



**6**  
NAGALAND'S 7 NCP MLAS  
JOIN NDPP, GIVES CM RIO  
MAJORITY IN HOUSE



**9**  
TRIBUNAL INDICTS HASINA  
FOR MASS MURDER



**12**  
HISTORIC MAIDEN  
TITLE FOR PSC

## FLOOD SITUATION GRIM IN ASSAM, SHAH SPEAKS TO CMs

- 10 major rivers were flowing above the danger level.
- Eight people have died in floods and landslides in the state.

AGENCIES  
GUWAHATI

The flood situation in Assam was grim on Sunday as 10 major rivers were flowing above the danger level and 78,000 people affected by the deluge in more than 15 districts.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah enquired about the flood situation in the state and offered all assistance.

Eight people have died in floods and landslides in the state so far, which has affected over 78,000 residents in more than 15 districts, officials said. Road transport, train movement and ferry services were also affected by flood and landslides.

The Central Water Commission (CWC) has issued an 'orange bulletin' for the state in view of the severe flood situation as 10 major rivers, including the Brahmaputra and Barak, were flowing above the danger level.

Shah dialled Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma earlier in the day to take stock of the situation in the

state.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday spoke to chief ministers of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim and the governor of Manipur in the wake of heavy rains in their states and assured them of all possible help to tackle the situation. The home minister said that the Modi government stands like a rock in support of the people of the Northeast.

"Spoke with the Chief Ministers of Assam, Sikkim, and Arunachal Pradesh and Governor of Manipur in the wake of ongoing heavy rainfall in their states. Also assured them of every possible help to tackle any situation," he wrote on 'X'.

Many parts of the North-eastern states were facing a flood-like situation due to heavy rain.

Over 78,000 people have been affected in more than 15 districts in Assam due to the flood. Road transport and train and ferry services have also been hit due to the inundation caused by heavy rain across the state over the last few days, officials said.



## Tripura floods: 1,300 families shifted to relief camps

AGENCIES  
AGARTALA (TRIPURA)

Around 1,300 families have taken shelter in government-run relief camps across West Tripura district following incessant rainfall over the past two days that has triggered severe flooding in several parts of the region.

"Incessant rainfall over the past two days has led to severe flooding across various parts of West Tripura district. As a result, nearly 1,300 families have been shifted to government shelter homes for safety. The

state government is closely monitoring the flood-affected areas," Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha said in a Facebook post on Sunday.

The Chief Minister added that the district administration has deployed teams from the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), civil volunteers, and other agencies to assist in rescue and relief operations.

"Several localities in Agartala have also experienced heavy waterlogging, prompting authorities to activate wa-

## 'Your time is up', Shah tells Mamata days after PM's visit

Mamata opposing Op Sindoor to appease minorities; Murshidabad riots state-sponsored: Shah

SUPROTIM MUKHERJEE  
KOLKATA

Three days after PM Modi's visit to Alipurduar in north Bengal, Union Home Minister Amit Shah came to Kolkata and while addressing party workers, asserted that Mamata Banerjee's tenure as Chief Minister was set to end in 2026. "Didi, I want to tell you that your time is up," he said.



Shah launched a sharp attack on Mamata Banerjee, accusing her of insulting

Indian women by criticising Operation Sindoor — a

## CM Sharma reviews preparations for 'Vande Ganga Jal Sanrakshan-Jan Abhiyan'

TDG NETWORK  
JAIPUR

Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma reviewed the preparations for the upcoming programmes under the Vande Ganga Jal Sanrakshan-Jan Abhiyan during a meeting at his residence on Sunday. He noted the significant coincidence of World Environment Day and Ganga Dussehra both falling on June 5 this year. To mark this occasion, the campaign will commence with the "Vande Ganga



Kalash Yatra" and worship ceremonies at water reservoirs, symbolically linking environmental conservation with cultural and tradi-

## Dilawar slams Dotsra, praises Sharma's people-centric governance

TDG NETWORK  
JAIPUR

Education Minister Madan Dilawar launched a scathing attack on Rajasthan Congress President Govind Singh Dotsra, accusing him of crossing all limits of restraint and civility.

Dilawar said Dotsra's recent statements are absurd and baseless, reflecting frustration and arrogance. He alleged that Dotsra is rattled by Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma's growing popularity and decisive leadership.

Highlighting the achievements of the state government, Dilawar said that under Sharma's leadership, the administration is working in the true interest of the people of Rajasthan. From effective water management and energy self-sufficiency to youth employment and strong action against exam paper leaks, the government has taken bold, unprecedented steps across sectors.



## Chirag Paswan set to contest Bihar elections

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

The Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) is likely to soon call a meeting of its executive members to formalise a proposal urging its president and Union minister Chirag Paswan to contest the upcoming Bihar assembly elections.

Sources said its leaders had met on May 30 in Bihar's Bikramganj, where hours later Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed a public meeting, to back the idea. Paswan himself was not in the meeting.

Importantly, sources added, Paswan may contest from a general category seat if he does decide to fight the assembly polls instead of a constituency reserved for the Scheduled Castes, a path often chosen by leaders from the Dalit community.

This is aimed at sending out a message about his acceptance outside his core constituency and projecting him as a leader with wide appeal.

LJP (Ram Vilas) MP Arun Bharti said that Bihar is central to Paswan's

## GST mop-up breaches Rs 2 lakh cr in May

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

Gross GST collections rose 16.4 per cent to over Rs 2.01 lakh crore in May, as per government data released on Sunday.

This comes after a record high Goods and Services Tax (GST) collection in April, when the revenues touched an all-time high of Rs 2.37 lakh crore.

## IndiGo flight faces turbulence, lands safe

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

An IndiGo flight from Raipur to Delhi experienced turbulence due to a duststorm, prompting the pilot to climb up again when the aircraft was about to touch down at Delhi airport.

Flight 6E 6313 landed safely at Delhi airport after making many circles in the air. The video of the incident



Opal Suchata Chuangsri of Thailand crowned as Miss World 2025, in Hyderabad on Saturday. ANI



# MADAN RATHORE SLAMS CONGRESS OVER INFIGHTING, GOVERNANCE ISSUE CLAIMS

BJP-Congress clash intensified as Madan Rathore rebutted Operation Sindoor criticism, and hits at Congress over infighting allegations

TDG NETWORK  
JAIPUR

The political tussle between the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Congress has escalated following the latter's criticism of "Operation Sindoor" and accusations of factionalism within the BJP. In a strong rebuttal, BJP State President Madan Rathore dismissed the claims, asserting that the BJP remains united and focused on governance.

"I don't understand where Congress comes up with such stories. They should resolve their own internal issues instead of making baseless allegations against us," Rathore said.

He accused the Congress of trying to deflect attention from its own internal discord and maintained that the BJP is committed to transparent governance and the welfare of the people of

## RATHORE REBUKES CONGRESS

- Madan Rathore slammed Congress over Operation Sindoor remarks, denied BJP factionalism, and defended governance record.
- He targeted Dotasra and Jullu, alleging internal Congress power struggle and advising them to introspect.
- He dismissed foreign mediation claims, calling Congress anti-democratic and reminded of past Emergency actions.



Rajasthan.

Rathore specifically targeted senior Congress leaders Govind Singh Dotasra and Leader of Opposition Tikaram Jullu, alleging that they are engaged in a power struggle.

"Dotasra and Jullu are too busy undermining each other. Dotasra's conduct in the

assembly was so disgraceful that he now avoids appearing there," Rathore claimed, advising the Congress leadership to introspect before attacking others.

Referring to Dotasra's recent remark that the opposition wields more influence in government than the ministers themselves, Rathore

responded, "If that's true, he should feel satisfied. It only reflects the transparency and inclusiveness of our administration. We believe in collective decision-making and inclusive governance." Reaffirming the BJP's development agenda, Rathore said, "Our instructions to officials are clear—work in the

public interest with fairness and accountability. Every voice is heard."

On allegations of foreign involvement in a ceasefire and external mediation, Rathore dismissed the Congress's claims outright.

"Even Donald Trump has said he had no role. Our leadership has never accepted any external mediation, nor has any such mediation occurred." He also criticised the Congress for repeatedly demanding Parliament sessions. "Sessions will be convened at the appropriate time. Instead of creating noise, the Congress should use this time to prepare meaningful issues for debate." In a parting shot, Rathore accused the Congress of being anti-democratic.

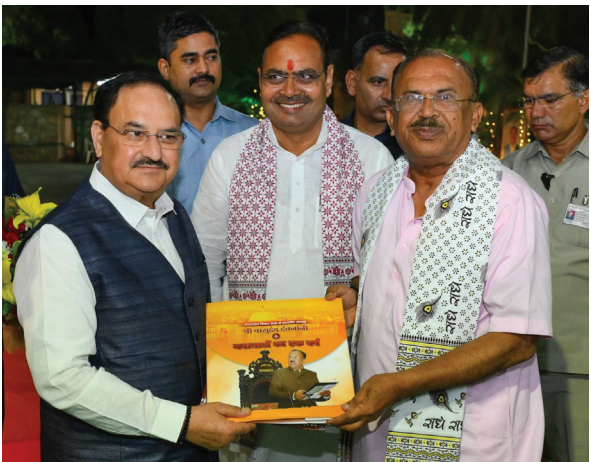
"They imposed the Emergency, toppled elected governments, and even jailed people for chanting 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai.'"

## Devnani presents Assembly Yearbook and diary to Nadda

TDG NETWORK  
JAIPUR

Rajasthan Assembly Speaker Vasudev Devnani warmly welcomed Union Minister for Health, Family Welfare, and Chemicals and Fertilisers, Jagat Prakash Nadda, upon his arrival in Jaipur. Devnani greeted the minister with a bouquet and extended his congratulations, presenting him with the Assembly's Yearbook of Innovations and its official diary.

Nadda appreciated the diary's integration with the Indian calendar and commended the assembly's efforts in documenting legislative achievements. Devnani highlighted recent innovations within the assembly premises, emphasising their alignment with the institution's dignity and traditional values.



Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma was also present during the occasion.

Devnani also briefed the Union Minister on the effective implementation of Central and State health schemes in Rajasthan, noting their impact at the grassroots level. He further

acknowledged significant progress in the chemicals and fertilisers sector, contributing to the state's development. Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma was also present during the occasion.

## Govt speeds up teacher recruitment, promotions to fill education vacancies

TDG NETWORK  
JAIPUR

The Rajasthan government, led by Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma, is launching a major recruitment and promotion drive to tackle the growing vacancies in the Education Department. Education Secretary Krishna Kunal announced that departmental promotions and recruitments are being expedited to minimise teacher shortages in the coming years.

Kunal highlighted that 28,000 appointments have been made over the past 18 months, with recruitment underway for an additional

21,000 posts. The government has also approved increasing these recruitments by 50% to account for retirements expected by 2027. He stressed that recruitment is a lengthy process, and this proactive approach aims to ensure adequate staffing when results are declared.

Further, around 20,000 vacancies will arise after pending Departmental Promotion Committees (DPCs) are completed.

Promotions from Grade III to Senior Teacher levels have been stalled for five years due to ongoing court cases, but efforts are underway to resolve these issues.

## Shekhawat assures Opposition answers in Monsoon Session of Parliament

TDG NETWORK  
JODHPUR

Union Culture and Tourism Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat responded firmly to the opposition's demand for a special session of Parliament regarding the Operation Sindoor controversy. Speaking from Jodhpur, Shekhawat assured that the upcoming monsoon session, scheduled to begin in 20-25 days, would provide ample opportunity for the opposition to raise all their questions. He emphasised that the government has nothing to hide and is ready to answer every query.

Shekhawat stated that democracy already offers sufficient mechanisms for ques-



tioning in both houses of Parliament, making a special session unnecessary. He accused the opposition of lacking substantive issues and creating controversies like Operation Sindoor merely to seek attention. Criticising opposition leaders, he pointed out their contradictory remarks on Prime Minister Narendra Modi—sometimes accusing him of speaking too much, and other times of remaining silent—urging them

to clarify their actual expectations from the PM.

Addressing national security, Shekhawat spoke on the recent arrest of Saleh Mohammad's personal secretary on spying charges. Calling it a serious matter, he stressed the importance of a thorough investigation and warned that anyone compromising national security must face strict punishment.

Shekhawat also praised India's growing stature on the global stage under PM Modi's leadership over the past 11 years. He said India has earned a strong international identity and is now a key player in platforms like BRICS, with foreign policy focused on prioritising national interests.

## Govt announces district-level animal fairs to boost livelihood

TDG NETWORK  
JAIPUR

The Rajasthan government has announced a new initiative to organise animal fairs in every district to promote animal husbandry, strengthen the rural economy, and celebrate local culture. In the first phase, the Animal Husbandry Department will conduct fairs in 10 districts, with preparations already underway.

Cabinet Minister for Animal Husbandry, Dairy, and Devasthan, Joraram Kumawat, emphasised the historical and cultural significance of these fairs, noting their vital role in showcasing folk art, rural traditions, and promoting tourism. Traditionally held at the state level, these events attract thousands of domestic and international tourists. To increase accessibility for livestock farmers, the state has now decided to expand the fairs to the district level.

A total of 10 fairs have been scheduled across various districts. The Badrana Animal Fair will be held

*Traditionally held at the state level, these events attract thousands of domestic and international tourists. To increase accessibility for livestock farmers, the state has now decided to expand the fairs to the district level.*

in Nawalgarh (Jhunjhunu) from 8 to 17 September, followed by the Samelia Mahadev Animal Fair in Kurj Tehsil, Railmagra (Rajsa-mand) from September 13 to 17. The Nainath Animal Fair is scheduled in Devgaon, Tunga Tehsil (Jaipur) from October 6 to 10. Moving into the new year, the Baba Ramdev Animal Fair will take place in Ramdevra, Pokaran (Jaisalmer) from January 20 to 24, and the Badli Animal Fair in Keru Panchayat Samiti (Jodhpur) from January 28 to February 1. In February, the Lunkaransar Animal Fair will be held in Lunkaransar (Bikaner) from February 7 to 12. Two fairs—the Shri Nimbeshwar Mahadev Fair in Sanderao

(Pali) and the Maa Katyayani Devi Fair in Sayla (Jalore)—are scheduled to take place simultaneously from 15 February 15 to 19. The Anjana Mata Fair will be organised in Junavas, Khemli (Udaipur) from February 16 to 20, and the phase will conclude with the Liladhari Mahadev Fair in Mandar, Revdar Tehsil (Sirohi) from February 25 to March 1. These district-level fairs aim to not only support animal husbandry and livestock trading but also provide a platform to preserve and promote Rajasthan's rich cultural heritage. The government hopes this initiative will serve as a model for strengthening rural livelihoods and boosting tourism across the state.

## Secretary Rajan Vishal reviews agriculture initiatives in Tonk, urges farmer-centric innovation

TDG NETWORK  
JAIPUR

Secretary of Agriculture and Horticulture, Rajan Vishal, visited Tonk district as part of the 'Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan' (Developed Agriculture Resolution Campaign), attending a camp held at Chabarana and inspecting key agricultural institutions in the region.

During his visit to the Chabarana camp, Vishal engaged with local farmers and encouraged them to obtain Soil Health Cards, stressing their importance

in improving soil quality and crop productivity. He emphasised the need for high-quality seeds and modern farming practices to increase yields while reducing costs. He instructed the Joint Director of Agriculture, Tonk, to address farmers' concerns without delay and to ensure that all camp activities are aligned with departmental protocols. Responding to farmers' queries, Vishal urged agricultural scientists to prioritise research driven by the real needs of farmers and to offer practical, field-ready solutions.



## Suresh Rawat reviews preparations for 'Vande Ganga' campaign

TDG NETWORK  
JAIPUR

Water Resources Minister Suresh Singh Rawat on Sunday chaired a review meeting to assess preparations for the upcoming 'Vande Ganga' public campaign focused on water conservation. The state-wide initiative is set to launch on June 5, coinciding with World Environment Day and Ganga Dussehra.

Rawat emphasised that under the Bhajan Lal government, water and environmental conservation remain top priorities, backed by strong policy decisions. He said the campaign aims to build a mass movement involving every village and citizen, in line with the Chief



Minister's vision.

The 'Vande Ganga' campaign will include a variety of public engagement activities such as water worship ceremonies, Kalash Yatras (ceremonial processions), awareness programmes, and cleanliness drives at rivers, ponds, streams, and other water bodies. The campaign will also feature the inauguration of existing water structures and foundation-laying for new ones.

Calling for timely and coordinated action, Rawat urged officials to complete preparations with dedication. He said the initiative will also reinforce the objectives of other key state programs like the Mukhya-mantri Jal Swavalamban Abhiyan, Jal Shakti Abhiyan – Jan Sahyog, Jan Bhagidari, Hariyaloo Rajasthan, and Karmabhoomi Se Matribhoomi, making them more people-centric.

## Devnani inaugurates university building, emphasises nationalism, education reforms

TDG NETWORK  
JAIPUR

Rajasthan Assembly Speaker Vasudev Devnani visited Hanumangarh on a one-day tour, where he inaugurated the new building of Shri Khushal Das University on Suratgarh Road and felicitated meritorious students. During the event, Devnani shared his thoughts on education, nationalism, technological advance-



ment, and cultural values. He was also honoured by various community organisations, including the Sarv Sikh Samaj, Sindhi Samaj,

Vaishya Samaj, Pujiya Sindhi Panchayat, and Bharatiya Sindhu Sabha.

Paying homage at the holy site of Jaharveer Goga Ji,

Devnani highlighted Rajasthan's developmental progress while underscoring the need for equitable growth, particularly in border districts with untapped potential. He voiced concerns about the deteriorating role of educational institutions, warning that the future of society depends on how well students are prepared today.

Reflecting on his tenure as Education Minister, Dev-

nani recalled his efforts to reshape the curriculum by including over 200 stories of Veer and Veeranganas (warriors and heroines) and replacing the glorification of Akbar with that of Maharana Pratap. He emphasised the importance of mother-tongue education and advocated for nurturing entrepreneurs over job seekers, thereby promoting self-reliant education.

TDG NETWORK  
JAIPUR

Leader of Opposition Tikaram Jullu launched a scathing attack on the BJP-led Rajasthan government, alleging that its control lies not in Jaipur but in the hands of the central government in Delhi. Speaking at the unveiling of Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar's statue in Dadha village, Alwar Rural Assembly constituency, on Sunday, Jullu claimed that



the people of Rajasthan are bearing the brunt of this indirect governance model.

Jullu described the current state administration as a "slip government," suggest-

ing it is unstable and lacks autonomy.

