



**6**  
**INDIA, PARAGUAY**  
**STAND UNITED AGAINST**  
**TERRORISM: PM MODI**



**9**  
**CHINA HITS BACKS AT**  
**US, SAYS US SERIOUSLY**  
**UNDERMINED TARIFF TRUCE**



**12**  
**WORLD CHAMPION**  
**GUKESH STUNS FORMER**  
**NO. 1 MAGNUS CARLSEN**

## RAIN FURY WREAKS HAVOC IN NORTH EAST

### Landslide strikes Army camp in Sikkim, three jawans killed, three go missing

AGENCIES  
GANGTOK

Three army personnel died and six soldiers went missing after a landslide hit a military camp at Chhaten in Sikkim, a defence official said on Monday.

The landslide, which occurred at 7pm on Sunday near Lachen town in Mangang district, was triggered by heavy rainfall in the area, he said.

“... A catastrophic landslide occurred following intense and continuous rainfall in the region causing death of three combatants, identified as Havaladar Lakhwinder Singh, Lance Naik Munish Thakur, and Porter Abhishek Lakhada,” an official said in a statement.

A massive landslide, triggered by heavy rains struck an Army camp at approximately 7 PM on June 1.



A view of the landslide-affected area, at Chhaten in Lachen in Sikkim. ANI

Four personnel with minor injuries have been rescued. Mortal remains of Hav

Bodies of the personnel have been recovered, while four other soldiers were rescued with minor injuries, the official said in a statement.

“Rescue teams are working round-the-clock under challenging conditions to locate the six missing per-

sonnel,” he said.

The army has expressed deep condolences to the families of the deceased and assured all necessary support, the defence official added.

The National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation (NHID-CL) has issued a traffic advisory restricting vehicular movement along the NH

### Over 1,600 tourists stuck in two towns evacuated

AGENCIES  
GANGTOK

Altogether 1,678 tourists, stuck in north Sikkim's Lachung and Chungthang towns following rain-triggered landslides there were evacuated on Monday, and more than 100 others are still stranded in Lachen, DGP Akshay Sachdeva said.

The evacuation of stranded tourists began after the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) restored road connectivity to Lachung in Mangang district.

Sachdeva said that 1,678 tourists stranded in Lachung and Chungthang towns for several days left for Gangtok via Phidang near Dzongu

### Situation remains critical in Assam

Met predicts more rain

AGENCIES  
GUWAHATI

The flood situation in Assam remained grim on Monday with the water levels rising in many parts of the state, officials said.

The India Meteorological Department's Regional Meteorological Centre (RMC) in Guwahati has said that moderate rainfall is very likely to occur at most places of Assam, while heavy to very heavy rainfall has been predicted at a few places and extremely heavy rainfall in isolated places.

A report by the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) on Sunday night said that two more people lost their lives in Cachar and Sribhumi districts, and around four lakh people are reeling under the deluge across 15 districts.

The total number of people losing their lives in this



A woman collects drinking water from a hand pump in a flood-affected area, at Dekapara village in Nagaon on Monday. ANI

year's flood and landslides has increased to 10.

Cachar is the worst hit with over one lakh people affected, followed by 85,000 people in Sribhumi and 62,000 in Nagaon, it added.

The administration has been operating 155 relief camps and relief distribution centres in 12 districts, taking care of 10,272 displaced people at present.

The authorities have distributed 1,090.08 quintals of rice, 284.63 quintals of dal, 952.76 quintals of salt and

4,726.26 litres of mustard oil among the flood victims of the state during the last 24 hours.

At present, 764 villages are under water and 3,524.38 hectares of crop areas have been damaged across Assam, the ASDMA said.

Embankments, roads, bridges and other infrastructure have been damaged by flood waters in many districts across the state.

At present, the mighty

### Arunachal toll rises to 10

AGENCIES  
ITANAGAR

With one more death reported from Lohit district, the toll in landslides and floods in Arunachal Pradesh rose to 10 even as incessant monsoon rains lashed the state on Monday, officials said.

According to the State Emergency Operation Centre (SEOC), 938 people in

### 20K people hit in Manipur

IMPHAL  
NEW DELHI

More than 19,000 people have been affected by floods in Manipur caused by overflowing rivers and breaches in embankments, officials said on Monday.

They said 3,365 houses have been damaged and 19,811 people affected by floods triggered by incessant

### Man who got Sharmishta arrested is accused of same 'hate' offence

SUPROTIM MUKHERJEE  
KOLKATA

The man on whose complaint the Kolkata Police arrested Sharmishta Panoli, a 22-year-old law student and Instagrammer studying in Pune, on charges of hurting Muslim sentiments, has been found to have posted multiple messages insulting Hindus and Hindu Gods and Goddesses. A complaint has been filed against him in Kolkata.

Wazahat Khan of Kolkata, who runs the Rashidi Foundation, has been found to have posted multiple social media posts denigrating Hindu deities and making vile comments against Sanatan Dharma. Despite this, he has not been arrested by the Kolkata police.

Wazahat Khan, claiming to be the general secretary of the Rashidi Foundation, had filed the FIR against Sharmishta Panoli and had taken the credit for ensuring



Wazahat Khan

Sharmishta Panoli

ing her arrest 1,500 km away from Gurgaon.

Sharmishta Panoli had posted an Instagram video lashing out at Pakistan in the aftermath of Operation Sindoor, which contained a reference to Prophet Mohammed, thereby offending Muslims.

Though she deleted the offending post and posted another video apologizing for her action, Kolkata Police travelled all the way to Gurugram and arrested her on Friday afternoon. She was brought to the city on transit remand and produced before the Alipore Police court on Saturday af-

ternoon and sent to judicial custody till June 13.

While being brought out of the court, a distraught Panoli said: “You cannot harass me like this. This is a democracy.”

Soon after Panoli's posts started getting criticised by Muslim community leaders across the country, she had deleted the offensive post on Instagram and apologised for her remarks on X.

In her post on X, Panoli had said: “I do hereby tender my UNCONDITIONAL APOLOGY. Whatever was put are my

### CM Sharma directs immediate release of dairy subsidies

TDG NETWORK  
JAIPUR

In Rajasthan, members of District Milk Producers' Cooperative Unions had not received their subsidies under the Mukhyamantri Dugdh Utpadak Sambal Yojana (Chief Minister Dairy Producers Support Scheme) for several months. During a recent public grievance hearing, cooperative board members directly raised their concerns with Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma.

Responding promptly, the



Chief Minister instructed officials to release all pending subsidy payments without delay. Following his directive, the subsidy amounts were directly transferred to the bank accounts of nearly 4.5 lakh (450,000) eligible dairy farmers across the

state.

Farmers expressed heartfelt gratitude, praising Sharma as a dedicated advocate for their welfare who responds swiftly to their concerns. They lauded the government's continuous efforts to improve the economic conditions of farmers and promote animal husbandry.

These decisive steps to support farmers are integral to laying a strong foundation for a self-reliant Rajasthan. Inspired by the aspirations of its people, the state

### CM congratulates Gukesh on historic win

TDG NETWORK  
JAIPUR

Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma congratulated World Champion D Gukesh for his stunning victory over World No. 1 Magnus Carlsen in the sixth round of the prestigious Norway Chess Tournament. Praising Gukesh's remarkable talent, confidence, and strategic brilliance, Sharma called the win a historic

achievement that has made the entire nation proud and wished the young Grandmaster a bright and successful future.

This victory marks Gukesh's first-ever classical chess win against Carlsen. The 19-year-old Grandmaster climbed to third place on the Norway Chess 2025 points table with 8.5 points, while Carlsen and American Grandmaster Fabiano

### BJP to run 'Sankalp Se Siddhi Tak' campaign



TDG NETWORK  
JAIPUR

The Rajasthan BJP on Monday held a state-level workshop at its party

headquarters to kick off the nationwide campaign 'Sankalp Se Siddhi Tak', celebrating 11 years of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's

### Tesla not keen on make in India, says minister

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

Elon Musk-owned electric car manufacturer Tesla is not interested in manufacturing in India, instead, they are opening showrooms, Union Minister for Heavy Industries HD Kumaraswamy told reporters on Monday.

“Tesla, we are not actually expected from them, they are only to start show-



*Elon Musk's EV car company interested only in opening showrooms*

rooms. They are not interested in manufacturing in India,” the minister said.

Heavy Industry Secretary Kamran Rizvi added, “So the real intent we'll know when we open the application and if the company still feels like investing. What minister sir is telling is about what people they come and told informally.”

The minister added that many European compa-

### PM to chair meet of Union Council of Ministers today

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will chair a meeting of the Union Council of Ministers on Wednesday, the first after India's punitive military action against Pakistan under Operation Sindoor launched in response to the Pahalagam terror attack.

Sources said the ministers are likely to be given details of the operation, which is also expected to figure in the ruling BJP's programmes starting next week to mark the first anniversary of the Modi government in its

third term.

Besides speaking on Operation Sindoor, the prime minister may give an overall highlight of his governance thrust in the council meeting as the ministers prepare

*The first after India's punitive military action against Pakistan*

to communicate with people across the country during the anniversary events.

India's precise strikes on

### PM unlikely to attend G7 summit

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

For the first time in six years, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is unlikely to attend the upcoming G7 summit to be held in Canada's Alberta province, people familiar with the matter said on Monday.

Canada is hosting the summit from June 15 to 17 that is

### Kota cements its status as numero uno in JEE coaching

TDG NETWORK  
KOTA

Education hub Kota has once again affirmed its position as the coaching capital of India with outstanding results in JEE Advanced 2025. Rajit Gupta, a classroom student from Kota secured All India Rank-1 with 332 out of 360 marks. This marks the second consecutive year that a classroom student from Kota has topped one of the most competitive exams in the country.

The results were an-

nounced by IIT Kanpur on Monday.

Kota has contributed four students to the top 10. They are Rajit Gupta (AIR-1), Saksham Jindal (AIR-2), Akshat Kumar Chaurasia (AIR-6) and Devesh Pankaj Bhaiya (AIR-8).

In the top 20, Kota also had Vedansh Garg (AIR-13), Ritvik Khandelwal (AIR-14), Devdatta Majhi (AIR-16) and also the Girl Topper, and Agam Jignesh Shah (AIR-17).

Kota has produced 46 students in the top 100,



Rajit Gupta, who secured All India Rank - 1 in JEE Advanced 2025 along with students celebrate at a Coaching Institute in Kota, after the announcement of JEE Advanced results, in Kota on Monday. ANI

with 42 from classroom programmes, three from

online test series, and one from distance learning. The

city's coaching institute Allen highlighted its consistent success, noting that in 2024 every fourth student admitted to IITs was from Allen.

The key to Kota's consistent performance lies in its robust ecosystem—national-level peer competition, top IIT-NIT faculty, excellent academic support, and holistic student care through initiatives like Kota Cares. This environment continues to make Kota the most preferred destination for IIT aspirants.



# RAJASTHAN REELS UNDER GANG VIOLENCE; THREE BRUTAL MURDERS IN FOUR DAYS

Rajasthan faces alarming gang violence with three brutal murders in four days, exposing police delays.

TDG NETWORK  
JAIPUR

Rajasthan is witnessing a disturbing surge in gang violence, with three brutal murders reported in just four days. On Monday morning in Jhalawar, BJP leader Surendra Mewada was hacked to death with swords in Mandawara village. Police suspect the killing was linked to an old rivalry, as Mewada had previously been convicted in the Sattu Chaudhary murder case. The attack occurred around 7 am, when assailants struck Mewada with sharp weapons, leaving him bleeding on the ground before fleeing the scene. His family rushed him to Shri Rajendra Hospital in Jhalawar, where doctors declared him dead. A heavy police presence was deployed in the area follow-



BJP leader Surendra Mewada



Ajay Raj Singh Jhala.



Hotelier Suresh Birajaniya.

## GANG VIOLENCE

- Rajasthan saw three brutal gang-related murders in four days, including BJP leader Surendra Mewada's killing.
- Police are yet to arrest suspects in high-profile cases, raising concerns about law enforcement's effectiveness.
- Slow police response and unresolved crimes have emboldened gangs, worsening the state's law and order situation.

ing heightened tensions.

The state's criminal elements appear to be openly challenging the Anti Gangster Task Force (AGTF) of the Police Headquarters by engaging in violent gang

wars. The first high-profile case in this wave of violence surfaced four days ago in Hanumangarh, where hotel owner Suresh Bijaraniya was shot dead in broad daylight in the Bhadra area. He

was chased and killed by two men on a motorcycle. Despite the brutal nature of the murder, the AGTF has yet to arrest any suspects, raising questions about law enforcement's responsive-

ness.

On Sunday night in Chittorgarh, 33-year-old Ajay Raj Singh Jhala, son of a retired ASI, was brutally murdered. While dining with friends at a hotel near the Semalpura intersection, around 25 armed attackers arrived in seven vehicles, opened fire, and then threw Jhala from the hotel's first floor. They further assaulted him with a sword and set his car on fire before fleeing. The attackers are believed to be connected to the illegal mining mafia. Despite multiple emergency calls, police arrived only after the killing had occurred.

These unresolved murders and the slow police response have emboldened criminal gangs, leading to escalating violence and raising serious concerns about the state's law and order situation.

## Jully honours Ambedkar's legacy at statue unveiling in Siryani village

TDG NETWORK  
JAIPUR

Leader of Opposition in the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly, Tikaram Jully, addressed a large gathering during the unveiling ceremony of the statue of Bharat Ratna Bodhisattva Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar. The event, organised by the Baba Saheb Ambedkar Vikas Samiti, was held on Monday in Siryani village, Neemrana. Jully highlighted Dr Ambedkar's monumental contributions to shaping modern India and strengthening its democratic institutions. He described Ambedkar as a visionary nation-builder who played a crucial role in establishing the constitutional framework of independent India.

"Thanks to the strength and inclusiveness of the Constitution, today a tribal woman holds the highest constitutional post in the country, and a Dalit leader heads India's oldest political party," Jully said.

He emphasised that Ambedkar's vision ensured equal opportunity, justice,



and dignity for all, regardless of caste, creed, or gender. Jully stressed that the Constitution, drafted by Baba Saheb, remains the foundation of India's democracy, promoting social, economic, and political justice.

He pointed out that Ambedkar's ideas continue to be relevant, especially in the context of federalism and cooperative federalism. Expressing concern over efforts to weaken the Constitution, Jully warned that such actions threaten the country's unity and stability.

Calling Dr Ambedkar a symbol of social harmony, Jully praised his tireless efforts for the upliftment of all sections of society. He urged the gathering to prioritise

education, recalling Ambedkar's emphasis on educating both sons and daughters. Jully also highlighted Ambedkar's advocacy for farmers and labourers, noting how their rights were safeguarded in the Constitution.

He underscored that the Constitution ensures non-discrimination based on language, caste, region, or religion.

Remembering Ambedkar's tenure as India's first Law Minister, Jully highlighted his key reforms in labour laws and social justice. He urged people to follow Ambedkar's principles and study his life fully to truly understand his vision and greatness.

## CMHO takes action against 51 shops for selling substandard food items

TDG NETWORK  
JAIPUR

In a major crackdown on food safety violations, the Chief Medical and Health Officer (CMHO) Jaipur has initiated legal proceedings against 51 shops and food establishments after food samples collected from various locations were found to be unsafe and substandard. The Food Safety Team under the CMHO conducted widespread sampling across sweet shops, restaurants, bakeries, and grocery stores throughout the city.

Dr. Ravi Shekhawat, CMHO Jaipur First, confirmed that challans have been filed before the Chief Judicial Magistrate against 51 firms for serious food safety violations.

Some of the notable viola-



tors in the recent food safety crackdown include Lakshmi Traders in Gangauri Bazaar, where black pepper was found unsafe, and New Lal General Store in Jaisinghpura Khor, which sold substandard red chilli powder. New Kaushar Sweets in Hasanpura was found selling adulterated gulab jamun, while Kirti Enterprises and Ganesh Trading Company in Shastri Nagar

had coriander, chilli, and turmeric powder that failed to meet safety standards. Other unsafe and contaminated products were discovered at Adarsh Namkeen Bhandar in Rajapark (Meri Nation gravy), R.N. Hospitality (substandard sauces), and Hotel Highway King and Venus Indian Dhaba (unsafe gravy). Adulterated oil, mawa, ice cream, and namkeen were found

at Kala Namkeen Udyog, Jodhpur Dairy Booth, and Gopi Quality Sweets. Additional violators included Shree Ganpati Desi Ghee Bhandar and Pure Desi Ghee Bhandar for unsafe ghee, Bhuramal Bhagirath for contaminated almond shavings, Royal Sweets and Shri Balaji Mawa Dudh Bhandar for adulterated mawa, and Radhika Traders for substandard ice cream. Vendors at Surajpoli Mandi, Kalwar Road, and Chandpole Bazaar were also found selling impure ghee and oil samples.

