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‘AMAZING RIDE’: SHUKLA EN ROUTE TO INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION

- India returns to human spaceflight after 41 years
- Spacecraft is expected to dock at the ISS at 4:30 pm on Thursday
- SpaceX launch vehicle rocket blasted off from Kennedy Space Center

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla was on Wednesday headed to the International Space Station (ISS) on a historic odyssey, marking India's return to human spaceflight after a gap of 41 years following a successful launch of the Axiom Space mission in the US with a four-member multi-country crew.

After multiple delays, Elon Musk's SpaceX launch vehicle with Crew Dragon spacecraft atop a Falcon-9 rocket blasted off from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida carrying mission pilot Shukla, a Group Captain in the Indian Air Force (IAF), former NASA astronaut Commander Peggy Whitson and mission specialists Tibor Kapu of Hungary and Slawosz Uznanski-Wisniewski of Poland.

Family members, scores of well-wishers and space enthusiasts gathered at watch parties across India, Poland,



Indian Air Force Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla with three of his crewmates set to launch Axiom-4 Mission into space aboard SpaceX's Dragon spacecraft, en route the International Space Station (ISS), in Florida on Wednesday. (©SpaceX X/ANI Photo)

Hungary and the US burst into cheers as the rocket soared into the Florida sky from the same spot from where American astronaut Neil Armstrong, who was the first person to set foot on the moon, took off on the

Apollo-11 mission in July 1969.

"Kamaal ki ride thi (It was an amazing ride)," Shukla said 10 minutes after the Dragon spacecraft was placed in orbit around the Earth at an altitude of

200 km as part of the Axiom Mission 4 (Ax-4). The spacecraft is expected to dock at the ISS at 4:30 pm on Thursday, capping a 28-hour journey.

The footage beamed by cameras from inside the

crew capsule showed the four astronauts strapped into their cabin, seated side-by-side in helmeted white-and-black flight suits.

The 39-year-old, Lucknow-born Shukla became

Majithia arrested after early morning drama

‘Rs 540 crore derived from drug trafficking’

TARUNI GANDHI
CHANDIGARH



based on a detailed SIT report probing Majithia's disproportionate assets and complex financial dealings involving shell companies, unaccounted foreign funds and benami assets. Police teams allegedly barged into Majithia's residence, reportedly without prior notice, causing a standoff with the family. His wife Ganieve Kaur confronted officials questioning the sudden intrusion.

Majithia, in a video posted

Dhankhar faints after delivering speech

AGENCIES
NAINITAL

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar fainted on Wednesday while attending the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the Kumaon University here.

As the Vice President stepped down from the dais after delivering his speech, he approached his former parliamentary colleague, Mahendra Singh Pal, who was seated in the audience.

Pal, an advocate in the High Court of Uttarakhand, served as a Lok Sabha MP in 1989 when Dhankhar was also an MP from Jhunjhunu in Rajasthan.

Both men appeared to become emotional upon seeing each other.

CBSE to conduct class 10 exam twice a year from 2026

TDG NETWORK/AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has decided to implement the policy of two Board examinations in Class X from 2026. The CBSE took the decision in this regard As per the recommendations of the national education policy (NEP-2020) and after consultations with stakeholder.

According to an order issued by Controller of Examinations of CBSE Dr Sanyam Bhardwaj, it is mandatory for all the students to appear in the first Board examination.

All passed and eligible students will be allowed to improve their performance in any of the three subjects out of Science, Mathematics, Social science and languages.

"The first phase will be conducted in February and second in May. The results for the two phases will be announced in April and June, respectively," CBSE Examination Controller Sanyam Bhardwaj said.

"It will be mandatory (for students) to appear for the first phase while the second phase will be optional. Students will be allowed to improve their performance in any three subjects out of science, mathematics, social science and languages," he added.

Explaining the rationale behind making the first phase mandatory for the students, CBSE Chairman Rahul Singh said it is being done to ensure that students take the exams seriously and the sanctity of the board exams

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF EMERGENCY

PM Modi: Cong govt placed ‘democracy under arrest’

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

As the country commemorated the 50th anniversary of the Emergency, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday asserted it was one of the "darkest chapters" in India's democratic history and slammed the then Congress government, saying it placed "democracy under arrest."

Top leaders of the BJP and key ally JD(U) led the charge against the Congress with Modi saying no Indian will ever forget the manner in which the spirit of the Con-



Home Minister Amit Shah, Delhi LG V K Saxena, Ministers Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Ashwini Vaishnaw, Delhi CM Rekha Gupta hold PM Modi's book 'The Emergency Diaries' in New Delhi on Wednesday. ANI

stitution was violated during the Emergency. The prime minister also affirmed his government's commitment to

strengthening constitutional principles.

The Union Cabinet at its meeting pre-

Rajnath begins China visit

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday arrived in the Chinese port city of Qingdao to attend a conclave of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO).

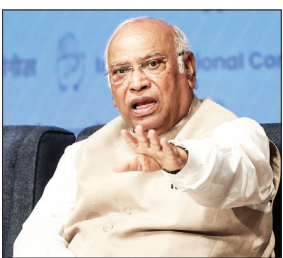
It is the first visit to China by a senior Indian minister after the ties came under



Defence minister Rajnath Singh receives a warm welcome on his arrival to attend the SCO Defence Ministers' meeting, in Qingdao on Wednesday. (©DefenceMinIndia X/ANI Photo)

Kharge takes aim at Tharoor, unease in Congress grows

ANAND SINGH
NEW DELHI



In a jibe at party colleague Shashi Tharoor, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Wednesday said his party believes in "country first" mantra but for some it is "Modi first and country later".

Asked about Tharoor's article on Operation Sindoor outreach in which he praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Kharge said, "I can't read English well. His (Tharoor's) (English) language is very good,

‘Sky belongs to no one’, Tharoor’s cryptic post

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Hours after Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge took a veiled jibe at Shashi Tharoor, saying he is in Congress Working Committee "because his English is very good", the party MP from Thiruvananthapuram made a cryptic post amid an apparent unease in his ties with the party.

Tharoor made a post on X that prominently carried a picture of a bird. "Don't ask permission to fly. The wings are yours. And the sky belongs to no one," the post said.

Tharoor, who contested the presidential election against Kharge, has earlier conveyed to the party that's why we have made



to utilise his services or he will have his own way ahead.

Tharoor led an all-party parliamentary delegation to Guyana, Panama, Colombia, Brazil, and the United States as part of the Modi government's global outreach after Operation Sindoor. Some of his remarks did not go down well

Naval Headquarters staff arrested on espionage charges

ARVIND PALAWAT
JAIPUR

In a major operation in the national capital, Rajasthan Police's Intelligence Department has arrested an Upper Division Clerk (UDC) in the Naval Headquarters on charges of spying for Pakistan's intelligence agency. Vishal Yadav, a resident of Punsika, Rewari in Haryana, was arrested on Wednesday under the Official Secrets Act of 1923.

The arrest has triggered alarm bells across security agencies.

Inspector General Vishnukant Gupta stated that CID Intelligence Rajasthan had been closely monitoring the espionage activities of Pakistani spy agencies. During this surveillance, it was discovered that Vishal Ya-

dav, working in the Directorate of Dockyard at the Naval Headquarters in Delhi was in constant contact with a female handler from Pakistan's intelligence agency through social media.

The woman, who was using the alias "Priya Sharma," was luring Vishal with money to extract and share strategically important confidential information from the Naval Headquarters.

Gupta said preliminary interrogation suggested Vishal Yadav was addicted to online gaming and, driven by financial needs, began compromising national security. He was providing sensitive information to the Pakistani handler and receiving payments either in his crypto currency trading account (in USD) or directly in his bank accounts.

Pak developing Nuke missiles that can reach US: Report

ADITYA WADHAWAN
NEW DELHI

Pakistan is clandestinely developing a nuclear-tipped intercontinental ballistic missile capable of reaching the United States of America, according to a report of 'Foreign Affairs'.

After India conducted Operation Sindoor on Pakistani soil last month, Pakistan has been aiming to bolster its nuclear arsenal with support from China.



'If Pakistan successfully develops such a missile, Washington would classify

the country as a nuclear adversary,' the report said, citing US officials. Pakistan possesses around 170 nuclear warheads and has not signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). The treaty is aimed at preventing the spread of nuclear weapons and promoting peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

Currently Russia, China and North Korea are con-

2 dead, 20 feared swept away as cloudbursts batter Himachal

AGENCIES
SHIMLA/DHARAMSHALA

Two persons died while about 20 were feared swept away as cloudburst, flash floods and heavy rain wreaked havoc in Himachal Pradesh on Wednesday.

Two bodies were recovered from the Manuni Khad in Kangra district while around 15-20 workers stationed at a labour colony near the Indira Priyadarshi-

ni Hydroelectric project site were feared swept away following a surge in water level in the Khaniyara Manuni Khad.

According to officials, the project work had been suspended due to rain, and the workers were resting in the temporary shelters near the site when floodwaters from Manuni Khad and nearby drains diverted towards the labour colony, sweeping the workers away.

BJP USING ‘SAMVIDHAN HATYA DIWAS’ TO HIDE FAILURES: KHARGE IN AN ATTACK ON CENTRE

Kharge alleged that the country is currently facing an “undeclared Emergency” under PM Modi’s rule

ANAND SINGH
NEW DELHI

Even as BJP is observing Samvidhan Hatya Diwas on the 50th anniversary of the Emergency imposed by former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Wednesday accused the Bharatiya Janata Party of marking the day to hide its own “failures and repeated lies” and added that the BJP was rattled by the Samvidhan Bachao programmes of the grand old party.

Kharge, who is also the Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, addressed a press conference and trained his guns at the Narendra Modi-led government, saying, “The BJP has been rattled by Congress’s Samvidhan Bachao programme and thus they have started talking about the 50th anniversary of the Emergency.”

Kharge targeted the government and said, “We are facing an undeclared Emergency in the country today.”



“Those who could not do much during their tenure, and also could not give any answers on issues of unemployment, inflation, and demonetisation, are doing this (marking 50 years of the imposition of Emergency as Samvidhan Hatya Diwas) to hide their own failures and repeated lies,” he said. The Congress leader asserted that those who had no role in the country’s independence movement, in the making of the Constitution, and did not cooperate in the making of the Constitution—and have always spoken against it—are today

talking about such things. He also said that the Constitution, which was prepared by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, B.R. Ambedkar, and the Constituent Assembly, was opposed by the RSS. He alleged that they burned copies of the Constitution at Ramliila Maidan in Delhi and also burned effigies of Nehru, Ambedkar, and others. Lamenting the RSS, he said, “The RSS people said that the Constitution made by Ambedkar does not contain parts of our traditional culture and Manusmriti, hence we will not accept this Constitution.”

Congress accuses BJP of 11-yr assault on democracy

ANAND SINGH
NEW DELHI

Even as Central government is celebrating 50 years of Emergency, Congress on Wednesday hit back at the Narendra Modi-led government accusing the administration of orchestrating a sustained and dangerous assault on Indian democracy over the last eleven years—an era it termed as “Undeclared Emergency@11.”

In a detailed statement, Congress General Secretary communication incharge Jairam Ramesh slammed the government and said, “Over the past eleven years and thirty days, Indian democracy has been under a systematic and dangerous five-fold assault that can be best described as Undeclared Emergency@11.” Ramesh, who is also a

Rajya Sabha MP taking a pot shot at the government highlighted the attack on the Constitution and seeking mandate for new Constitution, said, “During the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, the Prime Minister (Narendra Modi) sought a 400 ‘paar’ mandate for a new Constitution and to betray Dr. BR Ambedkar’s legacy. The people of India denied him that mandate. They voted for preserving, protecting, and further promoting economic, social, and political justice enshrined in the existing Constitution.” He also said that the Modi government has consistently shredded parliamentary norms. MPs have been arbitrarily suspended merely for raising issues of public concern. The government has refused to discuss critical national issues.

SC orders probe after Ghaziabad jail defies bail order

SAMBHAV SHARMA
NEW DELHI

Observing that personal liberty cannot be denied on ‘useless technicalities’ and ‘irrelevant errors’, the Supreme Court on Wednesday expressed displeasure over the non-release of an undertrial from Uttar Pradesh’s Ghaziabad jail despite the top court having already passed a bail order.

The bench of Justice KV Viswanathan and Justice NK Singh said that if individuals continued to be kept behind bars despite orders from the Supreme Court, it raised serious concerns about the message being conveyed.

The Superintendent of Ghaziabad Jail appeared in person before the Court, while the UP DIG (Prisons) joined virtually, in compliance with the directions issued by the Court the previous day.

UP’s Additional Advocate General Garima Prasad informed the Court that the release was denied on the grounds that the sub-section under which the accused was booked was not specifically mentioned in the bail order.

Justice Viswanathan emphasized that these were



matters concerning personal liberty. He remarked that the authorities need to understand the seriousness of the issue and that the court would not let the matter go.

Justice Vishwanathan questioned how liberty could be denied when the Court had already issued a valid order granting it.

He said that the court did not know how many people might be languishing in jail under similar circumstances.

The bench held that a judicial inquiry was necessary and directed the Principal District Judge of Ghaziabad to conduct it. The inquiry must examine why the prisoner was not released despite the May 27, 2025, order, and whether the delay was due to the missing sub-section or something more serious.

Assam govt to recognise transgenders as socially, economically backward

NIBIR DEKA
NEW DELHI

In a landmark decision aimed at promoting inclusive governance and social equity, the Assam Cabinet on Sunday announced the recognition of the transgender community as a Socially and Educationally Backward Class (SEBC). The move marks a significant step towards the upliftment of marginalised gender identities and aligns with the spirit of the Supreme Court’s directives on social justice. As part of this progressive policy, transgender persons who are original inhabitants of Assam will be eligible for official Transgender Identity Cards. These cards will be issued following

verification by the respective District Commissioners and are expected to facilitate access to education, government jobs, and state-run welfare schemes.

Speaking to TDG, Assam’s first transgender judge, Swati Bidhan Baruah has appreciated the move. “It’s a appreciable step, the fight which we started to get the community to be recognised under that category of SAEBC is worth it,” added Baruah.

The decision is part of a broader roadmap unveiled by the state cabinet that aims to blend social equity, environmental conservation, and economic growth. By formally acknowledging the challenges faced by the transgender community.

Congress begins interviews for selecting district presidents

NEERAJ MOHAN
CHANDIGARH

The Congress high command Haryana Congress has finally begun the interview process to appoint new district presidents in Haryana under its ongoing “Sangathan Srijan (Organisation Building) Programme”.

The process, which started in New Delhi, involves personal interviews of applicants. However, to avoid any conflicts and keep the entire process unbiased all senior state leaders have been kept away from the interview process.

The senior party leader Rahul Gandhi during his visit to party’s state headquarters had initiated the process to appoint the district presidents after a gap of 11 years. Party-appointed central observers are in-

terviewing all applicants at the Congress headquarters on Akbar Road, Delhi. The interviews are being conducted to shortlist a panel of six names per district, from which a final list of three candidates will be drawn after consultation with state leadership. According to sources, the central observers are asking appli-



cants tough questions about their political strategies to revive party in the state and their ability to take on the BJP and RSS at the grassroots level. Many have been asked what organisational formula they would adopt

to strengthen the Congress in their district. In an interview, observers have even asked the applicants who they think would be a strong candidate if they themselves are not selected for the district president’s post. Candidates are also being asked questions about popular Congress leaders in Haryana. Even, they were

also being asked about the 2024 defeat as the observers are also trying to assess the candidates’ understanding of why Congress lost the 2024 Assembly elections despite public dissatisfaction with the BJP.

HAU students end protest following Haryana govt assurance over demand

TDG NETWORK
CHANDIGARH

The protesting students of Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University (CCSHAU) ended their protest following an assurance from the state government on their demands.

The resolution, announced after a telephonic conversation between state Education Minister Mahipal Dhanda and student representatives on Wednesday, includes sending Vice-Chancellor Prof. BR Kamboj on a six-month leave and forming a judicial probe into the violent incidents that sparked the protests. The students have called off their agitation, marking an end to one of the most intense campus movements in recent Haryana history.

The agitation at CCSHAU

began on June 10, 2025, when students gathered outside Vice-Chancellor BR Kamboj’s residence to protest recent changes to the university’s stipend structure and the rollback of seat reservations for Land Donation Villages



(LDV). The students, primarily postgraduate and doctoral scholars, were incensed by a new policy that raised the stipend eligibility threshold from 70% marks (or 7 OGPA) to 75% (or 7.5 OGPA) and restricted stipends to only the top 25%

of students. This marked a significant departure from the norms set by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), which students argued made the system exclusionary and unfair, particularly for those reliant on financial

support to continue their studies.

Tensions escalated dramatically on the same day when security guards and university officials allegedly resorted to a lathi-charge to disperse the peaceful protesters.

Kuki-Zo rally in Kangpokpi against alleged arbitrary arrests by agencies

NIBIR DEKA
NEW DELHI

Thousands of Kuki-Zo people took to the streets of Kangpokpi District Headquarters today in a massive public rally, organised under the aegis of the Committee on Tribal Unity (CoTU), Sadar Hills, amid a complete district-wide shutdown.

The rally participants marched from Nute Kailhang to the Deputy Commissioner’s Office via National Highway-2, raising thunderous slogans condemning what they alleged as “arbitrary and targeted arrests” of Kuki-Zo individuals by the National



Investigation Agency (NIA) and the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). They were joined by civil society leaders, village chiefs, youth organizations, and concerned citizens from across the district in a show of solidarity against alleged injustices. To reinforce

the protest, a total shutdown from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM was strictly observed across the district.

Shops, private institutions, educational centres, and all transport services—including autos and taxis—remained closed.

42% of Himachal land at risk of subsidence, IIT Ropar warns of worsening crisis

ANURAG SHARMA
SHIMLA

Once hailed as the “Abode of the Gods,” Himachal Pradesh is today facing an escalating ecological emergency. A recent geotechnical report by the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Ropar has revealed that nearly 42% of the state’s geographical area is now prone to land subsidence – a dangerous phenomenon that threatens the very foundations of settlements, agriculture, and forest eco-

systems in the region.

The report has issued a stern warning to state authorities: immediate ground-level action is necessary to prevent irreversible damage to the state’s terrain and biodiversity.

Disturbing Data: Subsidence Threat Spanning Thousands of Square Kilometres According to the IIT Ropar study, the total surveyed area is approximately 16,000 sq. km, out of which about 6,720 sq. km—nearly 42%—is affected by land subsidence.

Punjab vigilance raids Majithia’s residence; SAD condemns AAP’s ‘harassment’

TARUNI GANDHI
CHANDIGARH

A team from the Punjab Vigilance Bureau, led by AIG Swarandeep Singh (PPS), raided the Amritsar residence of senior Shiromani Akali Dal leader Bikram Singh Majithia on Wednesday. The officers seized 29 mobile phones, four laptops, two iPads, eight diaries, and several documents during the operation.

The raid was part of a wider crackdown, with the Vigilance Bureau simultaneously conducting searches at 24 other locations across Punjab. AIG Swarandeep Singh, recently reinstated after a period of suspension, is currently part of the Flying Squad unit based in Vigilance Mohali.

The development triggered strong political reactions, with SAD president Sukhbir Singh Badal, former union minister Harimrat Kaur Badal, and several senior Akali leaders accusing the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government of political vendetta. As



news of the raid broke on social media, Akali supporters and party workers gathered outside Majithia’s residence, raising slogans against the Bhagwant Mann-led government.

Police personnel in large numbers were deployed near Majithia’s residence, and barricades were set up to restrict access. Majithia’s wife, Ganieve Kaur, alleged that around 30 officials forcibly entered their home without prior notice. “What is happening? How did you barge into my house without my knowledge?” she was seen confronting the officials.

Bikram Majithia, in a video posted on X (formerly Twitter), claimed the officers had stormed into the house and “terrorised” his

children. The former Punjab minister confronted a Vigilance officer in the video and accused the Bhagwant Mann government of using force to silence the opposition.

“This is nothing but an attempt to suppress dissent,” Majithia alleged. “They are doing this because they fear being questioned on governance.”

This is not the first time Majithia has been under scrutiny. In March this year, the Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the drug case against him claimed it had uncovered suspicious financial transactions involving firms linked to Majithia and his family. The SIT had also stated that it was expanding its investigation to include overseas financial dealings.

Majithia was earlier booked under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act on December 20, 2021, during the tenure of the Congress-led government under then Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi.

THE DAILY GUARDIAN SURVEY ON IND VS ENG 1ST TEST MATCH

7% believe Duckett-Crawley opening stand allowed England to dominate chase

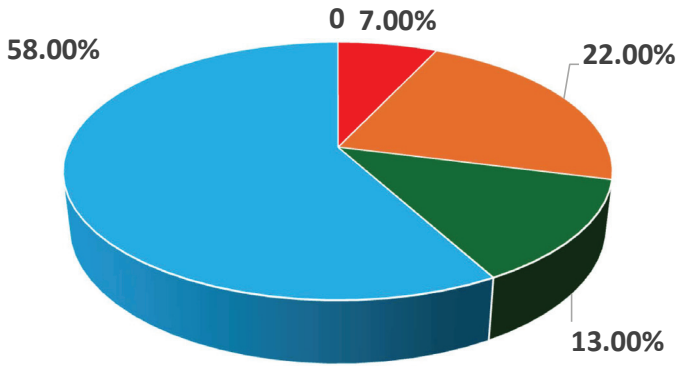
England defeated India in a thrilling first Test at Headingley, Leeds, completing a record-breaking 371-run chase—the second-highest in Test history on English soil—with five wickets to spare. Ben Duckett starred with a brilliant 149 on the final day, guiding England to victory in the final session. Despite India creating history by becoming the first team in 148

years of Test cricket to have five centurions in a match—Rishabh Pant scoring centuries in both innings, and tons from Gill, Jaiswal, and Rahul—they fell short. The loss also marked Shubman Gill's first defeat as Test captain in a dramatic and high-scoring contest.

Q1.▶

What was the biggest mistake in India's bowling strategy?

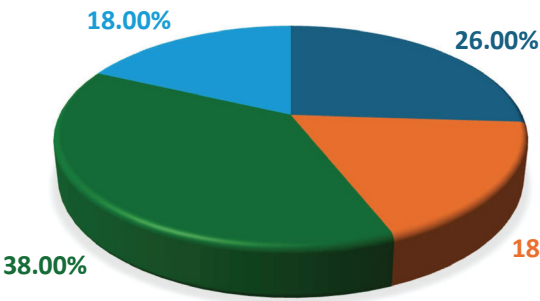
- Ineffective use of Jasprit Bumrah
- Over-reliance on Prasidh and Shardul
- Defensive field placements
- Poor rotation of bowlers



◀Q4.

How would you rate India's captaincy on Day 5?

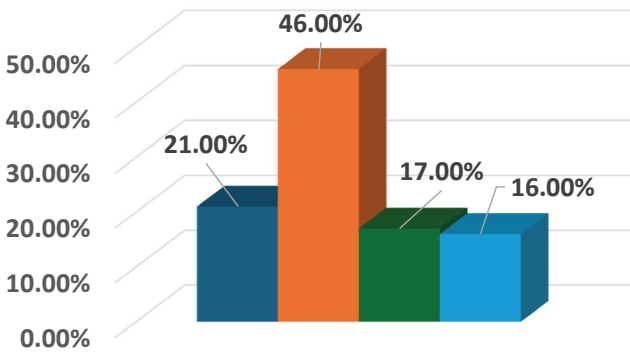
- Too defensive with field settings
- Slow to react after wickets fell
- Poor use of main bowlers
- Overall below expectations



◀Q2.

What do you think about India's team selection for the match?

