



2
311 INDIANS LANDS
FROM IRAN; OVER 1,400
EVACUATED SO FAR



9
FROM MONARCHY TO
THEOCRACY: THE STORY
OF MODERN IRAN



16
BROOK FALLS ON 99, BUMRAH'S
FIFER KEEPS TEST IN BALANCE
AS RAIN HALTS DAY 3



A B-2 Spirit stealth bomber



President Donald Trump and Vice President JD Vance sit in the Situation Room



A satellite picture by Planet Labs PBC shows Iran's underground nuclear enrichment site at Fordo following US airstrikes.

US hits 3 Iranian Nuke sites

AGENCIES
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The US military struck three sites in Iran early Sunday, inserting itself into Israel's effort to decapitating Iran's nuclear programme in a risky gambit to weaken a longtime foe amid Tehran's threat of reprisals that could spark a wider regional conflict.

The decision to directly involve the US comes after more than a week of strikes by Israel on Iran that have moved to systematically eradicate the country's air defences and

offensive missile capabilities, while damaging its nuclear enrichment facilities.

But US and Israeli officials have said that American stealth bombers and a 30,000-lb. bunker buster bomb alone offered the best chance of destroying heavily-fortified sites connected to the Iranian nuclear program buried deep underground.

President Donald Trump announced the strikes. Iran's state-run IRNA news agency reported that attacks targeted the country's Fordo, Isfahan and Natanz

IAEA calls emergency meeting

AGENCIES: The chief of the UN nuclear watchdog says he'll convene an emergency meeting on Monday

The head of UN's nuclear watchdog posted on X that given the US intervention in the Israel-Iran war, he will be convening an emergency meeting of the Board

'No increase in radiation level'

AGENCIES: The International Atomic Energy Agency says in a message on X that there has been "no increase in off-site radiation levels" after US airstrikes on Iranian nuclear sites. "The IAEA can confirm that no increase in off-site radiation levels has been reported as of this time," it said. The "IAEA will provide assessments on situation in Iran as more information becomes available."

Iran asks for emergency meet of UNSC

AGENCIES: Iran's ambassador to the United Nations called on Sunday for an emergency Security Council meeting for what he described as America's "heinous attacks and illegal use of force" against Iran.

In a letter, Ambassador Amir

Flames seen at Fordo site

AGENCIES: Iran's semiofficial Fars news agency has published an account by one of its reporters, saying flames could be seen after the bombs hit the Fordo facility.

Fars, which is believed close to Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard, said its reporter heard anti-aircraft fire around 2:05 a.m. local time and explosions

INDIA ON THE SIDE OF PEACE AND HUMANITY: PM

TDG NETWORK/AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Following the US strikes on nuclear facilities in Iran, Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to the President of Iran over the phone and was briefed on the evolving situation in the region, sources said on Sunday.

Pezeshkian said, according to sources, India's voice and role were important in restoring regional peace and stability.

According to sources, the phone call came from Pezeshkian and lasted for 45 minutes.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian on the sidelines of the 16th BRICS Summit, in Russia last year. ANI

During the call, Iranian President Pezeshkian described India as a friend and partner in promoting regional peace, security and stability.

The Iranian President thanked the Prime Minister for India's position and call for de-escalation, dialogue and diplomacy.

PM Modi conveyed to Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian India's "deep concern" over Iran's conflict with Israel and called for immediate de-escalation of the situation through "dialogue and diplomacy".

In a social media post, Modi

Puri allays oil supply concerns amid fears of Strait of Hormuz closure

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

India, the world's third-largest oil importer and fourth-biggest gas buyer, has enough energy supplies to meet requirements for several weeks and continues to receive supplies from several routes, Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said amid escalating tensions in the globe's biggest energy supply regions.

In a post on X, the minister said the government has been "closely monitoring the evolving geopolitical situation in the Middle East since the past two weeks."

"Under the leadership of PM @narendramodi Ji, we have diversified our supplies in the past few years and a large volume of our supplies do not come through the Strait of Hormuz now," he said.

The Strait of Hormuz, which Iran is threatening to shut down following US strikes on its nuclear facilities, is an important transit for oil coming from the



Middle East.

About 2 million barrels per day (bpd) of crude oil out of India's total import of 5.5 million bpd transits through the narrow waterway. However, India has diversified sources -- from Russia to the US and Brazil -- which can readily fill any void.

Russian oil is logistically detached from the Strait of Hormuz, flowing via the Suez Canal, Cape of Good Hope, or Pacific Ocean.

Even the US, West African, and Latin American flows -- though costlier -- are increasingly viable backup options.

"Our Oil Marketing Com-

panies have supplies for several weeks and continue to receive energy supplies from several routes. We will take all necessary steps to ensure stability of supplies of fuel to our citizens," Puri said.

Global oil prices have jumped to their highest level since January after Israel struck Iran, in a dramatic escalation of tensions in the Middle East.

Rates of the benchmark Brent crude were up more than 10 per cent to USD 77 a barrel.

India imports more than 85 per cent of its crude oil needs and roughly half of its natural gas requirement. More than 40 per cent of the oil imports and half of gas imports come from the Middle East.

Despite the spike on Friday, oil prices are still more than 10 per cent lower than where they were at the same point last year. They are also well below over USD 100 a barrel rate seen in early 2022 following Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

US signals a willingness to renew talks

WASHINGTON: The Trump administration has signalled a willingness to renew talks with Iran and avoid a prolonged war in the aftermath of a surprise attack on three nuclear sites as US officials assessed Tehran's nuclear ambitions and the threat of retaliation. Trump allowed his national security team to speak for him the next morning, staying quiet on social media.

DETAILS P12

Iranian missile causes heavy damages

TEL AVIV: The US military struck three sites in Iran early Sunday, inserting itself into Israel's effort to destroy Iran's nuclear programme in a risky gambit to weaken a longtime foe. The decision to directly involve the US comes after more than a week of strikes by Israel on Iran that have moved to systematically eradicate the country's air defences and offensive missile capabilities.

DETAILS P11

Israel strikes sites in multiple cities

TEL AVIV: One major target claimed by the Israelis was the Imam Hussein Strategic Missile Command Center in Yazd. Social media footage showed orange smoke rising after one Israeli strike on the area. It could be the result of ammonium perchlorate, a missile fuel component, burning. The Israeli military said other strikes targeted missile launchers in Ahvaz.

DETAILS P11

Next steps up to Iran, says Rubio

WASHINGTON: US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said the next steps are up to the Iranian government. "If the regime wants peace, we're ready for peace. If they want to do something else, they're incredibly vulnerable. They can't even protect their own airspace," Rubio said. He warned against attacks on countries in the region that host American military forces.

DETAILS P12

'Peace through strength', says Netanyahu

JERUSALEM: Applauding US President Donald Trump's "bold decision" to hit Iran's nuclear facilities, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Sunday said that it demonstrated "peace through strength" and will lead to a future of peace and prosperity in the region and beyond. The sites attacked were Fordow, Natanz, and Esfahan.

DETAILS P12

Air India curtails services on narrow-body planes

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Air India on Sunday said it will temporarily reduce 118 weekly flights operated with narrow-body planes on 19 routes as well as suspend services on three routes.

The temporary cuts in services account for about 5 per cent of the airline's overall narrow-body operations and the move is aimed at ensuring operational stability amid disruptions in the wake of the fatal plane crash in Ahmedabad on June 12.

All the 19 routes where reduction in narrow-body

FEWER FLIGHTS	
Seven weekly flights each on Bengaluru-Singapore, Pune-Singapore and Mumbai-Bagdogra — suspended till July 15	
REVISED NUMBER OF SERVICES	
Bengaluru-Chandigarh	7
Delhi-Bengaluru	113
Delhi-Mumbai	165
Delhi-Kolkata	63
Delhi-Coimbatore	12
Delhi-Goa	7
Delhi-Hyderabad	76
Delhi-Indore	14
Delhi-Lucknow	21
Delhi-Pune	54
Mumbai-Ahmedabad	37
Mumbai-Bengaluru	84
Mumbai-Kolkata	30

services have been done are domestic and of the three routes where flights have been suspended, two are international and one is domestic.

The announcement comes days after the Tata Group-owned carrier said it will cut international flights operated with wide-body planes by 15 per cent temporarily.

In a statement, the airline said it is going for "temporary cuts of less than 5 per cent to its overall narrow-body network".

"This voluntary decision leads to the temporary suspension of Air India's services on

P3

Monsoon likely to reach Delhi, Chandigarh in two days

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Sunday said that the southwest monsoon is likely to reach Delhi, Chandigarh and parts of Haryana, western Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, and Jammu and Kashmir in the next two days, i.e. by June 24, adding that the conditions are favourable for further advancement of southwest mon-

P3



Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar shares the design of proposed Maa Janaki Janmabhoomi Temple (Punaura Dham) to be built in Sitamarhi. ANI

311 INDIANS LAND FROM IRAN, OVER 1,400 EVACUATED AMID TENSION

Tensions escalate between Iran, Israel after US bombs nuclear sites

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

India on Sunday evacuated more than 300 Indian nationals from Iran amid the escalating tensions between the Persian Gulf nation and Israel following the US bombing of three Iranian nuclear sites.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said 311 Indians landed in Delhi on a special flight from the Iranian city of Mashhad. With the fresh batch of evacuees, the total number of those brought back from Iran now stands at 1,428. Three-hundred eleven Indian nationals arrived in New Delhi on a special flight from Mashhad at 1630 hours on June 22, External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said.



Indians evacuated from Iran's conflict-hit regions arrive at Delhi airport under Operation Sindhu, in New Delhi on Sunday. (ANI)

He said a total of 1,428 Indian nationals have been evacuated from Iran so far. India launched Operation Sindhu last week to bring

back Indians from Iran and Israel in view of increasing hostilities between the two nations. Israel and Iran have red hundreds of mis-

siles and drones at each other's cities and military and strategic facilities since the hostilities began over a week back. The tensions es-

calated significantly following the US bombing of three major Iranian nuclear sites on Sunday morning.

India has evacuated its nationals on chartered flights operated from the Iranian city of Mashhad, the Armenian capital of Yerevan and the Turkmenistan capital of Ashgabat since Wednesday. Iran lifted airspace restrictions on Friday to facilitate three chartered flights from Mashhad. The first flight landed in New Delhi late on Friday with 290 Indians, and the second one landed in the national capital on Saturday afternoon with 310 Indians. Another flight arrived from the Armenian capital city of Yerevan on Thursday. A special evacuation flight from Ashgabat landed in New Delhi early on Saturday morning.

Normalcy returned, tourism thriving in J&K: Jitendra Singh

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Union Minister Jitendra Singh on Sunday said that normalcy has returned and tourism is thriving in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Visit Pahalgam today, where a tragic incident occurred recently and you will find it crowded with people," he said in a statement issued by the Personnel Ministry.

Singh, the Minister of State for Personnel, cited the integration of northeast and Jammu and Kashmir into India's mainstream development. "For decades, these regions waited for railways — but under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, trains now run in valleys that were once isolated," he said. The minister recounted the first-time commissioning of Jammu station in 1972 and the long gap in progress until Prime Minister Modi fulfilled this dream over half a century later, flagging off Vande Bharat train recently.

No headway as HAU protest escalates over VC's removal

TDG NETWORK
CHANDIGARH

The standoff at Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University (CC-ShAU), Hisar, entered its 13th day with no breakthrough in sight, as protesting students remain resolute in their demand for the resignation of Vice-Chancellor Dr. Baldev Raj Kamboj.

After two rounds of talks four-member ministerial committee formed by the Haryana government failed to persuade the students to end their agitation during talks held over the weekend.

As per the sources the students have made it clear that they will not end the protest until the VC is removed and all the officials booked should be arrested.

Now the third meeting between students and ministerial committee will be held on Monday.

The students' protest, which began on June 10, was sparked by a controversial change in stipend policy for MSc and PhD students and

the rollback of seat reservations for Land Donation Villages (LDV). Tensions escalated that day after a peaceful demonstration outside the VC's residence turned violent, with university security personnel allegedly resorting to a lathi-charge that left over 20 students injured—some requiring up to 30 stitches for head injuries.

To resolve the issue the Nayab Saini government formed a four-member panel on June 20 comprising Education Minister Mahipal Dhanda, PWD Minister Ranbir Gangwa, Social Justice Minister Krishan Kumar Bedi, and Nalwa MLA Randhir Panihar. The panel met with a seven-member student delegation across two days but failed to reach an agreement.

Students reiterated four core demands, Resignation of VC, Arrest and termination of university officials named in the FIR, including Registrar Pawan Kumar and Chief Security Officer Sukhbir Singh, official rollback of stipend and reservation changes and

assurance against disciplinary action for protesting students.

"We see this committee as a delaying tactic. Our demand is non-negotiable—the VC must resign," said Abhilekh Dhalla, an MSc student and protest leader.

With classes and exams boycotted since June 16, students say only a handful of the university's 1,700 students have attended academic activities. Female students from the College of Agriculture in Bawal alleged male police officers entered hostels to pressure them into attending exams, a move that has drawn additional outrage.

To intensify their campaign, students have announced a Mahapanchayat on June 24 at Gate Number 4 of the university, calling on farmers, teachers, and laborers to join them. The movement has received backing from several farm leaders including Gurnam Singh Chaduni and political parties like the Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) and Jannayak Janta Party (JJP).

Bishnoi aides claim role in Haryana liquor contractor murder

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Gangster Lawrance Bihsno's close aides Gangsters Rohit Godara and Goldy Brar have reportedly claimed the responsibility of the murder of a liquor contractor in Haryana's Jind district.

The victim, identified as Virender alias Bindra, was shot dead in village Kharakramji on Friday evening, allegedly for financially supporting their rivals. The incident took place a day after Haryana chief minister Nayab Singh Saini issued a stern warning to the gangsters, telling them "either they give up crime or leave the state".

The gangsters have taken the responsibility through a social media post. In a post on social media, gangster Rohit Godara stated: "We take full responsibility for the killing of Virender Bin-



dra in Jind. He was funding our enemies. Our associate Rohit Rana personally executed the act. Bindra was a prime enemy of our brother Deepender Rathi, who is currently in jail."

The post further alleged that Bindra was behind a recent attack on Deepender's allies — Vinit, who is currently hospitalized, and Rohit Rana.

"He was harming our brothers while siding with our enemies. That's why we executed him," the post

said. The 20-second video clip was also uploaded, purportedly showing three men firing at Bindra. The post tagged Deepender Rathi, Rohit Rana, and another gangster, David Ramray.

Acting on the threat the Haryana Police have registered an FIR naming eight individuals — Rakesh Midha Naguran, Jitender Rathi, Ajay Neelma, Kamla, Karampal, Sumit, Sonu, and Anil — along with three unidentified persons. DSP Jitender Rana confirmed that five police teams have been formed to arrest the accused.

The murder occurred on the evening of June 20, when three assailants arrived in a vehicle at a liquor shop where Bindra was seated and opened fire. After killing him, the attackers abandoned their car, hijacked three motorcycles, and fled the scene.

'Everything decided, will reveal it later': Tejashwi on Grand Alliance CM face

TDG NETWORK
PATNA

Months ahead of the Bihar legislative assembly elections, the political activities in the state have gained momentum. Amid the speculation on the chief ministerial face of the Mahagathbandhan (grand alliance), Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Tejashwi Yadav said it has been decided and will be revealed according to the alliance's strategy.

In an interview to the media, when asked about the CM's face, Yadav said, "Everything is decided. We will reveal this according to our strategy..." On the ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA), the RJD leader claimed that the NDA appears 'disjointed' in Bihar, as he claimed its leaders like Jitram Ram Manjhi, Chirag Paswan, and Upendra Kushwaha are speaking in differ-



ent voices.

He said, "People talk, they say things like INDIA bloc doesn't look united. But here NDA doesn't look like this, Jitram Ram Manjhi says something else, Upendra Kushwaha says something else, Chirag Paswan says something else." Yadav further underlined the enduring alliance between Congress and RJD, saying, "Congress and RJD are the oldest alliance partners and haven't broken yet. But still, these (NDA) people try to break it, saying that nothing is going right. Everybody knows the relationship of the RJD

'Will Amit Shah give in writing?

Patna: RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav launched a scathing attack on the BJP and Chief Minister Nitish Kumar ahead of the Bihar Assembly elections.

In an exclusive interview with ANI, Yadav demanded that Home Minister Amit Shah issue a written affidavit guaranteeing that Nitish Kumar will serve a full five-year term as Chief Minister if the NDA returns to power. "BJP leaders might say they will make Nitish the Chief Minister and contest the election under his leadership. But if they truly mean it, then please ask Amit Shah Ji to give it in writing as an affidavit that Nitish will remain Chief Minister for the full five

years?" Yadav told ANI.

He accused the BJP of using agencies like the ED and CBI to pressure opponents and weaken regional forces, likening the party to a "washing machine" that cleans up opposition through intimidation and fear. Tejashwi Yadav told ANI, "These days, everyone is switching parties. Ever since the BJP came to power, it has become like a washing machine, by using agencies like the ED and CBI, or by using fear and intimidation."

Yadav alleged that the BJP now run in valleys that were once isolated, he said. The minister recounted the first-time commissioning of Jammu station in 1972 and the long gap in progress until Prime Minister Modi fulfilled this dream over half a century later, flagging off Vande Bharat train recently.

and the Gandhi family." The former Bihar Deputy Chief Minister reiterated, "We

have our strategy. Everything is decided who will be the Chief Minister.

Bihar polls: ECI plans door-to-door verification

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Election Commission of India (ECI) is contemplating an intensive house-to-house verification during the upcoming electoral roll revision before Bihar Assembly Polls in order to make the Electoral Rolls completely robust and free of any kind of errors, according to ECI sources.

Such intensive and rigorous revision of the electoral rolls has been done in the past as well. The last such exercise was undertaken in the year 2004, ECI sources said.

Over the past, persistent concerns have often been raised by various civil society organisations, political parties and agencies regarding the inclusion or deletion of names of the electors in the Electoral Rolls.

Sanguine about its responsibility, the Election Commission of India has repeatedly emphasised that it is committed to ensuring that only genuine and eligible citizens are enrolled in the electoral rolls. Regular exercise of revision of the Electoral Rolls is undertaken annually throughout the country by the ECI and also

before the holding of Elections/Bye-polls by the ECI.

Constitutional and legal frameworks are also quite clear and robust in this regard.

The provisions regarding eligibility to be registered as a voter and disqualifications for registration in an electoral roll are clearly laid down in Article 326 of the Constitution of India and Section 16 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 respectively.

The need for constant updation of the electoral rolls arises due to various reasons, such as migration/

shifting of electors.

"The country continuously witnesses inter-state, intra-state, inter-district and intra-district migration due to reasons such as marriage, job opportunities, education, family requirements etc. For instance, during the year 2024 as per forms received by the ECI, 46.26 lakh persons shifted their residence, 2.32 crore applied for corrections and 33.16 lakh requested for replacement. Thus, in a single year, nearly 3.15 crore changes were required to be made across the country," ECI sources said.

Democracy must thrive in universities, not just in Parliament: Abhishek Manu Singhvi

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Addressing Japanese academic and civil society leaders, Dr Abhishek Singhvi called universities the true guardians of democracy and urged for deep reforms in education

Speaking to a large gathering of Vice Chancellors of Japanese Universities, administrators, diplomats, distinguished professors and eminent members of civil society in Tokyo, Japan, on Universities of the Future, Dr Abhishek Singhvi, fourth term MP and eminent jurist, said that if

democracy is to endure not just as a ballot-box ritual but as a way of life, then its beating heart must lie not in Parliament alone, but in our universities. The Minister of Education of Japan also attended the lecture.

He called Universities the unsung laboratories of liberty, the unheralded nurseries of the Republic. It is there, he said, that the grammar of inquiry as much as of dissent is learned, the alphabet of citizenship is practiced and the poetry of pluralism is composed.

Dr Abhishek Singhvi said that the classroom is not just a place of pedagogy; it is the

crucible of character. It is where the ideals of the Constitution must leap from that parchment into practice. It is where the sterile statistics of enrollment must give way to the stirring symphony of enlightenment. Above all, he added, it is where the Indian mind must be taught not what to think, but how to think.

Dr Singhvi lamented that campuses that once echoed with Socratic inquiry now risk being reduced to soulless factories for credentialism. The rise of misinformation, the corrosion of academic freedom, and the narrowing of intellectual



bandwidth into vocational silos has turned many campuses into echo chambers or, worse, tombs of thought.

A university cannot be told to behave, not to inquire. A democracy that fears its students has already begun to

fear its future. The silencing of questions is not neutrality, it is complicity. Authoritarianism does not descend with jackboots, it seeps in through silences.

Dr Singhvi called for the need to rethink the university as a guardian of the Republic as well as a temple of knowledge. A university ought to be a lighthouse that shines its moral rays into the dark waters of injustice, ignorance and inequity rather than a walled garden isolated from the outside world. Dr Singhvi specifically called for every university to release an annual Social Influence Report or Social

Institutional Responsibility card (SIR) that measures civic influence, public service and democratic engagement. This alone can go beyond mere citation metrics and job placements. Let SIR be our answer to corporate social responsibility.

Dr Abhishek Singhvi said that the new pedagogy should not merely prepare students for employment, but for engagement. He said that we must teach not only through books but through the ballot, the courtroom, the panchayat, and the protest march. Civic internships—whether in courts, municipalities, NGOs or

public policy labs—must be integral to every degree.

Dr Singhvi exhorted that to the budding engineer, let us teach the architecture of rights. To the aspiring manager, let us teach the ethics of equity. To every student, let us impart foundational legal literacy, not as rote learning but as an inoculation against tyranny.

He concluded by suggesting a remedial framework. First, he said we must enact strong legal protections for academic freedom and institutional autonomy. These are not luxuries, they are preconditions for intellectual honesty.

Second, he called for massive investment in DEI, in access, equity and digital inclusion is imperative. No student must be excluded for lack of privilege or proximity.

Third, he asked for elevation of paradigms of student agency. Universities must empower students as co-creators of their civic destiny. Leadership programs should produce not only CEOs and coders, but mayors, philosophers and public visionaries.

Fourth, Dr Singhvi said India must embrace global academic partnerships, particularly in Asia.