The CMHO office has stated that strict action will be taken in all cases, and this drive is part of an intensified campaign to ensure food safety and public health in Jaipur.

TDG NETWORK  
JAIPUR

Health Minister Gajendra Singh Khinvsar, during a review meeting at Sawai Mansingh Medical College, emphasised the urgent need to raise standards in government hospitals and medical colleges across Rajasthan. He made it clear that negligence in healthcare services would not be tolerated and called for a compassionate, patient-centred approach from medical personnel.

"Hospitals should be treated like our homes and patients like our own family," the minister said, adding, "There is no greater virtue than giving new life to a patient."

Khinvsar announced that regular inspections will now be conducted at all medical



colleges and their associated hospitals. Officers will be held accountable for unresolved issues identified during these inspections. Key focus areas include cleanliness, equipment maintenance, treatment quality, and the availability of medicines.

Medical Education Secretary Ambrish Kumar informed that 33 inspection teams, comprising around 150 officers, carried out detailed assessments across the state. Hospitals were evalu-

ated on multiple parameters, including building condition, cleanliness, and the functioning of medical and electrical equipment. The compiled findings will guide prompt corrective measures.

Commissioner of Medical Education Iqbal Khan noted that comprehensive evaluations also included fire safety compliance, biomedical waste management, and essential utilities such as electricity and water supply. He said steps are being taken

to upgrade both cleanliness standards and infrastructure.

In a significant move to streamline maintenance, the Medical Education Department has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Public Works Department (PWD), authorising it to handle repairs in medical facilities. Dedicated PWD maintenance posts will be set up in hospitals to provide 24/7 emergency support.

To ensure clean and hygienic restrooms, Sulabh International has been engaged for toilet maintenance. Additionally, discussions are underway to hand over hospital security management to the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) for improved safety and discipline.

## Senior IAS officer Alok passes away, leaves legacy in governance

TDG NETWORK  
JAIPUR

Senior IAS officer and Additional Chief Secretary of the Energy Department, Alok, passed away on Monday morning after a nearly two-month-long battle with cancer.

He was undergoing treatment at a hospital in Delhi, where he had been admitted a month ago due to deteriorating health. Though initially discharged after treatment, his condition worsened, and he passed away at his residence in Delhi. His last rites were performed at the Lodhi Road crematorium.

The news of his demise cast a shadow of grief over



the state bureaucracy and political circles alike. A 1989-batch IAS officer, Alok was known for his principled work ethic, visionary thinking, and commitment to transparency, efficiency, and public interest. Over the course of his distinguished career, he served in crucial departments such as Education, Home, Rural Development, and Panchayati Raj.

## Mahant Pratap Puri alleges political cover for ex-minister's aide visiting Pakistan

TDG NETWORK  
JAIPUR

BJP MLA from Pokaran, Mahant Pratap Puri, on Monday alleged that Shakoor Khan Mangalia, former personal secretary to ex-Congress minister Saleh Mohammad, had travelled to Pakistan while serving as a government employee — allegedly under political protection. Addressing the media at the BJP state headquarters, Pratap Puri demanded an impartial probe into the matter, including an investigation into those who may have extended political cover to Khan.

Pratap Puri raised concerns about national security, noting that Khan was



closely associated with Saleh Mohammad for a long period and may have participated in military events held in the region alongside the former minister.

"In such a scenario, the possibility of confidential information being leaked cannot be ruled out," he said.

He described the situation as one of serious concern and questioned whether the minister was unaware of the activities of his aide.

The BJP MLA said he

had taken up the matter with Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma and BJP State President Madan Rathore, and had also written to the party's central leadership, urging a high-level, impartial inquiry. According to Pratap Puri, both Sharma and Rathore have taken the issue seriously and assured strict action. He added that Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat is also monitoring the matter closely. Expressing growing alarm over security issues in Rajasthan's border areas, Pratap Puri called for surveillance of institutions established by former public representatives in the region, especially those operating under the guise of religion or education.

## NIA launches anti-tobacco campaign, highlights Ayurveda's role in de-addiction

TDG NETWORK  
JAIPUR

To raise awareness about the health risks associated with tobacco consumption, the National Institute of Ayurveda (NIA), Jaipur, organised a series of events under the theme "Unmasking the Appeal - Exposing the Industry Strategy on Tobacco and Nicotine Products." The initiatives were led by the Department of Agad Tantra in collaboration with the WHO SEARO team.

As part of the campaign, webinars, a national e-poster competition, and on-campus awareness drives were conducted. During a webinar session, Dr Zakaria Chauhan from WHO SEARO addressed medical professionals and faculty, shedding light on the tactics



used by the tobacco industry to attract consumers.

NIA Vice Chancellor Prof Sanjeev Sharma urged people to shun tobacco and adopt Ayurveda for a healthier life. He underscored the severe societal and personal impacts of tobacco use and highlighted the institute's active role in de-addiction research and treatment. Prof Anita Sharma, Head of the Agad Tantra Department and De-addiction Centre, reported that more than 1,500 patients have successfully under-

gone Ayurvedic treatment for tobacco addiction. The institute runs dedicated de-addiction OPD services every Monday to Wednesday.

The national e-poster competition attracted entries from students and researchers across the country, with top submissions receiving awards. Additionally, an awareness campaign was launched on the NIA campus, where patients, visitors, and the public were educated about the dangers of tobacco and available de-addiction options.

## Kumawat launches statewide vaccination drive against lumpy skin disease

TDG NETWORK  
JAIPUR

Animal Husbandry, Gopalan, and Devasthan Minister Joraram Kumawat launched a state-level vaccination campaign against lumpy skin disease at Pinjrapole Gaushala in Sanganer on Monday. Speaking at the event, Kumawat affirmed the state government's commitment to animal welfare under the

guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the leadership of Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma. He described lumpy skin disease as a highly contagious and often fatal viral disease that primarily affects cows, recalling the severe impact of the outbreak two years ago. The government is now proactively working to prevent a recurrence through vaccination and awareness efforts.



The two-month campaign aims to vaccinate over 1.11 crore bovine animals before the monsoon season to ensure herd immunity. Kumawat emphasised the critical importance of timely vaccination to control disease spread, citing last year's success when 95% of the cattle population was vaccinated, significantly reducing the outbreak's impact.

The Animal Husbandry

Department has issued comprehensive guidelines for disease surveillance, diagnosis, and district-level micro-planning. Vaccination targets have been assigned based on bovine population data in each area.

The launch ceremony began with Kumawat offering fodder to the cows and inspecting the cowshed. He then handed over a vaccine carrier to the field vaccina-

tion team, who immediately began vaccinating the animals present.

Also attending the launch were Director of Animal Husbandry and Executive Officer of RLDB Dr Anand Sejra, Pinjrapole Gaushala General Secretary Shivratna Chitlangia, Minister Vivek Laddha, Additional Director Dr Suresh Meena, Dr Vikas Sharma, along with other officials and cowshed staff.



# KOTA COLLECTOR REVIEWS MONSOON PREPAREDNESS AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT

TDG NETWORK  
KOTA

Dr Ravindra Goswami, District Collector of Kota, chaired a detailed inter-departmental meeting at the district headquarters to review monsoon preparedness, disaster management plans, and progress on social justice and empowerment initiatives. The session began with a two-minute silence in memory of the late Additional Chief Secretary of the Energy Department, Alok.

Dr Goswami stressed the importance of vigilance and proactive measures across all departments. He directed the Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) to ensure uninterrupted supply of safe drinking water, while instructing the Medical and Health Department to secure essential medicines and form emergency medical

MONSOON PREPAREDNESS



- Dr Goswami directed departments to ensure water, electricity, and healthcare readiness, and conduct safety audits.
- Relief camps, control rooms, and donor coordination were mandated for swift disaster response.

ical teams. The Electricity Department was tasked with inspecting electrical infrastructure to prevent hazards in waterlogged areas. Highlighting safety concerns, the Collector ordered

all departments to conduct safety audits of government buildings and schools, ensuring no personnel are assigned to unsafe structures. The Education and Child Development Department was specifically directed to

inspect schools and Anganwadi centres to safeguard children. In preparation for potential floods, Dr Goswami instructed the District Supply Officer (DSO) to coordinate with donors to stock relief camps with

*Kota Collector Dr Ravindra Goswami reviewed monsoon readiness, disaster planning, and social welfare initiatives.*

adequate food and essentials and to identify safe locations for these camps. He also called for the establishment of control rooms in all departments to enable quick and effective emergency responses. Regular monitoring and timely action were emphasized to promptly address any emerging issues. Under the 'Vande Ganga Pakhwada' campaign,

scheduled from June 5 to 20, the Collector urged departments to undertake activities focused on cleaning water sources, promoting water conservation, and raising environmental awareness among the public. Additionally, he directed the Social Justice and Empowerment Department to prepare a list of disabled individuals and organise camps for distributing assistive devices, ensuring beneficiaries receive timely support. Concluding the meeting, Dr Goswami reiterated the critical role of inter-departmental coordination and preparedness in minimising the impact of the monsoon season, emphasising that proactive efforts and community involvement are vital to protecting lives and property during potential disasters.

TDG NETWORK  
JAIPUR

In a significant anti-encroachment operation, the Jaipur Development Authority (JDA) reclaimed 15 bigha of government land valued at Rs 45 crore near the JDA flats in Bagrana village (Zone-10). The land, recorded as Khasra No. 680/1, had been illegally occupied by local farmers who constructed cement strip boundaries and other unauthorized structures. Acting on directives from Zone-10 officials, the JDA enforcement team employed JCB machines and labourers to remove the encroachments. In Zone-11, illegal constructions such as fencing, boundary walls, and iron gates along the 200-foot sector road boundary in Khatwada village—connecting Mahapura Khatwada to Nevta—were de-

molished. Similarly, in Zone-13, the JDA enforcement squad dismantled three illegal colonies spread over 6 bigha of private agricultural land. These included two colonies along Agra Road in Gudha Chak Bassi and one in Isharwala village, where roads and structures had been developed without necessary approvals or land conversion. The entire operation was overseen by Chief Controller of Enforcement, Adarsh Chaudhary, along with enforcement officers from Zones 10, 11, and 13. To date, the JDA has reclaimed a total of 1,256 bigha of land and demolished 383 illegal colonies across Jaipur. Citizens are encouraged to report encroachments through helpline numbers (0141-2565800, 2575252, 2575151), Helpline 181, the Rajasthan Sampark Portal, or via email at cce.

## District collector calls for rehabilitation of nomadic families

TDG NETWORK  
JAIPUR

District Collector Dr Jitendra Kumar Soni has directed officials to make every possible effort for the effective rehabilitation of freed, nomadic, and semi-nomadic families in Jaipur district. Chairing a review meeting on Monday at the Collectorate auditorium, Dr Soni assessed the progress of welfare schemes designed to support these marginalised communities. He instructed concerned departments to issue Nomadic Identity Cards to all eligible individuals between June 5 and 20, 2025, emphasising that providing identity is the first step toward their inclusion in government welfare programmes. In addition to identity cards, Dr Soni ordered the



preparation and distribution of essential documents such as Aadhaar cards, Jan Aadhaar cards, caste certificates, voter IDs, and domicile certificates. Officers were also directed to allocate land leases to eligible families, enabling them to establish permanent homes. Further, he urged departments to extend the benefits of the DTNT Housing Scheme to these families, aiming to provide secure and dignified living conditions. Dr Soni stressed that proper documentation and

permanent housing are vital for integrating these communities into the mainstream. The meeting was attended by CEO of District Council Pratibha Verma, Additional District Collectors Vinita Singh, Ashish Kumar, and Devendra Kumar Jain, District Logistics Officer Trilok Chand Meena, as well as senior officials from the Social Justice and Empowerment Department, including Joint Director B.P. Chandel and Deputy Director Jitendra Kumar Sethi, among others.

## Rajesh Agarwal assumes charge as advisor at TRAI's Jaipur regional office

TDG NETWORK  
JAIPUR

Rajesh Kumar Agarwal, a 1993-batch officer of the Indian Telecommunication Service, assumed charge on Monday as Advisor (Head of Office) at the Jaipur Regional Office of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI). The regional office oversees the implementation of regulatory provisions in the telecom and broadcasting sectors across three Licensed Service Areas (LSAs) — Rajasthan, Gujarat, and Haryana. Agarwal brings with him over three decades of experience in the telecommunications sector. He has previously served in key roles, including Director at Jaipur Metro and Principal General Manager (Telecom District) at Bharat



Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), Jaipur. As Advisor, Agarwal will be responsible for monitoring service quality, ensuring consumer protection, and facilitating the effective implementation of TRAI regulations in the region. On his joining, he was welcomed by Joint Advisor J.P. Garg, Deputy Advisor Rakesh Purohit, and other officers and staff of the Jaipur regional office.

## Dialogue-based workshop on eliminating child labour held in Jaipur

TDG NETWORK  
JAIPUR

A dialogue-based training workshop aimed at eliminating child labour was held at the Indira Gandhi Panchayati Raj and Rural Development Institute in Jaipur. The event was jointly organised by the Department of Child Rights and the Rajasthan State Commission for Protection of Child Rights, in the lead-up to World Day Against Child Labour on June 12. It brought together government officials, subject experts, and representatives of NGOs to discuss practical strategies for addressing the issue. Minister of State for Child Rights, Dr Manju Bagmar, reiterated the state government's resolve to make Rajasthan child labour-free



by 2030. She cited poverty, illiteracy, and poor health as key drivers pushing children into labour and stressed the importance of rescuing affected children, counselling them, and steering them toward education and value-based learning. "Only through education and skill development can their future be secured," she said. A campaign poster for a "Child Labour-Free Rajasthan" was launched during

the event, and participants took a pledge to work actively toward eradicating child labour. Dr Bagmar also underscored the importance of community awareness and urged citizens to support underprivileged families, so their children aren't compelled to work. Additional Chief Secretary Kuldeep Ranka noted that while parents often want better lives for their children, adverse economic conditions hold them back.

## RUHS hospital launches angiography services, boosting cardiac care

TDG NETWORK  
JAIPUR

In a major boost to cardiac care in Rajasthan, angiography services have officially begun at RUHS Hospital, Jaipur. The facility was inaugurated on Monday under the directives of Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma and Health Minister Gajendra Singh Khinvsar, as part of the government's push to enhance super-specialty services and reduce patient load at Sawai Mansingh (SMS) Hospital. Medical Education Secretary Ambrish Kumar said the move is a step toward developing RUHS into a world-class medical institute. On the first day, two coronary angiograms were successfully performed at the Cath Lab, housed within the State Cancer Institute on the hospital campus. The new service is ex-



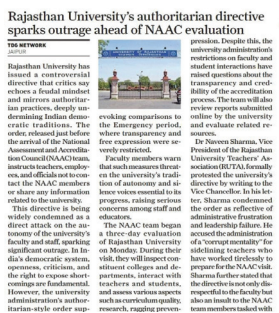
pected to significantly benefit cardiac patients who previously had to depend solely on SMS Hospital for angiography diagnostics. It will ensure faster diagnosis, quicker treatment during emergencies, and shorter wait times for patients across the state. "This initiative not only supports patients near RUHS but will serve people from all over Rajasthan," Kumar said.

"The facility marks an important advancement in the accessibility and efficiency of cardiac care." RUHS Hospital Superintendent Dr Mahesh Mangal shared that the first beneficiaries were a 75-year-old woman and a 44-year-old man, both with diagnosed heart conditions. Their procedures were successfully conducted under the Chief Minister Ayushman Arogya Yojana.