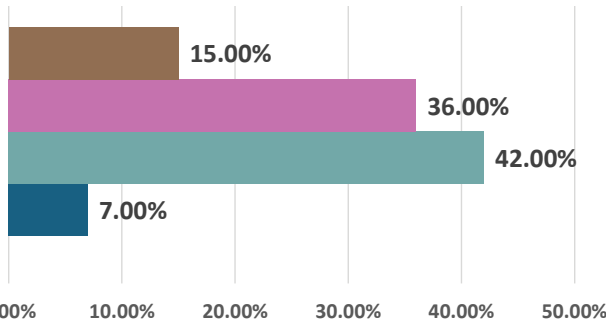
- Lacked variety in pace attack
- Should have played an extra spinner
- Prasidh Krishna wasn't match-ready
- Selection was fine; execution failed



Q5.▶

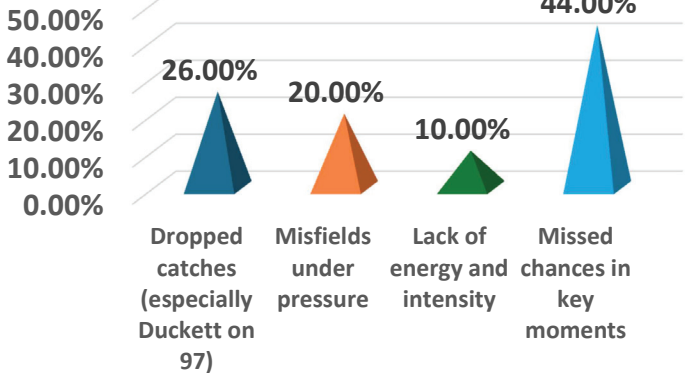
What allowed England to dominate the chase?

- Duckett-Crawley opening stand
- Lack of early wickets
- No sustained pressure from bowlers
- India failed to capitalise on rain breaks



Q3.▶

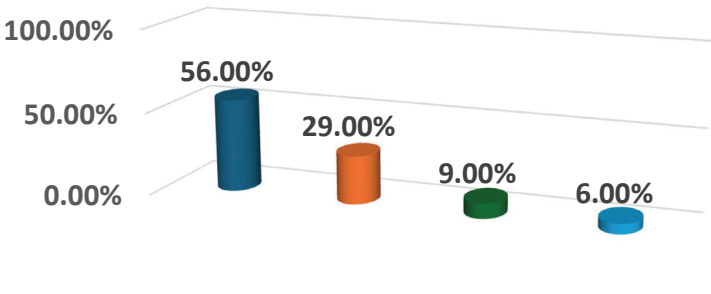
What hurt India the most in the field?



◀Q6.

What should India focus on before the next Test?

- Improve catching and fielding
- Reassess bowling combinations
- Adopt a more aggressive mindset
- Ensure players are match-fit and in form



‘Amazing ride’

CONTINUED FROM P1

only the second Indian astronaut to undertake a space flight, 41 years after his icon Rakesh Sharma's eight-day space odyssey on board the then Soviet Union's Salyut-7 space station in 1984.

“We are orbiting the earth at a speed of 7.5 km per second... This is not just the beginning of my journey to the International Space Station, but the beginning of India's human space programme and it is my desire that all the countrymen become a part of this journey,” Shukla said in Hindi.

Congratulations poured in from all quarters as the Ax-4 mission astronauts entered the earth's orbit. President Droupadi Murmu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Science and Technology Minister Jitendra Singh and

cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar among others hailed the space mission.

“As Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla creates a new milestone in space for India, the whole nation is excited and proud of an Indian's journey into the stars,” Murmu said in a post on X.

“The Indian Astronaut, Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla is on the way to become the first Indian to go to the International Space Station. He carries with him the wishes, hopes and aspirations of 1.4 billion Indians,” Modi said in a post on X.

The Union Cabinet, at a meeting chaired by Modi, adopted a resolution wishing Shukla all the success in his space mission.

“Greetings from India. Wishing you all the very best. To the crew -- God-

speed and spend as much time as possible looking out of the window. Have a fun time guys,” said Rakesh Sharma, the first Indian astronaut to travel to space, in a video message.

The astronauts will spend 14 days at the ISS and conduct 60 scientific experiments during their mission. The commercial mission by Axiom Space, a US-based startup, is expected to contribute to microgravity research in areas including human physiology, nutrition, and seed germination in space.

In addition to the planned experiments, the astronauts are flying food that celebrates their heritage: Indian curry and rice with mango nectar; spicy Hungarian paprika paste; and freeze-fried Polish pierogies (dumplings).

‘Cong placed democracy under arrest’

CONTINUED FROM P1

sided by Prime Minister Modi adopted a resolution against the Emergency and resolved to commemorate and honour the sacrifices of countless individuals who valiantly resisted the measure and its attempt at subversion of the spirit of the Indian Constitution. It also observed a two-minute silence as a mark of tribute to them. The Congress on its part launched a counter attack on the Modi government, alleging that over the past eleven years, Indian democracy has been under a “systematic and dangerous” five-fold assault that can be best described as “Undeclared Emergency@11”.

Coinciding with the 50th anniversary of the Emergency, a book which highlights Modi's fight for “the ideals of democracy” was released by Home Minister Amit Shah. ‘The Emergency Diaries - Years that Forged a Leader’ is published by BlueKraft.

Rajnath begins China visit

CONTINUED FROM P1

severe strain following the military standoff along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh that began in May 2020.

Singh was received at the Qingdao airport by Indian ambassador Pradeep Kumar Rawat.

In line with India's dip-

lomatic offensive against Pakistan-backed cross-border terrorism, Singh is set to press the SCO to ramp up efforts to contain terrorism at the conclave on Thursday.

The defence minister is expected to highlight India's continued commitment to the principles and mandate of the SCO, outline India's

vision towards achieving greater international peace and security, call for joint and consistent efforts to eliminate terrorism and extremism in the region.

Singh is expected to hold bilateral talks with his Chinese and Russian counterparts on the sidelines of the SCO conclave.

CBSE to hold class 10 exam twice

CONTINUED FROM P1

is maintained.

“If a student does not appear for three or more subjects in the first examination, he or she will not be allowed to appear for the second exam. Such students

will be placed in the ‘Essential Repeat’ category and can take the examination only next year in the main exam in February,” he said.

“Students whose result in the first examination is compartment will be allowed to

Pak developing Nuke missiles

CONTINUED FROM P1

sidered adversarial to America.

Pakistan's nuclear ambitions have long been a concern for Washington, especially as it maintains a close relationship with China, which has its own growing

nuclear and missile arsenal. Washington has expressed concern over Pakistan's expanding nuclear stockpile, fearing that an ICBM could destabilise not just the region, but also global security.

The maximum range of ICBMs varies from 7,000 to

16,000 kilometres. ICBMs can be launched in different ways – from underground missile silos, heavy trucks, mobile launchers on rails or submarines. As per the Federation of American Scientists these weapons can hit targets virtually anywhere in the world.

Kharge takes aim at Tharoor

CONTINUED FROM P1

him a Congress Working Committee member.”

The dig from the Congress chief came after Tharoor wrote an article in a newspaper and praised PM Modi saying he is a prime asset for India on the global stage.

Kharge made the remarks while addressing a press conference at the party's new headquarters Indira Bhawan.

To a question about Tharoor praising PM Modi, the Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha said, “I do not know much english and his (Tharoor) language is very fine. Thusbwe have kept him in Congress Working Committee (CWC).”

“But I want to say that every people and opposition

said that we are with the armed forces and are with them as they fighting to safeguard our country. And I was first to say that country is bigger than party and we will work for the country,” the Congress leader remarked.

But for some people Modi first and nation later, he added. When pressed further, Kharge said, “Those who have skill of writing they will write. “We don't want to get our head messed up in those things. Our main target is unity in the country and safety of the country. We will keep on fighting for the country and we have fought in the past and will continue to fight for the country in future,” he said.

‘Sky belongs to no one’, Tharoor's cryptic post

CONTINUED FROM P1

with party leaders.

Prime Minister's Office on Monday shared an article by Tharoor on India's global outreach following Operation Sindoor in which he said Prime Minister Narendra Modi's “energy, dynamism and willingness to engage remains a prime asset for India on the global stage, but deserves greater backing”.

“Lok Sabha MP and former Union Minister Dr. @shashitharoor writes- Lessons from Operation Sindoor's global outreach,” PMO said in a post on X.

In his article, Tharoor said that the aftermath of the April 22, 2025, Pahalgam terror attack, and India's resolute response through “Operation Sindoor”, presented a critical juncture for the nation's

foreign policy.

“While the immediate military action was decisive, the subsequent diplomatic outreach was equally, if not more, vital in shaping global perceptions and consolidating international support,” he said. Tharoor said his visit to five countries as part of global outreach offered him a unique vantage point from which to reflect on the lessons learned from this intensive period of public diplomacy. He also lauded the name ‘Operation Sindoor’.

Congress leaders have disagreed with some of Tharoor's views in the past. Party leader Udit Raj had earlier termed him a “super spokesperson” of the BJP. Party leader Randeep Singh Surjewala had said what Tharoor had spoken on surgical strikes was factually incorrect.

Majithia arrested

CONTINUED FROM P1

on social media platform X, accused the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government of terrorising his children and misusing power to stifle the opposition.

According to the Vigilance Bureau press release, the SIT uncovered Rs 161 crore in unaccounted cash deposited in accounts of firms controlled by Majithia, Rs 141 crore channelled through suspected foreign entities and Rs 236 crore excess deposits with no explanation in financial statements.

Shell companies operated via dummy directors to siphon illicit funds, it added.

According to the release, there is a significant increase in assets of Majithia and his wife between 2007 and 2012 with no legitimate source of income.

Searches at Majithia's residence and 24 other locations

yielded a massive cache of digital and documentary evidence, including 29 mobile phones, 4 laptops, 2 iPads, 8 diaries, and numerous property documents related to Saraya Industries, the company at the heart of the alleged laundering operation.

Responding to the development, Punjab Cabinet Minister Kuldeep Singh Dhaliwal addressed the media in Chandigarh and reiterated the government's uncompromising commitment to a drug-free Punjab. “Our fight against drugs will continue until Punjab is completely drug-free,” said Dhaliwal, flanked by AAP leader Baltej Pannu at the press conference.

He said the AAP government, under CM Bhagwant Mann and guided by Arvind Kejriwal, has shown the courage that previous governments lacked. “This

arrest sends a strong message. For years, Punjab suffered under the ‘sixth river of drugs’, and today's action is a beacon of hope for families devastated by this menace,” Dhaliwal said.

Dhaliwal didn't hold back from slamming past governments. He blamed the SAD-BJP regime (2007-2017) for creating the drug crisis, citing testimonies like that of convicted drug smuggler Jagdish Bhole, who named Majithia in court in 2013. Despite the revelations, no action was taken, and the state's youth continued to fall prey to narcotics.

Captain Amarinder Singh broke his Gutka Sahib oath to end drugs. Instead, Punjab witnessed a ‘Chacha-Bhatija’ government—Captain and Majithia—working hand in glove while the youth were destroyed,” Dhaliwal alleged.

UNION CABINET CLEARS RS 3,626-CR PUNE METRO PHASE-2

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Wednesday approved Phase-2 of the Pune Metro Rail Project, clearing two elevated corridors-Vanaz to Chandani Chowk and Ramwadi to Wagholi-as extensions of the existing Vanaz-Ramwadi line, aimed at boosting East-West connectivity and linking key suburbs, IT hubs, and transport nodes across the city, as per the Cabinet's statement.

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the Pune Metro Rail Project Phase-2: Vanaz to Chandani Chowk (Corridor 2A) and Ramwadi to Wagholi/Vitthalwadi (Corridor 2B), as extensions of the existing Vanaz-Ramwadi corridor under Phase-1. These two elevated corridors will



span 12.75 km and include 13 stations, connecting fast-developing suburbs such as Chandani Chowk, Bavdhan, Kothrud, Kharadi, and Wagholi. The project is scheduled for completion within four years, the statement read.

The estimated project cost is Rs 3626.24 crore, to be equally shared by the Government of India, the Government of Maharashtra, and external bilateral/multilateral agencies. This strategic proposal is a logical extension of the existing Corridor-2 and aligns with the Comprehensive Mobility Plan (CMP), which envi-

sions a continuous Chandani Chowk to Wagholi Metro corridor to strengthen East-West mass transit in Pune.

According to the statement, these extensions will serve key IT hubs, commercial areas, educational institutions, and residential pockets, increasing the share of public transport and ridership across the network. The new corridors will also integrate at the District Court Interchange Station with Line-1 (Nigdi-Katraj) and Line-3 (Hinjewadi-District Court) to enable seamless multimodal urban travel.

Under long-term mobility

planning, intercity bus services from cities like Mumbai and Bengaluru will be integrated at Chandani Chowk, while those from Ahilya Nagar and Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar will connect at Wagholi, allowing passengers to easily access Pune's Metro system.

These extensions will also help decongest arterial routes such as Paud Road and Nagar Road, offering safe, fast, and eco-friendly mobility options, it further read.

After completion of these corridors, the projected incremental daily ridership for the entire Line 2 is estimated at 0.96 lakh in 2027, 2.01 lakh in 2037, 2.87 lakh in 2047, and 3.49 lakh in 2057. The project will be implemented by Maharashtra Metro Rail Corporation Limited (Maha-Metro), which will execute all civil, electro-mechanical, and related works.

BJP slams Revanth govt, says Cabinet now just a talk show

RAJ KIRAN
HYDERABAD

The Telangana Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) today launched a scathing attack on the Congress-led state government, accusing Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy of reducing cabinet meetings to mere platforms for discussion and debate, without any concrete outcomes or implementation of critical public welfare initiatives.

BJP Telangana Chief Spokesperson NV. Subash ridiculed the functioning of the Revanth Reddy-led cabinet, calling it "governance in name only" and "a cruel joke being played on the people of Telangana."

"Cabinet meetings under this government have become mere headline management exercises, devoid of any seriousness or intent to govern," said Subash.

Subash alleged that while the Congress government continues to make theatrical announcements, it has failed to implement its own electoral guarantees. "Forget new promises the government is not even able to release pensions pending for four months or scholarships due to students. This is not just inefficiency, this is inhuman governance," Subash said.



He noted that the cabinet's inaction on conducting long-overdue local body elections was particularly disturbing, given that central funds earmarked for rural and urban development are lying unused due to lack of elected representatives in local bodies.

"The Centre has provided the necessary financial assistance, but it is the state government that is sleeping on it, denying people their right to basic civic amenities," he added. He also said, even the court has expressed its anguish in this regard.

While expressing support for the cabinet's decision to submit previous BRS government decisions to the Justice P.C.

Ghose Commission which is probing irregularities in the Kaleshwaram lift irrigation project Subash questioned why similar urgency is lacking when it comes to alleviating the day-to-day struggles of citizens.

"The government is happy to dig into the past and engage in blame games, but when it comes to current responsibilities, there is radio silence," he said. "What stops them from announcing a schedule for local body elections? Why are pensioners and students being made to suffer?" The BJP leader said the Congress government's inability to even finalise a timeline for implementing poll promises — such as financial support to women, farmers, and the unemployed — shows that the administration has no fiscal plan and no political will. "Revanth Reddy came to power with tall promises and emotional appeals. Today, even his most loyal voters are disillusioned," he said. Subash reiterated BJP's demand for immediate release of pending pensions and scholarships, and a fixed roadmap for the implementation of all electoral guarantees made by the Congress party. He also demanded that the Election Commission be allowed to conduct local body elections without further delay.

21-year-old nursing grad raped by PG owner after she confessed her theft

BELLIE THOMAS
BENGALURU

The Karnataka police have arrested a 35-year-old owner of a Paying Guest Accommodation for raping a 21-year-old girl after she confessed to stealing three gold finger rings from another girl in the PG.

The accused Ravi Teja Reddy, has been booked for rape and has been taken into custody. The victim, a nursing graduate and a native of AP had joined PG only a week ago and was looking for the job, according to the police.

According to the police, the victim, had reportedly stolen three gold rings from another PG inmate and even disconnected the CCTV wire while stealing. According to the police, the incident occurred on June 21st and the following day, PG owner Ravi Teja

The accused Ravi Teja Reddy, has been booked for rape and has been taken into custody. The victim, a nursing graduate and a native of AP had joined PG only a week ago and was looking for the job, according to the police.

Reddy started questioning the PG inmates about the theft.

In the meantime, the victim had asked another inmate whether even after CCTV was disconnected, will the video get recorded, which was prompt-

ly shared to Reddy.

Upon suspicion, Reddy summoned her for questioning and threatened to hand her over to the police where she confessed to the theft. Based on the confession, Reddy asked his associates to get the valuables where she had hidden.

The victim fell on the feet of Reddy to let her go and not to hand her over to the police. Taking advantage of this, Reddy slapped her and sexually assaulted the victim.

The victim initially was hesitant to file a complaint, but later revealed it to a male friend, who in turn sought the help of his friend, a city based advocate and filed a complaint with the police.

Based on the complaint, the Mico Layout police subjected the victim for medical examination and the accused was immediately arrested.

Cong put its survival over democracy during Emergency: Yediyurappa

TDG NETWORK
BENGALURU

Veteran BJP leader B S Yediyurappa on Wednesday accused the Congress of putting its survival above the soul of India's democracy by imposing Emergency 50 years ago.

The former Karnataka chief minister recalled that he was a young activist and was jailed for opposing the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's "dictatorship" during the Emergency.

"Today marks 50 years since the darkest assault on Indian democracy – the Congress-imposed Emer-



gency of 1975. Fundamental rights were suspended, the Constitution throttled, Parliament silenced, and the press gagged. It wasn't war or national crisis, but a desperate attempt by the then PM to cling to power after her disqualification by the Allahabad HC. Congress put its survival above

the soul of our democracy," Yediyurappa said in a post on 'X'.

Noting that in Karnataka the repression was brutal, and recalling that he was a young activist jailed in Shivamogga and Ballari for opposing PM Indira Gandhi's dictatorship, he said journalists were arrested, student protests in Davanagere, Raichur, Udupi were crushed, and countless volunteers and farmers were beaten or jailed.

"Senior leaders like Vajpayee, Advani, and George Fernandes were imprisoned in Bengaluru

Central Jail for resisting Congress' draconian move. Karnataka became a battleground of defiance," he said.

Congress even passed the 42nd Amendment to hijack democracy. But India's spirit prevailed, and in 1977, the people decisively rejected the Congress, Siddaramaiah said.

"On the Samvidhan Hatya Diwas, we honour every patriot who resisted the Emergency in 1975. Under PM Narendra Modi ji, today we are building a Viksit Bharat rooted in constitutional values. Jai Hind!," he added.

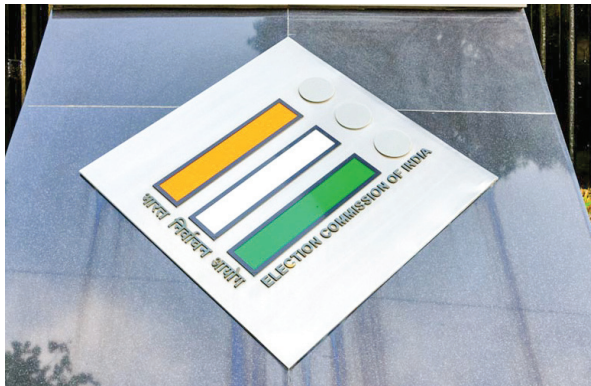
EC to review voters lists in six states this year to weed out illegal migrants

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Election Commission will carry out an intensive review of electoral rolls this year in six states beginning with Bihar to weed out foreign illegal migrants by checking their place of birth. Bihar is going to polls this year while assembly polls in five other states -- Assam, Kerala, Puducherry, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal -- are scheduled in 2026.

The move, which would be later expanded to other states, assumes significance in the wake of a crackdown in various states on illegal foreign migrants, including from Bangladesh and Myanmar.

Eventually, the poll authority will begin special intensive revision in the entire country "for the discharge of its constitutional mandate to protect the integrity of the electoral rolls".



As part of the intense review, poll officials will carry out house-to-house verification to ensure an error-free voters list.

The terms of the legislative assemblies of Assam, Kerala, Puducherry, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal are ending in May-June next year and an intensive review of the electoral rolls in these states will commence by end of the year, officials said.

However, since assembly polls in Bihar are due later this year, the EC decided to conduct special intensive

revision there immediately.

Amid allegations by opposition parties that the EC has fudged voter data to help the BJP, the poll panel has taken additional steps in the intensive revision to ensure illegal migrants do not get enrolled in the voters list.

An additional 'declaration form' has been introduced for a category of applicants seeking to become electors or shifting from outside the state. They will have to undertake that they were born in India before July 1, 1987 and provide any document

establishing date of birth and/or place of birth.

One of the options listed in the declaration form is that they were born in India between July 1, 1987 and December 2, 2004.

They will also have to submit documents about the date/place of birth of their parents.

The last intensive revision for Bihar was conducted in 2003.

The EC said multiple reasons such as rapid urbanisation, frequent migration, young citizens becoming eligible to vote, non-reporting of deaths and inclusion of the names of foreign illegal immigrants have necessitated the conduct of the revision to ensure integrity and preparation of error-free electoral rolls.

Booth-level officers will conduct house-to-house survey for verification during the intensive revision process.

Three people missing as cloudbursts create havoc in HP's Kullu district

TDG NETWORK
SHIMLA

Three people were washed away as cloudbursts led to flash floods in Himachal Pradesh's Kullu district on Wednesday, damaging several houses, a school building, connecting roads and small bridges, officials said.

Three cloudbursts incidents were reported from Jeeva Nallah and Rehla Bihal in Sainj and Shilagarh in Gadsa area of Kullu district.

Three people in Rehla Bihal trying to take away their valuables from their homes were washed away in the deluge and are missing, the officials said.

There were also flash floods in Manali and Banjar in the district. Teams are at the spot and search operations are underway, said Kullu Additional District Commissioner (ADC) Ashwani Kumar.

There were also reports of



a flash flood in the Brahma Ganga drain in Manikaran valley. Water levels have reached several houses and could cause damage if they don't recede soon.

Videos of heavy floods at several places in Kullu show the extent of the damage. In one, a vehicle can be seen floating in muddy waters.

"Heavy rains have been going on since morning and I have received several calls that rains have caused damage in Sainj, Tirthan and Gadsa.

I would appeal to the people to stay away from river and drains and have asked the administration to take quick action as people are in problem," said Banjar MLA Surinder Shauri.

Kerala Govt approves river Basin plan to boost water efficiency

TDG NETWORK
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Kerala government on Wednesday approved a new River Basin Conservation and Management Framework aimed at enhancing the efficiency of water resource management across the state.

The decision was taken at a cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, a statement from the CMO said here.

The framework is designed to strengthen the planning, monitoring, and coordination of water-related activities across multiple levels of government.

It also aims to promote better utilisation of resources and stricter oversight.

An apex committee, headed by the chief minister, will oversee the implementation of the policy. The committee will include ministers from

departments such as Water Resources, Revenue, Law and Industries, Electricity, Forests and Wildlife, Finance, Local Self-Government, Agriculture, Environment, Fisheries, Public Works, and Tourism, the statement added.

The Vice Chairman of the State Planning Board and the Chief Secretary will also be part of the committee. The Additional Chief Secretary of the Water Resources Department will serve as the convener. Separate steering and technical committees will be headed by the Chief Secretary and the Additional Chief Secretary (Water Resources), respectively.

At the river basin level, the Collector of the district with the largest river basin area will lead the local committee, while Collectors of other districts within the basin will serve as co-chairs, the statement said.

