



2 UP CM HIGHLIGHTS FARMER-CENTRIC INITIATIVES AT KISAN SAMMAN CEREMONY



9 SCIENCE IN ANCIENT INDIA: FOUNDATIONS OF KNOWLEDGE AND INNOVATION



16 INDIA WIN FIVE GOLD ON DAY 2 TO DOMINATE TAIWAN OPEN ATHLETICS

FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF 3RD TERM

PM MODI AS SECURE AND CONFIDENT AT HELM AS EVER

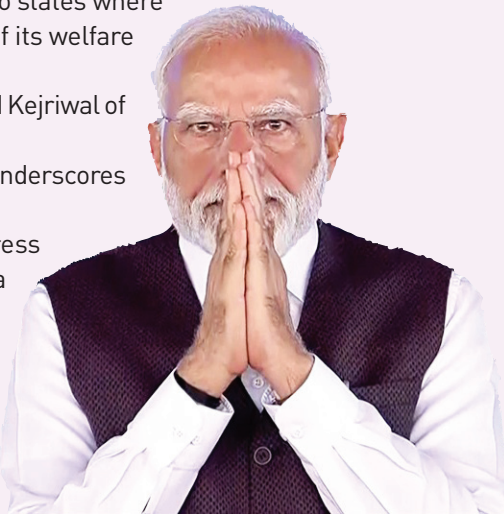
■ Allies TDP, JD(U) and LJP (RV) have turned out to be strong pillars of support outdoing each other in lauding the PM Modi's leadership

AGENCIES NEW DELHI

As the Modi government marks its first anniversary in the third term and 11th overall on Monday, the Prime Minister looks as secure and sounds as confident at the helm as ever, while his two allies have not turned out to be unreliable crutches, as the opposition hoped, but strong pillars of support outdoing each other in lauding his leadership. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi sounded upbeat on the back of the BJP's unexpected loss of majority in the Lok Sabha polls. But the BJP turned back to the drawing board to

GOING STRONG

- The BJP turned the tide in Haryana and Maharashtra, two states where it suffered reverses in the Lok Sabha polls, on the back of its welfare measures.
- Wrested Delhi after 26 years, eclipsing its adversary Arvind Kejriwal of the Aam Aadmi Party on his home turf
- The decision to roll out caste enumeration in the census underscores the BJP's strength in coopting politically resonant issues
- Opposition is back to its disjointed self, with the Congress searching for an elusive and emphatic state poll win in a state..
- BJP rivals like West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee-led TMC and Kejriwal have drifted away from the Congress.
- India The likes of Shiv Sena (UBT) and NCP (SP) stare at an uncertain future.



recraft its political and governance outreach and regained momentum by

notching up surprisingly big wins in a string of assembly polls, the burst

of fresh optimism in the main opposition Congress and other I.N.D.I.A bloc

parties fizzled out. If the BJP turned the

Chirag Paswan confirms contesting Bihar polls

AGENCIES ARRAH (BIHAR)

Union Minister and Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) president Chirag Paswan announced on Sunday that he will contest the upcoming Bihar Assembly polls. Speaking at a public gathering in Arrah, Paswan declared that his party would support the NDA in all 243 assembly seats to ensure its victory. "For those who ask from where I will contest, I want to tell you that my party, Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas),



and I will contest on 243 seats to make NDA candidates win and strengthen the NDA alliance. My goal is that the NDA moves towards victory," said Chirag. The announcement was made in Arrah, a traditionally weak region for JD(U). Chirag Paswan said he



Devotees gather outside the sacred Badrinath Temple, that is adorned with vibrant colors, in Chamoli on Sunday. ANI

NDA will form govt in TN, Bengal: Shah

AGENCIES MADURAI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday asserted that the NDA would form governments in Tamil Nadu and West Bengal and targeted the DMK regime by firing fresh "corruption" salvos, including the Rs 4,600 crore sand mining scam. Addressing party office bearers, he hailed Madurai as a city of 'Parivartan' and said his party's Karyakarta

Sammelan (Workers conference) in the temple city would lead to change; of dislodging the DMK from power. Chief Minister MK Stalin claimed that Shah cannot defeat the DMK and he is correct in a sense, he said, adding, "It is not Shah who will defeat the DMK, it is the people of Tamil Nadu who will bring about that change." Shah said he has participated in elections across the

country and understands the pulse of the people, and he is fully confident that the people of Tamil Nadu will uproot the DMK government this time. The DMK's corrupt rule has affected the poor, women and children in Tamil Nadu, Shah alleged, and urged his party members to resolve to dislodge the Stalin-led Dravidian party government from the seat of power.

Truck rams into Tejashwi's convoy

AGENCIES VAISHALI (BIHAR)

RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav escaped unhurt as a speeding truck hit two vehicles of his convoy, injuring three security personnel in Bihar's Vaishali district early on Saturday, police said. The vehicle of the leader of the opposition in the Bihar assembly was not hit by the truck, a senior officer said.



The accident took place around 12.30 am when Yadav's convoy had stopped for a tea break on the Patna-Muzaffarpur National Highway near Goraul, he

Fake cardiologist performs over 50 surgeries in Faridabad

NEERAJ MOHAN CHANDIGARH

In a shocking case of medical fraud, a man with only an MBBS degree allegedly posed as a heart specialist and performed over 50 heart surgeries in just eight months at Badshah Khan Civil Hospital in Faridabad. The police have identified the accused as Pankaj Mohan Sharma. The investiga-

tors claimed that Sharma reportedly secured the job at the hospital's heart care centre—operated under a public-private partnership with Mediterina Hospital—by impersonating a real heart specialist, Dr. Pankaj Mohan. He used the doctor's name and medical licence number, and also submitted forged documents and stamps claiming he held a

DNB in cardiology. The matter came to light when Sanjay Gupta, a lawyer and social activist, filed a complaint at the NIT Faridabad police station. Based on information from reliable sources, Gupta claimed that Pankaj Mohan Sharma had faked documents to get extra medical degrees. During the initial investigation, police found

TDG NETWORK CHANDIGARH

In a shocking incident, a man has allegedly killed his daughter and son before attempting to take his own life in Dhanana village in Haryana's Bhiwani district, the police said on Sunday. As per the police the incident took place on Sunday morning at the residence of the victim. The deceased were identified as Basant Kumar (17) and

Arushi (16) both Class 12 students. The incident has deeply shaken the locals. According to information, the accused Subhash gave his children sleeping pills and then he strangled both of them to death. After the killings, Subhash consumed a poisonous substance himself. As soon as the neighbours became aware of the situation, all three were rushed to the hospital with the

Fadnavis rubbishes Rahul's charge of 'rigging' Maha polls

TDG NETWORK MUMBAI

Maharashtra chief minister Devendra Fadnavis on Sunday launched a scathing attack on Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's allegations against the Election Commission of India (ECI), accusing him of consistently misunderstanding the country's mood and misplacing blame. Speaking to mediapersons in Hindi, Fadnavis said, "Tum Rahul Gandhi aap yahi galti karte rahe, dhool chehre pe thi aur aap aina saaf karte rahe" ("Throughout your life, Rahul Gandhi, you have always made the same mistake; the dust was on your face, but you kept cleaning the mirror"). In his article published in the Indian Express and Marathi daily LokSatta, Fadnavis said the leader of opposition in the Lok Sabha



“Throughout your life, Rahul Gandhi, you have always made the same mistake; the dust was on your face, but you kept cleaning the mirror.”

is preparing his excuses for future defeats in the upcoming assembly elections, including Bihar. In a post on X, Gandhi outlined the alleged electoral irregularities in a stepwise manner — fake voters are added, voter turnout is inflated, bogus voting is facilitated, and evidence is subsequently hidden. The Election Commission rejected the charge, saying defaming the poll panel after an unfavourable verdict is absolutely absurd. Fadnavis in his article said the Congress leader has been constantly "insulting" the democratic process and the people's mandate. "The people have rejected Rahul Gandhi, and in retaliation, he is rejecting the people and their mandate," the BJP leader charged. "It would be more prudent

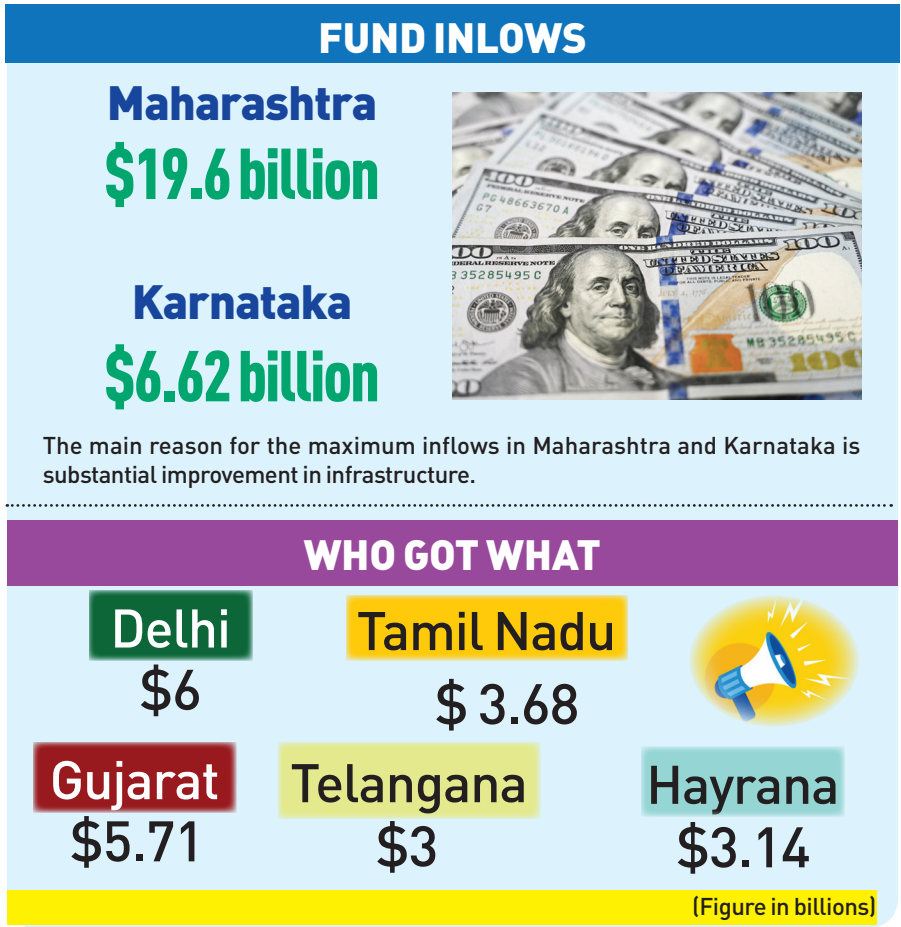
Maha, K'taka account for 51% of FDI in FY2025

AGENCIES NEW DELHI

Maharashtra and Karnataka accounted for 51 per cent of the foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows into the country during

the financial year 2024-25, according to the latest data of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT). Maharashtra attracted maximum foreign inflows at USD 19.6 billion and

accounted for 31 per cent of the country's total FDI during April-March 2024-25. Karnataka received USD 6.62 billion overseas investments during the



'Grief-stricken' at wife's death, man kills son, daughter



help of local residents. Doctors declared both children dead. Bhiwani

Sadar police took possession of the bodies and sent them for post-mortem examination. Subhash's condition is currently reported to be stable. While being treated in the hospital, Subhash told police that he was deeply distressed by the death of his wife. She had died on May 8 after consuming poison. Subhash alleged that his mother and other relatives harassed his wife, which led her to die

by suicide. He claimed he had filed a complaint with the police regarding this, but no action was taken. The grief and anger, he said, drove him to commit this horrific act. Subhash told police that ever since his wife's death, he had been planning to end his life. "Initially, I had only planned to kill myself," he said, "but then I began to wonder what would happen to my children after me.

UP CM HIGHLIGHTS FARMER-CENTRIC INITIATIVES AT KISAN SAMMAN CEREMONY

The government’s efforts have shown positive results, with PM Kisan Samman Nidhi emerging as the world’s largest direct benefit transfer scheme.

TDG NETWORK
AURAIYA

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Sunday addressed the Kisan Samman Samaroh in Auraiya, highlighting the government’s efforts to support farmers.

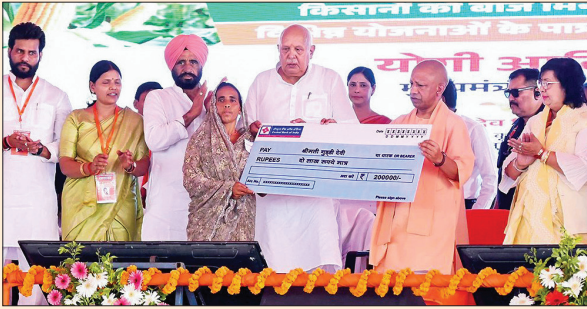
He emphasised that farmers have become a crucial part of the government’s political agenda since 2014 thanks to Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s initiatives. Adityanath did an aerial survey of the maize crop on his way from Lucknow to Auraiya.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, while addressing the Kisan Samman Samaroh, said, “You must have seen for the first time in 2014 that the farmer who provides food can also become a part of the political agenda of a government, when PM Modi started the Soil Health Card Scheme”.

He highlighted various initiatives of the central government to secure farmers’ future - Soil Health Card Scheme; Prime Minister’s Agricultural Irrigation

THE INCLUSION

- Farmers are now a key part of the political agenda since 2014.
- Soil Health Card Scheme launched by PM Modi in 2014.
- 12 crore farmers benefit from PM-KISAN.
- Over Rs 3.25 lakh crore transferred to farmers’ accounts.
- Called PM-KISAN world’s largest DBT scheme.
- Focus on irrigation development and farmer support.



UP govt to soon announce MSP for maize

AURAIYA : Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Sunday said the state will soon open procurement centres for maize and declare Minimum Support Price (MSP) for the crop. Addressing a

gathering under the ‘Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan’ here, the chief minister accused the previous central and state governments of ignoring farmers’ welfare.

For the first time in independent India, farmers

became part of the central government’s political agenda in 2014 when Narendra Modi assumed office as prime minister and several innovative schemes were introduced for their welfare, he noted.

Minister’s Agricultural Insurance Scheme were implemented and the Prime Minister’s Kisan Samman Nidhi Scheme was implemented,” said the UP CM.

Scheme; Prime Minister’s Agricultural Insurance Scheme against crop failures and Prime Minister’s Kisan Samman Nidhi Scheme, 12 crore farmers nationwide

benefit from this scheme, receiving financial support. “After the Soil Health Card, the Prime Minister’s Agricultural Irrigation Scheme and then the Prime

Meitei leaders’ arrest protests continue in Manipur defying prohibitory orders

TDG NETWORK
IMPHAL

Protests over the arrests of Meitei outfit leaders continued in Manipur on Sunday even as the administration imposed prohibitory orders and suspended internet services in five Imphal valley districts, officials said.

Protesters burnt tyres on roads at Uripok and Koirengi in Imphal West district and Khurai in Imphal East, defying the prohibitory orders, they said.

At Koirengi, demonstrators dug up the road and made heaps of soil on the thoroughfares to prevent the movement of security forces.

Similar agitations were also staged in Jiribam district, neighbouring Assam.

Prohibitory orders have been clamped in Imphal West, Imphal East, Thoubal, Bishnupur and Kakching districts, while internet and mobile data services, including VSAT and VPN facilities, have been suspended in these valley areas since Saturday night after violent protests erupted over the arrests of leaders of the Meitei outfit Arambai Tenggol. Manipur Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla on Sunday held a security review meeting with senior officials in the wake of the demonstrations across the state. A Raj Bhavan statement said the governor also met a delegation of MLAs who apprised Bhalla of

the current law and order situation in the northeastern state. “Today, a group of MLAs called on Governor of Manipur, Ajay Kumar Bhalla, at Raj Bhavan during which the MLAs



apprised the governor of the current law and order situation in the state and requested his intervention to help find an amicable solution,” the Raj Bhavan statement said. The governor told the delegation that all “necessary steps are being taken to address the concerns and to restore normalcy,” it said.

The delegation of at least 20 legislators comprised those of the BJP and the Congress. After the meeting with the governor, one of the MLAs said that altogether five people were arrested in connection with earlier incidents of violence, which triggered widespread protests in the northeastern state since Saturday. Among the five arrested people, one was apprehended by the CBI, said BJP legislator K Ibomcha, who was part of the delegation. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)

said it has arrested a member of Arambai Tenggol at Imphal Airport on Sunday for his alleged involvement in various criminal activities related to Manipur violence in 2023, while the po-

lice did not disclose details of the four others.

He has been brought from Imphal to Guwahati and would be produced before the competent court for police remand, a CBI statement said.

Ibomcha, the Lamlai constituency legislator, said, “During the meeting, we were informed that five people were arrested, and of them, one Kanan Singh, was arrested by the CBI in connection with a case. We appreciate the roles the Arambai Tenggol have taken during the recent flood.”

On Saturday, protesters torched tyres and old furniture on roads in Kwakeithel and Uripok, demanding the release of the Meitei leaders. They clashed with security forces at different places in the state capital on June 7 night. A mob also set a bus on fire at Khurai Lamlong in Imphal East district.

Odisha is becoming diversified industrial powerhouse: CM Mohan Charan Majhi

TDG NETWORK
BHUBANESWAR

Odisha is no longer the minerals hub of India, it is becoming a diversified industrial powerhouse, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi said on Sunday.

Majhi made the statement while interacting with industrialists at the Lok Seva Bhavan, ahead of the first anniversary of his government.

“Odisha is no longer just a minerals and metals hub. We are becoming a diversified industrial powerhouse, where opportunity flows from port to plant and from cities to every aspirational district,” he said.

The state is growing across 20 sectors -- from mining, metallurgy and metal downstream to emerging opportunities in chemicals, food processing, apparel and textiles, he said.

Majhi spoke about the measures his government has taken to help industries.

“One year ago, the people of Odisha placed their faith in us to build a future that is inclusive, aspirational, and transformative. Today, as we reflect on this first year, we do so with pride, in our progress and renewed commitment to the journey ahead,” he said.

Maintaining that his government was focused on



Majhi made the statement while interacting with industrialists at the Lok Seva Bhavan, ahead of the first anniversary of his government. ANI

job creation, he urged the industrialists to join the

four to five hours by road or seven hours by train.

As per the official sources the flight schedule, released by Alliance Air, outlines departures from Chandigarh’s Shaheed Bhagat Singh International Airport at 3:20 PM, arriving at Hisar’s Maharaja Agrasen Airport by 4:30 PM. The return flight will leave Hisar at 4:55 PM, landing in Chandigarh at 5:55 PM, operating every Monday and Friday. With an introductory one-way fare ranging from Rs 1449 to

Rs 1704, the service aims to make air travel accessible to a broader population, aligning with Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s vision of affordable air travel for all.

“This new service is a game-changer for Haryana,” said CM Saini, emphasizing the economic and social benefits of improved connectivity. “It will not only save time but also boost trade, tourism, and development in the region.” The launch follows the recent inauguration of Hisar’s

Maharaja Agrasen Airport by PM Modi on April 14, which marked the start of flight operations with a Hisar-Ayodhya route. The airport, part of a 7200-acre Integrated Aviation Hub, is poised to become a key regional hub, with plans for an international terminal by 2030 under a Rs 3700 crore expansion project.

The Hisar-Chandigarh route is expected to strengthen ties between Haryana’s industrial hub and its capital, covering the

252 km distance in under an hour. “This is a step toward realizing PM Modi’s dream of making air travel a reality for the common man,” Saini added, referencing the Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) that has facilitated this initiative. The scheme, backed by a Memorandum of Understanding with Alliance Air, also includes plans for flights to Ayodhya, Jaipur, Jammu, and Ahmedabad, with some routes already operational and others slated for May.

proved -- nearly double the average of the previous five years. These represent a total investment value of over Rs 4.5 lakh crore and an employment potential of nearly 2.9 lakh jobs,” he said.

“Since the Utkarsha Odisha summit, 56 projects have already been taken up for ground-breaking and inauguration, with a combined investment of over Rs 1.78 lakh crore, and employment potential for 1.1 lakh people.

These numbers reflect not only our speed, but scale and substance,” he added.

Attacking the previous Naveen Patnaik-led regime, Majhi said that, in many ways, his government has achieved more in this one year than the past five years combined through quiet, focused, and committed action.

In the coming year, he said the government will focus on four key priorities.

‘Rahul Gandhi has already accepted defeat in Bihar elections’: Chirag Paswan

TDG NETWORK
PATNA

Reacting to Congress MP Rahul Gandhi’s recent statements on elections, Union Minister Chirag Paswan on Sunday said that the Congress MP has already accepted defeat in the Bihar Assembly elections which is why he is making such statements.

Paswan further said that if Rahul Gandhi needs to find faults in any institution, it should be his own party Congress.

“... The problem with Congress and its leaders is that when introspection is needed, they look for excuses for losing elections... If Rahul Gandhi needs to find faults in any institution, it should not be a constitutional institution, but his own Congress party... Blaming the Election Commission, accusing someone of fixing elections, saying that the EVM is faulty, all this shows that Rahul Gandhi has already accepted defeat in the Bihar Assembly elections... After Bihar, these people will lose states like Assam and Bengal,” Chirag Paswan told reporters.



Chirag Paswan (Left) and Rahul Gandhi.

Bihar assembly polls will be held later this year.

Meanwhile, Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader and Bihar assembly LoP, Tejashwi Yadav, strongly backed Congress leader Rahul Gandhi’s allegations against the Election Commission of India (ECI), accusing the BJP of hijacking constitutional institutions under Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s rule.

Speaking to the mediapersons on Sunday, Tejashwi said, “Ever since Narendra Modi has become the Prime Minister, all constitutional institutions have been hijacked. Before the ECI announces the elections, the BJP IT Cell knows the schedule. We have our eyes on everything. The consti-

tutional institutions must carry out their duties honestly... Everyone needs to stay alert. Everyone knows that all institutions work as a proxy of the BJP.”

“Everyone is working together, not to form the government, but to strengthen Bihar,” he added.

Earlier on Saturday, in a post on X, Rahul Gandhi, who is Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, referred to the ECI’s response to his allegations concerning Maharashtra polls and said “releasing unsigned, evasive notes to intermediaries is not the way to respond to serious questions”. In response, ECI described Rahul Gandhi’s Maharashtra election poll rigging as “unsubstantiated allegations.”

Farmer’s income has doubled in Tripura: CM

TDG NETWORK
AGARTALA

Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha on Sunday claimed that farmer’s income in the state has doubled in last eight years.

Addressing a programme in West Tripura’s Tufani-alunga tea estate, the CM claimed that farmer’s income has increased from Rs 6,580 in 2016 to Rs 13,590 per month in 2024 in the state.

The northeastern state has 4.74 lakh farmers.

“The present government has been working for the welfare of the farmers because it will boost the rural economy. Prime Minister Narendra Modi who considered farmers as ‘annadata’ has set a target of doubling the farmers’ income. Tripura has already made it possible,” he said.

Dramatic standoff ends with notorious criminal’s arrest in Ahmedabad

TDG NETWORK
AHMEDABAD

The Ahmedabad City Crime Branch on Sunday successfully apprehended Abhishek alias Shooter Sanjaybhsinh Tomar, a notorious criminal with a history of violent offences, after a tense standoff at an apartment in Odhav.

Tomar, wanted in multiple cases involving assault, rioting, and illegal arms possession, had been evading the law. Acting on a tip-off, the Crime Branch team arrived at Shivam Awas, Building X, Flat No. 505 in Bhavang

Flats, where Tomar hid.