## Rajasthan University eases NAAC interaction rules, faces scrutiny over scheme reports

TDG NETWORK  
JAIPUR

In a significant policy shift, Rajasthan University has relaxed its earlier directive restricting interaction with the visiting NAAC (National Assessment and Accreditation Council) team. Faculty members will now be allowed to speak freely with the evaluators, particularly during a scheduled meeting on June 5 in the QAC Hall. This marks a change from the administration's earlier stance issued on May 26, which limited communication to only authorised personnel—an order that drew criticism from the university community. While faculty interaction has been liberalised, the university has tightened entry protocols for students and retired staff. From Monday, all students must present their ID cards to enter the campus. Retired employees are also required to show identifica-



tion, a move that has sparked discontent among former staff who say the policy is obstructing essential tasks such as pension-related work. The NAAC team's evaluation, which runs from Tuesday until June 5, is a critical exercise that will determine the university's accreditation grade—affecting its reputation, funding, and future growth. During their visit, the team will assess various academic and administrative parameters, visiting different departments and colleges, and holding dialogues with faculty and students on mat-

ters such as curriculum quality, research, anti-ragging efforts, academic freedom, and student welfare. Security has been visibly increased at the university gates, with staff verifying ID cards and monitoring campus activity to ensure a smooth evaluation process. The administration hopes the revised approach will demonstrate transparency and encourage broader participation while maintaining order. However, concerns have emerged about discrepancies in reports submitted to NAAC. According to sources, Rajasthan University has uploaded progress reports for several schemes—despite limited or no actual implementation. Of particular concern is the 'Mentor-Mentee Scheme', which is designed to foster stronger academic and personal support between faculty and students.

## Stop motion animation workshop inaugurated at Rajasthan Lalit Kala Academy

TDG NETWORK  
JAIPUR

A 15-day stop motion animation workshop, jointly organised by the Rajasthan Lalit Kala Academy and Attunes Creations, commenced today at the Academy premises. Academy Secretary Dr Rajneesh Harsh noted the visible enthusiasm among participants on the opening day. Renowned trainers and animators Abhilasha Bhartiya and Swapnil Tank led interactive sessions introducing the fundamentals of stop motion animation and clay modelling. They were assisted by associate animators Jahnavi Taneja and Aayushi Kaseera, who provided hands-on guidance in handling and sculpting plasticine clay. The first day of the workshop focused on clay charac-



ter modelling, encouraging participants to bring their imagined characters to life through tactile creativity. The session concluded with participants creating short clay-based animations using their custom models. Abhilasha Bhartiya also spoke about the influence of art on everyday life and announced that an animation film based on this theme will be developed during the course of the workshop. Swapnil Tank shared insights on teamwork, camera setup, and career prospects in animation filmmaking. The workshop will run daily until June 16, from 11 am to 2 pm, at the Rajasthan Lalit Kala Academy.

## Event Managers Day highlights sustainability, pledges greener practices for celebrations

TDG NETWORK  
JAIPUR

Event Managers Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm in the capital, centring around this year's theme: "Sustainable Events." The occasion brought together prominent figures from Rajasthan's event industry, all united in their commitment to promoting environmental responsibility in event planning and execution.

A highlight of the celebration was a collective pledge by event professionals to prioritise sustainability in their work. The goal is to make eco-friendly practices a hallmark of the industry—through greener venues, reduced plastic use, better waste management, and conscious energy consumption. Former Forum President Mahavir Sharma announced a key initiative



aimed at long-term environmental impact: planting a tree at every event venue, with the responsibility of its care entrusted to the venue owner. The initiative is de-

*The occasion brought together prominent figures from Rajasthan's event industry, all united in their commitment to promoting environmental responsibility in event planning and execution.*

practical and innovative ideas to make events more sustainable, encouraging industry professionals to rethink traditional practices and adopt greener alternatives. This year's Event Managers Day not only celebrated the creativity and dedication of the event industry but also sent a strong message: the future of events lies in blending celebration with environmental consciousness.



# INDIA-PAK CONFLICT AND INTERNATIONAL LAW

## OPINION

DR.S.KRISHNAN



The India-Pakistan relationship has been characterized by persistent tensions since the partition of 1947, with Kashmir remaining the central point of contention. Recent escalations, marked by the 22nd April, 2025 Pahalgam terror attack and India's retaliatory "Operation Sindoor" on 7th May, 2025, have brought the conflict under renewed international legal scrutiny. This article explores the legal aspects of the ongoing crisis, the role of International and Domestic Laws, and the broader implications for regional stability, drawing on principles of International Humanitarian Law (IHL),

the UN Charter, and India's legal framework.

The latest flashpoint in the relations between India and Pakistan occurred when militants, allegedly linked to Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba, attacked a tourist convoy in Pahalgam, Kashmir, killing 26 people—the deadliest terror strike in India since 2008. India responded with 'Operation Sindoor', launching 24 precision missile strikes on terrorist camps in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK).

### INDIA'S DOMESTIC LEGAL FRAMEWORK

India's response is guided by its Constitution and military doctrine. Article 355 imposes a duty on the Union to protect states from external aggression. India's evolving military doctrine, shifting from "deterrence by denial" to "deterrence by punishment," reflects a proactive stance against cross-border terrorism. The Ministry of Defence and Armed Forces operate under dynamic Rules of

Engagement (ROE), allowing flexibility in response to threats like the Pahalgam attack. The Supreme Court, while typically deferring to the Executive on national security, can review actions to ensure constitutional compliance, particularly regarding fundamental rights. In a declared war, India's Constitution grants the Union extensive emergency powers under Article 352, including suspending fundamental rights, extending executive control over states, and legislating on state matters. The President, as Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces under Article 53(2), oversees military operations.

### THE UN CHARTER FRAMEWORK

The cornerstone of modern international law regarding the use of force is Article 2(4) of the UN Charter, which states: "All Members shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state, or in any other manner inconsistent with the Purposes of the United Nations."

This prohibition is considered a peremptory norm (*jus cogens*) of international law.

The Charter provides only two explicit exceptions to this prohibition:

**Self-defense under Article 51:**

"Nothing in the present Charter shall impair the inherent right of individual or collective self-defence if an armed attack occurs against a Member of the United Nations, until the Security Council has taken measures necessary to maintain international peace and security."

**UN Security Council authorization** under Chapter VII for actions to maintain or restore international peace and security.

India has framed «Operation Sindoor» explicitly within the Article 51 framework, citing its inherent right to self-defense following the Pahalgam terror attack.

A critical legal question is whether terrorist attacks can constitute an «armed attack» triggering the right to self-defense against a sovereign state. The International Court of Justice (ICJ) addressed this issue in the *Nicaragua v. United States* case (1986), establishing that an armed attack by non-state actors must be of "sufficient gravity" and attributable to a state to trigger self-defense against that state.

India's legal position relies on establishing that:

**The Pahalgam attack was of sufficient gravity** (26 civilian casualties).

The attack is attributable to Pakistan through its alleged support of terrorist outfits.

While Article 51 refers to

self-defense «if an armed attack occurs.» Customary International Law recognizes a limited right to anticipatory self-defense. This principle derives from the Caroline incident of 1837, establishing what is known as the Caroline test: the threat must be «instant, overwhelming, leaving no choice of means, and no moment for deliberation.»

India's missile strikes, coming after the Pahalgam attack, do not invoke anticipatory self-defense but rather responsive self-defense. However, India's new position that «any future act of terror will be treated as an act of war» suggests a potential shift toward a more expansive interpretation of self-defense that could include anticipatory elements. The International Court of Justice (ICJ) adjudicates disputes between states. In the *Nicaragua* case, the ICJ ordered reparations for damages caused by violations of international law. This precedent suggests potential avenues for legal redress between India and Pakistan, though political realities make such cases difficult. Neither India nor Pakistan has accepted the compulsory jurisdiction of the ICJ without reservations, limiting the court's role unless both parties consent to its jurisdiction in a specific case.

The International Crimi-

nal Court (ICC) prosecutes individuals for war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide, and aggression. Neither India nor Pakistan are parties to the Rome Statute, placing them outside the ICC's jurisdiction unless the UN Security Council refers a situation to the court—a politically unlikely scenario given geopolitical alignments, particularly China's support for Pakistan.

### WAY AHEAD

The India-Pakistan conflict presents a complex intersection of international legal principles concerning the use of force, state responsibility, humanitarian law, and bilateral agreements. India's recategorization of terrorism as an "act of war" signals a significant shift in its approach, potentially reshaping the application of International Law in this long-standing conflict. As both nations navigate this crisis, adherence to IHL, respect for bilateral agreements, and international cooperation are crucial to prevent further destabilization. The key takeaway for India is the urgent need for unity and restraint to avoid a broader conflict, fostering a "New India".

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## PERSPECTIVE THE FALLOUT

# ZELENSKY'S OPERATION SPIDERWEB: BRILLIANT BUT RECKLESS

Ukraine's Operation Spiderweb, which destroyed around 30% of Russia's strategic bomber fleet—apparently 41 aircraft—will go down in the history books as one of the most ambitious and audaciously executed military plans ever. It was possible for Ukraine to target five key air bases housing these nuclear weapons-carrying aircraft deep inside Russia by launching the drones from close proximity. In the process, Ukraine caught the mighty Russian military machine off guard and dealt a body blow to Russia's nuclear deterrence. That Ukraine was able to smuggle in, or assemble, the drones and transport them hidden in trucks and operate them remotely, right under the nose of the Russian intelligence, tells a story of meticulous planning that went on for 18 months. With Ukraine not having the ability to breach Russia's air defences, the only way they could dent its nuclear triad was to launch the attack from deep inside, thus neutralising the safety of distance that the Russian bases enjoyed. And that's what the Ukrainians did. A complex military and intelligence operation, the Ukrainians, however, achieved a spectacular success at a very low cost, as drones are a cheap military option, but can cause brutal damage if deployed tactically. The operation also reminded the world of the changing nature of modern warfare, where a combination of drones and projectiles such as missiles and rockets can deal devastating blows to the adversary, as India did to Pakistan during Operation Sindoor.



However, Spiderweb may have been a brilliant operation tactically, but it was also a reckless operation, where no amount of tactical success can compensate for the enormity of the likely fallout—and in this case, the ripples might travel far and wide.

All eyes are now on Vladimir Putin, to see how he reacts to the attack, which is being described by the Russian media as Russia's Pearl Harbour moment, a reference best avoided because of its World War II connotations. The question uppermost on many minds is if the Russian nuclear fleet getting hit would also result in Russia exercising its "right to use" nuclear weapons in case of a major conventional attack—and this is a major attack. It is hoped that Vladimir Putin has more sense than to escalate the war to that level, for it would spell disaster and a certain World War III. So what are Putin's options—something that he has not already tried in this war that has been going on for over three years? It's likely that he will pummel Ukraine even harder, and that there will be a major loss of lives, once again. Volodymyr Zelenskyy should bear some responsibility for that.

One aspect of Ukraine's attack that riles is the timing. What pushed Zelenskyy to time it exactly the day before the scheduled peace talks in Istanbul, on Monday? Was he trying to use the attack as a bargaining chip to get concessions from Russia? But his demands have been maximalist—nothing short of the return of Crimea, lost in 2014, and the territories lost in the last three years. While Putin is clear that Russia would not concede to his demands.

There is no denying that Operation Spiderweb is an attempt by Zelenskyy to burnish his own image. Is Zelenskyy thus trying to show his "mentors" that he is not finished and that there is still a possibility that Putin could be defeated and dethroned, given that this has been the intention right from the beginning? Is the aim of the operation to ensure that more money and materiel flow in for Ukraine, now that the US under President Donald Trump has decided to turn the tap off? Also, who among the Nato members knew about and helped in this attack, by using satellites, etc., to remote control the drones from thousands of miles away? There is a buzz that the Americans were not told about the impending attack. Was it the Europeans then? Did they, as Nato members, get directly involved in Zelenskyy's operation? If yes, this brings Nato in direct conflict with Russia, which is a disaster. Surprisingly, President Trump, who cannot stop speaking of how he prevented a nuclear war from breaking out between India and Pakistan, has not uttered one word, at the time of going to print, about Ukraine's Operation Spiderweb. This is a strange silence, given that he was once personally invested in stopping the war inside 24 hours of taking office—four and a half months ago. No one seems to be listening to the American President and that is not good news for the world's number one superpower or the world.

The only thing clear amidst this fog of war is that there are several vested interests that want this war to continue and perhaps even escalate.

JOYEETA BASU

# Cervical Cancer & HPV Vaccination: A Public Health Imperative

## OPINION

DR. PYALI CHATTERJEE,  
MS.KOMAL GOSWAMI &  
MS.DISHA GAUTAM



Even today, many of us are still unaware that cervical cancer can be prevented through vaccination. Despite the availability of the vaccine for several years, cervical cancer continues to pose a significant global public health challenge. It is primarily caused by certain high-risk strains of the Human Papillomavirus (HPV), an infection that leads to cervical cancer in women and genital warts in men. Fortunately, the risk of HPV infection can be effectively reduced through vaccination. The HPV vaccine is recommended for all girls aged 9 to 26 years. Girls under 15 years are administered two doses, while those over 15 receive three doses over a span of six months. The vaccine is specifically designed to prevent infection from high-risk HPV types, particularly HPV-16 and HPV-18, which together account for about 70% of cervical cancer cases.

The invention of the HPV vaccine is a major milestone in cancer prevention. The first successful HPV vaccine was developed in the early 2000s by Professor Ian Frazer and Dr. Jian Zhou at the University of Queensland, Australia. Their groundbreaking research led to the creation of the vaccine Gardasil, which was first approved for use in 2006. This

revolutionary development has since transformed global public health strategies by offering a scientifically proven method to prevent HPV-related cancers.

Globally, cervical cancer ranks as the third most common cancer among women in terms of new cases per year, with approximately 85% of the burden falling on less developed countries. In 2012, cervical cancer was responsible for 7.5% of all female cancer deaths worldwide, with significantly higher mortality rates reported in low-resource settings. The estimated age-standardized incidence rate was 22.9 per 100,000 women in 2012. In India, the burden is particularly alarming. According to the **National Cancer Registry Programme** and **GLOBOCAN 2020** estimates, **India reports around 123,907 new cases of cervical cancer and approximately 77,348 deaths annually.** It is the **second most common cancer among Indian women** aged 15 to 44 years. Although large-scale screening programs remain limited, urban areas have shown a notable decline in cervical cancer rates. For example, in Chennai, the age-adjusted incidence rate dropped from 42.3 in 1982–83 to 16.7 in 2010 per 100,000 women. However, the decline in rural regions has been much

slower.

Vaccines such as Gardasil-9, which protects against nine HPV types, and the older version Gardasil, which protects against four types, are commonly used. Vaccinating both girls and boys before adolescence not only prevents the onset of cervical cancer but also helps in reducing the spread of HPV within the general population, thereby offering community-wide protection. In countries where vaccination coverage is high, significant declines in HPV infections and related diseases have been observed. The HPV vaccine has undergone extensive clinical testing and is approved by major health authorities, including the World Health Organization (WHO), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). It is considered safe and well-tolerated. Mild side effects may include soreness at the injection site, mild fever, fatigue, headache, or dizziness. Serious side effects are extremely rare, and millions of doses have been safely administered worldwide.

Given the extensive medical evidence and global health recommendations, the administration of the HPV vaccine stands as a scientifically validated and legally endorsed measure for preventing HPV-related cancers, including cervical cancer. The vaccine has gained approval from reputable health regulatory bodies such as the WHO, CDC, and FDA for use in designated population groups. In this context, it is in the best interest of public health policy—and in keeping with international obligations to uphold the Right to Health—that governments, healthcare providers, and public institutions take all necessary steps to ensure the availability, accessibility, and informed administration of the HPV vaccine. Promot-

ing this vaccination initiative not only decreases the incidence of cervical cancer but also fulfils moral, legal, and ethical duties to protect both present and future generations.

Despite these advancements, there is an urgent need to raise awareness in society regarding cervical cancer prevention and the benefits of the HPV vaccine. Many individuals, especially in rural and underserved communities, remain unaware of the link between HPV and cervical cancer or are influenced by myths, stigma, or misinformation. Lack of knowledge among parents, adolescents, and even healthcare workers often result in missed vaccination opportunities. Social taboos associated with sexual health also hinder open discussions and education. Therefore, community-based awareness campaigns, school health programs, inclusion of cervical health education in curricula, and involvement of local influencers, including teachers, doctors, and media, are essential. Increasing awareness is not only crucial for improving vaccination uptake but also for empowering individuals to make informed health decisions and demand accessible preventive services.