"The Delhi government hesitates to even press the remote control of this 'slip government', and the public is paying the price," he remarked.

Accusing the BJP of attempting to weaken the Constitution, Jullu warned that such efforts would be firmly opposed by the Congress party and the 140 crore citizens of India.



# JODHPUR POLICE ARREST FIVE CRIMINALS IN COORDINATED ANTI-CRIME OPERATIONS

TDG NETWORK  
JODHPUR

In a breakthrough, Jodhpur police successfully apprehended five notorious criminals in three coordinated operations, dealing a significant blow to crime and drug syndicates in the region. Range IG Vikas Kumar announced that a total reward of Rs 1.20 lakh had been declared for the capture of these offenders, who were wanted for serious crimes across multiple states.

The most high-profile arrest was made under Operation Sagarvanshi, resulting in the capture of Bhagirath, who carried a reward of Rs 50,000. A fugitive for seven years, Bhagirath was wanted in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and Haryana for

## CRIME NETWORK BUSTED

- Jodhpur police arrested five notorious criminals in three operations, including fugitive Bhagirath.
- Operations Sagarvanshi, Shakira, and Daansh targeted drug traffickers and murder accused across multiple states.
- IG Vikas Kumar said the arrests disrupted an interconnected criminal network after weeks of surveillance.



numerous crimes including drug and liquor smuggling, attempted murder, and vehicle theft. He had operated across Barmer, Balotra, Phalodi, Jodhpur, and Jalore.

Bhagirath had recently relocated to Goa, where he invested proceeds from drug trafficking into liquor businesses, acquiring three shops and moving his family there. Despite several

police raids, he evaded capture until he was finally arrested during a property deal. Upon interrogation, he blamed his wife for encouraging his involvement in the drug trade and his eventual downfall.

His associate, Dinesh, was also arrested. Carrying a Rs 10,000 reward, Dinesh runs a B.Ed college in Dhorimana and played a key role in harbouring

criminals, tracking police movements, and tipping off smugglers. He is also implicated in cases of attempted murder, assault, and an exam scam.

Under Operation Shakira, police arrested two more criminals. Rakesh Matwala, a major drug trafficker with a Rs 20,000 reward, was caught hiding in a farmhouse in Khejadli, Kaparada. Another ac-

cused, Sunil, involved in the Laxman Dewasi Murder Case, was found living under an alias on a farm. Both had been evading capture for months.

In Operation Daansh, police arrested another individual named Dinesh, a drug smuggler with 16 years of criminal activity and a Rs 30,000 reward. He was wanted in cases across Balotra, Barmer, and Chittorgarh. His arrest marks a significant achievement in dismantling regional smuggling networks.

IG Vikas Kumar stated that all five criminals were part of an interconnected criminal network. Their arrests followed weeks of intensive surveillance and strategic action, dealing a major setback to organised drug and crime operations in the region.

# Rasta Kholo Abhiyan reopens 1,182 roads, boosts rural connectivity

TDG NETWORK  
JAIPUR



District Collector and Nodal Officer Devendra Kumar Jain, roads have been reopened in all 22 tehsils of the district between November 15, 2024 and May 31, 2025.

Noteworthy progress has been made, including the reopening of 64 roads in Amer, 62 each in Bassi and Andhi, 73 in Shahpura, 68 in Chaksu, and 81 in Mauzabad.

Substantial progress has also been made in Kalwad, Jamwa Ramgarh, Jobner, Phulera, Dudu, and Sanganer tehsils.

To ensure long-term connectivity, Dr Soni has directed the initiation of

gravel and cement concrete (CC) road construction on these reopened routes. Gravel road construction is already underway in many locations.

The campaign was launched in response to increasing complaints about road encroachments in rural areas—issues that often led to legal disputes, disrupted law and order, and burdened villagers with court cases. 'Rasta Kholo Abhiyan' addresses these concerns with swift, on-ground action, offering practical relief and renewed connectivity to Rajasthan's rural heartland.

# Gehlot launches two books celebrating spirituality, strength, self-realisation

TDG NETWORK  
JAIPUR

The launch ceremony of two significant books by senior journalist and writer Rajendra Singh Gehlot—'Shakti Ka Vandan', 'Shiv Ka Abhinandan' and 'Main Jhukega Nahi'—was held at the auditorium of the Rajasthan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI). The event witnessed the presence of many eminent personalities from the fields of literature, journalism, and industry.

Chief guest Anil Kumar, in his address, praised Gehlot's insightful portrayal of Indian culture, spirituality, and the divine elements of Shakti and Shiva.



"The sensitivity and depth with which Gehlot has presented these themes is highly commendable. This is not just literature, but a journey of self-realisation," he said.

Social thinker Jasvir Singh highlighted the contemporary relevance of the book 'Main Jhukega Nahi', stating, "The title itself instills self-confidence and pride in today's youth. It is more than just a book—it is a powerful thought that resonates with modern society."

# Sukhmani Sewa Society organises Chabeel on Guru Arjan Dev Ji's martyrdom day

TDG NETWORK  
JAIPUR

On the solemn occasion of the martyrdom day of Guru Arjan Dev Ji—the first Sikh martyr and the fifth Guru of Sikhism—the Sukhmani Sewa Society of Bani Park organised a Chabeel on Sunday, June 1.

The event took place at Jhotwara Road near the police chowki, where refreshing sherbet was distributed to the public as an act of service and compassion.

The tradition of Chabeel holds deep significance on this day, commemorating Guru Arjan Dev



Ji's supreme sacrifice. He endured inhumane torture, including being made to sit on a burning hot griddle under the blazing sun. In remembrance of his suffering and unwavering spirit, Chabeels are organised to offer cooling relief during

the peak of summer, symbolising service, humility, and resilience.

In a parallel spiritual effort, the society's paath group, Apni Mehar Kar, undertook a 40-day continuous recitation of Sukhmani Sahib, the sacred Bani composed by

Guru Arjan Dev Ji. This spiritual campaign began on April 20 and concluded on May 30, achieving a remarkable milestone of 2,001 recitations.

Guru Arjan Dev Ji was martyred on the orders of Mughal Emperor Jahangir. A pivotal figure in Sikh history, he contributed the largest portion of hymns to the Guru Granth Sahib and upheld the principles of humility, strength in adversity, and the rejection of ego, hatred, and discrimination.

His teachings continue to guide and inspire people across the world to live with compassion, tolerance, and faith.

# 'Eternal Fashion Times' show unites royal elegance, summer trends

TDG NETWORK  
JAIPUR

The "Eternal Fashion Times" fashion show was held at Jaipur Bagh in the capital city, celebrating India's diverse fashion heritage with a royal summer twist. Organised by the Eternal Miss India Organisation, the event featured curated collections by 10 acclaimed designers from across the country.

Over 30 models walked the ramp, flaunting intricately designed ensembles that reflected skilled craftsmanship and contemporary appeal. Supermodels Kirat Kaur, Pramiti Rana, Divya Chauhan, and Khushboo Naruka served as showstoppers, bringing add-

ed charm and elegance to the runway.

The show drew an impressive audience that included CEO Animesh Mathur, Director J.D. Maheshwari, Bollywood actor Jassi Kapoor, and Additional SP Naresh Sharma.

The fashion presentation began with Elite Crafts' tribute to Rajasthani heritage through vibrant Rajputi attire, followed by Santosh Designs' showcase of Jhunjhunu's folk art.

Prince Raut introduced casual wear, while Alok Agarwal impressed with a sleek Indo-western collection. The grand finale by Abha Mode stole the spotlight with luxurious traditional Indian outfits reflecting timeless craftsmanship.

# Rajasthan University's directive sparks outrage ahead of NAAC evaluation

TDG NETWORK  
JAIPUR

Rajasthan University has issued a controversial directive that critics say echoes a feudal mindset and mirrors authoritarian practices, deeply undermining Indian democratic traditions. The order, released just before the arrival of the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) team, instructs teachers, employees, and officials not to contact the NAAC members or share any information related to the university.

This directive is being widely condemned as a direct attack on the autonomy of the university's faculty and staff, sparking significant outrage. In India's democratic system, openness, criticism, and the right to expose shortcomings are fundamental. However, the university administration's authoritarian-style order suppresses these freedoms,



evoking comparisons to the Emergency period, where transparency and free expression were severely restricted.

Faculty members warn that such measures threaten the university's tradition of autonomy and silence voices essential to its progress, raising serious concerns among staff and educators.

The NAAC team began a three-day evaluation of Rajasthan University on Monday. During their visit, they will inspect constituent colleges and departments, interact with teachers and students, and assess various aspects such as curriculum quality, research, ragging prevention, and freedom of ex-

pression. Despite this, the university administration's restrictions on faculty and student interactions have raised questions about the transparency and credibility of the accreditation process. The team will also review reports submitted online by the university and evaluate related resources.

Dr Naveen Sharma, Vice President of the Rajasthan University Teachers' Association (RUTA), formally protested the university's directive by writing to the Vice Chancellor. In his letter, Sharma condemned the order as reflective of administrative frustration and leadership failure. He accused the administration of a "corrupt mentality" for sidelining teachers who have worked tirelessly to prepare for the NAAC visit. Sharma further stated that the directive is not only disrespectful to the faculty but also an insult to the NAAC team members tasked with assessing the university.

# JEE-Advanced results: Kota students expected to dominate top ranks

TDG NETWORK  
KOTA

The much-awaited JEE-Advanced 2025 results are set to be announced on Monday. Regarded as India's toughest engineering entrance exam, JEE-Advanced was conducted by IIT Kanpur on May 18 across 222 cities in India and 224 cities worldwide, including Kathmandu and Dubai. Over 1.9 lakh students appeared for the exam this year.

Based on provisional answer keys and response matching, coaching institutes in Kota are once again expected to produce some of the country's top performers, with many students likely to secure ranks within the top 10 and top 100.

The exam carries a total of 360 marks, split equally between Paper 1 and Pa-

per 2. Along with the results, the final answer key will also be released.

Career expert Amit Ahuja stated that category-wise ranks will be published alongside the All India Rank. Students who meet the cutoff will qualify for counselling to compete for approximately 17,740 seats across 23 IITs. Cutoffs may be revised based on the exam's difficulty; last year, the general category cutoff was 8.68% subject-wise and 30.34% overall.

This year, the IITs have reserved 20% of seats for girls and 10% for the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS), potentially increasing counselling opportunities. Students and coaching institutes alike eagerly await the results, anticipating another strong showing from Kota.

# Mother, lover murder four-year-old girl, hide body in cupboard

TDG NETWORK  
JAIPUR

A heinous case of murder of a four-year-old innocent girl came to light in Muhana police station area of the Commissionerate. The girl was strangled to death by her mother along with her lover. After this, her body was tied in a plastic bag and hidden in the cupboard in the lover's house in Jaipura village of Baran. When a foul smell came from the cupboard, the lover's family informed the police. After that, the case of murder of the innocent girl came to light. On the information of Baran police, Muhana police station took the deceased's mother and her lover into custody and interrogated them, during which both of them confessed to the crime.

DCP Digant Anand said that a zero number FIR was received on Saturday

from Bhanwargarh police station of Baran in the case of murder of four-year-old girl Ishika. According to the FIR, Jairam, a resident of Jaipura village of Bhanwargarh police station area, informed the police that a strong stench was coming from the cupboard in his house. On this, the police opened the cupboard and found the body of four-year-old Ishika in a plastic box. Jairam informed that Ishika was the daughter of Roshan Kumari, who was in a live-in relationship with his son Mahavir, who is living in a rented house in Muhana.

Baran police in turn informed Muhana police station about the case. Based on this information, Muhana police station on Sunday took Mahavir and Roshan Kumari into custody and interrogated them.

Themotherof the deceased told the police that she had left her husband and was

living with Mahavir in Muhana. Ishika is the daughter of her first husband, whom Mahavir hated. On Wednesday night, Mahavir came home drunk and beat up Ishika. Roshan Kumari killed Ishika by strangulating her along with Mahavir. After this, Mahavir tied the body in a plastic bag and left for his house in Jaipura by bus on Thursday with his girlfriend. After placing the body in the cupboard, both the accused came back to Jaipur on Friday.

It was Jairam who identified Ishika's body and told the police that Roshan Kumari and her daughter Ishika had been staying with his son Mahavir in Muhana for the last seven months. They arrived there on Thursday and left on Friday. On the basis of Jairam's statement, the Bhavnagar police station registered a zero number FIR and sent it to the Muhana police station.

# Pink City Press Club organises 'Baal Abhiruchi Camp'

TDG NETWORK  
JAIPUR

The Summer 'Baal Abhiruchi Camp' was inaugurated on Sunday with great enthusiasm at the Press Club Auditorium in Jaipur. The 10-day camp, organised by the Pink City Press Club, aims to foster creativity and all-round development among children of club

members.

Speaking at the event, Additional Commissioner of Food Safety, Pankaj Ojha, encouraged the young participants and emphasised the importance of such initiatives in shaping children's personalities. He motivated the children to learn new skills every day and make the most of the opportunity.



*Press Club President Mukesh Meena and General Secretary Mukesh Chaudhary said the camp is designed to help children excel across various disciplines, enabling them to showcase their talent confidently on any platform in the future.*

Press Club President Mukesh Meena and General Secretary Mukesh Chaudhary said the camp is designed to help children excel across various disciplines, enabling them to showcase their talent confidently on any platform in the future.

Also present at the inauguration were Treasurer Vikas Sharma, Vice President Parmeshwar Prasad

Sharma, Camp Coordinator Anita Sharma, and executive members including Nikhlesh Sharma, Gyanendra Mishra, Vikas Arya, and Omveer Bhargava. Senior journalist Pradeep Singh Shekhawat, Rajkumar Sharma, and veteran theatre artist Rajendra Sharma Raju also attended, along with numerous journalists and their families.



# THE PARADOX OF PROGRESS: HUMANITY'S STRUGGLE WITH CONFLICT IN THE 21ST CENTURY

## OPINION

INDIRA VASHISHTA  
CARENA



In the 21st century, humanity stands on the precipice of unprecedented technological advancement. Remarkable feats have been achieved, from landing rovers on Mars to developing artificial intelligence capable of analysing vast amounts of data in seconds. The power of the internet has been harnessed, connecting billions of people across the globe. Yet, despite these advancements, one fundamental aspect of human behaviour remains unchanged: the propensity for conflict. As the world marvels at its ability to explore the cosmos and innovate in various fields, a sobering reality must be confronted: humans continue to fight over land and religion, often leading to devastating consequences. With ample land and resources available, one cannot help but wonder why these disputes persist and how much money is squandered on warfare that could otherwise be directed

towards the betterment of humanity. Global military expenditures have reached staggering heights. In recent years, annual military spending has exceeded \$1.9 trillion. This figure includes costs associated with active military operations, research and development of new weapons, and maintenance of existing military infrastructure. Countries spend billions on defence in a world that theoretically has ample resources to address pressing social issues such as poverty, healthcare, and education. Universal healthcare coverage for every person on the planet is estimated to cost around \$200 billion annually. This is a fraction of the military budget, yet it represents a critical investment that could save millions of lives. According to the United Nations, universal access to quality education could cost approximately \$39 billion annually. Education is a powerful tool for social change, yet it remains underfunded compared to military expenditures. The global cost to end extreme poverty is about \$175 billion annually. Redirecting even a portion of military spending could help lift millions out of poverty, providing them with opportunities for a better life. These figures illustrate the opportunity cost of warfare. The funds allocated to military operations could transform societies and uplift millions, yet they are often funnelled into conflict instead. To understand why humans, continue to fight over land and religion, examining the underlying causes of these conflicts is essential. Historically, disputes over territory often stem from issues of identity, power, and resources. Nationalism, religious extremism, and cultural differences can exacerbate tensions, leading to violence and war. In many cases, these conflicts are not merely about land; they are deeply intertwined with historical grievances and a struggle for recognition and power. For instance, territorial disputes in regions such as the Middle East often have roots in colonial history and the arbitrary borders drawn by foreign powers. Similarly, religious conflicts can be traced back to centuries of mistrust and violence, with each side holding onto narratives of victimhood and righteousness. Even as the world advances technologically, these fundamental human issues remain unchanged. The inability to reconcile differences and foster understanding continues to fuel conflict. In a world where communication is instantaneous, it is paradoxical that misunderstandings and hatred can still manifest in violence. The human cost of warfare is devastating. Millions of lives have been lost in conflicts that often seem senseless in retrospect. Beyond the immediate casualties, wars leave lasting scars on societies, displacing populations, destroying infrastructure, and creating cycles of poverty and instability. Refugees and internally displaced persons are often the most affected, forced to flee their homes in search of safety. The United Nations estimates that over 80 million displaced people worldwide, many fleeing conflicts. This humanitarian crisis greatly strains host countries and international systems, highlighting the urgent need for conflict resolution and support for affected populations. The funds currently allocated to warfare could be better spent on initiatives promoting peace and development. Redirecting military budgets towards education, healthcare, and poverty alleviation could create a more stable and prosperous world. Investing in education can empower individuals, reduce inequality, and foster tolerance. Equipping future generations with knowledge and skills makes it possible to break the cycle of conflict and create a more peaceful society. Similarly, improving healthcare systems can lead to healthier populations, reducing the likelihood of unrest and instability. Moreover, addressing poverty is crucial for long-term peace. Economic development can mitigate the grievances that often lead to conflict, providing individuals with opportunities and a sense of purpose. Investing in communities and enabling them to thrive can create less conducive conditions for violence. While many nations strive for peace, the reality of hostile neighbours often forces them to invest heavily in military capabilities. These countries may prioritise diplomacy and peaceful resolution but must defend their citizens and territory against aggression. In such cases, military investments serve as a deterrent against potential threats, perpetuating a cycle of arms buildup and conflict. This dilemma illustrates a paradox: peace-loving nations may inadvertently contribute to the tensions they seek to avoid. The fear of aggression can lead to an arms race, where each side continues to escalate military spending in a bid for security. This situation underscores the need for robust international dialogue and cooperation, where nations can address security concerns without resorting to conflict and curb and remove any kind of support that can create a threat to humanity. As humanity stands at the crossroads of technological advancement and enduring conflict, the question arises: can a change in trajectory be achieved? The answer lies in the collective will to prioritise peace over war, understanding over hatred, and cooperation over division. Governments, organisations, and individuals must advocate for a shift in priorities. Public awareness campaigns can highlight the opportunity costs of warfare, urging citizens to demand that their leaders invest in humanity rather than conflict. International collaboration is essential to addressing the root causes of disputes and fostering dialogue between opposing sides. While humanity has made significant strides in technology and exploration, confronting the reality that fundamental nature has not changed is essential. The persistent conflicts over land and religion are a testament to a failure to evolve beyond historical grievances. Redirecting resources from warfare to initiatives promoting peace and development can pave a path for a brighter future where humanity thrives together rather than in conflict. The choice is clear, and the time for change is now.