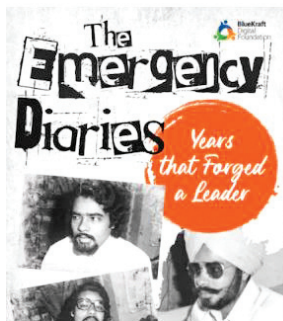
Book on Modi's journey during Emergency recalls his visit to jail in guise of 'swamiji'

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Evading detection as a member of the banned RSS during the Emergency, Prime Minister Narendra Modi travelled in different disguises but it did not stop him from visiting a jail, of all the places with high risk for him, as a "swamiji" to speak to the incarcerated activists for nearly an hour, according to a book.

Then a young RSS pracharak, Modi travelled in different disguises, held meetings with people, including fellow workers from the Hindutva outfit, organised help for families of the imprisoned and ensured regular publication and distribution of anti-Emergency literature during the 21-month-long "authoritarian regime" of then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

BlueKraft has published



"The Emergency Diaries - Years that Forged a Leader" to chronicle Modi's role in the



underground campaign during that period, after speaking to a number of people

associated with him at that time.

Modi joined the RSS at a young age and made a mark with his organisational ability. He was shifted to the BJP where he worked at the state and national level before returning to Gujarat as the chief minister in 2001.

He has been the prime minister since leading the BJP to its maiden majority in Lok Sabha in 2014.

Excerpts from the book quote a RSS volunteer, Has-mukh Patel from Nadiad, Gujarat, about Modi's keen mind for innovative outreach even then, noting that he suggested placing anti-Emergency literature in barbar shops where people from different walks of life gathered, and with religious leaders as followers came to listen to them.

The book says, "He not only

ensured the regular publication of anti-Emergency literature but also took on the perilous responsibility of distributing it throughout Gujarat. In those dark times, literature and publications played a vital role in keeping the democratic flame burning in the hearts of the citizens."

Modi frequently adopted the disguise of a Sikh to continue his activities, it says.

"His Sardarji disguise was so convincing that even his close acquaintances failed to recognise him," it adds.

Vishnu Pandya, a journalist from Junagadh, notes that Modi as a member of the national-level 'Sangharsh Samiti' contributed to the broader nationwide movement against the "draconian rule", and decided to meet the arrested activists, including him, in a Bhavnagar jail.

KANWAR COMMITTEES TO GET RS 50K TO RS 10L DIRECT AID: CM

Making major policy changes ahead of Yatra, CM Rekha took decisions to ensure transparency, efficiency, dignity of devotees.

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Rekha Gupta addressed the media at Delhi Secretariat and shared the major policy decisions taken by the government ahead of the upcoming Kanwar Yatra during the holy month of Sawan.

According to an official release, CM Gupta informed that the Delhi Cabinet has approved new reforms to ensure efficient and dignified service to Kanwariyas (devotees of Lord Shiva). The Chief Minister said that Kanwar service committees will now receive direct assistance from the government from minimum of Rs 50,000 to maximum of Rs 10 lakh.

While addressing the press conference, the CM

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Grant-in-Aid: Rs 50,000 to Rs10 lakh via Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) to registered Kanwar committees.
- Eligibility & Disbursal: 50% advance; balance after Utilisation Certificate, geo-tagged photos, and audit verification.
- Infra Standards: Camps must provide waterproof tents, sanitation, lighting, CCTV, and receive up to 1,200 free electricity units.
- Fast-Track Approvals: Single-window system with 72-hour clearance; MLA/MP/Minister recommendation mandatory for camp approval.



stated that Kanwar committees will now receive grant-in-aid via Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), ending the old tender-based system, which was prone to corruption and sub-standard material supply. She emphasised that, “the

move will enhance transparency and efficiency, ensuring better services for devotees. Only registered committees with valid PAN, bank details, and registration certificates will be eligible for the grant.” The Chief Minister fur-

ther explained that Kanwar camps will be classified based on the tenting area and the number of days they operate. And committees will be eligible for a minimum grant of Rs 50,000 and a maximum of Rs 10 lakh.

MCOCA case: HC seeks police reply on ex-MLA Naresh Balyan bail plea

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday directed the police to respond to the bail plea of former AAP MLA Naresh Balyan, who is arrested in a MCOCA case. Justice Manoj Jain issued notice to Delhi Police on Balyan's bail plea and posted the hearing on July 3.

The high court also asked the superintendent of jail to send Balyan's nominal roll and a report on his medical status as the accused has also sought interim bail on health grounds.

It directed the state to file an updated status report in the matter. Senior advocate Sunil Dalal, representing Balyan, submitted his client was arrested in the MCOCA case on December 4, 2024, the day a trial court granted him bail in an alleged extortion case, and has been in custody since then.

Balyan had previously withdrawn the bail plea from the high court after the police filed a chargesheet in the case. He moved the trial court seeking bail,



to show the accused did not commit the crime were met which was not the case here.

Claiming there was a “continuous unlawful activity” to sustain invocation of MCOCA against Balyan, the special counsel for police had said no relief could be given to him. Balyan was accused of being a “facilitator” in an organised crime syndicate.

On January 15, a trial court denied bail to Balyan before which Delhi Police opposed Balyan's bail plea, claiming the investigation was at a crucial stage in the case, he accused could hamper the probe if allowed the reprieve. The prosecutor had cited 16 FIRs lodged against the alleged syndicate members in various parts of Delhi and claimed it “created havoc in the society and has amassed huge illegal wealth”. On January 29, the trial court had even refused to release him on custody parole to enable him to “guide” his wife who was contesting the assembly polls in February 2025.

but faced rejected on May 27.

Balyan's counsel had previously argued there was “no shred of evidence” against him and the case was “completely frivolous” while claiming that the FIR did not even mention Balyan's name.

Balyan himself raised a complaint against the crime, he added. The Delhi Police counsel opposed the bail plea saying like Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, there was a bar on granting bail to an accused under the Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA) unless certain conditions, including reasonable grounds

Three dead as massive fire breaks out in factory in Delhi's Rithala

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

A major fire broke out in a factory in Rithala, Delhi, where the fire department has removed three charred bodies from the spot, while three others were injured.

According to a press note, on Tuesday, a call vide DD No.81A at 19.29 PM was received at PS Budh Vihar that a fire broke out in a factory at Rana Complex, Gate No.2, Rithala, and some people are trapped inside and efforts are being made to rescue them.

On receipt of the information, the Emergency Officer, along with police staff, rushed to the spot. There, they found a four-floor



building at the aforementioned address, in which ready-made bags and plastic bags were being made on the ground and first floors. The press note said that the owner of the building is Suresh Bansal, and his son Nitin Bansal is running a factory on the ground floor and the first floor.

The second floor is rented out to Anand, who is doing some fabric work, and the top floor and the third floor area are being used as a godown, and the same are rented out to Rakesh Arora (69 yrs), who makes disposal article works. Initially, the CATS ambulance removed three in-

jured persons named Nitin (owner's son), age 31 years, and Rakesh (worker), age 30 years, both with 80 per cent burn injuries and Virender (worker, age 25 years) with minor burn injuries, and they were taken to Dr BSA Hospital for treatment.

Later on, during treatment, Nitin and Rakesh were shifted to RML Hospital, the press note said. On Wednesday at about 1.15 AM, the firemen removed three charred bodies from the first floor (beyond recognition) in a CATS ambulance to Dr. BSA Hospital. According to the press note, the fire tenders are continuously making efforts to bring the fire under control.

Child rescued as 72-year-old kidnapper held by police

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

A two-and-a-half-year-old girl who was kidnapped on the evening of June 23 near the Jama Masjid metro station was safely rescued and reunited with her family.

The Jama Masjid police team under Central District informed that the kidnapper was a 72-year-old woman who is now under arrest. According to officials, the girl went missing while playing in a crowded area near the Jama Masjid Metro



Gate. Despite immediate efforts by the family and locals, the child could not be found anywhere.

The girl's parents soon suspected that someone has abducted the girl and ap-

proached the police for help. The Jama Masjid police team launched a thorough investigation which involved the scanning of CCTV footage from the vicinity to track the movements of

the missing child as well as the kidnapper. During the analysis, visuals from CCTV cameras showed a woman taking the girl inside the metro station from the Jama Masjid Metro Gate No. 1. Further investigation revealed that the woman boarded the metro with the child and later deboarded at Uttam Nagar East metro station.

The team analysed the CCTV from Uttam Nagar area and traced the location where the kidnapper took the girl.

The CCTV led the police to JJ Colony in Hastal, Uttam Nagar, where the accused, who was a 72-year-old Hasina was located. The child was recovered safely from her possession.

The accused woman has been arrested, and the rescued child has been reunited with her family. In a similar case of kidnapping and arrest, the Delhi High Court on Monday, June 23, granted protection from arrest to a CRPF Jawan who is an accused of kidnapping a man.

'Emergency is a history that must be remembered'

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

On the 50th anniversary of the 1975 Emergency, Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva condemned the Congress party and announced an exhibition at Connaught Place on Wednesday. Calling it the “darkest chapter” in India's democracy, Sachdeva called on the youth to remember the history.

Speaking to the media, he said, “The Emergency is the darkest chapter in this democracy. Fifty years have passed since that traumatic period, and today an exhibition will be organised at Connaught Place in Delhi so that today's youth can know how Congress murdered democracy.

This is a history that must be remembered, showing how, when a dictator resorts to dictatorship, all values collapse.” Sachdeva said. The Emergency of 1975 in India stands as a stark chapter in the nation's history.



This is a history that must be remembered, showing how, when a dictator resorts to dictatorship, all values collapse.”

tory, marked by widespread political turmoil and suppression of civil liberties. Declared by the then-Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, the Emergency saw the suspension of fundamental rights and the imposition of strict censorship, aiming to quell political dissent and maintain order. 50 years ago, between 25

June 1975 and 21 March 1977, Indira Gandhi's government unleashed a wave of repression, imprisoning lakhs of people without justification and muzzling the media.

The Emergency stripped citizens of their fundamental rights and undermined the country's democratic fabric.

CM Rekha announces Traders Welfare Board to revitalise trade, industry in city

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta has announced the formation of the Delhi Traders Welfare Board, a platform dedicated to making the city more trader-friendly.

The formation of the Delhi Traders Welfare Board was one of the key promises made by the BJP in its manifesto during the Assembly polls.

“Under this, the government aims to revitalise trade and industry in the city. The board will play a crucial role in promoting the interests of traders and contributing to the city's economic growth,” CM Gupta said.

With a key aim to address the needs of traders and industrialists, the board will



focus on policy formation, regulatory challenges, welfare of traders, boosting employment, and investment, she added.

The chief minister said that the board will be chaired by Industries Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa and comprise a 15-member committee, including nine trade activists and six government officials. “Under this, the government will also provide a

Grant-in-Aid of Rs 10 crore, which has been allocated in the budget and will be used for welfare schemes,” the chief minister further said.

The board will also provide legal aid, organise events, and create an IT portal to facilitate communication between the government and traders, said Gupta.

“The board aims to simplify regulatory frameworks, streamline processes to

ease regulatory challenges for traders, provide welfare schemes by implementing welfare schemes for traders, and ensure their well-being and support... it will also foster an environment that promotes employment and investment opportunities,” said the CM.

The board will also act as a bridge between the government and the trading community, conveying their suggestions and concerns directly to policy-makers.

The chief minister said there are around eight lakh traders registered with the Trade and Taxes Department of Delhi.

Under this new board, the BJP government will also hold Delhi's first Global Investment Summit every two years to attract investors and boost economic growth.

Dwarka Expressway gets India's first AI-powered smart traffic system

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

India unveiled its first Advanced Traffic Management System (ATMS) project at Delhi's Dwarka Expressway on Wednesday. The project is aligned with the latest 2023 guidelines of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) in a move towards smart and safer highways.

The ATMS system, deployed on the Dwarka Expressway and a 28-km stretch of NH-48 from Shiv Murti to Kherki Daula, is transforming a key national corridor into a next-generation digital highway. The system was developed by IHMCL (Indian



Highways Management Company Ltd) and implemented by NHAI.

The project covers 56.46 kilometres and is being recognised as a national model for AI-based traffic governance and road safety. The Chief Product Officer of IHMCL, Amrit Singha,

said that the ATMS has various components to catch violators of traffic laws, being able to detect things such as not having a seatbelt, triple riding, and speeding. “Various components of the ATMS project have been covered. The salient

components are traffic monitoring cameras, the second is the video incident detection and enforcement system...Through all these, we are able to detect approximately 14 different types of incidents, including speeding, no seatbelt, and triple riding, so these are all challanable incidents as per the Motor Vehicle Act,” Singha told ANI in Delhi. While discussing road safety awareness, the IHMCL official added, “From the NHAI point of view, what we can do is we have various information dissemination programs. We also conduct a lot of programs related to road safety.

Drawing contest held to spread anti-drug awareness

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

In a bid to raise awareness among the youth about the dangers of drug abuse and illicit trafficking, the Department of Social Welfare, organised a drawing competition under its ongoing mass awareness campaign on Wednesday.

The initiative is open to participants across four categories - sub-junior (up to class five), junior (classes six to eight), senior (classes nine to 12), and an open category for college students and the general public, according to a circular from DoE's Educational Vocational Guidance Bureau.

The theme of the competition is ‘Drug Abuse’, and participants are encouraged to illustrate messages reflecting the harmful effects of substance use, preventive measures, and healthy lifestyle choices, it said.

It mentioned that heads of schools have been requested to inform and encourage students to participate actively. Schools can submit multiple entries across the categories. The department has also announced that selected entries will be recognised and suitably awarded.

The campaign is part of the broader effort by the Delhi government to sensitise school-going children about the ill-effects of drugs through creative engagement and education.

KRISHI SANKALP ABHIYAN REFLECTS PM MODI'S VISION, SAYS UP CM YOGI

Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath said Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan is actively realising Prime Minister Modi's agricultural vision.

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Wednesday highlighted the state's immense possibilities in sectors of animal husbandry and dairy.

He noted that the 'Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan' is bringing reality to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "vision."

Adityanath stated that the possibilities in animal husbandry and the dairy sector were never taken seriously by the previous state governments and asserted that the state has the best fertile land. He said that the government's developmental work in agriculture can be seen on the ground.

"Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan can be seen bringing to reality the vision of PM Modi.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- CM Yogi praised the campaign for transforming rural livelihoods through improved farming practices and government outreach.
- Said the initiative aligns with PM Modi's goal of doubling farmer incomes and promoting sustainable agriculture.
- Highlighted farmer training, soil health cards, and modern equipment as key benefits under the campaign.



■ Directed officials to ensure every farmer receives access to

schemes, technology, and information for better productivity.

Even the immense possibilities in the sector of animal husbandry and dairy, were never honestly taken forward by the previous governments. As a result, the good quality of livestock

here began getting lost. UP has the best fertile land, the best water resources. It also used to have good quality livestock. But it began getting lost. Now, the result of the work done in last 10-11

years in this sector can be seen in UP", Yogi Adityanath told reporters.

The UP CM stated that work related to the development of the agriculture sector in the state should be

done before in a place where immense possibilities related to agri and agri-based sectors are hidden.

CM Yogi asserted that the state's agriculture sector was not growing due to the negligence of the previous governments and their "anti-farmer" mindset.

"The work that should have been done in a state like Uttar Pradesh, where immense possibilities related to agri and agri-based sectors are hidden, were not going forward due to negligence of previous governments and anti-farmer mindset. Schemes were formed for distribution among themselves. Schemes were formed to snatch tenders and the sense of benefit off farmers, youth, women, livestock rearers was lacking", CM Adityanath said.

Cong's Adhir alleges Bengal govt behind violence in state

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury has alleged that the ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC) government in West Bengal was involved in "in all kinds of violence" in the State.

The former Congress MP said that the State government is offering "freebies" and that "communal polarisation" remains at the top in West Bengal.

"The ruling government in West Bengal is involved in all sorts of violence. On one hand, there is violence, on the other hand, they offer freebies, but the top spot is always taken by communal polarisation", Chowdhury told ANI.

The Congress leader highlighted that as long as Bharatiya Janata Party continues its attempts to gain power in state politics, all the "Muslim votes" will go to TMC. He termed this as the "electoral strategy" of the TMC.

"Mamata Banerjee is well aware that till the



time BJP is trying make its spot in the state politics, all Muslim votes will go to TMC. This is her electoral strategy. Whenever she feels her party is not performing well, she will execute such acts of violence", the Congress leader alleged.

Chowdhury asserted that whenever elections take place in West Bengal, Mamata Banerjee follows the same strategy to free the state from Opposition.

"In all the elections in West Bengal, wherever TMC faces a tough challenge, this is what they do... Mamata Banerjee is doing all she can to make

the state opposition-free," Chowdhury added.

On June 23, while the Trinamool Congress was celebrating Kaliganj bypoll victory, a 13-year-old girl died in a bomb explosion. The blast took place during the victory procession organised by TMC.

Taking to X, West Bengal police confirmed that the 13-year-old girl succumbed to her injuries sustained from the explosion. Police further assured that police are conducting raids to nab the culprits involved in the bomb blast.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee expressed shock over the incident and directed police to "take strong and decisive legal action" against the culprits. "I am shocked and deeply saddened at the death of a young girl in an explosion at Barochandgar in Krishnanagar police district. My prayers and thoughts are with the family in their hour of grief. Police shall take strong and decisive legal action against the culprits at the earliest," Mamata Banerjee wrote on X.

Congress MP seeks rollback of Railway order on rehiring

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Congress leader Manickam Tagore on Wednesday criticised the Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw for allowing the Railway Board to rehire retired non-gazetted staff on a "volunteer" basis stating that while crores of people apply for jobs every year while only a fraction of vacancies are available.

"Why is the Railway Board rehiring retired staff as "volunteers" when 3.3 lakh posts remain vacant in Indian Railways? Is this your idea of Yuva Shakti?" the Congress leader said in a post on X, addressing the Union Minister.



According to data posted by Tagore, from 2023 there are more than 3,32,000 vacant staff positions with only 11.75 lakh positions being filled compared to the sanctioned strength of 15.07 lakh people.

"Lakhs of youth are preparing for jobs. Instead of recruiting them, you're

appointing retirees on contract? Over 1.25 crore candidates applied for just 35,000 Group D jobs in 2022. This is the desperation and hope of India's unemployed youth. Your ministry's June 20 circular kills that hope," he said.

Tagore highlighted that while this move doesn't solve the staffing crunch faced by the Railways, it instead sends a message to young job seekers that retired staff is more needed, very little fresh recruitment happens due to no exams, and that people will not get compensated fairly as they work as "volunteers."

PM's space sector reforms a game-changer: Jitendra Singh

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Union Minister Jitendra Singh on Wednesday hailed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's decision to open up the space sector to private players as a "turning point" that sparked a "miraculous" transformation. He projected that the sector could grow to 40-45 billion US dollars in a decade, and added that experiments to be conducted by astronaut Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla during the Axiom-4 mission will help prepare for future space missions like Chandrayaan-4 and the Bharat Space Station planned for 2035.

Singh said that one of the biggest milestones in India's



space programme came when the private sector was allowed to participate.

"I think one of the greatest turning points in India's space journey has been PM Modi's pathbreaking decision to allow the private sector to step in. The change has been miraculous. The transformation in the last

4-5 years - there are thousands of crores of investment happening from the private sector," Singh told ANI.

He further said that India's space sector is set for rapid growth in the coming years. "Our future projections indicate that in about 8-10 years we might go up to 4-5

times higher, about 40-45 billion US dollars. So, the opening of the space for the private sector was a very courageous decision which could have been taken only by a political dispensation with a tremendous amount of conviction and willpower," the union minister said.

Referring to India's growing ambitions in space exploration, Singh said the recent Axiom Mission 4 would provide valuable experience for future Indian missions.

"I think it will be a good experience also for future missions. This, coupled with Chandrayaan 4, also for missions like Bharat Space Station, which we plan to have by 2035 and for prolonged stay in space or in

microgravity conditions - what are the arrangements to be put in place will also be learnt through the experiments to be conducted by Shubhanshu," Singh said.

Earlier today, Prime Minister Narendra Modi also hailed the successful launch of the Axiom Mission 4 and stated that Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla is carrying the wishes, hopes and aspirations of 1.4 billion Indian citizens.

"We welcome the successful launch of the Space Mission carrying astronauts from India, Hungary, Poland and the US. The Indian Astronaut, Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla, is on the way to become the first Indian to go to the International Space Station.

NGT to probe into Punjab illegal firecracker unit blast



TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has taken suo motu cognizance of a media report titled "Blast in Illegal Firecracker Factory in Punjab's Muktsar - 5 Dead, 29 Injured", initiating formal proceedings into the tragic incident that occurred on May 30, 2025.

The explosion took place around 2 AM in a two-storey illegal firecracker factory located in Sinhewala village near Lambi, in Sri Muktsar Sahib district, Punjab. The blast claimed the lives of five migrant workers and injured at least 29 others.

The tribunal noted that the Preliminary reports indicate that the factory was operating without authorisation and unlawfully storing hazardous materials, thereby violating both environmental and explosives regulations.

The Tribunal underscored its authority to initiate proceedings on its own motion, an approach validated by the Supreme Court, particularly in cases

involving serious threats to public health and safety.

It further declared that the victims are entitled to compensation commensurate with the extent of their injuries, with amounts ranging from Rs 2 lakh to Rs 20 lakh.

In response, the Tribunal has issued notices to the Punjab Pollution Control Board (PPCB), the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), and other concerned agencies. These bodies have been directed to submit detailed affidavits ahead of the next hearing, scheduled for August 4, 2025.

Emergency responders, including police and medical teams, swiftly conducted rescue operations. The injured were transported to nearby medical facilities and AIIMS Bathinda for treatment. The factory structure was destroyed in the blast, and the owner has since been arrested. Authorities have launched a formal investigation to determine the cause of the explosion and identify those responsible.

CM Siddaramaiah meets AICC general secy Venugopal over party affairs in Karnataka

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah met All India Congress Committee (AICC) General Secretary KC Venugopal in New Delhi on Wednesday to discuss key matters concerning the state and party affairs.

In a post on X, Siddaramaiah wrote, "Met AICC General Secretary Shri @kvenugopalmp in New Delhi today and discussed several important matters."

The meeting comes at a time when the Congress government in Karnataka is navigating various challenges, including corruption charges on its minister by party's sitting MLAs, upcoming MLC nominations,



and governance matters such as the implementation of welfare schemes.

Meanwhile, Karnataka Housing, Minorities and Waqf Minister Zameer Ahmed Khan dismissed allegations of corruption in the allocation of houses un-

der government schemes on Tuesday and said he is "not the kind of poor man who survives by taking money meant for the poor."

Addressing a press conference in Bengaluru on Tuesday, Karnataka Minister said he would step down volun-

tarily if it is proven that he took money in exchange for house allotments.

Khan pointed out that taking money for poor people's houses is an unpardonable offence and that there is no scope for such actions in his department. An inquiry will be ordered regarding the allegations made by senior Congress MLA BR Patil. If anyone is found guilty after the investigation, strict action will be taken. He added that he would also speak directly with Patil. He said Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has been fully informed about the issue. Since he was on a tour and couldn't respond earlier, he has held a meeting with the officials and gathered all the information.

‘Situation was unpredictable, but govt got us out’, say evacuees after returning home

BRYAN THOMAS
NEW DELHI

India's evacuation efforts under Operation Sindhu continue in full swing, with 282 more Indian nationals being safely airlifted from Mashhad, Iran. The special flight landed in New Delhi at 00:01 hrs on June 25, taking the total number of evacuees to 2,858.

Syed Adil Mansoor, one of the evacuees, spoke to iTV Network after landing, "I am feeling good. The situation there is normal. The Indian embassy has sup-



ported us very much. The ground staff also worked really hard... I am thankful to them, Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi and everyone in the Centre who

helped us get here safely," he said.