As of May 2025, numerous countries have launched or expanded their HPV vaccination programs to eliminate cervical cancer and improve public health. In October 2023, Bangladesh initiated its first nationwide HPV vaccination campaign, targeting girls aged 10 to 14. Tanzania launched a national multi-age cohort (MAC) vaccination campaign in April 2024, offering the HPV vaccine free of charge. Nigeria began its national HPV vaccination program in October 2023, adopting a single-dose schedule for girls aged 9 to 14, aiming to achieve at least 80% coverage. The United

Kingdom expanded its program in 2024 to include all 12- and 13-year-olds, regardless of gender, to protect against multiple HPV-related cancers. Ireland now offers the HPV vaccine to both boys and girls and aims to eliminate cervical cancer by 2040, following Australia's model. Since July 2022, Australia has allowed women aged 25 to 74 to self-collect cervical screening samples, thereby improving access in underserved regions. In India, efforts have been intensified with the launch of the indigenous HPV vaccine "Cervavac" in March 2024. Thousands of doctors have been trained to promote its uptake, making the vaccine more accessible and affordable.

At the state level, India has witnessed various proactive initiatives. Bihar launched the "Mukhyamantri Balika Cancer Pratirakshan Yojana," becoming the first state to offer the HPV vaccine free of cost. Sikkim implemented a school-based program that achieved high coverage rates. Gujarat provides the vaccine through government health programs and school drives. Andhra Pradesh offers a 90% subsidy and delivers free vaccines through government schools. States like Punjab, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Chhattisgarh, and Maharashtra have initiated free HPV vaccination programs for schoolgirls in specific districts, strengthening the country's collective efforts against cervical cancer.

In view of these successful examples, it is imperative that all state governments in India promote and implement free HPV vaccination programs across all government and private schools. A nationwide school-based vaccination strategy will ensure equitable access for children from all socio-economic backgrounds and close the urban-rural gap in preventive care. The inclusion of

HPV vaccination as part of the standard school health initiative will not only protect millions of girls and boys from HPV-related diseases but also lay the foundation for a future free from cervical cancer.

To protect future generations and eliminate cervical cancer, it is critical that the **Government of India integrate the HPV vaccine into the Universal Immunization Programme (UIP)**, just as it has done with the polio vaccine. Polio eradication in India was made possible by sustained political commitment, public awareness, and free, widespread access to vaccination. A similar model is urgently needed for cervical cancer prevention. Incorporating the HPV vaccine into the national immunization schedule would guarantee that all eligible children - regardless of their socio-economic or geographic background - receive protection early in life, well before exposure to the virus.

This move would also normalize the vaccine, reducing stigma around its administration and ensuring it is seen as a routine part of childhood immunization. It would significantly reduce future cancer-related health burdens, lower treatment costs, and align with global commitments to eliminate cervical cancer as a public health problem. Institutionalizing the HPV vaccine within India's medical policy will be a bold and necessary step toward safeguarding the health of future generations, just as the country successfully did with polio, measles, and tuberculosis.

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# INDIA TO GET REMAINING S-400 MISSILE SYSTEMS BY 2026, SAYS RUSSIA

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

Russia is committed to delivering the remaining units of the S-400 air defence system to India by 2025-2026, the country's Deputy Chief of Mission in India, Roman Babushkin, said on Monday, highlighting that the system performed "very efficiently" during the recent India-Pakistan tensions.

Babushkin also hinted at expanding bilateral co-operation with India in air defence and anti-drone sys-

tems.

"We heard that the S-400 performed very efficiently during the recent clashes between India and Pakistan. We have a long history of collaboration. The air defence systems, according to what we are experiencing, the situation in Europe and here, this is one of the promising topics of our partnership in defence preparation in general," Babushkin said

Babushkin confirmed that the contract for the remaining two S-400 units is on track, with deliveries ex-



pected to be completed by 2025-26, in line with publicly announced timelines.

India signed a USD 5.43 billion deal with Russia in 2018 for five squadrons of the S-400 Triumf missile system, a state-of-the-art air defence platform capable of engaging multiple aerial threats at long ranges. Three squadrons have already been delivered.

On the potential expansion of defence collaboration, Babushkin expressed openness to further dialogue.

"We are open for promo-

tion of this partnership for the discussion of the expansion of dialogue on air defence systems," he said, noting the strategic importance of such cooperation in the current global security environment.

Commenting on the growing threat of drones, particularly in light of their extensive use during the India-Pakistan clash, the deputy chief of mission highlighted Russia's experience in countering such challenges.

"We are facing this threat for several years already,

and I think that our systems are being modernised constantly. I think it would be a joint interest from both sides how to counter this threat and lead to some other cooperation," he said, adding that anti-drone systems are already part of the ongoing India-Russia defence dialogue.

Babushkin also provided an update on a possible visit by Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov to India.

"The exact dates are not yet finalised, but it can happen anytime soon. We expect this month," he said.

## Arunachal toll rises to 10

CONTINUED FROM P1

156 villages in 23 districts have been affected by the monsoon deluge.

The body of Guptaajt Bharali, swept away by flooded Sukha Nallah in Upper Digaru was recovered downstream at Lasa Pani in Lohit district on Sunday.

Governor Lt General K T Parnaik (Retd) has expressed deep sorrow over the loss of lives and extended heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families. He urged residents to remain alert, especially in vulnerable and landslide-prone areas.

Calling on district administrations to remain vigilant, the governor emphasised the importance of night time movement restrictions in risky zones and advocated proactive communication to keep citizens informed and safe.

## 20K people hit in Manipur

CONTINUED FROM P1

sant torrential rains during the last four days.

Thirty-one relief camps have been opened mostly in Imphal East district to mitigate the hardships of the people who have been evacuated from their homes and localities.

Heingang, Wangkhei and Khurai assembly constituencies in Imphal East district are worst affected along with Senapati district.

Forty-seven landslides too have been reported in different parts of the state during the last four days.

Waterlogging was reported on the premises of several offices, health facilities, and establishments, including All India Radio Imphal complex, and state-run Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Medical Sciences, after the Imphal river overflowed in the Checkon area, one of the officials said.

## PM to chair meet of Union Council of Ministers today

CONTINUED FROM P1

nine terror sites in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir followed by its counterattack on the neighbouring country's military facilities, especially air bases, have been a highlight of Modi's recent speeches.

He has affirmed that Operation Sindoor has marked India's "new normal" in punishing terror acts linked to Pakistan and vowed to go after terrorists and their sponsors with equal ferocity in case of any future terror incidents on the Indian soil.

The Council of Ministers, which generally meets in a few months but has no fixed frequency, unlike the Union Cabinet's, and key government policies are discussed threadbare in the presence of top bureaucrats.

## PM unlikely to attend G7 summit

CONTINUED FROM P1

expected to deliberate on pressing challenges facing the globe including the Russia-Ukraine conflict and the situation in West Asia.

It is learnt that Ottawa is yet to send an invitation to the Indian Prime Minister for the summit, but Modi, in any way, would have skipped it as such a visit would have required a lot of groundwork considering the current state of ties between the two sides, said the people cited above.

However, Liberal Party leader Mark Carney's victory in the parliamentary election in April triggered hopes for reset of the relationship.

## BJP to run 'Sankalp Se Siddhi Tak' campaign

CONTINUED FROM P1

leadership. The campaign, scheduled from June 5 to June 25, aims to showcase the government's achievements in governance, public welfare, and national development.

Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma and BJP State President Madan Rathore addressed party workers, outlining upcoming programmes that will span from World Environment Day to the 50th anniversary of the Emergency. The campaign will emphasise grassroots outreach, with BJP workers expected to promote key government schemes at the booth level.

India's global identity has transformed: Sharma

Sharma said that under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, India has gained a new identity on the global stage. He compared the pre-2014 era—marked by terrorism, corruption,

and appeasement—with the post-2014 period of transformation and reform.

"Whether it's PM Kisan Samman Nidhi, Mudra Yojana, or the Ujjwala scheme, the Prime Minister has brought development directly to the people—be it youth, women, farmers, or labourers," Sharma said.

He noted that India has jumped from the world's 11th-largest economy to the 4th position under Modi's leadership, and praised the government's efforts in defence, particularly after the Pahalagam terrorist attack.

Echoing Swami Vivekananda's vision, Sharma said, "Narendra had said it, and Narendra is fulfilling it—the 21st century belongs to India."

Month-Long Campaign Schedule

The month-long campaign will begin on June 5 with activities centred around water conservation and environmental aware-

ness as part of the 'Vande Ganga Jal Sanrakshan Jan Abhiyan', coinciding with World Environment Day. From June 9 to 21, outreach programmes will be conducted to spread awareness about the Modi government's inclusive policies and achievements.

On June 21, party workers will actively participate in events held across the state to mark World Yoga Day. This will be followed by seminars on June 23 to commemorate the martyrdom of Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee. The campaign will conclude on June 25 with events highlighting the 50th anniversary of the Emergency, which the BJP describes as a dark chapter in Indian democracy.

Sharma called on every party worker to take part in these initiatives and reach out to people at the grassroots level to raise awareness about government efforts.

BJP's commitment to social concern

Sharma underlined that BJP workers function with the motto of "nation first." He highlighted environmental campaigns like 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' and the party's initiatives in religious and cultural tourism.

"In the BJP, workers are empowered and given new responsibilities, which is why it has become the world's largest democratic political party," he said.

Modi has fulfilled his resolution: Rathore

BJP State President Madan Rathore said that Modi's 2014 pledge to build a new India has been realised over the past 11 years.

"Under Congress, the country had to mortgage its gold. Today, India stands as the world's fourth-largest economy," Rathore said, adding that over 21 countries have honoured PM Modi with their highest civilian awards.

## Immediat release of dairy subsidies

CONTINUED FROM P1

government under Sharma is committed to uplifting every section of society, especially farmers and livestock rearers, aiming to create a prosperous and empowered Rajasthan.

Sharma emphasised that dairy production forms the backbone of Rajasthan's rural economy. His administration prioritises the welfare of livestock farmers by providing comprehensive support. Dairy farming not only creates employ-

ment in rural areas but also strengthens the overall economic fabric of villages. Being a farmer himself, Sharma understands the challenges faced by agricultural and livestock communities. The state budget includes multiple provisions focused on their empowerment and prosperity.

The Chief Minister's regular public grievance hearings have become a crucial forum for resolving citizen issues swiftly and effectively. Thousands participate in these ses-

sions, bringing concerns related to health, pensions, education, drinking water, transportation, and more, many of which are addressed on the spot.

During these hearings, the Chief Minister has instructed officials to provide immediate relief to complainants and maintain consistent monitoring of each case's progress, keeping the complainants informed. He has also warned of strict action against officials found negligent in addressing grievances.

## Landslide strikes Army camp

CONTINUED FROM P1

10 (Sevoke to Rangpo) section in the light of ongoing emergency works due to sharp rise in the Teesta River's water level, an official said on Monday.

An official order issued by the DGM(P) PMU-Siliguri issued on Sunday said on June 2 and 3 traffic will be fully closed from 8 am to 2 pm at four key locations - near Suntaley (km 14.45), near Likhuveer (km 26 to 28), near Melli (km 33 to 34) and km 49.98.

The 52 km stretch of NH 10 from Sevoke to Rangpo connects Sikkim with Siliguri town in West Bengal.

The traffic regulation will be further coordinated with the respective district administrations of Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Namchi, Pakyong, and Gangtok for smooth execution, it said.

Meanwhile, with the monsoon season approaching, and heavy rainfall in the region may lead to landslides and road blockages, particularly on routes leading to re-

mote tourist destinations, the Sikkim government's Tourism department has advised all tourists to exercise caution while travelling and to plan their trips based on the latest road and weather updates from official sources.

"Your safety remains our utmost priority. In the event of road blockages or any unforeseen circumstances, necessary relief and evacuation support will be promptly provided to the stranded tourists," it said.

## Over 1,600 tourists evacuated

CONTINUED FROM P1

town by 284 vehicles and 16 motorcycles.

The director general of police, who personally received the tourists at Phidang, said Mangan District Collector Anant Jain and Superintendent of Police (SP) Sonam Detchu Bhutia led the convoy to ensure a safe departure of the visitors, he said.

"The convoy of vehicles, carrying tourists, comprising 737 men, 561 women and 380 children, crossed via Theng Check Post and arrived in Phdang before heading for the state capital," an official said.

The Sikkim DGP said that efforts are underway to evacuate more than 100 tourists stranded in Lachen. Sachdeva said he enquired about the well-being of the tourists who were on their way to Gangtok. Many of them thanked the district administration for its support in north Sikkim. The tourists expressed gratitude to the Sikkim government and all the agencies involved in the evacuation process, the official said.

## Tesla not keen on make in India

CONTINUED FROM P1

nies like Hyundai, Mercedes Benz, Skoda and Kia have shown interest in manufacturing units in India under the new EV policy.

The government also said that European companies are interested in investing in India as they have left hand drive like in India and they don't have to do much changes for exporting their

cars, unlike US which has a right hand drive.

The new EV policy announced in 2022, has given many concessions for companies who will invest in India and set up manufacturing units.

The policy allows a duty of 15 per cent if a company invest USD 500 million in a manufacturing plant in India. In the first three years the company will have to source 25 per cent

of parts locally which has to be increased to 50 per cent by end of fifth year.

The company will be allowed to export a maximum of 8,000 units annually to India against a highly reduced duty of 15 per cent.

Earlier, there were reports that Tesla was interested in importing Tesla car into India and subsequently sell it through their showrooms in India.

## Situation remains critical in Assam

CONTINUED FROM P1

Brahmaputra is flowing above the danger mark at Dibrugarh and Nimatighat.

Its tributaries Dhansiri at Numaligarh and Kopili at Kampur are flowing above the danger level.

The Barak is flowing above the danger mark at Badarpur Ghat, while its tributary Kushiyrara at Sribhumi and Katakhal in Matizuri are also flowing above the

danger mark, ASDMA said.

The situation is likely to worsen for the people living in low-lying and river bank areas due to continued heavy rainfall in the state and neighbouring areas, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma cautioned on Sunday evening.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah dialled Sarma to take stock of the situation and assured of all pos-

sible assistance, as multiple agencies remained engaged in rescue and relief operations. Fourteen stranded people were evacuated by an IAF helicopter from the Assam-Arunachal Pradesh border.

Road, railway and ferry services have been hit in different parts as most parts of the state continued receiving rain over the past few days.

## Man who got Sharmishta arrested is accused of same 'hate' offence

CONTINUED FROM P1

personal feelings and I never intentionally wanted to hurt anybody. So, if anybody is hurt, I'm sorry for the same. I expect co-operation and understanding. Henceforth, I will be cautious in my public post. Again, please accept my apologies.

Social media is now abuzz with tweets and posts of Wazahat Khan, wherein he made derogatory, vile and blasphemous posts against Hinduism and its deities.

"Kamakhya Devi temple where Brahmin gets worship from other Hindus of

a chopped Vagina. It is very hard to differentiate. Is it blind worship or mental sickness?? Sick people. Indian Hindu worship female vagina for luck," he had tweeted. Many other posts contained even more vile expletives.

On Monday, Kolkata resident Prasun Maitra filed a formal complaint against Rashidi for two posts on the social media platform X, which he said, hurt the religious sentiments of Hindus.

Maitra, who emailed his complaint to Kolkata Police Commissioner Manoj Kumar Verma and other

top officers, also attached screenshots of Rashidi's posts.

"Your recent activism shows that you are very much against such communally instigating posts and determined to enforce the rule of law. In view of the above, you are requested to initiate appropriate legal action against the person, described above, in line with your recent activities and as per law of the land so that your integrity doesn't come under any question," said Maitra in his complaint.

Maitra followed up on his complaint several hours

later, noting that the police were yet to register a first information report (FIR) on the basis of his complaint. Harikrishna Pai, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Port) said Maitra's complaint will be looked into and action taken according to law.

"Whatever complaint we get, we will definitely take legal action. He (Maitra) has sent his complaint to several officers," Pai said.