THE DAILY GUARDIAN SURVEY ON AMERICA ON IRAN-ISRAEL WAR

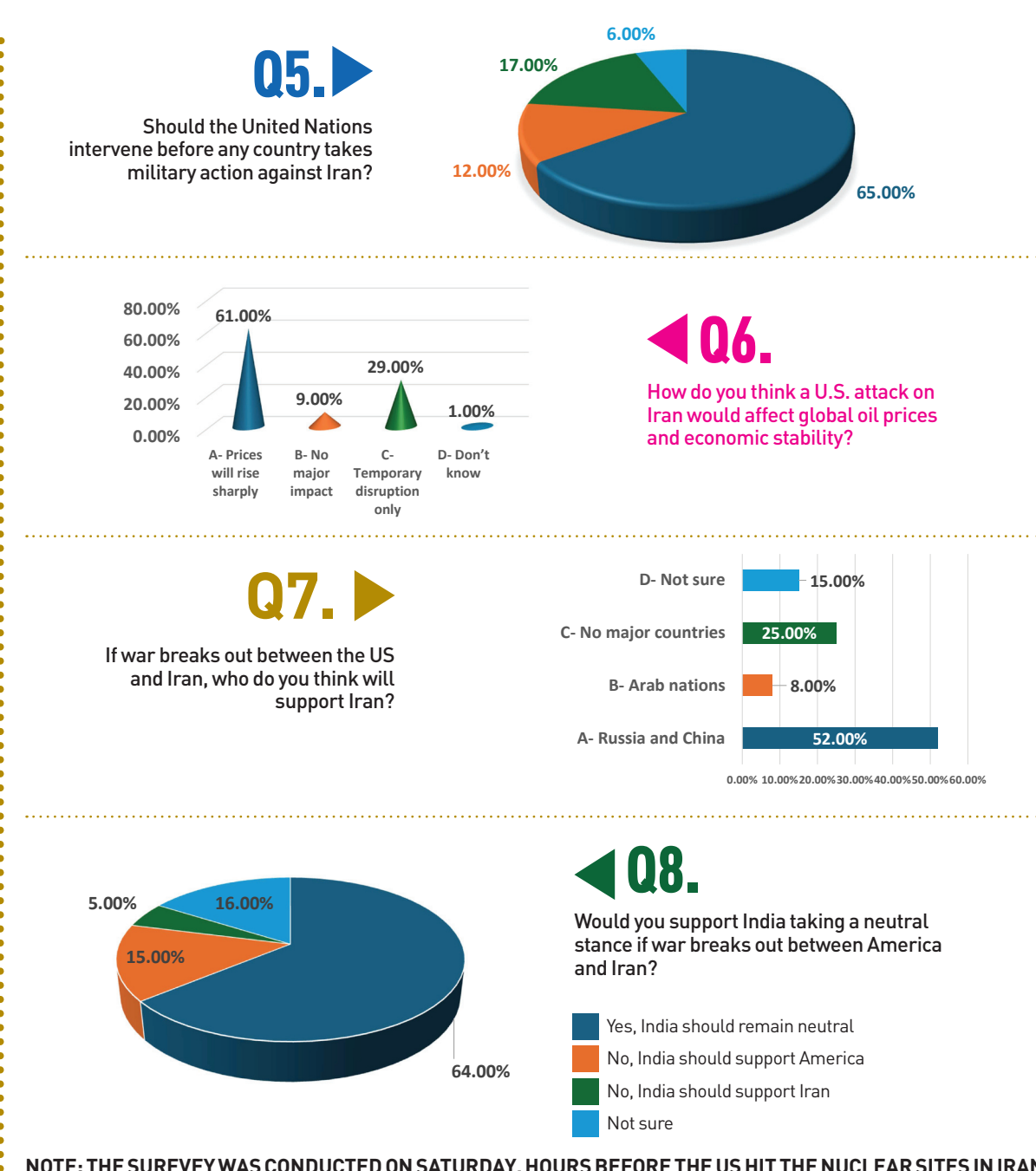
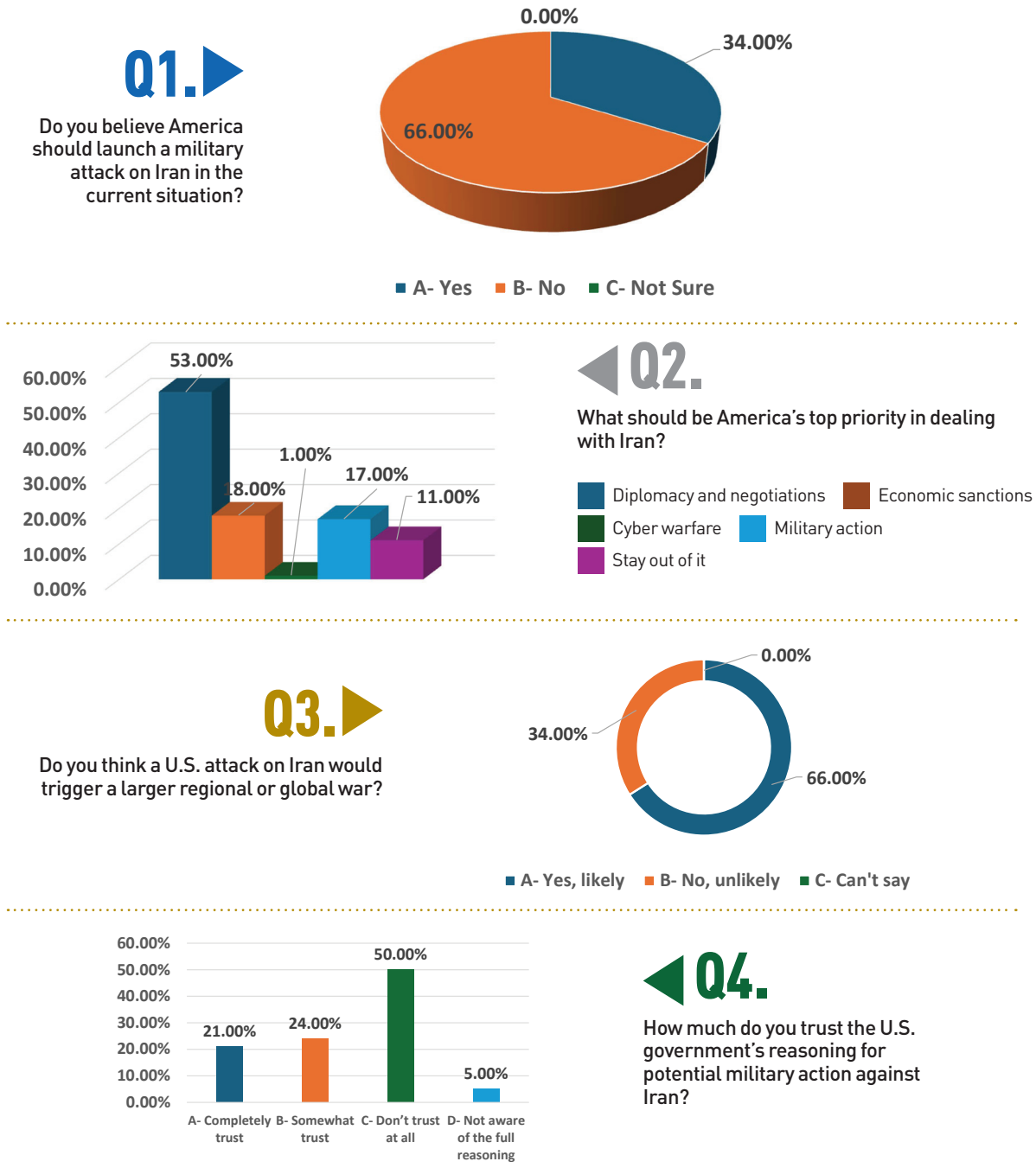
34% believe US should launch a military attack on Iran

Iranians at home and abroad are closely watching developments after U.S. President Donald Trump ordered strikes on Iran's main nuclear sites amid the ongoing conflict with Israel. Early Sunday, U.S. B-2

bombers and naval forces hit Fordow, Natanz, and Isfahan using bunker-buster bombs and Tomahawk missiles. Trump claimed the facilities were "totally obliterated,"

though no proof has been provided. Iran acknowledged the attacks but reported no radioactive leaks, a claim backed by the IAEA. State media downplayed the damage, while satellite

images showed suspected impact zones at Fordow, where bombs likely penetrated deep underground to target fortified nuclear installations.



NOTE: THE SUREVEY WAS CONDUCTED ON SATURDAY, HOURS BEFORE THE US HIT THE NUCLEAR SITES IN IRAN

Plane crash: 251 victims identified through DNA tests, 245 bodies given to kin

AGENCIES
AHMEDABAD

A total of 251 victims of the horrific June 12 Ahmedabad plane crash have been identified through DNA tests so far and 245 bodies have been handed over to kin, officials said on Sunday.

The London-bound aircraft crashed into a hostel complex in Meghaninagar moments after taking off from Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport at 1.39 pm that day,

killing 270 persons, including 241 on board. One passenger survived.

Authorities are carrying out DNA tests to establish the identity of the victims as many bodies were charred beyond recognition as the aircraft burst into flames or damaged on impact.

"A total of 251 victims of the crash have been identified through DNA tests. The bodies of 245 victims, comprising 176 Indians, 49 Britons, seven Portuguese and one Canadian as well as 12 non-passengers,



Investigation into the Air India plane crash continues, in Ahmedabad on Sunday

have been handed over to kin," Ahmedabad Civil Hospital medical superintendent Dr Rakesh Joshi said.

He said 70 victims are from Ahmedabad, 24 from Vadodara, 26 from Anand and 11 from Kheda in the state. Some of the victims identified so far are from Rajasthan, Manipur, Nagaland, Maharashtra, Diu and Bihar, Joshi added.

"Since the process of DNA sample matching is very sensitive and involves legal protocol, it is being completed with

seriousness and speed. The Forensic Science University and associated institutions, local administration, health and other departments of the state government and various agencies are working tirelessly to hand over the mortal remains to kin," he said.

Officials on Saturday asked families of eight Ahmedabad plane crash victims to give a sample of another relative for DNA tests after the first sample submitted by a kin did not match.

US hits 3 Iranian Nuke sites

CONTINUED FROM P1

nuclear sites. The agency did not elaborate. Iran's foreign minister said Iran reserves the right to retaliate.

Strikes used bunker buster' bombs and cruise missiles

The US military used "bunker-buster" bombs in its attack on Iran's Fordo nuclear fuel enrichment plant, which is built deep

into a mountain, a US official said. That official spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss military operations.

The 30,000-pound bunker-busting American bomb known as the GBU-57 Massive Ordnance Penetrator uses its weight and sheer kinetic force to penetrate underground and then explode. Saturday's strikes were the first time it has been used in combat.

US submarines also participated in the attacks in Iran, launching about 30 Tomahawk land attack missiles, according to another US official, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss military operations.

It was not clear what those missiles were aimed at. Two Iranian nuclear sites besides Fordo were attacked, Isfahan and Natanz.

IAEA calls emergency meeting

CONTINUED FROM P1

of Governors on Monday. Rafael Grossi, the director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, has

been the target of much Iranian criticism in recent days for what they describe as conflicting statements that incited Israel's initial attack.

Iran asks for emergency meet

CONTINUED FROM P1

Saeid Iravani, said that the UN's most powerful body must "take all necessary measures" to hold the US accountable under international law and the UN charter.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran con-

demns and denounces in the strongest possible terms these unprovoked and premeditated acts of aggression, which have followed the large-scale military attack conducted by the Israeli regime on 13 June against Iran's peaceful nuclear sites and facilities," the letter continued.

Air India curtails services

CONTINUED FROM P1

3 routes and reduction of frequency on 19 routes. The changes are effective until at least 15 July 2025," it said.

As many as seven weekly flights each on three routes -- Bengaluru-Singapore, Pune-Singapore and Mumbai-Bagdogra -- have been suspended till at least July 15.

Flights on various other routes, including Delhi-Bengaluru and Delhi-Mumbai, have been reduced.

On the Bengaluru-Chandigarh route, the weekly services have been cut to seven, Delhi-Bengaluru to 113, Delhi-Mumbai to 165, Delhi-Kolkata to 63, Delhi-Coimbatore to 12, Delhi-Goa

(Dabolim) and Delhi-Goa (Mopa) to seven each.

Also, weekly flights on the Delhi-Hyderabad route have been reduced to 76, Delhi-Indore to 14, Delhi-Lucknow to 21, Delhi-Pune to 54, Mumbai-Ahmedabad to 37, Mumbai-Bengaluru to 84 and Mumbai-Kolkata to 30.

The statement said weekly flights are also being cut on Mumbai-Coimbatore route to 16, Mumbai-Kochi to 34, Mumbai-Goa (Dabolim) to 29, Mumbai-Hyderabad to 59 and Mumbai-Varanasi to seven. "Despite these temporary reductions, Air India will continue to operate close to 600 daily flights with its narrow-body air-

craft on 120 domestic and short-haul international routes," the statement said.

According to the airline, the reductions are aimed at strengthening Air India's network-wide operational stability and minimising last-minute inconvenience to passengers. Air India also apologised to passengers affected by the curtailment in flights and said it is offering re-accommodation on alternative flights, complimentary rescheduling or full refunds.

On June 19, Air India said it will cut 38 international flights per week and suspend services on three overseas routes between June 21 and July 15.

Flames seen at Fordo site

CONTINUED FROM P1

two minutes later.

"When I reached the vicinity ... the air defense system was operating intensely, and its activity was clearly visible in the sky," the reporter said. Later on, the reporter said, "flames

suddenly erupted from the direction of Fordo."

Simultaneously with the flames, a faint trail of smoke and a significant amount of dust rose in the area, Fars quoted the reporter. It offered no photos or video showing the attack.

Monsoon likely to reach Delhi in 2 days

CONTINUED FROM P1

soons.

The weather department added that the southwest monsoon has advanced over most parts of Himachal Pradesh, the entire Ladakh and Kashmir, most parts of Jammu, and some parts of Punjab.

As per the IMD, "The southwest monsoon has advanced further over most parts of Himachal Pradesh, the entire Ladakh and Kashmir, most parts of Jammu, and some parts of Punjab."

"Conditions are favourable for the Southwest monsoon to advance further over the remaining parts of the North Arabian Sea, some more parts of Rajasthan and Punjab,

some parts of Haryana, Chandigarh, and Delhi, and the remaining parts of West Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, and Jammu during the next two days," it added.

The weather department has predicted heavy to very heavy rainfall likely over northwest India, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Konkan and Goa during June 22 - 26 with isolated extremely heavy rainfall over Gujarat on June 22 and over Madhya Pradesh on June 23-24 respectively.

The IMD added that heavy to very heavy rainfall likely to continue over Northeast India during next 3 days and isolated heavy rainfall thereafter for subsequent 4 days.

NFSU, CFSL IN CHHATTISGARH WILL BOOST CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM IN STATE: SHAH

Home Minister says Naxalites operations will continue during rains

TDG NETWORK
RAIPUR

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday said that the setting up of National Forensic Science University (NFSU) and Central Forensic Science Laboratory (CFSL) in Nava Raipur would further advance and strengthen the criminal justice system of Chhattisgarh and central India.

“Today marks an important day for Chhattisgarh’s criminal justice system. In a way, three new initiatives are being started to further advance the criminal justice system: The laying of the foundation stones for National Forensic Science University and Central Forensic Science Laboratory laid today, along with the transit campus of NFSU inaugurated,” Shah said

APPEALS NAXALITES TO SURRENDER

■ “Every time during monsoon, Naxalites used to get rest (as swollen rivers hamper anti-Naxal operations inside dense forest). But this time, we will not let them sleep during monsoon and we will move further to achieve the target of eliminate Naxalism, Shah said.

■ He appealed to Naxals to surrender, join the journey of development and avail of the benefits of a “lucrative” surrender policy.



Union Home Minister Amit Shah addresses the gathering during the e-inauguration of National Forensic Science University, in Raipur on Sunday. @ChhattisgarhCMO X/ANI Photo

while addressing the gathering here.

“The move will strengthen the criminal justice system in central India,” he said.

Speaking about Naxalism and the Centre’s effort to end the Naxalism, Shah said Naxalites won’t get rest

during monsoon as operations against them will continue during rains, even as he ruled out talks and appealed to the ultras to lay down arms and join the journey of development.

Since January last year, more than 400 Maoist ultras have been gunned

down by security forces in separate encounters in the state, the most notable being the killing of Nambala Keshav Rao alias Basavaraaju (70), the general secretary and top most operative of the outlawed Communist Party of India (Maoist), in Bastar on May 21.

BJP protest over ‘Bharat Mata’ row aimed at causing riots, had Raj Bhavan backing: Kerala

AGENCIES
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala General Education Minister V Sivankutty on Sunday claimed that the protests by the BJP’s youth and student groups against him, over the ‘Bharat Mata’ controversy, were aimed at causing riots in the state and were allegedly held on instructions of the Raj Bhavan.

Hitting back at the CPI(M), BJP state president Rajeev Chandrasekhar accused the Left party of trying to suppress protests by resorting to violence against the protestors.

He warned that if the Left government uses force to suppress protests, it will face retaliation in the same manner.

Earlier in the day, Sivankutty told reporters that he has been attacked and his travels obstructed during the last couple of days after he walked out of a programme at the Raj Bhavan where a portrait of ‘Bharat Mata’ -- as seen in RSS



events -- was displayed.

He said that as a minister, MLA and a citizen, he has the right to protest against the actions of the Governor at the Raj Bhavan and that is what he did.

“The Governor has said that he will continue with it (the portrait) and we have not responded to that,” he added.

Subsequently, the BJP youth wing Yuva Morcha and student organisation -- Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) -- attacked him and obstructed his vehicle at various places in the state during the last two days, the minister claimed.

Meanwhile, Governor Rajendra Vish-

wanath Arlekar, in an interview given to BJP mouthpiece Janmabhumi, said that the concept of ‘Bharat Mata’ became more clear to him when he was jailed during the emergency period in the country.

He said that during that time he saw the concept of Bharat Mata as being above ideology and politics.

“I got a strong urge to work more for Bharat Mata. The inspiration to become a ‘sangh pracharak’ also became stronger during that time,” he said in the interview.

Sivankutty, during his press conference in the morning, also alleged that at one such protest, ABVP activists tore apart the national flag, a claim reportedly denied by the student organisation.

The minister also alleged that the protests and attacks against him were being carried out on the instructions of the Raj Bhavan, “but they were unable to gather enough youth for the same”.

DMK attacks Centre for shifting stance on support to Palestine

TDG NETWORK
CHENNAI

DMK spokesperson TKS Elangovan has criticised the Centre’s silence on the Palestine issue, which he said is “wrong” accusing the Union Government of shifted its stance to garner support from Israel.

Speaking to the media, Elangovan said, “The Indian Government has supported Palestine earlier and approved it, now they are silent. The policy of the government should be the same, but now they want Israel’s support, so they are supporting Israel. Earlier, they said that they approve of Palestine as a separate nation; now, they are silent on this issue, which is wrong...”

Previously, India had abstained during voting at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) over the ceasefire in Gaza. The United Nations General Assembly adopted a permanent resolution demanding an im-



mediate and permanent ceasefire in Gaza. A total of 149 countries voted in favour of a ceasefire in Gaza in the UNGA; meanwhile, 19 countries abstained and 12 nations voted against the resolution.

In the intervening hours of Saturday and Sunday (June 21-22), the US and Israel targeted Iran’s nuclear sites in Natanz, Isfahan, and Fordow. Fordow is Iran’s main enrichment location for uranium enrichment to 60 per cent. According to a CNN report, the US likely used six B-2 bombers to drop a dozen GBU-57 A/B “bunker buster” bombs, also known as Massive Ordnance

Penetrators (MOP), on the Fordow nuclear site, which is Iran’s main location for uranium enrichment.

A US official also told CNN that a full payload of bombs was dropped on Fordow. In his first public remarks following the strikes, President Trump warned that further action could be taken if Tehran fails to agree to a satisfactory peace settlement.

Last week, India’s Representative Office in Ramallah urged Indian nationals in Palestine to remain vigilant and observe locally advised safety and emergency procedures “in view of the current situation”.

It has also released a number which Indian nationals can contact in case of emergency.”

“In view of the current situation in the region, all Indian nationals in Palestine are requested to remain vigilant and observe locally advised safety and emergency procedures.

‘Sonam has confessed, should get punishment’

TDG NETWORK
INDORE

The brother of Sonam Raghuvanshi, one of the prime accused in the murder of Raja Raghuvanshi, has called for strict action against her. Speaking to the media, Govind Raghuvanshi said, “The police are doing their work. We have demanded that strict action be taken... According to me, the police have investigated the case.” He added that Sonam should be punished as she has already confessed to the crime. “She (Sonam) has confessed to her crime, so now punishment should be given. The police have taken our statements. If the police call us to Shillong, we will go,” Govind said. This comes after a district and sessions court in Meghalaya’s Shillong on

Only Uddhav, Raj can decide on MNS-SS (UBT) ties: Raut

AGENCIES
MUMBAI

The decision on a possible alliance between the Shiv Sena (UBT) and the MNS will be taken by Uddhav Thackeray and Raj Thackeray, and comments on the issue by anyone else are unwarranted, Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut said on Sunday.

Even as leaders of the Uddhav Thackeray-headed Shiv Sena (UBT) are sending feelers to Raj Thackeray, the Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) president recently met Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis at a hotel in Mumbai, triggering speculation about his next political move.

A supporter-turned-critic of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, MNS head Raj Thackeray extended support to the BJP-led Mahayuti in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

Talking to reporters here, Raut said Uddhav and Raj are the only ones to take a decision on the alliance.

“Those from the MNS who are speaking against the alli-



ance have come into politics late. What others say has no value. I have seen the Thackeray brothers closely for several years. I know what is going to happen and what is not. Nobody knows better than me,” Raut claimed.

He was responding to a question on MNS leader Sandeep Deshpande’s criticism of the Shiv Sena (UBT).

“A decision on the alliance will be taken by Raj Thackeray and Uddhav Thackeray as leaders and brothers,” Raut asserted.

There has been speculation about a possible reconciliation between the Thackeray brothers ahead of the civic polls, likely to be held later this year.

The estranged Thackeray cousins sparked the buzz with their recent statements indicating they could ignore “trivial issues” and join hands nearly two decades after a bitter parting of ways.

While Raj Thackeray has said uniting in the interest of “Marathi mannos” (Marathi-speaking people) is not difficult, Uddhav has insisted he is ready to put aside trivial fights, provided those working against Maharashtra’s interests are not entertained.

On June 12, CM Fadnavis met Raj Thackeray at a luxury hotel in Mumbai, fuelling speculation of an alliance between the ruling BJP and the MNS ahead of the civic polls in the state.

Cooperative sugar factory polls: NCP’s Sule casts vote

TDG NETWORK
BARAMATI

Nationalist Congress Party (Sharadchandra Pawar) MP Supriya Sule on Sunday exercised her vote in the recent election held at the Malegaon Cooperative Sugar Factory in Malegaon Budruk, Baramati. Sule mentioned that the vote was exercised in the factory’s five-yearly election.

The election is part of the regular democratic process at the factory, which plays a vital role in the local community.

In a post on the official account X, Sule stated,



“Malegaon Budruk, Baramati: Voted for the five-yearly elections of the Malegaon Cooperative Sugar Factory.”

Earlier, Supriya Sule raised concerns regarding the Maharashtra govern-

ment’s reported move to make Hindi the default third language in schools.

She urged the state government to clarify the decision, saying, “There is no clarity on it...I request that the Maharashtra government hold a proper press conference and make a clear clarification of what the policy really is,” Sule said.

The Maharashtra government, in its Government Resolution (GR), stated, “Hindi will be the third language. For those who want to learn another language, at least 20 willing students are required.”

Blackbuck found dead in MP’s Shajapur

TDG NETWORK
SHAJAPUR

A blackbuck was found dead with its throat slit after a group of hunters opened fire on a herd of the protected animals in Shajapur district of Madhya Pradesh, officials said on Sunday.

The incident occurred near Girana-Kevdakhedi Road, and the hunters reportedly fled the scene after villagers raised an alarm.