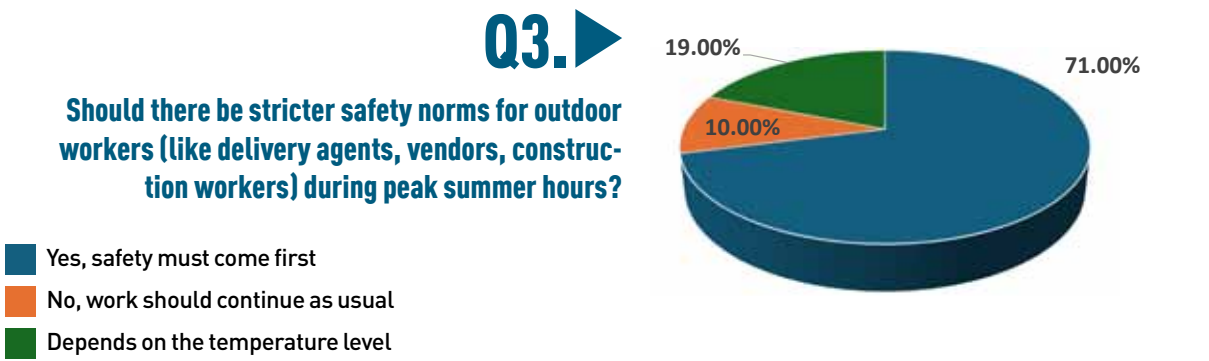
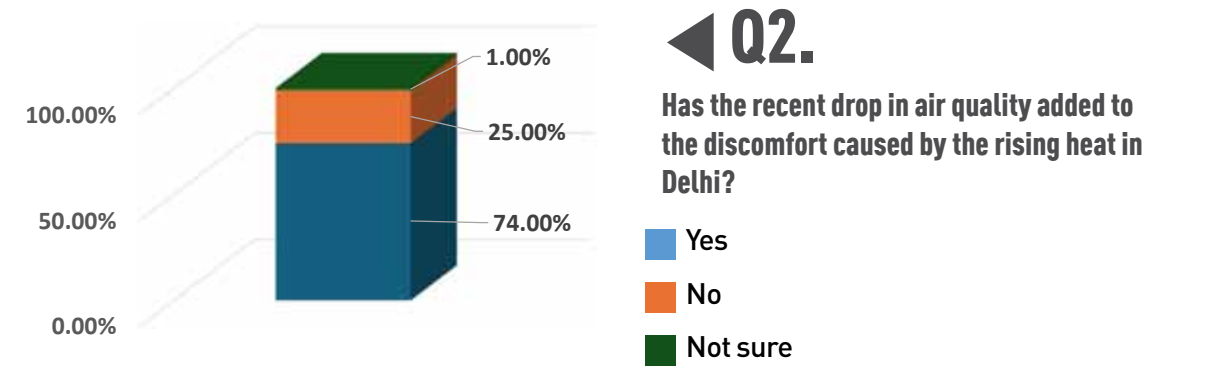
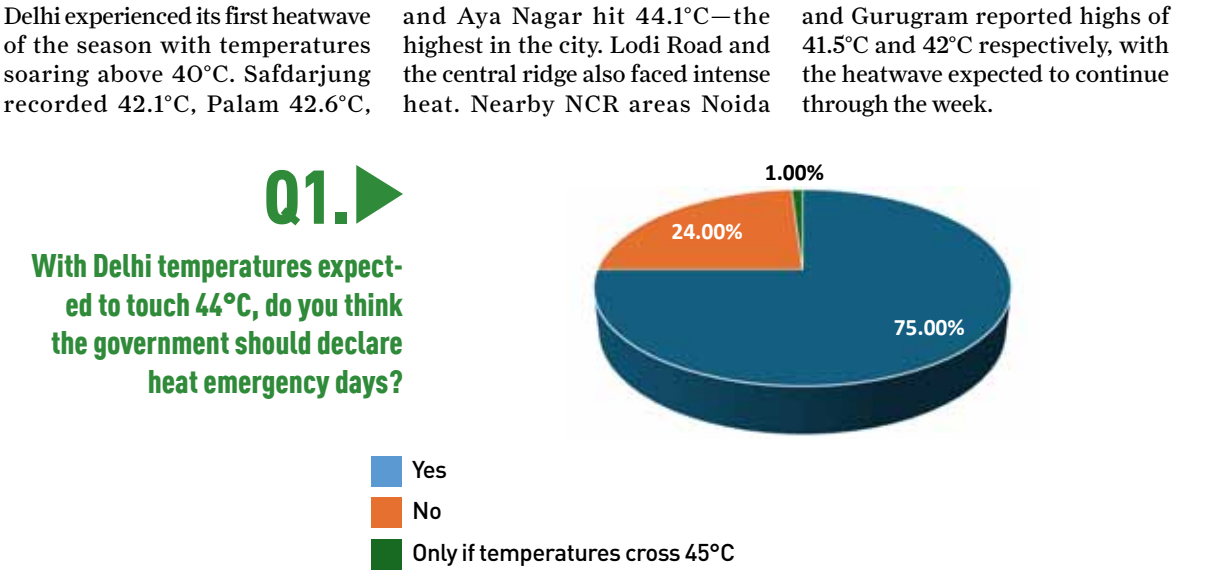
Tomar refused to open the door and instead climbed onto the kitchen balcony ledge, threatening to jump.

After the police broke in, Tomar began livestreaming the standoff on social media, continuing to threaten to jump, said the crime branch in a press note. Authorities quickly mobilised the fire brigade and control room while negotiating with Tomar. Eventually, the police used “appropriate force” to detain him without any casualties.



THE DAILY GUARDIAN SURVEY ON HEATWAVE IN DELHI

75% believe govt should declare heat emergency



PM Modi secure and confident

CONTINUED FROM P1

tide in Haryana and Maharashtra, two states where it suffered reverses in the Lok Sabha polls, on the back of its welfare measures and social engineering associated with regional leadership, it finally wrested Delhi after 26 years, eclipsing its plucky adversary Arvind Kejriwal of the Aam Aadmi Party on his home turf. The BJP now appears set to make a fresh political charge after recouping the ground lost in the national polls a year back while the opposition is back to its disjointed self, with the Congress searching for an elusive and emphatic state poll win in a state. Other BJP rivals like West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee-led TMC and Kejriwal have drifted away from the Congress and the likes of Shiv Sena (UBT) and NCP (SP) stare at an uncertain future. Manoj Kumar, an associate professor in Political Science at Delhi University, stresses Modi's virtually unchallenged leadership status amid the opposition's failure to take the battle to him. "At any point in politics, there are always opportunities and challenges. But it seems there is no serious alternative to PM Modi as long as he is there," he says, adding that the military action under Operation Sindoor has again cemented his image as the leader acting in national interest. He acknowledges that the opposition's issues built around caste census and alleged threat to the Constitution besides regional factors and the BJP's complacency delivered a setback to the ruling party in 2024. Kumar then goes on to add that the government's decision to roll out caste enumeration in the census underscores the BJP's strength in coopting politically resonant issues. It has always worked to address caste concerns while ensuring that caste-based politics is not on its agenda, he said. He says Modi's welfare model built around 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas' has helped the BJP and will continue to do so as the party has in prime minister a leader with popular charisma and trust who has no rival. Leaders like Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi and Atal Bihari Vajpayee were in a similar mould in popular acceptance at their best, he adds.

Despite the reduced majority, the Modi government has gone about with a nonchalant swagger in pushing ahead with the contentious part of its agenda. The support it received from the TDP, JD(U) and Chirag Paswan-led LJP (RV) in the passage of the Waqf (Amendment) Bill in Parliament, despite some voices of concern among them over its provisions, underscored the BJP's unchallenged dominance following its assembly poll wins. The government has also gone ahead with the push to its "One Nation One Election" bills, which are being scrutinised by a Joint Committee of Parliament, despite lacking the two-thirds majority required for the approval of the constitutional amendment measure. If the BJP seems to have clawed back its political territory lost to the opposition in the national polls in the first year of its third-term government, the next year will suggest if the party has more surprises for its rivals as the assembly poll cycle enters opposition strongholds like Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Kerala, besides Assam and Bihar, two states ruled by the NDA.

Protests in Imphal over CBI arrest of Arambai Tenggol member

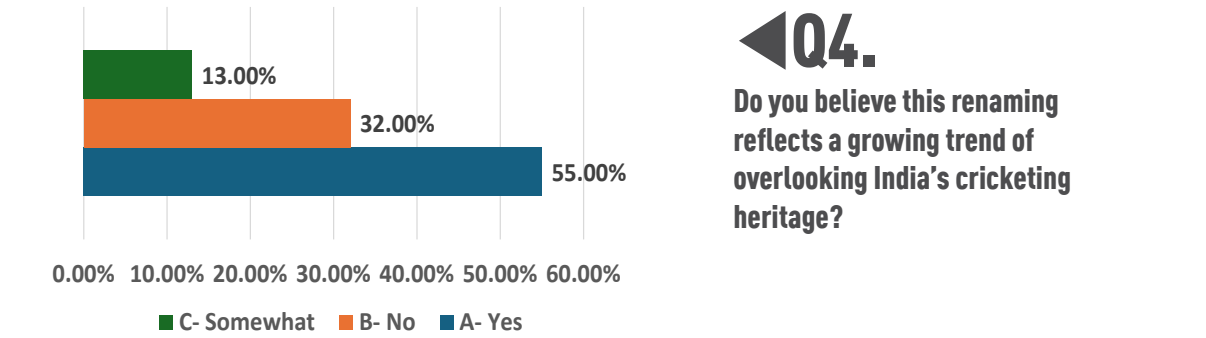
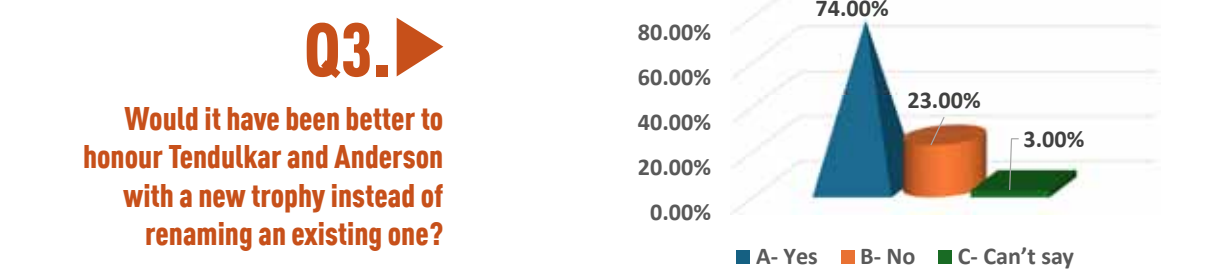
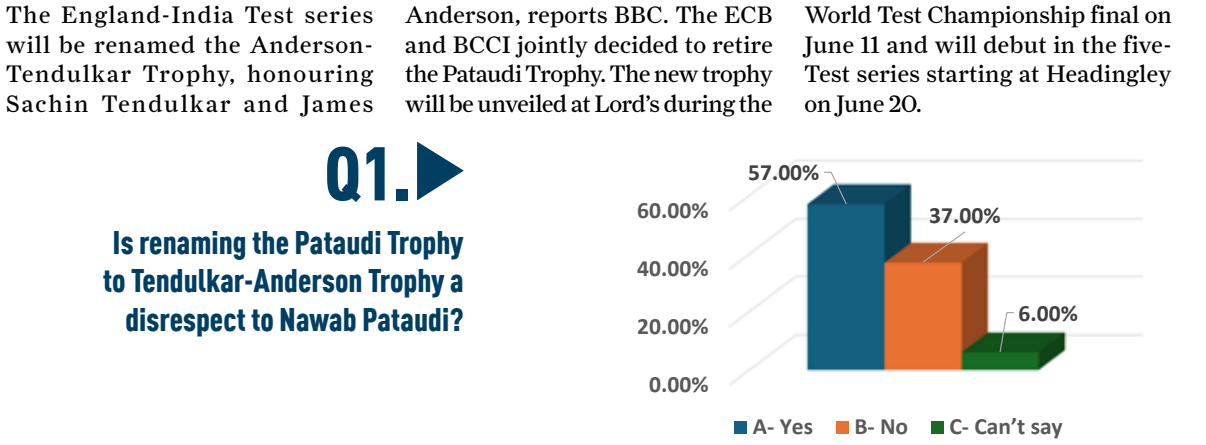
AGENCIES
IMPHAL (MANIPUR)

Protests erupted in Manipur's capital, Imphal, on Sunday night, as locals took to the streets demanding the release of Meitei outfit Arambai Tenggol member Kanan Singh and four others arrested by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). As per the CBI, the arrest

was made due to Kanan Singh's involvement in criminal activities during the 2023 ethnic violence in Manipur, which sparked widespread unrest across the state, particularly in five districts. Security forces had to resort to using tear gas shelling to disperse the crowds, with visuals showing burning tyres, blocked roads, and security forces patrolling the streets. Earlier today, the CBI arrested Kanan Singh, a member of the Meitei outfit Arambai Tenggol, at Imphal Airport due to his involvement in various criminal activities related to the 2023 Manipur violence. Information related to his arrest has been given to his family, and the accused has been transported to Guwahati for trial due to prevailing law and order concerns in Manipur as the investigation continues. The CBI is investigating the case of the Manipur violence following the direction of the Supreme Court. "The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has arrested a member of Arambai Tenggol (AT) at Imphal Airport today, i.e. on 08.06.2025.

THE DAILY GUARDIAN SURVEY ON PATAUDI TROPHY CONTROVERSY

70% believe BCCI should have consulted Pataudi family before renaming trophy



Fadnavis rubbishes Rahul's charges

CONTINUED FROM P1

Jodo Abhiyaan. What was this 'todo' (break) campaign, established under the name of "jodo" (unite), doing?" It was creating misconceptions among the public against all of the country's constitutional institutions, thereby inciting them to fight against the nation itself. This includes the judiciary and the Election Commission, he claimed. From 1950 until a new law was enacted, the (previous) Congress governments directly appointed the Chief Election Commissioner, Fadnavis said. Out of 26 commissioners to date, 25 were directly appointed by the central government. For the first time, Prime Minister Narendra Modi established a committee that includes the leader of the opposition or the leader of the largest political party (in the opposition), he noted. Referring to Gandhi's objection to an increase in the number of electors in the 2024 Maharashtra polls whom he called "bogus voters", Fadnavis said the number of young voters is constantly increasing. "Between 2014 and 2019, 63 lakh new voters were added; from 2009 to 2014, 75 lakh new voters were added; and from 2004 to 2009, 1 crore new voters were added. This means that nothing extraordinary happened in 2024," he said.

Truck rams into Tejashwi's convoy

CONTINUED FROM P1

hospital, Yadav said, "The accident took place when we were returning from Madhepura to Patna. We had stopped for a tea break near Goraui. A speeding truck rammed into two vehicles of my convoy, injuring three security personnel. I immediately alerted the district police and the administration. The accident took place just five feet away from my vehicle." The police arrested the truck driver and his helper and seized the vehicle, the officer said. "Action should be taken against those who violated traffic rules," Yadav said. Vaishali SP Lalit Mohan Sharma said: "Three policemen - two security personnel - of the convoy and one from the district police suffered injuries in the accident. Two of the three injured policemen have been referred to the Patna Medical College and Hospital (PMCH), and other is undergoing treatment at a government hospital in Hajipur." According to doctors, all

Fake cardiologist performs over 50 surgeries

CONTINUED FROM P1

that Sharma had been using the medical registration number 2456, which actually belongs to a certified cardiologist named Dr. Pankaj Mohan. In reality, Sharma's own registration number is 28482, which only allows him to practice as a general physician—not as a heart specialist. According to the police, Sharma was employed at the facility from July 2024 to February 2025. During this period, several patients reportedly developed complications following surgeries, and some are believed to have died. However, the police have yet to confirm the exact number of fatalities. A case has been registered against Sharma and

Chirag confirms contesting Bihar polls

CONTINUED FROM P1

would not contest the election "from Bihar but for Bihar." He added that he would leave the decision of his candidacy and constituency to the people. "I leave this decision to you (people). You decide whether I should contest the Bihar assembly elections, and from which seat. I will follow your decision," he added. In a scathing attack on the opposition, Paswan accused both the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) and the Congress of being responsible for the state's infamous "jungle raj" era. "It's not just RJD, Congress is equally responsible for that phase of lawlessness," he said, while also crediting the current NDA government for awarding the Bharat Ratna to former Bihar CM Karpoori Thakur. Paswan further invoked his father's legacy, the late Ram Vilas Paswan, to criticised Congress for neglecting Dalit icon Dr BR Ambedkar. "Those who are doing politics in the name of Dr Baba Saheb Ambedkar today should not forget history. When there was a Congress government at the center, not even a single statue of Baba Saheb was installed in the Parliament.

Maha, K'taka account for 51% of FDI in FY25

CONTINUED FROM P1

last fiscal year, the data showed. The two states were followed by Delhi (USD 6 billion), Gujarat (USD 5.71 billion), Tamil Nadu (USD 3.68 billion), Haryana (USD 3.14 billion), and Telangana (USD 3 billion). According to experts, the main reason for the maximum inflows in Maharashtra and Karnataka is substantial improvement in infrastructure. Infrastructure has improved considerably and that is making them attractive destinations for FDI in India, an economist said. Total FDI, which includes equity inflows, reinvested earnings and other capital, grew 14 per cent to USD 81.04 billion during the last financial year. It is the highest in the last three years. The same stood at USD 71.3 billion in 2023-24.

are calling for stricter verification processes for doctors' credentials. This incident draws disturbing parallels to a similar case in Madhya Pradesh, where another fake doctor carried out heart surgeries that led to multiple deaths. Medical experts warn that such incidents point to systemic flaws in verifying doctors' qualifications in India. the hospital's management. Sharma has since disappeared from the hospital after questions were raised about his qualifications. The case has triggered widespread anger, especially on social media, where users are questioning how someone without a cardiology specialization was allowed to perform critical procedures. Many

GOVT CONSIDERING SHIFTING BENGALURU STADIUM AFTER STAMPEDE: SIDDARAMAIAH

"The government will look into shifting the cricket stadium to another location," he said.

AGENCIES
MYSORE

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has said the government is seriously considering moving the city's cricket stadium to a new location to prevent such incidents in the future.

The stampede, which occurred during celebrations outside M Chinnaswamy Stadium during the Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) Indian Premier League (IPL) victory celebrations, which claimed 11 lives.

Speaking to the media, Siddaramaiah expressed deep personal pain over the tragedy and confirmed that the government is contemplating long-term solutions and also said that the govern-



ment can shift the stadium to a different place.

"The government will look into shifting the cricket stadium to another location," he said.

"Such an unpleasant incident should not happen un-

der any government. Personally, this incident has hurt me and the government," he added.

"Five police officers have been suspended in this case. The intelligence chief and the chief minister's political sec-

retary have been replaced," Siddaramaiah confirmed.

"The case has been taken seriously and appropriate action has been taken," he noted. Despite public outrage, the Chief Minister maintained that the govern-

ment had not acted irresponsibly.

"The government has not done anything wrong. This incident is saddening, but no misstep was taken by the administration. Legal action has been taken against those found guilty, so there is no question of embarrassment for the government," he asserted. Siddaramaiah also addressed political criticism, particularly from opposition parties like the BJP and JDS, who have been demanding accountability.

"Did the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh resign when people died during the Kumbh Mela? Did the BJP and JDS demand his resignation then?" he questioned, suggesting a double standard in political reactions. (ANI) First anniversary of 3rd term

'Behaved most irresponsibly': Union Minister Joshi on Bengaluru stampede

TDG NETWORK
BENGALURU

Union Minister Pralhad Joshi on Sunday reiterated Union Minister of State Shobha Karandlaje's scathing remark on Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar that they had "blood on their hands" for their "irresponsible and insensitive" handling of the crowd outside Bengaluru's Chinnaswamy Stadium, which led to a stampede that killed 11 people on June 4 during RCB's IPL victory celebrations.

Joshi echoed Karandlaje's statement from a press conference on Saturday, in which she accused the leaders of celebrating despite the tragedy and shifting blame and further called for their immediate resignation.

"That is definitely there. I've seen her statement...



Union Minister Pralhad Joshi

They have behaved most irresponsibly... Deaths were announced although the celebration was going on... Police have clearly categorically denied that they cannot provide it; it is a risky thing; you don't do it despite all these things... It is the most irresponsible and insensitive behaviour of both the CM (and the Deputy CM)," Joshi said.

His remarks align with Karandlaje's earlier demand, "You have celebrated after their deaths... You have blood on your hands. Listen, Siddaramaiah, listen, DK

Shivakumar, you have blood on your hands... You can't blame the Commissioner... You are also a culprit... I demand Siddaramaiah and DK Shivakumar resign immediately."

Joshi also dismissed Rahul Gandhi's remarks on the Election Commission, where the Congress MP alleged that the Maharashtra Assembly election held last year was "rigged" and claimed that the same will be repeated in Bihar assembly polls due later this year.

"The Election Commission has given the reply. At the same time when elections were held in Jharkhand... They have won... If we could, we could also do it there... The same thing was in Karnataka and in Delhi... It is all stupidity," Joshi added. Meanwhile, the Election Commission described the Congress MP's allegation as "unsubstantiated allegations."

Goa govt keeps on hold suspension of GMCH doctor following criticism

TDG NETWORK
PANAJI

Amid backlash from the medical fraternity and opposition parties, Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant on Sunday said that the chief medical officer of the government medical college and hospital, who was accused of misbehaving with patients, will not be suspended.

Earlier on Saturday, Health Minister Vishwajit Rane defended his decision to order suspension of Dr Rudresh Kuttikar, the chief medical officer of Goa Medical College and Hospital (GMCH), citing the latter's "arrogant behaviour" towards a patient.

The Goa branch of the Indian Medical Association (IMA) condemned the minister's action and urged the authorities to immediately rescind the suspension and reinstate the doctor while ensuring a fair trial.



Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant

The opposition parties, including the Congress, Aam Aadmi Party and Revolutionary Goans Party, had condemned Rane's behaviour.

Government sources told PTI that the chief minister invited Rane for a meeting on the issue in Panaji on Sunday, and after the meeting, a statement was issued that the doctor would not be suspended pending a fair inquiry.

Taking to X, Chief Minister Sawant said, "I have reviewed the issue at the Goa Medical College and held discussions with the health minister. I want to assure the people of Goa that Dr Rudresh Kuttikar will not be suspended."

He said the state government and its dedicated medical team remain fully committed to ensuring the highest standards of healthcare for every citizen.

"We also appreciate the tireless efforts and invaluable service of our doctors, who continue to save lives," Sawant added.

The health minister on Saturday said he will not apologise for standing up for a patient who was denied care.

Rane said he took the action after receiving a complaint from a senior journalist that the doctor in the casualty ward of the GMCH had mistreated his mother-in-law.

TDG NETWORK
BENGALURU

BJP MLAs S Suresh Kumar and Bharath Shetty Y have strongly criticised the Karnataka government over the stampede tragedy outside Chinnaswamy Stadium during RCB cricket team's IPL victory celebrations, which claimed 11 lives. Both MLAs held the Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister responsible for the tragedy.

On Sunday, Kumar told the media, "The buck should stop at the Chief Minister's chair. The Police had indicated their reservation about holding this pub-



A still from the stampede outside Chinnaswamy Stadium during RCB cricket team's IPL victory celebrations, on June 4. File Photo

lic show. Eleven innocent lives have been lost, which is equivalent to the number of players in a cricket team."

MLA Kumar demanded an unconditional apology from the government, stating, "Till now, the govern-

ment should have come out with an unconditional apology... This government has miserably failed...."

Additionally, BJP MLA Shetty reiterated the same, saying that the Karnataka government should

take responsibility for the tragedy. "The Karnataka government should take responsibility for what has happened. The police told the government not to do this programme hurriedly because they didn't have enough men. Despite this, the CM and Dy CM went ahead with this programme to take political advantage of RCB's win. RCB is neither an Indian team nor an official team in Karnataka," Shetty alleged.

Shetty demanded the resignation of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister Shivakumar, stating, "CM and Dy CM should resign.

Pawan Kalyan pays tribute to senior BRS leader Maganti Gopinath

TDG NETWORK
HYDERABAD

Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan expressed deep sorrow over the demise of Senior Bharat Rashtra Samiti (BRS) leader and Jubilee Hills MLA Maganti Gopinath, who passed away early Sunday morning at a private hospital in Hyderabad.

"May the soul of Maganti Gopinath rest in peace. I am deeply saddened to learn about the demise of Maganti Gopinath, MLA of Jubilee Hills and a noted film producer. I pray to the Almighty for peace for his soul. I came to know that he had been seriously ill and was admitted to the hospital a few days ago. I had hoped he would recover. Since 2014, Gopinath has been serving as an MLA and has played a significant role in the development of his constituency. I extend my heartfelt condolences to his family," shared Pawan Kalyan.

Meanwhile, senior BRS leader and Jubilee Hills MLA, Maganti Gopinath, passed



Senior Bharat Rashtra Samiti (BRS) leader and Jubilee Hills MLA Maganti Gopinath.

away early Sunday morning at a private hospital in Hyderabad.