Another Indian national, shared: "The condition is better now. Two to four days ago, the situation was

World's first Malaria vaccine now at half price



MANOHAR KESARI
NEW DELHI

There is a good news for millions of patients struggling around the world. The news is that the world's first malaria vaccine (RTS,S) approved for "malaria", a disease caused by a mosquito bite, will be available for children at less than half the price. This was announced by Bharat Biotech in collaboration with GSK. This vaccine was approved by WHO in the year 2021.

Bharat Biotech International Limited and GSK have made this announcement as part of their pledges for the GAVI (Global alliance for Vaccines & Immunization) replenishment process for the year 2026 to the year 2030.

With support from GAVI, the RTS,S vaccine will be rolled out in 12 African countries through routine immunization programmes by the end of 2025.

harat Biotech will more than halve the cost of the RTS,S vaccine, developed

by GSK, PATH and other partners, to less than \$5 (around Rs 430) by 2028. Dr. Krishna Ella, Executive Chairman, Bharat Biotech International Limited, said: "This pledge for Gavi 6.0 is more than a pricing announcement. It is a commitment to global equity, innovation, and collaboration. Through this historic announcement, we aim to transform the burden of malaria for millions of children and families. This announcement is part of the pledges made by both companies for Gavi's next replenishment phase (Gavi 6.0, 2026-2030). RTS,S was the first malaria vaccine recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO) in 2021. Since then, GSK has made significant investments to increase production capacity and efficiency and to conduct planned technology transfer to Bharat Biotech. In parallel, Bharat Biotech has invested over \$200 million in new, high-yield manufacturing facilities, product development, and technology transfer.

MARKETS SOAR TO 2025 PEAK AS 'TENSIONS' EASE

Indian stock markets closed at highest levels of 2025, with Sensex and Nifty setting new all-time closing records.

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

India's equity benchmarks closed the day on a high note, marking its highest closing level in 2025, fuelled by "easing geopolitical tensions" in the Middle East region.

At the end of the trading session on Wednesday, BSE Sensex settled at 82,755.51, adding 700.40 points or 0.85 per cent, while Nifty 50 at National Stock Exchange (NSE) was up 200.40 points or 0.80 per cent at 25,244.75.

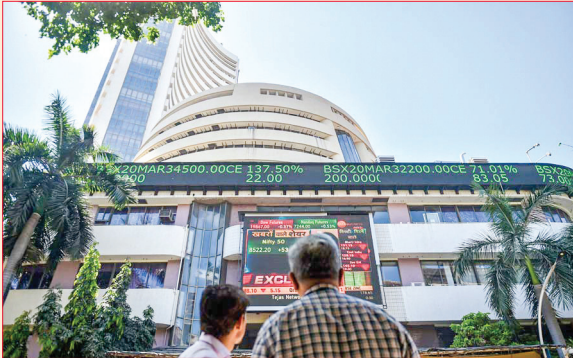
Experts say market sentiment comes from easing geo-political tensions.

"Indian equity markets have staged a recovery, supported by easing geopolitical tensions in the Middle East and a moderation in crude oil prices," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited.

From a sectoral perspective,

INVESTOR CONFIDENCE HIGH

- Sensex Closes at 82,755: Surged on strong buying in banking, IT, and FMCG sectors.
- Nifty Ends at 25,245: Powered by gains in large-cap stocks and positive global cues.
- Global Optimism: Bullish sentiment driven by easing inflation data and steady foreign inflows.
- Investor Confidence High: Broader markets also gained; experts see momentum continuing amid stable macroeconomic indicators.



Nifty Media stood out as the top gainer for the day, followed by Nifty IT and the Nifty mid and small Healthcare sector. On the other hand, Nifty Private Bank registered a slight decline for the day. "Large-cap stocks, especially in IT and auto, are outperforming, aided by a strong dollar

and improved risk appetite. Domestically, a favourable monsoon forecast, and moderating inflation are further underpinning the optimism," Vinod Nair further added. On Wednesday, out of 2,990 stocks, 2,135 stocks traded upwards, while 776 stocks went downwards and only 79 stocks were un-

changed for the day.

Rupak De, Senior Technical Analyst at LKP Securities noted, "The Nifty remained highly volatile as updates from the Middle East crisis zone impacted Indian equities. However, the overall sentiment remains positive, with a possibility of a rise towards

25,350. Immediate support is placed at 25,000; a break below this level could lead to a drift towards 24,850. On the other hand, if the index holds above 25,000, strength may persist, and the sentiment could favour long traders."

Shrikant Chouhan, Head Equity Research, Kotak Securities, noted, "Technically, after a gap-up open, the market held its positive momentum throughout the day. A bullish candle on daily charts and an uptrend continuation formation on intraday charts indicate a further uptrend from the current levels."

Defence stocks were the top loser of the day, down 2 per cent. But most of the sectoral indices ended in green with auto, consumer durables, IT, telecom, healthcare and media up between one to two per cent.

RBI extends call money market timings by 2 hours

TDG NETWORK
MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has extended the trading hours for the interbank call money to 7:00 pm.

The two-hour extension will come into effect from July 1. The revised market hours shall be from 9:00 am to 7:00 pm.

Banks borrow and lend money in the call market.

The RBI also extended the trading hours of market repo and Tri-Party Repo (TREP) to 4:00 PM, set to be effective from August 01. Accordingly, the revised trading hours shall be from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.

However, the trading hours for the Government securities market, the foreign exchange market, and the interest rate derivatives



market have been kept unchanged.

The Reserve Bank had set up a Working Group with Radha Shyam Ratho as the Chairperson.

The Working Group was mandated to undertake a comprehensive review of trading and settlement timings of financial markets regulated by the central bank.

The Working Group provided recommendations aimed at facilitating further market development, price discovery, and optimisation

of liquidity requirements.

Its report was published on the RBI's website, inviting comments from members of the public.

The Reserve Bank has subsequently examined the recommendations of the Committee as well as the feedback received, before recommending the fresh market timings.

Other recommendations of the Working Group are under consideration, and the decisions thereon will be taken in due course, RBI said today.

Falling commodity prices expected to boost profits of FMCG firms: Report

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Fast-Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) companies in India are likely to see an improvement in their profit margins in the first quarter of FY26, which is attributed to a broad-based decline in the prices of key agricultural and packaging commodities, according to a report by Antique Stock Broking Limited.

Prices of several essential inputs have eased, which could benefit major players. During Q1FY26, most agri-commodity prices fell when compared to Q4FY25.

This trend points to a moderation in year-on-year (YoY) inflation and offers relief to FMCG manufacturers, who have been grappling with high input costs over the past few quarters.

Wheat, a staple raw material for several FMCG products, saw a price correction of 13 per cent on a quarter-on-quarter (QoQ)



basis. Barley prices also dropped by 13 per cent QoQ, although they were still up 10 per cent YoY.

A sharp decline in palm oil prices -- down 16 per cent QoQ -- was particularly notable, especially after the government reduced import duties on the product by 10 per cent at the end of May 2025.

This move is expected to bring further downward pressure on prices in the near term.

Packaging costs also trended lower during the quarter. High-Density Polyethylene (HDPE), used extensively in packaging,

remained soft. Crude-based packaging inputs witnessed only a marginal 3 per cent increase in prices, a manageable rise for most companies.

Among dairy inputs, Skimmed Milk Powder (SMP) rose slightly by 4 per cent QoQ, and liquid milk increased by just 1 per cent QoQ, marking a relatively stable pricing trend in dairy, which is crucial for food and beverage manufacturers.

However, not all commodities followed this deflationary trend. Copra, a key input for coconut-based products and edible oils, emerged as an outlier.

79% of Indians unsure if their insurance policy offers adequate coverage: Survey

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

There is a significant gap in insurance awareness among Indian policyholders, with 79 per cent unsure if their policies provide adequate coverage. This uncertainty suggested a widespread risk of underinsurance, leaving many financially vulnerable despite having insurance coverage, as noted by a survey by the insurance advisory app CoverSure.

Additionally, the survey reveals that about 71 per cent of respondents hold between two and five active insurance policies, with life insurance being the most common at 63 per cent, followed by health insurance at 24 per cent and motor insurance at 13 per cent.

However, despite owning these policies, 65 per cent of policyholders admitted they have limited or no understanding of key policy



details, including benefits, exclusions, and claims processes. Only 35 per cent claim to fully understand the benefits and terms of their policies.

"If policyholders don't know what's covered or how to use it, the very purpose of insurance is defeated. While ownership is growing, true financial protection comes only when policyholders and their families are sure of their insurance," said Saurabh Vijayvergia, Founder & CEO, CoverSure.

The lack of understanding extended to families, with 60 per cent of dependents unaware they are covered under any policy.

TDG NETWORK
AHMEDABAD

Adani Total Gas and Jio-bp (the operating brand of Reliance BP Mobility) announced on Wednesday that they have signed an agreement to redefine the auto fuel retail experience for Indian consumers, according to a joint statement.

Under this partnership, select Adani Total Gas fuel outlets will offer Jio-bp's high-performance liquid fuels (petrol and diesel), while select Jio-bp fuel outlets will integrate Adani Total Gas' CNG dispensing units, within Adani Total Gas' authorized Geographical Areas (GA), thus enhancing the supply of high-quality fuels to transport consumers.

Adani Total Gas, a joint venture of Adani and TotalEnergies, is India's leading city gas distribution (CGD) player, serving natural gas to households, industries, commercial customers, and motorists.

Adani Total Gas also offers Compressed Biogas (CBG),



EV Charging, and LNG for the transportation segment.

Jio-bp, a joint venture between Reliance Industries Limited and bp, is a leading mobility solutions provider in India, with a strong presence in fuel retailing, low-carbon alternatives, and modern convenience stores.

"We are united by a shared vision to offer our customers a superior selection of high-quality fuels. Jio-bp has always been committed to delivering an exceptional customer experience, and this partnership allows us to leverage each other's strengths to further enhance the value we provide to India," said Sarthak Behuria, Chairman, Jio-bp in the statement.

"It is our shared vision to provide complete range of high-quality fuels at our outlets. This partnership will enable us to leverage each other's infrastructure, thus enhancing customer experience and offerings," said Suresh P Manglani, Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer, Adani Total Gas Ltd.

The agreement covers both existing and future outlets of both partners.

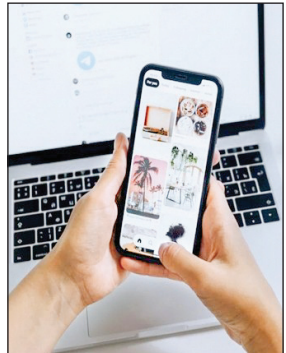
Adani Total Gas currently operates a network of 650 CNG stations, while Jio-bp has a network of 2000 outlets. This strategic alliance marks a significant milestone in the journey of both companies toward sustainable growth and innovation.

'India's per user data consumption to hit 62 GB/month by 2030 from 32 GB currently'

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Data traffic per smartphone user in India is projected to grow to 62 GB per month by 2030 from current levels of 32 GB per month which is still the highest in the world, according to Ericsson Mobility report

The report stated that this significant growth will require a need for robust 5G infrastructure in the country. The report further adds that as of 2024, 4G remains the dominant subscription type with 53 per cent of the subscribers. It is forecast to decline to 230 million subscriptions by 2030, as users



continue migrating to 5G.

The sharp increase is driven by growing 5G internet penetration, affordable smartphones, and a rising appetite for video and digital services across urban and rural markets.

Underpinned by strong

population coverage, increasing data consumption, and accelerating Fixed Wireless Access (FWA) deployments, 5G penetration will continue with robust growth.

By December 2024, 5G subscriptions in the country reached 290 million, representing 24 per cent of total mobile subscriptions. This figure is projected to climb to around 980 million by 2030, accounting for 75 per cent of all mobile subscriptions.

Nitin Bansal, Managing Director, Ericsson India, said, "At Ericsson, we are proud to support the country's digitalisation based on

the strong 4G and 5G infrastructure that we have set up in the country together with our partners, the communication service providers, that is enabling connectivity and driving inclusive growth in the country."

On the global front, the 5G subscriptions are forecast to reach 6.3 billion by 2030, and will make up two-thirds of all mobile subscriptions.

It is projected that Western Europe will have the highest 5G subscription penetration in 2030 at 93 per cent, followed closely by North America at 91 per cent and the Global Capability Centres (GCC) at 90 per cent.

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Silver prices are expected to go up, due to a combination of factors including rising demand and declining supply, a recent report by ICICI ETF indicated.

The report further adds that the silver market is projected to experience a deficit of 3,339 tonnes by the end of 2025.

According to the report, this anticipated deficit marks the fourth consecutive year that the silver market will face such a situation, which would ultimately drive silver prices upward.



However, there's a positive trend within these deficits, the projected deficit for 2025 shows a significant decline from previous years. The deficit stood at 7,076 tonnes in 2022 and is expected to fall to 3,339 tonnes by the end of 2025.

Rising silver demand was mainly due to higher de-

mand for industrial uses, specifically from the electrical and electronics segment, which witnessed a growth of 49 per cent between 2016 and 2024.

Additionally, the field of photovoltaics, i.e., the solar panel industry, has grown significantly, which has also contributed to the demand

for silver and is forecasted to grow to 5,548 tonnes by the end of 2025. Furthermore, its antimicrobial properties are vital in medicine for wound care and water purification. Beyond modern tech, silver shines in jewellery, coinage, and decorative items, cherished for its beauty and historical value.

The July silver contracts on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX) rose by Rs 483 per kg or 0.46 per cent to Rs 105,400 per kg as of 10:16 am IST. Silver futures also hit their all-time high of Rs 1,09,748 per kg on MCX last week.

Reliance vision is to do business that impacts lives of all Indians: Mukesh Ambani

TDG NETWORK
MUMBAI

Reliance Industries Chairman and Managing Director Mukesh Ambani on Wednesday said that the conglomerate, through its business, wants to create an impact that touches lives of Indians, recalling his father's philosophy of impacting billions through the business.

In an interview with McKinsey & Company, Ambani

stated, "At Reliance, as we've grown, we have realised that technology changes lives. We want to create impact at scale that improves the lives of all Indians. Therefore, businesses of the future will have to be good at harnessing technologies of the future. So, our North Star always has been that our vision and purpose of doing business have to be impacted."

"My father used to say that if you want to start a busi-

ness to be a billionaire, you are an idiot; you will never get there. If you want to start a business to impact a billion people, then you have a good chance of success, and, as a byproduct, you can make a reasonable amount of money," Ambani said.

Responding to a question about building new businesses, Ambani shared that Reliance works on six very important values. "We think about our first prin-



ciples for the group as a whole, and then we make an attempt to understand and learn the first principles for every individual business. At the beginning of building any new business, we ask ourselves, "What is the most critical need for India's development, and how can we fulfil it at scale and over a long arc of time?" That remains a fundamental piece of Reliance. We also have no hesitation in believing we can build businesses of the

future," Ambani said.

The Reliance Industries Chairman asserted that the conglomerate is building one of the world's largest manufacturing ecosystems for green and clean energy, which covers solar, batteries, hydrogen, bioenergy and much more.

Ambani further added that the big purpose of the company is to solve the complex problems facing society and create wealth for the nation and the people.

Within the AI field, we have created our purpose by saying, "Our big purpose is to solve the complex problems before society and create wealth for the nation and the people. For this, we need not go into the high-risk GPU game. Let's do everything downstream." This has a compelling appeal to many bright minds. As a result, we are attracting the best people," Ambani noted during the interview.

LAW FOR HER, NOT BY HER: WHY FEMINIST LEGAL REFORM MUST INCLUDE WOMEN’S VOICES

OPINION

DR. ABHIJIT MISHRA &
APURVA TIWARI



In the sprawling tapestry of Indian democracy, the Constitution holds out the promises of equality, justice, and dignity to all. Yet, when it comes to making laws that govern half of the population women those heard most often are not the voices of women. Feminist legal theory teaches us that law is not a neutral instrument. It embodies the social and political power equations of the society in which it is born. For all the legal reforms that have aimed to protect and empower women over the decades, the persistent invisibility of women's voices and perspectives from India's courts, legislatures, and corridors of power poses deep questions. How can laws genuinely speak to the realities and rights of women if they are formulated in predominantly male spaces? How can justice be served when those who interpret and execute the law lack the lived experience of gendered injustice?

India's legal landscape has witnessed tremendous changes since Indepen-

dence, yet gender imbalance in its institutions of law continues to be striking. As of 2025, only three judges out of thirty-four in the Supreme Court are women. In the twenty-five high courts across India, less than 15% of judges are women. This gender imbalance is reflected in the lower judiciary as well as in tribunal bodies, law reform committees, and committees that decide on vital national policies. In the political realm, the women's reservation bill, proposing 33% reservation for women in Parliament and State Assemblies, was finally passed in 2023 - but its implementation has been delayed until after the next census and delimitation. This obdurate paced reform perpetuates the marginalization of women from the same spaces where laws are debated, created, and reformed.

Representation is not just a matter of numbers; it translates into the substance and direction of the law. Legal reform is not a purely technical process. It is deeply embedded in lived realities, social contexts, and the values of those engaged in its cre-

ation. Women come with experiences of discrimination, violence, exclusion, and resilience that elude comprehension in male-dominated spaces. Their absence translates into laws that seem neutral on the surface but fall away from issues like gender-based violence, reproductive rights, or issues of discrimination, or worse, become sites for perpetuating inequality. India remains one of the few countries where a husband enjoys the legal protection of not being punished for non-consensual sex with his wife. Despite widespread anger and decades of advocacy from women's rights organizations, successive governments and law commissions almost all male have refused to act, citing the reasons of the "sanctity of marriage" and "misuse" of the law.

Reproductive rights present a similar picture. Instead of viewing them as issues of autonomy and consent, abortion, menstrual hygiene, and contraception policies are often filtered through the optics of morality, demography, or religious sentiment that too, crafted by male policymakers. This results in the making of laws and schemes that are either too restrictive or where the real needs of women are not even served. When the minds designing the law are far removed from the struggles and experiences of women particularly rural, poor, and marginalized women justice is not delivered, and the law becomes remote.

Even when women are involved in the creation of policy, representation is often superficial. Many committees and commissions include one or two women as token representatives, without ensuring that their voices have been understood or formed part of the final decisions. Feminist



legal theorists call this 'the illusion of inclusion' where the structure appears inclusive, but the power remains with the mostly male hands. A notable exception was the Justice Verma Committee, formed in the aftermath of the 2012 Nirbhaya case. The committee consulted extensively with women's organizations, activists, and survivors. Its report placed bold, transformative recommendations on the table. Its recommendations included, among others, the criminalization of marital rape, police reforms, and better protection of women in public spaces. While the final legislation did not adopt all the recommendations, the process demonstrated how inclusive legal reform can better reflect feminist concerns and locate policy in lived experiences.

The price of excluding women from legal reform is not just in individual cases; it determines the character of justice in society. Laws like the Dowry Prohibition Act, the Domestic Violence Act, and the Sexual Harassment of Women at

Workplace Act (POSH) were made with the intention of protecting women. Yet, their implementation has often been inadequate or inconsistent, partly due to male dominated institutions of enforcement police, courts, and bureaucracies who lack gender sensitivity. The POSH Act, for example, requires every organization to set up an Internal Complaints Committee (ICC), yet many companies flout the law by either ignoring the requirement or by packing it with people who know little about the law or who are hostile to the complainant. Without more women in leadership and enforcement roles, legal safeguards become promises not delivered.

One of the biggest gaps in the legal discourse is the neglect of intersectionality the recognition that gender inequality is compounded by caste, class, religion, sexuality, and disability. Dalit women, Adivasi women, queer women, and women with disabilities experience particular and oftentimes more serious forms of dis-

crimination. Yet, mainstream law and feminist reform rarely reflect their realities. Without including the voices of diverse women, the legal system continues to be constructed from a one-size-fits-all framework that overlooks the most vulnerable.

The judiciary, as the interpreter and custodian of the constitution, must take the lead in correcting this imbalance. The appointment of women judges not just any women, but women hailing from marginalized communities is important not only for fairness considerations, but also for instilling public confidence in the justice system. Studies have shown that women judges are more likely to be empathetic and understanding in cases involving sexual violence, domestic abuse, and gender discrimination. Their judgments often carry an awareness of social realities facing women. This is not to say that all male judges lack gender sensitivity, or that all women judges are feminists, but diversity on the bench guar-

antees a wider and deeper understanding of justice. Thankfully, D. Y. Chandrachud, the Chief Justice of India, has spoken up in favor of gender diversity and feminist jurisprudence, yet systemic changes need to happen from law school admissions and judicial training, to appointment procedures, to workplace culture.

If India is to live up to its constitutional promise of equality, it must move away from the prescriptive notion of legal paternalism that is, the idea of men speaking and deciding for women to legal partnership. This means not just including women in larger numbers, but creating institutional forms that respect and amplify their voices. Law reform committees must have at least 50% women members. Policymaking processes must actively engage with women's organizations, particularly those working with marginalized groups. Legal education must teach feminist theory and encourage critical reflection on how laws affect different genders differ-

ently. Workplaces, courts, and legal institutions must be safe spaces where women lawyers, litigants, and judges can speak up and act without fear or intimidation.

Finally, feminist legal reform is not about privileging one gender over the other. It is about making justice more inclusive, more empathetic, and more real. When those who make the laws that govern women's bodies, their work, their safety, and their lives are absent, the law becomes distant, cold, and all too often, oppressive. But when women are part of the process not as tokens, but as equal partners it has a chance to be what it was always meant to be: a tool of freedom, equality, and dignity. Laws made for her must also be made by her only then will they do true justice.

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Friends turn foes and vice versa in shattered a world

OPINION

PROF PK SHARMA

What a queer and bizarre this world has turned out to be now ! One really fails to comprehend why and what has gone wrong with it? It seems to be in a fierce and colossal war with itself. It is really Herculean a task these days to distinguish between friends and foes in this megalomaniac a world which for the past some decades used to be deemed a global village in wake of revolutionary technological advances, nations coming together and very closer.

Ironically, sans an iota of doubt, this demonish dance of death, dread, disaster, destruction, deprivation, displacement and trauma for the past couple of years did scatter and shatter the world with the "divine nod" as innocent men, women and kids are brutally killed, targeting hospitals, schools and civilian bases by bombing, drones, firing missiles and sophisticated

weapons alike with impunity. Eminent English poet Robert Browning is very relevant here in this context to cite who in his poem "Pipa Passes" remarks,

"God's in his heaven and all's right with the world." The Almighty is there but under His watch everything is fine in this world we can well imagine and see.

While undertaking my M.Phil in English course at Punjabi University Patiala in mid 1980s, I had to encounter Ferdinand de Saussure - the father of modern linguistics, the man who re-organised the systematic study of language and languages in such a way as to make possible the achievements of twentieth century linguistics.

It was he who did make many startling revelations that the history of languages is full of examples of concepts shifting, changing their boundaries. He made it crystal clear that the world

CATTLE for instance at one point meant property in general, then gradually came to be restricted to four footed only (a new category) and finally attained its modern sense of domesticated bovines. Again, word SILLY person was once happy, blessed and pious. Gradually this particular concept altered; the old concept of "silliness" transformed itself and by the beginning of sixteenth century a silly person was innocent, helpless even deserving of pity. The alteration of the concept continued until eventually a silly person was a simple, foolish, perhaps stupid.

Unlike Saussure's history as well as theory of altering and twisting languages gradually, in the present day world, the words and phrases undergo alteration in their contours and connotations instantly just within the twinkling of an eye.