According to officials, the incident came to light after local residents noticed suspicious activity and alerted authorities.

MONSOON MAYHEM



An uprooted tree falls on a vehicle following gusty winds and rainfall on Ghodbunder Road, at Kasarvadavali in Thane on Sunday. ANI

Cops injured in attack by mob after accident in Thane

AGENCIES
THANE

Angry locals attacked police personnel and their vehicles after one person was killed and two were injured in an accident involving a car and a motobike in Ma-

harashtra’s Thane district, officials said on Sunday. Some of the police personnel, including women, were also injured and their vehicles damaged in the incident which took place on Saturday night, a district rural

police official said without specifying the numbers. As per preliminary information, a car carrying picnickers en-route to Malshej Ghat and a motobike with three occupants collided at Avlacha

Pada in Tokawade, Murbad area, the official said. After getting news of the accident, several villagers rushed to the spot, apprehended the car occupants and beat them up severely, he said.

Crack develops on Hosur flyover, traffic diverted on Chennai-Bengaluru highway

TDG NETWORK
HOSUR

Traffic was disrupted in Hosur on the Chennai-Bengaluru National Highway after a flyover section developed a lateral shift by nearly 50 meters, leading to an emergency inspection by the National Highways Department.

The incident happened near the Bagalur Road Circle area under Hosur Corporation

limits in Krishnagiri district, close to the Karnataka-Tamil Nadu border.

A gap about 15 cm wide and 50 meters long appeared on the flyover, which moved the beam structure connecting the Krishnagiri-Bangalore and Bangalore-Krishnagiri sections.

As a result, authorities immediately stopped traffic on the Krishnagiri-Bangalore flyover, diverting vehicles to the service road leading to Hosur

bus stand, causing heavy traffic congestion.

“Vehicular traffic had already been diverted due to widening work on Bagalur Road. This sudden shift in the flyover has only made the situation worse. Motorists are facing significant hardship,” said a local official involved in traffic control. Officials from the National Highways Department reached the site and began an urgent inspection of the displaced sec-



tion. Engineers started repair work using a circular bearing mechanism at the bottom of the structure to stabilize the bridge.

The National Highway witnessed heavy traffic as vehicular movement to Bengaluru was suspended. The flyover, located near the Hosur Bus Stand, reportedly shifted laterally by about half a foot, with a visible crack in its central portion.

Following the development, officials from the National

Highways Authority rushed to the spot and conducted an inspection.

Authorities immediately closed the flyover to all vehicular traffic as a precautionary measure. As a result, vehicles travelling from the Salem-Chennai region via Krishnagiri to Bengaluru were diverted to the service road in front of the flyover.

The diversion has led to significant traffic snarls, with

congestion stretching up to 3 km from the Hosur Bus Stand. Commuters and motorists have been facing severe delays and inconvenience.

National Highway officials have launched a detailed investigation into the cause of the damage.

Meanwhile, diversions remain in place, and commuters have been advised to avoid the affected stretch and use alternative routes until further notice.

CM REKHA JOINS JAGANNATH RATH YATRA AT CITY'S KAMLA NAGAR

Delhi CM Rekha Gupta participated in Kamla Nagar’s Jagannath Rath Yatra and an Olympic Day Run on Sunday.

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta participated in the Sree Jagannath Rath Yatra held at Kamla Nagar on Sunday, where she joined thousands of devotees in the sacred tradition of pulling the chariot carrying Lord Jagannath, Lord Balabhadra, and Goddess Subhadra.

The event, organised by Geeta Bhawan and Panchayati Bhawan, saw a large number of devotees from across Delhi, all gathered to celebrate this age-old spiritual tradition with enthusiasm and community involvement.

Speaking to the media at the event, CM Rekha Gupta expressed her joy, saying, “Today, Geeta Bhawan and



Panchayati Bhawan in Kamla Nagar have organised a very beautiful Jagannath Yatra. Thousands of devotees participate in it...I congratulate the people of Delhi on the Rath Yatra of Lord Jagannath. May the blessings of Lord Jagannath continue on Delhi and the country.”

In a post on X, the Delhi CM wrote, “Millions of salutations to the feet of Lord

Shri Jagannath, Lord Balabhadra and Mother Subhadra ji. By participating in the holy Rath Yatra of Lord Shri Jagannath Ji organised in Kamala Nagar, Delhi, the mind and soul experienced amazing peace, energy and joy. Pulling the chariot is not just a religious ritual, but a divine medium of serving the Lord and social welfare, which leads us towards spiritual purity and

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Spiritual celebration: CM pulled the chariot during Jagannath Yatra, calling it a symbol of unity and spiritual service.
- Public message: She lauded organisers and extended wishes to Delhiites, invoking Lord Jagannath’s blessings.
- Cultural pride: In her X post, she called the Yatra a path to “spiritual purity and national duty”
- Olympic vision: Also attended Olympic Day Run; backed Delhi’s bid to host 2036 Games and praised PM Modi’s sports focus.

the path of true duty. This supernatural Rath Yatra is a symbol of India’s cultural unity, social harmony and the unique power of eternal traditions. I pray to Almighty God to give all of us the strength and determination to move forward on the path of restraint, service and nation building.”

Earlier today, Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta attended a Special Olympic Day Run event and expressed her pride in participating and her vision for India’s future in sports. “I’m very happy that thousands of people from Delhi participated in this organised Olympic run,” she said.

2 held over fake Bisleri bottle manufacturing

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

North West District’s Delhi Police arrested two individuals in a Bisleri bottle racket and seized a large quantity of fake packaging material and equipment.

The arrested have been identified as Sikander (30) and Ashish (19), both residents of Shakurpur. The police recovered 127 counterfeit Bisleri stickers, 387 counterfeit barcodes, 20 litres of bottles, 26 counterfeit Bisleri labels, and seven heater guns and lighters.

A complaint was received from Bisleri representatives regarding the illegal manufacturing and sale of counterfeit Bisleri bottles. Upon receiving information, a team of officers investigated the counterfeiters and in a

raid conducted arrested two individuals.

The accused individuals have been charged under the Copyright Act. Additionally, action has been initiated against Vishal Gupta under the Environment Protection Act for supplying water for the manufacturing process.

Further investigation is underway. Earlier on June 20, the Delhi Police arrested a man for duping people by posing as a customer care executive of a credit card delivery service and sending malicious APK files to gain unauthorised access to their devices. According to the police, a complaint was received on April 17 in which the complainant stated that he had applied for a new SBI credit card, which was scheduled to be delivered to his residence.

DU calls UG admission form error as ‘unintentional’, professors allege bias

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Delhi University has termed the controversial omission of “Urdu” and the inclusion of “Muslim” as a mother tongue in its undergraduate admission form as an “inadvertent error”, but several professors have alleged communal bias and demanded immediate correction, accountability and a public apology.

“The University of Delhi sincerely regrets the inadvertent error in its admission form. We acknowledge your concerns and are committed to addressing them,” the Delhi University (DU) said in a statement on X.

“However, attributing ulterior motives to this entirely unintentional oversight is unwarranted. We request all not to vitiate the



university’s diverse and harmonious environment,” the statement added.

The academics from the DU, however, criticised the language used in the form, arguing it reflects a communal mindset and undermines the Constitution.

“Under ‘Mother Tongue’, the form omits Urdu entirely while listing ‘Muslim’ as a mother tongue. Is it beyond the DU’s understanding that Muslims speak the same languages as others from their regions? This

cannot be anything but Islamophobic,” Abha Dev Habib, a professor at Miranda House, wrote in a Facebook post.

The professor said the omission is particularly concerning given that Urdu is included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.

“This reflects a profound dumbing down motivated by a communal mindset. It must be condemned, corrected and followed by an apology,” she added.

Yellow alert issued for city

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The city recorded a minimum temperature of 27.8 degrees Celsius on Sunday, with the weather department predicting strong surface winds along with light rain. The national capital received light rains on Saturday afternoon, with a yellow alert in place for the day.

According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), Safdarjung recorded 2.6 mm rainfall, Palam 0.4 mm, Ayanagar 0.4 mm and Lodhi Road 0.2 mm.

According to the IMD surface observatory data, which refers to specific three-hour readings from individual stations, Palam recorded 1.4 mm of rain between 2.30 pm and 5.30 pm, Safdarjung 0.8 mm while Ayanagar, Lodhi Road and Ridge reported trace rainfall. The weather department has forecasted strong surface winds accompanied with light rain on Sunday,



According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), Safdarjung recorded 2.6 mm rainfall, Palam 0.4 mm, Ayanagar 0.4 mm and Lodhi Road 0.2 mm.

with the maximum temperature expected to hover around 37 degree Celsius.

Delhi’s air quality was recorded in the satisfactory category at 9 am on Sunday, with an Air Quality Index (AQI) reading of 59, Central Pollution Control Board

(CPCB) data showed. According to the CPCB, an AQI between zero and 50 is considered ‘good’, 51 and 100 ‘satisfactory’, 101 and 200 ‘moderate’, 201 and 300 ‘poor’, 301 and 400 ‘very poor’, and 401 and 500 ‘severe’.

Delhi Police to deploy smart sensors cameras to curb shootings in city

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

With several cases of gun violence in the national capital, Delhi Police is stepping up its response with a new tech-driven initiative involving advanced sensors and high-resolution cameras.

These systems will instantly alert officers, help identify assailants and track getaway vehicles used to flee crime scenes.

Currently in its implementation stage, the project aims to enhance surveillance and rapid response across the city.

Sensors capable of detecting gunfire within a 500-metre to one-kilometre radius are being installed at strategic locations. Once a firing sound is detected, the sensors will trigger an alert to nearby PTZ (Pan-Tilt-Zoom) cameras, prompting them to rotate and focus



precisely on the direction of the sound. “These sensors will send an alert to the nearest PTZ camera, which will then swivel toward the suspected firing location. This will allow us to capture footage of the incident, the accused and the vehicle they use to escape,” a senior police officer said.

The system will integrate Facial Recognition System (FRS) cameras and Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras. While the FRS-enabled cameras will assist in identifying suspects in real time, the ANPR cameras will record vehicle number

plates, aiding in tracing escape routes and identifying those involved.

Additionally, the entire network will be linked to the Integrated Command, Control, Communication and Computer Centre (C4I) at Delhi Police Headquarters. Alerts will also be sent to Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) offices and local police stations.

Once a firing is detected, the operator at C4I will quickly assess the authenticity of the alert.

If verified, an immediate alert will be sent to the nearest PCR unit to respond to the scene without delay.

HC asks Govt, private hospital to explain charges on Ayushman card holder

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has sought responses from the Central Government, Delhi Government, and a private hospital in Paschim Vihar on a plea moved by a senior citizen, who alleged that he was charged for medical tests and admission despite having a valid Ayushman Bharat Card.

Justice Rajneesh Kumar Gupta sought a response on the petition moved 73 year 73-year-old Raminder Singh.

The court directed the respondents to file their reply before the next hearing date and listed the matter for



The court directed the respondents to file their reply before the next hearing date and listed the matter for hearing on July 8.

hearing on July 8. It is stated that the senior citizen petitioner went to the respondent hospital on June 10, as he had chest pain and discomfort. There he was advised to undergo

several tests, such as a CT scan and an ECG. Thereafter, he was taken to the ICU. He informed the doctors that he has a valid Ayushman Bharat Card. Despite this, he was asked to deposit

Rs 25000 for admission and told that the concerned counter is closed, the plea said.

He submitted that he was told the amount would be returned. When he approached the counter, he was told that the benefit could only be availed of in case a patient undergoes surgery. It is further submitted that when he requested to be discharged. The staff removed the medical equipment and asked him to go without a discharge summary. The petitioner said that he filed a complaint against this before the Delhi police, the Delhi Government, and the hospital superintendent, but no action was taken.

Masked men loot ice cream parlour in Delhi’s Keshavpuram

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Three unidentified masked men allegedly looted an ice cream parlour in northwest Delhi’s Keshavpuram area and decamped with cash, mobile phones and several ice cream and kulfi packets, police on Sunday said.

The incident took place around 11 pm on Saturday at a shop located on Talab road, they said.

The incident was recorded on CCTV footage and teams have been formed to nab the accused, police said.

“Two men were holding knives and wearing face masks. They came on a motorcycle and barged into our



parlour. They threatened us, forcing my brother to sit in a corner while one was guarding, another looted everything -- cash, mobile phones and ice creams,” said Narendar, the owner of ice cream parlour.

The CCTV footage from the scene shows the trio filling bags with ice creams and kulfis in a matter of seconds

before fleeing on the same motorcycle, police said.

The footage from the CCTV camera is being checked and identification process is underway, they said.

The shop owner has claimed a total loss of nearly Rs 50,000 to 60,000, including the cost of the looted frozen stock.

In another incident, an ice cream seller was robbed by two persons near Shiv Mandir in northwest Delhi’s Subhash Place.

One of the accused was caught by the public at the spot, police said.

The incident took place around 12.30 am on the intervening night of June 21 and 22 when the victim, identified as Roop Lal Prasad (45), was returning home after his routine ice cream sales, they said.

As Prasad reached near a sweets shop, one person allegedly grabbed him from behind while the other assaulted him with fists and took away his mobile phone and Rs 520 cash, police said.

5 injured as speeding truck jumps divider, rams into car

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

A speeding mini truck jumped a divider, rammed into a car, and then mowed down a group of pedestrians who were allegedly eating ice cream late at night in Seelampur area of northeast Delhi, an official said.

The incident occurred around 12.04 am when the driver of Tata 407 truck allegedly lost control of the vehicle near 66 Foota Road, he said.

The truck, which was



coming from the direction of Sanatan Dharm Mandir, suddenly veered off its lane, leapt across the central divider and rammed into a car, police said.

“The vehicle further

swerved and rammed into a group of five people standing nearby on the roadside,” said the officer.

The injured have been identified as Noorie (27), Afzari (55), Haseen alias Sonu

The driver was also arrested and crime and forensic science teams were called to examine the site.

(25), Mehak (18) and Foolbi (25), from New Seelampur.

“All five were immediately rushed to LNJP Hospital where they are undergoing treatment,” he added.

Police teams reached the spot immediately and im-

pounded the offending vehicle. The driver was also arrested and crime and forensic science teams were called to examine the site.

A case has been registered under sections 281 (ash driving or riding on a public way) and 125(a) (offering a gift or restoring property to someone in exchange for concealing an offense) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

Further investigation is underway to ascertain the exact sequence of events, police said.

20-year-old man shot at over money dispute in Kalkaji

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

A 20-year-old man sustained bullet injuries after he was allegedly shot at three times during a heated dispute in Delhi’s Kalkaji area on Saturday evening, according to the police.

The incident took place around 6 pm near Mini Market, DDA Flats, and was linked to an argument over money.

The victim, identified as Manav Singh (20), got into a fight regarding some money taken by another friend from the accused.

According to police, the fight broke out between Manav and the accused after a friend

of Manav allegedly took money from the accused and failed to return it. During the argument, the accused pulled out a pistol and fired three shots at Manav.

He was rushed to the hospital and is currently under treatment.

“A case under the relevant sections is being registered. We have zeroed in on the accused, who will be arrested soon,” said DCP South East Hemant Tiwari.

He added that the crime team recovered empty cartridges from the spot.

AAP Delhi Chief and Kalkaji MLA Saunabh Bharadwaj visited the locality after the incident and said, “I went to Kalkaji. The people are scared there.

WEST BENGAL: BJP HITS OUT AT CM MAMATA FOR UNDERSTAFFING IN GOVT DEPARTMENTS

BJP alleges CM Mamata Banerjee prioritises vote bank over essential hiring in police, health, and emergency sectors.

TDG NETWORK
KOLKATA

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) took a jibe at West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, referring to her as the “Civic Minister” of the state, keeping critical government positions vacant, particularly in hospitals and police departments, while allegedly prioritising funds for her

KEY ALLEGATIONS BY BJP AGAINST MAMATA GOVT

- Staffing crisis: Over 60,000 police vacancies, critical understaffing in hospitals and fire stations
- Lopsided funding: Rs 5,602 Cr for Minority Affairs vs Rs211 Cr for IT and Rs80 Cr for Science & Biotech
- Mockery online: BJP shares edited image of Mamata with fire extinguisher and stethoscope; calls her “Civic Minister”
- Flood fallout: BJP blames TMC for waterlogging, power outages, and poor infrastructure in Ghatal and Chandrakona



“vote bank.”

The BJP claimed that over 60,000 police posts remain unfilled, and fire stations are understaffed, all while the state diverts investments away from crucial sectors such as IT, Science, and Biotechnology. The party alleged that funds are instead being allocated for “Madrasa and Minority Affairs.”

Criticising the CM for vote bank politics and

trying to appease the “30 percent” of minority in the state, the party added in a post on X, “Civic Minister Mamata runs Bengal on a 30% system for 30% people -- 6,000+ police posts vacant -- Just 97.66 cops/lakh vs national avg of 152.8; Only 8 fire divisional officers managing the entire state; 4,000+ doctors short, hospitals in collapse mode; Rs80 Cr for Science and Technology and Bio-

technology, Rs211 Cr for IT and Electronics -- but Rs5,602 Cr for Madrasa & Minority Affairs.”

Additionally, the BJP posted an edited image of Mamata Banerjee holding a fire extinguisher and wearing a stethoscope, taking a sarcastic jibe at her leadership.

“Let the state burn and run dry, but vote-bank should never run out of money,” the post added.

Earlier on Saturday, the BJP criticised the state government for the flood-like situation in Ghatal town in Paschim Medinipur district. The party accused the ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC) of exposing its “model of development” during the crisis.

In the visuals of floods shared by the party, people can be seen walking around on waterlogged streets.

Meanwhile, in the Chandrakona area, the BJP posted videos showing broken roads and other missing amenities, claiming that the area had been without electricity and that the roads were completely submerged.

The post said, “This is the state of Chandrakona under the so-called ‘development’ of the TMC government! Several villages remain without electricity, and state highways are flooded like rivers. No roads are left, just waterlogged paths where people are forced to commute under life-threatening conditions.”

‘Nitish tired’: Tejashwi in fresh attack on Bihar CM

TDG NETWORK
PATNA

Former Bihar Deputy Chief Minister and Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Tejashwi Yadav came down heavily on Chief Minister Nitish Kumar while reiterating his charge that the CM remains “tired” and the “retired, corrupt officials” were running the government in the state.

Yadav’s response came after he was asked about his “mentally unfit or unhealthy” remarks against Nitish Kumar.

“Have you noticed that Nitish Kumar doesn’t say anything to the media? When there are government officials or the Deputy Chief Minister on stage, why do they hold his hand? When the national anthem is playing, he talks with the officials. What does it tell you? When respect was being paid to Mahatma Gandhi, he was busy applauding, and everyone was telling him to put down his hands,” Yadav said in an exclusive interview with ANI.

Recalling various incidents where the officials had to



give directions to Nitish Kumar in public, the RJD leader said that Kumar only goes out to public events for a photoshoot when the Opposition comments on his “tiredness”, but remains within a few kilometres’ radius of his official residence. “This is a stage in life, and I don’t like to comment on it. However, he is tired. When we say this, he goes for a photoshoot but stays within a 2-3 kilometre radius of his residence in Patna.

Why doesn’t he go and meet the rape victim? Why does he not visit the incident sites? Why doesn’t he hold press conferences?” Yadav asked.

When asked who is running the government if the CM is “tired”, Yadav said

that it was the retired and corrupt officials who were running the Bihar government.

“Retired, corrupt officials. Those who are corrupt officials. The Patna Medical College and Hospital (PMCH) Superintendent had retired, but he was given an extension after my government fell. The Chief Engineer, who was caught with crores of rupees, was retired only,” he added.

Moreover, Yadav claimed that if the law and order situation in Bihar is compared to the one under the previous RJD-led Mahagathbandhan government based on crime data, it would reveal that criminal activities are “out of control” under the Nitish Kumar government.

If SP comes to power, Rs 3,000 will be given as aid to poor women: Akhilesh

TDG NETWORK
LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav on Sunday announced that if his party comes to power in Uttar Pradesh, a financial assistance of Rs 3,000 would be provided to poor women.

The SP chief further criticised the BJP-led government in the State, alleging a decline in the safety and welfare of women and girls.

Addressing a press conference, Yadav said, “... The situation has become unsafe for women and daughters in the reign of BJP government. Everyday, we hear cases of injustice to women and daughters... If the Samajwadi Party forms government, Rs 3000 will be given to poor women in the state... This government is giving poor quality



laptops... 1090 is not as effective as it used to be due to multiple hurdles like budget...”

The SP chief further outlined his party’s plans for enhancing women’s safety in the state.

“In the coming time, we will strengthen it for women’s security... If structural changes are needed in the police, our government will make a big decision in favour of women’s welfare...” Yadav said.

Yesterday, the Samajwadi leader criticised the BJP-led government

over its policies.

Speaking to reporters, the SP chief said, “This government is saying that they will develop industrial regions by the expressway... The Samajwadi Party had started making markets for farmers along the expressway.

The BJP should focus on creating markets for the farmers. The markets should be such that every crop is purchased there... Why did they shut down the cow milk plant?... What do these BJPians have to do with any milk products? The people of the BJP do not consume cow milk... They incline cow dung. They like it when cow dung is gifted to them. If you would gift them cow milk products like ghee or curd, they would be upset... They get happy when they are given cow dung...”

Odisha CM chairs meeting to assess diarrhoea situation in state

TDG NETWORK
BHUBANESWAR

Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi chaired a high-level meeting at Lok Seva Bhavan on Sunday to assess the diarrhoea situation in the state, according to the official statement.

Although the outbreak is under control, the Chief Minister emphasised the importance of maintaining vigilance and implementing preventive measures in affected and vulnerable areas until Dussehra.

Diarrhoea is a condition marked by frequent, loose, or watery stools that can result from infections, food intolerance, or digestive disorders. If untreated, it may lead to dehydration.

The review meeting was attended by Deputy CM KV



Singh Deo, Health Minister Dr Mukesh Mahaling, Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja and officials from key departments.

Earlier, Director of Public Health, Odisha, Dr Nilakantha Mishra, said that there has been a sudden rise in cases of diarrhoea in the last three days, with over 200 people affected in Jajpur district in the state.

Meanwhile, on June 19, Aswathy S, Commissioner-cum-Secretary of the Health and Family Welfare Department of Odisha, said that cholera has so far been detected only in Jaipur district and has not spread to other areas such as Puri.

She informed that every reported cholera or diarrhoea death is being audited by a team of doctors.

Around 33 lakh people visited Char Dham so far: Uttarakhand CM

TDG NETWORK
HARIDWAR

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami said on Sunday that about 33 lakh people have visited the Char Dham so far this year.

He also said the Kanwar Yatra is organised every year, and he will soon review the preparations for this year’s event.

Speaking to the reporters, Pushkar Singh Dhami said, “The Char Dham Yatra is ongoing, and around 33 lakh people have visited the Char Dham so far... Every year, the Kanwar Yatra is organised, and we make preparations for it. I will very soon be reviewing the



preparations for this year as well...”

The Char Dham Yatra 2025 officially began on April 30 with the opening of the Gangotri and Yamunotri Dham on Akshaya Tritiya amid Vedic chants and rituals. The doors of Kedarnath Dham were opened on May 2, and those of Badrinath on May 4.