Gopinath, 63, was admitted to the AIG Hospital in Hyderabad on June 5 at 2:56 PM following a heart attack and was receiving treatment in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU). As per the hospital sources, the BRS leader was declared dead at 5:45 AM on June 8.

Following the news of his demise, Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy expressed deep sorrow and extended his condolences.

"Shocked by the untimely demise of Jubilee Hills MLA Maganti Gopinath. I extend my deepest sympathies to

Former Telangana CM KCR, others also pay last respect

TDG NETWORK
HYDERABAD

Former Chief Minister and Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) President K Chandrashekar Rao (KCR), Telugu Desam Party (TDP) leader and Andhra Pradesh Minister Nara Lokesh, and BRS leader KT Rama Rao paid their last respects to BRS MLA from Hyderabad's Jubilee Hills, Maganti Gopinath, who passed away following a heart attack.

KCR visited Gopinath's residence in Madhapur, offered flowers, and paid tribute to the mortal remains. He consoled the grieving wife and children and assured them of the party's support during this difficult time. The BRS chief was emotional and teary-eyed during the visit.

Several senior leaders joined KCR to pay their respects, including BRS Working President KT Rama Rao, former minister and MLA Harish Rao, MPs KR Suresh Reddy, Damodar Rao, Vaddiraju Ravichandra, MLAs Vemula Prashanth Reddy, Devireddy Sudheer Reddy, Padmarao Goud, Madhavaram Krishna Rao, Kaleru Venkatesh, Kotha Prabhakar Reddy, Sabita Indra Reddy, Sunitha Lakshma Reddy, former MPs Nama Nageshwar Rao, Maloth Kavitha, Joginapalli Santosh Kumar, MLCs Dasoju Sravan, Pochampally Srinivas Reddy, former MLAs Puvvada Ajay, Bhaskar Rao, Asanagari Jeevan Reddy, Marri Janardhan Reddy, Sheri Subhash Reddy, Narendar Reddy, and other party leaders.

his family. May his soul rest in peace," the Chief Minister posted on X.

Meanwhile, former Chief Minister and BRS party chief K Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) also expressed shock and grief over the passing of the senior leader, calling it a "huge loss to the party."

"Maganti Gopinath, who rose through the ranks in politics with great dedication, earned a reputation as a gentle and accessible public leader. As MLA of Jubilee Hills, he was always available to the people and became a senior figure in Hyderabad's political landscape," BRS post on X read.

He further added, "It is unfortunate that the efforts of doctors and the party to save him were not successful."

BRS Working President K. T. Rama Rao (KTR) also expressed deep shock over the demise of the senior leader. In a message posted on X, KTR remembered Gopinath's contributions to the development of Jubilee Hills and extended heartfelt condolences to his family.

16 arrests made in illegal cow slaughter cases: Assam CM Sarma

TDG NETWORK
GUWAHATI

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Sunday raised serious concerns over reports of illegal cattle slaughter during the Eid-ul-Zuha celebrations across the state.

In a post on X, CM Sarma said that while the Constitution guarantees religious freedom, it also upholds the

rule of law and public order. "Illegal cattle slaughter during Eid-ul-Zuha, while our constitution guarantees the right to religious freedom, it equally upholds the rule of law and public order. This Eid-ul-Zuha disturbing incidents of illegal cattle slaughter and recovery of cattle parts were reported from multiple locations across Assam.

The post added on X, "5

cases of cattle parts found - including near Cotton University (Kamrup M), Dhubri, Hojai, and Sribhumi (Bagargool). 5 illegal slaughter sites uncovered - 3 in Cachar (Gumrah, Silchar, Lakhipur) and 2 in Karimganj (Badarpur, Banga). 16 arrests made 9 from Cachar and 7 from Sribhumi."

"We are committed to preserving communal harmony, but not at the cost of lawless-



Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma

In a post on X, CM Sarma said that while the Constitution guarantees religious freedom, it also upholds the rule of law and public order.

ness or cruelty. Please be clear that Strict action will be taken against all violators irrespective of faith or background," he added.

In 2024, CM Sarma an-

nounced that the government has decided to ban serving and consumption of beef in any restaurant, hotel and public places across the state.

The CM said the Assam Cattle Preservation Act, passed in 2021, has been quite successful in ensuring the slaughter of cattle, and "now we have decided to stop the consumption of beef in public places."

"We had passed the law on prohibition of cattle slaughter three years ago, and it was quite successful, so now, in Assam, we have decided that beef will not be served in any

restaurant or hotel and also it will not be served in any public function or public place, so from today we have completely decided to stop the consumption of beef in hotels, restaurants and public places," the Assam CM said.

The CM said that the earlier decision was to only restrict consumption of beef near temples, but now the government has expanded it to the whole state.

DELHI CM INAUGURATES CONSTRUCTION WORK AT JAN SEWA CAMP

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Sunday inaugurated the construction work of a 24-seater Jan Sewa Camp (JSC) in the Jhuggi Jhopdi (JJ) cluster of the Nehru Camp area in Haiderpur.

On Saturday, CM Rekha Gupta also participated in the 300th birth anniversary celebrations of Lokmata Devi Ahilyabai Holkar. Speaking at the event, she described the legendary queen as a symbol of harmony, courage, and visionary leadership.

In a post on X, CM Gupta wrote, "Lokmata Ahilyabai Holkar was not just a queen - she was a visionary who ruled with justice, policy, harmony and indomitable courage and gave a new identity to Indian women's power through her leadership. Her entire life is an indelible example



of nation-building, public welfare and women's empowerment. The inspiring life of Queen Mother Ahilyabai not only empowers the role of women in Indian history, but also proves that a visionary woman can lay the foundation of a prosperous and welfare nation with her wisdom, policies and courage. His memory is both an ideal and an inspiration for us." "She is not just a queen,

she is a symbol of policy, harmony and courage - an indelible inspiration for women's leadership. Her life tells us that even a woman can lead an entire era," CM Gupta said.

Union Minister of State SPS Baghel and Harsh Malhotra were also present at the event.

Meanwhile, the Delhi government is also planning to set up UMTA (Unified Metropolitan

Transport Authority) to improve public transport in the state. The aim is to have better coordination among public transport agencies.

It further aims to improve public transport coordination and project implementation, to streamline the public transport system by facilitating better communication and cooperation between different transport agencies.

AAP's Bhardwaj targets BJP government over demolition at Madrasai Camp

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MP Sanjay Singh and Delhi unit President Saurabh Bharadwaj on Sunday visited the Madrasai Camp in Jangpura after a demolition drive was carried out a few days ago here on the orders of the Delhi High Court.

Speaking to reporters, Saurabh Bhardwaj criticised the BJP government over their poll promises in the Delhi assembly elections and accused them of betraying people living in JJ clusters.

He said, "Ever since the BJP government has been formed in Delhi, every day there is news of bulldozer action somewhere or the other... This Madrasai camp is more than 50 years old... In such a situation, these people were displaced. Before the election, the BJP candidate came here and distributed cards to each and every person... and when they (BJP) won, they did not even take a peek



Speaking to reporters, Saurabh Bhardwaj criticised the BJP government over their poll promises in the Delhi assembly elections and accused them of betraying people living in JJ clusters.

here, these people's slums were demolished... This is a big betrayal that the BJP has given to these people... We are with them and their fight will be fought from the streets to the Parliament ..."

Earlier today, Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta said that the demolition drive conducted at Madrasai Camp was an action taken in strict compliance with court di-

rectives.

She explained that the High Court had issued multiple directives to remove the slum to enable cleaning of the Barapullah drain, which is critical to preventing flood disasters in Delhi.

Chief Minister Gupta asserted that the residents of the Madrasai camp have been allotted houses and have been moved there.

No one can defy court orders: CM

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Sunday said that the demolition drive conducted at Madrasai Camp was action taken in strict compliance with court directives.

She stated that the court had ordered the removal of this slum four times in order to clean the Barapulla drain aimed at preventing future flood-related disasters in the capital. Chief Minister Gupta asserted that the residents of the Madrasai camp have been allotted houses and have been moved there.

Speaking to reporters, Gupta stated, "I have clearly said, that if the court has ordered something, neither the government, nor the administration can do anything about it.

BJP has ruined law and order situation: Kejriwal

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Former Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal hit out at the BJP government over the death of a nine-year-old girl in the national capital, alleging that it is ruining the law and order situation in the national capital.

"This incident of rape and murder of a 9-year-old innocent girl in Delhi has shocked everyone. BJP has ruined the law and order situation in Delhi, our daughters are not safe even in the four-engine government of BJP. Home Minister Amit Shah and his four-engine government will have to answer: The daughters of Delhi want answers as well as justice," Kejriwal said.

A minor girl died due to injuries on her face at a hospital after she was allegedly

sexually assaulted in the National Capital, Delhi police said in a statement.

The police reached the spot after receiving a call about a girl inside a suitcase. By the time police reached, the family had already taken her to JPC hospital, where she was declared dead.

"Last night at 8:40 pm, a PCR call was received in which it was told that a 9-year-old girl has been found unconscious inside a suitcase. Immediately, the police reached the spot, but by that time, the family had already taken her to JPC hospital.

Our team reached the hospital, where, after a preliminary examination, the doctors declared her dead. It is a case of sexual assault," DCP North East Delhi, Ashish Mishra said.

Atishi slams BJP for blocking school admissions

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Atishi, senior AAP leader and Leader of Opposition (LoP) in the Delhi Assembly, has written a letter to Education Minister Ashish Sood demanding immediate action to start admissions in three fully constructed Delhi Government schools located in Sector 27 Rohini, Sunder Nagri, and Kirari.

Despite being completed between November 2024 and January 2025, the buildings remain locked and non-functional as the new academic session has already begun.

Sharing a couple of photos of the newly constructed school buildings, senior AAP leader and former Deputy CM Manish Sisodia took to 'X' and wrote: "Under BJP rule, Delhi's gov-



ernment schools have been locked shut. The schools you see in these photos--modern, well-equipped institutions in densely populated areas like Sunder Nagri, Kirari, and Rohini--were constructed under the Arvind Kejriwal government. Fully ready with smart classrooms, science labs, libraries, and vibrant classrooms, they were scheduled to open in January 2025."

"But once the BJP came

Delhi Police begins deportation of 31 illegal Bangladeshi nationals

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police have initiated the process to deport 31 Bangladeshi nationals who were living illegally in the North West district of Delhi. The deportation process began on Saturday after the individuals were brought to the Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO) in RK Puram, officials said.

Earlier this week, the North West District Police apprehended 18 Bangladeshi nationals who were found residing illegally in the city. The arrests were made during a special operation conducted on Tuesday by the Foreigner Cell unit in the Bharat Nagar police station area.

The operation was launched based on specific intelligence inputs indicat-



ing that three families who had migrated from Haryana were now hiding in the Wazirpur JJ Colony, frequently changing locations to avoid detection.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) North-West Delhi Bhisham Singh stated that over 36 footpaths and 45 alleyways were searched in a thorough combing effort during the operation. One suspect was initially apprehended and, after sustained interrogation, admitted to being a Bangladeshi national. He revealed that he

and others had been working as labourers at brick kiln companies in Haryana. After Haryana Police took action, they fled to Delhi and settled in the JJ clusters of Wazirpur and surrounding areas. Based on his statements, police apprehended 17 more individuals. In total, 18 Bangladeshi nationals, including six adults and 12 children, were found to be residing illegally without any valid documents, visas, or permits, thereby violating provisions of the Foreigners Act, 1946, and other immigration laws.

Indian Railways flags off 'Fit India Sundays on Cycle' from JLN Stadium

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Indian Railways, in collaboration with the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, flagged off the 'Fit India Sundays on Cycle' initiative from Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Delhi on Sunday. The initiative aims to promote a healthy and active lifestyle among citizens.

Speaking to mediapersons at the event, Actress Madhurima Tuli spoke about her experience and stated, "I am proud that I have been a part of this movement. 'Fit India Sundays on Cycle' is very important because sports are essential for our mental and physical fitness.



This is a very good initiative by our Prime Minister, Narendra Modi. The Fit India initiative needs to be spread across the world..."

The event saw participation from fitness enthusiasts, officials, and celebrities who cycled alongside hundreds of participants to support the movement.

Organised under the umbrella of the Fit India

Movement--a nationwide campaign launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to encourage fitness in daily life--the event marked another milestone in India's growing culture of fitness awareness.

Earlier, on June 1, the 25th edition of Fit India Sundays on Cycle was celebrated as the Tiranga Cycling Rally across various parts of the

country.

More than 15,000 cyclists from over 5,000 locations took part, highlighting a powerful blend of patriotism, fitness, and environmental consciousness, according to a press release by the Sports Authority of India (SAI).

Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports, Dr Manukh Mandaviya, led over 1500 cyclists at the Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium here, alongside Secretary (Sports) Hari Ranjan Rao, sports icons - Olympic medalist Yogeshwar Dutt, cricketer Saba Karim, wrestler Sarita Mor, Bollywood actress Sharvati, and the Indian cycling team.

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

A 29-year-old woman was found dead in a hotel room's bathroom in Delhi's Paharganj area on Sunday morning. The accused, a man who had checked in with the victim, was arrested by Nabi Karim police.

According to police, a PCR call was received at 9:47 AM on Sunday at Nabi Karim police station. A hotel staff member informed that the couple had stayed in one of the rooms overnight. In the morning, the man was missing, and the woman was found lying dead in the bathroom.

Police reached the spot



and found, during their initial inquiry, that the couple had checked into the hotel at 4:15 PM on June 7. The man was last seen leaving the hotel alone the next morning. Hotel staff later discovered the woman's body and called the police.

Preliminary findings suggest that the woman was strangled with a drawstring.

Based on the ID documents submitted at the hotel, the man was identified as Sachin (aged 31), and the woman as Sarika (aged 29).

Police have arrested the accused, Sachin. During interrogation, Sachin told police that he was in a relationship with Sarika and suspected her of having another affair. When they met,

an argument broke out. He admitted to beating her and then strangling her to death.

A case, under Section 103(1) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, was registered at Nabi Karim police station.

Further investigation into the case is underway.

In a separate incident that occurred on Saturday, two juveniles were apprehended in connection with the stabbing of a 16-year-old boy in Delhi's Anand Parbat area, police said.

On June 2, police received information about a grievously injured and unconscious boy lying near Durga Mandir in Taliwalan Basti. A police team reached the spot immediately.

Delhi Police bust interstate drug syndicate, seize 348 kg of ganja

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

In a major crackdown, the Anti-Narcotics Task Force (ANTF) of the Delhi Police has busted an interstate drug syndicate and seized 348.176 kilograms of Ganja, officials said.

According to Apoorva Gupta, Deputy Commissioner of Police, ANTF, Crime Branch, Delhi, the seized contraband is valued at approximately Rs 1.75 crore in the international market. The drug was be-

ing smuggled from Andhra Pradesh to the Delhi-NCR region, concealed beneath a consignment of watermelons in a truck.

Two individuals, identified as Intezar Malik and Rizwan, have been arrested in connection with the case.

Further investigation is underway.

In a separate operation earlier this week, the Delhi Police Crime Branch dismantled a network involved in the sale of counterfeit cancer medications and injections. Acting on



a tip-off, police teams conducted coordinated raids on Wednesday at three locations--Laxmi Nagar, Budh Vihar, and Chandni

Chowk--resulting in the arrest of six individuals.

The accused were allegedly involved in the illegal sale of unlicensed cancer

DCP West, Vichitra Veer, stated that the raid was conducted in accordance with legal procedures and investigations are underway.

treatment drugs, including Opdivo, Pembrolizumab Injection, and Keytruda. The operation was carried out under the supervision of DCP Crime Vikram Singh, with ACP Yashpal Singh and Inspector Ashish Kumar Sharma leading the raids. Officials from the

Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) also took part in the action.

The suspects, Neeraj Kumar, Anil Kumar, Dharmesh Sharma, Dheeraj Kumar, Rohit Bhatti, and Jyoti Grover, were booked under relevant sections of

the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). Large quantities of spurious drugs, valued in lakhs, were recovered from their possession. An FIR was registered, and investigations are ongoing to identify the wider network involved. Similarly, the Anti-Narcotics Squad of Delhi Police's West District apprehended two individuals Sujeet Kumar (28) and Badal Pandit (26)--near the Balaji Swimming Centre, Central School, Tagore Garden. Both are residents of the Saharsa district in

Bihar. Acting on precise intelligence, the police recovered a plastic sack containing over 4 kilograms of ganja from the duo. DCP West, Vichitra Veer, stated that the raid was conducted in accordance with legal procedures and investigations are underway.

These back-to-back enforcement actions highlight Delhi Police's intensified efforts to curb the smuggling of narcotics and the circulation of counterfeit pharmaceutical products in the capital.

NO SLUM WILL BE DEMOLISHED WITHOUT PROVIDING PROPER HOUSING: DELHI CM REKHA

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Sunday refuted the rumours regarding slum demolitions and said that no slum would be demolished without first providing permanent housing to its residents.

FIRs will be filed, and strict action will be taken against those spreading false information about demolitions, she added.

She inaugurated and inspected various development projects in Nehru Camp in Haiderpur, Ekta Camp in Pitampura, and the area near U and V Blocks of JJ Cluster in the Shalimar Bagh Assembly constituency.

The Chief Minister also reviewed key works, such as laying pipelines and constructing new roads in these areas. She also announced that a clean and safe park with swings would be developed, especially for the children of slum areas.

CM Rekha Gupta said, "No slum will be demol-



ished without first providing permanent housing to its residents. FIRs will be filed, and strict action will be taken against those spreading false information about demolitions. Most anti-encroachment actions are being carried out in compliance with court orders and are targeting illegal occupations that are obstructing traffic or hindering public movement."

The Chief Minister reiterated her government's commitment to ensuring that every resident of Delhi's slums has access to basic amenities

such as clean water, proper roads, public toilets, and parks, so that no citizen is left behind in the journey of development.

On this occasion, the Chief Minister inaugurated the construction work of a 24-seater Jan Suvidha Kendra (public convenience centre) at JJ Cluster, Outer Ring Road, No. 26, Nehru Camp in Haiderpur.

She said that this Jan Suvidha Kendra will address the long-standing issue of toilet shortage in the area and will particularly benefit women, senior citizens, and

children by providing clean and safe facilities.

The Chief Minister emphasised that citizens living in slums also have the right to live with dignity, and the Delhi Government is fully committed to this goal. This Jan Suvidha Kendra is not only important from a hygiene and health perspective but also marks a significant step toward the government's vision of a "Swachh Delhi, Swastha Delhi."

CM Gupta also inaugurated the CC pavement construction work at AU Block, Ekta Camp, JJ Cluster, Pitampura. She stated that this new pavement would offer improved road infrastructure and eliminate long-standing issues of waterlogging and dust in the area. The road will enhance connectivity and ease of movement for residents while resolving the problem of muddy, dusty lanes.

Additionally, the Chief Minister inspected a proposed site near U and V Blocks of JJ Cluster, where a 20-seater Jan Suvidha Kendra is planned to be constructed on vacant MCD land. She directed the concerned officials to begin the construction work as soon as possible so that residents can have more accessible sanitation and public convenience facilities.

The Chief Minister emphasised that every slum resident deserves to live with dignity. "It is our responsibility to ensure that they enjoy the same facilities as other citizens of the city," she said.

The government's goal is not just redevelopment, but also improving the standard of living of slum dwellers.

NDA will form govt in Tamil Nadu in 2026: Amit Shah

TDG NETWORK
MADURAI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday said that the NDA will form government in Tamil Nadu as the people of the state will "defeat" the DMK government in the 2026 Assembly election. He also reiterated his demand to the state government for teaching medical and engineering courses in the Tamil language.

"The NDA government of the BJP-AIADMK alliance will be formed here in 2026. I live in Delhi, but my ears are always on Tamil Nadu," Shah said while addressing BJP office-bearers in Madurai, Tamil Nadu.

"MK Stalin says that Amit Shah cannot defeat DMK. He is right. It's not me, but the people of Tamil Nadu will defeat you," he added.

The Union Minister said that he expected Chief Minister Stalin to write to PM Modi, thanking him for installing Sengol in Parliament.

"I want to repeat my demand to the Tamil Nadu government that medical and engineering be taught



in the Tamil language soon. PM Modi respected Tamil Nadu by installing Sengol in Parliament, and I expect MK Stalin to write a letter to the PM to thank him for it," he said.

Shah said that before Modi became Prime Minister, there were more deadly terror attacks than in Pahal-gam, but there was no befitting reply.

"Our innocent citizens were killed in the Pahal-gam terror attack. Terrorists killed them after asking their religion. Under the leadership of Narendra Modi, our three armed forces entered Pakistan and killed terrorists. There were many terrorists attack before Modi became Prime

Minister, but there was no befitting reply," he said.

"After Modi ji became Prime Minister in 2014, the Uri, Pulwama, and now Pahalgam attacks took place. With surgical strike, airstrike, and Operation Sindoor, we have given a befitting reply to terrorists responsible for these attacks," he added.

Shah thanked the people of Tamil Nadu for their warm response to the Tiranga Yatra, which was held to honour the bravery of the armed forces in Operation Sindoor.

He said that the people of Tamil Nadu will "throw out" the DMK government in next year's Assembly elections.

Mamata was first to raise voice against voter list scam: TMC leader

TDG NETWORK
KOLKATA

Reacting to Lok Sabha Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi's allegations against the Election Commission of India (ECI), TMC leader Kunal Ghosh on Sunday said that West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee was the first leader to raise her voice against this voter list scam in the country.

On Saturday, Rahul Gandhi alleged that the Maharashtra assembly election held in November 2024 was "rigged" and claimed the same could happen in the upcoming Bihar assembly polls.

"Mamata Banerjee was the first to raise her voice against this voter list scam in the country. This is what happened in Maharashtra and Delhi. Mamata Banerjee caught it! Through the voter list scam, they are putting the voter lists of other states here. We have



given this deputation to the Central Election Commission and conveyed our grievance. TMC is seriously scrutinising the vote list. If the anti-BJP parties of Maharashtra and Delhi could identify this earlier, perhaps the result would have been contrary. BJP would have benefited, but Mamta Banerjee caught this scam in Bengal," Ghosh told reporters.

He further said that now it is proven that names from the voters' list of other

states have been added here.

"Whatever Rahul Gandhi is saying is right, but he should have said it before the Maharashtra polls," he added.

Earlier, in a post on X, Gandhi shared his article published in a newspaper, explaining the "rigging" in the Maharashtra assembly polls." Maharashtra assembly elections in 2024 were a blueprint for rigging democracy. My article shows how this happened, step by step," Gandhi said on X.

The former Congress President explained a five-point process. He said that step one includes rigging the panel that appoints the Election Commission, followed by adding fake voters to the electoral roll.

He further claimed that the next steps include inflating the voter turnout, targeting the bogus voting exactly where the BJP needs to win and hiding the evidence.

Rajasthan CM meets Baba Ramdev in Jaipur

TDG NETWORK
JAIPUR

Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma met Yoga Guru Baba Ramdev on Sunday at the Chief Minister's residence in Jaipur. During their meeting, they discussed the promotion of Yoga, Ayurveda, and Naturopathy in Rajasthan.

Sharing details on social media platform X, CM Sharma posted, "Today I met Yoga Guru Swami Ramdev Ji at the Chief Minister's residence and had a meaningful discussion on the promotion of Yoga, Ayurveda and Naturopathy in Rajasthan."

Baba Ramdev, also known as Swami Ramdev, is primar-

ily known for his work in promoting yoga and Ayurveda, as well as his business ventures in the wellness and FMCG sectors. He is a renowned yoga guru who has popularised yoga practices globally.

The meeting comes days after CM Sharma launched the state-wide 'Vande Ganga' water conservation campaign on June 4. Timed to begin on World Environment Day and Ganga Dussehra (June 5), the campaign will continue till June 20, with multiple state departments participating in awareness and conservation initiatives aimed at addressing water scarcity.

On June 5, the first day of the campaign, departments carried out various activities

like special cleanliness drives in nurseries, distribution of Tulsi plants, pledges to reduce plastic use, shramdaan (voluntary labour), cleaning and repairing of water sources, Vande Ganga Kalash Yatra, worship of rivers, dams, lakes, and preparations for tree plantation under Hariyalo Rajasthan. On June 9, the Central Government will complete 11 years under PM Narendra Modi's leadership. The Rajasthan government will inaugurate a new Amrit Sarovar under the Vande Ganga campaign. Other activities include starting new water harvesting and conservation projects, mapping and cleaning village water sources, and cleanliness drives at main roads.

