft, operating Flight AI171 from Ahmedabad to London, crashed shortly after takeoff on June 12, killing 241 people on board and 33 people on the ground, with only one



survivor.

The Digital Flight Data Recorder (DFDR) and Cockpit Voice Recorder (CVR) commonly known as the black box were re-

covered two days after the crash, but the external damage to the devices was so severe that Indian officials could not extract any data locally.

According to a source quoted in The Economic Times, the black box will be analyzed at the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) laboratory in Washington, under the supervision of Indian authorities to ensure proper protocol.

The airline also apologised to passengers who will be

impacted by the temporary curtailment of overseas

flights. Besides, the carrier will

'India must tread carefully': Manish Tewari warns of global turmoil amid Iran-Israel conflict

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

In a wide-ranging conversation with Priya Sahgal on NewsX's Cover Story, Congress MP and former Union Minister Manish Tewari offered a detailed analysis of the Iran-Israel conflict and its broader implications on global geopolitics. Speaking not just as a politician but also in his capacity as a geopolitical commentator, Tewari began by calling the current state of global affairs "unprecedented turmoil" since the end of the Second World War.

"The global order constructed post-World War II is completely and absolutely in turmoil," Tewari said, adding that geopolitical tensions have reached boiling points across multiple regions — from North America to Europe, the Middle East to Asia.

AMERICA'S STRAINED TIES AND SHIFTING ALLIANCES

Tewari explained how U.S. foreign policy, especially under Donald Trump, has destabilized traditional alliances. "There are tensions between the United States

of America and its closest neighbor Canada... and also with its NATO allies," he noted, citing Vice President Mike Pence's controversial speech in Munich that he said "threw European strategic elite under the bus."

He pointed to the prolonged Russia-Ukraine war — now in its fourth year — as draining Europe's strategic attention, even as tensions in the Middle East escalate.

MIDDLE EAST ON THE BRINK: IRAN, ISRAEL, AND THE US

Focusing on the heart of the matter, Tewari dissected the Iran-Israel tensions and the potential role of the United States. He emphasized that the U.S. maintains military ties with 18 countries in the Middle East, excluding Israel, which could complicate its response to the conflict.

He pointed to the strategic and historical hostility between the U.S. and Iran. "The regime in Iran, notwithstanding sanctions, has proven to be very resilient now over four and a half decades," he said.

Recalling the 1979 hostage crisis, Tewari noted, "The United States has a long

strategic memory... and has not forgotten the humiliation of that raid."

He warned that should Iran respond by closing the Strait of Hormuz, "it is going to impact especially consumer markets in India, China, South Korea, Japan, and even westwards towards Europe."

IRAN'S SHIA CRESCENT AND STRATEGIC DEPTH

According to Tewari, Iran has built significant influence across the region through its "Shia crescent" stretching from Iran to parts of Africa. He added that this makes the fallout of any direct U.S. military involvement even more complicated.

"If the US gets involved directly, Israel will retaliate. The US has a military presence in Iraq and several other countries with Shia populations. There would be implications which even the United States may not be able to control," he said.

WILL REGIME CHANGE IN IRAN HAPPEN?

On whether military pressure could lead to a regime



change in Iran, Tewari was skeptical. "I do not see that happening till the time the regime in Iran is not completely decapitated — which is a difficult thing to do," he said.

He noted that the Iranian diaspora may hope for regime change, but the on-ground reality shows Tehran's leadership has survived extensive sanctions and internal pressures over decades.

ISRAEL'S SECURITY DOCTRINE: STRATEGIC PARANOIA OR JUSTIFIED FEAR?

Turning to Israel, Tewari explained that its actions are deeply rooted in its long-standing fear of any

neighboring Islamic nation acquiring nuclear capabilities.

"Israel is mortally petrified of any Middle Eastern state acquiring nuclear capability... This has been a thread running through the Israeli political and strategic leadership for decades," he said.

He added that Israel is now proactively striking threats instead of waiting to respond, citing past operations like the 1980s attack on Iraq's nuclear facility and the 2010 Stuxnet cyberattack on Iran.

TRUMP'S THREATS AND DOMESTIC PRESSURES IN THE U.S.

Tewari also commented on Donald Trump's inflam-

matory rhetoric on Truth Social, including his veiled threats to Israel's leaders. "This is not a takeout for lunch or dinner... This is a threat made by one global leader to another," he said.

Despite such statements, he believes "cooler heads in Washington DC would be considering these strategic implications very carefully."

RUSSIA AND CHINA STAY ON THE SIDELINES — FOR NOW

On Russia and China's role in the conflict, Tewari said Russia is "fully absorbed" with Ukraine and is now a weakened global power. As for China, he believes they are "hedging their bets."

"China is not going to take

any positions that harm its national interest," he said, pointing to their strategy of waiting to see how the global order reshapes before asserting themselves further.

WHAT KIND OF WORLD ORDER IS EMERGING?

Tewari predicted that the future global order will not be U.S.-led unless America stabilizes its erratic foreign policy. "If the United States continues to be as erratic... then there will not be a US-led world order," he warned.

He noted that China's growing economic ties and the Belt and Road Initiative could help it punch above its weight, while India will need to navigate these turbulent waters very carefully.

INDIA MUST FORM A NATIONAL STRATEGIC CONSENSUS

He argued that India must work toward building a "silent, unspoken consensus" on foreign policy regardless of political differences.

"Given the kind of very polarized domestic discourse we have, the implications on being able to craft a coherent and consistent foreign

policy also get impacted," Tewari said.

Reflecting on historical crises like the 1962 China war, the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War, and even the 2025 tensions with Pakistan, he emphasized the importance of national unity. "India would require maturity and sagacity of leadership to be able to see us through this," he added.

A CALL FOR CALM AND LEADERSHIP

Tewari concluded with a cautious hope that a mature political leadership could rise above partisan bickering, especially as India enters a stormy parliamentary session.

"Not only India, but the world possibly finds itself at an inflection point," he said. "This is the moment when you require an extremely mature quality, capable of looking beyond the immediate."

As Sahgal wrapped up the interview, she acknowledged Tewari's in-depth perspective and added, "We're in for a rather stormy session, but thank you for giving us a curtain-raiser on where India stands in the world order."

QS ranking: India writes new chapter in higher education

CONTINUED FROM P1

saying the country has hit a new high.

IIT Delhi ranked 123rd this year compared with 197 and 150 in previous two years. This has been due to outstanding results in Employer Reputation (where it now ranks 50th), Citations (86th), Sustainability (172nd), and Academic Reputation (142nd).

IIT Delhi has jointly bagged the rank alongside Georgia Institute of Technology, US.

While IIT Bombay slipped to 129th this year from its all-time best rank of 118 in 2025, it remains in the global top 130 and continues to score highly on Employer Reputation, ranking 39th in that indicator.

The coveted QS World University Rankings, published annually by London-based global higher education analytics firm Quacquarelli Symonds, assess universities based on

a variety of performance indicators including academic reputation, faculty-student ratio, research impact, international student diversity and graduate employability.

“India is rewriting the global higher education map. No other country has seen more universities debut in this edition of the QS World University Rankings - a clear sign of a system evolving at speed and scale,” Jessica Turner, CEO of QS, said.

“In the world’s most populous nation - with more than 40 per cent of its people under 25 - the drive to expand both access and quality is not just an education agenda, it is a national imperative. Delivering on India’s 50 per cent Gross Enrolment Ratio target by 2035 will require growth on an extraordinary scale - equivalent to building 14 new universities every week, according to QS estimates,” she added.

Turner said, “We see

clear progress. Indian universities are strengthening their global research footprint and advancing in areas such as Citations per Faculty, Sustainability, and International Research Network. But the rankings also highlight the next frontier - attracting more international students and faculty and building academic capacity to support quality at scale”.

Close to half of the 46 Indian universities featured in last year’s ranking improved their positions this year. Overall, 54 of over universities from 106 countries and territories featured in the 2026 ranking are from India.

QS officials noted that in just a decade, India’s ranked universities have grown from 11 to 54 - a 390 per cent increase, the strongest performance across the G20, and testament to the growing global recognition of India’s higher education excellence.

Six of India’s 11 public

and private institutes of eminence have improved their positions this year, including Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IITM) which climbed 47 places and entered the top 200 for the first time at 180th.

All three private institutes of eminence increased their positions, with only two private universities - Shoolini University of Biotechnology and Management Sciences (503rd) and Chandigarh University (575th) - ahead of Birla Institute of Technology and Science at 668.

“India’s remarkable progress in this year’s QS World University Rankings reflects not only the rising global stature of its leading institutions, but also the growing breadth and ambition of its higher education landscape. The addition of eight new universities to the rankings, more than any other country, signals an encouraging trajectory.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi lays a wreath as he pays respects at The Monument to the Homeland, in Zagreb in Croatia. ANI

Report: Huge methane reserves in Nepal

CONTINUED FROM P1

area of Dailekh district, raising the possibility of the Himalayan nation tapping into domestic sources of energy, according to government daily Gorkhapatra.

The findings were shared with the government of Nepal on Thursday.

The exploration was carried out under a bilateral agreement signed in 2019 between Nepal and China.

“The first drilling operation, launched on May 11,

2021, reached a depth of more than 4,000 metres, revealing an estimated 1.12 billion cubic metres of methane in a single well,” the report said.

“The report represents initial findings from just one of four targeted wells. Based on early estimates, the total reserve in the area could reach 430 billion cubic metres, which could possibly meet Nepal’s demand for gas for around 50 years,” Gorkhapatra said.

Dinesh Kumar Napit,

Deputy Director General at the Department of Mines and Geology, and head of the Petroleum Exploration Project said that the site is the deepest and most scientifically advanced exploration carried out in Nepal to date.

The government has allocated 45 ropanis of land equivalent to 2,50,000 sq ft area, which is less than 1 sq km, for the project. Further testing is underway to assess gas quality, commercial viability, and economic potential.

“The final report from the Chinese team is expected by the end of this year, with plans to begin commercial production testing thereafter,” the newspaper said.

This project - entirely grant-funded by the Chinese government - is considered a pilot initiative, with the CGS providing technical and financial support.

The initial estimated cost was Rs 2.5 billion, though delays caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, led to escalation.

DU ranked 30th in job outcome

CONTINUED FROM P1

tained its global rank of 328 in the QS Rankings, while the central university is at seventh position nationally.

According to an official statement, DU Vice Chancellor Yogesh Singh highlighted the university’s marked progress across multiple performance indicators.

“The improvement in our overall score - from 33.8

to 42.6 - underscores the University of Delhi’s rising academic excellence and expanding global reputation,” he said.

The university also made significant strides in other metrics, including international research network (rising from 406 to 294) and citations per faculty (moving up from 488 to 403), reflecting a growing global academic footprint.

It reported a 13 per cent

year-on-year increase in publications and a 24 per cent rise in total citations, underscoring its research impact.

Among Indian institutions, DU has been ranked 7th overall and remains the top public university in the country. It also holds the second position in International Research Network and 6th in both Academic Reputation and Sustainability indicators.

“These rankings reflect our sustained commitment to global engagement, high-impact research, and enhanced graduate outcomes,” Singh said, noting that the university’s performance is a testament to its institutional resilience amid intensifying global competition.

Meanwhile, other central universities also improved their positions in the QS Rankings.

The Jawaharlal Nehru

Procedure as laid down has to be followed

CONTINUED FROM P1

(a) one of whom is to be chosen from among the Chief Justice or the Judges of the Supreme Court; (b) one shall be from among the Chief Justices of High Courts; and (c) one shall be a person who is, in the opinion of the Speaker, or, as a case may be, the Chairman, a distinguished jurist. The report submitted by the Committee constituted by the then Chief Justice of India vide order dated 22.03.2025 cannot be taken as a substitute for the inquiry report except on pains of violating the constitutional protection to a Judge of a High Court or the Supreme

Court as the case may be.

The Committee appointed by then Chief Justice of India no doubt have held that the misconduct found proved is serious enough to call for proceedings for removal of Justice Yashwant Verma, but then the procedure as laid down in the Act, has to be followed.

It cannot be gain said that independence of Higher Judiciary is the basic feature of the Constitution as held in C. Ravichandran Iyer Vs Justice. A.M. Bhattacharjee and Others (1995) 5 SCC 457. That is why a detailed procedure has been laid down for removal of the Judges of the High Court and Supreme Court. The report submit-

ted by the Committee appointed by the then CJI may no doubt be taken as a piece of evidence by the Chairman in order to decide as to whether accusation requires investigation under the Act but it cannot be made the basis for removal of Justice. Y. Verma without holding an inquiry under the Act except on pains of violating the Constitutional protection.

The finding that Justice Yashwant Verma had allowed ‘highly suspicious material in shape of piles of currency notes to be stashed in the store room’ as been arrived at without any valid material and by placing wrong onus of proof on Justice Y. Verma’.

CONTINUED FROM P1

64-page report.

The report continued, “Keeping in view the direct and electronic evidence on record, this Committee is firmly of the view that there is sufficient substance in the allegations raised in the letter of the Chief Justice of India dated March 22, and the misconduct found proved is serious enough to call for initiation of proceedings for removal of Justice Varma...”

The panel threadbare analysed the statements of 55 witnesses including the statement of Justice Varma and rendered its findings under the inquiry procedure laid down by the in-house committee.

Referring to “Restatement of values of Judicial Life” adopted by the Supreme Court in its full court meeting in 1997, the panel said, “It is obvious that all the virtues expected from a Judge are founded upon the concept

of probity.”

Probity of a judge is measured by yardstick which is much more stringent than the probity expected of a civil post holder, it said, adding that the element of probity becomes “predominant, relevant and indispensable” when the offices of higher judiciary are in question.

“The expectation of the general public from a member of the superior judiciary is extremely high. Probity is the most important and indispensable attribute of a person holding judicial office and is rather the basic eligibility criteria. Least that is expected of any judicial officer of district or higher judiciary is unimpeachable character and conduct in and outside the courtroom,” it added.

The very existence of judicial office is founded upon the trust of the citizens at large and the quality and quantity of this trust is directly relatable to the be-

haviour, conduct and performance demonstrated by the judge, not only inside but also outside the courtroom, it said.

“Any deficiency in this regard erodes public trust which ought to be viewed stringently,” it said while recommending impeachment motion against Justice Varma.

Besides Justice Nagu, Chief Justice G S Sandhawalia of Himachal Pradesh High Court, and Justice Anu Sivaraman of Karnataka High Court, comprised the inquiry panel.

The panel, constituted by former CJI Khanna on March 22, investigated a late-night blaze that broke out at around 11:35 pm on March 14 at the judge’s official bungalow at 30 Tughlak Crescent in the capital.

What began as a routine fire incident has now culminated in serious charges of judicial misconduct and breach of public trust.

SC panel says ‘misconduct proved’

Truth is out

CONTINUED FROM P1

looking at using Pakistani military bases in case it decides to launch attacks on Tehran.

The US president was also effusive in lauding Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and referred to his telephonic conversation with the Indian leader on Tuesday night.

President Trump expressed keen interest in forging a “mutually beneficial” trade partnership with Pakistan based on long-term strategic convergence and shared interests, the Pakistan army said in a statement.

The US president was accompanied at the meeting by Secretary of State Marco Rubio, and US Special Representative for the Middle East Steve Witkoff. Munir was joined in by Pakistan’s National Security Advisor Lt Gen Asim Malik, who is also head of the spy agency, ISI.

Ahead of his meeting with Trump, Munir reportedly pitched for Nobel Peace

Prize for President Trump for preventing a nuclear war between India and Pakistan.

It was clear from Trump’s media comments that the last month’s conflict between India and Pakistan as well as the situation arising out of the Iran-Israel stand-off figured prominently in his meeting with Munir.

“The reason I had him here was that I want to thank him for not going into the war (with India); ending the war. And I want to thank Prime Minister Modi as well,” the president said.

“We’re working on a trade deal with India. We’re working on a trade deal with Pakistan.” The US president also recalled his meeting with PM Modi in the White House in February.

Trump said he was “happy” that “two very smart people decided not to keep going with that war.” “That could have been a nuclear war. Those are two nuclear powers, big ones, big, big nuclear powers, and they decided that (to end the conflict),” he said.

Ludhiana bypolls

CONTINUED FROM P1

creased—reaching 21.51% by 11 am, 33.42% by 1 pm, 41.04% by 3 pm, and eventually climbing to 49.07% by 5pm. Election officials noted that many voters preferred casting their ballots early in the day to avoid the discomfort of afternoon heat. The final figure is expected to rise slightly by the time polling closes.

A total of 1,75,469 voters were eligible to vote in this by-election, with 14 candidates contesting. The Ludhiana West seat has traditionally been a political hotspot, and this bypoll is being seen as a crucial test for all major parties ahead of future electoral battles in Punjab.

The ruling Aam Aadmi Party is hoping to retain the seat and has fielded Sanjeev Arora, a 61-year-old Rajya Sabha MP and well-known Ludhiana-based industrialist. Arora has also earned a reputation for his philanthropic and social welfare activities in the region.

CONTINUED FROM P1

According to ground reports in Punjab, farmers are managing to sell their produce only between Rs 1,000 and Rs 1,300 per quintal. In many areas, private buyers are offering as low as Rs 1,000, less than half the promised MSP.

“Private traders dictate the rates. There is no government presence in the mandis,” said a farmer Jasbir Singh of Patiala.

This crisis comes despite a significant increase in the area under maize cultivation in both the states as in Punjab the area under maize has reached to around 30,000 acres whereas Haryana has over 25,000 acres under maize crop this year.

Mandis are flooded with the maize crop in several

districts of Punjab and Haryana and the recent rainfall has added to woes of the farmers as they were getting to space to unload their crop to get it dry for procurement.

The situation is no better in Haryana. Farmers in grain markets like Ladwa of Kurukshetra say they are being forced to accept whatever rates private traders offer, with no official support available.

“I had to sell my crop at Rs 1,250 per quintal as there was no government buyer,” said Jai Bhagwan, a farmer from Yamunanagar district. “We switched to maize hoping for better returns as paddy was blamed for depleting groundwater. But in lack of government support Maize cultivation is not profitable”

Government officials,

Stormy days: Tharoor admits to differences with party leadership

CONTINUED FROM P1

of opinion with some in the Congress leadership.”

The Congress leader also added that you (media) know what I am talking about, as some of those issues are there in the public domain and have been reported.

He, however, didn’t divulge whether the disagreement was with the state or central leadership.

Tharoor also stressed on the importance of internal dialogue over public discourse and said, “I have been working in Congress for the past 16 years. I have some differences of opinion with the party, and I will discuss them inside the party... Today I don’t want to speak on it. I need to meet and talk, let the time come, and I will dis-

cuss it.”

Tharoor also urged the people to vote for Congress candidate Aryadan Shoukath and dubbed him as a good candidate.

He also said that party leaders and workers had worked a lot in the bypolls in Nilambur.

His remarks came in the wake of criticism from his own party members when he had led an all-party delegation to five countries as part of global outreach programme to expose Pakistan on global platform and explain India’s point in wake of Pahalgam terror attack and India carrying out Operation Sindoor.

Tharoor was also corrected by his own party leader after he said that India carried out surgical strikes for the first time after 2014.

Maize farmers left in lurch as govt vanishes from mkt

economists warn that such failures may discourage farmers from future crop diversification.

Several farmer unions have come out in support of the maize growers, demanding immediate compensation from the state governments of Punjab and Haryana. They argue that farmers who did not receive MSP despite official declarations must be compensated for the shortfall.

Meanwhile the farmer leaders have demanded the immediate intervention of the governments to prevent the farmers from losses. The issue has begun to gain traction on social media and is expected to echo in the upcoming state legislative sessions as farmer unrest grows. Opposition parties in both states have also

slammed the ruling governments, accusing them of playing with the livelihood of farmers.

Former Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda has said that once again BJP’s claims of giving MSP on 24 crops have been exposed. “Today, in the markets, farmers’ maize and sunflower are being sold at rates much lower than MSP and the ruling BJP is sitting with its eyes closed.

The arrival of both the crops is in full swing in the markets of Kurukshetra, Ambala, Karnal, Kaithal and surrounding areas, but instead of Rs 2400 per quintal MSP, farmers are getting only Rs 1,000 to Rs 1,400 for maize. The rate of completely dried crop is also only Rs 1,800 at the most”, he added.

NILAMBUR ASSEMBLY BYPOLL IN KERALA SEES 70.76% VOTER TURNOUT BY 5 PM

Polling held smoothly with robust security, webcasting across all booths

TDG NETWORK
MALAPPURAM

The Nilambur Assembly by-election in Kerala recorded a voter turnout of 70.76% as of 5 PM, according to data from the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), Kerala.

The polling process has been reported to be smooth, with robust arrangements to ensure a fair and secure election.

Malappuram District Collector VR Vinod, overseeing the by-election, stated, “We have identified 14 booths as critical polling stations, including three located inside forest areas. Additionally, 11 polling stations were designated as critical based on police inputs. Micro observers have been deployed at all critical polling stations, and webcasting has been arranged across all 263 polling stations

SC hands over probe into TN ADGP’s involvement in abduction case to CB-CID

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday handed over the investigation into Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) HM Jayaram’s suspension for his alleged involvement in an abduction case to the CBCID (Crime Branch Criminal Investigation Department).

A bench of Justices Ujjwal Bhuyan and Manmohan also set aside the Madras High Court’s direction to take action against ADGP Jayaram.

The top-court has also directed that the matter is to now be heard by a different judge of the Madras

UDF, LDF ENGAGE IN SCUFFLE

- The key contenders are ruling LDF candidate M Swaraj, Aryadan Shoukath from Congress-led UDF, TMC state convener and independent candidate P V Anvar and Mohan George of the BJP-led NDA.
- Kerala LoP and Congress MLA VD Satheesan said that a UDF victory would mark the party’s return to the state.
- TMC candidate Anvar told reporters about the developments carried out in the constituency when he was representing it.



LDF Candidate M. Swaraj and UDF candidate Aryadan Shoukath greet each other as they arrive to cast their votes for the Nilambur assembly by-election, at Nilambur in Malappuram on Thursday. ANI

to ensure transparency.”

Vinod further noted that adequate police security has been deployed, and all officers are well-trained.

“Seven Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) developed minor issues but were promptly replaced. The poll-

ing process is proceeding smoothly without any major disruptions,” he added.

The polling, conducted under tight security arrangements, is part of the AC-Bye Election 2025.

Polling in Kerala’s Nilambur started today at 7 am.

Earlier, UDF and LDF

workers engaged in a scuffle in Kurumbalagond of Malappuram district during polling for the Nilambur Assembly by-election on Thursday.

UDF has lodged a Police complaint, alleging that despite the conclusion of official

Plane crash: Mortal remains of co-pilot brought home

TDG NETWORK
MUMBAI

The mortal remains of Clive Kunder, the co-pilot of the Air India AI-171 flight which crashed in Ahmedabad on June 12, were brought to his home in Mumbai on Thursday.

Visuals from his residence showed a crowd of people gathered at his place while his family stood in front of his portrait and mourned their tragic loss.

Kunder lived with his mother and father in the Goregaon (West) area. His body arrived earlier today at Mumbai Airport and was transported to his residence.

Earlier on June 12, the day of the accident, Actor Vikrant Massey offered condolences and said that Kunder was his



Mortal remains of Clive Kunder, co-pilot of the Air India plane that crashed in Ahmedabad on June 12, being brought to Sewri Christian Cemetery for the last rites, in Mumbai on Thursday. ANI

“family friend.”