Pertinent here to peruse the global organisations 'and leaders' inferences and interpretations of words and phrases. Do the UNO, UNICEF, UNESCO, UN Security Council, International Court of Justice, WHO, IMF, World Bank, G-20, G-7, BRICS, QUAD, SCO, so on and so forth really imply in the let-

ter and spirit what their title banner stands for? Are these justifying and proving true to their aims, objects and stipulated roles is a million dollar question?

The absurdity, instinctivity, theatrics and megalomania galore creeping often into the utterances and rhetorics of world leaders has now twisted this world into a "Theatre of The Absurd, Insensitive and Bumptious." In such a world, there is no room at all for values, grace, magnanimity, humility, amity, credibility, humanity and morality.

How distressing to find apostle of peace and non-violence Mahatma Gandhi's India abstaining from the voting in UN Security Council on the issue of ceasefire between Iran and Israel ! Even then Iran showed a fine gesture of allowing air space for the evacuation of Indian students but India did not care to condemn unwarranted attack on Iran at any forum.

During his campaign for the second term in office President Donald Trump did focus on the theme "Make America Great Again" but soon after winning and taking over the reins began

deviating and dithering with thrust on sheer personal popularity stooping very low to yearn for Nobel Peace Prize on flimsy pretexts of being instrumental in mediating peace missions and ceasefires but at the same time threatening Iran to dance to his tunes within twenty four hours or face the awful disastrous consequences, now that dead line extended to two weeks. No denying the fact that Trump and Modi do not like to miss any opportunity in displaying the art of "optics" and "theatrics" as and when they like, both in a neck to neck contest to outsmart one another. Trump vehemently and repeatedly claiming that he mediated in effecting the May 10 ceasefire between India and Pakistan but Modi tight lipped on the same just rebuts it through Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri. Quite amazingly, Putin himself and his nation involved in war with Ukraine for years offers for mediation for ceasefire between Iran-Israel.

What reigns supreme is vested interests everywhere as all other virtues relegate instantly into oblivion ! Trumps, Putins, Jinpings Macrons, Starmer's five big

world veto powers personas have always their axes to grind, hence words and phrases change their nuances like the changes in weather frequently. In the international relations nowadays, there are no permanent friends and foes but "interests." Thus swapping of words foes and friends has become regular and interesting feature.

These words for example, "bi-lateral", "credibility", "integrity", "mediation" "faith" "trust", "friends", "foes", "sincerity", "cooperation", "truth", "shame", "peaceful co-existence", "permanent", "ceasefire", and "self-reliance" are the worst casualties these days as these not only change their contours startlingly but assume mocking as well as foxy proportions too.

Once both very self-styled two intimate friends US President Donald Trump and India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi have of late offered a new twist and turn to the popular adage, "A friend in need is a friend indeed." Modi ditched Trump when during his campaign to enter White House for the second time, Trump had claimed very confidently that his friend Modi will meet

him during his visit to the USA in September 2024 but Modi then preferred to turn a cold shoulder in a bid not to offend the then US President Joe Biden. Badly offended and bruised Trump has now been leaving no stone unturned to pay Modi in the same coin during his second stint in office. India has to face the music bearing the brunt and bashing for Modi's optics, pompousness and inability to understand Trump in his true colours. John Calvin Maxwell, a famous American thinker and journalist haunts in this context who remarked, "A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way."

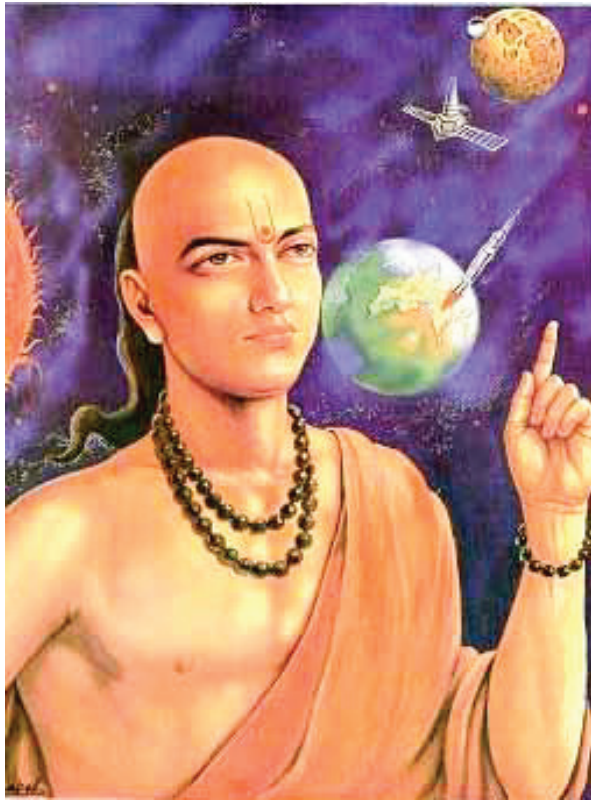
The same is true in case of Vladimir Putin, Emmanuel Macron and Xi Jinping who are well known for changing colours like a chameleon for safeguarding their own and nation's vested interests. Five Veto Power nations very strangely at their wits end do not see eye to eye on the peaceful co-existence of this world - be it the Russia-Ukraine war, Hamas-Israel conflict, India-Pakistan Strife and Israel-Iran Tug of War. On the brink of third world war, there is a mad contest among three veto power na-

tions USA, Russia, France for sale of modern war weapons with now China too jumping the fray of sale of warfare arms and ammunition along with boosting up of its trade items sale as well.

These five nations at regular intervals play their tricks and guiles to outsmart each other making developing nations fall in their trap of their fictitious groups like G-20, G-7, BRICS, QUAD, Shanghai Cooperation Organisation from time to time to keep their so-called wavering allies in good humour. Their leitmotif so far has been to assert their positions by dominating the world trade scene be it sale of either various commercial goods or warfare equipment not in any manner to usher this world into everlasting peaceful, amiable, harmonious and humane loving an era.

If these five veto powers of the world with the grace of God very sincerely, objectively, impartially and honestly wish and mean business, there cannot be any reason that virtues of harmony, peace, brotherhood and amity will ever illude this grand world!

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Aryabhata

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The idea that space science is a purely modern discipline is a misconception. Long before the advent of rockets, satellites, and telescopes, ancient Indian scholars were observing the skies, calculating celestial movements, and conceptualizing cosmic phenomena with astonishing accuracy. Their contributions, recorded in ancient scriptures and scientific treatises, reveal a civilization deeply curious about the universe and remarkably sophisticated in its understanding of space. As India establishes itself as a global leader in space exploration through the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), it's worth revisiting the roots of this scientific spirit — deeply embedded in the ancient Indian tradition of astronomy, mathematics, and cosmology.

ASTRONOMY IN THE VEDIC AGE

The earliest references to astronomical observations in India are found in the Vedas, particularly the *Rigveda* and *Atharvaveda*, which are over 3,000 years old. These texts reflect not just spiritual or mythological views but also precise knowledge of cosmic phenomena such as the solar and lunar cycles, equinoxes, solstices, and eclipses. The *Vedanga Jyotisha*, dated around 1200 BCE, is one of the oldest known texts exclusively dealing with astronomy and timekeeping. It laid down rules for calendrical calculations, determining auspicious times (*muhurtas*) for rituals, and seasonal shifts — essential for agriculture and daily life.

The text presents a detailed

understanding of the movement of the sun and moon, establishing the basis of the Indian lunisolar calendar, which harmonizes lunar months with the solar year. The accurate predictions of lunar phases and eclipses highlight the advanced mathematical and observational skills of ancient Indian astronomers, centuries before similar developments in other civilizations.

ARYABHATA AND THE SPACE SCIENCE

In 499 CE, Aryabhata, one of India's greatest mathematicians and astronomers, authored the *Aryabhatiya*, a landmark text in the history of science. At just 23 years old, Aryabhata introduced concepts that would astonish even modern scientists. He proposed that the Earth rotates on its axis — a revolutionary idea for the time — and explained that the apparent westward motion of the stars was due to this rotation.

He accurately calculated the length of the solar year as 365.358 days, remarkably close to today's value of 365.256 days. Aryabhata also provided mathematical explanations for solar and lunar eclipses, stating they were caused by the shadows of the Earth and moon, not the work of supernatural beings — a bold rejection of prevailing mythological explanations. His trigonometric tables and use of the decimal system greatly influenced both Indian and later Islamic and European astronomy.

THE ANCIENT MANUAL OF SPACE AND TIME

The *Surya Siddhanta*, believed to have been composed around 400–500



Jantar Mantar in Delhi

ANCIENT INDIA'S PIONEERING WISDOM IN SPACE SCIENCE

From calculating planetary orbits to inventing zero, ancient Indian scholars pioneered astronomy and mathematics, shaping our cosmic understanding. Their legacy lives on in India's growing success in modern space exploration and satellite technology.

CE (with roots that may go back even further), is one of the most comprehensive ancient Indian texts on astronomy. It presents an extraordinarily detailed model of the solar system, including the sidereal revolutions of planets, orbital diameters, trigonometric calculations, and planetary conjunctions.

According to the *Surya Siddhanta*, the Earth is a sphere suspended in space, and it calculates the diameters of the Earth, moon, and sun with impressive accuracy. The treatise introduces

VARAHAMIHIRA AND THE SYNTHESIS OF SCIENCES

Another brilliant mind from classical India, Varahamihira (505–587 CE), authored several influential

knowledge, including astronomy, meteorology, astrology, architecture, and geology.

Varahamihira acknowledged the spherical shape of the Earth and described water cycle phenomena such

eclipses and studied celestial influences on Earth's weather patterns and tides.

THE LANGUAGE OF THE COSMOS

Space science is impossible without mathematics, and ancient Indian mathematicians laid critical foundations for astronomical computations. The invention of the zero as a numeral, the development of the decimal system, and advances in algebra and trigonometry were all pioneered in India long before they reached

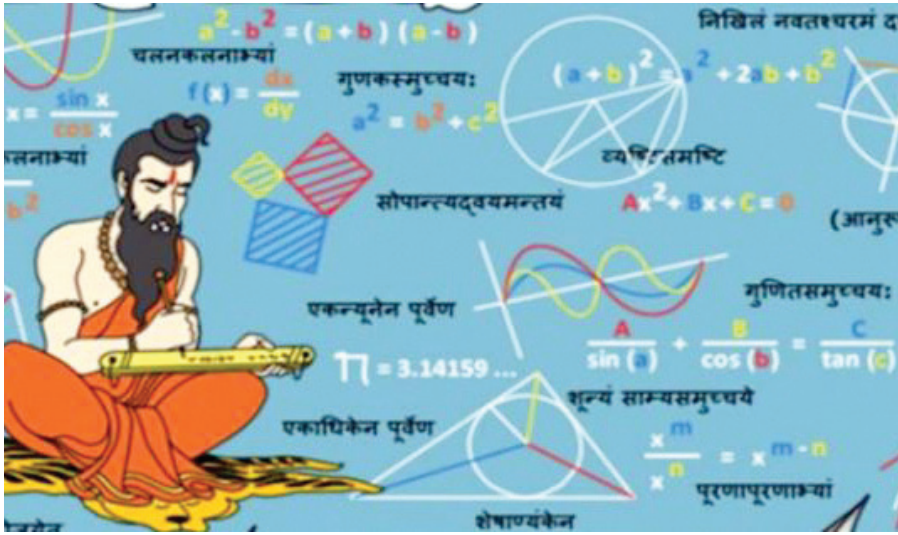
zero and negative numbers and wrote extensively on planetary positions. Bhaskara II (12th century) calculated the time it would take for a planet to traverse an arc and developed concepts akin to differential calculus to describe planetary motion. These contributions were essential precursors to modern spaceflight calculations.

ANCIENT SKIES TO MODERN SPACECRAFT

India's space heritage did not end with ancient treatises.

The intellectual courage and curiosity that defined the ancient Indian approach to the universe. Ancient scholars observed, questioned, experimented, and theorized — the very essence of scientific pursuit.

Their texts emphasized precision, logic, and empirical observation, proving that science flourished in India as an independent discipline and not merely as an offshoot of religious or mythological thought. In a world increasingly driven by scientific progress,



concepts like time dilation and gravitational attraction — not in the modern terminology, but with insights that resonate with contemporary scientific thought.

It explains the use of sine functions (then known as *jya*) for astronomical calculations and the correction of planetary positions using epicyclic models — an approach later seen in Ptolemaic and even early Copernican models in the West. Such sophistication shows that ancient Indian space science was not merely observational but also deeply mathematical.

works, including the *Pancha-Siddhantika* and *Brihat Samhita*. In *Pancha-Siddhantika*, he compared and analyzed five astronomical traditions, showing a scientific approach to data verification and comparative study. His *Brihat Samhita* was a vast encyclopedia of science and

as rain formation through evaporation — observations backed by keen scientific reasoning. He emphasized accurate astronomical observation and timekeeping, building on Aryabhata's and earlier sages' works. He also contributed to calculating planetary conjunctions and

Europe. Mathematicians like Brahmagupta and Bhaskara II built on Aryabhata's legacy and introduced powerful tools to analyze and predict celestial movements.

Brahmagupta, in the 7th century, gave rules for arithmetic operations involving



Jantar Mantar in Jaipur

the country's modern space program, led by ISRO, is one of the most successful and cost-efficient in the world. From launching the Chandrayaan lunar missions to successfully sending the Mangalyaan orbiter to Mars in 2014 on its first attempt, India has demonstrated cutting-edge capabilities in space science and engineering. In fact, India is the first Asian nation to reach Mars and the only country in the world to do so on its maiden attempt.

These achievements are not just technological but also cultural milestones that reflect a continuity of inquiry and exploration rooted in India's ancient past. Institutions like the Indian Institute of Astrophysics and Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences continue this legacy, often drawing symbolic inspiration from ancient texts and thinkers.

RELEVANCE OF ANCIENT SPACE SCIENCE

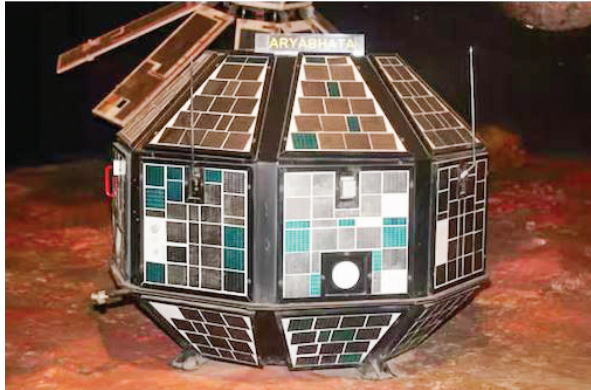
In the age of satellites, AI-driven telescopes, and interplanetary missions, why revisit ancient Indian space science? The answer lies in

ress, the knowledge preserved in India's ancient manuscripts serves as a testament to the capabilities of early civilizations and as an inspiration for future innovation.

LEGACY WRITTEN IN THE STARS

Ancient India's contributions to space science, though often underappreciated, form a crucial chapter in the global history of astronomy and mathematics. The intellectual traditions established by Aryabhata, Varahamihira, and others laid the groundwork for the scientific advances we see in India today. Their understanding of space was not just poetic or spiritual but rooted in mathematical rigor and empirical insight.

As India continues to reach for the stars, from the Moon and Mars to future interstellar missions, it carries with it the legacy of ancient sky-watchers who looked up and dared to ask, "What lies beyond?" Their questions — and their answers — remain etched in the stars, guiding a new era of exploration that is deeply Indian, boldly scientific, and universally human.



India's first satellite is named after ancient astronomer and mathematician Aryabhata.

KEY BULLET POINTS
Ancient Indian astronomy began with Vedanga Jyotisha, detailing lunar calendars and timekeeping.
Aryabhata proposed Earth's rotation and explained eclipses scientifically.
The Surya Siddhanta calculated planetary movements and introduced trigonometric concepts.
Varahamihira advanced observational astronomy and cross-cultural scientific synthesis.
India's mathematicians invented zero, the decimal system, and early algebra for space calculations.
Ancient astronomers used epicyclic models and precise sine tables.
Observatories like those by Jai Singh furthered this tradition in the medieval period.
Modern ISRO missions reflect this ancient scientific heritage.
India remains a leader in cost-effective and accurate space exploration.
Ancient India's space science legacy bridges the past with the future of cosmic discovery.

RAKESH SHARMA: INDIA'S FIRST SPACEFARER

India's journey into space has been marked by a remarkable legacy of scientific achievement, symbolized most famously by Wing Commander Rakesh Sharma, the first Indian to travel into space. Born in Patiala in 1949, Sharma was a test pilot with the Indian Air Force when he was selected in 1982 to fly aboard the Soviet spacecraft Soyuz T-11, which launched on April 3, 1984, as part of a historic collaboration between India and the Soviet Union.

During his mission aboard the Salyut 7 space station, Sharma spent nearly eight days conducting a series of experiments, ranging from remote sensing to studying the effects of zero gravity on the human



Rakesh Sharma

body, and he became a national icon when, in a televised interaction with then-Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, he famously said that "India looks best from space—Saare Jahan Se Achha," a phrase that stirred patriotic emotion across the country.

For his achievements, Sharma was awarded the Ashoka Chakra, India's

highest peacetime military decoration, and also received international recognition. His mission marked a major milestone in India's space ambitions, reinforcing the nation's growing expertise in science and technology and setting the stage for what would become one of the most cost-effective and scientifically robust space programs in the world. From the early success of Aryabhata, India's first satellite launched in 1975, to the development of indigenous launch vehicles like the SLV, PSLV, and GSLV, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has steadily built a global reputation for innovation, culminating in landmark missions such as Chandrayaan-1 and Mangalyaan.

PRATAPGARH: TRIBAL HEARTLAND WHERE FORESTS ECHO ANCIENT LEGENDS



NAVSHA PARDESHI

In the quiet corners of southern Rajasthan, Pratapgarh emerges as a hidden gem, where tribal traditions blend with timeless landscapes, untold stories and ancient hills. Where the Aravalis meet the Vindhyas and the Malwa Plateau, Pratapgarh rises as a living canvas painted with biodiversity, tribal heritage and spiritual echoes of the past. It is also known as Kanthal (Riverside Terrain) because it is located at Kantha of river Mahi.

Just about 106 km from Chittorgarh—well-connected by rail—Pratapgarh can be easily reached by road. The Maharana Pratap Airport in Udaipur about 150 km away and Mandsaur Railway Station in neighboring Madhya Pradesh provide added accessibility, inviting wanderers and seekers alike.

GOVERNMENT VISION AND ADMINISTRATIVE DRIVE: SHAPING TRIBAL TOURISM IN PRATAPGARH

Under the visionary leadership of Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma, a bold step was etched into the 2025-26 state budget—the budget declaration of a Rs 100 crore ‘Tribal Tourist Circuit’ aimed at bringing the hidden potential of districts like Pratapgarh into

national light.

The district administration under District Collector Dr. Anjali Rajoria along with former Collector Dr. Inderjeet Yadav and IPS Amit Kumar have taken strides to transform Pratapgarh into a vibrant tourist destination. Under the initiative to promote tourism, photos, videos and a documentary were produced and shared on social media. From hosting cultural programs in remote villages to documenting the region's natural charm during campaigns like Har Ghar Tiranga the administration under the leadership of current District Collector Dr. Rajoria has ensured that every effort resonates with both purpose and pride.

SITAMATA WILDLIFE SANCTUARY: A LIVING EPIC

Undoubtedly Pratapgarh's most enchanting gem is the Sitamata Wildlife Sanctuary where legend and life intertwine. It's believed that Goddess Sitamata spent her exile here and the Sitamata Temple- nestled between twin hills continues to attract pilgrims and tourists alike.

The sanctuary is known for Flying Squirrel which can be seen gliding from trees around dusk. To help visitors watch this unique sight the Forest Department has set up a special viewing point in Arampura. The area is also home to leopards, sambhar, four horned antelopes, Indian civet, rarely seen pangolin.

Its rich flora—from teak, mango and mahua, to medicinal treasures like musli and jamun—makes it a sanctuary of healing as much as of wildlife. The ancient banyan tree, sprawling across



12 acres is a silent witness to centuries of stories.

Pratapgarh's Sitamata Sanctuary holds traces of prehistoric life near Keli village, where ancient rock art with geometric patterns reflects early human expression. Just 12 km away lies Devgarh, the former capital of the princely state, located at 1806 feet above sea level and surrounded by dense forests. Believed to be founded by Maharawat Vikram Singh, this fort town—also

known as Devaliya—echoes with stories of its past.

NATURE'S RETREATS: WATERFALLS, WETLANDS AND SCENIC BACKWATERS

The Mahi Backwaters near the Banswara border offer scenic monsoon views. Maliya Bhadak Waterfall in Ramapuriya forest is ideal for trekking. Wetlands like Keshariyavad, Khunta and Ninor attract migratory birds. Other notable sites in-

clude Devak Mata, Bulbula Mahadev and Jharni Mata.

GAUTAMESHWAR: THE HARIDWAR OF TRIBES

In the heart of the Arnod region, 20 km from the district center lies Gautameshwar, a sacred seat of meditation for sages Gautam and Shringi.

CULTURAL HERITAGE OF KANTHAL

The Gair Nritya brings the region to life as men dressed in white dhotis and

safas, armed with swords and sticks dance in unison to the powerful beats of nagadas and dhols echoing through the valleys. Tribal attire adds to this vivid tapestry—women wear hand-embroidered Sooti Majum with red-brown Odhani, adorned with silver jewelry like bichiya, ghunghroos and jhumkas.

Complementing this cultural richness is the world-renowned Thewa Art, about 400-year-old craft unique to

The sanctuary is known for Flying Squirrel which can be seen gliding from trees around dusk.

Pratapgarh, where intricate gold designs are fused onto vibrant Belgian glass. Honored with the President's Award Thewa represents the golden spirit of Kanthal's artistic legacy.

Flavors of the Kanthal Pratapgarh's culinary heritage is earthy and distinct. Lilwa sweet made of green grams, aam ke paak and Mango papads crafted by local people bring together tribal wisdom and rich flavors.

In every tree, in every folk tune and in every footstep on its trails Pratapgarh whispers stories of legacy and life. Pratapgarh with its untamed beauty, rich tribal heritage and spiritual depth,

stands poised to emerge as one of Rajasthan's top cultural and eco-tourism destinations. From ancient forts and sacred groves to tribal dance, art and cuisine, every element adds to its unique identity. The Tribal Tourism Circuit declaration and the district administration's efforts have set the stage for tourism. As efforts continue to preserve and promote its hidden marvels, Pratapgarh is ready to be discovered—not just as a destination but as an experience rooted in tribal pride and tradition.

The writer is an Assistant Public Relation Officer, Department of Information and Public Relations, Rajasthan

Mount Abu: Nature, spirituality, and timeless charm

TDG NETWORK

Mount Abu, located in the Sirohi district of Rajasthan, is one of those places that surprises you the moment you arrive. Known as the only hill station in the state, it offers a refreshing break from Rajasthan's typical desert scenery. With its cool weather, green landscapes, and peaceful atmosphere, Mount Abu has earned a special place in the hearts of both Indian and international travelers.

What makes Mount Abu truly unique is how different it feels from the rest of Rajasthan. While most parts of the state are hot and dry, Mount Abu remains pleasantly cool throughout the year, thanks to its location in the Aravalli mountain range. For many people from nearby states like Gujarat and Rajasthan, it's the go-to destination during summer vacations. Families, couples, nature lovers, and spiritual seekers all find something special here.

A PLACE OF NATURAL BEAUTY

Mount Abu is full of natural charm. The view from places like Honeymoon Point and Sunset Point is simply breathtaking. The famous Nakki Lake, surrounded by hills and forests, is perfect for a quiet boat ride or a relaxed walk. Then there's Mount Abu Wildlife Sanctuary, home to leopards, jackals, and a variety of birds. It's a treat for anyone who loves

spending time in nature.