Indira Vashishta Carena is an Ex-Airline Pilot, Columnist and Motivational speaker.



Universal healthcare coverage for every person on the planet is estimated to cost around \$200 billion annually. This is a fraction of the military budget, yet it represents a critical investment that could save millions of lives. According to the United Nations, universal access to quality education could cost approximately \$39 billion annually.

## Raj Kapoor : Hum tumhare rahenge sada

## OPINION

DR. MANISH KUMAR  
CHAUDHARY

Raj Kapoor is a star of Hindi cinema whose personality epitomizes multiplicity and multidimensionality. This centenary year marks the celebration of a filmmaker from the golden age of Indian cinema who excelled in acting, directing, musical sensibility, and the ability to portray complex human themes with vivid realism. People in the film industry affectionately referred to Raj Kapoor as "Raj Saheb." His cinematic journey reflects a profound trust in humanity, satisfaction in being human, and respect for the human condition. The greatest challenge of modern civilization lies in safeguarding the dignity of ordinary human beings. The crisis is civilizational: how do we preserve the belief in the value of simplicity? A central theme in Raj Saheb's films is the recognition of humanity embedded in ordinariness. Whether it is Awaara or Shree 420, all his films revolve around the commonplace person. Thus,

the foundation of his cinema is the 'protection of the dignity of ordinary life'. Love, for Raj Saheb, is a powerful consciousness, a healthy emotion, and a social belief. His films expand and deepen the meaning of love. Rather than portraying love as a stubborn demand, his films explore love as surrender, sacrifice, or the ability to endure its hardships, a parallel of which we find Shakespeare as 'the course of true love never did run smooth'. Love is not shown as mere physical desire but as a flowing river of emotions and relationships, as the love which moves the Sun and Stars, to quote Dante. Raj Saheb repeatedly touches the depths of this river, weaving narratives with time as a central thread. Relationships, thoughts, and beliefs are never static; they are constantly evolving. In Mera Naam Joker, the complex relationship between life and time, as well as philosophical introspections, are developed within a cinematic setup—

an exceptional achievement. Raj Saheb was unparalleled in capturing the subtle nuances of life's numerous dimensions and translating them into his films. In Satyam Shivam Sundaram, he also delves solemnly into the tangled relationship between love, body, and beauty. This film articulates the interconnectedness of truth, divinity, and beauty, challenging the illusion of beauty constructed by commercial systems. The film redefines beauty as being rooted in truth and spiritual purity. Portraying such a profound idea through a glamorous actress within the discipline of cinema is an exceptional example of Raj Saheb's directorial genius. He had the rare talent of bringing deep, philosophical questions to the audience in an accessible way. His acting style reflected a unique detachment and simplicity, evolving into a distinct school of performance. His characters often embodied innocence and the full vitality of a defeated but resilient common man. Raj Saheb's triumph lay in losing while upholding human values. In Teesri Kasam, for example, he loses Heerabai, yet upholds goodness even in loss. His artistic journey is a cinematic version of the struggle against the darkness of modern civilization—on



The greatest challenge of modern civilization lies in safeguarding the dignity of ordinary human beings. The crisis is civilizational: how do we preserve the belief in the value of simplicity? A central theme in Raj Saheb's films is the recognition of humanity embedded in ordinariness. Whether it is Awaara or Shree 420, all his films revolve around the commonplace person.

aesthetic, artistic, and humanistic levels. The songs from his films have transcended the screen to become part of everyday life: "Sajan Re Jhooth Mat Bolo Khuda Ke Paas Jaana Hai" "Sab Kuch Seekha Humne Na Seekhi Hoshiyari"

"Kisi Ki Muskurabaton Pe Ho Nisaar" "Awaara Hoon" "Jis Desh Mein Ganga Behti Hai" "Mera Joota Hai Japani" "Yeh Bhai Zara Dekh Ke Chalo" "Ek Din Bik Jayega" His ability to convey deep messages through lyrical

and musical rhythm was extraordinary. Like Tulsi-das, Kabir, and Ghalib, Raj Kapoor remains a part of our consciousness—not just in what we say, but in how we think. Whenever films speak of humanity, love, trust, hope, and enduring sorrow, Raj Kapoor's songs will be re-

membered. His music does not merely excite; it refines our consciousness through thoughtful reflection. The simultaneous stardom of Raj Kapoor, Dev Anand, and Dilip Kumar reflects their universal appeal and the pluralistic nature of the Indian society. This was an era without domination by a single style or taste—an affirmation of democratic diversity. It represents the pluralistic spirit of India. Raj Kapoor and Nargis shared a special and much-discussed relationship. Their bond was more than professional—it was deeply personal. Though society never fully accepted their relationship, the emotional pain of this unfulfilled bond surfaces subtly in Raj Saheb's eyes and performances. Their story remains an emotional chapter in Indian cinema. The line "Kabhi Kisi Ko Mukammal Jahaan Nahin Milta" (No one ever finds a perfect world) holds true for Raj Saheb too. It's a tragedy of fate. As a director, Raj Saheb's courage in tackling serious subjects brings him close to filmmakers like Akira Kurosawa. He explored the aesthetic of the body with unmatched finesse. Almost all heroines in his films were portrayed as poetic expressions of beauty through graceful physicality. Unlike

the Rajshri banner, which emphasized restraint and sanctity, Raj Kapoor did not shy away from acknowledging desire. Instead of denying the gaze or suppressing it, he used it as a means to speak about human longing through artistic expression. Alongside commercial appeal, he developed a cinematic language for serious themes. Nearly all his films were content-driven. In Indian cinema, Raj Kapoor will always hold a place of greater importance as a director than merely an actor. Be it his films or personal life, Raj Saheb exuded enthusiasm, vibrancy, and celebration. He is remembered for his grand parties and wide-ranging relationships. Shankar-Jaikishan, Mukesh, Lata Mangeshkar, Shailendra, Hasrat Jaipuri, and Manna Dey were inseparable parts of his creative universe. Raj Saheb was equally loved by the masses and the elite. His popularity extended beyond the Indian subcontinent to Russia, China, Turkey, and much of the Middle East. With that being said, we stand together, in deference, to pay our homage to the greatest showman, of the Indian cinema, on his death anniversary.

The author is Convener, Raj Kapoor Centenary Year Celebration.



## Flood situation grim in Assam, Shah speaks to CMs

CONTINUED FROM P1

Nine people have died in landslides triggered by torrential rain in Arunachal Pradesh in the last two days.

Nearly 1,500 tourists were stranded in various parts of north Sikkim on Saturday as the main road was blocked due to landslides triggered by incessant rains, officials said.

One person was killed, two were injured and eight others went missing when a vehicle in which 11 tourists were travelling plunged into the Teesta River in the Mangan district of Sikkim on Thursday night.

Heavy rain wreaked havoc in Manipur, with 3,802 people affected and 883 houses damaged due to floods and landslides across the state in the last 48 hours, officials said on Sunday

A Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) spokesperson said that in the wake of heavy rainfall over the past 24 hours and water flowing over the tracks on the Baraigram-Dullabcherra section, the Dullabcherra-Silchar passenger train, Silchar- Dullabcherra passenger train and Badarpur-Dullabcherra- Badarpur

passenger train have been cancelled for two days.

The Guwahati-Dullabcherra- Guwahati train will be short terminated/short originated at/from Baraigram and remained cancelled between Baraigram and Dullabcherra till Tuesday, he added.

A portion of National Highway-17 has been overtopped near Shingra Shalibari in Chaygaon area of Kamrup district since Saturday, officials said.

Heavy rain coupled with water flowing down from neighbouring Meghalaya has aggravated the situation in the area, they said.

Measures were being taken to facilitate traffic movement using alternative routes, they said.

Officials said ferry services between Jorhat and Majuli have been suspended with immediate effect due to the rising water level of the Brahmaputra river.

The CWC bulletin said the Brahmaputra was flowing above the danger level in Dibrugarh and Nematighat (Jorhat).

Other rivers that have breached the danger mark are Dhaleswari at Garmura (Hailakandi), Rukni at Dholai (Cachar), Katakhal

at Matijuri (Hailakandi), Barak at Badarpur Ghat (Sribhumi), Buridehing at Margherita (Tinsukia), Kushiara in Sribhumi, Dhansiri at Numaligarh (Golaghat) and Kopili at Kamrup (Nagaon), it said.

An Assam State Disaster Management (ASDMA) bulletin had said that till Saturday evening, five people have been killed in landslides and three in floods.

Three districts in the western part of the state were on 'red alert' on Saturday and eight more on 'orange alert', as per Regional Meteorological Centre (RMC) data, even as rainwater from upstream areas of Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya worsened the flood situation in Assam.

Multiple agencies, including the NDRF, SDRF, police, fire and emergency services personnel were pressed into relief and rescue operations, with people evacuated to safety from flood-affected areas, the officials said.

The chief minister had said on Friday that the state was facing an abnormal situation due to incessant downpour caused by massive cloud cover over several parts of the northeast.

## VHP calls 24-hour strike in Siliguri

AGENCIES

SILIGURI (WEST BENGAL)

The Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) has called for a 24-hour strike in West Bengal's Siliguri on Monday to protest against the alleged attacks on Hindus and business establishments in Matigara area, as well as the arrest of workers from Hindu organisations.

The unrest began on Friday following a dispute over the alleged illegal transportation of meat in a vehicle in Siliguri's Matigara locality. The vehicle was reportedly set on fire, sparking tension between two groups and leading to subsequent police action.

VHP's North Bengal region president, Laxman Bansal, said, "VHP North Bengal has called for a 24-hour strike in Siliguri. There has been prevailing chaos in West Bengal for many years...Our Hindu women and children are being traumatised, and their businesses attacked."

He alleged that on May 30, Bajrang Dal workers intercepted a vehicle in the Matigara block allegedly transporting meat. "There were four people in the vehicle, reportedly carrying weapons. An FIR was lodged," Bansal claimed.

## Russia kills 12 Ukrainian soldiers

CONTINUED FROM P1

ings of personnel were being held at the time.

An investigative commission was created to uncover the circumstances around the attack that led to such a loss in personnel, the statement said.

The training unit is located to the rear of the 1,000-kilometre active front line, where Russian reconnaissance and strike drones are able to strike.

Ukraine's forces suffer



Deer fight at their enclosure at Maharaj Bagh Zoo, in Nagpur.

## GST mop-up breaches Rs 2 lakh cr in May

CONTINUED FROM P1

In May, gross revenues from domestic transactions rose 13.7 per cent to about Rs 1.50 lakh crore, while GST revenue from imports grew 25.2 per cent to Rs 51,266 crore. In May, the gross Central GST revenues stood at Rs 35,434 crore, State GST revenues at Rs 43,902 crore and Integrated GST at about Rs 1.09 lakh crore. Revenues from Cess was at Rs 12,879 crore. In May, 2024, the mop

up was Rs 1,72,739 crore.

Meanwhile, total refunds during the month fell 4 per cent to Rs 27,210 crore.

Net GST mop-up stood at about Rs 1.74 lakh crore, a 20.4 per cent year-on-year growth. So far in April-May 2025-26, the GST collections were at Rs 437,767 crore, up 14.3 per cent from Rs 383,006 crore in the same period last year.

GST collection in 2024-25 stood at Rs 22 lakh crore, up 9.4 per cent year-on-year.

## Tripura floods: 1,300 families shifted to camps

CONTINUED FROM P1

ter pumps to drain out the accumulated water. Officials are urging residents in flood-hit areas to follow government advisories and relocate to designated safe zones," the CM said. Meanwhile, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued an alert for heavy to very heavy rainfall and thunderstorms across Tripura between June 1 and June 5, 2025.

The forecast also warns of

extremely heavy rainfall in isolated pockets, particularly in Dhalai and West Tripura districts. Thunderstorms accompanied by lightning and gusty winds (40-50 kmph) are also likely in some areas.

The IMD has advised residents to take precautions, including avoiding areas prone to waterlogging and landslides, refraining from unnecessary travel, and adhering to traffic and weather advisories.

## Military aircraft destroyed

CONTINUED FROM P1

lead the Ukrainian delegation. "We are doing everything to protect our independence, our state and our people," Zelenskyy said.

Ukrainian officials had previously called on the Kremlin to provide a promised memorandum setting out its position on ending the war before the meeting takes place. Moscow had said it would share its memorandum during the talks. Russian strike hits an army unit

Russia on Sunday launched the biggest number of drones — 472 — on

Ukraine since the full-scale invasion in February 2022, Ukraine's air force said.

Russian forces also launched seven missiles alongside the barrage of drones, said Yuriy Ignat, head of communications for the air force. Earlier Sunday, Ukraine's army said at least 12 Ukrainian service members were killed and more than 60 were injured in a Russian missile strike on an army training unit.

The strike occurred at 12:50 p.m., the statement said, emphasising that no formations or mass gatherings of personnel were be-

ing held at the time.

An investigative commission was created to uncover the circumstances around the attack that led to such a loss in personnel, the statement said. The training unit is located to the rear of the 1,000-kilometre active front line, where Russian reconnaissance and strike drones are able to strike.

Ukraine's forces suffer from manpower shortages and take extra precautions to avoid mass gatherings as the skies across the front line are saturated with Russian drones looking for targets.

## ‘Your time is up’, Shah tells Mamata

CONTINUED FROM P1

military strike that "led to the killing of hundreds of terrorists inside Pakistan". Targeting the Chief Minister's stance on Operation Sindoor, the BJP leader accused her of betraying women. "Mamata Banerjee is criticising Operation Sindoor to appease Muslim vote bank in Bengal. By criticising Operation Sindoor, Mamata Banerjee is insulting mothers and sisters of this country. Mothers, sisters of Bengal would teach Mamata Banerjee and TMC a lesson in 2026 polls for criticising Operation Sindoor," he said. The Home Minister questioned Banerjee's silence on the Pahalgam terror attack. "Mamata Banerjee remained silent when tourists from Bengal were killed in the Pahalgam terror attack," he said. Shah said the recent violence in Murshidabad was not spontaneous but orchestrated by the State. "Recently, violence broke out in Murshidabad. Our Home Ministry suggested the deployment of BSF soldiers, but they did not call BSF because if BSF had gone to the violence-hit area, then they would have saved Hindus. Our party workers went to the High Court, and on the High Court's order, the BSF came and saved Hindus. TMC leaders stood there and kept provoking violence; they abused BSF soldiers. I have no hesita-

tion in saying that Bengal Government's ministers were a part of these riots and this was a State-sponsored riot," alleged Shah. The Home Minister alleged that the TMC Government intentionally blocks border security measures for electoral gains. "TMC would never give required land to BSF, as it wants infiltration to continue for the party to remain in power," he said. "Mamata Banerjee can never stop infiltration in Bengal, only BJP can do that." Shah drew a direct link between national security and the upcoming 2026 Assembly polls. "The West Bengal elections will not only decide Bengal's future, but it is also associated with national security. Mamata Banerjee has opened the nation's borders for Bangladeshis. She is allowing infiltration... Mamata Banerjee cannot stop infiltration; only a BJP Government can do that," he asserted.

"We have asked her for land to create the border fence with Bangladesh. She is not providing land at the borders, so that infiltration continues, and her vote bank keeps increasing, and your nephew becomes the CM after you. But this is not going to happen. Mamata Banerjee may favour the Pakistani terrorists as much as she wants, but I want to tell her that this is PM Modi's Government and Operation Sindoor is not yet over. Anyone who dares anything will be given a proper answer. Tenure of

Mamata didi as CM is set to end in 2026, BJP would form the next Government in Bengal," he said. The BJP leader claimed that hundreds of BJP workers had been killed in West Bengal after Mamata Banerjee became the CM. He also challenged the CM to contest without resorting to electoral malpractices. "If Didi has courage, she should try to contest elections without violence, her deposit will be forfeited. Mamata Banerjee has crossed all limits of appeasement for her Muslim votebank. Our people were killed in Pahalgam. Under Operation Sindoor, we went 100km (inside Pakistan) and destroyed their headquarters. 100s of terrorists were killed, and this gave Didi pain in the stomach. She gave a political speech and opposed Operation Sindoor," he said.

Amit Shah's attack on the Mamata Banerjee Government led to an immediate counter-attack by the Trinamool Congress. Rajya Sabha MP Sagarikha Ghose and State Finance Minister Chandrima Bhattacharya accused the Home Minister of indulging in slander. "At a time when our National General Secretary Abhishek Banerjee is touring foreign countries to put forward the Indian viewpoint on Pahalgam and Operation Sindoor, it is quite unfortunate that Amit Shah is taking recourse to lies for narrow political gains," said Ghose.

## CM Sharma reviews preparations...

CONTINUED FROM P1

tional values to promote awareness and respect for nature.

Emphasising the importance of water conservation, Sharma highlighted its critical need in a state like Rajasthan, given its challenging geographical conditions. He stated that the government is focusing on increasing groundwater levels and promoting water conservation efforts. To support this, the state will run the Vande Ganga Jal Sanrakshan-Jan Abhiyan across Rajasthan from June 5 to 20. Under this campaign, activities such as constructing water conservation structures, cleaning water sources, restoring traditional reservoirs, and conducting environmental and water conservation initiatives will be carried out. Sharma stressed that only through the active participation of every individual can this campaign transform into a widespread public movement.

Sharma instructed officials to ensure the involvement of every department in the campaign and emphasised that all activities be carried out smoothly through effective coordination. He stressed the importance of closely monitoring the progress and receiving daily updates to ensure the campaign's success.

The Chief Minister stated that on the campaign's first day, at least one water conservation project should be initiated in each village across the state. He emphasised the creation of Jal Mitras at the village level to ensure maximum public participation. He also urged that special focus be given to the campaign during Gram Sabha meetings, where a comprehensive framework for water conservation activities should

## Chirag Paswan set to contest Bihar elections

CONTINUED FROM P1

politics and he has repeatedly spoken about his vision for the state's development, recalling the 'Bihar First Bihari First' agenda put forth by the Union minister.

"This can be better voiced if Paswan reiterates the agenda from the soil of Bihar and its assembly," Bharti said, outlining the reason behind the clamour within the party for its main face to contest the assembly polls, expected to be held in October-November.

The move is also being seen as muscle-flexing by this important constituent of the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance in Bihar. It is third biggest NDA member after the BJP and Chief Minister Nitish Kumar-led Janata Dal

(United).