Navy to commission stealth frigate ‘Tamal’ in Russia

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Navy is all set to commission its latest stealth multi-role frigate on July 1, at Kaliningrad, Russia, an official statement said on Sunday.

The ceremony will be presided over by Vadm Sanjay J Singh, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Naval Command, as the Chief Guest, in the presence of many high-ranking Indian and Russian government and defence officials.

The ship is christened as “Tamal” and is the eighth of the series of Krivak class frigates inducted from Russia over the past two decades, with Tamal itself being the second ship of the Tushil



Class, which are the upgraded versions of their predecessors, Talwar and Teg classes, having three ships each.

“India as part of the broader contract for Tushil class is also building two similar frigates called the Tripud class at Goa Shipyard Limited with transfer of technology and design assistance from the Russian Side,” read an official statement.

When the series of ships

finishes building, the Indian Navy will be operating ten ships with similar capabilities and commonality in equipment, weapon and sensor fit over four different classes.

Tamal’s construction was closely overseen by an Indian team of specialists from the Warship Overseeing Team stationed at Kaliningrad, under the aegis of the Embassy of India, Moscow.

Devotees take holy dip in Triveni Sangam on Yogini Ekadashi in Prayagraj

TDG NETWORK
PRAYAGRAJ

On the auspicious occasion of Yogini Ekadashi, a significant number of devotees gathered at the sacred Triveni Sangam - the confluence of the Ganga, Yamuna, and the invisible Saraswati rivers - to take a holy dip and seek the blessings of Lord Vishnu.

This marks the first Ekadashi of the Ashadha month, a day believed to bring immense

spiritual and material blessings, particularly for women and students.

Devotees, including locals and visitors from across the region, started arriving at the Sangam early in the morning to perform the ritual of bathing, worshipping, and donating.

Speaking to ANI, a local priest at the Sangam, Gopal Ji Tirth, explained the significance of the day, stating, “Today is the first Ekadashi of Ashadha. Its name is Yogini Ekadashi.



The meaning of Yogini is very beautiful. Those who are girls or women or men or have small

children, if they fast on this day, then whatever their wishes are, get fulfilled.” He emphasised

the special importance of this Ekadashi for unmarried girls or those facing challenges in their studies. “By observing this fast, one gets devotion to Lord Vishnu. Lakshmi’s grace is received. Especially for girls... if they are unmarried or facing difficulties in studies, fasting on Ekadashi and worshipping Lord Vishnu brings fulfilment of all Yogini-related wishes,” he added.

Ramesh Tiwari, a devotee who took part in the rituals,

spoke about the spiritual significance of the day, linking it to ancient traditions. He said, “There is a Samvatsara with two thousand years of Vikrami Samvat Kaal, and this Ekadashi of Krishna Paksha of Ashadha month is called Yogini Ekadashi. A person who fasts attains spiritual salvation. Even Lord Krishna mentioned its significance. Bathing in the Ganges or Sangam on this day gives liberation.”

Earlier, on June 11, scores

of devotees thronged sacred sites across Uttar Pradesh on Wednesday on the occasion of Jyeshtha Purnima, to take a holy dip in the River Ganga and offer prayers at the Sangam in Prayagraj.

Marking a spiritually significant day in the Hindu calendar, the faithful arrived before sunrise to perform rituals, offer prayers, and donate to the needy. Speaking to ANI, a devotee, Rohini Sharma from Fatehpur, said people believe

bathing on the occasion of Jyeshtha Purnima will bring prosperity and wash away sins.

“We come here every year on Jyeshtha Purnima. It is said that bathing on this day grants blessings for the entire month and promotes family happiness and wealth,” she added.

Another devotee said, “This day is considered especially auspicious as it falls under the Jyeshtha Nakshatra, a spiritually powerful constellation in Hindu tradition.”

INDIA'S FOREX RESERVES JUMP TO \$699 BN

RBI data shows India's foreign exchange reserves continue to climb, nearing the record set in September 2024.

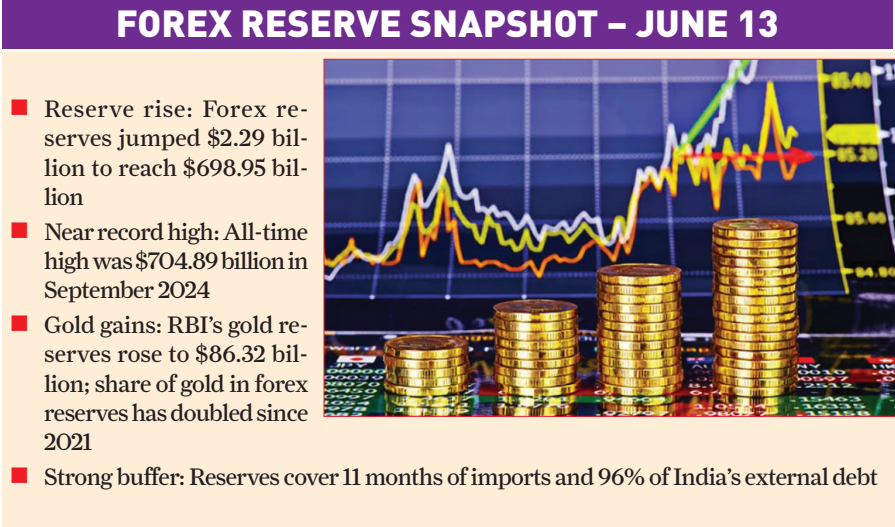
TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

India's foreign exchange reserves (forex) extended their gains, jumping USD 2.294 billion to USD 698.950 billion in the week ending June 13, official data released by the Reserve Bank of India showed.

At the latest monetary policy meet, RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra said the foreign exchange kitty was sufficient to meet 11 months of the country's imports and about 96 per cent of external debt.

With this weekly jump, the forex kitty is close to its all-time high of USD 704.89 billion in September 2024.

The latest RBI data showed that India's foreign currency assets (FCA), the



largest component of foreign exchange reserves, stood at USD 589.426 billion.

According to RBI data, the gold reserves currently amount to USD 86.316 bil-

lion.

Central banks worldwide increasingly accumulating safe-haven gold in their foreign exchange reserves kitty, and India is no excep-

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India's next phase of growth must focus on per capita GDP: Report

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

India has overtaken several economies in terms of GDP over the past decade, but its citizens' per capita income remains poor. In that context, a report by Llama Research suggested that the next phase of India's growth must translate into individual prosperity.

Manufacturing scale-up, digital formalisation, and rising income tiers are some of the reasons that are at India's advantage.

Noting that India ranks the lowest on per capita income among the top 10 economies, Llama Research asserted, "This isn't a flaw, it's a window of compounding potential."

Tech savvy population, solid policy, room for long-term capital formation, and macro stability are some other positives for India, according to the report. "India is not just rising in rank, it's building the foundations to lead from the ground up," Llama Research said in the report 'India's growth: Journey from size to



strength'.

To realise the vision of 'Viksit Bharat', a developed nation dream by 2047, India will need to achieve a growth rate of around 8 per cent at constant prices, on average, for about a decade or two, the Economic Survey document for 2024-25 tabled on January 31 asserted. India has made quite a turnaround, climbing the ladder of economic growth. This can be gauged from the 11th in 2013-14, India has positioned itself to become the fourth largest economy.

Even as India has overtaken many countries in terms of the size of the economy over the past decade, the per capita income in India remains

very low. In 2013, India was placed in the league of 'Fragile 5' economies. The term 'Fragile 5' was coined by a Morgan Stanley analyst and refers to a set of five emerging countries, including India, whose economies were not doing well. The other four countries were Brazil, Indonesia, South Africa, and Turkey. Currently, India is the fifth largest economy, and among the fastest-growing major economies.

It is projected to remain so over the next few years, as many global agencies have anticipated. In the current financial year, India is set to overtake Japan to become the world's 4th largest economy, as projected by IMF.

PSU banks gain market share amid slow down in credit growth: UBI Report

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The credit growth of Indian banks moderated in the Financial Year 2025, yet Public Sector Banks (PSBs) gained the market share, outperforming their Private Banks (PVBs) counterparts, according to a report by the Union Bank of India.

The report added that the gain was visible across both the nature and geography of lending.

"Credit growth slowed in FY25 yet PSBs gained market share vis-a-vis PVBs," the report added.

The Credit-Deposit (CD) ratio for PVBs was observed elevated, reflecting higher credit push, but their incremental CD ratio corrected sharply in FY25, hinting at a slowdown in fresh disbursements.

Contrary to this, the PSBs saw more stability, leveraging their balance sheets more cautiously but effectively. As per the report, the working capital and de-

foreign exchange reserves, contrasting with a cumulative decline of USD 71 billion in 2022.

In 2024, the reserves rose by a little over USD 20 billion.

Foreign exchange reserves, or FX reserves, are assets held by a nation's central bank or monetary authority, primarily in reserve currencies such as the US Dollar, with smaller portions in the Euro, Japanese Yen, and Pound Sterling.

The RBI often intervenes by managing liquidity, including selling dollars, to prevent steep Rupee depreciation.

The RBI strategically buys dollars when the Rupee is strong and sells when it weakens.



mand loans, typically used by businesses for operational requirements, became a key driver of this outperformance. The report observed that a major change has emerged in the sectoral distribution of credit. The regulatory interventions on the unsecured lending slowed down retail (especially personal loan) disbursements from private banks.

While the public sector banks used this opportunity to boost their incremental market share in the retail credit segment, especially gaining a lead in the housing loans.

The report observed that the state-controlled banking entities are also leading in industrial credit, which was not the specialisation of PSBs. On the geographical front, PSBs dominated in rural and semi-urban regions.

EPFO adds 19.14 lakh net members in April 2025

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has added 19.14 lakh members in April 2025, provisional payroll data from the Union Ministry of Labour and Employment showed.

The figure depicts a significant increase of 31.31 per cent over March 2025.

The year-on-year analysis revealed an increase of 1.17 per cent in net payroll additions compared to April 2024, signifying increased employment opportunities and heightened awareness of employee benefits, bolstered by EPFO's effective outreach initiatives.

EPFO enrolled around 4.49 lakh new subscribers in April 2025, representing a 12.49 per cent increase over March 2025.

"This increase in new subscribers can be attributed to growing employment opportunities, increased awareness of employee benefits, and EPFO's successful outreach programs," the ministry said. A noticeable aspect of the



data is the dominance of the 18-25 age group.

EPFO added 4.89 lakh new subscribers in the 18-25 age group, constituting a significant 57.67 per cent of the total new subscribers added in April 2025.

New subscribers in the 18-25 age group added in the month showed an increase of 10.05 per cent compared to the previous month of March 2025, it said. Further, the net payroll addition for the age group 18-25 for April 2025 is approximately 7.58 lakh, reflecting an increase of 13.60 per cent from the previous month of March. "This is in consonance with the earlier trend, which indicates that most individuals joining the

organised workforce are youth, primarily first-time job seekers," the ministry said. Approximately 15.77 lakh members, who had exited earlier, rejoined EPFO in April 2025.

This figure depicts a 19.19 per cent increase over March 2025. It also shows an 8.56 per cent year-over-year growth compared to April 2024.

"These members switched their jobs and re-joined the establishments covered under the ambit of EPFO and opted to transfer their accumulations instead of applying for final settlement thus safeguarding long-term financial well-being and extending their social security protection," the ministry added.

Around 2.45 lakh new female subscribers joined EPFO in April 2025. It reflects an increase of 17.63 per cent compared to the previous month of March 2025.

Further, the net female payroll addition during the month stood at around 3.95 lakh, with a significant month-on-month increase of 35.24 per cent compared to March 2025.

RBI's project financing norms will have negligible impact on banks, NBFCs: Report

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The relaxation in project financing norms by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to banks and NBFCs will have a negligible impact on the profitability on their profitability and balance sheet, according to a report by Motilal Oswal.

"We believe the impact of the revised norms on bank/NBFC profitability will be negligible, as the existing book remains unaffected," the report added.

However, the report added, "For new project loans, any incremental provisioning cost is likely to be passed on to borrowers, especially in a declining rate environment, through yield adjustments." The report added that RBI's final project finance guidelines are a positive for banks and NBFCs, especially when



classification, and provisioning norms for project loans under implementation. The most notable relief came from the significantly eased provisioning requirements, which were cut to just 1 per cent during construction compared to 5 per cent proposed earlier and as low as 0.4 per cent post Date of Commencement of Commercial Operations (DCCO).

These new guidelines will come into effect from October 1 current year. The draft guidelines proposed an enabling framework for the regulated entities (REs)

for financing project loans, while addressing the underlying risks.

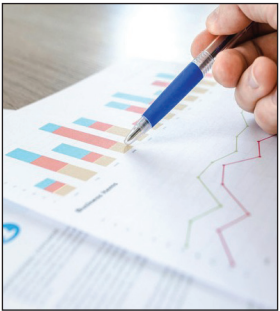
RBI said that it received feedback from nearly 70 entities, including banks, NBFCs, industry bodies, academicians, law firms, individuals, and the Central Government. As per to new rules, the RBI introduced a principle-based regime for stress resolution in project finance exposures, applicable across all regulated entities (REs), ensuring a harmonised approach. The report stated that the easing norms reduce capital drag while still maintaining prudence. "Overall, the final norms strike a balanced approach, enabling continued flow of project finance with minimal impact on the profitability or balance sheet strength of lenders," the report further added.

Despite sales growth, rising input costs impact profitability of non-financial firms: CareEdge

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The profitability of non-financial companies came under pressure in Financial Year 2025 (FY25) despite registering improvements in the sales growth, according to a report by market intelligence firm CareEdge.

As per the report, the net sales grew by 7.7 per cent Year-on-Year (YoY), up from 3.7 per cent in FY 2025 in its previous fiscal, meanwhile, total expenditure, which impacts the profitability, rose by 8.1 per cent YoY in FY25, sig-



nificantly higher than the 1.8 per cent YoY growth recorded in FY24.

"The sales growth of corporates improved in Q4 FY25. While sales growth saw improvement, an uptick in expenditure led by rising input

prices has resulted in a moderation in corporate profitability growth in the quarter," the report added.

Non-financial corporations are companies that primarily engage in producing goods and services for the market, but are not involved in financial activities like lending or investing.

The report observed that within the expenditure components, the growth of employee costs of non-financial firms moderated to 7.2 per cent in FY25 from 10.7 per cent in FY24.

Nonetheless, a steep rise in

the cost of services and raw materials--up 9.9 per cent in FY25 compared to just 0.8 per cent in the previous year--was a key driver of the overall increase in spending, weighing on corporate profitability. According to the report, the deceleration in employee cost growth remains a point of concern from a demand perspective, particularly given anecdotal evidence indicating a mixed outlook for urban consumption. "A strong recovery in consumption is also imperative for a pickup in private capital expenditure," the report added.

CAGR is Compound Annual Growth Rate.

According to the report, India's agrochemical industry is valued at USD 11.2 billion in 2024-25, having grown 8.7

India's agrochemicals market eyes \$14.5 billion by 2028 with 9% CAGR: Report

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

India's agrochemicals industry remains resilient and is projected to grow to USD 14.5 billion by 2027-28, with a CAGR of 9 per cent, despite global headwinds, according to a report by Rubix Data Sciences -- a leading provider of risk management and monitoring solutions.

CAGR is Compound Annual Growth Rate.

According to the report, India's agrochemical industry is valued at USD 11.2 billion in 2024-25, having grown 8.7



per cent year-on-year despite a challenging global environment.

Exports saw a sharp 22 per cent decline in 2023-24, driven by global inventory destocking, aggressive price competition from China, and weak demand in major markets.

As global supply chains stabilise and agricultural

activity rebounds, a moderate recovery is projected in 2024-25, supported by improved demand and cost-competitive manufacturing by Indian players.

One of the key trends highlighted in the report is the rapid growth of herbicide exports, which recorded a 20 per cent CAGR from 2019-20 to 2024-25. Their share in India's total agrochemical exports rose from 31 per cent to 37 per cent over this period.

According to the report released this week, the shift reflects both rising global de-

mand fueled by the growing cost of agricultural labour--and India's strength in producing affordable, effective crop protection solutions.

Japan has now overtaken Brazil as the second-largest export destination for herbicides, while the US and Brazil continue to lead as key markets for insecticides and fungicides. "The drop in agrochemical exports over the past year has definitely been a setback, but it's also part of a larger global reset," said Mohan Ramaswamy, Co-founder and CEO at Rubix Data Sciences.

Housing sales in top cities fall below 1 lakh unit, first time in 14 quarters: PropEquity

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Housing sales in India's top cities in Q2 2025 (April-June) fell below one lakh unit mark for the first time since Q3-2021 while supply remained below this threshold for the fourth consecutive quarter as per a report.

Sales fell by 19 per cent on year-on-year basis to 94,864 units while supply fell by 30 per cent on year-on-year to 82,027 units in the April-June period of 2025, according to a report by NSE-listed real estate data analytics firm PropEquity.



Housing sales stood at 116,432 units and supply stood at 117,208 units in April-June period of 2024.

According to the report, housing sales fell year-on-year in 7 out of the 9 cities with Mumbai and Thane witnessing the sharpest fall at 34 per cent each while Delhi-NCR at 16 per cent and Chennai at 9 per cent were the only two cities that saw

a rise in sales in April-June of 2025.

Similarly, housing supply fell in six out of the nine cities with Mumbai recording the sharpest fall at 61 per cent while three cities saw rise in supply, namely Delhi NCR at 37 per cent, Hyderabad at 19 per cent and Chennai at 6 per cent in April-June of 2025.

Samir Jasuja, Founder and CEO, PropEquity said, "This is for the first time since Q3 2021 (July-September) that housing sales have fallen below 1 lakh unit mark. Supply, too, has stayed below 1 lakh unit mark for the fourth consecutive quarter.

CNG poised for growth as India focuses on energy transition: Crisil

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

New Delhi (ANI): The city gas distribution (CGD) sector is at the core of India's energy transition, with compressed natural gas, in particular, poised for significant growth, according to a report by Crisil Intelligence. This projected growth, according to Crisil, will be powered by government thrust, urban mobility demand, and expanding infrastructure.

With more than 18,000 CNG stations proposed and 12 crore households unlocked through licensing



rounds, the momentum remains strong.

"With the top states continuing to anchor demand, the next phase of growth should come from new geographies, backed by evolving gas-allocation patterns, private investments and aggressive vehicle conversion trends," the Crisil report titled 'City Gas Pulse' read.

market readiness.

CNG is becoming the focal point of India's energy mix and the city gas distribution (CGD) sector's growth as the country works towards achieving a 15 per cent share in the primary energy mix for natural gas.

According to Crisil, expansion of geographical areas and the increasing demand for cleaner mobility position CNG as a viable and sustainable alternative to traditional fuels.

"Regional infrastructure development and readiness play a significant role in enabling wider gas access amid a shift in market focus to electric vehicles," read the

report.

"CNG remains competitive despite evolving allocation and pricing pressure," it added.

India meets a sizable portion of its energy needs through fossil fuels, and various renewable energy sources and relatively cleaner energy sources are seen as an avenue to reduce dependence on conventional sources of power.

Green energy for climate mitigation is not just a focus area for India; it has gained momentum globally.

At COP26 held in 2021, India committed to an ambitious five-part "Panchamrit" pledge.

KASHMIR UNBOUND: A NEW DAWN AFTER ARTICLE 370

OPINION

SHIV PRAKASH



Following Operation Sindoor, during the “Pak Benakaab” mission led by Mr. Sanjay Jha in Indonesia, senior Congress leader and former Foreign Minister, Mr. Salman Khurshid, said, “Abolishing Article 370 from Kashmir was the right move by the Modi government.” He further stated that “removal of Article 370 has brought democratic progress and economic prosperity to Kashmir.”

Abrogation of Article 370 on August 05, 2019 by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi was a historic and bold decision that affirms the unity of the country and is proving to be a milestone in the development of Jammu and Kashmir.

According to ancient beliefs, Kashmir is the land of Maharshi Kashyap and Mata Sati. During the reign of Emperor Ashoka and the Kushan dynasty, Buddhism had a significant influence

in Kashmir. Under the rule of Emperor Lalitaditya, Kashmir expanded and the Sanskrit language received great honour. The Shankaracharya temple near Srinagar still commemorates the spiritual victory (digvijaya) of Jagadguru Shankaracharya. Over time, due to conversions by Muslim invaders, the Muslim population in Kashmir increased.

At the time of independence, like other princely states, the Maharaja of Kashmir, Hari Singh, merged the state of Kashmir with Bharat by signing the Instrument of Accession. However, under pressure from Sheikh Abdullah, Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru made a shortsighted decision to enforce Article 370 in Kashmir—an action that created divisions in the unity and integrity of the country. Many leaders, including Bharat Ratna Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, opposed Nehru's move. Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee, then national president of the Bhartiya Jana Sangh, led a nationwide movement under the slogan “Ek Desh mein Do Vidhaan, Do Pradhaan, Do Nishaan nahin Challenge.” Under this situation, Dr. Mukherjee sacrificed his life under mysterious circumstances in June 23, 1953. Since then, the Bhartiya Jana Sangh—and later the Bhartiya Janta Party—had the declared

commitment of abrogating Article 370, which was fulfilled by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his second term on August 05, 2019.

Following the abrogation of Article 370, due to the implementation of central government schemes dedicated to social and economic justice, the people of Kashmir—who had been previously excluded—began to benefit as well. Now, all Bhartiya citizens can purchase land in Kashmir. This has led to the registration of 500 properties and approximately Rs 3.5 thousand crore of real estate investment flowing into Kashmir.

The removal of the rule that deprived Kashmiri women of inheritance rights when they married outside Kashmir is a decisive step towards women's empowerment. Additionally, 150,000 families displaced from Pakistan—including Valmiki, Scheduled Caste, and Scheduled Tribe refugees—have now gained full citizenship rights. Moreover, 35 Lakh people have received domicile certificates.

Due to the implementation of education-related laws, over 10 Lakh children have received free education. Economically Deprived sections, Scheduled Castes, and Scheduled Tribes are now eligible for reservations. Inclusion of new castes in the Other Backward Classes category and increasing quotas has proved to be a pivotal measure in uplifting disadvantaged communities.

Due to industrial development, an investment of Rs 56,000 crore has been made, providing employ-



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ment to approximately 80,000 people. Over 1,200 startups are now contributing to growth and job creation. Handicraft products made by artisans are finding new markets. Following the abrogation of Article 370, work took place to repair and construct 10,000 km of roads. The Zoji La and Chenani-Nashri (Dr Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Tunnel) tunnels have shortened travel distances. The four-lane highway from Jammu to Srinagar is setting new standards in development. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurat-

ed the much awaited bridge over the Chenab River, an engineering marvel and the tallest in the world—standing 359 meters above the river level, taller than Paris's Eiffel Tower—with praise even from Chief Minister Omar Abdullah.

Under the Ayushman Bharat scheme, more than 13 Lakh people have received medical treatment. Formula car racing is now taking place in Kashmir. Jammu Kashmir's Palli village has become Bharat's first “carbon neutral panchayat.”