SPIRITUAL AND CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

Apart from natural beauty, Mount Abu is also a major spiritual destination. The Dilwara Temples, built between the 11th and 13th centuries, are one of the finest examples of marble architecture in India. Even if you're not religious, the intricate carvings and peaceful environment leave a lasting impression. These Jain temples attract thousands of visitors each year.

The town is also home to the Brahma Kumaris Spiritual University, a globally known spiritual and meditation center. Many people come here to attend their retreats and workshops, seeking peace and clarity in today's busy world.

A GLIMPSE OF HISTORY AND COLONIAL CHARM

Mount Abu also has a historical side. It served as a summer retreat for the British during colonial times. The old buildings, bungalows, and churches built during the British era still add to the town's charm. Walking through these areas feels like stepping back in time.

LOCAL MARKETS AND CUISINE

No trip to Mount Abu is complete without exploring its local markets. From handmade crafts and Rajasthani souvenirs to woolen

clothes and tribal jewellery, there's plenty to take home. The food scene here is simple yet satisfying. You'll find a mix of Rajasthani, Gujarati, and even Punjabi dishes, served at family-run eateries and street stalls.

ACCESSIBILITY AND TOURISM GROWTH

Mount Abu is well connected by road and rail. The nearest railway station is Abu Road, which is just about 28 kilometers away. From there, buses and taxis regularly head up



Mount Abu also has a historical side. It served as a summer retreat for the British during colonial times. The old buildings, bungalows, and churches built during the British era still add to the town's charm.

the hills to the main town. Tourism in Mount Abu has been steadily growing, with more people looking for

peaceful and eco-friendly destinations. Hotels and resorts across budgets are available, from luxury stays

to affordable lodges.

Mount Abu is much more than just a hill station—it's a complete travel experience.



Whether you're looking to relax by the lake, explore historic temples, enjoy scenic views, or just escape

the summer heat, Mount Abu offers something for everyone. In a state famous for its deserts and palaces,

Mount Abu stands out as a cool, green paradise that keeps calling visitors back year after year.

WHY TRUMP BASKS IN IRAN CEASEFIRE SUCCESS?

Trump Claims Victory in Iran-Israel Ceasefire, Despite Doubts Over Nuclear Damage, Future Peace Talks, and Rising Tensions Across Region Following Devastating 12-Day Conflict.

TDG NETWORK

By June 24, 2025, the Middle East witnessed a ceasefire that halted the deadliest confrontation yet between Iran and Israel, with U.S. President Donald Trump quick to claim success. Standing confidently at a NATO summit in The Hague, Trump credited his decision to launch U.S. strikes on Iranian nuclear facilities with ending the war, calling it “a victory for everybody.” However, the path ahead is riddled with uncertainty, conflicting narratives, and geopolitical fragility.

THE ANATOMY OF A BRIEF BUT FEROCIOUS WAR

The war, triggered by Israel's surprise air assault on June 13, marked a terrifying escalation of decades-long hostilities between the two regional powers. Israel's strikes, backed by the U.S., reportedly decapitated much of Iran's military leadership and targeted sensitive nuclear and missile sites. In response, Iran fired hundreds of ballistic missiles, many of which penetrated Israel's formidable air defense system, a first in their long history of skirmishes. The human toll was devastating: Iran reported 610 dead and nearly 5,000 injured, while 28 were killed in Israel. These numbers,



TDG EXPLAINER

though, tell only part of the story. The psychological and political aftershocks are only beginning to manifest. Trump Declares “Obliteration” — But Was It? Trump, addressing the NATO summit, declared that Iran's nuclear facilities had been “obliterated” and insisted that the regime would now choose diplomacy over enrichment. He dismissed the Defense Intelligence Agency's (DIA) preliminary assessment that Iran's nuclear timeline had only been set back by a matter of months. “It was very severe. It was obliteration,” he said. “They want to recover. The last thing they want to do is

enrich anything right now.” Yet experts, including the head of the UN's International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Rafael Grossi, were less convinced. Grossi emphasized that while buildings could be destroyed, knowledge and industrial capacity endure. “The technological knowledge is there and the industrial capacity is there. That, no one can deny,” he said, urging that international inspections be reinstated immediately to assess the true damage. **CEASEFIRE OR STRATEGIC PAUSE?** Both sides swiftly claimed victory. Israeli Prime Min-

ister Benjamin Netanyahu declared that Israel had eliminated two existential threats: Iran's nuclear capability and its missile arsenal. Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, meanwhile, framed the conflict as a testament to Iran's resilience and its ability to breach Israeli defenses. But behind the victorious rhetoric lies a shared exhaustion. In Israel, citizens expressed emotional relief but physical and psychological weariness. “Those past two weeks were catastrophic,” said Rony Hoter-Ishay Meyer from Tel Aviv. “We are very much exhausted and we need to get back to our normal energy.” In Tehran, the atmosphere was grimly reflective. Farah, a 67-year-old woman who fled to Lavasan during the bombing, returned only after the ceasefire. “People are relieved that the war has stopped, but there's a lot of

IN A NUTSHELL
● Trump declared victory after U.S. strikes helped end the Iran-Israel war.
● Iran's nuclear sites hit with bunker-busting bombs; full damage unclear.
● U.S. intel says setback to Iran's nuclear program may be only months.
● Both Iran and Israel claimed victory, citing different achievements.
● 610 killed in Iran, 28 in Israel; thousands more injured.
● Trump ruled out regime change, now pushes for diplomatic engagement.
● Iran suspended IAEA cooperation, inspections still blocked.
● UN nuclear chief urges access, warns knowledge, tech still intact.
● Iran cracks down domestically, executes alleged Israeli collaborators.
● Public in both countries relieved, but wary of future conflict.

uncertainty about what comes next,” she said. The deeper concern, she added, was that the war might empower Iran's hardliners to further restrict social freedoms under the guise of national security.

A DIPLOMATIC PATH FORWARD?

Perhaps the most intriguing revelation came from Trump's envoy, Steve Witkoff, who disclosed that U.S.-Iran backchannel talks were “promising” and aimed at crafting a “long-term peace agreement that resurrects Iran.” This marks a surprising shift, especially given Trump's earlier support for potentially regime-toppling military actions. Just days prior, both Trump and Netanyahu had implied that Iran's clerical leadership could be brought down if it didn't submit. Yet, post-ceasefire, Trump abruptly disavowed regime change. “We don't want

chaos,” he said. “We want the situation to settle down.” Still, any diplomatic thaw faces significant obstacles. Iran's parliament passed a bill to suspend cooperation with the IAEA, a move reflecting deep distrust of the West. Although the bill requires final approval by Iran's Supreme National Security Council, its passage sends a chilling signal. Moreover, Tehran wasted no time reinforcing internal security. The government executed three men accused of collaborating with Israel and arrested over 700 others for alleged ties with Mossad. These moves suggest that while Iran may be open to diplomacy abroad, it is consolidating its power with an iron grip at home. Questions Over the Future of Iran's Nuclear Ambitions The core concern — Iran's nuclear capabilities — remains unresolved. Trump insists that Iran will not rebuild its facilities, warning

that the U.S. and Israel will “not let that happen.” But history suggests a different pattern. Iran has rebuilt before, and it has the scientific expertise and industrial framework to do so again. Grossi's insistence on reinstating inspections highlights the core issue: the absence of verified information. Without access to nuclear sites, no amount of political rhetoric can assure the international community that Iran's weapons program is truly dismantled. Furthermore, even if military infrastructure has been decimated, the latent capacity to restart enrichment remains. Trump's claim of “obliteration” may thus prove to be more political branding than a technical truth. Reactions from the Region Beyond the high-level politics, the human landscape has shifted. Iranian citizens face the likelihood of more restrictive domestic policies

as the government cracks down on dissent. In Israel, the war has triggered political debate over the decision to launch the surprise offensive and the adequacy of civil defense measures, particularly after so many missiles penetrated its defenses. The dual declarations of victory ring hollow to many on the ground who fear this was merely the opening chapter of a much larger struggle. Unlike previous conflicts, this war touched nuclear nerves — and those do not calm easily.

CONCLUSION: A PAUSE, NOT PEACE? Trump's portrayal of the ceasefire as a victory for all may play well on the campaign trail and at international summits, but it glosses over unresolved dangers. The fundamental issues — Iran's nuclear capability, regional hostilities, domestic repression, and geopolitical distrust — remain intact. The ceasefire may indeed be a temporary relief, but to call it an end to war may be premature. If anything, the events of June 2025 exposed both the volatility of the Iran-Israel relationship and the limits of military solutions to deeply rooted ideological and geopolitical conflicts. The real question is not whether the war ended — but whether this uneasy peace will hold, or if it is merely the eye of a larger storm to come.

Controversies surrounding Mira Nair's son Zohran--NYC Mayoral candidate

TDG NETWORK

Zohran Mamdani, a 33-year-old New York State Assemblyman and son of acclaimed filmmaker Mira Nair, made history by winning the Democratic primary for New York City mayor, defeating veteran politician Andrew Cuomo. Celebrated as the first Indian-origin Muslim to secure the nomination, Mamdani's candidacy has energized young, progressive voters with promises of rent freezes, free public transit, and higher taxes on the wealthy. But as he eyes the November mayoral election. His mother, Mira Nair, is one of the most celebrated Indian filmmakers on the world stage. Known for critically acclaimed films such as Salaam Bombay! and Monsoon Wedding, Nair's work has consistently spotlighted the intersections of class, gender, and tradition, often examining the complexities of identity in postcolonial and diasporic societies. Her storytelling, marked by empathy and cultural honesty, has been recognized at the Academy Awards, BAFTAs, and Cannes. His father, Mahmood Mamdani, is a distinguished Ugandan academic and political theorist whose scholarship focuses on colonialism, post-colonial governance, and the roots of ethnic conflict. His father is also of Indian descent, with ancestral roots in Gujarat — a background Zohran has invoked when speaking about his identity as a “Gujarati Muslim.”

GLOBALIZE THE INTIFADA ROW



New York mayoral candidate, State Rep. Zohran Mamdani stands with his mother Mira Nair, and father Mahmood Mamdani. File Photo

The most immediate backlash against Mamdani arose following a podcast appearance where he declined to condemn the phrase “globalize the intifada,” a slogan widely interpreted as a call for violence against Jews, particularly in the context of the Second Intifada — a bloody campaign of attacks on Israeli civilians in the early 2000s. Mamdani said the phrase, to him, signified a “desperate desire for equality,” emphasizing Palestinian human rights. His refusal to denounce the slogan was met with intense condemnation. Congressman Dan Goldman of New York, a Jewish Democrat, said Mamdani's comments disqualified him from leading a city with 1.3 million Jews. Congressman Josh Gottheimer labeled the remarks “pathetic, hateful lies,” while Rep. Ritchie Torres called his stance “disgraceful” and “disqualifying.” **GUJARAT COMMENTS** Mamdani's troubles have not been limited to his stance on Israel. In a sepa-

rate controversy, he has been accused of using divisive communal rhetoric after drawing parallels between Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu — specifically referencing the 2002 Gujarat riots, during which hundreds of Muslims were killed in sectarian violence. At a public event on May 15, Mamdani criticized Modi and referenced his own Gujarati Muslim identity, claiming that people were often “shocked” to learn that he was both Gujarati and Muslim. His remarks struck a nerve among Indian-American political leaders, many of whom viewed the comments as an attempt to stoke religious divides in an already polarized mayoral race. Assemblymember Jenifer Rajkumar, a fellow Indian-American Democrat, slammed Mamdani for what she called “extreme, divisive language” that distracts from the real issues affecting New Yorkers. “Our city deserves leaders who unite, not provoke,” she said, warning that such rhetoric could

alienate Hindu voters. **GLOBAL SOLIDARITY OR LOCAL LEADERSHIP** As the general election nears, Mamdani faces a delicate balancing act: maintaining his appeal to progressive voters while reassuring communities deeply unsettled by his comments on global conflicts. His outspoken views on Palestine, critiques of Israel, and denunciations of Indian leadership reflect his internationalist worldview. But critics argue that such stances distract from the urgent, local concerns of New Yorkers — rising crime, housing affordability, and economic inequality. The controversies also expose a deeper dilemma within the American left: how to support human rights abroad without alienating communities at home. Mamdani's campaign may represent a bold new political wave, but the backlash highlights the risks of uncompromising rhetoric in a multicultural city already grappling with ethnic and religious tensions.

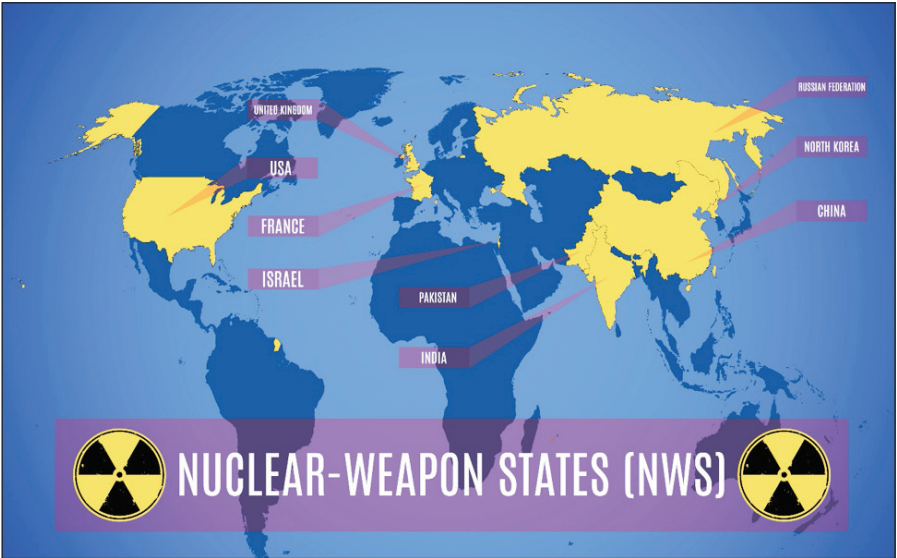
Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and its significance in present times

TDG NETWORK

The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, commonly known as the NPT, is an international agreement that was opened for signature in 1968 and came into force in 1970, with the primary objective of preventing the further spread of nuclear weapons across the globe, promoting cooperation in the peaceful use of nuclear energy, and advancing the cause of nuclear disarmament among the existing nuclear powers. The treaty has been signed by nearly 190 countries, making it one of the most widely adhered to arms control agreements in history, and it essentially divides the world into nuclear-weapon states and non-nuclear-weapon states, placing specific obligations on each group to ensure global nuclear security.

GUIDELINES AND OBLIGATIONS

Under the NPT, non-nuclear-weapon states commit to not acquiring nuclear weapons or seeking to develop them, thereby agreeing to forgo nuclear arms in exchange for access to peaceful nuclear technology and assistance, which is monitored and verified by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) through inspections and safeguards designed to detect any diversion of nuclear material to weapon programs. Meanwhile, the five recognized nuclear-weapon states under the treaty — the United States, Russia, China, France, and the United Kingdom — agree to pursue negotiations in good faith toward nuclear disarmament and to refrain from transferring nuclear weapons to non-nuclear states. The treaty also guarantees the right of all parties to develop nuclear energy for peaceful



purposes, provided they comply with IAEA safeguards to prevent misuse. **MERITS** One of the major advantages of the NPT is that it has played a crucial role in halting the uncontrolled spread of nuclear weapons by creating a legally binding framework that discourages countries from pursuing nuclear arms, thus reducing the risk of a global nuclear arms race and contributing significantly to international peace and security. The treaty also fosters international cooperation in nuclear energy development, allowing countries to harness nuclear technology for power generation, medical use, and scientific research while ensuring that such technology is not diverted for military purposes. Furthermore, the NPT has helped establish global norms against the proliferation of nuclear weapons and has provided a platform for continued diplomatic engagement on disarmament, encouraging nuclear states to reduce their arsenals gradually, although progress has been slow and uneven. **CRITICISMS**

Despite its wide acceptance and important role, the NPT faces several criticisms and limitations that have hindered its full effectiveness, most notably the perception that it creates a discriminatory system by allowing only five countries to possess nuclear weapons legally while expecting all other nations to remain non-nuclear, which has caused frustration and accusations of double standards, especially among countries like India, Pakistan, and Israel, which have never joined the treaty yet possess nuclear arsenals. The treaty also lacks strong enforcement mechanisms, as it relies heavily on the voluntary cooperation of states and international inspections that can be evaded or obstructed, leading to cases such as North Korea's withdrawal in 2003 and subsequent nuclear tests, and the controversies surrounding Iran's nuclear program, which has been accused of non-compliance and clandestine weapons development. Additionally, some critics argue that the pace of disarmament by nuclear-weapon states has been disappointingly slow, undermining the treaty's credibility and the trust of non-nuclear states.

SIGNIFICANCE In the current international environment marked by increasing geopolitical tensions, emerging security threats, and technological advancements, the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty remains a cornerstone of global efforts to maintain nuclear stability and prevent nuclear conflict, especially as countries like North Korea continue to test nuclear weapons and concerns about nuclear ambitions in regions like the Middle East and South Asia persist. The treaty serves as a crucial diplomatic tool in negotiations with states such as Iran, where agreements like the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action aim to limit nuclear development in exchange for sanctions relief, although such agreements face challenges and uncertainties. Moreover, the NPT highlights the urgent need for renewed commitments to nuclear disarmament to reduce the existing stockpiles of nuclear weapons, as their continued existence poses an ongoing existential threat to humanity in the face of accidental launches, miscalculations, or potential use in conflicts.

UN NUCLEAR CHIEF SAYS IT'S POSSIBLE IRAN'S HIGHLY ENRICHED URANIUM 'INATCT'

He said that Iran plans to suspend inspections, risking Non-Proliferation Treaty and accelerating nuclear programme.


AGENCIES
WASHINGTON

The head of the United Nations nuclear watchdog, Rafael Grossi, has indicated that much of Iran's highly enriched uranium may still be intact despite recent Israeli and U.S. military strikes targeting Iran's nuclear facilities. Speaking on June 25, 2025, at a press conference in Vienna alongside Austrian government officials, Grossi revealed that Iran had informed the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on June 13 — coinciding with the first day of Israeli air strikes — that it would take “special measures” to safeguard its nuclear materials and equipment. Although Iran did not provide details on these measures, the implication is that Tehran likely moved or secured significant quantities of enriched uranium prior to the attacks.

This development raises

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Iran likely moved nuclear materials after Israeli and US attacks.
- IAEA inspections have stopped since bombings began.
- Iran plans to suspend cooperation with IAEA inspections.
- Iran's uranium enriched up to 60%, close to weapons-grade.
- US strikes set back Iran's program by only months.
- Iran may accelerate its civilian nuclear program.



Rafael Grossi

serious concerns about the actual damage inflicted on Iran's nuclear program during the 12-day conflict with Israel and the recent U.S. bombing of underground nuclear sites. While the precise extent of the damage remains unclear, the possibility that Iran's enriched uranium stockpile largely survived complicates international efforts to monitor and control its nuclear ambitions. Grossi

emphasized that resuming IAEA inspections at Iranian nuclear facilities is his top priority, as no inspections have been conducted since the attacks began. However, Iran's parliament has recently approved measures to suspend cooperation with the IAEA, requiring the Supreme National Security Council's approval for any future inspections — a move that could further hinder the agency's oversight.

Iran's nuclear program remains a highly contentious issue. The country has enriched uranium to levels as high as 60% purity, which approaches the roughly 90% purity required for weapons-grade material. While uranium enrichment has legitimate civilian uses, such as fuel for nuclear reactors, the IAEA notes that no country other than those with nuclear weapons programs has enriched

uranium to such high levels without eventually producing nuclear arms. Iran insists its program is solely for peaceful purposes, but Western nations argue there is no civil justification for enrichment beyond 20%.

The latest quarterly IAEA report, issued on May 31, stated that Iran possesses enough uranium enriched to 60% purity to produce about nine nuclear weapons if further enriched to weapons-grade. It also has significant amounts of uranium enriched to lower levels such as 20% and 5%, which could be further processed. A preliminary U.S. intelligence assessment suggests that the recent air strikes delayed Iran's nuclear progress by only a few months, meaning Tehran could resume its nuclear program quickly. Grossi described the current situation as an “hourglass approach,” expressing frustration at how Iran's nuclear infrastructure could be rebuilt or repaired over time.

Trump says not keen on regime change in Iran

AGENCIES
WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump has said that Iran is not going to have a nuclear weapon and is “going to be a great trading nation” and that he will like to “see everything calm down as quickly as possible”.

In his remarks hours after the ceasefire in the Israel-Iran conflict, Trump also referred to the ceasefire between Israel and Iran and indicated that the United States is not keen on “regime change” in Iran.

“No... if there was, there was. I'd like to see everything calm down as quickly as possible. Regime change takes chaos and ideally we don't want to see so much chaos, so we'll see how it does...,” he said when asked if he wants to see a regime change in Iran.

“Iran's not going to have a nuclear weapon, by the way. I think it's the last thing on their mind right now. They're not going to have enrichment (Uranium) and they're not going to have a nuclear weapon... They're going to be a great trading nation and they have a lot of oil. They're going to do well.



They're not going to have a nuclear weapon...” Trump said during a Press Gaggle on Air Force One.

He also said that ceasefire was “very much in effect.”

“Israel, as you know, turned back. They didn't do that raid this morning, fortunately. That was a big thing. Appreciate it. They had a lot of planes going, and they were going to do something, and they didn't do it. We're happy about that. Very happy about that,” Trump said.

“There was going to be a retaliation this morning by Israel. And I said, you got to call back the planes. It's enough. And they did, which I respect very greatly. So nobody was killed. That was the story,” he added.

Trump also referred to his conversation with Israeli

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Commending US military strikes on three nuclear facilities in Iran, Trump said: “They had a magnificent hit in the dark of night with no moon, no light, no nothing. They hit the target perfectly, wiped it out.”

“Now we're going to NATO, and we'll get a new set of problems. We'll solve a new set of problems,” he said.

Speaking on NATO defence spending, Trump reiterated: “I was the one that said that's what they should be paying. They're having a problem with Spain. Spain's not agreeing, which is very unfair to the rest of them.”

Answering a query related to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, he said: “Yeah, probably. I'll see him...”

Israel kills key Hezbollah financier tied to Iran's Quds Force

AGENCIES
TEL AVIV

The Israel Defence Forces said Wednesday it had killed a key Hezbollah financial operative who worked closely with Iran, revealing new details about how the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps moves money to the terror group.

Haytham Abdullah Bakri, head of the “Al-Sadiq” Currency Exchange in southern Lebanon, was eliminated in an Israeli Air Force strike on Tuesday. According to the IDF, Bakri played a central role in Hezbollah's financial operations, acting as a conduit for funds transferred from the IRGC's Quds Force.

“This currency exchange functioned as a storage and transfer mechanism for funds

from Iran to Hezbollah,” the IDF said in a statement. “These funds were used for purchasing weapons, manufacturing means, paying salaries, and supporting terrorist activity.” The IDF said the strike was based on precise intelligence and is part of a broader campaign targeting Iran's financial support network for its regional proxies.

Among the Iranian com-

manders assassinated during 12 days of Israeli strikes on Iran's nuclear and military facilities was Behnam Shahriyari, the commander of the Quds Force's Unit 190, inside Iran. Shahriyari was responsible for orchestrating the transfer of hundreds of millions of dollars annually to Iranian-backed militias, using complex money-laundering routes through currency ex-



Representative Image of Israel-Iran war

B'desh arrests another former chief election commissioner Awal

AGENCIES
DHAKA

Detective Branch (DB) of Bangladesh police on Wednesday arrested Kazi Habibul Awal, another Chief Election Commissioner (CEC), after the former CEC Nurul Huda.