Seat-sharing talks in the NDA, which is more crowded now than ever in the state, is yet to begin, and its constituents are positioning themselves ahead of what is likely to be a hard bargain.

The party founded by Ram Vilas Paswan, a prominent leader from the Dalit community, sees itself as crucial to the success of the ruling alliance in the state where the RJD-Congress-Left bloc is sensing an opportunity to unseat Kumar from power after two decades amid concerns about his fitness. The LJP (RV) can summon a meeting of its national executive or state executive members to formalise the proposal for Chirag Paswan to contest the assembly polls.

their rights, we pave the way for a brighter future."

To commemorate the occasion, various child safety and awareness programs, rallies, seminars, and workshops were organised throughout the state, with active participation from schoolchildren, teachers, parents, and social workers.

## IndiGo flight faces turbulence

CONTINUED FROM P1

also went viral on social media.

The pilot announced that the wind speed was upto 80 km/hrs, and he discontinued the approach and climbed back till the weather cleared.

Meanwhile, the national capital on Sunday witnessed a spell of rain, accompanied by strong winds over the southern parts of Delhi.

The rains are due to an east-southeastward-moving cloud cluster, according to the Meteorological Department. The spell of rain offered a much-needed respite from the heat, as the national capital recorded maximum temperatures of more than 39 C earlier in the morning. According to IMD, Safdarjung area recorded a maximum temperature of 39.7 degrees Celsius, Ayanagar 39.5 degrees Celsius, Lodhi Road 39.4 degrees Celsius and Palam recording 39.1 degrees Celsius.

The IMD has issued warnings of thunderstorms, lightning and squall for the next two days, on June 2-3, in the national capital.

The IMD has issued warnings on the northwest for atleast 8 districts, including South, South East, New Delhi, East, Central, Sahadara, North East.



# NAGALAND'S 7 NCP MLAS JOIN NDPP, GIVES CM RIO MAJORITY IN HOUSE

With this merger, the NDPP's tally increases from 25 to 32

TDG NETWORK  
KOHIMA:

All seven Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) MLAs in Nagaland joined the ruling Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party (NDPP), giving the Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio-led party an absolute majority in the 60-member assembly.

With this merger, the NDPP's tally increased from 25 to 32. NCP emerged as the third-largest party in the 2023 assembly elections, after the NDPP and its ally BJP, which won 12 seats.

Addressing a press conference on Saturday, Nagaland Government Spokesperson KG Kenye said that the NCP, the third-largest group in the state assembly with 7 members, has formally merged with the NDPP.

"We have been joined by a few more friends in the NDPP party force this evening; there are 9 groups



- With the merger, Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio's NDPP now holds an absolute majority, solidifying its governance mandate.
- The Speaker of the House has formally accepted the merger, making it official.
- The merger aims for a more state-focused political approach and strengthens Rio's leadership; future coalition seat-sharing may be re-evaluated.

in the state assembly this time and out of that, the NCP party is the third largest group in the state assembly with 7 members," said Kenye, who is also a minister in the state.

The Speaker of the House has accepted the merger application. As a result, the NDPP's strength in the state assembly has increased from 25 to 32 members.

Kenye emphasised that this development will strengthen Chief Minister Dr Rio's leadership and enhance the government's ability to serve the people. He clarified that coali-

tion seat-sharing arrangements are not permanent and may be reconsidered in future elections. On the ministerial reshuffling, he stated that it falls under the Chief Minister's prerogative.

Addressing the reason behind the merger move, he explained that national parties like the NCP face constraints in addressing state-specific issues.

The move was motivated by the desire for a more state-focused political approach.

He pointed out that the merger was influenced by both political necessity and the leadership appeal of the current government and NDPP leaders.

Apart from 32 NDPP and 12 BJP MLAs, the state assembly has five NPP legislators, two members each of the LJP (Ram Vilas), Naga People's Front and RPI (Athawale), a JD (U) MLA and four independents.

## Five killed in Himachal, CM condoles

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI:

Himachal Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu expressed grief over a tragic road accident that occurred near Kamand in Padhar district of Mandi, leaving five people dead and others injured when a pickup vehicle carrying six people crashed into a bridge railing after losing control.

In a post on X, the CM expressed grief over the accident and expressed his condolences to the bereaved families. "The news of the death of five people and injury of another in a road accident at Kamand near IIT Mandi is extremely sad and painful. I pray to God for the peace of the departed souls and express my deepest condolences to the bereaved families.

## Trump has put India, Pak in same basket: Congress

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI:

Congress leader Shama Mohamed on Sunday sharply criticized former US President Donald Trump for allegedly equating India and Pakistan in the context of terrorism. Mohamed accused Trump of placing both countries "in the same basket," despite Pakistan's role as a perpetrator of terrorism and India being its victim.

The Congress leader's remarks were made amidst India sending out all-party delegations to various countries as part of its diplomatic outreach against Pakistan af-

## Cong's Kherra questions defence preparedness after CDS remarks

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI:

Congress leader Pawan Kherra on Sunday raised several questions, including the sudden nature of the ceasefire announcement by the US President and the implications of Donald Trump's claims. He also pointed to the statements of the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), Anil Chauhan, raising further questions about defence preparedness.

"Questions are arising every day, the biggest of them is Donald Trump's claims. We also want to know the conditions of the ceasefire, why was it so sudden and announced by the US President?... The CDS' statements again raise many questions. The government needs to come forward... The country needs to know our defence preparedness..." Kherra told.

US President Donald Trump on Friday (local time) once again claimed credit for brokering a cessation of hostilities between India and Pakistan, asserting that his administration's trade nego-



tations potentially averted a nuclear war between the two nations.

During an interaction with reporters, Trump expressed pride in achieving peace through trade rather than military conflict, reigniting debates over the US role in the recent India-Pakistan ceasefire following the escalation of tension after the Pahalgam Terror Attack and India's subsequent reply through Operation Sindoor.

Moreover, speaking to Reuters on the sidelines of the Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore, the CDS admitted that the Armed Forces had suffered losses in the initial stages of the operation but then struck with impunity at

Pakistan's bases.

"So what I can say is, on May 7 and the initial stages, there were losses, but the numbers and that's not important. What was important is why did these losses occur, and what will we do after that? So we rectified the tactics and then went back on seventh, eighth and 10th, and 10th in large numbers, to hit their bases deep inside Pakistan, penetrated all their defences with impunity, with scattered opposition strikes," Gen Chauhan was quoted as saying by Reuters.

Earlier, on May 11, Director General Air Operations Air Marshal Bharti, when commenting on Aircraft losses, had said, "I can't comment about loss of aircraft as we are in a combat scenario and losses are part of combat."

Kherra stressed the need for the government to come forward and provide clarity on these issues, ensuring that the country is informed about its defence preparedness and the circumstances surrounding the ceasefire.

## Farming if done properly will yield good profits: Min Chouhan

TDG NETWORK  
CHANDIGARH:

Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said that farming is not a loss-making proposition if done with proper methods, and it can yield significant profits for farmers. Addressing a gathering of farmers at the "Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan-2025" the Minister emphasized that "a developed India requires developed agriculture and prosperous farmers."

The event was attended by hundreds of farmers, cattle rearers, and fishery workers from across the district. Chouhan, who himself practices farming, said he understands the intricacies of agriculture and highlighted the central government's focus on empowering farmers through awareness and innovation.

The Minister cited the 'Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan' slogan,

noting how former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee added 'Jai Vigyan' to the spirit of the nation, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi further extended it to include 'Jai Anusandhan' (research). He stressed that scientific innovation is key to revolutionizing Indian agriculture.

Chouhan honored six progressive farmers during the event and lauded the Haryana government's Bhavantar Scheme, extending congratulations to Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini for its implementation.

He revealed that 16,000 agricultural scientists across the country are actively engaged in spreading awareness among farmers through the "Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan." As part of this campaign, 2,170 teams are holding awareness sessions at 8,000 locations nationwide, offering guidance on crop varieties, nutrients, fertilizers,

and improved agricultural practices.

Highlighting recent scientific breakthroughs, the Minister said that scientists have developed two new varieties of paddy that require 20% less water and provide 30% more yield. "A one-quintal increase in crop output per farmer will push India toward the category of developed nations," he declared.

In Haryana, 55 teams are actively engaging with farmers as part of the campaign, which will continue until June 12. These teams are available in villages to answer farmers' questions and offer guidance.

Minister Chouhan also visited progressive farmer Rampratap Sharma's organic farm in Sivah village near Panipat. Sharma has been cultivating fruits and vegetables through organic methods since 2012 and markets them successfully at premium prices.

## Haryana CM Saini bats for 'One Nation, One Election', says frequent polls halt progress

NEERAJ MOHAN  
CHANDIGARH:

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Sunday voiced strong support for the 'One Nation, One Election' proposal, saying that holding simultaneous elections across India will reduce government expenditure and help maintain steady development. Speaking at a marathon in Gurugram held to promote the idea, the chief minister said that the repeated cycle

of elections disrupts governance and slows down developmental work.

"In Haryana, we have been in election mode since April 13, 2024. This has affected the pace of development," CM Saini said. "Prime Minister Narendra Modi has a vision to make India a developed country. One Nation, One Election will play an important role in achieving that."

Calling the marathon a "movement" and a "public resolution for national

change", CM Saini said the event was more than a race-it was a way to spread awareness about the need for synchronised elections.

"This idea is not just about administrative convenience. It is about deepening democratic awareness across the country," he added. CM Saini also emphasized that simultaneous elections would significantly reduce public expenditure and prevent policy delays that occur when different states go into election mode at dif-

ferent times.

The 'One Nation, One Election' proposal is currently being reviewed by a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC). It suggests holding Lok Sabha and all state assembly elections at the same time through a constitutional amendment. The chief minister has urged people of Haryana to support this initiative and called it a vital step towards fast-tracking India's journey toward becoming a developed nation.

## Speaker Birla to represent India at 11th BRICS Forum in Brazil

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI:

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla has left for Brazil to participate in the 11th BRICS Parliamentary Forum, scheduled to be held in the capital city of Brasilia.

Birla will represent India at the forum from June 3 to June 5. The event will focus on discussions around the role of BRICS parliaments in global governance. During the forum, Birla is set to address key topics, including Responsible and Inclusive Artificial Intelligence (AI), among other significant issues. He will also engage in bilateral talks with presiding officers from BRICS countries.

In the current geopolitical context, Speaker

Birla's visit holds strategic importance for India. The Indian delegation accompanying Birla includes the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, Members of Parliament, and other officials. The delegation will also comprise Harivansh, Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha; Surendra Singh Nagar, Member of Parliament; Vijay Baghel, Member of Parliament; Vivek Thakur, Member of Parliament; Shabari Byreddy, Member of Parliament; Utpal Kumar Singh, Secretary General, Lok Sabha; and P.C. Mody, Secretary General, Rajya Sabha. According to a press release, the overall theme of the Eleventh BRICS Parliamentary Forum is 'The Role of BRICS Parliaments

in Building a More Inclusive and Sustainable Global Governance.' Presiding Officers and Members of Parliament from BRICS countries-Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, United Arab Emirates, Ethiopia, Indonesia, and Iran-and invited nations-Belarus, Bolivia, Kazakhstan, Cuba, Nigeria, Malaysia, Thailand, Uganda, and Uzbekistan-along with the President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), H.E. Ms. Tulia Ackson, will also participate in the Forum meetings.

The Lok Sabha Speaker will address the forums on 'Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation for Responsible and Inclusive Artificial Intelligence' and 'BRICS Parliaments United for

the Reform of the Multilateral Peace and Security Architecture.' The delegation will also participate in the proceedings during the Plenary Sessions on sub-themes including 'BRICS Parliamentary Action in Search of New Paths for Economic Development'; 'Towards Stronger and More Durable BRICS Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation'; 'BRICS Inter-Parliamentary Alliance for Global Health'; and 'BRICS Inter-Parliamentary Dialogue on Climate and Sustainability.'

A Joint Statement will be adopted at the end of the Summit. The Speaker, Lok Sabha, may also hold bilateral meetings with Presiding Officers of participating Parliaments on the sidelines of this Forum.

## Assam: Flash floods, landslides kill eight people, 7, 000 take shelter in relief camps

TDG NETWORK  
GUWAHATI:

Eight people died due to floods and landslides in Assam in the last 24 hours, according to the officials. According to the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) reports, three people died in floods and five died in landslides.

"Two people, including a child, died due to the flood in Golaghat district, while one person drowned in flood waters in Lakhimpur district," ASDMA said. On the other hand, five people lost their

lives and two others were injured due to landslides in the Kamrup (Metro) district.

Following incessant and heavy rainfall in Assam and neighbouring states, 175 villages under 20 revenue circles in 12 districts of the state-Dhemaji, South Salmara, Lakhimpur, Dibrugarh, Golaghat, Darrang, Nagaon, Karbi Anglong, Kamrup, Biswanath, Tinsukia, Karbi Anglong West-were affected in the first spell of floods in the state.

The ASDMA flood report stated that 58091 people in 12 districts were affected

by the first spell of floods. 791.32 hectares of crop-land submerged by flood waters. Nearly 7000 flood-affected people are taking shelter in relief camps and relief distribution centres set by the district administration.

The district administration has set up 16 relief camps and relief distribution centres in the flood-hit areas. The flood waters washed away 194 animals. 75918 animals have been affected in the flood-hit districts.

State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF), National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF),



Villagers gather after the water level of Ranganadi river rises following incessant rainfall, in Lakhimpur on Sunday. (ANI Photo)

Fire and Emergency Services, and local administration are engaged in rescue operations

in the flood-affected areas. In the last 24 hours, flood waters damaged 22 roads, one

bridge, breached 3 embankments, damaged 4 other embankments, irrigation canals,

school buildings, Anganwadi centres, etc. On the other hand, 9865 people were affected by urban floods in Kamrup, Dibrugarh, Darrang, Cachar, and Kamrup (M) districts. Meanwhile, on Saturday, Assam Housing Urban & Affairs Minister (DoHUA) Jayanta Mallabaruah visited various flood-affected areas in Guwahati to assess the prevailing situation and review the government's emergency response measures. During his inspection, the Minister visited several critical sites, including Juripar, the inundated stretch from Basistha

Chariali to Balughat along the National Highway, the area near Excel Care Hospital, Pandu Temple Ghat, Kamakhya Foothills, B Baruah Road, GS Road, and the area behind the AGP Office in Ambari, Pibco Point, Rukminigaon, Rukmininagar, and others.

Minister Baruah addressed the media and explained that many of these flood-affected zones function like basins, collecting runoff from the surrounding hills. He informed that two major drainage channels are currently under construction to divert this water.



# DMK FLAYS CENTRE FOR DENYING TAMIL NADU ‘RIGHTFUL’ FINANCIAL AID

Also adopts resolution to reach out to people, publicise achievements

TDG NETWORK  
MADURAI

At its General Council meeting held on Sunday in Madurai, the ruling Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) passed a resolution condemning the Union Government for denying Tamil Nadu its rightful financial allocations. During the meeting, which was held on a sprawling 90-acre site in Uthangudi, 27 important resolutions were passed. DMK functionaries read out the resolutions one by one. Among them was a resolution condemning the Union Government for denying Tamil Nadu its rightful financial allocations.

Stalin also moved a resolution to conduct door-to-door campaigns and reach out to the people on the state government's welfare schemes, and struggle to secure rights.

## DMK HOLDS GENERAL COUNCIL MEET

- The party set a target of enrolling as members at least 30 per cent voters covered in every polling station and the resolution was adopted.
- The gathering saw the participation of over 10,000 party leaders, including Chief Minister MK Stalin and ministers, MPs, MLAs, and senior functionaries.



The party set a target of enrolling as members at least 30 per cent voters covered in every polling station and the resolution was adopted. The gathering saw the participation of over 10,000 party leaders, including Chief Minister MK Stalin and ministers, MPs, MLAs, and senior functionaries. The meeting holds political significance as it is the first time in 47 years that event was held in Madurai, solidifying the party's influ-

ence in the southern region. The key resolutions include ensuring the victory of the party in the 2026 Assembly elections and electing MK Stalin as Chief Minister, declaring June 3rd, the birth anniversary of Karunanidhi, as "Classical Tamil Day," and expressing gratitude to the Chief Minister for being a pioneer in improving the lives of women in the State. Another resolution emphasised the need to publicise the DMK government's achieve-

ments among the people. Earlier, the DMK had 23 internal wings, and two new wings have now been added, bringing the total to 25.

The newly formed wings are the Differently Abled Wing and the Academics Wing. Meanwhile, on Sunday, in another political development in the state, AIADMK announced that IS Inbadurai and M Dhanapal will be its candidates for the Rajya Sabha election sched-

uled for June 19 this year. "With the approval of AIADMK General Secretary Edappadi Palaniswami, we are announcing candidates for Rajya Sabha. IS Inbadurai, M Dhanapal will contest on behalf of AIADMK," AIADMK Deputy General Secretary KP Munusamy told reporters. Munusamy also said that AIADMK will allocate one Rajya Sabha seat to its alliance partner DMDK in 2026 when the vacancy arises. Earlier this week, the DMK announced its candidates for the election and allocated one seat to Kamal Haasan, the founder of Makkal Needhi Maiyam. According to a DMK release, Salma, Advocate P Wilson, and SR Sivalingam are its candidates. In the 234-member Tamil Nadu Assembly, each candidate requires a minimum of 34 votes to clinch a Rajya Sabha seat.

# AIADMK fields two candidates for RS polls

TDG NETWORK  
CHENNAI

AIADMK on Sunday announced that IS Inbadurai and M Dhanapal will be its candidates for the Rajya Sabha election scheduled for June 19 this year.

"With the approval of AIADMK General Secretary Edappadi Palaniswami, we are announcing candidates for Rajya Sabha. IS Inbadurai, M Dhanapal will contest on behalf of AIADMK," AIADMK Deputy General Secretary KP Munusamy told reporters.

Munusamy also said that AIADMK will allocate one Rajya Sabha seat to its alliance partner DMDK in 2026 when the vacancy arises.

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lease, Salma, Advocate P Wilson, and SR Sivalingam are its candidates.

In the 234-member Tamil Nadu Assembly, each candidate requires a minimum of 34 votes to clinch a Rajya Sabha seat. The DMK-led INDIA bloc, with 158 MLAs (DMK: 133, Congress: 17, VCK: 4, CPI: 2, CPM: 2), is poised to win four seats comfortably.