A BJP leader told The Daily Guardian: "Despite such overwhelming evidence against Wazahat Khan, aimed at disturbing communal harmony and

creating enmity between two religions, no action has been taken by the Kolkata Police against him though who resides in Kolkata. Kolkata Police could travel 1500 km to arrest a 22-year-old Hindu girl but failed to nab Kolkata-based Wazahat Khan."

Suwendu Adhikari, the BJP's Leader of the Opposition, said: "The action is only taken against Sanatanis. In Mamata Banerjee's rule, everyone here has a licence to abuse Sanatan Dharma...This is appeasement politics," he said.

On Monday, Delhi-based advocate Vineet Jindal, also

filed an official complaint with the Delhi Police and Cyber Crime Unit against Wajahat Khan, accusing him of online hate speech, religious defamation, and abusive content under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and the IT Act, though it has not yet been registered as a case/FIR.

When many social media users criticised Panoli's arrest, the Kolkata Police defended its action on X on Sunday.

In a post, Kolkata Police said some social media accounts were spreading false information that it had unlawfully arrested a law stu-

dent for opposing Pakistan. "This narrative is mischievous and misleading.

Expressing national pride and patriotism is a thing that every citizen and organisation stands for. Kolkata Police being no different, stands firmly with the citizens of India," the post said.

It added that the Panoli case was registered "on the basis of allegations that she posted a video which was insulting to the religious beliefs of a class of citizens of India and amounted to promoting disharmony and hatred between different communities." "The case was registered under ap-

propriate sections of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. The case was duly investigated and, adhering to legal procedures, several attempts were made to serve notice u/s 35 of BNSS to the accused but every time she was found absconding," the Kolkata Police said.

"Kolkata Police acted lawfully according to the procedure established by law. The accused was not arrested for expressing patriotism or for personal belief; legal actions were taken for sharing offensive content which promotes hatred among the communities," it added.



# INDIA, PARAGUAY STAND UNITED AGAINST TERRORISM: PM MODI

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

India and Paraguay stand united in the fight against terrorism and there is immense possibility to work unitedly to combat shared challenges such as cybercrime and drug trafficking, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Monday. Modi made the remarks at delegation-level talks with Paraguayan President Santiago Pena Palacios. The Pahalgam terror attack figured in the talks.

Pena arrived in Delhi this morning on a three-day visit to India to explore ways to expand overall cooperation.

It is his first visit to India and only the second trip by a president of the South American country.

Paraguay is an important trading partner for India in the Latin American region. Several Indian companies in the automobile and pharmaceutical sectors have their presence in Paraguay.

Modi expressed his deep appreciation for Paraguay for its strong condemnation of the terrorist attack in Pahalgam, as well as for the sincere condolences and solidarity expressed with the people of India, P Kumaran, Secretary (East)



Prime Minister Narendra Modi meets President of Paraguay, Santiago Pena, at Hyderabad House in New Delhi. ANI

in the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), said at a media briefing.

Both leaders “unequivocally” condemned terrorism and violent extremism in all its forms, he said.

On behalf of the Paraguayan people, President Pena expressed his deep solidarity with the victims of the terrorist attack and their families, he added.

Kumaran said President

Pena made it clear that he would be looking at India as a big trade and investment partner, and invited Indian companies to invest in Paraguay.

Modi and Pena held a comprehensive discussion on the entire spectrum of ties including trade and investment, defence and security, infrastructure, mining and mineral resources, agriculture and food security,

and green energy.

In his remarks at the talks, Modi said, “We see new opportunities for cooperation in areas such as digital technology, critical minerals, energy, agriculture, health-care, defence, railways, space and overall economic partnership.”

The prime minister also referred to New Delhi’s preferential trade arrangement with South American trading bloc MERCOSUR.

“We can work together to further expand it,” he said.

MERCOSUR or Common Market of the South is a trading bloc comprising Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay.

The two leaders also deliberated on ways to combat terrorism against the backdrop of the Pahalgam terror attack.

“India and Paraguay stand united in the fight against terrorism. There is immense possibility of cooperation to fight against shared challenges such as cybercrime, organised crime and drug trafficking,” Modi said.

The prime minister described Paraguay as an integral part of the Global South. “India and Paraguay are integral parts of the Global South. Our hopes,

aspirations and challenges are similar. And this is why we can learn from each other’s experiences to deal with these challenges effectively,” he said.

“We are pleased that India could extend support to Paraguay by sharing its vaccines during the COVID pandemic. We look forward to continuing this spirit of cooperation by sharing more of our capabilities,” he said.

Modi and Pena welcomed the establishment of a Joint Commission Mechanism (JCM) that will serve as a key platform to review and advance cooperation in priority areas of mutual interest. India and Paraguay established diplomatic relations on 13 September 1961, cultivating warm and friendly ties between the two nations.

Both countries have since developed cooperation in various sectors, including trade, agriculture, health, pharmaceuticals and information technology.

The two countries share common views on various international issues, including UN reforms, climate change, renewable energy and combating terrorism, according to the MEA.

## Khurshid sparks row with patriotic post amid Congress internal criticism

ANAND SINGH  
NEW DELHI

Senior Congress leader Salman Khurshid, part of the all-party delegation briefing on Operation Sindoor, stirred controversy on Monday with a cryptic post questioning those calculating political allegiances, asking, “Is it so difficult to be patriotic?”

Khurshid’s post came shortly after fellow party leader Shashi Tharoor faced internal criticism for his views on surgical strikes.

Notably, Khurshid had earlier praised the abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir.

In a post on X (formerly Twitter), Khurshid wrote, “When on mission against terrorism, to carry India’s message to the world, it’s distressing that people at home are calculating political allegiances. Is it so difficult to be patriotic?”

He did not name any party leaders or specify which party he was referring to.

Khurshid’s remarks on Article 370 during his visit have further deepened unease within the Congress party.

The former foreign minister is currently in East Asia as part of an all-party parliamentary delegation led by



JD(U) MP Sanjay Kumar Jha.

While addressing think tanks and academic forums in Indonesia last week, Khurshid said it was unfortunate that Pakistan wants to undo the prosperity that has come to Jammu and Kashmir following the abrogation of Article 370.

This stance contrasts with Congress’s earlier position, which strongly opposed the NDA government’s move to revoke Article 370 in 2019.

Khurshid’s remarks come a day after he said during an interaction with think tanks in Indonesia that Kashmir had “major problems” for a long time and the abrogation of Article 370 finally put an end to them. These remarks were welcomed by BJP leaders but stirred controversy. BJP leader Shehzad Poonawalla, referring to Khurshid’s comments, slammed the Congress and other opposition parties,

accusing them of overlooking national interest.

“After Shashi Tharoor and Manish Tewari, yet another Congress leader has given a reality check and shown the mirror to Congress and the INDIA alliance,” Poonawalla said.

“Salman Khurshid has said that when the all-party delegation is on a mission to expose Pakistan by putting India first, some people are calculating political allegiances. Is it so difficult to be patriotic? This is a resounding slap on those who constantly doubt India’s military might and diplomatic strength,” he added.

He accused Congress of putting the interests of the “parivar,” a clear reference to the Gandhi family, above national interest.

“For petty political gains, Congress puts party interest and parivar interest above the nation. Hopefully, they will realize that Salman Khurshid is not a party spokesperson but is putting the nation first. But when will Congress put the nation first?” he questioned. In an apparent jab at Lok Sabha Opposition Leader Rahul Gandhi, Poonawalla said, “The LoP is busy proving how Pakistan is powerful and how India lost.”

## Rahul’s Chandigarh visit: Can it revive Haryana Cong after 11 years of gridlock?

NEERAJ MOHAN  
CHANDIGARH

Ahead of Congress leader and Lok Sabha Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi’s Chandigarh visit on June 4, the faction-ridden Haryana Congress braces for what could be a long-overdue organisational shake-up.

According to party leaders, the visit—part of the party’s Sangathan Srijan Abhiyan (organisation-building campaign)—is being seen as a crucial moment to revive the state unit, which has been operating without district-level executives for over 11 years.

Rahul’s day-long visit comes amid buzz that the

party high command may finally announce a new organisational structure in the state—a move that has remained on the backburner due to chronic internal rivalries, primarily between



former Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda and his intra-party critics.

Party sources confirmed that Rahul will be accompanied by AICC Haryana

in-charge BK Hariprasad, co-in-charges, and 21 central observers appointed last month to restructure district units. Two high-stakes meetings are scheduled: the first with top senior leaders of the state, and the second with all 21 AICC and 90 PCC observers. Notably, the party’s 37 MLAs have not been officially invited to either meeting, though many are reportedly keen to interact with Gandhi and have made their sentiments known. “We are totally clueless about the agenda and even the list of invitees. But we hope district executives will finally be announced,” said a senior party leader, pleading anonymity.

A grand Yagya was held

## Khaps part of country’s heritage: Haryana CM

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini said that the support of Palam 360 Khap helped the BJP gain new strength in Delhi, marking its resurgence in the region. He added that the issues of the national capital’s rural belt will now be addressed on a priority basis.

Saini emphasized that Khaps are an important part of the country’s heritage and praised the late Chaudhary Dayanand Pradhan of Delhi’s Matiyala village for his leadership in community development and Panchayat affairs.

A grand Yagya was held

on Sunday in South West Delhi’s Matiyala village as a tribute to soldiers and in memory of Chaudhary Dayanand Pradhan.

According to Palam 360 Khap chief Chaudhary



Surender Solanki, thousands of farmers and villagers gathered at Matiyala to pay their respects to the late Pradhan.

## Union Cabinet to meet on June 4 ahead of Modi 3.0’s first anniversary

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

The Union Council of Ministers is scheduled to meet on June 4 at the Sushma Swaraj Bhawan in the national capital. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will chair the meeting, which comes just days before the Modi 3.0 government marks the completion of its first year in office on June 9.

Last year, the Bharatiya Janata Party-led NDA secured 293 seats in the Lok Sabha elections. BJP won 240 seats on its own. In the 543-strong lower house of the Indian parliament, 272 is the minimum majority figure.

The agenda of the meeting will include a review of the

government’s performance over the past year, internal matters, and preparations for public outreach as the Central Government completes 11 years in power, as per the sources.

According to the top source in the BJP, “The Union Council of Ministers will meet on June 4 at Sushma Swaraj Bhawan in the evening. The agenda of the meeting will be 11 years of central government, 1 year completion of Modi 3.0, and other internal issues that need to be discussed.”

“The PM will hold a meeting with all the ministers before the completion of one year of the Modi 3.0 government.”, a source said.

## 4 new deaths from COVID-19, active cases near 4,000 in India

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

India’s active COVID-19 cases stand at 3,961 as of 8 AM on Monday, June 2, according to Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The cumulative COVID-19 deaths in the country since January this year have increased to 32, with four deaths reported since Sunday.

According to official data, 203 new cases were added to the active case count since Sunday.

Delhi, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, and Kerala each reported one COVID-19 death since Sunday.

Delhi reported 47 more COVID-19 cases, increasing the total active cases in the national capital to 483.

### Delhi HC seeks govt update on COVID-19 testing standards

**New Delhi :** The Delhi High Court has directed the Union Government to submit a comprehensive status report detailing its actions regarding the policy for sample collection, collection centres, and transportation of samples, underscoring that the “next COVID-19 pandemic is far from over.” Expressing concern over the lack of clarity on steps taken following a meeting on May 30, 2023, the court emphasized the urgency of finalizing and implementing Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). It noted widespread reports of COVID-19 cases within the community, highlighting the necessity of swift and decisive measures.

In Kerala, active COVID-19 cases rose to 1,435, with 35 new cases reported since Sunday. In Maharashtra, 21 new COVID-19 cases were reported, taking the active case count to 506.

In West Bengal, 44 new

COVID-19 cases were reported, increasing the state’s active cases to 331.

On Friday, Union Minister Prataprao Jadhav, assured that the Centre is fully prepared to handle any situation that may arise.

## Land-for-jobs case: CBI begins arguments against Lalu, others

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Monday began its arguments on charges in the land for job scam case, in which former Railway Minister Lalu Prasad Yadav, his family members, former public servants, and candidates are accused.

Yadav is alleged to have granted railway jobs in exchange for land parcels from candidates or their



relatives, either as gifts or at significantly reduced prices.

Special judge Vishal Gogne heard the submissions by senior advocate DP Singh along with advocate Manu Mishra, who ap-

peared for the CBI.

CBI’s counsel gave a brief overview of the case and submitted that there is a sanction to prosecute Lalu Prasad Yadav and public servants in this case.

It was further submitted that there is sufficient material evidence to frame charges against the accused persons for the offence they are chargesheeted. Delhi High Court has already rejected the plea of Lalu Prasad Yadav seeking a stay on trial court proceedings.

## SC agrees to hear plea over woman’s ‘illegal’ detention in Assam

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday agreed to hear a man’s plea over his mother’s purported illegal detention by Assam Police amid widespread allegations of deportations to Bangladesh.

Iunuch (Yunus) Ali, 26, sought immediate release of his mother Monowara Bewa, who was reportedly detained on May 24 after being called to Dhubri Police Station on the pretext of recording her statement.

The plea also sought a direction restraining the deporta-

tion or “push back” of the detainee across any Indian border.

The matter came up before a bench of Justices Sanjay Karol and Satish Chandra Sharma which agreed to hear it.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for the petitioner, said the woman had previ-



ously filed an special leave petition (SLP) in the apex court which is still pending and she was also granted bail but she was being “thrown out”.

“We will list it along with the main case. We will hear it,” the bench said.

Ali’s plea, the bench said, would be heard along with

the pending SLP.

The SLP challenges the decision of the Gauhati High Court, which upheld a Foreigners Tribunal ruling declaring Bewa a foreigner - a decision that has remained under challenge before the apex court since 2017.

When the bench said the

plea would be heard along with the pending petition, Sibal said, “In the meantime, she is being thrown out.”

“Thrown out means?” the bench asked. Sibal said she might be sent to Bangladesh and the petitioner was unaware of his mother whereabouts. “Where is she, we

don’t know. At least ask them (authorities) to tell us that. The son does not know,” he argued. The petitioner raised concerns over the practice in Assam of allegedly detaining and deporting persons to Bangladesh overnight, even when their legal cases were pending.



# ANNA VARSITY RAPE CASE: ACCUSED GNANASEKARAN GETS LIFE SENTENCE

Mahila court judge also imposes Rs 90,000 fine on the convict for alleged sexual assault of student of Anna University

TDG NETWORK  
CHENNAI

A Mahila Court here on Monday awarded the life sentence for a minimum period of 30 years without remission and a fine of Rs 90,000 to the accused Gnanasekaran, who has been convicted for allegedly raping a student on the Anna University campus in December last year. Mahila Court judge M Rajalakshmi, who convicted Gnanasekaran on May 28, awarded sentences in respect of each of the 11 charges proved by the prosecution against him. Public Prosecutor Marry Jayanthi said, "As far as the Gnanasekaran case is concerned, we have got the verdict today. 30 years without

**'30 YEARS IN JAIL WITHOUT REMISSION'**

- Mahila Court judge M Rajalakshmi, who convicted Gnanasekaran on May 28, awarded sentences in respect of each of the 11 charges proved by the prosecution against him.
- A second-year student of Anna University was sexually assaulted on the Anna University campus in December.
- After an investigation, the Chennai Police had arrested Ganasekaran in connection with the case.



remission have been provided. SIT inquired into the incident, they filed a charge sheet at the Mahila court. April 30 for the first time, affected women took the stage. All evidence was provided, as it was satisfactory for the court, today this judgement has come. The highest punishment is a life sentence for this case,

and it has been provided." A second-year student of Anna University was sexually assaulted on the Anna University campus in December. After an investigation, the Chennai Police had arrested Ganasekaran in connection with the case. Earlier, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin on Wednesday hailed the state

police, investigating officers and government lawyers for the expeditious verdict in the Anna University sexual assault case. In a post on X, the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister said that the state's police swiftly pursued the case and justice was delivered in just five months. Stalin said he had told the police to prevent crime,

## Goa ahead of other states in welfare of divyangs: CM Pramod Sawant

TDG NETWORK  
SANQUELIM

Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant on Monday termed the creation of the Divyang Department in his administration a "major change" in spearheading the welfare of the differently abled in the state. "The Goa government has started a Divyang Department.