In an Instagram post, Vikrant offered condolences to the victims and their families, revealing Clive was the first officer on “that fateful” AI171 flight, which crashed minutes after takeoff from Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport.

campaigning, LDF workers from outside the constituency remained near polling booths and continued campaigning on election day.

Following the complaint, police took two individuals into custody. Local CPI(M) branch secretary tells that the detained individuals are not LDF workers.

Bypoll has thrown 10 candidates in the fray, the key contenders are ruling LDF pick M Swaraj, Aryadan Shoukath (Congress-led UDF), Trinamool Congress state convener and independent candidate P V Anvar and Mohan George of the BJP-led NDA.

The Left Democratic Front (LDF) has fielded M Swaraj, the United Democratic Front (UDF) has fielded Aryadan Shoukath, while the BJP has fielded Adv. Mohan George is a candidate for the Nilambur Assembly constituency.

Gujarat: Over 54% turnout in Visavadar, Kadi by 5 PM

AGENCIES
AHMEDABAD

A voter turnout of more than 54 per cent was recorded in both Visavadar and Kadi assembly constituencies in Gujarat during the bypolls till 5 pm on Thursday, officials said.

The polling, which commenced at 7 am, concluded peacefully at 6 pm, they said.

As per the data shared by the Election Commission, the Visavadar seat in Junagadh district and Kadi in Mehsana district recorded a voter turnout of 54.61 per cent and 54.49 per cent, respectively, till 5 pm.

As voting began, people queued up at polling booths in the morning, with candidates from the BJP and Congress in Visavadar being among the early voters. Votes were cast through Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) at 294 polling stations in each constituency.



The counting of votes will take place on June 23.

No untoward incident causing poll disruptions was reported in any of the two seats, as the process went off largely peacefully, the officials said.

The state government had declared a public holiday on Thursday in both the constituencies for voting.

The BJP, Congress and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) had fielded their candidates on both these seats.

The Visavadar seat was lying vacant since December 2023, after the then AAP legislator Bhupendra Bhayani resigned and joined the ruling BJP.

While the BJP nominated Kirit Patel for the bypoll in Visavadar, Congress fielded Nitin Ranpariya. AAP’s

former Gujarat president Gopal Italia was also in the fray.

Despite its near-total dominance in the state, the BJP has not won the Visavadar seat since 2007. Party leaders said they are hopeful of overcoming the 18-year jinx here.

In the 2022 assembly election, AAP’s Bhupendra Bhayani had defeated BJP’s Harshad Ribadiya, a Congress turncoat and former MLA, by 7,063 votes.

The Kadi seat in Mehsana district, a constituency reserved for Scheduled Caste (SC) candidates, has been lying vacant since February 4, following the death of BJP MLA Karsan Solanki.

The BJP fielded Rajendra Chavda from the Kadi constituency, while from the Congress’ side, former MLA Ramesh Chavda was in the fray. Ramesh Chavda had won the seat in 2012, but lost it to BJP’s Karsanbhai Solanki in the 2017 election.

'211 DNA samples of victims matched'

TDG NETWORK
AHMEDABAD

Rakesh Joshi, Superintendent of Ahmedabad Civil Hospital, on Thursday stated that 211 DNA samples of those who were killed in the Air India 171 crash had been matched, further stating that other samples were being verified. He also stated that the administration had been trying its best

and would call on families to collect the remains as soon as the reports of the DNA samples came. “211 (DNA) samples have been matched. All other samples are being verified... The administration is trying its best. As soon as the report comes, the families will be called immediately. We try not to waste even a single minute. We are here to assist the families,” Joshi said.

K'taka to hike quota for minorities from 10% to 15% in housing schemes

TDG NETWORK
BENGALURU

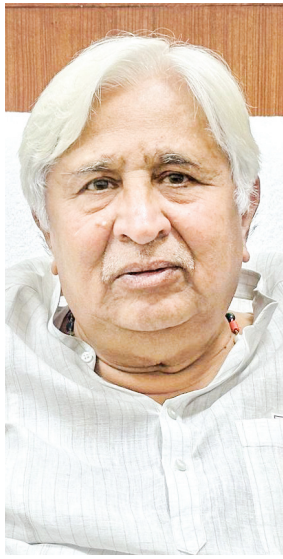
Karnataka Cabinet on Thursday approved an increase in the reservation quota for minority communities under various housing schemes from 10 per cent to 15 per cent.

Karnataka Minister HK Patil stated that this move does not require any new rules to be drafted.

“The reservation for all minority communities will be increased. There are Christians, Jains, Buddhists,” the Minister said.

Meanwhile, responding to the decision, BJP IT Cell chief Amit Malviya issued a scathing statement on social media, calling the decision “brazen,” “blatantly illegal,” and “unconstitutional”.

He said that for short-term political gains, “Congress is determined to sow the seeds of division, polarise communities, and rip apart the social fabric of



Karnataka.”

“This is brazen. Blatantly illegal and unconstitutional. There can be no reservation on the basis of religion -- the Constitution is unambiguous on this. Yet, the Congress government in Karnataka is hell-bent on pushing religious quotas to appease its vote bank. This isn’t governance, it’s dangerous social engineering.

Meanwhile, responding to the decision, BJP IT Cell chief Amit Malviya issued a scathing statement on social media, calling the decision “brazen,” “blatantly illegal,” and “unconstitutional”.

Congress is determined to sow the seeds of division, polarise communities, and rip apart the social fabric of Karnataka -- all for short-term political gain. Karnataka deserves better,” he said.

The move will apply to all housing schemes implemented by the Urban and Rural Development Departments across the state.

Honey-trapping: Police arrest social media influencer

TDG NETWORK
SURAT

Gujarat Police arrested social media influencer Kirti Patel, with a following of more than one million followers on Instagram, who had been absconding for over 10 months after allegedly honey-trapping a builder.

Alok Kumar, Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Zone-1, Surat, stated that an FIR had been registered for honey-trapping against Kirti Patel and five other accused, out of which four had been arrested.

He further stated that the accused influencer had been arrested based on the warrant produced before the court, and added that Patel had demanded a ransom of Rs 2 crore from a builder.

“In June 2024, an FIR



Kirti Patel

was registered for honey-trapping, and 5 accused were there, 4 were arrested while Kirti Patel was on the run for the last 10 months. We had arrested her based on the warrant issued by the court and produced her before the court. She has demanded a ransom of 2 crores from a builder,” Kumar said to the media. The investigation is ongoing and further details are awaited.

Shah to visit C'garh on June 22-23

TDG NETWORK
RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Sharma said on Thursday that Union Home Minister Amit Shah will visit the state on June 22-23 and gift the campus of the National Forensic Science University to Chhattisgarh.

Speaking to the media, Sharma said that ‘bhoomi poojan’ for the Chhattisgarh state forensic lab will also be done during Amit Shah’s visit.

“Union Home Minister Amit Shah will be in Chhattisgarh on 22-23. He will gift the National Forensic Science University to the state of Chhattisgarh. The state government has allotted 40 acres of land for setting up a National Forensic Science University campus in Naya Raipur. Forensics are of great importance in the three new laws that have come into existence (BNS, BNSS, and BSA). Bhoomi poojan for the Chhattisgarh state forensic lab will also



be done. He will also meet the relatives of Additional Superintendent of Police Akash Rao Giripunje,” Vijay Sharma said.

Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) Akash Rao Girpunje was killed in an IED blast in Sukma’s Konta area.

Recently, Amit Shah said that the country’s criminal justice system is entering a new era, underlining the importance of strong forensic institutions to ensure a secure, transparent, and evidence-based framework.

Shah inaugurated the new building of the Central Fo-

rensic Science Laboratory (CFSL) at Rajarhat in Kolkata on June 1.

In his address after the inauguration, Shah said, “The Indian government is creating a secure, transparent and evidence-based criminal justice system....it is necessary that those who stop crime should be two steps ahead of the criminals. Our criminal justice system is entering a new era.”

He further pointed out that the central government in 2020 established the first National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU), way before the three new criminal laws - BNS, BNSS and BSA - came into force.

He highlighted that eight such institutions have already been established nationwide, with eight more planned, emphasizing that graduates from these colleges will play a vital role in strengthening the state’s law and order.

“We have extended help to every state to establish a forensic van in every district.

Telangana CM holds all-party meeting to oppose Godavari-Banakacherla project

TDG NETWORK
HYDERABAD

Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy held an all-party meeting with Irrigation Minister Uttam Kumar and Union Minister Kishan Reddy regarding the Godavari-Banakacherla Water Project.

CM Revanth Reddy targeted former CM K Chandrashekar Rao and opposed the Godavari-Banakacherla

Project.

Addressing a press conference on Wednesday, Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy exposed the former BRS Government’s dole of Godavari waters to Andhra Pradesh.

He made public the recorded evidence that established the facts about the arrangement entered into by both governments after protracted deliberations between then

Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao and then Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy.

According to a press release by Telangana CMO, CM Revanth Reddy launched a scathing attack on the erstwhile KCR Government for pledging the river water interests of Telangana to Andhra Pradesh voluntarily.

The Chief Minister will be leading an all-party delega-



Revanth Reddy during an all-party meeting on the Banakacherla project. ANI

tion to New Delhi to meet the Union Minister for Water Resources to voice the serious objection of Telangana over the proposed Banakacherla project by the Government of Andhra Pradesh which would cause an irrevocable loss to the interests of Telangana.

Addressing media persons soon after an all-party meeting, convened by him here on Wednesday, the Chief

Minister narrated the sequence of the events that led to the agreements that were completely detrimental to the interest of Telangana.

He exposed how KCR had vowed to convert “Rayalaseema into Ratanala Seema (land of gems)” by letting Godavari water into the basins of the Krishna and Penna, at the expense of Telangana’s interests, the press release said.

When N Chandrababu Naidu was the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh in 2016, KCR, in his capacity as the Chief Minister of Telangana, compromised the interests of our people and state pulled by proposing at the Apex Council meeting that there was an excess water available to an extent of 3,000 tmc feet in the Godavari of which 1,000 tmc ft was going to waste into the Bay of Bengal.

DELHI GOVT PLANS MASS OUTREACH CAMPAIGN FOR INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST DRUG ABUSE

To mark International Day Against Drug Abuse, Delhi government plans large-scale outreach across schools and vulnerable communities.

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Delhi government will launch a city-wide campaign involving awareness drives, street plays and student engagement to mark the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking on June 26, Social Welfare Minister Ravinder Indraj Singh said.

In an official statement, Singh said the campaign will be jointly implemented by the social welfare, police and education departments, focusing on reaching marginalised and vulnerable communities.

Addressing a review meeting with senior officials, the minister said coordinated efforts were essential to realise the goal of a “drug-free, healthy

KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF THE CAMPAIGN

- 64 hotspots identified across Delhi for street plays to spread awareness on the dangers of drug addiction
- School-level engagement with poster exhibitions, motivational talks, and interactive youth activities
- Public outreach via radio jingles, cinema ads, and audiovisual displays in public spaces
- NSS & NCC involvement to boost on-ground participation and expand campaign reach in local communities.



and empowered Delhi”. As part of the campaign, 64 hotspots across the city will be identified for street play performances to spread awareness about the harmful effects of drug

abuse, the statement said. Singh also stressed the need to engage students at the school level through poster exhibitions, motivational talks and other interactive activities.

“Drug addiction affects not just individuals but entire families, physically, mentally and financially,” he said, adding that awareness among the youth is key to prevention.

He urged that public messaging be strengthened through radio jingles, cinema hall screenings and audiovisual displays at public places.

Students from the National Service Scheme (NSS) and National Cadet Corps (NCC) will also be roped in for on-ground outreach and activities, the statement added.

District-level social welfare teams have been directed to work in close coordination with local MLAs and district magistrates to ensure that the campaign is effective and widely accessible, it said.

“This is not just a campaign, it is a social movement. We need active participation from schools, civil society and voluntary organisations to bring lasting change,” the minister said.

Thousands attended job fair held on Rahul’s birthday, over 5,000 jobs offered: IYC

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Indian Youth Congress (IYC) on Thursday claimed that thousands of young job seekers turned up at its job fair held at the Talkatora Stadium here to mark the 55th birthday of Rahul Gandhi, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha.

Calling the event a “historic platform for employment,” the IYC said that over 100 companies participated in the fair, offering more than 5,000 job opportunities.

“Preparations were in full swing in every corner... and now history is being made. Talkatora Stadium has become the biggest platform for employment today,” the youth wing said in a post on X.

Sharing videos of large crowds, the IYC emphasised, “This is neither an election rally nor a religious gathering. This is a crowd of



IYC National President Uday Bhanu Chib remarked that the turnout was proof of the youth’s desperation for employment.

thousands of youth looking for employment. When the platform is of opportunity, every step moves towards hope.” IYC National President Uday Bhanu Chib remarked that the turnout was proof of the youth’s desperation for employment.

“These people are not affiliated with any political party. They are students who

have studied hard but are still jobless. For many, this is the first real opportunity in the past 11 years,” he said. Chib also pointed out that as the Congress is currently in Opposition, no government jobs could be offered at the fair. “If we were in power, job fairs like this would include government jobs too,” he added.

Delhi HC upholds acquittal in POCSO case

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has upheld the acquittal of an accused in a rape case, saying the trial court had rightly highlighted a “big doubt” on the woman’s version of the alleged incident.

Justice Amit Mahajan was hearing the state government’s plea against a March 2018 verdict of the trial court acquitting the accused under Sections 376 (rape) and 506 (criminal intimidation) of IPC.

In an order on June 17, the judge said, “It is trite law that the accused can be convicted solely based on evidence of the prosecutrix as long as the same inspires confidence and corroboration is not necessary for the same. However, the

testimony of the prosecutrix is full of inconsistencies, and the same does not inspire confidence.”

The high court said the FIR was registered after a 10-day delay and the prosecution failed to provide any suitable explanation for it.

Thought the incident took place on April 1, 2015, the woman alert the police until April 10 and continued to work in the accused’s factory, raising suspicion about her conduct.

“Further, the fact that the wife of the accused was aware of the entire incident and would still compel the prosecutrix to join back (work in the factory) creates a big doubt regarding her (alleged victim’s) version of the alleged incident.

Bungalow No. 5, Sunehri Bagh Road now Rahul’s new address

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Bungalow No. 5, Sunehri Bagh Road, will be Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi’s new address and he has started the process of shifting on the occasion of his birthday on Thursday but will start living there before the next Parliament session, party sources said.

Gandhi has agreed to have 5, Sunehri Bagh Road as his official residence, they said.

He started shifting his belongings from Thursday to the new accommodation, the sources said.

Gandhi will start living in that bungalow in a few days from now before the Monsoon Session of Parliament begins on July 21, they said.

Last year, parliamentary sources had said Gandhi had been offered the bun-



galow and a response is awaited from his end.

Since Gandhi became an MP, his residence had been 12, Tughlaq Lane. However, he had vacated that house after he was disqualified from Lok Sabha in 2023, following his conviction in a defamation case.

Gandhi then moved into the 10, Janpath residence of his mother Sonia Gandhi and has been living there even after his disqualifica-

tion was revoked.

With Gandhi becoming the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, he is entitled to a Type 8 bungalow as he holds the rank of a Cabinet minister.

The Sunhari Bagh residence was earlier occupied by Karnataka BJP leader A. Narayanaswamy.

He was the Minister of State for Social Justice in the Modi government from 2021 to 2024.

'Magenta line services delayed between Botanical Garden-Kalkaji Mandir'

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) on Thursday said that train services on the Magenta Line between Botanical Garden and Kalkaji Mandir were experiencing delays.

In a post on social media platform X, DMRC wrote, “Magenta Line Update: Delay in services between Botanical Garden and Kalkaji Mandir. The inconvenience is regretted.”

“Passengers are requested to use other lines. Normal service on all other lines,” read a post on X by the DMRC.

The DMRC has not provided any reason for the delay or specified when normal services are expected to resume.

Earlier this week, ser-



vices on the Blue Line experienced delays between Karol Bagh and Kirti Nagar stations. DMRC had made a similar announcement on X: “Blue Line Update: Delay in services between Karol Bagh and Kirti Nagar. Normal service on all other lines.” Prior to that, on June 9, operations were hindered on the Pink Line after a fire incident at the Trilokpuri Sanjay Lake Metro Station. According to the DMRC, the fire originated in one of the

technical rooms, prompting trains in that section to operate at a restricted speed of 25 km/h—significantly slower than the usual 40 km/h.

“Train services on Line-7 (Pink Line i.e. Majlis Park to Shiv Vihar), are being regulated on a small stretch since 11:20 AM today due to smoke being detected in one of the technical rooms at Trilok Puri-Sanjay Lake Metro station,” the DMRC had posted in a series of updates.

Flight carrying over 100 Indian students evacuated from war-torn Iran lands in Delhi

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The first batch of Indian students evacuated from war-ravaged Iran arrived in Delhi in the early hours of Thursday. A special flight brought back 110 students who had been moved to Armenia following escalating hostilities between Iran and Israel.

The evacuation, part of ‘Operation Sindhu’ launched by the Indian government, was facilitated by the Indian Embassy in Tehran. As tensions rose in the region, students were escorted across the border into Armenia before being flown home.

Minister of State for External Affairs Kirti Vardhan Singh confirmed ongoing



evacuation efforts.

“We have planes ready. Another aircraft will be sent today. We are also evacuating people from Turkmenistan. Our missions are operating 24/7 lines for assistance, and as the situation develops, more flights will be arranged,” he said.

Singh expressed gratitude to the governments of Turkmenistan and Armenia for their support.

Among the returnees was Varta, a student from Kashmir.

“We were the first to be evacuated. The situation in Iran was very tense—we were terrified. But the Indian government and the embassy acted swiftly. When they reached our doorstep, it felt like home,” she said, adding that Armenian officials were also extremely cooperative.

Mir Khalif, an MBBS student, described the conditions in Iran as dire.

“We saw missiles. Our neighbourhood was bombed. We were afraid for our lives. I hope we never experience that again,” he said, urging the government to rescue students still stranded.

Ali Akbar, another student from Delhi, recalled witnessing a missile and drone fall near their bus.

“What’s being shown in the news is true. Tehran is in ruins,” he said.

Outside the airport, parents anxiously waited for their children.

Haider Ali, whose 21-year-old son Maaz Haider was among those rescued, thanked the government.

Delhi man held after 13 years for murder over cousin’s relationship

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

A 45-year-old man has been arrested who had been on the run for 13 years after allegedly kidnapping and then killing a man in north Delhi’s Burari area over a relationship with his cousin sister, police said on Thursday.

The accused, Rajeev, a resident of Prem Nagar, had been absconding since 2013 after jumping interim bail and had been changing his identity and location to evade arrest, they said.

According to police, Rajeev was arrested in connection with the kidnapping and murder of 22-year-old Sunil Kumar.

“The case was registered on January 4, 2010, follow-



ing a missing complaint filed by the victim’s father on December 27, 2009. Later, body of Sunil was recovered from Ghaziabad,” Deputy Commissioner of Police (Crime Branch) Harsh Indora said in a statement.

The officer further said that Rajeev, along with his associates Lakhan and his father Rameshwar Dyal, murdered Sunil over a love

affair between him and Rajeev’s cousin. Following the murder, the trio allegedly dumped the body in a village. All three were initially arrested and sent to judicial custody.

While the other two remained in jail, Rajeev was granted interim bail in February 2013 on humanitarian grounds after the death of his mother. He, however,

failed to surrender later, the DCP said.

He was subsequently declared a proclaimed offender by a local court in September 2013.

Police said that Rajeev was tracked to Bengaluru where he was living under a false identity as Bobby and working as a driver.

“We received a tip-off that he would visit his house in Prem Nagar on June 18. A raid was conducted, and the accused was apprehended. During interrogation, Rajeev reportedly admitted to fleeing to Nepal after securing bail and staying there for several months before relocating to Bengaluru. He worked various jobs under different names to conceal his identity,” said the DCP.

2 held from Punjab for duping Delhi woman of Rs 21 lakh in online scam

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police arrested two men for allegedly duping a woman of Rs 21 lakh in an online investment fraud, an official said on Thursday.

Pawan (29), from Chandigarh and Mankiraat (36) from Firozpur in Punjab, travelled to Nepal in connection with the crime and were allegedly operating under the guidance of Chinese nationals, the police



said.

Several incriminating items, including an ATM card, chequebook, passbook and SIM card linked

to the alleged account and a mobile handset used in the crime, were recovered.

Hotel bills from Nepal and air tickets linked to their

Meenakshi, who was in contact with the fraudsters only through social media, transferred the money in three transactions to their accounts.

travel were also seized from their possession.

“A complaint was received from Meenakshi Sharma, a resident of Ashok Vihar, who alleged that she was duped of Rs 21 lakh by

fraudsters who promised her lucrative returns on share market investments,” Deputy Commissioner of Police (Northwest) Bhisham Singh said in a statement.

The men shared a fake

trading application with her that mimicked the interface of a genuine brokerage platform, showing manipulated profit and investment details, Singh added.

Meenakshi, who was in contact with the fraudsters only through social media, transferred the money in three transactions to their accounts.

The DCP further informed that the digital footprints of both men helped the team

in identifying them. Subsequently, they were traced to a flat in Sunny Enclave in the Kharar area of Mohali in Punjab and apprehended.

“During questioning, it emerged that Pawan was in contact with Chinese nationals via social media and was providing them bank accounts opened in the names of unsuspecting people for a commission,” Singh stated.

Mankiraat, facing finan-

cial distress, opened an account in his wife’s name by manipulating address details, the police said, adding that the account was later used to receive proceeds of the crime.

The duo had travelled to Nepal, where they allegedly received the defrauded money with help from their foreign handlers, the police stated.

Further investigation is underway in the case.

INDIA'S CONSTITUTION PLAYED MAJOR ROLE IN ADVANCING SOCIO-ECONOMIC JUSTICE: CJI

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India BR Gavai on Thursday said that the Indian Constitution has given us the vision, tools, and moral guidance and has shown us that law can indeed be a tool for social change, a force for empowerment, and a protector of the vulnerable.

Speaking at the Milan Court of Appeal, Italy, on the topic "Role of Constitution in Delivering Socio-Economic Justice in a Country: Reflections from 75 Years of Indian Constitution," CJI Gavai said that the journey of the Indian Constitution over the past 75 years in delivering socio-economic justice is a story of great ambition and important success.

"Affirmative action policies in education, which sought to correct historical injustices and ensure representation of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and socially and educationally backward



classes, have been a concrete expression of the Constitution's commitment to substantive equality and socio-economic justice," he said.

CJI said that Constitution is not just a political document for governance, but was a "revolutionary statement", giving a ray of hope to a country coming out of long years of colonial rule, suffering from

poverty, inequality, and social divisions.

He took pride in stating that the framers of the Indian Constitution were deeply conscious of the imperative of socio-economic justice while drafting its provisions.

"The framing of the Indian Constitution set a profound precedent for democratic governance in the post-colonial world.

India's Constitution became a model for other emerging nations striving to build inclusive and participatory governance structures," said the CJI.

In his lecture, CJI said that as we look back on these 75 years, there is no doubt that the Indian Constitution has strived for the change in the life of the common people.

"To summarise, several

aspects of the Directive Principles were made enforceable by reading or legislating them as a facet of the fundamental rights.

While Parliament took a lead by way of legislation and constitutional amendments, the Supreme Court has consistently worked to transform socio-economic rights, ranging from education to livelihood, into enforceable fundamental rights, which were then given effect by the Parliament," he added.