Post- Article 370, peace

returned to Kashmir, leading to a significant increase in tourism. According to official statistics, tourist numbers rose by 50% since 2019, reaching a total of approximately 2.5 crore tourists across the entire region.

Due to the policy of zero tolerance toward terrorism, terrorist incidents have consistently declined. The Union Home Minister, Shri Amit Shah, stated in Parliament that terrorist incidents have decreased by 92%. There has also been a steady decline in new terrorist recruitments. The number of pilgrims visiting

the Vaishno Devi and Amar-nath shrines continues to rise.

The 65% voter turnout in the three-tier panchayat elections held after the abrogation of Article 370 is testimony to Kashmir's prosperity—where 32,000 elected representatives are actively contributing to the development of their village panchayats. Additionally, the Sharda Mata Temple established by Jagadguru Shankaracharya hosted Diwali and Saraswati puja ceremonies—events that had not taken place there in 70 years. The Honourable Home Minister, Shri Amit Shah, officially reopened the temple on March 23, 2023. Regular worship has also resumed at the Kheer Bhawani Temple.

To hoist the national flag at Lal Chowk – the historic site in Srinagar, the then BJP National Presi-

dent Shri Murli Manohar Joshi had to organise the “Bharat Ekta Yatra” from Kanyakumari to Kashmir. This pledge was fulfilled when the Tirangaa was hoisted under police protection on January 26, 1992. Alongside Dr. Joshi, the Honourable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi was a key associate in this resolve.

Today, following the abrogation of Article 370, the national flag once again proudly flies at Lal Chowk. And not just at Lal Chowk—Kashmiris are celebrating national pride by hoisting the Tirangaa at their homes as well. The celebration of Shri Krishna Janmashtami, held in remembrance of Lord Krishna's birth, was also joyously celebrated at Lal Chowk.

As a result of the abrogation of Article 370, Jammu & Kashmir is now scripting a saga of “Virasat se Vikas” under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. Citizens in Pakistan administered Kashmir, impressed by Kashmir's development journey, are eager to join hands with Bharat.

Terrorist incidents like the one in Pahalgam are malicious attempts to derail this journey of development. Bhartiya society, responding to such conspiracies, will once again stand with renewed pride—upholding the spirit of national unity and integrity. Over the past 11 years, the efforts led by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi have successfully instilled this sentiment in every Bhartiya.

(Shiv Prakash is the National Jt. General Secretary (Org.) of the Bhartiya Janta Party)

PM Modi's quest for Viksit Bharat

OPINION

DR. S. SUKANYA IYER



Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visionary leadership, India has made significant strides toward the Viksit Bharat 2047 goal, marking 11 years of transformative governance. Through initiatives like Digital India, Make in India, and Ayushman Bharat, Modi has driven economic growth, technological innovation, and social welfare. Infrastructure development, including Bharatmala and Smart Cities, has enhanced connectivity and urban living. Policies promoting renewable energy and sustainable farming align with environmental goals.

By empowering youth, women, and marginalized

communities, Modi's inclusive approach fosters collective progress. His strategic reforms and global outreach have positioned India as a leader, advancing toward a developed, self-reliant nation by 2047. In conclusion, Modi's 11 years have prioritized stability, infrastructure, and inclusion, aligning with Viksit Bharat's vision, but face challenges in employment and growth.

UPA's higher GDP growth came with instability, less aligned with long-term development. The NDA's reforms position India closer to Viksit Bharat, but sustained 8% growth remains critical.

The 11-year tenure of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government (2014–2025), led by the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), marks a significant period in India's political and economic landscape, often compared to the preceding United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government under Manmohan Singh (2004–2014). A statistical analysis highlights key dif-

ferences and achievements across economic, social, and governance metrics.

ECONOMIC GROWTH: The UPA's decade saw an average GDP growth rate of 7.6%, peaking at 10.3% in 2010–11, driven by global commodity price surges and domestic reforms. However, growth slowed in UPA-II (2009–2014) to 7.5% due to policy paralysis and corruption scandals. In contrast, the NDA's average GDP growth was 5.9% (2014–2024), with a peak of 8.2% in 2016–17, impacted by demonetization and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Modi's government claims stronger macroeconomic fundamentals, with a fiscal deficit reduced to 3.7% of GDP compared to UPA's 5.9%. Critics argue that UPA's higher growth came at the cost of fiscal imprudence, while NDA's growth, though lower, was more sustainable.

INFLATION MANAGEMENT: The NDA significantly curbed inflation, averaging 4.5% (CPI) compared to UPA's 8.2%, which peaked at 12.3% in 2010–11 due to high global oil and metal prices. Modi's policies, including lower Minimum Support Prices (MSP) and fuel tax adjustments, stabilized prices, though low food inflation hurt farmers. Foreign Investment and Re-



serves: UPA saw a 20.02% increase in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), while NDA recorded a 3.08% decline (2009–2019). However, NDA's total FDI inflow reached \$500 billion, 65% higher than UPA's. Foreign exchange reserves grew by 16.86% under Modi compared to 8.45% under UPA, reflecting stronger external stability. Critics note that net foreign investment as a percentage of GDP was higher under UPA (1.2% vs. 0.8%).

Job Creation: Employment remains a challenge for both regimes. UPA created 2.9

crore jobs (2004–2014), while NDA claims 17.19 crore jobs (2014–2024) per RBI KLEMS data. However, unemployment averaged 6.1% under NDA, higher than UPA's 5.5%, with a peak of 8.4% in 2019–20. Schemes like Mudra and Startup India aimed to boost entrepreneurship, but critics highlight stagnant manufacturing jobs and agricultural distress.

SOCIAL AND INFRA-STRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT: Modi's tenure emphasized infrastructure, with high-

way construction averaging 36 km/day compared to UPA's 8–11 km/day. Social schemes like Ayushman Bharat and PM Awas Yojana provided healthcare and housing to millions, with 25 crore people escaping multidimensional poverty (NITI Aayog). UPA's social spending was higher (education and welfare), but NDA's focus on last-mile delivery and digitalization (e.g., Jan Dhan Yojana's 42 crore accounts) enhanced inclusion.

NDA's governance is lauded for transparency and bold reforms (e.g., GST, Article 370 repeal), but criticized for democratic backsliding and centralization. UPA faced accusations of corruption and policy inaction, yet maintained higher press freedom. In summary, Modi's 11 years prioritized stability, infrastructure, and digital inclusion, but lagged in job creation and GDP growth compared to UPA. While NDA's reforms aim for long-term sustainability, UPA's era benefited from global economic tail-

winds. Both tenures faced unique challenges, shaping India's trajectory differently. In conclusion, Modi's 11 years have prioritized stability, infrastructure, and inclusion, aligning with Viksit Bharat's vision, but face challenges in employment and growth. UPA's higher GDP growth came with instability, less aligned with long-term development. The NDA's reforms position India closer to Viksit Bharat, but sustained 8% growth remains critical.

PM Narendra Modi's 11-year quest for Viksit Bharat showcases transformative growth, lifting 25 crore people out of poverty, with robust infrastructure and digital advancements, surpassing UPA's decade of inconsistent progress. Swami Vivekananda's words, “Arise, awake, and stop not till the goal is reached,” echo Modi's relentless pursuit of a prosperous, self-reliant India by 2047, driven by inclusive governance and youth empowerment. PM Modi's 11-year Viksit Bharat vision outpaces UPA's decade, with 25 crore lifted from poverty, soaring infrastructure, and digital leaps. As Swami Vivekananda's quote says: “Take up one idea, make that your life,” reflects Modi's leadership at the helm of affairs has an unwavering focus on inclusive growth, positioning India for global leadership by 2047 through dynamic governance and economic resilience.



Ayatollah Khomeini



Iran President Ebrahim Raisi

Iran’s shift from monarchy to theocracy in 1979 reshaped its politics, society, and global role. Supreme Leaders and presidents have alternated between repression and reform, leaving Iran torn between authoritarian control and public demand for change.

FROM MONARCHY TO THEOCRACY: THE STORY OF MODERN IRAN

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The modern history of Iran’s governance is shaped by a dramatic shift from monarchy to theocratic rule, catalyzed by the 1979 Islamic Revolution. Prior to that, Iran was under the rule of Mohammad Reza Shah Pahlavi, whose Westernization and secular policies created economic disparities and societal unrest. Despite fostering industrial growth and modern infrastructure, the Shah’s autocratic rule, suppression of dissent, and close alliance with the US alienated large sections of the population, particularly the clergy.

The Islamic Revolution of 1979, led by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, marked a turning point. The monarchy was overthrown, and Iran was declared an Islamic Republic. This new regime introduced the concept of Velayat-e Faqih (Guardianship of the Islamic Jurist), making the Supreme Leader the most powerful figure in the country, above elected officials.

AYATOLLAH KHOMEINI (1979–1989): FOUNDING A THEOCRACY
Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, Iran’s first Supreme Leader, radically trans-

formed the nation’s political structure. His vision was to create a state governed by Islamic principles, rejecting both Western capitalism and Eastern communism. The 1979 Constitution institutionalized clerical oversight of governance, particularly through the Supreme Leader, Guardian Council, and Assembly of Experts.

Under Khomeini, Iran experienced significant changes:

- Political:** The Shah’s centralized monarchy was replaced with a hybrid system of elected bodies (president, parliament) overseen by religious authorities. All laws had to conform to Islamic standards.
- Social:** A strict interpretation of Shia Islam dictated public life. Women’s rights were rolled back, mandatory veiling was imposed, and Western cultural influence was purged.
- Geopolitical:** The U.S. Embassy hostage crisis (1979–1981) severed U.S.-Iran relations. Iran began exporting its revolutionary ideology across the region, backing Shia movements in Lebanon, Iraq, and beyond.

Khomeini’s leadership during the eight-year Iran-Iraq War (1980–1988) also hardened Iran’s stance on regional affairs, and established a militarized, self-reliant identity that persists

today.

ALI KHAMENEI (1989–PRESENT): CONSOLIDATION AND STRATEGIC DEFIANCE
Following Khomeini’s death in 1989, Ali Khamenei became Supreme Leader. Though he lacked Khomeini’s religious authority, he used political maneuvering to consolidate control, significantly expanding the influence of the office of Supreme Leader.

Political Landscape: Under Khamenei, the unelected institutions—the Guardian Council, Revolutionary Guards, and judiciary—tightened control over political expression. Reformist presidents often found their agendas blocked or reversed.

Social Policies: While Khamenei permitted limited cultural openings during reformist periods, he firmly backed conservative values, especially on gender roles, media control, and religious conformity.

Geopolitical Strategy: Khamenei championed Iran’s anti-Western axis, fostered ties with Russia and China, and extended Iranian influence in Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, and Yemen. The nuclear program, originally initiated under the Shah, became a central bargaining chip and a point

of global contention.

KEY PRESIDENTS AND THEIR IMPACT
While the Supreme Leader holds ultimate authority, Iran’s presidents have shaped domestic policy and impacted international relations in various ways, depending on their ideological leanings—reformist, moderate, or hardline.

MOHAMMAD KHATAMI (1997–2005): THE REFORMIST WAVE
Khatami’s election was a watershed moment. Running on a platform of reform, civil society, and “Dialogue Among Civilizations,” he gained overwhelming support, especially from youth and women.

Political: Khatami pushed for more freedom of speech, press, and association. However, his initiatives were often blocked by the conservative judiciary and Guardian Council.

Social: His presidency witnessed a vibrant press, open university debates, and growing civil activism.

Geopolitical: Khatami sought détente with the West, particularly Europe. Post-9/11, he even offered support to the U.S. in Afghanistan. Yet, his engagement efforts were undercut by hardliners and the “Axis of Evil” label from U.S. President George W. Bush in 2002.

Though ultimately stifled, Khatami’s era left a legacy of political consciousness and social mobilization.

MAHMOUD AHMADINEJAD (2005–2013): POPULISM AND CONFRONTATION
A hardline populist, Ahmadinejad’s presidency marked a sharp turn toward ideological rigidity.

Political: He marginalized reformists, empowered the Revolutionary Guards in politics and the economy, and cracked down on dissent.

Social: Ahmadinejad promoted traditionalist values and rolled back freedoms gained under Khatami. Yet,

paradoxically, he attempted populist outreach, including cash subsidies and economic reforms.

Geopolitical: His tenure escalated tensions with the West, especially over Iran’s nuclear program. His denial of the Holocaust and hostile rhetoric toward Israel drew widespread condemnation.

The 2009 Green Movement, sparked by allegations of election fraud, was the largest protest since 1979. It was violently suppressed, marking a turning point in the regime’s tolerance for dissent.

HASSAN ROUHANI (2013–2021): THE PRAGMATIST DIPLOMAT
Rouhani, a moderate cleric and former nuclear negotiator, was elected on promises of economic recovery and global reintegration.

Political: Rouhani sought to ease censorship, promote women’s rights, and loosen social restrictions. Yet, his efforts were consistently thwarted by hardliners.

Social: There was modest liberalization—social media usage rose, and some public debate returned—but state repression remained.

Geopolitical: His signature achievement was the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), or Iran nuclear deal, brokered with the U.S., EU, China, and Russia. It limited Iran’s nuclear activities in return for sanctions relief.

However, U.S. President Donald Trump’s withdrawal from the JCPOA in 2018 devastated Rouhani’s strategy. The return of crippling sanctions led to economic turmoil, public disillusionment, and the resurgence of hardliners.

EBRAHIM RAISI (2021–2024): HARDLINER RULE AND GROWING ISOLATION
A protégé of Khamenei and a former judiciary chief, Raisi’s presidency aligned with the most conservative elements of the Islamic Republic.

Political: Elections were



Iran’s Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei

tightly controlled, and Raisi took office amid low turnout and public apathy. Political pluralism was virtually absent.

Social: His tenure saw a resurgence of moral policing and internet crackdowns. The 2022 death of Mahsa Amini in morality police custody sparked the “Women, Life, Freedom” protests, which were met with brutal suppression.

Geopolitical: Raisi deepened ties with China and Russia and pursued regional diplomacy via the China-brokered Saudi-Iran rapprochement in 2023. Yet, nuclear talks stalled, and Iran faced increasing global isolation.

Raisi’s sudden death in a helicopter crash in 2024 left a leadership vacuum, adding uncertainty to Iran’s future.

ROLE OF ISLAMIC REVOLUTIONARY GUARD CORPS
Though unelected, the IRGC has become a dominant force in Iran’s political, economic, and military life. Originally formed to protect the revolution, it has grown into a sprawling entity with influence over foreign policy (via Quds Force), business enterprises, and domestic security.

Under successive Su-

preme Leaders, the IRGC has shaped Iran’s geopolitical footprint—from Iraq and Syria to Lebanon and Yemen—while also playing a key role in repressing domestic protests.

Over the decades, Iran’s geopolitical strategy has transitioned from revolutionary export to pragmatic survival. Its key pillars have included:

- Regional Influence:** Supporting allied governments and militias (e.g., Hezbollah in Lebanon, Assad in Syria, and Shia militias in Iraq).
- Asymmetrical Warfare:** Leveraging proxy forces and cyber capabilities against adversaries like the U.S., Israel, and Saudi Arabia.
- Global Realignment:** Turning eastward toward China and Russia amid Western sanctions and diplomatic isolation.

However, these policies have also deepened economic hardship, contributed to regional instability, and alienated large swaths of the population, especially the youth.

THE FUTURE: SUCCESSION, REFORM, OR REVOLUTION
Iran’s political future remains uncertain. The looming question is who

will succeed Supreme Leader Khamenei, now in his 80s. Possible contenders include Khamenei’s son Mojtaba or senior clerics aligned with the IRGC, raising fears of dynastic or militarized rule.

At the same time, public dissatisfaction—evident in recurring protests, economic grievances, and calls for greater freedoms—continues to simmer. The state’s increasing reliance on repression may delay change but cannot eliminate societal demand for reform.

While the Islamic Republic has proven resilient, the fundamental contradiction between theocratic control and democratic aspirations persists—and may one day force a reckoning.

The story of Iran’s governments, from monarchy to theocracy, reveals a nation locked in a struggle between ideological rigidity and popular demands for change. The Supreme Leaders and presidents who have ruled since 1979 each left a distinct imprint on Iran’s political institutions, social fabric, and place in the world. As Iran confronts internal pressures and global challenges, its next chapter may be as transformative as the revolution that reshaped it nearly five decades ago.

IN A NUTSHELL
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Monarchy to Theocracy (1979): The 1979 Islamic Revolution overthrew the Shah’s Western-backed monarchy and established a theocratic Islamic Republic under Ayatollah Khomeini, introducing clerical rule and the Supreme Leader system.Khomeini’s Rule (1979–1989): Ayatollah Khomeini centralized religious power, enforced strict Islamic laws, curtailed women’s rights, and led Iran through the Iran-Iraq War, fostering a defiant, militarized national identity.Khamenei’s Era (1989–Present): Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei expanded unelected institutions’ control, tightened political expression, and guided Iran’s nuclear policy and regional influence, aligning with Russia and China.Mohammad Khatami (1997–2005): A reformist president who promoted civil liberties, dialogue with the West, and greater press freedom, but was ultimately obstructed by conservative institutions.Mahmoud Ahmadinejad (2005–2013): A populist hardliner who rolled back reforms, empowered the IRGC, intensified nuclear tensions, and cracked down on dissent during the 2009 Green Movement.Hassan Rouhani (2013–2021): A moderate who championed the 2015 Iran nuclear deal (JCPOA) and limited social reforms, but suffered major setbacks after U.S. withdrawal from the deal.Ebrahim Raisi (2021–2024): A conservative president whose term saw increased repression, protests following Mahsa Amini’s death, and deeper isolation despite outreach to China and Saudi Arabia.Future Outlook: Iran remains caught between authoritarian rigidity and popular demands for reform, making future political transformation both uncertain and inevitable.



Role of Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps

GLORY OF LORD JAGANNATH, SUPREME DEITY OF THE UNIVERSE



PRANJAL JOSHI

Jai Jagannath means all glories to Lord Jagannath, who is the King of the Universe. Jagannath is a form of Shri Krishna who is worshipped at a place named Puri in Orrisa, India. These deities of Lord Jagannath, Baldev, Subhadra and Sudarshan are unique and special in their appearance. The grand temple of Lord at Puri is very highly revered and visited by many millions of pilgrims annually. This temple is one of the most important temples of the Hindus.

RATH YATRA - THE FESTIVAL OF CHARIOTS

In the Dwapar Yug, when Shri Krishna left Braj; the heart of brajwasis, Shrimati Radharani and Gopis was full of pain of separation from Shri Krishna. Though this separation was only external, as the mind of all the brajwasis was already in yoga or union with God, the divine separation made their pure love even more intense and selfless. All the inhabitants of Braj experienced the bliss of divine love for their beloved Shri Krishna all the time!

Traditionally, at the time of

solar eclipse, thousands of devotees would gather at the Brahma Sarovar in Kurukshetra to bathe in this lake. It was believed that bathing in this holy pool accrued as much virtue as conducting an Ashwamegh Yagya. As part of His pastimes, Shri Krishna also went to Brahma Sarovar with his 16,108 queens as did the other yadus. Radha Rani and the gopis also went from Braj to the lake. When they saw Shri Krishna after a span of a hundred years, their joy was boundless! However, they did not experience the same kind of sweet, sublime and divine bliss when they saw His opulent form as the King of Dwarka. So, they requested Him to return to Braj with them so they all could experience the Braj Ras in His loving form as their beloved Shyamsunder! Shri Krishna had a similar experience, so He agreed.

The Gopis built a chariot upon which Shri Krishna, Shri Balaram, and Subhadra Devi were seated. The gopis pulled the chariot all the way from Kurukshetra to Braj. Shri Krishna experienced such divine ecstasy from the selfless love and intense devotion of the gopis, that He reached the state of Mahabhav Samadhi (i.e., divine ecstatic bliss). His internal state was revealed when His eyes dilated, and His body became motionless. Observing His divine ecstatic state, Shri Balaram and Subhadra Devi also went into Mahabhav Samadhi. When the chariot reached Braj, all the Brajwasis (i.e., citizens of Braj) once again experienced the bliss of



their beloved Shyamsunder and His divine siblings as the Lord shed His opulent form and assumed the form of a friend, child and beloved! This was the first Rath Yatra in history.

HOW JAGANNATHA CAME TO PURI

How did these forms come to be worshiped in Puri? A few thousand years ago, Vishvakarma, the architect of the demigods, agreed to carve deities of Lord Jagannath, Baladev, and Subhadra, at the request of a great devotee King named Indradyumna. The king promised to let Vishvakarma carve in seclusion until the work was finished. But the King broke into the room early, and Vishvakarma disappeared, leaving behind the set of unfinished deities. As the king began lamenting for what would be the use of unfinished deities, Lord Jagannath revealed His identity.

The Lord told the king that



He had appeared in this form to fulfil the Vedic statement that although He is without hands and feet, He accepts the offerings of His devotees and walks about to bestow His blessings upon the people of the Earth. He added that the devotees who have achieved love of Godhead see Him as Shyam Sundar, Krishna, the original Lord, holding a flute.

Then the great sage Narad Muni came to the scene. He disclosed that Lord Krishna

had appeared in this form once before in Kurukshetra. Narad Muni himself had the great fortune to see this. Hearing these statements, the king accepted Lord Jagannath as his worshipable Lord. He understood that the form of the deities was not an accidental creation: because he had been feeling intense separation from Krishna, the Lord had appeared in this form. This was also a sign that the Lord had felt similar separation from the



King. Overwhelmed with ecstasy, King Indradyumna began his worship. Since then, these forms of Jagannath, Baladev, and Subhadra have been worshiped in Puri.

HISTORY OF JAGANNATH TEMPLE

The Jagannath Temple at Puri is one of the most revered Vaishnava sites of worship in India. One of the oldest Hindu temples to still be in use, its main shrine

was built by Anantavarman of the Chodaganga dynasty in the tenth century. The deities within the shrine, however, are believed to be much older and are associated with the great ruler of the Satya-yuga, King Indrayumna. In 1174 AD King Anang Bhim Deo ascended the throne of Orissa. Religious crisis struck the young king when he slew a Brahmin. Tradition relates that he invested greatly in construction projects for the public to expiate his sins. Among the temples that he built were the ancillary shrines and the walls of Jagannath temple.

WORLDWIDE RATH YATRA CELEBRATIONS

Puri's Rath Yatra is meant for bringing people close to the Supreme Lord. This Rath Yatra takes out the divine love of the Supreme Lord from the temple and sprinkles it not only in the whole town but in the entire world. It gives us an opportunity to

take our devotional love from separation to union.

It's mainly because of the deep devotion of His Divine Grace Abhay Charanarvinda Bhaktivedanta Swami Srila Prabhupada, founder-acharya of ISKCON and his followers, that this festival has become worldwide.

Today, other than India, the Rath Yatra of Lord Jagannath is taken out in every corner of the world, including London, France, Germany, Boston, and Australia. Due to which many people are moving on the path of devotion to the Supreme Lord.

After the Rath Yatra, the mahaprasad of Lord Jagannath is also distributed to the devotees. The devotees receive it with reverence and receive his blessings. Therefore, all of us should be a part of this event and invite the very kind and pious Lord Jagannath into our hearts.