This is a major change after the International Purple Festival," Sawant said at the concluding ceremony of ADIP Assessment Camp. "Divyang Minister Subhash Faldesai has done excellent work. I thank the department and the minister. We are ahead of other governments when it comes to welfare for the divyangs," the Chief Minister added. The Goa government organised As-

essment Camps across all talukas of the state from May 20 to June 02. These camps aimed to identify eligible Divyangs (PwDs) for free distribution of aid and appliances under the ADIP Scheme as part of Swayampurna Goa 2.0 and Inclusive Goa initiatives.

Over 11,800 PwDs across Goa were personally contacted via phone calls informing them about the camp's scheduled date, time and venue.

*Over 11,800 PwDs across Goa were personally contacted via phone calls informing them about the camp's scheduled date, time and venue.*

Divyangjans who have 40 per cent disability (UDID Certificate), monthly income below 22,500 (with valid income proof), Aadhaar and address proof, no aid received in the last three years (one year for children under 18 for specific items) are eligible for these camps. Locomotor, visual impairment, hearing impairment and intellectual and developmental disabilities were covered in this camp.

and if any incident occurs, no criminal should escape. The criminals, he said, should be investigated expeditiously and punished.

He also slammed the opposition parties who had made allegations against the ruling DMK over the incident and said attempts were made to play "cheap politics". He said the government has shattered the "slander" being spread. "We will always ensure justice and the safety of women," he said. Leader of Opposition Edappadi Palaniswamy welcomed the verdict, alleging that the DMK had tried to protect the accused, "Chennai Mahila Court sentenced to life Ganasekaran, accused in Anna University, who is also a DMK sympathiser.

## Deshmukh dispels Sharad, Ajit Pawar merger rumours

AGENCIES  
NAGPUR

NCP (SP) leader Anil Deshmukh on Monday downplayed speculation about a political reunion following recent meetings between Sharad Pawar and his estranged nephew Ajit Pawar, asserting there was no discussion on the rival NCP factions coming together.

NCP (SP) president Sharad Pawar and Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar have met on multiple occasions in the recent past, fuelling speculation in political circles about rapprochement. Asked about it, Deshmukh told reporters here, "There is no discussion on both the NCPs reuniting. The two leaders keep meeting on different occasions on issues related to sugar and educational institutes. There is no discussion on the two factions merging." Such meetings are rou-



*Asked about it, Deshmukh told reporters here, "There is no discussion on both the NCPs reuniting.*

tine, the former state home minister added. On the issue of various local and civic body elections pending in the state, Deshmukh said they should be held as per the Supreme Court's orders. "Clean drinking water and governance issues are pending, elections should not be delayed further," he said.

Elections to several local and civic bodies, including the all-important and cash rich Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), are long overdue. The Supreme Court last month directed the State Election Commission to hold local body elections within four months, in what would be the mini-assembly polls.

## Kamal Haasan moves Karnataka HC, seeks release of 'Thug Life' in state

TDG NETWORK  
BENGALURU

Film Actor Kamal Haasan on Monday moved to the Karnataka High Court, seeking release of his upcoming movie Thug Life in the state on June 5. This came after the actor's upcoming film, Thug Life directed by Mani Ratnam, faced trouble in Karnataka after the actor's recent remark on the Kannada language sparked anger among local groups, including the Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce (KFCC), which has banned the film's release until the ac-



tor issues a public apology. The actor filed this petition through the CEO of his company, Rajkarnal Film International. The statement sparked anger after Kamal Haasan purportedly said that the Kannada language has been derived from the Tamil language. Kamal Haasan appealed

to the court to restrain the government, police department and Film Chamber of Commerce from stopping the screening of the movie and petitioned to provide proper security for the movie screening.

Meanwhile, the Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce has issued a 24-hour ultimatum to Kamal Haasan to apologise, stating that failure to comply will result in his movie being banned from release in Karnataka. Narasimhulu, President of the Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce, said, "As per the demand of pro-Kannada organisations and also the letter written

by the Karnataka Government, we have also given 24 hours to Kamal Hassan to apologise for the statement which you made that hurt the sentiments of Kannadigas of Karnataka state."

"We have given in 24 hours as one of our distributors also invested money in his movie from Karnataka; distributors contacted his team, his team has said that he's in Dubai; he will come tomorrow, then there will be a message from Kamal Hassan. We will wait for 24 hours; if he doesn't apologise, his movie will not be allowed to be released in any of the theatres in Karnataka.

## Heavy rain lashes Mumbai, IMD predicts occasional light spells

TDG NETWORK  
MUMBAI

Mumbai city received heavy rainfall on Monday. Rain lashed several parts of the city. The India Meteorological Department IMD earlier today predicted a partly cloudy sky with the possibility of occasional light spells of rain in the city and suburbs for today.

The IMD said that maximum and minimum temperatures are likely to be around 33 degrees Celsius and 26 degrees Celsius.

Earlier, on May 28, Mumbai city received heavy rainfall. The IMD said that quantitatively, the southwest monsoon seasonal rainfall over the country as a whole is likely to be 106 percent of the Long Period Average (LPA) with a model error of +4 percent, indicating



that above normal rainfall is most likely over the country as a whole during the monsoon season (June to September), 2025.

"The southwest monsoon seasonal (June to September, 2025) rainfall is most likely to be above normal over Central India and South Peninsular India (>106% of LPA), normal over Northwest India (92-108% of LPA) and below normal over Northeast India (<94% of LPA)," the

IMD said in a press release. The southwest monsoon seasonal rainfall over the Monsoon Core Zone (MCZ) consisting of most of the rainfed agriculture areas in the country is most likely to be above normal (>106% of LPA). During June to September 2025, normal to above normal rainfall is very likely over most parts of the country except some areas of Northwest and East India, and many areas of Northeast India where below

normal rainfall is very likely. Earlier, 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 recorded 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.

## Karnataka RSS leader booked for alleged provocative remarks

TDG NETWORK  
BENGALURU

Rashtriya Swamyamsevak Sangh (RSS) leader Kalladka Prabhakar Bhat has been booked by Mangaluru Police for allegedly delivering a provocative speech during a condolence programme held for the recent murder in the district.

Bhat had delivered the speech on May 12, at Madwa Palace Kalyana Mantapa Hall in Kavalapadoor village.

According to police, Kalladka Prabhakar Bhat, while addressing approximately 500 attendees at the event, made statements that are believed to "disrupt social harmony, create animosity between religious groups, and incite communal disharmony."

Authorities stated that there is a potential for

disturbance to law and order in the district due to these statements. On Monday, a case was filed against the RSS leader at Bantwal Rural Police Station under Section 353(2) Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita. Section 353 deals with statements conducing to public mischief, with the section 2 detailing that whoever makes, publishes or circulates any statement or report containing false information, rumour or alarming news, including through electronic means, with intent to create or promote, or which is likely to create or promote,

feelings of enmity, hatred or ill will between different groups shall be punished with imprisonment which may extend to three years, or with fine, or with both. Further legal action will be taken, police confirmed.

## Andhra: YSRCP leader condemns scrapping of doorstep delivery of ration

AGENCIES  
TANUKU

YSRCP leader K V Nagewara Rao on Monday condemned the TDP-led NDA government in Andhra Pradesh for scrapping doorstep delivery of rations through Mobile Distribution Units (MDU vehicles) and reverting to the old format of supplying ration through fair price shops from June 1. Rao, who is former civil supplies minister, alleged that by scrapping MDUs, women, pregnant women and tribal families will be affected.

"Naidu cannot tolerate initiatives that benefit people," Rao said, addressing a press conference, and said that "abolishing MDUs is a stab in the back".

Recently, the N Chandrababu Naidu-led government scrapped doorstep delivery of rations through MDU vehicles introduced by the



previous YSRCP regime.

The former minister alleged that under the old ration system, there were server failures, long queues, and heat-related deaths. A 70-year-old woman died in Anantapur district, he claimed.

Rao demanded evidence from Naidu for alleging corruption in MDUs.

He said that the previous YSRCP government operated MDUs offering quality supplies and higher dealer commissions and noted that the scheme was a people-centric model which was dismantled for "vendetta".

## Telangana CM honours martyrs with floral tribute on state Formation Day

TDG NETWORK  
HYDERABAD

Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, on the occasion of Telangana Formation Day, paid a floral tribute to Telangana Martyrs at the Martyrs Memorial at Gun Park. Chief Minister Revanth Reddy also extended wishes on the state formation day via X post, wrote, "For the aspirations of the martyrs... For the

aspirations of the people... For the welfare of the poor... For the dreams of farmers... For the economic self-reliance of girls... For the golden future of the youth... For the vision of Telangana Rising... On this auspicious day... Let us renew our commitment. Happy Formation Day to the people of the state." Meanwhile, marking Telangana's 11th Formation Day, President Droupadi Murmu led the nation in



The Koya tribes of Telangana forests take part in the 12th Telangana Commemoration Day (Formation Day) at Parade Grounds, in Secunderabad on Monday. (ANI Photo)

extending warm greetings to its people, praising

its rich cultural legacy and dynamic growth story.

*"Warm greetings to the people of Telangana on Statehood Day! This young State has a rich cultural heritage and a vibrant modern ecosystem of economic and technological development. I wish that the people of Telangana march ahead on the path of progress and prosperity."*

**-Droupadi Murmu, President of India**

In a message shared on social media, the President lauded Telangana's journey as a young state swiftly emerging as a hub of cultural pride

and economic progress. In a post on X, the President of India wrote, "Warm greetings to the people of Telangana on Statehood

Day! This young State has a rich cultural heritage and a vibrant modern ecosystem of economic and technological development. I wish that the people of Telangana march ahead on the path of progress and prosperity." PM Modi also extended wishes and wrote, "Greetings to the wonderful people of Telangana on their Statehood Day. The state is known for making innumerable contributions to na-

tional progress. Over the last decade, the NDA Government has undertaken many measures to boost 'Ease of Living' for the people of the state. May the people of the state be blessed with success and prosperity." Union Home Minister Amit Shah also shared his message in both English and Telugu, celebrating Telangana's cultural richness and the hardworking spirit of its people.



# PUNJAB APPROVES NEW LAND POOLING POLICY: 400% RETURN FOR FARMERS, RS 30,000/ACRE AID, PLOTS WITH FULL AMENITIES IN 27 CITIES

Move aimed at curbing illegal colonisation, empowering farmers, and promoting planned development across 27 cities

TARUNI GANDHI  
CHANDIGARH

In a significant development aimed at streamlining urban expansion and tackling the menace of illegal colonies, the Punjab Cabinet on Monday approved a new Land Pooling Policy. The policy, described as a voluntary and participatory model, seeks to include landowners as stakeholders in the state's planned growth initiatives while ensuring safeguards against coercion or exploitation.

The policy was approved during a meeting of the Council of Ministers held at Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann's official residence. With this move, the government aims to reverse decades of unregulated construction and unchecked colonisation, particularly in urban fringes and peri-urban areas.

## VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION EMPHASISED

Punjab Renewable Energy Minister Aman Arora clarified that the scheme is completely voluntary. "There is no force, no pressure. The farmer has complete authority. Nothing will happen without their written consent," he stated.

The policy will be launched in 27 selected cities in its first phase, where unauthorised colonies and unregulated development have been most prevalent. Landowners in these areas can now opt to pool their land with the government. They can also continue farming, sell their land, or develop it independently if they so choose.

## WHAT FARMERS WILL GET?

Under this land pooling scheme, for every one acre of land pooled with the government, the farmer will receive a 1,000-square-yard residential plot and a 200-square-yard commercial plot.

The government will undertake full infrastructure development on the returned plots, including the construction of roads, water supply, sewerage, street lighting, and public



Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann chairs Cabinet meeting

parks.

Until the final plots are ready and handed over, the landowners will receive annual compensation of Rs 30,000 per acre, for a maximum of three years.

Each landowner will receive an entitlement certificate detailing the plots they will get in return. The beneficiaries will also have the option to choose between two 500-square-yard plots or other configurations, based on policy guidelines. The returned plots, once developed, are expected to

structing a group housing society.

A consortium of farmers pooling 50 acres will collectively get 30 acres of developed land in return.

This model of proportionate return based on larger contributions aims to encourage cooperative participation among landowners while facilitating larger development projects.

## NO PRIVATE PLAYERS IN INITIAL HANDOVER

To address concerns around land exploitation

led to haphazard urban sprawl without basic civic amenities.

## BENEFITS FOR SMALL AND MARGINAL FARMERS

The policy has been rationalised to favour small and marginal landowners, who often suffer the most in urbanisation drives. By including them as direct beneficiaries, the government aims to distribute development benefits equitably.

Farmers will have the freedom to retain their

share of developed land or sell it in the open market. There will be no compulsion to sell it back to the government or any third party. This flexibility provides landowners with the ability to make decisions based on their own financial needs and aspirations.

## ASSOCIATED CABINET APPROVALS

In addition to the land pooling policy, the Cabinet also cleared several related measures aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of urban

to comply with the terms.

This move is aimed at clearing the backlog of non-compliant or stalled development projects that continue to occupy land without making a meaningful contribution to urban growth.

## 2. INCENTIVES FOR LUMP SUM PAYMENTS

To improve revenue generation and reduce payment defaults, the Cabinet approved an incentive scheme for plot allottees.

Until the final plots are ready and handed over, the landowners will receive annual compensation of Rs 30,000 per acre, for a maximum of three years.

## LICENSE FEES (LF)

These charges were last revised in May 2016, with an annual increment clause of 10% from April 1 each year. However, the annual increase was waived in previous years. With the latest decision, the revised rates have been implemented from April 1, 2020, reflecting a cumulative increase of around 77%.

Going forward, the charges will increase by 10% annually from April 1, 2026. The move aims to ensure that real estate promoters contribute adequately to the development of infrastructure and civic services.

## END OF ILLEGAL COLONISATION?

By integrating these multiple policy moves with the new Land Pooling Scheme, the Punjab government is aiming for a comprehensive approach to reform urban land management. The policy targets unregulated colonies that have mushroomed without proper roads, drainage, or power infrastructure.

A government spokesperson stated that a strict ban will be enforced on illegal colonies and unauthorised development. This will be accompanied by greater surveillance and coordination among local bodies and the state urban development department.

## FARMER-CENTRIC, YET STRUCTURALLY BALANCED

While the scheme is structured to favour the landowners, the policy also ensures that the resulting

urban spaces are not just profitable but also livable. By mandating complete infrastructure development before handing over plots to landowners, the government intends to avoid the emergence of poorly connected, half-developed residential areas.

Moreover, since the returned land comes with clear titles and basic services, the landowners stand to gain significantly whether they choose to live, rent, or sell.

Cabinet Minister Arora further stated that while the policy presents a viable model for participatory urban expansion, its success will depend on transparent implementation and timely completion of infrastructure development. Past attempts at similar schemes in other states have faltered due to delays, bureaucratic hurdles, and litigation.

Punjab's decision to make this a fully voluntary scheme with upfront written consent mechanisms marks a crucial shift from the often-criticised model of forced acquisition. The real test, however, will be in execution—ensuring that the benefits promised on paper reach the landowners without administrative delays or procedural ambiguity.

As urbanisation continues to expand, policies like this could define how states balance growth with social equity. If implemented efficiently, Punjab's land pooling policy may well offer a replicable framework for other states seeking to manage urban growth while safeguarding farmer interests.

## TDG EXPLAINER

be worth up to four times the current market value of the contributed land.

## PROVISIONS FOR LARGER LAND HOLDINGS

The policy also lays down incentives for those contributing larger tracts of land:

A farmer contributing nine acres of land will get back three acres of developed land, suitable for con-

struction by private developers, the government has clarified that the land will be handed over directly to the state and not to any private entity. Only after the necessary infrastructure is developed will the farmers receive their plots.

This step is designed to break the existing nexus of land sharks, illegal colonisers, and certain local officials, which has historically



Cabinet Minister of Renewable Energy Aman Arora giving details on Cabinet-approved Land Pooling Policy

development regulation in Punjab.

## 1. PARTIAL SURRENDER AND CANCELLATION OF LICENSES

The Cabinet approved a policy allowing for the partial surrender and conditional cancellation of licenses granted under the Punjab Apartment and Property Regulation Act (PAPRA), 1995. This also applies to approvals given for industrial parks. The new policy, notified earlier in March 2025, permits partial withdrawal of licensed land subject to specific conditions. It also provides for the suspension or cancellation of project licenses if they fail

Those who make a lump sum payment of 75% of the plot cost will be eligible for a 15% discount. This incentive applies to residential, commercial, and other properties allotted by the government.