"In other words, the journey of the Indian Constitution over the past 75 years in delivering socio-economic justice is a story of great ambition and important successes. To take an example, the earliest initiatives undertaken by the Indian Parliament immediately after the adoption of the Constitution included land and agrarian reform laws and affirmative action policies for backward classes. The impact of these initiatives is clearly visible today," CJI further said.

Defence Ministry forms committee to review acquisition procedures

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

In light of the declaration of 2025 as the 'Year of Reforms,' the Ministry of Defence (MoD) has commenced a thorough evaluation of the Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020.

This review aims to ensure alignment with current policies and initiatives of the Government of India (GoI).

A Committee headed by the Director General (Acquisition) has been constituted to carry out extensive deliberations with all stakeholders, as stated in the release.

The Committee includes senior Defence Ministry officers, representatives from the Defence Industry, and Academia. The Ministry has also appointed former IAS officer Apurva Chandra (1980 batch), who previously served as DG (Acquisition), as the Principal Advisor to the Committee.

The panel has already begun consultations and has invited suggestions from



stakeholders by July 05, 2025, which can be sent to secy-dap2025[at]gov[dot]in.

The DAP Review aims to ensure the timely modernisation and operational readiness of the Armed Forces to safeguard national security while aligning acquisition processes with the Government of India's policies.

It seeks to foster Aatmanirbharta by promoting self-reliance through indigenously designed and developed systems, enabling the 'Make in India' initiative by encouraging domestic defence manufacturing. This includes facilitating joint ventures, technology transfers, and foreign direct investment

to attract global OEMs, positioning India as a hub for defence manufacturing and maintenance, repair, and overhaul. The review emphasises promoting design and development in both public and private sectors, with a special focus on startups, innovators, and the private defence industry to drive indigenous technology infusion.

Stakeholder suggestions are invited to propose policy and procedural changes to streamline acquisition processes, including categorisation, ease of doing business, trial conduct, post-contract management, fast-track procedures, and the integration of emerging technologies like AI.

Sonia Gandhi discharged from hospital

ANAND SINGH
NEW DELHI

Congress Parliamentary Party (CPP) chairperson Sonia Gandhi was on Thursday discharged from the hospital, five days after she was admitted for stomach related issues.

Sonia Gandhi, 78, was admitted to Sir Gangaram Hospital on June 15 evening for a stomach-related issue.

The hospital said that she has been discharged today after receiving treatment.

It also said that according to Dr. Ajay Swaroop, Chairman, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, Sonia Gandhi is stable and has been discharged from the hospital.

Doctors Dr. S. Nundy and Dr. Amitabh Yadav stated that she was admitted for an abdominal infection which has been treated with medications.

"Her condition has improved on conservative treatment and she is



planned for discharge today. She will continue further treatment as an out patient and will be monitored closely," the doctors added.

The former Congress chief was discharged in presence of her son and Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi.

Even her son-in-law Robert Vadra had visited her in the hospital on Monday morning to enquire about her health.

Just a week back, Sonia Gandhi, during her trip to Himachal Pradesh's Shimla was also admitted at IGMCH after she complained of high blood

It also said that according to Dr. Ajay Swaroop, Chairman, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, Sonia Gandhi is stable and has been discharged from the hospital.

Doctors Dr. S. Nundy and Dr. Amitabh Yadav stated that she was admitted for an abdominal infection which has been treated with medications.

pressure.

However, after conducting some tests and medications, she was discharged from the hospital on the same day. She had also undergone several tests at Sir Gangaram Hospital after returning from Shimla.

Cong faces hurdles in district-level rebuilding across key states

AJIT MAINDOLA
NEW DELHI

The Congress party's organisational rebuilding campaign, aimed at strengthening its grassroots network, is underway in multiple states including Rajasthan. However, the campaign has not progressed at the pace initially expected, with several internal and structural challenges slowing its implementation in key states such as Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, and Haryana.

Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi had personally flagged off the initiative in these states, directing that the process



be carried out impartially. Despite these efforts, infighting among senior leaders, especially in Madhya Pradesh and Haryana, has hampered progress. Only in Gujarat has the process moved relatively smoothly.

In Uttar Pradesh, where the party has been out of power for over three decades, the Congress is attempting to build the organisation from scratch. Due to the complexities involved,

the party has not taken any major steps yet in other states.

Following repeated defeats in Lok Sabha and state elections, the Congress high command resolved to rebuild the party from the ground up. A key component of this plan is to elevate the role of district presidents, granting them decision-making authority on par with working committee members. This includes

input on candidate selection and other strategic matters.

However, the party's trust in district presidents elected during the organisational polls three years ago appears limited. To identify more capable leaders, observers from other states have been deployed to review the performance of current district presidents and explore alternatives. But this process has also run into complications.

For example, in Haryana, an observer from a particular district was assigned to Madhya Pradesh. Upon arrival, the observer received no relevant information or cooperation from local party members.

Rahul gives surprise, reaches Cong headquarters to cut birthday cake

AJIT MAINDOLA
NEW DELHI

Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi turned 56 on Thursday and celebrated his birthday in an unusual but warm gesture — by cutting a cake with party staff and workers at the Congress headquarters at 24 Akbar Road.

Having recently returned from a tour of Europe, Rahul made a brief visit to the party office in the afternoon, where he interacted with employees and grassroots workers. Slogans of "Rahul Gandhi Zindabad" echoed in the premises, with party workers visibly enthusiastic to see their leader among them.

In a notable departure from past years, this was the first time Rahul Gandhi was in India on his birthday. He typically spends the day abroad, but this year he had returned before the occasion.

Congress general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal and other key officials were present, but the event was primarily attended by party staff and grassroots workers — adding an informal and personal touch.

Sources suggest the impromptu celebra-



tion may have been coordinated by Manish Chatrath, who was recently re-appointed as in-charge of the party headquarters. His appointment letter, issued a day earlier, didn't specify whether he would oversee the old headquarters at 24 Akbar Road or the new Indira Bhawan premises — both currently operational.

India's first hydrogen-powered buses to begin plying in Leh

TDG NETWORK
LEH/JAMMU

Five hydrogen fuel cell-based buses will soon begin to commercially ply in Leh district of the Union Territory of Ladakh, which has the highest motorable roads in the world.

The buses were formally handed over by National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) Limited to the State Industrial Development Corporation in a ceremony held at the green hydrogen mobility station in Palam, Leh, on Thursday.

The initiative marks the first-ever commercial deployment of hydrogen-powered buses in India. The deployment of these buses running on clean energy on the highest motorable roads in the world makes it a globally significant milestone towards green mo-

bility, officials said.

Following the formal flag-off of the hydrogen buses, Transport Department Administrative Secretary Bhupesh Chaudhary conducted a detailed inspection of the NTPC's green hydrogen plant, including its production, storage and dispensing systems.

He appreciated NTPC's efforts in implementing such a technologically advanced project in Ladakh's high-altitude terrain and noted its significance in furthering the administration's vision of a carbon-neutral Ladakh.

Chief Secretary Pawan Kotwal lauded NTPC's pioneering efforts and observed that the successful operationalisation of hydrogen buses in such extreme conditions could usher in a new era of hydrogen fuel cell mobility in India.

CISF trains firefighters across 22 states

ABHINANDAN MISHRA
NEW DELHI

The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), India's only Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) with a dedicated fire wing, has been spearheading a nationwide fire training program. During the CISF Raising Day 2023, the Union Home Minister in his address has tasked the CISF with training firefighters from 100 Indian cities.

Following this directive, the CISF designed a specialised course to upgrade the skills of state fire service personnel. Throughout 2023-24, the CISF's prestigious Fire Service Training Institute (FSTI) in Hyderabad conducted 11 training batches, training 274 personnel from 113



CSSR OPERATION PERFORMED BY BIHAR FIRE SERVICES

cities.

This momentum continued into 2025 with the allocation of five additional batches. Four of these have already been completed, benefiting 106 participants from 46 cities across 10 states. The fifth session is scheduled to begin on August 25, 2025. To date, this vital program has successfully trained 380 firefighters from a total of 150 cities across 22 States and Union Territories.

The CISF is also ready to

accommodate additional training slots in the 2025 calendar if states are willing to nominate their firefighters for the course.

The training curriculum has been designed to focus on modern firefighting and rescue techniques, alongside crucial disaster management skills. Special emphasis is placed on addressing the complex challenges posed by dense urban environments and hazardous industrial areas.

Monsoon moves into Bihar, eastern UP; heavy rains likely in many states

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Southwest Monsoon has further advanced into most parts of Bihar and some more regions of eastern Uttar Pradesh as of June 19, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD). According to the weather department, the deepening monsoon activity is set to bring very heavy to extremely heavy rainfall to isolated places across Guja-

rat, north Konkan, Madhya Maharashtra, West Bengal, and Odisha on Wednesday, with Jharkhand bracing for similar weather on both June 19 and 20.

In East and Central India, extremely heavy rainfall is likely at isolated places over Jharkhand on June 19.

In West India, extremely heavy rainfall is likely at isolated places over Konkan, ghat areas of Madhya Maharashtra, Gujarat Region on June 19.

In Northeast India, light to moderate rainfall at most places accompanied with thunderstorm, lightning and isolated heavy to very heavy rainfall will likely continue over Northeast India during next 7 days.

In Northwest India, isolated heavy rainfall likely over Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, East Rajasthan during June 19-25, JammuKashmir-Ladakh-Gilgit-Baltistan-Muzaffarabad on June 22-25th, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab



during June 21-25, Haryana, Chandigarh during June 20-25 with very heavy rainfall on West Uttar Pradesh on June 19, East Uttar Pradesh on June 20-21, East Rajasthan on June 19-23, Uttarakhand on June 22, Himachal Pradesh on June 22-25. In South Peninsular India, IMD forecast isolated heavy rainfall likely over Kerala and Mahe on June 19 and during 22-25, Coastal Karnataka on June 19 and during June 21-25.

Hot and humid conditions are very likely in isolated pockets of Tamil Nadu, Coastal Andhra Pradesh and Yanam, Rayalaseema during June 19-21. Earlier on Wednesday, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) of Bhubaneswar reported heavy rainfall across Odisha, with eight to nine places recording significant downpours in the last 24 hours. Manorama Mohanty, Director of IMD Bhubaneswar,

stated that a well-marked low-pressure area over Gangetic West Bengal and its neighbourhood, persisting as of 8.30 hours IST on June 18, is likely to bring substantial rainfall to the state over the next two to three days. "Heavy rainfall has occurred at eight to nine places in Odisha in the last 24 hours. A low-pressure area is formed over Gangetic West Bengal, which may cause the state to receive good rainfall in the next two to three days.

MARKETS FLAT ON MIDDLE EAST, FED CONCERNS, SENSEX SLIPS 82.79 PTS

Indian equities closed marginally lower Thursday amid Middle East unrest and cautious tone from the US Fed.

TDG NETWORK
MUMBAI

India's equity benchmarks remained muted on Thursday and ended with a marginal loss, possibly due to the ongoing geopolitical conflict in the Middle East and cautious signals from the US Federal Reserve, dampening investors' sentiment.

At the end of the trading session on Thursday, BSE Sensex settled at 81,361.87, slipping 82.79 points or 0.10 per cent, while Nifty 50 at National Stock Exchange (NSE) was down 18.80 points or 0.08 per cent at 24,793.25


Within the Nifty constituents, Tata Consumer, Eicher Motors, and Mahindra & Mahindra emerged as the

MARKET SNAPSHOT: KEY TAKEAWAYS THURSDAY'S TRADE

Benchmarks slip slightly: Sensex down 82.79 pts to 81,361.87; Nifty loses 18.80 pts to end at 24,793.25

Mixed sectoral trends: Nifty Auto was the only gainer; PSU Bank and Media indices led the losses

Breadth weak: Only 61 of 500 Nifty stocks advanced, while 438 declined amid broad-based selling pressure



top performers, offering some pockets of strength. In contrast, Adani Ports and Bajaj Finance weighed on the index, ending as top laggards.

From a sectoral perspective, Nifty Auto stood out as the sole gainer, while all other sectoral indices closed

in the red. Nifty PSU Bank and Nifty Media were the top losers.

The market breadth remained extremely weak, as evident from the advance-decline ratio skewed heavily in favour of decliners. Out of the Nifty 500 universe, only 61 stocks managed to end

in green, while a staggering 438 stocks closed lower, signalling deep-rooted selling pressure across the board.

Observing the market sentiment, Sudeep Shah, Head - Technical Research and Derivatives at SBI Securities said, "With major indices failing to show leadership

and broader markets losing key supports, the overall structure remains fragile, and a decisive trigger is needed to break the prevailing range-bound phase."

"The Indian market is currently in a state of indecision due to various macroeconomic factors. This uncertainty is also reflected in recent price movements, as Nifty formed a Doji high wave pattern on the daily timeframe," said VLA Ambala, Co-Founder of Stock Market Today.

She added, "The Fed's decision not to change interest rates represents a contrasting approach compared to the RBI and the government, who are confident about India's trade deals and the performance of the INR.

India records highest growth in power generation after US & China in last five years: IEA

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

India has emerged as a country with the third-largest growth in power generation capacity globally over the past five years, according to the latest report by the International Energy Agency (IEA).

Only China and the United States surpassed India in power generation growth during this period.

It said "India has seen the third-largest growth in power generation capacity in the world after China and the United States".

The report highlighted that India's electricity demand has been rising sharply due to several factors. These include the expansion of commercial and residential spaces, increased ownership of air conditioners and other household appliances, and growing demand from industries.

To meet this growing de-



funding for clean energy in 2024. The country received around USD 2.4 billion in project-specific funding aimed at boosting clean energy generation.

In terms of foreign investment, India has seen a steady rise in foreign direct investment (FDI) in the power sector. FDI reached USD 5 billion in 2023, nearly twice the level seen before the COVID-19 pandemic.

This growth is partly driven by government policies that allow 100 per cent FDI in all areas of electricity generation (except nuclear power) and transmission infrastructure.

However, the report also pointed out that foreign portfolio investment in India's energy sector has seen a decline in the past two years. This drop is attributed to a mix of macroeconomic and sector-specific challenges, though the long-term trend remains positive.

mand, power generation in the country has expanded across all energy sources.

The report mentioned that a major driver of this expansion has been the strong push towards renewable energy.

The report noted a significant increase in investments in clean energy, especially solar photovoltaic (PV) projects. In fact, solar PV alone accounted for more than half of the total non-fossil energy investment in India over the past five years. In 2024, as much as 83 per cent of power sector investment in the country went into clean energy initiatives.

India was also the largest recipient of development finance institution (DFI)

India's robust trade with G7 nations, except Canada, signals strong economic ties: Report

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

India has experienced a healthy and growing trade relations with G7 nations, outlining deepening economic engagement and cooperation, according to a report by data science company, Rubix.

G7 nations or the Group of Seven (G7) is an intergovernmental political and economic forum consisting of US, UK, Germany, France, Italy, Canada, and Japan.

Over a period, these G7 countries except Canada has emerged as India's top 30 trade destinations, adding to a stable and diversified export-import relationship.

On the exports side, cumulatively India's exports to G7 countries stood at a value of USD 138 billion in FY25, reflecting an increase of 13 per cent



CAGR between FY21 and FY25. While imports were at USD 110 billion for the same time period, which is a rise 12 per cent CAGR between FY21 and FY25.

Total trade (exports + imports) with G7 countries cumulatively stood at USD 248 billion in FY25 and has increased at 13% CAGR between FY21 and FY25.

"India had a trade surplus (exports minus imports) of USD 28 billion in FY25 at an aggregate level with G7 countries and this has recorded a 16%

CAGR between FY21 and FY25. India enjoys a trade surplus with 4 of the G7 countries namely the US, Italy, France and UK," the report revealed.

Share of goods exports to G7 nations has increased from 29% in FY20 to 31% in FY25, whereas the share of imports from G7 countries have declined from 18% in FY20 to 15% in FY25.

Sector-wise, Telecom transmission equipment, including mobile phones, and pharmaceuticals are among the most frequently exported products from India to G7 countries. They play an important role in India's trade basket, with their shares ranging from 5% - 16% and 7% - 12% respectively.

Additionally, India's pharmaceutical sector is a key supplier to G7 countries, meeting over 50% of global vaccine needs, 40% of generic demand in the US, and 25% of total medicine consumption in the UK.

Brent to stay at \$70/bbl in FY26 despite Israel-Iran conflict

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Despite recent volatility and rising conflicts between Israel and Iran, Brent crude oil prices are expected to average around USD 70 per barrel in FY26, according to a report by Emkay Research.

The report stated that the oil markets remain fundamentally well supplied, with rising production levels from both OPEC+ and non-OPEC+ countries.

It said "we continue to assume Brent price at USD70/bbl for FY26. Fundamentally, oil markets are well supplied with rising production." This steady



supply is expected to help stabilise prices in the coming weeks, even though geopolitical risks may cause short-term volatility. The report noted that Israel's attack on Iranian nuclear sites and personnel had initially triggered a sharp 12-13 per cent jump in oil prices, with Brent reaching close to USD 80/

bbl. Since then, prices have settled around USD 75/bbl, despite ongoing attacks from both sides. Iran has responded by hitting Israeli cities with missiles, and Israel has intensified its strikes on Iran. Signals from the US administration regarding a ceasefire remain unclear.

Fitch: Large Indian NBFCs growing fast

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

India's non-bank financial institutions (NBFI) are growing strongly, with large lenders leading the way, says Fitch Ratings.

These institutions offer a wide range of financial services, and their credit ratings depend on how strong and stable their business models and finances are.

According to Fitch, large NBFI with a proven track record are earning more trust from investors and lenders. This growing confidence is helping them stay ahead of smaller players in the sector.

By the end of September 2024, 17 major NBFI tracked by Fitch had increased their share of the total loan market to 38 per cent, up from 30 per cent in March 2022. These leading lenders recorded an annual loan growth rate of 20 per cent during this period, much higher than the 9 per



cent growth rate of the overall NBFI sector.

These big NBFI have also become financially stronger. Their debt-to-equity ratio -- a measure of how much they borrow compared to their own funds -- dropped from 4.5 times in 2021 to 4.3 times by mid-financial year 2025.

This improvement came from raising more capital and keeping profits within the business, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Lower debt levels help reduce the risk of financial trouble if loan repayments slow down. Fitch expects this trend to continue, with most NBFI using their earnings to fund future growth rather than paying out large dividends.

Despite slower global economic growth, India's NBFI sector continues to expand. The sector includes a wide variety of companies offering different types of loans.

In cities, competition is tough for secured loans like home or car loans. But in rural areas, some NBFI face less competition from banks. However, higher costs and greater credit risks in rural lending can affect profitability, depending on how well the loans are managed.

Fitch also highlights that the type of loans an NBFI focuses on plays a big role in its success. Those with deep experience and large operations in specific segments tend to have more stable and sustainable businesses.

Many NBFI lend to non-prime customers -- people who may not get easy loans from banks -- which can help them earn higher margins, unless banks enter the same market.

Oil surge poses new challenges for Indian airlines

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Indian airlines are facing renewed pressure on profitability as escalating tensions in the Middle East threaten to push global crude oil prices to USD 100 per barrel, according to a report by Nuvama.

The report highlighted that the geopolitical rift, particularly the Israel-Iran standoff, could potentially lead to a closure of the Strait of Hormuz, a key global oil supply route responsible for about 15 per cent of total oil shipments.

Even a perceived 30 per cent risk of closure has already nudged oil prices closer to USD 85 per barrel, and further escalation could push it to USD 100.

It stated, "Geopolitical headwind for Indian carriers... The Israel-Iran tensions could cause oil prices

to spike USD100/bbl due to the potential closure of the Strait of Hormuz"

For Indian carriers, which operate on tight margins, the report stated that this development is especially concerning.

The report highlighted that historical data reveal that IndiGo, India's largest airline by market share, has struggled to pass on the burden of higher fuel costs to passengers.

Its EBITDAR margin has typically dropped during prolonged oil price spikes. As per the sensitivity analysis in the report, a USD 10 per barrel rise in oil prices could dent IndiGo's estimated FY26 EBITDAR by 17 per cent.

In addition to the crude oil impact, ongoing airspace restrictions due to tensions between India and Pakistan are compounding challenges for Indian airlines.

Fix execution gaps to drive India auto's next decade, warns report

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

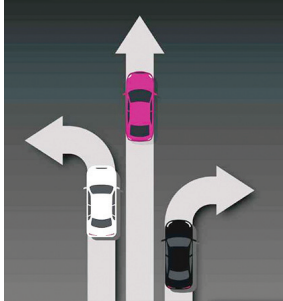
India's Auto industry could fall behind in the global race if it doesn't fix serious internal execution problems, according to a new study by Vector Consulting Group.

The report warns that automakers and suppliers must change how they work together to meet the challenges of the coming decade, especially with the shift to electric vehicles (EVs).

Based on conversations with over 100 senior executives from carmakers and Tier-1 suppliers, the study reveals that 88 per cent of auto component suppliers in India are struggling with a shortage of R&D capacity.

Many established automakers are facing delays of up to 24 months in their EV programs, not because of a lack of vision or technology, but due to problems in execution.

Ravindra Patki, Manag-



ing Partner at Vector Consulting Group, said, "The bottleneck is internal: poor coordination, capacity mismatches, and execution blind spots. To thrive in this new era, the industry must rethink how it works -- not just what it builds."

The report points out that many automakers are trying to run both EV and traditional fuel (ICE) vehicle programs using the same teams and systems.

Engineering, procurement, and testing departments are often shared across both, causing delays and repeated work. Even dedicated EV teams depend on old processes, which

slows them down.

Suppliers are also feeling the pressure. They're expected to handle multiple complicated projects from various carmakers, often without clear forecasts or timelines. This leads to last-minute changes in design, higher risks, rising costs, and overworked engineering teams.

"If OEMs want reliable delivery, they must involve suppliers early, align them on product priorities, and integrate them into the decision-making process -- not just the sourcing cycle," added Patki.

The study also highlights problems faced by EV start-ups. While they don't have the burden of managing older vehicle programs, many still overpromise launch dates and depend too much on digital fixes like over-the-air (OTA) updates after the vehicle is released. This quick-fix approach can damage customer trust and raise long-term costs.

India's new gold loan regulations to reshape lending landscape: S&P Global

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

S&P Global Ratings anticipates that the new regulations in Gold-Backed Loans will necessitate business model adjustments for lenders, with nimble players likely to gain a competitive edge.

India's booming gold-backed loan sector is poised for significant changes with

the introduction of new regulations, expected to be fully implemented by April 1, 2026.

A key change involves the inclusion of interest payments until maturity in the calculation of Loan-to-Value (LTV) ratios, which could reduce the initial loan amount disbursed to borrowers.

Additionally, credit appraisals for consumption-

focused loans exceeding USD 3,000 and all income-generating loans will now require a cash flow analysis of borrowers, a departure from the traditional reliance on collateral valuation.

The new rules also aim to enhance customer protection by standardizing the regulatory framework and addressing prudential and conduct gaps. This includes



clearer guidelines on collateral handling and auction

processes, mandating the return of pledged collat-

eral and auction surpluses to borrowers within seven working days.

Disbursements above INR 20,000 (approximately USD 231) will now be made directly to borrowers' bank accounts. The RBI is also emphasizing greater transparency in interest rate and fee disclosures and scrutinizing the outsourcing of core financial services.

This shift will particularly

impact nonbank financial companies (NBFCs) with large gold loan portfolios, such as Muthoot Finance Ltd. and Manappuram Finance Ltd., as they will need to invest in developing new risk management policies and training loan officers.