This article is written by Pranjal Joshi, a motivational speaker and a Pranik healer

Sacred Pages: Unfolding the essence of spiritual legacy



DR. RAHUL SWAMI

Life is full of ups and downs and we all have to go with the flow to understand the nuances and beauty of life. To hold oneself both in the good and challenging times we need to some kind of support system. In today's day and age where we all are in some way of the other influenced by social media going back to the roots is the only way out for the enlightenment. Books have always been an integral part of our culture, traditions and legacy. Every time we read a book we feel in oneness with ourselves and are able to analyze and understand several other layers of life.

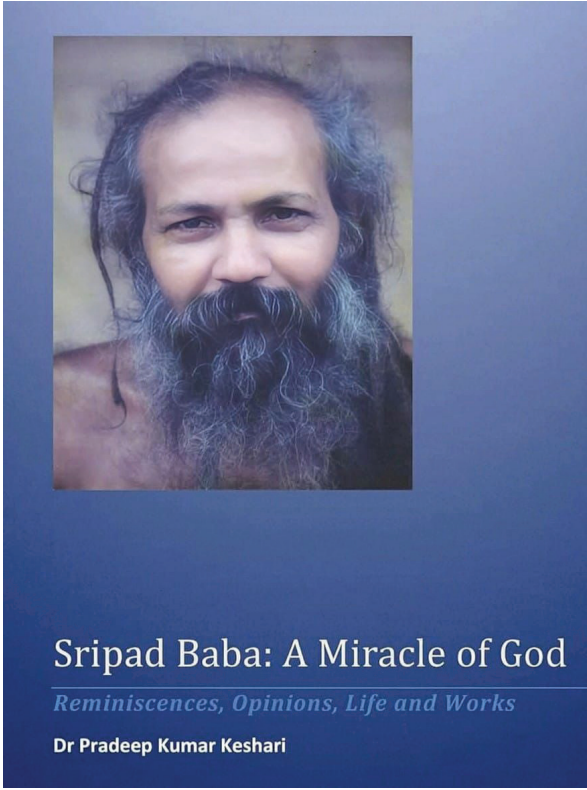
It is an irrefutable fact that books of Spiritual leaders have a positive and different impact on our minds and lives. While, in an era where spiritual legacies risk being reduced to anecdotes or internet folklore, Sripad Baba: A Miracle of God-Reminiscences, Opinions, Life and Works by Dr. Pradeep Kumar Keshari stands out as a timely and sincere scholarly intervention. The 573-page volume offers an expansive, multi-dimensional portrayal of Sripad Baba, a mystic yogi of Vrindavan whose quiet influence shaped cultural, educational, and spiritual discourses across India and beyond.

The introduction offers a thoughtful exploration of India's spiritual ethos, setting the context for the

emergence of Sripad Baba. Dr. Keshari presents Babaji as a figure who, in his youth, realised the transcendent and personal aspects of divinity, and later, through his itinerant sadhana across Bundelkhand and the Himalayas, became a revered presence in Vraj. From the 1960s onward, he became deeply integrated into the region's spiritual ecology, experiencing and imparting Vrajras (Bliss of Vraj) by connecting people to Radha-Krishna' divine Lila. His founding of the Vraj Academy in 1978 marked a major milestone in efforts to preserve and promote the tangible and intangible heritage of the Vraj region. His activities pertaining to Vraj Academy made him an important public figure and exponent of Indian culture.

The book is rich in both primary and secondary sources. The author has travelled extensively, collecting letters, testimonies, photographs, and oral histories from disciples and associates of Babaji. Anecdotes come alive through narratives shared by scholars, saints, cultural icons, and common devotees. Contributions from personalities such as Radhanath Swami, Swami Nirmalananda Saraswati, George Harrison, Rabbi David Zeller, and Prof. Natalaya Sazanova, among others, lend the work both cross-cultural depth and historical texture.

A significant feature of the book is the diverse portrayal of Babaji's identity: as a saint, spiritual mentor, mystic, ecological visionary, and cultural reformer. Some perceived him as a sibling, others as a guru, yet others as a friend or divine incarnation. Dr. Keshari wisely refrains from defining Babaji through a single lens, allowing readers to form



Sripad Baba: A Miracle of God

Reminiscences, Opinions, Life and Works

Dr Pradeep Kumar Keshari

their own understanding from multiple perspectives.

Chapter One explores Babaji's early life and spiritual evolution. A mystical narrative about parakaya pravesha, the yogic practice of transmigrating into another body, is introduced, tracing Babaji's alleged entry into the body of a deceased royal child in Panna. This story, believed by many saints of Vraj, is presented alongside more conventional accounts of his birth near Varanasi. The influence of Avadhoot

Sharir Baba is also discussed, drawing spiritual parallels with figures like Trailanga Swami and Ramakrishna Paramhansa.

Chapter Two comprises powerful testimonies. From clairvoyant encounters to miraculous healing, from transformative dialogues to psychic experiences, these accounts reflect the profound impact Babaji had on people across countries and communities. George Harrison's tribute song to baba ji, Prof. Sazanova's



mystical visions, Dr. S.K. Cosmic Kapoor was intellectually reoriented by Babaji towards Vedic mathematics, multidimensional geometry. Dr. Om Kaul, a strategist, was drawn into spirituality by Babaji's and Prabhudatta Brahmchari Ji's Hanuman idol project in Delhi all find space in this mosaic of spiritual impressions and many more from his disciples across the globe from different walks of life.

Chapter Three reflects the

author's own experiences of grace and blessing, presented not as self-promotion, but as intimate narrative insights that humanise the biography without distorting it.

Chapter Four offers a summative view of Babaji's life and contributions. It explores key initiatives like the Vraj Academy, projects on Raslila, Bhakti literature, ecological preservation, the Yamuna basin, and Gau Sewa. One of Babaji's most ambitious visions; the proposed Shashwat Bharati: University of Eastern Consciousness, is discussed in detail. Conceived as an integrative spiritual-educational model rooted in Vedic knowledge, this vision attempted to address the gaps in modern education. Though the university never materialized due to Babaji's demise in 1996, the conceptual groundwork laid by his writings, lectures, and Kumbh Mela seminars remains noteworthy.

What elevates this work is its deep documentation.

Beyond hagiography, the author engages archival research, translations of Hindi and Russian material, and digital platforms to create a multi-source narrative. Visual documentation; letters, photographs, and video stills; enriches the reader's experience and offers authenticity to the text.

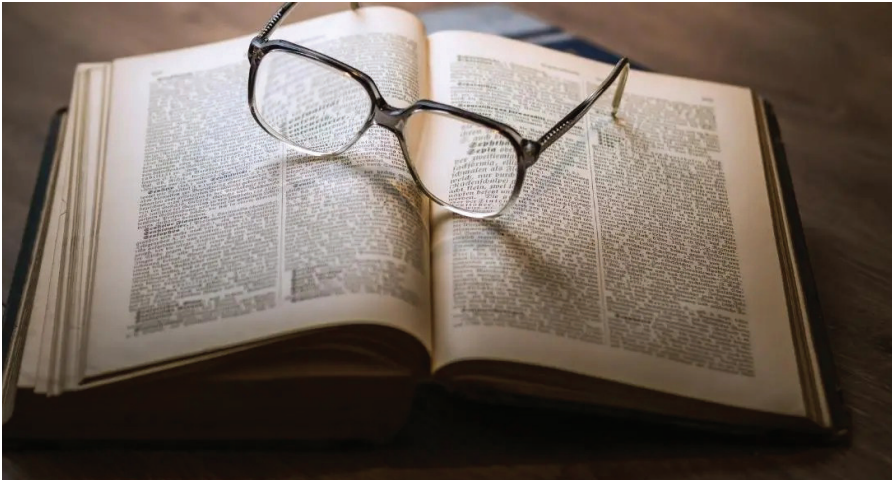
There are minor repetitions across chapters, particularly regarding the Vraj Academy and university vision, which could have been edited more tightly. The length and density may also feel daunting to general readers. However, these are minor limitations in what is otherwise a major contribution. This work will particularly appeal to readers interested in Indian spiritual traditions, cultural studies, and modern hagiography. Scholars of religious studies, devotees of Vrindavan's Bhakti movement, students of Indian philosophy, and seekers drawn to mysticism and transpersonal experiences will find it

both enlightening and emotionally resonant. Even those exploring India's sacred geography and the role of saints in shaping socio-cultural narratives will find the book a rich and rewarding resource.

Sripad Baba: A Miracle of God - Reminiscences, Opinions, Life and Works is more than a biography, is a cultural preservation effort, a spiritual journey, and a socio-intellectual reflection on India's sacred geography and the people who shape it. Dr. Keshari's devotion is evident, but so is his rigor. In bridging memory, scholarship, and testimony, the book revives the life of a saint not only for remembrance but for reflection.

This article is a book review and the writer is of the opinion that it is a work that invites not just reading, but contemplation and gives us a deep insight.

The writer of this article is an IIM alumnus, Faculty of Management and cultural columnist.



TOP OF THE DAY

YEMEN'S HUTHIS SAY READY TO ATTACK RED SEA SHIPPING AFTER US STRIKES

Yemen: Yemen's rebel government said on Sunday it supported a vow by its armed wing a day earlier to hit US ships in the Red Sea should Washington launch strikes on Iran.

"We affirm the Republic of Yemen's commitment to the armed forces' declaration that they were ready to target US ships and warships in the Red Sea," the government said in a statement after the United States launched attacks on Iran.

ISRAEL SAYS IT TOOK OUT 2 OF IRAN'S F-5 FIGHTER JETS

JERUSALEM: Israel says it hit the aircraft at Iran's Dezful airport. The F-5s are part of Iran's aging fleet of fighter jets from the era of the shah. Israel released black-and-white footage showing one of the aircraft being destroyed. Israel previously hit F-14 Tomcats flown by the Iranian military in the war. However, it isn't clear if these aircraft were airworthy as many have been grounded over the years due to a lack of parts. Israel also said it struck other sites, including around Isfahan's airport. Iran has not acknowledged losses of aircraft or other materiel in the war so far.

SAUDI ARABIA EXPRESSES 'DEEP CONCERN' OVER US STRIKES ON IRAN

Riyadh [Saudi Arabia]: Saudi Arabia on Sunday expressed deep concern over the recent developments in Iran, particularly the US airstrikes on Iranian nuclear facilities, and called for restraint and de-escalation in the region.

"The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is following with deep concern the developments in the Islamic Republic of Iran, particularly the targeting of Iranian nuclear facilities by the United States of America," the Kingdom said in a post on X. Reaffirming its earlier stand, the KSA Foreign Ministry in its official statement, "The Kingdom reaffirms the contents of its statement issued on June 13, 2025, in which it condemned and denounced the violation of the sovereignty of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Kingdom underscores the need to exert all possible efforts to exercise restraint, de-escalate tensions, and avoid further escalation."

PAKISTAN CONDEMNS US ATTACK ON IRAN'S NUCLEAR FACILITIES

KARACHI: Pakistan condemned on Sunday the strikes ordered on its neighbour Iran by Donald Trump, a day after Islamabad had said it would nominate the U.S. President for the Nobel Peace Prize. Pakistan on Sunday said Trump's decision to bomb Iranian nuclear facilities violated international law and that diplomacy was the only way to resolve the Iran crisis.

"The unprecedented escalation of tension and violence, owing to ongoing aggression against Iran is deeply disturbing. Any further escalation of tensions will have severely damaging implications for the region and beyond," Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said.

IRAN SAYS TARGETED BEN GURION AIRPORT, OTHER SITES IN ATTACK ON ISRAEL

Tel Aviv: Tehran on Sunday launched new strikes on Israel hours after the US forces joined the Israeli military campaign and attacked three key Iranian nuclear sites.

Iran reportedly fired 27 missiles in two batches at Haifa and Tel Aviv, injuring at least 11 people. The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) said they also targeted Ben Gurion Airport near Tel Aviv.

"Sirens sounding across Israel due to another Iranian missile launch," the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) said in a post on X.

CHINA CONDEMNS US ATTACK ON IRAN'S NUCLEAR SITES, CALLS FOR CEASEFIRE

BEIJING: China on Sunday strongly condemned the US air strikes on Iranian nuclear facilities saying that it is a serious violation of the UN Charter and heightens tensions in West Asia.

Beijing also called on "parties to the conflict, Israel in particular", to reach a ceasefire as soon as possible, ensure the safety of civilians, and start dialogue and negotiation.

The US on Sunday attacked Iran's Fordow, Isfahan and Natanz nuclear sites to destroy the country's nuclear programme.



Shattered rooms are seen in an apartment building at the site of a direct missile strike launched from Iran in Tel Aviv, Israel. Agencies



In this image provided by the U.S. Air Force, airmen assigned to the 509th Bomb Wing gather near a B-2 Spirit to greet aircrew members at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., May 9, 2025, upon return from deployment to Diego Garcia. Agencies

IRAN FIRES MISSILES AT TEL AVIV AFTER US STRIKES

Tehran called the US strikes violations of the UN Charter and the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

AGENCIES
TEL AVIV

The US military struck three sites in Iran early Sunday, inserting itself into Israel's effort to destroy Iran's nuclear programme in a risky gambit to weaken a longtime foe.

The decision to directly involve the US comes after more than a week of strikes by Israel on Iran that have moved to systematically eradicate the country's air defences and offensive missile capabilities, while damaging its nuclear enrichment facilities.

But US and Israeli officials have said that American stealth bombers and a 13,600-kilogram bunker buster bomb they alone can carry offered the best chance of destroying heavily fortified sites connected to the Iranian nuclear programme buried deep underground.

President Donald Trump announced the strikes. Iran's state-run IRNA news agency reported that attacks targeted the country's Fordo, Isfahan and Natanz nuclear sites. The agency



A phone and internet company technician works at the site of a direct missile strike launched from Iran, in Tel Aviv, Israel. Agencies

IRAN VOWS RETALIATION

- Iran condemned the attacks, reported casualties including Revolutionary Guard members, and warned it reserves the right to respond.
- Israeli forces targeted additional missile and command sites across Iran, including the Imam Hussein Missile Centre and launchers in multiple cities.
- The UK called for de-escalation but deployed military assets to the

- region. BA canceled flights to the UAE and Qatar due to rising regional tensions.
- VP JD Vance and Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth stressed the strikes were limited, not a step toward war, and aimed to push Iran toward diplomacy.
- Both US and Iranian officials confirmed that communication channels remain open, with Washington urging Iran to negotiate.

did not elaborate. Iran's foreign minister said Iran reserves the right to retaliate.

Revolutionary Guards killed in an Israeli strike, Iranian media say

An Israeli airstrike killed three members of Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard, semiofficial news agencies in the Islamic Republic reported Sunday.

The Mehr and Tasnim news agencies reported the attack took place in Zanjan province.

Israel's military said it struck sites around multiple cities in Iran

One major target claimed

by the Israelis was the Imam Hussein Strategic Missile Command Centre in Yazd. Social media footage showed orange smoke rising after one Israeli strike on the area. It could be the result of ammonium perchlorate, a missile fuel component, burning.

The Israeli military said other strikes targeted missile launchers in Ahvaz, Bushehr and Isfahan.

Iran has not offered any details on the damage it has sustained in the Israeli bombardment.

Ex-US diplomat in charge of Mideast believes there's still a chance for negotiations

Barbara Leaf, the assistant secretary of state for Near-Eastern affairs under President Joe Biden, told The Associated Press that the top priority of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has been "the preservation of the Islamic Republic, preservation of the theocratic style of governance and the regime itself."

"If the regime feels that its existence is at stake, it will use any weapons that come to hand, whether the arsenal of ballistic missiles, depleted conventional forces, terrorism, asymmetrical attacks," she said.

Israel's military said it struck multiple sites

AGENCIES
TEL AVIV

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Iran has not offered any details on the damage it has sustained in the Israeli bombardment.

Meanwhile, The Israeli Air Force (IAF) on Sunday launched a new wave of airstrikes targeting military sites in western Iran, shortly after Iranian missile attacks injured civilians in Israel.

In a statement, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) said, "The IAF has begun a series of strikes toward military targets in western Iran. Additionally, this morning, the IAF struck missile launchers ready to launch toward Israeli territory, soldiers in the Iranian Armed Forces, and swiftly neutralised the launchers that launched missiles toward Israeli territory a short while ago."

According to Israel's state news agency TPS, missile impacts were reported in several parts of the country, including Tel Aviv, Haifa, and central Israel. Air raid alarms were heard again in



A firefighter calls out to his colleagues at the scene of an explosion in a residential compound in northern Tehran. (File photo)

northern regions, and residents were told to stay inside bomb shelters after another wave of missiles was detected.

A Times of Israel report citing IDF confirmed its latest response, saying it hit primed missile launchers in fresh strikes on western Iran.

A short while ago, ballistic missile launchers used in the attack on Israel this morning were destroyed in strikes and Iranian soldiers were "eliminated" as well, the Israeli newspaper citing the country's military forces said.

According to a report by the Times of Israel, Israel's national emergency service, Magen David Adom (MDA), has updated the casualty numbers from the Iranian missile strikes. "Magen David Adom raises the wounded toll of the latest Iranian ballistic missile attack to 16. A man in his 30s is moderately wounded by shrapnel, and 15 other people are lightly hurt,

MDA says. Several missile impacts were reported in central Israel after sirens sounded. One missile hit Haifa, where no sirens sounded ahead of the impact."

Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesperson, Oren Marmorstein, condemned the Iranian actions. "The Iranian regime is firing ballistic missiles at civilian population centres in Israel," he said in a X post.

During the intervening hours of Saturday and Sunday, US and Israel targeted Iran's nuclear sites in Natanz, Isfahan, and Fordow. Fordow is Iran's main enrichment location for uranium enrichment to 60 per cent.

According to a CNN report, the US likely used six B-2 bombers to drop a dozen GBU-57 A/B "bunker buster" bombs, also known as Massive Ordnance Penetrators (MOP), on the Fordow nuclear site, which is Iran's main location for uranium enrichment.

US betrayed diplomacy by supporting Israel: Iran Foreign Minister

AGENCIES
TEHRAN

Iran's Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Sunday said that the US betrayed has diplomacy by supporting Israel.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry said that the war launched against them by the US was "dangerous".

In a statement on the US military aggression against Iran's nuclear facilities, it said, "The world must not forget that it was the United States that, in the midst of a diplomatic process, betrayed diplomacy by supporting the genocidal and law-breaking Israeli regime to impose a war of aggression on the Iranian nation. Now, in completion of that regime's unlawful and



They crossed a very big red line by attacking nuclear facilities... We have to respond based on our legitimate right for self-defence.

Araghchi
Iranian Foreign Ministry

criminal acts, the United States itself has launched a dangerous war against the Islamic Republic of Iran."

WHAT THEY SAID
UNITED NATIONS



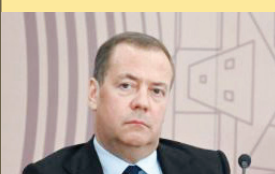
"There is a growing risk that this conflict could rapidly get out of control with catastrophic consequences for civilians, the region, and the world, I call on Member States to de-escalate. There is no military solution. The only path forward is diplomacy."
-Antonio Guterres, UN Secretary General

UNITED KINGDOM



British Prime Minister Keir Starmer warned of escalation beyond the Middle East as he called for all sides to negotiate a diplomatic end to the crisis, saying stability was the priority in the volatile region. The UK, along with the European Union, France and Germany, tried unsuccessfully to broker a diplomatic solution in Geneva last week with Iran. Starmer said Iran's nuclear program posed a grave threat to global security. "Iran can never be allowed to develop a nuclear weapon and the U.S. has taken action to alleviate that threat," Starmer said.

RUSSIA



Dmitry Medvedev, who serves as deputy head of President Vladimir Putin's Security Council, said several countries were prepared to supply Tehran with nuclear weapons. He didn't specify which countries, but said the US attack caused minimal damage and would not stop Tehran from pursuing nuclear weapons. Russia's Foreign Ministry said it "strongly condemned" the airstrikes and called them a gross violation of international law, the UN Charter, and UN Security Council resolutions.

IRAQ



The Iraqi government condemned the US strikes, saying the military escalation created a grave threat to peace and security in the Middle East. It said it poses serious risks to regional stability and called for diplomatic efforts to de-escalate the crisis. "The continuation of such attacks risks dangerous escalation with consequences that extend beyond the borders of any single state, threatening the security of the entire region and the world," government spokesman Bassem al-Awadi said in the statement.

EUROPEAN COUNCIL



President Antonio Costa said he was "deeply alarmed" by the bombings and called on all parties to "show restraint and respect for international law and nuclear safety." "Too many civilians will once again be the victims of a further escalation," Costa added. The EU will continue engaging with the parties and our partners to find a peaceful solution at the negotiating table."

PAK GOVT UNDER FIRE FOR NOMINATING TRUMP FOR NOBEL PEACE PRIZE

Lahore: The Pakistan government, as well as the country's military establishment, have come under severe criticism from netizens on social media for recommending US President Donald Trump for the Nobel Peace Prize. Ishaq Dar, Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, has formally sent a letter to the Nobel Peace Prize Committee in Norway, recommending the US President for the award for his "decisive diplomatic intervention" during the recent India-Pakistan conflict. Soon after the announcement, netizens on X began chiding the Pakistani government for pleasing its "master", the US president. The criticism intensified after the US attacked Iran's Fordo, Isfahan and Natanz nuclear sites to destroy the country's nuclear programme.

US HINTS AT WILLINGNESS TO RENEW TALKS WITH IRAN

AGENCIES
WASHINGTON

The Trump administration on Sunday signaled a willingness to renew talks with Iran and avoid a prolonged war in the aftermath of a surprise attack on three of the country's nuclear sites as U.S. officials assessed Tehran's nuclear ambitions and the threat of retaliation against American interests. President Donald Trump, who had addressed the nation from the White House on Saturday night, allowed his national security team to speak for him the next morning, staying quiet on social media and scheduling no public appearances. The coordinated messaging by his vice president, Pentagon chief, top military adviser and secretary of state suggested a confidence that any fallout from the attack would be manageable and that Iran's lack of military capabilities would ultimately force it back to the bargaining table. Defense Secretary Pete



The U.S. military struck three sites in Iran early Sunday, the mission called "Operation Midnight Hammer" involved decoys, deception and was met with no Iranian resistance, according to the Sunday morning Pentagon news briefing by Hegseth and Air Force Gen. Dan Caine, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Agencies

Hegseth said at a news conference that America "does not seek war" with Iran while Vice President JD Vance said the strikes have given Tehran the possibility of returning to negotiate with Washington. "Operation Midnight Hammer, involved decoys and deception, and met with no Iranian resistance, according to Hegseth and

Air Force Gen. Dan Caine, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. "This mission was not and has not been about regime change," Hegseth added. Caine said the goal of the operation — destroying nuclear sites in Fordo, Natanz and Isfahan — had been achieved. "Final battle damage will take some time, but initial battle damage assessments

indicate that all three sites sustained extremely severe damage and destruction," Caine said. Vance said in a television interview that while he would not discuss "sensitive intelligence about what we've seen on the ground," he felt "very confident that we've substantially delayed their development of a nuclear weapon."

