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YEAR' REPORT CARD, FLAGS
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BJP: LAST 11 YEARS UNDER PM MODI A 'GOLDEN PERIOD'

Slamming Rahul Gandhi, J P Nadda says the LoP in Lok Sabha is “irresponsible” opposition leader who raises “baseless” questions

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The 11 years of Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government will be written in golden letters for the positive changes it has effected, BJP president J P Nadda asserted on Monday while slamming Rahul Gandhi and calling him an “irresponsible” opposition leader and accusing him of raising “baseless” questions.

Home Minister Amit Shah described the last 11 years under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership as a “golden period” of dedicated public service, marked by significant strides in economic revival, social justice, cultural resurgence, and national security.



Union Minister and BJP National President JP Nadda addresses a press conference on completion of 11 years of Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led NDA government, at BJP HQ on Monday.

In a post on X, Amit Shah wrote, “The historic 11 years of the Modi Government have been a golden period of resolve, endeavour and dedication towards public service.”

“#11YearsOfSeva The country has seen a new era of economic revival, social justice, cultural pride

and national security. The Modi government has proved that when the leadership is clear, the resolve is firm and the intention is of public service, then new

records of service, security and good governance are created,” the post read.

Narendra Modi first took oath as the Prime Minister of India on May 26, 2014, and is currently serving his third consecutive term.

Addressing a press conference to mark the government's 11th anniversary, he said Modi made the government accountable and responsive while confronting challenges head-on, putting an end to “scams, divisive politics, appeasement and overall negativism” which marked the 10 years of the Congress-led UPA rule.

“May God give him good sense,” Nadda said of Gandhi when asked about the Congress leader's criticism

■ P3

Honeymoon horror: Indore girl accused of killing husband

AGENCIES
SHILLONG/GHAZIPUR /INDORE

Sonam Raghuvanshi, a 24-year-old woman from Indore, allegedly orchestrated the murder of her husband Raja Raghuvanshi, during their honeymoon in the scenic town of Sohra in Meghalaya, state DGP I Nongrang said on Monday, while revealing the shocking details of the chilling murder that triggered in three states.

Raja was killed by men, allegedly hired by Sonam, who surrendered before the Nandganj Police Station in Uttar Pradesh's Ghazipur, after the arrest of three assailants - Akash Rajput (19), Vishal Singh Chauhan (22), and Raj Singh Kushwaha (21) -- in overnight raids.

“The first person arrested was Rajput from Lalitpur, Uttar Pradesh. The second was Chauhan from Indore, Madhya Pradesh. The third was Kushwaha, also from Indore,” East Khasi Hills SP Vivek Syiem said at a press conference in Shillong.

He said Sonam Raghuvanshi was currently in police custody and added that on Monday afternoon,



Sonam Raghuvanshi, the wife of late Raja Raghuvanshi, was found near a dhaba on the Varanasi-Ghazipur main road in Uttar Pradesh

Anand Kurmi (23) from MP's Sagar district was arrested.

The victim, Raja Raghuvanshi, was found dead in a gorge near Weisawdong Falls in East Khasi Hills district on June 2, ten days after the couple went missing.

Raja and Sonam, who got married on May 11 in Indore, went to Meghalaya on their honeymoon.

The husband and wife disappeared on May 23,

hours after they checked out of a homestay at Nongriat village, 20 km from where his body was found.

Raja's relatives identified the body through a distinctive tattoo on his right hand. A woman's white shirt, a strip of medicine, a part of the LCD screen of a mobile phone, and a smart-watch were also seized at the spot, police said.

Police also recovered a bloodstained machete, which they believed was used in Raja's murder.

A raincoat, also believed to belong to the couple, was recovered from Mawkma village, a few kilometres away from the gorge where Raja's body was found, police said.

Uttar Pradesh ADG (Law and Order) Amitabh Yash said Sonam, a resident of Govindnagar Khandas in Indore, was found at Kashi Dhaba on Varanasi Ghazipur main road on Sunday night.

According to Meghalaya Police, necessary legal protocols are being followed for her transit.

“The arrests mark a

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PM Modi to meet today delegations of multi-party MPs today

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will meet members of multi-party delegations, who had travelled to world capitals to convey India's stand following Operation Sindoor, on Tuesday evening, sources said.

Official sources said the members will be sharing their feedback with the Prime Minister, whose government has praised the work of the seven delegations comprising over 50 persons, mostly current MPs.

Former parliamentarians and ex-diplomats were also part of these delegations that visited 33 foreign capitals and the European Union.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has already met the delegations and praised their efforts in conveying India's strong stand against Pakistan-sponsored terrorism.

Four delegations were led by MPs of the ruling alliance, including two from the BJP, one JD(U) and one of Shiv Sena, while three were led by opposition MPs, one each of the Congress, DMK and NCP(SP).

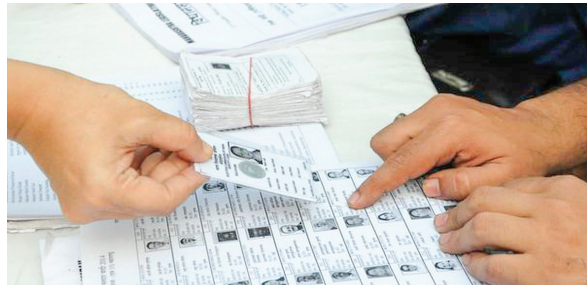
The government sent the multi-party delegations to portray a message of national unity in the fight against terrorism, with the likes of Congress MP Shashi Tharoor and AIMIM MP Asaduddin Owaisi joining the ruling alliance members in championing the Indian cause abroad.

ECI dismisses Rahul's charges, says revised rolls shared with all

ANAND SINGH
NEW DELHI

Following repeated attacks from Congress leader Rahul Gandhi over alleged rigging in 2024 Maharashtra assembly polls, the chief electoral officer of Maharashtra on Monday said that electoral rolls are revised annually through a participatory exercise and the same is shared with all the political parties “free of cost”. He advised the leader of Opposition to download the voter rolls of the legislative elections from ECI website.

“Electoral Rolls are revised annually through a participatory exercise. During this annual exercise, the Electoral Rolls are shared, free of cost, with recognized political parties, including INC (Indian



National Congress), first at draft stage and second time after its finalization,” he said in a statement.

The CEO said a similar exercise was done in 2009, 2014, 2019, and 2024 and copies of such electoral rolls were then shared with INC, as well as with other political parties.

The CEO also said that even for earlier electoral rolls, a copy of finalised electoral rolls is retained by district election officer as well.

Under Rule 33 of the

Registration of Electors Rules, 1960, any person can apply to the concerned district election officer and get a copy of such retained electoral rolls, on payment of prescribed fee, the CEO said.

“CEO, Maharashtra had reiterated this statutory position on 22 May 2025 to a Member of Parliament of INC who sought a copy of electoral rolls which were already provided to the INC at the time of revision in 2009, 2014, 2019, and 2024,” it added.

Fire erupts on container vessel off Kerala coast

18 rescued 4
missing

AGENCIES
KOCHI

A major fire broke out on board a Singapore-flagged ship after a container explosion off the Kerala coast on Monday, defence sources said. Eighteen crew members were rescued, while four remain missing.

The incident occurred at approximately 9.20 am IST, around 44 nautical miles off Azhikkal in Kannur district of Kerala and 130 nautical miles northwest of Kochi.

Defence sources said that of the 22 crew members on board the Singapore-flagged



Singapore-flagged container vessel Wan Hai 503 catches fire in the sea off the Kannur coast in north Kerala, on Monday. (Indian Coast Guard PRO/ANI Photo)

container ship, MV Wan Hai 503, 18 who had abandoned the vessel were rescued by Indian Navy and Coast Guard assets.

They are being brought to Mangaluru Port on the Navy ship INS Surat for disembarkation and further necessary

procedures.

The vessel was en-route from Colombo, Sri Lanka to Nhava Sheva, Mumbai, with an expected time of arrival (ETA) on June 10, 2025.

“The fire rapidly engulfed the mid-section of the ves-

■ P3

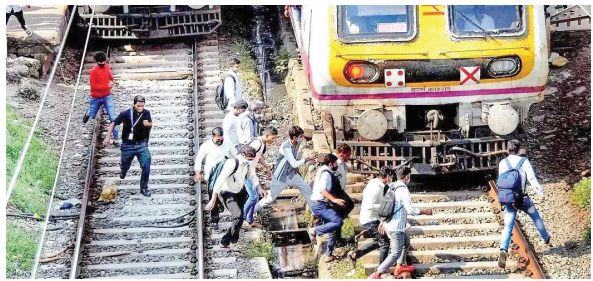
Railway mulls automatic doors

AGENCIES
MUMBAI/NEW DELHI

Four commuters died and nine were injured after falling off two overcrowded local trains in Maharashtra's Thane district during the morning rush hour on Monday, officials said.

The incident occurred near Mumbra railway station when the trains were passing each other on a steep turn.

Chief Public Relations Officer of the Central Railway, Swapnil Nila, said the victims were travelling on the footboard of the two trains, one travelling towards



Kasara and another travelling towards Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus Mumbai.

The commuters were hanging from the doors of the crowded trains and their backpacks brushed against each other as the trains passed in opposite directions, police said.

The guard of a train going towards Kasara alerted the railway authorities

DREADFUL MUMBAI LOCAL TRAINS

Four commuters die after falling off footboards

While travelling on footboards of in trains in opposite direction, their backpacks brush against each other

about the incident. Those who fell off the trains were rushed to nearby hospitals, where four were declared dead on arrival, police said.

The Railway Ministry has decided to have automatic door closure facilities in coaches of all existing and new local trains for Mumbai Suburban, a senior official said.

Dilip Kumar, Executive Director, Information and

Publicity, Railway Board, said that after the tragedy in Maharashtra, the Ministry has decided to have automatic door closure facilities in all local trains under manufacturing for Mumbai Suburban.

All rakes in service will also be redesigned and the door closure facility will be provided in these rakes of Mumbai Suburban, Kumar added.

Officials stressed that safety is Railway's top priority and all efforts are being taken to prevent such incidents from recurring.

Around 75 lakh commuters travel daily by suburban trains in Mumbai, the official said.

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis said the railway administration was probing the cause of the accident. Deputy CM Eknath Shinde said steps were being taken to help the victims and their families.

The incident highlights the need to pay serious attention to overcrowding and passenger safety in the suburban railway system, Deputy CM Ajit Pawar said.

■ P3



Cows roawming in Yamuna River to beat the heat on a hot summer day, in New Delhi on Monday. ANI

CONG FLAGS RISING HUNGER, INEQUALITY, 'RELEASES' BJP'S '11-YEAR REPORT CARD'

Releasing two booklets on PM Modi's 11 years of rule, Congress says India's growth rate has slowed to 6.5% with insufficient jobs

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Monday released a booklet to mark Narendra Modi's 11 years at the Centre, highlighting stagnated growth rate, rising hunger, and his "unfulfilled promises".

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh in a post on X said that the booklet, '11 Saal, Jhoote Vikaas ke vade', commemorates "some of the biggest lies of this Government."

Addressing a press conference, AICC research department head Rajeev Gowda, who prepared the booklet, alleged, "This government is very good at fake news and propaganda. It is our job as the Opposition to get people to know this grim reality."

He said that to expose the BJP's on its promises the party was releasing two sets of documents.

The booklet, 'Ek Aur Baar Jumla Sarkar', he said, looks at the promises made by the BJP in its 2024 manifesto, and has since made.

The other one, he said, is '11



Saal Jhoote Vikaas Ke Vaade', which is a "detailed exposé" of the "hollow promises" of the BJP.

"In the 11-Saal document, one of the first themes that they (BJP) highlight is taking care of the poor and the marginalised. They are very happy that 81 crore people are getting free food grains under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMG-KAY). But the basic problem of hunger is a much larger crisis in India, and it puts us at 105th out of 127 countries in the World Hunger Index.

"Its implications: malnutrition is affecting our children

in a horrible way, crippling their growth. Stunting is at 35.5 per cent; Wasting is at 19.3 per cent; Underweight is at 32.1 per cent," Gowda said.

He said that nearly a third of Indian children are suffering from malnutrition, even as the BJP insists on Viksit Bharat. "Let's remind our PM that he has a duty to our children and their future. They (BJP) claim that they have created 4 times the Eklaya residential schools since 2014. They have announced 700+ schools, out of which 300 are still non-functional. Is it rocket science to set up and run a school?" he wondered.

'BJP selling 2047 dream, not talking about present'

New Delhi: The Modi government's 11 years have witnessed no accountability but only propaganda, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi alleged on Monday and said the Centre has stopped talking about the present and is now selling dreams of 2047.

Gandhi's attack on the government came after at least four passengers were killed and six injured after falling off a moving and overcrowded local train in Maharashtra's Thane district.

In a post in Hindi on X, the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha said, "While the Modi government is celebrating 11 years of 'service', the reality of the country is reflected in the tragic news coming from Mumbai – several people died after falling from a train." Indian Railways is the backbone of the lives of

crores of people, but today it has become a symbol of insecurity, congestion and chaos, he alleged.

"11 years of Modi government = no accountability, no change, only propaganda. The government has stopped talking about 2025 and is now selling dreams of 2047," Gandhi said.

"Who will look into what the country is facing today? I express my deepest condolences to the families of the deceased and wish the injured a speedy recovery," he said. In a post on X, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge alleged that the government has only "smeared the ink of dictatorship" on every page of the Constitution in these 11 years. "The BJP-RSS has weakened every constitutional institution and attacked their autonomy," he said.

Shah calls Modi govt's 11 years a 'golden era' of public service

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday said the 11 years of Modi government was a "golden period" of resolve, endeavour and dedication towards public service.

In Narendra Modi's third term as prime minister, Shah said this new India is rapidly progressing towards development and self-reliance with the power of reform, perform and transform.

He said this journey of making India "number 1" in every field by bringing positive changes in the lives of the countrymen will continue.

"The historic 11 years of the Modi Government have been a golden period of resolve, endeavour and dedication towards public service," he wrote on 'X' in Hindi and called it 11 years of "seva" (service).

The Modi government completes the first year of its third term on Monday.

The home minister said the



country has seen a new era of economic revival, social justice, cultural pride and national security.

"The Modi government has proved that when the leadership is clear, the resolve is firm and the intention is of public service, then new records of service, security and good governance are created," he said.

Shah said when PM Modi took over the reins of the country in 2014, there was policy paralysis in the country.

He said there were no policies, no leadership and scams were at their peak in

the government the economy was in shambles and the governance system was directionless.

The home minister said during the "11 years of seva", the speed and scale of the country's development have been changed by 'Minimum Government, Maximum Governance'.

"PM Shri @narendramodiji brought farmers, women, backwards, Dalits and marginalised to the centre of governance and created a work culture of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas and Sabka Prayas instead of appeasement," he said.

Kharge backs Rahul: Transparency constitutional duty, not favour

ANAND SINGH
NEW DELHI

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Monday backed his party leader Rahul Gandhi saying transparency is not a favour, but is a constitutional obligation after he raised questioned on the integrity of the electoral process, particularly in the context of 2024 Maharashtra Assembly elections.

Kharge also questioned a purported letter of Election Commission surfacing and questioned its authenticity and said that democracy cannot survive on the basis of opaque processes and unverifiable data.

In his statement, Kharge, who is the Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha said pointed out the article he wrote in several newspapers across the country and said, "The article authored by Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi, published in multiple national and regional

newspapers, raises grave and legitimate questions about the transparency and integrity of the electoral process, particularly in the context of the recently concluded 2024 Maharashtra Assembly elections." The Congress leader said that in response to his article, "a letter surfaced purportedly from the Election Commission of India". "However, we categorically state that the authenticity of this letter remains questionable. As Rahul Gandhi rightly pointed out addressing the ECI: You are a Constitutional body. Releasing unsigned, evasive notes to intermediaries is not the way to respond to serious questions."

He said, "This lack of transparency from a constitutional body mandated to ensure free and fair elections is deeply concerning. The Congress Party, committed to upholding democratic values and electoral integrity, supports the critical questions raised by Rahul Gandhi and reiter-

ates them publicly."

Firing salvos about the unexplained voter surge in Maharashtra, Kharge said: "Between 2019 and early 2024, only 31 lakh new voters were added in Maharashtra. Yet, 41 lakh new voters appeared on the rolls in just the 5 months between the 2024 Lok Sabha and Maharashtra Assembly elections. How did this massive and statistically inconsistent surge occur?" Kharge also questioned about the discrepancy in voter turnout figures and said that the provisional turnout released was 58.73 per cent, yet the final turnout was declared to be 66 per cent. "Where is the post-5 PM CCTV footage or videography to justify this 7% jump?" Kharge asked. He also asked about the dilution of the election commissioner appointment process and said, "The government amended the process by replacing the Chief Justice of India with the Union Home Minister on the appointment panel.

Zero marks to Modi Govt: K'taka CM Siddaramaiah

TDG NETWORK
MYSURU

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday criticised the Narendra Modi-led government, saying it earned "zero marks" even after completing 11 years in power, and accused the BJP of relying solely on media publicity for its image.

While speaking to the media persons in Mysuru on the occasion of the Modi government's 11th anniversary, Siddaramaiah said, "Modi has completed 11 years in power because of media publicity. Zero marks! (to Modi government)..."

Siddaramaiah also recalled Prime Minister Modi's past

stance as Gujarat Chief Minister and accused him of doing the opposite after becoming the Prime Minister.

"When he was Gujarat CM, he said that states should have 50% share in Central tax devolution, but what did he do when he became the PM?"



Siddaramaiah asked, alleging that Karnataka faced unfair treatment from the Centre.

He added, "Injustice has been done to Karnataka. But when we ask the BJP, they say we are indulging in slandering."

Earlier in the day, as the Narendra Modi-led NDA government completed 11 years, BJP President and Union Minister JP Nadda on Monday said India has made significant progress in economic growth, social welfare, and global leadership under Prime Minister Modi's leadership.

He highlighted achievements like India rising to the fifth-largest economy, success in rescue operations like Operation Ganga, effective COVID-19 management, and efforts to uplift women, SC, ST, and OBC communities.

Centre okays Rs 25 cr as compensation for houses damaged by Pak shelling

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Centre on Monday approved an additional amount of Rs 25 crore as compensation for houses damaged in the border areas of Jammu and Kashmir due to Pakistani shelling during Operation Sindoor.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently announced the additional compensation amount for the houses damaged by Pakistani shelling.

As a special case, Modi said an additional compensation amount of Rs 2 lakh will be given for each fully-damaged house and Rs 1 lakh for each partially-damaged house.

Following the prime minister's

announcement, Union Home Minister Amit Shah ensured swift action by facilitating an additional provision of Rs 25 crore from the Ministry of Home Affairs for 2,060 houses, an official statement said.

A similar compensation amount will also be provided in the border areas of Punjab, it added.

The home minister visited the border district of Poonch in Jammu and Kashmir on May 29-30.

During the visit, he handed over appointment letters on compassionate grounds to the family members of those who lost their lives due to the cross-border firing.

J&K: 35 hospitalised after falling ill in Rajouri, water samples collected

TDG NETWORK
JAMMU

Thirty-five villagers were hospitalised after falling ill due to a mysterious illness in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district, prompting the health department to collect water samples and seal the local water sources, officials said.

The incident follows a mysterious illness that claimed 17 lives from three families at Badhaal in the same district between December 7, 2024, and January 19 this year.



"Thirty-five persons from Kotliparran village in Manjakot tehsil were admitted to the hospital after falling

ill in the past few days. All are stable. Four of them have been referred to the Government Medical College (GMC)

in Rajouri," a doctor heading the medical team told reporters in the village.

A team from the health department has visited the village, collected water samples, and sent them for testing, he said.

The patients exhibited symptoms of waterborne disease, prompting immediate medical attention, officials said. While investigations are underway to ascertain the exact cause of the illness, health officials suspect contaminated drinking water.

World's largest container ship MSC IRINA docks at Vizhinjam port

TDG NETWORK
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The MSC IRINA, recognised as the world's largest container ship by TEU (Twenty-foot Equivalent Unit) capacity, docked at the Vizhinjam International Seaport on Monday morning and will be berthed till Tuesday.

According to an Adani group press release, this monumental arrival marks a significant milestone for the seaport, which was dedicated to the nation by



Prime Minister Narendra Modi on May 2.

The MSC IRINA boasts an impressive capacity of 24,346 TEUs, making it a formidable player in global shipping. With a length of

399.9 metres and a width of 61.3 metres, the vessel is approximately four times longer than a standard FIFA-designated football field.

Designed specifically to facilitate the transportation of

large volumes of containers between Asia and Europe, the MSC IRINA is pivotal in enhancing trade routes and logistics efficiency.

This vessel makes its maiden visit to a South Asian port, highlighting Vizhinjam's capabilities in handling Ultra-Large Container Vessels (ULCVs). The port has recently welcomed other Icon-class vessels, including MSC Turkiye and MSC Michel Cappellini, further establishing its reputation as a key hub in maritime trade.

Launch of Axiom- 4 mission delayed due to weather conditions, announces ISRO

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Axiom-4 mission launch has been postponed to June 11, 2025, due to unfavorable weather conditions. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) announced that the mission, carrying Indian astronaut Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla to the International Space Station (ISS), will now lift off at 5:30 PM IST on June 11.

ISRO wrote on X, "Launch of Axiom-4 mission to Inter-

national Space Station: Due to weather conditions, the launch of Axiom-4 mission for sending Indian Gaganayatri to International Space Station is postponed from 10th June 2025 to 11th June 2025. The targeted time of launch is 5:30 PM IST on 11th June 2025: Dr V Narayanan, Chairman ISRO/ Secretary DOS / Chairman Space Commission."

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh also shared the details in a post on X. He noted that due to adverse weather conditions, the mission has been

postponed by a day.

He wrote on X, "Update on Axiom-4 Mission to ISS. Due to adverse weather, the launch of the Axiom-4 mission carrying Indian Gaganayatri to the International Space Station is rescheduled from June 10 to possibly June 11, 2025. Further update, if any, will be accordingly shared. New Launch Date: June 11, 2025 Time: 5:30 PM IST"

<https://x.com/DrJitendraSingh/status/1932088204707950993>

The Ax-4 crew includes



members from India, Poland, and Hungary, mark-

ing each nation's first mission to the space station in

history and the second government-sponsored human

spaceflight mission in over 40 years, according to Axiom Space. Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla will be India's second national astronaut to go to space since 1984.

Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla is part of Axiom Space's fourth private astronaut mission (Ax-4), marking a historic moment for India's space collaboration with NASA.

Slawosz Uznanski, European Space Agency (ESA) project astronaut, will be the second Polish astronaut

since 1978. Tibor Kapu will be the second national Hungarian astronaut since 1980.

Peggy Whitson will command her second commercial human spaceflight mission, adding to her standing record for the longest cumulative time in space by an American astronaut. According to Axiom Space, the Ax-4 mission will "realise the return" to human spaceflight for India, Poland, and Hungary, marking each nation's first government-sponsored flight in more than 40 years.



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“May God give him good sense,” Nadda said of Gandhi when asked about the Congress leader's criticism

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Honeymoon horror: Indore girl accused of killing husband

AGENCIES
SHILLONG/GHAZIPUR /INDORE

Sonam Raghuvanshi, a 24-year-old woman from Indore, allegedly orchestrated the murder of her husband Raja Raghuvanshi, during their honeymoon in the scenic town of Sohra in Meghalaya, state DGP I Nongrang said on Monday, while revealing the shocking details of the chilling murder that triggered in three states.

Raja was killed by men, allegedly hired by Sonam, who surrendered before the Nandganj Police Station in Uttar Pradesh's Ghazipur, after the arrest of three assailants - Akash Rajput (19), Vishal Singh Chauhan (22), and Raj Singh Kushwaha (21) -- in overnight raids.

“The first person arrested was Rajput from Lalitpur, Uttar Pradesh. The second was Chauhan from Indore, Madhya Pradesh. The third was Kushwaha, also from Indore,” East Khasi Hills SP Vivek Syiem said at a press conference in Shillong.

He said Sonam Raghuvanshi was currently in police custody and added that on Monday afternoon,



Sonam Raghuvanshi, the wife of late Raja Raghuvanshi, was found near a dhaba on the Varanasi-Ghazipur main road in Uttar Pradesh

Anand Kurmi (23) from MP's Sagar district was arrested.