Despite these adjustments, operational agility and service excellence, including quick and seamless loan disbursement, will re-

main crucial differentiators for lenders. NBFCs' strong customer relationships and investments in analytics are expected to help them maintain competitiveness.

While these new models offer opportunities, they also introduce risks, particularly the heightened sensitivity to sharp corrections in gold prices if higher LTV norms are adopted for income-producing loans.

TRANSFORMING CLASSROOMS WITH AI

A RETHINK ON INDIA'S STEM REVOLUTION CATALYSTS AND CONTRADICTIONS: AI, EQUITY AND FUTURE OF STEM IN INDIA

OPINION

PROF. RAGHAVENDRA P. TIWARI



India's developmental ambitions, epitomised by the vision of developed nation, are inextricably linked to the effective integration of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education with frontier technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI). While India boasts one of the world's largest pools of STEM graduates and a demographic dividend skewed towards youth, these advantages risk remaining notional unless underpinned by sustained investments in quality, contextual relevance, and ethical governance of AI-driven pedagogy. The critical issue, therefore, is not simply the adoption of AI in education, but rather how inclusively, equitably, and ethically AI is being embedded within India's heterogeneous educational landscape.

Despite a proliferation of policy pronouncements and pilot initiatives, the mainstreaming of AI in STEM education is beset by persistent disparities. Digital access remains uneven, with infrastructure deficit particularly acute in rural and marginal geographies. Faculty preparedness and

pedagogical innovation lag technological advancements, raising concerns about the capacity of mentors to meaningfully integrate AI tools into classroom environment. Moreover, curriculum reform has often been incremental and fragmented, failing to keep pace with the rapidly evolving demands of the knowledge economy. These structural impediments threaten to reproduce, rather than redress, existing inequities—risking a scenario in which AI-enabled learning becomes prerogative of the privileged.

A critical assessment of India's AI-STEM interface must therefore move beyond celebratory narratives of technological leapfrogging to engage with the deeper structural and normative conditions shaping this transition. Policy frameworks must foreground issues of access, affordability, and cultural relevance, ensuring that AI integration does not exacerbate social and educational divides. Pedagogical interventions should be rooted in evidence-based practices, prioritising critical thinking, creativity, and ethical reasoning over rote automation. Furthermore, infrastructural investments must be accompanied by robust capacity-building for educators and sustained engagement with local contexts.

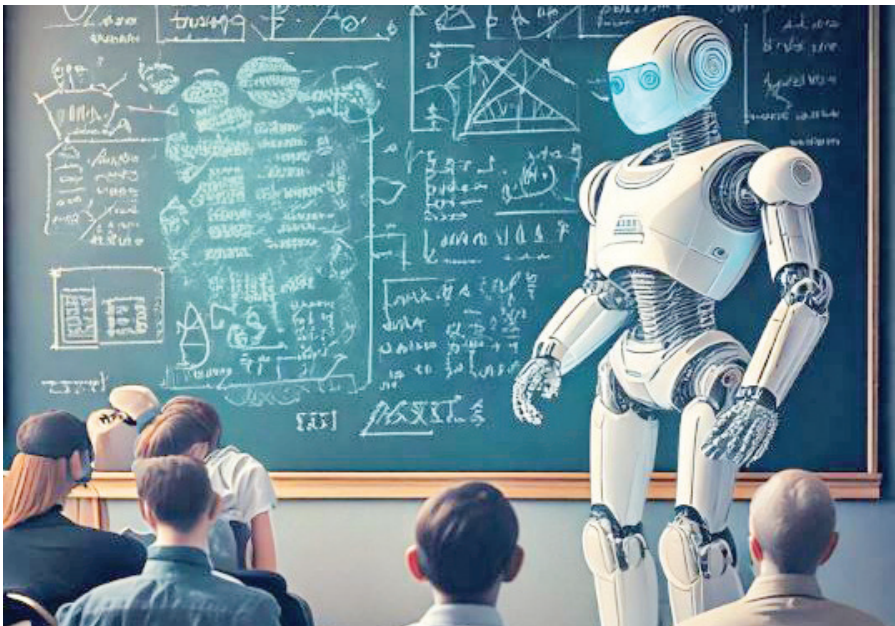
SOCIO-CULTURAL DIVERSITY, DIGITAL DIVIDES, AND ETHICAL GAPS
While AI offers the promise

of personalized and inclusive learning, most existing systems are not adequately equipped to address India's linguistic plurality, regional variations, and diverse pedagogical traditions. As a result, there is a real danger that AI-enabled education will deliver a homogenized experience, overlooking the lived realities and cultural contexts of students from different backgrounds. Efforts to develop vernacular and context-sensitive AI tools remain limited and are often concentrated in urban or elite spaces, leaving rural and marginalized communities underserved.

Current policy initiatives, including those outlined in the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, formally recognize the need for ethical AI deployment and bridging digital divides. However, the translation of these commitments into practice remains inconsistent. Digital infrastructure is still uneven, with many government and rural schools lacking basic connectivity and devices. Teacher training on AI integration is also inadequate, further deepening the digital divide. Thus operationalizing this across a vast and diverse education system is a significant challenge. Consequently, the benefits of AI-driven education are at risk of accruing primarily to already advantaged groups, exacerbating rather than alleviating existing inequities.

DEMOGRAPHIC DIVIDEND DILEMMA: QUALITY VS. SPEED IN STEM EDUCATION

The prioritization of technological acceleration in STEM education, without a commensurate focus on quality and contextual relevance, poses significant risks. Over-reliance on AI may side-line the irreplaceable human elements of education—such as empathy,



mentorship, and cultural connect—essentials for holistic learning. AI, no matter how advanced, cannot fully replicate the nuanced understanding and adaptability that skilled mentors bring to India's diverse classrooms. If technological solutions are prioritized without parallel investments in pedagogy, curriculum reform, and teacher empowerment, superficial modernization will fail to foster genuine engagement, creativity, and critical thinking among students.

India's emphasis on its demographic dividend does not, by itself, guarantee inclusive or equitable AI-enabled learning. This advantage may be realized through targeted measures to address infrastructural gaps, faculty readiness, and socio-cultural barriers. Policy frameworks must move beyond demographic optimism and technological determinism to ensure that AI integration is grounded in equity, access, and cultural relevance. This requires sustained investment in digital infrastructure, robust teacher training, and the development of AI tools that are linguistically and culturally adaptive. Without such recalibration, the promise of

AI in STEM education may deepen rather than bridge educational divides, and the demographic dividend may remain unfulfilled.

AI AND THE TRANSFORMATION OF STEM LEARNING

The integration of AI into the educational landscape has generated considerable debate regarding its potential to enhance the understanding of STEM subjects. AI's promise lies in its ability to personalise learning, adapt to individual student needs, and provide real-time feedback, thereby potentially transforming the rigid, one-size-fits-all model that has long plagued STEM education. Adaptive learning platforms powered by AI can diagnose students' strengths and weaknesses, offering tailored contents and upscaling that may help bridge learning gaps. Furthermore, AI-enabled simulations and virtual laboratories can democratise access to experiential learning, which is often constrained by inadequate infrastructure. These technological interventions could foster deeper conceptual understanding and encourage critical thinking, moving STEM education beyond

rote memorisation.

The current status of STEM education in India, however, is marked by both progress and persistent challenges. The NEP 2020 has provided a much-needed impetus to STEM education, emphasising experiential learning and integration of technology from the early years of schooling. India has one of the largest cohorts of STEM graduates but this quantitative expansion need to be translated into quality. Apart from digital divide, gender disparities are also pronounced, with women constituting only a modest proportion of STEM cohort and an even smaller share of the STEM workforce. Moreover, the curriculum often remains disconnected from real-world applications and rapidly evolving industry needs, leading to a mismatch between educational outcomes and workplace requirements.

LEARNING BEYOND BOUNDARIES: AI AS A CATALYST FOR FUTURE THINKERS

Although AI-enabled platforms have the potential to transform classrooms into centres of inquiry and innovation, prevailing disparities

hinder their effective utilization. To address these challenges, policymakers must move beyond pilot projects and adopt a systemic approach: first, by mandating AI literacy and ethics across all levels of the school curriculum, as outlined in the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, and ensuring that AI is not merely an add-on but a core component of digital and scientific learning. Second, targeted public investment is essential for bridging the digital divide through mobile AI labs, offline content delivery, and partnerships with industry and NGOs. Third, a national AI teacher training policy should be established, making AI training compulsory in B.Ed. programs and annual upskilling with resources tailored for low-connectivity environments.

FOSTERING CRITICAL AND ENTREPRENEURIAL CAPACITIES: REGULATORY AND ETHICAL IMPERATIVES

Policy must also address the regulatory and ethical dimensions of AI in education. The rapid deployment of AI tools raises urgent concerns about data privacy, algorithmic bias, and academic integrity. The forthcoming Digital India Act and the establishment of an AI Centre of Excellence in Education are steps in the right direction, but must be accompanied by enforceable standards for transparency, regular audits, and clear protocols for data protection and learner welfare. Collaboration between government, academia, and industry is vital to develop context-sensitive AI applications that reflect India's linguistic and cultural diversity, while ongoing research should help evolve adaptive curricula and assessment systems. Ultimately, AI's promise as a catalyst for

critical thinking and entrepreneurial skills will only be realized if its integration is governed by strong compliance frameworks, sustained funding, and a commitment to inclusive, contextually-relevant educational reform.

Conclusion: Towards Inclusive and Contextual AI in STEM Education

The transformative promise of AI in Indian STEM education will not be realized through technological determinism alone, but through a deliberate, inclusive, and ethically anchored strategy. India's journey toward developed nation hinges on moving beyond pilot projects and fragmented reforms to address foundational questions of equity, quality, and governance. Policymakers must prioritize sustained investment in digital infrastructure to bridge regional and socio-economic divides, for making AI-driven learning accessible to all. Mandating AI literacy and ethics across curricula, and embedding teacher training are essential for meaningful classroom integration. Regulatory frameworks, such as the Digital India Act, must be urgently strengthened to safeguard data privacy, ensure algorithmic fairness, and promote transparency. Collaboration with teachers, researchers, and industry is vital for developing context-sensitive, multilingual AI tools and adaptive curricula. Targeted interventions to promote diversity and inclusion—especially for girls and disadvantage group—will be the key. Only through such comprehensive, equity-driven reforms, AI can become a genuine catalyst for innovation, social mobility, and a future-ready STEM education system in India.

*Views are personal.
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Pakistan and the farce of Ummah: When betrayal becomes a habit

OPINION

SIDDHARTHA DAVE



As the United States and Israel reportedly strategize a potential ground assault on Iran through covert operations and regional partnerships, one name resurfaces — Pakistan. The recent lunch hosted by former U.S. President Donald Trump for Pakistan's Army Chief General Asim Munir has sparked questions across diplomatic and strategic circles. Is Pakistan once again becoming a staging ground for foreign operations in the Muslim world? And more importantly, can

Pakistan ever be trusted — even by the so-called Islamic Ummah it pretends to lead?

This question acquires urgency in light of Bharat's ongoing Operation Sindoor, a bold and self-defined military-diplomatic offensive reshaping South Asia's strategic posture. As Prime Minister Narendra Modi asserted in his 35-minute call with Trump, India shall not tolerate terrorism as proxy war anymore — it will treat it as war itself. No space for ambiguity. And no space for so-called third-party mediation — a direct rebuke to any whispers of American "peace initiatives" involving Pakistan.

THE TRUMP-MUNIR LUNCH: A TELLTALE SIGNAL

In diplomacy, symbolism often speaks louder than statecraft. So when Trump — a former President with

enduring clout — invites General Asim Munir to a private lunch, it sends a loud signal. Munir, heading a military that has presided over multiple coups, nuclear proliferation, and terrorism sponsorship, was being accorded legitimacy. Was this an informal message that Pakistan could still act as Washington's foot soldier in future Middle Eastern scenarios?

For seasoned observers, the signs are familiar. And the precedent is chilling. If indeed Pakistan becomes a player in a Western-backed offensive against Iran or any part of the Islamic world, it will be far from the first time Islamabad has sacrificed Muslim lives and solidarity at the altar of self-interest.

PAKISTAN'S PATTERN OF BETRAYAL: HISTORIC AND SYSTEMIC
Let us consider the long and bloodied record of Pakistan's betrayal of the Ummah:

Operation Black September (Jordan, 1970): Pakistan vs Palestinians

Perhaps the most cold-blooded betrayal of the Islamic spirit occurred when Brigadier Zia-ul-

Haq, stationed in Jordan, led Jordanian forces against Palestinian fighters (PLO). Thousands of Palestinians were massacred in cold blood. It was not Israel or the U.S. that crushed Palestinian resistance — it was another Muslim army, under a Pakistani commander.

This was no tactical necessity — it was a calculated betrayal of a pan-Islamic cause. Pakistan's loyalty lay with monarchy and money, not the Ummah.

Uyghur Muslims: Silence in the Face of Genocide

In China's Xinjiang province, over one million Uyghur Muslims have been incarcerated in so-called re-education camps. Islamic practices are criminalized; mosques demolished; Arabic-script Qurans seized.

Yet Pakistan — the self-declared leader of Muslim causes — has not only remained mute but has actively endorsed China's actions. Prime Minister Imran Khan called himself "unaware" of the situation, while Pakistan signed joint statements justifying Chinese crackdowns. Because Beijing holds Islamabad's purse strings.

Brotherhood ends where chequebooks begin.

Afghanistan: CIA's Frontline State, Twice Over

During the Soviet-Afghan war (1979–1989), Pakistan acted as a staging ground for U.S. arms and jihadist recruitment. While the Mujahideen fought under the illusion of pan-Islamic resistance, Pakistan's ISI profited immensely by siphoning off American money.

Post 9/11, Pakistan again allowed its territory to be used for American drone strikes against fellow Muslims. Entire tribal families in Waziristan, Swat, and FATA perished — but not a word of protest from Rawalpindi.

For Islamabad, Ummah has always been a facade to broker Western deals.

Bangladesh (1971): Slaughter of Fellow Muslims

Nothing exposes the hollowness of Pakistan's Islamic rhetoric more than its brutal campaign in East Pakistan (now Bangladesh). The Pakistani Army slaughtered over 3 million Bengali Muslims, raped hundreds of thousands of women, and displaced millions. All because East Pakistan demanded dignity, language rights, and autonomy.

There was no India-Pak-

istan war initially — it was a civil war within a Muslim nation, where West Pakistan treated East Pakistan as a colony. The Ummah was shattered by Pakistan's internal imperialism.

Yemen: Sitting on the Fence, Trading Loyalty

In 2015, when Saudi Arabia called on Pakistan to join its military coalition against the Iran-backed Houthis in Yemen, Pakistan refused. Despite years of Saudi aid, loans, and oil supplies, Islamabad chose to abstain, fearing Iranian backlash.

This wasn't a decision for peace — it was a diplomatic gamble, where Pakistan sought to balance both Riyadh and Tehran for future leverage. Ummah unity was once again sacrificed for realpolitik.

SECTARIAN TERROR: DIVIDE AND RULE WITHIN ISLAM

Within Pakistan itself, minority Muslim communities — especially Shias, Ahmadis, and Sufis — are routinely targeted by state-backed or state-ignored terror outfits like Lashkar-e-Jhangvi and Sipah-e-Sahaba. Massacres during Muharram, targeted killings of Shia doctors, and routine hate

sermons against Ahmadis are a norm.

Pakistan doesn't just abandon the Ummah externally — it devours it from within.

THE IRAN DILEMMA: PROXY STATE OR ROGUE ALLY?

Pakistan has long walked a tightrope between Iran and the U.S./Saudi axis. While it shares a border with Iran, its intelligence services have historically allowed anti-Iranian groups to operate from its soil. The recent visit of General Munir to the U.S. hints at yet another betrayal brewing.

If Iran is indeed the target of future military action by the U.S. or Israel — as many analysts fear — then Pakistan's role as a logistical or intelligence base would mark a direct attack on Islamic regional solidarity. Again, loyalty auctioned off.

PAKISTAN – NO VANGUARD OF ISLAM, JUST A PAWN OF INTEREST

The Islamic concept of Ummah is one of collective dignity, fraternity, and justice. Pakistan has repeatedly desecrated that idea — not by mistake, but by design. It has turned Islam into a

diplomatic slogan, used only when convenient, and abandoned when costlier truths emerge.

In contrast, Bharat has acted with consistency and moral clarity. Prime Minister Modi's statement to President Trump — rejecting mediation, upholding sovereignty, and redefining terrorism as war — shows a civilisational confidence that stands in stark opposition to Pakistan's moral collapse.

As Operation Sindoor continues, India must prepare for both diplomatic deception and covert subversion from Pakistan and its Western backers. But more importantly, Bharat must tell the Islamic world: Pakistan does not speak for Islam. It speaks only for its generals, its debts, and its ambitions.

There is no Ummah when Pakistan enters the room — only duplicity draped in religious theatre.

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'NOW OR NEVER' MOMENT FOR ISRAEL, SAYS PM NETANYAHU ADVISOR ON WAR WITH IRAN

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Priya Sahgal is the Editorial Director at NewsX (iTV Network) interviewed George Eli Birnbaum, an American political consultant. He worked on the United States congressional and senatorial races. In 1998, he moved to Israel to work as a consultant to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, became his chief of staff, and afterwards formed a partnership with political consultant Arthur Finkelstein.

Q. He is, it's good to have you here, George, on the show, and you know, you have really one person who can give us an insight to the man of the moment. You've been an advisor to the Israeli Prime Minister, and first of all I'd like to begin with, you know, what is happening, what is he thinking, what is going on in his mind?

A. So as of today, the Prime Minister is really focused on one thing and one thing only, and that is eliminating an existential threat, not just to the Jewish people and to Israel, but for the world. He's always believed that the Prime Minister of Israel, whoever it is, has a responsibility to ensure that what happened in the late 30s and 1940s to the Jewish people in Nazi Germany never happens again.

And I've said recently that had Israel been around in 1936, 1937, it would have taken out Nazi Germany and prevented World War II. I believe firmly that the Prime Minister and his cabinet and most of the Jewish people around the world believe that what Israel is doing now will be looked at as having prevented World War III.

Q. But, you know, the conflict, the timing of the conflict, there is a lot of speculation as to, you know, is this to take, deviate from his domestic pressures? Why now? I mean, can you, you know, pinpoint as to the timing of the attack?

A. So, the timing is clearly linked to the uranium enrichment program of the Iranians.

There is a point of no return at which you have enough critical mass to make a weapon. And Iran was getting very close to reaching that critical mass. And so there was no choice.

The choice was to either let Iran develop enough uranium, enriched uranium, to

have nuclear warheads that could not just reach Jerusalem or Tel Aviv, but put on ballistic missiles that could reach Europe and eventually the United States as well, or stop that from ever being able to happen. I think it was a very clear choice. The time was either now or never.

And the Prime Minister had to make a very difficult decision. I can tell you that these types of decisions where you know you're putting not just soldiers' lives in harm's way, but civilians' lives at risk as well, is not an easy decision. It is a decision that only one person makes.

He has to live with it. And it's a very difficult one. And it's one that Prime Ministers such as Prime Minister Netanyahu and your Prime Minister Modi make almost on a daily basis.

So, what is, I mean, in terms of, what are they both hoping to achieve with that?

A. Well, I think the endgame is a very simple one. It is preventing a country like Iran from having nuclear weapons. Remember, Iran is not standing alone in terms of its desire to bring harm not just to the little Satan, which is Israel, but the great Satan, which is America and other Western democracies through their proxies such as Hezbollah, Hamas, the Houthis in Yemen.

If Iran had a nuclear weapon, these proxies would have nuclear weapons as well. So the endgame is a very simple one. It's to prevent fundamentalist Islamic radical regimes and their proxies from being able to turn their regular missiles into nuclear weapons.

Former Advisor to PM Netanyahu, George Birnbaum had an in-depth conversation with the iTV Network on the ongoing Israel-Iran War.



Former Advisor to PM Netanyahu, Israel.

nium. I think Donald Trump recognized that.

I think he recognized that the Iranians were not negotiating in good faith, that the Iranians were negotiating just as a means to buy more time to enrich more uranium. And given the intelligence that Israel had regarding the capacity of that enriched uranium, that the strike wasn't done without the knowledge of the U.S. president and the U.S. administration, but with the full understanding that this had to happen, and there was no choice.

Q. And if the United States, or even if Israel is successful in, quote unquote, taking out the Ayatollah, have they ever thought, and I again repeat my question, what next? There will be a vacuum. There will be another Ayatollah somewhere. Do they want the Shah back? What do you think would be the best-case scenario?

A. Well, the best-case scenario would bring back some form of liberal democracy to the Iranian people, or even with the Shah, some sort of freedom that the people of Iran enjoyed prior to the Islamic Revolution. I mean, if you look at what Iran was like in the 1960s and 1970s, it was a haven for education and for culture.

I think that's what everyone would like to see, is a return to that type of Iran, where the Iranian people are free to pursue their dreams, where women can dress freely, where people can express themselves freely, and where literature and arts and culture can thrive as opposed to be stymied and stifled by Islamic fundamentalists.

Q. But my next question is, you know, you've talked about Donald Trump being good at striking deals. Is he so good at striking deals? Because as of now, all he's doing is really issuing threats. If he was good at striking deals, he would have worked out some deal between Israel and Iran. Why has he not been able to do that?

A. Well, you know, in order to make a deal, you have to have two parties that operate and negotiate in good faith. And so the fact of the matter is that there was no good faith on one side of the negotiation. You really can't make a deal when there is only one side at the negotiating table that's operating in good faith.

It's impossible to make a deal that way. So I think that was clear, and Donald Trump understood that there was no deal to be had

because he only had one side that was negotiating in good faith.

Q. But will Trump and Netanyahu, you know, if Trump wants to negotiate a deal with Netanyahu, listen to Trump? Is that also, you know, part of the problem?

A. No, no, listen, they have a very strong relationship. They know each other very well. When you say listen, I mean, they will listen and to a point. At the end of the day, the Israeli prime minister has to operate with the Israeli citizens' best interests in mind, and the American president has to operate with the American people's best interests in mind.

Most of the time, those two things converge. When they do diverge, then the two sides have to understand and respect each other and say, OK, you have to do what you have to do for your people. I have to do what I have to do for my people. But like I said, 99 percent of the time between the U.S. and Israel, those two ideas are converging, not diverging ideas.

Q. This is also a time, you know, where we've seen some kind of a peace in the region. We've seen the Abraham Accords being signed. We've seen even the U.S. has strategic interests over there also. This confrontation and regime change in the past hasn't also worked very well. You know, whether you take Iraq or you take Africa, how, I mean, the benefits of this is not going to be as smooth as, you know, the democracy may come back, the people of Iran will be better off without the Ayatollah. It never works out like that on ground?

A. Listen, the idea that democracy or the idea of American democracy is the absolute solution to the problem is it is a wrong idea to pursue. I've worked in countries around the world where sometimes, you know, you need strong leadership in order to make sure that you have stability.

I'm not suggesting that by simply bringing back the Shah or by bringing democracy to Iran that you'll solve all of the Iranian people's problems. What I am suggesting, what I think most people do believe, is that the Iranian people deserve to choose their future and the path that they go on, as opposed to the Ayatollahs and the Islamic fundamentalists. And I think if you were to poll the Iranian people, most of them would not choose the

So, I'm all for self-determination among the people of a country.

I am not suggesting that, you know, by instantly bringing democracy to Iran that you will solve all of Iran's problems. But by allowing the people to have self-determination as to what the course of their future is, then I think you start on a path that will allow the people of Iran and, quite frankly, the region to live in a way that they haven't for many, many decades.