Rubio says next steps are up to Iranian govt

AGENCIES
WASHINGTON

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said on Sunday that the next steps are up to the Iranian government. "If the regime wants peace, we're ready for peace. If they want to do something else, they're incredibly vulnerable. They can't even protect their own airspace," Rubio said on CBS' "Face the Nation". Rubio also warned against Iranian attacks on countries in the region that host American military forces. "That's exactly why they are there. All those bases are there because those countries are afraid Iran will attack them," Rubio said. "Those bases are there because those countries are petrified." "And a bunch of these countries putting out statements condemning us, privately, they all agree with us that this needed to be done. They got to do what they got to do for their own public relations purposes. But the only people in the world that are unhappy about what happened in Iran last night is the regime in Iran," Rubio said on Fox News Channel's "Sunday Morning Futures."



Marco Rubio

He urged Iran to enter direct talks with the U.S. and said Trump's administration has no objection to a civilian nuclear program. "They don't even talk to us directly. We always have to have a middleman. They want to pass messages and notes like we're in third grade. We're not doing that anymore. Direct negotiations," Rubio said. "Let's talk about how we peacefully resolve this problem." He thanked Washington's European allies for pressing Iran to engage in face-to-face talks. "If the regime wants peace, we're ready for peace. If they want to do something else, they're incredibly vulnerable. They can't even protect

their own airspace," Rubio said on CBS' "Face the Nation" Sunday. Rubio also warned against Iranian attacks on countries in the region that host American military forces. "That's exactly why they are there. All those bases are there because those countries are afraid Iran will attack them," Rubio said. "Those bases are there because those countries are petrified." The State Department has ordered non-essential personnel and the families of staff at the U.S. Embassy in Lebanon to leave as concerns mount about Iranian retaliation for American strikes in Iran. In a notice issued on Sunday, the department said it had taken the step "due to the volatile and unpredictable security situation in the region." The notice made no mention of any potential evacuation flights or other assistance for private Americans wanting to leave Lebanon but said they should try to use existing commercial services to depart. The US has already organized several evacuations of American citizens from Israel and is advising American citizens in Iran on how to leave the country.

US issues travel warning after Iran strikes

AGENCIES
WASHINGTON

The State Department has doubled the number of emergency evacuation flights it is providing for American citizens wishing to leave Israel, ordered the departure of non-essential staff from the U.S. Embassy in Lebanon and is stepping up travel warnings around the Middle East amid concerns Iran will retaliate against U.S. interests in the region. In internal and public notices, the department over the weekend significantly ramped up its cautionary advice to Americans in the Mideast. In a notice on Sunday, after American strikes against Iran's nuclear facilities, the department



President Donald Trump speaks from the East Room of the White House in Washington Saturday after the U.S. military struck three Iranian nuclear and military sites. Agencies

said it had ordered non-essential personnel and the families of staff at the U.S. Embassy in Beirut to leave Lebanon "due to the volatile and unpredictable security situation in the region." The notice made no mention of any potential evacuation flights or

other assistance for private Americans wanting to leave Lebanon but said those who want to should try to use existing commercial services to depart. At the same time, the department issued warnings to U.S. citizens in Saudi Arabia and Turkey to take extra security precautions

given the uncertainty. "Given reports of regional hostilities, the U.S. Mission to Saudi Arabia has advised its personnel to exercise increased caution and limit non-essential travel to any military installations in the region," the department said in its notice for Saudi Arabia. In Turkey, the department said U.S. personnel "have been cautioned to maintain a low profile and instructed to avoid personal travel to the U.S. Consulate Adana consular district," which includes the NATO airbase at Incirlik. "Negative sentiment toward U.S. foreign policy may prompt actions against U.S. or Western interests in Turkey," the statement said.



action against Iran's nuclear facilities, America has been truly unsurpassed. It has



done what no other country on earth could do," the Israeli Prime Minister said.

Democrats demand 'clear answers' on Iran strike

AGENCIES
NEW YORK/WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump must provide American people "clear answers" on his decision to strike Iranian nuclear sites, a democratic senator said, asserting that no president should be allowed to unilaterally march the country into something "as consequential as war". Democratic Senate leader Chuck Schumer said the danger of wider, longer and more devastating war had dramatically increased after the US bombed three major nuclear sites -- Fordo, Natanz and Isfahan -- in Iran, bringing itself into the Israel-Iran conflict. "We must enforce the War Powers Act," he said, calling on all senators on both sides of the aisle to vote for it.

The War Powers Act is a congressional resolution designed to limit the US president's ability to initiate or escalate military actions abroad. Trump must provide the American people and Congress clear answers on the actions taken tonight (Saturday night) and their implications for the safety of Americans, Schumer said. "No president should be allowed to unilaterally march this nation into something as consequential as war with erratic threats and no strategy. Confronting Iran's ruthless campaign of terror, nuclear ambitions, and regional aggression demands strength, resolve and strategic clarity," he said. Former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said Trump ignored the Constitution by unilaterally engaging the

American military without Congressional authorization. "I join my colleagues in demanding answers from the administration on this operation which endangers American lives and risks further escalation and dangerous destabilisation of the region," she said. Meanwhile, UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres said he was gravely alarmed by the use of force by the US against Iran. Guterres described it as a "dangerous escalation" in a region already on the edge -- and a direct threat to international peace and security. Guterres cautioned that at this perilous hour, it is critical to avoid a spiral of chaos. "There is no military solution. The only path forward is diplomacy. The only hope is peace," he said.



Those bombs were widely seen as the best chance of damaging or destroying Fordo, built deep into a mountain and untouched during Israel's weeklong offensive.

designed to attack deeply buried and hardened bunkers and tunnels, according to the U.S. Air Force. It's believed to be able to penetrate about 200 feet (61 meters) below the surface before exploding, and the bombs can be dropped one after another, effectively drilling deeper and deeper with each successive blast. It was not immediately known how many were used in the Sunday morning strike. The bomb carries a conventional warhead, but the International Atomic Energy Agency has confirmed that Iran is producing highly enriched uranium at Fordo, which had raised the possibility that nuclear material could be released into the area if the GBU-57 A/B were used to hit the facility. Initial assessments by the IAEA, however, were that this had not happened.

HOW TOUGH A TARGET IS FORDO?

Fordo is Iran's second nuclear enrichment facility after Natanz, its main facility, which already has been targeted by Israeli airstrikes and was also hit by the U.S. on Sunday, along with Isfahan. The IAEA says it believes those earlier strikes have had "direct impacts" on the facil-

ity's underground centrifuge halls. Fordo is smaller than Natanz, and is built into the side of a mountain near the city of Qom, about 60 miles (95 kilometers) southwest of Tehran. Construction is believed to have started around 2006 and it became first operational in 2009 — the same year Tehran publicly acknowledged its existence. In addition to being an estimated 80 meters (260 feet) under rock and soil, the site is reportedly protected by Iranian and Russian surface-to-air missile systems. Those air defenses, however, likely have already been struck in the Israeli campaign, which claims to have knocked out most of Iran's air defenses and the U.S. bombers were not fired upon during their mission. Still, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said the goal of attacking Iran was to eliminate its missile and nuclear program, which he described as an existential threat to Israel, and officials have said Fordo was part of that plan. "This entire operation ... really has to be completed with the elimination of Fordo," Yehiel Leiter, Israel's ambassador to the U.S., told Fox News.

'Peace through strength, Trump's reshaped history': Netanyahu

AGENCIES
JERUSALEM

Applauding US President Donald Trump's "bold decision" to hit Iran's nuclear facilities, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Sunday said that it demonstrated "peace through strength" and will lead to a future of peace and prosperity in the region and beyond. The US struck three sites in Iran early Sunday with

the aim of destroying the country's nuclear programme. The sites attacked were Fordow, Natanz, and Esfahan. "Your (Trump's) bold decision to target Iran's nuclear facilities with the awesome and righteous might of the United States will change history," Netanyahu said. "In Operation Rising Lion, Israel has done truly amazing things. But in tonight's

Israel launched Operation Rising Lion on June 13, targeting Iran's nuclear and missile production and storage facilities to get rid of both. It has for years been calling Iran's nuclear programme an existential threat and has vowed to foil its nuclear ambition at any cost. Iran has maintained that its nuclear programme is for peaceful purposes.

The Israeli leader asserted that history would remember Trump for denying "the world's most dangerous regime the world's most dangerous weapons". "His leadership today has created a pivot of history that can help lead the Middle East and beyond to a future of prosperity and peace," Netanyahu stressed. "President Trump and I often say: Peace through

strength. First comes strength, then comes peace", the Israeli Prime Minister asserted. And tonight, President Trump and the United States acted with a lot of strength, he said. Israeli President Isaac Herzog called the US attack on Iranian nuclear facilities a 'decisive moment' and a triumph of "liberty, responsibility and security".

J.K. ROWLING BACKS HBO’S HARRY POTTER SERIES

AGENCIES
WASHINGTON

Amid ongoing controversies over her views on transgender rights, J.K. Rowling has reaffirmed her support for the upcoming Harry Potter series on HBO, set to premiere in 2026. Despite increasing fan backlash and calls for boycotts, Rowling remains closely involved in the project, serving as an executive producer and collaborating with the show's writers.

In a post shared on X (formerly Twitter), the author expressed enthusiasm after reviewing the show's early material, "I read the first two episodes of the forthcoming HBO Harry Potter series and they are SO, SO, SO GOOD!"



While Rowling clarified that she is not writing the scripts herself, she emphasised her hands-on involvement, "No, but I've worked closely with the extremely talented writers," she confirmed on social media.

The series, produced by Warner Bros. Discovery, is now entering production and promises a faithful adaptation of Rowling's be-

loved books. However, Rowling's involvement comes at a time of heightened scrutiny due to her controversial public remarks on transgender issues.

In response to growing concerns, Casey Bloys, Chairman and CEO of HBO, addressed the matter in a recent interview with Deadline, stating, "The decision to be in business with J.K. Rowling is not new for us...

We already have a show on HBO from her called 'C.B. Strike', which we do with the BBC."

Bloys also emphasised that the creative direction of the Harry Potter series remains focused on its original themes, "Harry Potter is not secretly being infused with anything. If you want to debate her, you can go on Twitter," he said.

"Our priority is what's on the screen. The Harry Potter story is incredibly affirmative and positive and about love and self-acceptance."

Rowling's production company, Bronte Film and TV, is producing the show, and she was reportedly involved in the initial pitch to ensure the adaptation remained aligned with her original vision for the Wizarding World.

PICTURE PERFECT

Sonam Bajwa snapped in a fitted bralette paired with a long, sleek maxi skirt. (Instagram)

Amitabh Bachchan calls son Abhishek his 'true inheritor' in an emotional post

AGENCIES
MUMBAI

Bollywood icon Amitabh Bachchan has written a heartfelt blog post celebrating his son, Abhishek Bachchan, not just as his child but as a talented actor who has earned his admiration through dedication and bold choices.

In the post shared on Saturday, the legendary 'Sholay' actor began with a profound quote from his father, poet Harivansh Rai Bachchan, "My sons,



just because you are my sons, shall not be my inheritors; they who shall be my inheritors, shall be my sons."

Reflecting on this, Amitabh praised Abhishek

for becoming a true inheritor—not by birth, but by merit.

"He has dared to take on films and characters that challenged him, and he 'acted'," Amitabh wrote.

"He dared to act and be recognised," he added with unmistakable pride.

Earlier the same day, Amitabh also showed support for Abhishek's upcoming film, 'Kaalidhar Laapata', by sharing a heartfelt message on X (formerly Twitter).

He wrote, "My prayers, Abhishek... your ability to choose different roles and films and to immerse yourself in them... and succeed... a very rare quality. Love and blessings."

Aniston eyes Broadway debut and possible 'Horrible Bosses' third installment

AGENCIES
WASHINGTON

After nearly four decades in Hollywood, Jennifer Aniston shows no signs of slowing down. The 56-year-old actress recently shared that she still has one major goal left to accomplish: making her Broadway debut.

In a recent interview with People magazine, the 'Friends' alum revealed, "I definitely want to do a Broadway play. That's on my bucket list."

Although Aniston has earned accolades including an Emmy, Golden Globe, and SAG Award, stepping onto a Broadway stage remains an unfulfilled dream.

"It's about finding the time and the right material, but I absolutely have to do a play on Broadway," she added.



In addition to her work on 'The Morning Show', Aniston has a full slate of upcoming projects, including the film 'Hail Mary' and an untitled film directed by Sophie Goodhart.

BRAIN PICKING

I see travelling as a great learning process, and my biggest dream is to travel the world.

— POOJA HEGDE
(Indian Actress)

Danny Boyle discusses filming challenge on '28 Years Later' set

AGENCIES
WASHINGTON

Director Danny Boyle has opened up about an unexpected hurdle faced during the making of '28 Years Later', the third installment in the popular zombie franchise. Speaking at the film's London premiere earlier this week, Boyle described the situation as a "nightmare" when a surprising legal rule disrupted filming plans.

The film, set nearly three decades after the Rage virus devastated humanity, explores the long-term consequences of infection. Boyle explained that realism was key to the portrayal of

the infected, many of whom would have been living in their altered state for years.

"If you're recently infected, you'd have some clothes, but if you've been infected for a long time, the clothes would just disintegrate with the way that you behave," Boyle told People magazine.

However, the production

hit a snag due to child protection laws. Actor Alfie Williams, who plays a pivotal role as the son of Aaron Taylor-Johnson's character, was just 14 years old during filming. According to UK regulations, no actors can appear fully nude on set in the presence of a minor—even in prosthetics or costuming designed to mimic nakedness for realism.

"We never knew that going in—it was a nightmare," Boyle admitted.

"Interestingly, because there was a 12-year-old boy on set, you're not allowed for anybody to be naked—not really naked—so they look naked, but it's all prosthetics."

'Jana Nayagan' teaser offers first glimpse of Thalapathy Vijay's last film

AGENCIES
MUMBAI

The first teaser for Thalapathy Vijay's upcoming film 'Jana Nayagan' was unveiled on Sunday, coinciding with the Tamil superstar's 51st birthday.

Titled 'First Roar', the 65-second teaser offers fans their first glimpse of Vijay in this highly anticipated film.



It opens with Vijay's voice saying, "You guys will live in my heart," followed by visuals of the actor walking through a battlefield-like setting in a police uniform, wielding a lathi. With scenes of destruction and calm intensity, the teaser sets the tone for a gripping action drama.

Alongside the teaser, the makers also released a

striking poster featuring Vijay seated on a throne, sword in hand, against a smoky and intense backdrop. The film carries emotional weight for fans as it is expected to be Vijay's final movie before he transitions into politics.

Back in January, on Republic Day, Vijay had revealed his first look from the film.

Mohanlal confirms 'Drishyam 3' release in October

AGENCIES
MUMBAI

Mohanlal has officially confirmed the return of Georgekutty! The legendary actor announced the much-anticipated sequel, Drishyam 3, much to the delight of fans. The crime thriller is set to hit theatres in October 2025.

The exciting announcement came on Saturday via a video shared on Mohanlal's Instagram and X (formerly Twitter) accounts. In the video, the actor reprises his iconic role as Georgekut-



ty, greeting the film's team, while the words "Coming soon. Lights. Camera. October." flash across the screen.

Along with the video, Mohanlal captioned the post, "October 2025 - the camera

turns back to Georgekutty. The past never stays silent."

The post quickly set social media abuzz, with fans flooding the comments section.

One user wrote, "He will

The exciting announcement came on Saturday via a video shared on Mohanlal's Instagram and X (formerly Twitter) accounts.

go to any extent to protect his family. Yess! The Classic Criminal is back!"

Another added, "Next industry hit loading."

The Drishyam franchise follows the gripping tale of Georgekutty, a cable TV operator whose family becomes entangled in a criminal investigation following

the death of the Inspector General's son. The original Malayalam film released in 2013, followed by a sequel in 2021. Its massive success led to remakes in several Indian languages, including a popular Hindi version starring Ajay Devgn, as well as Tamil and Telugu adaptations.

Salman Khan opens up about fan sneaking into his home

AGENCIES
MUMBAI

Known for his honesty and wit, Salman brought laughter to the set of 'The Great Indian Kapil Show' as he joined Kapil Sharma, Navjot Singh Sidhu, Archana Puran Singh, and Krushna Abhishek for a fun-filled episode.

During the show, Salman opened up about a recent incident in which a woman managed to sneak into his home at Galaxy Apart-



ments. The topic came up when Kapil jokingly asked him about fans showing up at his residence with suitcases. Salman confirmed that something like that had indeed happened recently.

"Yes, something like that happened not too long ago. There were security guards outside. A woman told them she wanted to go up to the fourth floor, and she made her way inside.



BRIDGING TRADITIONS: A NEW VOICE IN INDIAN CLASSICAL MUSIC

TDG NETWORK

In an era of rapid cultural shifts, Indian classical music stands as both a timeless beacon and an evolving dialogue. The richness of ragas, the depth of rhythmic cycles, and the spiritual weight of improvisation have for centuries shaped this profound art form. Yet, today's generation of artists face a unique responsibility: to honor

tradition while speaking in a voice that resonates with modern sensibilities. For many young musicians like myself, this is not merely a creative choice, but a personal journey. Having trained rigorously in the classical parampara, one is deeply aware of the lineage that nurtures every note. The patience of alaaap, the meditative unfolding of a raga, the nuances of meend, and the subtleties of taan—all these

are gifts handed down by gurus who have themselves carried the torch forward. But equally, one cannot ignore the world outside: one of global sounds, digital platforms, crossover genres, and audiences with increasingly diverse tastes. The new voice in Indian classical music is not about abandoning tradition—it is about expanding its reach. It is about contextualizing the timeless grammar of ra-

gas into modern narratives without diluting their soul. It could mean blending Khayal with world music textures, presenting bandishes with contemporary arrangements, or collaborating across genres while retaining the sanctity of the raag's mood and structure. Technology has become both a challenge and a catalyst in this transition. The intimate guru-shishya tradition thrives in small rooms

and private lessons, but today's musicians also engage global audiences via streaming platforms, social media, and digital concerts. This exposure creates a two-way bridge: while international listeners are discovering the beauty of Hindustani and Carnatic music, Indian classical musicians are absorbing influences that push them to experiment, innovate, and redefine their art. However, bridging tradi-

tions also requires a great sense of responsibility. The aesthetic discipline of Indian classical music demands respect for its grammar and emotional core. Every experiment must be rooted in a deep understanding of the tradition, rather than superficial fusion. In this balance lies the true voice of the new generation—a voice that sings with both reverence and relevance. As I reflect on my own

musical journey, I see this bridge as a living space: where ancient compositions converse with contemporary emotions, where the tanpura's drone merges seamlessly with global sounds, and where tradition is not a museum piece but a living, breathing force. In that sense, the "new voice" is not one individual—it is a collective movement of artists, gurus, listeners, and platforms that together keep the time-

less river of Indian classical music flowing forward. On this World Music Day, perhaps that is the most beautiful note we can offer: the assurance that while the world changes, the essence of Indian classical music remains eternal—adaptable, expansive, and always profoundly human.

By entrepreneur Singer and Fitness Enthusiast Jasban Bhumkar.

Pink Knots by Arushi Kathuria unveiled their latest Rumi Utsav collection A Soulful Celebration of Gifting



ARUSHI KATHURIA

As the festive season nears, bringing with it the joy of togetherness and tradition, Pink Knots introduces its newest collection: *Rumi Utsav*—a thoughtfully handcrafted series of wooden gifting trays that blend poetic elegance with timeless craftsmanship. Named with intention, *Rumi* draws inspiration from the famed mystic and poet whose words evoke depth, beauty, and emotion. Paired with *Utsav*, the Sanskrit term for celebration, Rumi Utsav encapsulates the soul of giving—gifts that carry meaning, memory, and the quiet joy of heartfelt connection. Launched in time for the festive and wedding season, the collection is inspired by the season of spring, a time of renewal and fresh beginnings. Floral motifs bloom across natural wooden textures, evoking softness, hope, and lightness. The trays are designed to serve not only as vessels for gifts, but as elegant keepsakes that enhance any celebration—from weddings and Diwali hampers to baby showers, home

warmings, or corporate gifting. What makes *Rumi Utsav* stand apart is its commitment to the handmade. Each tray is crafted from wood by skilled artisans in rural North India. These artisans bring generations

of tradition into every piece, working with care, precision, and artistry. With a focus on completely handcrafted production, the collection celebrates slow design and local skill. The trays can be fully customised—from dimensions and colours

to floral themes, motifs, or even initials and logos. Whether a client is creating a one-of-a-kind wedding trousseau or planning festive corporate hampers, Pink Knots offers the flexibility to tailor each piece to the occasion and the sentiment behind it. "Gifting, to me, is about more than presentation," says Arushi, founder of Pink Knots. It's about presence—being part of someone's memory, milestone, or celebration in a meaningful way. *Rumi Utsav* is designed to hold that space.

Pink Knots has become a trusted name in the luxury gifting space, known for its wide range of handcrafted products—including tableware like trays, coasters, tissue boxes, salad bowls, boxes, wall arts, and curated hampers—all made from quality materials like wood, metal, leather, and premium cardboard. Beyond products, the brand offers bespoke gifting services, trousseau packing, and themed invitations—making it a go-to destination for both personal and corporate gifting needs. At the heart of the brand lies a deep-rooted commitment to ethical production and artisan empowerment. Many of the craftsmen and women Pink Knots works with rely on this work as their main source of income. Supporting their livelihoods through sustainable design practices is as important to the brand as the aesthetics it delivers.



Seeking silence through art



NEERJA CHANDNA PETERS

For abstractionist Neerja Chandna Peters, art is both a spiritual practice and a daily discipline. The act of creating is not only meditative—it is her way of seeking silence. She describes silence as the womb of creativity, the space from which all inspiration is born. It is no surprise, then, that each of her works carries an inherent stillness—one that the viewer can feel and experience.