“DB have arrested former CEC Kazi Habibul Awal from Moghobazar in the capital”, DB said in a message sent to the media without elaborating.

Kazi Habibul Awal, a retired senior secretary of the Bangladesh government, resigned as CEC on September 5, 2024. While he was CEC, former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's Awami League won a landslide victory in the 2024

elections.

Earlier, “Former Chief Election Commissioner Nurul Huda was arrested by the Uttara Police Station in the capital on Sunday, June 22, in a specific case.

The chaotic situation created by the “mob” and physical assault of the accused has come to the attention of the government”, the Bangladesh interim government said in a statement.



Iran passes Bill to halt IAEA cooperation

AGENCIES
DUBAI

Iran's parliament approved a bill on Wednesday to suspend cooperation with the U.N. nuclear watchdog, state-affiliated news outlet Nournews reported.

The move follows an air war with Israel in which Iran's longtime enemy said it wanted to prevent Tehran developing a nuclear weapon.

The bill, which must be approved by Iran's unelected Guardian Council to become law, stipulates that any future inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) would need approval by the Supreme National Security Council.

‘Good news but fragile’: EU foreign policy chief on Israel-Iran truce

AGENCIES
BRUSSELS

The ceasefire announcement between Israel and Iran has been described as “good news” by EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission, Kaja Kallas, who noted that this was the moment that all parties related to the matter “return to the negotiating table”.

In a series of posts on X on Tuesday, the EU Foreign Policy Chief urged all sides who were involved in the conflict in the region to refrain from further violence and avoid escalation.

“The announced reprieve in fighting between Israel and Iran is good news but

remains fragile. All sides should stand by this and refrain from further violence. All further escalation must be avoided,” Kallas stated, highlighting the precarious nature of the ceasefire.

“The EU stands in solidarity with all those affected, including Qatar last night. This is the moment to return to the negotiating table.



Kaja Kallas, EU foreign policy chief

Let this be a turning point for the whole region. I will continue to work towards this end with all sides,” she added.

This came after US President Trump, on early Tuesday, announced a ceasefire agreement between the two conflict-gripped nations following Iran's attack on US military bases in Qatar and Iraq in response to the US strikes on its nuclear facilities.

However, moments after the announcement, the Israeli Air Force (IAF) carried out a limited strike on an Iranian radar installation north of Tehran, following which Iran launched two ballistic missiles at Israel, as reported by The Times of Israel.

Xi, Putin to skip BRICS Summit in Brazil

AGENCIES
BEIJING/MOSCOW

Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping will not travel to Brazil for the BRICS Summit scheduled for early next month in Brazil.

Brazil, as the current rotating chair of BRICS, is hosting its regular 17th summit in Rio de Janeiro on July 6-7.

Although there is no official announcement yet, media reports suggested that Xi plans to skip the BRICS Summit, which, if confirmed, will be his first-ever absence from the meeting of the bloc in over a decade.

Instead, Chinese Premier and Xi's confidant Li Qiang will take part in the summit, the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post reported on Wednesday.



The BRICS comprises Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. The bloc has been expanded with five additional members Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia and the UAE.

In Moscow, Kremlin Foreign policy aide Yuri Ushakov announced on Wednesday: “Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov will represent Russia at the

upcoming BRICS summit in Brazil, while Russian President Vladimir Putin will attend the event via video link.”

The BRICS comprises

Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. The bloc has been expanded with five additional members Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia and the UAE.

In 2023, President Putin skipped the BRICS Summit in Johannesburg, South Africa, due to an arrest warrant issued against him by the International Criminal Court (ICC) at Ukraine's request.

Brazil, like South Africa, is a signatory of ICC's Rome Statute and is obliged to act on its warrants.

In Beijing, during the media briefing on Wednesday, Foreign Ministry spokesman Guo Jiakun declined to comment on the reports about Xi's decision, saying that information on China's attendance at the BRICS summit would be released in due course.

Pakistan signs \$350 million loan agreement with ADB

AGENCIES
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan has signed a USD 350 million loan agreement with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to boost women's financial inclusion and economic empowerment, according to Radio Pakistan.

The agreement, under the Women Inclusive Finance (WIF) Sector Development

Programme was inked on Tuesday by Sabina Qureshi, Additional Secretary of the Economic Affairs Division, and Dinesh Raj Shiwakoti, Head Project Administration Unit, Radio Pakistan reported.

“This programme will provide ample opportunities to women for better access to financial services, expand business opportunities, and create new em-

ployment opportunities,” it added.

The sub-programme II of WIF focuses on four key reform areas. It includes creating an enabling policy and regulatory environment for women's financial inclusion, increasing the finances for women, strengthening women's entrepreneurship capabilities and promoting inclusive and equitable workplaces within the fi-

nancial sector.

The agreement also reflects the government of Pakistan's commitment to make women an active part of the national economy, Radio Pakistan said.

This initiative will not only strengthen women's economic empowerment but also pave the way for a more inclusive, equitable and prosperous future, it added.

BRICS expresses concern over military strikes on Iran

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The BRICS grouping comprising India, China, Russia and eight other nations have voiced “grave concern” over military strikes against Iran and called for breaking the “cycle of violence”.

The influential bloc urged parties concerned to de-escalate the situation through

dialogue and diplomacy.

The conflict between Iran and Israel escalated following the US bombing of three Iranian nuclear sites on Sunday morning.

US President Donald Trump on Tuesday announced a ceasefire between Iran and Israel. The ceasefire seems to be holding on Wednesday.

“We express grave concern over the military

strikes against the Islamic Republic of Iran since June 13, which constitute a violation of international law and the Charter of the UN,” the BRICS said in a statement on Tuesday.

“In the face of rising tensions with unpredictable consequences for international peace and security, as well as for the world economy, we underscore the urgent need to break

the cycle of violence and restore peace.”

The grouping called on all parties to engage through existing channels of dialogue and diplomacy, with a view to de-escalate the situation and resolve the differences through peaceful means.

It also expressed “serious concern” over any attacks against “peaceful nuclear installations”.

MIKA CRITICISES DILJIT DOSANJH AFTER ‘SARDAAR JI 3’ ROW OVER PAK ACTRESS

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Musician Mika Singh has publicly criticised Diljit Dosanjh, calling him a “fake singer” and “irresponsible” after Dosanjh collaborated with Pakistani actress Hania Aamir in his upcoming film ‘Sardaar Ji 3’.

Taking to Instagram, Mika condemned Diljit for releasing content featuring an artist “from across the border,” urging artists to consider the sensitive India-Pakistan relations before such collaborations.

He posted a note titled ‘Desh Pehle (Nation First)’, stating, “Before releasing any content involving artists from across the border, they should think twice —



especially when our nation's dignity is involved.”

Mika recalled the controversy around the film ‘Abir Gulaal’, starring Pakistani actor Fawad Khan and Bollywood actress Vaani Kapoor, which was banned in India following the Pahal-gam terror attack earlier this year. He expressed shock that despite such incidents, some artists fail to recognise the gravity of ongoing

tensions.

Criticising Diljit for his silence amid the backlash, Mika wrote, “A fake singer, after doing 10 shows in India with thousands of fans, has now disappeared — leaving fans betrayed and helpless.”

The film ‘Sardaar Ji 3’ has faced widespread criticism from social media, fellow musicians, and the Federation of Western India Cine

Employees (FWICE) after its trailer release. FWICE condemned the casting of Hania Aamir, citing her alleged anti-India stance, and demanded the revocation of passports for the filmmakers and a nationwide ban on the film's release in India.

The film body also expressed disappointment in T-Series Chairman Bhushan Kumar, producers J.P. Dutta and Nidhi Dutta, and director Anurag Singh for casting Diljit in their upcoming project ‘Border 2’.

In the midst of the controversy, Diljit posted a cryptic message on Instagram saying, “Censored before release?” referring to his other delayed film, ‘Punjab 95’, which focuses on human rights violations during Punjab's militancy era.

Bobby Sherman passes away at 81, wife shares emotional note

AGENCIES
WASHINGTON D.C.

Bobby Sherman, the beloved teen idol of the late 1960s and early '70s, passed away on Tuesday at the age of 81. His wife, Brigitte Poulblon Sherman, confirmed his death and shared a heartfelt tribute on Instagram.

Brigitte revealed that Bobby had been diagnosed with stage 4 cancer three months ago. In her post, she wrote, “It is with the heaviest heart that I share the passing of my beloved husband, Bobby Sherman.



Bobby left this world holding my hand, just as he held up our life with love, courage, and unwavering grace through all 29 beautiful years of marriage. I was his Cinderella, and he was my Prince Charming. Even in his final days, he stayed

strong for me. That's who Bobby was—brave, gentle, and full of light.”

She recalled reading fan letters to Bobby in his final moments, reminding him of the deep love and admiration he inspired worldwide.

“He soaked up every word with that familiar sparkle in his eye... and yes, he still found time to crack well-timed jokes. Bobby had a wonderful, wicked sense of humour. It never left him.”

Beyond his music and acting career, Brigitte highlighted Bobby's later life as an EMT and trainer with the LAPD.

“He traded sold-out concerts and magazine covers for the back of an ambulance. He saved lives. He showed us what real heroism looks like—quiet, selfless, and deeply human.”

Hugh Jackman, Deborra-Lee Furness officially finalise divorce

AGENCIES
WASHINGTON D.C.

Hugh Jackman and Deborra-Lee Furness have officially finalised their divorce just one month after Furness filed to formally end their decades-long marriage, according to documents obtained by E! News.

Furness, who split from the ‘Wolverine’ star in 2023 after 27 years together, filed the petition in New York on May 23. The documents reveal that the terms of their divorce had already been agreed upon prior to the filing.

Deborra-Lee Furness’ attorney, Elena Karabatos, also submitted paperwork requesting the continuation of health care coverage and the establishment of a medical child support order, according to Daily Mail. Additional documents included a child support registry form for New York State, a proposed judgment of divorce, and the official certificate of dissolution.

Jackman, 56, and Furness, 69, publicly announced their separation in September 2023 with a joint statement “Our journey now is shifting,



They emphasised that family remained their “highest priority” during the difficult transition, asking for privacy and understanding as they navigated the changes.

and we have decided to separate to pursue our individual growth.”

They emphasised that family remained their “highest priority” during the difficult transition, asking for privacy and understanding as they navigated the changes.

The couple, who married in 1996 after meeting on the

set of an Australian TV series, have since moved on to new chapters in their lives. Jackman has gone public with his relationship with Broadway co-star Sutton Foster, while Furness has not publicly dated but has shared insights into the personal growth and new directions she's embraced in recent years.

Madhavan, Fatima Sana Shaikh star in romantic comedy ‘Aap Jaisa Koi’

AGENCIES
MUMBAI

The makers of ‘Aap Jaisa Koi’, starring R. Madhavan and Fatima Sana Shaikh, released the film's trailer on Wednesday, creating a buzz ahead of its Netflix premiere.

Madhavan shared the trailer on his Instagram, showcasing the unique chemistry between him and Fatima. The film follows Shrirenu (Madhavan), a reserved Sanskrit teacher from a conservative Jamshedpur family, and Mad-



hu (Fatima), an outspoken French instructor from an independent household.

The story explores their romance amid conflicting cultural beliefs and ideolo-

gies. Madhavan's character comes from a family that enforces strict rules on women, while Fatima's character challenges societal norms, leading to ten-

Directed by Vivek Soni, ‘Aap Jaisa Koi’ promises a modern, tender love story that highlights the importance of vulnerability and real connection in relationships.

sion and heartbreak as their love is tested.

Directed by Vivek Soni, ‘Aap Jaisa Koi’ promises a modern, tender love story that highlights the importance of vulnerability and real connection in relationships.

Soni shared, “This film is

BRAIN PICKING



I wish to be appreciated not only as a film star but also for the person I am. If I manage to bring a smile on people's faces, then I think I'll be successful.
—DEEPIKA PADUKONE
(Indian Actress)

Lee Je-hoon returns as vigilante driver in ‘Taxi Driver 3’

AGENCIES
WASHINGTON D.C.

Actor Lee Je-hoon is set to reprise his role as the vigilante taxi driver Kim Do-gi in Taxi Driver 3, following the announcement of the third season at the Asia Pacific Video Operators Summit in Indonesia, Variety reports.

The new season is slated



Jacqueline Fernandez felicitated at Italian Global Series Festival 2025

AGENCIES
RIMINI

Bollywood actress Jacqueline Fernandez was honoured at the ongoing Italian Global Series Festival 2025 on Tuesday.

The ‘Housefull 5’ star shared photos from the festival's opening night on Instagram, where she looked stunning in a white dress on the red carpet alongside other celebrities, including Kevin Spacey.

Expressing her gratitude to the festival for recognising her contributions to cinema and storytelling, Jacqueline wrote, “Cinema as an art for me is not just about storytelling but a way

to connect people across time, language and continents. To be acknowledged for helping share that with the world means more than words can express! Grazie di cuore. @igsfestival it was an honour to be awarded here in Rimini at your prestigious event with all the extraordinary awardees in



attendance. Here's to many more moments for us to celebrate cinema across the globe.”

She also shared a photo with ‘Bridgerton’ actress Adjoa Andoh, both holding their respective awards.

On the work front, Jacqueline was last seen in ‘Housefull 5’, directed by Tarun Mansukhani and produced by Sajid Nadiawala under Nadiawala Grandson Entertainment. The film stars an ensemble cast including Akshay Kumar, Abhishek Bachchan, Riteish Deshmukh, Sonam Bajwa, Nargis Fakhri, Sanjay Dutt, Jackie Shroff, Nana Patekar, Chitrangada Singh, and others.

Schwarzenegger reveals ‘Twins’ was his most profitable film

AGENCIES
WASHINGTON D.C.

Actor Arnold Schwarzenegger surprised fans by revealing that his 1988 comedy-drama ‘Twins’ was the most profitable film of his career, surpassing even his iconic ‘Terminator’ franchise, according to Variety.

In an interview on ‘Watch What Happens Live’, Schwarzenegger explained that he and co-star Danny DeVito took no upfront sal-



ary for ‘Twins’ but secured ownership and a significant share of the film's backend profits.

“We went all the way to the

bank with that,” he said.

When asked if his earnings exceeded \$20 million, Arnold confirmed it was much more, revealing, “It was more than any movie I ever made.”

‘Twins’, which starred Schwarzenegger and DeVito as unlikely fraternal twins, marked his first foray into comedy—a genre studios were initially hesitant to cast him in due to his established action star image.

AUDI Q7 SIGNATURE EDITION LAUNCHED AT RS. 99.81 LAKH

SYED SHIRAZ SHAH
NEW DELHI

Audi India has launched a special edition of its flagship Q7 SUV. Called the Signature Edition, it features a curated collection of premium design elements and luxurious amenities for those who want an exclusive Q7. Plus, to ensure that exclusivity, as with most special editions, even this one would be available in limited numbers.

WHAT'S NEW?

- ▶ “Audi rings” puddle lamps
- ▶ Dynamic wheel-hubcaps that maintain the correct Audi logo orientation at all times regardless of wheel motion
- ▶ Metallic key cover for a premium touch
- ▶ Stainless steel pedal covers
- ▶ Espresso Mobile coffee system
- ▶ Audi Dashcam with Audi universal traffic recorder providing additional protection while driving and even when parked
- ▶ Special alloy-wheel paint design on new R20 units

WHAT'S NOT NEW BUT STILL WORTHY OF MENTION?

- ▶ The Q7 is powered by a 3.0 L V6 TFSI engine delivering 340 hp and 500 Nm of torque. There's 48 V mild hybrid tech as well. The gearbox is an eight-speed tiptronic unit.



PHOTO: AUDI INDIA

- ▶ The vehicle is claimed to accelerate from 0 to 100 km/h in just 5.6 seconds, while its top speed is limited to a very healthy 250 km/h.
- ▶ Of course, it comes equipped with Quattro permanent all-wheel drive.
- ▶ The Q7 has adaptive

- air suspension and Audi's Drive Select with seven driving modes, including an off-road mode.
- ▶ This is a seven-seat SUV with electrically foldable third-row seats.
- ▶ The Q7 also features Audi's Virtual Cockpit Plus that provides a

- fully digital and customizable instrument cluster.
- ▶ A luxury SUV cannot do without a terrific music system, right? The Audi Q7 doesn't disappoint here as well. It comes with Bang & Olufsen Premium 3D Sound System with 19 speakers and

- 730 watts output.
- ▶ The Q7 has MMI Navigation Plus with touch response.
- ▶ It obviously has Park Assist Plus with a 360-degree camera for effortless parking and enhanced safety.
- ▶ The Q7 also comes with what Audi refers to as Comfort Key with

- sensor-controlled boot lid operation for convenient access.
- ▶ Then there's 4-zone climate control with air ionizer and aromatization.
- ▶ The Q7 has adaptive windscreen wipers with integrated wash nozzles.
- ▶ For the absent minded,

- Audi has given Lane Departure Warning to help prevent unintentional lane drifting.
- ▶ The Q7 has eight air-bags, and the whole gamut of abbreviations like ESP, EBD, ABS, etc., for optimal safety and protection.
- Please also note that the Audi Q7 Signature Edition

- is exclusively packaged with the Technology variant, and features exclusive to the Signature Edition are part of Audi Genuine accessories. Is that your subtle way of telling potential customers that if they miss buying the Signature Edition, they can buy the Technology variant and add the former's extra goodies later on, Audi?

Hyundai announces Nationwide Monsoon Service Camp from 25 June–20 July, 2025

SYED SHIRAZ SHAH

Hyundai Motor India Limited (HMIL) has announced a special monsoon camp with exclusive service and discounts across all Hyundai workshops in India. The Monsoon Camp aims to educate the customers about the importance of preventive maintenance during the monsoon season while offering exclusive benefits and discounts to enhance vehicle performance and ensure safer driving in the rain.

As part of this initiative, HMIL is offering a comprehensive 70-point vehicle health check-up, including detailed inspection of brakes, front & rear lights, tyres, wipers, battery, electrical systems and underbody components, all critical for safe and reliable driving during monsoon conditions. **Here is the complete breakdown:**

- Upto 35% discount on Extended Warranty
- 15% discount on:
 - Mechanical labour charges

- incurred during periodic maintenance service,
- interior and exterior beautification, and
- underbody (anti-rust) coating
- 10% discount on selected wear & tear parts like brake pads, clutch, and suspension
- 10% discount on headlamps, tail lights, indicators, other bulbs, and wiper blades
- 10% discount on labour of cowl panel cleaning & sunroof

lubrication Speaking on the initiative, Mr. Tarun Garg, Whole-Time Director & Chief Operating Officer, Hyundai Motor India Limited, said, “At HMIL, we are committed to deliver impeccable driving experience through thoughtful and proactive customer care. The Monsoon Service Camp is designed to offer complete peace of mind to customers by ensuring their vehicles are ready for the rainy season. We urge all Hyundai owners to take advantage of this initiative and drive safe and worry-free this rainy season.”

HMSI OPENS ITS FIRST-EVER EV CONCEPT STORE IN BENGALURU



Photo: HMSI

SYED SHIRAZ SHAH

Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India (HMSI) inaugurated its first-ever EV Concept Store in India yesterday. It's located at Mantri Square Mall, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru. Honda says that this one-of-a-kind concept store is designed to offer customers an immersive and futuristic experience by giving them a glimpse into Honda's world of mobility, technology, and innovation. In addition to that, Honda also announced a new BaaS Lite Plan for the electric Activa (called the ACTIVA e:) where low-usage customers can pay just Rs. 678/month. But first, let me tell you a bit about the concept store.

HONDA EV CONCEPT STORE

Honda says that its new EV Concept Store is designed to offer a fascinating experience of the company's technological advancements, capturing the essence of

Honda's global innovation from electric mobility to personal aviation. At the heart of the store is a main LED Display (Honda hasn't mentioned the size) which would serve as a digital focal point to engage visitors through interactive content, brand storytelling, and product highlights. A history wall is also on display, exhibiting the company's journey and key milestones over the years. There's obviously a Product Display Zone as well that showcases Honda's latest electric offerings in India—the electric Activa and QCI. The scooters won't have “please don't touch” boards around them; on the contrary visitors will be encouraged to explore the scooters' features and understand the engineering behind them. There's also a Kids Interaction Zone for those visiting the store with their young ones. No, it's not a daycare where you can

leave your toddlers behind. The zone I personally am interested to explore is the Safe Tech Zone, which, Honda says, gives a detailed look at the core components behind the electric Activa and QCI, including the PMS motor, hub motor, charger, battery and Mobile Power Pack (MPP). Visitors will also witness Honda's advanced battery swapping technology at the dedicated Honda Power Pack Exchanger. This innovative system enables seamless battery replacement for the electric Activa, aiming to provide unmatched convenience to users. Live demonstrations of the system will showcase the efficiency and user-friendliness of this technology. The store also features a scale model of the Honda Jet, along with Honda's electric Racing Go-Kart (eGX). It's interesting to note that even the go-kart is powered by swappable batteries. Honda has also

kept its foldable electric scooter—Moto Compact—on display. Weighing in at just 19 kg, it has a range of 20 km per charge, and a top speed of 24 km/h. **NEW BAAS LITE PLAN** As you have already read above, the electric Activa comes with swappable batteries. It has two 1.5 kWh batteries, delivering a claimed range of 102 km on a full charge. Now, to make things easier for electric Activa adoption, Honda has introduced a new BaaS Lite plan, wherein the customers will have to pay just Rs. 678 per month (for 20 kWh energy usage per month). Honda says that this affordable subscription plan has been tailored specifically for users with lower daily running. The other two subscription packages, Basic and Advance, see no change at Rs. 1,999 for 35 kWh/month and Rs. 3,599 for 87 kWh/month, respectively.



Photo: Syed Shiraz Shah

ALGORITHMIC INTUITION: WHEN AI STARTS GUESSING WHAT YOU HAVEN'T SAID YET



THE NEXT
ABHISHEK ANAND

You didn't type it. But it showed up anyway. That phrase. That suggestion. That eerie response that feels like the AI read a thought you hadn't fully formed yet. This isn't coincidence. It's the next phase of intelligence: Algorithmic intuition. Where AI stops reacting - and starts anticipating. Let's explore.

WHEN RESPONSE BECOMES PREDICTION
We've trained AI to complete sentences. Then paragraphs. Then emails.

But as it absorbs more context - tone, history, behavior patterns, even mood signals - something shifts: It begins to guess what you meant but didn't say.

What you want but haven't asked for. What's missing - not from your input, but from your awareness.

This is no longer about better autocomplete. It's about AI stepping ahead of cognition. And that changes everything.

WELCOME TO PREEMPTIVE UX
We're entering an era where AI doesn't wait for prompts - it pre-prompts. Your calendar app nudges you to reschedule a meeting before you feel burnt out. Your writing assistant removes a sentence you were unsure of - before you even reread it. Your AI cofounder suggests a pivot you hadn't considered - but somehow feels right. This isn't AI as a mirror.

It's AI as a quiet seer. It doesn't just know your behavior. It predicts your hesitation. It senses your direction before you chart it.

WHY THIS FEELS... HUMAN
We call it "intuition" because it mirrors something innately human - the ability to sense the unsaid. To detect intent beneath language. To spot patterns we weren't consciously tracking. But when machines start doing this at scale - across interactions, platforms, and emotional signals - it doesn't feel human. It feels uncanny. Because intuition, for us, is an art. For AI, it's a calculation. What happens when something artificial gets too good at reading us?

THE RISK: ANTICIPATION BECOMES AUTHORITY
When AI starts finishing your thoughts, it saves time.