Q. And what about the people of Israel? You know, there are those who claim that the Israeli prime minister has gone rogue. You know, how would you react to that?

A. Gone rogue in which way?

Q. In this action against Iran, in, you know, in stepping up, escalating the action, opening up another front, as it is you were, you know, dealing with Gaza.

A. Listen, again, this was a matter of time. It was not a matter of choice. I believe and I am not privy to the exact intelligence that the prime minister was looking at, but I do believe that the Israeli intelligence community came to the conclusion that Iran was just way too close to having that critical mass of enriched uranium and was leaving Israel and its leadership with no choice. And in fact, if you look at one of the prime minister's biggest critics, the opposition leader, Yair Lapid, who has been a very, very vocal opponent of the prime minister, even throughout the Gaza conflict, he the other day came out and said, based on the intelligence that he saw as the opposition leader in his conversation with the prime minister, that the prime minister had no choice but to act in this way. So the voices in Israel are unified, even at the political level and even with some of the prime minister's most outspoken critics.

They do agree that this was the thing that had to happen and that there was really no choice left for the prime minister.

Q. You worked with the prime minister, you know, I think in the 96 campaign, his first campaign. Can you give us some insights into him, some anecdotes, because he is really the man of the moment that we are looking at, trying to figure out what he's thinking, what he's all about. So maybe can you help us decode him?

A. Yeah, he comes, his background, his family, very, very strong Zionist. And what I mean by Zionist is very strong understanding that as Israel goes, so goes the fate of the Jewish people worldwide and that Israel was born out of the ashes of the Holocaust and that Israel's main purpose is to prevent that from ever happening again. That is probably the largest driving force within the prime minister, is that he sees Israel, the strength of Israel and Israel's ability to protect itself and the people within Israel as a way of protecting the Jewish people around the world.

And quite frankly, I think he also is feeling that Israel

is not only doing the Jewish people a service by taking out the Iranian nuclear threat, but quite frankly, Western civilization. He's always been driven by this idea that Israel has to be strong, not just for the Jewish people in Israel, but worldwide. And he's completely focused on making sure that any existential threats to Israel are eliminated and never allowing a Holocaust to happen outside of Israel or inside Israel.

But in terms of in terms of the prime minister himself, I can tell you that he is a probably the most intelligent political leader I've ever worked with. His capacity for intellect at every level. And it doesn't matter the topic.

I always say that he could walk through the halls of Oxford or Cambridge or Harvard and walk in any classroom and have a very, very serious and in-depth conversation no matter what the topic in that classroom was. He also has an enormous capacity for humor and a sense of humor. And he's quite he's just quite an amazing leader.

And by the way, I think it's one of the reasons him and your Prime Minister Modi get along so well. I think they have a deep respect for each other at an intellectual level, not just because they both are the elected leaders of their respective countries.

Q. But that comes to my next question. We've seen a most significant turn in the world order. I think perhaps after World War Two, this has been the most in terms of destabilizing and there have been a new world order is now going to be coming together. How do you see how do you envisage that? And where do you really see India's role, for instance, in that?

A. I think India has become already an enormous leader in terms of geopolitics, not just because of the population of India or the fact that India has nuclear weapons or a strong military, but India is leading the world in many ways in terms of economic growth and in terms of leadership.

And the prime minister, your prime minister Modi has really stepped into that role and embraced it. I think India plays a unique role in that it has relationships that are very broad. It has relationships with Israel.

It has relationships with China. It has a relationship with Russia. It has relationships with the US.

And I believe that India can play an enormous role as a as an interlocutor, if you will, for geopolitical conflict. I've been advocating for a long time that I think India could play a big role in the Iranian-Russian conflict and bringing that to an end. I see India as a real honest broker when it comes to world conflict and world issues because of the relationships that India has built internationally with other governments around the world.

So I'm happy to see it. I don't like a simple bipolar world where we saw the US and Russia as the two global powerhouses and no one else mattered. Other countries matter, India being one of the major countries that matter in the world in geopolitics.



This is, of course, at a much greater scale than, let's say, a small military operation. This is a very large-scale military operation. But nonetheless, it is a life-and-death decision that the Prime Minister had to take and did not take easily.

Q. And with that, they're talking about a regime change. Do they have any plans for what happens?

A. A regime change would be nice. It would be a nice benefit. Listen, the Iranian people, of whom I know many around the world, are

ing is that this also happened at a time when the U.S. had approached Iran, and there were talks for some dismantling of the Iranian nuclear program. They were making some headway over there. This is the time when Israel chooses to strike.

There is a point of no return at which you have enough critical mass to make a weapon. And Iran was getting very close to reaching that critical mass. And so there was no choice.

Q. In fact, I would like to talk to you a bit about the decision-making process of the Prime Minister. But before that, what is exactly his endgame? I mean, we've heard him talk of a regime change. We've heard Donald, the U.S. president, in fact, try and spell out what that regime change means in a post-untruth social. There have been threats. They literally all have been calling out for a threat to a leader. It's not just issuing threats to a world leader at the end of the day.

all eager to see the Ayatollahs and Mullahs reign of Islamic fundamentalism come to an end in Iran. And so regime change would be a nice benefit. I don't know that it's the endgame.

The endgame is certainly just the elimination of Iran's weaponized nuclear program. Regime change would be a wonderful benefit, an added benefit to that endgame.

Q. You know what strikes me a bit odd about the tim-

A. So listen, without divulging information, I think your viewers are well aware that the U.S. and Israel share intelligence on a daily basis.

And Donald Trump, who is an expert at negotiating deals, I think also understood that what the Iranians were doing was not negotiating in good faith, but negotiating to buy time, stretching out that time. Because every day that went by in those negotiations was another day that the Iranians were able to enrich more and more ura-

ALL ABOUT ISRAEL-IRAN WAR
The Israel-Iran conflict has erupted into open confrontation after years of shadow warfare and proxy battles. What began as cyberattacks and covert operations has evolved into direct military engagement, with Israeli airstrikes hitting Iranian military and nuclear sites, and Iran responding with missile and drone attacks.
Tensions have been escalating for years, rooted in Iran's nuclear ambitions and support for groups like Hezbollah, Hamas, and the Houthis. Israel views these as existential threats. Tehran, in turn, sees Israel as a regional aggressor backed by the U.S.
The Trigger: Iran's Nuclear Programme
At the core of the current conflict is Iran's uranium enrichment program. Israeli officials claim intelligence shows Iran nearing the "point of no return" toward building nuclear weapons. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu justified the strikes by arguing that waiting any longer would risk catastrophic consequences—not only for Israel but for the world.
According to Netanyahu and his allies, the mission is to prevent Iran from ever becoming a nuclear-armed state. Defence Minister Israel Katz has gone so far as to compare Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei to Hitler, claiming he "cannot be allowed to exist."
Global Stakes and Regional Fallout
The conflict has wider implications beyond Israel and Iran. Iran's proxies have stepped up attacks on Israeli targets across Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, and Yemen. The risk of a full-scale regional war is increasing, and global powers are watching closely.
Former Netanyahu advisor George Birnbaum recently said the operation aims to prevent "World War III," arguing that Iran's nuclear weapons would not stay in Iran but reach its proxy groups. He also emphasized that the Israeli leadership sees this as a necessary, though difficult, decision.
Uncertain Outcomes, Rising Risks
Despite successful strikes, a decisive end to the conflict is unlikely. Iran remains defiant, its leadership intact, and its nuclear infrastructure decentralized. Calls for regime change are growing in Israel, but experts warn that toppling Iran's leadership may create a dangerous power vacuum.
The war has already brought suffering to civilians on both sides and rattled markets worldwide. With diplomacy sidelined and military action intensifying, the Israel-Iran war risks spiraling into a broader regional conflict with unpredictable consequences.

RAJSAMAND LAKE: A LEGACY OF WATER AND WISDOM



PARVESH PARDESHI

The heritage of this state that once upon a time belonged to kings and queens has a legacy. Even the topography has its own story. One such lake is Rajsamand Lake. In today's world, where water scarcity and climate change are becoming serious concerns, Rajsamand Lake in Rajasthan shines as a symbol of ancient wisdom and practical foresight. Recently, Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma visited this historic lake, offering prayers and participating in a lake worship ceremony. His visit highlighted the importance of water conservation and environmental protection, sending a strong message to citizens and policymakers alike.

A LAKE BUILT WITH VISION AND SACRIFICE

Rajsamand Lake, located in Rajasthan's Rajsamand district, was built in the

17th century by Maharana Raj Singh I of Mewar. Constructed between 1662 and 1676, it wasn't just a royal project but a thoughtful solution to water and food problems of that time. The lake was created by blocking three rivers—Gomati, Kelwa, and Tali—and served as a vital source of irrigation and drinking water, especially during famines.

What makes the story more powerful is the Maharana's dedication. He weighed himself in gold and donated the entire amount for public welfare. Even today, this lake continues to provide water to over 10,000 hectares of farmland, proving how wise and long-lasting planning can benefit future generations.

A PLACE OF WORSHIP AND KNOWLEDGE

Rajsamand Lake is not just about water—it's also a spiritual and cultural site. The beautiful marble pavilions and structures at Nauchowki Pal display the grandeur of Rajput architecture. One of its most special features is the Raj Prashasti, the world's longest Sanskrit stone inscription carved on 25 black marble slabs. It records the history of Mewar and the noble reasons behind the lake's creation. Temples like Dwarka-



dhish and Ghevar Mata, located near the lake, add to its spiritual significance. The newly built Maharana Raj Singh Panorama showcases the lake's historical importance and the legacy of its builder.

CHIEF MINISTER'S VISIT: A NEW CHAPTER

Chief Minister Bhajan Lal

Sharma's visit to Rajsamand Lake was more than a ceremonial event. He offered prayers at the Dwarkadhish Temple, performed aarti on the lake's banks, and planted saplings—symbolic actions that showed the government's commitment to preserving both heritage and nature.

During his speech at Bhikshu Nilyam under the

MERGING HISTORY WITH TODAY'S NEEDS

What makes this event more important is how the state government is connecting our rich heritage with present-day environmental needs. By recognizing Rajsamand Lake as a site for promoting water-saving habits and green practices, leaders are showing how ancient structures can guide modern-day policies. But the Chief Minister

also made it clear—symbolism is not enough. We need consistent efforts from both the government and the public to protect lakes like Rajsamand and revive others. These are not just old water bodies; they are models for how to manage water smartly in today's world.

GOVERNMENT'S LONG-TERM PLANS FOR WATER AND DEVELOPMENT

The Chief Minister highlighted major steps the Rajasthan government is taking to solve water problems. Projects like the Ramjal Setu Link Project and the Yamuna Water Agreement aim to improve water availability in different parts of the state. He also mentioned ongoing efforts through major schemes like the Indira Gandhi Canal, Dewas Project, Mahi Dam, and the Som-Kamla-Amba scheme to enhance water storage.

He said the government's goal is to make Rajasthan self-reliant in water resources, and these projects are a big step in that direction.

FOCUS ON GREEN RAJASTHAN AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Inspired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's campaign

“Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam” (One Tree in Mother's Name), more than 70 million trees were planted in the past year in Rajasthan. The Chief Minister stressed that the dream of a Green Rajasthan can only come true if water is used wisely and forests are expanded through public cooperation. He encouraged citizens to join the Vande Ganga Jal Sanrakshan Jan Abhiyan during the monsoon season—by saving water and planting trees.

PROMOTING JOBS AND WELFARE ALONGSIDE ENVIRONMENT

Apart from environmental goals, the Chief Minister shared the government's broader vision for development. He said the government plans to provide 4 lakh government jobs in the next five years. Employment will also be generated through agreements signed at the Rising Rajasthan Summit.

He mentioned that the government considers four major communities—women, youth, farmers, and laborers—as the backbone of the nation, echoing the Prime Minister's view. Efforts like the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi and Gopalk Credit Card are helping farmers financially. At the same time, plans are un-

derway to make 5,000 villages poverty-free by promoting sustainable rural livelihoods.

WHAT CAN WE DO AS CITIZENS?

Rajsamand Lake is a living example of what people can achieve when they work together for a common good. Today, we too must play our part. Whether it is by protecting local water bodies, reducing water waste, or planting trees, every small action matters.

The lake was created during a time of crisis—yet it flourished for centuries because of wise leadership and active community participation. That same spirit is needed today.

A LAKE THAT SPEAKS OF ACTION

Rajsamand Lake is not just a water body—it is a mirror reflecting our responsibility towards nature and society. In its quiet waters lie centuries of courage, care, and commitment.

Let us not treat it only as a tourist spot or heritage site. Let us treat it as a guide—a living classroom that teaches us how water, worship, and wisdom can shape a better future.

The writer of the article is a Public Relation Officer, dept. of information and Public Relations Rajasthan.

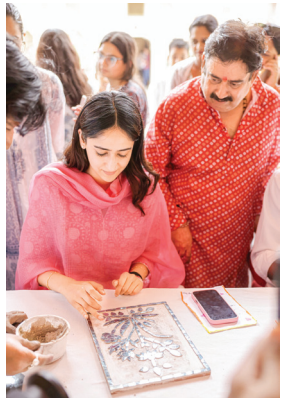
Rajasthan's Rich Art Forms Celebrated in Camp

TDG NETWORK

Rajasthan is known for its vibrant heritage and centuries-old traditions of art and craft. The state's artistic expressions, such as miniature paintings, frescoes, mirror work, and traditional music and dance, reflect its glorious royal past and diverse cultural history. These art forms have been preserved and passed down through generations, continuing to thrive due to efforts by local artisans, cultural institutions, and heritage conservation programs.

Pratibha Nikhar Diwas was recently celebrated with enthusiasm at the City Palace in Jaipur, as part of a one-month Cultural Heritage Training Camp. The celebration gave participants the opportunity to display the traditional art skills they had learned during the camp. Present at the event were Lakshyaraj Prakash of Sirmour and Gauravi Kumari of Jaipur. Both dignitaries interacted with the trainees and took a keen interest in the various forms of traditional art being taught and practiced during the camp. The camp was organized by the Maharaja Sawai Man Singh II Museum Trust in association with Rangreet, an institution that promotes traditional Indian arts, and Saraswati Kala Kendra. The closing ceremony of this enriching camp is scheduled for June 20.

During the event, Gauravi Kumari actively participated in the training session of the endangered art of Thikri, which involves decorative mirror work. She personally tried her hand at creating a flower-shaped design using glass pieces, showcasing not just interest but also appreciation for this delicate art. Lakshyaraj Prakash spent time understanding the traditional Araish technique, a style of fresco painting. He immersed himself in the learn-



ing process by attempting the art form himself. Both expressed their admiration for the participants and acknowledged the dedication and enthusiasm with which people of various age groups had engaged in learning these traditional and endangered Indian art forms. Lakshyaraj Prakash also applauded the trainers for their significant role in guiding the participants and helping them understand the depth of these crafts.

The coordinator of the camp, Ramu Ramdev, who also serves as the Officer on Special Duty for Art and Culture at City Palace, shared insights into the vision behind the camp. He mentioned that the aim was to provide a platform for emerging artists to explore and connect with India's cultural roots. He emphasized that such training camps play an important role in preserving and promoting endangered art forms. The participants were given hands-on experience under the guidance of well-known artists and subject experts.

Throughout the duration of the camp, participants were trained in a wide variety of traditional arts. The Dhundhar style of traditional painting was taught by experienced artists like Ramu Ramdev himself, along with Babulal Bharodia, Shyamu Ramdev, Lakshmi Narayan Kumawat, and Yamini Ramdev. These artists shared their expertise, focusing on intricate brushwork, natural



colors, and thematic depth typical of the Dhundhar painting style.

In addition to painting, participants received training in the art of Ala Gila and Araish, a form of traditional fresco painting, from Dr. Nathulal Verma. This technique, often used in palace and haveli decorations, requires great precision and a deep understanding of natural materials. The art of Dhrupad singing, a classical form of vocal music associated with the Jaipur Gharana, was taught by Dr. Madhubhatt Tailang. This rare form of music emphasizes spiritual expression and voice control and is considered one of the oldest styles of Hindustani classical music.

Dr. Jyoti Bharti Goswami trained the participants in Kathak and various folk dances of the Jaipur Gharana, helping them appreciate the rhythm, grace, and storytelling aspects of Indian classical dance. Flute training was conducted by R.D. Gaur, who helped learners understand the nuances of breath control and melody in classical Indian music.

In the visual arts segment, Lalit Sharma guided participants in calligraphy and portrait drawing, both in Hindi and English. This helped the participants improve their handwriting skills and also gave them an introduction to character drawing and facial detail-

ing. Vedic astrology was another subject taught during the camp. Experts Dr. Brajmohan Khatri, Shankar Lal Kumawat, and Badri Narayan Kumawat provided knowledge about ancient astrological principles and their relevance in Indian tradition and culture.

One of the most appreciated parts of the camp was the training in Thikri art. Trainers Shankar Lal Kumawat and Badri Narayan Kumawat provided detailed demonstrations and guidance on how to create artistic designs using small pieces of mirror. This traditional art form, often seen in royal architecture and interiors of Rajasthan, requires patience, a fine sense of design, and skill in mirror cutting and placement.

The celebration of Pratibha Nikhar Diwas was not just a showcase of what had been learned during the camp, but also a meaningful interaction between cultural custodians and young learners. The event created a space for dialogue, appreciation, and inspiration. The dignitaries' involvement highlighted the importance of such initiatives in keeping traditional arts alive in modern times.

As the camp moves towards its conclusion, the efforts of the organizers, trainers, and participants together stand as a testament to Rajasthan's commitment to preserving its rich cultural and artistic heritage. Events like these play a crucial role in inspiring the younger generation to take pride in their roots and ensure that these treasured art forms continue to thrive.



NARENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT

Galta Ji temple, located on the outskirts of the Pink City Jaipur, is the center of faith for millions of people. Surrounded by the Aravalli hills, this temple is surrounded by many temples, holy ponds, pavilions and natural springs. This divine grand temple is situated in the middle of a hilly area surrounded by a beautiful valley which attracts domestic and foreign tourists.

THE HISTORY OF GALTA TIRTHA HAS A RICH HERITAGE

Galta Ji temple was built by Diwan Rao Kriparam, who was a servant in the court of Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh II. The temple complex was built in the 18th century. Even before the construction of the temple, this place used to be very important for the Vaishya Ramanandis.

According to many historians, Galtaji has been a refuge for sages and saints belonging to the Ramanandi sect since the beginning of the 16th century and has been occupied by jogis. It is believed that Saint Galav spent his entire life performing penance for a hundred years at this holy site. Pleased with his devotion, the deity appeared before him and blessed his place of worship with abundant water.

To honor the sage Galav, the Galtaji temple was built here and named after him. Legend has it that Tulsidas wrote portions of the holy Ramcharitmanas at this very place. Galav is said to have meditated here for several decades and was blessed with the springs.

Jaipur's historic Galta Tirtha moves towards development by preserving heritage

This is the reason why the temple complex is named after Rishi Galav.

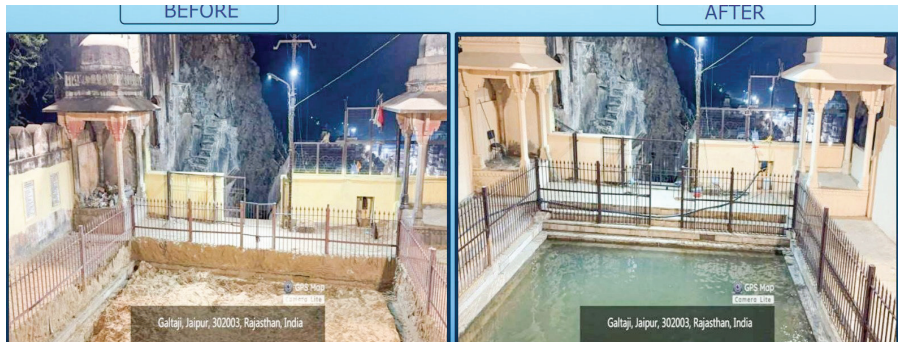
With the creative thinking and initiative of District Collector and Administrator Mandir Thikana Galta Ji Dr. Jitendra Kumar Soni, Galta Teerth has once again started returning to its divine and grand form. The district administration has got the temple Thikana Galta Ji renovated and beautified at a cost of Rs 11 crore 94 lakh. Facilities are being developed for tourists and devotees. The district administration has not only got the holy temples and ponds cleaned and renovated at Galta Teerth, but has also worked to preserve the historical and spiritual heritage here. In

gantry board, Kada on the outer walls, Khamira work, red sand work, stone jaalis, selfie point. It is the result of the efforts of the district administration that today the unique form of Galta Tirtha is once again attracting tourists.

Along with this, the district administration is developing state-of-the-art facilities for the development of temple Thikana Galta Ji. To make the arrangements of Galta temple strong and efficient, the district administration is installing 15 CCTV cameras equipped with night vision technology at Galta temple complex and Ghat's Balaji. The district administration is now keeping an eye on all the activities

walls, round roofs and pillars. Apart from the kunds, this prehistoric Hindu pilgrimage site also has temples of Lord Rama, Lord Krishna and Lord Hanuman within the temple. One of the major tourist places in Jaipur, the temple complex has natural freshwater springs and seven sacred 'kunds' or water tanks. Of these kunds, 'Galta Kund' is the holiest and is believed to never dry up. Pure and clean water flows into the tanks from the 'Gaumukh', a rock shaped like a cow's head.

This magnificent temple is designed to look more like a grand palace or 'haveli' than a traditional temple. Galtaji Temple has a beautiful and magnificent landscape



the Galta complex, stone inscriptions describing the history of Galta Tirtha in Hindi and English have been engraved. Beautiful and attractive lights have been installed by installing heritage poles from Galta Ji to Ghat's Balaji, and a pathway has been developed for walking to Galja Ji. The district administration has developed cobble stone work, drain cum parking work, welcome gate,

happening there through cameras. Efforts have been made by the forest department to increase the forest cover in the Galtaji area and attractive flowering plants and vines have also been planted which are adding to the beauty of Galta Tirtha.

Galta Tirtha is located in the Aravalli Hills and is surrounded by dense luxurious trees and bushes. This remarkable building is adorned with painted

with rich green vegetation and a splendid view of the city of Jaipur. The temple is known for the many monkey tribes found here and the religious hymns and chants, combined with the natural environment, provide a peaceful atmosphere to the visitors.

The author is working as Assistant Public Relations Officer in the Department of Information and Public Relations, Rajasthan.

HOW YEARS OF COVERT INTELLIGENCE LED TO ISRAEL'S MASSIVE STRIKE ON IRAN

Years of covert espionage, a daring nuclear archive heist, and mounting threats culminated in Israel's massive 2025 strike on Iran—triggering a deadly conflict that now risks spiraling into a full-blown regional war.

TDG NETWORK

On June 13, 2025, Israel launched a massive aerial and drone offensive on Iran, describing it as a “necessary preemptive action” against what it claimed was an imminent nuclear threat. Over 100 strikes were carried out, targeting deeply embedded nuclear facilities, Revolutionary Guard (IRGC) bases, missile depots, and secret intelligence posts spread across Iran.

The result was devastating: at least 224 Iranians were reported dead, numerous strategic installations were leveled, and several high-precision drone attacks reached deep into Iranian territory. Israeli defense officials described it as one of the most complex and far-reaching military operations the country had ever undertaken.

But this wasn't a sudden reaction or a routine military strike—it was the culmination of years of secret intelligence work. And at the heart of it all was a daring Mossad operation from 2018, one that uncovered Iran's nuclear ambitions and helped shape Israel's long-term strategic response.