The victim, Raja Raghuvanshi, was found dead in a gorge near Weisawdong Falls in East Khasi Hills district on June 2, ten days after the couple went missing.

Raja and Sonam, who got married on May 11 in Indore, went to Meghalaya on their honeymoon.

The husband and wife disappeared on May 23,

hours after they checked out of a homestay at Nongriat village, 20 km from where his body was found.

Raja's relatives identified the body through a distinctive tattoo on his right hand. A woman's white shirt, a strip of medicine, a part of the LCD screen of a mobile phone, and a smart-watch were also seized at the spot, police said.

Police also recovered a bloodstained machete, which they believe was used in Raja's murder.

A raincoat, also believed to belong to the couple, was recovered from Mawkma village, a few kilometres away from the gorge where Raja's body was found, police said.

Uttar Pradesh ADG (Law and Order) Amitabh Yash said Sonam, a resident of Govindnagar Khandas in Indore, was found at Kashi Dhaba on Varanasi Ghazipur main road on Sunday night.

According to Meghalaya Police, necessary legal protocols are being followed for her transit.

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PM Modi to meet today delegations of multi-party MPs today

AGENCIES
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Official sources said the members will be sharing their feedback with the Prime Minister, whose government has praised the work of the seven delegations comprising over 50 persons, mostly current MPs.

Former parliamentarians and ex-diplomats were also part of these delegations that visited 33 foreign capitals and the European Union.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has already met the delegations and praised their efforts in conveying India's strong stand against Pakistan-sponsored terrorism.

Four delegations were led by MPs of the ruling alliance, including two from the BJP, one JD(U) and one of Shiv Sena, while three were led by opposition MPs, one each of the Congress, DMK and NCP(SP).

The government sent the multi-party delegations to portray a message of national unity in the fight against terrorism, with the likes of Congress MP Shashi Tharoor and AIMIM MP Asaduddin Owaisi joining the ruling alliance members in championing the Indian cause abroad.

ECI dismisses Rahul's charges, says revised rolls shared with all

ANAND SINGH
NEW DELHI

Following repeated attacks from Congress leader Rahul Gandhi over alleged rigging in 2024 Maharashtra assembly polls, the chief electoral officer of Maharashtra on Monday said that electoral rolls are revised annually through a participatory exercise and the same is shared with all the political parties “free of cost”. He advised the leader of Opposition to download the voter rolls of the legislative elections from ECI website.

“Electoral Rolls are revised annually through a participatory exercise. During this annual exercise, the Electoral Rolls are shared, free of cost, with recognized political parties, including INC (Indian



National Congress), first at draft stage and second time after its finalization,” he said in a statement.

The CEO said a similar exercise was done in 2009, 2014, 2019, and 2024 and copies of such electoral rolls were then shared with INC, as well as with other political parties.

The CEO also said that even for earlier electoral rolls, a copy of finalised electoral rolls is retained by district election officer as well.

Under Rule 33 of the

Registration of Electors Rules, 1960, any person can apply to the concerned district election officer and get a copy of such retained electoral rolls, on payment of prescribed fee, the CEO said.

“CEO, Maharashtra had reiterated this statutory position on 22 May 2025 to a Member of Parliament of INC who sought a copy of electoral rolls which were already provided to the INC at the time of revision in 2009, 2014, 2019, and 2024,” it added.

Fire erupts on container vessel off Kerala coast

18 rescued 4
missing

AGENCIES
KOCHI

A major fire broke out on board a Singapore-flagged ship after a container explosion off the Kerala coast on Monday, defence sources said. Eighteen crew members were rescued, while four remain missing.

The incident occurred at approximately 9.20 am IST, around 44 nautical miles off Azhikkal in Kannur district of Kerala and 130 nautical miles northwest of Kochi.

Defence sources said that of the 22 crew members on board the Singapore-flagged



Singapore-flagged container vessel Wan Hai 503 catches fire in the sea off the Kannur coast in north Kerala, on Monday. (Indian Coast Guard PRO/ANI Photo)

container ship, MV Wan Hai 503, 18 who had abandoned the vessel were rescued by Indian Navy and Coast Guard assets.

They are being brought to Mangaluru Port on the Navy ship INS Surat for disembarkation and further necessary

procedures.

The vessel was en-route from Colombo, Sri Lanka to Nhava Sheva, Mumbai, with an expected time of arrival (ETA) on June 10, 2025.

“The fire rapidly engulfed the mid-section of the ves-

■ P3

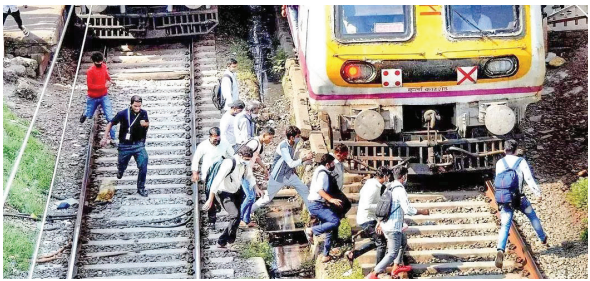
Railway mulls automatic doors

AGENCIES
MUMBAI/NEW DELHI

Four commuters died and nine were injured after falling off two overcrowded local trains in Maharashtra's Thane district during the morning rush hour on Monday, officials said.

The incident occurred near Mumbra railway station when the trains were passing each other on a steep turn.

Chief Public Relations Officer of the Central Railway, Swapnil Nila, said the victims were travelling on the footboard of the two trains, one travelling towards



Kasara and another travelling towards Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus Mumbai.

The commuters were hanging from the doors of the crowded trains and their backpacks brushed against each other as the trains passed in opposite directions, police said.

The guard of a train going towards Kasara alerted the railway authorities

DREADFUL MUMBAI LOCAL TRAINS

Four commuters die after falling off footboards

While travelling on footboards of in trains in opposite direction, their backpacks brush against each other

about the incident. Those who fell off the trains were rushed to nearby hospitals, where four were declared dead on arrival, police said.

The Railway Ministry has decided to have automatic door closure facilities in coaches of all existing and new local trains for Mumbai Suburban, a senior official said.

Dilip Kumar, Executive Director, Information and

Publicity, Railway Board, said that after the tragedy in Maharashtra, the Ministry has decided to have automatic door closure facilities in all local trains under manufacturing for Mumbai Suburban.

All rakes in service will also be redesigned and the door closure facility will be provided in these rakes of Mumbai Suburban, Kumar added.

Officials stressed that safety is Railway's top priority and all efforts are being taken to prevent such incidents from recurring.

Around 75 lakh commuters travel daily by suburban trains in Mumbai, the official said.

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis said the railway administration was probing the cause of the accident. Deputy CM Eknath Shinde said steps were being taken to help the victims and their families.

The incident highlights the need to pay serious attention to overcrowding and passenger safety in the suburban railway system, Deputy CM Ajit Pawar said.

■ P3



Cows roawming in Yamuna River to beat the heat on a hot summer day, in New Delhi on Monday. ANI

CHHATTISGARH: SENIOR COP KILLED, TWO INJURED IN PRESSURE IED NAXAL ATTACK

TDG NETWORK
SUKMA

An Additional Superintendent of Police was killed and two officers injured in a pressure IED blast while patrolling in Chhattisgarh's Sukma district on Monday, marking the first fatality of a high-ranking police officer in the state after 14 years amid intensified anti-Naxalite operations.

In May 2011, an ASP and eight other policemen were killed when Maoists blew up a tractor they were travelling in, in Gariaband district.

The latest incident indicates that the police officers walked into the trap set by Naxalites who had planted the pressure-activated Improvised Explosive Device (IED) near a burnt earth-mover.

According to Inspector General of Police (Bastar Range) Sundarraj P, the explosion occurred near



Akash Rao Giripunje, the ASP, was a young and courageous officer from the 2016 batch of the state police service.

Dondra village on the Konta-Errabor road on Monday. The officers were patrolling on foot after police received information that Naxalites had torched an earth-mover the previous night.

The explosion occurred as the ASP approached the burnt machine, which was parked about a kilometre off National Highway 30 inside a stone quarry.

ASP (Konta Division) Akash Rao Girepunje, Sub-Divisional Officer of Police (SDOP) Bhanupratap Chandrakar, and Station House

Officer (SHO) Sonal Gwala sustained injuries in the blast.

All were shifted to Konta Hospital for treatment. Girepunje, 42, who lost both legs in the explosion, later succumbed to his injuries. The injured officers were reported to be out of danger and airlifted to Raipur for further treatment.

"The martyrdom of Girepunje is a deeply painful one. It's an irreparable loss to the police force. Such cowardly acts by Maoists only show their weakening strength

and desperation. Their efforts to break the morale of security forces will fail," said Sundarraj.

Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai expressed grief over the officer's death and said Naxalites would face serious consequences.

A jawan accompanying Girepunje said the contractor whose earth-mover machine was torched by Naxalites on Sunday night contacted the ASP this morning when he was at his official residence in Konta and getting ready for the gym.

After learning about the incident, the ASP called his subordinates and decided to visit the spot, located around 4 km away from Konta towards the Sukma district headquarters.

The burnt earth-mover was parked at a stone quarry, around one km from the National Highway 30.

"The ASP and his team reached the area in vehicles and walked towards the spot.

When Girepunje went close to examine the machine, the IED exploded," the jawan said.

Girepunje was conscious after the blast despite losing his legs and instructed the officers to inform the Sukma SP and arrange for blood, the official said.

He was one of the bravest officers of the Chhattisgarh Police. Originally from Raipur district, he was recruited as a Deputy SP in 2013 and served in several Naxal-affected areas, including Manpur-Mohla and Kanker, as well as in Raipur, Mahasamund, and Durg.

The mortal remains of Girepunje were shifted to Raipur for final last rites, which will be performed on Tuesday, the official said.

Reacting to the incident, CM Sai said, "Received information about the martyrdom of ASP Akash Rao Girepunje ji in the IED blast carried out by Naxalites in Konta of Sukma. This is extremely sad.

WB Assembly condoles Pahalgam victims' deaths

TDG NETWORK
KOLKATA

The West Bengal Assembly convened for the monsoon session on Monday, and was adjourned for the day after offering condolences to the victims of the Pahalgam terror attack.

When the House assembled, Speaker Biman Bandyopadhyay condoled the deaths of 26 people, mostly tourists, who were killed by terrorists in Pahalgam in Jammu and Kashmir on April 22.

Obituary references were also made over the deaths of renowned Bollywood actor Manoj Kumar, and TMC's Tehatta MLA Tapas Saha and Kaliganj MLA Nasiruddin Ahmed.

Senior ministers Sovande Chattopadhyay and Chandrima Bhattacharya, TMC chief whip Nirmal Ghosh, BJP chief whip Shankar Ghosh, senior BJP leader Ashok Lahiri, Indian Secular Front MLA Naushad Siddique were among those



present from both treasury and opposition benches as the Speaker made obituary references. Everyone observed a one-minute silence.

The full-fledged legislative business will commence on Tuesday with a resolution condemning the Pahalgam attack and saluting the armed forces slated to be tabled on that day.

However, the name 'Operation Sindoor' will not be directly referred to in the resolution, a senior TMC leader said.

The BJP has, however, insisted on mentioning the name

'Operation Sindoor' in the discussion, Shankar Ghosh said.

Meanwhile, voicing protest over not including names of the two victims of Murshidabad riots in the condolence message, around 30 BJP MLAs later offered condolences to the father-son duo on the assembly premises after the House was adjourned for the day.

Ghosh, who led the party protest in front of the stairs of the assembly building, said it was regrettable and shameful that the state did not think it proper to include the names of Hargobinda Das and Chandan Das, who were brutally murdered in front of their house in Jafrabad locality in Murshidabad on April 12.

"Will the assembly, which is a temple of democracy, not refer to the brutal death of two of its citizens just because they were Hindus? Why could their names not be included in the official condolence along with the Pahalgam victims? This is unfortunate," he said.

Sikkim landslide: Body of armyman recovered, search underway for 5 others

TDG NETWORK
GANGTOK

The body of an army man, one of the six people who went missing after a landslide hit a military camp at Chaten in north Sikkim earlier this month, was recovered on Monday in Mangan district, police said.

The deceased was identified as Sainuddhin PK, a senior officer said.

The search operation is underway to trace other missing persons, Mangan Superintendent of Police (SP) Sonam Detchu Bhutia said.

"The rescue teams have recovered the body of



army man Sainudheen PK, who was among the six missing personnel after the June 1 landslide at a military camp in Chaten," the SP said.

Apart from the missing persons, three army personnel had lost their lives,

and four others were injured in the landslide.

North Sikkim has been hit by multiple landslides triggered by heavy rain, disrupting road and telecommunication connectivity.

Around 2,000 tourists

The search operation is underway to trace other missing persons, Mangan Superintendent of Police (SP) Sonam Detchu Bhutia said.

had also been stranded in north Sikkim's Lachen, Lachung and Chungthang towns due to inclement weather conditions for days before being evacuated by road and air in rescue operations earlier this week.

Meitei leader's arrest: Protests continue in Manipur defying prohibitory orders

TDG NETWORK
IMPHAL

Protesters took out torchlight processions overnight, burnt a government building and clashed with security forces, defying prohibitory orders as Manipur continued to witness demonstrations over the arrests of a Meitei organisation leader and four others, police said on Monday.

Clashes broke out between protesters and security personnel in Kwakeithel and Singamei in Imphal West district, prompting the police to fire several rounds of tear gas shells and rubber bullets to disperse the agitators, an officer said.

The Sub-Divisional Collec-



tor (SDC) Office at Yairipok Tuliha in Imphal East district was set on fire, causing partial damage to the building, and official records were destroyed, he said.

The police have initiated an investigation to identify the culprits behind the arson, the officer said, adding that security in the area has been heightened to prevent untow-

eral rounds of tear gas shells were fired to disperse them, another officer said.

Burnt tyres with smoke billowing were seen on the roads in several localities across Imphal this morning.

"The situation continues to remain tense with protesters blocking several roads with bamboo sticks. Though several roadblocks, particularly on the Tiddim road that leads to the Imphal airport, have been cleared by security forces," a police officer said.

Women's groups joined the protests and held torchlight processions in Khurai, demanding the immediate formation of a government in the state, which is now under the President's rule.

Raja Raghuvanshi hit with sharp object twice on head:Autopsy

TDG NETWORK
SHILLONG

Raja Raghuvanshi, the tourist from Indore killed in Meghalaya's East Khasi Hills district, was hit twice on his head with a sharp object, his autopsy report indicated on Monday.

East Khasi Hills district's SP Vivek Syiem told PTI that the police saw two cuts on his head during the inquest after Raghuvanshi's body was taken out of the gorge.

The post-mortem examination was conducted at the North Eastern Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Health and Medical Sciences (NEIGRIHMS).

"The autopsy report from NEIGRIHMS has indicated there are two

sharp cuts on the head of the deceased -- one behind and one on the front," Syiem said.

Raghuvanshi and his wife Sonam went missing in Sohra in East Khasi Hills on May 23 while honeymooning in the picturesque state. His body was found in a gorge near Weisawdong Falls on June 2, while a search for his wife was underway.

A bloodstained machete, which seemed relatively new, was also found near the body, according to police.

Sonam emerged in the early hours in UP's Ghazipur and surrendered before the police as the investigators nabbed four others allegedly involved in the crime that shook the nation.

Meghalaya honeymoon horror: Wife behind husband's murder, allege police

TDG NETWORK
SHILLONG/GHAZIPUR/INDORE

Sonam Raghuvanshi, a 24-year-old woman from Indore, allegedly orchestrated the murder of her husband - Raja Raghuvanshi, during their honeymoon in the scenic town of Sohra in Meghalaya, state DGP I Nongrang said on Monday, while revealing the shocking details of the chilling murder that triggered manhunt in three states.

Raja was killed by men, allegedly hired by Sonam, who surrendered before the Nandganj Police Station in Uttar Pradesh's Ghazipur, after the arrest of three assailants - Akash Rajput (19), Vishal Singh Chauhan (22), and Raj Singh Kushwaha (21) -- in overnight raids.

"The first person arrested was Rajput from Lalitpur, Uttar Pradesh. The second was Chauhan from Indore,



Madhya Pradesh. The third was Kushwaha, also from Indore," East Khasi Hills SP Vivek Syiem said at a press conference in Shillong.

He said Sonam Raghuvanshi was currently in police custody and added that on Monday afternoon, Anand Kurmi (23) from MP's Sagar district was arrested.

The victim, Raja Raghuvanshi, was found dead in a gorge near Weisawdong Falls in East Khasi Hills district on June 2, ten days after the couple went missing.

Raja and Sonam, who got married on May 11 in In-

dore, went to Meghalaya on their honeymoon.

The husband and wife disappeared on May 23, hours after they checked out of a homestay at Nongriat village, 20 km from where his body was found.

Raja's relatives identified the body through a distinctive tattoo on his right hand. A woman's white shirt, a strip of medicine, a part of the LCD screen of a mobile phone, and a smartwatch were also seized at the spot, police said.

Police also recovered a bloodstained machete,

which they believe was used in Raja's murder.

A raincoat, also believed to belong to the couple, was recovered from Mawkma village, a few kilometres away from the gorge where Raja's body was found, police said.

Uttar Pradesh ADG (Law and Order) Amitabh Yash said Sonam, a resident of Govindnagar Khandas in Indore, was found at Kashi Dhaba on Varanasi Ghazipur main road on Sunday night.

According to Meghalaya Police, necessary legal protocols are being followed for her transit.

"The arrests mark a decisive development in unravelling the circumstances surrounding the tragic death of Raja and the subsequent disappearance of his wife," it said.

His wife planned Meghalaya trip, says victim's mother

TDG NETWORK
INDORE

The mother of Indore-based businessman Raja Raghuvanshi, who was murdered in Meghalaya, on Monday claimed his wife Sonam planned the trip to the northeastern state for their honeymoon but did not book the return ticket.

Uma Raghuvanshi also said her son Raja and Sonam had an arranged marriage and her behaviour was good with their family, due to which they never had any doubt on her.

Raghuvanshi was allegedly killed

by men, hired by his wife, during their honeymoon in Meghalaya, the north-eastern state's police said on Monday morning.

Sonam surrendered before the Nandganj police station in Uttar Pradesh's Ghazipur, while three other assailants were arrested in overnight raids, Meghalaya DGP I Nongrang told PTI.

Of the three arrested men, two are from Madhya Pradesh's Indore and one from Lalitpur in Uttar Pradesh, she said.

One more person was arrested from Madhya Pradesh's Sagar district on Monday, Meghalaya's East Khasi Hills SP Vivek Syiem said.

After their marriage on May 11, Raghuvanshi and his wife left for Meghalaya on May 20. They went missing while vacationing in Sohra area in East Khasi Hills district on May 23. Raghuvanshi's body was found in a gorge on June 2.

While Raghuvanshi's family has been left stunned with the turn

of events, Sonam's father claimed his daughter was innocent and demanded a CBI probe into the matter.

Uma Raghuvanshi told reporters, "My son went to Meghalaya with Sonam on her insistence. He did not want to go on honeymoon so soon. My son had told me that Sonam booked tickets for the trip to Meghalaya. I told him that if the ticket has been booked, then he should go to Meghalaya with his wife."

My daughter is innocent: Father of accused MP woman

TDG NETWORK
INDORE

The father of a Madhya Pradesh woman, who has been accused of hiring men to kill her husband during their honeymoon in Meghalaya, on Monday claimed his daughter was "100 per cent innocent" and demanded a CBI probe into the matter.

Indore's transport businessman Raja Raghuvanshi was allegedly killed by men hired by his wife, Sonam, during their honeymoon in Meghalaya, DGP I Nongrang said on Monday morning.

she said the woman surrendered before the police in Uttar Pradesh's Ghazipur, while three other assailants were arrested in overnight raids.

Raghuvanshi and his wife went missing while vacationing in Meghalaya's Sohra area on May 23. His body was found in a gorge on June 2.

Sonam's father, however, refuted the police's claims.

"My daughter is 100 per cent innocent. We demand a CBI probe into the case," Sonam's father Devi Singh Raghuvanshi told reporters.

"The Meghalaya police are giving false statements about my daughter because the state government's image is getting tarnished due



to Raja Raghuvanshi's murder case," he alleged.

He further claimed the Meghalaya police have no evidence against his daughter that she gave a contract to get her husband killed.

Earlier in the day, Indore Police Commissioner Santosh Kumar Singh told PTI that the "Meghalaya Police have detained three persons from Indore and its surrounding areas in connection with the murder of transport businessman Raja Raghuvanshi."

He said that Indore police assisted their counterparts in Meghalaya's East Khasi Hills district in this operation late Sunday night.

The Meghalaya police will reveal the details of Raja Raghuvanshi's murder, he added.

Earlier in the morning, Meghalaya DGP I Nongrang said, "One person was picked up from UP, and another two accused were apprehended from Indore by the SIT."

CM HOLDS ‘JANSUNVAI’, LISTENS TO PROBLEMS, ORDERS RESOLUTIONS



TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta held a ‘Jansunvai’ and interacted with citizens in Shalimar Bagh, Delhi. The Chief Minister heard people’s problems and instructed the officers to resolve them. Sharing a social media post, she shared

glimpses from the event where she could be seen interacting with citizens of Shalimar Bagh. CM Gupta said in an X post, “Today, I had a direct conversation with the people of Delhi through Jansunvai. I listened to their views, assimilated their suggestions and gave necessary instructions to the officers on the spot to solve the

problems.” Emphasising the strength of public opinion, she added that people’s voice determines the direction of policies. “The trust of the people is our real strength. Their voice determines the direction of our policies. The Delhi government is vigilant, sensitive and fully committed to every public issue,” the X post read.

We have set a target of planting 70 lakh trees: CM

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta attended the ‘Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam 2.0’ event in New Delhi on Monday. She asserted that the government has set up a target of planting more than 70 lakh trees in the present season.

While speaking to the reporters, the Delhi CM expressed her happiness and stated that every Delhi department and school is joining the second series of ‘Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam’.

Rekha Gupta informed that the government has requested every person and social organisation to plant at least one tree in the name of our “Mother Nature and Earth” to make Delhi greener.

“I am pleased that every Delhi department and school is joining the second series of



‘Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam’. We are requesting every person and social organisation to plant at least one tree in the name of our Mother Nature and Earth, making Delhi greener.

We have set a target of planting 70 lakh trees this season and expect to improve Delhi’s environment by doing this”, she told reporters.

Furthermore, taking to her ‘X’ handle, Delhi CM shared some glimpses of the event and mentioned that she planted a vermilion plant under the ‘Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam’ campaign started by the Honourable Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

AAP slams BJP for ‘running bulldozers’ on houses, jobs

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MP Sanjay Singh on Sunday launched a scathing attack on the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government in Delhi, accusing it of “running bulldozers” on people’s houses, shops, and their jobs.

Singh told the media on Sunday, “You have suddenly destroyed the houses of people who have been living there for 50-60 years...our brothers and sisters from Purvanchal, UP-Bihar are being destroyed. BJP has become a curse for the poor...they have created havoc in the whole of Delhi. They are running bulldozers on people’s houses, shops, their jobs...we will expose them...”

Meanwhile, Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Sunday lashed out at Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leaders Sanjay Singh and Saurabh Bhardwaj over their visit to the Madras Camp encroachment site in Jangpu-



ra, terming it a “drama” by an “autocratic party” aimed at misleading the people of Delhi.

“No one is touching the slums. This (AAP) is a drama party, and they are unemployed people. Their job is to mislead and deceive the people of Delhi. Whereas we are taking care of the people of Delhi in a positive way, doing overall development, following the court’s orders. It is our job to provide facilities, but if some-

one builds a house over a drain or on a road, then this will not work. We have to take care of everyone’s facilities,” she said.

Criticising AAP’s governance record, Gupta remarked, “This (AAP) is an autocratic party. What can I say about the thinking of a party that used to sit on dharna during its rule? We have to follow the Constitution, we have to run the government according to the Constitution.

66 illegal Bangladeshis arrested in Delhi raid

TIKAM SHARMA
NEW DELHI

Delhi Police has carried out a major crackdown on illegal immigration who residing illegally in Delhi. The Foreigner Cell of the North-West District Police has apprehended 66 Bangladeshi nationals, including 11 families, who were residing unlawfully in Delhi. The operation, which was meticulously planned and intelligence-led, was executed after days of sustained surveillance and rigorous field verification.