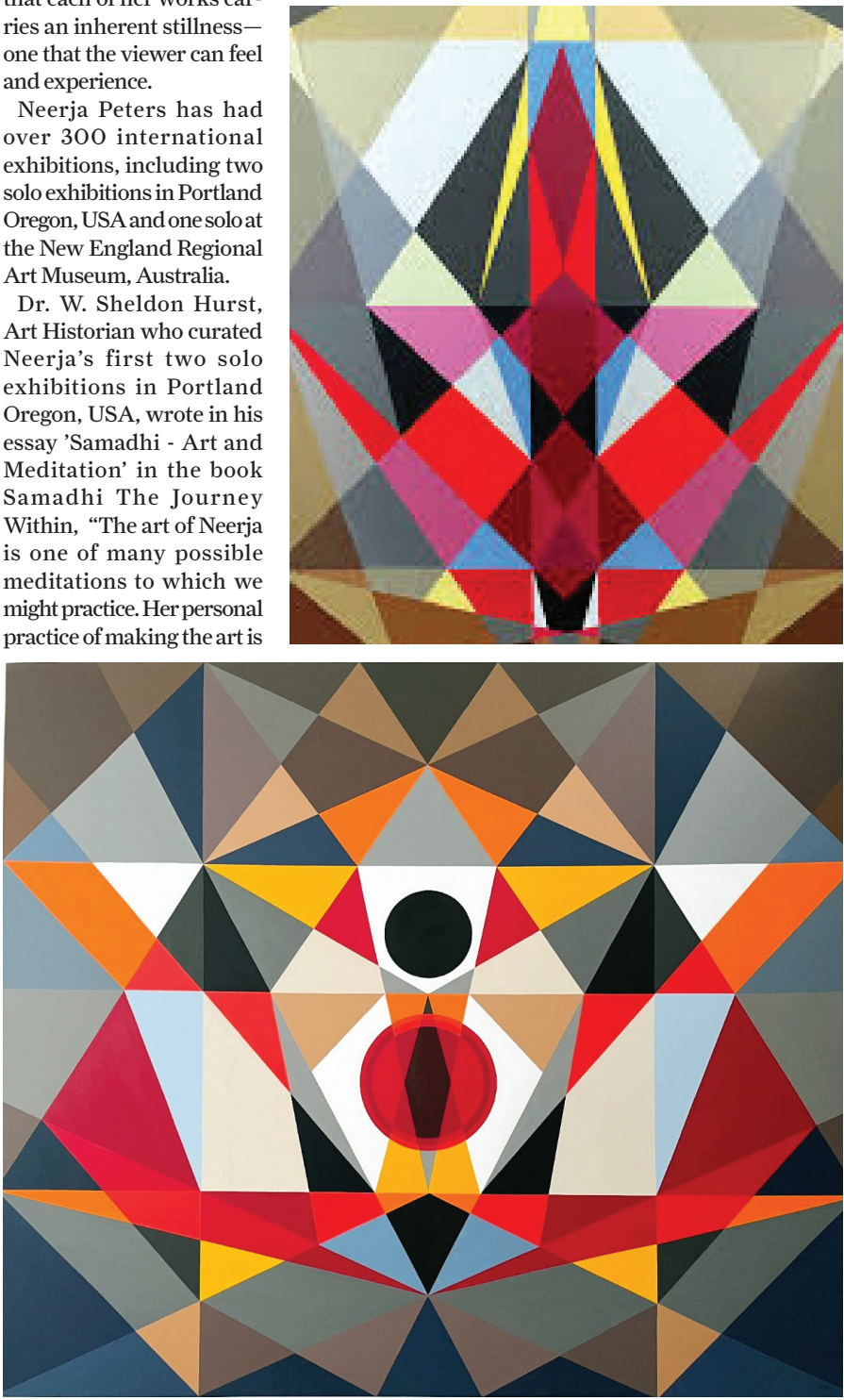
Neerja Peters has had over 300 international exhibitions, including two solo exhibitions in Portland Oregon, USA and one solo at the New England Regional Art Museum, Australia. Dr. W. Sheldon Hurst, Art Historian who curated Neerja's first two solo exhibitions in Portland Oregon, USA, wrote in his essay 'Samadhi - Art and Meditation' in the book Samadhi The Journey Within, "The art of Neerja is one of many possible meditations to which we might practice. Her personal practice of making the art is

a commitment to her own journey to the unitive state. But it is one that she intends to be available to the viewer as well. Her exercise of making is intended to invite viewers to give attention to a similar exercise of meditation that potentially has the same result as her own making." The book Samadhi The Journey Within was published by Art Reach Gallery Portland in 2022 in which paintings and drawings by Neerja Chandra Peters were brought together with the Brihadaranyaka Upanishad translated by the late Eknath Easwaran, Hindu scholar and founder of the

Blue Mountain Center of Meditation in Tamales, California. The spiritual nature of Peters work was also cited by Rachael Parsons, Director of New England Regional Art Museum, Australia, in her introduction to Neerja's solo exhibition Ley Lines at the Museum in 2024. "Neerja Peters' artwork is a masterful blend of geometric abstraction and mystical exploration. Through uniting abstract shapes, repeated lines, vibrant colour combinations, and symbolic forms, Peters creates a visual language that is at once personal and universal, and that

transcends the void between physical and spiritual worlds, the material and the intangible. Her use of geometric abstraction is more than a stylistic and aesthetic choice; it is a deliberate attempt to tap into and communicate the spiritual dimensions of art, evoking a sense of unity, balance, and harmony, drawing the viewer into a meditative state that allows them to access the sublime. Peters' work resonates strongly with the progenitors of modern abstraction; the pioneering efforts of Hilma af Klint, who similarly explored the spiritual dimensions of art through bold, symbolic paintings. Like Wassily Kandinsky, Peters seeks to tap into the emotional and expressive potential of colour and form, creating a visual language that transcends the material world. Her use of geometric patterns and repetition echoes the compositional innovations of Piet Mondrian, who sought to distil the essence of reality into pure, abstract forms. For Peters, as for af Klint, Kandinsky and Mondrian, geometric abstraction is used to evoke a sense of cosmic connection, representing the harmony and order that can be found in the universe, once it has been distilled from chaos."

Coming from a medical background, Neerja also sees art as a form of healing—where both the act of creation and the experience of viewing become therapeutic journeys and avenues for spiritual awakening. In today's world—marked by the constant overstimulation of the senses, the relentless pace of social media, and the growing prevalence of stress and mental health challenges—art offers a vital refuge. It becomes a space for stillness amid the noise, a sanctuary where one can reconnect with silence and inner peace. In this context, art is not merely an aesthetic experience but a powerful medium of healing, reflection, and spiritual grounding.



Down the Memory Lane: A Trip to Temples in Telangana



P.V. LAXMIPRASAD

Temple is a sacred place where the presiding deities are worshipped. Temples are primarily dedicated to religious purposes, serving as a place for worship, prayer, and the performance of religious ceremonies. In Vemulawada, the presiding Deity - Lord Raja Rajeshwara appears in the form of "Neela Lohitha Siva Lingam known for his boundless benevolence in fulfilling the wishes of the devotees.

This Shrine is popularly known as 'Dakshina Kashi' (Southern Banaras) and also as "Harihara Kshetram" for their being two Vaisnava Temples in main Temple complex. Vemulawada has produced eminent litterateurs in Telugu and Sanskrit.

Kaleshwaram is a town lying on the border of Telangana and Maharashtra. The town is popularly known for its ancient and famous Kaleshwara Mukteshwara Swamy Temple. This is a revered temple is dedicated to the worship of the powerful Lord Shiva.

Dharmapuri is a historical town and mandal headquarters in the Jagtial district of Telangana, India, known for the Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Temple, one of the



Temple at Basara
nine Narasimha Kshetras. Basara Temple is situated 200 Kms from Hyderabad, AP. Sri Gnana Saraswathi



Temple at Vemulawada

temple at Basara on the banks of river Godavari is the only temple in South India dedicated to the Goddess of learning. It was established by sage Veda Vyas on his visit to the river. Many children are given first Akashar Abhyas in the shrine.

The temple of Lord Shri Ram and Sita is located at Bhadrachalam, Kothagudem dist is the most famous temple in the country, is situated on the left bank of the Godavari river. It is a



Temple at Bhadrachalam

place of pilgrimage for Hindus, considered to be one of the greatest holy shrines in South India with a very rich and unique historical background.

Alampur is a sleepy town situated on the banks Tungabhadra River, in the state of Telangana. Alampur is considered as the western gateway of Srishailam.

Bhadrakali temple in Warangal is among the oldest temples India that are dedicated to Goddess

Bhadrakali. Located atop a hill, between the city of Warangal and Hanamkonda, by the side of Bhadrakali Lake, it is an ancient temple which was originally built during the Chalukyan reign in 625 AD. Goddess Bhadrakali appears in a fierce look blessing the devotees with all they wish to fulfil in life.

Chilkur is a small village situated in the premises of Himayath Sagar Lake of Rangareddy District. This

village is not only a scenic spot, but is also a religious site due to the presence of a large Balaji temple at the place.

Yadagirigutta is the most unique, beautiful and pleasant Hillock with moderate Climate in all seasons and the temple is located at a distance of about 60 KM from the Hyderabad, capital city of Telangana.

Lord Hanuman is situated on the hill called Kondagattu hills and forest area

at a distance 40 kms from Karimnagar and 16km away from Jagtial. It is an ancient temple in Jagtial District to have come into existence at about 500 years

Thus Telangana accounts for major share of popular temples in the country. They are quite ancient and date back to those kings and their kingdoms in the past.

P.V.Laxmiprasad is the author and editor of 44 books in English Literature.

A Weekend Getaway at Grand Hyatt Gurgaon!

SANJANA CHAWLA

The monsoon in Delhi-NCR often brings a longing for escape – a desire to trade the city's waterlogged chaos for serene luxury. Last weekend, I found my perfect refuge at the Grand Hyatt Gurgaon, Sector 58, embarking on a two-day staycation that promised, and delivered, a memorable and enriching experience.

Our arrival at noon was met with a chilled, refreshing glass of coconut water, and the warm, efficient welcome Grand Hyatt is renowned for. Check-in was swift, a seamless transition from the stormy outdoors to the hotel's elegant, hushed interiors. The lobby, with its grand architecture and floral arrangements, instantly soothed my spirits. My stunning suite, a haven of calm with panoramic views of the verdant surroundings, beckoned. The large windows, framed by heavy drapes, offered a mesmerizing view of the beautiful landscape.

The highlight of Day 1, without a doubt, was the Beyond Brunch: Mango Themed at Maison Maiya. As an avid mango lover, I was ecstatic. The restaurant, bathed in natural light, offered an array of dishes, each incorporating the king of fruits in innovative ways. From savory mango dishes to delicate sweet assortments and refreshing mango drinks, it was a culinary journey that celebrated the season's bounty. The live counters, offering bespoke preparations, added a delightful interactive element. As the afternoon rain continued its gentle patter and soulful air, I indulged in the Signature Hi-Tea at Parlour. This wasn't just a tea service; it was an experience.



with finger nibbles, exquisitely crafted pastries, and an impressive selection of drinks presented with artistic flair. The day culminated with Dinner at Cena Pranzo,



their amazing Italian restaurant, with its sophisticated décor and inviting aroma of freshly prepared dishes, promised an authentic experience. We savored every bite of the delectable pasta and perfectly cooked main courses, paired with excellent cocktail offerings recommended by the team. The attentive yet discreet service

ensured a truly special evening!

Day 2 began with Breakfast at Maison Maiya, which was no less of a spread, offering a vast array of international and Indian options. From freshly baked breads to traditional South Indian & Continental delicacies, there was something to satisfy every

palate. My farewell and check-out was handled with the same efficiency and warmth as our arrival. As I stepped out into the clear, fresh air, I felt completely rejuvenated and ready for the weekend!

The Grand Hyatt Gurgaon had indeed curated a memorable and enriching experience for me. It

wasn't just a stay; it was a journey of relaxation, culinary delights, and impeccable service, proving to be the perfect antidote to the monsoon blues. I left with a profound sense of calm and a yearning to return to this urban oasis and I can't wait to be back at the Grand Hyatt headquarters!

BROOK FALLS ON 99, BUMRAH’S FIFER KEEPS TEST IN BALANCE AS RAIN HALTS DAY 3

AGENCIES
LEEDS

Rain forced early Stumps on Day 3 of the first Test between India and England in Leeds, with the match evenly poised. After England gained a slender first-innings lead, thanks to Harry Brook's 99 and Bumrah's five-wicket haul, India's top order endured a shaky start. Jaiswal fell early, while Sai Sudharsan threw away a promising start. KL Rahul remained unbeaten, displaying calm composure alongside Shubman Gill. At Stumps, India were 90/2 in 24 overs. Earlier, England batters capitalised on erratic Indian bowling. With rain playing spoilsport, Day 4 promises to be crucial in deciding the momentum of the match.

Harry Brook ran out of luck on 99 before Jasprit Bumrah completed a well deserved five wicket haul to ensure a slender six run first innings lead for India, who bowled out England for 465 in an extended afternoon session on day three of the first Test here on Sunday.

Before Bumrah castled Josh Tongue to end England



India's Jasprit Bumrah holds the ball aloft and shows it to the crowd after taking a five-wicket haul on Day 3 of the 1st Test match against England, at Headingley Cricket Ground in Leeds on Sunday. (AP/ANI Photo)

innings, Chris Woakes (38 off 55) punished a predictable Indian pace attack to take his team close to India's 471. England's tail virtually cancelled out the Indian first innings with the match now hinged on third and fourth innings respectively. Hosts continued to find the boundaries at will as they collected 138 runs in 23.4 overs in the afternoon session with the loss of five wickets. Prasidh Krishna

removed Jamie Smith (40 off 52) and Brook (99 off 112) with the short ball but leaked too many runs at the same time with his one dimensional tactic, conceding 128 runs in 20 overs. Bowling all-rounder Shardul Thakur was under bowled again, raising questions over his selection. Bumrah, who has by far been the best Indian bowler on display, picked up his 14th fifer in the longest for-

mat ending with figures of 5/83 in 24.4 overs. India's fielding have been their weakest link so far in the game and having been give two lives, Brook was dropped again, on 82, by Yashasvi Jaiswal off Bumrah. The explosive England batter however could not use those chances to score a famous hundred and was dismissed on 99 in the 88th over. India had taken the new ball after 80 overs but

were not able to make good use of it.

Towards the end of the session, Woakes, who has a Test hundred to his name (against India in 2018), smashed successive off short balls from Krishna, one a clean hit over mid-wicket, the other a guide in the third man region.

Captain Shubman Gill made questionable calls like introducing Ravindra Jadeja towards the end of the session and bringing back Bumrah for a late burst.

Earlier, Brook went on the offensive against an inconsistent Indian pace attack, taking England to 327 for five at lunch. Resuming at an overnight 209 for three, Brook ensured that England scored at a brisk pace, totalling 118 runs in 28 overs. The visitors got two welcome wickets of overnight centurion Ollie Pope (106 off 137) and England captain Ben Stokes (20 off 52). Like day two, the other Indian pacers could not match the accuracy of Bumrah. Brook, dismissed off a Bumrah no ball at the stroke of stumps on day two, was dropped by wicket-keeper Rishabh Pant on 46 shortly before lunch.

India end FIH Pro League with 4-3 win

AGENCIES
ANTWERP

Indian Men's Hockey Team showed character as they snatched a heart-winning 4-3 win against hosts Belgium to end their campaign at the FIH Hockey Pro League (Men) 2024-25 here in Antwerp on Sunday.

It was goals by Sukhjeet Singh (21', 35'), Amit Rohidas (36') and Harmanpreet Singh (59') that ensured India's win, and ended their outing in seventh place. For Belgium, Arthur de Sloover (8'), Thibaut Stockbroeck

(34') and Hugo Labouchere (41') scored, as per a press release from Hockey India. It was a memorable outing for Sukhjeet and Dilpreet Singh who completed their 100 international caps. Belgium was quick to get off the blocks, pressing high and looking to catch Indian defenders off guard. Their tactics paid off early with Arthur de Sloover scoring a stunning goal to go one up in the match. He fired it into the top right corner of the post, leaving no room for the Indian goalie to defend. The goal certainly dislodged India's momentum, which

until then showed glimpses of attacking intent with quick bursts in their variation.

India's first real opportunity came in the 20th minute when they earned the first Penalty Corner (PC) of the match, and with skipper Harmanpreet Singh back on the pitch today, confidence was high in the Indian set-up. A good injection from Hardik, but the powerful flick was well-blocked, leading into a quickfire counterattack by the Belgians. But Pathak, at the other end, prevented a potential 2-0 lead with a fine save.

Six Indian boxers enter finals at National Day Boxing Tournament

AGENCIES
MAHE

Six Indian boxers will compete for gold at the Seychelles National Day Boxing Tournament 2025 on Sunday, following a series of strong semifinal performances at the Paradise Arena in Mahe.

Additya Pratap (65kg) of Uttar Pradesh, who has previously represented India at the Elorda Cup in Kazakhstan and holds a silver from the National Combined

Finals, impressed with an RSC win in the third round over home favourite Jovanie Bouzin. Neeraj (75kg), another silver medallist at the National Combined, mirrored that effort with an RSC second-round victory over his opponent.

Himanshu Sharma (50kg) of Haryana, a former Belgrade Boxing Champion and bronze medallist at the 6th Elite Nationals, secured a confident 4:1 win on points against Mathieu Souprayen of Mauritius. In the 55kg

bout, Ashish Mudshaniya of Uttar Pradesh, the reigning National Combined champion, continued his fine form with a solid 4:1 victory over Guillaume Francis, also from Mauritius. Haryana's Anmol (60kg), a National Combined silver medallist, earned a composed 4:1 split decision win against Dario Gabriel of Seychelles.

Kartik Dalal (70kg) showed heart in a closely contested bout but lost 1:4 on points to South Africa's Blessing Nziyana.

Why Neeraj Chopra is only Indian athlete competing in world level meets

RUPINDER SINGH
NEW DELHI

All Indian fans of athletics are staying up to watch Neeraj Chopra compete in various competitions in Europe in the wee hours of the morning, like 1:12 am IST. This shows that cricket is not the only sport Indians love—contrary to the popular misconception spread on Indian television. While Neeraj is doing the country proud, I can easily count a handful more Indian athletes who could also make India proud—if only they were competing at these events.

Take for example the results in the men's 5000m. Many athletes unknown to us—American and European—have set national records and gone well below 13 minutes. Nico Young clocked 12:45 to



avinish sable

win an intercontinental gold event, a Swede won the Stockholm Diamond League with a European record of 12:44, and a Frenchman set a French record while finishing fifth.

All athletics lovers in India will remember Gulveer Singh for setting national records in the 3000m, 5000m, and 10000m. Here was a stage to make India proud—just like



parul chaudhary

these athletes who were little known outside their countries. Leave aside Gulveer. I saw a 200m event in which Olympic medallist Andre De Grasse of Canada finished fourth in 20.27. Imagine if India's Animesh Kujur was running that race—he may have beaten De Grasse. Imagine the confidence boost that would bring. Parul Chaud-

hary, Avinash Sable, Sachin Yadav, and our jumpers are a few others that come to mind who could benefit immensely from such exposure. These are easy steps to take Indian athletics to the top stage. And it does not need the crores that Indian sports authorities love spending on Khelo India or the National Games. Indian athletes are world-class.

959 athletes sign in for distance track races in U20 national competition

AGENCIES
PRAYAGRAJ

More than 40 athletes have registered themselves for the men's 3000m track race scheduled for day-one of the three-day 23rd National Junior (U20) Federation Athletics Championships starting here at Madan Mohan Malaviya Sports Complex in Uttar Pradesh on Sunday, according to a release from AFI. The competitors in the 3000m track race have been divided into two groups, Race A and B. The medal winners will be decided on the basis of their performance in both races.

The women's 3,000m track race, also scheduled for Sunday, has attracted 22 entries. The 3,000m finals in the men's and women's groups will be the first medal

India win 27 medals at Asian Para Badminton C'ships 2025

AGENCIES
BANGKOK

eam India won 27 medals at the Asian Para-Badminton Championship 2025 in Thailand, marking its best-ever performance at the event. This includes four gold medals, 10 silver medals and 13 bronze medals.

India delivered a commanding performance at the Asia Para Badminton Championships 2025, held in Thailand from 17-22 June, showcasing the nation's growing dominance in para-badminton across multiple classifications. With medals in almost every category, the Indian contingent underlined both its depth and consistency at the continental level.

One of the tournament's most thrilling encounters came in the men's doubles SL3-SL4 final, where Sukant Kadam and Nitesh Kumar battled past fellow Indians Jagadeesh Dilli and Naveen Sivakumar in a gripping three-set match that ended 21-17 11-21 21-11. The bronze in the same category also went to India, with Mohammad Arwaz Ansari and Abhijeet Sakhuja stepping onto the podium, as per a press release. Reflecting on the tournament, Sukant Kadam said, "It was one of those finals where you have to dig deep and trust your training. The competition is getting stronger each year, and this gold is a result of staying focused on the small things that make a difference." In the mixed doubles SH6 event, Tokyo Paralympic gold medallist Krishna Nagar and his partner Nithya Sre gave it their all in a high-energy final against China's Lin Naili and Li Fengmei, narrowly missing the top spot and settling for silver after a 13-21, 21-19, 14-21 contest. Krishna also secured a bronze in men's singles SH6 and another in men's doubles SH6, where he partnered with Dhinakaran Pandurangan. Krishna Nagar



Gold Medalists	
1. Nitesh Kumar MS SL3	
2. Nitesh Kumar & Tulshimati Murgesan XD SL3-SU5	
3. Mnisha Ramadas WS SU5	
4. Nitesh Kumar & Sukant Kadam MD SL3-SL4	
Silver Medalists	
1. Krishna Nagar & Nithya XD SH6	
2. Mandeep Kaur WS-SL3	
3. Palak Kohali WS-SL4	
4. Ruthick Raghupathi & Manshi Joshi XD SL3-SU5	
5. Nithya Sre WS-SH6	
6. Nithya Sre & Rachna Patel WD-SH6	
7. Suryakant Yadav MS-SL4	
8. Jagdish Dilli & Naveen Shivakumar MD SL3-SL4	
09. Ruthick Raghupathi & Hardik Makkar MD-SU5	
10. Manshi Joshi & Tulshimati Murgeshan WD SL3-SU5	

echoed the sentiment, adding, "These matches test you physically and mentally.

Every medal counts, but more importantly, every match prepares us for the bigger goals ahead. We'll take the positives from here and keep building."

India's women athletes also made their mark. Nithya Sre was among the standout performers, winning silver in women's singles SH6 and another silver in women's doubles SH6 alongside Rachana Shaileshkumar Patel. In the women's doubles SL3-SU5 category, Manasi Joshi and Thulasimathi Murgesan went down fighting in the final against China, while the bronze went to the pair of Mandeep Kaur and Manisha Ramdass. India dominated the mixed doubles

SL3-SU5 event, sweeping all three medals, with Nitesh Kumar and Thulasimathi Murgesan taking gold in a clinical straight-sets win over Ruthick Raghupathi and Manasi Joshi, while Chirag Baretha and Mandeep Kaur earned bronze.

In men's singles SL4, Surya Kant Yadav earned a silver after a hard-fought final against Malaysia's Mohd Amin Burhanuddin, with Naveen Sivakumar taking bronze. Nitesh Kumar's golden run continued in men's singles SL3, where he defeated Indonesia's Muh Ai Imran in straight sets, with Umesh Vikram Kumar securing bronze.

In women's singles SL3, Mandeep Kaur took silver and Manasi Joshi added a bronze to her medal tally.



More than 5000 cyclists from various districts of Maharashtra have set a unique record by participating in the Fit India Sundays on Cycle of the Government of India, adding colour to the Warkari tradition of Pandharpur.(X)



event tomorrow. The majority of the competitors in the men's 3000m are from Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Madhya Pradesh, too have a good number of athletes in the distance track race. The men's 5,000m track race scheduled for Tuesday has attracted 50 entries. The competitors have been clubbed in Race A and B, and

the medal winners will be decided based on their performance in both races.

The men's 3000m steeplechase on June 24, however, will see 29 athletes competing for medals. The men and women's 100m final will be a major attraction on the opening day apart from the 3000m track race. Away from track races, medals

will be decided in two field events—women's discus throw and men's pole vault on Sunday.

As many as seven athletes from Uttar Pradesh will compete in the pole vault.

As many as 959 athletes, including 278 female competitors, have registered for the three-day competition that will conclude on Tuesday.