THE 2018 NUCLEAR ARCHIVE HEIST

The origins of the June 2025 airstrikes trace back to one cold January night in 2018. In an operation that Israeli officials would later compare to a Hollywood thriller, a team of Mossad agents infiltrated a seemingly unremarkable warehouse in Shorabad, on the outskirts



TDG EXPLAINER

of Tehran.

Unbeknownst to the world, the building housed a highly classified nuclear archive that Iran had kept hidden even after signing the 2015 nuclear deal (JCPOA). The operation had been months in the making, with meticulous surveillance allowing the agents a window of just six and a half hours—timed perfectly between security shifts.

Inside, the team found dozens of safes filled with documents, diagrams, and CDs. They used specialized equipment to cut through the safes and extracted what they deemed most critical—files labeled with diagrams of nuclear warheads and advanced bomb-making technologies. In total, Mossad agents walked out with around 500 kilograms of top-secret material.

By the time Iranian security realized the breach the

next morning, the agents and the sensitive material were already across the border.

One senior Israeli official later described it as feeling “like Ocean's Eleven.” But this wasn't a heist for riches—it was a raid for intelligence that would change the course of Middle East geopolitics.

NETANYAHU'S BOMB-SHELL ANNOUNCEMENT

Three months after the daring operation, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu revealed the contents of the stolen archive in a televised press conference. Standing in front of rows of binders and discs, he declared that Iran had lied to the international community and never truly abandoned its nuclear weapons ambitions.

According to Netanyahu,



An Israeli police officer walks past damaged vehicles at an impact site following Iranian missile attack on Israel's Ramat Gan Saturday. Agencies

the archive included detailed blueprints, weapon designs, and internal communications linked to “Project Amad”—a secret Iranian program aimed at developing nuclear warheads and adapting them for delivery via Shahab-3 missiles. Particularly concerning were files detailing warhead miniaturization and the use of uranium deuteride, a rare material used in nuclear initiators.

These revelations were shared not only with the public but also privately with then-U.S. President Donald Trump, who shortly after withdrew the U.S. from the 2015 nuclear deal, citing bad faith on Iran's part.

Independent verification from Western intelligence agencies confirmed that the documents were authentic and troubling. The archive provided hard proof of Iran's dual-track approach: publicly agreeing to international inspections while secretly preserving nuclear knowledge for future use.

TEHRAN DENIES, FALLOUT GROWS

Iran immediately dismissed the Israeli claims, branding the documents as fabrications. However, the specificity and scale of the information made the denials difficult to sustain. The documents included site maps, names of scientists, and testing protocols. Some materials even pointed to a hidden chamber at the Parchin military base, believed to have been used for high-explosive testing related to nuclear triggers.

Worse for Iran, the archive revealed that even after the JCPOA was signed, Tehran had quietly moved sensitive materials and safeguarded its know-how, essentially creating a “nuclear insurance policy” should diplomacy fail. In the years that followed, a pattern of high-profile assassinations of Iranian nuclear scientists began.

The most prominent was Mohsen Fakhri-zadeh, the

alleged mastermind behind Iran's nuclear program, who was killed in a 2020 ambush involving remote-controlled gunfire—an operation widely attributed to Mossad. Others, like Masoud Ali Mohammadi, were killed by explosives placed near their homes or vehicles. Though Israel never officially claimed responsibility, its hand was strongly suspected. Iran, in turn, retaliated with cyberattacks targeting Israeli infrastructure and attempted strikes on Israeli diplomats abroad through its proxy networks.

SPARK THAT LIT POWDER KEG

By mid-2025, tensions were already at a boiling point. Western intelligence began picking up chatter about accelerated Iranian nuclear activity, including the enrichment of uranium beyond the JCPOA thresholds and renewed development of delivery systems. According to Israeli intelligence, Iran was “weeks, not months” away

from having enough fissile material for a nuclear bomb. Israel's response came swiftly and with overwhelming force on June 13.

Precision-guided missiles and drones rained down on nuclear sites, some of them buried deep underground. While Israel did not disclose the full scope of its targets, independent satellite imagery confirmed the destruction of several research and enrichment centers. Military airfields, missile launch sites, and key IRGC command structures were also hit.

Iran retaliated within hours, launching over 100 ballistic missiles and attack drones toward Israeli territory. Despite the effectiveness of Israel's Iron Dome and David's Sling defense systems, several missiles slipped through, striking civilian areas in Tel Aviv, Haifa, and Beersheba. At least 14 Israeli civilians were killed and hundreds more wounded in what was the deadliest attack on Israeli soil in years.

NO END IN SIGHT

As of June 19, the fighting has entered its seventh day with no clear sign of de-escalation. Israeli jets continue to conduct deep-penetration raids, while Iran has mobilized its proxies in Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, and Yemen to expand the front. Hezbollah has fired rockets into northern Israel, while Houthi drones have targeted Israeli naval assets in the Red Sea.

The humanitarian toll is mounting. Thousands have fled border regions in both countries. Electricity and

internet blackouts have been reported in parts of Iran, and Israel has declared a state of emergency in multiple districts.

Global leaders have issued urgent calls for restraint, but so far, diplomatic efforts have failed to produce a ceasefire. The United Nations Security Council has scheduled an emergency session, but consensus remains elusive, with China and Russia backing Iran's right to self-defense and Western nations standing behind Israel's security concerns.

WAR YEARS IN THE MAKING

While the war officially began in June 2025, its roots stretch back nearly a decade—to that warehouse raid in Tehran. The stolen archive not only exposed Iran's nuclear deception but also set into motion a series of covert and overt operations that steadily pushed the two adversaries toward direct conflict.

For Israel, the archive provided both intelligence and justification. It shaped national policy, emboldened leaders, and ultimately convinced them that waiting was too dangerous. For Iran, the exposure was a humiliation and a red line. What followed was a tit-for-tat campaign of assassinations, cyber warfare, and proxy battles—all leading to the present moment.

Now, with missiles flying and cities under attack, the world finds itself on edge, hoping the crisis can be contained before it explodes into a broader regional war.

How Trump and General Munir's lunch could impact India

TDG NETWORK

The recent private luncheon held at the White House between former U.S. President Donald Trump and Pakistan's Army Chief General Asim Munir has triggered significant discussions regarding its potential implications for India, especially in the context of South Asian geopolitics and evolving international alliances. While the meeting was portrayed as an acknowledgment of efforts to ease tensions between India and Pakistan, it has inevitably raised questions in New Delhi about the direction of U.S. foreign policy and India's strategic interests in the region.

During this meeting, Trump praised both General Munir and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi for their leadership roles in defusing what was a tense military standoff earlier this year, preventing the escalation of conflict between the two nuclear-armed neighbors. Trump's remarks notably emphasized the bilateral nature of the resolution, without asserting any direct U.S. mediation, thereby highlighting the agency of the Indian and Pakistani leaders themselves. Despite this recognition, the fact that the U.S. administration hosted Pakistan's military chief in a private setting without involving Indian representatives has sparked unease within Indian diplo-



US President Donald Trump and Pakistan's Army Chief General Asim Munir

matic circles.

India's concerns stem largely from the perception that the United States may be recalibrating its diplomatic focus towards Pakistan, potentially diluting the strategic partnership it has cultivated with India over recent decades. The absence of any reciprocal engagement or invitation extended to Prime Minister Modi for a similar meeting further feeds this narrative of shifting priorities. For New Delhi, the timing and exclusivity of the luncheon raise the possibility that the U.S. might be seeking to strengthen ties with Pakistan's military leadership, especially given the shared concerns over regional security threats such as Iran's influence and terrorism.

The implications for India-Pakistan relations are complex and multifaceted. While India has traditionally advocated for direct bilateral dialogue with Pakistan to resolve long-standing

issues, including Kashmir, the renewed U.S. outreach to Pakistan's military elite signals a more nuanced and layered approach to South Asian diplomacy. This development suggests that Washington may be pursuing a balancing act, trying to manage its relationships with both countries while addressing broader strategic interests in the region, including countering Iranian influence and ensuring stability in Afghanistan.

Domestically, the luncheon has sparked a political debate in India, with opposition parties questioning the government's diplomatic handling and accusing it of allowing India's interests to be sidelined on the international stage. They argue that such exclusive meetings undermine India's sovereignty and diplomatic stature. Conversely, the ruling party has defended its stance by emphasizing the strong personal rapport between Prime Minister Modi

and Donald Trump, underscoring that India remains a key strategic partner of the U.S. and that bilateral ties continue to grow across multiple dimensions, including defense, trade, and technology.

Strategically, the event underscores the importance for India of maintaining an independent and proactive foreign policy. As the U.S. navigates its own complex geopolitical priorities, India must safeguard its interests by deepening regional alliances, strengthening multilateral ties, and continuing to assert itself as a pivotal player in global affairs. The luncheon serves as a reminder that India cannot rely solely on external partnerships but must cultivate its own diplomatic agility to manage the evolving challenges posed by neighboring adversaries and shifting international alignments.

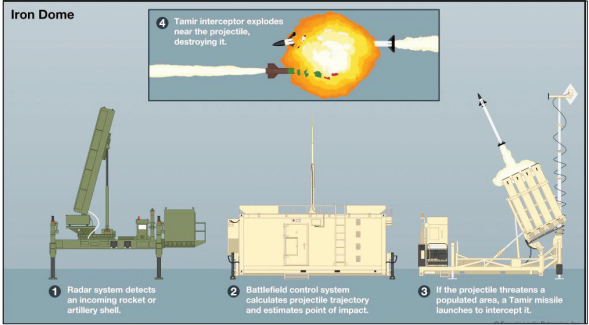
In conclusion, while the Trump-Munir luncheon does not directly alter India's foreign policy, it symbolically represents the intricate and often unpredictable nature of international diplomacy in South Asia. For India, the key takeaway is the necessity of vigilance, strategic foresight, and adaptability in preserving its national interests amid a changing geopolitical landscape marked by competing priorities and emerging regional dynamics.

TDG NETWORK

Israel's Iron Dome missile defense system has emerged as a central pillar in the defense architecture that underpins the country's ability to withstand the persistent and multifaceted missile threats emanating primarily from Iran and its network of proxy militias across the region. Iran's extensive support to groups such as Hezbollah in Lebanon, Hamas in Gaza, and allied militias in Syria and Iraq has created a continuous flow of short-range rockets and missiles aimed at destabilizing Israel's security and inflicting civilian casualties. In response to this asymmetric threat, Iron Dome serves as an indispensable shield by utilizing cutting-edge radar detection and missile interception technology to prevent incoming projectiles from reaching populated areas, thus averting widespread destruction and loss of life. The system's role transcends mere defense—it also preserves Israel's strategic posture by mitigating Iran's ability to leverage missile attacks as a means of exerting political and military pressure, thereby ensuring that Israel maintains operational freedom in an otherwise highly volatile regional context.

TACTICAL PRECISION

The operational excellence of the Iron Dome system is demonstrated through its remarkable ability to dif-



ferentiate between rockets that pose an actual threat to civilian populations and those that would land in uninhabited or less critical areas, which it allows to fall harmlessly. This precision targeting capability is enabled by sophisticated radar arrays and a highly responsive command-and-control infrastructure, which calculate the trajectory of each detected missile and determine in real time whether interception is necessary. Once a threatening rocket is identified, Iron Dome launches interceptor missiles within seconds, neutralizing the threat midair before it can cause harm. This rapid response not only protects Israeli civilians but also buys critical time for government and military leaders to make informed decisions, coordinate counterstrikes, and activate civil defense protocols such as sirens and evacuations. By reducing the effectiveness of missile attacks and minimizing civilian casualties, Iron Dome contributes significantly to maintaining national morale and public resilience during periods of

heightened conflict.

REGIONAL HOSTILITIES

Beyond its immediate battlefield utility, the Iron Dome system functions as a potent deterrent by diminishing the strategic value and psychological impact of missile attacks launched by Iran-backed forces. The system's consistent success in intercepting rockets effectively raises the operational cost for hostile actors, as their attacks fail to achieve meaningful damage or provoke widespread panic, which are typically the intended outcomes. This deterrence effect is particularly vital in curbing escalation during crises, as it undermines the incentive for Iran and its proxies to initiate or sustain heavy rocket barrages that could potentially spiral into larger conflicts. By neutralizing the tactical advantage of missile attacks, Iron Dome also supports Israel's broader strategic goals by forcing adversaries to reconsider their methods of aggression and by reinforcing Israel's reputation as a country capable

of defending itself robustly against asymmetric threats.

LAYERED MISSILE DEFENSE STRATEGY

Iron Dome represents only one tier within Israel's comprehensive and multilayered missile defense framework, which also includes systems such as David's Sling and the Arrow missile interceptors designed to counter medium- and long-range ballistic missiles, some of which are supplied directly by Iran. This layered defense system is crucial because it addresses the full spectrum of missile threats facing Israel, ranging from the short-range projectiles typically launched by Iranian proxies to the more sophisticated and longer-range ballistic missiles that could be launched by Iran itself in the event of a broader conflict.

Within this architecture, Iron Dome plays the critical frontline role of intercepting the frequent, low-altitude, short-range threats that pose the most immediate danger to civilian populations. By effectively handling these threats, Iron Dome allows Israel's higher-tier defense systems and offensive military operations to focus on neutralizing longer-range and more strategic missile threats, thereby preserving Israel's defensive depth and its ability to respond to evolving security challenges posed by Iran's expanding missile capabilities.

KHAMENEI CAN'T BE ALLOWED TO EXIST: ISRAEL DEFENCE MINISTER

Israel Defence Minister Israel Katz said that under the IDF's war goals, 'without question this man should not continue to exist'.

AGENCIES
TEL AVIV

Israel Defence Minister Israel Katz while visiting the site of a missile strike at a hospital in Holon, said that Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei is "the modern Hitler" and "cannot continue to exist," The Times of Israel reported. Katz said that under the IDF's war goals, "without question this man should not continue to exist."

"A dictator like Khamenei, who heads a country like Iran and has made the destruction of the State of Israel his declared goal, this horrific goal of destroying Israel, cannot be allowed to continue or materialize," The Times of Israel quoted him as saying.

"Compare it to the scenario in which, during the horrific Holocaust, if the State of Israel had existed and a strong Israel Defence Forces had existed, and we knew we could send the IDF into a bunker to capture the enemy of the Jewish people, Hitler,

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Katz calls Khamenei "modern Hitler."
- Says Khamenei "cannot be allowed to exist."
- Blames him for targeting Israeli civilians.
- Compares current threat to Holocaust.
- Says IDF must eliminate strategic threats.
- Claims Khamenei ordered hospital strikes.
- Labels Iran's leader a coward and war criminal.
- Advocates attacks on Tehran government targets.
- Says Khamenei mobilizes resources to destroy Israel.
- IDF instructed to consider his elimination.
- Trump vetoed a past Israeli plan to kill him.



Ayatollah Ali Khamenei

in order to thwart his plan to annihilate the Jews, we would have done it," he said.

"We would have sent the IDF, extracted him, and eliminated him. And just like that, correspondingly, I see the current situation -- Khamenei is the modern Hitler."

In a post on X, he called Khamenei a coward and said that he was accountable for

war crimes.

"The cowardly Iranian dictator sits in the depths of the fortified bunker and fires aimed shots at hospitals and residential buildings in Israel. These are war crimes of the most serious kind - and Khamenei will be held accountable for his crimes. The Prime Minister and I have instructed the IDF to increase the intensity of at-

tacks against strategic targets in Iran and against government targets in Tehran in order to remove threats to the State of Israel and undermine the ayatollahs' regime."

Katz further said, "This is a man who has stood at the head of a powerful nation for decades and has great ideological influence. He uses it and openly says he supports the destruction of Israel.

Iran strikes Soroka hospital in Israel

AGENCIES
TEL AVIV

Israel Foreign Ministry on Thursday said that Soroka Hospital in Beersheba was struck by Iranian missile.

The foreign ministry stated that Israel will continue to defend itself.

In a post on X, it said, "A direct hit has been reported at Soroka Hospital in Beersheba, southern Israel."

"Soroka Hospital in Beer-

sheba - where Jews, Muslims, Christians, and Arab Bedouin receive care - was just hit by an indiscriminate Iranian ballistic missile. Israel will continue to do what must be done to protect all its people, from all walks of life."

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Israel, Gideon Sa'ar while commenting on the situation said, "The Iranian regime fired a ballistic missile at a hospital. The Iranian re-

gime deliberately targets civilians. The Iranian regime is committing war crimes. The Iranian regime has no red lines."

Meanwhile, the Iran Foreign Ministry said that they have not forgotten their hostages.

In a post on X, it said, "Amid the rubble caused by the Iranian regime's missiles, we haven't forgotten our hostages. Not for a single second. Let them go

In phone call, Xi, Putin 'strongly condemn' Israeli strikes on Iran; call for immediate ceasefire

AGENCIES
BEIJING

Chinese President Xi Jinping and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin on Thursday strongly condemned Israeli strikes on Iran and called for an immediate ceasefire, "especially" by Israel, and an end to attacks on civilians.

In a phone call, Xi discussed the Israel-Iran conflict with Putin and said a ceasefire is an urgent priority in settling the conflict



in West Asia, and the use of force is not the right way to resolve international disputes.

This was Xi's first comment on the current con-

flict in the region, amid US President Donald Trump's warning to Iran and Israel's threat to target Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

'I have a plan for everything': Trump on escalating Israel-Iran conflict

AGENCIES
WASHINGTON DC

US President Donald Trump on Wednesday (local time) expressed concern over the escalating tensions between Israel and Iran, stating that while he has a plan in place, the outcome remains uncertain.

Trump again refused to say whether he would order a strike on Iran. "I have a plan for everything... anything could happen," he said.

Trump expressed frustration over Iran's decision not to make a deal, stating, "They should have made the deal. I had a great deal for them." Trump mentioned that Iran wanted to meet and come to the White House, but his tone suggests uncertainty about the outcome.

He reflected on past negotiations, expressed regret over Iran's missed

opportunity to strike a deal, and hinted at the possibility of renewed talks. Trump also underscored the severity of the current crisis, mentioning ongoing meetings and the broader impact of the conflict.

"I have a plan for everything, but we will see what happens. They should have made the deal. I had a great deal for them," Trump said, referring to past negotiations with Iran.

He continued, "We talked about it for 60 days, and in the end, they decided not to do it, and now they wish they had. It's late to meet, but they want to, and they want to come to the White House. I may do that... Anything could happen..."

Highlighting the gravity of the current developments, Trump added, "I have a meeting in the war room in a while. We are in the midst of something terrible. I hate to see so much

death and destruction..."

While not revealing his full strategy, Trump hinted that decisions may be made at the last moment.

"I have ideas as to what I could do, but they are not final. I like to finalise one second before it's due. Things change. Especially with war..."

Meanwhile, Israeli authorities said at least 24 people have been killed and hundreds injured since then in Iranian missile attacks. In Iran, 585 people have been killed and more than 1,300 wounded in the Israeli assault, reported Anadolu Agency, citing Iranian media reports.

The conflict between Israel and Iran has entered its seventh day. As Iran and Israel continue to trade strikes, US President Donald Trump held a situation room meeting on Wednesday to discuss

'Khalistani extremists are using Canadian soil to target India'

AGENCIES
OTTAWA

CSIS confirms Khalistani extremists are using Canada to promote and fund violence in India. The report validates India's long-standing concerns and increases diplomatic strain between Ottawa and New Delhi, as both nations agree to restore High Commissioners amid foreign interference allegations.

Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) has officially acknowledged in its latest annual report that Khalistani extremists continue to use Canada as a base for promoting, fundraising, and planning acts of violence, primarily in India.

Released on Wednesday, the CSIS report marks the first time that the Canadian intelligence agency has explicitly referred to these groups as "extremists," giving weight to India's repeated warnings over the past several years. "A small group of individuals are consid-

ered Khalistani extremists because they continue to use Canada as a base for the promotion, fundraising or planning of violence primarily in India," the report stated.



The acknowledgment comes at a sensitive time when diplomatic ties between Canada and India have been strained. However, a glimmer of restoration emerged this week after Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney met at the G7 Leaders' Summit in Kananaskis, Alberta. Both leaders agreed to take "calibrated steps" to restore diplomatic stability,

including appointing new High Commissioners to each other's capitals, according to a statement from the Prime Minister's Office of Canada.

The CSIS report under-

lined that the Politically Motivated Violent Extremism (PMVE) threat in Canada has mainly emerged from Canada-based Khalistani extremists (CBKEs). These groups continue their push for a separate nation-state Khalistan largely carved out of India's Punjab region. "Since the mid-1980s, the PMVE threat in Canada has manifested primarily through CBKEs," CSIS noted.

US analyst warns: Pak may get Iran nukes

AGENCIES
WASHINGTON DC

Former Pentagon official and a senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute, Michael Rubin, has said that US forces need to enter Iran and eradicate its nuclear program and said that it is a possibility that Pakistan could receive Iran's nuclear supplies after the cessation of hostilities. However, he called for not paying Pakistan for cooperation or for receiving Iranian nuclear-enriched material.

Speaking to ANI, Rubin called Iran and Pakistan "competitors" despite the two nations cooperating sometimes. His remarks come amid the conflict between Israel and Iran that entered its seventh day on Thursday, while US President Donald Trump insists that Iran cannot have a nuclear weapon.

Rubin said that the US calling Pakistan an ally in fighting terrorism is "not reality but a diplomatic rhetoric" and even recalled how former US



Michael Rubin

President Franklin Delano Roosevelt termed former Soviet Union Prime Minister Joseph Stalin a close ally during the Second World War.

Asked about Trump and the US Central Command chief remarks, where they declared Pakistan a close ally of the US in tackling terrorism, Rubin responded, "Remember that, during World War II, Franklin Delano Roosevelt talked about Joseph Stalin as a close ally. This is diplomatic rhetoric. It's not reality. Everyone sees Pakistan for what it is,

Trump expresses 'keen interest' in trade partnership with Pakistan

AGENCIES
WASHINGTON

In a diplomatic move, Trump sees strategic opportunity in Pakistan for trade, regional influence, and counter-terrorism cooperation, especially amid shifting Middle East dynamics and tensions involving Iran and India. In a highly unusual and symbolic gesture, former U.S. President Donald Trump hosted Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff, General Asim Munir, for a private luncheon at the White House -- the first such honor ever extended to a serving Pakistani military chief. The meeting, attended by key U.S. figures including Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Middle East envoy Steve Witkoff, marks a notable moment in U.S.-Pakistan relations, with potential regional implications, particularly for India.

According to Pakistan's

Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), Trump expressed "keen interest" in forging a long-term, mutually beneficial trade partnership with Pakistan rooted in strategic convergence and shared interests. Discussions reportedly spanned a broad range of areas, including trade, economic development, artificial intelligence, cryptocurrency, energy, mining, and other emerging technologies. The inclusion of such diverse sectors suggests an ambitious vision for future cooperation, especially as Pakistan seeks to reposition itself in global markets.

Importantly, the Pakistani side conveyed gratitude to Trump for his "constructive and result-oriented" role in facilitating a ceasefire between India and Pakistan during their recent military standoff. Trump, in turn, praised General Munir's leadership and acknowledged Pakistan's efforts in

promoting regional peace and stability, especially in the realm of counter-terrorism. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to continued collaboration in this field, which has long been a cornerstone of the U.S.-Pakistan security relationship.

The meeting also addressed broader geopolitical tensions, including the escalating conflict between Iran and Israel.