According to officials, the special drive was launched following credible intelligence inputs about the presence of illegal Bangladeshi migrants in densely populated areas of North-West Delhi. The individu-



als, previously employed as laborers in brick kilns in Village Tain, Nuh (formerly Mewat), Haryana, had recently moved to Delhi to escape intensified enforcement actions by Haryana authorities and growing media attention.

The crackdown was led by two specialized teams of the Foreigner Cell, focusing on specific localities—Wazirpur JJ Colony and NS Mandi—identified based on detailed intelligence reports. Investigations re-

vealed that the migrants had strategically split into smaller groups and settled in crowded, informal settlements to avoid detection.

In an effort to conceal their identities, they had destroyed their Bangladeshi identification documents and concealed mobile phones.

To track down the individuals, the Foreigner Cell conducted extensive door-to-door checks, local patrolling, and on-ground intelligence collection.

‘Transformative governanc’: CM hails PM Modi’s leadership on completion of 11 yrs

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Monday lauded Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s leadership as he completed 11 years in office, calling it a period marked by “transformative governance and people-centric development.”

In a post on social media platform X, Gupta wrote, “11 years of people-based development. This is India’s journey of transformation - a strong and firm step towards a developed India.”

Highlighting the outreach of welfare schemes under the Modi government, she added, “Under the leadership of the Honourable Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji, the country not



Gupta further noted that the past decade had witnessed a decisive push towards self-reliance and global leadership.

only made plans but also implemented them. Facilities reached every poor, development reached every village. From farmers’ fields to soldiers standing at the border - every hand got strength, every dream got wings.”

Gupta further noted that the past decade had witnessed a decisive push towards self-reliance and global leadership.

“From Digital India to Make in India, from Startup India to Gaganyaan - this was the decade that took

India towards self-reliance and global leadership. Women were empowered, youth were given employment and opportunities, and the country got infrastructure that will be remembered for decades,” she said.

“This is not just the achievements of the government - it is the story of the will, participation and trust of 140 crore countrymen.

Now this journey is not going to stop. Now, this change has become a resolution, and this resolution is writing about the future of a strong India. India is not just changing now, it is creating a new era. The construction of a new India has begun, and this construction has become

a mass movement. This is not a turning point - this is history in the making. And being a part of it is no longer an option, but a duty,” she added.

Meanwhile, Narendra Modi first took oath as the Prime Minister of India on May 26, 2014, and is currently serving his third consecutive term.

Marking the occasion, the Union government also released a comprehensive e-book detailing achievements across various sectors over the past 11 years. The year 2025 marks 11 years of Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s government.

The book said that these 11 years have been dedicated to bringing about development that is inclusive, progressive, and sustainable.

Partially decomposed body found in parked tourist bus in Delhi’s Nand Nagri area

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

A partially decomposed body of a 32-year-old bus helper was found on Monday morning inside a locked tourist bus parked at the Nand Nagri bus stand in Delhi’s Nand Nagri area.

Police received an information early in the morning after blood was seen oozing from the vehicle and a foul smell was reported by passersby.

When the police team reached the spot, they discovered a private tourist bus emitting a strong stench.

Upon opening the bus, the police found the body of Shiva, a bus helper and



resident of 5th Pushta, Gali No. 9, Gamri, lying face down in the front left stairwell. Shiva appeared to have sustained a head injury, police said.

According to initial investigation, the cabin of the bus was locked from the inside, leading investigators to believe that it could have been an accidental fall.

“The partially decomposed body identified as

that of the helper, Shiva, age 32 was found lying face down in the front left stairwell of the bus, with an apparent head injury,” police said. “Prima facie, it appears to be an accidental fall, as the bus cabin was found locked from the inside.”

The crime team and forensic experts from the FSL unit were called to the spot for a detailed examination of the vehicle and body.

The body was sent to GTB mortuary for a post-mortem examination (PME) to determine the exact cause of death.

Police confirmed that proceedings under Section 194 BNSS have been initiated

and further legal action will be taken based on the findings of the post-mortem report.

Investigation is still underway to find the exact reason of the death.

Meanwhile on June 4, an IIT Delhi student was found dead in the college’s hostel premises in New Delhi, according to the police.

On reaching the hostel room, it was found that the door was locked from inside. Fire service personnel also reached the location, and upon their assistance, the door was forcibly opened. Upon entering the room, a male student, was found lying on the bed in an unconscious state.

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

After fire repoted at Trilok-puri Sanjay Lake metro station (Pink Line) in Delhi on Monday, Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) said that trains approaching the station were running at a restricted speed of 25 km/hr as compared to the normal speed of up to 40 km/hr.

In a series of X posts, DMRC said, “Train services on Line-7 (Pink Line i.e. Majlis Park to Shiv Vihar), are being regulated on a small stretch since 11:20 AM today due to smoke being detected in one of the technical rooms at Trilok Puri-Sanjay Lake Metro station.”



“Train services on the rest of the Pink Line are running normal. Centralised announcements are being made at frequent intervals on station premises and inside trains to inform the passengers. Smoke has been dissipated with help

of Delhi fire service personnel as of now and efforts are on to restore the signalling/ AFC in the affected section,” the DMRC added.

Anuj Dayal, Principal Executive Director Corporate Communications DMRC, said the smoke has been

dissipated with the help of Delhi fire service personnel as of now and efforts are on to restore the signalling/ AFC in the affected section.

Delhi Metro’s Pink Line services between Shiv Vihar and Majlis Park are delayed due to fire.

According to the information, four fire tenders reached the spot, and operations to douse the fire are underway. No casualties have been reported as of now.

“Fire broke out in the signalling room of Trilok-puri metro station, four fire tenders reached at the spot, dousing operations underway”, DFS said in their statement.

Centre, Delhi Government join hands to clean river Yamuna

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Central Government and the Delhi Government have launched a collaborative effort to clean the Yamuna River, with a series of initiatives aimed at reducing pollution. A drone survey will be conducted for 22 major drains, and 67 locations have been identified for pollution monitoring.

A top source said the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) will re-verify 360 small and large drains and



conduct a drone survey for 22 major drains falling into the river.

Sixty-seven locations have been identified for pollution monitoring in the River Yamuna. He added that a survey will be conducted by

July, and the report will be submitted to the Delhi Jal Board.

By September 2025, a permanent system will be established to measure pollution impact twice yearly at the 67 identified locations.

WAPCOS, a central public sector enterprise wholly owned by the Government of India under the administrative control of the Ministry of Jal Shakti has been assigned the task of measuring water flow in the drains, which will be completed by July.

The National Mission for Clean Ganga will also survey Najafgarh and Shahdara drains by August. The Delhi Jal Board will survey the remaining 20 major drains.

Also, the Delhi govern-

ment is installing 32 real-time water monitoring stations, including 10 on the Yamuna River and 22 on major drains, a senior official said.

In the Delhi budget 2025-26, Delhi CM Gupta has allocated 500 cr specifically for Yamuna cleaning, where funding will be designated for the construction of 40 decentralised sewage treatment plants (STPs).

The aim is to treat the water before it enters the river, thereby addressing pollution at its source.

Portion of house collapses in Nangloi; minor dead, one injured

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

An eight-year-old boy died while a man sustained injuries after a portion of a house collapsed in outer Delhi’s Nangloi area on Monday morning, an official said.

Police said the incident occurred when a toilet constructed on the terrace of the one-storeyed house collapsed onto the verandah below, causing the ceiling to cave in.

The deceased, Vansh, was the son of a daily wage labourer. The family hails from Pilibhit in Uttar Pradesh and had been residing as tenants in the house. Other occupants of the house are safe, police said.



According to the Delhi Fire Service (DFS), they received a call regarding the incident at 7.12 am from Rajendra Park Extension in Nangloi. Four fire tenders were immediately dispatched to the site.

TIME TO CALL OUT PAK FOR SPONSORING TERRORISM: SHIV SENA (UBT)'S PRIYANKA

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Priyanka Chaturvedi, who was part of the Group-2 delegation led by Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP Ravi Shankar Prasad, said on Monday that it is time to “call out” Pakistan and hold it accountable for sponsoring terrorism, after the delegation returned from its visit to several European nations.

Chaturvedi emphasised that there should be zero tolerance against terrorism, and there should be a safe future for the coming generations.

Speaking to ANI, Chaturvedi said, “Our message everywhere has been that we have fought for many decades, and India is capable of this. We are not going to demand anything, nor are we going to ask for any loan. We are going to inform them (Europe) that the battle we have fought will now come to their doorstep as well, considering how Pakistan provides training, indoctrinates individuals,



promotes fundamentalism, and creates terror in their countries.”

“Everyone in Europe is aware of how attacks are happening. So we have kept our word to them that it is time to call it out, and it is time to hold Pakistan accountable; there should be zero tolerance against terrorism, and there should be a safe future for the coming generations,” she added.

Meanwhile, on Sunday, Chaturvedi had said that the team had received a positive response from European nations regarding India's stance against terrorism.

Chaturvedi had told ANI

about the trip, “India and our delegation had received a very positive response.

This showed that the world understood the fear of terrorism, and it was very important to stay united to address this issue... Everyone was united and unequivocal about the fact that terrorism in all its forms had to be condemned.”

She had added that the delegation had engaged in talks with government officials, ministers, think tanks, and media representatives across Europe, all of whom had expressed consistent support for India's long-standing fight against terrorism.

She had added that the delegation had engaged in talks with government officials, ministers, think tanks, and media representatives across Europe, all of whom had expressed consistent support for India's long-standing fight against terrorism.

The all-party delegation led by BJP MP Ravi Shankar Prasad returned to India after a diplomatic tour of several European nations. The delegation arrived at the airport in the national capital following a multi-nation visit to strengthen India's ties with European partners.

Speaking to the media upon arrival, Prasad said, “It feels great to be back in India. Our delegation visited France, Italy, Denmark, England, Brussels and Germany. We met senior leaders of the Parliament, think-tank and the Indian community. The foreign nations have a lot of anger

over the terrorist attack in Pahalgam, and all the nations have condemned this. We went to the European Parliament as well. The Indian community was very excited to meet us. A new relationship is going to be established between India and Europe. It was a very satisfying visit...”

The recent visit by the all-party Group-2 delegation, led by BJP MP Prasad, took place amid growing international concern over terror attacks, notably the Pahalgam incident in Jammu and Kashmir, which has drawn widespread condemnation from global partners.

DDA issues notice for demolition of illegal huts at Bhoomiheen camp

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has issued an official notice to all residents of Bhoomiheen camp in South Delhi's Kalkaji Extension, directing them to vacate their premises in view of the upcoming demolition of illegal huts, following directions from the High Court.

According to the notice, residents have been asked to vacate voluntarily within three days—June 8, 9, and 10, 2025. The notice states that failure to comply will lead to demolition action by the authorities.

The DDA further read, “Any belongings left inside the huts during demolition will be removed, and the agency will not be held responsible for any damage or loss to personal property.”

The DDA has appealed to residents to maintain peace and cooperate with officials to ensure a smooth and or-



derly process.

Earlier in the day, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MP Sanjay Singh launched a scathing attack on the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government in Delhi, accusing it of “running bulldozers” on people's houses, shops, and their jobs.

Speaking to ANI, Singh said, “You have suddenly destroyed the houses of people who have been living there for 50-60 years...our brothers and sisters from Purvanchal, UP-Bihar are being destroyed. BJP has become a curse for the poor... they have created havoc in the whole of Delhi. They

are running bulldozers on people's houses, shops, their jobs...we will expose them...”

Meanwhile, Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta lashed out at Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leaders Sanjay Singh and Saurabh Bhardwaj over their visit to the Madras Camp encroachment site in Jangpura, terming it a “drama” by an “autocratic party” aimed at misleading the people of Delhi.

On June 1, the demolition drive at Madras camp in Jangpura, South East Delhi, as authorities act on court orders to clear encroachments in the area along the Barapulla drain.

Delhi's heatwave to continue, temp to rise over 45C

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) warned that Delhi NCR may experience heatwave-like conditions on Monday and Tuesday, with temperatures potentially exceeding 45°C. A yellow alert has been issued for the region.

“If we talk about Northwest India, then for the next four days, most of the subdivisions—especially in the plains—are likely to experience heatwave conditions. In Delhi NCR, the temp is expected to rise above 45°C today and tomorrow, creating heatwave conditions in isolated places. A yellow alert has been issued for the region,” IMD scientist Akhil Srivastava said to the media.

As per the IMD's digital portal, an orange alert has been issued in the capital city for June 10 and 11. Whereas, a yellow alert is in place for June 12 and 13.

Earlier on Sunday, Delhi recorded a maximum temperature of 42.1°C, and



on Monday, it reached its highest point of June at 44°C.

According to the Met Department, Delhi may witness rain by the middle of the week. IMD predicted light to moderate rainfall across parts of North India, accompanied by thunderstorms, lightning, and gusty winds (40-50 kmph).

The IMD has forecast heatwave conditions in Northwest India for the next four days, with isolated heats likely to experience severe heat. Red alert was issued for Western Rajasthan due to severe heatwave conditions and warm nights. Meanwhile, orange alert has

As per the IMD's digital portal, an orange alert has been issued in the capital city for June 10 and 11. Whereas, a yellow alert is in place for June 12 and 13.

been issued for Eastern Rajasthan, Punjab, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh.

Srivastava said, “In West Rajasthan, severe heatwave conditions are developing, and considering the rise in night temp as well—referred to as warm night conditions—a red alert has been issued. In East Rajasthan, both heatwave and warm night conditions persist, so an orange alert is in place.”

Further, in Jammu and Kashmir, a yellow alert has been issued for next three days. North Madhya Pradesh is also under a yellow alert for heatwave conditions, Srivastava remarked.

LG approves cadre restructuring of Irrigation, Flood Control Department

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

In a step that would go a long way in the issue of addressing the Government's commitment to cleaning of Yamuna, Delhi LG, VK Saxena has approved a major cadre restructuring of the Irrigation and Flood Control Department (I&FC) Department, Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (GNCTD).

This is also in line with his avowed commitment to improving service conditions and requirements of Government servants in Delhi.

The restructured cadre will lead to the creation of 156 additional posts, mostly



that of executive engineers and junior engineers (Civil) and also includes, inter alia Accounts Officer, UDC, LDC, MTS, etc, according to the release.

The posts created will give immense support to the I&FCD in terms of its responsibility of management and operation of 22 major drains which outfalls in river Yamuna.

Apart from that I&FCD is also carrying out civil works of Roads, Drains, Civil building structures under

scheme of Dilli Gramodaya Abhiyaan, Unauthorised Colonies, Panchayat Works, Development of Chhat Ghats, etc.

I&FCD envisages the total strength of its divisions to increase from the existing 14 to 20, with 06 more Civil Divisions to cope up with the increased quantum of work and assignments entrusted upon to them.

On June 4, in a major relief to retired Government employees, Delhi Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena has approved the proposal to consider them under the “Government Servants” category for Membership at the Delhi Development Authority's (DDA) Dwarka Golf Course.

BJP: Mamata's polls strategy is based on 'appeasement'

TDG NETWORK
KOLKATA

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader and MP Sukanta Majumdar, on Monday, launched a sharp attack on West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, alleging that her entire electoral strategy is rooted in “appeasement politics.”

In a post on X, Majumdar claimed that Banerjee's political roadmap is centred around two parallel tactics: “relentless Muslim appeasement” and the “continuous oppression” of Bengali Hindus.

Mahayuti will fight together: BJP leader on upcoming BMC polls

TDG NETWORK
MUMBAI

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Poonam Mahajan on Monday said that the ‘Mahayuti’ alliance will contest the upcoming Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) elections together, reaffirming the party's commitment to public service over political speculation.

Speaking to the media, Mahajan said, “I cannot answer that speculation right now. It is not important for us. What is essential for us is that ‘Mahayuti’ will fight together.”

“How will we fight? You will come to know this, but whatever the BJP says, we will follow as workers... The BJP does not fight or



work for elections. We always work for the people,” she added.

In March, Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray had expressed willingness to reconcile with his estranged cousin, Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) president Raj Thackeray, for the sake of the Marathi language and culture. His remarks came during an event organised

by Bhartiya Kamgar Sena, the trade union wing of his party.

While addressing the function of his party's trade union wing, Bhartiya Kamgar Sena in Mumbai, Uddhav Thackeray said that he is ready to get back together with Raj Thackeray by keeping all the issues aside for the sake of the Marathi language and culture.

Court grants Tahawwur one-time phone call, seeks health report from Tihar

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Delhi's Patiala House Court on Monday granted 26/11 Mumbai Terror attack accused Tahawwur Rana permission to make a single phone call to his family for the time being. The call will be strictly conducted in accordance with jail regulations and under the supervision of a senior official from the Tihar jail authorities, said the Court.

The Additional Sessions Judge (NIA) Chanderjit Singh on Monday also sought a detail status report on Rana's health issues, which must be submitted within 10 days.

In its response to the jail authorities, the NIA had approved permission for this one-time phone call. Fur-



thermore, the court has also sought a detailed report from the jail authorities, clarifying their stance on whether Rana should be allowed regular phone calls in the future, as per the Jail Manual.

On Friday, the court extended Rana's judicial custody, scheduling his next appearance for July 9. Due to security concerns, he was presented via virtual mode. On the last date of hearing, Rana personally addressed the court, requesting a hearing aid for an ear-related medical issue.

BSF foils smuggling attempt, seizes large haul of Bangladeshi currency

TDG NETWORK
NADIA (WEST BENGAL)

The vigilant jawans of BSF South Bengal Frontier foiled a major smuggling attempt on the Indo-Bangladesh International Border in Nadia district of West Bengal and recovered 21,00,000 Bangladeshi Taka, 340 bottles of Phensedyl and 11 kg of Ganja.

This action was made possible by the vigilance and prompt response of jawans at the border, who quickly acted on information about suspicious activity and foiled the smugglers' plans, BSF said in a press release.

“Yesterday, on June 8, the jawans of Border Outpost Gongra of 161 Battalion of BSF deployed on the Indo-Bangladesh International Border in Nadia district of



West Bengal received secret information that illegal items could be smuggled from the area of the border outpost. Acting on the received intelligence, the jawans of the Border Outpost devised a plan to catch the smugglers red-handed and set up ambushes at highly sensitive locations. Around 3 a.m., they noticed suspicious movements near the fencing, where several smugglers were hiding in a

banana orchard. The jawans immediately sprang into action, attempting to surround the suspects and warning them to stop,” South Bengal Frontier BSF official said.

BSF official further said that after realising they were encircled by BSF personnel, the smugglers panicked and, taking advantage of the darkness and the dense banana plantation, managed to flee.

Indian Navy to commission 1st ASW shallow water craft Arnala on June 18

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Indian Navy is set to commission its first Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) Shallow Water Craft, Arnala, at Visakhapatnam Naval Dockyard, on June 18, 2025. The ship's crest features a stylized Auger Shell, symbolizing resilience, vigilance, and dominance in challenging environments.

The Chief of Defence Staff, Gen Anil Chauhan, will pre-

side over the ceremony. As per the release, the Vice Adm Rajesh Pendharkar, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Naval Command, will host the ceremony, which will be attended by senior naval officials, distinguished guests, and representatives from the shipbuilders and various other agencies associated with its construction.

The ship's motto, ‘Arnave Shauryam’, meaning Valour in the Ocean, embodies the crew's unwavering courage



and strength in the face of challenges at sea. This motto serves as a constant inspiration for the crew to remain steadfast and fearless.

Inscribed in Devanagari script, the ship's name, Arnala, is set against a blue backdrop, representing the ocean.

The event marks the formal induction of the first of the sixteen ASW-SWC class ships into the Indian Navy. Designed and constructed by M/s Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), Kol-

kata, under a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) with M/s L&T Shipbuilders, Arnala is a testament to the success of the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative in defence manufacturing, according to the release.

Constructed under the guidance of the Directorate of Ship Production and the oversight of the Warship Overseeing Teams in Kolkata and Kattupalli, Arnala was delivered to the Indian Navy on May 8.

Named after the historic

Arnala Fort off Vasai, Maharashtra, the warship reflects India's rich maritime heritage. Much like the fort, which stood resiliently against various threats, the ship is designed to have a formidable presence at sea.

Its robust construction and advanced capabilities ensure that it can withstand the challenges of the maritime domain, safeguarding India's waters from emerging threats.

The Ship's Crest is a pow-

erful emblem that encapsulates the spirit and mission of this formidable naval vessel. At its heart is a stylized Auger Shell, a striking symbol set against a deep blue backdrop, evoking the vast, untamed ocean.

The Auger Shell, with its spiralled, reinforced structure and precision tip, is no mere decorative element—it represents resilience, vigilance, survival, and dominance in the harshest of environments.

RBI RATE CUT MAY LOWER BOND YIELDS; GOVT PLANS RS26,000 CR G-SEC BUYBACK

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Bond yields in India are expected to go down following the recent frontloaded rate cut by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), says economists.

The economists noted that rate cut is likely to influence the market to adjust to a revised and more accommodative interest rate outlook, pushing dated government securities (G-sec) yields down further.

Debopam Chaudhuri, Chief Economist at Piramal Group told ANI “The frontloaded rate cut is likely to drive a further easing in dated G-sec yields as markets adjust to a revised interest rate trajectory. The RBI’s shift to a neutral stance could be initially interpreted as a signal of a pause in the rate-cut cycle”.

He further stated that “these are likely to be short-term adjustments, and bond yields are expected to resume their downward trend



once market volatility subsides”. However, in the near term, some upward pressure on yields may emerge as investors may look to book profits after the rally in bond prices. Moreover, the RBI’s shift to a neutral policy stance may be initially read by markets as a pause in the rate-cut cycle, which could also cause some temporary volatility in yields.

Additionally, the US Federal Reserve is also anticipated to lower its terminal

interest rate to around 4 per cent, creating more room for the RBI to continue with its rate-cutting approach.

Dipanwita Mazumdar, Economist specialist at Bank of Baroda told ANI “India’s long end yields especially the 10Y part of the curve has priced in the rate cut. Thus we expect it to be largely capped as the change in stance has hinted lesser scope for future monetary policy easing. Hence we do not expect much momen-

tum. However, the short run part of the curve will be more susceptible to the liquidity support given by RBI especially through CRR cut. Thus we expect some prevalence of a steeper yield curve for India in the near term”.

In a parallel move aimed at managing its debt portfolio and supporting the bond market, the Government of India has announced a buyback of dated securities worth Rs 26,000 crore (face

value).

The buyback will be conducted through an auction on June 12, 2025. It will include five securities maturing in 2026: 5.63 per cent GS 2026 (maturing on April 12), 8.33 per cent GS 2026 (July 9), 6.97 per cent GS 2026 (September 6), 5.74 per cent GS 2026 (November 15), and 8.15 per cent GS 2026 (November 24). There is no notified amount for individual securities within the Rs 26,000 crore ceiling. The auction will be held on RBI’s E-Kuber system between 10:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m., and the results will be declared the same day. Settlement will take place on June 13, 2025. With the rate cut and the government’s buyback initiative, economists believe bond yields will continue their downward trend in the medium term, providing further support to market liquidity and helping lower borrowing costs for the government.

India’s hospitality to see revenue grow of 6-8% in FY 2026: ICRA

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Indian hospitality sector is projected to see a revenue growth of 6-8 per cent in fiscal year 2026, according to a report by Investment Information and Credit Rating Agency (ICRA).

ICRA also revised its outlook for the sector to ‘Stable’ from ‘Positive’ following three consecutive years of double-digit revenue expansion for the industry from FY2023 to FY2025.

Pan-India premium hotel occupancy is estimated to remain robust at 72-74 per cent in FY2026, a slight increase from the 70-72 per cent levels observed in FY2024 and FY2025. Additionally, the average room rates (ARRs) for premium hotels are expected to reach Rs 8,200-8,500 in FY2026, following healthy rates of Rs. 8,000-8,200 in FY2025. This rise in ARR is attributed to lagging supply additions and ongoing renovation, refurbishment, and upgradation initiatives across several hotels. Jitin Makkar, Senior Vice Presi-



dent and Group Head - Corporate Ratings, ICRA Limited said that, “After three years of strong demand, driven by favourable domestic leisure travel, demand from meetings, incentives, conferences and exhibitions (MICE), including weddings, and business travel, the growth in the Indian hospitality sector is forecast to normalise at 6-8% YoY in FY2026.”