Constitutional institutions hijacked under Modi govt: Tejashwi Yadav

TDG NETWORK
PATNA

Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader and Leader of Opposition in the Bihar Assembly, Tejashwi Yadav, strongly backed Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's allegations against the Election Commission of India (ECI), accusing the BJP of hijacking constitutional institutions under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's rule.

Speaking to the mediapersons on Sunday, Tejashwi said, "Ever since Narendra Modi has become the Prime Minister, all constitutional institutions have been hijacked. Before the ECI announces the elections, the BJP IT Cell knows the schedule. We have our eyes on everything. The constitutional institutions must carry out their duties honestly... Everyone



needs to stay alert. Everyone knows that all institutions work as a proxy of the BJP."

"Everyone is working together, not to form the government, but to strengthen Bihar," he added.

His statement came after Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has called upon the Election Commission to publish consolidated, digital, machine-readable voter rolls for the most recent elections to the Lok Sabha and

Vidhan Sabhas of all states, including Maharashtra, saying that "telling the truth" will protect poll panel's credibility.

Earlier on Saturday, in a post on X, Rahul Gandhi, who is Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, referred to the ECI's response to his allegations concerning Maharashtra polls and said "releasing unsigned, evasive notes to intermediaries is not the way to respond to serious questions".

Uttarakhand CM Dhama highlights farmer welfare schemes at Haridwar rally

TDG NETWORK
HARIDWAR

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama addressed farmers during a rally in Haridwar on Sunday, highlighting various welfare schemes aimed at boosting agricultural development.

"Today, numerous welfare schemes are being implemented for the benefit of farmers. Recognizing agriculture as the backbone of development, the Kisan Credit Card limit has been raised to Rs 5 lakh," CM Dhama said.

During the rally, he also emphasized the government's commitment to the progress of the farmers.

"For 60 years, no significant decisions were made

for farmers, but since Prime Minister Narendra Modi took charge, transformative steps have been taken for our food providers. Through the Farm Machinery Bank Scheme, up to 80 percent subsidy is being provided, and Rs 200 crore has been allocated for polyhouse construction," he further said.

Criticizing previous governments, he said, "Earlier, a rupee sent from Delhi would shrink to 15 paise by the time it reached the ground. Today, not a single paisa is lost to commission."

On the Uniform Civil Code (UCC), CM Dhama clarified, "UCC is not against any religion or sect; it is a constitutional step to ensure equality among citizens by eliminating social evils.

J-K: LG Sinha inaugurates Kathua Waterfront, calls it 'landmark in urban rejuvenation'

TDG NETWORK
KATHUA

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha inaugurated the Kathua Waterfront, a transformative urban rejuvenation project, on Sunday, dedicating it to the people of Kathua as a space for recreation, wellness, and community engagement.

The 1,200-metre stretch along the Kathua Canal is designed to reshape the city's landscape, economy, and social fabric while promoting sustainability and women's empowerment.

LG Sinha emphasised that the project aligns with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision for urban transformation, calling it a "foundation for a strong future" that balances development with cultural identity.

LG Manoj Sinha said, "I thank all the contributors to this project, which has been completed under Corporate Social Responsibility. I believe we should not view such developments just like other key infrastructure projects-- a waterfront or riverfront, they enhance the quality of life for people. This proj-



ect holds significance for Kathua's economic, social, and cultural development. The 1200-metre-long waterfront offers a multifunctional public space--featuring walking, skating, and cycling tracks, a yoga spot, and provision for 15 restaurants."

"It has also generated direct and indirect employment opportunities for local residents," he added. The project has already provided direct employment to 150 individuals, with a significant number being women.

"This initiative not only rejuvenates the city but also empowers our Nari Shakti," Sinha said.

He urged other cities to compete in improving citizens' quality of life, saying, "Smart cities need smart and responsible citizens."

Sinha expressed satisfaction with Jammu's infrastructure growth but called for continued efforts to modernise towns and villages.

"Every city has a soul. It nurtures aspirations. We must ensure balanced development," he said.

The LG also launched the Integrated Command and Control Centre and flagged off a bicycle rally to mark the occasion.

Earlier in the day, Manoj Sinha had launched a scathing attack on Pakistan, accusing the neighboring country of attempting to "destabilise Jammu and Kashmir's economy, divide people on religious lines, and damage its tourism sector," even as he laid the foundation stone of a Rs 1,240 crore industrial unit in Kathua.

RSS never fought for freedom, aligned with British, worshipped Godse: Congress MP Randeep Surjewala

TDG NETWORK
JHAJJAR

Congress MP Randeep Surjewala on Sunday, alleged that the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) had aligning with the British during India's freedom struggle and opposing the ideals of Mahatma Gandhi.

Speaking to reporters here, Surjewala said, "RSS



never participated in the country's freedom struggle.

They were with the British... Crores of people in this country contributed to the freedom struggle, and their leader was Mahatma Gandhi. I know RSS hates Mahatma Gandhi and worships Nathuram Godse."

He further framed the current political discourse as a clash of ideologies, stating, "In this country, there is a battle between the ideolo-

gies of Godse and Gandhi. On one side, there is the ideology of Gandhi, which created India. On the other hand, there is an ideology of Godse who wants to divide the whole country based on regionalism, caste, and religion."

His remark came after RSS Chief Mohan Bhagwat emphasised the collective nature of India's freedom

struggle, stating that the country's independence was the result of widespread efforts beginning with the 1857 uprising, and not the achievement of any single individual.

Addressing a book release event in Nagpur as the chief guest, Bhagwat said, "There is always a debate about due to whose efforts the country attained independence.

HDFC BANK TRASHES LILAVATI TRUST ALLEGATIONS AGAINST CEO

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

HDFC Bank has denied Lilavati Trust's allegation that the bank's MD and CEO Sashidhar Jagdishan was involved in a series of financial frauds.

The allegation levelled by Lilavati Kirtilal Mehta Medical Trust (LKMM Trust), its trustees and officials against the bank's MD and CEO are baseless and malicious, an HDFC Bank's spokesperson said.

"The outrageous and preposterous allegations are strongly and categorically denied," the spokesperson said in a statement.

The Trust, which oversees Lilavati Hospital in Mumbai, had called upon the board of HDFC Bank, the RBI, SEBI and the Finance Ministry to suspend Jagdishan from all executive and board roles with

HDFC BANK'S STAND

- Allegations are "baseless and malicious" – Bank rejects all claims made against CEO Sashidhar Jagdishan.
- CEO being "falsely targeted" by individuals misusing the legal system.
- Claims intended to thwart recovery of long-pending loans from Prashant Mehta and family.
- Legal actions ongoing for 20+ years, with Mehta's family filing "vexatious" litigations, including in the Supreme Court.
- Bank views the latest move as a bullying tactic to stop recovery efforts.



immediate effect. "An FIR... was registered under orders of the Bombay Magistrate Court after a seized cash diary revealed Rs 14.42 crore misappropriated by trustees, of which Rs 2.05 crore was received by Jagdishan, establishing his direct involvement," the Trust had alleged. According to the

HDFC Bank spokesperson, Jagdishan is being targeted by unscrupulous persons who are abusing the legal process to thwart the recovery of the long outstanding loan due to the bank from recalcitrant defaulters.

"The Trustee, Prashant Mehta and his family members owe substantial

amounts to HDFC Bank which were never repaid. Recovery and enforcement actions have been taken by the bank over two decades and at every stage Prashant Mehta and his other family members have launched numerous vexatious legal actions," the statement said. Having consistently failed

India is key strategic market for global brands, says Myntra CEO

TDG NETWORK
SINGAPORE

India is a key strategic market for global brands while domestic brands are strengthening their propositions, Nandita Sinha, CEO of Bengaluru-headquartered Myntra, which launched in Singapore last month, said.

"With the launch of Myntra Global in Singapore, we're also laying the foundation for our global foray, with a long-term aspiration to serve the Indian diaspora beyond India," Sinha said on Sunday after attending the NRF 25, an international retail show held here June 3-6.

"The new-age insurgent brands are tailoring their



value proposition," she said, underlining the growing strategic importance of the Indian market.

"With the launch of Myntra Global, starting with Singapore, Myntra is targeting the 6,50,000-strong Indian diaspora in the Lion City. Our home website in India was already witnessing notable organic traffic to the tune of 30,000 users from Singapore," Sinha told PTI.

Since the Singapore launch on May 19, Myntra has seen a growing engagement with impressive AOV (average order value) and a promising percentage of returning customers already.

"We want to further reinforce our position as India's most loved lifestyle destination, making the best of trendy fashion, beauty and lifestyle accessible to 100 million plus customers in the country," said Sinha, who is leading the Indian fashion e-commerce company of Flipkart.

At less than 15 per cent, e-fashion in India is still significantly underpenetrated compared to global benchmarks, presenting a tremendous opportunity, she said.

BoB reduces repo-linked interest rates, following RBI's footsteps

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Bank of Baroda (Bank), one of India's leading public sector banks, has announced the reduction in its Repo Linked Lending Rate by 50 basis points following the policy rate cut announced by the Reserve Bank of India.

This move will make borrowing cheaper, which can encourage more people to take loans for homes, cars, or businesses.

The revised rates came into effect from June 7, the public sector bank said in a statement. With this the Bank's Repo Linked Lending Rate now stands at 8.15 per cent. Several banks have reduced the interest rates as per the publically available information.

The move came after the Monetary Policy Committee of Reserve Bank of In-

dian Navy, and Indian Coast Guard. With military aircraft and helicopters having a service life of 30-40 years, regular upgrades -- particularly of avionics, mission systems, and safety equipment -- are vital.

Industry experts estimate that lifecycle investments in upgrades and MRO can reach up to 200-300 per cent of the original acquisition cost of a platform. Globally, the market for military aircraft and helicopter upgrades stands at over Rs 5,00,000 crore annually, and is projected to rise to Rs 7,00,000 crore in the next seven years. India, with a vast inventory of legacy platforms, offers a substantial domestic opportunity, especially as the armed forces modernise older fleets for next-gen warfare. Reliance Infrastructure is now

Initially awarded a contract for 37 aircraft, Reliance secured a repeat order for an additional 18 units following the successful execution of an earlier contract. The total value of the Dornier upgrade contract was Rs 350 crore, sources said. The upgraded Dornier fleet is operational with the Indian Air Force, In-

dia on Friday announced to reduce the policy interest rate by 50 basis point, to 5.5 per cent.

Speaking after the MPC decision, RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra mentioned that the reason for repo cut is that the inflation softened, near-term and medium-term alignment is within RBI range, and food inflation remains soft.

Consequently, the Standing Deposit Facility Rate, which is the SDF Rate, shall stand adjusted to 5.25 per cent, and the Marginal Standing Facility MSF Rate and the Bank Rate shall stand adjusted to 5.75 per cent.

Founded on 20th July, 1908 by Sir Maharaja Sayajirao Gaekwad III, Bank of Baroda is one of the leading commercial banks in India. At 63.97 per cent stake, it is majorly owned by the Government of India.

Reliance Infra bets Rs 5,000 Cr on aircraft upgrade venture

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Reliance is looking to turbocharge its defence vertical with a focus on aircraft upgrade programmes, eyeing an opportunity of Rs 5,000 crore over the next 7-10 years, sources said. This strategic foray positions Reliance Infrastructure as India's first private sector company to independently execute a comprehensive aircraft upgrade programme without being the original manufacturer -- a domain traditionally dominated by public sector units and OEMs. According to a company source, the company has already marked a significant milestone by successfully upgrading 55 Dornier-228 aircraft under a contract with Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL), in collaboration with US-based avionics firm Genesys.

Initially awarded a contract for 37 aircraft, Reliance secured a repeat order for an additional 18 units following the successful execution of an earlier contract. The total value of the Dornier upgrade contract was Rs 350 crore, sources said. The upgraded Dornier fleet is operational with the Indian Air Force, In-



Reliance Infrastructure is now

looking to scale up its aircraft and helicopter upgrade capabilities, working with global partners to deliver world-class solutions.

In addition to the Dornier upgrade success, the company is also a key player in the performance-based logistics (PBL) program for Rafale fighter jets in India, in partnership with Thales of France. Reliance investments in this domain align with the vision of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' while tapping into a multi-billion-dollar global market. With its growing portfolio and proven execution, Reliance Infrastructure is poised to become a major private player in the defence aviation ecosystem, bridging the gap between cutting-edge global technology and the operational needs of India's armed forces.

UP govt to set up Rs 125 cr flatted factory in Greater Noida

TDG NETWORK
GREATER NOIDA

The Uttar Pradesh government will construct a flatted factory here at a cost of Rs 125 crore to boost the state's MSME sector and strengthen its push toward becoming a USD 1 trillion economy.

The initiative is part of UP's vision to transform the state into a leading industrial hub, with a strong focus on supporting micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) alongside heavy industries, an official statement said.

The Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA) has drawn up a detailed plan for the flatted factory complex that

will be developed in Sector 28 of Greater Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar, with a total investment of Rs 125 crore, it said.

Flatted factory is a multi-storey industrial building



designed for the purpose of accommodating several businesses. The building is divided into smaller units and utilized for activities like manufacturing, assem-

bled, and storage.

The statement said preparatory work, including the master plan and related reports, is underway for the factory, with construction expected to be completed within 24 months.

The flatted factory will provide fully equipped units with all essential facilities, enabling seamless production and operations.

The proposed complex is also expected to play a crucial role in attracting investments to the region, driving local economic development, and generating employment opportunities, particularly for youth, it said. The multi-storey flatted factory will cover over 38,665 square

Cost of home-cooked thalis declines 6% in May: Crisil

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

In May 2025, the cost of home-cooked vegetarian and non-vegetarian thalis declined by 6 per cent each year-on-year, according to a Crisil report. The decline was due to a sharp drop in the prices of key vegetables, led by the high-base effect.

According to Crisil analysis, tomato prices fell 29 per cent to Rs 23 per kg from Rs 33 per kg in May 2025 as concerns over yield had lifted prices last year.

Prices of onion and potato declined 15 per cent and 16 per cent, respectively, year-on-year in May as potato prices had shot up last year due to crop damage following blight infestations and unseasonal rainfall in West Bengal, while



onion prices had increased due to lower rabi acreage and yield, as water availability in key growing states - Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, and Karnataka - was low.

Crisil found in its analysis that a 19 per cent year-on-year jump in vegetable oil prices due to a rise in import duty and a 6 per cent year-on-year rise in the price of liquefied petroleum gas cylinder prevented a further drop in thali cost in May. Along with lower vegetable prices, an estimated

6 per cent year-on-year decline in the price of broiler chicken made non-vegetarian thalis cheaper.

"The decline in prices of broiler -- which makes up about 50 per cent of the non-vegetarian thali cost -- was due to oversupply and lower demand amid bird flu reported in parts of Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Karnataka," the Crisil report read.

On a month-on-month basis, the cost of a vegetarian thali remained stable, while that of non-vegetarian thali reduced 2 per cent in May 2025

Potato and tomato prices rose 3 per cent and 10 per cent month-on-month, respectively, while onion prices dipped 10 per cent, thereby keeping the vegetarian thali cost unchanged month-on-month.

Adani's cement biz contributes 30% of India's homes infra: Ambuja CEO

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Adani Group firm Ambuja Cements -- the second largest cement producer in the country -- contributes to nearly 30 per cent of the cement used for India's homes and infrastructure, the company said in its latest annual report.

Ambuja Cements, which has crossed 100 MTPA (Million Tonnes Per Annum) capacity in FY25 in a record time, mainly through acquisitions, now aims to reach 118 MTPA by FY 2026 and 140 MTPA by FY 2028, primarily through brownfield expansion projects.

"Ambuja Cements, now

a core part of the Adani Group's cement business, contributes to nearly 30 per cent of India's homes and infrastructure. This is a story of resilience fuelled by a growth mindset -- a journey that marries legacy with innovation and is inspired by a clear and purposeful vision," said its CEO Vinod Bahety, while addressing the shareholders.

This is a story of "resilience fuelled by a growth mindset" and is inspired by a clear and purposeful vision and testament to the focused execution, agility, and ambition that define our transformation.

"A key catalyst behind this success has been our series



of efficient and timely acquisitions, each completed with precision and synergy. Alongside inorganic growth, our organic expansion projects continue to gain strong momentum across the country, bringing us closer to our ambitious long-term target of reach-

ing 140 MTPA by 2028," he said.

In FY24, Ambuja crossed the milestone of 100 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) of consolidated cement capacity, becoming the ninth largest cement company globally.

Adani Group is a new entrant in the cement sector. It jumped into the cement sector in September 2022, after acquiring controlling stakes in Ambuja Cement from Swiss firm Holcim for cash proceeds of USD 6.4 billion (about Rs 51,000 crore).

Later, Ambuja Cements, which owns a 51 per cent stake in ACC Ltd, pursued inorganic growth, acquiring small companies as Hyder-

abad-based Penna Cement and Saurashtra-based Sanghi Industries. Earlier this year, it also acquired Orient Cement from CK Birla group.

"Having achieved nearly 50 per cent growth in just 30 months, our roadmap is clear: reaching 118 MTPA by FY26 and 140 MTPA by FY28, primarily through brownfield expansion projects," it said.

In FY26, Ambuja Cement has target of commissioning clinker and grinding units across strategic locations such as Bhatapara, Sankrail, Sindri, Salai-Banwa, Dahej, Marwar, Kalamboli, Krishnapatanam, Bathinda, Jodhpur, Maratha, and Warisaliganj.

Airtel MD writes to banks, NPCI, RBI to join forces against digital fraud

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Telecom operator Airtel has approached over 40 banks, as well as RBI and NPCI, proposing a close collaboration and a unified front to curb digital frauds, including sharing intelligence over repository of known fraudulent financial domains.

Airtel has dialled NPCI, proposing a "closer collaboration" to create a repository of known malicious financial domains, to enable proactive blocking of malicious

and rogue sites and to build a multi-layered defence to combat digital frauds.

The Sunil Mittal-led telco has also done a similar outreach with major banks, including SBI, HDFC and others, sources said.

The company has also reached out to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for "collaboration" to create a repository of known fraudulent financial domains.

Airtel has also favoured regulatory consultations, offering its support to the RBI in building frameworks

that hold OTT platforms accountable for consumer safety -- especially in the context of financial communication, according to the letter seen by PTI.

It has also mooted joint public education campaigns to raise awareness about evolving digital fraud tactics and safe practices.

In a separate letter to NPCI, Airtel said it believes there is a strong potential for a partnership between Airtel and NPCI to further strengthen the security of India's digital payment sys-



tems.

An email sent to Airtel did not elicit a response.

"The NPCI has been at the forefront of securing digital transactions in India, de-

veloping cutting-edge AI/ML-based models that offer an advanced real-time Fraud Risk Monitoring and Management solution (FRM) that generates alerts and allows banks to detect and prevent fraud across all online NPCI products.

"Airtel commends this proactive approach and NPCI's efforts in reducing the growing risks of fraud in an increasingly digital financial landscape, where threats are constantly evolving," Gopal Vittal, Vice Chairman and Managing

Director of Airtel, said in a communication to Dilip Asbe, MD and CEO, National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

Informing about the launch of Airtel's fraud detection solution to combat consumer fraud via malicious links, the telco said the solution can significantly complement NPCI's existing fraud monitoring initiatives.

By blocking access to malicious websites and phishing links at the point of access, Airtel can help prevent

users from unknowingly engaging with fraudulent sites that could compromise their financial data, the telco said.

"Additionally, during these programs as well as our overall telco acquisition and experience, we believe that we have strong signals that could lead to identification of potentially fraudulent transactions or users," the Airtel top honcho wrote, adding that the company believes there is strong potential for a partnership between Airtel and

NPCI to further strengthen the security of India's digital payment systems.

"We propose the following actions to enhance this partnership... Closer collaboration between Airtel and NPCI to create a repository of known fraudulent financial domains, enabling proactive blocking of these malicious sites and creating a multi-layered defence against digital fraud," said the letter dated May 16.

Airtel has also pitched for joint awareness campaigns and workshops.

ALIGNING ECONOMIC GROWTH WITH EMPLOYMENT IN INDIA

OPINION

DR. SAURABH
BANDYOPADHYAY

India's economic growth over the past few decades has been impressive, but the benefits have not reached everyone equally. While urban areas and formal sectors have prospered, many in rural and informal economies remain excluded. The long-anticipated 'trickle-down' effect has not materialized, emphasizing the need for inclusive and employment-oriented policy interventions.

Technological advances, especially Artificial Intelligence and digitalization, are reshaping the job market. These changes demand a workforce that can adapt quickly, highlighting the urgency of robust skilling and reskilling systems. In this context, one of the most promising developments has been the rise of India's start-up ecosystem. Now the third-largest globally, it has driven innovation, created jobs, and become more inclusive, with increasing participation from women and entrepreneurs beyond metropolitan centers. Yet, while the momentum is encouraging, deeper structural challenges remain.

India's start-ups symbolize opportunity but cannot address the full scale of the country's employment needs. Each year, millions of

individuals enter the labour force, yet start-ups account for only a small fraction of the jobs required. To bridge this gap, India must also prioritize labour-intensive sectors like agriculture, construction, manufacturing, and essential services. These areas hold far greater potential to generate employment for low- and mid-skilled workers.

Another challenge is the disconnect between the skills needed in high-growth sectors and the current capabilities of much of India's workforce. Participation in digital and innovation-led industries typically requires technical proficiency, digital literacy, and soft skills, all of which remain unequally distributed. The digital divide, coupled with poor-quality education and fragmented skill development programmes, restricts access for many. If these barriers are not addressed, the gains from economic growth risk remaining concentrated among urban, educated, and already advantaged populations.

Beyond the private sector, government efforts to boost employment are also key. Over the years, various policy incentives, funding mechanisms, and public-private partnerships have

helped support India's entrepreneurial landscape. However, these initiatives must be part of a broader, integrated employment strategy. The threat of automation looms large across sectors, especially for routine or manual jobs. This reinforces the need to invest in human capital through quality education, vocational training, and lifelong learning, enabling India's workforce to remain relevant and resilient.

At the same time, India continues to spend significantly on social welfare and employment schemes. Pro-

Skill development schemes, though well-intentioned, frequently struggle with poor industry linkages, limited tracking, and inadequate post-training support. These issues point to a broader gap between the ambition of employment programmes and their actual outcomes. Substantial budgetary allocations toward employment, agriculture, and food security are encouraging, but without alignment to measurable goals and co-ordinated execution, their transformative potential remains underutilized.

in promoting economic inclusion, need stronger links to formal markets, digital tools, and skill ecosystems to scale their success and expand opportunity.

India's young demographic continues to offer a significant opportunity, but it also presents urgent challenges. A large proportion of the workforce remains informally employed in low-productivity sectors. As fertility rates decline and the population ages, India's demographic dividend is finite. To prepare for this transition, the country needs

technical training to enable more people to participate meaningfully in the knowledge economy. On the other, it must invest in sectors with high employment elasticity to create widespread job opportunities. This includes targeted infrastructure investments, support for rural enterprises, and promotion of region-specific service sectors.

Such a balanced approach can harmonize short-term job creation with long-term productivity gains. A coherent employment strategy should prioritize inclusive growth, focusing on both economic efficiency and equity.

India has made substantial progress in reducing poverty and expanding economic opportunities, but further strides demand structural reforms and inclusive planning. Outcome-oriented targets—such as reducing poverty incidence to below 10 percent by 2030 and narrowing income inequality—can serve as guiding benchmarks. By aligning national economic strategies with grassroots empowerment, strengthening institutions, and bridging skill gaps, India can ensure that growth becomes a shared experience.

The task ahead is clear: transform economic dynamism into meaningful livelihoods. A future-ready India is not just one that grows rapidly, but one that uplifts all its people through opportunity, resilience, and shared prosperity.

The author is with NCAER, New Delhi. Views are personal.



grammes like the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) offer crucial income support in rural areas. Yet, challenges such as delayed wage payments and underfunding persist. The National Rural Livelihoods Mission has empowered many rural women through self-help groups, but scaling these efforts to generate sustained, higher-income activities remains difficult.