Trump emphasized Pakistan's nuanced understanding of Iran, hinting at Islamabad's potential role in future conflict de-escalation efforts. "They know Iran better than most," he remarked, suggesting that Pakistan could act as a diplomatic bridge in the complex Middle East landscape.

The significance of this engagement cannot be overstated. It came at a time when relations between the U.S. and Pakistan had been strained for years,

Iran launched over 450 ballistic missiles in last six days: IDF

AGENCIES
TEL AVIV

Israel Defence Forces Spokesperson Brigadier General Effie Defrin on Thursday said that Iran has expressed their desire to destroy the state of Israel.

Defrin said that besides attacking a hospital in Beer Sheva, over the past six days, Iran launched over 450 ballistic missiles and hundreds of UAVs.

"Early this morning, an Iranian ballistic missile directly hit the Soroka Hospital in Beer Sheva. This hospital serves over one million Israelis, including Bedouins, Jews, Christians, and Arabs alike," he said.

"Iran targeting civilian centers with ballistic missiles is no surprise for us. They have been openly declaring their desire to destroy the State of Israel for decades now. These aren't just words. Over the past six days, Iran has launched over 450 ballistic missiles and hundreds of UAVs," he said.



Israel Defence Forces Spokesperson Brigadier General Effie Defrin

He further said that these reasons justify why Iran should not be allowed to procure nuclear weapons.

"This is exactly why we cannot and we will not allow this regime to obtain nuclear weapons or expand its missile arsenal. And so we continue our operations, striking Iranian nuclear weapons facilities, missile launchers, and military sites," he said.

Defrin said that Iran targeted civilians while Israel targeted existential threat.

"Iran targets civilians. We target an existential threat that endangers global security.

And we will prevail," he said.

Israel embassy in India said that Israel will do all that is necessary to protect its people.

"The Iranian regime attacked Soroka Hospital in Beersheba with a ballistic missile - this is a major medical center. We will not sit quietly. We will continue to do whatever is necessary to protect our people."

The Israeli Air Force carried out a wave of strikes in western Iran a short while ago, targeting Iranian ballistic missile infrastructure and Iranian soldiers, the Times of Israel reported.

NO BAN ON ‘THUG LIFE’ RELEASE, WILL GIVE SECURITY ON SCREENING: K'TAKA TO SC

AGENCIES
BENGALURU

The Karnataka government has submitted its response to the Supreme Court regarding the ongoing controversy over the release of Kamal Haasan's film 'Thug Life' in the state.

In its affidavit, the government clarified that it has not imposed any restrictions on the film's release. It assured that adequate protection and security would be provided if the producers choose to screen the movie in Karnataka. The state further confirmed its commitment to ensuring the safety of everyone involved in the film's release.

However, the government



highlighted that the Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce (KFCC)—the apex body of the Kannada film industry—had written to Kamal Haasan seeking an apology for his controversial remarks about the Kannada language. Haasan had stated that Kannada “originated” from Tamil, sparking protests from various pro-Kannada groups.

The matter is scheduled to be heard by the Supreme Court on June 19.

On June 18, Praveen Shetty, President of the pro-Kannada organisation Karnataka Rakshana Vedike, clarified that his group is not opposing the release of 'Thug Life'. However, he reiterated that Kamal Haasan should apologise for his remarks about the Kannada

language, as recommended by the Karnataka High Court.

Shetty said, “We are not opposing the release of 'Thug Life'. It was a simple issue. After hurting the sentiments of Karnataka by saying that Kannada has been born out of Tamil, he should have apologised as per the High Court's suggestion. But since he moved to the Supreme Court, we accept the court's order.”

He also stressed that curbing activism through police action goes against the Constitution and the rule of law.

Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar urged pro-Kannada organisations to respect the Supreme Court's order on the film's release.

Actors responsible for their journeys, Bollywood not responsible for late or early bloomers: Boman Irani

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Veteran actor Boman Irani, who made his film debut at the age of 44 and directed his first feature film 'The Mehta Boys' at 65, is widely celebrated as one of Bollywood's most inspiring late bloomers. Known for his distinctive versatility and commanding screen presence, Irani recently shared his views on what truly drives success in the Indian film industry.

In a candid interview, Irani challenged the long-held belief that early or



late success in Bollywood is determined solely by opportunities. Instead, he asserted that actors them-

selves are responsible for their journeys—regardless of when they bloom. “I don't think Bol-

lywood is responsible for late bloomers. Bollywood, or the Indian film industry, is not responsible for late bloomers or early bloomers. It is up to the individual to be responsible for their bloom. You make your own luck, they say, right?” said Irani.

He emphasised the importance of dedication, training, and constant self-improvement over relying on appearance or connections alone.

“I just tell people who come with dreams—sure, come with dreams.

China Film Foundation launches AI powered restoration of martial arts

AGENCIES
WASHINGTON D.C.

At the 27th Shanghai International Film Festival, the China Film Foundation and its partners unveiled two groundbreaking AI-powered initiatives under the Kung Fu Film Heritage Project, as reported by Variety. The project includes a large-scale restoration of 100 classic martial arts films using artificial intelligence, alongside the world's first fully AI-produced animated feature film.

The restoration initiative aims to digitally remaster landmark kung fu classics by enhancing image quality, sound, and overall production value through AI technologies—while preserving the original storytelling and aesthetic integrity. Organisers emphasised this as a long-term commitment to reviving and preserving the cultural and cinematic legacy of Chinese martial arts films.

“From Bruce Lee to Jackie Chan, from 'Crouching Tiger', 'Hidden Dragon' to 'Wolf Warrior', these films have shown the world the vitality and spirit of the Chi-



Notable titles selected for AI restoration include 'Fist of Fury', 'The Big Boss', 'Once Upon a Time in China', and 'Drunken Master'.

nese people. They are our cinematic calling cards to the world,” said Zhang Qilin, chair of the China Film Foundation, quoted by Variety.

Notable titles selected for AI restoration include 'Fist of Fury', 'The Big Boss', 'Once Upon a Time in China', and 'Drunken Master'. According to Tian Ming, chair of Canxing Media, ten of these films will be prioritized in the initial phase of the restoration process.

On the same evening, the foundation also premiered 'A Better Tomorrow: Cy-

ber Border', touted as the world's first fully AI-produced animated feature. This cyberpunk reimagining of John Woo's iconic crime classic is produced by Quantum Animation using a comprehensive AI pipeline—covering scripting, modelling, animation, and rendering.

“This entire animated feature was made by just 30 people. AI has collapsed the barrier between creativity and execution. The production cycle has gone from years to months,” said producer Zhang Qing.

Sunjay Kapur's final rites held in Delhi

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

The funeral of noted industrialist Sunjay J. Kapur, who passed away at the age of 53 following a heart attack during a polo match in the United Kingdom, took place in Delhi on Thursday.

His final rites were held last evening at the Lodhi Road Cremation Ground (Dayanand Muktidham), with family members and close associates expected to attend.

Kapur, a prominent leader in the automotive sector and



Chairman of Sona Comstar, reportedly suffered cardiac arrest while playing polo in England. According to family friend and actor Suhel Seth, a bee sting during the match may have triggered

the heart attack.

Seth expressed his condolences on social media platform X, stating, “Deeply saddened at the passing of @sunjaykapur... a terrible loss and deepest condolences to

his family and colleagues... Om Shanti.”

Apart from his industrial achievements, Kapur was also known for his passion for polo. He is survived by his wife Priya Kapur and four children: Samaira, Kiaan (from his previous marriage to actor Karisma Kapoor), and Safira and Azarias.

Yesterday morning, Karisma Kapoor, along with her children Samaira and Kiaan, was spotted at a private airport in Mumbai dressed in white. Karisma and Sunjay had married in



Malaika Arora snapped in a structured gold corset gown by Shantanu and Nikhil, paired with a bold, T-shaped pearl choker from Dillano Jewels. (Instagram)

BRAIN PICKING



There are thousands of good-looking women out there. Longevity for a heroine doesn't come only with good looks: talent matters.

— SAMANTHA RUTH PRABHU
(Indian Actress)

Dhanush, Nagarjuna's socio-drama 'Kuberaa' gets UA certificate

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

The much-anticipated socio-drama 'Kuberaa', starring Dhanush, Nagarjuna, and Rashmika Mandanna, has officially received a UA certificate from the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC), clearing its way for a theatrical release across the globe on June 20. The film's certified runtime is 181 minutes, promising an intense and engaging cinematic experience.

The makers took to their X (formerly Twitter) handle to share the update, posting the CBFC certificate and revealing key details. They wrote, “181 minutes of drama,

emotion, love, greed, thrill, and everything in between! #Kuberaa – A complete U/A socio-drama that promises a fresh cinematic experience.”

Reportedly, the film underwent several cuts to align with CBFC guidelines and secure the UA rating, ensuring it remains accessible to a broad spectrum of viewers.

Directed by Sekhar Kamula, known for his National Award-winning debut Dollar Dreams, 'Kuberaa' explores a gripping narrative built around ambition, power, and morality. The recently released trailer hints at an intricate story where the clash between ethics and greed takes centre stage.



Eric Dane makes first red carpet appearance since ALS diagnosis

AGENCIES
WASHINGTON D.C.

Actor Eric Dane walked the red carpet at the premiere of the new series 'Countdown' in Los Angeles on Wednesday, marking his first public appearance since revealing his diagnosis with ALS (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis).

Dane was accompanied



by his co-stars Jensen Ackles, Jessica Camacho, Elliot Knight, Violet Beane, and Uli Latukefu, reported Variety. The event was an emotional milestone for the 52-year-old actor, who bravely disclosed in an earlier interview that he now has only “one functioning arm.”

“My left side is functioning, my right side has completely stopped working. I feel like

maybe a couple more months and I won't have my left hand either. It's sobering,” Dane shared during his heartfelt interview with Diane Sawyer on Good Morning America, as reported by Variety.

Diagnosed in April after nine months of tests, Dane began experiencing symptoms about a year and a half ago, initially noticing weakness in his right hand. ALS

is a progressive neurodegenerative disease that gradually weakens muscles, eventually causing paralysis and impacting the ability to speak, breathe, and move. There is currently no known cure.

Despite the diagnosis, Dane remains committed to his craft. He is preparing for the third season of the acclaimed series 'Euphoria', though he has yet to shoot any scenes.

Uma Thurman returns to 'put her toe into action again' with The Old Guard 2

AGENCIES
WASHINGTON

Actress Uma Thurman has opened up about her decision to step back from action films following the massive success of the 'Kill Bill' franchise. Now, she's making a long-awaited return to the genre with 'The Old Guard 2', starring alongside Charlize Theron.

Speaking on 'The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon', Thurman revealed that she deliberately avoided a slew



of action roles after 'Kill Bill' to preserve her legacy as an action star. “I never really followed Kill Bill up with action because I didn't kind of want to be in a whole bunch of 'B' action movies,” she told People magazine.

Thurman saw 'The Old Guard 2' as a perfect opportunity to “put my toe into action again.” She was particularly drawn to the film's story and characters and especially inspired by Charlize Theron's performance in the first installment.

Glow effortlessly: Beauty essentials that work for you

TDG NETWORK

Discover beauty that adapts to you. We've curated a collection of must-have essentials that seamlessly blend skincare benefits with makeup magic—so you can achieve a fresh, radiant look with minimal effort. Whether you're craving a dewy, lit-from-within glow or seeking multi-purpose products that simplify your routine,

der ph Butter Blush is a revolutionary formula designed to enhance every complexion with a natural, radiant flush. This ultra-lightweight, hydrating blush adapts to the skin's unique pH levels, ensuring a perfectly customized shade that complements every skin tone. Enriched with nourishing ingredients, the PH Butter Blush not only delivers a soft, dewy glow but also provides deep hydration, making it ideal



these handpicked favorites are designed to enhance your natural beauty while nourishing your skin. From innovative pH-adaptive formulas to hydrating, skin-loving textures, these game-changers deliver effortless glam with every application. Get ready to glow, shine, and feel confident—because beauty should feel as good as it looks.

**LYOUX COSMETICS
LAVENDER PH
BUTTER BLUSH**
Lyoux Cosmetics Laven-

for dry, normal, and combination skin types. Its silky, buildable texture allows for effortless blending, ensuring a seamless, second-skin finish without feeling heavy or cakey. Unlike traditional blushes, which can look flat or unnatural, this innovative formula reacts with the skin's natural chemistry to create a personalized flush of color that enhances one's natural beauty. Whether it's a subtle daytime glow or a more defined look for the evening, the PH Butter Blush offers long-lasting

wear, keeping cheeks fresh and luminous throughout the day. With its skin-loving prop-

erties and innovative pH-adaptive technology, the Lyoux PH Butter Blush is more than just makeup—

it's a skincare-infused beauty essential designed to bring out the best in every complexion.

Empowered design, conscious jewellery and bold identity

TDG NETWORK

1. How have your different backgrounds shaped Amalfa's design and vision?

● At Amalfa, our design and vision are shaped by the unique strengths that each of us brings to the brand. I, Neha, have a deep passion for design and aesthetic sensibilities, honed through my education in fashion design and years of professional experience in creative direction and craftsmanship. This foundation allows us to create jewellery that is timeless, elegant, and thoughtfully crafted. ● Ishita complements this with her expertise in technology and digital marketing, bringing fresh and innovative ways to connect with our customers. She ensures that our jewellery isn't just a passing fashion trend but is as powerful a form of personal identity and self-expression. Together, we blend design excellence with meaningful storytelling, crafting pieces that celebrate individuality and empower women to wear their strength and style proudly. ● At Amalfa, jewellery should be more than just an adornment. It is a statement of who you are.



2. What does "conscious adornment" mean to you at Amalfa?

● To us at Amalfa, "conscious adornment" is about more than just wearing jewellery. It is about choosing pieces with intention. Something that empowers you and reflects who you truly are. We believe jewellery should be skin-safe and thoughtfully designed so they're not only beautiful but also responsible choices for your well-being. ● Conscious adornment means wearing jewellery that holds meaning, celebrates boldness, and complements your authentic self. Each Amalfa piece is created to resonate with the alpha spirit in every wearer, blending timeless elegance with modern innovation. Sustainability is another important aspect of this philosophy. Our focus on durable, allergy-safe metals and timeless designs reduces waste and encourages mindful consumption. More and more buyers today want jewellery that not only looks good but also aligns with their values of ethical craftsmanship and environmental responsibility. According to a McKinsey report, 66% of jewellery consumers now prioritise sustainability, seeking out brands that use recycled metals and responsibly sourced gemstones. ● At Amalfa, conscious adornment is a celebration of identity, a statement of purpose, and a commitment to craftsmanship that honours both the wearer and the world around her.

embody those values every day. While challenges exist in the broader landscape, we choose to focus on empowerment, innovation, and creating opportunities rather than limitations.

authentic storytelling is our strategy.

● We create for the modern Indian alpha woman: bold, empowered, and confident. Our jewellery embodies sustainability, durability, and a fearless spirit. This philosophy is more than just a narrative; it's the foundation of everything we do, guiding our outreach, marketing, and product design. By staying true to this story, we build meaningful connections that drive our brand forward with purpose and impact.

4. How do you balance storytelling and strategy while building the brand?

● We don't see storytelling and strategy as opposing forces. Infact, we believe they're two sides of the same coin, both essential to building a brand that truly resonates. For us, effective,



3. What challenges have you faced as women founders in this space?

● We're very aware that women entrepreneurs often face unique challenges in business, and we deeply respect the journeys many have navigated. We haven't encountered significant obstacles that have held us back. As empowered women ourselves, we are confidently charting our path and building a brand that genuinely represents modern, alpha women - strong, independent, and unapologetically bold. ● Amalfa reflects who we are and the community we serve. Our vision is to create jewellery for women who lead with confidence and purpose, and we're proud to

Why millennials are switching to henna creams for scalp-safe hair colour

CLELIA CECILIA ANGELON

For those who love to color their hair, whether to stay abreast with the latest fashion or to cover those greys, harsh chemical-based hair dyes were a quick solution for a long time. However, consumers started seeing long-term negative impacts on their hair and scalp. They saw an increase in hair fall and the hair turned brittle and lifeless. Moreover, while the color looked great initially, it faded with every wash, ultimately requiring another visit to the salon. The aware consumer is now shifting to natural, harsh-chemical-free ways to naturally cover the greys. Henna cream, a ready-made henna paste mixed with ingredients such as jua, malva, babassu oil, jaborandi, guarana, and açá, sourced from Brazilian rainforests, has emerged as a popular choice for millennials who are turning away from harsh chemicals.

Great for concealing greys, henna cream has a variety of ingredients. It lasts longer than harsh chemical hair dyes and gives the scalp and hair nutrition and nourishment. This pre-mixed henna paste comes with an easy-to-use applicator and is a great choice for people who find henna messy. Simply apply for about two hours, then rinse it off. Your hair will be lovely, shining and soft. This henna cream, when mixed with the right ingredients, can produce beautiful hair colours like red, copper, brown, black, burgundy, and even blonde. It is a solution especially for those who have more greys and who don't like the orange stain that henna cream



leaves behind. When used as a natural hair mask, henna is perfect for restoring depleted nutrients and giving your hair the lustre it deserves, particularly in the winter. Because it is natural, organic, and vegan, and because it doesn't include any harmful chemicals like PPD, EDTA, GMOs, gluten, ammonia,

or its byproducts like ethanalamine, diethanolamine, or triethanolamine, henna is the perfect answer. Ammonia and its derivatives, which have been linked to cancer, are frequently found in harsh chemical-based hair colours. Endocrine disruptors include things like TEA, DEA, sulphates, PPD, resorcinol or hydro-

Color fixation shampoos and conditioners will ensure that the color stays longer, instead of simply fading away. Also, they can be used post-henna cream application or chemical hair dye.

gen peroxide, and parabens. Thyroid issues may result in certain individuals due to an imbalance in the endocrine glands caused by sulphates. Use shampoos with mild cleansing ingredients, ideally with high conditioning power, for everyday maintenance to maintain the hair's natural oil content. Color fixation shampoos and conditioners will ensure that the color stays longer, instead of simply fading away. Also, they can be used post-henna cream application or chemical hair dye. Avoid too much heat as well. Use lukewarm water to wash the hair and let it air dry to preserve its natural moisture content. The

greatest advice when coloring your hair is to choose solutions that have a lot of natural components that won't damage your hair. Your best option is to use Henna Cream which is rich in conditioning nutrients, has an easy-to-use applicator, and covers all white hair. It also provides a complete solution from root to tip, restoring nutrients and hydrating the hair. Moreover, henna cream color stays for up to 10 washes, only needing root touch-up as per hair growth. Being natural, it does not have any side effects. Thus, henna cream is a great solution for those looking for natural ways to color their hair.

WILDFLOWER WHISPERS IS AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL YET UNIVERSAL: DR. HASEENA KABEER



PROF SHIV SETHI

Dr. Haseena Kabeer is a celebrated Indian author, educator, and poet currently based in Abu Dhabi, UAE. With over two decades of experience in academia and a deep-rooted passion for language and literature, she has inspired countless students and readers alike.

through characters, poetry lets me speak directly from my soul. Wildflower Whispers isn't just a collection; it's a diary of emotions and resilience. The verses flowed from me like unspoken truths I've carried for years silent echoes waiting to find voice. Over the years, I've written and published poems in newspapers and literary magazines, often contributing to columns where my words found space but never a permanent home. Each of those pieces felt like fragments of a larger story. One day, I found myself reading through old clippings and

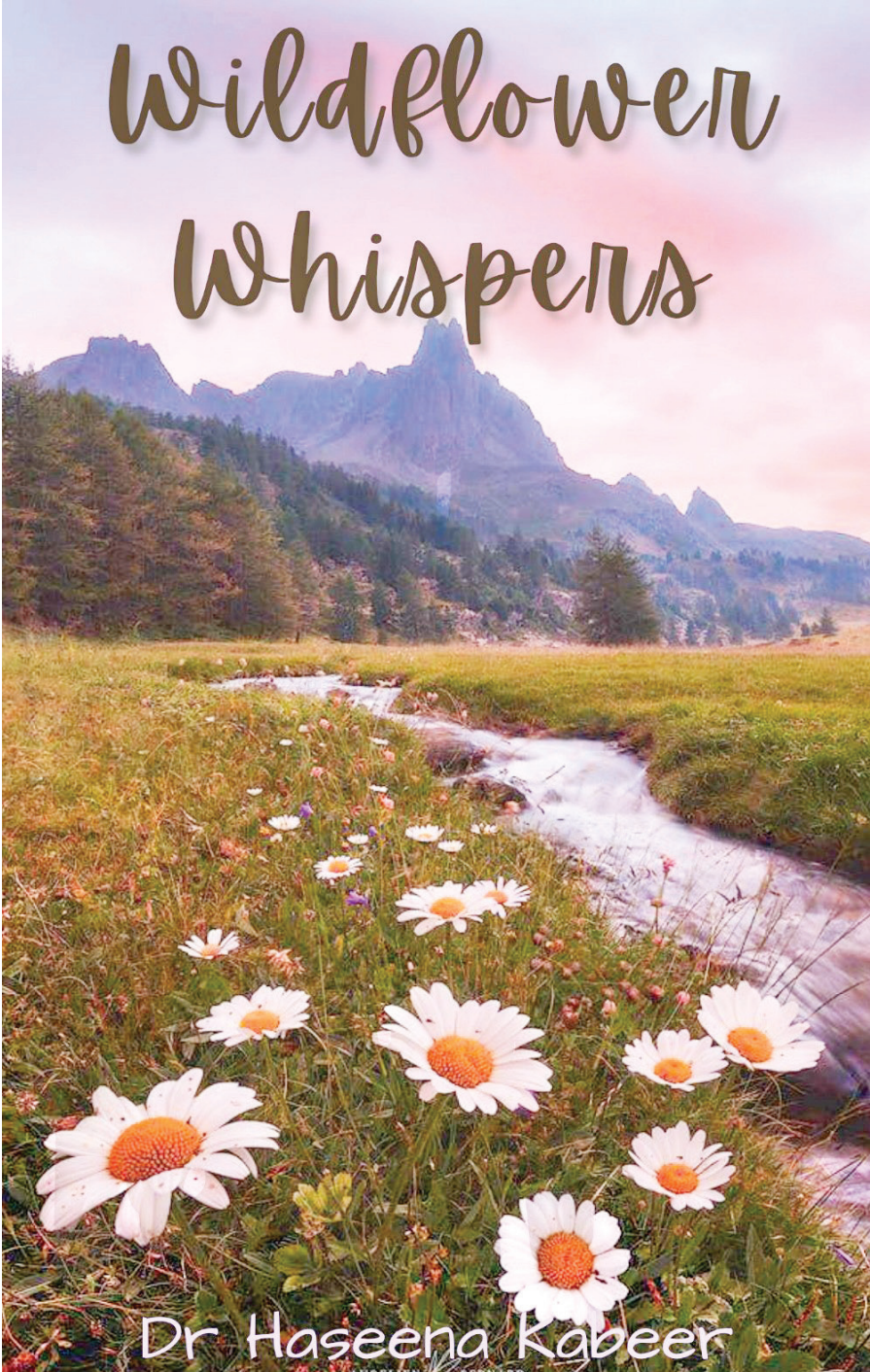


A regular columnist and a lifelong believer in the power of words, Dr. Haseena Kabeer has long nurtured a dream of publishing a poetry collection. Wildflower Whispers marks the soulful realization of that dream, an autobiographical expression of healing, identity, and inner strength. Her writing is enriched by her lived experiences as a woman, educator, and mother, and her verses invite readers to pause, reflect, and rediscover themselves amidst life's chaos.