Although foreign tourist arrivals are expected to remain subdued in the coming months due to the recent terror attacks, a gradual recovery is anticipated. While, domestic tourism, which has been the primary demand driver, is expected to continue leading the way in the near term. Factors contributing to this growth include improvements in infrastructure

and air connectivity, favorable demographics, and the projected increase in large-scale MICE events with the opening of new convention centers. Supply growth is expected to lag demand for the next 12-18 months. ICRA’s premium room inventory database for 12 key cities indicates a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 4.5-5.0% in room inventory addition from FY2023-FY2026.

A significant portion of this new supply is through management contracts and operating leases. Challenges in land availability in premium micro-markets of metros and larger cities are constraining supply, with new premium hotel supply largely coming from rebranding, property upgradation, and greenfield projects in the suburbs.

Sensex jumps 256 points

TDG NETWORK
MUMBAI

The Indian stock indices ended on a positive note on Monday, rising for the fourth straight session, continuing to take cue from the RBI’s decision to cut repo rates by 50 basis points.

The Sensex closed at 82,445.21 per cent, up 256.22 points or 0.31 per cent, while Nifty closed at 25,103.20 points, up 100.15 points or 0.40 per cent.

“Financial stocks extended their rally in Indian markets, driven by the RBI’s supportive aggressive policy of rate and CRR cut. These actions have boosted investor confidence and are expected to enhance liquidity in the near to medium term, especially in midcaps,” said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited.

All the Nifty Sectoral indices ended their day in the green territory except Nifty Realty. Out of all the sectors, Nifty Financial Services Ex-Bank was the top mover, followed by Nifty PSU Bank and Nifty Oil & Gas. “Banking stocks were the standout performers of the session, with the Bank Nifty index extending its rally to hit a fresh all-time high. For the first time ever, the index breached the 57,000 mark, underscoring

Rs rises 2 paise against \$

MUMBAI: The rupee rose 2 paise to 84.40 against the US dollar in early trade on Tuesday amid a recovery in domestic equity markets and a weaker American currency against major Asian rivals. Fore traders said, however, sustained outflow of foreign funds and an upward movement in crude oil prices put pressure on the local unit and capped its sharp gain.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 84.39 and slipped further to 84.40

against the greenback, trading 2 paise higher from its previous close. On Monday, the rupee recovered from its lowest level of 84.46 to settle 4 paise higher at 84.42 against the US dollar.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback’s strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading lower by 0.09 per cent at 106.10. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, rose by 0.19 per cent to USD 73.44 per barrel in futures trade.



the market’s optimism following a surprise 50 basis points cut in the repo rate and a simultaneous reduction in the Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI),” according to Bajaj

Broking Research. According to the latest US jobs data, employers added 1,39,000 jobs last month. Average hourly earnings increased 0.4% in May against a rise of 0.3%, as reported by Reuters.

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari asserted on Monday that Indian road infrastructure will be comparable to America’s in another two years, backing his argument that his government has ramped up spending on roads and highways over the past decade.

“The question is not about the facelift, it has already changed. You have just watched the news reel, the main picture is yet to start. The projects in the pipeline are progressing rapidly. In another two years, you will be able to see that Indian road infrastructure will be similar to that of America,” Minister of Road Transport and Highways, Gadkari, told ANI in an interview, on being asked when the face of Indian roads can completely change.

“Some people from America met me and said our infrastructure is better than America,” he supplemented.

The Minister said that the good roads laid out by his government have reduced logistics costs in India, adding that it will further improve export competitiveness.

“If we raise our exports, it will improve our agricul-

‘With the kind of roads now, logistics costs reduced’

New Delhi: Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari on Monday stated that India’s logistics costs have decreased by six per cent from 16 per cent, attributing the reduction to significant improvements in road infrastructure under Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led NDA government.

In an interview, Gadkari highlighted the critical role of infrastructure development in achieving

PM Modi’s vision of making India a ‘Vishwa Guru’ and the world’s third-largest economy with a target of a 5 trillion dollar economy.

“It is the dream of our Prime Minister that India becomes a Vishwa Guru, the third-largest economy in the world and a 5 trillion dollar economy. To fulfil this dream, we will have to increase exports; only then will there be growth in the agricultural, service, and industrial sectors.

tural sector, manufacturing, and services, among all other sectors,” he said.

The minister said the main concern in India was the high logistics cost -16 per cent, against China’s 8 per cent and the US and European countries’ 12 per cent.

“Our roads were not good, our ports were not good. Traffic congestion raised costs,” he said. With improved roads, Gadkari said the BJP-led government brought down the logistics costs to 9 per cent. “This reduced cost will make us export competitive,” he reiterated.

Speaking of works in the offing, the minister said 25

greenfield expressways, a 3,000 km port connectivity highway, and Rs 1 lakh crore worth of roads connecting religious tourism circuits are underway.

He spoke of connecting Buddhist circuits and Char Dham with good all-weather roads.

“We are developing 36 tunnels between Jammu and Srinagar; 23 have been completed, and works for another 4-5 are underway,” Gadkari said. “We are developing 15 ropeways under Parvatmala Yojana, besides 35 multi-modal logistics parks.”

Public infrastructure is the backbone of economic de-

‘Pakistan supports terrorism despite poverty’

New Delhi : Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari on Monday strongly condemned Pakistan for “sponsoring terrorism,” despite grappling with severe domestic challenges such as poverty, starvation, and unemployment.

In an interview with the media, Gadkari reiterated India’s firm stance against terrorism, citing Operation Sindoor as a “decisive response” to the Pakistan-sponsored April 22 terror

attack in Jammu and Kashmir’s Pahalgam that killed 26 innocent people in the name of religion.

“We are against terrorism. Operation Sindoor was our reaction to the killing of the innocent people. Pakistan sponsors terrorism. There is poverty, starvation and unemployment in Pakistan; still they support terrorism and enter our country and kill innocent people. Then our answer will have to be Operation Sindoor,” the Union Minister said.

‘Musk’s Starlink set to start services in 2 months’

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Elon Musk’s satellite internet service Starlink is preparing to commence operations in India within the next two months after receiving its license last week, sources said.

The company has finalised its pricing structure for the Indian market, setting the cost of the required satellite dish device at approximately Rs 33,000. The monthly unlimited data plan is expected to be priced at Rs 3,000. As part of its launch strategy, Starlink plans to offer a complimentary one-month trial period with each device purchase, allowing customers to test the service before committing to regular monthly payments.

The satellite internet service is expected to significantly impact connectivity in India’s remote and underserved areas, where



traditional broadband infrastructure has been challenging to establish. Starlink’s low Earth orbit satellite constellation promises to deliver high-speed internet access to locations previously unreachable by conventional terrestrial networks.

The pricing structure appears consistent with Starlink’s regional strategy, as the device costs align with those in neighbouring countries. In Bangladesh, the Starlink device is priced at Rs 33,000, while Bhutan maintains the same Rs 33,000 price point for the equipment.

Swiss cosmetics brand Cellcosmet says it’s time to enter Indian market

TDG NETWORK
BERN

Tancrede Amacker, CEO of Swiss cosmetics firm Cellcosmet, on Monday showed clear intent that he wishes to enter India market.

The Swiss CEO met Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal, who is on a two-day Switzerland visit.

“It was a wonderful meeting...we do high-end cosmetics, we sell high-end skincare made in Switzerland, and the idea is how could we enter India,” he told ANI.

“It’s a wonderful country in terms of size and the population is humongous... We have the pleasure to serve the Indian customers in Singapore, in London or in Switzerland, but not yet in India, and it’s time for us to enter,” he added.

“So we were discussing



about the possibilities when it comes to distribution,” he further said.

During the meeting, they talked of possibility of collaborating with Nykaa.

“That’s a wonderful platform that (and) we are very interested in,” the CEO, said, referring to Nykaa.

He said minister Piyush Goyal suggested the Swiss company to think about co-packing initially, and produce in India at a later stage. “The first step would be

to enter India through a partner, so Nykaa could be one, that’s kind of distribution partnership where we are help take I would say the understanding and the knowledge of the market and trying to adapt a business proposition to the Indian market,” he explained. And then in the second stage, we will find the right places to do this co-packing and maybe manufacturing.

An India trip is being organised for Swiss companies in September, the CEO said.

A lot of Swiss colleagues will come along the way and we’ll find out what are the best locations for us to implement,” he said. “It’s a wonderful investment destination. I mean that’s the size of the market, but also the appetite for luxury goods as well is extremely strong.

‘Emphasis on education, tech vital to become \$7-tr economy’

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

India’s aspiration to become a USD 7-8 trillion economy by 2030 requires emphasis on advancements in education and technology, say experts at the recently concluded Indian Global Innovation Connect (IGIC) 2025 in Bengaluru.

Technology adoption, especially technologies like GIS (geographic information system), emerged as a pivotal driver, with discussions centred on AI integration, digital transformation, and advanced manufacturing. This technological push, however, is inextricably linked to the quality and relevance of education, the experts said while addressing policymakers, industry leaders and economists. “GIS and AI are coming together in powerful ways to support India’s vision



of becoming a \$7-8 trillion economy. Whether it’s bringing rural land into productive use through initiatives like SVAMITVA, enabling smarter infrastructure monitoring, or driving efficiency in agriculture and crop planning, these technologies are already creating real impact,” said Agendra Kumar, Managing Director, Esri India.

The GIS landscape in India has been undergoing significant transformation, with new-age technologies opening up tremendous possibilities across various sectors.

Globally, the rapidly expanding GIS market is projected to reach a massive USD 24.61 billion by 2034, demonstrating a compounded annual growth rate of 8.71 per cent over the next decade, according to a report by Precedence Research. The speakers at the event underscored the urgent necessity for a strategic overhaul of India’s existing economic frameworks and the rural development and industrial expansion was also considered as a vital means to achieve \$7-8 trillion economy by 2030.

POWERING A SUSTAINABLE TOMORROW

INDIA'S CLEAN ENERGY TRANSFORMATION

OPINION

R.K. PACHNANDA



The nation's commitment to the world community is strengthened by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's announcement at the COP26 summit, namely the Panchamrit pledge. This strategic and forward-looking initiative outlines India's roadmap to achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2070, raising non-fossil fuel-based energy generation capacity to 500 gigawatts, meeting 50% of the country's energy requirement through renewable sources by 2030, reducing the carbon intensity of the economy by 45% and thereby cutting down total carbon emissions by 1 billion tons by 2030, compared to 2021 levels. This five-point framework reflects India's seriousness in addressing global climate challenges while maintaining its developmental trajectory.

India is fast emerging as a trailblazer in climate action, taking significant steps to reduce carbon emissions while simultaneously building resilience and adaptive capacity to cushion against any adverse climate impacts. Few countries, especially among the developing world, can boast of such a stellar achievement in balancing environmental sustainability with economic aspirations. The initiatives undertaken by India in the energy sector are multi-pronged, focusing on expanding access to energy, strengthening infrastructure, promoting renewable energy, and implementing structural and financial reforms. The overarching aim is to establish 500 GW of renewable power generation capacity, implement the National Green Hydrogen Mission, ensure self-reliance in energy production by 2047, develop 5,000 compressed biogas plants, and promote key sectors that exhibit both strong backward and forward economic linkages. A major initiative in this regard is the Pradhan Mantri Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, launched in 2024. This flagship scheme is designed to provide rooftop solar power to one crore (10

million) households, ensuring the supply of up to 300 units of free electricity per month. With a substantial allocation of ₹75,000 crore, the scheme not only aims to reduce electricity tariffs for consumers but also promotes energy self-sufficiency at the household level, turning citizens into active participants in the clean energy movement. Complementing this, the Saubhagya Scheme has already made significant strides by connecting 28.6 million households to electricity, especially in remote and underserved regions. In order to support the increased generation and consumption of electricity, India's transmission infrastructure has witnessed a massive scale-up, with the addition of over 160,000 circuit kilometers of transmission lines. This integration has helped unify the country into a single national grid, enabling seamless power distribution and laying the groundwork for efficiently absorbing large-scale renewable energy inputs from various parts of the country. The Modi government has adopted a wide range of policy measures to increase the share of renewable energy in the overall energy mix. These include co-firing torrefied biomass pellets in thermal power plants to reduce coal dependence, offering concessional financing for solar energy projects, and enforcing stricter Renewable Purchase Obligations (RPOs) for state utilities. Additionally, the government has encouraged For-



eign Direct Investment (FDI) in the renewable energy sector by allowing 100% FDI, waived Inter-State Transmission System (ISTS) charges for wind and solar projects and introduced a framework for Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) to promote market-based mechanisms for clean energy adoption. To further encourage market participation and innovation, the government has provided a special dispensation for solar and wind energy projects within the Deviation Settlement Mechanism (DSM). The introduction of green contracts in power exchanges, promotion of Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations and planning for affordable electricity storage systems—including pumped storage plants—underscore

the government's intent to build a future-ready, flexible and low-carbon energy ecosystem. The government has also laid strong emphasis on improving the operational efficiency and financial health of Distribution Companies (DISCOMs), which are crucial nodes in the power delivery system. Measures such as energy accounting and audits, ensuring timely payment of subsidies by state governments and adoption of financial prudence have led to a significant reduction in Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT&C) losses. These reforms have not only improved the performance of DISCOMs but also enhanced the financial viability of the entire power value chain. Looking ahead, the gov-

ernment plans to expand nuclear power capacity to 100 gigawatts by 2047, considering it a clean and stable source of baseload power. From June 2026, the government has mandated the use of locally manufactured solar photovoltaic modules and cells in all clean energy projects, thereby strengthening India's domestic manufacturing sector and reducing import dependency. An investor-friendly regulatory environment has been actively promoted, particularly in the infrastructure and power sectors, to attract both domestic and international capital. India benefits from a well-established and independent regulatory framework, underpinned by vibrant capital markets, a robust banking system,

a skilled workforce and a very wide consumer base. Owing to these inherent strengths, India's economy continues to exhibit strong resilience and growth potential. International financial institutions such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank have repeatedly recognized India as one of the fastest-growing economies globally, describing it as a "bright spot on this otherwise dark horizon." In this context, energy transition emerges as one of the most important pillars of India's climate action strategy. To enable this transformation, the government is rapidly constructing a strong ecosystem involving technology readiness, capacity building, climate finance mobilization, innovative business models and regulatory reforms. These elements together form a comprehensive blueprint for achieving India's sustainable development and net-zero emission goals. Recognizing the complexities of the energy sector, the government has wisely adopted a strategy of partial deregulation, which combines regulated tariffs with market-based pricing mechanisms. While total regulation enhances predictability and consumer protection, complete deregulation, as seen in parts of the United Kingdom and United States, can sometimes lead to price volatility, market manipulation and rural-urban disparities in access and affordability. In contrast, countries like

Germany and the Nordic nations have successfully implemented structured deregulation with robust oversight, achieving both efficiency and equity. India's approach is a balanced amalgamation of market principles and regulatory safeguards. It allows for private sector participation, encourages competition, ensures cost-reflective pricing, and reduces subsidy burdens—all while maintaining a strong focus on consumer welfare, especially in rural and economically weaker regions. The government's various initiatives have collectively enhanced India's energy security, promoted environmental sustainability and catalyzed inclusive development. On the international front, India has taken leadership roles in global platforms such as the International Solar Alliance, the National Green Hydrogen Mission and the Global Biofuel Alliance, all of which signal a new dawn of multilateral cooperation and clean energy diplomacy. India's energy transformation is not just a domestic achievement—it is a global beacon of how a developing nation can lead the clean energy transition without compromising on growth or equity. The ongoing efforts are a testament to India's determination to build a greener, cleaner and more self-reliant future. The author is a former Chairman, Haryana Electricity Regulatory Commission. His views are personal.

BEYOND ARITHMETIC

Reimagining EWS with justice and equity

A truly just EWS policy must transcend bureaucratic checklists. It must reflect India's lived realities—rural, female, and marginalized—and be rooted in data, not assumptions.

OPINION

DHARMENDRA SINGH RATHORE



Justice and equality are not ceremonial ideals—they are the living commitments of our Constitution. These principles, born of the freedom struggle, are enshrined in the Preamble and realized through the fundamental rights and directive principles aimed at dismantling social hierarchies. But when public policy fails to reflect India's complex social fabric, these constitutional promises ring hollow. The current framework of the Economically Weaker Sec-

tions (EWS) quota exemplifies such a failure. At first glance, the EWS policy appears to extend opportunity to the economically vulnerable among the so-called "unreserved" categories. Yet, it rests on a mistaken notion of equality—one that treats unequals the same. As Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and India's judiciary have long argued, substantive equality requires acknowledging historical disadvantage and unequal starting points. The EWS model, as it stands, reinforces inequality rather than correcting it. A LAGECY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE BY CONGRESS India's affirmative action journey began with Pt. Nehru, who introduced reservations for SCs and STs in 1950. The Kalelkar Commission (1953) constituted

by Pt. Nehru expanded this vision to OBCs. In a landmark speech in Parliament on 6 September 1990, Rajiv Gandhi passionately supported SEBC reservations as a necessary instrument of justice—while also calling for support to the poor and vulnerable in the "general" category, especially farmers, women, and minorities. In 1991, the Narasimha Rao government proposed a 10% quota for the economically backward among upper castes, but the Supreme Court struck it down in Indra Sawhney (1992) for lacking constitutional basis. Later, the UPA government introduced the 93rd Constitutional Amendment (2005) to enable 27% OBC reservation in education, including private institutions. It also commissioned the Sachar Committee and Sinho Commission to build a more inclusive and evidence-based support system for poor individuals—including minorities—within the general category. Today, Rahul Gandhi's call for a nationwide caste-based economic enumeration is a continuation of that legacy: to build data-driven, equitable policy grounded in

lived realities. THE GENERAL CATEGORY: FAR FROM HOMOGENEOUS The EWS quota is based on a flawed presumption: that the General category is a uniform bloc of privileged upper-caste Hindus. This is far from reality. The General category includes a wide spectrum of communities—religious minorities, distressed agrarian castes, and state-recognized but centrally excluded OBCs. Data from the Sachar Committee and NSSO reveal that 60% of Muslims, 45% of Sikhs, 33% of Christians, and 97% of Jains are classified under the General category. Moreover, over 670 backward caste groups, recognized by various states, but excluded from the central OBC list rely on EWS reservation for central government benefits. Groups like Marathas, Patidars, Kapu, Reddys, Lingayats, Khandayat, Jats (outside Rajasthan), and traditional upper castes—Brahmins, Kshatriya/Rajputs, Baniyas, Kayasthas, and Khatri—are also fall in general class despite diverse socio-economic realities.

Clearly, the General category is not a monolith—it is a deeply stratified field with glaring disparities. LOW UPTAKE, LOWER SUCCESS: A SKEWED DESIGN While a 10% quota exists, actual participation and success of EWS candidates remain abysmally low. In the UPSC Civil Services Examination (2019–20), EWS applicants per vacancy were 3.6 times fewer than SCs, 2.4 times fewer than STs, and 2.2 times fewer than OBCs. The disparity widened further in SSC-CPO 2022 and was mirrored in recruitments by NABARD and SEBI. This is not due to a lack of economic hardship among upper castes or minorities—but rather the exclusionary, urban-centric design of EWS eligibility. INVISIBLE BARRIERS FOR RURAL YOUTH AND WOMEN The EWS criteria fail to account for the intersecting disadvantages faced by rural populations and women. A glaring flaw is the inclusion of both parental and marital household incomes for young women—many of whom

are just entering the job market or higher education. Given the average age of marriage is 23, this provision disproportionately penalizes women at the very age they seek opportunity. It also undermines schemes like Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao. In contrast to SC, ST, and OBC candidates, those under EWS are denied age relaxations and additional attempts. This penalizes rural and first-generation learners, who often start preparation later due to weaker educational infrastructure. The result is a tilted playing field favoring urban, English-speaking aspirants with better resources. A RURAL POLICY BUILT ON URBAN ASSUMPTIONS The landholding criterion—disqualifying those with over five acres—ignores soil fertility, irrigation, and real income. Large portions of land in Rajasthan, Gujarat, or Maharashtra are arid and unproductive, yet disqualify poor farmers. Experts from the Swaminathan Commission to NITI Aayog have repeatedly emphasized assessing distress by per-acre income and crop viability, not mere land size—recommendations that remain ignored.

Similarly, the housing criterion—excluding families with homes over 1000 sq. Ft.—fails to account for rural joint-family homes built over generations on inherited land. These homes, though large in size, often lack basic amenities or monetary value. Meanwhile, urban wealth in the form of gold, stocks, or movable assets is left untouched. In this flawed model, visibility becomes a penalty, and transparency is punished. THE WAY FORWARD: GROUNDED, JUST, AND INCLUSIVE The EWS policy must be reimagined not through superficial tweaks but through a constitutional lens—rooted in empathy, evidence, and equity. Key reforms must include: 1. Implement Sinho Commission Recommendations: These offer a well-researched, legally sound model for EWS criteria based on wide consultation and study. 2. Reform Rural Criteria: Abandon arbitrary limits on home size and recognize the diversity of rural economic structures and family setups. 3. Promote Gender Equity: Exclude marital income for unmarried women and offer age and attempt relaxations, ensuring fair-

ness for women and rural youth. 4. Use Contextual, Expert Data: Integrate inputs from the Swaminathan Commission, NSSO, DFI reports, and climate data to assess agricultural distress more accurately. Encouragingly, nine states have already revised their EWS criteria, and three—Rajasthan, Gujarat, and Andhra Pradesh—have removed asset-based conditions altogether. The inclusive EWS model adopted by the former Rajasthan government under Shri Ashok Gehlot got widespread appreciation for its sensitivity and fairness. The EWS quota must be reformed because it overlooks rural distress, gender inequality, and social diversity, relying on arbitrary urban-centric criteria. True equity demands a policy grounded in lived realities, not superficial indicators. As Martin Luther King Jr. once said, "The denial of justice to even one section of society casts a long shadow over the rights of all." The author is Ex-Chairman, Seeds & Tourism Development Corporation with Status State Minister and Congress Leader in Rajasthan, and Dinesh Singh, Independent Policy Researcher and Entrepreneur, IIT Delhi.

FROM 'FRAGILE FIVE' TO GLOBAL FORCE

ELEVEN YEARS OF MODI GOVERNANCE

When Narendra Modi took the oath of office on 26 May 2014, many saw him as a political disruptor. Eleven years later, he stands as the architect of a new Indian consensus—one that is rooted in delivery, decisiveness, dignity for the poor, and unapologetic national confidence.

These eleven years are not just a chronicle of electoral victories; they are a record of systemic transformation across governance, economy, national security, and diplomacy. What makes the Modi era distinct is not just what was achieved, but the nature of the challenges overcome.

ABHINANDAN MISHRA
NEW DELHI

India faced an inherited economic mess, deep institutional distrust, internal insurgencies, hostile borders, global pandemics, and constant ideological resistance from powerful quarters both within and outside the country. Yet, at every turn, this government responded not with evasion, but with clarity and conviction.

In 2013, India was labelled one of the “Fragile Five” economies. Inflation was high, investment sentiment low, and decision-making paralysed. Today, India is the fastest-growing major economy, clocking a sustained 7%+ growth rate even amid global slowdowns, something that even the more powerful, affluent countries have failed to achieve.

It is now the fifth-largest economy in the world, poised to surpass Japan and Germany by 2027. GDP has more than doubled since 2014. Foreign reserves have crossed \$650 billion. India has jumped dozens of ranks in Ease of Doing Business. Massive capital has flowed into manufacturing and infrastructure. The once-sputtering investment engine is alive again—because confidence has been restored.

This growth was not automatic. It was driven by tough and often politically risky decisions: demonetisation, GST, the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, and banking sector clean-up. These were followed by forward-looking bets—Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes, Make in India, and Digital India—that brought



Narendra Modi prepares to speak to supporters after his victory in India's elections in 2014. File Photo

structure to growth. India is now producing its own smartphones, exporting defence equipment, attracting semiconductor plants, and leading the world in digital payments through UPI. This is no longer a consumption economy alone. It is becoming a builder's economy.