Local governance also plays a crucial role in bridging the gap between national policy and grassroots outcomes. The constitutional amendments that created Panchayati Raj Institutions were designed to empower decentralized decision-making. However, many local bodies still operate with limited administrative and financial capacity. Women-led self-help groups, which have shown positive results

forward-looking policies that promote job creation in sectors such as agro-processing, livestock, textiles, renewable energy, and logistics. These industries not only offer employment at scale but also align with sustainable growth goals.

Tackling the twin challenges of unemployment and underemployment requires a dual-track approach. On one side, India must expand access to quality education and

G7 embraces India—because it must

OPINION

ABHINANDAN MISHRA

Prime Minister Modi's upcoming visit to Canada for the G7 summit—his first in a decade—carries significance that goes well beyond the formalities of international diplomacy.

Invited by Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney, this visit is both symbolic and strategic—marking Modi's first participation in a major multilateral forum since the launch of Operation Sindoor, India's audacious and widely discussed military response to cross-border terrorism emanating from nuclear-armed Pakistan, now seen by many as a vassal of China.

That alone lends gravity to the visit. For years, India's military capability was a matter of speculation or restraint. Post-Sindoor, it's a matter of record. India didn't just signal strength—it demonstrated it. That shift hasn't gone unnoticed by the world's major powers.

Carney's invitation, therefore, is not routine. It signals a deliberate reset. After years of strained ties under Justin Trudeau—largely the result of his government's political flirtation with Khalistani separatists—Carney seems intent on course-correcting. That earlier indulgence of fringe extremism cost Canada dearly: not just in Delhi, but across key strategic circles in the Indo-Pacific.



Carney, to his credit, appears to grasp the stakes.

This reset shouldn't be reduced to the still-unresolved Hardeep Singh Nijjar episode, even if some parts of the Canadian media remain fixated on it. Yes, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police made public insinuations about Indian involvement. But to date, no verifiable evidence has been placed on the record. In fact, parallel intelligence trail suggest that Nijjar's death may have had more to do with local criminal rivalries than geopolitics.

That distinction mattered little to the Trudeau government, which chose to escalate the matter prematurely. But it didn't go unnoticed by Canada's allies.

When Ottawa went public in 2023 with its claims, Washington responded with caution. It acknowledged Canadian concerns, yes—but made it clear it wouldn't let a single incident jeopardize the broader Indo-U.S. strategic partnership. In fact, the U.S. has only deepened its engagement with India since: in defense, tech, supply chains and intelligence cooperation.

The message was unmistakable: long-term interests cannot be derailed by momentary political drama.

The United Kingdom drew a similar line. One of Canada's oldest allies, it pressed forward and signed a landmark free trade agreement with India—a deal that underlines just how central India has become to any competitive, future-focused economy. India is no longer just a growth story—it's a demographic engine, a digital pioneer, and a stabilizing force in a turbulent Indo-Pacific.

This rise hasn't been accidental—it's been architected. Over the last ten years, the Modi government has redefined India's global identity: blending domestic reforms with strategic clarity abroad. From economic revival and digital innovation to assertive diplomacy and military modernisation, India has moved with intent—and it shows.

That's why India is now indispensable. And why forums like the G7 no longer see its presence as a courtesy—but as a privilege.

This transformation hasn't happened in isolation. Today, India is the world's fifth-largest economy, a key player in international rule-making, and a steady advocate for the Global South. It doesn't merely participate in global conversations—it helps shape them.

And that evolution is strategic, not just economic.

Which brings us back to Carney's outreach. India isn't at the table to fill a seat—it's there because its absence would leave the conversation incomplete. No serious global summit can afford to bypass a country that is home to one in six humans, that sits astride critical maritime routes, and that has the credibility to speak to both the developed world and emerging economies.

Of course, domestic politics will always tempt leaders to posture. It's easy, electorally, to poke India for a soundbite or to appease a vocal minority. But as Canadian businesses are now realising, that comes with a price: lost trade, diplomatic chill, and fading relevance in a region that will define this century.

Modi's visit is not about photo-ops. It is an opening—a chance for both nations to reimagine a relationship on more mature terms. Not one held hostage by sensationalism or fringe lobbying—but one rooted in mutual interest, realism and respect.

In choosing engagement over estrangement, Mark Carney is not capitulating. He is calibrating. And in doing so, he joins a wider consensus—shared in Washington, London, Tokyo, and Berlin—that a deeper, more balanced partnership with India isn't just wise. It's inevitable.

Understanding the oversight role of UN OIOS and ICC's institutional resilience

OPINION

ABHINAV MEHROTRA &
DR. BISWANATH GUPTA



In a significant development for international criminal justice, Karim Khan, the Chief Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC), has temporarily stepped aside while an investigation by the United Nations Office of Internal Oversight Services (UNOIOS) into allegations of sexual misconduct proceeds. Khan's office announced that he voluntarily informed colleagues of this decision, emphasizing cooperation with the inquiry. While no timeline has been established for the investigation's completion, the ICC has confirmed that its two Deputy Prosecutors will assume his responsibilities in the

interim. This marks a rare moment of uncertainty in the leadership of the ICC, an institution often under intense global scrutiny for its prosecution of crimes such as genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity. This development brings into focus the role of OIOS, a crucial UN body tasked with upholding integrity and accountability within the system.

UNDERSTANDING THE UN OFFICE OF INTERNAL OVERSIGHT SERVICES (OIOS)

Established in 1994 through UN General Assembly Resolution 48/218 B, the OIOS is an independent entity within the UN Secretariat. It re-

ports directly to both the UN Secretary-General and the General Assembly, serving as the UN's internal watchdog. It is headquartered in New York. The core function that the OIOS performs include internal audit to assess the adequacy and effectiveness of the United Nations' internal control systems, risk management, and governance processes. The aim is to ensure that resources are used efficiently, effectively, and in compliance with relevant rules and regulations. Significantly, OIOS also investigates reports of misconduct, fraud, corruption, and other violations of UN regulations and rules under which the case of the ICC prosecutor also falls under. The goal is to uphold accountability, integrity, and ethical standards across the UN system.

ICC'S CONTINUITY AMIDST TRANSITION

As the ICC continues its mandate to prosecute grave international crimes, the temporary absence of its Chief Prosecutor raises important questions about leadership continuity. Fortunately, the institutional design of the Court incorporates layers of deputy officials to ensure smooth functioning during periods of transition. The Rome Statute, the treaty that established the ICC, provides for the appointment of



Karim Ahmed Khan

Deputy Prosecutors, who act on behalf of the Prosecutor in case of absence, illness, recusal, or temporary leave. In Khan's case, these deputies will assume day-to-day operational responsibilities, including overseeing active investigations and prosecutorial decisions.

Beyond the Office of the Prosecutor, the broader governance of the ICC is maintained through the Assembly of States Parties (ASP), which serves as the Court's legislative and oversight body. The ASP is composed of representatives from the 124 countries that are party to the Rome Statute. Its leadership includes a President and two Vice-Presidents, roles analogous to Speakers and Deputy Speakers in national parliaments.

The Vice-Presidents of the ASP play a vital diplomatic and procedural role, particularly during institutional crises or transitions. Their responsibilities include chair-

ing sessions, facilitating dialogue among member states, and ensuring timely communication between the ICC and the international community.

INSTITUTIONAL SAFEGUARDS AND JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE

Within the judicial structure of the ICC, the Court also appoints First and Second Vice-Presidents, elected from among its judges. These officials assist the President of the Court in managing judicial and administrative affairs. While they do not engage directly in prosecutorial matters, they play a key role in maintaining institutional cohesion and supporting the functioning of judicial chambers during transitional phases.

The current situation, while challenging, is not unprecedented. International institutions often face reputational risks when allegations of misconduct arise among top

officials. The decisive response shaped by transparency, adherence to protocol, and independent investigation will determine the institution's ability to weather the storm and emerge with its legitimacy intact.

CONCLUSION

Going forward, Karim Khan's decision to temporarily step aside underscores the importance of accountability mechanisms within global institutions. As the UN's OIOS continues its investigation, and as the ICC's deputy leadership ensures the continuity of justice, the world is witnessing a crucial test of institutional integrity. This moment serves as a reminder that everyone is equal before the eyes of law. In an era of growing geopolitical tensions and rising demands for international accountability, the strength of institutions like the ICC and OIOS lies in upholding the principles they were created to defend.

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SCIENCE IN ANCIENT INDIA: FOUNDATIONS OF KNOWLEDGE AND INNOVATION

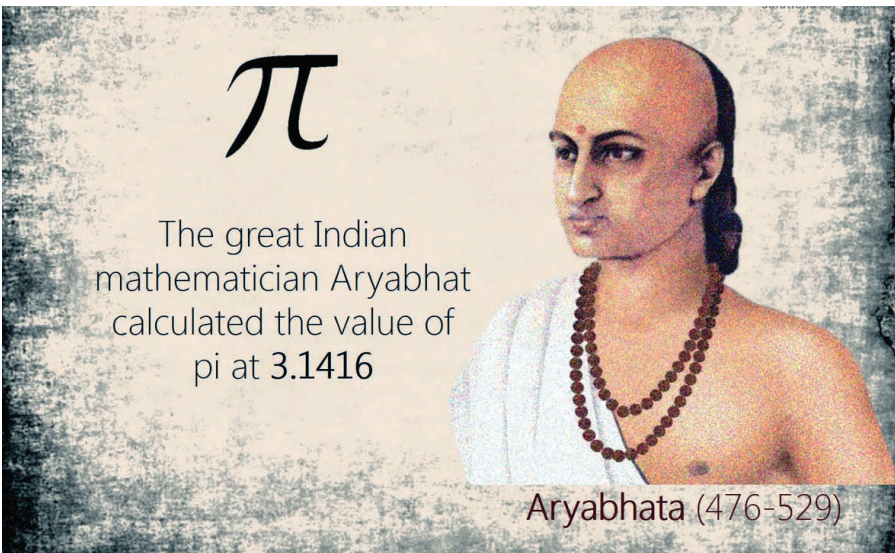
Ancient India made significant contributions to the field of science. They developed advanced knowledge in mathematics, astronomy, medicine, and metallurgy. Their discoveries and inventions laid the foundation for modern scientific advancements.

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Ancient India was not only a land of spiritual inquiry and philosophical speculation but also a cradle of scientific innovation. Far from being an isolated culture of rituals and metaphysics, India's early civilization nurtured a deep engagement with empirical knowledge, logic, and the workings of the universe. Its contributions in mathematics, astronomy, medicine, metallurgy, and cognitive science laid the intellectual groundwork for many modern disciplines.

While the Western narrative often credits Greece and Rome as the origin points of science, recent findings in archaeology, Vedic scholarship, and historical texts have revealed that ancient Indian science, embedded in the Vedas and developed through millennia, was far more advanced and influential than previously acknowledged.

THE VEDIC ERA: SCIENCE BEGINS WITH THE SACRED
India's earliest known literature—the Vedas—are repositories of profound scientific knowledge. The Rigveda, composed before 2000 BCE, presents a tripartite worldview of earth, atmosphere, and sky, aligning natural phenomena with elemental deities. Far from being merely religious, the Vedas and their appendices (the Vedangas) explored diverse scientific disciplines:



- Kalpa (ritual and geometry)
- Shiksha (phonetics)
- Chhandas (metrics and mathematics)
- Nirukta (etymology)
- Vyakarana (grammar and logic)
- Jyotisha (astronomy and calendrics)

These texts reflect a systematic effort to understand the universe in terms both outer and inner, laying the philosophical foundation of Indian science.

VEDIC COGNITIVE SCIENCE: INNER AND OUTER WORLDS
The Vedic seers (Rishis) conceptualized a unified reality where mind and matter were reflections of the same truth. This understanding was not abstract philosophy but had practical applications. The metaphor of the chariot in the Katha Upanishad, representing the body driven by the mind and guided by the higher self, encapsulates a complex model of psychol-

ogy, now echoed in modern cognitive theories. The Taittiriya Upanishad introduces five koshas or sheaths of existence—from the physical to the blissful—which indicate an early mapping of human consciousness. The notions of prana (life force) and its effect on physical and mental health reflect deep insight into psychosomatic medicine.

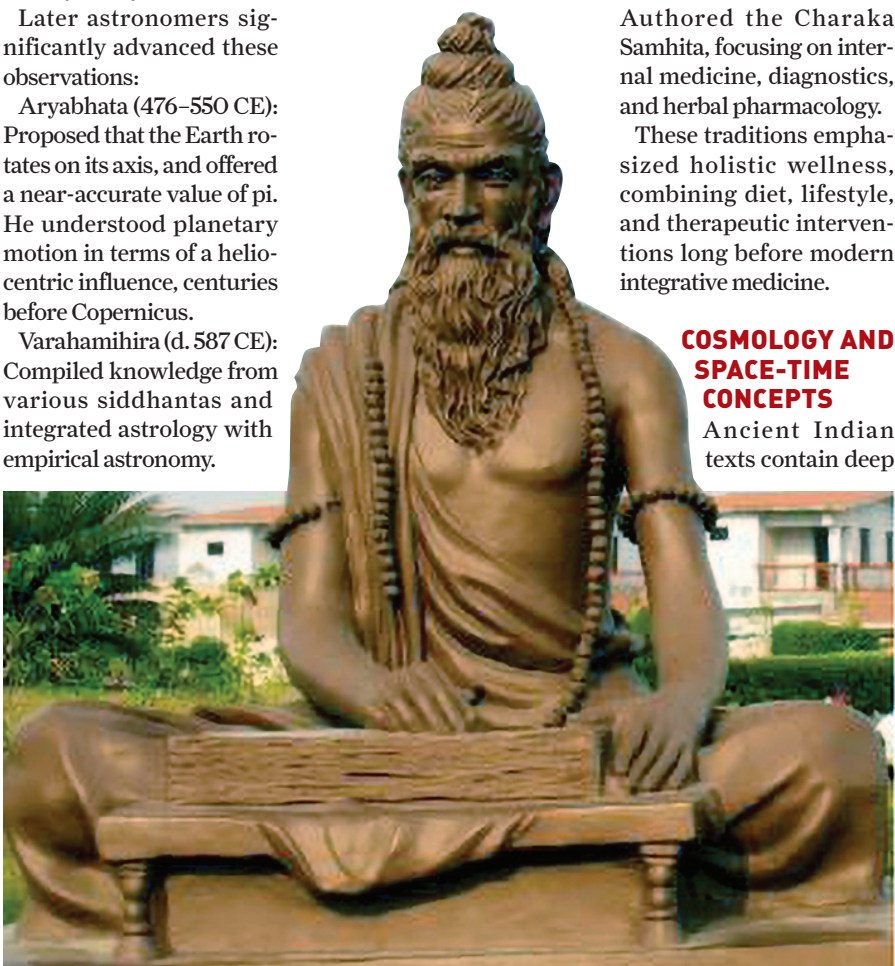
MATHEMATICS AND GEOMETRY: INDIA'S TIMELESS LEGACY
Indian geometry, especially from the Shulvasutras, predates its Greek counterpart by centuries. Altar constructions for Vedic rituals involved geometric precision—converting circles into squares and using complex area calculations. Mathematician Baudharyana (circa 800 BCE) formulated what is now known as the Pythagorean Theorem, centuries before Pythagoras himself. India's most significant

mathematical contribution is undoubtedly the decimal system and the concept of zero, first systematically discussed by Brahmagupta in the 7th century CE. This revolutionary invention underpins modern arithmetic, accounting, and computer science. Other key figures include: ● Pingala (c. 1st century BCE): Used binary numbers in his work on Sanskrit prosody. ● Hemchandra: Described the Fibonacci sequence before Fibonacci. ● Bhaskaracharya (Bhaskara II): Worked on differentials and early calculus, centuries before Newton.

ASTRONOMY: MAPPING THE SKIES MILLENNIA AGO
Astronomy was deeply embedded in ritual and practical life. The Vedanga Jyotisha is among the earliest Indian texts focusing on astronomy and timekeeping. Ritual altars themselves encoded astronomical data. For example, pebbles placed in the earth-sky altars (21 + 78 + 261) total 360, reflecting the days of a year. Later astronomers significantly advanced these observations: Aryabhata (476–550 CE): Proposed that the Earth rotates on its axis, and offered a near-accurate value of pi. He understood planetary motion in terms of a heliocentric influence, centuries before Copernicus. Varahamihira (d. 587 CE): Compiled knowledge from various siddhantas and integrated astrology with empirical astronomy.



Bhaskaracharya



Sushruta



Brahmagupta (598–668 CE): His Brahmasphuta Siddhanta outlined methods for astronomical calculations and introduced rules for zero.

Bhaskaracharya (b. 1114 CE): His work Siddhanta Shiromani expanded on planetary motion and trigonometry.

These contributions found their way to Arab and European science through translations and exchanges, influencing the Islamic Golden Age and the Renaissance.

METALLURGY AND ENGINEERING: THE SCIENCE OF MATERIALS
India's excellence in metallurgy was unparalleled. The

Iron Pillar of Delhi, over 1,600 years old, remains rust-free, showcasing sophisticated iron treatment. By 500 BCE, India was producing high-quality Wootz steel, a precursor to Damascus steel.

MEDICINE AND SURGERY: AYURVEDA AND BEYOND
India's medical science, Ayurveda, is rooted in the Tridosha theory: Vata (wind), Pitta (bile), and Kapha (phlegm). This system predates and possibly influenced Greek medicine, where similar elements (like pneuma) are discussed. French scholar Jean Filiozat suggested that the Greeks borrowed from Indian medicine via Persian intermediaries.

Bhaskaracharya (b. 1114 CE): His work Siddhanta Shiromani expanded on planetary motion and trigonometry.

Key medical figures include: Sushruta (c. 600 BCE): Often called the father of surgery, described 125 surgical instruments and procedures including plastic surgery and cataract removal. Charaka (c. 300 BCE): Authored the Charaka Samhita, focusing on internal medicine, diagnostics, and herbal pharmacology. These traditions emphasized holistic wellness, combining diet, lifestyle, and therapeutic interventions long before modern integrative medicine.

COSMOLOGY AND SPACE-TIME CONCEPTS
Ancient Indian texts contain deep

insights into space, time, and the cosmos. The Yoga-Vasishtha describes time as relative, fluid, and infinite—ideas remarkably close to modern physics. Passages describe:

- Time ranging from one-millionth of a blink to cosmic cycles.
 - Multiple universes existing in a grain of sand or strand of hair.
 - Three kinds of space: physical, mental, and infinite consciousness.
- These metaphysical insights echo principles from quantum mechanics and string theory. The assertion that reality is ultimately non-dual and interwoven with consciousness reflects a radical vision of science and spirit as one continuum.

CHRONOLOGY AND CULTURAL CONTINUITY
Contrary to earlier colonial-era assertions, modern research shows that Vedic science predates 1500 BCE. Geological studies suggest

knowledge and inquiry. After Bhaskara, Indian mathematics flourished in the Kerala school (14th–16th centuries), where scholars like Madhava developed early forms of calculus, including infinite series and trigonometric expansions. Though much of this knowledge remained localized and was later overshadowed by colonial education systems, its rediscovery is altering our understanding of global scientific history.

LEGACY AND RELEVANCE TODAY
The scientific achievements of ancient India were vast, diverse, and deeply insightful. From conceptualizing zero to understanding the cosmos, from metal alloys to brain-mind models, India offered a holistic vision of science—one where logic, observation, spirituality, and practicality were seamlessly interwoven. While many achievements were later forgotten, sup-



Brahmagupta

pressed, or rebranded by colonial narratives, today's renewed interest—fueled by archaeological discoveries and scholarly revision—is reviving the rightful place of India in the global scientific heritage. However, the aim should not be to exaggerate or mythologize. The truth itself is extraordinary. India's real contribution lies not in mystical claims but in the rigorous, rational, and creative inquiry that guided its thinkers. Modern India must honor this legacy—not by clinging to the past—but by drawing inspiration from it to foster innovation, critical thinking, and scientific temper in the generations to come.

BHAKTI: A JOURNEY OF DEVOTION, TRANSFORMATION AND LIBERATION

TDG NETWORK
JAIPUR

Bhakti, derived from the Sanskrit root *bhaj*, which means “to share” or “to devote,” is one of the most profound and transformative spiritual paths in Indian philosophy. As a concept, Bhakti refers to devotion, love, and surrender to the divine. It is not confined to any one religion or spiritual practice but is most widely explored within Hinduism, especially in the Bhakti Movement that swept through India between the 7th and 17th centuries.

Bhakti goes beyond rituals and intellectual understanding. It emphasizes an emotional, personal relationship with the divine, whether understood as a god or goddess, a formless universal presence, or a spiritual ideal. The significance of Bhakti lies in its simplicity, accessibility, and deep emotional resonance, making it one of the most enduring and universal paths to spiritual fulfillment.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT AND DEVELOPMENT

The roots of Bhakti can be traced to the Vedic period, but it came into full expression through the Bhakti Movement, which began in South India with the Alvars (devotees of Vishnu) and Nayanars (devotees of Shiva). The movement later spread to northern India,

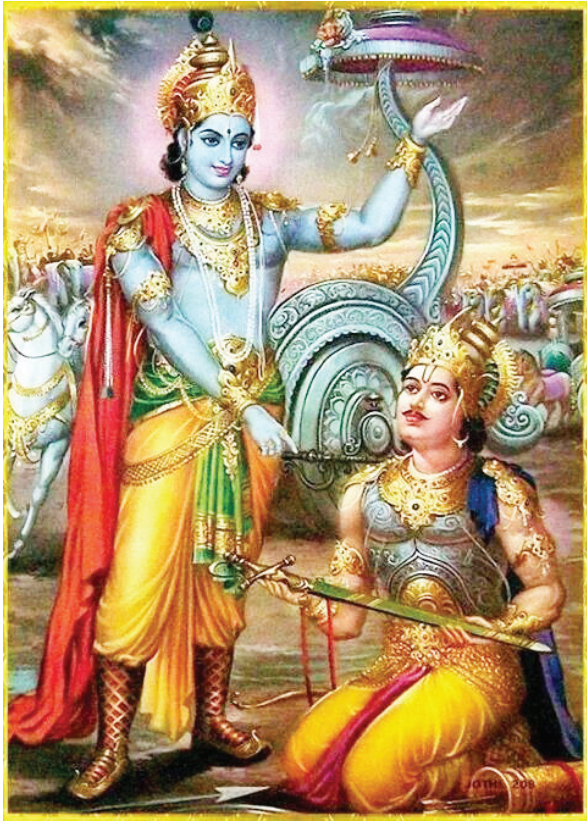
inspiring saints like Kabir, Mirabai, Tulsidas, Surdas, and Guru Nanak. Each of these figures, through poetry, music, and personal example, emphasized love for God over rigid social hierarchies, ritualism, and caste distinctions.

The Bhakti Movement served not only as a spiritual revolution but also as a social reform movement. It brought religious practice out of the exclusive hands of the priestly class and made it accessible to the common person. In doing so, it challenged orthodoxy and opened up avenues for self-expression and inner transformation.

FORMS OF BHAKTI

Bhakti is not a monolithic concept. It can be practiced in multiple forms, each allowing the devotee to relate to the divine in a unique way:

1. Shaanta Bhava (Peaceful Love) – A quiet, contemplative love toward God, often seen in meditative traditions.
2. Daasya Bhava (Servitude) – Devotion through service, as exemplified by Hanuman’s relationship with Lord Rama.
3. Sakhya Bhava (Friendship) – A loving companionship with God, like Arjuna’s relationship with Krishna in the Bhagavad Gita.
4. Vaatsalya Bhava (Parental Affection) – Loving God as one would love a child, such as Yashoda’s love for baby Krishna.



5. Madhura Bhava (Romantic Devotion) – Love as a beloved, often exemplified by Radha and Mirabai’s devotion to Krishna.

These different attitudes allow devotees to express their love for the divine in ways that are deeply personal and emotionally fulfilling.

Bhakti in Sacred Texts

The Bhagavad Gita, one of the central texts of Hindu philosophy, dedicates significant attention to Bhakti. In Chapter 12, Krishna describes the qualities of a true devotee and asserts that among the various paths—karma (ac-

tion), jnana (knowledge), and bhakti (devotion)—bhakti is the most direct and emotionally satisfying way to reach the divine.

The Srimad Bhagavatam is another text that glorifies Bhakti as the highest form of spiritual attainment. Through stories of devotees like Prahlada, Dhruva, and the Gopis of Vrindavan, it illustrates the power of pure devotion to transcend even the most difficult circumstances.

EMOTIONAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE

One of the most compel-



ling aspects of Bhakti is its emotional appeal. Unlike the intellectualism of Jnana Yoga (path of knowledge) or the disciplined approach of Karma Yoga (path of action), Bhakti Yoga taps into the heart. It uses love, surrender, and longing as the primary tools for spiritual growth.

This emotional engagement has profound psychological effects. It provides a sense of purpose, belonging, and connection. Devotees often describe experiencing divine love in such intensity that it dissolves ego boundaries, leading to a sense of unity with the divine and with all of creation.

Modern psychology supports this. Practices of devotion, prayer, and surrender have been shown to reduce stress, enhance emotional regulation, and build resilience. The act of

focusing love and reverence on a higher power can help individuals navigate suffering, find meaning in adversity, and build inner strength.

BHAKTI AS A PATH TO LIBERATION

While Bhakti is emotionally fulfilling, its ultimate aim is spiritual liberation—moksha. Bhakti teaches that when love for God becomes unconditional and unwavering, the devotee transcends the dualities of pleasure and pain, success and failure. The self merges with the divine, and the illusion of separation dissolves.

Importantly, Bhakti does not demand scholarship, wealth, or even ritual purity. It only requires a sincere heart. This democratizing spirit is what made Bhakti so revolutionary. A poor farmer, a woman saint, or an outcast could reach the

divine as easily as a learned priest.

Saints like Tukaram, Ravidas, and Lalleshwari emerged from marginalized communities, yet their devotional songs and poetry carry immense spiritual depth and continue to inspire millions. Their lives bear testimony to the power of Bhakti to liberate not just the soul, but also the social self.

BHAKTI IN DAILY LIFE

Bhakti is not limited to temples or sacred texts. It finds expression in everyday acts—singing devotional songs, cooking food with love as an offering, chanting God’s name, or simply remembering the divine with gratitude. These small acts create a sacred rhythm in daily life, making spirituality not a separate activity, but a living presence.

In a world filled with distractions, disconnection, and stress, Bhakti offers a path back to the heart. It allows people to cultivate humility, patience, compassion, and a deep sense of trust in the divine order. By focusing on love and surrender rather than control and ambition, Bhakti becomes a means to restore balance and peace in both the inner and outer worlds.

Bhakti in Other Traditions

Though rooted in Hinduism, the essence of Bhakti can be seen in other spiritual traditions as well. In Christianity, devotion to

Christ and the saints, the practice of prayer and surrender, mirrors many aspects of Bhakti. In Islam, the Sufi tradition emphasizes love and longing for the divine, with poets like Rumi and Hafiz echoing Bhakti sentiments. Sikhism, founded by Guru Nanak, places devotion (bhagti) at the center of spiritual life, promoting love for the divine as the highest form of worship.

This universality shows that Bhakti is not confined to one religion but is a fundamental human expression of love for the sacred.

Bhakti, as a path of devotion, holds timeless relevance. In its simplicity and emotional power lies its greatness. It requires no elaborate rituals or philosophical mastery—just a heart full of love, surrender, and longing. Through Bhakti, ordinary lives are transformed, and divine presence is brought into everyday experience.

As the world continues to grapple with materialism, conflict, and spiritual emptiness, Bhakti offers a way back to the core of our being. It teaches that love—pure, unconditional, and directed toward the divine—is the most powerful force for inner transformation and ultimate liberation. Whether through a song, a tear, or a whispered prayer, Bhakti reminds us that the path to God begins not in the mind, but in the heart.

Meditation: A journey to inner freedom

TDG NETWORK
JAIPUR

For thousands of years, spiritual seekers across cultures have pursued one ultimate goal: liberation. Known as moksha in Hinduism, nirvana in Buddhism, salvation in Christianity, and fana in Sufism, liberation refers to freedom from suffering, ignorance, and the cycle of birth and death. It is the realization of one’s true nature, which is pure, eternal, and infinite. Among the many paths to this exalted state, meditation stands out as one of the most profound, direct, and universal tools available to humanity.

Meditation is more than a technique; it is a disciplined way of being that allows one to move beyond the mind, beyond the ego, and beyond the limitations of the material world. In this article, we will explore the concept of liberation through meditation, how it works, why it is transformative, and how people in both ancient and modern times have used it to experience inner freedom.

UNDERSTANDING LIBERATION

Liberation, in its truest sense, is not about escaping the world but about seeing it clearly and without attachment. It means recognizing the impermanence of all things, the illusion of separateness, and the limitations of identity based on body, mind, or social roles.

In Eastern traditions, particularly Hinduism and Buddhism, liberation is often described as a state of pure awareness or consciousness. The Upanishads describe the liberated soul as one who is beyond desires, free

from the bonds of karma, and established in the Self (Atman). In Buddhism, the Buddha taught that liberation is achieved by extinguishing the fires of craving, aversion, and ignorance through disciplined practice.

Meditation is the bridge that takes the practitioner from bondage to freedom—not by adding anything, but by stripping away what is false.

WHAT IS MEDITATION?

Meditation, in its essence, is the art of stilling the mind. It is a state of deep awareness and attention, where one observes thoughts, emotions, and sensations without attachment or judgment. There are many forms of meditation, including:

- Mindfulness (Vipassana) – observing the breath, bodily sensations, or thoughts without reaction.
- Concentration (Dharana) – focusing on a single object, like a mantra, flame, or image.
- Transcendental Meditation – using a mantra to go beyond thought.
- Loving-Kindness (Metta) – cultivating feelings of compassion and goodwill.
- Self-Inquiry (Atma Vichara) – asking “Who am I?” to discover the source of awareness.

Despite different methods, all meditative practices aim to help the practitioner transcend the limited, reactive mind and awaken to a deeper, unchanging reality within.

HOW MEDITATION LEADS TO LIBERATION 1. BREAKING THE CYCLE OF THOUGHT

One of the primary causes of bondage is the compul-



sive activity of the mind. Thoughts, desires, fears, and memories constantly pull us into a false sense of identity. Meditation allows us to witness these mental movements rather than being caught in them. With sustained practice, the grip of thought loosens, and one begins to experience moments of silence, clarity, and presence. In that silence lies the taste of freedom.

2. DETACHMENT AND EQUANIMITY

Meditation teaches the art of detachment—not indifference, but the ability to observe without clinging. As one becomes a witness to both pleasure and pain, gain and loss, one develops equanimity—a balanced state of mind. This equanimity is the seed of liberation because it weakens the dualities that keep us trapped in

suffering.

3. PURIFICATION OF THE MIND

The mind is often clouded by past impressions, negative emotions, and unconscious conditioning. Meditation acts as a purifier. As we sit in stillness, unresolved emotions rise to the surface and gradually dissolve. This internal cleansing leads to clarity, peace, and a more harmonious relationship with life.

4. REALIZATION OF THE SELF

The highest fruit of meditation is the realization of the true Self—pure awareness, beyond name and form. The ego, which thrives on separation and identity, dissolves in deep meditation. What remains is a boundless sense of being, untouched by the changing world. This is liberation—not in a distant heaven, but in the heart

of one’s own consciousness.

ANCIENT WISDOM ON MEDITATION AND LIBERATION

The great spiritual traditions offer countless teachings on the liberating power of meditation.

In the Bhagavad Gita, Krishna tells Arjuna: “When the mind, restrained from wandering by the practice of yoga, becomes still, then the yogi beholds the Self by the Self, and is content in the Self.”

In the Dhammapada, the Buddha states: “There is no meditation without wisdom, and no wisdom without meditation. He in whom meditation and wisdom are present is indeed close to Nirvana.”

In Yoga Sutras, Patanjali describes the goal of meditation as:

“Yoga is the cessation of

The mind is often clouded by past impressions, negative emotions, and unconscious conditioning. Meditation acts as a purifier. As we sit in stillness, unresolved emotions rise to the surface and gradually dissolve. This internal cleansing leads to clarity, peace, and a more harmonious relationship with life.

the fluctuations of the mind. Then the seer abides in his own nature.” These ancient texts consistently point to meditation as the doorway to truth, peace, and ultimate freedom.

MODERN RELEVANCE OF MEDITATION

In today’s fast-paced, distraction-filled world, meditation is more important than ever. People are seeking relief from stress, anxiety, and a growing sense of meaninglessness. While modern psychology and medicine now embrace meditation for its health benefits, its spiritual potential remains immense.

Scientific studies have shown that regular meditation can:

- Reduce stress and cortisol levels
- Improve focus and memory
- Enhance emotional resilience
- Foster compassion and empathy
- Increase feelings of well-being

However, beyond these benefits lies the deeper promise: a return to one’s essence. As technology accelerates outer life, meditation offers a way to reconnect with inner stillness and authenticity.

CHALLENGES AND MISCONCEPTIONS

Many people struggle with meditation because they expect instant results or think they must “stop thinking” completely. But meditation is not about perfection; it’s about awareness. Thoughts may come and go—that is natural. The practice is to notice them, let them pass, and return to the center.

Another misconception is that liberation is a far-off state reserved for saints. In truth, liberation is not about escaping the world or becoming something else. It is the natural state of being once the veils of ignorance are lifted. Meditation simply reveals what has always been within.

INCORPORATING MEDITATION INTO DAILY LIFE

Meditation need not be confined to a cushion or altar. With intention, it can become a way of life. Here are ways to deepen your practice:

- Start small: Begin with 10 minutes a day. Sit comfortably, close your eyes, and focus on the breath.
- Be consistent: Meditate at the same time each day to build a habit.
- Use guidance: Apps, teachers, or spiritual texts can help you stay focused.
- Practice mindfulness: Bring meditative awareness to everyday activities—walking,

eating, listening.

- Journal: Reflect on your experiences and insights.

Over time, these small practices accumulate into profound shifts in awareness.

TESTIMONIES OF LIBERATION

Many modern spiritual teachers emphasize meditation as the key to liberation. Ramana Maharshi, an Indian sage, taught that self-inquiry leads directly to realization. His silent presence inspired countless seekers to look within.

Eckhart Tolle, in *The Power of Now*, writes: “You find peace not by rearranging the circumstances of your life, but by realizing who you are at the deepest level.”

These testimonies remind us that the path to liberation is not reserved for ancient yogis—it is open to all.

Liberation through meditation is not a myth or a distant possibility—it is a living reality available to anyone who dares to look within. It requires patience, sincerity, and courage. As we sit in silence, peel away our layers of illusion, and encounter the pure awareness at our core, we discover a freedom that no external condition can grant or take away.

In that state, we no longer seek happiness outside, for we are happiness itself.

We no longer fear death, for we realize we are beyond birth and death. We no longer grasp at identity, for we know we are the timeless witness.

Through meditation, we come home—to the truth, to the self, and to the boundless liberation that is our birthright.

'FORMER PAK PM IMRAN KHAN LIKELY TO BE RELEASED ON JUNE 11', PARTY COLLEAGUE SAYS

AGENCIES
ISLAMABAD

Incarcerated former Pakistan prime minister Imran Khan is likely to get bail on June 11 in the Al-Qadir Trust case, a top leader of his party has said.

The Islamabad High Court (IHC) is set to hear the petitions requesting the suspension of sentences to Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi in the 190 million Pound Al-Qadir Trust case on June 11.

Khan, 72, has been lodged at the Adiala Jail since August 2023 in multiple cases.

Expressing confidence that the party's founder will secure bail that day, Gohar Ali Khan, chief of Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, said, June 11 is going to be an important day for both Khan and his wife, but gave no particular reason.

The IHC had earlier postponed the hearing of petitions in the Al-Qadir Trust case until June 11. The adjournment came after the National Ac-



countability Bureau (NAB) requested additional time to prepare its arguments, ARY News reported.

Gohar told ARY News on Saturday that the PTI will collaborate with opposition parties to launch a movement, which will be led by the party's patron-in-chief from jail.

He urged the opposition parties to join PTI for the sake of the country's survival and security and revealed that a strategy for the upcoming budget has been finalised. "The party will address a press conference on June 9 regarding it," he said.

Earlier last month, Khan

had said he will lead his party's upcoming protest movement against the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) led coalition government at the Centre, from the prison.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister and a prominent leader of Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party, Ali Amin Gandapur, earlier this week threatened to launch a full-scale movement for the cricketer-turned-politician's release after Eid Al-Adha.

Khan, who faces multiple cases and has been convicted in a few of them, has repeatedly claimed the February 8

general elections of last year to have witnessed the 'Mother of All Rigging.' He has called his rivals the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) as "mandate thieves." Rana Sanaullah, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Political Affairs, while speaking with the media at his home town of Faisalabad in Punjab on Saturday, urged the PTI to accept Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's offer of a meeting for negotiations and sit with the government to make amendments to the election laws.

Gohar claimed Khan's wife Bushra Bibi, was being held in jail without any charges to pressure the PTI founder and claimed no deals will be made for the founder's release.

He also dismissed rumors of internal rifts within PTI.

Some years ago, the National Crime Agency (NCA) of the United Kingdom agreed to a settlement worth 190 million pounds with the family of

property tycoon Malik Riaz.

According to an earlier report in Dawn, the NCA, in August 2019, declared that it was granted freezing orders on eight bank accounts containing 100 million pounds, "suspected to have derived from bribery and corruption in an overseas nation." The NCA said it had informed the then government, run by Khan's PTI. It is alleged that Khan asked Shehzad Akbar, his aide on accountability, to resolve the matter, who in turn, "settled" the case with the frozen funds belonging to the national treasury being adjusted against Bahria Town's liability, the Dawn said.

Bahria Town Ltd, Malik's real estate firm, was found to have illegally acquired thousands of acres of land on Karachi's outskirts in district Malir. It had donated hundreds of acres of land to the Al-Qadir Trust, a non-profit that has only two trustees - Khan and Bushra Bibi.

Colombian senator, would-be Presidential candidate shot, wounded at Bogota rally

AGENCIES
BOGOTA, COLOMBIA

Colombian Sen. Miguel Uribe Turbay, a possible candidate in the country's presidential election next year, was shot and wounded at a campaign rally in Bogota on Saturday, authorities said.

His conservative Democratic Center party released a statement calling it "an unacceptable act of violence."

The attack took place in a park in the Fontibon neighborhood when armed assailants shot him from behind, said the right-wing Democratic Center, which was the party of former President Alvaro Uribe. The men are not related.

Images circulating on social media showed Uribe Turbay, 39, covered in blood being held by several people. A medical report from the Santa Fe Foundation hospital said the senator was admitted in critical condition and is undergoing a "neurosurgical and pe-



ripheral vascular procedure." "Miguel is fighting for his life," his wife, Maria Claudia Tarazona, wrote on the senator's X account, urging Colombians to pray for him.

The Attorney General's Office, which is investigating the shooting, said the senator received two gunshot wounds in the attack, which wounded two others. The statement from the office said a 15-year-old boy was arrested at the scene with a firearm.

Colombia's government said it was offering a reward for the capture of all those re-

sponsible.

"Respect life, that's the red line," President Gustavo Petro said in a message posted on his X account. Shortly after making the post, Petro canceled a planned trip to France "due to the seriousness of the events," according to a presidential statement.

Late Saturday night, after leading an extraordinary Security Council session, Colombia's first leftist president promised "complete transparency" in the investigation and to find the intellectual authors of the attack.

Kyrgyzstan removes towering Lenin statue from second city

AGENCIES
LONDON

Authorities in the second-largest city in Kyrgyzstan, Osh, have removed a towering statue of Vladimir Lenin thought to be the tallest of the revolutionary Soviet leader in Central Asia.

The 23-meter (75-foot) monument was erected in 1975 when Kyrgyzstan was part of the Soviet Union. Photos appeared online Saturday showing the statue flat on the ground after being lowered by a crane.

While many countries formerly part of the Soviet Union have moved to downplay their ties to Russia as part of efforts to reshape national identity, the monument was taken down with little public fanfare and officials in Osh framed the removal



as routine city planning.

In a statement, Osh City Hall called the move "common practice" aimed at improving the "architectural and aesthetic appearance" of the area.

Officials also noted that Lenin monuments have been "dismantled or moved to other places" in Russian cities including St Petersburg and Belgorod, and said that the issue

"should not be politicized."

The monument, they said, will be replaced by a flagpole, as was the case when a different Lenin statue was relocated in the capital, Bishkek. The move came a week after Kyrgyzstan's ally Russia unveiled a monument to brutal Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin at one of Moscow's busiest subway stations.

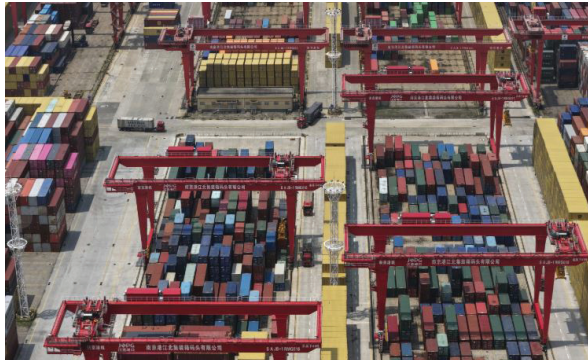
New disputes emerge ahead of US-China trade talks in London

AGENCIES
BEIJING

U.S.-China trade talks in London this week are expected to take up a series of fresh disputes that have buffeted relations, threatening a fragile truce over tariffs.

Both sides agreed in Geneva last month to a 90-day suspension of most of the 100%-plus tariffs they had imposed on each other in an escalating trade war that had sparked fears of recession.

Since then, the U.S. and China have exchanged angry words over advanced semiconductors that power artificial intelligence, "rare earths" that are vital to carmakers and other industries, and



visas for Chinese students at American universities.

President Donald Trump spoke at length with Chinese leader Xi Jinping by phone last Thursday in an attempt to put relations back on track. Trump announced on social media the next day that trade talks would be held on Mon-

saying the use of Ascend AI chips from Huawei, a leading Chinese tech company, could violate U.S. export controls. That's because the chips were likely developed with American technology despite restrictions on its export to China, the guidance said.

"The Chinese side urges the U.S. side to immediately correct its erroneous practices," a Commerce Ministry spokesperson said.

U.S. Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick wasn't in Geneva but will join the talks in London. Analysts say that suggests at least a willingness on the U.S. side to hear out China's concerns on export controls.

Israel army to block aid boat carrying Greta Thunberg, and other reaching Gaza

AGENCIES
JERUSALEM

"I have instructed the military to prevent the Madleen flotilla from reaching Gaza," Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz said in a statement from his office.

"Turn back because you will not reach Gaza," Katz added, calling the activists "Hamas propaganda mouthpieces".

The Madleen, operated by the Freedom Flotilla Coalition, left Italy on June 1 with the aim of delivering aid and challenging the Israeli blockade, which has been in place for years even before the Israel-Hamas war since October 2023.

Organisers said Saturday the vessel had entered Egyptian waters and was nearing Gaza, where the war has entered its 21st month.

Aboard the boat are nationals of Germany, France, Brazil, Turkey, Sweden, Spain and the Netherlands.

One of them, European

"Turn back because you will not reach Gaza," Katz added, calling the activists "Hamas propaganda mouthpieces".

Parliament member Rima Hassan, has said that more than 200 European lawmakers signed an open letter to Israel calling for the Madleen to be allowed to reach Gaza and for the "immediate entry of its humanitarian cargo".

Katz said that "Israel will not allow anyone to break the naval blockade of Gaza, which is aimed at preventing weapons from reaching Hamas -- a murderous terrorist group holding our hostages and committing war crimes."

In May, another Freedom Flotilla ship, the Conscience, reported coming under drone attack.

In Gaza, the civil defence agency said Israeli attacks killed at least 10 people on Sunday.

"Five martyrs and dozens

of wounded were taken to Nasser Hospital in Khan Yunis after the (Israeli) occupation forces opened fire on civilians at around 6:00 am", said Mahmud Bassal, spokesman for the agency.

The civilians had been heading to an aid distribution centre west of Rafah, in southern Gaza, witnesses and Bassal said, near a site run by the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation, a US-backed group that has come under criticism from the United Nations and humanitarian agencies.

The United Nations refuses to work with the GHF, citing concerns over its practices and neutrality.

The Israeli military said it fired on people who "continued advancing in a way that endangered the soldiers" despite warnings.

Israeli military says it struck Hamas member in southern Syria

AGENCIES
CAIRO

The Israeli military said on Sunday that it struck a member of the Palestinian militant group Hamas in southern Syria's Mazraat Beit Jin, days after Israel carried out its first airstrikes in the country in nearly a month.

Hamas did not immediately comment on the strike.

Israel said on Tuesday it hit weapons belonging to the government in retaliation for the firing of two projectiles towards Israel for the first time under the country's new leadership. Israeli Defense Minister Israel Katz held Syria's President Ahmed al-Sharaa accountable.

Damascus in response said reports of the shelling were unverified, reiterating that Syria does not pose a threat to any regional party.

A little known group named "Martyr Muhammad

Damascus in response said reports of the shelling were unverified, reiterating that Syria does not pose a threat to any regional party.

Deif Brigades," an apparent reference to Hamas' military leader who was killed in an Israeli strike in 2024, reportedly claimed responsibility for the shelling. Reuters, however, could not independently verify the claim.

Israel and Syria have recently engaged in direct talks to calm tensions, marking a significant development in ties between states that have been on opposite sides of conflict in the Middle East for decade.

Palestinians say 5 killed by Israeli fire near aid sites

AGENCIES
DEIR AL-BALAH, GAZA STRIP

At least five people have been killed and others wounded by Israeli fire about a kilometre from a food distribution point in Gaza, Palestinian health officials and witnesses said.

Palestinian witnesses said Israeli forces had opened fire on Sunday morning as people went to receive supplies from a site in Rafah run by the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF), an Israeli- and US-backed group.

Israel's military said it had fired warning shots at people who had approached its forces. It acknowledged reports of injuries but did not specify how many people it believed had been affected.

Bodies were brought to Nasser hospital in Khan Yunis, which confirmed the death toll. Al-Awda hospital said it had received the body of a 42-year-old man, as well as 29 people who had been wounded near another GHF distribution point.



ISRAELI MILITARY SAYS IT STRUCK HAMAS MEMBER IN SOUTHERN SYRIA

CAIRO: The Israeli military said on Sunday that it struck a member of the Palestinian militant group Hamas in southern Syria's Mazraat Beit Jin, days after Israel carried out its first airstrikes in the country in nearly a month. Hamas did not immediately comment on the strike. Israel said on Tuesday it hit weapons belonging to the government in retaliation for the firing of two projectiles towards Israel for the first time under the country's new leadership.

The deaths bring the number of people who have been killed while trying to find food in Gaza since 27 May, when GHF became responsible for civilian food provision, to 110. More than 1,000 have been injured.

Witnesses said Sunday's shooting in southern Gaza occurred at about 6am, when they had been told the site would open. Many had headed towards it early to try to get desperately needed food before the crowds.

US travel ban adds to uncertainty for thousands of Afghan immigrants

AGENCIES
KABUL

Thousands of Afghans holding P1 and P2 US immigration cases remain in complete uncertainty as they await a response from the US government, following the White House's recent announcement of a travel ban, TOLONews reported.

Many of these individuals

had been stranded in third countries like Pakistan for over three years, relying on US promises for their cases to be processed. Some caseholders told TOLONews that the new travel restrictions were causing significant concern.

Mohammad Javid Kohsari, a US immigration caseholder, said, "We hope the travel ban does not include immigrants or P1 and P2

case holders because about three years ago, we came to third countries based on US promises. Immigrants in Pakistan are grappling with numerous problems," TOLONews reported.

Another holder of a US immigration case, who wished to remain anonymous, said, "We and other Afghans in Pakistan and other third countries who are awaiting the processing of our



cases have completed most legal steps, including embassy interviews and health checks," TOLONews added.

US President Donald Trump announced the travel ban targeting Afghan citizens along with nationals from eleven other countries, stating that these countries did not have their domestic situations under control. He said the goal was to keep "bad people" out of the US.

The United Nations emphasized that while every country has the right to manage its borders, any system put in place must respect human dignity. UN Secretary-General spokesman Stephane Dujarric said, "Our position globally has been that any system established in this regard must preserve human dignity."

Meanwhile, the US State Department clari-

fied that Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Afghans was a temporary measure that could end at any time.

Tommy Pigott, principal deputy spokesperson for the Department of State, said, "The temporary protected status is only one dynamic when it comes to many different ways that people from Afghanistan have come to this country."