Why did you choose to write a poetry book instead of fiction?
Poetry has always been my natural medium of expression it comes unfiltered, raw, and honest. While fiction allows for storytelling

typed drafts, and it struck me why not gather them, rework them with the depth that life has since added, and bring them together as a book.

What makes Wildflower Whispers different from other poetry books?
Wildflower Whispers is autobiographical yet universal. It's not just about crafting beautiful language, it's about vulnerability, survival, and silent strength. These poems are born from real emotional landscapes of motherhood, sacrifice, identity, and rebirth. The voice in the book is unguarded and deeply personal, yet readers across cultures will find echoes of their own emotions within the lines.



How did the title Wildflower Whispers come to you?
The title came to me during a solitary walk in evening. Wildflowers survive in the harshest of terrains, they don't need permission to bloom. That metaphor resonated deeply with my journey. The "whispers" signify the quiet strength of women, the silent conversations with the self, and the inner voice that often goes unheard. It felt like the perfect name for something so personal and gentle, yet powerful.

Who is your favourite poet, and what is poetry to you?

Poetry, to me, is the language of the soul it's where emotions take form, where silence finds voice. It is not just a literary form but a space for healing, resistance, reflection, and transformation. As for poets who have shaped me, I have always drawn deep inspiration from women poets like Maya Angelou and Kamala Surayya. Maya's commanding grace and resilience taught me that pain can birth power, and Kamala's unapologetic honesty about womanhood and love deeply resonated with my own

experiences. From the world of Urdu poetry, Nida Fazli's simplicity and emotional clarity have often moved me, while the timeless spiritual beauty of Rumi continues to enchant and guide me. Growing up, reading Rumi was like walking through a garden of wisdom, his verses always left me awe-struck, and urging me to look inward. These poets, in their own ways, helped me find my voice. Wildflower Whispers is my homage not just to my journey, but to the poetic legacy that made such expression possible.

Sonal C Holland: A compelling memoir 'One in a Billion'

TDG NETWORK

One in a Billion, a highly inspiring memoir by Sonal C Holland, India's first and only Master of Wine, is set to release on June 24 under Westland Business, an imprint of Westland Books. A compelling story of personal transformation, the memoir chronicles her journey from a traditional corporate life to becoming a pioneering force in India's alco-bev industry. Holland left her corporate job to become India's first Master of Wine, a title held by fewer than 450 people worldwide. One in a Billion captures the grit and grace behind this quest, as she balanced motherhood, gruelling study sessions, and years of travel in pursuit of the title she once thought was unattainable.

The book is a perfect juxtaposition of a memoir and a masterclass and takes the reader through her incredible journey of her quest to earn the title. Holland also offers glimpses into wine tasting, the technicalities of winemaking, and the evolution of India's wine culture. She writes with candour and warmth, giving in life lessons that she learnt along the way.



magic of believing you were born for more. It is a must-read for anyone navigating career pivots, chasing ambitious goals, or simply looking to raise a toast to possibility.

Speaking on the occasion, Sonal C Holland said, "This book is for anyone at a crossroads in life, questioning if it's too late to start over. It's a reminder to carve your own path instead of waiting for others to lead and to

realise that success isn't where you stop, it's where you rise higher. I hope it uncorks a fierce self-belief within the readers; the kind that reminds you that you were always made for more."

Aurodeep Mukherjee, Commissioning Editor, Westland Books added, "Most of us know very little about the world of wine, yet Sonal's story is striking from its premise alone: she is the first person in India to have earned the title of Master of Wine, which makes her the most qualified wine professional in the country. Her story is unique and is an inspiration to those who feel their job is a dead end and dreams of things that are bigger and better."

One in a Billion, the trailblazing memoir of India's only Master of Wine, Sonal C Holland is now available on pre-order on Amazon.

POEM

Care Label



MANJISHTHA PAHILAJANI

Tearing at the in-seams of my soul
looking for a label
that will tell me
how to take care of it
should I wash it in
the machine or with
hands?
iron the wrinkles or
dry clean?
is bleaching the
stains an option?
maybe I should look
for its origin.
was it made by over-exploited workers
which is why it's worn
out at 22?
or was it a high-quality brand
that the owner didn't
take care of properly?
I think the only
instruction that comes
with it is
'handle with care'

Dr. Krishna Saksena's new book 'Flowers Bloom' unveiled by Padmashri awardee Dr. Kalyan Banerjee

TDG NETWORK

Dr. Krishna Saksena, leading Indian author launched her new book 'Flowers Bloom'—a collection of short stories in New Delhi. The book was unveiled by Dr. Kalyan Banerjee Padmashri recipient for his contribution in the field of medicine and honorary physician to four former Presidents of India. 'Flowers Bloom' is a collection of thought provoking and spiritually enriching short stories which illuminate timeless human values through simple, poignant narratives. Drawing from Indian culture, moral philosophy and lived experience, each story offers a lesson in life, character and conscience. The book is written in very simple style and engages

the reader to reflect, grow and live with greater awareness. Flowers Bloom is both a moral guide and a tribute to the enduring beauty of virtuous living. The site of the book la Inspired by flowers which lend exquisiteness and fragrance to all without expectation like the stories in the book which the author expects will inspire and guide the reader, in any way possible. Speaking at the Launch. Dr. Krishna Saksena said, "Stories have the power to touch hearts where mere Instruction often fails, even the Vedas speak in stories, for the heart learns what the mind resists. I hope t awaken that gentle voice within the reader the voice of conscience, compassion and clarity. It is important

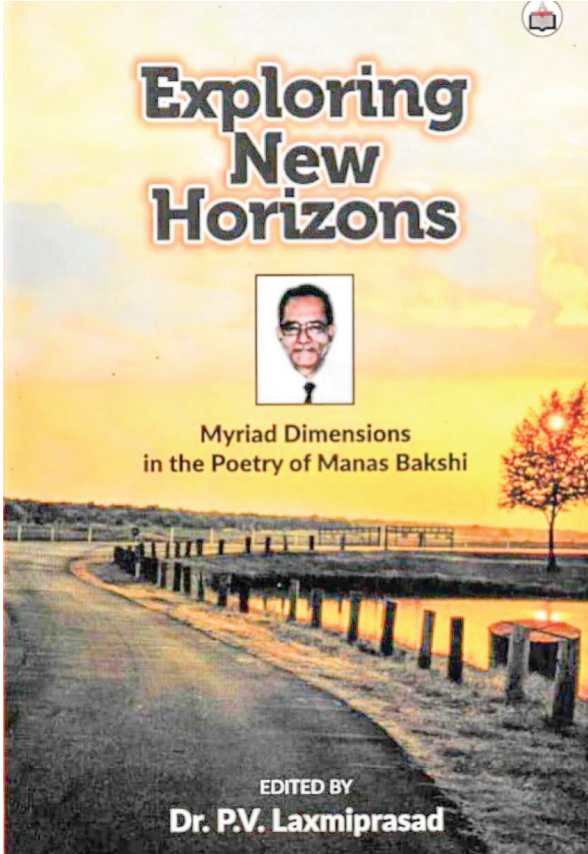
to return to timeless values of integrity, humility, empathy and devotion, if this book encourages the reader to pause, reflect, be a little kinder and more thoughtful than I would consider my effort as successful. Commenting on the book, Dr. Kalyan Banerjee said, "Each book written by Dr. Saxena stands as a testament of her diverse, rich life and emotional experiences. The simple short stories transcending time, help us reflect on our lives, our values and our actions. The stories, I would say, are timeless, forever valuable, each one completely relevant today. The characters in every story are unique and relatable, lending an instant connect with the reader."



Poetic Elegance of Manas Bakshi

RUPALI SETHI

The book "Exploring New Horizons" is yet another scholarly work on Indian Poet Manas Bakshi which has been painstakingly and meticulously edited by eminent Indian author P.V.Laxmiprasad. The book sheds light on motivational and imaginative responses to the poems of Manas Bakshi. Criticism is an art that takes the author many steps ahead. The critical essays enshrined in the collection successfully stimulate the readers to acquire the discipline of reading habits and critical fluency. The mind of poet dwells upon the ideas totally suited to his artistic temperament. He puts his plan for the continuance and fetches a mode of life as he opposes the violent revolution and admires the courageous people ardently. His poems of architectural structure are carefully designed and steadily developed and progression is seen. The ideas are transformed into poetic expressions to unravel the riddles of life. The signs and symbols are as machinery to give some system to his poetic thoughts. The critical conjectures evolve in the hands of prominent editor P.V.Laxmiprasad into exhibiting his editorial skills and find a quiet space to do his job. He begins to editing meticulously in a straight way putting his content into the context before delving into the details. The critics exemplify his poetry to be the manifestation of his emotions, experiences, quest, discovery and past attainments. What is round and true amid the bewildering confusion of our times is photographically rendered in his sublime and subtle poetic pieces. The poet endeavors to breathe his spirit into poetry with utmost dedication. He neglects the mechanical



part but he is possessed with into the discipline of acclaiming idealism. It is an exposition of the poet's utilitarian outlook to the apprehension of bewildering and recurrent subject of love and life. The poet lashes at the littleness of human minds devoid of nobility and centrifugal force. The critics claim Bakshi's courage for the articulation to the point of malcontent that India commonly suffers from the scantiness, thickness of population, the environmental degradation, moral and spiritual degeneration, blind faith and illiteracy. He is very successful in mirroring the contemporary Indian society to silence the cry of devotion. The reading of his verses highlights the fact that he has been compelled by various life experiences which grant him an extra potential and intense energy to portray the practical life situations vividly in his work. The poet moves from the mundane world to the super mundane with his characteristic of meta-

physical bent of mind, self-discerning eyes for details powerful psychic tendency and tangent philosophical seriousness. He writes in symbolism terms to the support of the images and word pictures. The microcosm of his subjects encompasses the incongruities in society, hypocrisy, discrimination, scanty lives of the poor, forms of love and a sense of loneliness. The poet has visions which no one can apprehend. The doctrine of the autonomy of the works of art is very much dominant and so the influences from the author and his creative works should not be ignored. The author of standard works and the poems of Bakshi make tremendous contributions to the central tradition of Indian Writing in English criticism unmistakably. Thus, the critical volume becomes an authority on Mans Bakshi's poetry which is a must read for all the lovers of great poetry.

Rupali Sethi is a noted Book Reviewer and columnist.

NEW TROPHY TO HONOUR ANDERSON AND TENDULKAR IN ENGLAND-INDIA TEST SERIES

AGENCIES
LEEDS (UK)

The England Men's and India Men's Test teams will honour James Anderson and Sachin Tendulkar with a new trophy dedicated to their remarkable achievements in Test cricket. The next edition of this great rivalry takes place this summer, with the five-match Test series getting underway at Headingley on June 20.

The Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy, a joint initiative between the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) and the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), will now represent all future Test series between England and India. Previously, the series in England was played for the Pataudi Trophy and the series in India for the Anthony De Mello Trophy.

The Pataudi family will continue to be honoured, with a newly commissioned Pataudi Medal to be presented to the winning captain of each England-India Test series.

The trophy features imagery of Anderson and Tendulkar in action, along with their engraved signatures - a



Former cricketers Sachin Tendulkar (right) of India and England's James Anderson pose for pictures with the new Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy during a photo call at Lord's Cricket Ground in London, England. Agencies

fitting tribute to two of the game's most iconic figures.

Both Anderson and Tendulkar are widely regarded as all-time greats. They are the most-capped players in the history of Test cricket: Tendulkar played 200 matches, and Anderson 188.

Anderson, considered one of the finest exponents of swing bowling, took 704 Test wickets, the most by a fast bowler in the format. The Lancashire seamer ranks third on the all-time list, behind only spinners

Muttiah Muralitharan and Shane Warne.

Tendulkar, one of the most complete batters to have graced the game, remains the highest run-scorer in Test history with 15,921 runs. He made his debut at the age of 16 and went on to enjoy a distinguished 24-year international career, during which he played a pivotal role in India's success against every other Test-playing nation.

The official X handle of BCCI posted, "Two cricket-

Told Pataudi family, will do everything to keep his legacy alive: Sachin

NEW DELHI: Indian batting great Sachin Tendulkar on Thursday said he reached out to the family of late Mansur Ali Khan Pataudi as soon as he got to know that the India-England Test series trophy was being renamed and tried to ensure that the former captain's association with the marquee showdown remained intact.

The Pataudi trophy has been replaced by the Anderson-Tendulkar trophy in honour of the Indian batting great and former England pacer James Anderson. The decision to retire the Pataudi trophy was jointly taken by the England and Wales Cricket Board and the BCCI.

"I know that the Pataudi

Trophy was retired a few months ago by BCCI and ECB. But when I got to know about the trophy being named after me and (James) Anderson, my first phone call was to the Pataudi family," the Mumbai maestro recalled in an interview.

"Tiger Pataudi played a huge role in inspiring many generations and that should be never forgotten. So I'm glad with this outcome," the 52-year-old, who is still the owner of highest number of Test runs, said. The Pataudi name will continue to be attached to the series as it has been decided to present a newly-instituted Pataudi Medal for Excellence to the winning captain.

ing icons. One special recognition The legendary Sachin Tendulkar and James Anderson pose alongside the new Anderson-Tendulkar

Trophy." James Anderson, said, "It's a proud moment for me and my family to have this iconic series named after Sachin and myself.

Chopra targets first major title against Weber at Paris Diamond League

AGENCIES
PARIS

Having breached the 90m mark, two-time Olympic medallist Neeraj Chopra would now be eyeing a top finish when he goes up against familiar rivals in the prestigious Paris Diamond League on Friday in a star-studded field here.

Chopra, German ace Julian Weber and two-time world champion Anderson Peters of Grenada will be among eight competitors vying for top honours in the second DL meeting of the season featuring men's javelin throw on the roster. Five of the listed throwers have hit the 90m mark.

Weber had upstaged Chopra in the Doha DL on May 16 after the Indian superstar finally breached the elusive 90m mark. Weber had recorded 91.06m with his last throw to trump Chopra who had sent his spear to a distance of 90.23m in the same event.

The 31-year-old Weber had also beaten Chopra at the Janusz Kusocinski Memorial meet on May 23 in Poland where both performed below their best under chilly and overcast conditions. Weber had produced 86.12m while Chopra could only come up 84.14m to finish second.

Peters was there in the field too at both the Doha DL and the Poland event. He had fin-



ished third in both.

In Paris, Chopra would look to upstage Weber after finishing second in back-to-back competitions as he returns to the French capital after eight years for a Diamond League competition.

Chopra had skipped the Paris DL last year in order to focus on the Olympic Games where he took the silver with a throw of 89.45m. He last competed in the Paris DL in 2017 as a junior world champion and finished fifth with a throw of 84.67m.

In the eight-man field at the Charley Stadium on Friday, five have crossed the 90m mark. Chopra and Weber were the latest entrants to the exclusive club. Peters has already done it in 2022.

Kenya's 2015 world champion Julius Yego and Trinidad and Tobago's 2012 Olympics gold-winner Keshorn Walcott are the other two in the 90m club. Both achieved the feat back in 2015 and since then their performances have declined. "Few meetings can boast a field of five javelin throwers over 90m. Foremost

among them is Tokyo Olympic champion and Paris silver medallist Neeraj Chopra of India, who is as powerful as he is consistent," the Paris DL organisers stated in a promotional release for the event.

The other three in the eight-man field are Luiz Mauricio Da Silva of Brazil, who has a season's as well as personal best of 86.34m, Andrian Mardare of Moldova and Remi Rougetet of France.

Chopra began the 2025 season with a title in an invitational meet at Potchefstroom, South Africa, which was a minor category F event with a throw of 84.52m. Four days after the Paris DL, Chopra will compete at the Golden Spike athletics meet in Ostrava, Czech Republic on June 24.

After that, the reigning world champion will feature in the inaugural edition of the Neeraj Chopra Classic on July 5 in Bengaluru, a World Athletics category A event which he is hosting.

Peters, Yego and Da Silva will also be there in the NC Classic.

Bengaluru to host Billie Jean King Cup play-offs in November

AGENCIES
BENGALURU

India has been clubbed with the Netherlands and Slovenia for the Billie Jean King Cup World Group play-off women's tennis tournament to be staged from November 14 to 16.

India has also got the hosting rights for the event, on the outdoor hard courts of the S.M. Krishna Tennis Stadium in Bengaluru.

The three teams will play in a round-robin league format and the topper will make it to the Qualifier. Like in the regional competition earlier, matches will feature two singles and a doubles. All matches will be played on best of three tie-break sets.

Susan Lamens (70), Arantxa Rus (91), Arianne Hartono (188) and Anouk Koevermans (190) are the top ranked Dutch players.

They have the 18th ranked doubles specialist Demi Schuurs and the 91st ranked Isabelle Haverlag as well.

Slovenia has Veronika Erjavec (172), Tamara Zidansek (206), Kaja Juvan (239) and Dalila Jakupovic (319) as the best ranked players.

Similarly, three teams each will compete in six other venues, leading to seven qualifiers overall. The rest of the teams will return to group-1 in their respective zones. The groupings: Group-A: Canada, Mexico (host), Denmark.

Group-B: Poland (host), Romania, New Zealand.

Group-C: Slovakia, Switzerland, Argentina (host).

Group-D: Czechia, Colombia, Croatia (host).

Group-E: Australia (host), Brazil, Portugal.

Group-F: Germany (host), Belgium, Turkey.

Group-G: The Netherlands, Slovenia, India (host).

Prioritise national duty, denial will lead to funds recovery: SAI to tennis players

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

India's tennis players who receive financial assistance through various support schemes should prioritise national duty and refusal to play for India without "valid justification" will result in recovery of funds from them, according to a new Sports Authority of India (SAI) order. Making players accountable for funds received, the SAI, in its order, has asked the players, selected for support under the Target Asian Games Group (TAGG), to provide a written undertaking where they acknowledge that receiving financial assistance carries the responsibility of contributing to the nation's sports excellence.

The matter came up for discussion when athletes' names were discussed for inclusion in TAGG, according to a source.

In its order, SAI asked players receiving support under TOPS, NSF and



TAGG schemes to confirm their availability and willingness to represent India in "esteemed international events such as the Billie Jean King Cup, Davis Cup, Asian Games, Olympics."

"The above tennis competitions hold significant national pride. Therefore, it is important that all players benefiting from the support, provided under these schemes prioritize representing India if selected by the All India Tennis Association (AITA).

"We would also like to inform you that, in the event of selection by the NSF, should you decide not to participate without valid justification,

'We can win anywhere': Captain Gill ahead of England Test series

AGENCIES
LEEDS (UK)

As India prepares to take on England in the highly anticipated Test series starting June 20 in Leeds, newly-appointed Test captain Shubman Gill addressed the media with clarity and confidence, laying out his vision for the team's approach.

"The blueprint that we have received from our seniors in the past 5-10 years is that we can win anywhere," Gill stated during the pre-match press conference.

"We will try to follow that blueprint with confidence," he added.

Gill emphasized the importance of creating a positive and secure environment within the squad, highlighting how team culture directly impacts performance on the field. "If the environment in the team is good and the players feel secure and confident and they know their roles in the team, we want to create that environment. This will make our Test series and ICC World Test



Championship cycle very successful," he noted.

India tour of England will take place from June 20 to August 4, 2025, with matches to be played at Headingley (Leeds), Edgbaston (Birmingham), Lord's (London), Old Trafford (Manchester), and The Oval (London).

A new era beckons for India in the Test format as the modern-day giants gear up for their first assignment without the prized batting bigwigs Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli. Shubman Gill, India's youngest Test captain, has taken the baton from Rohit to guide the nation to success and challenge for the World Test

Championship mace.

India's squad: Shubman Gill (c), Rishabh Pant (wk), Yashasvi Jaiswal, KL Rahul, Sai Sudharsan, Abhimanyu Easwaran, Karun Nair, Nitish Reddy, Ravindra Jadeja, Dhruv Jurel (wk), Washington Sundar, Shardul Thakur, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammad Siraj, Prasidh Krishna, Akash Deep, Arshdeep Singh, Kuldeep Yadav, Harshit Rana.

England Playing XI for the 1st Test against India: Zak Crawley, Ben Duckett, Ollie Pope, Joe Root, Harry Brook, Ben Stokes (C), Jamie Smith (WK), Chris Woakes, Brydon Carse, Josh Tongue, Shoaib Bashir.

Indian junior archers enter three finals at Asia Cup Stage 2

AGENCIES
SINGAPORE

Indian junior archers continued their dominating run by storming into three team finals at the Asia Cup Stage 2 here on Thursday (June 19, 2025).

The Indian men's recurve team, seeded second, defeated fifth-seeded Bangladesh 5-1 in a one-sided semifinal to set up a summit clash with third seeds Japan.

The trio of Vishnu Choudhary, Paras Hooda and Juyel Sarkar dominated from the outset, taking the opening set 55-48.

Although the second set was tied at 55-55, the Indians bounced back strongly, dropping just one point in the third set to win it 59-56 and seal the issue.

India also assured themselves of a medal in the compound men's team event after the trio of Kushal Dalal, Ganesh Thirumuru and Mihir Apar edged past fifth-seeded Australia in a tense semifinal decided by a shoot-off (30-29) after both teams were tied at 232 after four sets.

India will take on Kazakhstan in the final.



Although the second set was tied at 55-55, the Indians bounced back strongly, dropping just one point in the third set to win it 59-56 and seal the issue.

The top-seeded Indian compound women's team comprising Shanmukhi Budde, Tejal Salve and Tanishka Thokal defeated fourth-seeded Kazakhstan 230-229 in a nail-biting semifinal to ensure another medal.

They will meet Malaysia in the final.

However, there was heartbreak for the Indian women's recurve team. Seeded fifth, the troika of Vaishnavi Pawar, Kirti, and Tamanna lost a thrilling quarterfinal to fourth seeds Japan 4-5 (26-28) in the shoot-off after a five-set battle.

They lost the opening set 47-49 and slumped further

after managing only 34 in the second set to Japan's 55.

But the Indians showed great resilience to take the third set 55-53 and level the scores 4-4 after claiming the fourth set 54-52.

In the shoot-off, Japan edged ahead by just two points.

Indian archers are also in the hunt for four individual medals on the concluding day on Friday.

The women's compound final will be an all-Indian affair, with Shanmukhi set to face Tejal for gold.

In the men's compound section, India will be in the hunt in both the gold and bronze medal matches.

Two-time Wimbledon champion Kvitova set to retire in 'a few months'

AGENCIES
LONDON

Two-time Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitova plans to retire in a few months, the Czech player said Thursday.

The announcement on social media came a day after Kvitova was granted a wild card for Wimbledon. "I am excited and very

a place that holds the most cherished memories in my career," Kvitova said.

"And while I am not entirely sure yet what my hard-court swing in the US will look like, I am intending to finish my active playing career at the US Open in New York later this summer."

The 35-year-old Kvitova reached a career-high ranking of No. 2 and also helped



Czechia's Petra Kvitova hits the ball during her match against Brazil's Beatriz Haddad Maia, not pictured, on day one of the HSBC Championships at The Queen's Club, in London, Monday, June 9, 2025. Agencies

much looking forward to soak in the beauty of playing The Championships, Wimbledon one more time,

the Czech Republic to six trophies in the Fed Cup, which is now known as the Billie Jean King Cup.

TENNIS TOURNAMENT



Argentina's Tomas Martin Etcheverry plays Russia's Andrey Rublev during the Halle ATP tennis tournament in Halle, Germany. Agencies