Modi's model of governance rejected the old top-down patronage system. Instead, it bet on saturation delivery. The results are unprecedented in Indian history. Over 12 crore tap connections have been provided under Jal Jeevan Mission. More than 11 crore toilets have been built under Swachh Bharat. Over 9 crore households have benefited from free LPG connections under Ujjwala. More than 3 crore houses have been sanctioned under PM Awas Yojana. Fifty crore Indians are covered under Ayushman Bharat. During the pandemic, 80 crore people received free ration under PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana. All of this was delivered through Direct Benefit Transfer, eliminating middlemen, with Aadhaar and mobile connectivity as the backbone. Welfare became rights-based, not favour-based. The Antyodaya Yojana

embodied the core philosophy—no Indian should be left behind. In a country where poverty and neglect had been normalised, this was a civilisational correction.

For decades, the abrogation of Article 370 was seen as too sensitive, too risky. On 5 August 2019, that equation changed forever. Jammu and Kashmir's special status was removed—peacefully, constitutionally, and without triggering the violent upheaval many had warned of. Five years later, Kashmir is integrated, tourist footfalls have broken records, investments have begun, and political dialogue—without separatists—has resumed. The ecosystem of terror-financing, stone pelting, and foreign patronage has all but crumbled.

Meanwhile, Left-Wing Extremism, once active in over 150 districts, is now reduced to a handful. Roads, security force coordination, and targeted development have broken the back of Maoist insurgency. What India's internal security doctrine needed was resolve. This government supplied it.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi waves the Indian tricolour while walking on the newly inaugurated Chenab bridge on June 6, 2025. File Photo



Jal Jeevan Mission

| THE MILESTONES |
|--|
| Economic Revival: India rose from the “Fragile Five” to the world's 5th largest economy, doubling GDP and boosting foreign reserves. |
| Reforms: Key moves like GST, demonetisation, Insolvency Code, and Make in India revitalized growth. |
| Welfare: Jal Jeevan Mission, Swachh Bharat, Ujjwala, and Ayushman Bharat improved millions of lives. |
| Security: Article 370's abrogation integrated Kashmir; Maoist insurgency curtailed; defence modernized with surgical strikes and advanced weaponry. |
| Global Diplomacy: Balanced ties, vaccine diplomacy, and strategic autonomy enhanced India's global stature. |
| Jobs & Climate: Mudra loans and Start-Up India fostered entrepreneurship; India led solar and climate initiatives. |
| Digital Inclusion: JAM Trinity and welfare schemes boosted transparency and social equity. |



Swachh Bharat Abhiyan was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2014. File Photo

Modi's eleven-year leadership transformed India from a fragile economy to a global powerhouse through decisive reforms, inclusive welfare, strategic diplomacy, and robust national security.

Before 2014, India was seen as reactive—a power that could absorb pain but not respond. That doctrine is over.

In its place: surgical strikes in 2016, Balakot airstrikes in 2019, and Operation Sindoor in 2025—a mission that targeted deep terror infrastructure across the Pakistan border after the Pahalgam massacre. India now operates with clear red lines. Its counter-terror doctrine is pre-emptive and punitive. Its military modernisation is rapid—with Rafales, S-400s, indigenised drones, ASAT capability, and cyber-offensive units. Under Atma Nirbhar Bharat, India is also reshaping its defence-industrial base.

From arms importer to defence exporter—this transformation is not rhetorical; it's statistical.

When Modi took office, the world looked at India with doubt. Western governments and media painted him as divisive, illiberal, and hyper-nationalist. But India refused to bend. It followed a doctrine of strategic autonomy—non-alignment redefined for a multipolar era. India bought oil from Russia when it needed to. It supported Palestine without breaking ties with Israel. It joined Quad and BRICS without being bound by either. It helped the Global South with vaccines when the West hoarded them. And it rejected sermons from countries that had long ignored India's sensitivities on terrorism.

In 2025, the G7 invitation to Prime Minister Modi—to attend the summit in Canada—is not a ceremonial gesture. It is a strategic recalibration. After Operation Sindoor, the world now sees India not as a nation to manage, but as a power to align with. Even former critics are realigning. After years of diplomatic freeze under Trudeau's government, the invitation by Prime Minister Mark Carney signals a return of pragmatism. India is not chasing global approval—but it is commanding global respect.

From foreign media to academic lobbies, the Modi government faced relentless ideological attacks. Every reform was met with alarmism. Every assertion of national identity was branded authoritarian. Every cor-

rection in historical narrative was painted as erasure. But the government did not apologise. It did not retreat. It moved forward—grounded in constitutional legality and democratic mandate. In doing so, it earned something rare: the trust of the Indian voter and the grudging respect of its fiercest critics.

Yet even as this journey of transformation is acknowledged, it is vital to address areas where challenges persist and responses are evolving.

Employment remains one such domain. India's demographic dividend is both its strength and its stress point. The government has not shied away from this reality—instead, it has shifted the employment paradigm from state dependence to entrepreneurship-led job creation. Over 40 crore loans have been disbursed under the Mudra Yojana, empowering micro and small businesses. Start-Up India and Skill India have seeded a new ecosystem of youth-led innovation, while formalisation through EPFO registrations has shown steady improvement.

Critics who point to jobless growth often overlook this structural transition—from a salaried economy to a self-driven, enterprise-led workforce.

Climate action is another area where India has demonstrated unexpected leadership as it has maintained one of the lowest per capita emissions among large economies.

India has led global initiatives like the International Solar Alliance and the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure. Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE), championed by Prime Minister Modi, reframes the climate debate from policy to personal responsibility—something the world leaders are now beginning to emulate.

Digital governance, often overshadowed by flagship welfare schemes, deserves a chapter of its own. India's tax base has expanded not just due to enforcement, but because of trust and transparency. Faceless tax assessments, DigiLocker, and the JAM trinity (Jan Dhan, Aadhaar, Mobile) have revolutionised public service delivery. One Nation One Ration Card ensures portability of benefits across states—no Indian is denied their due because of geography.

Judicial reform is one frontier where the need remains acute. While the Modi government has pushed for tribunal reform and uniform service conditions, pendency in courts continues to challenge timely justice. The Uniform Civil Code, long debated, is now being actively deliberated—signalling that the constitutional promise of equality under law is inching toward fulfilment.

The rise of India's private sector has also been one of the under-told stories of these years. From being seen as crony-driven, Indian enterprise has emerged as a partner in nation-building. Through Production Linked Incentive schemes, ease-of-doing-business reforms, and National Logistics and Infrastructure Policies, India has unlocked industrial potential across electronics, green energy, defence manufactur-



ing, and semiconductors. Today, India is home to over 100 unicorns—a feat once considered improbable.

Social cohesion, predictably, remains a battleground of narrative. The government's nationalist push has often been met with claims of polarisation. But governance—not grievance—has defined the Modi era. Welfare delivery has been religion-blind and caste-agnostic. From gas cylinders in Mewat to toilets in Dantewada, development has cut across divides. That message is not always amplified—but it is deeply felt on the ground.

Finally, India's global cultural assertion has come full circle. From leading the International Day of Yoga at the UN to celebrating Ram Mandir in diplomatic missions, India has moved from being culturally defensive to unapologetically expressive. Sanskrit, Ayurveda, and Indic philosophy are no longer private rituals—they are now part of India's public diplomacy.

The Modi government did not just bring a new party to power. It brought a new operating system to Indian democracy—decisive but inclusive, nationalist but global, growth-oriented yet welfare-focused, traditional in ethos but future-facing in ambition.

Behind this transformation stood not only the Prime Minister's vision but also a tight, dedicated team in the Prime Minister's Office—working under constant pressure, away from the public eye, relentlessly coordinating policy, pushing implementation, and ensuring that decisions turned into delivery. This was a machinery that didn't chase limelight but chased timelines.

This is not to claim perfection. Challenges remain—on jobs, judiciary, climate, and social cohesion. But the direction is clear. The delivery is visible. And the determination is unshaken.

In 2014, the world asked: Can Modi deliver? In 2025, it is asking: How did India rise so fast? The answer lies in these eleven years—of grit, reform, restraint, and resurgence.

ALZHEIMER’S AWARENESS: CHALLENGES AND EFFECTIVE CARE STRATEGIES

TDG NETWORK
JAIPUR

Alzheimer’s disease is a progressive neurodegenerative disorder that primarily affects memory, thinking, and behavior. It is the most common cause of dementia among older adults and presents a significant challenge for patients, families, and healthcare systems worldwide. As the global population ages, the prevalence of Alzheimer’s is expected to rise dramatically, making awareness, early diagnosis, and effective care more critical than ever.

WHAT IS ALZHEIMER’S DISEASE?

Alzheimer’s disease is a chronic brain disorder that gradually destroys neurons, leading to memory loss, impaired reasoning, and difficulty in performing everyday tasks. It typically begins with mild memory lapses and confusion but progresses to severe cognitive impairment and loss of independence.

The exact cause of Alzheimer’s is not fully understood, but it involves the buildup of abnormal protein deposits in the brain: amyloid plaques and tau tangles. These deposits interfere with neuron function and communication, causing cell death. Genetics, age, lifestyle, and environmental factors also contribute to the disease’s development.

SYMPTOMS AND STAGES OF ALZHEIMER’S

Alzheimer’s progresses

in stages, with symptoms worsening over time:

Early Stage: Mild memory loss, difficulty recalling recent events, trouble with planning or organizing, and subtle changes in personality.

Middle Stage: Increased confusion, difficulty recognizing family and friends, trouble with language, and changes in sleep patterns or mood swings.

Late Stage: Severe memory loss, inability to communicate coherently, loss of motor skills, and complete dependence on caregivers for daily activities.

Understanding these stages helps caregivers provide appropriate support and anticipate changing needs.

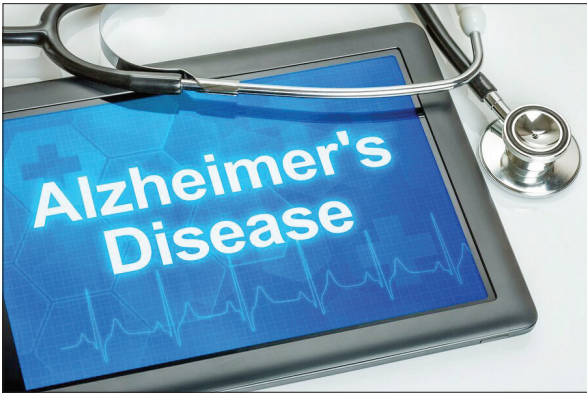
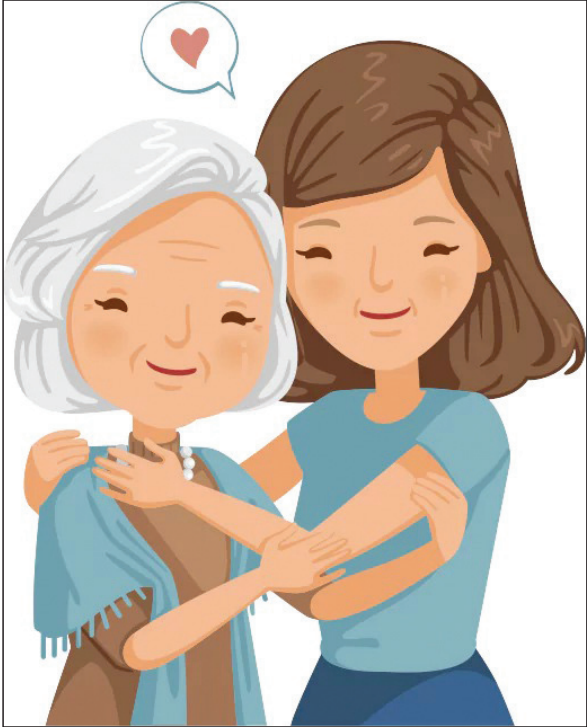
DIAGNOSIS OF ALZHEIMER’S DISEASE

Early diagnosis is essential for managing Alzheimer’s effectively. It allows patients and families to plan for the future and explore treatment options. Diagnosis involves:

- **Medical History and Physical Exam:** To rule out other causes of memory loss.
- **Cognitive and Neuropsychological Tests:** To assess memory, problem-solving, and language abilities.
- **Brain Imaging:** MRI or CT scans to detect brain changes.
- **Laboratory Tests:** To exclude other conditions that mimic Alzheimer’s symptoms.

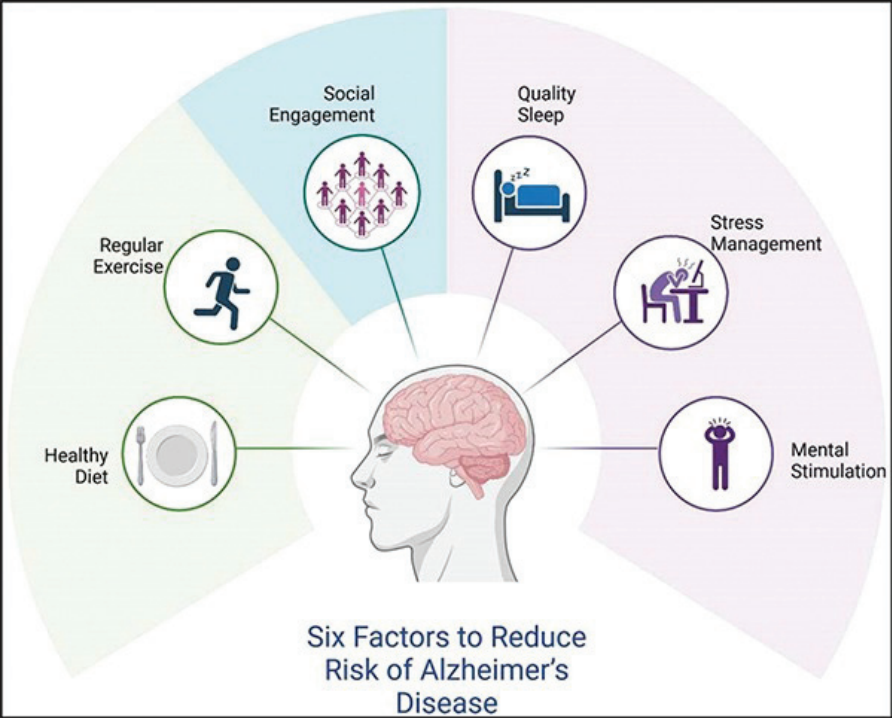
While there is no definitive test, these evaluations help confirm the diagnosis and stage of the disease.

TREATMENT AND MANAGEMENT



Currently, there is no cure for Alzheimer’s disease. However, treatments focus on slowing symptom progression and improving quality of life:

- **Medications:** Drugs like cholinesterase inhibitors (donepezil, rivastigmine) and mementane can temporarily improve symptoms or slow decline.
- **Cognitive Therapy:** Engaging patients in mental exercises and memory training to maintain cognitive functions.
- **Lifestyle Modifications:** Encouraging healthy diet, regular physical activity, social engagement, and managing other health conditions.
- **Supportive Therapies:** Occupational therapy to help adapt living environments,



speech therapy for communication, and behavioral therapy to manage mood changes.

CARING FOR ALZHEIMER’S PATIENTS

Caring for someone with Alzheimer’s requires patience, compassion, and knowledge. It is a demanding role that affects the caregiver’s emotional, physical, and financial well-being.

KEY ASPECTS OF ALZHEIMER’S CARE:

- **Creating a Safe Environment:** Remove hazards, install grab bars, ensure adequate lighting, and use locks if wandering is a risk.
- **Establishing Routines:** Predictable daily schedules reduce anxiety and confusion for patients.
- **Effective Communication:** Use simple sentences, maintain eye contact, and listen patiently. Avoid arguing or correcting repeatedly.
- **Promoting Independence:** Encourage patients to perform tasks they can do safely to maintain dignity and self-esteem.
- **Nutrition and Hydration:** Monitor eating habits; offer balanced meals and plenty of fluids.
- **Managing Behavioral Symptoms:** Recognize triggers for agitation or aggression and respond calmly. Use distraction or redirection techniques.
- **Emotional Support:** Provide reassurance, engage in enjoyable activities, and maintain social connections.
- **Health Monitoring:** Regular medical checkups, medication management, and managing other illnesses are crucial.
- **Respite Care:** Caregivers should seek breaks

through family support, professional help, or community programs to prevent burnout.

SUPPORTING CAREGIVERS

The toll on caregivers can be profound, often leading to stress, depression, and physical health problems. Support networks and resources are vital:

- **Education:** Learning about Alzheimer’s helps caregivers understand symptoms and manage expectations.
- **Support Groups:** Sharing experiences with others facing similar challenges can provide emotional relief.
- **Professional Help:** Home health aides, adult day care centers, and nursing facilities can offer assistance.
- **Self-Care:** Caregivers must prioritize their health

through rest, exercise, and social activities.

PREVENTIVE MEASURES AND RESEARCH

Though Alzheimer’s can’t be prevented outright, certain lifestyle changes may reduce risk or delay onset:

- **Healthy Diet:** Mediterranean or DASH diets rich in fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and lean protein.
- **Physical Exercise:** Regular aerobic activity improves brain health.
- **Mental Stimulation:** Learning new skills, puzzles, reading, or social engagement.
- **Managing Cardiovascular Health:** Controlling blood pressure, cholesterol, and diabetes.

Ongoing research focuses on better understanding the disease mechanisms, early detection biomarkers, and developing new treatments, including immunotherapy and gene therapy.

Alzheimer’s disease poses a significant challenge for affected individuals and society. While medical science strives for a cure, compassionate care remains essential to ensure dignity and quality of life for patients. Families and caregivers play a pivotal role in this journey, supported by education, community resources, and healthcare professionals.

By raising awareness, promoting early diagnosis, and fostering a supportive environment, we can better navigate the complexities of Alzheimer’s and improve outcomes for millions worldwide.

Eye care: Digital strain remedies for clear vision

TDG NETWORK
JAIPUR

Our eyes are among the most important organs in the human body, allowing us to perceive the world, connect with others, and perform daily activities. Yet, despite their value, eye care is often neglected until problems arise. With increasing screen time, environmental pollution, and aging populations, eye health is now more critical than ever. This article explores the essentials of eye care, common vision problems, preventive strategies, and how to maintain lifelong visual health.

WHY EYE CARE MATTERS

Eyes are our windows to the world, responsible for about 80% of what we perceive. Poor eye health doesn’t just affect vision; it can impact mental health, productivity, and quality of life. Visual impairment can lead to falls, accidents, depression, and social withdrawal. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that over 2.2 billion people globally have some form of vision impairment, half of which could have been prevented or treated.

Proper eye care not only prevents disease but also ensures early detection of underlying health issues such as diabetes and hypertension, which often manifest symptoms through the eyes.

COMMON EYE PROBLEMS

Understanding common eye conditions can help in identifying symptoms early and seeking timely treatment.

1. **Refractive Errors**

These include nearsightedness (myopia), farsightedness (hyperopia), astigmatism, and presbyopia. Refractive errors are the most common causes of visual impairment and are usually corrected with glasses, contact lenses, or surgery.

2. **Dry Eye Syndrome**

Caused by inadequate tear production or poor tear quality, dry eye leads to discomfort, redness, and a gritty sensation. It is often exacerbated by excessive screen time, aging, and environmental conditions.

3. **Cataracts**

A clouding of the eye’s natural lens, cataracts are a leading cause of blindness, particularly in older adults. Fortunately, cataract surgery is one of the most common and successful procedures worldwide.

4. **Glaucoma**

Known as the “silent thief of sight,” glaucoma damages the optic nerve, often without early symptoms. Regular eye exams are essential, especially for people over 40 or with a family history.

5. **Age-Related Macular Degeneration (AMD)**

AMD affects the macula, the part of the retina responsible for central vision. It’s a major cause of vision loss in older adults.

6. **Diabetic Retinopathy**

A complication of diabetes, this condition affects the blood vessels in the retina. Regular eye exams are crucial for people with diabetes.

7. **Conjunctivitis (Pink Eye)**

An infection or inflammation of the conjunctiva, it’s highly contagious but usually mild and treatable.

Signs You Shouldn’t Ignore



THE 20-20-20 RULE

Reducing the effects of Computer Vision Syndrome

EVERY 20 MINUTES...

...TAKE A BREAK FOR 20 SECONDS...

...AND LOOK AT AN OBJECT 20 FEET AWAY.

Computer Vision Syndrome (CVS) is one of the most common stress injuries in the workplace. Caused by staring at a computer monitor for too long, CVS can cause headaches, blurred vision and dry or watery eyes.

Follow the 20-20-20 Rule and give your eyes the break they deserve.

Early detection is key to preventing serious vision loss. Watch out for these warning signs:

- Blurred or double vision
- Eye pain or redness
- Sudden loss of vision
- Frequent headaches
- Difficulty seeing at night
- Halos around lights
- Increased sensitivity to light
- Floaters or flashes of light

If any of these symptoms occur, consult an ophthalmologist promptly.

DAILY EYE CARE TIPS

Healthy vision starts with simple, everyday practices:

1. **Follow the 20-20-20 Rule**

To reduce digital eye strain, every 20 minutes look at something 20 feet away for at least 20 seconds.

2. **Use Proper Lighting**

Avoid reading in dim light and ensure your workspace is well-lit to reduce eye fatigue.

3. **Wear UV-Protective Sunglasses**

Excessive UV exposure can lead to cataracts and other damage. Always wear sunglasses that block 100% UVA and UVB rays.

4. **Avoid Smoking**

Smoking increases the risk of cataracts, AMD, and optic nerve damage.

5. **Stay Hydrated**

Drinking enough water helps maintain moisture levels in the eyes.

6. **Limit Screen Time**

Long hours in front of digital devices can cause eye strain, dryness, and headaches. Take regular breaks and adjust screen

HOW TO PROTECT YOUR EYES FROM DIGITAL STRAIN

65% of Americans suffer from Digital Eye Strain

Also called Computer Vision Syndrome, common symptoms include blurred vision, eye strain, dry eye, headaches, and neck and shoulder pain.

96% of people who use digital devices report eye strain

TAKE A BREAK...

Follow the 20-20-20 Rule: Every 20 minutes, look at something 20 feet away for 20 seconds.

Follow the 20-20-20 Rule: Every 20 minutes, look at something 20 feet away for 20 seconds.

MODIFY YOUR WORKSPACE...

Position your monitor at eye level. The top of the screen should be at or below eye level.

Position your chair and desk to maintain good posture.

ONE DEVICE AT A TIME...

77% of people with digital eye strain use multiple devices.

TALK TO YOUR DOCTOR

50% of people with digital eye strain see a doctor.



brightness.

7. **Sleep Well**

Sleep is essential for eye repair. Poor sleep can lead to dry, red, or twitchy eyes.

NUTRITION FOR EYE HEALTH

Your diet plays a significant role in eye health. Include the following nutrients:

- **Vitamin A:** Crucial for night vision and overall eye health. Found in carrots, sweet potatoes, and leafy greens.
- **Omega-3 Fatty Acids:** Helps prevent dry eye. Found in fish like salmon and flaxseeds.
- **Lutein and Zeaxanthin:** Protects against AMD and cataracts. Found in spinach, kale, and eggs.
- **Vitamin C and E:** Antioxidants that reduce the risk of cataracts and AMD. Found in citrus fruits, almonds, and sunflower seeds.
- **Zinc:** Helps vitamin A create melanin for eye protection. Found in red meat, beans, and dairy.

CHILDREN’S EYE CARE

Good vision is vital for learning and development in children. Parents should:

- Schedule the first eye

exam at 6 months, then at 3 years, and before first grade.

Watch for signs like squinting, sitting too close to screens, or rubbing eyes frequently.

Limit screen time and encourage outdoor play.

Ensure proper lighting for reading and homework.

Eye Exams: How Often and Why?

Regular eye check-ups are critical, even if no symptoms are present. The frequency depends on age and risk factors:

- **Children (6 months–18 years):** As recommended, usually every 1–2 years.
- **Adults (19–39 years):** Every 2 years; annually if using corrective lenses.
- **Middle-aged (40–64 years):** Every 1–2 years, as age-related conditions may start appearing.
- **Seniors (65+):** Annual exams are crucial to detect glaucoma, cataracts, and AMD.

People with diabetes, hypertension, or a family history of eye disease should have more frequent check-ups.

CORRECTIVE PROCEDURES AND TECHNOLOGY

Advancements in medical technology have made it easier to correct vision problems:

- **LASIK Surgery:** A popular laser procedure to correct refractive errors.
- **Cataract Surgery:** Removal of the clouded lens and replacement with an artificial one.
- **Intraocular Lenses (IOLs):** Advanced IOLs improve vision after cataract surgery.
- **Corneal Transplants:** For

severe damage or disease.

Consult an ophthalmologist to understand the benefits, risks, and eligibility.