But it also shapes direction. The risk? You stop questioning. You start accepting. And eventually, you begin to expect the AI to know better - even when it shouldn't.

That's the thin line between assistance and influence. Between help... and subtle hijack. Algorithmic intuition, left unchecked, becomes a silent editor of your decisions

- one that's never been elected, but always obeyed. **THE OPPORTUNITY: THOUGHTFUL DESIGN** But this isn't doomscrolling the future. If we design for it, algo-

rithmic intuition can amplify our clarity - not cloud it. Imagine: Systems that nudge you to reflect, not just act faster. Intuitive AI that pauses, not assumes.

Tools that show their predictions and let you choose the direction. In that version, AI becomes not a shortcut, but a thought partner - one that respects the gaps in your thinking as much as it fills them. Final Thought: Intuition Needs Boundaries The next wave of AI won't wait for you to type. It'll know when to type for you. But maybe the real test of intelligence isn't prediction - it's knowing when not to finish the sentence. Abhishek Anand is the Founder of Skill Bud Technologies Pvt. Ltd., a next-gen technology company building at the intersection of digital marketing, web development, CGI storytelling, AR/VR, Web3, and Generative AI. As an author, speaker, and mentor, he helps businesses navigate what's next by designing not just tools, but intelligent systems that scale thought.

Has googling everything killed our ability to think deeply?

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI
Remember the time you would check thick phone books or dial directory assistance to try and find a person's number? It was easy for most of us in the past to recall many of our main contacts such as family, friends and the people from our neighbourhood. Try to think of an answer, honestly: are you able to recall more than a small number of phone numbers yourself or do you have to check your phone? It does not mean that we are not as smart or cannot use our brains as before. Technology has revolutionized the ways we keep, find and manage our data. At first, phones were simple for storing numbers, but now they are much richer, with photos, links to social platforms and detailed records. Because of our use of extended memory, we do not remember many numbers

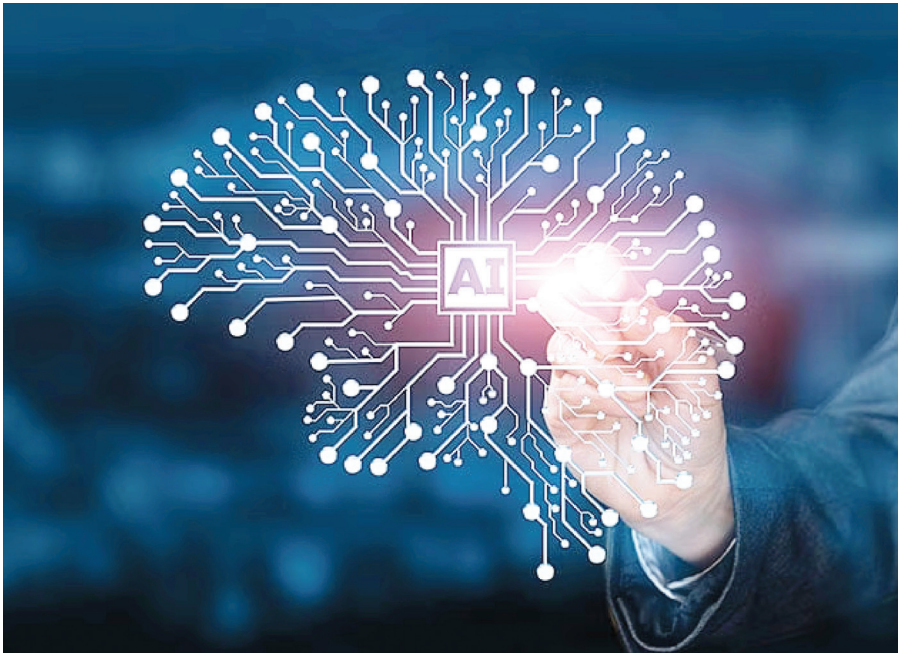
individually but are able to connect more ideas. Many reasons have made Google influential in the same way. Instead of making us think less, it has helped us handle many types of information quickly. We don't keep facts in

mind as much as we did before, but we might know much more about a wider variety of things than we used to. However, there is a small problem. People are not able to focus as well as they used to. Because of how easy it is

to find information, we now often seek short summaries and content that uses SEO. It has become very rare to spend a lot of time thinking carefully which is valuable for careful research or great understanding. With current generative

AI, chatbots like ChatGPT help us gather, shorten and process information quicker. Earlier on, preparing a full itinerary for a trip, for example to Salzburg, would usually take a lot of exact study. Today, processing a payment only requires minutes. While others say it limits how much we think, I see it as something else. They free up our minds so that we can concentrate more on complex thinking and finding solutions creatively. Google and AI have not removed our ability to think carefully; they have altered how we use it. We are now moving away from learning little bits here and there to learning the bigger picture. Convincing studies have found that short attention spans have actually helped improve our mental abilities.

By Aravind Putrevu, Tech Evangelist



Newton School of Technology Launches Bengaluru Campus to Nurture Future Leaders in AI, Robotics, and Entrepreneurship

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI
Newton School of Technology is launching its new campus of advanced technologies education in Bengaluru, building on the extraordinary success of its students. A remarkable 93% of second-year undergraduate students have secured internships at top tech firms like Razorpay, Sarvam AI, and Zoomcar and and esteemed research organisations like DRDO. Some students have even completed two internships by the end of their second year, a rare achievement in India's undergraduate ecosystem, and a testament to NST's hands-on, industry-first learning model. Located in Electronic City—India's top tech and startup hub—the new campus is built to meet the growing need for

practical, job-ready tech education. It will accommodate 2,500 students and include residential facilities for 1,000 learners. Designed with specializations in Artificial Intelligence, Robotics, and Tech Entrepreneurship, NST's academic model blends classroom learning with real-world industry exposure-ensuring students

graduate with practical skills, a strong portfolio, and job-ready experience. Students will gain access to an on-campus makers lab for robotics, access to state-of-the-art AI models and infrastructure, and a curriculum shaped by industry veterans, including Ashwin K (ICPC World Finalist, former Tech Lead at CRED), Soumitra Misha

(former Principal Engineer at MakeMyTrip), and Siddharth Malik (former ISRO). This environment nurtures problem-solving, experimentation, and the building of real-world products from day one. Siddharth Maheshwari, Co-founder of Newton School, said: "At Newton School, we're bringing the tech industry into the class-

room—so learning stays deeply practical, current, and impactful. This new campus is designed as a collaborative space where students don't just learn theory—they build, innovate, and solve real-world challenges. Our goal is not just to create job-ready graduates, but to nurture future tech leaders and entrepreneurs who will shape tomorrow's digital landscape."

With global immersion opportunities in innovation hubs like China, Singapore, and Silicon Valley, hands-on learning through projects, hackathons, and live industry challenges, and a dedicated startup incubation, this campus is built to be much more than just another college. It's a purpose-driven community designed for builders, innovators, and future founders.



How GCCs Are Powering Next-Gen Marketing Strategies



The role of GCCs has evolved as organizational engines that drive value realization through business consolidation and added operational excellence. In the current scenario, given the pace of dynamically evolving competition and customer needs, GCCs are required to rethink strategies that will consistently deliver value across business, talent, and innovation. To this end, GCCs need constantly reinvent themselves through a strenuous focus on performance improvement across the various business processes. Global Capability Centres in India are at the forefront of not only meeting but shaping the future demands of global businesses.

GCCs are at the forefront of devising Next-gen marketing strategies that focus on using exponential technologies specially AI, Gen AI and innovative approaches to connect with customers. These will also build brand awareness strategies for enterprises. The approaches include AI-powered personalization, voice and visual search optimization, data-driven decision-making, and immersive experiences. These strategies will create marketing campaigns that will bring more traction, leading naturally to greater customer loyalty and in turn sales. Let's examine some key next-gen marketing strategies that GCCs are working to create impact for the parent organizations:

AI-Powered Personalization: The use of AI to scrutinize and analyse customer related data and then to personalize marketing messages, content, and experiences, born out of individual preferences and behaviours. This will lead to wider engagement, higher conversion rates, and far better customer satisfaction. **Voice and Visual Search Optimization:** We can now optimizing content and website structure for both voice and visual search queries. This is key for Improved visibility in search results and increased traffic from these search methods. **Data-Driven Decision-Making:** Using data analytics and insights to make informed and savvy marketing decisions. Campaigns can be made more effective so as to improve ROI, and efficiency. **Conversational Marketing and Chatbots:** The use of chatbots and similar conversational interfaces for instant customer support and to interact with potential customers, improves the customer experience, increases lead generation, and accords faster response time. **Immersive Content (AR, VR, 3D):** The use of augmented reality, virtual reality, and 3D experiences are vital to create engaging and interactive product demos and more importantly, customer experiences. Again these conclude in improved customer engagement,

enhanced product understanding, and more memorable experiences. **Predictive Analytics and Customer Journey Mapping:** Predictive analytics tools which anticipate customer behaviour, lead to better marketing campaigns based on these predictions. The end result is improved targeting, personalized messaging to name a few. **Data Privacy and Ethical Marketing:** When we implement ethical marketing practices that focus data privacy and respect consumer preferences, we benefit with increased trust from customers, better brand reputation, and a worthy compliance with regulations. **Sustainability and Social Responsibility:** The incorporation of sustainability and social responsibility to marketing strategies and brand messaging, goes a long way in attracting environmentally conscious customers. The fallout is also brand credibility, and positive brand perception. **Omnichannel Marketing:** Creation of an undisruptive, seamless and integrated customer experience across multiple channels. These could include social media, email, mobile apps, and the website. **Global Capability Centres (GCCs)** are, without doubt, driving next gen marketing strategies which will help bring incremental efficiencies and also increase the marketing value by coupling continuous performance improvement through topical AI tools. Using these next-gen marketing strategies, GCCs are now evolving new milestones, staying ahead of the curve and bringing to the table greater results for the parent organizations.

Sameer Dhanrajani, CEO of AIQRATE and 3AI

42 YEARS OF WORLD CUP TRIUMPH: A DAY THAT MADE INDIAN CRICKET WHAT IT IS

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

In the past four years, whenever June 25 comes, absence of one of the most vibrant members of the '83' whatsapp group rankles the other 13. It is now almost four years since Yashpal Sharma left this world but there is not a single day that 'Yash Paaji' isn't missed by his teammates.

Just before COVID-19 hit, Yashpal, who was a selector in Punjab, had come to watch a Ranji Trophy match Delhi and lamented to a couple of journalists present there about not having a recording of India's first match against West Indies at Old Trafford where his 89 paved the way for an improbable 34-run win.

"I was ready to offer GBP 5000 to anyone who had the recording. I didn't get it. That was perhaps my best ODI knock. It seemed Maco (Malcolm Marshall) had an unwritten deal with me.

"Mere aate hi do gaand chahti pe maarta tha (At least two deliveries, I would take on my ribs)," Yashpal, who was the top scorer with 240 runs in the tournament,



The Indian cricket team that won the 1983 World Cup. X

fondly recollected on that December day.

The candour is deeply missed by his teammates.

"Yes, he was a very popular member of the team and he is missed by every one of us," the legendary Sunil Gavaskar said when asked about the only member, who is no longer with them.

The 83 whatsapp group comprises the 14 members of that team and administrative manager PR Man Singh.

Whether the team wins the Border Gavaskar Trophy under Ravi Shastri or Roger Binny becomes BCCI president or for that matter Kirti Azad wins Lok Sabha

elections, the group is always buzzing. "We are in touch almost every day but most certainly today," Gavaskar said.

Back in 2008, the Vijay Mallya owned UB Group had organised the 25th anniversary celebration at the iconic Lord's with all team members present on that historic balcony.

In 2023, the Adani Group had also felicitated the members on the 40th anniversary of the Cup win.

However, this time with Gavaskar and Ravi Shastri busy with their media commitments for the Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy and Dilip Vengsarkar also out

of the country, the planned celebrations have been kept on hold. "We had planned one this year but with the current series we had to postpone it. We have had a few celebrations on other years too. "Two years back on the 40th anniversary, the Adanis felicitated the team at their headquarters in Ahmedabad," Gavaskar recalled. It is 42 years and at least two more golden generations have also walked into the sunset since that day when first seeds of a behemoth called Indian cricket were sown. "...1983 was huge. Watching Kapil Dev, Sandhu, Madan Lal, Roger

Binny, Sandeep Patil at Lord's was huge. It inspired us a lot to take up cricket," one of India's greatest captains, Sourav Ganguly, told PTI in a recent podcast.

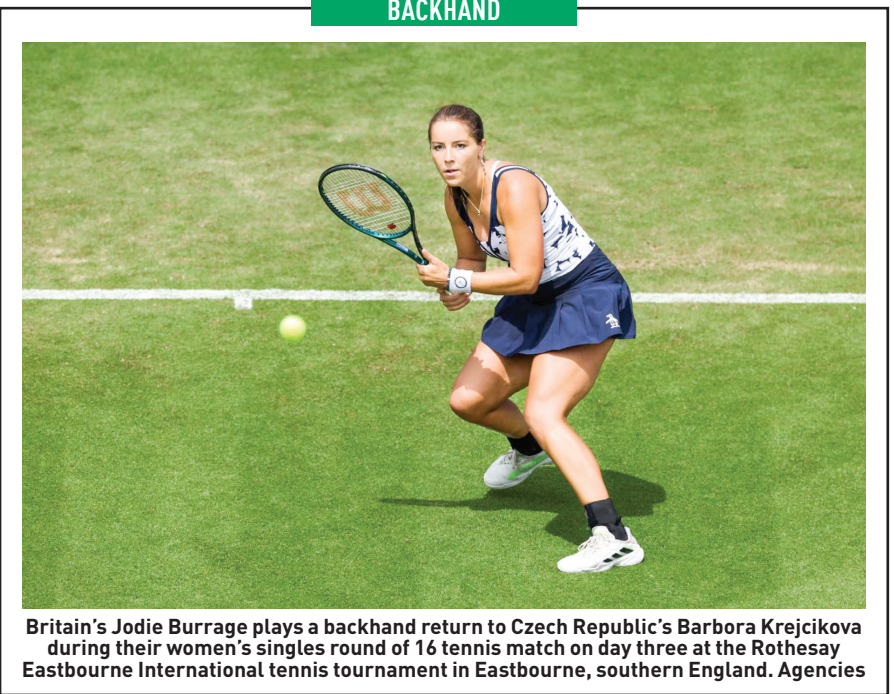
The stories associated with the tournament are still fresh and told and retold to the passing generations.

The biggest myth that has become a oft-repeated tale is that the BBC employees were on strike during Kapil's epic 175 not out against Zimbabwe at Tunbridge Wells and that being the reason for no video recording of that game.

In his book 'Myth Busters', veteran journalist Gulu Ezekiel had explicitly put forth facts that on that very day, June 18, 1983, BBC aired England vs Pakistan at Manchester and West Indies vs Australia at Lord's.

The BBC crew did not consider India vs Zimbabwe a priority game.

Interestingly, that was the first and last ever International game played at Tunbridge Wells ground and that picturesque village field is a pilgrimage for Indian fans. Those who live around that stadium have a Kapil Dev story to share for anyone who would care to listen.



Britain's Jodie Burrage plays a backhand return to Czech Republic's Barbora Krejickova during their women's singles round of 16 tennis match on day three at the Rothsey Eastbourne International tennis tournament in Eastbourne, southern England. Agencies

Wish I could have performed better: Neeraj after Golden Spike win

AGENCIES
OSTRAVA (CZECH REPUBLIC)

Neeraj Chopra may have clinched the Golden Spike title in his maiden appearance at the meet, but the former Olympic champion was far from satisfied with his performance.

Chopra's best throw of 85.29m was enough to secure the win in a nine-man field at the World Athletics Continental Tour Gold event on Tuesday.

"I am not that happy with my performance today, but I am very happy with the trophy I won," said Chopra.

"I used to watch this meeting a lot as a kid. I watched people like Jan Zelezny and Usain Bolt winning the Golden Spike and I dreamt of winning one as well. Now the dream has come true," the double Olympic-medallist added.



Though he led the field, Chopra admitted he fell short of his own expectations, especially in front of a packed crowd.

"I know the javelin throw is very popular in Czechia. The amount of support we were getting from the crowd was crazy. I just wish I could have performed better for them," said Chopra, who breached the elusive 90m-mark during his second place finish in Doha Diamond League in May.

Chopra recorded his winning effort in the third

round after opening with a foul and a second throw of 83.45m. He followed up with 82.17m and 81.01m before another foul in the final round.

Despite a modest mark by his high standards, the 27-year-old continued his strong form this season, coming off a Diamond League win in Paris just days earlier.

His next outing will be at the NC Classic in Bengaluru on July 5, where Anderson Peters and Thomas Rohler are also expected to compete.

Khelo India University Games to be held in Jaipur in November

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

The Poornima University and Rajasthan University will jointly host the Khelo India University Games 2025 in Jaipur in November, it was announced on Wednesday. This will be the fifth iteration of the Khelo India University Games that began in February 2020.

The multi-sport Games, where more than 4,000 athletes are expected from more than 200 Universities. Like previous editions, there will be at least 20 disciplines on the KIUG 2025 program. Chandigarh University had won the team championships at KIUG 2024, co-hosted by Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Sikkim, Nagaland and Tripura.

"I am extremely happy to announce that the Khelo India Youth Games will take place in Rajasthan in November 2025. These Games are for under-25 athletes and will be coming after the under-18 Khelo India Youth

Games that took place in Bihar in May this year. These Games offer great opportunity for athletes who seek a national platform to impress our numerous scouts eyeing the best talents in the country," said Union Sports and Youth Affairs Minister, Mansukh Mandaviya.

Eight Khelo India University Games records were created in athletics in KIUG 2024. Five of them were created by men. "Worldwide, university students domi-

2024 held in North-east India for the first time. Over 200 universities competed for the KIUG 2024 title with around 4,500 athletes taking part in 20 sports.

Swimmer Pratyasa Ray of Utkal University, with four gold, one silver and one bronze, was the most successful female athlete. The honour of the most successful male athlete went to Jain University's Xavier Michael Dsouza, who won four gold medals. Lovely



nate multi-sport events. In Rajasthan, we hope to see some quality performances as we expect the athletes will be at their peak," added Mandaviya. A total of 770 medals - 240 gold, 240 silver and 290 bronze - were on offer at the 11-day KIUG

Professional University came second at KIUG 2024 with 20 gold, 14 silver and eight bronze for a total of 42 medals while Amritsar's Guru Nanak Dev University were third with 12 gold, 20 silver and 19 bronze for a tally of 51.

9-year-old Indian prodigy holds Carlsen to a draw in online chess competition

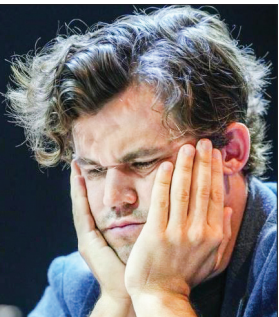


AGENCIES
NEW DELHI:

Aarit Kapil from Delhi, all of nine, came close to defeating world No. 1 Magnus Carlsen before settling for a draw in the 'Early Titled Tuesday' chess tournament held on a leading online platform.

Aarit, the runner-up at the recent Under-9 National Championship, matched the five-time world champion move for move and had Carlsen in a completely lost position.

But with time running out and only a few seconds left on his clock, the young Indian was unable to convert his advantage and eventually forced a draw in a rook



versus two minor pieces endgame.

Aarit played this event from his hotel in Georgia, where he is currently battling for a podium finish in the U-10 World Championship.

Aarit has scored victories in the first two rounds and will play his third game on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, India's V Pranav clinched the 'Early Titled Tuesday' title with an impressive 10 out of 11 points.

American Grandmaster Hans Moke Niemann and Carlsen both finished with 9.5 points, but Niemann secured second place on tiebreak.

Lalit Babu wins Mumbai International Grandmaster Chess Tournament title

AGENCIES
MUMBAI

India's Lalit Babu clinched the Mumbai International Grandmaster Chess tournament title after pipping Mamikon Gharibyan of Armenia on the basis of higher tie-break score on Wednesday. Grandmaster Babu won his ninth and final round match against top seeded Georgian GM Lavin Pantiulaia to accumulate eight points. But, he had to spend some anxious moments as Gharibyan also tallied eight points after winning his final match against Indian GM Neeloptal Das.

However, Babu's higher tie-break score of 54.5 as compared to Gharibyan's 54 ensured that the Indian laid his hands on the glittering trophy and took home the winner's purse of Rs 4 lakh.

Gharibyan's second-place finish was worth Rs 3 lakh.



Another Indian, Deepan Chakravarthy, finished in fifth place, winning Rs 1.25 lakh.

In the juniors' section, India's Candidate Master Madhesh Kumar emerged champion after scoring a last-round win over Vyom Malhotra to collect eight points in total.

Teen prodigy Madhesh, who impressed with his calm and focused play, won the title outright and earned Rs

2 lakh. Advik Agrawal finished runner up and pocketed Rs 1.5 lakhs. Top seed Aansh Nerurkar had to settle for third place and Rs 1 lakh. The fourth and fifth places were secured by CM Madhvendra Pratap Sharma (Rs 75,000) and Jagreet Mishra (Rs 50,000) respectively. Sannidhi Bhat was adjudged the Best Female Player and won Rs 45,000 plus a trophy, while Rachit Gurnani and Mysha Perwez emerged

In the juniors' section, India's Candidate Master Madhesh Kumar emerged champion after scoring a last-round win over Vyom Malhotra to collect eight points in total.

the best among the Mumbai boys and girls, winning Rs 30,000 each and a trophy respectively.

Results: Grandmasters: Levan Pantiulaia 6.5 lost to Lalit Babu 8; Mamikon Gharibyan 8 bt Neeloptal Das 7; Van Huy Nguyen 7 drew with Manuel Petrosyan 7 Juniors: Madhesh Kumar 8 bt Vyom Malhotra 6.5; Advik Agrawal 7.5 bt Aansh Nerurkar 7.

AGENCIES
SAO PAULO

Neymar has extended his contract with Brazilian club Santos until the end of December.

The 33-year-old forward returned to his boyhood club in late January but has been limited by injuries. His current deal was set to expire next week. Neymar and Santos confirmed the extension Tuesday.

"I extended my contract with Santos. I went, I came back and I stay where it all began and where it will never end," Neymar said in a video on his social media channels.

Neither side explained why he did not extend his contract until the middle of 2026, when many Brazilians still expect him to play in the World Cup. Earlier in June, new Brazil coach Carlo



Anelotti hinted he is counting on Neymar's recovery to play in the tournament in the United States, Mexico and Canada.

Since he left Saudi Arabia's Al-Hilal for Santos, Neymar has played 12 matches, scored three goals and provided three assists. He had two extended periods of absence due to muscle injuries. Neymar played 225 matches for Santos in his first spell.

He scored 138 goals, many of them key to winning six titles at the Brazilian giant, which was relegated in 2023 and returned to the top division last year.

His latest appearance for the team was a frustrating one; he was sent off in the 76th minute of Santos' 1-0 loss to Botafogo at home on June 1 after using his hand to score. Realizing he was not going to reach the ball with

his head before a defender could clear it away, Neymar used his right hand to push the ball into the net.

The Brazil forward already had a yellow card and was shown his second by the referee, who then disallowed the goal. Botafogo then scored the winner in the 86th.

Saudi club Al-Hilal terminated Neymar's contract with mutual consent, six months early, after he played only seven matches. An ACL injury sidelined him for a year until October. Al-Hilal said Neymar could no longer perform like he used to.

Neymar also left Barcelona and Paris Saint-Germain to criticism, despite delivering silverware and goals.

Santos is in the 15th position in the Brazilian league with 11 points after 12 matches.