Actor Kamal Haasan launched Makkal Needhi Miam at a public meeting in Madurai in 2018. Makkal Needhi Miam did not contest in the 2024 Lok Sabha election, and instead it campaigned for the DMK-led INDIA bloc in the State. In

return, the DMK had promised a Rajya Sabha seat for the party.

Makkal Needhi Miam had secured 2.62% of the votes in the 2021 State Assembly election.

Meanwhile, Kamal Haasan has courted a political controversy with his alleged remarks claiming that "Kannada has its roots in Tamil."

Haasan reiterated his faith in "law and democracy" on Friday while responding to the ongoing controversy surrounding his purported remark on the Kannada language during the promotion of his movie "Thug Life" in Chennai.

Terming India as a "democratic country," the actor stated that he won't "apologise" to anyone for his actions if he is "not wrong". Pro-Kannada organisations have demanded a public apology from him for allegedly hurting the sentiments of Kannada people. (ANI)

# Nilambur byelection in Kerala: TMC fields PV Anvar, BJP Mohan George

TDG NETWORK  
MALAPPURAM

All India Trinamool Congress (AITC) has fielded their Kerala state coordinator, PV Anvar, as their candidate for the upcoming Nilambur bypolls, set to be held on June 19. Anvar had raised corruption allegations against Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan's officials and claimed that he would not be contesting the bypolls, supporting the Congress candidate instead. The byelections were necessitated after Anvar submitted his resignation on January 13 to Assembly Speaker AN Shamseer, days after holding talks with TMC leaders, including Abhishek Banerjee and TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee.

While the Bharatiya Janata Party announced that Mohan George would be its candidate for the byelection in the



Nilambur Assembly constituency in Kerala.

The main contest in the constituency is between United Democratic Front (UDF) candidate Aryadan Shoukath and the LDF's M Swaraj. The byelection has political significance as it is a precursor to next year's state assembly election and will test the popularity of the current government led by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan.

Talking about their candidate, a post by TMC read, "Under the inspiration

and guidance of Hon'ble Chairperson Smt. Mamata Banerjee, we are pleased to announce the All India Trinamool Congress candidate for the impending Kerala Legislative Bye-election scheduled for 19th June, 2025."

A few months ago, Anvar had accused CM Vijayan's political secretary P Sasi, and ADGP M R Ajith Kumar, claiming they were involved in phone tapping of ministers and journalists and also accused the ADGP and IPS officer Sujith Das of misappropriated seized gold.

Anvar had claimed that there was RSS influence in the home department and Muslim youths were being framed in false cases. Following the accusations, Anvar, then an independent MLA but aligned with the ruling Left Democratic Front (LDF) in the state, vowed to work for ending the Pinarayi Vijayan-led government.

# Gujarat minister's son arrested in second case of MGNREGA 'scam'

AGENCIES  
DAHOD

Gujarat minister Bachubhai Khabad's son Balvant Khabad was arrested on Sunday, days after being granted bail in another case connected to the MGNREGA works, police said.

Balvant along with his brother Kiran, sons of the Gujarat minister of state for panchayat and agriculture, were released on bail on May 29 in the first FIR against them in April.

While Kiran was arrested the same day in another case, Balvant was arrested on Sunday after Dahod 'B' division police registered



a fresh FIR against him on Saturday, Deputy Superintendent of Police Jagdishsinh Bhandari said.

"As per the FIR registered on May 31, Khabad's firm received payments of Rs 33.86 lakh from the government without completing work allotted to it under the MGNREGA at Bhanpur village in

Dahod's Dhanpur taluka in 2022-23," said Bhandari.

This is the third FIR lodged by Dahod police since April after authorities found out that payments were made to various agencies despite the fact that they did not supply the material for which they were given the contract under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA).

As per the FIR registered by Dahod 'B' division police on May 31, Balvant Khabad's firm 'Shree Raj Construction Company, Piperi' in connivance with government employees, managed to get a payment of Rs Rs 33.86 lakh

without supplying material for the MGNREGA project carried out at Bhanpur village.

Earlier on May 16, both Balvant and Kiran were arrested on charges of cheating, forgery and breach of trust after the first FIR was registered in April in connection with the alleged MGNREGA scam of Rs 71 crore.

As per the FIR, various agencies had not completed the assigned work or supplied the required materials between 2021 and 2024 but claimed payments by submitting bogus work completion certificates and forged documents.

# Express Link Canal work won't stop: DKS amid protests

TDG NETWORK  
BENGALURU

Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Saturday clarified that the Express Link Canal project would continue despite ongoing protests. He said that 40 per cent of the work had already been completed, and there was no reason to halt the project at this stage.

"Forty per cent of the work of the Express Link Canal project has been completed. In this situation, there is no reason to stop the work," Shivakumar told reporters at Vidhana Soudha while addressing concerns over the Hemavati Link Canal project.

The remarks came amid growing protests from farmers and political leaders opposing the Hemavati Link Canal.

While responding to the agitation, Shivakumar stated, "Those who are there, those who are here, are all our farmers. We will protect



the interests of everyone."

The protests gained traction after BJP MLA Suresh Gowda voiced opposition. However, Shivakumar pointed out that key MLAs were already aware of the project.

"MLAs Krishnappa and Suresh Gowda have said that they are aware of this project. They have also spoken about it. However, they are now fighting. I am not saying that this is wrong. All the MLAs are mentally aware of this issue," he said.

When asked about Union Minister V Somanna's letter concerning the project, Shivakumar responded with

caution and respect.

"He is a big man, a Union Minister. Let's ask for his guidance as well," he said, indicating that the government was open to suggestions and cooperation from the Centre.

On Saturday, DK Shivakumar alleged that the protest against the Hemavati Link Canal project is a political protest.

He said 40 per cent of the work is already done, and the project will not be stopped as it will help farmers, and also accused BJP leaders of trying to create problems.

Thousands of farmers in Karnataka held a large protest on Saturday near Gubbi town in Tumakuru district, opposing the start of work on the Hemavathi River Link Canal Project.

Speaking to the media-persons about the protest against the project, DK Shivakumar said, "That is all a political protest.

# Telangana BJP to launch booth-level outreach from June 8

TDG NETWORK  
HYDERABAD

Union Minister and Telangana BJP president G Kishan Reddy held a meeting at the party's state office in Hyderabad on Sunday to review ongoing and upcoming party programmes.

He said the BJP would organise a series of outreach events from June 8 to June 18 to highlight the Central government's achievements.

Reddy emphasised that over the past 11 years, the BJP-led government at the Centre has delivered in multiple areas, from basic sanitation to space exploration.

"Under the leadership of PM Modi, NDA-BJP won the Lok Sabha elections three times in a row with the blessings of the people. In these 11 years, many works have been done towards making a corruption-free India a global power through good govern-

nance. PM Modi's government has worked in different areas. Many works have been done from building toilets in a poor household in a village to hoisting the country's flag on the moon," Reddy said.

He said the upcoming booth-level events will serve as a medium to connect directly with the people.

"From 8th June to 18th June, we will organise programmes at every polling booth among the people and will go door-to-door to tell the people about the work done by the government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi towards building a new India," he said.

Earlier, in a post on X, Reddy highlighted how he mentioned the various developmental initiatives and how the government has ensured that Centrally Sponsored Schemes and projects "reach the deserving population."



Def Min Rajnath Singh welcomes Lt Cdr Roopa A and Lt Cdr Dilna K on their arrival after the successful completion of the circumnavigation of the Globe onboard the INSV Tarini, in Vasco Da Gama on May 29, 2025. ANI

AGENCIES  
PITHAPURAM

The TDP-led NDA government in Andhra Pradesh on Sunday reverted to the old format of supplying rations through fair price shops and YSRCP chief YS Jagan Mohan Reddy slammed the administration for the move.

Recently, the N Chandrababu Naidu-led government scrapped doorstep delivery of rations through Mobile Delivery Units (MDU vehicles) introduced by the erstwhile YSRCP regime.

"Beneficiaries can now collect rations from any fair price shop, not just the registered dealer. Home delivery is arranged for over 15 lakh senior citizens and differently-abled persons," said Civil Supplies Minister N Manohar in an official release.

The initiative covers over 1 crore families statewide, allowing ration collection from any nearby fair price shop, "improving convenience and



accessibility for beneficiaries across the state".

The minister alleged that the previous (YSRCP) government misused nearly Rs 17,000 crore of public funds under the name of home ration delivery.

Manohar asserted that about Rs 385 crore worth of public funds will be saved through distribution through ration shops, with dealers being monitored using technology and a dedicated app for transparency.

Rejecting the allegations, YSRCP chief Reddy, in a post on 'X', said: "Naidu has been showing a vindictive attitude towards the operators



of MDU who were delivering the ration at the doorstep of the poor."

He noted that before YSRCP's tenure, people allegedly suffered discrimination, poor quality rations, and had to forgo wages while waiting in queues at public distribution shops.

The former chief minister further said that during his Padayatra (walkathon) in 2017-19, people shared their hardship in getting ration. The YSRCP government launched door delivery of quality rice to ensure transparency and eliminate longstanding malpractices across villages, he said.

# INSV Tarini returns to Goa after historic journey to Point Nemo

TDG NETWORK  
MORMUGAO PORT

Indian Navy Officers Lieutenant Commander Dilna K and Lieutenant Commander Roopa returned to Goa on Saturday after successfully completing Navika Sagar Parikrama II, a circumnavigation expedition aboard the Indian Naval Sailing Vessel (INSV) Tarini.

A major highlight of the

expedition was reaching Point Nemo, the most remote location on Earth, marking a rare feat for any sailing crew, and a first for the Indian Navy's women officers.

"It was a great and proud moment for us as we could fly our Indian flag and the Indian Navy's flag at Point Nemo," said Lt Cdr Dilna K. She recalled the challenges they faced en route, particu-

larly a storm that forced them to make a critical decision.

She said, "To reach Point Nemo, we had to face a lot of challenges because there was an approaching storm on the same route, and we had to make a decision whether to go to Point Nemo and make a record or avoid the storm and go away from it. But we made a decision that we will go to the Point

and fly our flag there."

Their return to Mormugao Port was also marked by the presence of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, who had earlier made a promise to the crew during the expedition.

"That was his promise, actually given to us during a video call on the 7th of March, one day before International Women's Day. He told us that he will be com-

ing to Flag in, and yesterday, sir told us that I fulfilled the promise. I'm really happy. It's an honour for us that the Defence Minister came and flagged in Tarini, and it was a very proud moment," said Lt Cdr Dilna.

Meanwhile, Point Nemo, also known as the Oceanic Pole of Inaccessibility, is the farthest point from any landmass on Earth.

"We had gone to the exact

coordinates of Point Nemo, the remotest location on Earth. The nearest humans from that particular point are those in the Space station," said Lt Cdr Roopa.

She added that the voyage lasted eight months and described it as a transformative experience.

These 8 months have been a great learning experience, a completely life-transforming experience.



# FIRST TIME IN 2 DECADES: EC HOLDS REVISION OF VOTERS' LIST FOR BYPOLLS

It follows the Representation of the People Act, 1950, mandating roll updates.

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI


For the first time in nearly two decades, the Election Commission revised the voters' list of five constituencies for holding assembly bypolls there in a bid to ensure a "spotless" electoral roll.

The last time a special summary revision took place for a bypoll was in 2006 in Tamil Nadu, officials pointed out.

Citing provisions of the Representation of the People Act, 1950, officials said the electoral roll is to be revised before every election and bypoll unless otherwise directed by the EC.

If the electoral roll is not revised, the validity or continued operation of the said electoral roll shall

### REVISION



- Election Commission revised voters' lists for five assembly bypolls—the first such update since 2006.
- Current electoral rolls remain valid until the revision is complete.
- Bypolls in Gujarat, Kerala, West Bengal, and Punjab set for June 19; counting on June 23.
- Bypolls triggered by deaths or resignations of sitting MLAs.
- Revision cleans the roll by removing outdated entries and adding new voters.

not be affected, they said, quoting the law.

The validity of the current electoral roll continues till the completion of the special revision.

Officials underlined that it is for the commission to decide if revision of electoral rolls has to be con-

ducted or not, depending on the requirement.

Bypolls to five assembly seats in four states will be held on June 19, the poll authority announced last month.

While two assembly bypolls will be held in Gujarat, one each will

take place in Kerala, West Bengal and Punjab. The counting of votes will take place on June 23.

In Gujarat, the bypoll to the Kadi seat was necessitated following the death of sitting MLA Karsanbhai Punjabhai Solanki. Another bypoll to the

## CBI arrests senior IRS officer for accepting Rs 25 lakh bribe

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has arrested a senior Indian Revenue Service (IRS) Officer, presently posted as Additional Director General in the Directorate of Tax Payer Services, New Delhi.

The officer, identified as Amit Kumar Singhal and a private person, identified as Harsh Kotak, were charged with demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs 25 lakh as part payment of the total bribe of Rs 45 lakh demanded from the complainant.

This comes after the CBI registered a case against the accused on Saturday. In

the case, it was alleged that the accused public servant had demanded illegal gratification of Rs 45 lakh from the complainant instead of providing favourable treatment from the Revenue/Income Tax Department.

According to the CBI, the demand was accompanied by threats of legal action, the imposition of heavy penalties, and harassment in case of non-compliance.

The bribe was allegedly sought in return for favourable action from the Income Tax Department, with threats of legal consequences and harassment in case of non-compliance.

The CBI laid a trap and caught them red-handed while accepting a bribe on

behalf of the officer at the officer's residence in Mohali.

Shortly after, the IRS officer was arrested at his residence in Vasant Kunj, New Delhi.

According to the agency, the officer had assured relief in tax matters in exchange for the bribe and had warned of "legal action, heavy penalties, and harassment" if the demand was not met.

Both the accused were arrested and will be produced before the competent court, the agency said.

Following the arrest, the CBI conducted searches at multiple locations in Delhi, Punjab, and Mumbai in connection with the case.

## Amritsar Police busts BKI terror module, arrest 2 in extortion racket

TDG NETWORK  
CHANDIGARH

The Punjab Police on Sunday claimed to have dismantled a terror and extortion module linked to an operative of proscribed outfit Babbar Khalsa International (BKI) with the arrest of two people.

Director General of Police Gaurav Yadav said BKI member Jeevan Fauji was orchestrating an extortion racket targeting individuals in Punjab's border districts.

Two of his associates -- Karajpreet Singh, a resident of Verowal, and Gurlal Singh alias Harman, a resident of Goindwal Sahib in Tarn Taran, have been apprehended, he said.

Fauji provided a .30 bore pistol to Karajpreet and Gurlal and directed them to fire at a furniture shop in the Amritsar area, said the DGP



*Two of his associates -- Karajpreet Singh, a resident of Verowal, and Gurlal Singh alias Harman, a resident of Goindwal Sahib in Tarn Taran, have been apprehended, he said.*

in a post on X.

"This firing incident was part of an extortion attempt, with Jeevan Fauji demanding ransom from a relative of the shop owner based in #Canada," he said.

"Based on the disclosure

of accused Gurlal, a police team took him along for the recovery of a weapon used in the offence. During this operation, the accused attempted to fire at the police party, prompting a self-defensive retaliation.

## Telangana cabinet to meet on June 5

TDG NETWORK  
HYDERABAD

The Telangana government on Sunday decided to conduct a meeting of the state cabinet on June 5 to discuss crucial issues, including implementation of Indiramma housing scheme and preparedness for rainy season agricultural crops, government sources said.

The decision to conduct cabinet meeting was taken during an interaction held on Sunday by Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy with several ministers, an official release said.

During the meeting, the ministers explained the reports prepared by them, after touring various districts, on the implementation of Indiramma housing scheme, conducting proposed public events to address land and other revenue issues, it said.



stop crime should be two steps ahead of the criminals. Our criminal justice system is entering a new era."

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

## 'Stop 'self-praise', recuse yourself from campaign': Kharge to PM

TDG NETWORK  
BENGALURU

Commenting on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's public speeches after Operation Sindoor, Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge urged him to "focus on the enemy instead of self-boasting" and to recuse himself from election campaign.

"I don't like reacting to all his (Modi's) statements," Kharge said while addressing reporters in Bengaluru. "But my only request to him is that those in power should sometimes keep their mouth shut." Kharge questioned the Prime Minister's recent public statements and political activities, suggesting that Modi should temporarily step back from electoral campaigning. "Modi should recuse himself from elections and focus on the country. He should understand whatever has happened in the country and speak," he remarked.

"I am saying without any political differences that he (Modi) should focus on the enemy instead of self-boast-



ing that no one except for him would have done it. Our full support is with the Armed Forces," he said.

Referring to ongoing developments linked to Operation Sindoor, Kharge noted that multi party delegations visiting several countries to explain India's position. "Let them come back. Till they return, it is not proper to be touring around and giving speeches," he said.

The opposition leader in the Rajya Sabha reiterated the Congress party's unwavering support for the Indian Armed Forces.

The Congress chief also took a swipe at the Prime Minister's earlier assertion

that the military had been given a free hand. "When Modi has said he has given full power to the armed forces, then why is he claiming that he did it? Self-boasting is not good."

Emphasising the need for political restraint during sensitive times, Kharge said, "We will not say anything as the situation is not normal."

He cited the example of restraint shown in Pakistan's parliament during previous India-Pakistan tensions, stating, "When the clashes broke out between India and Pakistan, a discussion started in Pakistan's parliament not to speak anything against the country."

every state to establish a forensic van in every district. Many states have expanded their forensic labs. We had already established the National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU) in 2020. Sixteen institutions have been approved, eight have already been established, and the remaining eight are in process. We have already completed the creation of trained human resources. I believe the new students will contribute to our law and order," he added.

"Our duty is to ensure that every poor person can get justice as soon as possible. I believe that we will create an environment where our people will trust the law and order of the country," the Union Minister said, stressing

ing the priority of delivering justice to the poor at earliest.

His visit comes days after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to North Bengal, underscoring the central leadership's sustained focus on the state.

Earlier, Shah had posted on X in both English and Bengali: "Leaving for Kolkata. Tomorrow, will inaugurate the new building of the Central Forensic Science Laboratory, which will contribute immensely to strengthening the criminal justice system in West Bengal and Northeast India." "In the afternoon, will interact with the Karyakartas at Vijay Sankalp Karyakarta Sammelan in Kolkata. Looking forward to attending the programmes," he added.

## Working seriously to ensure there is no demographic change in U'khand: CM Dhami

TDG NETWORK  
HARIDWAR

Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami on Sunday said it will be ensured that there is no harm to the Sanatan culture in Uttarakhand and added significant efforts are underway to guarantee there is no demographic change in the state."We will not allow any harm to the Sanatan culture in Devbhoomi and we are working seriously towards stopping demographic change," said Dhami after jointly inaugurating Padma Bhushan Sadhvi Ritambhara's newly built ashram 'Vatsalya Ganga Ashray' in Kankhal here with his Delhi counterpart Rekha Gupta.