The decision is expected to ease the financial burden on honest buyers while improving cash flow for government development agencies.

## 3. REVISION OF CHARGES FOR PROMOTERS

The Cabinet also approved a revision in real estate development charges:

External Development Charges (EDC)  
Change of Land Use (CLU) Charges



Cabinet meeting held at CM Bhagwant Singh Mann residence.



# US SERIOUSLY UNDERMINING TARIFF TRUCE, CHINA HITS BACK AT US MOVES

China claims US breached recent Geneva trade truce by imposing AI chip export controls guidelines, stopping sale of chip software

AGENCIES  
BEIJING

China on Monday hit back at the US, accusing it of seriously violating their recent Geneva trade truce by introducing multiple restrictive measures like AI chip export control guidelines, stopping the sale of chip design software to China and revoking visas for Chinese students.

The US has seriously undermined the consensus reached during the China-US economic and trade talks in Geneva by successively introducing multiple discriminatory restrictive measures against China, a spokesperson for the Commerce Ministry said in a statement, refuting President Donald Trump's allegation that China had "totally violated agreement with us".

The US measures included issuing guidance on AI chip export controls, halting sales of chip design software to China, and announcing the revocation of visas for Chinese students, the spokesperson said.

It is significant that China has clubbed the student visas with that of trade and tariff-related issues.

About 2.7 lakh Chinese students, the second largest



after India, studying in the US scrambled to work out their plans after US Secretary of State Marco Rubio announced on May 29 that America would begin revoking the visas of some Chinese students, including those studying in "critical fields" and "those with connections to the Chinese Communist Party."

These actions severely violated the consensus reached during a phone call between the two heads of state on Jan. 17 and gravely harmed China's legitimate rights and interests, the statement said.

The US has unilaterally and repeatedly provoked new economic and trade frictions, exacerbating uncertainty and instability in bilateral economic and trade relations, the spokesperson said.

Both the US and China agreed to lower tit-for-tat

tariffs after talks last month in Geneva. The truce is due to last 90 days to provide time for the top two economies to reach a broader substantive agreement to end their tariff war.

Trump imposed 145 per cent of tariffs against the Chinese exports of about USD 439.9 billion and China retaliated with 125 per cent on American exports of about USD 143 billion.

China also put restrictions on the exports of rare-earth minerals which are all critical materials for defence, new energy batteries, semiconductors and advanced manufacturing and Beijing has not lifted the curbs.

Under the Geneva agreement, the US lowered tariffs imposed on goods from China from 145 per cent to 30 per cent while China dropped its retaliatory tariffs from 125 per cent to 10 per cent.

China hits backs at US, says Washington seriously undermined tariff truce

Beijing, China on Monday hit back at the US, accusing it of seriously violating their recent Geneva trade truce by introducing multiple restrictive measures like AI chip export control guidelines, stopping the sale of chip design software to China and revoking visas for Chinese students.

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Muslims perform morning prayers in the Grand Mosque during the annual Hajj pilgrimage, Mecca, Saudi Arabia. Agencies

## An Israeli strike on Gaza kills 14 Palestinians

TDG NETWORK  
DEIR AL-BALAH, GAZA STRIP

An Israeli strike on a residential building in the Gaza Strip on Monday killed 14 people, mostly women and children, according to health officials.

The Shifa and al-Ahli hospitals confirmed the toll from the strike in the built-up Jabaliya refugee camp in northern Gaza, saying five women and seven children were among those killed.

The Israeli military did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Israel says it only targets militants and tries to avoid harming civilians. It blames civilian deaths on Hamas because the militant group is entrenched in populated areas. The Israel-Hamas war began when Palestinian militants stormed into Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, killing some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducting 251. Hamas is still holding 58 hostages, around



a third of them believed to be alive, after most of the rest were released in ceasefire agreements or other deals.

Israel's military campaign has killed over 54,000 Palestinians, mostly women and children, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which does not say how many of the dead were civilians or combatants.

The offensive has destroyed vast areas of Gaza and displaced around 90% of the population. Hamas has said it will only release the remaining hostages in

return for more Palestinian prisoners, a lasting ceasefire and an Israeli pullout.

Israel has vowed to continue the war until all the hostages are returned, and Hamas is defeated or disarmed and sent into exile. It has said it will maintain control of Gaza indefinitely and facilitate what it refers to as the voluntary emigration of much of its population.

Palestinians and most of the international community have rejected the resettlement plans, viewing them as forcible expulsion.

## Iran poised to dismiss US nuclear proposal, says country's diplomat

TDG NETWORK  
DUBAI

Iran is poised to reject a US proposal to end a decades-long nuclear dispute, an Iranian diplomat said on Monday, slamming it as a "non-starter" that fails to address Tehran's interests and leaves Washington's stance on uranium enrichment unchanged.

"Iran is drafting a negative response to the U.S. proposal, which could be interpreted as a rejection of the U.S. offer," the senior diplomat, who is close to Iran's negotiating team, told Reuters.

The U.S. proposal for a new nuclear deal was presented to Iran on Saturday by Oman's Foreign Minister Sayyid Badr Albusaidi, who was on a short visit to Tehran and has been mediating nuclear talks between Tehran and Washington.

But after five rounds of talks between Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi and President Donald Trump's Middle East envoy Steve Witkoff to resolve the nuclear standoff, many issues remain unresolved.

Among clashing red lines is Iran's rejection of a U.S. demand that Tehran commit to scrapping uranium enrichment, viewed as a potential pathway to developing nuclear bombs. Tehran says it wants to master nuclear technology



### Iran: US hasn't given clarity on sanctions relief in nuclear talks

**Dubai:** Iran's foreign ministry said on Monday it would have to see if there are changes in the U.S. position on sanctions, as the two countries negotiate a deal to resolve a decades-long dispute over Iran's nuclear ambitions.

"I regret to inform you that the American side has not yet been willing to clarify this issue," ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghaei said in a weekly press conference in Tehran. "It must be clear to us how the oppressive sanctions against the Iranian people will be lifted, to ensure that past experiences are not repeated", he added.

Oman's Foreign Minister Sayyid Badr Albusaidi, who has been mediating between Iran and the Trump administration, presented elements of a U.S. proposal for a nuclear deal between Tehran and Washington during a short visit to Tehran on Saturday. Iranian and U.S. delegations wrapped up a fifth round of talks in Rome last month and, while signs of some limited progress emerged, there are many points of disagreement that are hard to breach, notably the issue of Iran's uranium enrichment.

for peaceful purposes and has long denied accusations by Western powers that it is seeking to develop nuclear weapons. "In this proposal, the U.S. stance on enrichment on Iranian soil remains unchanged, and there is no clear explanation regarding the lifting of sanctions," said the dip-

lomat, who declined to be identified due to the sensitivity of the matter. Tehran demands the immediate removal of all U.S.-imposed curbs that impair its oil-based economy. But for the U.S., the removal of nuclear-related sanctions should be done in phases.

## Pakistan sends delegations to US, Russia post clash with India

TDG NETWORK  
ISLAMABAD

A high-level Pakistani delegation, comprising three former foreign ministers, is travelling to the US as part of Islamabad's global diplomatic push to seek support following its recent conflict with India.

The Pakistani team will be in the US around the same time an Indian parliamentary delegation led by Congress MP Shashi Tharoor is visiting the US to highlight India's policy of zero-tolerance to terrorism and expose Pakistan's support to terrorist groups.

On Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's directive, a high-level multi-party delegation will visit New York, Washington DC, London



and Brussels from June 2," the Foreign Office (FO) said on Monday.

The nine-member delegation is led by the Pakistan People's Party Chairman and former Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari.

The move comes after India sent seven multi-party delegations to 33 global capitals as part of its diplomatic outreach following the terrorist attack in Pahalgam that claimed 26 lives.

## South Korea presidential hopefuls make final pitch for today's poll

TDG NETWORK  
SEOUL

After six hours of emergency martial law, hundreds of days of protests, violence at a Seoul court and the eventual impeachment of President Yoon Suk-yeol, South Korea is now hours away from choosing a new leader in the hope of restoring stability to an unsettled nation.

From 6am to 8pm on Tuesday (21:00 to 11:00 GMT), South Koreans will vote for one of five presidential candidates in a race led largely by the opposition Democratic Party's Lee Jae-myung. He is followed in the polls by the governing People Power Party



candidate Kim Moon-soo.

The election - involving 44.39 million eligible voters - is expected to see either of these two top contenders replace Yoon. The expelled former president last week attended his fifth court hearing where he faces charges of leading an insurrection and abusing power due to his failed imposition of martial law on December 3. If

convicted, Yoon could face a maximum penalty of life in prison or even the death sentence.

Participation in the election is predicted to be at an all-time high amid the political turmoil resulting from the brief imposition of military rule, which still resonates in every corner of society and has sharply divided the country along political lines.

## Over a million Haj pilgrims gather in Mecca under scorching desert sun

TDG NETWORK  
MECCA

More than a million Muslim pilgrims poured into the holy city of Mecca ahead of the annual hajj, with authorities vowing to hold a safer pilgrimage amid searing desert heat and a massive crackdown on illegal visitors.

Officials have beefed up heat mitigation measures

hoping to avoid a repeat of last year's hajj, which saw 1,301 pilgrims die as temperatures reached 51.8 degrees Celsius (125.2 Fahrenheit).

Temperatures were forecast to exceed 40 degrees Celsius this week as one of the world's largest annual religious gatherings starts on Wednesday.

The hajj, one of the five pillars of Islam, must be per-

formed at least once by all Muslims with the means.

As of Friday, more than 1.3 million pilgrims had arrived in Saudi Arabia for the multi-day pilgrimage, according to officials.

This year, authorities have mobilised more than 40 government agencies and 250,000 officials, doubling their efforts against heat-related illness following the

lethal heatwave of 2024.

Shaded areas have been expanded by 50,000 square metres (12 acres), thousands more medics will be on standby, and more than 400 cooling units will be deployed, Saudi Arabia's hajj minister Tawfiq al-Rabiah told AFP last week.

On Monday, with temperatures topping 40 degrees Celsius, the health ministry

said 44 cases of heatstroke had already been treated.

The latest artificial intelligence technology will also help monitor the flood of data and footage, including video from a new fleet of drones, from across Mecca to better manage the mammoth crowds.

Despite the punishing heat, pilgrims were overjoyed as they arrived in Mecca.

"This is really a blessing from Allah," Abdul Majid Ati, a Filipino lawyer and Sharia counsellor, told AFP near the Grand Mosque.

"We feel so peaceful and safe in this place."

Abdulhamid, from Nigeria, said he was "very happy" to be performing his second pilgrimage in a row at just 27 years old. But the young man said he never walks out

without his sunglasses, describing the temperatures in Mecca as "very, very, very hot". The rites in the holy city and its surroundings, which follow a lunar calendar, fall again this year during the hot month of June.

Last year, most of the deaths were among unregistered pilgrims who lacked access to air-conditioned tents and buses. "They were

caught by surprise because the intensity of the heat was so high that their adaptation measures failed," said Fahad Saeed of Climate Analytics, a think tank based in Germany. In the run-up to this year's hajj, Saudi authorities launched a widespread crackdown on unregistered worshippers, using frequent raids, drone surveillance and a barrage of text alerts.



## REKHA-STARRER 'UMRAO JAAN' TO RE-RELEASE

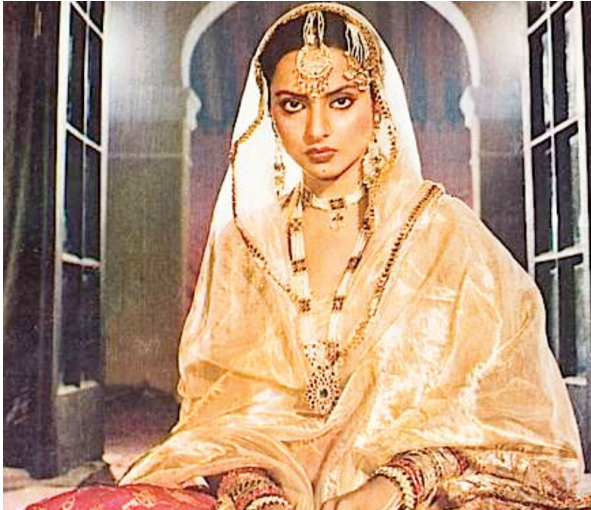
TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

"Umrao Jaan", the cult classic 1981 film starring Rekha in the lead role, is set to re-release across PVR INOX theatres in a restored 4K version on June 27.

Rekha essayed the role of Amiran, a courtesan-poetess in the film, which was directed by Muzaffar Ali. The period musical drama also earned the actor a National Award for 'Best Actress' in 1982.

The film has been restored by NFDC-NFAI. It will be screened as a part of PVR INOX's 'Timeless Classics' initiative, which curates landmark films that have shaped Indian cinema's artistic legacy, according to a press release.

"Umrao Jaan" is not just a film I acted in, she lives within me, breathes through



me, even now," she said in a statement.

"At the time, none of us could have imagined the timelessness of the film, the way it would gently etch itself into the soul of Indian cinema. To see it return to the big screen is like watching an old love letter being opened by a

new generation. My heart is full," she added.

Ali said he is "thrilled" about the film re-releasing in theatres again.

"Umrao Jaan" was not just a film, it was a journey into the soul of a lost culture, a forgotten tehzeeb. Through her pain, poetry, and grace, we tried to res-

urrect the elegance of an era where love and longing spoke in verse.

"I had actors who brought a lot of heft to their characters, and then there was Rekha, who lived Umrao Jaan and truly immortalised it. I am thrilled that the film is back on the big screen for a whole new generation to discover a time and culture that is very much a part of our being," he said.

"Umrao Jaan" revolved around Rekha's character, a young woman who gets kidnapped and sold into a brothel where she becomes a courtesan named Umrao Jaan. It is based on Mirza Hadi Ruswa's 1899 Urdu novel "Umrao Jaan Ada".

The film is also remembered for its iconic songs such as "Dil Cheez Kya Hai", "In Aankhon Ki Masti", and "Justuju Jiski Thi".



Priyanka Chopra poses for her social media. (Instagram)

## Ananya joins 'Tu Meri Main Tera, Main Tera Tu Meri'

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

Actor Ananya Panday is the female lead of the upcoming Kartik Aaryan-starrer "Tu Meri Main Tera, Main Tera Tu Meri", the makers announced on Monday.

Directed by Sameer Vidwans, the film is produced by Karan Johar's Dharmaproductions. It is slated to release in theatres on February 13, 2026.

Johar shared the news on his Instagram handle. He uploaded a post featuring both actors..

"Signed, sealed and delivering hamaare Ray ki Rumi. #TuMeriMainTer-



aMainTeraTuMeri - in cinemas next Valentine's: 13th Feb., 2026," read the caption.

"Tu Meri Main Tera,

Main Tera Tu Meri" reunites Aaryan and Panday, who have previously worked in "Pati Patni Aur Woh".

Released in 2019, the romantic comedy also featured Bhumi Pednekar and was directed by Muddassar Aziz.

## Kamal Haasan pens heartfelt birthday message to Mani Ratnam

TDG NETWORK  
CHENNAI

Veteran actor and filmmaker Kamal Haasan marked director Mani Ratnam's birthday with an emotional message that celebrated their decades-long cinematic partnership.

The note, shared publicly, struck a deeply personal tone, reflecting on their journey from the iconic Nayakan to their much-anticipated upcoming film Thug Life.

"Happy Birthday, Mani Ratnam," Haasan wrote, adding, "From Nayakan to Thug Life, we've journeyed through time together -- as colleagues, family, co-dreamers, and above all, as lifelong students of cinema," he wrote on X.

He went on to praise Ratnam not only for his creative brilliance but for being a guiding presence throughout the years.

"Through every chapter, your presence has been a source of strength -- a mind I turn to in moments of doubt, and a soul deeply attuned to the language of film like few others. May your stories keep unfolding, for



*The film not only became a critical and commercial success but was also India's official entry to the Academy Awards that year.*

with every frame, your vision brings depth, beauty, and meaning to cinema," he wrote, signing off with, "Forever your friend, Kamal Haasan."