TRUMP DEPLOYS NATIONAL GUARD AS IMMIGRATION PROTESTS INTENSIFY IN LA

Defense Secretary said Marines are on high alert, ready if violence rises.

AGENCIES
LOS ANGELES

President Donald Trump's administration said it would deploy 2,000 National Guard troops on Saturday as federal agents in Los Angeles faced off against a few hundred demonstrators during a second day of protests following immigration raids.

Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth warned that the Pentagon was prepared to mobilize active-duty troops "if violence continues" in Los Angeles, saying the Marines at nearby Camp Pendleton were "on high alert."

Federal security agents on Saturday confronted protesters in the Paramount area in southeast Los Angeles, where some demonstrators displayed Mexican flags. A second protest in downtown Los Angeles on Saturday night attracted



some 60 people, who chanted slogans including "ICE out of L.A.!"

Trump signed a presidential memorandum to deploy the National Guard troops to "address the lawlessness that has been allowed to fester," the White House said in a statement. Trump's border czar, Tom Homan, told Fox News that the National Guard would be deployed in Los Angeles on Saturday.

California Governor Gavin Newsom called the decision "purposefully inflammatory." He posted on X

that Trump was deploying the National Guard "not because there is a shortage of law enforcement, but because they want a spectacle," adding: "Don't give them one. Never use violence. Speak out peacefully."

Trump posted on his Truth Social platform that if Newsom and Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass can't do their jobs "then the Federal Government will step in and solve the problem, RIOTS & LOOTERS, the way it should be solved!!!"

FBI Director warns protesters against hitting cops

AGENCIES
NEW YORK

FBI Director Kash Patel has warned protesters facing off with US immigration authorities in Los Angeles that anyone who hits a policeman will be "going to jail."

Immigration authorities and demonstrators have clashed for two days in the Los Angeles area, with unrest beginning Friday after dozens of people were detained by federal immigration agents across different locations.

The arrests come amid the Trump administration's crackdown on immigration, which has involved waves of raids and deportations across the country.

The Department of Homeland Security said in a state-

ment that "1,000 rioters surrounded a federal law enforcement building and assaulted Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents, slashed tyres, and defaced buildings."

"Hit a cop, you're going to jail... doesn't matter where you came from, how you got here, or what movement speaks to you. If the local police force won't back our men and women on the thin blue line, we @FBI will," Patel posted on X on Saturday night.

Patel's remarks, however, prompted some social media users to point out the different stance taken by the Trump administration on the January 6 rioters - hundreds of whom were pardoned by President Donald Trump.

Trump warns Musk not to back democrats as Vance aims for detente

AGENCIES
BRIDGEWATER, N.J.

President Donald Trump is not backing off his battle with Elon Musk, saying Saturday that he has no desire to repair their relationship and warning that his former ally and campaign benefactor could face "serious consequences" if he tries to help Democrats in upcoming elections.

Trump told NBC's Kristen Welker in a phone interview that he has no plans to make up with Musk. Asked specifically if he thought his relationship with the megabillionaire CEO of Tesla and SpaceX is over, Trump responded, "I would assume so, yeah."

"I'm too busy doing other things," Trump continued. "You know, I won an election in a landslide. I gave him a lot of breaks, long be-



fore this happened, I gave him breaks in my first administration, and saved his life in my first administration, I have no intention of speaking to him."

The president also issued a warning amid chatter that Musk could back Democratic lawmakers and candidates in the 2026 midterm elections.

"If he does, he'll have to pay the consequences for that," Trump told NBC, though he declined to share what those consequences would be. Musk's busi-

nesses have many lucrative federal contracts.

The president's latest comments suggest Musk is moving from close ally to a potential new target for Trump, who has aggressively wielded the powers of his office to crack down on critics and punish perceived enemies. As a major government contractor, Musk's businesses could be particularly vulnerable to retribution. Trump has already threatened to cut Musk's contracts, calling it an easy way to save money.

Trump's travel ban on 12 nations begins today

AGENCIES
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump's order banning citizens of 12 countries from entering the United States goes into effect at 12:01 am ET (0401 GMT) on Monday, a move the president promulgated to protect the country from "foreign terrorists."

The countries affected by the latest travel ban are Afghanistan, Myanmar, Chad, Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Haiti, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen.

The entry of people from seven other countries - Burundi, Cuba, Laos, Sierra Leone, Togo, Turkmenistan

and Venezuela - will be partially restricted.

Trump, a Republican, said the countries subject to the most severe restrictions were determined to harbor a "large-scale presence of terrorists," fail to cooperate on visa security, have an inability to verify travelers' identities, as well as inadequate record-keeping of criminal histories and high rates of visa overstays in the United States.

He cited last Sunday's incident in Boulder, Colorado, in which an Egyptian national tossed a gasoline bomb into a crowd of pro-Israel demonstrators as an example of why the new curbs are needed. But Egypt is not part of the travel ban.

Russia advances to east-central Ukrainian region amid row over dead soldiers

AGENCIES
MOSCOW

Russia said on Sunday its forces had advanced to the edge of the east-central Ukrainian region of Dnipropetrovsk amid a public row between Moscow and Kyiv over peace negotiations and the return of thousands of bodies of soldiers who fell in the war.

Amid talk of peace, the war is stepping up with Russian forces grabbing more territory in Ukraine and Kyiv unfurling high-profile drone and sabotage attacks on Russia's nuclear-capable bomber fleet and, according to Moscow, on railways.

Russia, which controls a little under one fifth of



Ukrainian territory, has taken more than 190 square km (73 square miles) of the Sumy region of eastern Ukraine in less than a month, according to pro-Ukrainian open source maps.

Now, according to the Russian defence ministry, units of the 90th Tank Division of the Central Grouping of Rus-

sian forces have reached the western frontier of Ukraine's Donetsk region and are attacking the adjacent Dnipropetrovsk region.

There was no immediate comment from Kyiv on the Russian advance, though the pro-Ukrainian Deep State map showed Russian forces very close to the Dni-

propetrovsk region, which had a population of more than 3 million before the war.

Russia on Saturday accused Ukraine of delaying the swap of prisoners of war and return the bodies of 12,000 dead soldiers, though Ukraine denied those claims. Russia said on Sunday it was moving bodies towards the border.

U.S. President Donald Trump, who says he wants an end to the deadliest conflict in Europe since World War Two, on Thursday likened it to a fight between young children and indicated that he might have to simply let the conflict play out.

Russian attacks on Ukraine's Kharkiv kills four, officials say



AGENCIES
KYIV

Russia attacked the eastern Ukrainian city of Kharkiv at night and in the evening with drones, missiles and guided bombs, killing at least four people and injuring more than 60, including a baby, local officials said on Saturday.

One of Ukraine's largest cities, Kharkiv is located just a few dozen kilometres from the Russian border and has been under constant Russian shelling during more than three years of war.

"Kharkiv is currently experiencing the most powerful attack since the start of the full-scale war," city mayor, Ihor Terekhov, said on the Telegram messenger early on Saturday.

Dozens of explosions were heard in the city through the night and Russian troops were striking simultaneously with missiles, drones and guided aerial bombs, he said.

Multi-storey and private residential buildings, educational and infrastructure facilities were attacked, Terekhov noted.

Photos by local authorities and Reuters showed burnt and partially destroyed houses and vehicles, and of rescuers carrying those injured to safety and removing debris.

Kharkiv governor Oleh Syniehubov said that one of the city's civilian industrial facilities was attacked by 40 drones, one missile and four bombs, causing a fire, adding there may still be people under the rubble.

In the evening, Russian aircraft once again attacked Kharkiv with guided bombs, which Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy called "another brutal murder".

"It was a brutal blow to the city in broad daylight, and in fact, they have been attacking our city of Kharkiv for the entire day," Zelenskiy said in his evening statement.

"Last night, there was a massive drone strike on Kharkiv, and now there are aerial bombs.

Indian-American candidates win runoff races in Texas' city councils

AGENCIES
HOUSTON

Two Indian-American candidates have won their respective city council runoff elections in Texas.

Sanjay Singhal, a retired energy executive and IT Delhi graduate, secured a decisive victory over fellow Indian-American Nasir Hussain in Sugar Land's District 2.

According to unofficial results from Fort Bend County,

Singhal received 2,346 votes against Hussain's 777.

Sukh Kaur, a Sikh-American and education reformer, scored a landslide victory in San Antonio to retain her District 1 council seat.

Kaur, a nonprofit leader who lives in San Antonio with her husband and two children, defeated challenger Patty Gibbons with 65 per cent of the votes.

"This victory belongs to the

residents of District 2," Singhal told supporters.

"I am deeply grateful for the community's support and ready to serve with transparency and dedication," said Singhal, who campaigned on transparent governance, infrastructure improvements, and community engagement.

Kaur, the first Sikh woman elected to the San Antonio City Council, focused her campaign on affordable housing,



public transit expansion, and inclusive urban development. "I think we really talked to

the community and shared that we want to work," Kaur told the media after the re-

sults.

"And one of the things that we said is District 1 is about preserving our history while still moving our district forward," she said.

Both candidates are expected to solidify Indian-American representation in Texas's civic leadership.

In a closely watched mayoral contest in Sugar Land, a Houston suburb with a large Indian-origin population,

Carol McCutcheon defeated William Ferguson to become the city's new mayor. She will succeed Joe Zimmerman.

McCutcheon secured 6,103 votes, while Ferguson received 5,402, according to unofficial tallies.

McCutcheon, a retired reservoir engineer with decades of public service experience, said she entered the race to help guide Sugar Land's growth with "strategic vision".

Her priorities include improving crime response, supporting law enforcement, and ensuring quality of life for residents.

The latest round of municipal elections reinforces Texas's status as a growing hub of Indian-American civic engagement and leadership, with expanding representation in key urban centres like Houston and San Antonio.

TROOPING COLOUR



The King's Guard rehearsing for the trooping the colour parade, in honour of the official birthday of King Charles, London, England. Agencies

'HOUSEFULL 5' COLLECTS RS 56.73 CRORE AT THE BOX OFFICE IN TWO DAYS

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Housefull 5, featuring Akshay Kumar, Riteish Deshmukh and Jacqueline Fernandez, has earned over Rs.50 crore nett at the domestic box office in two days, the makers announced on Sunday (June 8).

Directed by Tarun Mansukhani, the film is produced by Sajid Nadiadwala's production banner, Nadiadwala Grandson Entertainment. It released in theatres worldwide on Friday.

The production banner shared the box office collection on its X handle.



The film collected Rs.56.73 crore nett at the domestic box office. The collection stood at Rs 24.35 crore nett on day one. Following, it collected Rs.32.38 crore

nett.

Housefull 5 also stars Sonam Bajwa, Nargis Fakhri, Soundarya Sharma, Jackie Shroff, Fardeen Khan and Sanjay Dutt. The film is

the fifth instalment in the Housefull franchise, which began in 2010. Successive instalments were released in 2012, 2016, and 2019.

Cricketer Rinku Singh gets engaged to SP MP Priya Saroj

TDG NETWORK
LUCKNOW

Indian cricketer Rinku Singh and Samajwadi Party MP Priya Saroj got engaged on Sunday in a grand ceremony graced by a host of prominent political figures.

The engagement, held at a hotel in the capital city, was attended by top SP leaders, including party president and former chief minister Akhilesh Yadav and his wife, MP Dimple Yadav.

Other notable attendees included senior politicians Rajeev Shukla, Jaya Bachchan, Shivpal Yadav, Ramgopal Yadav, and cricketer Bhuvnesh Kumar.

: After the engagement



of Indian cricketer Rinku Singh and Samajwadi Par-

ty (SP) MP Priya Saroj, Priya's uncle, Bhagwati Saroj,

shared his happiness over the occasion.

"Today is a day of great pride and joy... The wedding is taking place with the consent of both families... It is a matter of great pride for us that an international wedding is taking place for the first time in my community...", Bhagwati Saroj told ANI.

Priya Saroj's father and SP MLA, Tufani Saroj, also expressed his happiness, saying, "I am very happy."

Samajwadi Party MPs Dimple Yadav and Akhilesh Yadav were present for the engagement ceremony of Indian Cricketer Rinku Singh and SP MP Priya Saroj.

Sonali Bendre talks about finding peace in reading

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Actor and author Sonali Bendre, known for her grace on screen and resilience off it, is also making waves in the literary space.

In a candid conversation with ANI, Bendre reflected on her deeply personal relationship with books and the motivations behind her latest literary offering, 'A Book of Books.'

The book, released in collaboration with her thriving online community, Sonali's Book Club, is not a traditional memoir or novel, as she explains it as a celebration of reading itself.

"It's essentially a book of recommendations -- books that touched me, inspired me, or simply stayed with me," she shared, adding, "It's an extension of the book club I started eight years ago, one of the largest digital book clubs in South Asia."

Bendre began the club as a way to reconnect with her own reading habits, which had taken a backseat amid the responsibilities of motherhood and career.



Bendre began the club as a way to reconnect with her own reading habits, which had taken a backseat amid the responsibilities of motherhood and career.

"I had lost touch with books in the hustle of life. The club gave me the structure to come back to it," she said.

One of the most striking ideas in 'A Book of Books' is the permission it grants readers, especially those who feel burdened by expectations, to let go of guilt around incomplete books.

"There is no shame in not finishing a book," Bendre said, adding, "You don't have to read a book just

because it won awards. If it doesn't connect with you, it's okay to move on."

She drew from personal experiences, even recalling a moment during cancer treatment when she realised some books, despite their literary merit, were emotionally draining.

"I couldn't finish A Little Life. It's a brilliant book, but so sad. My book club members gently suggested I step away from it -- and they were right," she told ANI.

Netflix Co-CEO recalls launch of 'Sacred Games'

TDG NETWORK
MUMBAI

Nawazuddin Siddiqui's 'Sacred Games' was India's first original web series, directed by Anurag Kashyap and released on Netflix in 2018. The series is considered to have marked a significant shift in India's digital entertainment landscape, underscoring the potential of web series and streaming platforms in India.

Netflix's Co-CEO, Ted Sarandos, recently opened up about the platform's expectations from the Sacred



Games, as it was their first big web series venture in India.

In a wide-ranging conver-

sation with Nikhil Kamath on his podcast, CEO Ted Sarandos recalled the platform's early creative choices

in India, particularly 'Sacred Games', India's first original web series.

Sarandos noted, "It was very, very novel (Sacred Games), but I didn't realise that we were going to be introducing a brand new kind of entertainment to a country the size of India."

The Netflix co-CEO also acknowledged the broader learning curve of the OTT platforms in India. Despite the early struggles, Sarandos said that he believed in India's huge entertainment market capacity before launching India's first origi-

BRAIN PICKING



Every woman has a different journey when it comes to beauty and they should be proud of it.

— JANHVI KAPOOR
(Indian Actress)

Karan on making his debut on an audio platform

TDG NETWORK
MUMBAI

Filmmaker Karan Johar says hosting his debut podcast series, Live Your Best Life with Karan Johar, turned out to be a "unique" and "therapeutic" experience.

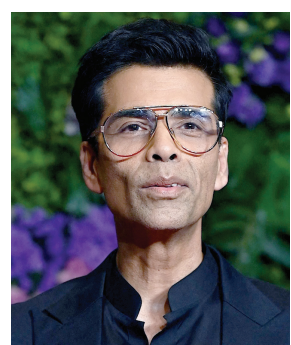
Through the audio series, audiences will get to listen to the filmmaker's conversations with his inner circle on how to truly live your best life in today's fast-paced world.

"At my core, I'm a storyteller, I'm always excited to experiment with new mediums and formats. Venturing into the world of audio has been a unique experience -- it's like discovering a new canvas to paint on. There's a different freedom that comes

with audio storytelling.

"Without the visual element, I've had to rely on the power of words to weave a narrative that captivates the listener's imagination. It's been a refreshing challenge, and I love those," the filmmaker told PTI.

Johar, the director of commercial blockbusters such as "Kuch Kuch Hota Hai", "Kabhi Khushi Kab-



hie Gham...", "My Name Is Khan" and "Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani", said he was amazed by the intimacy the audio format offers.

"When people listen to podcasts or audio content, they're often doing so in a very personal space -- their cars, their homes, their headphones. It's a one-on-one connection, and that intimacy has allowed me to connect with my audience in a way that feels almost therapeutic.

"It's been an incredible learning curve, and I feel like I've grown as a storyteller because of it." The show has an exciting mix of guests, including Konkona Sen Sharma, Richa Chadha, Ali Fazal, and Zakir Khan, among others.

'OG' film to release on September 25

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Actor Pawan Kalyan has wrapped shooting for his upcoming film "OG".

The upcoming film is directed by Sujeeth, whose credits include "Saaho", "Run Raja Run" and "KA". It is produced by D V V Danayya and Kalyan Dasari under their production



nal web series.

"Early on, it took us a couple of years to get the product-market fit right, including payment systems and all those things. We knew that India was going to be a slower journey, but it's a great prize at the end of the day. Right now, you can see how fast Indian households are adopting fixed broadband, big-screen TV is growing -- the addressable market in India is exploding in the next couple of years. So it's exciting," said Ted Sarandos at Nikhil Kamath's podcast.

Badshah addresses backlash over his Dua Lipa comment

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Rapper Badshah clarified his comment towards popular pop singer Dua Lipa, and said it was the "most beautiful compliment" one could give to a woman.

Badshah, known for tracks such as "Mercy", "Akkad Bakkad", "Garmi", and "Sanak", faced backlash online over his reply to a fan. On Saturday, the singer shared a post on his X handle which read, "Dua Lipa (heart



emoticon)."

Following, one of the fans asked Badshah if there was an upcoming collaboration between the two singers, to

which he replied, "I'd rather make babies with her bro." The comment received mixed reactions, with many slamming the singer.



Urvashi Rautela poses for her social media. (Instagram)

GRACE IN MOTION: CLASSICAL DANCE ACROSS THE WORLD

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Classical dance forms, found in cultures around the globe, are among the most refined and expressive art forms humanity has ever created. Rooted in tradition, storytelling, and spiritual expression, classical dance not only reflects the aesthetics of a society but also encapsulates its philosophies, rituals, and values. From the temples of India to the theatres of Russia and Japan, classical dance continues to inspire and evolve while retaining its timeless essence.

INDIA: A SYMPHONY OF RHYTHM AND EXPRESSION

India boasts eight officially recognized classical dance forms, each with its unique grammar, costumes, and narratives. Bharatanatyam from Tamil Nadu is perhaps the oldest, known for its devotional themes and geometric precision. Kathak from North India tells tales through spins and rhythmic footwork, while Kathakali from Kerala features elaborate makeup and larger-than-life performances based on epics like the Mahabharata.

Odissi from Odisha is sensual and lyrical, performed with sculptural poses, while Kuchipudi from Andhra Pradesh often combines dance with dramatic monologues. Manipuri, with its



soft and spiritual flavor, and Sattriya from Assam, which originated in monasteries, showcase the diversity within India itself. Mohiniyattam, another graceful form from Kerala, is performed exclusively by women and evokes the beauty of feminine movements. Each dance form is more than performance—it's a spiritual practice, a cultural story, and an embodiment of divinity.

BALLET: THE WESTERN CANON OF ELEGANCE

Across Europe, especially in France and Russia, Ballet is regarded as the pinnacle of classical dance. Originating in the Italian Renaissance courts of the 15th century and refined in France and Russia, ballet emphasizes form, grace, balance, and dramatic storytelling. Dancers undergo years of rigorous



training to achieve perfect posture, flexibility, and fluid movement.

Classical ballets like Swan Lake, Giselle, and The Nutcracker are celebrated globally for their intricate choreography and emotive power. Russian ballet companies such as the Bolshoi

and Mariinsky are world-renowned, while modern ballet continues to blend contemporary themes with classical discipline.

CHINA: POETIC MOVEMENT IN CLASSICAL DANCE

Chinese classical dance has

evolved over thousands of years and is distinct from folk or opera performances. Known for its elegance, expressive gestures, and acrobatic elements, it draws inspiration from martial arts, ancient court dances, and Confucian philosophy. With its refined techniques,

including “shen yun” (inner spirit) and “yun wei” (rhythmic charm), Chinese classical dance captures subtle emotions and grand epics alike. Today, troupes like Shen Yun have helped revive and globalize this art form.

JAPAN: THE MINIMALISM OF NOH AND KABUKI

Japan's classical dance traditions include Noh and Kabuki, both of which are performed within theatrical frameworks. Noh,

dance forms such as Khon in Thailand and Apsara in Cambodia are closely tied to Hindu and Buddhist mythology. These dances are characterized by intricate hand gestures, ornate costumes, and a deep sense of ritual.

Flamenco from Spain, though often considered more folk or gypsy-influenced, also possesses classical elements, especially in its structured footwork, passionate expression, and stylized form.

Classical dance across the

India boasts eight officially recognized classical dance forms, each with its unique grammar, costumes, and narratives. Bharatanatyam from Tamil Nadu is perhaps the oldest, known for its devotional themes and geometric precision.

which is minimalist and meditative, uses subtle gestures and masks to express complex emotions and spiritual stories. Kabuki, on the other hand, is more flamboyant, featuring exaggerated movements, elaborate makeup, and dramatic themes. Both styles blend music, drama, and dance, offering a uniquely stylized form of classical performance.

OTHER CLASSICAL TRADITIONS AROUND THE GLOBE

In Southeast Asia, classical

world is not merely about movement—it is a cultural treasure that preserves the wisdom, myths, and beauty of civilizations. In every pirouette, mudra, or subtle glance, classical dance expresses the soul of a culture. While techniques differ across continents, the underlying spirit—discipline, devotion, and storytelling—remains universal. In a world of fast-paced change, classical dance stands as a graceful reminder of humanity's deep-rooted need to connect, express, and transcend.

Sheila Bharat Ram Theatre Festival draws to a finale with rave reviews by audience

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Shri Ram Centre for Performing Arts (SRCPA) which hosted its Annual Summer Theatre Festival “The Sheila Bharat Ram Theatre Festival” from 5th – 8th June 2025 came to a grand finale today. The four-day festival which featured a fine blend of plays from multiple genres received a thumbs up and much accolades from the theatre lovers in Delhi.

Speaking on the grand finale, Mr Hemant Bharat Ram (Executive Vice President - SRCPA) remarked, “Keeping in line with our long established tradition of delighting theatre lovers with classic plays, this year too, our plays have been very well appreciated by audience. These plays are very unique in their own right with their respective themes ranging from dark comedy, romance and contemporary issues. But the acting skills and high energy shown by all artists have brought the characters to life in a very realistic manner! Also all elements - backdrop, light, camera technique, music, sound etc. have truly contributed to make a hi-decibel and impactful experience on stage. Our endeavour is to enrich theatre in the cultural sphere of Delhi. The enthusiasm shown by the audience and their applause encouraged us immensely,” he said.

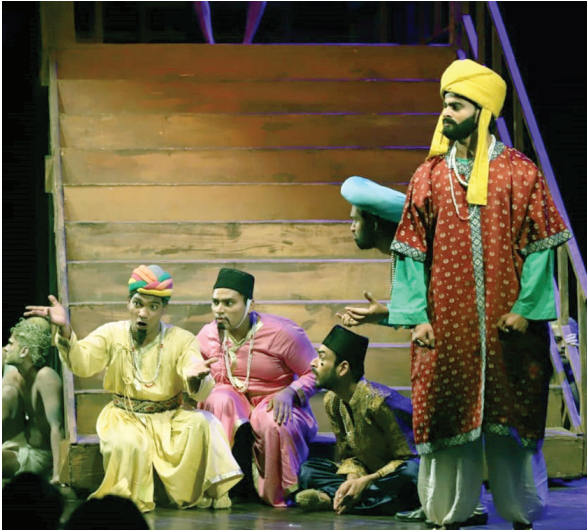
The festival had opened with ‘Tughlaq’, written by eminent playwright Girish Karnad and directed by K. Madvani. An all-time classic and



contemporary Indian theatre, Tughlaq is based on the factual incident and aftermath of Sultan Muhammad Bin Tughlaq and his maniacal decisions. It exposed the vast gap between his aspirations, his reality and the endless spiral of doom that unbridled ambition can lead to.

Another play which was widely applauded was ‘Daaku Sultana’, directed by Nautanki legend Shri Ram Dayal Sharma. It revived the vibrant folk operatic tradition of North India to tell the tale of a Robin Hood-like bandit who defied colonial powers with song, dance, and wit.