The chief minister said strict action is being taken against distorted mindsets like 'land jihad, love jihad and spit jihad' to keep the



state's original form intact.

"The original existence of Devbhoomi should be saved. This is my resolution, the resolution of Devbhoomi," he added.

Dhami further said if the Uniform Civil Code has been implemented in Uttarakhand then it can be implemented in other states as well.

"Just like 'Ganga Mata' emerges from Devbhoomi Uttarakhand and from here she works to provide water and life to the whole country, in the same way this Gangotri of Uniform Civil Code has emerged from Uttarakhand and the whole country will get its benefits in the coming times," he added.

# Shubhanshu set to script history as India's 2nd astronaut in space

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

India's Shubhanshu Shukla is set for his maiden space flight as part of Axiom Space's fourth commercial mission to the International Space Station, which is scheduled for lift-off on-board SpaceX's Falcon-9 rocket from the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida on June 8.

The launch of the Dragon spacecraft will take place not earlier than 6:41 pm IST from NASA's spaceport



in Florida, making Shukla only the second Indian to travel to space four decades

after Rakesh Sharma's iconic spaceflight onboard Russia's Soyuz spacecraft in 1984.

Besides Shukla, the mission pilot for the Axiom-4 mission, the other crew include Slawosz Uznanski-Wisniewski from Poland and Tibor Kapu from Hungary, marking both European nation's first travel to the International Space Station in history and the second government-sponsored human spaceflight mission in over 40 years.

Veteran US astronaut Peggy Whitson will be the commander of the Axiom-4 mission.

"I am really, really excited to go into microgravity and experience spaceflight on my own," Shukla, who goes by the nickname 'Shuks', said at a press conference in January.

Once docked, the astronauts plan to spend up to 14 days aboard the orbiting laboratory, conducting science, outreach, and commercial activities.

The Ax-4 astronauts will perform around 60 scientific studies and activities representing 31 countries during their 14-day stay at the ISS.

Shukla is set to conduct exclusive food and nutrition-related experiments developed under a collaboration between the Indian Space Research Organisation and the Department of Biotechnology, with support from NASA.

The experiments aim to pioneer space nutrition and

self-sustaining life support systems vital for future long-duration space travel.

ISRO has lined up a set of seven experiments for Shukla, who will also participate in five joint studies planned by NASA for its human research program.

It has drawn up plans to focus on India-centric food for carrying out experiments on the ISS, including sprouting methi and moong in microgravity conditions.

Shukla will also expose the seeds to the macrobiotic

conditions and bring them back to earth where they will be cultivated in plants not just once but over generations.

In January, Shukla said he also planned to capture his experiences on board the ISS through pictures and videos which can be shared with all the "Bharatvaasis' back home."

"I want them to share this thrilling experience through my eyes, for I truly believe that, even as an individual travelling to space, this is

the journey of 1.4 billion people," he said.

Shukla said he planned to take certain items from different parts of the country with him to the ISS during the 14-day mission and even expressed hope to serve Indian food to astronauts in the orbital laboratory.

He said the experience on the Axiom Mission 4 would be very well utilised on the Gaganyaan mission which is planned for 2027. ISRO is spending Rs.550 crore on the Axiom-4 mission.



# TRIBUNAL INDICTS HASINA FOR MASS MURDER

Bangladesh’s ICT issues fresh arrest warrants against ex-PM, former Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal.

AGENCIES  
DHAKA

Bangladesh’s International Crimes Tribunal on Sunday indicted former prime minister Sheikh Hasina and two others on several charges, including mass murder, for their alleged role in the violent crackdown on student-led protests last year.

Sunday’s proceedings marked the start of Hasina’s trial in absentia nearly 10 months after the ouster of her government following the protests.

“We do hereby take into cognisance the charges,” the three-judge ICT-BD bench led by Justice Golam Mortuza Majumdar said after a prosecution team formally accused them of attempting to tame the protests using brutal force.

The tribunal, after hearing a 145-page excerpt during the indictment proceedings, simultaneously issued a fresh arrest warrant against Hasina and then home minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal.

The third accused, the then inspector general of police Chowdhury Abdullah Al-Mamun, is in custody to stand trial in person.

The prosecution charged Hasina with exercising absolute authority to ruthlessly suppress the uprising. The two others were accused of provocation, complicity, abatement, instigation and facilitation.

“Upon reviewing the evidence, we concluded that it was a coordinated, wide-



## Mujib dropped from new Bangladesh banknotes, replaced with landmarks

**Dhaka :** New banknotes were released in Bangladesh with new designs, replacing the portrait of the ousted Prime Minister and the nation’s founding father, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, with natural landscape and traditional landmarks, the country’s central bank said.

Till now, all the banknotes feature the portrait of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, who led Bangladesh to freedom from Pakistan in 1971 until he was assassinated by soldiers in a military coup four years later. Along with the new banknotes, existing notes having Sheikh Mujibur Rahman’s portrait and coins will remain in circulation.

“Under the new series and design, the notes will not feature any human por-

traits, but will instead showcase natural landscapes and traditional landmarks,” Bangladesh Bank spokesman Arif Hossain Khan said.

The new banknotes, released by Bangladesh Bank, will have images of Hindu and Buddhist temples, as well as historic palaces. They will also feature artwork by the late painter Zainul Abedin, depicting the Bengal famine during the British colonial rule.

Another banknote will feature the national martyrs’ memorial for those who died in the independence struggle against Pakistan. The notes for three of the nine different denominations were released on Sunday. The others will be put into circulation in phases.

spread and systematic attack,” ICT-BD chief prosecutor Mohammad Tajul Islam told the court.

All three were accused of superior command responsibility for the crimes. The prosecution said they

would submit video, audio, and forensic evidence during the trial and listed 81 people to appear as witnesses. The tribunal’s investigation agency on May 12 in its report to the chief prosecutor’s office named Hasina as the instiga-

tor of the killings during the uprising that ousted her government. The chief prosecutor urged the court to treat the Awami League as a criminal organisation since the crimes were committed on a partisan basis.

The interim government led by Professor Muhammad Yunus last month ordered the disbanding of the party until the trials of its leaders were completed.

Under the ICT-BD law, if convicted, Hasina and the co-accused could face the death penalty. The proceedings were broadcast live on television for the first time in Bangladesh’s history.

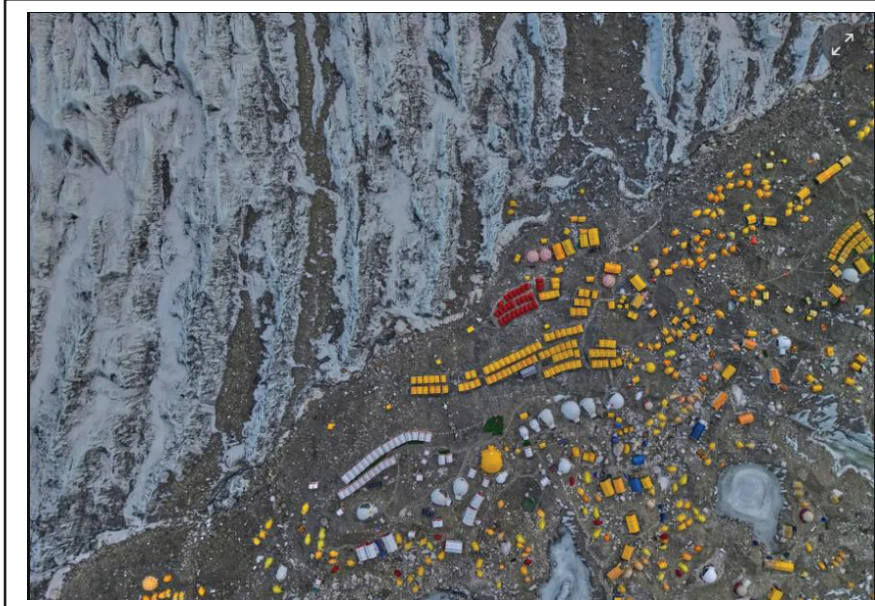
Meanwhile, Bangladesh has restored the registration of the country’s largest Muslim party, more than a decade after it was banned by former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina’s government.

Sunday’s Supreme Court decision means the Jamaat-e-Islami party can now be formally listed with the Election Commission, paving the way for its participation in the next general election, which the interim government has promised to hold by June next year.

Jamaat-e-Islami lawyer Shishir Monir said the ruling would allow a “democratic, inclusive and multiparty system” in the Muslim-majority country of 170 million people.

“We hope that Bangladeshis, regardless of their ethnicity or religious identity, will vote for Jamaat and that the parliament will be vibrant with constructive debates,” Monir told journalists.

The party had appealed for a review of a 2013 high court order cancelling its registration after Hasina’s government was ousted in August by a student-led nationwide uprising.



The Everest base camp, on the south side of the mountain, sits at an altitude of 5,360 metres. Climbers typically spend a few weeks there, climbing to higher camps and then returning, so they can adjust to the lower oxygen levels before beginning the ascent of the 8,849-metre summit. Nepal. Agencies

## At least 31 Palestinians killed while heading to Gaza aid hub

AGENCIES  
GAZA STRIP

At least 31 people were killed and over 150 were wounded on Sunday while on their way to receive food in the Gaza Strip, according to health officials and multiple witnesses. The witnesses said Israeli forces fired on crowds around a kilometer (1,000 yards) from an aid site run by an Israeli-backed foundation.

The army in a brief statement said it was “currently unaware of injuries caused by (Israeli military) fire within the humanitarian aid distribution site. The matter is still under review.”

The foundation — promoted by Israel and the United States — said in a statement it delivered aid “without incident” early Sunday. It has denied previous accounts of chaos and gunfire around its sites, which are in Israeli military zones where independent access is limited.

Gaza’s Health Ministry said 31 people were killed and 170 others were wounded.

A new aid system marred by chaos

The Gaza Humanitarian Foundation’s aid distribution has been marred by chaos in its first week of operations, and multiple witnesses have said Israeli troops fired on crowds near its delivery sites. Before Sunday, at least six people had been killed and more than 50 wounded, according to local health officials.

The foundation says the private security contractors guarding its sites have not fired on the crowds. Israel’s military has acknowledged firing warning shots on previous occasions.

The foundation said in a statement it distributed 16 truckloads of aid early Sunday “without incident,” and dismissed what it described as “false reporting about deaths, mass injuries and chaos.”

“The scene was horrible”



## Hamas seeks amendments to Gaza ceasefire proposal, US envoy says ‘unacceptable’

**Tel Aviv:** Hamas said on Saturday it was seeking amendments to a US-backed proposal for a temporary ceasefire with Israel in Gaza, but President Donald Trump’s envoy rejected the group’s response as “totally unacceptable.”

The Palestinian militant group said it was willing to release 10 living hostages and hand over the bodies of 18 dead in exchange for Palestinian prisoners in Israeli prisons. But Hamas reiterated demands for an end to the war and withdrawal of Israeli troops from Gaza, conditions Israel has rejected.

A Hamas official described the group’s response to the proposals

from Trump’s special Middle East envoy Steve Witkoff as “positive” but said it was seeking some amendments. The official did not elaborate on the changes being sought by the group.

“This response aims to achieve a permanent ceasefire, a complete withdrawal from the Gaza Strip, and to ensure the flow of humanitarian aid to our people in the Strip,” Hamas said in a statement. The proposals would see a 60-day truce and the exchange of 28 of the 58 hostages still held in Gaza for more than 1,200 Palestinian prisoners and detainees, along with the entry of humanitarian aid into the enclave.

Thousands of people headed toward the distribution site in southern Gaza hours before dawn. As they approached, Israeli forces ordered them to disperse and come back later, witnesses said. When the crowds reached the Flag Roundabout, around 1 kilometer (half a mile) away, at around 3 a.m., Israeli forces opened fire, the witnesses said.

“There was fire from all directions, from naval warships, from tanks and drones,” said Amr Abu Teiba, who was in the crowd.

He said he saw at least 10 bodies with gunshot wounds and several other

wounded people, including women. People used carts to ferry the dead and wounded to a field hospital. “The scene was horrible,” he said.

Most people were shot “in the upper part of their bodies, including the head, neck and chest,” said Dr. Marwan al-Hams, a health ministry official at Nasser Hospital, where many of the wounded were transferred after being brought to the field hospital run by the Red Cross.

He said 24 people were being treated in Nasser Hospital’s intensive care unit. A colleague, surgeon Khaled al-Ser, later said 150 wounded people had arrived, along with 28 bodies.

## Lebanon says one killed in Israeli strike on south

AGENCIES  
BEIRUT

Lebanon’s health ministry said an Israeli strike on the country’s south killed one person on Sunday as the Israeli army said it targeted a Hezbollah member, the latest raid despite a ceasefire.

The ministry said the “Israeli enemy” strike targeted a motorcycle in the village of Arnoun, in the Nabatiyeh region about five kilometres (three miles) from the Israeli border.

Farther south, another strike hit a car in Beit Lif, in the Bint Jbeil area, wounding one person, the ministry added. The Israeli military said in a statement that its forces “struck and eliminated a terrorist in Hezbollah’s anti-tank array” in the Arnoun area. Israel has continued to strike Lebanon despite the November

27 ceasefire that sought to end more than a year of hostilities -- including two months of open war -- with militant group Hezbollah, which emerged severely weakened. On Thursday, two people were killed in Israeli strikes on the south, and another died in a raid on Saturday. Under the truce, Hezbollah fighters were to withdraw north of the Litani River, about 30 kilometres from the border, and dismantle their military posts to the south. Israel was to pull all its troops from Lebanon but has maintained five positions it deems “strategic” along the frontier. The Lebanese army, the only force allowed to operate in south Lebanon besides United Nations peacekeepers, has been deploying in the south and has been dismantling Hezbollah infrastructure there.

## South Korea presidential candidates hold rally ahead of June 3 voting

AGENCIES  
SEOUL

South Korea’s leading candidates held major campaign events Sunday, two days out from a snap election triggered by the former president’s removal after his disastrous declaration of martial law.

The June 3 election is set to cap months of political turmoil sparked by Yoon Suk Yeol’s brief suspension of civilian rule in December, for which he was impeached and removed from office.

All major polls have put liberal Lee Jae-myung well ahead in the presidential race, with the latest Gallup survey showing 49 percent of respondents viewed him as the best candidate.

Kim Moon-soo, from the conservative People Power Party (PPP) -- Yoon’s former party -- trailed Lee on 35 percent.

The 60-year-old Lee began his rally in his hometown of Andong, 240



A woman casts her early vote for the June 3 presidential election at a polling station in Seoul, South Korea. Agencies

kilometres (150 miles) southeast of Seoul, telling his supporters he would seek to weaken the concentration of development in the capital region and boost areas away from Seoul.

“We should not simply seek a regional equal development strategy but rather provide more incentives for non-Seoul regions to support them more,” said Lee, wearing a bulletproof vest.

Lee has been campaigning with additional security measures, including bulletproof shields set up on the

podium.

He was stabbed in the neck in January 2024 in Busan by a man pretending to be a supporter, who later confessed that his intention was to kill Lee to prevent him from becoming president.

At his rally in the conservative stronghold of Daegu, Lee said he would seek to improve ties with nuclear-armed North Korea through dialogue -- hinting at a departure from the hawkish stance taken by impeached former president Yoon.

## Myanmar Junta extends ceasefire again after quake

AGENCIES  
YANGON

Myanmar’s junta has extended a post-earthquake truce, after the expiry of a previous humanitarian ceasefire it was accused of flouting with a continued campaign of air strikes.

The junta initially declared a truce in the many-sided civil war after a huge quake in late March killed nearly 3,800 people and left tens of thousands homeless.

The truce has been extended before, although conflict monitors say fighting has continued, including regular air strikes.

A statement from the junta information team on Saturday said there would be an



An empty field with a collapsed building caused by a strong earthquake in Naypyitaw, Myanmar. Agencies

extension of the armistice -- which expired May 31 -- until June 30. This would “facilitate rehabilitation and reconstruction activities in earthquake-affected areas”, it said in the statement.

It added that the state was

“intensively engaging in reconstruction of damaged government offices and departments, public residences and transport facilities”.

The ceasefire would also allow the country to hold “a free and fair multi-party de-

mocracy general election”, according to the statement.

The country’s junta chief said earlier this year that a long-promised election will be held by January, the first in the war-torn nation since the military staged a coup in 2021.

In the statement, the military also warned it would still strike back against any offensives by the array of ethnic armed groups and anti-coup fighters.

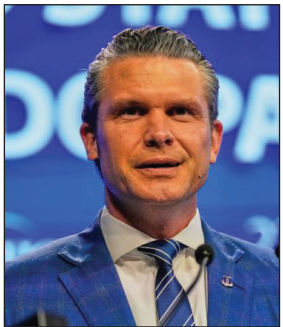
The announcement comes after Malaysian foreign minister Mohamad Hasan used a regional meeting last week to call for the extension and expansion of a ceasefire “beyond the currently affected zones”.

## Hegseth is touting a Cold War mentality in calling the country a threat: China

AGENCIES  
BEIJING

China on Sunday denounced U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth for calling the Asian country a threat, accusing him of touting a Cold War mentality as tensions between Washington and Beijing further escalate.

The foreign ministry said Hegseth vilified Beijing with defamatory allegations the previous day at the Shangri-La Dialogue, a global security conference. The statement also accused the United States of inciting conflict and confrontation in the region.



“Hegseth deliberately ignored the call for peace and development by countries in the region, and instead touted the Cold War mentality for bloc confrontation,” it said, referring to the post-World War II rivalry between the U.S. and the former Soviet

Union.

“No country in the world deserves to be called a hegemonic power other than the U.S. itself,” it said, alleging that Washington is also undermining peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific.

Hegseth said in Singapore on Saturday that Washington will bolster its defenses overseas to counter what the Pentagon sees as rapidly developing threats by Beijing, particularly in its aggressive stance toward Taiwan.

China’s army “is rehearsing for the real deal,” Hegseth said. “We are not going to sugarcoat it — the threat China

poses is real. And it could be imminent.”

The Chinese statement said the matter of Taiwan is China’s internal affair and that the U.S. should “never play with fire” with it. The statement also alleged Washington had deployed offensive weaponry in the South China Sea, was “stoking flames and creating tensions in the Asia-Pacific” and “turning the region into a powder keg.”