Kamal Haasan and Mani Ratnam share one of the most revered collaborations in Indian cinema.

Their first and most cel-

ebrated partnership came in 1987 with Nayakan, a Tamil crime drama loosely inspired by the life of underworld don Varadarajan Mudaliar.

The film not only became a critical and commercial success but was also India's official entry to the Academy Awards that year.

## Eiza Gonzalez calls Timothée and Kylie 'cute'

AGENCIES  
WASHINGTON

Actress and singer Eiza Gonzalez shared her thoughts on ex, Timothée Chalamet's relationship with Kylie Jenner.

She liked a photo of the couple on social media, and recently Gonzalez confirmed that she pressed "like" on the snapshot, which appeared to be of the pair at the 70th David Di Donatello Awards earlier this month, reported People.

"They look so cute together," said Gonzalez, adding, "They look so in love and so



cute, and I'm obsessed with them, and I love Timmy." Gonzalez, previously

linked to the 29-year-old Dune actor in 2020, said she considers him "the most tal-

ented, sweetest boy."

"And I'm so proud to see him thriving and doing great in his career," she added. "We're just good friends. I have nothing but amazing things to say about him."

Chalamet and Gonzalez were first spotted together on a getaway in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico, in June 2020. A source said the pair flew there with friends and "looked happy together," reported People.

Another insider later shared that the two actors had been "talking on and off," and by October 2020,

it was reported that the pair had parted ways.

As for Chalamet and Jenner, 27, the couple was first romantically linked in April 2023. They were later spotted kissing at Beyonce's Renaissance World Tour in September of that year, according to People.

The actor and the Kylie Cosmetics founder made their red carpet debut at the 70th David Di Donatello Awards in May after attending several other events together in the months leading up to the ceremony, reported People.

## Ishaan Khatter lights up Miss World 2025 stage

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

Actor Ishaan Khatter stole the spotlight at the Miss World 2025 ceremony in Hyderabad. He delivered a power-packed performance that had the audience cheering. His moonwalk and energetic steps drew loud applause from the crowd. Soon after the event, several clips of Ishaan dancing surfaced online. Fans shared videos of him grooving to Bruno Mars' 'Uptown Funk', BTS' 'Mic Drop', and Zingaat from Dhadak. His stage presence and confidence stood out.

Social media users flooded the internet with praise. One fan wrote, "We couldn't have this feeling sink in as it all seemed so unreal... Forever

grateful to have a day like this in life." Another added, "Crazy Energyyy."

Ishaan's dance to BTS' 'Mic Drop' thrilled the K-pop fanbase. One BTS Army member wrote, "@ishaankhatter sir this was unexpected but thank you. PS: I know the choreo is changed but appreciate the fact he tried it and IDK about anyone else but I got so excited seeing this."



Another user shared, "As a Kpop fan... this is a crossover I never expected." Someone even suggested, "Ngl he should definitely do a dance collab with BTS." While Ishaan's performance added sparkle to the event, the night also marked the crowning of Thailand's Opal Suchata Chuangsri as Miss World 2025. She had earlier won the Miss World Thailand 2025 title on April 22 and had also placed as third runner-up at Miss Universe 2024. Miss India Nandini Gupta could not reach the finals. However, the event remained a grand celebration of talent, culture, and purpose. The glamorous night was hosted by Miss World 2016 Stephanie del Valle and Indian presenter Sachin Kumbhar.

## 'Manifest', 'Gotham' actor Devin Harjes passes away at 41

AGENCIES  
WASHINGTON DC

American TV actor Devin Harjes best known for his roles in 'Boardwalk Empire', 'Daredevil' and 'Gotham', passed away at the age of 41 years, reported People.

Harjes passed away on May 27, as confirmed by his obituary posted on his website.



As per People, the actor died after complications from cancer at Mount Sinai West Hospital in New York City. He was diagnosed with cancer last winter.

The actor played boxing legend Jack Dempsey across two episodes of 'Boardwalk Empire' Season 2.

He also had a nine-episode arch on the Netflix popular sci-fi drama 'Man-

ifest' where he played Pete Baylor, a member of a drug posse known as the Meth Heads.

In 'Daredevil,' the actor played Oscar, a Rikers Island Nurse. Whereas in 'Gotham,' Harjes played a bank guard named Clyde.

His other TV credits include 'Blue Bloods,' 'Orange Is the New Black,' 'Elementary' and 'FBI.'

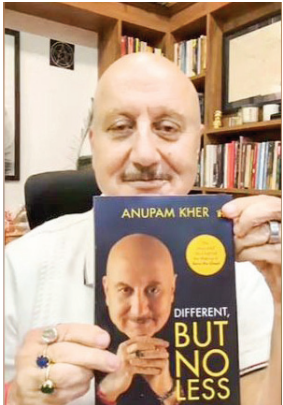
## Anupam Kher announces fourth book 'Different But No Less'

TDG NETWORK  
MUMBAI

Veteran actor and motivational speaker Anupam Kher has announced his fourth book titled 'Different But No Less.'

Best known for his inspiring journey both on and off screen, Kher took to his Instagram to share the news. The actor posted a video, calling the book "very special." The book is based on his real-life experiences.

The actor, who has ear-



lier penned 'The Best Thing About You Is You,' 'Lessons

Life Taught Me Unknowingly,' and 'Your Best Day Is Today,' described Different But No Less as another self-help and motivational book.

"My motivational books come from my own experiences of life...What my life experiences teach me is what I put in a book," read a part of his caption.

The book shares the story behind his upcoming film Tanvi The Great, and how he faced several challenges while making it. "This book is not about storms..







NORWAY CHESS

WORLD CHAMPION GUKESH STUNS FORMER NO. 1 MAGNUS CARLSEN

AGENCIES  
STAVANGER

World Champion Dommaraju Gukesh pulled off a stunning victory against former World No. 1 Magnus Carlsen in Round 6 of the ongoing Norway Chess 2025 tournament, turning the game around from a losing position on Sunday.

This marked Gukesh's first-ever classical win over the Norwegian grandmaster. The 19-year-old also became the second Indian player to beat Carlsen in the history of the competition after Rameshbabu Pragganandhaa.

Carlsen had an upper hand over Gukesh for most of the time in the match, but in the end, he couldn't control his nerves, and the teenager turned the tables around and went on to win the match.

With this win, D Gukesh jumped to third



Prime Minister Narendra Modi tweets this picture on his X account, congratulating World Champion D Gukesh victory against former World No. 1 Magnus Carlsen in Round 6 of Norway Chess, on Sunday. (ANI Photo)

Earlier on May 27, the marquee clash of Round One at Norway Chess 2025 lived up to expectations as Magnus Carlsen launched a classic king hunt to defeat reigning World Champion D Gukesh in a thrilling encounter.

spot in the Norway Chess 2025 points table with 8.5 points, and now he is just one point behind Carlsen and American Fabiano Caruana.

Earlier on May 27, the marquee clash of Round One at Norway Chess 2025 lived up to expectations as Magnus Carlsen launched a classic king hunt to defeat reigning World Champion D Gukesh in a thrilling encounter. This was their first classical match since Gukesh won the world title, and it also marked Carlsen's return to individual classical chess after nearly a year.

Reacting to the upset victory, Gukesh's coach, Grandmaster Vishnu

Prasanna, praised the teenager's resilience and fighting spirit.

"We have to give a lot of credit to Gukesh for his stubbornness and for his resourcefulness because I think he was aware that he was dead lost for so long, yet he kept kicking, he kept kicking, and the time went lower, the more chances he had to actually do something with the position. I don't think his intention was to win that, but yeah, I'm sure he is happy," Vishnu Prasanna said.

The win has added further excitement to the tournament, with the race for the top spot tightening as it enters its final rounds.



In this image via Norway Chess, World Chess Champion D Gukesh and former world chess champion Magnus Carlsen during their match at Round 6 of Norway Chess 2025 tournament, in Stavanger, Norway.

CARLSEN'S FRUSTRATION ON FULL DISPLAY

The dramatic scene took place during the Norway Chess 2025 tournament. After making a late error that cost him the game, Carlsen reacted with frustration. He struck the table, causing the chess pieces to scatter—a rare emotional display from the usually composed Norwegian. His reaction left fans and commentators stunned. The clip of his outburst quickly spread across social media platforms, capturing widespread attention.

A SHOCKING FINISH WITH SPORTSMANSHIP INTACT

Carlsen had earlier defeated Gukesh in the opening round and seemed poised to do it again, which would have strengthened his lead with another three points.

But after his costly mistake, he extended his hand in resignation. Gukesh, still in disbelief, shook it, stood up slowly, and walked away looking dazed. Despite the high emotions, Carlsen patted Gukesh on the back—a gesture that showed respect and sportsmanship in the face of a dramatic loss.

Chess fans and analysts have called it the "turn-around of the year." Gukesh turned the tide in a game that lasted over four hours and ended in 62 intense moves. He capitalized on Carlsen's late slip to seal a stunning win. The young grandmaster's emotional reaction—marked by quiet disbelief and wide-eyed awe—struck a chord with fans across the globe. Many praised not just his performance but the deeply human response to a defining moment.

CLIMBING THE LEAD-

ERBOARD AFTER ROUGH START

Gukesh's victory was more than just a single-game win. It also marked a strong comeback in the tournament after a difficult beginning. He had lost to Carlsen in the first round, leading many to question his form. But this victory has pushed him to third place in the standings with 8.5 points—just one point behind leaders Carlsen and Fabiano Caruana.

As Norway Chess 2025 continues, Gukesh's incredible win and his heartfelt reaction may go down as one of the event's most iconic moments. It was a night that reminded fans of the unpredictability of chess and the raw emotions that can follow a game-changing victory.

Earlier on May 27, the marquee clash of Round One at Norway Chess 2025

lived up to expectations as Carlsen launched a classic king hunt to defeat reigning World Champion D Gukesh in a thrilling encounter. This was their first classical match since Gukesh won the world title, and it also marked Carlsen's return to individual classical chess after nearly a year. Reacting to the upset victory, Gukesh's coach, Grandmaster Vishnu Prasanna, praised the teenager's resilience and fighting spirit. "We have to give a lot of credit to Gukesh for his stubbornness and his resourcefulness because I think he was aware that he was dead lost for so long, yet he kept kicking, he kept kicking, and the time went lower, the more chances he had to actually do something with the position. I do not think he intended to win that, but I am sure he is happy," Vishnu Prasanna said.

Satwik-Chirag lead charge as Indian shuttlers eye glory in Indonesia

AGENCIES  
JAKARTA

Former champions Satwik-sairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty will look to keep their comeback story on track as they spearhead India's challenge at the USD 1,450,000 Indonesia Open Super 1000 badminton tournament, beginning here on Tuesday.

The former world No. 1 pair, who returned to action after regaining fitness with a creditable semifinal finish at the Singapore Open last week, will be eager to go the distance this week and reclaim the trophy they won in 2023.

Currently ranked 27th, Satwik and Chirag are expected to inch closer to the top 20 following their exploits in Singapore. They will open their campaign against the Indonesian duo of Leo Rolly Carnando and Bagas



Maulana at Istora Senayan arena, the spiritual home of badminton.

The conditions at Istora suit the Indians and a win could set up a potential clash with their nemesis, Malaysia's Aaron Chia and Soh Wooi Yik, who ended their run last week and enjoy a dominant record against the Indian duo. The two had missed last few weeks of action due to Satwik's health issues and Chirag's lingering back injury, which took time to heal.

However, the star pair displayed their trademark brilliance last week when they outclassed the world No. 1

Malaysian duo of Goh Zhe Fei and Nur Izzuddin with a tactical masterclass en route to the semifinals.

Two-time Olympic medalist P V Sindhu will also aim for a deep run following a string of underwhelming performances this year.

The 29-year-old suffered a hamstring injury during training in Guwahati in February, which ruled her out of the Asia Team Championships. Since returning, she has lost matches to players such as Thuy Linh Nguyen, Putri Kusuma Wardani, and Kim Ga Eun to make early exits from tournaments.

French Open: Elina Svitolina beats 2024 runner-up Jasmine Paolini

AGENCIES  
PARIS

Elina Svitolina saved three match points and came back to eliminate 2024 runner-up Jasmine Paolini 4-6, 7-6 (6), 6-1 on Sunday, earning her fifth French Open quarterfinal appearance.

The 13th-seeded Svitolina, who is from Ukraine, is a three-time Grand Slam semifinalist — getting that far twice at Wimbledon and once at the U.S. Open — but is 0-4 so far in the quarterfinals at Roland-Garros.

"Last few months have been really, really tough for the Ukrainian people, and last few weeks have been awful, as well," Svitolina said. "It's something that all Ukrainians live on a daily basis with — with the bad news. So when I'm on the court, I'm fully focused on my job, on my tennis, and try to get these wins,



try to keep Ukrainian flag flying for my country.

"That's what motivates me to keep pushing, to keep winning, to keep playing tennis, in general."

She'll try to go a step further Tuesday, when she will face three-time defending champion Iga Swiatek, who trailed by a set and a break before defeating 2022 Wimbledon champion Elina Rybakina 1-6, 6-3, 7-5 at Court Philippe-Chatrier.

The other quarterfinal on the top half of the women's bracket will be No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka against No. 8 Zheng Qinwen.

Rajeev Shukla likely to become BCCI acting president

AGENCIES  
MUMBAI

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) Vice President Rajeev Shukla is likely to become the acting president of the board in July after the current president Roger Binny, touches the age of 70 on July 19 this year, as per sources.

65-year-old Shukla will first get the acting president role for three months. With the Annual General Meeting (AGM) in September, the month he would turn

66, he could stand for the post of full-time president in the elections, added the sources.

Roger was elected as the 36th president of BCCI in October 2022, replacing ex-Indian skipper Sourav Ganguly, who completed his three-year tenure.

Notably, Binny was the only candidate to have filed a nomination for the top post. During his presidency, India won two white-ball titles, the ICC T20 World Cup 2024 and the ICC Champions Trophy 2025.

IPL 2025: Punjab vs Bangalore — search for a new champion begins today!

SUNIL YASH KALRA  
NEW DELHI

In the IPL 2025 final today at Ahmedabad's Narendra Modi Stadium, two teams will face off that have never won this prestigious trophy before. Punjab Kings and Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) not only battle for their maiden IPL title but also promise cricket fans an exciting and high-octane contest. This season, Punjab Kings have been one of the best with a batting run rate of 10.14, the second highest

overall, and an explosive death-over batting rate of 13.31 runs per over — the fastest in the tournament. On the other hand, RCB boasts a net run rate of 0.42 and a bowling economy of 9.29, ranking them fourth in the tournament. RCB has reached the final three times before (2009, 2011, 2016), but the trophy has always slipped through their fingers. Punjab Kings have only made it to the final once before, in 2014, when they lost to Kolkata Knight Riders. This time, both teams

are set to claim the IPL crown for the first time.

Cricket Predicta powered by 1XBAT Expert Noel David Weighs In "No one has led three different franchises to the IPL final like Punjab Kings captain Shreyas Iyer," said former Indian cricketer Noel David. "He played finals with Delhi Capitals in 2020, Kolkata Knight Riders in 2024, and now with Punjab Kings in 2025. His leadership has been a key factor behind Punjab's success this season."



Punjab Kings' co-owner Preity Zinta congratulates team opener Priyansh Arya on the team's victory against Mumbai Indians in the Qualifier 2 match of the Indian Premier League, 2025, at Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad on Sunday. (ANI Photo)

PBKS dramatic comeback

- After 11 years without playoff qualification, PBKS has made a dramatic comeback
- Surya became the first-ever non-opener to score 700 runs in a single IPL season, achieving the feat with a boundary off Kyle Jamieson.
- Iyer smashed an unbeaten 87 off 41 balls, leading PBKS to their first IPL final since 2014.
- With this, Iyer becomes the first captain to take three different teams (DC, KKR, PBKS) to the IPL final.
- Chasing a steep 204-run target, PBKS sealed the win in 19 overs, thanks to Iyer's calm leadership and clean hitting.
- Key partnerships: Iyer-Wadhwa's 84-run stand and Inglis's explosive 38 off 21.
- A moment from the game went viral when Nita Ambani was seen visibly disappointed next to her son Akash Ambani after a massive six by Iyer.