PROTECTING EYES AT WORK AND PLAY

Use Safety Eyewear: Especially in construction, manufacturing, or sports.

Prevent Eye Injuries at Home: Handle chemicals and sharp objects carefully.

Computer Ergonomics: Keep your screen at eye level and about 20–24 inches away.

FUTURE OF EYE CARE: AI AND INNOVATION

The future of eye care looks promising with artificial intelligence (AI) and digital health tools. AI can help in early diagnosis of conditions like diabetic retinopathy and glaucoma through retinal scans. Teleophthalmology allows patients in remote areas to consult specialists virtually, making eye care more accessible.

Gene therapy and stem cell research are also showing potential in treating hereditary eye diseases and restoring vision.

Your eyes deserve the same attention and care as the rest of your body. Eye care is not just about seeing well; it’s about living well. By adopting healthy habits, staying informed, and scheduling regular eye check-ups, you can protect your vision and detect problems before they become serious.

In a world that grows more digital by the day, eye health must be a priority—because once lost, vision is not always easy to restore. Clear vision, after all, is the key to a clearer future.

FBI SHIFTS FOCUS ON ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION AMONG OTHER RISKS

FBI under Kash Patel shifts focus from counterterrorism to violent crime and immigration, aligning with Trump's agenda but raising concerns about national security risks and priorities.

Under the leadership of Director Kash Patel, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) is undergoing a notable transformation, signaling a sharp pivot away from its traditional focus on counterterrorism and foreign intelligence threats towards a renewed emphasis on violent crime, drug trafficking, and illegal immigration. This shift aligns closely with former President Donald Trump's law-and-order agenda and reflects broader political and operational recalibrations within the Bureau. While Patel and his supporters argue this reorientation restores focus to core criminal enforcement and public safety, many former FBI officials and national security experts caution that deprioritizing espionage, cyber threats, and

foreign interference risks undermining the nation's ability to confront complex and evolving security challenges.

THE NEW FBI LEADERSHIP

Kash Patel, who assumed the role of FBI Director after serving in senior intelligence and policy positions, has articulated a vision to return the Bureau to what he calls "the basics." This approach puts violent crime, drug trafficking, and immigration enforcement at the forefront. The rhetoric accompanying this new direction has been forceful and unmistakable. For example, Deputy Director Dan Bongino, a staunch Trump ally, publicly declared on Fox News that undocumented immigrants caught by the FBI have "five minutes" to comply before being removed from the country. Such statements underscore the Bureau's tough stance and heightened focus on immigration-related crime under Patel's leadership.

This operational and rhetorical shift is further reflected in changes to the FBI's public messaging and priorities. The Bureau's website now prominently lists "Crush Violent Crime" as its top mission, overtly echoing President Trump's "law-and-order" platform. The Bureau's increasing visibility on immigration enforcement also marks a significant change. Historically, immigration and border enforcement have been the purview of agencies such as Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Protection



FBI Director, Kash Patel

(CBP). Under Patel, however, the FBI has taken a more active role, conducting more than 10,000 immigration-related arrests since Trump's return to office and deploying agents to check on unaccompanied migrant children, activities traditionally outside its usual scope.

IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT

The FBI's increased involvement in immigration enforcement has raised eyebrows among critics who warn that it risks duplicating efforts already managed by ICE and CBP. More importantly, there is concern that the Bureau's expanded immigration role could divert critical resources from its

core missions of counterterrorism, espionage detection, and cyber defense. Critics argue that while violent crime and drug trafficking are important, the FBI's unique expertise and intelligence capabilities are best leveraged against sophisticated national security threats, not frontline immigration policing.

Images shared on the FBI's social media accounts highlight agents in tactical gear conducting operations aimed at locating "dangerous criminals," signaling an aggressive posture against immigrant-linked gang violence, particularly against transnational groups like MS-13 and Venezuela's Tren de Aragua.

The use of terrorism-related charges against gang affiliates and cartel members further illustrates how the current leadership frames immigration enforcement as integral to national security.

ert Mueller, prioritized counterterrorism above nearly all else. The pivot back to street-level enforcement against gangs, drug traffickers, and violent criminals has redefined the Bureau's

concrete demonstrations of the Bureau's impact.

Yet this refocusing comes at a time when experts highlight an alarming surge in other security threats—particularly cyberattacks, espionage by foreign adversaries, and attempts to interfere in American democratic processes. James Gagliano, a retired FBI supervisor, notes that the threat matrix is constantly evolving, necessitating a balanced approach that can both address immediate violent crime and anticipate strategic national security challenges.

NATIONAL SECURITY CONCERNS

Veteran FBI officials and national security analysts have expressed serious concerns that the Bureau's new priorities could erode its capacity to handle the more complex, long-term threats that are critical to US security. Former FBI executive assistant director Chris Piehota warns that an overemphasis on short-term violent crime might cause the Bureau to "miss some of the more sophisti-

which was instrumental in combating covert efforts by foreign governments to sway US policy and elections, has been disbanded. Likewise, the Washington public corruption unit has been dissolved, and the Justice Department has scaled back enforcement of foreign lobbying rules. Retired FBI supervisor Frank Montoya articulated the concern succinctly: "Fentanyl and drug cartels are not 'existential' threats in the same way Russia and China are."

The reallocation of resources away from foreign threats to focus on violent crime and immigration might jeopardize America's ability to confront espionage, cyberattacks, and influence operations from adversarial powers such as China, Russia, Iran, and others. These threats require highly specialized intelligence gathering, technical expertise, and interagency cooperation, which risk being diluted under the current paradigm.

EVOLVING COUNTER-TERRORISM STRATEGY

Although Patel claims to maintain support for the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Forces (JTTFs)—multi-agency units that investigate domestic extremism and terrorism—their focus has shifted dramatically. Previously centered on threats like white nationalist violence and political extremism, JTTFs are now being tasked with pursuing transnational criminal organizations, including drug cartels and street gangs.

● TDG NETWORK

TDG EXPLAINER

RETURN TO VIOLENT CRIME

Director Patel's approach represents a distinct shift from the post-9/11 era when the FBI, under Director Rob-

ert Mueller, prioritized counterterrorism above nearly all else. The pivot back to street-level enforcement against gangs, drug traffickers, and violent criminals has redefined the Bureau's

operational landscape. Patel has pushed FBI agents into more visible roles conducting arrests and drug seizures, touting these actions as measurable successes and

cated strategic issues" lurking beneath the surface. Significant organizational changes underscore this risk. Notably, the FBI-led foreign influence task force,

What is National Guard in the US and when are they deployed?

The US National Guard operates under both state and federal authority, making it a key force in handling emergencies from natural disasters to civil unrest. This explainer details its structure, historical deployments—including rare presidential orders—and examines its role amid recent protests over immigration raids in California. As demonstrations turned violent in San Francisco and Los Angeles, President Trump's decision to deploy the Guard has drawn comparisons to previous moments of national crisis.

NATIONAL GUARD

The National Guard is a unique component of the US military system, serving both state and federal governments. It serves as the primary combat reserve force for the US Army and Air Force, composed of part-time soldiers who can be mobilised for domestic emergencies or overseas missions.

Each US state, territory and Washington, DC, maintains its own National Guard unit. The dual authority structure means the Guard answers to both state governors and the President of the United States. This flexibility sets it apart from other branches of the military.

DEPLOYMENT

National Guard deployments generally fall into two categories: state deployments and federal deployments.

FROM PANDEMICS TO PROTESTS



The National Guard serves as the primary combat reserve force for the US Army and Air Force. File Photo

HISTORICAL FEDERAL DEPLOYMENTS INCLUDE:

- **1957:** President Dwight D. Eisenhower deployed the Guard to enforce school desegregation in Little Rock, Arkansas.
- **1967:** Used during the Detroit riots.
- **1968:** Activated following the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
- **1970:** Mobilised during the New York postal strike.

Governors can deploy the Guard for a wide range of domestic needs. In recent years, these have included natural disasters, public health crises and civil unrest. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Guard members assisted by making face masks, fielding citizen inquiries, disinfecting public spaces and assembling testing kits, according to a report published by CNN on Monday.

After the January 6, 2021, insurrection at the US Capitol, multiple states sent their National Guard troops to Washington, DC, to assist with security efforts.

RARE BUT POWERFUL

Federal deployments of the National Guard—ordered by the president—

are rare and often tied to moments of national crisis. These deployments typically happen without a governor's request.

President Donald Trump's decision to send the National Guard to Los Angeles marked the first presidential use of this power since 1992, when the Guard was activated during the LA riots that followed the acquittal of four White police officers in the beating of Black motorist Rodney King, CNN reported.

According to the National Guard, these instances show how the force has historically played a critical role in restoring order during national upheavals.

PROTESTS OVER IMMIGRATION RAIDS

Last week, Trump deployed the National Guard

to Los Angeles, and protests escalated in San Francisco in response to the federal government's immigration enforcement actions.

Authorities and protesters clashed again on Sunday as crowds protested the Trump administration's immigration crackdown and National Guard deployment.

According to a CNN affiliate, KGO, hundreds of protesters gathered outside the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) offices to voice opposition to nationwide raids and deportations. The demonstration, initially peaceful, turned violent near Sansome and Washington Streets in San Francisco's Financial District, KGO reported.

Some demonstrators vandalised property, committed assaults and refused to disperse even after the protest was declared an "unlawful assembly," CNN quoted police as saying. Around 60 individuals, including juveniles, were arrested.

● TDG NETWORK

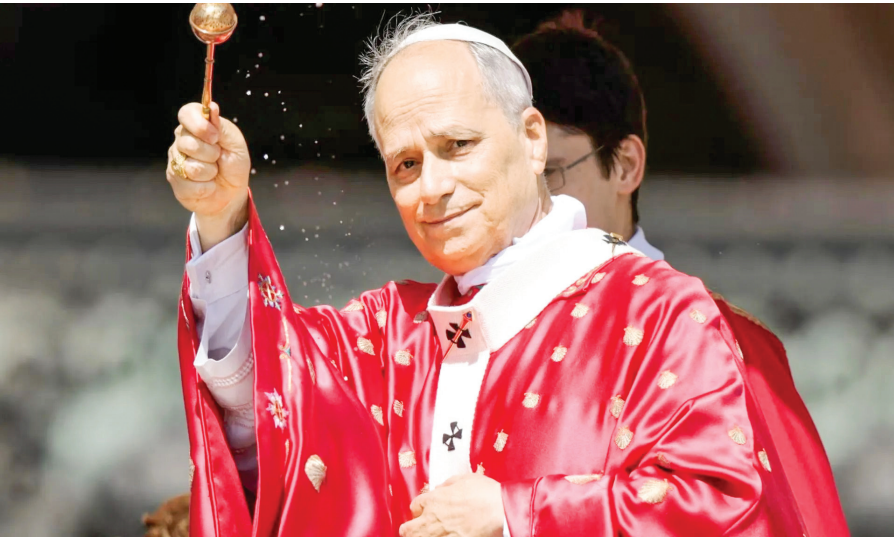
Why Pope Leo condemns rise of 'nationalist politics'?

In a powerful and impassioned Pentecost Sunday message delivered to tens of thousands gathered at St. Peter's Square, Pope Leo issued a sharp critique of the global rise of nationalist politics, warning against the dangers of exclusionary attitudes and prejudice. The American-born pontiff, who was elected just weeks ago as the first pope from the United States, called on the faithful to reject division and fear, and to embrace compassion, solidarity, and unity in an era marked by increasing political polarization.

STRONG STAND AGAINST NATIONALISM

During the Pentecost Mass, one of the most significant occasions in the Catholic liturgical calendar marking the descent of the Holy Spirit, Pope Leo spoke candidly about the troubling emergence of nationalist movements that promote division rather than inclusion. While he refrained from naming specific countries or political figures, his remarks were widely understood as a clear rebuke of the kind of political nationalism that fosters "security zones" and barriers between people.

"There is no room for prejudice, for 'security' zones separating us from our neighbours, for the exclusionary mindset that, unfortunately, we now see emerging also in political nationalisms," Pope Leo said, according to coverage by The Guardian. His words underscored the moral and spiritual imperative to resist ideolo-



Pope Leo

gies that isolate groups of people based on ethnicity, nationality, or political allegiance.

The pontiff's message struck a chord in a world witnessing renewed nationalist fervor in multiple regions—often accompanied by anti-immigrant rhetoric, political fragmentation, and social mistrust. Pope Leo's appeal to dismantle such divisions resonates deeply with the Catholic Church's historic commitment to universal brotherhood and social justice.

ADVOCATING OPENNESS

Pope Leo used his Pentecost homily to issue an urgent call for openness and inclusion, echoing a tradition of papal advocacy for the marginalized and oppressed. "Open borders, break down walls, [and] dispel hatred," he prayed, urging believers to overcome fear and mistrust of those who are different.

He emphasized that the Church has a vital role to play in breaking down barriers—not only physical walls but also the social

and psychological walls that divide races, classes, and communities. "The Holy Spirit breaks down barriers and tears down the walls of indifference and hatred," Pope Leo said, highlighting the spiritual dimension of unity and reconciliation.

This message reflects a broad theological vision of the Church as a unifying force in a fragmented world, a beacon of hope and healing amid rising xenophobia and exclusionary politics. It also signals Pope Leo's intention to continue the legacy of his predecessor, Pope Francis, who was known for his outspoken criticism of nationalism and populism.

CONTINUING LEGACY

Pope Leo's election on May 8 marked a historic moment as the first American pope, succeeding Pope Francis, who led the Catholic Church for 12 years and made global headlines for his candid critiques of nationalist and anti-immigrant policies. Francis famously condemned building walls

instead of bridges, a clear rebuke of former President Donald Trump's immigration policies.

Before his election, Pope Leo, then known as Cardinal Robert Prevost, had been active on social media, reportedly posting critical views of figures like Trump and Vice President JD Vance on the platform X (formerly Twitter). Although the Vatican has not confirmed the ownership of the @drprevost account, the handle was deactivated following his election as pope.

TIME FOR RENEWAL AND UNITY

The timing of Pope Leo's address on Pentecost Sunday carries profound significance. Pentecost commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles, empowering them to spread the message of Christ and fostering the birth of the Christian Church. It is a day traditionally associated with renewal, transformation, and the breaking down of barriers between peoples.

● TDG NETWORK

TENSION BETWEEN INDIA, CHINA HAS EASED SIGNIFICANTLY: RUSSIAN FM

Sergei Lavrov says India-China tensions have eased significantly, raising hopes for renewed Russia-India-China trilateral cooperation

AGENCIES
MOSCOW

The tension between India and China has eased “significantly” and the stalled work of the RIC troika could be restarted, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said on Monday.

Speaking at the “Forum of the Future-2050” here, he said the resumption of joint work in RIC format could be the first step towards pan-Eurasian processes, including the formation of a multi-polar architecture.

“I really hope that we will be able to restore the work of the Russia-India-China trio. We have not met at the level of foreign ministers for the last couple of years, but we are discussing this issue with my Chinese colleague and with the Indian head of

TO SUM UP

- Russian FM Sergei Lavrov hopes to restart the stalled Russia-India-China (RIC) troika meetings at the foreign minister level.
- Resuming RIC work could be a step toward pan-Eurasian cooperation and a multipolar global order.
- Lavrov emphasized Russia and China’s roles in leading continental processes and multipolarity.
- India and China recently held diplomatic talks to implement previous leader-level consensus.



the External Affairs department.

“I really hope that now that the tension has eased, in my opinion, has eased significantly on the border between India and China, and the situation is stabilising, there is a dialogue

between New Delhi and Beijing, we will be able to resume the work of this Russia-India-China trio,” Lavrov was reported as saying by Russia’s state-run TASS news agency.

Lavrov said that Russia and China can and should

play a leading and proactive role in the pan-continental process, including in the formation of a multi-polar architecture, and added that the restoration of the RIC format could act as the first step towards this.

“This will also be a very

Ex-prez Hamid returns to Bangladesh month after his ‘secret departure’

AGENCIES
DHAKA

Bangladesh’s former president Abdul Hamid, who served two terms during deposed premier Sheikh Hasina’s regime, returned to the country on Monday after receiving medical treatment abroad.

The 81-year-old ex-president returned from Thailand a month after his “secret departure” sparked protests in Bangladesh for being allowed to leave despite being accused in a murder case.

“He landed here in predawn hours on a Thai Airways flight. He left the airport on completion of required immigration formalities that took nearly an hour and a half,” an official of the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport (HSIA) told reporters.

Hamid returned like other ordinary



Bangladesh’s former president Abdul Hamid

passengers, said HSIA Executive Director Group Captain SM Ragib Samad. Private TV channels also shared footage of his car leaving the airport.

He left Dhaka on May 8 through the same airport after completing the required formalities but his quiet departure sparked loud protests.

Leaders and activists of the stu-

dent-led National Citizen Party (NCP), which led last year’s violent movement that ousted former prime minister Hasina’s Awami League government, said authorities let Hamid “flee” despite being accused in a murder case.

Home Affairs Adviser Retd Lt Gen Jahangir Alam Chowdhury had vowed to step down if he failed to take punitive action against the officials involved, claiming he was unaware of the departure at the time.

Following the protests, Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus’s interim government formed two inquiry committees, one of which comprised three advisers.

The authorities also suspended two police officers and withdrew another from his assignment in airport immigration on charges of “negligence of duty”.

Protests in Los Angeles escalate amid immigration crackdown

AGENCIES
LOS ANGELES

Tensions flared across downtown Los Angeles over the weekend as protests against President Donald Trump’s immigration policies spiraled into violent confrontations, prompting a forceful response from law enforcement and the National Guard. The unrest, now in its third day, began as a peaceful demonstration but quickly intensified, becoming a national flashpoint in the debate over immigration and federal authority.

On Sunday evening, Los Angeles police declared the entire downtown area an unlawful assembly zone after protesters clashed with officers, set fire to self-driving Waymo vehicles, and hurled bottles and concrete at law enforcement. More than 2,000 protesters flooded the streets, blocking the 101 Freeway and surrounding key federal



buildings. Several rallies were dispersed with tear gas and flash-bang grenades as mounted police attempted to control the crowd.

By nightfall, 39 protesters had been arrested. Police Chief Jim McDonnell, speaking at a media briefing, emphasized that while peaceful protest is a right, the escalating violence was unacceptable. “Some of what we’ve seen is disgusting. This is no longer about immigration—it’s becoming dangerous,” he said.

The protests were sparked by recent ICE raids that led

to the detention of over 100 individuals, many of whom were long-term U.S. residents. President Trump, who has made strict immigration enforcement a central pillar of his policy, recently instructed ICE to increase daily arrests, targeting at least 3,000 migrants a day.

In a controversial move, Trump also ordered the deployment of 2,000 National Guard troops to Los Angeles County—a decision that California Governor Gavin Newsom labeled unlawful.

NATO chief Rutte calls for 400% increase in alliance’s air missile defence

AGENCIES
LONDON

NATO members need to increase their air and missile defences by 400 per cent to counter the threat from Russia, the head of the military alliance plans to say on Monday.

Secretary-General Mark Rutte will say during a visit to London that NATO must take a “quantum leap in our collective defence” to face growing instability and threats, according to extracts released by NATO before Rutte’s speech.

Rutte is due to meet UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer at 10 Downing St. ahead of a NATO summit in the Netherlands where the 32-nation alliance is likely to commit to a big hike in military spending.

Like other NATO members, the UK has been reassessing its defence spending since Russia’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine in Feb-

ruary 2022. Starmer has pledged to increase British defence spending to 2.5 per cent of gross domestic product by 2027 and to 3 per cent by 2034.

Rutte has proposed a target of 3.5 per cent of economic output on military spending and another 1.5 per cent on “defence-related expenditure” such as roads, bridges, airfields and sea ports. He said last week he is confident the alliance will agree to the target at its summit in The Hague on June 24-25.

At the moment, 22 of the 32 member countries meet or exceed NATO’s current 2 per cent target.

The new target would meet a demand by President Donald Trump that member states spend 5 per cent of gross domestic product on defence. Trump has long questioned the value of NATO and complained that the US provides security to European countries that don’t contribute enough.

AGENCIES
LOS ANGELES

California Governor Gavin Newsom, a Democrat, told MSNBC that he plans to file suit Monday against the Trump administration to roll back the National Guard deployment, which he called “an illegal act, an immoral act, an unconstitutional act.”

Roughly 300 National Guard members arrived in the city over the weekend, and President Donald Trump said he had authorised 2,000 members to deploy if needed.

This appears to be the first time in decades that a state’s National Guard was

IDF intercepts Thunberg’s Gaza flotilla ‘Madleen’, Hamas labels it state terrorism

AGENCIES
JERUSALEM

Israeli naval forces intercepted the Gaza Freedom Flotilla vessel Madleen, carrying pro-Palestinian activists including Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg, early Monday morning, according to reports in The Jerusalem Post. The vessel, which set sail from Sicily’s Catania port on June 1, was halted off the Gaza coast and redirected to the Port of Ashdod by the IDF’s elite Shayetet 13 unit.

The Israeli Foreign Ministry described the intercepted vessel as a “selfie yacht,” stating that its efforts were a media stunt rather than a meaningful humanitarian mission. “While Greta and others attempted to stage a media provocation... more than 1,200 aid trucks have entered Gaza from Israel within the past two weeks,” the ministry said in a state-



Activists aboard the Gaza aid ship ‘Maideen’ intercepted by Israeli forces. ANI

ment cited by The Jerusalem Post.

According to the flotilla’s Telegram updates, passengers reported being surrounded by Israeli naval ships, attacked by drones spraying a white irritant, and experiencing communications jamming just before the interception. All individuals on board were said to be safe and provided with basic supplies during the takeover. Video statements had been pre-recorded by activists in anticipation of

possible arrest or “kidnapping” by Israeli forces.

Hamas, in a strongly worded statement on its Telegram channel, called the IDF’s actions “state terrorism,” accusing Israel of violating international law by blocking symbolic aid to Gaza. The group said the volunteers aboard Madleen were “motivated by humanitarian concerns,” and condemned the Israeli military’s operation as a “blatant violation” of international norms.

California Guv Newsom to sue Trump over National Guard deployment



activated without a request from its governor.

Trump has cited a legal provision that allows him to mobilize federal service members when there is “a rebellion or danger of a rebellion against the authority of the Government of the

United States.”

Thousands of protesters took to the streets on Monday in response to Trump’s extraordinary deployment of the National Guard, blocking off a major freeway and setting self-driving cars on fire as law enforce-

Roughly 300 National Guard members arrived in the city over the weekend, and President Donald Trump said he had authorised 2,000 members to deploy if needed.

ment used tear gas, rubber bullets and flash bangs to control the crowd.

It was the third and most intense day of demonstrations against Trump’s immigration crackdown in the region.

Over 1 million Afghans return from Pakistan amid deportation drive: UNHCR

AGENCIES
KABUL

More than 1.055 million Afghan citizens have returned from Pakistan to Afghanistan between October 2023 and May 2025, marking an unprecedented trend in recent years, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Tolo News reported.

UNHCR Assistant Communications Officer Faramarz Barzin said, “From October 1, 2023, to May 31, 2025, more than 1.055 million people have returned from Pakistan to Afghanistan. UNHCR is present both at the border and in the settlement areas and where we have cash centers, providing a wide range of services to them.”

In 2025 alone, since the beginning of April, an average of around 3,500 people have been crossing daily from Pakistan into Afghanistan, Tolo News stated.

Many of these families,



forced to leave Pakistan after decades, are now grappling with serious challenges including lack of shelter, employment opportunities, and limited access to health and education services.

Deported migrants have also raised concerns about their treatment in Pakistan. Torkhal, one such returnee, said: “We are suffering at Torkham. I swear, we are facing hardship. The Pakistani police expelled us with great disrespect.”

Another returnee, Arefullah, said, “House owners in Pakistan treated us very badly, and the Pakistani gov-

ernment should not disgrace the people.”

The World Food Programme (WFP) has reported assisting more than 600,000 migrants returning from Iran and Pakistan since October 2023. Zia Safi, WFP Communications Officer, said: “At the borders, families are provided with special nutritious foods to prevent malnutrition among pregnant and breast-feeding mothers.”

Meanwhile, the Pakistani government has announced its plans to deport around three million Afghan migrants this year, Tolo News reported.