Another outstanding play which stole the show was ‘Stuck’. A psychological comic drama by Maneesh Verma, explored the fragility of modern relationships when two couples confront truths and betrayals during a snowstorm in the Himalayas. Lastly, ‘Agni Aur Barkha’ (The Fire and The Rain), another Girish Karnad classic directed by Prof. K. S. Rajendran received huge applause from audience. It reimagined a mythic tale of power, love, and spiritual sacrifice set against a backdrop of drought and divine intervention.



Reviving traditional Indian art forms: From Madhubani to Pattachitra

G R RAJAPRIYA
NEW DELHI

India, with its rich tapestry of traditions and regional diversity, has long been home to vibrant and intricate folk art forms that speak volumes about the country's cultural heritage. Among these, Madhubani from Bihar and Pattachitra from Odisha and West Bengal are two iconic art traditions that are not just surviving the test of time but are witnessing a creative revival in modern India.

MADHUBANI: ART BORN FROM DEVOTION

Rooted in the Mithila region of Bihar, Madhubani (or Mithila) painting was originally done on mud walls using natural dyes and fingers or twigs. Traditionally practiced by women, the art celebrated Hindu deities, nature, fertility, and auspicious rituals. Its distinctive features—bold lines, flat figures, and intricate patterns—made it instantly recognizable.

Today, Madhubani has moved beyond the walls of rural homes to canvases, sarees, home decor, and even smartphone covers. NGOs and government initiatives have empowered women artists to take their work to international markets.

Schools in Bihar now teach the art formally, and artisans like Bharti Dayal and Baua Devi have played key roles in its global recognition.

PATTACHITRA: STORIES ON SCROLLS

The word Pattachitra comes from ‘patta’ (cloth) and ‘chitra’ (painting), and the art form dates back to

Pattachitra is known for its ornate borders, mythological storytelling, and the use of natural colors derived from minerals and plants. The fine detailing and symmetry give it a classical appeal, while its storytelling roots make it accessible and engaging even today.

In recent years, Pattachitra has been rejuvenated through workshops, art

ART MEETS MODERN AESTHETICS

The revival of these art forms is not just about preserving heritage—it's about adapting it to the present. Designers, art curators, and lifestyle brands are increasingly collaborating with folk artists to reinterpret these styles for modern audiences. Social media has played a major role in



12th century Odisha and Bengal, where it was closely associated with the Jagannath cult. These scroll paintings depict scenes from epics like the Ramayana and Mahabharata, and stories of Lord Jagannath, Krishna, and other deities.

festivals, and digital platforms. Artists like Anwar Chitrakar and initiatives like Raghurajpur artist village have been instrumental in preserving this legacy. From murals in urban cafés to wearable art, Pattachitra is enjoying renewed relevance.

this shift, enabling artisans to share their process, tell their stories, and reach global customers directly.

Moreover, educational institutions and cultural organisations are promoting folk art through residencies, exhibitions, and online courses. This not only helps sustain the art economically but also ensures that younger generations continue to value and learn these traditional techniques.

The resurgence of Madhubani and Pattachitra is a heartening example of how tradition can evolve without losing its essence. As India strides forward, embracing its folk art is not just about nostalgia—it's a celebration of identity, resilience, and the timeless beauty of storytelling through brush and colour.



WHY INDIAN TRAVELLERS ARE CHOOSING HILLS, FORESTS AND HERITAGE OVER HOTEL



JAYANT SINGH

The travel industry in India has undergone a dramatic change in recent years. Today's travellers are no longer satisfied with standard hotel stays experiences. Rather, they are looking for experiences that provide authenticity and a feeling of exploration—often found in our nation's hills, forests, and heritage-rich locations. This change is indicative of a larger trend toward experience-driven, meaningful travel, where the trip is just as significant as the final destination. The managing partner of Treehouse Hotel and Resorts, Mr. Jayant Singh, will explain to us how the hospitality sector is changing as a result of this desire for immersion and authenticity.

THE RISE OF EXPERIENCE-DRIVEN TRAVEL

A distinct shift away from the homogeneity of big hotel chains lies at the core of this trend. Today's tourists are drawn to places with a strong cultural heritage, where the design conveys a narrative and the service feels intimate. Boutique hotels and distinctive resorts are well-positioned to meet the demand for authenticity, sustainability, and a true sense of place.



The desire to escape the hectic schedule of city life and embrace experiences that provide comfort, nature, and peace is what is driving this shift. Indian tourists are choosing locations that offer not only luxury but also a story—one that is distinct, captivating, and rich in tradition—whether it's a peaceful haven in the Himachal Pradesh hills, a riverbank retreat in Narmadapuram, or a monsoon-soaked vacation in Goa.

Because they provide warmth, soul, and a genuine connection with guests, boutique hotels are flourishing. "Service Dil Se," our motto, guarantees that each visitor feels appreciated and that each experience is carefully planned. From river cruises and heritage explorations in Narmadapuram to guided treks and temple visits in Chail, we concentrate on crafting unforgettable experiences.

PERSONALIZATION AND FLEXIBILITY: THE NEW ESSENTIALS

Today's travellers expect flexibility and personalization in every aspect of their journey. In a world where

plans can change at any time, flexible booking options, simple rescheduling, and refundable packages have become indispensable for peace of mind. More significantly, visitors are looking for experiences catered to their individual passions, whether those be adventure, spirituality, food exploration, or cultural immersion. To guarantee that no two visits are ever the same, every experience is created to capture the essence of the location and the tastes of the visitors.

In South Goa, guests can immerse themselves in Goan culture with curated culinary classes featuring local chefs, learning to prepare authentic Goan delicacies using fresh, local ingredients. Nature enthusiasts can join guided birdwatching tours in the lush monsoon landscapes, or explore hidden gems like spice plantations and heritage Portuguese mansions. In Narmadapuram, personalization takes the form of tranquil and culturally rich experiences. Guests can enjoy serene boat rides on the Narmada River at dawn, or embark on guided excursions to the UNESCO-listed Bhim-

betka rock shelters, where prehistoric art and stories come alive. For those drawn to spiritual journeys, team crafts bespoke experiences around Amritsar's iconic Golden Temple. Guests can participate in the early morning 'Palki Sahib' ceremony, enjoy guided heritage walks through the old city. At Chail Villas in Himachal Pradesh, personalization means connecting guests with the tranquil beauty of the mountains. Guests can embark on guided treks through deodar forests, visit the ancient Shiv temple nestled in the hills, or enjoy private bonfires under the stars. Adventure seekers can try their hand at mountain biking or birdwatching.

SUPPORTING LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

The shift toward hills, forests, and heritage destinations is not just about guest preferences—it's also about responsible tourism. By incorporating local culture, sourcing responsibly, and supporting community-based vendors, we ensure that tourism benefits are distributed fairly and widely. Our commitment to



sustainability boosts local economies, supports small businesses, and creates opportunities for entrepreneurship, especially for women and youth.

Through initiatives like featuring local cuisines, partnering with artisans, and organizing cultural experiences, we provide a platform for communities to showcase their traditions. This not only enriches the

guest experience but also fosters a sense of unity and appreciation for India's incredible diversity.

The growing popularity of hills, forests, and heritage destinations among Indian travellers is more than a trend—it's a reflection of a deeper desire for meaning, connection, and authenticity. At Treehouse Hotels and Resorts, we are proud to be part of this movement, of-

fering clean, comfortable, and safe accommodations where quality meets value. Our focus remains on providing resort-style stays rooted in hospitality, community, and care-creating environments where guests can truly relax, recharge, and reconnect with the world around them.

As we look to the future, we remain committed to making every journey

meaningful—not just for our guests, but for the communities we serve and the landscapes we cherish. The hills, forests, and heritage sites of India have countless stories to tell, and we are here to help travellers discover them, one unforgettable experience at a time.

Inputs by Mr. Jayant Singh, the Managing Partner of Treehouse Hotel and Resorts

Family fun in Phuket: From cultural wonders to beachside joy

AYUSHI ANAND

Phuket is often seen as a haven for beach lovers and partygoers, but it's also a treasure trove of vibrant culture, immersive entertainment, and kid-friendly adventures—perfect for a memorable family holiday.

One of the newest attractions turning heads is Carnival Magic in Kamala. This nighttime theme park is a colourful celebration of Thai culture, combining parade performances, fantasy zones, and light shows. Families can enjoy dressing in traditional Thai attire, playing nostalgic games, or feasting at the grand Bird of Paradise Buffet, which features international cuisines and a special Indian section. The highlight? The River Carnival Parade—a spellbinding spectacle of floats, dancers, and glowing animatronic creatures—and the Kingdom of Lights, a walk-through display of millions of LED lights forming mythical creatures and temples. It's a magical, must-see experience for all ages.

Another cultural gem is Siam Niramit, a world-class theatrical show that brings Thailand's history and folklore to life. Before the show, explore the cultural village where kids can enjoy crafts, try local snacks, and wear traditional Thai costumes. The dazzling performance is both educational and entertaining, complete with special effects, dance, and music. A lavish buffet with Thai and international food



makes the evening even more special.

For fun with a twist, head to the Upside Down Museum—a topsy-turvy world where rooms are designed with furniture on the ceiling. It's perfect for silly, creative photos and laughs. The museum also features an escape room, rage room, garden maze, and VR games, making it a hit with families looking to mix play with imagination.

Here's a 4-day Phuket itin-

erary to enjoy all of this and more:

Day 1: Explore Phuket Old Town, with its colourful Sino-Portuguese buildings and the lively Sunday Walking Street Market. Enjoy lunch at a family-friendly café before heading to Carnival Magic for an unforgettable evening of fun and festivity.

Day 2: Go island hopping to Phi Phi or Similan Islands, ideal for snorkelling and marine life sightings. End the day with a relaxed

dinner at Patong Beach, enjoying market snacks and beachfront entertainment.

Day 3: Start with a visit to Wat Chalong Temple, followed by quirky fun at the Upside Down Museum. In the evening, immerse yourself in Thai culture with the Siam Niramit Show and cultural village.

Day 4: Unwind at Freedom Beach, a peaceful spot perfect for sandcastles and safe swimming. Enjoy lunch at Mom Tri's Kitchen, visit Karon Viewpoint for pho-



tos, and wrap up your trip with a visit to the Phuket Night Market.

Tips: Hire family taxis, avoid scooters, pack sunscreen and rain jackets, and always supervise kids around water. Phuket's hospitality, rich culture, and imaginative experiences make it the ultimate family destination.

This June, make Phuket your next family getaway—for more than just a vacation, but a journey of shared joy and discovery.

Kids as 'Global Citizens': How travel shapes young minds

ALOK K SINGH

In this globalized and digital era, supporting young minds to become global citizens is not an easy task—it requires major patience and firsthand learning. Travel is the best way to achieve this task; through this we can inculcate adaptability, empathy, curiosity, and broad-mindedness in children.

In my opinion, every journey matters, regardless of its distance, as it gives children an opportunity to elevate themselves beyond the classroom. Roaming around the street market in Morocco, tracing the untold stories of Roman Ruins, or staying with a host family in a rural village, travel has the power to bring the world outside textbooks and shape the way children look at the world.

Children exploring new cultures at a young age teaches them to acknowledge and value diversity. Tasting new food items, encountering diverse languages, or experiencing different customs and traditions from the first seat will develop curiosity and hunger



The world is a classroom and young minds need to explore for a better future. Let them see the world with their own perspective.

to know more.

Delayed flights, misread maps, and unplanned events teach adaptability to children. For young minds, these are opportunities to showcase and learn resilience and creative problem-solving. Through this they will learn that the best discoveries are out of the itineraries, and it's okay not to have an answer.

In an age where digital screens literally dominate, travel helps them to reconnect with real-world experiences. Meeting global peers, witnessing nature firsthand, or exploring historical sights will provide children with a sensory-rich education that no tablet or textbook can match. It is immersive, memorable, and fun.

Family travels encourage strong and meaningful bonding. Sharing memories in new surroundings helps build stronger bonds and lifetime memories. As parents model feelings of curiosity and respect, children absorb them too.

At Travomint, we provide customized family-friendly travel packages prioritizing cultural immersion, learning, and safety. This way, we travelers can embark on a journey to nurture young minds into responsible, conscious, and confident global citizens.

The world is a classroom and young minds need to explore for a better future. Let them see the world with their own perspective.

By Alok K Singh, Chairman and CEO, Travomint



INDIA WIN FIVE GOLDS ON DAY 2 TO DOMINATE TAIWAN OPEN ATHLETICS

AGENCIES
TAIPEI CITY

The Indian contingent won as many as five gold medals, including double podium finishes in women's 800m final and long jump competition, on the second and final day of Taiwan Open international athletics championship here on Sunday.

Three-time national champion Vithya Ramraj, Rohit Yadav, Pooja, Krishan Kumar and Annu Rani won the gold medal in their respective events in an impressive outing by the Indian contingent.

Yashas Palaksha rallied to win silver in the men's 400m hurdles with a personal best timing of 42.22s, the result giving a big boost to his confidence after missing out on the 2025 Asian Championships.



Vithya clocked 56.53s to strike gold in the women's 400m hurdles event, her third best time of the year helping the athlete to gain some useful ranking points for the upcoming World Championships.

The athlete from Tamil Nadu competes in 400 metres hurdles, 400 metres

and 4x400 metres relay.

Before this, she had clocked 56.04s in the Federation Cup final and 56.46s in the Asian Championship final.

Rohit could not breach the 75m mark in the men's javelin throw competition but a best throw of 74.42m was enough for him to claim

gold in the event.Taipei's Huang Shih-Feng won silver with a throw of 74.04m, while his compatriot Cheng Chao-Tsun was third with an effort of 73.95m.Pooja won the women's 800m final with a championship record time of 2:02.79s to edge past compatriot Twinkle Chaudhary, who clocked

2:06.96s to clinch silver.

Krishan Kumar then came back from behind to win the top prize in the men's 800m final with a time of 1:48.46s, which is also a new championship record.

In the women's javelin final later in the day, Annu Rani struck gold after she threw the spear at a distance of 56.82m. The Indian could not improve on her season's best performance but the sub-57 metre throw was enough for her to finish ahead of silver winner Hatarabage Lekamalage (56.82m) of Sri Lanka and Taipei's Pin-Hsun Chu (53.03m).In the women's long jump event, India's Shaili Singh (6.41m) and Ancy Sojan (6.39m) then won the silver and bronze medals respectively, finishing behind Australia's Delta Amidzovski (6.49m), who won the gold medal.

Spain to face Portugal in UEFA Nations League Final

AGENCIES
MUNICH

Defending champions Spain will face Portugal in the UEFA Nations League 2025 final at the Allianz Arena in Munich, Germany. The match will start at 12:15 AM Indian Standard Time (IST) in the early hours of Monday.

It will be a historic night regardless of the result, as both teams are bidding to become the first-ever two-time UEFA Nations League champions. Portugal won the inaugural edition in 2019, while Spain was crowned champions in 2023, according to Olympics.com.

The final will also see a compelling narrative unfold - the legendary Cristiano Ronaldo of Portugal representing the game's Old Guard against 17-year-old Spanish sensation Lamine Yamal, the emerging face of



world football.

Portugal reached the final after defeating hosts Germany 2-1 in the first semi-final on Wednesday. Ronaldo scored the winning goal - his 137th for Portugal - further solidifying his position as the all-time leading goal scorer in international football. Spain booked their place in the final with a 5-4 win over France in Stuttgart on Thursday. Yamal netted twice in a pulsating nine-goal thriller to add to his rapidly swelling reputation

as a bona fide superstar.

Luis de la Fuente's Spain come into the title clash unbeaten in their last 10 Nations League matches away from home. Portugal, under Roberto Martinez, have only lost one of their last nine games in the competition.

The two European giants last met in the Nations League in 2022, when Spain won 1-0 in Braga.

Germany and France, the 2021 winners, will face off in the third-place playoff earlier on June 8.

Roland Garros 2025: Jannik Sinner eyes fourth Grand Slam title

AGENCIES
PARIS

World No.1 and three-time Grand Slam winner from Italy, Jannik Sinner, will face the defending champion Carlos Alcaraz in the French Open final on Sunday, which will take place at the Philippe-Chatrier in Paris.

Sinner last played the 22-year-old Alcaraz in the final of the ATP Masters 1000 Rome in May this year. The Spaniard beat the Italian 7(7)-6(5), 6-1, as per the Olympics.com.

Alcaraz holds the edge in the rivalry with Sinner. The Spaniard leads 7-4 in the head-to-head and has won each of their last four encounters, including a gripping five-set semi-final win at Roland Garros in 2024. Alcaraz has also beaten the Italian twice on clay courts.

The Italian's only victory against Carlos Alcaraz on clay came in the final of the 2022 Umag, an ATP 250 tennis tournament, in Croatia. Sinner won the match in straight sets.

Jannik Sinner, who won the Australian Open in Jan-



uary, made the French Open final after a straight-sets win against Novak Djokovic in the semis. He is yet to drop a set in this edition of the French Open.

Sinner defeated three-time French Open winner and 100-time tour-level tist by 6-4, 7-5, 7-6(3), with the match featuring points earned all over the tennis court, Sinner's precision and power and his great serve. This all overwhelmed the 24-time Grand Slam champion Djokovic and helped the 23-year-old set up a first-ever major final between players born in the 2000s.

Though the match was

one-sided as reflected by the scoreline, it did have many thrills and moments of genius from the 38-year-old Djokovic, who produced some great shots. But he let slip three set points on return at 5-4 in the third set, and Sinner's relentless hard work and consistency reaped rewards.

Olympic silver medallist Carlos Alcaraz, on the other hand, got a walkover against eighth seed Lorenzo Musetti of Italy in the semi-finals.

A four-time Gram Slam winner, Carlos Alcaraz's last loss against Jannik Sinner came in 2023 when the Italian won the semi-finals of the Beijing ATP 500.

Saptak Talwar continues good run in Switzerland

AGENCIES
LUCERNE

India's Saptak Talwar produced a strong finish with four birdies in the last five holes to card a three-under 68 in the third round and move to tied 16th at the Swiss Challenge here.

Talwar, who shot 69-69 on the first two days, added a 68 on the third to get to seven-under. He is six shots behind leader, Tobias Jonsson of Sweden, who carded 67 on Day 3.

Having started the round on the front nine, Talwar was bogey free for the first 12 holes at Golf Sem-pach. On the 13th hole he dropped his only shot of the day.

However, the Indian star, who won his breakthrough event at home earlier this year, birdied four times in last five holes. He picked back-to-back birdies on the 14th and 15th holes and on the 17th and 18th holes as well. His total score now stands at seven-under.

Second day joint leader Tobias Jonsson played four-



under 67 to take the lead by two strokes as the other three 36-hole joint leaders fell down the order.

Jonson has a combined three day score of 13-under par, while Santiago Tarrío played one-under 70 for the day to find himself tied third with five other players at 10-under par.

At the end of the third round, Jeppe Kristian Andersen of Denmark finds himself in second place. Andersen played three-under 68 to have a total score of 11-under. Heading into the final day, he is two strokes behind the leader and one stroke ahead of the third place group.

India aims to bounce back after loss in FIH Hockey Pro League

AGENCIES
AMSTELVEEN

After a closely contested match which ended in 1-2 loss against the Netherlands in their FIH Hockey Pro League 2024/25 (Men), the Indian Men's Hockey Team is eager to bounce back in their second encounter against the World No. 1 side on 9th June 2025 at the Wagener Hockey Stadium in Amstelveen, Netherlands.

The Indian side showed promise in the early phases of the first half, with Captain Harmanpreet Singh converting a penalty corner to give his side the lead. The Dutch side, however, made a strong comeback and ultimately emerged victorious courtesy of a brace from Thijs van Dam, which included the winning goal in the 58th minute, as per the Hockey India press release.

With seven games left to play in the competition, India currently stands fourth in the points table with 15 points. With the FIH Hockey World Cup 2026 spot up for grabs, India will aim to do well in the remaining matches and gain maximum



points against challenging opponents.

Reflecting on the team's performance in the last match, the Indian team's head coach Craig Fulton said, "We did well in the first half, but the third quarter wasn't as good. In the fourth quarter, we did well again and were winning the ball, but we weren't getting any shots on goal. It was unfortunate to lose like that because I thought we could push for a draw."

With the team gearing up for the next game, Fulton commented on his team's mindset and stated, "We want to push ourselves as hard as we can, especially against a team like the Netherlands. It was close and we had our chances, so we

just need to keep pushing on. We've got seven more games, so there's a long way to go." "We'll have to look at the match recording, have a debrief with the boys, get their opinion on what we tried to do and then see where we can make improvements," he added.

The team's Captain Harmanpreet Singh spoke on similar lines and stated, "The last match gave us clear areas to improve and as a unit, we're ready to respond. Everyone is determined to bounce back and beat a challenging opponent like the Netherlands. This squad has the potential to beat every opposition and we will ensure we give it our all on the field in the crucial matches coming ahead."

Nidhish sets up Spartans' win over Panthers



AGENCIES
COIMBATORE

Nidhish Rajagopal made a fine fifty as SKM Salem Spartans defeated Siechem Madurai Panthers by six wickets in a Tamil Nadu Premier League (TNPL) match here on Sunday. The Spartans bowlers did well to restrict Panthers to 164 for six in 20 overs, courtesy Tamil Nadu pacer M Mohammed's 2 for 27 off fours overs.

In reply, stylish left-hander Nidhish recorded his sixth TNPL fifty (60, 41b, 7x4, 2x6) and shared a

third-wicket stand of 73 off 56 balls with R Kavin (48 not out, 39b, 1x4, 4x6) as Spartans made 167 for four with eight balls to spare.

For Panthers, IPL players Murugan Ashwin and Gurjapneet Singh took two wickets each.

Brief scores: Siechem Madurai Panthers: 164/6 in 20 overs (R Ram Arvindh 37, Atheeq Ur Rahman38, NS Chaturved 32; M Mohammed 2-27) lost to SKM Salem Spartans: 167/4 in 18.4 overs (Nidhish Rajagopal 60, R Kavin 48 not out, Gurjapneet Singh 2-28, M Ashwin 2-35)

Indian junior women's hockey team beats Belgium 3-2

AGENCIES
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The Indian junior women's hockey team made a positive start to its tour of Europe with a 3-2 win over hosts Belgium here on Sunday.

India opened the scoring through Geeta Yadav (11th minute). However, in the second quarter, Belgium equalised through Marie Goenns (25th).

Soon Belgium took the lead as Louise van Hecke (34th) found the back of the net.

India made a valiant come-



back and levelled the scores through Sonam (40th).

The visitors continued to attack, and the tactic paid off as they won a penalty corner soon, which was converted by Lalthantlu-

angi (45th). After that, the Indians did not let Belgium get the equaliser with some stout defending. India will again play Belgium on June 10 in the second game of their European tour.

England Women seal 3-0 ODI series

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England Women, having already secured the series with a 2-0 lead, delivered a dominant all-round display at Taunton to complete a 3-0 clean sweep in the ODI series, as per ICC.

After winning the toss and opting to field first, the hosts bundled out the Windies for 106/8 in a rain-marred



contest that was cut short to 21-overs-a-side.

Led by the skipper Nat

Sciver-Brunt, who scored a half-century, England wrapped up a comprehen-



Oklahoma City Thunder forward Chet Holmgren (7) dunks during the second half in Game 1 of the NBA Finals basketball series against the Indiana Pacers Thursday, June 5, 2025, in Oklahoma City. (Agency)

sive win, chasing down the target in merely 65 balls with nine wickets in hand.

"That's a great way to finish the series. It has rained a few times in Taunton. We wanted to have a bit more opportunity in the middle, but bowling first and the rain didn't help that," Sciver-Brunt noted on the back of the strong win, as quoted from the ICC.

The series against the

West Indies marked Sciver-Brunt's first since taking charge of England after Heather Knight stepped down from the role back in March.

The seasoned all-rounder stated the importance of providing opportunities to all the players and running different combinations ahead of this year's ICC Cricket World Cup in India, starting 30 September.

"Looking at different combinations, trying things out. We have to gather information or we won't be able to explore them nearer to the World Cup," she said.

"It's a pleasing thing to see that everyone given an opportunity has put their hand up," she added.

"Some girls have a few days off, then some domestic cricket. We'll be raring to go come India," she noted.