Spokesperson Zhang Xiaogang of China’s defense ministry called Hegseth’s comments a provocation and said they distorted China’s policy positions.



# 'BHOOOL CHUK MAAF' EARNS RS 54.12 CRORE

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

Rajkumar Rao-starrer "Bhool Chuk Maaf" has crossed Rs 50 crore at the domestic box office, the makers announced on Sunday.

Produced by Dinesh Vijan under his banner Maddock Films, "Bhool Chuk Maaf" is directed by Karan Sharma. Also starring Wamiqa Gabbi, the film was released in theatres on May 23.

The total box office collection of the film stands at Rs 54.12 crore, according to the



press note. "Bhool Chuk Maaf" revolves around a soon-to-be-married man who realises

*The total box office collection of the film stands at Rs 54.12 crore nett, according to the press note.*

that he is stuck in a time loop and keeps reliving the day before his wedding.

The film also stars Seema Pahwa, Sanjay Mishra and Ishthyak Khan in pivotal roles.

## Trailer of 'Chhal Kapat' out now

TDG NETWORK  
MUMBAI

Actor Shriya Pilgaonkar will be seen essaying the role of a cop in 'Chhal Kapat The Deception'.

Ajay Bhuyan has directed the murder mystery, which also features Kanya Ahlawat, Ragini Dwivedi, Tuhina Das, Yashve Sharma, Pranay Pachauri, Smaran Sahu, and Anuj Sachdeva.

Official synopsis of the project read, "Set against the hauntingly beautiful backdrop of a village near Burhanpur, the story unfolds at an intimate destination wedding. Bride-to-be Alisha Dixit has chosen her ancestral haveli for the celebration, bringing together her childhood best friends-Mehak, Ira, and Shalu-under one roof for the



first time in years. What begins as a joyful reunion soon takes a dark turn. As laughter fills the air and old memories are rekindled, long-buried tensions resurface-culminating in tragedy when Shalu, now a rising social media influencer, is found dead."

The celebration quickly "descends into a psycho-

logical thriller, as suspicion, secrets, and betrayal cast shadows over the festivities. Each friend carries hidden scars and simmering resentments, and as the investigation deepens, every bond begins to fray. At the center of this chilling whodunnit is Inspector Devika (played by Shriya Pilgaonkar), a sharp, no-nonsense cop

with a haunted past of her own."

On Sunday, the show's trailer was unveiled. Have a look at it

Excited about the show, Shriya Pilgaonkar in a press note said, "Chhal Kapat The Deception isn't your typical murder mystery or whodunnit. I'm thrilled to be playing a police officer for the first time--but what makes this role truly special is the complexity of the character. Devika isn't just an officer; she's someone haunted by a dark past, which in turn sharpens her investigative instincts."

"She sees what others might miss, not in spite of her past, but because of it. It's exciting to portray a cop who breaks the mold-Devika is sharp, and morally complex.

## Diljit Dosanjh releases poster of 'Sardaarji 3'

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

Punjabi singer-actor Diljit Dosanjh on Sunday shared an official motion poster of his film 'Sardaarji 3'.

In the poster, he could be seen striking a cool pose as he is surrounded by several women who have covered their faces with 'ghoonghat'.

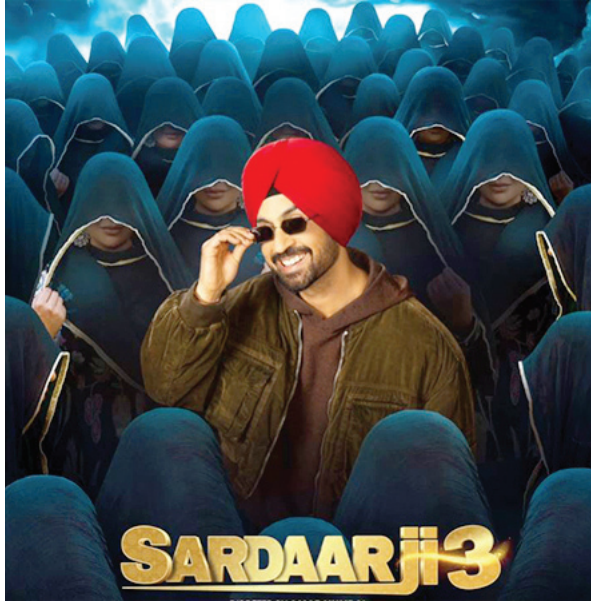
Taking to Instagram, Diljit also informed fans that the film will be released on June 27.

"Jidey Ton Bhoot Thar Kamban Te Chudelan Kissan Mangan JAGGI JI on the way 27th JUNE 2025 TEASER COMING SOON Love, Laughter. Goosebumps. This time, Sardaarji is back with triple the madness! Romantic, comic, and terrifyingly fun -

#Sardaarji3 releases worldwide on 27th June! Ready for the wildest ride of the year?" he captioned the post.

Neeru Bajwa is also a part of the film. She shared that 'Sardaar Ji' is back with "triple the madness".

" Boo. Love. Laughter. Goosebumps. This time,



*Neeru Bajwa is also a part of the film. She shared that 'Sardaar Ji' is back with "triple the madness".*

Sardaarji is back with triple the madness! #Sardaarji3 releases worldwide on 27th June! Ready for the wildest ride of the year?" she posted.

The first part of Sardaar Ji, directed by Rohit Jugraj, also starred Mandy Takhar and Neeru Bajwa and had a record opening in Punjabi

cinema. The second part, Sardaar Ji 2, was also directed by Jugraj.

The second instalment of the Punjabi fantasy horror-comedy Sardaarji came out eight years ago, in 2016, while the first film was released in 2015.

Amar Hundal has directed the third part.

## Dharma responds to 'Homebound' cinematographer abuse charges

TDG NETWORK  
MUMBAI

Dharma Productions, the production house behind the critically acclaimed film 'Homebound', has released an official statement in response to the recent abuse allegations levelled against the film's cinematographer, Pratik Shah.

The allegations of inappropriate behaviour towards women surfaced on social media platforms, prompting Shah to delete his Instagram account amid the backlash. In the aftermath of these



claims, Dharma Productions has responded, clarifying that no formal complaints were made against Shah during the production of the film.

A statement from the production company was released that claimed, "At Dharma Productions, we have a zero-tolerance policy against inappropriate behav-

iour and sexual harassment toward any individual working with us in any capacity, and we treat sexual harassment cases very seriously."

The statement further detailed that Shah, who worked as a freelance cinematographer on 'Homebound', was engaged for a limited duration.

The production house emphasised that during this period, no complaints were filed with the internal committee established under the Prevention of Sexual Harassment (POSH) guidelines. "Mr. Pratik Shah was

a freelancer on the project Homebound and was working on it for a limited period. His engagement with us has been completed. During this limited period, our internal committee for POSH didn't receive any complaints against him from any cast or crew on our film Homebound," the statement added.

'Homebound' which made history as the only Indian film to be featured at this year's Cannes Film Festival in the Un Certain Regard section, has garnered significant international attention.

## Rihanna's father Ronald Fenty passes away

AGENCIES  
LOS ANGELES

Singer Rihanna's father, Ronald Fenty, has passed away at the age of 70.

As per PEOPLE, Fenty died in Los Angeles following "a brief illness." The official cause and date of death have yet to be revealed.

It has been reported that Fenty's family was with him around the time of his death. Representatives for Rihanna have not commented on the demise of her father so far.

Rihanna -- who is currently pregnant and expecting her third baby -- was born to Fenty and mother Monica Braithwaite in February 1988. Along with Rihanna and son Rajad, Fenty and

Braithwaite were also parents to Rorrey.

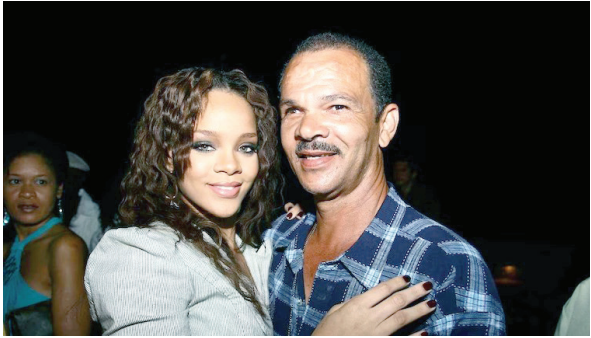
Rihanna also has three half-siblings from her father's previous relationships: sisters Samantha and Kandy, plus brother Jamie.

Fenty and Braithwaite parted ways when Rihanna was young, and they officially divorced in 2002.

According to People, Rihanna had a complicated

relationship with her father over the years.

After the star was assaulted by her then-boyfriend Chris Brown in 2009, Fenty reportedly spoke to the press about the incident without his daughter's consent. Rihanna addressed the matter years later in an interview with Vogue, in which she called the situation "really strange."



## 'Stranger Things' season 5 to premiere in November

AGENCIES  
LOS ANGELES

Finally, the wait is over. The release date of 'Stranger Things' season 5 has been revealed.

Netflix announced the final season of the coming-of-age sci-fi hit will be released in three parts late this year. The first will premiere on November 26, followed by part two



on Christmas and the series finale on New Year's Eve, as per The Hollywood Reporter.

The update was shared by the streaming giant at the Tudum fan event at the Kia Forum in Los Angeles on Saturday, with stars Finn Wolfhard, Caleb McLaughlin and Noah Schnapp running through some look-back clips before revealing the dates for season five via a teaser.

Earlier talking about the final season, creator Ross Duffer said, "We spent a full year filming this season. By the end, we'd captured over 650 hours of footage. So, needless to say, this is our biggest and most ambitious season yet. It's like eight blockbuster movies. It's pretty insane."

Matt Duffer added, "At the same time, we think it's our most personal story.

## Will love to act in Bollywood, says Miss World 2025

AGENCIES  
HYDERABAD

Thailand's Opal Suchata, who has been crowned Miss World 2025, said that she would love to work in Bollywood if there is an opportunity.

In a conversation with ANI, she said, "I feel very happy and proud. It is an honour to take the first Miss World crown to Thailand... I hope I have made them proud. If I get the opportunity, I would love to (act in Bollywood



films); it is a wonderful opportunity..."

She shared her experience of visiting India and said, "It was amazing. Since the first day I was here, every-

one has been so nice..people are amazing, they have been so wonderful to me and we went to so many places..all are so beautiful..whether it is infrastructure or nature.



# VASTU SHASTRA: A TIMELESS SCIENCE FOR MODERN LIVING



DR. ABHILASH

In modern times, where science and rationality dominate the discourse on life and living, Vastu Shastra often finds itself unfairly dismissed as superstition. However, a closer examination reveals that Vastu is not a mere belief system, but a highly evolved architectural science rooted in logic, environment, energy, and human psychology. Vastu Shastra, derived from ancient Indian texts, offers practical guidelines for designing and organizing spaces in a way that harmonizes with natural forces.

This article explores the importance of Vastu in life, its practical benefits, and how it aligns with scientific principles rather than superstition.

## WHAT IS VASTU SHASTRA?

Vastu Shastra is an ancient Indian science of architecture and spatial arrangement. The term “Vastu” means dwelling or site, and “Shastra” means science or doctrine. Together, Vastu Shastra refers to the science of designing buildings and environments that promote peace, prosperity, health, and well-being.

The origins of Vastu trace back thousands of years to the Vedas, particularly the Sthapatya Veda, which deals with architecture and construction. It incorporates knowledge of geography, astronomy, geometry,

and ecology to align human habitats with cosmic energies.

## THE CORE PHILOSOPHY: HARMONY WITH NATURE

The core belief of Vastu is that our physical environment directly influences our inner energy, emotions, and life outcomes. Vastu seeks to harmonize five essential elements—earth (bhumi), water (jal), fire (agni), air (vayu), and space (akash)—with the built environment. When these elements are balanced within a space, it creates an atmosphere conducive to happiness and productivity.

Vastu is about understanding nature's laws and living in harmony with them, much like how modern architecture considers sunlight, wind direction, and topography.

## SCIENTIFIC PRINCIPLES BEHIND VASTU SHASTRA

Many principles of Vastu have a logical foundation in environmental science and human psychology:

### 1. SUNLIGHT AND VENTILATION

Vastu recommends placing kitchens in the southeast and living spaces in the north or northeast. Why? Because the sun rises in the east and moves southward. Designing in this manner ensures maximum exposure to natural light and heat, reducing the need for artificial lighting and energy consumption.

### 2. AIR FLOW AND ORIENTATION

Homes designed according to Vastu optimize cross-ventilation, allowing cool air from the northeast to flow through the house and hot air from the southwest to escape. This is not mysticism—it's environmental engineering that improves air quality and reduces discomfort.



## 3. MAGNETIC FIELDS AND EARTH'S ENERGY

The Earth has a magnetic field, with the north-south axis influencing how energy flows in a space. Sleeping with your head toward the south aligns with Earth's magnetic direction and can positively affect blood circulation and sleep quality, a point increasingly supported by modern neuroscience and chronobiology.

## 4. PSYCHOLOGICAL BALANCE

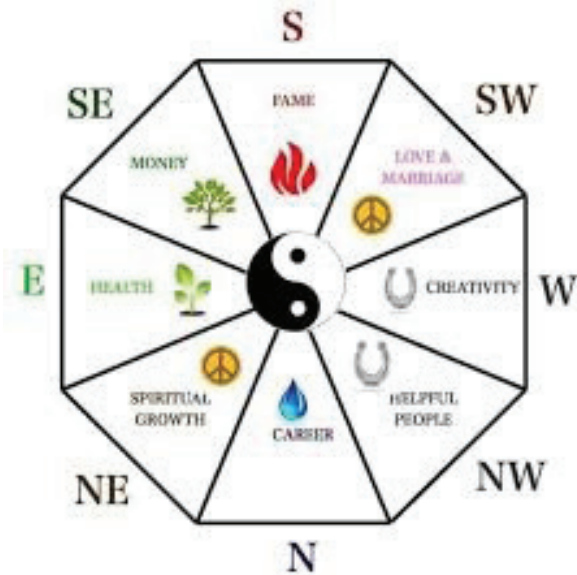
The spatial layout suggested in Vastu encourages open spaces, symmetry, and organized clutter-free environments, which align with psychological research showing that well-organized spaces can reduce stress, improve focus, and promote mental well-being.

## BENEFITS OF FOLLOWING VASTU IN DAILY LIFE

While many people see Vastu as a means to attract wealth or success, its benefits go far deeper into improving quality of life. Here's how:

### 1. PHYSICAL HEALTH

A home designed according to Vastu ensures good airflow, natural lighting,



and proper orientation, which collectively help in reducing illnesses, allergies, and respiratory problems. For example, proper ventilation in the kitchen and bathrooms prevents mold and bacteria growth.

### 2. MENTAL PEACE AND EMOTIONAL STABILITY

Proper space utilization and room placements contribute to a calming environment. Bedrooms located in the right directions, with soothing colors and minimal clutter, help in promoting restful sleep and emotional balance.

## 3. POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS

Vastu principles discourage placing bedrooms or heavy storage in the northeast—an area considered sacred and ideal for prayer or meditation. Allocating spaces in line with their elemental associations fosters harmony in family interactions and relationships.

## 4. FINANCIAL STABILITY AND GROWTH

While Vastu is not a shortcut to wealth, it facilitates an environment that encourages productivity and

Vastu Color Map		
<b>Northwest</b> Guest room Children room Dining Toilet Parking	<b>North</b> Entrance Living room Open Space Bathroom	<b>Northeast</b> Entrance Living room Temple Balcony Open space
<b>West</b> Dining room Children room Study room Toilet	<b>Center</b> Open space Plants Air and light	<b>East</b> Entrance Living Room Open space Bathroom Study room
<b>Southwest</b> Master bedroom Wardrobe Staircase	<b>South</b> Bedroom Staircase Less open space Store room	<b>Southeast</b> Kitchen east-facing Electric meter Store room

clarity, both of which are essential for professional and financial growth. Offices or workspaces that follow Vastu are designed for focus, efficiency, and inspiration.

## VASTU VS. SUPERSTITION: CLEARING THE MISCONCEPTION

The idea that Vastu is superstition arises when its principles are misinterpreted or applied without context. Here's how to distinguish between genuine Vastu and blind belief:

**Superstition:** Believing that placing a particular object in a corner will magically fix all problems.

**Vastu:** Designing and arranging spaces to optimize natural energy flow and human interaction with the environment.

It's not about rituals or symbolic charms. Authentic Vastu is evidence-based and often overlaps with modern architecture and sustainable design principles.

## VASTU IN MODERN ARCHITECTURE AND URBAN PLANNING

Today, many architects and planners incorporate Vastu in their designs—not due to

superstition, but because its principles enhance functionality and livability. Eco-friendly buildings, green homes, and smart cities often unknowingly align with Vastu concepts such as:

- Maximizing natural light and air.
- Ensuring thermal comfort.
- Maintaining balance and symmetry in spatial layout.
- Using sustainable materials and positioning spaces based on energy consumption patterns.

Thus, Vastu is increasingly seen not as a cultural relic but a tool for bioclimatic design—a convergence of tradition and technology.

## MISUSE AND COMMERCIALIZATION OF VASTU

While Vastu has real value, its commercial exploitation has led to misinformation. Some so-called Vastu consultants offer expensive remedies that lack rational basis—like placing crystals or buying certain idols. These practices dilute the scientific essence of Vastu.

True Vastu advice should be contextual, practical, and flexible, not

dogmatic. For example, in urban apartments where structural changes are impossible, Vastu experts suggest functional adjustments like altering furniture orientation or improving lighting.

## HOW TO APPLY VASTU IN EVERYDAY LIFE

You don't need to rebuild your home to benefit from Vastu. Simple steps can create a big impact:

- De-clutter the northeast part of your home to allow energy flow.
- Keep mirrors away from beds to avoid disturbed sleep.
- Use soothing colors like light blues and greens in bedrooms.
- Ensure your entrance is well-lit and clean to welcome positivity.
- Place work desks in a way that faces east or north for better focus.
- Use natural materials like wood and stone for better energy absorption.
- A Timeless Science for Modern Living

Vastu Shastra is not a superstition. It is a rational, time-tested architectural science deeply connected with human well-being, natural forces, and environmental balance.

When applied thoughtfully, it has the power to enhance every aspect of life—from health and happiness to productivity and peace. Rather than dismissing Vastu as irrational, we must recognize its potential to guide us toward mindful living. It encourages us to design not just with bricks and mortar, but with awareness, intention, and respect for nature's laws. That's not superstition—it's sustainability with soul.