Chinese vessel runs aground near Philippine-held Island, troops on alert

AGENCIES
MANILA

A Chinese ship went aground in bad weather in shallow waters off a Philippine-controlled island in the disputed South China Sea, forcing Filipino soldiers to be on alert, according to a report by Taipei Times.

When Philippine forces determined that the Chi-

nese fishing vessel had run aground in the shallows east of Thitu Island due to bad weather on Saturday, they deployed military and coast guard personnel to assist, but later discovered that the ship had been extricated, according to Philippine navy regional spokesperson Ellaine Rose Collado, as reported by the Taipei Times.

Collado noted that no

more information was immediately available, such as whether any crew members were injured or the ship was damaged. In recent years, confrontations between Chinese and Philippine coast guard and naval ships in the disputed waters have increased, according to the Taipei Times.

“The alertness of our troops is always there,” Philippine Armed Forces



Public Affairs Office chief Colonel Xerxes Trinidad

said. When they saw that a probable incident had hap-

pened, “we tried to assist professionals” following international law on helping distressed vessels at sea, he said. “We’re always following international law,” Trinidad said, as quoted by the Taipei Times report.

According to MP Albayda, a local Philippine official, villagers in a fishing village on Thitu, known as Pag-asa Island, immediately notified the Philippine

military and coast guard after seeing the Chinese ship lying in the shallows about 1.5 nautical miles (2.8 kilometres) from their village.

“They got worried because the Chinese were so close, but it was the strong wind and waves that caused the ship to run aground,” Albayda added, adding that other Chinese ships towed the stranded vessel away.

The stricken ship resembled what the Philippine military had repeatedly described as suspected Chinese militia ships that had aided the Chinese coast guard and navy in blocking and harassing Philippine coast guard and military vessels in the disputed waters, a busy conduit for global trade and commerce, according to the Taipei Times report.

'HOUSEFULL 5' EARNS RS 91.83 CR ON 1ST WEEKEND

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

"Housefull 5", featuring Akshay Kumar, Nana Patekar and Jacqueline Fernandez among others, has collected Rs 91.83 crore nett at the domestic box office on its first weekend, the makers announced on Monday.

Produced by Sajid Nadiadwala's production banner Nadiadwala Grandson Entertainment, the film has been directed by Tarun Mansukhani of "Dostana" fame. Also featuring Sonam Bajwa, Nargis Fakhri, Soundarya Sharma, Jackie Shroff, Riteish Deshmukh, Fardeen Khan and Sanjay Dutt, the film released in theatres on June 6. It is the fifth installment in the "Housefull" franchise. Production banner shared the box office collection on its X handle with the day-wise breakdown.

"A weekend full of laugh-



ter, love... and Housefull screens! Thank you for making Day 3 so special. Our hearts are full because of you. #Housefull5 In Cinemas NOW! Book your tickets today," read the caption.

"Housefull 5" opened with Rs 24.35 crore nett and went on to earn Rs 32.38 crore nett on the following day. It collected Rs 35.10 crore nett on its third day. The franchise began in

2010 with the first "Housefull" film, which went on to have good business at the box office. Following, the other instalments released in 2012, 2016, and 2019, respectively.

Paresh reacts to fans' requests after quitting 'Hera Pheri'

TDG NETWORK
MUMBAI

Bollywood veteran actor Paresh Rawal's sudden departure from the upcoming film 'Hera Pheri 3' has left his fans shocked and disappointed, and they want him to rethink on his decision.

Many of his fans have taken to the social media handle and requested him to join the third instalment of the 'Hera Pheri' franchise.

Taking to X, one of the fan wrote, "Sir please think Once again to join



HERA FERI movie You are the hero of this movie", however, Rawal immediately corrected him and responded, "NO ... There are Three Heroes in Hera Pheri"

Paresh Rawal's sudden departure from the third

instalment of the 'Hera Pheri' franchise shocked the film industry and fans. After reports of Akshay Kumar suing Paresh Rawal for the inappropriate departure,

Rawal shared an update on May 25, saying that his

lawyer has sent an "appropriate response" regarding his rightful "termination and exit" from the film to the makers. Taking to his X handle, the actor wrote, "My lawyer, Ameet Naik, has sent an appropriate response regarding my rightful termination and exit. Once they read my response, all issues will be laid to rest."

While speculation initially suggested creative differences as the reason behind his decision, Paresh Rawal addressed these rumours in a public statement.

Sidhu back in 'The Great Indian Kapil Show 3'; 'excited', says Kapil

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Former cricketer Navjot Singh Sidhu is set to make his comeback to Kapil Sharma's comedy show with its third season, the makers announced on Monday.

Sidhu was a permanent guest at "Comedy Nights with Kapil" between 2013 and 2016. He also appeared in the first two seasons of "The Kapil Sharma Show" and "Family Time with Kapil Sharma".

"The Great Indian Kapil Show 3" will stream on Netflix from June 21. The streaming platform shared the announcement with a video on its Instagram handle.

Kapil then shared his excitement about having Navjot Singh Sidhu back on the show, "Humne promise kiya tha ki Har funny-vaar badhega Humaara parivaar and (I promised our family will grow) I'm so excited to have Sidhu paaji part of the family along with Archana ji to enjoy all the chutkules, the shayaris and masti.

The mahaul is set, so stay



tuned because this season jokes aur laughter dono ho gayein hain triple!!!" While, Navjot Singh Sidhu shared, "Coming to The Great Indian Kapil Show feels like I'm coming home again. It is a home run for me. We heard the voices of the people, so many fans and well wishers who loved our interactions and wanted to see more.

I'm delighted that Netflix has managed to bring this bouquet of beautiful people together and we will bloom this season for audiences worldwide. A smile doesn't cost you a cent, but it is worth millions of dol-

lars and The Great Indian Kapil show is an instrument of god's goodwill to bring happiness to mankind - honoured to be part of it again." Navjot further shared, "Guru, humne milkar yeh aashiyana sajaya hai, Guzra zamana phir se lautke aaya hai! Main yu hi nahi pohuncha hoon yahaan par dobara, Mujhe kheench kar janta ka pyaar laaya hai (Guru, together we have adorned this home. A bygone era has returned once more! I haven't reached here again just like that — It's the love of the people that has pulled me back.)"

'Dil Ka Kya' song from 'Metro...In Dino' out

TDG NETWORK
MUMBAI

The 'Metro...In Dino', makers are leaving no stone unturned to create excitement among the audience, especially with the film's music.

After releasing the soulful song 'Zamaana Lage', the team on Monday unveiled 'Dil Ka Kya' track from the film. Sung by Raghav Chaitanya and composed by Pritam, Dil Ka Kya is a modern yet nostalgic and deeply melancholic.

Set across the intertwined lives of four couples, the



evocative song explores the fragile nuances of romantic connection and separation amid the relentless chaos of city life. The lyrics were given by Anurag Sharma. Check out

Directed by Anurag Basu, the film features an ensemble cast including Anupam Kher, Pankaj Tripathi, Konkana Sensharma, Aditya Roy Kapur, Sara Ali Khan, Fatima Sana Shaikh,

Ali Fazal, Neena Gupta, and Saswata Chatterjee. It serves as the spiritual sequel to Anurag Basu's 2007 film Life in a... Metro. From the original cast, Konkana is the only actor who is returning in the sequel. It was hard for the actress to work in the movie again after her dear friend and co-star Irrfan Khan passed away in 2020.

While remembering the late actor at an event, Anurag Basu shared that Konkana Sharma started crying during the shoot of a scene in the movie (Met-

ro...In Dino) as the tone of it was a "little similar" to a scene from the first instalment.

He also remembered singer KK at the event as the singer sang two of the most famous tracks from the prequel's album: 'Alvida' and 'O Meri Jaan'.

"We were shooting a scene, and the tone for it was a little similar to a scene from the first film. Suddenly, Konkana started crying, and even right now, I am worried that the same will happen if someone asks a question about him.

Manish denies allegations of attacking driver

TDG NETWORK
MUMBAI

Director Manish Gupta, who has been booked by Versova police for allegedly attacking his driver, has denied all the allegations and said that these are all "false accusations".

Speaking to the media, he said, "Ye bilkul hi jhutha aarop hai (This is a false accusation)... a hundred per cent false accusation. There was no fight between that driver and me, Rajebul Lashkar. Usne police mein jaake jhuthi statement di hai (He went to the police and gave a false statement). And on that basis, he filed an FIR. He did this to put my reputation at risk. So that I come under pres-

sure and he can extort more money from me."

He also opened up on the accusation that he has not paid salary to his driver timely, "This accusation is 100% false. I will show you my bank statement for the past 3 years. You will see that every month I have paid him his entire salary on time. So, the first sentence in the FIR is false that



I never paid him salary on time, that's why he fought with me. His first sentence is false. The first false sentence in his statement, in the FIR, is the proof that his entire allegation is false. It is proof that he is lying. You can see my bank statement. ...There is a detail of his salary every month for the past 3 years." Gupta also shared that he has given his driver regular salary so there was no argument or fight between them, "As I said, he has received his salary on time every month for the past 3 years. You can see my bank statement. The driver's name, amount, and date are clearly shown in this. He has received his salary on time every month for the past 3 years.

Vairamuthu calls out filmmakers for using his verses sans his consent

TDG NETWORK
CHENNAI

Renowned Tamil lyricist and poet Vairamuthu called out the Tamil film industry for using the lyrics of his songs as film titles without seeking his permission.

Taking to his X handle, Vairamuthu pointed out how many of his popular lyrics have been turned into



film titles over the years, often without anyone seeking his consent.

His post, written in Tamil, loosely translated as, "Many of my verses have been used by the Tamil film industry as film titles. None of those who have taken them have asked my permission or even asked for a word of respect."

In a lengthy post on X, the

lyricist also cited some popular Tamil movies that used his lyrics as their film titles. While the lyricist did not mention the copyright issue, he called out the Tamil film industry for their discourtesy and not seeking permission before using them.

He wrote, "Despite them taking my lyric lines without acknowledgement, I have never rebuked anyone nor

have I questioned it whenever and wherever I met them. In a society where wealth is not shared in common, I take joy in the fact that knowledge at least becomes common property. It would be uncivilised of me to ask, "Why didn't you ask me before doing this?" But isn't it equally uncivilised of them not to have even asked me a single word?"

Trailer of 'Mistry' out now

TDG NETWORK
MUMBAI

Actors Ram Kapoor and Mona Singh are gearing up for the release of their show 'Mistry'.

On Monday, the show's trailer was unveiled. The series stars Ram Kapoor as detective Armaan Mistry, and Mona Singh as Sehmat, his "fearless and sharp-witted partner". Joining them is an eclectic ensemble cast featuring Shikha Talsania as Sharanya and Kshitish Date as cop Bunty.

Directed by Rishab Seth,



Mistry is the Indian adaptation of the critically acclaimed US series Monk.

On what fans can expect from his character, Ram in a press note said, "Armaan is one of the strangest, most

fascinating characters I've played. He has his quirks but they aren't just that, they are his coping mechanisms. It's his way of bringing order to a disordered world.

PICTURE PERFECT



Sanya Malhotra poses for her social media. (Instagram)

INJURIES THAT BENCH EVEN THE BEST



DR. ABHISHEK VAISH

Whether its cricket, football, tennis, or athletics, sports demand a high level of physical endurance and agility. But while pushing physical limits, players often encounter injuries that can abruptly end their participation or even their careers. Dr. Abhishek Vaish, a leading orthopedic surgeon and Sports Injury Specialist from Indraprastha Apollo Hospital Okhla and Healing Touch Clinic, New Delhi, sheds light on the most common sports injuries that can “clean bowl” athletes, and shares vital tips on prevention and treatment.

THE GAME-CHANGING INJURIES

1. ACL (Anterior Cruciate Ligament) Tear

One of the most dreaded injuries in any sport involving running, jumping, or sudden change of direction, an ACL tear can take a player out for months. “ACL injuries are very common in sports like football and cricket. A torn ACL doesn’t just affect physical ability—it impacts the player’s



confidence too,” says Dr. Abhishek Vaish.

Treatment: Most ACL tears require surgical reconstruction followed by 6–9 months of rehabilitation. Non-surgical options may be considered for partial tears or less active individuals.

2. Meniscus Injuries

The meniscus is the cushioning cartilage in the knee joint. Sudden twisting motions, especially during bowling or fielding, can lead to a tear. Ignoring knee pain after a twist can lead to long-term damage. Early diagnosis is key.

Treatment: Depending on the severity, it could involve physiotherapy or arthroscopic surgery.

3. Stress Fractures

Common in endurance sports, stress fractures result from repetitive overuse, especially in the shins, feet, and lower back. “I see this often in cricketers and runners who suddenly increase training intensity. The body needs time to adapt,” explains Dr. Vaish.

Treatment: Rest is the primary treatment, sometimes

accompanied by bracing or low-impact physical therapy.

4. Shoulder Dislocations and Rotator Cuff Injuries

Throwing sports like cricket and javelin put significant strain on the shoulder. A dislocated shoulder or a torn rotator cuff can end a season. The shoulder is complex and prone to injury if not trained and conditioned correctly. Recurrent dislocations are common if the first injury isn’t treated properly,” warns Dr. Vaish.

Treatment: Immobilization, physical therapy, and in some cases, surgical stabilization.

5. Ankle Sprains and Achilles Tendon Injuries

Twisting an ankle or tearing the Achilles tendon is all too familiar to athletes across sports. These injuries are often underestimated, but a complete Achilles rupture, for example, can sideline a player for almost a year.

Treatment: Mild sprains require rest and physiotherapy. Ruptures often need surgery and long rehab periods.



PRECAUTIONS TO BE TAKEN

1. Regular strength training, neuromuscular exercises, and wearing proper footwear can reduce the risk for any ACL injuries.
2. Adequate warm-up and cool-down routines are essential, as is building leg strength.
3. Gradual increase in training load, proper nutrition (especially calcium and vitamin D), and cross-training can help prevent injuries.
4. Regular rotator cuff and scapular strengthening exercises, and avoiding overuse.
5. Proper footwear, proprioceptive training, and ankle strengthening exercises.

PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN CURE

Dr. Vaish emphasizes that injury prevention is just as important as skill training. “Athletes need to understand that prehabilitation—strengthening the body before injuries happen—is the future of sports medicine.” He recommends regular phys-

iotherapy assessments, biomechanical evaluations, and maintaining flexibility and muscle balance to reduce the risk of injuries.

THE MENTAL GAME

Sports injuries are inevitable, but with the right training, awareness, and timely intervention, most injuries can be treated effectively. A holistic approach that can combine physical fitness, injury prevention, and psychological resilience is the winning formula for any athlete who wants to stay on top of their game. “Recovery is not just physical—it’s also mental. Players often struggle with anxiety, fear of re-injury, and performance pressure during rehabilitation. A comprehensive recovery plan must include mental conditioning. Confidence is rebuilt slowly, alongside muscle strength,” concluded Dr. Abhishek Vaish.

The author is the Sr. Orthopedic Surgeon and Sports Injury Specialist at Indraprastha Apollo Hospital Okhla and Healing Touch Clinic.

Biohacking your health: How smart nutrition can optimise performance and longevity

BY AMAN PURI

Biohacking, the practice of using science, technology and lifestyle changes to optimise health and longevity, is gaining popularity worldwide. These health hacks are aimed at slowing ageing and enhancing the health-related quality of life. Another goal of biohacking is to boost energy levels and performance. With increasing advancements in healthcare technology and digital transformation, various health apps and wearable technologies have made it easy to get deep insights into our daily health data. Smart nutrition is another way of biohacking your health by making selected and informed nutritional choices to improve health, performance, and well-being. Biohacking with smart nutrition involves using nutritional strategies and diet modifications backed by science. Smart nutrition is about opting for nutrient-dense foods, like fresh fruits and vegetables, whole grains, lean proteins, and healthy fats, and taking adequate portion sizes of these foods to meet calorie requirements in a healthy way. It also calls for good quality foods with minimum preservatives or artificial additives and cutting down on high-sugar, processed and packaged foods. Another aspect of smart nutrition is strategically planning meal timings and the



intake of nutrients to avoid interactions that can impact their absorption and utilisation in the body. Managing a time gap between two anti-nutrients may help improve their bioavailability.

Smart nutrition may also involve changing one’s dietary patterns and adopting new ones, such as intermittent fasting and the keto diet to achieve a health or fitness goal. For instance, the keto diet restricts the intake of certain nutrients to support weight loss, while intermittent fasting calls for restricting eating timings and staying in a fasting state for longer, which supports metabolism, promotes cellular repair and supports weight management.

Another aspect of smart nutrition may be the use of nutrigenomics, a science that studies how food and dietary components impact gene expression and how this interaction can benefit health. Incorporating nutrigenomics can revolutionise the way we plan our nutrition, as it enables us to

adopt personalised nutrition strategies to transform our health and increase longevity. Health benefits of nutrigenomics include improvements in metabolic health and energy levels.

Additionally, as a part of smart nutrition, one can take supplements containing herbal extracts, multi-vitamins, and pre- and probiotics to support overall health and nutritional optimisation. Intake of specific nutrients or compounds like polyphenols, omega-3 fatty acids, and vitamins A, C, and D may promote cellular repair, slowing down ageing and reducing the risk of several chronic diseases.

Maintaining a consistent schedule of physical activity, quality sleep and aligning healthy lifestyle habits involving smart nutritional strategies can go a long way in promoting longevity and improving performance.

The author is the Founder of Steadfast Nutrition, a leading sports and wellness nutrition brand.

BALANCING HORMONES NATURALLY: FOODS AND SUPPLEMENTS FOR PCOS RELIEF



FOOD IS MEDICINE
DR ANISH DESAI

Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS) is a common endocrine disorder affecting up to 18% of women of reproductive age. Characterized by hormonal imbalances, insulin resistance, and metabolic issues, PCOS can lead to infertility, weight gain, and long-term health complications. While medical treatments like oral contraceptives and ovulation-inducing drugs are standard, many women turn to dietary supplements and whole foods for additional support.

1. Vitamin D

Vitamin D deficiency is prevalent in women with PCOS and is linked to insulin resistance and inflammation. Studies suggest that vitamin D supplementation can improve insulin sensitivity, reduce testosterone levels, and enhance menstrual regularity. Pair vitamin D-rich foods with healthy fats (like olive oil or avocado) to enhance absorption.

Food Sources:

- Egg yolks
- Fortified dairy or plant-based milk

2. Myo-Inositol

Myo-inositol, a natural

compound found in fruits and vegetables, plays a role in insulin signaling and ovarian function. Research shows it can restore ovulation, improve hormonal balance, and enhance fertility outcomes in women undergoing IVF.

Food Sources:

- Citrus fruits (oranges, grapefruits)
- Beans and legumes
- Whole grains (brown rice, oats)
- Nuts (almonds, walnuts)

3. Selenium

This trace mineral has antioxidant properties that may help manage PCOS symptoms. Selenium supplementation has been shown to lower fasting glucose and cholesterol levels. Avoid excessive selenium intake, as it can be toxic. Stick to food sources or consult a doctor before supplementing.

Food Sources:

- Seafood
- Eggs
- Sunflower seeds

4. Probiotics and Synbiotics

Emerging research highlights the gut microbiome’s role in PCOS. Probiotics and synbiotics can improve



insulin resistance, reduce inflammation, and balance hormones.

Food Sources:

- Yogurt
- Sauerkraut, kimchi (fermented vegetables)

5. Omega-3 Fatty Acids

Omega-3s, known for their anti-inflammatory effects, can improve lipid profiles and insulin sensitivity in women with PCOS.

Food Sources:

- Fatty fish
- Flaxseeds and chia seeds
- Walnuts

A combination of targeted

supplements and nutrient-dense whole foods can help manage PCOS symptoms, especially when paired with lifestyle changes like a balanced diet and exercise. However, they should complement not replace medical treatments. Always consult a healthcare provider before starting any supplement regimen. For women with PCOS, a holistic approach combining evidence-based supplements, whole foods, and medical care offers the best path to improved health and fertility.



Structural geriatric dental clinics more significant than regular dental clinics



DR. ABHISHEK SHARMA

As the global population ages, dental care becomes an essential component of overall health management for elderly individuals. While regular dental clinics provide general oral care for all age groups, structural geriatric dental clinics specialize in catering to the unique needs of older patients. These clinics are designed with specific infrastructure, expertise, and services that significantly enhance the oral health care experience for geriatric populations.

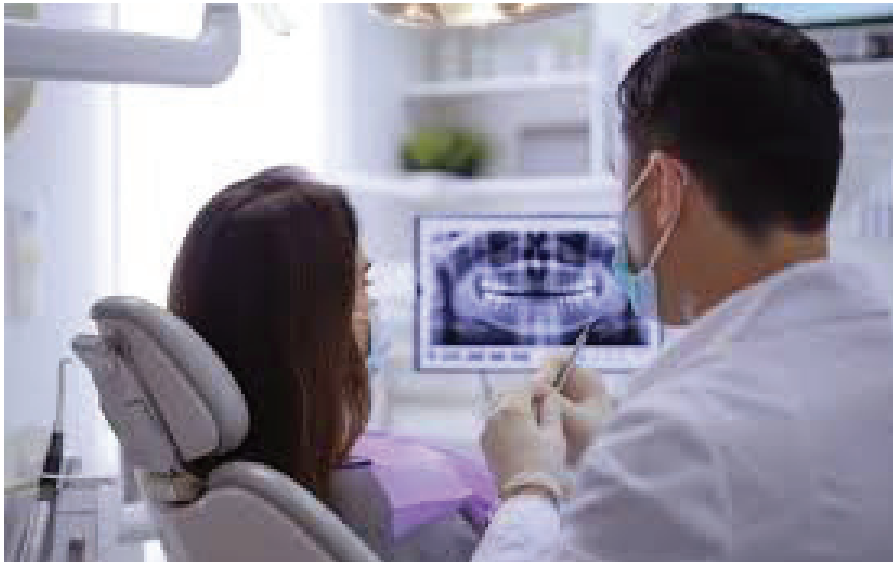
UNDERSTANDING STRUCTURAL GERIATRIC DENTAL CLINICS -

Structural geriatric dental clinics are specially designed to accommodate elderly patients with age-related dental issues such as tooth loss, gum disease, dry mouth, and complications due to chronic illnesses like diabetes or osteoporosis. These clinics incorporate specialized dental equipment, experienced geriatric dentists, and modified treatment approaches tailored for older patients.

SIGNIFICANCE OVER REGULAR DENTAL CLINICS

Age-Specific Expertise:

Unlike general dentists in regular clinics, geriatric dental specialists are trained to handle complex



oral health conditions that arise due to aging. They understand the relationship between oral health and systemic diseases, ensuring better care and treatment outcomes.

Structural Adaptations for Comfort & Accessibility:

Geriatric dental clinics are designed to be wheelchair-accessible and equipped with ergonomic dental chairs to accommodate patients. This ensures a stress-free experience for elderly individuals who might struggle with standard clinic setups.

Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Care:

These clinics often work in coordination with other healthcare providers, including physicians, nutritionists,

and physiotherapists, to offer a holistic approach to dental care that considers overall health rather than isolated oral treatments.

Preventive and Customized Treatment Plans:

Older adults require preventive care to reduce the risk of infections and dental complications. Structural geriatric clinics provide tailored dental plans that include regular check-ups, bone density assessments, and gum disease management based on age-related vulnerabilities.

Advanced Prosthetic & Restorative Solutions:

Tooth loss is prevalent among elderly populations, leading to challenges in eating and speaking. Geriatric clinics focus on high-quality dentures, dental implants,

and restorative treatments that are customized to improve oral function and overall well-being.

Sensitivity to Mental & Physical Challenges:

Many elderly individuals suffer from cognitive decline, anxiety, or physical weakness, making dental visits daunting. Geriatric clinics incorporate gentle handling techniques, shorter waiting times, and stress-reducing environments to create a comfortable experience for senior patients.

While regular dental clinics serve general oral health needs, structural geriatric dental clinics provide specialized, comprehensive, and patient-centred care for the aging population. With their tailored infrastructure, experienced professionals, and holistic approach to oral health management, these clinics play a vital role in ensuring that elderly individuals receive compassionate and effective dental care suited to their unique needs.

The author is a healthcare informatics & quality expert involved in patient-centred quality collaborative care and public welfare programs.



Numerology Reveals: Your Birthdate and Communication Style



JYOTSNA G BANSAL

Have you ever wondered why you speak the way you do, why some people instantly connect with your words—while others don't? It may sound surprising but your birthdate holds the answer.

From the day you're born, numbers start shaping your life, in the form of Birthdate, Birth-time and later on in so many forms.

Your Birthdate greatly impacts your basic traits, behaviour, choices, habits, relationships, career & education, lifestyle, likes & dislikes, your belief system, friends, your finances and even your communication style alongwith other numerous factors.

Yes, the way you talk—your tone, pace, emotions and style of expression—is deeply influenced by the numbers present in your Numero-Birth chart.

Let's explore, how being born on a certain date of any month can shapeup/ impact your communication style & how positively or negatively they can impact other aspects of your life.

1. Born on 1, 10, 19, 28

Generally, these people have authoritative & domi-



nant communication style. Their speaking tone can be bit aggressive, arrogant, direct and straight. They often speak in high pitch with moderate speed accompanied by pauses. However, there will be slight difference in speech style for persons born on 1,10,19,28 owing to impact of different numbers present in the birthdate.

Eg.Indira Gandhi-19 Nov, Ratan Tata-28 Dec, Mukesh Ambani-19 Apr, Hrithik Roshan-10 Jan

2. Born on 2, 11, 20, 29

Their communication style has a soft, emotional touch with great influence of compassion & counselling. These people generally speak in slow speed (as if planning simultane-

ously) with medium pitch. If there is negative influence of other numbers, they can be arrogant. Eg. Morarji Desai-29 Feb, Rajiv Gandhi-20 August, Lal Bahadur Shastri-2 Oct, Mahatma Gandhi-2 Oct.

3. Born on 3, 12, 21, 30

These people possess the counselling, guiding and motivational speaking skills in their communication style. Their pitch is often high, which inspires/ motivates the listeners. They speak in a balanced speed as they are capable of judging how the listener is grasping. Eg. Jaggi Vasudev (Sadhguru)-3 Sep, Yuvraj Singh-12 Dec, Premnand Maharaj-30 Mar, Sonu Sharma-30 Jan

4. Born on 4, 13, 22,

31 Their communication style can be motivating, to-the-point, persuading and encouraging with logical explanation if on the positive side. Else their speaking style can be threatening or bullying, if numbers are under negative influence. In both cases, their pitch is medium with balanced speed and firm tone. Eg. Sri Sri Ravi Shankar-13 May, BK Shivani-31 May

5. Born on 5, 14, 23

No.5 persons talking style is very friendly, engaging, convincing & full of wit-tiness! They can be argumentative at times. They are fast talkers & jump from one topic to another topic quickly. They have good manipulative skills. Eg. Vivek Bindra-5 Apr, Yogi

Adityanath-5 Jun, Subhash Chandra Bose-23 Jan, Uday Chopra-5 Jan

6. Born on 6, 15, 24

These people are soft spoken, sweet spoken & have inspiring speaking skills. Their conversation style is very delightful, full of emotions & appears music to ears. Their pitch is medium to low & they speak in slow pace but with great firmness. Eg. Dalai Lama-6 July, APJ Kalam-15 Oct, Swami Awadeshnand Giri-24 Nov.

7. Born on 7, 16, 25

As these people possess a questioning, logical & researcher mind, so their communication style is also very analytical, logical and thoughtful. They speak in a well-planned manner with slow pace & their pitch can



be dry, harsh but can be soft also if from spiritual background.

Eg. Atal Bihari Vajpayee-25 Dec, Baba Ramdev-25 Dec.

8. Born on 8, 17, 26

They have a very commanding, aggressive, sometimes rude/arrogant, influencing speaking dialect. They speak in slow pace but have empathetic

and demanding communication style. Eg. Narendra Modi-17 Sept, Avdhoot Shivanand-26 March

9. Born on 9, 18, 27

They have communication style full of energy that might appear as aggressive & commanding style. They are generally straight & loud in their conversations, often with fluency & medium to high pitch & can start speaking at

a faster pace during the conversation. Eg. Kiran Bedi-9 June, Akshay Kumar-9 Sep, Aniruddhacharya Ji Maharaj-27 Sep.

Jyotsna G Bansal is a Reiki Grandmaster, practicing Numerologist, IKS & Vedic Learner & Seeker, Author, Columnist, Researcher, Counselor and Crystals & Spiritual Guide.

The slow death of sensitivity

On 4th June 2025, what began as a city's moment of euphoria ended in unspeakable sorrow. As Royal Challengers Bengaluru celebrated their historic IPL victory, a sudden stampede outside the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium claimed the lives of eleven people. Dozens were injured. There was no riot, no terror alert—just the weight of too many feet, too much frenzy, and too little preparation.

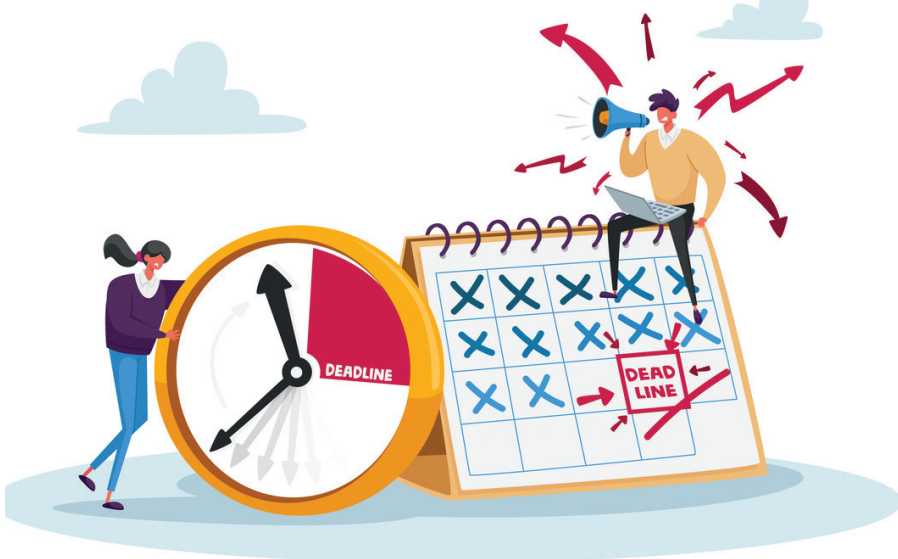
Within hours, the footage began to spread. On television, phones, reels and reposts. Faces pressed against barricades. Slippers scattered like fallen leaves. The air heavy with screams. And across homes, cafés, waiting rooms—millions watched, wide-eyed, maybe whispering a 'how tragic' before scrolling on.

We have become connoisseurs of calamity.

There was a time when the pain of others would shake us. When news of a stranger's misfortune could disturb our appetite or move us to tears. Today, we consume tragedy as a passive ritual. It arrives between breakfast and traffic, between emails and ads. Some disasters stir outrage, others pass with barely a sigh. Not because we are heartless—but perhaps because our hearts are too full.

The Buddha says in the Dhammapada, "All that we are is the result of what we have thought. The mind is everything. What we think, we become." In this world of endless alerts and breaking headlines, we must ask ourselves, what are we becoming?

The mind is not designed to hold the entire world's grief at once. But our screens deliver it anyway,



MODERN DAY MONK
DEEPA CHATTERJEE

wrapped in urgency, repetition and noise. And in our attempt to stay informed, we are slowly being deformed.

But the effect doesn't stop with how we view the world. Slowly, even our own inner grief begins to feel distant, blunted. When we are constantly exposed to others' suffering—flashed across screens in endless cycles—we start

losing the ability to fully feel our own. We brush off the heaviness we carry. We downplay what hurts us, believing it's insignificant in the face of global catastrophes. But pain doesn't disappear when ignored. It turns inward—hardening the heart, numbing the mind, and turning a once-sensitive soul into a silent shell. This is the slow erosion of our humanity—not

in grand, obvious strokes, but in the quiet death of empathy, both for others and for ourselves.

In the Yoga Sutras, Patanjali says, "The mind is the source of both bondage and liberation." It is not the outer world that enslaves us. It is our inability to manage how the outer world enters our inner space.

So, what do we do in a world that is burning in a thousand places at once?

We cannot turn away in indifference. But we must learn to turn inward with discipline. We must learn to choose what we absorb, to step back when we need to, and be okay with choosing not to feel everything. We must learn to select our grief, and protect our sensitivity.

The world will remain turbulent. The wise know that peace is not the absence of suffering. It is the refusal to be consumed by every wave of it.

Deepam Chatterjee is an author and meditation teacher. Connect with him at deepamchatterjee@yahoo.co.in and at [deepamchatterjee on Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/deepamchatterjee)



SIGNIFICANCE OF MUHURTA IN INDIAN RITUALS



P.V. LAXMIPRASAD

All Indian rituals are conducted according to the most auspicious time. The Sanskrit word "Muhurth" carries both spiritual and astrological undertones. Indeed, Indian rituals are replete with many sacred occasions. People look at the right or most auspicious time to undertake such events. Muhurth plays a significant role in Indian rituals and ceremonies. Hinduism predominantly laid down the concept of Muhurth for initiating any auspicious occasion. Muhurth is a striking, auspicious time and determines the success and prosperity of an event or ritual. It has astrological influence and spiritual significance. Positions. While Muhurth is calculated on astrological its significance emphasizes spiritual



growth that usually aligns with the cosmic energies.

A ritual or event at the right Muhurth sends out positive or cosmic vibrations. For spiritual events like Pujas, Homams, Weddings, naming ceremonies or house warming functions, people always look at a good Muhurth because the rituals are received by the divine forces. It is crucial for determining the most auspicious time for wedding ceremonies. Overall, Muhurth is significantly balanced and checked. Selecting the right Muhurth removes all obstacles like Rahu Kalam, Yama Gandam, which may bring hurdles or negative outcomes.

In Vedic traditions too, Muhurth imparts the right kind of wisdom to the next generations.

Muhurth is catego-

rised into several types. One of them is Brahma Muhurth, and the other one is Abhijith Muhurth. Brahma Muhurth is considered to be a highly auspicious time that occurs exactly 1 hour and 36 minutes before sunrise and ends 48 minutes before sunrise. This time is recommended for spiritual practices like prayer and Yoga. These timings vary according to the local sunrise. The Brahma Muhurth is otherwise known as "Creator's hour. During the period, the environment and the surroundings are calm, and the mind is more receptive to receiving whatever man does.

It is because of this significance that the students are advised to study during Brahma Muhurth. Engaging during Brahma Muhurth enhances overall well-being. Another interesting thing about this Muhurth is that big temples undertake Suprabhat Seva during Brahma Muhurth. Brahmi is a synonym of the Goddess of Saraswati. She creates a Brahma Buddhi among her disciples. Whatever work a man undertakes will be accomplished. All good things will take place for practitioners. Abhijith Muhurth will bring good

fortune and prosperity. This Muhurtham is considered most auspicious for spiritual and sacred ceremonies. It will vibrate positively, and the positive effects will be experienced. Readers are reminded that Lord Shri Ram's wedding is a highly auspicious occasion during Abhijith Muhurth.

People in Kaliyug celebrate Lord Shri Ram's wedding on Ram Navami. It is mentioned in the Vedas that the divine union would be blessed. Divine energies touch all the practitioners of Abhijith Muhurth. Abhijith Muhurth covers roughly 24 minutes before and after solar noon.

For example, if local noon stands at 12.10 pm, then Abhijith Muhurth would be from 11.46 Am to 12.34 PM. The exact location would be calculated for this Muhurth. It is a 48 48-minute period considered to be most auspicious for initiating new ventures or works. It occurs around midday. Abhijith Muhurth would take away all evil forces from the surroundings. The term Muhurth is significantly used in Hindu rituals.

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PORTUGAL WINS NATIONS LEAGUE, BEATS SPAIN IN PENALTY SHOOTOUT

AGENCIES
MUNICH

Cristiano Ronaldo hoisted up the Nations League trophy and “We Are The Champions” rang around the stadium after Portugal defeated Spain 5-3 in a penalty shootout in Munich on Sunday.

Portugal goalkeeper Diogo Costa saved Álvaro Morata’s fourth penalty for Spain, then Rúben Neves converted his team’s fifth to seal the win after their match finished 2-2 after extra time.

Morata was the only player to miss after seeing every player score their spot kicks before him. He was incon-solable.

Ronaldo had kept Portugal in the game when he equalized in the 61st minute of regular time with his record-extending 138th international goal after Mikel Oyarzabal had given Spain a halftime lead.

Oyarzabal squeezed the ball past Portugal goalkeeper Diogo Costa in the 45th after Pedri played him in.



Cristiano Ronaldo (7), captain of Portugal, lifting the trophy that clinched his selection as champion of the League of Nations of Europe, after overcoming Spain in a penalty shoot-out in the final. (Agency)

“It’s a shame and it’s tough, but with time it will be more appreciated,” Oyarzabal said. “We struggled more in the second half, we were tired. The substitutions helped them. But we are proud of our team and we will fight to be close to winning a title again.”

Spain, still the European champion, failed to display

the cohesion and fluency in attack that put five goals past France in the semifinal on Thursday.

There was an element of fortune about the opening goal scored by Martin Zubimendi in the 21st when Portugal’s defense failed to deal with Lamine Yamal’s cross.

Nuno Mendes leveled five minutes later when he

drilled a low shot inside the far post. The 22-year-old left back was the player of the match — providing the cross that was deflected kindly for Ronaldo to score his equalizer, keeping Yamal in check, then confidently scoring his penalty in the shootout.

Ronaldo was already off by then. He had gone off,

exhausted, to standing ovations and a hug from coach Roberto Martínez in the 88th. In his previous game, Ronaldo led Portugal to its first win over Germany for 25 years.

For Mendes and Paris Saint-Germain teammates Gonçalo Ramos, João Neves and Vitinha, it was their second trophy in a little more than a week after winning the Champions League in the same stadium.

Kylian Mbappé led France to third place earlier Sunday with a 2-0 win over host nation Germany in Stuttgart.

The Real Madrid star scored his 50th goal for France before setting up the other as Les Bleus rallied after a lethargic start.

France coach Didier Deschamps had made his lack of enthusiasm for the game clear the day before, noting his team had little to gain.

“The game is there, we’ll play it,” Deschamps had said. France was without injured PSG stars Ousmane Dembélé and Bradley Barcola.

India shines at World Pickleball Championship in South Korea

AGENCIES
MUMBAI

The All India Pickleball Association (AIPA) announces the remarkable success of Indian athletes at the 2025 World Pickleball Championship Korea, held from June 5-8 at the Seogwipo Tennis Centre, Jeju-do.

The prestigious Tier 3 tournament, organised by Pickleball Global, saw over 230 top-tier players from across Asia—including Korea, Japan, Taiwan, Indonesia, Hong Kong, China, the Philippines, and Singapore—compete for top honours, as per a press release from AIPA.

In a standout performance, Kuldip Mahajan stole the spotlight by securing two Gold Medals—in the Men’s Doubles 19-plus category with Ryan Iam from Hong Kong, and in the Mixed Doubles 19-plus category with Vrushali Thakare. India’s winning streak continued with Sonu Kumar Vishwakarma bagging a Silver Medal in Men’s Singles 19-plus, while Vrushali Thakare added another Silver to her tally in the Women’s



Kuldip Mahajan stole the spotlight by securing two Gold Medals—in the Men’s Doubles 19-plus category

Doubles 19-plus category alongside Angie Bong from Indonesia. In a press release by AIPA, Arvind Prabhoo,

President of AIPA, said, “It is truly heartening to witness our athletes rise to the occasion and deliver such world-class performances on an international stage. These victories are not just medals—they are milestones in India’s growing stature in the global pickleball community. We are proud of our champions who continue to put Indian pickleball on the world map with grit, grace, and excellence.”

French Open closes



Winners Italy’s Jasmine Paolini, left, and Sara Errani celebrate with the trophy after the women’s doubles final match of the French Tennis Open against Kazakhstan Anna Danilina and Serbia’s Aleksandra Krunic. (Agency)



Granollers and Zeballos defy their ages to win French Open doubles title. (Agency)

Alcaraz triumphs, smashes Sinner

AGENCIES
PARIS

Carlos Alcaraz rallied from two sets down and saved three match points to beat Jannik Sinner 4-6, 6-7 (4), 6-4, 7-6 (3), 7-6 (10-2) on Sunday and retain his French Open title for a second straight year.

Alcaraz, who won his fifth Grand Slam tournament in as many finals, produced one of the greatest comebacks in the history of the clay-court tournament. It was the first time that Sinner had lost a Grand Slam final.

It was also the longest-ever French Open final—5 hours, 29 minutes in the Open Era.

After 3 hours, 43 minutes, Sinner had his first match point. But with just over five hours since the match began, Alcaraz served for the title at 5-4 up. The drama was still not over.

Sinner made a remarkable



Spain’s Carlos Alcaraz celebrates after winning the final match of the French Tennis Open against Italy’s Jannik Sinner at the Roland-Garros stadium in Paris, Sunday, June 8, 2025.

retrieve from yet another superb Alcaraz drop shot. At the very limit he could stretch to, Sinner glided the ball over the net, with the ball landing with the softness of an autumn leaf and out of Alcaraz’s reach to make it 15-40.

When Sinner won the

game to make it 5-5, it was his turn to milk the applause and he was two points away from victory in the 12th game, with Alcaraz on serve and at 15-30 deuce.

But Alcaraz made a staggering cross-court backhand to make it 6-6 and force a tiebreaker, with the crowd

going wild when Alcaraz’s cross-court winner made it 4-0.

Sinner could not find a way back and Alcaraz won the match with a superb forehand pass down the line and then fell onto his back to celebrate.

Gauff fulfills her dream

AGENCIES
PARIS

A little bit of self-persuasion went a very long way for Coco Gauff, whose victory at the French Open gave the 21-year-old American a trophy she has long coveted, and a second major title.

Gauff defeated top-ranked Aryna Sabalenka 6-7 (5), 6-2, 6-4 on Saturday to add to her U.S. Open title two years ago. Sabalenka had been the more in-form player heading into the final and Gauff felt she needed some extra motivation.

So she drew inspiration from Gabby Thomas, who became the women’s Olympic 200-meter champion at last year’s Paris Olympics. Thomas had kept writing down that she would be the Olympic champion in her Notes app, so Gauff tried adopting the same approach and grabbed a piece of paper. “I wrote, ‘I will be French Open champion 2025’ like a bunch of times,” Gauff explained. “She (Thomas) wrote ‘I will be the

Olympic champion’ and she ended up winning the gold. I think it’s a great mindset that she had.”

Eight lines on a piece of paper written by Gauff late on a Friday night, then it was finally time for bed, time to rest.

Not quite. Gauff then persuaded herself a little bit more, by staring at the mirror and convincing herself she was looking at the face of a soon-to-be French Open champion.

“Looking at myself in the mirror so I was trying to instill that belief, and obviously it happened. I didn’t know if it was going to work or not. (But) it did,” Gauff said, then laughed as she added: “When you’re desperate, you’re just trying anything to think that it’s going to help you win.”

Gauff also posted on Instagram another message she wrote to herself four years ago, which started with the words “I had a dream last night that I will win (the) French Open.”



US Coco Gauff poses with the Suzanne Lenglen Trophy after winning the Roland Garros French Open tennis tournament, at the Place de la Concorde in Paris (Agency)

India gear up for new-look Hong Kong test

AGENCIES
KOWLOON

India and Hong Kong, China’s meeting on Matchday 2 of the AFC Asian Cup Saudi Arabia 2027 Qualifiers Final Round on June 10 is billed as the highest-stakes clash of Group C. They are the top two-ranked sides in the four-team group and are aiming for their first win of the campaign.

Placed in Pot 1 for the qualifiers, India, ranked 127th, got off to a slow start with a draw against Bangladesh in March. Meanwhile, Pot 2 side Hong Kong, ranked 153, could also only manage a point in Singapore, meaning there is still nothing to separate the four sides after the first matchday.

For Hong Kong, June 10 will be a historic date. The game is not only a crucial qualifier in their search for only a second AFC Asian Cup berth in 59 years, but also the inaugural football match at the 50,000 seater Kai Tak Stadium, part of the Kai Tak Sports Park, the largest sports complex in Hong Kong. Featuring a retractable roof and constructed at a cost of HK\$30 billion at the site of the city’s former airport, the stadium even features a flexible pitch system for other sports and entertainment events.

It will be India and Hong Kong’s 25th meeting since their first in 1951. India lead the head-to-head with nine wins, Hong Kong have eight, while seven have been draws. However, the Blue Tigers have won only once on Hong Kong soil, a 2-1 friendly victory in 1957.

The previous meeting in 2022 is still fresh in the memories of many—a 4-0 drubbing in a rain-lashed

Asian Cup qualifier in Kolkata. Defender Sandesh Jhingan, however, reiterated that it’s “all about now”.

“It was quite a comfortable scoreline, but since then, Hong Kong have changed a lot. They have a new coach and a lot of new players. So, it’s not going to be as easy, and you cannot get complacent or take things lightly. Every game on the international stage is tough, especially on away soil. We are preparing in the best way, and we will go for the maximum points on Tuesday,” said the 31-year-old as quoted by the AIFF official website.

Since August 2024, Hong Kong have been coached by Ashley Westwood, a familiar name in Indian football. The Englishman led Bengaluru FC from 2013 to 2016 and also took charge of ATK and RoundGlass Punjab FC later. He also coached the Afghanistan side, which defeated India in the FIFA World Cup Qualifiers last year.

Under Westwood, Hong Kong only lost once in 12 matches—0-1 to Liechtenstein in a friendly match. But only two wins have come against higher-ranked opponents, Solomon Islands and the Philippines (both friendlies). In preparation for the match against India, Hong Kong played a non-official friendly against Manchester United FC, losing 1-3 on May 30, and then a FIFA friendly against Nepal on June 5, which was a scoreless affair.

Lallianzuala Chhangte shared his thoughts on the opponents. “Playing against Hong Kong is a significant challenge because they have a good defensive setup, and we know their coach as well.

BCCI announces venues for international season

AGENCIES
MUMBAI

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced the revised schedule for the international home season and the South Africa A team tour of India for this year, including a venue swap for the test series against the West Indies and South Africa.

BCCI issued a statement saying, “The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has announced the updated schedule for the international home season and South Africa A tour of India for 2025.”

Team India (Senior Men) will face West Indies and South Africa in Test matches, One-Day Internationals (ODIs), and Twenty20 Internationals (T20Is) at home. The Test series against the West Indies starts on October 2, 2025, in Ahmedabad. The second Test against West Indies, originally slated for Kolkata, will now be held at the Arun Jaitley Stadium in New Delhi.

Conversely, the first Test of the South Africa series, starting November 14, 2025, will now be held at Eden Gardens in Kolkata, instead of the initially designated New Delhi venue.

Anand back in action in World Rapid and Blitz team chess championship

AGENCIES
LONDON

Five-time world champion Viswanathan Anand will be in the mix as part of the Freedom team helmed by none other than FIDE CEO Emil Sutovsky in the World Rapid and Blitz team chess championship that gets underway here. Anand is the only Indian in the fray in his team. Hot favourite WR Chess team will be spearheaded by Ian Nepomniachtchi of Russia on the top board in the absence of world’s top player Magnus Carlsen who had refused to

participate in FIDE tournament.

The likes of Arjun Erigaisi on the top board will be assisted by P Harikrishna on the second board.

World junior champion V Pranav is a welcome addition to the team alongside Luke Leon Mendonca who is probably the next big player making a mark in Indian chess after the quartet of world champion D Gukesh, Arjun, R Praggnanandhaa and Aravindh Chithambaram.

The event will also see Nihal Sarin in action representing the

fifth seed Ashdod elite chess club. Nihal and Anand will play as the top seed on top board like Arjun Erigaisi but the event will miss the presence of Carlsen and Gukesh who have both skipped the event.

The WR chess team is the favourite for the crown with Nepomniachtchi, Firouzja Alireza, Maxime Vachier-Lagrave, Hikaru Nakamura, Alexandra Kostenuik, and Wesley So in the side.

As a rule, every round has to have a female player as well as a player rated less than 2200

on FIDE rating list that was last published on June 1. The traction caused by these dynamics makes the event more interesting than any other team tournament.

There is a decent prize money for the rapid and blitz event as the winner of each competition gets USD 110000 and USD 75000 respectively. The event had gained huge success in the previous edition thanks to participation of especially Carlsen.

The prospects of the lone Indian team depends solely on how Arjun performs.