*The writer is a Vastu Shastra expert.*

# The divine responds, bringing light through devotion

TDG NETWORK  
JAIPUR

In times of uncertainty, suffering, or deep longing, people across cultures turn to a higher power. Whether called God, goddess, spirit, or universal force, the belief that divine beings intervene to guide, protect, and uplift is one of the most enduring and inspiring aspects of human spirituality. In Hinduism, Christianity, Buddhism, Islam, and countless indigenous traditions, stories abound of deities coming to the aid of sincere devotees. But is it merely faith—or does something truly divine happen when we call for help?

This article explores the idea that deities respond to genuine prayer, faith, and need, and how that belief continues to inspire strength and transformation in the lives of millions.

## THE UNIVERSAL CRY FOR GUIDANCE AND HELP

From a mother praying for her child's health, to a soldier in war whispering a desperate plea, to a farmer praying for rain—human beings have always called upon the divine. The form may differ: a whispered prayer, lighting a lamp, chanting a mantra, or silent meditation. But the intent remains the same—seeking connection with something higher than ourselves.

People believe that when this call comes from the heart, the divine responds.

## EXAMPLES FROM HINDU SCRIPTURES

world's oldest religions, teaches that God takes many forms to uphold righteousness (Dharma) and protect the good. The Bhagavad Gita, for example, quotes Lord Krishna saying:

“Whenever there is a decline in righteousness and an increase in unrighteousness, O Arjuna, at that time I manifest Myself on earth.”

### (BHAGAVAD GITA 4:7)

#### 1. Lord Vishnu's Avatars

In Hindu tradition, Lord Vishnu has taken ten major avatars (Dashavatara) to protect the world from evil. Some of the most well-known examples:

- Rama (to defeat Ravana)
- Krishna (to guide Arjuna and uphold Dharma in Mahabharata)
- Narasimha (to save Prahlad from his demonic father)

These are divine responses to earthly suffering and evil.

#### 2. Goddess Durga and Kali

The Divine Mother is said to arise whenever demonic forces grow powerful. Goddess Durga was born from the collective energy of all gods to slay the demon Mahishasura. Kali emerged from Durga's wrath to destroy negativity. Both symbolize the fierce protection and intervention of the divine feminine.

## DIVINE HELP IN OTHER FAITHS

**CHRISTIANITY**  
In the Bible, God consistently responds to those who pray with sincerity.

Moses calls upon God, and the Red Sea parts.

Jesus calms storms, heals the sick, and even raises the



dead.

The teachings of Jesus emphasize that even a “mustard seed of faith” is enough to move mountains.

## ISLAM

Muslims believe Allah is Al-Mujib, “The Responsive One.” The Qur'an says:

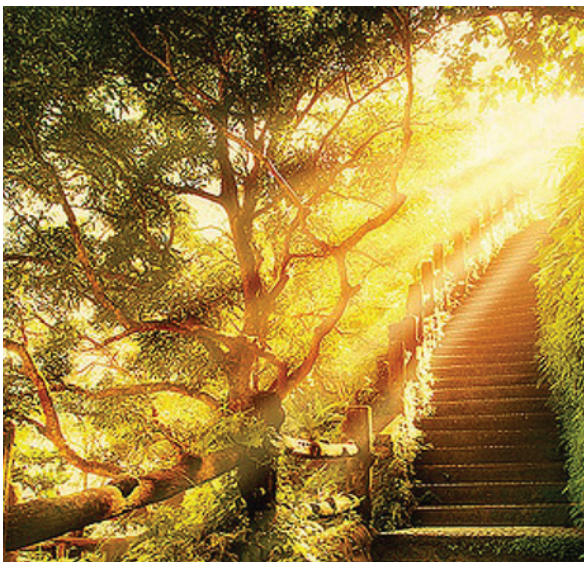
“Call upon Me; I will respond to you.” (Surah Ghafir 40:60)

The stories of prophets

like Yusuf (Joseph), Musa (Moses), and Muhammad (PBUH) show divine aid arriving when faith is unwavering.

## BUDDHISM

While not centered on a creator god, Buddhism teaches about celestial Bodhisattvas like Avalokiteshvara (Guan Yin), who vow to assist all beings who call upon them with compassion and sin-



*Sometimes divine help comes not when we want it, but when it will help us grow the most. Just like a parent knows when to help and when to let a child struggle, the divine responds with perfect timing.*

## WHAT TRIGGERS DIVINE INTERVENTION?

If deities can help, why do they respond sometimes and not others? According to most spiritual traditions, divine help comes when:

### 1. The Call Is Sincere

A superficial or selfish prayer may not generate divine response. But a cry from the soul, spoken or silent, reaches beyond material realms.

### 2. Faith Is Strong

Faith doesn't mean the absence of doubt but the decision to trust despite fear. Miracles often follow deep, unwavering belief.

### 3. The Timing Is Right

Sometimes divine help comes not when we want it, but when it will help us grow the most. Just like a parent knows when to help and when to let a child struggle, the divine responds with perfect timing.

### 4. The Intention Is Pure

When the intention is aligned with Dharma (righteousness) or for the good of others, divine response is more likely.

**Personal Experiences:**  
**When the Divine Steps in**  
Millions of people claim experiences where they felt the presence or intervention of a divine being.

A person avoids a fatal accident after praying moments before.

A sick child miraculously recovers after community prayer.

A devotee receives sudden clarity in a confusing situation after meditating on their deity.

Though skeptics may call them coincidences, for the believers, such moments are sacred proof of divine listening.

## DEITIES AS INNER FORCES

While many view deities as external beings, some spiritual philosophies suggest they are also inner archetypes. When we call on Lord Hanuman for courage, or on Goddess Saraswati for wisdom, we activate those qualities within ourselves. Whether divine help comes from within or above, it results in transformation.

## WHY FAITH MATTERS MORE THAN FORM

It doesn't matter if you call upon Jesus, Krishna, Allah, Buddha, or your own concept of the Divine. What matters is the heart behind the call. Spiritual traditions emphasize that:

A single tear can move the divine.

One mantra said with love is more powerful than hours of distracted prayer.

The divine is more eager to help us than we are to ask.

## LEARNING TO LISTEN

Sometimes divine help comes not as a miracle but as a message: a book falls open to the right page, a stranger offers the exact words you needed, or you get a dream that provides an answer.

Prayer is not always about talking. It's also about

listening—to signs, inner nudges, synchronicities.

## HOW TO INVITE DIVINE HELP

### 1. Create a Sacred Space

Have a corner for prayer or meditation. Light a candle, burn incense, or just sit quietly. This becomes your energetic invitation to the divine.

### 2. Speak From the Heart

No need for elaborate rituals. Simply say what you feel, like talking to a wise and loving friend.

### 3. Ask for Guidance, Not Just Outcomes

Instead of asking only for specific results, ask for clarity, strength, patience, or acceptance. Sometimes divine help reshapes you more than the situation.

### 4. Trust the Process

Once you've prayed or invoked help, let go. Trust that the divine knows how and when to respond.

## CONCLUSION: YOU ARE NEVER ALONE

Life can feel heavy, confusing, and unfair. But when we call upon the divine with a sincere heart, help does come—sometimes silently, sometimes miraculously, but always lovingly.

Deities, in whatever form you worship them, are not distant beings watching from above.

They are ever-present forces of love, protection, and wisdom, ready to walk with us through every joy and struggle. When we call, they answer. When we fall, they lift. When we believe, they act.

So, light that lamp. Say that prayer. Ask for help as the divine is always listening.



UEFA Champions League 2025

HISTORIC MAIDEN TITLE FOR PSC

TDG NETWORK  
MUNICH

Paris Saint-Germain secured their historic maiden UEFA Champions League title win, registering the biggest victory margin in the final by defeating Inter Milan by 5-0 at Munich late Saturday night.

Luis Enrique managed side registered wins over giants Manchester City, Liverpool, Aston Villa, and Arsenal on the route to the final and never felt the pressure of playing with three-time champions, who ousted FC Barcelona 7-6 on aggregate to secure their spot in the final.

The French giants were dominant right from the start and took the lead with Achraf Hakimi putting the ball in the net in the 12th over.

Eight minutes later, the lead was doubled as Desire Doue beat a helpless Yann Sommer to make it 2-0.

The scoreline went undisturbed for the rest of the first half. Though Khvicha Kvaratskhelia could not score in two of his opportunities, Desire managed to get a brace, as a no-look flick from Ousmane Dembele reached Vitinha, who gave the ball to Desire, who put it in the bottom corner of the goal in the 63rd minute.

Kvaratskhelia finally got it right, putting in the fourth goal past a tired Inter Milan defence in the 73rd minute, while Senny Mayulu delivered the fifth and final blow



PSG players celebrate with the trophy after winning the Champions League final soccer match between Paris Saint-Germain and Inter Milan at the Allianz Arena in Munich, Germany, Saturday, May 31, 2025. (Agency)



PSG's Desire Doue celebrates after scoring his side's second goal during the Champions League final soccer match between Paris Saint-Germain and Inter Milan at the Allianz Arena in Munich, Germany, Saturday, May 31, 2025. (Agency)

in the 86th minute.

With this win, PSG became the only French side to win the UEFA Champions League title after Marseille in 1993.

After the game, PSG boss Enrique was quoted as saying by Sky Sports, "I tried to keep the pressure down for a club that had never won the competition. Inter are a great side, but we were fantastic in our pressing. Every player improved this season,

*The French giants were dominant right from the start and took the lead with Achraf Hakimi putting the ball in the net in the 12th over.*

and so did the team."

"A coach needs to control their emotions - you need to deal with the pressure in order to help the players. We prepared the final with the necessary calm to put the excitement in the right place. Now we can enjoy it; we can take the trophy back



PSG's Senny Mayulu celebrates after scoring his side's fifth goal during the Champions League final soccer match between Paris Saint-Germain and Inter Milan at the Allianz Arena in Munich, Germany, Saturday, May 31, 2025. (Agency)



Riot police on the Champs Elysees avenue after Paris St Germain's Champions League win caused clashes. Agencies

to Paris."

"We prepared very well for this game to be at that level. The team was excellent; we pressed with high intensity. Ousmane Dembele pressured their defenders and goalkeepers constantly. We had a great start to the game, dominating from the begin-

ning. But I wanted them to keep pushing, scoring, to ensure we won the game."

"Since day one, I said I wanted to win important trophies, and Paris had never won the Champions League. We did it for the first time. It is a great feeling to make many people happy."

"I am very happy. It was very emotional at the end with the banner from the fans for my family. But I always think about my daughter," he concluded.

Mumbai Indians power past 200 after Dhir's late flourish

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

Mumbai Indians flexed their batting muscle once again, posting a commanding 203/6 in 20 overs against Punjab Kings in their latest IPL clash. It was a well-rounded effort from the batters, but it was Naman Dhir's fiery finish that gave the innings a final push past the 200-run mark.

Asked to bat first, MI had a watchful start. Skipper Rohit Sharma departed early for 8, mistiming a pull off Marcus Stoinis. But Jonny Bairstow (38 off 24) and Tilak Varma quickly shifted gears, putting together a lively partnership. Bairstow was at his fluent best, smashing a six and a couple of boundaries, while Tilak impressed with his intent and timing, lofting the ball over the infield with ease. Their 50-run stand came up in just 30 balls, setting MI on course for a big total.

Just as the Mumbai camp looked set for a launchpad, Yuzvendra Chahal stepped up. The veteran spinner outfoxed Suryakumar Yadav for 30, right after the MI batter had sent one soaring for six. The wickets of Tilak (29) and Hardik Pandya (21) soon followed, as MI stuttered briefly in the middle.

Enter Naman Dhir. Batting at No. 6, the youngster soaked up a few deliveries before explod-



Ahmedabad: Mumbai Indians' Rohit Sharma and Jonny Bairstow during an Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 Qualifier 2 T20 cricket match between Mumbai Indians and Punjab Kings, at the Narendra Modi Stadium, in Ahmedabad, Sunday, June 1, 2025. (Agency)

*Asked to bat first, MI had a watchful start. Skipper Robit Sharma departed early for 8, mistiming a pull off Marcus Stoinis. But Jonny Bairstow (38 off 24) and Tilak Varma quickly shifted gears, putting together a lively partnership.*

ing in the death overs. In the 19th over, he punished Arshdeep Singh with a pull and a loft over mid-off — both going for fours — collecting 13 off the over. In the final over, Dhir continued the assault, smashing one over wide long-on before falling while attempting a similar shot. His cameo — 26 off just 13 balls — proved to be the difference between a good total and a daunting one.

There were also late contributions from Shams

Mulani Bawa and Mitchell Santner, who ran hard and squeezed out valuable runs to push the score past 200.

Punjab's bowlers had their moments, with Chahal and Vijaykumar Vyshak bowling tight spells. But a few dropped catches, misfields, and an erratic final phase cost them dearly.

Mumbai now have a strong total on the board — and on a batting-friendly pitch, their bowlers will need to be just as sharp to defend it.

French Open: Djokovic marches to round four

AGENCIES  
PARIS

Serbian tennis icon Novak Djokovic secured a ticket to the fourth round of the ongoing French Open, defeating Austrian qualifier Filip Misolic 6-3, 6-4, 6-2 on Saturday night.

With this victory, Djokovic also moved to a career total of 99 wins at the French Open, where he is a three-time champion. He also notably has 99 victories at the Australian Open, where he holds a record of 10 singles titles, as per the ATP Tour website. He has 97 wins at Wimbledon while he has 90 victories at the US Open.

Djokovic was dominant in his two-hour, nine-minute match-up at our Philippe-Chatrier against Misolic. The veteran captured crucial points with unmatched aggression, moving to the last 16 in the competition for the 16th successive year. The 38-year-old is aim-



ing to add another title to his tally, which will mark a record-breaking 25th Grand Slam title. He is yet to drop a set in France this year so far. His next challenge will be a British star, Cameron Norrie, who booked his

first-ever appearance in the fourth round by defeating compatriot Jacob Fearnley.

Djokovic has a fine record against Norrie, having won all his five matches against him so far, including at Geneva Open last week.

Aman Sehrawat clinches bronze at Ulaanbaatar Open 2025

TDG NETWORK  
AHMEDABAD

Indian wrestler Aman Sehrawat came back to action for the first time since the Paris Olympics 2024 as he appeared in the men's 57kg freestyle category at the Ulaanbaatar Open 2025 wrestling Ranking Series on Sunday, where he managed to win a bronze medal, as reported by Olympics.com.

Sehrawat, India's youngest individual Olympic medalist, started with a dominant 11-1 win over Kyrgyzstan's Almaz Smanbekov in his quarter-final. However, he was narrowly beaten by Pan American champion Roman Bravo-Young of Mexico in the semis.

The Indian wrestler led 11-10 with just 20 seconds to go, but Bravo-Young scored a takedown and turn to snatch a 14-11 win. Aman recovered to claim bronze with a 12-2 win over Turkiye's Bekir Keser.

Norway Chess: Magnus Carlsen extends lead after round 5

AGENCIES  
STAVANGER

Round 5 of Norway Chess 2025 delivered gripping action across all boards. While all three classical games ended in draws, the intensity remained high as each matchup progressed to Armageddon.

The games of Arjun Erigaisi against Hikaru Nakamura, Wei Yi against World Champion Dommaraju Gukesh, and Fabiano Caruana against Magnus Carlsen ended in hard-fought draws.

Arjun Erigaisi, Wei Yi and Magnus Carlsen triumphed in their Armageddon games, earning the crucial extra points, as per a release from Norway Chess.

With his Armageddon win, Magnus Carlsen continues to lead the standings, reinforcing his commanding presence in this year's



event. The tournament continues tomorrow with Round 6, featuring the highly anticipated rematch between World Champion Dommaraju Gukesh and World No. 1 Magnus Carlsen.

The Norway Chess Women's tournament saw another exciting day

with a decisive win for Vaishali Rameshbabu against Sarasadat Khademalsharieh. It marked her first classical victory in this year's edition of Norway Chess.

The two remaining games Anna Muzychuk against World Champion Wenjun Ju, and Humpy Koneru

against Lei Tingjie, were decided in Armageddon, emphasizing the intense competition in the women's field, where each point is crucial.

Wenjun Ju and Humpy Koneru prevailed in their Armageddon games, earning the important extra points.

Junior Women's Hockey team defeats Uruguay 3-1 in shootout

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

The Indian Junior Women's Hockey Team secured a 3-1 win in the shootout against Uruguay following a 2-2 draw in regulation time in their fifth fixture of the Four Nations Tournament in Rosario, Argentina, on Saturday.

India's Vice Captain, Hina (10') and Lalrinpuii (24') put India in control early in the match, while Geeta, Kanika, and Lalhantluangi converted their chances in the shootout to seal the victory, as per a press release from Hockey India.

India got off to a strong start as Hina opened the

scoring in the 10th minute, followed by Lalrinpuii doubling the lead in the 24th minute to give India a 2-0 advantage heading into halftime.

Uruguay, however, mounted a comeback in the final quarter. Ines de Posadas pulled one back in the 54th minute before Milagros Seigal struck three minutes later to level the score at 2-2.

In the shootout, India held their composure as Geeta, Kanika, and Lalhantluangi scored three consecutive goals, while Uruguay were restricted to just one conversion.

India will be in action against hosts, Argentina, on June 1, 2025 (as per IST).

Deepak, Naman clinch gold, India finish with 8 medals at Thailand Open



AGENCIES  
BANGKOK

Deepak and Naman Tanwar won gold medals in their respective categories as Indian boxers ended their campaign at the Thailand Open 2025 with eight medals. Deepak clinched the gold

with a 5:0 win over Abdurakhimov Javokhir of Uzbekistan in the 75 kg category while Naman got the better of China's Han Xuezheng 4:1 in the 90kg final.

In the women's 80+kg final, Kiran went down 2:3 against Kazakhstan's Yeldana Talipova in a keenly

fought bout to settle for a silver.

Also returning home with bronze medals are Tamanna (51kg), Priya (57kg), Sanju (60kg), Saneh (70kg) and Lalfakmawii Ralte (80kg) who came up with strong performances to finish on the podium.

"It's a clear sign that the systems we've put in place are working. As we now shift focus to the second leg of the World Cup in Kazakhstan, we carry forward this momentum and belief. The goal is clear, to keep building, keep performing, and keep raising the bar," said Ajay Singh, Chairman, BFI Interim Committee.

INSPIRATION



South African Cricketer AB de Villiers interacts with the players of the Mumbai Wheelchair Cricket Team at Islam Gymkhana, Marine Lines, in Mumbai on Saturday. (ANI Photo)